

Park Pages

the magazine of Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland



Letter from the Minister

Dear Friends,

Usually, at this time of year, I would be recounting events that had taken place over the summer and giving plans for the “new session” and the run up to Christmas in December. This year, nothing is as it was. Much of the regular structure of life, let alone church life, has been severely impacted by Covid-19. The “new normal” is hardly normal, and after some easing of the lockdown over the summer months, we face an autumn of renewed regulations. I have no desire to go through all of that with you... most of us are increasingly wearied by it all. What I do want to do is to lay out our plans as a church for the autumn and early winter session. Hopefully, it will encourage you to see that whilst things are different, church life carries on!

From the very beginning, our church has been open on a Sunday morning. Even during the darkest days of lockdown, back in April, it remained as a place of quiet prayer and reflection. Since June, we have been able to use the church for small gatherings. Here is an outline for the structure of things during the next few months.

SUNDAY MORNING Church is open from 10am till 12 noon

As soon as it was possible to use the church for private prayer, some who were not able to access, or did not wish to access Zoom, came into the church for a time of quiet reflection. Now that the internet is finally installed within the church, it is our intention to begin to live stream a Zoom service from the church sanctuary at 10.30am on a Sunday morning. Park Kids will be meeting in the church hall after the October break and will not be inside the main sanctuary. For those of you who are parents, you may use the front seating area in the church.

Other members of the congregation will be able to sit either in the rear part of the sanctuary, or upstairs in the main balcony. Let me emphasise that for the moment, this is **ONLY** for those who do not or cannot access Zoom.

The majority of the congregation will continue to access the Sunday morning service via Zoom in their own homes.

If you are not sure whether you should or can attend, please speak to me before coming to the church. If you presently access Zoom, do **NOT** come down to the church. If a visitor from the community appears, they would be welcomed in but it is our desire to keep the numbers down to no more than 30 for the immediate future.

For a whole host of reasons, the Kirk Session has decided **NOT** to host a full “service” on a Sunday morning for up to 50 people, as the regulations allow. We will review our plans as the situation within the wider community develops.

Autumn 2020



SUNDAY



PRIVATE PRAYER / DEVOTIONALS

The church will remain open on a **Tuesday**, **Wednesday** and **Thursday** for private prayer. During these times, short devotionals will be led by myself at 10.30am and if necessary, at 11.30am, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at 7.30pm on a Wednesday evening. Please do use these opportunities when you can. I know that it is not the same as a proper service, but those who have been availing themselves of this opportunity have found them helpful.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS



Six Fellowship Groups are also in operation as follows:

Zoom Meetings

Younger Women in the Word is held fortnightly on a Wednesday evening. This is led by Karen Stangoe and further details can be obtained from her.

Evening Refresh is held fortnightly on a Wednesday evening. This is led by Ian McQuarrie and is for those who would not feel comfortable at a person-to-person gathering. Further details can be obtained from Ian.

CHURCH BASED GROUPS

Re-fresh on Wednesday is held weekly at 2.30pm

Men at the Manse is held fortnightly on a Thursday at 7.30pm

Women in the Word is held fortnightly on a Sunday evening at 8pm



As we are limited in numbers to who can attend, please contact me first to see if you can come along to any of these established groups.

Faith on Friday—this is a new group which will be held fortnightly at 10am.

There is space in this group for further members so please speak to myself for more details.

PRAYER GROUP

The Open to God prayer time on a Saturday morning at 9am continues on Zoom and I would encourage you to join with others in this vital corporate prayer ministry. It is essential at this critical time. You can obtain further details from myself, Karen or Ian.



YOUTH MINISTRY

CONNECT—our ministry with younger people on a Monday evening has continued online during these past six months. This will now continue with fortnightly or monthly gatherings in the hall alongside Zoom meetings.



I hope this breakdown of what's on for you has been helpful. The Kirk Session and I believe that we are providing as much coverage for the congregation in terms of worship as is possible in the present circumstances.

With no corporate singing allowed, and numbers severely restricted by social distancing etc, we can only do what we can do! I am encouraged that many of us have found our Zoom service on a Sunday morning a real blessing. The arrangements I have outlined will continue for the foreseeable future but obviously we have to be aware of government guidelines and restrictions. However, strong representation has been made by UK Church Leaders to the various government authorities, emphasising reluctance to accept closure of churches for worship unless in the most extreme circumstances.



Please continue to pray for those in authority, both in the secular and spiritual domain, that they might seek and be open to "Wisdom from Above".

Back in the late 1980s, I attended a course and conference on Small Groups. In the context of more traditional churches, this "novel" concept was gaining ground. Fast forward 30 years, and we are being forced by Covid-19, and the government's response to it, to adapt and adopt such a philosophy of church life! Of course, it is far more than a philosophy or "program".

In the story of the early Church, we read that the believers, and no doubt some enquirers, gathered and "...devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship and ...to prayer. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes..." Acts 2 v 42-47

In the past, we have often looked at these verses. We are now in a situation where these foundational principles of small gatherings, on an almost daily basis rather than just a Sunday, are becoming the NEW NORM! Along with the bulk of the church in the Western World, we are finding that similar gatherings—not in our own homes but in our church home or on Zoom—are enabling us to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We all long for things to return to normal, but the present situation has caused some of us to reflect on what in church life was regarded as "normal". We are increasingly in a "New Testament" world, and this causes us to look afresh at what it means to "DO" church! Be assured, we are all on a journey to discover what this means for us.



Please continue to pray for myself and our church leaders as we explore this.

I close with words that the Apostle Paul wrote to the various House Churches that made up the congregation of the Church of Christ in Corinth. These words were applicable to Corinth in AD 60 and are equally applicable to Park Church in 2020!

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith, be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love."

1 Corinthians 16 v 13

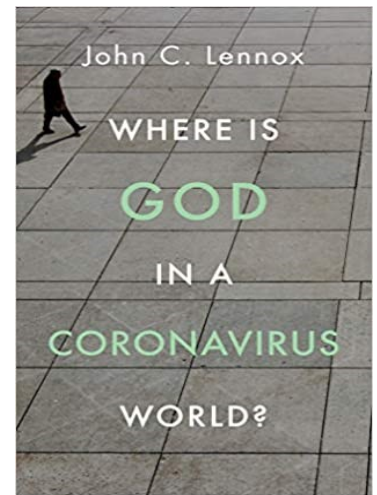
With Christian love

Your friend and minister



Where is God in a Coronavirus World?

I am sure this is a question we've all asked ourselves since the pandemic began. John Lennox, a Mathematics professor at Oxford, wrote this short book at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and many things have changed in the last six months. However, he demonstrates in this book "how the Christian worldview not only helps us make sense of it, but also offers us a sure and certain hope to cling to". Ian McQuarrie has written a review of the book here.



John C Lennox: **Where Is God in A Coronavirus World?**

Lennox wrote this slim volume in the space of a week. He invites the reader to view it as the kind of thing he would say to someone sitting with him in a coffee shop who was asking the question, "Where is God in a Coronavirus World"?

For Lennox, Coronavirus confronts us all with the problem of pain and suffering. He asks the question, "*Is there hope?*" In the face of such a pandemic, what can I say about God? Positing three families of worldview, **Theistic, Atheistic and Pantheistic**, he quickly dismisses Pantheism and Atheism. He does also allude to an agnostic perspective but declares that no one is "sceptical or agnostic about everything". Given the secularism that pervades society, perhaps more could have been said on this.

The bulk of the book is then taken up with Lennox's response from a Christian worldview. He poses the question, "*How can there be Coronavirus if there is a loving God?*" For Lennox, the most productive way of doing this, in the face of "deep flaws both in human nature and physical nature", is to ask the question "*is there any evidence that there is a God whom we can trust with the implications of the pandemic and with our lives and futures?*"

The evidence is found in Jesus Christ, God incarnate, who has not remained distant from human pain and suffering, but has himself experienced it. Coronavirus is so called because it resembles a crown; it has colossal power over us but hope is found in another corona, the crown of thorns that was forced on Jesus' head prior to his crucifixion. Hope is found in Jesus, who out of death brings life, and whose resurrection is the guarantee that ultimately all things will be put to rights.

Finally, Lennox gives advice on how Christians should respond to the pandemic. He creatively uses an article by C S Lewis on living with atomic weapons, he reminds us of the self-sacrificial response of Christians to pandemics in the past and finally offers a concluding call to remember eternity. He says:

"Scripture and tradition habitually put the joys of heaven into scale against the suffering of earth."

To put flesh on this, Lennox quotes from the book, *I Choose Everything*, the remarkable story of Jozanne Moss and her battle with motor neurone disease, a 15-year journey through pain which she likens to climbing a mountain. Nearing the summit of her "mountain" she says, "*the climb is becoming tough now but I must press on; the reward that awaits me when I complete the climb far outweighs any sacrifice one makes*".

Remember this, says Lennox; remember the crown of righteousness which awaits the Christian in the world to come. Perhaps the accusation could be made that Lennox seeks to cover too much material too quickly, but this is still a very helpful book, provoking as it does, reflection on the important questions the pandemic raises.



This book is published by The Good Book Company and is widely available in bookshops and online.

Reflections on a Pandemic

Helen McQuarrie

23 March 2020

I don't need to tell you the significance of this date, unless you've been holidaying on a desert island. It's one of those dates that we will remember, as we do with birthdays, weddings and other significant events.

Ian and I had a beautiful three week long holiday in December/January in Sydney, Australia, together with our family, celebrating our eldest son's wedding and then sightseeing which was just lovely. While there, we saw lots of people wearing masks but thought nothing of it. The air quality some days was quite bad with an overhanging orangey mist because of all the fires that were raging over Australia at that point.

Who knew, a few months later, we ourselves would be wearing masks, for what we now call Covid-19, in order to protect ourselves and others from a deadly, highly infectious virus?

EVERYTHING STOPPED - no church services, no coffee mornings, no small groups meeting, That was UNTIL ...we heard of Zoom. Now we are Zooming, thanks to Graeme. We get to see people coming on screen, songs to sing in our own house, God's Word from Bruce, prayer and chat at the end.

Church at the moment is not what it was. Will it ever be the same again? Do we want it to be?



**Yesterday, Today, Forever
Jesus is the same,
All may change, but Jesus
never
Glory to His Name.**



Perspective on 2020

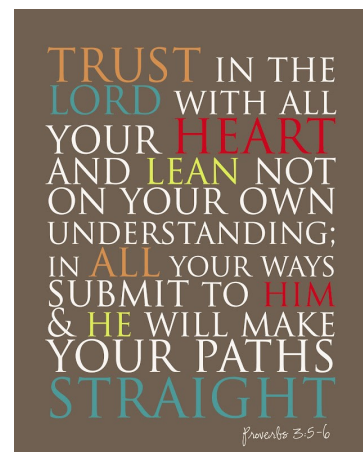
Helen Ooi

There is no doubt that 2020 is a year that we will not forget in a hurry. Much of our normal daily routine has changed and we are governed by restrictions on what we can or cannot do. This has come as a shock to many, especially the young. The older generation in many cases are dealing with it better, especially those who still remember the Second World War. We may not be living through a war but we are battling against an unknown virus, named Covid-19. It is real, albeit invisible, and it poses a threat to humanity, not just in the deaths it may cause, but in the far-reaching economic, social and political ramifications that will affect our country for years to come.

Uncertainty is the new norm. Our perspectives on issues that were maybe important to us in early 2020 have changed. Many of the things we took for granted that would always be stable have now been shaken to the core. And yet, there have been worse tragedies in human history going back as far as Noah's Flood and more recently the two World Wars in the 20th century.

This health pandemic has opened our eyes to the fact that despite the great advances made in science and medicine over the years, we were never really in control! We can put our faith in government that it will be able to bring the virus under control, we can put our faith in medicine, hoping that a vaccine will be found soon, we can put our faith in the economic system hoping that the market will recover, but we cannot be certain that any of these things will happen.

Rather, I choose to place my faith in God as I know He cares for me and that my future is safe with Him. This does not mean I have no concerns about the present situation and how it may affect me or those around me; quite the contrary, but I take these concerns to God in prayer. This pandemic has taught me that I need to rely more on God, I need to delve deeper into His Word to discern His wisdom and stop trying to do things my way! Proverbs 3 v 5 says: **Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.** I pray that I will learn to do this more and more as I continue my journey with the Lord.



Operation Christmas Child

The Shoebox Appeal

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to show God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1990, more than 178 million children in over 160 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child.



Park Church has been taking part in the Shoebox Appeal since winter 2002 and we felt that this year, probably more than ever with the coronavirus pandemic raging through the world, that our help in bringing a bit of joy to disadvantaged children throughout the world was needed. Obviously the logistics of our campaign this year will be a little more difficult, but I am sure with our usual resilience and desire to help others we will succeed.

History (taken from the website)

Operation Christmas Child began in the UK in 1990, after Dave Cooke, a local businessman in Wrexham, and his wife, Jill, felt called to do something in response to the plight of Romanian orphans at the end of the Cold War. It was Dave's sister, Jan, who came up with the concept of the shoebox gift as a form of an easily transportable "Christmas stocking" wrapped and packed with love. It was designed as a tangible message of hope for children who found themselves in the toughest situations.

Dave put out a local radio appeal for blankets, toys, medical supplies and transportation. The community responded and seven lorryloads of gifts was bound for Romania, including 3000 shoeboxes. The gifts were distributed by a local pastor who was helped by volunteers,

In 1993, Dave got in touch with Franklin Graham at Samaritan's Purse and asked if he'd be willing to send shoeboxes with gifts to war-torn Bosnia. Franklin asked the pastor at Calvary Church of Charlotte for his help. The pastor demonstrated how to fill a shoebox with simple gifts and encouraged his congregation to add a short letter to the child as well. Within weeks, the church had 11,000 shoeboxes ready to go. Due to their generosity and additional gifts from Canada, Samaritan's Purse sent 28,000 shoebox gifts to the Balkans that Christmas.

In 1993, the BBC organised a live Songs of Praise link-up between St Giles Church, Wrexham, and Second Baptist Church in Oradea, Romania, focusing on Operation Christmas Child (OCC). The programme made a significant impact and elevated the campaign from a local North Wales and England project and launched it nationwide. Over the next few years, OCC caught the imagination of churches, schools and workplaces throughout the UK. The Welsh based shoebox gift project became an official project of Samaritan's Purse in 1995.

Every box is an opportunity to reach a child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Franklin Graham, President, Samaritan's Purse



The Greatest Journey

In addition, 1.1 million volunteers have been trained to teach **The Greatest Journey**, a dynamic follow-up discipleship course for shoebox recipients. Since 2009, 23.3 million children have enrolled in the 12-lesson program to learn how to follow Jesus and share Him with others. More than 11.2 million of these boys and girls have made a decision to accept Christ as their Saviour as a result of the course. Many are now praying for, and sharing their faith with, family and friends. As a result of this ever-expanding witness, new churches are starting and communities and lives are being transformed!



Our role

This whole process is made possible by ordinary people like ourselves. Obviously things are a little different this year but we can still play our part.

- Leaflets with the labels for the shoebox can be picked up from the church
- Pre-printed shoeboxes will be available from the church, depending on demand
- Completed shoeboxes can be dropped off at the church or picked up from your doorstep if need be
- A suggested donation of £5 to cover project costs, preferably made online at *Follow your Box* so that volunteers at the centres do not have to handle cash. Here you can also register to see where your box ends up!



A simple shoebox gift packed with love and fuelled by prayer can have a huge impact!

However, even if you cannot get out to shop for items for your shoebox, you can pack a virtual shoebox online. Go to www.samaritans-purse.org.uk and click on **Shoebox Online**. Each shoebox costs £20 which includes the £5 donation.

Gifts allowed

- Stuffed toys, slinky, wind-up torch, jewellery set
- Dolls, toy trucks, yo-yo, musical instrument
- Skipping rope, small ball, puzzles
- Pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, felt pens,
- Stamps and ink pads, notebooks, solar calculators,
- Colouring and picture books
- Toothbrush, wrapped soap, flannel, brush or comb

Not allowed

- Toothpaste, playing cards of the 4-suit variety,
- Sharp or fragile objects, toy guns, war toys, knives, military figures,
- seeds, sweets, chocolate or food items,
- bubbles, lotions or liquids, medicines, used or damaged items
- Books with mainly words

In these days of fear and uncertainty, it is vitally important that these children know they are loved and cared for, not just by us but by God, their creator. If you'd like to find out more about the Shoebox Appeal, please go to www.samaritans-purse.org.uk.

Father God, we pray that these shoeboxes that we fill will bring much joy to the recipients. We ask that you bless these boxes and the children who will receive them. We pray that through these gifts the hearts of the children and their families will be opened to your love and the message of your grace through Jesus Christ. Amen

Our Journey through Covid-19

Margaret Miller

After my dad died in 2012, my mum started to go downhill. She had looked after my dad over the previous years and nursed him through vascular dementia. In December 2012, she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and my sister Linda, and Robert and I, have looked after her ever since.

We managed fairly well until August 2019 when my mum stopped eating and lost about 1½ stones. It turned out she was suffering from a massive Urinary Tract Infection and it took months for her eating to get back to normal. We managed that with the help of her carers and it was so good to see her back on track.

By Christmas and New Year, I knew I just couldn't cope any more, but my sister was hesitant about placing mum in care. Friends in the church, and at the Refresh Group, continued to pray for us, and at last my sister agreed to my contacting Social Work. This was the first miracle. We had a preliminary visit in February, and the social worker recommended that mum was assessed.

Then Covid-19 hit. We thought nothing would happen until the pandemic was over. Out of the blue, in April, we got a telephone call from another social worker to tell us she would be working on our behalf. Everything was done by telephone; we didn't even meet over Facetime or Zoom. We worked away in the background getting Care Home information. We could not visit any of them. We found a new one that had just opened at the beginning of the year - Meadowburn - and somehow felt this was the one.

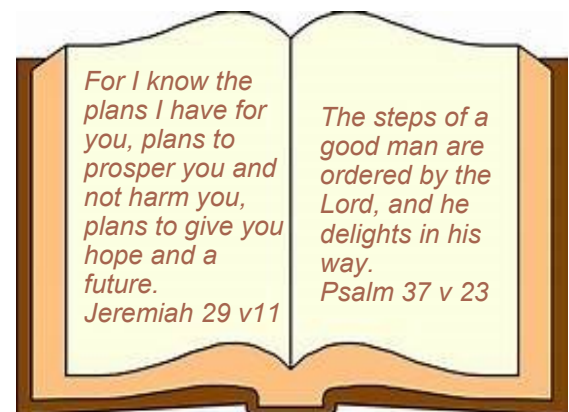
By mid-May mum had been assessed and recommended for residential care. We were very reluctant to get mum admitted during this time, because of the bad press over Covid and Care Homes. In order to get mum on the waiting list for Meadowburn, we had to agree that we would be prepared to move quickly. This was another huge decision for us, and we were filled with anguish. We were comforted that there was a very long waiting list.

Both Linda and I were emotionally wrecked by this time, but the sense of God's presence in the timing was always there. It was great to have such a supportive social worker and that helped us immensely, as everything was still being done by phone and e-mail. We had her four-week review on 12 August by conference call and her permanent residency was confirmed. Jenny and the Home Unit Senior both commented on how good it was to work with us, considering all the difficulties and obstacles we had to overcome. By mid-June we had completed the Financial Assessment and this was passed.

On the morning of 2 July, Jenny, the social worker, called me to say that there was a place for mum available in Meadowburn, subject to the Manager's agreement, who was having to rely on Jenny's assessment and recommendation. By 5 pm on 3 July the placement was confirmed. I spoke to the Manager on 6 July and he said to bring mum in on the 13 July.

Mum settled in well and is full of praise for the staff, the surroundings and the garden which she overlooks. I visited her on 17 August for the first time, and she was looking much better than she had in over a year. She was just so much brighter!

We give thanks to God and to the people of Park Church and others who have been praying for us throughout this time. Helen McQuarrie has been such an encouragement, always with a word in season.



Thank You

Scott Cassels

Catherine Pitt Cassels

On the 6 July 2020, I lost my wife and very good friend. You all knew her as Irene but this was her nickname.

Irene passed away at 1420 hours in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary from a ruptured thoracic aortic aneurysm. She had only left the house in an ambulance to Monklands Hospital 78 hours earlier. It was very sudden.

I did not realise how well people, near and far, knew Irene and how well liked she was by everyone. I would like to thank everyone; neighbours, members of Park Church, all the staff at the crematorium, members of the bowling and tennis clubs, Uddingston Pride and many more friends who turned out to see Irene making her last journey to Daldowie Crematorium.

Thank you for all the sympathy cards—124 in total—and for signing the Book of Remembrance and for leaving messages on my answerphone. They have all been a great source of comfort to me.

Yes, we all lost a very good friend.



Irene was known to everyone in Park Church and it was with great sadness that we heard of her untimely passing. Although we were not able to hold the funeral in the church, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the church was open on the day and lots of people came for a quiet time of prayer and contemplation to remember Irene's life. We also had a Book of Remembrance for people to sign.

Irene always had a warm smile for everyone she met, both young and old. She was probably best known for her gifts of hospitality and could always be found directing proceedings in the church kitchen. We remember especially last year as she organised the tea for Bruce's 20th Anniversary Daffodil Tea, followed a few months later by the wonderful spread she put on for Colin and Emma's wedding.

We thank God for her life and continue to remember Scott in prayer.



Ladies' Association

Janet Strawbridge/Pat Robertson

We have not yet planned our syllabus for 2020/21 as the situation at the moment is very uncertain.

Unlike some of the other church groups who have been meeting via Zoom, this has not been an option for us as some of the ladies don't have internet connections. However, over the summer months we have kept in touch through the Royal Mail, phone calls and emails, which has worked out well, and we will continue to do that.

It is our hope that we will be able to meet up for **Coffee and Chat** whenever it is safe to do so.

In the meantime we want everyone to look after themselves and stay safe.



Come let us sing for joy to the Lord!

Life is full of uncertainty but some things remain the same; God is Sovereign and His steadfast love for us never wavers. The first song exhorts us to be still and to rest in God's peace and presence. The storm may be raging round us but God is bigger than any storm. The second song speaks of suffering and pain but reminds us that whatever pain we are experiencing here on earth, greater things await us. The song encourages us to Take Heart!



Still, my Soul, be Still

This hymn from the Townend/Getty stable was written in 2008. It calls for us to still our souls in the middle of the storm and to extinguish all the noise of daily life so that we might hear God's voice. God is near to us in the present, irrespective of the stress, fear, pressures of life or distractions that we are facing in our present circumstances. It is hoped that when everything around us seems dark and full of despair, as in the present Covid-19 situation, we will discern God's presence more clearly and that the light of Christ will shine more brightly both in our own lives and in that of our nation.

1. **Still, my soul, be still,
And do not fear
Though winds of change may rage tomorrow.
God is at your side;
No longer dread
The fires of unexpected sorrow**

2. **Still, my soul, be still
Do not be moved
By lesser lights and fleeting shadows
Hold onto His ways
With shield of faith
Against temptations flaming arrows**

Chorus

**God, You are my God
And I will trust in You and not be shaken
Lord of peace, renew
A steadfast spirit within me
To rest in You alone**

3. **Still, my soul, be still
Do not forsake
The Truth you learned in the beginning
Wait upon the Lord
And hope will rise
As stars appear when day is dimming**

This song was inspired by the old hymn, *Be Still My Soul*, written in 1752. Both songs encourage us as believers to cling onto the unending peace of Christ. The Getty song uses images from nature to illustrate the strength and breadth of God's rest. We are not to fear the raging winds as God can offer us shelter and safety and while we are still living in a land of fear and gloom, we must look heavenward and remember that "hope will rise as stars appear". This song should transport us to a place of peace and rest in Jesus in this time of waiting.



Life is full of uncertainty at the moment with coronavirus spreading throughout the country again. Uncertainty causes fear. A spirit of fear pervading society is worse than the virus itself. A song like this gives us the assurance that our souls are held secure. God wants us to be still in His presence and to trust in Him. He is in control, not the politicians or the scientists. One way we can rest in the knowledge and presence of God is to surround ourselves with music that sings it over us. Music that stills our souls and quiets our worried hearts.

To listen to the song, click [here](#)

Take Heart

This song was written in 2019 by Liv Chapman and Michael Morrow. It has the most beautiful melody and the words are very poignant once you know the story behind the song. Liv Chapman wrote this song for her brother, Sam, whose life was blighted by constant pain, hospital visits, disappointments and restrictions on his daily living. The song and its lyrics paint the picture of a hurting world which longs for the return of Christ.

Sam was diagnosed with leukaemia at the age of 18. Both he and Liv attended St Ebbe's church in Oxford. One day after the morning service, Sam turned to Liv and said it was hard for him to sing along. She asked if it was because the songs were too high but it wasn't a musical issue. It was a theological issue. Sam found singing songs of praise or victory difficult because they didn't give him an opportunity to express lament or sorrow and to be real with God. Suffering was experienced by Sam on a daily basis but through it all he managed to stay positive and cheerful. Liv says:

I'm sure it was because he spent most of his life clinging to the feet of Jesus. You could tell in the way it flavoured his conversation, attitude and his assurance that God was good and loving even though his own life was continually so difficult.

Liv realised that Sam was not the only one who felt this way about worship songs and decided to write a song with her fellow Emu Music writer, Mike, so that Christians could sing about their grief and longings. Lamentations 2 v 22-23 were the main verses of inspiration; the family meditated on these verses every morning.

*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
For his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

1. **Broken one, take heart**
For your King has entered in
Made your heart His home
When He washed away your sin
In the darkest day, know your shame is all gone
When He looks at you, God will see His Son
At the throne of grace, he says, "sinner, come"

2. **Hurting one, take heart**
For your King will walk beside
With each rising sun
Every grace He will provide
In the hardest day, He will never forsake
For He knows your grief, and He feels your pain
When the world gives way, Jesus will remain

3. **Waiting one, take heart**
For your King will soon return
Ending every strife
He will reign upon the earth
In the longest day, know the victory is won
Do not fear the world, He has overcome
You are safe in Him covered by His love



Chapman says, *I wanted to capture the things that plague human life because of Genesis 3. Sin and suffering. That's what Jesus came to deal with. I hope this song gives people permission to sing to Him out of their grief.*

Once you know the story, the emotion in this song is overwhelming and sad but it is a reminder that whatever suffering we are enduring here on earth, be it illness, grief or feelings of hopelessness or fear, Jesus is there for us and we have that certain hope in Him for what is to come. As Chapman says:

It's my hope and prayer that this song comforts your soul, encourages your heart, equips and strengthens you in the midst of uncertainty and trials, and helps you to wait for our King's return.

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But **take heart!** I have overcome the world. John 16 v 33

To listen to the song, click [here](#)



Autumn Reflections



Autumn is my favourite season with the trees dressed in autumn gowns of russet, gold and bright orange. It reminds me of the beauty of God's creation. The seasons come and go but God remains unchanged and unchanging. Autumn is a season of transition. The flowers fade and the leaves fall to the ground, withered and faded. All the splendour of spring and summer is gone and winter is almost on us. Autumn though is about giving thanks to God, thanking him for the harvest and providing for us so abundantly so that we can share with others. God has truly blessed us and His love endures forever.



The grass withers,
the flower fades;
but the word of our
God stands forever.

Isaiah 40:8, World English Bible

All people are like grass, all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God endures forever. Isaiah 40 v 6-8

Autumn Prayer

Abba, Father, the trees are ablaze with your glory
The seasons change, but you never do
You are always beautiful
In the green and freshness of Spring
as in the golds and reds and chills of autumn.
Make me like you.
Let my life reflect your beauty,
Season after season,
As the calendar of my life turns and turns and turns.

The trees are letting go of this year's foliage
Help me let go of both blessings and burdens
And surrender them both to your loving care.

Fallen leaves pattern the ground with variety
So design my own fallings and failings
into whatever design will please you most
In Jesus' name, I pray



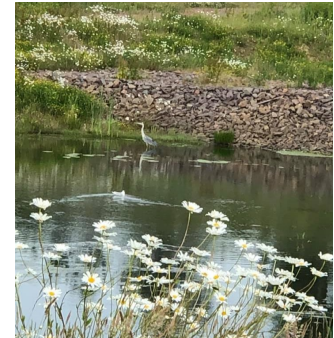
Amen

by Bob Hostetler

Uddingston Pride Update

Sandy Robertson

Like everyone else this year, the group has been severely restricted in what we could do around the village. With no **Britain in Bloom** competition, and with the requirement to maintain social distancing, our efforts have been very limited. However, we were able to enhance the appearance of the Gateway Sign at Powburn Toll by removing an area of grass and planting a selection of shrubs in the bed that was formed. We hope the plants will provide a more attractive welcome to Uddingston for years to come.



We were also able to plant some young trees around the new drainage pond between the motorway and Blantyre Farm Road, and we stocked the pond with some newts and frogs which were displaced by the motorway works. We hope the new little colony will thrive and expand over time.



South Lanarkshire Council were unable to maintain our War Memorial this year, due to current financial constraints, but we decided that such an important part of village life had to be kept at its best, so we undertook to maintain the little garden at the memorial ourselves; I hope you will agree that we have managed to keep the area looking attractive and tidy. However, autumn is now upon us and it will soon be time to remove the mangers and baskets from the Main Street; it's always sad to see them go.



I am sad to report that the road to Greyfriars has been subjected to extensive fly-tipping, which is both unsightly and environmentally damaging. The Council have had to spend precious resources to remove the debris, and we can only hope that these inconsiderate people will dispose of their rubbish in a legal manner in future.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, we have unfortunately taken the decision to cancel our annual **Christmas Open Day** this year. This is a disappointment to us all as the event is one of the highlights of the winter in Uddingston. However, we can't encourage people to come out in numbers and we would not be allowed to have school choirs singing, dancers dancing or bands playing under the current regulations.



Finally, we in the group were greatly saddened to hear of the death of our good friend, **Irene Cassels**. At our regular Committee Meetings in the Church Hall, she was always there to give us a cheery welcome, and always seemed to know what type of coffee we all enjoyed. Many members of the group were able to come to the church on the day of her funeral and applaud as the cortège passed by. It was our privilege to bid her farewell; she was such a delightful and kind lady and we will miss her greatly, along with the members of Park Church, and indeed the whole community of Uddingston. Our thoughts are with Scott and the family at this very sad time.





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