

**Park Church Stirling**  
**Newsletter**  
**Autumn 2023**



**JESUS  
CHRIST**

~ THE ~

**BREAD**

~ OF ~

**LIFE**

~ JOHN 6:16-59 ~



***Park Church Stirling , a congregation of the  
Church of Scotland***

***Worshipping in the Peter Memorial Building  
Park Terrace, Stirling, FK8 2NA***

# From the Minister



Dear Friends,

Though some of us would have wanted to have more sunny days this summer, or more school holidays, it was yet another good season for many to relax, catch-up with friends and family, or just to get out for the day. For the next month or so we'll still be able to enjoy summer days and then comes the beauty in a variety of different autumn colours. As the seasons bring forth change in nature, so we know that time bring change about in our lives. Different seasons with different tones to it. Here at Park Church, it's a privilege to be part of the lives of many people and to see that different people are in different seasons of their lives; some celebrating the birth of a child or grandchild, a milestone anniversary, retirement, a good golfing season etcetera. This, whilst others might experience life differently; increased difficulty with health issues, a goodbye to someone special who lives far away, or the loss of a loved one.

As much as we experience joy and love, there might be days when we feel invisible and unloved. It reminds me of the story of Elijah who after a difficult time being isolated, announced that the Lord would bring drought over the land for a few years (1 Kings 17). In the region of Zarephath lived a widow with her young boy who struggled to survive and meet their daily needs of food and water. This widow soon realised that they would die from the ravage of famine. All hope had gone. No husband meant no one to provide for them.

But during this same time, God instructed Elijah to go to the region of Zarephath and find this widow there. Never could she have imagined that deliverance would come from a stranger who looked as hungry as she did. A stranger who asked the impossible from her: bread from the mouth of her starving child. But this stranger would introduce her to a God who did things differently. A God who keeps his promise and would surprise her by simply turning up!

What do we do when we run out of options? How is it that sometimes we're beaten in whichever direction we take? Why does it appear that our calls for help seem destined for disappointment? Is there no way out? It might feel like that, but don't give up! Remember, God doesn't always use recognised channels to come to our aid. Listen carefully for His voice, because He is listening for ours.

But who was this woman to whom God showed such love and compassion? We don't even know her name. In her day, a woman's name was only of importance when related to her husband. Once he died she became a nonentity, No one to provide for her... until, that is, her son became a man. For this woman to lose her son and her husband would be

disastrous. Her son was her only hope of a future. Was she destined to become another nameless statistic of the enveloping famine? Nothing could be further from the truth as far as God was concerned, for when God said His plan of protection and provision motion for His servant Elijah, He had someone else on His mind. God could have sent Elijah to a wealthy family just as easily as to this starving, poverty-stricken woman, but that's not God's way. Yes, He wanted His servant to realise that He could care for him behind Israel's borders, but He also wanted a broken woman to know that she mattered just as much.

After the arrival of Elijah at the house of the widow of Zarephath, miracles happened daily in this widow's life whilst taking on her daily tasks. Each morning, when she shook that flour bin and lifted the oil flask, she not only re-encountered the miraculous but also had daily confirmation that the God of heaven loved her.

Her identity was no longer determined by her husband's name but by the grace of God. He was the One who knew her name. Much lay ahead for this precious woman, but for now, she was experiencing a new life, one that was about more than being able to bake bread each morning.

The God who knew her name wanted her to know His. Little by little she would come to know much more than that.

This is also true for us when we feel unloved or invisible; God knows our name and we mean the world to Him; we matter to Him.

May you find the love and miracles of God in your daily living and tasks, seek Him, and see Him, even amidst the dreariest draughts or seasons in life – He is with you, and He is for you!

With best wishes, joy, and peace,

Attie



# From the Session Clerk

## Update from Session

The Kirk Session last met in early June.. Among the items agreed was the opening of the Church and Tower on the afternoon of Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September as part of Stirling Doors Open weekend. This is an opportunity to see the big bell and the great view from the tower, as well as to hear our minister playing the organ. We also agreed to the use of the Hall for a demonstration of the work of a local primary school class to their parents as part of our community outreach. We were heartened by the very positive feedback from the recent Popcorn and Cake schools event which was attended by almost 130 children over three days. Sarah Murdoch has been asked to lead a new Hospitality team, whilst Marjorie McGowan continues to coordinate coffee after Sunday services and the Thursday coffee club.

Session heard that Mrs Jessie Mackinnon was stepping down as a trustee and active elder after almost 50 years of very dedicated and diligent service because of difficulty attending meetings. Elders recorded their sincere appreciation for such a contribution and wished her every future blessing as she recovers from a number of falls.

My personal highlight of the Session's business in the last three month was the admission of Calum and Lucas as members by profession of faith. It was real blessing and joy to welcome these two young men. I am also hugely encouraged by the gradual increase in attendances on a Sunday and involvement in other activities, which are a reflection of Attie's ministry but also of the welcome and friendship given to visitors and others by so many of you.

Although we had a break in routine meetings till the start of September, a great deal of invaluable work has continued behind the scenes. For example, the garden and grass cutting teams have done a great job in maintaining and improving our grounds, 31 of our elders and 21 of our volunteers have completed safeguarding training updates which our safeguarding coordinators organised for local congregations, Stirling Kirks together and Sunday after church and Thursday coffee teams have maintained hospitality for increasing numbers throughout holiday months and SPARKS helpers have reviewed and cleaned all their equipment. Sheena Tait's support in the office remains invaluable.

Park Church is truly blessed to have a large number of capable and willing people supporting the work of the Church, but we are always looking for more folk to be involved. We are very dependent on our various committees and teams. We review and seek to refresh membership of session committees every November; members of these do not have to be elders and we welcome new talent and any expressions of interest and any practical help. Please consider if there is any aspect you feel you might be willing and happy to support what and speak to Attie, myself or one of the leads or convenors. The committees and teams and leads include Finance (Brian Walker) Property (Jim Gray), Youth (Joy Macfarlane), Mission & Outreach (Hugh Buchanan), Prayer Group (Moirra Parry), Beadles, Bible readers and welcome teams (ask me), Flowers (Maureen McArthur), Gardening (Janey Denton) Grass Cutting (David Burns), Streaming (Ian Jones) Choir (Ross McGowan) Sunday coffee and Thursday Coffee Club( Marjorie McGowan), Hospitality and Newsletter (Sarah Murdoch). Transport (Helen McDonald)

I am looking forward to the autumn In the Church and continuing our faith journey together. Please contact me with any comments or suggestions. Thanks for your continuing encouragement and support.

Peter



## NEWS FROM PARIS OF A NEW MINISTER AT OUR TWINNED CONGREGATION PENTEMONT-LUXEMBOURG



**Sophie Ollier took up her duties in July 2023 and will be inducted to the united charge on 17<sup>th</sup> September. The service is at 18.30pm French time in the Pentemont church. Please pay for Sophie and her colleague, Christian, as she ministers to the diverse international congregation in God's name.**

This profile is from the church website with translation

I was born in 1991 in Lyon (world gastronomic capital as everyone knows!), where part of my family still lives.

After completing my degree in Theology at the Protestant Institute of Theology (IPT) in Paris, I left for a master's degree in the United States, in Holland, Michigan, with a thesis on the question of the Church and the violence.

Back in France, I'm doing a new master's degree at the IPT while living... rue Madame. I was lucky enough to be able to spend a year in this parish before my internship year at Chambon sur Lignon. My first position was, in 2016, in the parish of the United Protestant Church in Le Mans and in Sarthe, where I spent 7 years. During these years I was also invested in the preparation of the Grand Kiff 2021 and in the Regional Council of the Western Region of the United Protestant Church of France.

I am very happy to be pastor of the United Protestant Church of Pentemont-Luxembourg since July 2023, alongside my colleague, Christian!

Listening and sharing are essential for me so that we can become one body together, whether at local or regional level, and move forward in our projects but also in our faith. Moving forward together, each and everyone at our own pace to discover, or rediscover the riches of faith and the beauty of God's gifts, this is, let's say, my way of living the ministry. The Church is for me like a Savoyard fondue (yes, I like culinary examples, and knowing that Christ spent a lot of time around a table...), each and everyone has their own piece of bread, but all in the same pan of cheese, and if there is enough cheese (of trust and love), threads are woven between the pieces of bread connecting us to each other, and to Christ. And there will always be enough room for a new piece of bread!

Contact: Sophie Ollier, 01 45 48 13 50, [sophieollier.epu@gmail.com](mailto:sophieollier.epu@gmail.com)

## Our inspiring young people in Park Church: Summer 2023

### Presentations

#### AUTUMN

Happy to receive her gift at the Summer Presentations to Junior Church members and on duty at the door with Welcome Team greeting Jim Irvine



#### HARRIET



#### FORBES





**New members admitted by profession of faith**  
**Lucas Cuthbert and Andrew McDonald with Rev Attie Van Wyk**



## Art Club

Come and join our Art Club! We start again on Thursday 17th August and our session goes on until 5th October - so that's every Thursday 2pm - 4pm in Park Church Hall. £2 per week.

We are a complete mix of folk - a few are already good artists and just come for the opportunity to draw/paint in a convivial atmosphere and others have limited experience, but lots of interest and determination and we all work together on one subject and share our experience and tips. I always prepare a still life of some kind, so that we have one shared activity, but sometimes someone will have a particular project which they want help with - for example drawing their pet or a scene from holiday. So it's all very relaxed. Naturally we have a tea/coffee break and lots of chat and laughs.

At the end of the summer term we looked at creating space in pictures, by looking at corners of our kitchens, windows and objects in front of others. We used different textures and techniques, including collage - a real 'Blue Peter' week! I hope these pictures will give you a flavour of what we get up to.

Please bring along a sketch pad and any sketching materials you like to use. I also provide materials. We are hoping to increase our little band, so please pass this on to anyone who you think might be interested.

Kate Langley 07971 529485





## Doors Open Day—Sunday September 24th

Session have agreed that Park Church will join the annual Stirling Doors Open event by hosting visits to the building (and tower) on the afternoon of September 24th from 2-4pm.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served to visitors in the Main Hall and the Minister will play the organ .

All welcome

Views of the bell and from the tower



## EASY 'BOOKS OF THE BIBLE' PUZZLE

1. What is the name of the group in which Phil Collins was the drummer and later lead singer?
2. What is the first name of the actress from Hi-de-Hi who played the part of Gladys Pugh?
3. 17, 39, 87, 105, 253.
4. Who are the people who take part, on stage, in Britain's got Talent?
5. The first name of Ms Rantzen.
6. Caligula, Nero, Vespasian, Trajan.
7. What is the first name of the actor who played Chandler Bing in the television series 'Friends'?
8. 'Hey \_\_\_\_\_' is a song by The Beatles, released in 1968.
9. What is the first name of the actor who played the title role of Harry Potter in the series of films of that name?
10. Shirley Ballas, Anton Du Beke, Craig Revel Horwood, Motsi Mabuse.

Answers on page 17



On June 22nd three students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland performed a varied programme of classical, operatic and musical items to raise funds for CHAS

(Childrens Hospices Across Scotland).

The evening concert held in Park Church was well supported and enjoyed by those who had the pleasure of attending.

Pictured are :

Roisin Linehan, Soprano

Elizabeth Clarence Mezzo

Esther Ersfeld, Piano



## Church gardens & grass

Our thanks are due to all member of the gardening and grass-cutting teams for keeping the church grounds in such beautiful condition throughout the Spring and Summer months.

The plant borders have been expertly tended by Clive & Janey Denton, who have given many years of service to this task. This season Sam McLean, Ronnie McPhee and Alan Semple also volunteered to help keep the borders tidy, focussing particularly on the flower and shrub bed at the front of the Church, which is also tended by Maureen McArthur and husband, Gordon.



The lawn areas continue to be maintained by 6 members working as teams of two on a fortnightly rota: David Burns & John Quinn, Bill Cunningham & John Magrath: Graham Menzies & Derek Young.

If anyone is interested in joining the gardening or grass-cutting teams please contact David Burns on Mobile: 07419160100 or email: [davidoburns@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:davidoburns@hotmail.co.uk)



## 4th/6th Stirling Scouts who meet in Park Church Halls

Jane McPherson has sent some photos of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts celebrating their Golden Jubilee and prizegiving at the end of the spring session:



They would love to have more help in all of the Sections -helping on a Friday evening with any of the age groups: for more information just to get in touch with Jane by email [themacpherson-family6@gmail.com](mailto:themacpherson-family6@gmail.com)



## **Stirling Branch forthcoming events**

**Quiz Night in Lecropt Church Hall on  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 7.30pm**

**Evening Praise Service in St. Mark's  
Parish Church on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm**

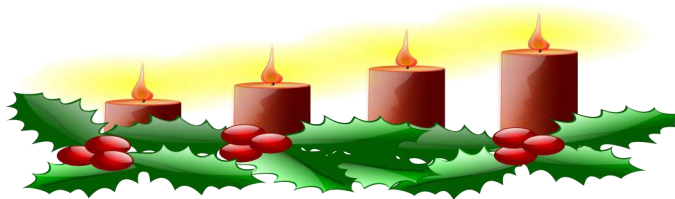
Additional details from Park Church representative Willie Troup

## **Christmas Concerts in the church**

**save the dates!**

**Saturday 2nd December**

**Torbrex Community Choir Charity Concert at 7.30pm**



**Sunday 10th December at 2.30pm**

**Strathcarron Singers**



## **Street (AND Campus) Pastors**

I have recently completed a training programme as a volunteer with Stirling Street Pastors, SSP, who have their base in the second floor former Boys Bible Class room in Park Church. I had long been impressed by their work of caring, listening and helping the vulnerable; and had expressed an interest in supporting their teams particularly on Campus.

This was a very comprehensive and enlightening programme with monthly day long sessions for six months shared with colleagues from Perth and Falkirk as well as Stirling. Topics included Roles and Responsibilities, Listening Skills, Youth Culture, Drug and Alcohol Awareness (which opened my eyes even as an experienced doctor), Mental Health, Advice from the Police, First Aid and sharing our faith (only if invited to do so) This was very worthwhile preparation.

We also had two supervised patrols - I had one Friday night (10pm – 3am) patrol with pastors in Stirling City Centre and one on a Friday afternoon (noon-3pm) in the Stirling University campus. The Friday night was said to be relatively quiet but I was impressed and encouraged by the cordial relationships with security staff in all the local bars and clubs and the local police who looked to the street pastors to help avoid trouble and support potentially vulnerable young and middle-aged men and women looking for support and care. They and the CCTV operators also directed us to potential need. The regulars recognised and greeted pastors and we had several helpful conversations with sometimes lonely and distressed people, sharing water or sweets (which may ameliorate effects of drugs and alcohol), giving flip flops to those who had lost their shoes and seeking to ensure they got home safely with friends or taxis.

The Stirling Street Pastors were invited onto campus by the University in the pandemic when there were many international students who were very isolated and unable to return home for a year or more in many instances. Significant numbers appreciated the opportunity for a listening ear and friendly chat and the authorities encouraged the street pastors to continue these patrols as they value their contribution to student well-being.



I now go out for 2-3 hours walking around campus on a Friday afternoon with a colleague wearing our distinctive uniforms (once every three weeks on average). Many students and staff are keen to chat, some lonely and homesick, some very anxious about forthcoming exams, presentations or future prospects, others are depressed. A surprising number ask us why we do what we do and this may open up deeper conversations. We are often asked what church we belong to- and most are surprised when we reply that we belong to different churches but work together as concerned Christians. I have been on patrol with members of other local Church of Scotland congregations, Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Baptist, UF and Cornerstone colleagues.

Over the summer there have also been very positive encounters with summer school participants and other visitors to the University. I have found my involvement to be both interesting and rewarding – it is a privilege to be able to meet and talk to so many people. We always start our patrol with a brief prayer usually asking for safety and God's wisdom to speak and act sensitively and appropriately, and finish up with a short prayer for those we have met. We really appreciate the support in prayer of family and friends.

Stirling Street Pastors need more volunteers so they can patrol in the city centre every Friday and Saturday evenings, and on the university campus every Friday afternoon. You can be a street pastor just for afternoon or just for evening patrols .

For further information email [stirling@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:stirling@streetpastors.org.uk) or please speak to me

Peter Murdoch



# STIRLING STREET PASTORS NEEDS YOU!



Street Pastors CARE, LISTEN and HELP

We are ambassadors for Christ.

We need more volunteers so that we can patrol in the city every Friday and Saturday evening, and on the university campus every Friday afternoon.

You can be a Street Pastor just for afternoon patrols or for evening patrols.



Watch our video here



Find out more here  
[stirling.streetpastors.org.uk](http://stirling.streetpastors.org.uk)

Email [stirling@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:stirling@streetpastors.org.uk) or call 07545 527511

Seek the welfare of the city - Jeremiah 29:7

# **News from HMP and YOI Stirling**

## **(formerly Cornton Vale)**

**HMP and YOI Stirling** opened its doors in June and women are being moved into this new prison in a phased and carefully managed process. As with all new establishments there have been teething problems and a period of stability is required. Having heard the new Governor speak about her aims and plans a few months ago I am confident that the new Stirling prison will flourish in the best sense of the word.

**To draw attention to this new venture the Trustees of the Visitors Centre are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September from 10am-12pm in Bridge of Allan Parish Church to raise funds to support Stirling's newest prison. This is the first coffee morning since Covid.**

**Tickets cost £3 and are available from me.**



The charity has recently changed its name to **Forth Valley Inclusion** – support for people in prison and their visitors - to reflect more accurately the work that they undertake.

More news next time round.

Eleanore Hunter    01786 472396



## Park Church Congregational Big Lunch : On Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2023



Over 100 people enjoyed a delicious meal, singing and opportunity for conversation . Thanks to all who came and all who helped before, during and after the event.

Flowers brought to decorate the hall and church were taken to others in the community after the day to share our celebrations.

### ANSWERS TO BIBLE BOOK QUIZ:

- |            |            |            |           |            |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. Genesis | 2. Ruth    | 3. Numbers | 4. Acts   | 5. Esther  |
| 6. Romans  | 7. Matthew | 8. Jude    | 9. Daniel | 10. Judges |

## **Park Church Ladies Group-Autumn 2023**

**All meetings are held in the Main Hall unless otherwise stated and start at 7.30pm**

**A warm welcome is extended to anyone who wishes to attend whether a member or not.**

**We always have time to have a cup of tea and a biscuit afterwards and plenty of friendly conversation!**

**September 11<sup>th</sup> Social Evening with Quiz and musical entertainment by Rev Attie Van Wyk**

**September 25<sup>th</sup> Talk about Eilidh Brown Memorial Fund charity**

**October 9<sup>th</sup> Antonine Silver**

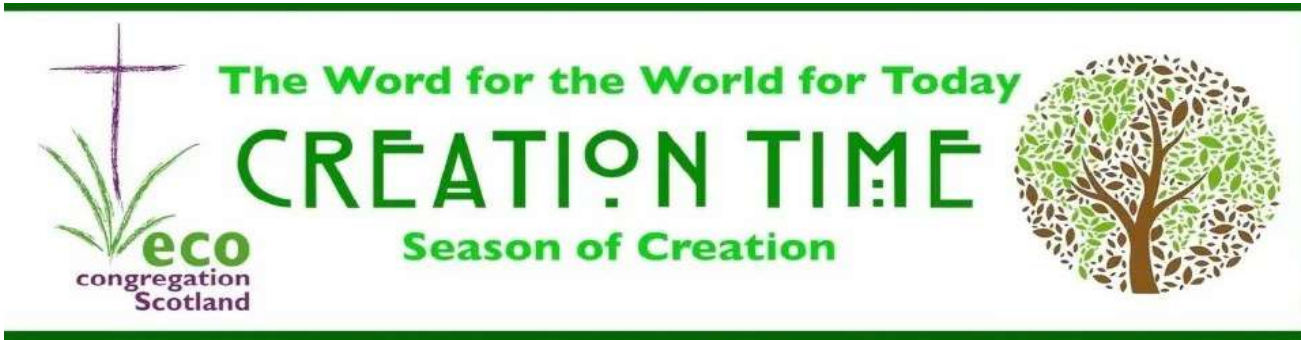
**October 23<sup>rd</sup> “Ukraine”- a talk by Jon Penman**

**November 6<sup>th</sup> “ A special place” a talk by Ian Ritchie**

**November 20<sup>th</sup> Bags from upcycled materials by Cat Perkinton**

**December 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner**





Running from September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to October 4, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, this annual event encourages Christians of all denominations to engage in prayer and action for the protection of creation.

The burning bush is the Symbol of the Church of Scotland and reminds us that even when the fire called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb it did not consume or destroy the bush. The flame of the Spirit revealed God's presence and the holy fire affirmed that God hears the cries of all who suffer, and promises to be with us as we follow in faith.

Park Church is an eco congregation and we have pledged to work together to help those who are less fortunate- like the farmers in Nepal that our former Mission partners, Joel & Fiona Hafverstein, spoke about at their last visit, as well as using our own resources with generosity and care.

More information, Videos and prayers can be found on the Eco-Scotland website:

<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/season-of-creation-creation-time-creationtide-2023/>





# Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River  
Amos 5: 24

## **Let Justice Flow Freely: a prayer in the season of creation**

Let justice flow freely,  
not drip in desperate, sporadic splats; through blocked-up, con-  
stricted channels controlled by the status quo.

Let justice roll down like waters, fast and flourish-  
ing, bringing respite and reparation to people and  
planet.

Climate chaos, driven by an addiction to  
consumption, has choked us all,  
God.

The elite rich suffocate under stuff that cannot satisfy, while so  
many more struggle to survive at all.

Wake us up to the world  
– may we hear the song of sustainability over the constant  
rumble of ‘what we want.’

May peace fall like rain and justice spread like morning sun.  
AMEN

The Right Reverend Sally Foster-Fulton  
Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland



The final session of Sparks Pre-school Playgroup before the summer was a Teddy Bears Picnic: unfortunately a somewhat cold and grey day so the food was enjoyed in the Main Hall.

### Church Library

We are grateful for the donation of a DVD titled RISEN.

This tells the epic Biblical story of the Resurrection, as told through the eyes of a non-believer, Clavius (played by Joseph Fiennes), a powerful Roman military tribune, and his aide Lucius.

They are tasked with solving the mystery of what happened to Jesus in the weeks following the crucifixion, in order to disprove the rumours of a risen Messiah and prevent an uprising in Jerusalem.

It is a good watch from a different perspective.

It can be borrowed from the Church Library.

Lyndsay Boyack



## A FAVOURITE HYMN.

### GLORY BE TO GOD THE FATHER HYMN 110.

The words of this wonderful Hymn were written by Horatius Bonar (1808 – 1889), a Scottish Minister who moved to the Free Church after the Disruption and became Moderator of the General Assembly of that Church.

He wrote 600 Hymns, some of which were for the Moody and Sankey revival meetings.

This hymn is based on the Lesser Doxology which was sung at the end of Psalms. Each verse is the outpouring of praise ranging from Glory to the Trinity in verse 1 to the King of Angels in verse 3. The final verse speaks of the Choir of Angels singing “Glory to the King of Kings”.

The tune Regent Square was composed by Henry Smart (1813 – 1879), and is named after a Presbyterian Church in London. Smart was a famous organist who became editor of the Scottish Presbyterian Hymn Book.

Ross McGowan, Organist



Please come and support the Annual Stirling Christian Aid Coffee Morning which will be held on Saturday 21st October 2023

**Venue:**

**Park Church Main Hall**

**From 10 am to 12noon**

**Tea, Coffee, Home baking and conversation**

**Everyone welcome!**





**The Stirling Kirks Together All- Age Friendship Lunches will continue to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.**

**Wednesday 13th September**

**Wednesday 10th October**

**Wednesday 11th November**

**From 12noon-1.30pm**

**Venue: Park Church Main Hall, Park Terrace**



**Conversation**

**Soup & Rolls, Tea, Coffee and Home Baking**

**All welcome**

**For further information contact Johan Stirling on 01786 461571**

## Van Wyk Family Recipe for Baked Chocolate Pudding

**Attie writes:** This easy-to-make chocolate pudding with its own sauce was always an all-round favourite of our family and dates back to 1951. On a cold Sunday this is a winner, especially when you add a dash of custard, ice cream, or evaporated milk on top of it!

NB Measurements in cups are 250ml

### Ingredients:

#### (Dough)

- 1 cup self- raising flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon table salt
- ½ cup white sugar
- 1 ½ tablespoons cocoa powder

#### (Topping)

- ½ cup (cows) milk
- 1 tablespoon melted butter/margarine
- 1 tablespoon vanilla essence
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons cocoa powder
- 3 cups of boiling water



### Method:

Mix the first 5 ingredients.

Mix the milk, butter/margarine, and vanilla essence. Then mix it in with the first mixture of ingredients. Stir and mix well.

Place the dough batter in a greased baking dish.

Mix the remaining ingredients: ½ cup brown sugar, 2 tablespoons cocoa powder, and 3 cups of boiling water, and pour gently over the dough batter.

Bake the pudding for 30mins at 180 degrees Celsius.

The pudding makes its own sauce.

**Future Demonstrations in the Main Hall :**

Linda Souter from Dunfermline on

**Tuesday 19th September at 2pm** "Reflections"

**Open Night**

**Wednesday 18th October at 7pm** "Celebrating Autumn's Beauty"

demonstrator Mima Telfer from Dumfries

More details from Sarah Murdoch, Hon. Secretary on 01786-473087

**Park Church Ministry of Flowers**

We are so fortunate that worship in the church is enhanced by the flowers donated each week by members of the congregation. At Christmas, Easter and special events teams of volunteers come in to work together on the larger displays.

All the flowers are taken out by volunteers to folk who may be ill, in hospital, unable to attend church through frailty or celebrating a special birthday or anniversary. Every bunch or arrangement is accompanied by a prayer message signed by the Minister or Worship Leader.

Thanks are due to Maureen McArthur who organises the rotas and plans the flower themes with great care and skill.

The Flower Team would like to congratulate Maureen and husband Jimmy on their recent Golden wedding anniversary and wish them many more happy years together.





## Food for thought.

The problem that most of us have is that we were inoculated with small doses of Christianity in childhood which keeps us from catching the real thing in later life.

Why do some “born again” Christians make you wish they had never been born in the first place?

The Presbyterian conscience doesn't stop you from sinning: it just stops you from enjoying it.

When I die, my preference is to go to hell. There I will meet popes, kings, princes and lawyers. If I go to heaven there are only beggars, monks and apostles.

The Jews wandered in the desert for 40 years, because even in biblical times, Moses wouldn't stop to ask for directions.

*Perhaps an addition to the Lord's Prayer?*

“Vouchsafe O Lord, to keep us this day without being found out.”

What do you say when God sneezes?

Is it true that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage?

Young couple approaching the Pearly Gates:-

*“ We were due to be married, but we died in a car crash before we could tie the knot. Can we be married in Heaven?”*

St Peter:- *“ I'm not sure. If you'll wait here, I'll go and find out.”*

Six weeks pass and St Peter returns. *“ Good news, Yes! You can get married in heaven”*

Young man: *“...and if it doesn't work out, can we get divorced in heaven?”*

St Peter:- *“you have to be joking. It took me 6 weeks to find a minister up here. How long do you think it's going to take to find a lawyer?”*

## A prayer of commemoration for the fallen

Father of all, remember your holy promise,  
and look with love on all your people, living and departed.  
On this day we especially ask that you would hold forever  
all who have suffered during war, those who returned scarred by warfare,  
those who waited anxiously at home,  
and those who returned wounded, and disillusioned;  
those who mourned, and those communities that were diminished and suffered loss.  
Remember too those who acted with kindly compassion,  
those who bravely risked their own lives for their comrades,  
and those who in the aftermath of war, worked tirelessly for a more peaceful world.  
And as you remember them, remember us, O Lord;  
grant us peace in our time and a longing for the day when people of every language,  
race, and nation will be brought into the unity of Christ's kingdom.  
This we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



## A prayer for World peace

O God of the nations,  
as we look to that day when you will gather people  
from north and south, east and west,  
into the unity of your peaceable Kingdom,  
guide with your just and gentle wisdom all who take counsel  
for the nations of the world,  
that all your people may spend their days in security, freedom, and peace,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers from the Church of England website with thanks

## **Autumn Services:**

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>**    **Holy Communion 11am**  
                         **Annfield Care Home 3pm**

**October 1st**      **Harvest Service 11am**  
                         **Annfield Care Home 3pm**

**November 12<sup>th</sup>**   **Remembrance Service**  
                         **(starts at 10.45)**



## **Preparation for Advent & Christmas**

There will be a series of joint church Bible studies: dates and details to follow

In December the joint schools programme “Bible Gum and Fluff” will be offered to the Stirling Primary Schools by volunteers from Park Church and St.Ninians Old Parish, led by the two Ministers.

Several carol services will be held in the church by local choirs as well as the church choir.

Gifts for children will be collected for distribution by Women’s Aid at the annual Gift Service.

The Advent Communion will be held at 11am on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December



### **In loving memory**

It is with sadness, but great thankfulness for a life well lived, that we have to share the news of the death of the following members of Park Church:

**Marion Pow of Eccles Court, Stirling**

**Joe Dick of Stirling (latterly Randolph Hill Care Home)**

**Angus Collins of Ash Terrace, Stirling**

**Ian White of Brentham Avenue, Stirling**

### **New Members**

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to Park Church congregation:

**Lucas Cuthbert, Stirling**

**Callum McDonald, Stirling**

**Duncan Marshall, Stirling**

### **NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED**

Any photos, articles, notices and other content for the next newsletter must be handed into the Park Church office or sent by e-mail to the Editor before 5pm on **Monday 13th November 2023** to enable copies to be printed in time for Elders to distribute before Communion on Sunday December 3rd.

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 as the autumn newsletter is prepared from June onwards.

The Winter edition (covers December, January and February)

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The Park Church, Stirling website is :

**[www.parkchurchstirling.org](http://www.parkchurchstirling.org)**



## **Park Church Stirling (SC001414)**

**worship in the Peter Memorial Building**

**We warmly welcome you to services, activities and events**

**Each Sunday we gather together at 11am for worship and fellowship**

**Our mission is to share the love of God in a modern world**

**Further details are on the website :[www.parkchurchstirling.org](http://www.parkchurchstirling.org)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ParkChurchStirling](https://www.facebook.com/ParkChurchStirling)**