

East Kilbride Old Parish Church

SC000609

## **Responding in Challenging Times:**

### **Minister's East Kilbride News Message No 7 – Dance in the Rain**

As you are aware, we as a church are not able to meet together for worship on a Sunday, or indeed for any of our regular activities, so we're having to try other ways of keeping everyone together and still being the church in different ways. We have developed a weekly Sunday service, complete with hymns, readings and a Christian message which can be accessed from our website and from our Facebook page. Creating these videos has been a steep learning curve for all of us involved, and I'm just grateful that we've got folks in the church who are able to use the technology and point the rest of us in the right direction. It's not the same for me, delivering a message from home to an empty screen, and it's not the same for folks to worship on their own, but until restrictions are lifted, it's all we can do.

One of the important parts of our worshipping together is definitely the people, and each week immediately after the service, we meet for tea and coffee in the hall. This week we have experimented with a virtual tea and coffee chat using Zoom. Again it's been a steep learning curve for our folks, but it was great to see many well-loved faces joining our chat. I'm sure you'll all agree that we really miss each other.

In the church we have been fortunate to have a probationer minister working with us since last Summer. On Sunday just past, Fiona shared with us some words which she has on a little plaque in her kitchen, words which could have been written for these difficult times. It says, "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain."

There is no question that life right now feels like we're in a real storm, and none of us know just when this storm will pass. There is talk about restrictions being lifted gradually, so hopefully the storm may get lighter, but I fear it will be some time before the storm will pass completely. So I think we all have a choice to make. During this time, we can either bemoan the storm (which we all do on a regular basis, as we're only human) or we can learn to dance in the rain. There is a phrase often repeated in the bible which says, "and it came to pass." This time in our lives will also come to pass, we just don't know when.

So instead of bemoaning this storm, maybe we could all learn to dance in the rain, and just as everyone's dance moves will be different, so too will everyone's way of coping. It might mean doing things more electronically, it might mean learning new skills, it might mean appreciating the simple things in life. It might mean taking stock of what we value most. This storm will eventually pass, meanwhile let's get dancing in the rain.