



The greatest story ever told

A fitting summary of the story of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus and its place within history. Like any good story it is always dependent upon the telling of it from one generation to the next.

In our last magazine I set out some of the challenging statistics facing our national church in terms of its declining membership and ministers. Paula Cameron, in her last 'Mission Matters' in her role as Mission Co-ordinator rightly pointed out that such figures were but just half of the story - the other half comes from the inspiring stories of new initiatives and projects which are happening around the country which in their own way look to 'turn the tide' of decline.

For four years Paula has helped us become more missional in our thinking and living and our thoughts and prayers are with her as she sets off on a new career and course of study and service. What stories of new initiatives and projects might we find amongst us here in Queensferry and Dalmeny?

Two in particular come to mind and over this month we would value your prayers as we look to build on the work of the last 4 years.

The first is the appointment of a Children and Family Worker, the advert for which has just been released. Funded fully by the Presbytery, this part-time post looks to develop, support and equip us all for our work of helping children and families discover for themselves the significance of the 'greatest story ever told'.



The second project is going to be the first stage in a 'Fresh Expressions' journey for us in Queensferry and Dalmeny and to support this we have applied to the 'Go for it' Fund of the Church of Scotland for half funding of £5,000.

We will then match this and hopefully over the rest of the year ahead we will engage both a consultant in this field and ourselves in a process of discernment as to where God may be leading us. Over the years, which follow, we hope then to appoint a Fresh Expressions worker who will inspire and lead us in reaching out and into our growing communities with 'the greatest story ever told'.



Many years ago I came across an insightful quote from the wonderful Dutch Christian Corrie Ten Boom: "Does being born into a Christian family make you a Christian? No! God has no grand children." And because God has no grand children, each new generation is invited to discover for themselves the meaning and significance of 'the greatest story ever told'.

Your prayers and engagement are much appreciated as we seek to turn the tide of decline.

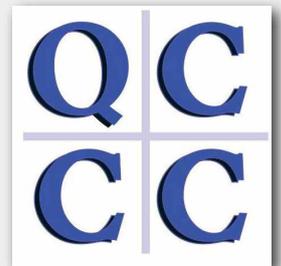
Every blessing, David



Boys Brigade Christmas Post

The 31st Edinburgh (South Queensferry) Boys' Brigade would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Christmas Post. A grand total of £220 was raised.

The Boys' Brigade have allocated some of the money raised by the Christmas Post and other money raised by the boys and staff to donate £300 to Queensferry Churches Care in the Community.



Fairtrade Fortnight - 27 February - 12 March 2017

The members of Queensferry Fairtrade Group invite you to 'Take A Fairtrade Break - Coffee Morning' in Queensferry Parish Church on 4th March, 10am - 12noon. Tea, coffee and home baking will be served.

Attractions: One World Shop stall selling Fairtrade foods, including Fairtrade chocolate Easter eggs and Fairly Traded crafts; Equal Exchange, Edinburgh will provide a tea, coffee and chocolate tasting stall.

Adult admission £2, accompanied children free. Everyone warmly welcomed.



Getting to know..... Laurie Brown

Well, where would we be without Laurie Brown? Need the sink unblocked, or a light bulb changed, or tables and chairs set out? Laurie Brown is your man. Beadle extraordinaire and general Mr Fixit, he performs a myriad of tasks for Queensferry Parish Church, many of them on a voluntary basis.

Laurie was born and brought up in Edinburgh. His first job was an apprenticeship in a shipping office, but since his teenage years, he had always had a great interest in ten-pin bowling and in the mechanics of it all. This led to employment, management then self-employment as a contractor in this industry. His job has taken him worldwide and he maintains a high profile in the bowling business, at one time being nominated for "World Technician of the Year".

He still works, mainly in Scotland "for as much as he needs", to help fund his other passions – cruising and ballroom dancing. On several occasions he has been a "dance host" on board ship. He recalls, with a wry smile, that on a "Strictly Come Dancing" cruise, he and Norma were awarded a 2 from Craig Revel Horwood. Well, he wasn't the first and won't be the last!! Natalie Lowe, one of the professional "Strictly" dancers however gave them a 7 and also danced an American swing with Laurie. Ah, happy memories! No doubt you will also have seen him in his tuxedo on Ferry Fair day waltzing his way along the High Street and presenting red roses to lucky ladies in the crowds.

Laurie is a family man. With four children and four grandchildren, he is very much part of their lives and a very involved grandparent. "I'm lucky", he says, "My family are also my friends". He counts himself fortunate too in his marriage to Norma who in earlier years had to bring up the children often single-handed as Laurie was away from home so much. He is immensely proud of Norma's involvement in "Teddis for Tragedies" and hopes that the tremendous support from the knitters of Queensferry will continue to produce many more teddies, hats and blankets to enrich the lives of needy children in other countries.

For a number of years he was the organiser of the Blood Transfusion Service's day in Queensferry. Laurie himself has donated 114 pints of blood. Is this a record? "I could never have been a doctor, but this way, I still can save a life", he says. Laurie is a big man with a big heart. He sees himself as a "people person" and there are a fair number of folk in Queensferry who have been grateful for his support in times of tribulation. It might have been a two from Craig Revel Horwood, but it is a resounding ten from QPC.



Queensferry Guild

The syllabus for the second half of the Guild session is as follows:

Tuesday	14th February 2pm	Casablanca (the film) – Ian Garden. Ian is a published author and contributor to the Edinburgh Book Festival 2016
Monday	27th February 7.30 pm	Christian Aid (Bolivia) – Sally Foster Fulton, Head of Christian Aid Scotland
Tuesday	14th March 2pm	Sergeant Wojtek of the Polish Army – Aileen Orr
Monday	27th March 7.30 pm	Tomorrow's Calling – Rev. Anne Inglis and Keith Bowden
Tuesday	11th April 2pm	The Naked Minister (we're assured that this title is purely a metaphor!!) Rev. Graham Leitch
Monday	24th April 7.30 pm	A.G.M and Cockleroy, a well-known Linlithgow folk singing duo

We have been delighted to welcome several new members this year and would encourage even more folk to come along to our meetings, even on a "drop in" basis. Of particular interest might be the presentation by Christian Aid's Sally Foster Fulton, who was very happy to speak "in recognition of Queensferry's tremendous support over the years."

We look forward to seeing you!

World Day of Prayer

The World day of Prayer will take place on Friday 3rd March at 7.30 p.m. in Queensferry Parish Church. The theme this year is "Am I being unfair to you?" and the women of the Philippines have compiled the service. All are most warmly invited to attend. The service will be followed by teas/coffees.



Book Sale

In November 2001 Marion Gemmell decided to join a sponsored trek organised by Bethany Christian Trust to Cyprus, following in the steps of St Paul. At that time she and Robert had a large book case filled with a whole variety of books that needed to be disposed of so she arranged a fundraiser book sale, with tea, coffee and home baking. It was held at their home and managed to raise around £800. They lived in Queensferry but were attending Barnton Baptist Church at that time.

The book sale has continued over the years and so far it has raised somewhere around £7,000 - £8,000.

With this money the following have been helped:

Pastor Rajan Abraham. The Barnton Baptist Church financially supported Rajan, at the time. The main thrust of his ministry was among slum and "untouchable" groups around Bhopal in India - folks who had no means of employment or health care. The money raised bought 30 sewing machines, allowing folks to become self-employed.

Support for Haiti after the earthquake. Money raised was used towards a refrigeration unit in a hospital that had been partially destroyed. One of the Barnton Elders, Dr Victor Jack, was one of the group of medical staff who visited and worked in Haiti as part of the project.

The Romanian charity Heart to Heart - supported by Lesley Cameron.

The initiative organised by Peter Freeland - providing medicines for a group in India.

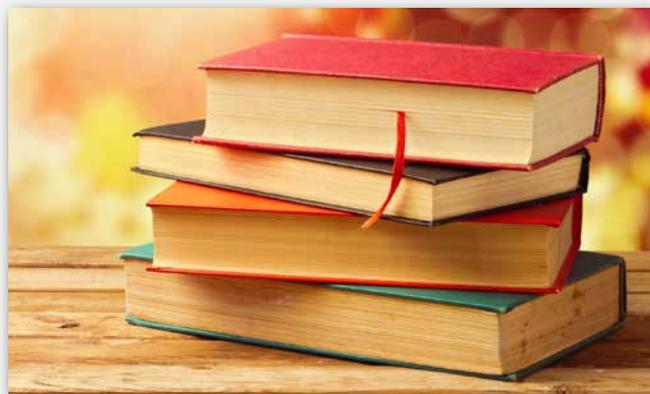
Overseas Missionary Society - Project providing a home for abandoned babies in South Africa. Marion's brother-in-law has worked with this group over the past couple of decades.

Queensferry Churches Care in the Community.

Church of Scotland Project - providing homes for those caught up in the earthquake in Nepal.

Any books not purchased are taken to charity shops. On the last couple of occasions they have been delivered to Oxfam. Letters have been received from them to tell us that a further £1,500 has been raised through the sale of those books. The book sale is normally held around May or June. Marion and Robert now feel that age is just "ganging up against them" and encourage someone or even a group to continue with this worthy cause. If so, they would be delighted to give any help and encouragement.

For information, please contact Marion or Robert Gemmell
(Tel: 0131 331 4608 or e-mail: robertgemmell@btinternet.com)



Guild Daffodil Coffee Morning

Don't wander lonely as a cloud!

The Guild warmly invites you to our Daffodil Coffee Morning on Saturday 25th March, 10am - 12 noon in the Church Centre. We can promise you great home baking and plenty of friendly chat as well as a variety of stalls.

Tickets are priced £2 with accompanied children free.



Christian Aid Forth Bridge Cross 2017

Saturday April 22nd, 2pm

Date for your diary! Come and join hundreds of walkers for the famous Forth Bridge sponsored walk, enjoy a lovely walk, and raise money for Christian Aid. What could be better? What's more, there may a brand new other bridge (almost) open, for you to admire and take selfies against.

You can get registration and sponsor forms from our own Tom Williamson, or register online at:
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/scotland/whats-happening-near-you/events.aspx>

NOMAD

The Cage is back! NOMAD - Youth for Christ's high energy football coaching team - will be here for a week from Sunday 19th March. Led by Beth, with team members Beth (yes - two Beths!), Josh and Shaun, they will be in the High School and out and about in Queensferry. Look out for more on facebook nearer the time!



Exploring the God Question

Only a few weeks ago we celebrated the birth of a baby, a baby predicted for centuries.
An angel gave him his special name.
He was God incarnate.
Really?! Why on earth would you believe it?



Why we believe what we believe should be a question of great interest to all believers. Does anyone really want to substitute a fiction for truth? Does God even exist – never mind the Christmas story - and is there evidence to support any of it? Many who reject God's existence do so in the belief that science has made him redundant and with that comes a supposition that the Christmas story itself is therefore wishful thinking and make-believe. But what if the evidence from science points in a different direction? What if the more we discover about the wonders of our existence the more the handiwork of the Creator becomes apparent? A couple of years ago church leaders from across the denominations in Scotland initiated a new movement, appropriately naming it Grasping the Nettle (GTN). GTN's objective is to promote an informed and respectful dialogue on the 'Science/God issue' and to transform the public understanding of the questions and assumptions at the heart of the Science/God debate. In addition to hosting conferences and events GTN actively encourages every congregation to make use of a professionally produced DVD series - Exploring the God Question (ETGQ). The series focuses on interviews with scientists and others on cosmology, life & evolution, and mind & consciousness. Some of the scientists interviewed are atheists while other interviewees hold a theistic worldview. ETGQ is ideal as a stimulus to group discussion. Indeed a small group connected with this congregation piloted the use of the material last spring. Following upon the success of the pilot we propose to offer the ETGQ series once more in the spring of 2017.

If you'd like to participate in QPC's next ETGQ discussion series, please contact the church office or Guy Douglas: guy@gdouglas.f9.co.uk; 07971 275122

For more details about Grasping the Nettle, visit: www.graspingthenettle.org

For more info about Exploring the God Question, visit: www.thegodquestion.tv/explore.

Prayer In Queensferry Parish Church

Have you thought about joining our prayer circle? We are a group of over 40 members who pray daily for those in need in our congregation and local community. We each pray at home in our own time using a list of names compiled bi monthly. Many people have told us that they gained strength and support from our prayers. If you would like more information please contact Wendy on prayer@qpcweb.org.uk or ring 0131 331 2446

Communion

Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of March (5th March 2017)



You are invited to join us at Queensferry Parish Church for the celebration of Holy Communion

Sunday Services are at 10:00am or 11:30am

Church and Parish Register

Baptisms

22 Jan Katie Louise Keating Brown, Echline Terrace, South Queensferry

Deaths

2nd Nov John McMahon, Murrayfield Care Home
3rd Nov George Holmes, Hopetoun Road, South Queensferry,
11th Nov Elizabeth Ormiston, formerly Shore Road, South Queensferry
27th Nov John Gillon, South Queensferry
Dec Rosemary Macdonald, Loch Place, South Queensferry
12th Dec Robert Forbes, Drumbrae Care Home
15th Dec Ronald Lane, Echline Gardens, South Queensferry
28th Dec Elizabeth Boshier, formerly Shore Road, South Queensferry

Weekly Worship Services

Sunday	10:00am – 11:00am	Family Service
	11:30am – 12:30pm	A more traditional worship service
Thursday	9:30am – 10:00am	A reflective service with a Celtic tradition of responses.

The Youth Fellowship meets every Sunday evening from 7:30pm – 9pm

Website and Facebook

If you have something that you would wish to share on the church Facebook page or Website, please send an email to communications@qpcweb.org

Next issue

The next issue of the magazine will be available from Sunday 16th April 2017. Any items for inclusion should be given to the editor at magazine@qpcweb.org by Saturday 25th March 2017. Please send any pictures as separate attachments.