

King's View

Magazine, No. 915

December 2020/January 2021

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



"And the Angel of the Lord said "I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the world."

Luke 2:10

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

"1930-2020 - 90 Years of Spiritual Service"

Dear Friends,

Don't hug granny at Christmas, and kisses under the mistletoe are out as well. So ran the front page headline in one of today's national newspapers - a reminder, if we needed to be told, that this Christmas will be like no other Christmas, thanks to COVID-19.

Over the past days, the media has spelled out for us whom we may or may not mix with over the five days from December 23-27. Who may belong to a 'Christmas bubble' has been explained. That said, our First Minister has urged us to think very carefully before meeting anyone and said that the safest way to spend Christmas is to stay at home.

Yes, the coronavirus pandemic has cast a long shadow over the festive season. Apart from the effect the many restrictions on movement and socialising have on home and family, to say nothing of bereavement, COVID-19 has affected almost every area of our common life. The NHS is stretched to the limit as it copes with the growing numbers who have succumbed to the virus. The economy is in freefall, what with many businesses having to shut their doors. Unemployment soars in consequence with attending financial, emotional, and mental health problems. And all this in, what is supposed to be, the season of cheer and goodwill! But may not the difficult circumstances in which we celebrate Christmas this year cause us to pause and remember how things were that first Christmas?

The world into which Christ was born wasn't a happy world. Palestine was an occupied country. A fiercely independent people has been crushed by the cruel heel of Rome. Only a matter of months before Christ was born, 2000 Jews had been crucified in one mass execution. That was the price of rebellion. So much for peace and good will! As for "the King of the Jews", King Herod, he was hated by his subjects because he was a lackey of the Romans. His reign was a tale of ruthlessness and anyone who opposed his policies had to look out. At about the time of Jesus' birth, he put to death some 300 public servants for alleged conspiracy. The story of how, on learning from the wise men of the birth of a king in Bethlehem, he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem who were two years and younger, (The Slaughter of the Innocents) fits in perfectly with what we know of his character and behaviour.

Nor were the circumstances in which Jesus was born, happy. Can you imagine how tongues must have wagged in Nazareth when Mary became pregnant out of wedlock? Then when she and Joseph, who was now her husband, had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem to take part in a census which the Roman emperor had ordered, the only place where Mary could give birth to the child she was carrying was a stable because there was no room in the inn. Animals and the smell of dung; a baby wrapped against the cold in strips of cloth; no cot but a box filled with straw - none of the trappings which surround Christmas today. How different was the setting of that first Christmas.

Perhaps the relatively austere circumstances in which we will celebrate Christmas this year might serve to remind us that when God came among us in Christ, he didn't seek some quiet corner for himself. He entered our world at a time when life was tough and in a place where the conflict was harsh and bitter. The peace of which the angels sang wasn't the peace of a never-never land where everything was just so. It was the peace of which Jesus spoke, when shortly before his death, he said to his followers, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Therefore, do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid...In the world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

One way or another, we all know that in the world we have trouble, as Jesus put it, not only because of the strange times we are passing through at present, but also because of the losses, hurts, setbacks, disappointments and frustrations which touch us all and are part and parcel of our everyday lives - pains which are more keenly felt at Christmas and New Year than at other times. But whatever our circumstances, we may, nonetheless, encounter at this time, through faith, the one who lies behind our celebrations and is the reason for the season – Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man, the Saviour who died for us and the Lord who rose again and has conquered all that is against us, even death itself. In Christ, God came among us. No social distancing! That is the good news which lies at the heart of Christmas. Let's make sure we embrace it, whether for the first time, or all over again. Wishing you the comfort, peace, joy and hope of Christ, all summed up in the greeting, Happy Christmas!

With all good wishes,
David, Locum Minister

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

15 Nov Ollie Alexander Hardie

AT REST

14 Oct John Ferguson, Green Cross Care Home, Cambuslang

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..

Father God, this year has been changed beyond recognition, but you are still constant in our lives. Christmas will be different; we will celebrate quietly, but let us spend it concentrating and giving thanks for all the good things we have received. At this time, more people will be feeling isolated from friends and family, but we can keep in contact using the technology or the phone.



January is a new beginning. Please let there be an end to this virus and that the new vaccine will work. Hold onto hope; there will be an end to this. Remember all those who have lost a loved one or are still dealing with long term affects; these too will get better in time. Stay safe, keep well until we meet again in our Lord's house. Hear our Prayer. Amen

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WHILE WE ARE NOT PRODUCING A FULL MAGAZINE DURING THESE TIMES, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOMETHING INTIMATED IN THE FEBRUARY/MARCH 2021 ISSUE PLEASE EMAIL office@kingsparkchurch.co.uk NO LATER THAN THE END OF THE MORNING SERVICE, SUNDAY 24TH JANUARY 2021 ANY ARTICLES RECEIVED AFTER THIS DEADLINE WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE APRIL/MAY 2021 ISSUE.

KP WORSHIP – NOW & THEN (*when we are able*)

In the article, entitled KP WORSHIP – THEN & NOW, published in the October/November issue of King's View, we, in trying to look forward in terms of worship, made this statement: *“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”*

Well – vulnerable indeed, here we are, as of Friday 20th November, placed in Level 4, the highest of the Scottish Government's protection levels. We are prohibited, by law, from travelling between local authority areas and numbers able to attend worship are reduced from 50 to 20. It is decided that, as our parish straddles the boundary between Glasgow & South Lanarkshire, and to lend support to what is trying to be achieved in reducing levels of infection, we suspend worship for three weeks, hoping to re-open on Sunday 13th December, if the guidelines support such a move.

You might be interested to know that, since the church opened for worship on Sunday 13th September, we have shared in 10 services of worship, 2 baptisms, and a short service of remembrance on Wednesday 11 November.

Numbers attending on Sunday mornings ranged from 22 to 28, with the total number of members attending at some point, in the ten - week period, at 54.

Services have closely followed the description as set out in Alan Pratt's article “A KP Church Service – the new normal?” in the August/September issue of the magazine, although, it should be noted that on Remembrance Sunday our service in the sanctuary benefitted greatly by being able to share the moving ‘Act of Remembrance’ principally created for our online worship, viewed on Facebook and YouTube – a most welcomed and meaningful ‘crossover’!

We give thanks to God for the opportunity to praise His name, whether in our living rooms, or, when we are able, back in our sanctuary again.

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCE
"We Give Thee But Thine Own"
FINANCE REPORT - 2019

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>
	£		
Offerings & Donations	11,637	5,719	8,179
Gift Aid	4,655	-	-
Hall Hire Income	-	-	-
Rental Income	517	197	517
Charitable collections	20	20	133
Other regular Monthly Income	848	1,053	195
Total Month's Income	<u>17,677</u> =====	<u>6,989</u> =====	<u>9,024</u> =====
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Regular Monthly Costs	11,415	12,538	10,900
Fabric Repairs	82	2,293	361
Total Month's Payments	<u>11,497</u> =====	<u>14,831</u> =====	<u>11,261</u> =====
Monthly payments vs Costs	6,180	-7,842	-2,237

Comments

Aug - unrestricted funds had a surplus of £8,133 and restricted funds had a deficit of £1,953

Sept- unrestricted funds had a deficit of £6,179 and restricted funds had a deficit of £1,663

Oct - unrestricted funds had a deficit of £433 and restricted funds had a deficit of £1,804

Thank You...

In gratitude of King's Park Church of Scotland's £63 harvest donation and faithful support of our work. "The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor" Proverbs 22:9
The Lodging House Mission



I would like to thank the members of King's Park Church for the lovely flowers which I received following Harvest Sunday. It was such a nice surprise and my thanks go to the Church Family.
Stay Safe, Doris Hume

Many thanks to Raymond and all in the Church for delivering Church flowers on my 90th birthday. It all went well.
Kind thoughts, Ian McPhail

A huge thank you to Raymond for the beautiful flowers that you delivered to me on Sunday. It was very kind of everyone in the Church to think about me.
With Every Blessing, Lena McDougall

Thank you for all your donations to our recent Poppy Appeal. We raised the grand sum of £768.17. In a time of lockdown, this amount was truly remarkable and actually up on last year's total! Many thanks to everyone who enabled the Garden of Remembrance and Poppy displays to be visible in our gardens and for all the help in preparing the live and online Remembrance Services.
I appreciate all the assistance.
Ken Blair (Poppy Appeal)

Dates for your Diary

December

Sat 5th	4pm Messy Christmas on zoom
Sun 6th	11am online Morning Worship, second week in Advent
Sun 13th	11am live Morning Worship, third week in Advent
	11am online Morning Worship, third week in Advent
Sun 20th	11am live Morning Worship, Nativity Sunday
	11am online Morning Worship, Nativity Sunday
Thur 24th	7pm online Family Service
	11.30pm online Watchnight Service
Fri 25th	11am online Christmas Day Service
Sun 27th	11am live Morning Worship
	11am online Morning Worship

January

Sun 3rd	11am live Morning Worship
	11am online Morning Worship
Sun 10th	11am live Morning Worship
	11am online Morning Worship
Sun 17th	11am live Morning Worship
	11am online Morning Worship
Sun 24th	11am live Morning Worship
	11am online Morning Worship
Sun 31st	11am live Morning Worship
	11am online Morning Worship

Please note all live morning worship will be subject to change according to Government restrictions. Until further notice, we will continue with our online worship via our Facebook page and our YouTube channel. We are indebted to everyone who has taken part in our online worship and, as we close this year, we would like to give a huge thank you to Mr Gordon Wilson, who has made sure it all comes together, week by week. No easy task!

On a lighter note ..

Help Wanted

Santa needs new reindeer.

The first bunch has grown old.

Dasher has arthritis; Comet hates the cold.

Prancer's sick of staring at Dancer's big behind.

Cupid married Blitzen and Donner lost his mind.

Dancer's mad at Vixen for stepping on his toes.

Vixen's being thrown out—

she laughed at Rudolph's nose.

If you are a reindeer we hope you will apply.

There is just one tricky part: You must know how to fly.

From *A Poem for Every Winter Day*

Trustees Report (Kirk Session and Congregational Board)

At a recent meeting of the Trustees, along with members of Presbytery, discussion took place regarding the progression of the vacancy. Following discussion, there were two votes:

1. The Trustees agreed to proceed with what is called the “draft basis”. This states that King’s Park can proceed to call a minister under reviewable charge, with a formal review at the end of 5 years. It also reminds us that we are in a linkage with Croftfoot Church, leading to a union of King’s Park and Croftfoot, should Croftfoot become vacant.
2. The Kirk Session voted to continue with the vacancy under the current protocol agreed by The Church of Scotland, which allows much of the vacancy procedure to be carried out online.

The next step is that the “draft basis” goes out to the congregation for perusal and questions, and then, after a two week period, a congregational vote takes place on whether to accept the “basis”.

Eunice and John

SEASON OF REMEMBRANCE 2020

This year’s season was different – in practicalities, rather than spiritually. From the dedication of the Garden of Remembrance, right through to the week after the 11th day of the 11th month, our respect and admiration for those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom was again underlined.

In the sanctuary, the banner, originally created for the Centenary of the First World War Armistice, was again draped below the church’s war memorial, at the south transept. The knitted poppies, salvaged last year from their stalks, and used to great effect, displayed around the pillars inside the church, were, this year, used to decorate the newly restored and painted boundary fence at the front of the church – a much admired feature for 2020. The Garden of Remembrance itself was left open, to allow people to plant their own personal memories in an area which saw more little crosses than in previous years.

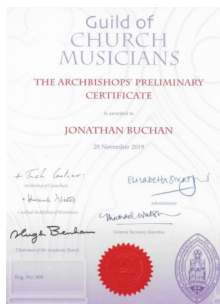
We say thanks to Cath Graham & Faye Walker again, for their original creation of banner and knitted poppy, but now, for the clever and, just as meaningful, re-use of the same raw materials to the same aim.

To those who took part in the live service – Margaret Williamson for laying the church's wreath at the poppy - bedecked communion table, and those who were part of the virtual act – Raymond, for his words, piper Neil, drummer Aeneas, and trumpeter Alan, for lament, roll and calls respectively, and not forgetting Gordon for his sensitive editing of the virtual act.

Most importantly, however, we say a final sincere thankyou to Ken Blair for overseeing the whole process and for linking with Poppy Scotland in theirs and our fundraising exercise, which again, despite COVID, and wholly as a result of Ken's deliberations, was most successful. Ken has been 'Poppy Guru' since 2005 and has decided to retire from active duty, although, as mentioned elsewhere in this magazine, he will be available to handover his expertise to a new volunteer in early course.

CONGRATULATIONS!

On Sunday 25th October, our Locum Minister, Rev David Easton presented Jonathan Buchan, our organist and Director of Music, with a Certificate in Church Music, which had been awarded to him by the Guild of Church Musicians. The certificate was to have been presented by Lord Gill at a service back in April, but that did not take place, due to the lockdown. Since 2003 Jonathan has served as organist and Director of Music here at King's Park during the ministries of Stewart Smith and Sandra Boyd. Before that he played at Pollokshields Congregational Church and at the West Church in Hamilton. We continue to appreciate the contribution he makes to our services through playing the organ and directing the choir. Jonathan, we congratulate you on the award of this certificate and thank you warmly for the contribution you have made, not just at the organ but in other ways as well, to our life together as a congregation here at King's Park.



UPDATE FROM SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING

We hope that you are all keeping safe and well. We have missed celebrating our 90th year with you all, including our Cooperation Band Concert, a special Strawberry Fayre and, of course, our Gifts for Jesus and Star Appeal at this time of year. After much prayerful consideration we have decided that we cannot expect people to bring items into the sanctuary this year and place them under the tree; we are also very well aware that a lot of people cannot attend Church and it's logistically difficult to virtually contribute to a Star Appeal collection. We hope however to have a '90 plus 1' year of celebrations when the days ahead become brighter. In the meantime we continue to keep everyone in our prayers.

Social & Fundraising Committee

POPPY APPEAL

Kenny Blair has intimated his wish to retire from his duties in ensuring we have poppies each year. He also places poppies for sale in local shops, and along with others is involved in Remembrance Day and the Garden of Remembrance Service. Our thanks go to Kenny for all his hard work each year, especially as much of it goes unnoticed. We had no idea that his year started around April/May and worked towards November!

We need someone to take over from Kenny in ensuring we continue to have poppies available each year, so if you feel you have some time and would like to consider this role, please speak to ourselves, and we can put you in touch with Kenny to get a better insight into the role. Kenny has asked if there would be someone willing to become the representative with Poppy Scotland as he wishes to give up this role as well. Again, if you feel you could consider this, please let us know, and we can get further details about the role. This is not a position appointed through our church, but obviously it has helped that Kenny fulfilled both roles. Kenny will be happy to help someone get started in either or both roles. *John and Eunice*



FLOWER FUND

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

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.

God of the Advent promise, We come on our journey to the place where the promise is renewed. Even in the darkness,
We look for the light of your presence to be revealed.
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

God of the Advent promise, We come on our journey to the place where hope is renewed. Even in the midst of all that we have faced in times past, We trust in the hope that does not disappoint.
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

God of the Advent promise, We come on our journey to the place where we must wait for a time. Even though we have waited in times past, We gladly do so again trusting that our waiting shall yield the coming of God. Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

God of the Advent promise, We come on our journey to the place of anticipation. Even though we do not yet see, We anticipate the good gift that you will offer. Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

God of the Advent promise, We come on our journey to the place where we resolve to journey on. Even though we have travelled through hard times, We go forward, trusting in the promise: Immanuel, shall come to 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, YouTube and Instagram**

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