



The Window

Minister
Rev Austin Wicks

Clackmannan Parish Church of Scotland
linked with Sauchie and Coalsnaughton

September 2024
Scottish Charity
Number SC002324



90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

Mary Fletcher (left) and Betty Cameron (below) recently celebrated their 90th birthdays. We send them our best wishes and congratulations.



CLACKMANNAN PARISH CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

“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.”

Adopted by Kirk Session 17th November 2001

Church Services



| Date | Time | Service |
|---|----------|---|
| 1st Sep | 11.30 am | Morning Worship—Rev Austin Wicks |
| 8th Sep | 11.30 am | Communion —Rev Austin Wicks |
| | 3.00 pm | Afternoon Communion Service - BMH* |
| 15th Sep | 11.30 am | Morning Worship—Rev Austin Wicks |
| 22nd Sep | 11.30 am | Morning Worship—Rev Austin Wicks |
| 29th Sep | 11.30 am | Morning worship—Rev Austin Wicks |
| 6th Oct | 11.30 am | Harvest Thanksgiving —Rev Austin Wicks |
| Collections for The Gate will take place every Sunday in October | | |
| * Bruce Memorial Hall (beside Manse) | | Crèche available every Sunday |

Telephone Numbers and Email Addresses

| Position | Name | Tel No | Email address |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Minister | Rev Austin Wicks | 07547 392248 | AWicks@churchofscotland.org.uk |
| Session Clerk | Jim Millar | 01259217361 | sessionclerk@clackmannankirk.org.uk |
| Depute SC + Clerk to Board | Anne Dawson | 01259219350 | |
| Treasurer | Joyce Morrison | 07557537611 | treasurer@clackmannankirk.org.uk |
| Window Editor | Mary Millar | | windoweditor@clackmannankirk.org.uk |
| Organist | Anna Tebbet | | organist@clackmannankirk.org.uk |
| Church Officers | Willie Hunter | 07775686664 | |
| | Garry McPhee | 01259219235 | |
| Church Office | Tues 10 am | 01259214238 | office@clackmannankirk.org.uk |

TO BOOK OR HIRE THE **CHURCH HALL** OR **BRUCE MEMORIAL HALL**—Contact the **Office (01259 214238)**. ALL meetings should be entered in the diary.

Deadline Date for October Window—Sunday 15th September.

Articles for the Window may be placed in the “Window” box in the Office OR emailed to **windoweditor@clackmannankirk.org.uk**
Magazines will be available on 29th September.

As I sit here writing this month's article, I am looking out across the hills in the gentle sun, reminded of the beauty of the world around us. We are very fortunate to live where we do, to enjoy the weather we have. Yes, even the rain and the chill. It is difficult to know what good things we have in our lives until they are absent.

I know that we are going to miss having the Bruce Memorial Hall as a place of worship and connection when it is sold off with the manse. We have had a long and difficult road with selling the manse, which will include the Bruce Memorial Hall along with it. But we are nearing the end. Our property committee team and office team are hard at work trying to figure out what needs saving and what needs recycling. It is a difficult task to do, finding homes for sacred memories, and scrapping papers that haven't been looked at in over a decade and don't need to be saved.

Many things will be saved, we are working hard to ensure the important and historical pieces are not lost, but it is no easy task to relocate our office and secondary meeting/worship space.

It will be no easier for us to choose a building to renovate in the coming months. If the General Trustees approve our application, which hopefully they will, we will have to begin the serious process of communicating our needs to the architects and learning how our spaces might be renovated to meet those needs. Thankfully we have a kind person from Presbytery to help us communicate our needs .

We don't know what renovating the church building might look like and how they would change the space. We don't know what renovations to the church hall might look like and how they would transform that space. We just have to trust the process and communicate openly with one another and with our architect team along the way discerning what is going to meet our needs, and ultimately what is affordable for us as a church family.

We have days of difficult choices ahead of us, and days of delicate conversations. So please, do not hide your light under a bushel. Do not pull your voice away because you think your opinion does not matter. Let us speak openly and honestly with each other through this process. Our Board and

Session are taking this matter very seriously and I hope that each of you in turn will also take seriously the discussion around our new church home and what it will entail.

I hope that I don't sound dour or stern in my writing. I am not trying to convey a negative sentiment around our future. I am nervous but excited for the potential we have as a kirk community together and what our future might hold. I am hoping to convey the seriousness of which we are approaching this matter and asking that you meet us in this earnest endeavour.

There is a lot of exciting potential on our horizon. The events team is full of people who want to see our church full of joy and have successful fundraising events. Our organist has a strong desire to rekindle the church choir, and I for one am delighted to be a part of it. We have people who have new ideas and hopes and dreams for our church, it's just a matter of creating spaces for those voices to be heard, and those ministries to be supported.

The road ahead will be long, and difficult, but it will also have its joys and celebrations as we travel it together. Thank you for choosing me to be your minister who walks alongside you during this process of discernment and transformation. I am looking forward to whom we become together as a body of Christ.

Love and Peace,

Austin

Doors Open Days

Clackmannan Parish Church will be participating in Clackmannanshire Doors Open Days on

**Saturday 28th September from 10 am to 5 pm and
Sunday 29th September between 2 pm and 4 pm.**

Soup and sandwich lunches will be available between **12 noon and 2 pm** on the Saturday.

Volunteers will be needed on both days and a sign-up sheet will be available from 8th September.

Anne Paterson

**DOORS
OPEN
DAYS 2024**

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS FOR JUNE AND JULY 2024

| INCOME | £ | EXPENDITURE | £ |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Offerings | 7,413.76 | Giving to Grow | 7,382.40 |
| Investment Income | 64.00 | Salaries | 1,320.68 |
| Hall lets | 228.00 | Heat and Light | 619.69 |
| Donation | 400.00 | Telephone | 167.90 |
| Fundraising | 57.00 | Travel | 30.37 |
| Fairtrade | 9.70 | Pulpit Supply | 150.00 |
| | | Council Tax | 230.33 |
| | | Fabric | 160.00 |
| | | Office, stat/post | 451.62 |
| | | Spill the Beans | 12.00 |
| Total Income | 8,172.46 | Total Expenditure | 10,524.99 |
| Deficit | -2,352.53 | | |

SUNDAY SCHOOL

It was lovely to be back with some of the children today and to hear their holiday news. We have lots planned for the next few months and look forward to seeing everyone. Each week we will focus on Bible Stories through playing games and lots of arts and crafts.

There will be no Sunday School on the following dates due to staff and children being on October break from school- **13th, 20th and 27th October.**

When we return from the break it will be all systems go in preparation for Christmas. If you know of anyone who would like to join us as a learner or as a leader, please let us know. Many thanks,

Sharon, Nancy, Denise and Fiona

School Fees for a Secondary Schoolgirl in Malawi

We have begun, through Mamie Martin Fund, to support a girl at a day school in Malawi. The World Concern Group has gift cards available for anyone who would like to contribute to this cause. £5 buys notebook and pens; £25 pays for a school uniform and £30 pays school fees for a term.

Support through the purchase of Anne's jam or marmalade is ongoing, of course!

A TIME TO REMEMBER

Our church has had a long and often remarkable life. There have been many occasions and events with much to celebrate. It was not long ago that we celebrated our Bicentenary in 2017. With such a long history it is no wonder that other occasions also arise that are in need of remembering.

The ministry of the Rev Dr T Crouther Gordon was a time when most of the beautiful features that we constantly enjoy and often take for granted were added to enhance the church interiors—the stained-glass windows, the rich Kennet oak wood panelling decorating our walls—all of which were funded by and dedicated to the memories of members of our congregation.

One such anniversary that has arrived this September is the 90th Anniversary of the Unveiling of the Balfour of Burleigh Pulpit which took place on 9th September 1934 along with the dedication of other gifts.

The image below on the left shows the architectural drawing of the pulpit proposal along with the location of two existing stalls and the new location for the organ console. The image on the right needs no explanation.



The pulpit was a gift of the congregation and dedicated to the memory of Alexander Hugh Bruce, Sixth Lord Balfour of Burleigh who was an elder of the church from 1874 till 1921, and Katherine Eliza Gordon, Lady Balfour of Burleigh.



The panelling and decoration of the west wall was funded by and dedicated to the memory of John and Mary Buick who were members of the church in 1934.

Given the **church building** has, at this point in time, an uncertain future I

wonder how many more opportunities we will continue to have to remember the past and perhaps create new memories to celebrate as we go forward.

On the day of the dedication Rev Gordon's sermon, "The Galleries of the Unseen" taken from Hebrew's 12 chapter 1 of the KJV of the bible, reads:

"Seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run with patience the race that is set before us".

In reviewing the use of our buildings as set out by the Presbytery Mission Plan and, if we are patient, understanding and collaborative as we move forward, we will meet our challenge and be successful despite the many obstacles placed before us.

Duncan Brember

ROLL DETAILS

With many people disposing of their landline telephones and relying on mobile numbers, we are noticing that many of the numbers held on the church roll are incorrect.

If you have changed your number or are moving house, please let me know in order that the details on the roll can be kept as up-to-date as possible.

You can get the details to me through your elder, speak to me in church or call me on 01259 751742 or 07766475877.

Many thanks.

Anne Paterson

OUR EVENTS TEAM

With the help of Austin, we have started a new Events team. The aim of this team is two-fold. First to begin fund-raising and second to get our Church out to the community.

We will have a few things in the pipe-line so please watch for more details emerging and we hope for your support as we go forward with this venture.

Maureen Brember

MESSAGE FROM BLYTHSWOOD CARE - BLYTHSWOOD CHRISTMAS 2024 SHOE BOX APPEAL

Since our first Shoe Box Appeal in 1993 we have sent more than 2.6 million boxes – each one different, each one personal, each one an expression of your care and kindness towards a stranger in need.

Filled with small, practical items such as toiletries, stationery, and clothing, the individually wrapped boxes have been distributed in schools, hospitals, orphanages and care homes, and to households in very low income communities. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

It seems quite ridiculous to be talking about Christmas in the month of August, but that is what we are doing. At the time of printing I do not have the collection date but that does not stop us preparing for this. You can either donate a box, filled with all the usual items as suggested in previous years or, if you prefer, gift us £20 which Eleanor and I will use to fill a box on your behalf. Also if you have any shoe boxes hidden away we can take these off your hands too. Last year was a tremendous year and you all gave very generously – let us have a repeat this year or even more!!

Helen White (07900837546)

Anne Dawson brings us news from the Waddells

Just before the Waddells came home on leave, the United Church of Zambia congregation which they are part of gave them a surprise Thank You for twenty years of service at Mwandia. The congregation sent them off with their prayers for their blessing. The American surgical team visited and carried out 81 procedures in 10 days, mainly thyroidectomies, hernias and gynaecological operations.

What would normally have been three months' deputation was condensed into two and Keith and Ida travelled to partner churches in Perth Presbytery before attending the General Assembly where Ida was able to speak and remind the national church not to neglect its hard-won relationships with churches overseas. There were meetings with Edinburgh University Faculty of Medicine to discuss collaboration in research as well as opportunities for students to carry out elective periods of training at

Mwandi. Then it was on to Lochaber and Appin, then Fife, at each stage catching up with supporters, old colleagues and the wider family.

Keith and Ida were unfortunate to catch flu at Doha on the way back to Zambia.

No doubt they are both back working as hard as ever and we keep them in our prayers as they face challenges, depending on God's grace to be sufficient.

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>AUGUST</i> | | <i>AUGUST (continued)</i> | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Mrs Joan Davidson | 17 | Mrs Donald |
| 2 | Mrs Rosemary Ramage | 18 | |
| 3 | | 19 | Mrs Lillian Wilson |
| 4 | Bill and Margaret McKenzie | 20 | |
| 5 | Mrs Margaret Hill | 21 | Mrs Donald |
| 6 | Mrs Mabel Davidson | 22 | |
| 7 | Mrs Janette Wilkie | 23 | Mrs Freda Lambie |
| 8 | Mrs Isobel Bell | 24 | Ms Lesley McKenzie |
| 9 | | 25 | Mrs Donald |
| 10 | Joyce and Harry Fox (Elgin) | 26 | |
| 11 | The Russell Family | 27 | Mrs Margaret Hill |
| 12 | | 28 | The Reid Family (Inverurie) |
| 13 | Mrs Lorraine Lindsay | 29 | Sam and Margaret Harris |
| 14 | | 30 | Maureen and Duncan Brember |
| 15 | Mrs Donald | 31 | |
| 16 | | | |

No dates available in September

Flower Contributors for September

| | | |
|------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1st | | Arranged by <i>Jan MacTaggart</i> Distributed by <i>Linda Sloan</i> <i>Helen White</i> <i>Elders and others</i> |
| 8th | | |
| 15th | Garry McPhee | |
| 22nd | Maureen and Duncan Brember | |
| 29th | Helen White | |

Just a reminder that if you know of anyone at all who is either sick, in hospital, bereaved or just 'under the weather' – let Helen White know (07900837546). A card, even a bunch of flowers, can make such a difference.

JUST A WORD OF THANKS ...

Aileen and the Girls would like to thank the church congregation for the lovely flowers given to us by Helen White. They put a smile on our faces. God Bless You All.

Aileen Lindsay

The lovely flowers from church delivered by Linda, recently, were much appreciated. Thank you.

Barbara Wilson

Freda Lambie would like to thank Helen for the delivery of flowers from Church – it is always nice to be remembered especially as it had been my birthday during the week – thanks.

Mary Ferguson would like to thank Elizabeth MacDonald for the delivery of flowers to her after her returning from her holidays unwell – Thank you.

Mabel Davidson thanks the church members for remembering her with a delivery of church flowers. They were very much appreciated.

I would like to thank the Church and Worship Group for the flowers and card I received on the passing of my dad. They were a great comfort.

Maryann Hislop

We would like to say “Thanks” for the flowers dropped off by Helen on Sunday 4th August. The thoughts from the Kirk folk are very much appreciated.

May and Frank Cowe

A very big “thank you” to the Pastoral Team for their card and good wishes. Also for the church flowers kindly delivered by Maureen.

Gordon Stanners

Thank you very much for the lovely flowers delivered by Helen.

Nancy Turnbull

Thank you for the lovely flowers which I received recently from the church and also the card from the care group. Thank you also to friends and neighbours for their good wishes.

Margaret Izett

Many thanks for the flowers I received on the 11th August. They were very much appreciated. Thanks to Helen White for delivering them.

Aileen Birrell

Mary Fletcher would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes on her recent 90th Birthday. She was totally overwhelmed and would like to thank Lysbeth for delivering flowers from the Church.

Betty Cameron would like to say a big “thank you” to everyone for the lovely Birthday celebrations that she had celebrating her 90th Birthday.

Update from Presbytery Mission Plan Working Group

Our application for a grant and approval to proceed with a feasibility study to determine the future use of our buildings has made some, but slow progress.

The Presbytery approved our application in May and forwarded it to the Church of Scotland General Trustees for their approval.

The GT's have been slow to consider the application whilst having some questions as to why we might need a professional consultative approach to determine the future of the buildings.

We hosted a meeting of two GT's and the Presbytery Buildings officer here at Clackmannan on Tuesday 13th August.

We had a very good discussion resulting in the GT's stating that they would recommend the application to the GT's Property Board who meet later this month. However, they did also mention that the Full Board's deliberation may have a different outcome. Either way we should know by the end of this month whether or not we have a fully funded approval to proceed with the feasibility study.

A further update will be made following the GT's decision.

Duncan Brember



Baptism of
Romi Lang
with parents
Morgan and Aiden
which took place on
Sunday 28th July

COMMUNION

Communion will be
celebrated on
8th September
at
11.30 am and 3 pm.

NO COMMUNION CARDS

CLACKMANNAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER EVENTS

6th September 2024

Pop Up Fashion Show (as previously advertised) in Clackmannan Town Hall at 7 pm—£5.00 (includes glass of prosecco) - see Helen White for tickets 07900837546.

18th September 2024

September meeting in Clackmannan Town Hall at 7 pm.

24th September 2024

Bingo Tea in Clackmannan Bowling Club – doors open at 6.30 pm and eyes down 7 pm.