

The Gazette
GIFFNOCK PARK CHURCH
September 2019

Letter from the Manse

A warm welcome to you from our most recent Gazette which I hope you will enjoy reading giving you an insight into the things that are coming up in the new session.

Churches over the years have become more and more like schools in the way they operate. Very often, other than holiday clubs and the regular event of Sunday morning worship, congregations will close down with organisations following the schools having a six or eight week summer recess. We are living in interesting times these days with so many things having changed.

Our national church is looking to find ways that address how we can best seek to re-awaken the lapsed members of our congregations, those people who have lost that sense of relevance for church, the men and women who think the church has nothing to do or say for them anymore.

Of course, we should also be very pro-active in reaching out to those who have never been interested in the Christian message of God's *unmerited* Grace and Favour because of what Jesus achieved. The history of the church in Scotland has seen moments in the timeline of the ages where it seemed the very Spirit of God had fallen on the Land with men and women's lives changed as God by his Spirit moved hearts and minds.

Our local Churches have been superb in rising to the challenges of social need and social care for those less fortunate than others but we have over the years become ambivalent about Mission or Evangelism. Many of us would rather stay in our churches rather than be reaching out to those in our communities to challenge them about their lives today but their lives for eternity.

A story was once told of how the Devil was talking with his lieutenants about how best to stop people becoming Christians. One said we should persecute them severely. Another said we should get our politicians to make it illegal, another said we should tell them, there is no rush that there is plenty of time to decide. To this last minion, the devil said, "Go! You will ruin the lives of millions."

The Bible says

“In an acceptable time I have heard you. And in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2)



We can be like the cartoon and stay in our churches for fear of being laughed at, or vilified for being a man or woman of faith in a society that is increasing tolerant of every view as long as it is not Christian/Evangelical or we can be courageous like the saints of old travelling any distance, taking every opportunity to share the Christian message of hope and eternity for all through faith in Jesus and Him only. I hope we and the church nationally makes the right

decision because I fear that if we don't, history will see the Church of Scotland continue to decline and that for me would be a story that saddens my heart when I would rather see my heart quicken at the sound of the gospel being proclaimed and lives being changed. For that to happen we can no longer sit in our churches and watch the world pass by.

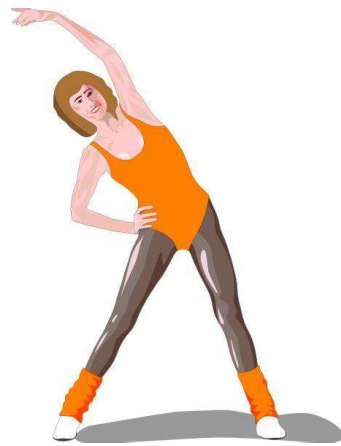
Wishing every blessing

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 at www.parkchurch.org.uk. This gives you details of forthcoming events, details of all the regular activities taking place in the church and halls, copies of all the recent Parish Messengers and Gazettes, a brief history of the church, the monthly rota to remind members of their Sunday morning duty dates. Alternatively, 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 7.15pm - 8.30pm)

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

Classes resumed after the summer session at the end of August. We are always looking for new members so if you feel like joining us please come along on Thursdays at 7.15pm or Saturdays at 9.30am. All you need are a pair of trainers, comfy clothes and a towel or mat. A range of exercises are provided to suit all abilities, ages and levels of fitness.

Our aims are to improve our fitness levels and to also have fun.

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

Alison Richardson

The Park Church Contact Group

At the beginning of this 2019/20 session the Committee has, so far, confirmed dates for the following events which will be held in the Church Hall. More information will be published nearer the actual dates.

Sunday 22 nd December:	Christmas Mince Pies and Shortbread after morning Service
Saturday 22 nd February:	Afternoon Tea
Thursday 2 nd April:	Ladies Fashion Show (evening)
Sunday 12 th April:	Easter Breakfast prior to Morning Service

We are hoping to arrange for the Salvation Army Songsters to perform a concert in the church – details to follow.

Our remit is to organise social events to allow the congregation, their families, friends and the local community to come and join us on these occasions. We are always looking for new ideas and suggestions so please don't hesitate to let us know of anything which might appeal.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Contact Committee

Edith Darling, Norma Moyes, Jean Watt, Alison Richardson, Mary Barlow

The Brownies

The Brownies had a lovely picnic before the summer and managed to get outside for games on the last few nights. We had lots of fun completing badges and enjoying the weather!

The Brownies have now started back after a lovely summer holiday. We are looking forward to beginning our new theme for this term; Be Well.

The girls will be learning about first aid and how to look after their own health and well-being, as well as taking part in lots of seasonal activities and crafts. We are also hoping to improve our knowledge and have fun by having a quiz night in October.

Catherine Maxwell

Park Church Toddlers

*Come to me, O ye children! For I hear you at your play,
And the questions that perplexed me. Have vanished quite away.
Ye open the eastern windows, that look towards the sun,
Where thoughts are singing swallows and the brooks of morning run.*

Extract from 'Children' by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

We have been having a lot of fun at Giffnock Park Church's Toddler Group these past couple of months. A particular highlight has been the soft archery sessions kindly put on by David Hutton. There were a lot of huge grins on the faces of the children who took part. They absolutely loved the opportunity to learn something new and they clearly had a blast. I would like to say a massive thank you to David for taking the time to share his skills with us.

We have had to say a fond farewell to Marion McCusker, Co-Chairperson, and Elaine Mullan, Treasurer. They both did a fantastic job and bent over backwards to ensure the smooth-running of the group. However, the time has come, their children have grown and are ready to take their next steps, beyond our little community. We wish them all the best in their many future adventures. After goodbyes come hellos. Rhona has taken over as Co-Chairperson, and Debra O'Malley will be our new Treasurer. We are enormously grateful to these ladies for volunteering their time to the group. They are a wonderful addition to the Committee.

Speaking of the Committee, they have been a tremendous support to both myself and the group's attendees as a whole. They always lend a helping hand and offer a compassionate ear, which is medicine to those braving the terrible twos and the like!

If you know of any mums, grandmas or child-minders, who might enjoy the group then please feel free to pass on my 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, 07717 201 613
Co-Chairperson



Monday Club

The Monday Club

We hope everyone has had a good summer and are now ready for the new session.

At the Monday Club we are now working towards the festive season and our Fair which will be on the 30th November. As it is St Andrew's Day our stall will have a Scottish theme. We are still knitting for different charities which are much appreciative of our donations

The Club met in Rouken Glen Garden Centre four times during the summer and we all enjoyed a "cuppa" and a chat.

Looking forward to seeing some new faces at the club. We meet every Monday afternoon from 1.45pm to 3.45pm.

Senga McIntosh



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 £148.40 for Christian Aid. Our next Retiring Offering will be held at our Communion Service in October for the benefit of the Thornliebank Food Bank. At a Ladies Night in July £160 was raised for Mercy Ships.

We also collect for charities via the Jar of Grace which sits in the back corridor. Since the start of the year £78.03 has been raised.

At our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on the 15th September all proceeds of a non-perishable nature (3 car loads!) were taken 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.



Church Grounds

The Church garden has been looking particularly pleasing this summer as Peter has built up an array of plants which provide regular colour whilst also keeping down the weeds. Dan has been keeping the grass in order, which is a never-ending task, and the rest of the team attack any weeds that dare to grow. There are always jobs to do, so if you have a spare half hour on a Tuesday morning, feel free to come along and lend a hand when there is always a good cuppa and even home baking.

The Manse garden has been hugely improved due to the efforts of Graham Steel and Peter's guidance.

Isobel Dew

Sunday School

Welcome back to all children to Sunday School for the 2019-2020 session. During the summer, the children, who were at church on the Sunday, were looked after by willing volunteers who entertained them during the service. We would like to thank them for all of their help.

We closed the last session in June when all of the children received their prizes. We also had a display of all of their hard work for 2018-2019 for the parents, grandparents and congregation to view. This session, we will continue our journey through the Old Testament, picking up where we left off in the book of Kings. We are sure the children will enjoy the many stories of Elijah, Elisha and then moving into the book of Jonah. There are related activities every week to help us teach the children about the bible and as always, we will be displaying the materials as we progress each week. Anyone is welcome at any time to drop in and visit us.

The Sunday School is open to all children from age 3 and upwards but if parents have younger children and able to join us with them, they will be more than welcome.

Shelia Lammie

The Wednesday Ladies Group

Our ladies group meets from May to September on the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month on a Wednesday evening so as I write we are almost finished this year's session.

Over the weeks

- we have met and heard from Liz Allan who told the story of US President Roosevelt's wife, Eleanor; we had a visit from Mary who had been on Mercy Ships for 8 weeks and shared her experience and stories of those who patients were operated on.
- Our Film Night featured the 2013 film "Different Drummers" about two young boys, one in a wheelchair, and the other with ADHD and their unlikely friendship, there wasn't a dry eye in the room.
- Jenny Cameron gave us some insight into her work in the safe zone of street pastors, the stories she shared had us laughing and concerned in equal measures.
- Sally Hamilton gave us a fabulous talk on her time teaching at summer school in South Africa and the churches that she visited.
- An evening of sharing our favourite verse, hymn or book once again a very good evening of hearing about some ladies' thoughts and we even had an Easter poem about Judas which I'm sure will pop up at Easter.
- Our yearly Agape Meal was a very meaningful evening where Calum led us in worship and also shared communion.

We still have 2 evenings to go in September one on the 11th where we will hear from Charlie Newlands who was a missionary and will be sharing some of his stories about the work that he did. Our final night is a social evening to be held at M&J's in Clarkston.

We also still have our library in the Ferguson Hall on the stage which anyone in the church can make use of by borrowing books or DVD's that we have enjoyed over the last few years so please feel free to use it.

As you can see we have 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 - so mark your diary down for next year!

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

Anne, Fiona and Wilma

Bible Study

The session for bible study began on Tuesday 3rd September, and we meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday until June, as usual in December we will have a Christmas party at the manse which is a wonderful evening of food and fellowship. There are around 14 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, last session we looked at "what the bible say about..... the church, evangelism and social action, we will continue the theme this year by beginning with a look at " what is a cult."

On the last meeting in June we usually have a barbeque at the Manse (no matter what the weather is) and this is usually a lovely way to end the session

If you think 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 have any questions about the bible study please feel free to speak to myself or any of the others who attend

Wilma Macdonald

New Church Organist

Anne Green was finding travel from her home in Newmilns to Glasgow quite difficult and has now taken an organist post closer to home.

In her place we are delighted to welcome Hebba Benyaghla as our new organist.

Hebba is currently studying at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS) with a scholarship for Masters study, having also studied at undergraduate level. She is the Associate Accompanist for the National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCOS) Girl's choir and is also the accompanist for RCS Juniors and Greenock Philharmonic Society.



Eastwood Choral Society

Eastwood Choral is back again in rehearsals after the summer break.

We meet on Monday evenings 7.30 - 9.30 pm in the large hall of the church.

The aim of the choir is to encourage people of all ages to sing and enjoy music. We are always happy to welcome new members.

Our next event is a Christmas Concert which will be held in Park Church on Sunday 15th December at 3.00 pm.

Look forward to seeing you there

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

Sandra Dickov

Summer Fair and Strawberry Tea 2019

The sun shone on the 15th June for our Summer Fair and Strawberry Tea held in a well-decorated Church 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.

The event was well-supported and raised an excellent total of £683.

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)

Financial Report

At the Board Meeting on the 5th September our treasurer, Peter Watson, reported that our regular income is down by over 8% compared to last year though our regular costs were similar to last year and were within our budget. He hopes that the planned Rededication Service to be held later this year will encourage members to slightly increase their givings to allow our regular income to match our normal costs.

In past years major items of expenditure such as the heating system or roof repairs was met by special Gift Days where the congregation was asked to give donations for a specific project. The capital spent this year to date is the culmination of smaller projects that we have avoided committing to over the last few years. Isobel Grieve's generous legacy of £10,000 received in December with a specific request for part of this to go towards refurbishment of the manse is now being used for this purpose and some of this is committed. Our Fabric and Reserves Fund has been used to fund the roughcasting of the gable end of the church hall, repair of the hall window ledges, repair of the projector in the sanctuary and replacement of the guttering on the hall.

Money has also been allocated to purchase of additional folding tables and storage trolleys, to reinstall the bell in the Tower, to refurbish both the meeting room to provide a separate vestry for the minister and the office in anticipation of a new secretary, and to clear the blockages in the drainage pipes.

He also reported that we had recently received a substantial legacy of over £60,000 from Ian Mitchell's will which he hopes that we will invest wisely to help grow the membership. The Board and Session have decided to replace the old grand piano in the Sanctuary with a new Clavinova in memory of Ian, recognising his great love of music.



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.

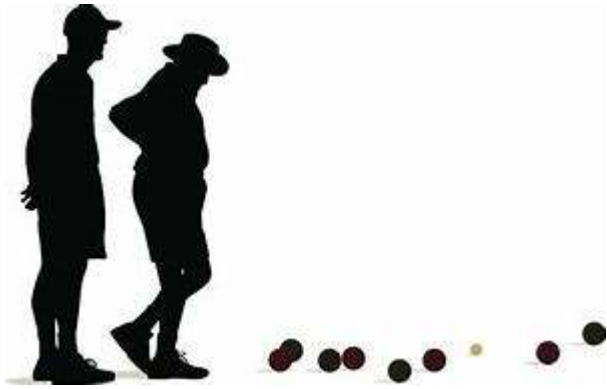
Keeping the mind in trim is good for you!

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

If you would like to play/learn chess on Thursday mornings please speak to Peter Watson.

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.



Park Church Carpet Bowls

The new season has started and we play on Thursdays from 10am – 12 noon including a break for tea/coffee, cakes & biscuits!

New players 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 2019 and £420 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 19th October.

Grace Aitkenhead (638 6812)

New Elders

At our Communion Service in June five of our members, Jenny Cameron, Anne Hamilton, Sally Hamilton, Fiona Mackie and Valerie Richmond were ordained as Elders of the Park Church. We wish them well in their position.



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 30th November 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). Donations for all stalls will be gratefully received.

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.

The Church of Scotland General Assembly 2019 (18th to 24 May)

As a first time Commissioner to the Assembly, I looked forward with anticipation, at the prospect of seeing the Church in action, driving us into the 21st century and apprehension, that everything would stall in legal jargon and filibuster! Both were correct.

On the first day there was a lot of pomp and ceremony as the guests of honour arrived though sitting in the assembly hall, we missed all this, hearing only the distant sounds of bagpipes. The outgoing Moderator, the Right Reverend Susan Brown, handed over the cross and ring of office to the Reverend Colin Sinclair, minister for Palmerston Place Church in Edinburgh. His Grace Richard Scott, the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry was Lord High Commissioner for the second year.

Monday began with the Sacrament of Communion and the other days with devotions. These were chosen to help us remember the reason why we were there, to serve God as well as the church. Then down to business!

Daily proceedings, flyers etc are handed out on the day to add to the 500+ page "blue book". This year's assembly contended with many controversial matters which were passionately presented and debated. One of the main topics was the Radical Action Plan which was passed after a heated debate which will result in fewer Presbyteries. Other sessions covered Youth, Church and Society, Chaplaincy to the Armed Forces, World Missions and Climate Change to name a few. Sitting through many hours of discussion, sometimes it was difficult to keep track on what was going on, where at times the change of a word, or punctuation raised heated exchanges! Overall, it was an experience that could be exhausting, engaging and boring and with six hundred people in the hall, it soon got hot, and after lunch, sleepy.

On the Thursday night I was one of the Commissioners selected to attend The Beating the Retreat and Reception hosted by The Lord High Commissioner at Holyrood Palace. One comment is that by the nature of proceedings it does narrow the field of those able to attend as most people under 65 are in employment and would find it difficult to become involved. That was evident by the demographics of the ages of attendees in the hall. If we want to encourage younger people into the church decision making, then I feel we need to look at moving into the 21st century and using the technology available for distance conferencing.

David Hutton

Church Secretary

After over a year of running without a Church secretary the Board decided to set up a sub-committee to produce a job specification and then advertise the position locally and throughout the Glasgow Presbytery. The advert is reproduced below and we welcome any interest from anyone associated with the Park Church or living locally in the community.

**Giffnock The Park Church
Ravenscliffe Drive
Glasgow G46 7QS**

We are looking to attract a friendly, people-person to act as our office secretary and join our team at Giffnock Park Church which is a Church of Scotland congregation in Glasgow.

Role and key skills

The successful candidate will act as our Minister's Personal Assistant and will assist him and members of the congregation in fulfilling our vision. Communication, organisational, discretion and IT skills are essential. The position requires someone who is self-motivated, a good team player but able to work independently.

Duties

Key duties include office administration and communication with colleagues, with members of the congregation and with the local community.

Hours of Work

This is a part-time post of 2½ hours per day on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings during school term time with a reduced commitment during school holidays.

Salary

This will depend on experience but will be based on the hourly standard living wage.

Contact

For further information contact Sally Hamilton, Clerk to the Congregational Board, email address srh3105@gmail.com. You can view our website at www.parkchurch.org.