

King's View

Magazine, No. 916

February/March 2021

King's Park Church of Scotland, Glasgow.
242 Castlemilk Road, GLASGOW G44 4LB



"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

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

"1930-2021 - 91 Years of Spiritual Service"

Dear Friends,

A columnist in *The Times*, referring to the statistic that the tally of COVID deaths in the UK had now passed 100,000, remarked that “no one in public life ever reaches for Scripture or a spiritual phrase now”. He then went on to report that when the House of Lords discussed the pandemic on 27th January, no bishop spoke. His comment was: “Our priests are startled snails.” To which my response was, “Ouch!”

But come to think of it, what might the good bishops have said which would have been any different to what any number of people, from other walks of life and of other faiths or of no faith, have been saying - praise for the NHS; sympathy for all who have lost family and friends; the need to be good neighbours and look out for one another; gratitude to scientists whose knowledge and skill have produced a vaccine in record time; the acknowledgement that the penalties of the pandemic aren't equally shared; the challenge to assess what matters to us, now that we have been shaken out of the usual routines which, in the past, gave our lives meaning and structure; and so on. The question is: beyond the above generalities, what might the bishops have said which only they, as representatives of the church, had the right to say?

I have tried to feel the point of that question for myself. Were I a bishop in the House of Lords (perish the thought!), what might I have said?

Inevitably any answer would have to grapple with the question, ‘Why?’ If, as we sometimes sing in church, “He’s got the whole world in his hands”, why COVID-19 and it’s consequences? Why the Black Death, the Spanish Flu and other plagues throughout history? Why natural disasters such as earthquakes? Why the Holocaust and many other cases of genocide? Why, for that matter, the tragedies that blight the life of many a person and family? Why? If God, who is loving and all powerful, has the world in his hands, why?

The reality is that, as Christians, we sometimes have no clear cut answers to many of the questions which life throws at us. That is an uncomfortable truth. We don’t like uncertainty.

We are embarrassed when those of no faith or who once believed, but now nurse doubts, demand that we tell them where God is in the bad things that happen in our world. Often we are unable to answer their challenge other than fall back on pious assertions which only invite their incredulity.

Nevertheless, faith in God and in what he has revealed of himself to us in Christ, enables us to live meaningfully in a world of complexity. Our questions may still hang in the air. We may struggle to cope with the problem of suffering and evil. At best “we see through a glass darkly”, as the apostle Paul put it, but we live in hope and may do so because we have the example of Christ who, on the cross, cried out in the words of the psalm, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”, yet came out of the darkness of death as the risen Lord and has blazed a trail for us to follow. Faith in him and trust in his promises enables us to cope with the complexities, the uncertainties, and the apparent contradictions of life in this world.

We do so, not on our own, but in company with all those who also fix their eyes on Jesus and who, with us, travel the road of faith – the fellowship of believers which is the church. Together, we must make sure that, in the context of the restrictions imposed on us by the pandemic and the questions which all congregations face during a vacancy, we share with one another the wisdom and the encouragement we each receive from God through the Scriptures, in order that we might face the challenges of these days in a spirit of hope.

Wishing you God’s grace and peace in these uncertain times,

David
Locum Minister

AT REST

“I am the Resurrection and the Life”

13 November Mr Allan Donnelly, Kingsheath Avenue
 19 November Mrs Helen Inglis, Orchard Grove Care Home
 3 December Mr Chris Heggie, Curtis Avenue
 26 December Mr Jim McKay, Kingsbridge Drive
 31 December Ms May Topping, Kingsheath Avenue
 25 January Mrs Jean McCarry, Kingsknowe 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.

Prayer Focus..

Dear Lord, Forgive us when we miss an opportunity to help someone. Help us to remember to share God's love by reaching out to others. We give thanks that a vaccine has been found and soon we will have stopped the spread of this virus. We pray for everyone dealing with long term symptoms post-COVID. Give them courage to face tomorrow and strength to endure this time in their lives. As the United States of America moves towards a brighter future, remember this nation and its people, bringing peace where there is inner war. Making sacrifices now will save your world. We do not know what the future may bring, but be assured, the Lord is with us every step of the way. We pray that you will receive many blessings. Look to a brighter future and see Spring in all God's glory. Hear our Prayer. Amen.
gaerataylor@btinternet.com



WHILE WE ARE NOT PRODUCING A FULL MAGAZINE DURING THESE TIMES, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOMETHING INTIMATED IN THE APRIL/MAY 2021 ISSUE PLEASE EMAIL office@kingsparkchurch.co.uk NO LATER THAN THE END OF THE MORNING SERVICE, SUNDAY 21ST MARCH 2021 ANY ARTICLES RECEIVED AFTER THIS DEADLINE WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE JUNE/JULY 2021 ISSUE.

ATTESTATION OF ACCOUNTS

This important meeting will take place, by Zoom, on Wednesday 3rd March at 7pm. The financial situation at King's Park Church must be of interest to all members of the congregation, and, at this meeting, trustees have the opportunity to comment on the published 2020 Annual Accounts, before attestation takes place. All trustees (elders and board members) are invited to attend, and, in this connection, Zoom meeting details will be provided nearer the time.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2021 Annual General Meeting of King's Park Church will take place, by Zoom, after the morning service on Sunday 14th March, when the financial affairs of the church will be presented to the congregation, and the opportunity given to appoint new board members. The Zoom meeting link will be provided to all trustees nearer the time, but if you are not a trustee and wish to attend this meeting, please email the church at office@kingsparkchurch.co.uk or call Alan Pratt on 07776 328914, and we will arrange to send you a copy of the 2020 Annual Accounts with the Zoom meeting details.

GOD TOCK

God Tock, our bible discussion group, is glad to announce that its Monday night meetings are up and running again and new members are always welcome. For details of how to join the zoom meetings at 7.30pm each week, contact Raymond Jenkins ray_jenkins@hotmail.com or Tel: 07753 808968

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - 5th MARCH 2021

In a normal year there would be services throughout Scotland for the World Day of Prayer. But not this year. The Scottish Committee has arranged a service for the whole country.

Here are the details: **Friday 5th March at 2pm there will be a Zoom service. (ID: 895 9398 3883 Password 901 1656)** If you do not have internet access, **you can join in by Phone using a landline 0131 460 1196.** You will be asked for the ID and Password. There may be a cost involved. The service will be posted on the WDP website and Facebook page for later access.

Starting on Tuesday 23rd February there will be **10 Days of Prayer** which will be posted every morning on the Facebook page or the WDP website. The national leaders of 10 denominations are invited to share a Thought for the Day focusing on Vanuatu, the country in the Pacific that has written this year's service. One of the Scottish Committee will end with a prayer.

www.wdpScotland.org.uk

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCE
"We Give Thee But Thine Own"
FINANCE REPORT - 2020

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
	£	
Offerings & Donations	8,451	10,020
Gift Aid	2,641	-
Hall Hire Income	-	-
Rental Income	517	467
Charitable collections	20	308
Other regular Monthly Income	105	-
Total Month's Income	<u>11,734</u>	<u>10,795</u>
	=====	=====
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Regular Monthly Costs	12,077	12,471
Fabric Repairs	69	463
		56
Total Month's Payments	<u>12,146</u>	<u>12,990</u>
	=====	=====
Monthly payments vs Costs	-412	-2,195

Comments

Nov - shortfall of receipts after payments made was £412.

Unrestricted funds had a surplus of £1,843 and Restricted funds had a deficit of £2,255.

Dec - shortfall of receipts after payment made was £2,195.

Unrestricted funds had a deficit of £377 and Restricted funds had a deficit of £1,818.

KIRK SESSION

The session met via zoom in January, when, amongst other matters, it was confirmed that Toryglen Church will continue to be a part of our Parish Grouping along with Croftfoot. Upcoming notable worship dates were agreed and can be found in 'Dates for your Diary'. *Eunice & John Black*

Thank You...

We would like to thank everyone involved in the preparation and delivery of our Christmas boxes over the advent season. We would also like to thank our Elder, Sandra Anderson for her continued support during lockdown. *Jeanette & Jim McIntyre*



I would like to thank all the church family for their support over the last year, during my husband Jim's illness. Especially my Tuesday coffee morning pals for their wonderful support.

Thank you to all who sent messages of condolence and a special thank you to Raymond Jenkins for the special service at the Linn Crematorium. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jim who is now at peace and free from suffering. Love to all.

Jan McKay and all the family, including baby Oliver who never really got to know his wonderful grandpa.

CHURCH MAGAZINE

The annual subscription for the magazine is now due. Please note if you receive the magazine via email there is no cost. However, during these difficult times, if you receive the magazine by post, to meet costs we would be grateful if you could either send a cheque for £7 payable to King's Park Church, to Ms Ann McNeice, 21 Ardmay Crescent, Glasgow G44 4PU or transfer £7 to King's Park Bank Account, sort code: 82-63-31, account number: 50335056 quoting reference: KP Magazine

If further information is required, please contact Ann on 0141-632 2951.

SAIDIANA WOMEN'S PROJECT

In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Saidiana Women's project continues to help a lot of people and support from friends here has continued regularly. In January, I was able to send another £850 to Kenya. Many thanks to all of you who support Saidiana so faithfully, by your prayers and your donations. You can contribute by paying your donation directly into the bank - HBOS, Sort Code 11-47-01

AC 00005903 It is evident from the accounting figures that overall, the Saidiana Women's Project experienced reduced income throughout 2020 but we hope 2021 will offer an improved picture, both in the income and coverage levels. *Mary Smith*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Following Government and Church of Scotland guidelines, we will continue to worship online only, with services on our Facebook and YouTube channels. When we are able to re-open the Church for worship, we will let you know on our Facebook page, our Website and our Church noticeboards.

February

Sun 7th 11am Online Worship - Re-dedication Service
 Sun 14th 11am Online Worship
 Sun 21st 11am Online Worship - Brownies/Guides - Thinking Day
 Sun 28th 11am Online Worship

March

Wed 3rd 7.00pm Attestation of Accounts via zoom, details will follow
 Sun 7th 11am Online Worship
 Sun 14th 11am Online Worship - Communion
 After morning worship, the AGM will take place via zoom,
 details will follow
 Sun 21st 11am Online Worship
 Sun 28th 11am Online Worship - celebrating Palm Sunday

We hope to provide an online 10-15 minute Holy Week Reflection on our YouTube and Facebook Channels at 7pm every evening during Holy Week from Monday 29th until Friday 2nd April inclusive.

April

Sat 3rd 4pm-5pm Online Messy Easter
 Sun 4th 11am Online Worship - celebrating Easter Day

ONLINE WORSHIP

Online worship looks like being part of our Church life for some time to come. Our thanks go to all those who contribute, and to those who put the work in to make it happen. The worship team would like to invite you to consider getting involved, e.g. doing readings, prayers, children's addresses. As you know, readings and prayers are done via audio, so no need to be seen. We are sure that anyone who has been involved so far would be happy to speak with you about how they have found the experience. It is a great opportunity to be part of our worship in these difficult times – even just the once! If you are interested please contact Gordon Wilson on 07500 836721.

If you are unable to access our online worship, we are pleased to advise that a DVD or CD of recorded online services is now available. If you would like a copy or know of someone who might appreciate this, please contact Gordon or email office@kingsparkchurch.co.uk

May Davidson—100 Years Young!

This young lady, a long time member of our congregation, was born on 13 March 1921 and became a member of a parish church in Ibrox as a child. In 1961, she joined Kings Park church.



During her younger years at our church, May became an active member of the Good Companions group, an association she really enjoyed. She was also a keen member of the ladies carpet bowls, where she normally partnered Margaret Paul. She says that for health reasons (all that bending), she had to give up bowling as she got a bit older, but still attended for coffee with her many bowling friends.

She has particularly fond memories of the Reverend Paterson whom she referred to as her Happy Padre. She also had great respect and affection for Reverend Smith

Mrs Davidson, whose husband Alex died 24 years ago, has a daughter Sandra (a past member of the young wives club) and a son Scott. She has 4 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild who is called Jackson and was baptised 5 years ago in church by Reverend Sandra Boyd, the baby's grandmother Sandra standing for him.

The family had intended celebrating this very special birthday by having a function at a local hotel where family from around the UK, as well as family from New Zealand would be attending. However, because of the pandemic, the best laid plans.... When possible, the family hope to have a get together to celebrate properly.

On behalf of all of her friends in the congregation, we take time now to wish Mrs Davidson a very happy, healthy and Blessed 100th Birthday.

Bill Simpson, Church Elder

TIMES OF CHANGE

Well, we're almost into February already – more long weeks and months into lockdown, with more to come. (Just thought I'd start on a cheery note!). These really have been times of challenge for everyone, times of change and times of, often seemingly very little, choice for us all. It was time to challenge what "being church" really meant to us all. It was a time to change how we went about "doing church" and a time to choose how we "lived church".

As I've often said in our online services, which have been literally a god send to so many people, allowing them to join in worship week by week, it has been good to see how we have looked to support one another in these difficult days and I'm sure we have all missed the chance to visit with friends and family, although it has certainly reduced the chances of a knock on the door from the Pastoral Assistant! (but I do try to keep in touch).

When lockdown began, how many of us thought we'd be keeping in touch with each other only by phone or seeing each other on facetime? Before lockdown, how many of us thought that Zoom was an ice lolly from the seventies?



During lockdown, how many of us have joined in the seemingly limitless Zoom quiz nights as a way of keeping in touch, or sometimes seemingly endless meetings held on an almost daily basis (who'd have thought you could spend until 10.30pm at a Presbytery meeting and never leave your room)?

Keeping in touch certainly hasn't been easy as visits are curtailed, and it has been difficult to ease that feeling of isolation, like a smile from a familiar face, or maybe a bunch of flowers to celebrate happy times like Diamond Weddings, or commiserate at times of illness or loss, can bring - and for the huggers amongst us, a welcome arm of comfort. And nowhere is the frustration more keenly felt than when conducting a funeral, where numbers are strictly limited, everyone wears a mask and no singing is allowed - and no hand of friendship or of comfort can be offered.

As the rollout of the vaccination gathers pace, there is light at the end of what has been, for some, a very dark tunnel.

In the days to come, even post COVID, I'm sure there will be yet more times of challenge, times of change and times of choice, and I look forward to sharing them with you in the knowledge that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." *Romans 8:28*

Raymond

FOODBANK APPEAL

Over the past few months we have been approached by several folks looking for help with feeding their families and, as we currently don't operate a food bank of our own, have referred them to Croftfoot or Castlemilk churches.

As you will have seen from a previous magazine, we have already made a cash donation to our friends in Croftfoot, and are now looking to support the work of our friends in Castlemilk.

Anyone wishing to help can place their monetary donation or a cheque made payable to King's Park Church in an envelope and put it through our church letter box. Please mark your envelope "Foodbank".

Thank you for your support, *Raymond*



FLOWER FUND

Thanks are due to all who contribute to the flower fund, especially in these difficult times.

CHURCH FABRIC 2021

The first fabric report of the new year. What have we been doing? Not a lot! With regards to the church and hall accommodation, there are a few jobs that were needing to be done last year, and, due to restrictions, have unfortunately, not yet been started. Most notably, the ceiling in the passage between the garth and the chancel needs to be brought down and re-plastered, once the roof has been re-covered to alleviate the problems of water penetration. To meet the requirements of our recent Fire Risk Assessment, the sliding doors at the top of the ramp next to the lounge and vestry need to be removed and replaced by a double leaf fire door with fire rated hinges, cold smoke seals and self-closers. All external doors and windows to our new halls suite (St Mungo, kitchen & Iona) need to be stripped and painted externally. All doors to the front and side entrances to the church itself, require to be stripped and treated externally - stained, varnished or painted (depending on advice sought).

As you are aware, our manse has been vacant since the summer of 2019. At that time, it was inspected by a member of the Presbytery Property Committee, when a few items were identified as needing taken care of, before we would be in a position to welcome a new minister. While empty, to adhere to insurance requirements, the manse has been heated (when necessary) and regularly visited to make sure all is in order. At a recent visit, it was noted that the lounge ceiling had partially come down. On advice from our plasterer, it was confirmed that the ceilings to the two larger upstairs bedrooms were also suspect. All three will be fully brought down and replaced in due course. A lot of the works to our church, halls and manse require to be carried out by skilled tradesmen. There are tasks, though, that we can do ourselves, as part of our stewardship commitment to prolong the life and effectiveness of the "bricks and mortar" part of our God given mission to the people of King's Park and beyond.

As restrictions are slowly reduced in the months ahead, and it is safe to work, individually and together, we look forward to the reopening of the halls and the recommencement of everything that we were so blessed to have taking place in our accommodation, on a daily basis. Accordingly, we still need our volunteers to keep everything in good order, and we would be happy to add to our list of helpers. So, if you would like to assist in any way, please call Alan Pratt on 07776 328914.

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 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, YouTube and Instagram

IF YOU NEED THE CHURCH PLEASE CONTACT:

Mr Raymond Jenkins, Pastoral Assistant, Tel: 07753 808968

Email: ray_jenkins@hotmail.com or contact your Elder

King's Park Church of Scotland, Glasgow is a Registered Charity
with Scottish Charity Number: SC017040.