

Contact



EK South Parish Church

October 2023

Mission Statement

By the grace of God,
In the spirit of Christ,
We are a people called by God
To live and act by His Word,
And spread the Good News
In our community and beyond.



Vision Statement

“East Kilbride South Parish is an inclusive church, it welcomes everyone, giving opportunity for their faith to be nurtured.

It builds good relationships within the whole church family and reaches out to share our life of faith in our community.

It is able to do this, in an environment where God is central, through good leadership, sharing faith together and valuing everyone.”

Celebrating...The Church of Scotland shared the following post on Facebook:

An “inspirational” East Kilbride woman has been recognised for serving her local church for 80 years.

Faye Scoular, 96, of South Parish Church received a personal letter from the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton wrote: “The Church of Scotland centres on people and community. Learning about your lifelong commitment to your faith has been an inspiration. You have contributed, shared your gifts, your time, your curiosity and your love with South Parish Church in East Kilbride. I can only imagine the lives you’ve touched, the differences you’ve made, and the small, unnoticed kindnesses you’ve offered without a thought.

“Thank you for continuing to embrace your church community. Your Kirk commits to continuing to embrace you.

“With love and prayers on behalf of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and your faith family.”

Rev Dr Shaw Paterson, co-moderator The Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale presented the letter to Ms Scoular at Lindsayfield Lodge Care Home in East Kilbride where she lives. She credits her parents with bringing her up well and setting her on the path to faith and always thanks God for looking after her and for the care she receives.

David McKee, a minister in training who recently did locum work at South Parish Church, and elder Joan Hamilton joined Dr Paterson for the presentation and they all enjoyed afternoon tea.

“It was fantastic to be with Faye on this special day and she was overcome with emotion when she received the letter,” said Mr McKee. “She is a wonderful lady, a real asset to the Church and her 80 years of service deserved to be recognised”

Ms Scoular initially joined Cambuslang Old Church before moving to East Kilbride.

The photo on the cover shows- Joan Hamilton, David McKee (centre) and Dr Paterson with Faye Scoular.

Rev. Calum Stark, our Interim Moderator writes:

When I arrived at my first charge in Macduff one of the men from the congregation came to the manse and said “I have got great news. We have organised a trip to the Castle of May.” I thought this was for a relaxed sight seeing trip but apparently it was to go on a high wires obstacle course! I’m not good with heights so I can’t say that I was overly enthused! When we arrived on location one of the supervisors at the centre noticed that I was extremely cautious on the low level practice obstacle and he pulled me aside and offered words of comfort, explaining that all the ropes were checked regularly and that they had a fantastic health and safety record. He then reminded me of the obvious, “the ropes are secure and they hold you. If you find yourself struggling, put both hands on the rope and it will actually pull you through.” This helped greatly, in the moments when fear arose I was able to stop looking down and take hold of the safety rope.

There are times in life when things are unclear, when feelings of fear arise within and in those moments we can look up and take hold of the safety rope of God’s love. This love holds you firm, is not dependent upon performance, His love is a love that does not run dry and refuses to walk out on you. All too often as we travel the high wires-course of life we spend too much time looking down when the Lord encourages us to look up and take hold of His love, which is able to pull you through.

Romans 8:38’ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow.

Communion services

We are awaiting confirmation of the date of the next service of Holy Communion, but will let you know as soon as this is confirmed.



To all at South Parish Church from David McKee

I have to confess that my Sat Nav was set to 'Baird Hill' when I made a preliminary visit to the Church in April, as I had heard of South Parish, but never been there. Even on my first morning with you, I gave my wife the wrong directions! However, how glad I am that I found you and have got to know you over these last months. I have felt at home since the Sunday I started.

It has been a wonderful three months and I have loved my time at South Parish. I want to thank-you for your kind wishes, encouragement and gifts I received on my final Sunday with you in August. I am very grateful. There are too many of you to mention individually and I don't want to miss anyone, but please know I really appreciate everything you gave and said.

I have said it a few times now, but "People Make the Church". I can bring my skills to you, but without support, encouragement and faith, then things do not work out as well. However, at South Parish, you have all certainly encouraged and supported me. Being part of this community has been such a great experience and one I will remember in my future ministry. It has been a real privilege sharing stories and meeting people in your journey of faith.

I know the future is uncertain and the road ahead seemingly bleak. However, you have a strong basis on which to build. I wish you God's richest blessing as you do this, continuing to serve and love the people of South Parish Church and beyond.

With every blessing and good wish for the future,

David

Getting to know you...

Andy Wilson speaking to Sandra MacKenzie

“But thou, O man of Godfollow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith.” 1 Timothy 6:11-12

Andy Wilson, our church officer, is the answer to the question – What is a good man?

Andy is a man of faith and he is a proud and devoted family man.

Like our organist Barrie, Andy started life as an Englishman in Harlow in Essex and lived there until he was 7. Mum was, as Andy says, a Brummie and Dad hailed from Edinburgh. His mum and dad met at a Scottish country dancing class. There was a big age difference because his dad was born in 1912 and his mum was born in 1930. When they got married Andy’s maternal grandmother refused to attend the wedding.

Andy is the oldest of five and only his youngest brother was born in Scotland. His other brother Stuart and sisters Mary and Heather, like Andy, were born in England. The family moved to East Kilbride on Christmas Eve the year Andy was 7, and brother Donald was born a couple of weeks later.

Andy had already started attending Sunday School when he lived in England and that continued when the family moved to East Kilbride. He attended the Foundry Boys which was run by Bert Norris, a member of Westwood Baptist Church.

Andy’s dad was not a churchgoer.

“He played bride and smoked a pipe,” recalled Andy with a smile.

When Andy was in first year at secondary school his dad died which was a major shock for the family.

“My mum had to go out to work to support her family and she was amazing,” said Andy with obvious pride. She went to night school too and got a nursery nurse qualification.

“She worked in Castlefield Primary Nursery. She was a member of Westwood Parish Church and she served as an elder for more than 50 years.”

Like mother like son although Andy has a wee bit to go to reach 50 years’ service!

When Andy was in his early teens a religious group for young people called The Crusaders started in Canberra Primary School on a Sunday afternoon for boys. The Girls Crusaders met in St Marks and Andy’s sisters attended that. Andy remembers a cycle run to a Crusaders camp in Kinlochard:

“I had a three speed bike and it took me six or seven hours to get there,” said Andy with a grimace.

“My friends who had much fancier bikes cycled on ahead and then waited for me to catch up. More than a few times!”

Andy also remembers his first love from Sunday School in Essex:

“Her name was Frances, and I fancied her rotten. We were chosen to be Joseph and Mary in the Nativity at Christmas. I was slightly homophobic at the age of five and I refused to let them put makeup on me for the performance. I ran away but I got back in time for the performance. However, there was no time to put on my make up,” he grinned.

Nevertheless, for those of us in the South Parish we know that there’s only one name that trips off the tongue after Andy’s.

Like Adam and Eve, Fred and Ginger - for us it's Andy and Maureen!

Andy met Maureen in the South Parish Church (where else?) at the badminton club on Saturday nights.

"She didn't go out with me at first," said Andy, "But eventually my charm won her over!"

Andy added that there were three couples from that badminton club who got married and are still together after all these years.

As the oldest of five children whose dad had died Andy had no choice but to leave school after fifth year. His first job was in Fine Fare in the town centre (round about where Primark is now) and Andy remembers with great glee the day he emptied the store. A customer quietly pointed out to him that there was a little four legged creature nearby.

"Oh look, it's a mouse!" cried Andy and next thing the store was empty.

After a short period of working in Parkhead for the Department of Health and Social Security as it was then and seeing more poverty than he cares to remember Andy went to The College of Commerce to study Retail.

"And I've been in retail ever since," laughed Andy.

Andy has always been a keen photographer so it won't be a surprise to know that after working for a short time in Dixons electrical store he had a long and happy career with Jessops. He worked in a number of their stores in Glasgow before moving to the East Kilbride shop. But all good things come to an end.

"Old Mr Jessop died and his son sold the business," said Andy.

After a happy nineteen years Andy was made redundant in 2011. He was unemployed for a couple of months but then he

got a job with Sainsbury's bakery department in Giffnock. The store opened in 2011 and Andy has been with them ever since. He remembers that in 2012 he was one of a small team the company flew down to London in 2012 for the London Olympics.

"They liked me," said Andy sounding surprised. (Andy, what's not to like?!)

Andy is very happy that his brothers and sisters are still as close and not just in their relations with one another but in terms of distance too.

"Family is very important to us. Probably because we had to look after each other when my dad died," he said.

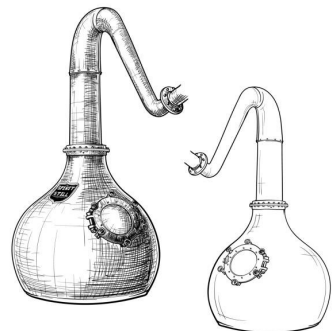
But then when I mention his daughters and his grandchildren his eyes light up. Andy is very proud of his two daughters and obviously adores his five grandchildren, the newest being little Blair who has been in church already.

Andy also loves his job in the South Parish as Church Officer... although he's not so keen when he gets called out at two am because a spider has crawled across the alarm sensor!

Andy has now reached the time in his life when he is looking forward to retirement. He's only got a year and a half to go and already he's made his plans.

"I'd like to put my bus pass to good use and visit every whisky distillery in Scotland," he said.

I forgot to ask him what Maureen thought about that.



Ways & Means Committee News

As a start to our autumn activities we are planning the following as a charity fund-raising event :

Macmillan Coffee Morning



Saturday 7th October ,11am- 1pm

Suggested charity donation £3 or more.

A few extra helpers will be very welcome on the day. Donations of baking gratefully received. You can put your name on one of the sheets available if you can help us.

Thanks, Rena Nimmo

PASTORAL CARE GROUP

John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Our pastoral care continues and keeping in touch with those in hospital, housebound or those just getting frail is very important. As a congregation, I know we all do our best to meet this need.



Our group has grown informally to include many people in the congregation who give of their time keeping in touch by phone, visiting both those in hospital and those at home and showing many little kindnesses to those going through difficult times. This is putting the verse above from John 13:34-5 into action as we are called to do.

Our future as a church has yet to be decided but I would hope and pray that, with or without a building, we can continue to show pastoral care and by doing that show the love of Jesus to all.

Instead of asking you to pray for us as a group, I would instead ask that we pray for one another as we comfort each other in times of sadness, keep in touch with the sick, anxious or lonely and do what God has asked us to do.

Please keep us up to date with hospital admissions or any circumstances we may be able to help with.

“Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you”

(1 Peter, 5:7, New Living Translation)

*Elizabeth, Barrie, Jeanette, Jean, June
and Alison*



Presbytery Matters

At our opening session at September's presbytery meeting, as part of the outgoing Presbytery co-moderator's summing up, Rev. Dr Shaw Paterson counted one of his highlights was presenting a personal letter of thanks from the Moderator of the General Assembly to our very own Faye Scoular. This was for her lifetime of service to our congregation here at South Parish. He said that he 'would never forget that lady's smile'.

In the Report of the Mission Plan Action Group, the convenor informed us that the draft Presbytery Mission Plan should be distributed within the next ten days. He said that, while it was understandable that we would flip straight to the part pertaining to our own congregation, he urged us to at least read the very first paragraph of the report first. It is hoped that a summary will be available and included alongside this magazine.

Rev. Alan Reid addressed presbytery as convenor of a new task group set up to carry out a Governance Review following the expression of a number of concerns to the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly, over a period of six months, about various aspects of the life of the new Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale. He assured us that they would be undertaking "a non-judgmental facilitative process to devise good structures and templates which could then be applied elsewhere."

Wendy

Girls' Brigade

Our new session started this week and as we welcomed back the children in great numbers, we also welcomed a good few new faces. It was great to have Lynsey return after her maternity leave. When the news spread of the safe arrival of baby Blair to Fiona and family the girls were super excited and can't wait for a quick visit from them. In a little while, we will also lose Gemma who will also start maternity leave. This will leave us short on numbers for leaders, so if you would like to help out please see Joan Hamilton who will give you information.

This year's programme with the girls will see us travel the world, incorporating where GB operate within these countries and how it can differ in each. The first location is Australia, where we will look to see what activities they do, what it's like to live there and what food stuff the girls enjoy. You may like to search the internet and look up 'What is fairy bread?' Not the leaders' cup of tea, however, we are sure the girls will enjoy the sugar rush.

Please pray for us this session as we look to strengthen our leader numbers, and also the girls' understanding of GB overseas.



2nd East Kilbride Girls' Brigade



Thanks to Eleanor Duffy for submitting this picture of Iona Bulman at Glasgow City Chambers, at the official presentation of her Brigader Brooch. How lovely to see three generations, serving through Girls' Brigade together



For four and a half years the Foodbank has continued to serve the Murray Community with a place of sanctuary in their time of need. Recently, we have seen a small increase in new clients and others returning and requiring the grocery parcels again. Secretly though, I think they have had word of the outstanding Cafe that we have on offer. Consistently those who visit the cafe have said it's a privilege to have a setting that is just like any other cafe that normally they would have to walk past due to not being able to afford it. I would like to thank all those volunteers involved in the running of the Cafe from setting up, cooking, cleaning and evangelising with the clients, without you guys we couldn't offer what we do.

I would also like to thank all those involved in the collection of the grocery bags each week. I am pretty sure that in the years we have been doing this, it has rewarded you with Popeye muscles by now.

Again, my thanks go to the Friday team who put up with my late messages for the coming months' rotas. We welcomed two new recruits, Karl and June (Wendy's cousins), who have boosted numbers and this saves people being called on the rota too many times. The group of volunteers work tirelessly at the unit making up the grocery bags, orders and donations being correctly put away in their rightful places.

I would like to thank the congregation for their support in the form of donations, volunteering and spiritual support as without these our branch of the EK foodbank would not be able to operate. I'd encourage you all to pop down and join us for a cuppa on a Thursday between 11-12 and see how your support lets us operate.

Fiona Bulman

Get in Tune!



While we were on holiday recently I spotted a piano in the hallway of our hotel and naturally enough decided to play something. When I touched the keys it was immediately obvious that the piano was horrendously out of tune. I'd never heard anything like it -- think of Les Dawson on a bad day! Any way I decided to record myself playing something on it. With the music in front of me I played exactly what was written. The result was awful with only a few notes sounding as if they were right. Please speak to me if you'd like to hear the recording to get the full effect of what I'm saying.

The staff at the hotel said it wasn't really meant to be played (obviously!) and was merely a decoration.

This got me thinking. The piano was sadly no longer fit for purpose as it was totally out of tune. In other words, it has been neglected. Sometimes we neglect our faith and don't pray or read the Bible as regularly as we should and so we get out of tune with what God is calling us to do. That can be quickly fixed by getting into the habit of talking with God regularly in prayer and reading his word. As we face a time of change in the church, it's important for us to be in tune with what God wants for the South Parish and we can do that by asking him to get us in tune through his word and prayer.

As for the old piano, it's going to take a lot of prayer and expert attention, if it's ever going to get back into the condition it's means to be in.

Barrie Crawford



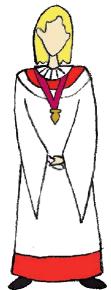
We had a great day on our summer trip to Clyde Valley Family Park, although the weather was rather hot. We were allowed to use a part of their cafe for our lunch and get some much-needed shade.

After the Summer break, we noticed the 'stretch' that some of our toddlers have taken. We have just taken delivery of ten new toddler chairs, which is just as well because otherwise we'd have to take snack time in two sittings. Thankfully we have a large hall to accommodate us and so I would encourage you to invite anyone that you know, who cares for an under 5, to come along. A few of our mums have volunteered to join our small team of helpers and for this we are very grateful and so pleased that they will continue to be part of our Smarteenies community once their wee ones move onto nursery. As always, we are grateful for you keeping all our toddlers and their adults in your prayers.

Wendy

A Chorister's Confession

"Almighty and most merciful Conductor:
We have erred and strayed from thy beat like lost sheep;
We have followed too much the intonations and tempi of our own hearts;
We have offended against thy dynamic markings;
We have left unsung those notes we ought to have sung
And we have sung those notes we ought not to have sung;
And there is no support in us.
But Thou, O Conductor, have mercy upon us miserable singers:
Succour the chorally challenged;
Restore thou them that need extra note-bashing;
Spare thou them that are without a pencil;
Pardon our mistakes;
And have faith that hereafter
We will follow thy direction and sing together in perfect harmony.
Amen"



Submitted by Barrie Crawford.

Sunday School



I am delighted to be able to say that, at long last, after the Covid years, we have resumed a Sunday School class during the morning service!

There have been very few children in church each week as many of our former Sunday School pupils have grown somewhat and are involved with other activities at the time of our service. However, we felt it was now time for some sort of provision for the young folk we do have at present.

The number is small and the grand total is four children – two having just started school, one going to school next year and one little two year old who is still a bit shy about leaving Mum behind.

Due to their ages, we have decided to make it less formal than before with juice and biscuits provided at some point when we can chat with the children and get to know them better.

We had a lovely morning today (10.9.23) focusing on the story of the Lost Sheep with a nicely illustrated book. After the story we had cardboard cut-outs of sheep which the little ones turned into fluffy sheep with cotton wool balls as well as colouring in the head and legs. Each leg was a different colour and they turned out to be very psychedelic sheep indeed!! I think it could be called poetic license! However, the point of the story was that the shepherd, although having 100 sheep and losing one, was very sad and searched until he found the missing sheep as every one of them was important to him and loved by him. This, of course, was to teach them that Jesus is our shepherd and loves and cares for each one of us if we “get lost”!

We then began to teach some choruses and before we knew it people were passing the door going for their tea or coffee.

We are experimenting at the moment but as we have four adults we plan to have a very flexible rota whereby two can be in Sunday

School and two remain in church. This, of course, would allow cover for the absence of any of the adults.

We are really excited to be working with the children again and obviously would welcome more into the fold. During the summer we had a family of two older girls and an older boy coming along to church, mostly with their Gran and they seemed interested in coming along when Sunday School was available. However, they appear to have drifted away again and unfortunately we have no means of contacting them. They had just moved into the area and we have no contact details. We would obviously have to adjust our provision if they return but we would be happy indeed to do this.

Please pray for our children and the Sunday School staff as we move forward. We realise the future of the South Parish is very uncertain but feel it is the right thing to do to trust God with the future and focus on our young folk right now in the present.

Thank you all for your interest and support.

Elizabeth Crawford

“Our God is a great big God and he holds us in his hands!”





Our new session started in the middle of August and it's been great to see so many boys returning this year, as well as a number of new members too, with around 75 boys having attended so far. We still have spaces available for new members – especially in the Anchors (P1-P3) age group so if anyone is interested in joining us please contact 2ndekbb@gmail.com

So far, the Anchors have been getting to know each other and enjoyed playing some games together.

The Juniors have enjoyed a couple of different theme nights so far with Basketball and Team Challenges proving popular

In the Company & Seniors we enjoyed watching the Scotland v Cyprus game together the other week, and have also spent time getting the young people's suggestions and opinions on the programme for the rest of the year.

Five of our Seniors took part in their Silver DofE Expedition in early August completing three days' hiking in and around Comrie and Crieff. It was a mixed weekend weather wise with some heavy rain at times, and all five of them did well to complete the expedition.

This year sees the BB celebrate its 140th anniversary and there are some special events planned around the start of October to commemorate this.

We're also hoping to have a couple of fundraising events again this session. More details to follow soon but look out for information about our Christmas Coffee Morning in December and Quiz Night in January.

Thanks again to everyone for their continued interest in what we're doing and support. It is really appreciated.

David Crawford

Tuesday Get-Together

Healthy and Active EK has teamed up with The Murray churches to provide a social activity for the folk of The Murray. We decided that it would be good to join with our 2 o'clock club to provide a wee get-together with some entertainment and some refreshments, once a month over the winter. Healthy and Active will provide their bus to collect people and will also produce posters and leaflets.

As you will know there is a vast number of single occupancy people living in our community and a lot of them can't be reached on social media, so we will be trying to reach them with good old fashioned leaflets. We are also looking for helpers at the get-togethers, so if you can help with this or to deliver some leaflets please let us know.

The Murray Churches Partnership along with Healthy & Active EK presents...



Tuesday Get Together

Murray Churches
Partnership
Righead—St. Mark's—
The Salvation Army—South Parish



EK South Parish Church, 1-3pm

Free entry, Free bus (in The Murray area)

Tea & coffee and cakes provided

17 October - Live Music Show

14 November - Film Show

12 December - Carol Concert & Christmas Sing Along

To arrange bus pick-up phone Andrew - 07720 451506

Baird Hill
The Murray
G75 0ED

Church Information

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Congregational Activities

Sunday Worship service 10.30am (In church building and on Zoom)

Tuesday 10:00am Badminton Club

Wednesday 9:15am Smarteenies toddler group

Wednesday 6:30pm Girls' Brigade

Wednesday 7:30pm Bible Study

Thursday 11:00am to 12 noon Food bank & Café

Thursday 6:00pm Boys' Brigade Anchors

Thursday 7:00pm Boys' Brigade Juniors

Friday 7:00pm Boys' Brigade Company Section

www.eastkilbridesouthparish.org.uk

Baird Hill, The Murray, East Kilbride, G75 0ED



Church of Scotland

Scottish Charity No 008332