



The Window

Clackmannan Parish Church of Scotland
linked with Sauchie and Coalsnaughton

Minister
Rev Austin Wicks

November 2025
Scottish Charity
Number SC002324

News from the Church of Scotland website

Final issue: August 2025

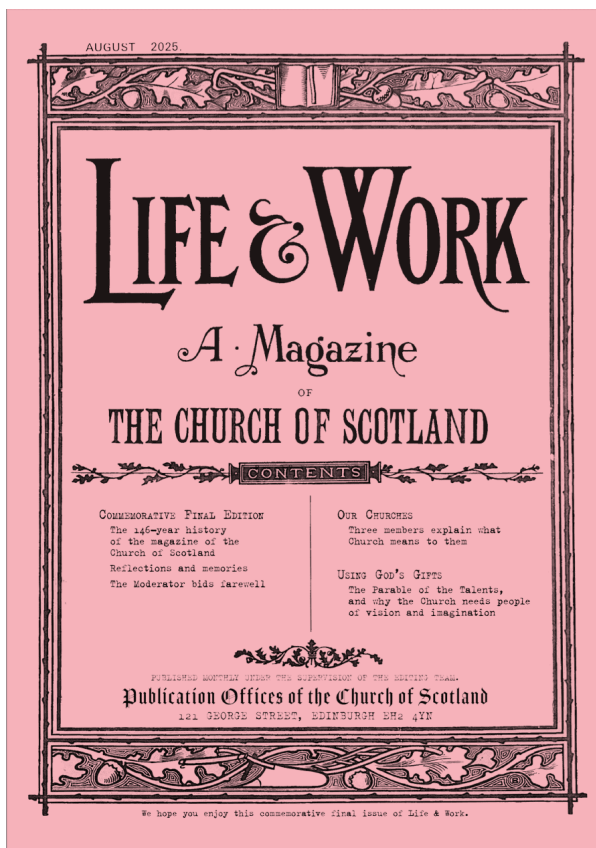
Life and Work – Final Issue

With deep appreciation and sadness, we share that *Life and Work* has now ceased publication in its current format.

You can read the final issue online.

At the General Assembly in May 2025, the Church made the difficult decision to bring this chapter to a close. Our final edition reflects on the rich history and lasting impact of *Life and Work* as the magazine of the Church of Scotland.

We extend heartfelt thanks to Editor Lynne McNeil and all members of the *Life and Work* team for their commitment, creativity, and faithful service over the years.



Laying of Wreaths will take place at the War Memorial on Sunday 9th November at 10.50 am followed by a Service of Remembrance in Clackmannan Parish Church.

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.”

Church Services



Date	Time	Service
2 Nov	11.30 am	Morning Worship—Rev Austin Wicks
9 Nov	10.50 am	Laying of Wreaths at War Memorial
	11.15 am	Remembrance Service—Rev Austin Wicks
	3.00 pm	Afternoon Service
16 Nov	11.30 am	Morning Worship—Rev Austin Wicks
23 Nov	11.30 am	Morning Worship—Rev Austin Wicks
30 Nov	11.30 am	Advent Sunday—Rev Austin Wicks
7 Dec	11.30 am	Second Sunday in Advent—Rev Austin Wicks
14 Dec	11.30 am	Third Sunday in Advent—Rev Austin Wicks
Crèche available every Sunday		

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
The 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

Deadline Date for December Window—Sunday 16th November.

Email articles to **windoweditor@clackmannankirk.org.uk**. Magazines will be available on **30th November 2025**.

To book the Church Hall please contact the Office.
office@clackmannankirk.org.uk

Grace and Peace to you my friends,

As we approach another season of church life filled with activity I hope that I will have returned from my holiday well rested, but I am afraid I can make no promises. I will no doubt have had a wonderful time seeing my family in person for the first time in a long time, but whether I am rested remains to be seen.

I was able to visit my grandfather who is 96 - he will be 97 come January. I am grateful for every phone call and opportunity to see him, as I know that he likely won't be around for much longer. But I always try to be grateful for the time I spend with others regardless of how much time I suspect I may have left with them.

In likewise fashion, I hope that we as a kirk and indeed as a nation remember the lives of those who have gone before us more than one day a year. We will gather together once more to remember those who gave their lives to release the world from tyranny's grip all the while watching the news as we see tyrants flex their hands waiting to grasp at the world.

As someone who has had family who served the public through the military branches I find the time spent on Remembrance Sunday very meaningful. I'm sure I'll be run ragged by the time the day is over, but it is a meaningful way to spend the day. My dad's father served in the air force during Vietnam flying F4s. My mother's father served in the army during the Korean conflict and was fortunate enough to be made organist of the Tokyo Army Choir. My great-grandfather served in World War 2 as a young lad, younger than was allowed to enlist, fighting for Great Britain. His family was fortunate enough that he was one of the men who came home.

On Remembrance Sunday, we remember those who did not come home. Those who paid the ultimate price and I sincerely hope that they are remembered for their sacrifice more than once a year.

It is all too easy to rely on holidays, and holy days, to help guide us in our thinking, feeling, and believing. In the same way we are still Christians when it's not Sunday; we still remember our Saviour's death when it is not Easter; we still sing carols celebrating his birth when it is not Christmas; we still remember the Christians who gave their lives for the faith even when it

is not All Saints Day.

So wherever Remembrance finds you this year, I hope you remember fondly those who have gone before us and given everything for our sake, whether it is an armed service member, a Christian Martyr, or Jesus himself. Let us reflect during this time of Remembrance on what it means to serve, and take that service into our every day, not just on special days.

Love and Peace,

Austin

PASTORAL CARE GROUP

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



BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL

I am still collecting boxes or items for shoeboxes if you wish to donate. I have some empty boxes but why not go and treat yourself to new winter boots, then fill the box with goodies for those less fortunate than ourselves. Always a good reason!!

Give me a call on the number below if you wish me to fill a box on your behalf. £20 fills a box and this also includes the postage.

The date I have been advised of at the time of printing is 9th November 2025, but this may change as Blythswood Care normally collects all the boxes from my home address. I will keep you up-to-date regarding this.

Helen White (07900837546)

THE RAG BAG CONTAINER

The Rag Bag container is now located to the rear of the Church Hall. Access is via Kirk Wynd. Rag Bag will take all unwanted clothing, shoes and textiles. Please note they do not take duvets or pillows.

MEETINGS

The Congregational Board meets on **Tuesday 4th November at 7 pm** in the Church Hall followed by a meeting of the Kirk Session.

November's Quiet Hymn

The trees stand bare, their shadows long,
A whispered hush where leaves belong.
The amber blaze of autumn's fire
Has dimmed to ash, its flames expire.

The air is sharp, a blade of frost,
Each breath a ghost, each step embossed.
The earth lies still, a muted drum,
Awaiting winter's cold to come.

The skies are low, a pewter dome,
Where geese in mournful verses roam.
Their cries, a dirge, a fleeting song,
A farewell note to summer's throng.

Yet in this pause, this sombre grace,
A quiet beauty finds its place.
The world prepares, it does not mourn,
For every death, a spring is born.

So let November's shadows fall,
Its silence wrap and cradle all.
For in its stillness, hearts may hear
The turning wheel of each new year.

COIN-A-DAY (NO MORE)

Although we have discontinued the Coin-a-Day collection people are still saving their loose change and donating it every so often to our Treasurer to bank. We have therefore decided to place a large collecting jar in the church so you can place your small change in it at any point and Joyce will arrange to count it and bank it when necessary.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS—TREE FESTIVAL

Only 5 and a half weeks to go!!!!

Time is now running away with us and it won't be long before our 18th Tree Festival will be underway.

We are almost there with our entertainment and have the Brass Band on Thursday evening 4th December. We have Andrew Fowler on Friday evening 5th December and on Saturday 6th we have Skatoosh, followed by Craig Millar.

There will also be plenty of entertainment during the day for the three days including our own minister Austin, who will be playing guitar and singing.

So put these dates in your diary and come and join us in Church for what will be a great lead-in to the Christmas festivities.

You can be assured of a warm welcome and the opportunity to get some extra gifts from our craft tables.

Teas, coffees, mince pies and shortbread will be available.

Entry is by donation.

We are all looking forward to welcoming you to this event.

Maureen Brember

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Bingo Tea on Tuesday 25th November in Clackmannan Bowling Club.

Doors open 7 pm and eyes down at 7.30 pm.

Senior Citizens' Festive Lunch on Wednesday 10th December

Free to everyone aged over 65 and resident in Clackmannan, Kennet or Forestmill.

Tickets will be available in the CDT Office (Bruce Lounge) on
Fridays 21st and 28th November from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm.

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**.



October		October (continued)	
1	Mr and Mrs Hugh Livingstone	19	Mrs Isobel Bell
2	Mrs Grace Hamilton	20	Anonymous
3	The Higgins Family	21	Mrs Isabel Gilroy
4	Sam and Margaret Harris	22	The Young Family
5	The Bramham Family	23	Jim and Mary Millar
6	Mrs Jan McTaggart	24	James and Elspeth Cuthbertson
7	The Higgins Family	25	James and Elspeth Cuthbertson
8	Jim and Mary Millar	26	James and Elspeth Cuthbertson
9	Mrs Linda Sloan	27	James and Elspeth Cuthbertson
10	Mrs Linda Sloan	28	James and Elspeth Cuthbertson
11	Mrs Freda Lambie	29	Jim and Mary Millar
12	Mrs Lillian Clark	30	The Reid Family
13	Bill and Margaret McKenzie	31	Anne and Robert Paton
14	Mrs Marjory F Gray	Dates available in November: 9th, 10th, 12th, 14th, 15th, 17th, 18th, 20th and 21st.	
15	Mrs Christina Innes		
16	Duncan and Maureen Brember		
17	Mrs Christina Innes		
18	Bill and Margaret McKenzie		

Email **windoweditor@clackmannankirk.org.uk** if you want an item included in the Community Events information



What's the best thing about November?

No one expects you to stick to your New Year's resolutions anymore!

CHURCH FLOWERS

Thank you to everyone for your continuing financial support of the Flower Fund.

The flowers are much appreciated by the congregation and the recipients who receive the flowers after the service.

If you wish to buy the flowers for a particular Sunday then please write your name against the date in the Flower diary which is at the door of the church, put your donation in the envelope provided and place in the offering plate.

We are always looking for people to arrange the flowers—can you help?

November Flowers		
Nov	Contributed by	Arranged by
2	Mary Bramham	Jean Hillis
9	Poppies	
16	Flower Fund	
23	Flower Fund	
30	Anne Byrne	Mary Millar
Distributed by Linda Sloan, Helen White, Elders + others		

THANK YOU ...

Mrs Cathy Howie would like to say a big thank you to Helen, Kathryn and Helene for their visits to her in Parklands. She enjoys their visits very much.

Thank you very much for the beautiful flowers and feature in The Window to mark our 65th Wedding anniversary. We'd also like to thank everyone for their best wishes over the last few weeks. Many thanks.

Bob and Lizbeth Sommerville

Thank you for the lovely bright flowers from the service, very kindly delivered by Anne. It was good to have a chat with her and hear church news.

Elspeth and James Cuthbertson

Dorothy Hall was delighted to receive flowers after morning service and so pleased to have a chat with Helen who delivered them in memory of her husband Tom.

Linda Mital wishes to say a big *thank you* for the flowers she received from Pastoral Care Team. She thanked Helen for delivering them with a big smile, and she enjoyed the chat with her.

Helene Paterson would like to thank the Pastoral Care team for the lovely flowers received and for Helen delivering them in memory of her brother-in-law who recently passed away.

Gayle Fisher would like to thank Pastoral Care team for the lovely flowers received following on from Afternoon Service. She greatly appreciated them.

I would like to thank the church for the flowers I recently received. Thanks also to Andrew for delivering them.

Margaret Hill

IMPORTANT NOTICE

BANK CHARGES

We have been advised by the Bank of Scotland that, as from 13th November, our accounts will be changing to charity accounts, which will result in bank charges.

These charges will be incurred for cash deposits at a rate of 75p per £100, cheque deposits at 50p per cheque, credit in fees (a fee of 42p for each deposit made), and 50p for each cheque we issue. A rough calculation estimates that our bank charges would work out in the region of £10 - £15 per month.

Many of you already gift your offerings by standing order. This method of giving is free for both you and us. It also saves time, is more secure, saves money on the purchase of envelopes, and means that you do not need to think about having the correct cash available to put in your envelope.

If you currently give by envelope or cheque, would you consider changing to standing order? If you would like a form, our bank details, or more information, please speak with **Joyce Morrison** or **Les Pike**, who will be happy to help.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Offerings	4,367.50	Giving to Grow	3,754.50
Investment Income	528.57	Salaries	673.59
Ragbag	6.80	Heat and Light	115.82
		Telephone	44.63
		Insurance	531.50
		Office, stationery, postage	24.90
		Feasibility Study Expenses	62.54
		Communion Wine	21.30
		Poppy Wreath	35.40
Total Income	4,902.87	Total Expenditure	5,264.18
Surplus	-361.31		

Deficit for year to date is £9,785.10

COMMUNION REMINDER

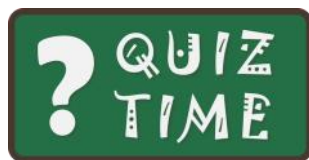
Communion services will be held on **Sunday 14th December at 11.30 am** in the Church and **3 pm in the Church Hall**. No communion cards needed.

There will be a retiring collection for our Mission Partners.

£90 was donated at the September Communion.

CALLING ALL QUIZ FANS

The Christmas Quiz is now available at a cost of £1. Our previous quiz was won by Sandra Small. Could you be the next lucky winner? Quiz sheets will be on sale in the church or ask a church member to obtain one for you. We also need members to take some to sell. Closing date is 6th December and winner will be announced at the end of the Tree Festival.



News from the Church of Scotland Website

On behalf of the Church of Scotland, the Moderator has welcomed the ceasefire that promises an end to the conflict in Gaza. Rt Rev Rosie Frew offers prayers for the region saying:

"We rejoice at the news of the peace deal which promises to see an end to the violence in Gaza, the immediate release of the hostages, and the release of some Palestinian prisoners.

"The events of 7th October 2023 cast a dark shadow over the nation of Israel and the people of Gaza. The tragedy of those attacks is now, we pray, drawing to a close. We especially pray for all those afflicted by loss and those whose sorrow is beyond measure.

"The task that now lies before the world is no less important; the building of a just peace, a move towards a viable State of Palestine, and the rebuilding of shattered lives and communities in Gaza and in Israel. The scale of the devastation is beyond comprehension and the prospect of rebuilding daunting.

"Our thanks at this time go to all those who have worked towards the goal of peace and the end of violence.

"As members of the Universal Church, we are called to play our part in supporting that task of rebuilding, for the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ saw birth in that region and continues to bear witness there.

"On this day we stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Palestine and Israel and we pray for them."



Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

– **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

– **Colossians 3:15**



Raise FREE donations for
Clackmannan Parish Church of Scotland
with all your Christmas shopping!

Sign up today

make  count

Please support Clackmannan Parish Church on easyfundraising today - you'll raise FREE donations for us with all your online shopping. There are numerous shops to buy from.

If you've not already signed up, the lead up to Christmas really is the best time to sign up! Just one supporter could raise a significant amount of donations for us during the festive period - imagine what we could all do together. To sign up just follow the link below, register and do your shopping.

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/clackmannanchurch/1YBUCU/c2s/ivmwk6U/CE060/facebook/>

REMINDER—BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOE BOX APPEAL

Shoe boxes for Blythswood Care need to be with Helen White by

Sunday 9th November