



The Window

Clackmannan Parish Church of Scotland
linked with Sauchie and Coalsnaughton

Minister
Rev Austin Wicks

October 2025
Scottish Charity
Number SCO02324



Photo: © Duncan Brember

DONATION

We were delighted to receive a cheque for £1500, presented by Helen White from Clackmannan Community Council, to put towards the refurbishment of the steps leading up to the church. We are indebted to the fund raising efforts of the Community Council for this generous donation. Many thanks.

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.”

Annual Donations to Alloa Food Bank—The Gate

Collections in Church will take place on every Sunday in October. Harvest Thanksgiving will be on **5th October 2025** with all donations going to the Alloa Food Bank – no perishable items please.

Church Services



Date	Time	Service
5th Oct	11.30 am	Harvest Thanksgiving —Rev Austin Wicks <i>Donations for Alloa Food Bank—The Gate—every Sunday in October</i>
12th Oct	11.30 am	Morning Worship—Rev Austin Wicks
	3.00 pm	Afternoon Service—Rev Austin Wicks
19th Oct	11.30 am	Morning Worship—Kinross Worship Leader <i>Fair Trade Table</i>
26th Oct	11.30 am	Very Rev Dr Iain Greenshields
2nd Nov	11.30 am	Morning Worship—Rev Austin Wicks
9th Nov	10.50 am	Laying of Wreaths at War Memorial followed by Remembrance Service in church Afternoon Remembrance Service
	11.15 am	
	3.00 pm	
Crèche available every Sunday.		

IMPORTANT NOTICE—Please note the timings of the Remembrance Sunday services on 9th November.

Telephone Numbers and Email Addresses

Position	Name	Tel No	Email address
Minister	Rev Austin Wicks	07547392248	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	Mary Millar		windoweditor@clackmannankirk.org.uk
Organist	Maciej Piszczalka		
Church Officers	Willie Hunter	07775686664	
	Garry McPhee	01259219235	
Church Office	Tues 10 am	01259720583	office@clackmannankirk.org.uk

This past Saturday our Growing Young team attended our first Growing Young Seminar. We have had two webinars before this in-person event. Growing Young is a programme we are engaging with as a church to help discern our direction for ministry as a whole.

What does that mean Pastor Austin, I hear you asking? Well, the Growing Young program follows six principles that feed into each other and result (if done properly) in a cycle of growth that is self-sustaining. The Six Aspects of Growing Young are, Keychain Leadership, Empathy, Take Jesus' Message Serious, Warm Community, Prioritise (everywhere), and Best Neighbours.

The meeting on Saturday focused on the first two aspects of Growing Young, Keychain Leadership and Empathy. So let's explore what these mean together.

Keychain Leadership is focused around the concept of who has "Keys" in your church. When we talk about keys here we mean both physical and metaphorical keys. Who is in charge of aspects of church life? Do they know who will help lead in their stead when it is time to retire? How do we cultivate a church that grows new leaders to help guide the congregation.

Keychain Leadership entails growing trust, maturity, responsibility, competence, status, and belonging in your fellow Christians so that they may rise to the occasion when it is their turn to answer the call. We as a church are called to cultivate that kind of Christianly growth in one another.

In a 'recent' survey, studies found that only 12% of congregants said the sermon was their reason for staying with their church. Seventy-seven per cent of participants said good leadership was what helped maintain their decision to stay with their church. So growing and choosing good leaders should be very important to us.

Which leaves us with a few questions surrounding keychain leadership:-

- ◇ Who is ready for keys?
- ◇ Who could be ready with the right support?

- ◇ Who is God nudging you towards?
- ◇ What new doors can new leaders open?

Because it isn't just keys for the doors that we currently have that need managing, it is also that we need people to come up with new pathways to discipleship and open new doors to ministry together.

The second major concept we spoke on was Empathy. We learned a rather disheartening statistic, that only 1 out of 3 people (ages 18-25) on average feel cared for and loved. This statistic probably isn't that far off with older generations as well. We live in a world where people do not feel loved or cared for. How do we as a church show our love and support for others, for those within our own congregation? The answer of course is tied to Empathy.

Empathy connects us. Having Empathy means engaging without judgement when being with a person. Remember though, that acceptance is not the same as approval. It is important that we accept people as they are, not as projects to be fixed.

The three core tenets of Empathy are:

- Time - By taking time out of your schedule to meet with someone you show them that you value their time and you value them as a person.
- Conversation - When you speak with someone in a conversation, being your authentic self is more important than trying to achieve a goal.
- Questions - Asking "What" questions can help engage a person in conversation, where asking "Why" questions can often implicitly imply Judgement. And when you are unsure what is left to say you can always ask the question "What can I do for you?"

We as a church must make an effort to show our Empathy, to our community and to our parishioners. By helping people answer the three important questions we all ask ourselves. Who am I? Where do I fit in? How will my life matter?

The answers to these three questions lie in Identity, Longing, and Purpose - three things that people inherently seek by the normal course of

their lives. By the grace of Jesus Christ we can help others find the answers to these questions. I am a Christian, I belong with my kirk, and Jesus' guidance helps give me meaning in my life.

These are very big and difficult topics to speak about, but I hope you'll speak to myself, Margaret, Gayle, Jill and Alicia about these topics as we are your Growing Young team members. It is our goal to help learn new things that will help transform and shape our kirk into a healthy congregation that "grows young" by which of course I mean people under 60.

As our day came to a close we were encouraged to brainstorm new ways of engaging within our church and congregation, as they tasked us with "Experimenting on the fringes". So we hope you will help us to experiment, to listen to our young-er folks as we ask the question: what should we do as a church together?

The final piece of advice we were given is this:

- **Growing Young isn't about changing youth ministry. It is about changing church culture.**
- **This process is a multi-year process, so please remember this process is like a slow cooker not a microwave.**

I look forward to what wonderful new ministries we come up with together!

Love and Peace,

Austin

PASTORAL CARE GROUP

If you know of anyone at all who is either sick, in hospital, bereaved or 'under the weather' – let **Helen White (07900837546)** or your elder know. A card, a bunch of flowers, can make a difference.



Deadline Date for November Window—Sunday 12th October.

Email articles to **windoweditor@clackmannankirk.org.uk**

Magazines available - **26th October.**

TO HIRE THE CHURCH HALL—Contact the Office (01259 720583).

Feasibility Study Report – 16th September 2025

Following the architect's presentation to the Board and Session on 17th June 2025, it was arranged for the architect to conduct a similar presentation to the congregation on Wednesday 20th August 2025 at 7 pm in the Church. Following the presentation, the congregation was given an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the options presented. Thereafter, a secret ballot was conducted to determine which building and option would be chosen for continued use as our sanctuary.

Of the options presented the congregation voted unanimously in favour of retaining our church with appropriate alterations for future use and to sell the existing church hall and adjacent grounds.

In the meantime, the Feasibility Study is now complete and the next stage is for the architect to provide us with a fee proposal in design development. The pace of the whole procedure that has still to come will be tediously slow, so be patient. Hopefully with support from the people at Presbytery and Clackmannan Council we can start working on a more detailed design and costing. This process will engage more people as there will be more detailed work and will include not only fundraising but the sourcing and application of grants to aid funding the work to be done.

Fortunately, members of the Feasibility Group have already given their support to become involved with the next stage. Wish us luck!

For those interested in the proposed church layout we have included an insert of the selected option in the Window Magazine.

Duncan Brember

CROSSREACH CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CALENDARS

CROSSREACH
Care you can put your faith in

supporting the social work of the Church of Scotland can be ordered from **Anne Dawson**. Have a look at the catalogue in the Remembrance Area in the next few weeks. Cards are £4.00 for 10 and calendars with Scottish views are £5.50 each.



FLOODLIGHTING OUR CHURCH



Contributors are listed below and their names and dedica-
 tions 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>September</i>		<i>September (continued)</i>	
1	Miles and Kareen Blackadder	17	The Bramham Family
2	Mrs Isabel Gilroy	18	Miles and Kareen Blackadder
3	The Warnock Family	19	
4	The Warnock Family	20	The Bramham Family
5	The Warnock Family	21	Harry and Joyce Fox (Elgin)
6	The Warnock Family	22	Mr Alastair Todd
7	Jim and Mary Millar	23	Mr Alastair Todd
8	Mrs Moira Sinclair	24	Mr Alastair Todd
9	Bill and Margaret McKenzie	25	Mr Alastair Todd
10	The Young Family	26	Billy and Wendy Graham
11	Mrs Christina Innes	27	Mr Alistair Gemmell
12	Mrs Jan McTaggart	28	Mrs Jan McTaggart
13	Mrs Irene McKay	29	Bill and Margaret McKenzie
14	Mrs Isabel Gilroy	30	
15	Mrs Moira Sinclair		
16	Anonymous		

October dates available: 13th and 18th

CHURCH DIARY— 4th November—Board and Session meetings at 7 pm.

'Songs of Praise' at Dunblane Cathedral

Sunday 5th October at 7 pm

where the Moderator will present long service awards.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Thank you to all the supporters of the Flower Fund. Donations can be made using the envelopes provided at the front entrance of the church. The flowers are enjoyed by the congregation each Sunday and the recipients of the flowers very much appreciate being remembered in this way.

October Flowers		
Oct	Contributed by	Arranged by
5	Flower Fund	Karen Brander Distributed by Linda Sloan Helen White Elders/ members
12	Flower Fund	
19	Flower Fund	
26	Ryna Marshall	

A NOTE OF THANKS ...

Just a note to say “Thank You” for the flowers received from the Church recently. I much appreciate the kindness and thanks too to Helen for delivering them—always with a smile and cheery word.

Jenny Trevino

Just wanted to say “Thank You” for the lovely flowers I received from the Church recently. With Helen’s cheery smile and kind words it was all much appreciated. Thank you.

Betty Watson

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS FOR AUGUST 2025

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Offerings	3,979.81	Giving to Grow	3,754.50
Investment Income	27.69	Salaries	673.59
Donations	241.58	Relief Organist	81.00
Funeral	115.00	Heat and Light	123.31
Hall Lets	144.00	Telephone	44.63
Barbecue donations	215.00	Insurance	531.46
Quiz	120.00	Office, stationery, postage	243.82
Easyfundraising	20.54	Barbecue	153.84
Ragbag	19.60	Floral Gifts	48.50
Total Income	4,883.22	Total Expenditure	5,654.65
Deficit	-771.43		

Deficit for year to date is £9,423.79

CHARITY COLLECTION REMINDER

I would like to thank everyone who has donated to the following charity collections. These appeals are all ongoing and your future support is valuable. If you would like me to pick up any of your items, please contact me on 07557537611.

Joyce Morrison



I recently handed in a bundle of 27 bras in support of the charity Against Breast Cancer, making a total of around 40 in all. The bras are recycled which, as well as raising funds for breast cancer research, stops them going to landfill.



R N I B

See differently

Now that the schools are back and the summer holiday season is drawing to a close, please remember to let me have any unused foreign currency you may have, which will be used to raise funds for RNIB. The charity also takes British currency, so if you have any old-style coins lying around these will be gratefully accepted as well.



TUB2PUB

Yes, it'll soon be that time of year again! Although it does seem that this year the tubs of sweets normally seen at Christmas have been in the shops all the way through! If you have treated yourself, or anyone else, to some goodies please keep the tubs, which I will be collecting again in January (or will take now if you want - my dining room doesn't mind being a collection point meantime!) In 2024 we donated 27 tubs and in 2025 we doubled that figure to 54 – can we go for 108????? These tubs are recycled to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Care.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

How great it is to see so many of our young church back after the holidays and attending Sunday School. We have lots of activities planned up to Christmas so hope to see everyone as often as is possible.

A HUGE 'thank you' to everyone who helped to make the barbecue a fun event for all. It was even better to have great weather on the day so that the children could have fun together outside.

We can't believe that although it is only September, the leaders are already planning ahead for Christmas! We look forward to creating decorations for our tree and also preparing for the Christmas service.

Sunday School will be on each week with the exception of the October School holiday weekends which are as follows:-

12th October - no Sunday School

19th October - no Sunday School

26th October - no Sunday School.

On **Sunday November 9th** the children will stay in Church for Remembrance Sunday. This allows the children to attend with their uniformed organisations which sometimes means they will be visiting another church in the area for this.

Many thanks to everyone who supports our work,

Sharon, Nancy, Denise and Fiona

OPEN CHURCH

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all those who volunteered for the Open Church this year. We have had a very successful summer with quite a number of visitors. Whether they come to admire the church, to seek information about ancestors or for a few minutes contemplation and prayer they are always very appreciative of the welcome and the help they receive so thank you all.

Anne Paterson

EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY



BOOT OR TREAT
Front Gate of Primary School
Friday 31st October
4-5 pm



Join us for a safe trick-or- treating event for families

Festival of Christmas—Tree Festival

Plans are already underway for our annual Tree Festival—our 18th—which will be held on
4th, 5th and 6th December 2025

This has always been extremely well supported and we look forward to your company on any or all of the above dates.

The theme this year will be the Gift of Christmas.

This is a wonderful opportunity to see our Church and there will be entertainment, gifts to buy, and of course teas, coffees, short-bread and mince pies but more importantly a warm and friendly welcome at this special time of year, so please put these dates in your diary and join us.



For any further information or details please contact mmbrember@gmail.com (01259 220690)



or any member of the Events Team

CLACKMANNAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting – Wednesday, 15th October, 2025 in Clackmannan Town Hall at 7 pm.

Bingo Tea – Tuesday, 28th October, 2025 in Clackmannan Bowling Club – doors open at 7 pm and eyes down at 7.30 pm.



A service of Remembrance will take place at the War Memorial on Sunday 9th November at 10.50 am where wreaths will be laid by different local organisations. This will be followed by a Remembrance Service in the church at approximately 11.15 am.



Photo: © Duncan Brember

BLUE SAPPHIRE ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to
**Bob and Elizabeth
Sommerville**
who received church
flowers in celebration
of their
**65th Wedding
Anniversary**
recently.

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