

PARISH NEWS

EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH

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Announcements...

Baptisms

Daniel Martin Fraser, 3 Jan 2010.

Funerals

Mr Ian Simpson, Stamperland Av, 2th Dec 2009
Mr Peter Leitch, Glasgow Rd, 5 Jan 2010
Mrs Jean Mackay, Edinburgh, 13 Jan.
Mrs Thea Lavery, Eglinton Walk, 21 Jan.
Mr William Murray, Hill Drive, 27 Jan.
Mrs Jean Young, Brownmuir Av, 29 Jan.
Mrs June Robertson, Polnoon Av, 3 Feb.
Mr Terry Wotherspoon, Riverside Rd, 17 Feb.



Musings from the Manse...

When I was a child, every year we went to the carnival at the Kelvin Halls in Glasgow (it was a long time ago!) Among the frantic and fun rides, there was one simpler thing that fascinated us: the hall of mirrors. Each mirror distorted your image in a different way. You could see yourself as short and fat, tall and thin (I liked that one), pear shaped or apple shaped, and many others. They showed what you might want or not want to be. None of them showed the truth.

By contrast, it takes a stronger soul than me to brave the mirrors in a fitting room. Something that looks like a dream on the rail in the shop suddenly takes on too, too solid human flesh when it's actually on me, and mirrors (back, front and side) ruthlessly expose the flaws from every angle – there's nowhere for illusions! Mirrors that hide nothing hurt me by showing all the things I'd rather deny. And that's before we get to the magnifying mirror in the bathroom: pimples and paunches, grey hairs and dark circles. It's not a good way to start the day. I can only cope with so much reality, especially before breakfast. Much easier to turn my back on the mirror and cling to my illusions.

And then there are the people who act as mirrors showing what we're really like. Someone once said that "The best mirror is a good friend", but I'm not so sure. Certainly, a good friend will tell us the truth and we might even be willing to listen. But maybe they're too kind, and we can always turn our backs if they hurt us. Maybe a more accurate human mirror is found in our families, that network of complex and deep relationships, showing what we're really like in the imprint

we leave on the lives of people who haven't chosen us and can't easily get away from us.

The most accurate mirror of all is the Word of God and the person of Jesus found in it, and perhaps for that reason, it's the most often ignored. James says, "Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like a person who looks at his face in a mirror and after looking, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like" (Jas 1:23). Mirrors that hide nothing hurt us by showing all the things we'd rather deny, and it's very tempting to turn away. But a mirror only shows us what's there; it has no power to change us. The Jesus we meet in Scripture brings us good news. No denial of reality, but no loveless scrutiny either, and no despair. The promise of the power and potential to make us new.

So we come during Lent to read Mark's Gospel together as a congregation, to see ourselves in it and to meet Jesus again. And we look forward to celebrating Easter and all God's power for new life, change and hope.

Blessings to you all



Kirk Session...

Much of the discussion at recent Kirk Session meetings has concerned our aspirations regarding the Cross Keys property, and this is inevitable given the significance of the step we may or may not take in that direction.

However, the normal work of Kirk Session and congregation continues unabated and we should remember that issues of worship, pastoral care, outreach, faith development, youth, fellowship, finance and fabric are the enduring matters which will continue to concentrate our minds long after the Cross Keys excitement has abated.

The success of the Kirk Session Teams, formed to address each of those issues, is manifest in the advances we have made as a congregation in the three years since the inception of our new Unitary constitution. All the Teams have been innovative, hard-working, and, in some cases, adventurous, and we are grateful to their inspirational members and conveners for ensuring that our congregation remains vibrant, challenged and eager to face the future led by our equally inspirational and hard-working Minister.

All working groups, task groups, teams, focus groups – call them what you will – need the incentive of change from within in order to encourage the flow of new ideas and fresh thinking from which positive and radical action can result. Consequently, most of our teams are beginning to look round for new members as some of the original members and conveners seek pastures new within other teams or in other areas of congregational life. We would like you to consider volunteering a little of your time and energy, acting as the catalyst for change, to give the teams the benefit of your fresh approach, by joining them in their occasional meetings. Team meetings, with the exception of the Administration Team, are usually held on one evening every other month with a break over the summer, so the time commitment is small, the benefits large. If you would like to

become involved in this very positive way in which you can help our congregation, please let me know and I'll arrange for you to join the team of your choice.

The Kirk Session Away Day takes place in March again this year and I'll report, in our next edition of Parish News, the main points of interest which always emanate from those valuable and spiritually refreshing interludes of Kirk Session time out.

By the time you read this our Organist, Peter Howard, will have announced he is to leave us to join our friends at Greenbank as resident organist there. In the short, but rewarding, few years that Peter has been with us in Eaglesham Peter has endeared himself to us all, not least to our much valued Choir. We shall miss Peter's bright presence amongst us and his exquisite and sensitive touch on organ and piano. He is a uniquely gifted young man who also needs the inspiration of change and challenge to allow him to progress. We will miss him sorely, but we wish him success and happiness wherever his music takes him.

Craig Wishart Session Clerk

Fabric...

The Fabric meets, on the odd occasion, in its posh clothes and at the time of writing we are about to meet to digest the Quinquennial Property Report. You always need a laugh to get you through it! We are about to consider our priorities on the property front and hope to find a good few thousand in our budget to replace the chancel carpet, but Quinquennial urgent repairs may take priority over cosmetic matters. If you would like to help, you know where to find us.

This winter has been the hardest yet for the Fabric Team, with the loss of our mentor Peter in late December, whose words of encouragement were always there. From Fabric Convener, second to none, to Fabric Consultant and Fabric Mole, he led us up to the last. We will continue the works he started for as long as we can, no matter where it takes us - to the Cross Keys or a major refurb, he would not have given up. Well done our faithful servant, as we set our sails and turn into the wind and go forward. We will miss his friendship, his words of wisdom and his good humour.



Peter the much missed Fabric Mole

The Guild...

The Guild had a longer holiday than usual at the start of the year due to the arctic weather. However, it didn't take us long to get the momentum going on our first night back as we tackled the Guild topic "Let's Talk About Justice". We were joined by a panel of four very knowledgeable people who are involved in different areas of justice.

We are very fortunate to have talented local people who have come along to speak and entertain us. In the past few weeks we have heard about the work being done by one of our chosen charities The Royal Highland Education Trust. They work with schools and other groups educating children about the work done on our farms and how our food is produced. We were transported on a cold February evening to the beauty of the Moors, Dales, Peaks and Lakes

which was very enjoyable. We also had a very entertaining evening with the Rev Catherine Beattie who told us about her journey from making school dinners in Eaglesham school to becoming a minister.

These are just a few of the interesting speakers we have had but there are many more in store. Our numbers are excellent but there is always room for more. Join us if you can!

Lastly a word of thanks to all who helped us raise the magnificent amount of £723 at our charity coffee morning. This money will be divided between our three charities for this year, The Princess Royal Trust, The Royal Highland Education Trust and Age Concern. Many thanks to everyone who came along to support us.

The Guild Leadership Team

Life of a Youth Ministry Student

Well I've been here a year and a half now and I've just started my second semester at college, which means trying to learn all the new terms that I'm going to have to understand to keep up with our lecturers. As many of you probably don't know much about the college side of my time here I'd like to take the time to discuss some of my most recent semester.

Each week I attend four classes that are either focused on youth work with biblical aspects or biblically focused with youth work aspects. This means that I can be studying topics that are run especially for youth work students and incorporating biblical perspectives or I'll be involved in classes run for BA Theology students and my assignments will need to reflect the relevance of the class to my placement, which is Eaglesham.

Over the last semester the classes I studied were Professional and Ethical Issues, Power and Opportunities, Human Development and Urban Theology. Within these classes we considered the theory behind our ethical choices and how we should support the young people when they make ethical decisions; we studied the power dynamics within society and how some groups have used characteristics, such as race, to oppress young people; we have looked into the development of people physically, mentally, morally and spiritually throughout their lifetime; and we have studied how cities affect us and how we should support and spread God's word in Urban areas.

As for work, the groups I'm involved in have been running very well. The badminton club is going very well, we still have very large numbers in the older group and I have some brilliant people helping. Work within the school has also been going very well. Lynn, Chris and I have been getting involved within assemblies and trying to get to know the young people within the school and their teachers. EPYC has been running successfully, we are looking at some challenging topics this term and the young people have some very interesting views. We are also looking into the options of social days or even weekends away to increase the relationships the EPYC leaders have with the young people.

On a personal note, Fiona and I have been discussing starting up a house group for people our age. Even though Fiona attends the church services and I get the chance to go to worship sessions at college, we both wanted the opportunity to be in a group that can discuss our faith and how we incorporate it into our lives. So if you, or someone you know, are around the age of 18–30 years old and would be interested in meeting up fortnightly on a Thursday night for a bit of socialising and an informal bible study then please contact me on the number below.

Russell

Mob: 07871672574

Easter Services

Please come and celebrate Easter with us in Eaglesham Church:

Thursday 1st April - Maundy Thursday
Communion, 7.00pm

Good Friday 2nd April - the church is open from 12-3pm to give time for reflection and prayer around the Cross. There will be Bible readings on the hour, every hour. Please come for whatever time you wish.

Easter Sunday 11am - Easter Celebration

As we are part of the Parish Grouping with the Mearns Churches, we look forward to sharing Easter worship with them:

Palm Sunday 28th March - Newton Mearns Parish Church 7.00pm

Wednesday 31st March - Maxwell Mearns Castle Church : Hizkids Childrens' Easter Service 6.30pm

Friday 2nd April - Mearns Kirk : Good Friday Service 7.00pm

Saturday 3rd April Maxwell Mearns Castle Church : Easter Service for Teenagers 7.30pm

Easter Sunday 4th April : Broom Church Easter Dawn Service 6.30am

3rd Brownies...

Since the New Year we have had a games night and made a musical instrument for part of a competition on the senses. We had an evening where we made shortbread and the Brownies recited their Burns poems. For Valentine's Day, the girls decorated a plastic heart and put a sweetie in it to give to their valentine!

We had an excellent trip to the ice rink in East Kilbride where Doug, Sheila and Catriona Lamont very kindly gave up their time to teach the girls curling. Some of them were really good and were getting the stones near the target. They enjoyed the sweeping once they knew that they were not going to fall down as they moved along the ice quickly. The girls were all really

keen and had a great evening. Thanks to Doug for organising this for us.

On the 22nd February it is Thinking Day and the girls are attending the Centenary County Thinking Day service in Giffnock Synagogue. It should be a great evening with lots to entertain them. There is a service first of all, then crafts and activities from around the world. They will all receive the special Centenary Thinking Day Badge.

Thanks to all the Brownies for being so enthusiastic and to my two great helpers, Angela and Linda.

Elaine Wallace, Brownie Guide Guider



The Brownies gave a big 'thank you' to South Lanarkshire Leisure who provided the ice time free of charge as part of their 'Come and Try' initiative



1st Guides...

Well the guides are back with a bang. We welcomed 14 new guides in January and we are now at 39 Guides to date.

On 11 January we had a games night where everyone took part in various run around games and memory games, and the girls got to know the new guides. A visit to "Lasertag" in EK was next on the agenda and we had a joint night with the Eaglesham scouts, this was brilliant fun with 70 boys and girls against each other, unfortunately we lost, but we had a great time. Watch out boys we will be back! On 25 January we had a little Burns Supper and celebrated the bard with a little Scottish dancing. Shirley Cuthbertson our local Cub and Scout leader

joined us and taught the girls how to knit, this was great and some of the leaders forgot they could knit and found it very therapeutic. Olympic circuits were next and the girls worked out well in this challenge. As the weeks roll on, the 22 February is World Thinking Day and as this is our special Centenary Year, East Renferwshire are holding a big celebration in Giffnock Synagogue with 550 girls expected to all join together for fun, laughter and friendship. As you can see Eaglesham Guide Unit continues to thrive, thanks again for all your support to both parents and leaders alike.

Louise Lightbody

205 Company Section...

The Company Section is now entering its last few months of the session with lots being achieved and a bit more still to do before our display. The boys are currently doing their Christian faith and interest awards.

Shortly we will be beginning to think of our programme for our annual display on the 22nd of May, which we hope to be presenting a number of President's badges; this weekend in fact we have 11 boys away at a leadership course. On the last Sunday in January the company did our annual sponsored walk raising approx £1300 to date, a great effort from the boys and all who took part including staff member Alan Grant who walked round his ship as his part in the fundraising. I would also like to thank the staff wives for the refreshments after the walk.

Other activities that the boys have been taking part in are, football, table tennis, badminton and chess. Also, last month the boys went on a highly educational trip visit to a R.F.A. ship based on the east coast of Scotland, the boys and staff were given a guided tour of the ship. Our next planned trip is to the Museum at Hampden Park which will be of great interest to the boys (*and Staff I bet! -Ed*).

Richard Burt O/C

Junior Section...

We are now into the New Year and the pace changes dramatically. Our Achievement Scheme is coming along well and should be completed by the end of our session.

We are running two football teams this year and the boys are doing extremely well. Our 'A' Team are currently sitting top of the league and our 'B' Team have put more points on the table and are improving week by week.

We held a Sponsored Bouncy Castle Event in February where all the boys in the section took part. The staff and boys had a great time and Gary and I would like to thank all the parents and friends for their kind donations.

At the time of writing we are scheduled to attend the Kelvin Hall District Sports and the Five-a-side Tournament at Trinity High School in March to defend our title. Hopefully the next edition of the Parish News will boast our success!

All that is left to do is plan for our forthcoming Annual Display which will be on Thursday 6th May, 2010 and our holiday weekend away to Newton Stewart for our P5 and P6 boys.

Mark Robertson / Gary Rushworth

Junior Section Boys Brigade

Holiday Club 2010...

Come along and book your table now at the fabulous fish and chip restaurant that is opening in Eaglesham on Monday 2nd. August. It will only be open for five days so don't miss it. At "Rocky's Plaice you will find out more about Peter, how knowing Jesus changed his life and how he and his friends started to change the world, all through games, drama, quizzes, stories and singing. Put the date in your diaries:- Rocky's Plaice, 2nd. – 6th. August 2010

More information can be had from Pat Wishart.

Fairtrade

The fair-trade mark is now well established and covers a wide variety of products from clothing and football to medical equipment and food. However, it is with the latter and support of producers in the developing world that the biggest impact has been made. High profile swaps over the years have helped promote continuing expansion – from Houses of Parliament swapping to fair-trade tea and coffee in 1997 to Cadbury in 2009 switching to fairtrade for its dairy milk brand..

Each year Fairtrade Fortnight is a time for further promotion. It has just finished (Feb 22 to March 7). But it is not too late to follow this year's slogan and join the 'Big Swap'. Try fairtrade products in place of usual supermarket purchases – tea, coffee, chocs, snacks, nuts, fruit juice. Look for them on supermarket shelves or come to the Fairtrade stall held in the Carswell Hall at noon on the second and last Sundays of every month.

News from Abroad

In the autumn we were visited in Eaglesham by the Hall family, back in the UK for a few months from Bangladesh – David and Sarah with children Rebecca, Reuben and baby Matthew at all of 6 weeks. David works with the Church of Bangladesh Social Development Programme. The programme was established with the aim of empowering the rural poor of Bangladesh in seeking improvements particularly in health and women's rights. Thus it is responsible for a health clinic serving a catchment of 100,000, and has been active in combatting child trafficking. Inevitably the threat of climate change looms large with the combination of flooding and poverty. The CBSDP response is both practical – flood shelters – and political in pointing to our carbon footprint and lifestyle of consumption. The scale of need in Bangladesh creates difficulty in deciding priorities for the programme – a sort of 'ginger group' for development work given that the Church represents less than 1% of the country's population. CBSDP has recently undergone review of its activities with a new director

due to be appointed. David's role is one of encouragement and co-ordination. He asks for our prayers for the work of the programme at a time of restructuring.

News of Eaglesham Parish Church's links to its World Partners will be more accessible to all with three new notice boards on the back wall of the Carswell Hall. Here we will post information and newsletters from the Nuru Centre in Tanzania, the Halls in Bangladesh and Alastair and Chrissy Muir and Family in Thailand as well as in this magazine.

Church Open Door on Palm Sunday Organ and Strings - A Springtime Music Event, Sunday March 29th – a date for your diary

Many will remember the successful Advent open day and festival of organ music at the end of November 2008. On Palm Sunday this year we will in a similar way. The church will be open throughout the afternoon with music for organ and a string trio at 2pm and 3.15. In the Carswell Hall from 2.30 onwards there will be teas and further music from Musical Mayhem, our junior choir. Come along to enjoy the afternoon and use this as an opportunity to invite others to visit our church

General Election 2010

Eastwood Churches' Peace and Justice Group will be holding a hustings meeting for all local candidates in the election. Details will be advertised once the date of the election has been announced

Duncan MacIntyre

Walking Group...

The Walking Group maintained a programme through the severe weather, though inevitably walks were closer to home. With the imminent arrival of Spring (!), we will venture further afield, and the provisional programme for the coming weeks is: February 24 Dalgarnen Mill, Kilwinning; March 10 Baron's Haugh and Dalzell Estate, Motherwell; March 24 Tannahill Walkway above Paisley. Walks are on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month and leave the Church Hall at 10.00am.



SandyRobertson

Culzean, Spring 2009, with a re-visit planned for later this year

ORGAN & STRINGS

A Palm Sunday concert of Organ and String music to celebrate the coming of Holy Week and Easter, with contributions from Musical Mayhem Junior Choir

*Music starts 2.00pm in
Eaglesham Parish Church
Palm Sunday 28 March 2010*

*Admission free
Teas and coffees in the Carswell Hall*

Baptismal Baby...



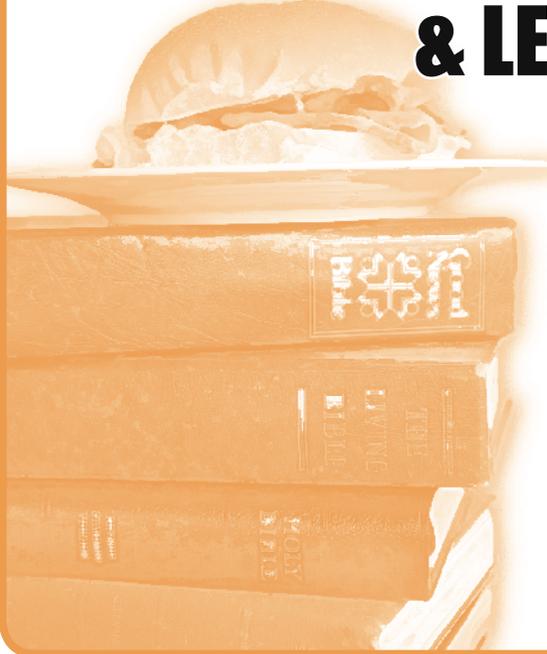
Daniel Martin Fraser, son of Martin and Donna and grandson of Brian and Hannah. Baptised 3 January 2010 by Rev Lynn McClery

Welcome to a new arrival...



Harry Thomas Robertson son of Craig and Louise and grandson of Marilyn and Tom born 4 October 2009, Christened on 24 January 2010 in St John's Church by Father Stephen Baillie

BACON BUTTY BREAKFASTS & LENT LUNCHEAS



During Lent we will be reading Mark's Gospel together as a congregation, and there will be two opportunities for us to share and discuss what we're reading with others.

Bacon Butty Breakfasts: Saturday mornings, Carswell Halls 9-9.45am, every Saturday 27th Feb - 27th March

Lent Lunches, every Tuesday 2nd March - 30th March, 1-2pm, Carswell Halls

Please come, eat and share your thoughts!

CROSSREACH
providing a caring future

Williamwood House vacancy

HOUSEKEEPING ASSISTANT

Williamwood House is a residential home for elderly people with dementia. We are currently seeking to recruit Housekeeping Assistants who will have responsibility for the domestic tasks within the home. This includes cleaning, laundry and pantry tasks. If you are interested in the position please contact **Mrs Donna Shields** on **0141 637 1168** for an information pack.