

Autumn Tidings from Killearn Kirk

Killearn Kirk starts New Service !



Exploring together new worship songs,
active fun and games, lively discussion,
and space to grow with Jesus



It's Church, but not as we know it!

4 - 4.45pm Kirk Halls

For all ages and stages in life who like to move about!

Forthcoming Services and Events (further details inside)

Sun 14 Nov	10.45am	Remembrance Service (War Memorial) afterwards in Kirk
Sun 5 Dec	10.30am & 4pm	Communion Services
Sat 11 Dec	10.00am	The Guild Christmas Coffee Morning (Kirk Hall) - see Guild article inside
Sun 12 Dec	10.30am	Christmas Gift Service. All villagers are invited to this festive occasion
	4.00pm	The 4
Sun 19 Dec	10.30am	Christmas Service. All villagers are invited to this festive occasion
	4.00pm	The 4
Fri 24 Dec	Christmas Eve	
	11.00pm	Coffee & carols followed by Christmas Eve Watchnight Service 11.30pm
Sat 25 Dec	Christmas Day	
	10.30am	Informal Christmas Day Family Service.
		Children are invited to bring one of their presents to show the Minister.
Sun 26 Dec	10.30am	Regular morning service

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	

Choir

It was a joy when we could all get back to church, not the building but being able to worship together. The church services on line were good but it's not the same as being together as a church family. Now we don't have to book, and even better we can sing, even if we do have to wear a mask while singing (not easy).

However – should you prefer to sing without a mask you can always consider joining the choir – even if you do have to put your mask back on as soon as you sit down.

Elizabeth Mathieson

Killearn Golden Years' Club

We have a provisional booking for a diinner on the evening of Monday 8th November 2021 at the Winnock Hotel in Drymen and we will be contacting our regulars once details are finalised.

We will arrange a bus and and some entertainment and bring some pleasure after such a difficult time for all.

Peter Rea has stepped down after leading the Club for many years but has offered to help the committee if need be and I know our people would like to thank him for leading the group arranging our annual dinners, bus outings and bingo nights in the past .We hope to carry on his good work.

The committee now consists of myself, Doreen Snadden, Anne O'Neil and Alison McDade.

Bob Ballantyne

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.

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.

Catherine Kinnear, Graham Road
Maurice Rennie, Elder Road
Helen Munro, Forthbank Nursing Home
Charles Brown, Greenend Road
Flora Connal, Buchanan Road
Ronald Forrest, Lampson Loan
Agnes MacNeill, Antonine Care Home
Catherine MacKinnon, Buchanan Road
Lawrence Crawford, Napier Road
James Fallas, Buchanan Rad
Alexander Crombie, Graham Road
Sydney Brown, Buchanan Road
Helen McNab, Main Street
Doris Hinchcliffe, Drumbeg Loan
Malcolm McKerracher, Endrick Gardens
William 'Bill' Page, Carluke Nursing Home
Peter Battieson, 27 Dunkeld Court, Balfron
Muriel May Miller, Abbyfield House
William 'Bill' McGee, Oak Place

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

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

John 16:33 (NIV)

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

The last year and a half have been rubbish! All the routines we were so used to overturned. It seemed in many ways that life was capsized. We all had to face the challenges of restrictions and new routines and it is clear that things will not go back to the way things were. For many this is hard to face and uncertain. The world feels less predictable and bit scarier. On top of this we face rising prices and for some, job insecurity that will push more and more people to the limits of coping. There is a greater underlying sense of fear, fear for self, fear for the future.

Yet, as we know there are two sides to every coin. Some have rediscovered time by working from home, saved on the cost of commuting. Business shifting from office based to mixed home and office working are getting rid of excess office space. This though brings pressure in the commercial sector, what do we do with all these empty offices? It goes a long way to show the interconnectedness of our lives. The complexity leads many to inertia, it is easier to do nothing. Now we are in a situation where nothing is not an option. The pandemic, environmental crisis, economic crisis, refugee crisis, it seems a perfect storm of problems all coming home to roost at the same time. We now have to ask ourselves, how are we going to respond to this? In fear and self-protection, or something more hopeful, even if it is harder?

It is easy to think to each of us individually can make little difference to anything, one small voice in the face of the roar and clamour of the world's noise. Our small actions go unnoticed and make no impact on the challenges of today. But we are not acting individually, it is not just our small actions, they accumulate with others and things change. The big question is what kind of world do we want to pass on to the next generation and the ones that follow on from that? As a Christian I look for a world that is fair for all and to all, with justice and truth at its core. A world that is nurtured and cared for by we humans and not abused and consumed. A world where nations work to lift each other up and not elevate themselves at the cost of others. A world where people have enough to eat, shelter, dignity, and wellbeing. This may seem a far-off world, but the journey starts with the smallest of steps, the quietest of voices, the most meagre of actions. For me I choose to follow Jesus and trust in God's bigger plan for creation, even if for now the path is harder, for the promise is of green pastures and still waters.

May we all work to bring into being the world and communities we hope and pray for.

Stuart

Killearn Golden Years' Club History

The Killearn Golden Years' Club started out as the Killearn Old Folks committee in 1949 with the purpose of raising funds to give the old folks a treat and/or an outing. The members of the original committee were Bob Young, Alan Crombie, Archie Gilfillan and Roy Bryden.

The history sheet shows that it was not until October 1962 that Jimmy McIntosh and Hugh McArthur joined the committee which remained until 2007 when a new committee was formed to take over their responsibilities.

The committee ran coach trips to such places as Dunfermline, the Alhambra Theatre, Crieff, North Berwick and Aberfeldy (which seems to have been a favourite).

The also worked with Stirling Welfare Services committee and agreed to co-operate with the WRVS in the Meals-on-Wheels Service. A small part of each meal delivered was paid by the committee until 1972. In 1997 they ceased involvement in the scheme.

They were supported for a number of years with a general grant from Stirling council, but this ceased in 1995.

There was an interesting note which said that the committee always took the District Nurse on all coach trips to ensure all the trippers survived!

When the new committee took over in 2007 it consisted of Robin Veitch (Chairman), Bob Ballantyne (Treasurer), Peter Rea and Teresa Prescott. Robin carried out the duties of Chairman until, sadly, he passed away. Our present committee now consists of Bob Ballantyne, Doreen Snadden, Anne O'Neil and Alison McDade.

Our main purpose is to enable the retired parishioners of Killearn to take part in some or all of the following activities: Dinner, usually held in March in the Killearn Kirk Halls, a June coach outing with lunch and a period for the trippers to have some hours free to shop, etc, before coming home, and a bingo evening in November.

This article was submitted pre-covid for a Tidings which was never published. The editor feels it was much too good to miss, and apologises if any information is out of date.

At the beginning of September, Killearn Kirk launched a new service, The 4. We tried to come up with a catchy name and failed so we went for a reminder of the time it happens, it happens at 4pm on Sunday. It is not a traditional service. We are looking to discover new and different ways of being the Body of Christ that connects with different people. It is for anyone who wants to come, from youngest to oldest, but (and there is a but) we do silly games, active learning and sharing, open praying together and singing new and older songs. Why not join us and give a go? As we say to our children - you won't know if you like it unless you try it.



So what can you expect when you try The 4?

Well, each week might be a bit different as we keep flexible to what we think is best for that Sunday. But it is always a relaxed time in the Kirk Halls, where we typically start with something active to get us going or burn off the energy. Everyone, no matter our age, is encouraged to join in and it's always fun to see the toddlers and teenagers laughing together at the parents and grandparents trying to do the same games they are. We love exploring Jesus and faith at The 4 and sometimes just listening and thinking about bits of the Bible

and what being a Christian involves isn't how we best explore. So, we create space and time where we can ask questions, hear from each other as we learn and think about the theme for that week. One of our first weeks we thought about God's big plan for the world and us and how it all works together, and we all had questions about that! It is also a time for creative artistic juices to flow if that works better for you or your family. Usually it is the point where the coffee drinkers are ready to sup from the travel mug and biscuit munchers ready to raid the bags to find the sustenance (until the easing of covid restrictions and we can provide some that is!).



We pray a bit differently than we would in a usual church service where one person says it for everyone. Often we all pray in a big group or a smaller group, or give ideas what to pray about to others, but no one ever has to do it, it's really what you are comfortable with. We finish off singing together and just now that's with our masks on. Often we have brand new songs where we are all learning them together for the first time so everyone is in the same boat with not knowing them. There's loads of space to move around if that's needed or make noise when that's needed, or stand and listen. And that's it.

You can expect us to talk about Jesus and pray to Him, to pray for you and do our best to love you as we live our lives together.

A Different Viewpoint

Writing as one of the "older children" I think starting this service was a great idea. There is something for every age, sometimes a quiz, having to draw pictures, sometimes unrecognisable, of your favourite bible story, games for those a bit more athletic than me (and cleverer) and of course singing, but most of all there's lots of fun and laughter all tied up with teaching. It's good to have a mix of ages where we can all be together and have fun in a relaxed atmosphere.

Why not come along on a Sunday afternoon - at 4pm of course.

Elizabeth Mathieson



At The 4 we really don't expect anything other than normal life, which is usually noisy, a bit chaotic, fun, and infused with Jesus. One of the things we learnt during the pandemic is to be bendy and flexible as plans often get scrapped. The 4 just continues that notion of flexibility and if you need a 'bendy' place to learn about Jesus, we hope The 4 gives you that.



My perspectives on The 4

I was very excited when I heard about the new service, called "The Four", that would be a family friendly alternative to the Sunday morning service. Don't get me wrong, I like the morning service just fine, but I find it considerably more challenging to listen (and even just arrive!) when taking along my busy-minded 5- and 1-year old kids. Even if they are able to sit fairly still and keep occupied with colouring in Bible stories, I am fairly sure that they are not gaining as much from the service as I am. I would love to offer them a way of learning about Christianity in a positive way through things that kids would normally do: singing songs, draw, doing all sorts activities with on their own or with friends and, very importantly, feeling part of a community. I have very fond memories as a kid looking forward to Sundays as I got to "play" at church with my friends. The Four has only run for a little while, but already I can see how my eldest is enjoying it more and more each time, while it is perfectly fine for my 1-year old to run around and say "hi" to people. The service has made it easy for me to go to church because it provides a welcoming and accepting atmosphere. I feel like it would not even matter if you showed up in neat clothes, waterproofs or even a princess costume. I do not feel intimidated that I might not know the customs, sayings or Bible terminology. Something that I particularly like, is that I have the option to engage in a conversation with someone about a certain topic, which is a bit different to my experience in the morning service where I feel that I am mostly receiving a message. Most of all, I appreciate the opportunity to discuss topics with my kids, thereby learning together and sharing that same positive experience together as a family. I feel like The Four has made a good start and I hope to see more families there.

Denise Hough

Thursday Club

The Thursday Club is for the Third Age and provides a social afternoon and tea. Transport to and from members' homes is available. The Club meets in the Church Hall on a Thursday 2 – 4pm from September – May. The club re-started in September after a long period of inactivity due to the Covid lockdown. There are currently 15 members and a band of volunteer helpers who serve as hostesses and/or drivers.

We celebrated our opening meeting on 9 September by an afternoon spent at Dorothy Dunkinson's lovely house, where Helen Barclay gave us a musical entertainment and encouraged us to join in singing favourite songs.

The pleasure and companionship given by meeting up once a week is immeasurable and everyone is enjoying the togetherness of the club after so many months of near isolation due to the pandemic.

Anyone interested in joining the club or volunteering to lend a hand driving or baking and serving tea will be warmly welcomed.

For more details please contact:
Maureen Royston 550743 or Brenda Pell 550328

Killearn Kirk Finance Update

Since our last update in late 2020 we have had our year-end to 31st December 2020 independently examined, approved by Presbytery and by the Office of Scottish Charity Regulator. 2020 had a deficit of £10,832 (2019-surplus of £5862).

For the current year to the end of August the day-to-day running of the Kirk is running at a deficit of £5313 which is better than we had budgeted. This is after contributing £34,015 to the Ministry & Mission Fund. However our year-end accounts will include all the different funds of the Kirk including our Fabric Fund which covers exceptional repairs.

Considering the restrictions we have had in both 2020 and 2021 we are managing to hold our own. Although attendances have been well down which has affected our income, many of our members contribute by bank transfer and for everyone who has contributed we are truly grateful.

The Gift Aid Tax Recovery scheme is a great source of income - £12837 for us last year. Anyone who donates to us and pays tax can sign a simple declaration to that effect which means we can reclaim 25% tax back from the government.

We were unable to have our house-to-house Christian Aid collection earlier this year but we still managed to raise £1100 through online donations and no doubt many Killearn people donated direct to this great cause.

All in all we are not doing too badly – thank you again. It is better to give than to receive for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Bob Ballantyne Treasurer.

My life flows on in endless song

I thought we could look at the history of this hymn which was an American folk song originally composed as a Christian hymn the by a Baptist minister, Robert Wadsworth Lowry in 1869 and is based on Psalm 14.

During the 20th century this hymn was not widely used in congregational worship. Doris Penn (singer and composer) learned the original hymn from her grandmother who (wrongly) believed it dated from the early days of the Quaker movement but Quakers did not permit congregational singing until after the American civil war.

It was made very popular in the 1950's by folk singers such as Pete Seager and it was loved by many contemporary Quakers who adopted it as a sort of anthem. If you look it up on Wikipedia you will find a beautiful rendition of this hymn by our own Jean Redpath.

It is better known by the words which end every verse – How can I stop from singing. The answer is - with great difficulty.



Our annual Harvest Service was held on Sunday, 3rd October at 10.30am. Our practical way of giving thanks to God is to donate to Start Up Stirling Foodbank. They provide a mobile Foodbank service throughout the Stirling Council Area to those who cannot get to a foodbank for either financial, physical or mental health reasons.

Each food pack contains the staples—dried and tinned foods—to feed an individual or family for 3–4 days. We rely almost entirely on the local community to donate these items. We purchase fresh fruit and vegetables for each client from community donations. They also try to include fresh produce and bread as often as they can.

Each week a recipe card is provided and the ingredients needed at the Foodbanks which clients can take home if they wish. Clients are encouraged to improve or indeed learn basic cooking skills.

Around 300 people, a third of whom are children, receive emergency food from our Start Up Foodbanks each week.

A lifeline is provided to many who would otherwise go hungry, cold or fall into debt.

The Citizens Advice Bureau and other organisations can assist if you require referral or contact the Session Clerk if you need assistance on how referral works.

Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau

Do you need some impartial and confidential support in a range of issues. Citizen Library Advice Network surgeries are held on alternate Thursdays in Balfour and Strathblane Libraries from 10.00 – 12.00.



Stamp Collection

We still collect stamps, and these can be left in the box in the church. T

These will be sent to Oxfam and/or Age Concern .

Remembrance

A Service of Remembrance will be held at the War memorial at 10.45am on Sunday, 14 November 2021. We hope to have representatives of local groups and organisations as we usually do. This will be followed by a church service at 11.15am to which all are invited.



Poppy Scotland donation cans will be available at the church for anyone who wishes to give a donation.

Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be held on Sunday, 5th December at 10.30am and 4pm. All adults and children who believe in our Lord are welcome to join us and take part in these services.



Christmas Services.

A more usual pattern of services around Christmas will resume this advent season while remaining within prevailing guidance. Currently plans are in place for the following.

Gift Service – Our annual gift service will be held on the 12th December. We will take donations of food and new toys (unwrapped please) and these will be given to Start Up Stirling and Stirling Salvation Army as appropriate.

Watchnight – 11pm gathering for coffee and carols, with the service starting at 11.30 and finishing just after 12 midnight

Christmas Day – we will hold a short 10:30am act of worship.

26th Dec – Will see us gather for our regular weekly worship at 10:30am

Supporting Start Up Stirling

Over the worst of the COVID pandemic, the Government introduced a £20 increase in Universal Credit to support those families and individuals to cope with the emerging situation. This ends in September and that along with inflation increasing the cost of food and pending increases in energy prices, the result will be that many just coping, will soon be not coping. We know that rural poverty is often a hidden thing not helped by the dispersed nature of rural communities. Start Up Stirling an independent charity launched over 20 years ago, initially worked in the area of supporting people into homes who had nothing. In recent years they have expanded their work into providing emergency food support and running a foodbank. Their remit is to cover the whole of Stirlingshire and so includes our part of the carse.

We want to support them in their work as it directly benefits those in need within our own and surrounding parishes. This year we our food appeal for the Harvest service will go to Start Up Stirling and we will be making this a community wide appeal. If you would like to know more about their work, you can find out more through their website including how to access their services.

startupstirling.org.uk/

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS TO ACCESS THEIR SERVICES, WE WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTACT THEM.

Service Update - Covid19 Protocols

Services in the church resumed in the summer and, to an extent, things are more normal. We still have (at the time of writing) Government regulations that have legal weight, which place some constraints on how we do things and what we can do. We still have to wear face coverings during the service which we know is hard when trying to sing. We have to maintain a 1meter distancing between individuals or bubbles. This meant that we had to change all the markings on the pews, but aware that some felt a little vulnerable we have retained a section at the rear at 2 meter distancing. We still have sanitation stations at the doors, and we need to maintain our track and trace. This though is now done via a QR code (that's the squares that look like a bar code) and you can manage your own attendance record. Our maximum seating is over 100 at a maximum and so we can cope with all who want to attend.

As you can see it is not completely normal, but a bit more like it. We are told by the Church of Scotland liaison group with the civil service, that the issue of face coverings is made on a weekly basis. We hope that these restrictions will be further eased as we approach Christmas.

We hope that more and more will feel comfortable and able to come along to the service and renew the bonds of fellowship that have been strained over the lockdown months.

Post Covid Reflections

As we emerge from the confusion and frustrations of the covid lockdowns and enter a new normal, the Elders took the opportunity to take time to reflect and consider our response to the recent events. We have to acknowledge that these events are unprecedented in living memory and no organisation was ready to face the challenges we were presented with. Moreover, many of the church leaders found themselves in positions of vulnerability for a variety of reasons.

There was a clear sense within the Eldership that we have let many people down. We did not respond in a way, in reflection, we feel we should have, principally this was due to having no sense of how to respond to the events. At the same time having to process and engage with large amounts of detailed regulations from the Government and our own institution which seemed to focus on what could not be done, rather than what could be done.

Having taken some time to reflect on recent events we are going to develop clear resilience and communication strategies, not only from now, but also for the future in case we find ourselves in a similar place. We have identified that we do not hold complete contact information for a number of our members, and we shall tackle this within our review, but we also want to shape it around the kind of support you feel you expected from your church family and so we will be contacting you about this in the near future as we start to develop our plan. We, your Kirk Session, apologise for our mistakes and with your help and support, we look to ensure this won't happen again. We ask for your continued prayers as we develop our plans and also, as we are still emerging from the restrictions placed on us, that we will find a new and renewed life in our congregation.

Carole Young

Web Worship

Over lockdown some of you may have joined us virtually for our services. As we return to in-person services we plan to continue recording the 10.30 service and make that available online later in the day for those wishing to share in that. The following links will get you there.

Kirk web address: <https://www.killearnkirk.org.uk/video/> (all videos listed in date order, simply click the one you want to watch)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/> (search for Killearn Kirk and our services will come up)

Some have asked why we are recording and not live streaming as we did previously. The short and boring answer is a technical one. To have a live stream of reasonable visual and sound quality needs a minimum broadband speed for uploading that we cannot get in the church and so to get the best sound and vision we have found that recording the service at a higher quality and then uploading it provides people accessing the videos a better experience.



Two Malawi Visitors to Killearn Malawi group

It was exciting that we had two visitors from Malawi to our remote Annual Gathering on 23rd September. Kondwani Chidziwisano has given us reports about Malawi at previous Gatherings, and he is always welcome here, whether by Zoom or in person. Wamaka Nyondo was new to our gathering. He is the son of Rev Levi Nyondo, whom we have known in Killearn for a long time.

The KMG (SC0043555) Annual Gathering is an opportunity for the committee to report to our Friends on the work we have been doing over the previous financial year, to report on the finances and to elect a committee to continue the work. Reports were given by Ken Allen, the Chair, and by Sue Beck, the Treasurer. Inevitably our activities have been hit by the pandemic, both our fundraising and our projects. So there was no grand Jumble Sale in February; however, we held a remote coffee morning in February which raised over £300 and our chair, Ken Allen, completed a sponsored walking Marathon last November which raised over £1700.

In Malawi, we fitted out the school library we had financed at Nkhonde Secondary School with locally made furniture, and provided PPE materials for the pupils to enable the school to function safely. We also continued to support Chrissy's meals in the north, which supports widows who may have no source of income; there are no pensions in Malawi. But we were not able to send out materials for the Kileni School nursery in Mzuzu, or knitted baby clothes, as we have done for many years.

However, we can now report that shipments to Malawi have resumed, and we have sent off many boxes of materials, including bibles.

But all this work, which seems so distant, became real with the reports from Wamaka and Kondwani. Wamaka gave a report from his father about the work of the Kileni School and its successes and the needs of the nursery, which we have supported over the years, and the women's craft group, which we send materials to. Kondwani reported on our work at Nkhonde Secondary School, and how the whole community really appreciates it. He also reported on the progress of Covid in Malawi, which now seems to be abating. Kondwani was congratulated on being awarded a PhD from Strathclyde University, and we hope that he will be able to come to Scotland for the graduation next year.

Finally, the Friends elected a committee to continue the work. Eva Mailer has decided not to stand again because of pressure of work, following six years, firstly as a junior representative, latterly as a full member. We have really appreciated her freshness of approach and will miss the perspective she brought to our discussions. We wish her every success in all that she does. The committee members re-elected are: Ken Allen, Sue Beck, Jennifer Barrett, Shona Kelday, Hilary McGregor, John

Shaw, Doreen Snadden and Jenny Wilks.

The meeting concluded with the hope that the next one would be in person. We were reminded that though we are a small organisation, we make a big impact in the communities where we operate.



The Guild

The Church of Scotland Guild is a movement within the Church of Scotland which invites and encourages both women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action. With around 20,000 members, the Guild is one of Scotland's largest voluntary organisations.

The good news is Killearn Kirk Guild is returning! It seems a lifetime ago when we all met at our coffee morning, on Saturday 14th March, 2020. We wisely cancelled our AGM planned for Tuesday, 17th March 2020 and as you all remember only too well we were plunged into full lockdown a week later. I remember composing the Chair's report for that AGM - I was so pleased with how our session had gone. We had excellent speakers many of them local people and not one meeting had been disrupted by bad weather. Little did I know then that the whole of session 2020 to 21 would be a write off.

Life has changed over the last eighteen months. Many of us have been deprived of family face to face contact but we have learned compromise. We can zoom and FaceTime and telephone lines have been red hot. We appreciate each other more, we have caught up with friends we perhaps neglected in the past, some have made new friends while walking the byways of Killearn and groups have been formed online.

In the first strict lockdown, you will recall the weather was particularly fine and the joy of seeing families out walking together, even teenagers and their parents was heartwarming. Killearn rose to the challenge and within days of lockdown every street had a list of volunteers, ready to assist their neighbours in any way they could. Many of these were young people looking out for us "oldies". When the chips are down Killearn's community spirit is very much alive and active.

Yes there were bad moments. The constant barrage of necessary information regarding the progress of the coronavirus was difficult to hear. As the numbers becoming infected, getting seriously ill and sadly dying increased it was a dark time. We did learn to appreciate our NHS, our shop workers, our teachers, our postman and delivery men and many more who kept us fed, warm and safe over all those months.

Slowly we are coming back to life. We have rediscovered the joy of coffee shops and the various village activities are emerging cautiously with safety paramount.

And so to the Guild, we are opening on Tuesday, 12th October at 1.15pm. We are trying afternoon meetings this session. New members will find a warm welcome waiting them. We welcome visitors at any of our meetings so feel free to come along and try us out without any obligation to join.

The meetings are all held in the Kirk Halls and some Covid regulations will, I strongly suspect, still be in place on 12th October. We are planning our meeting around these and while all the Guild members are aware of the restrictions anyone wishing to join us please give me a call and I will happily answer any query.

For those unfamiliar with the Guild I should tell you that while we do lots of good works we do have fun. We smile a lot, we drink tea and eat cake and offer a hand of friendship to all.

Syllabus 2021

October 12th October 26th	AGM from 2020 followed by a celebration of our projects 2018 -2020 an afternoon with Ruth Kennedy, our probationary minister.
November 9th November 23rd	the first of our new projects "lets beat eating disorders together". Fun and Frolics with Yasmin.
December 11th December 14th	proposed coffee morning if restrictions allow. 10 to 12 in Kirk Halls. Christmas lunch at Fintry Sports Club and carol singing with Helen.

Syllabus 2022

January 11th January 25th	Travel talk with Ann and John Roy. our second project : The Vine Trust
February 8th February 22nd	Save money and cut energy costs with Sara. "look forward in Faith" speaker from Guild Office, Edinburgh.
March 8th March 19th March 22nd	Home entertainment Second proposed Coffee Morning 10 to 12. AGM followed by entertainment with Ros McGowan.

Doreen Snadden, 550834.

Ruth Kennedy

'Are you ready?'

The words the starting marshall at the recent hill-climb cycle race at the Dukes Weekender in Aberfoyle asked me. Thankfully they are a friend and saw the nerves on my face as I lined up to take my slot on my first ever cycling hill-climb race. Such a huge mix of emotions from nerves and excitement to determination and, if I'm honest, a little bit of trepidation at the prospect of pedalling up the Dukes Pass as fast as I could! Did I feel ready? No, not really! But one deep breath later and I was off, laughing as I went because of the cheers encouraging me to go, go, go! I loved it. Loved the occasion, the comradry, the exhaustion at the top and finishing line, and then being one of those cheerers to the hundreds of other competitors in the battle of 'hill versus mind and body'. I have cycled, walked, ran that hill many times but it had a life of it's own that day because of the people there, they made the race the brilliance that it was.

'Are you ready?'

The words my husband asked me as I prepared for Sunday 6th June, my first Sunday in Killearn Kirk at the start of my probation period in training for the ministry. The words I felt Jesus ask me in September 2016 when I started studying for my theology degree with Highland Theological College. Was I ready? No, not really! But off I went anyway, loving my studies once more (especially now that I have graduated!), and loving being part of the life of Killearn Kirk. As you might expect, just like the hill-climb race, it is the people we are alongside who make the difference and we to them, and I hope to be a source of encouragement to you, cheering you on, in my time here.

The people always around me are my family – and our two labradors! Stuart and I have three teenage sons; Benjamin, Joshua, and Noah and we all love getting out on fun adventures, usually on our bikes. We haven't



managed to teach the dogs how to cycle yet, but we are a persistent bunch! As a family of faith we enjoy worshipping together and are thoroughly enjoying our time in Killearn.

Other people who have been around me during my training include the congregations in Callander Kirk and Dunblane Cathedral for two of my placements, where I learnt many different aspects of being a minister during pre-pandemic and in the midst of pandemic times. And the volunteers in Sports Chaplaincy UK where I worked for my third, unique, placement. But I found the heart for God and one another was and is constant across placements and stages of the pandemic. All of us have been and continue to work hard to love God and love others the best we can. It reminds me of one of my favourite Bible stories from John chapter 6. Jesus takes what one boy offers out of love, his lunch of five loaves and two fish, and miraculously feeds over 5000 hungry people with it. When we give all that we have in our hands to Jesus, he performs miracles with it and we find that as we do this, we love Jesus and love others the

best we can. I grew up in a family of faith where my parents lived like this, and have experienced and seen Jesus at work in our lives and those of others in many wonderful, powerful, and humbling ways. Whether that was in Edinburgh and the east coast where I grew up, Glasgow where I first studied and worked, South Ayrshire where we made our first family home, or in the Trossachs starting new charitable projects whilst enjoying God's great creation, Jesus performs miracles with what we have in our hands when we give it all to Him. Even when we are not ready or when it feels like we only have a little to give. This is an encouragement to me on a daily basis, whatever I have is of value, whatever you have is of value to Jesus.

And so the adventure and race with Jesus continues. Am I ready? No, not really, but I'm off anyway and I'm cheering you on too.



A Meditation

There's an ache in my soul which only You can fill
 You are the first I must tell of all that is in my life
 And yet I know that You already know it.
 But You listen,
 Pleased that I come
 Do you really love me, delight in me, wait for me, sing
 over me, commission me, commune with me?
 I know that it is true
 But I don't always live in that truth
 I doubt it because of my sin
 I doubt it because I know that I am not good enough
 to receive Your love
 But this is sin itself
 Because it pre-supposes a gospel of good works which
 is a lie
 A lie of the devil
 Who tries to steal my joy as Your child
 Forgive me Lord
 Help me to enjoy my full inheritance as Your child
 Grant that I may know complete abandonment in Your
 love
 Open the parts of my heart which still may be closed
 to You
 I would have Your full blessing my Father
 I want nothing less
 Come Spirit of my living God and fall afresh on me
 I love You Lord
 Amen

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Book Group

Book group has been up and running again since the spring on Zoom, so sadly no coffee & cake but never the less lots of chat & fellowship. We meet on a Monday morning once a fortnight at 10am. We have welcomed old & new faces including one week when we were joined from Canada. Some members have now sadly had to leave us due to work commitments.

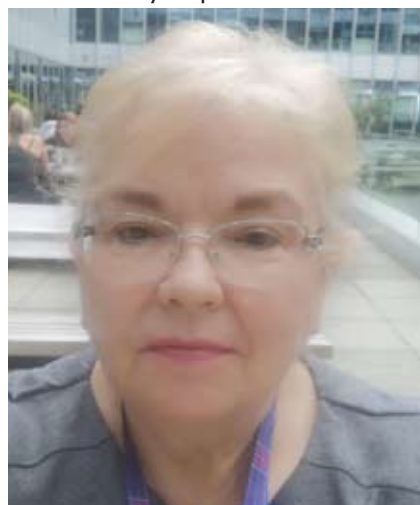
We started by looking at Tearfund's Christianity & climate change 9 part series. First we watched a short film together & then looked at the issues raised & what we could do as individuals & as Church. Lots of food for thought & if you are interested the series & other resources are still available on Tearfund's website.

Having got the hang of meeting together again virtually & even screen sharing to watch the films we decided having finished the series we would start a new book. Returning to an author who's books we have read before, 31 verses to write on your heart by Liz Curtis Higgs was chosen.

This book does what it says on the tin, Liz asked her readers for their favourite verses & from these she compiled the book. We take a few verses each week to go away & read the chapter & try to memorise the verse. There are tips & ideas for doing this along the way & we have included pieces of music & yes even actions to help us. Each time we meet there are also questions to do with the verse for us to discuss. What we don't do is have a competition or test to see who is the best at learning their homework!

Safeguarding in Killearn Kirk

Kirsty Smith is retiring from the post of Safeguarding Co-ordinator this session and a great deal of thanks is due to her for guiding everyone through the maze of paperwork and regulations over the last couple of decades. This is just one of several roles in which Kirsty has diligently and quietly served the congregation. Just as we were at last emerging from the confines of covid she decided that the time had come to reduce some of her workload and carefully prepared a new Safeguarding Co-ordinator to take over the reins. Agnes Macintosh has accepted the challenge and been approved by the Kirk Session. She has finished her training with the Church of Scotland and is already in post.



What is Safeguarding and the SG Co-ordinator's Role?

The safeguarding process within the church of Scotland is there primarily to protect children and vulnerable adults from any potential risk from harm. It is a permanent and necessary part of church life and one which hopefully operates efficiently and generally in the background of church life.

In regard to children and vulnerable adults within Killearn Kirk the Safeguarding Co-ordinator's responsibilities include:

- Being the first point of contact for anyone who suspects or witnesses harm or abuse (Agnes 550794 or 07739979084)
- Advising and promoting safe working practices within the church
- Enabling safe recruitment for church staff (voluntary or paid)
- Assisting members and staff within Killearn Kirk with Disclosure Scotland's PVG (Protection for Vulnerable Groups) scheme
- Promoting relevant training opportunities for Killearn Kirk voluntary and paid staff.

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We really hope it won't be too long before we can meet again in each other's houses & hopefully enjoy a meal together as we usually do at the end of a book.

If you would like more details about joining us please contact Katy 07747147945

Killearn Guides

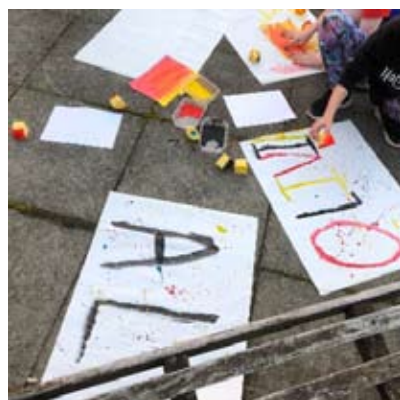


During the last 9 months Girlguiding has continued in the village virtually and outdoors. The girls have all gained a lot through this flexible approach as it allows a varied programme on a weekly basis. We are now able to meet again indoors with the necessary restrictions, but we continue to be outside around the village and also at Catterburn, Girlguiding Dunbartonshire campsite near Croftamie. We are hoping to have the opportunity to do some star gazing now that the meetings are in the dark. Are there any budding astronomers who would help us?

We have been able to award another 2 Bronze awards and 2 Silver awards to guides when we stopped for the summer break. When we started in September our numbers increased as a number of P6 girls joined the unit and we have a mix of girls from P6 to S2. We are still finding our feet with an enlarged unit, but we are able to do things differently with the change in numbers.

Both the Brownie and Guide unit would like to get more volunteers involved to help run the units. The latest recruitment drive by Girlguiding Scotland <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRIFGwGrn4I> You may have caught one of the showings over 3 weeks in September on STV. Here is another recruitment drive giving an overview of units in Scotland and how much fun can be had. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQkts76UIWk>

A recent activity was street art. They had fun doing it.



Give thanks to God for the harvest.

Can you find our harvest words mixed up in the jumble of letters?

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

blessing	health
community	love
creation	orchard
earth	prayers
farmers	producers
fields	sea
food	sharing
fruitfulness	shopping
goodness	singing
harvest	thanksgiving