

UDDINGSTON OLD PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

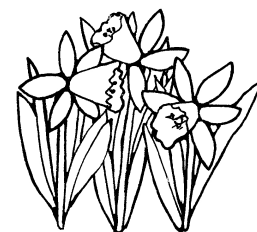
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MAGAZINE

March 2023



Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends

The season of Lent is upon us and so the journey with Jesus towards the cross of sacrifice and salvation begins. Lent, forty days spent in the wilderness where Jesus was tempted by Satan to betray all that he believed in. It was a time of prayer, fasting, torment, isolation, hunger, it was a journey of preparation and transformation. A journey that would eventually lead him to the cross and then to glory.

Lent is the season that should challenge our faith. We should face this season with honesty and humility, opening our eyes to all that is around us, not only the beauty in people, in creation but also to what is wrong in our society, our churches and respond to those issues that we are aware of. It is an opportunity to enable all of us to be the voice for the voiceless, to challenge authorities, the oppressors, those who hinder the sharing of God's word to all who will listen.

In our society at this moment, we can see the multitudes of situations that we have to react to which distracts us even more.

- The continuing war in Ukraine to which there seems to be no end in sight.
- The implementation of the Mission Planning of the Church of Scotland which is changing the face of faith communities in face of the rise in secularism.
- The cost-of-living crisis
- Fuel poverty where households are choosing whether to heat or eat.
- The underlying issues of strike actions where people who have no voice are speaking out, no matter the disruption caused or the inconvenience that many of us will face.

Our world is broken

Our communities are struggling

Families are hurting

It's understandable that we may feel our faith being challenged, our doubts and fears clouding our very being, our patience being tested. When faced with these doubts I remind myself that when the burdens of life weigh heavily upon us that we need to have the courage to step back and **reset recharge** and **refocus** our lives.

We are reminded of this as Isaiah writes in chapter 58

*Is not this the fast that I choose; to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,*

to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

And bring the homeless poor into your house;

When you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

As people of faith, we are called to be challenged through our own Lent journey. If we want to be like Jesus during Lent, or better yet throughout the year and during our entire lives, let us do whatever we can to change systems that rob the oppressed and give excess bounty to the rich, within our own nation and throughout the world.

Blessings
Rev Fiona

Reverend Fiona McKibbin

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Next Issue

Articles for the April
Magazine to the editor by

Thursday 23rd March

2023

Available

Sunday 2nd April 2023

We are always happy to
receive articles for
inclusion in your
magazine.

Submissions can be sent
direct to the editors or

by e-mail

magazine@uddingston.org

or on paper

Church Roll Intimations

Deaths

At this sad time our prayers and condolences are with the families of

Mr Brian Leighton

Date of Death: 21st February 2023

and

Mrs Margaret Crone

Date of Death: 22nd February 2023

Parish Funeral

At this sad time our prayers and condolences are with the family of

Dr David Mathie

Date of Death: 16th February 2023

The Transport Scheme

We continue to offer transport to church, for hospital appointments, to the Monday Club and Community Cafe this has been well used this year and we are very grateful to all those who help. We are looking to expand the list of drivers. If you can help please contact David Fox or Walker Lyttle.

Visitors

Now that Covid restrictions are more relaxed we are able to continue with visits to members in hospital, care homes and their own home. If you feel you could assist with visiting please contact Mary Fox, we are

Stay connected with the
Uddingston Old Parish Church
and

Rev Fiona McKibbin

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Church Website: www.uddingstonold.org

Facebook: uddingston old parish church

Door Duty Roster

Morning Service at 11am
Front Door teams for the next month:

March

12th	Team 7	Ken Storrier
19th	Team 8	Mary Fox
26th	Team 1	Mgt Abercrombie

April

2nd	Team 2	Colin Pettigrew
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If you are in one of the above teams, please bear in mind that you should try to arrange for a substitute if you can't make it.

The Guild

The Guild met on Tuesday 7th February when we enjoyed 'An Afternoon at the Movies' with a screening of 'Meet Me In St Louis' and enjoyed a choc ice and sweets.

On 21st February we had a visit from Graham McGeoch visiting from Brazil to tell us about the ongoing Guild Project "Unida" there, enabling women from disadvantaged backgrounds to access University and gain qualifications.

March 7th	Fundraiser with Taylor Fashions at 7.30pm in the hall Entry Tea Ticket £2.50
March 21st	Business Meeting

A Journey  Through Lent

SPRING



Monday Club

The Monday Club is going strong and here is the programme arranged for 2023. All are welcome.
(Please note some activities may change)

March

6th Games



13th Irish Singalong

20th Easter Crafts

27th Games



April

3rd Easter Songs of Praise



10th Holiday

17th Price is Right

24th Singalong



May

1st Sports Day

8th Celebration of King's Coronation



15th Christeen MacMurdie

22nd What is This?



29th Scottish Bus Trip Singalong

Inspirational Quotes For Lent

"Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up the cross each day, and follow in my steps." (Luke 9:23)

"Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring." (Catherine of Sienna)

"Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may go to heaven." (St Rose of Lima)

"Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves... What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment's hesitation." (Catherine Doherty)

"Seek a relationship when you pray, not answers. You won't always find answers, but you will always find Jesus." (Father Mike Schmitz)

"It is not just about giving up our favourite food but it's about going further and giving up things like hatred and unforgiveness. You need to clean your heart and prepare yourself for purity."
(Amanda Jobs)

Church Garden Blog March 2023

I took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch for the first time last month. I started at 10 am and the hour passed really quickly. I saw 9 different species of birds and really enjoyed looking at them properly for once. On putting my results into the survey I forgot to add the two magpies I saw patrolling the perimeter of the cage I have on the grass, like policemen I always think. I wasn't sure whether the pigeons were wood or feral, I know a collard dove but he didn't show up. No squirrels either, I saw 3 running across the grass in a line the other day, the speed they go at is amazing. I hope I will be more accurate next year.

As a result of taking part in the survey I have received around 6 e-mails already all about nature and things to do in nature from RSPB. The first one was '**Have you seen the six signs of Spring?**'. The first sign of Spring for me is always the snowdrops. There is a little clump at the bottom of the big tree at the church gate. They look so natural beside the trunk, we planted some in the green a few years ago in the grounds but don't remember planting any there or recall seeing them before. Maybe missed them during lockdown.

Anyway according to the RSPB e-mail the **Signs of Spring** are:-

1. Bustling Blue Tits
2. Frolicking Frogs
3. Mistle Thrush
4. Great spotted woodpecker
5. Showpiece Nests
6. Buzzing Bees

I would recommend registering on the RSPB website for these free e-mails.

During Lent we can enjoy all that nature has to offer on the journey whilst looking forward to a time of renewal in the Easter Message.

Heaven 'n' Hell

Both are with us from our birth.
 The day we take our first breath.
 Heaven is what we make it.
 Hell is when we forsake it.
 We build them from the start.
 Both dwell within our heart.
 Both grow within our nature.
 Help form our very stature.
 Heaven is good deeds and actions.
 Hell, just allows bad factions.
 We are what we make ourselves.
 Hell puts good deeds on high shelves.

In life we are given the choice.
 To have a negative or positive voice.
 Guidance is there if we have faith.
 No half measures on this path.
 Dark places exist if we have no light.
 We need to keep that light in our sight.
 The light helps us to keep right.
 Keeping that faith is often a fight.

Where will we be when our time is up?
 When we drink from life's last cup.
 Will we go down, or will we go up?
 When we are given life's last sup.

Is death the last journey we take?
 So, can we just sit beside the lake.
 The lake that gathered all our fate.
 Water that cleansed or gathered hate.
 Was this life on earth, so shallow?
 Is there another path we can follow?

Are the experiences we had so hollow?
 Was the path we followed so narrow?
 Where is the place we want to be?
 Will the people we lost be there to see?
 Will our soul once there, be set free?
 Or will we have to pay our final fee?

Decision time is not at death.
 Decide before the final breath.
 Decide before we go to earth.
 Forgiveness, can be your final gift.

B B J - February 2021

MARCH

It's March, the third month of the year and the gateway to Spring! The name comes from the Roman God, Mars, and the Anglo-Saxons called it "Hlyd Monath", or stormy month. This old rhyme describes it well:

*March brings breezes loud and shrill
 To wake the sleeping daffodil.*

March is a special month in the Christian Church. 1st March is the feast day of St David, patron saint of Wales and founder of many Welsh churches. 12th March is St Gregory's Day when we remember the Pope who sponsored St Augustine in his mission to convert England; 17th March is St Patrick's Day in honour of the missionary who established Christianity in Ireland..

In addition, the hours of daylight are lengthening noticeably and at the end of the month we will alter our clocks and see the start of "Summer time". What a lot there is to look forward to this month!

A letter from Rev Fiona Smith: Principal Clerk

This week, as the Scottish National Party prepares to elect a new leader, who will become the next First Minister of Scotland, the role that an individual's personal faith may play in shaping their views and voting patterns as an elected member and in influencing public policy has come to the fore. This follows statements made by one of the candidates, Kate Forbes MSP, who is a member of the Free Church of Scotland. Her views and their implications for the electorate have played out extensively in public.

"The prospect of Kate Forbes taking on the role of First Minister has engendered much debate about her beliefs as a member of the Free Church of Scotland and the impact of those beliefs on any political decisions she may take. In response, the Church of Scotland has released the following statement

"As fellow Christians, we support Ms Forbes' right to hold her beliefs, as we would for anyone else. We deplore comments which suggest that holding views because of religion, faith or belief would impair her suitability as a candidate for First Minister. Freedom of religion and belief is a human right and a protected characteristic under the Equality Act. Scotland is a diverse, pluralist society that includes people of many faiths and beliefs, and it is right that we seek to treat one another with fairness and respect, especially when we hold a different opinion.

"In a democratic society it is important for our political leaders to uphold the decisions of the Scottish Parliament, even when they do not personally agree with them. There is a longstanding tradition of politicians being able to exercise their own conscience on moral issues, where they are given 'free votes' rather than have to follow a party line.

"We urge those involved in choosing a potential leader to examine what positive qualities they can contribute, such as a commitment to public service, a willingness to work for the benefit of the country as a whole, and those personal qualities of honesty and integrity which we all expect from those in high office.

"We also appeal to people to consider their own words and actions as they engage in the debate about Scotland's next First Minister. The political arena is all too often an environment that can see highly damaging personal attacks made on those in public office. Our politicians are human beings first and foremost who volunteer to serve the public and in doing so accept the scrutiny that comes with that role but all too often this sadly falls into a level of abuse that should never be acceptable."

Rev Fiona Smith, Principal Clerk of the General Assembly

121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN

"A young couple moved into a new house.

The next morning while they were eating breakfast, the young woman saw her neighbour hanging the washing outside.

"That laundry is not very clean; she doesn't know how to wash correctly.
Perhaps she needs better soap powder.

Her husband looked on, remaining silent.

Every time her neighbour hung her washing out to dry, the young woman made the same comments.

A month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband, "Look, she's finally learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this?"


The husband replied, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."

And so it is with life...

What we see when watching others depends on the clarity of the window through which we look.

So don't be too quick to judge others, especially if your perspective of life is clouded by anger, jealousy, negativity or unfulfilled desires.

Judging a person does not define who they are. It defines who you are."

 - Paolo Coelho, "Dirty Laundry" -