

# Soundings

Portobello & Joppa Parish  
Church Magazine

October 2016



## ***Portobello and Joppa Parish Church***

**Worship takes place each Sunday at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church with two services – one at 9.30am and one at 11am (10.30am in July and August).**

## ***From the editor***



***Granddaughter (aged 3 and a half):*** What's dat?

***Her mum:*** It's a picture of a duck-billed platypus.

***Granddaughter (aged 3 and a half):*** Dat's just made up!

***Her mum:*** No, it's a real animal.

***Granddaughter (aged 3 and a half):*** Stuff and nonsense!

As this exchange illustrates, faith can be a difficult thing and our granddaughter hasn't yet entirely achieved it. In this edition of *Soundings*, however, Celia shares her faith with us in a very honest and thought-provoking way; and Stewart encourages us to make a leap of faith into giving things a try: specifically prayer, worship and volunteering. He tells us about his planned sabbatical; and asks us to think about stewardship and the different ways in which we could offer this.

Ella gives us an update on the sale of St James' and the buyers' plans for it and Robin tells us about what's in the process of happening with the Old Parish building. Lourens passes on the encouraging comments in the recent Presbytery Review, while Stewart promises us many bad jokes if we subscribe to his e-newsletter - with which you can keep in weekly touch with what's going on in PJPC. There's also news of some of our organisations – the Guild, the Boys' Brigade, the Country Dance Club and the Junior Drama Group.

George would like some volunteers to help in the church gardens (your chance to work with our local celebrity and pick up some gardening tips?) and there are also the usual features – I was particularly cheered to read what gets Ian up in the mornings.

**P Donaldson**

## ***From the minister***

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

How do you measure beauty?



This is a question posed in an interview with a man named Tony Giles. He was born blind and has only 20% of his hearing. Yet he has travelled through all 50 US states and the 10 Canadian provinces, and has visited 116 countries.

The article suggested to me that he finds beauty in many ways: through the sounds that he does hear, through touch, through taste. He has attuned his senses to receive all that is good.

The article also suggested to me that the true beauty he finds is in other people. He can't see whether their appearance is one which sighted people might consider 'attractive' or 'beautiful'. His interactions with them—their voices, their tones of voice, their actions, their touches—must indicate their internal beauty.

Much of his travel has been done alone and he was thus in a very vulnerable position. People could easily have taken advantage of him in many, many situations. He once had his padlocked tent completely removed in the Yukon! But virtually every person assisted him, was kind to him and helped him.

I have shared some of these thoughts, and a few more, with the students at Portobello High School over the past week.

I have put this story together with the idea of a leap of courage, a leap of imagination, a leap of faith. For if Tony had simply sat inside he would never have accomplished what he accomplished, he would never have touched as many lives as he touched. A story, I hoped, that would encourage them to give things a try, to take a chance, to explore.

The leap of faith: Abraham, Paul, Jesus. Into the unknown, into the world. A vulnerable leap into our utter dependence on God.

Scary?

Try something new or look at something known anew.

Pray. How many of us fear prayer because of the fear that there is nothing but silence out there? Yet without that silence there is no still, small voice.

Worship. Too staid? Too boring? Really? Or, are we simply assuming that we know where God is to be found? Do we assume that we know where beauty will reveal itself?

Volunteer. 'But I don't have the abilities.' 'But I don't have the time.' None of us are endowed with all the skills we need to do our tasks but where there is a will there is a way, where there is love there need be no fear.

Go on. Take a leap.

**Stewart**

## ***Gardening is good for you***

I am looking for a small team of helpers to do some occasional maintenance work in the Church gardens. Our Church Officer Derek currently does the grass cutting and I feel that this is enough for him to tackle alongside his many other duties. I have been overseeing the management of the gardens and grounds for the past 40 years or thereabouts and would like to think that there are others within the congregation who are able to lend a hand with occasional pruning, tidying, planting and weeding.

If you feel able to help with some gardening tasks please speak to me any Sunday at Church.

**G Anderson**





## *E-newsletter*

Yes. It's back.

After a 2 year hiatus it's now under the same old management.  
A Friday newsletter that provides a bit of an update on life round PJPC.

But, it is fresher, it is updated and there are (drum roll please.....)  
lots of pictures  
and  
MORE BAD JOKES! \*

What's there not to like????

If you would like to share in this grand, new adventure, please e-mail the editor  
(who almost wrote 'idioter'....)

at  
(please note new e-mail)

[sweaver@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:sweaver@churchofscotland.org.uk).

You'll be put on the list.....  
and live with regret the rest of your days!!!

\*( Something like this, Stewart?) - If Mary had Jesus and Jesus is the Lamb of God, then does that mean that Mary had a little lamb?

# ***Stewardship***



The last magazine noted that Stewardship is on its way.

And it is.

We are laying the foundation for a simple and straightforward Stewardship Campaign.

Over the next 2-3 months we will be reminding people of the excellent work that the church does locally.

Community.

We support many organisations: over 40.  
A few will be speaking at our services to describe what they do and how they affect people's lives.  
And they will offer a 'thank you' to all in the congregation who support them and the church.

They provide a wonderful context and contribute to that 'buzz' that permeates the church.

Worship

We provide worship services: they inspire, they comfort, they nourish.  
We have heard stirring and inspirational talks from our own members.  
(see previous issues)

Care

We care for each other: we have elders, befrienders and visitors.  
They share the news and share their kindness.

Service

We reach out to those most in need: the homeless, the poor, those most vulnerable in our world.

Gifts

What gifts can you offer?

What is your calling?

Time? Talents? Money?

We will lay the groundwork.

Then, in December, consider your gifts:  
to the church, to the community, to God.

*Your* charity.

*Your* church.

*Your* chance.



## ***PJPC Scottish Country Dance Club***

The new term for the Scottish Country Dance Club starts on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 7.30 pm in the main hall, and every second Monday until 12<sup>th</sup> December. We are a friendly club and would be delighted to welcome new members. We give instruction and walk the dances through.

Everyone is very helpful, so you can just come along and enjoy! See you all on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. For more information contact **L Veitch**.



## *Portobello and Joppa Parish Church Guild*

### ***Go in Joy!***

Over the summer months the Guild Committee have been working hard to produce an exciting programme for the new session. The syllabus has now been distributed and we hope you are all looking forward to a wide range of talks, activities, fundraising and social events.

Our theme this year is, 'Go in Joy!'. We hope to embrace this with our usual warm welcome, fellowship and untiring dedication to redress social injustices both at home and abroad. We are supporting two of the national Guild projects this year: Care for the Family and Feed the Minds. We look forward to hearing from representatives of both organisations and to do our bit in raising money for them. Care for the Family has already been given support by the Guild nationally in the form of £41,410.99, and Feed the Minds £56,114.37. What an amazing amount of money for such worthy causes!

Our fundraising events this year include a Pamper Evening in November and our ever popular Daffodil Coffee morning next spring. Look out for more details about how you can support these events!

Elize and I attended the Annual Gathering at the Caird Hall, Dundee at the beginning of September. As always it was an uplifting occasion with joyful singing and fellowship. We were entertained by the Moderator, who told us amusing anecdotes about his early ministry. Sally Magnusson then gave a very moving, personal and uplifting talk about her book, 'Where Memories Go' (her mother's journey with dementia), and information about her charity 'Playlist for Life'. We also heard from the various Church of Scotland Councils and Committees about the work they do and how they can support the work of the Guild. In addition, we were able to browse the Guild shop and admire the new merchandise, not least of which is the new Guild tartan which was launched over the summer.

To find out more about the Guild you can find us on Facebook and Twitter, the Guild website (where you can order from the Guild Shop), sign up for the E Newsletter and read about us in the Guild News magazine.

We look forward to welcoming old friends and new at our first meeting on Monday 26 September at 7.30pm in the main hall when we will celebrate our second birthday as Portobello and Joppa Parish Church Guild, and be entertained by the Clark Community Choir.

Go in Joy!  
God Bless

**C Gillies**  
**Guild Convener**

***Life on the margins – talks at Palmerston Place Church***

Come and hear a fresh perspective affecting our society today. Admission free.

**The Journey to inclusion is an inner one**

Tuesday 11 October 2016 at 7.30pm - [David Strang, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons](#)

**People in Prison: On the margins or at the centre?**

Tuesday 8 November 2016 at 7.30pm - [May Nicolson, The Preshal Trust](#)



## ***Sabbatical***

Ministers in the Church of Scotland are allowed approximately one week of sabbatical for every year of ministry. It provides the opportunity to step back from the hurly-burly of parish life to think about, pray over and reflect upon their work, their priorities and God's work in the community.

About 4 years ago I took 3 weeks to think about church unions. I visited a number of churches, spoke with many, many people and tried to distil what I had learned and heard into some important threads which hopefully informed our 3-way union: keep the lines of communication as open as possible; build relationships; get people involved. This sabbatical also led to the introduction of A Place for Hope, who were so helpful in the transition.

Much has happened in the past 4 years and it has been a busy, draining and invigorating time for many of us.

It also seems to be a good time to step away from things for a while and try to look at the big picture.

So, I will be on sabbatical from 1-20 October.

What, I hear you ask, could you possibly be doing? I wonder too!

There are two threads that I am planning to follow: David and Pluscarden.

Firstly, we are in the midst of thinking about David and following the story of David in the books of Samuel. I am taking a bit more time to delve into the story and perhaps tease out some themes or issues or ideas that may be relevant to us as a congregation and to me as a minister in this environment. I may even dust off some of the Hebrew of mine from days of yore! I will be accompanied in this journey by my previous PhD supervisor, who has just finished a significant two-

volume commentary on the books of Samuel. Many conversations whilst strolling through the Borders!

Also, I will be spending a long weekend in a monastery in Pluscarden. Several people have said to me that it is an excellent place to step away from all the activities of parish life and attune one's ear to the silence within which God works. There is a daily schedule of prayers and worship, and encouragement to pause, reflect and be. As we continue to ponder God's call to us as a relatively new congregation this time away may not provide startling insights but may perhaps clear away the clutter so that which is important can be found.

At the end of all of this, I will be writing up some thoughts and reflections. Watch this space!!!

**Stewart**

## ***Portobello St James' Parish Church***

After the congregation of St James' was united with the parishes of Portobello Old and St Philip's to become the Portobello & Joppa Parish Church on 1 August 2014, the building was closed for worship and put up for sale. An offer of £431,000 was accepted from Peter Turner and Victoria Louise Hampton on 5 August 2015, initially subject to Planning Permission being granted, with the actual sale being completed on 4 August 2016. The plan is for the halls to be demolished and three houses sensitive to the Georgian location to be built in the grounds. Four houses are planned for the interior of the church although this is likely to be delayed until completion of the houses in the grounds.

Tables, chairs, crosses and pictures were transferred to the new Church. Some of the furniture was donated to local churches and charities and other items have already been sold at Franklin Brown's Auction House with the remainder being stored at Bonham's Auction House for their sale on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. More on the history of St James' to follow in another edition of *Soundings*.

**E Lynch**



## ***New Session Clerk: Rosemary!***

It is with great joy, excitement and relief that I can let the congregation know that we now have a new Session Clerk.

Some of you may know Rosemary, who often sits in the western aisle of the church with her daughter Abby, through the coffee rota and some of the other activities round the church.

When she saw that we were looking for a Session Clerk, she paused for a while and then got in touch. In her working life for the University of Edinburgh she deals with lots of minute taking, organising documents and ensuring that communication is clear. This work takes her around the country.

We had a good chat and agreed that she would be perfect for the core tasks of a Session Clerk set out by church law: keeping minutes of Session meetings; issuing extracts as required; attending to correspondence; and assisting in arrangements that will be of help to the congregation.

Because it had taken some time to find a Session Clerk, several previous Session Clerks met up a few months ago to discuss the post. One of them, wondered if, in this day and age, we were looking for a Session Clerk as perceived through recent church life, or someone who stuck to the basics of the role and served almost more as a Clerk to Session. The group noted this idea and saw the value of it.

So, while Rosemary is the Session Clerk and will fulfil these duties, in many ways the function will be closer to a Clerk to Session. She will perform the core functions and take minutes at the Conveners meetings, while Ross continues to organise communion rotas and Anne and Hunter ensure that the roll is up to date.

We wish Rosemary well in her new role as she, and I, and the Session, and the Congregation move forward into the third year of our new life together!

**Stewart**

## ***News from the Boys' Brigade***

In July, 16 boys and 7 leaders from our Boys' Brigade Company Section set off for Denmark. After spending a few days with an FDF group seeing the sights of Aarhus and visiting a theme park - where a good time was had by all despite the rain - the boys travelled to Lake Julsø for a week long National Camp. (The FDF is a Danish youth organisation similar to Boys' Brigade but for both boys and girls.) The FDF national camp, called Landslejr, which had about 12,000 participants (yes, twelve thousand), takes place every 5 years and people attend from all over Denmark and from countries around the world including Scotland, the USA and South Africa. This is the sixth time a group from our Boys' Brigade has travelled for the camp.



The boys had a busy week building the camp and taking part in activities with their Danish hosts - including cooking and keeping the camp clean! They are very much looking forward to welcoming the Danes from Aarhus to Portobello and Joppa next summer.

Our new session began at the beginning of September and we still have spaces for new boys.

Anchor Boys, for boys in P2-P3, meet on Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30.

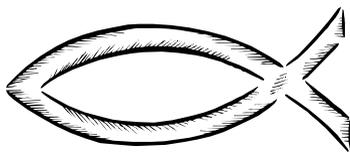
Junior Section, for boys in P4-P6, meet on Thursdays 6:30-8:00.

Company Section, for boys in P7-S6, meet on Fridays 7:30-10:00.

For more information see our Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/25Edinburgh](http://www.facebook.com/25Edinburgh)

### **A Ireland**

## ***My faith***



*Celia shared her faith journey with the congregation one recent Sunday morning. This is what she said.*

When I was asked (well, actually I volunteered on the premise that 1 volunteer is worth 10 pressed men - or women!) to talk about my faith, I thought, "Yes, I can do that. I know what my faith is."

However, over the last few weeks, I've been wondering what to say and what my approach will be; I've become less certain. There are so many aspects to my faith, not least uncertainty. But perhaps that's what faith is - a leap in the dark but always with the hope that the darkness will give way to light.

Anyway, I've collected my thoughts and offer them to you, and I hope that you'll understand where I'm coming from - and perhaps it might resonate with some of you.

I'd like to start with a saying of Julian of Norwich, the 14th century mystic and anchoress: "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." I find that very comforting.

I can't say that I've had a sudden revelation like St Paul on the road to Damascus (or even on the way to Portobello and Joppa!) or have been called at a particular time of my life, like the apostles. This might upset and dismay those who feel that faith has to come like a blinding light.

No, my faith has always been part of my life (although perhaps I wasn't particularly aware of it at first) - a fairly peaceful evolution, a gradual acceptance of what I believe faith is for me and, therefore, unconvincing to some.

Everyone has a different journey on the road through life and in faith; this is mine.

I've come to realise through this exercise that my belief and faith in God have come about through contacts with certain people and from certain events and places.

Obviously the point at which to start is with my parents; I have 2 sisters and worship was always part of our Sundays. I grew up in a normal Christian way, starting with Sunday School and Bible Class (although I must confess that, on the odd occasion, a friend and I would skip Bible Class and go to her house to play cards!) Then I progressed to the Youth Fellowship, known as Quest at Greenbank Parish Church - I never skipped Quest as I'd discovered boys! - then on to teaching in the Sunday School. I think my parents' involvement in church life, my father being an elder and Church Treasurer and my mother a Lady Visitor or magazine deliverer, encouraged me to join in the activities. Probably, more importantly, my parents' social conscience and belief in a better world to come laid the foundations for my convictions, spiritual and social. In their quiet way, they showed great faith which has inspired me and consoled me when they died.

My life continued on, mostly very peacefully; I always felt that it was important for me to worship regularly, Sunday being the focal point of my week. This continued throughout my time in Montreal, Canada, where I attended St Andrew's and St Paul's, known affectionately as "A and P." Here I always felt part of a loving community.

However, probably the first time that being a Christian and having a faith was extremely important to me was when I married in 1977. I was anxious to be married in Church but Sandy was divorced. This was at a time when divorce was widely regarded as unacceptable and remarriage not permitted in many churches. My minister, again at Greenbank, performed the marriage ceremony which meant so much to me. He said, "It's an act of love and blessing." I think that's the first time I experienced such an act of Christian charity and forgiveness which has, I believe, resulted in my tolerance and belief in a surrounding divine love.

Unfortunately, that marriage didn't last but I'm blessed with a loving son,

wonderful daughter-in-law and 2 grandchildren, marvellous in every way (of course I'd say that!). I feel so fortunate to have them in my life. They are such a loving presence and support - a true indication of the depth of God's love.

As a single parent and divorcée, through these difficult times, I received immense support from my family and from friends at New Restalrig Parish Church. It could be said that I might have gained equal help if I had been outside a church environment; maybe so, but the people who supported me were part of the Christian community, and I benefited so much from their love and friendship. If mere humans can help in such a way, where does this come from? I believe there's divine inspiration which I feel has greatly contributed to my faith in a loving God.

The next important stage on my faith journey is a sad one but ultimately so uplifting.

10 years ago, my much loved brother-in-law, David, was diagnosed with a brain tumour. The whole experience was harrowing for him, my sister, Joan, their family, extended family and friends. It was, however, also so positive: David and Joan shared their experiences and worries with everyone - with tears, much laughter and the deep sense of God's presence. I was with them often and spoke to them on the telephone constantly. I felt privileged to share in these final days and was inspired by their courage and faith. When the end came, it was with a sense of peace, acceptance and belief in a loving God and in reunion in the hereafter. I learned that from tragedy springs hope. I believe my faith has been strengthened and renewed by this experience.

Moving on now: when I'm on holiday, whether in this country or abroad, I make a point like so many of you will do, of visiting the local places of worship of whatever denomination, usually as a tourist. In almost every case, I find a wonderful peace and sense of the divine in these spaces.

Of the many such experiences, one that stands out is on a visit to New York. The friend I was with is Catholic and was keen to go to Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral

on the Sunday morning. It was quiet and serene, only worshippers permitted in the body of the church. Annie took Communion but I felt I couldn't do so.

However, I went forward for a blessing, and I truly felt blessed and spiritually touched, an amazing example of unity and encompassing love.

When I left New Restalrig, I joined St James's Parish Church; I know that this is such a cliché but I instantly felt at home, surrounded by warmth, welcome and understanding. If this isn't a product of God's love working through humans, I really don't know what is.

When the time came to leave St James, the moment the doors shut behind us will remain with me forever.

Here today in our new spiritual home of Portobello and Joppa Parish Church, we mark 2 years of the Union of our 3 churches, St James', the Old Parish and St Philip's. It's not been an easy road to union, many rocky outcrops to smooth over on the way with, no doubt, some potholes to navigate around in the years to come; but, for most, of us, it's been a positive experience.

Speaking personally, I've discovered another family, one which enfolds all, and have gained insight and friendship from so many. In spite of the fact that I found the size of the new congregation quite daunting at first, I feel at home here, and believe that I'm accepted for what I am and for what I have to give.

I have here a sense of purpose and utter conviction in what we're striving for, and that we are all children of God, ultimately to be reunited with those who have gone before us, and will be with Him. This feeling has greatly strengthened my faith. Although there must be darkness sometimes, I am certain that this will give way to the light which is God and Jesus.

I'd like to close with a story which will be familiar to many of you. It needs no explanation. It's called "Footprints in the Sand."

One night I had a dream. I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across

the sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene there were two sets of footprints in the sand. One belonged to me and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of my life flashed before us, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that at the very saddest points of my life, there was only one set of footprints. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow You, You would walk with me all the way. But I have noticed during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. Why, when I needed You most, did You leave me?" The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you saw only one set of footprints it was then that I carried you."

**Celia**



## ***JUNIOR DRAMA – NEW SEASON***

for children over 8

**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US?**

JUNIOR DRAMA is about to start a new season. We welcome children over 8 years old to come and take part in singing, dancing and drama activities, culminating in a production next May, following the huge success of *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies* earlier this year.

We meet on Thursday evenings and will be welcoming new members from October.

To join up or for more information, please contact Jamie (Sunday Stars).



## ***A call to prayer***

### **THE HIGH COST OF BITTERNESS!**

*“Forgive everyone who does you wrong.”*

*(Colossians Ch 3 v 13 CEV)*

The woman who wrote this letter, thought revenge would bring closure. She was wrong: “I found my husband with another woman. Although he begged me for forgiveness I wanted my pound of flesh, so I filed for divorce, even though our kids asked me not to. Two years later my husband was still trying to get me back, but I wanted none of it. He’d hurt me and I wanted revenge. Finally, he gave up, married a young widow with two children and rebuilt his life without me. They’re all so happy, and I’m just a lonely miserable woman who let bitterness ruin her life.”

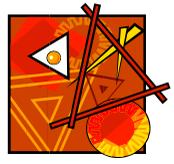
Now, there’s no question, infidelity is wrong. But without forgiveness, bitterness is all that’s left! There comes a point at which anger is no longer just an emotion – it’s a driving force. Like cocaine, you need larger and more frequent doses. Once that happens, you move even further from forgiveness, because without your anger you’ve no source of energy at all. It’s what drives hate groups like the KKK and the Skinheads. Without the racist revenge from the zealots, chauvinism from the sexist, what’s left?

God says, “Forgive anyone who does you wrong ...as Christ has forgiven you”, because bitterness is fatal. It kills your soul. So how do we stop ourselves from becoming bitter when we’ve been hurt? *By looking into the face of the one who hurt us, and instead, seeing the face of the One who showed us mercy when nobody else would’ve given us another chance!*

**H McNulty,**

*Prayer Promoter*

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## **Presbytery Local Church Review**

During the past couple of months, PJPC underwent the Presbytery Local Church Review. This involved a three-sided process during which the story of our congregation, the insights of Presbytery and the needs of our local community were all taken into account. The aim of the review was for us as a congregation, as well as for Presbytery, to reflect on – and affirm – our congregation’s story, all that we have achieved as well as what challenges and opportunities are on our horizon; and most importantly, to discern our call and vision for the future. The process involved a thorough and systematic review and report of our congregation’s facts and figures; our history as a congregation; and a reflection on the life of our congregation in terms of worship, resources and buildings. Having taken all of this into account, we were challenged to come up with an action plan wherein we described how we would improve and strengthen our congregation in terms of worship, evangelism, service, discipleship, stewardship, and communication.

The Presbytery Local Church Review Committee met with the Kirk Session on 21 June, where the report and action plan was discussed. Although the Committee made some challenging remarks and observations, they issued a report back to Session on 29 June which was truly encouraging and affirming. Below is the final paragraph of that report:

*The congregation of Portobello Joppa has achieved so much in the last few years. They were set a hugely difficult task of uniting three congregations into one and they have managed that, though not without an immense amount of hard work, good will and patience. The Kirk Session is now beginning the process of looking to the future and setting its mind to getting on with things, some familiar and some new. They are to be congratulated on the road they have travelled over these last few years and to be encouraged on the road that they have still to travel in the days that are to come. Their story is one that should be heard across the Presbytery as a good news story; they are a work in progress, but that progress has been good.*

**Lourens**

## ***Old Parish Church***

**22/09/2016**

Dear All,

This is another update from the legal department of the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland. It appears to be a lot more complex than previously thought. See below for explanation:-

At this stage the Community Group – Action Party – have applied to the Scottish Ministers to Register a Community Interest in Land. The Scottish Ministers have accepted the application and now have 63 days in which to decide whether to Register the Interest of the group in the Register of Community Interests in Land. The General Trustees have 21 days to express their views to the Scottish Ministers.

If the Scottish Ministers approve the application, a prohibition is placed on the land. If the decision is then taken to sell the land, the General Trustees must notify the community group and the Scottish Ministers. Scottish Ministers then have 7 days to notify the community group and ask for them to confirm that they wish to exercise the right to buy the land. The community group then has 30 days to decide whether it wishes to exercise its right to buy.

If the community group provide timeous notification that they wish to exercise the right to buy, the Scottish Ministers then have 7 days in which to appoint an independent valuer. The Trustees and the community group are invited to give their views to the valuer. The valuer has 8 weeks to notify the interested parties of the assessed value. The Trustees and the community group can appeal the assessed value to the Lands Tribunal but they must raise the appeal within 21 days of being notified of the assessed value.

A balloter is appointed by the Scottish Ministers to ballot the community on the right to buy. If the ballot fails to secure a majority or the community withdraws, then the registration is extinguished. The ballot must be carried out within 12 weeks of the balloter being appointed by the Scottish Ministers.

The community group have to provide a business plan/feasibility study and confirm its intention to buy. The Scottish Ministers then consider the application and notify the interested parties of the decision within 21 days of receiving the ballot result. The community group has 8 months - from the date it confirms its intention to proceed with the right to buy - to conclude missives for the purchase of the land, otherwise the right to buy falls.

This is a fairly complex process and the timescales are dictated by statute. The matter is being put before the General Trustees on Tuesday but really it will be up to the Scottish Ministers to decide within 63 days of 12/09/2016 as to whether the group's interest in the land should be registered. At that stage we will then have to wait for the independent valuation and assess whether this is acceptable or whether an appeal should be lodged with the Lands Tribunal.

If you have any questions you can contact Lilian or myself and we will try to answer all of your queries.

**R Alexander**

## ***News from CrossReach***

In 2016, CrossReach's Daisy Chain Project in Glasgow was successful in receiving part-funding from the Scottish Government Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Fund. Daisy Chain began as a pilot to bridge the gap between communities in Govanhill and also to offer support to families with young children living there. One of the mothers shared that she could only describe Daisy Chain as a 'blessing' which had changed her life and that of her children in a way which she had not imagined possible.

Visiting the project, the Minister for Childcare and Early Years, Mark McDonald MSP, commented positively on the way in which Daisy Chain helps families of different faiths and cultures to come together through play and make good relationships within their communities.



## Brain-teaser

If you visit Perthshire, you may see some **FRUIT FARMS**. Because it's harvest time, I've used the letters of those words as the basis of a short quiz. How many answers can you get?

1. A bundle of straw \_\_\_\_\_ **F**
2. She married Boaz **R** \_\_\_\_
3. Ayers Rock **U** \_\_\_\_\_
4. If you don't die you have...? **I** \_\_\_\_\_
5. A woody perennial plant **T** \_\_\_\_
6. Our...? **F** \_\_\_\_\_
7. The first man **A** \_\_\_\_
8. The last book of the New Testament **R** \_\_\_\_\_
9. Jewish guerrilla leader called Judas...? **M** \_\_\_\_\_

(You can find the answer to this last one in Ian's interview on page 25.)

### Alison

*Answers: sheaf, Ruth, Uluru, immortality, tree, Father, Adam, Revelation, Maccabeus*



## **Getting to know you...**

This month we're getting to know **Ian**, one of our elders, who's been very busy in PJPC since he retired. As well as working with the Property Team (very much improving the hall toilets among other things) he's also been working with other volunteers on the Day and Night Care Vans as well as the Night Shelter. He says that it's "all very rewarding". He was brought up in the Methodist Church in Tranent where he was a member for forty years and where he held a number of different posts.

### **Q. What is a favourite hymn, and why?**

*A. Thine be the Glory from "Judas Maccabeus". This is hymn of triumph, showing that the love of God cannot be destroyed. Handel's music confirms his status as one of the greatest ever composers and my own personal favourite.*

### **Q. What is an early church memory?**

*A. Running away from the Sunday School crying, just after my mother had deposited me there.*

### **Q. What's your earliest childhood memory?**

*A. Falling off a chute whilst on holiday in Crail.*

### **Q. In an alternative life, what job would you have chosen?**

*A. Political journalist.*

### **Q. What are you reading at the moment?**

*A. "Francesco's Italy" by Francesco da Mosto.*

### **Q. What would be your ideal holiday?**

*A. Touring New Zealand in a camper van.*

### **Q. What is your most prized possession?**

*A, My collection of family photographs and cine film on DVD.*

**Q. Tell us something that not many people know about you.**

*A. I did a wee bit of preaching whilst in the Methodist Church.*

**Q. What do you do to relax?**

*A. I have a bit of shut eye.*

**Q. What is a favourite quotation?**

*A. It's better to sit quietly by the side and be thought a fool than to open one's mouth and remove any possible doubt.*

*(I can't say I have always adhered to these words of wisdom.)*

**Q. What kind of music do you listen to?**

*A. Opera/classical and baroque.*

**Q. What do you miss about being a child?**

*A. Long school summer holidays playing outside from morning to night. What I call unbridled freedom.*

**Q. How would you like to be remembered?**

*a. As someone who always spoke up for what he believed in.*

**Q. What gets you up in the morning?**

*A. The sheer joy of living.*



*Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God – Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (a visionary French Jesuit)*

*One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar – Helen Keller*

## ***MAGAZINE/DIARY DEADLINES***

November	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2016
December/January	Sunday 20th November 2016
February	Sunday 22nd January 2017

***Scottish Charity Number : SCO11728***

[www.portyjoppachurch.org](http://www.portyjoppachurch.org)

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