

A PLACE OF BELIEVING AND BELONGING



ERSKINE PARISH

Church

The Brig
SEPTEMBER 2026



ERSKINE PARISH CHURCH

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A Word From Our SESSION CLERK

Learning for life

It is part of modern working practice that you regularly have to undertake performance reviews, consider your goals and objectives and importantly, our development objectives. What new skills do we need to develop, what courses should we go on, what good skills should we develop and which bad practices do we need to stop doing. Learning is a life long practice as we continue to develop ourselves in both our work and personal life, whether we're learning presentations or golf, we need to learning new skills, improving old ones and questions our bad habits. The same is true in our Christian life.



In John 3:3, Jesus tells Nicodemus, that unless someone is born again, they won't enter the kingdom of God. In John 1:12, we are told all who did receive him (Jesus), to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

We know that between these two stages of life, birth and childhood, we learn our most important lessons, what is right and wrong, how to relate to others, we build our strongest relations, we understand the love of family and we start to understand the world around us.

We need to do the same to build our Christian skills.

To understand what God expects of us, to relate to other (to know our neighbours), to understand and not judge others, to love the whole family that God has given us without question and be good stewards of the gifts that He has given us.

At work, our performance is judged so that we can understand where we are and what we need to do to improve and move forward. We are given a rating (high achiever, performing, underperforming) to allow us to compare ourselves against the standard. In our Christian life we can do the same, so that we can compare ourselves to God's standard in Jesus.

As we head into a new session of church life, we should all undertake a performance review of our Christian life, be open to ourselves where we are doing right and following Christ's path and where we need to improve and show more the light of his way.

For myself, I still have much to learn from our great teacher Jesus. In many ways, I underperform but at least I understand where I need to improve, what skills and lessons I need to learn from Him, how I should walk in His way and show His light in my life. I pray this Autumn, His blessing is on our church and in each of us, so that we grow in love and faith together.

William McGregor
Session Clerk

A Word from Our **LOCAL MISSION TEAM**



Over the past year, the Local Mission Team have been involved in activities aimed at sharing the message of Christ's unconditional love by reaching out with care and concern for our local community.

The Unpaid Carers Drop in Café has been running for over a year now and has afforded opportunities for people caring for family members to take some time out from the everyday tasks of caring to spend time in the company of others in a similar situation over a cup of tea or coffee. This recent quote from one of our carers on social media sums it up

"If you are a carer, I totally recommend going to the carer group meetings held at Erskine Parish Church on the last Thursday of the month at 11.00 a.m. You will meet people in the same position as yourself and you can give helpful advice if required -

or be part of a group who will just listen if that is what you need. You can chat over a cup of tea or coffee with others who understand your situation. You do not need to be a member of the church, everyone is welcome. I have found it a great help since I started attending."

Sadly, our numbers have fallen due to carers experiencing a change in their circumstances, but supportive friendships have developed and continue beyond the group. The cafe meets at 11.00 am until 12.30pm in the Hub on the last Thursday of the month. We are currently on a summer break but will recommence on Thursday 29 the October at 11.00 a.m. We would like to acknowledge the valuable support which the group has received from Renfrewshire Carers Centre. If you or anyone you know is a carer and feel you would benefit, please come along then.

The Listening Service is still available to anyone who wishes to talk over an issue or concern with a trained listener and appointments can be made to meet with a listener on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. No advice or counselling is given but it offers an opportunity to think through an issue with a view to finding a way forward. The sessions which are free, take place in a private space and confidentiality is assured. Leaflets are available in the Hub and Hall of Fellowship, and appointments can be made by calling 07778719735 or emailing erskinehublistening@gmail.com . Although the uptake for the 1:1 service has been low over the past year, we have been concentrating on developing the Listening service for the pupils at Park Mains High School and this has been well received. During term time, the service is available on Monday afternoons with two listeners seeing up to 2 young people each for 40-minute sessions. Pupils are referred or self-refer via the Pupil Support Team who coordinate appointments and a good working relationship has been established with the staff who appreciate the benefits of listening to the mental health of young people. Bless you all.

Renfrewshire Foodbank

The Local Mission team greatly appreciate the support of the congregation to the activities they are involved in and one such area in which this has been particularly noticeable is donations to Renfrewshire Foodbank's appeals. In the year up to 19th May 2026, our church donated 109 kg of food and household items to the foodbank, and this year looks set to exceed this by far. The generosity of the congregation and others using the church building has been overwhelming and most weeks, several bags are delivered to the warehouse. During school holidays, the pressure on foodbanks increases and, sadly, the demand is growing, with Scotland now having more foodbanks than branches of McDonald's.





Erskine Churches Together Members of the team as well as volunteers from our congregation have been involved in joint ventures with the other churches in our area and it is heartwarming to see how well we are able to work together to serve our community in Christian love. The recent Backpackers Holiday Club for primary age children was a resounding success with 60 children attending each morning throughout the week for a programme of fun and games, crafts, songs, and Bible stories. Following on from this, a one-day special Christmas event for primary age children is planned for Saturday 5th December and details of how to sign up will be available soon.

At the time of writing, the team are gearing up for the Annual Community Fun Day at Erskine Waterfront Campus on Saturday 5th September from 11.00 a.m. As in past years, we will be staging a free Lucky Dip for children. There will be games, crafts, face painting and a free barbecue and much more and we are looking forward to seeing many of you there.



Aileen Rob
Local Mission Core Group Leader

MOTHERS AND TODDLERS



On Wednesday mornings starting on the 26th August, toddlers will meet in the large hall from 9:15am to 11:30am. We have a large variety of toys (i.e. a large kitchen with lots of utensils, hoovers, a large dollhouse, dolls, prams, cots, play garden, seesaws, a number of ride-on toys as well as 3 large sit-in cars to drive. We put town-themed carpet mats on the floor, where garages and a fire station are placed with boxes of cars; a train track and boxes of trains and carriages. 2 large animal mats are placed on the floor, so children can sit and play with toys that have press buttons, lids to open and shut or toys that play music.



We have seats for young babies, so that they can be taken out of their prams. The children have 3 parties in the year. We have a registration form that needs to be filled in by a adult with a child or children they are bringing, which has information about allergies. The charge for a week is £3. Children have a snack of fruit or a small packet of biscuits, adults have a cuppa and a chocolate biscuit. We hope to have new mums who already come, as well as grandparents and childminders. Everyone will be made very welcome! For more information, please contact Carol Dobbie at 0141 561 0661 or by mobile 07813 885852.

Carol Dobbie
Mothers and Toddlers

A Word from **THE GUILD**

Reflecting on the Guild's past session brings happy memories of faith, fun and fellowship shared with our group having an average of 33 members on a weekly basis.



Over the weeks we had visits from our Project Partners Bear Necessities whose aim is to "Build my Church" in Bulgaria and Crossroads "Playful Beginnings" which supports vulnerable children and families in the Glasgow area living in difficult circumstances.



We heard about the work of Erskine, Scotland and Calum's Cabin and how dependent these charities are on the donations which play such a vital part in the running and support for families during their darkest days. Our members are always keen to show God's love by caring and donating to help those less fortunate than themselves. We also had visits from not one but three ministers who shared their gifts in very different ways. We fundraised through concerts by The Midgies and Neilston Strings as well as our annual Bring and Buy Sale and Coffee Morning. We enjoyed our annual visit from Kay who manages to get us all to exercise in our chair as well as a Quiz and Songs of Praise afternoon.



Over the Summer the committee but especially the secretaries have been working in the background arranging the programme for next season which begins on Wednesday 16th September 2026. This year finds us in the 3rd year of Guild's Strategy "Let us build a house", the first two years were building on a "Sure Foundation", with "Living Stones" in year two.



This year's theme is "Beyond the Walls" which is focusing on taking the gospel message to the people in our communities. Our first meeting is a Welcome Back afternoon and we look forward to seeing familiar faces return but would also like to extend a warm, friendly welcome to all newcomers. So if you find yourself at a loose end on a Wednesday afternoon between 2.00-4.00pm please come along and join us.

Elizabeth McDade
Elder: Children & Families

Monthly UPDATES

June

Erskine Parish Church saw amazing generosity this month! The Monday Rainbows and Brownies donated £400 and The Hub donated £3,500. Thank you!

Erskine Churches Together hosted a Sharing the Faith Event. An evening where local churches came together to explore questions of belief, community, and unity by way of a panel Discussion with local church leaders.

Rev. David Nicolson was invited to preach at "The Way" service, a community of Christians from all churches gathered to worship at St. Pauls Milngavie!



Our Youth Outreach Worker hosted a "Vinted in Real Life" event.

Rebekah wanted to support sustainable fashion, all clothes were donated and could be picked up for with the option to make a donation.

It was a wonderful turnout with hundreds of items of clothing available! The event raised £390, thank you to Rebekah and all who participated!

July

July was a very successful month for youth club and youth activities! To start us off we had a BBQ and chalk drawing night on the 7th of July.

Later that month we had Traitors Night, where young people took part in imitating the hit TV show. It was so much fun and everyone enjoyed it so much, it was requested as an activity again in August!

July was another generous month, the Going for Gold campaign raised £4409.50 and the Line Dancers donated £850. Thank you!



Our J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) supported The 3Cs Café at Inchinnan Parish Church by donating all proceeds to Prospects Across Scotland, a charity supporting churches in providing accessible worship opportunities to adults with learning disabilities and autism.

August

An amazing £290 was collected for the Venezuela Appeal. Thank you!

The final event in the Youth Summer Activities took place, with young people taking part in Tote Bag Art Night! There were some beautifully designed tote bags by the end of the night.

Parents and Toddlers returned this month on 2 August. More information, including future timings and toys available, can be found on page 7.

The Erskine Churches Together Holiday Club went ahead. Thank you to all who volunteered and helped make the event so special!



We would like to also note our appreciation of the blessings we receive from our congregation! Thank you all and God bless you!

Photo Highlights

Hub Staff at Volunteer week Reception: Thank You to Our Hub Volunteers!



Youth Summer Event



Boys Brigade awards evening

let's get in touch

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