EKO – DECEMBER 2019 EDITION 578

CHURCH CALENDAR

**DECEMBER**

Sunday 1st Morning Worship with the Choir 11am

Sunday 8th Morning Worship 11am

Sunday 15th Morning Worship

 Led by the Coalburn Silver Band 11am

Thursday 19th Advent Service 12 noon

***followed by*** Lunch in the Hall 12.30pm

Sunday 22nd Morning Worship - All-Age Service 11am

Tuesday 24th Christingle Family Service 7pm

 Watchnight Service 11pm for 11.30pm

Wednesday 25th Christmas Day Family Service 10.30am

Sunday 29th Combined Service with the West Kirk 11am

**JANUARY**

Sunday 5th Morning Worship 11am

FLOWER CALENDAR

**DECEMBER**

Sunday 1st Mrs Norma Penman

Sunday 8th In memory of Muriel and Eric Campbell

Sunday 15th In memory of William Duff

Sunday 22nd Christmas Decorations

Sunday 29th Christmas Decorations

**JANUARY 2020**

Sunday 5th In memory of Ray Clark

PASTORAL LETTER

**Seasons Greetings** 

It seems a bit premature writing ‘Seasons Greetings’ in the middle of November, but by the time this goes to print and reaches you at the beginning of next month the greeting will be well and truly apt….so I do wish you ‘Seasons Greetings’.

I have been with EKOP for almost three months now; a quarter of my allotted time…. how quickly has that passed? They say *‘time flies by when you’re having fun’*…. and I certainly am enjoying my time worshiping with you folks and I really appreciate the welcome that I’ve received. For those of you who have been wondering what I’ve been up to behind the scenes, I thought I’d use this opportunity to tell you, so here goes: as well as seeing me ‘in action’ on a Sunday, I have accompanied Rev Anne to a funeral, a wedding, and we shared a lovely home visit with baby Heidi and her parents prior to Heidi’s baptism a few weeks ago. I have also been to a couple of Kirk Session meetings; I have conducted the worship element at two Messy Church events; I met with Rev Anne and Organist Colin to arrange the Sunday hymns and music from October to the end of the Calendar year; I’ve been to a couple of Presbytery meetings, where I serve on the Finance & Stewardship Committee and I’ve spent a couple of Saturdays on training days that I volunteered to go on, namely, Godly Play and Autism in the Church. I also regularly meet with Rev Anne and I am grateful to her for the experience, wisdom, and encouragement she shares with me. Additionally, I am also currently undertaking a module with Highland Theological College on the subject of *Preaching,* which runs through to the middle of December, and I have signed up to take another one after Christmas, on the subject of *Chaplaincy*. I am confident that both of these courses will help me going forward in my ministry, wherever that may be.

One of the things you may not know is that I have been given a congregational support group. The purpose of this is two-fold: to both give me feedback on how I’m doing from a congregational perspective, (as opposed to a ministerial perspective which I receive from Rev Anne), but also to give me encouragement, which is really valuable. I have not asked for their permission to name them so I won’t, but I am grateful to them for their input so far, so thank you.

I love December in church. I love singing Carols and I love all the Christmas services, so I am really excited to be worshipping with you over the Christmas period, especially to hear the choir on December 1st, the Silver Band on December 15th,and the week in between, December 8th, I get the opportunity to conduct the sermon. Messy Church is also hosting another event on Sunday 1st December, so please encourage any young folks you know to come along and get into the Christmas Spirit at our Christmas themed Messy Church.

I’m going to be bold and pose you all with a challenge! Are you up for a challenge? Think *Advent Calendar* with a difference! I would like to encourage you to look out your Bibles and go straight to the New Testament Book of Luke. Luke’s Gospel has 24 chapters. Therefore, if you commit to the

challenge to read one chapter of Luke’s Gospel each day from December 1st right up to Christmas Eve on 24th December, you will have read the full account of the birth, death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour….and hopefully this year you will be reminded that *The Good News Story* of Christmas, will be the ***best story*** you will ever hear.

I want to leave you with a poem that I found on the internet, so herein lies challenge number 2…..

 When the carols have been stilled;
 When the star-topped tree is taken down;
 When family and friends have all gone home;
 When we have all returned to our regular routines,
 Then the true work of Christmas begins:
 To welcome the refugee;
 To heal a broken planet;
 To feed the hungry;
 To build walls of trust and not fear;
 To share our gifts;
 To seek justice and peace;
 And to take Christ’s light into the world, for everyone to see.

With every good wish.

Fiona

**SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTY FUN**

The bright but cold wintry days are here and our thoughts are turning to celebrating the Christmas season.

We look forward to the variety of beautiful worship services that have been in the planning for some time, and now that December is here we can enjoy reliving the joy of the Christmas story. Our children will hope to play their part in these celebrations – we will be deciding how to ‘spend’ our offering money in a way that will help others; we will be joining in with our singing and worship but one special event that usually proves very popular with our youngsters is

A CHRISTMAS PARTY! We are planning to hold our all-age party on Sunday 1 December from 11.00 a.m. to just after 12 noon when Santa will arrive with some gifts. Come early so that we can get the party games and fun underway, leaving time to re-fuel with some party food before Santa arrives. All party-goers should make their way straight to the Upper Hall on that morning.

The Crèche children will be having a celebration of their own over the weeks leading up to Christmas and Santa will be sure to leave some gifts for them too.

Thank you to everyone who has handed in coin donations. Over the year, so far, these have added up to £237.59. These donations will help fund our children social activities during this month.

A genuine thank you is extended to all who have volunteered to help, on a rota basis, with the provision of additional adult cover each Sunday morning. This has made a huge difference to the way we provide activities for our children. We have greatly enjoyed your company so far and hope that you will consider joining us again in the New Year. The list is ready to receive your name!

Thank you to our Youth and Family Worker, Iain Shaw, (and his stalwart crew of helpers) who have tirelessly organised so many interesting activities and events for children and their families over the past few months. We have been enjoying them.

From us all at Sunday School, we wish you a very happy time during December and hope that you experience the comfort and joy of this Christmas season. Merry Christmas everyone! We’ll be back in the New Year after a short break.

Sheena Wilson

Christmas Offerings

The offerings from our services over the Christmas time will be donated to help the work of Alzheimer’s Research UK as it works with universities and pharmaceutical companies towards developing treatments that could tackle disease processes that stop a person’s brain from working properly and cause dementia.

Dementia is not something that just happens to everyone as they get older. It is caused by different illnesses. Every day, almost 600 people in the UK develop dementia and it is estimated that nearly 50 million people around the world are living with dementia.

Alzheimer’s Research UK is the UK’s leading dementia research charity and is committed to investigating the causes of dementia and developing ways to prevent, treat and ultimately, cure, all forms of this heart-breaking condition.

More information is available at <https://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/>

Alzheimer’s Research UK is a Registered Charity

UPDATE FROM OUR YOUTH AND FAMILIES WORKER

At this time of year, during the season of Advent, we reflect on the birth of Jesus and may ask ourselves the question what is our greatest need at Christmas? If our greatest need is for information, God would have sent us an educator, if our greatest need is for more money, God would have sent us an economist, if our greatest need is for pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer but our greatest need was and still is forgiveness, so God sent us a Saviour.

We recently held several successful events for all the family. These were all well supported and enjoyed by those who attended. These included a family beetle drive which was great fun from the youngest to the eldest, Messy Church where the theme was Light and the text – “Jesus is the light of the world” and most recently a family film afternoon where everyone enjoyed popcorn while watching Disney’s award-winning movie “Frozen”.

More is planned for December and it would be great if you were able to join us at the following events:

 **Messy Christmas** – Sunday 1st December in the Glebe St Hall from 4-6pm

 **Family Film Afternoon –**Sunday 8th December - Mamma Mia from 2-4pm in the Glebe St Hall and

 **Family Advent Service** – Sunday 22nd December at 11am

**All are welcome – please do come and enjoy this fellowship.**

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

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and blessed New Year.

Iain(Youth & Families Worker)

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KIRK LIFE

Another year has gone by all too quickly and we hope you have received your Christmas Card. Our thanks to all who have contributed and a special thanks to Evelyn Brownlie for her work in organising the scheme.

Your support at our fund-raising events has been exemplary and hugely appreciated. Our sincerest thanks to all who helped in any way to make our events such a success. To the Kirk Life Team a special ‘thank you’ for all your help and hard work and support. You are the best!

FUTURE EVENTS:

Our next event is the Hogmanay Ceilidh on the 31st of December in the Glebe Street Hall at 9pm until 2020 appears.

Tickets are £5 for adults and children under 16 years are admitted free.

Everyone must have a ticket as there will be no admittance without one. This event is a BYOB.

BURNS SUPPER

Forms for the Burns Supper Tickets will be available from 8th December. The date for the Burns Supper is Saturday 8th February 2020.

Thank you.

Helen Stevenson - Kirk Life Convenor

 GRAVEYARD NEWS

Just for your information, South Lanarkshire Council continues to clear up the graveyard environs. There may be some evidence of grass, plant, bush and tree work but things are moving on a pace – well mostly!

Jean Craig

Scottish Country Dancing will finish on Tuesday 10th December and restart on Tuesday 14th January at 2p.m. in the Glebe Street hall.

Dorothy Cumming

LIFE AND WORK

Just a polite reminder that Life and Work Subscriptions are now overdue for payment and should be paid as soon as possible. Payment of £30.60 can be made by cash or cheque (payable to East Kilbride Old Parish Church) and given to myself or any member of the Door Duty Team.

 Norma Penman - Life and Work Co-ordinator.

 COMMUNITY LINK

Our Advent Reflection Service will be held on Thursday, 19th December at 12noon followed by a lunch of soup and sandwiches (and a few more surprises) in the hall at 12.30pm.

If there is any member who has difficulty with transport and would like to join us please telephone Norma on 01355 249343 and a lift will be arranged.

Norma Penman/Diana Ramsay Joint Convenors

 CLICK IT

Our classes have now stopped for the Christmas break, having been meeting every week since September. Although we had a good response to our open day, we have found our classes dwindling since then, as the weeks rolled on. We have, therefore, taken the decision to give Click-it a break for the spring session. Come September we will again hold our open day and see what kind of response we have and take further decision on our Autumn session from there.

 Beth Clark

 MEN’S ASSOCIATION

In December, we will have two meetings. On 9th December, our Guest Speaker will be Mr John Walker, and his subject will be “The Victoria Cross”. Then on 16th December, we will have a Quiz, the contents of which are a closely guarded secret. All are most welcome. We meet on these dates at 7.30pm in the Upper Hall at the Church Halls.

Already in this session we have enjoyed hearing from one of our own congregation – Mrs Val Walker – who spoke about her work as a Learning Centre Manager within the Prison Service. And we have recently donated £100 to the Bobby Moore Cancer Trust, in response to the address given by another of our speakers, Mr Kevin Smith.

Stewart Smith

CRAFT FAYRE

The Craft Fayre which ran on Saturday 26th October raised over £3000 for church funds. It was a great occasion and probably worth doing again.

Huge amounts of thanks go to the stall holders/teams and perhaps especially to the tearoom staff. It was quite excellent!

This organiser, however, bows out of running future events and hands it over to the church committees for future consideration.

Thank you to Ken Ross and to all of you who supported it!

David L. Kent - Craft Fayre Organiser

NEW CHAPLAIN AT THE LODGING HOUSE MISSION

The Lodging House Mission in East Campbell Street in Glasgow was the scene of a joyful night of celebration, when on Thursday 14th November, **Claire Herbert, DCS**, was ordained by the Presbytery of Glasgow and introduced as Chaplain to the Mission.

The LHM (not to be confused with Glasgow City Mission) is a Glasgow-based charity dedicated to providing care and support to people who are homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded. East Campbell Street is next to the Barras, just off Gallowgate, in the heart of the city.

Through the care of the staff and volunteers, and thanks to lots of support, people are given the opportunity to get their lives back on track by enabling them to develop new skills and feelings of self-worth. This is being done through providing a safe place with access to educational and recreational facilities, through providing food and warmth, access to showers, laundry, telephone, and internet. And also through the work of the Chaplaincy.

That work includes, amongst many other things, spending time with people, being there for them and with them, listening and caring. There is also a Church Service every Tuesday in the Mission, from 1.30 till 2.15 pm, and prayers are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 11.30am till 12 noon. Claire is well known to the people of the Old Parish, and we wish her God’s Blessing in all her work.

Stewart Smith



PASTORAL REGISTER

**Deaths:** “I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

 Christina Dunbar

 Margaret Stanton

 Margaret Duff

 Sandra Cossar

EKO SUBMISSION DATES

The deadlines for submitting material for the January edition of the EKO are:-

1) For hand/type written scripts - Sunday 22nd December

2) For electronic scripts - **Tuesday 24th December**

***Please note that the final day for submitting electronic scripts is not the usual Wednesday because it’s Christmas Day but the day before!***

Thank you. David Kent - Editor

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