

# Kilsyth & District Parish Church

**Newsletter**

**Edition 2**

**June & July 2026**

On Friday 15 May, Ebola was declared in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The outbreak occurred in Ituri, an area of the DRC where Tearfund has been working for ten years.

This is a densely populated area where hunger, conflict, and extreme poverty are rampant. News of the outbreak has devastated the area and sparked fear and uncertainty in neighbouring countries like Uganda, where cases have already been detected.

As of 27 May 2026, there have been:

- ✦ 240 deaths reported
- ✦ 120 laboratory-confirmed cases
- ✦ 1,000 suspected cases

The nature of this health emergency means these numbers are changing by the minute. The people of the DRC and surrounding countries are at the mercy of this virus. And for this strain, there's a 50 per cent mortality rate and no cure.

## **What to pray for...**

With armed conflict, displacement, and extreme poverty potentially accelerating the spread of the virus, it can be hard to know where to begin praying.

Tearfund has prepared some prayer points to guide you in prayer over this crisis.

### **Pray for healing**

- ✦ **God's healing hand:** Ask the Lord to bring restoration over those suffering from this virus – that he eases their pain and gives them quick recovery.
- ✦ **Divine comfort:** Pray for those mourning the loss of loved ones. Ask that God bring his comfort to families, friends, and neighbours of those who have died.
- ✦ **Medical breakthrough:** Pray for a solution to be found through vaccines and treatment. Pray for a swift and safe development of the treatment needed to stop this virus from taking more lives.

**tearfund**

## Boys' Brigade

This last quarter has been a busy one in the run up to the BB end of session. We have four boys who have been working towards, and achieved, their President's badge and from next session will start their King's Man journey. We have five boys most of the way through their King's Badge journey and should complete this post summer.

We had a fun night out at Kirkintilloch bowling as a company during the Quarter. This was the first time we have been away as a company in a few years and was enjoyed by all boys.

We also had 18 boys away at our annual camp, again at Dalguise in May. This was a very successful and fun weekend had by all.



Finally we had our end of year awards presentation and afternoon tea.

Six of our seniors are heading to London to take part in the King's Birthday parade in June. Pics in the next news letter.

**Scott Anderson, Captain**





## Your donation builds brighter futures

Supporting Mary's Meals is simple. Donate online, by bank, or cheque and change lives today.

### WAYS TO DONATE

**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. With Mary's Meals, it costs just £19.15 to feed a child with a daily meal for a whole school year! That works out at just 10p per serving.

The charity is already serving **more than three million** every school day. But millions more are still waiting for Mary's Meals. With your support more hungry children will wake each morning knowing they will eat a good meal today.

### Make a lasting impact with your leftover currency

Foreign currency often ends up forgotten in drawers, wallets, or jars after a holiday. By donating it to Mary's Meals, you can ensure it goes somewhere truly valuable, helping us provide nutritious school meals to hungry children.

Every small contribution adds up, and together, we can turn unwanted currency into daily school meals that give children the energy to learn, grow and build brighter futures.



We are hoping to take collecting boxes at the church for this good cause so please look out for them after your holiday and bring along any left over currency.



DOLLAR



EURO



POUND



YEN

David Attenborough has inspired millions by bringing the natural world into our homes and over his 70 odd years in broadcasting he has long highlighted the environmental challenges facing the world and contributed to the development of initiatives aimed at protecting endangered species. He is an ambassador for WWF and has campaigned to raise awareness of plastic pollution, deforestation and habitat destruction all over the world including here in Scotland.

As Christians, we accept that God has placed humans in a position of responsibility over the creation. Genesis 2:15 says “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it” and that we are accountable to Him as stewards of the creation.

**Good Energy, the energy company**, in their customer newsletter, suggest some practical steps we can all take to reduce our contribution to pollution and carbon emissions.

#### **1. Choose Active Travel for Short Journeys**

Walk, cycle, or take public transport for trips under 2 miles.

These are common distances for errands and school runs, and avoiding the car for these makes a noticeable dent in emissions.

#### **2. Reduce Food Waste**

Plan meals, store food properly, and use up leftovers. Food waste is a major contributor to emissions, and cutting it saves both carbon and money. The Scottish Government has banned biodegradable waste from being sent to landfill so we need to use the food bins to dispose of food correctly.

#### **3. Eat a Bit Less Meat & Dairy**

Even swapping one or two meals a week for plant-based options helps. Local Scottish veg or pulses are especially low impact.

#### **4. Use Reusables and Cut Single Use Plastics**

Choose a reusable bag made from cloth, hemp or rattan instead of plastic. Carry a water bottle that you can refill, opt for a china cup which can be washed or take your own instead of a buying a throw-away. Pack sandwiches in a lunch box instead of buying plastic wrapped. Stop using cling film!

#### **6. Wash Clothes at 30°C & Line Dry When Possible**

Modern detergents work well at low temperatures, and skipping the tumble dryer saves a lot of energy. Buy an eco friendly brand to prevent toxins being sent down the waste water pipe.

#### **7. Buy Second Hand Before New**

Charity shops, repair cafés, and online swap groups help avoid the emissions of producing new items— especially clothes and electronics.

Friends of Kilsyth

Your mind matters.  
Your feelings matter.  
You matter.

# Callsyth Teens

Pop in for a wee chat or just want some time out? Might even throw in a can of juice lol!

A safe place to be yourself, talk, and be heard.

- Make new friends
- Talk about what matters to you
- Build confidence
- Learn ways to manage stress
- Support each other and have fun!

OPEN ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS  
FROM 7:00 UNTIL 8:30

Whether you need a chat, a laugh or just some time out...  
**We've got you!**

18a Back Brae Street Kilsyth  
07864573438  
Contact: Tina

Dola AI  
YOU'RE NOT ALONE. WE'RE BETTER TOGETHER.

## Holiday Club

It is hoped that a holiday club will run before the schools go back in August. Look out for more information and dates will appear in the August newsletter.

## A note from the Kirk Session

It is good to see Kilsyth and District Parish Church busy on a Sunday morning as we welcome our members from the former Banton, Burns & Old, Twechar and Anderson Churches. We pray that everyone feels welcome. It is also good to see folks enjoying fellowship in the hall after the services – nearly all the tables are full and there is a great buzz of conversations.

The Kirk Session is slowly ploughing its way through a very long agenda of items for discussion so that the way forward can be inclusive and everyone feels comfortable with the decisions made. Please be patient with us if we haven't got around to something about which you are concerned – we will get around to these things. It seems to be that everything is important and so it is going to take time – maybe better to take time and come to the best decisions rather than rush and botch the arrangements.

Please, if anyone has something about which they are concerned, or if you have a good idea for something that should be done or changed, speak to any of the elders.

The following office bearers are confirmed meantime.

Session clerk: Christine Johnston

Treasurer: Margaret Wren

Property convenor: John Duncan



**Croy Silver Band**  
**SUMMER CONCERT**

Admission: **£10**  
*Includes refreshments after, in the Hall*

Friday 19th June  
at Holy Cross Church, Croy  
Starting at 7:30pm

The poster features a colorful illustration of a treble clef and musical notes on the left, and a photograph of Holy Cross Church on the right. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold and italicized fonts.

## Laundry detergent

Laundry detergents are designed to clean your clothes, but some popular brands contain harmful ingredients that could do more harm than good. From triggering allergies to containing chemicals linked to cancer, many detergents on the market today raise serious health concerns for both you *and your pets*.

A University of Washington study has found many popular laundry detergents are packed with toxins. Many chemicals used to create scents in laundry detergents are considered carcinogens. Scented laundry detergents may smell nice, however many companies combine hundreds of chemicals to create those scents. You may assume your laundry detergent smells like natural orange or lavender – but it could really be packed with chemicals linked to disease and illness.

Phthalates make scents last longer. While many manufacturers now claim their products are phthalate-free, others continue to sneakily use them. Their label simply says “fragrance,” although they include phthalates under this label.

These chemicals can

- ✦ Trigger skin and respiratory allergies.
- ✦ Disrupt hormones.
- ✦ Cause long-term health issues, including cancer.

Even detergents marketed as “safe” or “gentle” may include harmful ingredients, making it crucial to examine product labels and EWG scores.

## What to Look for in a Safer Laundry Detergent

- ✦ **Fragrance-Free:** Avoid detergents with synthetic fragrances.
- ✦ **EWG Rating:** Choose products with an A or B rating from the Environmental Working Group.
- ✦ **Plant-Based Ingredients:** Opt for detergents made from a high proportion of natural, biodegradable components (not just ‘greenwashed’).
- ✦ **Hypoallergenic:** Ensure the product is free from dyes and harsh chemicals.

Consider switching to one of these safer brands:

- ✦ **Seventh Generation Free & Clear**
- ✦ **ECOS Free & Clear**
- ✦ **Ecover Zero Non Bio**
- ✦ **SMOL Non Bio Capsules or sheets**
- ✦ **Bio-D Fragrance Free**

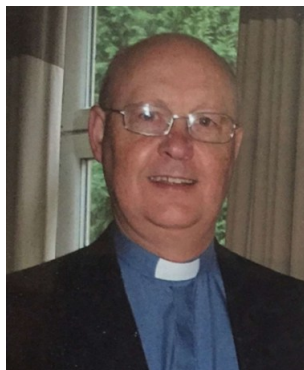
These brands prioritize transparency, use plant-based ingredients, and avoid harmful chemicals.

***“Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.”***

Ecclesiastes 11:1.

Dear friends,

Recently, I watched a video clip recorded in South Sudan, where extreme poverty is a daily reality. It stems from a devastating cycle of civil conflict, severe drought and systemic corruption, and an over-reliance on a volatile oil economy that has destroyed local agriculture and crippled basic infrastructure, leaving the majority of the population, especially the young and elderly, heavily dependent on humanitarian aid. But I was encouraged to see the Christian Aid logo on one of the aid workers T-shirts.



May is designated as Christian Aid month. The charity is a major UK and Irish relief and development agency founded in 1945 by British and Irish churches to help refugees after World War II. Its mission statement is; *‘Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.’*

The Bible verse from Ecclesiastes reminds us that loving, generous giving is an act of faith, because we may never know where that ‘bread’ or seed will end up. However, our generosity should not be confined to one month in the year, after all, how many ‘square meals’ have we enjoyed since the first day of June?

From the perspective of the New Testament; specifically the parable of the sower, we should not expect to see an immediate result from sowing the seed of God’s Word. We have to be bold, confident and radical, not confining our sowing to individuals or areas which appear promising.

Apparently, the saying may have its roots in the ancient Egyptian farming practice of casting seed upon the waters of the Nile, where it might seem a sheer waste of time, effort and precious seed. But the farmers knew what they were doing, for in due time when the floods subsided, the precious grain dropped into the fertile mud, germinate and rapidly grow to produce a healthy crop.

Christians today are easily discouraged at the seeming apathy shown by so many within the wider parish to the Gospel message, be it preached, shared or lived out in the wider community. The message from the Bible verse is clear, don't give up, no matter how dark the night, difficult the road and severe the opposition, we are asked, in faith and love, to cast our **'bread upon the waters.'**

Patience most certainly is a 'virtue,' it does not come naturally to either pastors or parishioners, but the promise is there to encourage us, **"for you will find it after many days."** *And in many instances those days run into months and even years, but the promise stands firm. God will always keep his promises?*

I close with the concluding verse of 1 Corinthians 15, where the resurrection and ultimate victory of our Lord Jesus Christ is celebrated.

**.... "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."**

You pastor and friend,  
Kenneth.

### **Have you tried Banton Bakes yet?**

Fresh home baking from Shawend Road, Banton (or on Facebook). Looking for the perfect gift this season? Our signature Banton Bakes cake-boxes have you covered!



Father's Day – because Dad deserves more than just socks!



End of Term Teacher Gifts – a sweet way to say "thank you" for a fantastic year.

Filled with freshly baked treats and beautifully presented, our cake boxes are guaranteed to put a smile on their face.



## Andy's Man Club



**GOING THROUGH  
A STORM  
OR JUST BEEN  
THROUGH ONE?**

ANDYSMANCLUB  
are talking  
groups for men to  
**HELP YOU** through  
those storms.

**FIND OUT  
MORE** [info@andysmanclub.co.uk](mailto:info@andysmanclub.co.uk)  
[www.andysmanclub.co.uk](http://www.andysmanclub.co.uk) #ITSOKAYTOTALK

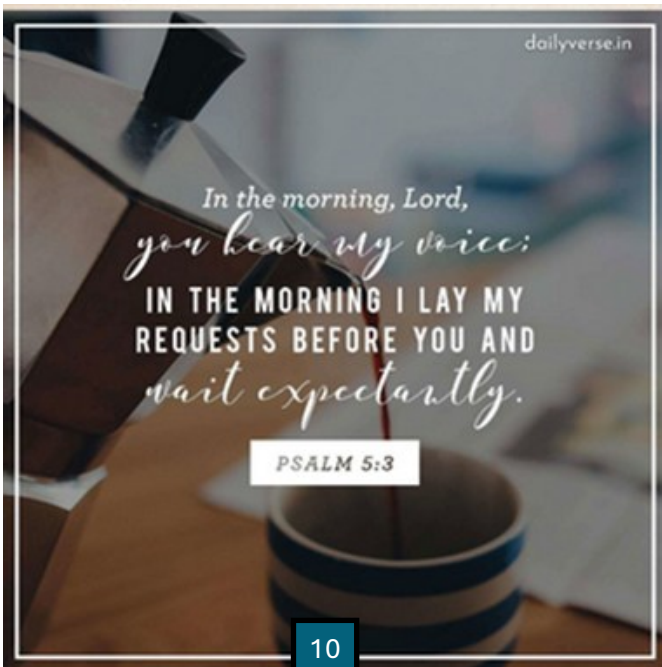
Why not come give our groups a go this week? There's no fees or booking required. Just turn up for a brew & a chat.

We have a group at the Old Library in Kilsyth as well as groups in Kirkintilloch at Hillhead Community Centre and Hamilton at Eddlewood Bowling Club.

Every Monday 7-9pm (excluding bank holidays) for any man 18+.

"Like-minded blokes from all walks of life talking about their challenges in life, we laughed we cried and **THIS IS THE BEST I HAVE FELT IN YEARS.**"

- AMC group user



dailyverse.in

*In the morning, Lord,  
you hear my voice:*  
**IN THE MORNING I LAY MY  
REQUESTS BEFORE YOU AND  
wait expectantly.**

PSALM 5:3

10

## Offering envelopes

Thanks to all who continue to support the Church with their donations.

We are about to order new offering envelopes in the name of Kilsyth and District Parish Church to replace both Anderson and Burns & Old ones.

If you wish to have weekly offering envelopes please add your name to one of the lists in the vestibule or on the tables at tea time. If you are not able to come to Church and still want to receive envelopes please let someone know so that this can be arranged. You can either speak to someone in person or alternatively phone Christine on 01236 821060 (there is an answering machine if I am not in) or mobile 07936 416356 as soon as possible.

## Gift Aid

It is expected that we will need to have new gift aid forms completed in the new Church name. To date the bank has not changed the name of our account yet although the mandate to do so has been filled in.

Once the name has been changed, forms will be available so that tax refunds can be claimed from OSCR. Please, if you are a tax payer, consider completing a gift aid form – you don't need to declare an amount that you will give, just sign the form to say that you pay income tax. In return for your 'autograph' the Church will receive an additional 25% on top of your offerings. In March this amounted to £3,290 for the Anderson donations in the first quarter of the year, with Burns & Old still to be claimed.

This is money for nothing!!!! Think of what we could do if ALL tax payers completed a form.

Just to make it very clear – for us to be able to claim the tax your offering must either be in a weekly donation envelope or by standing order paid directly into the bank.

### Funerals

May - Catherine Marion Torney  
- Jack Roberts

*I am the resurrection and the life*

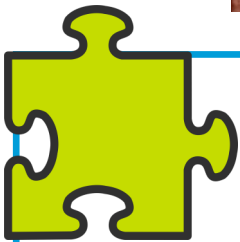


## Bible Readings

The Bible readings on a Sunday are done by volunteers on a rota (on the back page of the newsletter). More volunteers are always gladly accepted—please speak to Margaret Martin if you would be willing to join the rota. All we need is your mobile phone number (or landline if you don't have one).

You will receive a text or call during the week prior to the service with the details of your reading from Anne Lauder who also keeps the list up to date.

Pre internet chat room using  
An old version of windows...



Kilsyth & District Church  
Coffee Morning and Stalls  
Saturday 13th June

Home baking, Lucky bags and  
Jigsaw stall



## 2nd Kilsyth Girls' Brigade.

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated tins of food for the Trussell Cumbernauld foodbank. The foodbank manager and the project manager were very grateful for all the donations.



Thank you to everyone who came along to our Parents Night. We are very grateful for your support and encouragement. The leaders are very proud of all the hard work the girls have done not only on the night but throughout the year.

We have now finished for the summer but we are looking forward to returning in August.

## Jacqueline Gore



## The Guild

It may be the summer break for the Guild but we have begun preparations for the first as the Kilsyth and District Parish Church Guild. It will meet on a Monday afternoon at 1.30pm. No committee has been formed but the syllabus will be drawn up by present committee members of both former Guilds.



Next session's national Guild theme is 'Beyond the Walls'. As our churches unite we must remember that we cannot be bound by our need to get to know each other and to work together as a new congregation to the glory of God. We must also look outside into the community and even worldwide. By our words and actions we can show others what it means to be a Christian.

## Margaret Brown

### Cameras

We know that some people attending the services are not comfortable with appearing on the live stream video. On the other hand, some people who watch the livestream LIKE to see the congregation – they then feel part of the service. To allow us to pan the cameras around the congregation there are two areas of the Church which are 'SAFE' to avoid appearing on screen: you can sit anywhere upstairs or in any of the pews on the left of the West (Coachman side) aisle ...NOT in the centre.

## Thank you

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers delivered by Alison—what a lovely surprise and much appreciated.

**Mae and David Shaw**

I am writing to thank the members of Kilsyth & District Parish Church for the lovely bouquet of flowers given to me on Easter Sunday by Margaret Martin. I very much appreciate your kindness and the warm welcome.

**Elizabeth Young**

Dear friends, Anne Brown would like to thank you very much indeed for the lovely flowers she received last week. It was so kind of you.

God bless,

**Anne**

To the Church family

I would like to thank you for the lovely

flowers we received recently. A nice surprise delivered by Jean Chalmers.

Thank you.

**Margaret & Charlie Whyte.**

Thank you to everyone for your kindness shown to me after my accident, also for the beautiful church flowers. It was appreciated very much and I am happy to say I'm on the mend.

**Aileen Mitchell**

What a lovely surprise it was when I received the flowers from the Church.

They arrived just a few days before my 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday and were very much appreciated.

**Campbell Sturrock**

Many thanks for the beautiful flowers I received on Sunday. It was a lovely surprise and greatly appreciated.

**Grace Miller**

Karen Stangoe and Chloe Anderson are the 2 regional SU leaders for Lanarkshire which is a huge area covering many schools. This update is from a recent newsletter.



**SU Scotland**

In February 38 Primary School children went to Lendick Muir for a fun weekend. Comments from a trainee leader were that he had never really thought about how much preparation is needed before camp and how wonderful it was to see young people get to know God and the Bible.

Karen is excited to see doors being opened and new SU groups being started in schools. The work of many volunteers and much prayer enables this to happen. Please pray for the many children and teenagers who will be going to Primary and Secondary SU camps this summer and for safety for travel and activities. That many children will enjoy having fun and getting to know more about Jesus at camp.

## Copy date for next newsletter

Please submit articles for the Aug/September newsletter by Sunday 26th July for publishing on 2nd August . We are happy to receive paper or electronic format. Our new email address will be advised nearer the time.

If you're lucky enough to go on holiday this summer and visit another church, we'd love to hear about it—and if you can take some pictures, even better! Or you're involved in a Christian festival or camp then please think about writing up the details so that everyone gets to know about it. You never know who you might inspire!

Please note that numbers or email addresses printed in the paper newsletter will not be included on any online version to protect the privacy of those involved.



We are happy to share a picture of Alistair Flemming on the occasion of his 60th birthday on 26th April, with thanks to KD.



## Rotas

The **rotas** below are still open for new volunteers if you think you can help with any of the jobs around the church.

Week ending	Door Duty	Reading	Clean- ing	Flower donations	Tea & Coffee
Sun 7 Jun	C Boyd, M McDon- ald, J Gordon	Olivia Brittian	Team 2 (Thur 4)	Aileen Anderson	J Ewen, M Laird, O Brittian, M Patrick, J Heeps
Sun 14 Jun	R & I McFadyen	Pat Kerr	Team 3 (Thur 11)	Jean Hardie, Helen Burns	M Whitelaw, E Gor- don, J Heeps, M Brown, J Morrow
Sun 21 Jun	A Sneddon J Gilmour	George Ewen	Team 4 (Sat 20)	Ann McManus	K & I Ross, H Provan, H Ross, C Clark
Sun 28 Jun	B & B Smith	Jean Chalmers	Team 5 (Thur 25)	Anne Stevenson	J Ewen, M Laird, H Dodds, G Whyte, A Sneddon, R Gibson
Sun 5 Jul		Ann Sneddon	Team 1 (Sat 4)		A Sneddon, E Gor- don, M Patrick, J Heeps, A Cumming
Sun 12 Jul		John Gordon	Team 2 (Thur 9)		J & G Ewen, M Laird, O Brittian, H Dodds, R Gibson
Sun 19 Jul		Kathleen Ross	Team 3 (Thur 16)		K & I Ross, H Provan, H Ross, G Whyte
Sun 26 Jul		Rona McFadyen	Team 4 (Sat 25)		M BrownE Gordon, M Patrick, J Heeps, A Cumming
Sun 2 Aug		Jim Millar	Team 5 (Thur 30)		J Ewen, A Sneddon, M Lair, O Brittian, H Dodds, R Gibson