

Hello from the trustees

Hello everyone,

It is an exciting time of year for Prospects Across Scotland (PAS). We have now completed our transition to being a fully functioning and independent charity. We have our website up and running (www.prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk) and with our vision day fast approaching there is an increasing sense of excitement to continue and develop the work of Prospects Across Scotland. We as a board of trustees would like to take a minute to thank you for all that you have done and are doing for Prospects Across Scotland!

We have met many times as a board throughout this last year to ensure that the legal requirements of a charity are addressed, and we are very conscious that while we have been attending to the procedural aspects of PAS there have been many people on the ground ensuring that the groups keep thriving and sharing the love of God. Thank you for your hard work, love and prayer in achieving this.

As we enter a new period of our future, and as churches begin to recognise and address their legal duty to provide adapted services for individuals with a learning disability, it seems that there is an exciting potential for growth within PAS. This hope brings with it the beautiful reality that our family can expand to include more people in our churches and allow more people to access the wonder of Faith. Therefore we stand with you "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion..." (Philippians 1:6). Thankful to God for our past blessings, grateful to God for our continuation and prayerful to Him for our future thriving.

Thank you for sharing the journey with us,

Sarah Wadsworth, on behalf of the trustees.

When Hazel met Jennifer



Jennifer Maden has started doing some admin work with Prospects Across Scotland.

Hazel Risk from Brightons Friends of Jesus group had some questions for Jennifer to find out more.

Hazel: Tell me something about yourself.

Jennifer: I'm married with children and 4 lovely grandchildren. I took early retirement 2 ½ years ago from office work and didn't expect to be doing admin work again – but God obviously had other plans. I love walking and am involved with youth work at my church and of course at Friends of Jesus group

Hazel: Why did you take a job with Prospects?

Jennifer: God led me to volunteer to help at Friends of Jesus group and I love being part of that group. When the opportunity to do some admin was mentioned I thought it would be great to learn more about the other groups in the country and to be working for such a great charity. I always used to think it would be great to work for a Christian organization and I think this was God's plan for me.

Hazel: What's your favourite food?

Jennifer: Curry and cakes

Hazel: What's your favourite games?

Jennifer: Ticket to ride, snakes and ladders and dominoes

Jennifer then had some questions for Hazel.

Jennifer: What do you like about Friends of Jesus group?

Hazel: Music and singing, drama, arts and crafts, meeting people. Thinking about the cross. Bible – I like reading it.

Jennifer: Tell me about the holiday weekend.

Hazel: It's hot, meals, drama, lots of folk, music, ceilidh, Bible, games, puppets, painting.

Jennifer: What's your favourite food and drink?

Hazel: Tuna, salad, fruit salad and water.

Thank you Hazel and Jennifer.

Friends of Jesus at Breich Valley Church

Our well-established group has been looking at ways for our members to have more meaningful opportunities to participate in meetings. We are very diverse in terms of abilities and as communication difficulties are a significant problem for many people with learning disabilities it made sense for us to look specifically at this topic. Sarah Wadsworth and I discussed Augmentative and Alternative Communication principles and developed a staged plan to build on what is already available within the group as it is, whilst aiming for further developments in the future. BIGmacs are communication devices that look like a big button which allow a message to be recorded and this can be played by a simple push. Our planning group felt that if everyone had such a device it would enable a more



proactive approach to our news time slot. Some group members already have such a device and we have been able to encourage them to bring these to meetings with a pre-recorded message. This has had some success although it takes time for individuals to become comfortable with new ideas. We are in the process of ordering several more of these for those people who do not already have them. It is exciting for us all to see how much difference it can make to our meetings if alternative communication methods are explored. Future plans include other communication aids including a talking photo book and instant camera that we think could also be used during news time. This would go home with a different person each month for them to gather photographs of their activities and accompanying messages recorded for playback at the next meeting. There is a huge variety of communication aids on many

websites and prices are generally reasonable.

Our group has also focussed on using a variety of visual communication methods including continuing to use the Prospects Powerpoint material and Makaton. In addition we have introduced signs and symbols to accompany bible passages which in turn reminds us to rely less on talking! Music particularly plays a big part in meetings and is enjoyed by everyone as the songs become more and more familiar. We would like to encourage other groups to think about the way communication can be approached. This is such an important issue and it is amazing to discover the different ways we can communicate other than by speaking! We would happily share our experiences if it can be of help in any way.

Barbara Ann Orr
(Occupational Therapist)

Our group meets at St Kenneth's Kennoway and we started up a few years ago now. At our meetings we have a talk, singing, prayer, crafts/ games. Every month we have a technical issue of some sort but this has now become a highlight of the night - guessing what might go wrong!!

Last month we learned about the feeding of the 5,000 and two of the group read out the story from the bible. We were meant to have a PowerPoint but for some unknown reason this did not work! Oh well... Our activity was to see who could make the tallest ice cream sundae – so much mess!! It was great fun though.

We always open our meetings with 'Welcome Everybody' and finish with the 'trumpet' song – 'May you find Peace'. At the induction of our minister last year we were invited to take part and led the opening worship – Presbytery didn't know what had hit them. Every time we take part in services it is always commented on how infectious our enthusiasm is. Some members of our group are also part of the Welcome Team on a rota basis. We usually have a fundraising event to help with heating and minibus costs and the last couple of years we have held a 'Beach Party' and transformed the hall into a beach! This year we are having a BBQ and a Beetle Drive which should be fun.

Unfortunately our group size is shrinking and we are looking at new ways to get new group members.

Linda Shields

WoW – Welcome to Worship



Be Thankful

On 27th October 2018, around 120 people from Prospects Groups all over Scotland descended on Burntisland Parish Church Hall for the Prospects Annual Celebration. This event is a regular time of fun and fellowship and a chance to meet up with Prospects group members from around the country. After catching up with each other's news over a tasty lunch, we moved down to the larger church hall which was decked out to illustrate the theme of 'Be Thankful'.

We have so much to be thankful for in Prospects Across Scotland: the increasing number of groups and the people involved in them; the great work of the new Board of Trustees in setting up and taking forward the new charity Prospects Across Scotland; the support and resources that have come to us from our partnership with the Church of Scotland Guild; the commitment and dedication of our Mission Development Co-ordinator Ivy, and also of group leaders and helpers round the country; our enthusiastic and supportive members; and above all our amazing God who has shown His love, forgiveness and promise of new life for each and every one of us through His Son Jesus.



We were blessed to have a special visitor among all the other special people at the Celebration this year: the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Rev. Susan Brown. The job of Moderator is for a year only and in that time Susan visited Churches of Scotland all round the country. It just so happened she was in Kirkcaldy that weekend and wanted to join with us! I know she had a brilliant time and enjoyed meeting people and joining in with the worship.



As we thought about Being Thankful we told the story of the 10 lepers healed by Jesus – only one came back to thank Him. We had a drama about having a thankful rather than a grumpy or negative attitude, a quiz, some great worship songs about thankfulness, and a chance to give our response, laying heart shaped petals round a cross to show our love and thankfulness to God.

Susan finished the service for us with a wonderful blessing where she cupped her hands and acted out pouring God's blessings over us as His people.

I'm very grateful to all the people who helped make this an enjoyable time for us all, preparing the halls, organising and serving the food, taking part in the service and clearing up afterwards. And a big thank you to all our guests who came along to join us in Burntisland.

Linda Sharp



From our treasurer Lindsey Rowlands

As we move forward in Prospects Across Scotland it is important that we look for funding to continue and develop our work. We are looking for a professional fundraiser to help us with this - if you know anyone who might be interested in this role please let us know.

We also want to encourage individuals and churches to support our work by giving by monthly standing order - a form is enclosed with this newsletter or you can give online at our website www.prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk

Prospects Across Scotland can claim an additional 25% for any donation that is Gift Aided. This can be done through the website or using the Standing Order form.

If you have any questions please email Lindsey Rowlands at treasurer@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk

Thank you to the volunteers at our charity shop in Glasgow for all they do to bring in finance for Prospects Across Scotland as well as their care for the local community.

Thank you

**YES
I'd love
to help**



Dates for your diary

Prospects Across Scotland "on the road"

Come and say hello to us on the Prospects stand

Sunday 19th May – Heart and Soul event in Edinburgh
Friday 31st May – Sunday 2nd June – Keswick Ayrshire
Saturday 3rd – Friday 9th August – Keswick in Buckie
Thursday 12-Saturday 14th September
– Keswick in Motherwell.
Friday 11th – Sunday 13th October
– Keswick Forth Valley

We will be running a Prospects celebration meeting at Buckie on Wednesday 7th August and Motherwell on Friday 13th September – all welcome.

Prospects Annual Celebration

**Saturday 26th October 2018
at Strathaven**

Come and join with other groups from all over Scotland for an afternoon of praising God and meeting friends and, of course, eating together!



Would you like a speaker from Prospects to come to your church or group to share more about our work? Would you like training about making churches more welcoming and inclusive places? If so please get in touch and we can arrange that for you.



Speaker from Prospects

For more information please contact:

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