



The Window

Minister
Rev Austin Wicks

Clackmannann Parish Church of Scotland
linked with Sauchie and Coalsnaughton

November 2026
Scottish Charity
Number SC002324



Autumn Greetings to all our Readers

CLACKMANNAN PARISH CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

“God has called His people in Clackmannann 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>
1 Nov	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks
8 Nov	10.50 am	Remembrance Service at War Memorial followed by service in the church - Rev Austin Wicks
	3.00 pm	Afternoon Service in Church Hall
15 Nov	11.30 am	Rev Austin Wicks
22 Nov	10.30 am	Joint Service in Sauchie and Coalsnaughton Church
29 Nov	11.30 am	First Sunday in Advent - Rev Austin Wicks
6 Dec	11.30 am	Second Sunday in Advent - 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 December Window - Sunday 15th November

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.

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

Grace and Peace to you my friends,

I've just returned from two weeks of holiday as I'm writing this. It was time well spent with my parents, exploring fun and exciting places in Scotland. Even though it was a bit tiring, it was a good week.

If you were ever lucky enough to see my parents lead worship or to hear them preach you would easily see where some of my worship style and preaching style comes from. Many of my mannerisms belong to my father, and some of my problem-solving comes from my mother.

But I don't think there would be much argument of where my musical talents come from, both would heartily agree it comes from my mother. In the same way I think they would both agree my love of nature and photography comes from my father.

My father has taken so many photos we used to have an entire bookcase dedicated to the wee envelopes that his prints came back in after handing over rolls of film to the clerk. My father has adapted well to the digital age, though I fear to ask the question of how many thousands of photos he has saved to his hard drives.

It is partly because of the way my parents raised me, and partly because of my faith, but I love seeing the beauty of God's creation all around me. Whether it's going somewhere breathtaking like the Cairngorms, or somewhere local, I'll always find something that reminds me of the beauty of God's creation, and how God spent just as much care in making you and me.

I hope this harvest season you have an appreciation for God's creation, and for the role that you play in tending to it.

Love and Peace,

Austin

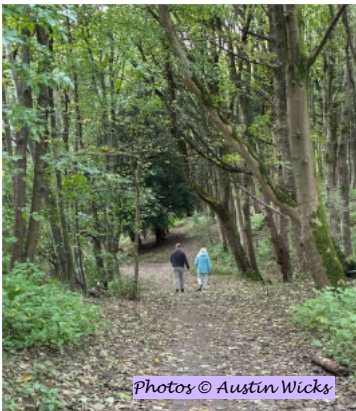
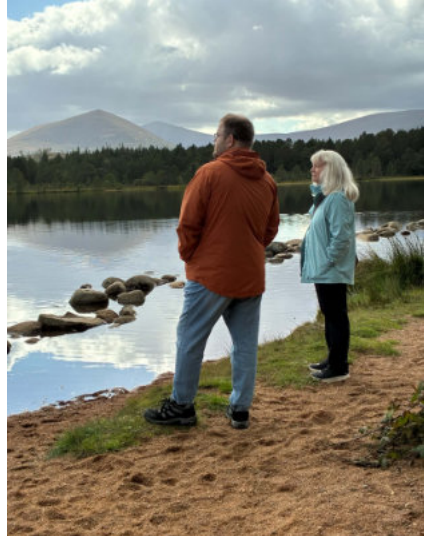
(Austin has shared some photos taken on holiday on the next page.)

NEPAL APPEAL

The response to the Smartie tube appeal for Nepal has been good so far and it is hoped that we will have a good sum to send at the end of October to the United Mission to Nepal for relief and reconstruction. Again, thanks to those who have participated.

CHURCH DIARY

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



Photos © Austin Wicks



Some photographs from Austin's holiday with his parents

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This is the start of a busy spell for Sunday School and we are hoping that as many of our younger church members can join us regularly as we prepare for ... Christmas! We have a list of dates for your diary below to help with this busy time.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1st Nov | Sunday School resumes with a focus on Remembrance |
| 8th Nov | Everyone in Church as we do each year to allow children to attend their own uniformed services. |
| 13 th Dec | Sunday School Christmas party - meet at hall at 11.20 am for a rehearsal first then party time. |
| 20 th Dec | All age worship led by the Sunday School team |

There will be no Sunday School for the 3 Sundays of the school holidays but we will resume normal service on January 10th 2027.

Many thanks

Sharon, Nancy, Denise, Fiona and Karen

DIARY UPDATE

This is just a small update for the forthcoming Tree Festival on **3rd, 4th and 5th December**. Plans are well underway and replies to invitations to take part are still coming in, so fingers crossed that this year will be as successful as previous years. There is still time should anyone wish to participate by entering a tree, a display or by sponsoring either one of these. There are still spaces for entertainment but these too will be filled.

It is always an exciting time to see our Church at this time of year so please put these dates in your diary and remind your family and friends of the warm welcome that they will receive when they come.

This is also an opportunity to have a look at the proposals for the alterations to the Church interior.

Remember tea, coffee, mince pies are offered and there's a chance to look at our craft area for some gifts for you to purchase.

Look forward to meeting you. Any further information please contact: ***Maureen Brember on 07799701742.***

PASTORAL CARE

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



Clackmannan Parish Church

12th December 2026

From 2pm till 4 pm

Come and join us as we welcome back
the ever popular Rock Choir

This is a great time to hear a variety of your
favourite songs and you are guaranteed
to be singing along.

There will be a break midway through
the performance where you can enjoy
a cuppa and cake.

Entry by Donation

*All donations will go towards future
renovations*

Clackmannan Parish Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity Number SC002324

**Clackmannan Community Council - Senior Citizen's Christmas
Dinner - Wednesday 9th December – 12.30 pm – 3.30 pm.**

Doors open at 12 noon. Meal being served from 12.45 pm in
Clackmannan Bowling Club. Entertainment by Lynne Gough. Names
can be given to Doreen on **Friday, 20th November or Friday 27th
November** – by going to Town Hall Hub (Old Library) from **10.30 am**
on the above dates - ***first come, first served.***

Anne Dawson brings us News from the Waddells

Their latest letter opens with verses from Isaiah 32:16-18 which tell of how God transforms unpromising and difficult circumstances, bringing peace and contentment. Keith and Ida have their share of challenges as they approach the end of their time as mission partners. They are looking into the possibility of securing a housing loan from church of Scotland to enable them to purchase a small house close to family in Scotland. They no longer have a bank account here nor registration with a GP or NHS dentist despite having paid National Insurance all their working life. Strangely, they are on the register for Westminster elections!

They plan to split their time between Scotland and Zambia as some of their own family and other foster children are there, in education and in Muyukwayukwa Refugee Camp. The camp is being closed as the UN is withdrawing funding so Keith and Ida are helping the youngsters to apply to join relatives in Sweden or Canada or, failing that, to apply for Zambian citizenship because return to DRC would not be safe.

Mubita is now over 6' tall. He helps water the hospital gardens and feeds the pigs.

Ellie is doing her A levels and would like to pursue studies in Sports Science and administration. A promising swimmer, she will resume training after exams. She is an ambassador for Para Olympics Zambia.

Keith, along with the men's group, has been setting up a kind of Seaman's Mission at a seasonal fishing camp about 15 km down the Zambezi from Mwandi, in the bush. People move there with their cattle when their pasture dries up and they graze their cattle on the flood plain and islands, catching and drying fish in the cold season then returning inland to plough their maize fields when the rains come.

The hospital has been struggling with interruption to the supply of medicines. Staff have also had their contracts terminated as Central Government seeks to take greater ownership with closer control and tighter monitoring of performance, aiming to bring together other sources of funding to replace USAID. The government will shortly sign a 5 Year health agreement with USA which, it is hoped, will not entail access to critical minerals.

An anti-rabies campaign saw around 4000 dogs and cats in Mwandi district vaccinated in 2 weeks.

In the wake of the presidential elections, which returned the incumbent, Hichilema, his challenger and other opposition figures were arrested and

face trial but courts are suspended. The rise of authoritarianism and threat to democracy give cause for concern.

Keith and Ida are looking forward to going to a five day Presbytery retreat, camping in a grove of Butoya (similar to willow trees) with a river winding through it. It sounds beautiful and we pray that they will find it a time of renewal and refreshment.

USED STAMPS

I will be posting off a 2 kg parcel of used stamps to RNIB, so my thanks to those who continue to collect these.

Anne Dawson

THANK YOU

We would like to say a very sincere thank you to everyone who came to our Macmillan Cancer Support coffee afternoon last week, as well as those who have given donations since. The amount raised so far is £396, with some more to come. We are delighted with this total and with the support received.

Anne Paterson and Joyce Morrison

Blythswood Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2026

Why not fill a shoebox with simple gifts? Show disadvantaged people they are not forgotten this Christmas.

At Clackmannan Parish Church we have successfully been doing this appeal for the last 23 years - let this year be no different. As advised previously we can fill a box on your behalf at a cost of £20. If you require an empty box we have some to enable this to be done. Or if you have a filled box, even better. The last date for getting boxes to me is Monday, 9th November, 2026 if you require boxes to be collected, please give me a call.

Helen White (07900837546)

CHRISTMAS CARDS/CALENDARS

Anne Dawson is still taking orders for Christmas cards and calendars from the Crossreach and Embrace the Middle East brochures.



Photo Joyce Morrison

Evelyn Burns with her flowers received in celebration of her 90th birthday in August

Apologies that this didn't make it into last month's magazine.

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 2026

20

1 Mr and Mrs Hugh Livingstone

2 Mrs Grace Hamilton

3 The Higgins Family

4 Sam and Margaret Harris

5 The Bramham Family

6 Mrs Jan McTaggart

7 The Higgins Family

8 Jim and Mary Millar

9 Mrs Linda Sloan

10 Mrs Linda Sloan

11

12 Mrs Lilian Clark

13 Mr Neil Wylie

14 Mrs Marjorie Gray

15 Mrs Christina Innes

16 Duncan and Maureen Brember

17 Mrs Christina Innes

18

19 Mrs Isobel Bell

21

Mrs Isobel Gilroy

22

The Young Family

23

Jim and Mary Millar

24

James and Elspeth Cuthbertson

25

James and Elspeth Cuthbertson

26

James and Elspeth Cuthbertson

27

James and Elspeth Cuthbertson

28

James and Elspeth Cuthbertson

29

Jim and Mary Millar

30

The Reid Family

31

Robert and Anne Paton



November 2026 dates still available:

6th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 15th,
16th, 20th, 22nd.

CLACKMANNAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting - Wednesday 18th November in Clackmannan Town Hall at 7 pm - take an interest in what is happening in your town.

Bingo Tea - Tuesday 24th November in Clackmannan Bowling Club. Doors open at 7 pm an eyes down at 7.30 pm. Brilliant prizes and delicious baking. Last one for 2026.

COMMUNION

The next communion services will be on Sunday 13th December at 11.30 am and 3 pm. There will be a retiring collection to support our Mission Partners.

FLOWER DONATIONS FOR NOVEMBER		
Nov	<i>Contributed by</i>	<i>Arranged by</i> Margaret Kidd <i>Distributed by</i> Helen White, Elders and others
1st	Ryna Marshall	
8th	Poppy Sunday	
15th	Flower Fund	
29th	Flower Fund	

JUST A WORD OF THANKS ...

I would like to thank the Church for the lovely flowers I received recently and to Andrew for delivering them.

Margaret Hill

Many thanks for the lovely flowers.

Eleanor Higgins

Many thanks for the lovely bouquet of flowers sent to mark my BIG birthday. The gift is much appreciated.

Evelyn Burns

SEPTEMBER FINANCE			
Income	£	Expenditure	£
Offerings	4,902.51	Giving to Grow	3,682.70
Investment Income	1,015.37	Salaries	673.59
Donation	9.82	Heat and Light	123.81
Gift Aid	6,528.18	Telephone	48.25
Hall Lets	140.00	Insurance	950.21
Fundraising	250.00	Office, stationery, post	28.63
Fairtrade	18.65	Poppy Wreath	40.50
Grant (windows)	2,348.40	Floral Gift	27.50
		Bank Charges	0.87
	15,212.93		5,576.06

Please note that the insurance figure includes two monthly payments. The grant income is towards the cost of the repair to the vestry and belfry windows, the cost of which (£3,432.69) was paid in May this year.

This gives a surplus of £9,636.87 for the month, and a deficit year to date of £1,130.34.

Joyce Morrison, Treasurer

CLACKMANNAN PARISH CHURCH

Festival of Christmas 2026

Thursday 3rd December 10am to 8pm

Friday 4th December 10am to 8pm

Saturday 5th December 10am to 7pm



**There will be musical entertainment
and gifts to buy**



*Our Festival will end with carol singing
on the Saturday evening from 7.00 to 7.30pm.*



Entry by donation

ALL ARE WELCOME

Scottish Charity Number SC 002324



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Web: www.clackmannankirk.org.uk