

# Park Pages

the magazine of Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland



## Letter from the Minister

Autumn 2015

**A**s we start a new session of worship and witness, it is good to welcome **Karen Stangoe** as our Family and Children's Worker. Karen was already known to a number of our Congregation but over these first few weeks I would encourage you to introduce yourself to her. She would appreciate that. She would also value your prayers, both for herself and this vital ministry. Already good contacts have been developed with the two schools and with SU groups. Pastoral connections with the younger families are in place and good relationships with the leaders of the Sunday School are established.

Many of us are aware that my good friend and colleague, **Rev John Fairful**, has been unwell. This may well continue for some time. Over the years John has "covered" for me when I have been on holiday. Whilst Nathan was here, that was not a problem. Nathan also took services and led some of our Fellowship Groups when I was visiting other churches with my work for the Denomination. As neither of them are now available, I greatly appreciate the willingness of **Rev Ian McQuarrie** to provide some cover for holiday, help in taking services and in leading some of the groups. Ian has retired (!) and will provide this help as is convenient for him in terms of his own commitments. He is still an enthusiastic member of our team for MEGA and a helper in our schools' work. We value his support and input in a number of areas of our Church's life and assure him and Helen of our love and prayers as they journey out to Australia in November to visit family.

Elsewhere in this magazine you will hear of feedback from a number of other folks with whom we have enjoyed fellowship in the past. That is the miracle and wonder of a Christian Fellowship. The final chapter in Paul's Letter to the Romans is well worth reading to remind us of those important bonds of Fellowship. After all the teaching and doctrine that Paul gives in this letter, this chapter is often ignored. Actually, it is one of the most important!

After commending "**Phoebe, a deacon of the church..**" he then sends greetings to **twenty-eight people and three general greetings to church Fellowships.**

**Eight other people** add their greeting to those of Paul. Quite a crowd! Yet this is not an exhaustive list. Other letters in the New Testament have new names mentioned. An important reminder of how extensive are the interconnections between members of the Church of God.

Whilst we may not have so many friendships with other Christians, we are still connected, through the bonds of the Holy Spirit, with Christians throughout the world! We send our greetings to all those we have had fellowship with. We also think of the many believers whose names are not known to us, but are known by the Lord, and are living under the fear of tyranny, war and persecution. We greet them with a "**..a holy kiss..**"; that is, with our love and prayers. Our prayers for them, and for ourselves, are the same as Paul sent from Rome.

**"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you" - Romans 16:20b**

May those Great Riches at Christ's Expense be with all those we remember in this issue of **Park Pages.**

**Amen—so let it be!**

## Family and Children's Worker

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of the congregation after our appeal to fund this post and so after perusing the applications and holding interviews in July **Karen Stangoe** was appointed to the post. Karen officially began working with us on 3 September 2015 and will be with us for the next three years. Karen is already known to us as her husband Graeme plays the piano for us a couple of Sundays a month. Karen and Graeme have two lovely children, Emily and Lewis. We will do an interview with Karen in a future issue of Park Pages but we thought it best to let her settle in first!

Karen will be working among the children in the church - in the Sunday School, MEGA and Connect—and will also be making contact with the young mums.

Karen has already struck up relationships with the local schools having visited both Muiredge Primary as well as Uddingston Grammar.

We look forward to a fruitful working partnership with Karen over the next three years. Karen comes with a wealth of experience having been the youth worker in Blairbeth Burnside



Church for the last seven years. However, now that she has two small children of her own and realising how challenging the role of a mum can be she feels God calling her into a different ministry.

Karen, we welcome you and hope you will feel at home in our Fellowship!

## News from our Mission Partners

### Allan Ooi

Agapé teams are busy this term as they meet new freshers, put on outreach events and engage in small group evangelism. Please pray that they'd make good connections with new students, build deep relationships that allow the gospel to be shared and for the Holy Spirit to convict many students of their need for Jesus.

Allan is working in the Agapé HQ in Birmingham on various projects to help Agapé staff in their day-to-day job of sharing the gospel. Recently he has been working on a spiritual retreat guide for staff, publicity for Agapé at Momentum (a large Christian conference for young people) and the latest edition of Agapé's "Move" magazine, due out in November.



Allan with colleagues at Agapé's annual Bible Conference

### Catherine

Please pray for Catherine as she spends some time at home while her mum undergoes chemotherapy. Pray that she keeps her eyes fixed on Jesus as she uses this time to discern God's will for her over the next few months.

### Steve and Katuska Davies: Mozambique

The seminary is attracting more numbers with 44 students and 13 teachers. Most of the lecturers lead a church or work elsewhere as well so timetabling classes is quite challenging. Steve is leading a class called **The World of the New Testament** which incorporates the history, geography and politics behind the Bible story. We have some great students with us which is encouraging for the future of the seminary as we hope to see them taking on teaching roles in the future.

Katuska is coping with the challenge of home schooling their three boys. There are few resources compared with what is available in the UK but she has discovered great websites which provide a varied and broad curriculum.

**Prayer Points**—for health and safety on the roads, for a good Sunday rest each week and for family time, for the students that they would remain diligent in their studies and for the small field team there.

# Build them up, Send them out....

Over the last few years Park has seen many of our young men being built up in the faith and going on to active Christian ministry. We keep these young men in our hearts and prayers and follow what they are doing with interest.

## Robert Wainwright

I'm now about ten weeks into my curacy (deputy minister) in Burford, Oxfordshire. It has been very busy indeed. I've done two weddings, one funeral, and my first baptism will be in November. I begin the day at 7.30am with morning prayer. In the mornings I might go to a school assembly, prepare a sermon, go to a coffee morning, or do admin. In the afternoons I usually visit parishioners, and usually have some event in the evenings. Often this means a 12-14 hour working day so it's been quite tiring. The church members have been extremely kind and welcoming. Sadly the minister's brother died at the beginning of September so the team has been under extra pressure recently. God is clearly at work in this parish: three or four people have become Christians over the summer and there are so many individuals hungry to grow as Christians that it's hard to know where to begin. Please pray for energy to teach well and to encourage the rest of the team as well as the congregation. Thank you for remembering me.

## Martin Paterson

Firstly can we say thank you for your continuing prayers for us. At present we are involved with a church in Stonehouse. So far things are going well and there have been some signs of encouragement. One such example has been the start of a Bible Study time called "Look at the Book". During this time we are informally looking through the book of Genesis and it has been great to see people excited about the bible. It has been a liberating thing for people to realise the bible is accessible and that it does make sense. Please pray with us as we move towards the Christmas period as we will be organising various events throughout the village.

I am also involved with an international student ministry at Glasgow University called "English Corner". Please pray for this as well. Many of the Chinese students have never met a Christian before so this is a great opportunity.

## Nathan Owens

Since moving on from Park in June, I think it is fair to say that things have been fluid! My long-term "plan" is still very much to serve in a U.F. Church as minister, and both Steffi and I continue to look to God for guidance and provision in this matter. Watch this space! In the meantime, a couple of options have opened up which will see us through until the new year. I am currently working as the administrator for Highland Theological College in their new "Glasgow Campus" based in the U.F. Church offices; it is going well, but I am only the temp who is filling in until the permanent administrator is on the scene. After doing this until October there is another part-time, temporary position that is looking like it will open up but this time within the U.F. itself. If so, that will see us through to the new year. Steffi continues in her final year of studies in dentistry and she is enjoying very much the fact that there are no lectures this year! All in all we thank God for his care of us and thank yourselves at Park for your continued support and prayers.

## Steve Trelogan

Steve and Louise were just with us for a year while Steve studied at Tilsley College in Motherwell. Half way through their year they were joined by baby Ben. After graduating in June Steve started to look for a job. He was keen to stay in Scotland where they have family and managed to get some proof reading work and also work as a tutor teaching English as a foreign language. Steve has a heart for mission and especially for working with international students but any jobs he applied for in Scotland seemed to be closed to him. God had other plans for the Trelogan family and in late September the family moved south to Northampton where Steve has a part time post working with an organisation called FISH which is made up of different churches and denominations in the area. FISH serves the many international students at the universities and colleges in the city and Steve will organise trips and events, café bars and generally get alongside students who are far from home and be their friend. He will have lots of opportunities to tell them about Jesus. This job is perfect for Steve as he fully understands cross cultural mission having been brought up in Thailand where his parents are missionaries. God in his wonderful provision has also provided accommodation for Steve, Louise and Ben. Praise God for His faithfulness and goodness!



# Grandma's Bible

By Ron Hamilton

Tell me the old, old story  
Of Jesus and His Love



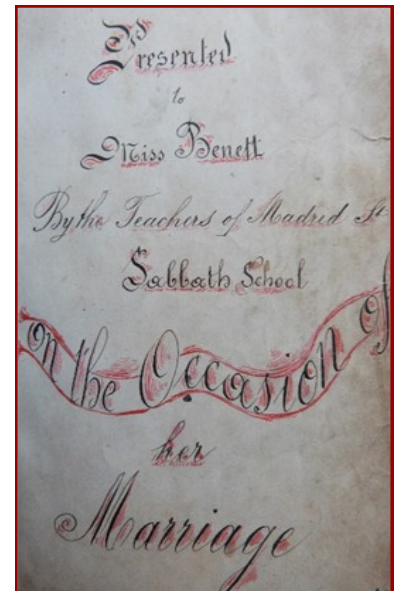
## I find the old, old story, in an old, old book....

The inscription says: *'Presented to Miss Bennett on the occasion of her marriage, 19<sup>th</sup> October 1904.'* It was a wedding gift from her fellow Sabbath School teachers 111 years ago to a then young lady, aged 28 years, my Grandmother. It was a Bible.

It is the sort of presentation gift which might have been preserved for special occasions. It might have been brought out to record the births, the marriages and, yes, the deaths of close family members and then put away, preserving its good looks. Even today, after all those 111 years, it might still have looked perfect. But it doesn't.

This Bible, of itself, projects a different story. In a box of books it would be the last one to be picked up. The spine has lost its gold lettered 'Holy Bible' inscription. The leather covers are worn and dry. It looks like it had been terribly badly treated, vandalised even. And the inside pages? Well, at first glance, these carry the same message - an old book, past its best, badly treated, worthless, done. The pages are stained with brown marks and many of the corners are folded in what appear to be permanent creases.

The marks are not those of neglect, they are the unmissable finger and thumb marks of use. These are not superficial marks resulting from some occasional 'flicking through pages' but those caused by many years of searching and of reading. Further evidence, if any more were needed, is that the finger prints are uneven but in the form of a distinct pattern, like a well-worn pathway leading, with some purpose to a favoured location. And when I follow this I find some pages, gossamer thin, with the edges so worn away in parts that they have become separated from the spine. I find myself at John's Gospel, reading pages my Grandmother must, from their appearance, have poured over time and time again. I find myself at Chapter 3. Even closer examinations uncover faint pencil marks underling a special verse here or there. I ponder the possible thoughts or events which encouraged these gentle marks and wonder - do they represent a possible personal message for me today?



And what now? Well I have taken to bringing this old, old book to Park on Sundays just a little smug that I am the only family member who can read the tiny print whilst quietly struggling a little with the King James language. But I quietly thank my Grandmother for passing on her Bible and her unmistakable faith. If you want to know more just stop me some Sunday ... I'll show you the old, old story in my Grandma's old, old book.

# Good Shepherd Community Church Ichalkaranji

Back in 2013, our 150th anniversary year, we pledged over £10,000 in recognition of God's faithfulness to us to build a church in India. Andrew Prentice who works with OM has provided this update.

The Good Shepherd Community Church in Ichalkaranji is a church striving for God's glory in this community. Pastor Arun is committed to the ministry of making disciples and seeing the church of Christ grow and flourish. Every week the Sunday services include prayer, praise, worship, preaching and testimonies. During this time, the children go to Sunday School where they hear about God through action songs, Bible stories, memory verses and fun games.

**There are many stories of God working miracles and completely transforming the lives of people at Ichalkaranji. Here are just a few of their stories:**

Parasuram comes from a Hindu background. His testimony reveals the mercy of God in a wonderful way. When he fell ill and ate nothing for four days, his family, in desperation, called Pastor Arun to come and pray for him. When Pastor Arun and some others from the church prayed for Parasuram, he was healed completely. Now the whole family believes in Jesus and goes to the GSCC regularly.

Aryan, a young boy who is blind, started coming to the GSCC with his parents after they heard about people's lives being utterly transformed through the power of prayer. The church prayed fervently for God to heal Aryan and reveal Himself to this family. After some time, God did heal Aryan and the family continue to come to GSCC. Please pray for their salvation.



## THE NEW CHURCH



The nice new door!



Another important aspect of the ministry is the church building. Pastor Arun and the church members have waited a long time for their very own building and are excited to see the work progressing. The ground floor which contains the sanctuary is almost complete. However earlier this year a decision was made to add a second storey which will provide accommodation and offices. In view of this it was decided to leave some of the external finishing till this was done. They hope to have the whole project finished by November this year.

## REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

- Pray for godly leaders within the church. Pastor Arun would like to appoint 12 leaders in the near future.
- Pray for the building work to continue progressing without any obstacles.
- Pray for the fellowship groups to continue to thrive and grow, particularly for the new one to start soon.

**Thank you, Park Church, for your faithful support of our work in Ichalkaranji.**



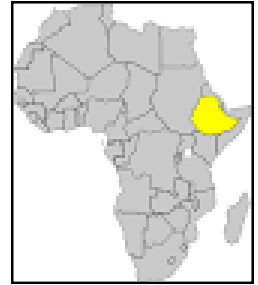
# Stand by Me—The trip to Ethiopia

Alison Strawbridge/Alison Murray

Our journey started, slightly earlier than anticipated on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, and after waving goodbye to family, friends and our home comforts we were finally on our way to Ethiopia. The journey there was not without its difficulties including lengthy delays, a four hour wait in a check-in queue and lost luggage! By the time we finally arrived in Dembi Dollo, after a bumpy four hour bus journey, we were tired and weary. We were taken to Abdi Academy and were welcomed by 270 children singing “We are Happy to see you” and “Jesus’ love is very wonderful”. It was amazing to see the big smiles on the kids’ faces and their excitement to meet us. It certainly put all our problems into perspective and reminded us why we were there!



Each morning we led a holiday club teaching bible stories, songs, warm up aerobics and games. We looked at the stories of Noah, David and Goliath, Daniel and the Lions and Zacchaeus. It was encouraging to see the children being so keen to learn about God and it was amazing to see God’s work through the children reciting bible verses in English before one of our assemblies. During assembly the children enjoyed learning new songs we taught them and by the end of the week some were walking about singing “Be Bold, Be Strong”.



During our second week we also had a Scottish themed day. We taught the children about Scottish culture, played pin the tail on the Highland Cow and had our very own Highland Games in the afternoon which was enjoyed by all.

We were able to give 39 families a water filtration system and it was a great opportunity for us to meet some of the parents and give them this vital piece of equipment. The parents were so happy and overwhelmed to be receiving the water filtration systems and it was encouraging seeing the parents praying, praising and thanking God for this gift of clean water.



On our last day we gave out a goody bag to every child. Each bag contained pencils, juice, biscuits, a lollipop, a balloon, underwear, a toothbrush, an item of clothing, a loom band bracelet, a hat and a toy. It was great to see the excitement and joy in the children’s faces as they opened their bags and saw what was inside. Some children came to school every day wearing the same ripped, dirty clothes, so being able to see their faces light up as their name was called out to receive this present was a real highlight and lasting memory for us all.





# Dates for the Diary

<b>Sunday 4th October</b>	<b>God with Us Choir in the Church at 6.30pm</b>	
<b>Sunday 8th November</b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>	
<b>Sunday 18th October and Sunday 15th November</b>	<b>Fruitfulness on the Frontline - A discipleship course</b>	
<b>Sunday 29th November</b>	<b>Prayers for Healing Service</b>	
<b>Sunday 13th December</b>	<b>Advent Supper</b>	
<b>Sunday 20th December</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>	

## Church Based Activities

<b>Sunday</b>	Morning Service 10.30am with Crèche and Sunday School Evening Service 6.30pm in the Hall
<b>Monday</b>	Monday Circle from 2-3 pm on 3rd Monday of the month Connect at 7-8.30pm for Children from P7– S6
<b>Tuesday</b>	Coffee morning in the Hall 9.45-11.45am Prayers for Healing 1st Tuesday of the month at 10.30am Community Prayer Time 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10.30am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Refresh Bible Study at 2.30pm and 7.30pm in the Hall
<b>Thursday</b>	Coffee morning in the Hall 9.45-11.45am Ladies' Association 1st Thursday of the month in the Hall
<b>Saturday</b>	Open to God Prayer Time fortnightly at 8am in the Vestry



## Home Based Groups

<b>Sunday</b>	Women in the Word fortnightly at 8pm at the Manse 18-30 Group fortnightly at 8.30pm at the home of Stuart Urquhart
<b>Tuesday</b>	Whifflet Fellowship fortnightly at 7.30pm in Coatbridge
<b>Thursday</b>	Men at the Manse fortnightly at 7.30pm

***You will be made very welcome at any of these groups! For further information, please speak to the Minister.***



# The Ladies' Association

The Ladies' Association meets on a Thursday evening from October to March. The theme this year is:

## *Living for Christ in an Alien World*

There is a varied programme ranging from talks, musical evenings as well as a meal out for fellowship at a local restaurant. All ladies of the congregation, from young to old, will be made very welcome. The syllabus is printed below to give you a flavour of what you can expect! All meetings start at 7.30pm and are held in the church hall.

### 2015

Thursday 1 October	Living for Christ in an Alien World Rev. Bruce McDowall
Thursday 22 October	Hums and Hummels Sheliah Bonds
Thursday 5 November	Ethiopia—Stand by Me Alison Strawbridge and Alison Murray
Thursday 7 November	Coffee Morning 10am—12 noon
Thursday 3 December	Hollywood—A Presbyterian Perspective Catherine McPherson

### 2016

Thursday 7 January	Tour of Scotland in Song Anne Robertson
Thursday 21 January	Night out
Thursday 4 February	Life in the Ministry Rev. Deirdre Lyon, St Andrews Church, Bellshill
Saturday 6 February (2.30pm)	Women's Presbyterian Rally Park Church Ladies to host
Thursday 3 March	United Meeting—Guest Night Salvation Army Junior Choir
Thursday 17 March	Annual General Meeting Bring and Buy Sale



**Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland**

89 Main Street

Uddingston

G71 9EP

**[www.park-church.com](http://www.park-church.com)**

**01698 817256**