

The Gazette

GIFFNOCK PARK CHURCH

Catching up on the activities of the Park

May 2018

For many years news and information about the Park Church has been given via the weekly Parish Messenger handed out at the Sunday Service. However, if you missed the Service you could easily miss out on the news. The object of this quarterly news-sheet is to help fill in on what has happened in the past few months and also to let you know what is coming up. When you've finished reading, pass it on to a relative, neighbour or friend! If you have a computer you can also find out what is going on by looking up the Park Church on the internet or, if you give us your email address, we can send you a copy of the Parish Messenger every week.

Bridge Drive

The Annual Bridge Drive held at the end of January was again a success and thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. Bridge players from the north and south of the city took part, some with serious intent and some for fun. The event raised more than £500 for church funds and the afternoon tea was declared excellent.

It is planned to hold the Bridge Drive in January 2019. So if you have friends who are interested, please contact us in the autumn and we will send tickets in November.

Isobel Dew 638 4720

52nd Stated Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting was held on the 21st March at which our Treasurer, Peter Watson, presented the audited accounts for 2017. He advised that the Church achieved an overall surplus of £894 for the year ending 31st December, attributed to an increase in donations, significant efforts in fund raising events and to cost efficiencies. In particular our Rededication day had 74 responses from members raising just over £2,500 in one-off donations and pledges to amend future donations to produce an annual increase of £8,500. The accounts are currently with Presbytery and Edinburgh for approval and will then be submitted to the Charities Regulator, OSCR.

Afternoon Communion

Our next afternoon Communion (especially for those having difficulty in attending the Sunday services) will be held on Wednesday 30th May. Please let your elder or the office know if you intend to come.

Retiring Offerings

The Park has a reputation for its generosity in supporting worthwhile charities with a retiring collection. At our February Communion Service we raised £151 for The Street Pastors. Our next retiring offering will be held at our Communion Service in June for the benefit of the Lodging House Mission.

We also collect for charities via the Jar of Grace which sits in the back corridor. The total raised in 2017 was £206.80 which was donated to the Lodging House Mission. Since the start of the year £90 has been raised so we are hoping to exceed last year's total. (Jim Wilson)

4TH Giffnock Brownies

The Brownies have been enjoying the good spell of weather as it allows them to go outside and explore. The girls love learning about nature and we are planning a trip to Rouken Glen towards the end of May and we are hoping the good weather continues for this trip. The Brownies have been working hard on their World Cultures badge which encourages them to learn about other cultures and Guiding all around the world. Some of the posters and crafts made by the girls for their World Cultures badge are on display on our notice boards in the Church hall. The Brownies will hopefully - weather permitting - continue to enjoy the outdoor activities as we head into summer.

Catherine Maxwell

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, Jan Sneddon or Isobel Grieve (638 2233).

The Sunday School

The focus for the Sunday School since the start of the 2017-2018 session has been looking into the book of Exodus. Last session we went through key events of Genesis, The Creation, The Great Flood, Abraham and his descendants and Joseph. Now as we move into Exodus, we are looking at God's sovereignty and how the story of Moses is an example of this. We will look at Moses as a baby, the burning bush and the exodus from Egypt. We will discuss how God is in control of every aspect of our lives, bad as well as good.

The materials we have been using for just over a year is the Scripture Union 'On The Way' programme. We have found this programme more beneficial and flexible to deal with the reduced numbers in the Sunday School, as we only require to produce enough materials for those children we have. The materials are also flexible enough to allow us to cover the wider age range we have by providing differing context to the same lesson each week depending on age.

We currently have 13 children registered in the Sunday School and have seen our numbers increase by 4 since Christmas. On average we tend to have 6 or 7 regular attendees. We are very thankful to those parents and grandparents who bring their children to Sunday School and will welcome any new or ad hoc additions any week. We will always have something that children can do. Although officially the starting age is 3, we are happy to welcome any children of any age on a Sunday, so please don't think if you have young children/grandchildren, there are no facilities for them at Sunday School. We also ensure we have cover in place 52 weeks of the year, even during School holidays.

Looking forward to welcoming more children in 2018!

Sheila and Denise.

Bible Study

Our Bible Study meets twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. We meet in the Session House from 7.30pm and usually start the evening with worship aided by Calum on Guitar. At 8pm we begin our study for the night and as a group we have discussed what topics or books of the Bible we would like to study. Discussion is very much a part of the Study and lots of questions asked and hopefully answered. Please feel free to join us at the Bible Study - a warm welcome awaits.

Wilma Macdonald

Carpet Bowls

Ian Mitchell performed many duties for the Park Church. One of these was helping to run the Bowling Club. He opened the Hall, supervised and helped unroll the carpets, laid out the bowls, score cards etc. He will be greatly missed.

Another of his duties was the writing of the News Letter for the Gazette on behalf of the Bowling section - which has now devolved to me.

In last quarter's magazine Ian described the joining of the Ladies and Gents Carpet Bowling Clubs. There were one or two superior smiles from the men when the Ladies joined - "*we shall show the little ladies how to play*" was in their minds! But it soon became apparent that the ladies were as good as the men and sometimes better - in one of the competitions three of the four semi-finalists are Ladies!

John McMenemin

Church Choir

The choir were delighted to welcome David Mackie to the back row whenever he is available on a Sunday morning. However he is a bit lonely on his own so another male voice or two would be much appreciated. There is no audition for the choir – all are welcome.

Anne Green is settling in as the organist, getting used to Park Church hymns and tunes and enjoying a social cuppa with the congregation after the service. In spite of the fierce winter weather experienced earlier in the year, Anne managed to travel safely to Giffnock and did not miss a Sunday.

Isobel Dew

Church Garden

The garden has a prominent position on Orchard Park Avenue and a colourful display in front of the Church certainly attracts passers-by. The front garden has been looking very colourful in Spring, but, as the bulbs start to fade, it will be time to plant out our summer bedding flowers in the garden and in the tubs to take us through to the first frosts in Autumn.

There are always jobs to be done so if you have a spare half hour, feel free to pull weeds or just sweep the car park. You could even join the grass-cutting team and keep fit!

Isobel Dew (638 4720)

Giffnock Friendship Club

Well now, the Beast from the East blew in early in January and is still with us. But we still managed to enjoy a few entertaining afternoons with good music and also a most enjoyable talk by Dr. Maureen Parks about The Glasgow Boys. We had hoped that February's weather would be kinder but the snow returned and again our meetings were interrupted by the weather, the funeral of Ian Mitchell and then Holy Week. It seemed we were dancing "The Hokey Cokey". We did, however, manage to hold our Annual General Meeting at which time committee members were invited to stand for re-election. Most members agreed to be re-elected but our Chairman/Secretary intimated her intention to serve for only one more year and she will, therefore, retire in 2019.

We will close this session on Wednesday 25th April and resume again on Wednesday 12th September. Already the Secretary is working on the syllabus and has booked singers, choirs and speakers – some dear old friends and a few new faces. We look forward then to a new session starting in September and hope to be joined by some new members. You are guaranteed a warm welcome.

Helen Brown (569 7635)

Park Church Flowers

Thanks to Norma Moyes for the lovely Easter Cross displayed at the Church Notice Board on the front grass. It was much admired.

Thanks again to all who donate, arrange and deliver flowers. If you would like to help with Flower Delivery in the Parish, please let us know.

Something to think about....

The World's top ten flowers are:

1. ROSE;
2. CARNATION;
3. TULIP;
4. DAISY;
5. SUNFLOWER;
6. DAFFODIL;
7. GERBERA;
8. ORCHID;
9. IRIS;
10. LILAC.

But do you know what they mean? Answers next time.

Isobel Cochrane (638 1483) and Norma Whyte (620 3043)

Ladies Group

We run over the summer months and our meetings are every 2nd and 4th Wednesday commencing at 7.30pm. Our diary of events is:

23rd May "Love Letters from a Desert Rat" (part2)

13th June (to be confirmed)

27th June Women of the Bible (discussion)

11th July Your Favourite Song, chorus or hymn

8th August "Visit to South Africa" with Sally Hamilton

22ⁿ August Agape Meal

12th September Book Review (Favourite Christian Books)

We look forward to welcoming back existing friends and meeting new ladies. All welcome.

Fiona Mackie (321 3300)

The Monday Club

The Monday Club has been meeting each week in the Fergusson Hall (1.45pm to 3.45pm). We have kept ourselves busy by knitting "twiddle muffs" which are a benefit to people with dementia. Anne Hamilton has been very grateful for our donation. We have now started to knit hats for premature babies which are greatly appreciated at the premature baby unit at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

If anyone knows of a charity which would benefit from knitting please let Senga McIntosh (638 3896) know. We are now finished for the season and start again on the 3rd September.

Summer Mission

This year's Mission will begin on Monday the 23rd July until Friday 27th for young people of school age with a Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 29th July followed by an open air BBQ in the Church grounds (weather permitting of course).

73 children registered in our 2017 Mission and we hope to match this number in 2018.

We always need people to help during the week and if you feel able please contact David Mackie (321 3300).

Grace's Saturday Suppers and Recipe Book

Grace Aitkenhead is running her famed "Saturday Suppers" once per month throughout 2018 and £535 has been raised to date. Excellent food and company guaranteed but you have to book before all the places have been taken

Grace Aitkenhead (638 6812)

Toddlers Group

Park Church Toddlers Group is thriving, we're welcoming new families every week and having good times, the children all playing together and the adults managing a cup of tea and catching up! We had a fantastic time at our Easter Parties with a ball pool and arts and crafts and now looking forward to planning our summer parties! We managed to have a 'late' Christmas night out for the adults in February and hoping to get another night out in the next few months! Great group we have, lots of friends! Feel free to get in touch if you'd like to join us for some play time, snacks and songs.

If you need any further information please find us on Facebook, you can send us an e-mail at parkchurchtoddlers@outlook.com or bring the kids along one day if you just want to see what we're all about.

Emily Crichton

Eastwood Choral Society

Our very active choir was formed more than 30 years ago. We have now stopped for the summer but will restart in September at the Park Church on Mondays at 7.30 pm. There are no auditions. Singing is a healthy activity and if you enjoy singing please come along on a Monday evening where you will receive a warm welcome.

For further information email gillatecs@gmail.com or tel. 638 7673. You can also find us on Facebook.

Contact

Contact's remit is to promote a variety of informal activities to enable members of the congregation to meet and take part in social events out-with normal Sunday worship. Our 2017/18 session finished with a visit to Dumfries House on Sunday 13th May on which we will report next issue. We are now planning the syllabus for 2018/19 starting in September after the holiday weekend and this will be published in the next issue of the Gazette and also in the Sunday Messenger and on our web page. On behalf of the Committee have a good summer and enjoy it - we hope with plenty of sunshine.

Edith Darling

Ladies' Keep Fit (Thursdays at 7.20pm) / **Alison's Aerobics** (Saturdays at 9.20am)

Both classes are flourishing with several new members. They are happy classes and very enjoyable. Led by Alison Richardson, an RSA qualified exercise and gym instructor, the classes cater for most abilities. New members are very welcome.

We finish at the end of June for a summer break and start again in August when the schools return. If you wish to acquire a healthier lifestyle do come and join us. For further information please contact Alison Richardson on 07483 832474.

Summer Fair and Strawberry Tea

On Saturday 23rd June from 2pm-4pm our Stewardship Team are holding a Summer Fair and Strawberry Tea in the Church Garden and Hall. Tickets £3 and 50p for children.

Donations of books, £1 gift bags, bottles for the bottle stall and plants for the plant stall as well as your help to serve the tea and man the tables will be gratefully received. Hanging baskets and planters will be prepared and if you have a basket or tub to be filled or would like a new one these can be pre-ordered from Peter Watson (571 7622)

If you are available to help in any way please contact Bert Dickov or any member of the Stewardship team.

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)

How you can keep up to date!

Events are always being added and are advertised in the Parish Messenger. You can pick up a copy in the church on Sunday, ask a friend to pick up a copy for you, look it up on the Park website (www.parkchurch.org.uk) or have an electronic copy sent to your email address automatically (send your email address to the church office at parkchurch@hotmail.co.uk). If you want to add any news or notices to the website please email the church office and mark for the attention of Jan Sneddon.

Jubilee Party
celebrating Calum's 25 years in Ministry

Sunday 5th August 2018

To celebrate Calum's twenty five years as a minister of the Church of Scotland, 17 years of which have been at the Park, the Stewardship Committee invites members, children and friends of the Park Church to an informal light lunch to be held in the Church Hall or Garden (depending on the weather) after morning worship on Sunday 5th August.

So that we can ensure that we have sufficient sandwiches, savouries, home baking etc. for everyone please complete the tear off slip below to say whether or not you hope to attend. Further details will be made available closer to the event.

There will be a presentation to Calum to thank him for all he has done for us over the last 17 years.

If you wish to contribute to this, please put the money in an envelope marked JUBILEE and hand it to your elder or put it in the collection bag on a Sunday morning.

Name:

I/we * are able to attend / cannot attend*

No of Adults attending:

No of Children attending (under 12) :

*Please amend