



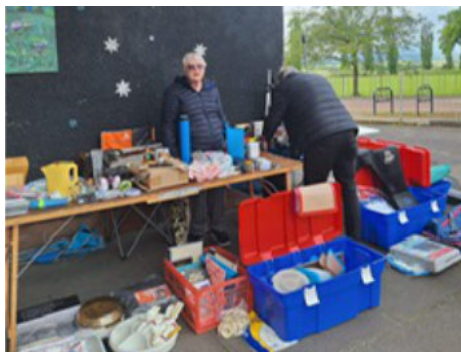
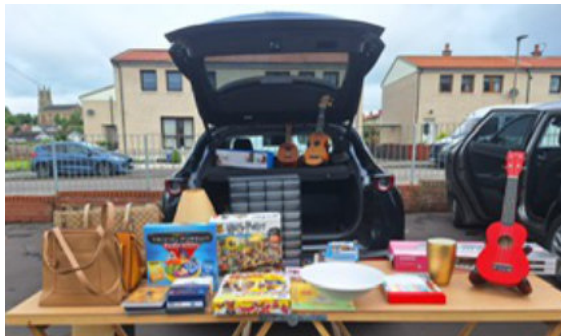
The Window

Minister
Rev Austin Wicks

Clackmannan Parish Church of Scotland
linked with Sauchie and Coalsnaughton

September 2026
Scottish Charity
Number SC002324

Car Boot Sale in July



Photos Joyce Morrison

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>
6 Sep	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks
13 Sep	10.30 am	Communion - Rev Austin Wicks - Joint Service
	3.00 pm	Afternoon Communion - Rev Austin Wicks
20 Sep	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks
27 Sep	11.30 am	Worship Group
4 Oct	11.30 am	TBA
11 Oct	11.30 am	Harvest Thansgiving - Rev Austin Wicks
	3.00 pm	Afternoon Service - Rev Austin Wicks

Crèche available every Sunday

Collections for The Gate will take place every Sunday in October

Position	Name	Tel No	Email Address
Minister	Rev Austin Wicks	07547392248	AWicks@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerks	Margaret Kidd	07787398703	sessionclerk@clackmannankirk.org.uk
	Gayle Fisher	07960181733	
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 Officer	Garry McPhee	01259219235	
Church Office	Tues 10 am	01259720583	office@clackmannankirk.org.uk

TO BOOK OR HIRE THE CHURCH HALL—Contact the Office (01259 720583). ALL meetings should be entered in the diary.

Deadline Date for October Window—Sunday 13th 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 27th September.

Greetings,

The weather is beginning to cool and the sun is beginning to set slightly earlier at night as we begin our march out of summer into autumn, with the children of our communities returning to school once more.

We are seeing the return of programmes as well as the start of new events, and celebrating the life of the church together. It has always been the hope of our church to spread the joy of Jesus Christ to the community around us, and we are beginning to look at how we can help others come to understand us better.

One of such suggestions was to share the story of our congregation. Share some of the history of our church, but also sharing the story of our church family. Think back on your own first time entering the church. Did you stay with the church because of its history or because of its people?

We want to try new ways of sharing with the community that our church is a place where people are welcome to be themselves, and to grow and learn more about their relationship with God.

If you have a story about the church that brings you joy, a fond memory of Sunday School, a memory of working hard on a church mission, about how the church has helped you or brought you peace, we would like to share these with each other and with our community in an attempt to help people understand who we are.

Please if you have any stories of your life in the church or about our church history that you would like to share, send them to the church office, or email them to me at awicks@churchofscotland.org.uk. Even the stories that you might think of as simple or mundane can be stories that have an impact. Because stories of simple kindness and connection are sometimes the strongest.

Love and Peace,
Austin

CHURCH DIARY—Meeting of the Congregational Board followed by the Meeting of the Kirk Session will be held on Thursday 3rd September at 7 pm.

Open Church 2026

Many thanks to all those who have volunteered to open the church to visitors over the summer months. This will continue until 10th September so please check the diary and make sure that we can cover the last few weeks.

We will also be participating in Clackmannanshire Open Doors weekend at the end of September. We will be open 10 am – 5 pm on Saturday 26th September and 2 pm – 4 pm on Sunday 27th and will be serving soup and sandwich lunches 12 noon – 2 pm on the Saturday. Volunteers will be required for both days. A sign-up sheet will be available closer to the time.

Bob Sommerville celebrates his 90th birthday



Photo Joyce Morrison

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS FOR JUNE/JULY 2026

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Offerings	7,116.80	Giving to Grow	7,365.40
Investment Income	55.87	Salaries	1,428.18
Donations	644.91	Heat and Light	385.59
Hall Lets	380.00	Telephone	96.72
Car Boot Sale	350.00	Office and Stationery	382.41
Fairtrade	19.30	Offering Envelopes	166.60
		Cups	78.20
		Bank Charges	10.84
Total Income	8,566.88	Total Expenditure	9,913.94
Deficit	-1,347.06		

Deficit year to date £8,398.10

Blythswood Christmas Boxes

Well here we are again. It is that time of year when we start preparing our Christmas boxes. 'Far too early' I hear you say, but in reality it is not. Janis has been busy all year round and Eleanor and I are the same - buying and receiving many different items for the shoeboxes.

Asda very kindly donated pre-covered boxes together with rolls of Christmas Paper so we don't have any excuses now. As in previous years we are happy to provide boxes (save you having to buy new boots or shoes!) or we can fill a box on your behalf for £20.

We at Clackmannan Parish Church have been donating to this appeal since 1995, so let us continue to do this. Last year we donated 246 boxes which was phenomenal. Would it not be brilliant to surpass this?

At the time of printing we do not have any date of collection, and this will be advised at a later date. I can be contacted on 07900837546 if you have any queries or if you even want to give me some money. In anticipation

Helen White

With the mention of Christmas we believe that the theme for the Tree Festival this year is CHRISTMAS CAROLS but this is not set in tablets of stone. If your group/family wish to choose something different that will be fine - we welcome you taking part.

3) The Landowners' Resistance (continued from July/August Window)

The Landowners backlash caused much resistance from the gentry. The Heritors routinely delayed building School houses, disputed their financial assessments, and aggressively challenged the jurisdiction of the Church of Scotland in the courts. For instance, in Aberdeen and across the remote Scottish Highlands, local landowners were powerful enough to obstruct the process entirely, well into the first half of the 18th Century. Underfunded Excellence: Parish schoolmasters were typically highly qualified graduates from one of Scotland's five universities, at a time when England only had two – Oxford and Cambridge. Despite teaching advanced classical subjects they were paid a mere statutory minimum wage of 100 Merks per year. Inflationary pressures caused the 100 Merk salary to reduce in value because it was never linked to inflation. By the 1730s it represented a near poverty wage and consequently many schools went vacant for years at a time because qualified graduates fled rural parishes for wealthier burghs. There was a certain Academic rigour taught in even remote rural school rooms, and boys and girls were rigorously taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and advanced Latin (girls were not allowed to learn Latin but instead did domestic tasks). Latin was mandatory because it was the sole gateway to higher education. The Scottish education system required pupils to undergo what was called the Bursary Competition System. Scottish Universities held blind competitive examinations open only to boys of any social standing and this Act was fundamental in breaking down class barriers. Due to these funded burseries, university rolls through out the 18th century were filled with the sons of low income farmers, weavers, and urban tradesmen. The obvious difference in teaching between the genders created a gender divide. The 1696 Act made no specific legal provision for girls. Lots of young girls did attend their local parish schools but their teaching was restricted to reading, basic numeracy and domestic tasks. However, they were restricted from learning Latin and hence the University Bursary route of further education. As a result female literacy lagged significantly behind boys at between 40% – 65%.

It is not surprising that the intellectual explosion of the late 18th century in Scotland was a direct consequence of running a functional system of near universal male education for a few generations. The giants of the Scottish Enlightenment emerged from the middle, professional and merchantile classes and not the aristocracy. For instance Adam Smith (Wealth of Nations, 1776), was the son of a Customs Controller, and was educated at Kirkcaldy Burgh School. David Hume, Philosopher, was from a minor gentry family who entered Edinburgh University at the age of 12; also James Watt, the steam engine pioneer, was the son of a merchant and was educated at Greenock Grammer school. James Hutton, the

founder of modern geology, attended Edinburgh High School and then Edinburgh University. Then there was the chemist, Joseph Black, who discovered CO₂, as well as the subject of thermodynamics and developed the concept of latent heat and also specific heat, and was educated at both Glasgow and Edinburgh. He was also a founding father of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

By the 1760s Edinburgh (a City of only 80,000 people) was exporting Foundational Scholarships across Europe. Indeed the Edinburgh Medical School which was founded in 1726, became the premier medical institution in the English speaking world. By 1800 a vast percentage of practising doctors in the eastern United States held Edinburgh degrees.

The next article will look at the Global impact of the migration of Scots to the New World particularly between 1700 and 1800 when over 400,000 Scots and Scots Irish moved from Scotland/Northern Ireland to the American Colonies, and then after the Revolution to a country called America. The population of America at that time grew rapidly from 250,000 in 1700 to 3,929,000 in 1800.

Alex Birrell

World Concern Group

Following the successful sale of preserves at Hoedown in the Park, we were able to send £200 to Mamie Martin Fund for secondary school fees for girls in Malawi. The donation was made during a week when funding was being matched so that represented £400 and it will make a tremendous difference especially now that inflation is rampant in Malawi. While tuition is now free, boarding and other expenses are not covered.

School fees having been taken care of, we were able to send £113 to Christian Aid as part of the DEC appeal following the devastating earthquake in Venezuela. That sum consists of £100 from WCG and £13 from donations to Christian Aid which came in after the Soup and Sweet money was transferred.

Many thanks for all support given by buyers of sweet things and suppliers of jars.

Please remember to inform Helen White (07900837546) if you know of anyone who would appreciate a card, visit or some flowers.

Written by Eleanor Hamilton of Dumbarton Parish Church, who has given permission to share:

There's a message been doing the rounds for a while about God put the wiggle in children and parents shouldn't be worried about bringing them to church. Now I love all our wee ones, I love seeing them, hearing them and even answering the sometimes challenging questions - I know the congregation here loves them too, but I decided to write a poem based on that message:

God Put the Wiggle in Children

God put the wiggle in children,
the wonder, the questions, the noise;
the fidgeting feet and the laughter,
the bright, unexpected joys.

So let them be little among us;
they needn't sit silent and still.
There's room here for all of their living;
their voices, their movement, their will.

Sit close, so they see what is happening;
sing boldly and help them join in.
For children learn faith from our footsteps,
and love is where worship begins.

And if you both need to step outside,
take time, catch your breath, then return.
Your place will be here when you're ready;
there's welcome at every turn.

God put the wiggle in children
a sign that our church is alive.
May every wee one know, growing,
this is a place where they can thrive.

So offer a smile and be patient;
make room in the pew and the day.
For Jesus said, "Let the children
come near and do not send them away".

Contributed by Lorna McAllister

A WEE REMINDER

The Rag Bag collection point is now located at the back of the Church Hall. Enter from Kirk Wynd.

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**.



August 2026

	19 Mrs Lillian Wilson
1 Mrs Joan Davidson	20
2 Mrs Rosemary Ramage	21
3	22 Bill and Margaret McKenzie
4 Mrs Aileen Birrell	23
5 Mrs Aileen Birrell	24
6 In memory of Mrs Isobel Robertson	25
7	26 Mrs Margaret Hill
8 Isobel and John Bell	27 Mrs Margaret Hill
9 Bill and Margaret McKenzie	28 The Reid Family, Inverurie
10 Joyce and Harry Fox, Elgin	29 Sam and Margaret Harris
11 The Russell Family	30
12	31 Maureen and Duncan Brember
13 Mrs Lorraine Lindsay	
14 Mr Neill Wyllie, Dublin	
15	
16	
17 Mrs Lorraine Lindsay	16th, 20th, 23rd, 24th, 25th,
18 In memory of Mrs Isobel Robertson	29th and 30th

September 2026 dates still available:

Clackmannan Community Council

Monthly Meeting – Wednesday 16th September 2026 in Clackmannan Town Hall at 7 pm.

Bingo Tea – Tuesday 29th September 2026 in Clackmannan Bowling Club. Doors open at 7 pm and eyes down at 7.30 pm.

FLOWER DONATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER		
Sep	<i>Contributed by</i>	<i>Arranged by</i>
6th	Flower Fund	Karen Brander
13th	Flower Fund	<i>Distributed by</i>
20th	Flower Fund	Helen White, Elders
27th	Garry McPhee	and others

JUST A WORD OF THANKS ...

I would like to say "thank you" for the lovely flowers delivered by Helen after my stay in hospital, and thanks Helen for your company and chat. It was very much appreciated.
Mary Bramham

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers which Bill and Gayle kindly delivered. They were a lovely thought and brought great comfort to me during this difficult time as Gordon is receiving palliative care at Strathcarron Hospice. Please pass on my heartfelt thanks to everyone at the church. With sincere thanks,
Emily Stanners

Thanks to a good friend Elizabeth McDonald for her visit on the occasion of our 65th wedding anniversary. It was very much appreciated by us.
Susan and Willie Paterson

I would like to say "thank you" for the flowers I received on my return home. They were beautiful and really brightened up my room.
Jean Lindsay

Thank you all very much for the birthday cards, flowers and best wishes on my 90th Birthday. Had a lovely few days celebrating with all the family. Much cake was had! Thank you all.
Bob Sommerville

Margaret Harris would like to express her thanks for the flowers she received earlier in the summer. They were much appreciated.

Carol Smith would like to thank Pastoral Care for the lovely flowers she received recently and also to thank Helen for delivering them.

Margaret Marshall would like to thank Church for lovely flowers that she received recently, very thoughtful.

I just want to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers I received marking the occasion of my 90th birthday. Thank you all so much.
Catherine Gray

Anne Dawson brings us News from Mwandi

The Waddell's latest letter, sent at the end of June, is available for you to read in the fellowship area.

Their big news is that the truck they planned to purchase from South Africa has arrived after some difficulty persuading the bank to transfer the funds to South Africa and the value of the Zambian Kwacha falling by 205 in the first six months of this year. Having their own transport will significantly reduce the costs for building projects and fetching supplies. In a separate thank you letter, Keith and Ida tell us that they plan to use our latest donation towards the insurance and road tax for the truck. They are grateful for our support and value the prayers of all their partners.

Ida's brother, Eric, died suddenly in May so, although they had recently been home on furlough, they were allowed to come back for the funeral and support the family.

The strategic plan for the hospital includes concern for mental health, addressing stress and anxiety.

The level 3 laboratory has been completed, as have the two long drop pit latrines at Sikuzu school. Land is being cleared for a Pharmacy bulk store to be built and a site for a solar farm has been inspected by the Energy Regulation Board before approval can be given by Zambia's Environmental Management Agency and a further application will then be required for an operating licence.

Until Mwandi Hospital is a level 2 establishment which brings government finance and personnel, they have to rely on volunteers - both local and from many countries - to assist and they are at present seeking a Pathologist and a Psychiatrist. In order to provide clean, safe and practical housing for volunteers and visiting specialists they plan to build a block of 4 serviced accommodation units (which, in Malawi, we would probably have called a guest house).

A recent attack by a hippo on a visitor who was on a fishing trip resulted in dreadful injuries. Ida and staff were able to stabilize the casualty in theatre but he could not be taken out by road because of its bad state and he was taken by boat to Kazungula and later died in Livingstone. This has prompted the Waddells to consider having the engine of their boat, the 'Effie Ruel' repaired and serviced.

To see the pictures and read in more detail, see the letter on the coffee table and please keep the Waddells and their work in your prayers.

Presentation by Rev Austin Wicks to Willie Hunter on his retirement from the job of Church Officer



Photo—Duncan Brember

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