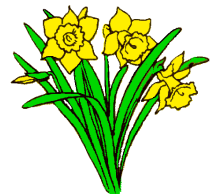


## CHURCH CALENDAR



With the church being closed due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, there will be no services until further notice.

## FLOWER CALENDAR



Again, due to the church being closed until further notice, there will be no Flower Calendar entries since there will be no flowers placed in the church during this time.



We now have an official church Facebook page which can be accessed at [www.facebook.com/EKOLDPC](https://www.facebook.com/EKOLDPC) which contains messages, regarding the current situation, from both the minister and session clerk as well as up to date information, prayer guides and general chat re- all things EKOPC.

Remember also that we have our own church website which you will find at: [www.ekopc.org.uk](https://www.ekopc.org.uk)

# PASTORAL LETTER



How are you? These are unprecedented times we're living in, and I hope you're keeping safe. I hope you're managing to be able to eat, and get your supply of any medicines you might need. I'm like many of us, in a vulnerable group, so it's extra important that we keep ourselves in isolation.

On a positive note, if this crisis had to come at any time, it has surely come at the best time of the year, as we're in the season of Spring. Can you imagine how much worse this would have been if we were in Autumn and the nights were getting darker and the days colder? I hope from your confinement you're able to see some green space, and maybe a daffodil or crocus or two. The wonder of nature is that these wee plants can survive the hardest of winters, then bloom again in the Spring.

Easter is approaching, and the message of the cross is similar to that of nature. Jesus went through the darkest of days and rose victorious on Easter morning. We are in dark days at the moment, unprecedented times, but we have the assurance that God is with us, and that he is always making things new.

When this period of isolation is over (we don't know when that will be, but it will at some point be over) I hope we can look back and see that during this time, so many positive things happened. Please keep safe, please look after one another, and know that God is with us.

Yours in love,

*Anne Raton*

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

## SUNDAY SCHOOL IS ENCOURAGED



It was on the third Sunday of Lent (15 March, 2020) that our Sunday School Team took part in an Easter Egg and Spoon Race in the Church before the morning service began. This was our effort to do something useful during Lent.

It is good to report that we were successful in this quest. With the wonderful support of the Congregation on that day we raised £100.17 for Sport Relief. While we were in the process of having our 'fun on the run', the watchful onlookers in the pews were being treated to sampling some brightly coloured, foil-wrapped mini chocolate Easter eggs. Thanks to all who were able to play a part in this year's Lent Challenge thereby helping others in the process.

Like so many other groups within the Church, the Sunday School was looking forward to gearing up for the remainder of Lent and Easter with a variety of seasonal activities. In recent days all these plans will not now be able to take place as church services have been suspended across the country.

Over the past few months we have been extremely grateful to a number of folk who have provided additional supervision of our Sunday morning children's groups. This has helped us sustain our work with the children in a meaningful, helpful and creative way. Thanks to all our regular Crèche and Sunday School staff members and our additional volunteers. We very much hope that, when it is safe to do so, we can take up where we left off and welcome our children back into the midst of our re-united Church family at East Kilbride Old Parish Church.

*Sheena Wilson* 01355 222027

## BIG 'THANK YOU' FOR A GREAT RESULT

Once again, the Congregation of East Kilbride Old Parish has come up trumps. We observed World Leprosy Day at the end of January, and throughout February, people returned their Gift Envelopes for the work of Leprosy Mission Scotland. On the last Sunday of the month, the donations were counted and the total was an excellent £971.19. The figure last year was £948.14, which makes this year's gift all the more impressive. Add on to that the fact that 24 donations were Gift Aided, which means yet more money for this so vital work.

And along with the special focus on World Leprosy Day, members of the Congregation support the Leprosy Mission regularly all through the year, by using the small blue tubs, which are taken away and returned on any Sunday morning. My records show that from February 2019 till February 2020, the blue tubs yielded a wonderful £802.86.

The heading above talks about A great result – it should really say TWO great results. Very many thanks to everyone – these gifts will bring new life to a great many people.



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Because of the restrictions brought about in the attempt to halt the spread of the coronavirus, we have been sent information from Christian Aid HQ. The main thing for us at the moment is that the House-to-House Collection will not take place in May, the normal time for Christian Aid Week. Other major events, like the sponsored Bridge Cross on the Erskine, Forth and Tay Bridges, have also been cancelled.

We may try to do something else later in the year, but it's too early to say anything definite. *Stewart Smith*

## STAMP APPEAL

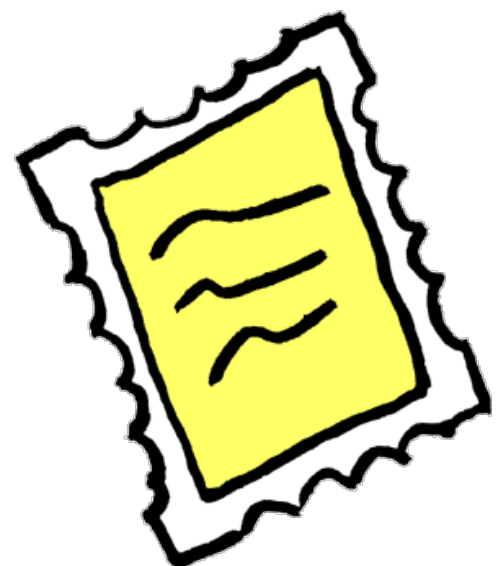
In these coming weeks, when so many of our regular Church activities are on hold, there is one thing we can continue to do - save up used stamps. The Church of Scotland Stamp Appeal this year is being devoted to a project in Sri Lanka, called the Women's Development Centre (WDC).



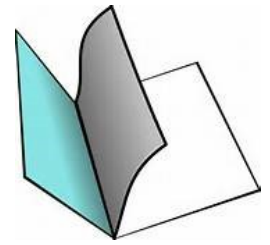
This began in 1986 in the garage at the Scots Kirk in the city of Kandy, when a visionary woman called Pearl Stephen, the minister's wife, set up a school for disabled children. Over the years, this has developed into a Centre now best known for its work with the victims of sexual violence.

Pearl died in 2013 and the Centre's work is continuing under the leadership of her daughter-in-law, Sashi. WDC can accommodate 50 girls and young women under the age of 16 who have been raped and abused. Sashi and her team care for girls who are vulnerable and often discarded by their families. Every penny raised by the Stamp Appeal will go towards supporting these young women who have been through so much, helping to give them hope for the future.

*Stewart Smith*



## EKO MAGAZINE



As a result of the closure of our church due to Coronavirus outbreak some of you will have received your magazine by post.

We are happy to continue to do this but if any of you are able to receive your magazine by email please help us to cut down on the cost of this by sending your email address to: [isobelgray@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:isobelgray@blueyonder.co.uk)

Thank you

*Isobel Gray*

## PRAYER GROUP

We are not meeting for the foreseeable future. You can text for prayers to 07443503142 or E-mail to [marionleddie@gmail.com](mailto:marionleddie@gmail.com)

I will then phone members of the group and we will raise your prayers to our heavenly Father.

Remember to turn to God in your need.

*Marion Leddie*

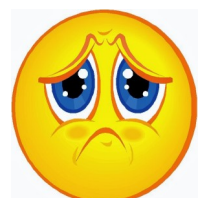


## COUNTRY DANCING

The Country Dancing Group will not be meeting until further notice.

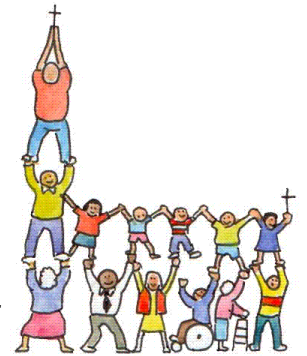
I'm sure you know why!

*Dorothy Cumming*





# YOUTH AND FAMILIES WORKER \_ UPDATE



It is with sadness I acknowledge the Coronavirus and the impact it is having on all our lives; however, it is with immense gratitude I acknowledge the many blessings in my life and the many that God continues to bring in these challenging times.

Unfortunately, at the moment life is hard and different to what we hoped and planned and therefore Messy Church, The Family Film Evening and the Easter Holiday Club have been postponed until the current situation improves. However, we should not be despondent, we have faith in the God who does and will continue to answer our prayers and bless each and every one of us. As I write I am thankful for so much in my life - the sunshine, my family, for friends, for food, for health, for kindnesses and for a peace in my heart. As you read this think of the things for which you are grateful and as you do this thank God for every blessing. I encourage you to do this daily and feel the benefit.

On a practical note it is worth stating:

**We haven't cancelled worship;** what we have done is cancel a religious service at a specific time, in a specific place, on a specific day, but folks can still worship God where they are and when they are caring for grandchildren and walking their dogs; they can worship Jesus as they serve at foodbanks or

picking up groceries for a neighbour; worship when they share the Spirit's peace by having a chat or singing songs over the phone to a parent; worship when they work from home; worship when they endure extra shifts in hospitals or nursing homes; worship when they email someone far away and wave to a stranger across the street; worship when they take toilet paper to a homeless shelter and volunteer to help someone.

**We haven't cancelled worship, just the "official" part but that may be the smallest part of it all anyway.**

In everything we do we worship God and this I am confident will continue. EKOPC has amazing people who will rally together and demonstrate their love for God in their acts of kindness for others.

We have set up a group to respond to any assistance or support which may be required by any member of the congregation over the coming weeks and months due to the current coronavirus outbreak. The group is offering through, practical and/or pastoral support, any of the following :- collect prescriptions, go for shopping , dog-walking , deliver mail, chat on the phone and/or Skype or Facetime or similar.

You may not need to access any of the services on offer immediately but may need to do so as time goes on and this service will be available until the current situation improves and we are back to normal.

To request the services of the group the following channels are available for your use - via your church elder, through the church Facebook page , email the church office ([ekopc.office@btconnect.com](mailto:ekopc.office@btconnect.com)) or leave a message on the church phone in the office on 01355 279004. The office answer machine is monitored remotely so don't hesitate to leave messages.





For those with children here is some excellent advice for families while the schools are closed:

Please don't feel like you have to immediately start googling curriculums, learning resources and school work. This is going to be a worrying time for everyone, and our children and young people will be able to feel it as well.

Trying to force your children to learn rarely works and arguing and fighting with them to do so is likely to make an already stressful situation much worse. Instead why not read to them, sing and dance with them play board games and chat.

They will learn that when something bad happens their parents played with them, distracted them and loved them. They will remember this as a time of fun, rather than a scary one.

Oh, and please remember to wash your hands whilst singing!!

As always, I am very appreciative of all your support and prayers – Thank you.

In the meantime, and during the current climate please stay safe and healthy and let us all look after one another and please remember that our Church is still open its only how we worship on a Sunday morning that has changed.

*Dain* (Youth & Families Worker) mo-

bile 07912 295943 /

email [iainshaw18@gmail.com](mailto:iainshaw18@gmail.com)



# PASTORAL REGISTER

Deaths: "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Emma Douglas

Mina Blair

Gladys Scott

John Russell

Alistair Maxwell

Ella Buchanan



## EKO SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL

If you would normally hand write/type material and give it to the editor would you please phone him and dictate it. His numbers are below.

The deadline for submitting material for the May edition of the EKO is:

Wednesday 22nd April

Thank you. *David Kent* - Editor

01355 237275, 07890 262267 or, davidkent28@virginmedia.com