



## Easter Tidings *from* Killearn Kirk



# 10am

## New time for Killearn Kirk Sunday morning service



## Hallelujah ! . . . Christ is Risen !

Come and celebrate with us at our joint Easter Week services

Maundy Thursday, 28th March: Killearn Kirk at 7.00pm (Sacrament of Holy Communion)

Good Friday, 29th March: Strathblane Church at 7.00pm.

Easter Sunday, 31st March: Killearn Kirk at 10.00am

### ***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](http://www.ChristianAid.org.uk)



## Killearn Kirk People

Minister	Rev Stuart Sharp	01360 550101
	ssharp@churchofscotland.org.uk	
Session Clerk	Carole Young	01360 550994
	sessionclerk@killearnkirk.org.uk	
Treasurer	Bob Ballantyne	
	treasurer@killearnkirk.org.uk	
Roll Keeper		
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Agnes Macintosh	01360 550794
	safeguarding@killearnkirk.org.uk	
Hall bookings	Sue Beck	01360 550485
	property@killearnkirk.org.uk	

## 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;

Norman Lilley  
John Smith  
Kenneth Barclay  
Robert Begg

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

## Blessing of a Child

Psalms 127: 3 - Children, are a Gift from God

Nia Prescott, daughter of Dan and Becky Prescott

## 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.

## Choir

At the moment we have five very good sopranos and one lonely contralto, no tenor or bass, although we do have the assistance of a very good Ministerial voice.

There are quite a few very good sopranos, contraltos, tenors and bass singers in the congregation, I know quite a few so – I am asking them to come and use their God given talent and help to increase the range and variety of the music we can sing.

To hear a choir singing with each part singing in harmony is wonderful and I'm afraid one contralto doesn't much difference. Please think about it, you do not need the ability to read music and you will be welcomed with open arms. When you decide to come and join speak to Helen. I do hope I will not be lonely for long.

## Share the gifts God has given to you

Every though 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.

## 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.

## Kirk Kids

Arrive for Church at 10.00am. 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 11.00am

fun - games - singing - learning

Visit us online at [www.killearnkirk.org.uk](http://www.killearnkirk.org.uk) or visit our Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Killearn-Kirk/116334885136784](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Killearn-Kirk/116334885136784)

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Killearn Kirk Tidings is edited by:

Scott Macintosh - [scott@themacintoshfamily.co.uk](mailto:scott@themacintoshfamily.co.uk)

Doreen Snadden - [doreen@snadden.net](mailto:doreen@snadden.net)

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## **A different perspective .....**

**"I will call them 'my people' who are not my people;  
and I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one,"**

**and,**

**"In the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,'  
there they will be called 'children of the living God.'"**

**Romans 9: 25b-26.**

For the last several years the national church and all of its component congregations, have been consumed with the Presbytery Planning process. Having to face the reality of significant reductions in ministry numbers and provision and how best to spread that fairly across the country. It is still going on in many places, some facing linkage, others union and, a few, closure.

It has not been and is not an easy season for the church to endure. Here we have engaged with the process of change with the imminent linkage between ourselves and Strathblane from the 21st March, just in time for Easter!

It is easy for such things to consume our thinking, our activity and all of our energy. It can distract us from the core purpose of the church in the world, to bring people into relationship with God, to expand and increase the family. Now we have moved through the prelude to change, we must refocus our energies on what our purpose is to proclaim in word and deed the gospel of God, that Jesus has come into the world, died on the cross for us and rose from the grave that we too may know full forgiveness in God and acceptance into God's family. From there to disciple ourselves in the way of the Master, Jesus.

I know that this is a significant part of the work of a ministry, but now that my time is to be divided between Killearn and Strathblane, we need to find new ways of doing this. We have the great blessing of having so many able and talented people in our congregation. The change that we are experiencing also provides the opportunity to do things differently, to allow others to find the ministry that God is leading them into.

Over the last five years I have tried to explain and explore the ministry of the whole people of God, now the season is here where we are to put it into practise, moving from theory into application. But now we have an opportunity to do that in partnership with others for our linkage should not be about Killearn doing its things and Strathblane their own and simply sharing the Minister's time, it can and should also be about working in partnership, bringing our different talents together to benefit both and enable both to more effectively be the people of God as He calls us to be.

I am grateful for the support and encouragement that you have given me since my coming to Killearn, I hope and pray that we will be able to continue supporting and encouraging one another in our new partnership with our brothers and sisters in Strathblane. In this new chapter for both congregations may we find the blessing of God in all we do, a renewed vision from God on His call on us, and refreshed energy equipping us to share the love of God with all who will listen.

Stuart

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## The Thursday Club



The village Thursday Club social afternoons continue weekly from 2 to 4pm in the elegant Kirk Halls.

This session we were pleased to have a visit from the Chair of Stirling Voluntary Enterprise and the Chief Executive of Stirling and Clackmannan Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

The team were keen for rural areas to know which facilities are available and how the voluntary sector may be able to help voluntary organisations such as ours. We highlighted transport issues, sadly it seems all rural areas have similar seemingly insurmountable problems, due to lack of funding.

However we stated our case and await possible solutions!

Maureen Blackmore.

## Coming Services

Holy Week

28/03/24 Maundy Thursday service will be held in Killearn Kirk at 7pm and will include Holy Communion.

29/03/24 Good Friday service will be held in Strathblane Parish Church at 7pm

31/03/24 Who takes away the sins of the world (Phil 2:5-11; Heb 9:11-15) - Easter Sunday

From the 21st April we will begin a series exploring the book of 1 Peter.

Future themes are under review given the pending linkage and the need to harmonise preaching themes.

## Sunday Pre-service Prayers

There is an opportunity to meet and pray for the service each week between 09:15 and 09:25 in the hall, all are welcome to attend.

## 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.

## Book Group

The book group meets fortnightly on Monday morning in the Kirk hall.

For a change we are currently not reading a book. Instead, after our usual tea, biscuits & a catch up with each other, we have been watching a series on speaking & listening to God entitled Exploring Prayer with Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury. There are five weeks looking at Asking, Learning to lament, Saying sorry, Giving thanks & lastly Wonder! Having watched the episode we then take time to discuss what we have heard.

Each week looks at different aspects of prayer & while offering ideas & helpful tips, reminds us there is no right way, place or time to pray but to come with honesty & openness just as we are. If you think this series would be of interest it is easily found online by just typing in the title.



## Grand Jumble Sale

On Saturday 24th February Killearn Malawi Group (SC043555) held their annual Jumble Sale in the Church Hall.

Funds are being raised for projects that KMG finances in Malawi, particularly the building of a much needed girls hostel at a Community Secondary School, but also including buying maize for needy families who lost crops and livestock in storms, and sending items in containers to our partners in Malawi.

The Jumble Sale was well attended and over £2000 has been raised . A huge thank you to everyone who attended, donated items for sale and to the willing band of helpers who cheerfully helped with the sorting manned the stalls and helped with the clearing up all to support this worthy cause.

It was a huge community effort and it was encouraging to see all ages helping - I'm including the primary school children who willingly helped with the sorting and selling on the day!

A big thank you too to the volunteers who kindly helped with the delivery of flyers around the village.

The left over jumble has been distributed to BHF, DEBRA, Oxfam, Cancer Research and the Salvation Army. Thank you to all who helped with transportation and the mums in Toddlers who helped pack the BHF van!

Shona Kelday



## Linkage Update.

As you may have already learned the congregational votes on the proposed Linkage between Killearn and Strathblane have been held with the following results;

	Killearn - For/against	Strathblane - For/against
For the linkage	83/0	52/4
For the continuation of Stuart's ministry	83/0	51/4
For the reviewable tenure	82/1	49/4

This being the case, Presbytery will progress to Linkage from 21st March, 2024 with a service of Linkage being organised by Presbytery for Thursday, 25th April at 7pm. At time of publishing, we do not know whether it will be held in Strathblane Church or Killearn Kirk.

The immediate impact will be that the service on Sunday 24th March will begin at 10am. At the end of the service Stuart will have to leave promptly to take the service in Strathblane starting at 11.30am.

Stuart will be present in the church prior to the 10am service if anyone wishes to speak to him. Otherwise please feel free to contact him by email or leave a message on his phone. Stuart will be dividing his time between Strathblane and Killearn.

Stuart is also Interim Moderator of Buchlyvie and Gartmore.

Ministers are equipped by training and by other church leaders for their ministry. No matter who you are, if you have received God's grace through faith in Christ, then you are a minister of Jesus Christ. The effort of every single person is essential if the church is to be all that God intends it to be.

## Safeguarding

The annual Safeguarding Audit has been completed thanks to our auditors Doreen Snadden and Alison McDade. Every year we have to undertake an audit of all the safeguarding aspects required by the Church of Scotland. It covers risk assessments, personnel training audits, checks that Killearn Kirk is following all the regulations set down by the Safeguarding Service. It is our chance to reflect on everything that has occurred over the past year and to put in to place any additional support or activities needed for the coming year.

A large part of safeguarding is the recruitment of volunteers and staff, making sure every stage of the recruitment process is fully undertaken. Interviews, references, job descriptions are just some of the steps that are carefully thought through when anyone undertakes a new role at the Church.

The work is ongoing throughout the year but the annual audit which begins in January and finishes at the end of February is a time for reflection to ensure that all our systems are robust and secure. All of this goes on in the background all the time and that is as it should be but its importance can never be overstated. So give thanks to God that this past year has been a good and safe one and that the coming year will be so too.

Agnes Macintosh  
Safeguarding Co-ordinator



## Local Church Changes

Stuart is still serving as interim moderator for Buchlyvie and Gartmore who will shortly vote on moving from a linkage to a union. From that point they will be able to progress their vacancy, though the Presbytery Plan is only allocating a 0.5 ministry for the charge.

You will appreciate that this will be a great disappointment to the congregations and points to the great challenges that the national church faces at this time. The congregations would appreciate being kept in our prayers

## World Day of Prayer



The World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical movement inspired by the motto, "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action. Members follow the example of Jesus Christ, who prayed from a place of knowledge and care for the world, and who acted from a place of prayer and connection to God.

From August 20 -27, delegates travelled from around the world to attend the World Day of Prayer International Meeting in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil. These women came from Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox traditions to pray together, share their stories in community and make decisions for the future of the movement. It was these delegates who selected the theme and writer committee for 2024.

An ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women have prayed and reflected together over the past several years to respond to the invitation to write the 2024 programme. Their chosen theme is, " I Beg You ... Bear With One Another in Love", based on Ephesians 4: 1-7. This programme calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression.

The World Day of Prayer is held in over 100 countries and is always held on the 1st Friday of March and so for our community it was held this year in Gargunnock Parish Church. Members of the Guild and other women from the Carse Churches organised the service. We followed the scripted Programme devised by the women of Palestine. On arrival we each received an olive tree leaf as a symbol of peace and love. The service began with the greeting Salaam - Peace be with you. We sung Hymns and recited prayers carefully chosen by our Palestinian friends, all reflecting the theme - " I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love."

The Worship Service shared stories of three Palestinian Christian women, who witnessed to the power of bearing together in love. Their stories illuminated the experiences of Palestinian women from three different generations. All had suffered disruption and huge distress to their lives but nevertheless they showed an amazing ability to love their neighbour and a willingness to forgive. The symbol of an olive tree was used throughout the worship service. This represented the three generations through the trunk, branches and leaves of the olive tree..

The Palestinian Christian Women who wrote the worship service have invited the world to pray for peace, justice and freedom of religion and freedom of movement. Their prayers specifically call us to pray with women, refugees, persons experiencing homelessness, and all who are sick, dying and grieving. They also call us to confess to our collective role in causing the climate crisis, and to commit to repairing what we have destroyed. Finally, they call us, the global church , to be united in treating all with justice and love.

The programme was written before the latest terrible war. The Palestinian women wrote an additional prayer which was read to us asking for an end to the war and praying for the thousands who have died, been severely injured and made refugees in their own land.

I cannot do justice to the beauty of the service I joined. It was thought provoking full of love, peace and gentleness and God's presence was tangible.

Further information can be found on the website [www.wdpscotland.org.uk](http://www.wdpscotland.org.uk) and on the facebook page ' World Day of Prayer Scotland'. Doreen Snadden



## The Guild



Our session 23 - 24 is drawing to a close. We have been fortunate so far with the weather. No snow or ice therefore no cancelled meetings. All meetings are held in the afternoon which makes attending easier for our members. We normally meet in the Kirk Halls every second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

Our programme as usual was varied - explanation of our chosen projects, travel tales, educational, health advice and of course musical entertainment. Linda More and her musical mates entertained us beautifully on February 13th. As we go to press we are looking forward to an afternoon with Stuart Sharp and a visit from Clydebank Male Voice Choir after our AGM on 26th March.

One of our speakers had to call off in January so we bravely decided to have an afternoon of home entertainment. We choose to dedicate our party pieces to Robert Burns since our meeting was on 23rd January. It was very successful. All members joined in singing favourite Burns songs, the brave among us did some solo singing and reciting some funny stories of Burns. We made our usual tea a little different - haggis canapés, cheese and oatcakes and Tunnock's tea cakes. We toasted our famous bard in a wee drink of Ironbru. What would Robbie have thought of that? I suspect he would have laughed.

Our two coffee mornings are important to us. This is our means of earning money to support our good causes. The Christmas one held on 16th December was the usual happy place. The Easter one is on Saturday, 23rd March at 10 to 12. Come and enjoy real coffee, loads of cakes and good chat. Come with friends or come alone - you won't be alone for long. Children under 12 are free. We happily welcome new members when we start our next session on Tuesday, 8th October. You are welcome to come along to try us out with no obligation to join. We are a happy friendly group. Men are welcome too, at present we have one male member. We would love more.

Doreen Snadden, convener.





## Warm Space



Sunday afternoons at the Village Hall are bringing smiles and laughter as local residents - chat, play dominoes and eat cake !

The Warm (& Friendly) Space in the Village Hall is designed to offer a space on a Sunday afternoon during the colder months – where local residents – often on their own at weekends – can come for tea and cake and to feel at home – maybe playing dominoes or cards, reading the papers, a game of table tennis – or just discussing life in the village and what's been happening – and 10 weeks in – its buzzing ... ..



With thanks to the team of volunteers who help to set up and to serve teas / coffees we've seen a growing number of people popping in ... some new to the village and meeting new people for the first time ... some regulars who know that they'll find company and the chance of a game of dominoes !



There have also been new activities – a local resident put on a display of silk artworks and helped explain to visitors how these were made – the bright colours of the silks really making the space come alive ... and then we had music week – when another local resident came armed with an array of lesser known musical instruments – giving people the chance to have a try and to join in with singing and clapping ...

There are more activities planned for March – Chair / Brain gym – some gentle exercises whilst sitting, a Comic Relief special on the 17th March, a string band on the 24th March and then Easter fun on Easter Sunday ... pls. pass on the message if you know someone who might need a nudge to get out on a Sunday afternoon – then maybe be that nudge ... or maybe you've thought about coming along but not been sure .... We're here – please come and join us ...



The Warm Space will run through April and on the last Sunday in April ... the 28th ... we're going to finish the season with a Spring Tea Party in the Main Hall .... look out for more news

A huge thanks to everyone who makes the Warm Space happen – the volunteer team do a great job with baking, giving lifts, serving teas and just helping those who come along to feel relaxed and comfortable.

Fiona Rennie





## Red Squirrels At Easter

My name is Ruth Holmes and I monitor the red squirrels in the Buchlyvie area. I was chosen as a Coronation Champion for my work with red squirrels. I'm now a Royal Voluntary Service Community Champion. My role involves giving talks about red squirrels and the benefits of volunteering to community groups and high schools in Stirlingshire.

Red squirrels are our native species, and they are rare. There's only 280,000 in the UK, 80% of the 280,000 are in Scotland. In 2023, the red squirrel population increased for the first time in 10 years, it increased from 140,000 to 280,000. In 2021, red squirrels were placed on the UK's Red List for Endangered Species. Red squirrels are also a protected species.

Grey squirrels are non-native to the UK, they were brought to the UK by the Victorians. Greys are native to North America. Greys carry the squirrel pox virus, greys are immune to it but squirrel pox kills the reds. Reds who catch squirrel pox get blisters and their throat closes over. It takes a red squirrel 3 weeks to die from squirrel pox. In areas where there are both reds and greys, greys will shadow the reds during autumn when the reds are busy burying food for the winter. Once the red has gone, the grey will then go and dig up the buried food to eat it. When the red goes back to get their food during winter, they will find their food gone. Reds average number of kits are 3 or 4, greys average 7 or 8.

As you read this, the first litter of kittens or kits for short will have been born. The red squirrel breeding season is from January to September. The first litter of kits are usually born in February or March. In 2023, 11 kits were born in January in the Auchentroig area. This year, the first kit out and about in the Auchentroig area was in mid-January. This kit was born at the end of November or beginning of December, outwith the breeding season. This is rare but not the first time this has happened, the first time was in Dumfries and Galloway and the Borders in December 2020.

Kits are born deaf, dumb, blind, no fur, no teeth and their claws are curled in. It takes kits 40 days or so to leave the drey. As the kits can't leave the drey to do the toilet, they do the toilet in the drey. The mother has to replace the lining of the drey which is made from moss. It takes the mother 6 trips to replace the moss. Something to look out for when walking through woodland with red squirrels in it! When kits leave the drey, they spend the first 10 days to 2 weeks close to the nursery drey. The longer the kits are out and about, they will explore further away from the nursery drey. When kits are close to moving on to find their own territory, they will spend half a day away from the nursery drey.

Kits are chased away by their mother at 3 months old to find their own territory. Kits can travel up to 6 miles to find their own territory. When the mother chases away her first litter of kits, she is usually 2-3 weeks pregnant with her second litter. The gestation period is 5-6 weeks. The father has nothing to do with the upbringing of the kits. Once the kits are born, he moves on. He usually has more than one female on the go at once.

Wonderful to hear that red squirrels are being seen in Killearn. Happy Easter!

Ruth Holmes



## Killearn Kirk Finance

### Kirk Accounts for the year to 31st December 2023

The accounts have now been independently examined and were approved by the Kirk Session on 12.3.24.

General Fund which covers the day to day running of the church had an income of £67,145 (2022-£70,436) and expenditure of £85,914 (2022 £87,126) resulting in a deficit of £18,769 (£16,690) The expenditure included £50,066 (2022 £52,887) payable to the CofS centrally in Edinburgh's Ministry and Mission Fund which covers the cost of our ministry and contributes to the cost of the wider work of the church at home and abroad. The General Fund stands at £54,470 ( 2022-£47,461). We also have £63,265 ( 2022 £74,229) in other unrestricted funds at 31.12.22 (excluding the Fabric Fund –see below).

2023 was also the year in which we upgraded the manse kitchen from our Fabric Fund which had an income of £4,938 (2022 £10,780) including £2,000 from The Caram Trust. Expenditure was £30,752 ( 2022 £42,452) resulting in a deficit of £25,814 (2022 £31,672). The Fabric Fund stands at £26,162(2022 £40,207) at 31.12.23.

We have restricted funds of £150,046) ( 2022 £143,160 at 31.12.22) – mainly the Helen Jamieson Bequest Fund at £145,456 ( 2022 £138,586).

We also have funds held centrally of £94,588 ( 2022 £101,444) £93,021 ( 2022 £97,984) of which can be used for capital purposes) and a further £71,592 ( 2022 £66,312) 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 2024 will return our day –to day running of the church closer to break-even.

To summarise therefore –

Retricted Funds	150,046
Unrestricted Funds	144,197
Held by CofS centrally - Capital	93,021
Revenue	73,159
Total	166,180
	460,423

Represented by

Bank	15,991
Investments	278,252
Held by CofS centrally	166,180
Total	460,423
Last years' Total was	£472,813

My thanks go to the other members of the Finance Committee - Teresa Prescott (assistant treasurer), Helen Gee ( Gift Aid convenor) and Scott Macintosh

Bob Ballantyne  
Treasurer

## Christmas Shoe Boxes

1993. It was the year that Nelson Mandela received the Nobel Peace Prize. It was the year that Ariana Grande was born and that Audrey Hepburn died.

But notably, 1993 was the beginning of Blythswood Care's Shoe Box Appeal. That year, 300 gift wrapped and gift filled shoeboxes were sent from Blythswood supporters to children in Romanian orphanages. Thirty years have passes but the need for shoebox gifts remains.



As in previous years Killearn Kirk in conjunction with Strathblane Church took part in this worthwhile appeal. Thanks to the care and kindness of many in Killearn we were able to send 39 beautifully filled boxes to those in greatest need in Eastern Europe. Ukraine was a priority in December, 2023.

Many needs that existed before were exacerbated by Covid-19 and the losses that it brought with it. The realities of the war in Ukraine continue to cause immense problems for the people of that country.

Thank you to all who took the time and made the effort to support this worthwhile cause.



# EASTER

## WORD SEARCH



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

BASKET  
BONNET  
EASTER EGG  
HOT CROSS BUNS  
CANDY  
HYACINTH

IRIS  
CHICKEN  
CHOCOLATE  
JELLYBEANS  
DAFFODILS  
LAMBS

RABBIT  
DYE  
DUCKLINGS  
SPRING  
EASTER  
SUNDAY