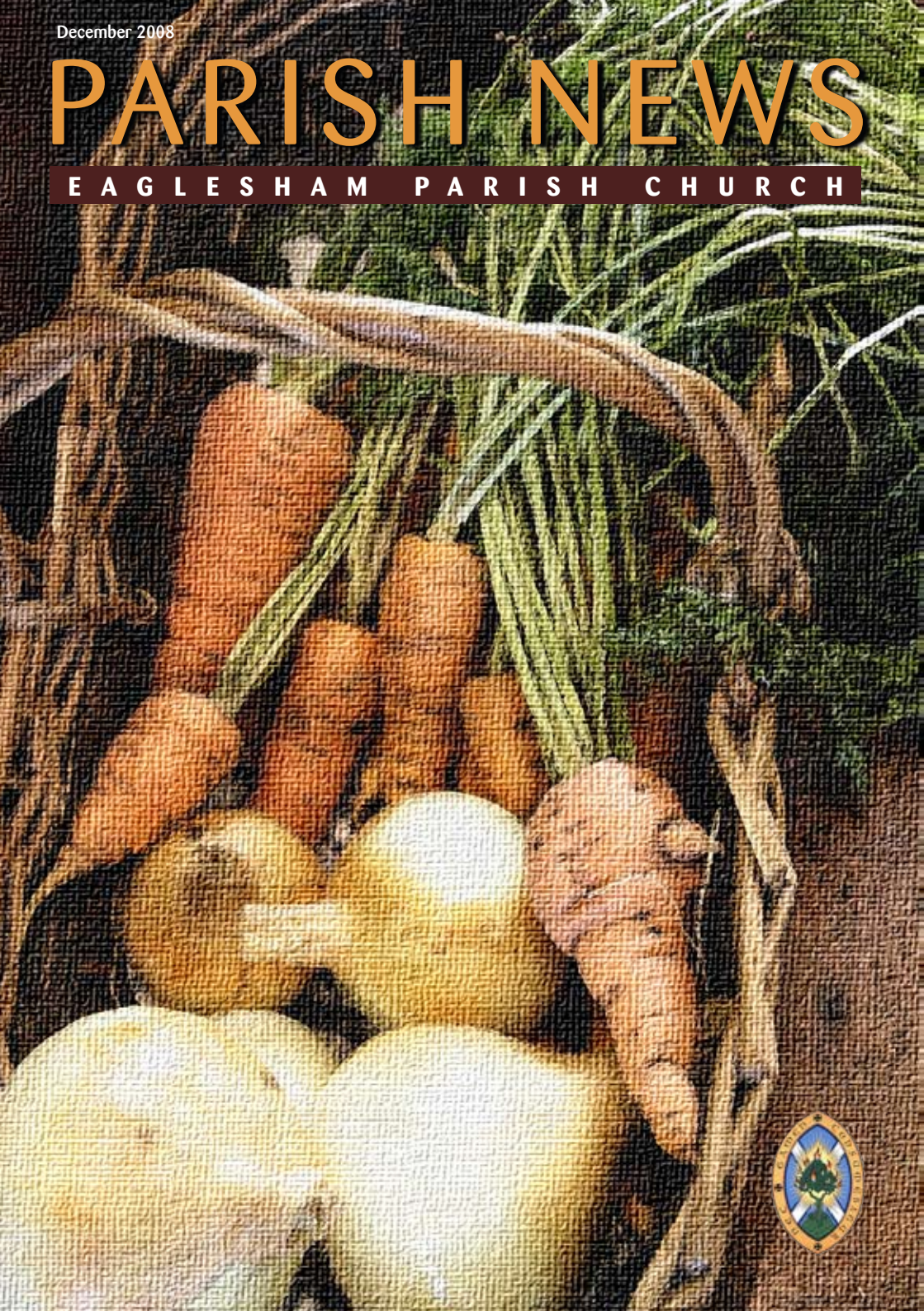


December 2008

PARISH NEWS

E A G L E S H A M P A R I S H C H U R C H



Contacts

Minister

Rev Lynn McClhery BA BD
The Manse, Cheapside Street
Eaglesham G76 0NS

Session Clerk

Craig Wishart
75 Brackenrig Crescent, Waterfoot
Eaglesham G76 0HF

Treasurer

Marlyn McInnes
38 Alexander Avenue
Eaglesham G76 0DW

Freewill Offering Convener

Ronald McIntyre
64 Brackenrig Crescent, Waterfoot
Eaglesham G76 0HF

Church Builders Superintendent

Beverly Millar
19 Kiffochside Road,
Carmunock G76 9ES

Fabric Convener

Jim Alexander
284 Glasgow Road, Waterfoot
Eaglesham G76 0EW

Halls Convener

Maureen Hunter
11 Polbae Crescent
Eaglesham G76 0LL

Child Protection Co-ordinator

Shelagh McHugh
48 Hill Drive
Eaglesham G76 0AL

Magazine editor

Doug Lamont
22 Bonnyton Drive
Eaglesham G76 0LU
tel 01355 302768
fax 01355 302368
email doug@lamontassociates.co.uk

Church Officer

Elizabeth MacLachlan

Church Office

tel/fax 01355 302087
email
office@eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk
Office open Monday & Friday
9.00am – 11.00 noon

Announcements

Baptisms

Daniel John Kettlewell (19 October)
Isla McRoberts (19 October)

Funerals

Alfred Lambert, Alnwick Drive (5 September)
Denis McBair, Tarff Avenue (12 September)
Marion MacKenzie, London (18 November)
Frances Harries, Holehouse Road (20 November)

Cover photo:

Harvest gifts were distributed to Lodging House Mission and flowers to the elderly of the Village.

Musings from the Manse...

Mess, Stress and Christmas

Christmas 2008

I vividly remember a childhood Christmas visit to the theatre. It was an enthralling production for a little girl, and I gasped at the finale when a real coach carried on to the stage, drawn by two real ponies. At that magical moment some adults began to laugh, and I realised that one of the ponies, with fantasy-shattering realism, was depositing copious amounts of dung on the stage. It wasn't in the script (even Cinderella couldn't stop laughing), but it was an unforgettable climax.

Reality has a habit of intruding on all our Christmas dreams – but is that a bad thing? Someone said that 'A perfectly managed Christmas correct in every detail is a sure sign of someone who hasn't enough to do!' The panto pony reminds me of the neat and hygienic manger scenes so popular on Christmas cards – beautiful, but a fantasy which bears little resemblance to the mess and stress of the original

(complete with dung). Yet it was into that messy reality that Jesus, the only person ever able to choose where to be born, entered the world.

God still camouflages Himself like this. God is always found in the real, rather than the ideal, and often not at all where we expect Him. Christmas is never perfect, even if it's just that the fairy lights fuse. Maybe your Christmas this year will be far from your ideal in more serious ways – financial constraints, a family break-up, the loss of a loved one. And maybe you will find God strangely more present in it with you because of that.

May each of us see through the mess to the miracle at the heart of Christmas, and experience God with us in ways that are unexpected – but very real.

Wishing God's blessing to you all.

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'Lynn', is positioned to the left of the author's portrait.

Kirk Session...

Someone recently remarked to me that he felt less informed about what was happening in the congregation since the introduction of the new team structure.

Somewhat taken aback by this statement I looked closely at the structure of our system and the progress which has been made since we decided to change it. In fact, the open and inclusive spirit self-evident throughout our teams is in stark contrast to much of the introspective discussion which occurred before within the Kirk Session and committees which must have seemed secretive and exclusive to many in the congregation. All teams include members of the congregation, in addition to just elders, and the important issues and points for further discussion at full Kirk Session level, which have originated within each team, are aired at joint meetings of the team conveners. The conveners' meeting is always minuted and it is the conveners' subsequent prerogative to report back to their respective team members everything of interest. Furthermore, Eaglesham has fully adopted the spirit and fact of the 'Church Without Walls' initiative and any member of the congregation who wants to attend a Kirk Session meeting can do so without fear or favour. In other words, there is no reason whatsoever why anyone in the congregation should feel either uninformed about what is happening on a week to week basis, or excluded from any aspect of our Church's life in which they would like to be a part.

A direct result of our Youth Strategy Team's foresight and understanding of a special need within our congregation has been the youthful presence in our midst of Russell Shields. We welcome Russell warmly and hope he will enjoy his first Christmas with us and we wish him well with his course of studies at the

International Christian College. We should support Russell in his work among us with our prayers and active encouragement.

Some special Services and events are planned from the end of November apart from the usual Christmas Services to which we all look forward and I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend and enjoy them. Many of these are a result of the inspiration of our Teams and I would like to thank them for their consistent enthusiasm and hard work in bringing their ideas to fruition. They also deserve our support and encouragement in what they are doing on our behalf.

On behalf of our teams and Kirk Session I would like to wish all in the congregation and parish a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Craig Wishart

Church administrator...

Following the very sad loss in the summer of Matt McInnes, our much loved Church Secretary, we are happy to welcome Mrs Vicki Steven to our church office to take over the post. Vicki moved to the village earlier this year and joined the farming community when she married Robert Steven of Lowhill Farm. As well as embracing village and farming life, Vicki has become a committed member of Eaglesham Church. She brings her professional skills as an administrator as well as her natural energy and enthusiasm to the post, and we are delighted to have her. Do drop in to the office or pick up the phone and make yourself known to her.

Please note our new office hours are: Monday and Friday 9-11 am. Contact details remain the same:

Fabric



Winter is upon us – the mole is somewhat indisposed but still functioning!

At the Church the new camera has been installed and is working well but requires minor adjustments to improve its picture quality. The stairwells are being repaired and repainted as has the vestry ceiling. The steeplejacks have returned to continue the remedial work on the steeple 'leaks'.

The Mid Hall the entrance vestibule has been repainted.

Fabric Mole

The Carswell Hall wall movement has been monitored and a report commissioned and received from a structural engineer. His opinion is that our difficulty is coming from the foundations caused by the inability of roof and surface water to drain away. We will initially excavating a number of inspection holes to further investigate the problem. We have been aware of this issue for a number of years but as the widening gap is now affecting the false ceiling in the main hall remedial action is now required.



Services @ Christmas...

SUNDAY 7th : 3.00-3.30pm in church: A Time to Remember — a short service suitable for those who are remembering the loss of a loved one this Christmas.

SUNDAY 14th :11am Advent service in church. 7pm in church: Second Sitting contemporary service celebrating Christmas, with drama by our young people and music by the orchestra – children welcome.

SUNDAY 21st : 11am in church: Children's Nativity service, led by Churchbuilders. Children are invited to bring a wrapped gift which is sent to needy children in Glasgow.

CHRISTMAS EVE : 11.30pm in church - Re-discover the heart of Christmas at our contemplative, candlelit Watchnight service (carol singing from 11.15pm).

CHRISTMAS DAY : 10.30am in church: A short (40 minute) high-energy Christmas celebration for children of all ages! Children, please bring your favourite toy or gift.

SUNDAY 28th : 11am in church: Traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols led by our organist and choir. An extended creche is available for children.



Women Walking with God edinburgh 2009

inspired worship - dynamic teaching - practical seminars

Speaker - Elaine Duncan

Worship - Lou Fellingham and Phatfish

plus 14 seminar options

6 - 7 March 2009

Edinburgh International Conference Centre,
150 Morrison Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8EE.

For more information tel: 0131 467 3817

email: info@womenwalkingwithgod.co.uk

join us!

For women of all ages

www.womenwalkingwithgod.co.uk

◀ Women Walking With God...

In February 2008 six hundred women attended the first ever WWWG Conference in Edinburgh with hundreds more disappointed not to get a ticket. The 2009 Conference is to be held in the Edinburgh International Conference Centre which has much larger capacity. The conference will include worship, teaching and practical seminars. More information can be obtained from Mary McGill.

Work of a Youth Ministry Student...



I've been realising how much many people joke about what youth workers do, mainly they follow the trend of drinking coffee and playing pool. As much as I would be perfectly happy for this to be the truth, there is a lot more to it.

I've been over the moon with the young people I know and the groups that I've been able to get involved in. I really feel that I have started making some strong relationships with the youth.

Obviously I have been getting involved with the Sunday morning youth group that takes part during the service. The young folk that come along to this are great and I look forward to helping the leader work towards getting the group to reach it's potential.

Attending the Boy's Brigade on a regular basis has been a key aspect of my work so far. Without becoming an officer or having any official role of authority I have been able to get to know some of the guys well and have been shown a very welcoming response from both lads and leaders.

In the same way the Guides have been brilliant for meeting many young ladies in the village. Although I can't commit to the Guides every week, I do appreciate the opportunity I get to meet the girls when I take it, and the support of the leaders has been outstanding.

The other group that has made a major contribution to the start of my work in the village has been the Junior Badminton group on a Saturday morning. Working with Ian has been great and meeting the young people within that setting has been brilliant, especially as many of them have no other link to the church. It provides excellent opportunities to interact with the young people that would otherwise be difficult to create.

I've loved the interaction I've had with each of the groups and can't wait to further the involvement I have with them. Now that I've experienced the Afters group that goes on after a Second Sitting evening I am very excited about the involvement I can have in it and the other area that I am focusing on being more involved in is the Mearns Castle High School. The youth worker that already closely works with the school has been brilliant at helping me get involved with some things so far but I would really like to have a lot more involvement on a regular basis, which we are working towards.

With so much already going on it's been fantastic to see how it all fits together and I can't wait to what God has planned for the young people in Eaglesham. The more involved I get, the more involved I want to be and with so many ideas and possibilities available I can't help but look forward to what's to come.

Russell



Junior Badminton

The new season is well under way and we have welcomed back a good number of last year's kids plus some new members who have been a great addition.

It is heartening that as well as having kids from families within our church we have a great number of kids with no church connection and we value this very much.

Our Junior class, aged 7 to 10, runs from 9–10am and we have spaces available for budding players. Coaching and one to one sessions are available for novice players.

The Intermediate class, aged 10 to 16, is 10–12 noon and is literally bulging at the seams each week.

Our thanks go to the Eaglesham Fair committee for their generous grant towards a new net and stand.

We also welcome Russell who has taken a very positive approach to assisting with the club and he will be appearing most Saturdays.

Due to the number of kids we are required to provide adequate supervision. We have received a number of offers of help and we intend to implement a rota after the Christmas break but further assistance is required so that each helper would only be required every four or five weeks. If you feel able to assist contact Russell through the church office (e:office@eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk) who will explain in greater detail. Thanks also go to Jane McLauchlan who has kindly offered to look after our finances (and keep Marlyn happy!)

We break for Christmas on Saturday 13th restarting on Saturday 10th January.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Ian Lightbody, Junior Badminton Convenor

Lodging House Mission

Many thanks for all the donations of food and money. This helps subsidise meals at the LHM to make it possible for many homeless folks to eat well – 27,000 meals in the last year. This gives them a chance to chat with staff and receive support. Some then go on to use the educational and activities programme and perhaps a first step to coping better with or even leaving the homeless scene.

Website

The website has been given a total face lift. You can find lots of information about the various activities at the LHM, make on-line donations and purchase Meal Vouchers. Go to – www.lhm-glasgow.org.uk

Clothing Store

Please note that the clothing store has now closed, due to changed needs and demand for clothing. Thank you to everyone who

in the past has donated clothing for which the LHM was very grateful.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Again there is an appeal for shoeboxes filled with toiletries and sweets. These need to be in by Sunday the 7th of December – to be taken to the LHM in time for distribution. Please could you take into account that nine out of 10 recipients are male as they have tended to receive too many boxes for females.

Carol Service

The Carol Service takes place on Thursday the 18th of December at 2pm at the LHM to which you are warmly invited to attend.

Thank you all again for your continued support which really does make a difference to the homeless in Glasgow.

Brenda Bain

The Guides have certainly settled in this session and we cannot believe it is nearly December.

We have forty one guides at present which is very healthy. They have been busy getting to know each other in their new patrols and also with the new guides who have joined us. The girls got stuck right into activities making cakes, decorating biscuits, making pancakes, etc which was great fun and very delicious. Our Young Leaders, then treated the girls to a health and beauty night with nail polishing, French plaits, make over to name but a few - gorgeous. The girls then continued this theme with a 'Go For It' Passion for Fashion where they recycled an old pair of jeans into a mobile phone holder, they designed items of clothing, branded and advertised it.

Halloween arrived very quickly and yes we had a party. The girls then had a movie evening and our final meeting to

date is when we raised £100.33 for our year long charity **Wateraid**. Thank you to those parents and friends who supported us in the shopping and having tea and coffee and thanks for the lovely baking.

Wateraid aims to provide clean water, sanitation and health hygiene education to people in Nepal. The guides chose this charity for Girlguiding UK Changing the World which runs from now until September'09. We will keep you updated as we go along with what we are doing and how much we raise.

Gang Show is towards December and our last meeting is when we will be carol singing around Polnoon and Montgomery Streets, again raising money for **Wateraid** - so make sure you are in that night and hear our lovely singing!! (Hopefully).

Have a great Christmas and a good New Year.

Louise Lightbody

2nd Eaglesham Brownies

This session we began by seven girls moving up to Guides and gaining six girls from Rainbows. Our older girls will be missed however I'm sure they will enjoy Guides and are ready for the step up. Our new Brownies are all working towards their promise and will be able to attain this by the end of November.

Year to date we have been busy with cooking nights, ramble and sausage sizzle, 10 pin bowling, Halloween Party and bonfire pictures.

They were all worked hard in October and were put through an exhausting dance routine by Karen Watson in order to achieve their Agility Badge.

The rest of the year the girls will be busy with more badge work and to date are currently in the process of doing their Home Skills badge (recycle poster up in

church hall) which will involve them doing most of the household chores!! Also we are having a Brownies Got Talent night at the end of November and we are looking forward to being entertained and the girls earning their Entertainer Badge.

Our Mondays will also be busy with Christmas crafts, Christmas party and our annual visit to the pantomime at East Kilbride.

Many thanks to all who support the unit and also to the girls for making Monday nights fun. Hope you all have a peaceful Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Susan Law Brownie Leader

205th BB Company Section

The Company Section is now in full flow after all the school holidays.

Our Friday nights are running well with band practice, drill, vaulting, and squad games, agilities, camping and safety awards on the go.

Recently we had our dedication service in which around 90 boys and staff paraded to church to give their BB promise.

In October Alan Grant, chief engineer on one of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships, organised a tour for the boys at the Holy Loch where one of the ships is docked, it is one of the BB's top trips and was enjoyed by all who went along.

Saturdays and Sundays are very busy with our seven-a-side football, BB Club, BB Fellowship, and badminton which is starting soon.

This year's Christmas Fair was once again a great success raising around £1600. Well done to the boys who helped sell tickets and a big thank you to Kris, Gail, Ronnie and all the parents, friends and staff that helped make the fair a great success. Also another thank you to all in the community who help support the BB in its work.



BB Company Section 'Gold' Boys left to right Gordon Todd, Matthew Rigg, Robert Rigg, James Strang, Martin Kerr (not in photo)

As Christmas is just round the corner I would, on behalf of the boys and staff, wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a good New Year.

Richard Burt Officer in Charge

Junior Section

The junior BB is well into the session before Christmas.

We have a regular attendance of 31 boys who keep the staff very busy. The boys have been divided into six squads with the theme this year based on American States. The boys are working hard towards their achievement scheme and we should be making the first presentation of badges after the Christmas break.

At time of writing our football 'A' team has a 100% record after two games. We would like to thank all the parents that help with the transport each Saturday morning.

Our halloween party provided the usual amount of fun with the fancy dress parade. The prizes went to Adam Bennett as a hip hippy, Jack McInna as the stig and Jamie Haldane as a old grumpy man.

The boys and the staff of the Junior Section would like to wish all of the parents and our friends a merry Christmas and a good new year.

Mark Robertson & Gary Rushworth

Fabric Fund Ceilidh

The annual Church ceilidh took place in the scout hall on the 22nd of November. Despite a bitterly cold night we had an excellent turnout. The night quickly warmed up and a superb evening of great music, lively dancing, buffet and a wonderful opportunity to socialise with old friends and new was enjoyed by all. Great fun was had as we all ate, drank and danced to our hearts content whilst raising £250 for the Fabric fund.

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the success by attending or providing donations, special thanks to Betty Primrose who again donated a mountain of her amazing meringues, and to the Band – The Elderberries – who once again made the evening fly by with their superb music and sense of humour!
Sheila Lamont

Music and Choirs

Both of our choirs have been very busy since their sessions started back in the Autumn and we have a lot planned over the Christmas period.

Church Choir

The Church Choir continue to rehearse items for the weekly service, as well as a large programme of music for the Christmas Services and Concert. At Harvest we joined with Musical Mayhem to sing one of the choir's favourite anthems: Look at the World by John Rutter and this was well received by the congregation.

The last rehearsal for 2008 will be on Thursday 18th December and practices start back on Thursday 8th January, when we will be preparing music for Lent, Easter and our visit to the Guild (they've asked us back, so it can't have been that bad last year!)

The Choir is still greatly supported by its current members but could do with some extra voices to boost our numbers, particularly men. Why not come along and give it a go - even if just for one night to see what it's like? Practices are always light-hearted.

Musical Mayhem Youth Choir

Since starting back, Musical Mayhem has taken part at the One World Lunch, the Harvest Service, and the Church Open Day where we sang a mixture of Scottish Songs since it was St. Andrews Day. Just now we are preparing various items for the Christmas Concert and the Family Service including Silent Night, A Ragtime Carol and Jingle Bell Rock.

The last practice for Youth Choir will be on 14th December and we will restart on 18th January at 12:30pm. All Primary four and above are welcome to come along.

Organ Recitals – Church Open Day

I hope those of you who came along to the Church Open Day enjoyed hearing a large variety of organ music on the Father Willis organ in our Church and would like to thank the visiting organists, Alan Mathew (Greenbank Parish Church) and Ian Robertson (Breachin Cathedral), for taking the time to come along and perform.

With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Peter Howard Organist and Choirmaster





◀ Harvest Thanksgiving

I would like to thank everyone who was involved with the Harvest Thanksgiving service especially the ladies who worked so hard decorating the church on Saturday morning and all who distributed the flowers and fruit parcels.

Never having done this before I was especially grateful for all the help I received. *Bill Robertson*



Faithshare Leaflet



The Outreach Group have undertaken the publication of a new eight page A5 colour leaflet written and designed to provide an insight into the life and history of Eaglesham Church. Funding for the

leaflet was provided by the Church of Scotland 'Faith Share' initiative. The leaflet is available from the back of the Sanctuary and from the Church Office.

Guild

Our opening night in October was special and poignant. The Close Shave Barber Shop Group sang magnificently and on this occasion the group decided to donate their fee to Radio Lollipop – one of our Guild Charities. This was done in memory of Matt McInnes who had been a member of the group.

To date a wide variety of topics have been covered by our excellent speakers. The meetings have been well attended and we have 76 ladies on the roll and have been delighted to welcome a number of new members.

By the time you read this our Christmas Cracker fund raising coffee morning will have taken place and we shall be preparing for our Christmas celebrations.

Our new session starts on the 7th of January when our speaker will be Anita Manning the celebrated TV auctioneer. This promises to be a very entertaining evening and we extend a warm invitation to the ladies and gentlemen of the congregation to join us on this occasion.

The ladies of the Guild wish you all joy and peace over the festive season.

Joan Douglas



Walking Group...

The River Clyde has featured prominently in recent outings of the Walking Group. The highlight was the circuit round the Falls of

Clyde from New Lanark. Thanks to repair work on the sluices at Bonnington Linn, the falls were in full flow - a sight normally seen only on a handful of 'Open Days' each year. A walk on the Greenock Cut provided fine views of the Clyde Estuary and, in between, the section of the river between David Livingstone Memorial at Blantyre and Bothwell Castle was explored.

Walks continue on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, meeting at the Church Hall at 11.00.

Sandy Robertson

Thursday Group

- We are well into our session and have a good support attending meetings, enjoying a wide variety from Colour Analysis and The Police Firearms Dept to a trip to Mearns Castle Golf Academy (don't think anyone will be signed up for the Ryder cup though!)

- We held a charity night in September in the Eglinton Arms Hotel (this replaces our coffee morning). It was very successful raising £888 which we are all delighted with. Our 3 charities will benefit from this, Clic Sergeant, RHET and Kingsway Thandanani School, Africa. My thanks go to all who supported this event.

- By the time you read this we will have had our mock auction, which will hopefully add some more funds for the charities.

- New members are always welcome along on a Thursday.

- *Mhairi Baird, Thursday Group Convenor*

The Choirs of Eaglesham Parish Church
Present

A Christmas Concert

in aid of Yorkhill Children's Foundation

Friday 19th December at 7:30pm in Eaglesham Parish Church

Also Featuring:
The Church Orchestra & Eaglesham Primary School Choir



Give Me Sanctuary? an old issue relevant to our church today...

Like the rest of you, I always find Lynn's sermons thought-provoking and challenging. 2 November was no different. Based on the parable of the Talents, we were asked to consider how we all make use of what we have and many recalled from family history the example of the 'good' front room being kept spotless for the important visitors who almost never came whilst the rest of the family lived cheek by jowl in the multi-purpose back room.

Then I thought, 'was I sitting in the front room?' Of course, in general terms, any congregation's greatest asset/talent is its people but in financial terms, the main asset/talent is its buildings. How well do we use our talents in Eaglesham? Our halls are lively and vibrant hives of activity for many hours each week but our sanctuary lies empty for most of the time. We all love the place where we meet to worship but is it our 'front room'? Should we be putting it to more regular use to further the work of the church and not just using it for worship? That seems to me to be

the natural logic flowing from the parable. So far so good, but now the crunch comes. In its present form the sanctuary is of limited use and might have to be changed. I've often thought the bravest decision taken since I came to Eaglesham was to radically alter the Carswell building from a church space with a sloping floor and fixed pews to a multi-purpose hall, transforming it from a place used by the (then) Sunday School once a week to a church and community facility. That must have been hard for those who were brought up in that church prior to the Union in 1960 with vivid memories of worshipping in the old Carswell Church. But they embraced the changes and now everyone sees the benefit of the new facility.

Could we do something similar with our sanctuary? Or is that a step too far? Our 'special guest' is in the Front Room all the time, perhaps it's a pity He's on His own so much.

Stuart W MacGill

Mrs Dinah McIntosh...

(via email)

Dear Lynn,

I am Dinah's daughter. We last met when mum was in Hairmyers Hospital.

Mum will be moving through to West Lothian this coming Saturday to the Woodlands Nursing Home in Livingston after 59 years as a resident in the village.

I have spoken to Jean Cumming who has advised me that there will be a Church magazine published in the near future and I was wondering if a note of mum's departure from the village could be mentioned.

Mum was well known to lots of people in the village from the years she spent dispensing wool and other wonderful haberdashery from the Two Sisters shop in the village. I'm sure that there will be some of her contemporaries and children who will still remember Dinah. The shop was one of those sadly long gone places to meet and discuss village life.

Her move through here has come at the right time. I'll be able to see her more frequently and our daughter, one of her much loved grandchildren will also see her more often.

If it is at all possible then a little mention would be much appreciated.

Kind regards

Anne Seenan

Welcome! to our **Baptismal Babies...**



▲ Isla MacRoberts 19 October



▲ Daniel Kettlewell 19 October

Service of Remembrance



This year's Armistice Sunday Service of Remembrance was held on 9 November when we were joined at the war memorial by members of St Bridget's Church and the village community to remember and honour those who laid down their lives in the two great wars of the last century. The service was led by Rev Lynn McChlery and prayer was offered by Cannon McCarney. The wreath was laid by Mrs Jean Laird.



a Taste of local history Bill Niven

Kirkyard Covenanter Memorial

In the north west corner of the kirkyard lies the monument to Gabriel Thomson and Robert Lockart who were murdered by the Stuart dragoons on 1 May 1685. The obelisk (pictured left) stands some 12 feet high and was erected in the middle of the 19th century. The inscription reads:

PSALM CXII & VI THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL BE IN EVERLASTING REMEMBRANCE

HERE LIE GABRIEL THOMSON AND ROBERT LOCKART WHO WERE KILLED FOR OUNING THE COVENANTED TESTIMONY BY A PARTY OF HIGHLANDMEN AND DRAGOONS UNDER THE COMMAND OF ARDENCAPLE 1ST MAY 1685.

THESE MEN DID SEARCH THROUGH MOORLAND MOSS TO FIND OUT ALL THAT HAD NOT PASS THESE FAITHFULL WITNESSES WERE FOUND AND MURDERED UPON THE GROUND THEIR BODIES IN THIS GRAVE DO LIE THEIR BLOOD FOR VENGEANCE YET DOTH CRY THIS MAY A STANDING WITNESS BE FOR PRESBYTERY GAINST PRELACY.



The Covenanters

Between 1638 and 1688, a bitter conflict was conducted between the supporters of the Stuart Kings who believed in the Divine Right of Royalty and the Covenanters who believed that Christ only was King. The Covenanters fought valiantly for religious and civil liberty and with the Glorious Revolution of 1688, the Presbyterian faith was re-established.

Many Covenanters suffered death, imprisonment or banishment to the Carolinas. Many more were fined. Almost three hundred known graves or memorials were established and the Scottish Covenanter Memorials Association was founded in 1966 to maintain and restore the burial sites. Most recently, as President, I have attended Conventicles (open air religious services) at Earnock, Hamilton and Starryshaw, Harthill where new memorials were installed to replace monuments destroyed by vandals.



The Millennium Conventicle

They came from Kilbride, Mearns, Eaglesham, Ayr and Fenwick. Two hundred folk attended the Millennium Conventicle at Millhouse Glen, Temples Farm on 3 September 2000. The congregation took part in a re-enactment of a Conventicle held there 325 years previously when the Rev John Blackadder preached a famous sermon on the text of Isaiah 53 in 1675.

The centre-piece of the service was conducted by the Rev Douglas Lamb (pictured), minister at Dalry. Three abiding memories for me are the score or so of people who walked from Eaglesham to attend exactly as the Covenanters would have done, the rumble of the waterfall immediately behind the Pulpit and the children's voices at the waterside evoking the sounds of yesteryear.