

Eastwood Parish Church of Scotland Crossbeam—November 2021

From the Manse...

Dear Friends,

I wonder, how good are you at waiting?

Maybe it is just me but since the end of most lockdown restrictions, it seems that for many people waiting is a thing of the past and impatience is most definitely on the rise. You only have to watch car drivers and how there seems to be more 'anger' in people's driving. Or, how people rush around shopping centres with a look of steely determination or in the style of the White Rabbit from Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland" to see that patience is on the wane.

In some ways, it could be argued that many people within the church are also impatient at this time of year. It is as if they cannot wait to get to Christmas. Bonfire night, Remembrance Sunday are past and now there is the upcoming Advent Season to wait through when all we want to do is sing Christmas Carols! I have lost count of the number of times over the years when people have said to me: "Minister, can we not just sing Carols that are joyful instead of solemn, boring Advent hymns?"

Yet, Advent is a time of waiting and so we must be patient. We must wait because if we do not wait and wonder then how can we be prepared to welcome the precious gift that is God's Son. And yet, for some, Advent never lasts long enough for us to get prepared for Christmas and for the gift that God gives to us.

Which leads me to think that, maybe, we can never be fully prepared for Christmas, and does it matter if that is the case? For we can buy the most amazing gifts, cook the most delicious turkey with all the trimmings, make the most amazing Christmas Cake or trifle for dessert, mark the television schedule so that we remember to sit down in front of the "Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special". Yet, come 5pm on Christmas Day, we are only doing one thing – sleeping on the sofa! (Or maybe that's just



Where you belong

Inside this issue

Christmas Concert.....	page 2
Macmillan Coffee Morning	page 3
Easyfundraising.....	page 3
Harvest Collection.....	page 3
National Giving Day...	page 4
Remembrance Sunday.....	page 4
The Guild.....	page 4
Christmas Services.....	page 5
Eastwood Knitters.....	page 5
Sunday School Update.....	page 6
Job Word Search.....	page 7
A Prayer.....	page 8
Church Family News..	page 8
Finding Hope in the Long Term.....	page 9



ministers?)

Here at Eastwood this year, I want us to focus on one little phrase: ***“Simply Christmas”***. There is a lot of talk in the mainstream media of “Christmas being cancelled” which makes my blood boil! Christmas this year, pandemic or not, will **not** be cancelled. For when you “strip” Christmas back, at its core, it is all about the coming of a baby, the Son of God. God with us – Immanuel. Jesus will come into our world, whether we are fully prepared or completely frazzled – He will come to surprise anew – ready or not!

There are so many ways to prepare for His coming and the Advent themes help us to do just that. Those themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, which we will share and hopefully absorb as we travel through Advent and prepare ourselves once more for Christmas. The wonderful news is that God will come whether we have planned the most lavish celebration or whether we just keep Christmas simple.

So, may we take the time during Advent to prepare. To listen again to the Prophets of old foretelling the Good News. Let us listen again to the familiar story and sing Advent hymns and patiently wait for God to come in human form – Immanuel – God with us!

Your friend and minister,

Jim

Christmas Concert

We are hosting a short concert by the singing duo 'Short and Sweet' in the upper Church hall at 3pm on Saturday 4th December 2021.

Tickets, priced £5 (includes refreshment) can be purchased on any Sunday during November from members of the Social and Fundraising committee or by phoning Anne Maree Smith on 585 3911.

We are also going to raffle a Christmas hamper on the day so please bring a £1 coin if you wish to buy a ticket.

'Track and trace' details and face mask regulations will be in place for this event.

Anne Maree Smith

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who donated as part of the Macmillan Coffee morning held in September. A total of £263 was raised. The money raised will help Macmillan to do whatever it takes to help support



Easyfundraising—can you help raise Eastwood a little more?



Easyfundraising is a free service that enables people to raise donations for their chosen charities when doing their online shopping. With online shopping set to reach record numbers this year, this is an easy way to raise funds for the church with no cost to the individual.

Easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for your favourite cause. Just start your online shopping first at easyfundraising, then shop as normal. Retailers will then make a small donation to say “thank you”. There’s over 6,063 retailers to choose from and there are already over 20 people in the church who have registered for this free service and have raised around £500. If you need any help registering or want to ask any questions, please speak to our Treasurer, Katie Morrison.

Harvest Collection



Thank you to everyone who donated as part of the Harvest collection. Whilst we weren’t able to sell produce as normal in the sanctuary this year, a total of £325 was raised. Lodging House Mission is a charity which we have supported a number of times in the past and dedicates its work to providing care and support to homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded people in Glasgow. During October, seven boxes and one bag of groceries were collected in the donation boxes in church and passed on to LHM.

National Giving Day—31st October

The Church of Scotland this year encouraged all congregations to have a National Giving Day in the hope that this provided people of all ages an opportunity to reflect on God's presence with us through these challenging times and to offer gifts of thanksgiving back to God.



Money received through this initiative will remain with participating congregations who will choose how to use these gifts. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this initiative. A total of £4,253.70 has been raised by the congregation. The Kirk Session will decide how best to spend the money and look forward to sharing this with the congregation in due course.

Katie Morrison

Remembrance Sunday—14th November

A retiring offering for Poppy Scotland was held after our Remembrance Sunday service on the 14th of November. If you still wish to donate to this cause, you can also give directly into the bank, send a cheque to the treasurer or speak to Katie directly. Please use the reference "Poppy" when donating.



The Guild

Unfortunately The Guild will not be meeting at Eastwood this session. Mary Marshall, Guild President, is looking for members to contact her with their suggestions of how The Guild should be taken forward in the future. One possibility is an amalgamation with Thornliebank but Mary would be interested in hearing other ideas. Please contact Mary on 0141 571 2627.

Advent/Christmas Services at Eastwood

28 November - Advent Sunday

5 December – The Gift Service, led by the Rev. Caryl Kyle

12 December - Advent Worship

19 December - All Age Worship including the Nativity

24 December – Watchnight reflections at 9pm for 30 minutes on Zoom

25 December – Christmas Day Service at 10am for 30 minutes on Zoom

26 December – Service of Nine Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary

During our Advent/Christmas Services we will be able to sign our Big Christmas Card. For those who may not be able to attend the Sanctuary, there will be an opportunity to sign the Big Christmas Card On-line. All donations raised from the Card and from tea/coffee on Sundays will be donated to the Lodging House Mission.

At the Gift Service on 5th December we will once again be supporting the Social Work Dept of Glasgow City Council. Any gifts you can give will be greatly appreciated. Please remember not to wrap gifts but bring them to the Church in a gift bag. If you cannot make it to Church but would like to donate, please contact either Katie Morrison, Erika Watt or myself.

Jim Teasdale

Eastwood Knitters

Firstly, let me say thank you to everyone who has handed in bags of hats, jumpers and blankets for the maternity unit at the QEU Hospital. I can assure you they are very much appreciated.

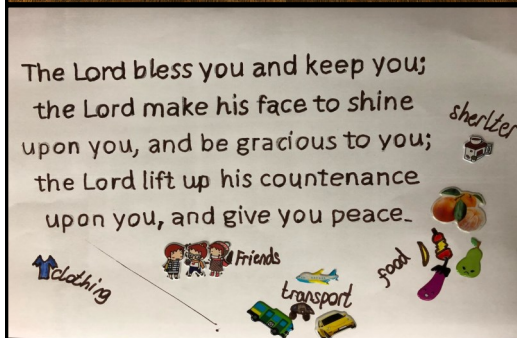
Secondly, if you are interested in carrying on knitting, or even joining us, then please let me know as I have another supply of wool which I will gladly pass on to you. I have pastel colours as well as some multi-coloured. Please speak to me at church or give me a call.

Thank you once again.

Linda Smith

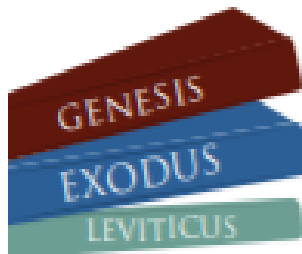
Sunday School Update

The Sunday School have continued meeting in the Session Room every Sunday morning. Thanks go to all the Sunday School leaders and children who have been coming along. We have been following the same Bible readings as the church service and have been looking at giving as well as hearing about Job and the questions he had for God. Here are some photos from what the children have been doing.



BOOKS OF THE BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Job



J O B E M I A H I T H T R T B
P A E E M P T A T D O N E E L
S Y L T R S D T H B R R D X E
C C I B E T P A U I D M U G S
S A H L L E A M A L R E R A S
E P U Q O Z M A H D E Q I H E
L A E R S R S B S A T L B A D
I R J O S A E E G D U A R E S
P A P E L N M L B A R T A H T
H B L A W T H A S I N H N X A
A L Z O P H A R M S A R C N H
Z E L J A C O B N A S E H M C
H S V H A B D R T A R D E F A
G T E S T E D T I O N D S B K
G O D I S S O V E R E I G N R



Job
Tested
Loss
Eliphaz
Bildad

Zophar
Elihu
God is Sovereign
Blessed



A Prayer

Father,
Thank you for your blessings
And guidance. Help us to serve you in our
Church and parish without seeking rewards.
May we be kind to neighbours and
Friends, and to all whom we meet
In our daily lives.

We thank you for always being present
In our lives, and for giving us joy in
Our hearts.

Go with joy and peace.

Amen.

An Advent Quote:

"The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord." - Henri Nouwen.

Church Family News

Thank yous: Margaret and Archie Marshall, and Netta and Hawthorne Stewart would like to say thank you for the flowers they have received in recent weeks, along with everyone else who has received flowers. . Margaret Wilson would like to say thank you for the flowers she received for her recent birthday. Thanks also go to Isobel Freer for taking the time to deliver them.

Finding Hope in the Long Term

There is a strength to Advent that is necessary to counter the path of the world at the moment. People of faith, and that includes all faiths, spiritual and otherwise, need seasons such as this to move the world from focussing on existential crises to living in hope. It is easy to see signs of disaster, but can we see signs of hope?

Both Jeremiah and Luke want us to face that positive direction, and as we enter Advent, we are more ready to hear words of hope, but more than just hearing then, both passages invite us to ground them in our behaviour and relationships with the world and with each other.

Yet, the first hearers of Jesus words, could not have come away feeling positive. Surely they would have felt overwhelmed, exhausted, even terrified. Many have felt these emotions strongly over the last two years. But how do we now turn to seek hope as we move through the effects of the pandemic, withdrawing from Afghanistan, and Climate Crisis now COP26 is over?

Recently, we have been trained to look for immediate hope. There is an urgency about the climate which has to be responded to within half a generation and we seek good news now about green technology, CO2 reduction, new planting schemes and other local ventures: immediate hope. We look towards the economic figures, almost weekly, to seek hope that a global economy is sustainably growing after the pandemic: immediate hope. Governments see only a single term of office.

The tradition of the 'second coming' in this season is not about an imminent return, though Jesus does suggest within a generation he would return, but that has not been the case. People of faith are tenacious visionaries, and we have learned to speak about hope in the long-term. It is a skill to be able to see beyond the next week, the next cycle, the next government, the next generation (as both Abraham and Moses found!). It is why we are still here after

many thousands of years: hope is in the long-term.

Seeking signs of hope, Jesus turns us towards creation: the seasons and cycles. There is a pattern there, a long-term pattern. We live within that pattern, that seasonal approach that reminds us of the return of hope.

Faithful thinking, visionary thinking, long-term hope is vital for our faith for it prevents us falling into such cynicism. Hope inspires our imagination. It gives energy to possibilities and alternative outcomes.

Jeremiah speaks of this hope-filled imagination: not something the Almighty imposes on us without us being involved. Quite the opposite. Such hope is found in what God does through us and within us; what God will do in relationship with us and the world.

Advent is the invitation to reimagine the world as just, as righteous, as forgiven, as renewed. These are gifts for the world which faith brings in this season. The signs of disaster are everyday almost. We feel low and tired, Jesus words feel very real and 'today'.

Where, as people of faith, shall we look for signs of hope?

We are not called to speculate about that future, but to live in relationship with it. There lies hope: our choice to be part of the future, reimagined, as God reimagined everything through incarnation.

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Sleepless Nights Publications

Books of The Bible Word Search

Job

MALACHI
MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE

GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS

J	O	B	E	M	I	A	H	I	T	H	T	R	T	B
P	A	E	E	M	P	T	A	T	D	O	N	E	E	L
S	Y	L	T	R	S	D	T	H	B	R	R	D	X	E
C	C	I	B	E	T	P	A	U	I	D	M	U	G	S
S	A	H	L	E	A	M	A	L	R	E	R	A	S	S
E	P	U	Q	O	Z	M	A	H	D	E	Q	I	H	E
L	A	E	R	S	R	S	B	S	A	T	L	B	A	D
I	R	J	O	S	A	E	E	G	D	U	A	R	E	S
P	A	P	E	L	N	M	L	B	A	R	T	A	H	T
H	B	L	A	W	T	H	A	S	I	N	H	N	X	A
A	L	Z	O	P	H	A	R	M	S	A	R	C	N	H
E	L	J	A	C	O	B	N	A	S	E	H	M	C	
H	S	V	H	A	B	D	R	T	A	R	D	E	F	A
G	T	E	S	T	E	D	T	I	O	N	D	S	B	K
G	O	D	I	S	S	O	V	E	R	E	I	G	N	R

Job
Tasted
Loss
Eliphaz
Blind
Zophar
Elhanan
God is Sovereign
Blessed

WORDS
TO FIND

12 CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS

EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS

What's On At Eastwood

SUNDAY		Contact
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)	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
7.00 pm	Rock Til U Drop Jive Club	Raymond or Nicky
TUESDAY		
5.45 pm	Coyle Irish Dancers	Suzanne Coyle
WEDNESDAY		
10.00 am	Eastwood Carer & Toddler Group	Rona Hutton
1.45 pm	Carpet Bowls (from October to March)	Linda Smith
THURSDAY		
5.45 pm	Coyle Irish Dancers	Suzanne Coyle
FRIDAY		
7.00 pm	Badminton (from October to May)	Anne Maree Smith
SATURDAY		
11 am	Coyle Irish Dancers	Suzanne Coyle
7.00 pm	EPYC — CURRENTLY SUSPENDED	Erika Watt

Church Contacts

Minister	Rev Jim Teasdale	0141 571 7648	JTeasdale@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerk	Erika Watt		
Treasurer	Katie Morrison		
Halls Convener	John Smith		
Roll Keeper	Jamal Issa		
Magazine Editor	Felicity Teasdale		