

# King's View

Magazine, No. 938

August/September 2024

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



**'Do this in remembrance of me'**

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

***"1930-2024 - 94 Years of Spiritual Service"***

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

Minister:	Reverend Stuart Crawford
Pastoral Assistant:	Raymond Jenkins
Session Clerk:	John Black and Eunice Black (until end of Aug) Lynda Young (from Sept)
Registrar:	TBC
Director of Music:	Jonathan M Buchan
Treasurer:	David Wilson
Gift Aid Convenor:	Andrew Aitken
Property Convenor:	Alan Pratt
Safeguarding Convenor:	John Black
Halls Allocation Convenor:	Eunice Black
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Please note, all personal data, including addresses and telephone numbers is not listed in the magazine. This ensures we are following General Data Protection Legislation. Do be reassured that you can contact any of the above people via email at [office@kingsparkchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@kingsparkchurch.co.uk) or by telephoning the church on 0141 636 8688.

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 2024 ISSUE SHOULD BE EMAILED TO [office@kingsparkchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@kingsparkchurch.co.uk) NO LATER THAN THE END OF THE MORNING SERVICE, SUNDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2024. ANY ARTICLES RECEIVED AFTER THIS DEADLINE WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE DECEMBER/JANUARY 2025 ISSUE.**

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

King's Park Church of Scotland, Glasgow is a Registered Charity  
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**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**  
**"Suffer the Little Children to Come Unto Me"**

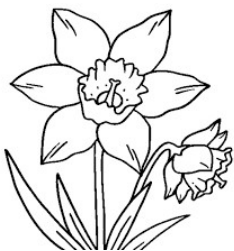
23 June    Olivia Anderson Orr

**AT REST**  
**"I am the Resurrection and the Life"**

29th May    Maureen Emerson  
 30th May    Frank Docherty  
 3rd June    Mary Belch  
 7th June    Alan Wilson  
 6th July    Donnie Robertson  
 11th July    David McLaughlin

***Prayer Focus..***

Dear Lord, we pray for our minister and his family as they settle into their new home. At a time of new beginnings and change for our church, we open our hearts and minds to You. We pray for a new mission to spread Jesus' love in our community. Open our doors to new members and encourage those, who have not been with us for a while, to return. We pray for all those waiting for exam results. As some doors open and some close, we remember that our lives are in Your hands. We never stop learning Lord, as you teach us and answer our prayers when the time is right for you, rather than for us; so give us patience. We pray too, as harvest time approaches, for farmers and fishermen, as they battle against extreme weather conditions. And when it's time to celebrate harvest thanksgiving, we pray people will be generous in their gifts for those in need. Hear our prayers. Amen *Gaera Taylor*



**FLOWER FUND**

**Thanks are due to all who contribute to  
 the flower fund, beautifying our worship  
 week by week.**

## Dear Friends

I am very excited to be writing this, my first article as the minister here at King's Park. I have now been here for three weeks and have had the pleasure of meeting some of you, either on a Sunday morning after worship, at the weekly coffee morning or on one of the litter picking walks that have been organised over the summer, and I certainly hope I will get to meet more of you in the coming weeks. I will tell you a bit more about myself in a separate article in this issue of the magazine, but for now, I want to reflect on what lies ahead for us as a church in the southside of Glasgow.

Having just come out of an extended period of vacancy, during which the church family here in King's Park has done tremendous work in not only maintaining what was going on but also beginning new initiatives, there will naturally be a period of adjustment now that I have been inducted into this charge. And that adjustment goes both ways, so I am hoping we are going to learn a lot from one another in the coming weeks, months and years ahead.

As we look forward, it is very reassuring that for the foreseeable future, our situation is a stable one and we do not have to think about cluster meetings or the next stage in the Presbytery Mission Action Plan, which means we can get on with being a church serving the needs of our local community. But sometimes we worry that we don't have this or that, or that we might say the wrong thing, and when I say 'we' I also mean 'me', as I also get these thoughts. But whenever I do, the scripture that I always refer back to, for encouragement, is Exodus 4:1-11, when God is talking to Moses, who is complaining that the people won't listen to, or believe him, so God asks him "what is in your hand"?. God is encouraging Moses to look at what he does have, not what he doesn't, God also then says to Moses that He, God, will give him the words to say, and will continue to teach him.

Essentially, the passage is about trusting God, seeking him, listening to him, then following his plan for us, and again this is something that I hope we will do together in the future.

So, for now I wish you well and again look forward to meeting you over the coming days, weeks and months.

*Your friend in Christ*  
*Stuart*

**CONGREGATIONAL FINANCE***"We Give Thee But Thine Own"***FINANCE REPORT - 2024**

	<b><u>MAY</u></b>	<b><u>JUNE</u></b>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b>£</b>	
Offerings & Donations	8,369	8,379
Gift Aid Income	4,360	-
Hall Hire Income	215	645
Rental income	337	427
Magazine subscription	99	30
Charitable collections	576	2,571
Other regular Monthly Income	511	487
<b>Total Month's Income</b>	<b><u>14,467</u></b> <b>=====</b>	<b><u>12,539</u></b> <b>=====</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		
Regular Running Costs	12,418	14,756
Charitable Donations	470	2,777
Manse refurb - first tranche	-	7,836
Property maintenance & repairs	1,345	385
<b>Total Month's Payments</b>	<b><u>14,233</u></b> <b>=====</b>	<b><u>25,754</u></b> <b>=====</b>
<b>Monthly Receipts vs Payments Surplus</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>-13,215</b>

*60 Glorious Years*

Our warmest congratulations go to  
 Mr & Mrs Margaret and John Taylor  
 who celebrated their Diamond Wedding  
 Anniversary on Thursday 20th June 2024  
 We wish them both every Blessing.

## **GIFTS TO IAN GALLOWAY**

Many thanks to everyone who donated towards Ian's gift.

The total sum raised was £1260. Two books by author Debie Thomas were purchased - one signed by Debie, and the other beautifully inscribed by Lyndsie Jenkins, on behalf of the congregation, with the words "May the Lord Himself, who is our source of peace, give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you." (2 Thessalonians, 3:16). Also presented to Ian was a lovely cherry tree, which he has since planted in his garden. The balance was in the form of a cheque to Ian for £1104. Ian was very appreciative of all the kind messages contained in the two farewell cards, and had a hearty laugh at the inscription on his cake .... what else but 'I'll la, you hum'!

## **KIRK SESSION UPDATE**

### Summer group

An initiative has been started to provide an opportunity to continue meeting together over the summer for a cuppa, a chat, and the chance to try out activities such as craft making and carpet bowls.

This takes place every Thursday in August, between 1.30pm and 3.30pm, meeting in the St Mungo Hall - no need to be there for the whole time. So, please pass the word around - and if you, or someone you know who would like to attend, needs transport - just let us know.

### Prayer walks

Please come and join us on our prayer walks around our Parish.

These will take place on Monday 5th and 12th August, meeting in the St Mungo Hall around 6pm for tea/coffee or at 6.45pm if you simply wish to do the walk. A chance to walk, indeed amble, whilst chatting, and perhaps get a feel for the streets and the people we wish to meet and share the Good News with. We stop every so often, and anyone who wishes can say a prayer. The walks probably last an hour at most, weather permitting, and are designed with everyone in mind!

### Change of Session Clerk

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported and encouraged us during our time as Session Clerks. Our prayer now is that the same support and encouragement be given to Lynda Young as she takes on the mantle - or perhaps in this Olympic year we should say, receives the baton - of Session Clerk. Please keep Lynda in your prayers as she begins this very important role.

*Eunice and John.*

## Thank you...

THANK YOU for the lovely cards, kind texts and thoughtful support after the death of my husband, Frank. You have been so caring.

*Love Sheena Docherty*



To all our dear friends in King's Park, many thanks for your love and continued support for The Pantry at Croftfoot. Your love and kindness is so appreciated by all of our guests each week. God Bless you all for your generosity, we value your help so much.

*Much love in Jesus, Linda (Croftfoot)*

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2024 – The Final Story

As an update to the update in June/July's magazine, we can now confirm that the total amount raised for this year's Christian Aid Week was **£2,535.25**

You'll remember that this year, the Kirk Session again wanted us to give all those who live in our parish the opportunity to support CAW, so a bunch of trusty volunteers delivered a Christian Aid envelope through every letter box in the parish (all 3,111 of them!) which directed people, who wished to donate, to return the 'filled' envelope to the church at certain times, or, alternatively, to Londis, across the street, who kindly volunteered this service to broaden the options for donation returns. 'Normal' envelopes were available at services for people to take away and return to church.

It's interesting to note that the sum raised from the 'delivery-only' envelopes reflected around 45% of the total raised. That means 45% or so, came from the parish, including members of the church family. Those supporters who either donated electronically or returned 'normal' envelopes or just handed cash/cheques into the church, raised around 30% of the total, and the remaining 25% or so came from the two Christian Aid Week coffee mornings on the Tuesday and Saturday, the latter event, a joint venture with our friends from St Oswald's.

In additional to the above, Raymond & Alan's Glasgow Bridge Walk has brought in, through a JustGiving page and donations from family, friends and church family, a further sum just short of £1300 (at time of printing).

We hope 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.**

## **MR DONNIE ROBERTSON 27th June 1940 - 6th July 2024**

At this time, we remember Donnie as a devoted husband, loving dad, grandpa and dedicated elder of King's Park Church. A real gentleman, who was always protective of his family and steadfastly loyal to his friends. We rejoice in our own memories of Donnie as we let go of someone who was always very generous with his time, his caring, and his love.

Donnie was born on the 27th June 1940, growing up in the shadow of the war, with mum Elsie and dad Jimmy on Annandale Street in Govanhill, before moving to Corlaich Avenue in Toryglen, together with older brother and sister William and Betty as well as younger brothers Jim and George. After attending Cuthbertson Street Primary, and Strathbungo Secondary, and having an excellent technical and logical mind, Donnie went to Langside College, gaining his ONC in Mechanical Engineering, beginning work with Davy United Engineering as an apprentice fitter before going on to be a draughtsman and design and installation engineer.

In his teens, Donnie was a keen member of King's Park Church youth fellowship where he looked forward to nights at the King's Park café, especially after the YF shows, and it was here that he first met Alison. Donnie and Alison were married in King's Park Church by the Reverend Robert Paterson on the 11th of October 1966. In April 1969, Donnie and Alison were blessed with the birth of son Stuart, before moving to Curtis Avenue, making it the warm, welcoming, family home it was to be from then on. In December 1973, their family was complete with the arrival of their second son Donald.

Donnie was a keen member of Kingswood Bowling Club where he served as President and held several other important positions throughout the last 40 years and where he and Alison made a wealth of deep and enduring friendships but although, as Alison put it, "he talked a good game", Donnie could never quite emulate her prowess on the green, excelling more on the administrative as well as, of course, the social side of things.

King's Park Church played a big part in Donnie's life. It is where he married Alison, where Stuart and Donald were christened and went on to join the BB, just as Donnie had before them, and where they all looked forward to the watchnight service at Christmas. It continued to play a large part in his life and where he made so many good friends. Donnie was ordained as an Elder in 1996 proud to serve so faithfully. He had a close relationship with Reverend Stewart Smith, who recently dropped in on Donnie to visit and delighted in catching up on old times.



His marriage to Alison and the loving relationship they shared throughout their 58 years together had been his rock through the challenges of life, as well as enjoying many fun times together. Never an over-protective parent, Donnie was extremely proud of his sons Stuart and Donald, who don't remember him ever shouting at them. Despite his own strongly held beliefs, or, no doubt because of them, when son Donald decided to covert to Judaism, his encouraging words to him were "Son, I don't mind which religion you follow, as long as you are getting closer to God". He welcomed, with open arms, Jennifer and Sylvia into the family and revelled in his role of grandpa, taking a real interest in all that his grandchildren did, encouraging them, always wanting the very best for all of them, just as he did for his sons before them.

Holidays were always important to Donnie and the family looked forward to their summers in Arran. Always a keen walker, he enjoyed getting out on the hills, bagging several Munros on the way. He was an avid reader, interested in politics as a fierce armchair critic, and in his quieter moments, a passionate gardener, and of course, he loved tinkering with cars.

He was a kind man, treating everyone with love and respect, prepared to go that extra mile for anyone in need, always caring for others before himself.

Donnie had not enjoyed the best of health for some time and on 6th of July, he passed away peacefully at the family home in Curtis Avenue he and Alison shared through all those years together, and so for Donnie, all suffering and pain are over and he is at peace, and because of the quiet faith in Jesus that he maintained throughout all of his life, by the Grace of God, may his life find its completion, reunited with those who have gone before him, and with his Lord and Saviour in heaven.

May the Lord bless him and keep him  
 May the Lord make His face to shine upon him  
 May the Lord lift up His countenance upon him,  
 and give him peace.

And may God's Peace and God's strength be with the family and us all at this time, as we treasure and gives thanks for the memories in our hearts of the life of this very special man, Donnie Robertson.

*Amen*

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **AUGUST**

Sun 4th	11am Morning Worship
Sun 11th	11am Morning Worship, including the Sacrament of Baptism
Sun 18th	11am Morning Worship
Sun 25th	11am Morning Worship

### **SEPTEMBER**

Sun 1st	11am Morning Worship
Sun 8th	11am Morning Worship, including the Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sun 15th	11am Morning Worship
Sun 22nd	11am Morning Worship
Sun 29th	11am Morning Worship celebrating Harvest Thanksgiving, All proceeds will go to the Lodging House Mission.

### **271<sup>st</sup> Brownies**

The Brownies will start back on Thursday 5th September at 6.30pm. Girls aged 7 to 10yrs will be made most welcome.

***Lynn Adamson (Brown Owl)***

### **271<sup>st</sup> Guides**

The Guides will start back on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm. Girls aged 10 to 14yrs will be made most welcome.

***Lynn Adamson (Captain)***

## **VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED**

To reduce stamp, label and envelope costs to the church, we are trying to deliver by hand, as many copies of the bi-monthly church magazine "King's View" as possible. You will remember in the past, the very effective "Lady Visitor" system. We are envisaging, going forward, an updated, non-sexually discriminatory version of this.

Presently, elders are delivering magazines in labelled envelopes to the people within their districts, but unfortunately there are a significant number of people wishing to receive the magazine who do not have an elder, so we are seeking volunteers from the church family who would be good enough to step into the breach, and regularly deliver a number of magazines within a planned geographical area. Under the new system, volunteers and elders alike, will be provided with a list of names and addresses and a bundle of magazines to be delivered only six times in the calendar year, so it's not a terribly time-consuming or difficult task.

If you would be interested in helping out, please call/text Alan Pratt on 07776 328914, or email [alan.pratt@ntlworld.com](mailto:alan.pratt@ntlworld.com) by the end of August.

Thanking you in anticipation.

## A BIT ABOUT ME...

I've been asked to tell you a bit about myself, which, now that I've sat down to do so, I am thinking, what do I say? what do I tell them? where do I start?

So, I thought I would answer some of the questions that I have been asked by some of you these past few weeks, so, here goes.

I am from Grangemouth, but moved back to Glasgow about 25 years ago, hence the 'east coast' twang in my accent. This is also the reason I support Falkirk FC, but please don't hold that against me!

I trained for the ministry at Glasgow University where I studied both a BD (Hons) in Divinity and an MTh in Theology, Culture and Religious Studies. I was ordained as a CofS minister back in 2017 and served Newton Mearns Parish Church as their minister for six and half years before coming here.

I am married to Fiona, also a CofS minister and we have three grown up children, Blair, Alisdair and Grace. We also have two dogs, Oscar, a Jack Russell and Lola, a Sprocker Spaniel, so you may see us walking round King's Park.

My main interests are music, cycling and cooking. I listen to music all the time; the radio is always on in the kitchen, and I enjoy a very wide and varied range of styles.

I took up cycling a couple of years ago to get fit and love it. The traffic is a bit busier here than Newton Mearns, so I am still working out the best and safest routes to go.

I also enjoy cooking, it is my way of relaxing, I don't have a favourite dish to make as such but French, Italian and Vietnamese are my favourite cuisines.

And finally, as I have previously said, I am so excited about serving and ministering to both the congregation and the wider King's Park community and look forward to our time together and pray that we will all grow spiritually as individuals and as a congregation.

*Stuart*



## **Thanks, from the intrepid bridge walkers!**

Sunday 14 July 2024 – lovely afternoon, not too warm or sunny; just perfect for a walk!

Our start was delayed until Raymond returned from preaching at one of Sandra's charges in West Lothian - all ready to go at 1530hrs.

The Millennium Bridge is the first, just next to the BBC HQ building at Pacific Quay on the south side of the river.

In 2021 we did the 'Kiltwalk' visiting all the crossings, walking east to west, so this time we decided to go in the opposite direction, travelling from the city centre out to Cambuslang.

There are loads of crossings in the city centre; those that are pedestrian-only like the Millennium & Bells Bridges, the Tradeston footbridge (better known as the squiggly bridge), the South Portland Street Suspension Bridge, linking Calton Place and Clyde Street and the St Andrews Suspension bridge.

Further east, you've got the Polmadie Bridge, close to Richmond Park, from the Gorbals to Glasgow Green, the Dalmarnock Smart Bridge, part of the 'Clyde Gateway' from Shawfield to the "Emirates" stadium, the Cuningar footbridge, overlooked by the Hope statue on the Cuningar loop, and much further east, the Cambuslang Orion bridge and the Rosebank footbridge, close to Carmyle & Cambuslang.

In between, we walked over, under, or passed, bridges, some famous, some not, which carry roads, rails, motorways, pipes and one or two where only the bridge piers still exist.

We enjoyed the sights and sounds of the TRNSMT festival as we passed by Glasgow Green and were impressed by the legacy housing left after the Commonwealth Games back in 2014. Leaving the city centre and the Green, we travelled, in relative peace and quiet, on the north bank using the Clyde walkway, where we glimpsed excitedly, through the trees, the heights of 'Paradise' (Celtic Park) as we travelled round the Clyde's loops, passing the Westhorn whisky warehouses, St Peter's Cemetery at Dalbeth, and moving south, the new housing estate on the site of the former Hoover factor, until we finally reached our last bridge at Clydeford Road, where we sought the Morrisons car park, for a well-earned lift home.

We had enjoyed the occasional call of "nice kilt pal", and loads of smiles, and nods acknowledging our Christian Aid tabards. We even got into a very deep discussion about why God allows bad things to happen in the world. All in a day's walk. Thanks everyone, for your support

*Raymond & Alan*

## BEFORE ....



## DURING ....



## AFTER...



## Friends

For those who don't know me and perhaps for those who do know me! I thought this would be a nice opportunity to introduce myself to you as your new Session Clerk.

I am Lynda Young and have been, hopefully, a well 'kent' face around King's Park Church for many (many!) years. I attended Sunday school, bible class, youth groups, guides, brownies; I was in church shows, percussion bands, you name it, I was there! Growing up in and around the church was second nature to me, and some of my oldest and dearest friends to this day, are routed in many of those activities. For over 25 years I co-led the summer Sunday school, I still volunteer at holiday clubs, Messy Church and anywhere else that will take me! I have been a member of King's Park Church all of my adult life; I've been a pastoral visitor, the social and fundraising convener, served on the last two nominating committees and for over 30 years have been typing this church magazine! Some of you will know my face as part of the team who sit behind the computer desk on a Sunday morning and, of course, I have had the deep privilege of being an elder for the last 15 years.



Whilst all of those things have given me a real sense of pride and joy and have helped strengthen my growing faith, I am very well aware that none of them could ever equip me for becoming your Session Clerk! Away from church, I work at the University of Glasgow, where I am the Learning and Teaching Manager in the School of Psychology and Neuroscience, I do hope to bring some of the skills I have learned there to the role (the administrative ones of course, not the psychology ones!) 😊

I would like to thank past Session Clerks, Rosemary, Aileen, Alan and John & Eunice, who have supported my decision and am indebted to them all for their wise counsel whilst I prayerfully considered taking on the role. I also, fondly remember the late Mr Douglas McLagan and Mr Bill Coubrough, who served this Church with the utmost dedication and love, and indeed all those who served before them, I am truly honoured to join this list of people.

As I begin my term serving as your Session Clerk, I look forward immensely to working with our new minister, Stuart and the Kirk Session. I am excited, if not a little apprehensive, and am under no illusion that, along the way, as I find my feet and beyond, I will make mistakes. There will be hard work ahead but hopefully with lots of fun and laughter too, no doubt mixed with a few tears! Be reassured that, with all of your prayers, love and support, at the heart of everything I do, will be my commitment to serving the Lord my God, with all of my heart, and all of my soul.

Please don't be a stranger, I love a good chat and thrive around people, so do come and introduce yourself to me, that's if I don't speak to you first! I can also be contacted anytime at [session.clerk@kingsparkchurch.co.uk](mailto:session.clerk@kingsparkchurch.co.uk)

Until then, with my deepest of good wishes, *Lynda*

## **STEWARDSHIP 2024 - 'Step-Up Campaign'**

You will remember our successful stewardship campaign last year, raising much needed funds to support our now, sadly, dwindling finances. After discussion at our last Kirk Session meeting, it was agreed that we would dedicate again, a Gift Weekend to support our Stewardship Programme. This will take place on 26th and 27th October and more details will follow in the next magazine. However, we ask you **now** to give thoughtful and prayerful consideration to your weekly giving. We understand how incredibly difficult it is to address the financial side of our Christian stewardship, but unfortunately, each year, our church deficit increases and our outgoings increase and the desperate fact is that our church, which so many of us love so dearly, is showing real signs of serious financial hardship. To help us think about our 'Step-Up Campaign', have a look at the figures are below/. If, for example, approximately 150 of us increased our weekly giving by 50p the church would receive an extra yearly income of £4,452.50 and so on.

Approx. figures

Members	400
Members contributing by Standing Order	126
Members contributing by FWO envelopes	21
Total regular contributors (est)	150

Following based on 150 regular contributors (including 85 Gift Aiders)

Weekly Increase	Approx. monthly equivalent increase	Church receives yearly increase in giving	Including Gift Aid
50p	£2.17	£3,900	£4,452.50
£1	£4.33	£7,800	£8,905
£2	£8.66	£15,600	£17,810

This is of course, not an easy read; it's a hard fact of life, and one that we are facing here in King's Park. So, as we celebrate new beginnings with our new minister, and enjoy the excitement that all of that brings, it is hoped that we really do feel a sense of belonging and re-commitment, allowing us to worship and witness as a 'people' within and outwith our sanctuary and halls – a beautiful building with all that that entails, a building that we are so familiar with and love so very dearly, a building that stands as a beacon of light at the centre of our community, offering hope and faith to those who need it.

With anticipated thanks,  
*Finance Committee*

### ***Final Thanks...***

I would like to express my huge thanks to everyone involved in the preparation of Stuart's recent Induction Service. I am sure everyone who attended will agree that it was a wonderful occasion. The solemnity of an Induction Service mixed with the joy and anticipation of a new minister made memories that will last for a long time to come. Thank you to everyone who supported in any way with the preparation of the Church and halls; to those who helped with extra cleaning, to those who supplied table linen, crockery and catering, to those who helped set up the beautiful tables, for the lovely flowers in the Church and equally lovely bouquet gifted to Fiona, to all those who helped serve tea and coffee and special thanks to those who stayed behind to help with the mammoth clean up in the kitchen! Thanks too, to those who played a special part in the service, to the AV team who captured the moment so well and to those who spoke at the social. These events take an army of people and it was wonderful to watch everyone play a part. Special thanks to Alan and his team who ensured that Stuart and his family were able to move into the manse on time, miracles really do happen! The memory that will stay with me the longest was the incredible singing, what a blessing to be a part of it all. Thanks to every one of you, who attended and welcomed all of our guests. Hearing visitors express joy at the welcome, and wonder at our church and halls should be treasured by us all.

With new beginnings, of course, come endings, and, on behalf of the Kirk Session, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to John and Eunice, who will leave their role as Session Clerks at the end of August. What a journey you have both been on! Vacancies, pandemics, presbytery plans, clusters and everything in between - it was not an easy road by any means, of that we have no doubt. However, you managed to lead us through all of it with a real sense of faith and humility. Your efforts have not only maintained the structure of our church but have also enriched our spiritual lives. Thank you for your selfless and tireless work behind the scenes, always given with care and love, and for your unwavering commitment to, not only our church and congregation as a whole, but to each and every one of us personally. As we continue on our journey here at King's Park, let us take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution that you have both made, for your dedication, commitment, encouragement and deep faith, all of it embodying the true essence of Christian service.

There will be more formal thanks and individual personal thanks to you both I am sure, over the next few weeks, however, from a very grateful Kirk Session and congregation, John and Eunice - may God's blessings be upon you both as you move on to your next chapter.

*Lynda*