

Contact



The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be
celebrated on

Sunday 4th June 2023

At 10.30am

EK South Parish Church

June 2023

Mission Statement

By the grace of God,
In the spirit of Christ,
We are a people called by God
To live and act by His Word,
And spread the Good News
In our community and beyond.



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.”

Times change at South Parish, and in this edition we welcome our interim moderator Rev. Calum Stark and our locum for the summer, David McKee. If the services of a Minister are required, please contact Archie Gardner, Session Clerk, in the first instance.

Calum Stark, our interim moderator, introduces himself...

Born and raised in Edinburgh, I started out in a career in Human Resource Management before being called into the ministry. I then went on to train at New College Edinburgh. My first charge was in the northeast of Scotland in a small fishing town called Macduff. This was a real change of culture from living in the city and we had to tune our ears into a completely different dialect! I remember on one occasion having to have a translator for a conversation where an old lady spoke thick Doric and I struggled to understand a single word!

After five years in Macduff, we moved to Bellshill on a restricted tenure. Once again, I had to learn another type of accent and as you can imagine the West of Scotland is a different culture from the remote northeast. As my tenure came to an end God called us to Strathaven where we have been for over a year.

I am married to Liz who teaches French and German at Hutcheson's Grammar School. We have two sons, Douglas aged 19 and Fergus, 15.

I look forward to getting to know you and have already enjoyed meeting some of you at Kirk session and through leading a Sunday service. I wish you Gods richest blessing and pray that you will be encouraged to keep serving and moving forwards in your faith through this time of transition.

Calum Stark

David McKee, our locum, introduces himself...

Dear all at South Parish,

I would like to introduce myself to you as David McKee, and by the time you read this, I will be your Locum Minister, until the end of August. For the last 4 years, I have been studying to be a Minister in the Church of Scotland, firstly at Highland Theological College and then Glasgow University. As I type, all of my assignments have been handed in...and hopefully by June I will have passed! I then begin my Probationary Placement at Jackson Parish Church in Airdrie, in September. Hence while it will only be for a short time, I am very much looking forward to working with you all.

I stay in East Kilbride with my wife and 7 year old son. I also have family in East Kilbride so I know the town well. However I have to admit that until the recent Kirk Session meeting, I never knew where South Parish was, let alone had been in the building!

This can be like our Christian faith, as we are also continually finding out more about the world we live in. Through time, we also gain new awareness of the skills and qualities God has given us. I hope to do this with you all over the next months, especially during this time of change in the Church. We all have ways we can serve, no matter how small we may think they are. My hope is that as we journey together, we appreciate all that we have to offer and all we can do to serve our Church and those in our community. As the hymn says:



One More Step along the world I go

*From the old things to the new, keep me travelling
along with you*

I look forward to meeting you all. Best wishes,

David

Presbytery matters

We've not had a Presbytery meeting since the last magazine however as I write this, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has just had its opening ceremony. Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, who has led Christian Aid in Scotland since 2016, has been elected the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. She acknowledged that "there are hefty challenges facing the Church of Scotland, there are monumental challenges facing the world and the church is not exempt".



Meanwhile the Mission Planning Action Group have been engaged in reading all of the submitted proformas, with the responsibility of ensuring that the plan that Presbytery is invited to approve will be acceptable to the wider church.

Your prayers for the future of our church are not only welcome but essential.

Wendy

the girls' brigade
girls' lives transformed
god's world enriched



We have finished the session with fluctuating numbers but a very interesting group of girls. All have completed the tasks re-

quired for their badges which were awarded at the prize-giving service in May. We were also finally able to award trophies again. Our own Iona Bulman received her Brigaders' Brooch (again), she will attend an official presentation in the City Chambers in June. Thanks to Eleanor for her support in this achievement, and for all the work she has done over the years as Captain. We all look forward to a wee rest and a recharge ready to face the new session. Many thanks to the congregation for their support and prayers.

Joan Hamilton

Getting to know you...

Joan Hamilton speaking to Sandra MacKenzie

If someone in The South Parish Church needs someone to do something or stand in for someone you could almost guarantee that these words will be spoken, "I'll ask Joan."

Joan Hamilton is one of the kindest, most reliable, most willing and most broad-shouldered members of our church.

Joan has been a member since the early 70s, and is an elder and an officer in The Girls' Brigade.

Joan was born in Maryhill in Glasgow, moved to Whiteinch where she attended primary school and eventually when she was in Primary 7 her mum and dad and their family of five daughters moved to Drumchapel where Joan lived until she married her husband John.

She remembers as a child going to meetings of The Band of Hope and The Salvation Army. Her mum went to church in Drumchapel after the move and Joan and her sister Helen became officers in The Boys Brigade.

After she left school Joan started work with the health service in the prescription pricing division. She and her husband John met each other through two married colleagues. One worked beside Joan and her husband worked beside John on the buses and they introduced them to each other at a New Year party. The rest as they say.....

Joan and John were married in 1973 and moved to East Kilbride a couple of months later. They will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary in September.

Joan and John have three daughters: Lynne, Karen and Fiona. Fiona of course is well known to us all, not least as the organiser of the Food Bank, a Girls' Brigade Officer and the mother of Iona, Cameron and Andrew. Their other grandson Ben is also a well kent face in our church.

Joan remembered attending BB camp when she was expecting her oldest daughter Lynne. "I must have been nuts, but at least John came too!" she laughed.

Joan is no stranger to family tragedy. Her sister Cathy died when she was in her early 30s leaving two little boys and a wee girl who was only in Primary 1 at the time. And recently one of those nephews, Brian, died too. "But you come through it all," said Joan sadly. "I just see it as the road I'm on. And when one door closes another one opens. You just have to keep active and involved."

Joan is close to her three remaining sisters. Her sister Helen lives in Edinburgh and is an elder in her church. Another sister lives in Holland and Joan visits when she can. "She can quote the bible chapter and verse," said Joan, "something I would love to be able to do. But I hope I show my faith by example."

Joan's other sister also lives in East Kilbride.

Although Joan didn't work when her family were small she did voluntary work with the WRVS, as it was then, once Fiona was at nursery. She delivered meals on wheels and worked with the library for the housebound alongside Alison Sharp, wife of our former minister John Sharp. "That certainly gave me an interest away from the family," remembered Joan. Then when the girls were all at secondary school Joan took on a succession of part time jobs.

The South Parish Church has certainly kept her busy. She has been a member for about 43 years. She came to the South Parish because her family lived in the Murray and her girls were all involved in the Sunday School, the Girls' Brigade and the Melodymakers. Joan's own involvement in the Girls' Brigade started when she "came to help"! She has been an officer for about 15 years just about as long as she has been an elder. "I've loved being an elder," she said. "Tommy Orr was my mentor and he really helped me. I used to visit 15 to 20 people and now there's only three." Numbers in the Girls' Brigade have dwindled too. At one time it was a big company which

even had an under 5s group who started when they were 3. Now there are about 25 Explorers and although there are 15 Juniors 'on the books' only 8 – 10 attend regularly. And there are only two Brigaders, one of them being Joan's granddaughter Iona. "We're competing with so many other activities now," said Joan.

Joan is regularly on door duty and helps with the count. She also helps out at the food bank café on a Thursday morning and with the monthly 2 o'clock Club. Interestingly when we left the church after this interview well after the morning service had ended one of the Girls' Brigade mums was passing by and she laughed and said, "You just can't stay away!"

Joan likes to keep a low profile in the church in spite of being involved in so many activities. "I only came to be involved in the readings rota because of my Girls' Brigade involvement," she said, "but I couldn't stand up and lead the prayers of intercession."

Joan is an amazing combination of Martha, always busy and Mary, a shining example of Christianity.

"My faith has kept me happy," she said.



The food bank distribution point and free community café are available in the Church Hall from 11:00 to 12:00 noon every Thursday.

Volunteers from South Parish also help through the week with picking up bags for distribution, and sorting and packing donations at the depot. If you would like to help, please speak to Fiona Bulman.

Donations of food, toiletries, cleaning products and strong carrier bags are always welcome.

Memories of early days: South Parish congregation

Each time I use a wee tea/coffee spoon, a salt 'n' pepper, lovely glass-ware etc it reminds me of the many such wedding gifts I received from church members more than 50 years ago.

People namely:

Mr & Mrs Crawford (Barrie's Mum & Dad)

Mr & Mrs Thomson (Amelia's Mum & Dad)

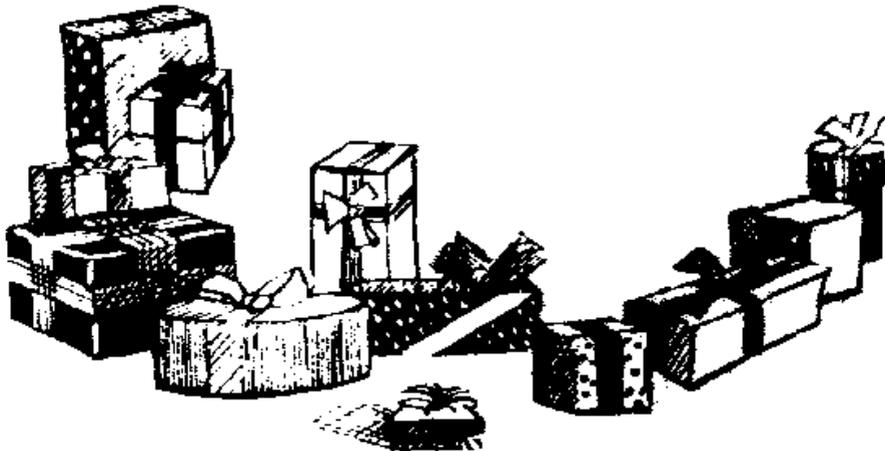
The McCallums, McDonalds, the Yates

Mrs Gilmour, Mr & Mrs Lockhart, Mr & Mrs Jeffs, (mainly my parents' friends at the time). These are but a small number of those generous 'wee mendings' to mark the occasion.

Nowadays gifts are more elaborate but I do wonder if they will still be in use in 50+ years' time.

It's a wee part of the South Parish Church memories that can't be erased. 🏠

Una Gracie (now a senior member)



A HIDDEN GEM FOUND ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

I often find myself thinking what a lot of rubbish you can come across on Facebook! There can be the odd thing that makes you smile or you can keep up with the goings-on in the lives of your “friends” and pass on birthday greetings. However, in general, a lot of nonsense, in my opinion, can be found on social media.

One day last month I came across something unusual. It was a prayer on Facebook, posted by some stranger. A prayer appearing there was in itself unusual but I found the words of this one really struck a chord with me and I would like to share it with you.

Dear Lord,

As I go forward in this day, help me to remember that the past is over and you are doing a new thing in me.....that you will complete the good work you have started.....that you make roads through the wilderness.....that you make a way where there seems to be no way, and nothing is impossible for you.

Help me have eyes to see things as you see them. Help me have faith that believes that through you nothing is impossible. Please help me trust that your timing and ways are perfect. You are in control so my heart can be at rest and filled with peace at all times.

Thank you, Lord, for all you are doing. In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen



I have no idea where this came from but I think it would be a fitting prayer to start each day with!

Elizabeth Crawford

“Come forth!”

The Sunday before Palm Sunday, the text for the service was John 11 v1-44 – the story of Jesus bringing Lazarus back to life. Through the reading of the gospel, a dramatized reflection on the effects for those involved, and the sermon, we thought about the life and death and life of Lazarus, and about eternal life through Jesus.

After the service, I found myself wondering about a possible additional message from the passage, relating to the development of the East Kilbride South cluster between Claremont, Mossneuk and South (in strictly alphabetical order!).

With the changes to come as the cluster forms and the parishes join together in the future, the old life of the parishes will cease. In a sense, we will be bereaved as the individual life of each of the three parishes changes from what it has been for many years, to what it must be together in future. Also, each of the parishes will see changes in the ministry team, with the retirement of well-esteemed ministers who have served God well in East Kilbride. It is right for us to remember what has gone before with thanks for the good people we met and the good things that took place, and to be sorry that those will not happen again. We can grieve a little for that – like Mary and Martha and the villagers of Bethany did for Lazarus.

We know that Jesus too grieved and wept for his friend Lazarus who had had to go into death. Jesus stands with us through our changes, and is well aware of the good stuff that has happened in the past and misses it, like we do.



The villagers gathered round Mary and Martha, and supported them. Similarly, I think we can take comfort from the fact that our Christian brothers and sisters in the other churches around us – such as the Murray partnership – are looking on as we go through these changes and praying for the well-being of our congregations and their witness.

In that period of loss and change, Jesus spoke to his disciples, to Martha, and to Mary; each in different ways, but perfectly suited to what those people each needed at that time. Jesus will be speaking now to each of the members of the cluster churches.



Maybe the details of the words will be a wee bit different if you're in Claremont or Mossneuk or South, but Jesus will be saying to each of us exactly what we need to hear.

Most importantly, Jesus spoke to Lazarus – “Come forth!”

Come forth to a new phase of life; come forth because it's not hopeless; come forth because there's more to the future than anyone watching could imagine before that moment; come forth because God isn't finished with you and has Kingdom work to be done.

Lazarus came forth, and was helped by his family and friends to remove his grave clothes and take a new place in a new phase of his life. And all this happened, as Jesus had already told his disciples, “in order to bring glory to God”.

It is my hope and prayer that we in the East Kilbride South cluster hear the voice of Jesus calling to us in the midst of this time of endings and changes. Let us hear Him as he calls us – in fact, instructs us! - to “Come forth” to a new phase of life, knowing that all this is happening in order to bring glory to God.

Michael Johnston

Poverty in East Kilbride

40% of the population of EK are in debt and the level of debt people are experiencing is increasing. The Resolution Foundation suggests that the two-year cost-of-living crisis is set to leave families £2,100 worse off and this figure is greater for low income families.

EK Warm Spaces network had been meeting since August 2022 as an emergency response to the cost of living crisis, however there is a need to develop a more proactive and strategic group to address issues of poverty in the town.

This 'East Kilbride Poverty Alliance', which so far comprises the Citizens' Advice Bureau, Kilbride Hospice and Healthy and Active EK, feels that locally based faith communities are well placed to hear and understand the needs of local people. It is hoped that, working with others in the voluntary sector, they will form local groups throughout East Kilbride to identify local needs and report these to the EK Poverty Alliance who would work towards sourcing and funding the necessary services. The 'local action groups' would then be able to work with their local community to implement action to address these needs.

Work has already begun in Calderwood, with the group having already set up several schemes that have been asked for. A group has been formed in Greenhills that will be focusing on child poverty. We already have a dedicated congregation, but there is so much more we could do, working with others in The Murray to form a 'local action group' and tap into what could be a great resource.



As Fiona has just prayed in our morning worship 'Lord, show us the needs of The Murray and help to us to reach out in service.' If we truly mean this, shouldn't we consider this?

Wendy Kerr

Some thoughts from Douglas:

Would it not be an idea to meet one evening or after church to discuss on a personal basis what led you to becoming a Christian.

- How you feel it changes your outlook on both work and personal matters.
- Talk about real life experiences and the transition before and after (experiences good and bad).

I'm open for discussion points and the congregation's thoughts on how we could set this up. If the thought is to give it a go I would be happy with a few volunteers to organise first meeting.

"Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success."

"Not how long, but how well you have lived is the main thing."

"Life is like a coin. You can spend it any way you wish, but you can only spend it once."

Douglas Johnston



We have been very active over the past few months. Our group continues to flourish and it's lovely to see our babies start to socialise and take part in snack time, sookin' on a piece of toast in their high chairs. We had a Coronation party a couple of weeks ago and we're looking forward to our summer trip to Clyde Valley Farm Park in the middle of June. Thanks to obtaining a grant, we can fund this trip and purchase some much needed extra chairs and plates as our group contin-

ues to grow. This also means that we can keep the fees the same as they have been since the toddler group started over 20 years ago, although it is always stressed that lack of fees should never stop anyone from coming along.

We are so grateful for the large hall and the very large toy cupboard meaning that there is a large selection of toys and activities to hold the wee ones interest. Also, the dedicated team of volunteers means that we can have a rota. We will be sad to be losing our Elise though, who has been on placement with us from school. As she has now left school, she is going on to more formal training to become a nursery practitioner and we wish her well in that.

Wendy

“Love That Make a Cup of Tea”

Not long after writing my last article for the magazine, Elizabeth and I were watching an on-line concert by Bruce Davies who has sung in the South Parish in the past. On this occasion he introduced a song by Gretchen Peters that he’d never sung live before. It’s called *Love That Make a Cup of Tea*. Here are the words -

There is love that moves a mountain,
There is love that beats a drum,
There is love that fights for justice
Knowing justice won’t be done.
There is love that goes to prison,
Love that goes to war.
There is love that rows a lifeboat
Towards some shining golden shore.



*And there is love that makes a cup of tea,
Asks you how you’re doing, and listens quietly,
Slips you twenty dollars when your rent’s behind.
That’s the kind of love I hope you find.*

There is love that shouts its name out loud,
Love that builds a wall,
But love that stoops to conquer isn't really love at all.
It's an echo in the darkness; it's a well that can't be filled.
It's an endless hall of mirrors and it only sees itself.

But there is love...

The song reminded me of one of Bruce's own compositions, *For The Ones That You Love*. The last verse goes like this –
Long ago, before you and I,
A man left his home in the sweet bye and bye.
He hung on a cross, for push comes to shove,
You do the things you have to for the ones that you love.

That sentiment is echoed in Charlie Landsborough's *My Forever Friend*. In this song, he makes it clear who his 'Forever Friend' is –

If you still don't know the one I'm talking of
I think it's time you knew.
Long ago and far away upon a cross
My friend died for you.
So if you'd like to meet Him
And don't know what to do,
Ask my friend into your heart
And He'll be your friend too.



Jesus calls us to love one another as he has loved us. These songs remind us of his sacrifice, but they also remind us that there are many ways we can show Jesus' love to others by the things that we do. It may be something big or something small, as the Gretchen Peters song highlights, but faithfully serving others by showing his love is a small price to pay for what Jesus has done for us.

Barrie Crawford

RAMBLING CLUB



The ramblers started off the year by blowing off the cobwebs with a local walk in January, leaving from the Countryside Museum and doing a circular walk around Carmunnock, returning for the AGM in the museum cafe with a spot of lunch.

Our next walk was a lovely river walk, the Water of Leith, from Slateford to Leith. We passed Murrayfield Stadium, walked through the picturesque Deans village with its Tudor-style buildings, crossed Stockwell Bridge and ended up in Leith. There were a few interesting statues in the river, apparently to measure the water level.

The March walk was in Moffatt and was partly along the river and partly up Barony Hill where there was an excellent view of the surrounding countryside. There were free range eggs for sale en route from an honesty box outside a house and we had time for a bit of shopping at the end of the walk, always an incentive to keep up a good pace for the ramblers.

We are hiring a larger bus for our June walk to St Andrews and there will be some spare seats available to the congregation for a day out on 24th June, leaving at 9am and returning no later than 7pm. Walking is entirely optional, you are free to do as you please. Feel free to join us, we are a friendly bunch!

The ramblers were sad to hear that our dear bus driver of many years, Stevie, is retiring in June. Stevie often comes and walks with us and brings his dog Harry, who is just as friendly and likable as his owner. Stevie has been so obliging over the years, nothing is too much bother for him and he waits patiently for us if we want to stop on the way home for a cuppa somewhere. We plan to take him out for a retiral lunch at the end of June in appreciation of his years of service and wish him many happy, healthy years to enjoy.

PASTORAL CARE GROUP



As always, we continue to visit and spend time with those who are no longer able to worship in church on Sunday, keeping them up to date with the latest news of church activities and news of their friends at the South Parish.

We also try to visit those in hospital or those who are ill at home or, for whatever reason, going through a difficult time. It's also good to celebrate joyful times and we have joined in "milestone" birthday wishes, Golden Wedding anniversaries as well.

Recently, Barrie and I were invited to Andrew McFarlane's 95th birthday meal by his family and it was a joy to see Andrew, surrounded by his loved ones on this special occasion. As most of you know, he is now living in a very comfortable care home in Bothwell and he would be delighted to see any of his church friends if they were in the area.

Life is made up of happy times and sad times which all of us go through but how good it is to know that others care about us and it's only right that we support those in sorrow and rejoice with those celebrating. That's what we are all called to do – not just this small group – all of us and we know that already happens in our church.

Please let us keep each other in prayer as we care for each other.

Elizabeth, (on behalf of Barrie, Jeanette, Jean, June and Alison)

*"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you."
(1 Peter, 5:7, New Living Translation)*

Why I like Pentecost even more than Easter

I know Easter is the most important Christian festival of the year, when we joyfully celebrate Jesus' triumph over sin, over death and the grave as we meet him resurrected, but when I read the gospel accounts I can't help being struck by the fear of the witnesses to the resurrection. These are Mary Magdalene, Mary the Mother of James and the guards in Matthew (28:8); in Mark's account they are with Salome, and so scared that they were trembling and bewildered (Mark 16:1). Luke recounts how other disciples did not believe the women, and Peter was left wondering what was happening. After Jesus appears to the assembled disciples later that evening, they were startled and frightened. (Luke 24:37). John specifies that Jesus' disciples did not know he would rise from the dead (John 20:9).

Fifty days later, when the events of Acts 2 happen, the mood has changed. After Jesus was taken in a cloud from their sight (Acts 1: 9), the disciples joined in prayer, men and women together. They sorted out their leadership structure in a prayerful manner, and kept on meeting together. They were each, personally, rewarded with the gift of the Holy Spirit, present not as a quiet stirring of their hearts, but each crowned with a tongue of fire, and gifted with the talent to declare the wonders of God in many tongues. Peter, who had denied Jesus, been forgiven by Him and entrusted to care for His flock, now speaks with wisdom, clarity and boldness.

The disciples devoted themselves to prayer, teaching and fellowship, and with their God-given gifts were able to preach and heal (Acts 3:1-26).

At Pentecost, we witness courage, boldness, wisdom and a sense of true community amongst Jesus' disciples. We witness the power of the Holy Spirit given to each individual and manifested as a church. If I was to witness a resurrection, personally I'm sure I would feel terrified. But when I witness the power of the Holy Spirit manifested in gathered believers, present today as two thousand years ago, I am uplifted and refreshed and ready to join in.

Claire Johnston

Church Information

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Congregational Activities

Sunday Worship service 10.30am (In church building and on Zoom)

Tuesday 10:00am Badminton Club

Wednesday 9:15am Smarteenies toddler group (until mid Jun, restarts Aug)

Wednesday 6:30pm Girls' Brigade (restarts Aug)

Wednesday 7:30pm Bible Study

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

Thursday 6:00pm Boys' Brigade Anchors (Restarts Aug)

Thursday 7:00pm Boys' Brigade Juniors (Restarts Aug)

Friday 7:00pm Boys' Brigade Company Section (Restarts Aug)

www.eastkilbridesouthparish.org.uk

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Church of Scotland

Scottish Charity No 008332