

Parish News

EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH



The Admin Group

You may have noticed activity around the church and the Laird Hall recently. We have been busy taking care of the fabric of the church and making repairs to the round window at the Laird Hall that blew out in the winter storms and needed to be replaced. I hope that you have noticed that the church exterior has been painted and repairs have been made to the windows and soffits at the same time. As well as this we have had a survey to our steeple carried out. The pictures are of the lovely new round window at the Laird Hall, and a couple of photographs taken when the steeple was surveyed showing some aspects of the steeple, the eagle weathervane and the bell that are rarely seen.



The admin committee are responsible for many aspects of the day to day running of the church. We look after the finances including managing gift aid, the fabric of the buildings, insurance, hall lets and data protection. We would love to welcome new blood onto our committee and if you can help in any of these areas, why not come and join us? You don't have to be on the Kirk Session to join our team, just be interested in helping to ensure the smooth running of the administration of our church. If you would like to join the admin team please get in touch on adminteam@eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk or phone me, Hugh Green on 01355 302971.

Contacts

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co.uk

Death

April 21st Janette Mcindeor. Formerly 21A Polnoon St

**Sunday Services....From Sunday July 6th worship in Eaglesham Parish Church
will be at 10.30 am throughout the year.**

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

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



From the Minister



Where do you see yourself in 5 years' time?

That's a common interview question when trying to gain insight into career goals. Where you hope to be in 5 years' time will often determine what you put your motivation into today.

It was recently Pentecost where we celebrated the birth of the Church. During a time where the Church of Scotland is experiencing significant change due to a lack of resources met over a period of decline, Pentecost is an opportunity for us to reflect on what a gift Christ's Church is and to discern in what ways He is calling us forward together to continue sharing the Good News in our Church and community.

As numbers at our additional contemporary service 'Kairos' fell, it was an opportunity to discern where God was leading us forward, and whilst endings are never easy, they are sometimes necessary for new ventures to begin. This birthed our new vision for Eaglesham Parish Church.

Where will we be in 5 years' time?

Our hope is to have developed worship in the main sanctuary, with plans to remove the pews and set up a kitchen to make it a versatile space that can be used more often than one hour a week, and more comfortable for our more mature members/ visitors. The services will be engaging to all ages with a sensitive approach to blending traditional and contemporary music. Today, many in their 30s and 40s would identify as being 'unchurched' therefore we aim to make services a place to be spiritually fed, with the importance of a living and active relationship with Jesus being key to everything.

With that in mind, we also hope to re-form a 'Children's Church' in the Carswell Centre where Children can engage in activities that they enjoy; with the Gospel message integral throughout. This is an opportunity to bring children from our youth projects together such as school chaplaincy, Eaglesham Parish Youth Club on a Sunday night, and our monthly Messy Church; where we see many children attend these organisations but not on a Sunday morning. Whilst parents are fed spiritually in the sanctuary their children will spend the entire service at Children's Church, still being in the sanctuary for youth led services throughout the year. We also aim to use our screens in the sanctuary to show recordings of what our Children's Church have been up to as well as update our social media platforms regularly.

Like any future vision, it takes small but important steps to get there. Recently in the Church, I have been preaching 'hands-free' from the front in a way to engage more with the congregation, we have also introduced several new hymns from the COS new hymn book, and 'a time to connect' has been introduced as a way to strengthen our bonds together; old and new. These new endeavours have been received positively.

Our next and crucial step to our vision will be the introduction of '**EPYC Sundays**', this is in effect 'Children's Church' but once a month; in the hope that we can work towards it happening every week. We also hope that children who do not currently attend Church might be open to a once-a-month commitment initially....

But for this, **we need... YOU!** Currently we have a handful (literally) of volunteers and it will take over 20 to make the next step in our vision possible. So could you spare just **ONE HOUR** on one Sunday every 2-3 MONTHS? As a congregation made up mainly of retirees, volunteering expectations are to take up a Supervisory role to ensure the Children's safety... the children will bring the energy!

This is not my vision or the Kirk Session', it's God's, who we have discerned is telling us to come together and take a step forward for His glory. As a reformed Church we are always reforming, so let us speak afresh to our community of today so that God's saving love can be known to all. I plead for your help Brothers and Sisters in Christ, so that we can make God's vision for our Church a reality....
He is calling you!

Please email Jade.Ableitner@churchofscotland.org.uk for any further enquiries.

From our Session Clerk

As I approach 6 months in this role, I can vouch that things never get boring! It is, I believe, a tribute to our Church that something different is always going on or being planned. Whilst summer is traditionally a time when things ease off a little, this year sees many significant initiatives being prepared for the autumn. Our vision for EPC continues to develop and will form the main element in a forthcoming Kirk Session retreat currently being organised. Plans are also being developed for the reconfiguration of the sanctuary with architects currently working on that. The reincarnation of a Children's Church in the Carswell Centre is continuing to take shape with a focus on providing worship and activities for teenagers. Volunteers to help Murdo in this vital venture should contact Eric Ableitner or Murdo. You don't have to take on a "hands-on" role - there is plenty support work to be done as well.

Our services are moving to 10.30 throughout the year - see Wendy's note page 10. Despite these changes, in one respect we remain the same, as focussed as ever on worshipping our Lord and Maker, on endeavouring to live a Christ-like life and on spreading God's Word in thought and action throughout our Parish and beyond.

I said in my first letter that I intend to draw your attention to some aspects of work done for the church which generally goes partly unseen. This time, I want to pay tribute to our Fabric Repair Team. This group meets every Wednesday to carry out repair and maintenance work and over the years they will have saved Eaglesham church thousands of pounds which would otherwise have to be spent on employing outside contractors. This group does need some new blood and so if you feel you could help in some way, do please contact Jim Alexander. Specialist knowledge and ability would be welcome but is by no means required as the team has a wide range of expertise to pass on to new volunteers.

Change can be unsettling but we believe that our plans are designed to strengthen our church for a positive future. Our God never stands still and neither should we.

Stuart W MacGill, Session Clerk

Cluster Update

Since I last spoke in the Church, the Kirk Session has met and reaffirmed our belief that the best way to advance mission in the Mearns Area is to continue working with the remaining two congregations in our Cluster – Mearns Kirk and Newton Mearns.

They have meantime been considering their own future and have decided that the best way forward for them is to remain as two congregations, linked under one ministry. Linkage is a formal Church term describing congregations who opt to retain their own identities but sharing a minister. They also wish to keep all their existing buildings. Eaglesham sees no reason to oppose that and we all contributed material to support our intention to work together in the future in a submission to Glasgow Presbytery who approved these plans at its June meeting.

That, subject to ratification by the central Church Committees, completes the Cluster negotiations that have been going on since 2019. Eaglesham has still to submit our request to retain all our buildings and that will be done in the autumn once we have supporting material illustrating our plans to make more use of our sanctuary (a vital component in our argument that we need all our buildings).

The Mearns churches still have work to do, agreeing the official terms of their Linkage and voting it through at both places. Only then will they be able to seek permission to look for a minister.

We hope to begin discussions with them soon to identify areas where cooperation would be for the benefit of us all and map out how that could work. Your continuing prayers for this process would be appreciated as we seek God's guidance in planning positively for the future.

Stuart

Walking Group...a note from Pat Wishart

Before writing this, I was looking at the June 2012 magazine, where I discovered a photo of the Walking Group, standing, perhaps resting, beside the flagpole in Queen's Park. It looked misty, but of course the photo is in black and white. However some of the same walkers are in today's photo beside the BB minibus at Dumfries House. This time in colour. It was a glorious day and walkers enjoyed walking at their own pace along their chosen route. We were extremely thankful to Jim French for driving us and we appreciated having the use of the minibus. During the summer we plan to walk at Whitelee and from Strathclyde Loch to Chatelherault Country Park along the banks of the Avon. We might even make it to Millport and hopefully the Japanese Garden, Cowden. Please join us on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 10am at the Mid Road.



Community Garden

Spring is always a busy time at the Community Garden. Everything is growing fast after warm weather in May, although with more watering required than usual! We've had weekly visits from the nursery children in small groups, and they've enjoyed planting peas and sunflowers, with some to take back to grow at nursery. They've also been painting colourful stones for display. The OPEKA special needs groups (formerly the CASTL project) have been helping plant potatoes and doing general tasks on their Wednesday sessions. And we've recently had some of the Scouts in to help paint half barrel planters that were kindly donated to the garden - these are now looking very attractive. We've started donating food to the Food Bank behind the library again, with early rhubarb the first crop available. We held an open day June 8th with a plant sale - look out for our Apple Day on 25th October when we'll be showing lots of different varieties of apples and other tree fruits. If you'd like to join us, we meet on Sundays from 2-4pm and Tuesdays from 11-1pm, weather permitting. Contact us at eagleshamcommunitygarden@gmail.com.



BB Updates

Company section..... Another session of company section is in the books. In May we had our successful jumble sale, our awards ceremony in the Church, and our bugle band, combined with the 130th Glasgow, led the King's badge parade in Glasgow city centre. 8 boys receive their President's badge this session, and a special mention should go to Alfie Parker who won best recruit, and Nathan Chalmers who won best boy. Our attention has now turned to our annual camp in Arran where we will celebrate our 70th anniversary camping at King's Cross.

As **Junior Section** finished up for the term, we went out in style. The boys had a successful awards night, acknowledging all that we have achieved this year. Then to Landmark Adventure in Aviemore for our end of year trip. The boys enjoyed a day of fun, taking in the rides & slides before a McDonald's on the way home. A long day, but a fun day as the sun scorched down. At the end of May we arrived in Moffat for our annual camp. It somehow stayed dry. We enjoyed time at the park, Dalscone Farm & playing games at the accommodation. Unfortunately the boys enjoyed staying up until 6am, something the staff didn't enjoy. We finished up with a disappointing trip to Hampden to watch Scotland succumb to Iceland.

Officer Craig Wallace has decided to step down after 45 years in 205th. He has seen many a boy come through Junior, onto Company Section, then transition into a member of staff. Craig is one of the reasons the boys have the experiences on offer. Thursday's & other nights wouldn't have been able to go ahead without his time & dedication. He will be missed by all.

The **Anchor boys** rounded off their 24/25 session in the May sunshine, making use of the back garden of the Laird Halls and the Orry to play some of our usual games in the evening sun. Our seventeen boys have been an absolute pleasure to work with on Tuesday nights, and a special mention to Aaron Wright, who won the Best Boy prize at our display and prizegiving back in May. We are sad to be losing 10 boys to the Junior Section but feel they are ready for the step up and promotion to blue jumpers. Please do spread the word about Anchors. We are looking at starting next session with only seven boys on our books, which is an unusually low number for us, and would love to see as many new faces when we start back in September. We'd like to thank all our staff for their hard work throughout the year, along with our Captain, Martin Fraser, for his support and oversight. We restart after the summer break in September.



From the Guild,,,,,,,,, What fabulous weather we have had. The Guild have been entertained and inspired as well as having our collective grey matter invigorated in the last session. Now, looking forward, there are some dates to keep in mind throughout the summer.

Tea and Chat. July 2nd, August 6th and September 3rd In Carswell Centre 2pm - 4pm
All are welcome to join us - a great opportunity to be waited on by our lovely members of the Guild committee, Terrific Tea, Great Coffee and Brilliant Biscuits, I've even heard there will be cake in September.

We have so much to look forward to with the programme for 2025 - 2026 is being organised and looking promising with evenings you won't want to miss.

The Guild will restart on **Wednesday 1st October** at 7:30pm be sure to be there if you can.

Wishing you all a happy summer from the Guild Committee

1st Eaglesham Guides and Rangers

1st Eaglesham Guides and Rangers have just come back from County Camp where 290 Guides's and rangers and 70 leaders came together to celebrate Festival in a Field at Auchgillan Outdoor Centre. The girls took part in abseiling, archery, crate climbing, kayaking, making friendship bracelets, dance workshops to name a few of the activities. Then they had a Totally Taylor concert which as just fabulous. Even the weather was kind to us.

Before the big event we had our awards and parents night and the girls were presented with their Theme Awards Skills for my Future and Take Action. Well done to all and especially Zoe Bell who completed her Gold Award.

We will lose four of our guides this year, Chloe, Clarissa, Freya and Marni as they move up to rangers and we wish you all well. Guides and Rangers are now finished for the summer and we wish you all a lovely break what ever you get up too. Thanks to Laura, Kathryn and Rosalie for your support each week.

As always we are always looking for volunteers to help with our growing unit, so if you would like to find out a bit more about us, please call 07903 693743.



Louise Lightbody, Unit Leader



Pope Francis died on April 21st and was mourned around the world as a man who showed empathy with the poor, identifying himself as one of them - a feature which dominated his papacy. This additional comment on his achievements and concern for youth comes from John Seenan of the St Joseph's `Justice and Peace Group.

One of Francis' most significant legacies was the adoption of The Pope Francis Faith Award Scheme which was incorporated into the curriculum in all Catholic primary Schools in Scotland and aimed at schoolchildren in primaries 6 and 7.

It was designed to help older primary school students develop their faith, become active members of the Church and provide guidance on how they ought to interact with their peers. More than 5,000 pupils in Scotland have achieved the Faith Award. Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si, relating to care for the environment, features significantly in the course material.

From the Pastoral Care team

Carswell Foodbank

Donations from January to 5th June have totalled 223 bags of food. The same period last year saw 244 donations, so there has been a slight drop-off. A huge thank you is given to our loyal, generous donors. We continue to support our usual outlets and also with occasional donations to Eaglesham Larder, located at the Montgomery Hall. Following a meeting with Freya, who set up the Larder during Covid times and discussion with Jade our Minister, we have decided to support it more regularly in light of funding constraints which have arisen due to Council cutbacks. We have agreed, in the first instance, to fully stock and take responsibility for opening and closing the Larder on Saturday 28th June. For some weeks we have been setting aside donations in support of this date, whilst still supporting the other charitable outlets, albeit with a slightly reduced number of donations. It is our intention to provide a regular service like this on an ongoing basis. As ever, the collections are received at the Carswell Halls on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11.00 – 12.00 am. Come along and give us your donations and help with this very worthy cause!

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. 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.

Easter Thank You from LHM

We received a lovely letter of thanks from the Lodging House Mission, the Church of Scotland's homeless charity, for donations of Easter Eggs. We delivered 190 easter eggs, including 100 from East Kilbride Young Farmers. The letter of thanks explained: 'a chocolate egg on its own will not feed a body. Neither will one act of generosity feed a soul yet taken together with the ongoing work of providing balanced meals, practical and emotional support, educational opportunities, spiritual guidance and various activities, a difference is being made'. Thanks to all who contributed.



Brenda delivering some of the Eggs to the LHM

Youth Update from Murdo

It is crazy to me that summer is already here, it feels like just yesterday we were thinking about Easter. From our All-age Easter Service, to a new bible series with EPYC it really has been a great term. This summer is not only a large milestone for me personally, getting Married in July, but also will see lots of new things for young people getting planned and prepared in the coming months that I am so excited to share with you!

WHATS BEEN HAPPENING

On Friday the 20th June we had our last session of messy church for the year and what a day it was! With some crafts like cake decorating, colourful shiny fish, and keyrings to all sorts of games like donut on a string, balloon races, thawing a frozen t-shirt, and a water race that turned into an impromptu water fight it really was a great way to end before we broke for summer. Additionally we had a delicious BBQ that was perfect for the roasting sunny day that we had! A huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in making Messy Church so successful over the past year and a massive thank you to everyone who has been coming along!

On the 22nd of June we also have our Prizegiving service which for the first time we opened up to messy church and EPYC to recognise the number of young people we have in our community. Additionally we had Juliet Nicolson who is moving on up from Churchbuilders to EPYC which is a great milestone we love to mark by giving them their own Bible.

Also on the Sunday we had our end of year trip for EPYC where we raced Go Karts and followed it up with some laser quest! The young people of EPYC have grown so much in the past year and with many in P7 moving on up to high school we wish them all the best in the transition and will look forward to seeing them back at EPYC after Summer!

WHATS COMING UP!

Churchbuilders - Our Sunday School *Churchbuilders* will be running up till the **29th June** and will then take a break over July, but there is still fun for kids to have in the Church as we will have weekly activity packs for the kids to get at the door that they can do throughout the service!

When we come back after summer, we are also excited that in addition to our usual *Churchbuilders* with its crafts, songs, games and bible time for those aged 3+, we will also have an *EPYC Morning* group for those in P6-S6 where we will have more for our *EPYC* youth designed to help young people build friendships and think about life and faith.

Holiday Club.... We are excited to announce that registration for this year's holiday club is now OPEN! With loads of fun crafts, games, and of course messy challenges, we can't wait to delve into God's big plan for his beautiful world... including YOU!

If you are interested in joining us for this fun-filled week, then please contact Murdo for information on how to register! Spaces are limited so be quick to ensure your spot.

When: 10 am - 12 noon on **Monday, the 4th August** through to **Friday, the 8th August**

Where: The Carswell Centre, Montgomery St, Eaglesham, Glasgow G76 0AS

Who: For P1-7 (Based on the year they have just finished)

We will also have a special holiday club service on **Sunday 10th August @ 10.30 am**, followed by a BBQ outside the Carswell Centre for all to come to! This was so much fun last year, and we hope you will be able to join us this year!

EPYC Sundays - see Page 10.

A massive thank you to everyone who has made all the youth work we have done in the past year possible and to all the families for continuing to support us and I hope you are looking forward to what is coming up!

Music and Worship

The Music and Worship Team and the Kirk Session have been having discussions over the past few months concerning future developments in Music and Worship. These are very much aligned with the Vision for our church, developed by Jade and agreed by the Kirk Session.

We are moving to a Sunday Service time of 10.30am for all Sundays (i.e. no change during the summer months). There are a number of reasons for this - making it easier for visitors or people just dropping in to a service to know exactly what the details are is one reason. Reaching out to others who may have been keen to come to church is a very important part of our mission. By moving to an earlier time, we also hope that more people will be encouraged to come along to share in fellowship over teas and coffees after the service. And Murdo is looking to maybe have some activities for children to make this fellowship easier for young families.

We are continuing to develop a more engaged approach to worship in the church on Sundays. We have established the use of videos during the service, sometimes including a time for reflection, and are developing opportunities for us to chat with each other, e.g. a 'Time to Connect' during the service.

You will have seen that Jade often comes to the front of the chancel (rather than from the Communion Table or the pulpit) to deliver her sermon. This absolutely doesn't mean that the pulpit will never be used, but more that she can now be flexible and responsive to the nature of the service.

A small team is also looking at how we involve children and young people in Communion, and you will be hearing more about this in due course.

We plan to have the Praise Band, Alan, and the Choir downstairs in the chancel area on the last Sunday of each month starting from August. Although we might still see Alan sprinting up and downstairs to the organ on these Sundays! I know that many of you enjoyed the (enforced!) trial run of this when the organ was out of action in the Spring due to repairs. And we are continuing to introduce new music, helped by our organist, choir and band. Much of this comes from the new CH4 Supplement - God Welcomes All.

Wendy Armstrong Music and Worship

EPYC SUNDAYS - This new group will run on the last Sunday of the month, starting on **Sunday, August 31st @ 10.30 am**, in the Carswell Centre. During this Sunday, young people will stay at the Carswell Centre for the duration of the service. What to Expect....

- **Food to Start** We will kick things off with a light breakfast-style snack like pancakes! A nice chance to grab a bite and settle in before the fun begins.
- **Activities for All Ages** After enjoying food, we will split into age groups for a chance to enjoy activities. Whether it's games, crafts, songs, team challenges, or creative discussion, there'll be something for everyone — from our youngest Churchbuilders to our older EPYC crew.
- **Stay for a Chat** After the service, **tea, coffee, and juice** will be available for everyone, so families can stick around, catch up, and kids can play and have fun.

It's completely free, and there's no need to book — just come along and join us!

Where? The Carswell Centre. **When?** Last Sunday of every month @ 10:30 AM

Who? Ages 3–S6 (with age-specific activities).....We can't wait to see you there!

General Assembly 2025

The King's representative at the Assembly, the Lord High Commissioner, was Lady Elish Angiolini, the first Roman Catholic to hold the role. Legislation had to be rushed through the Houses of Parliament earlier this year to allow her appointment. She addressed the Assembly at its opening and closing sessions, and undertook a round of official visits in Scotland, usually to Church and social care projects.

The King himself has praised the work of local Church of Scotland parishes describing them as 'a beacon of light and hope' in a letter to the General Assembly.

Photo...Lady Angiolini (left) and Rt Rev Rosie Frew, Moderator of General Assembly



A Crucial momentThe Assembly trustees warned that the urgency of the Church's financial situation demands 'even more difficult decisions' than the ones that have already been taken in recent years....but..."I am absolutely convinced there are better and brighter days ahead for our church if we get up and get going and move"

Assisted Dying. In the most emotionally-charged moments of the week, the General Assembly narrowly reaffirmed the Church's opposition to assisted dying. A report had recommended a change in the Church's position on the issue, which would simply have affirmed the diversity of views in the church and the integrity with which they are held. However, following a long debate, the Assembly voted by a majority of just four - 149 to 145 - for a counter-motion, which acknowledged the diversity of views but reaffirmed the Church's historical opposition.

Life and Work, the 146-year-old magazine of the Church of Scotland, is to cease publication later this year. The General Assembly accepted a recommendation, made 'with heavy hearts', that the church could no longer afford to publish Life and Work in its current form. The magazine, which contributed significant surpluses to the Church prior to 2020, had struggled with falling reader numbers and a growing financial deficit in recent years.

Gaza Statement. The Assembly condemned the resumption of the war on Gaza as it continued to pray for peace with justice in Israel, Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon. The deliverance criticised the blockade of food and humanitarian aid, the ongoing forcible displacement of Gaza's, the continuing holding of hostages and the sale of weapons to Israel. Churches of the world "cannot remain silent in the face of such appalling inhumanity.

The Guild national convenor told the Assembly that £553,000 had been raised for the six partnership projects in the three-year cycle that has just finished. She said that her year had been one 'of challenge and transition, but also of many unforgettable experiences'...and **Scottish Bible Society** chief executive told the Assembly of reasons for hope, in research showing an increase in church attendance and scripture reading among young people in England and Wales.

Fun at Messy Church and EPYC...see page 9

