THE MAGAZINE OF

NEW LAIGH KIRK

Church of Scotland
KILMARNOCK

Scottish Charity No.:SC031334

Autumn 2026

"A caring welcoming church at the heart of Kilmarnock reaching out to all"

Minister: Rev. David S Cameron, 1 Holmes Farm Road, Kilmarnock (525416)
Session Clerk: Mr Derek I'Anson
Depute Clerk: Mrs Margaret Patterson
Community and Families: Amy Tanner

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY

11.00 a.m. **MORNING WORSHIP**

11.00 a.m. Ignite Children's Church (Age 4 --Primary 7)
Trekkers (11-17 years)
Contact: Amy Tanner (07980 665432)

MONDAY

7.15 p.m. Guild (every second Monday)
Contact: Lesley Wright (523039) or Elspeth Dale (01292 541240)

7.30 p.m. Highlights (Mondays as per syllabus)
Contact: Eileen Murphy (543488)

TUESDAY

10.00 - 11.00 a.m. Little Seeds (Babies - 4 year olds)
Contact: Amy Tanner (07980 665432)

7.00 p.m. Session Meeting (Dates as arranged)
Contact: Mr Derek I'Anson (07989 473142)

WEDNESDAY

6.00 to 7.15 p.m. Rainbows
Contact: Sheena Baillie (07749 617204)

6.00 to 7.30 p.m. Brownies*:*
Contact: Fiona Malcolm (07903 212703)

7.45 to 9.15 p.m. Guides
Contact: Fiona Malcolm (07903 212703)

THURSDAY

7.00 p.m. Vestry
Contact: Rev. David S Cameron (525416) /
Mr Derek I'Anson (07989 473142)

FRIDAY

6.00 to 7.00 p.m. Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys (5 to 8 years)
St. Marnock's Halls
Contact: Mr Stewart Chapman (07745162694)

7.15 to 9.00 p.m. Boys' Brigade Junior Section (8+ to 11 years)
St. Marnock's Halls
Contact: Elaine Park (533464)

7.00 to 9.30 p.m. Boys' Brigade Company Section (11+ to 18 years)
New Laigh Kirk Hall *Contact: Mr David McDonald (544037)*

7.00 to 9.00 p.m. Ranger Guides (14-18 years)
Howard Centre
Contact Erin Malcolm (07821 549508)

Safeguarding Coordinator: Ian Anderson

Safeguarding Panel Members: John Dale, Lora Barclay and Ellen Stewart

New Laigh Kirk Manse
August 2026

Hello Folks

I hope you have enjoyed a time of rest and refreshment over the summer months. Whether your days have been spent travelling, welcoming family and friends or simply enjoying a slower pace of life, I'm sure you found moments to give thanks for God's goodness.

As holidays come to an end we return to familiar routines. Schools are back to normal, church groups begin again, and the life of our congregation gathers fresh momentum. The start of a new session is always an opportunity to look ahead with hope and new enthusiasm for what God is calling us to do together. One of the greatest gifts we can offer one another is the simple commitment to be present. Gathering for worship each Sunday is more than keeping a habit, it is where we meet with God, encourage one another, and are strengthened for the week ahead. Every person who walks through our doors matters. Your presence, your prayers, your voice in worship, and your friendship all help to build up the body of Christ.

I invite you to embrace a simple rhythm to **Look Up, Look In, and Look Out**.

We **Look Up** by fixing our eyes on Christ through worship, prayer, and reading God's Word, allowing God to shape our hearts and guide our decisions.

We **Look In** by caring for one another within our church family. We are called to notice those who may be struggling, to encourage those who are weary, to welcome all visitors, and to ensure that no one feels forgotten. Small acts of kindness, a phone call, a visit, or an invitation for coffee can make an enormous difference.

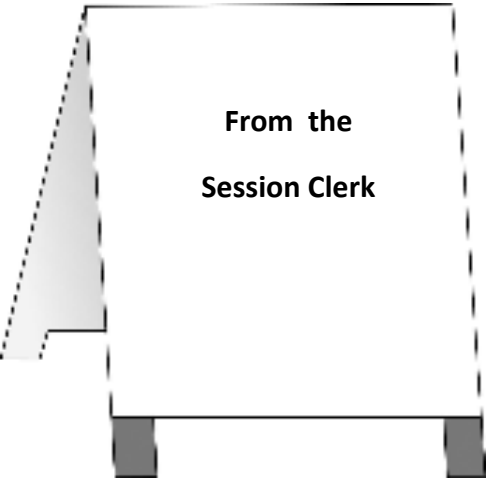
We **Look Out** as we seek to share God's love beyond our church walls. Our mission is not confined to Sunday mornings. It is lived out in our homes, workplaces, schools, among our neighbours and our town. Every conversation, every act of service, and every expression of compassion is an opportunity to reflect Christ's love.

As we step into this new session together let us renew our commitment to worship faithfully, care deeply for one another, and serve generously in Christ's name.

May God bless you, and New Laigh Kirk, the church and family we love, with fresh vision, renewed energy, and joyful hope as we continue His work together.

With prayerful good wishes.

David



Hello everyone.

As the new season kicks in we are already thinking of continuing our fundraising and social events for 2027.

Following the successful jazz evening last March and due to popular demand, we are planning a second jazz night, probably being held next March.

We have had another very successful season of Music for All concerts and all of our events this year have been very successful and well supported.

Planning any event takes time and effort, therefore if you are willing to assist or organise an event (always plenty of back-up) then please let me know.

Nevertheless please feel free to come forward with suggestions for fundraising, social or Music for All events, even if you do not wish to organise it – there is no obligation.

Derek I'Anson

Going for Gold!

Our application for our gold Eco-congregation Scotland has now been submitted. At the time of writing, we are awaiting dates for our assessors to visit New Laigh Kirk. We are hopeful of a successful outcome and will share the news of our award in due course.

This application has been submitted 12 months earlier than anticipated. On behalf of the Eco group, I would like to extend our thanks to everyone who has supported our work - whether it is making suggestions, supporting our recycling, litter picking, making personal or individual changes at home or around the Church buildings. All of these approaches have been captured in our application and I was extremely proud in sending off the pages of evidence that we have collected over the past year.

Regardless of the outcome of our assessment, our eco work with continue. We still need identify means for recycling ink cartridges, we are looking at organising an upcycling craft event in Spring 2027, and our fundraising calendar for the renovation work will be available to purchase in the autumn.

Once again, a thank you to everyone for all the support that you have given to this work.

More info on our eco work can be found on the church website:
Outreach | New Laigh Kirk

Litter Picks

The three church parish litter picks, now called Churches Together, will finish with Kay Park Parish in September. The date is subject to change but will be announced in intimations and via our social media. These picks are supported by the Rapid Relief Team, Kay Park Parish, St Marnocks and NLK. We have been very lucky with the weather so far and the warm drinks and hot rolls from RRT afterwards are very much in demand!

The final NLK community litter pick will be held in the afternoon of Sunday 4th October from 1.30 at the halls. We will finish at the church by 3pm for a hot drink and tasty snack.

Please consider supporting either or both of these events to help clear up our church community but also spend some time with friends for a good blether whilst cleaning up around our Church.

Highlights Club

I hope you have all enjoyed some of the lovely weather we have had this summer, and are raring to go for our new session.

Our syllabus for the new session is included on the next page, but there is just one thing to highlight (if you will excuse the pun!) Names and full payment for the Christmas night out (on 30th November) are due on the first night back please. That does mean however, that when the time comes, it almost feels like a free night out!

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 21st September, and as always, we would be delighted to welcome any new members too. If you are thinking about coming along, please do, either on your own or with a friend – you will be made very welcome.

If you are a member of the Highlights, and are not in our WhatsApp group, please contact me with your mobile number and I will be delighted to add you. If you do not use WhatsApp, please let me have your email address so that we can keep in touch.

For more information on the Highlights, please contact me on 543488 or 07887 541651, or any of the committee.

Eileen Murphy, Chairperson

Highlights Syllabus 2026-267

21st September – Caribbean Cookery **Cost £6.00**

Welcome cocktail on arrival, then a demonstration and tasting of Caribbean cooking by Sharon and Derek of Reggaelicious. An evening of delicious flavours and great entertainment, while supporting a local business.

*** Names and full payment for December night out due tonight please.**

30th November – Christmas Night Out **Cost £30.00**

Start the festive season nicely with a Christmas afternoon tea in a private room at the Park Hotel. Cost includes the afternoon tea, a glass of Prosecco and a tip.

Meet at the Park Hotel for a **7pm start**.

***(Names and full payment by October night please.)**

18th January – Templespa Skincare Evening with Mechelle **Cost £5.00**

Relax, recharge and reveal your best skin. Demonstration facials, guided facials, an opportunity to try Templespa products (which can be ordered if you wish), and last but not least, skincare discussions and advice.

22nd March - The Joy of Reading **Cost £5.00**

A book themed evening with Sarah Skelton, owner of The Book Nook in Stewarton. Sarah will share with us her story, her passion for books, and talk about how to choose books and authors.

During tea and coffee, we will also have a book swap – please bring a book you have read, and are happy to donate, and swap it for a different one, with personal recommendations from those who have read it!

*** Names and full payment for May night out due tonight please.**

26th April – Annual Charity Quiz in aid of Ayrshire Cancer Support **Cost £5.00**

Teams of 6 – 8. Prizes, refreshments and raffle.

Due to rising prices, this year we have decided to provide soft drinks, crisps and sweets as usual, but to ask you to bring your own wine (but only wine please – no other alcohol is permitted).

We have therefore reduced the admission price to £5, all of which, and all raffle money, will go directly to the charity. By doing this, we can keep the cost down, and ensure the amount we can give to the charity does not reduce.

This is a great cause so please give generously!

Please note this will be held in the **downstairs hall.**

24th May - Summer Night Out **Cost £30.00**

Dinner in the private room upstairs in The Longhouse. Cost includes a 2-course meal (individuals can choose either starter and main, or main and dessert) and a tip. Drinks can be purchased separately on the evening, from our private bar.

The meal is at **7pm** and we can **arrive from 6.30pm.**

Names of Highlights members only can be given to the committee from the start of the session until January, when we will open any remaining places to friends of members.

(Payment by March night please.)

Janis, Laura, Kathryn and I look forward to seeing existing and new members at any of our evenings. If you have not been before, please do come along, either on your own or with a friend – you will receive a very warm welcome. Unless otherwise stated, we meet at **7.30pm** in the Upper Hall. For further information, please contact me on 543488 or 07887 541651, or any committee member. **Eileen**

The Kirk Session's annual coffee morning to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support will take place in our halls on

Saturday 26th September, 10 a.m. till 12 noon.

Raffle, bottle stall, home baking and more!

Suggested donation £3.

All welcome!

I am very fortunate to have several lovely trees in and around my garden – a flowering cherry, an apple tree in my neighbour's garden, a chestnut tree over the fence beside the railway and a huge sycamore across from my front window. My favourite, however, is a flamingo willow which I planted myself several years ago. It has pretty white and green variegated foliage which gets a flush of flamingo pink in the summertime and its bare branches glow orange in the winter sunlight. It looks delicate, but has withstood several severe storms, despite the fact that I did not support it with a stake when I planted it! It must have strong roots.

I recently enjoyed a "Songs of Praise" programme, which was themed about trees. Trees are mentioned throughout the bible – the trees in the Garden of Eden, the cedars of Lebanon, Zaccheus up the tree to see Jesus, the parable of the fig tree, the crucifixion 'tree' and Jesus as the vine, of which we are the branches. It mentioned the poem "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer which begins, "I think that I shall never see, a poem lovely as a tree." It contains the lines, "A tree that looks at God all day, and lifts her leafy arms to pray." It ends, "Poems are made by fools like me, but only God can make a tree."

As well as being beautiful, trees are symbols of regeneration and everlasting life. Who was not outraged at the senseless destruction of the tree beside Hadrian's Wall which was known as Sycamore Gap a few years ago? However, it has already begun to sprout new shoots

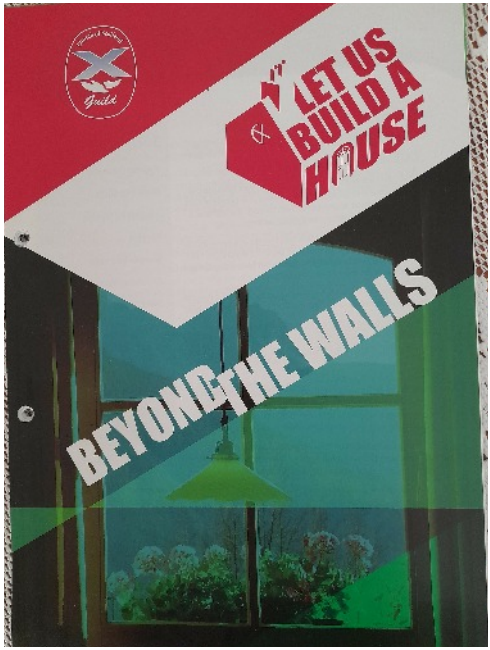
and saplings grown from its seeds have been planted across the area. We have also been horrified in the last few weeks by the devastating forest fires in the Cairngorms and across Spain and France, yet we know that the trees and other vegetation will grow back in time. The life force is strong! The power of God the Creator!

The prayer group continues to call upon that power when we meet online on the first Wednesday of the month, led by our minister David, usually at 6.30pm. A few of us also meet at Inspire! on the second Wednesday of the month at 11am in the church session room. Please consider joining either of these. They are peaceful and renewing.
In the meantime, here are some topics for your own prayer times:

- Pray for all those whose towns, cities and countryside have been torn apart by the violence of war, as in Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, Ukraine and the Middle East.
- Pray for all those affected by this summer's wildfires in Britain and across Europe.
- Pray that all countries of the world will work to de-escalate global warming, giving a high priority to sustainable energy and recycling.
- Pray that we will all be better stewards of Creation. Plant a tree! Save the bees!
- Pray that our church and its organisations will feel renewed and regenerated after the summer break, ready to grow God's kingdom in Kilmarnock and beyond.
  And be like the trees – lift your arms to pray!
  Lesley Wright.

Lesley Wright.

The Guild



We look forward to the new Guild session which marks the third year of "Let us build a house" with this year's theme being, "Beyond the Walls." Most of our meetings take place within the walls of the church halls in John Finnie Street, where we get together once a fortnight on a Monday at 7.15pm. It is an opportunity to meet with other church folk to hear interesting speakers on a wide variety of topics and to be entertained with music and song. We also have a good blether! If you are new to the church, it would be a good way to get to know others and if you are a longtime member of NLK but have never come to the Guild, then why not give it a go? It is a great organisation!

And it's a great organisation because we have always looked beyond our walls. Our motto is "Worship, Prayer and Action" and as well as doing what we can to support our own church and its mission, we also do our best to spread God's love throughout the world through the Guild projects. There have been four in this three year programme. Two of them are based in Scotland – the Scottish Bible Society's 'Bibles for Bairns' which provides bible story books to children aged one to

five and CrossReach's 'Playful Beginnings' which offers support to vulnerable young families. Then there are two international projects – 'Operation Hope' in Egypt which gives help to persecuted Christians and 'Bear Necessities' which is a church plant in Sliven, Bulgaria which was once a communist country. As well as learning about the projects and keeping them in our prayers, we also raise funds for them at our annual Coffee Morning which is on Saturday 29th August from 10am till noon, tickets available at church and at the door, priced £3.50. It is always a very sociable occasion.

The session begins on Monday, 14th September at 7.15pm when our minister David will lead us in Holy Communion. We look forward to welcoming everyone into the friendship and fellowship of the Guild. Lesley Wright.

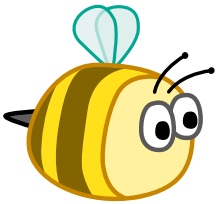
Lesley Wright

YOGA

Looking to relax and renew? Interested in some gentle movement and breathing practices along with deep relaxation? Then the Thursday evening yoga class at New Laigh Kirk Halls might be for you.
The yoga classes in the upper hall restart on Thursday 6 August and run until 10 December. Classes are from 7.30 to 9pm, cost £7 and are run on a drop-in basis. For further information please contact Fiona Hayes, yoga teacher, on 07887 840957 or fionadhayes@hotmail.com.

Fiona Hayes

NLK ECO GROUP



Pollination and Diversification Project Update

The Bible tells us that "*there is a time to sow and a time to reap*". Our project has ''sown' much more than the Eco Group ever imagined. And now we are beginning to reap the results of our sowers, growers, distributors and contacts made.

We were all astounded by the growth of what we had imagined to be 'a wee project' - yet we ought not to have been. Flower and vegetable seeds plus other items were generously donated by members of our congregation. At the last count there were over 400 people participating by sowing, growing and overseeing these activities. Helpers were numerous and many contacts were established.

From seeds, flowers were grown by our girls' uniformed organisations and distributed by elders and members of the Pastoral Care Group to around 20 older members of our congregation living at home and in local care homes. Tubs of flowers grown by local school children were donated to local care homes for residents, staff and visitors to enjoy. Some flowering plants grown by EACHa gardeners are in small hanging baskets adorning the corner of EACHa's building in John Dickie Street, and the Cholera Grave in Howard Park has flowers grown by them.

Vegetables, grown by a number of groups, including the Anchor Boys and Junior Section of the Boys' Brigade, have been distributed to numerous local organisations providing meals and food to individuals and families in food poverty.

Interaction and support between our contacts is a major outcome of the project. Over the summer, two local community gardens suffered break-ins and vandalism. Groups involved in our project immediately

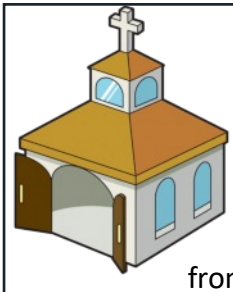
offered their assistance and also put people in touch with others able to help. This mutual assistance has continued and is becoming routine!
A huge Thank You from the Eco Group goes to everyone who has supported or taken part in the project in any way.

ELLEN STEWART
Member of NLK Eco Group.

Men's Club

Just a reminder that the Men's Club meets periodically for coffee and a chat and we welcome new members at any time.
Don't wait to be asked, just let Ken Stewart or me know and we will add you to the mailing list.
Although I still retain a telephone landline, my answering machine is not working should you try to leave a message, therefore it is best to call me on my mobile:
07989 473142.
Derek I'Anson

Church Open Doors



New Laigh Kirk is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 12noon to 2.00 p.m. The church will be open for those who want to come for a period of solitude or reflection, to see the stained glass windows from the inside or to find out some of the history of the church and town.

As some of our more elderly volunteers have decided to retire we urgently require some more volunteers during the autumn and winter, especially on Wednesdays, to welcome the visitors, so if you could spare a couple of hours every month to six weeks, we would be delighted to hear from you. This is an excellent opportunity to meet people as the days shorten again. There will be the opportunity to volunteer on different days as volunteers are contacted in advance with suggested dates and shifts are arranged to suit people's commitments.

This is an ideal opportunity to meet different people as you do not necessarily have to be on duty with the same people every month. We would be grateful if you could spare the time to help at a couple of sessions occasionally if you are unable to help on a monthly rota.

Craig will open and close the church for you.

If you would like to be included in the rota, please speak to Helen Colman, E: helenmcolman@gmail.com.

Remember that the more volunteers that there are, the less often you will be on duty!

FELLOWSHIP OF KILMARNOCK & DISTRICT CHURCHES

New Laigh Kirk's Vivid Vision includes a commitment to engage in ecumenical partnership with Christian churches of other denominations. One way to do this is through the Fellowship of Kilmarnock and District Churches. The Fellowship invites you to join in a very varied programme of shared worship

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All Creatures Great and Small

As Christians we are charged with caring for the environment which God created. We share this earth with fellow creatures whom God also made and cares about. The focus of our service at Fenwick Church at **3 p.m. on Sunday 23rd August** will be on animals which assist people. These will include Deaconess Barbara Urquhart's guide dog, a shepherd's dog accompanied by a shepherdess, bees and their beekeeper, a pet bereavement counsellor and even horses from Police Scotland's Mounted Unit's stables at Stewarton.

This will be the most unusual service you have ever attended. Please spread the invitation far and wide. Children and young people who love animals will be especially welcome.

Autumn services

Note the dates of our autumn services on the following themes. More details will follow later.

September 20 @ 3 p.m. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

Fellowship, Belonging, Inclusion: a place for all in our faith communities.

October 25 @ 3 p.m. Kay Park Parish Church

Remember Our Babies – support for families who lost a baby before or after birth.

November 15 @ 3 p.m. New Laigh Kirk

Faithful Followers – support for persecuted Christians. With a speaker from Open Doors charity.

For more information about the Fellowship contact Barbara Graham at 01563-522108 or barbara.graham74@btinternet.com.

International Prayer Requests

Every week we hear news of disasters impacting millions of people around the world. Soon, however, these situations drop off the headlines. The outside world moves on, but on the ground the people affected continue to suffer the consequences for years – or even for the rest of their lives. In the disaster areas and other places of poverty charities provide emergency aid and development funding without receiving the publicity which could multiply their resources.

Let us pause to pray for people in these situations: suffering victims and the rescue teams, humanitarian aid workers and medical staff, all of whom put service before self. Here are a few international prayer requests to prompt your prayers.

Ebola crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo

There have been c.1,500 reported cases of a virulent form of Ebola, for which there are no vaccines. The World Health Organisation estimates that the outbreak could be 2 to 4 times worse than official estimates. As people flee from affected provinces, the disease follows them. Crowded living conditions in poor communities add to the danger of multiple infections.

For information see **Oxfam**,

www.oxfam.org.uk/oxfam-in-action/current-emergencies/.

Pray for:

- those who are gravely ill that they may receive medical aid in order to recover;
- bereaved families, often mourning after multiple deaths of family members;
- medical scientists conducting clinical tests of vaccines and effective cures for Ebola.

Aftermath of earthquakes in Venezuela

Following severe earthquakes in Venezuela at least 5,200 were killed, many thousands are badly injured and 96,000 buildings were destroyed or damaged. These are probably under-estimates of the impact, as millions of survivors have lost homes, livelihoods and relatives. Families are sleeping outdoors in makeshift tents, with little protection from heat and rain. Power lines and roads have been destroyed and people are cut off from essential supplies.

For information see the **Disasters Emergency Committee**, **www.dec.org.uk**

Pray for:

- people traumatised by what they have experienced;
- rescuers still striving to recover bodies so that victims may be given a dignified burial;
- authorities charged with clearing mountains of rubble and beginning reconstruction.

Continuing crisis in Gaza, Palestine and Lebanon

Despite a fragile ceasefire, people in these areas are still struggling to access food, water, medicines and shelter. The example of a doctor, the mother of ten children, who was killed along with nine of her children, is by no means unique. In other families parents tend children who are amputees, while young children become carers for parents with multiple injuries. Doctors and nurses are frustrated by the lack of supplies to aid patients as the number of functioning hospitals is reduced after targeted attacks on them.

For information see Embrace the Middle East, www.embraceme.org
Pray for:

- displaced families and ask God to provide safe shelter, food and water, comfort for the bereaved and hope for those who fear what the future may bring;

- resources for charities seeking to alleviate suffering through food aid, health care and trauma support;
- negotiators who strive to bring wars to an end and to usher in lasting peace.

Helping the world's most vulnerable people

Many charities strive to bring essential services to millions of people who are overlooked. The example of **Christians Missions Charitable Trust** shows what can be done. In 1964 New Zealander, Colleen Reddit, felt God's call to go to India. She began by teaching poor girls. Today CMCT has expanded its education provision, provides soup kitchens, funds a hospital, provides wheelchairs for disabled people, offers employment and continues to spread the Gospel's good news. Among those helped are the following vulnerable people:

- A widow whose only sari is her clothing, blanket and towel. She works sweeping up leaves in the garden of a wealthy family. CMCT Social Workers give her regular food rations.
- A disabled young man who could only crawl to beg on the streets. CMCT's Wheelchair Ministry gave him a simple plastic chair in a frame with wheels.
- A woman living in constant pain in a tiny hovel. She had lived with a broken hip for 5 years. This was caused when her son kicked her. Her injury was treated in the CMCT hospital.

For information see Christians Missions Charitable Trust,
www.christianmissionsindia.org

Pray for:

- these three people and the thousands of vulnerable folk whom they represent;
- tireless CMCT providers of education, medical care and food aid to improve people's lives;
- similar charities which are not daunted by the scale of the world's problems, but believe that every little act of kindness helps because every person matters.

Amy - Community and Families

Hello everyone!

I hope you all are having such a wonderful summer and have managed to enjoy the little sunshine we have had. The new term is nearly upon us, and we have some exciting things in store for autumn.

First, our Bible Tea series for youth aged 11-18 will continue from August 30th, kicking off the new term with a social night. Bible Tea welcomes and encourages young people of all faith backgrounds to come along and explore the Bible in new and engaging ways with friends and peers. We aim to enhance faith journeys whilst building friendship and fellowship along the way. All details of Bible Tea and our social night will be available on our website and social media channels. All monthly Bible Tea sessions will run in the church, from 4:30pm-6pm. For more information, please contact: amy_bh@hotmail.co.uk

Secondly, our Little Seeds baby and toddler group will begin again on Tuesday 25th August at 10am-11am in our church halls on John Finnie Street. Little Seeds is a wonderfully welcoming group for families with children aged 0-4 and offers a friendly atmosphere, engaging activities for children and a refreshment break for parents/grandparents/carers. Little Seeds aims to nourish faith in children through music, dancing, games, crafts and fun! We are currently operating a waiting list system due to our growing popularity. If you or someone you know would like to join our wait list, please contact the above email address or contact: 07980665432.

Church Unplugged will also begin again on Sunday 16th August. Our Church Unplugged services embrace a more family focused style and aims to enhance faith in a more contemporary way. There is no age restraint, so please come along and enjoy the welcoming and friendly atmosphere of our Church Unplugged services. Church Unplugged will be running on the following dates:

- **Sunday 16th August**
- **Sunday 13th September**
- **Sunday 18th October**
- **Sunday 15th November**

Lastly, as the new term approaches, I look forward to diving into work with the local community schools, our Music For All team and the musical events we have planned and even all our Christmas events! There's lots to look forward to at New Laigh Kirk and we welcome and encourage all to join us! All are welcome!

Amy

The 4th/5th Kilmarnock Boys Brigade are starting back after the summer, and details of the enrolment night on **Friday 21st August** are listed below.

Anchor Boys

Ages 5+ to P3. Friday from 6pm – 7pm, at St Marnock's Halls, St Marnocks Street.
email: 4th5thkilmarnockbbanchors@gmail.com

Junior Section

Ages P4 to P6, Fridays 7:15pm – 8pm at St. Marnock's Halls, St Marnocks Street.
Email: bb4th5thkilmarnock@yahoo.com

Company Section

Ages P7 to S6, Fridays, 7pm – 8pm at New Laigh Halls, John Finnie St.
email: kilmarnock4th5th@aol.com

All 3 sections will return for the first full formal evening on **Friday 28th August.**

East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action
Scottish Charity SC052257

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" Matthew 25:40

At the end of July EACHa celebrated the first year of working out of the new hub in John Dickie Street, and four years since the Recovery Hub was established. And how far we have come! The new premises provide much needed space, allowing us to provide a greater range of activities, breakout rooms and of course our café, housed in the former East Ayrshire Marriage Suite. You can imagine some of the comments about that from the café customers! We had a birthday celebration, attended by staff, volunteers, partners, local churches, and individuals who had been supported by the hub. There was lots of food, and of course birthday cake. We had a video message from our Chair, Rev. David Cameron, who remarked on the progress over the past four years, and reinforced that all we do is rooted in our Christian faith.

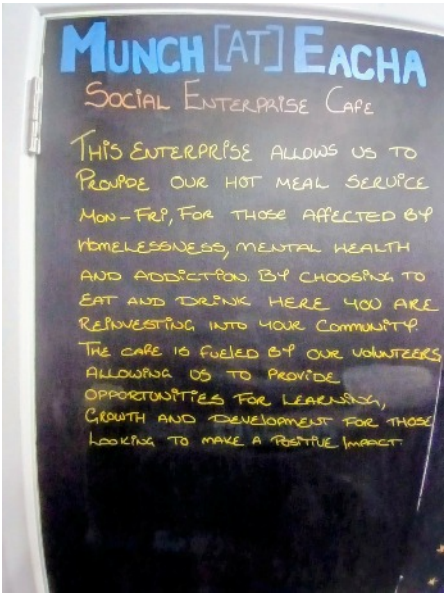
Steph, EACHa's Network Service Manager, closed the event with an emotional and inspirational speech. He valued this opportunity to look

back over the past four years, and realised that what we do isn't about buildings, budgets or reports. It's about people. The real story of EACHa is about the person who walked through the door thinking they had run out of chances, the family who once again could hope, the volunteer who once needed support and now offers it freely to someone else. Our aim was never to build the biggest organisation, it was to build one that people could trust. After the day's celebration, we go back to what we do best. Listening. Caring. Challenging systems where they fail people. Standing alongside individuals and families for as long as it takes. Our motto as ever - Each Person Matters.

Moving into the larger premises has allowed us to offer a wide range of catering, there is something for everyone! We provide free cooked breakfasts every day for around 35 people – people who would otherwise not start the day with a hot meal.

At lunchtime the café is transformed into our social enterprise café, Munch @ EACHA, a sit-in and takeaway service, open to everyone. On the menu is always soup, a dish of the day, a variety of paninis and sandwiches, and of course cakes and the best

coffee in town. By choosing to eat and drink in our café, you are supporting those in our community affected by homelessness and addiction. Give the café a try, you will be made very welcome!



And on Wednesday evenings, we have our Community Café, again open to all, where you can enjoy a three course meal for £4. Where else could you get such value? Open from 5 till 6.30pm, a different menu each week. For example on the menu last week was chicken and rice soup, ham steak with peas and new potatoes, chocolate fudge cake and cream. There is always an alternative, for example toasties are always available. And of course ice cream! How can you resist?!

The cafes are run by staff and an army of volunteers, led by our amazing chef Michael. Michael has many years of hotel chef experience, and his standards are very high. As well as excellent food, he takes pride in the presentation of the meals.

On being asked for a quote, he provided a recipe:

Each Bite Matters recipe for recovery
1 Take one person with potential
2 Add a safe place and a warm welcome
3 Mix in training, support and opportunity
4 Season with dignity and respect
5 Allow time for growth
6 Serve with hope and purpose

Outcome – a stronger individual, healthier community and a brighter future.

Our philosophy summed up in a recipe!

By the way, if you know Michael, he never stays still. Now that the birthday celebrations are over, he's already making plans for Christmas. Watch this space!

Thanks to you all who support us with cash, goods, volunteers, and eating or having coffee in our café.

As always toiletries and household goods are welcome, to help fill the hygiene packs and starter packs we continue to provide for the recently homeless, to help them make a fresh start in a dignified way. And as ever we are grateful for your prayers.

Michael Smith tel 07484 432790
Janice Grant tel 07581 722331

Church Register

Funerals

23rd June 2026	Monty Howard (M) 27 Annan Road Kilmarnock
6th July 2026	Nancy Cree (M) 4 Nairn Close Stewarton
2nd July 2026	Vinnie Ralston-Wilson 129 Bonnyton Road Kilmarnock

And the Glory

The silence breaks into morning
That one star lights the world
The lily springs to life and
not even Solomon…..

Let us begin with singing
and never end!
Oh, angels, quit your lamenting!
Oh, pilgrims,
upon your knees in tearful prayer,
rise up
and take your hearts
and run

We who are no people
are named anew
God's people
for those who are no more
are now forevermore.

Amen

- The KAOS at the Kirk concert has been cancelled due to circumstances out with our control.