

Park Pages

the magazine of Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland



Letter from the Minister

Dear Friends,

I would like to share with you a story that was passed on to me by a member of our Fellowship.

Its setting is in India... a country that our own congregation has had a connection with in recent times. Whilst it was the country where the first modern Christian missionary, William Carey, set foot in the later 18th century, it still remains, even today, a country where large parts remain effectively unreached and Christians face persecution and death.

A century ago, that was especially true amongst many of the tribal and indigenous peoples that lived on the fringes of the country. Medical missionaries, inspired by the stories of the Welsh revival of the 1900s, sought to reach out to some of these tribal people, and in particular the fierce, headhunting Garo tribe.

While the hills that these people roamed were covered with thick, impenetrable forest, and the climate was so severe that it was considered impossible for a white person to live there, contacts were made and one Garo man, named Nokseng, along with his family, became a Christian.

When the chief of the village that they belonged to, heard of their conversion, he was very angry. Immersed in spirit and ancestor worship, for a member of the community to become a Christian was seen as endangering the whole community and likely to bring a curse upon them all. The Village Chief summoned Nokseng, his wife and two sons to a village council and in front of the entire community, demanded that the family renounce their new beliefs or be executed.

True to the promise that Jesus made that when believers are arrested and brought to trial, they are to say whatever is given to them at the time by the Holy Spirit (see Mark 13 v 11), Nokseng replied:

"I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back."

Enraged, the chief ordered his archers to shoot the two boys dead with poisoned arrows.

"Now give up your faith", the chief ordered Nokseng. "You have lost both your children, and I will kill your wife next."

"Though none go with me, still I will follow", Nokseng replied. "No turning back."

Even more furious, the chief ordered his archers to kill Nokseng's wife, and when she was dead, he turned to Nokseng and told him,

"If you don't renounce this Jesus, you will die too!"

"The cross before me, the world behind me. No turning back", Nokseng replied.

In a blind fury, the chief gave the command and his archers killed the man where he stood.

Autumn 2021



That could have been the end of the story....but it wasn't. The village chief, despite his rage, could not rest that night nor the next as the events of that day went round in his mind and soul. Deeply troubled, and increasingly convicted by the Holy Spirit about what he had done, the chief became increasingly moved by the example of Nokseng and his faith.

He began to question much that he had believed in, and pondered why this man, his wife and two children should die for a man who lived in a far away country a very long time ago. Having considered it all, he began to question what spiritual power must have been at work within Nokseng's life and he eventually came to the point where he too sought to discover for himself the reason for the hope that was within that young family.

He gathered the village together once again and declared publicly that he too would now belong to the Jesus that Nokseng and his family had believed in. The entire village, after seeing the family's faith and their chief's conversion, also decided to follow Christ and sent messengers to bring missionaries to their camp to teach them about this Jesus.

One of the Indian missionaries who visited the village, Sadhu Sundar Singh, turned Nokseng's last words into the hymn which many of us will be familiar with...



I have decided to follow Jesus...

I have decided to follow Jesus...

I have decided to follow Jesus...

No turning back, no turning back

The world behind me, the cross before me....

Though none go with me, I still will follow

Will you decide now to follow Jesus....?



Mission Praise 272

Jesus said:

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life, will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul ?

Mark 9 v 34-36

Yours thoughtfully,

Bruce



Fellowship Groups

There are lots of Fellowship Groups taking place across the church and if you are not yet a member of one and would like to join, please speak to **Bruce, Ian** or **Karen**. Some meet in person in the church hall while others are held on Zoom. There literally is something for everyone!

Fellowship with fellow believers provides us with strength and gives us the opportunity to grow in our faith. The early Christians considered meeting together to be central to their faith, as we read in **Hebrews 10 v 24-25**.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day is drawing near.

Below is a list of all the groups taking place.

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 the minister at 10.30am on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at 7.30pm on a Wednesday evening.

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. See page 8 for further details on this term's program and log in details 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

Faith on Friday is held fortnightly on a Friday at 10am

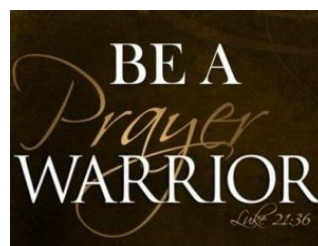
Women in the Word is held fortnightly on a Sunday evening at 8pm

YOUTH MINISTRY

CONNECT—our ministry with younger people on a Monday evening will be held in the church hall or in Karen's garden, weather permitting!

PRAYER GROUP

The Open to God prayer time on a Saturday morning at 9am continues on Zoom and you are encouraged to join with others in this vital corporate prayer ministry.



Reflections on the Church in the Pandemic

Robert Wainwright grew up in Park Church before moving away to study history at Durham University and subsequently theology at Oxford. He is now Chaplain of Oriel College in the University of Oxford. Robert shares with us a few of his thoughts about the role of the church during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Back in February 2020 I attended a formal dinner at Oxford University. You meet all kinds of interesting people at these dinners: at this particular one I sat next to a well-known MP. Over coffee afterwards, I got chatting to one of the Government's special medical/scientific advisors (I won't say which one). We were speculating about the implications of the COVID-19 outbreak in Italy. 'It will reach Britain soon,' said the expert, 'but it will all be over in two or three months once everyone has had it...'

That early optimism now seems naïve. When the first lockdown was announced I was in Uddingston on holiday with my parents. I anticipated returning south by the end of April, or perhaps May, or maybe late June – of course, planning ahead became futile. For the first time since the Black Death in the fourteenth century, no students returned to Oxford for the summer term. In Oxford many things are measured in centuries! For the first time since the seventeenth century, the choir did not sing in the college chapel. For the first time since the thirteenth century, no one was allowed to celebrate Holy Communion.

My job in Oxford is principally to run the chapel at Oriel College. The College is my parish. Like Park Church and many other churches, we started uploading recordings of the choir and sermons to [You Tube](#) and holding meetings on Zoom. In many ways the push of the pandemic towards more virtual engagement was a good thing for churches; apparently some people who don't attend a church regularly listened-in, and hopefully some of them have come to know Christ that way.



Nevertheless, just as the uncertainty of the pandemic has given many of us time to reassess our own lives and personal situations, so we have had cause to reflect on ourselves as Christian churches. Although the suspension of public worship was perhaps necessary for a time, and although many local churches have tried to make the best of it, the pandemic has also raised some difficult questions about what the Church (with a capital 'C') is and does.

One of the probable reasons for the decline of religious belief in Western society is that we are less conscious of our own mortality. How often are we confronted with the reality of death? Certainly not as often as past generations. Many people are in denial. Hence a pandemic threatening to kill millions of us was, ironically, a wake-up call and an opportunity for the Church to proclaim the good news of Jesus' victory over death. Many people were looking for hope, yet on the whole the Church was subdued about what it has to offer. Many leaders, bishops and clergy have sounded like health and safety officers urging people to adhere to Government COVID restrictions rather than seizing the chance to talk about Christ's glorious defeat of the grave.

The 'unique selling point', if you like, of the Church is the message of the Resurrection. If the Church doesn't proclaim it, then no one else will. If the Church doesn't take itself seriously as a supernatural organisation commissioned by God himself, then no one else will take it seriously either. Of course, the Church should obey the authorities and encourage people to live wisely, but the Church underplays itself if it acts like a second-rate branch of the NHS. Ministers are ordained to the 'prophetic office', which means challenging us to see what God is doing behind the scenes.



The fact that the Gospel is true means that Christians can afford to take calculated risks. Some missionaries who travelled to Africa and Asia in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries would take their own coffin along with them. They knew the dangers of tropical disease but they weighed them against the commission to announce the Resurrection to people who lacked that hope.

That's not to say we should be cavalier in our approach to COVID, but Christians should exhibit a level of confidence and security, incomprehensible to those for whom death is the worst thing that could happen to them. In the Roman Empire, when pagans fled in times of plague, it was the Christians who stayed in town to tend to the sick. Now that's distinctive!

The pandemic also makes us consider why churches meet together anyway. The word 'Church' means 'assembly', those who are 'called out' by God. Although we can meet together in a sense on Zoom, we must beware several possible pitfalls. Gathering online risks turning us from worshippers into spectators. It lures us into treating church like other entertainment we watch on our screens. We don't have to engage much or even be seen because we can turn off our cameras, change our backgrounds, or listen later at our own convenience. Christians must be careful not to become detached consumers of religious experience.

The Church is not a 'service provider'; we go to church 'services' to offer 'divine service'. That is, we offer to God a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, offer our prayers on behalf of the world, and offer ourselves in His service as we go back out into the world to offer the hope of the Resurrection.

I think there is a particular pitfall for churches that emphasise Bible teaching. Sermons and Bible studies are clearly important and they are relatively easy to do online, but we mustn't be fooled into thinking that listening to a sermon is comparable with going to church. The Church receives from God in both Word *and* Sacrament. God created a physical world. He gave us bodies that have not only ears but also eyes, mouths and noses too. It shouldn't surprise us that he offers us edible, tangible signs of his grace in bread and wine so that our whole bodies are embraced into relationship with him. We are united in communion with Christ and with one another through a physical, in-person act. The Church is constituted – indeed, embodied – by that sacramental action.

When the second lockdown began in November 2020, local churches were forced to close again. However, as a college chapel falling under the universities' exemption, my chapel was allowed to remain open. That meant that for a month or so the chapel was one of the few places in Oxford that people could receive Holy Communion. Suddenly the congregation tripled in size because Christian students from several different denominations came together. They knew that Holy Communion is not an optional extra but a **core part of our relationship with God**.

Much else could be said about what the Church is and does and how it has fared in the pandemic. My thought here is that we are the *body* of Christ. As we receive bodily from Him, so we are offered, soul and body, to the world as testimony that these mortal bodies of ours, subject to disease and death, will one day become like His glorious body.

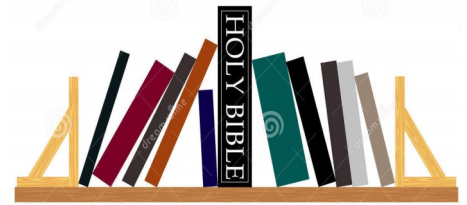


or



Books of the Old Testament

We continue our series on The Books of the Old Testament, giving a short overview of the content of the book along with a scriptural quote. This time we are going to look at what are known as the **Books of Wisdom and Poetry** as well as **The Five Major Prophets**.



Job

The Book of Job relates the account of a righteous man who suffers under terrible circumstances. Job and his friends argue about why terrible things are happening to him and pose the perennial question, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" Job did not reject God, although he challenged and accused him, and in the end he had a better understanding of God's power and splendour.



I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear;
But now my eye sees You;
Therefore I retract,
And I repent in dust and ashes. Job 42 v 5-6

Psalms

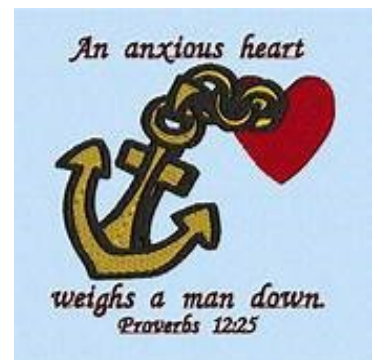
This much loved book is a collection of 150 Hebrew poems, songs and prayers, written by a variety of people including King David. There is a psalm for every occasion and emotion we experience. It was compiled as a prayer book for God's people but was also used as a songbook by the choirs that sang in the temple following Israel's return from exile.



I will exalt you, my God the King,
I will praise your name for ever and ever
Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.
Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. Psalm 145 v 1

Proverbs

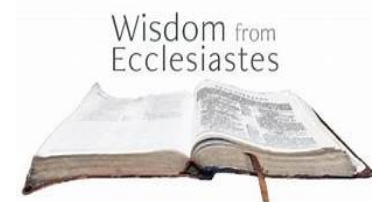
A book full of wise sayings, linked to King Solomon, to help God's people learn to fear the Lord and live a moral life. Wisdom is more precious than gold and only a fool is not interested in receiving its instructions.



The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9 v 10

Ecclesiastes

This is also a wisdom book attributed to Solomon, but the author simply calls himself "The Teacher". It is a philosophical collection of proverbs and sayings that explore the meaning of life. Its conclusion is that we should trust and obey God.



Fear God and keep His commandments,
for this is the duty of all mankind. Ecclesiastes 12 v 13b

Song of Solomon (Song of Songs)

A collection of love songs celebrating love, desire and marriage. It is also a metaphor for the covenant love that exists between God and His people.

I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine. Song of Solomon 6 v 3



The Five Major Prophets

We discover God's first mention of a prophet in Deuteronomy 18 v 18-19.

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name.

The word prophet defines someone who gives the declarations of God. These men and women did not exist for their own glory but for the glory of God. The Old Testament has 16 prophetic books, divided into those from the major prophets and those from the minor. The **major** prophets are defined as such as their books are longer and cover broader subjects compared to the **minor** whose books have more specific content. It does not mean they are more significant!

Isaiah

Isaiah is the first of the major prophets and warned the nation of Judah of the consequences of its rebellion and idolatry but also foretold the grace of God in prophecies about the coming Messiah.

But He was pierced for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The punishment that brought us peace was on Him,
And by His wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53 v 5

Jeremiah

Jeremiah was the second of the major prophets and called on the nation to repent and return to God up to and beyond the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon in 586 BC.

"The days are coming", declares the Lord,
"when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah." Jeremiah 31 v 31

Lamentations

This book is also thought to be written by Jeremiah, known as "the weeping prophet" and it laments the tragedy of the Babylonian capture and destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. However, it highlights that through all this God was faithful to His people.

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.
Lamentations 3 v 22-23

Ezekiel

The book that inspired this series! Ezekiel's message focusses on the glory of God and ends with the promise of future restoration for Israel. Ezekiel was a prophet and a priest and was one of 10,000 Jews taken captive by the Babylonians.

Then they will know that I am the Lord their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind. Ezekiel 39 v 28

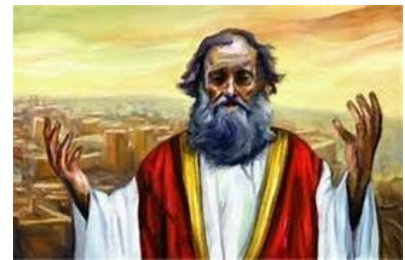
Daniel

Daniel was a prophet throughout the 70 years of Babylonian captivity. His job was to show the people that even in exile, God was concerned for them and had a plan for their future. God gave Daniel visions about future events.

Daniel answered and said, "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might". Daniel 2 v 20



God speaks through prophets.



Church News

Powerful Parables

Everyone loves a story. Stories don't just inform the mind, they engage the heart. On the right lips stories are powerful. That was certainly true of the stories, the parables, that Jesus told. They were simple, and yet profound, with the power to change lives. The intention is that we look together at six of these parables from Luke's Gospel, seeking to discover something of their radical, and sometimes subversive, nature.

The hope is that there will be sufficient interest for us to meet together as a small group via Zoom. The first of these virtual gatherings will take place on Wednesday 15 September from 7.30 to 8.30pm, thereafter meeting at fortnightly intervals. There is no need to sign up for the whole series; each will stand alone so feel free to "taste and see that the LORD is good". If you are interested email me at ian.mcquarrie1@btinternet.com to receive the necessary Zoom login details.



Betty's 90th Birthday

We would like to take this opportunity to wish a very happy belated 90th birthday to Betty Jack on 25 August 2021. Betty may be one of our most senior members in age, but she is definitely still young at heart. She always has a twinkle in her eye and a cheery laugh to greet you on a Sunday morning. She is interested in everyone and is a great encourager of the young. We wish you lots more birthdays, Betty! This verse from Psalm 92 sums Betty up perfectly!



Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green.

Psalm 92 v 14

*On behalf of my Mum, Betty (Jack), I would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** for the good wishes and love shown to her on her 90th birthday. Mum was so overwhelmed with the kindness of all the Park Church family.*

Thanks also to her friends at the Ladies' Association for the lovely orchid and card; to Pat Robertson and Bruce for spoiling her at the manse afternoon tea party; and Elizabeth for the amazing birthday cake ...

Thank you just doesn't seem enough! (Lesley and family)

Congratulations

Congratulations to Rachel McLellan and Mike Steiner who got engaged on 28 July 2021. Mike proposed in that most romantic of cities, Paris, and Rachel said YES! We wish them both every happiness and blessing as they plan their future life together.



Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.

Romans 12 v 10

Ladies' Association Afternoon Tea Social Event

Pat Robertson

Due to all the necessary and understandable restrictions over the last term, The Ladies' Association has been unable to have its fellowship meetings and this has been greatly missed.

On Thursday 26 August an Afternoon Tea for the members was held in the beautiful setting of The Manse gardens where 24 ladies enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship while enjoying tea and coffee with delicious home baking.

We also took the opportunity to celebrate Betty Jack's 90th birthday. We were blessed with the lovely weather and privileged to have been able to have this event. Special thanks to Bruce and Elizabeth for making it possible.

Moving forward we are currently in the process of planning for 2021/2022.

Pat Robertson. (Joint Secretary)

Janet Strawbridge (Joint Secretary)



**Therefore encourage one another and build up one another,
just as you are also doing.
*1 Thessalonians 5 v 11***

Come let us sing for joy to the Lord!

This time we are looking toward the future, to our heavenly home. When trials here on earth weigh us down and life is hard, the Christian can look forward to a day when “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away”. (Rev 21 v 4) These songs should encourage us to press onwards, as we are almost home!



When the Roll is called up Yonder

This song was written in 1893 by James Millen Black who was born in New York in 1856 and pursued a career in musical education in singing and organ playing. He moved to Pennsylvania as a young man and continued his Christian work at the Pine Tree Methodist Episcopal Church. In his free time he taught Sunday School and was a youth leader. He loved young people and tried to win them for Christ. One day he met a 14 year old girl whose father was an alcoholic and he invited her to Sunday School which she attended regularly. However, one evening when he was doing the roll call, there was no answer from the girl. Her silence made him realise what a sad thing it would be if our names were absent from the Lamb's Book of Life. Black went to visit the girl at home, where he found her dangerously ill with pneumonia; this was in the days before antibiotics and the girl passed away a few days later. However, the thought lingered with him and when he couldn't find a hymn to address the issue of a heavenly roll call, he heard a voice inside him telling him to "Write one". The words and music came to him almost immediately and not a single note or word has been changed in the version we sing today.

1. **When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound
and time shall be no more
And the morning breaks,
eternal, bright and fair
When the saved of earth shall gather
over on the other shore
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there**

Chorus

When the roll is called up yonder x 3

**When the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there**

2. **On that bright and cloudless morning
When the dead in Christ shall rise
And the glory of
His resurrection share
When His chosen ones shall gather
to their home beyond the skies
And the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there**

The song glorifies God through a vivid description of the second coming of Christ and the resurrection of the saints. It has been translated into at least 14 languages and sung worldwide by singers such as Johnny Cash and Willie Nelson.

The first verse speaks of the seven trumpets that herald the apocalyptic events that John sees in his vision in the Book of Revelation.

“And He will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.” Matthew 24 v 31



3. **Let us labour for the master
From the dawn till setting sun
Let us talk of all his wondrous
love and care
Then, when all of life is over
and our work on earth is done
And the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there**

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

Almost Home

This song was written by Matt Papa and Matt Boswell during the pandemic and embraces the subject of Christian endurance and expectation. It also speaks of the Christian hope and the grounds on which it is held. The song was actually inspired by a fisherman's shanty in its style and wasn't written originally as a Christian song. It uses the imagery of being on the sea and heading home and we can almost hear the haunting voices of the sailors rowing and singing as they head for shore. For the Christian this is the blessed home of heaven. We are reminded in Philippians 3 v 20 that:

Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The song reflects on the journey we are all on with home slowly coming into view with the imminent joy of reunion ahead of us. It is a song for weary souls and those grieving. It was Billy Graham who said:

My home is in heaven, I'm just travelling through this world.

Many people are weary and tired after 2020 and the pandemic, worn down by fear and a feeling of hopelessness, often engendered by the media. This song encourages us to rise above that fear and to fix our eyes upon Jesus. We hold on to the promise that He has given us that one day we will be in a better home. It gives us strength and a hope that keeps us moving forward.

1. **Don't drop a single anchor
We're almost home
Through every toil and danger
We're almost home
How many pilgrim saints
have before us gone?
No stopping now
We're almost home**

2. **That promised land is calling
We're almost home
And not a tear shall fall then
We're almost home
Make ready now your souls
for that kingdom come
No turning back
We're almost home**

Chorus

**Almost home
We're almost home
So press on toward that blessed shore
O praise the Lord
We're almost home**



3. **This journey ours together
We're almost home
Unto that great forever
We're almost home
What song anew we'll sing
'round that happy throne
Come faint of heart
We're almost home**

4. **This life is just a vapour
We're almost home
That sun is settin' yonder
We're almost home
Take courage, for this
darkness shall break to dawn
O lift your eyes
We're almost home**

We are reminded that we are making the same journey that countless saints have made before us. The song exhorts us to keep moving forward and to continue running the race until we reach that blessed shore when we will meet our Saviour face to face. Heaven is just round the next corner and that thought should be enough to dispel all our doubts and fears and turn our darkness into a glorious dawn.

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

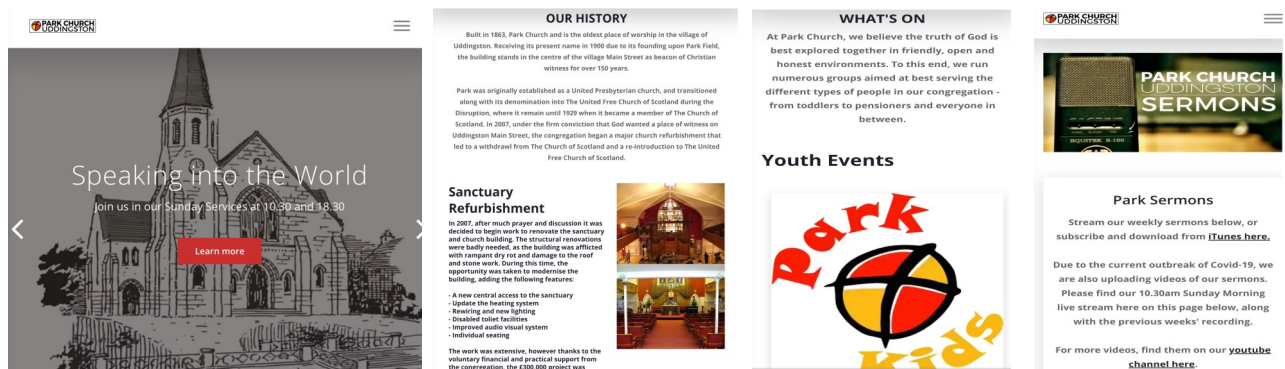


Internet Ministry

The last 18 months of the pandemic have made us aware that internet ministry is going to play a vital role in the life of the Church going forward. What is internet ministry?, you may be asking. Well, simply put, it's the use of technology to reach people for Christ through online means.

Gregor McDowall gave a Powerpoint presentation to the managers last month about his role in this vital ministry, with an overview of the main areas he looks after; namely, website, podcast and streaming of the Sunday service. Some very interesting facts were highlighted which are worth sharing with the wider congregation.

- **Website** - Gregor updated the church website in May 2020 and since then it has had over 2000 visits. It was fascinating to learn that 25% of the visitors are based outside the UK and so we are reaching people across the globe. Jesus told us to "go and make disciples of all nations" and this is something that can certainly be done through use of the internet! We have regular visitors from Australia, China and the US as well as all parts of the UK.
- The most popular pages on our website are the [Home Page](#), which gives an overview of our church, the [Sermons page](#) and our [Events page](#). People are also interested in reading about our church history. If you haven't had a chance to look at it, go to www.parkchurch.co.uk and share it with your friends.



- **Podcasts** - Gregor records the sermons, edits them and uploads them onto the host site. These can also be found on the website and there are a consistent number of people using them. Some people prefer an audio file to a video file so that they can listen to it "on the go", for example, in the car.
- **Live Streaming** - The church has a YouTube channel and we started publishing videos of the Sunday service in March 2020. Since then we have had 4,237 viewers. There are usually about 10-15 views on a Sunday, rising to 25 within a week. On average we have about 42 consistent, regular viewers. This is a great work of outreach and viewers will comprise of both believers and those who do not yet believe. 48.2% of the viewers are from the UK so again we are reaching people across the nations.

Servant Opportunities...

Of course, all this does not happen without a lot of hard work, and we are grateful to Gregor for using his talents in this way. However, Gregor will be leaving us to go east in March, when he gets married to Sarah, so we need people to take up the mantle **NOW**. Gregor has kindly offered to train up people to work on the AV desk on a Sunday morning, and has written a manual, maybe not quite "AV for Dummies", but an easy step by step guide to live streaming our weekly service.

Serving God comes in all different forms, and if God has given you the gift of understanding and using technology, this may be a chance for **YOU** to serve Him in the church. Ideally we are looking for a few people to be on the rota so that the task is less onerous, so if you can help **in any way**, please speak to Gregor. We have six months to get people trained up, but as you know time flies by!

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 Peter 4 v 10



Uddingston Pride Update

Donald Burt

The pandemic has obviously restricted Uddingston Pride's activities over the last year or so, but slowly and surely we are getting back to some normality.

We were not allowed to work at the train station at all, only restarting at the end of April as restrictions eased. This delayed some planting although we have worked hard to catch up as much as possible. The hanging baskets and wall planters latterly have been looking magnificent, but during the dry hot spell they required to be watered twice a week at least! The main bank on the "Glasgow" platform has been planted with nasturtiums, busy lizzies and dianthus, and the border on the "Edinburgh" side has been expanded.



The maintenance of the Uddingston "Gateway" at Powburn Toll was taken over by UP last summer. A new shrub and flower area was created at both the front and rear of the structure. Although only one year old, both areas are looking great, providing a lot of colour through the summer and hopefully much needed comfort to those who either walk or drive by as restrictions ease.



We did manage to organize the flower baskets, wall planters and tubs for the Main Street in the spring in spite of the restrictions, and these have provided colour and confidence to our community throughout the summer.



Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held belatedly in June. Our Chairperson, Liz Wilson, and Secretary, Sandy Robertson, decided to stand down after many years of dedicated service to Uddingston Pride specifically, but also to the local community in general.



Everyone who knows them will be aware of how much time and effort were given by both in improving our local amenities, environment and community spirit, and our sincere thanks go to both of them for all their hard work.



At the AGM, Alison Cameron and Donald Burt were appointed as Chairperson and Secretary respectively. We are currently on a huge "learning curve" but the Committee are keen to get back to normal as much as possible going forward.

As such, although it had to be postponed last year, we are hoping to organise the **Christmas Open Day this year, on Sunday 5 December.**



Let's hope it can happen this year as it is a wonderful day for the community to come together!





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