

# Parish News

EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH



photographer: Kieran Chambers.

*Focus on the Guild - a happy band at the Annual National Gathering in Dundee  
and the first event in the new Carswell Centre with St Molios Saxophone Quartet*



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## In Memoriam

George Knight, Gilmour Cresc. 30.9.15

## Christmas Services

**Dec 20. 11am. Service of nine lessons and carols**

**Dec 24. 11.30pm. Watchnight service. Carols from 11.15**

**Dec 25. 10.30am. Family celebration service**

**Dec 27. 11am. Morning service**



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## A WORD FROM WILLIE

**“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favour rests”  
Luke 2:14**

It's not even December as I write this but for weeks now the shops have been telling us that Christmas is coming. The Christmas lights are going up in town and it won't be long till we see the first Christmas tree in some house in our street. The first Christmas card will soon arrive. But in the midst of all the growing excitement for children – panic and frustration for parents - perhaps we need to take a moment out and just remind ourselves once more what it is all about – **it is all about Jesus**. One of the campaigns last Christmas reminded us **“CHRIST”** is at the start of **“CHRISTmas”**.

Christmas celebrates one of the greatest moments in the history of the world for it reminds us that we worship this incredible God who didn't keep to himself but became a man and lived here in our sinful world – a God who came right alongside us – a God who ever after wants us to know that whatever situation we might find ourselves in He will be right there with us. It is no wonder that one of the messages of the angels was that we need to give God the glory. So make sure that in all the business of the season you take time out to give God the praise and glory He deserves – after all He did take time out for us all. **Give God the glory**

The other great desire the angels had was that peace would come into our world – there is still such a need for that – there is always a war going on somewhere and from what the Bible says that is not going to go away – but while it seems world peace is not on the agenda, personal individual peace with God is on offer in the Christmas message – it is on offer in Jesus. When we put our trust in Jesus we can know that whatever may come into our experience we can be at peace with God. **Give God the glory**.

And then finally what was on the heart of the angels in their Christmas message? It was the favour or the grace of God. Grace is one of the unique characteristics of God – it is one which is fundamental to the gospel – we have all received so much in this life and no doubt will receive more over the Christmas period – but the fact is that we deserve none

of it – but we have a God who gives and gives and gives again. He is a God who is ready to give us the forgiveness, peace, joy and the hope we all need. All we need to do is ask. **Give God the glory**.

*Best wishes for a blessed Christmas from  
Willie and the Kirk Session*

## CARSWELL COMPLETED

Well it's now official. We have the new Carswell Centre delivered, the builder's contract is now complete, and it appears that everyone seems to love what has been achieved. The building is operational and the Fabric team are busy 'putting the icing on the cake': hanging pictures, fitting toilet roll holders, putting up coat pegs and shelves, bits of painting, sorting out sound system and projector, establishing the office, and many other things. Trying to get keys cut is proving problematic, and I'll probably have to go back to the builder to resolve this issue.

We are also kept busy with the usual chores from clearing choked gutters to repairing broken furniture. We are shaping up, early in the New Year, to carry out repairs and maintenance work in the manse to bring it up to scratch before a new minister, hopefully, is found.

The council turned up out of the blue, just before Remembrance Sunday, cleaned the War Memorial and repaired the gates into the churchyard.

It's now nearly time to go into our Christmas mode, thinking of erecting Christmas trees and fixing fairy lights.

As I write this piece, we have just discovered 3 leaks in the church, 1 of which is causing major damage to the ceiling above the choir. There is a further leak in the Laird Hall causing considerable water ingress to the room at the rear of the hall. Who would be a Fabric Convenor?

*Jim Alexander*

*Fabric Team*

## Session notes

Our search for a new Minister is now well under way, and I would ask you to continue to pray for the Nominating Committee as they take on an arduous job, with much deliberation and soul searching.

I've looked over our Session Minutes from the past few months - what has been happening? Well, our Teams have been working away with all the tasks that they are in charge of. Here is just some of their work:

- Messy Church, EPYC (including the successful Lendrick Muir weekend), Church Builders, creche
- DNA Groups, Advent Supper, finishing off "The God Question" DVDs and discussions
- Razvan Luculescu starting choir practices in October, contributing to our worship, and preparing for Christmas
- Diligent look at our finances - e.g. we have a Finance Team Terrier (step forward David Reid) who is doggedly (!) pursuing the possibility of VAT relief for the Carswell Centre

For me, the outstanding event over the past few months has been the completion of the Carswell Centre, on time and on budget. We've talked, prayed, contributed and planned for this for a number of years, our focus has been on getting this done. **Now it's here!** Now we need to think about how we use and develop this, and our new Minister will be a very important part of this task.

One of our longstanding Elders, Jim Laird, has decided that he feels he has to retire as a Serving Elder. Jim has been an Elder for longer than some of our Elders have been on this earth! He is a fine example of someone who has a calm, steadfast commitment to the church and to the congregation, and I would like to thank Jim most sincerely, on behalf of the Session, for all he has done.

In conclusion, I had a note through my door tonight - Anne Carr, our Church Secretary gave me a reminder (much needed) about an important event later this month - she is one of the many people in the church who is quietly and proactively going about the business of ministering to our congregation. Thanks to you all.

I would like to wish you all God's Blessing for this Christmas.

Wendy Armstrong  
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## Admin and Finance Report

**Carswell Centre.** There is comment elsewhere on our excellent new Centre but I am delighted to report that we have taken bookings for our first wedding reception and first champagne and cake reception. We also have Slimming World and Pilates classes up and running and look forward to further bookings for a diversity of events. If you would like to consider hiring the Centre or part of it, please contact the Church Office who will pass on your enquiry.

**Beadle.** Most of you will know that we are sorry to be losing the services of Liz when she finishes 'beadling' in the middle of January. As Joe Houston said, we will be trying to replace the irreplaceable. We have decided to set up a team of volunteers who will perform this important duty on a rota basis – hopefully 4 or 5 times a year per person. If you are able to help, please contact myself or the Office.

**Manse.** Over the last two months we have had a couple staying there on a caretaker basis. They left at the end of November and we now have another couple who will be staying till the end of January. Both couples are making a generous donation to the Church for the use of the manse and this money will be used to help with the redecoration etc of the manse.

**Budget.** The 2016 budget will be prepared during January and, together with the 2015 accounts, will be available on our website and in paper format at the end of February prior to our Stated Annual Meeting which will take place on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 after Church.

Maureen Hunter

Admin Convener.

## Parish News

The next edition of Eaglesham Parish News will be produced in early March. Comments, articles, suggestions welcome by the end of February to [macintyre74@btinternet.com](mailto:macintyre74@btinternet.com)

## Gift Aid

We are most fortunate that the church is registered as a charity, and as such we are able to claim 25 pence in every pound donated by its members from HMRC. This applies only to members who have signed a gift aid declaration and stated that they will pay tax at least equal to the total amount which the church will reclaim on their donations for each tax year.

During the last twelve months, approximately £23000 was recovered from HMRC in respect of normal weekly, monthly or annual giving, by banker's orders, freewill offering envelopes, and annual cheques. This figure is a very important contribution toward Eaglesham Church achieving its annual budget, and it does not include the separate donations made toward the Carswell project, or to support our youth worker, on which we have also recovered gift aid. We are most grateful to all of our members who have been able to enhance their giving in this way.

However individual circumstances can change over time, and some members may no longer have a requirement to pay tax. If you know that you are no longer a tax payer, and believe that the church may still be claiming back 25p in every pound which you donate, please let me know, so that I can cancel the gift aid declaration.

Equally, I would be delighted to hear from anyone who is a tax payer, and would like to use gift aid to increase their contribution to the very valuable work of our church.

Ronnie McIntyre

Telephone 0141 644 3255

## ***Black Friday, Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday and benefitting charities***

Everyone must be aware of the increasing commercialisation of this time of year. Promoting Christmas - perhaps more accurately Xmas? - is clearly not sufficient. We now have the American imports of Black Friday and Cyber Monday - using the aftermath of Thanksgiving in the USA to promote sales in what was seen as a lull period before the Christmas rush. Then, presumably as a reaction to this spending spree, Giving Tuesday came along in 2012 and has been

promoted in the UK by ***Charities Aid Foundation***. Spend some, then give some. This year Nov 27 and 31, and Dec 1.

However there is a more prolonged opportunity to make charity donations count. Aid Match is a UK government scheme which matches the value of private donations to selected international development projects. It is time limited. Current projects include work by Save the Children, Christian Aid, Mary's Meals, Practical Action [used to be Intermediate Technology], Orbis. Detail can be found at [www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/uk-aid-match](http://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/uk-aid-match) or more simply at the various charity websites.

***Charities Aid Foundation*** provides support and advice services to both charities and donors. For donors it provides an account which allows donation by standing order, voucher or debit card to registered charities. Money paid into the account is automatically increased by tax relief as appropriate. Detail at the CAF website.

## Calais Convoy

The East Renfrewshire appeal for aid for folk in the Calais refugee camp was organised from Barrhead. It was hugely successful. A total of 24 people and 10 vehicles left Scotland at the end of October carrying several hundred bags of winter clothing and essentials to the camps of Calais and Dunkirk. The donation drive was so successful that organisers had to call a halt to the collection.

Laura Pritchard, a co-founder of the aid effort, said the experience had been life changing..... "Everybody who was there was affected by it – you'd have to be a very hard person not to be. Nothing can prepare you for how you actually feel when you are standing right in the middle of it all. You're looking at these people thinking that it could be you. It is full of people with post-traumatic stress disorder living in a very desperate situation. Everyone wants to talk and tell their stories and be treated like a human being. The camp is desperate and depressing."

The organising team hope to continue their support for refugees though with no definite further plans at present.

## WHEN GOD CALLS.....

### *The start of the journey to Korea*

How does God speak to us? How can we be sure it is God who is speaking to us? Away back in 1981 God began to speak to my wife and I – He was talking about a major change he wanted to bring into our lives – He wanted us to leave a secure and happy ministry in the Church of Scotland and with our three little girls go half way round the world to begin a new work in South Korea. How did God speak to us and make His will clear?

**Step one.** Every year missionaries would come and visit our church in Kinlochbervie and Durness. In October 1981 two men from OMF (Overseas Missionary Fellowship) came. Our little church hall was packed. After I had introduced the speakers I found only one seat left – a child’s seat right under the lectern. The preacher towered above me and thumped a lot as he preached from Isaiah 42 about the spiritual needs of the world. I had a powerful sense that God was saying something to me. At the end of the meeting when I had got rid of everyone the speaker casually said “You know, OMF needs presbyterian ministers to go to Korea to help the church learn expository preaching” The thought was sown in my head.

**Step two.** The next morning I prayed that if God was speaking to me He would confirm it to me and so I asked that someone that day would mention “Korea” to me – if no one did – I would assume God had not been speaking. We were going on holiday to Glasgow so I could not see how anyone could mention the required word. In Glasgow that night after tea when I was helping my minister friend to do the dishes I told him about the missionary’s sermon (not of course mentioning Korea) but to my surprise and horror my friend out of the blue said “Is God calling you to Korea?”

**Step three.** After our holiday I had to go to a conference in Largs – three things happened – **First** I went to the Commission of Assembly of the Church of Scotland. It lasted 45 minutes, 15 minutes of which was on the moderator’s recent visit to S Korea. **Next** I went to see the missionary who had preached on Isaiah 42 – I was hoping he would say I was too old or that I had too many children – but quite to the contrary he said he was sure OMF would accept me. He suggested we pray and as he prayed the room was filled with the deepest sense of the presence of God. **Finally** at the conference in Largs I asked God to speak very clearly on this issue. At the last meeting when I

had given up, for God did not seem to be speaking, the preacher in his sermon said two things – first he said “ There is someone here tonight who must leave a work he really loves and go and begin an entirely new work?” And then he said “ There is someone here tonight who must go thousands of miles in the will of God and he must do it”.

Meanwhile God had been speaking equally clearly to my wife but that is another story. **When God calls – you must obey.** We did and left in January 1982.

Willie Black



A younger Willie Black at the time!

## SUPPORTING CAMBODIA HOPE



**Sat. 6th Feb 2016** – Eaglesham’s Big Bake! We will be holding a Big Bake in aid of Tearfund’s No Child Taken campaign. Bring along your tastiest traybake, prettiest cupcake or sassiest showstopper to enter one of the competitions or just come along for tea and cakes. Look out for more information in the New Year.

**Sat. 5th March 2015** – Chomno In (founder and director of CHO) is planning a trip to Scotland and is expected to be in Glasgow on the 5th March. As supporters of CHO we will be invited to meet with him. He is a very humble, inspiring man who put his trust in God to set up CHO.

## WHEN THE WEST COAST CALLS!.....

It was one of those daft but brilliant Friday night in the pub decisions. The plan was for four of us to drive to Uig in Skye, take the ferry to Tarbert and the following day make the trip to St Kilda. The morning in Harris broke fine, clear and calm. With packed breakfasts and lunches we joined Angus on the 'Orca II' at Leverburrgh. The boat had a full complement of 12 passengers and two crew. We flew the 49 nautical miles at 18 knots. A very close encounter with a minke whale startled us but soon the outline of Hirta and Boreray broke the horizon. We landed by inflatable dinghy and were met by the National Trust for Scotland Ranger.

The path to 'the Gap' skirted the ugly and intrusive Ministry of Defence base much of which will be removed in the near future. The 'Gap' is a cliff-top saddle between Oiseval and Conachir which offers spectacular views NE towards Boreray and the stacks. The walk took us past sheep fanks and the many dry stone cleits used as storage facilities for everything from peats to fulmar feathers before the evacuation in 1930. The 600ft cliffs made a dramatic setting to view the fulmars hovering on the updraft.

Coming down to the Village was easier than the ascent. Many of the village cottages have been reroofed and refurbished to accommodate an interpretation centre and the NTS volunteers who spend two weeks at a time painting, dry stane walling and bird counting. A St Kilda mouse appeared on the grass outside the cottage – much larger than its mainland cousin as it posed for photographs. The church and school at the east end of the village close to the jetty are restored to reflect their appearance prior to the evacuation. Much has been written about the strict regimes imposed on the St Kildans by teachers and clergy however there seemed little to support this interpretation.

David welcomed us back on board Orca II with fresh caught lobster, tea and cake before leaving the shelter of Village Bay for Boreray and its majestic sea stacs. The sheer scale of these out-lyers takes your breath away with guillimots, shags, puffins, shearwaters and fulmars darkening the skies above. Visiting boats and cruise ships are mere flotsam at the base of the 600ft cliffs. Here, even on the gentlest of days, the Atlantic swell surges 12 feet up the base of the stacks. With the barometer dropping fast and a rising wind Angus was keen to start our return. But Orca II's twin hulls provided a stable and comfortable platform for her passengers.



View of the Main Street and Stac Lee



The forecast confirmed the barometer prediction – there were to be no more trips that week.

If you fancy the trip come and speak to me there just isn't enough space in the magazine!

Doug Lamont

*ps Duncan and Flo MacIntyre can provide information on a more leisurely approach via a National Trust cruise for those uncertain about a fast boat from Harris*

## EAGLE SHAM CHURCH GUILD

The Magazine cover shows a number of our Eaglesham Church ladies heading for the Guild Annual Meeting last September in Dundee. The Annual Meeting provides the opportunity for representatives of one of Scotland's largest organisations with over 23,000 members to celebrate their shared fellowship, and to be inspired and encouraged in expressing their faith in worship, prayer and action. In practical terms, this involves regular meetings to both inform and entertain. The Guild members through their groups give continual support to their local church and community, as well as learning about and supporting important projects at home and abroad. These projects are selected nationally with current examples being Street Pastors and a Christian Aid project.

This session, Eaglesham Guild members will learn more about the Christian Aid project *Caring for Mother Earth Bolivia*, very much a topical subject as world leaders discuss climate change, and for the home project they have chosen *All Friends Together*, encouraging churches to welcome people with learning disabilities into church life. Money will be raised for the projects, interest in their work expanded and support will come through action and prayer on their behalf by Guilds throughout Scotland.

Eaglesham Guild was the first organisation to meet in the Carswell Centre after rebuilding and refurbishment had been completed. That first evening will long be remembered as only a few hours before the meeting started, the contractors' cleaners were still washing and hoovering, but with hard work, good humour and a shared love of our Guild, the challenge was met and a very successful new session opened with entertainment from the St Molios Saxophone Quartet. Following this, we have had a very varied and interesting selection of topics over the past seven weeks.

At the time of writing this report, our annual *Christmas Cracker* has just been held and this has raised the sum of £1,243. A big "thank-you" to all who supported this event in spite of it being a very wet morning. We are looking forward to our usual Christmas Night before we have a break over the festive period and will warmly welcome the Clarkston Community Choir who will be entertaining us. We open our first 2016 meeting again with a musical theme with the Strathaven Singers. Our annual Charity Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 13 February, so please make a note of this in your diary.

Barnardos, Christian Aid and Meningitis Now will all benefit from this.

A good number of new members, including our first gentleman, have joined this winter. The Guild contributes hugely to the life of our congregation and, as you can see from the happy faces in our picture, they share much joy together. Details of the whole Guild programme can be seen on the Church website and all are welcome to attend every week or just when you can.

## CHRISTMAS POEMS

### Christmas Eve - Christina Rossetti

Christmas hath a darkness  
Brighter than the blazing noon,  
Christmas hath a chillness  
Warmer than the heat of June,  
Christmas hath a beauty  
Lovelier than the world can show:  
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,  
Brought for us so low.

Earth, strike up your music,  
Birds that sing and bells that ring;  
Heaven hath answering music  
For all Angels soon to sing:  
Earth, put on your whitest  
Bridal robe of spotless snow:  
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,  
Brought for us so low.

### Refugee - Malcolm Guite

We think of him as safe beneath the steeple,  
Or cosy in a crib beside the font,  
But he is with a million displaced people  
On the long road of weariness and want.

For even as we sing our final carol  
His family is up and on that road,  
Fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel,  
Glancing behind and shouldering their load.

Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower  
Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled,  
The lambs are slaughtered by the men of power,  
And death squads spread across the world.  
But every Herod dies, and comes alone  
To stand before the Lamb upon the throne.

## EPYC - Lendrick Muir Weekend

It was the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EPYC weekend away to Lendrick Muir and was probably the best yet! We had 20 young people who attended from P7-S5 and 5 wonderful leaders who ran the show. It was a superb weekend overall and getting everyone there and back in one piece is always a bonus.

A highlight for me was the Saturday morning where a group of girls braved the elements to go and get the full use of the Adventure Playground. It was wet, windy and muddy but they were completely undeterred and got stuck right in. Going down the slide into a puddle of muddy water was particularly impressive (Wet Bottoms!).

Another great part of the weekend was the small group sessions where the young people spent time together reading a bible passage, going through discussion questions and praying together. It was wonderful to make this a core part of the weekend and the young people made the most of the time with some great discussions and prayer time together.

Other highlights were: the inflatables which I think we managed to break (sorry Lendrick Muir!), the Saturday night party complete with disco balls, party games and a dance off, and finally I don't think any of us will forget the appearance of "Jessica" for a long time!

A wonderful weekend and a big thanks to the leaders, to our chef Duncan MacIntyre, to the parents for sending their children and finally the young people for making the weekend a huge success.

James Edgar

*Lendrickmuir is a refurbished Victorian mansion set in a large area of park and woodland near Kinross. Initially a family home it has seen a variety of uses over the years. In 1998 it was taken over by Scripture Union and since then has been one of their two Scottish centres offering an increasing range of indoor and outdoor activities*

## BB Junior Section

As we approach the festive period I am pleased to write that our Thursday night meetings are running smoothly and enjoyed by all the boys and staff. With 25 boys there is no shortage of fun and excitement!

So far this session the boys have taken part in inter-squad games, worked hard on various achievements and everyone took part in the annual dedication parade. The Primary 4 boys have been introduced to vaulting and gymnastics and the Primary 5 and 6 boys have further developed their vaulting skills

Plans have been made to enter the annual Swimming Gala, Superstars Competition and District Sports Competition in the New Year. Here's hoping we can hold on to our title at The Emirates Arena and have even more medal success!

Our annual pantomime trip to Eastwood Theatre to see 'Jack and the Beanstalk' will take place on Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December. Everyone is looking forward to a night of fun and laughter. The Junior Section Christmas party will take place on Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of December with games, prizes and hopefully a very special visitor!

If you have a boy in Primary 4, 5 or 6 that is interested in joining the Junior Section please do not hesitate to contact Adam or Ronan on the numbers below.

Thanks to you all for your continued support. The Junior Section staff would like to wish everyone a great Christmas and a happy New Year!

Adam Nealis / Ronan Cunningham

Mobile 07495661812 / 07765636063)

## Wanted: Church of Scotland Youth to attend the 2016 General Assembly

This is an advert from Church of Scotland.....If you are 18-25 years old and regularly worship in a Church of Scotland congregation we'd like to invite you to make your voice heard. Starting now, each presbytery is looking for a young person to represent its churches at the General Assembly in Edinburgh next May. The youth representatives programme starts at 4.30pm on Friday, 20 May and closes at 5pm on Friday, 27 May 2016.

## FROM THE WIDER CHURCH.....

### Lunch in Buchanan St

- and follow in the steps of George Clooney

The Wild Olive Tree was opened at the Tron Church a couple of months ago. It is a social enterprise partnered with Glasgow City Mission and Bethany Christian Trust to create training placements to help people who want to develop skills as a way into work. Profits are shared between the Mission and the Trust to support their ongoing work with some of Glasgow's most vulnerable people. A choice of 4 types of home made soup each day with fresh scones of varying types with an option of paying extra to buy a coffee or tea or bowl of soup for someone who cannot afford it. And George Clooney? ...he recently visited the Social Bite cafe run along similar lines in Edinburgh.

### On-line Advent Calendar

A new online advent calendar from the Church of Scotland aims to bring the spirit of Christmas to life with 24 specially created videos from different parts of the country. The Moderator of the General Assembly believes it will help anyone seeking to find the true festive spirit amid the "rampant commercialism" which now dominates the weeks of Advent.

Have a look at the CofS website to find it.

### Hyderabad Link?

During November a group from Glasgow Presbytery spent a week in Pakistan visiting the Diocese of Hyderabad to explore the possibility of a twinning arrangement. Fiona Gardner, one of the group, kept a blog during the trip. Her reports can be seen on the Glasgow presbytery website - watch this space for further developments.

### Lord's Prayer banned

The moderator of the General Assembly said it was bewildering and hard to understand why 3 cinema chains refused to screen an advert featuring the Lord's Prayer before Christmas. If you want to look at this Church of England advert, visit [justpray.uk](http://justpray.uk)

### Thinking Aloud

*"Prior to taking your blood pressure can I ask you your opinion of the theological significance of the New Testament's narrative constructs of the Resurrection?"*



In recent months the Letters Page of Life and Work has carried a variety of responses to a letter from Professor Stuart Munro, former Scientific Director of Dynamic Earth, a Geologist and Church Elder, about whether Easter involved something remarkable happening to the physical body of Jesus.

In November, Rev Andrew Frater of Cairns Church, Milngavie issued a "strong plea on behalf of countless church members who are content to embrace a non-literal perspective to significant New Testament narratives-including the stories of Resurrection." He realised views differed - and that the debate might raise the blood pressure of some!

'Thinking Aloud' is a series of lectures held jointly by Cairns and Orchardhill Church in Giffnock. Prof Munro has been invited to speak at Cairns on Thursday 10th March 2016, 7.30 for 8.00pm. as part of this series.

Mr Frater has issued a general invitation to come and hear Prof Munro in person and hopefully deepen understanding of this important issue.

Detail of the Thinking Aloud series can be seen at [www.cairnschurch.org.uk/lectures.htm](http://www.cairnschurch.org.uk/lectures.htm)

## Climate Change



A presence at the Climate Change march in Edinburgh on Nov 28.

"The Church of Scotland is concerned that climate change poses a serious and immediate threat to people everywhere, particularly to the poor of the earth; and that climate change represents a failure in our stewardship of God's creation."

## A doggie story



Canine Partners assists disabled people to enjoy greater independence and a better quality of life through the help of specially trained dogs. Selected puppies - mainly labradors - spend around 18 months with a 'puppy parent' who supervises initial training before an intensive period of advanced training with the disabled partner. Flo MacIntyre is involved with the charity by providing occasional 'foster' support to puppy parents. She arranged the selection of a pup from a litter bred by Doug and Sheila Lamont. Sherling has now completed his training and is helping his partner Sandra Hinds

## Community Council

*This article was originally intended for Eaglesham Outlook but missed inclusion. It is perhaps still relevant...*

Many in the community will be unaware that Eaglesham & Waterfoot now has no Community Council. 18 months ago East Renfrewshire Council undertook a review of Community Councils leading to a "New Scheme of Establishment". This meant that all Community Councils would be disbanded despite being only half way through their term and a call for new nominations and if necessary elections held.

Some existing Community Councils and East Renfrewshire Councillors disapproved of this new scheme. It was seen as potentially giving ERC increased control over both selection of candidates and activity of the council. An example questioned by Eaglesham is limitation of the post of Chair to one year. The result of all this was that when new nominations were called this summer many existing councillors chose not to stand. Six of the eleven Community Council areas in East Renfrewshire, including Eaglesham, now have no representation. A side issue from this is that Eaglesham community is not currently represented on the Whitelee Windfarm fund panel. ERC say that any representation must be from the Community Council, with the Development Trust as an alternative option unacceptable.

This situation is clearly unsatisfactory. Eaglesham and Waterfoot Community Council could have a maximum of 14 members. Nominees must be proposed and seconded by fellow residents and must submit a statement of interest and intent of up to 250 words. If more are nominated an election takes place; if fewer than half no council is established. However, although required by the 'scheme of establishment', at present there is no date in place for a further attempt to establish a council.

Further information or guidance can be obtained from ER Council - 'community council elections' on ER website, or [andrew.Cahill@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.Cahill@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)



**An autumn selection** - EPYC ready for Hallowe'en at Lendrickmuir; autumn colours in the Orry courtesy of Alasdair Lamont Photography; Olivia Hale with her parents Amy and Gordon at her christening on October 18

Eglinton Arms bus stop as redesigned by TREE and local school children



















