

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a field of red poppies. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The lighting is soft and diffused, creating a hazy, dreamlike atmosphere. The colors are muted, with the red of the flowers standing out against the darker, bluish-grey background.

EKO

**The Magazine
for
East Kilbride
Old Parish
Church**

NOVEMBER 2023

EDITION 621

Church Calendar



NOVEMBER

Sunday 5th	Morning Worship	11 am
Sunday 12th	Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph	<u>10.45am</u>
	Church Service of Remembrance	<u>11.30am</u>
Sunday 19th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 26th	Morning Worship	11am

DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd	First Sunday in Advent—Worship With the Coalburn Band	11am
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Flower Calendar

NOVEMBER

Sunday 5th	The Flower Fund
Sunday 12th	In Memory of Robert, Ella and Catherine Craig
Sunday 19th	In Memory of Margaret and William Duff
Sunday 26th	The Flower Fund

DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd	The Flower Fund
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Pastoral Letter



November is always the season of Remembrance. My first memory of participation in a service of remembrance was on my 10th birthday when I was part of the guide parade to Jamestown Church. I went on to do that for many years and even took my turn of carrying the flag, making sure not to crash it into the balcony. As a student on placement in Clydebank, I was involved in a commemorative service for the Clydebank Blitz. In coming to East Kilbride, being part of the Remembrance observance here has been a privilege.

Every year, we encounter different situations around the world. We have observed our remembrance during many active conflicts, Iraq and Afghanistan being some of the most recent. This year we will be observing our remembrance mindful of the events playing out in the middle east. How do we hold all our thoughts and feelings together in the face of such atrocities?

A few weeks ago, I shared some words from “Churches together in Britain and Ireland.” I have found them to be helpful in focussing my mind, so I share them again.

“I am certain, like me, many of you have been watching the news and have been overwhelmed with emotion at what is unfolding in Israel and the Palestinian territories. At times like this, as the world analyses the developing situation, as the world comments on the complex history of the region and as the world makes statements of sympathy or blame, my hope is that those of us who put our faith in God will see past the politics and the history, and have the courage to stare into the eyes of all those who suffer and see both their humanity and the reflection of Christ, who knows both the land and the

suffering intimately. As you do that, please pray to the God of all comfort, peace and hope.

Lord God,

It is with shock and horror we witness the devastating violence and loss of life in Israel-Palestine over recent days. We come to you as the source of all hope, asking that you send your Spirit to bring about a future, where neighbours embrace despite their differences, where love conquers hate, humility surpasses pride, and where forgiveness is treasured as a fundamental strength.

May the hope of a day when weapons of conflict will be transformed into tools of reconciliation be realised soon, so there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things will have passed away. Amen

Yours in love,

Anne Paton



The Good News or the Bad News

Which do you want first ? I generally go for the bad news first as, so far, it hasn't been all that bad, and when the good news comes it pretty much outweighs the bad. So, if you're like me we'll get the bad news out of the way first. If you prefer things the other way round then skip the next paragraph and come back to it later !

This time in September I was able to report that a draft Mission Plan had at last been published and that our Kirk Session was content with the recommendation to unite with West Kirk & Stewartfield and, later, look at ways to link up with Moncrieff. This recommendation, along with those for the 120+ congregations in the Plan, was due to be considered at a Presbytery meeting on 26 September. Alas this never happened as the agenda for the meeting was derailed early when a motion to defer consideration of the Plan was discussed and approved. This brought proceeding to a halt and stopped any formal work to move towards union of congregations.

Now for the good news.....there is nothing to stop informal discussions between churches that are content with the proposals in the draft Plan. Happily, we are in that situation as both West Kirk and Stewartfield are of a similar mind to ourselves and are keen to develop closer relationships as we work together jointly in preparing the groundwork to develop a draft Basis of Union. Bringing churches together into a single united congregation is essentially a three-stage process. Firstly, development of detailed arrangements for all aspects of church organisation (a Basis of Union). This is a legal document and will require careful and detailed consideration. The second step is the approval of the current Ministers, at both West Kirk and the Old Parish our Ministers have full authority to give or withhold their consent to the proposed union. The third step is consideration by the congregations whose approval of the Minister(s) for the new congregation is also required.

There is a significant amount of work in the first stage of this process, but our Kirk Session is now committed to begin this and has already established cordial relationships with the other churches which we hope will lead to detailed arrangements for joining as one, united, congregation being agreed. Once the current embargo on formal discussions is lifted then this work should enable the process of union to proceed from a strong foundation.

Alistair Walker - Session Clerk



EKOPC Christmas CD

We are producing a CD of Christmas Music taken from the recordings made by our church Virtual Choir during the pandemic.

There are fifteen Christmas Hymns/songs on the CD including:

- O Come All Ye Faithful
- Hark! The Herald Angels
- Silent Night
- The First Nowel
- Ding, Dong, Merrily on High etc..



The CD will cost £5 (a standard cost in this church it seems!) and will be available towards the end of November.

You will be able to buy your copy on Sunday mornings or you can pick up a copy from the church office on Tuesday and Friday mornings. You can also order copies by contacting David Kent and he will arrange delivery.

It will be helpful if you could bring the correct change when you pick up your CD or you will be able to pay by card using the card machine in the church vestibule on Sunday mornings.

If you don't have a CD player but would still like the music, speak with David Kent and he will see if other methods of playing the music are available.

All profits will be going to the church of course.

David Kent



(07890 262267—Email: davidkent28@virginmedia.com)



AUTUMN CRAFT FAYRE

Our Autumn Fair was a great success raising £1.667 48p

Thanks to all the stall holders, kitchen ladies and all the Kirk Life team, for making it a great day.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Our Christmas coffee morning takes place on Saturday the 25th November from 10am till 2pm. Entry is £3.

HOGMANAY CEILIDH

The Final event of the year will be the Hogmanay Ceilidh cost of this is £5 which includes soup and sandwiches. Tickets will be available in December.

The Kirk Life Team would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the last year.

Thanks.

Ken Ross (Kirk Life Convener)



Wednesday Morning Craft Group

Our Church Craft Group continues to meet weekly in the Lounge Area from 10am -12 noon.

All arty and crafty people will be made most welcome to join us.

Jill Cowan



The Prayer Group

Mary Doig, Janice Gourlay, Catherine Selfridge, 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

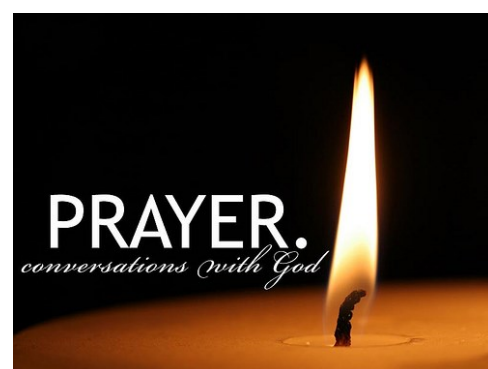
NOVEMBER

- 1st. Loving Father, I don't know what I would do without you. Knowing you are always with me, gives me so much hope especially when I am going through rough times. Thank you for your love.
- 2nd. Strengthen us with the power of your Spirit that our attitude and outlook may develop, and our "way of looking" may become more like yours.
- 3rd. You make me glad by your deeds, Lord; I sing for joy at what your hands have done.
- 4th. Help us remain positive – encouraging and appreciating one another, looking upon people in the same way that you do.
- 5th. Dear Father in Heaven, we thank you that even with our faulty sinful lives, we may find shelter in your love.
- 6th. Lord, I know that only when I am honest about myself can I worship you in truth and gladness.
- 7th. We pray, Lord, that both governments, with the help of intermediaries, can find a way to settle the hostilities between Israel and Palestine.
- 8th. Lord, we live in challenging times, but with you we have hope.
- 9th. Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.
- 10th. Loving Father, we would ask you to guide our Church Leaders at this time of decision making.
- 11th. There are many people to thank in my life, but everything I have is given by you.
- 12th. I keep my eyes always on you, Lord, with you at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

- 13th. Grant wisdom to our government so that they may make wise decisions.
- 14th. Keep my eyes focused on the future, Father, rather than the past.
- 15th. This morning, Father, I want to set aside my idea of a perfect situation so I can see your perfect face.
- 16th. May the God of hope go with us every day, filling our lives with love, joy and peace.
- 17th. Remind me always, Father, when I step forward, it is you who carries me through each day.
- 18th. Forgive me Loving Father, for trying to manipulate circumstances to accomplish my will rather than yours.
- 19th. I cried aloud to God. I cried to God, and he heard me.
- 20th. Lord, the most important thing I need to know is that you are here for me.
- 21st. Dear Lord, thank you for the joy I have found in knowing you. It brings a smile to my face when I think of all the wonderful things you have done.
- 22nd. Lord, comfort all who are ill and struggling. Give them your strength and hope.
- 23rd. Lord, when I let go and trust You with my problems, you never fail to answer.
- 24th. Lord, I come to you today asking for guidance. I feel lost and need your help in finding my way.
- 25th. Forgive me for rejecting what you say is good in my frantic pursuit of something I think is better.
- 26th. Today, Father, help me to see each person's value through your eyes, not mine.
- 27th. Thank you, Lord, that we have you to turn to.
- 28th. Forgive me Father, for using my church as a place to give pat answers rather than to acknowledge difficult questions.
- 29th. Lord, guide me in all decisions I make today.
- 30th. This day, Father, may my eyes be opened to see the beauty in all that is ordinary – yet special around me.

DECEMBER

- 1st. Dear Lord, I ask you to help me. I want to be aware of your spirit - leading me in the decisions I take, the conversations I have.
- 2nd. When I make mistakes today, Lord, help me to learn from them and give me the confidence to go on.
- 3rd. Father in heaven, grant me the strength to power through the tasks before me today.
- 4th. Thank you, Lord, for answering my unspoken prayers. You understand everything.
- 5th. Thank you, Father, for all the miracles in life that remind me I'm alive.



The Guild

THE GUILD NOV 23

On Wednesday 8th November at 2pm we will have Lis McIntyre Allan to tell us about the life of Elsie Inglis.

On Wednesday 22nd November Vivienne will show us some of her travels abroad, entitled Oranges, Olives and Overnights.

On Wednesday 29th November we will have a musical afternoon with the men's group Jolly B's.



Looking ahead we will be going to Brew 74 for our Christmas lunch. If you wish to go please let me know to put your name on the list.

Mary Smith



Men's Association and Carpet Bowling Club

Our next meeting of the Men's Association takes place on Monday 6th November in the Glebe Street Hall at 2pm. Our speaker will be Lesley McIlhager, on the theme of "Slavery". Later in the month, on November 20th, our speaker will be Liz Allan. Her topic is entitled "John and Annie Glen – Stars and Struggles". This will also be in the Glebe Street Hall at 2pm.

The Carpet Bowling Club meets on Mondays 13th and 27th November, in the Glebe Street Hall, at 2pm. It has been good to welcome some new members both in the Bowling Club and at the Association. New members are always most welcome.

Stewart Smith



Christian Solidarity Worldwide CSW

CSW is an advocacy organisation which works to support Christians and people of all faiths and none in countries where people are not free to believe and worship as they wish. One of the ways in which that work is carried out is in encouraging the appointment of United Nations Special Rapporteurs in individual countries where human rights are threatened.

Special Rapporteurs are appointed for one year, and the renewal of their mandate is debated at the UN Human Rights Council annually. There are 47 members of the Human Rights Council, each representing a UN member state. They are elected by the UN to service for three years. Unfortunately, some countries on the HRC often have a vested interest in blocking the renewal of the mandates of Special Rapporteurs. For example, if one country is trying to finalise a trade deal with another country, it may not wish to be seen as publicly criticising the second country's human rights record by voting for the mandate renewal.

One of the countries with a very poor human rights record is Eritrea, and the renewal of the mandate for the Special Rapporteur to Eritrea was debated in July this year. Along with others, CSW worked for that renewal and that was successful, with 18 countries (including the UK) agreeing, and 7 countries voting against (including Eritrea itself). But 21 countries abstained, so the renewal of mandates can never be taken for granted.

More information is available on the Christian Solidarity Website – csw.org.uk

Stewart Smith



The Autumn Craft Fayre

I hope you managed to attend the Autumn Fayre on the 21st October.

It was a grand affair with stalls selling:

- shabby chic goods,
- jewellery and craft goods,
- paintings,
- wood craft goods,
- goods from our Craft Group,
- Surprise Goody Bags and cards,
- cakes and candies
- a 'chocolate' tombola with a mountain of chocolate edibles and
- the tearoom.

On visiting the stalls, it was obvious that a lot of hard work had gone into the making of the goods, the majority being hand-crafted and showing real quality at, shall we say 'affordable' prices considering they were hand made. So many good presents for Christmas!

The tearoom was always busy and special praise goes to the tearoom ladies who tend to be the unsung heroes of this type of event but without whom the event would never be so good.

Congratulations to Ken and the Kirk Life Committee!

Raising over £1650 is remarkable in light of the recent funds raised for Macmillan Nurses.

If you missed this 'fayre', put it in your diary for next year!

David Kent - Editor



HISTORY CORNER



UDSTON PIT DISASTER

In 2002, a memorial plaque to the six men from East Kilbride, who were killed in the Udston Pit Disaster, was unveiled at the Memorial Garden beside Priestknowe Roundabout.

On the morning of Saturday 28th May 1887, seventy three men and boys were killed by a firedamp explosion at Udston Colliery. The explosion is said to be Scotland's second worst mining disaster. The colliery, which opened in 1875, was owned by the Udston Coal Company, situated at the top of Hillhouse. There were three seams Ell, Mains and Splint to a depth of 125, 140 and 150 fathoms and employed approximately 200 men and boys. It bordered Blantyre, Earnock and Greenfield Collieries. The explosion happened in the Splint seam where 119 men and boys were working.

Six men from East Kilbride: William Babes, James Spiers, James Jarvies, Felix Torley, James McCulloch Snr and his son James McCulloch Jnr were killed.

William Babes was 41 years old, married to Mary Bright with seven children. He was born in County Down, Ireland c 1848 to William and Helen Babes nee Johnstone.

James Spiers was born c 1849 at Neilston, Renfrewshire, to John and Grace Spiers nee McDiarmid. His widow, Janet Ashcroft, was born in East Kilbride.

James Jarvies was born 3rd May 1856 to miner James and Ann Jarvies nee McNicoll. (His father, James Jarvies Snr, was a cement miner, born in East

Kilbride.)

James McCulloch was born 5th April 1847 to James and Ann McCulloch nee Bell. He married Agnes Morris on 26th February 1869. Their son James born 28th November 1871 became a miner and died with his father.

William Brown was born 24th October 1830 to Robert and Agnes Brown nee Pollock. He married, at East Kilbride, on 3rd December 1853, Janet Morris, sister of Agnes Morris. They had five children and lived in Auchentibber.

All the above miners and their families are buried in the Kirkyard.

Felix Torley born c1835 to Peter and Alice Torley nee Berry, was married, and lived at Long Calderwood. On the 1881 census, Felix was living at Udston Row with his brothers, Richard, and James, a coal miner, born at East Kilbride.

Also living at Udston Row in 1881 and from East Kilbride were Edward Torley, his wife Margaret Morris and two sons, Hugh and Alexander. Alexander was killed in the explosion aged 26 years married with one child. Edward and Margaret's young sons James c1854 – 1863 and James 22nd September 1865 – 1867 are buried in the Kirkyard.

Ref: Udston Colliery Explosion Hamilton 1887.

"Udston Colliery Disaster 28th May 1887" Hamilton Advertiser 4th June 1887.

"Udston Rows", Historic Hamilton 1887..

Fiona Dawson

Jain Shaw's Monthly Update

Children, Youth & Families Worker Update (Nov 2023)

People without direction are a little like Alice in the fairy tale Alice in Wonderland when she is talking to the Cheshire Cat - I share the brief conversation below as it seems particularly relevant at this time –

Alice asked “Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?”

“That depends a good deal on where you want to get to,” said the cat.

“I don’t much care where,” said Alice.

“Then it doesn’t matter which way you go! said the cat.



With all the uncertainty currently in the world – the wars in Ukraine and The Middle East, the cost-of-living crisis, how the NHS will cope with the predicted difficult winter flu and Covid period and the Church of Scotland’s National Mission Plan and in particular how it will affect us locally here in Clydesdale and Fort Valley Presbytery to name a few - do we know where we are going and how to get there?

There is only one way – Put your trust in God and he will guide you along the right path.

Here is some information on our work with children, young people and families together with some dates for your diary for the remainder of 2023.

Harvest Thanksgiving Service – Sunday 7th October

I hope you all enjoyed the all-age Harvest thanksgiving service where we had the children involved in the readings and running around delivering pizzas to the congregation as part of the all-age talk. The children love their time in the Church and add a different dynamic, hopefully one that is good and uplifting – we will be back in again for the all-age family Christmas service.

Messy Church



Messy Church is for the whole church family – everyone is welcome - we meet in the Glebe St Church Hall from 2-4pm - our next session takes place on Sunday 5th November when we will have our LIGHT PARTY – an alternative session for Halloween where the focus is NOT on darkness but Jesus being the light of the world. Come along for fun, food, arts, crafts, games, quizzes & Bible Teaching. Messy Church is free but donations are welcome to help cover costs. If you've not tried Messy Church before why not give it a try – I'm sure you will have a wonderful afternoon with us and meet some new people and families.

Our Regular Weekly Activities -

Sunday School (11am every Sunday in the Upper Hall, Junior Badminton (every Friday afternoon 4-5.30pm), the Children's Art and Craft group (every Thursday 4.30-6pm) both in the Glebe St Church Hall and the senior Youth group every Sunday afternoon from 3-5pm in the youth group room at Glebe St.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY –

Christmas Messy Church Christmas Party – Sunday 3rd December 2-4.30pm
Our Sunday School Christmas Party during the morning service on 17th December in the Upper Hall
All age family service including our nativity play – Sunday 24th December at 11am

Thank you to everyone for all the tremendous help, encouragement and support I continue to receive in everything I seek to do for children, young people and families both within our congregation and in the wider community. I really do appreciate it very much.

Iain (Youth & Families Worker) mobile 07912 295943 / email iainshaw18@gmail.com

Colour the picture



Jesus healed a man that couldn't walk.

Pastoral Register

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

James Oliver

Irene Tomkinson

Donald Campbell

Myra Smith

Elizabeth Blackley

Patricia Johnston

Elizabeth Pitt

Jessie Bowman



EKO Submissions

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

Wednesday 22nd November

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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 and Miss Sheena Bell

Youth & **Iain Shaw**
Families Worker **E-mail: iainshaw18@gmail.com**

Session Clerk **Alistair Walker**

Treasurer **Des Laverty**

Roll Keeper **Robert Cossar**

Gift Aid **Des Laverty**

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