

# Contact



**EK South Parish Church**

**December 2022**

## **Christmas Services**

**Christmas Eve Service: 3.00pm**

**Christmas Day Service: 10.30am**

**New Year's Day Service: 10.30am**



## **Vision Statement**

“East Kilbride South Parish is an inclusive church, it welcomes everyone, giving opportunity for their faith to be nurtured.

It builds good relationships within the whole church family and reaches out to share our life of faith in our community.

It is able to do this, in an environment where God is central, through good leadership, sharing faith together and valuing everyone.”

## From the Manse

### **Terry writes:**

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

Graham and I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Each Sunday in Advent we will be remembering and celebrating the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that is ours in the Messiah Jesus. I pray that these will overflow in your lives this Christmas season and throughout 2023.



I don't know if you've heard of the new drink 'Prime'? It's the latest thing, and kids, and their parents, are desperately trying to find somewhere it's in stock. Supermarkets are limiting how much any one person can buy. It's causing quite a stir and of course like anything that becomes scarce there are those who are looking to make a quick buck by selling it at exorbitant prices, today it's selling for £16.99 for a 500ml bottle, just one bottle.

The hope, peace, joy and love we experience is not something that we can buy, it's not something that we can stir up in ourselves, it's not something that will run out. All these things are a gift from God and there's enough for everyone. God offers us comfort and encouragement for the future – when do we need comfort? When we're anxious, in distress, when we are mourning. When do we need encouragement? When we are faced with change and would rather things remain the same, we need encouragement to move on with God.

Each of these gifts is a powerful encouragement to trust God and keep on keeping on following Jesus. The words of this hymn occurred to me 'And, as I face tomorrow, with its problems large and small, I trust the God of miracles, give to him my all.' The 'giving our all' to God is an act of faith, of trust, giving our lives to God, seeking to do his will is a witness that we trust him. We are invited to live our lives in a different manner from those who don't know or trust God. (Read Matthew 6, the sermon on the mount)

Psalm 119 verse 37 says this 'turn my eyes from worthless things'. Only God can help us to recognise the difference between what is worthless and what is valuable.

Loving God,

Only as we live in the light of your Hesed can we turn our eyes from worthless things to the hope, peace, joy and love you give us. Grant that in this season of joy mingled with uncertainty, that we will be true to our calling as your people. In Jesus' name, we pray.

*Hesed: The indescribable, immeasurable, inexhaustible, unbreakable love of God. (Iain Hepburn)*

*When the person from whom I have a right to expect nothing gives me everything. (Michael Card)*



Terry

**And Graham writes:**

A merry Christmas everyone from the manse.

Terry and I have enjoyed the last six years getting to know you all and we are sad to be leaving but know the South Parish church is being left in good hands.

We had hoped that there would be a plan in place before we left as you have been a big part of our lives and we wanted the best for you in the future but as Terry says we don't know the plans he has for us all but he will travel every step of the way with us. With a promise like that the future is something we should hold on to and look forward to travelling along the road with him.

We have made friends with you and you have become like an extended family of whom we shall have many fond memories of our time in East Kilbride.

We wish you a very happy Christmas and wish you all the best for the new year coming with all it will bring in your own lives and in our church family's life as well.

Much love to you all,

Graham and Terry Taylor

FIONA MCCWAN WISHES EVERYONE A PEACEFUL AND JOYOUS  
CHRISTMAS



We have had a fantastic year at toddlers, with a faithful team of volunteers sharing the love of our Lord with all who come along, I give thanks to God for their dedication. We have lots of festivities to look forward to with a Christmas Imagination & Adventure play activity then our Christmas party the following week. Please encourage anyone you know with under school aged children to come along and join in the fun on Wednesday mornings at 9.15.

All at Smarteenies toddler group wish you all a blessed Christmas and a fruitful New Year.

Wendy, Pauline, Claire, Elizabeth, Joan, Ishbel & Elise



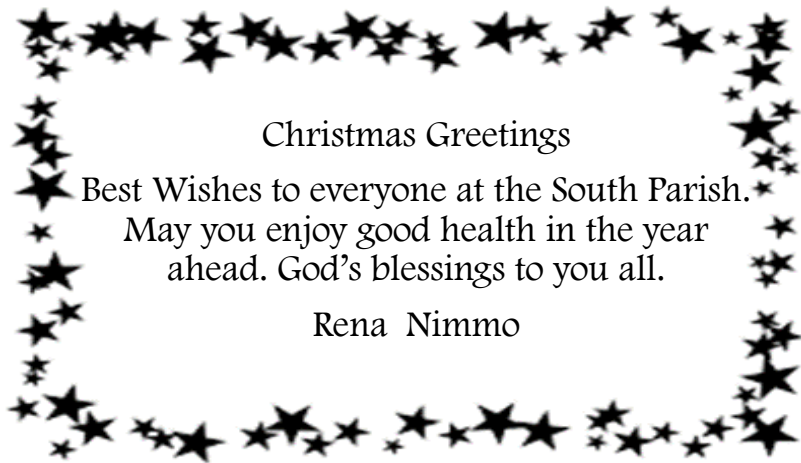
## Bible Study

It's always a joy to come to the season of Advent and revisit the familiar happenings surrounding the Birth of the Lord Jesus. Even in the familiar we find treasure, something we hadn't noticed or fully appreciated, such is the gift of God's word to us.

2023 looms large. What better resolution could there be for all of us, than to be at the Wednesday evening Bible study? Always room round the table for more.

Finally, we are aware that many people do not like coming out in the evenings. If you would appreciate and would be able to attend a day-time Bible study, please speak to Terry or Ishbel and if there is interest, we will see what is possible.

Ishbel Campbell



## Christmas Greetings

Best Wishes to everyone at the South Parish.

May you enjoy good health in the year ahead. God's blessings to you all.

Rena Nimmo

### O come, all you unfaithful

We were at a Christmas concert the other night and heard this song for the first time. It struck a chord, as we are so used to singing *O come, all ye faithful*. We all have had a hard time over the past two or three years and I was interested in finding out what was behind the song. It was written by Lisa Clow, with music by Bob Kauflin.

Lisa tells her story –

“I was struggling. It had been a long year and a half. Finances were stressful, I miscarried twins, and on top of it I was battling a deep relational bitterness. My church was having their annual service where they kick off the Christmas season with carols and special songs and I, for once, was not singing. I told them that I wouldn't be able to sing, but what they didn't know is that I was too overcome with shame to stand on stage before my church.

That Sunday morning, I stood at my seat as they began to sing “O Come All Ye Faithful” and the first line of the song just clobbered me. It hit me like a giant wave of guilt.

*O come all you faithful, joyful and triumphant!*

I remember hearing those words and thinking, “I have been so unfaithful. My joy has dwindled, and I am a triumphant... failure.” And I didn't sing the rest of the service.

I drove home, my mind still churning, “Is that really who is invited to come to Jesus? The faithful? The joyful? The triumphant? If so, then I am hopeless.”

Thankfully, later that afternoon the Holy Spirit reminded me of Jesus's invitation in Matthew 11:28,

*“Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.”*

Rest found in his life, his death, and his resurrection, not my own.

That evening, I had a strong conviction to write a song for myself and for the weary, the broken, and the ashamed.”

Here are the words of her song -

**O come, all you unfaithful**

O come, all you unfaithful  
Come, weak and unstable  
Come, know you are not alone

O come, barren and waiting ones  
Weary of praying, come  
See what your God has done  
*Christ is born, Christ is born  
Christ is born for you*

O come, bitter and broken  
Come with fears unspoken  
Come, taste of His perfect love

O come, guilty and hiding ones  
There is no need to run  
See what your God has done

He’s the Lamb who was given  
Slain for our pardon  
His promise is peace  
For those who believe

So come, though you have nothing  
Come, He is the offering  
Come, see what your God has done



You can hear a recording of the song at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gX28brE5Z2A>

So wherever we find ourselves at this time of year, remember that a Saviour has been born, who is Christ the Lord. And he was born to save us from our sins. All of them.

**Barrie Crawford**



*Anna Cossar wishes all her friends at the  
South Parish Church a very Happy Christmas  
and all the very best for 2023.*

**Elizabeth Crawford writes:**

I would like to share a little story with you about an evening Barrie and I spent at the Studio 32 Pantomime, A Christmas Carol, just recently.

As part of audience participation, one of the principal actors wandered through the audience, holding the microphone close to some of the children who were enjoying the show, and asked them to say their name and then tell everyone what, for them, is the best thing about Christmas.

There were many children there, including a group from St. Mary's Primary School in Hamilton. The children all gave the usual answers – the best thing about Christmas is the presents, or Santa, or parties. Then the microphone was given to a little girl who said in a loud and clear voice, "My name is Lucy and the best thing about Christmas is that we get to celebrate Jesus' birthday!"

Happy  
Birthday  
+ Jesus

What a cheer she got and the cast member said to the audience, "I think that deserves a round of applause."

It was so refreshing to hear this wee voice, with as much excitement in it as the others who had talked about presents, parties, Santa etc. talking about celebrating the real reason for Christmas.

It lifted our hearts and reminded us that in the middle of all the secular focus on Christmas, there is real hope for the future in the shape of one wee primary schoolgirl who puts Jesus first!

Elizabeth.





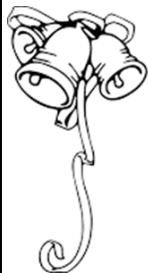
Thanks to everyone who supported our recent Fairtrade Christmas Coffee Morning. It was great to see so many people come along on the day and enjoy some tea, coffee and freshly made pancakes, as well as the opportunity to sit and chat to others.

We were delighted to raise £767 from this and really appreciate all the contributions made. This will go towards subsidising the costs for some of the BB activities we have planned for the New Year, and help make sure that cost is not a factor for any of our members to miss out on activities.

A date for your diary in the New Year: we are planning to hold a Quiz Night on Saturday 28 January starting at 7pm. Tickets will be on sale in the New Year for this, and it would be great if you could come along and join us for it.

From all the leaders and young people in our BB, we'd like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and all the best for 2023.

David Crawford



*Happy Christmas to everyone  
at the South Parish Church.*

From Martin & Winnie Smith

## Selection boxes

Although Sunday School hasn't been up and running for some time, we have still been collecting selection boxes for the Loaves and Fishes..

What an amazing response we have had again this year and so we would like to thank everyone who responded to this appeal.

As always the people of the South Parish and their friends came up trumps!!

*Thank you all!*

Elizabeth and the other Sunday School Staff.



## A thought at Christmas

We have a list of folks we know, all written in a book  
And every year at Christmas-time we go and take a look  
And that is when we realise that these names are a part  
Not of the book they're written in, but of our very heart.



For each name stands for someone who has crossed our path sometime  
And in the meeting they've become the rhythm of the rhyme.  
And while it sounds fantastic for us to make this claim  
We really feel we are composed of each remembered name.

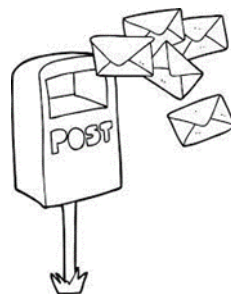
And while you may not be aware of any special link,  
Just meeting you shaped our lives more than you can think.

For once you've met somebody, the years cannot erase  
The memory of a pleasant word or of a friendly face.

So never think our Christmas cards are just a mere routine  
Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between,  
For when we send a Christmas card that is addressed to you,  
It's because you're on that list of folks we are indebted to.



For you are but a total of the many folks we've met  
And you happen to be one of those we prefer not to forget.  
And whether we have known you for many years, or few,  
In some way you have had a part in shaping things we do,



And every year when Christmas comes we realise anew  
The biggest gift that life can give is meeting folks like you.  
And may the spirit of Christmas that forever endures  
Leave its richest blessing in the hearts of YOU AND YOURS.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Una Gracie

(Editor: poem generally attributed to Helen Steiner Rice, 1949)



## Pastoral Care Group

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*



The work of the Pastoral Care Group continues as always in the run up to Christmas. It can be a difficult time of the year for many who are facing their first Christmas without a loved one. It can also be a lonely time for those with family and friends living many miles away. Please remember them all in your prayers and may we all do what we can to support the elderly, the lonely and the anxious, reminding them of the hope for the world sent to us in the birth of Jesus.

We are in the process of sending out Pastoral Christmas cards to those on our list, so if you have someone in mind who doesn't normally get one, please let us know.

Blessings at Christmas to all our church family from the Pastoral Care Group. May the New Year be peaceful as we step forward into it, safe in the knowledge we are in His strong, loving hands come what may!



*Elizabeth, Barrie, Jeanette,  
June, Alison and Jean.*



Church Sunday Badminton club will resume in 2023.  
Everybody welcome. Please contact Douglas Johnston  
(07849 668108) if you would like to come along.

“Be who you are, say what you feel, those who mind don’t matter,  
and those who matter don’t mind,”

Happy Christmas from the Johnstons.

## **Energy Bills Support Scheme**



The last two weeks’ Intimations have included a scam warning:

*“Fraudsters are pretending to be from Ofgem. If you receive a call or email telling you to apply for your energy bill rebate, ignore it. Ofgem will apply rebates automatically.”*

The point of the notice is correct – though it’s your electricity supplier, not Ofgem, who will apply the rebate.

Full details of the Energy Bills Support Scheme discount are on the UK Government website at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/getting-the-energy-bills-support-scheme-discount>

If you’re not on the internet, the main points are as follows:

The Energy Bills Support Scheme provides a £400 non-repayable discount to all households with a domestic electricity connection to help with their energy bills over winter 2022 to 2023. The discount is automatic. If you get a message asking for you to apply for it, or for any personal or financial details, it is most likely to be a scam.

Even though both electricity and gas costs have increased for everyone (including the supply companies!) over the last several months, the £400 discount is being provided only through electricity bills.

### **How you’ll get the discount**

You do not need to apply for the discount, and there’s no need to contact your energy supplier. Your electricity supplier should already have provided

you with information and guidance about the discount scheme. It started in October 2022, so if you have not received your first instalments by now, please contact your supplier.

The discount will be applied to your monthly household electricity bill for 6 months starting in October 2022. You'll get:

- £66 in October and November
- £67 in December, January, February and March

You'll get the discount monthly, even if you pay for your energy quarterly or use a payment card.



If you pay your electricity bill by **direct debit**, you'll get the discount either as a reduction to your monthly direct debit amount, or a refund to your bank account following the monthly direct debit collection.

If you pay by standard **credit or payment card**, the discount will be applied as a credit to your account in the first week of each month. The credit will appear as it would if you had made a payment.

If you have a **smart prepayment meter**, the discount will be credited directly to your smart prepayment meter in the first week of each month.

If you have a **traditional prepayment meter**, you'll get the discount from the first week of each month. Your electricity supplier will let you know in advance how you will get your discount. You'll get either:

- redeemable vouchers (sent by SMS text, email or post), which you'll need to redeem at a top-up point. Your supplier will tell you which top-up points can redeem the vouchers, for example at a Post Office branch or a PayPoint shop

or

- an automatic credit when you top up at your usual top up point.

It's a bit more complicated if you rent, and you pay for your electricity as part of your rent. In that case, you need to reach an agreement with your landlord about how the discount will be applied to your rent payments.

To sum up:

- The Energy Bills Support Scheme will give each household a discount of £400 on your electricity bill, in six instalments spread over the period from October 2022 to March 2023.
- The discount is automatic. You do not have to apply for it. If you get a message asking for you to apply for it, or for any personal or financial details, it is most likely to be a scam.
- Your electricity supplier will apply the discount, in a way that depends on how you pay your bills. The supplier should have already provided you with information about the method by which you will get the discount.
- You should already have received the first one or two instalments of the discount. If you haven't, please contact your electricity supplier.

*Michael Johnston*

*As we ponder all that is good and true and perfect about the coming of our Saviour we can approach the New Year with confidence because God is good and true and perfect, yet he reaches out to us, who are not always good or true or perfect, in profound undeserved love. May we all know the joy and peace He alone can give.*

*With warmest Christmas wishes to all the church family.*

*Iain and Ishbel Campbell*

A very happy and blessed Christmas to all our friends at the South Parish. Thank you for your support and encouragement throughout the year. May 2023, with all its uncertainty, see us drawing closer to each other and closer to our Heavenly Father, trusting him to be with us whatever the year may bring.



*With love from Elizabeth and Barrie*

## Church Information

|                |                                 |                                  |              |
|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Minister       | Terry Taylor                    | 7 Clamps Wood                    |              |
| Email:         | ttaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk | Mobile:                          | 07590 265924 |
| Church Officer | Andy Wilson                     |                                  | 01355 234903 |
| Session Clerk  | Archie Gardner                  | 1 Somerville Lane                | 230739       |
| Ass Ses Clerk  | Eleanor Woodburn                | 9 Newlands Place                 | 237928       |
| Praise Group   | Barrie Crawford                 | 96 Colonsay                      | 239850       |
| Mag Editor     | Claire Johnston                 | e.claire.johnston@btinternet.com | 245277       |

## Congregational Activities

Sunday Worship service 10.30am

(In church building and on Zoom)

Tuesday 10:00am Badminton Club

Wednesday 9:15am Smarteenies toddler group

Wednesday 6:30pm Girls' Brigade

Wednesday 7:30pm Bible Study

Thursday 11:00am to 12 noon Food bank & Café

Thursday 6:00pm Boys' Brigade Anchors

Thursday 7:00pm Boys' Brigade Juniors

Friday 7:00pm Boys' Brigade Company Section

[www.eastkilbridesouthparish.org.uk](http://www.eastkilbridesouthparish.org.uk)



Baird Hill, The Murray, East Kilbride, G75 0ED

Church of Scotland

Scottish Charity No 008332