

# Park Pages

the magazine of Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland



## Letter from the Minister

Spring 2022



Dear Friends,

Just this past week, I have been having a bit of a tidy up in the church vestry. The cleaners have kept it in reasonable order but it has rarely been used over these past two years and I thought a spring clean wouldn't go amiss. In the process, I came across a **Park Pages** dated March 2002! It made interesting reading!

Scott Cassels had recently been elected to be the new Preses, and an interview with him was included in the magazine. RENEW, a gathering for younger women in their 30s and 40s, gave a report on their past meetings along with their plans for the future; there was an invitation for others to join them. A Progressive Meal was being organised and people were invited to sign up either as "eaters" or "providers". If I remember correctly, we were "providers" as it saved the problem of getting someone to look after a 12-year-old and an 8-year-old at the manse! The Coffee Service, that met on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, gave a report on the distribution of their funds and a photograph was provided of Margaret Hamilton, then a sprightly 84-year-old, with a group of folk sitting at a table. These people have all long since passed on!

Three babies had been recently baptised; Eve Aitken, Elizabeth Thomson's granddaughter, Taylor Campbell, Sally Campbell's granddaughter and Erin Mallon, Meryl Paterson's granddaughter. And oh yes, a report on the Annual Business Meeting of the congregation was given...ironically before it actually took place due to the fact that the magazine had to be prepared before the end of the month!

In the Pastoral Letter, the minister, who happened to be me, referred to a series of sermons on the life of Abraham. The letter picked up the theme of the Covenant with Abraham that God had entered into, and with whom a promise had been given, that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed (**Genesis 12 v 1-3**). Despite much evidence to the contrary, including Abraham's own faith failures at times, God told Abram that he was not to be afraid because the Lord would be **"...your shield, your very great reward"**. **Genesis 15 v 1** Alongside the transitory aspect of Abraham's faith lay the constant faithfulness and goodness of the Lord God Almighty.

I then went on to tie that in with the message of Easter which that year was at the end of March. I reminded the readers of 2002, as I would remind the readers of 2022, that the stumbling, and at times failing faith seen among the disciples and the crowds of that first Easter, contrasts with the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. The enthusiasm of the crowds who **"heard him gladly"** soon turned to the cry of **"we will not have this man rule over us"**. Peter's proud boast that, **"I will never leave you, Master"** soon changed to a **"I know Him not"**.



The bright warmth of the sunshine on that first Palm Sunday is soon eclipsed by the dark clouds of Good Friday. And yet, through it all, the same God who had in faithfulness made that promise to Abraham, that through him “...all the nations of the world will be blessed”, now fulfils that promise in Jesus Christ.

The dark clouds of pain and suffering, sin and death, are replaced by a bright light of the Risen Conquering Son on Easter Day.

### Jesus Christ is God’s Final Word: a Word of Forgiveness, Mercy, Love and Hope.

Sadly, not all professing Christians or churches proclaim that message. In 2002, the united Holy Week services were held in Park. I well remember sitting on tenterhooks during the Good Friday service as the preacher, The Rev Dominic Ind from St Andrew’s Episcopal Church, had a reputation for being controversial, some might even say heretical, in his sermons. He spent most of the sermon recalling his time as a Buddhist trainee monk, and it appears that the only thing that stopped him being fully instituted to the Buddhist priesthood, was that he would have to have his hair shaved off, and that was a price he wasn’t willing to pay! He did try and redeem his sermon in some way by briefly going on to say that, of course, Jesus would have been willing to have had his head shaved! His example of self sacrifice tells us that.

How grievous that the crucial heart of the Gospel is reduced to such a level. Yes, Jesus sets us an example of sacrifice, but the message of Easter is far more than that. Ministers of the Word are called to:

“...preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **1 Corinthians 1 v 23-24**

God made Him who had no sin to be a sin offering for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” **2 Corinthians 5 v 21.**

The appeal that a preacher should make is not to get your hair cut or shaved, but rather:

“We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. **1 Corinthians 5 v 20**

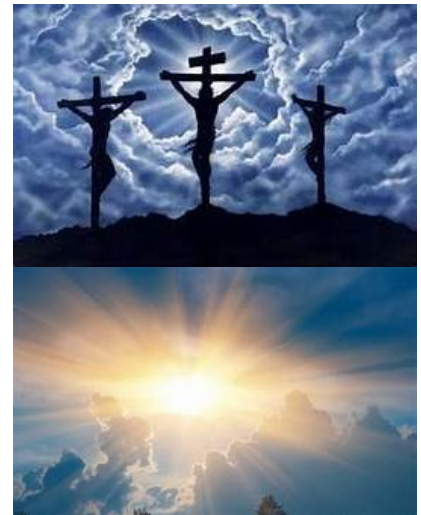
Now is the day of salvation. **2 Corinthians 6 v 2**

Twenty years is a long time ago. Many things have changed. However, the spiritual need of a fallen world hasn’t. Indeed, in many ways, the world is in a worse state now than in 2002! The call of the Gospel rings out with added urgency, and the folly and failure of humanity becomes ever more evident. As we celebrate Easter 2022, may we hear the same words that I finished with in my pastoral letter of 2002.

As we mark Easter, may we truly celebrate the Glory of a God who can be trusted; a God who is true to His promises; a God whose Son is the key to knowing the very life of God itself; a God who “...even when we are faithless, He will remain faithful for He cannot disown Himself”. **2 Timothy 2 v 13**

May that TODAY, just as it was 20 years ago, be a cause for much thanksgiving this Easter.

With warm Christian love



# Congratulations!

It's time to celebrate Spring weddings with two of our young men taking the plunge this year. The binding relationship of marriage is a powerful symbol of the relationship between Christ and His Church. We wish both couples every happiness as they make promises to God and each other on their special day.



Gregor McDowall marries Sarah Whittaker on Saturday 19 March 2022 in P's and G's Church, Edinburgh

Fraser Burt marries Gillian Gehrman on Saturday 9 April 2022 in Uddingston Old Parish Church



**Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.**



There are times when we all feel anxious and we bottle things up instead of taking it to God in prayer. This poem helps us understand that Jesus wants to take our burdens from us, if only we would "hang them on the cross"!

## Hang it on the Cross

If you have a secret sorrow,  
a burden or a loss,  
An aching need for healing...  
**Hang it on the Cross.**

If worry steals your sleep  
and makes you turn and toss,  
If your heart is feeling heavy...  
**Hang it on the Cross.**

Every obstacle to faith  
or doubt you come across,  
Every prayer unanswered...  
**Hang it on the Cross.**

For Christ has borne  
our brokenness  
and dearly paid the cost  
To turn our trials to triumph...  
**Hanging on the Cross**

By Logan Parker



**Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. 1 Peter 5 v 7**



## Au Revoir but not Goodbye

Gregor is known to all of us for his happy-go-lucky manner but there is a serious side to him too. He is a laser physicist by day but loves to work with young people in his spare time, using his gifts and talents to tell them about the Good News of Jesus. We wish him well in his forthcoming marriage to Sarah but we are sure he'll be back to visit us often.



### Tell us about your childhood as a “son of the manse”

I was in Primary 2 when I moved to Uddingston and was welcomed into the family at Park. The following 22 years have flown by, and it is quite a long time to try and condense into one paragraph, especially with a memory as bad as mine! I attended Sunday School and Bible Class at Park, and was very involved in the running of the Scripture Union (SU) Group at Uddingston Grammar. Faith and church were very prominent in my upbringing, being surrounded by people of faith and seeing God working in the lives and community of Uddingston. Living at the manse meant I was very fortunate to have a unique perspective on the tasks and duties required for the running of the church, and I got to see first-hand the great things God has done in our community. If there were any disadvantages, I have yet to notice them!

### When and how did you come to a living faith in Jesus?

I grew up with lots of biblical teaching and worship through church and SU events, so I've always had a large knowledge of the Bible, and an understanding of who God is. I connect with God best through having a deeper understanding of scripture, out-working my faith through practical activities and using my skills to honour God. At university, I became heavily involved in the Christian Union which enabled all of these. I also completed a “Bible in a Year” study guide, which took me through the entire Bible in 365 days and helped me have a deeper relationship with God on my own terms.

### You work with SU and Connect—you obviously have a passion for youth work, what inspires you to work in this field?

I loved attending camps as a child and I know how influential good quality youth work can be for young people exploring faith. I remember the people that made time for me, encouraged me in my faith and who really influenced who I am today. I hope I can also be that positive influence on the young people I work with. My favourite way to worship God is by using the skills He has given me, especially when it involves helping people hear and understand the Good News for the first time. And at the end of the day, I'm still a big kid too and don't need an excuse to get stuck into games or have some fun.



### Tell us a little about your career and any difficulties you have encountered living out your faith at work

I'm a laser physicist and have been working within the laser industry between Glasgow and Edinburgh for the last five years. My current workplace has been a bit of a rollercoaster over the last few months, due to some “management restructuring”, so things are very busy and days can be very tiring. I have yet to meet another Christian in my line of work, and I've witnessed countless examples of our fallen world hurting people through greed, bullying, pride and sometimes outright corruption. I do my best to be an example of Christ in each environment and form good relationships with my co-workers, who are often stereotypically socially averse.



## Do you have a favourite verse of Scripture and Hymn?

I can't say I have a No 1 favourite verse, as each of my top ten verses are applicable in different situations, and gain more meaning when applied in different contexts. However, a mantra that I keep coming back to and live my life by is:

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5 v 16-18

Again, choosing a favourite hymn is far too hard a question! For Christmas, the first song that comes to mind is, **Down from His Glory**, for Easter it would be, **When I survey the wondrous Cross** and for all-year-round it is, **And can it be?**.



## You have been integral to keeping our online ministry going during the pandemic, why do you see this as such a vital ministry?

I have been working with others on the **Audio and Visual** duties at Park for the last ten years and was very keen to take on the challenge of keeping us all meeting together for worship during the pandemic. It helped that I was living in the same house as the minister so I could record and produce the sermons each week! Now that we are back together in the church building, the new opportunities we have to reach, not just our own congregation, but those further afield, is very exciting. I'm just grateful that I have had the opportunity to get stuck in and serve you all through, as it is something I genuinely enjoy and love to worship God through. I would really encourage anyone who likes to worship God in a practical way, or can see the need in making church accessible to the local community and across the world, to also get involved. It's a duty that affects every member of the congregation and is vital to the smooth running of the church, but it is also incredibly rewarding.

## You are getting married on 19 March, tell us how you and Sarah met

I first met Sarah in 2017 at a wedding of mutual friends; she, however, apparently has no memory of this! Our paths then crossed again at an SU prayer event called **Encounter** a year or so later. I spent the first few hours wracking my brain trying to remember where I had seen her before. Our conversation flowed and we discovered that we would meet again at a Dedication Service in a few months' time—a Dedication Service for the child of the couple whose wedding we had attended. We both looked out for each other and after the service spent the rest of the afternoon getting to know each other over lunch and a walk. I gave Sarah a lift to the station for her return to Edinburgh and asked if she would like to meet for dinner after work one day. This took another month to organise as our diaries didn't initially line up. We both had a sense it was a relationship worth pursuing, however, and now almost four years later we are embarking on the next step. We will be living in Edinburgh as we both work there and will begin looking for a church and community we can join where God can use us both to the full.



to

## What will you miss most about Park and what are you most looking forward to in your new church?

Park Church has been my spiritual home for over 20 years and I will miss every aspect of it. You are all my family and we have shared so many memories and experiences together that I will remember for the rest of my life. I love the sense of community, the incredible kindness and supportiveness of the congregation, and the building itself with all the ways we have used it over the years to bring people in and show them the message and hope of God. Being able to combine my interests, gifts and talents with serving both God and you all at Park has been a true blessing that is utterly irreplaceable.

Sarah and I don't know yet which church we will join in Edinburgh, but you can rest assured that I will miss you all and will be back to visit. You can't get rid of me that easily!

# Come let us sing for joy to the Lord!

The psalms have been a great source of inspiration through the ages and they continue to influence songwriters of the 21st century. The Old Hundredth is one of the best known psalms while My Soul Will Wait, based on Psalm 62, was only released in 2022. Both remind us of our dependence on God.



## All people that on earth do dwell

I was brought up singing this metrical psalm, sometimes unaccompanied when I was visiting relatives in the Free Church, but mostly to the resounding sound of the organ pipes in my home Church of Scotland in Dingwall, and this psalm still evokes many memories of attending church with my parents as a child. It is based on Psalm 100 and is maybe one of the oldest hymns in common use today. It was written by William Kethe, who was born in Scotland but had to flee to the continent during Queen Mary's persecution in the late 1550s. He lived in Geneva—it is believed he was one of the translators of the Geneva Bible, favoured by the Pilgrim Fathers—and this psalm appeared in the Genevan Psalter in 1551. The tune by Bourgeois is known as the Old Hundredth.

John Calvin was the theological leader in Geneva and was concerned that hymns not clearly based on scripture might bring false doctrine into the church. He wrote that there were "no better songs nor more appropriate to the purpose (of congregational singing) than the Psalms of David which the Holy Spirit made and spoke through him".

When Kethe left for England in 1561, he took a copy of the Anglo-Genevan Psalter with him, thereby introducing the psalm to this country. Vaughan Williams composed an arrangement of it for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2 June 1953 in Westminster Abbey, and later it was played at his own funeral.

Psalm 100 is a Psalm of Thanksgiving. Verse 1 calls everyone to worship God with a joyous and thankful voice, giving Him praise and recognising that He is sovereign over all creation. How do we do that? Verse 2 gives us the answer. We need to acknowledge that the Lord himself is God, He has made us and we are His people. The image of the Shepherd and his sheep is introduced here, one which is often used in both Old and New Testaments.

1. All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:  
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell,  
come ye before Him and rejoice.
2. The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;  
without our aid He did us make:  
we are His folk, He doth us feed,  
and for His sheep He doth us take.

Verses 3 and 4 exhort us to enter his courts with thanksgiving — a joy that many of us have experienced after being deprived of attending church in the first days of the pandemic—and to give Him the thanks and the praise He alone deserves. We are reminded of His faithfulness to all generations, again something we can attest to during the dark days of the pandemic.



3. O enter then His gates with praise,  
approach with joy His courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless His Name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.
4. For why? the Lord our God is good,  
His mercy is for ever sure;  
His truth at all times firmly stood;  
And shall from age to age endure.

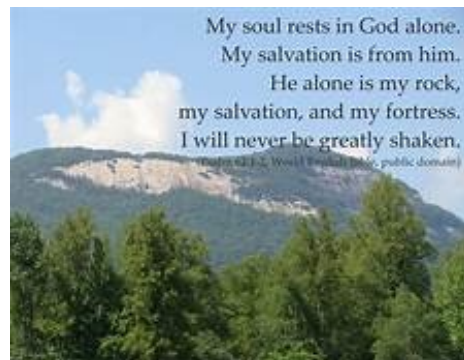
To listen to the song [click here](#)

## My Soul will wait

This song by **Sovereign Grace Music** was released in January 2022 and is based on Psalm 62. The song reminds us of our dependence on God, His love and mercy, the triumph of Christ and how God is our sustainer. Its theme is the difficulty of waiting for things. Waiting is difficult, whether it be for medical tests, traffic to move or even Covid restrictions to lift; it is never easy to wait. Christian waiting, however, has a hopeful expectancy as we look to our future. The writers of the song put it this way:

Waiting can often be draining and discouraging but Scripture tells us that we can wait with confidence, joy, and anticipation as we wait for the Lord. He is a Rock and will prove to us again and again that He is our perfect Saviour and strong defender.

Our newest song, My Soul Will Wait, is written from Psalm 62:5-7, "For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God."



We are exhorted to look to God and God alone for our security and are to be reliant solely on Him. We are to wait in patience for Him, literally in silence. This can be difficult when God says, "Wait!" and we want to press on with our plans. The wicked will be without stability with no moral anchor, and will ultimately fail.

1. When the enemy surrounds and my heart  
grows faint within  
When the darkness overwhelms and my fears  
are pressing in  
I will trust in You, O Lord, in the silence I will  
wait  
I will stand upon Your Word

2. You're my stronghold and my shield, in the  
midst of every threat  
Though the wicked never yield, they will  
vanish like a breath  
Yes, I know the outcome's sure, Satan's  
evil plans will fail  
In Your power I'm secure

### Chorus

You're my solid rock and my salvation  
My steadfast hope that won't be shaken  
My soul will wait, my soul will wait for You  
You're my comfort when I feel forsaken  
My refuge and my sure foundation  
My soul will wait, my soul will wait for You

The chorus, both lyrically and musically, emphasises the reliability and power of God — He is our "rock, salvation, comfort, refuge and sure foundation" all rolled into one. He protects us against the outward storms of life and the inward torment of our hearts.

The third verse speaks of God's great love and mercy towards us. The triumph of Christ's death and resurrection has brought us peace as we can look forward to the day when we will meet Him and the waiting is over.

3. This is love I can't explain, this is mercy  
unreserved  
Through Your sacrifice so great, I have  
peace that's undeserved  
For the battle has been won, and I fear no  
shame or loss  
Now the sting of death is gone

### TAG

Pouring out our hearts before You  
We will trust in You  
Perfect Saviour, strong defender  
We will trust in You

The song is soul lifting, inspiring and God glorifying. It allows us to bring our praise and pour out our hearts before Him, our perfect Saviour, in earnest worship.

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

**Soli deo Gloria!**



# Easter Season

Easter is the season that fills us with hope as it celebrates Jesus' victory over death. Different denominations follow a variety of traditions in the run up to Easter Sunday.

## Lent

For some, Easter begins with Lent marking the 40 days that lead up to Holy Week. Lent reminds us of the 40 days when Jesus went into the wilderness to fast and was tempted by the devil. One of the things the devil said to Jesus was, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread". Jesus answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone".



Some Christians fast in remembrance of Jesus's actions while others give up things they enjoy eating or drinking, for example, chocolate! During Lent people also try to read their bible more or do good works.

## Holy Week

Holy Week is the week leading up to Jesus' Resurrection and many churches hold special services throughout the week to commemorate different events. There are four main services during this week.



## Palm Sunday

On this day we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people were overjoyed to see him and the streets were lined with people waving palm branches to show their love and adoration. Children in Sunday School up and down the land make palm branches to give out to the congregation to re-enact this event.



## Maundy Thursday

Jesus shared **The Last Supper** with his disciples in the Upper Room on this day. This supper is the basis of our communion services today. Judas Iscariot left the room to go tip off the authorities and Jesus was later arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. This service marks a time of reflection and sadness.



## Good Friday

This marks the day of Jesus' crucifixion and death. Church services are often held close to the time of day Jesus died. Roman Catholics hold a procession called the Stations of the Cross which re-enacts Jesus carrying his cross to Mount Calvary.



## Easter Sunday

A time to rejoice! This marks the day of resurrection when we celebrate what God has done for humanity.

A song which tells the story of Holy Week is **Jerusalem** by CityAlight. You can listen to it [here](#) and reflect on the events of that week.

**Praise the One who saved us!**





# The humble egg — A Symbol of Easter

There are many things that make people think of Easter, some are religious but many are secular like bunny rabbits, Easter bonnets or baskets of Spring flowers. However, the one that springs to most people's minds first is probably Easter eggs, whether chocolate ones to eat or hard boiled ones to roll down a hill. Many of us will have happy memories of receiving Easter eggs as children but did we realise they had a religious significance?



## Easter Egg Customs

Eggs have been a part of Spring traditions for thousands of years. They are synonymous with the idea of new life and fertility. In ancient Egypt and Persia, decorated eggs were exchanged as gifts and in 1290 King Edward I ordered 450 eggs to be dyed or gilded for Easter gifts. It is difficult to imagine Easter without eggs!

The early Christians too recognised the power of the egg as a symbol of the new life found in Jesus and the resurrection. The egg is an illustration of the resurrection itself with the chick emerging from its shell reminding us of Jesus emerging from the tomb on Easter Sunday. This new life is described in the bible as:

**“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new”. 2 Corinthians 5 v 17**

Eggs also remind Christians that the fast during Lent is over. Historically, eggs and milk, as well as meat, were not eaten during Lent so the arrival of eggs—chocolate or otherwise! - heralded the season of Easter. Once the fast of Lent is over, it is a time for Christians to celebrate God's love for us and to be joyful.

There is an early Christian story that Mary Magdalene, the woman who first discovered that Jesus' tomb was empty, proclaimed to the Roman emperor Tiberius, **“Christ is risen!”** She held an egg in her hand! The emperor scoffed and retorted there was as much chance of Christ rising from the dead as the egg in her hand turning red. Immediately the words were spoken, the egg in Mary's hand turned red!



Another tradition is to paint or dye hard boiled eggs but what is the origin of painting eggs bright colours? There is a story that Simon of Cyrene, the man the Romans compelled to carry Jesus' cross for the walk to Calvary, was a farmer. He had come to Jerusalem that day with a basket of eggs to sell to the city folk. When the soldiers forced him to carry the cross for Jesus, he had to leave his basket of eggs behind. Later that day when he went to collect it, not a single egg was missing or cracked. What was more remarkable was that the eggs were no longer white, but brightly coloured.

Every country seems to have a different story as to why we paint eggs. A Polish legend says that Mary gave eggs to the soldiers at the cross and asked them to be less cruel to her son. As she pleaded with them, she wept, and as her tears fell on the eggs, they changed colour. We know that Mary, the mother of Jesus, stood by the cross from the Gospel stories. A Ukrainian story relates that Mary gathered up the eggs in her handkerchief and went to Pontius Pilate to beg for the body of her son so that she could bury him. On her way to the palace, she gave an egg to each child she met. When she finally arrived at Pilate's palace, she fainted and the eggs spilled out of her handkerchief and rolled all over the world. From that day on, it became the custom for people everywhere to decorate eggs and give them as gifts at Easter.

**Children love to go on an Easter egg hunt. The search for eggs depicts Mary Magdalene's search for the body of Jesus in the garden when she found the tomb empty. This Easter why don't you paint an egg with a Christian symbol to remind yourself of the true meaning of Easter? And as you sink your teeth into yet another gooey chocolate egg, reflect on some of the legends and stories related here!**



## Congregational Report by the Minister

Over this past year, we, like all the rest of the churches within the United Kingdom, have had to continue with the consequences of COVID-19 and the response of our political leaders, advised by groups of Scientific/Medical professionals. Faced with lockdowns, and at times conflicting advice and regulations, it has been a challenge to steer a sensible course of response to all of this. That is, a course which seeks to provide a safe environment for people to gather in worship and fellowship whilst allowing some degree of freedom and flexibility. Under the wisdom and guidance that the Lord of the Church provides by the Holy Spirit, we have sought to do that and thankfully, as we journey into 2022, some semblance of normality is returning to life in general, as well as life within the church. Only He knows what the future has in store for our world and His people.

What is evident, from across the church scene, is that the past two years have been a time of refining the church and clarifying that which is vital within the life of the worshipping community. Public worship and the joining of believers together on the Lord's Day, and at other times, is not an optional extra for a few, but a clear command and expectation for all professing believers. As the minister, I rejoice that I can report that for the vast majority of the congregation, this has been a priority that has been shared. The range of options that we have been able to provide with different gatherings at different times, and the development of our online presence, has meant that young and old alike have been able to access something of spiritual encouragement and benefit. Whether that be Park Kids, Mega, Connect at the younger age range, or Refresh, the Ladies' Association and the church weekday devotionals at the older end of the age range, opportunities have been provided and taken.

Our church building has remained open throughout this past year to provide a place of spiritual sanctuary and the minister actively supported the **Petition for a Judicial Review** of the Scottish Government's regulations concerning the closure of church buildings at the start of 2021. The vital necessity to speak **Truth** into our **Times** is one which many others within the wider Church are concerned about and one which those with "ears to hear and eyes to see" within our wider society are open to respond to. Unfortunately, there are always extremists, those intent on trouble and many well-intentioned idealists who will gladly fill the gap with their own brand of 'good news'!

Our calling as a small church set within a relatively small, but still quite diverse community, is to bear witness to the One who is **the Way, the Truth and the Life**. As we emerge from the restrictions that were laid upon us, we need to consider how best to continue to fulfil our calling to be the body of Jesus where He has placed us. All of us have a part to play in this, and through prayer and patient perseverance, we will discern the way ahead. Perhaps some of the well tried and tested ways which we enjoyed in the 2010s may well no longer be so relevant or possible in the 2020s. However, we have proved God's faithfulness in changing times from our own history in the past, and we can have confidence that He knows the way He leads us going forward.

Our concern for our wider world has been maintained as we have continued to support our missionary partners with prayer and financial help. This has been appreciated by folks who have been suffering under even more difficult circumstances than we have. At Christmas, we, as a congregation, responded extremely generously to the needs of the wider community through Viewpark Church's community projects. Through the gifting of Christmas Hampers and direct financial contributions, we were able to meet the needs of people who were facing Christmas with limited means. Ironically, a team of people from some local churches, including our own, spent considerable time working under the **Cinnamon Network** prior to Covid. Whilst this research did not lead to anything specific at the time, the connection with Viewpark Church has provided such an opportunity for community action now.

Many other things could be mentioned here, including many individual acts of Christian care and action. As we look back over 2021, we give thanks to God for His care and protection, and confidently look to Him to continue to fulfil His Purposes amongst us.



*Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."  
John 14 v 6*



*And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you or forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.*

*Deuteronomy 31 v8*

# Accounts to end December 2021

UDDINGSTON : PARK UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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## STATEMENT OF BALANCES ON CONGREGATIONAL FUNDS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

| FUND           | NATURE OF FUND | BALANCE 1/1/21<br>£ | RECEIPTS 2021<br>£ | PAYMENTS 2021<br>£ | SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)<br>£ | NET FUND TRANSFERS<br>£ | NET CHANGE ON FUNDS<br>£ | BALANCE 31/12/21<br>£ | FUNDS HELD           |
|----------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| GENERAL        | UNRESTRICTED   | 68,348              | 99,950             | -80,798            | 19,152                   | -8,000                  | 11,152                   | 79,500                | Bank of Scotland plc |
| FABRIC         | DESIGNATED     | 9,820               | 1,000              | -1,794             | -794                     | -                       | -794                     | 9,026                 | Bank of Scotland plc |
| MISSION        | DESIGNATED     | 7,113               | 32                 | -6,786             | -6,754                   | 8,000                   | 1,246                    | 8,359                 | Bank of Scotland plc |
| PROJECT        | DESIGNATED     | 22,781              | 1,163              | -                  | 1,163                    | -                       | 1,163                    | 23,944                | TSB Bank plc         |
| CHILD & FAMILY | DESIGNATED     | 24,119              | 17,224             | -14,852            | 2,572                    | -                       | 2,572                    | 26,691                | Bank of Scotland plc |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |                | <b>132,181</b>      | <b>119,369</b>     | <b>-104,031</b>    | <b>15,339</b>            | <b>-</b>                | <b>15,339</b>            | <b>147,520</b>        |                      |

### Nature of Congregational funds :

|                |              |   |
|----------------|--------------|---|
| General        | Unrestricted | Ordinary receipts and payments of the congregation  |
| Fabric         | Designated   | Repairs to external and internal fabric and / or furnishings of Church, halls and Manse   |
| Mission        | Designated   | Designated for distribution to mission and charities in the UK and overseas               |
| Project        | Designated   | Designated for major projects and repairs to Church buildings                             |
| Child & Family | Designated   | Designated for supporting work with children and families within the Church and Community |

Approval of Congregation Financial Statements for the Year ending 31 December 2021 as set out on pages 7-10 by Office Bearers authorised to sign.

Minister and Preses

*W. Bruce McDowell*

W. Bruce McDowell

Deputy Preses

*Helen Ooi*

Helen Ooi

Treasurer

*Janice Clark-Dick*

Janice Clark-Dick

Date

*10/2/22*

UDDINGSTON : PARK UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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## GENERAL FUND - RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021

## UNRESTRICTED FUND

| RECEIPTS                            | £      | 2021   |   | Supplementary sheet | PAYMENTS                             | £      | 2021   |        | Supplementary sheet |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------------------|
|                                     |        | £      | £ |                     |                                      |        | £      | £      |                     |
| <b>Offerings</b>                    |        |        |   |                     |                                      |        |        |        |                     |
| Open                                | 1,789  |        |   | 1,023               | Stipend (incl. NI)                   | 40,496 |        |        | 39,873              |
| Free Will                           | 75,617 |        |   | 69,509              | Minister's expenses                  | 4,110  |        |        | 3,072               |
| Gift Aid Tax recovered              | 18,222 |        |   | 15,865              | Manse telephone                      | 555    |        |        | 588                 |
|                                     |        |        |   |                     | Target                               | 9,489  |        |        | 10,522              |
|                                     |        |        |   |                     | Presbytery dues                      | 328    |        |        | -                   |
|                                     |        |        |   |                     |                                      |        | 54,977 |        | 54,055              |
| <b>Donations</b>                    |        |        |   |                     | <b>Property</b>                      | Church | Manse  |        |                     |
| Others                              | 2,391  |        |   | 4,130 Supp.1        | Council Tax                          | -      | 3,119  |        | 3,095               |
|                                     |        | 2,391  |   | 4,130               | Insurance                            | 2,694  | 350    |        | 2,868               |
| <b>Other receipts</b>               |        |        |   |                     | Heating, Lighting                    | 3,456  | -      |        | 4,170 Supp.2        |
| Stedfast                            | -      |        |   | 260                 | Repairs, maintenance                 | 1,050  | 3,539  |        | 3,397 Supp 3 & 4    |
| Other income                        | -      |        |   | -                   |                                      | 7,200  | 7,010  | 14,210 | 13,530              |
|                                     |        | 0      |   | 260                 | <b>Other Congregational Payments</b> |        |        |        |                     |
|                                     |        |        |   |                     | Stedfast                             | 1,056  |        |        | -                   |
| <b>Ordinary receipts</b>            |        | 98,018 |   | 90,787              | Printing & Donation Envelopes        | 2,489  |        |        | 2,419 Supp.5        |
| <b>Extraordinary receipts</b>       |        |        |   |                     | Cleaning                             | 2,101  |        |        | 2,518               |
| Retiral / Special Offering          | 1,932  |        |   | 915                 | Internet                             | 461    |        |        | -                   |
|                                     |        | 1,932  |   | 915                 | Organ / Piano Maintenance            | 180    |        |        | 65                  |
|                                     |        |        |   |                     | Miscellaneous                        | 3,174  |        |        | 5,047 Supp.6        |
| <b>Total receipts</b>               |        | 99,950 |   | 91,702              |                                      |        |        | 9,460  | 10,049              |
|                                     |        | 99,950 |   | 91,702              | <b>Ordinary payments</b>             |        |        | 78,647 | 77,634              |
| <b>Surplus / (deficit) for Year</b> |        | 19,152 |   | 14,068              | <b>Extraordinary payments</b>        |        |        |        |                     |
| <b>Balance at 1 January</b>         |        | 68,349 |   | 62,832              | Retiral / Special Offering           | 2,151  |        | 2,151  | - Supp.7            |
|                                     |        |        |   |                     |                                      |        |        |        | 0                   |
|                                     |        |        |   |                     | <b>Total payments</b>                |        |        | 80,798 | 77,634              |
|                                     |        |        |   |                     | <b>Surplus in year</b>               |        |        | 19,152 | 14,068              |
|                                     |        |        |   |                     |                                      |        |        | 99,950 | 91,702              |
|                                     |        |        |   |                     | Transfer to other funds              |        |        | 8,000  | 8,550               |
|                                     |        |        |   |                     | <b>Balance at 31 December</b>        |        |        | 79,501 | 68,349              |



# Uddingston Pride Update

Donald Burt



After being unable to have our annual **Christmas Fayre** in December 2020, we were very lucky to be able to re-instate this event in December 2021, just prior to the Omicron variant having a negative impact on what we were all allowed to do again!

This Christmas Fayre was one of the most successful ever! We were very fortunate with the weather, there were more stalls than ever and there were lots of excellent tombola and raffle prizes. Santa put in an appearance, the bands and dancers were excellent and there were many willing helpers. In addition, I think that the attendance was increased due to so many local people just being so pleased to get out to mingle and meet others, after having been cooped up for so long.

**Thanks again to the congregation for donations and to those individuals who gave their time in support of the local community group.**

Unsurprisingly, we have taken a collective breath over the festive period. However our new litter picking team - **Uddingston Litterpickers** - has been out, either individually or in groups, collecting litter and general rubbish. We have recently had a meeting with South Lanarkshire Council's representative responsible for litter initiatives, and we look forward to working with the Council on this subject in the future. If anyone would like to help the team, details can be found via the **Uddingston Pride Facebook** page.



Another new team that has recently been formed is the **UP Graffiti Fighters!** As most people know, graffiti can be a significant issue; however, it has been demonstrated that if continual action is taken to minimize graffiti (and indeed litter as well) then it is less likely that it will recur. We would usually work with the Council's local managers to arrange for the graffiti to be removed; however sometimes it is not on their land and so we have recently removed graffiti ourselves from a wall near Uddingston Grammar School and from various street lighting boxes.



**Before**






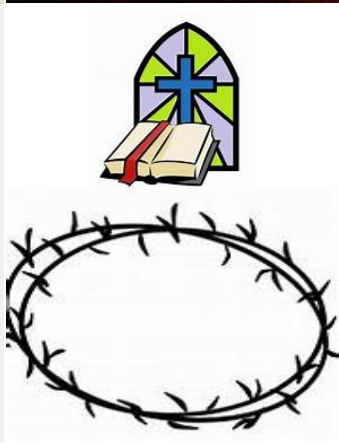

**After**

Our landscaping team has been working with South Lanarkshire Council and have recently planted 70 trees near the Generals Gate area and along Old Glasgow Road. This is part of an on-going project of tree planting, in which around 300 trees have been planted at various locations around Uddingston, including varieties such as maple, beech, lime, poplar, oak, birch and aspen.

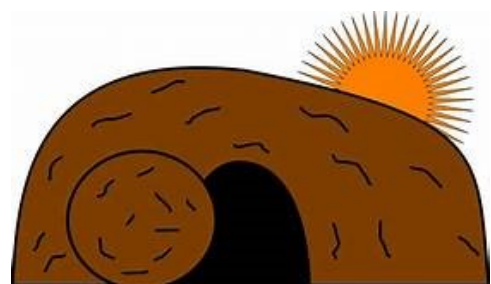
January and February can be a little depressing but as we look forward to the days becoming longer and plants starting to come out of hibernation, we have already started to organise the flowers and shrubs for the various displays around the village, including the railway station, the Gateway and along the Main Street. Keep an eye out—already there are snowdrops starting to appear!



## Dates for the Diary—Easter 2022

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>Palm Sunday</b><br/>10 April</p>     | <p><b>A Time to Welcome</b><br/>10.30am</p>  |    |
| <p><b>Wednesday</b><br/>13 April</p>       | <p><b>A Time to be Still</b><br/>7.30pm</p>  |    |
| <p><b>Maundy Thursday</b><br/>14 April</p> | <p><b>A Time to Serve</b><br/><b>Fellowship Supper and</b><br/><b>Communion</b><br/>(time to be confirmed)</p>   |   |
| <p><b>Good Friday</b><br/>15 April</p>     | <p><b>Church will be open from 12 noon</b><br/><b>to 3pm for prayer and quiet</b><br/><b>reflection</b></p> <p><b>A Time for Sacrifice</b><br/>7.30pm</p> <p><b>Guest Preacher: Richard Gamble,</b><br/><b>Bothwell Evangelical Church</b></p> |  |
| <p><b>Easter Sunday</b><br/>20 April</p>   | <p><b>A Time to Celebrate</b><br/>10.30am</p>  |  |

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.” Mark 16 v 4-6





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This magazine is also available on the church website

