

FELLOWSHIP OF KILMARNOCK CHURCHES



NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Fellowship's latest newsletter! Thanks for your contributions to this edition. There is clearly a great deal of good work happening locally as churches step up to meet the needs of people in our community.

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Feed the World service Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

On October 9th we had our largest gathering since the pandemic began, with contributors to the service from churches of various denominations. The focus was on physical and spiritual hunger around the world. Father Martin Chambers gave us an insight into conditions in Ecuador and how missions there address the needs of the poorest people.



The Martin Chambers Ecuador Trust supports the poorest people in various parts of Ecuador: in food programmes; in supporting educational projects; and in giving the people there a helping hand as they set up their community amongst the poorest conditions.

An offering at the service raised £340 for the work of the Ecuador Trust.

Advent Outreach Holy Trinity Church

Adrian Armstrong of the Scottish Bible Society gave an inspiring talk on the charity's work in providing Bible resources around the world. He concentrated mainly on outreach in Scotland, citing statistics which show that many more people read the Bible than those who appear in churches. A survey had shown a surprisingly high number of people in the 18 to 24 age group who turn to the Bible, seeking answers for the big questions in life.

All who attended received a pack of Advent resources, including Christmas Windows and Christmas Journeys materials for children and Light and Life, which is a magazine version of "The Life of Jesus According to John". All of these resources and multiple copies of SBS's Advent leaflet, A New King, can be obtained from Adrian Armstrong at Adrian.armstrong@scottishbiblesociety.org or 07803-956238.

**Carols @ the Cross
December 17th @ 11 a.m.**



Join the Salvation Army Band at the town centre to witness to the good news of Jesus' birth. A warm welcome and refreshments are offered afterwards at New Laigh Kirk. Anyone who cannot stand for the carol singing can join us at the church at noon.

Advent invitations

**Christmas Escape Room
New Laigh Kirk
Sunday 27th November – 1 – 4 pm**

Unlock the secrets of Christmas at this 'Christmas Escape' event. Go on a rollercoaster ride as you visit each station and discover the secrets of the Nativity story and the true meaning of Christmas. Families are welcome to join in the fun of this free event. Refreshments and treats are provided to see you through the adventure. Come and test your skills in this festive event!

**A Christmas Carol
John Knox Church, Stewarton
December 1st to 3rd**

Come on a journey to visit Scrooge as he meets the three ghosts of Christmas and see how his life is changed forever. Children must be accompanied by an adult. There is a special accessible performance on 2nd December at 1.30 pm for wheelchair users and people with mobility issues.

Book free tickets online at <https://johnknox.org.uk/christmascarol>.

Advent services



Many churches will hold Advent carol services. Here are a few from which to choose.

Hurlford Church

- 18 December at 7 pm – Carols with St Paul's Church, Hurlford
- 24 December – Carols at 11.15 pm and the Watchnight Service at 11.30 pm.

New Laigh Kirk

- 11 December - Christmas Memorial Service at 7 pm.
- 18 December – Christingle Service at 7 pm.
- 22 December – Carols and readings with Newmilns and Galston Brass Band
- 24 December - Carols at 11 pm and the Watchnight Service at 11.30 pm.

St Kentigern's Church

- 15 December – Carols at 7 pm.

Check other churches' websites for details of their Advent services.

EACHa Vacancy

East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action has a vacancy for a General Assistant. This is a part-time post, 15 hours per week, salary at the rate of the Real Living Wage.

For further information, a job description and an application form, please contact Janice Grant, Secretary of EACHa, at janice.grant@hotmail.co.uk .

Closing date for applications – 5 pm on Monday 5th December.

Warm spaces in safe places

Many churches have responded to the cost of living and energy crises by offering warm places in which to enjoy refreshments and friendship.

Kilmarnock Baptist Church

Renew KBC Well-being cafe is open on Thursdays from 10.30 am till 2 pm. The cafe at Old Mill Road is a quiet space where it's ok not to be ok. Refreshments, activities and wi-fi are free and adults can relax, chat, keep warm or just enjoy peace in a quiet area.

Central Evangelical Church

CEC welcomes visitors at John Finnie Street on Fridays from 10 am to 12.30 pm.

Darvel Church

Darvel Parish Church offers a Warm Welcome on Saturdays from 2 to 4 pm at VERVE, 9 East Main Street, Darvel. Visitors can enjoy warmth, soup and fellowship. The Warm Welcome Team was initiated by Darvel Parish Church and includes every Community Group in the town.



East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action (EACHa)

EACHa offers a free lunch, plus food parcels at their Community Friends sessions from 1 to 3 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays in New Laigh Kirk's halls in John Finnie Street. EACHa's partners in East Ayrshire Council, the NHS and Citizens Advice Bureau attend to offer one-to-one support.

A valuable service offered by EACHa is Friendly Fresh Start, which helps people settle into their new homes. Cleaning packs and small household items are available by referral by Social Services and Women's Aid.

Howard Centre

The Howard Centre at Portland Road will be open Mondays from 12.30 to 2 pm throughout the winter. The Centre provides warm clothing, blankets and facilities to charge phones & use Wifi. On Tuesdays and Thursdays the Well Café serves home cooked food at affordable prices. Coffee/tea and scones are served from 11am to 2 pm. From 12 to 2 pm soup, filled rolls and daily specials are available.

Hurlford Church

Visitors can enjoy a chat over tea and coffee in warm surroundings on Mondays from 12 noon to 3.30 pm. There is no charge and all are welcome.

Kay Park Church

Kay Park Church in London Road is open on Tuesdays from 10 am to 1 pm as a warm space. Their Wednesday Café is open from 10 am till 12 noon. Visitors can enjoy tasty food, music, dominoes, board games and colouring books.

St Joseph's Church

St Joseph's Church Hall in Hill Street offers Community Lunch on Tuesdays from 11am to 1 pm. On Wednesdays from 11 am to 12 noon there is a Foodbank with tea, coffee, biscuits and sandwiches.

St Kentigern's Church

St Kentigern's Community Cafe opens from 10 am till 12 noon every Wednesday at Dunbar Drive, New Farm Loch. The café offers a warming cuppa in good company.

St Matthew's Church

St Matthew's Church offers a Community Lunch every second Sunday of the month from 12.45 pm to 1.45 pm at Grassyards Road. The Church runs an East Ayrshire Foodbank on Tuesday and Thursday from 4 to 6 pm. This operates via vouchers which can be obtained from local agencies, including the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is open on Mondays from 10.30 am to 3 pm with free tea and coffee. Soup and sandwiches are served between 11.30 am and 1 pm for an optional charge of £2. On Thursdays from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm there is a Community Drop-In with hot rolls and emergency food parcels available.

The Well in Whatriggs Road, Bellfield (formerly Kilmarnock South Parish Church) provides a warm space on Thursdays from 10 am to 12 noon. At Time To Talk visitors can enjoy tea, toast & chat (in partnership with Bellfield Community Council). From 1 to 3 pm a Craft Hub & Warm Space are open, with tea, coffee & friendship. Activities include carpet bowls, snooker, books, crafts, music & board games.

Street Pastors



Street Pastors invite churches which are interested in having a conversation about launching this initiative in Kilmarnock to contact Bethany Lunn at the Ascension Trust at 07807 993740 or adminsotland@ascensiontrust.org.uk.

Street Pastors operate in 25 locations in Scotland, under 20 different charities. <https://scotland.ascensiontrust.org.uk/locations/>. They hope to find 3 or 4 interested churches in this area. Ascension Trust Scotland would set up a virtual meeting to talk through possible Street Pastors in Kilmarnock. This would be a 'no strings attached' virtual meeting, meaning it is not a commitment to start a Street Pastor team, but a meeting in which to talk through the process of starting Street Pastors.

Street Pastors is a partnership between a team of churches, Police Scotland and the local Council. It is a valuable way that churches respond to needs in their

local community. Street Pastors pray for and research the needs of their community, with thoughtfulness, training and a caring, listening, helping approach.

FORTHCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

To help the Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches to thrive in communities in and around Kilmarnock we need your support in various ways:

- coming together to share worship in different traditions for a common purpose;
- prayer for the activities of churches as we all try to follow in Jesus' footsteps;
- offering to host the Fellowship's events;
- bearing witness of our Christian faith at events such as Carols @ the Cross.

In particular we are looking for churches to host / organise events in 2023:

- Sunday 22 January - Service in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Lent Study courses open to everyone - 22 February onwards
- Any Sunday in March – A service with a theme of your choice
- Friday 7 April – Good Friday Walk of Witness

If you can help with any of these events, please contact Barbara Graham.

WHAT'S NEW IN YOUR CHURCH?

This is your newsletter and we invite you to keep it alive by sharing your news.

- Let us see photos of events which you ran.
- Invite us to share in conferences, Bible study groups and social occasions.
- Challenge us to join in sponsored events for good causes.
- Keep spreading the word that churches in our area are mission oriented.

To share your news, contact Barbara Graham, Fellowship Secretary.

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