



EKO

SEPTEMBER 2025

EDITION 639

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

**CREATION
TIME**

CHURCH CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER

Sunday 7th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 14th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 21st	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 28th	Morning Worship	11am

OCTOBER

Sunday 5th	Sacrament of Communion	11am
	Short Communion Service	3pm
Thursday 9th	Communion Service	12 noon
followed by	lunch	12.30pm

FLOWER CALENDAR



Sunday 7th	In memory of Bob & Isobel Cowan
Sunday 14th	In memory of Archie & Rita Tait
Sunday 21st	In memory of Karen Murray
Sunday 28th	The Flower Fund

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

PASTORAL LETTER



I hope you've had some time to rest and refresh over the summer, because now we're back into the swing of things, and things are getting busy. My own holiday experience this year reminded me of the need to take rest after being busy. It was Tom's 60th birthday and the whole family went to Blackpool. My sister and her family also tagged along. It was a fantastic time, and we did it all. On the day of his birthday, we did the waxworks where we were booked into having a drink in the Rovers Return with Ken Barlow, we did the circus, the afternoon tea dance in the ballroom, had a lovely dinner, and then we had a family 1965 quiz in the evening. Who knew so many wonderful things happened in 1965 aside from Tom being born! At the end of the day, I suggested that we ease gently into the next day. Sadly, that was not to be because it seemed we were booked into the Pleasure Beach for 10am. Luckily Tom and I had a couple of days on the way back in the Lake District.

Life ebbs and flows. There are busy times and there are times for rest. The autumn always brings a new cycle of church life. This year, we're facing different challenges and together we need to step up to the mark and face them together. Our Messy church in September is based on Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." God most certainly has plans for us, so make sure you're well rested and ready to go into the next phase with us.

Yours in love,

Anne Paton



DO YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY READING THE EKO EITHER ON HARD COPY OR AS A 'pdf' FILE EMAILED TO YOU?

Our church provides audio versions of the EKO on whichever medium you wish: CD (mostly), flash drive or emailed to you as an audio file (although there can be difficulties with this format!)- or even on tape cassette!



Please do not be disadvantaged by having difficulty reading the EKO. You only have to speak to me about it.

You will find me:

- in the choir on a Sunday (usually the tall book-end on the left!) or
- at email address: davidkent28@virginmedia.com or
- on 07890262267 or
- at 18 Glen Lyon. East Kilbride. G74 2JJ

Do not hesitate to get in touch with me even to chat about audio things.

David Kent - Editor



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

There will be coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Nurses on Thursday 18th Sept 10 o'clock until 12 noon. Admission price £3.

I would be very grateful if anyone would like to donate some home baking. A few people have offered already but a little more would not go amiss.

Everyone welcome and please bring your friends.

Thank you

Ann Doran

MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT

THE GUILD



The last Summer Guild will take place on Wednesday 3rd September, from 2-3pm, in the Glebe Street Hall.

Then on 8th October we begin our winter syllabus with a musical afternoon with Colin Thomas, our Church Organist and Choirmaster. All welcome, especially any new members. Do come along and meet new friends at the Guild. We meet every fortnight on a Wednesday at 2pm in the Glebe Street Hall.



Mary Smith

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.

SEPTEMBER

- 1st. Lord, where there is darkness bring us light.
- 2nd. Almighty God, thank you for giving me an abundance of peace to centre me during difficult storms.
- 3rd. Father, I want to be a person who contributes. Please give me wisdom and strength so that I can give every moment my best.
- 4th. Forgive me, Father, for making my body get up and attend church while allowing my heart and mind to remain asleep.
- 5th. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.
- 6th. Father, help me to remember that any concern too small to be a prayer, is too small to be a burden.
- 7th. Thank you, Lord, that when I am feeling lost, you are there to guide me.
- 8th. We pray for countries to find diplomatic solutions that will bring harmony between nations.
- 9th. Lord, thank you for all the blessings in my life.
- 10th. When I am in distress, Lord. I call to you because I know you always answer.
- 11th. We pray for Muslims, Jews, and Christians that we will draw on the best of our traditions to guide us away from words and acts of division and discrimination so that everyone may be free to live in safety.
- 12th. Father, thank you for all the wonderful things in this world. Help me never to forget this, no matter what is happening.
- 13th. Help me, Lord, to rest myself and all my problems in your strong and loving arms.

- 14th.Lord, come to our aid, grant us peace, teach us peace, and guide our steps in the way of peace.
- 15th.Father, be with all world leaders no matter the situation. Help them to consider the point of view of others.
- 16th.Help me, Father, to be aware of your presence and to live in a way that honours you.
- 17th.Let me lean on you with all my heart instead of relying on my own imperfect understanding.
- 18th.Forgive me, Lord, for my selfishness, pride, anger, and my greed.
- 19th.Father, I pray for peace on earth and an end to all wars.
- 20th.Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of this new day. Guide my every thought, word, and action.
- 21st.Thank you, Father, for listening to me. Forgive me for not always listening to you.
- 22nd.Lord, give me courage to do whatever needs doing today.
- 23rd.Heavenly Father, I thank you for looking beyond my faults and for loving me.
- 24th.God, grant me strength as I go through this day.
- 25th.Thank you, Father, for the miracle of your eternal love.
- 26th.Father, while today may not be a special day, we will enjoy it as another day full of your blessings.
- 27th.Help me to see your presence in all things and to live each day with a thankful heart.
- 28th.Father, guide me into living like you, with selflessness and love.
- 29th.I know, Lord, that more important than the words we sing in church is the life we lead during the week.
- 30th.My heart and soul rejoice in you, Lord, and in your power to save.

OCTOBER/ over



OCTOBER

1st. Father, remind me today that people like rainbows. What I see is an arc, but a rainbow is a complete circle.

2nd. God, be with us in all our thinking, in all our speaking, and in all we do.

3rd. Sing to the Lord a new song for he has done marvellous things.

4th. This is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.

5th. Father, be with all who are ill and alone.

6th. Guide us, Lord, and keep us from making foolish choices.

HISTORY CORNER

Our Iona Cross is a model of one of the great High Crosses of Iona, commonly called the St John's Cross. For centuries the St John's Cross stood outside the West Door of Iona Abbey Church, close to where the early Columban monastery is thought to have been situated. It blew down in a storm and a replica

now stands in its place on the original stone base.

The Cross itself is in the little museum to the East of the Abbey, standing about twelve feet high carved with intricate spiral designs.

Not far away, still in its original position, is another of the great Crosses of Iona, called St Martin's Cross. It has figure scenes carved on it - showing the Virgin and Child, Daniel in the Lions' Den, and Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac.

These great Crosses date from around the middle of the 8th Century AD, some two hundred years after St Columba first came to Iona.

There are other examples of these free-standing High Crosses in other parts of



Western Isles. One of the best preserved is Kildalton Cross, on Islay. It too dates from the same time as the Iona Crosses. In the centre boss, where the two arms of the Cross meet, there is a circular carving of a bird's nest, with three eggs in it - representing the Trinity. It is possible that the St John's Cross had a similar boss at the centre, though it has been lost.



Our Cross stands on a base of green Iona marble, taken from the old Marble Quarry on Iona's south-east corner. Called Serpentine, this marble is among the oldest rocks on earth.

The Cross reminds us of our roots in the Christian Church in Scotland.

Photo Curtesy Christine Watt of East Kilbride Camera Club

Stewart Smith

KIRK LIFE

The Kirk Life Team would like to thank everyone for their support over the past year, both by their attendance at events and by donations of raffle prizes. Our next event will be the "Ladies Night" on 19th September and we look forward to seeing all the ladies there.

Catherine Selfridge -

on behalf of the Kirk Life Team



MEN'S ASSOCIATION



Looking ahead to next month, the Men's Association will open its new session on Monday 6th October. Our Guest Speaker will be our Minister, the Rev Anne Patton. It will be good to welcome present and new members to our fellowship. We meet on alternate Mondays in the Glebe Street Hall at 2pm.

The Carpet Bowling Club will re-open on Monday 13th October, also in the Glebe Street Hall at 2pm. New members will be most welcome, including complete beginners. The club is open to both men and women.



Stewart Smith

PLANTING OF THE "TREE OF HOPE"

At our recent One World Committee meeting, plans were made for a special event – the planting of the "Tree of Hope".

You may remember that in Christian Aid Week, it was noted that the year 2025 is the 80th anniversary of the start of Christian Aid, just after the end of the Second World War in 1945. One of the suggestions that Christian Aid invited Churches to consider was planting a Tree of Hope – a symbol of our faith in action for the future.



Here is the date – Saturday 20th September, at 11am. The Tree will be planted in the ground just inside the Church gates. The Tree will be a rowan, called "Autumn Spire" – a columnar-shaped tree, more upright than spreading, with wine-coloured leaves and yellow berries. Anne, our Minister, will do the planting, using a ceremonial spade, provided courtesy of South Lanarkshire Council.

In making these arrangements, we have been wisely guided and greatly helped by Mr Joe Connor of South Lanarkshire Council's Land Services, and by Bill Arthur, one of our Elders and member of the Church Graveyard team. We are much indebted to them both.

Our hope is that the Council will be represented on the day, as will a member of the staff of Christian Aid Scotland. Everyone who would like to come along on the morning of the 20th will be very welcome.

Mary Smith Convenor, One World Committee

WATER AID



12 YEARS ON: ACHIEVING MORE, LIVING BETTER, DREAMING BIGGER

Following is an extract from a letter from Daniel Charles, Special Projects Officer, Water Aid:-

Twelve years ago, Water Aid worked alongside the community of Chabota in rural Zambia to install running, clean water for the first time. Just recently, my colleague Caroline returned to spend a few days there– to see how life had changed. The people she met and the photos she showed me were so inspiring I knew I had to share them with you.

One of the first things Caroline noticed was how clean and well-kept the village is, the dusty red earth swept into neat paths underfoot. She soon met Veronica, who runs a thriving baking business with her sister Doreen. Together they make scones and fritters (which Caroline said were delicious). With clean water on tap, these hard working sisters have invested their time and energy into growing their enterprise—a far cry from the past, when every litre of water meant a long, tiring walk.



“When we came here there was a water crisis. We used to fetch water about 800 metres from here. But after Water Aid came, the water situation became stable.”

For over twelve years now, two water kiosks have supplied families in Chabota with clean, running water. Pumped from deep underground into a 10,000 litre tank, the water is piped to the kiosks, where families pay a small fee for each

Bucket they fill—just 50 Ngwee, slightly under 1p for 20 litres.

It's not just Veronica and Doreen who are reaping the financial benefits of running, clean accessible water. Growing and selling vegetables has become a popular way to earn a living—especially for women—and it's led to noticeable improvements in people's homes, many of which are now built from brick.

Caroline also met best friends Tatu and Maureen. Both nine years old, they've never known life without clean water. Isn't that wonderful? Everything you and I work towards is a reality for these two girls, who are spending their childhoods going to school, playing together and dreaming about what they'll be when they grow up.



Clean water means that Tatu and Maureen are protected from dangerous diseases like cholera which is having a deadly resurgence in countries including Zambia.

Chinyama, a local nurse and midwife, shared with Caroline how the health of the local community has improved since clean water.



“Before we used to have a number of diarrhoea cases probably because of water that was not treated, but now our water does get treated.”

With better health, more time and steady incomes, the people of Chabota are building fuller, more rewarding lives, able to pursue passions and hobbies. The local football team—the Chisekesi Leopards—is going from strength to strength. The photograph here is of the captain, Peter, who embodies the joy and energy that clean water has brought to the community.

Each one of these pictures offers a window into someone's world - shaped by clean water.



Information provided by *Mary Smith*

THE CHURCH CHOIR



Can you sing—in tune?

Can you spare an hour and a half on a Thursday evening?

Assuming that you like to attend church, the above questions are the only ones you need to answer to qualify for being a member of the church choir.

These days, it's unusual for a church to have a choir. Many visiting ministers will state how wonderful it is to have a choir because they see so few these days.

It cannot be doubted that it is a great advantage to have a choir leading the singing on a Sunday morning. So why not be a part of it?

If you are not sure or a bit scared of making an approach then have a discrete word with our choirmaster Colin and he will re-assure you of your abilities.

The choir meets on Thursdays at 7.30 in the lower hall next to the church and it's season is from September until May. During that time we will sing an anthem on a Sunday and perform special music at Christmas and Easter.

So, how about it? Come and join us! You won't be sorry!

David Kent



MORE NEWS FROM THE ONE WORLD COMMITTEE

USED STAMPS. People continue to put used stamps into the boxes at the Church and the Glebe Street Hall. These in turn are taken in to the Glasgow Presbytery Offices and then on to a Mr Keith Scott who lives in Garelochhead. The proceeds from the sale of used stamps are going this year to Gaza, to the Al Ahli Arab Hospital, a Christian hospital under the auspices of the Anglican Church in Jerusalem.



Word about the fact that we are doing this reached a lady who is a member of a Church in Aberdeen. She sent a message to our Church Office asking about the project and how to get started. We have been in contact with her and now her congregation is about to join the Church's Used Stamp appeal. That's good to know.

LEPROSY MISSION. The Blue Boxes continue to be used by members of the Congregation and their friends. Some boxes are on the shelf at the front door of the Church. They're looking rather lonely! Feel free to take one away and give it a good home. After it is filled up, it can be returned any time.

The work of caring for people with leprosy goes on. Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world (not to be confused with Nigeria). As the only Christian leprosy hospital in Niger, Danja Hospital is a beacon of hope. There, people with leprosy receive the vital care they need free of charge. From the cure of surgery to wheelchairs, the health team works to restore dignity and independence. Recently an eye clinic has been opened, helping to prevent the blindness which leprosy can cause, and helping patients to find new hope for the future. These Blue Tubs really do make a difference!

ECO-CONGREGATION. For some years a notice has been pinned on the notice-board in the Church Hall. It has been there so long and is so faded that it is almost illegible. It announces that East Kilbride Old Parish is an Eco-Congregation. This is something we very much hope we can develop. The Guides, Brownies and Rainbows connected with the Congregation have been doing a lot of work on this theme – have a look at some of their work on the Glebe Street Hall noticeboard. This month, September, is designated “Creation Time ” and one of our services will hopefully be able to highlight how important caring for the planet really is. More information can be found on the internet website of Eco-Congregation Scotland – <https://ecocongregationscotland.org>

Mary Smith

THE CRAFT GROUP

Wednesday morning Craft Group

We meet weekly in the lounge from 10am until noon, everyone is welcome.

Many thanks for all the support we receive. We look forward to having a variety of items for sale on Thursday 18th September 2025, from 10am until noon, at the Glebe Street hall event, all proceeds will be going to MacMillan Cancer Support.

Save the date, Saturday 29th November 2025, Church Christmas Fayre, we will have more goods for sale.

Jill Cowan



CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE

CSW representatives and supporters participated in a peaceful protest outside the Eritrean Embassy in London on 21 August calling for the release of seven Eritrean church leaders. They have been detained arbitrarily for over two decades.

The event was held under the banner of Voices for Justice, a global campaign bringing together Christian organisations, churches and individuals around the world to mark the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief.

A series of prayer and protest events have been organised in several countries over 21 and 22 August, including in Belgium, Brazil, Italy, Finland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Switzerland and the USA, calling for the release of the seven Eritrean church leaders.

The detainees are Rev Haile Naizge, Chair of the Full Gospel Church, and Dr Kuflu Gebremeskel, Chair of the Eritrean Evangelical Alliance, who were arrested on 23 May 2004.

Rev Million (Meron) Gebreselassie, pastor of the Rhema Evangelical Church in the city of Massawa and an anaesthetist at Massawa Hospital, was detained less than two weeks later on 3 June 2004.

On 19 November 2004 the authorities detained Dr Futsum Gebrenegus, at the time Eritrea's only psychiatrist, and Dr Tekleab Menghisteab, a highly respected physician, both of whom are Orthodox priests, along with Rev Gebremedhin Gebregiorgis.

While all three belong to a denomination that is ostensibly permitted to operate by the Eritrean government, they were part of the Orthodox Church's renewal movement, Medhane Alem, which had attracted a large youth following, and which the late patriarch, Abune Antonios, had refused to close down following a government order.

Rev Kidane Weldou, senior pastor of the Full Gospel Church, was seized from the streets of Asmara on 18 March 2005.

It is believed that all seven are being held in Wengel Mermera Criminal Investigation Centre.

The Eritrean government continues to detain members of permitted religious communities arbitrarily. In April 2025 Rev Gebremeskel Hagos, an Orthodox priest based in Switzerland who travelled to Eritrea following the death of his father, was detained incommunicado. In July, Sheikh Adam Shaban, a respected Muslim cleric and the director of the Quran Memorisation Centre in Ghinda, was also detained arbitrarily, reportedly after honouring a summons from the authorities.

At the end of the event in London a letter signed by all who attended was delivered to the Embassy on behalf of voices for justice calling for their release, and for the right to freedom of religion to be accorded in full to every religious community in the country.

Editor



Jesus loves
all the little
♥ children ♥



PASTORAL REGISTER

Baptisms “Let the children come to me.”

Jayce Strike

Leena Nicole Patricia Strike

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

Mabel Mortimer

Jeanette McGregor

John Scott

Carol Murphy

May Rae

Gordon Blades

Douglas Gordon



EKO SUBMISSIONS

The dates for submission of material for the October EKO are: for hand/
type-written copy **Sunday 21st September** and the deadline for submitting
electronic copy is:- **Wednesday 24th September**

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—

Minister	Rev. Anne Paton BA BD 40 Maxwell Drive. G74 4HJ E-mail address: apaton@churchofscotland.org.uk	Tel. 01355 220732 Mobile 07912295940
Pastoral Assistants:	Rev. Stewart Smith MA BD and Miss Sheena Bell	
Youth & Families Worker	Position Vacant at present	
Session Clerk	Alistair Walker	
Treasurer	Des Laverty	
Roll Keeper	Robert Cossar	
Gift Aid	Des Laverty	
Church Secretary	Janet Boyce (Hall Letting) Church Halls, 3—5 Montgomery St. Tel. 279004 Glebe Street Hall	
Church Office	E-mail Address: ekopc.office@btconnect.com	
Organist	Colin Thomas	
Communications Convenor	Janice Gourlay	
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E-mail copies of September's EKO magazine are available from:-
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