

Eastwood Parish Church of Scotland Crossbeam—June 2023

From the Manse...

Dear Friends,

During the middle of May the Faith Nurture Forum agreed to accept the Presbytery of Glasgow's Mission Plan. By doing so, here at Eastwood, we can now, along with our Cluster Partners, begin working on achieving our part of the plan.

Let me remind you of what we are looking to achieve. By the end of 2027, our cluster will be staffed by 3 Full-Time Ministers of Word & Sacrament and a 0.5 Ministries Development Staff (MDS) post. The 3 Ministers will be expected to work as a Team across the 8 Churches and the MDS will work in Carnwadric & Pollokshaws, which are both Priority Area Congregations.

At its meeting in January 2023, our Kirk Session considered an approach from the Kirk Session of Thornliebank, asking if we would be willing to consider uniting with them on the occasion of a vacancy in either congregation. The Elders present agreed unanimously to accept Thornliebank's proposal.

At the end of March 2023, the Minister of Thornliebank announced that he intends to retire during October of this year. As a result, we will need to negotiate a Basis of Union, which is a legal document setting out the terms of how we would unite with Thornliebank.

I would expect us to begin negotiations over the next couple of months. Yet, as I said at the Annual Stated Meeting, this union is an opportunity and not a threat. It will enable the best of both congregations to come together to form a new congregation that can have a vibrant, missional future.

As we move into the Autumn, there will be regular updates on

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Where you belong

Inside this issue

Social and Fundraising Group News.....	page 2
Foodbank Collections.....page 2
Flat Jesus.....	page 3
General Assembly 2023.....	page 4
A Poem	page 6
A Prayer.....	page 7
Church Family News.....	page 7



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progress made. These will be on Sunday mornings, in the magazine and through emails/letters.

Your friend and minister,

Jim

Jim Teasdale

Social & Fundraising Group News

Our Clothes Show fundraiser in March was an enjoyable night and raised £550 for the Church. The Christian Aid Lunch in May raised £146 for this charity. Thanks to all those who attended, helped or contributed in any way to the success of either of these two events.

Our planned Afternoon Tea and tour of the Church has unfortunately been cancelled. However, we are having a lunch for our organist, Alex Philp who is retiring after over 20 years in the post. All are welcome to this free event after the service on Sunday 2nd July 2023. If you wish to contribute to a gift for Alex please speak to the Minister or Treasurer.

Anne Maree Smith

Foodbank Collections

We are still collecting donations for the Foodbanks at Carnwadric and Auldhouse Community Church. These can be left in the boxes in the vestibule on a Sunday morning. Thank you for any food donations you can make.

Flat Jesus

What are your plans for the summer? Whether they involve travelling to fair flung climes or staying right here in Glasgow, we would like you to share your plans with your friends at Eastwood, using Flat Jesus. Simply colour in the picture and use it to take a photo of your summer activities. Email your photo to the minister, and your picture and details of what you have been up to will be included in our weekly service PowerPoint over the summer.



General Assembly 2023

Taken from the 'Life and Work General Assembly 2023 Supplement. The full document can be read here: <https://www.lifeandwork.org/downloads/general-assembly-2023-supplement.pdf>

KEY MOMENTS AND SPEECHES

The General Assembly approved the creation of a Book of Confessions forming the Church's subordinate standard. The Book, to include the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Scots Confession, Nicene and Apostles Creeds, and the 1992 Statement of Faith, must now be approved by presbyteries under the Barrier Act.

The Theological Forum agreed to review the Third Article Declaratory, which commits the church to providing the 'ordinances of religion' to every parish in Scotland. Bringing the motion, the Rev Robert Allan pointed out that Scotland was now mostly secular, and given the shrinking number of ministers asked whether it was possible for the Church to maintain the commitment of the Third Article. He said it was "a noble aim" but that the church should be "humble enough to reconsider".

The Assembly passed an amendment from the Rev Bryan Kerr noting "with alarm" research which suggests that black and ethnic minority ministers are being overlooked or asked not to officiate at funerals in favour of a 'Scottish minister'. Mr Kerr said: "We ought to be standing up for our ministers and calling this out for what it is. It's racist, it's xenophobic and has no place in our church." The Assembly Trustees are to work with the church's EDI (equality, diversity and inclusion) group to highlight the issue and liaise with public bodies and funeral directors. The Rev Dr Kwame Ahaligah said: "Racist ideas should not be tolerated or explained away. The Gospel should challenge us to confront such opinions with a strong prophetic voice."

The Assembly approved the merger of nine presbyteries into a new Highlands

and Hebrides presbytery, Clèir Eilean Ì. The new group brings together the current presbyteries of Argyll, Caithness, Sutherland, Ross, Inverness, Abernethy, Lochaber, Lochcarron-Skye and Uist. The Presbytery of Lewis has not agreed to join the new presbytery, but it is hoped that will happen at a later date. The Principal Clerk, the Rev Fiona Smith, said that discussions with Lewis continue and that relationships were good.

The Assembly agreed the formation of an advisory Ethical Oversight Committee to help the Church of Scotland Investor's Trust navigate ethical and theological issues around the church's investments. The committee was proposed by a special commission set up following the debate in recent years on whether the church should disinvest from fossil fuels.

Laura Dunlop KC was given a lengthy ovation as she stepped down after 18 years as Procurator of the General Assembly. Jonathan Brodie KC was appointed as her successor.

On the opening day, the Assembly was addressed by Joe Morrow, Lord Lyon King of Arms (the chief heraldic officer of Scotland) who defended the ceremonial elements of the General Assembly. He said that the pageantry represented the links between the church and state, celebrating the Church's influence with the sovereign and governments.

A proposal to review the provision of manses for ministers, and explore allowing ministers to buy their own house if they wish, was narrowly defeated. The Rev Robert Allan said that such a review would benefit ministers struggling in unsuitable and expensive manses, and that churches could benefit financially from renting out their manses. However, concern was expressed over the tax implications, and whether ministers would be able to afford suitable accommodation.

There was a prolonged round of applause for the Rev Jean Montgomerie, the longest serving female minister in the Church of Scotland, who celebrated 50 years in the ministry recently.

A Poem

I don't care what church you belong to,
So long as for Calvary you stand.
So give me your hand, my dear brother.
My dear sister, now give me your hand.

For at Calvary Christ died to save us.
He gave Himself for our sin,
And opened the gateway to Heaven,
That ransomed souls may enter in.

But we must repent for our sin,
And accept Christ as Saviour and Lord.
Then trusting God for all guidance
And daily reading His Word.

For His Word is a light to our pathway,
and if we are faithful and true,
His promise of help is secure,
Although skies are not always blue.

So live with the Lord in your heart,
And souls you may win to Christ.
So give me your hand, my dear brother.
My dear sister, now give me your hand.

Helen Wade

A Prayer

Dear Father,

We thank you for bringing us together to worship through our prayers and praises.

May we listen and learn from the sermon. Help us when we leave the church today so that your love will enfold us, not only on this day, but on every day.

Help us to walk in your light, to live in your love and to contemplate your wisdom.

Amen.

Thank you for our minister, for all the work that he does and may you continue to guide him in your ways.

Thank you Felicity who edits the magazine.

Isabel McCormick

Church Family News

Claire Walker, Avril Ferns, Irene and Len Friend, Anne Noble, John and Evelyn Stewart, Jean Allan, Anne Robb, Margaret Pruefer, May Gilles, Eileen McColl and Marjorie Gibson would like to say thank you for the flowers they have received, along with everyone else who has recently been given flowers from the church. Thanks should also go to Isabel Freer for taking the time to deliver the flowers.

What's On At Eastwood

		Contact
SUNDAY		
10.00 am	Faithbook (Monthly) - ONLINE ONLY	Erika Watt
11.15 am	Worship	Rev Jim Teasdale
11.00 am	Sunday School (age 2 to 16)	Katie Morrison
MONDAY		
7.00 pm	Rock Til U Drop Jive Club	Raymond or Nicky
TUESDAY		
5.45 pm	Coyle Irish Dancers	Suzanne Coyle
WEDNESDAY		
10.00 am	Eastwood Carer & Toddler Group	Rona Hutton
1.45 pm	Carpet Bowls (from October to March)	Linda Smith
THURSDAY		
5.45 pm	Coyle Irish Dancers	Suzanne Coyle
FRIDAY		
9.00 am	Slimming World	Jackie Quinn
7.00 pm	Badminton (from October to May)	Anne Maree Smith
SATURDAY		
11 am	Coyle Irish Dancers	Suzanne Coyle

Church Contacts

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