

EKO

The Magazine for
East Kilbride
Old Parish Church



MAY 2021

EDITION 595

Take Your Seat!



The church has now been open again for a few weeks and members have started to come back to Sunday worship. Numbers are still quite modest, and we've not had any problem seating everyone wishing to come to a service, either in the church or the Glebe Street hall. Perhaps as more of us get our vaccinations and the weather gets a bit warmer more people might have the confidence to return to church.

Within the past couple of weeks there has been a slight relaxation of the rules for church services in that the limit of 50 worshippers has been discontinued, and from May onwards attendances will be limited only by the available space within the church. All the other restrictions however, including 2 metre social distancing, remain in place, so while our capacity will increase slightly, the change won't make any great difference in our case and guidelines for requesting a space will continue to be necessary pending more substantial relaxation of the rules.



We've given some thought to the fairest way to accommodate worshippers so until the rules relax even further, we plan to manage requests based on the following guidelines -

- Preference for seating in the church will be given to members who have not been to church recently; this may mean that some regular attenders will occasionally be allocated seats in the hall;

- To comply with Track & Trace, members are still required to give advance notice of a request to come to a service; information about “family groups” will be very helpful, especially with seating arrangements for Communion services;
- Members will be able to request to be added to the list for successive Sundays avoiding the necessity of contacting the church office early every week, but the office will need to be updated if anyone is not coming to a particular service as this then releases a seat for someone else;
- The list for church services will have a small number of seats unallocated to give the Duty Team discretion to accommodate members who may be unfamiliar with the requirement to give notice, or visitors perhaps on holiday or ex-members who have moved away;

The seating lists for services will be finalised around midday each Friday. Louise will **email** or **text** members to advise if they have a place at the Sunday service and whether in the church or hall. Members receiving emails might want to check their Junk or Spam folders if the message doesn't appear in their Inbox.

We now have a regular Duty Team, familiar with all the hygiene requirements, each Sunday at the church and hall and members should find this reassuring. We hope the arrangements we've developed doesn't look too bureaucratic or complicated, but the aim is to give everyone a fair opportunity of participating in a church service over the coming weeks and months.

Alistair Walker - Session Clerk

Pastoral Letter



On Easter Sunday, it was the 20th anniversary of my ordination and induction as minister of East Kilbride Old Parish Church. I was both surprised and touched when the zoom Sunday School marked the event with a speech from one of the children, and the gift of a specially designed stone and a box of cupcakes. When I arrived in church, I discovered that the vestry had been specially decorated, and there were gifts of a beautiful certificate, a basket of flowers and a very generous gift. Thank you everyone for the lovely personal messages I have received.

These are interesting times for the church both nationally and locally. We have learned so much about engaging with both our members and community in this last year, and together we are trying to discern the future shape of our church. Later this month the General Assembly will meet and make what could be difficult decisions for the future of the church.

These challenges are not new to our generation. In an article in Life and Work magazine, former moderator, Albert Bogle writes about one of the vows taken on ordination. It sticks in every minister's mind because the answer to the question is not "I do" but "they are." *"Are not zeal for the glory of God, love of the Lord Jesus Christ and a desire for the salvation of all, so far as you know your own heart, your great motives and chief inducements to enter into the office of the holy ministry?"* The archaic language reminds us of just how many people have answered "they are" to that question.

As we come out of the restrictions and reshape what church looks like both nationally and locally, we are going to need that zeal. We are going to have to put our hands to the plough and not look back, but instead rekindle that zeal in one another as we step out in faith. In the words of Albert Bogle, "*We should stop talking about a "dying church" and instead speak of a living Saviour.*" I am confident that in East Kilbride Old, we are stepping into the future with confidence, speaking of our living Saviour.

Yours in love,

Anne Paton



17th EK GUIDES

The Guides have had a jam packed few weeks enjoying the 'Know Myself' programme activities, working on the Be Prepared badge, increasing their unit meeting activity hours, getting to know our new girls, and planning their virtual sleepover. Two of our Guides, Mia & Anna, organised and ran our Easter themed meeting: we had great fun taking part in the Easter egg hunt, playing their games but the highlight of the night was the virtual Duck race – who would have thought you could have so much fun and laughter 'cheering on' your duck!

The Guides requested a virtual sleepover so who were we to refuse? They chose a pamper theme and lots of activities including den building, making lava lamps, bath bombs, face masks, sugar scrubs, nail & feet soaks, and creating their own relaxing music. One of our Guides Caitlyn explains more:-

"On Saturday 10th April I took part in my first virtual sleepover with the Guides. It was really fun. The leaders gave us activities and we did a zoom call at the start and at the end. We did a zoom call on the Saturday evening, on the call we learned relaxation techniques, played bingo & other games and Laughing Lyn from Laughter Fit Cumbria joined us and we had some fun, everyone enjoyed it. Sunday on our zoom meeting, we made lemonade scones together and finished off with our County Commissioner, Greer, joining us, and the new Guides made their Promise (including me). I really enjoyed making mocktails and towel bunnies. "

One of our Guides, Ella has succeeded in reaching Stage 1 of Girlguiding Scotland's International Community Experience (ICE) which is being held

virtually this year. ICE is a three-stage project designed to give girls the opportunity to increase their global awareness, take part in community action work, and introduce them to international adventures! Well done Ella, we hope you enjoy this experience.

Lynne, Louise, Nicola, Rachel & all the Guides



Rev Walter Reid MA

60 years ago this month saw the induction of the Reverend Walter M Reid MA as minister of East Kilbride Old Parish Church, as successor to the Reverend T K Johnstone. A Social Meeting of the congregation was held in the Public Hall (now the Village Theatre) chaired by the Reverend John Logan of the West Kirk to welcome Mr Reid to the Church on 17th May 1961.



Walter Milne Reid was born in Glasgow in 1911. He was educated at Hutcheson's Boys Grammar School before going on to Glasgow University and Trinity College, graduating in 1932. He became the junior assistant in Springburn, then went to Battlefield East as assistant to the Reverend Dr George Dryburgh. His first charge was the Abbey Church in Dunbar where he stayed for five years before moving to Strathpeffer in Ross and Cromarty. While he was there, the minister of the neighbouring Fodderty Church retired and Mr Reid was asked to take on the linked charge of both churches. Five years later he moved to Crieff South Church where he stayed for nine years. During WW11 he was the supervisor for Huts and Canteens in East Lothian and Berwickshire, and he also did a vast amount of work with the canteen service in Yorkshire.

Following his induction to East Kilbride, he became active in Presbytery, serving on the Home Mission and Superintendence Committees. He was also greatly involved with the Mission to Lepers as chairman of the West of Scotland Committee, vice chair of Scottish Council and a member of the London

Council. He oversaw the massive increase of members of our Church, as the New Town grew rapidly in size. He also oversaw the introduction of the EKO and the building of the Glebe Street Hall. Members of Session and their wives (no lady elders in these days) paid tribute to him on the occasion of the semi-jubilee of his ministry at a dinner held in the Torrance Hotel on 26th February 1963.

1974 saw the bi-centenary celebration of our Church, but sadly Mr Reid died on 29th May that year at the age of 62. His last public appearance was at the Anniversary Assembly to commemorate the bi-centenary on 13th March, which was held in the Ballerup Hall. A funeral service was held in the church on Saturday 1st June conducted by the Reverend J Lang, Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery together with the Very Reverend Andrew Herron, Clerk of the Presbytery. After a service at Strathpeffer the following week, the cortege moved to Fodderty Cemetery. On the following Sunday 9th June a Memorial Service was held in our Church when the service was conducted by the Reverend Dr John L Kent (father of our editor).

Charlie Devennie

Video Clips Needed!

Have you any video clips which are scenic with no people in them? And no trains!! We have need of a wider variety to use with the services.

If you do have any, please send your details to the church office either by email: ekopc.office@btconnect.com or leave a message on the phone 01355 279004 and someone will arrange with you to get the video clips.

Thank you! *Austin Hepburn*



Christian Aid Week 2021



Christian Aid Week this year is from Monday 10th to Sunday 16th May. The start of the Week will be the focus of the Church Service on Sunday 9th May. Posters should be available to put up in the Lounge windows and 50 copies of a devotional booklet will be distributed to members of the congregation.

Members Donations: There will be no House-to-House Collection, due to COVID. Members of the Congregation instead are invited to contribute by sending a donation to Des Laverty. Cheques should be made out to East Kilbride Old Parish Church and marked Christian Aid Week on the back. For a bank transfer, please contact Des who will make the necessary arrangements. Des' contact details are:- Des Laverty, 36 Bourtree Road, Hamilton ML3 8PT. Mob: 07402192610. Des is at the Church service each Sunday and donations can also be given to him there.

80 Lap Loch Walk. In addition, Stewart Smith and Jim Gray, both of whom turned 80 recently, are planning to do an 80 Lap Walk round the Heritage Park Loch. The Walk will begin on 1st May and finish on 16th May, the last day of CA Week. They aim to walk 5 circuits per day, whatever the weather.



A Just Giving Page has been set up at:-

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/80LapLochWalk

Members of the Congregation are invited to circulate the Walk details among family, friends, contacts etc, thereby encouraging support for Christian Aid from beyond the bounds of the Congregation.

The idea of walking round the loch has to do with the theme of this year's Christian Aid Week. The focus is on rural areas of Kenya, where due to

climate change people are suffering as a result of drought. Women are building earth-dams, to collect what rainwater there is. There is also the added reminder that women often have to walk long distances every day to collect water for their families.

Christian Aid Boxes. If people have CA boxes at home, these can be returned on a Sunday, when people come to a service. Or they can be picked up from home. Please call Stewart or Mary Smith on 226718.

Climate Change. In November, COP26 is due to take place in Glasgow. COP stands for "Conference of Parties" – that is, the countries which signed the UN Climate Change accord in 1994. This is the 26th such conference. Climate Change and Climate Justice are central issues which Christian Aid is addressing, along with governments and agencies world-wide. Our own 'C of S' is participating through Eco-Congregation Scotland. Personal life-style choices are also important. If anyone would like to check their own Carbon Footprint, here is an address to go to:-

www.carbonindependent.org

This calculator is simple to complete and will give an idea of our own CO2 emissions, and perhaps help us to make our own changes.

Stewart Smith



Prayer Diary

The prayer group continue to take your prayer requests to our Father in heaven. Send requests by text to 07443503142 or email to marionled-die@gmail.com

Never doubt the power of prayer. Marion Leddie.

- 1st. Thank you, Lord, for all things bright and beautiful and all creatures great and small.
- 2nd. Create in me a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit within me.
- 3rd. Lord Jesus Christ, light of this world, thank you for the hope you have given us.
- 4th. Pray for safety as restrictions ease and that common sense will be used.
- 5th. We give thanks for the beautiful country we live in.
- 6th. We pray that everyone eligible will exercise their vote in the election for the Scottish Parliament.
- 7th. Thank you, Father, for your peace in times of need.
- 8th. Father, we pray for governments and health authorities around the world that they take appropriate steps for the good of their people.
- 9th. Give thanks that we are now able to worship in church and for all who are helping to make this possible.
- 10th. At the start of Christian Aid Week, give thanks for the work of Christian Aid and pray that the Week will be well supported both through the church and community.
- 11th. Praise God the Maker, for the wonders of creation - starlight, for example or birdsong, or the amazing greenness of freshly opened leaves on trees and praise God the Maker also for the wonder that there is any creation at all.
- 12th. Thanks for the victory we experience in church and his finished work; may it sustain us and bring us great joy every day.

- 13th. Pray for God's help to always be strong and have faith even in the most difficult times.
- 14th. Father God, may our eyes never fail to uphold your goodness and love.
- 15th. Creator God, help us to daily make time to read your word and for listen to your voice
- 16th. We give thanks for all the hard work done among the nations during the covid 19 outbreak.
- 17th. Father give us courage to reach out to those in pain.
- 18th. Pray that we may all try to keep on caring for our world-and be prepared to face whatever it costs to keep our planet safe for generations to come.
- 19th. Thank you, Father, for helping me to cope with any problems which may arise in each day.
- 20th. Lord, your hand will lead me, your light will show me the way and thank you for being my guide today.
- 21st. Lord, we pray for those who need ongoing medical treatment and are forced to wait at this time.
- 22nd. Thank you, Father, for your blessings, guidance and strength and for always giving us courage to keep going in difficult times.
- 23rd. On Pentecost Sunday, pray that the Holy Spirit may continue to guide the church universal and empower her to share God's love in Christ.
- 24th. Lord, we pray for world peace and goodwill among nations.
- 25th. Hold before our Lord, people who live alone that he would give them comfort and understanding.
- 26th. Hear my cry for mercy as I call for your help and guidance.
- 27th. Pray for our church family in all their different circumstances.
- 28th. Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that you and I can't handle together.
- 29th. Thank you for your scriptures that comfort us and remind us of your promises.
- 30th. Lord, you are so patient with us, help us to be patient with one another.
- 31st. Father we remember all those who are less fortunate than us.



Update from Iain Shaw

As I write the easing of restrictions is ramping up and hopefully very soon Church life as we know it will be able to resume again.

What have we been up to during April? Well, we held our 5th monthly Sunday School Family Quiz night which attracted 8 teams made up of 26 individuals – a great effort. The theme for the evening was food and all the team names had to contain a food related item. The winning team for was **The Peanutter's (The Ashelby family) captained by Millie**, runners up were the Perfect Pizza's (The McPaiké family) captained by Kaja and we had a tie for 3rd place between last month's winners The Wilson family (The Drizzly Donuts) captained by Charlotte and the Crazy Carrots (The Madden Family) captained by Jessica. 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 8th May at 7pm.

When the schools restarted after the Easter holidays our midweek Fling sessions ended. In total we had 15 midweek sessions which provided those who joined with the opportunity for a time to chill, meet and share news & gossip with their friends as well as having a lot of fun playing simple games, the Yes / No game was a particular favourite and one in which the young people excelled and always defeated the adults albeit with a little help from our resident question master & score keeper who shall remain anonymous!! We also undertook numerous art and craft projects, listened to music and watched short video clips. Thank you to all the adult leaders who gave up their time and considerable talent to help and encourage our children and young

people & thanks also to the children and families who joined us every week in this successful new venture.

Our weekly virtual on-line sessions on a Sunday morning continue with a mixture of fun, games, a time to 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 over a year now.

A successful Easter QR code trail in the Village area retelling the Easter story took place during Holy Week finishing on Easter Sunday in which people had to find 10 posters with Easter Eggs on them as well as a QR code which when scanned told them a part of the Easter story. During the morning service on Easter Sunday, 12 children and young people took part, albeit virtually, in the morning service recreating the story from Palm Sunday to Easter Day via a mix of drama & words. All the children and young people did really well and I hope you enjoyed watching and listening to their short video clips.

Finally, I am in the process of finalising not 1 but 2 Summer holiday clubs both running from Monday – Friday (inclusive) from 10-12am each day - one at the beginning of the holidays in early July (with an Olympic games / sports theme and is intended to be an outdoors event weather permitting!) and the other at the end of the holidays towards the end of August (more an indoor event with an arts & crafts theme). There are posters elsewhere in this magazine which provide the current provisional dates and more information on both of these clubs. The dates are currently still provisional because at the time of writing, neither the Scottish Government or Church of Scotland had given permission to allow such in person gatherings to take place. I am hopeful that the dates proposed will be the actual dates particularly as the restrictions are being relaxed.

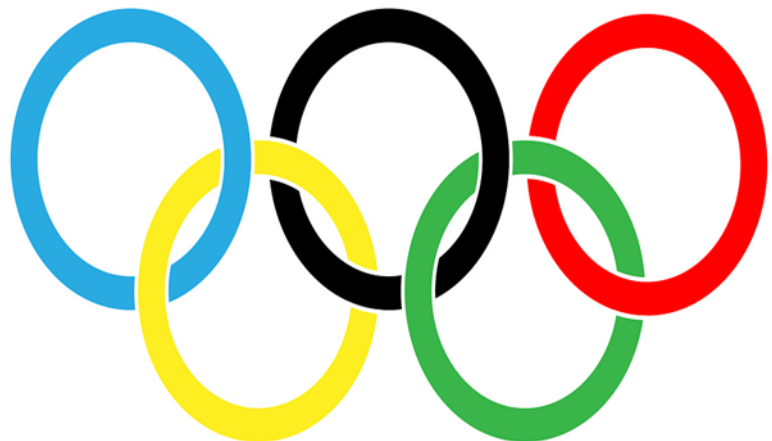
I will require help to run these events and if you feel you could offer your services even for a day or two that would be great - the whole week would be awesome! You can of course volunteer to help out at both! There are a multitude of roles and tasks from making juice, serving snacks, to running sessions, to helping the children with their activities, registration, technical assistance or just being there able to chat, listen and engage with the children in fact I am sure there is a role for everyone. In the meantime, if you feel called to help, please let me know. A full briefing meeting will be called to provide further information and details very soon.

Thank you all for your continued prayers, support and encouragement. I really appreciate and value 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 iainshaw18@gmail.com



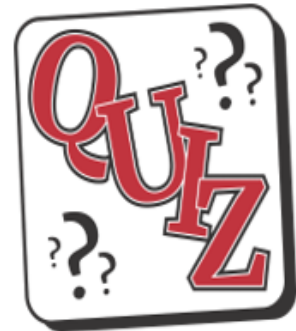
East Kilbride Old Parish Church
SUMMER OLYMPICS & SPORTS WEEK
Monday 5th - Friday 9th July (10-12am)
Registration Forms will be available soon.



Running
The Race
For Jesus



Our next **Family Quiz Night** will take
place on **Saturday 8th May @ 7pm**
***** Please note a change of date *****



EKOPC SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB
Venue: EKOPC Church Hall(s)
Time: 10-12am each morning for a week
*** 9TH - 13TH AUGUST ***
REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON



NEW FAMILY ART GROUP
STARTING IN AUGUST (after school summer holidays) more details will
be made available soon



Pentecost Spot-the-difference 01

Can you spot the 10 differences between these 2 pictures of this street scene during Pentecost?



Pastoral Register

No report.



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 June edition of the EKO is:

Wednesday 26th May

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

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