

King's View

Magazine, No. 951

October/November 2026

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



***They shall not grow 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.**

"1930-2026 - 96 Years of Spiritual Service"

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
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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 DECEMBER 2026/JANUARY 2027 ISSUE
 SHOULD BE EMAILED TO office@kingsparkchurch.co.uk NO LATER
 THAN THE END OF THE MORNING SERVICE, SUNDAY 22ND
 NOVEMBER 2026. ANY ARTICLES RECEIVED AFTER THIS DEADLINE
 WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE FEBRUARY/MARCH 2027 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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Message 'fae' the Manse

Greetings friends

This year is going in extremely quickly, it feels like it was only a few weeks ago we took down the Christmas decorations, when the reality is we will be looking them out again in the very near future. Suddenly, it's that time of year when some of us have already put the heating on and others will be putting it on very soon, yes, it's autumn.

But for me, autumn is, of all the seasons, the one that arrives almost unnoticed and just creeps up on us. There is a change in the atmosphere with the temperature cooling, the sun suddenly seems to disappear behind an almost permanent canopy of cloud, and the evenings begin to shorten, all of which perhaps mean that we look at autumn rather negatively. However despite these changes, there is no doubt that autumn is also a season filled with beauty and potential. Autumn perhaps, more than any other season, reminds me that creation is always changing. Trees suddenly changing from dozens of shades of green to vibrant oranges, yellows, coppers and golds, the leaves then loosen their hold and create a multi coloured carpet, fields are cleared, and gardens begin their long rest.

Autumn is also a significant time in the church, for generations autumn brings with it harvest and thanksgiving celebrations. Donations of flowers, pasta, cereal, biscuits, tinned goods, sugar, tea, coffee, the list goes on and on, however, they are far more than words and decorations, they are signs of God's generosity and of the labour that brings food to our tables. They invite us to notice what can so easily be taken for granted.

Gratitude becomes especially meaningful when it moves us to generosity. Our harvest service offers us the opportunity to remember and bless those who may be alone, it also allows us to support the LHM360 harvest appeal. We remember and give thanks for those who work on the land, or we simply pay closer attention to neighbours whose needs may be hidden. The harvest is best celebrated when God's gifts are shared.

Autumn's falling leaves also offer a picture of release. There are times when we too, must let go: of old disappointments, plans that have changed, habits that no longer give life, or the need to control every outcome. Letting go is not always easy, but faith teaches us that our lives are held by a God who remains constant through every season. And if we need reminding of this, we need only look to Ecclesiastes where we read, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." — Ecclesiastes 3:1

After the abundance of summer, the natural world grows quieter. Yet this stillness is not emptiness. Beneath the soil, roots are being strengthened and seeds are waiting. In the same way, quieter periods in our lives need not be wasted ones. Prayer, rest and patient reflection can prepare the ground for growth that is not yet visible.

This autumn, perhaps we can make room for a slower rhythm: a walk beneath changing trees, a conversation over a warm drink, a few minutes of silence at the end of the day. Such ordinary moments can become places of encounter, if we receive them with attention. The God of seedtime and harvest is present not only in celebration, but also in change, waiting and rest.

Your friend in Christ, Stuart

PRAYER FOCUS

Dear Lord, we give thanks for the wonderful changes in the colour this Autumn. It is a time of rest for nature and we should restore our commitment to our Church. November is a time to remember in prayer all those who have given their lives that we may have life in all its fullness. We see conflict all around the world and we pray for peace. To those who are ill in mind, body or spirit, may the Lord heal them of all that harms them. Give us all courage to face tomorrow and strength to endure whatever we are facing in our lives. Hear our Prayer. Amen. gaerataylor@btinternet.com

KING'S PARK BRASS—Autumn Update

The band will be in concert in Rutherglen Town Hall on Friday 20th November. This year we'll be celebrating Rutherglen's 900th anniversary with a programme that tells the story of the granting of the royal charter, through the rise of industry and on to the present day. The concert will include the premiere of a new commission from Andrew Duncan entitled *Ex Fumo Fama* (Rutherglen's motto), which depicts Rutherglen's industrial heritage. Tickets are available from the Town Hall box office, online and in person.

The weekend before we'll be holding our annual coffee morning on Saturday 14th November in the large hall with a short performance from our youth band around 11am. All are welcome at both events!

Thank you...

Many thanks for the Church flowers and card from the Prayer Group. Thanks too for all the cards from friends in the Church on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Love Margaret Paul xx



CONGREGATIONAL FINANCE*"We Give Thee But Thine Own"***FINANCE REPORT - 2026**

	<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUG</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	£	
Offerings & Donations	9,722	6,518
Gift Aid income	-	3,862
Hall Hire Income	1,285	1,035
Rental income	191	611
Fundraising	-	-
Magazine subscriptions	10	-
Charitable collections	158	50
Other regular Monthly Income	20	1,026
Total Month's Income	11,386	13,102
	=====	=====
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Regular Running Costs	10,752	10,299
Charitable Donations	-	208
Property maintenance & repairs	316	108
Total Month's Payments	11,068	10,615
	=====	=====
Monthly Receipts vs Payments Surplus	318	2,487

**CHURCH BANK DETAILS FOR REGULAR FREEWILL OFFERINGS OR
ONE-OFF DONATIONS :**

KINGS PARK CHURCH - SORT CODE: 82-63-31 A/C NO: 50335056

FLOWER FUND

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

A Day in The Life of...

Friends

In a new article for the magazine, and in response to some feedback received through the recent action plan survey, at relevant times throughout the year, I am going to share with you one area of ministry that I am involved with. And as the schools only went back fairly recently I thought I would start with what is involved being a school chaplain.

I am very fortunate and extremely blessed to work with four schools in the local area. King's Park Primary, Bankhead Primary, King's Park Secondary School and Stonelaw High School.

The responsibilities differ from school to school so I thought I would give you a flavour of what my involvement is at each school.

So, starting with King's Park Primary through the academic year I lead four assemblies which take place either in the school or here at the church. I have also re established classroom visits and will be visiting each class during Advent to talk about Christmas and during Lent to talk about Easter. I am also going into the school on two in-service days to serve tea and coffee to the staff which will give me the chance to talk to them in more depth.

Moving onto Bankhead Primary, there I work as part of a chaplaincy team with members of The Reach Out Trust. Here I co lead seven assemblies throughout the academic year, again some of which are in the school, and some of which are here in the church. The chaplaincy team are also in the process of setting up a pastoral support group for all the local head teachers to provide a space for them to come and chat to us about any issues that they may be facing, and we will also be going in on in-service days to serve the staff tea and coffee and chat to them.

As well as the assemblies, the chaplaincy team are also involved with a number of events for individual year groups at both primary schools and these include Christmas Unwrapped, The Easter Code which are both held in the church, and Boomerang and Moving On.

Moving a couple of miles up the road I am also part of the chaplaincy team that visit Stonelaw High School. Here we deliver eight assemblies to each year group through the year around themes such as school values, the fruits of the spirit, and creation and the environment. We also hand out doughnuts to the S1 pupils, many of whom we know through our work with them at primary school level.

Finally King's Park Secondary, the chaplaincy team here consists of myself and Alison from St Oswalds and we have only had recent access to the school in the past year after quite a lengthy absence. We are therefore still in the process of building relationships with the staff here but Alison and I lead three assemblies a year at Christmas, Easter and end of term. We have also started going in on in-service days serving tea and coffee with a bit of home baking, and we have been invited in to the staff room at lunch time to introduce ourselves and chat to the teachers.

I would also add that Alison and myself were invited into King's Park Secondary and Raymond and myself were invited into King's Park Primary when they were visited by the HMIE, as we were considered to be a valuable partner in the development and support of the pupils, which we took as a great compliment.

So, I hope this has given you an idea of one of the areas of ministry that I am involved in, and it is such an important one as not every minister is allowed into their local schools, so it really is a privilege to have these relationships with our local schools.

And what has been very important is making the schools aware that we are there just as much for the teaching staff as we are the pupils, and as you will see the schools realise this and have allowed us the opportunity to talk to the staff as well as the pupils, which we are very grateful to them for.

Stuart

CASTLEMILK COMMUNITY CHOIR

Nemo Arts contacted the church to let us know that there is a free Community Choir meeting every Monday from 11am-1pm at Castlemilk Community Centre. It's a friendly and supportive group where people can enjoy singing, meet others and build confidence. No previous singing experience is needed, and it's completely free to attend. So if you have anyone who you know might benefit please do pass the information on.

People can just turn up, they can also attend with someone supporting them or they can book online: [Castlemilk Community Choir](#)

CELEBRATING SIXTY YEARS OF MINISTRY

Our very own Reverend Stewart Smith recently celebrated an extraordinary 60 years of ministry. It is difficult to imagine anyone connected with King's Park who does not remember Stewart with deep affection, gratitude, and many cherished memories. For so many of us, he was not only our minister but also a trusted friend, a source of wisdom and encouragement, and a faithful presence through many of life's most important moments.

As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we give thanks for the many years Stewart devoted to serving King's Park with such dedication, compassion, and faithfulness. Through times of joy and celebration, as well as times of challenge and sadness, he served our congregation with a servant heart and a deep commitment to sharing God's love. His ministry helped shape generations of King's Park members, and the impact of his work continues to be felt today throughout our church family, across the parish, and within the wider community where he shared God's love, care, and compassion for so many years.

We remember with gratitude his unwavering commitment to the life and witness of King's Park, his pastoral care, his leadership, and the countless relationships he built over the years. We also remember with affection the years when his family grew up among us, becoming such an important part of our church community.

Of course, no tribute to Stewart would be complete without recognising Mary, who faithfully walked alongside him throughout those years of ministry. Her support, friendship, and dedication were an invaluable part of their shared service, and we give thanks for all she contributed to the life of King's Park.

Stewart, we thank God for the many years you spent serving King's Park and the wider Church with such faithfulness and grace. Your ministry has left a lasting legacy, and your kindness, humility, and devotion have touched countless lives.

Congratulations on this wonderful achievement. In the words of Scripture, "Well done, good and faithful servant." May you enjoy this well-deserved season of rest, secure in the knowledge that you remain deeply loved, greatly appreciated, and fondly remembered by all at King's Park.

With much love from your dear friends at King's Park

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

Sun 4th	11am	Morning worship, celebrating Harvest
Sun 11th	11am	Morning worship
Sun 18th	11am	Morning worship
Wed 21st	7pm	Kirk Session Meeting
Sun 25th	11am	Morning worship, Gift Day with Soup and Roll
		Lunch after morning worship
	6.30pm	Evening Service

NOVEMBER

Sun 1st	11am	Morning worship, followed by the Dedication of the Garden of Remembrance
Sun 8th	10.50am	Remembrance Sunday
Wed 11th	10-12noon	Church will be open for quiet reflection with a short Act of Remembrance at 11am
Sat 14th	10-12noon	King's Park Brass Coffee Morning
Sun 15th	11am	Morning Worship celebrating Interfaith Sunday
Sun 22nd	11am	Morning worship
Sun 22nd	12.15pm	Kirk Session Meeting
Sun 29th	11am	Morning worship, celebrating first Sunday in Advent
	6.30pm	Evening Service

DECEMBER

Sat 5th	10-1pm	Christmas Cracker
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CHURCH FLOWER DELIVERY - please help! ***A Small Act of Kindness That Means So Much***

We are looking for volunteers to help deliver two bouquets of flowers on a Sunday following morning worship. These flowers are sent to members of our congregation and parish at times when a little encouragement, care, or support can make all the difference. They are a tangible reminder that the church family is thinking of them, praying for them, and keeping them close in their hearts. The role is very straightforward and would not be onerous, simply delivering a bouquet to those who have been nominated that week. With enough volunteers, we hope to create a rota for the year so that the commitment is shared among many willing hands.

If you feel you could help with this please speak to Lynda Young or me, or leave a note in the church office.

Your support would be greatly appreciated and would help us continue this important connection with those who need it most.

With grateful thanks. *Kirstine Hyndman, Flower Convenor*

GIFT DAY 2026

Our Gift Day will take place on Sunday 25th October 2026. We would encourage you to attend our soup and roll lunch after morning worship on that day. A very big thank you if you have increased your giving recently. Another big thank you for making last year's Gift Weekend so successful, but our current financial situation means that we must be just as generous this year. Again, we are facing a deficit this year, with reserves barely able to cover it. Below is a list of our outgoings every month this year.

Regular Monthly Expenses

	£
To Church of Scotland (includes Minister's salary)	6,500
To Glasgow Presbytery	375
Salaries (Church Officer, Cleaner, Organist)	2,510
Minister's Expenses	165
Utilities	1,250
Insurance	500
Telephone, Broadband etc.	165
Manse Council Tax	335
TOTAL	11,800

The table does not include Repairs and Maintenance, Cleaning Materials and Equipment, Printing and Stationery, Organ and Piano Maintenance. Your Regular Monthly Givings for this year (made up from Standing Orders, FWO Envelopes and Open Plate and Gift Aid Recovered) for the first 6 months of this year have averaged £9629 per month. We realise that in these days of constantly increasing prices that finding something extra for your church can be difficult, but if we could again raise a substantial amount, it would help to balance the books. Please do give your church a little extra thought and donate to our Gift Day. Donation envelopes will be made available at church and physically delivered with the magazine to those who receive a paper copy. For those who would prefer to donate online, we will also accept bank transfers using reference 'Gift Day 26' to:

King's Park Parish Church, Sort Code: 82-63-31, Account No: 50335056

Please note, at worship on Sunday 25th October, we will dedicate all the donations we receive.

Saidiana Women Project (Kenya) - a summary update

We thank God for the far distance we have come since the formation of Saidiana Women Project and indeed for the partnership with the Iona fraternity. We remain grateful and appreciate all individual friends as well as friendly institutions, namely, but not limited to the Balmore trust and currently Gavin's Mills. We may not have been perfect, but we believe this partnership is bearing a mark in the lives of countless vulnerable families and individuals alike.

Given the expanding activity areas and needs, your continued support and prayers is more valued and sought now more than ever. We look forward to exploring new horizons in working with both the Iona fraternity, Gavin's Mills and individual friends. Highlights from the first half of the year include:

- Relief supplies
- School of Sewing
- Micro Empowerment Sewing Activities
- Gavin's Mills Activity Areas
- HIV/AIDS

Activities in all of these areas are going well, including engaging in limited relief supplies in the areas of medical and education to the most deserving situations. School of Sewing and Hairdressing classes resumed in April with 21 learners, engagement is making a positive impact. Micro-empowerment means families and individuals are encouraged to engage in and indeed given a small amount of money to boost or start a small-scale business enterprise with a view of paying back to the fund. Government effort in reaching out to the larger affected HIV/Aids groups is appreciated with Saidiana making a difference where they can. Ideas are being sought to encourage ideas to support safe homes and water harvesting.

In spite of the threat to reduce aid to African countries, Saidiana continues bravely to do a great deal to make life better for rural residents. Thank you to all of you who support this work with your prayers and your donations. You can continue to contribute by donating to: HBOS, sort code 11-47-05. a/c no: 00005903.

Yours, *Mary Smith*

Lodging House Mission – Harvest Donation Requests 2026

We will be collecting for our annual Lodging House Mission drop off. Donations can be dropped off at the office until after morning worship on Sunday 25th October and we will then transport them over to our friends at LHM360. A message from them is below as well as a list of items needed can be found on the next page. Thanks in advance.

“We are so grateful to you for supporting LHM year after year, it means a lot to us. We’ve put together a short list of the things we need most. If you’re able, please pick from these - we’ve thought it through so it reflects what we actually use. We’ve also included a few everyday essentials we usually have to buy; donating these would save us money that we can redirect to other areas of our work. Your help allows us cook hot, nutritious lunches and provide emergency food parcels for those who are struggling. If a cash donation is easier, we’ll use it to buy fresh fruit, veg and other perishables we need, keeping meals healthy and cutting waste. Thank you from The LHM Team.”



Items that can be dropped off to the office until 25th October:

Cereal	Tinned Fruit	Tinned Goods
Corn Flakes/Crunchy Nut	Pears	Baked Beans
Weetabix	Pineapples	Chopped tomatoes
Rice Crispies	Mandarins	Coconut Milk
Sugar Puffs	Fruit Cocktail	Condensed Milk
<u>Frosties</u>	Other	Potatoes
Coco Pops	Diluting/fresh juice	Custard
<u>Cheerios</u>	Coffee	Rice Pudding
Porridge	Biscuits	Butter Beans
Dried Goods	Crisps	Cannellini Beans
<u>Cous Cous</u>	Tea Bags	Chickpeas
Bulgar wheat	Long life milk	Tinned lentils
Paprika, Cumin	Rapeseed Oil	Other
Lentils	Plain Flour	Brown Sauce
Mixed herbs	Corn Flour	Tomato Sauce
Garlic powder	Mustard	Vinegar
Onion powder	Butter	Soya Sauce
Chilli powder	Bottle lemon/lime juice	Worcestershire Sauce
Crushed chillies	Dry yeast	Olive oil
Ground coriander	Baking Powder	Vegetable oil
Black pepper	Red wine vinegar	Gravy Granules
Salt	Apple Cider Vinegar	Veg Stock cubes/ bullion
Pasta	Vanilla Extract	Jelly
Long grain rice	Essentials	Sugar
Bay Leaves	Washing up liquid	Tomato Paste
Lasagna Sheets	Washing Powder	Passata
Coriander	Toilet Tissue	

Food Parcel Items

pot noodles/packet noodles	Tinned ham, corn beef, tuna,	Tinned spaghetti, spaghetti hoops	Tinned meatball, macaroni tinned dinners eg: <u>curries</u>
instant mash	<u>Microwave rice</u> <u>pouches</u> , pasta <u>pouches</u>	Biscuits, cereal bars	tinned soups packet soups

KIRK SESSION NEWS

Friends

Here we are, fully embracing autumn and all that it brings to us as a Kirk Session. The start of another church year is already proving to be a busy one. We have held two Session meetings, along with an extraordinary meeting to discuss the Congregational Action Plan and as I write this, it is not even October!

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who came along to our 'Garden Renewal' in September. We were blessed with glorious weather, and it was such a joy to see so many people working together to support our faithful, albeit small, team of regular gardeners. Our gardens are such an important focal point within our community, and keeping them looking their best is no small task. If you ever have an hour or two to spare, or simply notice an area that could benefit from a little attention, please do feel free to lend a hand. The church belongs to us all, including the gardens, and every contribution, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated.

The Garth, which sits at the heart of the church and can be seen from the surrounding corridors, was rededicated on the Sunday of the same weekend. The area was tidied, new plants were added, the lighting repaired, and the water feature restored. I would like to offer my personal thanks to Colin Wilson for his support in helping bring this work to fruition. The rededication provided an opportunity to reflect on the beauty and tranquillity of this special space. Built in the shape of the Iona Cross, it stands as a loving memorial to William and Mary Paisley, who served this church faithfully and devotedly. Incorporating plants, stones, many of which were brought back from Iona itself, together with water and light, the Garth symbolises key elements of our Christian faith. We hope it will continue to be a place where life is nurtured, neighbours and friends gather, memories are gently held, and peace is found. Away from the gardens, you may have noticed the two new bins outside the halls. Their arrival means that we no longer require volunteers to remove our rubbish and I am incredibly grateful to those who did that in the past. However, there are always jobs to be done around the church, so please do get in touch if you would like to play a role in caring for and maintaining our buildings.

We continue to address the challenges posed by our finances, and I commend our Gift Day on 25th October to you all. It is an opportunity for us to come together in support of the church and, where possible, to make a financial contribution towards its ongoing work and ministry. Our new Pastoral Care Team is now well established, and I would like to thank each member of that team for the care, compassion and commitment they will bring to serving our congregation and parish. In relation to that, our Safeguarding Team continues its important work ensuring that all necessary processes are in place and that we meet the required standards and regulations.

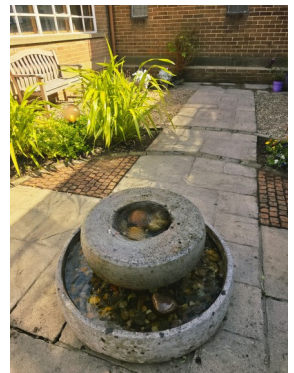
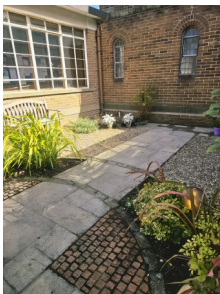
Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the Congregational Action Plan survey. Your responses enabled the Kirk Session to meet, reflect on the feedback received, and ensure that your thoughts and ideas were incorporated into our plans for the future. Together, we have worked hard to develop actions across a wide range of areas, including Worship and Teaching, Pastoral Care and Fellowship, Youth and Children, Local Mission and Community Engagement, Wider Mission, Finance, Communications, Property and Staffing and we will also be developing a vision statement. Once completed, the Action Plan will be shared and submitted to Presbytery, and I will keep you updated on its progress. Please be assured that this is very much the Congregation Action Plan, it belongs to us all. The feedback we received was invaluable in helping us produce a document that reflects the hopes and priorities of you, as we move forward together. It will also form an important part of our Inspection of Records submission.

As we begin another busy year, I have been struck once again by the sheer volume of activity that takes place within our church. Beyond Sunday worship and the many groups and organisations that stream through our halls throughout the week, there is a vast amount of work taking place behind the scenes. From maintaining our buildings and managing our finances, to handling correspondence, keeping records, preparing worship and ensuring our facilities remain welcoming and accessible, countless people contribute their time, energy and gifts to support the life of the church.

I am deeply grateful for the support I receive from our Elders, volunteers, staff and the wider congregation. Your commitment and dedication are a constant reminder that the church is far more than a building; it is a community of people serving together in faith. It truly does take a village.

So, as we take a breath, before entering the busy seasons of Harvest, Remembrance and Advent, all that remains is for me to reassure you of the Kirk Session's continued dedication, care and love as we journey forward together. Until the next time, take care of yourselves and of one another.

Ever yours,
Lynda, Session Clerk





CHRISTMAS CRACKER

We are very much looking forward to our Christmas Cracker, which takes place this year on Saturday the 5th of December between 10am and 1pm. After many years we have decided to have a new format to the Christmas Bazaar - so come along and see what's going on.....

Intimations over the coming weeks will keep you up to date with developments. We look forward to seeing you all on **Saturday the 5th of December**. Let's make this a successful and happy occasion !!!

*Norah & Jonathan Buchan
Bazaar Convenors*

