

Kilsyth & District Parish Church

Newsletter

Issue 3

August and September 2026

Hi everyone,

First of all, please allow me to briefly introduce myself – I am Graeme Barrie, an elder (and Session Clerk) of Easterhouse Parish Church in the east end of Glasgow, living about a mile away from the M8/M73/M74 Baillieston Interchange. I am a member of Glasgow Presbytery (having been appointed to it by my own Kirk Session (in the same way that Mrs Hazel Gordon has been appointed by Kilsyth & District) and have been appointed by Presbytery to moderate/chair any meetings of Kilsyth & District Kirk Session, the Congregation, and when the time arrives, to guide the Nominating Committee as it seeks to discern who the first minister of the congregation will be and until his/her induction.

I am aware, as I have been through the process of a union in my own church and about to commence the process of ‘linking’ with another congregation due to the retirement of our minister of the upset, upheaval, uncertainty, sadness, frustration, and all the other emotions experienced when ‘losing’ two church identities and creating a new church community and identity.

As we work together to create our united community it is easy to talk about what ‘the church’ should do. It is harder to remember that **we are the church**. There is no mysterious group of people somewhere else who are supposed to create the community for us.

The church becomes Loving as its people practise love; Welcoming as its people welcome; Generous as its people give; Deep as its people pursue maturity; Faithful as its people remain faithful. At some point the community we are looking for will require the contribution we have been withholding.

As any of the elders will tell you, our Kirk Session meetings have been time consuming (essentially because I wish to ensure clarity in what is being discussed and why, and also ensuring that everyone’s view can be shared and heard), but they have been fruitful and many necessary administrative decisions have been agreed.

Part of this process has included appointing people to specific roles, and I thank those who have taken on these roles. I also thank the elders who have, for example, created 'duty rotas' to ensure that there are welcoming faces at the door when you arrive and cheery faces serving tea and coffee as we share a time of fellowship after worship – and of course, undertaking all the other tasks that have had to be completed.

I am also aware that, as the Kirk Session makes progress with moving various items from the Burns & Old building to the Kilsyth & District building it will become essential for hard choices and decisions to be made – we really do not need, nor do we have space to store several Communion Tables, baptismal fonts, lecterns, amongst other items, and we need to decide how to dispose of any surplus items sensitively.

Many of you will know that Burns & Old is a listed building within category “B” which means that no ‘fixtures’ can be removed (eg pulpit, pews, stained glass etc). However, I can share the news that we can now remove the War Memorial plaque and War Memorial windows and have them installed within Kilsyth and District Parish Church. The Kirk Session will now need to consult with the General Trustees as to exactly where they will be installed, and ensure that the replacement window in B&O ‘matches’ and is in the same style as the remaining windows. Whilst I am sure that this will be appreciated by many of you, I do wish to highlight that there will be some disruption whilst the installation work takes place, and that once this particular work is completed, it takes us another step closer to putting the building on the property market.

Finally (for now!), I offer you a humble apology in that I have been unable to join you for morning worship since the creation of Kilsyth and District Parish Church, however it is my intention to join with you to worship God in the next few weeks.

Every blessing,

Graeme

(Interim Moderator)



Recyclable items

For many years we have been recycling items which provide the Church with either money or useful items.

What do we recycle...?



Aluminium drinks cans - these go to one of the Lidl's Glasgow stores and we get, in return - photo copying paper, cleaning materials for the Church, biscuits, tea and coffee for Sunday teas, goodies for the Holiday Club, food for when we have Church lunches and anything else which can be of use around the Church. We have also bought Christmas gifts for the gift service and food for the food bank at harvest time. (Please don't flatten cans as they have to go into LIDL's machine whole).

Biscuit wrappers - both multipack and individual wrappers - any kind of biscuits. These go to a firm called Terracycle and over time, we can claim money. Last time the BB went to Malawi we had enough money to buy 6 bikes for teachers who travel long distances on foot to get to school.



Old cable - if you buy a new electric appliance, please remove the cable from your old appliance and it can be recycled. Recently we received £109 for several bags of old cable.

If you have any of the above items, please bring them to church on a Sunday morning - they will be gratefully received and the money raised or items bought will save the church money.



Gift Aid forms

As a registered charity we are able to claim gift aid - 25% of all donations made by tax payers. Having recently changed our name, we need new gift aid forms to be signed.

For us to claim, you need to either make your donation by bank standing order or by weekly envelopes. If you are a tax payer and pay by either of these methods but have not as yet signed a form, please get in touch to do so as this is easy money for the Church. A form filled in four times a year brings in around £13,000. Well worth a wee bit of work!

Christine Johnston

Body Builders



Wednesday 5th, Thursday 6th, Friday 7th August

10:30 until 12:30

P1 – P7s All Welcome

Games, Crafts, Team work, Bible stories, Snacks, The famous Messy Challenge



Thanks

I am writing to thank Kilsyth and District Parish Church for the beautiful floral arrangement delivered to me. I very much appreciate your kindness and hope that I will get back to church soon.

Elizabeth Young.

Thank you very much for the lovely church flowers. They were much appreciated.

Nancy & Peter Thomson.

Thank you very much for the lovely flowers we received recently from the church.

It was so kind, thoughtful and much appreciated.

God bless.

Sheila & Margaret Anne.

Thanks to everyone for the flowers, visits and kind thoughts following the death of my Dad.

Margaret Whitelaw

Thanks for the beautiful floral arrangement I received last Sunday. It was a lovely surprise and much appreciated.

Jean Weir.

We would like to say a big thank you for the church flowers we received recently. They were lovely and really cheered us up. Thank you again.

Ian and Kathleen Ross

Thank you for the lovely flowers and your prayers and good wishes. They are much appreciated.

The Strang Family

Thanks very much to Tom and Scott Anderson for moving the Christmas trees - all 27 of them - which came from Burns & Old from the main hall into the loft.

And also for taking 2 of the carpets for bowling from under the stage and leaving them where Christine can get easier access to them. One of the carpets is being donated to Stepps Parish Church.

Christine Johnston

We are deeply indebted to Theresa and her friend Andy (who is about to celebrate his 92nd birthday) for the work they have been doing in the Manse and Church grounds. They have cut all the grass, hedges and trimmed back most of the bushes. They have filled 4 brown bins (2 from the Church, Christine's and May Ralston's) as well as more than 20 black bin bags which were taken to the recycling centre.

There is still more work to be done, but I wanted to express our gratitude to Theresa and Andy for their work.

Christine (again)

I wish to convey my thanks for the beautiful flowers I recently received following my stay in hospital and to the ladies who arrange and deliver them each week. Also thank you for the many cards and prayers I received from the congregation.

They were very much appreciated.

Aileen Anderson



St Mirren

(or Murrin, Mirin, Meryn and various other spellings)

We note that St Mirren's Day is 15th September.

A contemporary of the better known Columba of Iona, Mirren (c.565 - 620AD) was prior of Bangor Abbey in County Down, Ireland before making his missionary voyage to Scotland where he is now best known as the patron saint of Paisley.

Around 580 AD, he was appointed to spread the gospel to the west of Scotland and after a difficult journey he arrived in the area where he was granted a plot of land by the local chieftain and established the first church. Little is known of Mirin's activities in Scotland, but after he died the shrine that was created in his memory became a place of pilgrimage and what is now the town of Paisley grew up around it. It is said that his relics were housed in Paisley Abbey in the 12th Century and there is a chapel within the Abbey dedicated to him containing a sculptured stone frieze depicting the life of the saint.

He travelled extensively and other places which bear his name include Inch Murrin in Loch Lomond and of course our local connection is **St Mirrin's well**, up the Tak me Doon Road.

After the recent water difficulties some of us might have been glad to collect water from the well!

Flower List

Since the forming of the new congregation, numbers have increased. To give everyone the opportunity to donate flowers for the sanctuary, the Flower List for 2027 will be made available towards the end of the year and will be BLANK - those who wish to donate flowers please put your name and telephone number against a date. Those who are house bound and unable to come to church but still wish to donate flowers please ask a member of the church to put your name on the list.

The Flower Team

Sunday Morning Bible Reading

We already have a small team of people who regularly read the scriptures on a Sunday Morning, but we are always looking for more volunteers. If you would like to join the team please contact Margaret Martin. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Margaret Martin

Scottish Bible Society Trauma Healing

<https://www.scottishbiblesociety.org/>



What is trauma?

“Trauma is a deep wound of the heart and mind that takes a long time to heal. It hurts every part of us-how we relate to others, how our body feels, what we think about, as well as our ability to trust God. It can leave us feeling separated from God and others.”

70% of us are estimated to experience trauma at some point in our lives. These unseen wounds affect every part of life, often leading to isolation and a loss of hope. That is why this Bible focused programme is so important.

465 people have been trained by the Scottish Bible Society to facilitate healing groups. This training is equipping local leaders to restore hope and create lasting change in communities across Scotland and around the world.

In Ukraine, trauma healing camps are places of safety, joy, and healing among children and mothers affected by war. Here in Scotland, interactive training courses are held regularly to prepare facilitators with the skills, confidence and encouragement they need to help support others in the process of healing.

SBS are looking for financial support – please consider giving to this worthwhile cause.

Global Day of Prayer for Ukraine – 23rd August

Nearly 700 temples and churches of various denominations have been destroyed or damaged as a result of the Russian military actions. More than 70 Ukrainian pastors and priests have been killed by Russian troops.

In the occupied territories, Russian troops prohibit the activities of Evangelical, Protestant, Catholic, and certain Orthodox churches. Pastors are being kidnapped, churches are being closed, and their premises seized or set on fire.

Every day, Ukraine loses civilians — children, women, and the elderly. Cities and villages are systematically shelled. Millions have been forced to leave their homes and flee to other cities and countries.

On August 23, on the eve of Ukraine’s Independence Day, we invite the whole world to lift its voices to Heaven. Let us pray for protection, for healing, and for the victory of light.



May on this day churches, homes, and hearts across the entire planet be filled with prayer for Ukraine. Because when we kneel together, God raises His mighty hand!

Find out more at <https://prayforukraine.org.ua/>



Kilsyth Creative Kids' Club

have made some beautiful painted stones and given them a home outside the Medical Practice building in Kilsyth. You can paint your own stones and add them! KCKC would love to see this grow and spread some cheer in our community.

Kilsyth Community Food Bank

As some of you know we collect Food items for Kilsyth Community Food bank in the Main Street which are handed in on a regular basis.



They have specifically requested dinner items as they are running short.

Items required -

- Long life milk - whole milk and semi-skimmed
- Sugar, tea and coffee
- Tins of soup
- Breakfast cereals and porridge (instant or full oats)
- Jars of cooking sauces, purées,
- Tins: chicken in white sauce, steak in gravy, haggis, macaroni, spaghetti hoops, beans.
- Packets: mac n cheese, savoury rice and pasta
- Dessert items: creamed rice, custard, jelly tubs and tins of fruit
- Diluting juice - all assortments
- Sweets for children
- Pet food

At the moment they **don't need any toiletries etc as they have plenty in stock**

You can bring your donations along on a Sunday. We have a box in the vestibule it's at the right side of the table as you come in. Please check that all the items are in date as **they don't accept out of date items.**

Anne Lauder

New Cleaning Rotas

Rotas for September to Christmas are now available. We still urgently need one more volunteer so if you think you could help out for an hour every 5 weeks on a Thursday morning to clean the church and halls, please speak to Rona as soon as possible.

Holidays, Holidays...

Once again Bill & I got on a Calmac Boat to Arran and once again Arran did not let us down. First week was a bit damp at times, however week two was much sunnier and warm.

Activities: Once again Bill attended an Art Workshop run by Arran Visual Arts, Pastels in Bloom. This workshop was the coming together of some familiar faces from previous workshops on Arran which Bill had attended.

Church: We attended Brodick Church of Scotland both weeks and received a warm welcome and again saw many familiar faces. Brodick Church is way ahead of Kilsyth and District Parish Church as it has now been uniting with other Churches on the Island for a couple of years. A full-time Minister was appointed last year : Rev Dr Knowledge Zinduru. The good news this year is that an Assistant Minister has been appointed with an emphasis on youth work and over the past year a Sunday School has got up and running - great news and I am sure we all wish the new assistant every blessing for his work on the island.

Lots of weekly and monthly events take place in the church hall, reaching out to the community including – country dancing, mum & toddler groups, piping classes, youth groups, coffee mornings (alt. weeks) and of course morning coffee before Sunday services. Scripture Union has a base on Arran and lots of holiday club events are taking place.

Eating Out: Doing what one does on holiday, we enjoyed eating out especially the Sunday roasts at the Corrie Golf Club, great food and great value. One of our favourite establishments in Whiting Bay has been taken over and re-named Salt & Thistle which has an appetising menu with really great breakfasts and brunch. Arran like most places has lost some banking facilities, however, in Brodick the Old Bank Building has become a sweet & gift shop a great place for picking up some sweet treats to enjoy on the ferry home.



Stained glass window in Brodick Church

Catriona Clark



Boys' Brigade

In June, six of the senior boys and staff went to London to watch the Trooping of the Colour representing the Boys' Brigade nationally on the invite of the King. This was a fun filled weekend, where we also did some sightseeing, visited the Millennium Dome and went to the Olympic Park. The boys all seemed to enjoy the weekend.

We are busy planning for the new session and expect the first evening to be **Wednesday the 19th of August**. As always please let all friends and family know and all new boys will be made most welcome.

And if anyone would like to help on the staff of the Company, we are always looking for new helpers and ideas. Please get in touch with Scott.

Scott Anderson, Captain.



Trying on head gear...



The Guild

It is official. The first meeting of Kilsyth & District Parish Church Guild will take place on **Monday 5th October** at 1.30pm in the hall.



A new committee has been formed, a possible syllabus has been drawn up and we are in process of contacting speakers to find out if they are available.

As a committee we are looking forward to the new session and with God's help he will steer us through any "teething problems."

No matter what, we have to remember "Whose we are and Whom we Serve."

Margaret Brown, Joint Convenor.



Top Environmental Tip for this month

Research (source Good Energy) shows that **standby power usage can account for a surprisingly large share of household electricity costs**—and turning things fully off can lead to meaningful savings. Some appliances in the house use electricity even when you're not using them — like the TV with its little red light or the microwave with the clock on. Each one only uses a tiny bit, but altogether it can add up to quite a lot over a year.

Turning off tech at the wall each night can save around **£65-120 a year** depending on the age and make of devices (older devices typically consume more power).

TV on standby: ~£10–£15 per year for one TV depending on make and model

Speakers, soundbars and set top box: ~£10-15 per year

Gaming consoles or streaming devices: £30–£50 per year depending on use.

Chargers plugged in: A few pounds per year, but small amounts add up if there are many (eg mobile, tablet, toothbrush, shaver).

New Website

The web team have been working away on a new website and while it's not finished yet, there is something to look at now.

The address is <https://kilsythdistrictparish.church>.

We hope to keep the site up to date so that it becomes a reliable source of information about what's happening, so please make a point of sending items you think may be of interest to Violet Gourlay or Rona McFadyen.

Email the new church address at kdpchurch@outlook.com.

Share the Bible with Glasgow

through a city-wide initiative with The Scottish Bible Society. <https://www.scottishbiblesociety.org/>

2026 marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Glasgow City Mission. The Scottish Bible Society has partnered with the Mission to produce a special edition of Luke-Acts, The Gospel for Glasgow.

Featuring an attention-grabbing cover, this

Glasgow-themed scripture portion introduces people to the person of Jesus Christ through Luke's gospel and then tells the story of how the followers of Jesus share the good news about Jesus in Luke's second book, Acts.



We have ordered some of these for the congregation – but they're not for us to keep - they're for sharing.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it... is to take some and give them to people you meet, sharing the good news in the community, at your work, on public transport at sporting events, parents' evenings or wherever you meet people.

Mary's Meals

Left over currency campaign. Envelopes now available in the church

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.



Sea Sunday

Sea Sunday is set aside in the Church calendar as a time to pray for our seafarers and to give thanks for their crucial work. Whilst the day is officially marked on the second Sunday in July (12th July 2026) it can be celebrated anytime in the year.

Hidden behind port walls or away at sea, most of us don't give seafarers a second thought. But this invisible workforce is vast – 1.9 million men and women – and so is its impact on our lives. Over 90% of everything we own and use is brought to us by sea: fuel, food and drink, items for homes, schools, hospitals etc. To do this, seafarers face a life that separates them from their families for up to a year and a job that can be gruelling and dangerous.

For more than 200 years, Sailors' Society has given spiritual, welfare and educational support to seafarers and their families wherever they are in the world and whenever they need help. This year has been particularly challenging: 20,000–22,500 civilian seafarers have been stranded in or near the Gulf with crew facing dwindling provisions, fatigue and acute psychological stress. Whilst we all hope and pray for an end to the conflict and sustained peace in the Middle East, we know that the trauma for those affected will continue long after the conflict has ended and we will continue to be there for them and their families for however long we are needed.

The chosen reading for Sea Sunday 2026 is from St Mark's Gospel and the miracle story of Jesus calming the storm. This reading illustrates the work we do in calming the storms in the lives of seafarers and their families around the world. As a Christian global charity our team of chaplains and crisis responders are available day and night and every day of the year for any storm that may befall them.



You can find out more about the charity at <https://sailors-society.org/>

We are pleased to have permission from Ian Wilson to include his picture of the altar of St Michael's Church in Eriskay which has been fashioned in the shape of the bow of a boat and reminds worshippers (if any reminder was needed) about the centrality of the sea in the lives of islanders. <https://littlegreenmenphotography.blogspot.com/>

Copy date for October Edition

The copy date for the next newsletter is Sunday 27th September (or earlier if you can manage) for publishing on 4th October.

We have a new email address kdpchurch@outlook.com but are happy to accept paper copy as well. Please give to Rona McFadyen on a Sunday.

Rotas

Week Ending	Door Duty	Reading	Cleaning	Flower Donations	Tea & Coffee
Sun 2 Aug	Mr & Mrs Strang, Miss A Strang	Jim Millar	Team 5 Thur 30 Jul	Barbara Smith	Jean Ewen, Anne Sneddon, Margaret Laird, Olivia Brittain, Hilda Dodds, Richard Gibson
Sun 9 Aug	Mrs C Boyd, Mrs M MacDonald, Mr J Gordon	John Weir	Team 1 Sat 8	Ann McManus	Kathleen & Ian Ross, Helen Provan, Gena Whyte, Helen Robb.
Sun 16 Aug	Mr & Mrs McFadyen, Mrs M Whitelaw	Olivia Brittain	Team 2 Thur 13	Jean Ewen	Jean & George Ewen, Margaret Laird, Olivia Brittain, Hilda Dodds, Richard Gibson
Sun 23 Aug	Mrs A Sneddon, Mrs J Gilmour, Mrs A Mitchell	Pat Kerr	Team 3 Thur 20	Helen Burns	Margaret Whitelaw, Elsa Gordon, Jean Heeps, Anne Cumming, Margaret Brown
Sun 30 Aug	Mr & Mrs B Smith	George Ewen	Team 4 Sat 29	Margaret Laird	Kathleen & Ian Ross, Anne Sneddon, Helen Provan, Gena Whyte, Helen Robb
Sun 6 Sept		Jean Chalmers	Team 5 Thur 3	Jean Heeps	
Sun 13 Sept		Ann Sneddon	Team 1 Sat 12	Janette McFarlane	
Sun 20 Sept		John Gordon	Team 2 Thur 17	Marjorie Patrick	
Sun 27 Sept		Kathleen Ross	Team 3 Thur 24	Margaret Glen	