

Eastwood Parish Church of Scotland Crossbeam—May 2021

From the Manse...

Dear Friends,

I don't know about you, but I'm glad that spring has finally arrived. Lighter nights, colourful flowers and more "sunny" days are good for positivity and the soul. Darker nights are behind us and hopefully soon, darker days will be a memory rather than a reality.

I am sure over the last year or so, we have all encountered "dark" days—stuck at home, trying to avoid spreading infection, wondering when there will be light at the end of the tunnel.

With the uptake in vaccinations, it does now seem that we are closer to that "light" than ever. We can now, if we wish, take advantage of loosening restrictions, allowing us to meet others and visit those family and friends who live out with our own local authority areas.

Therefore, it feels right that we will be celebrating Pentecost, within the Church, on 23 May. Six weeks after Easter, when the Disciples found themselves in "darkness" they are now propelled into "light", filled with the Holy Spirit and able to speak to anyone they met in that persons' language.

Somehow, I suspect our own "propelling" into the world will not be quite as dramatic as the Disciples. Yet, I hope we will be filled with as much possibility and promise as they were. We may take the chance to sit in the sunshine with a coffee, enjoy a chat, share news and re-establish connections with those we have not seen in over a year. May we rejoice in Pentecost 2021 and give thanks to God for simple pleasures.

Your friend and minister,

Jim

Jim Teasdale



Where you belong

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From the Archives

As we all move into the new future, post-Covid, I thought it was time to celebrate our past.

I came across these two photos with some well 'kent' faces ...who can you recognise?

Has anyone got any photos from church life they are willing to share in the magazine and at our future lunches (once they get restarted)?

I'm sure the me memories will bring many a smile to our faces.

Erika Watt



Granny's Old Button Tins

Some of our knitters are knitting comfort muffs for Alzheimer patients and they are looking for buttons to sew onto them. Apparently, twiddling with the buttons calms their stress. Any type, size or colour of buttons would be very acceptable.

Everyone's granny had a button box. Is there one doing nothing in your loft? I will be happy to collect and pass on to our knitters.

Anne Noble (07877537856)

Saying Farewell— A reflection

What do you say to someone when they are about to leave your house? What do you say to your friends when they leave after playing, or after school? Good-bye? See you tomorrow? What do you say to someone who is going away so you won't see them for a while, like a cousin who lives in a different town? Stay safe? Text me? What do you say to someone who is going to another country to live and who you probably won't ever see again? I'll miss you? Please stay?

When Jesus was coming to the end of his time with his disciples, he was saying good-bye to them. What he said was all in a prayer where he asked God to: Be with them all, keep them safe, love them like he had loved them, protect them, and never let them go. What do you think of these words Jesus used to say good-bye to his disciples? What's special about this prayer is that he said these things to us too: May God be with you all, keep you safe, love you, and never let you go.

Church Family News

Thank yous: Anne Glen would like to say thank you for the beautiful church flowers she recently received along with a special thanks to Isabel Freer who kindly delivered them.

West Side Stories—Campbeltown Cross

Thanks to those of you who got in touch after my last article on Davaar Island and its Cave Painting— it's good to know it brought back some happy memories of past visits to Kintyre! This time I want to tell you a wee bit about the historic Campbeltown Cross.



One face of the cross depicts St Mary and St John, below a pair of other saints. On the left arm of the cross is St Michael slaying a dragon, on the other is simply a foliage design. The reverse of the cross has a mermaid and sea-monster at the top, with a pair of peculiar animals at each side arm. The centre of the disc is filled with the foliated pattern of a cross. The foliage pattern runs down the shaft and ends with another pair of animals near the base. The edges of the cross are carved with foliage patterns of different designs.

The cross was commissioned by parson Andrew McEachern in memory of himself and his father Ivor McEachern. The Latin inscription reads 'This is the cross of Sir Ivor McEachern, sometime parson of Kilkivan and his son, Sir Andrew, parson of Kilchoman, who caused it to be made'.

As is usually the case, inscriptions only relate a very brief part of any story. In the late medieval period, parsons were often married, and it was not unusual for a son to succeed his father as a parson. Ivor was the parson of Kilkivan, and was followed by his son Andrew, who later was parson at Kilchoman (on Islay). Andrew was illegitimate and had to receive a papal dispensation to become a parson. When he moved to the parsonage of Kilchoman, a Kintyre man named Odo McKay objected on the grounds that Andrew should have required a second dispensation to hold this new office. The Papal courts agreed, and An-

drew was removed from his office.

Originally erected in the graveyard of Kilkivan Church, about 4 miles from Campbeltown between the villages of Drumlemble and Machrihanish, the cross was moved into Campbeltown after 1609 to serve as a mercat (market) cross for the new burgh. It stood outside the Town House (now the Town Hall) in Main Street and was the focus of the town's civic and social life. The exact date when the cross was moved is not known but it was before 1680 when records show a criminal named Finvall McCannill sentenced to being whipped and scourged by the common executioner at the Mercat Cross in Campbeltown. The time period is important, for this was during the turmoil of the Scottish Reformation. The cross was considered too Catholic, and a depiction of the Crucifixion on its east face was destroyed, along with the figures of two priests (probably the McEacherns). Its transformation from a religious symbol to a market cross is a symbol of the social upheaval and changes in attitude during the Reformation. In 1700, the town's population gathered at the cross to witness the town proclaimed a Royal Burgh.

During World War II it was moved to the graveyard at Kilkerran for safety and, after much debate, was re-erected at its present site in 1946. It has a special place in the hearts of the community, a respect observed regularly by its circumnavigation following weddings and funerals.

Over the years the cross has taken a battering from the elements (standing as it does in the open air), and underwent significant restoration works in 2020. Commissioned by Campbeltown Community Council this link to a short film follows the history of Campbeltown Cross from 1380 to the present day:



<https://youtu.be/uE9iWQ4VjOU>

Alistair Dobbie

A Thought for Pentecost from Spill the Beans

How quickly do we seek to come up with a logical explanation to an extraordinary event? How quickly do we try to dismiss something spectacular as a trick of the light or as a result of a series of natural events? How many readers would have reacted differently upon witnessing the events that unfolded at Pentecost? How many would have dismissed those filled with the Holy Spirit as having had ‘one too many’?

The Spirit descended with great gusto, only to collide head on with suspicion, ignorance and struggle. Fast-forwarding to 2021, we may ask ourselves what a post-pandemic Pentecost might look like. In an age where many people have worked hard to disprove the science behind things such as the wearing of face masks or the banning of congregational singing, how would people react if those around them were to suddenly be able to speak in different languages? Would they see this as the work of something greater than themselves or would they start searching for the pocket translators or smartphones? It is always important to remember that the events of Pentecost do not come as much of a shock to those who have read John’s Gospel—a luxury not afforded to the witnesses of the events in Jerusalem that day.

When Jesus does take time to prepare us for the coming of the Holy Spirit, he tells his followers to prepare for something rather spectacular; something that was going to change lives and the world once again. And it would be in the world, not in the confines of our church buildings and memberships that the Holy Spirit would reveal herself.

This Pentecost, perhaps we could take time to ask ourselves: How would we react if these events took place today? Would we step out and open ourselves up to the stirring of the Holy Spirit, to renewal, to invigoration and to new life for our communities and congregations? Are we prepared to face this powerful and renewing wind, that is the Holy Spirit, together? Are we prepared, like Peter, to humbly and boldly stand with those who are being shaken by this violent wind, or stand by those accusing them of being drunk with wine?

Life and Work—May 2021

The Privilege of Democracy

Thomas Baldwin explains why churches have a key role to play in this month's elections to the Scottish Parliament

'A Cherished Part of the Church's Tradition'

The Rt Hon Baron Wallace of Tankerness QC looks ahead to his year as Moderator-Designate to the 2021 General Assembly with Lynne McNeil, as he encourages elders to serve more widely in the Church of Scotland

Assembly 2021

Timetable and reports to this year's General Assembly, which will be held online

God's Table

The first in a new series of Bible studies by the Very Rev Dr Derek Browning, focusing on hospitality

Kirk Session Records Launched Online

More than a million pages of local Church of Scotland records have been published online for the first time

New Guild Partner Projects Unveiled

The six new three-year projects adopted by the Church of Scotland Guild

Our Planet is Changing

Val Brown of Christian Aid Scotland introduces the campaign for this year's Christian Aid Week



What's On At Eastwood

		Contact
SUNDAY		
10.00 am	Faithbook (Monthly) - ONLINE ONLY	Erika Watt
11.15 am	Worship	Rev Jim Teasdale
11.00 am	Sunday School (age 2 to 16) - ONLINE ONLY	Katie Morrison
MONDAY		
10.00 am	English Literacy Classes— CURRENTLY SUSPENDED	Christine Nanguy E:info@pollokshawsaln.org
12 noon	The Lunch Club — CURRENTLY SUSPENDED Open on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 12noon (except July and August)	
2.00 pm	Guild — CURRENTLY SUSPENDED (every 2nd Monday from October to March)	Mary Marshall
6.30 pm	Coyle Irish Dancers	Suzanne Coyle
TUESDAY		
9.30 am	Slimming World — CURRENTLY SUSPENDED	Lesley Clark
5.45 pm	Coyle Irish Dancers	Suzanne Coyle
WEDNESDAY		
10.00 am	Eastwood Carer & Toddler Group — CURRENTLY SUSPENDED	Katie Morrison Linda Smith
1.45 pm	Carpet Bowls (from October to March) — CURRENTLY SUSPENDED	Erika Watt
6.30 pm	Girls' Brigade — CURRENTLY SUSPENDED	
FRIDAY		
9.30 am	Slimming World — CURRENTLY SUSPENDED	Lesley Clark
7.00 pm	Badminton (from October to May) — CURRENTLY SUSPENDED	
SATURDAY		
10.30 am	Coyle Irish Dancers	Suzanne Coyle
7.00 pm	EPYC — CURRENTLY SUSPENDED	Erika Watt

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