

# EKO

The Magazine for  
East Kilbride  
Old Parish Church



April 2026

Edition 647

# Church Calendar

## APRIL

Sunday 5th	Easter Sunday Service	11am
Sunday 12th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 19th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 26th	Morning Worship	11am

## MAY

Sunday 3rd	Morning Worship	11am
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# Flower Calendar

## APRIL

Sunday 5th	In memory of Ted & Rena Silvers
and also	In memory of Jean and Ed Kelly
Sunday 12th	In memory of Peter Smith
Sunday 19th	In memory of Jabe Devennie
Sunday 26th	The Flower Fund



If you would like to dedicated the flowers on someone's behalf or in memory of someone, please contact Elizabeth Robertson on: 01355 243205.

# Pastoral Letter

I don't think I'm alone in thinking it has been a long winter. One day we think Spring has now arrived, the next we're experiencing sleet and snow. It's enough to get anyone down. One of my best loved passages from Isaiah is the familiar "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles." (Isaiah 40:31) The picture of an eagle soaring through the sky is something we would all emulate as we come out of winter and hopefully into the warmer days.

Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching before it breaks? The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. So, while the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm, it simply uses the storm to lift it higher as it rises on the winds that bring the storm.

When the storms of life come upon us, and all of us from time to time will experience them, we too can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief towards God. The storms do not have to overcome us, we can allow God's power to lift us above them. God enables us to ride the winds of the storms that bring sickness, tragedy, failure and disappointments in our lives. We too can soar above the storm.

Let us all remember that it is not the burdens of life that weigh us down, it is how we handle the burdens of life. As we enter a new season in our weather pattern let us remember that "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles."

I hope and pray that you will soar into the warmer weather.

Yours in love, *Anne Eaton*

# Wednesday Craft Group

We meet in the lounge weekly, on Wednesdays, 10am until noon.

We are busy preparing for the Christian Aid Coffee Morning, Saturday 16th May, 10am in the Glebe Street Hall, when we will have a few tables of homemade/crafted items, donated by our group and supporters.

New members are welcome.

*Jill Cowan*

# Sunday School

We meet weekly in the upper hall ,each Sunday ,from 1045 until 1200.

New members of school age are always welcome.

Join us if you can,

*Jill Cowan* and the Sunday School Team

# Kirk Life

Please note that the Coalburn Silver Band concert this year will take place in the church on Friday, 15th May 2026 at 7.00 pm. Tickets will be available shortly or you can pay at the door. Tickets will be priced £7 or £5 for concessions. There will also be a raffle and tea and coffee will be served in the lower hall at the interval.

*Catherine Selfridge*



# Tree of Hope



On Thursday 12th March, four members of South Lanarkshire's Grounds Services, transplanted the Tree of Life from its pot just inside the gate of the Old Parish Church to its new and permanent position in the grass opposite the Hunter Memorial. We are most grateful to Mr Joe Connor, Leader of the Grounds Services, and his colleagues, for all their help.

Six members of the Congregation joined them in torrential rain to witness this event. Hopefully the tree will establish strong roots and flourish. A photo taken by Joe shows them all smiling, despite the downpour.

The Tree is a special rowan tree, Sorbus Autumn Spire. In the spring, it will have white flowers, and in the autumn it will have yellow berries and beautiful autumn leaves.

In the ground beside it there is a placard which explains that the Tree of Hope was originally planted by the Congregation in autumn 2025, to mark the 80th Anniversary of the start of Christian Aid.

# Christian Aid Week



This year's Christian Aid Week will run from 10th-16th May. It will begin with the Morning Service on Sunday 10th. Gift Envelopes will be given out at the service and also sent out with the May EKO.

The theme of this year's appeal is the wonderful work being done in Kenya's capital city, Nairobi, where women with the tiniest spaces in crowded communities are creating productive gardens to help feed their families. We'll have booklets with daily devotions for the Week which highlight the lives of two such women and their involvement with "Beacon of Hope", one of Christian Aid partners.

Look up the Christian Aid website for the full story.

Also, during the Week, one of our members will be making a splash in support of Christian Aid! Janice Gourlay, well known to many of us, will undertake a Sponsored Swim. She will swim 81 lengths of the Dollan Baths – not all at one time, of course! Look out for Janice’s Just Giving page which will come on line towards the end of April.

The Week will end with our famous Christian Aid Coffee Morning. The date is Saturday 16th May, from 10am till 12 noon, in the Glebe Street Hall. Full details will be in the May EKO, while in the meantime, we can all put the date clearly in

our diaries. *Mary Smith*

## HELP OUR WORLD TO SURVIVE

We are all aware of the fact that our world is suffering because of our carbon footprint. Sometimes people say “But I can’t do anything to help”.

We can in fact do our own small part if we have a small garden. We can encourage insects, birds and other small animals to visit our gardens by planting small trees, bushes and colourful flowers.

Birds need places to build their nests and if all the trees are cut down, there is nowhere for them to go. I’m sure we do not want to see a world with no birds. Every single leaf we grow in our gardens absorbs CO<sub>2</sub>. So that is a good reason for planting. We can try to encourage others around us to plant also so that the creatures can travel from one area to another.

Sometimes people pass my garden in the summer and comment on the flowers but they don’t always realise that the flowers are there for insects as well as for my pleasure.

There used to be hedgehogs, frogs and other creatures that visited my garden but unfortunately they seem to be disappearing as there are fewer and fewer gardens in the area. Many have been turned into car parks. People are not always aware that this is causing more problems with flooding, as there is nowhere for the water to go.

It would be good if we could all think about these things and if everyone helped in their own little area, it would make a difference.

*Dorothy Summing*, from the One World Committee.

## FAIRTRADE COFFEE AFTERNOON

### MANY THANKS

Many thanks from East Kilbride Fairtrade Group for helping so well with our Fairtrade Spring Coffee Afternoon on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March. We are most grateful for the support of everyone who attended from the Old Parish and other Churches in the town. A special thankyou goes to the team in the kitchen, the pancake maker and the helpers serving tables. The Afternoon raised £310, and in addition we sold over £150 worth of Fairtrade goods. We hope this enjoyable event has helped raise awareness of Fairtrade.

**From the EK Fairtrade Group.**



# The Prayer Group

The Prayer Group meets in the Lounge Area after the Church service and invite you to visit/ join them 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.

Catherine Selfridge, Anne Learmonth; and Janice Gourlay , will be pleased to receive in person, phone or text prayer requests.

## APRIL

- 1st. Father, teach me to forgive others with a compassionate and loving heart.
- 2nd. Prince of Peace, calm my heart and mind. When anxiety or worry overwhelms me, remind me of your presence and love.
- 3rd. Thank you, Lord, that by your wounds we are healed.
- 4th. Heavenly Father, bring clarity, comfort and a gentle reminder that your light always shines in darkness.
- 5th. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3;16
- 6th. Dear God, if I am chasing the wrong things, redirect me and bring me closer to what is meant for me.
- 7th. Father, I praise you for new beginnings, opportunities, and experiences in this month of April.
- 8th. Lord, with you I have an inner peace to guide me throughout each day.
- 9th. Father, I ask for your assistance to face the challenges of the day. Remove any doubts and fill me with your love and hope.
- 10th. May I always recognise Your presence in my life, give thanks for your direction, and follow Your path with faith, hope, and joy each day of this month.
- 11th. Father, you see every bird that falls and hear every prayer. Thank you.
- 12th. Father, thank you for spring and the hope of warmer, longer, brighter days and the emergence of new life and plants.

- 13th. We pray for protection, comfort, and courage for the churches in nations touched by war, that they may be equipped with all they need to bring relief.
- 14th. Lord, I can plan each day, but “You know the plans you have for me.”
- 15th. Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of this new day and for wakening me up to enjoy it.
- 16th. Lord, help me not to lean on my own understanding but in everything acknowledge You.
- 17th. Father, we lift in prayer all those living in war-torn countries.
- 18th. We come before you in faith, Lord, and ask for your healing upon our body, mind, and soul.
- 19th. Father God, direct my words, thoughts, and actions.
- 20th. Lord, be with those who are homeless, marginalised, and living in extreme poverty.
- 21st. Lord, I do not know what this day will bring. Please help me to be ready for whatever it is.
- 22nd. Lord, I thank you that in Christ, I am chosen and dearly loved.
- 23rd. Father, be with street children in Rwanda, Congo, Burundi, and all those who dedicate their lives supporting them.
- 24th. Thank you, Father, for being ever present in my life and guiding my footsteps.
- 25th. Father, grant me guidance, strength, and wisdom to live with purpose and be kind and helpful to others.
- 26th. Assist with your wisdom those who govern us, so that, with your help, they will become sensitive to the sufferings of the poor and of those who suffer the consequences of violence and war.
- 27th. Lord, every breath I take is a gift from you. I do not know what will happen today, but I will always put everything in your hands.
- 28th. Lord, I ask that in this troubled world, justice and truth will prevail.
- 29th. Today, Lord, I place my family into your loving hands and trust that you will watch over them.
- 30th. Father, we pray for your healing love for all who are traumatised and re-traumatised by what they have experienced.

**MAY/over**

## APRIL

1st. Lord, today help me to be more patient, careful and attentive.

2nd. Lord, thank you for this new day. Please give me peace in uncertainty and clarity when I feel confused.

3rd. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” Matthew 5.9.

4th. Thank you, Lord, for being there when I need you. You are my strength in loneliness, my peace in sadness and my companion.

5th. God of peace, be with all those who live in danger.

### **You would have liked Pastor José if you'd met him. Everyone did.**

He was a genuine man of God – one of those great Christian leaders who serves wholeheartedly. ‘A beloved pastor,’ said members of his church.

But on New Year’s Eve, while he was getting ready to welcome in 2026 with his family, the 54-year-old father was shot multiple times by armed men in front of his wife and children. Pastor José died on the way to the emergency clinic.

If you’re lost for words reading this, you are not alone. But the reality is, religious leaders are under attack in parts of Colombia – and you and I must stand up for them.

You may be shocked by how much pressure and fear many church leaders are under in parts of Colombia. Violent illegal armed and criminal groups have some areas of the country in their grip. They are threatened by those who promote peace – like Pastor José.

Tragically, his murder was not a one-off...

Pastor Marlon, his wife and their adult children were killed while eating lunch after a Sunday service.

Less than two weeks later, two men on a motorbike fired at Pastor Iván while he walked home from church. His wife said her husband ‘died loving the church. [...] If someone needed something, Iván was always ready to help.’ He was 28.

And eight people vanished in April 2025 – seven of them Christian leaders. Months later, their bodies were found in a mass grave.

This brutal pattern of violence can’t go on. It’s up to you and me, people who believe in freedom of religion or belief, to stand up for those under attack for their faith. **CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE**

# Pastoral Register

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

William Bisset

Ted Silvers

Nance Chalmers



## EKO Submissions

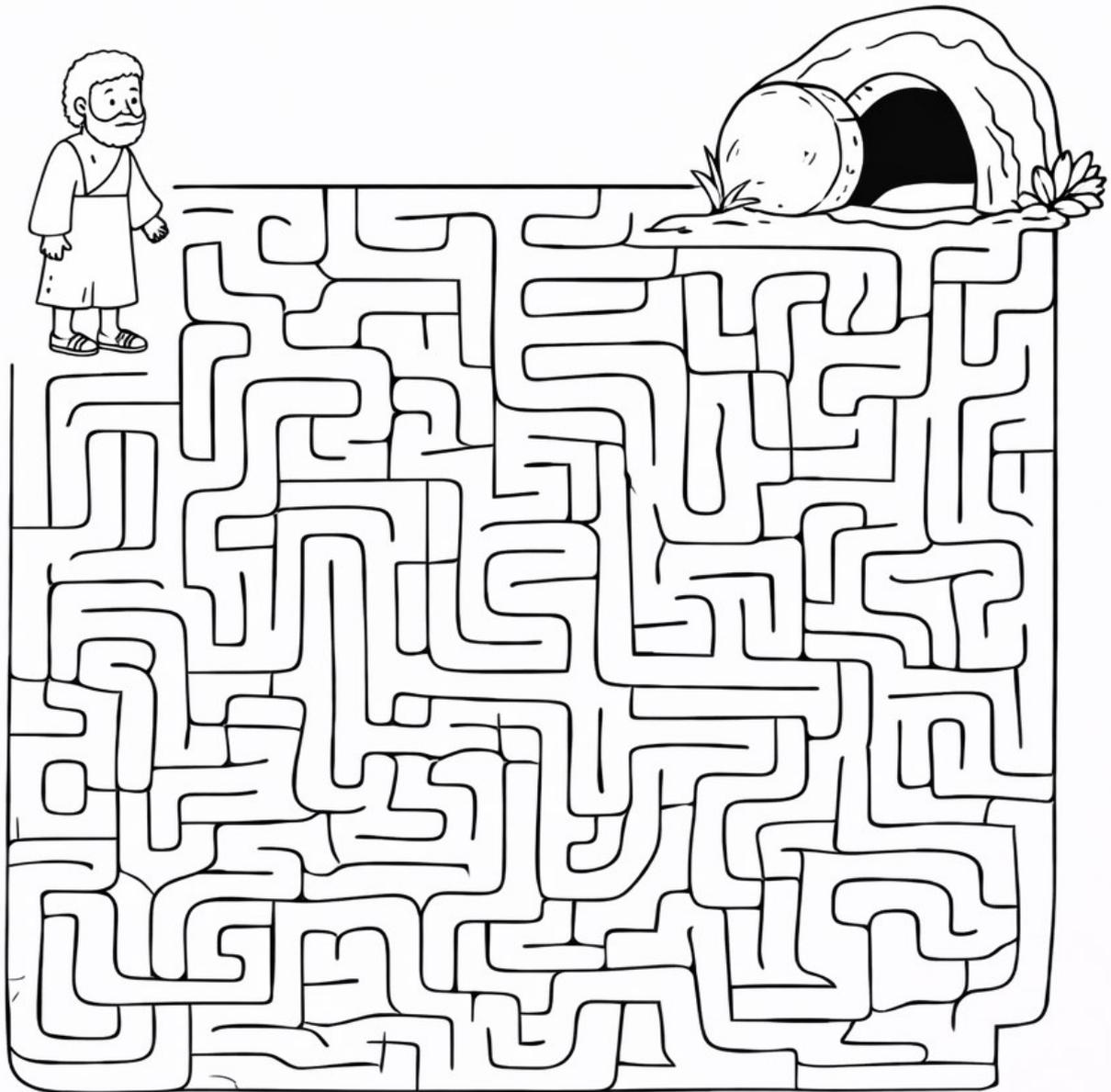
The dates for submission of material for the May EKO are:

for hand/type-written copy **Sunday 19th April** and the deadline for submitting electronic copy is:- **Wednesday 22nd**

Thank you. EDITOR: Rosie Fairfull Smith 07979816987

Email: [rfairfullsmith@gmail.com](mailto:rfairfullsmith@gmail.com)

# Easter Fun!



Can you help the disciple find the tomb?



## 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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Youth & Families Worker	Position Vacant at present	
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Treasurer	Des Laverty	
Roll Keeper	Robert Cossar	
Gift Aid	Des Laverty	
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