

Issue No. 51



Autumn 2024

Clarkston Church Record

The newsletter from
Airdrie Clarkston Parish Church of Scotland



Our Mission

We, the people of Airdrie Clarkston Parish Church, seek to celebrate God's presence and love through prayer, worship, fellowship and service in the life of our Church, our community and in the wider world.

In this issue.....

Ministerial Matters

Updates on the Presbytery Mission Plan

News from the Boys Brigade, the Rainbows and Messy Church

Church Weekly Calendar

- Sun Morning Worship, at 11:00am
Crèche, during morning worship, for babies & children aged 0-3 years
After church tea/coffee, in the Church Hall
12:00 noon
- Tue The Guild
2:00pm every 2nd and 4th Tuesday
(Oct - Mar)
Church Board & Session Meetings
7:00pm-9:00pm,
2nd Tuesday (Sept-June)
"Messy Church"
29th October
3rd or 10th December (TBC)
- Thurs Property Maintenance Group
a.k.a "Land Army"
10:00am-12:00noon
Carpet Bowling Group
2:00pm-4:00pm (Oct - Apr)
Boys Brigade Junior Section
7:00pm-8.30pm
- Fri Boys Brigade Anchor Boys
6.00pm-7.00pm
Boys Brigade Company
Section
7.30pm-10.00pm

For more details on any of the above activities, please contact the Session Clerk (details on the back page), or see the church website,

www.airdriec Clarkstonparishchurch.org.uk

or follow us on Facebook at
"Airdrie Clarkston Parish Church"



Newsletter Dates

Next Edition Winter

Publish Date 24th Nov (TBC)

Congregational Register

Baptisms

"Let the children come to me"

Sunday 11th August 2024

Esme Easton

Funerals

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"

With sadness we record the death of the following church members.

Sandy Brown

Funeral held at Daldowie Crematorium

on 21st June 2024

Alec Wightman

Funeral held at Holytown Crematorium

on 22nd July 2024

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends

Special Church services during Autumn

The following special Church services will take place during Autumn.

All services will take place in Airdrie Clarkston Parish Church unless otherwise stated.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 13 th Oct 11:00am | Harvest thanksgiving service
(please bring food donations for the food bank) |
| Sunday 20 th Oct 11:00am | Joint Service at Cairnlea Church |
| Sunday 27 th Oct 11:00am | Service of Holy communion |
| Sunday 10 th Nov 10.45am | Remembrance Sunday |
| Sunday 17 th Nov 11:00am | Morning Worship -
Mr Norman Liddle gives a talk on the work of the Scottish Bible Society |

Ministerial Matters

As I write to you, it is an unusually warm day in early September. It is always such a joy to see the sun out. It truly lifts the mood. Although unfortunately because it is September the long light nights of summer are ebbing away, and the days are getting shorter and the nights longer. As this change happens it can make some of us feel down. It gets colder and darker – the perfect recipe for making us feel a bit miserable! In fact, as you may know there is actually a medical term for this - Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is a type of depression that comes and goes in a seasonal pattern. SAD is sometimes known as "winter depression" because the symptoms are usually more apparent during the winter.

Perhaps you don't find the winter all that bad – maybe there are other sadness's that you feel. Maybe you find that you are still missing a loved one. Or perhaps you are in physical pain that is increasingly challenging. I wondered about all these things that you might be going through. And so, with all this in mind I wanted to write to you words of encouragement. I think of you all so often and am always wanting to encourage you and let you know that all of

you are in your church family's thoughts and prayers. We remember you all.

With all that in mind a scripture verse came to me. These are the words of Jesus when he says:

'And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

That is from Matthew 28, verse 20. I think those words from Jesus are so encouraging and I believe them to be true. I hope you do too.

Our faith in God is not just our own individual faith. Faith is often shared with one another and that shared faith is experienced through our time spent with one another. And time spent together often encourages and strengthens our own faith.

I wonder how many times we have sung together in church, 'Brother Sister let me serve you', and have been comforted by the words

'I will hold the Christ light for you in the night-time of your fears – I will hold my hand out to you – speak the words you long to hear.'

I'm sure it's been our experience that we try our best to hold the 'Christ light' for members of our church family

when we've known them to be going through a difficult time. And we have also known of the generous love we have been shown when we have been going through a difficult time.

And through it all we have heard the words of Jesus saying 'Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age' Jesus is closer to us than our next breath and he says to us:

'I have called you by your name and you are mine'
(Isaiah 43.1)

And we have to hold onto that encouragement as we continue to move into the next phase of our Christian life. There will come a time where we will no longer worship in the Clarkston church building, but we will still remain brothers and sisters in Christ. There will still be a need to encourage one another, and we must still reach out and ask for help – to ask for the Christ light to be held for us if we are going through a difficult time.

And now as I close this letter to you my prayer for us all is in the words of the hymn:

May the mind of Christ, my Saviour, live in me from day to day, by His love and power controlling all I do and say.

God bless you,

Hanna

FROM 4Cs to *United in mission*

September 2024: two representatives from each congregation with the three Ministers met
ON WORSHIP: to think through what worship might look like being “united in mission”. The discussions took us towards these points.

Given that

- worship is the beating heart of church life: that without worship, we will not be offering the mission of Christ
- gatherings for worship bring people together and send them out to live their daily lives
- styles of worship can vary, and people do tend to tune into worship that “works” for them

might we aim for

- 1) a three-prong approach on basics?
 - a large gathering for worship on a Sunday morning in Cairnlea
 - also, whether on a Sunday morning or at some other time, gatherings for worship in other locations, recognising village identities and matters of easy access. These to be led not necessarily by “the Minister”. Would these be weekly or less often? Using technology? Messy Church? Café Church? House churches? Etc
 - Also, whether on a Sunday morning or at some other time, new gatherings for worship – new in the sense of location or style or constituency. The Group agreed that unless we do new things, there will be too little extension of outreach through worship.

There would also be a worship element to all meetings and church groupings.

- 2) The equipping / training of people to help lead worship – from contributing a prayer or a reading all the way through to leading full services?

Rationale

- “*God wants everyone to be saved*” (I Timothy 2:6) So it is vital to maximise and multiply opportunities for worship and witness: one large service is not enough.
- “*He came into our neighbourhood*” (John 1:14) For seeing the presence of God, and for seeing the neighbours amongst whom we live, all sorts of “neighbourhoods” invite our engagement, i.e. wherever or however people can be brought together. Neither one place nor one style nor one time will meet the needs of all. And as well as our current places of operation, new initiatives, starting “from nothing”, are both exciting and important.
- “*We are to use our different gifts*” (Romans 12:6) Worship fundamentally is not dependent on “the Minister”, but it does ask people to offer themselves. We need to commit to practices of training and growth.

Share your thoughts!

- 1) On how a three-prong approach to worship could meet the needs of 2025
- 2) On what you might be able to offer to one or more of these approaches

*Marjory MacDonald, Jacqui Munton (Cairnlea),
Sharon Martin, Ruby Smith (Chapelhall),
Joan McPhee, Ian Buchanan (Calderbank),
Joy Codona, Campbell Sefton (Clarkston)*

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

September 2024: two representatives from each congregation with the three Ministers met ON MINISTRIES: to think through what ministries might look like being “united in mission”. The discussions took us towards these points.

Given that

- Ministry or service is something offered by anyone and everyone, for the glory of God and the blessing of His people and His world
- Some are ordained for particular roles: currently two Ministers of Word and Sacrament are in place with identical remit, and it would be unworkable to carry that situation forward without clear delineation of responsibilities
- And then amongst Elders and others, roles and responsibilities are currently shaped around four separate geographies

might we aim for

- Strong thinking and intentionality about building up people’s gifts for service across the area of united mission
- Serious thought about how two persons ordained or appointed into full-time roles might both complement one another (not to mention others in their ministries) and serve (aspects of) the united mission. Would this be by specialisation, e.g. with one post being “pioneering”? What are the priorities of the new set-up for which we need deployment of resources?
- Careful planning on what Elders and others might bring into the new united set-up

Rationale

- No one part can say “*I don’t need you*” (I Corinthians 12:21)
- For all that Hanna and Peter are currently in the mix (and do need themselves to consider how best they can serve and where), *the creation of a new unit requires thinking that is not built around particular individuals*. (cf. I Corinthians 1: 10-13!)
Currently we divide up by geography, but this is not the only conceivable way of apportioning full-time appointments. Studies of how it works in England or in Scotland would be timely.
- *Getting a new set-up going requires full-on attention* (cf. Titus 1:5) Simply adding together what we currently have is not necessarily wise. Some streamlining and improved ways of working will be possible!

Share your thoughts!

- 1) On how to make the very most of people’s gifts and strengths in this new era
- 2) In thinking through what kind of remit would be taken up by two full-time equivalent (FTE) appointments so that there isn’t unnecessary overlap and duplication. P.S. Hanna and Peter will themselves give thought to how they would prefer to serve; and we shall all have to discern in due course whether that fits or not

Marjory MacDonald, Jacqui Munton (Cairnlea), Sharon Martin, Ruby Smith (Chapelhall), Joan McPhee, Ian Buchanan (Calderbank), Joy Codona, Campbell Sefton (Clarkston)

Mission Plan update

Dear friends,

I am pleased to share with you an update of some of the work carried out over the summer as we journey towards a union of our four congregations.

Representatives from all four congregations were invited to two meetings in August to discuss Governance and New Visions.

The first meeting was largely concerned with issues of Governance – i.e. the way the new united church will be managed and structured. At the moment our four congregations have a mix of constitutions – some with a Board and a Kirk Session, others where all decisions are made by the Kirk Session. In the new union, we will operate under what is called the Unitary Constitution, which means all decisions will be made by the Kirk Session. However, there will be committees and groups set up by the Session and members of the congregation would have opportunities to serve on these committees/groups.

Whilst all this may seem rather dry and technical, getting the governance right really matters. We hope to empower and equip people across the church to enable them to carry out the work of mission. One of the opportunities of this new beginning is that we can ask questions we have not really asked before – such as, what would be the optimum number of Elders serving on the Kirk Session at any one time? How can we free up as many Elders as we can from the day-to-day management of church affairs so that they can engage in the work of mission? What, and how many, committees/groups should we have? What should be our priorities going forward?

The question of priorities was the focus of our

second meeting on New Visions. We discussed ways in which members of the church could be given opportunities to grow in their own faith and discipleship. We also discussed opportunities for outreach and evangelism in our local community. Whilst there is already a great deal of mission going on across our four congregations, we explored how we might become more intentional in our mission – focussing on changing lives and helping people to grow in their faith.

The above is just a brief overview of our discussions – discussions which were exciting and encouraging. Discussions which encouraged us to imagine the ‘church of tomorrow’. By putting in place the right governance structures, and by facilitating the congregation to engage in the work of mission, we pray and hope for a revival of the church in our community as people come to know the love of Christ in our worship, witness, and outreach.

God bless

Hanna

Post Script -

I wonder if you have any questions regarding this information?

Do you have an opinion on what size the Kirk Session of the union will be?

Do you have questions on the role of the Elder in the union – will it change?

Please do ask questions– you can do this by chatting to Joy Codona, Gemma Sefton, Graham MacFall and Campbell Sefton. These four people attended the various meetings.

Church Recipe Book



We are compiling a recipe book of “Our favourite recipes” and we are grateful

to the congregation for supplying us with the recipes.

It is hoped to have this ready to go on sale in December; it might make a nice Christmas gift for someone?

The proceeds of the book will go

to the Church hall upgrade fund.

If you would like to have your favourite recipe included then send it to us by 12th October.

Many thanks

Our first Messy Church of Session 2024/2025 will take place on Tuesday 17th September from 5.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.

Some other dates for this session have been set:

Messy Church Tuesday 29th October

Messy Church Tuesday 3rd or 10th December (actual date TBC)

VINTAGE MESSY CHURCH - Tuesday 26th November from 10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

For those who are new to Messy Church we thought a little explanation what Messy Church is all about might be interesting.

Messy Church is founded on Five Values.

These are:- Christ Centred, All Age, Celebration, Hospitality and Creativity

CHRIST CENTRED is the most important of all our values. Jesus is at the heart



of everything we do and the way we do it. Right before we welcome anyone through the doors, this involves encountering Jesus as the team plan and prepare.

ALL AGE - Messy Church is a church for everybody. We welcome all ages, abilities, learning preferences, backgrounds, level of interest in God. It is intergenerational with two or more generations interacting with one another. Messy Church is a place where the adults, children and young people share in the same activity and conversation. Our ministry is about creating space for these different generations to encounter Jesus together.

CELEBRATION - Celebration time is a space where we bring all the activities together and link them back to the Bible story or theme. We want to share how life changing

following Jesus is, through worship and experiencing his kingdom together as a community.

HOSPITALITY - Hospitality at Messy Church is more than simply eating together. We're looking to mirror the hospitality of Jesus himself in the way he went out to people, welcomed everyone, young and old provided food and enjoyed the food of others.

Lucy Moore from the Messy Church organisation writes about coming more convinced

'That hospitality lies quietly at the heart not just of Messy Church but of the whole story of God and His people.'

CREATIVITY - This is probably the value that we're most well-known for in that we use hands-on activities to explore Bible stories and to encounter Jesus, not just hear about Him, It's an opportunity to learn and to give people of all ages a chance to play together as they learn.

Please join us at any of the events. You will be made most welcome.

Barbara Sefton

WANTED!



Volunteers are needed to help on Thursday morning's between

10 and 12 to join our team.

We keep the memorial garden tidy and do general tidying around the halls and Church. We even find time for tea / coffee and a wee blether.

We would really welcome any

gentlemen or ladies who could spare some time to join our "Land army" formerly "Dad's army"

John Robertson



Organisations News



2nd Airdrie Rainbows

The Rainbows have returned after their long summer break and we were delighted to welcome ten new girls to our unit.



3rd Airdrie Boys Brigade

We have had a great start to our session with 23 Anchor boys 22 Junior Section and 21 company section boy's to date.

We are continuing with our usual programs of marching PT fun and games which is the corner stone of the Boys Brigade.

Over the last few weeks we have been focusing on being kind and helpful which is part of the Rainbow Promise. As part of this the girls made bumble bees out of card and paper; as bumble bees are helpful.

We have also been playing lots of games.

We have the officers communion on the 15th September at Gartcosh Church and our founders day parade on 6th October at Blairhill Church, Coatbridge where all parents and friends are welcome.

We have started practising for all our competitions which start at the end of October; we are hoping we can be as successful as last session where we came second in both Junior and Senior sections and first in the Anchor boys section.

Our new Rainbows are settling in well and we are looking forward to the year ahead with more fun activities.

Margaret MacFall

Unit Leader

2nd Airdrie Rainbows

At present we are the largest Boys Brigade Company in the Airdrie and Coatbridge Battalion and hopefully we will continue to grow with the help of our dedicated officers and helpers and the support of our church family.

Archie Easton

Captain

3rd Airdrie Boys Brigade

Church Contacts

Minister: Rev Hanna Rankine
07990 620989
email: hrankine@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk: Mr C. Sefton
Clerk to the Board: Mrs J. Codona
Property Convenor: Position vacant
Treasurer: Mrs K. Harrison

By Post: Airdrie Clarkston Parish Church
Forrest Street, Airdrie. ML6 7BE

By phone: 01236 756862

By email: airdriec Clarkstonparishchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.airdriec Clarkstonparishchurch.org.uk

Facebook: "Airdrie Clarkston Parish Church"

Charity No: SC011239

The next issue of this newsletter will be the Winter edition, which is scheduled for publication in November 2024.

Clarkston Church Record is published by Airdrie Clarkston Parish Church of Scotland, Forrest Street, Airdrie, ML6 7BE quarterly in Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter