

Contact



The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be

celebrated on

Sunday 6th February 2022

At 10.30am

EK South Parish Church

February 2022

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.”

From the manse:

This is the way, walk in it.

The past two years have been difficult years. There has been Covid, the worry and the restrictions that it has brought in its wake. All of us have had hard times – the pain of losing loved ones, ill health, financial worries. None of us have been left untouched by the difficulties these past two years has brought.

There has been the uncertainty about what the South Parish church will look like in the future. The new Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale will be planning how many ‘posts’ there will be in East Kilbride and what that might mean for the South Parish.

During my time here people tell me of how the South Parish was part of their lives, growing up in the Murray. Many who are reading this will know what this looked like, concerts, coffee mornings, all sorts of social events – it was a place where the community gathered.

Many of you remember saving ‘ship ha’pennies’ for the beautiful stained glass windows. Many of you remember raising the money for the building of the sanctuary.

The building has served the congregation and the community well, and I am very aware of how sad it makes people feel to imagine what it would be like if the building was no longer there. How would we be God’s people in this community without a building, or with a smaller building? How will we be God’s people if the Ministry post for the South Parish is cut? This the reality of how things are.

These are the questions we must ask ourselves, all of us, and the most important thing we can do is pray for our future. Pray with hearts open to listen to God. Pray for the willingness and the courage to walk in God’s ways. I do believe that it is as we walk in the way of the Lord that we begin to discern his plans for us.

Through the prophet Isaiah God warned the people not to be obstinate. God spoke out against those who had turned from trusting Him to looking for protection and guidance in other places, e.g. Egypt. God declares that Egypt is ‘utterly useless’. (Isaiah 30 : 6 & 7)

We know that God is love. We know that God’s plans for us are always for our good. It can be hard at times like this to let go of our own desires and look for

what God is doing. There will be things He is calling us away from and things He is calling us toward.

God speaks strong words to those who resist his guidance:

“Go now, write it on a tablet for them, inscribe it on a scroll, that for the days to come it may be an everlasting witness. For these are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the Lord’s instruction. They say to the seers, “See no more visions!” and to the prophets, “Give us no more visions of what is right!”

Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions. Leave this way, get off this path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel! (Isaiah 30 : 8 – 11)

What they are saying is ‘keep God out of our plans, don’t tell us of the troubles we are facing, let us do things our way, leave us be!’

These people want their situation sugar-coated, they want to ignore it, just give us good news.

Well, there is good news, there are pleasant things to be told, that in the midst of all that is causing pain and concern, God is at work.

We can be cynical about our future or we can be filled with apathy,

Or, we can trust God.

Even to those who are obstinate, those who want things done their way, with no interference from God, God calls out to them,

“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

God is with us as we journey into 2022 – and beyond.

Each one of us is reminded that God continues to speak to us, to lead us and to guide us. Each one of us: not just the Minister, not just the elders, all of us.

Will you pray for our future, not asking God to do specific things, but asking God to lead us and guide us in his ways? Asking God to open our eyes to see what He is doing and to walk in his ways, in the abundance of life that He offers us in Jesus.

Take some time out, a cuppa and maybe a lit candle, a bible passage, the words of your favourite hymn, and rest in God’s presence. The psalmist asked God ‘open my

eyes that I might see wonderful things in your word' (Psalm 119 v 18) That is often my prayer when I open my bible to read.

If you have Alexa or Google you can ask for hymns to be played.

If you sense that a bit of time every day listening to God's word would be helpful – and if you have a smartphone – you can download 'Lectio 365'. A daily reading that encourages us to Pause and Prayer, Rejoice and Reflect, to Ask, and to Yield to whatever God is calling us to. Many in the congregation find it helpful.

May you know God's richest blessings in 2022 as you trust and obey.

Rev. Terry Taylor



Presbytery matters

The Presbytery of Hamilton met for the final time on 7th December 2021, which had been in existence for 431 years.

On 1 January 2022 it joined with the Presbytery of Lanark and then, from June, will join with the Presbytery of Falkirk to form the new Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale as part of the ongoing reform of the Church of Scotland.

In 2021 the General Assembly instructed Presbyteries to begin a new round of planning centred around mission with new revised Ministry numbers. Therefore, our new presbytery's Mission Planning team are about to embark on a new round of consultations with congregations. In an email to all members, they say 'we look forward to meeting many of you and journeying with you over the coming months as together we plan for the future of the Church of Scotland within the Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale.'

Rev. Bryan Kerr, formally Presbytery Clerk of Lanark Presbytery, has been appointed as the Depute Presbytery Clerk and will be acting as Interim Presbytery Clerk for the initial period. A video message from him was shown at church on 9 January and is available on the new website:

<https://www.fvandc.org.uk>

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything (which he actively encourages you to do) then you can email the office at fvandc@churchofscotland.org.uk

Wendy Kerr, Presbytery Elder

Sunday School



As we put together our first magazine of 2022, sadly we have not yet been able to re-start the Sunday School. So many times, particularly towards the end of last year, we thought we were over the worst of the Covid infection when things could hopefully return to as near normal as possible. However, then along came the Omicron variant and once again things were put on hold.

As I write this, there is definitely more hope on the horizon due both to the fact that the vaccinations have given a good amount of protection and that the Omicron variant appears to be making people less ill if there is no underlying health problem. We really hope, therefore, that this year will see Sunday School taking place once again. It has been so long and the children have grown up so much during our time of absence that it will be a real challenge to all the Sunday School staff to rebuild and find a way forward. We do hope this will happen before too long and we ask that you keep us all in your prayers as we recover from the past two years.

As the hymn says, *“Father, I place into your hands the things that I can’t do, Father I place into your hands the times I’m going through ... for I know I always can trust you!”* We make this our prayer at the beginning of this new year.

Elizabeth Crawford

thank you

"I would like to thank most sincerely all those who came to my aid when I became unwell in Church one Sunday in December. I am very grateful to you all and also for the phone calls and good wishes. It reinforces the belief that we are indeed a Church family, and are all there for each other. Many thanks once again.

I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year."

Prayer group



You might have heard Terry talking about our prayer group on WhatsApp that was set up initially to facilitate a rota for providing the intercession prayers on a Sunday morning. However it has evolved into a space where anyone on the group can ask for, and pray for, either themselves or for others at any time.

If you would like to join this WhatsApp prayer group or have any prayer requests, just ask any of the people that do the Sunday Worship Intercession prayers.

You will not be asked to do the Sunday morning prayers (unless you want to give it a go at any point).

Wendy Kerr

What a priceless gift we have in prayer. Even as we pray we never quite grasp the supernatural power of God which we are accessing or trust that he knows the end from the beginning and the outcomes even as we pray.

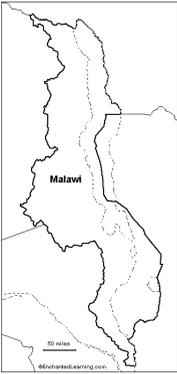
In the year just passed it has been humbling for the prayer group to be asked to pray for many with life shortening illnesses and then for their bereaved, for infants as they entered the world, for youngsters with mental health issues, families with a variety of needs, for many with Covid and for a number of our dear elderly who have become less able and those who love and care for them. We have prayed for each other here in EK and in other places beyond our shores.

I believe that at some point most of us will have wept with those who weep and rejoiced with those who rejoice.

As individuals, I am sure that we have been faithful in prayer, but occasionally distracted [one reason why a group is so helpful, we can encourage and support each other].

Oh my goodness, what a real privilege is ours, probably the most important thing we do in our day. 1 Chronicles 16v8-11.

Ishbel Campbell



News from Malawi

Iain Campbell received the following email from Gary Brough, our presbytery mission partner, just before Christmas. Please continue to pray for Gary, his wife Jaqueline and their children Eilidh and Morven.

Hi Iain,

Greetings to you and South Parish.

It's currently very hot here and humidity is starting to rise as we await rainy season. Hopefully in the next few weeks, but as yet we've not even had a shower. Thunderstorms will be here soon though.

The climate talks seemed to have a disappointing outcome. Many Malawians already feel the impact of changing climate through unpredictable and severe weather. So this is still an area for prayer and action.

Vaccine supplies are stable here now but demand is still low. We had considered a home visit at Christmas but have decided to wait until our likely deputation visit in spring next year. That relieves us from the uncertainty of winter covid surges in Europe, and wondering what will happen in Malawi when the rains come and people are indoors more or travelling over Christmas.

I hope you're able to comfortably and safely return to in person gatherings soon.

For prayer:

Malawi is experiencing real economic hardship as a result of global trends - fuel is up 27%, water 50%, prices are rising for staple foods, cooking oil and taxes are being applied to more products/services. It's causing political tension too. Prayer needed for households and government to cope with this pressure.

A good rest over Christmas when the office and schools are closed. It's been quite an intense year and a busy time of late.

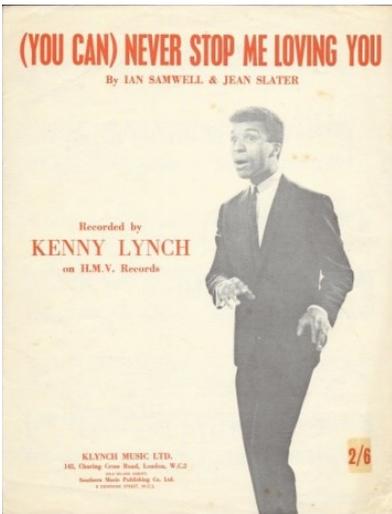
Preparations for 2022 as my initial contract comes to an end and we chart a path forward. Plus making plans for spring deputation.

Thanks as always for keeping in touch.

Gary

Musical Musings

Music has always been a big part of my life and I like to think I have a wide taste in it. When I was about 10, I got a battery-operated record player from my aunt, who worked at EMI in Hayes. Because she worked there, she got a staff discount and kept me supplied with records. I recently heard a recording of one of the records *You Can Never Stop Me Loving You* by Kenny Lynch which got into the Top Ten in 1963. Here are the lyrics -



You can take your picture off your shelf.

You can go around all by yourself.

You can tell the others that we're through

But darling, I know one thing you can't do –

You can never stop me loving you.

You can never stop the way that my heart's

beating too.

You can never stop me loving you -

That's one thing you'll never do

You can look away when I pass by.

You can do your best to make me cry

You can break my heart and leave me blue

But darling I know one thing you can't do.

You can hang the phone up when I call.

You can say you don't love me at all.

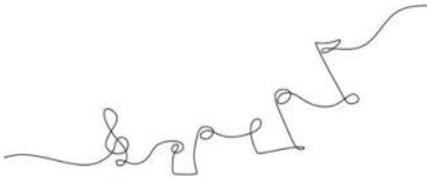
You can say it's over and we're through

But darling I know one thing you can't do.

The singer's love affair is over, but he continues to express his undying love. As I was reading over the lyrics a thought came to my mind – What if this was God singing to me?

In our Christian life we have our doubts and low moments, but, as Terry keeps reminding us, God will always love us. We can put God out of our thoughts, think we can do it on our own and even deny him, but he still loves us. We can ignore him and do things which sadden him, but he still loves us. The Bible is full of flawed characters like David, Paul, Matthew and Zacchaeus to name a few, but God loved them. Our love for God can be fickle at times, but it's so encouraging to know that he loves us no matter what.

Barrie Crawford



THE VILLAGE SCHOOL

When I came to live in East Kilbride in 1953 there was only one school in the Main Street. All age groups through Primary, Junior and different faith groups attended here. The Headmaster was Mr Hoy. I remember a teacher who for lessons in interpretation would select a verse of a hymn for us to follow then answer questions. Every time we sing George Mathieson's hymn "O love that wilt not let me go" I remember it was when doing verse 3 that I learned he was blind and learning why he wrote about 'tracing the rainbow through the rain'.

During 1953 the building of Heathery Knowe school was completed and all the 'new town' children from the Murray and Westwood areas were transferred to continue our education at the new school. The school remained non denominational at this time. When it was time to move on to secondary my friend and I were separated by having to attend the school appropriate to our different faith and that was sad as it had been an opportunity to learn about an alternative faith to the one I was part of.

Now EK has a number of primary schools serving the ever growing town.



When the village school became part of Cambuslang College I returned as a (very) mature student to do a course there to bring me up to date with modern technology. This took me full cycle of the EK village school. Happy days !

Una Gracie



Pastoral Care Group

During these challenging times we have made every effort to keep in touch with those who are housebound, unable to get out to church and those in care homes and hospital.

Obviously it has been difficult due to Covid but we are really hopeful that more home visits can take place this year. It has been good to chat on the phone and just keep up the contact but nothing beats a face to face visit for someone who is lonely.

Before Christmas all the people on our list received a card wishing them Christmas blessings and we have been told this has been much appreciated.

The Girls' Brigade also managed to deliver a small gift to some of our housebound members and this also was appreciated – not just the gift but the fact that they were being held in the thoughts and prayers of their church family.

We pray that Covid will ease up this year and make it safer for visits to take place but whatever happens we will continue to do our best to serve those who are vulnerable.

Please pray for this on our behalf.

Elizabeth, Barrie, Jeanette, Jean, June and Alison

God's
Love
Never
Fails



2nd East Kilbride Girls' Brigade

We began the session at the end of September and have been busy with activities in all sections. We have seen an increase in numbers, especially in Explorers. This is encouraging as the girls are bringing their friends along to join us. Keeping the current guidelines in mind, we have had to adapt our programme slightly but this does not seem to have affected the girls' enjoyment of their time with us. We have been doing many physical activities which are always popular and the girls have enjoyed crafts which they can take home.

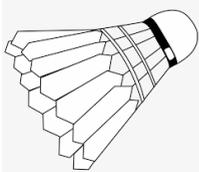
In October, we held a fancy dress party which proved a challenge for the leaders at the door taking names. There were so many painted faces, we didn't know who was who!! We decided to support the Loaves and Fishes appeal again this year and asked the girls to bring non-perishable items with them to the party. We were delighted that the girls and their families supported this appeal so generously and we would like to thank Barrie for taking the donations along to the Loaves and Fishes Charity.

In November, we looked at Remembrance Sunday and what it means. We decided not to ask the girls to come to the Remembrance Service as we were still concerned about too much contact with other people, for the sake of the girls/families and the congregation. We were, however, represented by those members of the company who regularly come to the South Parish.

At the beginning of December we had a visit from Anne and Elizabeth who did some Christmas crafts with all sections. The girls were delighted with what they took home, whether it be Christmas cards or decorations to hang on their tree. We delivered Christmas cards and gifts to the housebound members of the congregation and it was nice to see them again for a chat. We had a terrific Christmas Party with the girls being entertained by the Song and Dance Factory. This was also a treat for the leaders as the Song and Dance people come and do everything for you!!! The girls were dancing and playing games non-stop for an hour and a half until they just about dropped. I'm sure they would have slept well that night.

Girls' Brigade Scotland are taking a cautious approach to restarting the companies in January which I think is a wise move. We will continue with Badgework as normal when we return and adapt our activities as required. I would like to thank the congregation for their support as always and would ask for your prayers for the girls and staff that we stay safe and can continue with our activities in 2022.

Eleanor Duffy



Badminton

The church runs a badminton club on a Sunday
1400hrs-1600hrs.

Badminton is a great social sport and a good way of making new friends across all age groups. Why not come along and meet new friends and keep fit at the same time?

If you are interested phone Douglas Johnston 07849-668108.

“you will never find time for anything, if you want time you must make it”

“we will make time for what we feel is important in our lives”

Barrie Crawford writes:

Our daughter, Lesley, who works for Scripture Union in Edinburgh writes occasional articles for the Gracefully Truthful website. Here’s the link to her latest one:

<https://www.gracefullytruthful.com/kneel-day-13-surprising-answers/>

Editor’s note: this is a thoughtful article on answered and unanswered prayer. Although the website is aimed at women, Lesley’s article would be appropriate for any reader. Why not have a look?

Marjory Douglas asked that this letter be shared with you all.:



East Kilbride South Parish Church
Mrs M Douglas



18 January 2022

Dear Mrs Douglas,

Thank you for giving the greatest gift — a Bible of someone's very own in their heart language.

You are providing God's Word for those desperately waiting to have their own copy, and, by helping to meet that need, you are enabling lives to be transformed through the Bible. Thank you for your thoughtful gift of £50.00 from East Kilbride South Parish Church to help spread the Word of God both in Scotland and around the world. Please pass on our thanks to the congregation and elders.

Thanks to your kindness, people who are in great need of the life-changing message found in God's Word can receive and understand it, finding the hope, peace, and joy that they are seeking. People like Leia*, who lives in East Asia. Leia said, *"My life has been saved by the power of the Word...I would rather die if I had to live the old life [that I was living]."*

Thank you for your faithful support and partnership that is helping more people like Leia to discover God's great gift of grace and love as they encounter Jesus in the Bible.

With warm Christian greetings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elaine M Duncan".

Elaine M Duncan
Chief Executive

*name changed to protect identity

If you would like to change how you hear from us, please write to us or telephone 0131 347 9801.



We were pleased that we were able to run as planned up until Christmas without any disruptions to our programme. All the boys that attend each week have adjusted well to the additional safety measures we have in place, which have become the 'new normal' at the moment. It has been really encouraging to see the young people enjoy the weekly activities we run with around 75 attending each week and over 100 registered with us.

We were unable to arrange our annual trip to the pantomime in December, but were able to still have our Christmas Parties in the hall which everyone enjoyed.

In the first few weeks of 2022, the Anchors have learnt some new games and heard the story of Daniel and the Lions Den, the Juniors have thought about New Year Resolutions and had a 'Glow in the Dark' Night which they really enjoyed, and the Company Section have had nights themed around Health & Fitness and Burns' Night.

We're hoping that in 2022 we will be able to start adding more of the additional activities back into our programme and get through the year without having to suspend our activities again.

Over the next few months, we hope to see the re-introduction of some of the competitions such as football and athletics that the boys always enjoy taking part in. We are also hopeful we'll be able to organise a weekend away for the Company Section and Juniors, take part in the Kilbryde Hike and arrange a 'proper' prize-giving night to celebrate all that's been achieved over the last 3 years since our last prize-giving where we could have everyone all together.

Once again, we are grateful to all who support us in any way and who show a keen interest in what we've been doing.

David Crawford



We had our first session back yesterday following a delayed start after the Christmas break and it was so good to see everyone. Some of our younger tots have really come on in the few weeks that we have been away and I was amazed to see one of them walking through the door, where a few short weeks ago, he had been gingerly taking his first steps in our huge hall!

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Christmas party, however, we did manage to do a Santa run and drop off a present to all our toddlers.

Prior to this, although still with restrictions, Wednesday mornings had been lively and fun, with lots of our toddlers really settling in and excited to come along. We had a SPELL play activity with lots of song, dance and playing; some photos of this are on our Facebook page.

There have been enquiries from people wishing to join us and, when space becomes available, once our older ones go off to nursery, we look forward to welcoming them. Hopefully by then, we can reintroduce snack time while the adults have a chat with a cuppa.

Thank you for your prayer support for the toddler group and all of the Smarteenies helpers, it is very much appreciated, especially in these uncertain days.

Wendy Kerr

BIBLE STUDY

Despite the limitations and challenges, we are grateful for Zoom which allows us to continue meeting together.

We have just completed our journey through the Ten Commandments. It would be impossible to summarise ten weeks of study but maybe I can highlight a couple of things we discussed.

Firstly, the Ten Commandments are for our benefit and wellbeing, and they remind us of our need of a Saviour and that God is Gracious. We cannot get to Heaven by keeping the Ten Commandments [we would fail miserably anyway] but only by having a relationship with the Lord Jesus who loved us and gave Himself for us. [John3v16]

The other encouragement is that -by necessity- the 10 Commandments are mainly negative because we are a people in rebellion against God and they stir us to see our need of grace. We must, however, search out the opposite positive virtues to live as Christians. For example, for the tenth commandment - Thou shalt not covet- one of the positive virtues would be contentedness. By nature we always want more, or want to be like someone else, or have their job or status and here in this commandment we learn that thankfulness for all we have and contentedness is the way to go. In so doing we will be looking to the needs of others and not ourselves.

Oh that politicians and we the ordinary people would live this way. If so the world would look very different.

Now we are about to start a series on the Armour of God. It would be a delight to welcome you to the group.

We meet on Wednesday evenings at 7.30, same zoom code as for Sunday services. A good way to start a New Year.



Ishbel Campbell

HOPING THIS MAKES YOU SMILE!

Just recently, Barrie and I were feeling every day was just the same and wondered what we could do to enjoy something different. We spotted an advert for a film showing in the Glasgow Film Theatre (GFT) and thought that might be fun! The film was “Brigadoon”, and oldie from the 1950s and it was being shown in the morning at 11.00. Perfect, we thought, we’ll do this and then have a nice lunch in Glasgow before we come home.

We duly arrived at the GFT and were shown in the very kind staff all wearing sashes. They explained very carefully that we could sit anywhere and the seats were marked off to keep social distance. There were quite a few people there, mostly of a certain age, as you would expect! We were told there would be an interval when we would be given juice and sweets and we could walk about a bit if we liked. (We wondered why?)

The film was pure nostalgia, starring Cyd Charisse, Gene Kelly and Van Johnson. It was set in a magical village in the Scottish Highlands, called Brigadoon, which only appeared every 100 years. The songs were less than memorable and the Scottish accents were more like Irish but we sat back and enjoyed it.

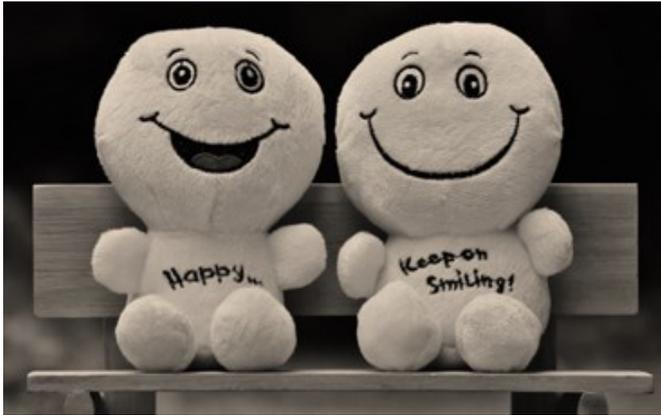
At the interval, sure enough, we were given a glass of juice and a lovely little bag of tablet, tied up with a tartan ribbon. We were also treated to entertainment by a young couple who sang a couple of jazzy songs and “Will ye go Lassie, go.”

At the beginning and at the end a member of staff with his brightly coloured sash on, spoke very nicely to us all.

At the end, we were ushered out and given a leaflet advertising the next such show. It was only then we saw that this showing was for people with dementia and their carers – although it did say all were welcome!

We couldn’t help but wonder as the staff spoke to us on the way out if they managed to work out which one of us was the carer!!! Anyway, a great time was had by all!!!

Elizabeth Crawford



Prayer

If the request is wrong, God says, “No”

If the timing is wrong, God says, “Slow”

If you are wrong, God says, “Grow”

But if the request is right, the timing is right and you are right, God says, “Go!”

(Bill Hybels)

Communion

During the children’s talk the minister was talking about Communion and what it’s all about.

“The Bible talks of Holy Communion being a ‘joyful feast’. What does that mean? Well, ‘joyful’ means happy, right? And ‘feast is a meal. So a ‘joyful feast’ is a happy meal.” He paused and then asked, “And what are the three things we need for a happy meal?”

A little boy put up his hand and said, “Hamburger, fries and a regular soft drink?”

Retold by Barrie Crawford

Church Information

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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)

Wednesday 7.30pm Bible Study

(On Zoom)

Continue to check on our Facebook pages for details
of organisation and group activities

www.eastkilbridesouthparish.org.uk

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



Church of Scotland

Scottish Charity No 008332