

Parish News

EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH



*Another successful Guild coffee morning
.....and below water, mist and mountain from above Picketlaw*



Notices

Baptisms

Jan 27. Bhodi Thomas
Harriet Nicholson

Deaths

December. Mary Downing, 46 Brownmuir Ave
May McKie, 28a Park Cresc
Tom Nicol, 4 Gilmourton Cresc, Newton Mearns
January. Margaret Clarkson, 1 Blaeshill Rd, East Kilbride
February. Elaine Orr, 7 Polnoon St

Team Convenors

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
- Facebook.....Eaglesham Parish Church
@Heartofvillage



Parish news is published by Eaglesham Parish Church

Scottish Charity Number SC006377

Comments, articles, suggestions for future issues to macintyre74@btinternet.com

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

It is true. Jesus is alive for all time. The Lord of life cannot be held by death. God's victory over sin and death means new life for us is a reality.

Christians throughout the world celebrate the most extraordinary event at this time of year. DEATH! - It's the most final thing we can imagine, yet it has become the setting for the greatest regeneration story of all time. Jesus of Nazareth who had been handed over to the Roman authorities for execution and a cursed death, has been raised to a kind of life never experienced. He has a body, the scars are still visible, he talks, listens and eats. Yet he is no longer bound by the confines of space and time.

In Christ's risen nature we sense the stirring of the new life described by the Old Testament prophet Isaiah (Chapter 65: 17-25), free from all the tragedy and pain of everyday human life, and full of hope, Joy and overwhelming fulfilment. But, the resurrection stories are about encounters with people who are emotionally confused, and drained. The events of the previous week have them seeing but not recognising, wondering and agonising but not immediately able to make sense of anything. And that is so human and reassuring for us.

So often it takes us years of living before we grasp something of God's involvement in our journey or in our pain. So often the evidence of his real loving presence is staring us in the face, and yet we assume any number of other factors are responsible or the "God incidence" is seen as coincidence. Much as Mary assumed Jesus was the Gardener, and Peter was wallowing so deeply in his pessimism that he probably wouldn't have noticed Jesus if he had been standing next to him. It may well have been that Jesus was!

In the resurrection sequences with great gentleness and courtesy Jesus holds back on revealing the full power and vibrancy of his new life, so as to lead people at their own pace to recognise the

astounding truth . He lets them see only what they are capable of comprehending, for he loves them and has no desire to scare or overwhelm. That is true for us today. The more we seek this Risen Lord, the more of him we will notice, recognise and delight in.

May you be blessed this Easter tide with he knowledge of the presence of the Risen Christ.

Christ Has Risen - He Has Risen Indeed!

Rev Andrew Robertson

Cambodian Hope Organisation

Eaglesham Church supports the Tearfund project CHO. We recently donated £1573 to Tearfund, most of which will go to CHO.

Why do we support CHO?

Human trafficking and labour exploitation destroy life, taking away the fullness that God wants for all of us. Vulnerable adults and children are manipulated by both circumstances and abusers into feeling hopeless, worthless, and forgotten.

CHO understands that the root cause of trafficking is poverty. If families had sustainable livelihoods, they would not need to search for work elsewhere, and so would not be vulnerable to trafficking.

CHO believes that through the church, many can be protected from exploitation by giving them skills to earn an alternative, sustainable income. The project strengthens local churches and Christians to be catalysts for sustainable change in their communities, helping in areas of health, self-help, anti-trafficking, domestic violence awareness, food security, and agriculture.

Session Notes

As I went to write these notes, I looked back at the archived newsletters. The picture on last March's copy was of a very snowy Orry – so different from this year as I look out on flowering daffodils in the garden.

I also noticed that it is three years ago this Sunday (3 March) that Andrew joined us as minister. This made me reflect on some of the achievements we have made together as a church during our journey. We now have Kairos well established as a contemporary service and successfully encouraging people to worship with us who would not be comfortable in the traditional church service. We also have our youth worker full time and a very active youth involvement. Messy Church has become so popular it has increased in frequency and takes place most months. We have a Walking Nativity that has now become established as an extremely popular village event. These are just a few of the many achievements and we should be very proud of taking our church forward within the community in innovative and engaging ways.

A recent event that was also very successful was the Women's Retreat where a number of ladies came together, very ably led, to explore their faith and worship. Thanks to Gillian Norval and Julie Robertson who organised the event and to Duncan MacIntyre and team for their excellent catering!

We have now started opening the Carswell Centre to the public on Saturday mornings and hope this will encourage even more of the community to visit. Eaglesham Fair is on this year and we are planning our involvement in the day. If you would like to become involved please contact the church office or Duncan MacIntyre.

Ian Gray retired as an elder at the end of 2018. He has contributed significantly to our church over many years as an elder and as Roll Keeper. Our thanks and

appreciation go to Ian for his long and faithful service. Stuart McGill has taken over in this task for which we are very grateful.

All those involved in managing our finances and producing accounts and reports and budgets have been as busy as ever and we are, as always, very grateful for all their hard work (Maureen Hunter, David Reid and Elspeth Napier in particular as well as the team working tirelessly in the background). The Stated Annual at which the accounts and budget will be presented will take place on Sunday 14 April.

I am delighted that Andrew is now back full time and look forward to our worship and faith development with him.

Sheila Lamont, Session Clerk

A message from Glasgow Presbytery

You will be aware from the news of the current political situation in India/Pakistan. We have received an urgent prayer request by email from our Twinning Partners in the Diocese of Hyderabad. The Diocesan Office Manager writes:

There are fighter jets of Pakistan patrolling in the air since last night and the people are very scared here as the Government has officially asked the people to be ready for yet another war against India which could be very devastating for the people of both countries as they are both nuclear powers. This is an alarming situation and the Diocese request you all to remember this in your prayers. We will continue to update you on the ongoing situation.

Please join with us in praying for a peaceful resolution to this troubling situation.

The Church Organ



What you see and what you don't see of our organ with its 600+ pipes!

Sunday morning worship in Eaglesham is accompanied by music from a wonderful Father Willis organ played by our excellent organist. Since the mid 19th century the Willis company has been synonymous with excellence in organ construction with instruments installed in churches around the country including St Paul's, Salisbury, Lincoln, Glasgow and Aberdeen cathedrals. A 'Father Willis' instrument is one built by the founder of the company.



Ours is from 1880 and is on a rather smaller scale, having initially been a private commission for a wealthy Bearsden resident - though of course only a few of its 646 pipes are immediately visible! It came to Eaglesham in 1979. It is one of only two similar organs in Scotland and as a result attracts attention from occasional visiting organists.

Over the last 40 years it has been tuned regularly. In recent years there has been limited other maintenance and cleaning. Inevitably the quality of sound has diminished somewhat. [If that seems strange given what we hear on a Sunday morning Alan will be happy to demonstrate]. A review of the organ last year suggested a full overhaul involving dismantling and cleaning with repair or replacement of some pipes to restore it to its full potential. Session has agreed that the cost implications and feasibility of this work should be explored further - to be updated in future editions of Parish News.

The Guild

At the time of writing this report we are now on the rundown of our 2018/19 session. We have enjoyed a successful year with an excellent selection of topics on a Wednesday evening. Thanks must go to all our members for their faithful attendance every week. We also must not forget our 'boys' who have also been attending our meetings. We love having you.

Our recent charity coffee morning was well attended and thank you to all who came along. We raised the excellent amount of £1,145. The charities we are supporting this year will benefit from your generous givings (see photo on front page)

On the 30th January we held a very successful Burns Supper complete with Haggis and all the trimmings. We were entertained by Alistair McBride and Janette McIndeor who were our guest speakers.

Our closing evening (27th March) will be an open night. We extend a warm invitation to any who would like to come along. Our entertainment is a musical evening with a group called the Aria Singers and come highly recommended and are back by popular demand.

Fiona Hamilton, Guild Secretary.

Lodging House Mission

The LHM, 35 East Campbell Street is a Glasgow based charity dedicated to providing care and support to homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded people. They enable people to get their lives back on track by providing educational opportunities, food, clothing, showers, laundry, support staff, counselling and chaplaincy. Glasgow Presbytery has supported the work of the LHM for over 100 years. About 16 churches including Eaglesham Parish Church help out on the volunteer rota each Saturday, thus enabling food to be provided to service users 364 days a year. This works out about 4 times a year for us. We have a great team of helpers and anyone is welcome to join us. We work hard - mainly preparing, serving and clearing up with everyone mucking in as required but also have great fun. There is no end to the hidden talents of the team! For example December's team - Scott Whiteford's talent for making chips in the deep fat fryer, Fiona McCrae - who effortlessly rustled up a catering size chocolate sponge - commented on by one of the service users as "the best cake they had tasted since they had been in Barlinnie"!!!, Duncan MacIntyre's floor polishing skills, Elaine Paterson's breakfast and serving skills and I always knew that my Saturday job in Paisley's Littlewoods Tearoom dishwashing skills would come in extremely handy one day!

To mark Homelessness Sunday an evening service was held in the LHM where the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Right Reverend Susan Brown gave a witty and inspiring sermon about not making assumptions about anyone. It was a very well attended service which was very moving, humbling and uplifting service, including prayers and readings by service users and singing from the LHM Choir.

Thank you all for your help and support over the years with regular donations of money and Harvest Goods and help with sorting out Harvest Donations. It is always very much appreciated by the staff and service users at the LHM.

My Favourite Bible Verse....Romans 8:38

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

It's a verse that's travelled with me around the world. It first became important when I received an unusual Christmas card. Instead of snow or a nativity scene there was this verse, written by a talented calligrapher friend.

This was around the time I was setting off to work in Nepal. It wasn't my life's dream; I felt more like a reluctant Jonah than a modern missionary. God had decided this was what he wanted and I preferred not to risk any fishy alternatives.

Taking off with a commitment to stay for more than three years did feel like diving into the unknown, though. The verse stayed with me throughout; in a city with concrete buildings and open sewers; out in the hills, days' walk from the nearest road; crossing landslides, crossing rivers. The card travelled with me, fixed to cement walls, fixed on a mud wall.

Nowadays it leans on my mirror and thirty years on the words continue to give reassurance, inspiration and support. When life gets tough, God reminds us that **nothing** can separate me, or anyone else who believes, from Jesus' love.

Gillian Norval

Toilet Twinning



Messy Church have been raising funds to twin all 7 toilets in the Carswell Centre. Currently we have managed to twin 6 and are on our way to twin the last one.

What is toilet twinning?

Toilet Twinning is a water and sanitation initiative.

By donating £60 to twin your toilet, you help fund a project in a poor community that will enable families to build a basic toilet, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene – a vital combination that saves lives.

Why is Toilet Twinning important?

- 2.3 billion people don't have somewhere safe and hygienic to go to the toilet.
- The lack of a loo makes women and girls a target for sexual attack as they go to the toilet in the open, late at night.
- Almost 1,000 children die every day from preventable diseases linked to dirty water and unsafe toilets.
- 663 million people live without safe water.

Next time you 'spend a penny' in the Carswell Centre, have a look to see where that toilet is twinned with!

150 years of social care

A Church of Scotland legacy

1869. Victorian Scotland was a place with a wide gap between rich and poor and where care for those in most need worked on an ad hoc parish basis. It was recognised that this disparate work needed some organisational focus. The Committee on Christian Life and Work established that year led in due course to the founding of the Women's Guild, Life and Work magazine and the Social Care Council of the Church of Scotland. Early initiatives included the Deaconess Training Hospital in Edinburgh - combining nursing and deaconess training, frontline support for soldiers in the first world war, and the first 'eventide' home in 1926. Later in 1962 the importance of counselling in dealing with addiction was recognised with the opening of the Tom Allan Centre.

Now known as CrossReach, the Church's social care arm remains one of the largest providers in the country - elderly care, tackling alcoholism and drug addiction, help for the homeless, special learning needs provision. And it maintains an innovative and pioneering approach with such as the Bluebell project for post-natal depression, Daisy Chain project promoting parent-child play and Heart for Art helping those with dementia. Being in touch, listening and identifying where there is need is probably the key to the success of this work as has been the case throughout the 150 years.

Look at the CrossReach website for detail of its activities and for the opportunity to give the organisation financial support.

From Life and Work

A thought from Susan Brown, Moderator

“There are those we don’t treat as respectfully as we should. Perhaps because they look different or speak differently, or come from a different faith or ethnic background - or simply live at the ‘wrong’ end of town. Let’s practice doing as Jesus did. At the Last Supper he took and washed the feet of all who were sitting round the table - his betrayer included. Jesus treated each with equal respect. So should we”.

This thought arose during her visit to the Church of South India. The Church’s work with ‘manual scavengers’ - those who empty sewers and septic tanks - makes some further up the Indian social scale nervous. There are those who want to keep people in their place. Perhaps because that is how things have always been or perhaps feeling threatened when those to whom they feel superior demand respect. And that can be true anywhere - in Scotland as well as India.

Healing the wounds - Churches and mediation

Divisions in society show little or no sign of being healed in the near future - Brexit, gilets jaunes, far-right populism. Two articles in March Life and Work address this and look at the role of Church work in mediation. As Richard Frazer, Convenor of the Church and Society Council, says ‘we need a much more respectful dialogue, one which is based on listening attentively rather than shouting louder’

The first article features the work of Dr John Chalmers, whose experience includes being Principal Clerk to the General Assembly at the height of the debates on human sexuality, Moderator at the time of the independence referendum and peacebuilding work in South Sudan. This has led to understanding three things. “First, I cannot always rely on my feelings”. If the world was full of people who simply followed their feelings we would walk into a lifetime of discontent. We need critical thinking and to begin by considering that others may have something important to say. Secondly, the issues people initially present are seldom the real issue getting under their skin - so attentive listening becomes extraordinarily important. And third - everything is not a battle between good and evil, right and wrong - there may be win/win solutions or compromises based on equally valid points of view.

The second article traces the life of John Sturrock from Stirling through church upbringing, legal training and development of an advocacy skills programme to training in negotiation at Harvard and becoming a full time mediator and conflict resolution specialist. Some of his work has been with churches in Central Africa and that experienced influenced the creation of Place for Hope which helps congregations deal with disputes in church or community.

From Monty Python to Ministry

Rev Colin Sinclair of Palmerston Place church, Edinburgh is the next Moderator of the Church of Scotland. His background includes 11 years with Scripture Union but also working as an extra on Monty Python and the Holy Grail.

Who let the dads out?

Chester 2003. Two members of the local Baptist church started a parent and toddler group - but for dads. A local idea but it took hold with now 280 groups registered to an established charity. Helping churches to reach out specifically to fathers and children. And it has spread to Scotland - Edinburgh , Dundee, Stornoway. Eaglesham??

Two visits to the Holy Land

Chris Wigglesworth and David McKee wrote two different reflections from visits to Israel / Palestine. Chris was in Bethlehem. As for Mary and Joseph a town under military occupation - in the West Bank but 90% under Israeli army control. The dominant impression is expressed in a parody of the well known carol.

*O little town of Bethlehem
Imprisoned now you lie.
Above your deep and silent grief
Surveillance drones now fly.
And through your old streets windeth
A huge illegal wall.
The hopes and dreams of peaceful
schemes
Are yearning for its fall.*

David was with the Holocaust Educational Trust and spent time at the Yad Vashem memorial complex - translated as 'a place and a name' for victims whose name and individuality was irrelevant to their murderers. It raised the challenging question of how something like the Holocaust could happen and how to quell hatred between different groups - even in a place where religion and holy sites surround you everywhere. He reflected on Matthew 25, v35-36. I was hungry and you fed me.....That is the challenge for all of us and which is reflected in those in the Holy Land striving for peace.

The Westminster Confession

This featured in Parish News exactly a year ago. The Church of Scotland's 'principal subordinate standard of belief'. Agreed by all ministers and elders - unless of course they disagree with some of its doctrine. A relic from 1647 or worthwhile but needing updated? The General Assembly thought the latter. If this interests you there is a chance to contribute to debate - May 8th at New College, Edinburgh. A new version? Perhaps best not to hold your breath!

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 or Alan Macbrair [tel 303484] if you would like to subscribe via the church.

Where now for Fairtrade?

The Fairtrade movement has been around for some 50 years. The evidence of benefit to farmers and other producers involved in the scheme has been clearcut. It was therefore a surprise when last year Traidcraft, probably the most high profile UK Fairtrade group, underwent a major restructuring into a much reduced form. It has partly been a victim of its own success. What started as a small niche movement selling through charity shops and church stalls went on to influence the behaviour of major brands and supermarkets. These multi-nationals introduced their own Fairtrade-accredited products taking custom away from the likes of Traidcraft. Control of the fairly traded concept is now in the hands of the supermarkets with sometimes their own schemes separate from the original Fairtrade movement.

Despite this overall UK sales of goods with the Fairtrade mark increased by a further 7% last year. And last year an updated International Fairtrade Charter was launched recognising that fair trade is about social justice and empowerment of local producers as well as poverty. The Charter 'advocates trade structures, business models and practices that allows everyone, through their work, to maintain a decent and dignified livelihood and develop their full human potential.' Buying Fairtrade and fairly traded products from local stalls or supermarket reflects the message of justice found in the Bible and should still be a priority. 'Put another way, who would choose to buy "unfairly traded" products?'

ps. This is Fairtrade fortnight when traditionally primary producers from abroad have toured UK with the Fairtrade organisation. This year the Home Office has refused to grant visas in a move which directly parallels the recent experience of clergy from Hyderabad invited by Glasgow Presbytery. ed

LITTER



The Orry tidy. A litter pick that happens every year and does a little to improve the general environment in Eaglesham. But wouldn't it be good if everyone routinely picked up litter around their home area. The members of TREE do a great improvement job around the village. They can always do with help on their Thursday morning work sessions. But better still for the Eaglesham environment if folk tidy and litter pick in their own patch.

BB Junior Section

We have had another exciting start to the year at Junior Section. There are currently 34 boys attending each week which is a fantastic number. Our programme consists of a fall-in, inspection, achievement work and games. So far this session our achievements have included map reading, memory tests and Christian faith classes to name but a few. We have also had two party nights – our Halloween party and Christmas parties. Both the boys and staff had great fun. This year's camp will take place from 10th – 12th May at Carronvale House, the headquarters of the Boy's Brigade in Scotland. Everyone at Junior Section is looking forward to the weekend away. Hopefully the weather is as good as last year's! If you know anyone who is interested in joining the Junior Section please get them to contact me

Adam Nealis, Officer in Charge

Eglesham Community Club

Eglesham Community Club meets in the Carswell Hub on the first Tuesday of each month at 2 pm for around 2 hours.

Over the next few months we have the return of the Neilston Ukulele Band on 2nd April, ex Provost Allan Steele of East Renfrewshire Council reminiscing on his time in office on the 7th May and Fiona Brodie giving us an insight in to the Jewish faith on 4th June – so something for everyone.

This is only part of our varied programme of speakers and entertainment. Everyone is welcome so please come along if you are free (there is a charge of £1.50 for tea/coffee and cake).

Maureen Hunter.

The Tapestry of Renfrewshire

The historic county of Renfrewshire extended from present day Inverclyde to Eaglesham. It is being celebrated in this project. In doing so it will share traditional stitching and textile skills, collate and record local history stories and provide activities for both individuals and groups. It is aimed at rural communities such as Eaglesham and Uplawmoor, and will involve a range of groups from school children to adults with support needs.

For more information or to give support go to Tapestry of Renfrewshire Crowdfunder page.

Admin Notes

FWO Convener. Ian Gray has retired from the position of freewill offering convener and from the Admin committee. Ian has served for many years in this position. He was previously Admin Convener and before that he was Finance Convener of the Church Board. His input to the committee will be sorely missed. However, we are very pleased that Bill Condie has agreed to join Admin and become our new FWO convener.

Also joining the Admin team is Fiona McCrae. Both Fiona and Bill have a lot of business experience and will be an asset to our group.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations). The Church privacy statement and data retention policy are now available on the website. Paper copies can be obtained from the office if required. Any data protection queries can be emailed to gdpr@eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk

Budget. The budget for 2019 has been agreed by Session and is listed opposite. On the income side, we do not expect an increase in offerings which have been declining in recent years but we do now receive £2500 from East Renfrewshire Council for housing the statues and our income from use of premises has continued to grow with increased use of the Carswell. On expenditure, our biggest item is advised by the Church of Scotland (Ministries and Mission allocation and Presbytery dues). The fabric budget has been kept at last year's level and heat and light has been increased in line with our new electricity contract. The result is an estimated deficit of £4883 which follows an estimated deficit of £2248 for 2018.

Maureen Hunter, Admin Convener.

Budget to Year Dec 2019 [£]

INCOME	
Offerings	111,000
Tax recovered	21,000
Other income	5,155
Weddings and funerals	500
Use of premises	19,000
Contributions from organisations	4,000
TOTAL INCOME	160,655
EXPENDITURE	
Ministries and Mission allocation	87,339
Presbytery dues	4,739
Minister's expenses	2,000
Pulpit supply and locum	360
Other staff costs	17,700
Fabric repairs and maintenance	22,000
Council tax	2,750
Water charges and insurance	8,000
Heat and light	11,250
Cleaning and laundry	700
Office costs	2,600
General expenses	1,700
Local outreach	1,700
Pastoral care	400
Music and worship	400
Youth	500
Faith development	200
Tearfund	1200
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	165,538
SURPLUS/[DEFICIT]	[4,883]

This year we gave to the following charities from our Sunday morning tea donation.

Medicins sans Frontieres (Yemen Appeal)	£200
Glasgow City Mission	£150
Alzheimer's Scotland	£150
CHAS (children's hospice)	£150



On January 27th we celebrated the baptisms of Bhodi Thomas and Harriet Nicholson



Craig Wishart thanked Scott Kirkland and John Martindale for all the help and support they had given us during the second half of 2018.



That cake. The best since Barlinnie. See page 6 for the explanation of Fiona McCrae's baking skills!