

Parish News

EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH



Colour at Eaglesham Fair with the Fair Queen in procession and the display of paper flowers from TREE



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Contacts

Notices

Baptisms

April 21 Jack McPhail

April 28 Emily Kathryn Gilroy

Confirmation

April 21 Amy Clark, Jack McPhail

Deaths

April 19 Campbell Watson, 61 Eglinton Dr

April 20 George Clarkson, Blaeshill Rd, East Kilbride

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

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



From the Manse

Dear Friends,

Going to supermarkets is a thing that I am not particularly fond of. The closest one to the manse seems to recognise that - it has built a playpen for men just like me in the middle of the shop, where you can buy all sorts of gadgets - accessories for bikes, garden tools, camping equipment, hand tools and power tools. Although the demand for the supersized industrial sized air compressor in the suburbs of Glasgow does escape me, I have almost been tempted to buy the thing just to find out why on earth anyone might need one as I am not aware of any hobbyists that spray paint cars, sandblast metal or inflate bouncy castles. At this supermarket the prices are apparently competitive, and the quality has improved startlingly since the European discount stores first appeared in the UK. But where it all falls is the checkout experience - each transaction is timed and the net result comes after the initial pleasantries from the checkout operators when they start to throw the produce at you in their hurry to get to the next customer. Which is manageable if you have a handbasket of shopping but if you have a trolley load it can be more problematic. Such a contrast compared to another supermarket we occasionally frequent which moves customer service to another level. The engagement of the checkout operator is clearly a priority - there is one lady in particular who always has time for more than the standard pleasantries, always helpful, smiling, engaging and takes remarkable care when handling your produce. She has even corrected me for packing my shopping bag wrongly - "eggs don't go below potatoes in a shopping bag!" Her demeanour and help have won my respect and admiration - I would say she is now my checkout operator of choice. Her manner and attention to her job remind me of a verse from Colossians (3:23): "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."

When we are in a relationship with Jesus, any job we must do gives the opportunity to reflect His presence in our lives. Approaching tasks and responsibilities whatever they may be with cheerfulness and care gives us the opportunity to bring joy into others lives, no matter what we do. The best way to do satisfying work is to do it for Jesus.

Blessings

Rev Andrew Robertson

YOUTH WORKER FUND – SUPPORT NEEDED

For around 10 years we have been self-funding the employment of a Youth Worker, initially part time but more recently full time.

There is a great deal of excellent work being done as regards the youth work within Eaglesham and the aim is to continue this well into the future.

Unfortunately the fund which makes this possible is running low and we will not be able to offer a full time contract unless we can inject more money.

In May I made two public appeals, one in the Sanctuary and one at Kairos. These resulted in a number of people asking to make new contributions or increasing existing ones. This is very encouraging.

If you missed either of these appeals or are now considering making a donation (either via Standing Order or by a one-off payment) and would like information as to how you go about this please speak to your Elder or myself.

Another way of donating without cost to yourself is when you are making routine purchases online. Use the link <https://easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/epcyouthfund/> When you visit this site click on the Support This Cause button. You will be asked to register and then you can access many online retailers who will then put in a donation to our cause when you shop with them generating additional external funding. This method of fundraising can generate good income. Please try it.

Please give this great thought and prayer.

Tom Mann (Youth Strategy Convenor).

Session Notes

Over the Christmas period we saw a number of successful events. The Walking Nativity was again a great success at Christmas time and is anticipated as a regular feature of the Eaglesham calendar. This has involved not only members of the congregation but also members from St Bridget's and non-church people. The Lessons and Carols service also proved very popular.

More recently was involvement in the Eaglesham Fair with the Carswell Centre seeing an excellent through flow of people coming in to see the History Society exhibition and staying for tea or coffee. The church was open for visitors during fair day and a Conventicle was held in the churchyard on the Sunday following the Fair. Also on the Sunday was the Songs of Praise service in the Carswell Centre which saw an excellent turnout and proved a very successful ecumenical event including a social gathering following the praise.

Session are delighted to see eight new elders ordained and look forward to their involvement in the work of the church in Eaglesham. More information about our new elders is included in this edition of Parish News. We ask that you will support them with your prayers as they take on this new responsibility.

Stuart McGill has again agreed to take on the role of Presbytery elder for us and we are most grateful for all his hard work in this regard.

Julie Robertson has agreed to take on the role of leading Churchbuilders and we look forward to a new and fresh approach as she brings her own experience and ideas to this role.

Summer is now officially upon us, regardless of the weather we experience! We hope you have an enjoyable and refreshing time during the summer months.

Sheila Lamont, Session Clerk

My favourite Bible verse

from Stuart MacGill

My favourite verse comes from the Book of Revelation: Chapter 3, verse 20. "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me. (NIV)"

First, a bit of context. This verse comes at the end of the last of John's letters to the seven churches in Asia, Laodicea. This letter is the most critical of the seven and berates the Laodiceans for being wishy-washy Christians – "neither hot nor cold" – who have completely lost sight of their faith.

"Here I am!" Jesus says, demanding our attention. I'm at the door, patiently knocking. This is a tremendous affirmation of Grace. Nothing is said about who is within, how good or bad they are, whether they have a strong or weak faith. Jesus is still knocking, wanting to be admitted. But are we listening?

This is both unconditional and conditional. Jesus offer is unconditional love. But we need to open the door. We need to get up out of our comfy chairs, go to the door and turn the handle. That's what the Laodiceans had forgotten in their complacency.

Then follows the crowning promise. "I will come in and eat with him", says Jesus. Again, there are no ifs and buts, no conditions, nothing indefinite. Salvation is there, freely offered, to anyone and everyone. Eating a meal with someone implies familiarity and this tells us that Jesus wants to know us, warts and all. All that is required is one simple action – get up (repent) and open the door! Why wait?

An Elders Gallery

Eight new members of Eaglesham Church Session were confirmed on Sunday June 2nd



Calum Nicolson



Scott Whiteford



Fiona McCrae



Greta McPhail



Paul Robertson



John Lyons



Michelle Nealis



Debbie Blair

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 in which they state 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 2018, over £21000 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 valuable contribution toward Eaglesham Parish Church endeavouring to achieve the annual budget.

The above figure does not include the gift aid claims made during the year in respect of the very important donations made toward funding the salary for our youth ministry. We are most grateful to all of our members who have been able to enhance their giving in this way.

Perhaps it is worth noting that we welcome all to our church, members, and visitors alike. For those who may not wish to use banker's order, or freewill offering envelopes, but would like to gift aid their offerings from time to time, and are tax payers, we have a supply of single gift aid envelopes in the vestibule of the church. Please ask one of the duty team to let you have one.

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 paying tax and believe that the church may still be making a gift aid claim on your behalf, 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,



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Fun for all at Eaglesham Fair



On the afternoon of Fair day a service of Remembrance was led by the Scottish Covenanter Memorials Association at the grave of two local Covenanters shot dead in 1685. 'Pickets' - in recognition of the nature of the original Conventicles - were provided by the Cameronians and the service led by Rev James Millar, President of SCMA. It was good to see Bill Niven among the congregation of about 40, not all from Eaglesham Parish Church. David MacAskill outlined the history of the Covenanters and of Gabriel Thomson and Robert Lockhart, and also of William Young who was buried in Eaglesham later.

Two more from the village were banished to Barbados and died there. Lessons were read by Ellen Morrison and by Hugh Green. Rev Andrew Robertson thanked the organisers and gave the Blessing to complete the service.

A surprising number had not seen this Information notice in the kirkyard. It was admired and photographed by many.

This Fair Day recognised the 250th anniversary of the founding of the new village. The Carswell Centre featured an exhibition and talks on the history of Eaglesham, very well attended throughout the afternoon.

A Radical Action Plan.....Assembly 2019

The debates and outcomes of the Church of Scotland General Assembly can seem somewhat distant, but will this be different? After the rejection last year of 'timid' plans for the future this year's Assembly was introduced to the RAP. It is very much a work in progress with further detail to come but has proposals which will surely reach all congregations in one way or another. A Growth Fund of up to £25m for new local developments particularly related to the under 40s; a reduction in the number an increase in importance of presbyteries with resources and responsibilities devolved from '121'; reduction in the size of Kirk Sessions with the option of short term appointments to the eldership; increased partnership working with other churches and organisations. It is recognised that with such ideas no one size fits all. Flexibility, collaboration and trust are words which feature prominently. A new Trustee Body employing a Chief Officer will be responsible for the structural changes involved with a remit to reduce central administrative costs by 20-30%. The plan calls for an autumn season of prayer and preparation for all this.

[See www.lifeandwork.org/resources/general-assembly-supplement for a 4 page Life and Work supplement on the plan]

Climate Change

Life and Work has a new feature inviting contributions from writers under 30. It is no surprise that in the June edition Heather O'Connor explained why she fears for the future with the threat of ecological collapse and the disasters of mass species extinction, refugee crises and conflict which could accompany it. The evidence has been available for over 30 years but we have not sufficiently acted on it globally, nationally or locally. The Church led the way to some extent with the creation of the Eco-congregation movement - which we in Eaglesham have never joined. But at this year's Assembly it refused to take the action, possibly symbolic, of removing its funds from fossil fuel companies. Locally the Eastwood Peace and Justice group have raised climate change issues in regular correspondence with MP and MSP, but in genuine policy discussion it is obscured, like so many issues, by the relative irrelevance of Brexit. In personal action we all have areas where change is challenging whether it is in travel, heating or food. Heather reflects on this and the biblical exhortation to care for creation and speak out against injustice. Her response is to join those who strike or take non-violent action against 'business as usual'.

[September 20th will see the start of a week of international strike action to highlight climate crisis]

BOYS BRIGADE

Anchor Boys

It has been a busy few months for us all at Anchor Boys. Outwith our usual Tuesday night programme, each year group had the opportunity to take part in a Battalion event. The Primary 3s attended a Lego day where they had the opportunity to be creative, impressively constructing trains with built in engines. Primary 1s and 2s were invited to a Fun n Games event organised by our very own Jim French. The boys took part in a variety of games and obstacle courses and seemed to have a really great time.

The Annual Display and Inspection on 14th May allowed the boys to show their families and friends what we get up to on a typical Tuesday night. The evening was a great success with various activities and games, and an impressive Maze Marching performance by the Primary 3s. The main prizes of the night were awarded as follows. Best Squad 2018-19: Yellow - Cairn Morrison, Callum Robertson, Jamie Mundell, Callum Todd, Sam Robertson and Rory Paterson. Runner Up Best Boy 2018-19: Harry Black. Best Boy 2018-19: Finlay Steven.

We were able to take advantage of the lighter nights and take the boys into the new garden at the back of the Club Room, a great space for fresh air and blowing off steam. We were also lucky to spend our last two Tuesdays outside in the sunshine, taking walks around the Orry and having some fun at the park. This was a lovely way to wind down as we approached the end of the session and a perfect send off for our Primary 3s as they move on to Junior Section.

We hope everyone has a fantastic summer, thank you as always for your support!

Elaine & Ally, anchorboys205@gmail.com

Junior Section

Another busy year with much achieved in a short space of time 31 boys from P4 to P6 coming every Thursday. The Brigade format starts with our fall in, intimations and inspection. Some basic drill and maze marching follow inspection and then it's on to achievement work and of course games!

Excellent attendance over the session means that all boys have achieved their annual badges. The award scheme instructs that boys work in various areas of body, mind, spirit, community and creativity. The targets toward bronze, silver and gold awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd year respectively. Achievements have included Water & Fire Safety, Treasure Hunts, Quizzes, Assault courses, Help at Home, A Tool Box Talk, Writing prayers, Bible parables, Local navigation and many, many more!

Games form a huge part of our evenings and whether we bring out the apparatus for vaulting, play numbers football, basketball or Chinese ladders, or stick to the old favourites such as dodgy ball, or port and starboard the boys all enjoy themselves.

We round off each night back into our squads for intimations before concluding with the vesper.

But this session has had a lot more to it than routine Thursday evenings. We have had a couple of games only nights, Halloween and Christmas parties, and a successful cinema trip to see 'Wreck-it Ralph 2!' We have also been busy taking part in The District Swimming Gala winning a host of medals.

On the 9th of May we had our annual display and prize night. The winners of the individual prizes and best squad are:

The Billy McAuslan Trophy: Jack Blakely; **Best Boy:** James Pitcairn

Best Squad: Uist – squad leader: Toby Taylor, assisted by Aaron Forrester, Liam turner and Sam McPhail.

To round off the year we had our annual junior section camp to Carronvale House in Stirlingshire. The boys and staff had a fantastic weekend of sports, games and a trip to laser quest! The sun even made a brief appearance! The camp is a reward for the boys and staff for all their hard work during the year and is a perfect way for the boys to strengthen the friendships they have made throughout the year.

A big thankyou to everyone who has made this session possible. We will do it all again starting back on Thursday 5th September 2019. Have a great Summer!

Adam Nealis, OIC Junior Section

Company Section

The second half of the year has been as busy as the first for the BB Company Section. The two main events were our annual trip Carronvale House and the annual Display. We took the boys away - over Valentine's weekend (you're welcome!) - for a weekend of action packed activities indoor and outside. The facilities at Carronvale are second to none and we plan to go back again this year. Activities included hockey, football, American football, badminton, table tennis, board games, swimming and a stroll in the Ochil Hills. Is there anything better for a group of lads to be doing on a February weekend? It was a great trip.

A quick thank you also to all those that organised and helped at our very successful jumble sale. Our year ended in good fashion with an excellent display, one of the best in my time at the helm. A great turnout from parents, relatives, friends and supporters of the BB. Our inspecting officer, Duncan Macintyre, was treated to a well rehearsed display of drill, bugle band, football, baking and some impressive vaulting. Special mentions go to the winners of Best Recruit James Andrews and Best Boy Ryan Robson. Additionally, we had three young men who achieved the Queen's Badge, David McPhail, Ryan Robson and Craig Bennett. The Queen's Badge requires leadership, initiative and dedication and these young men have each of these qualities and more.

The countdown is now on to Camp 2019. The hall will be open from 7-7.30pm each Friday for boys and staff to pay for camp. An email will go out inviting you to come and receive the camp pack in the weeks to come.

I'd like to thank my staff for their continued support, attendance and belief in me, and parents/guardians for believing in the BB and continuing to encourage your boys to attend. Together, we might just give them something better to do with their time than the Xbox! Sure and Steadfast.

Greg Cunningham.

Hyderabad

A message from World Mission at the Presbytery of Glasgow

Our twinning partners in the Diocese of Hyderabad, Pakistan, are experiencing particular difficulties in the parish of Sukkur and have made a specific request that we pray with them on this issue. Ongoing land disputes have led to anti-church behaviour and attitudes, along with threats to the minister, Rev Waris Emmanuel (who visited Presbytery with the team from Hyderabad).

Please join with us in praying for a peaceful resolution to this matter, and for all those involved.



On the Ochils and an example of Carronvale's excellent facilities

Eaglesham Community Club

The club continues to meet in the Carswell Centre from 2 to 4pm on the first Tuesday of each month. Tea, coffee and biscuits and a varied programme. All welcome

July 2. Gardening tips from TREE

Aug 6. Games day

Sept 3 Accordion band

Oct 1. Police Scotland. Scams and Safety

Where am I? 1 Dunkeld. 2 Thomas Telford
3 Beatrix Potter

The Guild

We finished our session with our annual Guest Afternoon Tea when we welcomed an excellent number of Guild ladies from local churches (and one or two men!). This year we decided to have a fashion show organised by the Clarkston Cancer Research Charity Shop. At the end of the afternoon ladies were given the opportunity of being able to purchase items that had been modelled, resulting in an excellent donation going to Cancer Research funds.

Our Programme Secretary is now beavering away to ensure that our 2019/20 session has a varied and enjoyable syllabus as usual.

Throughout the summer we shall again be holding our **Tea and Chat** afternoons in the Carswell Centre at 2.00pm. They are not only for Guild members. Anyone who would like to join us will be made very welcome. The dates are all on Wednesday afternoons.... **3rd July, 7th August and 4th September.** We look forward to seeing you.

Fiona Hamilton, Guild Secretary



What you missed if you weren't at the guest afternoon!

Pastoral Team Outings

The Pastoral Team from time to time arranges outings to places of interest. Many of these are in Glasgow, eg to the City Chambers, the Hampden Museum, the BBC, the Transport Museum and Govan Church. More recently we have ventured further afield, with the aid of the BB minibus, to Dumfries House and the Falkirk Wheel and the Kelpies....pictured below. John Lyons has made the arrangements for most of these, which are open to all and intimated well in advance. We hope to pay a return visit to Tunnoct's at Uddingston later in the year.

Sandy Robertson



Satellite Sessions



A small but intrepid group set out from Eaglesham for Westwoodhill Evangelical Church in East Kilbride on a very wet evening in May. Why brave the rain? To hear a group of Scottish musicians and songwriters performing new music written within and for the Scottish church.

Music in churches can be fraught. Should we sing hymns with centuries of tradition, theological depth and stirring melodies? (Or are they archaic, ponderous and overly familiar - sung unthinkingly without really attending to the words?) Should we sing modern songs with their freshness, simplicity, and appeal to younger people? (Or are they trite, repetitive and a passing fad - too much performance and not suitably reverent?) That debate will not be resolved here, and music is only one of the many areas where the church is wrestling to remain faithful to its spiritual heritage while seeking relevance to new generations by presenting the Gospel in fresh ways - as the great hymn writers did in their day.

Formed around ten years ago, Satellite exists to encourage and nurture the writing of new songs for the Scottish church by people within the Scottish church. Featuring both established musicians like David and Yvonne Lyon, who regularly appear on Radio 4's Daily Service, and less well known local writers, the group has involved people from all over Scotland and spans a range of different church denominations. Its aim is to produce music with melodies that are singable (and playable) by an 'average' congregation, and that combine lyrical depth with biblical truth. Satellite has now released three albums: *One Church, One Voice* (2010), *Church Come Alive* (2014) and the recently released *Held By This Hope*. For a number of years Satellite has partnered with Tearfund Scotland, recognising that sung worship should not be divorced from action in the world.

So how was the evening? The well-attended event was pleasantly informal and conversational, with a high standard of musicianship. The musicians took turns to sing songs, often with a short explanation of the context behind the songs. The music style was largely modern acoustic folk, with elements of gospel, blues and more traditional Scottish folk. We had reworking of Psalms (*Let His Praise Be On Our Lips*), traditional hymns (*Love Divine*), as well as well crafted new songs (*I Am Known*, *Held By This Hope*, *I Trust In Your Goodness*), before finishing with the worthwhile reminder to *Rest And Be Thankful*. An interval for refreshments was preceded by a short but moving video promoting Tearfund's work proving self help groups in Nigeria. There was opportunity, but no obligation, to give to that work. The tickets were very reasonably priced at around £7 and were available either on the door or via Tearfund Scotland's website. The next Satellite sessions are in September and would be highly recommended, with several of the dates not too far from Eaglesham...

For more information, details of their September tour, and to listen to the music, you can visit satelliteworship.com

Music can be bought digitally from the usual websites (iTunes, Bandcamp, etc). CDs can be purchased from the Satellite website or locally from myself.

Paul Robertson



The persecution of Jesus and the empty tomb. On Easter Saturday our minister in association with the Faith Development Group set up a visual display of the events of Holy Week around the Carswell accompanied by bible readings relevant to each location. Perhaps not enough folk were aware of it but as a follow up to the Christmas walking nativity it is surely a feature to be repeated.

Where am I?

Sandy Robertson's geographical teaser

I'm in a town which has had a chequered history. It suffered during the battles of an early Jacobite rebellion - the first 16 miles north, the second, a month later, in the town itself.

In more peaceful times, almost 100 years later, the meeting between two eminent Scots, a poet and a fiddler is recorded. They adjourned to a nearby hostelry. Nearby is the childhood home of Canada's second Prime Minister. Also nearby is an hotel which was visited by Queen Victoria and the exiled Maharajah of the Punjab. Many of the little houses were nicely restored in the 1950s and 60s.

The settlement across the broad river was difficult to access until an elegant bridge was built in the early 19th century by one of Scotland's most prominent road builders.

Crossing the bridge I'm surprised to find references to an author, usually associated with countryside 200 miles further south. The author came here on holiday in 1893, and two of the most famous tales came to life. The story is told in an exhibition centre and garden.

Name 1 the town; 2 the bridge builder; 3 the author



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Emily Gilroy, christened on April 28. Here with parents Chris and Kathryn and brother Nathan