

Autumn Tidings from Killearn Kirk

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal



We collected fifty seven Christmas Boxes in Killearn Kirk for the charity, Blythswood Care. These boxes are lovingly filled with goodies for children, men and women and will be distributed to countries in Eastern Europe, mainly Ukraine this year.

It's easy to choose gifts for people who have so little. shampoo, a pair of warm socks, hat, gloves and a scarf. Perhaps a notepad, a small toy, a bag of sweets - things we take for granted will seem like luxuries to people living in poverty. By filling a shoebox with simple things we can bring hope and smiles on faces this Christmas. Thank you to all who took part.

Doreen Snadden

Forthcoming Services and Events

Sun 1 Dec	10.00am	Holy Communion Service
	3.00pm	Sanctuary Service
Sun 8 Dec	10.00am	Christmas Gift Service - gifts donated to Salvation Army Stirling
		All villagers are invited to this festive occasion
Tue 24 Dec	6.00pm	Family Service
	11.00pm	Carols followed by Christmas Eve Watchnight Service
Wed 25 Dec	10.00am	Short Informal Christmas Day Family Service (half hour)
		Children are invited to bring one of their presents to show the Minister.
Sun 29 Dec	10.00am	Songs of Praise service

We wish everyone a happy Christmas

Killearn Kirk People

Minister	Rev Stuart Sharp	01360 550101
	ssharp@churchofscotland.org.uk	
Session Clerk	Carole Young	01360 550994
	sessionclerkkillearnkirk@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Bob Ballantyne	
	b.ballantyne@btopenworld.com	
Roll Keeper	Isobel Shaw	
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Agnes Macintosh	01360 550794
	safeguarding@killearnkirk.co.uk	
Hall bookings	Sue Beck	01360 550485
	property@killearnkirk.org.uk	

Personalia

Funerals

Matt 5:4: (Jesus said) 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.'

Since the last magazine, funerals have been conducted for the following people (members are underlined).

Ian Pretsell, Branziert Road Nrth
 Ian Partick, Ballikilrain Farm
 Alistair Imrie, Elder Road
 Irene Sloan, Main Street
 Sheila Rennie, Graham Road
 George Leamy

May the comfort and peace of God be with all who mourn and feel the loss for one they have loved.

Student Placement

We will be joined by a student minister from the 6th October for six months, through until Easter Sunday 2025. His name is Julian Pombo and we are sure to get to know him better over his time with us. During this period he will be mentored by Stuart and we look forward to his ministry during his placement in Killearn and Strathblane.

Editorial

An early Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year from the Editor. The next edition of Killearn Kirk Tidings will be published in time for Easter and will have details of the Easter services.

On-line Worship

If you ever miss a service, remember that we record our service, and you can watch them at any time. You can access these via the Kirk website.

Share the gifts God has given to you.

Ever thought you could take a turn welcoming people at the door, helping with the after-service refreshments, doing a reading, leading a prayer, or any other gift of service you have been given?

We are looking for people to help with AV system, readings, prayers, welcome and door duties, teas and coffees. No experience is needed, and support and guidance will be given as you need.

Don't bury your gifts, share them and we will all be enriched by them.

The Book of Remembrance: Those who we have lost.

We have a special book in the church where we can record the names of those we have lost.

This book was donated to Killearn Kirk for the community by the late Rev. Stuart McWilliam.

If you would like to have the name of a loved one recorded in the book, then please contact Carole Young or Isobel Shaw.

Local church changes

Stuart is still serving as interim moderator for Buchlyvie and Gartmore. The linked congregation were united earlier in the year and will be looking to find a new minister. The Presbytery Plan is only allocating a 0.5 ministry for the charge. There is still a lot of work to be done to help them move on and your prayers are appreciated for everyone involved.

Visit us online at www.killearnkirk.org.uk or visit our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/pages/Killearn-Kirk/116334885136784



Killearn Kirk is a Charity Registered in Scotland No SC012140
 Killearn Kirk Tidings is edited by:
 Scott Macintosh (tel 01360 550794) - scott@themacintoshfamily.co.uk
 and printed by The Macintosh Partnership



A different perspective

⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Matthew 5:44-45.

Well, God has sent plenty of rain this summer! It seems that we barely get a couple of days of consistent weather before it all changes again. It seems very clear that our climate seems to be changing. But this is nothing new. Between the 14th and 19th centuries Britain was in the grip of the Little Ice Age when global temperatures dropped by around 0.5 degrees centigrade. The early part of that time the summers too were wet and harvests poor and many starved. We know that weather changes are having an impact on our current farming communities with production yields being affected by poor harvest pushing up prices. As I write this (in mid-September) Poland is under water and Portugal is ablaze, yet this is not the first time these extremes have happened in Europe. The last couple of years we have had floods in one part and drought in others, and with that, wildfires.

In the distant past these may well have been signs of God's judgment. In Genesis we are reminded that God promised never to wipe the face of the earth clean again after that flood, so I for one, don't see these events in that light, but it does cause me to pause and wonder what is going on, and more importantly where do we go from here. We could take a very negative view of everything, like private Fraser in Dad's Army – 'We're doomed, doomed, I tell ye' or like corporal Jones 'Don't panic! Don't panic!' whilst really panicking. I don't believe God will give up on this earth, even as we make a mess of it, but we have to start to change the way we see it and how we live on it. Each of us, sinner or saint, are going to experience the same impact of climate changes.

I see that God's ultimate plan for this earth is to be joined and renewed with heaven as is described in Revelation 21, so we all have a vested interest in what's going on and I think we have to increase our activity in this area. As a nation we need to get better at recycling so reduce our use of limited resources; we have to move to renewable forms of power, again to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels; we have to encourage political leaders that this is the right thing to do, not just for votes now, but for the generations to come. Overall of this we need to pray for a wake-up call in leaders in all countries, or we will see in our lifetimes the low-lying islands of the Pacific become a modern day Atlantis, slipping beneath the waves and that will be on all of us.

Until we as a global community really get to grips with this we will simply have to invest in good waterproofs and suntan lotion – at the same time! And probably use them on the same days. But I for one am not going to give up prayer for the change our earth needs or for trying to make better choices each day and picture in my mind the inheritance I want to leave for my grandchildren, of which there are many.

Harvest Thanksgiving Service



StartUp
STIRLING

Items needed most this Autumn

- Ready meals (Instant Noodles/Pasta)
- Cup a Soup
- UHT Milk
- Tinned Veg
- Toilet Rolls
- Jam & Spreads
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Desserts
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Cooking Sauces

This years harvest thanksgiving service was held on Sunday, 6th October. Donations of tinned and dried goods were received and passed on to Start Up Stirling to be distributed to those in the Stirling Council area who are in financial crisis or are homeless.

Wedding



Heather Stephenson and Josh Frazer celebrated their marriage at the Tin Shed in Fintry on the 14 September 2024.

They now have set up home in Penrith.



Killearn Kirk
Balfron Road
Killearn
G63 9nl

30th October 2024

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for supporting Start Up Stirling

I am writing to thank you for your kind donation of food over the harvest period which totalled an incredible 259kg. This will help us to continue to provide our services throughout the Stirling Council area for people living in hardship. Your donation will make a big difference, making sure that people and families that we help will have enough to eat.

Last year we received the highest number of referrals ever for Crisis Food, helping 3,971 individuals, 1,293 of whom were children. Because of supporters like you, we were able to distribute the equivalent of 146,868 meals to them.

So far this year we are set to match or exceed that number as more people than ever are faced with the impact of the rising cost of living and other pressures in life. That is why we continue to evolve as an organisation, to help to alleviate isolation and loneliness by running our Community Hubs as well as crisis food to provide friendship, a listening ear, refreshments, advice and activities for anyone in the local communities that the hubs serve. 30 years on, we are still providing Home Starter packs, to give someone who has received keys to a new tenancy essential household items that they need, to build their self-esteem and to make their new house a home. We helped to make this a reality for over 600 people in 2023.

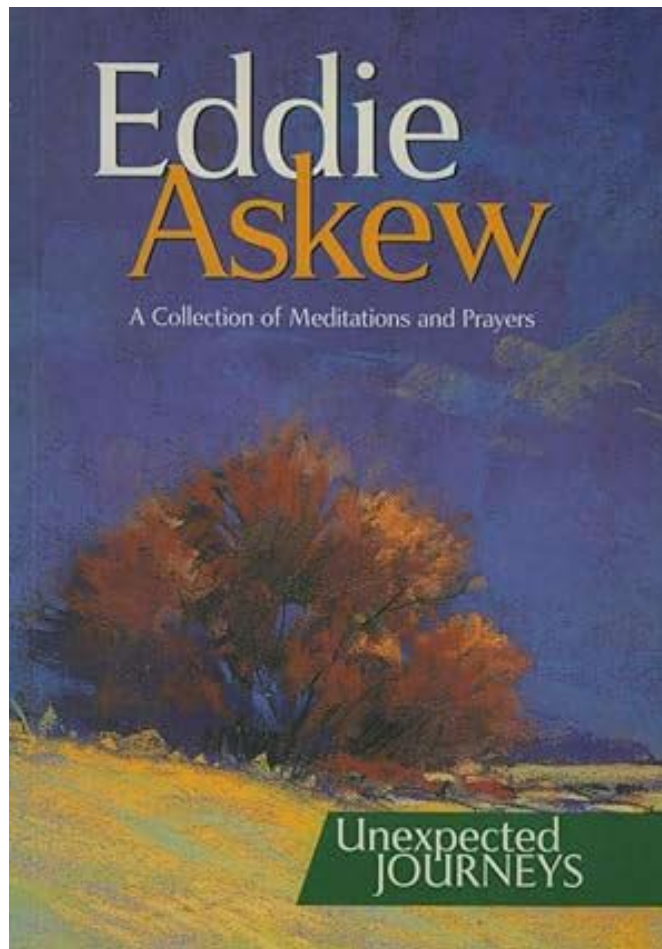
Thank you for helping us to continue to make a difference to people's lives when they need it most.

Best wishes

Amanda Monaghan

Amanda Monaghan
Digital and Community Fundraiser

Kirk Book Group



We continue to meet every second Monday in the Church Hall from 10 until 11.

The latest book we have studied is Eddie Askew's Unexpected Journey's.

In this collection of meditations and prayers, Eddie takes five familiar Bible stories (Moses, Ruth, The Storm on the Lake, The Woman at the Well, Peter's vision) and recreates them with such vivid imagery that you can imagine yourself there.

He challenges his readers to look inside each story and to examine the journey each character makes. His prose and poetry are beautifully written and his poems in particular always seemed to have been written with me in mind!!

We are all enjoying this little book tremendously.

Come and join us on any of our Mondays. We are friendly and inviting. You can come and sit quietly with us and join in only when you feel comfortable doing so.

For more information contact Katy on 07747147945.

Doreen Snadden.

Christmas

The other day I was reading an article on-line about children and the Bible. Apparently 3 in 10 children don't know the real story of Christmas and the birth of Jesus. As we come towards Advent, do you share the story of Jesus' birth, as we remember and celebrate the arrival of Jesus on Earth over the four weeks in December.

Advent is an opportunity to recognise Jesus' birth and prepare our hearts and minds for His arrival. In Luke 2:10-11 an angel declares to the shepherds. "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you: he is the Messiah, the Lord." Out of God's great love for you and me, He sent his Son to earth as a gift for us. Because of Jesus, we have life, hope, joy and peace. May you all have a peaceful, joyful and happy Christmas.

Carole Young, Session Clerk



Flower Ministry

Our thanks are extended to all who help with the flowers for each Sunday service and sharing in the deliveries.

Those who receive them have expressed their pleasure and delight in knowing that they have been remembered.



Session Report

As we prepare for the festive season the Kirk Sessions of Killearn and Strathblane have been considering how we manage the various services. Obviously, Stuart cannot be in both churches at the same time which means that on occasions we will have visiting preachers or some of our members will lead the services. We meet for our Sunday morning worship at 10am and Strathblane meet at 11.30. While we bed-in' the changes, we will continue with this schedule for another year, but we will be asking both congregations how they feel about this programme or whether we should be alternating timings each year. Something to think about for the future.

Thank you for the donations we received at our Harvest Festival. We received a letter of thanks from StartUp Stirling expressing gratitude for all the goods received. Strathblane Church, Strathendrick Baptist Church and Killearn Primary School also collected food stuff. Indeed, StartUp Stirling sent out a van to collect the goods and it was full when trundling its way back to Stirling. The generosity of members and friends who have donated to the Blythswood Christmas Shoebox Appeal, to be distributed to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine, has been overwhelming. Doreen who coordinates this tells me that we have had donations of 59 boxes. The largest number we have ever collected. It is so easy to choose small gifts for people who have so little. We take so much for granted but a bag of sweets, a pen and notepad, hat and scarf, can mean so much to others who have nothing.

We have several services over the month of December, and all are welcome. The Sanctuary Service will be held on Sunday, 1st December in the afternoon for those who have lost a loved one or feeling lonely at this time of year. It provides a time for reflection and contemplation. The Christmas gift service will be held on the 8th and gifts will be donated to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal to be delivered to those in need in the Stirling Council area. The family service on Christmas Eve was well supported last year and we will hold it again this year, just before we illuminate the final advent window in the village. The watchnight service in 2023 was not so well supported but we will continue this year but in a different format to see how many people attend. There can be so many pressures on families at this time of year as they travel to meet family members living elsewhere, trying to get organised after a busy work schedule and just finding time to pull everything together.

The Kirk Session meets around eight times a year and we are looking forward to a joint meeting with Strathblane in December. The agenda will be less business and more about sharing ideas as we work together as linked churches.

We are pleased to welcome Julian Pombo. Julian is on placement for six months while in his third year studying ministry at Glasgow University.

Carole Young, Session Clerk

The B Flats
Christmas concert

Join us for an evening of Christmas music
with special guests
Balfron High School Choir

**THURSDAY 5TH AND FRIDAY 6TH
DECEMBER, 7:30PM**

**KILMARONOCK MILLENNIUM HALL,
GARTOCHARN**

**TICKETS: ADULT £10 CHILDREN £5
AVAILABLE FROM THE VILLAGE SHOP
OR FROM CHOIR MEMBERS**

The Guild

By the time this goes to press the new Guild session will be underway. We opened on Tuesday, October 8th with a much appreciated talk on the charity Starchild. This is one of the worthwhile projects we have supported financially over the last three years. The Guilds throughout Scotland donated in excess of £500,000 to our six chosen charities over the last three year period.

The Guild's Aim: "The Church of Scotland Guild is a movement within the Church of Scotland which invites and encourages women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action."

Since 1997 the Guild has followed a pattern of adopting a three year strategy to guide its worship, study and project work, focusing on a different aspect of that strategy each year. The strategy for 2024-27 is "Let us build a house". This strategy has been chosen to encourage the Guild as it faces many challenges and opportunities in its service and its operations. The first theme within this strategy is "Sure Foundations". During this year, Guild members will be considering the different ways in which they can interpret the theme and apply it to their lives and to the life of the Guild.

This is the serious side of the Guild but we know how to combine our good work with fun too. The programme for the year reflects this. Our meetings are held every second and fourth Tuesdays of the month in the Church Hall from 1.30 to 3.30. If you would like to come but transport is a problem we will pick you up. Visitors are welcome at all our meetings, except the Christmas Lunch (that is organised in advance).

Syllabus

2024.

October, 8th	Starchild Project
October, 22nd	Join in Annual Gathering, 2023
November, 12th	Travel Talk from Ann and John Roy, Western USA
November, 26th	Glasgow Street Pastors.
December 10th	Christmas Lunch at Fintry Sport's Centre.
December 14th	Christmas Coffee Morning (Saturday)

2025.

January, 14th	Killearn Heritage Trail with Nick Hawkins.
January, 28th	CHAS, Robin House.
February 11th	In house entertainment on the theme of St Valentine.
February 25th	Sanctuary First Church with Rev. Ruth Kennedy.
March 11th	Musical afternoon with Linda More and friends
March 22nd	Easter Coffee Morning (Saturday)
March 25th	AGM followed by Screen Memories with Michael White.

All meetings conclude with tea and cake and lovely fellowship together. Do come, a warm welcome awaits you.

Doreen Snadden, Chair 550834.



The Annual Gathering of Scotland's Guilds held in Edinburgh, attended by four members from Killearn.

Thursday Club

Thursday Club is back after the summer break! Weekly socials in the Church Hall resumed on 5th September, 24.

Everyone was happy to return to our diverse groups, for whist, dominoes or scrabble followed by afternoon tea and a lovely blether together.

To date we had an outing in September and this month Yasmin introduced us to the mental and physical benefits of Dancercise, greatly enjoyed by all.

As the colder weather sets in we look forward to festive fun, currently planning an outing to Fintry pantomime and Christmas Lunch at Fintry Sports Centre.

Thursday Club is open to all seniors. Transport if required will be arranged.

For further information contact Maureen on 07909 872994.

Maureen Blackmore.



Strathendrick Teens

Do you have a young person in secondary school who may be wishing to explore the Christian Faith? Strathendrick Teens meet in various church halls around the valley just to do this, while making new friendships and sharing experiences.

They even get the opportunity to go away on weekends to meet friends from other churches. If you know of a young person who would like to go along to this group, then please let our Session Clerk know and she will pass on the leaders contact details to you.

Forthcoming Services

Over the coming months we will be thinking about the following themes

The 'I am' sayings of Jesus:

I am the resurrection and the life
I am the way the truth and the life
I am the true vine
(Communion will be shared as part of worship)

Wondered about Eldership or getting involved in worship?

The Presbytery of Perth are running a number of training days to enable people to explore their ministry. The following are coming up.

Eldership today. 8th February 2025

What is it to be an elder in the 21st. century? This seminar looks at the role of the elder as part of the leadership team of the congregation.

Topics covered will include:-

- The role of the elder.
- Leadership role of the elder.
- The responsibilities of the Kirk Session.
- How to be an effective member of the Kirk Session.
- How to carry out the main tasks of the Kirk Session.

This course is for, those considering the eldership, those new to the eldership and experienced elders wishing to review the role..

Pastoral & Bereavement Visiting - 22nd February 2025

This seminar deals with Pastoral visiting skills, listening skills and practical guidelines for visitors.

The bereavement session looks at how we relate to and support individuals and families who have experienced bereavement by looking at the Experiences of bereavement and the process of mourning.

All the courses will be held in Perth and are all held on a Saturday, further information will be issued in due course. For further details and to submit your note of interest in attending please email Alex Rae at fourraes@btinternet.com

Killearn Malawi Group News

The KMG (SC043555) had a very successful Annual Gathering with Friends in the Kirk Hall on Thursday 19th September, the first in person meeting for 5 years, with guest speakers.

After refreshments, the Chair, Ken Allen, gave a report on the activities of the group over the year 23-24, explaining the difficulties of fluctuating prices following devaluation of the Malawi Kwacha; always fluctuating up, of course. We continue to help people in Malawi, sending money to buy maize for needy families in a village in the south following floods in 2023, and sending baby clothes and craft items to a women's craft group in the north.

Sue Beck, the Treasurer presented the accounts, showing that, over the year, we had added to the reserves, which we will be using to build the girls' hostel at Nkhande Secondary School. We financed the visit of the local school management committee in Malawi to another school which had built one, and they talked to the local committee about how it was run. The famous Jumble Sale in February brought in a very healthy amount, as did the sponsored walk in May.

Our main speaker was Kevin Simpson of Malawi Fruits, a charity which works with small scale farmers in Malawi, providing solar pumps for small irrigation schemes, and polytunnels, both of which allow year round farming and harvesting, and a more regular income to the farmers. There was a very healthy discussion with Kevin at the end. We also heard from Dr Kondwani Chidziwisano by a link from Malawi about the progress with the preparation of estimates for the girl's hostel, and how scholarships for students at the school would help many to continue their education.

The meeting also re-elected the committee of eight to carry out the aims of the charity.

The next event is the Ladies' Night with Alan Parker in the Village Hall on Friday 15th November, which we hope will be a successful fundraiser, especially for the girls' hostel at Nkhande School. Shona Kelday (07882981235) has tickets.

You can become a friend by contacting Ken Allen at chair@killearnmalawigroup.org or any of the committee. There is no financial commitment necessary, though donations are always welcome: contact Sue Beck at treasurer@killearnmalawigroup.org. We also welcome anyone who would like to be involved in our work.

We are a small charity, but make a big impact in the communities where we work.

Killearn Golden Years' Club



We had our Annual Dinner at the Kitchen Window in the Village Hall on 27th March 2024 and everyone enjoyed a great meal. Our Annual Outing was on 28th June when the coach took some 40 seniors to Callander where we had an enjoyable lunch at McNabs. Although it was a showery day everyone seemed to enjoy the trip.

Our next function is the Family Bingo Night in the church Hall on 21st November 2024 and we look forward to a fun night. This is also a fundraising night.

Linkage Update

It is now a little over six months since the congregations of Killearn and Strathblane were linked. The routine is starting to settle down but there will still be things to be sorted out over the coming months. To help plan and co-ordinate the work of the congregations a small group from both congregations will meet to plan and agree what is to happen with the extra services in the year that do not land on a Sunday, such as Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, as well as how we deal with Remembrance in two villages at the same time.

The group will also look at where we can co-operate more between the two congregations, and share things rather than duplicate them, one example might be the magazine, rather than both churches producing separate publications it might be an idea to make a joint magazine and that way let people know what is going on in both places

We are applying for additional funding now as we are getting low on funds but with a lot of previous sources more restricted than before this will not be easy.

The committee continues as before – Bob Ballantyne, Doreen Snadden, Anne O'Neil and Alison McDade and our thanks go to all for their help.

Bob Ballantyne, Convenor

Wednesday Prayers.

Each Wednesday the Session House is open from 10am to 11am for those wishing to spend time in prayer. It is open to all. In our gathering we bring the needs of people and the world to God in prayer.

If you, or someone you know, would like prayers said for an individual or family, those gathering for prayer are happy to do that. There are small prayer slips in the entrance of the church and a box in which to place them. We don't need to know every detail, just enough to pray for them, a name and the reason is enough. We appreciate if we can be kept informed about the matter and if prayers need to change their focus.

Sunday Pre-service Prayers.

There is an opportunity to meet and prayer for the service each week between 9:45 and 9:55 in the hall, all are welcome to join in.

Christmas Word Search

T	H	S	U	A	L	C	A	T	N	A	S	E	P	W
H	B	S	T	N	E	M	A	N	R	O	I	G	R	I
T	G	E	S	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	A	E	N
F	T	G	N	I	V	I	G	S	N	E	P	L	S	T
I	L	I	N	B	R	G	C	H	N	P	R	I	E	E
F	S	Y	T	B	L	E	S	N	I	T	E	M	N	R
Y	A	A	S	O	W	S	B	N	D	I	T	N	T	S
T	G	D	L	N	R	E	G	M	Y	O	A	F	S	G
N	A	I	L	S	E	P	L	T	E	I	R	M	S	N
E	Y	L	I	M	A	F	E	I	K	C	B	S	T	I
W	B	O	I	P	T	N	G	C	R	R	E	O	H	K
T	S	H	E	B	H	Y	S	S	U	O	L	D	G	C
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	T	R	E	E	I	O
N	G	W	H	I	T	E	C	H	R	I	C	S	L	T
T	M	A	S	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	S

CELEBRATE

CHRISTMAS TREE

DECEMBER

DECORATIONS

FAMILY

GIVING

HOLIDAY

LIGHTS

ORNAMENTS

PRESENTS

REINDEER

RIBBONS

SANTA CLAUS

STOCKINGS

TINSEL

TURKEY DINNER

TWENTY-FIFTH

WINTER

WRAPPING PAPER

WREATH