

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 2026

# Kay Park Parish Church Newsbite!



## A WORD FROM THE MINISTER

The Japanese Christian Kosuke Koyama believed that God teaches people slowly and he coined the phrase, 'the three-mile-an-hour God' (walking speed is three miles an hour). God taught the Israelites by walking with them through the wilderness for 40 years. (Joshua 5v6) God isn't in a hurry to teach us the way, he shows us step by step. God walks slowly says Koyama, because God is love: the slow sacrificial love we see in his Son, Jesus. In Matthew chapter 4 v 1-11 we read the words, 'Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil...' The verses go on to say that Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights, remembered in the 40 days of Lent that began with Ash Wednesday this year, Wednesday 18 February. Lent is a season that gifts us a time to 'walk slowly' to meet God's voice in the everyday of life.

The following reflection is taken from a book entitled, 'Between Ash and Alleluia', Rev Eleanor Hamilton.

May your wanderings in the wilderness this Lent be blessed Rev Fiona

### Staying in the Wilderness

The wilderness doesn't shout.  
It waits. It peels things back until there is nothing left but breath and need.  
Stones start to look useful.  
Shortcuts start to sound kind.  
Power starts whispering like a friend who knows your name.  
Hunger sharpens edges.  
Makes urgency feel holy.  
Makes survival sound like wisdom,  
Jesus feels it. Every ache. Every empty space.  
He doesn't pretend otherwise.  
But he doesn't rush to fill it either.  
Some voices arrive too quickly.  
Too smoothly.  
Offering certainty without cost.  
It you're hungry take control.  
If you're tired prove yourself.  
If you're afraid climb higher.  
Jesus stays. Stays with the ache.  
Stays with the unanswered prayers.  
Stays with the slow work of trust.  
Lent lives here. In the pause.  
In the refusal to grasp.  
In learning that not every invitation is worth accepting.  
Not every voice tells the truth.  
Not every solution leads us to life.  
The wilderness is not a failure.  
It is formation. And angels do come.  
But not on demand.  
Not as a reward for cleverness.  
They come after the waiting.  
After the silence. After the long steady no.  
Sometimes the holiest thing we can do is stay.

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Reverse St Francis Prayer
- Mary's Meals
- Tabetha School

## FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

To teach, baptise  
and nurture new  
believers

To proclaim the  
Good News of  
the Kingdom

To respond to  
human need  
by loving  
service

To strive to safeguard  
the integrity of creation  
and sustain and renew  
the life of the earth

To seek to transform  
unjust structures of  
society, to challenge  
violence of every kind  
and pursue peace and  
reconciliation

## LENT & EASTER

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** 2nd April

Service in Salvation Army 6.30pm

**GOOD FRIDAY** 3rd April

Walk of Witness (Gather at Salvation Army 10.45am )

Vigil in New Laigh Kirk 12 noon - 3pm

**EASTER SUNDAY** 5th April:

8am in the Kay Park followed by Breakfast hosted by St Kentigern's

11.00am Worship in Kay Park Parish Church

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***'Christ triumphant, ever reigning, Saviour, Master, King!  
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining hear us as we sing***

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### **Lord, Make Me a Channel of Disturbance: The "Reverse St. Francis Prayer"**

Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.

Where there is apathy, let me provoke;

Where there is compliance, let me bring questioning.

Where there is silence, may I be a voice.

Where there is too much comfort and too little action, grant disruption.

Where there are doors closed and hearts locked, grant the willingness to listen.

When laws dictate and pain is overlooked...

When tradition speaks louder than need...

Grant that I may seek rather to do justice than to talk about it;

Disturb us, O Lord.

To be with, as well as for, the alienated;

To love the unlovable as well as the lovely;

Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.



## CHURCH GROUPS

**Monday Boys**—Meet every Monday afternoon from about 1pm till 3pm to carry out general maintenance around the church building and grounds as weather permits. Then a cuppa and chat and a chance to share ideas and knowledge.

**Guild**—Meet every other Tuesday during the Autumn, Winter and Spring from 2pm when they have visiting speakers and entertainers followed by a tea/coffee and blether.

**Dates :** **10 March** Chords of Hope & Craft Stall

**24 March** The Very Rev Dr. David Lacy

**7 April** AGM

**10 April** Scottish Music & Dance Fundraiser

**21 April** Spring Lunch

**Wednesday Café**—Open every Wednesday morning in the church café from 10am till 12 noon for a catch up over tea/coffee and something sweet. There is also cup-a-soup and toast available.

**Friendship Club**—Meet every other Thursday at 2pm for entertainment and tea/coffee and chat.

**Dates :** **5 March** Easter Crafts with Vanessa

**19 March** Musical Entertainment

**16 April** Spring Tea

**Walkers**—Wednesday walkers meet every Wednesday at 10am in Kay Park for a gentle walk around the park, then down to the church café for a cuppa and warm up.

**Strollers & Striders**—Meet fortnightly for slightly longer and more strenuous walks in the local area usually followed by refreshments in a local café. All walks will be advertised in the order of service the week before.

**Young Church**—Meet on Sunday mornings during term time to enjoy their own activities and spend time together. They have lots of fun and are making a real impact in the lives of our young folk.

**Church Choir**—The Choir meet Thursday evenings at 7pm in the choir room for an evening of practice and also fellowship. They also add so much to the morning service by leading the congregational singing, opening worship with an introit and quite often an anthem.

## Faith Stories

Each week we welcome a guest who will be interviewed by the Rev Fiona about life, faith and flavours of crisps!

**Wednesday 25 February, 7pm**

**Wednesday 4 March, 7pm**

**Wednesday 11 March, 7pm**

**Wednesday 18 March, 7pm**

*(WE WILL GATHER IN THE CAFÉ AREA OF THE CHURCH (Please enter the church at the main front door on London Road) WHERE REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED FROM 6.45PM AS PEOPLE ARRIVE)*

Kay Park Parish Church Craft Fayre

Saturday 21 March 2026

10am—4pm

Raffle

Stalls

Bottle Stall

Refreshments

Kay Park Parish Church Guild

10th April 2026

An Evening of Scottish Music and Dance

7.30pm—9.30pm Doors open at 7pm

Tickets £7

(Money to go towards Guild Projects)



To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable in others because Christ has forgiven the inexcusable in us.

C.S.Lewis

## CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY—AYRSHIRE

As 2026 begins CAP in the UK starts its 30th year and in Ayrshire we have been serving our community for over 5 years.

Across Ayrshire in that time we have witnessed the following -

- 350 Clients seen
- 70 debt free
- £1.1m of debt repaid or written off

We want to thank you all for your support during this time. None of this would be possible without your support and willingness to collaborate for the benefit of all in our community.



Remember our free personal debt service is available for all - not just for Christians. If you speak with anyone this year who might value our unique combination of befriending and debt advice then encourage them to phone our freephone number **0800 328 0006**.

Thanks again and wishing you all the best for 2026.

Alan

PS - We can also visit groups to deliver a fun filled look at how to Budget, Save and Spend your money well. Just get in touch if you would like us to visit a group you attend.

**Alan McLaren**

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***Word incarnate, truth revealing, Son of man on earth!  
Power and majesty concealing by your humble birth.***

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## BOOK REVIEW

### **The Greatest Story Ever Told—Bear Grylls**

This is a story that we all know but told in such an amazing manner. Each chapter is told in the first person narrative and not without humour. Beautifully told as eye witness accounts of 5 people who knew Jesus personally.

Each chapter is a personal account of an episode seen up close and telling what they saw and how it made them feel. The names used are either Hebrew or Aramaic.

Yeshua	Jesus	Myriam	Mary (Mother)
Ta'om	Thomas (Sceptic)	Shim-on	Simon (Fisherman)
Yohanan	John (Friend)	Myriam	Mary Magdalene (follower) Of Magdala

Locations were Yerushalayim and Beit-lichen.

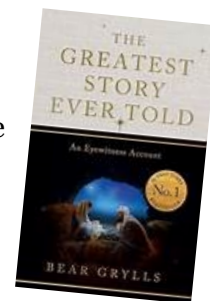
Strangely it says the wise men took a long time to travel and didn't arrive till Jesus was 2 years old. Jesus telling the disciples that he was going to get their room ready instead of I go to prepare a place for you.

This is the story of the Refugee who changed the course of the world forever.

Bear Grylls has said if he had only one book to write then this would be the one.

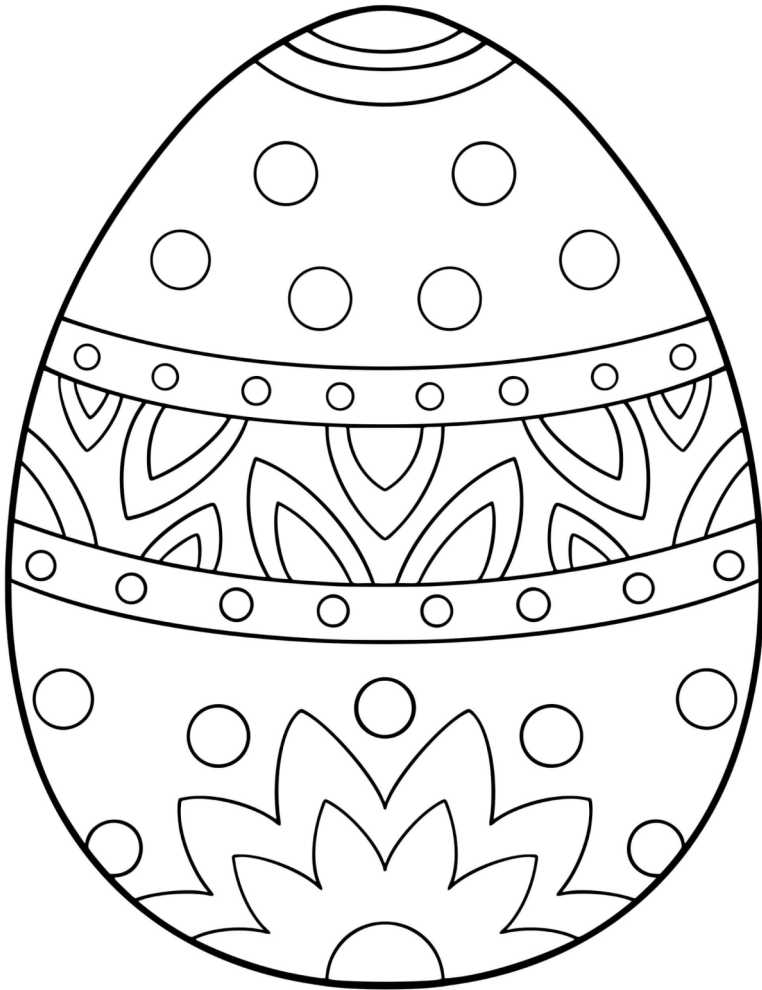
It is one of the best books that I have ever read. One Fantastic Read!

Jean Deans



# Activity Page

Enjoy colouring in the Easter egg



How many words can you make from the words

### Easter Sunday

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### Word Scramble

- AETSRE .....
- SROCS .....
- SUSEJ .....
- EAOLTCCOH .....
- OODG DYAIRF .....
- ALPM .....
- NOETS .....
- SGEG .....
- STLA PPREUS .....
- LLEROD .....

Answers on page 12

### Smartie Prayer

**Pink** for the people who came and praised  
**Green** for the palm leaves that were waved  
**Purple** for the robe that Jesus wore  
**Brown** for the cross that Jesus bore  
**Red** for the blood that Jesus shed  
**Orange** for the stone that was rolled away  
**Yellow** for joy—He’s alive today

### Easter Sudoku

<b>S</b>		<b>D</b>			<b>U</b>
	<b>A</b>			<b>U</b>	<b>N</b>
					<b>D</b>
		<b>A</b>	<b>U</b>		
	<b>N</b>				

SUNDAY

## CHURCH FUNDRAISING QUIZ

A fantastic night was had at the church quiz night, there were about 120 people gathered for an evening of fun, food and fellowship with a bit of testing your knowledge on various topics.

Morag Lindsay was the winner of the beautiful food hamper.

The money raised was split between Church Funds and Mary's Meals.



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***Suffering servant, scorned ill-treated, victim crucified!  
Death is through the cross defeated sinners justified.***

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## MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals provides life-changing school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest communities. The promise of a good meal brings hungry children into the classroom, where they can gain an education and better opportunities for the future.

### **Jennifer Roumieh, Dorcas, Lebanon**

Jennifer Roumieh is a social worker for Mary's Meals' partner at the Tabitha Community Center in Batroun, Lebanon. She coordinates the children and volunteers at the centre to ensure the meals we serve are nutritious and distributed fairly. Many of the children face daily struggles at home, with their families unable to provide healthy meals because of unemployment and economic collapse. Hunger impacts their concentration and ability to learn, while insecurity and social tensions add further strain that makes it harder for them to succeed in education.

**“Without hope, the cycle of poverty and hardship feels impossible to break; with hope, there is the possibility of change.”**

“It brings stability to their lives. For children who often don't know if they will have enough to eat at home, receiving a daily meal at our centre gives them something to count on.

“Hope is what allows children and their families to look beyond the daily struggles of life. When parents know that their child will eat at least one healthy meal each day, it relieves them of some of the burden they carry. For the children, hope motivates them to learn, dream, and believe in better opportunities. ”

“It gives me hope to see how one daily meal can lift a child's spirit, improve their focus and open the door to new dreams. It shows me that even the smallest steady acts of kindness can change lives.

“My hope is that the children here in Lebanon grow up with dignity and joy, knowing they are valued and cared for. I wish for them to have opportunities to learn, to explore their talents and to believe that tomorrow can be brighter. I hope they never lose the courage to dream.”

## YOUNG CHURCH LIGHT PARTY

The Young Church had a great time at their Light Party on Sunday 1 February, they had glow sticks, songs, games and biscuits.

Sending your Light wherever you go—just like JESUS



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*Priestly king, enthroned for ever high in heaven above!  
Sin and death and hell shall never stifle hymns of love*

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## FINANCE

We are always looking to increase our hall/church usage for hire. We currently have no lets on the following:

**Mon** Church All Day

**Tue** Church All Day

Hall Mornings

**Wed** Church Afternoon and Evening

**Thur** Church Mornings and Afternoon

Hall Morning

**Fri** Church All Day

**Sat** Church All Day

Hall Evenings

Hall All Day

**Sun** Church Afternoon and Evening

Hall Afternoon and Evening

We also have alternative vacancies on a Tuesday and Thursday due to the Guild and Friendship meeting on a fortnightly basis for some periods of the year.

So if you belong to an outside organisation we would be very pleased to offer you the use of our building for a charge.

Please contact Vanessa by either email [kppcchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:kppcchurchoffice@gmail.com) or phone 07394 173977 for more information

Thanks Gordon Slater

## COMMUNITY HALL LETS

<b>Mon</b> Scalliwags	9.30am
Brownies & Guides	6.00pm
<b>Tues</b> Killie Heartmates	6.00pm
<b>Wed</b> Physio Class	2.30pm
GA	7.15pm
<b>Thur</b> 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](http://www.gascotland.org)
- Email: [info@gascotland.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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)

## TABEETHA SCHOOL

On Sunday 15 March we have the great pleasure of welcoming Kate Freedman to share in our morning worship. Kate is the development and fundraising officer for Tabeetha School in Jaffa, a Church of Scotland institution. Formerly the Head of Primary at the school, she now leads campaigns to support the diverse, Christian-led school, which educates children from Christian, Jewish and Muslim backgrounds.

Here is a little information about the school and more information can be found on the Tabeetha website, or the Church of Scotland website.



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*'So our hearts and voices raising through the ages long,  
Ceaselessly upon you gazing this shall be our song.'*

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Tabeetha School is a truly unique school, not only because it is the only Church of Scotland school in the world, but also because this is one of the very few schools in the Holy Land where children and young people of different languages, faiths, cultures and histories are being educated together in English.

In 1863 Jane Walker-Arnott, the eldest daughter of a Glasgow University professor, with the help of the famed travel agent Thomas Cook, founded the school to give the girls of Jaffa a measure of dignity and independence. Over the last century, the school has developed to be the incredible school it is today by consistently serving girls and boys of all faiths and nationalities and creating a positive, challenging and supportive learning environment which values individual differences and learning styles. They do so by empowering the pupils to be respectful, responsible and productive citizens in a constantly changing global society.

“At Tabeetha, you understand that people are people, what matters is not where someone comes from, but who they are.”

Described as a "living peace" project, the Church of Scotland school enables students of more than 40 nationalities, to learn and grow side by side in harmony.

"Inside these walls, kindness, respect and unity shape our every day."

Today, it is a place where peace is not just taught, but lived every day through an English language curriculum that promotes understanding, friendship and mutual respect across cultures. Tabeetha prides itself on developing an intellectual, spiritual and social awareness in all their pupils, regardless of race, ability, gender or religion. They promote Christian values and encourage faith without any coercion and every effort is made to be apolitical. Through learning, respecting and understanding, their pupils can live and work together in a spirit of peace and unity and take that out into the wider community.

"The effects of the ongoing conflict continue to strain the school's budget and place pressure on families and staff"

Where expectations are high and diversity embraced, Tabeetha School is dedicated to preparing students for reaching their full potential as independent and confident thinkers who are compassionate problem solvers and leaders of tomorrow in a complex world.

Jane Walker-Arnott bequeathed the school to the Church of Scotland on her death in 1911. Today the school comes under the oversight of the Church of Scotland.

## CHURCH FLOWERS

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

November (cont)	December	January	February
Mrs Isabel Aitken	Mrs Janet Shedden	Mrs Shiona Thomson	Mrs Janet Shedden
Mrs Linda Muir	Mrs Elizabeth Templeton	Mrs Sandra Nisbet	Mrs Christine Watt
1 Anonymous	Mrs Barbara Hume	Mr George Thomson	Mrs Maureen Miller
		1 Anonymous	Mrs Maureen Taylor
			Mr Raymond Waddell

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

## THANK YOU

Barrie & Elizabeth Templeton would like to thank the church for the beautiful arrangements of flowers which they received from the church on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary. They celebrated the day with their family and friends.

Colin, Gavin and I would like to thank Reverend Fiona and all my lovely church friends for the kindness and support shown to us during John's illness and up to his death. Your cards and flowers were greatly appreciated and the wonderful attendance at his funeral service was overwhelming.

Thank you again  
Shiona Thomson

George Thomson would like to thank the church for the lovely flowers that he received after the passing of his dear brother & devoted uncle Peter W Thomson who died on 21 January 2026.

He would also like to add a remembrance to his devoted wife Moira Thomson who passed away 14 January 2022

### You can Pray

In a pew or in pyjamas,  
In traffic, in tears or in total silence  
**God doesn't need a location**  
**He just needs an invitation.**

Even when we are not deserving,  
*God still blesses.*

Even when we are not lovable,  
*God still loves.*

Even when we are not listening,  
*God still speaks.*

Even when we are not following,  
*God still leads.*

Even when we are not obeying,  
*God still forgives.*

Even when we are not answering,  
*God still calls.*

Even when we are not faithful,  
*God still stays.*

I'm so thankful that even when....  
*God still does.*

# Kirk Session Committees

## Business

**Convenor:** Rev Fiona Maxwell  
Jean Johnston  
Jeff Davies  
Gordon Slater  
Michael Lacy

## Finance

**Convenor:** Gordon Slater  
Ian Bremner  
Alex Dempster  
Bryan Sansum  
Alex Steven

## Property

**Convenor:** Michael Lacy  
Alex Dempster  
Alex Dunsmuir  
John Dyet  
Jim Wilson

## Safeguarding

**Co-ordinator** Olive Gow  
Olive Caldwell  
Janet Grant

## Pastoral Care

**Convenor:** Janette Steven  
Bill Caldwell  
Jean Deans  
Olive Gow  
Morag Lindsay  
Mary McDowall

## Connections

**Convenor:** Jeff Davies  
Bobby Goudie  
Moira Graham  
John Houston  
Elaine McPherson

## Hospitality

**Convenor:** Moira Graham  
Marlyn Gorman  
Liz Goudie  
Maureen Miller  
Maureen Taylor

## Hall Letting

**Convenor:** Vanessa Twomey  
Jean Herbert  
Gordon Slater  
Alex Steven

## Staffing

**Convenor:** Michael Lacy

## Other Church Committees

### Media

Fiona McBride  
Victoria Buckell  
Bobby Goudie  
Audrey Gray  
Sandra Jane Grier  
Heather Lohoar  
James McMahan  
Vanessa Twomey

### Flower

Aileen Sansum  
Grace Ferguson  
Jean Inglis  
Marilyn Malcolm  
Maureen Moore  
Janette Steven  
Ann Stewart  
Maureen Taylor  
Vanessa Twomey

### Communion

Jean Deans  
Maureen Taylor

## OFFICE BEARERS

### Minister:

Rev Fiona Maxwell BA BD

Tel: 01563 521762

fmaxwell@churchofscotland.org.uk

### Session Clerk:

Jean Johnston

Tel: 01563 535657

jane.johnston2@hotmail.co.uk

### Depute Session Clerk

Jeff Davies

Tel: 07917 360887

jeffandsheila@talktalk.net

### Church Administrator:

Vanessa Twomey

Tel 07394 173977

kppcchurchoffice@gmail.com

### Treasurer:

Gordon Slater

Tel: 07768 780051

gordon.slater0909@gmail.com



Kay Park Parish Church

London Road

Kilmarnock

KA3 7AA

[www.kayparkparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.kayparkparishchurch.org.uk)

Scottish Charity No: 008154

## FUNERALS

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

## UPCOMING DATES

Saturday 21 March Craft Fayre 10 am—4pm

Friday 10 April Guild Fundraiser 7.30pm

Friday 17 April Christian Aid Fundraiser 7pm

Sunday 3 May Praise Service 7pm

## KIRK SESSION MEETINGS

7pm in the Sanctuary

Wednesday 25 March

Remember, you are  
**FORGIVEN**  
your sins have been removed  
as far as the *east* is  
from the *west*

Inspired by Psalm 103:12

Easter, Cross, Jesus, Chocolate,  
Good Friday, Palm, Stone, Eggs,  
last Supper, Rolled

**Answers**