

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.

Winter 2025

# Kay Park Parish Church Newsbite!



## A WORD FROM THE MINISTER

Welcome to this winter edition of 'Newsbite'.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed and especially to Vanessa our Church Administrator and David Miller for his 'proof reading'.

I thought you might appreciate this poem.

The nights are fair drawin' in,  
and the world exhales.  
The long bright stretch of summer fades,  
and we are left with lamplight,  
and quiet.  
There is holiness in this slowing,  
in the chill that calls us home,  
in the soft hush that settles  
over streets and souls alike.  
We light candles  
and remember the One  
who is light in every darkness,  
hope in every shadow,  
stillness in every storm.  
The world sleeps,  
but God does not.  
The Spirit stirs in the quiet places,  
breathing warmth  
into cold hearts,  
breathing peace  
into restless nights.  
So let the dark come  
and wrap around us  
like a prayer shawl of stars.  
For even here,  
in the lengthening night,  
Christ is near.

May God Bless and keep you and yours, as the nights draw in and beyond.

*Rev Fiona*



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| 5 Marks of Mission .... | 2  |
| KPPC at Christmas ....  | 2  |
| Church Groups.....      | 3  |
| Christmas Poem.....     | 3  |
| Poppy Appeal.....       | 4  |
| Book Review .....       | 5  |
| Finance .....           | 5  |
| Christmas Poem.....     | 5  |
| Blythswood Care.....    | 6  |
| Remembrance .....       | 7  |
| O Holy Night.....       | 7  |
| Community Lets .....    | 8  |
| Harvest .....           | 9  |
| Christmas Puzzles.....  | 9  |
| Church Flowers.....     | 10 |
| Salvation Army .....    | 10 |
| KPPC Committees .....   | 11 |

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Poppy Appeal
- Blythswood
- Christmas

## FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

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

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

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

To respond to human need by loving service

### Editor's Note

The theme running through this edition of Newsbite is **Hope**, through the different articles, readings and quotes, you will hopefully see the message of **Hope** that this Christmas brings.

Take time to reread the Christmas story, look at it with fresh eyes and see the **Hope** that Jesus brings to the world not just 2000 years ago but the **Hope** that is for today as well.



***"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness"***  
*Desmond Tutu*

### Christmas in KPPC

**Sunday 30 November**—Gift Sunday 11am

Bring an unwrapped gift for child/young person age 0–18 and these will be distributed by the Salvation Army to those who are in need in Kilmarnock.

**Sunday 7 December**— Blue Christmas 3pm

A time for quiet reflection and to remember those who are no longer with us.

**Sunday 14 December**—Christmas Lunch 12.15pm

A chance to gather together and enjoy a Christmas Lunch suggested donation of £7

**Sunday 21 December**—Christmas in Music 11am

**Wednesday 24 December**—Christmas Eve 4pm

Service for all, refreshments available from 3pm in the hall, then we move to the church for carols and Christmas message. All ages are welcome.

**Sunday 28 December**—Last Sunday of 2025



## 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.

**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 :** **2 December** National Guild Convenor

**16 December** My life as a Mental Health Nurse

**13 January** Rev Fiona Maxwell

**27 January** Burns Afternoon

**10 February** Crosshouse Children's Fund

**24 February** How well do you know Killie?

**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 :** **27 November** Christmas Stall & Quiz

**11 December** Christmas Extravaganza

**8 January** Comedy Film Day

**22 January** Honest Sonsie Faces

**5 February** Rev Bill Jackson

**19 February** Favourite Hymns

**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.

### The Hope of the World



A broken world

A plan of Hope

A message foretold

**The Hope of the world**

A faithful girl

An angel with news

A song of praise

**The Hope of the world**

A young man

A message from an angel

A trust in God

**The Hope of the world**

A first born on the way

A census

A long and weary journey

**The Hope of the world**

An Innkeeper with no room

A stable with manger and animals

A King is born

**The Hope of the world**

A flock being cared for

A message of Good News

A visit to the Christ child

**The Hope of the World**

A star in the East

A journey for wisemen

A Saviour receives gifts

**The Hope of the world**

A story from 2000 years

A celebration

A message still the same

**The Hope of the world**

Emmanuel God with us

Prince of Peace

King of Kings

**The Hope of the world**



## POPPY APPEAL

So back in mid August (yes during the summer) we asked you the congregation for your help. The vision from one of our members was to create a poppy display for Remembrance Sunday in November.

And you did it, patterns were handed out, needles were at the ready, wool was bought and the challenge began. During the next coming weeks the chat around Kay Park Church was; Which pattern are you using? Have you got any spare wool? What kind of buttons are you using? Do you think we'll get enough?

And yes you rose to the challenge each week, people of all ages started bringing in their knitted or crocheted poppies, in all different shapes and sizes, and so many different shades of red. We had an abundance and not only in red but also white, purple and blue.

Slowly the vision of one member became the vision of the whole church, I'm happy to say that you did it and here are a few photos showing the progress.

Well done to all who saw the vision and ran with it.

What else could we have the vision for and where would that lead us.

With grateful thanks from the flower committee



Joy is **Love** rejoicing  
Peace is **Love** at rest  
Patience is **Love** waiting  
Kindness is **Love** interacting  
Goodness is **Love** initiating  
Faithfulness is **Love** keeping its word  
Gentleness is **Love** empathising  
Self-control is **Love** resisting temptation



## BOOK REVIEW

### One Incredible Moment—Celebrating the Majesty of the Manger, Max Lucado

The book examines the events and people surrounding the birth of Jesus. Through stories and reflections, the book explores how the "unbelievable moment" of Jesus's birth forever changed the world for Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, and for people today.



Max Lucado does a marvellous job of bringing the reader into the mind of those who were there when Jesus was born. This book can be read in one sitting or spread over a few days. Max has a way of looking at events in the Christmas story we thought we knew and turning them upside-down for a different insight or two.

A beautiful book to give as a gift or keep it yourself and bring it out each advent to remind you of this incredible story. The **hope** that came at Christmas so many years ago and is still with us today.

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*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.*  
*Romans 15:13*

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## FINANCE

### Finance Targeted Giving Campaign

At our session meeting in October, the session agreed for the Finance Team to target the following:-

Approx 100 members of the church, who have no recorded givings over the last 5 years.

When joining the church we promise to provide time, talents and money, so we wish to chase up on this promise of money.

This will hopefully stop the Finance Team, going back to the same members, who already have recorded givings, to ask for more- we are very happy if you wish to increase your givings.

We are looking to remove (approx 12 members) from church membership. They live around 30 miles from our church and therefore we will not pursue them.

Members who are covered by Elders/Elders partners who are on the Finance Team (approx 13 members). We will visit in person and ask for a contribution. Over the next 4 years we will contact the remaining 75 members and ask them to contribute

The finance team are happy to answer any questions you may have regarding these proposals

Gordon Slater



### Nativity

This Christmas will be different:  
the angels got the sack.

A choir of heavenly llamas sing,  
conducted by a yak.

Here come the three wise penguins,  
riding camels. (Well, why not?  
We can't go changing everything  
to fill the festive slot!)

The shepherds on the hillside  
are looking after cats.  
The sky is filled with magic  
from supersonic bats.

But hidden in a stable  
three people never change:  
Joseph, Mary, Jesus,  
whose absence would be strange.

Some things in life may alter,  
but some things stay the same,  
may God be praised for Christmas  
and Jesus' holy name.





## BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL



**Bring warmth, joy and hope this Christmas** This is the message of Christmas from Blythswood Care. We at Kay Park Parish Church have chosen to support Blythswood Shoebox appeal again this year.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal by filling a shoebox, sponsoring a shoebox, making a cash donation or gifting many individual items, many hand knitted. Sixty-six boxes have been collected and these boxes are now travelling to those in most need.

Thank you for sharing WARMTH, JOY and **HOPE** this Christmas.

Below are a couple of stories that demonstrate how Christmas brings **HOPE**.



### Gedeon's Story

Gedeon received his shoebox in a bus station. No, he wasn't going anywhere. Quite simply the bus station is warm. And it has an indoor toilet and wash basin. Home has none of these luxuries. So, as the eldest man in the house, the 10 year old will leave his mum and four siblings in the waiting room while he walks home to gather sticks and light the fire, to make it more welcoming for them.

This family has little money, barely enough for food, Gedeon's mum is not happy about the holidays because the children miss their school meals.

The shoeboxes are a huge help to families in need.

Gedeon's family spent much of the Christmas holiday at the bus station to stay warm.

### Zlatko's Story

63 year old Zlatko was searching through other people's rubbish in the city of Kragujevac, when he was approached by David Armus from Blythswood Serbia. I'm looking for something to eat he explained to David and maybe some things that could be useful to me.

Zlatko lives with his brother in very poor conditions, says David remembering that December afternoon distributing shoeboxes. You can imagine how much your gifts meant to him—a warm hat, scarf, gloves, sweets and hygiene products. He was so grateful.

### Young Church going out to buy some things to put in their shoeboxes, then back in the hall



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The 37th Ayrshire Henderson Scout Group, 17th Kilmarnock Brownies and our own Young Church were out again decorating the church railings for Remembrance Sunday. Here are a few photos to show what a fab job they have done.



## *Hope is at the heart of Christmas*

### O Holy Night

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
Till He appeared, and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn  
  
Fall on your knees  
O hear the angels' voices  
O night divine  
O night when Christ was born  
  
Truly He taught us to love one another  
His law is love and His gospel is peace  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother  
And in His name all oppression shall cease

Christ is the Lord  
O praise His name forever  
His power and glory  
Evermore proclaim.  
  
Holy, holy  
Are You Lord God Almighty  
Worthy is the Lamb  
Worthy is the Lamb  
You are holy, holy  
Are You Lord God Almighty  
Worthy is the Lamb  
Worthy is the Lamb  
You are holy

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth





## 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)



## HARVEST THANSGIVING

Another way that our church have brought **hope** to people in our community was our Harvest Thanksgiving when we collected food for the Salvation Army. Here are a few photos of our Young Church on Harvest Sunday.



*And His name will be the **hope** of all the World  
Matthew 12:21*

### Christmas Scramble



EJSUS .....  
TVIITYNA .....  
YRMA .....  
TLHHEEMEB .....  
VARSUIO .....  
RTSA .....  
MSRSACITH .....  
BTSael .....  
KDEOYN .....  
PJEHOS .....  
GRENMA .....  
PHRDEESSH .....  
PEOH .....

### Christmas Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T |   | V |   |   | N |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | D |   |   | N | E |
|   |   |   |   |   | V |
|   |   | D | N |   |   |
|   | E |   |   |   |   |

### ADVENT

How many stars can you finding hiding in the magazine?



## CHURCH FLOWERS

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

### September

Mrs Grace Ferguson  
Mrs Maureen Taylor  
Mrs Aileen Sansum  
Mrs Betty Booker

### October

Mrs Sheena Wilson  
Mrs Audrey Gray  
Mrs Jean Inglis  
Mrs Mhairi MacNamee  
Mrs Maureen Moore  
Mrs Liz Smith

### November

Mrs Lesley Wotherspoon  
Mr Raymond Waddell  
Mrs Sandra Nisbet  
Mrs Aileen Sansum  
Alex Dempster  
1 Anonymous

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



## SALVATION ARMY

The **Hope** this Christmas is that no one should be homeless, hungry or lonely.

The Salvation Army need your help to reach out to the people who are suffering the most by bringing comfort and joy into their lives.

With the current cost-of-living crisis, thousands of people are expected to turn to them for help this Christmas. In over 600 communities across the UK, they will be doing all they can for them, whatever their circumstances.



### WHAT THEY ARE DOING THIS CHRISTMAS

This year they will be supporting people at Christmas by:

- Providing Christmas lunches and companionship to older people living alone.
- Giving Christmas food parcels to families who are struggling to afford a proper Christmas lunch.
- Distributing toys to children whose parents are unable to afford presents this Christmas.

Everyone's story is different, the Salvation Army believe in treating people with unique needs to get to the root causes behind their addiction, homelessness and help them move forward.

Here are a few stories showing that there is still **Hope** in the world

"Six months ago Chris was sleeping on a park bench, now he's sober and thanks to the support he received at one of our Lifehouses he is moving on with his life and looking forward to a brighter future."

"Toni met a woman in her home country of Jamaica who persuaded her to give up everything and move to the UK to be with her. Their love story turned out to be a lie and Toni was kept as a Modern Slave for years until she got help from The Salvation Army."

"Victoria had a comfortable life with her partner for 7 years and then lost everything when her partner died. She started living in a park which was a huge shock, within a space of months she had lost everything and the loss of her partner brought back all her feelings of loss from years ago. She started drinking in her 20's to cope with the loss of most of her family, she was a functioning alcoholic. She went to the Salvation Army who saved her, they gave her a room and eventually the barriers came down and she stopped isolating herself. She is now working on gaining employment and having her own place."

We can support our own local Salvation Army this Christmas by continuing to give to the food bank and also giving to the Toy Appeal so that children and young people will have something to open this Christmas and those in desperate need will have food to enjoy not just on Christmas Day but throughout the year.

Can we in Kay Park Church bring **Hope** this Christmas to our neighbours in Kilmarnock?



## 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  
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  
Moirra 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:** Jean Herbert  
Tracey Neilson



## Other Church Committees

### Media

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

### Communion

Jean Deans  
Maureen Taylor

### Flower

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



## OFFICE BEARERS

### Minister:

Rev Fiona A 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

Scottish Charity No: 008154

## FUNERALS

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

Wednesday 19 November Mrs Elizabeth Grant

## BAPTISMS

Sunday 23 November

Rory Slater

Sunday 23 November

Violet Slater

## UPCOMING DATES

Praise Evening Sunday 23 November 6.30pm

Christmas Lunch Sunday 14 December 12.15pm

## KIRK SESSION MEETINGS

7pm in the Sanctuary

Wednesday 18 February

Wednesday 18 March



May the gifts of **LOVE**,  
**JOY**, **HOPE** & **PEACE** be  
yours this Christmas.

Answers to Christmas Scramble  
Jesus, Nativity, Mary, Bethlehem, Saviour,  
Star, Christmas, Stable, Donkey, Joseph,  
Manger, Shepherds, Hope