

Parish News

EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH



Deaths

March 25th. Molly Macgregor, Newton House Care Home

May 17th. Crawford McLean, 1 Tarff Avenue

Team Convenors

Outreach - Giles Blair

Admin - Hugh Green

Pastoral Care - Scott Whiteford

Youth Strategy - Debbie Blair

Faith Development - Gillian Norval

There is a phone line where members without internet access can hear a recent sermon. 01355681661

Keep in touch with church activities

- Website.....www.eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk
- Facebook.....Eaglesham Parish Church @Heartofvillage
- Qr code - below - leads to church website

Help needed. The Church and Carswell Centre will be open to the public for Doors Open Day on Saturday Sept 10th. If you can offer an hour or two to help with this please contact Giles Blair at giles.blair@reachplc.com

Remember. Sunday worship during July and August is at 10am.

Parish news is published by Eaglesham Parish Church

Scottish Charity Number SC006377



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

From the Manse

Hello Friends!

I write this the day before the Eaglesham Fair and there is a great buzz all around the village; from colourful bunting to royal scarecrows to hand-knitted decorations, this community has come together and you can't help but feel joyful! This will be the first Fair that my family and I have attended, and I know that our son Fred will be in his element with all the fun activities the committee has planned. My husband Eric and I do have quite the task on our hands tomorrow afternoon as we judge the scarecrow contest having been super impressed by the scarecrows on show!

Though isn't it wonderful to be able to look forward to a day like the Eaglesham Fair? It's a Jubilee celebration but it's also a time we can celebrate being able to come together after having to be apart from one another for so long. I know that Murdo, our Youth Worker, and I

have been thrilled to be able to attend the assemblies at Eaglesham Primary School, and we were equally delighted to attend the BB Inspection and Displays at the Laird Hall the last couple of weeks. In the Church it was just wonderful to see the children collect their prizes at our recent 'Church Builders' Prize Giving too. It is difficult not to feel joyful in the presence of children, who have taken these last two years in their stride. Having experienced so much change there is a feeling of celebration at each opportunity the children get to come together again. And there is so much going on in the village for children! I just love seeing all the things the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have been up to in the Church halls. And having a toddler myself we have enjoyed attending the local bookbug sessions in the library, along with the toddler group in the Laird Hall, and it's always so lovely to meet other families at the playpark too. With my son being born four days before the first lockdown we really value these

opportunities to meet with other families having previously missed out.

Here at the Church we just love welcoming children, and it's been great to have another craft painting day in the church, have the return of our youth group EPYC, and we are super excited about our next Messy Church in the Carswell Centre (dinner included!). As a Minister, I care so much that everyone (old or young) feels welcome in the Church, and that the children, whether they come to Church or not, would recognise me as their Minister and Eaglesham Parish Church as their Church. What mattered the most to Jesus was that the love of God was shared with each person He met, and as we celebrate Pentecost in the Church this Sunday we remember that God now sends the Holy Spirit to come alongside us so that we can continue the work of Jesus in making a difference in our community and beyond. So often we feel we aren't good enough or that making a difference is a task for someone else, but here at Eaglesham there is a great community that has been formed by many doing small things that make a big difference to the people living here. More than any bustling town we have the opportunity as a village to get to know people well, and to care and support for each other as we go through the highs and lows of life; sharing God's love. This is the kind of community that will be a blessing to my children and your children.

Talking of children, this will be my last Parish News for a while as I head off on maternity leave to have my baby girl in August. So although not in my clerical collar, you will still see me around the village as a Mum (think dry shampoo and non-ironed clothes!) and as a proud member of this community. So I wish you all a wonderful summer and I shall look forward to speaking with you all again late next year.

With God's richest blessings to you all!

Jade Ableitner

From Our Session Clerk

As we look forward to summer (well hoping for one really!) we give thanks for being able to meet together and enjoy the increased

activities in which we can participate. Please note that during the months of July and August our Sunday worship will take place at 10.00. This also means that we will not be running Kairos during those months.

Our Easter services were shared with our Parish Cluster (ourselves plus Mearns Kirk, Newton Mearns, Broom and Maxwell Mearns churches) and we enjoyed having visitors at our Maundy Thursday communion and attending the services in Newton Mearns churches.

To make the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee we decided that we would plant trees in the Carswell Centre garden. Two oak saplings, which have been grown from acorns collected locally, have been donated to the church and will be planted when conditions allow.

Discussions are ongoing with our Cluster as to how we can work more closely together to achieve our shared mission and work within the Presbytery Mission Plan. It is very interesting to share ideas and thoughts with other churches and we look forward to these discussions continuing.

As Jade looks forward to her maternity leave, presbytery are seeking a locum for us and will also be appointing an Interim Moderator to support us during her leave. Jade will, of course, still be about the village and church along with Eric, Fred and the new baby in due course. Once these plans are in place we will share this information with you. In order to help us keep you informed and up to date it would be really helpful if you could share your email details with us if you have not already done so. If you're not receiving emails from us then please send us an email to office@eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk and we will make sure we add you to the email list. Please be assured we do not share your details with anyone else.

We are still looking for a treasurer to help our Admin team and are looking at bringing in a software package to support the person taking on this role. You don't necessarily have to be an accountant therefore. If this is a role

you think you might be able to undertake then please contact either Hugh Green (Admin Convener) or myself for a confidential and no obligation conversation.

Another area you may be able to help with is that we are setting up a Fundraising team. This team will aim to develop ideas for us to raise funds through activities and grant applications for our Youth Ministry Fund and for other areas of church activities and infrastructure. If you feel this is something you could help with please contact me.

As our youth work continues to grow, we are again planning a Holiday Club to take place from 1st to 5th August. It is really exciting to know that this will be happening again. If you have children of primary age then you can find the application form to book places either on our FaceBook page or on the website. Anyone who would be able to help with the administration or running of the club should contact Murdo McTear.

There are lots of ways in which you can become more involved in making sure our church is at the heart of the community – the Holiday Club, our Teams which ensure the running of the church and volunteers to help with activities such as East Renfrewshire Open Days which take place in September when we plan to open the Church and the Carswell Centre to the public. An occasion hour or regular support, whatever time you can give we would love to make use of your skills and talents for God’s work in our community.

Sheila Lamont

A reflection on Pentecost and Easter. This interesting and thought provoking article from Rev Albert Bogle can be seen separately on the Church website....

www.eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk

A Favourite Verse.... from Chris Ide

Luke ch7 – v1 – 10 The centurion with the sick servant

Why should this passage stand out for me?

1. Readers who know me will be aware that I spent the best part of two decades in a variety of ranks in the Regular and Territorial Army, an environment in which ‘*Go..., and he goes, come....and he comes, Do,... and he does it*’(V 8,) were literally the order of the day. So perhaps I simply identify with the centurion.
2. Although the Roman Empire encompassed most of the known world, on which they imposed their legal and fiscal systems, they did not generally enforce their religious practices on others. I have often wondered why. Perhaps because the Romans had their pantheons of gods, with their own cults of worshippers. The conquered cultures were usually polytheistic, venerating deities who needed to be propitiated to ensure good harvests, fertility, calm waters, etc just like their Roman equivalents, differing only in name. Enforcing a particular practice on an already reluctant people could be the equivalent of two bald men fighting over a comb! Alternatively, or additionally, all gods were supernatural, beyond the control of mere mortals. So while the earthly people may have been subjugated, their gods may still be capable of viciously biting back!
3. **What it tells us about relationships between people.** The Romans conquered and absorbed Palestine into the Roman Empire in about 66BC. Many would have regarded the centurion as an unwelcome occupier, wishing him harm, but “*For he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue*”(v5). Presumably this, and, by implication, other works, had raised the status of Capernium and its citizens in their own, and others, estimation, thus winning their appreciation.

The centurion’s benevolence extended to his servant. I’ve often wondered what the servant had done to merit this. Perhaps something dramatic - saving the centurion’s life, or offering sage

counsel. Alternatively, perhaps he simply correctly anticipated his master's daily needs, making his life easier, and doing it with a smile on his face - powered by joy in his heart - to quote some words of a verse of a hymn whose title escapes me " *the trivial round, the common task/will furnish all we need to ask.*" Or, with my recollection fast rewinding 65 years or ago so to a Sunday School in Portchester, Hants " *We'll bring the little duties we have to do each day/We'll try out best to please him in home, at school and play.*" So - whoever, or whatever or wherever you are, always try to improve the lives of others.

4. **What it tells us about the relationship between humans and God.** The Jews believed that, because of their descent from Abraham, they were God's chosen people, and no-one else, however virtuous, could get a look in. Jesus was always disappointed at their failure, particularly of their leaders, to recognise him for who he was, representing the universality of God's love for everyone. By contrast, the centurion was one of a number of instances where an outsider clearly recognised Jesus's divinity, and was commended for it. So there's hope for me yet!

South Sudan

The Moderator of the General Assembly, Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury are embarking on an historic "Ecumenical Pilgrimage of Peace" to South Sudan. The church leaders have been invited by President Salva Kiir Mayardit and will meet with him in Juba, the capital of the world's youngest country which has been blighted by civil war. Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, Pope Francis and Most Rev Justin Welby will also meet local church leaders and people living in a displaced persons camp and lead a large open-air prayer vigil for peace. The purpose of the visit from 5-7 July is to renew a commitment to peace and reconciliation and stand in solidarity with millions of ordinary people who are suffering profoundly from continued armed conflict, violence, floods and famine.

Presbytery Planning....the next instalment from Stuart McGill!

Detail on how the new Presbytery Mission Plan will be compiled is emerging. Glasgow Presbytery had decided to retain 7 posts for central use, three of which would provide for new specialised personnel to work across Presbytery. Proposals for how these posts might be utilised are to be presented to a special Presbytery meeting on 16th June for approval. Two examples of the other 4 posts (some part time) are the Congregational Facilitator working with congregations facing difficult and awkward situations and the Pioneer Ministry to the Artistic Community which has been working most successfully to engage with these people from a base in the East End. It was also recently agreed that one of the 12 posts allocated to Priority Areas would be used to continue the Chaplaincy post at the Lodging House Mission.

Glasgow Presbytery was divided for administrative purposes into 5 roughly equal zones and each has been allocated a portion (based on population) of the 65 remaining posts. Zonal meetings were held on Saturday 19th March when we were all invited to form smaller groups (clusters) who felt they could collaborate to put together a local Mission Plan covering use of the available posts. Most of these clusters were formed on a geographical basis and each Kirk Session was obliged to agree their participation in a particular cluster. Eaglesham initially met with the 4 Mearns Churches (Broom, Maxwell Mearns Castle, Mearns and Newton Mearns) and all 5 Kirk Sessions have now agreed to begin detailed discussions on a joint future. This local Mission Plan has now to be submitted to Presbytery by 31st July 2022.

13.5 posts were allocated to Eaglesham's Zone (which covers just over half the Presbytery south of the Clyde) but we await advice on how many posts our cluster will be offered. The organising Committee decided that it was not appropriate to determine cluster post allocation based solely on population. Presbytery rejected the particular allocation system the Committee put forward and fresh proposals are to be tabled at the 16th June meeting.

It seems probable that the existing congregations in our cluster will have to work with 2.5 or 3 ministry posts at most rather than the 5 it currently enjoys and adapting to this will be challenging. This does NOT mean that some form of union will inevitably face us all. We are encouraged to think imaginatively about how to configure our future and your prayers for our representatives – Jade, Sheila and Alan McKay – are much needed as they discuss all these complex issues on our behalf.

Walking Group

It's hard to believe that the idea of a walking group was discussed at a Pastoral Care Team meeting fifteen years ago. The walks began in November 2007, and a group of keen walkers has met every 2nd. and 4th Wednesday of the month since then, apart from covid lockdowns.



We may have slowed down a little, and sadly members have passed on, but enthusiasm for exercise and chat is still keen. Eight out of approximately twenty walkers' not discouraged by heavy rain in Eaglesham on 25th. May, travelled to Bothell and had coffee in The

Chapterhouse Cafe, before a walk to Bothwell If you enjoy the outdoors and a chat, please join us. We meet in the Mid Road at 10am.

Future walks to come will include Kelvingrove, Pat Wishart Calder Glen, Alloway and Drumpelieir Country Park, as well as those closer to the village.

General Assembly 2022....what happened this year

SAME SEX MARRIAGE. The General Assembly gave final approval to the legislation that will allow Kirk ministers to register to become celebrants of same sex marriages if they wish. This 'opt-in' arrangement gives legal protection to ministers who decline to be involved. There was opposition to the move but it had been approved by a majority of Presbyteries and passed by a vote of 274 to 136.

ST MARGARET DECLARATION - a formal declaration of friendship with the Catholic Church in Scotland. The Convenor of the Ecumenical Relations Committee commented "We regret that our two churches have not always been friends, that we have not always recognised one another as children of God in Christ". Archbishop Leo Cushley, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh added: "By

The new Moderator, Rt Rev Iain Greenshields is minister of St Margaret's Church in Dunfermline. His upbringing in Glasgow was complicated by childhood epilepsy and several months in hospital after life threatening injuries from an accident aged 22. His journey into Christianity and the ministry followed from that. Time spent in Cranhill, Larkhall and as a prison chaplain led to a strong personal view that drug addiction should be seen as a public health rather than legal issue with individual possession de-criminalised.

acknowledging all the good we hold in common, we can walk and pray together as friends, deepen our affective unity and be a more authentic Christian witness in the land." The naming after St Margaret was to recognise that the 11th century Queen of Scotland, was a figure of unity in political and church life in our nation.

MINISTERS AND FUEL POVERTY....The Assembly voted to introduce a scheme to support parish ministers facing hardship due to rising energy prices....see page 11 for energy improvements in Eaglesham manse.





May is a month for colour in gardens in the west of Scotland so perhaps the limited 'open gardens' day as part of this year's Fair week could be repeated in future years.

BB Junior Section

A brilliant final session which culminated in the boys holding their display on May 26th. Very proud boys, parents & staff.

We continue to expand throughout the whole year's session, and finished with 27 boys who attend on a Thursday, supported by 5 staff members. We continue to work in helping the boys achieve their badges.

21 boys attended Carronvale camp at the end of April. 10 were P4 boys who had never spent a night away from home. They all loved it and behaved superbly. We had usual games, but also went bowling, to McDonald's, attended Stirling Albion v Edinburgh City football match and had a chippy night

The last few years have been extremely difficult; however Junior Section has continued to profit and expand during this. This is due to staff giving a varied program, parents encouraging

Anchor Boys



their boys & the boys themselves, who clearly have been raving about BB in school amongst their friends.

Niall Barclay/Adam Nealis, OIC Junior Section

We finished our 21/22 session with our display in the middle of May after weeks of hard work and practice from the boys. Congratulations to Calum Cairns for winning Best Boy Runner-Up and to Lewis Cordiner for winning Best Boy. We finished up with two weeks of games and fun. We would like to thank the boys for their hard work and dedication and wish them all a wonderful summer. We will re-start next session on the first Tuesday in September.

Elaine and Ally

Company Section

The session came to an impressive end this year. The display was much better than I expected it to be and the credit for that goes to the boys. The effort and dedication they put in was easy to see in how impressive and entertaining our annual end of year show was. This year's best recruit is Sam Blakely and this year's best all round boy is Christopher Wallace, son of Craig Wallace, son of the great David Wallace. Well done to all boys. The countdown now is on to Camp. Camp is the highlight of the year for all boys and staff. Boys that don't go to camp, miss out. That will always be the tall and short of it. It is a time for fun, learning and being with friends in the great outdoors. All in a safe but not suffocating environment. On that point, this year, myself, Mr Paterson and Mr Nealis (together with an excellent volunteer to make up numbers) attended 3 days of wet and cold training to qualify as paddlesport instructors. See the photo of us showing off our big decks at Loch Lomond. Kayaking has been big a part of camp and we are pleased to be able to still offer this. I'd like to thank the parents and the church for their continued support. G Cunningham O/C



EAST RENFREWSHIRE LIBRARIES LAUNCH NEW HOUSEBOUND SERVICE

Libraries across East Renfrewshire have launched a new housebound service for local residents, thanks to a successful bid to the National Lottery's Community Fund.

With the support of a group of local volunteers, library resources can now be delivered directly to housebound residents' doors. The service is aimed at reaching residents who are unable to visit their local library, due to short or long term mobility issues, illness or caring responsibilities. Library Development Officer Gillian Hamilton explained: "We are working with a fantastic group of local volunteers from across East Renfrewshire to supply library resources, including print and spoken word, direct to residents' doors.

Anne Metcalfe, who has lived in Eaglesham for 36 years, was one of the first volunteers to deliver books in the local area. Anne said: "I'm retired so I have extra time to help out. I've done two drop offs to a lady in the local area so far. She was delighted with the service as she doesn't sleep well and listens to the audiobooks through the nights. I think it is



Librarian June and volunteer Anne

great to be able to offer this service to people who need it and hope that a friendly face and having a chat will help them too. The library staff are amazing and go out of their way to make it a very personalised service, selecting titles they know the individual will like."

To register for the service, contact the library or email: libraries@ercultureandleisure.org.

Admin Committee Notes

In May we had the very pleasant task of making presentations to David Reid and Maureen Hunter. David has retired from the Admin Committee after many years' service, latterly acting as Finance Convener. Maureen has stepped down as Convener but has not left the committee.

It is now becoming urgent that we find someone to step into the role of Treasurer for our church. Elspeth Napier, who has been our Treasurer for 10 years is retiring and we cannot run the church without a treasurer. Her replacement does not need to be a qualified bookkeeper or accountant. Elspeth and other members of the committee are there to assist in the handover to our new Treasurer. We are also looking at ways to make the job simpler, including converting from accrual accounting to income and expenditure accounting and we are also looking at introducing a software package that could take away some of the burden of producing reports etc. If you feel you would like to explore more about becoming our Treasurer, please let me know or contact Rev Jade or Sheila Lamont and we will be happy to talk further and answer any questions you may have. Though Admin may sound like a boring necessity, you will find the admin team will be warm and welcoming.

We are encouraged by the response that the letter appealing for you to consider your giving to the church has had, but there is still time to do more. If you haven't done so yet, can you please consider increasing your standing order to the church, especially if you have not done so for a while. If you do not currently have a standing order for regular giving, please think about starting one. If you need any help to do this, contact me on the number below and I or a member of the admin team will be happy to assist.

Hugh Green, Admin Convener hugh@polbae.com 01355 302971

From the Pastoral Care Team.....

Carswell Foodbank.....Eaglesham Parish Church (EPC) and community continue to support three principal outlets. It has been evident recently that demand is growing. Over the last few months, the East Renfrewshire Food bank at Barrhead has experienced an increase in demand of around 40%. This has recently included some refugees from the Ukraine conflict. The Castlemilk Pantry report that 95 – 105 shoppers use the Pantry per day (it opens on Tuesdays & Thursdays). Sixteen new members have joined during the month of May alone. Castlemilk Community Church continues to support new and more established refugees and asylum seekers with assistance. During the months between January & May 2022, the Carswell Foodbank has given 247 bags of donations, most gratefully received by the recipients.

Thank you for your loyal and caring support through your donations and particular thanks to our volunteers who so cheerfully collect these donations at the Carswell Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11.00am and 12 noon each week. A list of "most needed" items can be found at the Carswell Centre and on the EPC website. Any further information can be obtained from either Mary or Jim or from the Pastoral Care Team via the Church Office.

Easter eggs..... About 125 Easter Eggs were donated by EPC in response to the Lodging House Mission HOPE Project Appeal. In total, the LHM received around 2000 eggs which were distributed during Holy Week, with a message of Hope from the various churches, both to its own service users and to some 20 other sister projects in the City (hostels and accommodation centres etc.).

CrossReach is the operating name of the Church of Scotland Care Council. A representative from CrossReach, Catriona McCabe, spoke at the Church Service on Sunday 29th May. She described her own work as Managing Coordinator of CrossReach Glasgow Recovery Services and illustrated the very broad and diverse range of essential services that Crossreach provides. This includes; care for the elderly, care for orphaned children, for dementia sufferers and for those recovering from addiction, amongst other causes. They have support centres throughout Scotland, from the Shetland Isles to the Borders. The retiring

offering from Communion on 5th June was sent to the charity, amounting to £404, including Gift Aid recovery. Thanks to all who generously donated.

Kirk Carers....There are a few members of the community who are unable to take public transport for Doctor/Hospital appointments and have relied on the generosity of a small group of Church Carer volunteer drivers who are willing to give up a few hours of their time for this valued service. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this, please use contact details below. We are now looking for additional volunteer drivers who can assist this small group and for further information please contact Fay/John Lyons on 0141 644 2249 or the Pastoral Care Team via office@eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk.

Eaglesham Community Garden?

A start to a project using ground behind the Carswell Centre. TREE have established limited vegetable and herb boxes with the hope that this might develop into a genuine community garden with a small associated orchard. Further information on this or on the general activities of TREE can be obtained from Catherine Fraser at catherine55fraser@gmail.com



(The Regeneration of the Eaglesham Environment)

COP and Beyond

COP26 happened. What did it achieve? What should be done now? The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches was not impressed. 'This is the last crucial decade for climate action to avoid the catastrophe long foretold. In Glasgow political leaders once again procrastinated on taking the actions that the climate emergency demands and diminished the window of opportunity for taking that action'. The actions required are international and national but come also at local and individual levels. What is happening in East Renfrewshire and how important are climate issues for our locally elected councillors. And are we able to make our own difficult choices whether related to air or car travel, diet or home heating. As we all know these changes have lifestyle and financial implications. As a church community we were given the opportunity by an individual benefactor of making a start. Work was already underway to improve the insulation of the manse and now a ground source heat exchange pump has been installed. The manse family are very happy with this opportunity for a major reduction in their carbon footprint while still enjoying a cosy house. Government incentives for heat pump installation are changing but we are optimistic that a significant financial payback over the next 7 years will be granted through the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme allowing us to make other CO2 savings in future.

and from Tearfund...

It's time to deliver on climate finance. We're calling on you to use the UK's remaining COP presidency to ensure promises made back in 2009 are fulfilled. The Glasgow climate talks last year failed to deliver on climate finance – as the financial burden on the poorest countries continues to grow.

This year wealthy countries must finally deliver the \$100 billion a year, plus shortfalls for missed years. Half must go to help communities adapt, and there must be finance for loss and damage already suffered by these communities. When finance reaches the communities bearing the brunt of the crisis, it will equip millions of people living in poverty to build the future they want.

perspective... the major international oil companies made nearly \$100billion in profits in just the first three months of 2022.



Renowned musician Alistair Tweedie with colleague John Grogan performed a variety of well-known 60s/70s blues and jazz numbers at the Carswell Centre to finish off the Fair celebrations on the Sunday evening Alan at the



organ on the afternoon of the Fair. He can be heard playing the organ in Kelvingrove Art Galleries on 28th July and 19th September at 1pm



Church Builders Prize giving. Lewis Sneddon being introduced to the mysteries of the faith after his recent baptism? And make-up at Eaglesham Fair

