

EKO

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



SEPTEMBER 2024

EDITION 629

CHURCH CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER

Sunday 1st	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 8th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 15th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 22nd	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 29th	Morning Worship	11am

OCTOBER

Communion arrangements

Sunday 6th	Sacrament of Communion	11am
	Short Communion Service	3pm
Thursday 12th	Communion Service	12 noon
followed by	Lunch	12.30pm



FLOWER CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER

Sunday 1st	In memory of Bob & Isabel Cowan
Sunday 8th	The Flower Fund
Sunday 15th	In memory of Archie & Rita Tait
Sunday 22nd	In memory of Karen Murray
Sunday 29th	The Flower Fund

If you would like to dedicate the flowers for any specific Sunday, please phone Elizabeth Robertson: 01355 243205

PASTORAL LETTER

What a dreadful summer it has been weatherwise. Everywhere we go, the topic of conversation is the same. We joke about it, yet it probably isn't going to surprise you that research has shown that cold, grey rainy days can pull most people's moods down, especially if it's day after day. As I write this on 21st August, yes, AUGUST, my car has been showing temperatures between 10 and 12 degrees all day, and when I came in, I gave in and put the heating on. In AUGUST!

There's a saying, "There's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing" (Alfred Wainwright). And this sentiment can be carried forward into not only how we prepare ourselves in clothing and equipment, but also in how we prepare our mindsets about the weather.

As Christians, why do we let external circumstances influence how we feel? Well, it's partly what it means to be human, isn't it? It isn't just the weather which affects how we feel, it is also how life is treating us. External circumstances will always affect our mood. Sometimes life throws us a curved ball, and we wouldn't be human if it didn't bring us down.

St Paul writes to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Can we really give thanks in all circumstances? With God on our side, I believe we can. To use the weather analogy, we can give thanks because there are countries in other parts of the world which are facing climate disasters. We're just not able to have as many barbeques as we'd like. Even when life throws us that curved ball, we can give thanks for the people who surround us, especially our family and our church family. And always we can give thanks for the love of God, who sent Jesus to live amongst us.

As we go into a new season in our church life together, let us continually give thanks for one another. As St Paul says, "We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers."

Yours in love,

Anne Paton



THE WORK BEGINS



After Presbytery finally approved the Mission Plan in May, discussions quietened down for the summer to sighs of relief all round ! While this decision cleared the way for work to begin on uniting our church with West Kirk and Stewartfield into a single, united, congregation, the welcome intervention of holidays paused things for a short time.

Our Kirk Session subsequently met at the end of July for a discussion on how we should work towards reaching an agreement of all three churches on arrangements to bring together three separate congregations each with its own particular style of worship and ministry, its buildings, finances and organisations. These discussions will aim to develop a document known as a Basis of Union which will set out in detail all aspects of the new, united congregation including the use of buildings, the position of Ministers, the name of the new congregation, the composition of the new Kirk Session and the merging of financial assets.

Once a draft Basis of Agreement has been approved by Kirk Sessions and by our Ministers, the proposals will then be brought before congregations for their consideration and decision. If approved by each congregation, then Presbytery approval is also required and, if granted, a timetable for union of the churches can then be set.

We need to be quite clear that these discussions will be challenging and will not be resolved quickly. One of the issues likely to test us is that the Mission Plan has designated the new, united congregation as having a single Minister whilst both of our incumbent Ministers have full

A further thorny issue is that there will be two sets of church buildings to rationalise to reduce running costs and to ensure optimum usage. At present there has been no guidance from Presbytery on these issues though that might be forthcoming when a Presbytery Implementation Team becomes involved. The selection of a name for the new congregation may also be troubling for church members with long, personal connections with their church.

Whilst this may not be the most exciting of projects, it is essential that we work through this to create a congregation which is able to bring focus to our commitment to mission, make full use of all the talents at our disposal, and be a strong presence in our community.

A passage from Hebrews Ch 10 is perhaps appropriate for the road ahead *"You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised"*

New Beginnings



Christmas Card

The list of names for the 2024 Christmas Card will be open from Sunday the 6th October till the 27th October.

Christmas Fayre

This will take place on the 30th November, there will be various stalls and it will be by ticket or pay at the door, Tickets will be on sale from the beginning of November.

The entry will be £3. It starts at 10am till 2pm.

Hogmanay Ceilidh

Will be on (surprise, surprise) 31st December.

Burns Supper

Will be held on the 1st February 2025, further details will be notified nearer the time.

WEDNESDAY MORNING CRAFT GROUP

We will be back in the Lounge weekly from Wednesday 4th September 2024.

We meet from 10 am until 1200.

You will be very welcome to join us in person or if you craft at home, you might like to make a few items for our Church Christmas Fayre stall on Saturday 30th November.

Thank you, *Jill Cowan*



The last meeting of the Summer Guild will be in the Lower Hall on Wed.4th September at 2pm. There will be a fun item and a chance to chat to friends over a cup of tea.

The Winter Session starts on Wed 9th October in the Glebe Street Hall at 2pm with a musical afternoon.



Mary Smith

Macmillan Nurses Coffee Morning

**PLEASE
NOTE**

On Thursday 19th September there will be a coffee morning in aid of the Macmillan Nurses in the Glebe Street Hall from 10 am until 12 noon.

Tickets are £3 and any donations of home baking would be greatly appreciated. This is a most worthy cause and a great attendance would

be wonderful! *David Kent* – Editor

**MACMILLAN
NURSES**

PIONEERING SURGEON – PAUL BRAND

Countless people across the world who have been affected by leprosy have every reason to give thanks for the work of Dr Paul Brand. In the February issue of EKO, I wrote about Wellesley Bailey, the Irishman who founded the Leprosy Mission. Paul Brand, who died in 2003, is another man who contributed enormously to the care of people with leprosy. His key discovery is that leprosy is not a disease of the body tissue but of the nerves.



Paul Brand was born in India, in 1914. His parents were missionaries and at the age of 8, he was sent back to Britain for schooling. He went on to study medicine and gained his surgeon's qualifications while working as a casualty surgeon during the London Blitz. He was appointed surgical officer at Great Ormond Street Hospital. His wife Margaret was also a surgeon and they had 6 children.

Then in 1946, Brand was invited to join the staff of the Christian Medical College and Hospital at Vellore in India. It was there that he began to explore the reasons why so many people with leprosy suffered deformations, especially of hands, feet and eyes. Dr Brand came to realise that the leprosy bacillus attacks the nerves, so that patients don't feel any pain and so injure themselves. This in turn led him to specialise in what is now called reconstructive surgery, by transplanting tendons into deformed hands and feet. He also established the New Life Centre at Vellore as a model rehabilitation centre for people with leprosy.

In 1964, the Brands returned to London and worked for The Leprosy Mission for two years. Then in 1966 they moved to the United States where Dr Brand took up the post of Chief of Rehabilitation at the National Hansen's Disease Hospital at Louisiana, the only leprosy hospital

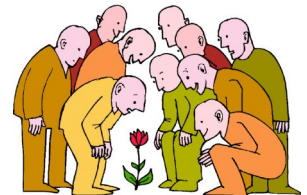
in the US. (Leprosy is sometimes call Hansen's Disease, after the Norwegian scientist Gerhard Hansen who discovered that leprosy is not hereditary as once thought but is an infectious disease caused by a bacillus.) Twenty years later, Dr Brand "retired" in 1986 and then continued working as President of The Leprosy Mission International.

The matter of rehabilitation is vital for leprosy affected people because although a person can be cured and is no longer infectious, injuries which occurred earlier can still be serious. Paul Brand's methods are now widely used, not only in the care of leprosy affected people but in the care of patients with other diseases. His pioneering researches and deep personal commitment have made huge differences to so many people. The Centre he established at Vellore is well named - New Life!

Stewart Smith



MEN'S ASSOCIATION



A LOOK AHEAD

The Men's Association's new session will begin on Monday 7th October, when our Guest Speaker will be the Rev Anne Paton. We look forward to welcoming Anne, who is also our Honorary President. Later in October, on Monday 21st, our Guest Speaker will be Mr George Barnsley, from the Lanarkshire Police History Society. These meetings, and all the others to come, are open to anyone who has an interest in the particular topic being addressed. Our President, Mr Jim Ballantyne, will be glad to welcome present and new members, and visitors, as our new session gets under way.

The **Carpet Bowling Club** will re-start on Monday 14th October. Like the Men's Association, all the meetings are held in the Glebe Street Hall

and start at 2pm. *Stewart Smith*

FAIRTRADE GATHERING



The month of September 2024 brings up the 30th anniversary of the well-known FAIRTRADE MARK. Fairtrade Fortnight has been moved from the early springtime and this year will run from 9th-22nd September. And on Wednesday 18th September, the East Kilbride Fairtrade Group is holding a special event in the Lower Hall at our halls at the Old Parish.

The Gathering, as it's being called, is an opportunity for people interested in the work and development of Fairtrade to hear about plans for the future. The Guest Speaker will be Catherine Newman, from the Scottish Fairtrade Forum. The Gathering will have an informal atmosphere, with refreshments served and time given for people to meet each other. The meeting will begin at 7.30 and end around 9pm. If anyone would like to join in this Gathering, please speak to Mary or Stewart Smith.

Mary & Stewart Smith



17TH EK GUIDING UNITS

We all start back on Tuesday 27th August at our usual times detailed below.

All the leaders are looking forward to catching up with the girls and hearing about their summer adventures. We already have some trips and events planned for the girls in the months ahead and will tell you about them in next month's magazine.

We would like to thank our church family for your continued support in so many ways. Please keep all our girls and leaders in your thoughts and prayers as we commence this new season working with our citizens of the future.

Rainbows (aged 4-7 years) 5.30-6.20

Brownies (aged 7-10 years) 6.30- 7.45

Guides (aged 10-14 years) 8.00-9.15

Best wishes from all our girls and leaders



Christine Tweedie 17th EK Guiding Units

IAIN SHAW'S NEW-SESSION UPDATE

Summer Holiday Club – The Parables of Jesus

Our holiday club this year took place over 5 mornings from Mon 5th – Fri 9th Aug from 10am until 12 noon. We had 53 children pre-register and over the week had 44 attend – it was so encouraging to note that our biggest group by some way was the oldest group the P7's- we even had 7 new S1's attend the week which was magnificent - I feel this is significant as it shows that all our work with this age group is beginning to bear fruit –we now need to continue to engage with and nurture this group to allow them to continue to be assets and ambassadors for our church now and going forward.

We had a fantastic week full of fun, challenges, sports, games, Bible learning, quizzes, arts, crafts, singing, dancing, hot dogs and much more. This included a day trip to Strathaven Park on our last day where we took a party of 44 on a big coach had a picnic played games and enjoyed the various activities on offer at the park such as boats, putting,