

Park Church Stirling
Newsletter issue 7 :
Winter 2021



***Park Church Stirling , a congregation of the
Church of Scotland
Worshipping in the Peter Memorial Building
Park Terrace, Stirling, FK8 2NA***

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From the Interim Moderator

Dear Friends, members of Park Church,

Attie van Wyk will preach as Nominee for the vacancy at Park Church on Sunday 28th November. This will be the first Sunday in Advent, and the first Sunday in the Christian year, as prepare for Christmas, and afterwards, for the secular New Year that begins on the 1st January.

The new year, whether in the Church or in the world, marks a time of new beginnings, of taking stock of what has been and is now in the past, and of looking ahead to what is yet to be. Beginning with Remembrance Sunday, we give thanks to God for the courage and sacrifice of men and women who gave their lives in time of war to ensure that we might live in the freedom that we enjoy in this country today. As Christians, in this season of Remembrance, we also give thanks for the example and faith of those who received, lived, and passed on the Good News of Jesus Christ to us, who have gone before us into God's eternal light and life.

In remembering, we might consider our experience over the past two years, during which two congregations came together in union to form what is now the congregation of Park Church. This happened at a time of great difficulty, under lock-down conditions and the continuing constraints imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, which disrupted so much of what we used to think of as 'normal' life. A time of crisis in this nation as in the whole world, that happened just as the Church of Scotland embarked on a time of far-reaching reform and restructuring in the Church.

That reforming movement is going to continue, even as we emerge tentatively from the worst of the pandemic, and look around us at a changed landscape in both church and society. It will continue, because the Church must always respond to the needs of a fast-changing world, and find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, new ways to touch the hearts of all, and bring people to faith and trust in God.

Park Church is about to set out on the next stage of its journey in faith, as the people of God in this place, called to walk together, work together, and worship together in this great pilgrimage that leads towards the promised life of God's kingdom. In this, we walk together with Brothers and Sisters in our church, and from every church, and we look for leaders who will minister to us, pastor us, and encourage us on the way.

In this time of new beginnings, it is my hope and my prayer that, as I have walked with you for a time as your Interim Moderator, you will now call such a leader in Attie, to be your next Minister, and offer him support and encouragement in return.

In that hope, I wish you every blessing for the journey that lies ahead.

With all best wishes for the Advent, Christmas, and the New Year

Alan

From the Session Clerk

New Minister: It was very encouraging that the Nomination Committee seeking a new minister for Park Church had a number of very good applicants. They finally chose Rev Attie Van Wyk as their recommended sole nominee. The process included informal visits and discussions with all applicants, watching recordings of services they conducted over the last year, a full day of hour long interviews and deliberations and meetings with the Presbytery Vacancy Advisory Committee.

We hope there will be a good turnout of members and adherents on the electoral register of Park Church to hear him when he conducts worship at 11am on Sunday 28th November and to vote afterwards.

Thank you to the Crombies: As many will have seen, thanks and tribute was paid to Duncan Crombie for his years of dedicated and invaluable service as Church Administrator at the service on 24th October. Mrs Margaret Crombie will also be stepping down as Church Treasurer at the end of the year after taking on the role on “Acting “ (!) basis seven years ago. We also owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude. We all wish Margaret and Duncan every blessing as they have more time to visit family and enjoy other interests.

Welcome: The congregation have been delighted to welcome Mrs Sheena Tait, as Duncan’s successor. Sheena has previously had a similar Church Administrator role at the Crown Court Church in London before moving to this area and we look forward to working with her.

Getting to know you! The reduction of some restrictions this autumn has enabled a number of activities to start or restart and the opportunity to resume friendships and make new ones. The Ladies Group and Men’s Badminton Club are examples. The SPARKS pre-school play group has made a very encouraging start. At the other end of the age spectrum, residents of Annfield Care Home seem delighted at the return of monthly informal services and monthly friendship gift bags are appreciated.

We hope to restart activities with local primary schools in December restrictions permitting; and also a tea dance early next year. Several new groups are using our facilities midweek.

As a newly united congregation, we all need to get to know each other better and to welcome all.

Please tell your friends and neighbours about what is going on and invite them along. The forthcoming Christmas Services might be an opportunity?

Looking ahead: Session noted that Park Church's Ministries and Mission Contribution to the Church of Scotland for 2022 will be £76,890, slightly more than 2021, when we are likely to have a deficit in unrestricted funds. Thanks are given to those who continue to give regularly and for extra support given last month on National Giving Day.

The Finance Team are actively seeking to increase appropriate spend of Restricted Funds for their outreach purposes but also will be aiming for a more balanced budget for routine expenses going forward.

Thanks for help in the vacancy

A big thank you to Alan Miller, Maggie Roderick, Elinor Gordon , Bruce McNicol and other ministers providing pulpit supply since the Union for their spiritual leadership and encouragement.

I am also grateful to Marjorie, fellow-office-bearers and many members for their help and invaluable support .

Suggestions, concerns, questions and offers of help are always welcome. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you Joy and Peace at Christmas and a very happy New Year

Peter



Rev Attie Van Wyk was originally a minister in South Africa before transferring to the Church of Scotland in 2019, and is presently minister of Liberton Northfield Church.

Attie partly grew up on a Karoo farm in South Africa and attended school in the city of Port Elizabeth. The balance between farm and city shaped his life to appreciate various facets of different societies.

He is enthusiastic to witness of God's love to all people, whether it be through conversations, music making, or cooking up something to treat others to.

Attie regards God's greatest commandment: 'To love the Lord your God with all your heart soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbour as yourself,' as the core of his life.

He is excited to be asked to preach as sole nominee in Park Church on November 28th 2021.



GIFT SERVICE SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER

Presents of for children of all ages are welcomed by Stirling Women's Aid who distribute them to those who are less fortunate this Christmas. It is preferred that items are not wrapped -but if they are can you please put a label on (which will not easily fall off) and indicate the age and sex of the recipient. Presents can include tokens for shops in envelopes which should be given to one of the welcome team for safety.

Please remember that needy children are not all babies and donations of gifts for boys and teenagers are especially welcome!

Boxes will be in place for you to place your present.

Thank you on behalf of the families.



Allan Park and South Church War Memorials were removed from the former church in Dumbarton Road, renovated and restored before being relocated in the Park Church Youth Chapel and rededicated earlier this year.

All the 107 names from the three churches now united as Park Church were read out to the congregation at the annual Remembrance Service on Sunday 14th November 2021



The names inscribed on the former St.Columba's War First World War Memorial



Life and Work Magazine

Life and Work is the magazine of the Church of Scotland. It is published monthly and includes news and updates from around the Church of Scotland and also articles by various people within the Church on a variety of topics.

The magazine is available by annual subscription and I am the co-ordinator, so I place the order with Life and Work, the magazines are delivered to me and I distribute them to the subscribers in Park Church. The cost of the 2021 subscription was £36 (so £3 per magazine).

If anyone who is not an existing subscriber would like the magazine in 2022 please contact me and I will arrange that for you.

There is now also an online subscription available where the magazine is sent directly to you electronically. There is currently a special offer available until 31st December 2021 and the cost for this is £14.99 (the normal price is £20.99). The online subscription is done directly with Life and Work on their website - www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe.

There is also a sample magazine on the website or I have some old copies if you would like to have a look.

I am happy to answer any questions either in person or by email or phone.

Marie Muir, email marie-muir@sky.com, tel 01786 811610 (evenings are best).



The Ladies Group

The Ladies Group meet on alternate Monday evenings at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

We are a warm and welcoming Group and we would be delighted to see you there. The group is open to all, not just members of the congregation.

On Monday 10th January we have a presentation on the work of the Street Pastors.

On Monday 24th January we look forward to a musical Burns Night from Jim Whyte.

On Monday 7th February Mandy Ross from Strathcarron Hospice will tell us about the important work they do.

On Monday 21st February we are having a Fashion Show presented by Elaine Machrie, (bring your wallets Ladies)

Our final regular meeting will be on Monday 7th March when we are delighted that Tricia Chillas will be back to put us through our paces with a gentle exercise class suitable for all levels.

We hold our closing dinner on Monday 21st March.

We hope that current restrictions will be lifted sufficiently to allow us to hold a Coffee Morning on Saturday 5th March.

**Ladies Group Coffee Morning
and Daffodil Tea
Saturday March 5th 2022
10am-12noon**



**God of all people
as we wait again for the coming of Christmas Day
let us take time to be still,
and pause from the business of the season.
We remember a poor family travelling to Bethlehem, because
they had to.
Of the search to find somewhere, anywhere, for Mary to give
birth.
Of the joy at the safe arrival of Jesus, despite the insanitary con-
ditions.
Of the visitors who came to pay their respects at the birth of God
incarnate.
But we also remember the fear and anxiety that stalked Herod,
that made the Wise Men know that all was not well,
that put in place the decree to slaughter the young boys
that forced the Holy Family to flee.
God of all the years, tonight as we wait for Christmas,
we remember those who are still waiting,
for justice, for peace, for release.
Waiting to be seen, recognised and included.
And we remember the work of your Son,
to bring good news and proclaim a different way to live.
As we go into our Christmas celebrations,
let us do likewise.
AMEN**





A date for your diary : seating is limited

***The Strathcarron Singers* are presenting a Christmas Concert in Park Church Stirling on Sunday 12th December at 2.00 pm**

in aid of Strathcarron Hospice.

Free Admission

“ HERE WE COME A-CAROLLING ”

Following their highly successful “ Great to be back “ Concert in Stirling in September the Strathcarron Singers are delighted to present a programme for Christmas 2021.

“ Here we come a-carolling “ is a celebration of a much loved Christmas tradition with music, prose and poetry from Victorian times to the present day. The choir will be joined again by the Edwin Drood Players.

Although the concert is free of charge, due to Covid restrictions there will be no tickets this year and seats must be reserved in advance.

If you enjoyed our last Christmas performance in the church 3 years ago be sure to book a place in plenty of time by calling the choir’s dedicated reservation number where a voice message will tell you what to do. If you would prefer to text please say

STIRLING PARK/TOUR NAME/ NUMBER OF SEATS REQUIRED/YOUR MOBILE NUMBER so that we can reply

Strathcarron Singers Booking Line **07389 885411** will be available from **November 15th**.

You can also visit the choir website www.strathcarronsingers.org

At the end of the concert but there will be an opportunity to donate towards funds for Strathcarron Hospice.



Christmas Services 2021

Sunday December 5th **Advent 2 and Gift Service** at 11am
led by Rev Elinor Gordon

Sunday December 12th **Advent 3 and Communion** at 11am
led by Rev Alan Miller, Interim Moderator

Sunday December 19th **Advent 4 Service** at 11am
led by Rev Maggie Roderick, Youth Committee and younger
members of the congregation

Friday December 24th **Christmas Eve Family Carol Service** at
6.30pm led by Rev Maggie Roderick

Saturday December 25th **Christmas Day** at 10.30am
A short family service led by Rev Maggie Roderick

Sunday December 26th **Boxing Day** at 11am
Lessons and Carols



THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME (CH4 285).

This carol tells the story of the Angel Gabriel appearing to Mary and giving her the startling news that she will become the mother of Jesus. Mary meekly bows her head and answers “My soul shall laud and magnify Thy holy name”. The last verse speaks of the universal joy at the birth of Christ. Each verse ends with the word “Gloria!”

The words of this carol are a loose translation of a Basque carol by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834 – 1924), who also wrote “Onward Christian Soldiers”. A prolific writer, he produced some 50 volumes of fiction and nearly 100 on subjects ranging from religion to travel and topography. He was also a collector of folk songs.

The traditional Basque melody to which the carol is sung is called “Gabriel’s Message” and is arranged by Charles Pittman (1866 – 1943), an English organist and composer with a special interest in French and Spanish carol melodies.

Ross McGowan, Organist.



HANDBAGS FOR HOPE

HMP Cornton Vale and HMP Glenochil



You may remember that a few months ago I requested that you should hold on to your toiletries until such time as Covid restrictions had eased in these particular establishments. This is now the case. We have had a request for men’s toiletries from Glenochil, so if you have any toiletries suitable for either men or women, please pass them to me, or hand them into Sheena Tait at the church office.

For more information please contact me.
Eleanore Hunter Tel. 01786 472396

Flower Ministry

Many thanks once again to all those who have donated and arranged flowers over the last few months. Without you, this would just not be possible! I am constantly reminded of just how much receiving flowers from the Church means to people, particularly to those who still feel isolated to a degree for reasons of Covid. They really welcome a chat and hearing news of the Church and our progress in finding a new minister.

If you would like to donate flowers and do not already do so, there are still some dates available for next year so do get in touch. I can be contacted on 01786 281190. The flower team are always happy to arrange your flowers for you unless you would prefer to do them yourself.

Also if you would like to join the flower team, you would be made most welcome! We would also be pleased to welcome additional helpers for decorating the Church at Christmas so do let me know if you are interested.

Maureen McArthur



Coming in January 2022 -Induction of New Minister

Details will be announced in church, on the website : parkchurchstirling.org and on the Stirling Observer Community page under the Park Church news.

also

A boxed "Tartan Tea" will be delivered to the older members who received gift bags at the end of January 2022

In March 2022 Stirling Kirks Together hope to resume Friendship Lunches but on a new day and time : Wednesday from 1pm to 2.30pm

The lunch will include some music, a quiz or speaker and is open to everyone and friends of all ages.

All age Climate Service

Thank you to everyone who attended the All Age Climate Service on 12th September conducted by members of the Youth Group and young people from the Bible Class. There was an excellent turnout on that morning and the congregation participated enthusiastically and committed to making personal pledges to help towards climate change.

The service was part of an initiative to join with Christians across the UK to pray for wise leadership at the COP26 Conference in Glasgow running from Sunday 31st October till Friday 12th November.



Taking the story of the creation as our theme we explored how God has given us the gifts of light, air and sky, sea, earth, plants and trees, sun, moon and stars, fish and birds, animals and people to make a beautiful, wonderful world, but we as the people of this world are in danger of destroying the gifts we have been given. Under each section the congregation was invited to think of what might be done to reverse this process, and each person was asked to commit to one point of action to show how individuals can make a difference. The pledges were then written or drawn on green cardboard leaves which were later attached to a tree in the foyer of the church. The props that were used as part of the service were then made into a collage displayed in the hall to remind us all during this conference period of the pledges we have made.



Introducing a new outreach in Stirling-Friends International

Hello! I'm Abbie, the new Reach Trainee with Friends International Stirling. Friends International is a Christian charity seeking to grow friendship and faith with international students in the UK & Ireland. Our vision is to see international students transformed by the good news of Jesus so that they fully engage with the mission of the church in the world. We want to give as many as we can a great time in the UK, chances to experience real local culture, and opportunities to hear the Christian message. These are our regular local activities:

We are a Christian organisation offering genuine friendship to international students (of any faith or none) during their time in the UK.

English Conversation Club

Wednesdays 1 - 2pm on Zoom
Meet local friends and practise your English.

Buddy Scheme

Chat with a local buddy once per week.

Bible Chat

Through friendly chat with international students, find out why the Bible is the world's most read book.

Book Club

Read *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* with a group of international students.

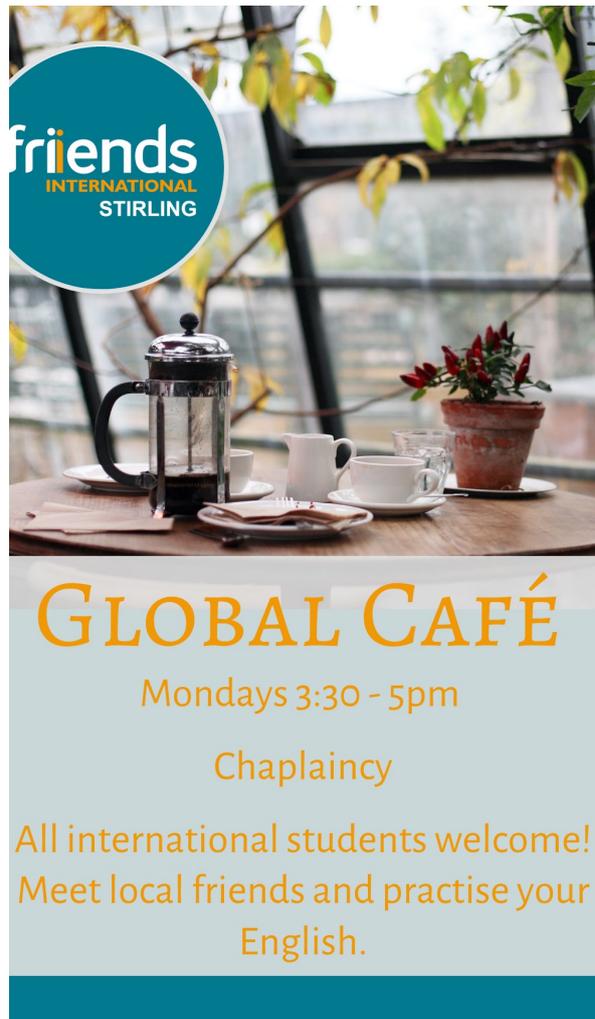
To sign up or get in touch, email:

ivana.bajic@friendsinternational.uk

abigail.charlwood@friendsinternational.uk

Follow us on social media:

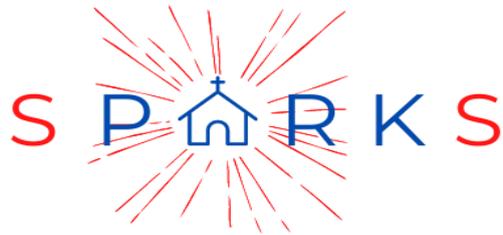
 [friendsinternationalstirling](https://www.instagram.com/friendsinternationalstirling)  Friends International Stirling



We are in need of more volunteers, especially for the English Conversation Club which runs online on Wednesdays from 1-2pm. This is mostly attended by students who are going through pre-sessional Academic English courses at the INTO building. Our volunteers must be able to speak English fluently and be open to chatting about a range of topics with students. If you would be interested in joining in with this, let me know by email: abigail.charlwood@friendsinternational.uk. We are also always looking for more prayer support. I will be sending out an email newsletter once each month with more information about the work in Stirling and the needs of our students. If you would like to keep up with what's going on, let me know by email.

Thank you,

Abbie



Our new pre-school group called Sparks opened at the end of September and welcomed young children with their parents, grandparents or childminders. Our sessions are held on a Friday morning from 9.30-11.15 in the Main Hall during school term times. We have a team of 15 volunteers, who work in a rota and help to set up, clear away, chat to the adults and prepare a snack for the children and provide tea or coffee for the adults.

You may be interested to know what a session consists of. When everyone arrives there is a play session in the main hall and after that we move to the Youth Chapel to have time for a welcome song, a praise song, a Bible story, some request songs e.g. Row, row, row your boat, with musical percussion accompaniment by the children and then we have a short prayer of grace before returning to the main hall for snack time. The last period of the morning is again spent in play.

At each session the atmosphere has been lovely with the children actively playing and the adults being able to chat to one another and also to our helpers. Our registration list is full at the moment and we have a short waiting list as unfortunately we cannot accommodate everyone. This new project of Park Church has been greatly received and been enjoyed very much by our new friends and also our volunteers. Thanks must go to everyone who has given their time, talents and money to make Sparks such a success.





Fullness of life for all, in a transformed Nepali society

www.umn.org.np

Joel & Fiona Hafverstein, our Prayer Partners, have been seconded from the Church of Scotland to serve in Nepal-this letter written in August 2021 arrived too late for our last Newsletter But describes some of their concerns which are ongoing:

Along with several key answers to prayer, we are also facing major disruptions and would be grateful for your prayer support in the following priority areas:

For our family as we have been required to leave Nepal and not return until January 2022.

For the rapid approval of UMN's Project Agreements.

For Nepal to promptly receive enough vaccines to stop future COVID waves.

For the nation of Afghanistan and our friends living there.

First, the answers to prayer. In our May letter we highlighted the urgent need for the Mission's General Agreement (GA) and other agreements to make it past various challenges and get renewed. Our GA renewal finally took place in mid-June, securing UMN's right to work in Nepal for the next five years.

The Ministry of Health also recently signed an agreement with our hospitals which will make it much easier to bring expatriate volunteers (medical staff and others) to support the mission hospitals.

Hallelujah!

Sadly, the renewal of the GA came too late for our family's visas for the year. Because of lockdowns, we could not leave the country in May while we still had some of our yearly allocation of non-work visa days remaining. The Immigration Department recently informed us that even with a now-approved work visa, our family is not allowed to stay in Nepal any longer in 2021, beyond a short grace period to arrange our departure.

Accordingly, on 5 September we will leave Nepal and return to the UK (following a 10-day quarantine stay in a European country). For the remainder of 2021, Joel will continue to work remotely for UMN, across a significant time zone gap; the boys will continue to do the same for online school in Nepal, at least initially. Please pray for us as we cope with the logistical challenges, disappointments, and lost opportunities we had planned for September-December in Nepal.

We will probably be absent from the country during Nepal's next COVID wave. While the devastating April-July Delta variant wave seems to have left Nepal with at least 50% of the

the virus, and around 13% of Nepali adults are now vaccinated, we can see from other countries' experience that it is still possible (and probably likely) to have another wave under these circumstances.

Thanks to a generous response from UMN's partners and supporters around the world, both of our hospitals (and many other rural health facilities in our working areas) are now better supplied to provide oxygen to COVID patients than we were before. Nepal has also received vaccine support from other countries, including enough doses from the UK for 65,000 people; but almost 25 million Nepalis remain unvaccinated, keeping Nepal dangerously exposed to new waves and a possible source of new variants. Please pray for countries like the UK to share vaccines with poorer countries to stop new surges and variants of COVID-19.

Our family will also be out of Nepal during the process of approving UMN's Project Agreements (PAs), the detailed agreements by which the government oversees all our non-hospital work. Many other international organisations have been struggling to get their PAs approved. There is a possibility that government officials could demand that UMN make radical changes to our work as a condition of agreement approval – for example, that we exit abruptly from several of the geographic areas where we plan to work. Please pray for rapid and smooth approval of these agreements.

In general, please do continue to pray for the United Mission to Nepal during this challenging time. If you want to sign up for prayer updates from UMN, you can do so [here](#). We plan to return to Nepal in January 2022 and to stay through April to support the new UMN Executive Director Dhana Lama, Joel's successor.

Finally, we would also be grateful for your prayer for Afghanistan, where we served for some years before Caleb and Isaac were born. Many good friends and former colleagues there are now trying to flee the country since the Taliban resumed power. Their lives are now in danger because of their service with Western-funded humanitarian projects. Pray that they will find visa opportunities in Western countries, and for strength for Joel and Fiona as we try to support them through this terrifying time.



Joel spoke at the Sunday service in Park Church on October 31st before representing the church and UMN in a series of discussions and meetings at the COP 26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.

Fiona and the children were unable to join him in Stirling because they have started school in England while the family wait to go back to Nepal.

We hope the family will be able to see us in April before they complete their contracts with the Church of Scotland and Fiona undertakes a post-graduate degree in Canterbury.

Additions to the Church Library 2021

Church Library Donation

We are very fortunate to have a donation of the following books from Peter Record

AITKEN Jonathan -Pride and Perjury (Biography)

BUNYAN John -Pilgrim's Progress (General Reading)

STOBEL LEE-The Case for Christ (Christian Faith)

SWINDOLL Charles -Esther (Christian Faith)

SWINDOLL Charles-David (Christian Faith)

SWINDOLL Charles-Joseph (Christian Faith)

Please feel free to browse our shelves. The library operates on a self service basis by signing out the book you want by the date and returning it in the same way.

Books are organized on the shelves by section- Pastoral Care, Prayers and Poetry, Biographies, General Reading, Christian Faith, Bible Study

They are catalogued for the most part alphabetically under the author's last name

Three more additions to our Library

SIM Dorrith M-In My Pocket. A children's book telling the true story of the author's own experience in the Kindertransport program.

Best loved hymns, poems & readings. (Poetry and Prayers Section)

Banners Exhibition-a millennium project by the Church of Scotland Guild. (General Reading Section)

Book Review

Banners Exhibition-a millennium project by the Church of Scotland Guild.

To commemorate the year 2000, the Church of Scotland Guild organized its members to create 67 banners-one for each book of the Bible. How they interpreted and designed their banner was left to each Guild to work out. As an addition, a national banner was also proposed with the remit that it would speak to people outside the Church. Quite a challenge! A plan to take the banners round the country began to crystallize.

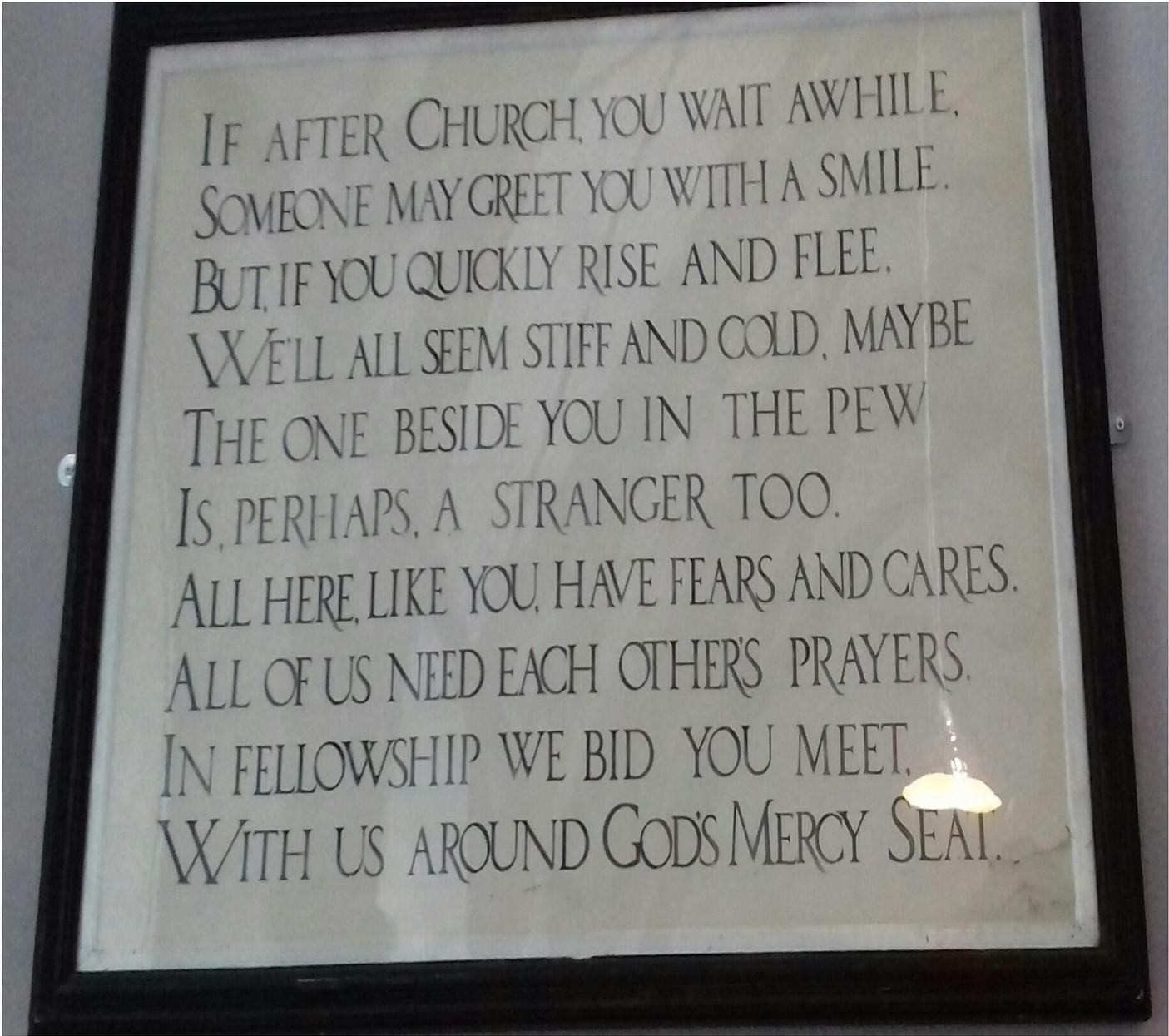
This book was donated to our library by Rae Scott. It was originally given to her mother as birthday present and the lovely thing for us is that her Mum worked on the banner designed for the book of 1st Samuel.

The book is beautifully illustrated with pictures of each banner including a brief description of what each represents.

During the year 2000-1, the banners visited 21 different venues. Stirling was not on the list but this superb book is the next best thing!

It can be found in the library under General Reading-green stickers.

Lyndsay Boyack



IF AFTER CHURCH, YOU WAIT AWHILE,
SOMEONE MAY GREET YOU WITH A SMILE.
BUT, IF YOU QUICKLY RISE AND FLEE,
WE'LL ALL SEEM STIFF AND COLD, MAYBE
THE ONE BESIDE YOU IN THE PEW
IS, PERHAPS, A STRANGER TOO.
ALL HERE, LIKE YOU, HAVE FEARS AND CARES.
ALL OF US NEED EACH OTHER'S PRAYERS.
IN FELLOWSHIP WE BID YOU MEET,
WITH US AROUND GOD'S MERCY SEAT.

Thanks to Ethel Oliver who spotted this lovely notice in a café in Grasmere in the Lake District. The venue used to be a Methodist Chapel and the renovated notice was re-instated for visitors to enjoy.

A German Lutheran, an Italian Catholic and a Scottish Presbyterian arrive at the Pearly Gates together.

God says to the German "and what do you believe in?" the German answers, "I believe in strong self discipline and looking after others."

God says, "Okay, you can sit on my right hand." He then says to the Italian "what about you? what do you believe in?"

The Italian answers "I believe in la dolce vita and looking after my family." God says, "Okay, you can sit on my left hand."

God then turns to the Scots Presbyterian, "and what do you believe in?" The Scotsman replies,

"I think you're sitting in my seat!"

(Joke courtesy of Duncan Crombie)

Scoreggia d'angeli

The elder of my two younger sisters, Pamela, lives in Edinburgh. Pam is a fabulous cook; I don't just mean good, she is Cordon Bleu standard, particularly when it comes to Italian food. Several times in the last few years, she has gone to Italy a) to improve her already impressive Italian and b) to attend cookery classes under the tutelage of Italian master chefs, including, in many cases the archetypal, Italian "mama."

One of her speciality, dessert dishes is a divine candy called, in Italian, "Scoreggia d'angeli." It's a choux style pastry, light as the proverbial feather, filled with a whipped cream and incredibly "moreish." Cooked in oil at a very high temperature, the "choux" pastry forms puffballs which rise to the top of the oil and then magically roll over whilst emitting the most delicate "puff" as they do so.

Now! You'll be wondering why an article like this appears in a religious magazine? But, bear with me, there is a context. 'Scoreggia d'angeli' translates into English as "Angel's farts."

Duncan Crombie.



Mens Badminton Club

The Men's Badminton Club, meets every Tuesday from 12-30p.m. to 1-30p.m. in the main hall.

New members are welcome irrespective of age and ability.

Ronnie McPhee

ECO NEWS– bottle top uplift has resumed!

Collection bin is in the rear vestibule of the church

Do you wonder what happens to the bottle tops you collect?

Now you know:

The bottle tops that have the triangle O2 or O4 inside (mostly milk bottle tops) are still very welcome. The Inner Wheel Club of Falkirk collect them and they then go to the borders, where the local Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs sort them and wash them, before they go to a local recycling plants. Here they are treated and passed on to another local firm, who make them into a coating for fibre optic cable. The Rotary receives so much a ton for them (and you can imagine how many millions of tops it takes to make a ton.)

The money raised used to go towards funding the building of a Palliative Care Unit in the borders. The unit is now up and running and the money is currently donated to the registered charity in the borders called “ [Lavender Touch.](#)” The charity helps people through all stages of their cancer experience, encompassing a holistic approach by funding therapeutic treatments such as massage, reflexology and aromatherapy.



Although this is not local to us in the central belt, we can help provide support for those who are going through a most distressing and difficult time in their lives.

Please continue or restart your collection of bottle tops and bring them to the central collection point in church from where they will be regularly uplifted.

COP 26 Glasgow : November 2021 Gift Bags

The prayer and theme for the bags was for leaders to have wisdom and for us all to pray at all times. The conference may be over but God is still asking us to look after his wonderful world and all those who share it with us.



God of all things
we praise You as the 'All' –
in all, through all and with all.
We come to You in worship,
help us to bring our all –
the good, the difficult, the broken,
the weariness, the indifference, the passion,
the hope, the hopeless,
the joy, the anger,
the reality of our lives.
We have waited through Advent,
through dark days and expectant nights.
We have declared Your presence at Christmas,
In the highs and lows, joys and pains.
We look to You now, to gather us all together,
to clothe us and to dwell in our hearts.
Grow in us the desire to be Your kingdom builders,
peace makers, psalm singers,
justice bringers, creation carers, welcomers and forgiv-
ers.
Let us praise Your name,
in harmony with the angels and hosts,
sun and moon,
mountains and hills,
trees and animals.
Let all the people praise You,
for You alone are exalted.



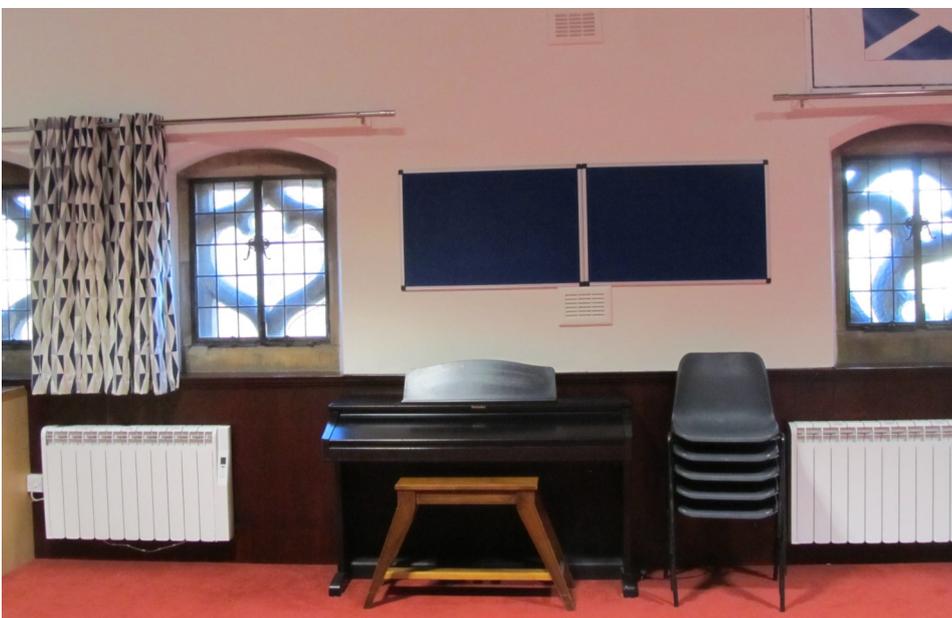
New look for the Anderson Hall



Newly painted, broken plasterwork repaired, coffee bar and carpet cleaned, new notice boards, electric heaters and curtains—thanks to the hard work of the Property Committee.

The hall on the upper level (where the gallery was removed some years ago) is already in use by the chess club, scouts and Friends International workers.

It is hoped the school outreach programme “Bubblegum & Fluff” will resume in December using this lovely space.



A Song Was Heard At Christmas by Timothy Dudley-Smith

A song was heard at Christmas
To wake the midnight sky

A Saviour's birth, and peace on earth
And praise to God on high

The angels sing at Christmas
With all the hosts above,
And still we sing the new-born King,
His glory and His love.



William Troup, the Park Church Representative for the Scottish Bible Society shared the great news that the Sponsored Walk raised £803.00.

He wishes to thank everyone whose generosity had made this total possible





SU Scotland

Help us relationships with children and young people! re-build “Let us arise and build.” So they put their hands to the good work Nehemiah 2:18 P.S.

We are writing to ask you to make a gift to the Re-build Appeal to respond to the huge challenges facing young people. Many are dealing with isolation, deteriorating mental health and have lost out on opportunities to learn about Jesus.

Right now, as face-to-face ministry restarts, we are doing everything possible to re-build and re-connect with children and young people. But we face significant challenges as furlough support ends: • unpredictability around residential events and numbers of participants at our events can severely reduce income • day event prices only cover half the costs of our holidays programme • providing support for children and young people in schools is even more vital • reconnecting with, and training, our volunteer team requires substantial investment.

Until event numbers increase, we have focussed on maintaining (and innovating) ministry wherever possible. However, the loss of another residential summer season has further impacted our finances.

We estimate it will cost more than £250,000 to re-build the team, train and equip volunteers, make necessary alterations at our sites and subsidise events where fewer children are permitted

Since Easter, we have hosted schools at our centres, held SU Holiday day events and missions.

This coming year, we expect to share RME lessons with 3,500 pupils and welcome around 3,000 young people to SU Holidays and weekends, as well as 1,000+ at missions.

We know of at least 300 SU Groups (out of 400, so far) which are planning to resume.

It is essential that we recruit and train staff and volunteers to pre-COVID capacity and investigate new building options at centres to facilitate visiting groups. As these changes enable centre numbers to grow, our funding gap will close.

Our goal is to raise at least £75,000 from this appeal. Your support makes all the difference and SU are asking you to make a donation so that we can re-build ministry to children and young people with confidence.

Thank you for your faithful support – we believe, with your help, we can reignite our new vision to see every child and young person in Scotland exploring the Bible and responding to the significance of Jesus.

Please remember you can always donate online at suscotland.org.uk/give or call our Supporter Care Team on 0141 352 7628

“I’m thankful for the positive work God enabled SU Scotland to do despite the challenges of the past year.” A P6 girl who attended an outdoor event

ECO Recipe

Vegetable Frittata with Leftovers

An ideal recipe for using up bits and pieces of vegetables left in the fridge when there isn't enough for a serving.

Prep time: 10 minutes Cook time: 20-25 minutes

Serves: 4

Ingredients: 8 eggs ¼ cup milk Salt and pepper 1 cup (140g) grated cheese, any leftover cheese you have – a mixture is fine Additions: Peppers, finely chopped Onion, finely chopped Broccoli, cut into small florets Courgette diced into small chunks Leek, finely diced Asparagus, diced Cooked left-over new potatoes Any combination of the above!

If you have a frying pan which can also go in the oven:

- 1. Place a frying pan on a medium heat and add a splash of oil. Cook vegetables until they are tender. Once cooked, remove from the heat.**
- 2. To a mixing bowl add the eggs, milk and salt and pepper and whisk. Pour the egg mix over the vegetables and scatter over the cheese.**
- 3. Cook on the hob for a few minutes until the egg begins to set (like an omelette) then place in a preheated oven at 180C for 10-15 minutes until the frittata is firm.**

If you don't have a frying pan which can go in the oven:

- 1. Place a frying pan on a medium heat and add a splash of oil. Cook vegetables until they are tender. Once cooked, remove from the heat.**
- 2. Line a 20cm x20cm (8" square) baking dish with greaseproof paper. Scatter over the cooked vegetables.**
- 3. To a mixing bowl add the eggs, milk and salt and pepper and whisk. Pour the egg mix over the vegetables and scatter over the cheese. Place in the oven at 180C for 20-25 minutes until the frittata is firm.**

The frittata serves 4 but can be frozen: Once cooled, slice up into 4, wrap in clingfilm and freeze. Remove from the freezer and leave to defrost. Re-heat in the microwave or oven until piping hot

Sandra Muir

This newsletter covers December to the end of February and several of the main church seasons :

Advent (28 November - 24 December 2021)

Advent is the four-week period before Christmas. There are four Sundays in Advent. The word "Advent" means "coming" or "arrival" and in this case points towards the birth of Jesus celebrated at Christmas. One special service involving children is called Christingle and can be held during Advent, Christmas, or Epiphany.

Christmas (25 December 2021 - 5 January 2022)

The season of Christmas begins on the 25 December and traditionally lasts twelve days, ending on 5 January. Christmas is the time when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Epiphany (6 January 2021)

The Epiphany, or revelation, of the baby Jesus as the Son of God come into the world, is traditionally celebrated on the 6 January.

Lent (17 February - 3 April 2021)

Lent is the 40-day period before Easter, beginning with Ash Wednesday. During Lent Christians may fast, or give up some of their usual routine, to give time to personal examination and to reflect on their relationship with God.

As we think on the gift of love given to this world through the birth of the Christ child, as we hope and pray, as we remember – the good and the bad and all those bits in between – we are blessed with the presence of God's Spirit. Blessed by God With Us. Blessed, because no matter the circumstance, God goes with us, behind and before, around and within

God With Us, in the midst of pandemic and post COVID-19, God's ear to hear our prayers, God's eye to look before us to a hopeful future, God's hand to guard and to guide, God's presence in each and every circumstance. God of all our yesterdays, todays and tomorrow

God of all our yesterdays, todays and tomorrows, made real in our gathering and our distancing, bring hope, bring peace, bring joy, bring love, bring light, bring healing.



SELKIRK GRACE Some hae meat, and canna eat, And some wad eat that want it; But we hae meat, and we can eat, And sae the Lord be thankit.

Robert Burns (1759 - 1796)

The Salvation Army in Stirling provide hot meals for many who are hungry and food to heat on days when the kitchen is not open. They have received fewer donations of tinned goods during lockdown and would welcome items to distribute to those who are dependent on them for help.

There will be a plastic stacker box in the front vestibule for you to leave any tins that you are able to give.

Thank you in anticipation of your usual generosity.



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS: NEW CONTRIBUTORS WELCOMED

Any content for the next newsletter must be handed into the Church office or sent by e-mail to the Editor before 5pm on Friday 18th February 2022

We reserve the right to edit or hold over copy if required.

Please send text as a **Windows** file and photos as **JPEG** format.

Handwritten text is accepted but should be in as early as possible please

Any submissions received **AFTER** 5pm on the copy deadline will be held over for the next issue.

SPRING EDITION (March, April, May 2022)

COPY DEADLINE: FRIDAY 18th February 2022

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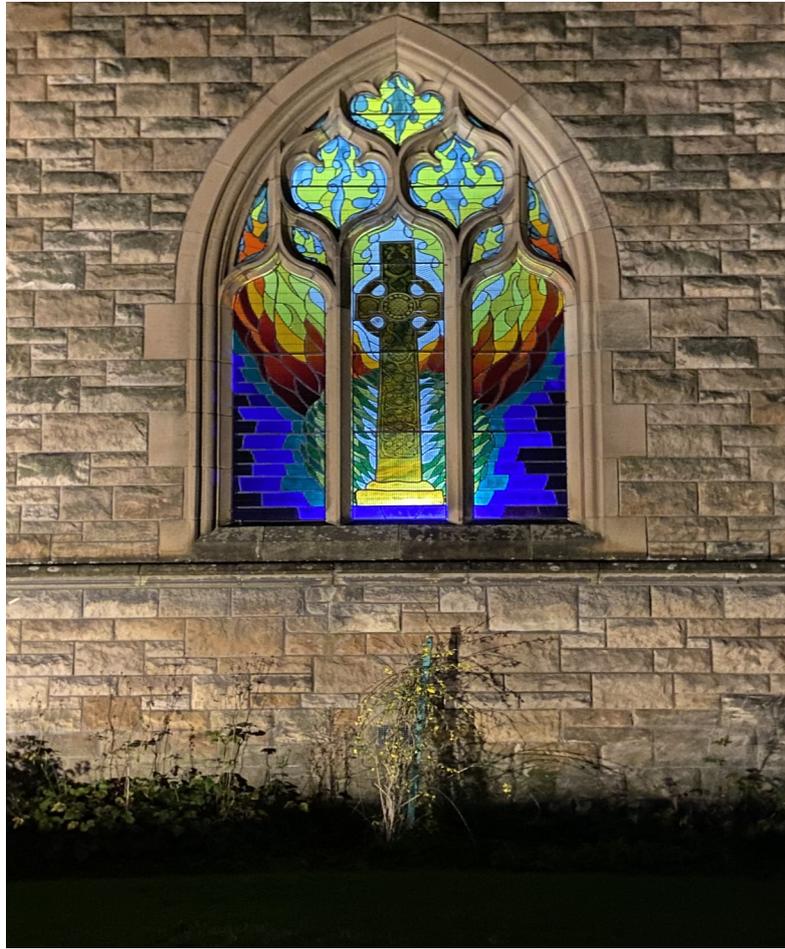
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Welcome to Park Church, Stirling, Park Terrace, Stirling FK8 2NA

All are welcome to attend worship

Please refer to the church website for up to date information.

Notices are also printed weekly in the Stirling Observer (Wednesday issue)

The Park Church, Stirling website is

www.parkchurchstirling.org

The website also provides links to other information and an on-line copy of this newsletter.

Park Church Office, Stirling, FK8 2NA

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(Messages can be left on this number)