



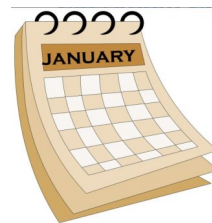
EKO

The Magazine
for
East Kilbride
Old Parish
Church

JANUARY 2022

EDITION 603

CHURCH CALENDAR



At the time of publishing, all our services will still be taking place in the church. We will always adopt the recommended safety instructions current at the time. Members attending the church should still be wearing face coverings, sanitise hands on entry and leaving the church and take proper distancing measures.

Remember that you will still need to book your place for each service by contacting the church secretary, Louise, either by email or by phone in order to comply with test, track and trace measures. Please take great care!

JANUARY

Sunday 2nd	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 9th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 16th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 23rd	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 30th	Morning Worship	11am

FEBRUARY

Sunday 6th	Sacrament of Communion	11am
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PASTORAL LETTER



For the second year now, we've faced a strange start to the New Year. Restrictions have meant that things are just a bit different from usual, and again we're wondering what the year will hold. How will the virus situation be? Will our families and friends be alright? Again, it's an uncertain start to the year.

I recently had a conversation with one of our young people who is studying engineering at university. We were talking about that phenomenon where we describe people as being "glass half full" people, or "glass half empty" people. What we mean is that people are either optimistic, looking at their glass of life and seeing it has half full, or people are pessimistic, looking at their glass of life and seeing it as half empty. This young person said, "Or you could be an engineer or say that you've got the wrong size of glass!"

This set me thinking because I sometimes wonder if our expectations of life are about filling a large glass, a glass where everything is perfect, from our material goods to our appearance to our relationships, to our achievements. When we look at our lives as they really are, we all fall short and so we have to decide if our glass is half full or half empty, for none of us tick all the boxes in the perfect life.

But what if we, as Christians, don't go along with the size of glass the world dictates. What if we choose a different glass and say that the standards by which the world measures success are not our standards? What if we say we will measure ourselves by a different size of glass, a glass that is full with the love of God revealed to us in Jesus his son? What if we don't measure ourselves in the world's terms, but in Godly terms?

As we enter this New Year which is full of uncertainties again, let us not enter it with our glasses either half full or half empty. Let us enter it with a glass full. For we have a glass full of the love of God. We have a glass full of the promises of Jesus. "I will never leave you nor forsake you," says the Lord.

I wish you all a happy and blessed New Year. *Anne Paton*

COVID CHRISTMAS

Looking back on pieces I've written for the magazine over the past year I've realised just how many times I've suggested that we've "turned the corner" or "we're just about out of it"....silly me ! Well here we go again with the prospect of another Christmas of mask-wearing, social distancing and hand sanitising....is this the new "normal" ??

We had our arrangements for our services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day all set up when yet more guidelines sent us back to the drawing-board and we hastily re-arranged things. Fortunately, one feature of our congregation that has been very evident over this year and the previous year, is our capacity to innovate and to quickly accept changes to our plans. By using Zoom and our Glebe Street hall we've been able to space out our services to make it easier to sanitise everything between services effectively. We have an experienced team of elders well-versed in managing the different mitigation measures to make services as safe as possible for our members and we will continue to cope with the ever-changing advice and requirements as we have for nearly two years now.

Even with this challenging background, the work of the Kirk Session has been continuing as we have turned our attention to the prospect of far-reaching national changes affecting our own congregation. I've indicated earlier that there will be a reduction of the number of ministers in East Kilbride and this will lead to new arrangements for our ministry. The Kirk Session recently spent some time considering the likely effects of this reduction and has now submitted to Presbytery details of our vision of how this reduction might affect the Old Parish. Most of our members will know something of the history of the different churches in the village and will be aware that the West Kirk came about after a dispute in 1791 about the appointment of

of a new minister with some members of the parish church congregation leaving to form a Relief Church only coming back to Church of Scotland in 1929. Our Kirk Session has the view that re-uniting with the West Kirk would be a sensible way to manage the reduction in minister numbers. We have started discussions about this with elders from the West Kirk but I'm sure members will realise that this will not be a quick process and that some very significant decisions such as ministry, buildings and finance will need to be faced. This will be a "long haul" !

Lastly, in this little piece, I would just like to remind our members of just how many people support the enormous range of activities that take place in and around our church. While some of the roles that people play are fairly visible, and folks can see the work they're doing, there are loads of people who just quietly work away in the background. Speaking personally, its only since I became Session Clerk that I've begun to get to know who actually sorts, arranges, changes, cleans, organises, tidies, prepares and manages the myriad of things that just "happen". To all of these volunteers faithfully working away on our behalf I express the most heartfelt appreciation and extend my wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmastime.

Alistair Walker - Session Clerk



THE BURNS SUPPER

Unfortunately the Burns Supper for next year has had to be cancelled
"AGAIN"

Hopefully we might be able to have it later on in the year all going well.

Also due to the fact that we haven't been able to have any functions we are requesting that we stop raffle prize donations in the mean time.

We would like to take this opportunity to give a big thank you to everyone who has contributed so far, it is much appreciated.

THE CHRISTMAS CARD

The amount raised for the Church from the Christmas Card, was £1217.20, after production costs.

The Kirk Life would like to thank all who contributed to the production of the Christmas Card.

Thank you

Ken Ross - Kirk Life Convener



LEPROSY MISSION SUNDAY

Following our normal pattern, we will observe World Leprosy Day on Sunday 30th January. Donations can be made on that day, or on any throughout February. Cheques should be made out to East Kilbride Old Parish Church, and marked for the Leprosy Mission on the back. These can be handed in to the Church on any of these Sundays.

Alternatively, cheques can be sent direct to Des Laverty, 36 Bourtree Road, Hamilton ML3 8PT. To arrange a bank transfer, please call Des on 01698 422638, and he will give you the necessary details.

As a Congregation, we have always given very strong support to the Leprosy Mission. In the light of the new surge in covid infections, we are experiencing again the sense of distance between each other which we had hoped was gone. That sense of distance and separation is something Leprosy sufferers live with all the time. By helping to banish Leprosy, we can help people to be reunited with their families, and enable them to find something of that fullness of life which Jesus came to bring.

MEN'S ASSOCIATION & CARPET BOWLS

The next meeting of the Association will be on Monday 17th January, when our Guest Speaker will be from the National Trust for Scotland. We meet in the Glebe Street Hall at 2pm.

The Carpet Bowling Club will resumes in the New Year on Monday 10th January, in the Glebe Street Hall at 2pm. These arrangements, of course, are dependent on future covid regulations.

Stewart Smith

THE PRAYER DIARY

Marilyn Ross will take phone calls, texts or e-mails from people wishing the prayer group to pray for someone. Marilyn's phone number is 07934256839 and her e-mail address is marilynross@hotmail.com.

JANUARY

1st. Lord, as we enter the new year, fill our hearts with joy, love and compassion.

2nd. Pray for the homeless, especially as winter comes in.

3rd. We give thanks for all those who served our country in whatever way, in all the conflicts, and pray that they will always be remembered.

4th. Give thanks that God is always with us.

5th. We pray that politicians make wise decisions.

6th. We pray for peace throughout the world.

7th. Lord, in this new year, renew our commitment and focus on your word and your direction for our lives.

8th. Without you Lord, I am aimless. Thank-you for your guidance and peace.

9th. Lord, we pray for wisdom for our politicians as we start a New Year.

10th. Lord, bring an end to violence of the wicked.

11th. Father, guide our thoughts words and actions, so that we walk your path of peace and love.

12th. Pray for strength for those who are starting the new year without those they love the most.

13th. Lord, we pray that all trying to escape their own countries receive compassion and understanding.

14th. Give me strength and understanding in all that I do.

15th. Lord, we ask that those who love you may feel secure.

16th. Father, thank you that you are our safe place and that we can shelter beneath your wings.

17th. Help me make every day one of purpose and meaning, Lord.

- 18th. Give thanks for prayers that have been answered.
- 19th. Lord, teach us to serve our neighbour and love others as you love us.
- 20th. Lord, great are your works.
- 21st. Lord, remind me that listening to others is time well spent.
- 22nd. I will keep my eyes always on the Lord.
- 23rd. Lord, make us responsible and move us towards behaviours that are environmentally healthy; help us to follow your lead in caring for the world you love.
- 24th. Lord, let today be a day I walk in faith.
- 25th. Forgive me for shutting my mind to the truth and closing my heart to love.
- 26th. Strengthen my ability to focus on the real priorities today.
- 27th. Thank you for providing a place where I can bring all my doubts and fears.
- 28th. Be with all those in need of compassion and comfort.
- 29th. Pray for common sense regarding the new strain of covid, that people will observe all rules.
- 30th. The Lord is with me, I will not be afraid.
- 31st. Thank-you for all the blessings in my life.



FEBRUARY

- 1st. Thank you, Lord, for your patience with me
- 2nd. You are with me today Lord and every day. Thank you.
- 3rd. Lord, we pray that the NHS receives the help it needs.
- 4th. Thank you, Lord, that when you lead no-one is trampled in the stampede.
- 5th. We pray for those caring for family at home.
- 6th. Give thanks for our Church and all who are working hard to keep it running.

UPDATE FROM IAIN SHAW

Sunday School

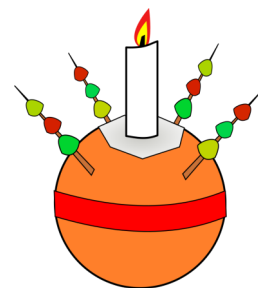
We had a very successful Christmas Party at which 17 children attended and we had fun, games, food and a visit from Santa. Thereafter we attended the Advent family service at which as well as taking part in the Nativity story we had some of the children and young people read the Bible lessons and light the advent candles during the service. It was also a great delight to witness Daisy, one of our new children, get baptised during the service. We then had a 2-week break and restarted on Sunday 9th January and we continue to meet every Sunday morning in the upper hall at 11am and all children and young people will be made most welcome. If you know of any child/children who would like to join us please invite them along.



The introduction of a new volunteer helpers rota will commence on 9th January. We managed to attract 10 people to get involved and many thanks to each of them. Based on that number working in 5 pairs, means that each pair will be on duty one Sunday in every 5 weeks – I am so very grateful to have this dedicated, wonderful group of people on board. This allows them to get involved in the Sunday School, working and engaging with our children whilst also having the opportunity to attend worship on a Sunday morning when they are not on duty. This new rota also allows all the leaders to be able to attend morning worship at least once a month.

I hope the congregation enjoyed looking at our window display in the Church during Advent which was a joint venture between the Sunday School & Art Group leaders and children entitled “Jesus is the light of the world”.

Christingle Family Service



Unfortunately, due to increased Government and Church of Scotland restrictions over the advent period we had to cancel the scheduled in-person Christingle service on Christmas Eve and move it to a virtual on-line zoom service instead just as we did last year. We got the names of the children and families who wanted to join us and thanks to Christine & Gordon Tweedie (who made up the Christingle bags) we delivered them to the families in time for the on-line service to allow them to make up their own Christingle following the instructions and words from Anne at the appropriate time during the service. We also had appropriate Christingle advent hymns and a few well known sing a long Christmas tunes as well. We also had a short guest appearance from Santa (well it was his busiest night of the year after all!).

It wasn't what we wanted but it worked well with around 20 families and 30 children taking part and it allowed us to engage with children, young people and families at this most special time of the year,

Art Group

We held our first art group Christmas party on Thursday 16th December at which 20 children attended. We had fun and games (both individually and in teams), challenges, arts, crafts, food and a visit from Santa. The group will then have a few weeks off and is scheduled to restart on Thursday 13th January 2022 from 4.30-6pm in our Glebe St Hall. All primary aged children will be made most welcome. If you know of any child (ren) who would like to join us please invite them along.



What maybe new for 2022?

If the current restrictions are eased sufficiently, I hope to restart our Monthly Messy Church sessions & Family Film afternoons as well as introducing a new monthly family games night, in person family quiz nights, a murder mystery evening and start a new youth group for P5 – P7 and if there is sufficient interest try to restart a secondary school aged youth group as well.

We also hope to arrange another summer holiday club and host the second Angus McConnell memorial football event in June at which we will invite another 7 churches to take part very similar to the successful event we held last year. Also in my thoughts are a family day trip during the summer holidays and a youth group or family fun action-packed activity weekend away to a Christian outdoor centre.

In closing can I thank all the leaders, volunteers & helpers who have assisted at any of our activities and events for children, young people and families over the past year - without you and your outstanding contribution none of the above would be possible. Thank you all very much indeed.

Thank you to everyone for all the tremendous encouragement and support I have received over the past year and I wish you all a very happy and peaceful New Year.

Iain (Youth & Families Worker)

mobile 07912 295943 / email iainshaw18@gmail.com



THE GUILD



We are hoping to start the next part of the session at 1.30pm on January 12th at 1.30pm in the Glebe Street Hall. The speaker will be Barbra Campbell from our own congregation who will talk about her experiences as a police officer.

On January 26th we hope to have a Burns Afternoon with songs from Elspeth Shearer, plus Burns' poems and community singing.

STAMPS

Please save your Xmas stamps and foreign stamps. Just leave them in the vestibule or give them to Mary Smith.



Mary Smith

COMMUNITY LINK

The Community Link Team is very, very grateful to all members of E.K.O.P. Church family who donated to 'Our Appeal' on Sunday 12th December 2021. The magnificent sum of £452 was raised and this will be split between First Stop Homeless Unit and Women's Aid.

Also we filled nine large bags with groceries that were donated by our wonderful congregation and they were taken to The Loaves and Fishes Food Bank and were very gratefully received. It was heart-breaking to see a queue of people outside this facility waiting in the pouring rain to be helped.

The Appeal for the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank will be ongoing with a box being placed at the entrance to the Church each Sunday for donations of non-perishable groceries.

Once again, a big, big thank you to you all.



Norma Penman/Diana Ramsay - Joint Convenors.

17TH EK BROWNIES & RAINBOWS

17th EK Rainbows & Brownies - what have we been up to!!

Over the last few months the girls have been busy working on badges, crafts and managing to squeeze in some fun.

The Brownies have been working on their Network Stage 2 Badge and undertook numerous challenges under the banner of Know Myself.

At this time of year we always plant hyacinth bulbs in time for Christmas. This year we had to do things a little differently. The planting took place at the hall but then the girls took the bulbs home to nurture them, so fingers crossed we see some flowers soon.

Sat 4th Dec - Cinema trip to see 'Encanto'

This was our big treat day. Rainbows, Brownies and Leaders all went to a special Guiding showing of this new Disney Movie. Despite having an early start 9.00am all the girls of every age had a fab time.

Christingle Service Tues 14th Dec - this was our final event for this term. There is nothing more magical than watching the children making their Christingle and putting light back into the world at its darkest time, more important than ever this year.

Church Window - the girls decorated one of the church windows. Our theme this year was 'It was on a starry night'. The girls wanted to do something about the world so the back panel is the world protected by their hands, starry sky and the earth lay sleeping is a quiet forest of hand made book trees, we hope you like it.

On behalf of the girls and leaders from all the 17th EK Guiding Units we wish you a peaceful and safe Christmas

Christine Tweedie Brown Owl





PASTORAL REGISTER

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

Marion Leddie
Sadie McMillan
Helen McLearn
Margaret Davie
May Craig



EKO SUBMISSIONS

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

The deadline for submitting all material for the February edition of the EKO is:

Wednesday 26th January

Thank you. *David Kent* - Editor

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



EAST KILBRIDE OLD PARISH CHURCH

In case of illness and bereavement, would the family please contact the minister immediately and directly.

Rev. Anne Paton will be available for consultation in the vestry after Sunday morning worship. Please arrange such consultation with the door duty team.

East Kilbride Old Parish Church, Church of Scotland, Scottish Charity—SC000609

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Pastoral Assistants:	Rev. Stewart Smith MA BD and Miss Sheena Bell	
Youth & Families Worker	Iain Shaw E-mail: iainshaw18@gmail.com	
Session Clerk	Mr Alistair Walker	
Treasurer	Mr Ronnie Niven	
Roll Keeper	Mr Robert Cossar	
Gift Aid	Mr Des Laverty	
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