

King's View

Magazine, No. 914

October/November 2020

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



*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

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

"1930-2020 - 90 Years of Spiritual Service"

Dear Friends,

In the last few years the word 'makeover' has become part of our vocabulary. Makeovers are the stuff of TV programmes. Houses and gardens are made over. People too, who aren't happy with their image, turn to hair stylists, dieticians, cosmetic surgeons, and life coaches, to give them a new image and, with a new image, a new sense of their self-esteem and personal worth.

Then, on an altogether different and more serious level, the restrictions which the Covid 19 pandemic has imposed on most aspects of life, have raised questions about much that until now we have taken for granted. Why work from the office when we might just as easily work from home? Why jet into the sun for a vacation when we might enjoy a staycation at home? We have become aware of the need for 'makeovers' in different areas of our lives, not just at a personal level but also in our political, social and ecclesiastical structures. Who of us in the Church of Scotland would deny the need for a makeover when our denomination is in steep decline?

What lies behind the pursuit of the makeover? Surely dissatisfaction with how things are, be it with ourselves, or the house we live in, or the pattern of our working life, or the different institutions which impinge on our lives. The trouble is that, despite the changes we may make in any of these areas, they will be no more than cosmetic so long we and others remain the same people.

Think of the personal makeovers many people undergo. A change of wardrobe or hairstyle, shedding pounds, or a face tuck may change their appearance, even for the better, and make them feel more accepting of themselves, but none of these makeovers on their own have the power to change them as people because they may remain the same persons as before, just as proud, selfish, bad-tempered, and difficult to live with.

The same is true of makeovers in society and politics. They may curb the greed or corruption of those who exploit our social and political systems for their own ends, but they can do nothing to change their hearts.

Walter Lippmann, the American humanist, said after the First World War: "We ourselves were so sure that, at long last, a generation had arisen, keen and eager to put this disorderly world to right, and fit to do it."

We meant so well, we tried so hard, and look at what we've made of it. We can only muddle into muddle. What is required is a new kind of man."

A new kind of man! The conclusion is right. We know it to be true without looking any further than ourselves. How often we've tried to change only to find that old habits aren't so easily broken, that learned patterns of behaviour have a way of taking over, and that for all our good intentions, we remain the same. A letter which GK Chesterton wrote to the Times said it all. It read: "Sir, What is wrong with the world? I am, Yours faithfully, GK Chesterton."

A new me and a new you. That is what is needed. But how? What power can change our hearts? Certainly not makeovers; nothing but the gospel of Christ, which the apostle Paul describes as "God's power to save all who believe." (Romans 1.16). Only the good news of Jesus can change us from the inside out so that, to quote Paul again, "the old has gone, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5.17)

The transformation which the gospel brings about in each of us individually should in turn lead to the renewal of our life together in the church. What the church needs is not a makeover but renewal through God's Word and Spirit. Just think of all the makeovers we've seen in the Church of Scotland over the past 50 years from *The Committee of Forty* in the late 1960s to *Church without Walls* more recently. Yet our decline as a denomination has continued unabated. Where there is no change of heart on the part of God's people, tinkering with the church's structures will make little difference.

Only time will tell what effect the circumstances created by the coronavirus pandemic will have on the church. Martin Fair, Moderator of the General Assembly, has said that the present time may well be "a critical moment in the life of our Church – a paradigm shifting moment." As we look beyond the present situation and try to imagine what the Post-Covid Church might look like, on what do we pin our hopes? On a return to business as usual? On makeovers? On structural changes? Or on renewal through God's Word and Spirit? These are the choices which face us.

With all good wishes,
David, Locum Minister

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
“Suffer the Little Children to Come Unto Me”

20 Sept Rhen Templeton

AT REST
“I am the Resurrection and the Life”

26 April Mrs Nancy Downie, previously Kingsmuir Drive
 29 July Mrs Jean McIntyre, Magnus Crescent
 8 Aug Mrs Margaret Gilligan, King's Park Mews
 10 Aug Mrs Ann Martin, Montford Avenue
 25 Aug Mr Jim Moore, St Blane's Drive
 20 Sept Mr Bill Stevenson, Rosslyn Avenue

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, we give thanks for what we have achieved during lockdown. We look forward to getting back to Church but we know that it will be a while. We thank everyone working in the background to make this happen. Give us patience as we go forward in our search for a new minister, when selecting the vacancy committee; help us to choose wisely. Be with the Kirk Session as we think about our up and coming services. We give thanks to all who produce our food and for the abundance of your creation; let us not take it for granted. Hear our prayer. Amen



DAY OF PRAYER

The Church will be open on the 11th of November 2020 from 10.30am until 11.30am. There will be a reading and a prayer and short service of remembrance at 11am.

Church Finance & Fabric.

Financially, we continue to survive, thanks to everyone finding ways to get their offerings into the church account – by standing order, or FWO envelope or by popping a cheque in the post, or through the church letter box (do you know where the church letter box is? If you don't, you're not the only one!) We're getting good at spreading the income to avoid any difficulties in paying our way, and to assist in prolonging this financial regularity, we have included with the magazine, a standing order form, if you are interested in using it.

As at the end of August, we have a 'year to date' shortfall of approximately £3,000 as against the spending plan, as at 31/12/2020, for our General & Fabric funds.

We have no hall let income coming in, a position which hopefully may be partially alleviated, as COVID-19 restrictions continue to reduce (although, at time of writing, lockdown seems to be a rising possibility again!). We also must say thank you to those you have donated generously, over and above their normal FWO level. On the expenditure side, our outgoings are reduced – less gas & electricity used, and staffing costs down. Again, we must say a special thank you to our Treasurer, David Wilson, for continuing to monitor the situation so admirably.

With regard to the 'bricks and mortar', a number of repairs have been carried out, which will be of benefit when we start to get busy again. The hole in the car park has been repaired with a new smooth ramp leading to the concrete surfacing. The Sunday morning bells are working properly, and the painting and repair work to the front fence & gates is complete. The church and hall electrics have been inspected and, where necessary, upgraded and the external lighting, commissioned and installed for our 75th anniversary, is in the process of being repaired following vandalism and water ingress. A huge thank you goes to elder and electrician, Colin Wilson, for painstakingly checking every circuit, fitting and appliance within and outwith our buildings. Thanks too, to our 'groundsmen & women' for looking after our beautiful and much - admired gardens, especially to the Williamsons and McInnes's for looking after the heavy stuff – grass and hedges.

As we move forward, we still need our volunteers to keep everything in good order, and we would be happy to add to our list of helpers. If you would like to assist, please call Alan Pratt on 07776 328914.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING 2020

This year's harvest thanksgiving kind of crept up on us and we haven't been as organised as we've been in previous years.....for obvious reasons!

Due to restrictions, we weren't in a position to accept gifts of food and flowers this year, but, still wanting to remember members of our congregation, particularly the housebound and those in care homes, we purchased flowers and plants and will endeavour, over a longer period, to deliver these, along with the best 'harvest' wishes of our church to those identified by our elders and pastoral team. If you could help us in this endeavour, financially, any assistance would be gratefully received – you can pop a cheque, made payable to King's Park Church, in the post, or if you attend the morning service, the offering plate is there for your donation.

Traditionally, we have always supported our city's Lodging House Mission, by collecting suitable foodstuffs and delivering them to East Campbell Street, to assist in the worthwhile work carried out there. We don't want to diminish our church's links with LHM and accordingly, will make sure that we can contribute financially as we have done for many years. Again, it would be great if we all could consider prayerfully whether we can help in this way. Details of the appeal are available below.

Payments can be made online through the Mission's website www.lhm-glasgow.org.uk or you can send your gift to the church in the normal way, marked 'LHM', and we will make sure it gets there.

LHM HARVEST APPEAL 2020

This coming Harvest-time, our LHM Harvest Appeal looks a little different, due to current restrictions placed upon us by the Covid-19 Pandemic and also due to limited storage availability within our Upper Sanctuary because of imminent building improvements works.

OF COURSE THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE NEED TO FEED THE HUNGRY HAS DIMINISHED. SADLY NOT!

Congregation members are respectfully invited to make a financial donation to LHM, equivalent to the value of what they may otherwise have brought as harvest gifts to Church in normal times.

All proceeds will be used to buy food to enable us to continue feeding the hungry throughout the autumn and winter in compliance with changing Covid-related restrictions.

Payments may be made online through our website or can be sent to our office at 35 East Campbell Street, Glasgow G1 5DT

Thank you



Lodging House Mission
Scottish Charity No SC017283



Thank You...

The family of the late Ann Martin would like to thank everyone who took the time to call us, email, or send cards following mum's passing – the support and love shown has been a great comfort to us. We were very appreciative of the hardy souls who braved the weather to stand at the church as we passed – God bless you. Special thanks go to Raymond for the lovely service and for his support to us all at this difficult time.

Bob Martin, Laura Kirkwood, Debbie Vine & families

Good to see you last week, Raymond – enjoyed your visit. Please extend, to all involved, our very grateful thanks to King's Park Church for the generous donation to the 'Pantry at Croftfoot'. This will help buy any necessary items for the folk who attend.

Blessings, *Fiona Matheson, Session Clerk, Croftfoot Parish Church*

I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who made my recent birthday so wonderful. The lovely cards, good wishes and all the video messages I received made my day very special and one that I will never forget.

Thanks again, Rosemary

It has been good to meet again in church for worship since 13th September. Our thanks to Alan Pratt and those who helped to set up the sanctuary for use again. Our streamed services continue for those who are understandably reluctant to meet in church because of the ongoing risks associated with Covid 19, or who are unable to join us because of the limit imposed on the number who may attend. At this testing time through which we are all passing, let us remember one another in our prayers.

David

OFFERING ENVELOPES

It is now time to order next year's supply of Freewill Offering Envelopes. Anyone who normally receives these but no longer wishes a set for 2021, please contact Aileen Campbell on 647 3970.

SESSION CLERK NEWS

Following the resignation of Rev. Tom Pollock we have been appointed the Rev. Ian Galloway of Gorbals Parish as our new Interim Moderator. Eunice and I hope to meet with him soon, followed by a Kirk Session meeting to discuss the vacancy, along with details of how we approach services such as Remembrance in these continuing challenging times.

Can we remind you that if you wish to attend worship in church you must register using the contact number provided in the letter you would have received, no later than the Thursday before the Sunday on which you wish to attend.

Given the constrictions in place, there was positive feedback from those who attended the service in church on the 13th.

The Lord bless you and keep you. *John and Eunice.*

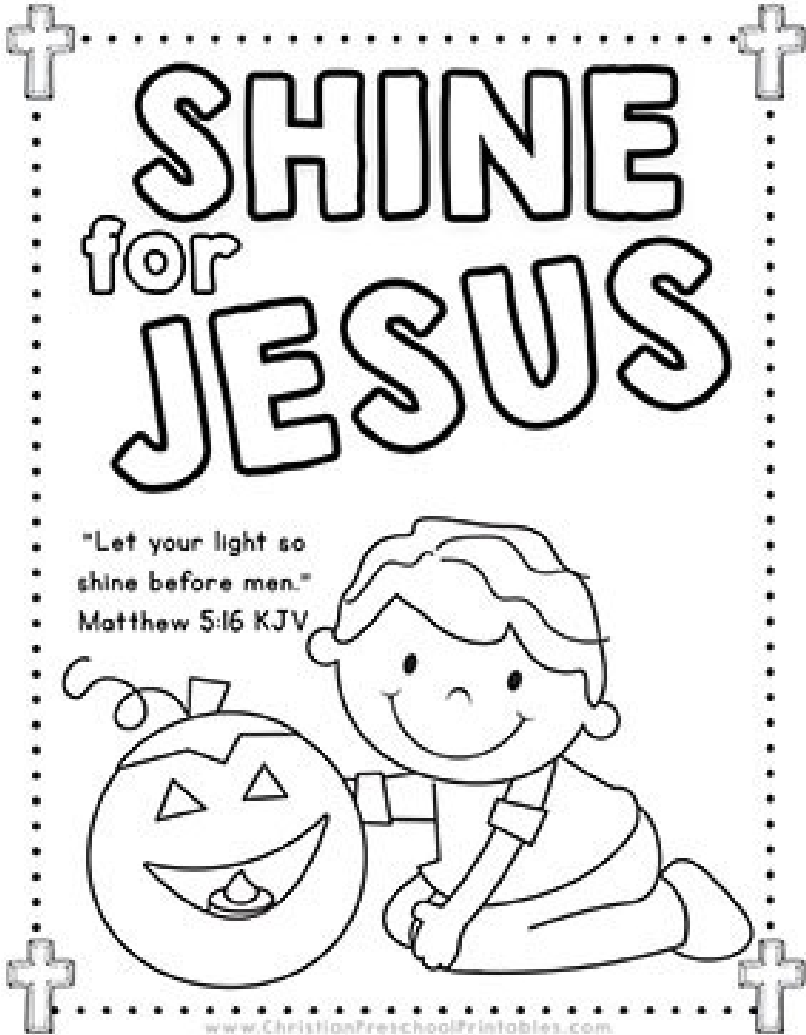
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October

- 4th 11am Morning and Online Worship
- 11th 11am Morning and Online Worship
- 18th 11am Morning Worship (led by Raymond Jenkins) and Online Worship
- 25th 11am Morning Worship (led by Hilary Petrie) and Online Worship

November

- 1st 11am Morning and Online Worship (including Dedication of Garden of Remembrance at Church after morning worship)
- 8th 10.45am Remembrance Sunday and Online Worship
- 11th 10.30 – 11.30am Church open for reflection and prayer with small act of remembrance at 11am
- 15th 11am Morning and Online Worship
- 22nd 11am Morning and Online Worship
- 29th 11am Morning and Online Worship (1st Sunday in Advent)



KP WORSHIP – THEN & NOW

The last 'normal' service of worship in King's Park Church was on Sunday 15 March 2020 - Were you there?

Our Locum, Rev David Easton led us through each of the important elements which, Sunday by Sunday, come together to encourage us to praise and worship God. We sang five hymns and ironically, the choir's anthem was 'Singing, we gladly worship the Lord'! We followed, using the pew bibles, readings from Zachariah and Revelations, we prayed – adoration, confession, thanksgiving intercession and, before, during and after, we enjoyed the fellowship of our church family, young and old. Then it stopped.....

On Sunday 28 June 2020, our first online worship service was premiered on Facebook and YouTube. Brought about by the amalgamation of two existing groups – 'Worship & 'Social Media and IT', with the added experience of our locum, David Easton, and finally, and most importantly, the creative zeal of Gordon Wilson, teaching, encouraging and sharing a special God given talent, initially, with the team and then with the rest of our church family and beyond. From then until now, the services have developed and matured and are now established as an important part of our church's worshipping life.

At the same time as giving thanks for this new digital outreach, we are well aware that it doesn't reach everybody. To mitigate this need, we are investigating the possibility of providing the service on CD/DVD to those unable to benefit from social media outlets.

On Sunday 13 September 2020, after much prayerful consideration, the church was opened for worship once more. Not worship as before, but as described in the August/September magazine. Restricted in all sorts of ways, due to the need for social distancing and the need to protect the health and safety of our more vulnerable members. But, despite the emptier sanctuary, the unfamiliar reflection on hymns, rather than their singing, and all the other differences, there is a peace to be had, in the stillness and even in the isolation of sitting apart, a stillness which maybe brings us closer to our God in His house?

So, what about the future.....

Both services, online and in the sanctuary, will continue for the foreseeable future, the latter obviously more vulnerable, should the government see the need for further serious restrictions.

We plan to share in the Act of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday, physically in church and in the garden of remembrance, as well as online, and, looking further ahead, we hope to use both mediums to enjoy the excitement in anticipating the celebration of our Saviour's birth during Advent, Watchnight and Christmas Day.

We give thanks to God for the opportunity to praise His name!

To keep you up to date and let you see how we look now, a recent photograph of our Sanctuary....



As in previous weeks during lockdown and the phased easing of restrictions, 14 Christian churches and organisations across the country, including the Church of Scotland, have co-signed a letter calling for prayer. Scottish Christians have been continuing to answer the call to pray at the same time each week, and Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, has been taking part alongside them. We once again join together in prayer on a Sunday evening at 7pm in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Living God, We journey in hard places today. And in the company of many who are weary and fearful. We journey in hard places, and we confess that we are weary and fearful ourselves. Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Living God, As you have heard our cry in times past. Hear our cry renewed. As you have provided for your people in times past. Renew your provision today. Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Living God, You have watched over us. And brought us safe thus far. You watch over us now. And we trust that you shall lead us to the place of safety renewed. Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Living God, In our remembering of the journey past. We do not forget those who are no longer with us. In our remembering of the journey past, We do not forget the depth of the challenges we have faced. Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Living God, Go before us we ask. And lead us to the place of your presence. Go before us. And bring us to the place where your presence is renewed. Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Lord God, In our journey onwards, May we know that you are among us. At journey's end, May we know that you have always been with us. Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

**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 and Instagram**

IF YOU NEED THE CHURCH PLEASE CONTACT:
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