



PULSE

Volume 62 Number 2

Autumn 2022

McQuiston

Jesus Centred - People Focused

EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

I have been appointed as the Convenor of the Vacancy Commission for McQuiston following the retirement of Rev Robert Beggs on 31 July.

It has been good to meet some of you already and I look forward to meeting more over the coming months.

I am the minister of Christ Church Presbyterian on the edge of Ballybeen estate in Dundonald, where I have been for 13 years. I have also been married to Julie for 13 years and we have two boys, Isaac (10) and Reuben (8).

Vacancy can be an uncertain time for a church, but from the outset we have been remembering the words of Jesus, *'I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it'* Matthew 16 vs 18.

Jesus' work of building His church continues. While the role of minister is vacant, there are many opportunities for members of the congregation to be involved in the life and witness of the church.

We are currently working through the paperwork which must be completed for the vacancy.

At these early stages much of the work goes on behind the scenes, but I hope to keep you up to date each time that I come to preach.

I encourage you to pray throughout the vacancy, both in your own devotions and at church prayer meetings. Some initial prayer points to consider include:

- Give thanks to God for the ministry of Rev Robert Beggs.
- Pray for the people coming to take the services each week.
- Pray for members of the congregation who have taken on additional responsibility as a result of the vacancy.
- Pray that you and others would be open to all that God wants to do in and through the congregation during the time of vacancy.
- Pray for the process to lead to the person of God's choosing.

If any pastoral situations arise or if you would like to speak to a minister, please get in touch with me at any time using my contact details on the back page.

Yours in Christ,

Richard McIlhatton



SPECIAL SERVICES



4 September @ 11am

Messy Church

2 October @ 11am

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

9 October @ 11am & 7pm

Harvest Services

13 November @ 10.55am

Service of Remembrance

27 November @ 11am

BB Enrolment Service

This is the *Day*
that the Lord has made,
let us *Rejoice*
and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24



ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

M & M kids

Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

Matthew 19 vs 14



We are excited for the new term of M & M kids, a place where faith and fun meet. Children aren't just the church of tomorrow, they are the church of today, and we are having great fun learning about God's amazing rescue plan for each one of us and growing with Jesus every day.



Each Sunday we dive into God's teaching in a fun, creative and safe environment, encouraging our small humans to investigate God's word for themselves and how it applies to their lives.

Thank you for all your encouragement as a church family both to us as leaders, but also the kids, and taking time each week to have conversations with them, that is so important. We look forward to all God has in store for us this year.

Please continue to pray for our youth in McQuiston, prayer makes such a difference and we really appreciate knowing that you are involved with this ministry.



Many thanks,

Heather, Shannon and Kerry

Transformers



We start back Thursday, 8 September between 6.30pm - 7.30pm. All children in P1 to P7 are very welcome. We will have a varied programme including Bible stories, craft, games and maybe a few surprises along the way.

If you know any children that want to attend just bring them along or ring me on 07599704176.

Heather Sergeant

Senior Members Fellowship

A date for your diaries Tuesday, 13 September at 2.15pm. We welcome our members and new members also to come and enjoy a chat with friends, tea, coffee and treats with a variety of topics each month at our meetings.



We pray you have been renewed over the summer months and are ready to commence and be part of our fellowship.

We wait in hope for the Lord. He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His Holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in You. Psalm 33 vs 20 – 22

Earlier this year we celebrated Leta Halliday's long service of 33 years with a special tea and gift.



We also thanked the Rev. Robert Beggs for his fellowship and guidance over many years as we enjoyed his ministry. We marked his retirement with a small gift and flowers for his wife Karen. May God richly bless them in the days ahead and continue to use them to build His kingdom as they seek His will.

We remember our Seniors who are currently ill and cannot meet with us, those who have been bereaved and pray for them that God's peace will be with their families.



Eileen and Hilary



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Messy Church

Back to school, back to Messy Church, Sunday 4 September, 11am - 12.45pm. Our theme is Back to School with God. There will be singing, quizzes, story, games, crafts and a lot more including a BBQ lunch. Children must bring an adult.



All members of the church family are welcome to come and join us. There will be activities for all to be involved.



If you would like to help in anyway please speak to Kerry Sutton or Paula McKeown.

Storehouse

The Storehouse continues to help those families who find themselves in need of food and supplies during this time of rising prices. Your contributions in the past have been very much appreciated and we thank you for that.



FEED THE HUNGRY

The food is distributed by John McCandless our Community Worker, who ensures that the food goes to those in need.

If you would like to help in this outreach you can leave food in the church on a Sunday, Monday, Wednesday or Friday whilst the church is open.

Alan Bousfield

Bible Reading Notes

If you wish to order 2023 Bible Reading Notes please contact Linda Wray on 07933 278626.



Coffee with Jesus

In November 2021 several women from the congregation met together for a new Bible study called “Coffee with Jesus”. It is what it claims to be, a time of studying God’s word, prayer, tea, coffee and cake.



We have read and discussed two books, Sophie de Witt’s challenging, “Compared to her” and Brian Heasley’s thought provoking, “Be Still” (both strongly recommended by the group).



We meet at 9.30am - 10.30am in the Youth Room (two Thursdays a month) where we have a coffee and catch up and discuss the chapters which we have a read in advance. There have been many questions asked and lots of opinions given in the short space of time we have met.

Each time we end with prayer; praying for one another, the church, the world and anything or anyone that the Lord may put on our heart.

This group has really been an encouragement to the women involved, and their commitment to it has proven how important they think it is as part of their faith journey.

If you would be interested in coming along to this in September or would like some further information about the books we study, please speak to me.



Paula McKeown



Christmas Outreach

If you would like to be involved with our Annual Christmas Outreach initiative to shops, businesses and homes in the local area, please speak to John McCandless or myself.

Help is needed both with the provision of shortbread and its distribution along with Church flyers in mid- December. Many thanks

Linda Wray

GOD IS FAITHFUL

One late evening I had been sitting at the kitchen table working on a task, TV on as background company, when suddenly everything went into complete blackness. No lights, TV or pilot lights on electrical goods. That certainly brings one up with a start!



Initially I felt somewhat disorientated and unsure what to do. It took time in the darkness to carefully move to the nearest light switch and to discover that the circuits controlling the power in the kitchen, hallway and staircase had gone; and then to locate the electric box to work out the circuits that needed attention.

This is only a small example of the many, and much more serious, things that happen daily to folk around the world. It could be a bad fall, a serious accident on the roads, in the water or on a flight; a sudden leak of water in the home; a fire that has taken control; the loss of a loved one.



Our safe familiar world can be suddenly shaken, and we can feel fear, anxiety, panic or loss of control, especially if on one's own. How do we react?

Being a Christian does not prevent us from having such human reactions. However, if we have developed a close relationship with the Lord, this is when our minds should steady and help us to lean on God's presence.

The Scripture promises, e.g. *'He will never leave you nor forsake you'* and *'the eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.'*

The emergency, the disaster or the loss still must be worked through but, from experience, I can give thanks that on many such occasions Jesus has proved to be my help, my strength, my comforter, my guide.



In McQuiston we are in a time of transition since Robert's retirement as Minister, pastor, support, guide, teacher and friend at various circumstances and times in our lives. There are a mixture of emotions and reactions throughout the congregation.

For many there has been a sense of loss, feelings of insecurity, concern regarding the future, especially so soon after the disruptions caused by COVID.



This is when individually our faith walk with the Saviour, and the support for one another within the fellowship of God's people, the Church, are so important.



They provide foundations on which we continue to grow spiritually and to move forward as a Church in witness to the power and love of Jesus. We need to pray and to seek, within established procedures, a new Minister and pastor for McQuiston.

In all of this we must keep God central that, *'His will may be done on earth (in McQuiston) as it is in Heaven'*.

May we constructively use this 'waiting time' to grow closer to the Lord of the Church, seeking what He wants us to do individually as part of McQuiston.



God has a place and role for every member at this time. It is a wonderful opportunity to find and fill that place, experiencing in our own individual life enrichment and contributing in various ways to the life of the Church.

Anna Johnston

GOD WAS THERE

When I felt I was all alone, He was there.

When I was in the middle of trials, He was there.

When I was unlovable, He was there.

When I was sick and hopeless, He was there.

When I was in so much pain, He was there.

God found me. He always does.

No matter where I am, whatever it is I'm going through, His love will always find me.

Joena Sandiego



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Who doesn't love a bag of Dolly Mixtures? It is said that the name was captured from one of Bassett's best sales person's daughter, her pet name Dolly.

My work since the lifting of the COVID lockdown has been a lovely Dolly Mixture of outreach to the young and not so young. I thank you for being part of that mixture in your help and support.



You have contributed immensely to the Ukraine *"Call for Help"*. Many toiletries and food were brought to the church for me to go to the outlet with. The outlets were astounded at the response and they went within days to Ukraine.

We still pray that God will change the hearts of those who are bringing fear and death on the streets in Ukraine.



The Internet Café has been running two days a week now and Sheila McAllister and I have enjoyed meeting the local people and those from other communities as they drop in.

Sam McNerlan and Ken Galbraith have been a blessing in this outreach too and there has been some encouragement in the Café and God will use us as we ask Him.



Easter and the summer term brought us fun in our outreach to our two local Schools - Elmgrove and Euston Street Primaries. We have a lovely team who work alongside the P7 classes and their teachers.



We have painted rocks and potted plants and each time we go, it gets better. We can't wait till our next get together which is Back to School programme. Thanks to all who have made this possible.

As Linda Wray and I meet to discuss this outreach we pray that God will give us a vision of the need in the area.



The Easter and Christmas door to door outreaches have been so encouraging with many working behind the scenes to bag up our giveaways.

The Jubilee celebrations provided us with the opportunity to meet with many people from the local area as they joined us in our hall for an afternoon tea.



What a lovely band of workers came together to show God's love in the community. We sang, had a quiz, watched a film show and finished with a message from Robert.

Can we continue to pray for a vision in this part of God's vineyard - that we see fruit as we work together for His glory. Mother Theresa once said, *"God doesn't require us to be successful.. He wants us to be faithful"*

Thankfully He uses a big bag of Dolly Mixtures like you and me to serve Him.

John McCandless

Community Outreach



Many hands make light work!

HARVEST GIFT ENVELOPES

It is hard to believe that summer is quickly drawing to a close and autumn is almost upon us. With autumn comes the Harvest and at this time of year we remember God's promise to us, *"While the Earth remains, seedtime and Harvest will not cease"*.

Let us take time to count the many blessings we have had during the year, the many things we enjoy and are eternally grateful for, and remember how these things are our "Harvest" for which we truly need to say, "Thanks Father, for your bountiful Harvest".

With this edition of Pulse you will receive a Harvest Gift Envelope which should be returned on Sunday, 9 October. This year we will split funds raised between the church and supporting local charities.



Take a few moments to consider what God has done for you in 2022.

Can we say our Harvest "Thanks" in a tangible way remembering that God's Son gave His "ALL" for you?

A WORD OF THANKS

It's really hard to believe that in October 2000 I was elected Clerk of Session following the retirement of Derek Smyth.

No sooner was I elected at the Kirk Session meeting than the Rev. W J R Robinson indicated that he was also retiring. I was left facing a vacancy and no minister for almost a year.

The following 22 years as Clerk was most interesting, completely different but most importantly challenging. There were many, many great times albeit with one or two disappointments along the way.

As a congregation everyone was most helpful, charitable and fully supportive to everything I undertook.

At the last Sacrament of Communion in June the Rev. R J Beggs presented me with a Bible which I will use daily and then at a morning service in late June I was presented with a small gift from the congregation – two tickets for a show at the Opera House.

May I simply say a great big thank you for everything you have done over these past years.

I appreciate that the next number of months will be difficult as we attempt to call a new minister. With God's great patience and understanding He will be with us.

May I also wish the Kirk Session continued commitment in trying to find a successor – he or she will be facing a great challenge but with everyone's support and encouragement they will get through it.

Many thanks again,

John Shivers



TO ALL OUR FRIENDS IN MCQUISTON

At the closing service of my ministry among you I was so overcome by the occasion that I forgot (yet another senior moment) to express my thanks to the congregation as a whole so I'm grateful to John for providing me with the opportunity to set the matter right in this edition of the Pulse Magazine.



First of all, thank you for your generosity as a church family in the retirement gift given to us on behalf of the congregation. Our sincere thanks as well to the many individuals who gave us personal gifts or sent cards and good wishes, we have valued every one.

In a wider sense thank you to all who supported and encouraged us as a family, those who prayed faithfully for us and for me as your minister over the years.

Please do not forget us in retirement. That's what it is officially, but in reality it's a change of pace and direction, and we trust that the Lord will open new opportunities to serve Him in the time to come. Whatever comes in that respect we will continue to find the changes difficult especially the separation from you our church family.

We in turn will pray for you and the elders particularly in the coming year as this will usher in many changes for the church.

Finally (just one "finally" on this occasion) as you begin your search for a new minister always bear in mind the things that we held central in the last two decades; ministry of the word, prayer and fellowship.

As they were in the past so they will be in the future and may the Holy Spirit guide you in each stage of the process to the one of His choosing as you go forward under Richard's care.

Yours in love, with grace and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ

Robert and Karen

Hi folks, the weather has improved at last and as I write this it is a beautiful sunny day and of course this always lifts our spirits. When out walking we see the beauty of God's creation all around us.



There are still restrictions in place in care homes, although I have been able recently to get into three. It was great to see our folk again after two years of no visiting, only enquiring how our people were doing from a nurse or carer. We left our card but it wasn't the same.

Whilst restrictions have eased we still need to be cautious as the virus has not gone away. We are thankful for the vaccine and how it provides a degree of protection for us all.



The good news is Eileen and myself are now able to visit inside homes instead of on your doorstep.

Eileen and I are having a holiday but by the time you read this we will be back. It will be great to see you all for a chat and a wee bit of craic, so until then may our God keep you all in His loving care.



God bless you all.

Hilary and Eileen

Abstracts from "My Garden, My Little Piece of Heaven"



...academic studies suggest horticulture therapy may lower blood pressure, slow bone loss. Improve circulation and reduce stress.

Connie Goldman and Richard Mahler

I get energy from the earth itself, and I get optimism from the earth itself. I feel that as long as the earth can make a spring every year, I can. As long as the earth flower and produce nurturing fruit, I can, because I'm the earth. I won't give up until the earth gives up.

Alice Walker

AT REST

***"I am the Resurrection
and the Life"***

5 May

Mr Andrew Watt
224 Orby Drive

15 June

Mrs Evelyn Clarke
5 Ilford Drive, Crossnacreevy

16 July

Mrs Margaret Bartholomew
Haypark Nursing Home

23 July

Mr William Wootton
69 Sandhill Park

VESTIBULE OFFICIALS

***"Be not forgetful
to entertain strangers"***

September

Norman Maynes
Convenor: Alan Bousfield

October

Irene Smyth & Craig Wootton
Convenor: Tommy Kane

November

Lynn Gardner & Lawrence Gardner
Convenor: Ken Galbraith

December

Ann Anderson, Rene Montgomery
& Christine Kelly
Convenor: Tim Graham



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