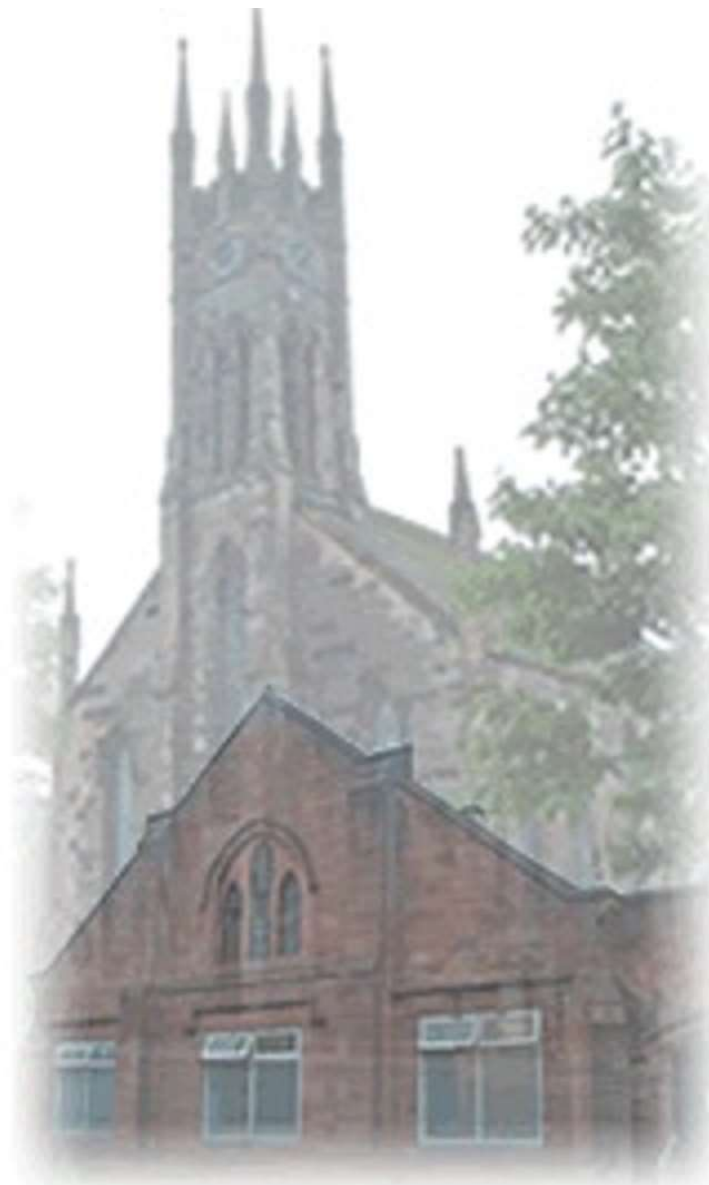




Rutherglen
West and
Wardlawhill

*At the heart of
OUR community*

OCTOBER 2023



*Rutherglen West and Wardlawhill Parish Church is a congregation of the Church of Scotland
and a Charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SCO 07585
www.westandwardlawhill.org*

Hello from the Manse,

Do you have some things looming larger on your 'horizon'? Positive or negative. To be honest, normally they do come as a combination of both – and never evenly balanced. Are things heading for you; you can see it's direction of travel; there's no way of avoiding it; it's coming ... it's coming ... it's coming? And then it's here? Bang. The bad ones can be those times when you truly wonder "where is God in all this?"

Hannah is my youngest child of four. She's 20 next month. She was doing her Highers in the year they stopped the Scottish education system because of the pandemic. Let's just say, the estimated exam results from some of her teachers did not build up her faith in the Scottish education system! (*I know – sarcasm in a minister's letter – how awful*). So she did her sixth year and did well – she got a university course ... but nonetheless decided to take a year out from education and then, worryingly, another year out. The Glaswegian colloquial word would be obvious - she was fair scunnered with education generally and needed a break. That break finished for Hannah last Sunday when her mum and dad dropped her off at Durham University.

The day really had been on the 'cards' for a while. After the initial concern that she would leave education and just *never* return subsided, it became clear Hannah was going to go to uni. Our 'baby' was leaving. I have been through this 'dropping off' tearful process three times before but ... she's the baby and she's had a tough time in the last two years.

So, all said and done, last weekend wasn't our typical holiday weekend for the Cathcart family. I need you to know that the situation we were in was profound... she wasn't just having a bad day. I do know that when ministers preach some Bible verse in a church sermon or, say it at a bedside or proclaim it at a graveside it can often ring hollow to folk who feel their situation is beyond them. The 'pat' answers seem so useless – worse than that, they can feel as if they not only don't help, but actually condescend to somebody having an awful time.

It didn't take much in the end: Hannah kept some Bible verses close to her heart; she met some Christians in her freshers' week; and had some really 'good' conversations fellow students in her 'digs'.

The verse that came to mind for me was Psalm 46: 18. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in the Spirit. Not every quotation of scripture is glib. God's word really does address our every need – but the needs can still be pressing; the feelings can still be overwhelming. It's only Hannah's first week. So pray for any and all new students you know starting uni. Most importantly of all, for your own situation – the diagnosis; the bully at work; the marriage that's disintegrating – never forget: God is close to the broken-hearted. It's true. I know it to be true – I've seen the truth of it up close. Go in the strength of God. His word really is a light unto your path.

*Yours sincerely,
Ian Cathcart*

Wedding

2nd September David Smith and Kirsty Rennie

Funerals (all members)

2nd June Sybil Henderson

6th June Cathy Blair

12th September Maureen Gallacher

Hello from our Worship Team,

Firstly, Can I highlight our singing and bible group we have on a Sunday evening from 7pm – 8pm.

It is a good fun night with all contributing to both the singing and bible passage we read. There are no right or wrong comments about how you feel and what the passage says to you.

The singing is about finding new songs in the mission praise that we can introduce to our worship on a Sunday morning and the more comments we can have on a Sunday evening the better our Sunday morning service is.

So come along and join in with us.

Secondly, please let me know of anyone needing pastoral care, it is essential I am aware of what is going on so I can help out.

Thanks to you all for keeping in touch with those who are unwell and unable to be with us in worship.

God bless

Stuart



USEFUL INFORMATION

MINISTER

Vacancy

All enquiries regarding pastoral care, weddings, baptisms, funerals, illness etc., in the first instance contact the Session Clerk

SESSION CLERK - Alistair McInnes

TREASURER - Kim Jackson

MAGAZINE EDITOR - Margaret Feeney

FUTURE MAGAZINE DATES

November Issue - Items to be in for Sunday 29th October
Pick Up 5th November

December Issue - Items to be in for Sunday 26th November
Pick Up 3rd December

There will be no magazine issue in January 2024

QR CODE

We can't always get to church to put in our offering or we may want to make an additional donation to the church.

Well, you can now make your offerings and any donations using this QR code.

Just use your phone's camera app and follow the instructions.



A FRIEND

A friend is someone you choose,
And pick from all the rest.
A friend is someone that you know
Will always do their best
To pick you up and walk with you,
Through times when you feel sad,
To celebrate when times are good,
And truly show they're glad.
A friend is someone you can trust
Someone who's kind and true,
A friend can turn the day around,
When you are feeling blue.
So if you have a friend like that,
just stop and take the time,
To say, 'you're such a special friend,
And I'm so glad you're mine'.

WAYS & MEANS

HARVEST COFFEE MORNING THIS COMING SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER 10am till 12noon

We look forward to welcoming you all this Saturday, don't worry if you don't have a ticket, simply come and pay at the door. Donations of baking and small gifts for our 'corner shop' as always, are very much appreciated. Raffle tickets are available for our Prize Draw.



AND NOW THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS FAIR SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER - 11am till 2pm

First of all, some thoughts and information from my Committee on this year's proposed Fair, especially for **THOSE OF YOU** who have worked so hard on this particular event, for so many years. **YES!** you have no doubt just read the above heading and thought, "Oh! No!, I don't think I am able to work on this event again". As a Committee we totally understand this reaction - Honest!

Prior to the Covid pandemic, it was becoming more and more evident to us, just how difficult some people were finding the work involved on this end-of-year fundraiser. After a gap of 3 years the Fair was resurrected in November last year, raising the remarkable sum of £3949.00. However, even raising such a wonderful amount, last year we were all 3 years older with many people, as the dust settled, saying "Never again" - some people saying "If there is another Fair in 2023, that will definitely be my last" and some people referring to this year's as "their Swan-Song Christmas Fair".

If indeed this year's Fair turns out to be the last Fair set up as we know it, encompassing the style and inevitable work involved, then a different special event before Christmas-time will in due course I am sure, be considered, perhaps constructed in such a way resulting in less work for all those concerned in its set-up.

But, **FIRST** things **FIRST**, right now let's look towards the end of **THIS** November. Your Ways and Means Committee has decided to put into operation, once again, your church's Christmas Fair. **LET'S GO FOR IT - LET'S MAKE IT ONE OF OUR BEST.** We have already started to arrange many of the aspects required and which need to be attended to before we even get to November. Let's start with one of the first things which we would like you to consider -

'KAREN'S CHRISTMAS DAY TREATS'

Well, this certainly went down a treat for many of you last year. As part of our Christmas Fair fundraiser, Karen Johnston is once again all set to take pre-orders for your Christmas Day Celebrations, or perhaps to use as one of your gifts. All orders from the list below to be placed **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PLEASE**, with a closing date of Thursday 30th of November, allowing Karen as much time as possible to fulfil her order book.

Items placed will be available for pick-up from Karen on Sunday 17th December after the morning service. In due course if, for any reason, you find you are unable to collect your order that day, please make sure to ask someone else to do this for you.



Please choose from the following -

CHRISTMAS CAKES - 6inch Rich fruit cake, marzipan top, covered in fondant icing
Packaged in decorative Christmas box. (Can be made without the marzipan, upon request)
Cost - £6.00

SNOWFLAKES - Decorative bags of tablet snowflakes
(8 Snowflakes per bag)
Cost - £3.00

Contact Karen on -

Mobile [REDACTED] Voice mail or your text message, or have a word with Karen on a Sunday morning at church

So now, where do YOU come in with our decision to go ahead with another Fair. To the whole congregation, thank you all for the massive number of donations, monetary or otherwise, which are handed in for this event year after year. More information in November's magazine but in the meantime I confirm our normal features and stalls, all of which have been so successful in the past - **NEW GIFTS - BOTTLES AND SWEETS - SOFT GOODS - CHRISTMAS GIFT STALL - CAKE AND CANDY - ALADDIN'S CAVE - T-ROOM. PLEASE NOTE WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT YOUR DONATIONS, IN THE FORM OF GOODS, BEFORE THE FAIR WEEK, MONDAY 20TH TO FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER** as we just don't have any space in our halls to store these.

HELP NEEDED - YES a lot of help, from a lot of people, not just for the big day itself but also during the Fair week when people are needed in our halls every evening for, among other things, unpacking your donation bags, laying everything out on our stalls, erecting our much-loved Santa's Grotto on our hall stage and laying out such a wonderful Aladdin's Cave display. **IF**, and I say **IF**, **YOU feel YOU ARE** able to help this year please have a word with the following people –

WORK IN ALADDIN'S CAVE - Andy Scott - Telephone 632 5151 (or from now on, have a word with Andy on a Sunday morning)

T-ROOM - Lesley Fletcher - Mobile 07505 271340 (or again, from now on, have a word with Lesley on a Sunday morning)

ALL OTHER FEATURES - eg **SETTING UP OUR GROUND FLOOR HALLS** before Monday evening 20th November - working at our **STALLS, SANTA'S GROTTTO, FRONT DOOR** - Please have a word with myself any time from now on

Finally, as I said earlier, more information will be contained in next month's issue of the magazine - Oh dear, that will actually **BE THE MONTH**, the Fair takes place! Please speak to me any Sunday morning if you have any questions at all regarding the Fair.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 24th October 2023

7.30pm - Baker Hall

Morag Smith

Ways & Means Convener

ROTAS OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

DOOR, OFFERING & COUNTING DUTIES

1st & 29th October, 26th November

C-M Cruthers, C-J Brown, C-E Reid, C-E Ross,
C-S McDonald, C-M Ross, C-D Smith, C-K Jackson

Beadle - C-A McMillan

8th October & 5th November

L Fotheringham, C-S Blakeley, C-S Kerr, C-A McInnes,
C-M McInnes, C-D Smith, C-K Jackson

Beadle - T McEwan

*15th October & 12th November

C-S Harbinson, C-I Tennent, R Tennent, C-L Fletcher,
C-K Mann, C-D Fraser, C-K Jackson

***Communion**

Beadle - C-D Smith

22nd October & 19th November

C-D Baird, R Brock, C-A Chambers, C-K Johnston,
A Kennedy, C-M Feeney, C-D Smith, C-K Jackson

Beadle - C-J Duncan

Alistair McInnes

Session Clerk

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE READERS

OCTOBER

1st S Rowan
8th A McInnes
*15th M Grieve
22nd A McMillan
29th S Harbinson

***Communion**

NOVEMBER

5th S Kerr
12th K Jackson
19th M McInnes
26th M Ross

Alistair McInnes

Session Clerk





1st October, 5th & +12th November
 S Blakeley, E Reid, S Kerr, J Brown, M Ross
+No T-Bar - Soup & Roll Lunch in Black Hall

8th & *15th October, 19th & 26th November
 L Fletcher, V Rowan, A Chambers, G McMillan,
 H Mulholland
***Communion**

22nd & 29th October
 I White, N Hay, K Johnston, E McMillan,
 J Doherty

Morag Smith
T-Bar

CHURCH FLOWERS

OCTOBER		NOVEMBER	
1st	J Doherty	5th	M Smith
8th	M Feeney	12th	M Smith
*15th	M Smith	19th	J Doherty
22nd	J Doherty	26th	M Feeney
29th	M Feeney		

***Communion**

Dedication:

David Hay - 13th November
*"In Loving Memory of a much-loved son
 and brother"*

Mum, Dad, and Stuart

Morag Smith
Church Flowers

THANK YOU

Well done Isabelle, Stuart, and Benjamin for Sunday 17th September's service, it was so enjoyable. Also making her stage debut reminiscent of a young Sophia Loren was, Liz McMillan – who I'm sure Isabelle has on speed dial for future performances.

Thank you all.

Elizabeth Ross

A big thank you to everyone in the Garden Team for the BBQ on Saturday 23rd September.
 Rolls 'n' Sausage – delicious – as per usual.
 Cakes – delicious – as per usual.
 Company – friendly and smiling – as per usual.
 Good time was had by all – as per usual.
 Thank you.

Elizabeth Ross

From the Church of Scotland Facebook page:

The Border Kirk in Carlisle has welcomed almost fifty men and women asylum seekers to its congregation, with more being baptised every other month. Half of the church's Sunday worshipping community is now made up of asylum seekers, primarily from Iran, who began attending the church the first Sunday after Easter, 2022.

Rev Wes Brandon, The Border Kirk's minister, said he was approached that Sunday by twelve Iranian men, asking if the church was Christian and if they could attend. "I said we would love if they worshipped with us and The Border Kirk has never been the same since that moment," he said.

Before each member is baptised, Mr Brandon takes them out to lunch and encourages them to share their life experiences and discuss the nature of baptism, Christ and the Church. "The life stories they share are widely varied, but primarily about persecution and torture," he said. "Most of the Iranians that come to us at The Border Kirk were Christ-seekers in Iran."

Many of the Iranians in The Border Kirk attended house churches in Iran which were shut down by the Iranian secret police, with converting from Islam to Christianity being punishable by death.

Mr Brandon said a number of the Iranians in the congregation have escaped torture, sexual assault, and the death sentence. He revealed that one asylum seeker was tortured 'for being caught handing out bibles in a public park'.

To protect their anonymity and the safety of their families in Iran, the church's online video stream is stopped during the baptismal part of the service. This year, since more asylum seekers have been invited, the church has swelled with new parishioners from across the globe. The Border Kirk makes a special effort to make sure the asylum seekers are welcomed.

Every Sunday service is translated and printed entirely into Farsi and Iranian members of the congregation are invited to read the scripture lessons for the day after they are read in English. "I felt if above all else during worship, they would at least hear the Bible read in their native language," Mr Brandon said. "Two of the Iranians who are professional musicians often provide an anthem during the service, sometimes in Farsi, sometimes in English, sometimes in both." Mr Brandon and other members of the congregation write letters of reference to the Home Office. As well as this, the congregation has sponsors which support the asylum seekers and who very often become like a family unit.

Originally from Knoxville, Tennessee and ordained in the Presbyterian Church of the USA, Mr Brandon said ministers sometimes "wonder why God calls or sends us to a specific place or community".

"I firmly believe God led me to The Border Kirk and this church community for this particular reason," he stated. "I have grown as a person, in my ministry, and in my sense of calling from this ongoing encounter.

"More importantly, I am so overwhelmed by the love poured out from my congregation to the asylum seekers."

TREASURER'S REPORT - 2023

	AUGUST	YEAR TO DATE
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
OFFERINGS	2960	25584
TAX RECOVERED GIFT AID	0	3525
MINIATURE CHURCHES	0	153
CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS	0	0
BANK/DEPOSIT FUND INTEREST	17	147
INVESTMENT INCOME	0	974
RENTAL OF PREMISES	1865	14910
OTHER RECEIPTS	408	14464
	<u>5250</u>	<u>59757</u>
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
GIVING TO GROW	2947	23577
PRESBYTERY DUES	0	1586
OTHER STAFFING COSTS	896	6493
BUILDING MAINTENANCE COSTS	88	6606
HEATING & LIGHTING	1213	12020
INSURANCE	691	5346
PRINTING & STATIONERY ETC	0	546
OTHER PAYMENTS	982	11146
IT EQUIPMENT	60	480
	<u>6877</u>	<u>67800</u>
SURPLUS /DEFICIT	-1627	-8043

REDEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT: Balance as at 31st August 2023 = + £ 6839.07

INFORMATION: Please note the church was unable to pay its expected Ministry and Mission Contribution during part of 2020 ,2021 and 2022 due to the impact of the Covid pandemic on its finances.

Total contribution outstanding as at 3st July 2023 = £58,426.00
This is made up of £23,178 outstanding from 2020, £22,594.00 outstanding from 2021 and £12,654 remaining contribution to be paid for 2022
Our Giving to Grow Contribution for 2023 is £ 35,363.00
To date £23,577 has been paid towards this total



**Our BB Company, 195th Glasgow,
meets each week from September
to May.**

**All are welcome to come along to
our Hamilton Road Halls.
Why not give it a try?**



ANCHORS

Thursdays 6.30 to 7.30 pm
For boys in P1 to P3

juniors

Thursdays 7.00 to 8.30 pm
For boys in P4 to P6

Company

Thursdays 7.30 to 9.30 pm
For boys in P7 to S6

For further information contact Alistair McInnes,
Company Captain, [REDACTED]