

The Gazette
GIFFNOCK PARK CHURCH
December 2019

Thoughts from the Manse

Nat King Cole sang of Time going by. If there was ever a song that sums up this time of the year it is this one in one sense. As one gets older it just feels that the rate at which time passes now seems to accelerate because it once again and all too familiarly, it is that time of the year where Christmas is on our doorstep. The Shops are buzzing with people, the Christmas decorations are out, the bargain and Christmas offers are beginning to bombard us in our newspapers, on our televisions and advertising boards on the roads as we pass by in the car or bus.

When we go in the shops not only will there be an assault on the eyes but there will also be an assault on the ears where the tannoy systems and public address systems will be blaring out the classic songs of the season such as : - It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year: I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus: I'm dreaming of a white Christmas: Santa Claus is Coming to Town: Jingle Bells: I wish it could be Christmas everyday: Rudolph the red nosed reindeer and Do they know it's Christmas time at All?

All these songs have one thing in common – there is not a single mention of Jesus anywhere. The politically correct elite being so sensitive of those of other faiths and none must be pandered to so that overly sensitive ears of people do not need to be reminded of the **CHRIST** of Christmas. Midge Ure and Bob Geldolf having made their thousands in the music industry found their conscience when they discovered the poor of Africa and elsewhere in the World and they asked the question 'Do they Know it's Christmas time at all?'

I think it would be great if Sir Bob Geldolf and Midge Ure would re-write the lyrics of that song to sum up with a question for this time of the year that says – **Do They know what Christmas is all about?**

The answer to that for so many is – NO they don't! They have forgotten the reason for the season is not an excuse for parties and presents and over-indulgent meals. It is not about family, as important as Family may be. It is about the gift of God's Son arriving in the world to do something for the world that it could not do for itself.

My wife Wilma and I hope you have a lovely festive but 'Jesus filled' Christmas this year and a blessed 2020.

Merry Christmas when it comes

Calum D. Macdonald

Park Church Flowers

After a few years of organising the Flower Register Isobel Cochrane and Norma Whyte have now retired and we thank them for all their efforts.

Wilma Macdonald has now taken this duty over and the Flower List for 2020 will be available soon and there are some free Sundays!

Ladies Keep Fit

Ladies Keep Fit (Thurs 7.20pm - 8.30pm)

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

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 and levels of fitness. 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

The McCarthy School of Dance

The McCarthy School of Dance has been welcomed into Park Church where we have started senior dance classes (high school students) on Friday evenings. Having outgrown our previous venue, our students and parents have all been so impressed with the halls and it is lovely to see such happy dancers every week at class. We would like to extend our thanks to Rev. Calum Macdonald and to Peter Watson for their immediate support and encouragement in helping us to establish these new classes.

Our classes are full with waiting lists running at the moment but if anyone would like more information please do not hesitate to get in touch via email: themccarthyschoolofdance@yahoo.co.uk.

Bible Study

There are around 20 people who meet twice a month on Wednesdays at 7.30pm in the session house to gather round the bible and to study either a book of the bible or a special topic 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

Girlguiding at the Park



The Park Church is in a very fortunate position of hosting three popular and successful Girlguiding units – the 4th Giffnock Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides and you will have seen some of them on parade at our Sunday Remembrance Day Service on the 10th November when Catherine Maxwell, our Brownie leader, demonstrated a soldier's lot by wearing an army helmet and body protection.

The Guide company was formed in 1940 and like the Church celebrates their 80th anniversary in 2020. The Brownies started in 1948.

We do not have any war time history of the company, but it is likely that, in common with the Guides of Orchardhill who lost the use of their guide hut to the enemy aircraft spotters, the girls met in each other's houses.

The leaders are currently concentrating on their Christmas parties and next summer's camp but are keen to celebrate their 80th birthday. If you are able to fill in any gaps in their history or have any relevant photographs that you can share with the girls please contact Guider, Lucy Anderson, or the Church Office.

In common with many organisations the units have plenty of girls wanting to join but are always looking for additional leaders. If you can help, please contact the Church Office.

The Monday Club

The members of the club are now thinking about the Christmas Fair and we have been busy making items for the Craft Stall. We have welcomed three more ladies and they are helping with our donations of knitting to various charities.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fayre and would invite anyone interested to come and join us our Monday Meetings from 1.45pm to 3.45pm

Senga McIntosh

80 Years of the Park Church - The first few years

2020 celebrates the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower the ship that carried the Pilgrims from England to Plymouth, Massachusetts, where they established the first permanent New England colony in 1620.

Coincidentally 2020 also celebrates the 80th anniversary of the Park Church.

It all began with the building of the new housing estate of Orchard Park just before the outbreak of war in 1939. The idea of a new Church Extension Charge in the Orchard Park Area was proposed by the Rev John White of the Barony Church in Glasgow who had a deep interest in Church Extension projects and Orchard Park Church's first parish minister, the Rev David H. McMahon was inducted on the 26th April 1940.

However, with no church building, the congregation met for Worship in Giffnock Courthouse which then was attached to Giffnock Police Station in Braidholm Road. It still is a Police Station and Courthouse to this day. For the next 2 years the small but enthusiastic congregation continued to meet for worship in this unorthodox setting until the construction of the Hall/Church at the present site in Ravenscliffe drive.



As the photograph shows the building consisted of a Large Hall, Vestry and Small Kitchen. It served a dual function for the meeting for Worship on Sunday mornings and their use by the congregation and various organisations throughout the week. The congregation became very adept at moving the church's furnishings around

in order to adapt to every occasion.

The Rev David McMahon eventually received a call to a new charge and in 1945 the Rev Theodore M.G. Lamb was inducted and over the next 10 years oversaw the next phase of building when the Church Halls were extended to their current size now. In 1956 the Rev R.T. Hassal came to be the minister at what was then Orchard Park Church. Of the 6 ministers appointed to serve as Parish minister His would be the shortest term of office lasting only 3 years.

Helpful though the extended accommodation had been, it became clear that this was not the final solution and so with the start of the 1960's there also began a new ministry under the leadership of the Rev. David Norwood. The decision was to retain the old Church using it as Hall accommodation whilst a new Orchard Park Church Building would be built alongside the existing Church halls. With the Rev Norwood's guidance, the congregation set about the task of raising the capital for this new build project. Their efforts were given further encouragement when with the granting of permission for the work to project to proceed, it was accompanied by the promise of financial Assistance from Glasgow Presbytery.

Whilst the members of this young church applied themselves to their task with characteristic commitment of effort and money, a church in the centre of the city with a long and distinguished record of service to its community was coming to the end of its active life. 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 this younger striving congregation. 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. On the Sunday 6th November 1966 the Presbytery of Glasgow held a Service to Dedicate the new Park Church in Giffnock, the new congregation meeting for the first time for Public Worship in this their new sanctuary building. This new Sanctuary had become a skilful blend of old and new using some of the Stained glass windows and wood panelling from the Old Park Church which has enhanced the Modern look of the building in its simplicity of design. This was enhanced by its furnishings through the many generous gifts from past and present members.

The Contact Group

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

Sunday 23rd December:

Christmas Mince Pies and Shortbread after Morning Service.

Saturday 22nd February:

Afternoon Tea in the Church Hall with an unwanted Treasure's Stall.

Tickets: adults £5, under 12's £2

Sunday 12th April:

Easter Breakfast from 9.30am prior to Morning Service.

Hot Cross Buns with tea/coffee after Morning Service

We are also planning to host a concert performed by the Salvation Army Songsters later in the year and more details will be included in The Messenger and on the Church web site in due course. Contact is always looking for new ideas for social events and would greatly appreciate any suggestions which you think might appeal.

Meantime, thank you 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 winter now settled in and frosty weather spoiling the blooms that were left, there is still some cutting back to be done. The trees have been jealously holding on to their leaves but more are now ready to come down so whatever the weather, sweeping up is necessary.

A huge "Thank you" to the regular team who come to help whenever possible – Peter, Isobel W, Jenny, Anne H, Anne B, Jack, Isobel D and Dan who makes music with the lawnmower. We all appreciate the cuppa on a Tuesday morning before we get started so please come and join us if you have an hour to spare.

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

The Choir

After a break over the summer, the choir members have re-convened on the chancel on Sunday mornings, with the welcome addition of a new member, Ernie Donaldson.

We know that there are many good singers in the congregation and we would be delighted if you would join us. We meet at 10.15 on Sunday mornings to run through the praise ;list under the leadership of Hebba, our organist.

You don't have to be proficient at reading music – just enjoy singing, and help to lead the congregation in praise, which is an essential part of our worship.

Marie Wilson

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)

Eastwood Choral Society - 35th Anniversary Year

Concert dates for the coming year are:

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

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 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 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 received.

Please contact the Stewardship Committee for further information.

