



PULSE

Volume 60 Number 2

Autumn 2020

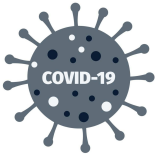
McQuiston

Jesus Centred - People Focused

EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

Tempting as it is to ignore the “elephant in the room” and talk about the weather or anything other than Coronavirus or COVID-19; this virus has so shaped and touched our lives in recent times that we just cannot ignore it.



This has been true of the church as much as any individual.

Like many of you I never imagined, even in my wildest dreams, that the church, not just McQuiston but every church building across the land would be closed for 6 months.



That didn't happen through two world wars or forty years of civil unrest.

Yet naively as human beings we still imagine ourselves to be in control, to be movers and shakers when in reality all we can do at times is respond.

By all accounts this pandemic will be with us for the long term and we will have to make the best of it. What changes will result in terms of how we live and the nature of the church has yet to be realised.



Truthfully, much has been lost but it has

driven me and you perhaps back to consider what is fundamental to our faith, especially since so much of the community aspect of the church life has been eroded and our collective witness hampered.

God however is not disempowered, if that is a proper word, and Isaiah 59 vs 1 gives us grounds for hope. *“Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.”*

Music to our ears! Truth to encourage!

The very next verse though calls us to examine our ways and makes for our discomfort, *"2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."*



That can never be a popular message for the church to hear, but is it true and do we as God's people need to repent in some respect?

If you believe in prayer, if the work of the church is important to you please ask not only for an end of the pandemic and the discovery of an effective vaccine, but ask yourself how we God's people may have fallen short? What is it that calls for our repentance?



Having done that then ask God in His sovereign grace to bring us through this as a congregation, as the church perhaps leaner but stronger.



With a greater appreciation of what is crucial to our existence, basic to our commission as witnesses; as salt and light in society and with a greater desire to serve the Lord and make Him known in our generation.

It is however by His grace that He sustains us and since this is the Harvest edition of our Pulse Magazine my mind goes to Genesis 8 vs 22, *"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."*



Thank God for His enduring mercies. May the Lord keep and protect you, in Jesus' perfect name.

Your friend and Pastor

Robert Beggs

ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

Senior Members' Fellowship (SMF)

The ladies and gents of the Senior Members' Fellowship have been keeping in touch with each other over the last few months mainly by phone. Many have said how encouraging it's been to have this much needed contact and for those on their own, it's "been a lifeline".



We know this because towards the end of the summer, the committee organised a newsletter which was hand delivered to around forty homes, along with an Easter Egg that had been kept safely in the Church since April! The smiles spoke for themselves and we don't think it was just the chocolate!

God speaks to us in 1 Thessalonians 5:11 *"...therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."*



The hope is to produce another newsletter in the Autumn, so any Senior Member with a wee bit of news, a favourite Bible verse or hymn they'd like to share with others, should contact a Committee member. Keep the chat going!

Etta Halliday

Storehouse

The Storehouse facility is now operating again after lockdown. It is vital that we continue this ministry to the local community. The economic future is uncertain, so the demand on food banks could increase considerably in the future.



Your support in the past has been greatly appreciated in the local area, so please continue this important outreach by donating food or making a financial contribution. Thanking you.

Alan Bousfield

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Outreach

It is our intention in the run up to Christmas to reach out again to our local community, shops, businesses and those who live close to our church, by giving small bags of shortbread as a “Gift” of our appreciation both as our neighbours and for how they serve the community around McQuiston.



We appreciate that the past number of months have been most difficult for them as they have struggled with the Coronavirus.



We would seek your support in this venture by asking for donations of shortbread that we can make up in festive gift bags with a Christmas Message from our Church. For those who are not bakers, it doesn't have to be home-made!

Please give your shortbread to Brian Erskine, Ken Sergeant or Linda Wray by early December.

Many thanks for your support in this important outreach.

Linda Wray

Election of Elders 2020

The Presbytery has given permission to proceed with an election of elders in the autumn term of this year. A voters list is being prepared and will shortly be available for inspection.

More information on this and on the method of voting will be announced in due course.



In the meantime please pray for God's hand upon the process and His guidance as we look among ourselves for those qualified for this task.

John Shivers

JESUS SAID "... LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS."

As I write this article the day is bleak, dull and with continual rain. There is little brightness, the sky has no colour other than the light grey cover, and one's spirits drop.



Our world radically changes when the weather changes. When we have a day of bright light, warmth, colour filling the sky, flowers and shrubs lifting drooping heads – we feel alive.



This transformation happens when one of the stars, the Sun, shines clearly in the sky. It changes the mood of people, their attitude and brings hope.

In our solar system we have one Sun and yet it is transformational. Its impact is wonderful and brings joy. It is life-giving.

Thinking of the Sun made me realise how our living day by day as Christians can make (and should make) a difference to the world in which we live.

To have the power and influence to radiate the love and life of Christ in our world requires that we live in close relationship to our Creator.



It requires a belief, commitment and daily walk with our Saviour to be effective.

Otherwise our lives will resemble those days when the sun is hidden in our sky – when there is little difference in our living to the folk around us who have no belief or walk with their Creator.



Without a living faith, we can exhibit dullness, discontent, unhappiness, and resemble the drooping flowers & shrubs on a wet windy day.

Of course, dealing with difficulties in life, illness, grief, worry, unemployment etc, all make it more challenging to radiate the love of God. COVID-19 has also presented new challenges to all of us.



Jesus has promised *'I am with you always'*. He also taught us *"Remain in Me, as I also remain in you. ... You cannot bear fruit unless you remain in Me. ... apart from Me you can do nothing."*

Each part of God's created world has a purpose and meaning (as with the Sun).

However, walking with the Lord empowers us with His help, to be His touch in the lives of others day by day providing meaning, purpose, support and hope in life when it is needed.

This is what we are required to do daily in our faith walk; living out the love of God in word and action.



Likewise, each one of us is a unique human being, with a place and specific role to fill in God's Kingdom.



Let this motivate us afresh to service in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, particularly as COVID-19 continues to dominate life around the whole world today.

As we faithfully serve our Lord, we are told *'You are the light of the world - like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.'* Matthew 5 vs 14.

In the changes and uncertainties that COVID-19 brings, as we commence a new Church year, there is increasing need to be transformational, as we live and witness to our Creator and Saviour's life-giving love for each one of us.



Is that not a joyous and challenging thought to start this new Church year? In this way we bring honour and glory to our God.

Anna Johnston

CHURCH GIVINGS

If you are unable to attend church the alternative means below are available for continued giving to the work of the church.



Online bank transfer

If you wish to donate via online banking, please use the following steps:

Set up an online transfer to:

Bank account name	McQuiston Memorial Presbyterian Church
Sort code	98-02-80
Account number	04334037

Please detail on the reference for the payee the fund and your FWO number.

It is very important that you provide your FWO number otherwise we won't be able to record your donation against your record of giving.

Fund	Reference
Freewill Offering	FWO XXX
United Appeal	UA XXX
Building Fund	BF XXX
Benevolent Fund	BV XXX
Harvest	HAR XXX



You will note that the list above includes our Benevolent Fund. This fund exists to allow us to support individuals and families who may be experiencing severe financial stress.

Please make a separate transfer for each fund if you are donating to more than one fund, in the same way that you currently use separate envelopes.

Postal donations

You can donate by sending a cheque to the church treasurer. Please write your FWO number on the reverse of your cheque and also detail which fund(s) you wish your donation to be allocated to. ***Please do not post cash donations.***

Cash donations

If you are unable to use online banking or make a postal donation, you should place your weekly givings in your envelopes as usual and bring these when you feel comfortable coming back to church.

HARVEST GIFT ENVELOPES

It is hard to believe that summer is quickly drawing to a close and autumn is almost upon us. With autumn comes the Harvest and at this time of year we remember God's promise to us, *"While the Earth remains, seedtime and Harvest will not cease"*.



Let us take time to count the many blessings we have had during the year, the many things we enjoy and are eternally grateful for, and remember how these things are our "Harvest" for which we truly need to say, "Thanks Father, for your bountiful Harvest".

With this edition of Pulse you will receive a Harvest Gift Envelope which should be returned on Sunday, 11 October.

Take a few moments to consider what God has done for you in 2020. Can we say our Harvest "Thanks" in a tangible way remembering that God's Son gave His "ALL" for you?



SUNDAY SERVICES



Worship services have recommenced each Sunday at 11am in the church. At present we are holding no evening services.

If you are unable to attend in person the service will be 'Live Streamed' each week on the church's YouTube Channel.



A live recording will be available each Sunday morning for you to join with us in worship and the recording will also be available afterwards if you are unable to join us at 11am.

Search for McQuiston Presbyterian Church on YouTube or follow the link on the Church's Website or Facebook page.

Special services include -

4 October @ 11am

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

11 October @ 11am

Harvest service

8 November @ 11am

Remembrance Sunday

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project.

Last year over 1.2 million shoeboxes packed full of gifts and goodies were wrapped, packed and sent to disadvantaged children from the UK alone. But it all boils down to one gift, from one individual to another. So this Christmas share the power of a simple gift of spreading love, joy, hope and smiles.

Thanks to a huge army of volunteers who give their time to help make this Christmas Miracle come to life, they deliver gifts by hand to children in need living in Africa, Eastern Europe or Central Asia.

McQuiston has been involved in this project for 16 years and this year we need your help to make a difference to children across the world spreading the love of Jesus Christ to those who have never heard His message.

If you haven't helped before, it is easy to get involved and a lot of fun!



1. Take a shoebox (available from mid September) and transform it into a gift of love.
2. Wrap shoebox and lid separately
3. Fill shoebox with gifts
4. Enclose a gift of £5.00 (*cheque – payable to Samaritan's Purse*) to cover costs). Envelopes are provided in the vestibule
5. Attach the appropriate boy/girl sticker on the outside of the lid, ticking the correct age category.



Please note boxes are not distributed to babies or adults.

All shoeboxes should be brought to church on or before the morning service of **Sunday 18 October**

Please help us by getting involved this year with your family, your friends and your neighbours. Why not encourage your workplace or school to help also? A DVD presentation and additional leaflets are available which you can use to promote the project.

Should you be unable to make a shoebox but would like to make a contribution, please speak to Roberta Graham so that your donation can be transformed into a shoebox in time for dispatch to the children.



AT REST

***"I am the Resurrection
and the Life"***

20 April

Mrs May Ferris
Strathearn Nursing Home

28 April

Mrs Dorothy Beattie
14 Willowholme Crescent

13 May

Mrs Elizabeth (Lily) Shaw
Belmont Nursing Home

7 August

Mrs Doris Barr
7 Willowfield Avenue

8 August

Mrs Elizabeth (Judy) Hamilton
14 Castlereagh Parade

13 August

Mrs Elizabeth (Betty) Buchanan
8 Mashona Court



VESTIBULE OFFICIALS

***"Be not forgetful
to entertain strangers"***

September

Pat Wray, Ken Wray,
Norman Maynes
Convenor: Glenn Wasson

October

Roberta Graham, Irene Smyth,
Alan Bousfield, Craig Wootton
Convenor: Tommy Kane

November

Avril McColl, Annette Wasson,
Glenn Wasson
Convenor: Ken Galbraith

December

Ann Anderson, Rene Montgomery,
Christine Kelly, David Graham

MARRIAGE

***"Except the Lord build
the house they labour
in vain that do"***

20 August

Amiina Brint
15 Waverley Gardens to
Mark Heatherington
559 Doagh Road, Newtownabbey

DIRECTORY

Rev Robert Beggs

Minister

52 Kings Road

Belfast

BT5 6JL

Phone: 028 9065 0526

Email: robertjbeggs@hotmail.com

Mr John Shivers

Clerk of Session / Pulse Editor

11 Lead Hill Park

Belfast

BT6 9RW

Phone: 028 9079 1246

Email: jcshivers@virginmedia.com

Mrs Hilary Hawthorne

Pastoral Visitor

c/o McQuiston Presbyterian Church

83 Castlereagh Road

Belfast

BT5 5FE

Phone: 07443531326

Rev David Maxwell

Pastoral Associate

c/o McQuiston Presbyterian Church

83 Castlereagh Road

Belfast

BT5 5FE

Phone: 028 9591 0202

Mr John McCandless

Community Evangelist

c/o McQuiston Presbyterian Church

83 Castlereagh Road

Belfast

BT5 5FE

Phone: 07729516576

McQuiston Presbyterian Church

83 Castlereagh Road BT5 5FE

Phone: 028 9045 8155

Web: www.mcquistonpc.org

Email: churchoffice@mcquistonpc.org



mcquistonpc



mcquistonpc

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104506)