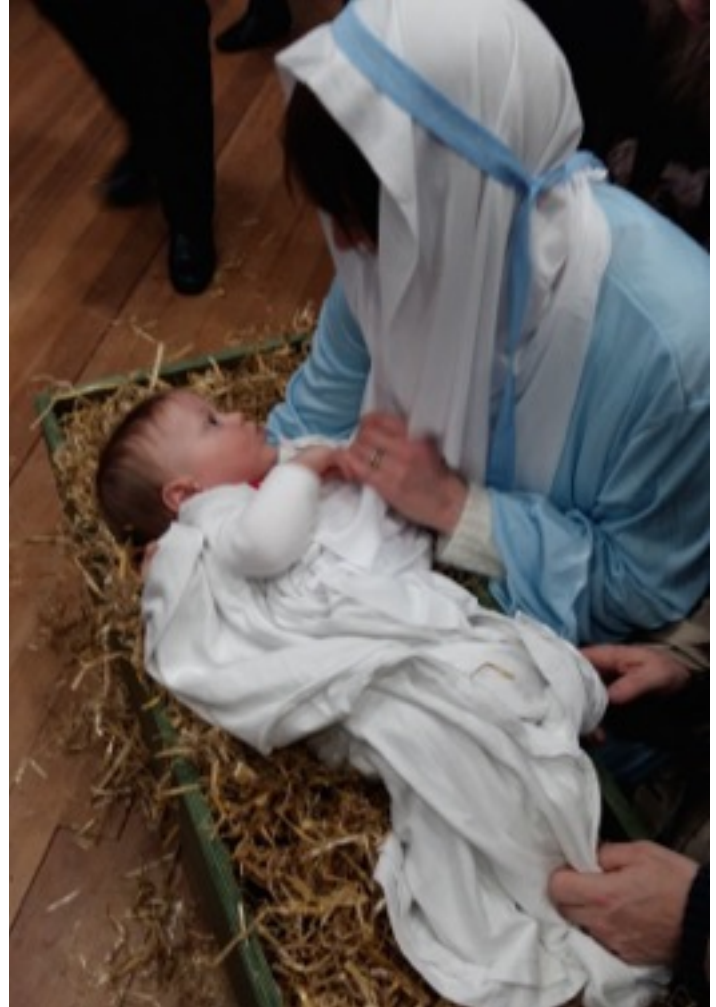


# Parish News

EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH



*Nativity in Eaglesham.....see page 5*

### **Notices**

### **Baptisms**

Mack Sutherland on Sept 17th

Charlotte Pollock on Dec 10th

### **Deaths**

Sept 11. Ken Middleton. 2 Polnoon Mews.

Sept 23. William Beech. 9 Winton Ave.

Dec 5. Charlotte Watson. Williamwood House

### **Team Convenors**

Music and worship - Wendy Armstrong

Outreach - Giles Blair

Admin - Maureen Hunter

Pastoral Care - Sandy Robertson

Youth Strategy - Tom Mann

Faith Development - Gillian Norval

### **Keep in touch with church activities**

- Website.....[www.eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk)
- Facebook.....Eaglesham Parish Church  
@Heartofvillage

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Comments, articles, suggestions for future issues to [macintyre74@btinternet.com](mailto:macintyre74@btinternet.com)



## From the Manse

One of the best known yet least known poems "At the Gate of the Year" was quoted by King George VI in his Christmas Day broadcast in 1939. It came at the end of the nine-minute broadcast.

'I feel that we may all find a message of encouragement in the lines which, in my closing words, I would like to say to you'...

*I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year,  
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."*

*And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God.*

*That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."*

*May that Almighty Hand guide and uphold us all.*

The King's broadcast was specifically Christian in content. He identified Christmas as "above all, the festival of peace". At the time Britain was engaged in a War against one of the best organised, best armed, most technologically advanced and most fanatical ideologies the world has ever known. This poem by Louise Haskins speaks of a person asking for light as they journey into the unknown, but the advice is to reach to God as a traveling companion and trust his leading

It is advice that we could also embrace - we are living through a period of national and global uncertainty. No one is quite sure of the future amongst the many challenges the nation and the world face – the economy, Brexit, tensions with North Korea, war in Syria, sabre rattling by the World's Super powers and a latent fear of terrorism and fanaticism that colours daily life of so many people in Europe.

Many people have uncertainty on a personal level that may be causing anxiety. Some have experienced

unprecedented change in their lives during 2017 caused by circumstances outwith their control and not of their choosing... the loss of a job, health issues in the family, the death of a spouse or loved one. For some 2018 will bring difficulties and challenges that are without precedent. For others it will bring times of great Joy - a realisation of love, a wedding, the birth of a child, the graduation of a young person or perhaps a new job. For many it is likely that the coming year will have bitter sweet cocktail of high spots and low. But God's invitation is the same – Come Follow Me - take my hand and walk with me.

May God's Almighty hand uplift you all through all the joys and the sorrows that 2018 will bring – and be assured of the prayers and the support of your Church Family.

Blessings

Rev Andrew Robertson

## Church Flowers

Janette McIndeor has served as the Flower Convenor for the last 15 years and has decided to "retire" from her position. We are grateful for this faithful service that has facilitated the donation and arranging of flowers enhancing the sanctuary over many years. Kay Brown has taken on this role from the beginning of 2018.

The arrangement is that people nominate a Sunday when they will donate the flowers for the Church on an annual basis. This is often to remember a loved one or recognise a significant date. There is then a team of arrangers who turn the flowers into beautiful arrangements. After the service these are distributed to members of the congregation - again by willing helpers. The recipients may be the sick, bereaved or someone who may just need a pick me up. It could be that they are unable to attend church but we still remember them.

If you have any suggestions or would like to help in some way please contact Kay.

## Session Notes

The Kirk Session is now back in the swing of regular meetings. The Kirk Session used to meet on a monthly basis and I have huge admiration and stunned awe at the organisational skills of the previous Session Clerks who managed to turn around Minutes, Agendas etc. on a monthly basis! Now we meet every two months and usually manage to get through our business timeously. However, we have felt that we also need, as a Session, to consider some proposals in more depth than is possible at our meetings. Hence, we scheduled three extra Session Meetings (November 2017, February and May 2018) in order to do this.

Our November Meeting was a re-cap on our Future Focus discussions earlier in the year. In February 2018 we will be discussing the role of the Elder. Elders' roles have changed out of all recognition since the times a few centuries ago when Elders would visit the members in their geographical district to make sure that they could recite the catechism and thus be deemed 'worthy' to receive a communion token which they would have to present when they attended the forthcoming Communion Service!

Many churches over the past few years have been looking again at how Elders should be serving the needs of the congregation, and we are about to have a closer look at this ourselves. As a result, your Elder will be discussing this with you when they next visit. Some questions for you to consider are - what is the best way for your Elder to communicate with you? personal visits? social media? by telephone?. What would you like your Elder to do for you? In the 'old days' most people were members of the church and so a geographical Elder District system made sense - is this still the case? Or are there other models we can look at? Please help us by making sure that your Elder gets a good idea of your views on these matters.

The Carswell Centre is now up and running well, with a steady increase in community and church groups using it. However, one aspect of the original plans which was never costed or implemented was building a garage for the Boys Brigade Mini-Bus at the back of the Centre. The Kirk Session are keen to support the BB's fundraising efforts towards this, and we will be organising a Plant Sale in May 2018 - more details to follow, but please think about holding back on your plant purchases! Thanks are due to Craig Wishart who will be masterminding this.

I know the following may be slightly boring so I will make this brief! Glasgow Presbytery run a review process for all churches called the Local Church Review. It's a bit like an Inspection Team, and we have had a Review of our Review (are you still with me?) within the past two months. Presbytery are very pleased with how we are doing. Phew.

And now some thanks. You will know that Liz McLachlan 'retired' as our Halls Keeper in October, after many years of faithful service. However, Liz will still be part of our Beadling Rota, and will cover for funerals and weddings in the church. And she is still keeping on the cleaning of the church. So maybe not so much of a 'retirement'. Thank you Liz for all your work and commitment!

Three of our senior Elders have also retired from the Kirk Session over the past few months - Steven and Margaret Dron, and Robert Steven. Margaret and Steven have between them 85 years service as Elders, and Robert has been an Elder for 44 years. A huge amount of experience and self-giving service to our church here in Eaglesham. I would like to express the thanks of the Kirk Session, and all of us in the church to them for all that they have done over the years.

Wendy Armstrong

Session Clerk

# Eglesham Christmas Specials 2017

## Touring Nativity

Eglesham's first-ever Walking Nativity Play was a huge success.

About 200 people turned out on a damp Christmas Eve to see actors from both the Parish Church and St Bridget's tell the story at different points around the Orry through a mix of narrative and passages of scripture. And as the crowd processed from place to place, they were led in the singing of well-known carols.

Starting at 5.30pm at the village Christmas Tree, the audience saw the Angel of the Lord appear to Mary to tell her the glad tidings.

Next they walked up to the Swan, where the landlord received a loud cheer as he revealed there was no room at the inn but that there was a stable nearby.

Travelling across Mid Road, the procession encountered shepherds and wise men before making their way into a darkened Carswell Centre. There, they found a starlit manger scene and "real life" Joseph, Mary and Jesus in the form of Keith and Alison Sutherland and their baby son, Mack.

After the re-enactment, everyone was able to enjoy mulled wine, juice and warm mince pies. Donations raised more than £100 for the parish church's Tearfund/Cambodian Hope Organisation project partners.

*Photo...a busy Carswell after the play*

## Choir Cantata

Eglesham Church Choir was delighted to present a performance of the cantata "Night of Miracles" in the Church on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December as part of the 2017 Christmas celebrations. This was our first major undertaking led by new Organist Alan Gillon and everyone in the Choir was keen that the evening would go well to reflect all of Alan's hard work at our practices during the autumn months. And so it proved. All who attended – a good age range – enjoyed the cantata and the Choir was very appreciative of the reception it received.

Night of Miracles was written in 1958 by the then well-known American composer of religious music, John W Peterson; he was particularly active between 1950 and 1980, writing over 1,000 songs and 30+ cantatas. Night of Miracles is a mix of narrative, solos and choral pieces taking passages from both Matthew's and Luke's Gospels to re-tell the story of Jesus' birth concentrating on the miraculous aspects of the story. As Petersen says in his introduction: "Here, too, then was a story of Love, but not love as natural man knows it. This Love knows no bounds. It is limitless and absolute, and was first manifested on that wonderful night so long ago..... a NIGHT OF MIRACLES."

Thanks are due to our own Alan Mackay who was the Narrator, to our guest soloists from the Scottish Conservatoire, Chrisni Mendl (soprano) and Christian Schneyberger (Tenor) and to our guest Conductor, Martin Bennie. With Alan Gillon on piano, all our guests helped to make the evening a special one which will not be quickly forgotten by those who were there.



## BB NEWS

"The first half of the company section session 2017/18 has been excellent. I would say it has been the best it has been in the last few years. The change to a Friday night has worked wonders and I thank the parents for coming with us on this move. The Friday night programme itself has been varied and interactive. We still have some of our old favourites such as vaulting, but we have also introduced new activities such as different sports and even some cooking! The programme for the second half of the year is looking just as good. Outside our Friday nights, we have been running the Saturday Club and Sunday badminton. While it would be good to have a few more bodies for these activities, the boys that attend are having a good time. Additionally, our under 13s 5-a-side team were unbeaten in both legs of an inter-company tournament at Glasgow Green pitches. Well done to those boys! Many thanks to the Eaglesham Bowling Club for taking us through the ropes of lawn bowls one sunny Sunday in September. Our trip to Arran at the start of the year was a great success and we even had a team win the inter-company quiz in East Kilbride. This year, for this first time, we went on a company section trip to Carronvale House. This was a multi-activity weekend with lots of sport, games and the older boys even tried their hands at kettlebell lifting. This was a great success and we intend to do the same next year. The Company Section continues to offer a lot for boys aged P7 to S6. Our approach is to put as much as possible on offer to the boys and hope that they get involved. That is where we rely on the parents to encourage and push the boys to be as involved in the BB as possible even when it seems like the X-box might be an easier option! Now, more than ever, the amount of activities on offer to the boys is fantastic and growing. I'd like to thank the parents and friends of the company for their continued support. Together the BB in Eaglesham is growing and moving from strength to strength. There is a real buzz about the boys, staff and community this year and I am committed to ensuring that does not fade #205thebestalive #sureandsteadfast

Greg Cunningham O/C."

### Anchor Boys.

After getting off to a flyer in August, we have gone from strength to strength. As we broke up for Christmas we had just shy of 30 lovely boys on our books. The boys have had an extremely varied programme so far in the 17/18 session - we've looked at the history of The Boys' Brigade and the 205th's unique place in the village; explored Roald Dahl stories; trick or treated during our Halloween party and much more! As part of our Christmas programme, we took the boys to Ibrox Parish Church to see "The Wizard of Oz". We welcomed a very important visitor on the penultimate Tuesday in December. For St. Andrew's day, the boys learned all about the meaning behind the Saltire and why St. Andrew's Day is important to us. We entered a St. Andrew's Day colouring competition hosted by Glasgow Battalion. All the entries were beautifully coloured but special mention must go to Logan Fraser (p1) for his entry - he took overall first place out of 150 entrants! The boys and staff of the 205 Anchor Boys are very excited to see what 2018 brings for us and we'd like to thank everyone for their continued support.

Ally Campbell



*From Jim French...a hockey picture from the fantastic Sports Centre at Carronvale. It was like rolling back a generation, Baird to Bennett, another Baird trying to intercept but Wallace gets the pass away! It does not seem all that*

*Logan Fraser, prize winner*



*The successful under 13s squad*



*Anchor boys at the panto*

## **Where am I?...the Sandy Robertson puzzle**

My journey today takes me in search of three Scots who found fame in diverse areas of activity. I'm at the start of a 66km walkway which follows a river from its source near here to the sea. When I first heard the name of the local football team, I thought it was fictitious. It seems unlikely that the fruit referred to could be grown in this windswept place. The team is no more, the village is no more, but the location attracts 'pilgrims' from a city many miles south of here, where the village's most famous son achieved his greatest successes.

A few miles west, a small town was the site of one of Scotland's earliest ironworks. Its attractive facade was dubbed 'The Castle' by the locals. Nearby Furnace Road is a reminder of past industry, and links to my second celebrity, who tried out his new road surfacing material here not long after setting up his works in the town in 1786. He is commemorated on a cairn to the south west of the town.

I leave the river and travel 15km north to another small town. My third celebrity was born in a farmhouse nearby in 1881. Although he left for London aged 13, he never lost his affection for the town and thought the award of the Freedom of the town 'the proudest title I could have'.

Prior to that he had been knighted and had been awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine. I guess most of us have benefited from his discovery.

1 Where was the village? 2 Who was the second celebrity? 3 What did the third celebrity discover?

## **Volunteer opportunities**

**Tom Allan Centre**, Elmbank St is part of Church of Scotland Crossreach. It provides counselling to meet various needs. Volunteer support is wanted for admin and reception duties...a morning, afternoon or evening once a week. [tomallan@crossreach.org.uk](mailto:tomallan@crossreach.org.uk) or 0141 221 1535

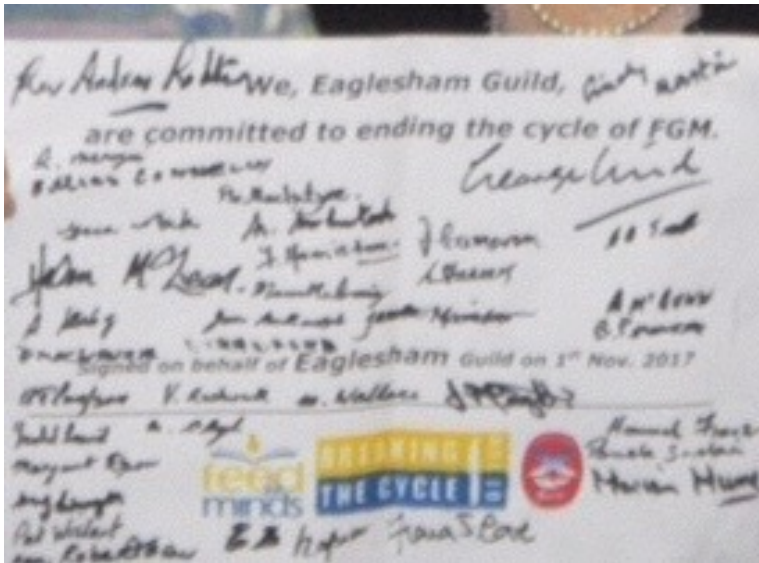
**Lodging House Mission.** We have a periodic Saturday commitment. Currently there are enough folk helping, but if you would like to be involved contact Brenda Bain.

## **Lent with Christian Aid**

Through daily reflections share a Lent journey with others from around the world. In following Jesus' time in the wilderness, reflect on blessings in our own life and the 'wildernesses' faced by others. An opportunity for contemplation and commitment.

[www.christianaid.org.uk/lent](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/lent)

## The Guild



Outstanding speakers challenged members of the Guild with exceptional presentations during the first half of the session. It's wrong to pick out any, but two must be mentioned, as they inspired us to make a further charity collection.

One was Rev. George Lind who represented one of our projects, "Feed the Minds", which empowers women and girls in Kenya to fight the horrendous practice of female genital mutilation. Education projects encourage the breaking of the cycle, extremely difficult because of the fear engendered by the culture.

The second was Rev. George Fiddes, minister of St. Nicholas Parish Church in Prestwick. He described visually and verbally his visits to Malawi.

As a result of the power of those speakers, we put into practice an idea which we had only talked about. We are collecting ladies underwear, i.e. New packets of pants for girls ages 3-15 and ladies sizes 8-16. These will be sent to a Scottish charity, " Smalls For All" which distributes them to needy women and girls in Africa. Lack of underwear is extremely embarrassing, even preventing women from seeing doctors or visiting hospital and girls from attending school.

If you would like to contribute, please hand a pack to any member of the Guild. Thank you for your continuing support of the Guild allowing it to donate this session to Feed the Minds, The Street Pastors, The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, Richmond's Hope and Smalls For All.

Thanks to all who supported the Christmas Cracker coffee morning in November. £1260 was raised. Our charity coffee morning is on Saturday Feb 17. We continue to have a varied programme of topics on Wednesday evenings - detail of the programme can be seen on the church website.

Pat Wishart and Fiona Hamilton

## New Roads

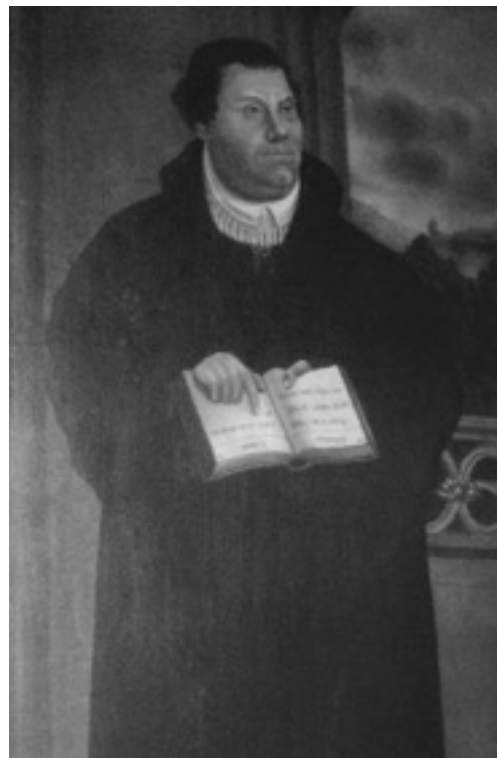
*a poem for a new year?*

When the star had stopped  
and they had seen the baby,  
they took a new road.

When the decorations come down  
and we have heard the story  
we can take a new road.

New roads can be scary  
New roads are exciting  
New roads are risky  
It is time to go.

Star-maker, Light-bringer  
Holy Spirit of adventure,  
Come to us this day  
on our road



Last year was when we were reminded of Martin Luther and his legacy. Ronald MacLean may have found him while exploring Germany. He found this painting in Peterskirche, a German Evangelical Church in Weilheim an der Teck. It dates from the early 1600s, after Luther's death so is based on earlier portraits...hence perhaps the difference from the March 2017 image which featured in the Parish News of March 2017.



## Good Money Week.

This week is held each October to raise awareness of sustainable, responsible and ethical finance. Eastwood Ecumenical Peace and Justice Forum hosted a meeting chaired by Kenneth McPhie, a local member of the Association of Christian Financial Advisors.

Craig Bonthron of Kames Capital explained the detail of how ethical investment is decided. Certain areas are excluded - weapons, tobacco, gambling etc. There is then an assessment that looks at both financial performance and markers of environmental sustainability, social concern and company governance. This allows concentration on around 40 stocks giving investment which is both ethical and gives a good return. In general ethical investment funds have performed at least as well as others in recent years.

Kenny MacLeod is chief officer of Scotwest Credit Union. He explained how credit unions differ from high street banks - and to some extent from each other. An essential feature is that they are local and owned by their members. Although size varies this generally means some knowledge of individuals who are saving or borrowing. Their aim is to give their members a reasonable return on savings by lending at a reasonable rate. Being non-profit organisations helps them achieve this. Britain in general has fewer credit unions than other countries, though numbers are increasing and there is wider cover in the west of Scotland than elsewhere in the UK.

Howard Peebles of Waterfoot has been involved with Shared Hope since retiring from accountancy. This charity provides small grants and loans to help projects in various African and Asian countries. Its ethos comes from interpretation of 'love your neighbour' - expressing mercy in meeting needs, promoting justice, and upholding dignity. Close contact with projects is maintained by working through local partners and by visits from supporters at their own expense. The volunteer nature of the charity's team means that overheads are minimal and 97% of income has gone to project partners.

Discussion highlighted a similarity between credit union loans and microloans abroad - in each case bad debt is minimal. Local links seem to increase the need for individual financial probity. The loans are effective. Sally Foster-Fulton of Christian Aid who joined our discussion panel reported the same observation.

Contacts

[www.kamescapital.com/sustainable](http://www.kamescapital.com/sustainable)

[www.scotwest.co.uk](http://www.scotwest.co.uk)

[www.sharedhope.org.uk](http://www.sharedhope.org.uk)

[www.christianfinancialadvisers.org.uk](http://www.christianfinancialadvisers.org.uk)

## Rural Wisdom in Eaglesham

Rural Wisdom hosted a 'Vision for Change' event at the Carswell Centre in November. There was a great turn out, we were joined by local older people who wanted to see change in their community. Others who could support this change also attended, such as staff from the local authority, shop owners, community council, community groups and other third sector organisations.

There were five themes identified at the event: improving communications, better transport, effective community facilities, strengthening intergenerational connections, and improving street safety for pedestrian access. We discussed what changes we would like to see in these five areas and who could contribute to making them happen. Some things only required small changes that could happen locally in the short term, others will take longer to achieve.

We will be publishing a short booklet that will go into greater detail about the project and what local people have said they would like to achieve, this will be ready at the end of January.

If you have any ideas about the five themes above, would like to receive a booklet or would like more information about the project please contact:

**Kate Robertson:** [kate@otbds.org](mailto:kate@otbds.org) 07841015945

## FROM LIFE AND WORK

### The Accidental Trailblazer

Rola Sleiman grew up in the Lebanon of continuing civil war. There were few opportunities for normal childhood activities but the local Presbyterian church held a regular Sunday School. From this beginning she developed a desire to serve the Lord in some way - in a society where all clergy were still male. An initial application for educational sponsorship by the Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon was refused but she persisted and study led to a role as a Christian educator in her home town. Then the church's pastor left and she was increasingly called upon to preach. The next step was administrative - she was appointed 'non-ordained pastor' in order to represent her church on committees. But her congregation did not accept this situation and persuaded the Synod for the first time to ordain a woman. Rola was one of those refused permission by the Home Office to attend last year's General Assembly but she did reach Scotland for a September conference on Women in the World Church. She comments on her experience - stop talking about 'this woman minister, she has to work hard to prove herself'. We are ministers and we are either qualified or we are not.

### The Holocaust survivor

Holocaust Memorial Day is on January 27. L and W featured Umetesi Stewart who survived the Rwanda genocide and now lives in Falkirk with her Scottish husband. Her village childhood had been happy, though with an absent father, until around the age of 12 when tensions developed between Tutsi and Hutu. As a child of mixed parentage she found mixing and school increasingly difficult. Her mother realised the danger and was considering plans to leave Rwanda when she died as their house was set on fire. A friend led her and her younger siblings into the jungle where they survived as refugees for several years. Eventually returning to their home village, they found themselves alone with over 40 relatives having been killed. Part-time work allowed Umetesi to support her sisters until she received sponsorship to study for a nursing degree. Then she met Iain. He and Jean Paul Samputu, a Rwandan musician who had survived, were playing and recording around the country with a positive message and to raise money for those affected by the genocide. Love of the music led to love of the man and the first Rwandan wedding to feature a killed Scotsman. Since coming to Scotland in 2015 she has shared her story with others starting with a Belfast group bringing Protestant and Catholic children together.

**Gospel debate.** A short letter in August emphasising the importance of 'the orthodox Gospel of repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ, whose substitutionary death on the cross atones for our sins, makes us right with God and gives us eternal life' led to considerable theological debate, still ongoing, in subsequent issues. Is this the essence of the Gospel message? Are other interpretations possible? Is a Gospel of love for God and for our neighbour not the primary message? Faith and salvation must mean something for how we live our lives - 'saved to serve'? The initial letter responded to exhortation from Ron Ferguson that churches should live much closer to the Gospel of Christ. He was addressing the reduced presence of the Church in Scottish society and suggesting a need to 'refocus on the core message'. The subsequent debate challenges us to consider what this means.

*Have a look at Life and Work, the Church of Scotland's monthly magazine. £12 for an initial 6 issues - see the website; or contact Parish News editor if you would like to subscribe via the church.*

## Some Up-coming Dates and Events

**Friday Feb 2nd from 7pm.** A joint **Social in the Carswell Centre** for our congregation and our friends at St Bridget's to get together over a glass of wine and a light supper. The main purpose of the Social is to enjoy a convivial evening in the middle of our dark Scottish winter and to accept formally the gift of a painting of St Bridget's, executed by Alistair Anderson as the last in a series of paintings of village scenes, gifted by Alistair, hanging in the Carswell Centre. Please come along to what promises to be a relaxing evening of craic and company. Enjoy the hospitality on offer and take the opportunity to thank Alistair for his generosity. If coming please give your name to Craig Wishart to help with catering

Saturday Feb 17. 10-12. **Guild charity coffee morning**

Wednesday Feb 21 and March 21. **Mary's Meals lunches** in the Carswell Centre at 12noon. Come and enjoy a sociable get-together along with homemade soup, bread and baking.

Tuesday Feb 27 at 1pm. Our organist, **Alan Gillon, plays Kelvingrove** Art Gallery organ as part of the regular recital programme. Free entry, and you could enjoy a light lunch while listening.  
*Photo of the organ taken by Brian Fraser last time Alan played*

Friday March 2. 10 for 10.30. Carswell Centre. **Annual World Day of Prayer** meeting with talk by Dorothy Russell, chaplain of Shotts prison.

Saturday March 12. **BB jumble sale.** Get your Spring clear out done before then. The collection team will be touring Eaglesham and Waterfoot on the Thursday and Friday



And a message from Craig about the **BB Garage Fund** with two May dates. The fund is to replace their previous 'telephone exchange' base next the manse. The need for the garage is becoming quite critical as a new vehicle will shortly be purchased. Safe and secure garaging for it will be essential; not just to protect it from the elements but to keep it safe from any anti-social vandalism

**Friday evening May 11.** Bridge exponent, Church Secretary and Choir Member Anne Carr, is holding another of her famed Bridge Drives. Anne will be in charge but contributions of bottles of wine, suitable prizes and, on the day, help with catering will be very much appreciated to ensure the success this evening promises to be. Mark it in your diary now.

**Saturday afternoon May 19.** The Kirk Session is running a Plant Sale in the Laird Hall with teas and coffees available in the Carswell Centre for 'budding' gardeners exhausted by their plant-buying frenzy. It promises to be both successful and enjoyable as the optimum time for summer planting of bedding plants approaches. Even if you don't have a garden come along to this event, perhaps pick up a nice colourful house plant and enjoy a cup of tea and a cake.

**Mark these dates in your diary now - a reminder will come with the next Parish News.**



*Thanks to Liz MacLachlan for years of work and help as Hall Keeper*

*Charlotte Pollock with parents Julie and Stewart*



*Mack Sutherland with parents Alison and Keith*