

# Eastwood Parish Church of Scotland

## Crossbeam—September 2020

From the Manse...

Dear Friends,

### Re-opening of the Church Building for Worship

On behalf of Kirk Session, I am delighted to let you know that we will be re-opening the Church Building **for worship only**, on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020. This has been a monumental task and thanks must go to our Resources Group who have got us to this significant stage.

I must stress, though, this will not be a return to the service format we were accustomed to before lockdown began. In accordance with the advice of the Scottish Government and the Church of Scotland, there will be no singing or reciting of the Lord's Prayer in our Church. Our service will last around 30/35 minutes and will include a selection of readings, prayers, reflection and reflective music.

I must also ask you to take time to read the following bullet points before you decide to join us for worship within the building:

- Do not attend if you have any potential coronavirus symptoms, including persistent cough, high temperature or loss of taste or smell.
- There will be a queuing system for entry to the Church, similar to those seen outside shops. The building will be opened at 10.45 am and the service will begin at 11.15 am. Entry to the building will only be by the main door on Mansewood Road. The capacity of our building at the present time is 50, including the Minister and Welcome Team.
- Our Stewards will ask for your name and contact details, as we are instructed to participate in the NHS Test and Protect Scheme. No-one can enter the building without



Where you belong

#### Inside this issue

Thank You Letter..... page 3

McMillan Coffee

Morning..... page 4

Church Family

News..... page 4

Youth Organisations page 5

Burns Night

Special Report..... page 6

Rev. Nigel Chikanya page 10

Labels..... page 10



providing this information. Please remember our Stewarding Team is in place to help keep everyone safe.

- You must wear a face covering for the entire time you are in the building, unless you have medical exemption, and you must use the provided hand-sanitiser when you arrive.
- Please remember to maintain 2 metres physical distancing at all times.
- You will be directed to a seat by one of our Stewards. Please remain in that seat for the duration of your time in the building. All other areas, **including toilet facilities**, will be out of bounds until further notice.
- At the end of the service, Stewards will oversee the leaving of the building. There will be no tea and coffee served and we would ask that you do not linger in the vestibule.
- We want to thank everyone who has moved to giving to the Church by Standing Order or other electronic means and would politely ask that you would continue doing so. If you are not able to do this, however, there will be an offerings plate available as you enter the building.

For those who are shielding, or have health concerns, please remember that you should be sensible about whether or not you should attend. There is **no** compulsion to attend if you are nervous about doing so and we would actively encourage you **not to attend** if you have concern

With this preceding paragraph in mind, we will be continuing to provide worship on Zoom. Please note that the new start time for Zoom services will be **9.30 am**. Again, this will be a 30/35 minute service. Furthermore, each Sunday, we hope to provide a virtual coffee time, again on Zoom, at **12.15 pm** for an hour. For those who are unable to join us at either Sunday service, we will still be providing videos on YouTube, Facebook and our own website each Sunday. For those who prefer to read, a written script will be made available on our website and Facebook pages.

I look forward to welcoming you back to worship. Should you have any queries regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Alistair Dobbie or Erika Watt.

Your friend and minister,  
Jim Teasdale

Dear Friends

As you know, we are not often short of things to say but your recent well wishes and generosity left us almost speechless! On Tuesday 11 August beautiful flowers and a delicious afternoon tea were delivered to our house. Then, in the afternoon, a number of our church friends appeared at the house for a wee (socially distanced!) visit to our garden to pass on your beautiful gifts and good wishes as we retire from our various 'active duty' roles at Eastwood.



Thanks to everyone involved for these gifts and warm wishes - and just for being our friends for so many years. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time at Eastwood and all the jobs we've done have only been possible because of all the support and help many of you have given us. But beware, although we are moving shortly and will be spending most of our time living in Campbeltown, we are planning to be regular visitors to Glasgow and to continue to be part (just a bit less active!) of the Eastwood Family.

With love and best wishes

Liz & Alistair



## McMillan Coffee Morning

Eastwood is famous for its coffee mornings, for the community spirit it brings and the money raised for charity.

With COVID we obviously can't have a physical coffee morning but plan to have a zoom McMillan Coffee Morning on Saturday 19th September at 10am for an hour.

The idea is that we would send out a zoom invite ( computer or telephone ) and we would all get together with our coffee and our cakes in our own homes and catch up on Zoom.

A donation to McMillan Cancer Research can be sent to the treasurer, Katie Morrison either through the bank ( please put a reference on it to say that it's for McMillan) or by post to Katie's house. The treasurer will then collect it all and send it off to McMillan.

The deadline for donations to Katie is Saturday 3rd October.

If you would like to join us to raise funds for this worthwhile cause please contact Felicity Teasdale or Erika Watt and they will organise the Zoom invite.

## Church Family News

**Thank yous:** Linda Mitchell says thank you for the kind flowers she received.

Margaret Pruefer says—A number of weeks ago I received flowers from the church which were lovely and lasted really well, giving me a lot of enjoyment and I wish to thank you for them.

**Birthdays:** Susan McKay, Margaret Marshall, Mary Marshall, and Hawthorn Stewart all have birthdays coming up soon. Congratulations!

# Youth Organisations

Covid-19 and the lockdown have hit us all. All areas of our life and our communities . Our church organisations have been no exception.

## **Girls Brigade**

With no prospect of face to face meetings National Girls Brigade have developed an online system meeting for the foreseeable future.

The Leaders of the 29th Glasgow GB had been worried about our falling numbers before lockdown and whether it is this or the non face to face meeting or just a general disinterest in the type of organisation Girls Brigade is, we received very few replies to letters which we sent out to gauge interest for the new session. So it is with a very heavy heart that we write to advise that GB will not restart in September.

We will revisit it in July of next year, hoping we are back to face to face meetings, and maybe we can reopen for the 2021/2022 session.

## **EPYC**

Unfortunately the youth club is in a similar situation. With no face to face meetings and young people reluctant to engage online the Youth Club has also been put on hold for the time being . Once we get the go ahead from the Church of Scotland that we can reopen with no social distancing then the leaders will revisit and contact the young people who were regular attenders .

Erika Watt



## Burns Night Special Report— Tam o'Shanter

Police officers in the South Ayrshire area command are appealing to the public for information following a bizarre unsubstantiated report of a public disorder incident in the vicinity of the Alloway Auld Kirk on January 25th.

According to Ayr resident Mr Thomas o'Shanter, who supposedly witnessed and later reported the incident, in the early hours of the morning while returning home from an evening spent with a friend in a local hostelry, Mr o'Shanter, admittedly incautious due to alcohol consumption, was drawn to lights coming from the Auld Alloway Kirk, and witnessed what he described as "an unco sight".

He claims to have seen a large group of "wither'd bedlams, auld and droll" cavorting in a state of undress among the church ruins, while a "towzie tyke, black, grim and large" provided music by playing the bagpipes. Mr o'Shanter asserts that this sizeable dark-coloured dog was in fact "Auld Nick", but otherwise could not explain how an animal lacking opposable digits could possibly play a musical instrument.

In his dubious statement to the police, Mr o'Shanter claims that these semi-naked individuals, whom he insists were "warlocks and witches in a dance", had desecrated graves and were displaying exhumed corpses in open coffins, and were also in possession of several items connected to violent crimes that were recently reported missing from a police evidence room. According to the witness's sworn testimony, these items include:

- Five tomahawks, wi' blude red-rusted
- Five scymitars, wi' murder crusted
- A garter, which a babe had strangled
- A knife a father's throat had mangled

Mr o'Shanter went on to say that the unidentified persons were in possession of other items, but refused to give further details, saying only they "Wi mair

o'horrible and awfu', which even to name wid be unlawful.'" He did however state that he saw various body parts in the vicinity, namely " three lawyers' tongues, turn'd inside out" and "three priests' hearts, rotten, black as muck."

Mr o'Shanter then claimed that upon discovering his presence, he was pursued by the "hellish legion", but narrowly escaped by riding across a bridge on his horse, explaining. "a running stream they dare na cross". When detectives inspected the animal in question for evidence, it was discovered that its tail had been forcibly removed. Officers from the SSPCA were subsequently called and the horse, a grey mare named Maggie, was taken into their care.

When interviewing Kate o'Shanter, Mr o'Shanter's spouse, she could shed no light on her husband's outlandish story, saying only, "I tauld him weel thous was a skellum! A bletherin' blusterin' drunken blellum that frae November till October ae market day thous was nae sober."

Other known associates of the witness—Souter Johnny, plus the local blacksmith and miller—also proved to be of little assistance in uncovering the truth of the matter, each of them being heavily intoxicated when interviewed. Detectives were again frustrated when speaking to another friend of the witness, hostelry owner Kirkton Jean, who admitted to week-long drinking binges in the company of Mr o'Shanter, and would only add, "Ah prophesised that late or soon, Tam would be found deep drown'd in Doon, or cath'd wi' warlocks in the mirk, by Alloway's auld haunted kirk."

Despite the difficulties obtaining reliable information, enquiries are ongoing at this stage, and Police are eager to speak to a young woman from the Carrick area going by the name of 'Nannie'. She is described by Mr o'Shanter as "ae windsome wench and waulie", dressed in a "cutty sark o'Paisley harn." The witness claims this individual is responsible for the pulling out of his horse's tail, and also accused her of other animal cruelty and maritime offences, alleging, "For mony a beast to death she shot, and perish'd mony a bonie boat."

Mr o'Shanter was subsequently charged with public drunkenness and being

intoxicated in charge of a horse. Depending on the outcome of the investigation, he may also be found guilty of animal cruelty and wasting police time.

Safer Communities officer PC Jamie Dunlop stated, “This incident highlights the dangers of consuming too much alcohol and travelling home unaccompanied. “We encourage anyone going out and attending licensed premises to plan their night and ensure that they have arranged transport home and not be tempted to drink and drive (be it by car or mare). Stay with friends where possible and avoid joining groups of unknown persons as they may not have the same idea of a good night out as you.

“If anyone is aware of this incident we would encourage them to come forward to assist officers with ongoing enquiries. We can be contacted on 101 or if they wish to report anonymously they can do so via Crimestoppers on 0800 111 555.”

While enquiries continue, Police Scotland would like to take this opportunity to issue the following advice to the public.

- If you’re going out on a night out, always have a plan on how you’ll get home—use a licenced taxi, public transport, or get someone to pick you up—don’t end up wandering around graveyards at 4 in the morning.
- Dependant on the circumstances, it may be illegal to ride or be in charge of a horse while inebriated.
- Animal cruelty carries severe penalties including heavy fines and a possible prison sentence.
- Know your limits. Heavy drinking severely impairs your judgement.
- Noisy late night gatherings in public places may contravene anti-social behaviour legislation, and may result in the issuing of an ASBO.
- The desecration of cemeteries, theft of police evidence and the illegal harvesting and trafficking of human organs are extremely serious crimes.
- Although the validity of the allegation is under severe suspicion, playing the bagpipes in a public place after dark without the proper permission may violate noise pollution laws.

Whene’er to drink you are inclin’d, or cutty sarks run in your mind, Think! Ye may buy joys o’er der—Remember Tam o’Shanter’s mare.



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## Rev. Nigel Chikanya

Fifteen months ago Nigel, Savior and Deuel arrived from South Africa to join our congregation at Eastwood for Nigel's familiarisation placement with the Church of Scotland. They soon settled into life in Scotland and got to know all of the faces of their church family. Even if those faces weren't always smiling!

During his time at Eastwood, Nigel won the honour of being one of the few people brave enough to halt the congregation in the middle of a hymn because they weren't singing it right. And then teach them how to do it properly!

On a more serious note, Nigel has been a great pastoral help to many of our church family who will miss his kind words and listening ear. We will all miss his happy presence on a Sunday morning.

But it is now time for Nigel, Saviour and Deuel to move on from Eastwood. We wish them every blessing as they continue their journey with God and look forward to hearing how they get on. This is not 'goodbye' but merely 'see-you-soon' as they will always be part of the Eastwood church family.

## Labels

Labels: John, the baptiser;  
Elijah, ravens' friend  
and occasional flame thrower;  
weeping Jeremiah, perhaps,  
in an echoing well?  
A prophet—  
just a random one—  
for any occasion?  
The expectations of the people  
are pinned on Jesus' jacket,  
but cannot pin him down.

Another label:  
the One,  
the Son  
not just any old son...  
this One  
is of the Living God:  
not wood,  
not stone,  
but flesh and blood  
and bone.

Somehow,  
in the mystery,  
God has put skin on,  
trying on 'human'  
for size:  
becoming  
a waymarker  
pointing us  
to life  
less wooden,  
to hearts  
less stony;  
showing,  
in who God is,  
whose we are  
and what it means  
to fully live.

The expectations of the Promised Messiah  
are pinned to all our jackets,  
and we are pinned as Jesus' own.



## What's On At Eastwood

### SUNDAY

10.00 am	Faithbook (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays)
11.15 am	Worship
11.00 am	Sunday School (age 2 to 16)

### Contact

Erika Watt  
Rev Jim Teasdale  
Katie Morrison

### MONDAY

10.00 am	English Literacy Classes
12 noon	The Lunch Club Open on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month from 12noon (except July and August)

Christine Nanguy  
E:info@pollokshawsaln.org

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all activities except for Sunday worship are suspended until further notice.**

### FRIDAY

9.30 am	Slimming World
7.00 pm	Badminton (from October to May)

Lesley Clark

### SATURDAY

10.30 am	Coyle Irish Dancers
7.00 pm	EPYC

Suzanne Coyle  
Erika Watt

## Church Contacts

Minister	Rev Jim Teasdale	0141 571 7648	JTeasdale@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerk	Erika Watt		
Treasurer	Katie Morrison		
Halls Convener	John Smith		
Roll Keeper	Jamal Issa		
Magazine Editor	Felicity Teasdale		