

Kilsyth Anderson Parish

Church News

April/May 2024



I recently read about a minister whose late father, also a minister, boarded a busy city train. It was back in the days, when all members of the clergy wore their collar. A passenger smiled at him and said, *'Wouldn't you agree,'* he suggested, *'that really religion and faith are only for the weak people of life; those who need God as some sort of crutch to lean upon?'*

The old minister smiled back and said, *'You're right!'* But went on to say, *'And I'm weak. In my life I've faced pressures that I could never have come through without the power of God. And how about you? Are you strong?'*

The old minister recorded how, quite suddenly, the man's composure collapsed. For at that very moment, he was on his way to the divorce courts, his personal life in shreds. Graciously, the experienced minister gave all the help he could, directing him to the ultimate source of strength, courage, wisdom and forgiving love.

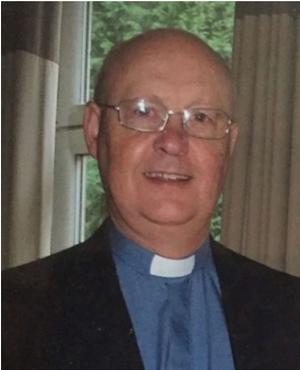
We've all been there, when our human pride marginalised, or completely ignored God's infinite wisdom and grace, why? Because we deceived ourselves into thinking that we have it in ourselves, the capacity to live and thrive and blossom without God, It's when we think we're strong that we are most likely to trip up and topple over. The end result is not at all pretty!

The Bible has a lot to say about such matters. Listen for a moment to the apostle Paul, who was intellectually, spiritually and within the realm of Christian experience, well endowed, but one who had his own struggles, trials and temptations, *"Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."* 2 Cor. 12:8-9.

In one of our very recent Sunday meditations, we discovered how our Lord's post-resurrection appearances dramatically transformed His confused and fearful disciples. Why were they fearful? They feared their fellow Jews, but also because a few days earlier, one of their number had betrayed their Lord with a kiss. Another denied with cursing that he ever knew or followed him, while the rest scattered like frightened sheep!

Yes, they had ample reason to be afraid. Yet, Jesus, rather than scold them, blesses them with Peace, to calm their troubled spirits. Also, He gives them assurance that He is really the same Jesus, alive and victor over the power of sin, death and the grave. And, through the indwelling Power of His Holy Spirit, He now Enables them to fearlessly share the Gospel to all and sundry. John 20:19-23

Whatever you happen to be going through at the moment, and it may be that the voice of doubt and failure is echoing within your fragile heart and mind, telling you to 'Give up.' Remember this promise; it's found in psalm 102:17, *"He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea."*



Go on then, give Him a call, His line is always open and He is never too busy to lovingly respond to His children's cry for help.

Resurrection power and blessings be yours in abundance.

Your friend,
Kenneth.

Looking through an old Family Bible, I came across this 'Ten Commandments' poem. I find it easy then to remember what they are. CJ

Have no other Gods but me

To no image bow your knee

Take not the name of God in vain

Do not the Sabbath day profain

Honour your father and mother too

See that you no murder do

Abstain from thoughts and deeds unclean

What is your lot – take not by mean

And to the spot, bear not a blot

What is your neighbour's – covet not.



On Sunday 3rd March, Margaret Waddell celebrated 30 years' service as an elder in the Church of Scotland with a lunch in the Church hall. She is pictured here with husband Charlie and (below) two daughters receiving her long service certificate.

A happy time was had by everyone.



Walk of Witness—Good Friday

Easter is the main event in the Christian calendar and in Kilsyth there were some special services and events in recognition. Our church had a Maundy Thursday Service which was a time to reflect and recognise the Last Supper. Thanks to Rev. MacLeod for conducting the service and for his reflections on a number of scripture readings.

Churches in the town came together for the 'The Walk of Witness' on Good Friday and that got off to a good start with the sun shining and a send-off from the priest at St Patrick's Church.



Walkers walked in a long line behind the 'Cross Bearer' with all churches in Kilsyth represented, a great witness to the town and a great opportunity for Christians in the town to come together.

Our first stop was the band stand in the Burngreen where the Church of God Pastor Gary Gibson gave a word to the gathering crowd, we also had a wee chorus (Amazing Grace). Moving on via the Main Street, walking past the local shops, the gathering made their way to the Anderson Church for another word and a chorus at the front of the church from Pastor Gibson.

The crowd then moved into the Anderson Church Hall for a welcome cuppa, cakes and a time of fellowship which I am sure was enjoyed by all on the walk and others. A great witness to the town.

Some other churches had a Good Friday service, again a time to reflect and recognition that Jesus gave his life for us all. The Methodist Church had an early morning (8.30am) communion service on Easter Sunday in celebration of the risen Christ, this was followed by a fellowship breakfast together.

The Easter celebration culminated in our Easter Sunday service at the Anderson, followed by more tea/coffee and cakes.

Catriona C Clark



Thanks...

Many thanks for the lovely cards and gifts which I received recently on my birthday . They were much appreciated.

I would also like to thank the Church Guild members for their kindness in presenting me with a lovely card and beautiful floral arrangement at our closing social.

Thank you

Helen Provan

Many happy returns to Campbell Sturrock who will celebrate his 90th birthday on the 20th May.

Lots of love,

from **Margaret and the family**

Please accept my very sincere thanks for the cards and flowers I received on the recent sad occasion.

Marion Cowie

I was overjoyed to receive flowers after having hip surgery. Thanks. to everyone for their kind wishes and cards. Thanks to Kenneth for his very welcome visit. I am blessed to be a member of such a caring church family .

Ann Barrons

Long Service Award
I would like to thank everyone who made Sunday a very special day .

It was a privilege that so many friends were there to share it with me and thank you for the beautiful flowers.

Margaret Waddell.

Many thanks for the beautiful flowers, cards and presents I received from the church recently. Thanks also for pastoral care from our minister Rev KD Macleod and and visits from the Church family.

Ena Graham

Thank you for the lovely flowers I received in April. They were very much appreciated and a special thank you to Jean Weir

Berta Kennedy

Thank you very much for the beautiful flowers we received on Easter Sunday. It was an unexpected surprise and very much appreciated.

Gina & Jim Whyte

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers received from the church. Very much appreciated and thanks to Alison for delivering them.

Anne Stevenson

Date for your diary
Sat 8th June—the world famous Summer Fayre.
Keep the date free!

Fabric matters

Church doors - The external doors of the Church were in a very bad state. Members of the Guild had noticed this and, at their AGM, they decided to make a donation which was to be put towards the painting of the doors. Thanks to our good friend Stewart Wells and his 'assistant' Alistair, the front door and the side door are both looking good. It's also good to report that the Guild donation covered the cost and there was a wee bit left over. **Thank you, Guild members.**

Trees - The rotten trees have now been removed and we await the arborist coming back to lower the height of the existing trees and to plant the fruit trees which should not grow as high as the current trees. The removal of several very tall trees has made quite a difference to the area around the Manse. The tenants have used the shredded branches to mulch the flower beds. The arborist will cut up the trunks and sell the logs to people with wood burning fires. Nothing is wasted!

Interim Moderator

Our Interim Moderator, Rev. Joyce Keyes, retired from her ministry at Abronhill Parish Church on 31st March. Joyce has been a great help to us, giving good advice on how we proceed with discussions about our future union with Burns and Old. We wish Joyce a long and happy retirement with plenty of time and good health to pursue her interests. We will miss her so much.



However, we have been blessed with yet another good man in the person of Graeme Barrie who is an elder at Easterhouse Parish Church. Graeme took up his appointment as Interim Moderator on 1st April and the Kirk Session met with him on Thursday 4th. Graeme is keen to get to know our folks and so we have arranged to have a Congregational lunch – buffet style this time – on **Sunday 21st April** at which he, his wife Laura and, we hope, Rev. Joyce Keyes, will be present. Please stay behind after the service and enjoy fellowship at a FREE lunch, no charge!

2nd Kilsyth Girls Brigade.

We are nearing the end of our session and have enjoyed having 10 Explorers, 14 Juniors and 3 Brigaders this year.

Our Parents' Night is on Tuesday 30th April at 6.45 pm and everyone is very welcome to come and support us.

We are going to camp again with our own BB company to Dalguise PGL at Dunkeld on the 3-5th May. We are excited to have 10 girls going this year with Mhairi and myself.

Our day trip this year is to Blair Drummond Safari Park by bus on Saturday 11th May and we are hoping to have dry weather. The girls are excited.

We have appreciated the help very much again this year of our two young leaders Emma and Katie. We could not manage without them. Also Elizabeth who is doing her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh and has been volunteering with

the Juniors this last year.

Next session we are welcoming back Jacqueline Gore who was previously a longstanding officer in our company.

We are also welcoming Loraine More as a new Trainee leader either at the end of this session or the start of next session.

Jean Ewen



The JAM Club

The JAM club have had another busy year. We regularly have 12 children attending, with a few more visitors on parade Sundays.

Our sessions include Bible stories, games, challenges, crafts and snacks. Everyone shares their news from the past week with the group & we have a lot of fun together.

The JAM prize giving will be on **Sunday, 9th June** where we will hear a bit more from the children.

Please come along to this special service and support the young people of our congregation.

Hazel Gordon



As Christians, caring for the planet and engaging with environmental issues is not only a responsibility but also a reflection of our faith. Here's why:

Stewardship: In Genesis, God entrusts humanity with stewardship over the Earth (Genesis 1:26-28). This means we are caretakers of creation, tasked with preserving and nurturing it for future generations. Caring for the environment is an expression of our stewardship role.

Love for Creation: God's love extends to all of creation, not just humanity (John 3:16, Psalm 145:9). When we care for the environment, we honour God's love for His entire creation.

Justice and Compassion: Environmental degradation often affects the most vulnerable communities, exacerbating poverty, hunger, and displacement. By advocating for environmental justice and sustainability, we demonstrate compassion and solidarity with those who are most impacted.

Gratitude: Recognising the beauty and diversity of the natural world leads to gratitude towards God for His creation (Psalm 19:1). Protecting the environment is a way of expressing gratitude for the gifts we've been given.

Future Generations: Our actions today affect the world our children and grandchildren will inherit. By caring for the environment, we ensure that future generations can also enjoy God's creation.

Witness and Evangelism: Engaging with environmental issues provides an opportunity to demonstrate our faith in action and to share the Gospel. It shows that Christianity is relevant to contemporary concerns and can inspire others to consider the implications of their own actions.

In summary, caring for the planet and engaging with environmental topics is integral to Christian faith and practice. It reflects our role as stewards, our love for God's creation, our commitment to justice and compassion, our gratitude towards God, our concern for future generations, and our witness to the world.

Compiled with help of AI

Trees for Life

Trees for Life will plant trees in Scotland on your behalf. Your trees will be planted alongside other native trees, and in time will transform open hillsides into healthy young woodland, helping to restore the Caledonian forest. This rich habitat will support wildlife such as red squirrel, black grouse, capercaillie, pine marten and golden eagle.

<https://treesforlife.org.uk/>

Chocolate Nest cake – a great way of using up all those left over chocolate eggs (as if you needed an eggscuse)!

from the **BBC Good Food** website

Ingredients

For the chocolate sponges

200ml vegetable oil, plus extra for the tin

250g plain flour

6 tbsp cocoa powder

2 tsp baking powder

1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

280g soft light brown sugar

250ml buttermilk

2 tsp vanilla extract

3 large eggs

For the nest

200g marshmallows

100g butter, chopped into chunks

2 tbsp cocoa powder

75g salted pretzels, crushed

4 wheat cereal biscuits, crushed

chocolate eggs, to decorate

For the icing

150g slightly salted butter, softened

2 tbsp cocoa powder

300g icing sugar

4 tbsp milk

Method

STEP 1

Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Oil and line two 20cm round cake tins. Add the flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, bicarb, sugar and a large pinch of salt to a bowl. Mix with a whisk, squeezing any large lumps of sugar through your fingers, until you have a fine, sandy mix.

STEP 2

Whisk the oil with the buttermilk in a jug. Stir in the vanilla and eggs, then pour the wet ingredients into the dry and mix until there are no more streaks of flour. Divide

the mixture between the tins and bake for 25 mins. Test the cakes by inserting a skewer into the centre – if there is any wet mixture on the skewer, return the cakes to the oven for 5 mins more, then check again. Leave the cakes to cool in the tins for 15 mins, then transfer to wire racks to cool fully.

STEP 3

Next, make the nest. Clean one tin and line it with some oiled baking parchment. Put the marshmallows and butter in a heatproof bowl and microwave on high for 1 min, stirring halfway through (or heat gently in a pan on the hob). Continue microwaving in 20-second blasts until you get a runny mixture. Stir in the cocoa, pretzels and shredded wheat until well combined. Tip the mixture into your lined tin and use the back of your spoon to create a nest shape. Leave to cool at room temperature for a few hrs, or chill in the fridge if you need it to set faster.

STEP 4

To make the icing, beat the butter, cocoa, icing sugar and milk together until smooth, adding a splash more milk if the mixture is too stiff. Assemble the cake by stacking the sponges with icing in between, topping with more icing and the nest. Fill your nest with as many chocolate eggs as it will hold, then serve. It may be easier to cut the cake if you remove the nest – you can then chop the nest into chunks and serve alongside the cake.



The Guild

We had a lovely Closing Social on Monday, 11th March. William Shaw produced a beautiful main meal buffet while the ladies of the committee provided the tasty cakes. Euan Russell was in great form with a varied programme of song. It was lovely to welcome Margaret, Sandra and John - Annabell's family because she did so want for them to hear Euan.



Now we are on our break till October when we restart to a new strategy 'Let us build a house' with the new theme 'Sure Foundations'.

Session 24/25 will be the last as the Anderson Church Guild as we will be uniting with the Burns and Old Guild so the committee will have to produce a programme to be remembered by,

We must walk forward in faith with God as we face a future of uncertainty.

Let's recall words from Isaiah 33: 6 He will be the sure foundation for your times; a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge.

Also let us remember - Whose we are, and Whom we serve.

Margaret Brown, convener.

70K in May

Move 70km during May. Walk, run, cycle, however you move is up to you.

Invite your friends and family to sponsor you, or even complete the challenge with you!

[Take part](#)

Envelopes that change lives

The classic Christian Aid red envelope - but online.

Raise vital funds and push back against poverty by sharing your personalised digital envelope with friends and family.

[Create an envelope](#)



Christian Aid Week 12-18th May 2024

70K in May is our fundraising challenge this Christian Aid Week. It's simple: travel 70K, in whatever way you want, throughout the month of May.

By taking part in 70k in May you can be the starting point for change. You can help more people around the world can push back against the inhumanity of poverty, and build safer, happier futures for their families and communities.

<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/70k-in-may>



As the two congregations of the Church of Scotland in Kilsyth move towards becoming one, the congregations appointed a cluster group to discuss the terms of the union. Because Rev. Bob Johnston has demitted office, the timescale for progression to union has altered slightly. Members will receive a newsletter giving more details of discussions and decisions. The following information is from the first issue.

Understanding a Union

How does a union affect the two congregations?

A union between congregations is both an ending and a beginning as the old congregations come together to form a new congregation that normally worships together in one building. The two parishes combine to form a new parish, the accounts are combined, the constitution becomes a Unitary Constitution and the two Kirk Sessions become one.

When will the union happen?

There are three key points that need to be agreed before a union can take place and these are: deciding a new name, the place of worship to be used and where the manse will be. To make these decisions the group needs to consider which building best serves both the mission and aims they have identified and plans for a sustainable future. Once these decisions are made, the Kirk Session, Presbytery and the Congregation must vote on the Basis of Union that is drawn up and the national committee Faith Action Programme Leadership Team (FAPLT) and the General Trustees must also give their approval. The Cluster Group is hopeful that a decision on Buildings could be taken to the September meeting of Presbytery. Once the Basis of Union has been approved, a date for the union can be set.

Scripture Union (SU)

Please remember in prayer SU as it runs many camps during the summer and also many Holiday Clubs. Pray that the children will have a wonderful time, that there will be plenty of volunteers to support the events and that these children, many who do not attend church, will learn about Jesus.

Jean Ewen



SU Scotland



Boys' Brigade

I write this during the Easter holidays, and counting how many weeks we have left – Not many is the answer as the end of the session very quickly approaches. Before then we have our Camp in the first weekend in May. Alongside our Girls' Brigade, we have around 30 young persons going to Dalguise which is always a very fun weekend. Pictures to follow in the next magazine.

Our end of year parents' evenings will be on the 13th of May for the Anchor Boys and the 15th of May for the Junior and Company sections. These will take a slightly different format this year. More to follow.

As many of you know, Christine and Aileen have decided now is the right time to step back from their work with the Anchor Boys. As you all know, they have both been terrific servants to the Company and the wider Boys' Brigade over many, many years and positively impacted the lives of so many young men – more to come on this. With them leaving at the end of this session, we have a HUGE hole to fill in terms of officers/helpers within the Anchor Boys. If anyone would be interested in having a chat about becoming a helper of an officer, in the Anchor Boys, or any other section, please get in touch.

The Company section is also unfortunately losing Jordan Henderson who came through as a boy and became an officer in the company and has been fantastic working with the boys over the years. Jordan and his wife are moving to Australia to start a new life together and we wish them all the best and nothing but happiness together. Jordan will be gratefully missed.

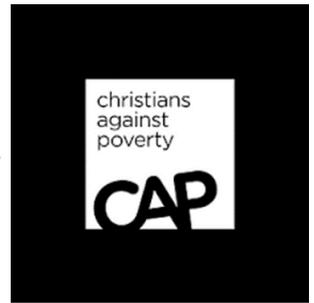
Scott Anderson, Captain

May it be so for you,
Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of the Light of the World to you.



Christians Against Poverty

I have recently been appointed Job Club manager within the Christians Against Poverty centre here at Kirkintilloch Baptist Church, and I am very much looking forward to working with the existing team of committed individuals who have led courses here in recent years.



We are running our second **Steps to Employment** course of the year commencing on **25th April 2024**. The course runs over 6 sessions, each **Thursday from 1pm-3pm**, and is held within our building at **52 Townhead, Kirkintilloch**.

We are hoping to build on a really encouraging end to 2023 with a number of our course participants securing work opportunities.

Perhaps someone you know may have been out of work for some time, has recently become unemployed or had time out of the workforce with caring responsibilities - then this course could be perfect for them.

Is this course different? Well, we do focus on CV's, applications and interview readiness, but perhaps more importantly we spend time thinking about

- Motivations and barriers to work
- Finding (or perhaps rediscovering) strengths, skills and experiences
- Encouraging everyone that they are unique, special and valued by God

If you require more details, please email me at

andrewharvey@capjobclubs.org

Andrew Harvey, CAP Job Club Manager

Kirkintilloch Baptist Church

<http://capuk.org/>

Funerals held in March

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life"

James Stewart Wilson

Annabella Smith

Dorothy Irvine

Elizabeth McLachlan's funeral will be held on 15th April



<https://act.scotland.shelter.org.uk/act-social-housing>

Shelter exists to defend the right to a safe home and fight the impact of the housing emergency. Shelter Scotland volunteers are part of our fight. From raising funds in our shops or local communities to helping those directly impacted by the housing emergency, there are so many ways you can make a difference.

Having a clear out? You can send your unwanted items to our charity shops by using Shelter's free Collect+ service. All you need is some packaging to pack up your donations. It's easy, free and you'll be helping fight the housing emergency with every item you donate. Find out more on the Shelter website <https://scotland.shelter.org.uk/>

Do you have good quality ceramic tableware to donate?

Shelter is working together with Denby, who are offering a reward of up to £50 off Denby's ceramics for those donating tableware to Shelter Scotland. Find out how to donate your tableware and claim your reward on Denby's website <https://www.denbypottery.com/relove-with-shelter>



Lanternhouse Theatre Senior Art Group Fri 19 Apr - Fri 21 Jun (13:30)

TAKE PART WORKSHOPS
ARTS AND CRAFTS

Book Now!

Come and collaborate with our amazingly talented Scottish artists on process-based making sessions, open to adults aged sixty plus.

Creative sessions are open to people of all artistic abilities and experience who want to explore a variety of visual art techniques. Sessions include mono printing, collage, experimenting with painting, drawing and composition, marbling, and 3D craft.

Tickets £50.00.

Running time: 2 hours per session

<https://lanternhousearts.org/events/senior-art-group/>

Gaza

Life expectancy: 5 minutes. That's the sad reality for Palestinians living in Gaza according to a BBC report.

The United Nations and other international aid organisations last Sunday decried the devastating toll of six months of war in Gaza, warning that the Palestinian territory had become "beyond catastrophic."

"Six months is an awful milestone," the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said, warning that "humanity has been all but abandoned" in the severity of the conflict.

The Gaza war broke out on October 7 with an unprecedented attack by Hamas militants that resulted in the deaths of 1,170 people, mostly civilians, Israeli figures show. 129 hostages remain in Gaza, including 34 who the army says are dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 33,175 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

Tearfund have produced a guide to help us pray for Gaza on their website at <https://www.tearfund.org> a small section of which we reproduce below:



Pray for peace

- ✦ Pray for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the violence.
- ✦ Pray for world leaders with influence in the region to make wise decisions that lead to lasting peace.
- ✦ Pray that God's peace would fill the hearts and minds of everyone who is suffering as a result of this conflict.

Pray for hope

- ✦ Pray for those who are terrified, mourning and suffering in Israel and Gaza. Ask God to save them from despair – for the trauma and violence they've experienced not to overshadow hope.
- ✦ Pray that people in Gaza and Israel and those in the wider region wouldn't lose hope that peace is possible. 'With God, all things are possible' (Matthew 19:26).

The deadline for the next magazine will be Sun 26th May for publishing on 2nd June.

Please send items to andersonchurchmagazine@outlook.com or give to Rona McFadyen on a Sunday. Please think of writing a short article if you attend another church or go to an event before then—it's always good to include things that the congregation are involved in.

Do you volunteer in any capacity around Kilsyth? Could you tell us a bit about the organisation and what you do? You never know it might inspire someone else to have a go!

If you would like to contribute but are not confident about putting pen to paper, please get in touch and we can have a chat. With a few details Rona can write up articles.

Rotas

Week ending	Tea & Coffee	Reading	Cleaning	Flowers
14 Apr	M & J Brown, G Ewen, M Laird, M Whitelaw, A Mitchell, G Sturridge	John Gordon	Team 5 (Thurs)	Ann McManus
21 Apr	J Ewan, C Clark, E Gordon	Kathleen Ross	Team 1 (Sat)	Ena Graham
28 Apr	J Ewen, H Provan, A Sneddon	Rona McFadyen	Team 2 (Thur)	May Shaw
5 May	M & J Brown, M Whitelaw	Jim Millar	Team 3 (Thur)	Kathleen Ross
12 May	— (Burns & Old)	Olivia Brittan	Team 4 (Sat)	— (Burns & Old)
19 May	K & I Ross, C Clark	Jean Ewen	Team 5 (Thur)	Clem Bryden
26 May	J Ewen, M Laird, E Gordon	George Ewen	Team 1 (Sat)	Jean Gilmour / Evelyn Grant