

Parish News

EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH



A time of renewal - new life around Eaglesham in Spring

Easter Services and Activities for Everyone

Saturday 12th April Easter Crafts for P1-P7 children from 1-3pm.

To register, please email Murdo: epycyouthworker@gmail.com

Palm Sunday 13th April. Morning service at 11am

Maundy Thursday 17th April. Communion Service at 7.30pm. Eaglesham Parish Church.

Good Friday 18th April from 12 to 3pm 'A Walk-Through Easter'...Reflection and prayer on some of the events during Holy Week in Eaglesham Parish Church

The Walk of Witness - meet at 11.15am at Mearns Kirk Church for an outdoor service at 11.30 at Newton Mearns Parish Church.

Mearns Kirk Parish Church - Reflection from 12 to 3pm; Good Friday service at 6.30

Easter Sunday 20th April. Morning service at 11am

Contacts

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Organist

Deaths

Jan 17th. Alison Leitch. Newton House Care Home

Feb 22nd Sarah (Sally) Cant. 5D Kirk Court

Feb 25th Sheila Nisbet. 33 Picketlaw Road

Feb 25th Mary Murdoch. 32 Bonnyton Drive

Feb 26th Agnes Strang. Braeside

March 14th Jean Fraser. 18 Strathaven Road

Team Convenors

Outreach - Giles Blair

Admin - Hugh Green

Pastoral Care - Scott Whiteford

Youth Strategy - Debbie Blair

Faith Development - Gillian Norval

Keep in touch with church activities

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

The Church office is open on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 10am to 1pm

Jade works routinely on Tuesday and Friday mornings in The Carswell Centre and is available to anyone who wishes to speak to her between 10am and 12noon

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

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

Subscribe to Church of Scotland magazine, Life and Work, at lifeandwork.org or by speaking to Duncan MacIntyre or Alan MacBrair



From Rev Jade

Finally , it's spring.....

Spring is my favourite season because it's a time of year that feels so refreshing to me. Better weather, lighter nights, daffodils. It's an energizing time of year where you want to venture out more, make the most of time after you've finished work at the office, and where parents can swap softplays for backyards, finally. It's felt like a long winter, mainly because we seemed to have skipped a summer!

Spring is a season of change in the beauty of God's creation, where we see it so vividly in the bright colours around us, and that hope can make us want to change too; to get more active, to meet up with friends more often, to take up a new hobby, now that we feel like we are out of hibernation, finally.

Here at Eaglesham Parish Church, we have been kept busy, even in the winter months, not only have we hosted various successful fundraising events but we've also run a ladies 'Sensible shoes' retreat day, along with an Alpha course including an 'away day' to Braehead House. Our ladies retreat day was a sold-out event and at our Alpha course we saw 16 people journey with us for 6 weeks over dinner, fellowship and discussion. During one of the earlier Alpha sessions we had been thinking about what we would want to say to Jesus if we saw him today, and after a couple of minutes an attendee from the group said that they would want to say; 'thank you'. And that is exactly what we do at Easter - give thanks.

Lent so often can be a time of 'giving up' something but it's also an opportunity to come closer to Jesus by doing something new. In Lent we journey with Jesus towards the cross, reflecting on the sacrifice He gave in order so that we might have life in its fullness today and life eternal. The symbol of the cross nowadays can be seen as nothing more than a fashion symbol on clothing, jewelry and even nail art. But the cross reminds us that Jesus died for our sins, he bore them on the cross so that we could be reconciled to God once again, gaining victory over sin and death by His death, resurrection

and ascension into heaven. Now nothing and no-one has the power to separate us from the love of God; Jesus our living hope in all who put their trust in Him. The cross symbolizes it all.

Lent is a time for reflection as we review our efforts in coming close to the God who has done everything to come close to us. It's a time to re-order our lives, reprioritise our days, viewing time with his Son not as the last 'to do' on the daily list but the most important way to begin our days. Prayer, Bible reading, worship, Bible study groups, are all ways in which we can build on our relationship with Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6), so that on Easter Sunday we can say 'thank you' for everything He has done for each and every one of us made in God's image. 'Finally' coming home to His loving embrace.

At Easter it's easy to get swept away on it being a time for Easter bunnies and egg hunts but perhaps this year we might finally get round to wondering afresh what the cross means to each of us and make the relevant changes in our lives so that we can hear God's voice afresh, guiding and sustaining us each and every new day.

We will appreciate this spring since it's been a while since we saw the sun, perhaps that's a similar message for you this Easter when you see the cross. Whatever you are carrying lay it down at the cross and come to say 'thank you' to Jesus the Son who gave his life for you, to God the Father who has never given up on you, and to the Holy Spirit who now lives in each who put their trust in Jesus, so that 'finally' He can walk with you, this day and forevermore.

Wishing you and your families a blessed Easter.

Rev Jade

Alan at Kelvingrove

Alan Gillon plays the Kelvingrove organ fairly frequently - worth a visit to hear and visit the Museum. This month April 9th and 12th. Always at noon. Further dates will be advertised in the Sunday intimations

From our Session Clerk

Having served as Roll Keeper since 2018, I am well aware that our overall numbers have been steadily but mercifully slowly falling over many years. Whilst we tend to lose around 20 members through death per year, we have, for some time, not seen many new people coming in to replace them.

It is therefore gratifying to begin to see a number of new younger people and families in Church on Sundays. We have also seen some new members joining us and for that, too, we are most grateful. During 2024, six people have joined us by profession of faith and a further four have transferred their membership to Eaglesham. Over the last 12 months, we have also welcomed Marion MacDonald and Eric Ableitner as new members of the Kirk Session and we look forward to benefitting from the abilities they bring.

We now have our band in church more regularly and that is planned to continue with a more regular "slot" at the end of each month after the summer. Anyone wishing to join the band should contact Alan, our organist and will be made most welcome. We have also been fortunate to procure a new, more versatile, keyboard for use with choir and band (together and separately) and that too will feature in Sunday services. Our aim is to continue to faithfully proclaim the Gospel in this parish in a way attractive to a wider range of our people, reaching out to a younger age group whilst respecting the preferences of those current members without whose continuing support we would struggle to survive.

The church is never standing still and that become truer year by year. Eaglesham has had to face months of negotiation over the Presbytery Mission Plan for our area and only last month, another Presbytery decision was taken determining how the two ministry posts allocated amongst Mearns Kirk, Newton Mearns and Eaglesham were to be shared. This has to be seen in the knowledge that there are considerably fewer ministers in the Church of Scotland so that

almost no congregation in Glasgow Presbytery can expect one minister to serve them alone and a large programme of adjustments is under way. Within that context, we can take some consolation that the current Plan envisages a continuing ministry in Eaglesham and that Jade's position as our own full-time minister is not going to change.

Stuart MacGill

Scottish Bible Society

The Society's basic principle is that the Bible is a book to be shared - in every language and at affordable prices. To this end it has worked with like minded organisations since 1809. The bible is now available in 719 languages. In Scotland it produces a range of material for adults and children. With partners elsewhere it works around the globe.

One current project, featured in its magazine Transform, works with the Ukrainian Bible Society visiting personnel on the front line - illustrated here. The report from one of the UBS staff describes remarkable discussion of evil, the nature of truth and why war involving an 'agnostic' soldier. His military call sign was Satan but he ended up asking for a bible and with a new call sign of Moses. The full script can be read on the SBS website - entitled Trusting God In Times of War. This is one of many stories from around the world.



Eaglesham and the Presbytery Mission Plan

A bit of background....With the Church of Scotland facing a decline in ministers each Presbytery was allocated a number of posts from a national total of 600. As a result Glasgow is faced with a 40% reduction in posts - a change which affects every congregation with almost all having to face some form of collaboration with neighbours, sharing ministry. Congregations were grouped into planning clusters. Our cluster with Broom, Maxwell Mearns Castle, Mearns Kirk and Newton Mearns churches was then given three ministerial posts from the reduced total. We were invited to discuss how this could work locally. After many meetings, a plan was devised whereby Maxwell Mearns Castle and Eaglesham would retain one post each but contribute to some form of union or linkage of the other three.

Shortly after that the plan was blown out of the water. Scott Kirkland and a large number of his congregation opted to leave the Church of Scotland and have since joined the Free Church. The remaining Maxwell Mearns congregation plan to link with Clincarthill church in Battlefield. Broom church is joining with Williamwood.

The presbytery's new proposal is for Eaglesham, Mearns Kirk and Newton Mearns to share 2 posts, 0.5 going to Eaglesham and 1.5 to the other two who will come together as a linked or united charge. This was discussed at an Eaglesham Session meeting. The principle of a shared arrangement was accepted but with the suggestion that the exact subdivision be settled later by local discussion. At the subsequent Presbytery meeting this was rejected and the proposed arrangement approved. We will continue work and discussion with the Mearns churches, currently sharing information on each others' activities.

It is important to clarify that this future planning does not affect Jade's current position. She has the right to remain our full time minister until she decides it is time to move on. Until then, Eaglesham will retain its full post.

Another element in this ongoing process is the future of our buildings. We need to make a case for the buildings we want to retain based around both need and affordability. The Kirk Session sees a need to keep all three of our buildings as well as the manse but that will involve looking at how we can make best use of them. That is why we are now looking at the sanctuary. It is too early to give detail but we do need to make this space more flexible whilst retaining the feeling of it being a centre of worship.

This is a continuing journey as we work together and trust in God's providence to lead us in the right direction. Let us all pray for Jade, for our church, for the church in Scotland generally where so many fear for the future and for the church throughout the world where Christianity remains a growing religion despite increased persecution in many places.

Stuart MacGill, Session Clerk

Walking Group

Since the last magazine the Walking Group has been out and about, close to home and further afield. We've walked in Rouken Glen and around the James Hamilton Loch. The walk on the outskirts of Strathaven whetted our appetites with three members tucking in to bacon rolls afterwards in the Gift Shop and Cafe, while the warmth of the sun allowed us to have refreshments on the cafe terrace in Dean Castle Country Park.

The numbers walking since New Year have been lower than expected and we would love to welcome new members. The destination of each walk on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month is intimated beforehand and is open to everyone.

Pat Wishart

St Bridgets News



St Bridget's parishioners and friends from the village were saddened by the news that former Parish Priest, Rev Douglas Charles Macmillan, died on the 6th of January in Greenock. May he rest in Peace. All of the beautiful tributes of his time in Eaglesham added to the gratitude expressed for his spiritual guidance and service.

Lent and Easter

- During Lent a reflective Holy Hour with Deacon Paul Graham every Wednesday evening at 7pm.
- Canon Oliver Freaney says Mass most weekdays at 10am and every Saturday evening at 6pm.
- Easter Sunday Mass will be held at 11am.

Our young people will take in their sacraments of Communion and Confirmation across April and May.

Our local St Joseph's Primary School celebrated 60 years at Oliphant Crescent on the saint's feast day of the 19th March.

Music and Worship Update

Many will have noted the recent absence of the organ. The pedalboard (the bit that Alan works with his feet) has been completely renewed by the Willis organ company at their Liverpool factory. The Willis Company originally made our organ, 150 years ago for a private house in Bearsden, and they still have the original plans for its construction in their archive. They were therefore able to use these plans to make a true replica of the original pedalboard using high quality beechwood. Here is a picture of their skilled worker creating the new pedalboard - not a machine or centimetre in sight!



We have also been very fortunate, due to a generous donor, to acquire a first class Yamaha Clavinova digital piano, which will be sited in the chancel area. Both these developments will very much enhance our worship.

During the organ repairs, the choir and the band, including the digital piano relocated from upstairs and have been at the front in the chancel during services. I know that this has been much appreciated and enjoyed by the congregation. We are always looking to develop worship in the church - using old and modern hymns and music.

Wendy Armstrong

From Murdo....

It has been an exciting start to the year for our young people and we are only just getting started! After a Christmas full of fun from Afternoon Tea with Santa supported by EPYC, to our Christmas Craft Day, we have hit the ground running this year!

Our Sunday Morning Churchbuilders have been spending the past couple terms exploring characters from the bible, Old Testament and New! From the story of Jonah and the Whale to Jesus being baptised we have gone on a tour through many stories with lots of crafts and games too!



EPYC - youth group for P6-S6 have also been up to lots with new activities like Nerf Fights, and Theme nights like I'm a Celeb. We have been having loads of fun all while exploring a new video series "One Big Story" learning and discussing how the bible is one big story from Genesis to Jesus.

For Easter we are having a very special Easter Activity Day called "Easter Explored" on the 12th April from 1-3pm. Young people P1-7 can join us to learn more about the Easter Story, while also getting to do crafts and games!



The highlight of the year is always the Summer Holiday Club and this year is no different as planning is underway for our "Backpackers" themed holiday club which will be chock full of games, crafts, bible stories, music, and even messy challenges! If you would like to be part of the team this year we would love to have you! Whether you can pilot some games, navigate a craft station, or be a friendly tour guide, we'd love to have you on board! No experience is required. If you can't commit to the whole week, any time you can give is truly appreciated!

If you are keen to join us on this journey or have any questions about any of our groups or activities please email Murdo at epcyouthworker@gmail.com to find out more!

Earth Hour and Earth Day



We are all familiar now with the need to look after our world but inevitably we have to be reminded and prompted to take any action or change our ways. Earth hour and day contribute to that, this year particularly in the need to move from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Earth Hour was at 8.30pm on Saturday 22nd March. It is a global event which takes place every year to encourage people to turn off their lights for 60 minutes to raise awareness about big issues affecting the environment. The theme for Earth Day on April 22nd is OUR POWER, OUR PLANET, inviting people and institutions around the globe to unite behind renewable energy, aiming to triple the global generation of clean electricity by 2030.

The Guild - report of a successful year

The Guild has grown in membership this year - 47 members attending regularly and also 7 Fireside members. 2024 - 2025 with the theme of 'Let us Build a House' has been a successful session with a syllabus packed with a host of highlights from talented individuals and groups giving information and entertainment

- Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra opening our first night in October
- Jackson Police College officers shared their insights on training and supporting new recruits
- Liz McIntyre Allan's moving talk on the struggles of Annie Glen, wife of astronaut and U.S. Senator John Glen. Annie suffered with a stutter until she was in her fifties and became an advocate and supporter for research and cure of speech impediment
- A Tartan Theme Evening where we got to talk about our names, origins and connections - thanks to Fiona Love.
- Maureen Keith's Christmas Flowers display was a great success.
- 2025 opened with Jimmy Blair's Accordion Orchestra - what's needed on a cold January evening!
- Shiela Clark's film night - the most Impressive collection of memories and tales with photos taken by herself of the late Queen and other members of the royal family
- Our Burns Night was an impressive affair with great food and entertainment.
- Scamming Awareness with PC J Fisher - take care of our financial and personal security.
- There was a hilarious substitution by Hame Brew, a duo who kept us in laughter and fine voice with their antics and renditions of old and some nearly new songs.
- The last night with Eaglesham and Waterfoot Community Choir

Both coffee mornings were a great success with proceeds going to our charities and project. Brilliant Christmas Cracker not because we had a blizzard that morning but in spite of it with thanks to all who braved the elements and made the day extra special; and the Spring Coffee Morning on 22nd February. Our charities are Glasgow Children's Hospital and Erskine Veterans. Project Operation Hope Egypt serves suffering Christians in Upper Egypt marginalised and facing extreme poverty. Many thanks are due to AOE Community Windfarm Fund for their donation which enabled us to buy the laptop and other equipment we needed and to Eaglesham Fair Committee who also gave the Guild a generous donation. The Guild also received a generous donation from one of our members



Beautiful voices from the Community Choir...and Maureen Keith's floral arrangement for the World Day of Prayer held in the Carswell Centre on 7th March. The day came to us from the Christian women of the Cook Islands and was a well attended - a very moving service.



**Tea and Chat will resume on 7th May 2 - 4pm. First Wednesday of each month to September.
The Guild resumes 1st October 2025.**

BB Company section

It has been a busy few months for Company section. In February we went to Lendrick Muir with the P7 – S3 year groups. We played lots of indoor and outdoor sports; played different types of golf using clubs, footballs, and frisbees; and had a fun afternoon with an inflatable bungee run and wrecking ball. Our senior 5 a side team reached the Scottish final of the National Competitions for a second year running where they finished 5th and exited the tournament. Closer to home, our junior team came second in the Glasgow Battalion 5 a side with our senior team winning the senior tournament. We now turn our attention to our **jumble sale on Saturday 10th May**, followed by our awards ceremony in the Church on Saturday 17th May.

Sure and steadfast, Jack McPhail O/C



The team on Lendrick Muir staircase

Junior Section

Junior Section continues to grow, with another 4 new boys coming along to try it out. The boys have been enjoying days out to the football (albeit not enjoying some scores).

Staff are finishing off our end of year program which will include a couple of camps, sponsored event, more football matches, days out & themed nights.

Niall Barclay



The 40 period between Ash Wednesday and Easter with its tradition of fasting and reflection has been part of the Christian calendar since the early days of the church - referred to as Lent in 4th century writings. It commemorates the time Jesus spent fasting and being tempted in the desert - though '40 days' may be a more general expression for a period associated with testing, hardships and spiritual awareness.

However our current focus on Lent in Scotland is relatively recent - there is no mention of Lent in the early years of Life and Work. At the time of the 16th century Reformation the focus was on the Sabbath being central to worship. Christmas and Easter were recognised but played down. Other features of the church calendar were rejected as being related to Catholicism. It was not until the later 19th century that Lent and other seasons including Holy Week began to be observed within the Presbyterian tradition.

It is now more popular as period for spiritual journeying or reflection. Evidently there is a psychology concept that it takes six weeks to change a habit - the 40 days of Lent fits that. And it is a period that can be shared with other denominations or as an opportunity for anyone to spend a time of reflection in our secular and often stressed society.

with thanks to Thomas Baldwin of Life and Work

Carswell Foodbank

Eaglesham Parish Church (EPC) and Community continue to support our charitable collections which are used to assist

- East Renfrewshire Foodbank at Barrhead where the volunteers are particularly grateful to our donors for responding to the " most needed items " when required.
- Castlemilk Community Church where 2 Ukranian ladies are now attending, amongst others.
- Castlemilk Pantry which will shortly be moving premises from Castlemilk Dr to the Birgidale Complex, community halls also in the heart of Castlemilk.

We are also pleased to provide regular donations to Eaglesham Larder, a charitable outlet for local residents situated at the Montgomery Halls. Donations in Jan/Feb/Mar have amounted to about 125 food bags in total. Continuing thanks are given to our donors and to the Carswell Volunteers who manage the collections on even the coldest mornings! As ever, the collections are taken at the Carswell Halls on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11.00 – 12.00 am.

Kirk Carers

There are a few members of the community who are unable to take public transport for Doctor/Hospital appointments and have relied on the generosity of a small group of Church Carer volunteer drivers who are willing to give up a few hours of their time for this valued service. The Pastoral Care Team are currently providing transport for hospital visits to a few of our parishioners. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this service, please use details below. Contact John Lyons on 0141 644 2249 or the Pastoral Care Committee via office@eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk.



As part of fundraising a Bridge Drive was held on the 14th March. This was really successful - a sold-out event! The Carswell Upper Hall was full with 16 tables of enthusiastic players. They enjoyed a drink on arrival, a raffle and a wonderful afternoon tea with home baking from so many people and the renowned "Guild" sandwiches, all served with tea or coffee. The magnificent sum of £1322.10 was raised for Church funds - 10 pence donated by the floor?! None of this would have happened without the organisation of Anne Carr and Margot McLean on the event, Tom Mann for the table logistics, all who attended and all bakers and servers. We are so grateful for their help. Might become an annual event?



Another season of winter Wednesday lunches is over - enjoyed by 50 - 60 folk each month. A total of £2576 was raised for the excellent Mary's Meals charity. Many thanks to all who contributed and to the team who make the lunches possible each month



Christian Aid began in 1945, founded by British and Irish churches to help refugees following the Second World War. Since then it has provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing people's rights. In the last year it has funded projects in 25 different countries. Christian Aid week plays an important part in the funding of the organisation. This year it is from Sunday May 11th. In Eaglesham we will have donation envelopes available in the church and Carswell Centre. Alternatively a donation can be made via the Christian Aid website.

Some recent items from Life and Work

Steven McLeish, new Scotland head of Leprosy Mission. Leprosy still occurs in more than 120 countries, with around 200 000 new cases reported every year. The Mission was founded in 1869 and now works globally, recognised for excellence in the fields of leprosy, neglected tropical diseases and disability. Steven's background includes published poetry based on experience of dyslexia and a period of bipolar disorder. He describes his introduction to the Christian faith as 'like gym membership - if I don't like it I'll cancel the membership.' But it stuck. Church involvement led to a Make Jesus Famous ministry with his wife. But with increasing awareness of those who are overlooked and marginalised he saw the Mission as what God had been leading him to.

Presbytery of Jerusalem. The Church of Scotland presence in the Holy Land goes back to the mid 19th century. By the 1880s the Church was running a hospital in Tiberias - now the Scots Hotel. In 1930 the St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church in Jerusalem and a second church in Tiberias were established. The concept of the Presbytery has been reviewed but the value of a presence in Israel is seen as important by ministers Stewart Gillan and Muriel Pearson particularly at this challenging time. They support local Palestinian Christians, interfaith and human rights groups; challenge biblical interpretation which equates the Israel of the Old Testament with the modern state; provide information for us in Scotland; and contribute to the experience and insight of pilgrims and tourists. The article ends with two general observations - the need to see ourselves as part of the world-wide church and the danger of financial decisions driving everything.

And then she said.... a new book from John Bell... 'Silliness, sensitivity, sexuality, suffering, surprise – this rich collection of true stories offers a glimpse into the extraordinary lives of ordinary people, revealing the power of faith, the beauty of human connection, and the unexpected ways in which God can work in our lives.'...available from Wild Goose Publications

CVE Scotland. Christian Values in Education Scotland has been at work for ten years now. It works with educators, parents and churches to promote not only academic but also spiritual and moral development in young folk. It develops high quality teaching materials on topics including relationships, sexual health and parenthood, addressing these topics from a Christian perspective. It supports chaplains and school workers, recognising the challenges Christian teachers can face in a secular system - including a quarterly newsletter. For more information visit cvc-scotland.org.uk.

John Ferguson, Convenor of the Working Group on Assisted Dying reflects on the need for this review. The Church of Scotland has long been opposed to assisted dying but views across church membership vary and polls suggest a majority of those identifying as Christian in Scotland support it for the terminally ill. Working with the small group exploring this has been a challenging experience. Discussions have been held through 'conversational events' and with palliative care experts. A constant view has been that the Church should be involved in this pivotal issue. It is likely that there will be an important debate when the report is presented to this year's General Assembly

Comfort International. In 1999 Callum Henderson visited Rwanda in the wake of the 1994 genocide. The obvious needs were both psychological and physical. Henderson raised funds to provide food for widows and orphans in desperate need. Since then the charity has grown raising over £6.5 million to restore wholeness, purpose and unity in traumatised communities now across Rwanda, Uganda, DRC, South Sudan and Burundi. Work includes rehabilitation of street children, care for vulnerable mothers and babies, community housing and agricultural projects, healthcare and vocational and pastors training all based as expressing the love and practical action of Jesus' teaching.



The church service on March 23rd included the hallowing of Eric Ableitner as an Elder and member of Session, and recognition of 30 years of service to the church by Mary Robertson and Craig Wishart



St Brigid of Kildare is one of three national saints of Ireland along with Patrick and Columba. She is also Patron Saint of St Bridget's church here in Eaglesham. She is celebrated on February 1st - here with an evening of music and traditional St Brigid's cross making.

Lodging House Mission Easter Egg Appeal

EPC would like to support this Appeal. The LHM are seeking donations of Easter Eggs for Lent. The Mission provides food and respite for homeless people and wish to advertise this with gifts of Easter Eggs to those in need. If you are able to donate to this worthy cause can you please bring the Easter Egg(s) to the Carswell Foodbank on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 11.00 - 12.00 up until Tuesday 8th April. Alternatively, you can deliver them to the Church vestibule on any Sunday up to and including 6th April.