

Parish News

EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH



**Summer fun with the BB on Arran - see page 6; and with Backpackers
Holiday Club - page 10**



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Death

July 7th. Rita Menzies 6 Floors Rd

Sunday Services in Eaglesham Parish Church are at 10.30 am throughout the year.

Sept 21st. Back to Church Sunday. An opportunity welcome new people to our church service - those who have maybe never attended, or those who may have come in the past but not recently

Sept 20th. Doors Open day. The Carswell Centre will be open from 10am to 4pm to allow visitors to explore the building and its contents.

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

Plans for Christmas? If you think I'm a tad early asking then you'll be even more surprised to learn that I've already booked up to visit Santa... and I got the tickets in March! I secured Lapland UK tickets for my family along with 200,000 people online on the day the tickets went live. You really do have to have your finger on the pulse! And I know this first-hand because I missed out on tickets last year when I thought I was on the case enquiring in September.

Many of us put off the urge to be swayed by marketing and buy for occasions months in advance! Digging our heels in and living for the moment instead. Yet the truth is, it's lovely to have something to look forward to - a birthday, a holiday or a concert. It's great to have special times in the diary and a countdown to 'how many sleeps?!' like my children do in anticipation.

As Christians, we live as a people who look forward to a better day and who see great purpose and value in living for today too. Jeremiah 29:11 says 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.' A future in Christ is one where we can be assured of God's presence with us for eternity. When times seem challenging, or even dark, this hope pierces in light where no-one or nothing else in this world can. It's a real life-giving hope of a love that will never fail us and carries us forward. Romans 8:28 says 'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him'; this is our hope for today, that God our Creator is there guiding us and enabling us to have the life He intended for us when we devote our lives to following His Son. As Christians, we live in a time of 'yet and not yet', a time where Jesus has 'broken in' heaven on earth, and a time where we look forward to God making all things new; a time when there will be no more heartache or tears.

How can we have this kind of hope? The answer is to prioritise your faith, to make following Jesus above all in your life. If you put a little in, you're going to get little out of it! Spend time in devotion by reading the Bible, by praying, by worshipping with your Church family, by following Jesus' ways over your own, and you'll be transformed by the Holy Spirit. You will be able to live the life God has always intended for you, you'll no longer be missing out, you'll be living out your purpose, and

you'll be doing it knowing that a better day is ahead. You'll be glorifying God with your life.

You can have it all, you can have a hope in all things, you can feel a peace that surpasses all understanding, you can have a joy that doesn't make sense. 2 Cor 3: 18 says 'our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him'(MSG). But you need to have your finger on the pulse, you need to be so close to Jesus that you seek Him in all things, where He is able to be guide you forward on God's plan for your life. The Good News is that it's never too late to join in, or join again. He is the future, and he's the one waiting for you to commit to it. We have a lot to look forward to in Christ. We have so much to celebrate in Him.

Data Protection

As with all organisations, the Church holds information on its members and those who participate in its activities. The Law requires us to store that data safely and to inform you what we hold and how we deal with it; we also have to inform you of your rights to see that data and ask for it to be altered or even removed should you wish. This last option would, in effect signify your wish to leave the Church and we don't want that!

This is not new but we were recently asked to update our procedures and that includes officially informing you about that. A full copy of a document setting out the whole process can be found on the church website and paper copies can be requested at the Church Office. It is hoped that something can be displayed in our buildings but as the full document runs to several pages, that is presently under discussion.

Our new Data Protection Coordinator, Fiona McCrae is able to answer questions about this. There is nothing unusual at work here – we only hold information we need to know, mostly in case someone needs to get in touch with you.

Stuart W MacGill

From our Session Clerk

As autumn approaches, our organisations are cranking up for new sessions, all of which offer exciting and interesting programmes for attendees. I'm not going to single anyone out here but do look for information elsewhere in this magazine and online for details to see what appeals to you and do give something new a try this year. You won't be disappointed and you are guaranteed a warm welcome.

The rhythm of our Sunday services will be changing a little as well with the band appearing more regularly to coincide with our EPYC Sundays offering a range of activities in the Carswell Centre for children of all ages. Please pray for the success of this venture to attract more children into the Church Family; mums, dads and other relatives and friends of our young people are most welcome to join us in church while EPYC Sunday is going on up the road.

Another area where prayer is sought is for success in persuading Glasgow Presbytery (along with the Central Church and the General Trustees) that we need to keep all our buildings to fully meet our mission goals in Eaglesham. We have the Carswell Centre which is currently the base for most adult organisations as well as being used for outside lets; the Carswell offers up-to-date, modernised facilities and is proving increasingly popular. The Laird Halls is the centre for most of our Youth Organisational work – a key factor in our long-term planning - and has our largest sports hall. The Church building itself is the largest capacity space we have and is the centre for worship and larger events. As we see it, each of these three buildings fulfil specific functions which we want to develop and encourage and which cannot be easily accommodated elsewhere. In this climate of closing non-essential buildings, we do need to make a case for this; that is in preparation and should be presented to the relevant Presbytery Committee in mid-September. If this is successful, it will unlock our ability to seek grants for the remodelling work to the Church.

Finally, you will see my note about Data Handling. Our Church Roll contains much of the data we hold on members and we are anxious that it remains accurate. To this end, our elders will be checking up on the telephone numbers we hold. With many switching to mobiles, I suspect quite a lot of our information will be out of date. Please let your elder know your up-to-date number when they call or visit.

Stuart

The Guild

The Guild Annual Gathering is in Perth, on Saturday September 13th. A number of our committee members are attending. The Gathering is always worthwhile to meet Guilds people from all over Scotland and further afield and to stock up on Guild supplies.

Here in Eaglesham Tea and Chat afternoons throughout the summer months kept connections going. The Syllabus for '25-'26 has been printed and will be distributed in time for us starting back on Wednesday October 1st with the Crosswords Praise Band.. Thanks to Pamela for engaging such a varied and talented group of people, guest speakers, musicians, entertainers and film makers, to keep us going through the winter months. In the next 3 months that includes some local history, learning about Air Ambulance and our Guild projects, and more music. Note November 22nd for the Christmas Cracker event. We invite anyone who may be thinking of coming along to any of the weekly meetings at 7.30 on Wednesdays. You will be made most welcome by the ladies and gentlemen of the Guild. A warm, friendly atmosphere awaits. All are Welcome

Life and Work, the Church of Scotland magazine, is no longer published. For up to date information about the Church in Scotland go to churchofscotland.org.uk and select 'news and events'.

Knitting and crochet club

We have so much fun on a Thursday morning 49 weeks out of 52 from 10am -12noon in the Carswell Centre. Beavering away on a variety of projects - blankets, scarves, hats, baby items, and bringing out red, black, white and purple yarn forPoppies!! The level of chat and laughter can be heard at the front door. Climb the stairs or take the lift up to a magical land of beautiful colours of yarn, knitting needle and crochet hooks plus frames adorned with gorgeous embroidery or tapestry and fabulous colours of thread. Be warned - knitting , crochet and stitch work is addictive but such a worthwhile hobby/obsession. There is always tea, coffee and biscuits to keep our energy levels up.

Would you like to join us? It's easy! Just come along any Thursday at 10am - 12 noon and ask for Mary MacInnes and before you know it with a little determination you'll be knitting or crocheting with a happy bunch of crafters. it's painless and fun.



Walking Group

How lucky the Walking Group has been this summer, never having had to retreat into a cafe to avoid the rain. The photos illustrate two walks. It was glorious on 13th August when we walked from the Burns Centre, Alloway, past Greenan Castle to have our coffee on the decking of the Secret Garden overlooking the River Doon. And we also reminisced, as we followed the "After the Garden Festival" trail. Who had ridden the Coca Cola roller? Who had eaten in the Rotunda occupied by Nardini? Who had ridden on the trams or gone up the tower. The trail ended in the Festive Park where the mature trees are relics of the Festival and the reduced Lochan is home to an armada of newts.

We are now looking forward to walking to visit the Jackton Distillery. Join us in Mid Rd at 10am on second and fourth Wednesday each month



Youth Badminton

Our Youth Badminton takes place in the Laird Hall on Saturdays during the school terms. Primary 4 to 7 is from 9am to 10am and Secondary 1 to 6 from 10am to 12noon.

There is a mixture of basic coaching, singles and doubles games and some fun group games, so something for all. If you would like to know more about our badminton please contact Tom Mann on 07903090539 or tomgibmann@gmail.com

70 YEARS at KINGS CROSS

The 205th Eaglesham BB company started camping at Kings Cross, Isle of Arran in 1955. Since then many hundreds of boys and staff have had great times, great food, great stories and memories that last a lifetime living in what we call home from home for 10 days. The comradeship and friends made amongst us also would go on to last a lifetime. James Laird was in the advance party for that first camp. Things then were slightly different. BB now have all their own equipment. 1955 started with trips to Blacks of Greenock for tents and Clyde St for crockery. Then Brodick to collect coal for the boiler and straw to fill 'pally ass' covers for sleeping. This all on a 3 ton Bedford open truck - James sitting on top of the stores thought he might end up head first in the water going downhill to the camping field. And that hill had to be climbed regularly for water - no piped supply then. But the enjoyment was the same with highlights of games, Holy Isle and Goatfell. Alfie Parker, pictured here with James, on his first camp this year similarly loved all the sporting activities - and the food was great too!



This year the boys enjoyed a vast array of activities - paddleboarding, kayaking, Goat Fell hike, Glenashdale Falls walk, King's Caves trip, Corrie fionn Lochlan walk, cold water swimming, golf and, new this year, an interesting visit to the animal rescue centre in Whiting bay.

Daily inter-tent sports and games were hotly contested - cricket, volleyball, football, baseball, hockey, potted sports and cross country - as was morning inspection. Our cooks Captain Fraser, (and his wife), Jim French, Craig Parker and helpers did a fabulous job once again.

The Sunday Parade went well to a near full church of locals, youths from the SU, ourselves, tourists, Ex 205th members and our faithful supporters. The service taken by Knowledge a new minister to the Island was a delight with the Company presenting a gift to Whiting Bay and Kildonan church, reciprocated with a marvellous cake that they baked for our 70th Celebration

Camp is the highlight of the Company Section year - over 50 boys and staff shows how popular it is. A big thanks as always to all who make it happen including parents & friends who help make camp a success and affordable for the boys.

Best Camper 2025 Arron Forester.....Best new camper 2025 Sam Robertson

Richard Burt, O/C camp

A trip on the Waverley and evening devotions on the beach



The Session Clerk on Bible Reading

Some of the older readers of this piece may recall the old Sunday School chorus:

“I’m feeding on the living bread, I’m drinking at the fountain head,
And whoso drinketh, Jesus said shall never, never thirst again.”

This, of course ties up with one of Jesus’ great “I am” sayings – “I am the bread of life” - and also harks back to the Lord’s Prayer reference to our need for “daily bread”, ie, daily sustenance in our faith. One of the best ways to receive that sustenance is by regularly reading the Bible. That’s not quite as easy as it sounds and there are a few rules of thumb I would suggest to help anyone wanting to get the most out of reading their Bible. Starting at Genesis 1 and working through to Revelation 22 is not the best way! I defy anyone to read Numbers chapter 7 without skipping a word. Good news – there is plenty of help out there and here is my ABC for successful Bible reading.

A: Chose a translation you like. Broadly, there are two types of translation. The first takes the original text in the languages in which it was written and uses up to date English to produce as accurate a version of the original as it can. The second takes the meaning of the original text and paraphrases it in modern idioms, true to the sense of the words if not an exact translation. An example of the former is the NIV, used in church services and an example of the second is Eugene Peterson’s The Message. Pick one that suits you. Both types have their advantages.

B: Use Bible Notes. Again two types. The first takes a few chapters in a book of the Bible over a short period of time and invites you to read daily extracts, giving comment on the passages for you to consider. Over time, you will cover most of the Bible. The second uses shorter Bible quotations and gives comment on a “thought for the day” basis. Again, pick the style you prefer. Scripture Union produces Notes in the first style called Daily Bread and can be ordered quarterly through Jim Alexander (next quarter starts in October). Once you are more familiar with the Bible, you might try a commentary on a whole book (or number of books); these commentaries again break the book down into readable sections and explain the content. The famous theologian, William Barclay produced a series of commentaries on the whole of the New Testament that I cannot too highly recommend and which can still be bought online.

C: Find a time of day that suits you. Some prefer mornings, some lunchtime, some the evening. It doesn’t matter! Most Bible Notes can be read in 10 – 15 minutes. All you need is a short, quiet time when you can read, think and perhaps pray undisturbed.

I believe that by following the above ABC, anyone can get into regular Bible Reading and will, through time develop a deeper understanding about the faith we share. I’ve been reading Bible Notes since I was about 5 and I still get something new out of them now. So can you.

Stuart MacGill



A faith gathering at Faslane on August 2nd confirmed Scottish Churches' opposition to nuclear weapons. Led by

- Rt Rev Rosie Frew, Moderator, Church of Scotland
- Most Rev William Nolan, Catholic Archbishop of Glasgow - on right
- Most Rev Mark Strange, Primus of Scottish Episcopal Church

Our Carswell Foodbank supports a number of local charities.....

Castlemilk Pantry. Open Tuesdays and Wednesdays when around 50 shoppers attend each day. The Pantry receives most of its provisions from FareShare UK, the largest food distribution charity, for which a fee is charged. Recently these have reduced so our donations provide a welcome supplement.

Castlemilk Community Church. Between April and August 2025 around 122 attended the Church for advice, food donations or just coffee and chat - asylum seekers and local residents.

East Renfrewshire foodbank at Barrhead. The numbers on opening days, Tuesdays and Fridays, are currently around 60 per week. Barrhead also send food parcels to Thornliebank Resource Centre and Busby Parish Church for those in these local areas. Sadly supermarket donations, which are heavily relied upon, have recently been reduced. As a consequence, for the first time in over 10 years, Pasta is now one of the most needed items!

Eaglesham Larder. As reported in the last Parish News, we are providing additional support to the Eaglesham Larder located at the Montgomery Halls. Fresh vegetables are supplied from the community garden. This resulted in donations fully stocking the Larder once again on Saturday 16th August.....photo



Many thanks as always to donors and to our loyal Carswell volunteers who receive the donations on Tuesdays and Thursdays 11- 12.00 am come rain, hail or shine!

Harvest Thanksgiving. We will be collecting food and flower donations for our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 19th October. Food donations will go to the Lodging House Mission; flowers and plants to deserving individuals within our community. Watch out for more information on the EPC Church Website and in forthcoming church intimations.

Kirk Carers. Transport for Doctor or hospital appointments. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this service, please contact John Lyons on 0141 644 2249 or the Pastoral Care Committee via office@eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk.

Church Flowers. We continue to enjoy wonderful flowers in the Church every Sunday and are grateful to all our donors and arrangers. The longest serving arranger – a member of the team since the ministry of Mr Bennett – has decided to retire from the rota. We are so grateful to Morag Hill for all her years of dedicated commitment to her art of arranging. Thank you Morag. We would really welcome new folk to the rota. If you can help just let us know via the office, or by contacting Kay Brown at kay.mearns.brown@gmail.com

Our flowers are gifted to those to whom they will offer sympathy and joy, but we would also like to use them to welcome new residents to our community. If you know of anyone who has recently moved into the area let us know. Two of the team did all the flowers for Murdo's wedding in July - photo. Buttonholes, bouquets and church flowers were created for what was a wonderful service in the church.



Eaglesham Community Garden

A very successful growing season this year due to the warm, sunny weather with more volunteers coming to help out - developing new friendships. All the usual vegetables grown successfully and a selection for the first time - pumpkins, aubergines, chick peas.



East Kilbride Young Farmers volunteered to help us out and really got stuck in strimming a large area of overgrown grass as well as emptying, relocating and refilling the compost heaps.



Explorer Scouts painted wooden barrels bright colours ready for planting. Two local young volunteers attended the garden regularly to gain their Duke of Edinburgh awards. The garden team welcomed a visit by an assessor from Keep Scotland Beautiful. Multiple questions asked, garden assessed, photos taken of different areas. We were overjoyed when we got the report back letting us know that we had been graded at the highest level - Outstanding - for biodiversity and restoring nature.

Regular garden working is on Tuesdays 11am - 1pm and Sundays 1 - 3pm. Visitors are welcome for a chat and a look around. A border fence has recently been erected to improve privacy.

At the beginning of June we held an Open Day and plant sale with refreshments - needed in sunny and warm weather. It was very successful and lovely to see so many people coming to visit, to buy plants, meet up with friends, and sit, relax and just enjoy being in the garden.



Children from Eaglesham Nursery came along on a regular basis before the school holidays. The under 5's were shown how to sow seeds and did a wonderful job. They also wandered around the garden to learn about what was growing and coloured some stones with pictures which are displayed in the garden.



Backpackers Holiday Club...report and photos from Murdo

One of the highlights of each year for me is the annual Summer Holiday Club, This year was no different with our theme being Backpackers, traveling each day from Paris to Rome, to the Alps, to palaces - no shortage of adventure to be had. Each day we also uncovered a little more about the story of Holy Week and Jesus' journey to the cross and the amazing miracle of his resurrection.

Activities included learning new languages, assorted games, singing, dancing, designing, decorating and competing in messy challenges. We also spent time each day with the post box - drawings, jokes, and messages. The best part of each day was the group tour where each group moved from games, to crafts, to some snack and to teaching time.

Our annual holiday club and EPYC water fight gave young people get a chance to come along and see what EPYC is all about - fun, friends, and laughter. All in all another huge success and a massive thank you to all who made it possible



Our Youth Group *EPYC* for P6-S6 is back!

EPYC runs on Sundays from 7.00 pm - 8.30 pm in the Carswell Centre for young people in P6-S6. There is lots of fun to be had with a range of activities. We take time every week to have hot chocolate and snacks before gathering to explore and discuss the bible and Christian faith in interactive and engaging ways.

We deviate from the structure some weeks with theme nights like taskmaster, movie nights, Nerf fights, and more! We sometimes meet outside of the usual Sunday group for fundraisers, group trips, or just trying something new. Anyone interested please email epcyouthworker@gmail.com. We require a new form each year so even if they were with us last year, please make sure you provide an updated form with all the relevant info.

We are also really excited to launch **EPYC Sundays!** a new monthly gathering on the last Sunday of every month. This Youth Church will be for all young people in both primary and secondary school, where they will enjoy food, fun, and fellowship together, staying in the Carswell Centre for the whole service. It will be a great opportunity for everyone to grow in faith and community together.

For those in P1-5 it will be similar to messy church and holiday club with songs, dancing, crafts, and games, all centred around a core bible story. For those in P6-S6 it will be similar to EPYC with games and activities along with chats about faith and what it means for us

Finally, after the service there will be a chance for families to stay back and share in tea, coffee, and juice while the young people can enjoy themselves with games and even a bouncy castle!

Music and worship

After the summer break, the Music and Worship Team will be restarting regular meetings. Choir practices begin again in September. As always new members would be made most welcome.

One new service will take place on Sunday 21st September at 10.30am. This is 'Back to Church Sunday' where we will welcome new people to our church service - those who have maybe never attended, or those who may have come in the past but not recently. There will be flyers for this service available in the church - please take some if you would like to put them through the doors of people who you think might be interested. This aligns very much with our vision of reaching out in our community (and beyond) to spread the Gospel. With that in mind, we now also have an Instagram account (in addition to our website and Facebook page) which Fiona McCrae is very diligently managing. To access simply go into Instagram and type eagleshamparishchurch.

Our online streaming of the Sunday Services regularly attracts over 100 views.

We are very fortunate to have Alan Gillon as our organist and choir master and I know that Alan, along with Jade, is already planning our services later on in the year. I can give you advance notice that during Advent we will have our usual Time to Remember, Children's Nativity and 9 Lessons and Carols services. Details to follow.

If you want to catch more of the music that Alan plays on the organ, he is a regular at 1pm on **the organ in Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum**. He is featuring four times this September, on the 1st, 4th, 12th and 25th.

Wendy Armstrong. Music and Worship



Our youth worker, Murdo McTear, has had a busy summer with the usual youth activities, Backpackers holiday club and preparations for new EPYC activity but the main event was on July 5th when he and Aileen were married in Eaglesham Parish Church



The annual Tearfund quiz will be on Saturday 22nd November at 7.30pm in the Carswell Centre. Come along with a team of up to 6 people or to join a team on the night. Tea, coffee and nibbles included but if you want something stronger you can bring your own drinks. Suggested donation £5 per person.



Lunches on the third Wednesday of September, October, November from noon in the Carswell Centre. Come along to enjoy homemade soup, bread and baking in good company and to support an excellent cause

The Importance of Biodiversity - a note from Marlies



Biodiversity is vital because it supports essential ecosystem services and thus underpins human health, cultural practices, and the economy. Insects, including pollinators - bees, butterflies, and very many others - are in severe decline. Oceans are clogged up with plastic rubbish which kills the creatures which finally ingest it. To counteract all this, plant wild flowers, leave areas of long grass with their "weeds" (native wild plants), pick up and recycle rubbish and urge those who commit this scourge to do likewise. And write to your MP, MSPs, and councillors, to urge them to do more for nature, for without it we cannot live.