

Eastwood Parish Church of Scotland Crossbeam—January 2021

From the Manse...

Dear Friends,

Hello and welcome to this combined edition of Crossbeam & the 'Worship at Home' Supplement which compliments our current on-line services or will help you worship at home if you are unable to access the internet.

As 2021 begins we find ourselves in Lockdown again. Yet, this time, there is a light at the end of the tunnel with vaccines authorised for use in the United Kingdom.

Within this magazine you will find news items from the life of our congregation. You will also find readings, prayers, reflections and a blessing, so that you can structure your time of worship as you see fit. I hope they will be useful and bring some comfort and peace in these challenging times. Please use as much or as little of these resources as you wish. These resources have been prepared by 'Spill the Beans', which is a worship resources created in Scotland. We are currently using this material in all of our worship services. You may want to use this resource at 11.15 am on a Sunday morning as worship is held at the same time on Zoom.

The worshipping life of our congregation continues. We currently offer a main Sunday service on Zoom at 11.15 am, each week and if you would like to join us please contact either myself or Erika Watt.

We also offer a catch-up time on Zoom on a Tuesday between 11 am and 12 Noon and on a Wednesday between 7 and 8 pm. Maybe, you have access to the internet but do not wish to use Zoom. If that is case, you can also experience worship with us by going to YouTube and entering: 'Eastwood Parish Church of Scotland', in the search bar.

If we can be of any help to you at this time, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Manse on 0141 571 7648.

Your friend and minister,
Jim Teasdale



Where you belong

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Faithbook

With the success of the Minister's online Advent bible study, it was suggested that we restart the Faithbook study group at the beginning of February.

We would propose to hold the group on a Sunday evening at 7.30 for half an hour and use the Scripture Union Lifebuilder study series. These books are broken into short sessions which can be studied as stand alone sessions or a series.

If you would like to join or need more information please contact Erika Watt by Friday 22nd January.

Church Family News

Thank yous: Claire Walker, Anne Noble, Isobel McGlashan, Avril Ferns, Isabella McCormick, Linda Mitchell, and everyone else who has been given flowers recently, say thank you for the kindness they have received.

There are also some special thank yous this month:

I would like to say thank you to everyone for their kind thoughts, flowers from the church, cards and calls following my recent operation and mishap. All your messages cheered me up. Thank you so much,
Margaret Pruefer

As a family we would like to thank you very much for your support. Since our arrival in May 2019 to date you have kept us going. May the Lord bless you for your lovely messages and the beautiful flowers we have received on Dylan's arrival. May the Lord bless you abundantly,

Dylan, Deuel, Savior and Nigel

Eastwood Parish Church of Scotland Worship at Home— January 2021



The Alpha course is going to look a little different this year. Through Home Church, Alpha are giving you the chance to connect with others and learn more about your faith at home, online.

They will meet every Thursday evening at 7.30pm on Zoom from the 21st January 2021 until 8th April 2021.

Sign up at [Eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) then simply log in from your phone/tablet/computer to see what it is all about.

Each week there will be a short video from the Alpha Film Series, then a discussion about what you have seen in smaller groups, sharing thoughts, asking questions, and exploring what it means to each of us. You can say as little or as much you want to, you decide.

Weekly Bible Readings

17 January—John 1:24-30,
24 January—Mark 1: 14-20
31 January—Mark 1: 21-28
7 February—Mark 1: 29-39
14 February—Mark 9: 2-9

These are the readings we will be using for our online services for the next few weeks. If you use these then you will be 'with' us.



A Reflection for John 1

Outside, sitting under a tree,
watching the world go by...
looking,
listening,
thinking,
on my own,
blissful,
unaware,
unknowing
that someone else is thinking
of me.

A mere me, sitting under a
tree
in the midst of vast universe:
being seen,
being loved,
being cared for,
on my own,
blissful,
slowly becoming aware,
slowly realising that God,
the Maker of heaven and
earth,
is thinking of mere me.

A Reflective Prayer

Loving God, in the light of
this new year may we see
you more clearly, and follow
you more nearly, that we
might find a faith that holds a
mystery, enough for us to
come and see where you are
going, the God who never
settles down.

May we find you in the next

turning, around the next
bend, in the mist that still
falls over the future.

May we recognise you only in
part, for you are not yet fully
known, always a word, a
colour, a place, an event, still
to be discovered, in a
relationship that is never the
same, always evolving.

May we find the wonder
again in your story and
choose to follow it.

May we find the mystery,
and chase it. May we find the
questions, and ask them. And
may we find in all our
travelling a presence that
loves, a grace that cares, a
compassion that welcomes,
and a place to grow.

May we find our meeting
place with you, and find you
restless to move us into the
world, towards our neigh-
bours, and into a deeper rela-
tionship with you.

So be it.

Amen.

A Reflection for Mark 1:14-20

Into the unknown,
taking the risk,
a new normal.

How do I know what the
future will be like?

Can I trust myself to move
on?

Leaving behind everything
I've ever known and stepping
out into... what?

Still I hear the call, "Follow
Me!"

The simplicity of the call,
"Follow Me!"

All I can do is to trust him and
step out into the unknown.

Blessing

Called by God to follow,
the time has come
to go into the world
and make you known to all
we meet.

And as you do,
may God guide your path,
may Jesus walk beside you
and may the Holy Spirit in-
spire you.

Today,
tomorrow
and forever more.

A Thought for 7 February 2021: 'Healing and Serving'

In the United Kingdom we take for granted the availability of Healthcare professionals. The National Health Service is one of the success stories of our nation and society, a venerable institution to be proud of and to seek to secure for future generations. Accessing 'The Doctor' has involved subtle changes over the last 50 years. In the last decades, our personal doctor rarely covers the evening and nighttime hours through a local 'On-Call' Service—instead, our calls go through to NHS 24/NHS Direct. Other than that, accessing medical help has remained pretty much steady. That is until Covid-19 burst onto the scene!

The understandable big change was necessitated by the need for protecting the NHS and the need for physical distancing. Now most of our interactions with the local GP is by phone or video call. Whilst for many this is working out fine (in some circumstances far better than we could have imagined), many lament the reduction in availability of face-to-face interaction with the GP or local nurse.

We can perhaps imagine the situation that would result if it were announced that such and such a doctor was hosting a drop-in face-to-face clinic at a certain location! Something like news of Jesus the healer, being tracked to a certain location after sunset. Think of the hordes who would make their way hoping for personal encounter with a medically trained person. There is a great deal of potential and value in the 'personal touch' when it comes to making a person feel better.

Jesus physically touched people and they were healed according to such stories as this week's. Yet, personal encounter with others went far beyond the physical touch; the spiritual, emotional, and social healing we see taking place was far more important in many ways. That encounter with Jesus, and the divine, is still experienced today, and many can talk of the transformational power of such encounter in their lives, whether in big ways or in many small and repeating ways.

We might also add that in our society, which in this last twelve months has endured many challenges and changes and where many have felt isolated and bereft of physical and social contact with others, we understand more than we did before how important personal encounter is for us and the whole of humanity. Being in the presence of others is something not to be taken for granted anymore. We recognise in that real and intentional 'presence', the life benefiting effects of close contact with people who care and people who just naturally exude 'care'.

The first part of the Gospel lesson today reminds us about the positive contribution we can make on others. Making other people feel valued, by meeting them wherever they are in life can make a huge positive impact on welfare and health.

The crowds who hunted down Jesus were finding a particular type of healing in his presence. Jesus just did what he did, and folks gathered around. He did not have to go out of his way to find a crowd, they found him. Of course, that put Jesus in high demand, and we can understand the need he had to take himself away, find solitude for himself, and then move on, in order to cast his healing presence as far and as wide as possible. But that need for personal care is one for another day. Today we recognise the benefit of making ourselves available to others as Jesus did. God will work through us when we care for others with person-to-person intent, and the impact will always be a positive one as our personal touch brings a lift to those we encounter.

A Reflection for Mark 9 Transfigured

Scrambling and scrabbling over scree, snaking their way along ridges on the barest of trails, they climb, leaving earthly things behind. Clambering with effort around crags, avoiding cliff edges, looking up occasionally, and feeling dizzy, still they follow him. He ascends the heights like Moses did so long ago, he, who wrote the Law on stone.

They pause awhile upon the mountaintop, almost, but not quite, the roof of the world, and suddenly, the light is blinding, bright, white; searing the scales from disciples' eyes. And for a moment, here, closer to the heavens, they see him for who he truly is: magnificent and glorious, majestic.

Shining amid rocky pinnacles the humble rabbi is transfigured – shot through with shafts of burning brilliant white, exalted, conversing in illustrious company. Moses, the Law maker, Elijah, the prophet, return to the mountaintop to meet with the Messiah— transcendent anointing.

Senses ravished by unearthly beauty, desperate to stay, Peter babbles of pitching tents, unable to understand the mystery and glory of the moment. It passes. They slope back down from the summit, subdued, and told to keep the secret: a truth that they cannot comprehend when they descend and are more earthly-minded. And only after pain and grief, execution, and a resurrection will they truly see him for who he is once more.

An All Age Prayer

On top of a mountain, the disciples see an amazing sight, we can only imagine what they, must have thought, but Jesus was with them, so, we know they were safe and secure, they were in his protection, just like we are today.

Thank you, God, for showing us the long history and bright future of you people, from Moses and Elijah, to Peter, James, and John, help us to find confidence in their stories to follow you in our own lives, to love each other, to be kind to each other, and to love you every day of our lives. Amen.

A Reflective Prayer:

We look to our Saviour:
in a gilded frame,
long flowing hair,
serene and content,
white robe,
and shining sun.
Is this him?
Is this who he is?
Is this who we follow?

We look to our Saviour:
in crowded streets,
amongst dirt and noise,
shouting people,
crying children,
busy, frustrated,
tired.

Is this him?
Is this who he is?
Is this who we follow?

We look to our Saviour:
Fully man,
fully God,
walking with us,
crying with us,
laughing with us,
healing with us,
hoping with us,
living with us.

We look to our Saviour,
today and every day,
to be with us and guide us.
Amen.

Life and Work

All Life and Work subscriptions will automatically renew in January 2021. The cost of this will be a one-off payment of £36. Those who receive the magazine through the church will receive details of how to make this payment in the New Year.

However, Life and Work are currently running a promotion aimed at making it easier for people to receive the magazine. They are giving subscribers the chance to have the magazine delivered directly to their home rather than receiving it through their church, at a time when it is difficult for many to get to church. If you switch to this method of delivery, Life and Work are offering you two free issues of the magazine, bringing the payment down to £30. This payment, however, needs to be made by direct debit.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this offer, either as an existing or a new subscriber, please contact Felicity Teasdale for a personal order form and direct debit instruction. Both should be returned by email to admin@lifeandwork.org or posted to: Life and Work, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN. This offer is available throughout 2021, so you can make this change at any time.

If you prefer, you can subscribe to a digital edition of Life and Work at www.lifeandwork.org

Elders Conference

A reminder to all elders that a Zoom conference is planned for Saturday 30th January from 10.30- 12noon.

What's On At Eastwood

SUNDAY

10.00 am	Faithbook (1 st and 3 rd Sundays)
11.15 am	Worship
11.00 am	Sunday School (age 2 to 16)

Contact

Erika Watt
Rev Jim Teasdale
Katie Morrison

MONDAY

10.00 am	English Literacy Classes
12 noon	The Lunch Club Open on the 1 st and 3 rd Mondays of the month from 12noon (except July and August)

Christine Nanguy
E:info@pollokshawsaln.org

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all activities including Sunday worship are suspended until further notice.

FRIDAY

9.30 am	Slimming World
7.00 pm	Badminton (from October to May)

Lesley Clark

SATURDAY

10.30 am	Coyle Irish Dancers
7.00 pm	EPYC

Suzanne Coyle
Erika Watt

Church Contacts

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