

EKO

The Magazine for
East Kilbride
Old Parish Church



APRIL 2021

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Springtime Promise?



At a time when springtime bulbs are beginning to show in our borders and pots it's maybe appropriate that the church is also showing signs of emerging into the daylight after months of restrictions with the resumption of live services from Palm Sunday and onwards throughout Easter. We had a short experience of live services with face coverings and social distancing last autumn before a resurgence of the virus brought another enforced closure. Perhaps this time, after we open our doors on Palm Sunday, they will stay open.

We have been anticipating this development for some time and have been reflecting on our experience of worship through modern technology. It has become quite clear that while all of us have missed the companionship and togetherness of shared public worship, the use of recorded services broadcast every week has enable most of our members to share a sense of belonging and common faith. Although we can now re-open for worship, the numbers permitted to attend remain very limited so, for the time being, we will continue to broadcast services on our website and Facebook and continue with Dial-A-Service and DVDs for members without internet.

An exciting success of our outreach over the past year has been the steady growth of our Zoom Sunday School led by Iain Shaw our Youth & Families Worker. We now have the challenge of retaining the commitment of children and families as organisations such as sports, youth organisations, after-school clubs and others prepare for resumption of their programmes and offer activities which compete for the time of our young people. Iain has given some ideas about future changes in his own article later in this magazine.

Although the 250th anniversary of our church building in 2024 may seem a long way distant, a small planning team has met via Zoom and started along the road of planning a programme of mission and stewardship to celebrate this significant milestone. This will be no small task, but the past year has shown that our church has rich resources of talent and enthusiasm to bring to this work.

Alistair Walker - Session Clerk

Pastoral Letter



In addition to our own church services, like many of us, I've also been tuning in to some of the services broadcast on TV. I particularly enjoy "Reflections from the Quay" and recently it was a friend of mine, Neil Glover who was leading them. In the reflections, he told a story, and I'd like to share it with you.

It's the story of a group of acorns who lived under a tree. They were happy acorns who did everything they could to be the best acorns they could be. They took care of themselves and were always trying to improve themselves as acorns. One day a strange, dishevelled acorn fell from the tree, but it didn't fit in because it wasn't as polished as the rest of the acorns. They tried to make it like them, but it had other ideas. It pointed to the tree and said, "That's what I'm going to be," and it lay down on the ground and was soon covered by the soil while the rest of the polished acorns went about their business.

I'm sure you get the point, that sometimes things have to die to be re-born into greatness. That's at the root of the Easter message, the death of Jesus on the cross and the resurrection three days later. But it also says something more about our lives. Maybe things in our lives must die to then be re-born. Maybe we must let go of the things which are keeping us from being all God wants us to be.

As we start to look at how we do church coming out of this lockdown period, the same is true there. We have taken up so many new ways of doing things, that perhaps some of the old unfruitful ones must die. In Isaiah 43:19 the Lord says, "Behold I am doing a new thing!" These are exciting times for our journey as a church family and hopefully it will not be too long until we can all be welcomed back to worship and be able to share hospitality together.

I wish you all a blessed Easter.

Anne Paton



Commemorative Words



A big fan and friend of Ballerup municipality has passed away. Angus McConnell died Monday 15th of February. Two days after his 90th birthday.

The first time Angus visited Ballerup was in 1968 with a team of youth



football players from the YMCA. It was the start of many visits to Ballerup. He came here almost every year. His visits were often connected to sports, but also in more official occasions.

The friendship between Ballerup and East Kilbride was established in 1965, and Angus was active in this Twinning Link from the beginning. He was the driving force in the establishment of the Twinning Association in East Kilbride, which purpose was to support Athletes and associations who wanted to come to Ballerup. Angus was, until his death, chairman of the Association.

Angus has not only been an incredible part of the co-operation between the two associations, but also privately. He was always accommodated privately and was very welcome as a guest. He also welcomed us as guests, who were waited on in the most distinguished way. Recently on his birthday our treasurer talked with him for about 15 minutes. He was cheerful, well and looked forward to the visit from his nieces to celebrate him.

Angus was a well-known person throughout Scotland, not least for his great work and commitment to youth football under the Scottish Football

Association.

Angus was a member of the football Club YMCA, who before his death chose to name their stadium after him. But unfortunately he did not manage to experience the official opening.

In 1967 he founded the East Kilbride Sports Council, which was the first of its kind in Scotland.

He was a lifelong member of the Scottish Amateur Football and Scottish Amateur Football League.

In 2016 he received The British Empire Medal. This took place at a tea party with the Royals, and this was not the only time, he was at a tea party.

Angus was an incredibly intelligent, kind, funny, committed person, whom many of us from Ballerup and not at least from East Kilbride will miss.

All honour to the memory of

Angus (Gus) McConnell.

Jesper Würtzen
Mayor of Ballerup

Ole Hupfeld,
Chairman of the Twinning Association, Ballerup



Moira and Helen's Kiltwalk

Moira Winning and Helen Kerr are members of the West Kirk. They're both members of the East Kilbride Fairtrade Group and supply the goods for our Fairtrade Stall. And they are both involved in the East Kilbride Christian Aid Committee, which includes representatives from several Churches in the town, including the Old Parish.

In support of Christian Aid, Helen and Moira are planning to take part in the Kiltwalk. They will walk from Strathaven to Sandford and back, a distance of 10 kilometres. They have chosen to work with Kiltwalk as the Hunter Foundation will add an extra 50% to whatever total they raise.

They are inviting our support and the web address for making a donation is below:-

<https://virtual.thekiltwalk.co.uk/fundraising/ScotlandsVirtualKiltwalk2021-MoiraWinning>

A click on this link will lead to the donations page, where it will immediately suggest that the donor gives £30! This can be deleted, and whatever amount the donor decides can be put in its place, as long as the total is in whole £s.

The date for the Kiltwalk extends over the weekend of 23rd-25th April. Every measure of support we can give will be much appreciated. And it would be good if we could let others know about the plans of these intrepid Kiltwalkers!



Stewart Smith

APRIL 23 - 25

Prayer Diary

The prayer group continues to take you prayer requests to our Heavenly Father. Send requests by email to marionleddie@gmail.com or text 07443503142.

Prayer is our link that connects us with God in his heaven above.

DIARY

- 1st. Remember that on Maundy Thursday at The Last Supper, Jesus commanded us to love one another.
- 2nd. Thank you, Lord Jesus for the sacrifice you made for us on this day long ago.
- 3rd. Praise God for the wonder of the Easter Message and pray that we may all be refreshed and renewed by the spirit of the risen Jesus Christ.
- 4th. Christ is risen!
- 5th. Thank you, Lord, for loving me just the way I am.
- 6th. Please give me the insight and wisdom to reach out to others at this time.
- 7th. We pray for common sense as restrictions are lifted.
- 8th. Look around for every sign of a new springtime -the colour of the tulips, the cheekiness of sparrows, the innocence of new-born lambs, the greening of the hedges and give praise to the maker and giver of new life.
- 9th. Help me keep in mind the blessings in my life.
- 10th. Pray for the MAF flying for life that they are able to get back to helping more people.
- 11th. Help us Lord to support those who are feeling vulnerable.
- 12th. Thank you, Lord for the impact the vaccine is having in reducing covid19 cases.
- 13th. Lord, help us to negotiate the many twists and turns ahead of us to bring us home safely.
- 14th. Be still and know that I am God.

- 15th. Hold before God people who live in poverty in Scotland today -like single mothers who skip meals to feed their children, or parents who feel deeply ashamed to be relying on food banks and many more.
- 16th. Thank you for our church teams who provide support for members and the wider community and we ask that you continue to bless them in this work.
- 17th. I ask for strength, wisdom and courage to identify and deal with changes in my life.
- 18th. Thank you, God that you are with us always, that your presence is mighty and you hear our prayers.
- 19th. I will sing your praise with all my heart.
- 20th. Lord, help me to remember the difference it makes when I make time with you a priority each morning.
- 21st. Give thanks for the assurance we have that tells us that in all the ups and downs of our everyday human experience, God is with us; gathered and scattered, God is with us; in work and in worship, God is with us; now and always, God is with us.
- 22nd. Pray for Moira and Helen on their Kiltwalk for Christian Aid, that their efforts will be well supported.
- 23rd. Thank you for the daffodils. No matter how cold or dark the winter, they rise to announce spring is here, your gift to us.
- 24th. Father we pray for business leaders making difficult decisions that affect the lives of their employees. God give these women and men wisdom and help them to lead self sacrificially.
- 25th. Lord, support and strengthen our doctors and nurses and other medicals as they treat people who are unwell.
- 26th. Thank you, Father, for giving us hope, faith and trust for our future.
- 27th. Draw near to all those who are suffering at this time so that they will feel your presence and comfort.
- 28th. Lord, help us to be more helpful and friendly to everyone we meet.
- 29th. Lord, bless our church teams as they work to bring our services back to normal.
- 30th. May God's grace be with us today and always.

Looking Ahead - Christian Aid Week

This year's Christian Aid Week runs from **Monday 10th May till Sunday 16th May.**

The general feeling is that despite the lessening of Covid restrictions, it would not be advisable to try to do our regular House-to-House Collection. So, instead, we will concentrate on other ways to recognise the importance of Christian Aid Week.

First of all, members of the Congregation will be invited to make their own donation, by sending a cheque or arranging a bank transfer to Des Laverty, just as we've done before during this past year, for Harvest and Leprosy Mission. These donations will be made out to the Old Parish, and Des will pass the total on to the East Kilbride Christian Aid Committee, whose treasurer is Isobel Gray.

At the same time, we'll have posters etc in the windows of the Church Lounge and at the Glebe Street Hall; we'll try to put an article in the EK News; and we'll end the Week on the 16th with the Morning Service, with the focus there on the themes of Christian Aid Week.

And one other thing – at least. Christian Aid is encouraging individuals to create their own Challenge, and so to help to raise much needed funds. Jim Gray and I have decided to do that.

In March, I reached my 80th birthday; this month will see Jim reaching his 80th birthday. So, using the number 80 as a "peg", we plan to walk round the loch at the James Hamilton Heritage Park 80 times. We will start on May 1st, and do 5 circuits per day, for 16 days, finishing sometime on the Sunday

at the end of Christian Aid Week. The circuit of the loch is 1,200 metres. 80 circuits is a distance of 96,000 metres, which equals almost 60 miles.

Next month, we'll say a bit more about why the symbol of walking round a body of water fits with this year's Christian Aid Week theme, and we'll give the details about how to spread the word about this, so that others outwith the Congregation can hopefully contribute. And if anyone else wants to undertake their own challenge, now would be the time to start thinking about it.



PS The final total for the Leprosy Mission appeal on World Leprosy Day – donations plus Gift Aid reclaimed – has come to £1,053. A great result.

Stewart Smith



Readers for Sunday Services

We are updating our current list of readers for Sunday services. If you would like to join our group of volunteers, reading approximately 4 times per year, please contact me at: ekopc.office@btconnect.com

Take care!

Louise



Update from Iain Shaw

As I write this short update the slight easing of restrictions and a draft timeframe with indicative dates is beginning to emerge. Hopefully very soon we will be able to meet in person and restart our face-to-face activities and events - halleluiah.

We have learned so much and had to adapt in many ways as we responded to the events of the past year. In my opinion these have all been very successful especially when you consider our starting position. As we emerge from the pandemic, we need to grasp and learn from the opportunities presented during the last year. I will call it Project Re Start (The 4 R's) where it would be good practice to Recover, Review, Respond and Reset how things (events /activities etc) will look and feel as we emerge and life begins to get back to normal whatever normal is. One thing for sure is that we all need to accept that we may get it wrong in order to get it right! But more about that in future editions of the magazine.

What have we been up during March? We held our third monthly Sunday School Family Quiz night which attracted 13 teams made up of 43 individuals – a truly magnificent effort. The theme for the evening was positivity and all the team names had to say something positive about their team with a word that began with the same initial letter as their family surname. The winning team was The Winning Wilson Family captained by Charlotte, runners up were the Fantastic Fabulous Forbes Family captained jointly by Craig & Lucy and in 3rd were the winners of our first 2 quizzes, The Amazing Ashelby Family captained by Millie. As always, the emphasis of these events is on fun and fellowship with the taking part much more important than the winning – believe that and you will believe anything -

the quizzes are very competitive but hugely enjoyable. Our next family quiz night is scheduled for Saturday 17th April at 7pm.

We also sent a donation to Comic Relief in March in support of their fundraising efforts for young people less fortunate than ourselves. All the children and young people were given a red nose to wear, on the theme of outdoor creatures, during our sessions closest to the actual Red Nose charity day of 19th March. In each box, of 40 sealed red noses, there was 1 chief animal and believe it or not everyone got a random pick and can you guess who chose the CHIEF animal? – yes you are right our Minister, Anne – divine intervention or what?

Our Virtual Sunday School sessions on a Sunday morning and our midweek FLING group both continue weekly with a mixture of fun and games including a time to chat, puzzles, music, dancing and singing as well as arts & crafts, Bible teaching and prayer.

An Easter QR code trail in the Village area retelling the Easter story will be available during Holy Week finishing on Easter Sunday where everyone of all ages can get involved. Also, we hope to involve as many children as possible, albeit virtually, in the Easter Sunday morning service on 4th April.

There are many other new and exciting things scheduled to take place over the next few months – there are notices elsewhere in this magazine detailing all the information - I hope you will take time to read and pray for the success of these new initiatives and please share these with people and families in your neighbourhood and encourage those who may be interested to come along and get involved.

Finally, I would like to put on a 5 morning (10-12am) holiday club in the Church Halls and possibly a separate Sports Holiday Club during different weeks of the Summer months during the school holidays but await the

restrictions being eased sufficiently to allow this to happen. In order for these to go ahead I will need to start preparing programmes now. I will require quite a bit of help to run these activities and if you feel you could offer your services even for a day or two that would be great- the whole week would be awesome! There are a multitude of roles & tasks from making juice, serving snacks, to running sessions, to helping the children with their crafts, registration, technical assistance or just being there able to chat, listen and engage with the children in fact I am sure there is a role for everyone. Once, and if, I can get dates set, I will make everyone aware of them. In the meantime, if you feel called to help, even without knowing the actual dates, please let me know. A full briefing meeting will be called to provide further information/details in due course.

Thank you all for your continued prayers, support and encouragement. I really appreciate and value them.

In closing I pray that you will all stay safe, healthy and continue to be kind and look after one another.

Iain (Youth & Families Worker) mobile 07912 295943 /

Email: iainshaw18@gmail.com



A couple of jokes for your enjoyment

A burglar was breaking into a house late one night. He opened the window, put one leg through and heard a voice saying “Jesus is watching you!”. He stopped and backed off but nothing happened, so he tried again. He opened the window and this time put both legs in this time and heard again “Jesus is watching you!”. Undeterred he entered the room, rifled through the drawers and yet again heard, “Jesus is watching you!”. He shone his torch and saw a parrot. He went over and said to the parrot “What's your name?”. The parrot replied “Moses”. “That’s a funny name for a parrot” said the burglar. “Yes”, said the parrot, “ but not as funny as Jesus for a Rottweiler!”.

A doctor, an architect and a politician were discussing whose profession was the oldest. The doctor argued that hers was the oldest since God performed a surgical operation when he created Eve out of Adam’s rib. The architect claimed that his profession was older still since God, like any architect, created the world out of chaos. “Yes” said the politician, but who do you think created the chaos?”.

Quiz

Submitted by Iain Shaw

How well do you know your Bible?

A calculator quiz puzzle in 8 steps.

- 1 Type in the number of books in the Old Testament.
- 2 Multiply it by the number of commandments God gave Moses in Exodus 20.
- 3 Divide that by the number of Testaments that make up the Bible.
- 4 Subtract the number of Gospels.
- 5 Multiply by the number of books in the Bible.
- 6 Multiply by the number of gifts the wise men brought Jesus when he was born.
- 7 Press the equals key.
- 8 Turn the calculator upside down – What word have you made ?

The Answers

39

10

2

4

66

3

37818 = BIBLE

From Iain Shaw

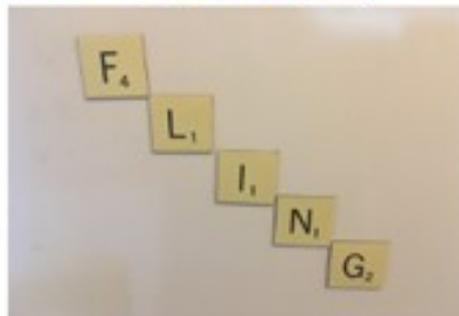
EKOPC Virtual Sunday School / Messy Church is on every Sunday morning from 9.30-10.15am. The Zoom joining code is 852 4169 8517 (password 658984)



East Kilbride Old Parish Church
Midweek FLING

***** PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW TIME *****

Every Wednesday afternoon @ **3.45pm**





Join us for our Easter Trail

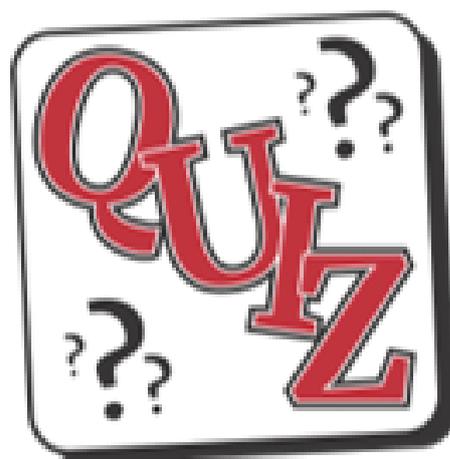
EGGSTRAVAGANZA



**From Sat 27th March – Sun 4th April
There will be 10 laminated posters,
hidden in various outdoor locations
within the Village Area, with Easter Eggs
on them and QR codes to scan which tell
the Easter Story.**

Everyone is welcome to take part.

**Our next Fun Family Quiz Night
is on Saturday 17th April @ 7pm.**



COMING VERY SOON :
AN INTERCHURCH (5/7 a side)
FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT IN
MEMORY OF ANGUS McCONNELL
@ Kirtonholme Pitches EK
FOOTBALL / FUN / FOOD / FAITH
more details very soon



**** NEW FAMILY ART GROUP**
STARTING SOON **

WHEN RESTRICTIONS ARE SUFFICIENTLY EASED –
MORE DETAILS RE DATE / TIME / VENUE SOON





Easter Scramble Grid

Use the grid references to work out this important Easter message.

	a	b	c	d
1	E	T	P	N
2	C	U	D	H
3	O	A	J	G
4	I	S	R	W

c3 a1 b4 b2 b4 c2 a4 a1 c2

b3 d1 c2 c4 a3 b4 a1 b3 d3 b3 a4 d1



Pastoral Register

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

Wilma Kennedy

William Linn



EKO Submissions

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 April edition of the EKO is:

Wednesday 21st April

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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Roll Keeper	Mr Robert Cossar	
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OR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/EKOLDPC