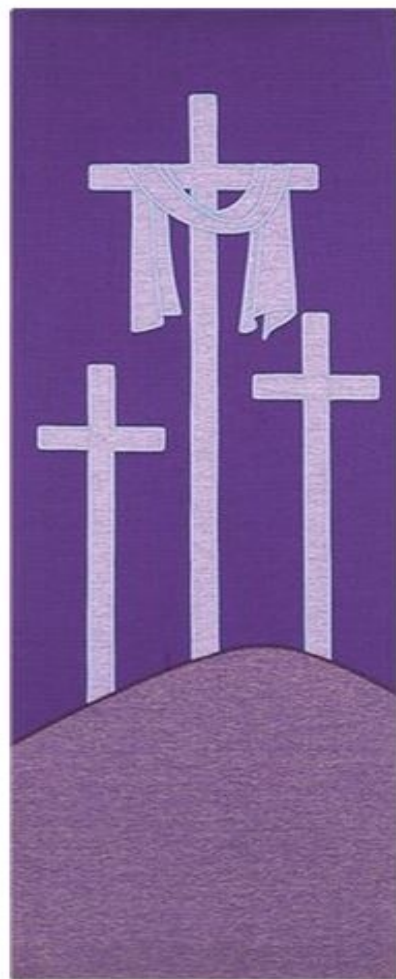


# KIRKLISTON PARISH CHURCH

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021

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'The LORD has Risen.  
The LORD has Risen, indeed!'

With the promise and power  
of the resurrection of Jesus,  
you've overcome many  
obstacles.

God's been with you every  
step of the way.

During Easter we celebrate  
this and the truth of his  
presence in and around us.  
And so, may you come to  
know the everlasting love of  
God the Father as you  
observe signs of change all  
around you this spring!

And remember, God cares  
deeply for you.

Peace be with you, always.  
Erick

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# Musing From The Manse

**Easter 2021**

I absolutely love spring!

Birdsong announcing the return of longer days, milder weather, barbeques, and let's not forget all the flowers breaking through the earth that stood hard as iron during the bleak midwinter.

Transformation is undeniable and refreshing during this season as it instils new hope in us all. Hope we desperately held onto during long periods of lockdown. Hope and belief that things can only get better as the year progresses. Trusting that all will soon go back to normal.

But what is 'normal' really? And dare we long for everything to go back to 'the way it was'?

But of course, I'd like to meet you in person, grab a cuppa at Conifox, drive out to Craigie's or book that pilgrimage along the Amalfi Coast. My fear is, however, that in our rush to dive straight back into normality we might forget some crucial lessons, like:

Don't take life for granted.  
Localised holidays can be just as fun.  
Family is everything.  
You don't need a building to worship.  
Adapt or die...

At Kirkliston Parish Church we've discovered that change can be good. It's never easy or comfortable, but it's always needed. The Church has often been criticized as lagging instead of leading. But what I've experienced during the few months is a genuine willingness to transform to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of the parish. To remain relevant alongside an ever-changing society.

We've truly been propelled 10 years into the future, haven't we? Online reflections, Zoom Services, Virtual meetings for Committees and Life Groups. You've taken the bull by the horns and crossed many a Rubicon.

We took on a lot of new things, no doubt, but the real question remains: what will we leave behind on the other side of the river?

After Jesus' resurrection many of his disciples and followers struggled to recognise his transformed body. I especially like John's version where Mary is weeping at the empty tomb and inquired from a few angels about his missing body. Jesus addresses Mary asking her about her tears. She is wholly unaware that the 'gardener' is in fact Jesus and only after being called by name does she realise it's her friend and teacher.

Will the parish easily recognise us when we eventually emerge from the darkness of the lockdown-tomb? Or will we radiate with a new, fresh, imaginative approach to ministry and life! Will people see colour and smell hope when we open our doors? And will we invite them to come closer and even allow them to poke deep into our wounds?

Be honest. It wasn't initially easy learning how to use a smartphone, downloading WhatsApp or logging into Zoom. But after a bit of guidance and a few failed attempts you've managed to adjust. And just look at how far we've come...

My hope and my prayer are that we will continue to blossom in this season of Lent and Easter and, even beyond, as we exit hibernation. That we'll listen closely to where God wants to start afresh, planting new flowers that will attract a variety of inquisitive insects; drawn in by the sweet nectar of Christ's love.

May you be blessed and encouraged by the truth that God is opening unexpected avenues for you, for us, his Church, here in Kirkliston, Scotland and the world.

Blessings,

*Erick du Toit*

## **KPC Men's Group**

Our men's group had a virtual breakfast on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of February via Zoom and, this was followed by some fellowship and a long overdue catch-up which everyone enjoyed.

We are trying to get back to a bit of normality and, for the time being, we have arranged another zoom meeting and virtual breakfast for Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. We are also in the process of arranging some activities when restrictions allow us to do so. If you would like to join us please contact Dan Pearson

*David Wynne*

# Parish Register

Changes to the parish register since the last newsletter issue in late 2020.

## FUNERALS

*"I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25)*

Euphemia Calder	Kirkliston	August 2020
Victor McCormack	Kirkliston	December 2020
Herbert (Bert) Allan	Ratho Station	January 2021
Margaret McMurdo	Kirkliston	February 2021
Jean Hamilton	Kirkliston	February 2021

## Covid Update

As I write, Scotland expects churches to be able to reopen the doors by 5th April. This may change, especially as Easter is the weekend before. We have no details as yet about what will be permitted: it is likely to be restricted numbers, with doors open, hand sanitisers, masks and no singing as before. We will announce what we can as soon as it is clearer.

We have permission to use the church building under these strict conditions and will also be seeking to use the Church Centre as soon as we can. Again, we do not know yet what activities, if any, will be permitted or when.

We pray for a gradual reopening of our activities, but it may be some time before we can all meet indoors.

## Alpha

Alpha will run again on Monday evenings - 19th April to 30th June online, although, if allowed to meet up before the end we will try to! All welcome: format is a film and a chat about topics like Who is Jesus? Why should I read my Bible? How do I pray? Who is the Holy Spirit? How can I be filled with the Spirit? You can come along just to listen, or if you fancy, have a deep discussion. Bring a cuppa and enjoy.. If you are interested, you can register

- on the Alpha website
- or via Paula Roots on paulamayhuddart@hotmail.com
- or by calling/texting 07598 397 962

**Paula Roots**  
*Session Clerk*

## Finance Report

To the end of February 2021

The 2021 Budgets have all been approved after careful scrutiny by the Kirk Session. The Finance Team has spent a considerable amount of time formulating the Budget, taking into consideration the uncertainty on the financial front.

The church cash flow position was bolstered by the Inland Revenue tax claim being processed extremely quickly in February 2021. Approximately, from our claim, £15000 is now in our Congregational Account with another £5000 in the Genesis Account. The Congregation should be aware our main giving streams are still the Standing Orders and the WFO Envelopes. This will be our main funding position for at least another four to six months. However, we hopefully anticipate that during the Autumn months, with possible lets of our premises, our financial position might improve.

Regrettably, due to the Pandemic, our fundraising arm has not been able to proceed with any plans. We hope matters will improve within the second part of 2021 to protect our Reserves.

The Treasurer and the Finance Team wish to put on record their grateful thanks to the Members of the Congregation for their sincere and regular sustained giving to the work of the Church here in Kirkliston and also to the wider work of the Church of Scotland.

*David W Buchanan*

*Finance Team Lead*

The Finance Team, for the Congregation's information, is as follows;

**Team Leader** David Buchanan.

**Treasurer** Moira Gaynor.

**Members** Rob Brechin, Brian Hepburn, Daniel Pearson,  
Tracy Henderson, Gill Davidson, and Susan Small.



## The Guild

It's hard to think it's almost twelve months since we met together at a Guild meeting. We hope you are all well and staying safe.

Out on our walks, it's been good to meet and chat, and, of course, phone calls also are so important to us just now.

Some of us joined the Zoom Annual Meeting of Edinburgh Guilds Together, and, more of you will have joined in on

Zoom for the World Day of prayer on 5th March by the time you read this. Jan was the winner of the Christmas Quiz. We received a letter of thanks for all the Christmas parcels – eighty-eight families and one hundred and seventy-eight children were helped with these gifts. Thank you to all the Church family who contributed.

Thanks, also, to all Guild members who have handed in Project money, with a total so far of £250.

Stay safe, everyone.

*Joan & Maureen*

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## Prophets – Something To Think About

The Old Testament prophets bravely spoke out about things which were not right, and needed to be changed. Confident in their relationship with God, they were able to have those difficult conversations and make a stand on important issues whether this was well received or made them unpopular. They also used action as well as words to get their points across.

Who are the prophets in our world today, speaking out truth to power ? Which people are speaking out for equality, peace and justice, and is it happening within our church or outside of the church ?

# Administration

We would like to thank all those who continue to send contributions for the Church newsletter, even in these different times which we are experiencing at present.

We continue to try to ensure that all are reached with our weekly services, whether you view the video on the Church website/Facebook page, or you receive the paper copy through the post. Hopefully, once restrictions are eased, we will be able to hand deliver them again. The few minutes chat on your doorsteps is missed at present.

Keep your eyes open for our new Easter banner that will appear on the wall of the Thomas Chalmers Centre.

Take care and stay safe.

Your friend in Christ,

*Karen McKay*

Admin Team Lead

# Children & Families

A very strange year indeed might be one way to describe the past year. We have missed seeing you all at church, Dynamite, Little Coffee Stop and CAB, and are so looking forward to being able to see you all again when we can.

While we wait, we have been working hard to think of ways to stay connected to you in a safe way - it's amazing how God has guided us in our creativity during this pandemic. So, what have we been up to?

Firstly, a huge thank you to all the children and parents, young people and adults who took part in our socially-distant nativity 'Witnesses' at Christmas. We had great fun making it and it was a highlight of 2020.



We were able to have an online joint Christmas Eve Family service with Kirkliston Community Church - children, young people and adults from both churches took part. We are blessed to have so many talented individuals among us and it was fantastic to continue this tradition, even if it was in a slightly different way.

Before we get to the exciting news of introducing two new members of our team, there are a few things happening that you might be interested in.

Dynamite, our after-school club at Kirkliston Primary School is not able to run now. However, excitingly, there is an online option that takes place on Zoom. Scripture Union Scotland run a weekly event called 'The Big Adventure'. For children who attended Dynamite, it is similar but on Zoom! I am one of the leaders and it has been great fun. If you are primary 5-7, live in Lothian and Borders area and would like to join us, just get in touch with me and I'll give you the details.

You can visit [kids@kpc](#) and [littlekids@kpc](#) on Facebook. We have been learning about prayer with [kids@kpc](#) and, [littlekids@kpc](#) have been learning how Jesus can help us with different things.

Now to the super, exciting news of the two new members of our team. Introducing....Scorch and Dylan!!



Scorch joined us last year, and has been helping with stories, crafts and asking some good questions. Dylan joined us recently when Scorch brought him along. He was a bit shy at first, but has started to learn more about Jesus and loves to

help out. They both join us on our live Zoom services and help Erick out with his message for the week.

For Lent this year, Scorch and Dylan have been doing some different Lent challenges- you can see what they've been up to on our Facebook page. Come and visit us - we have a lot of fun and would love you join us!

As always, if there is anything we can do for you, just get in touch. We'd love to hear from you. We'd also love to hear any super, creative ideas that you might have - I know there are loads of you out there with amazing, creative minds! Thank you for your continued support during this time and always. We are a community blessed with so many amazing people, and we will continue to pray for wisdom and guidance in how to serve you in a creative and safe way.

### *Kirsteen Marcelin*

Children and Families Worker

Email: [kirsteenmarcelincfwkpc@btinternet.com](mailto:kirsteenmarcelincfwkpc@btinternet.com)

Facebook: @kidsatkpc

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## **Walking With Intent?**

It seems that we are all discovering the pleasure of the outdoors – one of the few benefits of lockdown it seems! It's nice to meet families and dog-walkers in all weathers enjoying fresh air, and mostly offering a cheerful greeting as they pass. For many it's one of the few ways of meeting real people at the moment. I confess, though, that I often seem to know the dogs better than their owners! If I asked people why they are out walking they might say:

- I need the exercise.
- The dog needs to get out.
- The children need to let off steam!
- It gets me away from the laptop screen I otherwise would be working at all day.
- It's the only way I get to meet people.
- Just being out in the natural world lifts my mood.

But as a Christian there could be more....why not ask God to guide you as you walk? You will probably meet someone who needs encouragement or is desperate for a “blether” if you are alert to the signs people give you as you pass the time of day. Recently I met a man I didn’t know who obviously just wanted to stand and chat. Eventually he told me about a health problem that was worrying him, and he even allowed me to pray with him in the street – I didn’t expect that! I appreciate that might take a level of courage you don’t have, but it’s surprising how many casual contacts could be “God appointments” if you look for them!

Another thing you can do as you walk is pray – I don’t mean out loud, just quietly in your head; pray for the homes you pass, the streets you walk in, the individuals you smile at on the way...Peter describes us as “*God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for Him*” (1 Peter 2:9, the Message).

You are probably aware, that before lockdown, a group of us met every Thursday morning to “prayer walk” around the village in pairs to bless the streets and the people of our community, and I know that is still happening informally. We have a What’s App group to encourage one another – just contact me (07943699339) if you want to join.

Jesus described his followers as “the light of the world”. In a small way, even when we are not meeting in person, we can have more influence on our village life than we realise. Even if it feels like a flickering candle, let that light shine – and keep walking!

*John McPhee*

## **A Palm Sunday Prayer**

Lord Jesus, as you rode a gentle, humble donkey, you showed all of us that you weren’t a king who showed off wealth, clothes, or importance.

And so we know there’s no need for us to show off about these things either.

Thank you that we can meet you just as we are.

Amen

## Jen's Prayer Letter

*“For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (2 Cor 3:17)*

Warm greeting to all of you!

At the start of this year, I thought about how I would serve people. How could more people experience real freedom in Christ and how could I become a part of community where we all grow in close relationship with God and share faith with our neighbours. This could not be done by any means of our strength and will, but I reminded of myself once again that the unconditional love and grace that God has demonstrated in my life will be a profound reason that I will hang onto and I will keep my heart focused on Him knowing that in Him, we only find a real freedom.



In India, many people seem to carry on with their lives and I heard that many things have become a normal as it was before the virus hit us. S.H.E community had a great opportunity to share the real meaning of Christmas. I was so thankful to God for His provision, friends and the team. I was also thankful to God for granting me with

a two years visa in Jan. And my mum could receive a social service that she can attend a day care centre for 6 hours for 5days.

This helps her lots as she meets the groups of people rather than being alone at home all times and this relieves lots of my concern for her. I was thinking of a right time to go back and it was planned to be off on 5th March but due to a minor health reason that occurred suddenly, I had to postpone to be off on 24th March.

I felt really bad to show my weakness to mum while I was preparing for a departure, but now I am having peace in my heart, that I will be healed completely and fly back.

My prayer points are :

1. I will gain a full strength and prepare well for a departure.
2. It is two days journey via Dubai, I will get there safely and as of now, needs 7days self-quarantine.
3. My sister who met an accident is diagnosed with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome. With a help of medical care, her condition will improve and she will trust Him.
4. I am so excited about my return, as His Spirit leads me, I will obey. Our team will be protected and live our lives together as a community of His people.
5. For S.H.E women, the team needs lots of wisdom and hard-work. We will be patient and carry on every step that is stored in front of us with humility and a caring heart for each other.
6. Please remember children and the young people at Jeevan Dhara community too.

Thanking you all for your prayers and practical help for all these years. I am very blessed.

**Jen**

*Missionary Partner*

## **Change – What Goes Around ... ?!**

“I Have Earache” ....

2000 BC ...	Here, eat this root
AD 1000...	That root is heathen. Here, say this prayer
AD 1850...	Prayer is superstition. Here, take this potion
AD 1940...	That potion is snake oil. Here, take this pill
AD 1985...	That pill is ineffective. Here take this antibiotic
AD 2000...	That antibiotic is ineffective. Here, eat this root





# Flower Calendar

## April – August 2021



### April

- 4 **EASTER SUNDAY**
- 11 Mrs I. Pollock, Kirkstyle Gardens
- 18 Mrs M Colquhoun, The Glebe
- 25 Mrs M McCready, Liston Place

### June

- 6 Mr&Mrs I Richmond, Lauson Pl.
- 13 Mrs M Sibbald, Kirklands Park Gdns
- 20 VACANT
- 27 Mrs E Marsden, The Steadings

### August

- 1 Mrs A Baird, Nethershiel Farm
- 8 Mrs H Gilchrist
- 15 Mrs J Sibbald, Dundas Place
- 22 Mr A Tait, Newliston Road
- 20 Mrs S Nutley, Main Street

## Flower Delivery

- April** Mrs V Edwards, Mrs L Woollven
- May** Mrs A Thomson, Mrs M MacDonald, and Mrs A McKay
- June** Mrs H MacDonald, Mrs A Denholm, and Mrs M Rooney
- July** Mrs J Fyfe, Mr B Hepburn and Mrs L Bird
- August** Mrs A Reilly, Mrs L Woollven

### May

- 2 Mrs M Fairbairn, Nedwliston
- 9 Mrs V Edwardds
- 16 Mr J Innes, The Glebe
- 23 Mrs J Provan, Allison Place
- 30 Mrs A Thomson, Maitland Rd

### July

- 4 Mrs L Moss, Almondhill Rd
- 11 Mrs M Naylor, Almondhill Rd
- 18 Mrs M Gray, Main St
- 25 Mr J Innes, The Glebe

It looks as if we may be back into the Church in April. At the moment it would appear that it will not be in time for Easter but, I intend putting our usual Easter Cross at the War Memorial to remind us all that our Church is still alive and flourishing and waiting for old and new friends to meet again.

Once we know some firm dates I will contact you the week before you are due to supply the Flowers. I will also speak with the Flower Deliverers when we know what the contact /visiting rules are to be.

I hope you are all well and keeping safe and I look forward to seeing you in the not too distant future.

*Joyce Brooks*

Flower Convenor Tel: 0131 333 3710



## **Foodbank**

Kirkliston Parish Church is now a registered referring agent for the local foodbank.

If you know of anyone, whether it be a family, couple or single person who is struggling and who would benefit from short term food support, please contact [kpc.officeangels@gmail.com](mailto:kpc.officeangels@gmail.com) (they must be aware that you are asking for them to be referred) The information required to generate a referral is as follows: -

- Full Name
- Full address with postcode
- Number of people in the family (how many adults and children)
- Special dietary needs
- Do they require toiletries
- Do they require household cleaning products

You can also offer support by dropping donations into the basket provided at Scotmid in Kirkliston or Tesco in South Queensferry.

If you have any questions please call Karen McKay 07921317516

**KIRKLISTON PARISH CHURCH**

**Holy Week Services**

**Sunday 28 March 2021**

Palm Sunday

*John 12: 12-16 & Ps. 118: 19-29*

**Monday 29 March 2021**

*Jesus anointed at Bethany*

*John 12: 1-11 & Psalm 36: 5-11*

**Tuesday 30 March 2021**

*Jesus predicts His death*

*John 12: 20-36 & Ps. 71: 1-14*

**Wednesday 31 March 2021**

*Jesus' betrayal*

*John 13: 21-32 & Ps. 70*

**Thursday 1 April 2021 [Zoom]**

*Maundy Thursday - Sacrament of Holy Communion*

*John 13: 1-17 & Ex. 12: 1-14*

**Friday 2 April 2021**

Good Friday

*John 18- 19 & Is. 52:13 - 53:12*

With Queensferry Church

**Sunday 4 April 2021 [Zoom]**

*Jesus has Risen!*

*John 20: 1-18*

All services will be on the Church Website and Facebook page

**Zoom log in from [kpc.officeangels@gmail.com](mailto:kpc.officeangels@gmail.com)**



## Spring Harvest Online

This year in common with so much around us currently, Spring Harvest is happening online. You may have been unable in the past to take part in person at venues such as Harrogate or Skegness, but this year you could join in from the comfort of your own home. If it comes anywhere close to being physically present, you are bound to enjoy it.

Join *Spring Harvest Home 2021*  
for a unique and interactive  
live-streamed experience

ec  
essential  
christian  
presents

SPRING  
HARVEST  
*Home 21*

4th to 8th April

Powered by  
CROWD  
CONNECT

Visit [springharvest.org](https://springharvest.org) to book or scan  
the QR code

## **Pastoral Care**

Our Pastoral Care Team has had to change it's way of working this year due to COVID19. As a result, we no longer visit anyone in their homes, but contact them by telephone or socially-distanced doorstep visiting.

Because of the isolation felt by the lockdown restrictions, we are contacting people more often than we would normally, to make sure they are coping well and that they know they are not forgotten.

*Linda Moss*

Pastoral Care Team Lead

## **All Is Not Lost**

There is no anaesthetic for the pain of grief ... We cannot give to the bereaved the one thing they most want; we cannot call back Lazarus, or Bert or Harry from the dead. The bereaved know that. They know that 'There is nothing you can say.' And they have seen others turn away, embarrassed by their uselessness.

But anyone who turns towards the widow and the widower and gives confidence that they do have something to offer at moments of utter despair helps to reassure them that all is not lost.

Goodness is not gone from the world because one good person has died. Meaning has not gone from life because one who meant so much is no longer present. The loss of one trusted person need not undermine trust in all of those who remain.

COLIN MURRAY PARKES

# Magic Square

## Geographical Features

Match each geographical feature (A-P) with the correct Bible reference (1-16), then complete the magic square by writing the number that corresponds with each letter. When the square is completed correctly, all columns, rows and diagonals will add up to the same number.

A	GERIZIM	1	2 Kings 17:6
B	HABOR	2	Daniel 8:2
C	NIMRIM	3	Judges 4:12
D	DERBE	4	Deuteronomy 27:4
E	JORDAN	5	John 2:1
F	NAZARETH	6	Jeremiah 7:32
G	TABOR	7	Judges 9:7
H	CANA	8	1 Chronicles 5:23
I	IPHTAH EL	9	Joshua 19:14
J	GIBEON	10	Luke 1:26
K	SLAUGHTER	11	Genesis 37:14
L	EBAL	12	Isaiah 15:6
M	ULAI	13	Acts 15:35
N	HERMON	14	Acts 16:1
O	ANTIOCH	15	Isaiah 28:21
P	HEBRON	16	2 Kings 5:10

M=	I=	E=	A=
N=	J=	F=	B=
O=	K=	G=	C=
P=	L=	H=	D=

Get the magic square answer from [billmckay@btinternet.com](mailto:billmckay@btinternet.com)

# Who's Who In Kirkliston Parish Church

## The Minister

Rev Erick du Toit [edutoit@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:edutoit@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## Children & Families Worker

Kirsteen Marcelin [kirsteenmarcelincfwkpc@btinternet.com](mailto:kirsteenmarcelincfwkpc@btinternet.com)

## Treasurer

Moira Gaynor [MoiraGaynor20@gmail.com](mailto:MoiraGaynor20@gmail.com)

## Session Clerk

Paula Roots [paulamayhuddart@hotmail.com](mailto:paulamayhuddart@hotmail.com)

## Roll Keeper

Karen McKay [kwfmckay@btinternet.com](mailto:kwfmckay@btinternet.com)

## Church Office /Admin. Team

Enquiries etc. [kpc.officeangels@gmail.com](mailto:kpc.officeangels@gmail.com)

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## Social Media



<https://www.facebook.com/KirklistonParishchurch/>



[www.kirkliston-parish-church.org.uk](http://www.kirkliston-parish-church.org.uk)

## Youth Social Media

**Blog:** [www.youthministryinlockdown.blogspot.com](http://www.youthministryinlockdown.blogspot.com)

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq1O7RUaByrRHcB5RjCx8dw/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/KirklistonYouthKPC>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/kirklistonyouthkpc/>