

Kilsyth Anderson Church Newsletter

December 2025 / January 2026

*Wishing you a
very happy Christmas
and peaceful
new year*



Social Bite Village in South Lanarkshire

Last week, the first life-changing homes landed at Harriet Gardens, the newest Social Bite Village, in Rutherglen, South Lanarkshire.

Watching the arrival of the five Nest Houses, which marks the next stage of construction, was a proud moment for Josh Littlejohn, the founder of Social Bite.



The Nest Houses travelled down in convoy from The Highlands and when they rounded the corner on to Harriet Street, he says “I couldn’t hide my excitement. The weather was typically Scottish - cold, grey and wet - and the bright orange of the houses’ timber was such a contrast, like a ray of sunshine.” I thought, “soon, that’ll be someone’s

home.”

Each house will change the life of somebody affected by homelessness, helping them to build the skills, confidence and independence they need to move into their own permanent tenancy.

In the coming weeks, the remaining houses and community hub building will arrive as the project progresses towards an opening date in early 2026.

You can support Social Bite by “paying it forward” at any of their cafes by buying a coffee or a hot meal for someone who is homeless or you can buy a Christmas present as part of the Festival of Kindness campaign or simply make a donation through the website at



Christmas Dinner – £5

A gift of £5 could buy a homeless or vulnerable person a Christmas dinner or emergency winter food pack.

Scripture Union (SU)

The SU holiday brochure is now out and there are some copies on the table in the vestibule.



Residentials, either Lanarkshire primary or secondary weekends organised locally or the SU Scotland week holidays give children the opportunity to explore the Bible in a creative and engaging ways and take part in both exciting and relaxing activities. I know for myself in 5th and 6th year going away for SU weekends 3 times a year was very important in my faith journey.

The scripture reading for the recent Global week of prayer was “On Christ the Solid Rock We Stand” based on the book of 1st Peter. The SU Ukraine were particularly remembered as they continue their work with young people.

Please pray for Karen Stangoe and Chloe Anderson who are the regional workers for Lanarkshire.

Please remember SU and other organisations that lead a “Bible” Club” in our schools.

Jean Ewen

Blankets for Lodging House Mission

Many, many thanks to all who have knitted/crocheted squares or who have handed completed blankets to be given to the Lodging House Mission, Glasgow to hand out to homeless and other vulnerable people. We will be sending 19 blankets in time for Christmas. A special thanks to Margaret White-law who finished off some of the blankets and her husband who is willing to take them into the Mission for us.

Well done everyone.

Olivia



Thanks

Thank you for the lovely flowers received from the Church on the 16th November. This was so nice and quite appropriate as it was David's 95th birthday week!

Thank you also to Alison for delivering the flowers to us.

Thank you to the ladies for their work during the year.

Mae & David Shaw

Thank you so much to Margaret for delivering the beautiful floral display I received on Sunday. It was very much appreciated.

Love to all

Margaret Bell.

I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU for the beautiful Church flowers I received on Remembrance Sunday and thanks to Margaret for delivering them. We had a good blether which brightened up

my day.

Hope to be back to Church soon.

Margaret Cochrane

Thank you very much for the beautiful flowers we received recently from the church, they were a lovely surprise and very much appreciated.

Thank you once again.

Aileen & Tom Anderson

A heartfelt thank you to all the cleaning teams who have done such a great job in keeping our sanctuary and halls clean and tidy over the last year.

This is truly a case of many hands making light work and a way of honouring our promise to give our time and talents in the service of the Lord.

Rona McFadyen

The **Church Praise Group** is looking for new singers to join them.

Duties are light – mainly the introit on a Sunday morning. Practices are held monthly after the prayer time on a Thursday at 12pm in the hall and all you need is to enjoy singing.

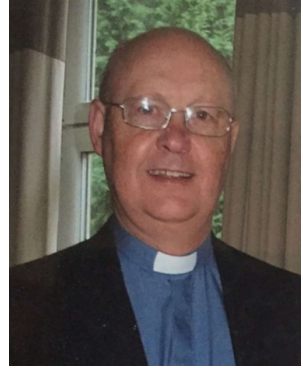
Please speak to Jan Bateman or Pat Kerr if you want to know more.



Dear friends,

My wife was pleasantly surprised the other day when she stumbled across Christmas cards and notelets with printed Bible verses displayed on their front cover.

Why the amazement? I think it was due to the difficulty in sourcing Christian Christmas cards amidst the increasingly secular and PC society that is doing it's level best to bury Christ underneath a mountain of so called Christmas gifts.



In Matthew's Gospel, chapter one and verse 23, we read, "*The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel*" (which means 'God with us')."

The virgin birth of Jesus is vital to the truth of the gospel; since Jesus Christ is Immanuel, God with us, He existed before Mary; therefore, He could not have been conceived as other babies. He was not only born, but He "*came into the world*" (John 18:37.) Jesus is therefore, both God and man, the sinless '*Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,*' (John 1:29).

He is 'God with us,' but He is also God like us, because He took our nature and entered into human life and experience. Think of Hebrews 4:15 that explains and elaborates on why our Lord Jesus became human, listen, "*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin.*" What a wonderful Saviour!

So, if you have yet to send Christmas cards to family and friends, why don't you include an encouraging Bible verse with your greeting, after all, the Bible is jam packed with messages of Love from the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who knows, you might surprise someone and even brighten their day, just like the seemingly random Bible notelets on the Cumbernauld sales barrow did for my wife.

Christmas Blessings be yours, now and always.

Your friend, Kenneth.

1369th day

23rd November 2025

Maia Mikhaluk writing from Ukraine on Facebook (with permission)

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father... Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

This past week felt unusually heavy. We lived through massive missile and drone attacks that shook our nights and stretched our nerves. Long blackouts left our homes colder and our days unsettled. The news of an ally's betrayal and a corruption scandal brought frustration and disappointment. Even the weather seemed to join the weight of it all—cold, grey, and endlessly gloomy. By the week's end many of us carried a mixture of exhaustion, weariness, sadness and fear.

And into that heaviness this hymn speaks with gentle strength: "Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not. As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be." It reminds us that when circumstances shift, when nations disappoint us, when people fail, when winter settles not only outside but inside our hearts, God's faithfulness remains unchanged. While everything around us seems unstable, He is steady. While our own strength fades, His mercies rise new every morning. While we walk through cold days and uncertain nights, His presence continues to cheer, to guide, and to sustain.

"Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside." These words are not poetry for peaceful seasons; they are anchors for weeks like this one. What holds us together is not optimism, not politics, not circumstances, but the unshakeable character of a faithful God.

And that is why we can keep standing, keep rebuilding, keep believing. Even in the darkest days, we can still lift our hearts in worship and say with confidence: Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.



2nd Kilsyth Girls' Brigade.

We had a lovely turn out of girls for the Remembrance Parade in November.



On Tuesday nights we have been continuing our badge-work and the girls have been making Christmas cards, reindeer dust and some more goodies for the Christmas Fayre. They have enjoyed making these. Thank you to everyone who bought items from our stall at the Fayre. The money goes towards buying crafts and treats for the girls on a Tuesday night.

The girls are looking forward to their Christmas trip to the ten-pin bowling where we are sure they will have lots of fun.

If you have any empty 500ml, 1 litre or 2 litre bottles or any empty cans please can you keep these and hand them to Jean Ewen, Margaret Brown or Jacqueline Gore. Mhairi McFarlane can recycle these and get some money for our company as the Girls' Brigade capitation fees have risen this year.

As we look ahead to 2026, we are looking forward to continuing our badge-work, working towards our annual parents' night and we will be doing a fundraising lunch in March to raise money for the 2 charities that we are helping this year. More details to come soon.

The Girls' Brigade enjoy sharing what we do in the newsletters and we are eternally grateful for all the support and encouragement from the congregation. We do not know what the future holds for our company but we are continuing to pray and hoping God will help us find a way to bring more leaders/helpers to our company.

Jacqueline Gore

Funerals

I am the resurrection and the life

8th October	Mrs Elizabeth Davidson
7th November	Mrs Jenny Hamilton (not a church member, conducted by Rev Lesley Fraser)
14th November	Mrs Florence Smith



Church Fayre

At the time of writing the church fayre realised the magnificent sum of £2275 for the fabric fund. A huge thank you to everyone who donated items for sale or who helped out with preparations or on the day in any way. Well done to Aileen and Anne for all their efforts in organising us all.

Letter from Graeme Barrie

I am one of those people who, whenever I visit a church - either on holiday or attending a Presbytery meeting – look to see if there is a Church Magazine available; and so it is that I always look forward to picking up a copy of Anderson Church’s magazine.

However, you may have noticed that there has never been an article from me – and I must apologise for that. When I read the magazine, I see interesting articles from various people and think “Is there anything interesting I could submit?” usually followed by ‘No, not this time!’ But if we all did that then there would be no magazine, so please do think if there’s something you have to say for the next time.

And so, I hear you ask, ‘why this time?’. Well, Rona thinks that I **do** (or maybe ‘should’???) have something to say as there has been no newsletter from the Development Group since it ceased to function whilst waiting for the Recommendation of the ‘Scheme of Delegation’ Panel to allow Presbytery to decide which building should be retained for worship in Kil-syth. Therefore, perhaps now is the time for an update.

So, what can I say? Well, this morning (25 Nov) myself, Rev Dr Thorsten Koenig (Interim Moderator of Burns and Old), and the two Session Clerks all received an email to advise us of the following:

- The anticipated Union of the two congregations will now take place in late February or in March (and not January as previous advised due to administrative logistics);
- It is proposed that, to allow this to happen, both congregations will vote ‘For’ or ‘Against’ the ‘Basis of Union’ document on Sunday 25 January immediately after Morning Worship;
- This vote will be by ballot paper, will be organised by Presbytery, and with only those whose name appears on the Communion Roll or Adherent Roll permitted to vote (so, if you think your name is not on it please speak to Christine Johnstone as soon as possible).
- The result of the vote will be advised to the congregation immediately after the papers have been counted.

Whilst this is yet another change to the timeline, it seems that progress is now being made.

I also want to take this opportunity to ask you to continue to pray for the congregation of ‘Burns & Old’ who are still coming to terms with the closure of their building and that it will no longer be used by the Church of Scotland as a base for Christian Witness in the town...

The new congregation will be a 'new beginning' for everyone, with things possibly being done differently, so please pray too for this new beginning, and, as you do so, I encourage you to look back and remember the history of the congregations so that 'mistakes' that may have been made can be learned from, but more importantly that what has been done can be built upon, and to look forward in faith, hope, and love to share the Good News with those in Kilsyth and the surrounding areas.

As I close this (short!) update, Laura joins with me to wish each of you a joyous Christmas and that you experience that childlike wonder of the miracle of God's love in the gift of His Son, Jesus.

Every blessing,

Graeme
(Interim Moderator)



www.tearfund.org.uk

‘When a woman does not have access to education... it is the root of poverty.’

Romarc, Tearfund staff in the Central African Republic

In the Central African Republic, three in four women can't read or write. They're denied an education. Denied jobs. Denied the one thing every mother wants most of all: the chance to create a better future for her children.

Everything changed for Julia when she attended a literacy programme set up through Tearfund.

'When I learned about the literacy centre, I was very happy that I could learn alongside other girls and women,' says Julia. 'As women, without education, it's very hard to achieve as much as we need to.'

With your support, more women around the world can learn to read and write through Tearfund's programmes, and create a better future for their children.

This Christmas, will you help to give the gift of literacy that lasts lifetimes?

The Guild

Here we are with Christmas fast approaching and we are halfway through our Guild programme. Our numbers have been a little less than usual but our shared fellowship and our commitment to help others has not lessened.



We held a Sunday Soup and Sandwich Lunch and thanks to William Shaw's endeavours on our behalf and the generosity of our church family we raised £625 for the Guild Projects. Moreover some of our ladies have been involved in making blankets for the homeless and 19 are ready to be handed into the Lodging House Mission in Glasgow.

We have celebrated the special birthdays of two of our members Berta Kennedy, 90 years young and Margaret Bell, 95 years young. Under the guidance of Margaret Martin and Jean Chalmers the Guild for the first time will be decorating a tree for the Burns and Old Christmas Tree Festival which is on the 5th and 6th December and we are excited for that. All that is left after that is our Christmas Social when William Shaw will provide our dinner and then we will be entertained by Kirsty Duncan, a lovely singer.

The Guild restarts on the 5th January with a Beetle Drive. Why don't you come and join in the fun? You will be made most welcome.

In the meantime the Guild members wish you a Happy Christmas and a blessed 2026.

Margaret Brown, Convener.

JAM Club

The children have been following the Old Testament story of Joseph this term. We are looking forward to decorating a Christmas tree for the festival in Burns & Old church. Preparations for the JAM club nativity service will also be starting soon. We are thankful for the families who bring their children along each week to share some bible stories, fun and games.



What do you know about where your energy comes from?



















The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. (Psalm 24). As Christians we are called to make choices that honour God by protecting the earth; one way we can do this is by choosing an energy supplier that offers power from renewable sources. The renewable energy market has never been more crowded, or more confusing. Across the UK, many suppliers claim to offer "100% renewable" power. But how do you know which of those claims are genuine, and which rely on clever accounting?

How Renewable Matching Works

Most suppliers buy renewable certificates in summer and use them to cover your winter consumption. The power you actually use comes from whatever's on the grid at the time. This allows retailers to claim 100% renewable electricity while their customers consume fossil-fuel generated power during periods of low renewable output and this prevents you from understanding the true environmental impact of your electricity demand.

Matched Clean Power Index is an independent organisation which uses publicly available data to track every major retailer to show which ones deliver renewable power when their customers need it on an hour by hour basis. This shows who's *really* matching clean generation with your consumption.

You can look up your supplier at <https://matched.energy/clean-power-index>

Rank	Supplier 	Renewable Score 	Energy Mix	Half Hourly Tariff 
1	Good Energy  All tariffs	88%	 88% renewable 12% non-renewable	
2	Bryt Energy  All tariffs	78%	 78% renewable 22% non-renewable	
3	Drax Energy Solutions  All tariffs	77%	 77% renewable 23% non-renewable	
4	Ecotricity  All tariffs	71%	 71% renewable 29% non-renewable	
5	Octopus  All tariffs	69%	 69% renewable 31% non-renewable	

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Good Energy (<https://www.goodenergy.co.uk/>) consistently tops the index and is recommended by Which? and Friends of the Earth.

Ficsean 50 Facal

Ceann-latha: 27.01.26

Air a' mhìos seo thathar a' sireadh sgeulachdan Gàidhlig, ann an suas ri 50 facal, far a bheil aran-cridhe a' nochdadh. Duais bho Chomhairle nan Leabhraichean airson na sgeulachd as fheàrr!

**Scottish
Book Trust**



**Comhairle nan
Leabhraichean**
The Gaelic Books Council

Cuir a-steach

This month, the prompt is to write a 50 word story featuring gingerbread. There's a separate category for Gaelic entries, with a prize from the Gaelic Books Council!

<https://scottishbooktrust.com/50-word-fiction>

Black Forest Christmas Fool BBC Good Food Recipe

A simple, but yummy pudding that you can prepare in 10 mins (for a non alcoholic version, used cherries in juice instead of Kirsch)

500ml double cream

½ tsp vanilla extract

2 tbsp icing sugar

250g Christmas cake or rich fruitcake

390g jar of black cherries in kirsch, drained, reserving the liquid for drizzling

50g dark chocolate chopped



To make

Whisk the cream with the vanilla and icing sugar until it just holds its shape. Crumble the cake into six glasses, then top with a few cherries, a dollop of cream and a drizzle of the kirsch. Scatter over the chopped chocolate.

More suggestions for health (or not so healthy!) recipes can be found at <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com>

The Sacred Journey of Advent: A Season of Expectant Hope

Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year—a sacred season of anticipation, preparation, and deep reflection. For believers attuned to the rhythms of grace, Advent is not merely a countdown to Christmas but a spiritual pilgrimage toward the Incarnation, when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14).

The four Sundays of Advent each carry a distinct theme, guiding the faithful through a progression of hope, peace, joy, and love.



First Sunday: Hope

This Sunday invites us to lift our eyes to the horizon of God's promises. The prophet Isaiah declares, *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light"* (Isaiah 9:2). We remember the hope of Israel and the hope we now have in Christ's return. It is a call to awaken: *"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come"* (Matthew 24:42).



Second Sunday: Peace

Here, we contemplate the peace that Christ brings—not as the world gives, but as a divine gift. *"And he shall be called... Prince of Peace"* (Isaiah 9:6). In a world of unrest, we are reminded of the angelic proclamation: *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests"* (Luke 2:14).



Third Sunday: Joy

This Sunday bursts forth with rejoicing. The tone of Advent shifts from solemn waiting to joyful anticipation. Paul exhorts, *"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"* (Philippians 4:4). Mary's Magnificat echoes through the ages: *"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior"* (Luke 1:46–47).



Fourth Sunday: Love

The final Sunday draws us into the heart of divine love. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..."* (John 3:16). We ponder the mystery of Emmanuel—God with us—and prepare to receive Love incarnate.

As we light each candle, may our hearts be kindled anew with the flame of Christ's coming. Advent beckons us to wait well, worship deeply, and walk in the light of the Lord.

Written with MS Copilot

Shining Light.

We held another great Holiday Club event in October. There were 14 children, who enjoyed some painting, team games, music, snacks and crafts. Our bible story was from Acts 9 – Saul's Conversion. Many thanks to all the children who came along and to the helpers who made the afternoon a huge success.

Hazel Gordon



Wee Christmas Crackers

Where exactly in New Mexico is Santa Fe?

He's no, he's fae Lapland .

Why did Rudolph get a bad report card?

Because he went down in history!

What do you call a blind reindeer?

No-eye deer.

The deadline for the February/March edition of the magazine is Sunday 25th of January (which always comes around way too soon after Christmas) for publication on the 1st of Feb. We are always happy to receive items of interest or details of events taking place locally—or perhaps some prayer suggestions for the new year.

Please send emails to andersonchurchmagazine@outlook.com or give your articles to Rona McFadyen on a Sunday.

Rotas

Week ending	Door Duty	Reading	Cleaning	Tea & Coffee	Flower donations
Sun 14 Dec	W Shaw, M Whitelaw	Kathleen Ross	Team 2 (Thur 11)	K & I Ross, H Provan, G Whyte	Margaret Laird
Sun 21 Dec	A Mitchell, A Sneddon	Rona McFadyen	Team 3 (Thur 18)	J Ewen, C Ramsay, M Whitelaw	Gena White
Sun 28 Dec	H Provan, C Clark	Jim Millar	Team 4 (Sat 27)	M Brown, J & G Ewen, A Mitchell	Margaret Brown
Sun 4 Jan	K & I Ross		Team 5 Tbc	J & G Ewen, M Laird, O Brittian	-
Sun 11 Jan	T & A Anderson		Team 1 (Sat 10)	K & I Ross, H Provan, G Whyte	
Sun 18 Jan	O Brittian, J Ewen		Team 2 (Thur 15)	E Gordon, A Sneddon, A Mitchell, J Ewen	
Sun 25 Jan	I & R McFadyen		Team 3 (Thur 22)	M Brown, M Whitelaw, C Ramsay	
Sun 1 Feb	J Gilmour, E Grant		Team 4 (Sat 31)	J & G Ewen, M Laird, O Brittian	