

Park Pages

the magazine of Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland



Letter from the Minister

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, our country is going through a period of great political instability. It is inevitable that a general election will be held within the next couple of months and the outcome of that is very uncertain. It is possible that it will result in a very similar situation to the one we have at present; no party having a clear majority and our journey through the Brexit melee still unclear. In such an environment, all sorts of more extreme views vie to be heard and gain an audience, as we have seen over the past months. It could make a *Hustings* evening held in our own church, prior to such an election, an interesting event, in more ways than one.

In such an environment, it is tempting to become indifferent or enter into despair. However, neither should be the Christian response.

Firstly, we are called to pray for our leaders.

I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

1 Timothy 2 v 1 and 2

Whilst the vast majority of our political leaders, in London and in Edinburgh, are at best indifferent towards Christianity, and at worst downright godless, God's people today, as in the days of the Roman Empire, have a vital role in praying for them. Do they not need it at such a critical time?! Faced with complex decisions to make, the wisdom of God needs to be sought and found. It is human arrogance that causes us to think we can fix these issues without that wisdom. Therefore, we should pray for a humbling of hearts and minds amongst our leaders; what that will mean for them, and for our country, may be quite traumatic, but pray we must!



Secondly, we need to remember that we should not overly trust our leaders to be able to deliver what they promise.

Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plan comes to nothing.

Psalms 146 v 3 and 4

Great cynicism has been engendered because of the ebb and flow of the Brexit debate. Many within the public question whether there is any point in voting ever again. Others, in an almost diametrically opposite viewpoint, are drawn to one side or the other and fervently believe that they are right and will prevail.



In such a febrile atmosphere, a word of biblical common sense is needed. As God's people, we need to bring that word of sense into the public debate, and a helpful reminder that, whoever our leaders may be and whatever they stand for, ultimately they are only human beings who are temporal and transitory. That is a helpful antidote to the overconfidence of some of our leaders today!

Thirdly, we also have to recognise that it is the Lord who will ultimately judge our rulers.

...the kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together, against the Lord and against His anointed, saying, "Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles". The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. He rebukes them in His anger and terrifies them in His wrath, saying, "I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain".

Psalm 2 v 2-6



They should give God's people a degree of peace and patience whilst others wring their hands in confusion. Jesus Christ, the King set in Zion, is the One who holds the scroll of human history in His hand (Rev. 5 v7-8). He will "...break the spirit of the rulers" (Psalm 76 v 12), and His purpose will be fulfilled through the ebb and flow of events. If He is ultimately in charge, we should have a degree of confidence and hope, when much would suggest that all is falling apart.

Jesus Christ calls us not to be afraid or filled with anxiety.

Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.. I have told you these things, so that in me you will have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

John 14 v1/16 v33

As Christians, called to be Salt and Light in our communities, our comments and responses need to be seasoned with the grace of God. Peter, writing to Christians living in the toxic environment of Nero's Rome, tells us that it is

...God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. 1 Peter 2 v 15

Nor should we be led astray by some who wrongly take Old Testament (OT) promises, that applied to Israel in the centuries before the birth of Christ, and apply them to the UK today. OUR NATION is not the OT country of Israel and the Church and many Christians can easily be led astray by such false teaching. Jesus warns us,

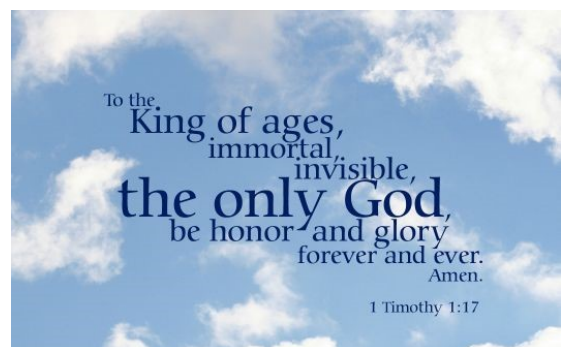
Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name...and say to you, "Look, here is the Messiah!" or "Look, there he is!" Do not believe it!

Mark 13 v 5, 21

Whatever the outcome may be in this period of our political history, and however diverse some of our views may be concerning issues such as Brexit or Scottish Independence, we must, as professing Christians, keep our eyes fixed firmly on Jesus Christ, the One who alone is the

King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, to whom be honour and glory for ever and ever, Amen.

1 Timothy 1 v 17



With much love in the Lord Jesus

Your Friend and Minister

Wm B Russell

Mission Matters

What is mission? Mission is following Christ's call to share the gospel with those who don't yet know Him. He gave this command in the Great Commission in Matthew 28. Who is mission for? It's for all of us!



Mission is an important part of God's work and something we can all be part of. It was Jesus himself who gave us The Great Commission to go and tell others about the good news of Christ. This does not mean that we are all going to be called overseas to minister to some unknown tribe in the Amazonian jungle—a pretty traditional and somewhat out-of-date view of missionary work; our mission field can be at home with family, socialising with friends, working with colleagues and generally living out our lives in the community God has placed us in.

If we truly know Jesus, we will not want to keep the good news of the gospel to ourselves. Our church mission statement is:

To know Christ and make Him known.

However, some people *are* called to a more traditional form of missionary work, either at home or more often overseas, and it is up to Christ's church to support them in their work. Their work usually is a mixture of evangelising, discipleship and church planting and they can often find themselves on very stony ground. Even if we can't go ourselves to spread the word, we can still be involved in this work in two critical ways. We can:



- 1. pray**
- 2. give financial gifts**

Full-time missionaries depend on **prayer**, **encouragement** and **financial support** to meet all their needs, both spiritual and on a more practical level. We read in Philippians 4, v 10-18 that Paul thanked the people of Philippi for looking after him, so there is scriptural precedence for this work. We are commanded not only to love the Lord God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, but also to love our neighbour as ourselves. We are to look after those out in the field who are spreading the news and caring for the lost. We are warned not to store up treasures on earth but to look to eternal treasure in heaven. Giving to the cause of the gospel is a way to store up treasures in heaven that will not rust or fade away.

Following a recent managers' meeting, the decision was taken to set up a separate fund for **Christian Mission and Outreach**. We have set aside £8,000 pa from our general fund for this purpose. Park regularly supports the work of OMF, through Martin and Jennifer Paterson, the Cogwheel Trust and Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). However, we set up this fund so that we have money ring-fenced for other projects that we hear about such as the £3,000 we recently sent to Open Book (SU) in Ukraine who needed money for a leaking roof for their children's centre. In the recent past we've also been able to donate to speakers from Release International, to the work of the Salvation Centres in Russia as well as to more local causes such as sponsoring local children for SU camps in Scotland.

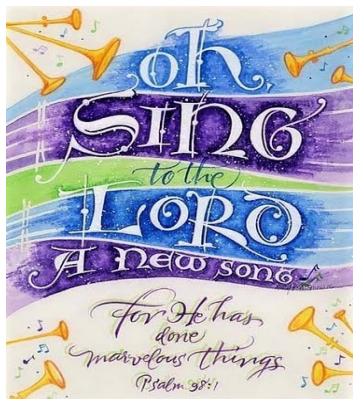
We as a church also have to give the denomination a payment of about £10,000 a year which is largely used for Mission and Outreach. This is based on a per capita payment per member.

The Kirk Session and Board of Managers would like to thank you all for your generosity in the past and applaud your spirit of generosity towards Kingdom work. The work is not yet finished so we would encourage you to prayerfully consider your giving. It may be that you set up a Standing Order years ago and have never updated it or maybe you have never got round to filling in the Gift Aid form which helps our finances tremendously. It may be that you would like to give a donation to our new Mission Fund as mission is something very dear to your heart. If you have any financial questions at all, please speak to our Treasurer, **Janice Clark-Dick** who will be happy to guide you.

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9 v 7



Many of us know Martin and Jennifer Paterson as they attended Park Church as children and were married here! However, for those newer members, Martin kindly agreed to give some background information to their work. Park now supports Martin and Jennifer, both financially and in prayer, for their work with OMF International as they reach out to the billions in East Asia who don't yet know Christ.



"Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvellous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him. The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations." Psalm 98 v 1-2

Music is powerful. Think about it. There will be certain tracks that bring back strong memories for each of us. Perhaps they remind us of when we met our spouse or when we got married. Maybe they remind us of a difficult time in our lives or the passing of someone that we loved. No matter what the circumstances were, one thing we all know is that music is powerful.

That is something that we know as a family, reflecting on the beautiful song book of the bible. There are so many big hits in the Psalms that speak of the glory of God and His purposes for all of the peoples of the world. In fact, it was reflecting on these songs that changed the trajectory of our family's life and ministry. If God is God, and He has worked salvation for all peoples in Jesus, then it is inescapable that we have a responsibility to allow others the opportunity to hear this good news.

Some of you will know us well and are aware that we are moving towards serving in East Asia with OMF. Others of you will probably not have met us, so we want to say hello to you. We are the Patersons. **Martin** and **Jennifer** with our two little people, **Sophia** (3) and **Joshua** (9 months). We were members of Uddingston: Park church until we moved on to serve in ministry. Currently we serve with OMF based in Scotland and are members of Cumbernauld Free Church.

So what has been happening with our family? And what are the next steps in front of us? Well, there have been a number of big changes over the last year. We have settled in well at Cumbernauld Free Church and it has been a huge blessing to us being part of this family of faith. I share in the preaching responsibilities alongside Andy Longwe who is the lead pastor. Jennifer is helping to start up a **Women's Bible Study**, particularly for young mums, and we look forward to seeing how this grows.



We have had an addition to the family who some of you will have met when we were at Uddingston earlier this year. Joshua was born in November last year and is a healthy, happy boy, who likes to keep us up at night. His partner in crime, Sophia, is now a big three-year-old girl who loves to wear princess dresses. She has just started nursery school which is wonderful, but we wonder just where the time has gone. We are so grateful to the Lord for blessing us with children, something that we do not take for granted. Please continue to pray with us that these little people would grow up to know and love the Lord Jesus and live lives that are in tune with His presence and purposes for all the peoples of the world.

Having moved church, it seemed to make sense to us that I would transfer my ordained status from the UF Church to the Free Church of Scotland. You will be glad to know I was accepted by the General Assembly committee and I am now a minister of the Free Church. We want to be clear, there are no issues with us and the UF church. This decision was made with future ministry in East Asia in mind. We didn't want to be members

one place, ordained in another and serving a church somewhere else in East Asia. We are so thankful to God for the opportunity of serving in the UF church.

That's a little bit about what's been happening with our family. So what are some of the next steps for us with regards to serving in East Asia? You may remember that Jennifer is completing studies at Bible College. She is currently halfway through doing this and has really enjoyed getting to spend time learning about God's word, His character and His actions in history. Not wanting to be left out, I will be commencing an MTh this September in Biblical Theology at Edinburgh Theological Seminary. In order for me to teach in East Asia, I need to have as a minimum a Masters in Theology.

This should hopefully give you a bit of an indicator as to what we believe the Lord has invited us to do in East Asia. Our desire over the last number of years has been to serve local believers through theological education and discipleship ministry. If I were you, I'd be asking, *"What does that mean and what does it look like?"* This is a great question and the answer can be varied depending on the context.

For us, it will most likely look like serving in a large urban centre. Think somewhere the size of London and you will be getting close to the scale of the city we could be living in. We will probably be based at a bible college, helping to teach a variety of subjects for the next generation of pastors and missionaries from that country. This excites us because the impact this could have in that city, in that nation and through the world could be huge. We want to see the gospel of Jesus proclaimed in all its fullness to all peoples... and this is a great way to be involved in seeing this become a reality.



Go ye into all the world,
and preach the gospel to
every creature.

OMF
OMF INTERNATIONAL
Heart for Asia. Hope for billions.

But before you think it's about us being locked away in a tower to read books, only to emerge and pontificate, let me stop you there. Our vision for this ministry is getting involved in the lives of the students, allowing them access to our home and everyday family life. Playing football with them and eating soup noodles together. Why? Because this is where the real ministry of preparing hearts and minds for effective, long-term service takes place. Being alongside the students and sharing our lives with them is a meeting place where God can open their eyes and ears to seeing and hearing His amazing purposes for all the peoples of the world.

With this in mind we can now let you know that we are in discussions with the leadership teams of various places in East Asia. As things stand, the aim is to begin serving in our new city by August 2021. We are both excited and apprehensive about this. But we know the song book of the bible. And in that song book there are multiple encouragements to keep pressing forward, trusting in the character of the Lord...

because He is good, and His love for us endures forever.



In the meantime, there are still a number of things for us to concentrate on. One of the main items is a book that I have been asked to write, looking at the why and how of global mission. I have submitted the first draft and OMF are now entering into discussion with a number of publishers. Jennifer is helping to set up a bible study ministry at church particularly for mums and kids. She is looking forward to this and recognises the importance of investing in the mums of our church.

No matter what the circumstances are in us moving forward, we know the dominant melody of the bible, and it is this... ***"The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations."*** We are so privileged to have been given the opportunity to grow by our family at Park Church and we are so grateful that you have always supported us in every step forward in seeing *the kingdom come and God's will done on earth as it is in heaven*. We long to continue serving alongside you till the day that Jesus returns or calls us home.



We pray God's blessing on Martin and Jennifer and their young family as they seek to serve God and further His kingdom, both here in Scotland and in East Asia in the future. We thank God for them and ask that they will be given wisdom, Godly discernment and a clear call for where God wants them to go.

The many faces of Scripture Union



Scripture Union at the Keswick Convention

Summer and missions go hand in hand and one of the best known is the **Keswick Convention** whose watchword is **All One in Christ Jesus**. This year Elizabeth McDowall manned SU Scotland's stand for one of the weeks and she has kindly agreed to share some of her stories and experiences with us here.

In July I headed to the Keswick Convention to serve on the SU Scotland stand. This was at 'Basecamp' – a large carpeted tent containing overflow seating, a book shop, café and exhibition stands, situated a 15-minute walk away from the main tent where nearly 3000 people gathered for the Bible readings every morning and evening. I covered an afternoon and evening slot so I was able to attend the main Bible readings with Bruce each morning.



Serving on the stand was very different from my usual summer leading an SU Holiday. I missed the feeling of being in a team, as I was the only one on the stall. However, I quickly made friends with my neighbours on other stands and enjoyed rich fellowship. I also had a clear sense that this was what God was wanting me to do; it seemed a great opportunity to meet with people from different churches, which is what my job as Prayer and Church Partnerships Coordinator is all about.

My first encounter was with a chap who came to say his sister worked for SU Scotland – and did I know her? I did! We ended up chatting for 45 minutes. God had clearly spoken to him through the Bible teaching and stirred his heart. He was challenged by how far his church had strayed from biblical teaching on homosexuality and moral issues; he knew God was telling him to move church – not easy as he and his wife have two children, one a teenager, who were well settled. It was a big issue; he spoke with tears in his eyes. I had the privilege of praying for him and his family. They live in an English city with lots of churches, so I prayed the Lord would clearly guide them to a spiritual home that would build them up and strengthen them as a family. Recalling that I was on the SU stand, I then boldly asked if he supported his sister in her work through prayer or giving. He hadn't ever thought about it, so I suggested telling her he was praying for her and committing to give financially towards her ministry would bring her much encouragement!

Rainy days were busy; the hottest day (29 degrees!) was very quiet. Visitors south of the border wanted to know what SU Scotland did compared to SU England and Wales. I offered everyone a **Back to School with God Sunday** flyer, and almost all were enthusiastic about the opportunity this service gives to prayerfully support children and school staff at the start of a new school year. Back home, it has been great to see lots of Back to School with God registrations coming in – an encouragement to Karen and myself, who write these resources along with a couple of folks from SU Northern Ireland. I also had lots of enquiries from those who work with children and struggle to come up with a weekly programme; I signposted our **One Big Story** resource, which gives an overview of the Bible in two years' worth of weekly lessons.



The vast majority of visitors knew SU Scotland well. Those who attend Keswick are very plugged into Christian service and mission! All had a story of how they engaged with SU and were willing to take an **Ambassadors** flyer and consider being a link between SU and their church. One lady rushed over to the stall saying she would not be a Christian today were it not for her two boys returning from SU camp 40 years ago, full of enthusiasm for the things of God. She had been anti-God, exploring paganism and Buddhism. Five weeks after their return from camp, she entered a book shop and saw a book written by her pagan guru, who had become a Christian! Her search for God started with that SU camp. Another lady enquired about leading an SU Group in a local school. She said she is a brand-new Christian, trusting Jesus in February. Her life had been a mess. As she said goodbye to yet another man and sat alone drinking vodka, she knew her life needed to change. Looking out of her window she saw the church across the road and determined to go. There she found love and a warm welcome. A few weeks later, standing in her kitchen she had an experience of the Holy Spirit. Bubbling over with enthusiasm and joy, she now wants to live only for Jesus!

The stories and faces differed, but one thing is clear: God is alive and active. I really enjoyed meeting so many different people from across the length and breadth of the country, of every denomination - all full of stories of God at work through SU where they live and plugged into serving, praying, giving, volunteering: the church in action!

Summer Camps

SU is also known for its summer holiday camps. These usually last for a week and the children take part in all sorts of activities during the day. In the evening they meet to study the bible together and to get to know Jesus. For some it is their first encounter with God. Gregor McDowall tells us about the camp he was involved with this summer.

Summer Fun at LM5c

LM5c 2019 ran for a week at the end of July at Lendrick Muir with a team of 11 leaders and 30 children, many of whom had no previous connection with Christianity. For a few this was also their first time away from home. For the last 10 years, LM5c had been led by one Elizabeth McDowall, who stepped down this year in order to host the SU stall at Keswick. This wasn't the only team position needing filled as we were short on team members this year. Alex Kelly, a previous assistant team leader, stepped in as team leader and I became his assistant - but a bigger quest was to find a chief cook. Despite numerous enquiries, our search remained fruitless, until SU's new head of volunteering, Janice Aitken, stepped into the role. Despite her inexperience she fulfilled the role perfectly – to which many campers' feedback forms will attest.

In the run up to camp, we had to decide how to proceed with a smaller team and not enough time to write our own resources. We decided to use the teaching material *Dear Theo* produced by the Scottish Bible Society. Every child is given a copy of Luke and Acts (in nice 'novel-style' books) and teaching time was led by one person up-front rather than our usual group-based learning. The merits of the material shone through as children could engage with the stories in their own way and at their own level, allowing them the choice to learn through different mediums such as reading, writing, drawing, drama, discussion and song. We pray that we were able to present our message clearly and in an attractive and memorable way.

We also ran three 'seeker groups' called **Surfers**, **Divers** and **Deeper Divers**, all aimed at various stages in the faith journey. In Surfers a child could learn more about the Bible, in Divers they could find out how to become a Christian and Deeper Divers was for those who wanted a more believers-focussed bible study. I ran the Divers group. Seven kids came along to explore the gospel message. On the Thursday, four of the group decided they still had some questions and weren't quite ready to ask Jesus into their lives. The other three said they wanted to know Jesus more and become Christians. Please pray for Tymek, Rebecca and Keira as they take their first steps in their walk with Jesus, also for their families, their witness at school, for their integration into churches and meeting other Christians in their neighbourhood.

Thank you all so much for your prayers and support. The witness, teaching, fun, excitement and joy we were able to give the 30 kids in our care was all down to your backing, both monetary and spiritually. God's Spirit was really at work giving the team energy, patience and kindness, and blessing us with a real atmosphere of peace and friendship – tangible in the fact that this year's group of children were the best behaved we've ever had, despite many coming from troubled backgrounds and unsettled home situations.



"I've spoken to my son and he is having a great time. It means a lot and he loves it. Thank you!"

As a result of your generous giving we were able to support four local children and help another family buy items of school uniform. They all enjoyed their time at camp and we pray have grown closer to God through it.

"You have helped me out a lot, thank you for your help. Much appreciated, can't thank you enough."

LM5c 2019 was a great success, full of joy and fun despite some initial challenges and new materials. Please continue to pray that the fruits of our labour will be effective over the year – giving us the opportunity to meet and work with the same children again next year in LM5c 2020!

Holiday Clubs

SU provides lots of resources for churches to run holiday clubs during school holidays. They are packed full of games, crafts and songs, all with the aim of telling the children about Jesus. Ian McQuarrie tells us of two he visited this summer.

In chapters 3 and 4 of John's Gospel, we are presented with Nicodemus and the Woman at the Well.



A man...

One named

One from the city ...

One a respectable man...

One an orthodox Jew...



A woman

the other anonymous

the other from the country.

the other a disreputable woman.

The other from the despised heretical Samaritans

Two narratives which tell us that the gospel, though presented in different ways to different people, is for everyone. This truth was embodied in the two Holiday Clubs I visited earlier in the summer on behalf of Scripture Union. One was in the holiday town of Helensburgh with its tree-lined streets and long promenade; the other in Ferguslie Park, one of the most deprived housing schemes in Scotland.

In Helensburgh there was a fairly long but excellent teaching slot from the front, focussing on the fall of the walls of Jericho, part of the **Desert Detectives** programme.

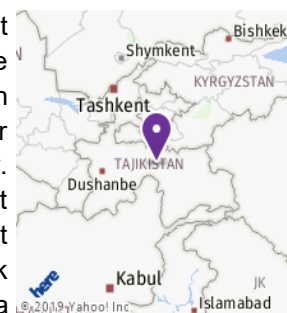
In Ferguslie Park, through the **Backpackers** programme, the teaching was more interactive and carried out at small group time. In these groups, the team utilised the experience of the young people in making their craft, the touch and smell experienced, to relate to the story of Jesus being anointed with expensive perfume.

Two very different approaches but with the same passionate intent; to fulfil Scripture Union's vision:

"To see the children of Scotland exploring the Bible and responding to the significance of Jesus"

SU Spanning Continents

Finally, on 11 August we had a visit from a lady who we will just call "M" who works for SU in Tajikistan, a country in central Asia where over 90% of the population is Muslim. It is very challenging to be a Christian in such a country. M explained that they try to be salt and light in their community by showing God's love in a very tangible way. Although she has three children of her own, aged 13, 11 and 6, she invites local children into her home where she and her children share the gospel through doing crafts and play. People ask her why she does this, and this gives her the opportunity to tell them about God's goodness to her. She was saved at the age of 19 and wants to tell everyone about His love and saving grace. Although the situation is challenging and they have to work underground, she says that if we trust in Him, He's always there for us. What a testimony.



We pray for protection and wisdom for all Christians in Tajikistan.

A Chance to Serve!

We'd love to hear from you if you have a few hours to spare and you would like to use your gifts and talents to serve the church in some small way.

We read in 1 Peter 4 v 10:

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

Christ calls us all to active service in our church and we should follow his example. The greatest example of One who came to serve is Jesus himself, the Servant King.



Do you have green fingers?



If you love gardening but maybe don't have a garden any more, or you feel you could serve in the church garden, then we'd love to hear from you. We are looking for people, either individually or as a group, to look after the flower planters, especially in the summer time when they need watered regularly, to tidy up borders and pick up falling leaves in the autumn so that the place is kept tidy. It's important that we keep our building and gardens in good order so that we can be a welcoming light to the community so if you can spare an hour a week, or fortnight, to do some weeding or just to tidy up generally, we'd love to hear from you. All tools provided! Please speak to **Janice Clark-Dick**.

Technical Wizards

We are also looking for people to be part of the Audio Visual Team. So if you love all things electronic and have some expertise in this field, please speak to **Gregor McDowall**. The team operates on a rota basis and training would be given. This is an opportunity to serve in a field that is being used more and more in Ministry and Mission.



Music Lovers



We are always looking for new members for our Singing Group, **Park Praise**, or the **Praise Band**. The singing group only perform occasionally at special services so the commitment is not onerous and rehearsals are fun. We usually meet for a short time after morning service.

Praise band provides the worship music once or twice a month and a rehearsal takes place before the service that morning. So if we have any budding saxophonists, violinists or trumpet players out there, don't be shy, let your talents shine for God!

If you would like to join either group, or both, please speak to **Janice Fuller** or **Graeme Stangoe**.

Come let us sing for joy to the Lord!

Usually in this series we look at one old hymn and one modern one, but in this edition we are going to only look at one song which combines both the old and the new in a very successful way. It should please both traditionalists and modernists alike! It is based on Psalm 130 which is classed as one of the Psalms of Ascent. It is said that this was a favourite psalm of Augustine, Martin Luther and Charles Wesley so we are in good company!



I will wait for you (Psalm 130)

I was privileged to attend Sing! Scotland in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh on 20 June 2019. Inspired by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Sing! Is an initiative of Keith and Kristyn Getty to help God's people deepen their faith through singing. The concert that night was led by Keith and Kristyn with their band and the support of the New Scottish Arts Choir and what a night of singing it was! Audience participation was very much encouraged and to hear thousands of voices joining together in praise to God was simply amazing. We sang old favourites such as *O For a thousand tongues to Sing* as well as newer classics penned by the Gettys like *In Christ Alone*.

However, the song that really stood out for me that evening was a rendition of *Psalm 130* which says, "*Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice, let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy*". The melody is haunting as its source is the old, traditional psalm tune *Martyrdom* which is used to open and close the song. Being brought up in the Highland tradition, these old psalm tunes have a special place in my heart and evoke many memories; there is a starkness and rawness about them that penetrates the soul.

This new version of Psalm 130, *I will wait for you*, was written by the Gettys, Stuart Townend, Jordan Kauflin and Matt Merker in 2018 and the mixture of old and new works so well. When I heard the first verse played at Sing! Scotland, set to the haunting sound of the old psalm tune, I was really moved. The first verses echo the words of the Psalm.

Psalm 130

- ¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord:
² Lord, hear my voice,
Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.
³ If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?
⁴ But with You there is forgiveness,
So that we can, with reverence, serve You.
NIV

I will wait for you

- ¹ Out of the depths I cry to you,
In darkest places I will call;
Incline your ear to me anew,
And hear my cry for mercy, Lord.
² Were you to count my sinful ways,
How could I come before your throne?
Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze,
I stand redeemed by grace alone.

This psalm describes the author in a place of distress and longing for God's intervention in his life. Normally we associate singing with times of happiness and rejoicing but many of the psalms were written from a place of despair and longing for God to show himself. The psalms encompass every emotion we experience; praising, rejoicing, crying, anger and also lamenting. When we are in the midst of trials we need to spend time waiting on the Lord, even, and maybe especially when, we cry "from the depths". We know that God is faithful and caring and yet, when we experience bad times, we often doubt Him.

The cry of this song and psalm is a response to this tension of being willing to trust, to wait on Him, to live with the pain but to keep our eyes fixed on Him, knowing he'll never leave us or forsake us. It is a powerful thing to look to God with trust and patience through the hard times we will all face at some point in our lives.

Stuart Townend

The author of the psalm acknowledges his sin and is crying out to God for forgiveness. He knows that he can't save himself, only God can save him "from the depths". We are to wait on God in times of trial and trouble. As Keith Getty puts it:

..in trouble we do not bury our heads in the sand nor in our despair cry out to a vast, impersonal universe. But, we can truly cry out to the Lord, Maker of heaven and earth who hears us and comes to us.

So often in the Bible, we see God coming to us, seeking out his people, even when we are ignoring Him. Jesus sought out the sick and marginalised; he went from village to village preaching, teaching and healing. He did not wait for the people to come to him. Our God wants to be involved in our lives and he encourages us to cry out to him and to wait on Him. The psalms teach us how to do this.

Chorus

I will wait for you, I will wait for You;
On your word I will rely.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You,
Till my soul is satisfied.



God does not always answer our requests as quickly as we would like, but the psalmist knows He can still rely on God and that His word will not fail him. He has *hope* in God's mercy.

³ So put Your hope in God alone
Take courage in His power to save
Completely and forever won
By Christ emerging from the grave

⁴ His steadfast love has made a way
And God Himself has paid the price
That all who trust in Him today
Find healing in His sacrifice.

Verses 3 and 4 tell the gospel story of how God sent His only beloved Son to pay the price for our sins and it is only through this atoning sacrifice that we are able to have this personal relationship with God. We do not need to remain "in the depths" because Christ has fully done this for us at the cross. He emerged triumphant from the grave, having endured three days in His own depths. He knows how we feel, He can empathise with us and through His death and resurrection, we are given a hope. We can cry out to God "from the depths", having full confidence that He will hear us, listen to us and *in His own perfect timing*, give us resolution and answers.

The second chorus emphasises this point

I will wait for You, I will wait for You
On Your word, I will rely
I will wait for You, surely wait for You
Till my soul is satisfied
I will wait for You, I will wait for You
Through the storm and through the night
I will wait for You, surely wait for You
For Your love is my delight

The song finishes with the old psalm tune and words from the Free Church of Scotland Psalter.

I pray my soul waits for the Lord
My hope is in His Word
More than the watchman waits for dawn
My soul waits for the Lord.



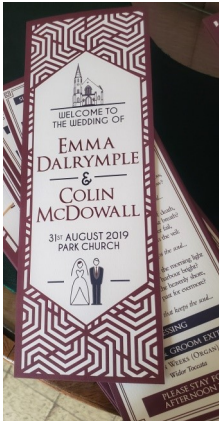
A watchman would be eagerly anticipating dawn as this would determine not only the end of his shift but also the removal of fear from the enemy. He doesn't doubt that the sun will rise and morning will come; he just doesn't know exactly when. In the same way, the psalmist knows God will answer his plea, he just doesn't know when. He must wait patiently for God's redemptive grace and forgiveness.

To listen to the song click [here](#)

Church News

Congratulations!

The church family would like to extend its warmest congratulations and best wishes to **Colin and Emma** on the occasion of their marriage on Saturday 31 August 2019. Thank you for inviting us all to be part of your special day.



To get the full value of joy you must have someone to divide it with
Mark Twain



Thank you from the Manse Family

The Manse Family, which now includes Emma, would like to thank the congregation for the kindness and generosity shown to them over these past months. The welcome given to Emma when she first came amongst us, and the large congregation at Colin and Emma's wedding last Saturday, was overwhelming. Many, many visitors that day spoke warmly of the hospitality provided, the fervency of the congregational singing and the sincerity of two Christians, as they committed themselves to each other, before God, in Christian marriage.

Your love and prayers over many years have borne fruit in their lives and we can only **thank you** for that.

How blessed are the ties that bind our hearts in Christian love.

Uddingston Pride Update

The **Craft Fayre** was very successful again with every available table booked by enthusiastic, local crafters, and the standard of goods on display was as high as ever. The level of support from local people was most gratifying, and a good many items were bought to decorate houses throughout the village.



A special thanks is due to the ladies who so ably managed the tea room, and to those who produced the home baking which was greatly enjoyed by all.



The **Fun Day in Crofthead Park** took place on Saturday 27 July. It was a great success, although the weather could have been kinder! Those who came along had an enjoyable afternoon. The churches were well represented, with Park Church ladies busy face painting, transforming lots of children into butterflies, bunny rabbits and a wide variety of other animals. The Parish Church made delicious cakes and served teas, and the Nazarene Church played games with the children. The crafters in the David Milne Centre had a busy time and sold lots of items, and the Lanarkshire Fire and Rescue Engine came along to add to the excitement. Steevo the Clown blew up lots of animal balloons and performed some magic tricks. Great fun for all the family, and a good time was had by all.



The **Beautiful Scotland** judges visited Uddingston on 30 July, and we were happy to show them round our village, which we think was looking really good. We hope they were pleased with what they were shown. Highlights of the tour included the War Memorial, the Station, Crofthead Park, and the churches, which always look great and are a credit to their respective gardeners. We also visited Viewpark Organic Gardens, and the new SUDS pond between the motorway and Blantyre Farm Road, which is now full of wild flowers and lots of butterflies. We won't know the results of the competition until the Award Ceremony in early September. The judges certainly seemed to be impressed, hopefully enough so that we might achieve gold once again.



Another of the highlights of the judging tour was a visit to the Viewpark Gardens on New Edinburgh Road, which are most attractive and interesting, and well worth a visit. Sadly, the council are proposing to close the gardens in September, so I would encourage you all to go along and enjoy them NOW, before it's too late.



We will be hosting another MacMillan Coffee morning in early October, and a Quiz Night on 18 October in the Masonic Hall. Look out for further details of these events.

Sandy Robertson

Park Ladies' Association

We enjoyed a varied session last year. Rev McDowall opened our session with a talk on our theme, *Walking in Wisdom*. We had interesting talks from Irene Dick, who spoke about the different jobs she'd had, Elizabeth McDowall on her trip to Ukraine and Cindy McKenzie on her charity work in Belarus. We were entertained by Stonehouse Primary School choir and on our guest night, The Inbetweeners (St Mary's Choir).

We enjoyed our annual visit to the Ladies' Day at the Salutation Hotel in Perth where we enjoyed lunch and fellowship with members from the denomination. The theme for the day was *Onwards and Upwards*, taken from Philippians 3, v 12-16.

The theme of the meetings for the 2019-2020 session is *Mirror, Mirror*. A warm welcome is extended to all ladies in the fellowship to join us at our meetings on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm on the dates below. You will be made most welcome!

Mirror, Mirror

When you look in the mirror, do you see a person who has a great God living on the inside and being manifested on the outside to the world?

Come and learn about your identity in Christ!

SYLLABUS 2019-2020

3 October		Mirror, Mirror Rev. Bruce McDowall
7 November		Bible Alive Valerie Sim
9 November		Coffee Morning 10 am—12 noon
5 December		Christmas Evening
9 January		Night out
16 January		Malawi Isabel Stirling
6 February		Sustaining Grace Karen Hall
5 March		Theatre Guild Musicality Group Guest Evening
2 April		AGM Bring and Buy Stall

For further information, please speak to Mrs Janet Strawbridge/Mrs Pat Robertson

Dates for the Diary



Sunday 8 September	Report and Review on Minister's Sabbatical	
Sunday 22 September	6pm Strathaven Evangelical Church Lanarkshire Celebration for the appointment of a new SU worker	
Sunday 15 September	6.30pm Living Christianity DVD series to help us live out our Christian lives	
Sunday 29 September	6.30pm Bield Housing Service	
Sunday 6 October	10.30am Communion 6.30pm Songs of Praise Led by members of the congregation	
Sunday 3 November	6.30pm Family Film Night with Fish and Chip Supper	
Sunday 10 November	10.30am Remembrance Day Parade Service of Youth Organisations	
Sunday 17 November	10.30am Visit of Catherine Anwar Missionary Partner	
Sunday 1 December	10.30am First Sunday in Advent Holy Communion Village Christmas and Open Church Afternoon	

Please keep a note of these dates in your diary and support as many events as you can!



Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland

89 Main Street
Uddingston
G71 9EP

www.park-church.com
01698 817256