



Easter Tidings *from* Killearn Kirk



Hallelujah ! . . . Christ is Risen !

Come and celebrate with us at our joint Easter Week services

Wednesday, 13th April: Strathblane Church at 7.30pm

Maundy Thursday, 14th April: Killearn Kirk at 7.30pm (Sacrament of Holy Communion)

Good Friday, 15th April: Buchanan Church at 7.30pm.

Easter Sunday, 17th April: Killearn Kirk at 10.30am

Please Support Christian Aid



This year there will not be a house to house collection in Killearn, but please don't overlook Christian Aid. With the current situation in the world, the need to help others has never been greater.

You can donate online and if you're able you can perhaps complete your details to allow Christian Aid to recover 25% gift aid tax recovery on your donation. No need to wait until Christian Aid week, visit the website at any time.

www.ChristianAid.org.uk



Killearn Kirk People

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Personalia

Baptisms

Cody Stewart	December
Johannes and Anne Hough	December
Isaac Pringle	January

Funerals

Matt 5:4 (Jesus said)
'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.'

We are saddened to report the passing of the following, since the last magazine, who were members of Killearn Kirk or whose funeral/memorial service was held in our Kirk. Obituaries can be found in the Killearn Courier: www.kcfc.co.uk/courier.html. May the comfort and peace of God be with all who mourn and feel the loss of one they have loved.

Robert 'Bert' Atkinson, Dumgoyne.
Dermot Sims, Lampson.
AJ Bishop Loudon, Blanefield
Alistair Garland, Drumbeg Loan.
Johanna Read, Branziert Road North
Jessie McArthur, Little Boquhan
Douglas Mackinlay, Barclay Way

Kirk Kids

Killearn Kirk Kids restarted on Sunday, 6th March 2022.

Arrive for Church at 10.30am. Children can sit beside their parents at the beginning of the service then move through to the halls with the leaders after the second song.

Finish 11.30am

fun - games - singing - learning

Wedding



Katie Lucas and Crpl Adam Lloyd, from Cheadle, were married in Killearn Kirk on 19/02/2022. Katie writes ...

We had travelled around Scotland a lot due to Adams family residing in Scotland and as soon as we found Killearn we knew it was the place where we would like to be married. I am a nurse myself and Adam is in the parachute regiment and Killearn was a place where we instantly felt relaxed and at home. The people are friendly and helpful and the church is a truly special place. The village hall breathes happiness and we knew it's relaxed and laid back vibe was right for what we wanted. We were lucky enough to tie the knot on Saturday 19 February 2022 and were able to marry in this beautiful village. Killearn will always hold a special place in our hearts and we will never forget how Reverend Stuart made our ceremony so meaningful and memorable for us. We just want to say a huge thank to Forest Lace Photography/ www.forestlace.co.uk for capturing these moments. Thank you again Killearn.

Service Update - Covid 19 Protocols

From mid-March 2022 the Government Regulations relating to Covid and church services were relaxed and things like social distancing and facemasks ceased. The Kirk Session still feels that we need to provide a safe space for those attending the Kirk and so the back section of the church will retain guide markers for distancing, if people wish to use them meantime, and those who wish to retain face coverings are free to do so. We will also retain the hand sanitiser station at the entrance for those who again feel more comfortable using it. We recognise that it might take time for some to adjust to a more relaxed regime and our abiding concern is that people feel welcome and safe coming to worship.

Visit us online at www.killearnkirk.org.uk or visit our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/pages/Killearn-Kirk/116334885136784



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From the Minister's study desk ...

Isaiah 43:16-21

**16 This is what the Lord says — he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters,
17 who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there,
never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:
18 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.
19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.
20 The wild animals honour me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert
and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen,
21 the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.**

Spring is always the time of new things, new life, and growth. The shroud of winter is being set aside in the world around us. The 4 cycle of the seasons turns once again. We can get quite used to it that we forget to see the wonder of it. We have been wrestling with the garden since we arrived, its moss encumbered grass the source of a perpetual struggle for domination between me and it. One thing I have noticed this year, is that the grass still looks terrible – yes, but more that around the trees flowers being able, perhaps for the first time, to pop their heads through and gaze at the sun, bringing a splash of colour where there had been none. God is always doing a new thing in the world around us. If we create the space and opportunity nature grabs it.

In verse 19 (above) there is a beautiful picture of God doing a new thing, in a wasteland bringing water the most vital part. I don't know if you watched the Green Planet with David Attenborough recently, there was a program given over to deserts and how they were not the bear barren places we might think, all it took was a little water to bring in so much life and colour. But as Isaiah sees it, is in not just for nature, but for the whole of creation, including humankind. That is forever hopeful, and hope filled. The challenge is to read the verse before it. We like the idea of the new thing, but first we must forget the past and the former things. As you will see from a number of the items in this magazine, we are entering unprecedented times of change and challenge. In these moments we can feel a hunger to look back and hang on what has been and to mourn its passing. But the promise from God is that even through, what can feel like, the barren and dry wasteland of change, new life and colour will burst forth in ways we did not expect. What would that look like for the Kirk? Your Kirk? And you as part of the Christian family here.

Family is a strange thing, I could stop there, and you would still probably agree, but by that I mean that it is never a static thing. One generation passes and new one comes up and yet we tell the stories of the family like seafarers gazing at the heavens for directions. Yet one generation is not like another, there is change. What was commonplace for one time, is not today and we would not wish it so for we long for the best for each generation. Yet, each generation must live through the events of its days, some of these are prosperity and peace, others of want and conflict. So, as much as we look to the past 'glories' of the church and its connections with the community, if we only gaze back we will miss the new things that God is doing even now in our midst. They may not seem big or important, but like water in a wasteland who knows what will spring from them.

Pray to the God of water and spring for a downpouring of His grace in our church family and community that we would see the new things and get excited about them.

May the God of the seasons bless you and yours with good things and new things now and in all the seasons to come.

Stuart

Book Group

At Book Group we are continuing to meet online and are working our way through "31 Verses to Write On Your Heart" by Liz Curtis Higgs. Each verse has a thought from Liz, followed by some study questions. There are always very interesting discussions and lots of challenging questions are raised. We have welcomed a few new members over the last few months and it is always so encouraging to hear how God speaks to different people in different ways through a single verse or book chapter. We meet every second Monday at 10 am on Zoom and all are welcome. Please contact Teresa or Katy for details or send us a message on Facebook

On-line Worship.

Over lockdown some of you may have joined us virtually for our services. As we returned to in-person services we have continued recording the 10.30 service and make that available online later in the day for those wishing to share in that. The following links will get you there

Kirk web address: <https://www.killlearnkirk.org.uk/video/> (all videos listed in date order, simply click the one you want to watch)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/> (search for Killlearn Kirk and our services will come up)

Occasionally we have missed a recording due to lack of people to press buttons and we are looking for people to step up and lend a hand. We can offer training and support, and if we get a few people coming forward it means that the work can be shared. We hope there will be some who would consider this as a service to God and a blessing to the church in person and the church on-line. Contact Stuart or Carole if you would like to know more.

Just a Thought



Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Luke 7:36-39 One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. 37 And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, 38 and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner."

Kintsugi is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery not with superglue, (as is common in our house!) but glue mixed with powdered gold. The repairing of the fractured ceramics transforms it into something even more beautiful than before. There is no disguising the fact that it has been broken, there is no attempt to hide the joins in the ceramic. Rather, there is celebration of the fact that it has undergone the process of being bound together, where the lines of breakage become veins of beauty. It is quite the antithesis to the disposable culture we can become so accustomed to. As soon as an item breaks, it is either binned or deemed to be of lesser value. But the Kintsugi approach does not view a fracture as something that breaks an item, instead, the use of the item, the experience which led to the breakage, makes it even more exquisite.

Reflecting on the reading in Ecclesiastes reminds us that God beautifies at the right time and that all things are and will be made beautiful by Him. There may be times in our lives when we feel broken by circumstance or what we are living with. Times we feel no longer useful. But these events do not render us useless, at these times God laces our lives with gold.

Probably more so than other years when there has been no pandemic. We could so easily cast off times in our lives or stages in life as if a piece of pottery broken into many different pieces, we may want to. However, Jesus took the broken lives of those on the fringes of society, the people and parts that were deemed to be broken beyond repair and created something delightful and wonderful in their restoration, lacing them with gold. We can believe in Him to do the same with us and our society. We remember Ecclesiastes that God runs veins of gold and beauty through our lives, transforming us and filling us with hope.

Ruth Kennedy, Probation Minister

Killearn Kirk finance

Another difficult year with disruptions and understandable wariness and concern affecting the numbers in our congregation and therefore our finances. Our accounts for the year to 31st December 2021 have been independently examined and approved by the Kirk Session. These show a deficit of £13,478 but we realised £17,349 from the sale of investments and withdrew £6,135 from funds held on our behalf by the General Trustees in Edinburgh meaning our funds increased in total by £10,066. Within the total deficit of £13,478 referred to above the General Fund, which covers the day-to-day running of the Kirk, had a deficit of £5,320 – a pretty good result considering the circumstances and the fact we were unable to hold our usual fund-raising events and limits on letting out the hall. This was after contributing to the overall Church of Scotland Ministry and Mission Fund of £49,769 which covers both the cost of our own ministry and the wider work of the Church, not least of which is the work of Crossreach which works with many vulnerable people in our society.

Many thanks go to the members who contributed direct to our bank on a monthly basis despite being unable to attend services, also to those who contributed on a Sunday. Gift Aid, which allows us to claim back tax on all contributions paid by tax-payers contributed £11,012 in the year and many thanks to Helen Gee who administers the scheme and liaises with HMRC, ensuring claims are lodged and paid promptly.

Again, within the total deficit of £13,478, the other major deficit area was the Fabric Fund with a deficit of £8,447 This fund covers the upkeep of the Kirk, the hall and the manse. The deficit would have been greater but for a £3,000 legacy from the Caram Trust, the latest of several substantial donations from the Trust. We also transferred £1,920 from the General Fund raised from a previous year's fundraising event My thanks go to assistant treasurer Teresa Prescott for her help during the year.

Looking forward to a better year ahead.

Bob Ballantyne Treasurer

Important changes for our Kirk that will affect YOU!

A more important decision of the General Assembly will have a direct impact in every congregation in Scotland, including Killearn. We all know that in recent years the church has been obviously in decline in terms of numbers and those going into ministry. The reality is that the church has been in decline since the start of the 60's in real terms and is now being hit hard by what this means. The impact is such that the national church can only afford to pay for around 600 ministries from the contributions coming in from congregations. Some congregations raise more money than the actual cost of an individual minister and the extra they are asked to give goes to support those congregations which cannot afford the full cost. In more recent years the numbers of congregation needing such help has increased significantly.

Last year the General Assembly approved a bit of church law that asks Presbyteries to shape their ministry distribution so that, as a whole, the church lives within its means. Each Presbytery has been allocated a number of ministries it can look to deploy and have been instructed to shape parishes, congregations, groupings around those numbers so that ministry is maintained across the board in some way. This is seeing the different areas of Presbytery face reductions in ministry numbers of between 40-50% of what is presently on our plans. This end of Strathenderick is seeing ministry numbers halved. So, where there were four ministers leading the congregations of Killearn, Strathblane, Balfron linked with Fintry and Drymen linked with Buchanan, there will now only be two allocated. This means that a way of sharing ministry across the area must be devised. At the moment representatives from all the congregations are discussing possible combinations of congregations to meet that need. Once a proposal is devised all the congregations will have to consider this and vote on it. But the reality is that is a scheme cannot be developed locally, then Presbytery can impose one, if need be.

This is a very challenging time for everyone involved and we would seek and ask for your prayers. You may be aware that Drymen linked with Buchanan and Balfron linked with Fintry presently do not have a minister in place. Strablane's minister is on unrestricted tenure, meaning that the terms of his call cannot be changed until he demits the charge for any reason. Stuart's tenure is reviewable, and that review process is scheduled to start in November this year so that Presbytery can review that position and can end that call, with six months' notice, to allow local changes to take place.

This process is also impacting on Probationers like Ruth. Part of the decision of General Assembly was to suspend all vacancies from allowing to call a minister until the Presbytery had an approved plan in that meets the new restricted levels of ministers and they should be approved by the end of the year deadline. However, as Ruth concludes her time here at the end of August, she faces a prospect of being able to seek a charge, with few charges being able to call. Steps are being taken by Presbyteries across the country to set up short term posts for 12-18 months to act as a bridge for Probationers, but I am sure you will appreciate it is not ideal.

We encourage all of the church family and the wider community to keep the current local situation in their prayers looking for a creative and workable plan to be shaped and for the future ministries of Stuart and Ruth and their families.

Coming soon after Easter! Open Space



After Easter, we will be creating a regular weekly space for open discussions about faith. A time for you to bring your questions and issues about God, Jesus, Christianity and explore what it's all about. It doesn't matter if you are not part of any Church or if you have been in Church for ages, if have 'wonderings' you would like an open space to chat through, this is for you! Please let us know if you interested as we look to set a time that works for people. RKennedy@churchofscotland.org.uk or pm on Facebook.

Thursday Club Spring Session.

Members and helpers feel it is lovely to get back to social normality. There is a sense of renewal within the club, with new members and helpers in a relaxing and light atmosphere. Regular weekly meetings were disrupted by snow, as although pretty, it does cause mobility risks, and another week because the Blood Transfusion Unit were working from the Church Hall. So we transferred across the field, to the Kitchen Window for a treat. This proved delightful with good company and great food. The kindness of our helpers who produce lovely afternoon teas and transport must be mentioned. These people are the essence of our community Club where all are welcome. If you would like to attend, transport can be arranged. Please call Maureen: 07909 872994; Alison: 07776 250226; Pat - 550074



Shoe Box Appeal



Thank you so much to all who took up the challenge to fill a shoe box for Christmas. The charity Blythswood Care started their shoe box appeal for Christmas in 1993. That year, 300 gift wrapped, gift filled shoeboxes were given to children in Romanian orphanages. Twenty eight years later, their shoeboxes go to children, to the elderly and to those in between. Their shoeboxes go to people in need across Eastern Europe. Blythswood Care have many photographs of children and older people receiving their gifted boxes. They all have one thing in common - huge smiles of delight on their faces. Every gift in every shoebox makes a difference . Each gift lets someone in need know that they have been thought about, that they are valued and that they are loved. That is a priceless gift to give and to receive. That is a priceless gift that makes a lasting difference.

Guidance is given re which articles to put in the box, eg toiletries, possibly warm hat, gloves or scarf, small toy for children, a packet of sweeties etc. The most difficult part for me is covering the box in Christmas paper so that the lid is able to be opened!

Killearn Kirk has taken part in this activity in the past but again Covid intervened. We had short notice but even so twenty eight of us managed to produce beautifully wrapped and filled boxes. Families filled the boxes together, some Grannies did it with "help" from their grandchildren, others just did it out of love. What a great message for the children who took part. They learned that there are many children who will only receive that one present that they are putting together and they also experience the joy of doing something which will make a difference to some stranger far away.

Our effort this year was coordinated by a very special lady from Strathblane Church. Margaret works tirelessly for many charities and for this appeal she spread her tentacles far and wide collecting in excess of 270 boxes. Her sitting room barely had room for the good lady, filled boxes reached the ceiling. We plan to repeat the appeal for Christmas 2022 so around early November I will have the leaflets to distribute, Margaret will make sure of that!

Once again thanks to all who took part, your precious gift made a lasting difference to its recipient.

Doreen Snadden

shooboxappeal.org

SHOE BOX APPEAL

Give a precious gift this Christmas

Thank you for filling shoeboxes
Strathblane and Killearn Church
 205 boxes

Transforming lives through Christian care for body and soul

Registered charity no. SC048001 Company no. 583493.

Strathendrick Singers

Killearn Kirk welcomed back with joy The Strathendrick Singers, on Sunday, 12th December, performing their Christmas Concert. This is an annual event which we all anticipate with pleasure but of course this was another thing missing from Christmas 2020 thanks to Covid. We arrived at the beautifully decorated Kirk full of excited anticipation. The window sills are always full of Christmas greenery and little twinkling lights, thanks to the efforts of a choir member. The tree looked splendid in all its Christmas finery and the atmosphere was buzzing. The choir took their seats dressed in their usual festive green shirts, the string quartet from Douglas Academy were in their place and Mark Evans, the very able Music Director, of the Choir stood at the podium. A hush descended, Christmas was nearly here, a kind of normality felt present, despite our masks and we were ready to be entertained.

The choir did not disappoint despite the difficulties with which they conducted their rehearsals prior to the concert. The opening piece was their featured item the Messe de Minuit pour Noel by French composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704), one of the 17th century's most prolific and successful composers. The Messe is typical of his great body of work in religious, and especially Christmas, choral music. It did not disappoint, we were enthralled and as usual amazed at the quality produced by this amateur choir, many of the members known personally to us.

In addition to the wonderful singing we were entertained as usual by the genius of Joyce Begg's story telling. Her famous email is an entertaining, much anticipated interlude from the serious business of singing. We know roughly how the story will go but Joyce always succeeds in making us laugh wholeheartedly at the twists and turns of her tale. The final rendition of the choir was the much loved, both by the choir and the audience, Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah. How could you fail to be moved, not only by the majestic music, but the words "The Lord Omnipotent Reigneth" "And He shall reign for ever and ever" "King of kings for ever and ever and Lord of lords". I know my heart sings along with every word and if only I could sing I would be up there with the choir raising the rafters.

We joined the choir in singing two beloved carols and while we did miss the usual interval with its wine, mince pies, shortbread and chatter(covid restrictions) we all left the building with huge smiles on our faces. Strathendrick Choir, Killearn Kirk loves you and is delighted you feel at home with us. We look forward to many future encounters

Natalie Roger



The 4 – update

At the beginning of September through into December 2021, we launched a new family focused afternoon service called 'The 4'. We had a few families join us over those weeks doing 'church' in a different way. There was music and activities, pray and looking at God's word, we just did it in different ways! When we prayer we prayed with one another and for one another and it was interesting to hear a room of people all praying out loud at the same time. Music tended to be newer and done in a block and activities could be a game or a 'make' of some description. When we turn to God's word, we shared some thoughts and them talked as a group on how we each understood what we were reading – so we had great insights from



5-year-old to (being discreet) much older. It was great to see the church really as a family with the ages of children, parents and grandparents represented. It gave us a lot of food for thought. With the local changes coming in the area to ministry, we felt it was not something we could sustain in the long term without it being led by others and unfortunately, we did not have that resource available to us. Since then, we have looked at what we do on a Sunday am and hope to reintroduce regular family services with some elements of The 4 within them and Kirk Kids on a weekly basis to fulfil our responsibility to the children and families of the church to contribute to the spiritual growth and development of the young people in our care.

Scouting. It's not a club, its a movement!

It all started on the morning of Monday 28th February with a conversation between leaders of the local Killearn Scouting team, initiated by Noreen Devine. Noreen had heard about an appeal for donations of essential items for Ukrainian refugees crossing the border into Poland that had been put out by the Glasgow Scouting Association. She felt so passionately about the cause, that she wanted the 23rd Killearn Scouting team to get involved.

Noreen began by rallying the local Scout and Cubs section leaders, and it didn't take any time at all for her to convince them that this was indeed a great cause. Now, with the full support of the group, Noreen began the coordination for the mammoth task ahead. With a delivery deadline of Friday 4th March, she had only 4 days to get the word out, gather and sort the donations, and get them to the rally point in Glasgow in time to get them onto the trucks scheduled to leave for Poland!

The Cubs section use the Killearn Village hall to meet each Wednesday, and so it was decided that this would make for the perfect drop off point. Cubs would meet in the main hall, and during the meet, Noreen and some Scout volunteers would setup a reception area in the small meeting room at the back ready to receive a few donations. Afterwards, they would throw them in the car and drive them off to Glasgow.

With a plan in place, the Killearn Scouting Group put the word out with the help of Natalie, the groups social media expert, and Francis and Scott - Scout and Cubs leaders - via the Scout and Cubs parent communication channels. What happened next was simply amazing!

The Killearn community heard the call! They spread the word further a field, and the response was utterly wonderful. Way beyond anything that could have been anticipated by the group.

As the Cubs leaders arrived on Wednesday night to prepare for the weekly session, the Killearn Village Hall car park was in chaos. There were lines of people queuing to enter the building to drop off their abundance of donations.

As the Cubs session was about to start, 15 minutes after the donation reception area had opened the doors, it was clear that Noreen was not going to be able to throw the items into the boot of her car as she had first thought! The cars, the vans, the people, and the donations kept coming. The donations now filled the reception room that had been setup, the stage of the main hall had been commandeered, and the Cubs had to give over a section of their weekly meeting space. The response from the community was truly astounding!

As the Cubs wrapped up for the evening at 19:30, The crew of helpers continued to sort and organise the donations ready for transport. The trustees of the Killearn village hall, upon realising that more than just a few donations had been received, kindly offered to allow the items to remain there overnight. This allowed Noreen - again the help of Natalie Roger on social media - time to complete her next, unanticipated task. Finding transport for the mountain of donations to ensure that they made it onto the trucks heading off to Poland.....

Again the village heard the call and many, many cars/vans made their way to the village hall over the next couple of days to transport to Glasgow, Paisley and Greenock. It was with heartfelt relief to drop off the last bags of essentials knowing that soon they would be on a truck heading to those who needed it the most. A heart wrenching but heart warming few days indeed!



Killearn Kirk Guild

Our session 21-22 is nearing its end. We did have a hiccup in January, the dreaded Covid, again struck and we had to cancel our two scheduled meetings. Despite adhering to all Covid guidelines we have had an enjoyable session. We celebrated the success of the projects we supported 2018 -2020 and enjoyed finding out about the enormous difference our input had had on the various charities and organisations. It made the hard work involved in our coffee mornings so worth while.

We spent an hour with our probationary minister, Ruth Kennedy, and enjoyed learning what makes this enthusiastic, happy lady tick. We danced with Yasmin and were amazed at how we could exercise with real intent from the safety of our chairs. Fintry sports centre provided us with a delicious Christmas lunch. Sadly the Christmas carols we had hoped to sing together while we sipped our coffee had to be abandoned because of Covid restrictions. We had the pleasure of welcoming our new national General Secretary in February. She proved to be an entertaining, inspirational speaker.



Ann and John Roy transported us to South Africa where we enjoyed amazing scenery, beautiful birds and animals and temporarily helped us forget about the tragic events unfolding in our world. The two projects we are supporting this year are BEAT " let's beat eating disorders together" and The Vine trust. Representatives from our chosen charities always come and tell us what their aims are and what they hope to achieve with our support. Our final meeting is on Tuesday 5th April at 1.15pm and is our AGM followed by a sing a long of our favourite songs, accompanied by Rosalind McGowan.

All our meetings are held in the afternoon. We welcome new members and also visitors at any of our meetings. Our varied programme ensures we are educated and amused in equal measure. Hopefully you will receive this before our Coffee Morning on Saturday, 9th April from 10 to 12 in the Kirk Halls. Entry is £4 , children are free. Money raised from this goes towards supporting our projects. Look forward to welcoming many of you next October.

Doreen Snadden

Killearn Golden Years' Club

Activities resumed in November when some 40 members attended a dinner in the Kirkhouse Inn where we had Helen Barclay play at the tea and coffee stage. After such a long lockdown it was clear how much the dinner and social occasion was enjoyed. By the time this is published we will have had our Family Bingo Night in the Kirk Hall on 1st April with a free raffle and refreshments.

Our Annual Outing will be on Wednesday 15th June and we are going to Pitlochry where we will have lunch. It is a venue we have been to before and we plan, subject to the weather, to return via the Sma' Glen and Crieff making it a real day out.

We are in good health financially not least due to a substantial Co-op Community grant which several of our Killearn organisations have benefitted from. A great fund-raiser.

In addition to myself, our committee comprises Doreen Snadden, Anne o'Neil and Alison McDade and we are happy to welcome as new members any Killearn senior citizens who are new to the village or have recently graduated to this golden age era.

Bob Ballantyne

Quiz (for Primary School Children)

- Easter has a fixed date? True / False
- What type of bun is traditionally eaten on Good Friday?
- When do Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus?
- The Thursday before Easter is called by Christians s Maundy Thursday? True / False
- Easter occurs on the Sunday before Good Friday? True / False
- The period of Lent reflects the 40 days Jesus spent in the a) Desert b) Town of Bethlehem c) Garden of Gethsemane
- Who shared the Last Supper with Jesus?
- Good Friday honours the day that Jesus was a) Crucified b) Baptised c) Resurrected
- Which plant is a symbol of Christs resurrection? a) Tulip b) Lily c) Rose
- Unscramble the word to reveal the name of a gift we receive at Easter. TSAERE GSEG

Send answers to sessionclerk@killearnkirk.org by 17th April 2022 to win an Easter Egg. In the result of a tie names will be drawn out of a 'hat'. Result will be notified on 18th April.

Kirk Session News

It is hard to believe that we have been dealing with Covid for two years now, and hopefully we are returning to some sort of normality. The church is nearly fully OPEN again and weekly services are taking place at 10.30am on a Sunday morning. We are still being careful, especially for those people who feel that they need a little space especially for members of our church family who still feel vulnerable or shielding for other reasons. The latest rule allows us to sit together, still with masks on, but for some people they don't feel comfortable with this, so at the back of the church we are still leaving a 2 metre distance for those people who would still like to be able to find a space away from others if this allows them to feel more comfortable. On 21st March we should, hopefully, be able to remove facemasks but those who still feel happier with having a mask on then please still wear one. Sanitising solution will remain in place for your protection as you enter/exit the building. We want people to feel safe when returning to the church.

It has been a pleasure to welcome many people back to worship in the sanctuary and hopefully more people will feel able to return as normality and confidence grows. We are delighted that the Guild, the Thursday Club and many more activities have been able to restart. The Sacrament of Communion will be held on the first Sunday in March, June, September, and December at 10.30am. The practical arrangements are very different to pre-covid times, but we are looking forward to regularly being able to share the sacrament together. If anyone who is unable to come to church and would like the sacrament of communion at home, then please contact the minister. Family services are being planned that will focus on children and families.

We continue to share the services online via our YouTube channel with a link available on the website and hope that those who feel that they are not ready to return to the services in the sanctuary will at least feel as though they are involved in church life from their homes. We eventually hope to be able to live stream the services now that we have full fibre broadband in the Kirk. We use social media for information of services, etc. A prayer meeting is held on a Wednesday morning at 10am in the Session House.

The Kirk Session continued to meet online but have now managed two 'face to face' meetings which has been appreciated. One area we have been discussing is the changes that are happening in Presbytery and more locally in the churches. Throughout Scotland the Presbyteries are changing the areas they represent. Presently we are in Stirling Presbytery but by January 2023 we will be part of a larger Presbytery of Perth. This will bring together the Presbyteries of Angus, Dundee, Dunkeld & Meikle, Perth, and Stirling

Discussions have been taking place about a Presbytery Plan, to look at how we can manage a change in ministry, which is happening throughout Scotland. Our area will be allocated two ministers and one ordained local minister, so as a group of six churches we must come together to discuss the best way this can work for us. The plan recognises that there are fewer ministers to take on charges than has been in previous years. The General assembly has instructed that these plans must be in place by the end of 2022. Our grouping in the Strathendrick area is Killearn, Strathblane, Drymen, Buchanan, Balfron and Fintry. The buildings have also been assessed to see if they are fit for purpose. This is going to incur considerable change in how we think about church services, meetings, who does what, how it will all be implemented and how it will impact on the parish. Two meetings, over zoom, have taken place so far with the six churches and members of Presbytery.

Congregations are no doubt going to have to look at how they can facilitate many areas of church life without always having a minister present. How do we develop pastoral care for members in the area with an acceptance that visits may come from a pastoral care volunteer? The minister is not going to be regularly available as he/she will have a bigger area to be ministering to. This is something, as a Session, we will be discussing over the next few months,

Other business has included looking after our church buildings, finances, and how we can extend the mission of the church. Various new initiatives are happening, and these are highlighted in the magazine.

Carole Young, Session Clerk

All change for Presbyteries.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland can seem remote, distant and of little relevance to the local church, yet the decision, which don't always get down to the grass roots level, do have a direct and significant impact on the life of the church. Once such important and impactful decision was to reduce the number of Presbyteries in the church from around 45 to nearer 12. The impact is that many Presbyteries will be merging to make bigger Presbyteries. The hope and intention is that the larger Presbyteries will have more resources of people to be able to do the work of the church more effectively. The plan is also to decentralise some of the function of the national church to the regional church or Presbyteries.

Stirling Presbytery, at its March meeting voted to merge with Perth, Dundee, Dunkeld and Meikle, and Angus. This allows the appointment of a small group of staff to manage the affairs of Presbytery locally. This will be put to the General Assembly in May '22 for ratification and come into effect on the 1st of January 2023 (the start of the financial year). The new Presbytery will be called the Presbytery of Perth. Once all Presbyteries have restructured work will be done to consider congregations around the boundaries to see if they would be better served by a neighbouring Presbytery. It will also mean a significant shift in how Presbyteries are run. Instead of the regular monthly meetings the current thinking is that there will be three meetings in the year, held on Saturdays (all day!) and between them various committees having delegated powers to progress matters that need more urgent attention.

Missionary News

Joel Halvenstein is the Executive Director of the United Mission to Nepal (UMN), which has been working for over 60 years to transform communities in some of the most remote and poverty-stricken parts of the country. The UMN is a cooperative effort between the people of Nepal and a large number of Christian organisations from nearly 20 countries on 4 continents. Multicultural teams of Nepali nationals and volunteer expatriate staff work alongside local organisations in less developed areas of the country, building partnerships that lead to healthy, strong and empowered individuals, families, and communities.

Joel has now completed his time in Nepal having first arrived in 2016 with his wife Fiona and two sons, Caleb and Isaac. He is now saying his final goodbyes when visiting the various UMN field offices and hospitals. We pray for their safety as they travel around. Joel asks that we pray for:

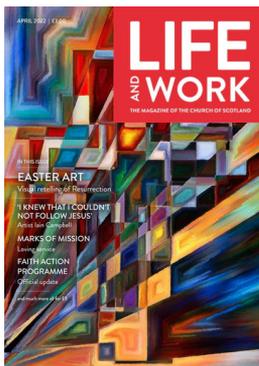
1. For us as we say goodbye to many close friends and colleagues.
2. For Dhana Lama, Joel's successor as head of UMN.
3. For the smooth and rapid approval of UMN's remaining Project Agreements.
4. For COVID vaccines to reach Nepalis in hard-to-reach corners of the country.

Joel's successor is Dhana Lama, UMN's first Nepali executive director and she has worked in the mission for 28 years. She will face much uncertainty and many challenges but has taken the helm with grace and courage.

Our prayers that Nepal receive sufficient Covid vaccines to reach the hard- to-reach corners of the Himalayas has been answered, with over 50% of the population now vaccinated and there are enough committed stocks to reach the rest. There is a challenge of logistics, and we pray that the government officials do try to achieve this during a season of continuing political turmoil.

For Joel, his wife Fiona and two sons they will soon return to the UK. There will be cultural differences to get used to, especially for Caleb and Isaac. Fiona has been working on a PhD and has now submitted her research on medicinal plants in Nepal to the Ethnobotany programme at the University of Kent. Further research may take them back to Nepal as a family sometime beyond 2023. We pray for safe passage as they say their goodbyes in Nepal and return to the UK.

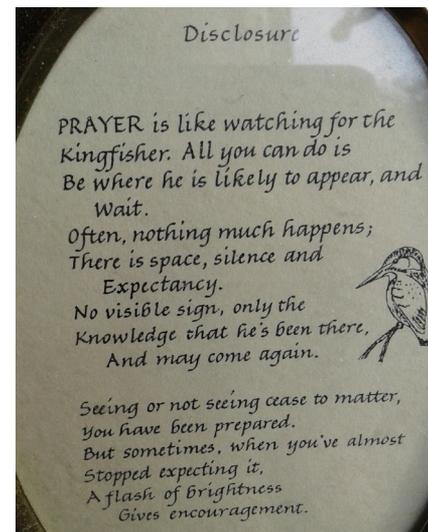
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The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The first weekend in June is traditionally a busy time in Killearn with the 10k race and the Beer Festival. This year should not only see those events return to pre-Covid form but also be a national holiday weekend across the UK as people celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We are keen to ensure that everyone in the village who wants to celebrate the occasion gets a chance to do so. To help co-ordinate activities and to maximise everyone's enjoyment we are keen to hear from organisations and individuals who want to participate or feel they could contribute something to a Jubilee event.

Initial ideas for celebration include a beacon/bonfire on the evening of Thursday 2nd June and a lunch/series of lunches on Sunday the 5th. There may also an option to plant a commemorative tree or trees.

If you are already planning something, would like to be involved or have an idea you would like to share – then please get in touch by email Frank.Deas@hotmail.co.uk





I'm sure you already know this but we have some amazing teenagers in Killearn! The stories I notice most about our youth when they are in the media, social media etc are usually about sport, not surprising given I'm someone who loves sport and the outdoors! But I know there are great things happening in other areas too; music, art, poetry and prose, dramatics, caring for the planet, helping others here and in other countries. So we want to give a big SHOUT OUT to all the teens and thank you for making this community a great place to be.

Some of our teens in Killearn Kirk and others in nearby villages asked if they could get together to chat through some of the life stuff they deal with and explore what Jesus has to say about it. Food and fun were also on their list! The nearby churches all wanted to support this and together, we have started the Strathendrick Teens.

The teens meet monthly on a Friday evening for food, fun, and chilled conversations about stress, life, exams, ambitions, dreams, the lot (!), and plan adventures. It's a group open to all teens, not just those in the Churches. If you are slapping in those teenage years and want to chill on a sofa, eat cake and chat through life 'stuff' with others, then just come along. Message me for details, we would love to see you! Rkennedy@churchofscotland.org.uk

Prayer Group

Not the usual picture you might imagine about a prayer gathering? Well, you might not be surprised to read that, as a Church, we love to pray and enjoy the unexpected fun parts of prayer too!

Why?

We believe talking to God brings good changes to situations and lives.

When and Where?

We have prayer gatherings on a Sunday morning before the service at 9.45am, on a Wednesday morning at 10am in the Session House just to the left of the main Church door, and a box for prayer requests in the entrance of the Church. These are open to everyone who wants to come and pray.

What?

Sundays we pray specifically for the service. After the service there are people to pray more privately with anyone who would like that, for whatever reason; illhealth, heartache, employment, anxieties, or to celebrate good things too.

We gather for an hour on the Wednesday to pray for the world, Killearn, individuals, and other things that are on our hearts. Sometimes it looks like the photo! It's confidential in the sense that what is said on a Wednesday stays on a Wednesday, there and in God's ears of course! At any point, you can fill out a prayer request and put it in the box. We pray about these requests on a Wednesday and love to hear the updates from you.

And?

As a family of faith we are always open to you, to pray with and for you, so you can be in touch with us in anyway – not just the ways above – and we will be there for you and those who you love. Your prayers are important to God and to us, and we love it when we gather to pray, we would love it for you to come! I'll leave you with this quote from Martin Luther King Jnr 'To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.'



Church Flowers

We can now display and deliver church flowers once again - their presence has been missed. The flower arranger will also deliver them unless other arrangements have been made. Flowers will be delivered following Covid guidelines. Thank you for the continued donation of flowers. Please know we continue to think about and pray for all those who would benefit from church flowers. In order that folks can receive flowers, e.g. illness, bereavement, special anniversaries, significant birthdays will you please let any of us know. Contact Madge, Teresa or Carole