

King's View

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



Following guidelines from the Government and the Church of Scotland, we regret that all Services of Worship, group meetings and all other activities are now suspended until further notice.

We want to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to maintain a remote presence right here at the heart of the community.

We understand the anxiety and uncertainty that COVID-19, the coronavirus, is causing and, as a Church, we will do our best to keep you up to date as things change.

If you need the support of the Church in any way including shopping, collecting prescriptions etc., or if you are able to volunteer assistance, please contact our Pastoral Assistant (see back page) and we'll do our very best to help.

Please hold each other in your prayers as we continue to pray for all those affected and those seeking a vaccine.

God Bless, from all at King's Park Church

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

"1930-2020 - 90 Years of Spiritual Service"

Dear Friends,

The other day I came across a cartoon in a magazine which showed a couple coming out of a supermarket with two trolleys laden with toilet rolls, handwash, and every kind of grocery. "We just thought we'd stock up," she says, "before the idiots start to panic buy".

The coronavirus pandemic may have brought out the worst in some people, but it has also brought out the best in many others who in different and sometimes imaginative ways have been good neighbours to those who have needed practical help and support at this time of crisis. Many of you will have both offered and received support.

Large questions arise from the global spread of the virus. One question we would all do well to ask is what are the lessons the pandemic would teach us. May I suggest a number of things of which we need to be reminded.

Our fragility

The rising death toll throughout the world reminds us that our lives hang by a thread, and that like grass, as the Psalmist puts it, we who are here are gone tomorrow (103.15 and 16). In the light of that, he tells us that we are "to number our days that we might get a heart of wisdom." (90.12)

Our equality

The coronavirus is no respecter of persons. Our ethnic origins, the colour of our skin, our nationality, the culture to which we belong, and all the other differences that set us apart from one another, count for absolutely nothing. We are all members of the human family.

Our loss of control

We like to think that we are in charge of our lives. Up to a point, that is true. We can control many aspects of living through the press of a button or a switch, or the taking of a pill, but the coronavirus has brought home to us what has always been true but which we tend to forget - tomorrow does not belong to us!

The inconsequence of much that we do.

The writer of Ecclesiastes concludes that "all is vanity" (1.2) Much which we concern our lives with is ultimately of no significance – the new kitchen or bathroom, the holidays we book, our wishes and plans for the future, and so on. Perhaps the present crisis may compel us to distinguish between the urgent, the important, and the irrelevant, and to realise what ultimately matters and reorder our priorities.

In the light of our mortality, our shared humanity, our helplessness in the face of powers we cannot control, and the ultimate irrelevance of much that we do, how should we as Christians respond?

First, we should respond in faith rather than in fear. May it never be said of us that we are governed more by fear than by faith – faith in Christ who has said that, though in the world we face trouble, we are to take heart because through faith in him we may overcome all that is against us. (John 16.53).

Then, our response should be to pray, because faith will inevitably lead to prayer, and prayer to action – prayer for governments and authorities who have hard decisions to take, for all who are infected, for those who treat and care for them, for all confined to their homes, for those at risk because of other illnesses, for many whose businesses have been affected and those who have lost their jobs, and for all who work tirelessly to find an answer to the virus. In the face of the global crisis we may feel small and insignificant and ask what difference we can possibly make, but pray we can and pray we must, because prayer leads to caring action.

Finally, the pandemic, which has led to the closure of all churches for the foreseeable future, forces us to ask what place the church plays in our lives when we are no longer able to attend services in a building. Make no mistake, meeting together for worship, prayer, the hearing of God's Word, and fellowship is an essential part of what it means to be a Christian, but if that is denied us through circumstance, what are we left with? Is belonging to the church just about spending a few hours in a building each week for worship and meetings and activities? If not, then what else is it about? Ask yourselves that question when you are sitting at home when otherwise you would have been on the church premises.

These are not easy days for the church, not least for ourselves at King's Park, what with the questions concerning the vacancy which after more than nine months still hang in the air, and now the suspension of our services and other activities. But Holy Week and Easter, which we will not be able to mark in church, remind us that out of death comes life. So may you in the difficult circumstances which affect us all at this time, globally and nationally, as a community and as a church, not to mention the worries which weigh on us as families and individuals - may you know the peace and the joy of the risen Christ, and be able to share with others the hope that is ours through faith in him.

My thoughts and prayers

David, Locum Minister

We have been encouraged by the Church of Scotland to light a candle and say out loud the prayer below. It would be good to do just that at 7.00pm each Sunday evening as an act of personal worship, until we are able to physically meet to share the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ together.

*For all that is good in life, thank you,
 For the love of family and friends, thank you,
 For the kindness of good neighbour and Samaritan stranger, thank you.
 May those who are vulnerable, hungry or homeless, experience support,
 May those who are sick, know healing,
 May those who are anxious or bereaved, sense comfort.
 Bless and guide political leaders and decision-makers, with wisdom,
 Bless and guide health workers and key workers,
 with strength and well-being,
 Bless and guide each one of us, as we adapt to a new way of living.
 And may the light shining from our windows,
 across road and wynd, glen and ben, kyle and isle,
 be reflected in our hearts and hands and hopes.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

**This bulletin 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 with any information coming from the Church during this pandemic and would like it 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.**

IF YOU NEED THE CHURCH PLEASE CONTACT:

Mr Raymond Jenkins, Pastoral Assistant

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or contact your Elder.