



The Window

Clackmannan Parish Church of Scotland
linked with Sauchie and Coalsnaughton

Minister
Rev Austin Wicks

October 2026
Scottish Charity
Number SC002324



Photos © Margaret Kidd

Sunday
School
BBQ
16th August



A busy church on September's Communion
Sunday when we welcomed our American visitors



Photo © Julie Moorhouse

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>
4 Oct	11.30 am	Rev Drew Barry
11 Oct	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks. HARVEST THANKSGIVING. No SS
	3.00 pm	Afternoon Service in Church Hall - Rev Austin Wicks
18 Oct	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks. Sunday School on holiday
25 Oct	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks. Sunday School on holiday
1 Nov	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks
8 Nov	10.50 am	Remembrance Service at War Memorial - Rev Austin Wicks
	3.00 pm	Afternoon Service - Rev Austin Wicks

Crèche available every Sunday

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 November Window - Sunday 11th October

Early Notice - The service on 22nd November will be a Joint Service in Sauchie and Coalsnaughton Parish Church at 10.30 am

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 25th October.

Grace and Peace to you my friends,

I hope that everyone is enjoying the autumn weather as we begin to make our way into colder days ahead. I know I'm looking forward to spending another Christmas here with all of you and sharing in the joys that come with it, even if it is lots of hard work to manage.

I was reminded this weekend, as we hosted our 32 visitors from Elkhart, Indiana that there is so much we can accomplish when we work together. A tremendous amount of effort went into coordinating homes and food for this weekend, and though I did put in a lot of work I was not alone.

So many wonderful people took total strangers into their homes on Friday night, we had folks who couldn't host and helped by driving around visitors who needed a lift. We had people who made delicious meals both on Friday night and on Sunday morning to feed not just our visitors and volunteers but anyone who was hungry. We even had bagpipes to welcome them off the bus at Sauchie and Coalsnaughton thanks to our local piper Donald!

We are truly blessed with so many kind and caring individuals at our church and it's days like today (September 13th) when I can truly see who we are. People who were not able to volunteer in the aforementioned ways, were helping by being kind and cheerful conversing with those around them. Not only welcoming Elkhart visitors but also welcoming in our friends from our linked charge.

We had 110 bulletins, plus 10 large print and some people still had to share during service. I have never seen the church this full and if you heard the sound of singing that morning you would also understand what incredible power we have when we work together.

I am filled with love. I am filled with hope. I am filled with confidence that when we work together we will be able to overcome the challenges that face us. Whether it is the challenge of renovating our building, the challenge of inviting new members, the challenge of staying committed to God's mission and ministry. I know that when we put our combined efforts forth with God at our side we will be able to overcome any challenges that come our way.

Thank you all again, it is truly only by the grace of God and due to your volunteering efforts that this weekend came together.

Love and Peace,

Austin

SUNDAY SCHOOL

What a lovely way to start back our session with the amazing barbecue organised by Margaret and her team. Everyone enjoyed delicious food and the Sunday School team were very proud of all the children, especially the older girls who were a great help serving the food and drinks.

We have a busy few months ahead of us and as always the leaders have worked together to plan our lessons up to Christmas. We will continue to focus on the last of the Fruits of the Spirits lessons, and have lessons planned around the theme of Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas.

A reminder that there will be no Sunday School on Sundays 11th, 18th and 25th October due to the school October holidays. In addition we will all be in church on Remembrance Sunday to allow the Sunday School children to be part of any uniformed groups this day which they may be members of.

Many thanks as always for the support of your young Church.

Sharon, Nancy, Denise and Fiona

CHURCH DIARY

12 November at 7 pm Board Meeting followed by Session Meeting.



The Politician and the Pastor

A politician and a pastor die at the same time.

St Peter welcomes them and shows the politician to a luxury suite. The pastor gets a standard room.

The pastor asks, "Why the special treatment for him?"

St Peter says, "We get pastors every day. We've never had a politician make it up here before!"

Let Us REBUILD a House!

In 2015, following a devastating earthquake affecting Nepal, our congregation helped the World Concern Group raise over £2000 to send to the Church of Scotland's 'Let us Build a House' appeal to fund reconstruction in Nepal.

Now, in the wake of the recent catastrophic flash flood, we wish to make a contribution to the work of the United Mission to Nepal, helping to restore damaged schools and clinics to enable essential services to resume.

Let us REBUILD a house! To participate in our effort, please take a Smartie tube. When you have eaten (or shared) the Smarties, fill the tube with 20p and/or £1 coins and return it to church as soon as you are able, preferably by the end of October. If you can't find a tube of Smarties, please ask Anne Dawson for one.

INFORMATION FROM CHURCH OF SCOTLAND - FAKE WEBSITES

We have been made aware of fake websites which are promoting a Church of Scotland fundraising lottery – both at a national level and also purporting to be individual churches.

These websites look very professional but are nothing to do with the Church of Scotland. Staff at the National Offices have reported this to the appropriate authorities as a matter of urgency.

A key indicator is that the web address being used misspells Scotland with two 'c's.

If any Church members have concerns about these fake websites, they can contact our Law Department via email on

LAWDEPT@churchofscotland.org.uk

If you are aware of any individuals having given money to this scam, please ask them to contact Police Scotland.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Church of Scotland does not run a fundraising lottery.

Blythswood Christmas Shoebox Appeal

We are all busy putting shoe boxes together and appreciate all the monetary gifts given already. As said before, if you wish us to fill a box in your name for the princely sum of £20, contact Helen White and she will happily take your money.

Alternatively, if you require an empty box – she has them as well. Just give her a call (07900837546).

Blythswood is a Christian charity with a mission to show God's love, and offer the compassion, relief and hope that can change lives for good and forever.

Shoe Box Appeal

A simple shoebox packed with love and care can mean so much.

Every year, thousands of people take part in Blythswood's Shoe Box Appeal, filling shoeboxes with gifts for children and adults affected by poverty, trauma and exploitation.

A shoebox filled with simple, practical items such as toiletries, stationery, clothing, sweets and a small gift can bring joy to someone who may have very little. It is about more than the things inside.

Each box is personal. Each one is an expression of care. Each one lets someone know they have not been forgotten.

Since our first Shoe Box Appeal in 1993, we have delivered more than 2.9 million shoeboxes – each one is different, each one personal, each one an expression of your care and kindness towards a stranger in need.

The individually-wrapped boxes have been distributed in churches, schools, hospitals, orphanages and care homes, and to households in very low-income communities. Many have gone to people affected by the war in Ukraine. This Christmas, your shoebox could help us reach even more people.

Where will my shoebox go?

Shoeboxes are delivered through our trusted partners to people in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

Once your box has been checked, Blythswood will also add a Bible storybook for children, a story of a life transformed by Jesus for teenagers or a calendar with Bible verses for adults.

PASTORAL CARE

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

PORTRAIT OF FALL

by Alora M Knight

**Looking out my window
In October's golden light,
I see a beauty unsurpassed,
A truly lovely sight.
Leaves are saying soft good-byes
As they come floating down
To make a nature's carpet
Of yellow, red, and brown.
Mountain tops, now turned to white,
Forewarn of winter chills,
While trees, like golden rivers,
Wind their way up through the hills.
Throughout our world's creation
You will ever find it thus,
Kaleidoscopes of colour,
In God's hand, the artist's brush.**

Source:

www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/portrait-of-fall

OUR VISITORS FROM ELKHART CHURCH

with the two beautiful banners gifted to our two churches - the blue one for Clackmannan and the red one for Sauchie and Coalsnaughton



Photos © Alicia Wicks and Mary Adam



Macmillan Cancer Support

Anne and Joyce invite you to drop in to

49 Colville Gardens, Alloa
between 2 pm and 4.30 pm

on

Friday 9th October

for

a cuppa and cake

in return for a donation to

Macmillan Cancer Support



Parking in Colville Gardens is limited and is intended for residents. If you are able, please park either in Ludgate or in the car park beside the Town Hall. From Ludgate, walk through to the back section of Colville Gardens. No 49 is in the first block on the left. From the car park, cross the road and walk down the footpath into Colville Gardens. No 49 is in the block to the immediate left of the footpath.

FINANCE – AUGUST 2026

For August, income was £4664.73 and expenditure £7033.84, made up of:

	£		£
Offerings	3820.00	Giving to Grow	3682.70
Investment income	28.88	Salaries	673.59
Donation	10.00	Pulpit Supply	75.00
Funerals	238.00	Travel	46.53
Hall lets	345.00	Council Tax	379.71
Barbecue donations	135.00	Heat & Light	70.26
Car boot sale (late income)	30.00	Telephone	117.66
Easyfundraising	17.21	Fabric	1401.40
Fairtrade	40.64	Office, stationery, postage	264.26
		Barbecue	176.24
		Peace in the Park	30.75
		Floral gifts	97.50
		Spill the Beans	12.00
		Bank Charges	6.24

This gives a deficit for the month of £2369.11 and a deficit year to date of £10767.21. A gift aid claim in the region of £6500 has been submitted.

There is no amount for insurance in the above. We don't pay insurance in June and July, and this normally begins again in August. As the Church of Scotland is changing insurance provider, the direct debit was not set up in time for this payment to be made, so double will be claimed in September.

The cost of the new organ (£3600) has been paid from the Miss Buick funds, as previously decided by the Board.

CHRISTMAS CARDS/ CALENDARS

Catalogues for Crossreach and Embrace the Middle East Christmas cards, wrapping paper and calendars are available for folk to look at and put in their orders.

Anne Dawson



IMPACT OF SCOTTISH EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Below is the last article on the impact of the Scottish Educational system begun with John Knox in 1696, and it concerns the Global impact of the Scottish Diaspora on various educational systems in different countries.

In terms of the Scottish influence on America it was noted that between 1700 and 1800, over 100,000 Scottish immigrants arrived in North America and brought with them a cultural conviction that literacy was a fundamental right and that higher education should be open to talented individuals in the colonies. In fact Colonial colleges had been established in five of the nine American Colonies and before the revolution they had direct institutional or faculty ties to Scotland's educational establishments. For example the College of New Jersey – (Princeton) was heavily modelled by Scottish Presbyterian educational models, and Benjamin Franklin explicitly copied the Edinburgh Medical School curriculum when establishing the University of Pennsylvania.

In terms of the Prussian system it is noted that Prussia structured its national compulsory schooling model on the guidance provided by educational foundational figures like Johann Gottlieb Fichte who openly cited Scotland's high literacy rates as the definitive proof that a literate populace was achievable.

However, the educational system also had its darker geopolitical motives in erasing much of the Gaelic culture following the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745. The Annexed Estates Act of 1752 and the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge established schools in the Highlands with the explicit mandate to eradicate the Gaelic language and replace it with English to enforce political integration.

However, despite the many advantages of an educated populace, the 1696 did not create a flawless system as it was always underfunded, structurally unequal across genders and fiercely contested by the wealthy elites. In fact, in some old 1790s Statistical Accounts documented some teachers instructing 60 pupils in buildings with completely collapsed roofs. However, the educational model produced by Scotland served as the ultimate global proof of concept. It proved to the modern world that a state could legally compel communities to fund universal education and that a country could employ highly qualified teachers to satisfy the requirements of the children needing to be educated. In addition it also proved that the economic and individual benefits of doing so to a country were massive, lasting and globally transformative.

The undernoted paragraph, taken from the Clackmannan Parish Statistical Account of 1791 and written by the Reverend Robert Moodie, states the following:-

SCHOOL:- The Parish schoolmaster's salary is 200 Merks. About 2 years ago the heritors' voluntarily agreed to double this sum during the life of the present incumbent, so that this doubled salary, together with the other emoluments, make his income about £40 sterling a year, exclusive of the school, wages and a good house and garden. Beside the Parochial school, there are 5 other schools established in different parts of the parish(of Clackmannan), which are remote from the actual village of Clackmannan. Each of the three collieries has one each. Sometimes, indeed, there are even school masters, paid by subscription, according to the distance there are such inhabitants are from the parish school, who are able to bear this expense. At present one of these subscription school masters receives upwards of £50 per year, so that the whole yearly income of the different school masters in the whole parish must amount to more than £170 Sterling.

Alex Birrell

DECEMBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

It's that time of year already!!!! I know it seems rather early but things are already under way for our annual Tree Festival.

This will be our 19th Festival and the theme for this year is based around Christmas Carols.

As this has always been extremely well supported, we look forward to your company

on either the **3rd, 4th, 5th of December** (or all of these dates).

There will be entertainment, gifts to buy, and of course teas, coffees, shortbread and mince pies and most importantly a warm and friendly welcome.

So please look out for the next update and put these dates in your diary.

For any further information please get in touch –

with me, **Maureen Brember on 07799701742**, or any member of our Events Team.

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.

Contributors for September



1	Miles and Kareen Blackadder	16	
2	Mrs Isabel Gilroy	17	The Bramham Family
3	The Warnock Family	18	Miles and Kareen Blackadder
4	The Warnock Family	19	Mr Neil Wylie, Dublin
5	The Warnock Family	20	
6	The Warnock Family	21	Harry and Joyce Fox, Elgin
7	Jim and Mary Millar	22	The Bramham Family
8	Mrs Moira Sinclair	23	
9	In memory/Mrs Isabel Robertson	24	
10		25	
11	Mrs Christina Innes	26	Bill and Wendy Graham
12	Mrs Jan McTaggart	27	Mr Alastair Gemmell
13	Mrs Irene McKay	28	Mrs Jan McTaggart
14	Mrs Isabel Gilroy	29	
15	Mrs Moira Sinclair	30	

October dates available: 11th, 18th, 20th

CLACKMANNAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting - Wednesday 21st September in Clackmannan Town Hall at 7 pm.

Bingo Tea - Tuesday 27 October in Clackmannan Bowling Club. Doors open at 7 pm an eyes down at 7.30 pm.

Earlier copies of The Window magazine can always be accessed on our web pages. Find us at

www.clackmannankirk.org.uk

FLOWER DONATIONS FOR OCTOBER		
Oct	<i>Contributed by</i>	<i>Arranged by</i>
4th	Flower Fund	Jan MacTaggart
11th	Flower Fund	<i>Distributed by</i>
18th	Flower Fund	Helen White, Elders
25th	Mary Bramham	and others

JUST A WORD OF THANKS ...

Sending our heartfelt thanks to Rev Gordon Mathew for his telephone call on our recent 65th Wedding Anniversary. We enjoyed a good chat about times past and caught up with life as it is now. Gordon's kind words were much appreciated and Susan and I were touched to receive his call.

Willie and Susan Paterson

I would like to say thank you for the lovely flowers I received recently. Thanks to HELEN WHITE for delivering them. They were much appreciated.

John Duncan

Many thanks to Helen White for visiting me, with Kathryn, when I was in Bellfield. I very much enjoyed your company. Thank you also for the church flowers on Sunday - they were very beautiful and still are. It's so good to be back in my own home.

Ian Smith

Aileen, Gemma, Lisa and Sally Lindsay would like to thank the Congregation and Pastoral Care team for the lovely flowers, support and kindness shown to us on the passing of our Brother/Uncle James Keir. We were overwhelmed by the amount of people who came to the funeral. God Bless. Thanks.

Aileen Lindsay and Girls

I would like to thank the church for the lovely flowers I received this afternoon. The gesture is very much appreciated. Thanks also to Helen for delivering them.

Jean Hillis

Susan and I would like to say *thanks* to Helen for the Church flowers she delivered and for her cheery catchup.

Susan and Willie Paterson

Lysbeth was delighted to receive the beautiful church flowers, with the message of blessing. I do appreciate your kindness and comfort. Thank you.

Lysbeth Fleming

I would like to thank the Church and everyone who sent gifts, cards and good wishes for my recent birthday. It was all much appreciated. Thank you.

Margaret Izett

Many thanks for the lovely flowers I received recently and thank you to Helen for delivering them with a smile.

Etta Macdonald

How to Know When You Are Getting Old

Everything Hurts!

What doesn't hurt, doesn't work.

The gleam in your eye

Is the sun shining on your bi-focals.

You feel like the morning after,

But you haven't been anywhere.

Your children begin to look middle-aged.

You join a health club, but you don't go.

A dripping tap causes an uncontrollable urge.

You have all the answers,

But nobody asks you the questions.

You look forward to a dull evening.

You need glasses to find your glasses.

You turn out the light for economy instead of romance.

You are in a rocking chair, but can't make it go.

Your knees buckle, but your belt won't.

Your back goes out more than you do.

Your house is too big –

Your medicine box is not big enough.

You sink your teeth into a steak, and they stay there.

Your birthday cake collapses from the weight of all the candles!

Found this and thought it might make us smile!!!!

Remember you are not alone.

Maureen Brember



90th birthday celebrations

Margaret Izett
celebrating her
90th birthday in
August

Catherine
Hood also
celebrating
her 90th
birthday



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