

# Parish News

## EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH



### From the Manse

This is my very first article from ... the manse! And it's rather fitting that I write this on the day that our new curtains have been installed in the manse. My office now feels like... well, an office! But for such a long time I have been writing theological essays, sermons, and church magazine articles from my living room as a Student Minister. These final touches in the manse have made a house, our home.

They say 'home is where the heart is' and I have found that to be true. Eric and I began our married life living together in Germany, coming back to Scotland for the birth of our son, Fred. So together we have experienced a couple of moves. Though between us, there have been a few more...Eric, who is originally from America has also lived in Brazil, and I have lived in New Zealand after my family and I emigrated there when I was younger (you might have already noticed the kiwi garden ornament that sits outside the manse front door!). **continued page 3**

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## Deaths

June. James Steven, Hillend, Strathaven Rd

Elizabeth Beech, 9 Winton Ave

Barbara Drummond, Traquair Gdns, Newton Mearns

July. James King, Kingsdyke, Thorntonhall

August. Catherine Rennie, 10 Polnoon St

September. Anne Allan, 51 Strathaven Rd

Doreen MacKenzie, 5 Moor Rd

Lilias King, Kingsdyke, Thorntonhall

## Team Convenors

Outreach - Giles Blair

Admin - Maureen Hunter

Pastoral Care - Scott Whiteford

Youth Strategy - Debbie Blair

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](https://www.facebook.com/Heartofvillage)



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

### ***From the Manse continued....***

Change has been a big part of our lives over the last few years; marriage, moving country, learning a new language and culture, beginning new jobs, and having a baby! When I stop and look back I can't help but gasp and think... 'wow, how did we do all that?!' and yet that is not where our story ends...

When I was called into ministry, almost 7 years ago now, I had no idea where that parish would be that I would call home. All I knew was that God had called me and by taking one step at a time He would lead me to where I was meant to go. Now, to say I didn't try at times to figure it all out would be untrue because I wondered many a time. And that has me thinking... how did those first disciples feel when Jesus told them to follow Him? We know in the Gospels that they responded by putting down their nets and they... followed. The disciples left everything they had ever known behind and yet they had no idea what was in front of them.

I wonder if they *had* known what was to come if they would have responded the same way.. or whether, instead, they would have had to have a moment to pluck up the courage, mull things over, wondering 'why me?!' In doing so, perhaps they would have been left feeling unworthy of the task that was ahead of them.

When Jesus first called me into ministry, I thought 'really, me?!'. I had just experienced the loss of my Mother, turning my world upside down. 'Really, me?' I thought, 'now, God?!'. Yet I knew that all God was calling me to do was to put one step in front of the other and trust in Him.

Today, as I sit writing this article from the manse, in a place where my family and I now call home, I thank God that he gave me the courage to follow Jesus, one step at a time, because little did I know that all along, he was leading me here, to you all. God's plan really is the best!

So, no matter what changes have been thrust upon your life, or even the ones you've been privy too, know that when you place your wholehearted trust in God to lead you forward in His plan, all you have to do is follow, one step at a time. When you do, you'll wonder how you got to where you are, then realise that Jesus walked the whole way by your side.

'Faith is a journey', as Fiona so beautifully put it during a recent all-age talk. My family and I are just so excited to be sharing that journey, with you.

With God's blessings, Rev Jade Ableitner

**October Sermon Series:** 'Asking those hard questions' is the theme of our 4 week sermon series beginning on Sunday 3rd October. We will reflect on how Jesus answers our hard questions of 'Who cares?!', 'Why me?!', 'Why not?!' and 'What now?!'

**October Prayer Course:** 'Be Still' is the name of our creative prayer course which will run on Monday's, 7.00-8.30pm at 'The Hub' in the Carswell Centre throughout October. We will explore St Ignatius techniques of deepening our relationship with God through prayer. If interested in attending please contact Rev Jade Ableitner on [jade.ableitner@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:jade.ableitner@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### **THE RETURN OF MESSY CHURCH**

We are delighted to announce that we are starting to run Messy Church again, in person!! We have really missed you all.

Messy Church is a way of doing Church for families and others. It is Christ centred for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration.

The first date is Friday 29th October and the second date is Friday 26th November – both at 4.30-6.30pm (please note the change of time). The format will be as close to the normal as we are allowed but there will be a few differences for now. We will still be having food but we will need to serve you at tables.

If you would like to join us please contact Kirsty either on her mobile 07743736113 or by Email on [kirsty.clark@outlook.com](mailto:kirsty.clark@outlook.com). Everyone is welcome.

### **Time for Reflection**

On **Saturday 30th October from 10am -12 midday** there will be an opportunity to reflect on some of the challenges the world is facing. The theme is **"The World and its People"**. Come and enjoy a tranquil space in the Carswell Hub, where you can look, read and reflect on the places and people needing God's help in these troubling times.



## Music and Worship Team

While it has been difficult to keep going during COVID, our Music and Worship Team has been working on a number of developments. Our main focus, in conjunction with a specially formed 'Tech Team' (members of the Fabric Team, M&W, and Alasdair Bain) has been to look at the AV equipment in our church. This has been time consuming, sometimes difficult, and annoyingly interrupted by lockdowns limiting access to the church. However, we now have a very fit for purpose new AV system which has been installed by RNTS, a not for profit organisation based at Renfrew North Parish Church. This is allowing us easily to record and stream services, and also to project images, words of hymns, readings, videos, notices etc. This is a huge step change for us. We look forward to working with Jade to further develop this. I hope if you have been in church you have been able to appreciate how much this is enhancing our worship.

We have a small team of sometimes terrified operators for the system (the Dongle Group!). **If you have an interest in AV and would like to join the team - no experience required - please contact me.** We would welcome others on the team. I would like to express my grateful thanks to the Tech Team and the Dongle Group for making all this happen.

Our other major interest over the past few months has been to think about supporting our minister in relation to worship. As you will know, Alan McKay ably leads a number of services for us. I'm very pleased to let you know that Fiona McCrae, another one of our Elders, has enrolled in a Worship Leaders Course run by Trinity College, Glasgow. This means that both Alan and Fiona will be able to assist Jade in leading services. We are also looking at expanding congregational input - we have re-instated our Bible reading rota after the relaxation of COVID restrictions - and we are looking to re-start a prayer rota. Our Kairos services will re-start in October, and we await further developments there as well.

These are exciting times in EPC in relation to Music and Worship. We look forward in faith, with Jade's leadership, to the future.

Wendy Armstrong, Music and Worship Team

## John Lloyd

We were hugely blessed in Eaglesham to have the support and guidance of John during our vacancy and what proved to be the last two years of his life. Fortunately we got to know him in person before Covid intervened when his ministry moved on-line. He was someone who had continued to tell of the love he found in the story of Jesus despite personal loss - of his first wife and later of his son. He had left a career in banking to join the church with ministry briefly in Australia and for 23 years in Croftfoot. 'Retirement' led to vacancy work in three different Glasgow parishes before his time with us. Each, to quote from the tribute to him at Glasgow Presbytery, would know that they would hear a word preached from hard experience but in which the promises of the Gospel were cherished to the end.

## St Bridget's Church

We are delighted to be getting back to normal and welcoming back friends old and new, particularly families. Weekly Mass is now set at 6pm every Saturday evening from September to May and at 5pm from June to August inclusive. You are no longer required to book a place in advance - just come along and scan the QR code at the entrance, or leave your details with one of our stewards.

As you may know, we are now served by Canon Stephen Baillie and Deacon Paul Graham from our sister church of St Joseph's down in Clarkston. On the 1st of October a delegation from St. Bridget's participated in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the building of the St. Joseph's current building. The celebration was led by Bishop John Keenan of Paisley and Bishop Brian McGee of Argyll and the Isles.

We were also most delighted to be invited to participate in the recent Inauguration of Rev. Jade. Best wishes to her and everyone at Eaglesham Parish Church in this new chapter.

Danny McKendry  
Chair of St Bridget's Parish Pastoral Council  
07454 007302  
[www.facebook.com/StBridgetsEaglesham](https://www.facebook.com/StBridgetsEaglesham)



## Caring for the Servants

How do we look after our “servants”? In recent months we’ve become more aware of the people who serve us; from shop assistants to politicians, medics to refuse collectors. Of course we wouldn’t call them “servants”, but how we need the services they offer!

What about church? While we stayed at home, many worked away unseen, constantly updating guidelines, measuring, cleaning, counting, organising Zoom meetings... And what of those looking after our spiritual wellbeing? They too needed to adjust and take on new technology to encourage us with God’s word; comfort the sick and dying, and look after the bereaved and broken in very restricted circumstances.

As we welcome a new minister, it seems a good time to think about how we encourage, support and generally care for those who care for us. People who go into Christian service don’t do it for the money or prestige. Rather they come with a “servant heart”, through a sense of vocation. “Vocation is response to a call from beyond oneself to use one’s strengths and gifts to make the world a better place.” (Roger Ebertz). Paul the apostle made it clear that his service wasn’t always acknowledged. However, Romans 16 tells of the people he truly appreciated: “Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me.” (Romans 16:3).

As Christians, we are automatically enrolled as servants and fellow workers in Christ’s kingdom. So rather than being passengers, we are all involved in the commission to spread the gospel. We’re also called to “love one another”. (John 13:34). Can we love our fellow workers without “exploiting the servant heart”? Traditionally, servants were those who worked “below stairs”. Strangely, we seem to imagine a heavenly penthouse, where Christian leaders are elevated to become super-human; to be ever available and never complaining. While work done in public is obvious, only a fraction of what they do is seen by others.

So how can we care for those who serve us? Rather than being backseat drivers, let’s be ready to serve alongside them, helping and encouraging those with particular responsibilities. Here are a few ideas to start with:

- Send an encouraging message when you’ve been helped by a service.
- Pray regularly for Jade and her family, and for those with special responsibilities.
- Do simple things like following the Bible reading in church, or offering to help in some way.
- Engage the imagination, remembering that leaders are approached with all kinds of problems and requests for help at random times.

In doing these things we will all know God’s blessings and “be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.” Romans 1:12

Gillian Norval

## And from Bill Livingstone...

I would wish to offer my personal thanks and I’m sure that of many other members of our Church to those among us who worked so hard and diligently to make the necessary arrangements to the sanctuary such that at least some worship could continue throughout the worst of the pandemic. Clearly a great deal patient and accurate work was necessary to meet the stringent requirements of safety rules imposed. We must all be thankful that our Kirk is so well served by such folk.

## Ordination and Induction Thursday Sept 9th

The ordination and induction of our new minister was a formal but very meaningful service arranged by Glasgow Presbytery. It concluded with 'Charges' to both minister and congregation from Robert Hynd, Moderator of the Presbytery of Glasgow. The following is a summary of these charges. The full texts can be seen on the church website.

### To Jade Ableitner....

In addressing Jade Mr Hynd recognised the long history of Christian presence in Eaglesham and commented on her own upbringing within the church. His charges were three-fold.

Firstly 'a prayer that the joy and excitement of this new calling should be yours in every day of your ministry to come.' He gave thanks for Jade's late mother who had encouraged her in the calling to Ministry recalling that in the words of George Macleod "*A veil as thin as gossamer separates those who have gone from the sight of earthly eyes. They, in God's nearer presence, still worship with us in the mystery of one family in heaven and on earth*"

And then family and husband Eric's roots in Minnesota - *a place of long, cold winters and short, warm summers that makes for honest men*. 'So my next charge to you is that at some time, soon, once this pestilential pandemic is over and travel to the USA resumes, you and Eric should get Fred over to see his family in Minnesota for Fred has not yet been able to meet them. If you take time for yourself and your family you will better serve God's people in this place.

In conclusion... 'Jade, I already know from having spent a little time with you that you will always seek to be worthy of your calling. So with a humble spirit and grateful heart, work for the building up of the body of Christ. Together with the people to whom you are bound, share in the ministry of the reconciliation of all things in Christ Jesus. Care for the people in your charge. As you exercise your own gifts, encourage them to seek out and to use their own particular gifts. As you pray continually for them, gratefully receive the love and strength they also offer you.



Rev Dr John McPake, our interim moderator, Rev Jade Ableitner, and Mr Robert Hynd, Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery. Jade and (opposite) congregation at the post-induction social



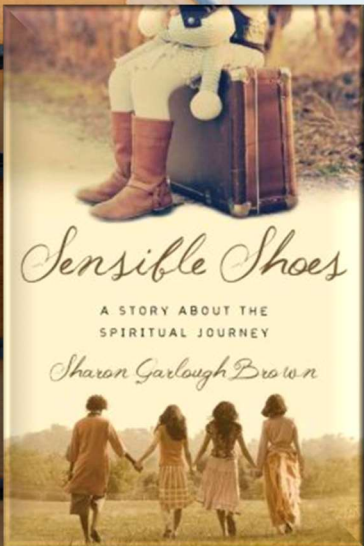


## And charges to the Congregation....

Ladies and Gentlemen, you are the inheritors of a tradition of Christian worship in this place since the time of St Columba in the Sixth century AD. This church has been in use since 1790. It has played its part in the religious history of Scotland since the days of the Covenanters. You live in a very desirable conservation village. God has therefore given you the history and all of the tools necessary to use in the furtherance of His Kingdom in this community.

As you welcome your new minister, make this community of Christ a place of true welcome for those who seek or for those who are in need of any kind. Find ways of making the Word declared in worship known publicly through what you say and do. Uphold and encourage your minister with your friendship and your prayers, asking for her and for yourselves that the Holy Spirit may be poured out richly upon you, that you may both know and do the will of God.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that, together, you may, with one voice, glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



### *Ladies of Eaglesham Parish Church!*

Would you like the opportunity to share friendship and fellowship?

*Then come along to our exciting.....new.....  
Sensible Shoes Book Club!!!*

**COMING SOON!**

Is reading not really your thing??? No problem! We will cover just one chapter at a time during our weekly meetings throughout November... And if you still don't get round to reading then no worries, we have you covered with thought provoking discussions!

So, whether you wear sensible shoes or not, step onto this journey of growing deeper in friendship and faith!

\*Mondays, 7.00-8.30pm, 'The Hub', from 8<sup>th</sup> November

*If you are interested in attending, then please contact Rev Jade Ableitner at  
[jade.ableitner@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:jade.ableitner@churchofscotland.org.uk)*



## COP26. A Christian Perspective

This meeting, organised by Eastwood Ecumenical Peace and Justice forum, was held in Maxwell Mearns church and live streamed via their youtube channel. It can still be viewed on youtube by searching with the title. Well worth watching.

### **As Christians why should we care**

Rev David Coleman who is chaplain to Eco-congregation Scotland gave a challenging interpretation of what the Christian message means for environmental responsibility. He quoted Pope Francis... 'Praise be to you my Lord through our sister mother earth who sustains and governs us.' Our relationship to nature is one of a challenging partnership rather than comfortable stewardship. This does not deny the special place of man in creation. We have a responsibility for 'the fish in the sea, the birds of heaven and every living thing'. And there are too many of us to just let nature take its course. We have a duty to respond to the suffering of earth. 'If my disciples keep silence the stones will shout aloud' Luke 19,40. With environmental damage there is injustice harming the people, creatures and land which God has gifted to us. That is sin. And who are the sinners? In our fossil fuel driven life it is ourselves. In response we cannot hesitate while looking for perfection but must take steps forward. This care for creation is integral to any and all creeds of Christianity.

### **What is COP26 about and how can we be involved**

*Adrian Shaw referred to the very useful briefing on Eco-congregation Scotland website.*

Glasgow Oct31 - Nov12. Conference of Parties. That this is the 26th meeting illustrates slow progress. The challenge is that with current commitments to change the estimated global warming is 2.7C compared with the 1.5 aim agreed in Paris in 2015. Debate will revolve round mitigation (reducing emissions), adaptation to changing climate, and compensation for loss and damage. And central will be financial support for the poorer nations who are less responsible for but more exposed to damage from climate change.

There are various ways in which churches and individuals can be involved

- learning - becoming informed
- prayer - for strength in our weakness, for leadership
- worship with a climate focussed service
- hospitality with a shortage of affordable accommodation
- Nov 6th. Global day of action including Glasgow demonstration
- **take action** to reduce carbon footprint

See Eco-congregation briefing for detail on all this.

### **What can we do in East Renfrewshire?**

Sam Ibbott is recently appointed ER Climate Change Officer.

In line with national legislation East Ren must reach net zero by 2045 with an intermediate target of 75% reduction by 2030. This applies to all emissions within the Council area but the starting point for action are the areas of direct Council responsibility with a pre-Covid baseline - rather than the artificially reduced emissions of the last year. Work is at an early stage with targeted discussions with each department and planned public consultation in early 2022. The Council does have other levers through infrastructure planning and encouraging behavioural change. And it can address the huge issue of supply chains - emissions created elsewhere on our behalf. What can the public and individuals do? Engage, engage, engage. Contact Councillors - they decide and agree funding, respond to consultations, make it an issue at the time of May 22 local elections.

*Eaglesham Church is setting up a climate response group to be led by Ronald MacLean. If you would like to be involved in this contact Ronald at [ronald.maclean1@btinternet.com](mailto:ronald.maclean1@btinternet.com)*



## The Guild

What a lovely summer we had with warm, sunny days, and what a blessing it was to be able once again, to meet up with family and friends and enjoy long-awaited reunions. We, in the Guild, had greatly missed our weekly fellowship, and so it was a real treat on September 1<sup>st</sup>. to gather again for a “Welcome Back Afternoon Tea and Chat.” It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and enjoy a good catch-up over a cup of tea and cakes!

Our syllabus has been delivered to members and friends and our thanks go to Pamela Sinclair, our syllabus secretary, for all her hard work putting it together and to Andrew Hamilton for printing it for us. As ever, we have an interesting and varied programme of speakers interspersed with musical entertainment.

### **If you have not been to Guild meetings before why not try one of the following**

**Oct 27.** Find out about the Vine Trust and its project to build a new ‘village of hope’ on the shores of Lake Victoria in Tanzania

**Nov 10.** If you haven’t heard his group before you must come and enjoy the Ian Walker Band

**Nov 17.** Paul Cathcart was Deacon at Castlemilk Parish Church whose food bank we support. He will discuss what they do and how we can get beyond them.

This session’s theme is “Lights and Bushels,” By the time you read this, we’ll have welcomed our Minister, Jade Ableitner, to talk on this and to lead our Dedication. In the next magazine we shall tell you about our two chosen Projects and our Charity for this session.

A celebration party will conclude the first half of the session. It was the Guild’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday last year, but of course we couldn’t hold it then. This will be a very special night for us and our own Church Choir will join us, to help us celebrate.

Putting the events of the last eighteen months behind us, we pray that all our planned evenings will take place and that life in the Guild, our Church and Community can return to some kind of normal. Everyone, Men and Women, is invited to our Guild meetings held in the Carswell Hall on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm.

## And from Glasgow Presbytery....

**Rev Dr Martin Johnstone** is the CofS Ambassador specially appointed to COP26. He gave a short but impassioned presentation to Glasgow Presbytery. It can be viewed via the news and events / latest news link on the presbytery website. Two quotes

- if we spend more time trying to save our churches than trying to save our planet we will be guilty of what Nero did fiddling while Rome burned
- the Church needs to act as if it believed that God made the world.

### **Local comment from Marlies MacLean**

The saline current, which gives us the benefits of the Gulf Stream, starts near the southern tip of Iceland. As the Greenland ice sheet melt accelerates, fresh water pooling in this region threatens to stall the ocean system of currents. This is thought to be one of a number of global climate tipping points”. (Gillian Burke, BBC Wildlife Magazine)

We can and must each do our best to fight climate change. The cheapest, and most healthy, might be to walk more; the next, to add insulated curtain linings; the most effective, if feasible, is ground source (best) or air source heating for which grants are available. There is a great number of other possibilities, such as buying the most eco-friendly electrical appliances, but please do something.

Best sources for further information...  
[ecocongregationscotland.org](http://ecocongregationscotland.org)  
[stopclimatechaos.scot](http://stopclimatechaos.scot)

## Junior badminton

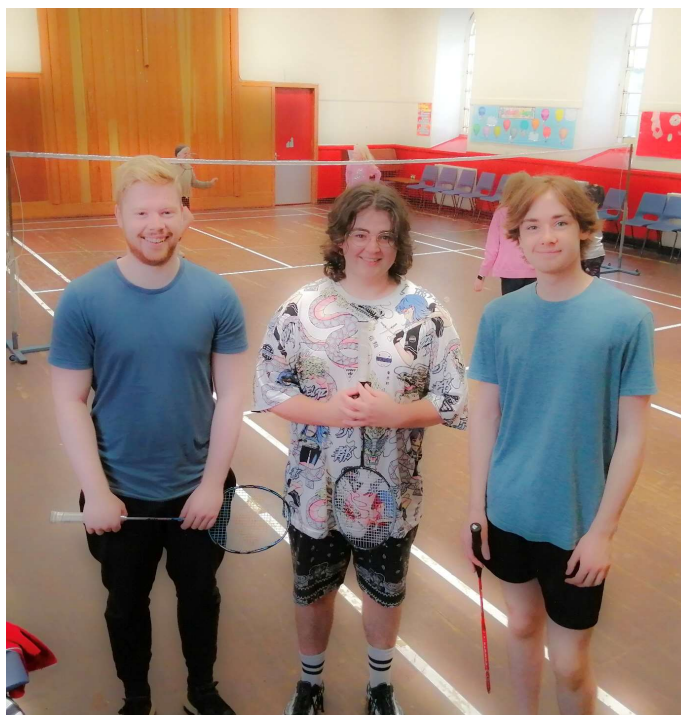
has started again on Saturday mornings in the Laird Hall during the school term. There are two sessions. The first for Primary 4 to 7 is from 9.00am until 10.00am and the second one for Secondary 1 to 6 which runs from 10.00am until 12.00 noon.

Each session consists of basic coaching, singles and doubles matches and concludes with fun group games which involve a great deal of running around and lots of smiling faces.

The leaders for our club are Jordan White and Adam Fleck who have been with the Junior Badminton club since they were in Primary 4 and they are introducing Harris McKendry, one of our S6 guys, into organising games for the youngsters.

If any youngsters in the P4 to S6 age group would like to join us for an enjoyable and low cost Saturday morning could their parents (or grandparents) contact [tomgibmann@gmail.com](mailto:tomgibmann@gmail.com) or call Tom on 07903090539 who will be happy to provide you with more information.

Tom Mann.



Jordan, Adam and Harris

## Anchor Boys

The past 18 months have been challenging for all and at Anchor Boys we have had to operate very differently. With the regular changes in restrictions, organising Tuesday nights has been taxing at times. Despite having to meet in smaller groups and spend most Tuesdays outdoors, both the boys and staff enjoyed having a small part of normality in our weekly routines.

We are now able to meet indoors again as one big group and we couldn't be happier! We are looking forward to many more fun-packed Tuesdays with games, theme nights and parties lined up over the next few months. If you know of any boys in Primary 1-3 who would be interested in joining in, please drop us an email!

Elaine & Ally, [anchorboys205@gmail.com](mailto:anchorboys205@gmail.com)

## FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

As we move towards near normality the choir has been able to meet pre service for small choir practices. Normal choir practices resume on Thursday 7th October in the Carswell Hall at 7.30PM. **If you think you'd like to come and join us you will be made most welcome** - we welcomed as a new member to the Soprano ranks Susan Fraser.

We will soon be working towards Christmas. Nine Lessons and Carol's on the evening of Sunday 19th December - more detail nearer the time.

I hope you are all enjoying the new rejuvenated Organ. It is now a joy to play and all the pipes blend together in the exact way that Father Willis had envisaged. A celebrity organ recital is planned for the new year with one of the top UK Cathedral Organists.

So plenty going on in the Music Department *hear* in Eaglesham.

## Walking Group...a note from Pat Wishart

The Walking Group may be confined to walks in and around the village at the moment, but there is always something to make us smile... a beautiful rainbow, a bumper harvest of hips and haws on the hedgerows or horses prancing around in the fields. The horses are obviously as pleased to be exercising in the fresh air as all the walkers are. Not only do we exercise our legs, but we exercise our tongues, enjoying our chats as we walk or relax with a cup of coffee. Please join us. Everyone is welcome on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. We start at the Carswell end of the Mid Road at 10am.



## Health and Safety Update



How many of you remember Neil Sedaka's song 'Breaking up is hard to do'? Well, in terms of Health and Safety, 'Starting up is hard to do'. It's wonderful that we are now getting back to some kind of normality in our church life. We can now worship without any restrictions on numbers in church. We do not need to adhere to social distancing, but the Church of Scotland does recommend that we consider 1M distancing and that we certainly are respectful for individual preferences. Indeed, being in church on 26th September, I saw exactly that in operation. We are still required to wear face coverings in Church Buildings apart from a few exceptions. The Church of Scotland is in dialogue with the Scottish Government to put the case that this seems very unfair to worshippers given the relaxation on coverings in other circumstances. Watch this space!

Our other buildings are now open and we have a number of new groups starting. All are aware of the H&S requirements. This is heartening, but now is not the time to relax!

I'm sure we all know friends and family who are maybe fearful of coming to church or venturing out, so it's important that we make sure that our church buildings are as safe as they can be in this ever changing situation. It can be difficult to keep up with guidance from Church of Scotland and the Scottish Government, so I'd like to thank our organisational leaders for their forbearance while I find information out for them. The Church of Scotland COVID Team have also been very helpful in answering questions. And Jim and the Fabric Team, plus Ann Robertson (our Halls Convener) have worked their socks off.

I get a number of comments and I welcome all of them! Some people are concerned that we are being too 'liberal' in relaxing restrictions, while others feel that we are being too cautious. I appreciate both of these points of view. I think they indicate a range of views on risk. My advice, apart from all the H&S stuff, is that, as Christians, we should take account of others' concerns and frustrations and behave accordingly in a supportive and thoughtful way.

## Pastoral Care Team

### Recent Pastoral Care Activities

As reported in previous issues we have been limited in what we have been able to do during the pandemic due to Church of Scotland restrictions. However, some things have been maintained. For example, flowers have been distributed on a regular basis to members who have suffered a bereavement or illness or to commemorate happy events, such as an anniversary. The Walking Group has reconvened with a recent walk within the locality. Support to the Carswell Food Bank continues to be provided by members of the Pastoral Care (PC) Team as demand for these services remains high. The annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service is scheduled for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October and the PC Team will help coordinate the collection and distribution of gifts to those in need locally and to the Lodging House Mission, a charity for homeless people located in the East End of Glasgow.

### Volunteers Wanted as Kirk Carers

As we emerge from pandemic restrictions, the intention is to reinstate the offer of pastoral care to the congregation through Kirk Carers. This will include visits to members who are isolated or lonely and would benefit from some additional company to help with their mental and emotional state. The visits may also allow respite for full time carers. These would be in addition to visits from an elder but on a more regular basis, such as every 2 to 3 weeks. The PC Team is therefore seeking to recruit a number of volunteer 'Kirk Carers' from within the congregation who would be willing to visit people to provide friendship and company to them on a regular basis. No special talents are required, other than the ability to talk and listen compassionately. The volunteers will have to satisfy the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) disclosure scheme. For further information on volunteering please contact Scott Whiteford ([jswiteford@aol.com](mailto:jswiteford@aol.com)) or Kay Brown ([kay.mearns.brown@gmail.com](mailto:kay.mearns.brown@gmail.com)).



From July 17th, 2021 the 205<sup>th</sup> from Eaglesham camped at Kings Cross Point, Isle of Arran for the 66<sup>th</sup> consecutive year! After a tough session with the COVID restrictions we really wanted to run our annual camp and give the boys something to look forward to. After careful planning and risk assessing, we were able to provide a camping experience for 30 boys and staff, much to the delight of parents and friends who had appreciated the efforts of the Company over lockdowns to maintain contact and a measure of activity.

Respecting social distancing and ensuring that everything and everyone was immaculately clean, we ran as normal a camp as we could. Staff arrived a day ahead to set up camp, clean down all kit and carry out some repairs. The boys arrived on the Saturday and it was all systems go.

We ran a full sports program where the boys experienced Cricket, Baseball, Volleyball, Football and Hockey. We ran tennis and putting competitions. With the exceptional weather, we had numerous trips to the large sandy beach in Kildonan. Swimming was a daily routine as well as kayaking and boating.

The boys and staff are really treated to good food at camp and this year was no different. One of our cooks brought down a large pizza over and a casual night of pizza and games ensued which was great fun and something different.

We did miss our annual parade and worship at Whiting Bay and Kildonnan Church. Normally we parade behind our bugle band and March from the camp site to the church where we would enjoy the Sunday service with the locals. This was something we were unable to do this year. We did have our own special service on the site taken by Brian Fraser. His talk was all about the various people who might have worshiped and prayed on our campsite.... enjoyed by all.

The boys left for home the following Friday [23<sup>rd</sup> July] leaving the staff to clean and disassemble all the kit and debrief the fabulous week. This camp wouldn't have happened without the huge effort the staff put in and the support of the parents and the Battalion. We now look forward to planning camp 2022 and early indications show that this could be a camp of over 50 boys and staff!