

The Net

The Magazine of Priestfield Parish Church, Edinburgh
Living in the Way of Jesus



Priestfield Parish Church is a Registered Scottish Charity No. SC014499

Web: <http://priestfield.org.uk>

Minister: Rev Donald Scott



Dear friends,

I wonder if you know the Harry Lauder music hall ditty, “It’s nice to get up in the morning?”

The chorus goes,

*Oh it's nice to get up in the morning
When the sun begins to shine
At four or five or six o'clock
In the good old summer time.
When the snow is snowin'
And it's murky overhead
Oh it's nice to get up in the morning
But it's nicer to lie in bed.*

It was a favourite of my mother’s when she was trying to get three sons out the door in the morning!

It ran through my head more than once of a Sunday morning during lockdown. The routine of getting up and out to church was disrupted for us all, and more than a few confessed that watching the recording of the service in bed in their pyjamas was a very acceptable alternative to getting out in the rain.

I did say that some churches had opted for a live zoom where you could see each other. Let’s just say there wasn’t a lot of enthusiasm ...although there has been an ongoing after service zoom, where pyjamas have occasionally been viewed!

Of course, we’ve been back in the church together since Easter, and it’s been great to see faces steadily returning as confidence grew in gathering

again. Of course, it's still not like it was. Seats still look a bit sparse. Singing with masks is a total pain. Limited social interaction is difficult for a congregation known for its friendliness and good coffee.

And not everyone has made it yet. Perhaps habits have been broken? Perhaps new priorities have been found? Perhaps there's still nervousness about meeting in large groups? - often with very good reason for those who are working daily with the public or unmasked children. That's why we continue to offer online live feeds from the church. We've also discovered that the Priestfield family is inter-continental, with friends old and new joining us from all over the globe!

Every year we plan a "back to church/welcome" service in September to include students who have come to study or returned for a new term. This year, on Sunday 26th Sept. we've widened our welcome to include all who have been part of Priestfield in the past but haven't been with us for a while.

You can even wear pyjamas!

Look forward to seeing you soon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

~ Welcome Back! ~

In March 2020 our church building, like others across the country, was closed and we began worshipping on-line.

Over the course of the next year, controls ebbed and flowed. In due time we were allowed to reopen, but with 2m social distancing. This felt odd, but needs must.

After a while, this was reduced to 1m, which felt much better, not so strange.

Then, social distancing was gone and we could sing behind our masks. The need to phone up to let people know you were planning to come was removed.

So, we are much more like the 'normal' of pre-pandemic times.

By the time you read this we will probably have shared in a communion service.

As controls have been relaxed and things have loosened up, many of you have returned to Sunday worship. Some of you hadn't been able to join us in church for a year and a half.

Well, on 26 September (breathing something of a big sigh of relief) we are having a 'Return to Church Day.'

What will you find?

Well, first you'll notice less clutter and more space and seats will be a bit further apart than previously.

Only masks, hand sanitising and recording for NHS 'Test and Protect' remain.

So, why not come and join us once more?



Others are back too!

- The **Foodbank** returned and is providing its essential service 'face to face' again.
- Our various **Guide and Scout sections** are back. They first enjoyed meeting in the church garden but are now back in the upstairs hall too.
- The **Edinburgh Korean Church** is back. They returned to worship in the building in late August and have even celebrated a wedding in church.

praying together

Praise and Prayer continuing...

During lockdown we continued to 'Praise and Pray,' first with an on-line prayer sheet and praying at home "together", then later on Zoom.

We now meet in the Lounge. Come and join us if you can; alternate Thursdays at 7.30pm, 9 September onwards.

And, of course, you can still access our prayer sheets by email, on Facebook and on the website.



TOGETHER FOR OUR PLANET ~ THE UK'S YEAR OF CLIMATE ACTION

We've all seen the pictures of horrendous wildfires from California to Greece to Australia. We've all seen the reports of devastating floods in Germany and Belgium. We cannot afford to wait any longer to act against the threat of climate change. We must work together to protect our planet and people and ensure a greener, more resilient future for us all.

The UK will host the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 with our partners Italy in November 2021 in Glasgow to bring together world leaders to commit to urgent global climate action.



But each of us has a part to play. **So, what can we do?** Well, there's plenty we can do.

People from all over the UK are already doing their bit on climate change, from the engineers working on the offshore wind farms now powering our homes and businesses, to local initiatives encouraging children and parents to walk to school. It's not rocket science; here are some ideas to get us started...



**REUSE
REDUCE
RECYCLE**

- Be a careful consumer
- Use the bus rather than the car whenever we can
- Reuse, Reduce, Recycle
- Eat more vegetables and less meat
- Use less energy

Small individual actions culminate in large collective action.

Here's how one family did their bit. During July, our very own Judit and her family worked hard to avoid buying anything with plastic. **Could we do the same?**



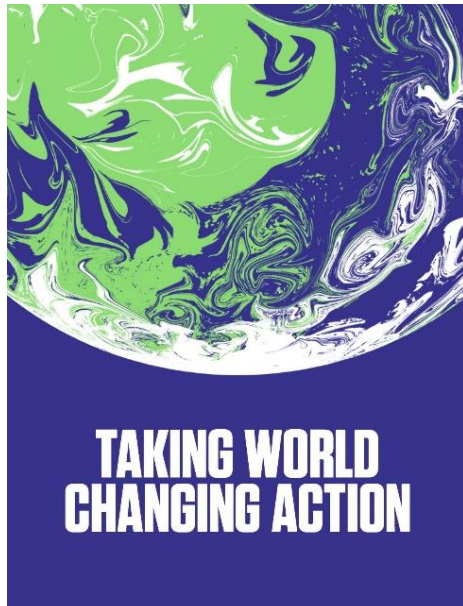
And, importantly, we can pray for climate justice. This year is crucial in the struggle for climate justice. To rise to the challenge, we must underpin it in prayer. Our prayers will spur us to take further action and encourage our leaders to deliver climate justice at COP26.

Here are links to a couple of websites to get you started.



<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-chain>

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/reboot-campaign>



NATIONAL GIVING DAY



~ Annual Gift Day ~

Our Gift Day will take place on 10 October and this year will be part of the Church of Scotland's **National Giving Day**, a time to remember God's presence with us through these challenging times and to offer gifts of thanksgiving back to Him. The Church of Scotland is encouraging all its congregations to take part. The money raised will remain with the congregation and can be used to offset deficits, or for projects at home or abroad.

After another financially difficult year at Priestfield, we are once again heading for a deficit, and so the money we raise will go towards our everyday maintenance costs and local ministry and mission. You can make your gift directly to the church bank account or place it in an envelope marked "Gift Day" (with your name if you are a Gift Aid donor) and bring it to church on **10 October**. If you would like us to collect your gift from you, or if you need more information, please contact Fiona Ferguson (667 6124).

With many thanks in anticipation of your further generous support for the work of God at Priestfield Church.

The Treasurers



Looking for someone to

**lend
an 
ear**

The telephone listening service provided by trained
volunteers from Craigmillar Park, Priestfield and Reid
Memorial churches. Safe, confidential, non-judgmental.
07789 024 011 Thursdays 10am to 6pm