

Kilsyth & District Parish Church

Newsletter

Issue 4
October and November 2026

Dear Friends,

What a state our world is in. Most of us don't have the practical skills to make a difference in areas of conflict, disaster or disease, so we offer what we can: prayer and (if possible) financial help to agencies working in the field. In a departure from our normal format this month, we highlight very briefly the work of just a few of these organisations in different crises and ask that you commit to praying for them. In each case the web address is given so that you can find out more about their priorities and keep up to date.

What's happening in the Middle East?

72,000

72,000 Palestinians have been killed.

2m

Nearly two million people have been displaced, forced to face famine and disease in overcrowded shelters.

250,000

A quarter of a million children are expected to face severe malnutrition this year.



Food shortages in Gaza

Gaza was already in a terrible state, but following the escalation of conflict across the Middle East in Feb 2026, when Israel & the US launched air strikes on Iran, people in Gaza said they feared running out of food. With most crossings closed, the price of goods doubled in days.

Violence increasing in the West Bank

With attention elsewhere, reports of Israeli armed settler violence against Palestinians increased immediately in the West Bank, according to B'Tselem, a Christian Aid partner.

Displacement in Lebanon

CA partners in Lebanon say so many people had been displaced due to Israeli bombing and evacuation orders that there was 'no space left in Beirut's shelters'. It was impossible to evacuate priority cases, such as older people with disabilities & chronic health issues.

Our response in Gaza

Our local partners run up to 80 mobile health and roadside clinics across Gaza. They provide emergency food, shelter, community kitchens and psychosocial support for families. Re-establishing water supplies and supporting agriculture, along with dignity kits, baby essentials and 'safe' spaces for informal education are also key.

Our response in Lebanon

Displaced people are offered shelter, cash and essential items like hot meals, mattresses, showers, hygiene support and help for women at risk. Medical care and psychological support are also important.

www.christianaid.org.uk

Ebola Outbreak Democratic Republic of Congo

Ebola is one of the world's deadliest diseases. It is a highly infectious virus that can kill up to 90 percent of the people who catch it, causing terror among affected communities.

Ebola is so dangerous that patients need to be treated in isolation by staff wearing strict protective equipment and clothing.

The DRC is facing the worst Ebola disease outbreak in its history with the fastest-spread ever recorded. So far, there are over 6000 confirmed cases and over 3000 deaths reported.

Unlike most previous outbreaks, this one is caused by the Bundibugyo virus for which there is no approved vaccine and no approved treatment, so responding to this virus is particularly challenging.



© Daniel Buuma
Teams follow strict disinfection protocols.

Find out more at <https://msf.org.uk/>



Floods in Nepal

More at www.tearfund.org and
www.gwt.org.uk



On the morning of 26 August catastrophic flash floods and mudslides tore through Nepal towards the Trishuli River, affecting communities across Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading. Along the riverside, the force of the water left behind thick layers of mud and sand, while the marks on the riverbanks showed just how high the water had risen.

Many families and communities have lost everything. Loved ones are missing. Homes have been destroyed. Livelihoods gone. More heavy rain at the end of September caused further flooding and landslides affecting roads and other infrastructure which makes getting around the country even harder than normal.

The GWT has a permanent presence in Nepal caring for Gurkha veterans, providing pensions, medical and social care, building earthquake resistant housing while Tearfund works with local partners as part of the government-led response to the disaster

Pray for Nepal after flash floods and mudslides

- Pray for those people affected, those grieving lost loved ones, those who are displaced, and those waiting for news of missing people.
- Pray for the rescue workers, first responders and local leaders as they try to reach the most vulnerable.
- Pray for wisdom and endurance for staff and local partners as they seek to bring relief, hope and care to those most in need.

Holiday Club

In August, we held a Holiday Club event for Primary aged children. The theme was “**Body Builders**” to tie in with the World Cup, Commonwealth Games and building Christ’s kingdom in Kilsyth.

On day 1 we read from **Ezekiel 37** as a reminder that **God gives us hope**. We used pasta to tell the story of the dry bones and made sand art bottles for the desert theme. In our small discussion groups, we used playdough to show that the Holy Spirit can make us whole and new again.



On day 2, we read from **Judges 16**. The life of Samson showed us that **God gives us strength**. Our craft was a hairy, muscly Samson figure. There was some messy fun with bubbles and we tied ribbons around a cross as a reminder that we are stronger with Jesus in our lives.



On day 3 we learned that **Jesus forgives our sins**. From **Luke 5**, we had the story of the paralysed man who was healed. This was acted out by some of the helpers, with teddy playing the part of the man who was lowered

through the roof by his friends ! Our biscuit task taught us the importance of team work, friendship and being part of the whole church.

Each day we enjoyed fun body facts, some terrible jokes and a song. There were team games, snacks, quiz time and our memory verse (**Isaiah 41:10**) too. Everyone looked forward to the messy challenge at the end.



We welcomed 14 – 15 children each day along with some visitors and



Francis the friendly skeleton, who became the week's mascot. He is weak on the outside, but strong in faith.

Please continue to pray for the children who took part and for those who may join us next time.



Many thanks to everyone who helped make the Holiday Club a success. It really is a privilege to wear the red t-shirt and to share the gospel with a great group of children.

Hazel Gordon



Girls' Brigade

We have had a great start to the new Girls' Brigade session. We have 7 girls who have joined our company which is fantastic. If you know of any more girls who would like to join the company we would be delighted to have them come along on a Tuesday night.

Explorers - Primaries 1 to 3 at 6.00pm to 7.15pm.
Juniors – Primaries 4 to 7 and
Brigaders S1 to S6 – both from 7.00pm to 8.30pm.



The Juniors and Brigaders went bramble picking a couple of weeks ago and they had a great time. Mhairi is going to make bramble jelly with the brambles the girls collected and it will be available to buy to raise funds for our company.

The Brigaders are also currently putting together a hamper and they are organising a raffle. There will be tickets available to buy soon. The girls have chosen to fundraise for Children in Need as part of their badgework.

We are looking forward to the next couple of months with lots of exciting badgework coming up.

Jacqueline Gore



Thanks

I would like to thank you for the lovely flowers we received recently. A nice surprise, delivered by Jean Chalmers. Thank you,

Margaret & Charlie Whyte.

Thank you for the beautiful flowers delivered to me by Liz on Sun 2nd August. I very much appreciate your kindness.

Elizabeth Young.

Thank you so much for the beautiful floral arrangement I received following a recent family bereavement.

Helen Mead Burns

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers delivered by Alison – what a great surprise and much appreciated. I have had a lovely 90th birthday recently and now I look forward to my 91st!

Thanks again

Mae Shaw (and David)

Church friends,
Thank you so much for all the lovely flowers which you have sent to me over the past months and which have been gratefully received. Everyone has been so kind to me. Regards to all and thanks to the ladies involved in delivering the flowers,
Yours,

Anne Chalmers

Thank you very much for the lovely flowers received from the church recently. Much appreciated.

George Crawford.

Thank you very much for the lovely flowers we received and to Alison for bringing them. They were very much appreciated.

Sandra and Alex Leckie

Thank you very much for the lovely flowers we received recently from the church. It was so kind, thoughtful and much appreciated by us.

God Bless,

Sheila & Margaret Anne

Thank you for the lovely flower arrangements I received recently from the church on the occasion of my 80th birthday. They were beautiful. Thanks too for those who contributed and arranged the flowers and all those who make the time special.

Olivia Brittian

Thank you for the beautiful flowers and messages of sympathy which we received after the death of my sister Francene.

Jim & Gena Whyte

Thank you so much for the beautiful flower arrangement you sent following the passing of John.

John and I had a great affection for the Anderson church and the congregation there. We always enjoyed going to special services and supported the church in any way we could.

It is a comfort to be supported and remembered at this time.

Every blessing,

Margaret Brown.

Thanks continued....

I would like to thank the church for the beautiful flower arrangement I received. I appreciate being remembered and thought of at this time.

Best wishes to all,

Helen Stewart.

Sincere thanks to Kilsyth and District Parish Church for the beautiful flowers I recently received and to Mrs Russell for delivery.

Marjorie Russell

We would like to thank you very much for the beautiful arrangement of flowers we received recently. They were extremely appreciated.

Neil and Margaret Sneddon.

The Strangs would like to thank everyone for the surprise lunch to celebrate their emerald wedding anniversary in September (55 years).

Elizabeth & Allan Strang

Who Gives a Crap

Small things we can all do for the planet



The church took delivery of another box of Who Gives a Crap recycled toilet paper recently. The company gives 50% of profits towards improving provision of sanitation and clean water around the world – at the time of writing £11,191,773!

Order online and have it delivered to your door, no plastic wrapping, all recycled and environmentally friendly AND support a good cause with no extra effort! What's not to like?

Why not consider changing your own supplier? Find out more at

<https://uk.whogivesacrap.org/>



UNICEF in Sudan

www.unicef.org.uk

Sudan is the world's largest internal displacement crisis, and children are paying the highest price. Relentless attacks on hospitals, schools, water and power supplies have left children and families without access to essential services.

Famine has been confirmed in parts of North Darfur and the Nuba Mountains.

UNICEF is responding to this crisis, delivering life-saving supplies and support to children and families affected.

- Helping over 15 million people access safe drinking water in 2025.
- Reached 6.4 million people in conflict-affected areas through 1,400 health facilities and mobile teams.
- Helping displaced and returning families with services such as communal kitchens, serving over 60,000 people in 2025.

Flower List

Since the forming of the new congregation, numbers have increased. To give everyone the opportunity to donate flowers for the sanctuary, the Flower List for 2027 will be made available towards the end of the year and will be BLANK - those who wish to donate flowers please put your name and telephone number against a date. Those who are house bound and unable to come to church but still wish to donate flowers please ask a member of the church to put your name on the list.

The Flower Team

Sunday Morning Bible Reading

We already have a small team of people who regularly read the scriptures on a Sunday Morning, but we are always looking for more volunteers. If you would like to join the team please contact Margaret Martin. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Margaret Martin

The start of a beautiful friendship...

Following Catriona's article in the Aug/Sept magazine about her summer holiday in Arran, she received the following note:



Dear Bill and Catriona,

Thank you for visiting us in Arran and thank you for the kind words in your newsletter. Our prayers are with Kilsyth and district Parish Church as you embark on the journey as a united Parish. I also pray that your visit to Arran may be the beginning of a partnership between our parishes. I have given your newsletter to our communications team to see how we can also improve our own newsletter. Blessings,

Rev Dr Knowledge Zinduru, Minister Isle of Arran Parish



Bibles for Bairns

Get Your Baby's First Bible Free in Scotland

Bibles for Bairns is a programme run by the Scottish Bible Society offering free bible based gifts for new born babies born in Scotland up until (and including) their 5th birthday.

Sign up at www.scottishbiblesociety.org/



Once a child has been signed up, they'll receive a special **baby bible** on their 1st birthday.



On their 2nd, 3rd and 4th birthdays we'll send **birthday cards and fun gifts** to encourage the whole family to keep engaging with the Bible.



On their 5th birthday, they'll be given a **children's Bible** to start to read themselves and to explore with the adults in the family.

Mr Willie Mcllwain

The funeral service for Mr Willie Mcllwain, who died on 3rd September in Monklands Hospital, was held in the church on Tuesday 22nd Sept.

Willie was a founder member and Captain of the Boys' Brigade. He was an elder and had been a member of the Board of Managers, serving as Preses and also as Property Convenor. He did lots of maintenance work around the church and was involved in the building of the Wyper Hall.

He and his wife, Cathie, suffered the tragic loss of their son, Jim, who, at the age of 17 was killed in a car accident. Willie's faith kept him going and, despite this loss, was a dedicated and faithful member of the Anderson Church until latterly when he had difficulty walking.

Our sympathy goes to his wife Cathie and daughter and son-in-law Barbara and James.

Elizabeth Strang & Christine Johnston

Kilsyth Community Food Bank

As some of you know we collect Food items for Kilsyth Community Food bank in the Main Street which are handed in on a regular basis. Donations from the Harvest service (4th Oct) will also be sent to KCFB.



They have specifically requested dinner items as they are running short.

Items required -

- Long life milk - whole milk and semi-skimmed
- Sugar, tea and coffee
- Tins of soup
- Breakfast cereals and porridge (instant or full oats)
- Jars of cooking sauces, purées,
- Tins: chicken in white sauce, steak in gravy, haggis, macaroni, spaghetti hoops, beans.
- Packets: mac n cheese, savoury rice and pasta
- Dessert items: creamed rice, custard, jelly tubs and tins of fruit
- Diluting juice - all assortments
- Sweets for children
- Pet food

At the moment they **don't need any toiletries etc as they have plenty in stock**

You can bring your donations along on a Sunday. We have a box in the vestibule it's at the right side of the table as you come in. Please check that all the items are in date as **they don't accept out of date items.**

Anne Lauder

Teas and Coffees Rota

A huge thanks to all the ladies and gentlemen who help serve the tea and coffee on a Sunday morning and wash up the dishes. Thanks too for some, not on duty, who come and help clear up.

At the moment the teams are on duty every 3 weeks, sometimes every 4 weeks. If even a few people felt they could join the tea and coffee rota that would mean it could be every 4 weeks.

Thanks

Jean Ewen

A Town for Tomorrow – Cumbernauld Theatre



Fri 23 Oct - Sat 24 Oct (19:30)

Join us as we celebrate our 70th year as a new town with stories from the people of our community. A town in the clouds, made on concrete dreams. Stories of love, protest, identity, and community featuring Palacerigg wolves, a running man, ghost pipers, lovable bras, and a trip to 'the Perchie.'

A new production from Cumbernauld People's Theatre Company, with members of our youth theatre and adult dance group.

Find out more at

<https://lanternhousearts.org/>

Trees for Life Spring 2027 Rewilding Weeks

Spend a week immersed in the Scottish Highlands, getting hands-on with rewilding alongside our team and a small group of like-minded volunteers. From growing native trees at the TfL nursery to restoring woodland in Glen Affric and Ben Lawers, every week is a chance to make a real contribution to the recovery of Scotland's wild forests. Dates in March, April and May.

- **Nursery:** grow trees and be at the heart of rewilding operations.
- **Dundreggan:** get involved with restoration tasks at Dundreggan, and planting at partner sites.
- **Ben Lawers:** help restore some of Scotland's rarest and high-altitude woodland.
- **Glen Affric:** immerse yourself in the heart of one of the UK's largest wild native forests.

You'll find all the details on

<https://treesforlife.org.uk/> - places are limited and Rewilding Weeks often fill quickly. If not for yourself, this might make a good Christmas gift for someone.



"Everyone should take time to watch the autumn leaves turn"

Scripture Union (SU)

Please remember the work of SU in Scotland and particularly the work of the Lanarkshire Regional Workers Karen Stangoe and Chloe Anderson.



Their work includes

- Supporting volunteers equip and encourage local volunteers to run school-based SU groups
- School Engagement: Assist with Religious and Moral Education (RME) curricula programs like Bible Alive, plus Christmas and Easter workshops.
- Residentials & Camps: Plan and lead weekend events, residential trips, and summer holidays. Many children who do not attend church with their parents attend SU in their schools and some go to camp.
- Magnitude organised by SU Scotland, took place again in Scotland this summer. This is a 5 year old Scripture Union annual Christian Youth Festival for 11 -18 year olds held at Lendrick Muir near Kinross. This year 1,900 young people attended. Which I think is amazing. SU groups and Church youth groups attend and they are located in groups depending which area in Scotland they come from.
- Local Hubs: Help coordinate local ministry hubs where churches and youth groups gather to pray. North Lanarkshire hold an online prayer meeting once a month on a Wednesday afternoon at 1.30.

Jean Ewen

Questionnaire

Thanks to all who completed the questionnaire which was issued to us by Rev. Hilary McDougall of Glasgow Presbytery. Hilary has begun meeting with the elders on a one to one basis to find out our hopes for the future of our Church and to help smooth over any problems which we foresee.

An office bearers' conference was held on 3rd October. It was well attended and we pray that it will prove to have been a good exercise. Thanks to William Shaw, again, for catering for this meeting. Hilary now continues her meetings with the elders and is busy collating the responses from everyone's questionnaires. The outcome of these meetings and discussions will be explained once the exercise has been completed.

Christine Johnston

Drop In

The Drop In has resumed after a summer break. It is good to welcome some new friends and hear a good buzz in the hall again. Anyone wishing to join us on a Friday from 10am until 12 noon will be made welcome.

Donations received go to upgrading the halls. We know this hasn't happened for a couple of years and this is because we were not allowed to spend money on the building until a decision was made as to which Church would be retained. Watch this space for some change soon!



Sunday Worship

Over the next few months preachers known to everyone in the congregation will be leading Sunday Worship on one Sunday per month.

The arrangements for the following 2 months are

18 October 2026	Rev John Campbell
29 November 2026	Rev Donald MacLeod

Other dates

4 October 2026	Harvest Sunday and Dedication service Evening Songs of Praise service
8 November 2026	Remembrance Sunday – youth parade -11.30am start

Arrangements for the following months will be intimated in the next magazine.

Share the Bible with Glasgow

through a city-wide initiative with The Scottish Bible Society. <https://www.scottishbiblesociety.org/>



2026 marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Glasgow City Mission. The Scottish Bible Society has partnered with the Mission to produce a special edition of Luke-Acts, The Gospel for Glasgow. Featuring an attention-grabbing cover, this Glasgow-themed scripture portion introduces people to the person of Jesus Christ through Luke's gospel and then tells the story of how the followers of Jesus share the good news about Jesus in Luke's second book, Acts.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it... is to take some and give them to people you meet, sharing the good news in the community, at your work, on public transport at sporting events, parents' evenings or wherever you meet people.

The Guild

I am pleased to announce that the Kilsyth & District Parish Church Guild will have its first meeting on Monday 5th October at 1.30pm.



Our locum minister Rev KD MacLeod will be our speaker as he introduces our theme for this session, "Beyond the Walls." Our syllabus is complete and the committee has sought to make it a varied, interesting and entertaining programme.

There will be a warm welcome for all who come to join us – whether ladies or gentlemen.

The Guild motto is "Whose we are and Whom we Serve" and we will be endeavouring to fulfil this during our first session as a new Guild.

Margaret Brown, Joint Convenor.

New Groups meeting in the church halls

Line Dancing Group is on a Monday evening from 7pm till 8pm in the large hall. It is a friendly, relaxed and fun night at just £5 per class.

If you are interested please call 07477 594132 or 07481 514880 to register.
EVERYONE WELCOME!

The Indoor Bowling Group is on every Tuesday and Friday afternoons from 2pm till 4pm in the large hall. The cost is £3 per day which includes a cuppa & a biccys!
Even if you haven't bowled before, come along and enjoy a fun and sociable afternoon.

The Stewart School of Irish Dancing for children, meets every Thursday from 4.45pm till 5.45pm in the large hall. Beginners is from age 4+.

For more info message Stewart School of ID via Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/Stewartschoolofirishdance>

We'd love to welcome new dancers!



FLexercise with Helen Green in Kilsyth

Do you want to get moving! FLexercise classes have started in the Kilsyth and District Church hall at 10.30 am on Tuesdays. This is a fun, sociable class for the over 50s including movement, strengthening and flexibility exercises. If you are interested in the class, please contact Helen via email drhelenlgreen@aol.com to find out more. Looking forward to seeing you!

Special Birthdays

We hope to have a new feature for anyone celebrating special birthdays so please do let us know if you know of anyone whose special day has just passed or is coming up in the next two months.

Elizabeth Young
90 on the 25th July

Douglas Bankier
60 on 19th August

Olivia Brittian
80 on 28th August

Paul Black
90 on 13th September

Jean Heeps
80 on 18th September

Isabelle Tennant
80 on 29th September

Talking of Special Occasions...

Rev KD and Kathleen MacLeod celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary, while Alan and Elizabeth Strang celebrated their 55th anniversary recently. No other excuse required to have an impromptu congregational lunch, organised by Christine and William Shaw. This is the first lunch we have had as a joint congregation and was a very happy occasion - with cake!



Rev Alex Fleming 5th December 1934 – 28th August 2026

Alex was laid to rest in Kilsyth Cemetery at 1.00pm on Thursday 17th September 2026 followed by a celebration of his life in the church at 1.30pm. The service was very well attended with representatives from Strathblane and the former Lenzie Old Parish churches where he was the minister for a number of years.

The service was led by Rev KD MacLeod who welcomed everyone and opened in prayer. The order of service was written by Alex himself and included his favourite hymns and Bible readings. The hymns were: **Praise my soul, the King of Heaven; Blest be the Everlasting God; For all the saints who from their labour rest and Thine be the Glory.**

The Bible Readings included: Isaiah 40 v 28 – 31 read by Miss Christine Johnston, Session Clerk representing the Church; Romans 8 v 28 – 39 and John 14 v 1 – 7 read by Julliette his daughter-in-law representing the family. A personal and fitting tribute was given by a couple who were close friends of Alex and Babs who are missionaries with the Sudan Interior Mission. They reflected on his life and ministry through the years.

Before the final hymn and benediction, the Rev MacLeod meditated on Alex's chosen scriptures and how they reflected on his life and committed the family and his friends to the Lord in prayer.

Although we were grieving losing such a dear friend, the service was not a sad occasion because we know that Alex has now heard, 'Well done, good and faithful servant' from His Lord.

Olivia Brittian

Copy date for December/January Edition

The copy date for the next newsletter is Sunday 29th November (or earlier if you can manage) for publishing on Sun 6th December which of course is the Christmas / New Year edition.

We have a new email address kdpchurch@outlook.com but are happy to accept paper copy as well. Please give to Rona McFadyen on a Sunday.

Rotas

Week Ending	Door Duty	Reading	Cleaning	Flower Donations	Tea & Coffee
Sun 4 Oct	A & E Strang, A Strang	Rona McFadyen	Team 4 (Sat 3 rd)	Scott Anderson	J & G Ewen, M Laird, O Brittian, H Dodds
Sun 11 Oct	C Boyd, M McDonald, J Gordon	Jim Millar	Team 5 (Thur 8 th)	Marion Cowie	M Whitelaw, A Sneddon, M Brown, E Gordon, J Heeps
Sun 18 Oct	B & B Smith	John Weir	Team 1 (Sat 17 th)	Barbara Wilson	I & K Ross, H Provan, G Whyte, H Robb
Sun 25 Oct	A Sneddon, J Gimour, A Mitchell	Olivia Brittian	Team 2 (Thur 22 nd)	Margaret Kennedy	M Whitelaw, M Brown, A Cumming, J Heeps, M Patrick
Sun 1 Nov	O Brittian, J Ewen, H Dodds	Pat Kerr	Team 3 (Thur 29 th)	Christine Johnston	I & K Ross, H Provan, G Whyte, H Robb
Sun 8 Nov	I & K Ross, E Grant	George Ewen	Team 4 (Sat 7 th)	Mae Shaw	J & G Ewen, M Laird, O Brittian, H Dodds
Sun 15 Nov	I & R McFadyen	Jean Chalmers	Team 5 (Thur 12 th)	Evelyn Grant	A Sneddon, A Cumming, J Heeps, M Patrick C Ramsay
Sun 22 Nov	T Anderson, M Whitelaw	Ann Sneddon	Team 1 (Sat 21 st)	Linda Irvine	J & G Ewen, M Laird, O Brittian, H Dodds
Sun 29 Nov	J Heeps, J Miller	John Gordon	Team 2 (Thur 26 th)	Margaret Miller	I & K Ross, H Provan, G Whyte, H Robb