

# Parish News

EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH



*The sun shone for Eaglesham Fair parade on June 3rd*

## Contacts

### Keep in touch with church activities

- Website.....[www.eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk)
- Facebook.....Eaglesham Parish Church @Heartofvillage
- Qr code - below - leads to church website



### Team Convenors

Music and worship - Wendy Armstrong

Outreach - Giles Blair

Admin - Maureen Hunter

Pastoral Care - Sandy Robertson

Youth Strategy - Tom Mann

Faith Development - Gillian Norval

### Death

May 1st. Michael West, 3 Gilmour Ave,  
Thorntonhaall

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Comments, articles, suggestions for future issues to [macintyre74@btinternet.com](mailto:macintyre74@btinternet.com)

## From the Manse

Dear Friends,

*"God is our refuge and our strength, always ready to help in every time of trouble. So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken and the mountains fall into the sea." Psalm 46: 1-2*

We live in interesting and sometimes terrifying times. In the span of a little more than a fortnight there has been a suicide bombing killing children and young adults at a pop concert in Manchester, a General Election that in my opinion stimulates many questions but offers little answers, a president of the United States who believes climate change is a myth created by the Chinese and is set to withdraw his nation's support of the climate change agreement, missile tests in Korea, war in Syria.....and there will be more worrying news at home and abroad by the time this letter goes to print.

Many of us will have the good fortune to have a holiday this summer, a time for well-earned rest and escape from the personal pressures of life. When I am on holiday, I seldom look at a newspaper, listen to Radio 4 or watch television. But in the background the good and the bad in the world continues with seemingly unstoppable force. It is a time when everyday life goes on as normal yet we will be on holiday doing holiday things. Yes we still shop, eat, talk and laugh as always, yet while we are relaxing we will be aware that on the bigger world stage massive changes, often unplanned, are being made second by second on a whole raft of levels. Time will tell how this will all work out and we shall have a greater understanding when we look back on these days. It occurred to me as I was writing this that this feeling of operating on two levels is rather how those who are suffering from a sudden change in their lives, such as a bereavement or loss of health or a job, feel. Our hearts and prayers go out to them and those affected by the recent violence in Manchester, Egypt, Syria and Palestine, the bereaved and those now living with a different outlook on life. Whatever changes in life come along those of us who have a Christian faith have the Lord to lean on and cling to. The verses from the Psalm above remind us of the constancy of God and this is

a great comfort in all the vagaries of life. As I write the flowers are blooming, the square foot veg garden is providing salad crop, the sun has been shining more often than not bringing warmth and setting nature alive. Summer brings a sense of happiness when we look for it.. Even the dourest of people may even find themselves having a smile on their face when they are kissed by the warmth of the sun on their cheeks and it certainly lifts the spirits to be able to go out without a coat. We thank God for the lovely warmth, for the wonders of creation, for the ability to enjoy our surroundings. As we also go out into the world as people of the church we also spread cheerfulness and joy, and that is something that does not weigh anything at the airport check in - so you can bring it back from your holidays if you had forgotten to take it with you on the outward journey. We have something special which is a relationship with the Lord and this shines out from us even if we are not aware of this. It is the way in which we can cope with difficulties because we know the Lord is always with us and the way in which we deal with others as we remember the command of Jesus to love one another.

I pray that you all will have an enjoyable summer with family and friends and that you have a time of relaxation and refreshment. May we all go forward in the strength of the Lord and remember that He has our best interests at heart.

Blessings

Andrew

### **Support for youth activity**

We currently have opportunities for people who would like to share their faith with young people in our Church. EPYC, our Sunday evening club for P7 to S6 is seeking additional people to help run these weekly meetings involving fun, music and exploring Christianity in the context of today's world. Churchbuilders, our Sunday morning group for children in nursery and primary school is also looking for additional helpers to join in our rota of one week in three to share Bible stories and God's love through games, crafts, stories and music.

If you would like to explore these opportunities please contact James Edgar or Sheila Lamont

## Session notes

As you will know, our Minister Andrew Robertson unfortunately lost his mother quite recently, after her long and quite distressing illness. This necessitated Andrew being away from the Parish and taking some well-needed time out. I know many of us have been thinking about and praying for Andrew and the family, and my wish is that we will continue to hold him and Shirley in our prayers.

Church life, of course, continued during Andrew's absence, and I would very much like to thank those of you who kept the 'show on the road' in relation to caring for the congregation and making sure that all our many commitments were kept. People also stepped up to the mark to take Mid-week Services, and even more frighteningly, to take Session Minutes while I chaired the Session! Many thanks to all of you. You know who you are.

Andrew's first Service back with us was a rather different Maundy Thursday Communion Service, taking the form of a reflective consideration of the important Bible passages which tell the story of Christ's Passion, leading up to the Cross - a moving and much appreciated service.

We have now completed our 'Future Focus' exercise, looking at where we as a church go from now into the future. Expect to hear more details about this in due course, as we consider this at Session Meetings and probably more widely as well.

Our Stated Annual Meeting held at the end of March was well supported by the congregation. Maureen Hunter, our Admin Team Convener will be reporting in more detail about this I'm sure. I'm aware that the minutes of the SAM are not circulated at this time, but only in preparation for the next SAM in a year's time. This is a shame, as they very clearly demonstrate the huge amount of work which goes on in the church - so if you would like a copy of this year's SAM Minutes, please contact Anne in the Office and she will be happy to send them out to you.

Finally, by the time you get this Parish News, Andrew will have attended the General Assembly as a Commissioner, and I look forward to hearing his report as to the various debates and decisions from the Assembly.

Wendy Armstrong, Session Clerk



Our "Fresh Expression" of worship" Kairos" continues to be popular with families and those seeking a different style of worship . For those of that have not heard of Kairos - the name means significant opportune time in New Testament Greek . Kairos aims to be a time when families and friends gather together for food, fellowship, Bible teaching using a variety of media followed by discussion and self discovery. The music is contemporary and led by our praise band, there are imaginative opportunities for prayer and reflection relating to the day's theme. Issues for prayer are generated by members of the congregation. Kairos meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 11am in the Carswell Centre. At the most recent Kairos service in May we considered the Parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32). After a time of scene setting group discussion followed looking at the differences and similarities between the two sons and the activity of God in the story. Gillian, our faith development convener, using her gift for prayer ministry introduced a creative way for people to bring their needs before God for healing, family and forgiveness; three themes that resonated with some of the issues revealed in the parable. For myself as the minister, I am continually encouraged by the appetite of so many who are open to learning through discussion and discernment of God's leading through scripture and who have a willingness to express their prayer needs for themselves, families, communities and issues in the world. The final Kairos service before the summer recess will be held on 18 June and will feature a family communion followed by a barbecue. Kairos will commence after the summer on 17 September.

Thank you to the planning team, the praise band, the kitchen staff and those who support and attend Kairos as it seeks to provide people with a significant encounter with God.

Rev Andrew Robertson

## Admin Report

The **Accounts** for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter shows a surplus of income over expenditure of £3298 compared with the budgeted figure. This sounds good but unfortunately our income is £893 less than the budgeted figure and our surplus is largely due to the timing of spend. The projections for the next 2 quarters show deficits in both – so, once again, we are asking everyone to examine their Givings and to consider Gift Aid where possible.

Our **Organisation Auditor** has audited the accounts of all our Church organisations with the exception of 2 who are still outstanding.

Our **Halls** continue to be well used by both Church organisations and the community – please remember the Laird Hall is an excellent venue for children's parties while the Carswell is very suited for family parties etc. Our Halls' Convener, Ann Robertson, will be pleased to discuss availability with you.

The **Church of Scotland** has written thanking us for the contribution of £88454 which we will be making to the Church for Ministry and Mission in 2017. (The contribution amount is set centrally and is dependent on income over the previous 3 years). The money we send is split between Ministries (£74301. and Mission (£14153). The Ministries portion is used to help with the provision of over 1000 ministers and parish workers throughout the country together with the costs of recruitment and training. The Mission contribution is used in a variety of ways including providing social care services, contributing the Church's opinion in public debate, resourcing Christian education and outreach, providing day to day service work in finance etc. The Church is very grateful for our contribution to the worship, mission and service of our Church.

Maureen Hunter, Admin Convener

## Lodging House Mission

LHM has over the years provided a Monday to Friday service for homeless and vulnerable folk - wash and shower, meals, support. Over the last winter this was extended to Saturdays by calling on churches within Glasgow Presbytery to provide volunteer staffing. Saturday Feb 25th was Eaglesham's turn. It was a great opportunity to appreciate the work of LHM and to meet some of both the staff and users. Gus Smeaton who was our 'overseer' on the day is virtually a full time volunteer as part of the management team. Sharif in the kitchen was cook for the day. Originally from Somalia he had arrived in London as a teenage refugee, living there for eleven years before coming to Glasgow three years ago. His reflections on London and Scotland and on the reluctance of many to consider moving north were fascinating! Also fascinating was the size of the building, and hence of the original city church from which it was converted. Eight of us were involved in morning and afternoon shifts and we would all thoroughly recommend the experience.

With the Saturday programme proving successful the Mission now plan to continue it. Eaglesham have committed to helping with this and have been allocated as their next date Saturday July 1st. If anyone would like to be involved in this please contact Brenda Bain at [brenda@thebains.org.uk](mailto:brenda@thebains.org.uk) or tel 302064

Brenda would also like to thank everyone for their donations for the Easter Egg Appeal ( £356.60), and the people who donate regularly - including the "Golden Girls". It is all very much appreciated.

### **A message from David Bradwell, Church of Scotland refugee co-ordinator**

Glasgow Asylum and Destitution Network have re-issued an urgent request for emergency accommodation for those with insecure immigration status, such as people who have made an unsuccessful asylum claim, rescued victims of human trafficking or migrant women or families who have fled an abusive partner. Such people have no recourse to public funds and could risk persecution or death by returning to their country of origin. If church members have a spare room and could help, they could host refugees through the Room for Refugees programme run by Positive Action. See [www.roomforrefugees.com](http://www.roomforrefugees.com)

## **BOYS BRIGADE**

### **Junior Section**

*Adam Nealis, officer in charge, describes the Junior Section's activities and reports on the year*

Another busy year has flown in with so much achieved in such a short space of time. We have 20 boys coming every Thursday from P4, 5 and 6.

Thursday nights follow the Brigade format starting with fall in, intimations and inspection. Overall, squad inspections have been good and this forms a large part of our Best Squad. Some basic drill and maze marching sometimes follow inspection and then it's on to achievement work and of course games!

Excellent attendances over the session mean that our boys have all achieved their annual badges. The award scheme covers areas of body, mind, spirit, community and creativity with targets as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> year boys – P4s – aim to complete target award and bronze award

2<sup>nd</sup> year boys – P5s – work towards gaining the Silver Award

3<sup>rd</sup> year boys – P6s – work towards gaining the final Gold Award

Achievements have included Water & Fire Safety, Treasure Hunts, Quizzes, Assault courses, Help at Home, A Tool Box Talk, Writing prayers, Bible parables, Local navigation and many more!

Games form a huge part of our evenings and whether we bring out the apparatus for vaulting or pirates, play numbers football, basketball, Chinese ladders, or stick to the old favourites such as dodgy ball, team games or port and starboard the Boys all seem to enjoy themselves.

We round off each night by falling back into our squads for intimations before concluding with the vesper.

This session has had a lot more to it than routine Thursday evenings. Different nights help to mix up the session and give the Boys something different to look forward to. We have had a couple of games only nights, a Halloween Party and a Christmas Party....and a successful trip to the Pantomime in December to see 'Jack and The Beanstalk'!

Outwith Thursdays we have also been exceptionally busy. We have taken part in the Battalion & District Sports and the District Swimming Gala. At the Swimming Gala we had great success coming second overall with the

boys winning a host of medals. The new look battalion sports at the Emirates Arena also provided our boys with lots of prizes with every boy attending winning a medal which is fantastic!

Also well done to the boys that completed our sponsored walk at Whitelee Windfarm, walking a total of 5 miles to raise money for the company and a local charity. We were lucky to have the sun on our side for a great afternoon.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of May we had our annual display night where the boys show what they have been learning and working towards throughout the year. The display was a great success with a good turn out. The winners of the individual prizes and best squad were as follows:

**The Billy McAuslan Trophy:** Brandon Carson

**Best Squad:** Ben Nevis: The Squad Leader was Marcus Gibb and he was assisted by Mark MacInnes, Aaron Steel, James Andrews and Alexander Graham.

**Best Boy:** Marcus Gibb

To round off the year we had our annual junior section camp to Carronvale House in Stirlingshire. The boys and staff had a weekend of sports, games and a visit to Blair Drummond Safari Park. The sun even made a brief appearance! The camp is a reward for the boys and staff for all their hard work during the year and is a perfect way for the boys to strengthen the friendships they have made throughout the year.

We have a terrific group of 7 boys leaving us this year to go onto the Company Section. All the staff would like to thank them for their hard work over the past 3 years and wish them all the best as they progress in the Boys Brigade.

Finally a big thankyou to everyone who has made this session possible. We will do it all again starting back on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Have a great Summer!

### **Anchor Boys**

Anchor boys is now over for another year, each session seems to come and go so quickly! Our Annual Display & Inspection took place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May and was a great night for all involved! The Primary 1s & 2s showed their families and friends the kinds of games we play on a Tuesday night and the P 3s impressed with a Maze marching routine they have been working so hard on for the past few months. The older boys also read a poem about David & Goliath with a little bit of acting thrown in and a very dramatically read ending! Each and every one of the boys really did us proud!

At the end of each display we have our prize giving- likely the best part of the night for the boys! The winners of this years awards were:

Best Squad - Red Squad: Harry Robertson, Jamie McFarlane, Joseph Wilson, Rhys Palmer, Jack Ross, Seamus McKendry & Finlay Steven.  
Bible Knowledge - Lewis Hume.

Best Boy Runners Up - Logan Hart & Luca Rossi.

Best Boy - Harry Robertson.

Sadly, we promote 16 fantastic boys to the Junior Section. This leaves room for plenty more or will perhaps reduce our noise level next session!

Finally, after 7 years together as Officers in Charge, Gordon is leaving us for London Town! I'll be really sad to see him go but am thankful for the great times we shared as sidekicks and wish him the best of luck in this new chapter! I need not worry about going it alone, however, as Alistair Campbell will be stepping up to be Officer in Charge alongside me after the summer!

We look forward to starting afresh in September and wish you all a wonderful (and hopefully sunny) summer!

Elaine

## Company Section

Our 2016/17 session came to an end with our always successful annual display. We were delighted to have Mr Jack Geddes, former boy and officer, as our Inspecting Officer and Mrs Geddes to present the awards. Mr Geddes found the boys to be well turned out and excellent in their activities. Parents, friends and village VIPs were treated to a well practised display of drill, bugle band, agilities and vaulting. A special congratulations goes to our only Queen's man, Lewis Bond, on achieving the Queen's badge, which is the highest accolade in the Boys' Brigade. Further mention to this year's best recruit, Ethan Hill, and Best Boy, Jack McPhail. With the display passed, the countdown is now on to camp. Our annual summer camp will be held (as usual) at Kingscross Point, Isle of Arran from Friday 14th to Sunday 23rd July. Anyone looking for more information please contact R G Burt Sure & Steadfast.

G. Cunningham, O/C.

## Youth Work...James Edgar reports. *And see photo on back page*

As summer approaches most of the youth work around the Church is on the downhill stretch into June. But we still have several things running and then the big event in the summer with the Holiday Club in August.

### EPYC

EPYC continues for another couple of weeks and since Easter we have been working our through an Armour of God series and getting to grips with all a soldier needs to protect himself in the battles of the Christian life. We began by building ourselves some armour as you can see in the picture and each week we have taken one piece and discovered what it's all about. Between barefoot laps of the Carswell Centre and testing water shields it has all been great fun and my hope is that there has been a real challenge in there to. The point of wearing armour is being ready for the fight, meaning being protected from attack, being able to move around the battlefield and striking back. It has been a really great series and I hope the young people are taking on board the spiritual battle they are in and how they need God's protection to stand. We conclude the year with our annual end of year BBQ in June hopefully with a dry night to enjoy it.

As with all the youth work around the Church I would ask that you pray for EPYC as we meet on Sunday nights. Pray for the young people as they develop and grow in faith and as they are challenged to stand up and stand out amongst their family, friends and peers. Also pray for our leaders as they seek to bring God's word to the young people in a way that engages and meets them at their stage of faith (Not easy!).

### Holiday Club

The holiday club has come around again and this year we approach it with a little more expectation than last. The team has come together well (although there is still room if you want to be a part of it) and preparations are underway. What we really need though is young people! So if you know any P1-P7 children then please encourage them to join us from 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> August as we become Polar Explorers for the week. We will be having some amazing fun as we get wintery (I hear there will be an igloo in the Carswell Centre) in the middle of August and set out on our expedition to discover what it takes to follow Jesus. Every morning is packed with games, crafts, songs, messy challenge, aerobics, the quiz, bible stories, videos and much more. It is one of the best weeks in the youth work calendar and please pray for all the team and for the week as we seek to build God's kingdom amongst the young people of Eaglesham.

## The 2017 General Assembly

This year as a commissionaire at the Assembly I took some notes of proceedings for the magazine . The Assembly opened with the installation of the new moderator Rev Dr Derek Browning of Morningside parish church in Edinburgh. The Queens High Commissioner, Princess Anne, affirmed the role of the church and the valuable social services it provides. The outgoing moderator Rev Dr Barr, spoke challengingly about the lack of respectful debate that has become the norm between political adversaries and about the shame of homelessness in Scotland which has not decreased in the last 10 years. This was heard by First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon.

Over 20 reports were made from the various committees and sub-committees of the Kirk and can be found in the Church of Scotland website. I have tried to pull out some of the most interesting threads relating to issues that confront the local church rather than the administrative and legal functions of the church.

**The Council of Assembly** issued a call to prayer that “God will do fresh work amongst God’s people” and has instructed presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to consider best how to respond to that call. It is evident that the church faces significant challenges in the next decades with years of plenty coming to an end. Evidence of this is found in falling church membership and attendance, diminishing finances, ageing membership and pressures from secular society. All these factors have contributed to the church’s influence on society diminishing. While the church is still valued in many ways it often struggles to exert a voice of reason in the corridors of power. Indeed, there is evidence of exclusion from roles in favour of the humanist and secular agenda.

When planning strategy, we need to be clear on what it is, who it serves, what it does, why it does it and how it does it - a valuable tip for any local church activity.

**The Iona Community** continues to support the poorest and marginalised in Scotland through the core Christian values of hospitality and justice. It raised concern prompted by a Washington Post article stating that the president of the USA was elected primarily by the white Christian vote, resulting in the election of a candidate who had boasted of assaulting women, supports torture and turned economic

grievance into blame, fear and race resentment. This poses the question of how to counter fake news with the good news of Jesus Christ.

**Mission and Discipleship.** The convenor reaffirmed a call for the need for prayer as part of regular church life. He suggested use of 360° images of church interiors to counter the closed doors image. During the Assembly the website use of such images of St Giles Cathedral attracted over 360,000 viewings. Local churches are encouraged to fully embrace 2018 as the year of the young person. Assembly was reminded of the Church of Scotland Learn publications and their potential use by Kirk sessions and membership in learning to share faith.

**Church and Society.** The plight of asylum seekers and refugees featured in this report. The UK government was called to be more hospitable in integrating them within the population. A Glasgow minister in one of the Urban Priority Areas spoke about female genital mutilation and the ghastly reality it presents to some young girls who may be repatriated to countries where this practice is commonplace yet officially outlawed. The Assembly was horror struck on hearing this. The Council will lobby the government to prevent such extraditions.

**Board of Trustees** raised two items, both controversial for some but based in the reality of our time. Congregations retaining glebes returning minimal rental might consider whether disposal may be a better economic option. Secondly, a large number of Church interiors reflect a different age and are no longer fit for the needs of 21st century worship. Local churches need to give thought to the functionality of the worship environment.

**Ministries Council** has an ongoing partnership with Fresh Expressions, a movement started in Merseyside to find new ways of being the church and reaching folk in a changing ‘post-modern’ society.

**The Theological Forum** had been asked at the 2016 General Assembly for a report on the theology of same-sex marriage to facilitate study and discussion within the Kirk. The report invited the church to take stock of its history of discrimination at different levels and in different ways against homosexual people and apologise individually and corporately and resolve to seek to do better.

An instruction was given to the legal questions committee to study what legislation would be required for ministers and deacons to conduct marriages between same-sex people. While this report was accepted and agreed by the Assembly after robust and measured debate, it did not receive universal approval. A number of ministers and elders registered dissent on the grounds of departure from the church's traditional stance on marriage as upheld at the 2012 general assembly. It is important to remember this does not mean that ministers and deacons will definitely conduct same-sex weddings.

And it will certainly not happen until the general assembly has further debate and adequate legal protections are put in place to protect ministers and deacons who hold the traditional view on the teachings of the Bible. The emphasis was on constrained difference in the hope that the Church will find ways to hold itself together during these difficult times. The illustration is the open hand and not a clenched fist.

On two occasions the Assembly halted business for silence and prayer in the wake of the bombing in Manchester and the murder of Coptic Christians in Egypt.

Rev Andrew Robertson, May 2017

### Visitors from abroad

The Dec 2016 issue of Parish News highlighted the issue of visa refusal for folk coming from abroad to Christian gatherings in this country - one case involving a member of the Iona Community and the other clergy from Pakistan looking at a link with Glasgow Presbytery. The latter was reversed by local appeal and campaign. Now two visitors from areas where the Church faces real difficulties have been refused attendance at the General Assembly - Syria and South Sudan. Over the years the Church of Scotland has invited hundreds of such visitors to the General Assembly. This was the first time the Church had been questioned on a delegate's costs. Its response to the situation was measured to say the least! 'Despite assurances Church official's expressed disappointment their assurances to immigration officials had not been taken on board'. This seems to be a reflection of a 'hard' immigration policy. What does it say about our concern for those trying follow their Christian commitment in difficult situations?

## A Biblical Puzzle

*can you find 24 books of the bible mentioned. Answer in next edition of Parish News*

This is a most remarkable puzzle. Someone is said to have found it in a seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his boat. Roy Clark studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Vinets mentioned it in her column once. One woman judges the job to be so involving she brews a cup of tea to calm her nerves. There will be some names that are easy to spot - that's a fact. Some people will soon find themselves in a jam especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalised. The truth is, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have. Those able to find them all will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation might help; books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Punctuation or spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you complete. Remember there are twenty-four books of the bible lurking somewhere in these paragraphs.

## Glasgow the Welcoming City

Join with Civic and Church Leaders in celebrating Glasgow's Heritage, Culture and Diversity

An event organised by Glasgow Churches Together

Glasgow City Chambers. Sunday June 18th at 3pm

Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery and Lord Provost

Music from the South Side Fiddlers, the Salvation Army Band, St Mungo Ensemble, St Mungo Singers and St Denis' Primary.

Refreshments in the Satinwood Suite  
All Welcome

(E.V) Howell and Dundrennan Abbey  
The answers to Sunday's puzzle are Edward

## SanctuaryFirst

*Encourage me when I need guidance and direction*

We live life forwards, but understand it backwards. As you look back, where do you see the hand of God on your life? You might want to draw a series of stepping stones and write on each of them how God has led you to this point in your life. Take a moment to thank God for his guidance and take courage that he will find a way to make his way clear for this next decision. You can trust him.

The Biblical stories are full of people being directed by God, through general lifestyle instructions, through life-changing circumstances and occasionally by specific directions. Something is said. A vision or a dream points the way. Doors of opportunity open and close. The witness of the people of God is that God guides his people. You can trust him to guide you.

However we have a great capacity for self deception. It is important to know ourselves well and to know our personal weaknesses. God will not guide us to act contrary to the mind of Christ. The counsel of an honest friend will save from making a wrong decision.

The Ignatian tradition speaks of seasons of consolation and desolation in life. Consolation is when our desires are aligned with seeking God. Desolation is when we are moving away from God - not necessarily in a time of suffering, but when we are neglecting God for a range of reasons.

The wisdom of that tradition counsels us never to go back on a decision we made in a time of consolation when we are in a time of desolation. That counsel has helped many a person to stay with situations which we would rather avoid.

This guidance note is from the website of **Sanctuary First** which is a Pioneer Ministry being developed by the Church of Scotland through Falkirk Presbytery. The concept originally arose out of the congregation of St Andrew's Parish Bo'ness but has transitioned into what might be described as a fresh expression of church under the direct governance of Falkirk Presbytery. Albert Bogle, previously of Bo'ness and ex-Moderator, was appointed in April 2016, as minister of Sanctuary First with the aspiration that it will become a worshipping congregation of the Church of Scotland on the internet.

***Have a look at the website ...***  
[sanctuaryfirst.org.uk](http://sanctuaryfirst.org.uk)

### **Pray for Peace in the Middle East on the 24th of each month**

The Church of Scotland and Christian Aid are supporting a worldwide movement to pray for the situation in Israel and Palestine on the 24th of each month. Perhaps we could remember this in our own private prayers.

**A note from Morag Hill...** Action Medical Research would like to thank all who supported their fashion show in April - the sum raised was £ 1700 approx .

## Shopping locally?



We know the arguments against regular use of local individual shops. Supermarkets make shopping easy. Everything is available. The quality is assured. They are open at all times. How well these arguments hold up in reality is open to question. And there are counter arguments. The travel cost to and from the big stores. The 'impulsive' buying of items that are not really necessary. the consequent potential for waste with bulk buying compared with day to day needs from the local shop. But there is another issue. Local shops and local shopping are part of the community. Folk meet each other, chat and share news. Shopping locally is often about more than simply buying the food for the next day or two.

So why is this relevant now. We have had a fruit and veg shop in Eaglesham for as long as most folk can remember. But trade has been borderline. Carol Imrie has kept her shop open on an extended lease for the last two years with a full selection of excellent fruit and vegetables along with an interesting range of other products. But it has been difficult. The lease runs out in September and she feels unable to continue it. We will then lose what regular customers have seen as an essential part of local shopping. Could there be a risk of a knock-on effect? Use it or lose it is well recognised advice! So lets all try to shop locally to support this part of our community.

## REACHING OUT TO PAKISTAN

How do we in Scotland relate to Christians in other countries – particularly those where Christians are a minority and find themselves disadvantaged or even under threat? Sadly, many Christians living in predominantly Muslim countries can find themselves in this position.

It was in 2015 that Glasgow Presbytery's World Mission Committee suggested that Presbytery, as a way of seeking more involvement with such a group, might create a formal twinning arrangement with the Anglican Diocese of Hyderabad in the south-east of Pakistan. Although there are many differences, there are also areas of common ground such as pockets of severe poverty, higher than average unemployment and a large post-industrial city at the centre with surrounding rural parishes. A deputation from Presbytery visited Hyderabad and was warmly welcomed by the Diocese; they toured round the countryside, witnessing some of the work being done to address the needs of the population.

A return visit was proposed for May 2016 but, as previously reported in Parish News, Home Office restrictions meant that two of the four intending visitors had visa applications refused both then and later in the year. Eventually with press publicity and pressure from Kirsten Oswald MP the situation was reviewed, the decision reversed and the original four delegates arrived in Glasgow in February.

The Right Reverend Kaleem John addressed Glasgow Presbytery on 14<sup>th</sup> February. Despite all the problems in being a Christian Church in Pakistan, around 12 of the 15 minutes of his address covered nothing but positive news about all the programmes the Diocese was running to improve literacy, encourage education amongst the poor and improve the lot of females – all with no question about religious background. Only at the very end did he touch upon the serious problems they faced, referring specifically to an event that made the national news in the UK when a Mission Compound was attacked on 31<sup>st</sup> December by a local gang, aided and abetted by the police; several women were injured, one severely, and they were forced to leave.

The work of the Diocese can be seen on their Facebook Page. The Twinning with Glasgow is proceeding initially with exchange visits and possible congregational linkages, regular communication and exchange of resources, and informed prayer. May the faith in adversity of these people spur us in the west to greater efforts to promote and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus in our own communities.

Stuart W MacGill, Presbytery Elder



Hyderabad visitors with Bill Gray, World Mission convenor

## Williamwood Church summer concerts

Sundays at 7pm

June 25

July 30

August 27

Featuring musicians from Royal Conservatoire of Glasgow

All welcome. Entry by donation

## WHERE AM I?

*yet another teaser from Sandy Robertson  
[answer elsewhere in News]*

I'm travelling south in reach of an abbey where a vanquished Queen spent her last night before heading into exile. I pause in a village to admire an 'A' listed bridge, built in 1806 by one of the most famous sons of this district. The village is also an important element in the region's HEP Scheme, developed in the 1930's. A few miles south, I am in the chief town of the district. the centre is dominated by a castle built around 1570. The nearby Tolbooth once served as a prison. Amongst its former inmates was a sailor, born in a nearby village in 1747, who had the unusual distinction of serving in both the American Navy and the Imperial Russian Navy. Elsewhere in the town I find a townhouse, acquired in 1901 by an artist - an eminent member of a well known group of 'youthful' artists. The town became something of an artists' colony as a result. Leaving the town, I head seven miles south-east to reach the abbey, established by Cistercians in 1142.

Q1 Who was the artist?

Q2 Name the abbey.



***EPYC in armour, Eaglesham team at Lodging House Mission, and Anchor boys 'on safari' and at Emirates sports event***