



The Window

July/August 2026
Scottish Charity
Number SC002324

Clackmannan Parish Church of Scotland
linked with Sauchie and Coalsnaughton

Minister
Rev Austin Wicks



Photos ©Bobby Rennie



We thought you might like to see the beautiful mural of Clackmannan landmarks painted by our local artist, Bobby Rennie. This graces the entrance hall to the Primary School and was designed and donated by Bobby in collaboration with the teachers and pupils.

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
5th July	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks
12th July	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks
	3.00 pm	Afternoon Service in Church Hall
19th July	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks. Fair Trade Stall
26th July	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks
2nd Aug	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks
9th Aug	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks
	3.00 pm	Afternoon Service in Church Hall
16th Aug	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks. Fair Trade Stall. Sunday School restarts
23rd Aug	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks
30th Aug	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks. Magazine issued
6th Sep	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks
13th Sep	10.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks - Communion Joint Service
	3.00 pm	Afternoon Service in Church Hall
Crèche available every Sunday		

Position	Name	Tel No	Email address
Minister	Rev Austin Wicks	07547392248	AWicks@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerks	Margaret Kidd and Gayle Kettles	07787398703 07960181733	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	Maciej Piszczalka		
Church Officers	Willie Hunter	07775686664	
	Garry McPhee	01259219235	
Church Office	Tues 10 am	01259720583	office@clackmannankirk.org.uk

Grace and Peace to you my friends,

I am planning this summer to take some proper time in the life of our church to explore the stories within the Book of Acts. Acts is perhaps best known for the story of Pentecost found in Acts 2, but it also has a great many stories about Peter and the early church. It also has the stories of how Saul the oppressor became Paul the apostle. The book of Acts is very long, and so sadly we won't be able to cover everything in it, but I hope to showcase some of the stories within that you may not have heard before.

I will also be leading a Bible study on Tuesday nights at 7 pm from Tuesday 30th June - 28th July in the Clackmannan Church Hall, and on Tuesday nights from 4th August - 30th August in the Sauchie and Coalsnaughton small hall.

These Bible study nights will focus on the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. So you will have a chance to explore the scripture, and read further than what our Sunday text will be. It is a great opportunity to get to know the text a little bit more before you hear what I choose to say for my sermon on Sunday. You will also get to learn the fun tidbits that I have to cut from my sermon to keep it shorter as a part of this Bible study night.

Please be sure to join us again at our Back to School Barbecue on August 16th. It was a delightful experience last year and I hope to have a repeat experience as we gather together to share the joy of being a church family with our youngsters.

Blessings upon you and yours this summer. I hope that you are able to see the Spirit of God at work in the world around you, and marvel at the beauty of God's creation. I hope that you can spend precious time with friends and family creating your own loving memories together.

Love and Peace,

Austin

May Finance

Income	£
Offerings	3754.00
Investment income	114.74
Hall lets	120.00
Ragbag	20.40
Easyfundraising	27.12
Fairtrade	22.70
Cherished Treasures	<u>98.62</u>
	<u>4157.58</u>

Expenditure	£
Giving to Grow	3682.70
Salaries	673.59
Council Tax	352.50
Heat & Light	288.46
Telephone	112.96
Insurance	531.50
Window repair & grilles	3432.69*
Boiler Service	246.00
Electrical checks	1797.60
PAT testing – manse	30.00
Office, stationery, post	103.96
Spill the Beans	12.00
Bank charges	<u>6.85</u>
	<u>11270.81</u>

Deficit for month £7113.23

Deficit year to date £7051.04

- The cost of the window repairs and grilles is to be covered by grant funding, so we should receive this sum back within the next few weeks.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the Flower Fund which covers the dates when no-one has chosen a particular date.

The flowers are sorted into bouquets by Linda Sloan and Helen White ready for distribution by elders/volunteers.

All September dates are still available.

July/August Flowers		
July	Contributed by	Arrangers
5th	Flower Fund	} Margaret Kidd
12th	Flower Fund	
19th	Flower Fund	
26th	Flower Fund	
Aug	Contributed by	
2nd	Flower Fund	} Jean Hillis
9th	Jean Hillis	
16th	Flower Fund	
23rd	Flower Fund	} Mary Millar
30th	Flower Fund	

JUST A WORD OF THANKS ...

James and I would like to thank you for the lovely flowers very kindly delivered by Anne. It was good to catch up on the church news and we are very humbled to be remembered with a card as well from the Pastoral Care Team. We are both progressing and hope to be at the next afternoon service. Best wishes,

James and Elspeth Cuthbertson

Thank you for the beautiful flowers, delivered by Anne whilst Tim was in hospital, and to the Pastoral Care Group for Tim's card. We appreciated everyone's kindness.

Gayle and Tim Fisher

PASTORAL CARE

Please 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.

TO BOOK OR HIRE THE CHURCH HALL-Contact the **Office** (01259720583). **ALL** meetings should be entered in the diary held in the Office.

SECRET CHILD PROJECT

Many of you will remember Don and Betty Cameron, very well-loved members of our congregation for several years. Don, as a retired minister, was always willing to stand in when pulpit supply was needed. He also helped with the running of the weekly prayer group meetings, and they both supported the church in many other ways. When they left Clackmannan in 2013 members of the congregation donated £282 to a collection for them. A gift was purchased with some of this money and Don and Betty were then asked what they would like to buy with the rest. In their usual generous manner, they asked that the remaining funds be donated to a charity close to their hearts – the Open Doors Secret Child Project.

The Board decided to set up a monthly direct debit of £18 and to invite members to make donations to keep payments going. For many years this fund was well supported, to the extent that, by 2024, a surplus had built up and the Board decided to double the monthly subscription to £36.

Now, two years on, the fund continues to receive some support but we have used up the surplus funds available. Don and Betty have now both passed away but this is a wonderful legacy to continue in their name and we would like to encourage members to consider donating to this project. If you would like to help, please place your donation in an envelope marked “Secret Child” and place it in the offering plate, or give it directly to Joyce Morrison or to your elder.

Below is an extract from the Open Doors website showing how your donations can make a real difference to the lives of children and families.

Thanks to supporters who give and pray regularly for children, Open Doors partners were able to organise several camps for more than 400 children in Myanmar. These camps have a big impact. A child makes a picture of David and Goliath, with Jesus behind David. “Goliath can’t see Jesus, but he’s behind David and he is the strength of David,” the child says.

In Nigeria, 453 Nigerian widows received financial support towards their children's school fees.

In Bangladesh Open Doors distributed 15,000 children's Bibles. "I don't have a Bible at home or when I go to church. It was only at children's camp that I learned about Jesus, and I love to hear about Him! They gave me a Bible and I'll read this to know more about Jesus." Uzzal (10)

"I don't know exactly what to say. But in my heart I am so happy. The Lord will bless those who provided this Bible for me."

Thanks to your support, we can provide hurting and vulnerable children with:

- *Safe houses and homes, to give them a safe and loving place to grow up*
- *Education so that persecution won't stop them from fulfilling their potential*
- *Sunday schools and children's camps, where they can be free to learn more about Jesus and make friends*
- *Bibles and Sunday school resources to help them encounter God for themselves.*

Thank you for helping us to assure these children that although they are bereft of parents, they haven't been forgotten by their global church family.

CHURCH DIARY

Board and Session Meetings will be held on Thursday 25th June at 7 pm in the Church Hall.

“ Let love make you serve one another”

Gayle and I just wanted to do a small introduction as we are now Joint Session Clerks of Clackmannan Parish Church. We both took the oath on 14th May at the Session Meeting and since then it has been busy. I will be completing all the admin tasks while Gayle will be the people person.

Gayle Fisher

I am a born and bred Clackmannan girl, having lived here my whole life apart from a few years in Alloa.

Clackmannan Church has always been part of my life. As a youngster I was a member of the Junior Choir, Sunday School, and Bible Class. Great times and special friends and memories in them all.

I now live with my husband Tim, 2 children, Imogen and Louis, and look forward to serve as joint session clerk with Margaret.

Margaret Kidd

I am Grangemouth born and bred, a true Portonian. I was baptised in Kerse Parish Church in Grangemouth where I also attended Sunday School. I have been a member of the following:- Craigsbank Church in Edinburgh, Strathbrock Church in Uphall and Zetland Parish Church in Grangemouth.

I have served as a Sunday School Teacher, Sunday School Superintendent, Summer Club Leader, Youth Club Leader and Elder member of Session and Board.

Retired now but before I worked in Edinburgh and Paris mainly for banks in their Investment Departments covering accounting, market data and fund reporting.

My husband and I moved to Clackmannan three and a half years ago. We love living here and the church means a lot to us. It really helped us to fit into the community. Our daughter Alex with her husband Ryan and daughter Daisy live in Larbert.

Gayle and I are here to serve you as a congregation and church. If there is anything we can do to help please let us know. We are finding our feet but I am sure we will be running soon.

Gayle and Margaret

How education developed in Scotland through the Church of Scotland

In 1696 the World's first Public School education system came into being. The Scottish Parliament passed "The Act for Settling of Schools". This single Act established the world's first national, legally mandated public education system. The Act called upon the local landowners to pay for the education of the Parish's education system. As a result of this Scotland achieved a huge step in literacy and social mobility and beat major European powers to universal state schooling by nearly two centuries.

The Law: The legal enactment required every single parish across Scotland to establish a permanent school house and secure a salaried teacher. Unlike previous attempts to establish an educational Framework, this Act named the Heritors as legally responsible for funding both the infrastructure and the legal Framework to pay a School Master's wage through compulsory requirement of the Local Landowners. The Act also provided for penalties when Landlords who resisted or refused to comply could be prosecuted by the local Sheriff Court. Scotland established its system nearly 200 years before other Western Powers -

Scotland – 1696;

England - Forster Education Act – 1870 (174 years later);

France – 1882.

As a result Scotland achieved, by the 1790's, a male literacy rate of between 75% to 85%, in contrast to England's male literacy rate at the same time which stood at approximately 53%.

It's interesting to note that that the ideological blueprint for the 1696 Act was laid a century earlier by John Knox in his "First Book of Discipline". However, this was really a form of spiritual warfare as Knox's push for universal literacy was not developed as a result of modern secular ideas at the time but through explicit Calvinist theology. The argument ran that, if ordinary citizens could read the scriptures in their own tongue, then the absolute authority of the Catholic Church could be dismantled.

A future article will tell us how earlier Parliaments wanted to introduce the Education Act much earlier but found much resistance by the local landowners causing much structural tensions.

Alex Birrell

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>JUNE</i>		<i>JUNE (continued)</i>	
1	Bill and Margaret McKenzie	16	
2	Mr and Mrs Hugh Livingstone, Kirkcaldy	17	Mrs Lorraine Lindsay
3	Mrs Jan McTaggart	18	Anonymous
4	Mrs Irene McKay	19	Mrs Rosemary Ramage
5	Mrs Rosemary Ramage	20	Mrs Rosemary Ramage
6	Mrs R Donald	21	Gayleen Thomson
7	Mrs R Donald	22	The White Family
8	Mrs Rosemary Ramage	23	Bill and Margaret McKenzie
9		24	Anonymous
10	Mrs Lysbeth Fleming	25	
11	Mr Neil Wylie, Dublin	26	Bill and Margaret McKenzie
12	Mrs Freda Lambie	27	
13	The Bramham Family	28	Mrs Louie Birrell
14	Mrs Grace Hamilton	29	Mrs Louie Birrell
15	Mrs Margaret Duncan and Family	30	Bill and Margaret McKenzie
July dates still available 9th, 20th, 24th, 26th and 27th See next page for July Floodlighting			

RAGBAG

Remember that the ragbag collection point can be found at the back of the Church Hall with entry from Kirk Wynd.

CHURCH is open to visitors every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon from 2 pm—4 pm until 10th September 2026.

<i>JULY</i>		<i>JULY (continued)</i>	
1	Mrs Margaret Murphy	17	Anonymous
2	Jim and Mary Millar	18	Bill and Margaret McKenzie
3	The Hill Family	19	
4	Mrs Jan McTaggart	20	
5	Mrs Helen Crews	21	Bill and Margaret McKenzie
6	Mrs Helen Crews	22	Mr Ian Smith
7	Mr Ian Smith	23	The Russell Family
8	Bill and Margaret McKenzie	24	
9	Mrs Lysbeth Fleming	25	Bill and Margaret McKenzie
10	The White Family	26	
11	George and Doreen Gallagher	27	
12	Mrs Freda Lambie	28	The Bramham Family
13	Mr Neil Wylie	29	Mr James Lindsay
14	The Russell Family	30	Mrs Marjory F Gray, Essex
15	Mrs Jan McTaggart	31	Mr Ian Smith
16	Mrs Lorraine Lindsay		

August dates available: 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 12th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 25th and 30th

CLACKMANNAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Monthly Meetings - Wednesday 15th July and Wednesday 19th August 2026 both in Clackmannan Town Hall at 7 pm. All welcome.

Bingo Teas – Tuesday, 28th July and Tuesday, 25th August in

Clackmannan Bowling Club. Doors open at 7 pm and eyes down at 7.30 pm. A good night, free entry and brilliant prizes with wonderful home

DEADLINE DATE FOR SEPTEMBER WINDOW - 16TH AUGUST

E-mail articles to **windoweditor@clackmannankirk.org.uk**
Magazines will be available on 30th **August 2026.**

Clackmannan Parish Church of Scotland
Registered in Scotland
Charity Number SC 002324

JOIN US FOR A

CHURCH BBQ

We welcome back the Sunday School with a
tasty celebration. Join us for our Annual
Church BBQ



16TH AUGUST

AFTER
SERVICE

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