

Kilsyth Anderson Parish

Church News

October/November 2025



We imagine that the concept of recycling was invented sometime last century, after all who does not remember collecting empty glass bottles, taking them to the local shop in exchange for a few pennies each. Indeed, it was in the seventies that a competition was held to create a symbol for recycled paper. Gary Anderson, a twenty three year old graphic student from America came tops with his, now iconic ‘three-arrow mobius loop.’

Next time you visit one of the local supermarkets you’ll discover that countless products display that very icon, proving to the general public their green credentials and care for the environment. Cynics may say, it’s nothing but a marketing strategy to make us feel good about the way we shop!

However, recycling is nothing new, it has been around for millennia. In the days of the OT prophets, recycling metal, which was a very precious commodity was practised. During times of conflict and war, metal was fashioned into weapons of war: swords, spears and arrowheads and the like, and used by soldiers when battling against their enemy. In peacetime, these instruments of death would be transformed into agricultural tools that farmers used to grow and tend crops.

Isaiah used that very imagery, ... ***“The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.”*** Isaiah 2:3

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The imagery is deeply rooted in the biblical vision of a world transformed by God’s gracious and loving intervention, when all conflict is ended and Shalom is experienced and enjoyed. The ‘*ploughshares*’ idea can be given a very modern interpretation where deadly military technology could be converted into peaceful, helpful and practical civilian use.

No doubt you'll hear the Isaiah 2 verses read or referred to during some of the Remembrance Day services that will be held throughout the world on the second Sunday of November, when the fallen of two world wars will be remembered, and grateful thanks offer to God for their ultimate sacrifice.

Listen to the words of The Lord Jesus, that came from Jerusalem ***“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*** Matthew 28:18-20

This is the word of the Lord from Jerusalem, disciple people and teach them to follow the commands of Jesus; (this morning's daily devotional reading was, ...***“My command is this: love each other as I have loved you.”*** John 15:12), and to remind people of our Lord's unbreakable promise.

This is still the church's job description, and there is no greater privilege and responsibility than to share with Holy Spirit inspired confidence the glorious and enduring message that brings lasting shalom. And just in case you've forgotten the heart of the message, here it is, ***“We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*** 2 Cor.5:20-21.

This is true shalom, It is life enhancing and life transforming. I pray that you will not only know about it, but experience it deep down in your heart, so that whatever circumstances providence may lead you into, that you will never forget the abiding nature of our Lord's Words, ***“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*** John 14:27.

May you know and enjoy God's shalom blessings, now and always,

Kenneth.



Bibles for Bairns Registrations are now open!

Bibles for Bairns is a program by Scottish Bible Society for babies to receive a free toddler Bible on their first birthday, and other free gifts every year until their 5th birthday when they will receive their own children's Bible!

You can register any eligible babies you know at the link below, and they'll send you a confirmation.

<https://www.scottishbiblesociety.org/bibles-for-bairns-registration>

Bibles for Bairns' vision is to share the Bible with every baby born in Scotland, and we are so pleased you are interested in being part of this ministry. A video on our Bibles for Bairns page explains the process and how the ministry works, so please follow the link to learn more about the programme, how you can get involved by volunteering or sharing this campaign with your friends and neighbours, and how you can register a baby you know.



Thanks

Thanks very much for the flowers I received earlier in the year. They were a joy.

Pat Kerr

Billy and I would like to thank all our church family for the beautiful flowers received on the occasion of our diamond wedding anniversary. It was so lovely to be remembered at this special time.

Beth & Billy Hamilton

My thanks to Jean for delivering the beautiful arrangement of church flowers on the passing of my dear sister Cathie, and also for the very welcome visit of our minister, Kenneth.

Eileen Adam

I would like to thank you for the beautiful flowers I received from the church on Sunday 24th August. A lovely surprise, delivered by Jean Ewen and very much appreciated.

Anne McFarlane.

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers we received recently. A very lovely surprise. Also thank you to Margaret who delivered them.

Jean & Joe Robertson.

Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement I received it was a lovely surprise. A big thank you to the Anderson Church Members for thinking of me.

Margaret Kennedy

Thank you to the Anderson Church Family for the flower arrangements it was nice to be on the

receiving side.

The Flower Team (Allison, Jean and Margaret)

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers I received due to a family bereavement.

Theresa (The Manse)

Thanks for the lovely flowers from the church after my accident, they were much appreciated.

Catherine Ramsay

God's Blessing on our wonderful church and grateful thanks for the beautiful floral arrangement.

Thanks to our floral ladies and thanks to Alison for delivering them.

Babs Taggart

I have received two flower deliveries this year and just wanted to say thank you to everyone in the church as it's always a great pick-me-up.

Margaret Laird

The flowers I received during my recent illness were lovely and so much appreciated—thank you all.

Beth Griffin

Thank you to all the flower ladies for the exquisite displays each week; they are truly a work of art. Thank you also for the many beautiful bouquets we received over the period we have been with you,

Kathleen MacLeod

More thanks...

Thank you for the lovely flowers from the church; they were very much appreciated. And the visit from Alison was lovely.

Kind regards,
Isobel Tennant.

Many thanks for the beautiful church flowers and your prayers and good wishes for Elspeth.

The Strang Family.

Just a note to thank you for the beautiful flowers I received on Sunday. They have every colour of the sunrays. I will cherish your thoughts.
Love, **Anne Leishman.**

Many thanks for the flowers—they were most unexpected and really appreciated. They lasted for nearly 3 weeks!

Christine Johnstone.



**Dates –
October**

- 23rd Kirk Session meeting in Wyper Hall
- 26th Soup and sandwich lunch organised by the Guild Requesting a donation to go towards Guild international projects.
- 28th or October 30th (still to be confirmed) joint Session meeting with Burns & Old in Burns & Old

November

- 9th Remembrance Sunday - service at the Cenotaph for 11 am and then to various Churches. Anderson service will be attended by Youth Organisations and will begin at 11.30a.m. Please note the later start.
- 22nd Christmas Fayre with Santa Clause organised by the Rotary Club
- 29th Anderson Christmas Fayre - from 11a.m. until 1.30p.m.
- 30th Communion Service

December

- 5th Youth Service Christmas Gift Service.

Panto at the Lanternhouse Theatre

Brave young Elsbeth, with magical powers still to be unleashed, lives in the snowy village of Glenfrost. When her brother Kai is kidnapped by the wicked Snow Queen Chillblane and her slippery sidekick Jack Frost, she sets off on a daring rescue mission.



She's joined by her hilariously cheeky pal Sammy the Slush, her snow-stopping mammy Dame Agnes Avalunch, and a whole host of frosty new friends, including a talking snowman called Nolaff who's lost his carrot and his sense of smell.

Packed with cool tunes, snowballing laughs and plenty of chances to shout out, *Baltic* is a heartwarming festive adventure for the whole family. Full of friendship, fun and a little sprinkle of panto magic.

<https://lanternhousearts.org/events/baltic>

Getting Ready for Hibernation

As autumn sets in, hedgehogs start getting ready for their long winter sleep. From October, they focus on **bulking up and finding a safe, cosy place** to hibernate. During hibernation, they conserve energy until food sources become plentiful again in spring.

How you can help – advice from Scottish SPCA

If you're lucky enough to have hedgehogs in your garden, a few simple steps can make a big difference:

- Put out **wet or dry cat and dog food** (but avoid fish-based varieties)
- Offer a **shallow bowl of fresh water**, especially when natural supplies are scarce.
- Avoid slug pellets and garden chemicals, which can be harmful to hedgehogs

More info at <https://www.scottishspca.org/>



2nd Kilsyth Girls' Brigade.

The girls in the Girls' Brigade have had a busy start to the new session. The Juniors and Brigaders enjoyed going bramble picking then Mhairi made the brambles into jam and the girls enjoyed tasting the jam on some pancakes.



Mhairi's husband came down to show the girls how to make bread as part of their Harvest topic and a fun evening was had learning to braid the bread then getting to try some.

The Explorers are enjoying exploring in and around the sea having talked about the seaside and light as well as creating beautiful lighthouses.

Some of the bramble jam will be for sale at the Christmas fayre.

If anyone knows of any girls who would like to join we would be delighted to have them.

Jacqueline Gore



Good for the planet

All of our products are made with sustainable materials



Good for people

50% of profits donated to clean water and sanitation non-profits



Good for your bum

Super long, soft and strong rolls feel good on more than your conscience

Who Gives a Crap

As readers will be aware, the church is using **Who Gives a Crap toilet paper** – we've just taken delivery of our third big box of 48 rolls.

This is a great company for us to support as a church and we urge you to think about making a change in your own homes – instead of buying your plastic wrapped, environmentally questionable (at best) toilet paper in the supermarket, why not order it online at <https://www.whogivesacrap.org> and do good – not just to your own bum, but to people around the world who are suffering from lack of clean water and toilet facilities. This is one small change that you could make which would make a huge difference to someone else.

WGAC give 50% of their profits to clean water and sanitation organisation such as Water Aid, Water for People and Fresh Life – at the last count that was £9.8m. You can read the stories of people who have benefited at <https://www.waterforpeople.org/the-people/>

CLUB 3:16

Christian group, Club 3:16 takes place in Kilsyth Academy each week, as part of their Future Fridays Programme.

An invitation is extended to all KA pupils.



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

Duties are light – mainly the introit on a Sunday morning. Practices are held 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.

You'll be made very welcome.

Session Clerk

Please note that Christine will be out of the country from 31st October until early December (may be home around 2nd/3rd).

Any pastoral needs in the meantime should go to Olivia Brittian

Telephone number 01236 824820 or mobile 07927 900615

Rotary appeal

This year, again, we had an appeal on behalf of the Rotary Club's project 'Wrap up Lanarkshire' where they were asking for unwanted warm jackets and coats, still in good condition, which could be given to people in need of warm clothing for the winter.

Last week a member of Rotary took away 10 large bin bags full of jackets and coats. He didn't think he would get them all into his car, but by skilful packing, he managed! This week there are another 9 big bags and a box full awaiting collection.

Once again the generosity of Anderson Church members is unbelievable.

Thank you to all who donated. The appeal has now closed.



Tearfund is one of the many agencies working in Gaza and the following is only a small extract of all the things they ask us to pray for in that ongoing situation now that there is a ceasefire. Find

out more on their website at <https://tearfund.org>

Pray for peace

- Pray that this will be a lasting ceasefire.
- Pray for aid to freely enter Gaza and for safe humanitarian access.
- Pray that Israel and Hamas will commit to a just and lasting peace.
- Pray for healing and the restoration of communities.
- Pray for God to change the hearts of world leaders towards justice, peace & mercy.
- Pray that God's peace would fill the hearts and minds of everyone who is suffering as a result of this conflict.

Pray for safety

- Pray for all civilians in Gaza and across the region – that God would protect them from harm, particularly the most vulnerable.
- Pray for humanitarian workers – for protection for those who are working to provide humanitarian assistance and medical supplies. That aid can be delivered safely & quickly.
- Pray for safe access to food, sanitary supplies, medical items and treatment for those who are starving and suffering from malnutrition.

Pray for strength

- Pray for church leaders – for wisdom and strength to lead people through fear and uncertainty. Pray for bravery as they guide their communities and offer loving support.
- Pray for faith leaders and communities across the region – that they would stand firm, and for unity, connection and mutual understanding so that they can help bring people together and show kindness.

Pray for hope

- Pray for those who are hungry, terrified, mourning and suffering. Ask God to save them from despair – for the trauma and violence they've experienced not to overshadow hope.
- Pray that people across the Middle East wouldn't lose hope – that lasting peace is possible.

Pray for healing

- Pray for people who are malnourished, traumatised or injured. Ask God to heal their physical and emotional wounds and bring them deep comfort.
- Pray for hospitals and medical staff – for strength as they continue to provide life-saving services to all those affected. Ask God to provide all the resources and equipment they need to treat the sick and malnourished.
- Pray for the hostages to make a full mental and physical recovery. Pray that they will receive all they need to fully heal from the trauma they have experienced in captivity, and for their families as they support them.

Storm Amy

Storm Amy caused a bit of damage around the Church grounds. A HUGE branch – almost half of the tree – was broken off causing damage to a parked car in the lane behind the back wall. It also dislodged a large piece of the coping stone which will need to be replaced.

Many thanks to Scott and Hazel Gordon for coming, armed with a bow saw, to remove some smaller branches and saw up parts of the main branch so that the access to Kingsway was cleared for members of the public using that path.

Celebrations



Last month we told you about our celebration of two couples' Diamond Wedding Anniversaries.

Would you believe that, just by chance, we recently found out about another 'Diamond' couple. We send our congratulations and best wishes for the future to Beth and Billy Hamilton. We couldn't have a celebration lunch as we didn't know of the event, but Beth and Billy got flowers to mark this remarkable occasion.

Funerals

I am the resurrection and the life

September – Christine Stark

Elizabeth Davidson (Gordon McInally conducted as KD on holiday)

October—Christine Weldon (straight to the Crematorium)

The Guild

By the time you read this article the Guild will have begun its new session which will definitely be its last as the Anderson Church Guild. We are entering the second year of the National Strategy 'Let us Build a House' and having established 'Sure Foundations' we are now building on these to consider our calling to becoming 'Living Stones'.



As a committee we are pleased with the syllabus that has been drawn up. There is plenty of variety with interesting speakers, musical groups, solo singers, relaxation evenings and demonstrations.

We hope that you can support our Soup and Sandwich Lunch in aid of the Guild Projects on **Sunday 26th October**.

We would love it if you could join us – woman or man. You can be assured of a warm welcome on a Monday at 7pm.

Margaret Brown, Convener.

Boys' Brigade

We have had a busy start to the year with a good number of boys back with us. But always very happy to welcome new boys across all age groups.



We have 6 young men working towards their King's Badge and have been working hard within the various sections of the Company and have also been working away in the various sections of the award. They will all be going on a residential course in November.

These boys will also be hosting a BB Fundraising quiz night on Saturday the 1st of November. All welcome to join in the hall and timings will be confirmed in Church intimations and on the BB Facebook page.

We will be welcoming Mark Griffen, our local MSP along to the Company at the end of November as part of Parliament Week. Details will follow on BB Facebook page and I am sure pictures in the next magazine.

Scott Anderson, Captain

Harvest

Thanksgiving

Thanks to all who gave items for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service on the 5th October.

All the items were giving to Kilsyth Community Foodbank.



Scott from the Foodbank came on Monday morning to collect all the bags and was surprised how much there was - also a lot of fresh vegetables and fruit and potatoes. He had to do two runs as he couldn't get them all into his car!

If you wish to donate any items you can bring them on a Sunday and place in the box in the vestibule.

Anne Lauder



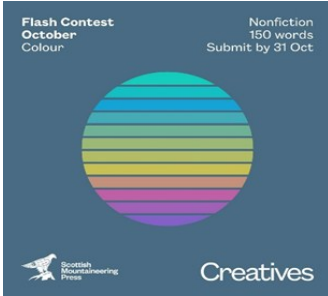
Flash Nonfiction Contest

Creatives is a digital platform for anyone who has found meaning in Scotland's mountain environment to collaborate, share their artwork and find inspiration.



**Scottish
Mountaineering
Press**

All the Ts & Cs are published at <https://scottishmountaineeringpress.com/creatives/submissions/>



Tha farpais sgrìobhaidh "Flash Nonfiction" fosgailte do sgrìobhadh sa Ghàidhlig. San Dàmhair tha iad ag iarraidh sgrìobhadh neo-fhicsean, ann suas ri 150 facal, mu dhathan. Duaisean is fiosrachadh eile.

The Creatives Flash Nonfiction Contest is open to writing in Gaelic. October's competition is for up to 150 words of non-fiction writing based on the theme of colour.

Ficsean 50 Facal—50 Word Fiction Competition

Ceann-latha: 28.10.25

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



This month, the prompt is to write a 50 word story featuring a bat. There's a separate category for Gaelic entries, with a prize from the Gaelic Books Council! <https://scottishbooktrust.com/50-word-fiction>

Don't forget the Anderson Christmas Fayre will be held on Sat 29th November, 11am – 1.30pm Please start looking out good quality items to donate—all the usual stalls will be there.

Autumn's Grace: A Reflection for the Season of Change

As the days shorten and the air turns crisp, autumn settles over Scotland with quiet majesty. Hillsides blaze with colour, leaves drift gently to the ground, and the rhythm of creation slows. For the Christian, autumn is more than a season—it is a sacred invitation to reflect on the faithfulness of God and the beauty of change.



A Season of Surrender

The falling leaves remind us of life's transience and the call to let go. Ecclesiastes declares, *"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven"* (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Just as trees release their leaves, we too are invited to surrender burdens, sins and distractions, trusting that God is at work in the pruning.



A Season of Gratitude

Autumn is harvest time—a season of abundance and thanksgiving.

The psalmist rejoices, *"You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance"* (Psalm 65:11). In our homes and churches, we give thanks for provision, for community, and for the steadfast love of the Lord that endures through every season.



A Season of Preparation

As nature prepares for winter, we are reminded to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Jesus said, *"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning"* (Luke 12:35).

Autumn's quietness invites us to draw near to God, to seek His face, and to be watchful in prayer.



A Season of Hope

Though the landscape fades, hope does not. The prophet Isaiah offers comfort: *"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever"* (Isaiah 40:8). In Christ, we are rooted in a hope that does not decay—a promise that even in dying, there is life.

Let us walk through autumn with worshipful hearts, seeing in every golden leaf and misty morning a whisper of God's glory. May this season deepen our trust, awaken our gratitude, and prepare us anew for the coming light. *"The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?"* (Psalm 27:1).

Written by MS Copilot

Charity Christmas Cards



Although many people do not send Christmas cards these days, opting instead to give a donation to a charity, (or at least they say they are), we think this is still a nice way to let people know that we're thinking about them at this time of year and it's possible to combine the two things by buying cards which support a charity.

While it might feel early to mentioning this in October, we expect you'll be buying your cards before the next magazine is due.



Kirkintilloch has a variety of charity shops offering a tremendous selection of cards or if you receive a catalogue through the post there's still time to send for them—or of course you can shop online.

Some of our favourite designs come from the following charities and a few examples are featured here.

The Leprosy Mission, Traidcraft, Barnardos, Amnesty International



Copy deadline for the December/January issue is Sunday 30th November, ready for distribution on Sun 7th Dec. This will be the last ever Anderson Church magazine and we thank everyone who has contributed articles and information over the years. We hope to be back with a new identity in 2026.

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 19 Oct	A Mitchell A Sneddon	Rona McFadyen	Team 4 (Sat 18)	K & I Ross H Provan G Whyte	Marion Cowie
Sun 26 Oct	H Provan C Clark	Jim Millar	Team 5 (Thur 23)	M Brown, E Gordon, A Sneddon, M Whitelaw	Margaret Kennedy
Sun 2 Nov	I & K Ross	Olivia Brittian	Team 1 (Sat 1)	M Brown, E Gordon, A Sneddon, M Whitelaw	Berta Kennedy
Sun 9 Nov	A & T Anderson	Jean Ewen	Team 2 (Thur 6)	J & G Ewen, O Brittain, M Laird	Christine Johnston
Sun 16 Nov	O Brittian J Ewen	George Ewen	Team 3 (Thur 13)	K & I Ross, H Provan, G Whyte	Jan Bateman
Sun 23 Nov	I & R McFadyen	Jean Chalmers	Team 4 (Sat 22)	M Brown, E Gordon, A Sneddon C Ramsay	Nan Kinvig
Sun 30 Nov	J Gilmour E Grant	Ann Sneddon	Team 5 (Thur 27)	M Laird, H Dodds, A Mitchell, C Clark	- (communion)