

# 'IN TOUCH'



**DALMENY KIRK**  
SCOTLAND'S FINEST NORMAN CHURCH

I wrote this from the study, in January, just a few days away from the major decision-making event in the Houses of Parliament concerning the future of our relationship with the European Union. As you sit down to read, this situation may be clearer or indeed may continue to be travelling down a road of increasing uncertainty. After the voting on 15 January, three things became vital for the future of the peace and prosperity of our nation. These three things we spent time praying for at our recent Brexit Prayer Event and we realised that, both in the lead up to the decision itself, and in the seasons beyond it, these three things have been sorely missing from the journey thus far. What are some of the key aspects of what we might focus in on during and beyond the journey towards a maybe aye or maybe no Brexit?

We each will have our own views and thoughts on the Brexit issue. We each will have either voted yes or no or not voted at all. Since 2016 when the vote was taken we have been exposed to a daily presentation of many different aspects of the Brexit question and a burning question for all involved in this process is what is RIGHT for us as a nation?

*Some years ago Dr Martin Luther King said:*

*"Cowardice asks the question, 'Is it safe?'"*

*Expediency asks, 'Is it politic?'"*

*Vanity asks, 'Is it popular?'"*

*But conscience asks, 'Is it RIGHT?'"*

And there comes a time when we must take a position, neither because it is safe, nor politic, nor popular, but because it is right." This, friends, is that time and therefore the focus and goal of our continuing intercessions and prayers should be that the right path will be taken. Why so? Because as the wise writer of Proverbs 14: 34 affirmed: "RIGHTeousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people." It is for the right way to be found through the maze or quagmire we may feel we are in today – this is our goal in it all. What are some of the critical things for us to focus on as we plead with God to allow such righteousness to prevail?

## 1. Peace, respect and unity

*Why so?... for I believe we are a divided nation.*

A close vote, such as we had over the decision to leave the EU simply reminds us that going into this journey we are clearly a divided nation. As the weeks have passed and given the nature of the aggressive rhetoric that is the hallmark of the public image of our political decision-making, (think PM question time) the polarisation of the nation has become increasingly evident. This perhaps culminated in what we saw some weeks ago of the sad reality of what our leaders, of all political persuasions, suffer all too often. Alongside the verbal abuse hurled at Anna Soubry MP during a television interview and as she walked to the Parliament, last year MP Jacob Rees-Mogg and his family were harassed outside their home – all over matters concerning Brexit.

*Our ongoing prayer... that our leaders may disagree agreeably.*

As Christians we are called to love our neighbours (Mark 12:31), and that includes people we do not agree with. We are also called to "show proper respect to everyone", including those in authority (as 1 Peter 2 encourages us to do). While we all accept that robust and passionate disagreement is part and parcel of political conversation, the tenor of current debate is far from what any of us would expect, especially when it becomes personalised. The importance then of praying for a climate marked by peace, grace, respect, honest and open reflection.

## 2. Wisdom

*Why so?... Many paths are possible.*

I don't need to catalogue for you the range of issues concerning which path is the right path... Deal or no deal... backstop or no backstop... the Norwegian or Canadian model... another referendum or not... Sorry, I promised not to list them, but just at the mention of their titles such paths reveal the need for Wisdom. Wherein lies the source of wisdom for a time such as this? – in God.

*Our ongoing prayer... that our leaders may have God-given wisdom – remember in James 1 at verse 5 it is freely offered: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault and it will be given to you."*

## 3. Courage

*Why so... for it is the antidote to fear.*

Throughout this whole journey the fear card has been played on so many occasions. It was after a week of such scaremongering and fear-filled rhetoric that I felt so moved one Sunday morning to declare that despite all this we are a people who put our trust, our hope and our future in God's firm grip. Joshua, when contemplating which path to follow, chose for himself and his family God's way over all others – in Joshua 24 vs. 15 he affirmed... "That as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." In other words, we will put our trust, hope and future in God's hands. Joshua and the people of God had experienced God's protection, provision, power and presence and as a result he was going to put his trust and faith in God. Such a powerful sentiment was affirmed many years ago during another time of crisis in our nation's history. It is recorded that our own Queen when aged 13 years old passed a copy of a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins to her father King George VI as he prepared for his Christmas broadcast in 1939 - all this as the nation stood on the cusp of WWII.

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:*

*"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."*

*And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.*

*That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."*

*So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.*

*And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.*

It is as we put our hand in God's hand, journeying as we are into an uncertain future that his COURAGE comes: our on-going prayer – that God's courage may flow through the nation.

Peace – Respect and Unity – Wisdom and Courage - let these inform our ongoing prayers as we seek for our political leaders and our nation the RIGHT way forward.

Blessings, David

# Holy Land Pilgrimage

Four of us from Dalmeny Kirk and Queensferry Parish Church went on a 10-day pilgrimage to Israel in Autumn 2018, along with 32 others, mainly from Kirkliston and the Stirling area. The Rev Stan Brook and Rev Maggie Lane, who happen to be brother and sister, led it. They have both led pilgrimages on numerous occasions and their experience was invaluable. For the whole duration of the trip we had a dedicated coach driver and an Israeli guide, both being excellent.

The places we visited included Caesarea, Tel Aviv (and adjacent Joppa or Jaffa) and Akko (the Crusader city) on the Mediterranean coast. Inland and in the North, we travelled in the region of the Sea of Galilee and visited key sites of Jesus ministry in that area. These included Mount Tabor (Transfiguration), Nazareth (where Jesus was brought up), Cana (where Jesus turned water into wine), the Mount of Beatitudes (where Jesus taught the Sermon on the Mount) and Tabgha (where Jesus fed the 5,000 from 5 loaves and 2 fish). We sailed on the Sea of Galilee on an old boat where the ancient way of fishing was demonstrated, and stopped at the place Jesus barbecued fish after his resurrection and where Peter was restored after his 3 denials of Jesus.

We headed south to Jerusalem along the Jordan and visited the location where Jesus was baptised, collecting some water from the river to be used in baptisms (we boiled and filtered it!). En route, we stopped at Jericho and saw the Mount of Temptation (where Jesus was tempted) and the sycamore tree that Zacchaeus supposedly climbed.

Visiting Jerusalem was amazing. The first view we got was from the Mount of Olives (see photograph). We walked into the city taking the path Jesus took on a donkey on Palm Sunday then we walked part of the Via Dolorosa, the road Jesus took carrying his cross. We visited many places in Jerusalem that were referred to in the Bible – too many to mention but including the Garden of Gethsemane just outside the city gates, and the Garden Tomb where Jesus may have been buried. The modern museums were on our itinerary, including the disturbing Holocaust Museum. Bethlehem, just 5 miles from Jerusalem, was a must on our tour.



Going further south to the Dead Sea, we had to see if we floated – and we did. En-route we visited Masada, Herod's mountain palace and the site where the Dead Sea scrolls were found.

It was a full-on pilgrimage with early starts and not much free time.

The questions we are asked most often are:

## a) What were the highlights?

This is very difficult to answer, as there were so many highlights. Probably the Bible readings at appropriate places, the time on Galilee and Communion in Jerusalem were amongst the top. Driving into Jerusalem, worshipping together with the help of a worship CD was amazing. Seeing the geography of the country gave a much greater insight into so many Biblical events. For example, the amount of wilderness/desert and lack of water was obvious as were the challenges facing those travelling long distances in Biblical times. Perhaps it is easier to mention the "low-lights" – probably the over-ornate churches which had been erected over the centuries at the various locations where significant events were deemed to have taken place.

## b) Did you feel safe?

We always felt safe. There were soldiers obvious in many places, particularly Jerusalem. They seemed to be mainly teenagers, as National Service is compulsory. However, we were kept well away from "hot spots".

## c) Would you go back again?

Several of the group were returning to Israel after previous visit(s). Because of the full itinerary, sometimes we were on overload. No doubt we would pick up more on a future visit, but the "wow factor" would not be there...so perhaps not.

We would thoroughly recommend this trip to any Christian. There are rumours of a further trip in 2020!



# 40 years service to the ministry

In 2018 the Reverend Wendy Drake completed 40 years in the ministry. Wendy is well known as a member at Dalmeny and has taken services there on many occasions. 2018 was the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women into the Church of Scotland therefore Wendy was one of the early pioneers. At a service in Dalmeny, the congregation marked this wonderful achievement by presenting Wendy with some flowers appropriately presented by the Reverend Ann Inglis.



## Sunday School

The Sunday school has resumed again. We are always delighted to see some new faces. Just come along on a Sunday or if you would like some more information please contact [Frances Ibbetson](mailto:Frances.Ibbetson@church.org.uk) 07850082163.

## Clothes Sale

Our recent Clothes Sale of vintage and pre loved clothes raised a total of £1,132. A huge thank you to all who helped in this event and at the Car Boot Sale. The minister also picked up some new members at the sale!!!



## Ceilidh

A very successful ceilidh was held on Burns night and a sum of £786 was raised for church funds. A big thank you to all who helped organise and to the Forth Bridges Band who entertained us so well. A thank you also to our home grown talent who provided us with some very entertaining moments.



## Art Club Visitors

At our last art club meeting of the year, we were visited by Malcolm McCuaig aged 93, a retired picture framer & painter from West Lothian who has visited our annual exhibitions at Dalmeny for the last 12 years. He donated 3 large canvas frames for our use and promised to return in the spring. We were also visited that afternoon by the minister David Cameron.

## Church Cafe

The café has been very busy on Friday mornings all through the winter. Why not pop along between 10.00a.m. and noon for a chat and enjoy a cuppa with some home made baking. On Tuesdays Teas & Tots continues to be very popular with the young mothers and sometimes young fathers.



## Monday Mix

Come along to our get together on the third Monday of the month. Speakers on gardening, woodworking, flower arranging, baking, cake decoration, crafting etc. There will also be some games and a few lunch parties. Meetings take place in the Church Centre on the 3rd Monday of the month from 2.00p.m. until 3.30p.m. Everyone welcome. For further details contact [Ann Orr](mailto:Ann.Orr@church.org.uk) on 0131 331 5746.

# Prayer in Dalmeny

In our church community we support people in prayer in many ways: On Sundays at 10:45-11.00 the lounge is available for prayer. The prayer square is published monthly and in this we join with Queensferry and others on line praying for those in our community and throughout the world. Prayer squares can be had from the church or by visiting the website at [www.dalmeny.org](http://www.dalmeny.org)

Prayer request cards are available in the church or email [office@qpcweb.org](mailto:office@qpcweb.org)



## Church Diary

Dates will also be included in the church diary on the website. Please note that dates may be subject to alteration, and for up to date information please check the weekly Notice Sheets.

## Weekly Worship Services

Sunday 11:00 – 12:00am A traditional worship service

### March 2019

Fri 1st	10.00a.m.	Café
Sun 2nd	11.00a.m.	Communion Service
Tue 5th	09.30a.m.	Tea & Tots
Wed 6th	7.30p.m.	Session Meeting
Fri 8th	10.00a.m.	Café
Tue 12th	09.30a.m.	Tea & Tots
Fri 15th	10.00a.m.	Café
Mon 19th	2.00p.m.	Monday Mix
Tue 19th	09.30a.m.	Tea & Tots
Fri 22nd	10.00a.m.	Café
Tue 26th	09.30a.m.	Tea & Tots
Fri 29th	10.00a.m.	Café

### April 2019

Tue 2nd	09.30a.m.	Tea & Tots
Wed 3rd	7.30p.m.	Session Meeting
Fri 5th	10.00a.m.	Café
Tue 9th	09.30a.m.	Tea & Tots
Fri 12th	10.00a.m.	Café
Mon 15th	2.00p.m.	Monday Mix
Tue 16th	09.30a.m.	Tea & Tots
Fri 19th	10.00a.m.	Café
Tue 23rd	09.30a.m.	Tea & Tots
Fri 26th	10.00a.m.	Cafe



## Church Centre

Bookings are now being taken and can be made by going on the website [www.dalmeny.org](http://www.dalmeny.org) or by contacting the church office on 0131 331 1120



Find us on Facebook at [dalmenyparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/dalmenyparishchurch)

Visit our website at [www.dalmeny.org](http://www.dalmeny.org)



## Editor's Note

Welcome to the Dalmeny Parish Church magazine! Willie Green has relinquished the post of editor welcomes Hannah Burrow as the new editor. Hannah will be our new Communications person. Please give her your support as she takes on this duty. We welcome contributions of interest to members of the church and the local community. Copy should be sent to the editor at [office@qpcweb.org](mailto:office@qpcweb.org)