# **Parish News**

## **EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH**



A family photo of Ruby with Fred, Jade and Eric at her first birthday party

## Hello from the Manse!

After a year off on maternity leave, I am now back in post and excited to be hearing all about how God has been moving in our Church and in our community, and to join in with that work as your Parish Minister.

As I sit writing this message it is on the eve of my daughter Ruby's first birthday. I've just filled out a rather smart 1<sup>st</sup> birthday card that I purchased from the Avenue shopping centre nearby that gives questions and answers to do with their first year such as; things that have made you laugh, characteristics, favourite foods, and even what gifts they received on their 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. As many of you already know, at 3 months of age Ruby had an emergency operation on her airway, a surgery that we were told saved her life. As a Mother, seeing my baby lock eyes with my Husband and I as they walked her through to the operating theatre was the hardest thing I have ever done. In that moment Eric and I gave it all to God and I have never felt a trust more vulnerable, more real in my life. We sat waiting in the hospital café with a buzzer that would alert us as to when Ruby's surgery was over. We held one another's hand whilst we waited but struggled to even say a word. During that time I closed my eyes and saw a vision of Jesus standing in the operating theatre and a crowd of people praying around Ruby. As I opened my eyes I was overcome with a stillness in my heart, a peace that surpasses all understanding. I knew then with all certainly that God had heard my prayers and of those of our family, friends, and of our Church family. Without hardly a word being said between Eric and I, he had felt that exact same peace and assurance too.

## Death

August 6th. Jenny Mcllwham, 6A Cheapside St

## **Team Convenors**

Outreach - Giles Blair Admin - Hugh Green Pastoral Care - Scott Whiteford Youth Strategy - Debbie Blair Faith Development - Gillian Norval

## Keep in touch with church activities

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

Parish news is published by Eaglesham Parish Church Scottish Charity Number SC006377

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



#### Continued from page 1

Ruby's Surgeon had warned us that she may need a couple of more surgeries before being completely cured but at her post-op assessment he was surprised to say that the surgery had completely cured her and (not knowing her Mummy was a Minister) called it a 'Christmas miracle'. We were told that if we had not acted on that nudge to get Ruby checked out at the Children's hospital and instead went on our planned trip to America three days later, Ruby might not be with us.

Nine months later we have a healthy, thriving, cheeky one year old who has no idea what she overcame or whose palms held us all during that time. But we do, and as parents the greatest gift I can ever give my children is to teach them about Jesus, to read them the Bible, pray with them, talk to them about what He has done for us, and to keep them on the path of following God's plan for their lives. Big brother Fred, now 3, prays to God every night, thanking him for his day and sometimes even sings God a lullaby and tells God he'll be back soon, with a kiss blown up to heaven for good measure.

So many people come to God in times of extreme trial, even those without faith, and they are right to because God hears our prayers and carries us through those times like no-one else can, including yourself. Eric and I want to thank all of you who prayed for our precious daughter during that time because God heard your prayers. We feel so blessed to be part of this Church family; a family who will walk with us through all of life's ups and downs. My prayer is that I can do the same for you, not just as your Parish Minister but as your Sister in Christ.

Love and blessings,

**Rev Jade Ableitner** 

## Kelvingrove Organ at 1pm

Alan will be playing on the following dates...

14th September4th October23rd November6th December

#### A message from Adri



Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for all the warmth, love, and support I received the past year. You embraced me with open arms and kindness. The friendships I've forged here hold a special place in my heart, and I am hopeful that they will continue. Being here has enriched my life and I have learned things that I will use on my path forward.

Jade has been missed and I am excited with you that she will return to take her place. With Jade's guidance, I have every faith that this community will continue to flourish and touch the lives of all those who walk through these doors.

I pray this prayer written by Bishop Thomas Ken for this congregation:

"O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride, and hate. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power. God, make the door of this house the gateway to Your eternal kingdom." With love and warm wishes.

Adri

# From Our Session Clerk

Well, I would say autumn is with us but it seems summer decided to appear again instead! I hope you were able to enjoy the warm weather and have not been suffering because of the heat. We have been blest by the good weather to be able to sit outside and have been joined by a multitude of beautiful butterflies – more that I have seen for years.

As I write this, Jade is about to return to work from maternity leave and holiday and we hope she is feeling refreshed and energized to again lead us both spiritually and practically as a church. With Jade returning, both Adri as our locum and Donald as our Interim Moderator have now left us. They have both been a wonderful support and friends to us and we thank them hugely for all they have done. Both have asked me to pass on their grateful thanks for the gifts presented to them. Both Adri and Donald will continue to be friends of this congregation, the Kirk Session and myself personally as they move on to new challenges.

We have also been advised that Adri has been asked to preach as Sole Nominee for Beith Parish Church and Adri has asked us to pray for her and for the congregation that they may discern God's will in deciding whether it is God's Call that Adri joins them.

As we start the new session of church activities, I ask you to keep in mind our youth work. We desperately need volunteers to support Murdo in his work and to help young people in our community to come to know God personally. If you are able to help in any practical way then please contact Murdo, Jade or myself. If you are unable to help this work directly then I would ask you to pray for Murdo and his work. You can also support this work by contributing to the Youth Ministry Fund. This pays for Murdo's salary and we constantly need to build this fund to ensure we can continue Murdo's contract each year. You will see in this edition an article by Hugh Green outlining the situation and how you can support this.

I wish you a very happy and enjoyable autumn and look forward to worshiping with you, led again by Jade.

## ....and from Donald Carmichael

Dear Friends,

It hardly seems a year since I joined you as Interim Moderator during Jade's time on Maternity Leave. I am grateful to have been part of your fellowship for that time as we journeyed together, for the friendship you showed me and for the forgiveness you offered to me as I tried to remember names and the ways things are done at Eaglesham! I was guite touched and surprised at the token of appreciation presented to me and the flowers I was able to take home to Fiona which she was delighted with - thank you. As Jade now returns to the pulpit and to the parish I pray that God continues to bless Eaglesham and in particular resolutions can be found within the Presbytery Planning process that are acceptable within the Cluster.

With warm regards

Donald

## Eaglesham Knitting and Crochet Club

#### HELP NEEDED!

We are making more poppies for the village display and looking for knitters and crocheters to help us expand and repair the tribute. Can you help us?

We supply the yarn, patterns, needles and hooks. Come and join us on Thursday mornings 10 - 12 in the Carswell Centre. All are welcome. Or, if you prefer, we can deliver yarn and patterns etc to you.

Contact any member of the club. Or call, text or email me for more info.

Mary MacInnes, 07974 247637 or 01355 301171 Email: mary.macinnes1@outlook.com

## **Carswell Foodbank**

Would you like to help some of those most disadvantaged in our communities who are struggling with the cost of living crises and cannot make ends meet? This can affect any age group from the elderly to young people trying to raise families. If so, we would welcome contributions of non-perishable food and toiletries at the Carswell Foodbank on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 11.00 and 12.00. The foodbank is situated at the Carswell Halls in Montgomery Street, Eaglesham. The full list of 'Most Wanted' items is on the inside door of the Carswell Halls, the church website and the church Facebook page. Any contributions, large or small, will be most gratefully received by one of our friendly team of volunteers.

The principal beneficiaries of the items collected are as listed below:-

- East Renfrewshire Foodbank, Barrhead (Trussell Trust)
- Castlemilk Pantry
- Castlemilk Community Church
- Lodging House Mission, Glasgow (occasionally)
- Eaglesham Larder, Montgomery Hall (occasionally)

At present, we are concentrating on supporting the East Renfrewshire Food Bank at Barrhead as, for the first time, they are short of all foodstuffs except pasta. Numbers of recipients are increasing – currently 60-70 persons per week, up from around 40 previously. We now regularly see a queue at the door when delivering the donations.

Theses charities support a wide range of people suffering hardship at present, both locally and within the wider Glasgow area. This includes homeless people, refugees, asylum seekers and those simply struggling on the minimum wage or state pension. The common factor is that they are incredibly grateful for the help provided. We are currently receiving about 46 bags of food per month from our generous donors. We would like to increase this if possible and your help in this regard would be most welcome.

For further information contact Mary, Jim or Scott via office@eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk.

## **Church Flowers**



We continue to be blessed with the provision of flowers at all our services not only in the sanctuary but also - this summer a first - at Kairos. It is wonderful to distribute these to our community after the service. These floral gifts can be used as sympathy for a recent loss, to celebrate a milestone birthday or anniversary and for those who are sick or recovering from illness.

None of this would be possible without funding. We are fortunate that we have an almost full list of donors and a team of talented arrangers but we also need to provide flowers for funerals. For this we use the Flower Fund but it does get depleted and if you would like to "top" it up then this would be welcome. Also we need our church community to alert us of recipients for the flowers.

If you know of someone please contact the church office, your elder or Kay Brown, flower convenor (kay.mearns.brown@gmail.com)

#### **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 contact Fay/John Lyons on 0141 644 2249 or the Pastoral Care Team via

office@eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk.

## **Youth Badminton**



Our Youth Badminton has started back during school terms on Saturday mornings in the Laird Hall. Primary 4 to 7 is from 9am to 10am and Secondary 1 to 6 is from 10am to 12pm. Any queries in respect of this activity can be answered by Tom Mann on 07903090539 or tomgibmann@gmail.com".

#### **BB** restarts

**Company Section** started back on the 1st September with a very healthy number of members. We have an exciting year ahead with a revamped seniors programme being a highlight. There is a trip to a Wigan match happening on the 16th September with a new fundraiser in the works for February. We have reintroduced opening devotions and are delighted to have a number of elders helping out and visiting over the next few months. If you'd like more information then drop me a line on <u>205companysection@gmail.com</u>. Jack McPhail, O/C"

**Junior Section** started back Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 7-8.30 at Laird Halls. After the success of last session, staff are already planning an even bigger year ahead, more camps, better trips to mention a few.

We welcome all boys P4-6 to come along and have some fun: from team games to manhunt, there is something for everyone.

Anyone requiring information, feel free to email js205bb@gmail.com

Niall Barclay/Adam Nealis

OIC Junior Section

# A Favourite Bible Verse

The verse of the Bible which has meant most to me over the years is the well known verse from Micah - Chapter 6, verse 8:

'What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?'.

Note the question mark at the end of the verse, implying that there may be other things that we think God might want us to do on His behalf. Indeed, what comes before this verse is a list of things that God might, maybe be pleased with - offerings and sacrifices which cost a lot of money and pain. But they are in a sense one-off events. The verse from Micah challenges me to live my life in a different way, and that is much harder. I'm working on it.

How can we take this verse seriously when there is so much pain and suffering in the world? How can we make a difference, either individually or as groups?

But read the verse again - this is what the Lord is requiring of us. We can't do miracles, but He can. There is a three part harmony version of this verse from the Mennonite Church in America. <u>https://www.google.co.uk/search?</u>

<u>q=what+does+the+lord+require+of+you+song+mennonite&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&hl=en-gb&client=safari#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:4918819c,vid:ipaGPkFgxkY</u>

6

## **Youth Ministry**

We are blessed in our church to have the services of Murdo McTear as our youth worker. During Jade's maternity leave he has been a valuable member of the team, helping our locum minister Adri and particularly with Kairos. Murdo has just led a very successful Holiday Club and we are about to start a new session filled with many youth activities as well as contact with the primary school, all of it involving Murdo.

Employing a youth worker does not come without a cost and as things stand, we are falling short of covering his costs by almost  $\pounds 10,000$  per year, which breaks down to  $\pounds 833$  per month. We have a reserve fund which is covering this shortfall, but it is rapidly running out.

We need to set a target to raise at least £833 per month to cover this shortfall and I am appealing to you to consider making a monthly commitment to the Youth Ministry Fund. If you currently contribute to the fund and haven't reviewed your giving for a while, this would be a good time. If you don't contribute now, will you consider starting a monthly standing order to the fund. Even if you can only contribute a small sum, it would be appreciated. If 85 people were to commit to £10 per month or 45 members were to commit to £20 per month, we would fill that gap and preserve our reserve fund, but even £5 per month would help.

If you can help and want to start a standing order, you can do it with online banking or by visiting or writing to your bank. The Youth Ministry Fund is with the Royal Bank and the account number is 00203811 and the sort code is 83-20-22.

Please email <u>finance@eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk</u> to let us know if you have set up a new standing order or if you have any questions or need help with this. Finally, please consider Gift Aid, if you are a taxpayer.

Thank You, Hugh Green, Admin Convener

## **Admin Notes**

The end of the summer and our new session begins. The first meeting of the Admin Committee after 2 months off was on the 17<sup>th</sup> August and we will meet every month to review our progress.

The Admin Committee work away behind the scenes in the church, ensuring that our buildings are maintained, our finances are in order and spending is under control. We ensure that equipment is maintained and we make sure we are properly insured and we are carrying out our legal responsibilities. All this and other duties ensure the smooth running of the church.

Unfortunately, our budget for 2023 shows us once again running at a deficit, which means we will be eating into our reserves once again. If you give by standing order or freewill envelope this would be good time to review the amount you give, especially if you haven't done so for more than a year. If you are not giving regularly by these methods but would like to set up a standing order or give by Freewill envelope please contact a member of the Admin team or email finance@eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk and one of the team will be happy to assist and advise on Gift Aid if you are a taxpayer.

Hugh green Admin Convener

## Jenny McIlwham

Sandy McIlwham and family would like to thank all our friends for their love and support during the very difficult time of Jenny's last few days and eventual passing on 6th August. The attendance at the thanksgiving service was just fantastic to see the Church so full and our thanks must go to Alan McKay for making the service so personal. The cards and kind wishes were so well appreciated from friends and family near and far. Thank you all.



Part of our association with **Tearfund** is taking part in their annual Quiz event. Event, as in a social evening as well as an opportunity to answer questions set by Tearfund. This year it takes place from 7.30pm on Saturday October 7th. We will gather in the Carswell centre. Come with a quiz team group or on your own. Teams can be arranged on the evening. Tea and coffee will be available and nibbles will be provided at each table. But feel free to bring along something else to drink. A £5 donation to Tearfund is suggested. Come along and enjoy yourself.

**The Walking Group.** Following our plan of alternating longer walks with shorter walks in and close to the village, we enjoyed a day on Greater Cumbrae - the photo below is taken at the Garrison, Millport - and a circular walk from the Burn's Museum passing Greenan Castle and having refreshments in The Secret Garden in Alloway. In between twenty-one of us walked along the Golf Course Road and beyond before wishing Janice in the Clubhouse well, as she departs for her new life in Spain.

We shall be very pleased to welcome you on any 2nd or 4th Wednesday of the month at 10am at the Carswell end of Mid Road.



Pat Wishart

## The Guild - All Are Welcome!

Many thanks to all who supported us throughout session 2022/23. It was a successful year. We are looking forward to building on that in session 2023/24 which starts on Wednesday, 4th October, in the Carswell Centre at 7:30pm. All are guaranteed a warm and friendly welcome in a happy, relaxed atmosphere. We have a jam packed Syllabus of interesting and inspiring speakers, musicians, authors and singers lined up to share their insights and talents with us. You won't want to miss any of them! And for a start.....

Oct 4. Renfrew Ladies Choir - a great musical night.

Oct 11. We welcome back Rev. Jade Ableitner. Dedication and introduction of this year's theme 'New Wine, New Wineskins'

Oct 18. Guild project 'Hear our voice' based in Brazil

Oct 25. Amsterdam and the Floriade garden festival

Nov 1. Local musicians. 'Elastic Band'...must be heard

.....and there is always plenty of tea, coffee and home baking on hand.

Sept 9th and the **Guild Annual Gathering** has just been held in Edinburgh.

Walking into the Assembly Hall with approximately 900 like minded Guild members from across Scotland we felt the buzz of anticipation, gentle positivity and hope.

National Convener Helen Eckford welcomed everyone. The Guild continues to meet challenges at home and overseas. Overall there are fewer members but new Guilds have opened. We raised funds for our chosen projects and we will keep to our current projects to December 2024 providing as much support as we can. The Personal Reflections of Moderator Rt. Rev. Sally Foster-Fulton were poignant and inspirational.

Guest Speaker and Man of Faith, Professor Jason Leitch CBE has worked in the Scottish Government since 2007, now as National Clinical Director. He is also a Board member of the Nazareth Trust and a Trustee of the Indian Rural Evangelical Fellowship (UK) which runs a childrens' home and schools in South East India. Jason spoke about hope. Hope is hard to maintain when living through and experiencing a situation such as Covid 19. When we look back we can see how far we've come and while not perfect the alternative is unthinkable. In the early days of the pandemic we had no vaccines. Back then we were told vaccines were impossible to get, and yet 18 months later we had them because of the dedication of doctors and scientists. Get the vaccination when you are invited to do so. Because, until we are all vaccinated we are susceptible to the virus infecting us again. Global Vaccination is needed not just local vaccination. Just as Jason has hope in the orphanage schools and nursing schools in India providing education leading to degree level, he has hope in individuals who make a difference every day. He has hope in Him.....'We rejoice in the hope of the Glory of God' Romans 5:2

It was a most uplifting day full of hope, love and fellowship. Mary Macinnes



The last of this year's Summer Teas was held on 13th September in the Carswell Centre. This year's Tea and Chats have been a success and much appreciated by all who attended, providing a lovely atmosphere to sit, relax, chat and enjoy time in good company. On August 2nd we enjoyed an impromptu celebration for Maureen Hogg's 85th birthday!

# Amy Clark and the Special Olympics



The Special Olympics was founded over fifty years ago by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of JFK and Bobby Kennedy, as a sports organisation for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. It organises a World Games every two years alternating between summer and winter. The Summer Games were due to be held in Berlin in June 2023. We discovered Amy had a place in the British Rhythmic Gymnastics squad just 6 weeks before they were due to start! She was a reserve for one of the girls who had to pull out at the last minute.

We were delighted but realised there was a lot to do. The biggest problem was fundraising as there is no central funding for the Special Olympics. We only had time to organise one event so decided to run a coffee afternoon in the Carswell Centre. We had a huge number of offers of help to make cakes, supply raffle prizes and serve on the day. We ended up making in excess of £2000 – an incredible amount.

An unexpected visit from Lynn, the Guide leader, led to a fundraiser with the Brownies and Guides. They had a sponsored Olympic Games night and raised over £600. It is at times like these that we realise how blessed we are at living in a community like Eaglesham and being part of such a loving supportive church.

So on 12th June we waved goodbye to Amy at Glasgow Airport with other members of Team GB. They spent a few days in Stuttgart, host town of the British Team, being entertained and treated like VIPs before travelling to Berlin where the games began. The opening ceremony was a spectacular event in the Olympic Stadium. A parade of the athletes along with the lighting of the Olympic Flame was followed by lots of entertainment culminating in an incredible fireworks display.

The next day was Amy's first competition. She performed four individual routines with a ball, a hoop, a ribbon and clubs followed by a floor routine with the three other rhythmic gymnasts. Amy did incredibly well and came home with one gold medal, two silver medals, one bronze medal, one fourth place ribbon and one fifth place ribbon.

The Games ended with a closing ceremony at the Brandenburg Gate. The athletes had lots of fun, made lots of friends and will have lasting memories of an incredible experience.

Kirsty Clark

#### Our local golf course....with apologies to those who regard golf as a walk spoilt!



Bonnyton Golf Club is 100 years old this year. It was designed by Dr Alister MacKenzie of world wide golfing fame - his other courses include Rosemount at Blairgowrie, Royal Melbourne and Augusta National. A Glasgow Herald article in June 1923 recorded a formal opening exhibition match involving Walter Hagen and three other prominent golf professionals of the day. At that point Hagen had won four of his total of eleven Major Championships (a total exceeded only by Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods). It is recorded that 'the elevated moor from which there is a magnificent prospect in all directions offers very fine golfing territory.'

#### Presbyterian church music comment from John Bell

comment from John Bell

Until the end of the 19th century, we seldom sang hymns, were hesitant about the value of church organs and ambivalent regarding choirs. The 'people's part' in services was largely to do with singing psalms, often not very well and at one time to only twelve tunes.

As time went on the number of tunes increased but not until 1898 did the Church of Scotland have an 'official' collection of texts to sing. It was entitled The Church Hymnary, and has had three successors, in 1927, 1973 and 2005.

The advent of these books encouraged the practice of congregational rehearsals of the new music, a tradition deserving of resurrection.

In the 1960s, three major changes affected church music - the discontinuation of sol-fah notation which adversely affected many choirs; the popularisation of the guitar, and the appearance of styles of song which in text and tune differed from 'traditional' hymns. *Lord of the Dance* by Sydney Carter was one of several popular religious songs not included in the 1973 Hymnary.

Later, rhythmic challenges came with songs such as *Shine Jesus Shine*. These required a degree of syncopation which some musicians regarded as a medical procedure they would rather not undergo. And then from the nations to which we had sent surplus hymnals came songs such as *We are Marching in the Light of God* which 'don't really work on the organ.'

We can either regard these as threats to our tradition, or as the means to experience variety in song and discover new spiritual perceptions.

To say that people don't like new hymns, is untrue; every old hymn was once new. The acceptance of what is different is entirely dependent on how it is introduced.

A church member from the east coast wrote to me of how the Mexican hymn, *When we are living was* of profound value at a recent funeral. And as for singing the occasional Latin text, a friend of mine advises "If you can say cafe latte, you can sing *Jubilate.*"

#### **Open Church** a letter from Eaglesham

On holiday recently in Anglesey I came across an attractive medieval church in the village of Llanfechell. It was open to visitors with explanatory leaflets available describing the church's history and current activities. This will be an unremarkable observation to anyone who has holidayed in rural areas of England.

I live in Eaglesham. Our church, like that in Llanfechell, is a sanctuary with no attached office or hall buildings. It does not have quite the same long history but does date from the 18th century and is similarly both the spiritual and historical centre of the village. Recently our Kirk Session considered a plan to leave the church open to visitors - initially on a trial basis of six hours one day a week. It would be unattended as is the practice elsewhere. Insurance was a major consideration and unfortunately the advice from CofS Insurance Services was that this is not something they or an insurance company would recommend. This naturally has dampened enthusiasm for the open church plan.

As a national Church we are in the midst of a difficult discussion of how best to reach out to that majority of our fellow Scots who increasingly have no contact with religion. In that context it is perhaps unfortunate that in many communities the building most associated with faith is typically open for one hour a week on a Sunday morning. The view of Ecclesiastical Insurance, who are responsible for most Church of England buildings, is interesting...Keeping churches open outside of services of worship is a key element in the link they have with the community they serve.

Would leaving our church open with appropriate information about its history and current activity attract interest from locals and visitors? I don't know. But perhaps the Scottish practice of leaving all churches firmly locked is worth review.

Duncan MacIntyre

## HOLIDAY CLUB!!!



In August we had our Holiday Club return for another week, this year's theme being "Pyramid Rock" where we learned about the Story of Joseph and the Grace of God throughout his life. It was so great to have so many young people joining us throughout the week as we saw 40 young people over the course of the week coming along to sing songs, make crafts, play games, learn about Joseph, and of course take part in messy challenges! Some of our highlights were having the wonderful Captain Ketchup tell us the breaking news each day, seeing the incredible technicolour dream coats each team made, and reading the letters and jokes put in the post box each day.

The fun did not end there though. On the Thursday night we had our Holiday Club and EPYC water fight and movie night. Again we saw great numbers of young people coming along and were so glad everyone had a great time not only during the water fight but also afterwards as we went into the Carswell centre and watched Paddington while eating pizza.

September marks the start of a new year for our various groups such as Churchbuilders, Messy Church, and EPYC. We are so excited to be back after a relaxing summer. If anyone is interested in any of the groups we have for children and young people please email <u>epcyouthworker@gmail.com</u>"