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# Parish News

## EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH



### **From Sheila Lamont, Session Clerk...**

First of all I hope you are all keeping well and safe. This is a very challenging time we all face, both as a society and also as a church. Being unable to worship together is a real trial at a time when so many of us will be finding life hard and long to be able to experience worship and the comfort it brings. Thankfully those of us who have access to digital facilities have at least been able to hear the Lord's message from John Lloyd and James Edgar each week in addition to the Moderator's sermons and the BBC services. Anna Blair, one of our young leaders also provided a very successful children's talk. Achieving this has involved a steep learning curve and a lot of hard work for which we are really grateful and our congratulations go to them all. This work has been aided by Alasdair Bain loading these videos onto our website and by James creating our own YouTube channel to share the videos on. (Please take a look at the Eaglesham Parish Church YouTube channel where all John and James' talks are available). Our thanks go to John and James for their commitment to providing such excellent messages and also to Gillian Norval for providing prayers to be shared on the church facebook page. All of this will serve us well for the future.

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## Contacts

Individuals can be contacted via the Church office at  
Carswell Hall, Montgomery Street Eaglesham G76 0AS.  
tel/fax 01355 302087 office@eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk

Session Clerk, Sheila Lamont	Fabric Convenor, Jim Alexander
Treasurer, Mrs Elspeth Napier	Halls Convenor, Ann Robertson
Gift Aid Convenor, Ronnie MacIntyre	Youth Ministry Worker, James Edgar
Freewill Offering Convenor, Bill Condie	Church Builders Superintendent, Julie Robertson
Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Douglas Maclachlan	Health and Safety, Wendy Armstrong

## Notices

### Deaths

March 2. Margaret Cameron. 12 Crofthead Place, Newton Mearns  
March. Marie Thomson. 5 Montgomerie Court  
March 24. Joe Houston. 3 Bridges Care Home  
April 2. Grace Park. 7 Montgomerie Court  
April 26. Janet Rae. Bonnyton House  
May 5. Ronald Aitken. 15 Montgomerie Court  
May 13. Margaret Young. Kirkton Court  
May 17. Sandy Robertson. 5 Riverside Rd

### Team Convenors

Outreach - Giles Blair  
Admin - Maureen Hunter  
Pastoral Care - Scott Whiteford  
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



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Comments, articles, suggestions for future issues to [macintyre74@btinternet.com](mailto:macintyre74@btinternet.com)

## **'From the Manse'**

Dear friends

Since I retired from full time ministry I have had the privilege of sharing in the life and worship of different congregations. This has involved the opportunity to be involved in Sunday worship and in pastoral involvement in the spiritual lives of members of the congregations. I have also had the regular task of contributing a pastoral letter to these various church's parish magazines.

Although it is not a particularly easy task to find something to say in these church publications it is something that I have enjoyed doing and hopefully it can help to contribute to the spiritual life of the congregation.

Here in my current appointment as locum minister at Eaglesham Parish I find myself confronted with circumstances that neither I or the church has had to experience before.

This "Lockdown" has required us to be physically apart and in line with the current regulations, designed to control the viral pandemic, we are unable to gather together for worship on a Sunday and to attend funeral services and for other fellowship events. All of us are of course in the same situation. Every aspect of working, social, religious, and family life is affected.

There is nothing that we can do about this until our government is able to make the decision that it is safe for us to resume our traditional way of life. At the time of writing there are some restrictions which have been cautiously relieved.

While we are not free in today's health crisis to carry on with our regular life of worship we must be aware of the need for us to care for our spiritual well being. I know that for our church family the current situation is disappointing and leaves us isolated but we have to rely even more on our need for prayer and personal devotion. I have been challenged with the new means of proclaiming the gospel message which are offered by the advances in technology now available to us. The various ways of communication have allowed for me and James to provide online preaching which I understand has been well received. I have to say that the

contribution for the children by Anna was a wonderful example of what can be done.

By the time our Parish magazine is published we may be getting even closer to a restoration of community life. I suspect, however, that we may have to accept that what we have come to regard as normal will be difficult to restore. There will I am sure be aspects of life which we have taken for granted will not be part of the new normal which covid19 will create.

In the Church's calendar on the 31st of May we celebrated the day of Pentecost. This has often been considered by biblical commentators as the birth of the Church. It was indeed the presence of the Holy Spirit which inspired the followers of Jesus to overcome the opposition which threatened them. The result, as history has revealed, the world had to face a new direction and a new normal. The raising of Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit were world changing events. God's Spirit continues to guide us and inspires and enables us to face new challenges. He still does.

Let us continue to bind together in prayer and patiently wait for the time when we can gather together once again in God's house as a congregation. I look forward to having the opportunity to raise our voices in praise and bowing our heads in prayer.

Your friend in Christ

John Lloyd

## **The New Moderator**

Rev Dr Martin Fair was installed as Moderator of the Church of Scotland without the usual ceremony of the General Assembly - the first cancellation since 1689. He is minister of St Andrew's church in Arbroath with his appointment in the year of the 700th anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath perhaps not entirely co-incidental. He hoped to take concerns from his Arbroath experience into his moderatorial year including issues around mental health and foodbanks. But it seems likely that his programme during the year will be far from normal. On the cancellation of the Assembly he commented that it was disappointing on a personal level but that 'it is much more important that the church nationally and locally focusses its attention on creative ways of continuing our ministry and mission, particularly in terms of supporting the most vulnerable'

## Session Notes

*continued from front page*

The feedback we have received about the digital sermons and family/kids talks has been very positive and as a result we aim to continue and expand our online worship. This feedback has not only come from our congregation but also from the wider community – our digital worship is reaching between 300 and 1000 people every week which is wonderful.

I would also like to share with you some of the activities that have been taking place to keep the work of the church going during the lockdown period. As the Kirk Session cannot meet in person during this time, at the suggestion of John McPake, our interim moderator, and with the agreement of the Kirk Session, the Conveners of the various Teams have been meeting using Zoom with the outcomes of those discussions shared with the Kirk Session as a whole. Key decisions (such as agreement of the accounts) are also ratified by a virtual voting approach by the entire Kirk Session.

With permission from the Church of Scotland and East Renfrewshire Council Environmental Health, we continued to open the Carswell Centre for the donation of items to the Foodbank. The donations have been exceptional – reaching over 100kg some weeks. These donations along with those of others mean that the Foodbank now has ample supplies to provide for all those who request assistance (with the exception of sugar, tinned creamed rice and tinned carrots which are always in demand). Bless all those who contributed.

In line with the Government schemes, we have Furloughed some of our employees during this time meaning that their income and jobs are secured without putting additional strain on church finances.

Hopefully, as the lockdown eases, we will be allowed to open the church again and to share worship together. The Conveners and other members of the Kirk Session have already started discussing ways in which we can make this happen. At

present however it is essential that we all remember that while our church buildings are closed, our church is very much still alive and worshipping. These times will pass. God Bless.

Sheila Lamont

## Finance

Thank you to everyone who is continuing to contribute to Church funds during this difficult time. Special thanks to those who normally donate through Free Will Offering envelopes but who have temporarily moved to Standing Orders or Bank Transfers to help our cash flow as Church of Scotland guidelines advise us not to collect FWO envelopes at the moment.

Our income has obviously decreased significantly with reduced FWO, no Open plate and no income from hall lets – but we do have the rent of £700 for the Manse.

We are trying to reduce expenditure where possible. Our cleaners, organist and secretary have all been furloughed on 100% salary of which the Government will pay 80% and we are reducing or postponing other expenditure where possible. Insurance and Ministry and Mission remain constant but there will be a decline in heating and lighting.

Overall, the picture is not bright at the moment but the Finance team is keeping a close eye on our income and expenditure.

In the meantime, take care and hopefully we will be able to worship together (in some form) in the not too far distant future.

Maureen Hunter, Admin Convener



## Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid week was from May 10 to 16. This year it could not function as normal with none of the usual local collections possible. The week is important for Christian Aid's fundraising. If you have not done so and would still like to donate this year please go to the Christian Aid website for guidance.

The following is a note from Sally Foster-Fulton, head of Christian Aid in Scotland...

"What a time we are living through!

Strangely, now that I can't go anywhere, I've met my neighbours. We talk across the hedge, meet on the pavement to chat (from a safe distance), drop treats off on doorsteps, clap together every Thursday night. Musicians who live on our street sit at the corner and play for us all. Our church communities 'Zoom' on Sundays, have virtual coffee breaks and calling programs. There are lists of people who can shop, pick up prescriptions and offer support. Physically distanced, we are still standing together.

What a Christian Aid Week this was! At a time when we couldn't go anywhere, you found ways to reach out to our global neighbours. COVID 19 affects us all, but love unites us. We continue to look to you for ways to fund our work and we commit to keeping you updated on the success of the digital Christian Aid Week.

As we live through one of the most challenging times in living memory, thank you for not forgetting that this pandemic, painful as it is for us, will be devastating for those already living in poverty. It will have a huge impact on livelihoods, personal safety and health. Christian Aid is already working with our partners to support vulnerable communities now and to design sustainable solutions with them for the future.

We will always find ways to stand, speak out and act together for a more equal world for everyone."

## CrossReach emergency appeal

The C of S Social Care Council, CrossReach, has launched an emergency appeal to enable it to continue its services during the Covid outbreak. In common with other charities it has seen its income suffer as fundraising activities and major events are cancelled. At the same time its services to some of the most vulnerable people in Scotland have come under increasing pressure. Residential care services are facing staffing shortages as staff self-isolate, and services for children, families and vulnerable adults must be delivered in different ways at extra cost.

If you feel you can help visit [www.crossreach.org.uk](http://www.crossreach.org.uk).

In addition to financial donations CrossReach is appealing for volunteers to help support its work during the lockdown.

## The Guild

It seems a long time since we were all gathered together at our Guild Meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Sadly the start of the Coronavirus lockdown prevented us from holding our AGM on the 18<sup>th</sup> and more importantly, our special 90<sup>th</sup> celebration on the 25<sup>th</sup> which we had all been looking forward to so much. This time of lockdown is very difficult and challenging for all of us, and we hope that you are all keeping safe and well, and managing to keep busy and positive. This time has made us realise how very much we value friendship and fellowship and contact with one another. The Guild committee have kept in touch through 'WhatsApp' and have enjoyed telephone calls to fellow Guild members and socially distanced chats while out on daily walks.

It has been a particularly sad and difficult times for anyone who has lost a loved one with all the lockdown restrictions in place and we will all know people in this situation. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them all, including the family of our own Guild member, Grace Park. Grace was our oldest Guild Member, faithful and dedicated to the end. She was much loved by us all and will be greatly missed by everyone.

Normally at this time of the year we would be enjoying our monthly 'Tea and Chat' afternoons which have become very popular in the last few years. Sadly, these too have had to be cancelled. Also at this time the committee would normally be very busy putting together next session's syllabus. Unfortunately as things stand, we have no idea when we are going to be allowed to hold large gatherings again so putting together our syllabus is on 'hold', but you can be sure that as soon as we get the go ahead that large gatherings are allowed to begin once more, the committee, who are desperate to meet up again, will get busy planning for the new session.

At the time of writing we are all looking forward to the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions, and those first longed for meetings with much loved family and friends. It will then be a time of great joy – may you treasure every precious moment.

Keep safe and well until we can all meet together again and finally look forward to our 90<sup>th</sup> celebration.

*With best wishes to everyone from the Guild Committee*

## **BB - An Update from Martin Fraser**

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you all as to where we are as a company in these unprecedented times.

COVID19 has put an end to section meetings for the time being and as a staff we are really missing the weekly contact with the boys. The Brigade has started the "BB At Home" project which is working well with the Anchor Boys and Junior Section (I think it's a welcome break from home schooling).

As you know, our Jumble Sale did not go ahead in March however it is still my intention to run a Jumble Sale, perhaps at the end of the summer if we get the green light. The help and support we have had over the years has been incredible (some of you helping for 30+ years). If a summer Jumble Sale is a success, then we will consider continuing this in the future.

We are unable to hold any Displays and Inspections this year which is disappointing as the boys are always keen to show off what they have been doing throughout the session. There are a number of awards to hand out and the boys can't miss out. Once allowed, it is my intention to hold an awards ceremony one evening in the church.

We have had official notification that our Summer Camp will have to be postponed. This will be the first time in 65 years that we have not camped at Kingscross during the Glasgow Fair. We have no intention of breaking this record so it is our intention (if permitted) to run a shorter camp during the September weekend. The Rev Elizabeth Watson (Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church) is retiring in March 2021 and parading to the church and worshiping with her as a company is important to us, having been our "Camp Chaplin" for over 30 years, so we are hoping we can do this one last time.

Ally Campbell has been looking after the lawn at the back of the clubroom which is looking great, perfect for some outdoor games when allowed....photo back page

As soon as we get the go ahead, we will be back to our normal meetings. Tuesday 6:30 – 7:45 for Anchor Boys (P1 – P3). Thursday 7 – 8:30 for Junior Section (P4 – P6). Friday 7:30 – 10 for Company Section (P7 – S6).

Have a look at our camp picture from 1960 on page 8. How many can you name?...[and look at the contrast with a more recent photo...ed]

Stay Safe and Stedfast, Martin Fraser, 205th Boys Brigade

### **And from Anchor Boys...**

Well, this certainly wasn't how we had imagined spending the final session of the year at Anchor Boys! No fun Tuesday nights together, no end of year Display and no games nights in the Orry to bring the session to a close. We really are missing it! However, all that matters is that we are all safe and well whilst keeping the BB spirit alive.

Once we had settled into the new normality of lockdown, we decided to take advantage of a programme that has been set up called #BBatHOME. We have been sharing two activities with parents every Tuesday that the boys can take part in throughout the week such as designing a VE Day Medal, building Lego Towers, making Recycled Monsters and a game of Don't Drop The Ball! It has been great to see pictures of some of the boys completing the activities, and so lovely to see their cheeky faces again! We really have missed them!

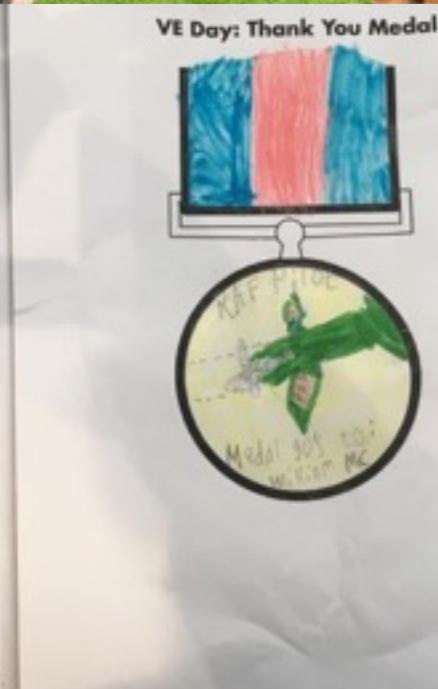
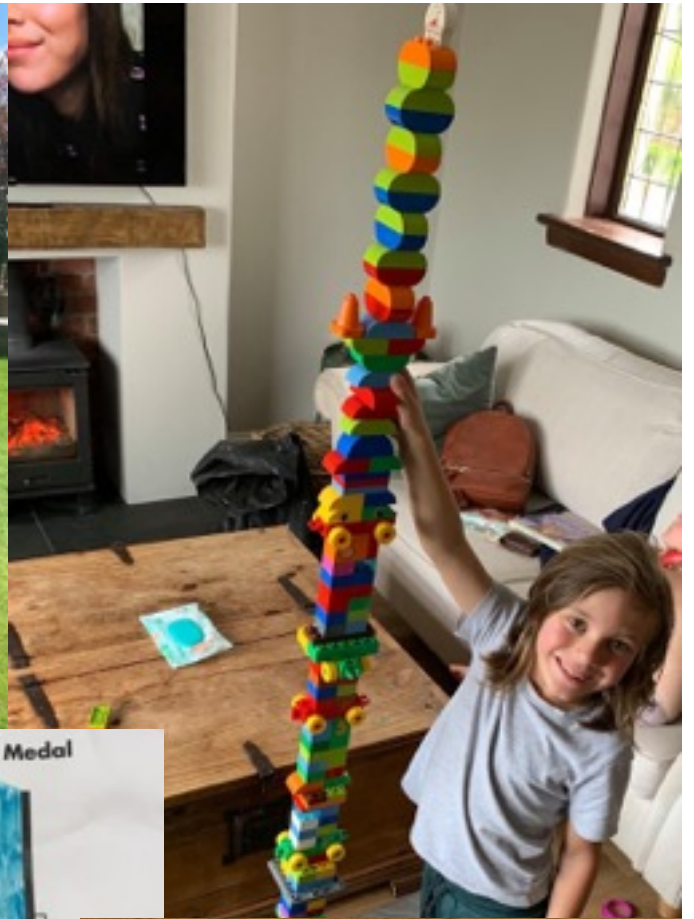
A few of the boys were lucky enough to receive a lovely surprise through their letterboxes, a certificate for the BB Easter Colouring In Competition. We had submitted some fantastic pictures of the 3 Crosses to the Battalion and the end result certainly seemed to put a smile on their faces.

### **Examples of all this in the photos on page 7.**

We hope that this finds everyone in the community safe and healthy. Hopefully the next time we are writing a piece for the Parish News we will be slowly seeing things change for the better and will have more of an idea of what is in store for Anchor Boys.

Stay safe, sure and steadfast! Elaine & Ally, Officers in Charge





The Best Weight, Simple Solution  
Post the picture, colour 2 in, and then scan or take a photo and email that to [art@mspa2000@highgate.org.uk](mailto:art@mspa2000@highgate.org.uk) by 15th April.

Anchor Section Colouring Competition Easter 2020

Your Name Alfie Parker School Year P2 SS Company Essexham







and 2017.....





## Health and Safety Update



It seems a whole lifetime ago since the last Parish News - I am sure you are feeling the same! As you know, our buildings are now closed, but that doesn't mean that we aren't planning and thinking ahead to when we can re-open, and the important matters that relate to Health and Safety for this. In fact, we have two great volunteers (and some BB Boys!) who are continuing to keep the Carswell open for Food Bank donations, and they are adhering very strictly to guidance in relation to physical distancing, hand washing, using disposable gloves etc.

The Church of Scotland has been updating their advice on H&S regularly during the COVID-19 crisis, and I've been making sure that all of the people in our church who need to know this information (mainly Admin/Fabric and our Session Clerk) are apprised of it.

Brian Auld, the Health and Safety Officer at Church of Scotland hosted a very informative webinar at the end of March to alert H&S Administrators to guidance and possible scenarios in relation to re-opening our buildings when the time comes. I know we will continue to get valuable advice and support when needed.

All of the rest of the H&S work has of course been put on hold, but will be able to be picked up easily once we start back.

**Wendy Armstrong**  
Health and Safety Administrator

## CARSWELL CENTRE FOOD BANK COLLECTION

Eaglesham Parish Church and community have been donating to East Renfrewshire Food Bank since May 2014.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement in relation to lockdown on 23<sup>rd</sup> March this year, it was doubtful whether the Food Bank collection would be able to continue. However, following ERC and Church of Scotland guidelines we have been able to open the Carswell Centre for donations from the beginning of April on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 11.00am and 12noon.

Between 21<sup>st</sup> April and 19<sup>th</sup> May, in excess of 500kg has been donated – a heart-warming amount. Most donations have been delivered as usual to the Food Bank at Barrhead; the most recent items have been taken to the East Renfrewshire Food Bank branch at Thornliebank Resource Centre where the need is currently greater. It is hoped that we shall be able to continue supporting both branches as need dictates.

We are indebted to the 205th Glasgow BB for the use of their minibus (complete with driver!) which has been invaluable in transporting such amounts on Tuesdays. On 19<sup>th</sup> May, we even had the assistance of two BB boys, Cole and Jamie to load up the minibus; well done, boys!

A huge thank-you to all regular and new people who have so generously and with such concern for others brought their contributions. Barrhead volunteers have even commented on the increased donations of late.

Mary MacGill/Jim French



## Sandy Robertson



Sandy Robertson acted as Pastoral Care Convener for the church for many years. As Session Clerk Wendy Armstrong was aware of how important Sandy's role was in developing and delivering, along with his Team, a holistic and sensitive approach to Pastoral Care. "Nothing was ever too much trouble for Sandy. He was always thinking ahead to the next Church Walk, the next Social Event, the next Church Outing. He was extremely well organised and I always knew that I could depend on Sandy."

But he was more than a very good Convener. He was a thoughtful, intelligent and forward-looking person, with a dry wit and a pawky sense of humour. He was always well informed, interested and interesting. This was particularly true of his sporting interest and knowledge. He was a follower of International Athletics and travelled to many competitions overseas. He maintained a keen interest in cricket and was for some years secretary of the West branch of the Cricket Society of Scotland. Many will have been aware of his extensive knowledge of Scotland through the regular geographical teaser in Parish News.

Family was supremely important to him and with Mary he made a formidable team supporting our church in many ways over many years. Even when he was unwell, he remained positive and very much 'Sandy'. He will be sorely missed.

## Walking Group

Our last walk was on 11<sup>th</sup> March around the outskirts of Strathaven. This walk was introduced to the Group by Sandy Robertson and has become a firm favourite.

Sandy was an inspirational leader of the Walking Group since its inception almost 10 years ago. We shall miss him terribly, his companionship, his font of knowledge of the route taken and his choice of millionaires' shortbread or tiffin cake at coffee time.

As soon as we are allowed to resume, I shall intimate the date and the route, perhaps another of Sandy's favourite walks.

Pat Wishart

## Pastoral Care Report

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Sandy Robertson on 17th May after a protracted illness. Sandy served diligently as Pastoral Care Convener for many years and was dearly loved by all within the Church organisation. Our thoughts and prayers go to Mary and the Family.

Due to the Corona Virus outbreak the planned Pastoral Care visits have been cancelled until lockdown restrictions allow group activities. In order to assist any members of our Parish who are experiencing difficulties, the Pastoral Care Team have produced a list of volunteers from the Church membership who are able to provide physical, emotional or spiritual support. This could be to assist with shopping, pick up medicines or simply to provide contact and encouragement through a phone call, for example. If you, or anyone you know, would benefit from this assistance, please contact either Sheila Lamont, Scott Whiteford or Kay Brown who will coordinate a response. Any requests will be dealt with in strict confidence. Our thanks go to the Church Elders, most of whom have been in communication with their District members and this has provided assurance that contact is being maintained despite the challenging times.

Blessings to all and stay safe!

The Pastoral Care Team

# A Prayer for June

## PENTECOST

### HOLY SPIRIT

“They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.” Acts 2:3  
Lord, you came with the energy of wind and fire at Pentecost. Fill us with your power when our spirits flag. Empower your message of life in all its fullness for all who need your hope at this time.

### LOSS

“He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted” Isaiah 61:1  
Loving Father, be with those who are grieving. Holy Spirit the Comforter, be present in the pain. Come alongside people who have lost loved-ones; those who have lost jobs, colleagues, and the future they once looked forward to.

### CARERS

“See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.” Isaiah 49:16

Dear Lord, thank you for the many people who risk their own well being for others. We especially pray for health workers and care workers. asking your protection and sustaining as the weeks turn into months. Be with shop workers, postal workers, refuse workers, and all those who provide for us.

### LEADERS

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.” Psalm 32:8

Lord God, we pray for those who carry heavy responsibilities, especially in these days. Give our leaders and all who advise them wisdom and integrity.

We pray your Spirit's guidance as we take tentative steps towards a more familiar way of living.

### CHURCH, FRIENDS, FAMILIES

“I will build my church and the gates of Hell will not overcome it.” Matthew 16:18

Holy Spirit, you ignited the church at Pentecost. Be among our church family at this time of separation and encourage church leaders. Bless our friends and keep us faithful in keeping in touch. Bless our families, both those nearby and in distant places. Grant them your protection and surround them with your love.

### OTHER NATIONS

“And all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Genesis 12:3

Lord of all the earth, Jesus King of Peace, bring your peace and wholeness to the broken peoples and nations of your world. Grant them healing from disease and disasters, and help us to remember them in their daily challenges, even as face our own.

We pray all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

**A monthly prayer sheet is produced by Gillian Norval, the prayer secretary. If you would like to receive this regularly, please contact Gillian at [gilnorval@hotmail.com](mailto:gilnorval@hotmail.com) or 303632**

## Gift Aid update

During 2019, 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 church is grateful to our 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.

We require to keep our records as accurate as possible, 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.

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, and happy to answer any questions which anyone may have in relation to gift aid.

Ronnie McIntyre. 0141 644 3255. E-mail [rnmci60@aol.com](mailto:rnmci60@aol.com)





Socially distanced entertainment at Montgomerie Court during the lockdown. A Thursday afternoon music and singing session - weather permitting.



The vastly improved rear of the BB hut now suitable for outdoor activity

And local wildlife captured by Doug Lamont while walking round the golf course