King's View

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



"Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." Mark 10:27

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

"1930-2020 - 90 Years of Spiritual Service"

Dear Friends,

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to affect almost every aspect of our lives, not least the life we share in the church, cartoons have a way of poking fun at matters which otherwise concern us. The closure of all church buildings, followed by the screening of digital services, prompted a cartoon which shows a vicar greeting a member of his congregation in the street, with the words, "I haven't seen you on Zoom lately!"

Nevertheless, surveys reveal that a lot more people have been viewing services online, at home, via YouTube or Facebook, than attended church on a Sunday before lockdown. Churches report increases of well over 50% and, in cases, even 100%. At King's Park, at time of writing, we have screened three services (on 28th June and 5th and 12th July) and, on average, they have each attracted over 400 hits. That compares with the 100 or so who attended the Sunday morning service beforehand.

It would, of course, be unwise to attach too much significance to these upbeat statistics. The figures doubtless include those who pop in for only a minute or two out of curiosity, or who have the service on in the background as they do other things about the house. How many actually sit down and watch from start to finish and worship as they would were they in church? And of those who, before the lockdown, had little or no connection with the church, but now log on for whatever reason; of them, how many will be interested in what we offer in the church building on a Sunday, once it is open again, and resolve to engage with the faith and the church at a deeper level?

The challenge for us in the church is how to help people turn online engagement with the church, however casual or sporadic, to Christian profession and discipleship. Opportunity knocks!

Undoubtedly, the crisis created by Covid-19 has stopped many people in their tracks and caused them to ask questions about life and its meaning. They seek answers as they look for hope. Proof of that is that searches on Google for the word 'prayer' and 'Christianity' have soared in recent months and, as quoted in the last issue of King's View, 24 per cent of adults in the UK have watched or listened to a religious service on TV or radio, and, of them, 5% said that they had never attended church.

The question is: how equipped are we as a church to enable such people to make the transition from search to discovery? What bridges must we build to help people cross from atheism, or agnosticism, or nominal membership of the church, (what is sometimes called 'churchianity') to living faith? And, more fundamentally, is the life we share in the church through faith in Christ so appealing, that people would want to cross those bridges? These are questions we must all grapple with prayerfully.

It is asked in many quarters; what will the church be like post Covid-19? Could it be that, in the crisis created by the coronavirus, the breeze, if not the wind of change, is blowing? Or, to change the picture, is the pandemic, under God, the kick-start we need, as during this time of vacancy we prepare for new beginnings?

Yours in hope David

New Interim Moderator...

Hello, by way of introduction, I'm Tom Pollock, your new Interim Moderator. What does an Interim Moderator do? Well, he or she chairs the Kirk Session, and any meetings of the congregation, ensuring that the church always acts in accordance with the established practice and procedure of the Church of Scotland.

My own parish is Sherbrooke Mosspark, over in Pollokshields, and I have been there for over seventeen years. Away back in 1982, I was ordained to the parish of Barlanark-Greyfriars, in Easterhouse, and after leaving there (1992), for the wilds of deepest Lanarkshire (Airdrie), I returned to Glasgow in 2003.

I am a Glaswegian by birth, married (my wife, Elaine, is a GP) and I have two children, Mairi, who lives in London, and Neil, who lives at home with Elaine and myself.

I have a little knowledge of your parish, in that a friend of mine was brought up in the kirk here. Over the years, I learned something of your story, through him.

During this period, when the country is dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, it will not be possible for me to meet with many of you personally, but, the minute this becomes possible, I look forward to coming over to the kirk. My hope is, we will get on with the business of finding a new minister for your Charge reasonably quickly.

Rev Tom Pollock, Interim Moderator

AT REST

"I am the Resurrection and the Life"

May
 Mrs Isobel Sibbald, Three Bridges Care Home
 May
 Mr Robert Nisbet, King's Park Avenue
 June
 Mrs Mona Wells, Kingshill Drive
 Mrs Annie Robertson, St Blane's Drive
 July
 Mrs Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Abbotsford Care Home

8 July Mr George Burn, Kingsacre Road

While we could not attend a funeral service for our dear friends during this time, we can take time to remember them all now. May the Lord bless them and keep them. Amen.

When the time is right, and we can gather together in church once again, a fitting memorial service is planned to remember and celebrate the lives of all those who were lost in these difficult days. *Raymond*.

Prayer Focus..

Dear Lord, We come to you with all hopes and fears. You are always with us, surrounding us with your ever loving arms. Be near to all who have lost a loved one and give them your peace. As we go into another phase of lockdown, we pray that everyone will act responsibly to prevent a new surge, which will send us back into lockdown.

We thank you for all those who have survived, and pray that their antibodies will help to provide a cure. As working life for some will change in the future, help those who are affected by these changes. We pray for everyone who no longer has a job and for all businesses that no longer exist. We know how precious life is. Keep us safe and well. Hear our prayer. Amen.

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 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.

Church Finance & Fabric

Little has changed since the last magazine. Inevitably, as the closure of the church buildings continues, the reduction in our income continues – no hall lets at all, a reduction in offerings, although, we must say thank you to those you have donated generously, over and above their normal FWO level. Thanks too, to those who have made sure that their offerings are submitted regularly, by posting cheques to the church, or dropping FWO envelopes (disguised), through the letter box, or using Raymond as a "messenger"! This allows us to spread the income rather than enduring a "black hole" with nothing at all coming in.

On the positive side, expenditure too is reduced, through staff still being furloughed, and John Black retiring from his cleaner position (Good luck to him!). No use of the halls means a reduction in gas and electricity used, although, this will only benefit us at the end of the year, as regular payments are on a fixed basis.

We reiterate our advice from last time - as far as our Christian giving is concerned, the best way to spread our gifts to the church is by using a standing order, and anyone who would like to do this should write to the Treasurer at the church address, or contact their elder. Those members who use freewill offering envelopes could, in the meantime, pay by cheque rather than cash, and send their envelopes to the church by post on a regular basis.

We want to say a special thank you to our Treasurer, David Wilson, for taking care of the purse strings, as well as helping to keep the manse garden in order!

On the fabric side, the church buildings continue to be inspected on a regular basis, to make sure there are no problems with water ingress, vandalism, break ins etc. Again, so far – so good! It has been reported to us that the church bells are sounding a bit off. The Sunday morning tune was changed to see if this would help, but we understand, there are still some strange noises added to the clarity of the bells. We will investigate!

We're pleased to report that the church grounds are in a much better state – thanks to all those with green fingers, who have contributed to this summer miracle, and continue to attend with their tools, safely distancing, to keep our gardens beautiful!

We can report, too, that, apart from a bit of outstanding work by our blacksmith, the front fencing and gates are just about complete – thanks to the strippers (if you pardon the expression), scrapers and painters – it was a much more extensive job than originally expected!

As we move forward, and restrictions continue to be reduced, we still need our volunteers to keep everything spick and span, and we would be happy to add to our list of helpers. If you would like to assist, please call Alan Pratt on 07776 328914.

IT Committee Update...

It has come to our attention, that since the end of May, and unfortunately, unbeknown to us, the church email was closed down by our website hosts. Huge apologies, if you have sent an email to our address and did not receive a response - this is why. The email is now back up and running: office@kingsparkchurch.co.uk

Further to our last bulletin, most of you will know that we successfully launched our online worship, via Facebook and YouTube, on Sunday 28th June. We want to express our thanks to everyone who has taken part and will continue to take part over the coming weeks. If you are not able to view our worship via Facebook or YouTube, we are exploring the option of providing a CD and/or DVD. We have also set up a podcast of the readings and service which can be listened to through Spotify.

We are also introducing 'Zoom Coffee' from Sunday 2nd August at 11.45am. Do join us online, after our morning worship, for a chance to meet with friends from King's Park for a catch up. Email: office@kingsparkchurch.co.uk to request login details or for further help using zoom.

Session Clerk News

As we continue to move through the phases of the pandemic (don't like that word!), it is great to watch and enjoy online worship each Sunday from King's Park. Our thanks go to all those who are participating week by week, but principally, to Gordon Wilson, for masterfully putting the services together.

Our new Interim Moderator is Tom Pollock, minister at Sherbrooke Mosspark. He patiently awaits contact from Presbytery for written confirmation regarding the status of our vacancy, which, when received, will enable the Kirk Session to move things forward.

In one of his first duties as Interim Moderator, Tom officiated at the Kirk Session meeting on Wednesday 22nd July, called to discuss reopening the Church for public worship. This first meeting of the session since lockdown utilised Zoom, an online conference facility, and we are indebted to Hilary Petrie and Lynda Young for organizing this and guiding everyone through the pitfalls, easily fallen into by new and seasoned users alike!

At the meeting, the decision was taken to seek approval from Presbytery, who need to ensure that we will follow Scottish Government guidelines and the recommendations of the Church of Scotland, to reopen our building for public worship.

Our intention is to move slowly, with the safety of you all uppermost in our thinking. If our submissions to Presbytery are approved and we feel confident in opening for services, we will let you know what we plan to put in place, along with guidelines and advice for those deemed to be in vulnerable categories. Elsewhere in this magazine, Alan Pratt, our Property Convener, gives a flavour of what the reopened church experience will be like. In the meantime, our online services, and newly introduced "Zoom Coffee" are available every Sunday morning.

We continue to keep you all in our thoughts and prayers as we travel together through these difficult times. Please go on remembering each other in prayer and keeping in touch with those you can.

The Lord bless you and keep you. John and Eunice

A King's Park Church Service - "the new normal"?

Now that the Kirk Session has agreed to open the church for regular Sunday worship, as soon as is practically possible, subject to gaining approval of our plans from Presbytery, I thought it would be useful to describe exactly what our return to the sanctuary would look like.

As you approach the front doors (the only way you will be able to get in), you will require to adhere to the surface markings on the ground to make sure that, as you wait, you are 2 metres distant from anyone else, other than another member of your 'household'. Volunteers will advise and provide guidance as you enter through the door. Once in the vestibule, still socially distancing, you will be asked for your name and a contact number (to assist with the NHS "Test and Protect" programme), and reminded that you should be wearing a face covering while attending the service. On the walls inside the vestibule, notices will be displayed, reminding worshippers of the key infection prevention requirements, including handwashing guidance and social distancing directions.

Before entering the sanctuary, you will be required to use the hand sanitizer. Once 'sanitized', you will be guided down the central aisle, socially distancing, and be shown to a seat. You will remain in that seat for the duration of the service, unless you wish to visit the main toilets, when a volunteer will guide you, via the 'one-way' system, around the Garth garden.

Avoid physical contact with others – no hugs or shaking hands! Face coverings will be required and you will refrain from singing while inside the building. Indeed, if joining with other worshippers in the Lord's prayer, you will be expected to do so quietly.

The service will be short, directed wholly by the minister, supported, musically, by the organist. The words to hymn and scripture will be shown on the screens, as all hymnbooks and bibles have been removed.

When the service ends, volunteers will direct worshippers out of the building in a controlled fashion. When exiting, you should again use the hand sanitizer provided.

It is the Church's statutory and moral duty to provide a safe environment, with particular reference to the COVID-19 pandemic, by ensuring that all worshippers, volunteers and employees are aware of the infection prevention and control precautions that are in place within the building. It is also the Church's duty to ensure that all worshippers, volunteers and employees are made aware of the behaviour expected of them, during the pandemic, to keep themselves and others safe.

Scottish Government and Church of Scotland advice states that anyone who is unwell or shows symptoms of COVID-19, or who is in the extremely vulnerable group, or who is shielding, or isolating, or living with someone who is isolating or unwell, **must not attend**.

King's Park Church will ensure that those in the extremely vulnerable category, per Government advice, will still be able to participate in church life, during the pandemic, without attending church services.

Those in the vulnerable category, per Government advice, will be supported in their choice to participate in church life, in a way that meets their own individual needs and preferences, whilst safeguarding their own health, safety and welfare, and those of the wider congregation and community.

It is for every worshipper to consider prayerfully, whether, or not, they feel able to attend church, and, in the current circumstances, they should do so without any obligation.

It is envisaged that the current programme of online worship services will continue until further notice, and we are exploring the option of providing these services on DVD or CD, for those unable to attend Sunday worship and who do not have access to online facilities.

Alan Pratt, Property Convenor

In these difficult and uncertain times, we have had some cause for celebrations since we all last met together, and now remember how much we have to be thankful for.

40 Ruby Years

Our warmest congratulations go to

Mr and Mrs Alan & Lorraine Pratt who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 5th April 2020

And to

Mr and Mrs Doreen & lan MacLeod who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 28th June 2020

We wish both couples every Blessing.

50 Golden Years Our warmest congratulations go to Mr and Mrs Catherine & Malcolm Mackenzie who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 29th April 2020 We wish them both every Blessing.

Bob Brown

We would like to thank all of you who joined us at 144, on the day of Dad's funeral, those of you who stood along the Avenue and those of you who have contacted us with kind words since Dad died.

In the end, the day was quite surreal and strangely beautiful. None of the family will ever forget all the people who stood on the street, and in their gardens, to listen to the piper and watch Dad's departure. The funeral, for family only, went well. Gordon conducted the service with the traditional elements Dad would have liked. We wrote and delivered the eulogy and his granddaughter, Nell, wrote and read a poem, "Dear Grandpa," that she had written in the style of the many rhyming letters Dad had sent the grandchildren over the years.

Under the new restrictions, we had to remove the flowers after the ceremony, so in the late afternoon, took them to Bannockburn and laid them on Dad's parents' grave. It was glorious in the sun with the Ochils as a backdrop. We felt that Dad was reclaimed from the horrors of the recent weeks and that the day was a community's uplifting triumph in the face of the pandemic.

Thank you all for your support and kindness. With very best wishes. *Irene and June*

As in previous weeks during lockdown and the phased easing of restrictions, 14 Christian churches and organisations across the country, including the Church of Scotland, have co-signed a letter calling for prayer. Scottish Christians have been continuing to answer the call to pray at the same time each week, and Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, has been taking part alongside them. We once again join together in prayer on a Sunday evening at 7pm in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We praise you, living God And cry: 'Abba', Father! For you are the One who creates life And loves all that your hand has made. Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer. We praise you, living Christ And confess that Jesus is Lord! For you are the crucified and risen One Through whom we have peace with God. Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer. We praise you, Spirit of the living God And thank you that we are adopted as children of God. For you are the One who shares in all our struggles And inspires in us hope. Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer. We praise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit And worship and glorify your name.

We cry: 'Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.'

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer. Amen.

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 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 and Instagram

IF YOU NEED THE CHURCH PLEASE CONTACT:

Paymend Jonkins Pasteral Assistant Tel: 07753 2020

Mr Raymond Jenkins, Pastoral Assistant, Tel: 07753 808968 Email: ray_jenkins@hotmail.com or contact your Elder King's Park Church of Scotland, Glasgow is a Registered Charity with Scotlish Charity Number: SC017040.