

**The Gazette**  
**GIFFNOCK PARK CHURCH**  
**December 2018**

**Thoughts from the Manse**

It is hard to believe that 2018 began so long ago and there are now only 6 weeks till Christmas. We have just finished the commemoration of Armistice Day as it has come through its first 100 years remembering how the nations in Europe and across the world after 4 long years of war offering nothing but decimation and destruction saw it all come to an end on that morning of 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918. The sermon of our Armistice Day Service that morning was focussed on how “looking back helps us to move forward”. The hope then was that with the signing of the treaty of Versailles in 1919, it would usher in a new dawn of Peace after “the War to end all War”.

Sadly of course history tells us a different story with the impact and horror of War being a reality across the world and across the subsequent decades. While we would want to acknowledge the courage and fortitude of our Armed Forces in the past and presently, it is also important for us as a nation, as a community and as individuals to think of how we can look forward and find hope, particularly when there are so many for whom hope is something which is a very scarce commodity.

Perhaps there are a number of things that can help us do that. In the calendar year things now move on to the preparation and celebration for Christmas. The mania of Pre-Christmas Sales, Black Fridays and Christmas Party preparations start to predominate as the Poppies and “Help for Heroes” Cartons move off the shelf and selection boxes take their place. How easy it has become for us to be wrapped up in the Christmas trappings and politically correct times forgetting what it is we celebrate and why. **Christmas is about Hope.** Hope for a fallen and broken world loved by God. Hope that is wrapped up in the birth of God’s son and our Saviour, Hope that was declared to the shepherds by the angels giving thanks to God for this other moment of History, declaring “*I bring you good news of great joy for all the people. – The Saviour is born*”. Who would have thought that this event would impact on another time in history centuries later when across No Man’s land the sound of Christmas carols would cease hostilities on the eve of Christmas and for that one

glorious day the guns would be silent and one soldier would wish for the other God's blessing at Christmas.

Perhaps as we look back and learn from the lessons of the past, we might truly be able to look forward and see Hope in the form of our Saviour's ever abiding presence , no matter how things may change over time no matter how we may be affected by events today and have aspirations for tomorrow, that we realise our Saviour and his love for us is as his Word suggests, " the same yesterday, today and forever"

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas when it comes & best wishes for the New Year to come.

Calum D. Macdonald

### **Park Church Flowers**

Many thanks to everyone who donated, arranged and delivered flowers. Everyone who received them, for all sorts of reasons, certainly appreciated them. The Flower List for 2019 will be available soon and there are some free Sundays!

Isobel Cochrane and Norma Whyte x

We are still looking for a volunteer or volunteers to take over the Church Flowers rota organisation from Isobel and Norma. Please speak to Calum if you are interested and you can always ask Isobel and Norma to find out what is involved.

### **Ladies Keep Fit**

Ladies Keep Fit (Thurs 7.20pm - 8.30pm)

Alison's Aerobics (Sat 9.30am - 10.40am)

Both classes have now resumed after the summer break. The members are of varied ages and are a happy, friendly and enthusiastic group. A range of equipment and techniques are used to cater for all abilities. Our aim is to improve or maintain aerobic capacity, muscle tone, motor skills and balance but above all else we aim to have fun. We had an enjoyable night out at the Orchard Park Hotel at the end of October.

If you wish to join us just come along or contact Alison on 07483832474 for further information.

Alison Richardson

## The Lodging House Mission

The LHM continues with its innovative work amongst the homeless seven days a week. The organisation is well over one hundred years old as a Church of Scotland sponsored charity within the Presbytery of Glasgow and the continued support from the Parishes of Glasgow is paramount to the work carried out.

LHM offers far more than just food and shelter/personal hygiene. Activities and advice are freely available on a daily basis from both staff and volunteers. Advice on benefits/housing and employment are offered to well over 100 people who daily visit the centre. Activities vary from practical advice on cooking, sport, IT use, reading/writing, creative arts etc. to name but a few.

It is important that congregations continue to support financially and through donations from Harvest Thanksgiving services and the purchase of items such as Christmas cards (brochures available in vestibule). The problems do not get easier for those affected by homelessness in today's society and therefore it is our Christian duty to assist where we can. Volunteers in the kitchen /café and activity groups are always welcome. If you feel you can volunteer a few hours a week please contact Gus Smeaton at the LHM in East Campbell St.

LHM will be open on Christmas Day to provide a 3 course Christmas Meal and a small gift to around 100 Service Users. For many, this is the only present they will receive. They are always grateful to receive little "Extras" at this time e.g. cakes, biscuits etc.

On Sunday 3rd February 2019 at 6.30.p.m. – the LHM Homelessness Sunday Service will be slightly later this year. Guest speaker will be the Rt. Rev Susan Brown, Moderator of the General Assembly. You are invited to go and show your support for Glasgow's homeless and most vulnerable citizens.

Jim Whyte



## **Ladies group**

Our ladies group meets from May to September on the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month on a Wednesday evening so we are finished for this year's session. Over the weeks we met and heard from Liz Allan who told the story of her mother and father during the war years through letters she had found in her mother's wardrobe; we had a visit from Erskine hospital telling us about the work going on there; we had a film night which was a film called "I can only imagine" it wasn't even released here in the UK and Calum and I brought it back from Canada; and we also had an evening on our favourite hymns and it would surprise you what ones came up. We had an evening for a book review and this has prompted us to start up a library where everyone in the Church can borrow books and DVDs that we have watched over the years. We also had an agape meal where we enjoy a meal along with communion which was led by Calum. On our final evening we had a meal out at Locks restaurant which was a great success.

As you can see, we have had a full itinerary and we find it a good place to share our faith, we always have room for others to join us and as we meet over the summer it usually means that there are no other groups on. And the good thing is you only come when you can manage. Why don't you join us next May!

Please feel free to ask any of the people below if you want any further information

Anne Hamilton, Fiona Mackie and Wilma Macdonald

## **Bible Study**

The session for bible study started in September and we kicked-off our meetings with a barbeque at the manse. We meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday until June, usually in December we have a Christmas party at the manse which is a wonderful evening of food and fellowship. There are around 12 people who meet twice a month in the session house to gather round the bible and to study either a book of the bible e.g. Haggai one of the minor prophets or sometimes it will be a subject like patience or peace and we are all given a chance to have our say and bring our thoughts to the group.

If you've thought that you would like to join the bible study but feel that you need to have lots of knowledge about the bible, then please be assured that we are not a group who KNOWS all about the bible we are there to LEARN come and join us, you're never too old or too young to learn about God's word and what applications it can have for your life.

If you wish to ask someone about the bible study Anne Hamilton will be happy to share her experience with you.

Wilma Macdonald

## **The Sunday School**

Our focus for the 2018-2019 session is on the books of Samuel. The last two successful years covered the many stories that children can enjoy in both Genesis and Exodus and we are now progressing through the Old Testament. In Samuel, there are many famous biblical stories again that children can relate to and learn from. We currently display the children's work from each of the week's lessons on the boards in the hall so feel free anytime to come through and visit us and have a look at what the children have been doing.

As we moved forward into Remembrance week, the Church have given the children Poppy seeds to plant which, following the planting of sunflowers last year, the children are already eager to see what these seeds will produce.

We currently have 12 children registered and most weeks we see an almost full Sunday School. The children are enjoying the stories of David and are looking forward for the next few weeks in preparing for Christmas through, learning about the Nativity and learning their parts for the Nativity Play which will be on Sunday 23rd December.

As a reminder, we will take all children from 3 and upwards however if your child is younger, we would still welcome your child along and will have activities in place to keep them amused.

Sheila Lammie and Denise Winton

## **Girlguiding UK**

The Park Church is in a very fortunate position of hosting four popular and successful Girlguiding units – the 4<sup>th</sup> Giffnock Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides and the Giffnock Rangers and you will have seen some of them on parade at our Sunday Remembrance Day Service on the 11<sup>th</sup> November.

### **The 4th Giffnock Rainbows**

The 4th Giffnock Rainbows have had a great term this year! We have started on the new programme and are concentrating on the theme 'Be Well'. The girls have learned about healthy eating, safety in your house, and staying happy!

We have had a number of new girls join so we linked making our promise in with Halloween. We all dressed up and had a night of crafts and games before the parents all joined us and the girls said their promise together. We also had a bonfire night themed evening and made excellent dark pictures of the night sky full of fireworks! Our brilliant leader Trudi is passing on the baton after many years to our wonderful Guide leader Lucy! Lucy will be leading the Rainbows with a new team - Kaitlin and Joanna. They have been helping since the start of term learning the ropes and are keen to take over! We thank Trudi for her time with the Rainbows!

Kaitlin Bryden

### **4th Giffnock Brownies**

We are a large unit of 28 girls following the new Every Girl Programme. After the summer break the Brownies have been working on their Citizen Girl Activities which involve learning about the history of Girlguiding by making a timeline. The girls also created their own newspaper headlines and wrote articles for their newspapers.

During October the Brownies have been enjoying doing Halloween crafts. The Brownies make pumpkins to store their chocolate in during Halloween and had their Halloween party. More recently they have been focusing on the theme of Remembrance. The Brownies learned about why the symbol of a poppy is used and what remembrance means. In the coming weeks we will be trying out more creative activities from the new programme for Girlguiding. We will also be making some Christmas cards for friends and family.

Catherine Maxwell

## **The 4<sup>th</sup> Giffnock Guides**

We have had a great term so far, starting off with our camp in September. We had a jam-packed weekend at Netherurd with adventurous activities such as zip lining and high ropes courses, not to mention sleeping under canvas which was a first for many girls! Girlguiding UK have launched a new programme this year and we have thoroughly enjoyed getting stuck into the new activities and badges on offer. We recently had 8 girls make their Guide promise at our Halloween party which was a great success thanks to the planning of our older Guides who are working on completing their Baden Powell Award. Leaders are in the first stages of planning another camp for June 2019 in the hope for a weekend of sunshine!

Lucy Anderson

## **Giffnock Rangers**

Giffnock Rangers have had an exciting term! We have around 8 girls regularly and enjoy a range of things together twice a month. We had a joint camp with the Guides and had a fabulous weekend! We did zip lining, high ropes, outdoor cooking and other adventurous activities! We stayed in wigwams and the guides stayed in tents - it was lots of fun!

Also, we have taken inspiration from our favourite tv show and had a Bake-Off competition! Two teams made cakes and the leaders were the judges!

We also had a cross stitch themed evening and attempted to create different patterns following sets - it was a challenge! Just after bonfire night we had our own fireworks display and were learning how to safely handle small garden fireworks and sparklers. We are having a murder mystery night before Christmas and afterwards the girls have some down time for prelims!

Kaitlin Bryden



## **The Monday Club**

The members of the club have been busy getting ready for the Christmas Fair and would like to thank everyone who have gifted Mugs for our stall, and look forward to seeing you then. We continue to make twiddle muffs for people with dementia, have made and donated 100 hats to the baby unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and 12 trauma teddies to Police Scotland.

There is always room for anyone to come and join us and we look forward to seeing as many of you at our Monday Meetings from 1.45pm to 3.45pm

Senga McIntosh

## **War Memorial**

The Commemoration to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War has been very intensive and whilst the Park Church Giffnock is too new to have been involved in the First World War, the memorial plaque at the rear of the Church, commemorates the men from the congregation of the Park Parish Church, Woodlands who died in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War.



The plaque has 35 names with one awarded the Victoria Cross and three the Military Cross. William Herbert Anderson (Bertie) was awarded the VC for his actions on the 25<sup>th</sup> March at Bois Favieres, near Maricourt, France. He was killed in this battle and his VC is on display in the Imperial War Museum. Bertie had three brothers who were also killed in the First World War.

In the 1960's The Park Church on the North side of the River Clyde in Glasgow was to be closed and Presbytery decided that its funds should go to help the young Orchard Park congregation in Giffnock. This was a fitting gesture as the Park Church had a long-standing tradition of interest in Outreach to the suburban communities. Events moved swiftly from the laying of the Foundation Stone in the October of 1965 and almost exactly a year later when the congregations of the Park and the Orchard Park were united under its new name – The Park Church Giffnock. The War Memorial, Stain Glass Windows and chairs in the session house were transferred to the new building. All but the tower of the Woodlands Church was demolished in 1968 and the old church lives on in Giffnock.



## **The Contact Group**

Our first event of the 2017/18 session was a visit is to the Livingston McArthur Glen Designer Outlet and Almondvale Shopping Centre in October. 23 of us enjoyed the coach trip, including 5 ladies from the URC and Carnwadric Parish Church.

Tickets for “Aladdin” at Eastwood Theatre have sold out and those lucky enough to have purchased early are now looking forward to the pantomime at the end of November.

We recently circulated a short questionnaire to determine interest in our proposals for 2019. Indications are that we will have to review plans in relation to social events requiring the hire of transport as, unfortunately, from the feedback, numbers are not sufficient for us to go ahead with the planned trips.

Dates of events to be held in the Church Hall are as follows – please add them to your diary:

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December: Christmas Pies after Morning Service.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February: Afternoon Tea in the Church Hall.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April: Easter Breakfast prior to Morning Service.

More details will be included in The Messenger and on the Church web site in due course. Meantime, if you have any questions, or have suggestions for future social events, please speak to any member of Contact.

Many thanks for your continued support

Contact Committee: Edith Darling, Norma Moyes,  
Jean Watt, Alison Richardson and Mary Barlow.

## **The Powerhouse of Prayer**

Over the years, regularly every Tuesday morning 10am - 10.45am, we meet in the Session House to pray. It is open to all and everyone will be made most welcome. Should you need any further information please speak to the Minister.

## **Retiring Offerings**

The Park has a reputation for its generosity in supporting worthwhile charities. Wilma's birthday celebration in September raised a fantastic £1,160 for Mercy Ships. At our October Communion service, the retiring offering raised £61 for Christian Aid, and at our Remembrance Day service £191.21 was raised for "Help for Heroes". Our next Retiring Offering will be at our December Communion service for The Bible Society.

We also collect for charities via the Jar of Grace which sits in the back corridor. Since the start of the year £264.49 has been raised. This will be allocated to a charity in December.

Jim Wilson

## **Church Grounds**

With plenty of sunshine the plots around the church garden have never looked so colourful as they have done this summer.

Many thanks to those who plant, weed, sweep and provide and care for the tubs at our regular Tuesday morning gardening slot and of course to Calum who is a very much appreciated tea/coffee boy!

Our garden must surely show a welcome to anyone thinking of entering the church.

Isobel Dew

## **Carpet Bowls**

The second season of the combined Ladies and Gents membership of the Park Church Bowling Club is well underway.

With 14 members there is plenty of room for more! Membership of the Park Church is not a pre-requisite as the club is open to all whether beginners (tuition available!) or experienced bowlers.

An added incentive is tea/coffee, cakes & biscuits at half-time. The club meets on Thursday mornings from 10-12 so just drop in for a friendly game.

John McMenemin

## **Park Church Toddlers**

Toddlers has had a great year! Lots of new members joining us and making our group great!

We had great Halloween parties! Lots of fun dressing up! We've been learning new songs and doing lots of crafts! Now we are looking forward to the Christmas Fayre and to our Christmas parties and visits from Santa!

Some future news! Toddlers will have new joint chairperson to keep the group going strong as of January 2019. Looking forward to seeing Park Church Toddlers flourish even more!

Thanks to everyone who has come along! It's been great!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

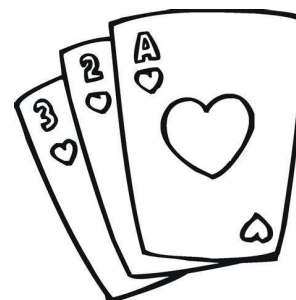
Emily Crichton

## **Bridge Drive**

We are holding our annual Bridge Drive on Friday, 1st February 2019 at 1pm for 1.30pm. Please tell all your Bridge playing friends about it.

The cost is £28 per table which includes afternoon tea. This usually receives many compliments. All you need to provide is a Bridge cloth and cards.

Volunteers to help with serving the tea and baking for it will be most welcome. Tickets are available from Mrs Cathie Robertson 638 2502.



Isobel Dew

## **Volunteers Wanted!**

We always have a number of tasks requiring a willing pair of hands. If you can spare even just an hour or two at home or in the church please contact Calum (office: 620 2204, email: [parkchurch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:parkchurch@hotmail.co.uk))

## **Eastwood Choral Society - 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year**

Concert dates for the coming year are:

Mid-February 2019 - A major musical event with East Renfrewshire Schools.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019 - Our Gala 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert takes place in St Margaret's Episcopal Church

We meet in the Park Church on a Monday evening. Singing is a healthy activity and if you enjoy singing please come along at 7.30pm and we would be delighted to see you.

For further information email [gillatecs@gmail.com](mailto:gillatecs@gmail.com) or tel. 638 7673. You can also find us on Facebook.

### **THE PARK CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR**

Now firmly one of our most popular events of the year, our Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> December from 11am to 3pm.

Tickets will cost £3.00 for adults and £1.00 for children to cover entry and refreshments with £2.00 entry to Santa's Grotto.

Stalls – Books, Preserves, £1.00 Bags, Bottle, Home Baking, Children's Toys, Plants, Gift (new handmade gifts), Mug Shots. Donations for all stalls will be gratefully received.

Please contact the Stewardship Committee for further information.

