

Forth St Paul's Parish Church newsletter

Issue No. 01

January - March 2023



Welcome to our first
Church newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading
about all the things that have
been happening over
the last few weeks
and about what is going on in
our church.

New Year poem

Here comes a brand new year,
Lots of new things to explore,
A clean, blank slate to write on,
Fun happenings galore.
To you we wish the best of
things,
All the blessings a new year
brings.



Introducing..... Rev. Eckhardt Bosch

We were delighted and blessed to welcome Rev. Eckhardt Bosch and his lovely family to Forth St. Paul's on 27th November 2022. Eckhardt did his probationary time at New Wellwynd Church, Airdrie and now has an 18-month contract as our Assistant Minister. We are all enjoying Eckhardt's youth and enthusiasm. He is tall and elegant and can bound up and down the pulpit stairs like a giraffe.

Jack and Lewis, from Jigsaw, caught up with him for an interview. Here is what they discovered.



- **Where were you born and brought up?** I was born in South Africa. I was brought up in Bloemfontein in South Africa. I went to Stellenbosch University in Cape Town where I met my wife.
- **Do you have any siblings?** I have 3 older brothers. The oldest is in Tanzania, the second is in South Africa and the third is in England.
- **It has been lovely meeting your wife Rozelle, your mother-in-law Marlene and your baby daughter. Please tell us a bit about them.** My daughter is called Lorelei and was born in Wishaw General Hospital on 15th September 2022. We wanted to choose a name which would work in both South Africa and Scotland, so we decided on the name Lorelei. My wife Rozelle has completed a PHD at Cambridge University and is now studying finance. This is a career change for her.
- **If you were not a minister, what would you be?** I am artistic so would probably be a jewellery maker or an artist/painter. I also liked the idea of becoming an architect but I am dyslexic and not good with numbers which would make this job difficult.
- **What job did you want to have whilst growing up?** I wasn't sure what to do. After 10 years of exploration I decided that a minister was the best path for me to take.
- **What was your favourite subject at school?** I most enjoyed break time! I was an active boy who enjoyed active things outwith the classroom. I did really enjoy geography ("aardrykskunde" in South African). My best mark was in English.
- **Which languages can you speak?** My home language is Afrikaans. English is my second language. I can read and understand Dutch.
- **What is your favourite thing about being a minister?** I like exploring the different possibilities of ministry. My time in Forth St Paul's will be a time of exploration and discovering the different aspects of ministry. I like to be prepared but I'm learning to do prayers "off the cuff".
- **What is your favourite bible story?** I like the book of Job. It is really meaningful. My favourite bible story is Joseph. He went through a tough time and God used him to do amazing things. He also saved his brothers lives.

- **What are your hobbies?** I am artistic and like to paint and draw. I also enjoy DIY. I would like to start jewellery making in the future. I don't have the time at the moment.
- **What is your favourite colour?** Green.
- **What is your favourite sport?** Rugby. I like to watch and play it.
- **What is your favourite food?** Steak and it has to be rare.
- **Do you have any pets?** We have two ragdoll cats.
- **What do you like most about Scotland?** The friendliness of the people. I like the open and curious sense of humour that the Scots have. I appreciate it.
- **What do you miss most about South Africa?** The wildlife. Africa is very connected to the wildlife. Some of the animals will be walking around the town. I used to hear the roars of the lions as I was brought up near a lion park. The roars can be heard for miles. I feel a bit disconnected to nature in Scotland as it is colder here.



A word from Eckhardt...

I went to boarding school when I was younger. It was located just outside of town and was quite remote. The nature all around us was amazing. One of my fondest memories of South Africa was the fact that our school was so close to nature; close to the wildlife and close to all the animals that you see on the television. Being in Scotland, the one thing I miss about South Africa is the sense of being so close to wild animals.

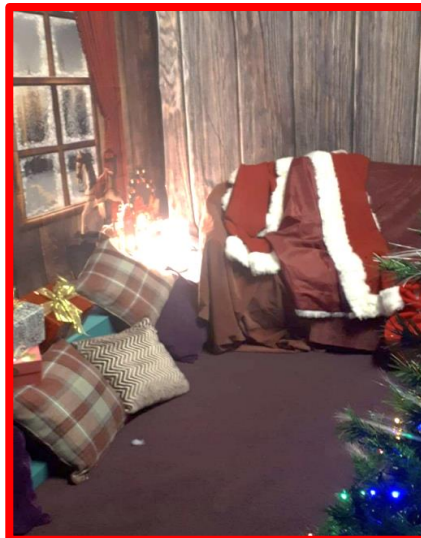
I remember one evening as a boy we decided to go sleep on the roof of the boarding school because we wanted to feel connected to nature.

We took our mattresses and pillows and put them on the roof where we spent the night. It was so warm, about 25 degrees. I remember waking up at 2am and looking up at the stars. They were absolutely amazing. I've never seen a sky so beautiful. There were so many stars that some of the spots in the sky almost looked like clouds of stars. It was fantastic! I've never seen the sky like that since as I don't have the courage to sleep on a roof again! I couldn't help but to feel very small at that stage. I think if you look at the stars and use that as a metaphor you realise how big God is. God is huge. You can't even comprehend how big he is and because God is so big and so huge we do feel so small and so tiny. It is amazing to think how our God knows each one of us.



Christmas at Forth St Paul's

We had a joyful, glittering Christmas which started with the wonderful Christmas lights switch on by Anne Carruthers, brightening and lightening up the village. There was much joy and excitement for the children at Santa's grotto where there was also a fun photo booth and bouncy castle. The adults enjoyed tea and delicious cake. Afterwards the family light service took place in Church where we made Christingles. These were huge successes, and everyone had a great time.



There were joyful Carol evening services, arranged by Rena Whyte. It was great to sing Christmas carols then enjoy a cup of tea and biscuits. An added bonus was when Rev. Bosch was able to join us for the last two services.

We did a Christmas dinner food collection for Clydesdale foodbank.



Once again, we did the Blythwood Care shoebox appeal. We collected 67 boxes.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Your gift will truly have made a difference.



The Guild held a successful coffee morning where folk enjoyed lovely home baking, tea and fellowship.

The nativity play and gift service went very well. The Jigsaw children were wonderful and not only delivered their lines and actions with great skill, they also showed to everyone their joy and enthusiasm for the play.

Once again June Allan received a large amount of parcels for the Salvation Army Christmas appeal.

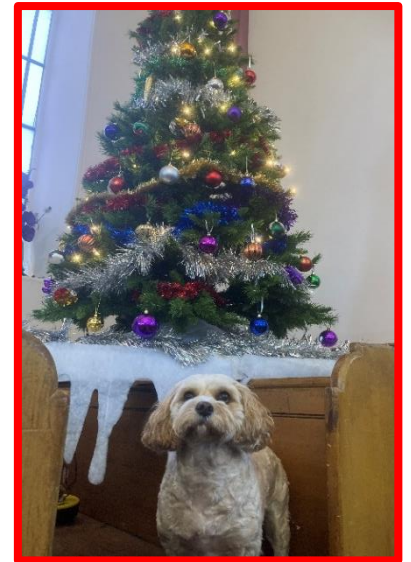


The Christmas Glow once again gave folk a chance to relax and enjoy some reflective time during the busy run up to Christmas. People also got to experience Christmas to some meaningful music and some tasty festive treats. We were delighted to welcome the Children from Forth Nursery and Primary School too.



It was wonderful to have the gorgeous Molly join us at our Christmas Day Service.

Our Church was decorated so beautifully over Christmas.



Little Red Riding Hood Panto

Panto time came to Forth on 29th December and what a great time was had by all! It was wonderful to see so many people having a fun family evening in our church hall. *Oh yes it was!*

We hope to welcome back Theatre Presto later on in the year.





Megan and Mason

We welcomed a new member to Forth St Paul's Church as Megan Lannigan (McGinty, as some may know her) asked to join our church.

This was made even more special when Megan and Scott, who welcomed their beautiful new baby son Mason into the world in August, also had Mason baptised on 4th December. Mason Stewart Lannigan was baptised by Rev Mike Fucella, our Interim Moderator, who took the service.



Braehead Lunch Club

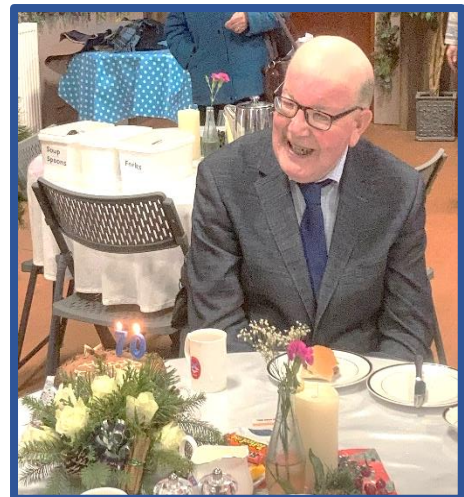
On 15th December, the Lunch Club was invited to the Church Hall for afternoon tea and to watch the Sound of Music film. A great time was had by all.



. Euan - A super well done!!

Euan Allison from Jigsaw was awarded a special Bear Grills "never give up" badge from Cubs at the end of January. These badges are presented to someone who has shown resilience, tenacity and courage – in other words someone who never gives up in spirit. We are all super proud of Euan as were the Cub boys who all gave Euan a huge round of applause!

Very well deserved Euan!



Happy birthday!

David celebrated a very special 70th birthday on 1st January. We hope you enjoyed your cake at the café David!

Happy birthday and best wishes from us all.



Rev. Robbie Hamilton

We welcomed Rev. Robbie Hamilton and his family to our New Year Church service on 1st January. Robbie was Eckhardt's supervisor for 2 years at Wellwynd Church in Airdrie.

Robbie presented Eckhardt with a beautiful home communion set. Robbie also wrote a lovely blessing as a gift to the Bosch family which we sang at the service.

We were delighted to welcome Robbie and family at the café after the service.

Rev. Elspeth McLean

It was wonderful to welcome Elspeth back to Forth St Paul's and the café on 1st February. Elspeth brought a special gift for us – a new pulpit fall and runner for the communion table at Pentecost. They came all the way from Zambia and are absolutely beautiful.



Pancake night

Our annual pancake night took place on Tuesday 21st February. It was very well attended and enjoyed. There were delicious pancakes galore and fun quizzes with chocolate prizes for all ages.

Well done to Miriam for guessing how many sweeties were in the jar.



Katie, Lewis and Arran from Jigsaw excitedly told us that Karen came to the school and made pancakes with every class.



Rainforest Café – Sunday & Wednesday

The Church café is open every Sunday from 12 noon. Come along and enjoy a tasty lunch of homemade soup, filled rolls and a selection of cakes. Why not try a special coffee with our Rainforest blend coffee beans. Other hot or cold drinks available. You don't need to have been at church to come in so if you're passing by why not join us? A huge thank you to our dedicated volunteers who work so hard in making this possible every week.

The cafe is now open every Wednesday from 10am till 3pm (last orders will be taken at 2.15pm). **All are welcome.**



Events coming soon

Saturday 1st April – Guild Easter Fayre in Large Hall from 10am – 12noon.

Sunday 2nd April – Palm Sunday service at 11am.

Thursday 6th April – Maundy Thursday evening communion at 7pm.

Friday 7th April – Good Friday evening service at 7pm.

Sunday 9th April – Easter Sunday service in Church at 11am.

Tuesday 11th to Wednesday 19th April – Church shop in Large hall from 10am to 1pm. The Shop will be open from 5th to 7th April to accept goods.

Saturday 6th May – Coronation screening and café.

Sunday 7th May – Coronation lunch (12 noon) and Coronation concert (7pm).

14th – 21st May – Christian Aid week.

Sunday 14th May – Christian Aid service at 11am.

Sunday 21st May – Musical Evening with a chippy at 4pm – entertainment by Same Difference.

Sunday 11th June – Worship celebrating Holy Communion and JIGSAW Appreciation Day.

Please see our facebook page or website for more details

*What's on.... Come along and join us...
there is something for everyone....*

Mainly Music Group

This is a group for parents/carers, babies and toddlers featuring music, movement, songs, fun and playtime. Snacks are available for the toddlers with a cuppa and a cake for the grown ups. This group meet every Tuesday (excludes school holidays) from 10-11.30am in the Small Hall.



The session is £2 per family.

Jigsaw

The Jigsaw theme for the next few months is things Jesus taught us. The children will be involved in a great deal of fun activities involving arts n crafts, mixing up special drinks, decorating cakes, puppet shows, team games and parachute fun.

Jigsaw meet on a Sunday morning from 10.50am to 12noon during school term time. If you are aged between 3 and 11 years, we would be pleased to welcome you and your friends to come along.



Planet Earth Club

Planet Earth Club is every Tuesday from 3pm to 4.30pm during term time. It is for Primary School children. There is story time, snacks and a variety of games and activities for the children. Occasionally we set the children challenges which they all enjoy taking part in. A good fun time is had by all!

Rainforest Youth Café

This is an informal setting where young people from high school upwards can come and hang out with friends. It is open every Friday from 1-5pm. There are games, a PlayStation, a pool table, air hockey, table tennis or time to just sit and chat. There is also crafting and baking or even time for homework!



Guild

Guild meetings since COVID are less formal and more interactive and open to all. Folk may wish to come to all or some of the following Guild meetings:-

23rd January —We enjoyed being entertained by Kevin Bryce with some Scottish music.

Monday 6th February — DVD of Guild in past.

Monday 20th February — Lynne McCallum — how to avoid back pain.

Monday 6th March— Rena Jardine — floral arrangements.

Monday 20th March— David Wilson — family tree.

The Guild meet every second Monday in the small hall at 7pm. All are welcome.

KNACC – Knit, Natter and Crafts or Chatter

This group meets every Monday from 10am till 12noon. There is an opportunity to share or learn a craft or time to just enjoy a blether. Don't sit at home alone when you can find companionship with the group. Our menfolk would also welcome new members.

Church services

We would love you to join us in person on a Sunday morning at 11am but if this isn't possible our services are streamed live via our website www.forthstpauls.com or via youtube (a link for this can be found on the website)

There is always lots going on in our Church and you are very welcome to come along and join us. Why not ask for more information.....


Empire biscuit recipe

1. Cream 8oz margarine and 4oz caster sugar.
2. Sift 10oz plain flour and 2oz corn flour.
3. Switch 1 medium egg in a cup, using a small amount of egg while mixing to bind ingredients to a stiff dough.
4. Roll out the dough and cut into circles with medium cutter.
5. Bake for 20 minutes in a fan oven at 170 degrees or until ready.
6. Double biscuits with not too much jam and ice with plain icing sugar with a dash of water. Decorate with a small piece of cherry.



Thank you to Mary Gemmel for this recipe.


Random acts of kindness



Visit someone who is lonely or ill

Lend someone in need a helping hand

Sign up to do voluntary work in your local community



Tell someone you know that you are thankful for them.

Phone someone that you have not seen/spoken to for a while

Send flowers to a friend

Spring is coming....



Photos taken from
our Church garden on
19th February.



Blessing

May the sun bring you new energy by day,
may the moon softly restore you by night,
may the rain wash away your worries,
may the breeze blow new strength into your being,
may you walk gently through the world and know it's
beauty all the days of your life.

**We hope you have enjoyed reading the newsletter.
Thank you to everyone who has contributed to it.**

**Please contact Lynne McFarland if you have anything
to be included in the next edition!
We would really love to hear from you.**

*Forth St Paul's Parish Church (Church of Scotland)
Charity No. SCO03080 Congregation No. 130713*