

# the weekly bulletin

## Taking Pause

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FaceBook

Friday 4th September



New Kilpatrick Parish Church  
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Faith

There comes a point when it is time to pause to reflect and take stock. It's a spiritual practice we probably don't do often enough, but it feels right at the moment. Perhaps that is because we believe where we are is temporary; we're not going to be doing church this way for ever, so it is okay to stop and look at where we are, and how we got there.

Sometimes we don't take stock because we get very used to a pattern and imagine it will see us out. Why do we have to 'change' things if we are doing just fine as it is? The reason is always because, when we settle down into a pattern, we tend not to move beyond, explore, or renew what we do, or allow fertile ground for new life to be injected back into what we are and believe.

Hopefully, the last six months have found us rethinking and reimagining things a little more, and new life has been found in some way. Church services are taking place in the sanctuary from this weekend, and perhaps we feel a small milestone has been reached, or something is happening that feels familiar again and we can relax a little: we haven't lost everything.

But we've never used the word 'return', or the phrase 'going back', because we have to realise neither of these is true. It's what the Israelites realised when they were at the Red Sea and countless times in the wilderness: can we not go back to Egypt? Where would we have been, and what would we have become, if they had?

This is an invitation for us all to take stock, reflect back on the last six months, and see where we once were and where we are now. I'd be really interested in hearing what we have learned about ourselves, what has worked and what hasn't, what is continuing to work, and what we can now let go.



It is a serious question, and it will take some serious and honest time for reflection. I'd like to offer some areas for us all to wonder about; ~~but~~ these aren't exclusive.

- What words would you use to describe 'church' now?
- In what way have you changed towards faith and spirituality?
- What has the congregation produced that has helped journey through lockdown and what has hindered?
- Have you heard faith stories differently since we moved worship onto podcasts and YouTube and phone lines? What have you learned?
- What do we do that engages a different generation if anything? Be honest.
- We've focussed a lot on worship and done a number of small community projects. The balance always seems to be towards worship when perhaps it ought to be the other way. In what way is this true or false?
- What one thing has renewed you?
- Have we moved on, or are we going to 'go back' to what we have always done?

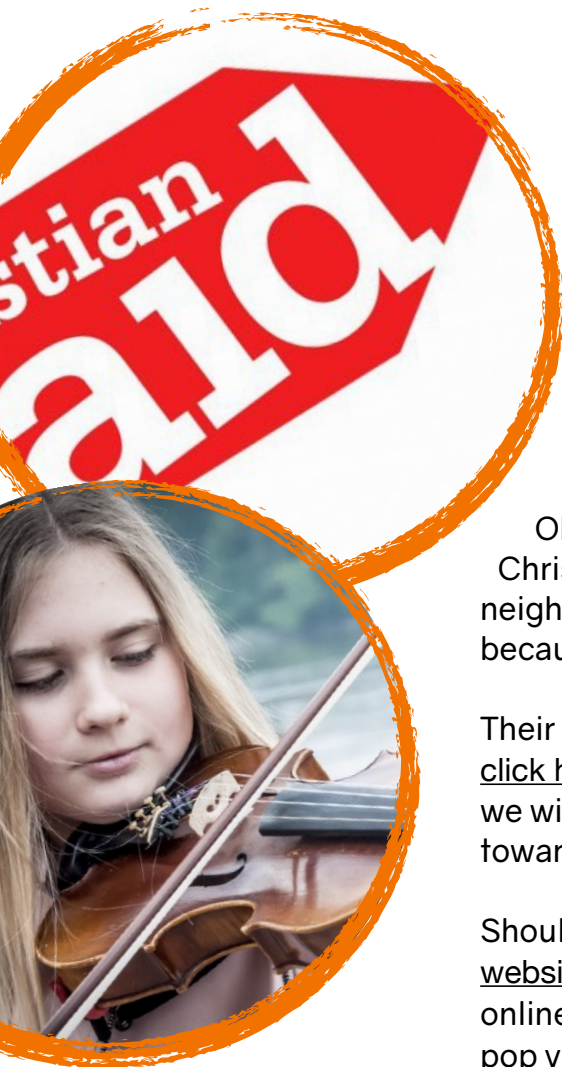
Please don't feel you need to answer all, or any, of these questions. This exercise is for reflection, but it would be good to hear what we can learn and how we might evolve. Some of these questions will be explored in Babylon Files, which will be returning soon. Thank you for your perseverance and loyalty, and your faith and generosity that have made sure we have found ourselves on new ground, and found ways of living there in faith.

Roddy



# Church Opening

Do remember to phone the church office to book a pew, if you wish to attend church on a Sunday morning at 10.30. If you can do that by Friday 10am of the week you wish to attend, Catherine, the secretary, will phone you later on Friday to confirm a place. Come and see how our worship will take shape and evolve in this unique space and time, and as we learn to worship without hymns!



## Christian Aid

Hope you all are continuing to stay safe and well as the pandemic continues.

As we approach harvest, I would like to highlight Christian Aid's Autumn Appeal.

Obviously many people are in crisis around the world, and Christian Aid is inviting us to stand together with our global neighbours this Autumn. A pandemic can bring us closer because we can never be free of this until the least are free.

Their appeal can be found on their webpages, [which you can click here](#). There are stories, images and information there, and we will be responding to that over this month as we move towards 'Harvest' at the beginning of October.

Should you wish to donate, you can do so on the [Christian Aid website](#). We do understand that some are not comfortable giving online but would still like to donate. If that's the case, please just pop your donation in an envelope and you can put it through the Manse door. We will then send it to Christian Aid Appeal in the same way we did for Christian Aid Week.

Thank you again for your generosity and being able to look and live beyond ourselves once more.


Shirley Hamilton

## Calling Musicians

We are unable to sing in church at the moment, and it is something many of us miss most. However, we are not silenced and we would like to invite anyone who might feel able to play a non-woodwind or brass instrument during our services.

There is a wide range of talented people. Even duets or just a short piece would be welcomed. It would be greatly appreciated and, if you are interested, even as you hesitate, please contact Chris Nickol on 07808 258374.

# Sofa Surfers



India's Golden Triangle and Shimla: it doesn't get more exotic and intoxicating than that, and all you have to do is get to your sofa by 7pm on Thursday night (10th September). Iain Stark takes us where few of us have ever been, and certainly never on a flying sofa before. See you there.

On the 17<sup>th</sup>, we're having an open night, which is really a simple evening of the wee stories each of us has that wouldn't take up a whole evening but are worth telling in five to ten minutes. The theme is "**Famous people I have met**" and, if you have a wee incident or story or memory of someone famous you've met, and are willing to share it at Sofa Surfers, please let Roddy know by email or phone, and you can be included in an evening of virtual autographs.

# Church Register

We are always aware that we lose people during these months of limited contact, and are unable to celebrate their lives in the way we would normally. We record here those we have lost during July and August.

Nancy (Agnes) Cunningham, Dorothy Ritchie, Kathleen Shankland, Pearl Gomez, Caroline Lewis.

The service for Caroline Lewis will be on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>, with a limit of 20 invited folk being able to attend. The cars, however, will be driving into the church grounds at about 11am, and will stop there for a short while for a reading and prayer. You may feel able to be in the area to join us for that and to pay your respects, joining others on the pavement, if you feel that is appropriate, and socially distanced and masked.

# This Week's Diary

**Podcast & Video services:** from the [church website](#) home page worship banner, from midnight Saturday.

**Phone Service:** dial 0141 465 5774 (after a bit of a pause).

**Sanctuary Worship:** 10.30am. But please phone to book before 10am on Friday 4th.

**Songs of Praise** Sunday 7.30pm Log in from our [Zoom page](#).

**SingSong!** at 2pm on Tuesday 8th, joining in with all who enjoy a good sing. Especially designed for those who have some degree of memory loss or dementia. From our [Zoom page](#).

**Quiz Night** at 7pm on Tuesday 8th from our [Zoom page](#).

**Sofa Surfers** at 7pm on Thursday 10th. This week, the Golden Triangle and Shimla, with Iain Stark. On our [Zoom page](#).

**Weekly Bulletin** to ease the indigestion after breakfast Friday 11th.

**Coffee Pot** at 10.30am on Friday 11th, a wee get together online with homemaking and freshly brewed coffee all from our virtual lounge on our [Zoom page](#).

**Plus, the website for daily prayers, new psalms, appeals, photos and poems, news, and everything else.**