

The Gazette
GIFFNOCK PARK CHURCH
April 2019

Thoughts from the Manse

Easter Greetings

I hope everyone is looking forward to the Easter Break. In today's world of course it is very un-PC to speak of this time of the year in such terms. Schools prefer a more neutral term like Spring Break, it's less religiously sensitive. This time of the year will always be Easter to me and yet our schools continue to distance themselves from this significant moment. They forget that the Holidays are in fact Holy Days where at certain times of the year great festivities are enjoyed by one and all in celebration of the significant moments in our Lord's Life, his birth at Christmas, the beginning of his ministry in Lent, his death & Resurrection at Easter and the birth of his Church and the presence of his ever abiding Spirit through Whitsun. The heritage of Christian Faith is so enmeshed in 21st century life even when we cannot see it. Our legal system has its roots in the 10 Commandments of the Old Testament, our education system seeking to provide all round learning for all people of every kith and kin. In Scotland at the time of the Reformation A church in every parish and beside each church a school was the great dream of John Knox no less. The desire for a health and social care system that provides for all stems from the heart-felt need of those in the early church who would seek the healing of those through Prayer when there was no health care system and doctors were only a few in number, limited in what they could do and available for only the elect few. While that was happening Stephen, the first Martyr, and his 6 colleagues were charged with looking after the needs of the poor in their midst during the early church, the widows & orphans, the strangers and sojourners. People were selling their goods and property so that needs could be met. When Peter and John were confronted by the plea of the lame man begging on the streets on the way to the Temple in Jerusalem, they spoke of having no gold or silver but that they could offer something through Christ - the power to walk again. I am sure we can all hear in our heads that chorus from Sunday School –

*Peter and John went to pray;
They met a lame man on the way.
He asked for alms and held out his palms,
And this is what Peter did say:
"Silver and gold have I none,
But such as I have give I thee.
In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,*

Rise up and walk."
He went walking and leaping and praising God,
Walking and leaping and praising God.
"In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,
Rise up and walk."

Through the decades, centuries and now even millennia the story of the church has been to remind those round about us of who it is we serve and who He is – The Saviour of the World - by our deeds and actions, by the words of our mouths and the attitudes of our minds all driven by that deepest conviction of Faith resting in that most vile and yet most incredible of Moments we call Calvary where Jesus promised the thief as the New King James Bible puts it, ***“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”*** (Luke 23:43).

I hope everyone has a great Easter Break but my heartfelt hope and dream is that we will understand what Easter is truly about – God’s Love for a broken world, Jesus’ Forgiveness for a sinful world and our response to this great act of self-sacrifice for you and for me and even for all.

Have a great Easter – enjoy the Holy Days.

Calum D. Macdonald

53rd Stated Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting was held on the 20th March at which our Treasurer, Peter Watson, presented the audited accounts for 2019. He advised that the Church achieved an overall surplus of £9,414 for the year ending 31st December, attributed to an increase in donations, significant efforts in fund raising events, a legacy bequeathed by Ms Isabel Grieve and to cost efficiencies. As requested by Ms Grieve the legacy will be used to help improve the Manse and a separate Manse Fund has been created. The accounts are currently with Presbytery and Edinburgh for approval and will then be submitted to the Charities Regulator, OSCR.



Retiring Offerings

The Park has a reputation for its generosity in supporting worthwhile charities with a retiring collection and a total of almost £2,500 was donated in 2018.

This included donations to our Jar of Grace which sits in the back corridor. The total raised in 2018 was £350 which was donated equally to the Lodging House Mission and to Age Concern Eastwood Dementia Project. We are hoping to exceed last year's total. (Jim Wilson)

4TH Giffnock Brownies

The Brownies are currently working on two themes from the new Girlguiding programme: Express Myself and Know Myself. As part of the programme they have been practising using sign language to improve their communication skills and using the phonetic alphabet to send hidden messages. The girls were asked in December what activities they wished to do in the Spring and they suggested a talent show. Just before the Easter holidays the Brownies performed magic tricks, dancing, singing and playing instruments in the talent show which earned them their performing badge.

Over the coming months we are hoping to take the Brownies out into the church grounds and spend some more time playing outside as the weather improves. The Brownies will continue to work towards the themes of Express Myself and Know Myself and will complete more challenges which will earn them badges.

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.

The Sunday School

We have a very varied age range across the Sunday School this year therefore we have split into 3 different age groups. We have the 3-5 and 5-7 ages where the focus since September 2018 has been the books of Samuel, Judges, Kings and touching on Chronicles, Jeremiah, James, Joshua and Deuteronomy. The key learnings for the children has been to learn how God can be trusted and how you can turn to him for help. Also, the importance of not only listening to God's word, but obeying this in everyday life. For the older group, 8-13, they have also been included in the weekly readings/stories, but are currently focusing on gathering the evidence of God and Jesus through Bible study. Currently, we are looking at the baptism of Jesus and collecting evidence to prove it took place. For all groups, we will be working through the Easter story, utilising appropriate materials for the specific age group.

The time we spend together each Sunday is short, however you will be able to view all of the work that the children have been completing during this time which is pinned to all boards around the hall. Due to the differing ages, some Sundays can be a bit hectic therefore, if anyone would like to help out with the Sunday School, please let either of us know. The requirement is to help with the activities on the Sunday as all lessons will already have been prepared.

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

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. I hope as many of you as possible have entered the church grounds from Ravenscliffe Drive by the steps. The Spring flowers that have been planted are just at their best and are making a brave, colourful show in spite of the rather dismal weather. The tubs around the gardens are also actively blossoming. Alas there is always huge enthusiasm from the grass and the dandelions.

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)

Manse Garden

After quite a few years of little maintenance, the garden team is determined to make the garden at the Manse a credit to the Church. One of our former members, Graham Steel, will provide the muscle to get the flower beds into shape and we will plant up with shrubs and perennials.

If you are in the process of dividing perennial plants in your garden we would be delighted to take the excess off your hands! All donations would be very welcome.

Peter Watson

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 Peter Watson.

Ladies group

Our ladies group meets from May 8th to September on the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month on a Wednesday evening, 7.15pm to 9pm.

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 in May!

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

Anne Hamilton, Fiona Mackie and Wilma Macdonald

The Monday Club

We have been knitting and sewing for various charities including the Linus Project, The Royal Hospital for Children, Babies in Africa, Trauma Teddies for Police Scotland and Twiddle Muffs for Dementia Patients. These has all been gratefully received.

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 after the summer in September.

Senga McIntosh

Grace's Saturday Suppers and Recipe Book

Grace Aitkenhead is running her famed "Saturday Suppers" once per month throughout 2019 and £205 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)

Summer Fair and Strawberry Tea

On Saturday 15th June from 2pm-4pm our Stewardship Team are holding a Summer Fair and Strawberry Tea in the Church Garden and Hall.

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.

Toddlers Group

It has been another riotous start to the year at the Toddlers Group. With the arrival of new fancy-dress costumes the children are running around the hall dressed as fierce dragons, daring super-heroes and swashbuckling pirates. The girls and boys still love their old princess and Spiderman costumes, so the room is now filled with an array of different characters, which is a very colourful and cheering sight.

We have already had plenty of opportunities to celebrate in 2019. The children have had craft mornings in which they've made cards for Valentine's Day and The Chinese New Year and we are all looking forward to Easter.

In 2018 we waved a fond farewell to Margaret Massie, who had volunteered as the group's Treasurer/ Assistant Treasurer for five years. We are very grateful for all her hard work and dedication to the group during that time. We also said goodbye to Margaret's daughter Emily Crichton, who ended her time as Chairperson last Christmas. Emily ran the group like a well-oiled machine. She managed to keep everything running seamlessly and was great company too! Margaret, Emily and her daughter, Alba, are greatly missed, but we are all very excited for Alba, who has moved on to nursery - the next big milestone in a child's life. Marion McCusker and myself took over as Co-Chairpeople in the New Year. We were both intimidated by the task of filling Emily's shoes, but we rely very much on the hard work and support of Elaine Mullan, our Treasurer, who always helps to steer us cheerfully in the right direction. We would also like to thank the Committee as a whole, and in particular Fiona Gilbert and Elizabeth Hutton, who have been enormously helpful, flexible and patient during this period transition

I think I can speak for all of us when I say that the Toddlers Group is very important to the children and care-givers who attend every Tuesday and/or Wednesday morning. The group enables the children to stretch their legs and run around even on wet, cold days. It allows them to meet other children and to play with new exciting toys. For the caregivers it allows them to sit, take a breath, have a cup of tea and to have a nice chat with lots of lovely people.

If you know of any mums, grandmas or child-minders, who might enjoy the group then please feel free to pass on our details. If members of the Church fancy coming along to join in the fun then please feel free to pop in for a cuppa.

Kat Hannon, Co-Chairperson (07717 201613)

Eastwood Choral Society - 35th Anniversary Year

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.

Our next concert is on Sunday 19th May 2019 and is our 35th Anniversary Concert which will take 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.

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. During the past few months Contact have hosted the Christmas Mince pies after the Nativity Service and organised a very successful afternoon tea in February.

Visitors commented that the food was delicious and the atmosphere was very friendly.

Our next event is the Easter Breakfast prior to worship on Easter Sunday. Service will commence at 9.30am. Please come along and join us.

The Contact Committee

Ladies' Keep Fit (Thursdays at 7.15pm) / **Alison's Aerobics** (Saturdays at 9.30am)

The Keep Fit classes continue to run every Thursday at 7.15pm and every Saturday at 9.30am. Several new members have joined us since the new year.

Our ages and ability vary greatly but we always have a laugh. Anyone wishing to come along will be made 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.