

EKO

The Magazine for
East Kilbride
Old Parish Church



PENTECOST
Holy Spirit

May 2026

Edition 648

Church Calendar

MAY

Sunday 3rd	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 10th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 17th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 24th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 31st	Morning Worship	11am

JUNE

Sunday 7th	Sacrament of Communion	11am
	Short Communion Service	3pm
Thursday 11th	Communion Service	12 noon

Flower Calendar

Apologies: Jane Devennie (mis-spelt last month)

JUNE

Sunday 3rd	The Flower Fund
Sunday 10th	In memory of Eleanor and John Muir
Sunday 17th	The Flower Fund
Sunday 24th	The Flower Fund



If you would like to dedicated the flowers on someone's behalf or in memory of someone, please contact Elizabeth Robertson on: 01355 243205.

Pastoral Letter

The poet T. S. Eliot, in his famous poem "The Wasteland," calls April the "cruellest month," because the showers of April stir up the dull and dormant roots of trees and flowers to begin bursting forth with new life instead of allowing them to remain comfortably asleep in the frozen ground of winter. Yet the sleep of tree roots and flower bulbs is the sleep of hibernation, not of rest. Trees were meant to put out green leaves; tulips were meant to push up through the soil and produce beautiful blossoms. Human beings are also meant to grow, to mature, to blossom, not to hibernate in the frozen sleep of habit or tradition or familiarity.

For us as a church, April has been a month of new life and new growth. On Easter Sunday we baptised two adults and saw four people make professions of faith and become new members. Just as trees are meant to put out new leaves and humans are meant to grow, so too are churches. New members are encouraging signs of a church which is alive and making a difference in our community. It is all too easy for any organisation, especially a church to hibernate in the frozen sleep of habit or tradition or familiarity.

Our new members bring a fresh perspective on our life together. They bring gifts and abilities which we need if we are to truly witness to our community about the love of God through his son Jesus Christ. May we continue to encourage one another, especially those new to our church family that together we might truly be a beacon of God's love in our community.

Yours in love, *Anne Paton*

KEEPING UP WITH THINGS

I am hoping, in my role as Session Clerk, to be able to inform you of what is happening in our church and perhaps also in the church local and national.

The first thing to tell you is that the EKO has a new editor. Rosie Fairfull Smith volunteered to take it on and what you are reading is her first full edition of the EKO. Rosie knows how grateful I am to her for taking this on and I trust you will do your part in giving her material with which to fill these pages. Make it interesting and make it relevant.

We intend to continue with providing an audio version of the EKO. At the moment we supply CDs to people with visual impairments. If you are having difficulty reading the magazine then consider adding your name to the list for a CD or other audio means of listening to it.

Another aspect which many could consider is receiving the EKO by email and read on computer, tablet, phone or whatever. It costs us around £90 per month to produce the printed form of the EKO. It costs us nothing to send it by email. I know many of you still like to have a paper copy but maybe it's time to take the alternative and save us a bit!

All of you should know that we have been trying to 'rationalise' the church roll. We wrote to every church member to see how you wish to be kept on the roll or if you want to remove your name and to check that your details are correct. Many of you have not returned the form which was supplied. Perhaps you could give your elder a call and ask to have it picked up or if you don't have a form also call your elder. We need to know about you!

We have a church roll of over four hundred people but, on an average, only eighty attend church. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see two to three hundred in church regularly on a Sunday morning!

On the 29th of March, we held our Stated Annual Meeting (used to be an AGM) at which our treasurer Des Laverty gave us a 'run-down' of the church accounts. While they are sounding healthy, we are still running at a loss. We have been buoyed up by some bequests which have helped us clear a debt of £28,000 from the previous year. But we are still running at a loss!

So, I had to get on my feet to encourage the members of East Kilbride Old to dig deeper and raise the amount being given to the church. I cited that, if I gave up one takeaway every two weeks I could put that money to the church. Not

everyone can afford that much but we do need more – somehow!

Please, think deeply as to how you could give us more.

I think that's enough pleading. It's time to be more positive. For those of you who have fallen away from attending church, come back! Join with us again and feel the warmth of the fellowship of being together with your brothers and sisters in Christ. You can't get that feeling at home or online. If you were in church on the 5th of April, Easter Day, you will have felt an unusually warm and emotional feeling. Two young men were being baptised and then joining the church with two others. I saw tears in eyes of many during the service. Come along and be a part of it all!

In future letters I shall try to keep you informed about our church union and other matters which affect our church.

David Kent - Session Clerk

HI EVERYONE

Just a quick introduction about me, as some of you might be aware I'm the new editor of the EKO.

I was brought up in Clarkston and went to Greenbank Parish Church, I've also lived a good part of my married life in Clarkston. I moved to East Kilbride after my husband died, plus with my son and his wife moved there, I decided I wanted to go too.

I moved here in 2022 and transferred to East Kilbride Old Parish Church. I feel the church has been instrumental in me settling here, I really love the area and everyone I've met.

I feel that I've gained so much enjoyment and confidence that I want to give something back to the church and community.

Rosie Fairfull Smith - Editor

Wednesday Craft Group

We meet in the lounge weekly, on Wednesdays, 10am until noon.

We are busy preparing for the Christian Aid Coffee Morning, Saturday 16th May, 10am in the Glebe Street Hall, when we will have a few tables of homemade/crafted items, donated by our group and supporters.

New members are welcome.

Jill Cowan

Sunday School

We meet weekly in the upper hall ,each Sunday ,from 1045 until 1200.

New members of school age are always welcome.

Join us if you can,

Jill Cowan and the Sunday School Team

Kirk Life

The Coalburn Silver Band concert will be held in the church on Friday 15 May. Doors will be open at 7.00pm and the concert will begin at 7.30pm. Tickets, priced £8, concessions £5 and under 16 free, are now available in the lower hall, after church, or you can pay at the door.

Catherine Selfridge

ELECTION DAY THURSDAY 7TH MAY 2026

Due to this event the coffee morning will be held in the Church Lower Hall

Between 10am – 12 noon

Evelyn Brownlie

Christian Aid Week 10th - 16th May

This year's Christian Aid Week runs from Sunday 10th May till Saturday 16th May and once again our Church is invited to be actively involved in supporting the Appeal. Here are the plans:

The Week will begin with Christian Aid Sunday, on 10th May, when the service will focus on this year's theme. In Nairobi, Kenya's capital city, there are areas of "informal settlements" where the poorest of the poor try to live and survive. A very positive development is progressing, through the work of one of Christian Aid's partners, called "Beacon of Hope". This is enabling people to grow plants for food and sale in the tiniest of spaces in these settlements.

Along with this issue of EKO, there will be a Gift Envelope. You'll see there a picture of one woman who feels that life has changed for the better. Fridah is a widow, with children and a grandchild to care for and she says "Urban farming has changed my life". Gift Envelopes will also be given out at the Service.

These Envelopes can be returned any Sunday over the next few weeks. Please note that your donation can be Gift Aided through the form on the Envelope.

Then during the Week, one of our members, Janice Gourlay, will be undertaking a special fund-raising event – a Sponsored Swim. Janice plans to swim 81 lengths in the Dollan Baths, though not all at one go! In fact, she will swim 27 lengths on three mornings in the Week – Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th. She will begin at 7.30am and leave the pool before 8.45, because the full length is only available in the early morning period.

Each length is 50 metres. 27 lengths times 3 equals 81, which comes to around 4,050 metres, which in turn works out at just over two and a half miles! And why 81? Because last year was Christian Aid's 80th anniversary, so this is year 81. Janice has a Just Giving Page and it can be found on the computer simply by typing in "Just Giving", together with Janice's name.

Donations made can be anonymous, or named, as you choose, and they can be Gift Aided also. Please pass the word!

The Week will finish with our famous Christian Aid Coffee Morning. This will be on Saturday 16th May, in the Glebe Street Hall, from 10am till 12 noon. Organised by Evelyn Brownlie and her Team, there will be something for everyone at this great event. Check out the details in the separate notice in this EKO.

To help us think seriously about why Christian Aid is a real expression of Christian faith, a daily devotional booklet will be given out at the service on the 10th. It's called "Faithful Action" and links information about the work in Kenya with various Bible passages, along with a short prayer, one for each of the seven days.

A few weeks ago, we planted in its permanent position the "Tree of Hope". Through our gifts and prayers and all our working and sharing, we can help more people like Fridah and her family to find new hope. That truly is Faithful Action.

Mary Smith - One World Committee

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING

This will be held on Saturday 16th May 2026.

Apart from the tearoom the usual stalls will be arts & crafts, cake & candy, surprise goody bags and homemade cards.

A charge of £3 will be greatly appreciated for this worthy cause.

Thank you *Evelyn Brownlie*

The Prayer Group

The Prayer Group meets in the Lounge Area after the Church service and invite you to visit/ join them at any time.

There are Prayer request boxes in the Church Sanctuary - one upstairs at the east side and one downstairs next to the Baptismal Font. Rest assured all Prayer requests will be treated with the utmost respect and discretion. Only first names should be given along with a brief reason for the request, i.e. awaiting treatment, etc.

Catherine Selfridge, Anne Learmonth; and Janice Gourlay , will be pleased to receive in person, phone or text prayer requests.

1st. Lord, today help me to be more patient, careful and attentive.

2nd. Lord, thank you for this new day. Please give me peace in uncertainty and clarity when I feel confused.

3rd. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5.9.

4th. Thank you, Lord, for being there when I need you. You are my strength in loneliness, my peace in sadness and my companion.

5th. God of peace, be with all those who live in danger.

6th. Lord, help me to re-evaluate who I am and draw closer to you.

7th. God of peace be with all those who live in fear and danger.

8th. Thank you, Father, for your patience with me and for all the blessings in my life.

9th. Today, Lord, I know that you see me, hear me, and walk with me. Thank you for being my guide and strength.

10th. Father, I must thank you for looking beyond my faults and for loving me unconditionally. Forgive me when I fail to love others in the same way.

11th. Thank you, Lord, for showing us the way to live so that we may have joy in our hearts.

12th. God of all, we pray for those whose voices are not being heard. Give us ears to hear the cries of communities calling for justice.

13th. Lord, give me eyes to see the needs of the difficult people in my life, and show me how to meet those needs in a way that pleases you.

14th. O God, create in me a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

- 15th. Bless those who are battling hunger and hardship. Open our eyes to the challenges our global neighbours face each day.
- 16th. Help me, Lord, to learn how to face every storm with confidence, knowing that you really are in control even though I cannot hear your voice or see your hand.
- 17th. Keep me listening, Lord, to your voice.
- 18th. Thank you, Lord, for always proving yourself faithful to me and keeping me safe.
- 19th. Father, thank you for Your mercy and forgiveness. Help us to trust in Your compassion.
- 20th. Lord, help me to walk in your way every day.
- 21st. Thank you, Lord, for your goodness and mercy which is seen and heard by all trusting your protection.
- 22nd. Loving God, we rejoice in your presence alongside us as we seek to walk in your way.
- 23rd. Lord, guide all who decide on how we use the resources earth provides.
- 24th. Help me, Lord, always to keep my eye on you. With you by my side I will always feel secure.
- 25th. Father, be with young people and keep them safe from harm. Help them to grow in faith, love, and wisdom each day.
- 26th. Lord, I am grateful for this new day and the fresh opportunities it brings.
- 27th. Lord, in my life, help me to seek You above everything else.
- 28th. Father, be with all who struggle with financial worries. Help them to find solutions to their problems.
- 29th. Father, help us to remember that you are with us always and that nothing is impossible with you.
- 30th. Lord, be with all those who work with the homeless. Keep them strong and compassionate.
- 31st Dear God, thank you for this new month. Help me to walk with courage, grace, and steady faith.

June/ over

JUNE

- 1st. Father, we pray for all those people who suffer from dementia. Surround them with Your peace, patience, and love. Comfort their families and carers.
- 2nd. When life is difficult, Lord, fill us with hope and joy.
- 3rd. 'Happy are those whose hope is in the Lord their God, who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food the hungry.' Psalm 146.
- 4th. Lord, help us to be a light in the world. Let our actions reflect your Love.
- 5th. Help me, Lord, to be a person full of loving words, full of your spirit, overflowing with love, joy, peace, patience, and understanding.

17th EK Guiding Units, Rainbows, Brownies and Guide

Here is a flavour of what we have been up to over the last few months

Feb 22nd we all celebrated World Thinking Day and 100 years of World Guiding.

We started off with our service of Thanksgiving. A huge thank you to Anne who tailored the entire service to Guiding and proudly showed the girls her Guide Uniform in pristine condition including her Queens Guide Badge.

Mhairi shared with the girls the story of the widow's mite and issued out Smartie tubes for the girls to fill with 20p after eating the Smarties. These have been put to great use and the girls are filling them for Loaves and Fishes and WAGGS a Guiding Charity.

After lunch at the hall, the girls all received tartan neckies and passports to travel around the 5 World Guiding Centres -

Mexico - mask making, Mexican wave and guacamole tasting

UK - a trip around London Underground stations with different activities

Switzerland - skiing and making cuckoo clocks

India - Bollywood dancing

Africa - trying out African drumming

It was a wonderful day, the girls had great fun, lots of laughter, smiley faces and the leaders went home exhausted, that sounds right.

March 21st - Cityscape Glasgow

Our Brownies took part in this great adventure travelling all over Glasgow for clues and taking part in special challenges. What a fantastic day for our girls and leaders, we had the best time. So what were the highlights, travelling by train and taking the low level to the Exhibition Center. Loads of photo challenges, meeting the Scottish Chief Guide and finishing the day at Glasgow City Chambers. During the day we managed to notch up over 16000 steps not too shabby.

The weather was kind to us a real bonus. We all returned safely to EK tired but buzzing from a remarkable event, bring on the next one.

All our units are currently busy on programmed work and badges.

The Brownies are working on numerous badges including the Charities badge and we are planning to visit Loaves and Fishes before the end of term to donate our monies from the Smartie tubes.

Other planned events our annual litter pick and the Brownies are going on Pack Holiday from 29th - 31st May and are already excited.

We thank all our members for your continued help, support and prayers as we continue our work with the girls who are

our future citizens. We have attached some piccies from these events.

17th EK Guiders - Caroline, Jennifer, Claire, Olivia, Mollie, Emma, Ella, Liz, Lorraine, Lynne, Pamela, Louise, Mirren, Gemma, Michelle, Christine



GIRLGUIDING WORLD THINKING DAY EVENT

100 Years of Worldwide Friendship

EK2 Division invite you to a fun and colourful day celebrating **100 years** of friendship in Girlguiding!

Sunday 22nd February

12:00pm - 4:00pm

**Glebe Street Hall
East Kilbride, G74 4LX**

Who's invited?

Rainbows • Brownies • Guides • Rangers
(All sections welcome)

Activities Include:

Crafts • Music & Dancing • Games • Bouncy Castle • Lunch Provided

Uniform: All girls should attend in Girlguiding uniform

Cost: £10 per girl

Optional Church Service: 11:00am - 12:00pm (prior to the event)



Pastoral Register

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

Rena Dunlop	Lewis Silvers
Nance Chalmers	Janet McMillan
William Wallace	Helen Grace
Ella Watson	

Baptisms: Adults

Callum McCulloch
Luke Paterson

New members

Callum McCulloch
Luke Paterson
Ruki Rogers
Hazel Watt



EKO Submissions

The dates for submission of material for the June EKO are:

for hand/type-written copy Sunday 24th May and the deadline for submitting electronic copy is:- Wednesday 27th

Thank you. EDITOR: *Rosie Fairfull Smith* 07979816987

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Pentecost Spot the Difference

Can you spot the 12 differences in the pictures of Pentecost?





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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Treasurer	Des Laverty	
Roll Keeper	Robert Cossar	
Gift Aid	Des Laverty	
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