

# Park Pages

the magazine of Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland



## Letter from the Minister

Spring 2017



Dear Friends,

As I enter my 19th year as your minister many would think that there are aspects of the work which become *easier*! You are familiar with the set up—indeed, rightly or wrongly, much of the set up has been influenced by your own thoughts and ministry! Certainly I am conscious of the blessing of a congregation which largely desires to **“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18)**. I am also conscious of the patience and perseverance of folk with my own idiosyncrasies! **“I thank my God in every remembrance of you...” (Philippians 1:3)**.

As our recent Organ Recital showed us, our standing within the wider community is good and the Lord continues to **“...add to the number...those who are being saved” (Acts 2:47)**. To see people come to faith and grow in the faith is surely the real ministry for any pastor and people. God has been good and the recent Quinquennial Visitation and report, which is included in this magazine, is a recognition of that and an encouragement to us all.

However, one of the things which actually becomes more challenging is seeing people who have been dear to you and faithful in their support for God’s work amongst us, becoming older and increasingly affected by the consequences of that. In one recent week I visited three sets of folk who had all been affected by illness and the decline in well-being that the passing of the years had brought. All have a real faith and were very committed to the Lord and to His work at Park. Some are not able to attend worship or, as carers, cannot do so on a regular basis. We are indebted to Wilma McLean for her faithful pastoral care of many such people, and as we commend to God our new Pastoral Care Team, we would want to assure those who are now housebound or frail that they are not forgotten.

Pastoral Care does not ONLY include the sick and elderly. An often forgotten but vital area of care is amongst those who may be younger, active and physically fit but faced with very real pressures and troubles. The struggles of family life, difficult circumstances at work and a host of deeply personal issues can arrive at all our doors. The exhortation of the Apostle Paul to **“rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn” (Romans 12:15)** is a good guide to the kind of Church Family we are called to be. As we **“bear with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2)**, we discover that

The God of all comfort who comforts us in all our troubles, does so in order that we can comfort those in any troubles with the comfort we ourselves receive from God (2 Corinthians 1:4).

In an increasingly fragmented and alienated world, one of the most powerful witnesses to the transformation that Jesus brings to lives is that **“....spirit of unity amongst ourselves” (Romans 15:5)**. To cultivate that will mean being open with others and having a willingness to enter into

m e a n i n g f u l

relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Some of us will find that difficult, and others, unfortunately, do not wish to do that. However, it really is not an option for any professing Christian. As we "...know and rely on the love God has for us..." we are called to obey this command, "**Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister**" (1 John 4:16,21).

As I held our former Flower Convenor, Liz Fraser's hand as we prayed with her very frail husband, Baz, in his hospital bed, I was very aware of "...the **grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit**" (2 Corinthians 13:14). Through Jesus Christ, we are bound together in the "**bonds of peace**" (Ephesians 4:3). May the Holy Spirit continue that ministry of building us together into that Family of God as we care for and love each other, just as God in Christ cares for and loves us!

**BELOVED, LET US  
LOVE ONE ANOTHER,  
FOR LOVE IS FROM  
GOD.**

1 John 4:7

W. B. Bratcher

### Loving One Another

Sometimes we become offended  
By what one says or does,  
When we need to be more tender...  
Responding out of love.  
We may have misinterpreted  
The motive of the heart,  
Not really understanding...  
Hearing only in part.

Oh, let us always be careful  
How we view our brother,  
And stay sweet in our attitude...  
Loving one another.  
Love is the greatest commandment  
In fulfilling God's law;  
It's the first fruit of the Spirit...  
It covers every flaw.

Without love, we are nothing, friend,  
Though we may prophecy,  
Or speak with the tongues of angels...  
Lifting hearts to the sky;  
And though we preach doctrinal truth  
From beginning to end,  
Without love, we're as sounding brass...  
And tinkling cymbals, friend.

May our hearts be filled with God's love,  
Keeping us kind and sweet,  
As we labour in His Kingdom...  
The many needs to meet...

Connie C Bratcher

**Jesus said, This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you.**  
(John 15:12)

# Pastoral Care Team

Pastoral Care is nothing new in the church; everyone is familiar with the pastoral visit from the minister! However, it was felt that we needed to supplement this and so the idea of a pastoral care team was born. The purpose of pastoral care is to help people grow as followers of Christ. Helen McQuarrie is team coordinator and she shares an outline of the vision below.

## How it came about

Traditionally our elders visited members in their district four times a year with Communion Cards and the church magazine. However, the Kirk Session decided, after much discussion, that a different way of caring for the congregation was needed. It was felt the old system of visiting people at home wasn't working well for a variety of reasons - work commitments, time restraints, evening visits not suitable for many, young families etc. so they started looking at other models that would be more efficient and one which would encompass **EVERYONE**.

## Vision

The idea of having a pastoral care team was put forward as something that might work. The chosen model was one which was written and is used by the Presbyterian Council of Northern Ireland who very kindly allowed us to use it for our training purposes.

At the last Annual Business Meeting in 2016 the Session handed out questionnaires asking the congregation

- if they thought Pastoral Care was a good way forward to meet the needs in caring for one another, and
- if there were any folks willing to be part of a team to carry this out.

The results were positive and some people registered their interest in being part of a team to deliver the care.

## The Training

We spent three evenings discussing what Pastoral Care was, the attributes of team members and how it was going to be implemented. The overall responsibility for spiritual matters in Church lies with the Kirk Session, so the Pastoral Care Team will operate under their jurisdiction. On the 24<sup>th</sup> January, we had a training evening using the above material under the headings of:

<b>Pastoral Community</b>	Caring, sharing, encouraging and greeting one another
<b>Pastoral Conversations</b>	Wisdom in what we say, confidentiality
<b>Listening Well</b>	Everyone should be quick to listen and slow to speak James 1:19
<b>Safe Boundaries</b>	For all involved
<b>Pastoral Scenarios</b>	We looked at some pastoral situations for training

Everything is encircled by Pastoral Care which is the Bible story of Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration from Genesis to Revelation showing us the solid foundation of God's love for each one of us through the work of Christ on the cross.

## How are we going to do this?

By listening, encouraging, visiting, befriending, praying, in planned and informal ways, whichever is most comfortable for you. At the end of the training evening, nine people said they would like to be a team member. The team of Nick and Jessica Beecroft, Wilma McLean, Ian McQuarrie, Robert Miller, Helen Ooi, Julie Sneddon, Rosamond Wall and the team co-ordinator, Helen McQuarrie, will be introduced to the congregation in March.

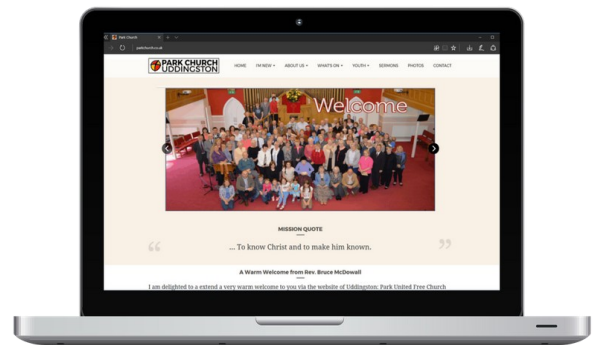
**CHURCH** IS NOT  
an organisation that you join  
IT IS A **FAMILY**  
Where you belong  
A **HOME** WHERE  
You are loved  
AND A **HOSPITAL**  
Where you find healing

# Bringing ministry into the digital age!

*Society and the world as we know it has changed a lot over the last 25 years, not least in the sphere of communication. We as Christians must embrace this change and take the gospel to where it will be heard using modern-day methods. One of the new ways of reaching people with the gospel is through a church website and internet ministry. Colin McDowall oversees our website and he tells us a little about it below.*

A church website. Is it really necessary? Does it have any worth? Is it dangerous? Or distracting?

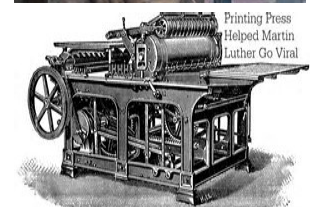
Such questions are perfectly appropriate. Does a church really need a website? After all, Park Church has been in existence for over 150 years. Our church, the physical building, is at the centre of Uddingston. It's where people are seen to gather together to worship God week by week. It's a place others can be invited to come to. It is a local landmark, with a prime position in the centre of the Main Street. However, nowadays many of our church family don't live in Uddingston – and our website has enabled them to 'see' us before they have seen the actual bricks and mortar!



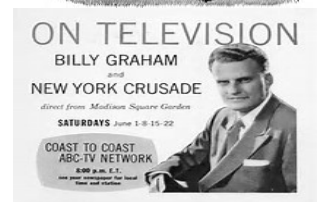
Christians have always been at the forefront of communication technology. That may surprise you! But let's think about that for a moment. Over the past few Sundays we have been looking at Paul's letter to the Ephesians. What was Paul writing with? A pen. What was he writing on? Paper - or to be historically accurate, papyrus. Believe it or not, Paul was using the cutting-edge technology of the day to spread the word.



Martin Luther, who began the Protestant movement, used type to pass on God's words to the people. In fact, Luther is quoted as saying the printing press was **'the highest act of God's grace'**.



In more recent history, Billy Graham is famous for his televangelism crusades. Christians have continually embraced new technology to communicate the Gospel message through any and all means available.



Park Church is following in their footsteps in embracing new technology. The church has had a website since 2007 which enables us to deliver the age-old message to a wider audience. Over this time the website has developed, evolved and been redesigned to become the site you now see at [www.parkchurch.co.uk](http://www.parkchurch.co.uk). As site manager for the last five years I have been struck by how truly important and under-estimated this digital ministry is.

## Only our website can give the complete picture!

From the home page through to small groups, MEGA, the magazine, and photos, the website communicates exactly what Park is about. A dull, outdated website may lack the appeal that draws in new visitors, but a bright, thriving and up-to-date website can engage and interest those who visit it, and make them feel welcome.

**PARK CHURCH UDDINGSTON** HOME FM NEW ABOUT US WHAT'S ON YOUTH SERMONS PHOTOS CONTACT

### Prayer Groups

Prayer is essential, an expression of our thankfulness to God and our dependence on him. There are times of prayer at our fellowship groups and an open prayer time at our evening services, as well as the prayer gatherings below.

**'Open to God' Prayer Time**  
Every second Saturday from 8.00-9.15am  
We meet in the vestry to pray for individual needs, things happening in the church diary, other church fellowships within the community, our denomination, mission and world needs. After a few unaccompanied songs of worship the minister leads in a Bible reading and we then pray as the Holy Spirit leads and directs.

**Community Prayer Time**  
3rd Tuesday of every month  
Park Church is delighted to host this ecumenical prayer gathering, open to those from any church within our community. It takes place in the vestry on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. A Bible reading and devotional thought leads into a time of prayer for the community. As well as prayer for community events, the group is registered with Pray for Schools Scotland praying for local schools and the Scripture Union Groups which meet in them.

**About**  
Why not drop in to Park Church to experience our worship? This happens both on Sundays and weekdays. Occasionally there are changes to our usual pattern of services. You can find out about these on the home page or email us for the latest information.

Prior to the internet age, it was traditional to rely on word of mouth or the recommendation of a friend to find a church that met your needs and felt like home. Nowadays if someone new walks through the church door on a Sunday morning, the chances of them already having visited our website are very high. Statistics say about 80% of first-time visitors check out a church's website before they physically attend. People love the anonymous aspect of a website before they bring themselves or their family to the church.

Today we have a number of people sitting in the congregation whose first look at Park Church came not from a physical visit, but through a visit to our website. With ease of access on PCs, tablets, and phones, the website gives people a first-hand look into the type of church we are, and lets people know what to expect before they even walk through the doors. Our website is therefore a 'shop window' for anyone looking for a new church, and so how it is presented is vital!

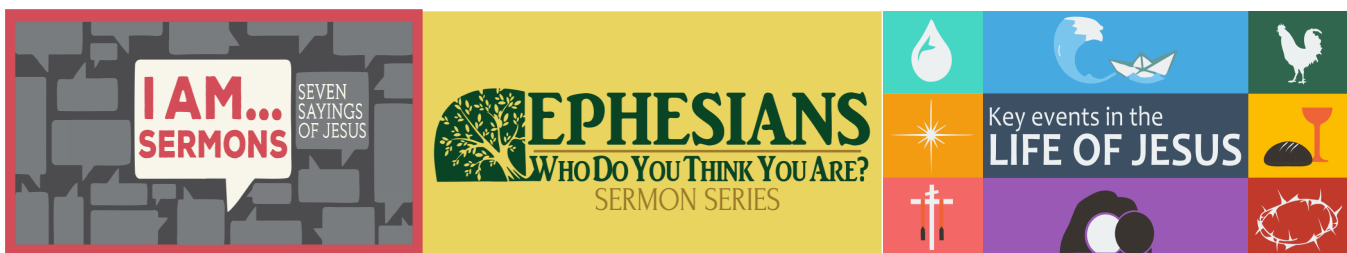


This section tells people what to expect! For people who don't normally attend church this is very important. It covers areas such as dress code—there is none! - what they can expect when they arrive at the church, the format of the service, the praise, how long the service will last, whether an offering is uplifted and fellowship opportunities at the end of the service if desired. These may seem like trivial things to seasoned churchgoers here at Park but to people attending church, or even a new church, for the first time all this information removes a lot of the "fear factor". Most people hate the unknown and are scared of "getting things wrong" so this FAQ section is invaluable to them.

## Connecting to the People

In addition to sharing who we are with folks who might be looking for a new church, or those who haven't connected to a church before, the website allows people far and wide to engage with the Bible in a safe, non-threatening way. The weekly sermon is free to download by people who live in a different part of the UK or far beyond, or who through illness or circumstances are physically unable to attend.

A whole range of sermons, at last count over 90 sermons, on many different topics can be accessed at [www.parkchurch.co.uk/sermons.html](http://www.parkchurch.co.uk/sermons.html). Have a listen!



The website also gives small groups, church events and children's programmes such as Connect and MEGA a public platform to share what's happening with the wider community. Equally, publicising Uddingston Pride events, such as the Art Festival and the Village Christmas, strengthens links between Park Church and the community we serve.

It may be that you were not aware of the church website or had never really taken a close look at it before. There is a lot of information on it and lots to listen to too. If you know of someone enquiring about the Christian faith but not yet ready to take that step of actually attending a church, point them in the direction of the website where they can find out more about Jesus! We as Christians must embrace all ways of fulfilling the Great Commission as we are called to spread the good news of the Gospel.

***Park UF Church has a strong association with Scripture Union Scotland: we support local SU ministry financially through holiday sponsorship, many of our fellowship are accredited volunteers who willingly give up time to serve on holiday teams, others support SU ministry through prayer and giving and we are well represented in the SU Glasgow office with no less than three members working there! Elizabeth McDowall explains how this is a special year for the worldwide Scripture Union movement.***

Back in 1867, when Park Church was only four years old, the Scripture Union movement was born. Church life in these days was very different from today. Park Church had no church hall, for instance, and children were expected to be seen and not heard. An English office clerk called Josiah Spiers, inspired by a visiting American children's evangelist, had a God-given vision for change. He believed that children could have a vibrant, living relationship with God, if only they could hear about Jesus and explore the Bible in a way that was appropriate for them. He thus began special meetings for children in June 1867, in a friend's home. From an initial 15 children, the ministry soon grew – resulting in "Children's Special Service Meetings" (CSSM) being held in a local church schoolroom.

In August of that same year Josiah Spiers was on a beach in Llandudno and he invited children to decorate, with shells and pebbles, the words 'GOD IS LOVE' which he had written in the sand.

He then told the children stories of Jesus. This was the first-ever beach mission in the UK, and CSSM (later renamed Scripture Union), had begun! Now in 130 countries across the world, the ministry of Scripture Union continues – engaging with children and young people and sharing the good news of Jesus with them.



Josiah Spiers on Margate sands in 1870 - from the magazine *The Children's Friend*.

Scripture Union is a very well-known Christian organisation in Scotland. It is a name recognised and respected by schools, and most Scottish Christians have heard of "SU", as it is more familiarly known. Many of you reading this article will be able to conjure up memories of SU ministry in your own life – perhaps a school SU Group, or an SU camp you attended as a youngster.

My own memories go away back to my teens, when the SU group at Graeme High in Falkirk was my favourite weekly club (it may have been the only club, there not being the widespread lunchtime options that are available today!). My mum, rather reluctantly, was persuaded by a lady at church to allow me to attend an SU camp – not just once, but twice. The venue was the rather un-exotic New Park School in St Andrew's; I have fond memories of a midnight swim, and I still have the home-made bead necklace I made at crafts.

My memories go much deeper, however, for it was there that Jesus became very real to me. I remember clearly singing

***"If any man will follow, if any man will follow, if any man will follow after my Jesus – let him deny himself and let him take up his cross and let him come and follow after my Lord."***

I remember seeking out the 'Adjie' (now termed Assistant Team Leader), who prayed with me. That was the start of my lifelong adventure with Jesus. I am so thankful to Josiah Spiers, and the movement he began!

## What's Your Story?

My story is unique, and yet it is not. Each year, literally hundreds of children and young people from P5 to S6 have that same opportunity through SU to explore the Bible and respond to the significance of Jesus. Some hear and go away unaffected (my school friend was one of them). Others respond gladly, and welcome the good news. In this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year we are collecting stories of how Scripture Union ministry has impacted individuals. If you have memories of an SU Group, camp, or SU leader and are willing to share your story, you can do so online by visiting <https://stories.suscotland.org.uk/>.

**We want to give God the glory for what he has done!**



**Tell us your story!**

## Is Scripture Union still “on the go” today?

I was recently asked that question, and was thrilled to be able to say, “Absolutely!” Lots of things have changed - including our logo, which was recently modernised. Our head office is in Milton Street, Glasgow and not Canal Street (or St Vincent Street as some people may recall).

We are bigger in terms of staff numbers, and have embraced new technology. We have two first-class outdoor centres, Alltnacriche and Lendrick Muir, which are filled with children all year round, enjoying regional weekends or school residential breaks. Regional staff workers cover the whole of the country, including the islands. We have thousands of volunteers, and a process of accreditation leading to a PVG (gone are the days when leaders could just turn up!!).

Society is more hostile to the Christian message than ever before. There are more charities than in Josiah’s day, and ministry is more expensive; we depend on God moving his people to support the ministry. However one thing remains entirely unchanged: a passion to see all Scotland’s children and young people, no matter their background, have an opportunity to explore the Bible and respond to the significance of Jesus.



## At a local level, what does that look like?

It is seeing local children excited and enthusiastic at being able to attend a weekend away or week-long holiday; it is turning up each Thursday at Muiredge Primary to share Jesus with an enthusiastic bunch of P6/P7s; it is the thrill of seeing non-church young people attending a Friday lunchtime group at Uddingston Grammar; it is growing young leaders into spiritual maturity, who can then ably share Jesus with the next generation. Add to the above an annual trip to the SU Scotland Encounter prayer event, summer camp led by Elizabeth, October camp led by Karen and Graeme, and you begin to see the key role SU plays in the lives of many young people, building on the foundation laid by Josiah Spiers 150 years ago. Praise God!

# 50 Years of Agapé UK

by Allan Ooi



Ambassador Team in 1967



Some of the Ambassador Team in 2017

In 1967 the **University Ambassador Team** from Campus Crusade for Christ boarded a ship from the US to England to start what is now known as Agapé UK. A team of 56 arrived in Southampton and travelled by train to London. They chose leaders and split into six teams. They settled on sending teams to London, Southampton, Reading, Birmingham, Brighton, and one team to Germany. They found accommodation and started to meet students. This is how Agapé in the UK started.

In 2017 we celebrate 50 years of Agapé's work in the UK. It has been a really exciting time and it's been great to hear so many stories of how God has been at work in the lives of so many people over these years.



As part of the celebrations we hosted a special event in February called **MOVE Weekend**. Over 400 people gathered together for a weekend to celebrate and be equipped for the years to come.

We had workshops giving practical advice on topics including prayer, sharing your faith with Muslims and equipping believers at university. There was also an afternoon of outreach which we ran alongside some local churches. *"It was so good to help the local church in their outreach and get out onto the doors. I'm praying for lasting fruit!"*, said one person who took part.



My team leader has been on maternity leave since August so it's been a busy time for me as I've covered her role whilst helping prepare for the MOVE Weekend. One of the things I project managed was a 50 Year History video which tells the story of Agapé and what God has done over the years. You can watch it online here:

[www.vimeo.com/203982013](http://www.vimeo.com/203982013)

## Prayer Points

- Please pray for lasting fruit from the MOVE Weekend, particularly from the afternoon of outreach.
- Pray for me as I continue to juggle many responsibilities in my team leader's absence.
- Pray for wisdom for Agapé as we reach out with the gospel and for God to draw many to Jesus as a result.



## Organ Restoration and Recital

The Church Pipe Organ was installed in 1887, about six years after instrumental music was allowed in the United Presbyterian Church. The plaque on it tells us it was made by Foster and Andrews, organ makers from Hull. However, electric power was not installed in it until 1911. The Board of Managers realised in 2016 that the organ needed a complete overhaul, despite regular servicing, as years of natural wear and tear had taken their toll. The cost of the complete refurbishment was to be £10,000! However, as He has done so many times in the past when we have prayed about a certain situation, God provided the funds. They were generously donated from The Highgate Trust and the work was carried out late last year. The organ is sounding better than ever!



Our organist, John Weeks, decided to hold an organ recital as our contribution to Uddingston Music Festival and to celebrate the restoration of our historic organ. It was very well attended by music lovers from the village and they were treated to a magnificent evening of organ music from John himself as well as George McPhee from Paisley Abbey and David Hamilton from St Mary's Episcopal Church in Hamilton. John also accompanied Grace Hislop, a very accomplished local vocalist, as she gave a wonderful rendition of *Paris Angelicus* as well as some other arias.

John introduced each piece in his own inimitable way and delighted the audience with stories of either the history of the pieces or their composers. It was a wonderful evening of music rounded off by the usual hospitality that the village has come to expect from Park Church.

## Redecoration of the Church Sanctuary

As many of you were aware, it was the intention of the Board of Managers to have the church sanctuary redecorated and re-carpeted to mark the tenth anniversary of our major refurbishment in April 2007.

However, during the course of obtaining quotes for this work, it became apparent that major repairs to the ceiling above the main gallery are required and it has been decided to proceed with a complete restoration of the whole ceiling, rather than just sections. This was the only area of the church that was not restored in 2007.

This work was outwith the scope of the original decorators and further quotes from specialists in this field have had to be sourced. This all takes time and so the work has had to be temporarily postponed until July/August of this year. We apologise for any inconvenience in the back gallery being closed off but it is on grounds of health and safety!

We intend to hold a service of thanksgiving once the work is completed to coincide with the tenth anniversary of our being accepted into the denomination of the United Free Church of Scotland on 28 August 2007.

As intimated at the ABM on 26 February 2017 we are fortunate to have the funds to carry out this work and we acknowledge once again the generosity of the congregation.

We apologise for the delay but it made sense to do the work properly and completely and at the most suitable time!



# Quinquennial Visitation - Report from Presbytery

On Sunday 15 January 2017 the Quinquennial Visitation of Mrs Anne Blackwood, Mr Jim Gibson and Rev Ann Deacons, Presbytery of the West, took place in Uddingston: Park United Free Church. The Rev Ann Deacons led worship with Mrs Blackwood leading the scripture readings and Mr Gibson led in prayer. A printed order of service was available which also included the bible passage and reflection, information on the week ahead and dates for the diary. After morning worship, time was spent with the congregation in fellowship. Lunch was provided.

All Church reports, financial statements and documents were made available for us and a maintenance/repairs and improvements report for 2016 received. We would also like to thank the Kirk Session and Board of Managers for their reflective consideration of the Quinquennial Schedule before our visit. A meeting with the elders and managers of the church was held after lunch.

## **Church Building: The Sanctuary and Halls are bright and well maintained**

- The Church Halls are well used by the community and church organisations
- The biggest challenge for the fabric of the building is the roof; however, the managers are regularly involved in the overall maintenance of the building
- The Tower Clock is a focal part of the community

## **Sanctuary: Worship takes place every Sunday at 10.30am and 6.30pm**

- Worship is lively, thought provoking and Spirit led by Rev Bruce McDowall
- The projector and screens enhance the worship and are also used at mid-week events
- The chairs in the sanctuary allow various acts of worship

## **Halls: Used for the following**

- Bible Study
- Prayer Meeting
- Fellowship Groups in the hall (Men at the Manse)
- House Groups
- Community Prayer time (in partnership with Bothwell Evangelical Church)
- Rainbows/Brownies/Guides/Rangers
- Connect—Primary 7-S4
- Coffee time for the community
- Coffee mornings
- Local Community Groups
- Election Hustings

## **Community Involvement—Rev B McDowall and Congregation**

- Community Council
- Uddingston Pride
- Art and Crafts Festival
- Sheltered Housing—quarterly service
- Remembrance Service

### **Schools Involvement: Rev B McDowall, Mrs Karen Stangoe**

- Primary School—Workshops held in Church
- Secondary Schools
- Scripture Union

### **Rev Bruce McDowall**

The Kirk Session and Board of Managers were very appreciative of the ministry and spiritual leadership of their minister, Rev Bruce McDowall. They have been blessed by the content of worship, leadership, spiritual guidance and pastoral care that Bruce provides. His passion for the gospel, encouragement and compassion for the people is always there and readily available. They also give thanks for the support of Elizabeth and the family.

### **Mrs Karen Stangoe, Youth Worker (fully funded by the congregation)**

The Kirk Session gives thanks for the work carried out by Karen and appreciate the work and dedication she gives to her ministry. The following areas of work are carried out:

- Children's address
- Leading Sunday School
- Part of the Chaplaincy Team in Uddingston Grammar
- Scripture Union at Muiredge Primary
- Connect
- MEGA
- Holiday Club

### **Outreach and Vision**

The Kirk Session is prayerfully working to seek opportunities to serve God in this area. They have a passion to serve God and follow his vision:

- A Pastoral Care Team is being developed with a more in-depth approach. Training will begin soon and there has been a successful volunteer group with a mixture of ages involved.
- The Family Worker has been a successful project and the work will continue to develop in the schools, church and community.
- New housing has been leafleted
- Booklet produced with information about the church and community organisations/services.
- The church's purpose is not just to have a nice building but to give back to the community.

### **The Kirk Session and Board of Managers**

They were warm and welcoming in our time of worship and in our meeting. We were encouraged by their enthusiasm and commitment to God's work in the life of the Church Family and their desire to move forward through the guidance of God's Holy Spirit.

The Quinquennial Group also spent time with the Rev Bruce McDowall at the Manse where they received a warm welcome and spent an enjoyable time with Bruce reflecting on his ministry and commitment to mission at Uddingston Park.

### **Paragraphs of Deliverance**

- Presbytery gives thanks to God for the faithful witness of the congregation at Uddingston:Park and assures them of its prayerful support.
- Presbytery recognises and commends the work carried out by the Board of Managers in respect of their building and commends them for their diligence.
- Presbytery gives thanks to God for the faith and discipleship of the Kirk Session and Congregation of Uddingston:Park, for their desire to follow God's vision and outreach to the people in the community, and in seeking ways to bring people to Christ.
- Presbytery gives thanks to God for the work of the Family and Children's Worker, Karen Stangoe, bringing the gospel to the young people of Uddingston.
- Presbytery recognises the work carried out by the minister, Rev Bruce McDowall, for his desire to preach the gospel and lead the congregation forward in faith, and assures him of our prayerful support.

## Uddingston Pride Update

Our annual Christmas Open Day was a great success as usual. The weather was kind and all the performers were excellent. Particular mention must be made of the two primary school choirs who delighted their audience in Park Church and, of course, the young dancers who braved the cold to perform on Bellshill Road. And we must not forget Santa, who magically appeared with his usual armful of sweets for the children.

Our grateful thanks go to all those who performed, and all the folk of Uddingston who came out to support the Group. We made a significant amount for Group funds, but that, as always, is incidental, as the main purpose of the day is for everyone to get together, socialise, and enjoy the afternoon.



As another year starts, we have a fresh challenge to face, and what a challenge! In 2017, Uddingston has been entered into both **Beautiful Scotland**, and **Britain in Bloom**. We must be gluttons for punishment! However, having achieved a Gold Award in Beautiful Scotland last year, we are confident we can match that standard and maintain it for long enough to impress the judges in both these prestigious competitions.

The year's work is already under way with a team at the station clearing rubble from the banking beside the Glasgow-bound platform and planting young trees and shrubs on the slope which should greatly enhance that area for years to come.

If anyone would care to come along and help us in our efforts in 2017, we would be delighted to welcome them. We are a small group, and some extra hands would come in very useful and be greatly appreciated.

You will be pleased to hear that our inspirational Chair, Liz Wilson, has been awarded a Certificate of Merit from the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society. This is a fully merited award for an exceptional leader, whose inspiration and endless enthusiasm spur us all on, and she can justly be given much of the credit for the success of Uddingston Pride over recent years. Well done, Liz!



## Glasgow City Mission

Our friends at GCM have asked us to publicise the following advert.



“Our vision is to see our city and its people flourish, where people are accepted and can experience real change in their lives. As part of our ambitious [2016-2020 Who We Are, Where We're Going Service Plan](#), we commit to examining ways in which we can better serve those caught up in poverty.

To enable this vision to be realised, we have committed to growing our services, and to ensuring we have the right ratio of staff/client one-to-one engagement to see real change in people's lives. “

To help us with this, we are excited to advertise three new staff positions thanks to the generosity of our supporters:

- Cook (part-time)
- Pastoral Support Co-ordinator (part-time)
- Volunteer Co-ordinator

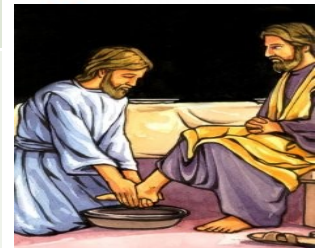
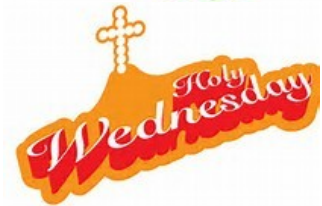
Full details are on our website's vacancies page. The deadline for all posts is **17 March 2017, 12 noon**.

[www.glasgowcitymission.com](http://www.glasgowcitymission.com)

# Dates for the Diary

## Easter Services for Uddingston Churches Together

<p><b>Communion Sunday 5th March</b>  <b>Stuart Weir from CARE</b>  <b>Praise Service in the Bield Housing</b></p>	<p><b>10.30am</b>   <b>6.30pm</b></p>
<p><b>Palm Sunday</b>  <b>All-age worship</b>  <b>United service with Anne Pitcher Christian Storyteller</b></p>	<p><b>10.30am</b>  <b>Nazarene Church 6.30pm</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday 12th April</b></p>	<p><b>St Andrew's Church 7pm</b></p>
<p><b>Maundy Thursday 13 April</b></p>	<p><b>Old Parish Church 7pm</b></p>
<p><b>Good Friday 14 April</b></p>	<p><b>Park UF Church 7pm</b></p>
<p><b>Easter Sunday 16 April</b>   <b>Easter Celebration with Jerry and Elizabeth Averil</b>   <b>Kingdom Power and Glory with the Celebration Choir</b></p>	<p><b>Sonrise Easter service at Clydeneuk 7.30am</b>   <b>10.30am</b>   <b>Royal Concert Hall Glasgow 7.30pm</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday 23 April</b>  <b>Morning Worship</b>  <b>Film Night "Risen"</b></p>	<p><b>10.30am</b>   <b>6.30pm</b></p>





**Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland**  
89 Main Street  
Uddingston  
G71 9EP

**[www.park-church.com](http://www.park-church.com)**  
**01698 817256**