

The vision of the Church of Scotland is to be a church which seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities.

Spring 2024

Kay Park Parish Church Newsbite!

A WORD FROM THE MINISTER

On Sunday 11 February about forty people gathered after the church service for lunch in the church hall. It was a happy and enjoyable time. The meal was to welcome those who have started coming to the church over the last 6 months or so. They included those who have transferred their membership from churches

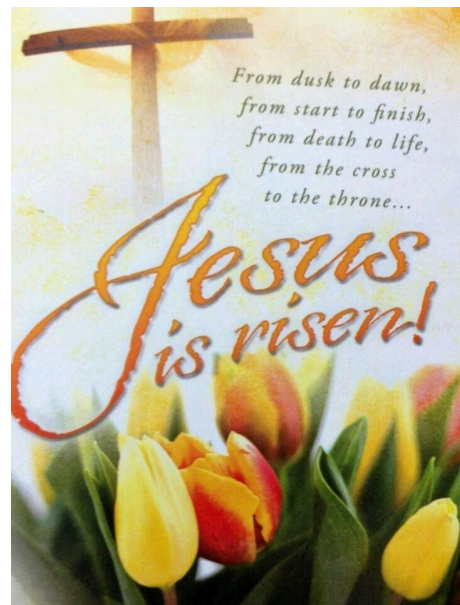
that have closed, some new to the area, and others seeking to find a place of worship where they feel at home. It was so good to hear people speaking of the warmth of welcome they had felt in our church. In turn, as we have welcomed new people, there is a new energy and encouragement for us. We are blessed, as people bring the gift of themselves, and the talents God has given them to share.

Be sure there is a place at the table for you in Kay Park Parish Church. You may not have been to church for many weeks or many years. There is no judgement awaiting you, only welcome. As we enter the season of Lent, you will be prompted to 'come back' and find your place amongst us.

As I write it is the day after Ash Wednesday, 14 February. Last night about 40 (seems to be the number of the moment) people gathered for a special service at Kay Park Parish Church to mark the beginning of Lent. Through words, silence, song, palm ashes and the bread and wine of Communion we were challenged to return to God and walk with Jesus in the wilderness, recalling Jesus' 40 days and nights in the desert (see Matthew chapter 4 v 1 – 11).

The words 'wilderness' and 'desert' do not evoke the most appealing places to be. We think of aloneness, suffering, thirst, fear, and other 'unwelcome' experiences. The reality we affirmed on Ash Wednesday was that we do not go alone, that the One in whom we place our trust has gone before us and is with us.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Easter Events
- A time to Pray
- Poets Corner
- Fiona Kendall

‘...nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8v39)

*If you have come here desolate,
If you have come here deflated,
Then be thankful the desert is where you have landed-
Here where it is hard to hide,
Here where it is unwise to rely on your own devices
Here where you will have to look, and look again, and look close
To find where the refreshment awaits to reveal itself to you.
I tell you though it may be hard to see it now,
This is where your greatest blessing will find you.’*

(Jan Richardson, Circle of Grace, p101)

Have you been ‘walking with Jesus’ in the desert this Lent season? We are now drawing nearer Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week. On Good Friday it will seem as if there is no ‘blessing,’ only suffering and death...but Sunday is coming. Hallelujah!

Thank you to you all for your ongoing commitment to the life and witness of Kay Park Parish Church. Please keep on loving and serving, praying and giving.

You are God’s Beloved, loved and treasured.

Peace of the Risen Christ be with you this Easter Season

Rev Fiona



“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing .” Martin Luther

WEDNESDAY CAFÉ

Wednesday Cafe continues to thrive with lots of visitors. Claire, who works with Vibrant Communities, has been in on several occasions doing health checks. Thank you to everyone who participated in this.

Everyone seems to enjoy the tea/coffee and chat on a Wednesday, so if you haven't been please join us.

If you are new to Kay Park its a great way to get to know people.

We hope to have a busy spring and summer and hopefully we will see lots of new people.

Thank you everyone who has visited and a big thank you to all the willing helpers.

There would be no Cafe without you

Jean Deans



EVENTS IN LENT & EASTER

New Laigh Kirk Windows on Easter on Wednesday 21 February to 21 March see the death and resurrection of Jesus through the eyes of those who were there: Judas Iscariot, the centurion, Joseph of Arimathea, the women disciples and the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Kay Park Parish Church Faith Stories on Wednesdays at 7pm in the church café

6 March Rev Fiona Maxwell, Kay Park Church

13 March Rev Jill Clancy, Prison Chaplain

20 March Rev Gilleen Richmond, Troon, Old & Portland

Holy Trinity Church A Lent Prayer Day on Saturday 9 March 10am to 3pm. This will be led by a team from The Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow. There is no charge but please bring a packed lunch.

Easter Trail Saturday 30 March, 1pm to 4pm. Visit the town Churches and enjoy an activity with your children and refreshments.

Holy Week

Hurlford Church Hall Guild Service Tuesday 26 March at 7pm

Holy Trinity Church Stripping the Altar Thursday 28 March at 6pm

St Kentigern's Church Maundy Thursday 28 March at 7pm

Kay Park Parish Church Maundy Thursday Communion 28 March at 7.30pm

Good Friday Walk of Witness 29 March Assemble at the Salvation Army at 10.30am

New Laigh Kirk Good Friday Vigil Friday 29 March 12noon to 3pm

Hurlford Church Good Friday evening service 29 March at 7pm

MONDAY BOYS

The Monday Boys meet in the church hall every Monday afternoon 12.30 till 3 rain or shine .

Dougie McCreadie is in charge of the tea rota, making sure we are informed of whose turn it is to bring tea, milk, biscuits, cake and doughnuts to enjoy along with our tea or coffee.

John Smith spoils us too with treats of fresh cream cakes.

But our afternoon starts with some maintenance work eg sweeping the hall floor and giving it a monthly spray clean. The water containers behind the organ are checked and topped up if required. This ensures the reeds and sheep skin bellows don't dry out.

Our talented crew can turn their hands to most jobs in the church for example painting, replacing light bulbs (did you ever look up to the ceiling on a Sunday and wonder how the light bulbs were changed ?) repairing shutters in the hall, cutting hedges and lawns, keeping paths and walkways clear of debris.

We are always happy to welcome new members and no qualifications required just come and enjoy the chat and fellowship.

John Dyet

CHURCH FLOWERS

Sincere thanks to the following people who have donated to the Flower Fund

November

Mrs Sandra Nisbet

Mrs Mary Lapham

December

Mrs Catherine Brown

Mrs Anne Stewart

Mrs May McCreadie

Mr George Thomson

Mrs Liz Smith

Mrs Barbara Hume

Mrs Mary Lapham

Mrs Elizabeth Templeton

January

Mrs Mary Lapham

Mrs Sandra Nisbet

Mrs Christine Watt

Mrs Lyness Croft-Smith

February

Mrs Mary Lapham

Mrs Cathie Williamson

Mrs Janet Sneddon

Mrs Anne Stewart

Donations can be placed in an envelope marked 'Flower Fund' and either put in the offering plate or given to Aileen Sansum.

Cheques should be made payable to Kay Park Church Flower Fund.

A Time to Pray...

Times of prayer are occasions to stop and pause or, in the middle of mundane and even stressful tasks, to remind ourselves of the presence of God. By not rushing through the words, but simply giving space to breathe, our body, mind and spirit can work in harmony wordlessly to release anxiety and tension, and to breathe in God's love and grace.

Such breathing prayer can be literally 'inspirational'.

Take a deep breath in and hold it for a few seconds. Then breath out.

As you breath out, imagine breathing out everything that you want to let go of

Then as you breath in, ask God to fill you with his love and presence

Breath in love, Breath out hate

Breath in peace, Breath out anxiety

Breath in gentleness, Breath out tension

Breath in God's presence, Breath out all that turns you from God or

Breathing out: I give you my pain and anxieties.

Breathing in: God, I receive your abundant love.

Breathing out: I give you all that stops me from receiving it.

Breathing in: God, I receive your mercy.

Breathing out: I give you my brokenness.

Breathing in: God, I receive your wholeness.

Breathing out: that I might live.

Breathing in: God, I receive your forgiveness.

KPPC GUILD

Future Date are:

Tuesday 12 March-The role of women in Britain WW11 Stuart Wilson

Tuesday 2 April-AGM

Friday 12 April Concert—Jill Clancy Songs for all choir

Tuesday 16 April-Spring Lunch

WALKING GROUPS

Despite it being the winter months, the Wednesday Walkers continue to meet each Wednesday at 10am at the car park adjacent to the Burns' Centre in Kay Park, Kilmarnock. The numbers do seem to be weather dependent (as is to be expected), however there have always been some hardy souls prepared to brave the elements, have their stroll around Kay Park before retiring to the Church Café for their well-earned coffee and chat.

Our regular programme of walks has continued with the Strollers visiting Rouken Glen in November. A one hour walk around the park and boating pond was followed by a visit to the garden centre which provided both refreshments and an opportunity for some Christmas shopping. Given the proximity to Christmas of the dates for the December walks, it was decided to hold one joint walk which was held around the Dean Castle Country Park. January's Strollers' walk saw a significant upturn in numbers as 22 joined together to walk off the Festive Season excesses around Alloway and Belleisle before returning to the Burns Centre.

The Striders held their November walk around Irvine Harbour and Beach Park before retiring to the Puffer Café. Again, having been well-fed, the opportunity to browse in the adjoining gift shop was taken up by some before heading home. December saw the joint walk with January's planned walk between Troon and Barassie being curtailed by Storm Isha. However, undeterred, the four intrepid Striders, after partaking of an early coffee in The Lido, emerged to take a shorter walk along Troon shorefront.

The final walk for this edition was another Strollers' outing, this time through Fullarton Woods in Troon where our group of ten walkers enjoyed the carpet of snowdrops on display. Another visit to The Lido concluded our morning.

Wednesday Walkers – each Wednesday at 10am at the Burns' Centre, Kay Park.

Strollers—Thursday 4 April, Friday 3 May, Saturday 8 June

Striders—Wednesday 20 March, Thursday 18 April, Friday 17 May, Saturday 22 June

Newcomers (and returning walkers) are always welcome. See weekly intimations or phone David Miller on 07977050624 for details.

David Miller



A DOUBLE THANK YOU

Review of Communication

Thank you for all your support in our recent campaign to update our contact details for our church. As you may have been aware, we did not receive returns from everyone—hence our ongoing reach out to update the missing information. We wish to apologise for using the post office for this exercise, as the vast majority of non replies was because the form was not received.

Thank you also, that during this task we have increased the number of people by over 50% who will now receive the magazine by email, this will help to reduce our printing costs.

Gordon Slater

COMMUNITY HALL LETS

Mon	Scalliwags	9.30am
	Brownies & Guides	6.00pm
Tues	Killie Heartmates	6.00pm
Wed	Physio Class	1.45pm
	GA	7.30pm
Thur	Killie Heartmates	6.30pm
	Rock Choir	7.30pm

For more information on any of the above groups or information about hiring the halls, please contact the Church Administrator.

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS SCOTLAND

Gamblers Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who have joined together to do something about their own gambling problem and to help other compulsive gamblers do the same.

Is Gambling causing problems in your life?

If so We can help!

- Website: www.gascotland.org
- Email: info@gascotland.org
- Helpline: 0370 050 8881 (24 HRS)

HALL LETS

The Church halls are used on a regular basis but there is still availability for other lets. Over the last few months we have had yoga classes, birthday parties, Anxiety Management classes and concerts. We are a multi purpose building and will try to accommodate most events.

To hire our halls contact the church administrator on

07394 173977 or

kppcchurchoffice@gmail.com

SCALLIWAGS

The Scalliwags meet every Monday morning from 9.30am, the group caters for children under 3 and are usually accompanied by parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends. It is a friendly group and all are made welcome. If you would be interested in joining the group please email

scalliwags@live.co.uk

ROCK CHOIR

If you like to sing, you'll Love Rock Choir!

Pop, rock and chart singing for adults and teenagers.

No auditions and no need to read music



BROWNIES & GUIDES

17th Kilmarnock Brownies and 6th Kilmarnock Guides meet most Mondays at 6pm and 7.30pm

KILLIE HEARTMATES

Killie Heartmates is an active cardiac exercise group. They meet all year round to offer support and help to improve members health and fitness. The group have fully qualified B.A.C.R. instructors (British Association of Cardiac Rehabilitation)

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The second half of our session began with a demonstration of cake decorating with Lynette Russell. She makes the most fantastic and intricate decorations. At the end of January, Ron and Andrew Swanson from Dreghorn spoke about their family charity, which was set up by their late parents in Zambia, where they are building a shelter for expectant mothers in their final weeks of pregnancy. Some have to travel many miles to the nearest hospital.

At our first meeting in February our very own Fiona Kendall talked about her work as European and Legal Affairs Advisor with Mediterranean Hope in Italy. She is so well suited to this position dealing with the ongoing refugee crisis. As this was an open meeting we welcomed members from other congregations.

Our members continue to contribute generously with donations of toiletries for the Trussell Trust food bank.

The Shining Lights are delighted to welcome Marlyn Gorman on to the committee. She is very hard-working and willing and a great asset.

On behalf of everyone in the Friendship Club we wish you all a happy and peaceful Easter.

With Blessings from the Shining Lights

Future Date are:

Thursday 7th March—Music with Aeolian

Thursday 21st March—Rev Bill Jackson

Thursday 4th April—Daffodil Tea

*“We have to prayer with our eyes on God, and not the difficulties”
Oswald Chambers*

BOOK REVIEW

Catch the Moments as they fly—Zoe Strachan

Today Rena is going to change her life...

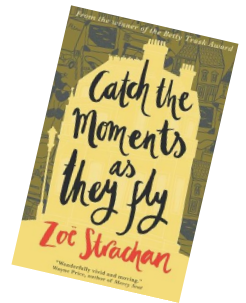
Rena Jarvie is ahead of her time. Ambitious, attractive, and determined her family escape their shameful past. When she moves to a new town and marries the charming and cosmopolitan Bobby Young, doors finally begin to open.

But as Bobby already knows, some things cannot be run from.

Spanning the 1930s to the 1960s, *Catch the Moments as They Fly* is an assured portrait of a rapidly changing Scotland, vivid with humour, and hardship, and love.

Catch the Moments as they fly is a vividly realised portrait of class, love, and womanhood in mid-twentieth century Scotland, told in Strachan's subtle and delicate prose. A radiant example of historical fiction.

(Zoe Strachan grew up in Kilmarnock)



YOUNG CHURCH

What you will need:

- A sheet of white paper
- Selection of coloured tissue paper
- Black pen
- Glue

What to do:

1. Draw a cross onto a sheet of white paper.
2. Tear off small bits of tissue paper in a selection of colours and scrunch into balls.
3. Using the glue, stick the tissue paper onto the cross.



Colouring Sheet



He is Risen

Easter is coming again
He is risen
Angels near the tomb
He is risen
The stone was rolled away
He is risen
The tomb found empty that day
He is risen
This morning all are glad
He is risen
He'll come back for us someday
He is risen
Until then we'll watch and pray
He is risen

first & third Sundays@KPPC

Young Church is changing. Families have shared that they feel their children have outgrown the creche in the side chapel, so we need to listen. We now have more volunteers willing to share the work of organising and leading young church. After Easter, starting early April, there will be activities arranged for the children most Sundays. A new leader will be appointed who will have the vision, gifts and talents to build on the work that has gone before and help young Church to grow and expand.

If you have an interest in children and young people, or you have a gift for story telling, music or crafts then we need to hear from you. Please speak to Rev Fiona who will be happy to share the vision of young church.

“We live and die, Christ died and lived” John Stott

MISSION PARTNERS—MALAWI

Gary Brough

Gary Brough joined Church of Scotland as a Mission Partner in 2018 and he and his family moved to Mzuzu, northern Malawi. In 2022 he took up a new role as Capacity Development Facilitator at the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) General Assembly.

He works with the General Assembly and its five Synods in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe to help build the strength and sustainability of their institutions and development projects.

Gary is joined by his wife Jacqueline and three daughters Eilidh, Morven and Caitlin.



Kenneth Ross

Kenneth Ross works with all 3 theological institutes run by the 3 CCAP Synods.

He also contributes to other theological institutions run by our partners in Africa.

Specifically, he supports the Nile Theological College in South Sudan; the Giffen Institute of Theology in Kanyama refugee camp, Kenya; and the beginnings of a theological department in the Igreja Evangelica de Cristo em Mocambique (IECM).

Linus Malu

Linus works with the Church and Society Programme of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Synod of Livingstonia, Malawi. Linus, a lawyer, is head of the Legal Department and Access to Justice Manager of the Programme. His work includes human rights, anti-human trafficking and gender-based violence issues. Linus is originally from Nigeria. He is married with three children

For their up to date newsletters please go to the Church of Scotland Website and search for Mission Partners

The Pace of Grace (by Joyce Mackin)

I sent my prayer to God.
It was all the usual stuff.
I prayed for peace,
Our leaders and healers.
I prayed for my family and friends.
I thanked Him for the wren,
That hops around my garden,
For my carrots, peas and parsnips,
For the paths through the woods.
And it comes to me that God
Does not sense time like us.
My prayers are always answered,
He has never let me down.
But sometimes He answers quickly,
Sometimes He answers slowly.
So while I watch the wren and
Tend my garden and
Wander through the woods,
I can see God's grace, manifest.
And I'll continue to pray for all of the above,
And I'll continue to work too, because
As I wait for God to answer,
Is He waiting for me?

QUOTE

"He is not here, for He has
risen, just as He said"
Matthew 28:6

The Bible in 50 Words

God made, Adam bit
Noah arked, Abraham split
Joseph ruled, Jacob fooled
Bush talked, Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued, People walked
Sea divided, Tablets guided
Promise landed, Saul freaked
David peeked, Prophets warned
Jesus born, God walked
Love talked, Anger crucified
Hope died, Love rose
Spirit flamed, Word spread
God remained.



THANK YOU

The family of Grace Scott would like to thank the Kay Park Parish Church family for their kindness following Grace's sudden death last year. The flowers received and in the church were beautiful, the support heart-warming, and the Minister's kindness and wonderful service greatly appreciated.

Mhairi MacNamee

24/7 PRAYER ROOM

The Howard Centre will host a 24/7 Prayer Room throughout the first week of the school Easter holidays: Monday 1st – Sunday 7th April. Pray-in-person & pray-at-home slots are available. Please contact Elaine Wardrop at ewardrop@churchofscotland.org.uk to book a slot.

CHOIR

William Shakespeare stated that 'If music be the food of love, play on'. Music is a conduit to the soul and Choral music in particular, help us to connect with God in a very special way.

Although the Choir's main job is to support Congregational singing, our own Church Choir continue to go from strength to strength under the direction of our Choir Master Alex Ferguson who works closely with our own Rev Fiona. With 8 Sopranos, 4 Contraltos, 2 Tenors and 3 Basses, the Choir has covered both traditional Anthems such as 'There is a Redeemer' and 'Jesus is King' to more contemporary music such as 'The Yearning' and 'You Raise Me Up.' We are also very fortunate to have new Members who formerly sang in the former St Johns Parish Church who have added to our numbers. However, we are always looking for new Members and anyone interested in coming along to try one of our practise nights in the Church on a Thursday at 7.00pm would be made very welcome.

At the moment the Choir are working on a number of new Anthems and are very excited about performing these in future Sunday Services. However, Alex also has plans for the Choir to sing a Concert of favourite Anthems in the Church either before or after Easter this year to raise funds so please look out for further details.

Jeff Davies



MEDITERRANEAN HOPE

A HUGE THANK YOU!

Rev Fiona Maxwell and all at Kay Park Parish Church

Sincere thanks to all for enabling me to speak at KPPC on 8th February.

Whilst it was a real delight to speak in the church where I grew up among so many familiar faces, it was also lovely to connect with those whom I hadn't previously known.

Particular thanks go to everyone involved in making the event such a success: to those involved in setting up the spaces upstairs and downstairs, in providing technical support and home-baking and in framing the event with words and prayers of encouragement.

Further thanks to both to the Kirk Session and to the Friendship Club committee for their very generous donations, both of which will be put to extremely good use. I know that the MH staff will see this as a sign of encouragement as well as of concrete support. I will also be glad to report the ways in which KPPC distinguishes itself by being a welcoming community: there is something there for all of us to learn.

Fiona Kendall

The most up to date newsletter from Fiona Kendall who is the mission partner with Mediterranean Hope can be found if you go onto the Church of Scotland website and search for Mission partners or if you prefer a paper copy this can be found at the back of the church, please feel free to take copy.

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk>



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Scottish Charity No: 008154

FUNERALS

'In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you'

Wednesday 22 November Margaret Wilson

Thursday 29 February May Morton

Wednesday 20 March Jean Lindsay

BAPTISMS

Sunday 26 November Ethan Ward Pratt

ADMISSION OF NEW ELDERS

Sunday 25 February

William (Billy) Moore

Jane (Jean) Johnston

Lyness Croft-Smith

KIRK SESSION MEETINGS

7pm in the Sanctuary

Wednesday 3 April

Wednesday 15 May

UPCOMING DATES

- Church Quiz Night Friday 17 May 7pm
- Communion Sunday 2 June 11am

