

ST. MARGARET'S
Parish Church
CONTACT MAGAZINE



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Foreword

In the last year our world has been turned upside down. Never before, in my lifetime, have we been told we cannot meet in church. Never before, have we been confined to our houses. I've never known such a fear that our most vulnerable people in society could so easily be taken from us.

We are still going through a turmoil of emotions, sadness for loss, fear for the future, worry for the safety of our loved ones and doubts about whether the vaccine will protect us to name a few.... But we know this hard time won't last forever. There are signs of hope that the vaccine is working and there is a new better time emerging ahead. We have learned lessons and are equipped with new tools to face the future.

I was struck last week by a question at the beginning of the Spill the Beans worship material.

IS RESURRECTION AT THE CENTRE OF OUR CHURCH, OR IS IT
AT THE EDGES?

Are we, genuinely...from the heart, a resurrection people, or do we only feel able to pay lip service to this fundamental basis of faith?

The disciples were wary at first to believe that Jesus had risen. They knew if this was true a whole new chapter would be flung open. Their lives would move into a new world and a new mission that would spread widely and impact the world.



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In an age when people walked and talked (rather than tweeted and broadcast live on social media), things could never be the same again.

What does it mean to be a resurrection people today in Knightswood?

Life is a cycle of new birth, growth, blossom and flourish, then deterioration, decay and loss.... Then start all over again. It's the starting all over again that is the resurrection part: Life rising from death. There are parts of that cycle which are very painful and hard and cannot be dismissed. Through the pain, we journey towards the resurrection. In reality each day is a resurrection day, gently letting go of yesterday and creating the best we can in today. Christians are called to bring a resurrection hope to those around them.

We know that sadly we cannot sustain churches the way we used to. There has been a wonderful positive group of people from the three churches in Knightswood working on a resurrection hope for the future. It's not going to be easy ... it can be a slow process of searching and seeking for the glimpses of hope, the pockets of new energy, the new friendships, and God's compelling attraction for life which draws us on to a new chapter and a way ahead.

God bless you!

[Audrey Jamieson,](#)

[Interim Moderator](#)



Finance

The Congregational Board would like to thank members of the congregation who continued to give their offerings during 2020 and supporting Knightswood St Margaret's Parish Church. We did, however, lose out on a considerable amount of income as a result of the closure of the church due to lockdown and restraints caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately during 2020 our income was not sufficient to fully meet our financial commitments. As a result of this it was necessary to use money held in reserve. We will be facing a considerable challenge in meeting our financial commitments towards the upkeep of our buildings and contributing to the wider work of the church during 2021.

We ask that ALL members of Knightswood St Margaret's support the church during 2021. A number of our members are now making their contribution by Standing Order. Any member who would like to start paying by Standing Order should speak to either Christine Keith or Wilma Macaulay for further information.

Wilma Macaulay

Christine Keith



Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come with joy in our hearts and thanksgiving on our lips. You are our support in times of trouble, our guide when we are unsure of the way and our comforter when we are deeply in distress. We thank you that we can speak to you in prayer, any time and any place. We do not need to choose special words, but simply tell you what is in our hearts and minds.

The beauty of the flowers and buds on trees remind us of the wonders of your Creation. As the seasons change we see your hand at work and are thankful that you are in control. Help each of us to develop a more responsible attitude towards the care of the planet and show our appreciation of what you have made for us.

We pray for the Church here and throughout the world. Let her remain faithful to your Gospel and spread your Good News near and far. Let this Church be a beacon of light in the parish showing the way to you Lord. As we travel through a difficult, confusing and rather discouraging time at St. Margaret's, a time with no minister to lead us, draw near to us giving us strength to go on knowing that you are there with us. Make us, your servants, lead by example so that our sacrificial living and sacrificial giving encourages others to become your servants too.

Remind us that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ and should love one another just as you love us. Jesus taught us by His perfect example to care for others and include the outcasts. Inspire us to do likewise.

We thank you that your Son suffered and died for us and that He rose again giving us the joy of the life Eternal to come. Let us be ever mindful of how much you have done for us. Why? Because we are your children and you love us, unworthy though we may be.

Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayers.

Amen



Locum Introduction

At the Kirk Session meeting on 19th January this year the Kirk Session agreed to me becoming your “Locum during the vacancy.”

Many of you will know some of my story, many will know none of my story, so for ALL of you here it is. I have often felt that I should have been named “He’ll do” McFarlane, as much of my life has been peppered with that impression. At school I was always the one left waiting to be picked for football and then when there was only two left “he’ll do” got picked! I joined the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research based in the Hill Street Royal Beatson Memorial Hospital. As a junior technician when no one wanted to take on the role of technicians representative on the staff advisory group. I was ‘elected’ – no one else stood so “he’ll do” was nominated and elected – in this case unanimously. I retired from the Beatson 42 years later as Laboratory Manager. Jane and I were married in 1974 – and I’m still wondering if I was Jane’s “he’ll do” selection? We now have three children, all happily married. Most of you will know Pamela and some of you will know Graham and I’m sure everybody knows Laura! We are the grandparents of Ronin, Cameron and Jackson. All absolutely adorable.

As a family our connection with St. Margaret’s goes right back to my baptism in Netherton St. Matthews.

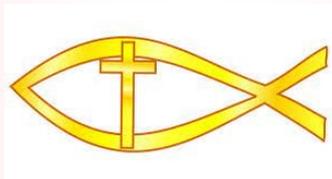
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Pamela was a brownie in that church, while Graham was in the junior section of the BB when Garth Jardine was captain and one Thomas McCabe (Fay's husband) was involved with the junior section at that time. Laura was in the Brownie's in St. Margaret's under the leadership of Janice McLuckie (whose mum was in our choir until a couple of years ago) So although Jane and I only joined St. Margaret's about 9 years ago we have had a long association with this church.

My readership was established in this church when I trained with Rev. David Lacey completing my training and was set apart in 1983. My link with Old Partick held good here as at the same time as I was training the late Rev. Andrew Jolly was completing his probationary year before heading off to his own Parish. Andrew and I had served as officers in the 90th BB in Old Partick Parish where his father was minister. My membership of the church began back there too and we had a wonderful association within that congregation until it closed in 1991. Again my label played out even there! I had been involved in the Royal Artillery TA in Crow Road (formerly West Princes Street) and decided to leave the RA to return to the BB and church as I had been for a short period an active officer in the 90th in Old Partick Parish. The day I arrived back in church I was 'instructed' to attend an officers meeting.

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In my absence a crisis had arisen and the Captain (Bob Liddel had walked off – leaving his son John in charge) The other officers were not happy with this decision. Mr. Jolly and the Session clerk Gordon Fletcher both stated that the dissenting officers were far too young and inexperienced to take over. They were asked so who can take over – yes you’ve guessed it, “He’ll do” was literally their answer. I accepted the challenge and for the next 3+ years I was captain of that very well founded company. My Readership ‘took off’ in 1990 when I was contacted by the Presbytery asking if I would be prepared to go along to ‘help out’ in Drumchapel Drumry St. Mary’s parish church (a church which had been established by the involvement of assessor elders from Knightswood St. Margaret’s!) “He’ll do” accepted the invitation and was told the minister, the late Rev. Robert E. Gilbert, was suffering from Cancer, but was told I wouldn’t be paid! Sadly Bert died about a year or so after I arrived and I had to run the church for about six weeks, with Rev Ted Lewis of St. Andrews Parish church as Interim Moderator, while working full time at the Beatson Institute. Some twenty years after I arrived there, two ministers and a locum later, St. Mary’s sadly closed her doors as a Church of Scotland church. Then we came back to St. Margaret’s – our local parish church. As you know I helped out occasionally with pulpit supply for Rev. Sandy Fraser. When he retired I thought perhaps Katie Morrison might step into the breach, but she was occupied elsewhere and while we missed Sandy we were blessed when along came Rev. Iain Macleod.

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When he moved to his own charge (escaping North to Assynt and Stoer) we lost an exceptionally gifted minister. John Nicholson followed in his footsteps and under the absolutely worst possible conditions of Covid worked for just about a year mainly on Zoom. We were all surprised by his departure at the beginning of this year. That was when I believe the Lord poked my eye and “He’ll do” was once more in the thick of it. In my 38 years as a Reader I had never been a locum before. I have preached in 31 churches throughout Glasgow (and at the invitation of Rev. Andrew Lees) a sneaky wee trip or two to Baldernock in Dumbarton Presbytery. I had no real aspirations to be locum here as I explained to Iain and John when I spoke with them about covering for them “the very thought, terrified me.” During John’s last service he said something – and I cannot remember what it was, but I felt the ground shifting.

At the end of that service Jane asked if I had not considered standing in as locum – she had never asked that before! Combined with the knowledge that Presbytery were really struggling to fill vacancies with even pulpit supply never mind locums, I decided to stick my head above the parapet and the Kirk Session accepted my offer – in this case God’s “He’ll do” has carried me through these early days of serving you and our parish as best I can. I have no doubts that when the time is right God will move me over for a better option, but in the meantime your stuck with He’ll do!

May God bless us all as we work together for the well-being and best future for our congregation

Robert McFarlane (Locum)



Friendship Café



Like the Choir, the Friendship Café has not met for over a year but as soon as we are given the go-ahead we will be up and running again. It will be so good to meet up on a Tuesday morning and enjoy toast, a cuppa and of course a good natter! In the meantime stay safe, take care of one another and try to remain positive.

While remembering those who have experienced much loss and suffering throughout this challenging time, let us give thanks for the efforts of the scientists, doctors and medical staff who have allowed us to reach this safer place. Also we should not forget those who have worked throughout the pandemic, at risk to themselves, to keep us fed and our services operating.

Glasgow Doors Open Day

We are hoping to be involved in the Glasgow Doors Open Day again but this year, because of the pandemic it will be a scaled down version. It is scheduled to take place on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th September and so, if we have the privilege of being selected, please support St. Margaret's contribution. The organisers are still unsure whether it will all be online or whether our Church building could be open to visitors so more about this to follow



Christine Furnish

Choir

While it is good to be worshipping in the sanctuary again I cannot wait until we can all praise God with our singing voices. I find it difficult to believe that it is over a year since the choir led the singing in Church and we really hope that it will not be too long before we can resume our practices and lead your singing once again.

Some of you must be wondering if you still can sing, so start gargling and all will be well!



Christine Furnish



Check out our website at:

<https://knightswoodstmargarets.org.uk/>



Find us on Facebook

Wee Bachle!

Having volunteered to write a piece for the magazine, I then agonised over whether it should be in the name of the Session Clerk or the roll-keeper. I finally decided to make it me, Davie Adams, wee bachle of this parish.

It has been a strange time, has it not? Meetings and services on Zoom, no physical contact with family or friends, endless attempts at sudoku, kakura or crosswords, the latter of the cryptic variety, not all of them successful, in fact if truth be told, very few of them successful. At one point my dining ("dining?" I hear you ask) table was so cluttered with newspapers, jotting pads and un-opened mail that there was just room for one place mat on which sat a mug of tea.

I did venture out each day to purchase my newspaper. I was amazed at the stories I read of folk going daft because they couldn't get out. I was amazed because I have to confess that the situation was proving to be very acceptable to me. I was very content to sit at the above mentioned table and wrack my brains (yes, I said "brains") over the puzzles which were becoming my life. 'Going out' was the last thing I wanted or needed. It suddenly dawned on me that the pandemic had highlighted what many teachers and instructors of the past had worked out, in fact voiced, that I was and am an idle wee bachle of this parish.



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As neighbours installed new bathrooms, kitchens, outdoor sitting spaces and basically rebuilt their homes, mine was lucky to see a duster, and that was usually lying in a dark corner unused and unloved.

Some things, however, did get done. Lots of meetings on Zoom to discuss the future of St Margaret's, St David's and Temple Anniesland. Session and Board meetings on Zoom as we worked out what needed to be done to keep our buildings wind and water tight, and much wracking of brains (there's that word again) over how we could involve you, the congregation in our deliberations on the future of the three churches in the melting pot as the Church of Scotland sought to face a very different future, not just because of the pandemic, but more about changing attitudes to church membership and attendance. We still have to work out how best to get a consensus of the members' wishes on our future and we will be in touch soon because decisions have to be made which will see some changes in the three parishes. I hope we will find a way to hear your views and that we can face our new future knowing we are going into that future with the backing of our members.

I leave you with a wee puzzle. I wrote about cryptic clues, so here's one for you to ponder over (for the avoidance of doubt, there are no prizes):

I drew strangely; summed up my attitude on the pandemic. (5 letters)

David Adams



Ways and Means

With the restrictions over the last year, we have sadly been unable to hold our usual coffee mornings and fundraising events.

At Christmas we organised a “click and collect” event, where members of the congregation placed an order consisting of cakes, chocolate treats, crackers etc. This was a huge success and raised over £800! We are extremely grateful to everyone who supported this event, and also to the very talented bakers and artistic members who made this possible with their contributions, along with the people who made up the boxes and delivered. It was indeed a team effort!

We also delivered afternoon tea boxes at Christmas and also at Easter to members of the congregation who have been unable to attend church. This was very much enjoyed by all.

With the easing of lockdown, we look forward to a more normal time in the future when we can once again hold our events back in the church building.

Janet Hall



Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ
Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness

Online material and webcast and videos worth a look and certainly worth being involved in at your own level.

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

Have a go it costs nothing but your time and your commitment in your own place quietly and privately. No one listening except God of course!

Join the global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ.
May 13th - May 23rd 2021



**Join us for Sunday Worship each week at
11:00am.***

**Prebook your seat by
texting / phoning 07760 312748
on the Thursday evening before,
between 6pm and 8pm.**

***Face coverings must be worn at all times in church unless
medically exempt.**

