

# King's View

Magazine, No. 919

August/September 2021

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



***"When you can't understand - Trust"  
See Proverbs 3:5***

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

***"1930-2021 - 91 Years of Spiritual Service"***

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Please remember to inform the Church if you are changing your address. It's vital that our records are kept as up to date as possible. Thank you in advance.

**INTIMATIONS FOR THE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021 ISSUE SHOULD BE EMAILED TO [office@kingsparkchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@kingsparkchurch.co.uk) NO LATER THAN THE END OF THE MORNING SERVICE, SUNDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2021. ANY ARTICLES RECEIVED AFTER THIS DEADLINE WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE DECEMBER/JANUARY 2022 ISSUE.**

**Caveat: This magazine is published on our website. Please note if you are submitting an article and wish something not to appear online, please indicate this on submission.**

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

**AT REST****“I am the Resurrection and the Life”**

20th June Mr William “Bill” Cunningham, late of Fintry Drive

25th June Mrs Janette Stewart, late of Ardmory Avenue

While restrictions still do not allow all of us to attend a funeral service for our dear friends, we can take time to remember them 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..***

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the vaccine and pray there will be no more deaths caused by this terrible illness. We remember all those struggling with long term side affects and pray that you will heal them of all that harms them, give them courage to face tomorrow and strength to endure this time in their lives. As the research continues, pray that answers will be found to prevent this happening again.



We pray for all who gather-in the harvest whether on land or sea. We ask that you keep them safe from the dangers they face. As restrictions to migrating work forces mean prices rise and people on lower incomes find it more difficult to provide, putting pressure on food banks.

We pray for all the activities in our Church as the new session resumes and that there will be a growing link between Church and community. We remember all teachers and pupils, especially those starting nursery, primary and secondary schools, college and university.

As we continue to seek a new Minister Lord, we trust you will chose the right person for us and in the meantime give us patience. Lord hear our Prayer, Amen. [gaerataylor@btinternet.com](mailto:gaerataylor@btinternet.com)

Dear Friends

You've probably heard the story of the chicken and the pig. As they walked down the farm road, they reflected that things weren't what they used to be. "Take the Scottish breakfast," said the chicken. "Who tucks in to bacon and eggs now? All these breakfast cereals make us feel so unwanted." Just then, they came to a café at the end of the road, where, outside was a notice advertising bacon and eggs. "Look," said the chicken, "we're needed after all!" But the pig didn't share her excitement. "You're only asked to make a contribution," he said. "What's required of me is total commitment!"

The application of the story to the church is plain. In many places the church struggles along, because so many who profess to be Christians have a contribution mentality, and so few, an attitude of total commitment. Contributions, of course, (and we're not thinking of financial contributions only) are always welcome. Without them, our denomination would be in a more parlous state than it already is. But how much more healthy and vigorous and able to meet the challenges of our day would the church be if sacrificial commitment, rather than occasional contributions, was the norm among us.

The challenges we face in the church today are many. We may think of the empty chairs or pews on a Sunday; or of financial shortfalls and the need to teach our members to give, not only generously, but sacrificially; or of what to do with the legacy of buildings we have inherited, which swallow up scarce resources and are often unsuited to present day needs; or of the erosion of belief and the uncertainty which now surrounds, once clear, moral codes; or of the priority of reaching out to our community with the good news of Jesus. The challenges are many, and call for a high degree of commitment from us all, if they are going to be met.

That said, we don't pin our hopes on what we can do to save the church but on the sovereign work of Christ's Spirit in the church. That goes without saying, yet we must also realise that God will only work through people of commitment.

By commitment, we're not talking, in the first instance, of heroic exploits in the service of Christ. The hymn, 'New every morning', speaks of "the trivial round, the common task". For us, that means faithfully carrying out the small things God has given us to do.

These, the hymn tells us, will give us  
*"Room to deny ourselves, a road  
 To bring us daily nearer God."*

Only as we are faithful in the routine will God entrust to us greater responsibilities. "Whoever can be trusted with very little", said Jesus, "can also be trusted with much." (Luke 16.10).

To return to the chicken and the pig. In the church, we have plenty of eggs laid by chickens who then, with a cackle, strut off until the urge to lay comes on them again. But bacon is in short supply! The reason isn't hard to find: we balk at death, the death to self and sin, without which there can be no spiritual bacon. Yet Jesus teaches us that it is out of such death that new life comes. To move from the world of animal husbandry to that of agriculture: "I tell you the truth, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies," said Jesus, "it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." (John 12.24).

On recent Sundays (live and online) we have been looking at the faith we all confessed, and the vows we took, and the promises we made, when we became members of the church. Given the challenges we now face as a congregation, what with the questions raised by the vacancy, and the pressures caused by COVID-19, is this not the time for us all to undergo a spiritual health check, and renew our commitment to Christ and his church?

Yours, in that hope and to that end,

*David, Locum*

**CONGREGATIONAL FINANCE**  
*"We Give Thee But Thine Own"*  
**FINANCE REPORT - 2021**

	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	£	
Offerings & Donations	7,072	10,734
HMRC Furlough salary contribution	445	87
Rental Income	517	397
Charitable collections	540	45
Other regular Monthly Income	45	-
<b>Total Month's Income</b>	<b><u>8,619</u></b> =====	<b><u>11,263</u></b> =====
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		
Regular Monthly Costs	11,352	13,018
Charitable Donations	-	415
Fabric maintenance & repairs	56	1,816
<b>Total Month's Payments</b>	<b><u>11,408</u></b> =====	<b><u>15,249</u></b> =====
<b>Monthly Income vs Expenditure</b>	<b>-2,789</b>	<b>-3,986</b>

**Comments**

May - Surplus of receipts after payments made was £2,789.

Unrestricted funds had a deficit of £1,646, restricted funds had a deficit of £1,143.

June - Surplus of receipts after payments made was £3,986.

Unrestricted funds had a deficit of £1,757, restricted funds had a deficit of £2,229.



**FLOWER FUND**

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

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

Eliza Ruby MacBeth, was Baptized on Sunday 4th July 2021 in Kings Park Church. We welcome Eliza into our Church family, joining her parents Lauren and Kyle, her grandparents, Karen and Ian and her great grandparents Bill and Elizabeth. May the Lord Bless her and keep her.



Eliza Ruby MacBeth

***Thank You...***

I would like to thank Jonathan very much for the delivery of the beautiful Church flowers after my recent fall. I am now recovering well. Thanks again.

*Annie Robertson*



Many thanks for the beautiful flowers we received on our Diamond Wedding Anniversary from the Church Family, and for the many cards and good wishes as well. We are grateful for the thoughtfulness of you all.

*God Bless, Bob & Nan Pitman*

**YOUTH ORGANISATIONS**

The youth organisations will restart when each feels it is safe to do so. This will depend on Scottish Government and Church of Scotland guidelines at the time.

Further details, if/when available, will be provided on our website and through the usual social media channels. It is anticipated that the leaders of each organisation will also contact children and/or parents as necessary, nearer the time.

At the time of printing and if restrictions do not change, most organisations hope to restart the first week in September, with the Pathfinders hoping to restart on Monday 30th August. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for further updates.

**NEWS FROM THE PRAYER GROUP**

We have been meeting on a Monday at 11am in the Lesser Hall Do come along and you will receive a warm welcome. The prayer list is under review and if you wish someone to be kept on or added to it, phone me on 0141-6431775 or email me at [gaerataylor@btinternet.com](mailto:gaerataylor@btinternet.com). Our list continues to grow - there are 81 members and 238 friends prayed for each week.

*Gaera Taylor Prayer Elder.*



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2021 – The Final Story

As an update to the update in June/July's magazine, we can confirm that the total amount raised this year was **£4,398**. In these restricted times, that is a fantastic result.

The money came from 2 sources – Raymond and Alan's kiltwalk, visiting the bridges of Glasgow, generously supported by friends and the church family (£3,558) and from a small number of CA envelopes, distributed on the Christian Aid Week launch + additional individual cheque and cash donations (£840)

We hope, depending on the prevailing circumstances, to organise some form of Christian Aid Quiz in the Autumn, but meantime, **thanks to all who have contributed in any way, large or small, in helping to continue our church family's superb tradition of support for Christian Aid.**

### 60 Diamond Years

Our warmest congratulations go  
to our very own

Mr and Mrs Bob & Nan Pitman

who celebrated their Diamond Wedding

Anniversary on 14th July 2021

We wish them both every Blessing, from  
all their friends at Kings Park.

## **KING'S PARK 'IN-PERSON' WORSHIP - UPDATE**

As I'm sure we are all aware, as from Monday 19 July, amongst other things, we moved to Level 0 within the Scottish Government's strategic framework, leaving behind 2 metre social distancing in favour of 1 metre social distancing. It doesn't sound much, but it has made a significant difference to the number of worshippers we can accommodate within the sanctuary on a Sunday morning once Presbytery and Kirk Session approvals are forthcoming. Prior to the change, the Physical Distance Based Capacity (PDBC) in the sanctuary was 56 people seated. This has now increased to 159, so, strictly speaking, we are now able to seat 159 people in the sanctuary, but only if there are a number of 2 or 3 person 'households' sitting together (which, in normal times, was a fairly regular occurrence, eg – husband & wife, families etc.)

We are obliged, legally, to calculate and display the PDBC limits for each of the main areas within the church buildings, and if you visit the church, these numbers are displayed on our main noticeboard fronting Castlemilk Road and at the main access door to our halls. Allowing numbers, in excess of our calculated limits, to use any area could result in a monetary fine, so it's important that we, and all who use our sanctuary and halls suite are aware of this and adhere to the limits set. It should also be said, at this time, that, when we move beyond Level 0, and social distancing is removed, we will require to recalculate the limits all over again!!

It's easy to forget what has been happening since we first closed the church back in March last year (one lockdown is very like another), but you may be interested to know, for the record, that we first opened for worship, after the first lockdown, on Sunday 13 September 2020, and stayed open for 10 Sundays until 15 November. During that period, we also celebrated 2 baptisms in the sanctuary, on Sunday afternoons, where we welcomed family and friends of the little ones, in the presence of members of the Kirk Session.

You will further remember that we were able to open again for only two weeks on 13 & 20 December 2020, when we prepared for our Christmas celebrations. After that, we remained closed until Sunday 25 April 2021, when we opened our doors again and, thankfully, they have remained open ever since! Throughout the 'COVID period', numbers attending on Sunday mornings ranged from 22 to 31, with the total number of members attending at some point from 13 September 2020, up until now, at 70.

Within the 70, we must highlight the attendance of some of our younger church family members, John Paul Rooney, Sarah Greer and Eilidh Gillon and Louisa-Mai McEwan. Their attendance at in-person worship persuaded our on-line service team to arrange the crossover of the online 'children's address' to be regularly shown at the morning service in the sanctuary – so we also enjoyed Lynn's boats, John's lovely garden and Alan's birds!

One of the most recent highlights taking place in the sanctuary, again at an afternoon service, was the baptism of Eliza Ruby MacBeth, where parents, Lauren and Kyle, shared with both families and friends in a very special baptism, when, we in KP Church, for the first time since limits were set, reached the capacity level of 56 worshippers!

Going forward, we give thanks for being in the position to welcome more people into the sanctuary for Sunday morning worship. However, we mustn't be complacent. It's likely that those attending will be of the age group who have been 'double jabbed' and therefore, if infected by the virus, will not necessarily become seriously ill. But, it's important to remember that there will be people, of all ages, attending worship and/or attending our halls and buildings for other groups, over the coming months, who will, for whatever reason, still be vulnerable. It is imperative therefore, that we all act responsibly, making sure that if we are unwell or showing symptoms of COVID-19, or are in the extremely vulnerable group, or are shielding, or isolating, or living with someone who is isolating or unwell, **we must not attend.**

We, as a church, have a moral duty to provide a safe environment, with particular reference to the COVID-19 pandemic, by ensuring that all worshippers, volunteers, employees and visitors are aware of the infection prevention and control precautions in place within our buildings, and the behaviour expected of them, during the pandemic, to keep themselves and others safe.

**We give thanks to God for the opportunity to praise His name, in our beautiful sanctuary, or in our living rooms – whichever we feel most comfortable in.**

## **PRESBYTERY REPORT**

In May, (is it only three months ago?) I had the privilege of attending a very different General Assembly which, like so many of our meetings these days, was held on zoom, with only the moderator, convenors and officials in the hall. Although watching the singing of the psalms, which were recorded at a previous Assembly, appear on screen, it can never replace the excitement of joining with the hundreds of commissioners in a packed Assembly Hall. Despite that, there was still a feeling of togetherness as we faced the challenges – and the opportunities - of change within our Church as a family of God's people.

As you have no doubt seen in the limited reports of this year's Assembly, Prince William, or the Earl of Strathearn to give him his Scottish title, the first of the Queen's grandchildren to serve as the Lord High Commissioner of the Assembly, in his opening speech, recalled what a special place Scotland has in his affections, with some of his happiest times spent here, as well as some of the saddest, when he found sanctuary in the service at Crathie Kirk, the morning he heard of the death of his mother, and comfort and solace in the Scottish outdoors, in the dark days of grief that followed, and in his closing speech he thanked the Church for its witness and service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As has been said many times, in so many situations, these are difficult times for everyone - including the Church.

Here in King's Park, the current vacancy has brought its own challenges. Throughout this year's Assembly, we were faced with multiple stark warnings about the current state of the National Church, and the urgent need for reform, with the convenor of the Assembly Trustees admitting that the proposals, which are likely to affect every minister and member in every parish, would cause pain throughout the Church, while the Convenor of the Faith Nurture Forum( itself a result of recent reforms) warns "we are draining the resources of the Church - people, morale, finance - just to keep this broken system going. Without a radical treatment plan, the Church of Scotland itself will not survive."

It was the outgoing moderator, The Very Rev Dr Martin Fair, who reminded us of all the work that there was still to do, to address issues such as poverty, sectarianism, refugees and mounting mental health issues - but warned that without the necessary reforms, and a reversal of the decline in numbers, there will be hardly any church left to do all that.

And so it was, that after three often very long days of debate, the Assembly passed a new Presbytery Mission Plan Act that will see the number of ministry posts cut to 600\*, plus 60 vacancies, by 2025, a number which was deemed affordable and also reflected the fact that over 35% of ministers will reach retirement age within 5 years.

\*Glasgow Presbytery ministries will be reduced to 84 (from current 130)

As part of the ongoing reform of Presbyteries, mergers combining Edinburgh with West Lothian, Hamilton with Lanark and six Presbyteries in South West Scotland were agreed.

Part of the pain in all these reforms is likely to be the question of church buildings, and once again the chairman of the General Trustees urged the Church to get to grips with too many buildings; with too many of poor quality and too many in the wrong places, and here too, radical reforms will be required, as we look forward to serving our parishes and local communities

The Church, then, faces some very hard decisions – many of which, no doubt should have been addressed years ago - some anguish and no doubt some pain - “there is no easy or painless way forward, but we can choose our pain; the short sharp pain of surgery with the prospect of recovery; or long debilitating decline, with no hope of getting better.”

As a result of the reduction in the number of ministries throughout the Church, and bearing in mind the Church’s commitment to serve the whole community, it may well mean closer cooperation with other denominations and, in line with this, Assembly approved the St Andrew’s declaration, recognising the Scottish Episcopal Church, as sharing the same faith and being “true churches of the Gospel”, and committing to respond together to proclaim the reign of God to all the people of Scotland by strengthening their partnership in ministry and mission.

In his closing remarks the new Moderator, Baron Wallace of Tankerness, probably better known to many as former First Minister Jim Wallace, whilst acknowledging the very real challenge the Church faces, felt able to say that “significant progress” had been made. “The challenges are very real and five days of debate, deliberation and deliverances do not make them disappear. But our prayers and our hopes must be that, as we emerge from this Assembly, we are better equipped and better prepared to deal with them.”

The challenges are very real – the response will be needed not just from the Assembly, but from every Presbytery, every minister, every elder and every member.

Stark warnings indeed, but I think it was the retiring Moderator, himself, who reminded us **“whatever is before us can never be greater than the One who is behind us.”** *Raymond*

## **KIRK SESSION REPORT**

Vacancy - We are still awaiting final authority to proceed as “an exceptional case”. The congregation voted by 200 votes to 5 to proceed with the Draft Basis, and there was a majority of the Kirk Session who voted for a departure from the Church’s practice in relation to human sexuality in respect of the current vacancy. This allows applications to be considered from, amongst others, individuals who are in a civil partnership or a same sex marriage. Our Parish profile is being updated, and an advert for the vacancy will be ready – all we need is permission to proceed.

*Eunice and John Black.*

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Restrictions have now been lifted to allow us to accommodate an increased number of worshippers, therefore you do not need to book ahead of attending Church on a Sunday morning. We will keep you updated on our website and all of our social media platforms if plans change in any way. In the meantime, our online services continue on our Facebook and YouTube channels, as normal.

### **August**

Sun 1st 11am Morning & Online Worship  
 Sun 8th 11am Morning & Online Worship  
 Sat 14th 4pm Messy Church online  
 Sun 15th 11am Morning & Online Worship  
 Sun 22nd 11am Morning & Online Worship  
 Sun 29th 11am Morning & Online Worship

### **September**

Sun 5th 11am Morning & Online Worship  
 Sun 12th 11am Morning & Online Worship, including the  
 Celebration of Communion  
 Sun 19th 11am Morning & Online Worship  
 Sun 26th 11am Morning & Online Worship, including Harvest  
 Thanksgiving

## **JOAN DUDLEY - A TRIBUTE**

Joan Dudley died on 18<sup>th</sup> May after a short illness and her passing brought the deepest sadness to her family, close circle of her friends, and a great sense of loss to the Congregation of King's Park Church, where she served as a member and Elder with unflinching commitment. Central to Joan's life was her family. She and her late husband Bill were married in 1970 and they found great happiness together. Joan's brother Sid observed that Bill was the right person for Joan and that they were true soul-mates. Bill died in 1998 and the following year, Joan gifted in his memory the brass lectern which sits in the Church on the Communion Table.

She was a very loving sister to Sid and sister-in-law to Eleanor. She was a wonderfully loving aunt to Lesley and Carol and their families. Relatives in Australia, Canada and the USA treasured her love. Joan's nearest and dearest have always been close to her, and never more so than in her final weeks in hospital and Kilbryde Hospice. She knew they were there, beside her, right to the end. Joan also had another family, as Joan's niece Lesley remarked – a family of friends. Among her many friends and colleagues, some were specially dear to her – Fay and Jim Paterson, Sam and Charlotte Gallagher. Cathie and Jerry McLaughlin and Marilyn and Dave Phillips and their families. Joan was "Auntie Joan" to all their children.

All her life, Joan was a hard worker, capable, conscientious, determined. One of her managers described her as feisty. She grew up in Gorbals, worked in the SCWS in Morrison Street, became head receptionist in the Tontine Hotel in Peebles, before moving to a similar post in the Cartland Bridge Hotel outside Lanark. And that was the best move she made, because the chef there was Bill Dudley. When Joan "retired", she volunteered with the WRVS and in that sphere she gave outstanding service. She began in the Tea Bar in the Rutherglen Maternity Hospital, then moved to the Victoria Infirmary where she worked till the Infirmary closed. Finally, she moved into the new Victoria and continued to organise the Tea Bar there. Over the years, she helped raise funds which bought incubators, wheel chairs, dialysis machines, even an ambulance. That great service was recognised in 2000, when Joan received the MBE at the Palace of Holyrood House.

Joan was born into a Jewish family and attended the Reformed Synagogue. As a teenager, she taught Hebrew to a Bible Class. Later she joined the Church and became a devoted member of King's Park. She had a bright and good spirit, and was actively involved in the life and work of the Church. She and Bill often assisted the late Alex and Betty Thomson in the Church kitchen, making wonderful pancakes at the Christmas Bazaar. And regularly she shared with Joan Macdonald in arranging the seating for families on Baptism Sundays. In 2004, Joan was ordained to the Eldership and served and looked after the people of her Elder's District with the same faithfulness, care and kindness which she brought to everything she did.

Joan Dudley was a woman of genuine Christian faith, a faith which was translated into effective action for others' good, and which also led her ever deeper into a personal sense of the grace of God in Jesus Christ. And when Joan's true self finally passed over into the nearer presence of God's love, without a doubt, all the trumpets sounded on the other side.

## **Sunday Prayers continue across the Church of Scotland....**

Christians across the country, and further afield, will join together in prayer and reflection at 7pm in response to the pandemic.

Living God, You open your hand towards us  
And offer to us good gifts. We accept your gifts with gratitude  
And respond with thanks and praise.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God, You open your hand towards us  
And offer to us the gift of life.  
We acknowledge that we are made in your image  
And recognise your image in the life of each person upon the earth.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God, You open your hand towards us  
And offer life to the world. We receive your offer  
As a sign of your faithfulness towards us.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God, You open your hand towards us  
And offer your gifts to all. We resolve to share the gifts we have received  
And not to close our hand towards others.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God, You open your hand towards us  
And offer to us signs of your kingdom.  
We pledge to bear witness to your enduring kingdom  
And to your abundant grace.  
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](mailto:office@kingsparkchurch.co.uk) We will also post regular updates on our website here: [www.kingsparkchurch.co.uk](http://www.kingsparkchurch.co.uk) You can also follow us on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram**