

EKO

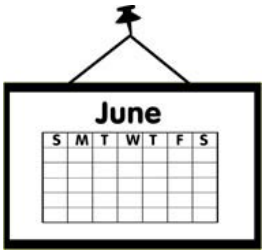
The Magazine for
East Kilbride
Old Parish Church



JUNE 2021

EDITION 596

CHURCH CALENDAR



Now that our services are firmly established back in the church, a list of services will be published in this magazine.

PLEASE REMEMBER that, in order to comply with 'track & trace' we have to know everyone attending so you will still have to book a place through Louise, our Church Secretary.

Either phone 01355 279004 or send an email to Louise at: ekopc.office@btconnect.com .

JUNE

Sunday 6th	Sacrament of Communion	11am
Sunday 13th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 20th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 27th	Morning Worship	11am

JULY

Sunday 4th	Morning Worship	11am
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Remember also, that all services will still be broadcast as before and are accessible via the church website from 10.55 each Sunday.

Church website: www.ekopc.org.uk



SLOWLY DOES IT!



There's a sense of optimism developing around us as restrictions continue to ease and we ever so slowly resume some of the social life we've been missing over the past year. Visiting friends and family, lunching out and even thinking about a holiday or short break are all back on our agenda at last.

The number of our members coming to Sunday services has gradually grown, and the recent relaxation of restrictions has increased the safe seating capacity in the church. This, together with permission to use the balcony, means that it's no longer necessary to use the Glebe Street hall on Sundays. There will be a Communion service on 6th June and that will be an appropriate date for everyone to be back in the church for Sunday services.

All other restrictions such as social distancing and wearing of face coverings are still with us so we will need to manage carefully the seating arrangements at services. This will include making full use of the additional seating now available in the balcony. This may mean sometimes that we have to ask members, who don't regularly choose the balcony, to take a seat upstairs to free up a seat downstairs. Hopefully, everyone will understand why we're doing this. We will try of course, to make sure that anyone who might find the stairs to the balcony difficult will have a seat downstairs. We will review this change in a few weeks time and take account of any comments that members might have.

The Kirk Session has continued to meet and deal with business throughout this pandemic with the majority of our elders participating via Zoom which has become so invaluable for all sorts of meetings over recent months.

Matters currently before Session include reviewing proposals for children and youth worship post-Covid and preparing proposals for a programme to celebrate the Sestercentennial or 250th anniversary of our church building.

Refurbishment and re-painting the Glebe Street hall was one of the early tasks undertaken last year when all our buildings entered a long closure period, so one other item of Session business at the moment is a review of the use of our halls and development of an updated hall letting policy.

We've all seen how some businesses have adapted to the restrictions on their normal business by developing new products or innovative ways of working. It's likely that some of the more successful of these changes will become part and parcel of business in the longer term. So it is with our church, and while many aspects of our church life will eventually return in much the same form as previously, others where the pandemic has been the catalyst for re-evaluating how we do things and for exploring new methods which have now proved their worth, will be retained and become part of our "new normal".

Alistair Walker

Session Clerk



**Slow and steady faith
always gets you to the finish**

PASTORAL LETTER



A couple of weeks ago, I went to get my eyes tested. It was long overdue, and I had got into the bad habit of using pound shop glasses which are so convenient as it's easy to have a pair in every handbag and drawer, so no need to search for glasses. I am now the proud owner of two new pairs of glasses, one for reading and the other for distance. What a difference in the way I see the world! No more blurred images and holding pages at arm's length to be able to read them. The world has come into focus.

This new way of seeing the world reminded me of the words of St Teresa of Avila. She said,

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassionately on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body."

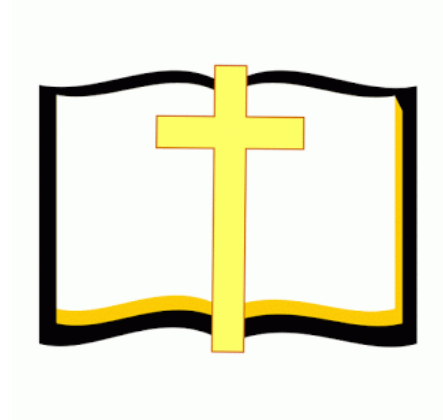
As I pondered these words, I wonder if we truly look out on the world with the eyes of Jesus and see what he would see.

Just as we can physically have blurred vision, do we sometimes have blurred vision when we see others in need? Just as we can have blind spots in our seeing, are there things around us which we choose not to see? What does it really mean for us to be the eyes of Jesus through which he looks compassion on this world? Being able to have my eyes tested and new glasses, has also reminded me that we are the lucky ones in our world who have access

to that kind of healthcare. So, to all of our glasses wearers out there, and to those of you who maybe don't need glasses yet, let us give thanks, and pledge ourselves to indeed see the world as Jesus does, and act accordingly.

Yours in love,

Anne Paton



EKO Through the Summer

It is intended that the EKO will be published through the summer months. So, if you have any material, appropriate to the church local and universal, then please send it to me for inclusion.

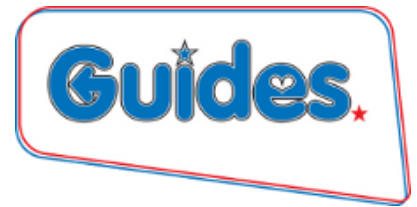
Thank you!

David Kent—Editor

davidkent28@virginmedia.com OR

phone 07890262267 OR 01355 237275





As the summer break approaches, I thought I would share some of the activities the Guides have been up to since April. The Guides have worked hard on the Whittling, Recycling & Aspirations Interest badges.

They learned about shadow puppetry & the role of Foley Artists. They had fun making a shadow puppet theatre & puppets from recycled materials then using these to retell the story of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' with their amazing home made sound effects.

The Guides got stuck in with the "Can't believe its butter" unit meeting activity. They had so much fun and even more fun tasting it! After a lot of shaking, accompanied by a bit of a boogie to some songs, they managed to transform whipping cream into butter. All the girls loved the taste of the homemade butter and got a chance to learn about the chemistry behind butter making.

The girls enjoyed planting sunflower seeds (we are having a unit competition to see who can grow the tallest): our thanks go to Morrisons in Lindsayfield who kindly supplied the seeds, pots & compost all free of charge. The girls are hoping the tomatoes they planted in recycled juice cartons grow.

Our budding artists had a lively session with Illustrator Liz Million learning how to draw a Snow Leopard, Lion, a Yeti and a Donkey. The Navy led a zoom session called "Lost at Sea" where we had to prioritise 15 items in order of importance for rescue and survival – this certainly led to a

thought-provoking discussion!

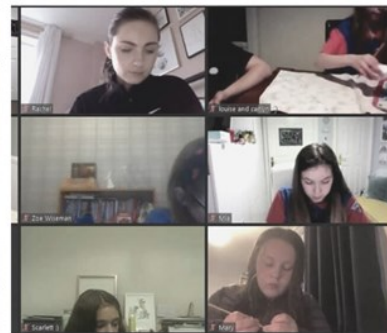
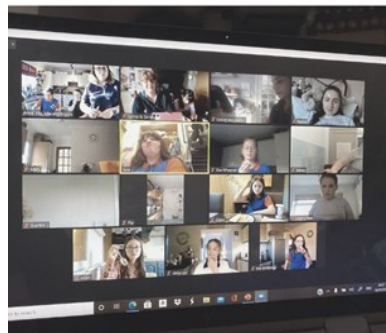
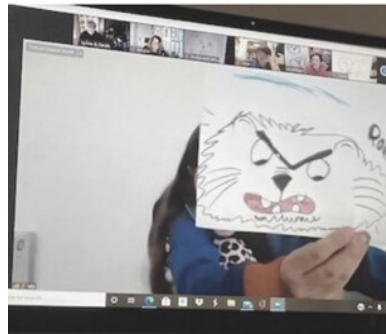
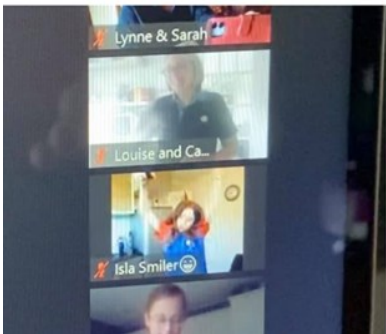
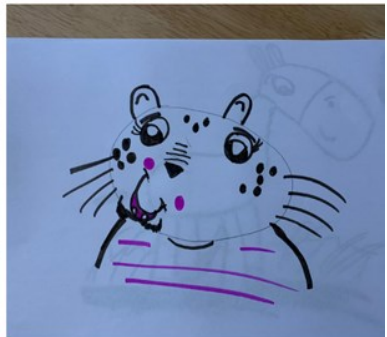
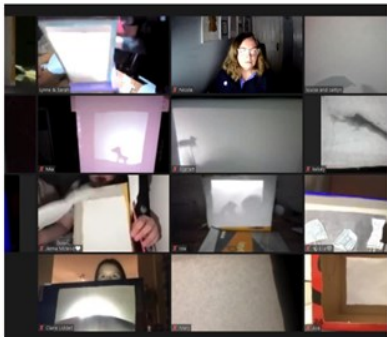
You may remember last month we mentioned that one of our Guides had succeeded in reaching the initial part of Girlguiding Scotland's International Community Experience (ICE)? Since then, Ella has undertaken part 1 of her ICE Adventure, she writes:

"I have recently been invited to participate in ICE (International Community Experience) this year through guides. I had such great fun and had a new experience all together. This year because of COVID it was over zoom but there was still a lot to do. I learned new things like how to build a Swiss chalet out of lollipop sticks, what girlguiding is really all about and different things I could do to help out in my community. I'm so glad I got this opportunity."

At the time of writing this article we are putting plans in place to hold our first face to face meeting in 15 months, outdoors in Plathorn Park (just down from St Brides Church) - weather permitting, for an end of term picnic, badge award ceremony & celebration of their achievements. We can't wait!

Wishing everyone a wonderful, sunny, restful summer!

Lynne, Louise, Nicola, Rachel & all the Guides



FINANCE UPDATE

I would start by expressing our heartfelt thanks to all who have continued with their offerings and donations in the past few difficult months. It is very heartening to see the level of givings for the Leprosy and Christian Aid campaigns surpassing the previous years' levels.

Our levels of Gift Aid donations have in general been maintained especially through the Standing order system which is by far the easiest and most efficient way of regular giving, especially when attendance at Church has been curtailed for so long.

It is worthy of note however that offerings at the church door, the Plate and WFO are understandably well down from previous years and given the fact that our necessary and recurring expenditure has remained the same and in fact increased due to Covid control requirements we must reluctantly appeal to the congregation to assess their level of givings once more and where at all possible increase their regular offerings either by Gift Aided standing orders or one off donations or top up ad hoc donations when the opportunity arises.

Cheques made payable to EKOP and envelopes can still be sent to me at my home address where attendance at church is not possible. Gift Aid Forms and Bank Standing Order forms can be supplied on request and we have Contactless and Bank card facilities at the Church door should anyone attending church wish to contribute in that way.

It is crucial to maintain your Church buildings and maintain our presence in the church community locally and nationally and offer and give help where in these very difficult days, the need is obvious.

Regards and thanks once more to all

Des Laverty



Christian Aid Week 2021



The results of this year's Christian Aid Week appeals have been quite remarkable. Last year, as the lock-down began, leaving us all very much at a loss, our response to the Week was limited. This year also, the feeling remained that the House-to-House Collection was not possible. Instead, two main approaches were taken.

The first was the Appeal to the Congregation. Some envelopes were available, a display put into the windows at the Church lounge, and people sent in their cheques and donations to Des Laverty, our Gift Aid Convener. The second was the 80 Lap Loch Walk undertaken by Jim Gray and myself, with donations being made directly to Christian Aid via a Just Giving Page.

The results are given here, with figures from 2019 beside them in comparison. 2019 was the last year we carried out our normal Christian Aid Week programme.

Congregation's donations	£1,425	(2019	£ 736)
Loch Walk	£2,683	(2019 House-to-House.....	£2,753)
Totals.....	£4,108	(2019.....	£3,489)

In 2019, of course, we had the Thursday Coffee Morning's total (£241) and a full year of the Christian Aid Boxes being returned (£604), **giving an overall total for 2019 of £4,335.**

This year, as last, there have been no Coffee Mornings. And from June last year till January this year, no Christian Aid Boxes were returned, since services in the Church building were not being held. However, since the turn of the year, Boxes have been returned, producing a total so far of £317. **That means our grand total for Christian Aid Week this year is £4,425.**

There will also be a considerable amount of Gift Aid to be recovered and that figure will be added in due course. This year's experience has been astonishing and has opened up new possibilities. Some time soon, we'll start thinking about plans for Christian Aid Week '22! In the meantime - well done, the whole Congregation and deepest thanks to all who have given

such warm and generous support. *Stewart Smith*

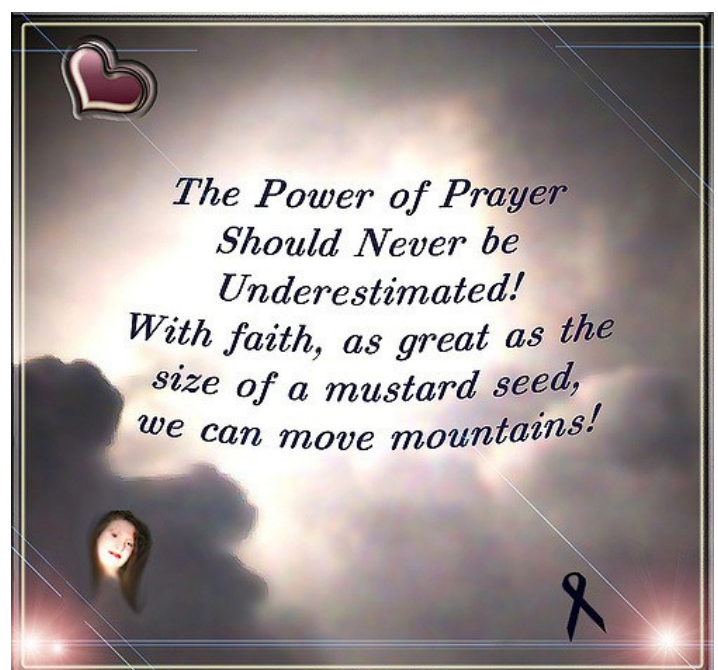
PRAYER DIARY

The prayer group continue to take your requests to our heavenly father. text requests to 07443503142 or e mail marionleddie@gmail.com

DIARY

- 1st. God of love, thank you for the signs of light, hope and love in the midst of darkness.
- 2nd. Lord, help us to be faithful in prayer and be strong in faith.
- 3rd. Shining stars in the galaxies reflect the power of God's glory.
- 4th. Please hasten the day that we can worship as we did and sing your praises.
- 5th. Give thanks that the abbey on Iona will be reopened this month after a major refurbishment and pray that it may continue to be a sanctuary and a light.
- 6th. Lord enlighten my mind with truth, inflame my heart with love and inspire me with courage.
- 7th. Pray for the young people leaving school and not knowing what they want to do, that the way forward for them may become clearer in the coming months.
- 8th. Father, may we be signs of compassion in the heart of your world.
- 9th. Lord, thank you for being the unseen guest in my home.
- 10th. Father, we pray for those living in areas of conflict.
- 11th. We give thanks for our families and all the good people in our lives.
- 12th. Pray for tolerance and understanding for those who are different to ourselves.
- 13th. I praise you for the light of dawn as I arise this day and share this day with you.
- 14th. Hold before God all known and dear to us who are going through a time of adversity, that God's Holy Spirit will uphold them.
- 15th. A flashing shining light from a beacon in a lighthouse revealing danger in the darkness is God's awesome power to protect us.
- 16th. Thank you for your continued love and support to keep me following your path.
- 17th. Help me to walk by your truth and not by my feelings, and to embrace anything that comes my way as an opportunity to see you at work.

- 18th. God of mercy, shower upon all the people of the Holy Land the spirit of justice and reconciliation.
- 19th. Praise God for the loveliness we can see all around us here in East Kilbride and the surrounding areas -in parks and gardens, in fields and woods, in the countryside, as spring flourishes and moves into summer.
- 20th. Thank you for walking beside me Lord, guiding me in what I say and do.
- 21st. May the Holy Spirit comfort and strengthen all of your children who are suffering through illness.
- 22nd. Lord, thank you for those who care about others.
- 23rd. Pray for the Government as they cope with the on-going covid situation.
- 24th. Give thanks for the warm support given to the work of Christian Aid through all appeals during Christian Aid week and pray these gifts may make a real difference to the lives of many people.
- 25th. Lord, let our children see your glory at work.
- 26th. We pray that everyone will follow the restrictions in place to prevent another lockdown.
- 27th. Lord, keep me looking forward in faith.
- 28th. We pray for all in India as they struggle with the virus.
- 29th. Lord, let us see your miracles.
- 30th. Be still and know that I am God.



UPDATE FROM IAIN SHAW

The restrictions continue to be easing and by the time you read this magazine we should be in Level 1 and then at the end of June easing further to level 0. Even in Level 0 we will need to adhere to some restrictions but not anything like what we have been experiencing up to now. This will hopefully mean that very soon Church life will be able to resume again albeit subject to some restrictions and possible changes.

What have we been up to during May?

We held our 6th monthly Sunday School Family Quiz night which attracted 8 teams made up of 28 individuals – a great effort. The theme for the evening was music and all the team names had to contain the name of a band or some musical related item. The winning team was Millie Vanilli (**The Ashelby family**) captained by Millie, runners up were the Rapping Wilson's (The Wilson family) captained by Charlotte and we had a tie for 3rd place between Runrig (The Cowan Family) captained by Jill and the Pretenders (The Forbes Family) captained by Craig. Although not in the top 3 the most original team name on the night was from the Parry family (captained jointly by Sophie & Max) – Parry Ari Grande. As always, the emphasis of these events is on fun and fellowship with the taking part much more important than the winning – believe that and you will believe anything – the quizzes are very competitive but hugely enjoyable. Our next family quiz night is scheduled for Saturday 12^h June at 7pm.

Our weekly virtual on-line Messy Church sessions on a Sunday morning continue with a mixture of fun, games, a time to share & chat, puzzles, quizzes,

go & fetch, music, keep fit, music as well as arts & crafts, Bible teaching and prayer. We have been providing this on-line version which is a mix between Sunday School & Messy Church for around 15 months now and my sincere thanks must go to all the children, young people and families together with all the leaders who have faithfully joined us every or most Sunday mornings – their commitment is unquestionable and a simple thank you seems so inadequate but please be assured it is heartfelt.

Finally, a brief word on other events which we are in the process of finalising that will take place over the next few months in June, July & August.

In June we will host an inter church and community football tournament in memory of Angus McConnell this will take place on Sunday 13th June from 2-4pm on the Angus McConnell memorial pitch at Kirktonholme with 6-8 teams made up of primary school aged children representing churches within our Presbytery and also our close neighbouring churches. Come along and watch the children enjoying playing football.

In July we have our first holiday club which is a sports based outdoor event for 5 mornings (10-12am) from Monday 5th – Friday 9th July in Kirktonholme Park. At the time of writing, I have been overwhelmed with both the number of volunteer helpers from within the congregation as well as the number of children who have already registered to attend which includes many new children and families which is so positive and encouraging.

During the school summer holidays we hope to start a brand-new family art group which has been made possible with a wonderful grant from East Mains Community Council – this will be held on a weekly basis somewhere within the church halls with the exact day, time and venue still to be decided.

In August we have our second holiday club which is a more traditional

indoor (arts & crafts, music, games, challenges & worship) event in the Church halls based on the "I Am" sayings of Jesus again for 5 mornings (10-12am) from Monday 9th – Friday 13th August. Again, at the time of writing, I have been overwhelmed with the number of children and new families who have already registered to attend.

There are posters elsewhere in this magazine which provide a bit more information on all of these events. Please spread the word to family, friends and neighbours on all our activities for children, young people and families and encourage them to come along.

Please keep all the work we currently do and have planned over the next few months with our children, young people and families in your thoughts and prayers and please pray hard for a dry (and sunny) week for our first holiday club at the beginning of July.

Thank you all for your continued prayers, support and encouragement. I really value and appreciate them.

In closing I pray that you will all stay safe, healthy and continue to be kind and look after one another.

Iain (Youth & Families Worker) mobile 07912 295943 / email iain-shaw18@gmail.com

**** NEW FAMILY ART GROUP ****
STARTING during school SUMMER
holidays in Glebe St Church Hall
DAY & TIME will be announced soon.



East Kilbride Old Parish Church host
an Interchurch & Community (7 a-side)
FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT
IN MEMORY OF ANGUS McCONNELL
Kirtonholme Pitches – All welcome
on Sunday 13th June from 2-4pm



EK Old Parish Church Holiday Club (1)
OLYMPICS & SPORTS WEEK
In Kirtonholme Park (P1-S1)
Monday 5th - Friday 9th July (10-12am)
 Please return your completed registration
 form asap.



EKOPC SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB (2)
**** CONNECT 5 ****

In: EKOPC Church Hall(s) for P1-S1
9th – 13th AUGUST (10-12am)
 Please return your completed registration
 form asap.



Words Of Wisdom from Winnie The Pooh

**Don't walk BEHIND me,
 I may not lead,
 Don't walk in FRONT of me,
 I may not follow,
 Just walk BESIDE me,
 And be my friend.**





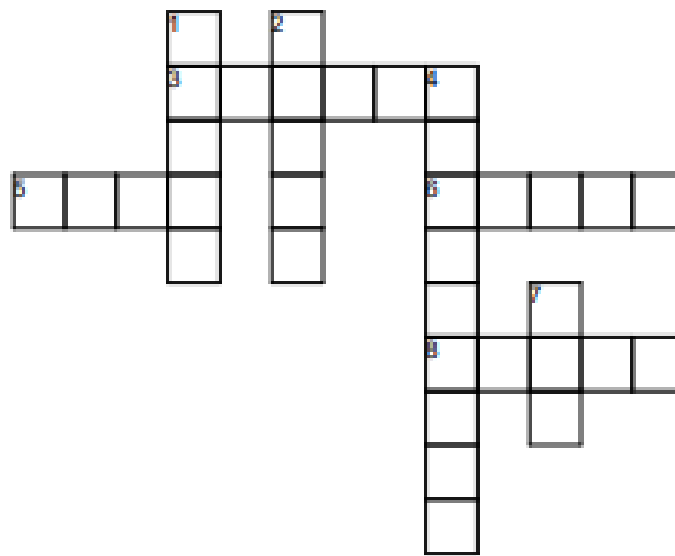
Crossword Puzzle

Jesus Calms the Storm

When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Mark 4:39 (NLT)



The puzzle is based on Mark 4:35-41



HORIZONTAL

- 3. To have a feeling of fear
- 5. A relatively small craft which travels on water
- 6. A violent weather condition with strong winds and heavy rain
- 8. To be calm, without much activity

VERTICAL

- 1. A high degree of trust or confidence in someone
- 2. To die by being under water and unable to breathe
- 4. The original followers of Jesus
- 7. A period of twenty-four hours

FAITH
STORM

PEACE
AFRAID

DISCIPLES
DROWN

DAY
BOAT

PASTORAL REGISTER

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

Mr Ian Riddick

Mrs Jo MacKay

Mr James Bias



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 July edition of the EKO is:

Wednesday 23rd June

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

Minister Rev. Anne Paton BA BD Tel. 01355 220732
 40 Maxwell Drive. G74 4HJ Mobile 07912295940
 E-mail address: apaton@churchofscotland.org.uk

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

Church Secretary Louise Reilly (Hall Letting)
 Church Halls, 3—5 Montgomery St. Tel. 279004
 Glebe Street Hall

Church Office E-mail Address: ekopc.office@btconnect.com

Organist Mr Colin Thomas

**Publications
Convenor** Janice Gourlay

Magazine Editor David Kent, 18 Glen Lyon G74 2JJ
 davidkent28@virginmedia.com

E-mail copies of June's EKO magazine are available from:-

ekopcmagazine@gmail.com

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