

King's View

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**King's Park Church of Scotland, Glasgow.
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For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15:4

**Mission Statement: King's Park Church
sharing God's love by reaching out to others.**

"1930-2020 - 90 Years of Spiritual Service"

Dear Friends,

‘Unprecedented’, ‘challenging’, ‘strange’, ‘the new normal’ - just some of the words used to describe the time we are all passing through as we cope with the Coronavirus pandemic.

Who of us at the end of last year would have guessed that Covid-19, an infinitesimally small organism, would spread throughout the globe from a remote province in China and affect us all one way or another to a greater or lesser degree. Size is no indication of impact. In India they have a saying, “If you think you’re too small to make a difference, you’ve never spent a night with a single mosquito!”

Covid-19 has left scientists, health authorities, economists and governments across the globe grappling with the challenges which the pandemic has raised for our life together in the world. We too in the church are also faced with questions which can’t be fobbed off with trite answers. The book of Job in the Old Testament, in which Job is counselled by his friends in the aftermath of the suffering which had torn his life apart, sounds a warning against offering pious explanations for the ills which are part and parcel of our life in this world. Faith in God doesn’t provide immunity from suffering. Nor should we conclude that the terrible things which happen to us are necessarily the consequence of sin. When Jesus was asked if eighteen people who had been killed when a building collapsed on top of them were worse sinners than others, he said this was not the case but then went on to make the point that all our lives hang by a thread and so the importance of repenting and being right with God. (See Luke 13.1-5)

Still, the question can’t be dodged. Why Covid-19? Or why, for that matter, the apparently random “slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” (as Shakespeare put it) which are part of our human lot?

These are questions all Christians wrestle with, particularly when they are thrown at us by those who seek to justify their atheism or agnosticism and look for reasons for not believing. There are no easy answers (and certainly not in the context of a letter of a few hundred words!) except to say that famines, earthquakes, pandemics like the Black Death in the 14th century (20 million deaths in Europe alone) and the Spanish Flu in 1918 (upwards of 40 million worldwide), are simply part of the way the world is. In that context, the present pandemic shouldn’t surprise us.

What might come as a surprise to some is that, in such a world, the Christian faith and the church, far from losing credibility, not only hangs on and perseveres, but grows and flourishes.

Tom Wright, former Bishop of Durham and now Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at St. Andrews University, has shown that the witness and service of Christians during the plagues which struck cities and nations in the second, third and fourth centuries led to the growth of the church. How come? Because as they reached out to the sick and the dying around them, people came to believe in the Jesus in whose name they cared.

Dionysius, Bishop of Alexandria, looking back on the pandemic which swept the Roman world between AD 249-262 and which at its height claimed 5000 deaths a day in Rome, wrote:

Most of our Christian brethren showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves and thinking only of others. Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life for they were inflicted by others with the disease, drawing on themselves the sickness of their neighbours. Many in nursing and curing others transferred their death to themselves and died in their stead.

While not ignoring public health instructions, are there not those today who, inspired by their faith, are showing in Christ's name the same selfless care in the present pandemic. It is surely not too much to hope and pray that in consequence, the church will grow now, as it did then, as people are drawn to faith in Christ through the witness and service of those who confess him as Saviour and Lord.

According to a recent survey, 24 per cent of adults in the UK said that since the lockdown began they had watched or listened to a religious service on TV or the radio, and of them, five per cent said that they had never been to church. Might that not be a straw in the wind?

Our thoughts and prayers are with those in the congregation and the community who have lost family and friends at this time, either through Covid-19 or otherwise. Bereavement is painful in all circumstances, but more so when there are restrictions on who may attend funerals. We remember Raymond in his ministry to those who grieve.

Hopefully, it won't be too long before we are able to meet again for worship on a Sunday. Meantime, we are grateful to William Wilson, our interim moderator and minister of Burnside, for the service which he streams on the King's Park website every Sunday morning, and remember him in our prayers as shortly he is installed as Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery

May God keep us true to each other at this time.

Very sincerely
David, Locum Minister

Dear Friends,

These are strange times and I hope you are all coping well. In the life of the church everything has changed very suddenly.

As Interim Moderator I wanted to give you a brief update on the vacancy etc. I'm aware how frustrating it has been that the process has been so slow, but I am happy to report a little progress. The relevant Presbytery and national committees have granted permission for King's Park to call a full-time minister under reviewable tenure. The precise terms of this will be drawn up and put to the Kirk Session for approval. Once that has happened, the Kirk Session will meet with the Presbytery's Vacancy Procedure Committee, who will advise on the size of the Nominating Committee and various other procedures which need to be completed before a Nominating committee is elected. Unfortunately, we are unable to progress this without physical meetings, as not all elders are able to participate in online communication.

While none of us can predict when we will be able to gather to worship, the Scottish Government have said that places of worship will be able to have extended gatherings, under physical distancing conditions, when we reach phase 3 of the exit from lockdown. The precise details of this have still be worked out and explained but it does give grounds for hope.

As I write, I am unsure how much longer I will be continuing as Interim Moderator. I am due to commence as the Moderator of Presbytery on 16th June. The original plan was for a new Interim Moderator to be in place for King's Park before that date, but events intervened.

Be assured that I will continue my duties until I know that someone else is able to take up this position. In the meantime, I wish to express my gratitude to our locum David Easton, Raymond Jenkins, and all the office bearers for their faithful service during these difficult times. The life of the church may have changed suddenly, but the faithfulness of our God remains unchanging, so let us continue to trust in Him who has promised that "all things work together for the good of those who love Him and who are called according to His purpose."

God bless, *William Wilson, Interim Moderator*

AT REST

"I am the Resurrection and the Life"

17th Mar	Anna Dunn, Glenlivet Gardens Care Home
28th Mar	Millie Coubrough, Orchard Grove
3rd April	Isabella Miller, formerly of Kingsbridge Drive
10th April	Mary Auld, Dalmeny Avenue, Giffnock
19th April	Audrey Robson, Kingscliffe Avenue
4th May	Lorna Harper, Kingsknowe Drive
5th May	Bill Coubrough, Millbrae Care Home
14th May	Ellice Gray, Craigbank Nursing Home
17th May	Bob Brown, formerly Kings Park Avenue
22nd May	Ann Phillips, St Blanes Drive

While we could not attend a funeral service for our dear friends during this time, we can take time to remember them all now. May the Lord Bless them and keep them. Amen.

When the time is right, and we can gather together in church once again, a fitting memorial service is planned to remember and celebrate the lives of all those who were lost in these difficult days.
Raymond.

Celebration of Youth...

As we look back on last session at Sunday School, we have a big smile on our faces. We were blessed with 14 regular faces and a few new faces who were with us for one session or two. Our Sunday School starts in church with all the adults, where we worship together and listen to our childrens' address from the worship team. We then head to the Large hall, where we chat about our week and focus on what has been good, while enjoying a biscuit. The children suggest a song or two which we sing. From there we spilt into groups - the Sunshine Corner (nursery ages) and the Ark (primary 1,2 and 3) go to one side of the hall, and 242 (primary 4-7) and God4Us (secondary school) go to the other.

God4Us, which Lynn takes care of, started off this session with a request from one of our members, Robert, who wanted to look at Paul's journey. We followed his journey for our first 5 weeks; we used the office computer, and, with YouTube, watched videos each week showing Paul's adventures. We then went back to the hall and looked at the relevant bible passage to make sure we understood the story. After that, we used arts and crafts to show what we had learned. We have also looked at Prayer and how we can talk to God about anything and that He will always hear us. We looked at forgiveness and although it can be hard to forgive someone who has hurt us, it is what God asks us to do as He forgives us. We looked at how amazing our bodies are and thanked God for them. We also looked at the Armour of God and how we can face anything when we wear it. We spent time looking at the Christmas story and enjoying our party and the nativity. We started to look at Easter, but unfortunately we all had to go into lockdown, and our session came to an end.

Before Sunday School ends, on a Sunday morning, we always come together, join hands, and finish with a prayer. In our prayer, we remind the children that they are never alone, that God is always with them, when they are happy, sad, feeling lonely or scared. We would like to thank all the leaders, the congregation and the Kirk session for all their support. "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him"

Psalm 127:3. As we go through this pandemic, we realise how blessed we are. We miss our church family very much, especially the children in the Sunday School. We are reminded each day to put our trust and faith in God. This fills us with peace and comfort, and takes away the worries and fears this pandemic brings.

We hope that through our times at Sunday School, the children are reminded that they are not alone and that they remember our times at church and happiness fills their hearts. As we look forward, with faith, to the future, we cannot wait to see everyone's face again.

God bless, Norah Buchan and Lynn Adamson

Children's Message

Hello girls and boys (and young people of all ages). I hope you are doing well just now. It seems strange not to have seen you for so long, so I thought I would put a wee bit in this magazine for you. I've been thinking about clapping. Can you think of some times when you might clap? Make your own list and then you can check with the ones I've put at the bottom – did any of mine match yours?

Many of us have been joining in by clapping on a Thursday evening to show support for the NHS staff, all carers, and all those who keep our essential services going during this difficult time. I was surprised to find that clapping is not mentioned in the New Testament of the Bible, though I'm sure some people were clapping on the first Palm Sunday while others cut down palm branches and shouted Hosanna. But the Old Testament mentions some groups which clapped – see if you can unscramble the letters and work out what the groups were. (the answers can be found at the bottom of the page).

epolep (Psalm 47 verse 1 in the Good News Bible)
 virres (Psalm 98 verse 8 in the Good News Bible)
 reset (Isaiah chapter 55 verse 12 – you will need the King James Bible for this one)

Were you surprised by answers 2 and 3? I guess God wants all his creation to celebrate his goodness!

The song I would choose to sing is "Clap your hands all you people" – Mission Praise number 26.

*Clap your hands all you people, shout unto God with a voice of triumph
 Clap your hands all you people, shout unto God with a voice of praise.
 Hosanna Hosanna, shout unto God with a voice of triumph
 Praise him Praise him, shout unto God with a voice of praise.*

So maybe once we're back together again we can sing this one. I'll probably need you to remind me – could you do that please? Good luck with your answers, and take care.

God bless you. John Black.

Answers: Times when we clap – at school prizegiving; when awards are being given out at Brownsies or BB. Unscrambled answers: 1 = people, 2 = rivers, 3 = trees

RING, BANG, SCOOSH! Makes a Welcome Return

Probably like most young boys of my generation, I remember with perhaps a little shame, but a lot of fun, the thrill of playing ring bang scoosh when we would ring the bell, or bang the letter box (there weren't so many fancy door bells in those days), of some poor unsuspecting soul who would come to the door to find we'd already 'scooshed' down the road.

It always seemed like such a laugh to see the look of frustration on folks' faces, who somehow didn't seem to share in the appreciation of such a "laugh".

In these days of lock-down, it always raises a smile when, after dropping off some shopping, or medicine, or maybe even just the newspaper, and 'scooshing' back - the required two metres – you now see the look of appreciation on folks' faces, still in social isolation.

As we enter another phase of lockdown, can I take this opportunity to thank all those who have been out and about helping others – ringing the bell and 'scooshing' - and those who have volunteered but have not yet been called upon, and urge you all to take care and keep well.

Can we all please remember those around us who may be less able to take advantage of the shopping trips allowed – or are beginning to weary of being "shut in".

And if you know of someone – or if that someone is you – who would welcome some help in these difficult times, please remember to get in touch.

Following the announcement of the road map to exiting lockdown, as we continue to look forward in faith, it's time to start planning for the future and I know that Alan will be outlining areas where we can be of help elsewhere in this edition of King's View.

In the meantime, take care, keep well.

God bless, Raymond (07753 808968)

Our Church online ..

During this time of pandemic, as you know, we have had to 'close' our Church building. As we searched for ways to reach out to our friends and family, like so many others across the world, we turned to electronic and technical means. Our social media pages, including our Instagram and Facebook pages and our website, have been keeping people up to date as much as possible, ensuring that even during this time of crisis we are still very much a presence in the heart of the community. We are very aware that not everyone has access to these pages, but this does not mean we are not thinking about you all, because we are.

So here is a small summary of what YOU have been sharing as a Church, here in Kings Park. We have shared messages, services and prayer from the Church of Scotland and The Moderator. We have joined in with national prayers, shared links to the BBC services of reflection, and provided messages from Raymond and David.

We celebrated Easter and Christian Aid Week with photographs of our Church. We also took time to reflect on VE Day, Nurses Day and shared the recent Heart & Soul celebrations. We even managed to share an online YouTube performance from KP Brass! We, of course, also took time to remember each and every one of our dear friends who have passed away during this crisis.

As well as these posts we have also taken time to post a message of hope on our Facebook page, every day of lockdown. Since lockdown started, our social media pages have reached thousands of people, so rest assured that we are still reaching out in the best way that we can, to ensure that those in our Community know we are still very much here.

Social and Fundraising..

Just a few weeks ago I could never have imagined producing a social & fundraising report, particularly in our celebratory 90th year, where there was no possibility of physical social & fundraising events taking place. How times have changed very quickly and how I long for gatherings like coffee mornings, strawberry fayres and Brass Band concerts. Rest assured when we are all able to come together again, even at a social distance, your social & fundraising team will be there, providing as much support as we can. Until we meet again, stay safe.

Lynda Young

Christian Aid Week 2020



This year's Christian Aid Week was on 10 – 16 May. If you're lucky enough to be someone who follows "social media", you probably (hopefully) saw posts on the church's Facebook page reminding us about Christian Aid and how to offer financial support during it's most important annual fundraising event, by donating online, directly to Christian Aid.

Due to the situation we find ourselves in, we had no opportunity to deliver CA envelopes, either to the parish or indeed to the congregation, or have our usual "Souper Sunday" charity lunch and coffee morning, so, compared to previous years, we at King's Park haven't exactly set the heather on fire with our financial support this time round!

To help rectify this, if you are able, and haven't already donated to Christian Aid Week, it would be great if you could help the church support this very worthy cause and try and go some way towards matching the sums we've achieved during past Christian Aid Weeks.

The most straightforward way to do this would be to send a cheque, made payable to "Christian Aid", at the church address (on the front page of this magazine) and mark it for the attention of Alan Pratt. In addition, if you are a UK taxpayer, please confirm this on the back of the cheque with a note of your name and address - this will allow Christian Aid to reclaim tax from the Government, thereby increasing your donation by 25%.

Christian Aid supports projects all over the world – predominantly in countries where the effect of the Coronavirus pandemic is significantly worse than it is here. Please give generously.

Youth Organisations

The youth organisations will restart when each feels it is safe to do so. This will depend on Scottish Government guidelines at the time. A further general update will be provided in the August/September issue of the magazine, and it is anticipated that the leaders of each organisation will contact children and/or parents as necessary nearer the time

Church Finance & Fabric

As you can probably understand, the Congregational Board has not met since before the “lockdown” However, we are fortunate that our Treasurer, David Wilson, has been monitoring closely the effect of the church being “closed” since mid March.

Financially, it comes as no surprise that church income has reduced – no weekly offerings, other than those paid by standing order; no hall lets; no fundraising. As an example, David calculates, that if there were no further hall lets in this calendar year, this would mean a loss of around £12,000. Expenditure will reduce a bit through closure, but a lot of the main outgoings are fixed, although we have made a cost saving by arranging for three of our four employees to be “furloughed” under the Government job retention scheme, thereby recouping 80% of the relevant salaries.

So, what can be done to help balance the books, while the use restrictions remain in place? As far as our Christian giving is concerned, the best way to spread our gifts to the church is by using a standing order, and anyone who would like to do this should write to the Treasurer at the church address, or contact their elder. Those members who use freewill offering envelopes could, in the meantime, pay by cheque rather than cash, and send their envelopes to the church by post on a regular basis. In addition, if you are a UK taxpayer, please consider Gift Aid, if you don't do so already.

On the fabric side, the church buildings are inspected at least once a week, to make sure there are no problems with water ingress, vandalism, break ins etc. So far – so good! The church bells continue to call us to worship on a Sunday morning and, just recently, a peel of bells has been heard at 8.00pm on a Thursday evening adding to the sound of clapping as we give thanks to the NHS and key workers.

As we move forward, and restrictions are reduced, we can perhaps slowly get back to the job in hand, by doing some tidying up in the church gardens and to the exterior of the buildings. In this connection, if anyone would like to volunteer to help in this way, please contact Alan Pratt on 07776 328914. Thanks to those individuals who have already volunteered in response to our April/May magazine – you're on the list already!

You will be aware that under the Scottish Government's COVID19 Routemap, under “Phase 2”, churches may open for private prayer, under physical distancing rules and hygiene safeguards.

To enable this to be considered, we would need to have a team of appropriate volunteers in place to prepare the sanctuary and oversee the whole process of this warmly welcomed venture. Again, if you would be prepared to help, please contact Alan Pratt. (07776 328914)

The Moderator of the General Assembly invites us, every Sunday evening at 7pm, to join with him in prayer. It would be good to do just that, using the following words, as a small regular act of worship, until we are able to physically meet to share the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ together.

*Living God and gracious Father, Protect and shield us.
Living God, protect and shield All whom we love,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Living God, your Son now sits in your presence
And shares in your glory and honour. We thank you for the promise
That his presence shall be renewed for us,
Through the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

*Living God, we thank you that Jesus prayed for us
And that he continues to intercede for us.
We thank you that he continues to pray, For us and for our protection,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Living God, we pray for the life of the world
We thank you for all those who, in these days,
Strive to protect and shield us.
Renew them in heart and soul, and mind and strength.
Through the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

*Living God, renew us we pray and renew the life of the world.
For you so loved the world that you gave your Son
That we might share in the life of the world to come.
Hear our prayer, now and always, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

This magazine and any subsequent updates will be sent by email, if we have your email address, or, it will be posted if we don't. If you would like to be kept up to date with any information coming from the Church during this pandemic and would like it via email please advise us at - office@kingsparkchurch.co.uk

**We will also post regular updates on our website here:
www.kingsparkchurch.co.uk
You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram**

IF YOU NEED THE CHURCH PLEASE CONTACT:
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