

The background of the cover is a vibrant, abstract composition. A large, golden cross is centered, with its arms extending towards the edges. The cross is set against a backdrop of swirling, colorful light streaks in shades of orange, yellow, blue, and green, creating a sense of dynamic energy. Faint, intricate patterns resembling a mandala or a complex web of lines are visible behind the cross.

EKO

The Magazine
for
East Kilbride
Old Parish
Church

MAY 2022

EDITION 607

CHURCH CALENDAR



Our services are all live in the church and are also broadcast over the internet. If you wish to view the service live then go to the church website at: www.ekopc.org.uk and follow the 'worship' link.

Track and trace is no longer in operation so all may attend church without booking in advance. Distancing measures have been removed from most of the pews of the church with the exception of those in the west transept where people may sit if they wish to keep a safe distance. Face coverings and hand sanitising will be very much up to each member's preference.

Recordings of each service will become available at some point during Sunday afternoon.

MAY

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

JUNE

Sunday 5th	Sacrament of Communion	11am
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PASTORAL LETTER

It was wonderful to see so many people back in church over the Holy Week and Easter period. Many of our folks had assured me that they would come back when the restriction of wearing masks was lifted, but I must confess, I was afraid it was just an excuse and people had just got out of the habit of physically coming to church. While I recognise that watching on-line is the only way in which some people can engage with the services, I fear that for others, it is just more convenient.

A minister once visited a man who had stopped coming to church. He insisted that he could be a good Christian sitting by his fireside in prayer every Sunday morning. The minister leant into the open fire and took out a burning coal and asked the man to watch what happened. As the two men sat there, the glow from the coal began to fade, and eventually the coal lost its heat. Immediately it was put back into the fire, it heated up and began to glow again. The minister explained that the same can happen to Christians. When they are surrounded by other Christians, when they learn from each other, and are upheld in prayer, they can glow. Separated from their fellow Christians, the fire of their faith can all too easily go out.

As the better weather is upon us, as restrictions are gradually being lifted and church seems more like it was before the pandemic, I would urge all our folks to come back to church. I recognise that for some that is impossible and be assured you are in our thoughts and prayers. A good Old Parish welcome awaits!

Yours in love,

Anne



PANDEMIC REFLECTIONS

Its two years now since, at the start of the restrictions, the editor asked me to contribute an article for the magazine as a way of keeping the congregation updated with information about the ways in which we were adapting church life and our services despite the closure of our buildings. When we look back over that time, we can see that we've been on quite a journey of innovation and discovery, developing new ways of supporting our congregation and harnessing technology to open up opportunities to continue our worship.

With the mini-services from the manse and church, our Helping Hands delivering shopping and prescriptions, the Zoom Sunday School, our Dial-A-Service, virtual Kirk Session meetings, the monthly magazine, family quiz nights, use of our church website, Facebook and YouTube, we found new and varied ways to help combat the restrictions on the worshiping and socialising which we used to take for granted.

Since the restrictions eased, the gradual increase in our numbers at Sunday services is encouraging though we still have some way to go with plenty of seats left for members who may be a bit more confident about resuming their regular attendance. Our service on Easter Sunday, colourful and noisy with children from the Sunday School in church, was joyous and moving and a positive indication that our congregation remains in good heart.

With our services now free of all mandatory restrictions and our organisations having resumed, its perhaps tempting to assume that we simply pick up exactly where we left off. Members of a certain age may remember the Barbra Streisand song "The Way We Were" and be quietly humming the tune as they head for church on Sundays or again enjoy the activities and company

of our organisations. Its not quite that simple though as things beyond our church have moved on during the past two years and fresh challenges have emerged.

Principal among these is the very significant reduction in ministries across the Church of Scotland potentially affecting every church in the land. It's almost certain that our congregation will be involved in changes locally through union or linkage and that even the name of our church will change. We needn't be concerned or afraid of such changes. Over the centuries the history of our national church has been one of change and adaptation. This current change should provide opportunities to make better use of our resources and to focus on ways in which we can strengthen our faith and find new ways to proclaim the Good News in our own community.

Alistair Walker Session Clerk



Do you remember in last month's EKO there was a plea from Norma and Jeanette for help with forming a rota to deliver teas/coffees after the morning service? Well, disappointingly, there was no response!

So, I am asking on their behalves if three of you could offer your help to do this! It should only be seven times in the year.

Please consider helping with this!

Editor





Coalburn Silver Band Concert

On Friday the 20th May, we have the Coalburn Silver Band entertaining us in the Church. Time 7pm

Tickets are now available from members of the Kirk Life team.

Price £7 and £5 concession.



The George Lindsay Band Concert

On Saturday the 11th June, the George Lindsay Band will be appearing in the Glebe Street Hall

They are a Blues, Swing, Pop and Jazz Trio, so music to suit all tastes, tickets for this will be £5,

It will also be a BYOB. Time 7pm for 7.30pm start.

More information will be available nearer the time.



FUTURE EVENTS

- Saturday the 1st October Autumn Craft Fair.
- Saturday the 26th November the Christmas Fair.
- Saturday the 31st December Hogmanay Ceilidh.

With the resumption of so many events, we would be most grateful for any donations for raffle prizes. If you have anything suitable for a raffle prize, would you please either contact one of the Kirk Life Team or hand it/them to a member of the duty team on a Sunday morning. Thank you!

Xen Ross - Kirk Life Convenor

COFFEE MORNING FOR CHRISTIAN AID

The Coffee Morning in the Glebe Street Hall, on Thursday 19th May, will be especially for Christian Aid.

We are hoping to have a stall selling marmalade, jam, home baking (wrapped), books and jewellery.



Since starting back in February our numbers have been somewhat depleted so we would appreciate a big effort for this most worthwhile of causes.

Remember, 10am – 12 noon on Thursday 19th May in the Glebe Street Hall.

Thank you!



Evelyn Brownlie.

WORLD LEPROSY DAY

Away back on the last Sunday in January, we recognised World Leprosy Day, as we have done for many years. Our donations given throughout the month of February came to £500. Many thanks for that.

In addition, a number of members and friends of the Congregation make donations regularly through the use of the Blue Tubs. Since the beginning of May last year, these tubs have produced the grand total of £538.16. Very many thanks to all who continue to support this so worth-while area of Christian service.

Stewart Smith





THE SUMMER GUILD

The Guild will meet once a month over the summer on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Lower Hall. The dates are 4th May, 1st June, 6th July, 3rd August and 7th September.

We will have tea and a chat, devotions and some fun items.

Mary Smith



In March, one of our members went for a cup of tea after the morning service in the lower hall, put her walking stick at the window on the left at the entrance to the hall, went for her tea and, on returning for her walking stick, found that it was gone! It is a collapsible stick and has some personal value.

This lady walks home and had to do so, on this occasion, unaided by her walking stick.

Would the person who erroneously took the stick please return it to the church. Just leave it with an elder on a Sunday or just leave it in the church vestibule—please!

Thank you!

Editor



THE PRAYER DIARY

Marilyn Ross will take phone calls, texts or e-mails from people wishing the prayer group to pray for someone. Marilyn's phone numbers are: 01355 249028, 07934256839 and her e-mail address is marilyniross@hotmail.com.

MAY

1st. May I never forget that with you, Lord, all things are possible.

2nd. I lift in prayer all those in need of encouragement and hope.

3rd. Save me, O Lord, from lying lips and deceitful tongues.

4th. Lord, take my hands and direct them.

5th. We are grateful, Father, that we live in a democratic country and do not need to be afraid of persecution.

6th. Lord, as restrictions are eased, we pray for all who are vulnerable.

7th. Help me, Father, to keep an open mind and to be more appreciative of the views of others.

8th. How arrogant I am, Lord, to expect mercy for myself when I am unwilling to uphold justice for others.

9th. Heavenly Father, we ask you to look after all the people who have had to flee from Ukraine.

10th. Lord, we give thanks for the wonder of nature.

11th. Whatever I do today, wherever I walk, it's you who carries me.

12th. Help us to be grateful for all that is good in our lives.

13th. Keep me safe, O Lord, for I take refuge in you.

14th. Today, Lord, keep me focused on your plans.



15th.Lord, when I am tempted to give up, help me to keep going.

16th.Father, be my guide today and every day.

17th.We give thanks for our Church, Minister and all who make it possible for us to worship every Sunday.

18th.Anything I do will happen in your time, Lord, not mine.

19th.Thank you, Father, for filling the heavens with proof of your mighty power.

20th.Lord, I ask for strength, faith and trust.

21st.Thank you that you are always with us. Help us to remember this.

22nd.Lord, help me to keep a cheerful spirit when things don't go my way.

23rd.Lord, we give thanks for our Prayer Group.

24th.Guide our members who have not returned to Church and give them confidence to do so.

25th.Lord, we would ask you to feed the hungry, care for the sick and comfort the faint-hearted.

26th.Thank you, Lord, that the only righteousness I need comes from you and begins in my heart.

27th.I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.

28th.Lord, I pray for peace in the world.

29th.I know, Lord, that more important than the words we sing at church is the life we lead during the week.

30th.Lord, when I am tempted to give up, help me to keep going.

31st.Help us, Lord, to always respect and care for the countryside.

JUNE

1st. Forgive me, Lord, when I am the unwitting cause of conflict among my family and friends.

2nd.Depending on you, Lord, is my strength.

3rd.Be with World Leaders in these anxious times.

4th.Help me find new ways to serve and be faithful in all I do.

5th.With you in my life, Lord, I am never alone.

INVITATION

Jubilee Celebration

SATURDAY 4TH JUNE 2022

It is intended to hold a 'Messy Church Street Party' to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the Glebe Street Hall on Saturday 4th June from 1pm until 5pm. This is for ALL the church family!

There will be:- food, games, dancing, music, arts & crafts and sports and much more.

Bring your own picnic lunch. Tea, coffee, juice and cake will be provided.

There will be no cost although donations on the day will be greatly appreciated to help defray the costs.

You can stay for the whole day or just an hour. It's up to you!

If you intend attending, please let Christine Tweedie or Iain Shaw know well in advance.

This could be a great occasion for our church family!

Be there or be square!!!



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK



This year's Christian Aid Week runs from 15th – 21st May. **Christian Aid Sunday**, therefore, will be on Sunday 15th May. Here are some of the plans for this special and important Week in the work and witness of our Congregation.

This year we will have available the familiar **Red Envelopes**. Like the last couple of years, we will not be doing the House-to-House Collection. Envelopes will be at the Church door on the two Sundays, 15th and 22nd May. Also, if you have in your hand a paper copy of the EKO, you will have found inside it one of the Envelopes. People can then return the Envelope to the Church on Sundays 15th or 22nd May, or hand it in to the Office on the Tuesday or Friday mornings, or indeed ask your Elder if he or she would be kind enough to return it for you.

In addition, now that the Thursday Coffee Morning is open again, Evelyn Brownlie has kindly offered to hold a **Christian Aid Coffee Morning on Thursday 19th**. That will be in the Glebe Street Hall, from 10am till 12 noon. There will be some stalls – books, homemade jams and marmalade, bric-brac and possibly pancakes made on the spot! Definitely a date for the diary.

To help us think a bit more about this year's Christian Aid Week, there are available for individual use copies of a **seven-day Devotional Booklet**, entitled **"Hungry for Justice"**. We have just 20 copies, so if you know you would like one, be sure to pick one up. They will be at the Church door from Sunday 8th May.

A new venture this year is **"My Marathon – a Personal Challenge for Christian Aid 2022"**. The plan is that teams of people will get together to walk the

equivalent of a marathon, each person contributing to the overall distance. The marathon can be tackled by walking or running, the teams can be members of the family, or a group friends or colleagues. Each team sets up their “Just Giving” page and lets all their relatives and friends know about it. Donations are made online and the “Just Giving” organisation deal with all the monies, sending them directly to Christian Aid. The idea is to do it at any time that suits over the period beginning 1st May and ending on the final day of Christian Aid Week, May 21st. Of course, a single person could do the marathon by her or himself! Some teams have already signed up – there’s still time for more. Contact Alistair Walker or the Church Office (279004) for more details and to indicate your own plans.

The focus for this year’s Week is Zimbabwe, where in the rural areas, terrible drought caused by climate change is leading to widespread hunger. This year, we learn about how three women of great determination are working with Christian Aid’s partners to do all they can to lift their families out of hunger. As the Booklet says, “Every gift, every action, every prayer, every one of us can change lives.”

Stewart Smith



UPDATE FROM IAIN SHAW

Easter All Age Family Service on 17th April

I hope you enjoyed our Easter all age family service either in person, on line or on catch up – wasn't it beautiful and emotional to see Deborah & Daisy (mother and daughter) being baptised together. The whole service just came together so beautifully and didn't Isabella and Sophie read superbly. I enjoyed the jelly bean version of the Easter story as well as the cross-origami craft (although not everyone managed to make a cross – just saying!) and finally the children showing off how their sunflower seeds are getting on – demonstrating that from tiny seeds (small beginning's) great big things are possible through love, care, perseverance and patience. What a lovely upbeat and uplifting service it was and it was also nice to see so many children & families in attendance.

Sunday School - We meet at 11am in the Upper Hall at the Church and all children will be made most welcome.

Art (& Craft) Group - The children's arts and crafts group meet every Thursday afternoon from 4.30-6pm in the Glebe St Hall.

Junior Badminton Group - for children (in Primary 4 and above) meet in the Glebe St Hall every Friday afternoon, during school term, from 4-5.30pm.

Messy Church

We have our Messy Church Sessions for all the family and this includes all members of our extended Church family once a month from 2-4pm in the Glebe St Hall. There is no cost although donations are welcome to help cover costs.

Our next session is entitled- Messy Sport on Sunday 8th May – we will have a

short sports related reflection, sports, games, arts & crafts, refreshments & a sports themed treasure hunt.

Family Fun Event

On Saturday 4th June we will host a Queens Platinum Jubilee Street Party event in the Glebe St Hall from 1-5pm. This is for the whole church family and you are all invited. Please bring your own picnic lunch – teas, coffees and juice as well as cake will be provided. There will also be arts, crafts, games, sports as well as music and the opportunity to have a dance!!

Dates for your Diaries

1 The 2nd Angus McConnell Memorial Community Football Tournament – This will take place on Sunday afternoon **22nd May 2022** from 2-5pm in Kirktonholme Park EK.

2 Our 2022 Summer Holiday Club is entitled “The EKOPC Summer Olympics” - This will run every morning from 10am-12noon for all Primary school aged children from **Monday 8th- Friday 12th August** –registration forms are now available you can pick up a paper copy from any of the church halls or electronically from the Church website www.ekopc.org.uk

Places are being limited and filling up very fast so if you want a child(ren) or grandkid or neighbour to attend don't delay complete and return a registration form today.

Thank you to everyone for all the tremendous 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.

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

Rev Ross Blackman on his unusual faith journey



Rev Ross Blackman, who is the minister of Hamilton Old Parish and originally from Lewis, discussed his unusual journey as part of the monthly Talking Ministry series.

Reflecting on it he said: "I don't think God wastes anything - God uses our experiences and we eventually succumb to God's lead."

Mr Blackman, who is the nominee to become the Church of Scotland's next convener of the Ecumenical Relations Committee, spent the first 30 years of his life as one of Jehovah's Witnesses.

"My views began to change when I came to faith in Christ reading the Bible in my living room and I suddenly had this awareness that Christ was far more than I'd been taught - for Jehovah's Witnesses, although Christ is accepted as the son of God, he's portrayed as a created angel so you wouldn't worship or pray to him," he explains.

"I embarked on getting an education and learning about churches - visiting a wide variety including Baptists, Church of Scotland, Free Church, Methodists, Roman Catholic and charismatic groups.

"However, I continued to be most attracted to the Reformed tradition and was soon engaged in lay preaching and supporting ecumenical youth groups.

Whilst working as a performance manager at The State Hospital, Carstairs, Mr Blackman said he "succumbed to the call to ministry".

"I had been putting it off for 10 years but it wasn't wasted time," he reflects. Since being ordained in 2015, Mr Blackman describes his time as a minister as a "real privilege".

"My expectations going into Ministry were actually quite low because I carried with me that early reading in Ezekiel 3 which emphasised dependence on God and suggested to me that there was a good chance that people wouldn't be willing to listen to a word I had to say," he said.

"Having gone in with that trajectory and low expectations of what I might accomplish, the fact that lots has happened has only been a delight."

In 2016, Mr Blackman and his wife Liz, who is a trained actor, started and hosted a theatre group based in Hamilton to "help bring the gospel to life through drama".

This Fresh Expression of Church became Drama Kirk, with Liz as the director, and they have continued to perform ever since, including special online recordings during the pandemic and an annual Passion Play at Easter.

"The biggest surprise is that I feel I've been permitted to get involved in so much in such a short period of time, which I truly didn't expect," he says.

Editor



Pentecost Look-and-find



Can you find:

3 birds in the sky
a mouse on a wall
a kitten

a dog
a soldier with a spear
an animal looking over a wall

a carpet with a star
a lizard on a wall
a woman holding a coin



PASTORAL REGISTER

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

Bobby Harper

Baptisms “Let the children come to me.”

Deborah Walker (Adult)

Daisy Walker



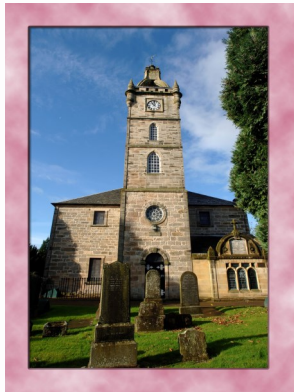
If you would normally hand write/type material and give it to the editor would you please phone me and dictate it. My numbers are below.

The deadline for submitting all material for the May edition of the EKO is:

Wednesday 25th 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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Treasurer **Mr Ronnie Niven**

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OR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/EKOLDPC