

# Parish News

EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH



## ***SUMMER IN ARRAN***



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## Contacts

### **Church Services**

**11am Sundays...other than**

**3rd Sunday** each month

9.30 Church service

11am Kairos - Carswell Centre

**11am Wednesdays** - Carswell Centre

### **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](http://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](mailto:macintyre74@btinternet.com)



## From the Manse

Dear Friends

If you look at the back wall of Eaglesham Church, you will see a record of ministers dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. For some reason from some angles it looks like there is nothing written where my name should be. Yet from other directions it is the name which stands out. This is my last letter to the parish magazine before I depart to Duns and District Parish Church, a hub ministry in the Scottish Borders. Since my call to this group of churches I have been reflecting on the question - what legacy has been left by my ministry amongst you in Eaglesham

At university my dissertation was "*How and why should the Church of Scotland change to suit the needs of people of the 21<sup>st</sup> century*" - my passion for relevant forms of Church has been a driving force through all my ministry and this has been my focus as I ministered in Eaglesham. A question arising in the early pages of the old testament is "*What does the LORD your God want from you?*" The simple answer is - "*The LORD wants you to respect and follow him, to love and serve him with all your heart and soul*". We express our love and respect for God through worship and we serve him by doing his work amongst people.

How has the quest for relevant worship and the building of God's Kingdom been expressed while we have been together? Firstly, in worship, a new form has been birthed, "*Kairos*". In New Testament Greek this means significant moment and for many this worship lives up to its name, as it allows time for the challenges God sets us through scripture to be discussed and ways of application in the world considered in a setting of hospitality, contemporary praise and prayer. Another fresh expression of church - "*Messy Church*" - has grown from an occasional church event to one that is a regular monthly feature amongst many of the unchurched in our village. Both worship initiatives have brought into the sphere of God people who find what we do on a Sunday inaccessible and remote from their lives. Together we have explored experiential forms of

worship. The *Street Nativity Play* on Christmas Eve which is an annual highlight attracting 250 people from our community in all weathers has now become a village tradition. At Easter in the Carswell Hall we walked through the last week of Jesus and regularly use the Carswell Hall for regular prayer focus mornings. We have maintained our ecumenical links with our friends at St Bridget's and move a step forward by including our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters in the cast of the Street Nativity Play and the carol singing and social that follows. We have shared a popular Songs of Praise on the night of Eaglesham Fair and listened to testimony which delighted many. We have also seen the growth in support for James' ministry amongst teenagers and an ever increasing commitment to funding - the fruits of James and Cat's work can be seen any Sunday evening at EPYC and was noticeable at this year's holiday club service. Without the teenagers it simply could not have happened.

We have made the early steps towards increasing our community focus - examples of that include a Knitting and Crochet Club, Mary's Meals Soup Lunch, Pizza and Prosecco Ladies nights, Club for the Elderly and the encouragement of other community groups through affordable use of the Carswell Hall facilities. All this in addition to the regular work of Guild, BB and Lodging House Mission.

We have a new generation of Elders ordained who in time will lead the church into the future - and I am sure there is more! To take you back to the gold lettering on the wall - did my time here have an impact? I will let you be the judge.

Shirley and I would like to thank everyone who has supported and encouraged our ministry amongst you and wish you the very best as you open the next chapter in the life of Eaglesham Parish Church. There are so many of you that hold a special place in our hearts. All the very best for the future. Keep the faith; "Love God and Love your Neighbours....."

Blessings and thanks

Rev Andrew J. Robertson

## Session Notes

As most of the congregation will be aware, Andrew and Shirley will be moving to the parish of Duns in the Scottish Borders. While this is a sad time for us as we say farewell, we wish them every happiness in this new challenge to which God is taking them.

Another joyful but sad event was marked on Sunday 1st September when St Bridget's held a retirement event for Father Douglas. There were a number of members of the congregation in attendance and we presented a cheque for £200 to Father Douglas from his friends at Eaglesham Parish Church. It was great to hear St Bridget's talk of their desire to continue and grow the ecumenical events that have developed between our two congregations.

With Andrew leaving we will again have a vacancy and I pray that God helps us to find our next minister clearly and speedily to support us in building His kingdom here in Eaglesham. Presbytery have appointed us an Interim Moderator to guide and support us during our vacancy. They have appointed Dr John McPake who is the Ecumenical Officer for the Church of Scotland. While this means that John's work is based in Edinburgh, he lives in Glasgow and so is very familiar with this area. During the vacancy it will be essential that we all, as a congregation, work together to support and promote the work of the church and each other during this time of transition.

On the note of working together. It is great to know that the Wednesday and Kairos services and Messy Church will be continuing with each having teams from within the congregation planning and delivering these. Thanks to all involved for their commitment to ensuring these key aspects of our worship continue.

For some time a number of elders have covered additional districts for visitations and pastoral support. Now that we have a number of new elders these districts will be allocated to some of those elders and so those affected will have a new elder visiting them in due course. Many thanks to the elders who have carried these

additional responsibilities and also to our new elders for taking over these districts.

Pastoral cover and pulpit supply will be announced as these are arranged.

If anyone has questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sheila Lamont, Session Clerk

## Father Douglas MacMillan

*.....a comment from Michael Morris*

Fr Douglas has retired from his position as Parish Priest of St Bridget's Church. His tenure has, as with Canon McCarny, enhanced the ecumenical spirit between our two Christian Communities in Eaglesham and we in St Bridget's trust that spirit continues.

Fr Douglas has had many happy times with us and indeed tragedies like the Church fire. I will never forget his croaky voice over the phone, "Michael the Church is on fire" One's first reaction was disbelief but as he recounted his experience on entering the densely smoked church and his frantic exit, the reality of the situation could have resulted in a more tragic outcome. Thankfully the Church was restored and in the intervening period his gratitude to Eaglesham Church Community for providing facilities for our Sunday Mass was considerable.

Fr Douglas was infirm but that aspect was hidden in his effervescent attitude to those around him and I believe that stoicism was part of his appeal to people. He is a good listener - a trait that is becoming less common and an attribute that in our modern world is a necessity. He has chosen to take residence in St Laurence's Church in Greenock where he will assist the incumbent Parish Priest when required.

I am certain if it were not for his long term health assessment we would have the pleasure of his company for many years. However all good things come to an end. He was able to witness the appreciation of both Church Communities for his work with us at his presentation in Eaglesham Bowling Club on Sunday 1st September.

## **And when you pray....Matthew 6:7a**

*From the Church of Scotland worship team*

“How do you eat yours?” The question in a certain egg-shaped confectionery advert. The implication being that there is no right way to do it, but rather it’s about how you best experience the egg.

How do you pray? Perhaps you haven’t really thought about it too much. Perhaps it’s now hard to concentrate because you’re thinking about chocolate, but regardless of appetite, past experiences, how we wrap it up or try to explain it, prayer can be rather confusing. It can often be a mystery. It can at times seem like a chore. It can even be a blessed relief.

So then, how *do* you pray? Are you a morning person? Do you greet the sunrise with thanks and praise to our God? Do you utter hopeful words and try and live them throughout the day to come? Are you more spontaneous? Do you respond to life with a ‘breath prayer’, off the cuff, as life makes you dance to its tune and in each moment you seek the steadying hand of our Creator and Sustainer?

Perhaps you find yourself needing space. Maybe you carve out some time in your day to be still and know the presence of God. You may prefer to reflect on your day in the presence of God, as was the practice of Ignatius of Loyola, who gave us the daily examen – a way of praying that helps us recognise God’s presence in the midst of the day just lived.

The practice of prayer is part of the lifeblood of our faith. We may find ourselves in dark circumstances, when prayer is the only thing we can turn to for comfort. We might see prayer as that thing we do together on a Sunday, or as the words said on our behalf by a minister or worship leader. Maybe it is the one thing that keeps us going, those times when we can just let God know how we are feeling. It might even happen by accident so that we are unaware until, looking back on a time of quiet, we realise that in the stillness, God was there the whole time.

Whatever your habit or preference may not really matter. What is important is that we are having the conversation, that we are opening ourselves up to God in whatever moment we can manage, that in some way prayer is part of our life. Prayer may be a constant companion on the journey, or a friend that visits once in a while, to bring comfort and solace. It may be something deeper, more mysterious that is largely left unspoken, something felt, yearned for, grieved over or something long-forgotten brought to mind.

How we pray then, is not the most important thing, but rather that the experience of prayer and the encounter with God is recognised. That our faith is tended and our relationship with God is nurtured, in precious moments. No fancy wrapping is needed and it may not always taste sweet but, in the midst of life, listening for and opening our hearts to God is indeed food for the soul.

### **A Prayer from Life and Work**

From the rain’s gentle fall to the bubbling spring giving life to the swiftly flowing mountain stream, to meandering river then gracefully onwards to the broad sweeping estuary to reach the ocean’s mighty depths, flows the water of life.

Lord, thank you for your gift of water, source of refreshment, bringing growth, sustaining life. For us water is freely available, sometimes it seems we have too much, yet for others there is too little. Streams and rivers dry, land arid and unproductive, people longing for the refreshing fall of rain. In this land of the mountain and the flood make us mindful of others’ needs and of those who work to overcome the effects of drought on land and people.

But there are other streams that flow from “the spring of the water of life.” Streams of living water filling us with your life and love.

Lord, fill the arid places of our lives with your living water. Refresh our souls. Quench our thirst. Bring us to that river whose “streams make glad the city of God”. That, drinking of its waters, our lives will flow with the life giving waters of eternal life.

Then from us may the streams of living water flow onwards and outwards until all are overflowing with the water of life, that we may never thirst again.

**Amen**

## The BB Garage Saga



Our Boys' Brigade minibus was for years garaged in the old telephone exchange at the entrance to the Manse until as part of fundraising for the Carswell Centre this was sold. We were given much appreciated temporary accommodation at Robert Carswell's farm. On completion of the Carswell Centre I asked the Kirk Session for support in our effort to build a new garage with extra storage facilities at the rear of the Carswell. Planning permission had been approved at the same time as the Carswell reconstruction.

Due to the siting in a conservation village high specifications were outlined. Various estimates resulted in a cost of £30,000 for the project. Jim Alexander took on this responsibility and acted as master of works. The money had to be raised! Brian Fraser had attended a presentation of the Leader Fund for rural projects which could offer 50% of the project cost.

But first we had to raise £15000! Things began to happen. Members of the Church rallied round. Anne Carr organised a Bridge Night and Craig Wishart a Plant Sale, both very successful. During the plant sale a member of our Congregation made out a substantial cheque which was much appreciated. Discos, sponsored walk and the proceeds from our Jumble Sale were then added.

An application to the AOE Windfarm Trust was accepted. BB parents and friends who raise funds over many years with their Xmas Fayre provided a sizeable sum. Conversation at lunch with my former employer resulted in a cheque "for the most expensive garage in Eaglesham". This came from the Dalziel Family Trust.

With the £15000 now in the account we were able to approach the Leader Fund. Jim McLean, himself an ex-BB, looked after the paperwork.

Brian Fraser and I faced the ten or so members of the funding committee to outline our plans. The next day we were advised that our application was successful. This fund is 100% financed by the European Union. Brexit did cross my mind!

Work began in October last year. With the usual delays for weather it was completed in March this year. The Kirk Session transferred surplus from the Carswell Centre project to cover extras in the garage. So we now have a brand new garage to house our brand new Minibus.

Well done and a great big thanks to all who contributed.

Billy Inglis

## BB Camp

Our 65th Consecutive Camp at Kings Cross, Arran was a great success once again. The sun shone for most of the camp apart for a few wet days/nights (which is good for our campcraft).

The boys enjoyed a vast array of activities as well as inter-tent sports and games run by our very efficient sports staff. Morning inspection was hotly contested as ever with a very high standard being set by the boys. Our food this year was also of very high quality and our full time cook Alan Stern did a fabulous job once again. Many thanks to Alan for all his hard work.

Camp is the highlight of the 205th Co Sect year and we had over 95% attendance from the boys which goes to show how popular and well run camp is. When away your boys are safeguarded due to every staff member being trained and registered with the Battalion, fully insured and PVG checked. Also new stringent mini bus driving laws have been implemented due to gov regulations. There were a few changes this year due to staff stepping down and the younger staff taking on the challenges of organising camp logistics. A massive thanks to our older staff for all their years of service and commitment to BB Camp especially David Wallace who ran the finance and bookings & Brian Fraser who is still is a great advocate for our Camp.

A big thanks to my staff as always for making it a great camp enjoyed by all and to the parents, friends and local businesses that make camp so successful & affordable for the boys.

### Camp Awards

Best Camper- Rory Kennedy

Best new Camper- James Andrews.

Best tent- Jamie Baird Tent 1

Best Sports- Tent 2

Putting- Sam Ballantyne & Christopher Wallace

Tennis- Cole Lyle & Sam Ballantyne.

Richard Burt, O/C camp

## **Holiday Club 2019....“Backpackers”**

This year's HC took us on a travelling adventure as we journeyed around Europe: Paris, Stockholm, Rome, Zermatt and London. On the way we visited places that helped us think and learn more about Jesus last week on earth from cheering crowds, to mountaintops, to the grave and resurrection. At one point on Friday we announced “Jesus is alive!” and one girl began to applaud which infected the whole room! A great moment at the end of a great week.

The Carswell Centre was transformed into a travel hub for the event; departure boards, hanging clock, flags, suitcases, planes, signs, maps, and our giant compass in the middle of the floor. Each morning we had bible stories, songs, games, crafts, messy challenges, memory verses, postcards, “Doogle Translate”, aerobics and our amazing “Bus Tour” drama based on a reality TV show that travelled to all the European cities with us. For the P5-P7's we had a special evening organised on the Thursday; a water fight, McDonald's and a movie. 400 water balloons, £170 of McDonald's, and 90 mins of Peter Rabbit later we were all ready for our bed!

We had around 50 children attending each morning and our team consisted of 30 volunteers: a team of 18 running the children's programme and a background team looking after the rest. A great effort from all involved and their work was very much appreciated. Roll on next year!

James Edgar

*July L and W ran a feature on Holiday Clubs which are successful in a variety of venues around the country. It is estimated that 95% of Scottish children have no connection with church. Programmes such as holiday club and Messy Church play an important role in countering this..Ed*

## **EPYC**

**EPYC** is Eaglesham Church's youth group (**P7-S6**) that meets on **Sunday night** from **7pm-8.45pm**. During our Sunday nights together we aim to discover more about Christian faith, getting to grips with what God and Jesus and Church and Christianity is all about and what it has to do with me. It is not designed as a sit down and listen night, we try to think more about faith using activities, games, drama's, discussions, videos etc. and we split the older group and younger group to be more specific to their needs. Everyone is welcome, whether you are a Christian or not, and we always end our night with some hot chocolate and time to chill out. Please come along and if you have more questions get in touch.

James Edgar...

## **Tearfund - Update from Cambodia Hope Organisation**

Our work with churches can be difficult, as we try to prevent trafficking by tackling poverty - it's root cause. However, these past three months have been a blessing. God blessed us with many gifts that were beyond our expectations. It is a privilege to share with you the journey we have been through with Him.

Through our work we are seeing many positive changes. Our programme is transforming people's lives, behaviour and even their spiritual well being.

As people see the positive impact of the church, they become curious. They start to ask questions about Jesus and are more willing to listen to what we have to say. We have seen changes in the attitudes of children and young people too. Even their parents have said their behaviour has changed in a good way. As they respond to our work, the young people are becoming interested in Christianity too.

In fact, by the grace of God, we saw eleven children and four young people baptised recently. Thanks to their brave example, many more people are interested in what they are learning. We pray that they continue to grow and be a witness to God's love and mercy.

We also have the opportunity to continue working at a rehabilitation centre. We praise God that the rehabilitation centre continue to allow us to help.

As a result of our work, people at the centre have learned to pray and many are starting to ask about Jesus. We pray that God will touch their hearts and that they will receive him as their saviour.

## Starter Packs

My business in East Kilbride where I stored items for Starter Packs, has been taken over and although my family still has a real interest in the business, the new owner requires more space for expansion into schoolwear and sportswear which unfortunately means no more room for storage of goods for the Starter Packs charity. However Starter Packs now have their own transport which can uplift items direct from homes at arranged times by calling them on 0141 440 1008. Items can be taken directly to their Govan base - 47 Burleigh Street, Glasgow G51 3LB

The alternative for smaller items is to drop them off at the new Kilbryde Hospice Shop at Kingsgate Shopping Centre in East Kilbride who take clothes, furniture, crockery etc. On behalf of Starter Packs I would like to thank sincerely everyone who contributed items to a very worthwhile cause and hope in the future you will continue your support.

Sandy McIlwham  
Chairman, Corston Sinclair Ltd

## East Renfrewshire Food Bank

A huge thank you once again to Eaglesham Parish Church and community for your continuing generous support to the Food Bank based at St Andrew's Church, Barrhead. Between 15<sup>th</sup> January and 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019 your donations have amounted to almost 390kg.

The Food Bank opens on Tuesdays and Fridays each week and around 40 clients per week (on average) rely on this vital resource. The collection basket remains in the foyer of the Carswell Centre and a list of suggested donations is available in the basket.

Contact numbers for further information if required can be obtained from the Church Office.

**Eaglesham Community Club** meets in the Carswell hub at 2 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month. We have a varied program of Speakers, music etc with tea/coffee and cakes. Everyone is welcome so, please, come and join us. (There is a charge of £1.50 for the refreshments).

The program till the end of the year is

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October – Strathclyde Police talking about Scams and Keeping Safe.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November – our own Robert Steven will be reminiscing about Farming in Eaglesham.

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Short and Sweet, a musical duo from Shawlands, will be the entertainment at our Christmas meeting.

Maureen Hunter

## Where am I?

My journey begins at a much admired railway station, one of Britain's best 100 in a recent book. It was the work of a prolific architect who built, in addition to stations and railway hotels, banks and grand houses.

The monument I've come to see bears the name of an adjacent village, but it is not there. It's in a town 5 miles south. It is a funerary monument dating from 1636, built for a local landowner and his wife, supposedly inspired by the monuments James I erected in Westminster Abbey for Mary Queen of Scots and Elizabeth I. It was originally within a church which is now largely demolished.

Walking through the town I come across a bridge with Australian connections. It seems another local landowner, after a distinguished military career, became Governor General of an Australian state. Perhaps surprisingly, his name was given to a city in a different state.

Moving further south, I reach another monument, erected to celebrate a Scottish victory, but not against the English. Its unusual shape gives it its widely known nickname.

Name

1. The railway station
2. The town where the funerary monument is found
3. The Australian city



Third Wednesday of September, October, November. Come to the Carswell from 12noon for good company and a simple lunch of homemade soup, bread and baking

## The Guild

Over the summer we held our Tea and Chat afternoons once a month in the Carswell Centre allowing us to keep in touch with our members. We were also delighted to welcome our friends from St Bridgets.

The Guild resumes on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, in the Carswell Hall (meetings start at 7.30pm). Our guests for the first evening will be the **Renfrew Ladies Choir**, an excellent start to the 2019 – 2020 session. Transport can be arranged for anyone requiring a lift.

Below is our syllabus for the first half of the session, taking us up to Christmas. As usual we have a very varied and busy programme running right through until March.

We shall also be supporting two Guild projects for 2019/20. '**Join Up the Dots**' is a collaborate partnership between Crossreach and the Guild. '**Empowering Teenage Mothers in Zambia**' is a charity which supports young mothers and children break free from poverty.

Fiona Hamilton, Guild Secretary

- Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Renfrew Ladies Choir
- Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>:** Guild Dedication Ceremony + Theme Night: 'Companions on the Road'
- Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>:** A Voyage to Antarctica (*Charles Murray*)
- Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>:** 'Join Up the Dots' (*Guild Project*)
- Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>:** Shared Memories of Eaglesham (*Robin Barker*)
- Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>:** Joyce's Voices
- Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>:** Gathering the Voices (*Scottish Holocaust Project - Claire Singerman*)
- Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>:** R.N.L.I. (*Charity - Craig Barrie*)
- Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>:** Scottish Music Night (*Ian Walker Band*)
- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>:** 'Flying for Life' (*Mission Aviation Fellowship - George McRitchie*)
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>:** 'More Travels with a Scalpel' (*Alan McKay*)
- Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas Celebration.

'Christmas Cracker' event: **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

## Data Protection

From May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), came into force. This regulation means that as a congregation we have a responsibility to protect the personal information that we hold about you.

Personal data may be held in different forms and by different people in our congregation. As a member information about you will be held by the roll keeper. In addition, personal data might be held by others, if you are part of another church organisation, such as the Guild or the badminton club, etc. We also hold personal data about non members who may have joined one of our church affiliated organisations.

As part of our responsibility we now have a Privacy Notice, Data Retention Policy and Data Protection Policy, all are held in the church office and are also available on the church website, ([www.eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk)), This outlines what information we hold about you, what we do with it, who we share it with, how long we keep it for, your rights in relation to the data we hold and why we are allowed to collect it. Please check it out.

We are now at the stage where we are carrying out a data audit of all the personal data held throughout the church and its organisations. If you are the leader or secretary of a church organisation or have responsibility for keeping personal data for any reason, you should receive a Data Audit Form along with a set of guidelines for the safe keeping of personal data. It is very important that you answer all the questions on the Data Audit Form and confirm that you understand and fulfil the Guidelines. The Audit Form only applies to church affiliated organisations, not groups who hire our halls and not the BB, who are responsible for their own data protection. If you are in doubt or you feel I have missed you and you hold personal data, but have not received the Data Audit Form, please contact me on the number or email below and I will send the forms to you and add you to our list of those who hold personal data.

If at any time you feel that there has been a breach of the regulations, or if you want further information about GDPR, please contact me.

**Hugh Green**  
**Data Protection Co-ordinator**

## **From Life and Work**

### **Jean Vanier - L'Arche Community**

Ron Ferguson reflected on the life of a remarkable man Jean Vanier who died in May at the age of 90. Son of a Canadian diplomat, he had two life changing experiences - meeting Holocaust survivors at the age of 18 and then visiting an institution for people with developmental disabilities. He shared a small house in rural France with two vulnerable men and called it L'Arche, after Noah's ark. His vision of shared community is now seen in 147 places in 38 countries. But 'he was a quiet man with gentle spirit who, when he spoke, held his audience spellbound. He has given Christianity a good name'.

### **Eco-Congregation Scotland**

David Coleman was recently appointed as Scotland's Eco-Congregation chaplain. His personal faith development included a recognition that partnership with God includes partnership with and care for the whole earth. He describes his new role as part Jeremiah, being open about the tragedy of climate crisis, and part Barnabas, encouraging Christian communities to think and act. There are around 450 congregations from all denominations registered with ECS [Eaglesham is not one of them]. For some it is simply a statement of support. Others are more actively involved singly or in groupings with issues such as waste recycling, air quality, fossil fuel industry and investment. For more information on ECS see [www.ecocongregationscotland.org](http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org).

### **The disinvestment debate**

Opposing views on whether the Church should disinvest from fossil fuel companies featured in August and September. Rev Jenny Adams interpreted the call to care for creation in terms of the climate emergency and the established role of fossil fuels in this. The major companies are increasing oil and gas production and none spend more than 5% of expenditure on renewables. Jesus said 'Where your treasure is there your heart will be also'. Disinvestment would send a message about the Christian response. Brian Duffin of the Church's Investors Trust focussed on the influence Christian and other concerned investor groups could have working together. He sees the large energy companies as actors in responding to climate change. Gas supplies in particular will be needed for some years ahead but by being involved investors can influence the necessary gradual change.

This debate will not go away and may surface again at next year's General Assembly.

### **The Power of Retreat**

August L and W featured two articles on retreat - Thomas Baldwin on one day of solitude in Perthshire and Kenneth Steven on leading retreats on Iona. An introduction to the concept. If you don't subscribe borrow the August edition to read what they say.

## **From the Organ Bench**

I was very privileged to attend as a guest a high profile Organ Recital in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral in June..The recital was to raise funds for the fire that partly destroyed Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.The organist was Internationally renowned David Briggs who gave a stunning recital on the vast 5 manual Father Willis organ.

Back to home now.

The church choir resumes its practices on Thursday 26th September at 7.30pm in the Carswell Hall.We are indeed fortunate that here in Eaglesham we have a choir.The dedication of the members is outstanding. We totally enjoy our fun filled practices. We even now have a tea break - progress indeed. For the first part of this session we will be singing traditional and contemporary anthems. Christmas is not too far off and the choir will be singing another one of John Petersons Christmas Cantatas. In the March the choir has been asked to perform at the Guild's birthday celebrations with both religious and secular music.... and possibly a few surprises.

As Organist and Choirmaster I issue you an appeal. We would like to strengthen our choir departments. More Sopranos, and as usual more men. Please give this plea some serious consideration. We would love you to join us. Think of the enjoyment you'll have. And it has now been proven medically that singing is very good for your well being!

We look forward to welcoming you.

Alan Gillon - Organist and Choirmaster.

## Remembrance

Alastair Anderson imagines from limited information how one of the young men listed on the war memorial might have introduced himself 114 years ago.

*My name is James Melville. I live with my parents Matthew Melville and Jessie Anne Melville at 21 Montgomery Street, Eaglesham. I am 15 years of age and with the family I regularly attend Sunday worship in Eaglesham Parish Kirk near to my home. The Kirk is a busy place on a Sunday and the family pews are usually full by the time the Beadle leads in the Minister. After the Service I usually spend some time chatting to friends, amongst them Alastair Gilmour, Margaret Watt and Patricia Hughes. On Sunday evening we all attend the Bible Class after the Evening Service.*

*James Melville, September 1905*

From Eaglesham Parish Church War Memorial...

James Melville. Private 9 th Gordon Highlanders. 1890 - 1915

Alastair Stuart Gilmour 2nd Lieutenant 1888 - 1916

Margaret Watt. No record

Patricia Hughes. No record

A total of 30 young Eaglesham Parish men and women gave their tomorrows for our todays. As we approach Remembrance Sunday we will remember them together with many others who served our United Kingdom in the time of War.

Alistair Anderson

*Footnote; 21 Montgomery Street is at the lane leading to the Laird Hall*

## Red Poppies and white poppies

Remembrance and the red poppy tradition started at a time when the 1914-18 war was still seen as the 'war to end all wars' In 1926 the white poppy was introduced to recognise all casualties of war and to make explicit this hope to avoid further wars. What balance of recognition should we have now with the 100th anniversary behind us? We still remember those who have been killed or injured on armed service. Perhaps this should extend more formally to all victims of conflict. And recognise more formally individuals and organisations working for peace, from international structures such as UN Peacekeeping to groups working at local level such as Peace Direct.

## Community Connections in Eaglesham and Waterfoot

Hi, thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself! My name is Liz Hight and I have been entrusted with taking forward the findings of the Rural Wisdom Project. This is a role I feel privileged to be working in and to have such a grassroots, collaborative and participatory project in the beautiful villages of Eaglesham and Waterfoot to work within is a bit of a dream come true.

Thanks to the will and confidence of local people and with help from Leader Funding and Rural Wisdom, I will be helping organise four Village Gatherings to bring together local people and community groups to share their ideas on what would help make Eaglesham and Waterfoot "work for them". The aim is to help everyone feel even more connected, happy and cared for within their communities. I daresay many people already feel this way which is fantastic but I've no doubt that there's many who may still feel socially isolated or on the periphery of what's happening locally. Last year's Rural Wisdom Gatherings highlighted lack of regular local transport, the hilly terrain and no clear "focal" points for information sharing as the main concerns for local people. In the last two months I have been getting out and about and trying to meet and listen to as many people's ideas and opinions as possible. I have met so many kind and caring groups and people and have been hearing of the many assets in each community, the most important one being the people themselves. There really is so much happening! People sound keen to work together to come up with positive solutions based on what is already happening and working well for the area.

It is an exciting prospect to be involved in working to improve the health, well-being and happiness of everyone old and new to the Eaglesham and Waterfoot communities. Sharing, kindness and creativity look to be three of the main ingredients in making this happen and already I am seeing that in abundance!

I'd be delighted to hear from anyone who'd like to find out a bit more about the Community Connections Project and who'd be willing to share their thoughts and wisdom with me.

Many Thanks! Liz

1. Wemyss Bay  
2. Largs  
3. Brisbane



**Backpackers fun - see page 7 for report**



**Tearfund - Come to the Family Ceilidh and save the date for the Quiz - 7.30pm in the Carswell**

EPC OUTREACH GROUP IN AID OF  
**TEARFUND & YOUTH MINISTRY FUND**  
 a family  
**Ceilidh**



**Saturday 5 October - Carswell Centre - 7pm**  
 BYOB and glasses. Nibbles teas & coffees and music provided!  
**Adult £10, Secondary Student £5, Young Children Free**

Tickets from: Fiona Kettlewell, Doug Lamont (01355 302368), Giles Blair, Church Office  
 or any member of the Outreach Team

2019

**THE BIG QUIZ NIGHT**



**SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER**