

EKO

The Magazine
for
East Kilbride
Old Parish
Church



MAY 2024

EDITION 627

CHURCH CALENDAR



MAY

Sunday 5th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 12th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 19th	<i>Pentecost Sunday</i> - Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 26th	Morning Worship	11am

JUNE

Sunday 2nd	Sacrament of Communion	11am
	Short Communion Service	3pm
Thursday 6th	Communion Service	12 noon
Followed by	Light Lunch	12.30pm
Sunday 9th	Special Family Service	11am

Followed by a family and congregational lunch in the Glebe Street Hall at 12.30pm

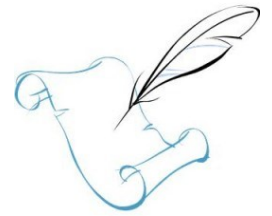


FLOWER CALENDAR

If you would like to dedicate the flowers for yourself or in memory of someone on any particular Sunday , please contact Elizabeth Robertson 01355 243205.



PASTORAL LETTER



Dear Friends,

This page is normally where the Minister's Pastoral Letter appears, but with Anne, our Minister, recovering from an operation – and recovering steadily – that isn't possible this month. Instead, I have the opportunity to tell you about a recent visit to Iona.

In the summer of 1964, as a very youthful divinity student, I became a member of The Iona Community. That was 60 years ago, and I thought on this anniversary, it would be good to be on the Island and stay at the Abbey once again.

The weather on the day I travelled was stormy and the crossing from Mull to Iona was one of the roughest I can remember. But after that, the wind dropped, the sun shone and the colours of sea and land and sky worked their wonderful magic. However, the real reason for the visit was to stay at the Abbey and hopefully renew my sense of commitment to the Community. And that happened in the most unexpected way.

Without my knowing they would be there, some of the people who are themselves in the process of becoming Community members were also staying at the Abbey. And their sense of enthusiasm and commitment, not only to the Community, but also to the wider Church and ultimately to Jesus himself, rubbed off on me and I found myself refreshed and encouraged.

I also found it good to be back here in the Old Parish, for we are a Community too, aren't we? A Community of Faith, Love and Hope. Sunday May 19th is Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit filled the first followers of Jesus with a new sense of belonging and purpose. Wouldn't it be so good if we could all really try to be together in the Church building that Sunday? "All together in one place" as the Book of Acts puts it (chapter 2, verse 1). If we could do that, I'm sure we would all feel encouraged and refreshed. And who knows where that would lead!

With every good wish. *Stewart*



One More Step Along the Way !!

At a special Presbytery meeting on Saturday 27th April the Presbytery finally approved a revised Mission Plan for the Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale of which we are one of the of the 120 member churches. The process of Mission Planning is based on the realities of fewer resources, fewer ministers, too many aging buildings, strained finances and, in many cases, office-bearers struggling to maintain structures designed for a different age. The resulting challenge was to find ways to use our resources to best advantage and honour the calling to Mission which God has given us.

The approach taken was to invite groups of churches to work together to shape their approach to local mission within the resources available to them. The aim being to develop plans which were built on the knowledge and experience of those in local situations and which were acceptable to Presbytery and the General Trustees. This approach worked well in very many cases and across Scotland the processes of uniting churches has made good progress. In other cases, including in our Presbytery, there were concerns expressed by numerous individual congregations particularly around the impact of church closures on congregations and communities. Progress therefore presented many difficulties. This resulted in the Presbytery missing the General Assembly deadline of the end of 2022, and a draft Plan was not completed until September 2023. This draft failed to win the approval of Presbytery and further discussions ensued.

The final draft Plan, now approved, still includes hard choices for many congregations but has been presented as the best options available within the constraints of staffing, buildings and finances.

Members will remember that earlier local discussions on this matter envisaged union between the Old Parish, Westwood and Greenhills. These did not come to mutual agreement and so were discontinued. Subsequently the Old Parish, West Kirk and Stewartfield entered discussions, and these led to agreement on union which was then included as the submission from all three churches in both the September 2023 draft Plan and the revised Plan now approved.

There are still many matters to be discussed and resolved in the weeks and months ahead, so it is not yet possible to set out any timetable for our progress towards union. The process can however now begin and, for many involved in this lengthy challenge, even this modest step is to be celebrated.

Alistair Walker - Session Clerk

SUMMER GUILD



The Guild will meet over the summer on the first Wednesday of each month in the Lower Hall at 2pm for an hour. There will be tea, coffee and biscuits and a chance for a chat with friends. Also, there will be some quizzes and games.

The dates are: May 1st, June 5th, July 3rd and September 4th. The exception will be August when the summer play scheme will be in the halls. So, we will meet on August 14th.



The Committee will meet at 3pm on May 1st. *Mary Smith*

KIRK LIFE

Our next event will be the concert given by The Coalburn Silver Band on the 21st June. Doors will be open at 7pm. The concert starts at 7.30pm.

Tickets are priced £7 and £5 concession with people under 16 free.

There will be a 15/20minute Intermission for refreshments.

The Kirk life team would like to request donations of gifts (unwanted or otherwise) for raffle prizes.

These will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you, *Ken Ross* - Kirk Life Convenor



THE PRAYER GROUP



Mary Doig, Janice Gourlay, Anne Learmonth and Marilyn Ross meet in the Lounge Area after the Church service and invite you to visit/join them in the Prayer Group 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.

THE PRAYER DIARY

MAY

- 1st. Father God, meet me as I start this day and open my eyes with gratitude to the many blessings around me today.
- 2nd. Father, Help me to treat each person I encounter as you would, with respect and love, forgiving others and asking for forgiveness myself when needed.
- 3rd. Lord, I commit this day to you and ask for your guidance and protection.
- 4th. Father, Give me strength in the midst of weariness and hope in the midst of any frustrations or hurts.
- 5th. Dear God, at the start of each day, help us to recognize you above all else. Enlighten our hearts that we might see you and notice how you're at work through our lives.
- 6th. Father, to you with songs of love we come into your presence in awe of all you've done.
- 7th. Lord, be with those affected by war, hunger, and uncertainty.
- 8th. Good times, tough times come and go, Father, but you are always with me.
- 9th. Lord, thank you for granting us new hope and opportunities each day.
- 10th. Lord, protect and guide us in all we do and say, and grant us wisdom to be kind to others.
- 11th. Father, be with all who feel forgotten and children who are unloved and unwanted.
- 12th. God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us compassion we pray. Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain, come change our love from a spark to a flame.

- 13th.Lord, with gentleness and love we overcome everything and remain strong knowing that we belong to you.
- 14th.Thank you, Lord, for all you have done for me. You are ever faithful, what a blessing.
- 15th.Today, Lord, I will do my best, and leave the rest to you.
- 16th.Father, knowing that you are always watching over me is such a blessing.
- 17th.Dear Lord, I want to take a moment to thank you for allowing me to live another day. I am grateful for your everlasting love.
- 18th.Help me, Lord, to remember that nothing is going to happen today that You and I together cannot handle.
- 19th.Lord, I pray today for those oppressed, unrepresented, and unheard.
- 20th.Loving Father, comfort and strengthen all who are living in war torn countries at this time as we pray for peace around the world.
- 21st.With you by my side, Lord, I never feel alone. You are my friend and my saviour.
- 22nd.Heavenly Father, we pray that your presence will bring joy, peace, and harmony into our homes and our lives.
- 23rd.Lord, I ask for hope today.
- 24th.Father thank you for your guidance and wisdom in my daily life. I pray that you would direct my footsteps.
- 25th.Loving Father, in times of confusion I thank you for leading me onto the right path.
- 26th.Thank you, Father, for all your love that shines on my soul like the morning sunlight, warming and illuminating.
- 27th.Lord, grant me strength to serve, and commitment to each task.
- 28th.Thank you, Lord, for giving me the beautiful gift of life, for granting me health and strength and for always being by my side.
- 29th.Heavenly Father, please watch over our loved ones, granting them, strength, and happiness.
- 30th.Lord, grant me grace to be still and find you in peace.
- 31st.Forgive me, Father, when I punish you for creating situations that make it difficult for me to accomplish my plans.

- 1st. Father, today I will let go of my responsibilities for a fleeting time and enjoy the company of those I love.
- 2nd. I ask for strength and courage to know the difference between the important and unimportant events in my life, Lord.
- 3rd. Lord, keep me focused on your plans today, not mine.
- 4th. Let me never forget, Father, that a prayer is the shortest distance between my question and your answer.
- 5th. Lord, be with me regardless of what I face, no matter what I go through. Enable me to always look up to You and trust in You.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note the following:-

There will be a 'Doors Open Day' on Saturday 11th May 10am - 3pm The Church and Lower Hall will both be open and there will be a display of the life of the parish during the past five centuries.

Fiona Dawson



THE CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group meets on Wednesdays in the church Lounge Area from 10am until 12 noon. Anyone with any craft interest or ability will be made most welcome.

Please Note:-

We will have a 'craft' stall on Saturday 18th May to support the Christian Aid Coffee Morning, 10am in the Glebe Street Hall.

Donations of knitting, crochet, sewing, home made cards etc will be gratefully received.

Thank you,

Jill Cowan



CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING

The Christian Aid Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 18th May from 10am until 12 noon. It will be in the Glebe Street Hall. There will be a few stalls and hot pancakes for eating.

Please note that there will be no Thursday Coffee Morning on the 16th May because of this event.

We are looking forward to seeing you on the 18th!

Evelyn Braunlie





The Story of Aline

Poverty pushed Aline Nibogora to the brink. She was abused, homeless and hungry. Aline lives in Makamba Province in Burundi, where more than 70% of people live in poverty. 52% of children in this area are underweight, underdeveloped and vulnerable to life-threatening diseases. But with your support, we can help people like Aline to escape the inhuman trap of poverty and build brighter futures for their families.

In the areas where we work in Burundi, people without their own small business or income will typically head out on an empty stomach each morning. They must find casual work to buy food for that evening. Most only eat once a day. How much they and their children will eat depends entirely on the work they were able to find that very same day. It's a fragile existence that many don't survive.

Aline felt the full force of extreme poverty when an early marriage ended in abuse and homelessness. She experienced great cruelty and pain at the hands of her violent husband, who forced Aline to flee. He prevented her from taking their children with her and turned the local community against her.

Hungry, scorned and alone, Aline feared for her life, knowing how vulnerable she was as a woman living alone on the Burundi streets. She told us: "I wandered the streets asking anyone for a place to sleep...People would insult me and treat me with contempt. They forgot I was a human being. It filled me with sorrow."

What Aline desperately needed was a small income so she could stop living day-to-day and start building a life for her and her children—who she longed to be re-united with.

Aline's life turned a corner when she participated in a community workshop with Christian Aid funded trainers. Her group learned how to establish steady income, save for the future, and borrow money to kickstart small businesses. Aline told us, "I came out with amazing knowledge and skills. The trainer restored a sense of hope and energy in me."

Aline set up as a grocery wholesaler, and eventually earned enough money to rent a house. Her three eldest sons now live with her in a safe and happy home. Thanks to Aline's small business, they can afford food, clothes and essential healthcare. Looking back, Aline said, "I don't want my children to have a painful life like mine, remembering it makes me weep,"

Christian Aid Week invites us to use seven days to fund lasting change for our neighbours who are living in extreme poverty. With just a little help, Aline transformed her family's life, and many more people could do the same, if only they had the opportunity.

God whose Spirit dwells in us, guide us to make plans which further your kingdom. Give us your vision and the courage to follow your path. Amen.

Some of the Christian Aid 'Pushing back against poverty' leaflets will be available on Christian Aid Sunday 12th May and CA envelopes will be included in the May edition of the EKO magazine.

Again, if you wish to donate otherwise to Christian Aid, please go on to their website at: www.caid.org.uk where you find the ability to donate there.

Mary Smith



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK GIVING

Along with this issue of EKO, there is a Christian Aid Envelope. This can be returned to the Church before the end of May. It's also possible to donate by bank card at the Church door, or bank transfer direct to the Church Treasurer, Des Laverty. Contact him on 07402192610 for the details. If a donation is being made by cheque, please make sure it is made out to *East Kilbride Old Parish Church*, and marked on the reverse "Christian Aid".

Stewart Smith

History Corner: Rev^d Henry Wellwood Moncreiff

After the Rev^d Hanna, our next minister was Rev^d Henry Wellwood Moncreiff. He was born in Edinburgh on 21st May 1809, eldest son of Sir James Wellwood Moncreiff, later Lord Moncreiff, and Ann, daughter of Captain James Robertson R.N. Henry Moncreiff was educated at Edinburgh High School, Edinburgh University and New College, Oxford, where he was a friend of William Gladstone. He graduated BA in 1831. On returning to Scotland, he studied divinity under Thomas Chalmers, was ordained to Baldernock on 17th March 1836 and presented by Queen Victoria to East Kilbride on 30th November 1837.

He joined the Free Church at the disruption in 1843 and founded the East Kilbride Free Church where he was minister until 1852 when he move to Edinburgh as minister of St Cuthbert's from 1852 to 83. Appointments followed: Joint Principal Clerk of the Free Church General Assembly 1855; DD Glasgow 1860; Secretary of the Scottish Bible Board 1862; Moderator of the Free Church General Assembly 20th May 1869.

He married on 8th February 1838 Alexandrina, daughter of George Bell, Surgeon, Edinburgh. In 1851, on the death of his father, he succeeded to the baronetcy.

Alexandrina died in 1874. On 19th August 1875 Rev^d Sir Henry Wellwood Moncreiff married Lucretia, daughter of Andrew Murray of Murrayshall, Perthshire. Sir Henry died on 4th November 1883 and Lucretia died on 10th September 1885.

He is buried in Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh with his second wife Lucretia.

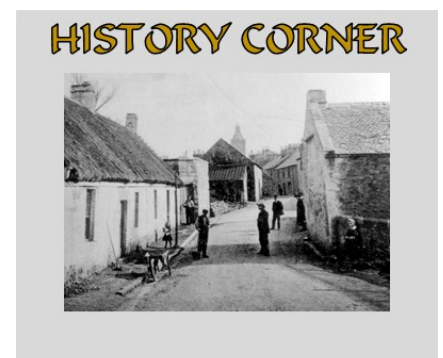
Ref:

East Kilbride The History of Parish and Village by Thomas Eric Niven
Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae: the Succession of Ministers in the Church of Scotland

Scotlandspeople

Ancestry.co.uk

Fiona Dawson



IAIN'S MONTHLY UPDATE



Following are the events planned up to and including the summer:-

I encourage you to pass all this information to any family members, friends or neighbours who you think may be interested in joining us at some or all of the following.

THE ANGUS MCCONNELL MEMORIAL CHURCH & COMMUNITY FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT – Sunday 19th May from 2-4pm at St Kenneths Primary School West Mains Rd East Kilbride. This is our 4th event in memory of our dear friend Angus – we will hopefully have 7/8 teams join us for this fun afternoon of football, fun, food & fellowship. Come along and support our team and be encouraged by almost 70 children and young people having a great time.

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB 2024 – The provisional week is week commencing Monday 5th – Friday 9th August every morning from 10am until 12.30pm in the Church, Lower Hall & Upper Hall – Registration forms will be available as soon as the leaders meet to finalise the date and theme for this year's club. We also have plans to have a family party afternoon or evening on the Saturday following the holiday club as well as showcasing the week-long club at an all-age family service on the Sunday. Its not too late to get involved, even if you can only help for 1 or 2 mornings, that would be greatly appreciated – if you think you would like to get involved, please let Iain know asap.

FAMILY SERVICE AND LUNCH ON 9TH JUNE.

We are having a Family Service on Sunday the 9th June for all our young folk and their families. This will be followed by a lunch in the Glebe Street Hall at 12.30 for all participants and the congregation too.

Thank you for all your encouragement, support, prayers and friendship – I really appreciate it so very much.

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

God Spoke to Moses

Connect the Dots and Coloring Page

Start at the number 1 dot and connect the next higher numbered dot until all are connected. Color the page after you've revealed the picture!



PASTORAL REGISTER

Deaths - *"I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."*

Frank Smith

Jim Alexander

Stuart Milligan

Eleanor Anderson

EKO SUBMISSIONS

The dates for submission of material for the June EKO are: for hand/type-written copy **Sunday 19th May** and the deadline for submitting electronic copy is:-

Wednesday 22nd 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 Charity—SC000609

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Session Clerk Alistair Walker

Treasurer Des Laverty

Roll Keeper Robert Cossar

Gift Aid Des Laverty

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