

The Gazette
GIFFNOCK PARK CHURCH
September 2018

Letter from the Minister

Peter Watson has worked hard to pull together another Park Church Gazette and I want to thank him for this and all his efforts in and around the Church. What an amazing summer we have had this year. The last 3 months have been full on here at Park Church. My Wife Wilma now in her 60th year and about to celebrate her Birthday had always wanted to visit the Canada for a Holiday. Her ambition was fulfilled when in June we flew out for nearly three weeks' vacation touring Niagara Falls, Toronto, Montreal, Quebec City, Ottawa (the nation's capital) and the beautiful ski resort Mont Tremblant. We travelled some 4700 miles in total meeting up with old friends and making new friends and like proper tourists plenty of Photos.

Upon our return home we landed with our feet running, in Glasgow airport at 1pm and in the church that evening for the Wednesday Ladies meeting with a Film that night that was so current it was unavailable to anyone in the UK but the Ladies on that Wednesday night got to thoroughly enjoy it. Ever since things have gone at a pace with members in hospital, the sad events of funerals and the joyous occasion of seeing people come together as Man and Wife and Young Jackie Mackie making her Profession Faith and membership of the Church. We had another successful Summer Mission showing the stories of Jesus through a film called the Miracle Maker where some 65 children registered with us for the week culminating in a lovely family service and BBQ afterwards. The month of August saw us celebrate the milestone of 25 years in Parish Ministry with a lovely Congregational Luncheon in the Jubilee Hall to commemorate the occasion and I am still reeling from people's kindness. As we move into September and a new session about to begin, we celebrate my wife Wilma's Big Birthday – the Six Oh. Typical of Wilma, she wanted the focus to not be on her but on others and so she planned an after Church Luncheon where people can focus on the work of Mercy Ships – a Christian Charity who operate a unique service of Hospital Ships manned by Volunteers seeking to reach out to many of the 3rd world nations to offer a 1st World Quality service of Medical Care - a truly worthwhile thing to be involved in.

Throughout the weeks and months gone by, having had blessings to give thanks for and challenges to face, Matthew 10: 32&33 has remained words to live by. ³² *Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.* ³³ *But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.* Whatever lies before us in the new session ahead let us continue to keep our focus on Him who loved us and gave himself for us that we might honour Him in all we do and say.

With Best Wishes

Calum D. Macdonald

Catching up on the activities of the Park

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.

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

Alison Richardson

Park Church Toddlers

We have had a busy summer at Park Church Toddlers! We had fabulous summer parties with a balloon maker and arts and crafts throughout the summer!

Sadly, we have said goodbye to some of our members who have started nursery but wish them all the best in their new adventures! How exciting!

We have now started our new term and got lots of new toys for the children to enjoy! Lots of planning to do for our Halloween and Christmas parties!

We have space for new members so feel free to get in touch or come along and join us.

Emily Crichton

The Monday Club

Hope you have all had a good summer and are now looking forward to the start of the new session. The members of the Monday Club have met in Rouken Glen Garden Centre on two afternoons during the summer and have enjoyed a "tea & chat". We plan to knit for different charities during the next few months and also have a stall at the Christmas Fair. This session started on the 3rd September and we look forward to seeing as many of you at our Monday Meetings from 1.45pm to 3.45pm

Senga McIntosh

Church Choir

It was with real regret that the choir accepted the decision of two of its longest serving members to retire. Margaret Reid and Jean Watt have both been members for many decades and their loyalty and devotion to the choir Sunday by Sunday is well known.

Unfortunately, health problems have dictated that it is time to stand down and they are sincerely missed. Consequently, it is even more urgent that we should add to our numbers. The only criterion for joining is that you enjoy singing God's praise.

Isobel Dew

Park Church Flowers

Did you manage to select the World's top ten flowers and their meanings in our May Issue? Here are the answers:

- 1 Rose: Romantic Love
- 2 Carnation: Eternal Love
- 3 Tulip: Perfect Love
- 4 Daisy: Innocence
- 5 Sunflower: Loyalty
- 6 Daffodil: New Beginnings
- 7 Gerbera: Purity
- 8 Orchid: Beauty
- 9 Iris: Respect
- 10 Lilac: First Love

Everyone likes roses. They come in all colours and sizes. They look good outdoors and inside. It's a real superstar! But the real dilemma for most of us has not been solved!

Flowers or Chocolate?

Difficult to choose – some days it's chocolate, other days – it's still chocolate! Now Chocolate Flowers ...! That would be something!

Thanks to everyone who donated, arranged and delivered flowers and everyone who received them, for all sorts of reasons, appreciated them.

Due to family circumstances Isobel and I will be retiring from the flower ministry in January 2019. We have enjoyed the last 3 years and it's been a pleasure and a privilege. (well, most of the time!)

So Long, Farewell, Aufwieder sehen, Goodbye!

Love Isobel Cochrane and Norma Whyte x

Contact

Our final event of the 2017/18 session was an enjoyable visit to Dumfries House in Ayrshire. 30 of us travelled by coach and, on arrival, had lunch followed by a guided tour of the House itself, which is beautiful and has an interesting history. The weather was sunny and warm and just ideal for strolling around the vast grounds.

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.

Proposed events for the 2018/19 Session have been drawn up and our first trip is to the Livingston McArthur Glen Designer Outlet and Almondvale Shopping Centre. This will take place on **Saturday 27th October 2018** – in good time to start Christmas shopping! The coach will leave the Church at 10 am and return to Giffnock around 5pm. The cost is £12 per person.

Other 2018/19 dates for your diary are:

Wednesday 28th November: "Aladdin" pantomime at Eastwood Theatre. Tickets £12.

Sunday 23rd December: Christmas Pies after Morning Service.

Saturday 2nd February: Afternoon Tea in the Church Hall.

Sunday 21st April: Easter Breakfast prior to Morning Service

Saturday 11th May: a cruise on either Loch Lomond or Loch Katrine followed by High Tea.

Please speak to a member of the Contact Committee for more information on any of the above.

Retiring Offerings

The Park has a reputation for its generosity in supporting worthwhile charities with a retiring collection. At our June Communion Service we raised £123.55 for The Lodging House Mission. Our next Retiring Offering will be held at our Communion Service in October for the benefit of Christian Aid.

We also collect for charities via the Jar of Grace which sits in the back corridor. Since the start of the year £192.67 has been raised.

The Wednesday Ladies Group

Our final night of our session will be on Wednesday 26th September at the Locks restaurant 6.45/7pm next to Morrisons (at Newlands) Can you let Wilma Macdonald or myself know if you are coming along. We have booked for 20 and will need to confirm final numbers with the restaurant. Transport arrangements can be discussed when we have final numbers.

Anne Hamilton (07710 449941)

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 or Jan Sneddon (638 2233).

Church Grounds

The plots around the church garden have never looked so colourful as they have done this summer. Thanks to those who plant, weed, sweep and provide and care for the tubs, our garden must surely show a welcome to anyone thinking of entering the church

With great enthusiasm the usual group of workers welcomed the addition of an extra pair of hands to cut the grass. If this is something with which you could assist, please don't hesitate to let us know.

The big autumn clear up will be notified in the Messenger and as many hands and feet as possible will be welcomed on that occasion when there is always a good cuppa and even home baking.

Isobel Dew

Bible Study

Our Bible Study began the session on the 4th September with a fellowship evening and BBQ at the manse with a BBQ, lots of goodies and much hilarity. We now meet in the Session House from 7.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month 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

Giffnock Friendship Club

Our session resumed on Wednesday 12th September. I regret this will be a short, final session as the Club will finally close in December 2018. We have been forced to take this decision as membership has fallen dramatically and we now attract only 15/20 members. More serious, though, is the fact that we cannot form a committee. At present, there are only three committee members compared with eleven in 2001. It is physically impossible for only three people to keep the Club running.

The Club was formed in 1951 with over 200 members but social changes have overtaken us. We have served the community well for 68 years and it is now time for us all to retire.

We will, however, be in the Jubilee Hall every Wednesday afternoon until 5th December with a variety of solo singers, choirs and speakers and will close on 12th December with our Christmas Lunch.

If you would like to join us you are guaranteed a warm welcome.

Helen Brown (569 7635)

Eastwood Choral Society

Our very active choir celebrates its 35th Anniversary this year. We have restarted following the summer break and meet in the large hall of the Park Church on Mondays at 7.30 pm. Singing is a healthy activity and if you enjoy singing please come along on a Monday evening and we would be delighted to see you.

Concert dates for the coming year are:

Saturday 24th November - Park Church.

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

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

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

Summer Fair and Strawberry Tea

The sun shone on the 23rd June for our Summer Fair and Strawberry Tea held in a well-decorated Church Garden and Hall. The hall was almost completely filled with tables and seats for members and visitors, and stalls including a bottle stall, a £1 gift bag stall, and a book stall. A large plant stall was located in the Church Garden attracting quite a few passers-by.

The event was well-supported and raised an excellent total of £1032. It is not only the money, however, and congratulations are due to the Stewardship Committee and all the many helpers for organising this successful community event.

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.

Celebrating Calum's 25 years in Ministry

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 organised a light lunch in the Church Hall on the 5th August following Sunday worship. Approximately 60 members, children and friends of the Park Church shared in the meal and were entertained by Toasts and replies.

There was a presentation to Calum to thank him for all he has done for us over the last 17 years. Flowers and a gift were presented to Wilma likewise to thank her for the work she has done for us and the support she has given Calum

Bert Dickov

Financial Report

At the Board Meeting on the 5th September our treasurer, Peter Watson, reported that donations to the church had increased by approximately 12% compared to last year which is in line with our rededication service held in the autumn last year. Costs were similar to last year and were within our 2018 budget.

Unfortunately, we had to replace the gutters and downpipes at the rear of the Church at an unbudgeted cost of £1,800 which will be met from the Fabric Fund. We must also be prepared for a significant repair to the roughcasting at the gable end of the hall which will also eat into our reserves.

Cathcart Chess Club

The Cathcart Chess Club meets in the small hall of the Park Church on Monday evenings and is an active, friendly club which was founded in 1953. It is one of the largest and longest established chess clubs in Glasgow.

We run three teams in the Glasgow Chess League and one in the National Knock out competition, the Richardson Cup.

The club has a number of current and former international players as members including International Master Roddy Mackay. However, we warmly welcome all, including juniors and complete beginners, so feel free to join us at 7.15pm on any Monday evening. Keeping the mind in trim is good for you!

For further details please contact the club secretary Alistair Maxwell on 0141 620 2115 or visit our web page on www.cathcartchessclub.org.uk.

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

At our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on the 16th September all proceeds of a non-perishable nature were forwarded to the Lodging House Mission as has been our custom for many years and all perishable foods gifted to the Crossreaches Dementia Care Home Williamwood House.

Carpet Bowls

The new season started on Thursday 6th September with play from 10am – 12 noon including a break for tea/coffee, cakes & biscuits. New members are cordially invited. Previous experience is not necessary as tuition will be given.

John McMenemin

Grace's Saturday Suppers

Grace Aitkenhead has been running her famed "Saturday Suppers" once per month throughout 2018 and £815 has been raised to date. Excellent food and company guaranteed but you have to book before all the places have been taken – next supper is on Saturday 20th October.

Grace Aitkenhead (638 6812)

Wilma's Birthday Lunch

To celebrate her 60th birthday Wilma organised a lunch held after the Sunday Service on the 9th September with everyone in the congregation invited.

Wilma did not want a present but asked for donations to the work of Mercy Ships – a cause very dear to her heart.

Mercy Ships is an international charity and currently operates the largest non-governmental hospital ship in the world providing humanitarian aid such as - free health care, community development projects, community health education, mental health programs, agriculture projects, and palliative care for terminally ill patients.

It has operated in more than 57 developing nations and 18 developed nations (including the UK) around the world, with a current focus on the countries of Africa.

The lunch was a great success and well attended by friends and members of the congregation. The sum raised was £1200.

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 1st 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.

The Monday Club is looking to the congregation to donate **new** mugs for them to fill for their new "Mug Shot" stall – contact Senga McIntosh.

As usual Peter Watson will be filling planters and hanging baskets with bulbs and spring flowers (pansies, primroses etc) for sale on the day or to order. If you have planters or hanging baskets from summer use that you would like filled please contact him on 0141 571 7622. If you have any unwanted (but usable) planters he would be delighted to receive them.

Please contact the Stewardship Committee for further information.

Bert Dickov

Office Open Times

The Church Office is open on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9am to 12 noon.

To get in touch with us the church office telephone number is 620 2204 or email parkchurch@hotmail.co.uk.

You can contact the minister direct on 638 3023 or email parkhouse@msn.com. Session clerk, David Mackie can be contacted on 321 3300.