

PARISH NEWS



E A G L E S H A M P A R I S H C H U R C H



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Announcements

Wedding

Lesley Hall to Cameron Forsyth (25 Nov)

Funerals

Robert Howatson, Polbae Crescent (12 Oct)

Gordon Carrick, Polnoon Street (24 Oct)

Kathleen Phillip, Bonnyton Drive (16 Nov)

Services over Christmas

Sunday 9th December, 7pm in the Church

'Second Sitting Christmas' - a contemporary and informal Christmas celebration for all ages, with music from the Orchestra and drama, readings and other contributions by the young people.

Sunday 16th December, 11am in the Church

Gift Service - all age worship with contributions from the children. Gifts brought to this service are donated to a children's charity.

Sunday 23rd December, 11am in the Church

Nine Lessons & Carols - the traditional service, led by the Choir, with coffee and mince pies afterwards. (This service is less suitable for young children - a creche is available.)

Christmas Eve, 11.30pm in the Church

(carol singing from 11.15pm) Watchnight Service - traditional carols, readings and quiet reflection in a candlelit Church.

Christmas Day, 10.30 in the Church

A short (40 minute) Family Christmas celebration for children of all ages!

Musings from the Manse

On a recent visit of the Queen to America, the Americans, with their love-hate relationship with our monarchy, delighted in spelling out the logistics involved. She took 4000lbs of luggage, including 2 outfits for every occasion, a mourning outfit in case someone died, 40 pints of plasma (in case of accidents), and white, kid-leather toilet seat-covers (in case of what, we wonder?) She took her own hairdresser, two valets, and a host of other attendants. A brief visit of royalty to a foreign country can easily cost its taxpayers over £100,000. I wonder how that compares with other kinds of 'royalty' in the popular media – David & Victoria Beckham, Robbie Williams – and how much fuss there is about their entourage!

Maybe if Jesus had come with that kind of fanfare, He'd have been more believable, or been taken more seriously. Instead, He came with no witnesses, minimum fuss and virtually no safeguards. As Christian writer Philip Yancey points out, 'a mule could have stepped on him'.

It strikes me that much of our Christmas celebration is an attempt to foist the 'celebrity' trappings of our culture on a God who finds them worthless and perhaps even offensive. Our Christmas is often the opposite of what His coming was about: noise and crowds instead of the solitude of the manger; forced giving to people who already have

too much instead of God's gift to a needy world; commercialised gifts instead of free self-giving; the adoration of Jesus instead of manic business that drives us away from worship. Ironically, Christmas today can almost militate against our finding Christ in it.

But not quite. It can still be the most special of times: five minutes each evening to pray beside an Advent candle, making a gift or gesture to show our appreciation for a friend, reading the ancient Gospel accounts of the first Christmas, sharing a meal with the whole family. For me, the heart of it is the Watchnight service, perhaps my favourite service in the whole year, which has a hush and wonder about it that all the tinsel can't destroy.

May all of us know, in the midst of it all, the silent and very real coming of Christ again into our lives, and may we make time and space to welcome Him.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas

Ryan



For several months now our Kirk Session has focused its energies on restructuring itself to be more effective in helping our Minister lead us into the future.

We have formed seven separate teams consisting of both elders and non-elders to deal specifically with areas of key importance. Most of you will already be aware of these changes, perhaps wondering why we felt it necessary to alter the status quo. Let me first describe briefly what each of the teams will do and then I'll explain the rationale for the change in the way our Kirk Session works. Over the next four issues of the magazine each of the convenors will write a short article as an introduction to the remit of their team and the issues that they will address. They start this issue with Adult Education and Outreach (see over-Ed)

Worship

This new team is called Music and Worship because the two are closely linked. Wendy Armstrong is the Convener and the group is assisting Lynn formulate fresh ideas and consider new and more inclusive forms of worship. Peter Howard and the Choir will apply their specialist knowledge to help maximise the contribution of the musical element. Lynn is a member of the team and she, as Minister, is the final arbiter of how worship should be conducted.

Outreach

Duncan McIntyre has been appointed Convener of this important team. Many people find it difficult to come to us so we need to stretch out our hand of welcome to everyone in our own congregation, to those who live beside us as neighbours in our parish, to those who live difficult and troubled lives only a few miles away in Glasgow, to those the Church cares for throughout Scotland

and to those beyond our immediate horizons who struggle to survive. Duncan and his team seek to strengthen existing bonds and form new ones.

Fellowship

Fellowship and Outreach are closely linked but they have two distinct functions. Fellowship is led by Margaret Pitcairn and the team's purpose is to explore opportunities for bringing us together informally. We already do much where groups meet on informal and formal occasions and strong links exist with our friends at St. Bridget's. The Fellowship team will encourage us to do more of this and produce further ideas for us to consider where we can come together in faith, friendship and fun.

Adult Education

This team has already renamed itself the Faith Development Team and Stuart MacGill is the Convener. The Kirk Session has felt for some time that it should be placing more emphasis on this area of Church life. The activities of the Monday Group, following the success of the Alpha course, have proved invaluable and Faith Development will build on that success while exploring new ways to bring knowledge of the Gospel to those who seek to know more. Lynn's series of study groups last Easter sparked a latent desire in many people for further debate and knowledge and the Faith Development team have an exciting future.

Youth Strategy

This team has been formed from the basis of a group conceived a couple of years ago and which has already made a significant contribution to the life of the congregation in the establishment of Second Sitting. Under Alistair McBride as Convener, the Youth Team seeks to interact with young people, provide Christian spirituality in a youth friendly

ambience without debasing its core message and provide activities which are both challenging and enjoyable for those taking part. The Youth team's success is of vital importance to the whole congregation and they deserve all the support we can muster.

Pastoral Care

An aspect of congregational life that the Kirk Session probably felt much was already being done well. However, the Pastoral Care Team under Tom Mann's leadership have already identified further ways in which our congregation can provide support individuals and families who might need it. The team has been blessed with the addition of some members, including those from the Kirk Carers, who have brought insight and professional knowledge to this dedicated group. The Kirk Session is confident that the Pastoral Care team will provide the compassionate and caring face of our Church to the congregation and village community in the times ahead.

Administration

Our Admin team under the experienced leadership of its Convener, Ian Gray, has the difficult task of bringing together all the practical aspects of Church life which are essential to the structural and financial wellbeing of a successful congregation. Without careful management of our buildings, grounds and finances the congregation would gradually cease to function. The Admin Team come together and jointly discuss matters in hand; hall lets, wages and salaries, presbytery dues, steeple repairs, general maintenance of all buildings. The Administration team will streamline the previous function of the former Congregational Board and will establish inclusive, decision making processes for all areas of its remit.

Why then has it been necessary to restructure our Kirk Session and Congregational Board in this way? Basically, while large bodies such as the Session and Board are totally democratic and once functioned well they were not structured efficiently enough to meet the challenges of the future. Small, dedicated teams get things done more efficiently. They are more focused on the essential business in hand. We have already seen fresh ideas being conceived, taking shape and some are already up and running. The Kirk Session and teams seek your prayers and support but also your direct involvement. If you feel you would like to join a team, even for a short time and feel you can make a contribution to its thinking or effectiveness, please speak to the convener or to the Minister or myself. We would love to have your help.

Advent and the joy of Christmas are just round the corner with wonderful Services planned and the happiness that this season should bring. The Kirk Session and Teams wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and good health and happiness for 2008.

Craig Wishart
Session Clerk

.....the new teams..... the new the new teams..... the new tea



FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Stuart MacGill Convener

Climbing a ladder is an image often associated with property as people aspire to bigger and better houses, aiming for that perfect dream home that is forever just beyond their reach.

I have often thought that our Christian life can equally be thought of as ascending a ladder, climbing towards the ultimate goal – a fuller understanding of God and a closer relationship with Him. We can all aspire to grow in the faith we profess.

That growth is lifelong but our Church at present offers limited opportunities for faith development once we get beyond our teenage years. Sometimes, too, we can feel stuck or even that we are going back down the ladder instead of up.

That, in a nutshell, is what the new Faith Development Group aims to tackle. We hope to offer opportunities for the Congregation to gather together with fellow climbers and together work our way a little further up the ladder. We aim to run a variety of different events – ‘one ofs’ or short courses – a variety of ways to explore our faith to suit the variety of needs we all have. Some of you reading this may already have sampled our evening on the Virgin Birth.

The Group has some ideas for the future but we want to hear from YOU. Tell us if there is anything you would like us to tackle and we’ll give it consideration. If you are interested in helping us in the Group, please let us know.

Our aim is learning together. The Group does not have all the answers but hopes to provide opportunities for us all to grow towards fuller Christian maturity through mutual support. We find this an exciting challenge. We hope you do too.

Team Members

Stuart McGill
Fiona Hamilton
Ronald Maclean
Mary Robertson
Hannah Fraser

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OUTREACH



Duncan McIntyre Convener

Overall statistics reflect the challenge faced by the church internationally, nationally and locally. Only in specific locations and situations are we seeing a growth in Christian involvement. Throughout Scotland and within our own parish, church membership is falling. The traditional route from childhood in Sunday School through to joining the church is not working and there are few new adult members. A major part of the Outreach Team's remit is to formulate a strategy to redress this. It is an outstanding challenge and success will not be immediate.

In Eaglesham however, we are part of a well defined community with the Church seen generally as a focal point. In terms of actual or potential commitment there is a central core of active church members, with a ring of those who are occasionally or potentially involved on the periphery, and then a further group with no current knowledge of or interest in the church. Different approaches are needed in different situations but personal contact is definitely an important factor. There are encouraging signs but we have to present others in our community with an opportunity to explore Christian faith and the spiritual dimension to life – perhaps with an emphasis on the opportunity to explore rather than presenting a specific message. In this context a development programme such as Alpha or Christianity Explored will be essential and a co-ordinated approach and close liaison with the other teams, in particular the Faith Development and Youth Strategy, will be required.

Outreach also means the Church acting as a resource for the community through its website and facilities. Many members of the Church are involved in other Eaglesham activities and we can act to encourage these activities, which help the community in general, while simultaneously promoting Christian principles and faith. Outreach will be able, through the communications sub-group, to assist the other new teams and organisations project a co-ordinated image and presence to the community.

Further afield Outreach will work to support and encourage the projects in which we as a congregation are already involved, such as Lodging House Mission, Fair Trade, Nuru Centre in Dar es Salaam, and David and Sarah Hall, our missionary partners in Bangladesh, while at the same identify and promote new and deserving initiatives.

Team Members

- Duncan MacIntyre
- Alex Cumming
- Brian Fraser
- Helen Maclean
- Hugh Green
- Alistair Bain
- Doug Lamont
- Stuart McChlery

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Fabric

HO–HO–HO! Christmas is almost upon us and no doubt we will get involved with trees and temperamental fairy lights but with our usual optimism we will cope. At the Manse the roof light has been modified to allow more light into the kitchen area and the electrical fittings have been renewed. The central heating control unit has also been replaced. The telephone exchange has seen a repaint over the summer months.

At the Church the problem of water ingress into the steeple is being addressed and the scaffolding will appear very soon to enable a start to be made to the extensive renovation required. The cost of £5770 includes a provisional sum of £1500 for pointing. While the scaffolding is in place it was considered prudent to repaint and gold leaf the three clock faces and also to overhaul the clock mechanism at an additional cost of £3877. The total for the whole job is £9647 plus VAT. Anyone considering a donation, large or small, to assist with this considerable but very necessary outlay should speak with Jim Alexander. Still at the church the worst of the windows have been repainted and various lamps have been replaced.

At the Carswell Halls, after the malfunction of the multimedia equipment repairs have been carried out to this and the sound system. The stairwell has been repainted and our gardening expert has winter pruned the roses.

Fabric Mole

Choir

After the summer break choir practices began on Thursday 4 September. The forthcoming session is a particularly busy one for the choir, preparing music for Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Advent, Lent and Easter. We had already commenced rehearsals for a joint performance with Greenbank Parish Church Choir of Vivaldi's 'Gloria'. The performance gave us an opportunity to make new friends and sing in a choir of almost 50 people. It was indeed a most enjoyable and extremely rewarding experience for all who participated. Great credit for the success of the evening is due to our own Organist and Choirmaster Peter Howard and Alan Mathew, Organist and Choirmaster at Greenbank. Peter played for rehearsals and performance while Alan conducted. The evening was well attended and over £1300 was raised in aid of The Erskine Hospital.

We are delighted to welcome three new members to the Choir. Grace Campbell, Shelagh McHugh and Stuart McChlery. However, we still require additional voices

particularly in the tenor section where we were down to one member due to the absence of Peter Primrose. Happily Peter is back with us now.

If you enjoy singing please consider joining us on a Thursday evening when you will be made most welcome. Our Choirmaster has stressed that the ability to read music is not a requirement of membership

Stirling Douglas

Poppy Appeal 2007

This year's local Poppy Appeal has raised a super £2642 - up some £300 from 2006. Many thanks to all businesses, shops and public in the Eaglesham and Waterfoot area for their generosity and a special thanks to the door-to-door collectors for a great effort.

E McD Poppy Appeal Convenor

1st Eaglesham Guide Unit

As we fast approach Christmas, the 2007/08 session of guides has started with a bang. We have 38 guides altogether with 10 new guides about to make their promise either on an ice rink or at Glasgow Gang Show in the next couple of weeks.

Three of our Senior Section girls, Lesley McBride, Amy Ruddock and Catriona Lamont visited Lochgoilhead Activity Centre in September and carried out lots of activities from abseiling to sliding down a muddy embankment in the middle of the night with lots of other girls from East Renfrewshire County. Who said girls don't like mud! A great time was had by all. Talking of trips, six guides from the unit have been chosen from East Renfrewshire County to represent Scotland at an International Event in Kilwinning next year in August, where over 700 guides from all over the world will meet each other and can together for one week. We will keep you posted of this event as we go through the year.

The guides have been doing lots of activities from drama, to experiments, make-up, crafts and around the world traditions, the girls have enjoyed doing the activities and after the new year they will be sitting badges. The Senior Section girls organised a Halloween Party for us and it was great fun. We dooked for apples, flapped the bat, tried to eat doughnuts off string and danced. The best costume winners were 3rd, Mhairi Agnew with her wild west look, 2nd Lauren Wilson as a Hawaiian Girl and 1st Place Eva Walker as a Pink Lady, all the girls looked great and had a fab time.

As we count down to Christmas we went ice skating on 22 November with

over 100 guides from the county and at the beginning of December a trip to the Glasgow Gang Show is planned, and then of course another Christmas Party to finish one half of our session.

Once again, thanks to all the leaders, Christian, Ann and Margaret for all their efforts, Lesley, Amy and Catriona for their help and to all of you the parents for supporting us as always. May I wish you a peaceful Christmas and happy New Year when it comes.

Louise Lightbody
Guide Guider



The girls found it a devil of a job getting the doughnuts at the Halloween Party

Halls Convenor

After many years in the post Tom Robertson is stepping down and Maureen Hunter is taking over his duties. We thank Tom for his efficient management of the hall lets in the past and trust that organisations will grant Maureen all necessary assistance.

Ian Gray
(Maureen's contact details are on page 2)

205th BB Company Section

We are currently going through our busiest time of the session. The annual dedication service, conducted by Lynn, was at the end of October.

Our Christmas Fayre was an outstanding success raising around £1750 thanks to the hard work of the boys selling tickets, the Parents and Friends Committee, the volunteer helpers and all who contributed in any way, and of course those who continue to support our fund raising events by coming along and spending hard earned money.



The Christmas Fayre in full swing

Saturday football has started well with three wins out of three. Club Nights have also started and as ever prove very popular with the younger boys. Thanks to the dads (and mums) for helping out.

BB Fellowship is in its usual Sunday morning slot but with a more relaxed and open approach to our worship.

Sunday badminton has begun with around eight boys practicing for a few hours in the afternoon which has paid off already with Angus Steel winning Gold and Jamie Gemmell Bronze in the district junior competition. Murray West and Ronan Cunningham won Bronze in the intermediate competition.

Our Queensmen are very busy helping the handicapped scouts on Monday nights and many are also helping out with the Anchor boys.

Coming up in the not too distant future

is the Seniors quiz, table tennis, ten-pin bowling, senior badminton, masterteam, swimming gala, sponsored walk, seniors dinner and snooker competition (just to mention a few!)

Ian Gray has retired after 23 years as treasurer and we thank him for all his time and dedication in all that he has done for the 205. I would like to welcome David Gemmell as the new treasurer.

Finally just a thanks to all the staff and people in the background who help by giving their time to make the 205 such a successful Boys Brigade Company

Have a very Merry Christmas

Richard Burt
Officer in Charge

Junior Section

The Junior BB is well into the session before Christmas.

We have a regular attendance of 29 boys divided into six squads with the theme this year based on golf courses. The boys are working hard towards their achievement scheme and we will be making the first presentation of badges before the Christmas break.

At time of writing our football team has a 100% record after one game!

Our Halloween party provided great fun with the fancy dress parade being judged



Junior BB mummies

2rd Eaglesham Brownies _____

by our special guest Sandra McAuslan. The prizes went to David Lamond as an under cover cop, Martin Kerr as pumpkin face and Noah Paterson as Albert Einstein
We now are looking forward to working hard in the next few weeks and end with our Christmas Party in December. Hopefully Santa will be able to make an appearance. Planning for 2008 is already under way.

The boys and the staff of the junior section would like to wish all of the parents and our friends a merry Christmas and a good new year.

*Mark T Robertson.
Officer in Charge.*

Anchor Boys _____

Anchor boys has kicked off to a great start! We have 23 boys regularly attending on a Tuesday night and the 75 minutes fly by with the boys taking part in a mixture of games and achievement activities.

On Tuesday 30 October we had our Halloween party where the following boys won a prize for the best costumes –
Samuel McCormick – A wizard
Cameron Clark – The Tin Man from the Wizard of Ozz
Andrew Baitman – A Very Scary Creature

Some dates for your Diary –
Saturday 15th – Local Pantomime
Tuesday 18th – Christmas Party

If anyone has any questions or knows of any boys who would like to come along to join in the fun then please feel free to contract me.

*Alistair Todd
Officer in Charge*

Our session began on 3 September with a games night. This year we have lost seven older Brownies to the Guides who seem to be settling in well to their new venture but gained eight new Brownies from Rainbows.

Monday nights so far have included baking, craft nights, including kite making, and rambling round the Orry followed by a sausage sizzle back at the Hall when the weather permitted. The Halloween Party was very messy with apples, doughnuts and green spaghetti!!! Loads of fun for both Brownies and leaders...

Also planned for this year are Brownie Promises to be made by our new girls and a visit from Lynn our minister. The girls will also be working towards their disability badges and we are all looking forward to our usual seasonal nights of Christmas crafts, party and panto trip to East Kilbride.

As a unit we would like to wish our previous Brown Owl Lesley Hall, and Cameron of course, our very best wishes for their wedding day. Hope the weather stays dry!

Thanks to all the Brownies and their parents for their enthusiasm and continued support.

*Susan Law
Brown Owl*

Brownies who recently made their Promises



3rd Eaglesham Brownies

We welcomed 11 new Brownies at the beginning of the session and a new adult helper, Angela Coubrough. We now have 32 girls in the pack, which is great. We started the session by making foam magnets. Louise Lightbody came along to do aerobics with the brownies. The girls all enjoyed doing the various routines and went home that night tired out. We had a trip to the soft play over in East Kilbride. The girls all had a super time as they were the only ones there. The following week we made monster pizzas using a wide variety of toppings. We had our usual Halloween party with games, dooking for apples and doughnuts on a string. We are now settling down to do some badges and have split the Brownies into four groups doing the Promise, Hostess, First Aid and World Cultures Badges. Once the badges are complete we start our Christmas activities – making peg angels, visit to the pantomime and our party.

All of us at the 3rd Eaglesham Brownies wish you a Merry Christmas.

Elaine Wallace
Brownie Guide Guider

Creche

A reminder to all mums, dads, grans and grandpas that during the Sunday morning service creche facilities are available for babies and toddlers up to the age of three. The creche opens at 10.45am in the Carswell Halls - just bring along a bag of all the stuff that we may need!

Three and four year olds can join in with the Church Builders' Sparklers group who come to the Church for the first part of the service and then go to the Mid Halls. Please make your children known to Mrs Avril Crooks or Mrs Lindsay Goohall at the front of the Sanctuary before the service.

Nan Stirling

Junior Badminton

We are now well into another enjoyable season of the Junior Badminton and we will have an unbroken run until the Christmas break, Saturday 15 December being our last week this year. We start again on Saturday 12 January. We then have a clear run until the last Saturday in March, which will be our season ending competition.

Our junior session runs from 9.00 – 10.00 am and has been boosted by many new and enthusiastic members. The intermediate group runs from 10.00 – 12.00 noon and continues to flourish, the standard of play improving noticeably. Our total membership currently numbers forty-two over both categories, with over thirty attending regularly.

With the increase in members, additional leaders are imperative and we are indebted to Alistair McBride who has stepped in to assist recently, and David Lough who helps out with the juniors. We are delighted that Sandra Scott has also volunteered to help out and anyone else who feels that they may be able to assist will be warmly welcomed. Leaders are not required to play badminton and there is no need to attend every Saturday, as a rota system will be formed.

This will be my last season in charge and it is imperative that a new supervisory team be assembled to ensure that the club continues.

Anyone able to help please contact me on the contact details noted below.

Ian Lightbody
Junior Badminton Convenor

Walking Group

The first meeting of the Walking Group took place on Wednesday 14 November. Twenty enthusiasts, guided by Flo McIntyre, and undeterred by barbed wire, watchful cows and ankle deep mud in places, achieved their objective, namely the cairn above Picketlaw, sometimes known as the Scots Toorie. The sun shone as we reached the top, so we could admire a marvellous view from Ben Lomond to Tinto.

The group intends to walk fortnightly on Wednesdays, meeting at the Church Hall at 10.00. Future walks will be on 28 November (around Ballageich), 12 December (Pollok Park), 9 and 23 January (venue to be arranged).

Sandy Robertson



Scot's Toorie was the first objective of the Walking Group recently reformed as an initiative of the new Fellowship Team.

Thursday Group

This year we have seen an increase in numbers, which is great. Since the start of the session we have had a number of great speakers.

We started with Hazel Young from Simply Interiors who showed us some co-ordinations of carpets, wallpaper and curtains, and all went away with lots of ideas for decor. Speakers from two of our three charities came along – The Bluebell Foundation and Children's Hospice Association Scotland. Lilan Muir came to speak to us on treatments for de-stressing the mind like reflexology and aromatherapy. Lynn came along to our next meeting where we had a great discussion about whether Christmas is too commercialised now. Alan Fulton gave us a talk on diamonds and we had our annual mock auction.

We still have a meeting where we will be making some Christmas cards and also our Christmas party .

Please come and join us on alternate Thursday afternoons from 1.15pm in the Carswell Halls.

Elaine Wallace

Bob & May Howatson

It was with great sadness that we returned from holiday in July to learn of the sad passing of May Howatson, our neighbour in Polbae Crescent. The feeling of loss was compounded with Bob's death three months later.

We moved to the village shortly before Gemma's birth in 1996 and both took a great interest in all three of our children

making their arrival into Eaglesham with great warmth and welcoming. With their failing health and laterly their hospitalisation we never really got the opportunity to return the many favours they extended to us. Hopefully this short note of appreciation will, in a small way, mark our thanks to them for being such good friends and neighbours.

The Lightbody Family

The Names on the War Memorial

As we stand at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, do we wonder what happened, where, and when, to those people from our community who gave their lives for their country in the two World Wars? The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website (www.cwgc.org) attempts to give details of those who died, and where they are commemorated. In some cases, details about age, place of residence and family links are provided. Further sources of information are a CD Rom 'Soldiers who died in the Great War 1914-19' (available in Giffnock Library) and the research by Marlyn McInnes and her team into the gravestones in Eaglesham Churchyard.

Eaglesham's memorial is unusual in that there are fewer names, 12, for World War 1 than for World War 2 (18). It is not uncommon for memorials to have twice as many deaths in WW1. The explanation of the anomaly may lie in the higher population in the village at the time of WW2. The nearest Census figures show a 50 per cent increase in population between 1911 and 1931.

Not all the WW1 names can be identified on the CWGC website. Seven are clearly linked to Eaglesham. Six of these deaths were in northern France – those of John Dalglish, Alasdair Gilmour, James Melville, Jack Maguire, Patrick Hughes, who lived at 24 Polnoon Street) and Peter Gemmell, who lived at Kirkstyle. William Montgomery died at Gallipoli. Both Peter Gemmell and William Montgomery are named on family gravestones in the churchyard.

Of the remaining five, it is reasonable to assume that Andrew Archibald, from Govanhill, and a James Perratt from Glasgow (the only Perratt lost in the war) are those named on the Eaglesham memorial. Both died in France. James Newns is not listed by the CWGC, and there are no definite links to Eaglesham amongst the many dead soldiers bearing the names John Burns or John Smith.

The churchyard also has a gravestone (beside the western gate) bearing the names of two soldiers not listed on the memorial. William Brown and Robert Johnstone were grandsons of James and Margaret Cuthbertson of Eaglesham and died within a month of each other in 1915, the former in France, the latter in Gallipoli.

The 18 dead of WW2 were in the army, the air force and at sea. There were six in the air force, Cecil Leitch, Rankin Henderson, William Henderson, Arthur Bell, James Mackill and Margaret Watt. Margaret Watt contracted TB and died at home. She, Arthur Bell and James McKill are buried in Eaglesham Cemetery. The two Hendersons are buried at Riccione, Italy and Krefeld, Germany respectively.

A further four died at sea. The first, and the oldest at 38, was John Winton. His ship, HMS Rawalpindi, sank off the Faroes in November 1939, after preventing two German battlecruisers from heading into the North Atlantic. Robert Gibson and Robert McCabe were in ships sunk by German U-boats, and Robert Ollason was in a merchant ship, the SS Clan Fraser, bombed by enemy aircraft in Piraeus Harbour, Greece in 1941.

The soldiers who died reflect the sequence of events during the war. Edward Aytoun died near Dunkirk in 1940, John Corkell at El Alamein in 1942, Edward Crompton during the Allied advance through Italy in 1943, William Haddow, John McWilliams and Alistair Rankin in Normandy in the summer of 1944, having taken part in the D-Day landings, and Alfred Gorman near Hannover, during the final push across Germany, in April 1945.

One name remains, that of Stanley Smith, but it has not been possible to identify him on the CWGC records.

Sandy Robertson

Note : I wish to express thanks Sydney Laird for his constructive comments and to those relatives of the deceased who provided helpful information.



Mr George Mundell lays the wreath during this year's remembrance service

Recent Wedding



*Lesley Hall to Cameron Forsyth
(25 November)*

The new Mr and Mrs Forsyth exited the Church through a guard of honour provided by bubble blowing Brownies and Guides!

Church Builders

Church Builders is back in full swing enjoying another successful session. The attendance is steady with the Sparkler's reporting considerable increases in numbers, which is fantastic and a credit to Avril Crooks and Lindsay Goodhall who lead our youngest church goers.

Nativity preparations are under way, new songs practised and costumes made. Church Builders will be participating during the Family Christmas service on Sunday 16th December. This service also gives us the chance to bring gifts for children not quite as lucky as ours are in Eaglesham. This year the gifts will be going to 3D Project in Drumchapel who have been overwhelmed by your generosity in the past.

Thoughts inevitably have turned to the Christmas Party, which will take place on Saturday 8th December. This year we are fortunate to have the Way Cool Puppet Group attending the party to give a performance. We may have a few less games of pass the parcel but we are sure the puppet group will be very entertaining (any member of the congregation would be more than welcome to look in and enjoy the performance). The Youth Group are heading to the Citizens' Theatre pantomime on Thursday 20th December — Oh, no they're not...! Oh, yes they are...!

We at Church Builders would like to wish everyone a Joyful Christmas and Peaceful 2008.

Beverley Millar

~~Where~~ on Earth...has Peter got What on his head?

Lily Ferguson was spot on with her identification of the Round Church or, more correctly, Kilarrow Parish Church at Bowmore, Islay. For a detailed history of this historic church go to <http://www.theroundchurch.org.uk/history.html>



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This issue we want humorous captions for the photo above – the best caption, as chosen by the Fabric Group, will receive a box of chocolates! Send you captions to the editor (contact details on page 2)