

# Eastwood Parish Church of Scotland

## Crossbeam—March 2025

From the Manse...

Dear Friends,

It has long been understood that people find worship easier at Christmas than Holy Week and Easter. Despite the challenges of childbirth in less-than-ideal circumstances, homelessness, refugee status, and the state sanctioned murder of children by Herod, a soft-focus image of Christmas sits more comfortably with many people, inside and outside the Church. Holy Week and Easter are different.

The sharp, jaggedness of the events of Holy Week; the themes of betrayed trust, cowardice, unjust accusations at an unfair trial, the brutality around an innocent life and an unspeakable public execution and miserable death are not easy to stomach. To say nothing of the bleak emptiness of the 'nothing' day of Holy Saturday where the world of faith froze. Followed by the hopeful/hard to understand questions around resurrection and Easter.

Yet we are an Easter people, and, eventually, Hallelujah is our song. Whether we feel like it or not. Whether we have some grasp of what resurrection and new life and new beginning means, or not. It simply will not go away and, like Jesus Himself, it refuses to die.

Which leads me to wonder are we "pessimists" or "optimists"? There so much happening in the world, we would be forgiven for being pessimistic. And yet I am optimistic about faith and its people. I am optimistic that the person of Jesus, and what He has to say, and what He came to do, has, still does, and will always, make a difference in this world, in your lives, and my life. I am optimistic that despite everything, there is still hope in going on. It may be a hard slog. We might not always see where the road is going to take us. We might have doubts about how we will continue. But



*Where you belong*

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time after time those little remembrances of hope, those acts of inexplicable kindness, those corners turned on a long road, those things that though small, when added up, in their totality mean so much more than we could ever understand.

The apostle Paul writes about being a fool for Christ. Is there foolishness in our faith, believing in a dead man coming to life, believing a voice could speak in the coolness of an Easter garden from beyond the grave, believing Thomas could touch the wounds, believing two disciples could walk with Jesus on the Road to Emmaus? Perhaps.

Yet faith is based on hope and trust and imagination, and the engagement of our minds, hearts and all our senses. I find that the mixture of story, wondering, doubting and believing enriches my faith; and the belief that I cannot work it all out by myself because I do not control the story, I experience it and try to live out its meaning. It is enough, sometimes barely enough, sometimes more than enough, to get me through each day.

Your friend and minister,

*Jim*

Jim Teasdale

## Holy Week Services

All are welcome to join us for Holy Week Services. As has been our custom these will be shared with other Churches in G43 and are as follows:

Wednesday 16th April at 7pm in Eastwood Parish Church

Thursday 17th April at 7pm in Auldhouse Community Church

Friday 18th April at 7pm in Pollokshaws Methodist Church

Sunday 20th April at 9.30 am in Pollokshaws Parish Church

At 11.15am on Easter Sunday, we will hold an Easter Day Service, including the Sacrament of Holy Communion, followed by Tea, Coffee, and Hot Cross Buns!

## Prayers for the start of a committee meeting

Lord, could you give us a wee hand here?

We've been doing this for ages;

We've run out of steam:

We've no more ideas.

Lord, could you give us a wee hand?

We're feeling tired;

We're a bit discouraged;

We've had enough.

Lord, could you give us a wee hand?

We feel bad about complaining;

We know we should be strong,

But we're worn out.

Lord, could you give us a wee hand?

We really want to follow you;

We really want to work for you;

We really want to serve others.

Lord, could you give us a wee hand?

We're telling you about it;

We're reaching out to you.

Will you reach out to us?

Lord, could you give us a wee hand?

We'll get there if you help us;

We'll revive if you inspire us;

We'll be strong if you are with us.

Lord never let us go! Amen.

## Social Events

The Family Brunch held after the Service on Sunday 22nd December 2024 was well attended with around 50 people enjoying the breakfast rolls. All the money donated (£297) was given to 'Launch', a children's charity serving hot meals to those in need.

We also had a Pizza and Pasta lunch in February when we raised £132.31 for Church funds.

Our next social event is the popular Quiz and Fish Tea night being held on Saturday 22nd March 2025 at 5.30pm in the Upper Hall. Tickets priced £9 are available from Anne Maree Smith (0141 585 3911) and include either a fish or sausage supper.

Anne Maree Smith

## Joint Cluster Church Events

Giffnock South hosted a Ceilidh on Saturday 22nd February 2025. We had a great night of music and dance, and a pizza supper too. It was a very enjoyable evening with all the churches represented.

Our second joint cluster Service of Worship was held in Eastwood Parish Church on Sunday 9th March 2025. Tea/coffee was provided in both the Sanctuary and the halls after the Service. Around 220 people attended and £511.50 was raised for Carnwadric Helping Hands Food Bank.

The Park Church is having a Spring Flower Show in conjunction with Mearns Horticultural Society on Saturday 15th March 2025 from 2-4pm. In addition to the flower classes there will be sections for photography, baking, home crafts etc. which anyone can enter. All welcome.

Anne Maree Smith

## Church Family News

Irene Friend would like to thank everyone for their kindness with cards, telephone calls, and also church flowers after Len's passing. This was very much appreciated.

Isobel McGlashan would like to thank the Minister and members of the congregation for the beautiful flowers she recently received. Thank you also to Isabel for delivering them and popping in for a chat.

Netta Stewart, Liz Duncan, Janice Teasdale Eileen McColl and Anne Noble would like to say thank you for the flowers they have received.

All of those receiving flowers are most appreciative and send their thanks. Thanks should also go to Isabel for taking the time to deliver the flowers.

## Pause for Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we come together today, we ask you to prepare our hearts to worship you. Open our lives through your spirit and presence among us now. Help us in such a way that your light may shine in us and through us, bringing Glory to your name. As we leave your church today, bless each and every one of us, fill our hearts with love for each other and help us to give back in return our heartfelt gratitude expressed in true commitment and faithful service.

Amen.

## What's On At Eastwood

		Contact
<b>SUNDAY</b>		
11.15 am	Worship	Rev Jim Teasdale
11.00 am	Sunday School (age 2 to 16)	Katie Morrison
7.30 pm	Faithbook (Third Sunday of the month) - Online Only	Erika Watt
<b>MONDAY</b>		
7.00 pm	Rock Til U Drop Jive Club	Raymond or Nicky
<b>TUESDAY</b>		
5.45 pm	Coyle Irish Dancers	Suzanne Coyle
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>		
10.00 am	Eastwood Carer & Toddler Group	Katie Morrison
1.45 pm	Carpet Bowls (from October to March)	Linda Smith
7.00pm	Mansewood/Hillpark Community Council (first Wednesday of the month)	
<b>THURSDAY</b>		
5.45 pm	Coyle Irish Dancers	Suzanne Coyle
<b>FRIDAY</b>		
9.30 am	Slimming World	Jackie Quinn
7.00 pm	Badminton (from September to May)	Anne Maree Smith
<b>SATURDAY</b>		
10.30 am	Coyle Irish Dancers	Suzanne Coyle

## Church Contacts

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