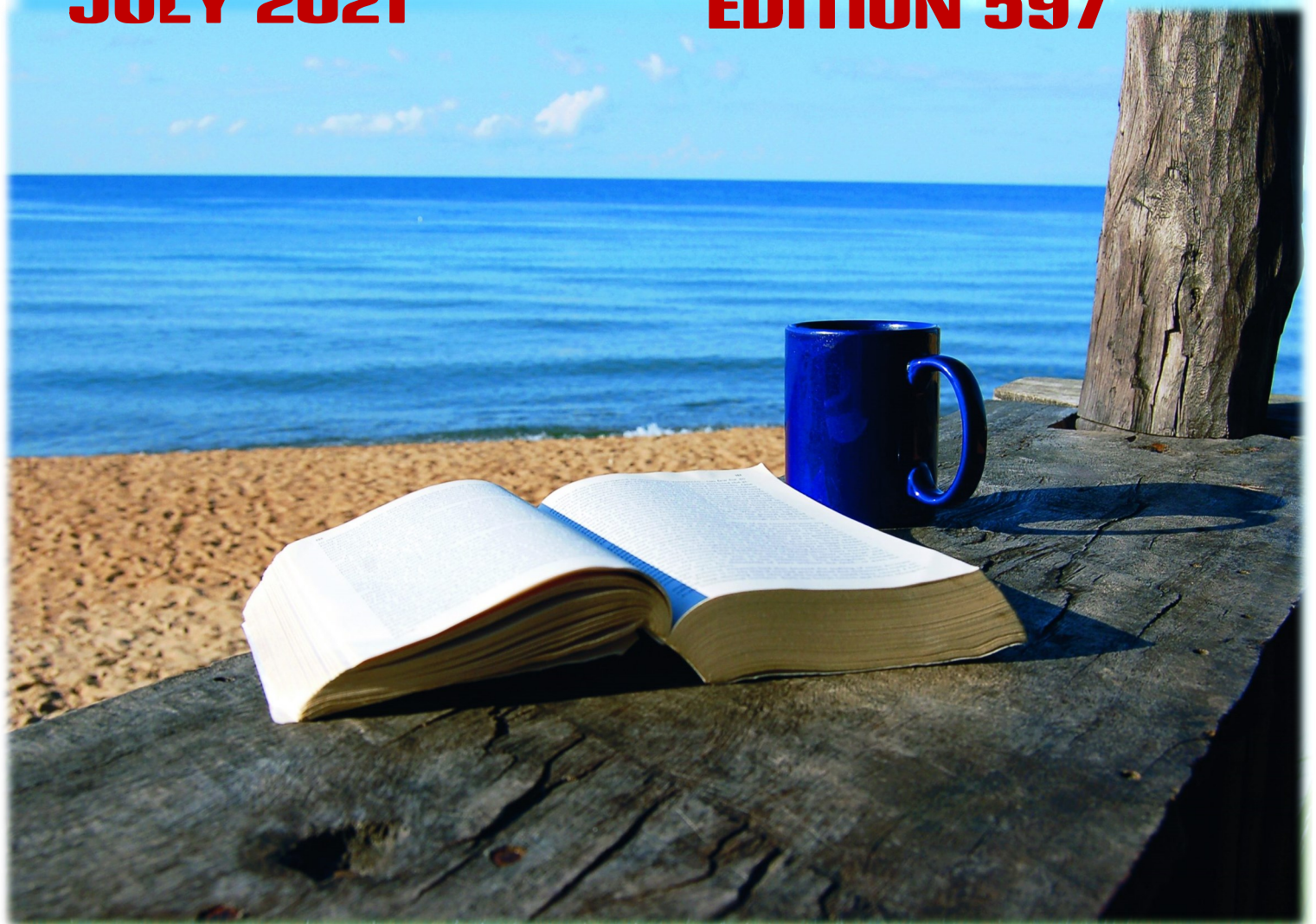


EKO

The Magazine for
East Kilbride
Old Parish Church

JULY 2021

EDITION 597



CHURCH CALENDAR



Our services continue to take place in the church and be broadcast over the internet.

Remember: you need to book your place in the church if you are attending. Contact the church secretary, Louise, by phoning the church office—01355 279004 or send an email to ekopc.office@btconnect.com. You will then be given a place either in the balcony or downstairs. If you have difficulty climbing the stairs we will accommodate you downstairs. Face coverings, hand cleansing and social distancing are still to be observed.

JULY

Sunday 4th	Morning Worship	Ordination of New Elders	11am
Sunday 11th	Morning Worship	Sacrament of Baptism	11am
Sunday 18th	Morning Worship	Sacrament of Baptism	11am
Sunday 25th	Morning Worship	Admission of New Members	11am

AUGUST

Sunday 1st	Morning Worship	Sacrament of Baptism	11am
Sunday 8th	Morning Worship	Sacrament of Baptism	11am

Broadcast services can be accessed from 10.55am via the church website at:

www.ekopc.org.uk



PASTORAL LETTER



Rev Martin Fair has just completed his service to the church as Moderator of the General Assembly, and maybe now that he has more time on his hands, he recently posted the following on our minister's Facebook page. It made me smile and I hope it makes you smile too, especially when we consider how much is appropriate to these Covid times.

I've got this tiny wee book called 'The School of Manners' published in 1701. The first chapter is headed, 'Of behaviour at the Church.'

- 1. Decently walk to thy seat or pew; run not.*
- 2. Sit where thou art ordered.*
- 3. Shift not seats but continue in the same place.*
- 4. Talk not in Church.*
- 5. Fix thine eye upon the Minister; let it not wildly wander to gaze upon any person or thing.*
- 6. Attend diligently to the words of the Minister that thou mayest remember.*
- 7. Be not hasty to run out of the Church when the Worship is ended, as if thou were weary of being there.*
- 8. Walk decently and soberly home.*

While the language may be slightly archaic, I'm sure we can picture the scene described. When we stop to consider that our current church building was opened just over 70 years after this book was written, maybe we can begin to imagine the behaviour of the first people who worshipped there. We might smile as we compare our Covid behaviour with that of the 1700s, but I'm sure we can also see just how far we have come in making church accessible for all. As restrictions continue to be lifted, and we no longer have to "sit where thou art ordered", or "shift not seats but continue in the same place" let's continue to make East Kilbride Old the welcoming church it has developed into over the years. Just make sure we all "Walk decently and soberly home!"

Yours in love, *Anne Paton*

Hame'll Dae Me!

We may not be travelling too far for our holidays this year – I've swapped Menorca, (via Portugal) to Somerset !! – but there's plenty going on around the church, especially for our young people.

We had a superb day a couple of weeks ago at the inaugural football tournament in memory of our well-respected elder Angus McConnell where, courtesy of East Kilbride YM, 70 youngsters took part in a competition with teams from other local churches and the surrounding area on the Angus McConnell Memorial Pitch scoring an incredible 105 goals during the course of the tournament. The eventual winners emerged as the team from St Kenneths Primary and St Brides Church with our own team coming a creditable second. Well done and thanks to our Children & Families Worker, Iain Shaw for organising such an excellent event.



East Kilbride Old Parish Church Team

Work with our young people will continue over the summer months with Holiday Club activities in July and August....limited of course by the continuing Covid restrictions. The exemption for under 12s in making the organisation and safety compliance that little bit easier, though hand sanitising, social distancing and limits on the number of adult helpers still need to be observed.

Our Kirk Session will be strengthened soon by the addition of six more elders and we're looking forward to involving them in their new responsibilities.

Planning for the Sestercentennial (250th Anniversary) in 2024 is gradually picking up pace with each of the strands of the programme - Pastoral Stewardship; Financial Stewardship and Property Stewardship - now starting to take shape. Further details will be publicised once an initial timetable for events and activities has been agreed by the Kirk Session.

Alistair Walker – Session Clerk



THE PRAYER DIARY

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



“Lord God make me clay in your hands.”

1st. Lord, fill our lives with kindness and fill our hearts with love.

2nd. Be with world leaders as they deal with ever changing challenges.

3rd. Give thanks for our new elders and pray for God's blessing on them as they take up their duties. Pray also for God's blessing on elders who, for reason of age or health, are no longer able to serve the church.

4th. Pray for peace among nations - hope that the NATO summit is successful.

5th. Give thanks for the wonder of nature particularly at this time of year.

6th. I am strong knowing that you are with me - great is thy faithfulness.

7th. Pray for those being bullied at school or in the workplace.

8th. Thank you, Lord, for those who by their actions inspire me.

9th. Father walk with me today and every day.

10th. Give thanks for our loved ones, and our dearest friends, and pray for God's continued blessing on each one.

11th. Pray for the work of the Scottish Bible Society and give thanks that we can have and read the bible in our own language.

12th. Give thanks for the work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Pray for God's blessing on all who serve as crew members and on all who support that work onshore.

- 13th. We pray Father, that when this current situation ends that we would appreciate our world more and our God who gave it to us.
- 14th. Give thanks for our families and friends who support us when we are in need.
- 15th. We pray that God will strengthen our Queen and support her during her reign.
- 16th. Give us eyes to see one another's needs and the courage to do what we can to help.
- 17th. Lord, strengthen my ability to go forward in life secure in the knowledge that I have an anchor.
- 18th. Help me to turn to you throughout the day to ask for your help and to thank you for my blessings.
- 19th. Pray for the success of COP26, that the nations of the world will unite to avert effects of climate change.
- 20th. Your thoughts are precious to me O Lord and I truly appreciate your guidance.
- 21st. Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change what I can and the wisdom to know the difference.
- 22nd. The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom I should fear.
- 23rd. Help us to use the talents you have given us for your glory.
- 24th. Thank you, Lord, for all those in church who continue to give their time and energy in your name.
- 25th. Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that you and I can't handle together.
- 26th. Father, I pray that I would walk the path that you have set out for me today.
- 27th. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
- 28th. We pray that job creation measures are in place and job creation to support industry and commerce in our situation.
- 29th. Thank you, Lord, for reflecting your light of heaven in our world.
- 30th. Lord, teach me your way so that I may rely on you.
- 31st. Thank you for your unfailing and unconditional love.



UPDATE FROM IAIN SHAW



What have we been up to during June and what have we planned for July & August?

We held our 7th **monthly family quiz night** which attracted 6 teams with the theme for the evening being Scotland and all team names had to have a Scottish theme. The winning team was The Braveheart's (**The Wilson family**) **captained by Charlotte**, runners up unbelievably were The Haggis Heroes from the Manse (Anne & Tom) and in 3rd place was the Tartan Army (The Parry Family) captained by Sophie & Max. Last month's winners The Ashelby family couldn't join us this month as they had a family birthday party to attend. As always, the emphasis of these quiz nights is on fun and fellowship with the taking part much more important than the winning – the quizzes are very competitive but hugely enjoyable. Our next (8th) family quiz night is scheduled to take place on Saturday 17^h July at 7pm.

We also have a **monthly congregational fun quiz night** as well (we have had 4 so far) with the next one scheduled for Friday 2nd July at 7pm – if you are interested in joining us, please email or phone Louise in the Church office to register your interest and she will give you the zoom code to join. Everyone is welcome to join – if you're on your own that's ok as well as we make up teams on the night – if you've not tried it yet why not give it a go this month – we usually have around 30 participating in teams of 5/6 – its great fun and the biggest challenge is getting folk to leave!!

Our weekly on-line **Messy Church** sessions on a Sunday morning continue with a mixture of fun, games, share & chat, puzzles, quizzes, go & fetch, music, keep fit, as well as arts & crafts, Bible teaching and prayer. We have been providing

this on-line version which is a mix between Sunday School & Messy Church for around 16 months now and my sincere thanks must go to all the children, young people and families together with all the leaders who have faithfully joined us every or most Sunday mornings – their commitment is unquestionable and a simple thank you seems so inadequate but please be assured it is heartfelt. Recently we have had guests from the Kirk Session join our Sunday session's simply so they could get a first-hand feel and flavour of what goes on rather than hear it anecdotally – if you would like to join us for a session, please let me know and I will give you the zoom code to join.

On Sunday afternoon 13th June on a beautiful glorious sunny afternoon, in front of a packed crowd of family and friends, we held our first inter church and community football tournament in memory of Angus McConnell. This took place over almost 3 hours on the Angus McConnell memorial pitch at Kirktonholme Park with 6 teams made up of almost 70 primary school aged children (boys and girls) representing churches within the town and our close neighbouring churches. The teams who attended were (1) EK Old, (2) Cambuslang Parish Church, (3) EK Claremont, (4) Strathaven Trinity Parish Church, (5) EK South Parish Church & (6) St Kenneth's PS / St Brides EK who won the tournament and received the Angus McConnell Memorial shield to keep for a year.

All the children had “a ball playing football” in a competitive but friendly spirit and the whole day and event was a great success.

I would like to share with you just 3 of the many favourable comments received which I think sums up the event very well –

A parent of our own team posted “What a fabulous day and turnout – my son had the best day ever – thank you for letting him be part of the team and the event” and one of the Cambuslang coaches emailed this after the event:

"Thank you so much for inviting us along. All of the families from Cambuslang Parish Church had a fantastic time. Quite a few kids have taken their medals to school to show their class today and we've had lovely messages from parents saying that their kids had so much fun and can't wait for next year! And finally, what the day and event I hope was all about, this from a member of our congregation who was there supporting the event and it was also echoed by Angus' family who were also in attendance they both said "Angus would have loved to-day - I am sure he was watching from above and smiling".

It looks like it's the same time and place next year - I'd better start planning then! What can I do to make it even bigger and better? That's my challenge - all thoughts welcome.

Finally, may I simply say thank you to everyone who helped, supported, encouraged or prayed for the event even Anne's prayer for sunshine worked !! But in particular, a huge 'thank you' must be extended to all the officials of East Kilbride YM AFC particularly Graeme Robertson, Les Goodfellow and Jim Ballantyne who were quite simply outstanding and without their help, support and generosity the event would not have been the success it was. Thank you all."



The players names are (back row left to right) - Jack, Millie, Lucy, Calvin, Christopher & Sophie - front row (left to right)₁₀ Kaja, Charlotte, Jessica & Max.

Here is an update on the events planned for July & August:-

In July we have our first holiday club which is a sport based outdoor event for 5 mornings (10-12am) from Monday 5th – Friday 9th July in Kirtonholme Park. As you read this magazine, we are about to deliver this event and I hope that after all the planning and preparation the children attending have a great time. I have been overwhelmed with both the number of volunteer helpers (20) from within the congregation as well as the number of children who have registered to attend (40) which includes children from 16 new families which is so positive and encouraging.

On Tuesday 13th July from 9.30-11.30am in the Glebe St Hall (providing the restrictions allow us) and every Tuesday morning during the school holidays we hope to start a brand-new art group which has been made possible with a very generous grant from East Mains Community Council – all are welcome - you don't even need to be able to draw to come along - all materials and resources will be provided. The emphasis of this group is on fun and fellowship we are not intending to create any Van Gogh paintings or budding new artists, simply fun and fellowship whilst drawing, painting or colouring in.

In August we have our second holiday club which is a more traditional indoor event in the Church halls based on 5 of the “I Am” sayings of Jesus. This club will also run for 5 mornings (10-12am) from Monday 9th – Friday 13th August. At the time of writing we have around 40 registered up to attend which includes many new children and new families.

Please keep all the work we do and have planned over the next few months with our children, young people and families in your thoughts and prayers and please pray hard in particular for a dry (and sunny) week for our first holiday club at the beginning of July.

To finish:-

To finish may I share 6 little stories with lots of meanings –

1. Once all the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella – THAT IS FAITH.
2. When you throw a baby up in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them – THAT IS TRUST.
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning but we still set the alarm to wake us. THAT IS HOPE.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. THAT IS CONFIDENCE.
5. We see the world is suffering, but still, we get married and have children. THAT IS LOVE.
6. On an old person's shirt was written a sentence, "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience". THAT IS ATTITUDE.

Thank you all for your continued prayers, support and encouragement. I really value and appreciate 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 ianshaw18@gmail.com





Strathaven Trinity	0	v	St Kenneths / St Brides	4
Cambuslang Parish	0	v	EK South Parish	5
Claremont EK	2	v	EK Old	6
Strathaven Trinity	11	v	Cambuslang Parish	0
St Kenneths / St Brides	6	v	EK Old	2
EK South Parish	4	v	Claremont EK	0
St Kenneths / St Brides	8	v	Cambuslang Parish	2
Strathaven Trinity	1	v	EK South Parish	4
Cambuslang Parish	0	v	Claremont EK	5
Strathaven Trinity	5	v	EK Old	6
EK South Parish	5	v	EK Old	6
St Kenneths / St Brides	5	v	Claremont EK	1
Strathaven Trinity	4	v	Claremont EK	0
St Kenneths / St Brides	10	v	EK South Parish	1
EK Old	4	v	Cambuslang Parish	3

Mr. McGinley with the
Angus McConnell
Memorial Shield after St
Kenneth's / St Bride's won
the football competition
on Sunday 13th June at
Kirtonholme Park EK.
Congratulations.



Our next (8th) **Family Quiz Night** will
take place on **Saturday 17th July @**
7pm – please keep the date free



**** NEW FAMILY ART GROUP ****

Starting TUESDAY 13th July

from 9.30-11.30am

in the Church Hall in Glebe St

**Free to attend - all materials and a snack
& drink will be provided. Please register
your interest if you want to come along.**



EKOPC SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB (2)

**** CONNECT 5 ****

In: EKOPC Church Hall(s) for P1-S1

9th – 13th AUGUST (10-12am)



Christians stand trial under new amendment to the Iranian Penal Code

Three Christians from the Church of Iran denomination stood trial in Karaj, northern Iran, on 21 June 2021, charged with “sectarian activities” under a new amendment to the Iranian penal code. Amin Khaki, Milad Goudarzi and Alireza Nourmohammadi are all from Muslim backgrounds.

The trial of the three men took place at 9am local time at the 4th Chamber of the Revolutionary Court of Karaj and lasted for less than hour. The presiding judge, Mehdi Zeinali, prevented the defendants’ lawyer from attending the trial, claiming that he had not been registered as their lawyer. However, CSW’s sources confirm the lawyer had fulfilled all necessary requirements ten days before the trial began. During the hearing the judge informed the three defendants that they had no choice but to represent themselves in court.

The three men were initially summoned and interrogated by the 4th branch of the Public and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office of Ferdis city in May 2021, where they were accused of “engaging in propaganda against the Islamic regime”. They were subsequently released on bail and instructed to report to the police every week. The men were also advised to leave the country, and were warned not to pursue any mediation in their case. Seventeen other church members were also interrogated.

The three men are reportedly being charged under a new amendment to the Iranian Penal Code known as Article 500-bis”, which deals with “sectarian activities.” The amendment was passed by the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) and signed by outgoing president Hassan Rouhani in February 2021. It states that “any deviant education or propaganda that contradicts or interferes with the sacred Islamic shari’a, will be severely punished.”

Until now, the Iranian authorities have primarily charged converts to Christianity with “action against state security”, a concept inherited from the French law. Iranian judges have systematically misused this notion in recent years to crack down on them.

CSW’s sources report that the new amendment targets groups labelled by the authorities as “wrong cults” (*افرقه ضاله* in Farsi).

This term is often used by the regime to undermine and persecute groups and movements that have deviated or separated from Twelver Shiism, the official school of thought and judiciary in Iran. It would appear that the Iranian authorities have extended the use of this term to include evangelical and reform movements, as well as conversion from Islam to Christianity.

The amendment allows the authorities to impose a range of punishments, including prison sentences of between two and five years; deprivation of civil rights, such as voting, for up to 15 years, and heavy monetary fines.



CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

(Extract from Christian Solidarity Worldwide's website)

OF MORE LOCAL INTEREST

Harry, 81, completes epic cycle to raise £9,000 for Bothwell church

A church elder has raised £9,000 after completing a virtual bike ride between Land's End and John o'Groats.

Harry Marsh, 81, pedalled for a total of 62 hours in his garage to complete the 951-mile route which saw him hitting speeds of up to 40mph on downhill stretches.

He took on the “herculean” task to cycle the length of the UK to raise money for Bothwell Parish Church in South Lanarkshire which, like most congregations, has seen its income fall over the last 16-months due to COVID-19.



Mr Marsh hooked up his road bike to a Turbo Trainer which is connected to a laptop loaded with a programme called BKool.

He plotted the route from the south-west of England to the far north of Scotland which gives the rider the realistic simulation of pedalling along actual roads and streets from a static position.

Mr Marsh said he “thoroughly enjoyed the experience”, particularly plotting the route which enabled him to cycle through Walton-le-Dale in Lancashire, the town where he was born, and he “waved” at his old house.

The retired business management and development consultant started his journey on the 8th of February and completed it before his birthday on the 6th of May.

He launched an online funding page but received many donations offline and did the final leg as part of the Kiltwalk, which meant money raised was topped up by the Sir Tom Hunter Foundation.

Commenting on his epic endeavour, Mr Marsh said: “There is no air flow in my garage so it's a real sweaty business, even when the temperature gets down to three degrees Celsius.

“The journey back to the house in cold weather gives you a nasty shock but the recovery time with my wife, Joan, providing warm towels and running the bath made it all worthwhile

“The set-up was very good and the system reacts to the actual road so a gradient of 15% is tough and your speed drops to 3mph.

“But downhills are great and I had no problem clocking speeds of 40mph regardless of the tight twists and turns and other traffic.”

Mr Marsh said he had to climb 5,000 ft travelling through Devon and Cornwall and the same equivalent height again over the last 80 miles heading to John 'O Groats. “The total climbing for the whole journey is about 27,000ft so the journey is not really that tough, many people would be able to do it,” he added.

Mr Marsh said two bottles of Old Pulteney single malt whisky were awarded to people who guessed his total riding time most accurately.

(Extract from the Church of Scotland website)





A colouring page you could print and colour together.

Colourig picture from [www. craftingthewordofgod.com](http://www.craftingthewordofgod.com)

1 Samuel 16 v 7

People look at the outside of
a person but the Lord looks
at the heart.



PASTORAL REGISTER

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

Lillian Milligan
Bette Coleman
Danny Donnelly



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 August edition of the EKO is:

Wednesday 21st July

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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 and Miss Sheena Bell

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

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Treasurer **Mr Ronnie Niven**

Roll Keeper **Mr Robert Cossar**

Gift Aid **Mr Des Laverty**

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OR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/EKOLDPC