



Easter Tidings *from* Killearn Kirk



Hallelujah ! . . . Christ is Risen !

Come and celebrate with us at our joint Easter Week services

Wednesday, 5th April: Drymen Church at 7.30pm

Maundy Thursday, 6th April: Strathblane Church at 7.30pm (Sacrament of Holy Communion)

Good Friday, 7th April: Killearn Kirk at 7.30pm.

Easter Sunday, 9th April: Killearn Kirk at 10.30am

Please Support Christian Aid



This year there will not be a house to house collection in Killearn, but please don't overlook Christian Aid. With the current situation in the world, the need to help others has never been greater. You can donate online and if you're able you can perhaps complete your details to allow Christian Aid to recover 25% gift aid tax recovery on your donation. No need to wait until Christian Aid week, visit the website at any time.
www.ChristianAid.org.uk



Killearn Kirk People

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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;

May Moreland
Jean Winifred Cole
Lesley Alexander
Catrina Pretsell
Gillian Emmanuel
Christine Bowie
Jane Goold
Barbara Cockburn
Rosemary Smith
Walter MacGowan
Rob Beck

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

Kirk Kids

Arrive for Church at 10.30am. Children can sit beside their parents at the beginning of the service then move through to the halls with the leaders after the second song. Finish 11.30am

fun - games - singing - learning

Christmas Gifts

The Gifts from the Christmas Gift Service were donated to the Salvation Army

Coming Services.

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

Easter with Mark's Gospel, up to Easter Sunday
We will be hold joint services with Strathblane and Drymen churches during Holy Week at 7.30pm,
Wednesday Drymen Church - Led by Murdo Campbell
Thursday Strathblane Church - Led by Stuart Sharp
Friday Killearn Kirk - Led by Alex Smeed

Who am I in Christ - will take us up to July.

Being Like Jesus - will think about some the practical way we live as Christians.

Doctrine of Adoption - will take us a little deeper in our understanding of becoming sons and daughters of God

Harvest Celebration - on the first Sunday in October.
Deuteronomy 16:9-15

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 anyone to come along whose heart is moved to 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 10:45 and 10:55 in the entrance between the hall and the church, all are welcome to join in.

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

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From the Minister's study desk

Rev 22:12-13

“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

On Saturday 4th March the first 'in person' meeting of the newly formed Presbytery of Perth was held in the Bankfoot Church Centre outside Perth. The current plan is that Presbytery will only meet four times a year, two in person and two on line. I think this is already the third meeting of Presbytery since January and there will likely be more one-off meetings as things settle down. A lot of business was dealt with, mainly routine and in a way just setting the scene for the changes to evolve in how we deal with Presbytery business from Blair Athol to Montrose, Strathblane to Cowie, a huge and diverse geographical area with a mix of city, town, village, rural, urban, affluent, and deprived areas within its bounds.

A lot of change and yet at the same time, everything is the same. The church is present in all these communities seeking to share the gospel with any who have ears to hear.

In this turbulent season of change of the church nationally and locally, the mission, and purpose of the church remains unchanged to be the present presence of Christ in the places where we are. At the end of the day the structural changes that we are going to have to face are simply means to this end. No matter what changes come, the purpose of the Kirk in Killearn has not altered one jot. However, we have to acknowledge the amount of effort and time change consumes that can reduce our focus on what our fundamental purpose is. We get drawn into internal conversations away from outward proclamation. Through all of the change that has happened, will happen in the short or longer term we must hold our purpose, our commission from God. To share the good news, to live it, to bring others into the new life in Christ and nurture their growth. To live in the now, not what has been or what is to come, but the now with those around us.

The verse above reminds us that our lives as individuals, a church family, community, and nation are bracketed I by God. He was before and will be last, God's purpose will have sway no matter the machinations of humanity or even of the church. Whether we face changes in our lives that are huge or minor, God is with us, surrounds us, like the words of St Patrick's breastplate,

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
(a short extract)

It can be too easy to look to as a refuge from the world, someone to whom we run, an escape route, rather than the constant companion through it all. As we each rise with the morning we can remind ourselves of the every moment dwelling of God with us, so we can face change or stability in same way – Christ with us. We can explore new ways of being church and expressing our faith precisely because – Christ is with us, from first to last.

Stuart

Blythwood Care's 2022 Shoe Box Appeal

Killearn and Strathblane Churches once again took part in the Shoe Box Appeal. We in Killearn filled 52 shoe boxes with various items such as warm gloves, hats and socks, toiletries, candles, small toys and sweets. The contents of each box depended on the recipient- boy, girl, man or woman. Children in Killearn often assisted their parents or grandparents to make the box as interesting as possible.

These boxes were sent to people in need in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. The need was particularly great this winter for those living in war torn Ukraine and for those having fled the conflict. The need remains great for those whose lives are daily shaped by poverty, isolation and want.

We have received a letter of thanks from the charity for our kindness which they say has brought hope to people in great need this past Christmas.



One of the volunteers on the ground said "every shoebox is a smile". Every gift in every box makes a difference. As useful as the items inside are, the beauty of shoebox gifts goes beyond this - each gift lets a person in need know that someone that they've never met has thought about them and cares about them. Long after the toothpaste has been used up, the candles burned and socks grown out of, the hope and love conveyed by a shoebox goes on.

Our plan is to repeat this worthwhile exercise again for Christmas 2023.

Doreen Snadden.

Killearn Warm Space ... it's all in a name ... !

We wanted our local community to feel at home within the Warm Space, we wanted to demonstrate to our older / more isolated population - that there will be friendly faces and a warm smile waiting for them at the Warm Space and we wanted to find some willing volunteers and to work with those volunteers to form a team and find a kindred spirit ...

Killearn's Warm Space has been running on weekend afternoons 2pm - 5pm at Killearn Village Hall since Jan-23 and will now run on through until the end of April ...

initially unsure what to call the initiative – there were suggestions including 'warm bank', Weekend Club, Not the Monday Club !! and now its just the Warm Space ... Warm in temperature – warm in vibe... warm in welcome ..

We've had cookies, cakes and surprises, we've played dominoes, scrabble, happy families, whist ... table tennis ... we've built jigsaws .. we've been shown chair yoga, brain gym exercises, we've had clarsach and violin recitals ...

We'd like to thank all of those involved – the volunteers and drivers – some known faces, some new faces - some who come along every week – some more intermittently – but still bonded by that Warm Space commitment ..

We know that bringing people together brings smiles and warmth - we know that by inspiring some of our local community to come along - will help to nudge others ... and it doesn't have to be huge numbers - but it is all helping to connect people and encourage the sharing of stories and endeavours.

Here's to warm spaces and thanks to all who have been a part of the journey



Mystery Photo

The photograph below was taken by our former assistant minister, Ruth, of her favourite view, and was published on the front page of the previous issue of Tidings with an invitation to readers to guess the location. It was taken in the hills above Aberfoyle, of Loch Ard, the clue being a snow capped Ben Lomond in the distance.



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 website. We will be doing some phased upgrading of the audio-visual system of the church with the view that we may be able to stream the services in real time, but we want to ensure that this would be of a high image and sound quality and as such may be the last phase of the improvements, we are going to be doing.

Choir

The Choir meets for practice at 9.40am in the church. We can always find a chair for new members and you don't have to be able to read music.

At the moment we are practising an anthem for Easter Sunday – 'God so loved the world'. If you enjoy singing with others we will be delighted to welcome you to our 'happy band' don't be shy.

Session Report

In the Autumn representatives of Killearn Kirk met with representatives of Strathblane Church. This was to discuss the way forward for the future of the linkage between the two churches. It was a very amicable meeting, and we are hoping to meet up again soon to see how we move forward.

Christmas saw us gather a huge number of gifts to be donated to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. The Primary School joined in with this initiative and the Salvation Army were delighted and very much appreciated the gifts which were distributed to those in need in the Stirling area.

The Kirk Session agreed that Communion will be held four times a year on the first Sunday of March, June, September and December. Unfortunately, we are not able to visit the members in the same way as we used to, so I would ask that you contact me if you wish someone to visit. There are various reasons why some districts are not being visited, and we hope that you bear with us as we try to look at new ways of working.

The Attestation of Records took place in November. Killearn all records passed inspection. The records required for attestation at this time were records related to property, church minutes, congregational roll and ministers log book. The safeguarding records will be attested in the new Presbytery of Perth.

On 1st January 2023 Killearn Kirk became a congregation in the Presbytery of Perth. Stirling Presbytery no longer exists. Before the Kirk being in the Presbytery of Stirling, we were previously in Dumbarton Presbytery. Change is always hard to get used to, but it is something we will embrace and look forward with hope for the future of the Church.

The Stated Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, 26th March immediately after the church service. The Accounts and Trustees report will be presented at this meeting.

The minister has already mentioned assistance with various roles in the church and if you would like to assist in any aspect of church life then please speak to me or Stuart. More hands make less work!

Carole Young

Session Clerk.

Transport to Church

You may not be aware that Killearn Kirk will organise transport for anyone unable to make their own way to Church. If this would be of help to you, please contact Bob Ballantyne at 550310 or the Fellowship Committee members: Teresa, Jenifer, Hilary or Margaret Harrison.

New Presbytery

The new presbytery starts at a time when many are wearied with the pandemic and wondering about the future with climate change, war in Ukraine, rising prices, etc.

In the midst of all the uncertainties we affirm the lasting truth, secure hope and dynamic relevance of "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever"

It is not a case of "Why don't they?" but "Why don't we? Let us..." for all Christians are in the front-line representing Jesus.

The first of the 5 marks of mission from which all others logically follow is to proclaim the Good News of the kingdom. Overleaf in simple language is a summary of the Good News all Christians have to share.

We deal with an active God, operational in Creation and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. He has promised to be at work in and through the lives of all Christians. As we head towards Easter, what a great dimension for our thinking and dynamic for our living : security, purpose, hope and power in and through Jesus!

Isn't that an exciting thought with which head up towards Easter in a new Presbytery with a fresh vision!

Prayerful good wishes.

God's Invitation

"God's Invitation" was Commissioned as a user-friendly expression of the Christian faith and authorised by the General Assembly 1992)

God's Invitation God made the world and all its creatures with people made in His image. By breaking His laws people have broken contact with God and damaged His good world. This we see and sense in the world and in ourselves. The Bible tells us the Good News that God still loves us and has shown His love uniquely in His Son, Jesus Christ. He lived among us and died on the cross to save us from our sin. But God raised Him from the dead!

In His love, this living Jesus invites us to turn from our sins and enter by faith into a restored relationship with God Who gives true life before and beyond death.

Then with the power of the Holy Spirit remaking us like Jesus we - with all Christians - worship God enjoy His Friendship and are available for Him to use in showing and sharing His love, justice and peace locally and globally until Jesus returns!

In Jesus' name we gladly share with you God's message for all people - "You matter to God" - and invite you to accept His invitation

The Guild

We have enjoyed a successful session again. The weather has been kind to us but I am very aware, as I write this, that much of the country is covered in snow while we in Killearn are basking in sunshine. We still have two meetings on our schedule so I hope I haven't jeopardised those!

We meet from October to March, generally two Tuesdays in the month. Moving our meetings to afternoons has been very popular with the members so we will continue with this. We have forty two members including one brave gentleman. The Guild is open to all and we happily welcome visitors to all our meetings.

Our syllabus is as varied as possible. Subjects covered over the session include balance exercises with Julie Symmonds, entertainment and information on the new Presbytery plans from our minister, Stuart, an afternoon with Balfron School band and a much enjoyed Christmas Lunch at Fintry Sports Centre. Next meeting we are off to Peru with Ann and John Roy. Every meeting concludes with tea and the opportunity for a good blether together.

We hold two coffee mornings, one in December and one in March. Our reputation for real coffee and limitless amazing cakes is well known. The proceeds from those two events enables us to support two different charities every year. This is an important part of the good work of The Guild.

We reconvene in October so come along then and try us out.

Doreen Snadden.

Flowers in Church

The Rota for 2023 has been produced but we still have a few spaces to fill. The people who receive the gift of flowers very much appreciate receiving them after they have brightened up the sanctuary on a Sunday morning. If you would like to join the Rota then please get in touch with Madge.



Did you know that the Rose is mentioned in the Bible 48 times. Jesus illustrates the rose for its rarity, beauty and sweet, wonderful fragrance. Its fragrant flowers include a crown in the centre, just like Jesus Christ.



The Book Club meets at 10am every 2nd Monday in the Church Hall, tea, coffee and biscuits, and sometimes cake, are included. For the next few weeks we are reading *Women of Holy Week* by Paula Gooder. We are a very cheerful group and everyone is welcome. If you want to find out more come along or speak to Katie or Teresa.

Golden Years

The annual dinner this year is being held in The Kitchen Window at the Village Hall on Monday 17th April 2023 at 6.30 for 7pm. We look forward to this venue for the first time with its beautiful views at a time with longer evening daylight. All our regular people will be invited by phone towards the end of March with a limit of 40 people. Nice to support a local business within walking distance for most - saving on expensive bus hire!

We will be planning our annual summer outing shortly and will again be inviting our regular people in due course. Pictured is last year's outing

Our funds are healthy with over £3000 in the bank.

Bob Ballantyne

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, let them out to play and we will all be enriched by them.





**Come! Emmaus, Emerge from the gloom.
Come Holy Spirit Come!**

Join us for a journey of faith on Sanctuary First with a NEW podcast series discovering, faith hope and stories of grief in the Church of Scotland. Live every 2nd Wednesday at 7pm on Facebook, on Sanctuary First & via our App. You can also Listen back on Spotify & Apple podcasts. First Episode airs Wednesday the 22nd of March 2023!

Together, Neil Urquhart, Ruth Kennedy and Steve Aisthorpe explore the stories of struggle and perseverance within the church.

How do you respond to Jesus calling you a thick 'numb-skull' or 'dim-wit'? Don't be too offended, you're in good company! This is how Jesus addresses his two friends, Emmaus bound, their dreams in tatters, torpedoed by Jesus' cruel crucifixion.

Naturally, when we lose something, or someone, dear to us, we go home for comfort. Cleopas & Co. were in retreat having seen their team drubbed 20 – nil, buried without trace, oblivious to Jesus' identity as he walks and talks with them. Grief, sorrow, and sadness can do that, blind us to reality and obscure the bigger picture. It's not so much a 'crisis of faith' as a 'crisis of imagination'. And this is where many of us find ourselves today, caught between death and new life; our loved ones, plans, aspirations, and life dreams sunk as we only just manage to keep our head above water. Where is Jesus in all the chaos and mystery maise? Right beside us, in fact closer than that. But can we let our pride be undermined and imaginations stretched to let Jesus sow hope in our souls?

Sonia was grief-stricken and ready to tell God 'What for!' Life was hellish, with little hope of improvement, but as she prepared to let fly with two barrel blasts, she was calmed by Jesus' presence and helped to see a bigger picture. This spawned gratitude and the ability to find

positive steps forward. She left that moment and space a different person.

How slow these two 'numb-nuts' were to see Jesus with them, but at home, reaching for more 'comfort food' they recognised Jesus in breaking bread. And no sooner did the truth dawn, than Jesus disappeared. Jesus had taken them through their ancient Scriptures to show that Jesus' death and resurrection are foundation for the New Kingdom of Life & Love. Having trudged 7 hopeless miles home they sped 7 short miles back to Jerusalem, their outlook transformed and reframed.

Lament & Grief are appropriate in the face of loss. The pain of teachers, nurses, doctors, railway workers, church ministers & congregations (et al) is all too real. The emerging Emmaus story offers us a journey and framework of comfort, courage, and creativity. It points to 'Jesus alongside us' in our short-sightedness.

Sanctuary First encourages this re-framing of our own stories with a biweekly podcast 'Emerging Emmaus' in which Steve Aisthorpe, Ruth Kennedy & myself (Neil Urquhart) discuss with people from across Scotland, UK & World, allowing Jesus to renew our vision & vigour for His New Life.

Update from Bethany

I am now in my third year of training for Full time Ministry with the Church of Scotland, and of my studies at New College, University of Edinburgh. This semester I am taking classes in Ancient Wisdom, which looks the Wisdom Literature books of the Bible, and Mission in Contemporary Scotland. Alongside these, I have begun working on my dissertation in which I will be considering the way that the hymns we sing influence our understanding of and approach to mission.

As well as studying, I am also on placement at Stirling North until mid-June. It is a wonderful, lively and very friendly church with lots going on so I am enjoying joining in the ministry there. Dan, Isaac and I have settled well and Isaac is to be found there often running around the sanctuary showing off some of his new words, such as "biscuit". If you would like to check out some of what I have been up to, the services are livestreamed and recordings are available under Stirling North Church on YouTube/Facebook.



In February I was privileged to travel to Germany with a group of ministry candidates from the University of Edinburgh to spend time visiting reformation sites. We visited Erfurt, Leipzig and Wittenberg. Each of these has connections to the reformation. For instance, in Erfurt we stayed in the Augustinerkloster where Martin Luther was a monk and the visited church in Wittenberg where he nailed his 95 Thesis to the door. The door has now been replaced by a brass copy of that Thesis as seen in the picture included here.

Alongside visits to these famous locations were also had the opportunity to visit many churches and hear about the design of the buildings as well as the worship that has taken place in each of them for centuries. We joined together for Communion in the Lutheran Church in Leipzig as well as attending a Catholic Mass (entirely in German!) on Ash Wednesday for the imposition of ashes. It was a privilege to be able to join in worship in so many different ways and in settings that were unfamiliar to us, a reminder that the way we worship God is only one among many. Overall, the trip was a great encouragement and a wonderful way to spend time with other future ministers, eat some great food and learn many new things along the way.



Killearn Kirk finance

The accounts for the year to 31.12.22 have now been independently examined and were approved by the Kirk Session on 14.3.23. It was a difficult year in terms of our investment valuations as financial markets tumbled with political upheaval.

Also a difficult year as things very slowly returned towards normal in terms of church attendance and our General Fund which covers the day to day running of the church had an income of £70,436 and expenditure of ££87,126 resulting in a deficit of £16,690. The expenditure included £52,887 payable to the church centrally's Ministry and Mission Fund which covers the cost of our ministry and towards the cost of the wider work of the church at home and abroad. The General Fund stands at £47,461 at 31.12.22.

We also have £74,229 in other unrestricted funds at 31.12.22 (excluding the Fabric Fund –see below).

2022 was also the year in which we began to upgrade our AV system from our Fabric Fund which had an income of £10,780 including £6,000 from The Caram Trust. Expenditure, mainly for the AV Upgrade, was £42,452 resulting in a deficit of £31,672. The Fabric Fund stands at £40,207 at 31.12.22.

We have restricted funds of £143,160 at 31.12.22 – mainly the Helen Jamieson Bequest Fund at £138,586.

We also have funds held by Edinburgh of £101,444 (£97,984 of which can be used for capital purposes) and a further £66,313 invested in The Church of Scotland Investors' Trust available for either capital or revenue purposes.

We are most grateful for the donations from members and also for the work done by the many volunteers from our members and we hope that 2023 will return our day –to day running of the church back to break-even.

To summarise therefore –

Unrestricted Funds	£161,897
Restricted Funds	143,160
Held by CofS centrally - Capital	97,984
Revenue	69,772
Total	472,813
Represented by -	
Bank	£15,916
Investments	289,141
Held by CofS centrally	167,756
Total	472,813

Last years' Total £575,772

Bob Ballantyne

Treasurer

Safeguarding Update 2023

On the 21st January this year we had a very successful training day for safeguarding. Our very own Doreen Snadden (a qualified and experienced Safeguarding Trainer) delivered two and a half hours of essential information in an interactive format, posing challenging questions set in a variety of contexts, all leading us to thoughtfully consider some pertinent potential safeguarding situations. She astutely guided the group through the common pitfalls we might encounter and highlighted our moral and legal responsibilities towards all the parties who might be involved.

19 people attended the Introductory Safeguarding Training morning session in our Church Hall. 16 of the attendees were from our own church and of these 12 were updating their previous training whilst 2 were receiving initial training following their recruitment just prior to the whole covid lockdown situation. Another 2 Killearn Kirk folks were pro-actively undertaking the training whilst considering all the responsibilities involved in potentially volunteering for new roles within the Kirk. Joining us for the day we had 3 friends from Strathblane Church, again seeking to refresh their skills. It was great to have such a large crowd present and it gave rise to plenty of lively discussion.

Sustenance provided to see us through the morning included teas, coffees, lots of fresh fruit, croissants and home baking in the form of cakes and biscuits so if you skipped breakfast in order to attend then there was plenty to keep you going through to lunchtime.

As a result of the Training Day most of our volunteers in the Church are now current in their training in respect to safeguarding our children, young people and vulnerable adults and that is a great situation to be in. However, we are never complacent and we still have 6 folk who require initial Introductory Safeguarding Training and 6 who require Refresher Introductory Training and I will be pointing them in the direction of opportunities for this being held in other Churches – in person and online.

I want to finish with a big thankyou to all our volunteers who understand how important it is to safeguard all our children, young people and vulnerable adults who are in anyway connected with our Church and the wider community of Killearn. I am never asked 'Why do I have to do this training?' or 'What's the point to all of this?' Every person accepts their responsibilities happily, knowing that they are doing their bit to keep the Church a safe and welcoming space for all.

Again,
Thank You

Agnes Macintosh
Killearn Kirk
Safeguarding Co-ordinator

March 2023

The Easter Story

p r i e s t s r e a d j
 a y l s m e t a m n e c
 l w i n e m a u o g v o
 m e e r f p p e t e r a
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 u s e v r e a s t e r d
 r c t o m b p m w c w p

Jesus
 temple
 palm leaves
 priests

Judas
 wine
 bread
 angel

Peter
 cross
 tomb
 Easter