

Park Church Stirling
Newsletter
Spring 2024



***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,

Most of us know the words to Petula Clark's top hit, 'Downtown':

"When you're alone, and life is making you lonely you can always go:

Downtown.

When you've got worries, all the noise and the hurry seems to help, I know,

Downtown...

You can forget all your troubles, forget all your cares. So go downtown,

things'll be great when you're Downtown, no finer place for sure.

Downtown everything's waiting for you."

It's on miserable stormy days, like today, when I would like to tell Petula that going downtown won't help at all. It also doesn't only need bad weather to get us to feel down. There are so many things on our mind that distract us; thoughts, challenges, longings, you name it. But it's especially during difficult days when I remind myself that God's love for us is not dependent on the weather or any of our moods and emotions. He is there for us regardless of where we are and how we might feel.

The writer of Genesis 18:14 asks the question when Abraham and Sarah are struggling with various things in their lives: *'Is anything too hard for the Lord?'*

It reminds me that it's about my approach and attitude towards life, and essentially towards God. And I remind myself then that nothing but nothing is too unimportant to pray about or too big for God to handle. I didn't say he would grant all our wishes, but he is able to handle any situation. Yet sometimes, we might spend more time worrying about our troubles than praying about them. And we might spend more time fretting about our problems than attempting solving them, again attitude.

A far better strategy, of course, is to pray as if everything depended entirely upon God and to work as if everything depended entirely upon us; a double-sided coin.

Now it might be that we often know precisely what needs to be done, but we may be slow in doing it - especially if what needs to be done is difficult or uncomfortable for us. So we put off till tomorrow that which should be done today. This again boils down to our attitude, as we have the ability to adjust or readjust our attitude.

Doing what is right means doing the uncomfortable with confronting our problems sooner rather than later.

If you want to defeat Old Man Trouble, you need the right kind of attitude: the positive kind. So what is your attitude today? What is withholding you from addressing certain matters? Is it fear, anger, are you just bored, or is it worries dragging you down? Are you pessimistic, perplexed, or in pain? Maybe you are moping around with a frown on your face that's almost as big as the one in your heart. If so, God wants to have a little talk with you. God created you in his own image, and he wants you to experience joy, contentment, peace, and abundance. But God will not force you to experience these things; you must claim them for yourself.

Paul writes in 2 Timothy 1:7: *'The Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.'*

God is giving you free will, including the ability to influence the direction and the tone of your thoughts. And God wants you to direct those thoughts to "whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable" (Philippians 4:8).

So, the next time you find yourself dwelling upon the negative aspects of your life, refocus your attention on things positive. Yes, maybe you can't go to metaphorically speaking 'Downtown', whatever that space or place may be, but take a look around you; your neighbours, your friends, your family, your home, the privileges you have that many others in other parts of the world can only dream of. The next time you find yourself falling prey to the blight of pessimism, stop yourself and turn your thoughts around. Adopt an attitude of gratitude.

No matter how heavy the burden, daily strength is given by the Living God who doesn't change his love for us. So, I expect we need not give ourselves too much if any concern as to what the outcome will be. We must simply go forward in the strength of God.

Lent affords us the opportunity to search the depths of our lives, even with our shortcomings, and at the same time experience the heights of God's love.

So, may you experience the heights of God's love in new and astonishing ways as never before during this Lent and Easter!

With every good blessing,

Attie



From the Session Clerk

Spring is an encouraging and sometimes exciting time as familiar shoots re-emerge, together with some unexpected new surprises. It has been similar in the Church. It was great to see record numbers attending Christmas services and good numbers including several visitors attending on Sunday mornings since then, despite the inclement weather. Many others enjoy watching the streamed services accessible on the church website or listening to audio recordings and we are most grateful to Ian Jones, Gordon Luke and Helen McDonald for their help in this. It was also encouraging to hear of a new informal house group for members under 35.

The finance team have introduced new accounting systems as well as working on the accounts for 2023. These should be finalised and details available for sharing in the next few weeks. Preliminary figures for 2023 suggest that voluntary donations have been maintained although Gift Aided giving has reduced. Gift Aided donations remain our main source of income. Income from hire of premises and rental of 22 Laurelhill Place are also invaluable, especially as utility costs previously on a bargain fixed term deal through the Church of Scotland will be almost double in 2024.

The property team have been assiduous in maintaining the church's buildings. The Rear Car Park behind the Hall is being repaired this spring.

The Youth Group continue to run the very popular SPARKS pre-school group, and work together with friends in St Ninians Old to offer schools initiatives in March and May in Park Church and a shared Easter Holiday Club in April.

The joint Stirling Kirks Together Monthly Friendship lunches continue to increase in attendance and currently attracts up to 60 people.

However good stewardship of finance and property are both merely means towards an end, to further God's Kingdom. The last two Kirk Session meetings have focussed on how we engage with our local community in Stirling and in particular how we might be more missional, reaching out to others. Attie explained the so called 5 marks of Mission:- to share the good news of the gospel, to nurture people, to serve communities, to challenge injustice and to foster worshipping communities. Or to put it another way- to Tell, to Teach, to Tend, to Transform and to Treasure.

The Perth Presbytery Mission Plan envisages us working closely with neighbouring congregations as a team (primarily with St Ninians Old Parish and Holy Rude Viewfield). Session agreed we all need to get to know each other better and encourage all our congregations to experience services and events in each other's churches. There are particular opportunities in forthcoming shared Lenten Bible studies, the World Day of Prayer service on 1st March and the Easter week services with refreshments afterwards held every evening in a different church with a different minister. There also be a short informal Easter early morning service in Kings Park followed by breakfast in Park Church. After Easter we might explore opportunities for mutual help, shared initiatives, occasional evening or midweek services and house groups.

Session agreed we should focus on how we might reach out, recognising and building on our strengths, on sharing our different gifts, complimenting rather than competing and supporting shared initiatives particularly to engage with younger people. The short to medium term future is likely to involve a reduction in the availability of full-time ministers who face increasing demands, including often having to help others by acting as Interim Moderators elsewhere. Park Church is exceedingly blessed in having such an inspiring and committed minister as Attie. I know he appreciates the support of office bearers and the whole congregation in many different ways but this will be needed more than ever.

We value your prayerful and practical support as we seek to work more effectively with others to meet some of the challenges in Stirling and to embrace some of the opportunities that may emerge and surprise.

Please share any comments or suggestions you might have with Attie, myself or any elder

Thank you Peter.





World Day of Prayer

The origins of World Day of Prayer date back to the 19th century when Christian women of the United States and Canada initiated a variety of activities in support of women's involvement in mission at home and in other parts of the world.

These activities related to:

- concern for women and children
- the role of prayer in mission work
- a vision of Christian unity
- biblical study as everyone's responsibility
- social issues and working with immigrants
- linking world peace with world mission

In 1926 the women of North America distributed the worship service to many countries and partners in mission. The response world-wide was enthusiastic; thus the call was issued for a world Day of Prayer.

For more information on the history of World Day of Prayer visit:

www.wwdp.org.uk

World Day of Prayer came to these islands through the missionary activity of a Scots woman, Grace Forgan, who heard of the movement at an international missionary gathering in Jerusalem in 1928. The first service was held in Scotland in 1930, then in England in 1932, Wales in 1933, Republic of Ireland in 1935 and Northern Ireland in 1943. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland the Day of Prayer is organised through:

- A **National Committee** that edits the service and prepares and distributes resource material to its branches
- **Regional Days** held around the country that help local branches to prepare for the next Day of Prayer
- Over 2,500 inter-denominational **Local Branch Committees** whose members promote the service in their churches and jointly organise the Day of Prayer in their area

Offerings from the service are used to support the work of the World Day of Prayer and projects run by Christian Charities

World Day of Prayer



A global ecumenical movement of informed prayer and prayerful action

FIRST FRIDAY IN MARCH



A short ecumenical service will be held in St Marks Church Stirling at 2pm on Friday 1st March. The Order of worship was prepared two years ago by members of the Christian Church in Palestine.

A Prayer for the Middle East

from Christian Aid

God, hear our prayers for peace in the Middle East .

May all people in the region be protected, safe from harm.

We pray that this crisis will end now, with no further loss of life.

God, may the injured and distressed know your healing presence.

May the powerful and the decision-makers follow the paths of justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for the recognition of the dignity and value of every life.

May the clamour of violence cease,

Replaced by the beating of swords into ploughshares.

God, in your name, Amen.



Lent Appeal

When a community gets clean water for the first time, it's the start of something truly life-changing.

Right now, millions of children around the world like Aynadis in Ethiopia don't have [clean water](#) to drink, [decent toilets](#) to use or [good hygiene](#) to protect themselves. Without these basics, breaking the cycle of poverty is just a dream.

But when you help WaterAid dig a well or install a tap in a community, you're changing the lives of children for the better. Your donation today, can help children to stay in school instead of wasting their precious childhood walking to collect water.

Together, with your help, we'll keep working until everyone, everywhere has clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.

Will you help transform lives today?

Jars of Change

Lent starts on Wed. 14th February and ends on 28th March.

By putting money in a jam jar during Lent whenever you give up something e.g. a coffee, crisps or whenever you use water, you will be helping to provide clean water. If you also want your donation to be Gift Aided please pick up one of the labels, to be put inside your jars, which I will leave at the front door from the 19th Feb. The jars will be collected at the front door from Sunday 31st March.

I have also set up a Just Giving page - www.justgiving.com/page/helen-reid-1706884666211

Please support this charity.

Thanks , Helen Reid



Christian Aid Week in 2024 is on the May 5th to 12th.

Envelopes may be picked up on May 5th at both doors to be returned the following two Sundays.

Helen Reid will also set up a Just Giving Page and the link will be published in the Intimations from May 5th for two weeks.

The Annual Stirling Coffee Morning will be held on the 26th October like last year, in St. Ninians Old Parish Church Hall from 10.30 till 12.00 and we hope everyone will support it at this venue as well as you did in 2023!

Helen McDonald & Helen Reid

An interesting experience

On 4th July last year the BBC's Antiques Roadshow came to Pollok House, Glasgow – and so did we!

A good friend of my family, who had known me since I was a baby, died in January that year and we were asked if we would like anything from her house. I was thinking of items for the Art Club at Park Church and saw what I thought was a ceramic vase on a high shelf. It turned out to be a very dusty bottle which was dated 1828. So we thought it might be fun to see what Antiques Roadshow made of it.

Peter and I had an afternoon slot (which was just as well as it fairly chucked it down in the morning) and arrived in good time to join the endless queues snaking their way around the gardens. It was all very well organised: a security check of bags, a triage system to identify which expert we were to go to and, of course, another queue for the actual valuer. There were lots of opportunities to chat with folk – where are you from? What item have you brought? Isn't it a shame about the weather? Where's the café? Etc. There seemed to be hundreds of mad dogs and families with young kids and most people were very good humoured and the experts were so kind and patient with the public, especially those who they could see were nervous.

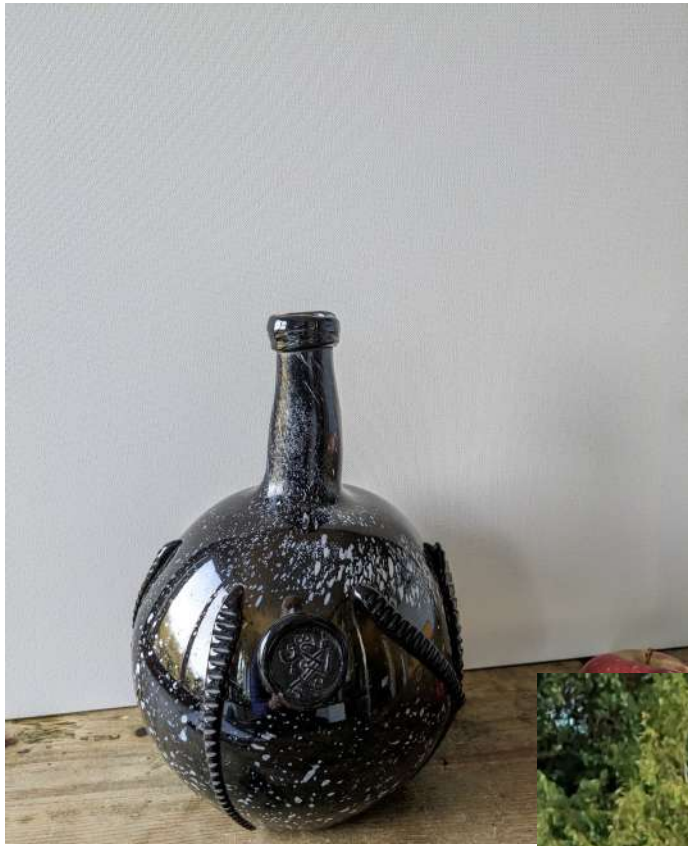
Slowly the production team identified the items or stories they thought might be of interest and we were then told to sit in a tent and wait to be interviewed by a producer to be further assessed. Unfortunately, as we had been told to go immediately to the glass expert, this meant that we weren't able to see any of the other stalls and we were stuck for an hour. But we then spoke to Will Farmer, the glass expert and host for the day, and then he went off (with our bottle) to do some further research on it. Or, more likely, to pass it on to a researcher. So we were free for 2 hours to look around the other stalls and, when the sun came out, so did Fiona Bruce!

Whether you love her or loathe her, you would have to admire her professionalism – she fairly worked the crowd, cuddling dogs and babies and chatting to everyone. She also filmed 3 separate sessions of 'guess the most expensive'. We were told that our bottle would be filmed if we could hang around until 6.30pm, so we checked with our dog sitter and went for a cuppa. In the end we had to do 8 takes as the planes started flying overhead or the editor wanted some other angle to be included and so on.

If you watch the programme, you will know that they have started a short 'follow up' section at the end and in late August I had a phone call from the production team to ask me if I was going to take the bottle to our Art Club? Of course I was!

So the next Thursday Attie kindly did a brilliant video of our Club with the bottle as part of the still life we were painting/drawing and I think everyone enjoyed being part of that – though it was a shame that two of our regulars were away on holiday. At the time of writing this I do not know how they will edit my contribution or the follow up piece – I just hope our Club is featured. It is due to be screened on Sunday 11th February. And, yes, I am selling the bottle!

Kate Langley



Left the special bottle

Middle Kate at Antiques Roadshow

Below the Park Church Art Club with their paintings of the bottle



Stirling Kirks Together

**All- Age Friendship Lunches are held on the
second Wednesday of the month.**

The spring dates are:

Wednesday 13th March

Wednesday 10th April

Wednesday 8th May

From 1pm -2.30pm

Venue: Park Church Hall, Park Terrace



Conversation

Soup & Fresh Filled Rolls, Tea, Coffee and Home Baking

All welcome

For further information contact Sarah Murdoch on 01786-473087



The pre-school children have a lot of fun and crafts every week and then enjoy singing and a bible story in the sanctuary before snack time.

“Restoration Station”

This year the Easter Stirling Kirks Together Holiday Club will be held in the halls of St.Ninians Old Parish Church on Tuesday 9th , Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th April in the morning.

Sunday 3rd March

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION at 11am in Park Church



“ Invite a Friend” Sunday– Palm Sunday 24th March

Congregations across Scotland are being encouraged to make Palm Sunday 24th March as an opportunity to make a special effort to invite others, whether family or friends to come along to church services—which may be very different from their preconceptions or vague memories from childhood.

When we think of Palm Sunday, crowds of people took to the streets to see and celebrate Jesus and the fact that he cared and reached out to everyone.

To bring a friend along also reflects this image of old where all are welcome in the presence of Jesus Christ.

Our Minister and Kirk Session will encourage folk to invite others- who are always welcome any time to join services and activities



The Christian calendar is divided up by festivals and seasons.

Some, like Christmas Day, happen on the same date every year, while others move around within a range of dates. The main festival that moves is Easter, and since many other festivals have their dates fixed in relation to Easter, they move with it.

Lent (13 February - 24th March)

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.

Holy Week (25 - 30 March 2024)

Holy Week is the last week of Lent. It is the week preceding Easter and the period in the Christian year when Christians remember the last week in Jesus' life.

Easter

Easter is the season in which Christians remember the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is the most important festival in the Christian year.

Good Friday - 29th March

Holy Saturday - 30th March

Easter Sunday or Easter Day - 31st March

Easter Monday - 1st April

Pentecost-Whit Sunday 19th May 2024

Ascension Day commemorates the ascension of Jesus into heaven 40 days after his resurrection from the dead. It can be understood traditionally as his taking up into heaven at the conclusion of his earthly ministry.



Lent Bible Studies-come and join us for any of the evenings

Park Church, Holy Rude,-Viewfield and St. Ninians Old Parish Churches are holding a joint series of **Lent Bible Study evenings**

Study notes provided

We will meet on:

Thursday 8th March,

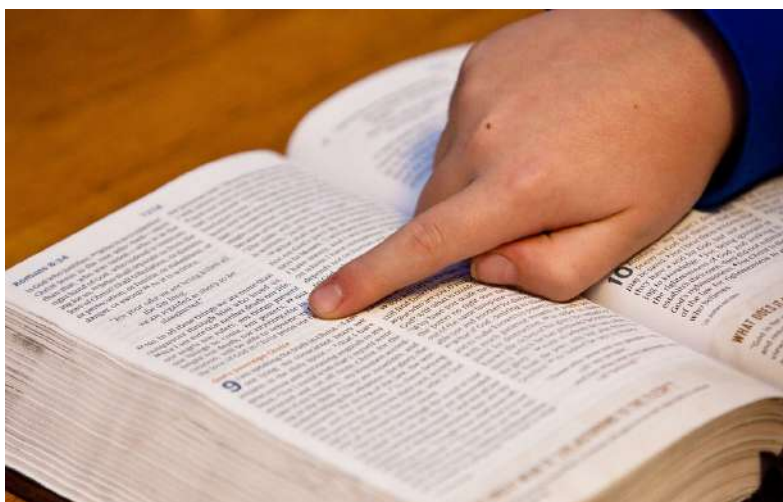
Thursday, 17th March,

Thursday 22nd March,

Thursday 28th March,

Thursday 5th April.

In St.Ninians Old Parish Church from 7pm-7.45pm



Lent and Easter 2024

Ash Wednesday - 14th February

Mothering Sunday - 10th March

Palm Sunday - 24th March

Easter week services will be held each night at 7pm in different churches, followed by hospitality and an opportunity for conversation:

Monday 25th February : Park Church

Tuesday 26th February : Holy Rude Viewfield

Wednesday 26th February : Stirling North

Thursday 27th February : St. Mark's

Friday 28th February : St. Ninans Old

Easter Sunday - 31st March (NB British Summer Time begins)

Easter service in the Kings Park followed by bacon rolls and tea, coffee or juice in Park Church Main Hall

All welcome

11am service in the church followed by hot cross buns, tea, coffee and fellowship –please join us and celebrate



Looking back to Christmas: youth activities

“Bubblegum & Fluff”

At the beginning of December we completed our first schools programme “ Bubblegum & Fluff” with Primary 5 children from Allans PS, Borestone PS and St Ninians PS. As usual the children engaged with the activities and enjoyed being involved. The high numbers (135 children over the 5 sessions) required a bit more work and commitment than usual, but one of the joys of smaller numbers at each session meant that we were really able to interact during group work and get to know the children during this short time. We had our very willing and dedicated group of helpers without whom the programme could not run, and as well as our “stalwarts” we had a few new helpers participating for the first time. Enormous thanks comes from the Youth Committee for all the help given us as a group. We really feel supported by the Kirk Session and members of the congregation.

As this is the first time the children from senior stages come along to the church to join in our schools programmes we feel that an important aim is that they enjoy the experience as well as learning something new. It is also useful for later programmes because, if they recall their enjoyment they are more likely to be comfortable participating in later programmes right from the start. We give out evaluation sheets to both children and the adults who accompany them, both teachers and helpers to let us know how they have felt about the experience and responses were positive.



Craft activities were a popular part of the programme with a tile mosaic to take home as a gift

And Looking forward to future joint school programmes:

“Easter Code” will be held on March 22nd, 25 & 26th in Park Church

“Popcorn & Cake” (Pentecost programme) will be held on May 15th , 16th & 17th in Park Church

Christmas 2023 –Thank you to the congregation



At the gift service we collected a huge number of gifts for the **Womens Aid appeal** : this photo to the left was taken beside our **Memory Tree** at the front vestibule where we put message on gift tags to remember special people. Our thanks to Willie & Evelyn Crawford for two superb trees given to the church.

The photo shows a very small number of the present for children of all ages which were distributed in the Stirling area.

The photo below taken from the gallery shows the magnificent tree in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve

The two Christmas services on Christmas Eve collected **£1279.04**

This was shared equally between four charities:

1. The National Autistic Society
2. Crohn's & Colitis UK
3. Nepal Earthquake Appeal
4. Save the Children

Each charity received £319.76 and have sent thanks to the Church Treasurer, Mrs Catherine Jones.



A Burns Grace

At the Ladies Group Burns evening held in January, which was enjoyed by several men as well as ladies, David Sibbald told us that Burns was not against Christianity but merely the hypocrisy of many in the church at that time.

He reminded the audience that Robert Burns did not write the Selkirk Grace ("Some hae meat and cannae eat..") . This was probably written 100 years earlier by covenanters but Burns popularised it by using it at a dinner hosted by the Earl of Selkirk at the Selkirk Arms in Kircudbright.

However there is one that he wrote himself but it is less well known:

Before the meal

O Thou, who kindly dost provide
For ev'ry creatures want!
We bless the God of Nature wide
For all Thy goodness lent.
And if it please Thee, heavenly Guide,
May never worse be sent;
But, whether granted or denied, Lord bless us with content.

After the meal

O Thou, in whom we live and move,
Who made the sea and shore,
Thy goodness constantly we prove,
And grateful would adore:
And, if it please Thee, Power above!
Still grant us with such store
The friend we trust, the fair we love,
And we desire no more

Park Church Ladies Group– Spring 2024– All welcome

Meetings at 7.30 pm in the Main Hall unless otherwise stated

March 4th The Wellhouse, Bridge of Allan-Chris Caulder

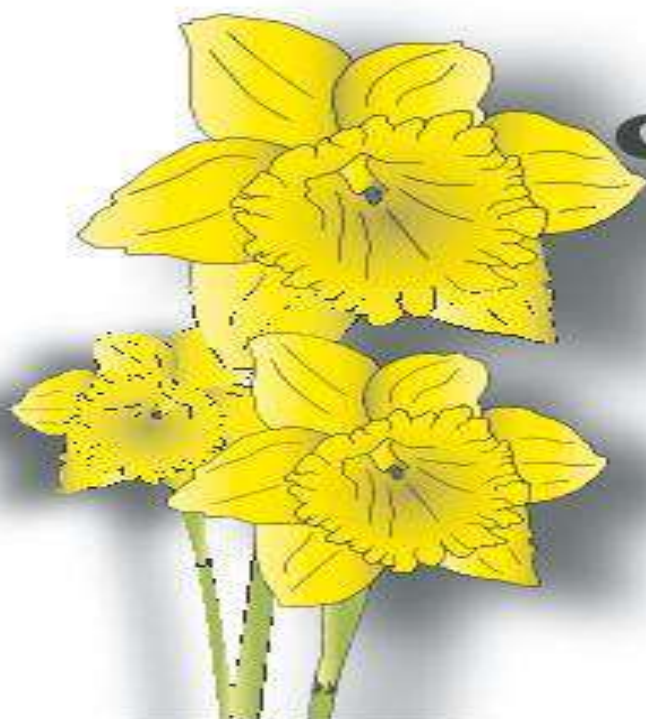
March 18th Closing Dinner (please note change of date) venue to be confirmed

Thank you to all the hardworking committee for a most successful year from all the folk who enjoy coming to the meetings

[Please remember to support the Ladies Group coffee morning : details below](#)

Park Church Coffee Morning Saturday 16th March 10am-12noon

**Choir recital
11.30am**



**tickets
Adults £4
Children £1**

Church Library

We have had a donation of the following titles which should keep us all busy for a while!

Titles are arranged on the shelves by sections indicated by a sticker on the spine of each book.

Borrowing a book-The Library operates on a self - service basis. Once you have chosen a book, find it by author's last name (or title) in the index box.

Returning a book-Find the record card in the index box and enter the date returned. Please replace the book in the correct colour coded section of the library shelves.

There are no fines for keeping a book till you have read it!

Lyndsay Boyack

Pastoral Care -Blue Section

Wareing Laurence-Reflections on Eldership. Insights from Practising Elders

Stanley Charles-Finding Peace

Eldredge J & S-Killing Lions. A guide through the trials young men face.

Yancey Philip-Where is God When it Hurts?

Prayers and Poetry-Orange Section

Wooley John-I Am With You

Shea John-Christmas Poems to Open the Heart

Davis Paul-Enriching Hymn & Song Stories **Oliver**

Mary-Devotions

Castle Fiona-What a Wonderful World

Martin Carolyn-Childhood Prayers and Verses **Moody D L**-Thoughts For the Quiet Hour

Biographies-Purple Section

Adam David-The Wonder of the Beyond

General Reading- Green Section

Scottish Medieval Churches

Bible Study-Black Section

Thornton-John F -Greatest Sermons of the Last 2000 Years

Sinclair Colin-The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Bible

Ward Keith-What the Bible Really Teaches

Swindoll Luci-Embracing Forgiveness

Book Of Revelation

New Testament-The Books of the Bible

The Story-An influential doctor tells the story of a man who turned his world-and history-upside down

Coggan D-God of Hope

Holloway Richard-Behold the King!

Christian Faith-Yellow Section

Macnaught James-Faith for the Puzzled Man

Robertson O. Palmer-Coming Home to God

De Gruchy John-Icons as a means of Grace

McLaren Brian D-Faith After Doubt

McLaren Brian D-The Great Spiritual Migration

Holloway Richard-On Forgiveness

Stanley Charles-How to Listen to God

Kreglinger Gisela-The Spirituality of Wine

Nolan Albert-Jesus today

Keller Timothy- Making Sense of God

Newbigan Lesslie-The Gospel in a Pluralist Society

Romer John-Testament



Milk Bottle Tops: the collection bin is now in the library.

Please note that the recycling plant will accept the clean green, blue and transparent standard milk bottle tops ONLY.

NO tops from other bottles and not the ARLA brand tops which are the “wrong” type of plastic for the processing. Many thanks for collecting them for charity.

Congratulations to the Stirling Methodist Church congregation for achieving the GOLD level of the Eco church awards!

Park Church reached Bronze level some years ago but needs to recruit some new folk to help us work towards the Silver Award-if you are interested in joining the team please speak to the Minister (Attie), Sandra Muir, Wendy McLean, Helen McDonald or Peter Murdoch.

Everyone is able to contribute to caring for our planet so please don't be shy!

A FAVOURITE HYMN.

THIS JOYFUL EASTERTIDE, HYMN 415.

Despite its importance, Easter is not so well served with music as Christmas.

This hymn, which is lively and light, has all the joyfulness of a carol, and first appeared in a Victorian carol book. Its author, George Woodward, was an English clergyman who translated many hymns from other languages.

This tune is from a popular Dutch song of the 17th century.

This Joyful Eastertide has 3 verses. In verse one, sin and sorrow are banished, the second verse looks forward to the dead being awakened by the trumpet, and the third verse speaks of Jesus crossing the river leading to the end of the chill of Death's flood. The chorus tells us of Christ bursting from his three-day prison, and the word “arisen” is repeated four times, each one higher in pitch. The music at the end is more elaborate and rises to a climax.

We look forward to singing this hymn on Easter Sunday.

Ross McGowan, Organist



Sporting achievement!

Congratulations to one of our church members-Callum McDonald (left), and friend Aidan, for 1st place ranking in the UK under 18 C2 category 2023 - presented with their impressive shield by coaches at Pinkston Water sports Glasgow"

"C2" is two people in one boat both paddling against the clock with single bladed paddles over a white water course of at least 18 gates where you have to navigate the boat through the gates either with the flow of water or against the water (upstream) with the winner being the quickest to complete the course whilst avoiding penalties for hitting or missing gates.

SAVE THE DATE

Please put Sunday May 12 at 2.30pm in your diary as Strathcarron singers – the choir of Strathcarron Hospice will be celebrating 20 years of singing together.

The Albert Halls Stirling is the place to be where the choir led by their conductor Matthew Brown will be joined by special guests

**The Central Band of the Royal British Legion
Scotland**

Come along and enjoy some great music

**Free admission with donations to Strathcarron
Hospice**



Returning Irish Male Voice Choirs

The Queen's Island Victoria Male Voice Choir together with friends from the Ballymoney and District Male Voice Choir from Northern Island will be revisiting Stirling in May, staying at the Golden Lion .

Many will remember this 40 strong choir and their awesome singing from several visits to the former St Columba's before the pandemic.

They have arranged to hold a concert in the church at 7pm on Saturday 11th May 2024 in aid of Strathcarron Hospice. Furthermore they will share in our morning worship the following day.

Please note the date, and invite your friends.

Back ground:

The Queen's Island Victoria Male Choir was formed in 1974 when the two oldest choirs in the province amalgamated. The Queens Island Choir had been formed in 1912 and the Victoria Choir in 1916 , both originating in the Harland & Wolff shipyard in Belfast.

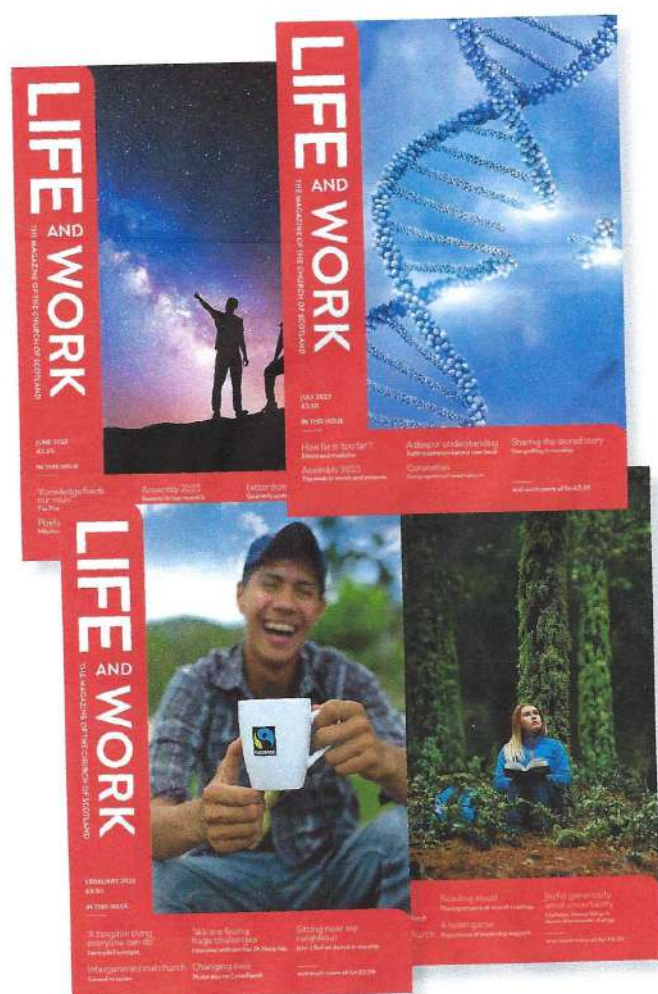
During the early 1970's both choirs were finding it difficult to maintain their membership because of "The Troubles". Rather than disband they decided to join forces and the Queens's Island Victoria Male Voice Choir was born . The Choir is now established as one of the foremost in the province and devotes much of its time and energy to charity concerts and church services.



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Special treats with 15 items (easy Maths) and no baking needed

Many of us will recognise this recipe which we could maybe look forward to having after Lent?

Ingredients:

15 digestive biscuits

15 marshmallows

15 halved glace cherries

About 200mls condensed milk

100 grams desiccated coconut to coat

To make the “fifteens”

Crush the digestive biscuits in a food processor or in a plastic bag with a rolling pin and put the crumbs into a large mixing bowl.

Chop each marshmallow into 4 pieces and add to the bowl with the cherries and 175mls of the condensed milk.

Mix the ingredients until they are well combined and there is a sticky mixture. If it is too dry add a little more condensed milk.

To form the special treats

Place a large piece of cling film or foil on a flat surface and sprinkle most of the coconut onto the surface.

Tip the mixture onto the coconut and shape it into a long sausage, about 30cms X 5cms.

Sprinkle more coconut over the top of it and wrap the cling film or foil tightly around it twisting the ends together to seal the mixture inside.

Leave in the fridge to chill for 4 to 6 hours then open and cut into 15 slices and serve.

It will keep in the fridge up to one week wrapped in cling film.



Afternoon Tea



Working alongside families

Being a parent has never been easy. It can be lonely, frustrating, heartbreaking and overwhelming.

Life-changing events can happen to anyone. All parents struggle at one time or another. That is why Home-Start is ready to support families through their toughest times.

Home-Start volunteers support families with individual one-to-one home-visiting and a wide range of targeted support for parents and their children.

Home-Starts work with families experiencing challenges including:

- Poor mental/ physical health
- Postnatal depression
- Bereavement
- Financial worries
- Isolation

Just two hours a week can make a big difference to a parent and their children.

We work with families to build on their strengths and give them the support they tell us they need.

Local services

We work with families in a range of ways, and use the approach they think will give them the best support. This includes:

- Home-visiting support
- Family groups
- Running trips and outings

All our services are based around the principal that volunteers offer no judgement, just compassionate, confidential help and support.



"With the support of a Home-Start volunteer, I learned how to interact and play with my son, put boundaries in place, and create a safe and secure home. After Home-Start helped to change my life, I decided I wanted to become a volunteer for the charity".

— Louise

Home start Stirling are looking for volunteers

If you feel that you would like further information please contact the local Manager Ann Bradwell on 07508525408.

Email: ann@homestartstirling.org.uk

Contact us today to find out more about how Home-Start works with families

email Manager Ann Bradwell on ann@homestartstirling.org.uk or phone us on 07508 525408 or 01786 498466



Thy Kingdom come here

Pray and live the Kingdom in your community

Pray the Lord's Prayer in and for your community

Start with Thy Kingdom Come and don't stop...turn prayer for friends into a lifestyle that can impact a community for the Kingdom.

Use the Lord's Prayer to pray 'Your Kingdom come here' for your community

Take a section a day...or all at once!

Day 1 Our Father In Heaven

Father help the people here to know you as their heavenly father who loves them.

Day 2 Hallowed Be Your Name

Thank you that this place is holy ground because you are already here.

Day 3 Your Kingdom Come Your Will Be Done on Earth as It Is In Heaven

Come and be King of this place bringing everything under your kingdom rule.

Day 4 Give Us Today Our Daily Bread

Please provide what this community needs to flourish.

Day 5 And Forgive Us Our Sins as We Forgive Those Who Sin Against Us

We say sorry on behalf of this place, come and fix all that is broken.

Day 6 Lead Us Not into Temptation but Deliver Us From Evil

Protect this place and the people who live here. Help us to live your way.

Day 7 For Yours Is the Kingdom, The Power and The Glory, For Ever and

Ever. Thank you that everything belongs to you and that one day this place and people will too. **Amen**

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:

John Grant of Laurelhill Place

Esther Outterson of Laburnum Grove



New Members

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

Duncan and Moira Simpson of Craiglea. Causewayhead



Centenary Congratulations

Belated birthday greetings to Mrs Elizabeth Fisher, who celebrated her 100th birthday on November 4th 2023 from everyone in Park Church.

Contacts

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Office telephone :01786-462400 (Messages can be left on this number)

E-mail: parkchurchstirling@gmail.com

The Park Church, Stirling website is :

www.parkchurchstirling.org

Newsletter

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 **Friday 10th May 2024** to enable copies to be printed in time for Elders to distribute before Communion on Sunday 3rd March .

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

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

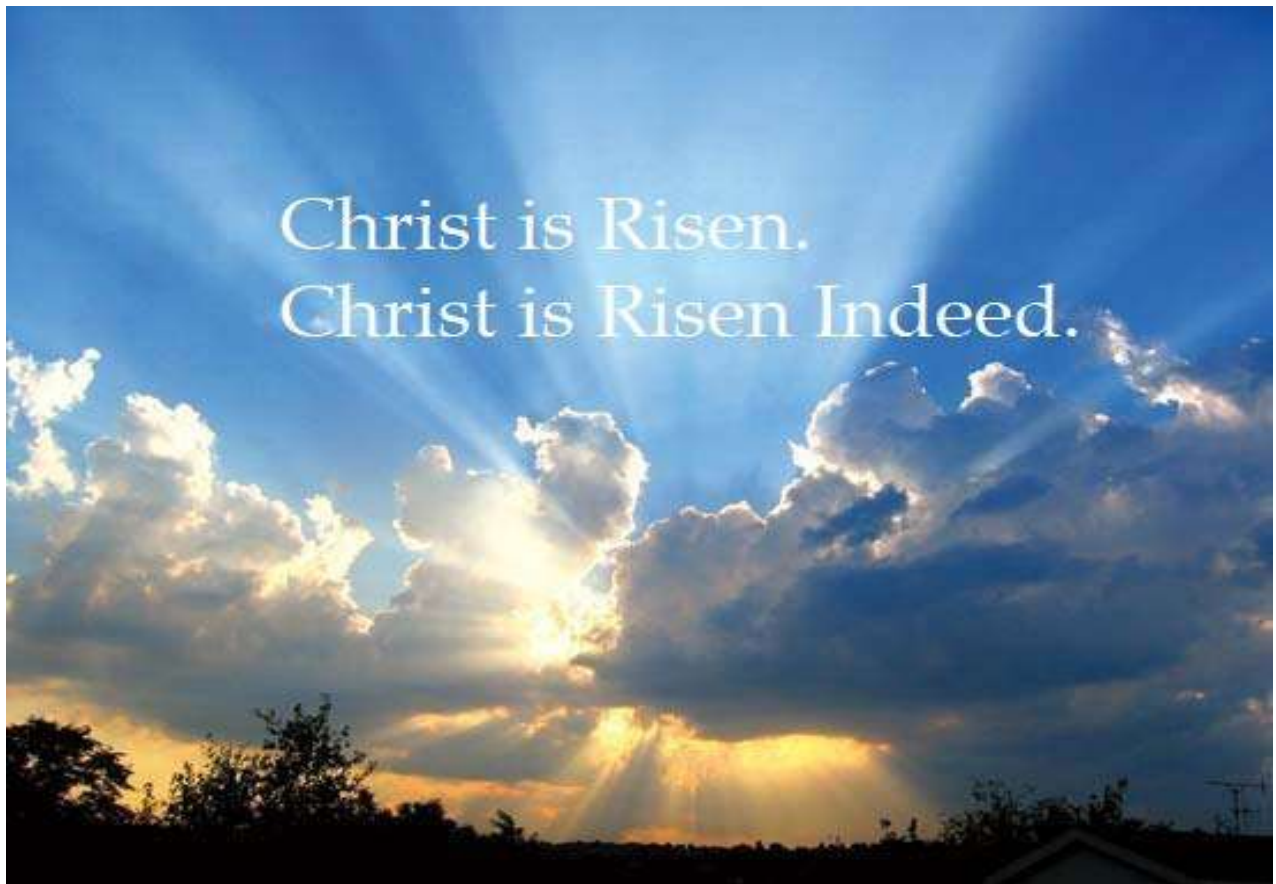
Handwritten text is accepted but should be in as early as possible please as the spring newsletter is prepared from January onwards.

The Summer edition (covers June, July & August)

Newsletter editor: Mrs Sarah Murdoch, 4 Abercromby Place, Stirling , FK8 2QP.

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Park Church Stirling (SC001414)

Based in the Peter Memorial building

We warmly welcome you to join our 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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ParkChurchStirling