

Autumn Tidings from Killearn Kirk

Blythwood Shoebox Appeal

This is the 30th year of the Christmas Shoebox appeal to which Killearn Kirk members have given generously over the years. The Christmas the boxes have to be prepared and ready by Sunday, 5th November to be collected and prepared for distribution. This year many of the boxes will be sent to people in Ukraine affected by the war. Since the first Shoe Box Appeal in 1993 more than 2.5 million boxes – each one different, each one an expression of your care and kindness towards a stranger in need. Filled with small, practical items such as toiletries, stationery, and clothing, the individually wrapped boxes have been distributed in schools, hospitals, orphanages and care homes, and to households in low-income communities. Hats, scarves, gloves are always needed.

If anyone in the village wishes to contribute, then please leave them in the Kirks for collection. For more information check the website www.blythwood.org/shoebox

A big thank you to all who contribute to this very worthwhile cause.



Forthcoming Services and Events (further details inside)

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|--|
| Sun 3 Dec | 10.30am | Holy Communion Service |
| | 3.00pm | Sanctuary Service |
| Sun 10 Dec | 10.30am | Christmas Gift Service. All villagers are invited to this festive occasion |
| Sun 24 Dec | 6.00pm | Christingle Family Service |
| | 11.00pm | Carols followed by Christmas Eve Watchnight Service |
| Mon 25 Dec | 10.30am | Short Informal Christmas Day Family Service. |
| | | Children are invited to bring one of their presents to show the Minister. |
| Sun 31 Dec | 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 |
| | sessionclerk@killearnkirk.org.uk | |
| Treasurer | Bob Ballantyne | |
| | treasurer@killearnkirk.org.uk | |
| Safeguarding Co-ordinator | Agnes Macintosh | 01360 550794 |
| | safeguarding@killearnkirk.org.uk | |
| Hall bookings | Sue Beck | 01360 550485 |
| | property@killearnkirk.org.uk | |

Personalia

Baptism

Harris Daniels son of Craig & Lisa Daniels

Marriage

Janifer Tolland & Fraser MCorquindale
Emma MacFarlane & Matthew Evans
Neillesse Clark & Gianni Caroppo

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.

Walter MacGowan, Station Road
Robert Beck, Allan Road
Norma Forrest, Eden Bank Nursing Home
Ronald MacDonald, Ballkinrain
Hugh Parsons, Dumgoyne
Eleanor 'Ann' Kettle, Craigenlay Avenue, Strathblane
Elizabeth Shaw, Graham Road
James Henderson, Laighparks Farm
Michael Scobbie, Station Road, Buchlyvie

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

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.

Local church changes.

Some will be aware that the minister of Gartmore and Buchlyvie has resigned from the charge. Stuart has been appointed by Presbytery to act as their Interim Moderator during this period of vacancy. This will mean an additional workload for Stuart, and we can all pray for a speedy filling of the vacancy.

With Murdo Campbell's retirement in the summer, Strathblane has now become vacant. This will mean that the restructuring of local ministry will take place sooner than we may have expected. A small group of Elders will be meeting with counterparts from Strathblane to discuss what the future of ministry will look like in the area given the Presbyterian Plan of our two churches sharing ministry. We will keep you informed as this matter progresses.

On-line Worship.

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

Share the gifts God has given to you.

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.

Probus Club

Probus is an association of retired and semi-retired Professional and business people who join together to provide regular gatherings of persons who, in retirement, appreciate and value opportunities to meet others in similar circumstances and of a similar level of interest. The Probus Club of Strathendrick meets in the Killearn Kirk Hall on the first and third Thursdays of each month from September to May at 10.30 am until around 12 noon. The invited speakers at the twice monthly meetings cover a wide range of topics and occasional visits to places of interest are arranged.

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



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A different of perspective ...

Jer 29:11-14

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Matt 6:26

Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.

Each day has enough trouble of its own.

It is hard to think that November will mark the completion of five years here in Killearn as minister. It feels as if it was only yesterday. Certainly, Covid19 didn't help, wiping two years from all our diaries. It just highlights that we never know what will happen in the future and much of it is beyond our control. I'm sure we all do the usual thing of making plans in the hope of seeing them through. Some of you may have already booked summer holidays for 2024, or made Christmas plans, bought presents and the super organised might have them all wrapped and ready to go! Yet, none of us will know that our plans will come to fruition, we don't know what tomorrow holds let alone next month or next year for that matter.

I sometimes wonder if, when we complain about the increasing speed that the years seem to pass at, that we have lost the ability to live in the moment, in the now. We can all get preoccupied with what may happen in the future and forget to live in the now, missing every moment of blessing sown within each day – even in the hard seasons of our lives. Time spent with family and friends, the ones we loved cannot be recovered once that time is passed.

One thing is clear, the future will hold more change than we would like or want or can even contemplate. The only thing that is certain is the past, we know what happened and it cannot change. It is familiar, comfortable, and comforting, but even in this we deceive ourselves. We often cling to edit versions of the past, viewing everything through rose tinted glasses and forgetting that those days were full of changes too. If they were not full of change, we would not be where we find ourselves today, nor the people we are today. As we enter another season of change, we could shout and rage against it and its inevitability, or we find a different fixed point to take the bearings of our lives from. Some put their trust in institutions and organisations, and yet so many of them no longer exist. Mergers, buy-outs, amalgamations have changed many of these, just look at the world of banking, how many of us have had accounts with one and over the years it has changed hands so many times, and often changed names, logos and uniforms. Community groups that were once the centre of things, now on the margins or closed down completely. If we put our trust in these things, we will eventually be disappointed.

We can, however, put our trust in something that will not change – God. His plan for us as individuals, and as a church, and a community. A hand to lead us through the ever-changing currents of time. I choose to put my trust in Him. Trust that he has a plan for my today and all the tomorrows that will be gifted to me. He will be constant in the everchanging world, sure when the certainties of life falter. I suppose it's that 'walking by faith and not by sight' though I think when we walk by faith we see more clearly.

As we move to the close of this year may the strong hand of God hold you firmly and reassure you of his presence in your life.

Stuart

Thursday Club

This weekly social for seniors meets in the cosy church hall from 2 to 4pm for an hour of Scrabble, Whist, Dominoes or just a chat, followed by afternoon tea.

Transport can be arranged. Come along and join in, you will be made very welcome.

We are supported by a group of 20 volunteers who give up 2 hours of their time, once a month, to drive members or host the afternoon. If you have 3 hours to spare for community work in the village, please contact us. Maureen 07909872994, Alison 07776250226 or Pat 01360550074



The Guild

At the time of writing we are busy making plans to open the session 2023 -24 of The Guild. This session will see us conclude our three year strategy, "Look Forward in Faith".

It has undoubtedly been a very apt strategy as we emerged from a global pandemic and looked forward to what God had for the Guild in the years ahead.

As we followed our theme in 2021-22 , "Lights and Bushels' we let our light shine and showed the many talents which are given to Guild members and to the Guild which enable us to serve God effectively in our communities.

As we reflect on the 2022-23 theme, "Wee seeds, Big Trees" we marvel at the seeds planted by The Guild, nourished over the years and brought into their full abundance by God. We are encouraged at the ways in which God has blessed the work of the Guild.

Evidence of this abounds. The six chosen projects have all benefitted enormously from the fund raising efforts of all Guilds. This has enabled the charities to expand their work both here in Scotland and in many areas of need in the world.

Malawi has benefitted from the Guild's encouragement and financing of tree planting. Such has been the success of this venture that it is being extended to other countries in Africa.

Now, looking forward to the 2023-24 session, "New wine, new wineskins", we can consider what the place of the Guild is in emerging new congregations and new Presbyteries. Change is never easy but the history of our past demonstrates that when The Guild trusts fully in God that is when we are most richly blessed. These are times when we can try new things, explore new ideas, reach out to new members and grasp the opportunities which are being shown to us. We can't live in the past, that is gone, but we can use the experience of the past to renew and reinvigorate ourselves and the Guild for the years that lie ahead.

Does all this make the Guild sound very serious and perhaps a little scary? While we do take our Christian faith seriously always remembering our motto "Whose we are and Whom we serve", we know how to laugh and have fun in our meetings.

Our syllabus combines serious and fun and our members invariably leave our meetings smiling.

New members, men and women, will be made very welcome. Visitors at our meetings are welcome too. Come along and try us out without any obligation. Meetings are on a Tuesday afternoon, 1.15 until 3.15.

2023

October 10th - Project afternoon - Starchild
 October 24th - Making in metal - Elspeth Bennie
 November 14th - Project afternoon - Unida.
 November 24th - Relevant information for us all - Stirling Carers with Andrea Henderson.
 December 12th - Christmas Lunch at Fintry Sports Centre.
 December 16th - Christmas Coffee Morning, raising funds for our projects.

2024

January 9th - Away down Under- with Linda and Kevin Clarke.
 January 23rd - Pablo's Story - Pablo Fernandez
 February 13th - Musical Mates - Linda More and her wee band.
 February 27th - Healthy feet equals happy feet - Jennifer Malley, Podiatrist.
 March 12th - afternoon with Stuart Sharp.
 March 23rd - Easter coffee morning.
 March 26th - AGM followed by Clydebank Male Voice Choir.

Doreen Snadden, 550834.

Flower Ministry

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

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



Session Report

Do you remember the game 'Chinese whispers'? You whisper a sentence to someone; they pass it to someone else and so it goes on. At the end of the 'passing of the whisper' the story is nothing like how it started. Well, this is the same as the various rumours that appear to be circulating about Killearn Kirk and Strathblane Church, so I thought I would try and explain what is happening.

As you may know the Church of Scotland asked all Presbyteries to produce a Presbytery Plan where Kirk Sessions were involved in discussing the way forward for the Church of Scotland to make it fit for the 21st Century. There is a shortage of ministers of word and sacrament, and many churches are in vacancy. In the Presbytery Plan, Killearn Kirk and Strathblane Church are to form a linkage.

The rumours of a takeover of either church by the other are exactly that, unfounded rumours.

As a church we already share some events with Strathblane Church. We join for Easter Services, work together to provide Christmas Shoeboxes, the Guild work closely together and there are similarities in other areas of our provision of service to the communities and wider areas. Being in a linkage does not take away who we are. We are all working together as Christians to spread the good news of Jesus Christ through worshiping and serving our communities.

Let me explain what a linkage is.

- The property and funds held on behalf of each congregation shall remain the property and funds of each congregation as at present.
- Both churches will remain places of worship of the linked congregations although the timings of the services will have to be altered and special services may require them to be taken by others as appropriate.
- The bounds of the linked churches will remain the bounds of the present parishes.
- Each church will have a Kirk Session although it may be that on occasions both Kirk Sessions will meet together.
- The management of each congregation will be administered as it is at present.
- The appointment of a minister must be agreed by both churches.
- A decision requires to be made as to where the minister will live.
- The salary of a minister is paid by the Church of Scotland and comes from the payment that each church gives annually to the Church of Scotland, 'Giving to Grow' Fund (previously Ministry and Mission Fund). The calculation of shared ministry will be taken into consideration.

God always has a plan for us. It may not be the plan that we expected but it is still a plan. Through prayer, faith and understanding we need to ensure that the plans for us enhance the work of the Church, while following God's teachings, and the examples of Jesus Christ, we can express our love for God by our love and practical care for each other and for those we live with and encounter in our daily lives.

A meeting has been arranged for a small group of Elders to come together to start these discussions and then report back to the Kirk Sessions. Once agreement has been reached each Kirk Session will then inform their congregations of these deliberations. The congregation will vote on the recommendations of the Kirk Sessions. Votes by the congregations of Killearn and Strathblane will take place simultaneously.

Our property - The Kirk Session is responsible for the upkeep of the Church, the halls, and the manse. There are a few things that we must consider about our property.

There are several concerns that require to be addressed, including masonry, the bell tower / spire, some water penetration, ramped access to the main door of the church, rotten timbers in some areas, heating of the complex, electrics, etc. As you may note there are a wide range of items requiring consideration.

The Church of Scotland suggested that we engage Advanced Accredited Conservation Architects to look at the works we believe needs to be addressed. Having sent out a design brief to five architect companies we are about to engage with our preferred option to establish what we need to do, what we desire to do, and how we progress. In essence a feasibility study.

Safeguarding Training - As part of ongoing training, members of the congregation and elders who work with young people and 'adults at risk' have undergone refresher safeguarding training. Members of the Kirk Session also undertook further training on safeguarding as a Trustee. Our thanks to Doreen Snadden, Church of Scotland Trainer, for her time in ensuring that we are all up to date with these requirements.

As we move into autumn let us pray that we have some drier weather than what we have had recently. I'm looking forward to hopefully having a drier autumn. The darker nights can sometimes be hard for folk, as they draw the curtains on the outside world. The Guild meets fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon, and they would very much welcome you to join them. Joining a group is a great way to connect and meet with people. There are also other groups mentioned in the magazine and others in the Village Hall.

Remember you will always be made welcome. If you need to talk with someone more privately then please do not hesitate to contact Stuart, the Minister, Carole, Session Clerk, Teresa or Doreen, or any member of the Kirk Session.

The Kirk Session would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy festive season.

Carole Young

Session Clerk

Harvest Thanksgiving Service



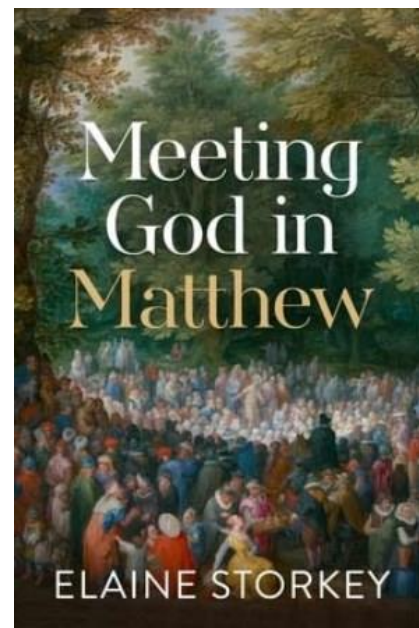
The harvest thanksgiving service was held on Sunday, 1 October 2023. The tinned and dried goods received were donated to Start Up Stirling to be distributed to those who are in financial crisis or who may be homeless in the Stirling Council area. A letter of thanks can be found on the news page of the Killearn Kirk website. Members enjoyed a soup and bread lunch after the church service. £97 was raised and donated to Start Up Stirling to assist with their work



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

The Book Group



The Book Group meets fortnightly on Mondays at 10 am in the Hall Foyer.

Discussion of the latest book we are reading, 'Meeting God in Matthew', by Elaine Storkey will begin on 16 October. Contact Katy (07747 147945) or Teresa for more details.

The Book of Remembrance: Those who we have lost.

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

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

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

Ukrainian Concert

Killearn Kirk was delighted to welcome back Igor Saienko and Oleksii Kolomoiets to perform their annual concert one Saturday evening in August.

Igor and Oleksii are internationally renowned virtuoso accordionists from Ukraine. Together they form Kyiv Classic Accordion Duo. Each have been winners of international music competitions and festivals and prior to the war they performed all over Europe with a range of musicians.

Igor and Oleksii have undertaken a charity concert tour of churches in the UK for the past 19 years raising money for the Hippokrat society. Hippokrat was founded 23 years ago to help mothers and disabled children in the Chernigiv region, 70 km from the site of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Chernigiv which normally has 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 in the region. The families get little support from the State, so the Society of Mothers of Disabled Children, Hippokrat, was formed.

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

This year, as last, the Duo received special permission to leave Ukraine for three weeks to perform this charity tour in aid of Hippokrat and victims of the war in Ukraine.



Killearn's concert was even more special because it was attended by Igor's family who live as refugees in Balfron. During the concert Igor expressed his gratitude to all who have supported his, and other Ukrainian families, to find safety, peace and love in the Endrick villages.

The music was captivating and beautifully performed ranging from Vivaldi, Bizet, Widor and Strauss to less familiar Ukrainian composers, Zubitsky, Vlasov and Sarasate - these had our feet tapping!

A very happy summer's evening was enjoyed by all and enabled us to show our support for Ukraine.

Doreen Snadden.

Christmas Services

The Christmas Story in the Bible

The Christmas Story is recorded in Luke 2: 4-19. "So, Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

For Christians, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ the Saviour. We know that we are the sons and daughters of God, and that heaven will one day be our home. We exchange gifts because God sent us his most precious gift; he sent his only Son. Three wise men also brought gifts to Jesus when they visited him.

In exchanging gifts with each other we are recognising our love and care for others. Maybe when you celebrate the Christmas season you will think of it differently and how presents came about. A chance to truly take in the wonder and awe of the season.

Holy Communion - Sunday, 3 December 2023 at 10.30am

Sanctuary Service - Sunday, 3 December 2023 at 3pm

Christmas is often a happy time for some but for others it can be sore. Memories of loved ones who have left us come to mind. Heartache makes the season just that little bit harder. The Christmas sanctuary Service offers a haven for sore hearts at Christmas. "Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day." Whatever your heartache and for however long you have been carrying it – you are most welcome to join us.

Christmas Gift Service – Sunday, 10th December 2023 at 10.30am

Gifts received will be donated to Stirling Salvation Army who are asking for new, unwrapped toys and gifts for children who may not receive a present otherwise. These will then be wrapped and distributed to those in the Stirling Council area.

Christingle Family Service – Sunday, 24th December 2023 at 6pm

Christmas is always a special time for families. It is a time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Join us in this joyful celebration that bring families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread the message of hope. What is a Christingle? During the service each person will be given a Christingle and candles are lit to create a warm, magical glow symbolizing the light of Christ and bring hope to people living in darkness. They are made up of oranges and a few other bits and pieces, each having a special meaning.

- > The orange represents the world.
- > The red ribbon symbolizes the love and blood of Christ.
- > The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations.
- > The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to the people in darkness.

Carols and Watchnight Service – Sunday, 24th December 2023 at 11pm

Short Informal Christmas Day service – Monday, 25th December 2023 at 10.30am

Songs of Praise - Sunday, 31 December 2023 at 10.30am

Come and join us in singing all your favourite songs and hymns. If you have a particular favourite you would like to sing, let Stuart know so that it can be included.



Coming Services.

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

From late October, after our reflections on the book of Joel we turn our thought to the question 'What does it mean to be adopted children of God?' Thinking about the question of adoption by God and this will take us up to the start of advent and this year our theme is that of Journeys.

After Christmas we begin the new year looking at the 'Jehovah names of God' and after we have considered a few of them we will turn our thoughts to the New Testament letter of 1 John.

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.

On Sunday 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.

The B Flats

Winter Concert

Friday 8th and Saturday 9th December
7:30pm
Kilmarnock Millenium Hall

Tickets available from choir members
or in Gartocharn village shop.

Holy Communion Service Sunday, 3 December 2023

Jesus said "Do this in memory of me."

We will be celebrating Holy Communion as part of our 10.30am service. We look forward to seeing you there and as visitors are always welcome feel free to come along.

The Lord's Table is open to all who know Jesus as saviour and Lord, and seek to grow in faith and service.

STRATHENDRICK Singers

Christmas Concert 2023



Jazz Themed Concert in Killearn Kirk

Sunday, 10 December at 7.30pm

Tickets from members of the choir and on the door

Music by Bob Chilcott (Little Jazz Mass and 12 Days of Christmas)

Merry Christmas Jazz – Tom Cunningham

Pieces by Ken Johnston (East Lothian)

and carols ancient and new – with some for all to sing!

Killearn Malawi Group

These are busy times for the Killearn Malawi Group. The Community School Committee for Nkhonde Day Secondary School has requested our help to build a much needed girls' hostel at the school, and we are focussed on the fundraising necessary for this. The school covers quite a large catchment area, not unlike our own rural area, but there is no public transport. Many of the girls cannot walk the 5-10 miles to school every day. They find accommodation close to the school, in a hut where they have to look after themselves, fetching water from the well, cooking for themselves, and doing their own washing, as well as getting to school and studying. They are unfortunately very vulnerable and most of them do not complete their secondary education. We're sure from the experience of other schools that a secure and welcoming hostel will help to retain more girls in education.

We also continue to send clothes and goods, collected in the Kirk, to Northern Malawi; and we continue to support Chrissie's meals to support destitute widows.

We are very fortunate that we work with Dr Kondwani Chidziwisano who originally came from the area where Nkhonde School is. He came here to Killearn and Glasgow at the end of August for various meetings at Strathclyde University, staying with Ken Allen. The KMG committee was able to have a meeting with Kondwani one Sunday afternoon, to discuss various issues, then have an informal reception including people from the community who have helped with fundraising. Kondwani told us about the problems people in the local community have with the loss of crops caused by Cyclone Freddy in March. Last year we successfully helped some families with maize following floods, and the community has asked for our help again this year. He also suggested buying lab equipment for the science classroom which we built.

The committee has agreed to buy maize to be distributed to the families who have lost crops in this year's floods. The price of a 50kg bag of maize has rocketed because of inflation, and is now about £35, and we have to pay for transport to the remote village. If you would like to buy a bag or a half bag of maize, please contact Sue Beck at 'treasurer@killearnmalawigroup.org'; £20 would make a big difference to families who are struggling.

We held our Annual General Meeting on 21st September, by Zoom again this year, and there was a good virtual gathering to hear about the work of KMG over the previous year. Kondwani joined us from Malawi to again talk about issues in the community. A new Trustee was elected to the committee this year, David Clelland, who has offered to take on our IT work and design a new website. David, who has recently returned to Killearn, was first involved with KMG at the jumble sale and wanted to get involved with our work. We're very grateful to him for agreeing to be a Trustee, along with the other eight, Ken Allen, Sue Beck, Shona Kelday, Jenifer Barrett, Hilary MacGregor, John Shaw, Doreen Snadden and Jenny Wilks.

Last year was a good year for fundraising, following the Ladies' Night and the Jumble Sale. However, the girls' hostel is a major project and we will need to raise a substantial sum to complete not just the building, but furniture and fittings, a kitchen and proper plumbing. It's quite a daunting task and any help or contributions are very welcome.

The Killearn Malawi Group is a small charity, but it makes a significant difference to the communities where it works.



Christmas Word Search

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | f | q | m | m | y | r | r | h | z | t | e |
| h | r | s | a | n | t | a | k | i | n | g | s |
| c | a | l | r | d | j | o | s | e | p | h | c |
| f | n | b | y | o | w | l | e | e | l | a | e |
| d | k | e | t | n | a | z | a | r | e | t | h |
| m | i | t | o | c | h | u | r | c | h | r | f |
| a | n | h | c | h | r | i | s | t | m | a | s |
| n | c | l | r | g | d | o | n | k | e | y | g |
| g | e | e | p | i | c | r | h | s | f | s | o |
| e | n | h | k | f | i | h | n | p | r | t | l |
| r | s | e | j | t | u | w | u | c | o | a | d |
| x | e | m | n | s | h | e | p | h | e | r | d |

Christmas

Santa

myrrh

manger

Santa

Shepherd

gold

donkey

Mary

Kings

Church

star

Joseph

frankincense

Nazareth

Gifts