



The Window

Clackmannan Parish
Church of Scotland

Theme: Lent

March 2023

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE



will be held in the Church on
Wednesday 29th March 2023 at 7 pm



World Day of Prayer

is being held in

Sauchie and Coalsnaughton Parish Church on

Friday, 3rd March, 2023 at 2 pm.

The service will be shared with Clackmannan and Sauchie Parish Churches.

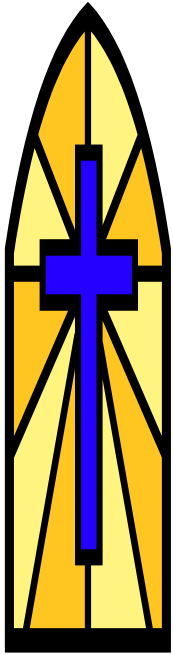
The Theme – ‘ I Have Heard About Your Faith’ service has been written by World Day of Prayer Committee of Taiwan for WDP 2023 Ephesians 1:15-19.

CLACKMANNAN PARISH CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

adopted by Kirk Session 17th November 2001

“God has called His people in Clackmannan Parish Church, under His guidance, to be a congregation committed to sharing Jesus’ Word and Love with the community.”

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Church Services

Date	Time	Service
5th Mar	11 am	Rev Ken Russell—2nd Sunday in Lent
12th Mar	11 am	Sacrament of Communion— Rev Ken Russell—3rd Sunday in Lent
	3 pm	Afternoon Service
19th Mar	11 am	Mothering Sunday— Worship Group Souper Sunday—4th Sunday in Lent
26th Mar	11 am	Rev Ken Russell—5th Sunday in Lent
29th Mar	7 pm	Service of Remembrance
2nd Apr	11 am	Palm Sunday— Rev Ken Russell
6th Apr	7 pm	Maundy Thursday
7th Apr	7 pm	Good Friday
9th Apr 3	11 am	Easter Sunday— Rev Ken Russell
	3 pm	Afternoon Service
Sunday School and Crèche every Sunday except holidays		

Telephone Numbers and Email Addresses

Position	Name	Tel No	Email address
Interim Moderator	Rev Jim McNeil	01259760262	JMcNeil@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerk	Jim Millar	01259217361	sessionclerk@clackmannankirk.org.uk
Clerk to the Board/Depute Session Clerk	Anne Dawson	01259219350	
Treasurer	Joyce Morrison	07557537611	treasurer@clackmannankirk.org.uk
Organist	Vacant		
Church Officer	Willie Hunter	07775686664	
Church Office	Tuesday 10 am	01259214238	office@clackmannankirk.org.uk

TO BOOK OR HIRE THE CHURCH HALL OR BRUCE MEMORIAL HALL —

Contact the Office—enter all bookings/meetings in the Diary in the Church Office.

Dear Friends

I want to talk to you about David.

Most of you will not know David, but David knows Clackmannan. He is part of the old legacy Presbytery of Stirling and now part of the new Planning and Development committee for the Presbytery of Perth. David has worked really hard to make sure that our new linkage is at the forefront of the committee, and has pushed for the new basis of linkage to be written and sent to head office for approval. Once that has happened it will probably be David that comes out to represent the committee and make sure we record the vote correctly.

I mention him because sometimes we can feel that we are on our own, that presbytery is far away and doesn't know or care what happens to us, and David has committed a lot of time and effort to help us. He has absolutely no skin in the game and doesn't need to do any of it, but he does, because he cares.

I think that is a wonderful example for all of us to follow.

As I write, we are still getting over the horrendous scenes coming from Turkey and Syria after the huge earthquake that has devastated their land. I know that many of you will be contributing something for them. You probably don't know anyone personally out there, but your heart is moved for people you don't know, because you care.

I know of others that have supported charities that are helping people in Ukraine, or supporting refugees from Ukraine that are over here, just because you care.

This is what faith is about.

Recently I was reading the passage in Mark (7:24-30) about the woman who comes to asking Jesus to heal her daughter. She wasn't Jewish, they weren't in Israel and initially it looks like Jesus won't help; he was there for peace and quiet, not to work. Many theologians have looked at what Jesus said about not giving to the dogs (which were at that time non-domesticated scavengers that spread disease and is also what the word Gentile means) as Jesus reflecting the minds of the disciples. It is

as if Jesus is saying what they are thinking; God's blessings are for God's people. The suggestion is that as Jesus and the disciples passed into Syrian territory they had made some remark about resting because they didn't need to do any work in Syria, because those folk didn't matter as they weren't part of God's Chosen People. And as this woman asked for help Jesus then responds the way he should IF the disciples were right about the people of Syria; that they weren't important, weren't worth helping.

Maybe Jesus was hoping for one of the disciples to respond, to correct Jesus and ask him to intervene on the child's behalf. But the disciples said nothing, yet Jesus still helped, just because he cared.

So let's give thanks for all of those we may never meet, yet still in quiet ways help us, and may that inspire us to equally help others, even though we may never meet them ... just because we care.

Your friend in Christ

Jim McNeil

PASTORAL CARE

Remember to contact **Helen White** (Co-ordinator) by **phone (07900837546)** or email:

white-helen3@sky.com

if you know someone who needs a card or a visit, either at home or in hospital.



THE GUILD SYLLABUS—March

The Guild meets in the Church Hall every second Monday at 1.30 pm. All welcome.

6th Mar	Business Meeting—Bring and Buy
20th Mar	Dolly Mixtures

SOME UPDATES

It's Back!

Souper Sunday, a special service of worship followed by a soup lunch on behalf of the Church of Scotland HIV Programme, will take place on **Sunday 19th March**.


It's Continuing!

The Stamp Project is to keep going after this month. More news soon about the project to be supported by the sale of your used stamps. Keep them coming!

It's Folded!

After a difficult trading period, the postal strike at Christmas time proved to be the final nail in the coffin of **Traidcraft** which has gone into administration. Nevertheless, we will continue to have a monthly Fair Trade stall. Some of your favourites like kitchen roll and mint sweets will not be available for much longer and some other goods may be harder to source, but we **remain** determined, as a **Fair Trade Congregation**, to help support producers to get a fair deal and to protect the environment in which they work.

Anne Dawson



Visit <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>
before buying online

Amazon has announced that it is closing AmazonSmile, and will wind it down by 20 February this year, saying that the programme has not grown to create the impact it hoped for.

Fire, phone votes, wind and prayer



“In case of emergency – break glass”. We remember these alarms distributed throughout large buildings.

“If all else fails – try prayer.” We have perhaps also seen this humorous quote.

But is that what prayer is? Is prayer a last resort, an outside chance? Is prayer a magic genie that sometimes works? And if God knows everything, why do we need to tell him?



Phoning in your vote is very important on Strictly Come Dancing. The two couples with the lowest votes have to take part in a further dance to determine which couple leaves and which couple stays.

Is prayer about getting enough phone calls to God for this result rather than that one?



Centuries ago Thomas Aquinas wrote:

“We must pray, not to inform God of our needs and desires but in order to remind ourselves that in these matters we need divine assistance.”

With this understanding of prayer, we are not so much trying to heap up a weight of prayers to make God do something, as to keep open the channels of God’s influence upon us.

To pray about your family, your job, this challenge, that decision, is like lifting the sails of a sailing boat to experience the wind of God. “Lord, I pray for my loved ones, naming them before you", “I hold before you my job, especially the problem with", “I ask for your help, your strength and your guidance as I face up to the challenge of.....” and “I ask you to lead and guide me as I think through the decision I have to make about" .

In John’s Gospel the influence of God’s Spirit is compared to that of the wind. “The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you

cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." (John 3 v 8)



A piece of paper thrown into the air will catch any wind that is going. But a sailing boat, equipped with sails and crewed by those who know how to use them, will go places. Even across an ocean. A last ditch prayer in a emergency will be heard by God. Will we be attuned to hear his reply and to be open to his guidance? This is like the piece of paper thrown up into the wind. Taking time to regularly bring to God our prayers for all aspects of our life will hold our life open to his guidance and influence. This is like the sailing boat with its sails up and properly trimmed.

Prayer empowers our lives as individuals. It also empowers our life together as a congregation, as we try to be the kind of church God wants us to be.

Ken Russell

SUNDAY SCHOOL



The children will be in the church hall for the full session on **Communion Sunday, 12th March 2023.**

It would appear that there won't be many children/ staff about during the Easter holidays so we will have an Easter egg painting session on **Sunday 26th March** and a wee celebration event for the children. The children will be at Sunday School for this full session too.



Sunday School will restart after the Easter holidays on **Sunday 23rd April.**

Sharon, Nancy, Denise & Fiona

CHURCH FLOWERS

Thank you for supporting the Flower Fund. If you wish to make a donation to the fund there are envelopes in the vestibule. If it is for a particular date put that on the outside and place it in the collection plate and add your name to the Flower Diary. Any contribution is always welcome. Do please keep Helen White informed of anyone who has had a family bereavement or had a stay in hospital, so that the flowers can be distributed accordingly.

March Flowers

Mar	Contributed by	Arranged by Jean Hillis Distributed by Linda Sloan Helen White
5th	Flower Fund	
12th	Jan McTaggart	
19th	Flower Fund	
26th	Margaret McPhee	

There are still dates in April available.

JUST A WORD OF THANKS ...



It was very comforting to receive so many get well and sympathy cards from my church family. I enjoyed the short visits and chat with Linda (with church flowers), Helen and Ryna. Many thanks to all.

Anne Byrne

Nancy Turnbull would like to thank the church for the lovely flowers received on the anniversary of her husband's death and to Helen for delivering them.

Thanks very much for the lovely flowers I received from the Church and many thanks to Linda who delivered them. They were much appreciated.

Rena Hill

Thanks very much for the beautiful flowers I received from the Church. They were very much appreciated. Thanks also to Nesta for delivering them.

Dorothy Hall

Thank you very much for my beautiful flowers and cards. They really cheered me up.

Pauline Elsom

FLOODLIGHTING OUR CHURCH

Contributors are listed below and their names and dedications will be on display at the Church entrance. If you wish to sponsor any future dates please contact **Maureen Brember** (01259 220690). The cost to light up the Church for one night is **£5**.



<i>February</i>		<i>February (continued)</i>	
1		19	Mrs Jan McTaggart
2	Sam and Margaret Harris	20	Mrs Helen McCallum
3	Mrs Doreen Gallagher	21	
4	Mrs Chris Fyfe	22	Sam and Margaret Harris
5	Mrs Grace Hamilton	23	
6	Mrs Freda Lambie	24	
7	Ms Julie Leach	25	Robert and Lysbeth Fleming
8	Sam and Margaret Harris	26	Sam and Margaret Harris
9		27	Anonymous
10	Mrs Irene MacKay	28	The Russell Family
11			
12	Anne and Robert Paton (Turriff)		
13			
14			
15			
16	Maureen and Duncan Brember		
17			
18	Mrs Marjory F Gray (Essex)		
		March dates still available:	
		1st, 11th, 12th, 13th, 16th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 31st.	



What determines when Easter is each year?

Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, which is the first full moon on or after 21 March.

I'm giving up negativity for Lent.

We'll see how long that lasts.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS FOR JANUARY 2023

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Offerings	5,067.50	Pulpit supply	330.00
Investment Income	18.44	Salary	340.00
Donations	40.00	Travel	105.00
Printing	50.00	Relief Organist	350.00
Hall Lets	88.00	Heat and Light	494.19
Traidcraft	29.50	Telephone	69.86
Amazon Smile	12.37	Insurance	503.19
		Office/stat/postage	26.50
		Floral Gift	30.00
Total Income	5,305.81	Total Expenditure	2,248.74
Surplus	3,057.07		

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

will be hosting a Concert by

STIRLING ROCK CHOIR

in the Church

on

Friday 24th March

Entry by donation



What do you call an Easter Bunny wearing a kilt?

Hopscotch.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The first events planning meeting was held on 23rd January and confirmed events are:

Our very popular **Bingo Teas** which will be on **28th March, 18th April, 26th September, 24th October** in the Bowling Club and **25th July** in Town Hall.

There is a proposed **King's Coronation Coffee Morning on 6th May** in the Scout Hall.

There will be a **Picnic in the Park** in Alexander Park on **Saturday 24th June**.

In **August** (date to be confirmed) there will be a **gin/whisky tasting event**.

On **Friday 10th November** there will be a **Pamper event**.

We are also planning a **Pensioner Christmas event on 6th December** with details to be confirmed.

All events will be posted well before the confirmed dates with timings.

Keep a look out in our Notice Board at the Health Centre

Garry McPhee

Community Weekly Events

Wednesday	2.00 pm	Wee County Walkers—meet at Town Hall
Friday	10.30 am	Knit and Natter (CDT office)

Contact **windoweditor@clackmannankirk.org.uk** if you would like any regular activities listed here.



1 Peter 4:8-9 – “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.”

History of Lent

Early Christians knew the significance of Easter called for appropriate preparations. The first remark of a 40-day period of fasting in preparation for Easter is seen in the Canons of Nicaea (AD 325). It is considered that the custom may have arisen from the early church tradition of baptismal aspirants enduring a 40-day period of fasting in preparation for their baptism at Easter. Eventually, the Lent season developed into a time of spiritual commitment for the whole church. Through the primary centuries, the Lenten fast was very stringent but loosened over time.

Why Do Christians Observe Lent?

Lent is the Christian season of spiritual discipline leading up to Easter. Throughout Lent, most Christians adopt a period of fasting, repentance, prudence, and spiritual development. The meaning of the Lenten season is to use this time for reflection on Jesus Christ, to recognize his affliction and his atonement, his life, death, burial, and resurrection.

Christians who keep Lent commonly make a dedication to fast, or to give up something, like smoking, watching TV, social media, or a food or drink, such as sweets, chocolate, or coffee. Some Christians also take on a Lenten observance, like reading the Bible and spending more time in prayer to draw nearer to God.

DEADLINE DATE FOR APRIL ISSUE - 12TH MARCH 2023

Email articles to **windoweditor@clackmannankirk.org.uk** or hand to **Mary Millar** or place in the "Window" box in the **Church Office**.
Magazines will be available on **26th March**.

Find us at www.clackmannankirk.org.uk