

# Autumn Tidings from Killearn Kirk



## Ukrainian Concert

In August Killearn Kirk had the joy of hosting a charity concert in aid of both the Hippokrat Society of Ukraine and the victims of the Russian war in Ukraine. Full details inside.

## Mystery Photo

This photo was taken by Rev Ruth Kennedy, our former assistant and a keen cyclist (see inside), of her favourite view. Where is it? Can you guess? The editor doesn't know but will find out and print the answer in the next Tidings.



## Forthcoming Services and Events (further details inside)

<b>Sun 13 Nov</b>	10.45am	Remembrance Service (War Memorial) followed by service in the Kirk
<b>Sun 4 Dec</b>	10.30am	Communion Service
	3.00pm	Sanctuary Service
<b>Sun 11 Dec</b>	10.30am	Christmas Gift Service. All villagers are invited to this festive occasion
<b>Sun 18 Dec</b>	10.30am	Christmas Service. All villagers are invited to this festive occasion
<b>Sat 24 Dec</b>	6.00pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
	11.00pm	Carols followed by Christmas Eve Watchnight Service
<b>Sun 25 Dec</b>	10.30am	Informal Christmas Day Family Service.
		Children are invited to bring one of their presents to show the Minister.
<b>Sun 1 Jan</b>	10.30am	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	Teresa Prescott	
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Agnes Macintosh	01360 550794
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.'

We are saddened to report the passing of the following (since the last magazine), who were members of Killearn Kirk or whose funeral/memorial service was taken by our minister. Obituaries can be found in the Killearn Courier: [www.kcfc.co.uk/courier.html](http://www.kcfc.co.uk/courier.html). Kirk members are underlined.

Ena Macnab,  
Janet 'Jenny' Paterson,  
 George McNab  
 James 'Jim' Fraser,  
Alasdair Brown,  
 Pauline MacDonald,  
Moir Brownlee,  
 Duncan McNiven,  
Sheila McNab,  
May Moreland  
 Jean Cole  
 Lesley Alexander

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

## Abbeyfield

A few months ago we were asked to restart the short monthly Sunday afternoon services at the Abbeyfield. I realise it now has a new name but for the moment everyone still knows it as 'Abbeyfield'. The services take place on the last Sunday of every month at 2pm. After an absence of almost three long years it was a delight to return and see some "well kent faces". The service is open to anyone who wants to come along and help take the church to the Abbeyfield as some of the members are unable to attend church.

## 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.

As always articles on any aspect of our church are encouraged, and our readers tell me they like to see plenty of photos of church life so keep snapping. No need to be an expert photographer or have an expensive camera, better to catch an interesting moment on your smartphone! Please eMail contributions to the editor in plenty of time. Text should if possible be a Word document attached to an eMail. Pictures & graphics should also be separately attached, **please do not embed pictures and graphics within documents or eMails**, it can be difficult or impossible to extract them. If in doubt contact the editor beforehand. Thank you.

## Killearn Golden Years Club

Activities are back in full swing now and we had a BINGO family night in the Kirk Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> April which broke half-way through the evening for cake, tea and coffee with a raffle at the end with prizes donated by many of those who came along.

We had a beautiful choice of cakes provided by Rhona McDade, daughter of Alison who is one of our committee alongside myself, Doreen Snadden and Anne O'Neill.

Our summer outing took us by coach to Pitlochry where we had lunch at Fisher's Hotel returning via the Sma' Glen and back via Crieff.

Our next event is a BINGO family evening in the Kirk Hall on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30 for 7 and we hope to persuade Rhona to provide the cakes again.

Looking ahead we will plan a dinner probably at the Kirkhouse Inn in the Spring with details still to be firmed together with a summer outing again in June – venue to be decided in consultation with some of our members.

We are happy for any new senior citizens to join us – just speak to any of the committee members all of whom are involved in village life.

Bob Ballantyne  
 Convenor

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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 Scott Macintosh (tel 550794) - [scott@themacintoshfamily.co.uk](mailto:scott@themacintoshfamily.co.uk)  
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## From the Minister's Study Desk

*Matthew 25:23*

*Well done, good and faithful servant; ... enter thou into the joy of thy lord. KJV*

On the 8th September, news broke of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. I happened to be at the service of Ordination for Ruth in Dumblane Cathedral. There was a quick reordering of things to mark that moment before we proceeded with the service. IN the coming days many things were arranged at short notice to allow space and time for people to gather and take a moment of reflection and thanksgiving for the late Queen's life of dedicated service to the nations of Great Britain, her United Kingdom. In the days that followed so much was written about her majesty's reign and life spanning her 96 years, and I cannot add anything that has not already been said. On constant theme of these reflection and reminiscences of her life was how much her faith meant to her. It inspired and strengthened her through the hard seasons of her life and the nation's life. It was a constant through the times of celebration and mourning, perhaps none more so than the passing of her husband Prince Philip, whom she described as her most beloved.

Many will have memories of having met the Queen over the long years of her reign, and these are precious to them, not simply because it was the queen but because they encountered someone who was warm and interested in them. Yes, it was the queen, and all that that meant but much more. Perhaps that is, in part, why her passing seemed to throw a blanket of sorrow across the whole nation. But a life lived in faith in Jesus Christ sows the hope that as our eyes open in the life to come we hear voice of the eternal God say to us, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into my joy.'

In the time that has passed since her majesty's passing, once all the formal protocols have taken place and we have had time to take stock, I hope we can be truly grateful that our nation was guided by a woman of genuine faith, who opened buildings and parks, bridges and schools, but also one to went to places of national loss and listened.

As her majesty's faith was so central, indeed critical, for her I hope we are reminded and encouraged to follow her example to seek God's resourcing for our everyday living; his inspiration for our works of simple service; the resilience to face all that life may bring to our door with steadfastness and grace.

Stuart

## Coming Services

Apart from our usual Sunday services at 10.30am, to which all are welcome, there are a few special services in the last few weeks of the year.

Sun 13th Nov 10.45am – Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial. Service time changes to 10:45 am for those able, we gather at the war memorial for our act of Remembrance, we do try to broadcast this into the church for those who find standing for any length of time more difficult. Followed by Remembrance Service in the Church.

Sun 27th Nov 10.30am – Advent begins our journey to Christmas.

Sun 4th Dec - 10.30am - Communion Service.

Sun 4th Dec 3pm – Christmas Sanctuary service in the church. Last year we held our first Christmas Sanctuary service giving time and space for people to remember those they have loved and who have passed on. The service was welcomed by those attending and we plan to hold another one this year on Sunday 4th December at 3pm. We hope this will allow those who work through the week to be able to join us. It is open to anyone who wishes to come to take time to remember and pay tribute to loved ones.

Sun 11th Dec 10.30am – As part of our journey to Christmas and the celebration of God's greatest gift, Jesus, we will receive gifts to be given to the Salvation Army in Stirling to be given to those who have little or nothing. Please don't wrap your donations so we can make sure they go to the appropriate person. Gifts for teens are especially welcome. Donations can be dropped off in the church from the start of Advent but the 11th is the deadline as we have to get them to the Salvation Army for wrapping and distribution.

Sun 18th Dec 10.30am - Morning Service.

Sat 24th Dec 6pm - We are holding a Family Christmas Celebration.

Sat 24th Dec 11pm - Watchnight service bringing in Christmas Day.

Sun 25th Dec 10.30am - A short family focused Christmas Day service (children bring your favourite Christmas gift).

Sun 1st Jan 10.30am - We will hold a songs of praise service, if you have a favourite hymn or reading pass it on and we'll see if we can include it.



## Harvest Service

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service took place on 4th October, followed by a soup and bread lunch. This year, as we have in the past few years, we received gifts of food stuffs to go to the work of Start Up Stirling the foodbank that meets to the needs of people in this area. They are particularly looking for the following.

They have a few drop off points in the surrounding villages if you wish to do that. Also, if you would like to make a cash donation details on how to do it can be found at this link <https://startupstirling.org.uk/how-to-help/where-to-donate>

With the cost of living crisis we are all facing, more and more people need a little help – if can give it please support this appeal.

If you need help, we urge you to contact Start Up Stirling 01786 561027 who will advise you how to get help.



### 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

To maximise our warehouse space, please don't donate, tinned meat, pasta, rice or soup

For more info on **Start Up Stirling** please visit our website at [www.startupstirling.org](http://www.startupstirling.org) or contact us at [mail@startupstirling.org](mailto:mail@startupstirling.org) or call 01786 561027



## Christmas Gifts

At Christmas our focus can often be on our families and the preparations for family get togethers and parties. Perhaps this year, more than most, many will not have anything to share and celebrate. We will be open to receive gifts to go to the Salvation Army in Stirling to be given to families who have little of nothing so that children and young people might have at least one gift to open on Christmas Day while many of us will open many. Gifts for children are easy to give, the harder ones are for teens, but they too would benefit from knowing they are not being forgotten at this time of year, and even single parents will go without for their children and so small pamper treats for them would also be appreciated.

Your donations can be handed into the church on Sundays from the 27th November up to the 11th December. Please do not wrap them so we can ensure they go to an appropriate recipient.

On behalf of the children, young people and parents for whom Christmas will be made better by your gifts – thank you and God bless.

## Adventuring Along



Picnics. Aren't they great? I know some of us may not actually enjoy them, the sand in the sandwiches or swarms of midges detracting from the occasion. But a picnic is such a welcome pitstop on an adventure. They are like a water stop or refuelling stop in a race and are so welcomed by the competitors. When I ran the Glencoe marathon a couple of years ago, the last feeding station was also the marker for the last 10k and to celebrate the 'last leg' they offered us cheese-boards! A fun offering that myself and other runners were eagerly looking forward to – either for the food or it being the marker of the end stage of a hard marathon.

Did you know Jesus loved picnics? Honestly! He was regularly having breakfast on the beach or meals on the hillsides. Stopping to enjoy food with friends or refuel on an adventure has got great Biblical precedent! Where is your favourite picnic spot?

The thing about picnics is they are usually part of a journey and help you keep going to a destination. A marathon feed stop helps you get to that finish line, a sandwich at the top of a mountain helps you get back down again! And in that sense, my time with you in Killearn has helped me reach the end of my ministry training. It is a picnic that had sandwiches of learning and fizzy juice of joy, fun and laughter, all wrapped up in a basket of love. A time for which I will always be thankful.

During my probation, I have several weekend conferences and ordinarily, they are all held 'in real life'. Covid shifted us online for the first two but recently I was finally able to meet up with the other probationers and at last, we were able to eat together! Not quite a picnic but, we were able to have that refuel stop together and it also marked the start of the last six months of my probation time. After probation, my family and I will move on to an entirely new adventure and we are preparing for wherever Jesus sends us.

However, there is still a lot to enjoy in Killearn in this last leg! I am really looking forward to all the joy of Easter, the celebrations of school exams finishing, the Killearn 10k and supporting the Scottish Cross Country Cycling race series as the Sports Chaplain! Jesus never runs out of joy or the hope of adventure, following Him means we can have that endless supply too.

My 'end of one adventure and the start of another' became very real on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> of September when I realised that from now on, I would be selecting a different title for myself when completing the online forms we all have to regularly fill in. For 22yrs it has been 'Mrs', but now, I can choose Rev! A detail that is almost insignificant in the grand scheme of life but one that gave me a great giggle!

After many years of training and my 15 months with you in Killearn, I was ordained as Pioneer Minister with the under-40s in Dunblane. A role that involves partnering with Dunblane Cathedral and St. Blanes, Dunblane and many of the other Churches to connect with those unconnected to a Church but who might be interested in faith and exploring curiosities and questions around it.

My focus will be listening to the under-40s and nurturing fresh expressions of worship which are relevant to their context, which quite possibly, have not been done before. Which, in all likelihood, will not involve bringing people into Church on a Sunday morning, but offering complementary points of contact and worship where they are. Hopefully, it allows the Churches to have a message of both 'come to Church' and 'Go to all people'.

Those dynamic words from Jesus 'Go and make disciples of all nations' from Matthew 28: 16-20 formed part of the readings at my ordination service. Words that I have often sung and said, and I am very thankful I have the opportunity to put those words into action in my very first ministry. And of course, as I 'go' on this new adventure, I will most definitely be packing a Jesus picnic!

Rev Ruth Kennedy, Pioneer Minister with the Under 40s, Dunblane.



### Presbytery Update.

The final meeting of Stirling Presbytery will take place in December when it is hoped to avoid business and spend time celebrating the work that it has done over such a long span of years. As we mark the change of the year – as the bells sound – so Stirling Presbytery will cease to exist and a new, enlarged presbytery of Perth will assume the responsibilities for the oversight of this area. There will undoubtedly be a tie of transition and bedding in of our systems of governance and support and we are all encouraged to pray for the new Presbytery its officers and those representing each congregation.

Presbytery Mission Plan: Killearn and Strathblane.

On the 1st of September Presbytery approved its Mission Plan. At the time of writing, we still await formal ratification of the plan by the national committee remitted to examine and approve all plans, but as advanced conversations were held with them through the development of the plan, it is hoped that this will be more of a formality than a hurdle. The approved plan states;

In considering the structural alteration of the current parishes, two congregations expressed a preference for the establishment of two charges each comprising three congregations. Four of the congregations preferred a different arrangement putting four congregations into one charge and two into the other. As this was the majority view the Presbytery is willing to support this.

The congregations of Balfron and Fintry and Buchanan and Drymen are to link as a single charge, and this is seen as the first stage in the process. The linked congregations of Buchanan and Drymen should unite and the linked congregations of Balfron and Fintry should also unite.

The congregations of Killearn and Strathblane to join in linkage.

The newly linked congregations should actively consider union following adjustment.

The future of Killearn is initially in partnership, or linkage, with Strathblane. A small group of Elders from both congregations will be meeting in the time to come to discuss what and how this may work in practice and to consider all the practical issues that will need to be addressed. As has been stated before, the minister in Strathblane is in unrestricted tenure and as such implementation of change may not take place immediately. This does not stop the work of planning from taking place, nor looking at ways of doing more together in partnership.

We have to recognise that this may not be the final structural change that will happen in the future, as the plan clearly states that the linked charges should consider union following initial adjustment. The reason for this is to reduce the administrative weight carried by the minister who, in a linkage, has to 'manage' two separate churches and chair their meeting, Stated Annual Meetings of the congregation etc. A important precursor to that though is the building up of trust and

relationship to form a solid bedrock on which to build for the future.

We encourage all of the church family and the wider community to keep the current local situation in their prayers looking for a creative and workable plan to be shaped and for the future ministries of Stuart and Ruth and their families.

### 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.

### Help needed.

We are looking for people willing to be shown how to operate the updated AV system of the church to help make sure things run smoothly on Sundays. If you are interested, please let us know and we'll get you on board.

We are always open to people coming forward to take part in the worship life of the church, whether that is welcoming people at the door, making refreshments for afterwards, sharing the reading or leading us in prayer.

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.

### New Website.

As you read this, we hope that our new look website will be in operation. It has a fresher look and though much of the same information is there as there was before, it has been 'built' to make it easier to operate and keep up to date as well as connecting with the Kirk's social media accounts. Check it out!

### New things to look out for.

The Kirk regularly reviews what it is doing, and if it is meeting the needs of its members and the wider community. There are a couple of new ventures we are developing that we hope will start over the coming months.

We all will understand how hard it can be to face the passing of a loved one and with this in mind it is planned to hold a short reflective service at the start of December to give space for people to take time before the rush of Christmas overtakes us.

This is on the back of the appreciation shown for the service last year. In addition, we are looking to start, what can be most easily described as, a bereavement group. A time and space for those coming to terms with



loss to meet and have some company and peer support in this new phase of their lives – more details on this will follow as we firm up plans.

With changes in the Kirk Session and future changes envisaged in the organisation of the church, we are looking to overhaul the Pastoral Care systems we have. We want to develop a wider team of what we are calling 'Befrienders' to enhance the care network of the Kirk.

We are currently firming up these plans and we hope to soon offer an opportunity for those interested in what it is all about to come along and hear about it. From that group we hope that a few volunteers will feel that they can support this important work of the Kirk, not only in our congregational family but also the wider community. More details will be coming soon.

### 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 pray 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.

## Bethany Ministry Training Update

I am now in my third year of training for Full time Ministry of Word and Sacrament with the Church of Scotland. Life has changed significantly over the last couple of years, from starting training in lockdown to now having a 1 year old! Having completed my second placement at Dunfermline Abbey over the summer, I have one placement to go. This will be at Stirling North and will start after Christmas. After taking time out for maternity leave, I am slightly out of sync with university terms, currently in my final semester of second year at New College, University of Edinburgh. After this I will have one more year to go, expecting to finish my studies in December 2023 and begin my probation in 2024. I continue to be strengthened and encouraged by the prayers and support of everyone in Killearn and am eager to find out more about what and where God is calling me in ministry.

## Shoe Box Appeal

Killearn Kirk in collaboration with Strathblane Church are again taking part in Blythswood Care's Shoe Box Appeal.

This entails finding an average sized shoe box and filling it with gifts for a child, a teenager, a man or a woman.

These boxes are distributed before Christmas to Albania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

It's easy to choose gifts for people who have so little. For example shampoo, a pair of socks or gloves, 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 shoe box with simple things you can bring hope this Christmas.

Those of you who so kindly took part last year told me of the fun you had. Some filled them with the help of their children and others with the help of their grandchildren. What a great message to give our children.

We did really well last year collecting a great pile of boxes between us.

I will be distributing leaflets in Church over the next few weeks. If anyone wishes to take part I will deliver a leaflet to you and collect the finished box. Because the boxes go to their destination in a container I do require to have the boxes by Sunday 30th October.

Looking forward to hearing from this kind village.

Doreen Snadden, 550834.



## The Guild

Killearn Kirk Guild started its new session on Tuesday, 11th October in our usual venue, the Kirk Halls. All our meetings are held in the afternoon between 13.15 and 15.15 to enable everyone to get home before dark.

We welcome new members at any time during the session and a warm welcome awaits any visitor to all of our meetings. New members will get their first year's membership free. Men are welcome too both as members and visitors.

The Guild is part of the Church of Scotland and is therefore a Christian organisation. Our strategy is "Look forward in faith" and this year's theme is "Wee seeds, Big Trees".

All our meetings open with a short period of worship, followed by the speaker for the day. We try to make our syllabus as varied as possible, combining topics which are fun, interesting and educational. The guild is famous for its tea and cakes so all meetings conclude with tea and an opportunity to enjoy fellowship together with lots of chat and laughter. We are not stuffy and there are no twinsets and pearls!

We do have our serious moments though. Of great importance to us is our support of our chosen projects. This year we are supporting the Scottish charity Home for Good, a Christian charity who are passionate about finding a home for every child who needs one. They work to inspire people to think about fostering and adoption. Supporting this project will allow Home for Good to reach all parts of Scotland and will enable them to build their network of volunteers.

Our second project this year is Chocolate Heaven, a small chocolate kitchen on a beautiful island in South east Asia. Pioneers UK is partnering with Chocolate Heaven to help raise awareness of their work, to encourage people to support them in prayer, and to enable them to improve and expand the business to bring blessing and hope to workers, their families and the local community.

Representatives from both these projects will come to the Guild during the session to explain what they do and what additional things they hope to do with our financial support.

To this end we hold two coffee mornings one in December and one in March. Our delicious real coffee and limitless cakes are now legend. We will be delighted to welcome you and your friends to these events.

Our Syllabus for 2022 -2023 is as follows -

October, 11th - Julie Symmonds talking on Balance, working from toes connecting Brain to Body.

October 25th - Rev. Stuart Sharp explaining among other things how the new Presbytery Plan will affect us in Killearn.

November 8th - Balfon School are going to entertain us.

November 22nd - Lindsay Kirk is going to talk about Rwanda's road to recovery with help from their Scottish friends.

December 3rd - coffee morning in Kirk Halls from 10am to 12 noon.

December 13th - Christmas Lunch in Fintry Sports Centre.

January 31st 2023 - Project. Home for Good with Duncan Shelton.

February 14th - an entertaining, nostalgic, informative talk from Ronald Sandford entitled A Tale of Two Cities ( my favourite city!)

February 28th - our second project, Chocolate Heaven.

March 14th - travellers tales with the unmissable Ann and John Roy.

March 18th - Coffee Morning same time and place as December.

March 28th- AGM followed by musical entertainment.

As already stated you are most welcome to join us for any meeting.

Further information from Doreen Snadden, 550834.

## Thursday Club

As the September temperatures began to change, how pleasant it was to return to our regular weekly meetings. The club meets in the Church Hall on a Thursday 2-4pm from September to May. The pleasure and companionship given by meeting up once a week is immeasurable and everyone is enjoying the togetherness. There was a full attendance (excluding ill health) and the atmosphere was warm and welcoming. We enjoyed the usual hour of games - Scrabble, whist and dominoes - followed by afternoon tea.

There are currently 16 members with a band of volunteer helpers who serve as hosts, and /or drivers to transport a number of members to and from their homes. Anyone interested in joining the club or volunteering with driving or baking will be warmly welcomed.

For more details please contact Maureen Blackmore 01360 550743, Alison McDade. 07776250226, or Pat Ashworth 550074.



## Kirk Session News

As we move into the Autumn season it is hard to believe that summer has now left us behind. During the summer we heard of the sad loss of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. A long life well lived but it still came as a shock for many when she passed away. The Church opened for prayers and a book of remembrance was available for the community to sign that will be forwarded to Buckingham Palace. Stuart led a special service on the Saturday for reflection and remembrance of Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth II. After observing above, about the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, I would intimate that a tree to commemorate her Platinum Jubilee will be planted in an area near the Kirk Halls. We are awaiting the delivery of a Taxus Fastigiata (Irish Yew). The tree is being funded by the Jubilee Committee who have also provided a plaque noting the occasion.

Over the past few months, we have been continuously reviewing the changes of the restrictions for Covid 19. Restrictions have been lifted, although the seating at the back of the church is less crowded, if folk wish space. We are now able to enjoy meeting together to have a cup of tea or coffee after the service which is a lovely time for fellowship. The Guild restarted on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct and look forward to welcoming friends on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons of the month. Wednesday morning prayer meetings restarted and other organisations using the hall were able to return. Many people are enjoying being able to get out and about and meet up with friends. These past couple of years has been unprecedented and I for one am glad that some normality has returned.

Our Session meetings resumed on 13<sup>th</sup> September giving the Kirk Session time to catch up and discuss various aspects of church life. One area that we are working on is the upgrading of our audio- visual system. Fibre broadband is now available in the church, so we are looking to be able to live- stream the services. Recordings of the service will continue to be available on the website. The church website was beginning to look tired, so a small focus group was assembled to look at this. Hopefully by the end of October the new site will be up and running.

Over the summer the Presbytery Draft Mission Plan had been a very significant focus for us. The Draft Plan has been approved by the Presbytery and has now been submitted to the Faith Nurture Forum and General Trustees of the Church of Scotland for their consideration. The Draft Mission Plan indicates that Killearn Kirk and Strathblane Parish Church will work together as a linkage. This means that one minister will cover the two churches. We will also have the availability of an Ordained Local Minister who will be shared between Killearn/Strathblane and with Buchanan/Drymen/Balfron/Fintry. We look forward to working with Strathblane Church and exploring new ways of working together. It is understood that these arrangements will be confirmed by the Church of Scotland at the beginning of the new year.

Ruth Kennedy, our probationer minister was ordained at Dunblane Cathedral on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> September. It was a lovely service with Ruth choosing the hymns and made extra special that her mother was able to participate in the service as she is a retired Deacon. We wish Ruth well in her new post in Dunblane as a pioneer minister, working with the under 40's. Bethany Pringle, one of our members, has been taking some of the church services as a Candidate for Ministry, while continuing her Ministry Degree at University. She will be going to Stirling North Church in January for a short period of training. We encourage Bethany in her ongoing studies and pray for her as she manages family life and the requirements of study.

As we move into autumn and Christmas fast approaching, we look forward to welcoming everyone to the various activities and to our regular church services.

Session Clerk Carole Young

## Finance Update

At most Session Meetings I present a snapshot of the General Account which covers the day-to-day running of the Kirk and at the most recent Session I presented a snapshot of the 8 months to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. Our income at £48,947 compared to the previous equivalent period of £50,112. However our expenditure increased from £53,658 to £59,789 and included our contribution to the Ministry and Mission Fund of £36,069 - an increase of £2,331. Other cost increases included Heating & Lighting £1,364 and Building Costs £1,511. The net result was a deficit of £10,842 against a deficit of £3,546

We are also in the middle of a substantial upgrade of our AV facilities which we are able to fund from our Fabric Fund and our year-end accounts will reflect these non-recurring costs – outwith the day-to-day running costs. Looking ahead we will incur increased Heating costs next year although our Giving to Grow contribution (which replaces the current M&M contribution) will be slightly less. All in all these are tough times but are very grateful for the contributions made by our members and visitors many of whom have signed for Gift Aid tax Recovery which allows us to recover 25% of tax-payers' donations from the government.

My thanks go to the Finance Committee members of Teresa Prescott (assistant treasurer), Scott Macintosh and Helen Gee, who handles Gift Aid claims.

Bob Ballantyne, Treasurer

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## Youth Retreat

In August Killearn Kirk hosted a Youth Retreat. This was a free event for a group of young people aged 18-25. 17 young people took part, camping overnight in the church halls and spending the weekend together, considering what it means to gather 'together in faith'.

This began with a relaxed Saturday of worship, crafts and even a trip out for ice cream! As part of our morning reflections, we made bread, which we used for part of our evening Communion service.

On the Sunday we joined the congregation in the morning service and enjoyed spending time with them over a soup lunch afterwards.

Reflecting on the weekend, several people noted how much they had got out of the weekend, that it was something they needed far more than they had realised and a hope that similar events would be able to run again.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped us with the weekend, especially those involved in cooking and preparing the meals so that we were able to relax, as well as eat some delicious food!

Here is the message one attendee had for the church:

"Thank you so much for your welcome, it was great to meet you and worship with you. I really enjoyed the weekend, and it was such a privilege to be invited to take part in the Q&A during worship."



## The Choir

I can only repeat the minister's comment after the wonderful singing from the congregation over the last week.

Please come and sing with the choir. You don't need to be able to read music. just bring your voice with you, and if there are any Altos, Tenors or Base singers as well as sopranos you will be welcomed with open arms. don't be shy.

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## Ukrainian Concert

In August Killearn Kirk had the joy of hosting a charity concert in aid of both the Hippokrat Society of Ukraine and the victims of the Russian war in Ukraine.

The two musicians who so ably entertained us, Igor Saienko and Oleksii Kolomoiets are graduates of the National Music Academy of Ukraine and professional accordionists. They have been winners of international music competitions and festivals and take part in charity events in Ukraine and abroad. Indeed Igor and Oleksii have toured churches in the UK for the past 18 years, performing accordion concerts to raise money for the Hippokrat society.

The Hippokrat Society was founded 22 years ago to help mothers and disabled children in the Chernigiv region of Ukraine, 70 km from the site of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Chernigiv with a population of 320,000, had at least 1000 children born with physical and learning disabilities soon after the disaster. These children have grown into young adults with complex needs, and sadly babies continue to be born with severe disabilities.

Hippokrat provides food, financial support and a day centre offering a range of activities for the children, young people and mutual support for mothers. In addition the money raised by Igor and Oleksii provides some children with intensive rehabilitation therapy at a specialist treatment centre.

This year Igor and Oleksii received special permission to leave Ukraine for three weeks to do their charity tour in aid of Hippokrat and the victims of the war in Ukraine.

The final concert of the tour held in Killearn Kirk was attended by Igor's family who are being hosted in Drymen. The poignancy of this was felt by every member of the audience. Igor extended his gratitude to all who supported his, and other Ukrainian families, to find safety, peace and love in Endrick villages.

The programme the young men played for us evoked a whole range of emotions. We smiled, we felt happy, we were moved to tears by the beauty of the music and the expertise of the musicians. The first half consisted of Ukrainian and Russian pieces by composers such as Bortnyansky, Hulak-Artemonvsky, and Victoria Poleva among others. It was exciting to hear the work of a female composer from Ukraine in Victoria's "Walking on Waters". I imagine the composers were new to many of us in the audience but as always the East European music had us both dancing in our seats or fighting back the tears.

After the interval and refreshments we were entertained with familiar pieces by Handel, Jenkins, Lennon and Webber. All very enjoyable and jolly. Then Igor spoke a few words introducing us to Elgar and explaining that they had chosen to play for us the 9th and best known of Elgar's Enigma variations, Nimrod, in memory and dedication to the hundreds who had lost their lives in recent months in the fight for their beloved country, Ukraine.

As they started to play the piece I can only document my own feelings, suffice to say the lump in my throat nearly stopped me breathing. We are accustomed to sad reflection at Remembrance Day Services where Nimrod is always played but that evening in August took these feelings to an entirely new level.

Fortunately they played a funny piece to end their recital, entitled McMozart's "Eine Kleine Bricht Moonlight Nicht Musik" giving us something to smile at and time to compose ourselves before we had to stand up and leave the Kirk.

A truly memorable evening for all of us. I do hope Igor and Oleksii stay safe and well back in Ukraine and that they will return some day to play their magical music for us in Killearn Kirk.

Doreen Snadden







# Autumn

## WORD SEARCH



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- ☐ ACORN
- ☐ BONFIRE
- ☐ CANDLE
- ☐ HALLOWEEN
- ☐ APPLE PIE

- ☐ CHESTNUT
- ☐ HARVEST
- ☐ SWEATER
- ☐ CORN
- ☐ RAKE

- ☐ SCARF
- ☐ PUMPKIN
- ☐ CIDER
- ☐ PUDDLE
- ☐ SCARECROW

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## The Book Club

We meet at 10am in the Session House every second Monday.

We have been reading Tom Wright's book - The Meal Jesus Gave Us - about understanding communion, explaining how it arose and what it means. We are almost finished and hope to start on John Ortberg's book - Everybody's Normal Till You Meet Them- next.

We are a friendly, cheery bunch and always make sure someone brings the tea and biscuits (and sometimes cake).

You are very welcome to come and join us or contact Theresa or Katy for further information

## The Day I saw the Queen

I was nine when the Queen was crowned, anyone who had a T/V also had a house full of grannies, aunts and neighbours, the house was crowded and the only seats left were on the floor. You can imagine the excitement when at school we were told that we were going to see the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh as they were coming to Glasgow and were passing near our school. When the day arrived there we all were waiting at the side of the road excitedly waving our flags and cheering when along they came - in a car- and it seemed to pass so quickly. I still remember the feeling of disappointment, you see I expected to see her as she was at the Coronation. In a open horse drawn carriage in a lovely dress and wearing a crown. When I think of that day now I smile, after all I was only nine.