

# Park Pages

the magazine of Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland



## Letter from the Minister

Summer 2016

Dear Friends,

Recently I was spring cleaning the manse attic. Sorting through the boxes gathering dust, I came across a selection of magazines from Burnside Parish Church. They start in May 1977 through to December 1980. In the May issue, the Interim Moderator of Burnside speaks of the forthcoming induction of the new Minister, Rev David Easton. The following issues have monthly letters written by David and give an insightful comment on the beginning of that new ministry in Burnside and some of the challenges within the situation.



However, what is of interest to us today (some 36-39 years later!), is that despite the passage of time, many of the letters could have been written by me, or any other minister, to their congregation today. Yes, specific situations are different, but many of the same challenges that the Church faced then remain the same today! The call to spiritual growth and maturity amongst God's people and the ever present danger of nominalism and a lukewarm spirit, remain as vital a word to us today as to people in 1978. A prophetic insight by David on the rise of secularism and humanism within contemporary culture in 1980 has been amply fulfilled a generation later. The relevance of God's Word to our daily lives in the midst of the industrial and social upheavals of the winter of discontent of 1979 are pertinent today as we face uncertain political and economic times. As the writer of the Book of Ecclesiastes says:

***"What will be will be again,***

***what has been done will be done again;***

***There is nothing new under the sun." Ecc 1:9***

One could find such a thought depressing! Actually, as I sat and read through those magazines, surrounded by the clutter and dust of the attic, I found them deeply encouraging! It is reassuring that despite the passing of the years and the generations, God's church and His word remain. Despite the prophets of doom who pronounce on the imminent death of the Church or that some new challenge faces us that no one has foreseen or knows how to deal with, the Sovereign Lord is in charge and as He equipped and enabled past generations to face their battles of faith, so He will and He is enabling us to do the same. As the writer says:

***"Is there anything of which one can say,***

***"Look! This is something new?"***

***It was here already, long ago;***

***It was here before our time." Ecc 1:10***

That does not mean that we become complacent. David Easton recounted a story of a new lifeboat station built in a community, which, in its day, was “the new boy on the block” as far as these things go AND rescued many a drowning soul. Yet within a few years it had become little more than a very comfortable social club where the saving of the lives in the sea was an uncomfortable distraction. Can I suggest that this is still a danger today? We become comfortable in the “degree” of faith and practice that we have and find the call to “**...go and make disciples...**” a distraction from our daily lives.

At the bible study in Cumnock, at a re-Fresh on Wednesday, Women in the Word and Men at the Manse, we have been looking at Paul’s Letter to the Philippians/Discipling Explored. We have heard the Apostle, writing from prison in his later years, saying that “ **...I consider everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus, My Lord...I want to know Christ....I press on to take hold of that which Christ Jesus took hold of me....Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for what God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.**” **Philippians 3: 8,10,12,13**

The summer time can be a good opportunity to take stock of where we are in our walk with Jesus. Just as surely as the attic at the Manse needed a spring clean, so ALL our lives need periodic reviews and a “tidy up”! As I discovered these old church newsletters from long ago, and found from them much food for thought, so I would encourage you to take time to have a bit of a clearance of cluttered lives. Make the effort to read a letter. Not some old church newsletters but Paul’s Letter to the Philippians. As you do so, the Lord who knows us better than we know ourselves, can speak into our hearts and minds. Then, like the writer, we can discover afresh that:

**“...everything God does will endure forever, nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so His people will fear Him.” Ecc 3:14**

Have a good summer!



## News from our Brothers in Christ

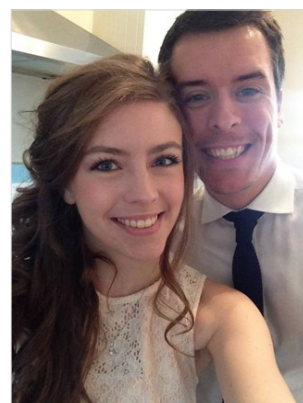
### Nathan Owens

In our last update we said “watch this space”, which was a polite and Christian way of saying we did not really have a clue what was going to happen come 2016!

But God is good, he is faithful, he cares for his people, and so we are delighted to say that as of August the 16 2016, I will be appointed as minister at Kilmaurs: Maxwell and Kilmarnock U.F. under the “Reshaping for Mission” programme. In fact, since late September last year I have been at Kilmaurs U.F. on a temporary, part-time contract which will effectively continue until I am officially appointed in August.

I think it is fair to say that the church has had its fair share of difficulties which is why the denomination has decided to, in faith, see if Kilmaurs can be revitalised, so both Steffi and I look to the future both with much excitement but also not a little bit of nerves! Since being at Kilmaurs we have had the pleasure of eight more folk coming to the church which has been a great encouragement. We now look to God for His blessing on this little church and our ministry there for the future.

As I write this Steffi is sitting her final exams and has secured a job for the next two years which is in, of all places, Uddingston! All in all we feel immensely blessed and can see how God has led us up to this point and know that He will continue to lead and to guide. So if we do not see you before, we would love it if you were able to make it to my appointment in August; until then, God bless!



## Martin Paterson

Let me begin by saying thank you for continuing to pray for us in the work; it is a great encouragement to both of us. Since our last update there have been quite a few changes. Firstly, as some of you may know, Jennifer and I are expecting our first child. We are simultaneously excited and nervous (any parenting tips welcome). Alongside this, we are in the process of applying to work with OMF in Scotland. This would be a part-time role running beside my work at Stonehouse UF Church. The role will involve both of us and it will include meeting with potential short-term and long-term workers considering opportunities in East Asia as well as helping to equip and resource churches in Scotland about the work of OMF. All of this will be overseen by the UF Church and the Scottish area ministry team of OMF. At the General Assembly this year my petition for ordination was heard and I will be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in August. So, all in all, it has been a busy few months. Please continue to pray for us; pray that we would be faithful servants of God's word where he has placed us.



## Robert Wainwright

I can hardly believe I've already done a year at St John's in Burford, Oxfordshire. Lots has been packed in: sermons on Romans, 1 Samuel and Luke, and my first attempts at Christmas and Easter messages. I've done three baptisms (including one extremely heavy baby!), four weddings and I've lost count of the funerals... Perhaps the best thing is working as part of a ministry team. There are several older ministers to imitate and a couple of younger colleagues to have fun running the youth group with.



I've been challenged by a book on contentment as a Christian: we can honour God by accepting the circumstances he puts us in without complaining or grumbling. My house group is a particular joy as we've learnt together from 2 Corinthians that the authentic Christian life is one of weakness. In our weakness God's power is most clearly experienced. In many ways I feel quite in awe of the responsibility of ministry and the privilege of being invited into parishioners' lives, but I am also excited about the different ways I've been able to contribute effectively. Please pray for the new 9.15am service I'm helping to launch in September and the foundations group I run where we learn some basic Bible doctrine. On Sunday we learnt from Luke 10:42 that only one thing is needed: listen to Jesus! Pray that I would do that, and be better at helping the congregation to do the same when other voices try to drown Jesus out.

## Steve Trelogan

Ben (now 17 months) is learning new words every day and loving the outdoors, though bothered with sore throats often. Louise has variable health but is involved more with mums' groups, friends, and FISH (my half-time work with international students) – especially the Bible study in our home with a Hindu and an agnostic who we'll call 'S' and 'Q'. 'S' says Louise is her best friend here. Relationships with others have been good - through the FISH Café, outings, our weekend away with 18 students, and other contacts- but I long to go deeper (before they leave for the summer or for good), and to expand FISH further. I'm very short of tutoring work just now, but God has led us to a permanent job with Friends International in Southampton from September, initially 4 days a week, doing similar work in a much bigger setup. We have to raise money for our salary (though reserves guarantee it for a year), and find accommodation. Thank you for your prayers!



## David Miller

David will be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in August. He and Jeanette will continue their ministry in Millerston UF Church.



***Our Minister, as Moderator of Presbytery, will lead these special services. Please pray for these people and their situations.***



# Reflections on my first year at Park

Karen joined us as Children and Families' worker in September 2015. It has been wonderful to see the young ones interact with her on Sunday mornings and to see the gift she has for sharing God's love with them. Here she reflects on her first eight months in post.

Eight months have now passed since I took on the role of Children and Families' Worker, and what a fast-paced, jam-packed, conversation-ful eight months it has been! One thing that God has made clear to me has been the importance of His timing and recognising the many years of work that have gone before in this place, making this past eight months possible. I hope you'll oblige my ramblings as I share some of the highlights with you.



Every Monday night I have the privilege of working with the young people at **CONNECT**. Through the games, Bible studies and prayer times it's been great getting to know them. It's also been nice to meet others who enjoy playing 'Dobble' and 'Jungle Speed' as much as I do, not to mention playing with others who are even more competitive than me!

What a blessing it was in particular to see one young person come to faith towards the end of last year. Over the last few months we have been able to tangibly see the depth of her love for Jesus grow and mature as she eagerly reads her Bible. She has also developed a real heart for prayer and a strong desire for others to find true love and acceptance in Jesus. We've also been encouraged to see some of the older boys from the group begin to move into the adult life of the Church as they regularly attend Sunday morning services and are even considering joining the Park Kids team.

## PARK KIDS

The move away from Sunday School to what is now called **Park Kids** has been one of the biggest projects I've been involved in so far. As well as constantly correcting ourselves when we let the phrase 'Sunday School' slip out we are also in the early stages of adjusting to a new structure on a Sunday morning. The children now all meet together only separating into age groups for one activity each week. There has also been a shift in focus to try and encourage the children from a young age to apply the stories they are learning to their lives, encouraging them not only to learn about Jesus, but to know Him and live like Him too.



For me one of the biggest encouragements was in the first week of Park Kids, sitting crossed legged on the floor with the younger children (3-6 year olds) chatting about how the Holy Spirit helped Jesus' friends in the book of Acts to be brave. We then had a time of prayer where the children openly asked the Holy Spirit to help them to be brave when they felt scared. One little one prayed: **"Dear God, please help me to be brave when I feel scared of the dark"**. Such a simple prayer of a child, and yet my prayer from this would be that our children would learn from the earliest of years that God cares about every part of their lives and that He is big enough to help even in their deepest fears and darkest places.



This year at MEGA the children have been looking at 'Awesome' stories from Jesus' ministry, finishing with our final MEGA which was on Easter weekend where we looked at the stories of Jesus' death and resurrection – the most Awesome story of all. After hearing the stories the children were asked to write down a prayer in response to Jesus for what He had done for them.

*"I am sad you died on the cross  
but I'm really happy you are  
alive again!"*

*"Thank you for dying for us,  
Jesus!"*



We then hung our prayers on a small tree which was sitting at the foot of the cross in the Sanctuary.

As I write this and reflect on these humbling moments, I am reminded of Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel that we are all called to come to Him as little children, in simplicity, with trust, and an openness in our response to His amazing love. We have so much to teach our children and yet we as adults have so much to learn from them as we watch them come to the Lord so openly with their concerns and their words of praise.

Amidst the groups mentioned above and the weekly SU groups both at Muiredge Primary and at Uddingston Grammar, we have also had opportunities again this year to invite P5-P7 from Muiredge Primary down to the Church for a Series of workshops in September, December and March. Each year group visits one workshop a year which means by the time a child finishes primary 7, they will have heard key stories from Jesus' life and ministry, His birth and also His death and resurrection. We were amazed in March when the primary 7s were down for the Easter Code workshop, when they were asked if they knew any stories about Jesus that would show that He was not an ordinary man. Lots of hands went up in the air and the children repeated back stories they had heard in Primary 5 when they had attended the Sense of Jesus workshop. Praise God for the opportunities we, as a congregation, have to support the school and offer these Religious and Moral Education workshops.

These are but a few of the special moments and conversations from the past eight months, and there are plenty more anecdotes and stories to share! Our God is good and He is very much active in this place, making Himself known and planting seeds of truth and hope in young lives.

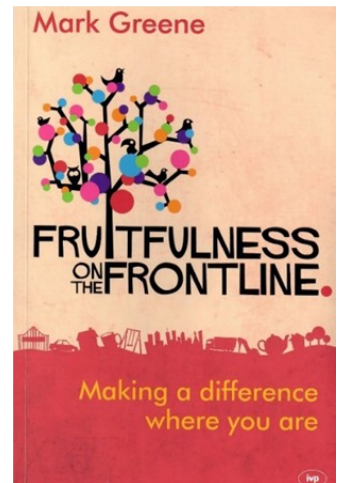
I would encourage you to continue to pray for our children and young people and to join with me using Paul's prayer that they:

***"... being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that [they] may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."***

***Ephesians 3v18-19***

# Fruitfulness on the Frontline

*We have been following this series by Mark Greene once a month on a Sunday evening. It teaches us that we are all serving God in our daily lives wherever our frontline may be. The course is designed to help us identify our own frontlines and here one of the participants shares his reflections on the series.*



## Frontline Fruitfulness

### Am I making a difference where I am?

By Ron Hamilton

A traveller emerged from a forest to see hundreds of people building a cathedral already towering above the busy scene. Amazed at the wonderful structure he felt compelled to speak to some of the workmen, asking them in turn as he strolled around, *'And what do you do?'* A blacksmith explained that he was making the huge hinges for the cathedral door, whilst a carpenter happily explained to the traveller that he was chiselling and planing the wooden arches which would help secure the roof. Another workman proudly demonstrated the art of fashioning beautiful pieces of coloured glass to form a curved window showing events in the Bible, letting light into the cathedral and assisting worship.



About to proceed on his journey, the traveller saw a young man carefully wielding a huge saw. *'And what are you doing, young man?'* Looking up, he quietly replied, *'Why sir, I am glorifying God'.*

The cathedral planners, no doubt, were looking forward to the day when the building would be full of worshippers. They would be dressed in suitable worship attire and proceed solemnly down the aisles. Big hats and candles would feature greatly. At that point, and in this splendid building, God would be glorified and, they no doubt believed, that this great building and the trappings would glorify God.

However, **Fruitfulness on the Frontline** also reminds us: *"God does not live in churches and neither do we. We live to glorify God. God is glorified as his priorities, his goodness and indeed his power are expressed through our everyday lives."*

**"The goal of Fruitfulness is to bring Glory to God"**

So, when we answer that phone, pay that invoice on time, train that new employee or finish off the accounts package late at night, we should, as the many examples in Fruitfulness demonstrate, do it so as to bring **Glory to God**.



# News from the church in India

## CHURCH GROWTH

The Good Shepherd Church of India, supported by Park Church, in Maharashtra continues to be a light bringing the Good News of Jesus to this community. The pastor is encouraged by the spiritual growth of the believers as they share of God's goodness each week during the Sunday services. Their testimonies are a good witness to the locals of God's faithfulness in often difficult circumstances.

## MEET SOME BELIEVERS

Among the believers, there are numerous testimonies of God breaking the power of sin in people's lives and bringing real, lasting transformation to individuals and whole families. Here are a few of their stories:

Samath\* was addicted to alcohol, drugs and tobacco. The pastor met his wife one day and she shared her concerns of his addictions and the effects on their family. At that time they struggled to meet their daily needs for food to eat. He prayed with her and invited her along to church. She started going regularly and was supported in prayer by other people in the fellowship. During this time, her husband stopped everything and started going to work every day.

He also started going to the church. Now they are hearing about the hope that can be found in Jesus every week. Please pray for this family to come to know Him as their Saviour and Lord.

Recently the pastor met a Buddhist family living close by to the church. Their child, Advith\*, was blind from his childhood. He asked them along to the church and they came. The church prayed for them and asked them to come regularly. God heard their prayers and now Advith can see, leading this whole family to believe in Jesus. Praise God for this family and pray for their faith to grow.

Abha\*, a widow suffering from a chronic illness, used to spend most of her income on medication leaving her with little for food. Hearing about the church's prayer meetings, she went along in faith that this Christian God might heal her. After some time she put her faith in Jesus and was then healed. Thank God for his goodness in making this vulnerable widow well again.

\*Names changed

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Pray that the church building will get completed soon without any further delays.**

**Pray for the pastor, his family and ministry.**

**Pray for the church as they build relationships with the local community.**

**Pray that God will raise many more godly leaders from within the church.**



## CHURCH BUILDING

Another major witness in the community is the new church building. Even though it is not quite finished, the believers are using it for their worship services and are already greatly blessed by it. They look forward to its official inauguration at some point this year. It has taken slightly longer to finish than expected but this has in some ways been a good thing. The construction and planning team used this time to get building plans for the first floor room which is in progress, and build the boundary wall.



Thank you, Park Church, for your faithful support of our work in Maharashtra. We are deeply grateful!

## Church Growth in India

The Good Shepherd Church of India comprises churches across the country in rural areas where pastors are often overseeing more than one fellowship. The growth of the church in years gone-by has been encouraging as the Christian message is passed on by those who have experienced the transformation it brings.

As the number of churches grow, the challenge is to identify and train local church leaders who in turn will disciple those who are less mature in their faith. The aim is then to identify someone from within this group of local church leaders who can receive further training and eventually become pastors of the church. Interestingly these pastors are found to be most effective when they are working in their own community and its surrounding area.

A further challenge is to find the resources needed for pastors to provide for their families without having to resort to taking part time secular employment. Although each church member is taught the importance of giving many of the people attending the churches are extremely poor and struggle to survive themselves. In spite of this most are willing to give from their meagre resources to help provide for their pastor. GSOMI also run a sponsorship fund which helps to support pastors and in particular those leading recent church plants. However, the expectation is that each church will eventually provide for their pastor. Here are a few photos of other churches within the Good Shepherd Church of India.





# It is good to give thanks...

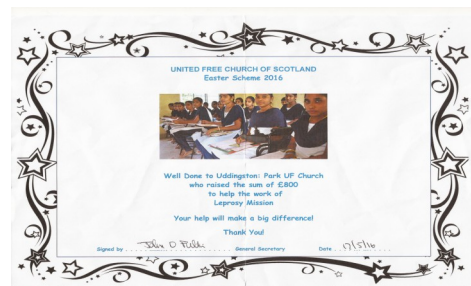
## A Huge Thank You from Park Kids

We wish to thank all of you who helped make our Pentecost Lunch an enjoyable day for the people who were able to be there. You were very generous between buying tickets, home baking and donating, making a total of £368. We received a fabulous donation of £200 from the Coffee Service and also had designated money in our account of £70 made up of 'Leprosy Pennies' (who is old enough to remember them?). As the Leprosy Mission is one of our oldest and most loved missions we then made the total up to £800. John Fulton in the church office was more than happy to receive the money and issued us with a certificate.

We couldn't have done it without the dedicated band of workers who were willing to bake, serve, clean, hold fort in the kitchen and do anything else that needed done to make it the success it was.

Another blessing that came out of the abundance of food was that we were able to give a homeless African man two boxes of sandwiches and cakes to share with his friends when the minister ran him into the city to meet them on Glasgow Green that afternoon. We also were able to save some baking and cakes for the UF P5-7 Camp at Lendrickmuir taking place on 27 – 29 May.

Again a very big **THANK YOU**.



*Oh give thanks to the Lord for  
He is good. For His mercy  
endures forever. Ps 107:1*

**Margaret Miller**

## Easter Holiday Sponsorship Appeal - Thank You!

A huge thanks to all who contributed towards the Easter Appeal at our recent Holy Week services, when the amazing sum of **£960.00** was raised in support of sending local children to Scripture Union camps. This is a tremendous response, and a great encouragement to our local SU ministry in weekly school SU Groups.

As adults, we often forget how exciting holidays are for children, they count down the weeks and number of 'sleeps' in anticipation. The money raised at Easter is helping children who have never been on a holiday with their family – and in some cases, giving lone parents a much-needed break as well. Your generosity speaks of the love of God the Father towards these children and their parent/s. It is fantastic to see the young people growing in confidence, not only in themselves, but in the God they are encountering through the Bible in their school SU Group, at camp and at weekends away.

Thank you for playing your part in making this possible! I would invite you to share in these young people's journeys of faith by continuing to pray for them. All five (three boys and two girls) are attending holidays in Week 5 of the summer break, from **30<sup>th</sup> July to 6<sup>th</sup> August**. Two are attending a secondary camp at Scoughall, led by Jen Robertson, and three a primary camp at Lendrick Muir led by myself. Pray that they each have a fantastic time and grow in faith.

Thanks to the amount raised we also hope to continue their involvement with Scripture Union by offering places at the October week SU Holiday run by Graeme & Karen, and at Lanarkshire weekends in November (secondary) and February (primary). As these are young people who are engaging with their school SU Groups or Connect at church, it is encouraging to be part of their year-round discipleship!

With grateful thanks for your partnership in the gospel,

**Elizabeth McDowall**

## Congratulations...

Congratulations to Stuart Urquhart and Alison Strawbridge who are getting married here in Park on 11 July 2016. We wish them every blessing in their new life together.



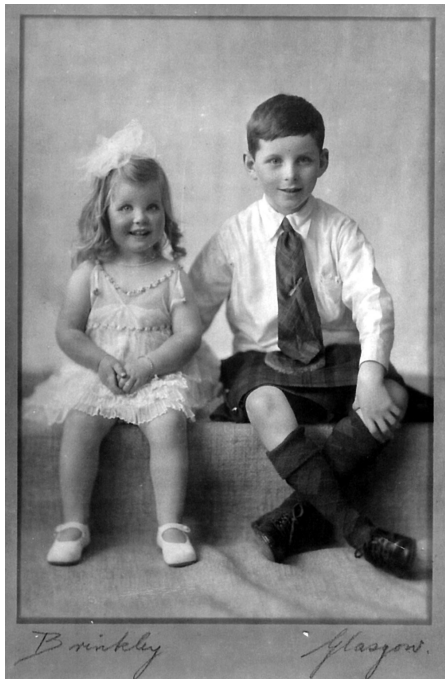
## 90 Years Young!

*Our oldest member of the congregation, Elizabeth Thomson, will celebrate her 90th birthday on the 12th June this year. A contemporary of the Queen, Elizabeth shares some of her memories and hopes for the future with us here!*



### What are your main childhood memories?

I was born on the 12th June 1926 at home in Kylepark Drive, Uddingston. Of course, in those days I was known as Elizabeth Highgate and had one brother, Jimmy, who was six years older than me. We used to fight like cat and dog when we were young but once he left home to go the army I really missed him and on his return we became the best of friends. However, my earliest childhood recollection is being in my pram at about two years old. I had fallen and skinned both knees so I was taken for a walk to Bothwell Castle in my pram to placate me. I was also very aware that I was a contemporary of the Queen especially as I had the same name and one of my aunts always called me "my little princess Elizabeth!"



My primary schooling was done at The Grange which was where the Redstones is today. It was a private school run by two sisters. There was only one classroom and there could only have been about 12 pupils in the whole school. In those days I had long blond hair, so long that I could actually sit on it. I remember being taught English and French by a Miss McNair who was blind. I'm afraid I was a bit of a mischievous child and we used to stand in a circle with the teacher in the middle. Now this teacher used to put her hair up using hairpins and I used to creep up on her, magnet in hand, and remove the pins much to the poor teacher's confusion and consternation!

When I was about nine years old I moved to the High School for Girls in Glasgow, travelling in by train with my father who had an engineering business near Carntyne Station. I stayed at school until I was 18 years old and liked English, French and Maths—apart from geometry which I could never fathom! It was a fee paying school but it was subsidised by the council in those days. My mother was actually one of the very first pupils to go to this school. At that time the school was situated at the top of a steep hill, near where St Aloysius is today, and I remember sliding down the hill sitting on my satchel in which I had stuffed my school hat, made from felt, the minute the bell went! It wasn't so easy to do that with the Panama hat we had to wear in the summer term! I remember my school days as happy days and I graduated with a Diploma in Nonsense!

### Young Adult

As I said I left school at 18 and I really wanted to be a vet. However, at this time the forces were being demobbed and they had priority for university places. I would have had to wait three years to get into university so I decided to learn to show and clip dogs and I actually owned the first Dogs' Beauty Parlour in Scotland. It was situated in New City Road. One day a man came with a dog for clipping but he didn't close the door of the shop after him on leaving. It took me three hours to get the dog back, a silver miniature poodle! It was giving me the runaround dodging trams and running across streets. Eventually it jumped on to a tram and I jumped on after it and captured it! I must have aged about 50 years in one day and never wanted to see that dog again. However, Coco was back eight weeks later to get clipped again. I made sure the door was shut that time!

My first husband, Bill, was a commercial traveller who worked with the grainstore next door to the parlour. He came in to see the dogs and we started going out. We got married in Park Church in 1955 and our son, Douglas, was born on 15th January, 1959. We lived in Montrose for a while and then in Mansionhouse Road in Mt Vernon and I restarted my dog clipping business.

### What changes have you seen in Uddingston over the years?

Uddingston has changed a lot! Where it once was a little village it is now so built up. Kylepark was a little community where everyone knew everyone else and it was a really friendly place. I spent lots of time with my “aunties” next door. Jimmy and I had a carefree childhood.

The trams came out from Argyle Street in Glasgow and stopped at the Cross. I didn’t care much for the trams as I usually felt sick on them. I much preferred the trains. There were three train stations in those days, Uddingston LMS, Uddingston NB and Uddingston West which was at the bottom of Brooklands Avenue.



### Memories of Park and Matters of Faith

I have been going to Park Church all my life, since the tender age of three, and have never known any other church. As a child I sat through the service in the same pew I sit in today. I have memories of my mother wearing a grey squirrel coat with a collar which I used to snuggle up to...and pulled out individual hairs from it with my mouth! I also remember one day my brother, Jimmy, who went on to become Sir Jimmy Highgate and Preses of Park Church until his death, forgetting to put the seat down before putting the cushion back on the seat and landing wedged in between the seat and the floor. I could not stop laughing the whole service.

However, in case you are thinking I didn’t take things seriously I was a member of the Young Worshippers’ League and had 11 years of perfect attendance getting my card stamped every week. I was also a member of the Youth Fellowship and Mr Murray who was the minister in Park for 37 years used to invite a good speaker to the evening service whom we young ones would quiz afterwards. When I was 16 I decided I was no longer going to wear a hat to church! My adopted granny from next door, “Gran Jope”, was remonstrating with me one day when Mr Murray came by and saved me by saying, “The Lord will like shining hair just as well”.

I have always had a faith, it’s always been part of my life. When I was 16 years old I wanted to join the church which was quite a young age in those days. I have suffered hardship in my life, my second husband, Norrie, died of cancer soon after we were married and I lost my son through an asthma attack, but God has been there for me, He has never let me down. He has given me the strength to get through it all without breaking down and I have never asked, “Why me?”. I have never had any doubt that God is there. I like to read Psalm 23 and I like most hymns—as long as they are not miserable! I want my own funeral to be a happy occasion as heaven is definitely better than here!

### What plans do you have for your birthday and do you still have any unfulfilled dreams?

I hope to just have a quiet celebration at home with my immediate family, my daughter-in-law Michelle and my two grand-daughters Eve (15) and Beth (13) as well as some close friends.

I would still like to travel—I’d love to go back to India—although I fear the insurance premium might be a little high. I love the mystery of far off places. And I wouldn’t mind having dinner at the Savoy!

***We at Park would all like to wish Elizabeth a very Happy 90th Birthday and hope she has many more to come. She may be 90 but she is still just a child at heart, and has not lost any of her mischievous sense of humour over the years. Congratulations on your birthday, ma’am!***



# Uddingston Pride Update

## Crofthead Park

The official opening of the newly refurbished Crofthead Park on Saturday 14 May 2016 was a great success. On a beautiful sunny day, Mr Boyd Tunnock CBE gave an entertaining talk on the history of the park, then kindly performed the ceremonial cutting of the tape. Crofthead Park was well and truly open! The Provost then gave a vote of thanks and everybody was then invited into the David Milne Centre for tea and nibbles which were generously donated by Tesco. The Uddingston Pipe Band provided the music before the official ceremony and there was plenty entertainment to suit all tastes— dancing, balloon artist, face painting and the RSPB, Kraftykidz and Little Knit Knatz provided activities for the little ones. Prizes were awarded for the best dressed “bugs” and the fun and games continued in the park with all the new equipment being put to good use. Special thanks to The Little Blue Bake for the scrumptious celebration cake! It was truly a day to remember and we were delighted by the large number who turned out to support us .



## The Arts and Crafts Festival—May 31—June 4 2016

Our annual Arts and Crafts Exhibition will be held in Park Church from Tuesday 31 May to Saturday 4 June. This is your opportunity so see some of the handiwork of the many talented local artists while enjoying a cup of tea and cake and a chat. Don't miss it, it is one of the highlights of the year in Uddingston.

## Opening of the Marks and Spencers Store

We were invited to help with bag packing at the checkouts at the opening of this new store on 18 May 2016. Customers kindly donated enough change to buy a new ornamental litter bin for the War Memorial area. A total of £746 was raised and we thank everyone for their generosity.

## Beautiful Scotland 2016 and Village Clean Up Events

We will shortly be planting out the containers and beds on the Main Street and around the village. This will bring some colour to our streets and with some decent weather Uddingston will look its best again this year. We are planning a number of village tidy-ups during the summer so why not come along and join us? Look out for times and days on our website or Facebook page.

## Church Summer Bedding Display

Summer is nearly here and once again Park Church's summer bedding display is on show. A new addition this year is four planters at the side of the church to replace the previous planters which were rotting and had been penetrated by the roots of the trees. The yew tree cones were purchased with a private monetary donation. Thanks go to Colin McDowall for sourcing the planters and plants, as well as planting<sup>12</sup> and maintaining this colourful display.



## Dates for the Diary



Sunday 5 June	10.30am Communion Service 7.30pm “Into All the World” Summer Celebration
Saturday 11 June	Day Conference “Eyes to See, Ears to Hear” Understanding Word and World
Sunday 12 June 	Park Kids invite the congregation to join them after the service at the David Livingston Centre for Church Family Lunch and Outing
Sunday 26 June	10.30am All Age Worship and Adult Baptism 6.30pm Fellowship Meal in Manse Garden
Sunday 3rd July—28 August	One service at 10.30am only using the UF Prayer Guide as basis for the sermons
Sunday 4 September 	10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving Gifts for Glasgow City Mission Update on summer mission activities Dedication of new session of Worship and Witness 6.30pm Service in Bield Housing

*The Manse Family will be on holiday from Sunday 12 June to Saturday 25th June. The Rev Ian McQuarrie will conduct the services on both Sundays and will provide pastoral cover. Many thanks to Ian for his support!*

## Fellowship Groups

- **Re-Fresh** will continue on Wednesdays at 2.30pm and 7.30pm
- **Men at the Manse** will resume on Thursday 18 August
- **Women in the Word** will resume on Sunday 14 August
- **Whifflet Fellowship** will meet as arranged locally

**Open to God Prayer Time**—18 June, 2, 16 and 30 July, 13 and 27 August

**Community Prayer Time**—21 June, 19 July, 16 August.

**The Prayers for Healing Group** will not meet in July/August



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