

Kilsyth & District Parish Church

Newsletter

Edition 1

April & May 2026



He is risen!

Happy Easter

Dear Friends,

“See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig-tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me.”

A non religious song, yes, it could be, for it encapsulates the essence of what we imagine spring is, or what spring time used to be. Longer days, warmer temperatures, vigorous growth and welcoming birdsong that has the power to release the human spirit from its winter chill. And where young love grows and advances with a lighter and confident step.

But the above verses are taken directly from the second chapter of the Old Testament book of Song of Songs. Jewish tradition sees this book as picturing Jehovah’s love for Israel, and Christians see it illustrating Christ’s love for the church, as well as the individual believer. In essence, the song graciously expresses the love relationship between believers and the Saviour.

The Lord Jesus calls us away from the trivial things of life that we might enjoy a deeper communion with Him. However, this communion will be put to the test and is not without difficulties and disciplines, but it has the promise of a more contented, happier and even holier life relationship with the Lord.

Maybe there is a word here for the churches in Kilsyth? A challenge to step out of uncertainty and to trust Jesus with the future. After all, springtime and Easter speak of a new life and hope; presenting us with a Living, confident Hope.

Listen to one who witnessed the life transforming victory of the first Easter,
“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,” 1 Peter 1:3-4.

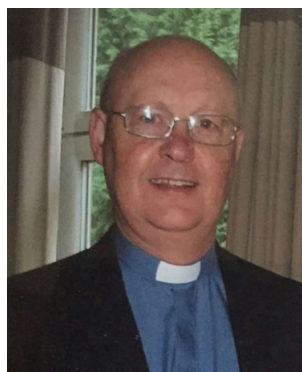
I conclude with words from a very old, 11th century hymn, that is as comforting now as it was when first penned.

*Jesus, the very thought of thee
with sweetness fills the breast;
but sweeter far thy face to see,
and in thy presence rest.*

*O hope of every contrite heart,
O joy of all the meek,
to those who fall, how kind thou art!
How good to those who seek!*

May Easter blessings accompany you, infusing your hearts and minds with Indomitable faith as you take on future challenges, be they of a personal or parish nature.

Your friend,
Kenneth.

A purple poster for an Easter holiday activity club. At the top, four colorful Easter eggs (yellow, orange, green, blue) are hanging from white ribbons. The main text is in large, bold, yellow and white letters. Below the text are icons for a board game, a person playing music, a card game, and a scooter. A white circle contains the price. At the bottom, there is a dark green box with white text. The bottom edge of the poster features a decorative border of colorful Easter eggs.

**JOIN US
THIS EASTER
HOLIDAYS**

**AT TWECHAR HEALTHY LIVING &
ENTERPRISE CENTRE -
EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITY CLUB.**

**WEEKDAYS FROM TUESDAY 7TH APRIL TO
FRIDAY 17TH APRIL - 11AM - 2PM**

**£1.50
PER
CHILD**

**ALL THE USUAL GAMES, ARTS, MUSIC,
SCOOTERS WITH DAILY SURPRISES.**

UNDER 8 YEARS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.

NO NEED TO BOOK - GREAT CAFE - PARKS & LOCAL WALKS

**TWECHAR HEALTHY LIVING & ENTERPRISE CENTRE
ST JOHN'S WAY TWECHAR G659TA - 01236 827154**

The Guild

Session 2025-26 of the Anderson Guild is over, but not before we had some varied and enjoyable evenings together.

George and Jean Ewen told us of their short stay in Vanuatu, New Hebrides where George worked as the district medical officer. Their photographs of the sunny island in the south east Pacific were lovely.



John Gordon took us on a trip down memory lane as he reminded us of the old shops of the Main Street.

We had a return visit from the Croy Community Choir and had a delightful evening of song.

Christina Ross and Cathy Reece gave us an inspiring insight into one of the Guild projects—Bear Necessities—where they set out to support a Bulgarian township with basic necessities such as winter boots, but are now involved in the project Build My Church, Bulgaria.

Our closing social marked the end of 78 years as the Anderson Church Guild. We enjoyed a light supper and were then well entertained by our “old” friend Euan Russell.

We have a proud history but now we must look to the future and our uniting with the Burns & Old Guild as we all become part of the Kilsyth and District Parish Church.

The Guild motto is “Whose we are and Whom we serve” and with God’s help we will surely continue to be a supporting and prayerful part of our new church.

Margaret Brown, Convener.



An insert is included with this edition regarding online and audio options for weekly service

Cleaning the Church

Thanks to everyone who has leant a hand to clean the church and halls over the past year.

It has been our habit as the Anderson to clean the sanctuary and halls ourselves in small teams on either a Thursday or Saturday morning. It is proposed that this continues in our new congregation.

If you think you could spare an hour **once every five weeks** to help out, please get in touch with Rona McFadyen who can explain what is involved and find a team that will suit you. It's a good way to get to know people, have a blether and keep up to date with what's happening (as well as hoovering or dusting)!



Rona 07775714649 or email ronamac@live.co.uk

Please pray for the Easter Holiday camps that SU is leading this Easter.

For all leaders cooks and activity workers and especially for the many children who will attend, some possibly for that first time that they will make friends and enjoy learning about Jesus.



Drop in Café

This is run by volunteers from the church on a rota basis. It is open Friday morning 10am—12pm in the Wyper Hall where you can enjoy your tea, coffee and cake in a friendly atmosphere, for a small donation. So why not come along and check it out—or perhaps you could volunteer to help?

Contact Aileen Mitchell for more information

TWECHAR OUTDOOR PURSUITS CENTRE

EMPOWERING THROUGH ADVENTURE



PADDLEBOARDING, KAYAKING, BUSHCRAFT, ROCK CLIMBING, ABSEILING, MEGA SUP, TEAM BUILDING, BIRTHDAY PARTIES & MORE

A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ADVENTURE HUB OFFERING ACCESSIBLE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR TWECHAR & BEYOND.

15 Canal Row, Main St Twechar G65 9DT
info@twecharoutdoors.org.uk
twecharoutdoors.org.uk
01236 807 900



As a local charity, we're here to deliver accessible and affordable adventures and activities for everyone, from birthday parties and family activities to corporate team building and community programmes.

We've got an exciting year ahead, with lots of new courses and adventures to be had. So make sure you're following our social media and keeping an eye on our website - we'll be announcing new programmes, clubs and updates throughout the year, and you won't want to miss what's coming next!

Tea and coffee

Every Sunday after morning worship tea and coffee are served in the hall. If you could help out by joining the rota it would make a big difference—the more people, the less often everyone has to be on duty!

Please contact **Margaret Wren** or **Jean Ewen** if you could help in this way. Jean's mobile is 07816872026

Prayer topics touching world events

1. Ukraine

Relief for communities in Kharkiv where Russian attacks have damaged homes, heating systems, and essential infrastructure during harsh winter conditions.

2. Sudan

Support for millions facing severe hunger and displacement as the prolonged civil war enters another year with rising humanitarian need.

3. Middle East (Regional Civilian Harm From Multiple Sides)

Protection for civilians across the Middle East who are being harmed by regional military escalation, including explosions & infrastructure fires in Kuwait, tanker damage near Qatar, a fatality in the UAE, and widespread airstrikes by the US, Israel & Iran causing thousands of civilian deaths & tens of thousands of injuries.

5. Lebanon

Now at “breaking point” as escalating Israeli airstrikes and intensified damage to homes and infrastructure, along with civilian casualties, cause the mass displacement of over 1 million people and growing humanitarian suffering.

6. Iran (School Mass Casualty Event)

Healing for families mourning the deaths of over 148–168 girls killed when an airstrike destroyed a school in Minab at the start of the war.

7. Gaza

Where the World Health Organisation has only just managed to deliver 106 tonnes of desperately needed lifesaving nutrition supplies via a new sea route despite severe access constraints.

8. Scotland

For Scottish households facing rising council tax, water, phone, and broadband bills that are adding pressure during ongoing cost of living challenges.

9. Christian Organisations

Strength for Christian affiliated humanitarian groups such as the International Rescue Committee as they provide cash assistance, shelter repairs, and life saving support to civilians caught in conflict zones.

Sunday 29th March

The first Kilsyth & District Parish Church service was a happy occasion. Once again, there was a good representation of members of both the former congregations. Rev. MacLeod chose appropriate hymns, preached an encouraging sermon and finished the service with the very appropriate hymn ‘Bind us Together’. There was a lot of friendly chatter at the after service teas with most tables having members from both congregations enjoying getting to know each other. Thanks to all who contributed to what was an encouraging first united service.

Last Service as Anderson Parish Church

On Sunday 22nd January the last service of public worship to be held in Anderson Parish Church was led by our locum Rev. KD MacLeod. It was a day of mixed emotions as we looked back on those who had served Anderson so well over the years but also looked forward to the challenges that lay ahead. Following the service all those attending were invited to stay for a two course lunch to celebrate the end of an era and to encourage everyone to embrace the service of union which would take place later in the week.

Needless to say, the service was well attended and many members were able to stay for lunch which was prepared and cooked by William Shaw and served by him and his team of lady helpers – Margaret, Margaret and Jean. Thanks to all who helped in any way to make the day so successful – setting tables, clearing up, washing dishes and putting away tables. Your help is appreciated.

Service of Union

Thursday 26th March, the date of the service of Union, saw the culmination of many months of negotiation and discussion between the two Churches. There was a good attendance from both congregations which was very encouraging. The service was prepared and led by Glasgow Presbytery. Rev. George Mackay, Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery led the service and Rev. Stuart Love, minister of Clincarthill linked with Maxwell Mearns Castle Church preached the sermon. Both were encouraging to the members as we enter a new phase of worship and service to the people of Kilsyth. A large number of members stayed for supper and fellowship. We now pray that all members will feel welcome in Kilsyth and District Parish Church.

Interim Moderator

During the latter stages of discussion the elders were advised that a new Interim Moderator, one who had no links to either Burns & Old or Anderson, would be appointed following the union. However, Presbytery is finding it difficult to find people to act as Interim Moderators and advised us that it could be several months before one could be found for Kilsyth & District Parish Church. This was not good news as the Kirk Session is not permitted to meet without an interim moderator. This would have a knock on effect on our ability to discuss the way forward and be given permission to call a minister. However, we were informed on Thursday that someone had been approached and after careful consideration and lots of prayer, Graeme Barrie has accepted the appointment and will continue as our interim moderator. Graeme, I'm sure, will carry out his duties impartially.

2nd Kilsyth Girls' Brigade.



Everyone in the Girls' Brigade would like to say a big thank you very much to everyone who supported us in our fundraising lunch for the Explorers' and Juniors' charity Send a Cow now known as the Ripple Effect and the Brigaders' charity Trussell Trust Cumbernauld Foodbank. We really appreciate you coming along to the lunch. We raised £700 from the lunch which is an incredible amount and this money will be split between both charities.

The girls are working hard on their Parents' Night items. Our Parents' Night will be held on Tuesday 5th May at 6.45pm. We would love if you were able to come and support us.

As part of the Brigaders' badgework they are learning about the Trussell Trust in particular Cumbernauld Foodbank. One of their fundraising ideas is to collect food tins to donate to the foodbank. The girls are looking for any food tins eg fruit, meat, custard/rice pudding, tinned spaghetti or vegetables. If you can help them by donating these they would be most grateful. There will be a box in the hall for donations.

If you have any empty bottles (500ml, 1 litre and 2 litre) or empty cans we would really appreciate them too. Mhairi can recycle the cans and bottles and buy some resources and some treats for the girls with the money. Please can you give them to Margaret Brown, Jean Ewen or Jacqueline Gore.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the church for their continued support and prayers for our Girls' Brigade company.

Jacqueline Gore

Cameras

We know that some people attending the services are not comfortable with appearing on the live stream video. On the other hand, some people who watch the livestream LIKE to see the congregation – they then feel part of the service. To allow us to pan the cameras around the congregation there are two areas of the Church which are 'SAFE' to avoid appearing on screen: you can sit anywhere upstairs or in any of the pews on the left of the West (Coachman side) aisle ...NOT in the centre.

Thank you

Many thanks to my church family for the beautiful flower arrangement I received recently. It was a lovely surprise. And to Allison for delivering. Thank you.

Beth Hamilton.

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers delivered by Margaret. What a lovely surprise.

Clem Bryden

Thank you for the lovely flowers and to everyone for all their good wishes and prayers recently, it's very much appreciated.

Ian McFadyen

Thanks to the church and the girls for arranging the beautiful flowers I received after my illness.

Beth Griffin

Many thanks for the beautiful flowers I received on Sunday 3rd February. It was such a lovely surprise and greatly appreciated.

Thanks again,

Aileen Mitchell

Hi all at Anderson Church, thanks for the lovely flowers and making us so welcome when we joined the church.

Thanks again,

Catherine Ramsay

I wish to convey my thanks for the

beautiful flowers I recently received from the church. They were very much appreciated.

Thanks again

Aileen Anderson

Thanks to Marion Cowie for keeping the flower tubs looking great in their spring glory. They're always lovely at



this time of year.

Thank you very much for the church flowers—thanks as well to Margaret and Jean.

May Hamilton

Thanks for the beautiful floral arrangement received on the death of my sister.

Helen Burns (Twechar)



The Stamp Project

The Church of Scotland has been collecting used stamps for 56 years giving the proceeds of selling them to various Misson projects. Unfortunately this has stopped at the end of February 2026 - fewer letters are being sent nowadays.



A total of £96,459. 67p was raised by the end of 2024. The 2025 - 26 project was to support Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza - the only Christian and cancer hospital in the Gaza Strip. To date we do not know how much was raised for that particular project.



Thanks to all who have contributed stamps over the years. It did not cost us anything but these used stamps have helped so many vulnerable people around the world.

Thanks again. **Olivia Brittan**



Bible Readings

The Bible readings on a Sunday are done by volunteers on a rota (on the back page of the newsletter). More volunteers are always gladly accepted—please speak to Margaret Martin if you would be willing to join the rota. All we need is your mobile phone number (or landline if you don't have one).

You will receive a text or call during the week prior to the service with the details of your reading from Anne Lauder who also keeps the list up to date.

Church notice

When you enter this church it may be possible that you will hear the 'call of God,' however it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones.

If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to him.

If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving.

Copy date for next newsletter

Please submit articles for the June/July newsletter by Sunday 31st May, for publishing on 7th June. We hope to have a new email address by then which will be announced, but meantime please send to andersonchurchmagazine@outlook.com or give to Rona McFadyen on a Sunday. We are happy to receive paper or electronic format.

The **rotas** below have been made up as a provisional measure to keep us going until we can get organised. Please do volunteer if you think you can help with any of the jobs around the church. Please note that numbers or email addresses printed in the paper newsletter will not be included on any online version to protect the privacy of those involved.

Week ending	Door Duty	Reading	Cleaning	Flower donations
Sun 5 Apr	J Gordon J Miller	Pat Kerr	Team 3 (Thur 2)	
Sun 12 Apr	J Gilmour A Sneddon	George Ewen	Team 4 (Sat 11)	
Sun 19 Apr	H Provan C Clark	Jean Chalmers	Team 5 (Thur 16)	
Sun 26 Apr	W Shaw M Whitelaw	Ann Sneddon	Team 1 (Sat 25)	
Sun 3 May		John Gordon	Team 2 (Thur 30)	
Sun 10 May		Kathleen Ross	Team 3 (Thur 7)	
Sun 17 May		Rona McFadyen	Team 4 (Sat 16)	
Sun 24 May		Jim Miller	Team 5 (Thur 21)	
Sun 31 May		John Weir	Team 1 (Sat 30)	