

Park Pages

the magazine of Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland



Letter from the Minister

Winter 2016



Dear Friends,

Colin and myself have just been choosing the Christmas leaflet that we buy from Christian Publicity Organisation (CPO) for use by the church. Colin brings his artistic eye to bear whilst I bring the memory of 27 years of choosing such leaflets! The range is remarkable—who would have thought the theme of Christmas could be presented in so many artistically colourful and varied ways?

From the *traditional* Jesus in a manger with the heading **Born to be King** right through to an engaging poster inviting folks to **Join us for Beer and Carols**. You will see our choice for this year when it is handed out on Advent Communion Sunday.

Included in the range of materials there are themes which most would agree with. We were initially drawn to a card which showed a stylised manger scene with the words **Peace on Earth**. Very commendable idea! However, in the light of the on-going conflicts in the world with the terrible sufferings of people in Syria/Iraq and heightening tensions between the West and Russia, perhaps only wishful thinking! Likewise, many of the themes emphasised the **Love** aspect of the Christmas story. The Son of God as a baby is God's ultimate gift of love to the world. But what does that mean to the non-Christian or casual observer walking past the church noticeboard or glancing at a leaflet put through the door by a neighbour? Another one which caught our attention was entitled **The baby that changed the world** with a very attractive watercolour wash picture of Mary and baby Jesus. And yet, in the world at large and in most people's lives in our own society, it does not appear obvious that the baby Jesus has "changed" anything! I could go on...

Do you see the point that I am making? So much of what we, as Christians, see and understand about the message of Christmas is, for non Christians, either wishful thinking, cosy sentimentality or meaningless in their daily experience. That is NOT to say that we should not still affirm these truths, but perhaps we need to think more carefully about what they actually mean.

The Christmas story, in the bible account, is certainly not one which is obviously peaceful! In a land occupied by Roman armies, with the poll tax being forcibly implemented and terrorism rearing its ugly head, there was a tangible non-peaceful feel to the setting. Indeed the setting of Bethlehem is almost anarchic, with that little frontier town filled to bursting point with strangers thrown together because of the vagaries of birth and clan heritage. Whilst the Victorian hymn writers largely seek to sanitise and pacify the setting and birth of Jesus, the reality was a painful, cold, isolating and emotionally charged event! And yet, despite all of that, for Mary and Joseph, it was the words of the long forgotten prophets being gloriously confirmed. As Matthew reminds us:

"All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet. The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us")."

Matthew 1:22

"...what does it matter. I eagerly hope and expect that in every way, whether by life or by death, Christ will be exalted in my body." Phil 1:18,20

For the angel-shocked shepherds the sight that greeted them in the cave/barn caused them to

“return glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.” Luke 2:20

For the star gazers from the East, their journey's end was not in a royal palace, but in the humble homestead of Mary and Joseph where their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh spoke prophetically of the One who is the Prophet, Priest and King. Little wonder that we are told that Mary—and no doubt Joseph — **“...treasured up all these things in her heart and pondered them deeply.” Luke 2:19, 51**



How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

We MUST make time this Advent and Christmas season to treasure and ponder deeply the truth of the **“Word that became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14**

We MUST also PRAY that God in His grace and mercy would open the spirit eyes of those around us to the wonder of the

Child in the manger, Infant of Mary
Outcast and stranger, Lord of All!
Child who inherits all our transgressions,
All our demerits, on Him fall.

May at least ONE person in our lives and community discover the truth and point of all these Christmas posters and greetings. For it was for us and them that

“At the right time, God sent His Son, born of a woman....to buy freedom for us who are slaves to sin, so that He could adopt us as his very own children.” Galatians 4:4 and 5 (NLT translation)

With warm Christmas Greetings from the Manse Family

Wm B Russell



The Twelve Days of Christmas

What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans and especially the partridge who won't come out of the tree have to do with Christmas?

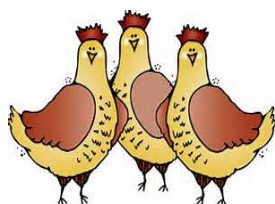
This week, I found out!

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practise their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics.

It has two levels of meaning—the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.



- **The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ**
- **Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments**
- **Three French hens stood for Faith, Hope and Love**
- **Four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John**
- **Five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament**
- **Six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation**
- **Seven swans a-swimming represented the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit—Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy**
- **Eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes**
- **Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit—Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control**
- **Ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments**
- **Eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples**
- **Twelve drummers drumming symbolised the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed**



So there you have it, what you thought was just a fun Christmas carol is actually full of spiritual truths. I'm sure next time you sing it you will see it in a completely different light!

From Russia with Love...

Ian McQuarrie has been visiting Russia for many years now, bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ and giving encouragement and support to small churches that have been established there. Here he shares with us the highlights from his last trip in September 2016.

Thanks so much for all your prayers for and interest in our recent trip to Russia. A team of six spent 12 days in the Urals Region and **Orenburg**, on the border with Kazakhstan. We visited churches and a rehab centre in what turned out to be a whirlwind visit, covering thousands of kilometres in a short space of time! We even managed to almost get lost in the Ural Mountains when the road that we had been assured would take us to Magnitogorsk narrowed down and eventually petered out in the middle of nowhere. There followed a return journey of 50 km to proper roads. Meanwhile, the time available to us for catching our flight home was diminishing and the minibus was losing power, probably due to the condition of the road through the mountains. Thankfully, the driver was able to sort it quickly, and we made it to the airport with time to spare!



Aside from that, the trip was eventful and encouraging. The team worked well together, with everyone contributing to the programme and bringing something to our brothers and sisters there. The first weekend was spent with the church where we have had the longest links, ministering at their Sunday morning service and at men's and women's meetings in the evening. This is a small but lively fellowship who keep on keeping on in the face of many obstacles and pressures. The commitment to Christ they continue to evidence in these circumstances is both an encouragement and a challenge.

We were also able to renew relations with the other Pentecostal church in the town, ministering at a Monday evening service, sharing a meal with the leadership team, and praying for them all afterwards. This gathering, particularly as we sang together, was a delightful testimony to all that we share in Jesus Christ.

Please pray for these two churches, as there is a history of suspicion and bad feeling between them, and it would be wonderful to see peace and unity restored. Please pray, too, for Lisa, daughter of Simeon and Natasha, who has a hip problem which requires an operation which will take many months to recover from.

We were also invited to visit a church in Berezovsky, a town we have visited before. It was great to see the way in which the church is growing, and their vision for the use of the buildings, where we enjoyed hospitality on several nights. One of the highlights was meeting Sergei, a recovered addict, and brother in Christ, who was due to be married the following week. This was yet another testimony to the effectiveness of the work of the Salvation Centre in Asbest. We nicknamed Sergei "F1" (Formula 1) on account of the way he drove! He took some of us to Ekaterinburg and back, an experience we will never forget!



It was a particular joy to spend the second weekend in Orenburg at the celebration of the 5th anniversary of the founding of the rehab unit there.

We travelled the 1000 kilometres by bus together with thirteen brothers and sisters in Christ from the Salvation Centres at Asbest and Penza. It was such a privilege to be part of such a team. The work in Orenburg is headed up by Stas and Irena, his wife. They too are graduates of the Asbest Salvation Centre, a further testimony to the power of the Gospel to transform lives.

It was also encouraging to see the progress on their new building there which has its second storey completed. They are supported in this work by the church in Orenburg, a vibrant congregation who welcomed us so warmly.

The leader of our team and of all the Salvation Centres was Konstantin. Can I ask you to pray for him and another leader of the same name who is presently setting up another Salvation Centre? Both of them are recovered addicts, on fire for the Gospel, and relatively young men. However, both men have been diagnosed with major health problems due to their former addictions. Please ask the Lord for healing.

And so, as already alluded to, after an eventful return bus journey, we arrived back at Yekaterinburg airport with a few hours to spare. However, it was not the end of our contact with the Church in Russia as a local Pastor had travelled to the airport to meet us. We talked together of present pressures and the possible return to difficult days but also of the encouragement of new churches being planted and a continued desire to have outside contacts. Please do pray for these Protestant Pastors, particularly those who are Ukrainian, some of them wondering how long they will be able to continue their work. One such said, **"your continued visits are a great source of encouragement"**. Had the trip accomplished nothing else it would have been worth making to hear those words.

However, overall the trip *did* accomplish much, many lives were blessed, including our own, and we saw God working in wonderful ways. Thank you again for your prayers and generous gifts. They give tangible expression to the glorious truth that though separated by thousands of miles from these brothers and sisters, we are one in Jesus Christ.

Слава Бogy — Praise God (pronounced Slava Bogu in Russian!)

**Blessings,
Ian**

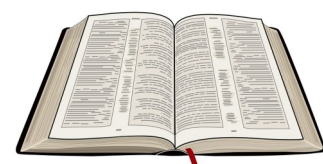


**If anyone is in
Christ, he is a new
creation; the old
has passed away,
the new has
come.**

2 Corinthians 5:17

**Therefore
encourage one
another and build
up one another,
just as you are also
doing.**

1 Thessalonians 5:11



The Suffering Church

On Sunday 6 November Paul Copeland from Open Doors came to speak to us about The Suffering Church. Open Doors is an international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide. It supports persecuted Christians with Bibles, Christian materials, training, livelihood skills, advocacy - and in a whole host of other ways - so that they know they are not forgotten and can stand strong to serve their communities.

History

Most of us will have heard of Brother Andrew. In 1955, as a young Dutch missionary he went to a 'Socialist' youth congress in Poland, at that time a part of the Soviet bloc. He was going, not because he was a communist, but because he was a Christian. His suitcase contained his Bible, a change of clothes and hundreds of tracts entitled **The Way of Salvation**, which he intended to give away. The trip was to change his life. Behind the Iron Curtain he discovered churches desperately in need of Bibles, support and prayer. Above all, he found a group of Christians who felt isolated and alone and who thought the rest of the world had forgotten them. One evening during that visit he went to a Baptist Church in Warsaw where he was invited to speak. Here is how he tells the story in his most famous book, *God's Smuggler*.



“At the end of my little talk the pastor said the most interesting thing of all, “We want to thank you”, he said, “for being here. Even if you had not said a word, just seeing you would have meant so much. We feel at times as if we are all alone in our struggle.”

At the end of his trip as he stood watching the Youth Congress parading he prayed to God to ask him what he should do. He opened his bible and found the passage which he came to see as his mission:

Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die!

Revelation 3:2

Brother Andrew made many trips behind the Iron Curtain in the years to come in his blue VW Beetle and experienced many difficult border crossings. Others joined him and together they smuggled bibles to believers in communist countries. Today that small Dutch mission has become an international ministry with offices in 27 countries, working in 60 nations to strengthen and bring hope to the persecuted church.

Although the ministry started with giving out tracts and bibles, today it encompasses so much more. It gives seminary training to pastors so they can become more effective leaders of their congregations; where believers are discriminated against and cannot find jobs small loans are offered so they can start up their own business; and all sorts of other practical help.

During the communist period the KGB had 150 pages of information on Brother Andrew but still they were not able to stop his work. As Brother Andrew himself says:

Our very mission is called Open Doors because we believe that any door is open, anytime and anywhere. I literally believe that. Every door is open to go in and proclaim Christ, as long as you are willing to go and are not worried about coming back.

If you would like to find our more information about the work Open Doors does go to www.opendoorsuk.org

Paul has been working with Open Doors for many years and shared some stories with us.

Iraq is home to one of the world's most ancient Christian communities; there has been a church there for over 2000 years but now it's on the verge of extinction. Christians have been targeted by Islamic State and given the choice of paying higher taxes or converting to Islam. The alternative is death. The Christian town of Qaraqosh was overrun by IS in the summer of 2014 and Iraqi Christians had to flee. Paul told us of a little girl called Marian who is only 10 years old but yet despite all the hardships she has faced has a tremendous faith. She was able to thank God for so many things in her life: for blankets to keep them warm when they were cold, for a place to play, for a washing machine so they could wash their clothes. Despite all the hardships she said "God was with us every day in everything". When asked what she would say to a European counterpart she said, the most important thing is to **love and forgive**. What a wonderful example to all of us!

*God was with us
every day and in
everything we did!*
Marian

Recently many Christians have been able to return to their homes. Church leaders have rung the bells in their damaged churches or restored the cross above their town. Christians have gathered together in the rubble to pray in their churches for the first time in two years. And - praise the Lord - though much has been destroyed, no Christian villages have been swept away completely.

We then heard the story of a woman in North Korea, a communist country where Christianity is not tolerated at all; in fact it is the most difficult country in the world to be a Christian. He told us of a woman whose husband, a Christian, was imprisoned and killed. She herself then became a Christian and was also imprisoned. Life in the prison was hard. Every day they rose at 5am, were given a few spoonfuls of rice for breakfast and were then sent to work in the fields. After a full day of back breaking labour they were then subjected to hours of indoctrination in the evening where they struggled to keep awake. People died every day and their ashes were spread on the road the others took to work in the fields. This woman thought that one day people would be walking on her ashes when she died. Then one day she was released—she ran out of the prison gates without looking back once. Despite the hardships she endured during her stay in prison her faith never wavered and she was able to share her faith with other inmates. They met secretly in toilets or other hiding places. As a result of her witness five people became Christians and they were all released too. Praise God!



Paul also reminded us of the plight of the 276 Nigerian schoolgirls from Chibok who were abducted by Boko Haram on 4 April 2014. Boko Haram, which means "western education is forbidden" in the Hausa language, is a militant group affiliated to IS. It is said the girls have been forced to convert to Islam and married off to Islamic fighters or sold into slavery. Some managed to escape and 21 were released in October of this year but most still remain in captivity and their whereabouts remain unknown. They are being used as pawns in a negotiating battle with the Nigerian government for the release of some of their commanders who are imprisoned. One of the girls who was released said, "**We never imagined we would see this day but, with the help of God, we were able to come out of enslavement.**"

All these stories, although harrowing, serve to remind us of a God who is there in times of trouble, hardship and persecution. We weep at the injustice our fellow brothers and sisters have to endure but we join with them in praising a God that is faithful, ever present and a comfort in times of trouble.

The persecution of Christians has increased across every region in which **Open Doors** works. This year the level of persecution increased even in countries that dropped out of the top 50. The top six countries for persecution against Christians are **North Korea, Iraq, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Syria and Pakistan**. Please pray for these countries.

Prayer Points

- The persecuted church asks that you pray **WITH** them, not **FOR** them, as only then will we know what to pray. Pray for strength and endurance and a chance to witness for Christ.
- Pray that the persecuted Christians would feel the presence of God with them despite their hardships.
- Pray for courage for believers from Muslim backgrounds to keep following Jesus, despite the pressure they may face from their families and communities.

News from the Mission Field at Home and Abroad

Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt 28:19).

Martin and Jennifer Paterson



Martin and Jennifer became the Overseas Missionary Fellowship's (OMF) Scotland Area Representatives in September 2016. They will be involved in the work of equipping and partnering with local churches to see the work of the gospel grow in East Asia. To prepare them for this work they flew to Singapore on 23 October to OMF's International Headquarters to participate in an orientation course along with other new workers who are beginning their ministry. This was a long journey to undertake with a three-month-old baby but everything went well—the flights were good, connections were made and Sophia slept well throughout! As Martin says, “we don't take these things for granted, we know that they were God's practical care for us”.



The orientation course went well and they attended seminars each day which helped paint the picture of what OMF's vision and mission is for this part of the world. They met up with others serving in different countries across East Asia and made connections, connections that will become vital as they settle into this new role. The underlying message that Martin took away from these seminars was:

There is a God in heaven and he has revealed himself for the salvation of the peoples of the earth (Titus 2:11).

Please pray for Martin and Jennifer as they embark on this new work and enable them to get a good work/life balance as they pastor the people of Stonehouse, engage with OMF and also as they learn to be parents to little Sophia—this may be the most challenging job of all! It is a lot for them to take on board all at once and we pray for God's guidance, wisdom and strength in their lives. To find out more about OMF's work go to www.omf.org.uk

Steve and Louise Trelogan



In September Steve and Louise moved to Southampton where Steve took up a new appointment with FIS (Friends International Southampton). Before he left Northampton Steve did a sponsored abseil down the National Lift Tower to raise funds for Friends International. Brave man! Here is an update from Steve.



We've been overwhelmed with God's kindness to us in providing this job, a wonderful house, the kindness and friendship of so many here and the prayer and financial support of people around the country. My week is busy with meetings, emails, the monthly Philip project, the Local Link Scheme, occasional trips and events and just getting to know local church and CU volunteers, and of course sharing friendship and Jesus with international students. **The Philip Project** trains Christians in understanding and teaching the Bible for when they return to their countries; the **Local Link Scheme** arranges for students or visiting scholars to have a meal in a local Christian home. Please pray for God's continuing work among the iExplore people who've finished the Christianity Explored course and will be visiting the British Museum to look at biblical artefacts. Please pray for good discussions as they attend carol services, learn the meaning of the carols and watch and discuss the Nativity Story.

Our love and thanks to the Park Church Family for your prayers and concern for us. To find out more about my work go to www.fisuk.org

Allan Ooi

Thank you for your on-going support and prayers for my work with Agapé. Here are a few things that have been happening recently.

Birmingham Student Life

In recent weeks the Birmingham Student Life society have held a number of events to help people engage with deeper issues and ask questions about spiritual things. Events have included **'Welcoming the stranger'** where they considered how to respond to the refugee crisis, and **'Fighting for life'** where an ex-bouncer shared his story of coming to know Jesus. Please pray for the Student Life society to be bold and courageous in making Christ known on campus.



Team Retreat

In November the office team went away on a retreat for a few days. I led a session on **'Identity in Christ'** where we considered many aspects of identity including: how our past doesn't define us as we are new creations, how God sees us as holy and blameless and how our value in Christ is fixed and cannot be changed. It was great to be able to get away into the countryside for a few days to spend time with my team and with the Lord.

Agapé 50 Years

In 2017 Agapé will celebrate 50 years in the UK. There are many plans and the year kicks off with a special celebration event in February. As you can imagine organising a large event required a lot of coordination and planning! I have many responsibilities and jobs so please pray for wisdom and good time management. Pray too that the anniversary year would glorify God and help us look ahead to see how Agapé can continue to reach out with the gospel, and help others to do so too. If you would like to find out more about Agapé's work go to www.agape.org.uk.

Fabri and Elaine Toni

Fabri and Elaine are now living in Thailand. Fabri is in his second year of teaching in the **Grace International School** in Chiang Mai. He is currently teaching the story of Joseph to his seventh-graders and is working through the book of Acts with his eight-graders. He is also involved in student-led Bible studies, **The Timothy Project**. Fabri is responsible for a group of 17 lively seventh grade boys and three older student leaders who meet every Wednesday night to study 1 Peter. He meets the three student leaders every Saturday morning for discipleship and training in leadership and then oversees the study on Wednesday evening. Please pray that the study of God's word would be powerful and effective in these boys' lives.



Fabri and Elaine were blessed with an addition to their family on 12 September. His name is Matteo Lewis Toni and he weighed in at a healthy 3.3Kg, a wee brother for Rebecca who is a doting big sister! Elaine's parents were able to go out to visit them for a month after the birth—we thank God for a very special family time.

The King of Thailand passed away on 13 October 2016. He was much loved and revered and there was a great outpouring of grief from the people. King Bhumibol Adulyadej came to the throne in 1946 at the tender age of 19 and was the longest-reigning monarch in the world. He lived to serve his people and brought much-needed stability to his country. An immediate 30 days of mourning was announced when everyone had to wear black clothes. The King's presence and influence impacted daily living for all Thai people and expats alike. His picture adorns every public office and business; it is also displayed in many homes.

Please pray for Thailand as it mourns its King. Pray too for the transitions related to the ascension of a new King and for political stability without the King's unifying influence. Most of all pray that the Thai people would turn their hearts to the true King for forgiveness and salvation.

Church Podcast

Sunday 25th December is an important day for the Church Podcast. Not only will it be the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, it will also be the 130th sermon available to download!

Since 17 May 2014, nearly every sermon preached at Park has been available as a Podcast through iTunes. The initial motivation was the ability through a podcast to monitor the popularity of the service: something you can't do with the website statistics. However, it quickly became clear that our sermons are an important ministry, with on average 20 people (subscribers) downloading and listening every week. The audience has grown since 2014 with currently 42 people (subscribers) listening and in total 1,378 downloads.



From the minister's point of view this is heartening and also intriguing – especially when one considers the top five most listened-to sermons:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Standing Firm! | Hebrews 12: 1-3 | 12 July 2015 |
| • The Prophecy | Daniel 8,9,10: 1-12 | 22 November 2015 |
| • Ezra | 2 Chronicles 36: 1-23 | 4 May 2014 |
| • Finding Satisfaction in God | Psalms 36,65,107 | 16 August 2015 |
| • Jesus: the One we turn to! | Luke 3:15 - 4:21 | 8 February 2015 |

So, why not check out the sermon page of the website? If you miss a week at church, you can still tune in to God's word – visit www.parkchurch.co.uk/sermons.html or search **Park Church Uddingston** in iTunes. If you know of anyone who is unable to get out to church through ill health or someone who would like to learn more about Christianity but doesn't feel comfortable coming to a church, please pass the word on so that as many as possible can hear the Good News proclaimed.



Church Flower Calendar 2017

2017 is nearly here and we come to the end of the first year of the new flower team. Thanks go to Colin McDowall, Kath Burt, Carol Murray and Janet Strawbridge who have successfully beautified the sanctuary every Sunday. The team will continue this ministry in 2017. Please give your flower fund donation to Colin McDowall the Sunday before your date on the calendar.

The stunning display in the picture on the left was the centrepiece for our Easter services this year. I think you will agree that this was a very evocative display—the red anthuriums at the foot of the cross—made from last year's Christmas tree—reminded us of Christ's blood shed for us and the white lilies depicted sin forgiven, hope, purity and a new beginning for us made possible by Christ's death and resurrection. It is said that white lilies grew in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus wept in the hours before his death. We are grateful to the team for this beautiful telling of the Easter story through floral art.

A temporary calendar will be going up in the Hall for the next few weeks. **If you would like to swap weeks or be removed from the list, please make the adjustment on the calendar.** Thank you to all who provide monetarily for this important ministry.

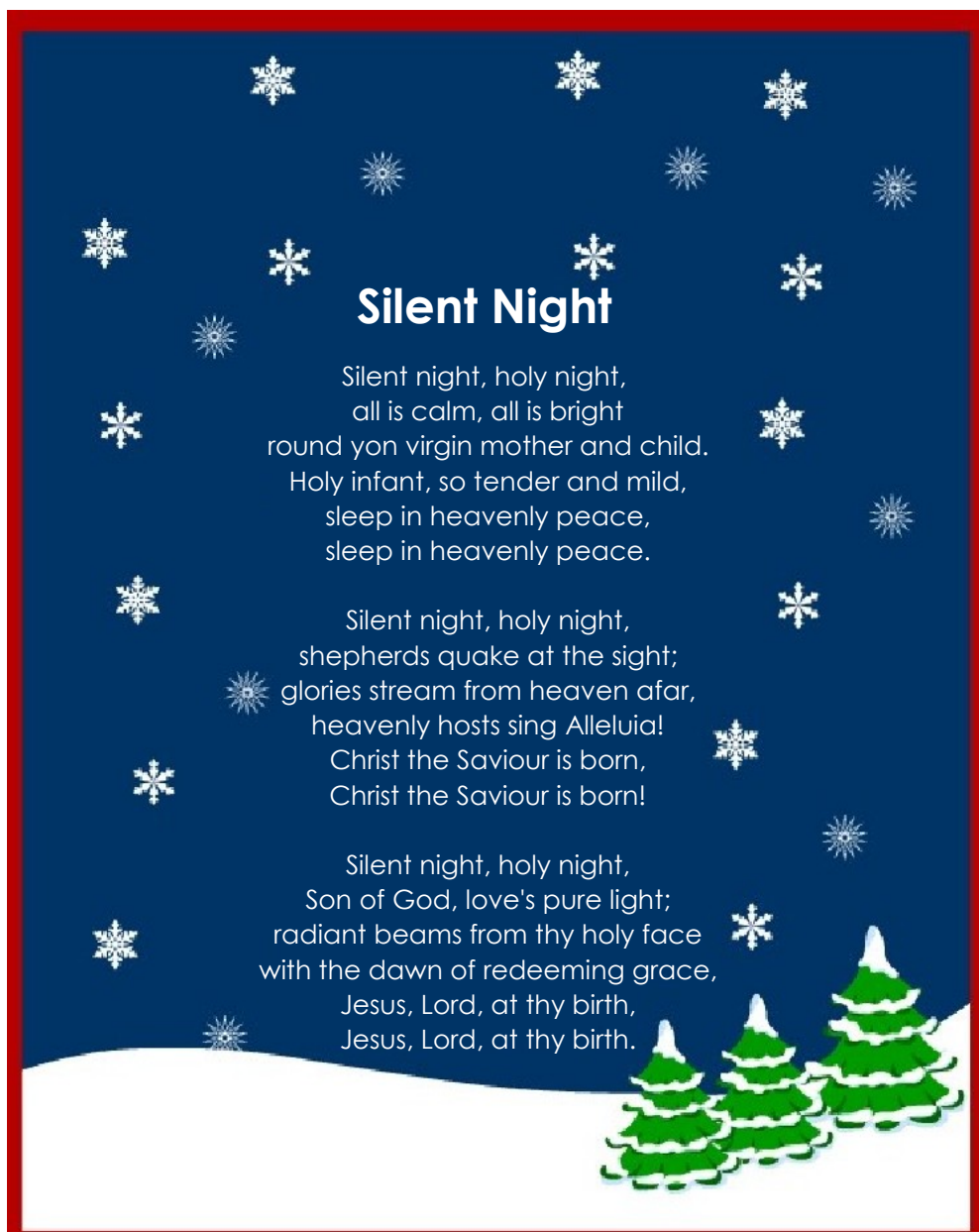
Silent Night Christmas Film

Wednesday 28 December at 2.00pm

Between Christmas and New Year, do join us for fellowship, tea and coffee and a Christmas film. We will be watching **Silent Night**, a film telling the true circumstances that led Joseph Mohr to compose the classic Christmas hymn.

In 1818, when Joseph Mohr is assigned to be the new assistant priest in Oberndorf, a small Austrian town near Salzburg, the young man is full of ideas and ideals. His passion to bring the church closer to the common people sets him on a collision course with his new superior, Father Nöstler. When Mohr organises a church choir that includes outcasts from the local tavern and performs in German instead of Latin, Nöstler threatens him with disciplinary action.

As Mohr's initial successes start to crumble and his efforts backfire on him, he loses all hope and faces a trial of faith. The night before Christmas, Mohr has to decide if he will accept defeat and leave Oberndorf, or embrace the true significance of the Holy Night.



Uddingston Pride Update

The year 2016 has been a truly memorable one for us in Uddingston Pride. Here are some of the highlights!

- The complete refurbishment of Crofthead Park, with all the old battered play equipment replaced with superb new items, giving a greatly enhanced area for children to play in, our budding footballers a smart games area, and even an outdoor gym for all ages to exercise in. Plus lots of new seating for those who simply want to sit in the sunshine, watch and blether.
- The grand opening of the “new” park in May, with Mr Boyd Tunnock kindly cutting the tape to declare the park officially open. A really enjoyable day with large numbers enjoying all the fun and games that had been arranged.
- Bag packing at the opening day of the new Marks and Spencer store—a busy day but it helped the funds considerably so it was worthwhile!
- Our Arts and Crafts Exhibition was an outstanding success this year, with an excellent standard of entries of paintings and craft items and good numbers supporting the show,
- A major litter pick with the pupils of Uddingston Grammar School.
- A Gold Award from the Beautiful Scotland judges at the presentation ceremony in October in Aberdeen.
- Planting crocus bulbs with Rotary as part of their **Purple4Polio** campaign.

Certainly, a year to remember!

Of course, the year is not quite finished! Don't miss the Christmas Open Day, on Sunday 4 December. Look out for School Choirs, dancers, the Pipe Band, the Salvation Army Band, special Christmas displays, and, of course, a visit from Santa. We'd love to see YOU there!



Prayer Points

As Christians we are privileged to be able to pray to our Heavenly Father. As we look at the life of Jesus we see that he made prayer a top priority and often withdrew from the crowds to go to a quiet place where he could converse with his Father. So as we enter this Advent season let us make it a season of prayer.



Bubble Gum and Fluff for Primary 6 Children
Monday 5 December at 9.30am



Christmas Assembly for S5 and S6
Thursday 15 December at 10am
Pray that the children will respond to the Christmas Story



Advent Services
Pray for a renewed sense of wonder as we hear the Christmas story again and reflect on what it really means for us for God's son to have entered the world. Help us to share something of this great gift with friends and family.



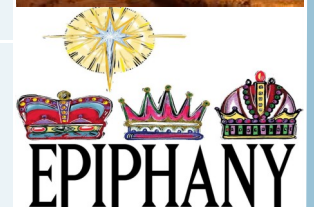
The Homeless at Christmas
We pray that all homeless and displaced people will have somewhere warm to stay and have a meal this Christmas. Bless them, Father, and may they know something of your great love for them. May we too be generous in our giving to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

'Bubblegum & Fluff!'
A Christmas Event for primary school children



Advent and Christmas at Park

Advent Communion Sunday 4 December Christmas according to Matthew	10.30am
Village Christmas 4 December	Hall open for tea and coffee from 1.30pm-4pm Joint Primary School Christmas Concert at 1.30pm in Park Church
Sunday 11 December Christmas according to Luke	10.30am. Gift Service for Glasgow City Mission 6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols
Sunday 18 December	10.30am Nativity Play and Carol Service 6.30pm Advent Supper in Church
Wednesday 21 December	Bield Housing Carol Supper
Christmas Eve	6.30pm Crib Service for all ages—especially for the little ones! 7.15-8.30pm Carols around the Community 11.30pm Traditional Watchnight Service
Christmas Day	Celebrate the King! All age celebration. Bring your gifts to show others!
Wednesday 28 December	2pm Family Film and Afternoon Tea The story behind the carol <i>Silent Night</i>
New Year's Day Sunday 1 January 2017	Worship, Reflections and Communion for a new year
Sunday 8 January Christmas according to John	10.30am Epiphany Sunday 6.30pm The Life and Times of Elijah and Elisha





Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland

89 Main Street

Uddingston

G71 9EP

www.park-church.com

01698 817256