



Autumn Tidings from Killearn Kirk



Strawberry Tea

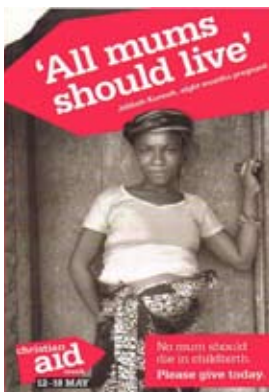
Saturday 8th of June saw the Church hall festooned with flags, bunting & balloons, tables laid & kettles on for our Strawberry tea to celebrate the Queen's birthday. If you came along you may have glimpsed her majesty (not the real one!!) or taken a selfie for fun posing as a Royal.

The hall was filled with the clink of china cups & people chatting & laughing enjoying a chance to catch up with friends & family whilst sampling a delicious array of sandwiches & home baking for a proper high tea.



A big thank you to all those who came to support us on the day & also to everyone who helped out with baking, preparations behind the scenes & front of house serving food & keeping teacups topped up.

Christian Aid Collection



The village again responded magnificently to our house-house collection back in May. 18 collectors, not all members of the Church, collected £3,046 which is worth much more to the countries where Christian Aid is operating. This year's target was NO MUM SHOULD DIE IN CHILDBIRTH - and one of the aims was to build a health clinic in Sierra Leone which is the world's most dangerous place for mothers in childbirth.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed and to our collectors with a special thanks to Richard Drew who covers many of the outlying houses in the parish.

Bob Ballantyne, Treasurer

Services in December

Sunday, 1st December	10.30am Communion Service
Sunday, 8th December	10.30am Christmas Gift Service (donated to Salvation Army)
Sunday, 15th December	10.30am Behold he comes to lift us up!
Sunday, 22nd December	10.30am A Christmas Cracker (Kirk Kids take on Christmas)
Tuesday, 24th December	11.00pm Carol Singing followed by Watchnight Service
Wednesday, 25th December	10.30am Christmas Day Service
Sunday, 29th December	10.30am Songs of Praise

Everyone is welcome to any of these services.

Killearn Kirk People

Minister	Rev Stuart Sharp	550101
	ssharp@churchofscotland.org.uk	
Session Clerk	Carole Young	550994
	sessionclerkkillearnkirk@gmail.com	
Bob Ballantyne	Treasurer	550310
Roll Keeper & Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Kirsty Smith	550654
Hall bookings	Sue Beck	550485

Personalia

Baptism

Daniel Pringle

Weddings

Neil McConnell & Sarah Haig
Emily Cuthbert & Andrew Semple
Cairi Macintosh & Ashley Edwards

We are saddened to report the passing of the following, 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.

Catherine Gilfillan
Charles Cameron Gordon
Robin Robinson
Margaret Bell
Ian Bain
Colin Whyte
Elspeth Mathieson
Brian Wylie
David Rodger

Christmas Gift Service

The gifts received from the Christmas Gift Service will be donated to the Salvation Army in Stirling. The impact that a donation of a toy or special item can make such a difference to the families who receive the gifts. Gifts require to be new and do not need to be wrapped. If you would like to donate but are unable to attend the church service then please contact Carole Young, Session Clerk. (550994)

The next edition of Tidings will be Easter 2020.

Leprosy Mission

Once again I ask you to help this charity to combat the horrible affliction of leprosy by donating used stamps, postcards, and foreign coins. I am delighted to tell you more villages are contributing to the cause. As we use fewer stamps I am appealing to a wider audience which has responded greatly this year.

It was my privilege to be attached during my army days to the Gurkha soldiers. I taught six of them to drive. They have asked me to collect obsolete mobile phones (no sim cards wanted). The Gurkha troops recondition them and send them to Nepal to be used there and help communication in that 3rd world country. Give them through the BB stamp box or through my letter box at 43 Buchanan Road.

I would at this time express my sincere thanks in advance to all who donate. Jim Fallas

Kirk Coffee and Fellowship

We continue to enjoy the time of fellowship and a cuppa with a biscuit or home baking. It gives us the opportunity to catch up with each other as well as making new friends. It is an opportunity to take 5 minutes or more to join in this time.

Since March we have supported Christian Aid's 'Rise up against climate change' when £96.27 was raised through Lent. Town Break Stirling (<http://www.townbreakstirling.org/>) who have a monthly group in Killearn for those with dementia and their carers received £100 specifically for the Killearn Group. Crossreach who offer loving care to people of all ages in need in Scotland of a helping hand, supporting them to live life to the full whatever their circumstances (www.crossreach.org.uk) received £150 and Traidcraft original fair trade pioneers in the UK, advocating the importance of organic farming, sustainability and transparency to the lives of growers and artisans around the world (<http://www.traidcraft.co.uk>) totalling £100 which covers the tea, coffee and sugar we purchase from them plus a donation. Thank you for your support and also to our volunteers who produce the tea and coffee and biscuits each week. If anyone would be interested in becoming a volunteer, which involves setting up, making and serving the teas and coffee and clearing away only 3 or 4 times a year, please contact Sue Beck.

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



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From the Minister's study desk ...

Isaiah 9:2

**The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**

The clocks have been changed, the nights are drawing in. Darkness shrouds our rising in the morning, and our return to home at night. We are drawn to lights in times of darkness. They offer hope, security, sanctuary. Having done a fair bit of night hikes as a scout when I was younger (much younger) your eyes adjust to darkness, and you think you can see clearly, but stumbles and trips are all too common. Then a spot of light guides you home. A tiny spot of light travels far in the dark and when we get to 'home' we blink and screwup our eyes at how intense the light seems.

It seems to me that this year on a national level has seemed like people stumbling about in the dark. I'm not going to use the 'B' word, you know what I mean. For me as I reflect on those I meet and encounter, there are many stumbling about in their lives as if in darkness, even in the full light of day. There are no landmarks to guide them, other than themselves or some transient figure in the constellation of celebrity who rise and fall at a whim. People seem very angry and very anxious these days. The great uncertainties have had a major destabilising effect.

For me, and I hope for you these words of Jesus provide great hope; (John 12:44-46) 'Then Jesus cried out, "When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.' This is the great hope of our faith, something worth proclaiming, that no matter what is happening in the world or in our lives, we have a light to lead us and direct us. To help us see and perceive what is God's will and purpose for us each day. This certainty is all we need to go into the turbulent dark world and be God's people and take his light to others.

Any feel ill prepared or qualified to do so but remember this, when God needed a spokesman for the Hebrews before Pharaoh, he chose Moses, a man who knew he was not a public speaker. When Israel needed a new king, he chose David for that great battle, a boy who took a stone to a sword fight. When God decided to spread his good news across the world, he chose fishermen, tax collectors and a random assortment of ill equipped and poorly resourced people. He did the equipping and resources, He will continue to do so with us.

As we approach this advent season and Christmas time, may the Light of Christ in yours and may you share that radiance with others, that they too may know Immanuel, God with us.

Stuart

Reading the bible in a year.

Every wanted to read through the whole bible but been put off by the size, where to start, how to do it? How about starting the year with a resolution to get to know God's word better.

Week by week we will print in the order of service a reading portion for the week ahead. It is structured to work on a Monday – Friday, giving you the week-end off, or a space to catch up. We will also put it up on the website if you would rather download it as a single document. The bible has been broken down to do it a years' worth of week-days, so a little over a year, and structured into a three reading plan, old testament, new testament and a psalm. Each day then you get a little bit of the breadth of the bible and over the year you will read through passages and books that are seldom used in public worship. Are you up for the challenge? Here are a few tips.

- [] Set aside a regular time that works for you most days, you'll need about 15 mins.
- [] Use a translation of the bible that you find accessible, some may prefer a modern translation, others a more traditional one.
- [] Have three bookmarks to easily find you place.
- [] Some bibles have introductions to each book giving you a little bit of background, read it so you know what you are reading.
- [] Before you start offer a quick prayer to God. Something like: 'Heavenly Father, lead me through your word, open my mind and understanding to what you would teach me today'

Make yourself a cuppa, get a biscuit and dive in! Don't get discouraged if you fall behind or stop for a time, just pick it up again and carry on.

Killearn Golden Years Club

This is a club for the over 60s in the Killearn Parish. The residents can enjoy two main social events, a meal with entertainment in March and a June coach trip to a place of interest, chosen by the members, and that includes a lunch, chat and time to shop!! This year we went to Pitlochry and next year we hope to go to Stranraer. We also hope to have caterers in for our March meal so that should be something to remember and put in your diary!

There is a small committee who meet, plan and try to please when they organise events but we love to hear suggestions and love also offers of help. Many hands make light work!

The Golden Years club is a club which receives funding from local sources but we do try to be self-sufficient, and we run a Bingo Night which is our fund raiser, Everyone is welcome to join us for a family friendly game, with the chance to win fun prizes. This social event is proving to be very popular and increased numbers are enjoying the game, the chat and the home baking.

FAMILY BINGO EVENING

Thursday, 14 November
KILLEARN KIRK HALL, 7.00 – 9.30 PM
Adults: £4.00; Children: £2.00
Tea, home baking and RAFFLE included

For tickets, or more information, please contact:
Peter Rea on 550432, Anne O'Neill on 550605,
Doreen Snadden on 550834. Bob Ballantine

Date for your diary

Choral Classics with the City of Glasgow Choir will be held on Saturday, 2nd May 2020

Cairi and Ashley



Cairi Macintosh, daughter of Agnes and Scott, married Ashley Cameron Edwards from the Edinburgh area in the Kirk on 8 Aug 2019 with the reception following at Boturich Castle, Loch Lomond. They were blessed with sunny weather on the afternoon, with the guests having stunning views of the Loch. Cairi is teaching music at Balforn High School, whilst Ashley is teaching music at Bearsden Academy and is hoping to undertake a Masters in conducting. The couple are househunting in the local area.

Killearn Kirk Finances

The 9 months to 30th September this year have been great. With Church attendances increasing OFFERINGS (including tax recovery on gift aid donations) are up more than 15% at £59,000. In addition we have been left legacies from The Thomas Maconachie Trust of £50,000, The Caram Trust £2000 and an anonymous legacy of £3000 – a total of £55,000. With more and more people coming to Church to join in the singing – choir organ piano and trumpet – and our inspiring sermons, the future is encouraging. Many thanks to everyone who is contributing and to the other members of the Finance Committee – Teresa Prescott (Assistant Treasurer), Scott Macintosh, Helen Gee (Gift Aid /Tax Recovery) and Peter Rea.

GIFT AID

If you pay UK tax you can boost your donation to the Kirk by 25p for every £1 you donate through Gift Aid. For info contact Bob Ballantyne, Treasurer or Helen Gee, Gift Aid Convenor.

Surprise Visitor to Killearn Malawi Group



At the Annual Gathering of the Killearn Malawi Group (SC043555) on 19th September, there was a surprise visitor from Malawi, in the form of a video link with Kondwani Chidziwisano. Many of you will have met Kondwani when he was staying in Killearn for two months earlier this year. He was able to tell us about the completion of the Science/Computing block we have been helping the local community to build at Nkhonde Secondary School in the far south of Malawi. It's a major achievement to complete this project in such a



remote part of the country, and we are very grateful to Kondwani, and his brother Victor, for the work they have done.

The Gathering is an opportunity for Friends of KMG to hear about the work of the committee over the previous year, and how it has spent the money it has raised. Ken Allen, Chair, and Sue Beck, Treasurer, both delivered reports, which were approved by the meeting. The present Committee members were also reappointed. The next project for KMG is to help with the equipping of the school block.

We were also delighted to welcome two other speakers, John Riches, who is closely involved with the Balmore Trust, and Russell Crawford of Malawi Fruits. John spoke about Just Trading Scotland, which the Balmore Trust set up to import produce from Africa, particularly Kilombero Rice from Northern Malawi. He talked about working with the remarkable farmers' co-operative which grows and processes the rice, and about how the co-operative organises itself. Russell described how Malawi Fruits has encouraged farmers to grow and market cash crops, in particular paprika, which allows them to improve their lives, sending children to school and improving their quality of housing.



There was a Fair Trade stall selling produce from Africa, including Kilombero Rice, provided by Gavin's Mill in Milngavie, a shop and cafe next to Tesco. Refreshments were served throughout the evening, including rare Malawi Gin. We are very grateful to Doug Ashworth for helping us to get the video link up and running.

The next events for your diaries are a Ladies' Gin Tasting Evening on 22nd November in the Village Hall. Tickets - £15 - are available from members of the KMG Committee. The famous KMG Jumble Sale will take place on 29th February in the Kirk Hall.

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

Levi Nyondo

Rev. Levi Nyondo is a minister in Malawi who with his wife Ruth have had a connection with Killearn going back over many years. They send their warmest wishes to our community and thank us for all the boxes of craft items, knitted woollen children's garments, tools, stationery and books for the nursery school etc. which recently arrived safely with them via the Banana Trust container. They greatly appreciate our support and give thanks.

Christmas in Canada

As soon as I emerged from the airport I realised my Canadian Christmas was going to be somewhat different. As soon as I emerged from the airport I realised my Canadian Christmas was going to be somewhat different to my previous one in California. Everywhere was white with snow and it was 5c not the 20c of California. My daughter-in-law assured me it was positively hot, it had apparently been well below zero the days before my arrival.



First thoughts were, did I have enough warm clothes? The answer was no, I had to quickly purchase a cosier hat and mitts. My grandson gave me his winter boots from last year - too small for him, perfect for me. In Calgary everyone wears very cosy, fur lined boots with soles that grip the snow. So I was sorted and able to safely walk the easier trails around Calgary. While in California I was undoubtedly considered to be an eccentric Scottish lady who for some inexplicable reason liked to walk everywhere, in Calgary I was considered absolutely normal. Many people walk for exercise and pleasure there and by the end of my holiday I was exchanging greetings and smiles with countless fellow walkers.

The snow stayed and intermittently we had fresh falls, most notably on Christmas Day. My grandchildren assured me they had specially ordered the Christmas Day snow for me. The local park has a pond, frozen all winter, where children and adults skate and play ice hockey. All around the pond were twinkling fairy lights and the happy squeals from the children skating was music to the ears.

On my first Sunday, 16th December, I found a Church within walking distance of the family home. Grace Presbyterian Church is part of the Presbyterian Church of Canada and while its roots are planted in Scotland it has evolved in its own way. Grace, as it is commonly called, is a big traditional looking city Church from the outside but inside the pews are set in a circle surrounding the sanctuary and organ, making a very attractive welcoming setting. It has four ministers, a lead and three associates.

December 16th, third Sunday of Advent, was led by Grace's Church School (their Sunday School). Children aged from four to teens led the singing, helped by the magnificent choir, delivered the prayers and performed a Christmas play. The Church was brimming over with Poinsettias, all round the balcony and the sanctuary and in every conceivable space. The congregation donated the poinsettias individually either in memory of a loved one or in honour of someone in the Church. Many of the plants were distributed later that day to the housebound, sick and bereaved in the parish.



After the service we adjourned to the family room for tea, coffee and fellowship. There I met many ladies in particular, of Scottish decent and was kindly invited to join the Gracefull Seniors the following Thursday for lunch, song, laughter and Christmas cheer. How could I refuse, especially since the meal consisted of Shepherds Pie and Angel Cake. While there I met two ladies from Dumbarton who left Scotland sixty years ago and have never returned. I remarked on their accents because I would have assumed they had only left Scotland the day before. They laughed and said, "we came here as friends and we have spoken to each other every day since so hence the retention of our Dumbarton accents".

There were three services on Christmas Eve - one for families with young children, one a service of lessons and carols and the one I attended at 10.30pm which included the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This was quite different from home. The candles and carols were there but The Sacrament of Holy Communion was so very special. The Church lighting was dimmed, the candles much in evidence and the Sacrament



B-Flats

Christmas Concerts

Sunday 8th December @ 7.00pm

Gartmore Village Hall

Sunday 15th December @ 7.00pm

Killearn Kirk

Carol Singing

Saturday 7th December

The Smiddy, Blair Drummond

Christmas Concerts

Friday 6th December

Saturday 7th December

Gartocharn Village Hall



was served by all four ministers. We all had to make our way down to the sanctuary to receive the bread and wine. It was a moment of total commitment, engendering a feeling of peace with oneself and the whole world. On leaving the Church it was minus 8c, the snow was crisp and sparking, the stars were twinkling, Christmas had arrived.

Between Christmas and New Year we all went to Banff for a few days. The family went skiing and I reminisced in Banff. Jim and I had spent many skiing holidays there but sadly my skiing days are history.

On the Sunday I attended the little St Paul's Presbyterian Church in the centre of town. This was an entirely different experience from the Church in Calgary. I arrived about ten minutes early to discover the congregation consisted of the minister, the organist and me! The minister came straight over to talk to me and on learning that I was Scottish, was delighted. He said you must come for coffee after the service, we have so many questions for you about the Mother Church. My heart sank, thinking I was destined for failure if I received questions about the inner workings of the C of S. By the time the service started there were about twelve in the congregation, all apparently known to each other and all fascinated by me. If I could have escaped I would have, but my Scottish Presbyterian upbringing kept me rooted to my seat. Two things made me smile in their welcome leaflet - Pew cushions were available if you felt the need for one - there was a Crying room/nursery which had a playpen and an audio system to enable the parent to continue listening to the service while caring for their child. The bit that tickled my sense of humour was that the audio system was equipped with an on/off button for the speaker, so if the minister carried on too long - you could switch him off!!

Coffee was served with lots of questions, mostly about Scotland and would you believe Brexit. My prayers were answered, I was able to satisfy their questions.

This is a small taste of Canada, I thoroughly recommend the beautiful country and its friendly people to you.

Doreen Snadden

Youth Work in

Hi folks, just the usual update on Kirk Kids for our autumn magazine. It will have been 6 months since the last magazine (around Easter) and so the photos we have for you are mainly from the summer presentation in June when all the children received a Christian book to read over the school holidays. Samuel and Zoe were given a special mention as they were moving up to secondary school and were outgrowing the traditional Kirk Kids format.

We still have all our regulars, usually around 7-10, children meeting most weeks during school term time and we are pleased to say we've seen a few younger children join our group over the past year. Our children are a lively bunch, very inquisitive about the Christian faith and with a love of crafts and activities.

Last year we began to move away from Scripture Union teaching materials and have been using 'Go Teach' 'Come learn' resources on a trial basis. Scripture Union were ending their usual magazine format and moving over to a new 3 year photocopiable resource so as things were changing anyway we felt that we ought to try some new teaching materials in the short-term.

The children have been remaining in Church for the monthly all-age services and the minister has been giving them challenges to complete during these services. Some of their responses to these challenges have been uploaded to the church facebook page and have been 'liked' across the globe.

As we approach the Christmas season we will be finishing our look at Elijah and Elisha and turning our attention to the Christmas story. This Christmas will see the end of Kirk Kids in its present format for a while. Stuart, the minister, has a vision and plans for a regular, more-inclusive format of morning service which will see the children worship more frequently with their families. We are looking forward to trying something new and different and it will be a journey for everyone.

In my capacity as Kirk Kids (KK) leader I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff involved with KK over these last couple of years. Isobel Shaw and Lynne Boutcher have both been excellent Team-Leaders, co-ordinating everything for their teaching groups on their Sundays 'on duty'. Teresa Prescott, as well as teaching has been capturing everything on camera for us so that we have some kind of photographic record of the main events in our calendar. Shona Nicolson as well as regularly teaching, organises our Church materials which are available for the children's use every week and provides little fingers and minds with activities to keep them occupied during our regular Church services. Paul Boutcher joined us as a teacher last year and is a great male role model for the children. His teaching background (in a previous career) has served him well and he loves working with our senior children. Kirsty Smith has been teaching the under-fives for as long as I've known her (and I've been in the village for over 35 years) but as the Child protection Co-ordinator she also keeps us on the straight and narrow regarding all the legislation pertinent to child-care. Alison McDade has been one of the most flexible people that I know. As well as her own planned teaching duties she just seamlessly slots into any Teaching Sunday at a minute's notice and runs with the programme, whatever it may be. Mhari-Jane Somerville has been our KK assistant for a long time now and as well as helping on a weekly basis with whatever is needed she prepares extra activities at home for us to use with the children. Last, but not least, I have to thank Carole Young, our Session Clerk, for providing unceasing support and advice



n Killearn Kirk

over these recent years. I am always amazed at how she can still fit in attending so many of our meetings when she already has so many other tasks on her list to do for our church. Her energy and enthusiasm have always been so much appreciated.

I, myself, have loved working with all the children not only over these past few years but in my previous role, many moons ago, as a teacher and latterly as Sunday School superintendent

All of us on the team recognise what a privileged position we are in to have had the opportunity to pass on an understanding of God's Word to a new generation. We never take that position lightly but prayerfully ask God to continually equip us for the task and we invite you to join us in praying for their futures within the Church family.

Yours in Christ Jesus
Agnes Macintosh

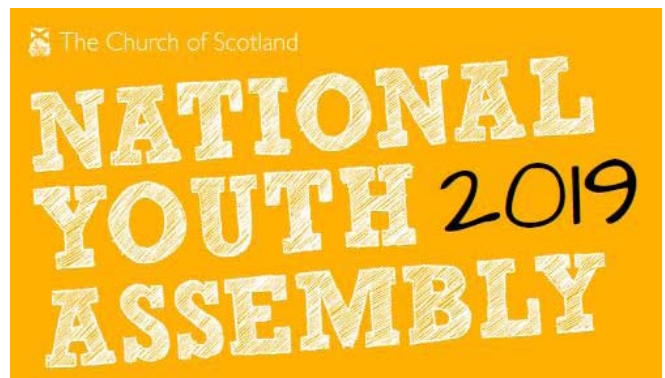
Prayer Walk



On 26th October a group from the church participated in a prayer walk around the village. We were lucky that the weather was good, so we were able to take time to be still and to look around us as we prayed together. It is amazing that we are able to pray at any time and God will hear us.

We are encouraging people to take time to pray specifically and regularly for the village and to make this part of your everyday life. Are you off to the shops? Take time whilst walking to ask God to bless the places and people you walk past. A prayer can be just as impactful whether it is said in church or our own homes, on the way to school or work or on a designated walk.

Prayer cards with this logo are available in the church and give some prayer suggestions. These can make it easier to find a starting point for prayer and can be combined with your own knowledge of the needs of people in the village.



What was the National Youth Assembly (NYA)?

"A platform for young adults to voice their opinions and actively participate in decision making within the Church of Scotland"

This annual event was open to anyone aged 17-25 with a connection to the Church of Scotland and began in 1994. In recent years the event has been held in Gartmore House, with delegates attending from all over the country to meet for fellowship, debate and worship.

The final National Youth Assembly took place over a weekend in August. The end of NYA is one of many changes taking place in the Church of Scotland, and we watch with interest to see what new initiatives will arise. In 2020 first Young Adults weekends are taking place, open to those aged 18-30. Future weekends for 11-18 year olds are also planned. These will be faith formation weekends and will not feed back to the General Assembly in the way NYA did.

In the meantime, the work from NYA 2019 continues. Youth reps are working on the three discussion topics that were looked at over the weekend; Hate Speech, Missional Buildings and Testimony and Confirmation. A report on these will be given at the General Assembly 2020 and will signal the end of the work done by the NYA in its current form.

The young people involved remain committed to working to raise awareness of important issues. Once again youth reps will be sleeping outdoors as part of the Worlds Big Sleep Out, raising money for charities tackling homelessness. We will be part of the event in Edinburgh taking place on the 7th December. This is just one way of making a difference.

Hopefully there will always be a place for the voice of youth to be heard in the Church of Scotland, and that everyone of any age will have the right to be listened to.

The Guild

Frequently asked questions - what is the Guild and what exactly does it do?

The Guild is a movement within the Church of Scotland which encourages both men and women to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action. We have approximately 20,000 members throughout Scotland and many partners around the world. The bulk of our membership is made up of women but increasingly men are joining and some are taking active roles both locally and nationally. We in Killearn are fortunate to have one brave gentleman in our Guild. We would welcome a few more, not just to keep him company, but to enhance our Guild.

The Guild motto taken from Acts 27 verse 23 is "Whose we are and Whom we serve" and that sentiment is central to our entire being.

National council in Edinburgh devises a strategy for us every three years. The strategy for 2018 to 2021 is "One journey many roads". Last year's theme was "Seeking the way" and we continue our journey this year with the theme "Companions on the road". This may sound airy fairy but to the Guild it has real Christian significance. Think of the many biblical journeys - the Israelites on their Exodus, Mary and Joseph going to Bethlehem, Jesus travelling around Galilee with his Disciples - to name but a few. While their journeys have a clear theme of discovery, they also share another element, that of companionship. As we in the Guild work through this year's theme, Companions on the road, we will be celebrating the companionship which the Guild offers and sharing the next part of our journey on many roads.



So what happens at a guild meeting? We meet from October to March, every 1st and 3rd Tuesday evening at 7.30 in the Kirk Halls. Our meeting starts with worship, we praise God by singing a hymn, we choose a Bible reading to compliment the theme of the speaker and we pray to our Heavenly Father for whatever is relevant that evening. We have a syllabus with a variety of themes to cover the session. Some are serious topics, some are fun and be assured the members know how to laugh and enjoy themselves as well as work hard to support our contribution to God's Kingdom.

Guilds began supporting projects in 1969 and in 1997 developed this further by starting the Project Partnership Scheme. As part of this six life changing projects are selected from Scotland and around the world for support by the Guild for a three year period. This scheme is one of the most important areas of the Guild's work as it wonderfully demonstrates our commitment to worship, prayer and action.



The projects support people often in the dark places of their lives and raises awareness of issues amongst Guild members and the wider Church. Last year alone the Guilds in Scotland raised £122,000 for their chosen projects. Across the world and down the years thousands of people have benefitted from the prayerful, practical and financial support of the Guild. We choose, like other Guilds, to support two each year - one from home and one from abroad. This year we are supporting the Sailors Society (previously the Mission to Seamen) as our home project and the Free to Live Trust as our overseas project.

We have a healthy, lively membership and would be delighted if you would like to join us. Visitors are always welcome at all our meetings. The meeting always ends with tea and a blether!

Our Harvest Coffee Morning on Saturday 5th October was a great success, not only because we raised approximately £500 which was wonderful, but because of everyone who came and enjoyed chatting with friends, buying from the baking stall, the Bits and Pieces stall and enjoying all the cakes, coffee and tea. There is always a great atmosphere due to the sound of people enjoying themselves, it doesn't matter whether it's raining or the sun is shining. The money we raise from the coffee mornings goes to the Projects we support, this year it is The Sailors Society (at home) and the Free to Live Trust (abroad) which supports abandoned street children and also the wider work of the church. Our next coffee morning will be held on Saturday 7th December in the Church Hall from 10am-12noon we look forward to seeing you all there.

Christopher & Debbie Drew return from Nepal

We have been following the travels of Chris Drew (Killearn Primary 1978) and his wife Debbie over the past 12 years. They started their work with aid missions in Afghanistan in 2007 concentrating on basic human issues such as hygiene, power generation and infant mortality. In that time they moved from the relatively peaceful rural North of the country to Kabul and experienced their house being hit by a stray rocket during a Taliban attack on the city.

Returning the UK for a year and now with a growing family of four, they then started planning a new life with International Fellowship Nepal (INF). They have spent the past six years in Kathmandu, again concentrating on health issues and the provision of basic necessities. Shortly after they arrived, on 25 April 2015 the catastrophic earthquake presented a real challenge and Chris's engineering training was put to the test!

As you can see from the two extracts below from their final letter, they are all safely home in the UK for good and thank you all for the support you given over the years.

"We left Nepal at the end of June and were working with BMS until the end of the September, visiting many church partners across England, Wales and Scotland. To those we visited, thank you for your hospitality and interest in us and Nepal during this time. We shared stories, especially about the transforming work to treat women affected by fistula, and about the challenge to "take courage" to impact the needs around us as well as the importance of encouraging each other in living out our faith.

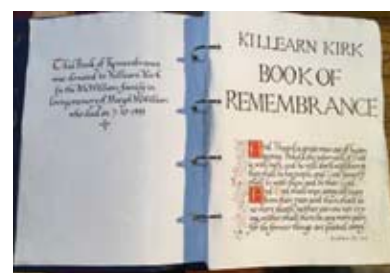
That leaves jobs as the big missing piece of the jigsaw. Debbie has been job-searching, applying and had a couple of interviews. A few coming up but no job offers yet. Chris is prioritising sorting the house out and being around to help settle the kids. There's also a mountain of admin involved in moving back to the country, that he has been wading through. It's felt good to have the last couple of weeks after our travels finished to catch our breath and start to sort out many practicalities, but it would also be reassuring to find work soon; we keep reminding ourselves that in the past the right thing has always come at the right time."

The photo shows Rebekah, Sam, Tabea and Josh outside their new home in Leeds



Book of Remembrance

The Kirk Book of Remembrance is positioned by the Communion table in a dark wood case. It was donated to the Kirk by the McWilliam family in loving memory of Margot McWilliam, wife of previous minister Rev. Stuart McWilliam, in 1991. Anne MacKay has completed each entry and decorated the book beautifully ever since. Requests for new entries should be directed to the Minister.



We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everybody who helps to make these mornings a success from those who help put out the tables and clear them away to those who bake all the goodies for us to enjoy, we couldn't do it without you.

After Christmas our meetings re-commence on 21st January when we will enjoy some Traveller's Tales from Ann Roy.

Appeal from the Guild.

Does anyone have a piano stool they no longer require? The Guild would appreciate it very much to enable their pianist to sit more comfortably at the hall piano. I would happily pick up.

Doreen Snadden, 550834

Future Focus

On the 23rd of March, we held a conference day to reflect and consider the future of our Kirk. Though it was well attended, we are aware that there are a number of people that would have liked to have been there but, for a number of reasons, were unable to attend. We did attempt to record the sessions; however, we are aware that the recordings were not of a great audio quality and a number of people said it was very hard to hear. This article has been penned to give a flavour of the themes we considered.

First, the bad news.

The national church is at a critical point. Numbers are in decline, and what has been a slow descent since the 1960's, now seems more like free fall. This has impacted on the number of people going forward to serve in ministry. It is thought that in the next 5 years will be half of what is currently needed. The church's response to this is to encourage restructuring to match parish and minister number to make it more sustainable. For Killearn, this will probably mean that Stuart will be the last full-time minister in the parish of Killearn. It is more likely that, in the future, we will have to share a minister with one or more of the neighbouring parishes. This may be nearer than we think as Stuart's position will be reviewed and a decision arrived at by the end of 2023. This will all be compounded by huge changes in the national structures with a reduction of the number of Presbyteries from over 40 to around 12 and significant decentralisation of functions from the church offices in Edinburgh down to Presbytery level.

Traditional view of the church.

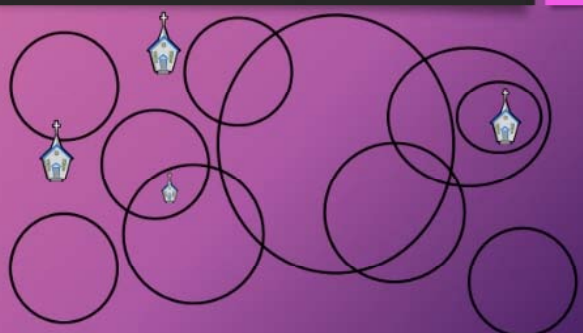


Church is at the centre of community life.

Mission is about infecting community with God.



A more complex view of community.



Whether we like it or not, the environment in which the church exists is going to change and we need to look at how we are going to respond to that.

Many will have memories of the church being fuller in the past and that, though numbers have improved a little recently, it is not what it once was. I'm sure we all ask the question why? The old image of the church is of a building and activity at the heart of a community. This is no longer the case, even though the building has not moved, the people have.

In reality, Killearn is not one community, but is a collection of communities all of which have their own interests and priorities. Some of these have no faith connection or influence at all; some have a little bit of faith in them and these communities can be separate or overlap to varying degrees. The result is, that though we may consider the church to be central to village, community and our personal lives, that is now a minority view. In repose to this the church here and nationally, must become more missional in what it does and how it lives out the faith. This is NOT about getting organised into a huge recruitment campaign and evangelistic outreach program, they tend not to be that successful in the long term. Rather, it is to seek to sow the faith into all of, or as many of, the communities around us as we can. To live more honestly as Christians in our community and be prepared to take the risk of sharing our faith with others. Though the future looks very different than the past we still have a future – just a different one.

Hallmarks of a missional community.

God is Missional. His whole being reaches out to his creation, yearning for reconnection and connection, drawing it into and back to himself. We call it redemption and God's salvation plan. The challenge is that if we use that language in the community, people have no idea what we are talking about, and the church has not done a good job in the past about expressing itself well to those who are not a part of it. Jesus never talked about the church. The phrase 'church' only enters the bible in any force in after the gospels where it occurs 119 times – Jesus' passion was for the Kingdom of God and so the challenge to church is to rediscover this Kingdom understanding of the mission of God and see where the church fits into that.

God, in his nature, is missional and from that we can assume that he is already working in the hearts and lives of people in our community, we may not see it or be aware of it, but he is inviting us to be the point of contact, or grounding between him at that person. Towards the end of chapter 8 in Acts, Philip is led by God to meet with an Ethiopian and that encounter leads to that man's 'conversion' (faith awakening). Philip was in tune with the Spirit to undertake the work of God. We, as his church, must do the same. To tune into God's existing work in the community. This needs us to change the focus of what we do and how we do it. It is a call to be outward looking and to see that the church is there to encourage and equip us to fulfil God's mission where he has placed us. As the likely future sees less 'dog collar' minister, we need to get back to the understanding of the early church, that mission is something every Christian does and indeed its God given purpose is to be missional.

The church is called to build the Kingdom.

- The Church exists to embody and expand the kingdom.
- Faithful proclamation of the gospel
- Making disciples
- Serving others

How do we do it?

- Aware of the context
- Culturally sensitive and responsive
- Flexible
- Experimental
- Engaging
- Focused outward more than inward

As the developed western church internationally wakes up to the fact that Christendom is dead and indeed never really existed to the degree that they assumed, the church has to release its old assumptions and start over partnering with the Spirit as co-workers with God in his world and this means we have to adjust our thinking and approach. We can no longer assume that people know what we stand for, believe or about. The context in which the church exists is changed. For many families it may be two or three generations since they had a church connection. Religion is taught differently in schools now. We are part of a more mixed culture with many religions present and though that must never change our message, we need to be aware of the differences. We need to become willing to try new things, look for different way to connect with everyone and anyone. To see that church happens in different ways for different people. Even the

simple fact of when we meet can be an obstacle for many. In an time when families are working longer and at different time in our 24 hour, 7 day a week, always on culture, a Sunday may be the only time for some people to shop, meet family or do the many things that are important to them, and they cannot change this, so perhaps God is asking us to change, to be more open and available at more and different time and in different ways. But this all point to the need to change.

Change is not a dirty word – honest!

Change is with us all the time, some we welcome and some we find harder. Some will remember the advent of TV, the big box with the little screen in black and white, then colour and the boxes got bigger and bigger, now it is flat screen technology with huge screens and very thin boxes. We have all accepted that change. We can see the same developments in most technologies, some we like some we don't use. We look at the fast pace of life and find that harder to accept (perhaps) but this everyday working is a return to the pre-war situation. Week-ends off only really came to the fore since the 1950's, so it is really a return to the past. In many ways it

Change/growth costs!

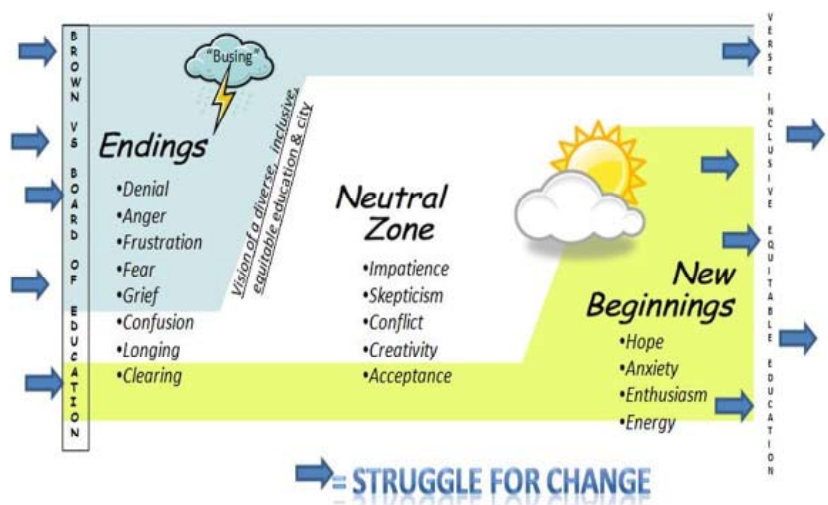
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- The mourning for what we leave behind
- The disquiet for the 'new'
- The cost and investment in making it happen
- The commitment to keeping it going

is not the change that is hard it is the process of change that we find hardest. We will all have had the 'it wasn't like that in my day' conversations with others. But, this is your day and you are an important part of the future shape of the church.

Change means we have to let go of something that we may hold dear and precious and exchange it for something we don't even know. It can create huge surges of emotion, at time we do not even know why. If we take time to dig into that we will find that it can be a fear of losing something, a part of our story, a connection with past generations, releasing something we value. All of this creates emotional turmoil. Someone just has to mention taking out the pews in a church and it can start a riot. It is not about the pews, they are just seats, very

uncomfortable and inflexible seats, but just seats. But with them is a memory of those who sat there before, their commitment and service to the church and God, we sit beside the shadows and memories of all that have gone before us, and that is the emotion behind a pew. As we seek to move with God in a new way we need to understand the deep emotion that change may bring and hold each other in love and care through that transition to the new way of being church. These feels are not just in the church, but in all walks of life and even in business and there is a growing recognition that we need to handle the transition better and the change will take care of itself.



Adapted by Union of Minority Neighborhoods from Managing Transitions: Making the Most of Change, by William Bridges, 1991

One of the biggest changes we need to engage with is the idea that different generations have different characteristics, there true is a 'gap' between generations. The post-war generation were 'builders', would make strong commitments and see them through, conform with the social norms and see community cohesion as a good thing – though they may be more comfortable with the idea of conforming to the norm. Leadership was top down, and success was measured by family, property and job status and social standing, so becoming an Elder was something to aspire to.

'Boomers' followed them in a time of greater hope and prosperity of the 60's and encouraged to stand on their own two feet, tend to be positive, confident (know it all) and determined not to grow old, tend to like strategic thinking and want to be involved in decision making and know the what, when how and who of everything.

Then 'Gen-X' (currently around 40-55) came along, growing with increasing uncertainty and anxiety, divorce rates went through the roof in their childhood, the generation of the latch key kids, parenting more liberal, fewer boundaries, saw 'jobs for life' disappear, leaders challenged (Nixon in the 70's), and leaders exposed in the church and society for their proclivities. They develop trend that there is no-one to be trusted, cynical, and that things would fall apart. Their focus moved from work and society to family and put the fences up.

'Gen-Y' or Millennials (around 25-40) and tend to have been more pampered by their parents, because of the things that shaped them. Tend to have a view that though it might be hard for others, people will look out for them, just like their family has (the bank of mum and dad). They are more optimistic than their parents, they focus on team work and inclusion of all, no one left behind, loyal, committed and want to be involved. They don't expect everyone to conform (see builders). They have a big world view, with a care for the environment and will be active in the things that engage them, they need feedback and affirmation, praise and reassurance.

We are now in 'Gen-Z' the under 25s. Grew up after 9/11 and see a vulnerable and unstable world, with self-seeking leadership that are not to be trusted. They see the problems and think and care deeply, they are sensible but feel the need for a break and rest from the responsibility of it all. They don't like to see people put down and trust their generation more than other generations. They value authenticity and leaders that are 'real' not trendy.

These are broad generalisations that sociologists have identified and in summary:

Builders	-	Keep things going
Boomers	-	Want things planned and done well
Gen X'ers	-	Challenge things - want it to be real and relevant for them
Millennials	-	Go with the flow and enjoy being involved
Gen Y'ers	-	Want it authentic, meaningful and making a difference

That is quite a difference across the generations. It seems that the greatest evacuation of the church happened under the maturing of Gen-X and when we ask when young people don't come to church we can see a big gap between 'Keeping things going – at all costs' and a demand for 'authentic, meaningful'. Knowing these differences, we need to reshape how we do things.

Two key areas of church life that are feeling the pressure to change because they don't fit with the missing generations can be seen as follows.

Sunday worship is not shaped for those in younger generations

Too predictable and slow
 Too much formality
 Too little movement
 Too little participation
 Not a multi-sensory experience
 Not directly relevant to life
 Usually led by those over 55 (even Stuart!)

Leadership opportunities not structured for those under 55

A long-term commitment expected
 An expectation that you will "keep things going" without major change
 Those who've been around longest have most say
 No real support structures – in fact criticism goes with the territory

When the church leadership looks around and asks when people are coming forward to take on the work of leading the church, it can be suggested we are asking or expecting the wrong things of the next generation. When it comes to worship and we ask why there are no young people the answer is equally hard to hear – what we do and have is not what they want.

There is still Hope.

After all that has been said we can get to the point of hopelessness. This must be resisted. Think about the number of groups and activities the church and its people are involved in locally. It is a huge range. The question we have to consider is whether others in those groups know we are Christians and why that is important to us and our lives. For a church to be a healthy community of the faithful they are three basic elements that need to be developed and to ensure that no one dominates, but like a good diet, are to be balanced for they will strengthen the whole body.

We need to ensure that there are a range of ways we can develop and encourage everyone on their daily walk with the Lord.



We need to strengthen the ties that bind us together as a people of God.

We need to care for the wider community and seek to meet its needs, as we can and are led, in Christ's name.

All of these stands need to be entwined to build a strong cord. If we only focus on our relationship with God, we can become selfish and disconnected. If we only build our church relationships, we can become exclusive and alienating. If we only work on our outward relationships, we are doing the job of social work and God soon drops out of the picture.

For Killearn, what does all this mean? Based on the generational profiles there will be a large group that just says, tell us what to do and we'll do it. Another groups that wants to plan and strategize. A few that won't trust it anyway. Some that will go with the flow and sadly very few would look for it to be real.

The truth is that God is inviting his people to get off the map, to go off the old paths and track to explore, which means there is no determined plan. There is an intention to engage with the whole community, now understanding that most don't see the church as relevant. We need to find new words for old stories, the stories of faithfulness, hope and love (we call that witness). In trying new things, we have to be open to the reality that they may not work and be willing to let them go and try something else and do all this in a self-sustaining way that involves more people doing ministry in the church (a Builders nightmare, and a Millennials delight). If we are willing to journey, God will lead us in his path and we will see his Kingdom shaped around us, and we might even see the church grow.

This is a very brief summary of what we considered and as the leadership engages with these themes, we ask for your prayerful support, your participation and your continued faithful journeying with God and the community of the faithful in Killearn Kirk.

New for 2020

This is the time of year when I plan the preaching for the next 12 months (yes, I really am that organised, even if it doesn't seem so). In a break from my usual habit of planning the whole year myself, I want to extend an invitation to you to help shape the coming year. If you have a theme or a topic, a text or doctrine of the church that you struggle with or simply want to explore afresh, please let me know. I will leave a few months blank in the year to come and fill it with your ideas. If none come forward – the services will be short!

Through to the turn of the year we will have ...

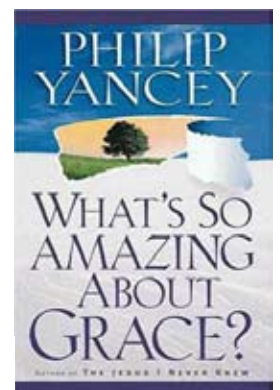
- > A short series 'What's so amazing about grace?'
- > After our reflection on grace we will be into Advent with the theme 'Behold ...'
- > We will see in Christmas with our Watchnight Service at 11:00, and greet Christmas Day with a short service at 10:30 (please note change of time to match our usual services)
- > The year will be rounded off with a 'Songs of Praise Service'.
- > We start 2020 rounding off our journey through the book of 'Ephesians'.
- > We have a special service on the 16th February when our morning worship will be conducted by the Moderator of the General Assembly, Very Rev Colin Sinclair. This may be an opportunity to invite family, friends and neighbours.

Where we go from there, who knows!

.... So why not come to a service and bring a friend!

Bible Study / Book Group

Women's group continues to meet every other Monday. We are starting to look at Philip Yancey's book "What's so Amazing about Grace?" Anyone interested in coming along and chatting about this book over tea and cake feel free to call Lynne on 440507 or Katy 449358.



Earlier this year we developed our new logo. This will be used on church publications as well as being seen at church events to help people know who we are and what we are up to. We have also bought t-shirts to be run by volunteers at church run events. Again, we hope this will help us be visible and allow people to know who we are. If you would like to own your own Killearn Kirk branded clothing, you can now do so! Options include t-shirts, polo shirts and hoodies. Clothing is navy blue with the logo as seen here and can be ordered by contacting Bethany Pringle at bethanyjpringle@gmail.com.