Parish News

EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH



THE BB CAMP -CELEBRATING 60 YEARS ON ARRAN



Contacts

Session Clerk Wendy Armstrong

Treasurer

Mrs Elspeth Napier

Gift Aid Convenor Ronnie MacIntyre

Child Protection Co-ordinator Douglas Maclachlan

Freewill Offering Convenor lan Gray

Church Builders Superintendent Sheila Lamon

Fabric Convenor
Jim Alexander

Halls Convenor Ann Robertson

Church Officer Elizabeth MacLachlan

Magazine Editor Duncan MacIntyre 74 Montgomery St Eaglesham G76)au tel 01355302884

e-mail:

macintyre74@btinternet.com

Youth Ministry Worker James Edgar

Eaglesham Church Office Carswell Hall, Montgomery Street

Eaglesham G76 0AS tel/fax 01355 302087

email

office@eagleshamparishchurch.

co.uk

use church office for individual contacts

Announcements

Baptisms:

Harry Lynch, son of David and Shona James Allan, son of John and Aileen

....both June 14th

During the vacancy services will continue to be led by Willie Black. Rev Tom Houston provides pastoral cover. He can be contacted on 0141 771 0577, or 07780695755



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A WORD FROM WILLIE

Last Sunday after I had been up for coffee after church and was walking back to my car I saw an old man seriously struggling to get out of his car with the help of his wife. I said to them "I could hear the bones creaking away up the road!!" so we laughed together – they were on a nostalgic visit to Eaglesham - it didn't seem quite like he remembered it. All memories of the past are coloured in one way or another. Then with "bones" still in my mind lo and behold the next day my morning Bible reading was in Ezekiel Ch 37 where Ezekiel has a vision of a valley of dry bones, but as he watches, the Spirit of God comes and breathes on the bones and bit by bit flesh reforms on them and they rise up once more to be a living and active people.

Like most of us who find ourselves increasingly noticing the creaks in our bones I don't think we can have too much hope of that kind of change coming our way – at least not until we come face to face with Jesus in heaven and receive our new bodies. But as we look at the church in this day and age and in many situations it looks little more than a valley of dry bones. Surely we can take hope and courage from this prophecy that if we cry out to God He will breathe new life into us by His Spirit and we will see fresh life and power flooding into the church. Surely that will begin when one by one we open our hearts and breathe in the Holy Spirit and receive a fresh surge of His power.

Paul reminds us in one of his letters that we need to "be filled with the Spirit." But what he means is that we need to "go on being filled with the Spirit." Many of us with creaking bones like to look back inevitably through rosy spectacles at the "good old days". Paul doesn't have too much time for that. His view is rarely on the past – much more his focus is on the present and the future. So whatever your view of your faith and experience of the Holy Spirit may be in the past as the church gets going again after the summer break and as folks drift back from their holidays it is perhaps time for us all to once more ask God to fill us with His Spirit. Ezekiel says Ch 37: 14 "I will put my Spirit in you and you will live". We all need to claim this promise and make it our own.

O breath of life come sweeping through us Revive our church in life and power Breath of life come cleanse, renew us And fit your church to meet this hour

Thanks so much for all the encouragement you give me every Sunday. I'm grateful for your singing and the intensity of your listening and

for all who have helped in sharing in the worship.

Best wishes in Jesus. Willie Black



And from Tom Houston.....

I am enjoying my time, recently begun, with you as 'Pastoral locum' during the vacancy. Most of my time visiting is spent with older members of Eaglesham church family and I have been impressed by the genuine concern they have for the well-being of our congregation in these and future days. Even if some are unable to gather with us on a Sunday, their interest and prayers are of tremendous value to us all at this time. I am blessed by the faithful positive manner shown by a good number as they face up to indifferent health at times with some discomfort.

This is a time of uncertainty as we look to the future, but I believe that our office bearers, so ably led by Rev Stuart Smith, will do all in their power to lead us forward.

Therefore let us face the future together ever looking to and trusting in our faithful and unchanging God who is Lord of all. As Brian Doerksen put it in these lines which you may have sung:

Faithful One so unchanging
Ageless one You're my rock of peace
Lord of all I depend on You
I call out to You, again and again,
I call out to You again and again

You are my rock in times of trouble You lift me up when I fall down All through the storm Your love is the anchor My hope is in you alone

With all good wishes

Tom



Session Report

Well, summer is now officially over, although for many of us we maybe feel that we blinked and missed it!

Day to day arrangements for our Vacancy are now in place. We are very blessed to have Rev Willie Black as our locum Preacher on Sundays, and Willie has endeared himself to the congregation with his gentle humour and inspiring sermons. We have also learned important facts about the Korean language and culture! Rev Tom Houston is providing pastoral cover for us, and I know he has been faithfully and regularly visiting homes and hospitals on our behalf. His contact details are on the Manse phone answer machine, and Tom often worships with us on Sundays as well - please make yourself known to him if you need the service of a Minister. In addition, James Edgar has taken on some more work during the Vacancy, and Rev Stuart Smith, our Interim Moderator is working hard for us in Presbytery and in other ways, and giving invaluable advice. I are very grateful to all these people for their commitment.

We have achieved some important steps in our search for a new Minister. We have officially been given 'Permission to Call' a Minister with an unrestricted tenure, our Manse has been successfully inspected, our Parish Profile is looking good, and is in the final stages of proof-reading and completion.

At an important meeting of the Kirk Session in August, we met with the Presbytery Advisory Committee of the Vacancy Procedure Committee (quite a mouthful!) and finalised a number of details. One important decision which the Kirk Session made, after careful consideration and discussion, was that we would not depart from the historic and current position of the church in relation to human sexuality, and therefore that we would not wish to appoint a Minister in a civil partnership.

By the time you read this, we will have appointed a Nominating Committee who will begin the process of advertising and eventually interviewing for our new Minister.

As I am writing this update for you, one thing which strikes me above all is the way that our Congregation has pulled together to go the extra mile in relation to helping out. It would be invidious for me to name names, but many of you have given extra time and help, and will continue to do so, both in taking part in Services, organising rotas, etc. etc. and all this around all the other changes which have been going on with the buildings work at the Carswell. This

demonstrates to me a Congregation which is resourceful, willing and determined to continue the work of the church here in Eaglesham.

Thank you all very much.

Please continue to pray for all the Vacancy procedures, particularly for the Nominating Committee as it starts its work.

Wendy Armstrong Session Clerk 01355 302346

wendy.armstrong2@btinternet.com

100years ago......

In 1915/16 Eaglesham also faced a vacancy with the retiral of Rev James Buchanan who had been the longest serving minister in the parish church since 1688. He had clearly made a substantial impression. In addition to parish minister he was chair of both parish council and school board. As a representative on the County Council he oversaw the introduction of new lighting, water and sewage provision to the village. And he had time for leisure - he was responsible for both conception and completion of the bowling green. It must have seemed a challenge to replace him. The vacancy process may have been simplified by session at the time numbering just three elders plus minister! But perhaps the timescale could be a challenge for us now - demission September; vacancy committee appointed October; new appointment January; induction of Rev Langlands Seath on March 1st.

[information extracted from old session minutes]

A message from the McChlerys

It doesn't seem like 2 months since we took our leave of Eaglesham on 21st June. Looking back, it was such a special time and we really want to thank all of you for making it so meaningful. We are still working through the cards, emails, messages and many small and thoughtful gifts that beautifully summarise 10 very rich years with the church. The leaving "do" after church said it all, and managed to be fun as well as very moving. And of course, Alistair's beautiful picture given to us on behalf of the congregation will take a prominent place in our new home.

"New home" is a more complicated concept than it really ought to be. As I write, we're on holiday before coming back to (nearly) the final stage in what feels like the longest house move in history we've spent most of the summer in temporary accommodation with my family, as well as various holidays and other trips. In August we got the keys to the new house and have been doing a lot of renovation work very fast before our stuff moves in on 31st August. Hopefully it it will soon feel like home - Briagh has already dug up bits of the immaculate garden, so it seems that she approves! If you want to keep in touch, our new address is 62 Grenville Drive, Cambuslang G72 8DP, tel 0141 643 9730 (but mobile/email is probably better).

We're also settling in to a new & very different church at Cambuslang Flemington Hallside. I knew I was in a different world when, on my first Sunday, the Session Clerk earnestly pled with the congregation to give generously to a retiring offering to raise £200 to fund the holiday club. Some elder's districts are vertical – one elder has for 40 years faithfully visited the many church members in her tower block (but only when the lifts are working). Many young families keep it quite informal and it's common for me to arrange pastoral visits by text or Facebook. And Sunday morning church over the summer has twice taken place in the park! They've been very welcoming to us, and we're really enjoying seeing how church can be done differently in this context but with the same aims at the heart of it all.

Much of our hearts are still in Eaglesham. Protocol demands that I do not influence the vacancy in any way but I hope that doesn't stop me from praying, which I do regularly & I hope does influence the vacancy in the best possible way! I pray you will be enjoying the ministries of Willie, Stuart and Tom, and that plans for the future are evolving well as God's way ahead becomes clearer. And I am told that the Carswell moves successfully towards completion, and our

seats are booked for the service of dedication, whenever it is. We wouldn't miss it for the world and we look forward very much to being back with you again.

Much love to you all,

Stuart and Lynn

Faith matters

From the mysteries of the universe to life after death, who said our faith was no longer relevant?! The Faith Development Group is gearing up for a fresh season of activities.

First off are two evenings on "The God Question", led by Prof. Joe Houston. This looks at the really big questions of how we came to be here and how our faith relates to science. "Mind and Consciousness" asks whether we are created as spiritual beings or simply products of evolution. The evenings will be on Mondays 5th and 12th October in the Montgomery Lesser Hall.

Later in the autumn we plan to run another series of DNA groups. People have been most surprised by the way in which we have got to know others - folk you've said "hello" to for years, yet never really knew. Of course, we've also gone deeper into Bible passages, got to know God better and even prayed together. It's all much less scary when there are only three or four of you!

Do come along and ask those questions you've always wanted to, but didn't dare. Updates on details will be in the church bulletin in coming weeks

Gillian Norval for the Faith Development Group.

Inter-faith events

Oct 13-21. Glasgow University Gifford lectures. 'Inter-religious theology'

Nov 22-30 Scottish interfaith week

see www.glasgowinterfaith.org

BB Camping - 60 years at King's Cross Point, Arran

Our 60th anniversary camp at King's Cross Point, Isle of Arran was a resounding success. Firstly, a big thanks to all the "old boys" who made the old boys short pre-camp. It was enjoyed by all and a great time for sharing stories. The camp itself, though not as dry as the previous year, was packed and enjoyed by all boys. A special service was held on the Sunday at Whiting Bay church. A gift of a sundial was presented to the church for 60 unbroken years of camping and worship and Rev Elizabeth Watson presented the company with a shield which will be awarded in future years to an outstanding camper. We even made the Arran Banner! Over the course of the 10 days boys enjoyed sports, canoeing, the rib ride, a climb up Goatfell, trip to the Holy Isle, a visit to the beach and much more. The celebratory fireworks on the beach on the last night, courtesy of the King of Thailand, were an excellent way to end an excellent camp. Congratulations to Rory Kennedy for winning best new camper and Jack "Puggy" McKinna for being awarded best camper. Lastly, a massive thanks to all the camp cooks -Alan "Sterny" Stern, Rhona Robertson, Carlyn Campbell and Chris Paterson.

The new session starts back on Friday 5th September at 7.15pm in the Laird Halls.

Greg Cunningham

[for explanation of the King of Thailand link see one of the boys..ed]

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And a view from Arran

Close links between Arran and Eaglesham have been forged over the years with many of the boys returning as adults with family and some having homes on the island, Indeed the new proprietor of the Bay Stores first came to Arran with the BB company. Several office bearers of Eaglesham Parish Church have holiday houses and many others visit regularly. The BB camp and its followers source most of their requirements on the island and are pleased to contribute to its economy.

This long and happy connection with the company has always been much appreciated by the church who consider it a pleasure and an honour to have welcomed them for all of these years, and indeed, Miss Watson has also been their guest in Eaglesham.

Hugh Boag, News Editor, Arran Banner

And a memory from the past - James Laird took part in the first camp in 1955.....

I was one of the advance party for the first camp in 1955. We didn't have the well established routine and local storage hut that makes the week so successful now. Everything had to be taken over - pots, pans and plates, tents and bedding. The tents were hired from Blacks of Greenock. The bedding consisted of palliasses which had to filled with straw when we got there. It was all loaded on the Thursday evening on to a lorry borrowed for High Borland farm ready for a 5am departure on Friday. After the luxury of a cooked breakfast on the ferry the first task on Arran was collection of coal at Brodick - our boiler was coalfired in those days. Our water source uphill from the camp was the same as now but there was no convenient piping down to campsite - it had to be collected in pails and brought down the hill. No gas - lighting in the main marquee was by Tilley lamps. Fair Monday was special. It was visitors' day when the steamer called at Whiting bay pier no longer in existence - and a coach collected family and friends for a camp visit. We had brought over special crockery hired from Brown's of Broomielaw in order to set up a lunch for our visitors. What is unchanged is the enjoyment of the range of camp activities and the enthusiasm for returning to Arran each summer.

The view of the senior boys..."Camp is the backbone of the 205th boys brigade. And is the highlight of everybody's year. An opportunity to spend 10 days with your friends and improve relationships within the company and with those in the community. The good times are shared amongst both the boys and the officers



205 Glasgow BB Company at Whiting Bay church



What was Billy Inglis saying to amuse Elizabeth Watson with the new sundial behind him at Whiting Bay Church?

Suggestions to the editor please..... macintyre74@btinternet.com

Junior section... campers at Lendrick Muir....report from Gary Rushworth and Mark Robertson



Junior section restarted on September3rd when Ronan Cunningham and Adam Neilis assumed OIC roles. We would like to say big thankyou to everyone who has supported Mark and I during our time in charge of the Junior Section. We have both enjoyed every minute and will continue to help out on Thursday nights. Last session ended with our well attended annual display on the 14th May. The following were Main Display Award Winners:

Footballer of the Year: Sam Ballantyne
The Billy McAuslan Trophy: Owen Lyle
Best Squad: Islay – David Bennett, John Sneddon,
Josh McPhail, Brandon Carson & Adam Hay
Best Boys: Christopher Wallace & Sam Ballantyne

The weekend at Lendrick Muir was another major success with decent weather, an action packed sports programme and lots of happy boys! Best camper this year was John Sneddon. At the end of the football season we claimed a memorable league championship and league cup double victory. Our talented young boys won all

their league games and came from behind to win the cup final 5-2! [see back page]

We have a terrific group of 8 boys leaving us this year to go onto the Company Section. All the staff would like to thank them for their hard work over the past 3 years and wish them all the best as they progress in the Boys Brigade.

Anchor Boys started back for the new session on the 8th September, running from 6.30pm until 7.45pm in the Laird Halls. We welcome all boys from Primaries 1, 2 and 3 to come along and see what we do on a Tuesday night - activities include games, crafts, themed nights, football, stories, parts and trips, plus lots more fun!

Officers-in-charge, Elaine and Gordon are contactable on the numbers below of you have any questions about the forthcoming year at Anchor Boys.

Elaine McHugh: 01355 302864 Gordon Grant: 07515 640100

The Cambodia connection

Our church connection through Tearfund is with the Cambodia Hope Organisation based in Piopet in the northwest of the country, and focussed primarily in countering human trafficking across the border to Thailand. Recent news:

- around 400 children have been involved in the safety, fun and friendship of summer camps.
- 400 parents and children have taken part in trafficking awareness workshops, promising to share what they have learnt with others.
- follow up on micro loans shows that 85% are now running their own business
- but two girls from the sewing class have been trafficked into Thailand after family pressure to provide an income. Please pray for them

Fiona Kettlewell

Meanwhile Alice Carter from Eaglesham has visited a community centre in the same area of the country as part of a trip with World Challenge.

The final part of out trip was visiting a community centre in north-west Cambodia. We taught in the school and helped to build a mushroom shed. We created a jungle scene mural in one of the classrooms. I got on really well with the kids. It was most rewarding. The children were so excited as they watched the mural come together. We had collated a group fund of £700 brought with us. This was used to buy materials and leave a gift for the centre. The kitchen was staffed by women who had previously been trafficked. Most nights we would sit with them and listen to their stories. They were difficult to listen to but we were touched by their bravery.

Before this we had toured Cambodia. The initial impression after the flight via Bangkok was of the endless paddy fields of a country heavily reliant on agriculture, oppressive heat and the busy streets of Phnom Penh. The 'Russian' market - the name goes back to the 1980s - was a vast bazaar of all things from motorbike parts to fish. We visited the nearby killing fields and detention centre of the mass genocide where millions died in the 1970s. The whole group found this tremendously moving. And then a four day trek through the Ratanakiri jungle in the north - hard but completed with only a few cuts and scratches from falling out of hammocks!. Our three trek guides put us to shame with their fitness and jungle knowledge - when we encountered a tree cobra one of them shimmied up the tree quick as a flash to return with the

lifeless body in his hands and a huge grin on his face. Finally on the tourist trail the historic city of Siem Reap and the iconic Angkor Wat temple complex. The majestic temple ruins coupled with the orange robes of the monks made a magical sight. Angkor Wat at sunset is a moment that will stay with me forever - I remember feeling really at peace.

Life changing sounds cliche but it is the phrase that comes to mind after experiencing Cambodia with its warm, welcoming people and vibrant culture'.



World Challenge team with Alice on left; and painting the wall mural



Special Olympic World Games Los Angeles 2015...Amy Clark, champion

On Monday 20th July 2015, after 18 months of training, Amy set off to attend the Special Olympics World Games in LA as a member of the Rhythmic Gymnastics Squad of Team GB. The rest of her family flew out a few days later to join her in LA. The games were officially opened by Michelle Obama at the ceremony which took place in the Los Angeles Coliseum on Sat July 25th. 7000 athletes from 177 different countries marched into the stadium looking so excited and proud.

Amy stayed and competed in the beautiful campus of the University of California LA (UCLA) and over the next three days she performed each of her four individual and group routines. Each time she competed she did brilliantly and got a huge cheer from the audience.

At the medal presentations we were bursting with pride when she received a 6th, a 4th, a bronze, 2 silvers and 1 gold medal. She was so pleased with herself.

After a few days of relaxation and sight-seeing it was time for the closing ceremony which again took place in the impressive Coliseum. A few days later we flew home with Amy, all of us knowing what a privilege it had been to be involved in such an incredible event.



The Guild

The final meeting before our summer break was our annual Afternoon Tea. We welcomed staff from the Cancer Research Shop in Clarkston who modelled their latest range of fashions, including a beautiful mother of the bride/groom wedding outfit. Guild members from 10 local churches and 12 ladies from St Bridget's also joined us.

Our Syllabus Secretary has been working over the summer contacting potential visiting speakers to ensure another varied and interesting programme for 2015/16 for members to enjoy. The committee for our new session is in place and we look forward to welcoming all our members back at the beginning of October. Any lady who would like to come along on a Wednesday evening, even if it is just to see what we are all about, will be made most welcome. We meet every Wednesday evening from October until the end of March. Meetings start at 7.30pm in the Carswell Hall. Our new Syllabus for will be distributed to members in the near future.



The choir is getting ready to tune up for the new session with our new choir master Razvan. We start practices on Thursday 1 October at 7.30pm (hopefully) in our brand new Carswell Halls. We would love to welcome some new members so even if you don't read music and only sing in the shower please think about joining us. We not only enjoy the singing but we have some fun and fellowship also. Razvan or any member of the choir would be happy to speak with anyone interested or just turn up on the night

Carswell Update

Jim Alexander and Craig Wishart report...

As the builders work towards the completion date of 25th September, it is an exciting time. The project is changing daily and decisions have to be made on a regular basis, from colour schemes to ironmongery. We've had the assistance of an 'in house design team' who selected paint colours for woodwork and walls, and colour of carpets for offices and entrance areas.

As in all building projects, we have hit a few unforeseen problems. Rotten timbers were uncovered in a corner of the roof above the new kitchen, and these have now been replaced. Guttering was repaired and some windows need refurbishment. We had to remove all the plaster from the main beams as it was in a dangerous condition. These have been fairly minor 'hiccups' in the building process but have stretched a budget which remains some £50K below the original aim. Some grant applications are still in the pipeline.

We have had very positive feedback from those who have viewed the project so far, and have shown enthusiasm for the bright new hall, the size of the offices, the kitchen and the upper hall ['an architectural triumph' - Craig] Although the project is on schedule for us to take possession at the end of September we aren't prepared to name an official opening as yet - there's many a slip 'twixt cup and lip as the saying goes. But we are sure that this third incarnation of the original Carswell Church will give us a fabulous building fit for purpose which will serve church and community for many years to come.

The Eaglesham Statues

The Church is pleased to have reached a funding agreement with East Renfrewshire Council to house the famous Eaglesham Statues in the new Carswell Centre. They have now been transported from storage in Coatbridge back to the village and have been placed in good locations in both floors of the building. They will be accessible to all for viewing when the new facility opens in the Autumn.

The six fine, life-size statues were created by the 19th century Eaglesham sculptor William Gemmell and were housed in the former weaver's workshop off Montgomery St -- depicting Robert Burns and Highland Mary, local blacksmith William Hall, Glasgow character Hawkie, the street urchin, a blind fiddler and a gypsy woman with her three children.



Statue House, their former home is no longer fit for purpose and the statues have not been available for public viewing for some time. The Picken family gifted the property and statues to the Council 20 years ago on condition that they remain in the village for the community. The new Carswell Centre was seen by both Church and Council to be an eminently suitable location if space could be made available and the statues (which remain in the Council's ownership) are cleaned, screened and have interpretation panels. This work will be done in due course by the Council.

The housing of the Eaglesham Statues brings a welcome heritage dimension to the re-configured building and fits with the vision of the Carswell Centre as a community –orientated church facility. This vision will be further enhanced with the permanent housing and display in the building of the highly acclaimed Eaglesham Quilt.

Glasgow events

Sept 17 at 7.30pm. Wellington church. 'Should the Church be investing in fossil fuel companies? Adrian Shaw, CofS climate change officer.

Nov 31. Christian Mindfulness - what does it mean? Day workshop. Adelaide Place Baptist church. <u>www.christianmindfulness.co</u>.uk

Finance Report

Unfortunately, halfway through the year we have a deficit of £4755. Our offerings are down and income from the use of our premises is also down. Although our tax recovered through gift aid has increased, partly due to the introduction of tax relief on small donations, it doesn't offset the drop. This is a matter of concern for all members as we have various unknown items of expenditure which will occur during the second half of the year e.g. Vacancy expenses, additional running costs for the Carswell. Any increase in givings would be very welcome.

On a happier note, we have a new Organisation Auditor. Margaret Milligan has agreed to take on this important role and has already audited her first set of books. It is a condition of hall let that Church organisation books are audited so group leaders, please contact Margaret through the Church Office to arrange this.

Maureen Hunter, Admin Convener.

The Human Sexuality Debate

To many, the processes of the Church of Scotland seem labyrinthine in the extreme and it seems that it takes far too long to reach a decision. Our Presbyterian system is designed to be as democratic as possible and that, unfortunately, means that consultations are often required and that takes time.

When a major issue arises, the Church often appoints a special committee to look into it, to take advice and report to a future General Assembly with recommendations as to how the Church should proceed. Thus it was with the issue of Ministers in same sex relationships. Once the appointed committee reported to the 2014 Assembly, a debate on the subject ensued. Unusually, the committee did not produce a clear recommendation but a compromise proposal was eventually passed. This stated that whilst the traditional view of the Church that a proper sexual relationship was that between a man and a woman, Kirk Sessions, in the event of a Vacancy occurring, would be able to "depart" from that view should they so decide and consider applications from Ministers in Civil Partnerships (then the only possible form of same sex relationship). That was not the end of the matter because, according to Church Law. this proposal had then to be "sent down" to all 49

Presbyteries for them to debate and vote on; the results of these votes would be put to the 2015 Assembly and only then, if passed by a majority of Presbyteries as well as the Assembly itself (again!) would it become Law.

All this happened at the 2015 Assembly and so our Kirk Session was obliged to have a debate on the matter prior to the Appointment of our Nominating Committee. The outcome is reported elsewhere in the magazine.

However, that was not the end of the matter as Same Sex Marriage is now possible in Scotland and an attempt was made at the 2015 Assembly to widen the existing proposal to cover this. Opponents of the whole idea won the day and so a new proposal in the same terms as that for Civil Partnerships but referring to Same Sex Marriages was then accepted and is now "sent down" for Presbyteries to consider before being resubmitted to the 2016 Assembly. The whole subject will hopefully then be resolved one way or the other.

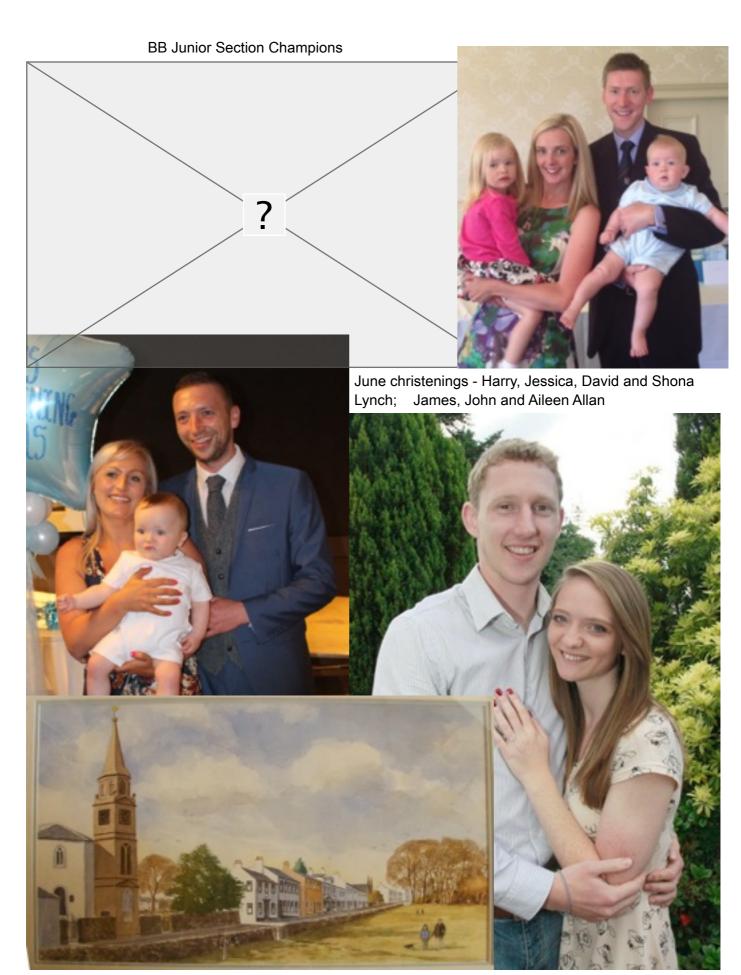
It is in many way sad that so much time and effort is being expended on this issue which is acknowledged as divisive and one which does nothing to advance Christ's Kingdom but it is important that the Church treads carefully and is seen to be trying to act with grace throughout. Thankfully, the debates on the whole issue have been conducted with dignity and respect for differing opinions. Our prayers must be for that to continue and for everyone to feel they can make room for those with whom they fundamentally disagree on what is a very emotional issue and one on which, going by the voting in Presbyteries, the Church is fairly evenly divided.

Stuart W MacGill, Presbytery Elder



Open Day. Sunday Nov 22nd from 2pm in Royal Concert Hall

We have supported Mary's Meals through Guild, One World lunch, Sunday coffee fund. This is an opportunity to hear more about their programmes and visit various craft stalls



The church and Montgomery St by Alastair Anderson - presented to Lynn and Stuart McChlery in June

Youth Matters - what James is up to now! James Edgar and Catriona Lamont engaged in June and to be married in August 2016. Cat is in her final year at vet school