



# Kilbarchan Parish Church

Your local church magazine

Dear Friends,

Did you manage to see any of the 2026 Winter Olympics at Milan-Cortina in Italy?

I have been amazed at the skill, dexterity and strength of all the athletes. But what I have admired the most is their fearlessness. Whether it was the 'Quad God' Ilia Malinin performing his back flips in the ice skating or the speed of the bobsleigh, the skeleton or the luge I am often left speechless.

I still remember my first attempt at curling. Now I had never been a keen ice skater in my youth anyway, but to try to slide on sheer ice and guide a stone! Well, I have to confess, to my shame, not only was it my first attempt, but it was my only attempt.

I was never a great ice skater or dancer – always falling over.

To get back on ice was something else.

I had very little confidence. Kept thinking I was going to fall over. And I did. But it was Ok – I was close to the ice – crouching down. Our teacher was excellent. It was like watching a swan on the surface of a lake, elegance, grace and beauty all at once. Not at all like me.

But practice makes perfect. To get better I need to try again.

Sometimes we can feel like giving up. Sometimes we feel like giving up very quickly, too soon, too easily.

At other times we may have tried to do something or be something many times – and never quite worked out.

Keep going. Keep on trying. You will get better

The early word given to those who followed Jesus was disciple. This simply means learner. People who were learning how to follow Jesus, how to live like him, how to love him and show the same love he did.

We are all, always learning. We are all learners. We are all disciples.

And we all still have so much to learn.

Your friend Stephen



Kilbarchan Parish Church



**kilbarchankirk.org**

Facebook - [facebook.com/kilbarchankirk](https://facebook.com/kilbarchankirk)

YouTube - search for Kilbarchan Kirk

## Kirk Session Report

As we are now approaching Easter, memories of the Church activities during Advent and the anticipation of Christmas may seem a bit distant but hopefully you managed to view our first Christmas tree festival which was a beautiful event involving community groups as well as our own organisations. It was lovely to see the trees displayed in Church throughout the whole of December and we are very grateful to everyone who helped in so many ways with this and the decorating of the Church and Halls.

Our Christmas services were well attended and on the Sunday prior to Christmas we were pleased to have the Junior Church, and their additional cast members, telling us the Christmas story. Thanks too to the Choir and readers for the service of nine lessons and carols.

We enjoyed having the Rev Jeanette Peel and Rev Alaster Shaw to lead worship at the end of the year and were pleased that this allowed Stephen to have time off both before and after the many Christmas services and events he was involved with.

While January can be a quiet month, it is always good to be able to return to the familiarity of catching up with friends at Church groups and clubs after the Christmas break.

The start of a new year signals the start of preparing reports of our previous year's finances, property maintenance, and record keeping. To comply with Presbytery procedures, our Church roll, baptismal register, safeguarding records, along with certificates and a record of work carried out were inspected by Presbytery representatives and found to be in good order.

We are very grateful to those who compiled the reports.

Our financial statements are being examined and will be presented to the congregation at our Stated Annual Meeting.

## Kirk Session Report (continued)

At the last meeting of the Kirk Session, it was unanimously agreed to

- install a portable defibrillator in the Hall
- obtain quotes for further low-level decoration in the Church
- replace the central heating boiler in the manse.

We are very appreciative of the work done by many volunteers around the Church, hall and grounds and hope that more small maintenance and decorating tasks will be tackled this year – please let us know if you would like to help in any way.

It has been sad to learn of the death of more members of our Church family - you will find their names later in this magazine. We extend our sympathy to all who are suffering the pain of losing a loved one.

Once again it has been encouraging to have visitors worshipping with us and we were pleased to receive more certificates of transference from people who have decided to join our Church roll.

Please continue to extend a warm welcome to any visitors and invite them to join us for tea and a chat in the hall after Worship.

Helen and Christine



## Kilbarchan Singers Spring Concert

The Kilbarchan Singers will be having their annual Coffee Morning on Saturday 14th March from 10.00 to 12.00 in the Church Hall.

Coffee, or tea, or juice will be available, and, if you are very good, there may be pancakes and meringues. There will also be a home baking stall (come early to get your favourites) and a tombola.

Tickets are £4.00 and can be had from any choir member. You know who we are. Or just pay at the door.

## Cuppa at the Kirk

Cuppa at the Kirk continues every Tuesday from 2pm-3.30pm in the Church Hall.

It is proving very popular and everyone who comes along enjoys the company and the banter.

We normally have around 20-25 regulars. However, we would very much like to see some new faces.

If you haven't already considered dropping in - why not give it a try? You will be made most welcome, and you could even bring a friend along too.

Cuppa is free and available to all - not just Church folks.

As always, a big thank you to all of the volunteers without which Cuppa would not happen.

Hope to see you soon

Arlene & all the Team at Cuppa.



## Tots Club

We have had a lot of new children coming along since the beginning of January which is good and the tots and Mums/Dads/Grandparents enjoy playing and making new friends.

If you'd like to help our group of volunteers please speak to any of us. We would also be pleased to see you for coffee any Monday morning from 9.15-11.30

Elizabeth, Fulton, Alison, Ian, Christine, Cathy, Helen, Margaret, Fiona, Rosie, Rosemary, Jenifer and Malcolm.

## Fund-raising news

Since the last magazine we had an extremely successful Christmas tree festival and coffee morning, raising almost £2000 for church funds. Unfortunately we had to cancel the Burns Supper at the end of January, hopefully we can hold it next year.

A Family Cèilidh is planned for 9th May, more details to follow.

It is also hoped to hold a Fiddlers' Rally at some point.

The Easter Eggstravaganza is on 28<sup>th</sup> March from 10am-12noon. There is an egg hunt for the children who are asked to bring along a decorated egg or bonnet for the competition. Entrance is £4, children £1, which includes hot cross buns with coffee. Please bring along family and friends for this important fundraiser.

Lilias Day is Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June, when we shall have 2 stalls and need your donations of tins, bottles and home-baking.

## Church Roll

### Transference of certificate (in)

Mrs. Fay Goucher

### Deaths

David Carlin	(Date of death – 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2025)	
Muriel Newton	(Date of death – 30 <sup>th</sup> December 2025)	*
Allan Rae	(Date of death – 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2026)	
John Stephen	(Date of death – 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2026)	*
James Tytler	(Date of death – 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026)	
Kathleen Barratt	(Date of death – 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2026)	

*\* denotes Church member*

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church now stands at 316 and 17 Adherents. Please remember to notify Fulton Dunn, the roll keeper, of any changes to address, phone number or email in order to maintain up to date information. Contact details 01505704502 or email

[KPC.rollkeeper@gmail.com](mailto:KPC.rollkeeper@gmail.com)

## Property Report

The first report for the new year includes some works which we would like to complete. Proposed are :

- I. Redecoration of the walls in the sanctuary, both upstairs and downstairs.
- II. Installation of roof vents in the Session House.
- III. Upgrading of some hall guttering.
- IV. Repainting of the external hall gable facing the church.
- V. Repainting of the hall "steeple" gable.
- VI. Improvements to the path at the immediate rear of the church.
- VII. Replacement combi boiler in the manse.

I would also take this opportunity to thank the Property Team, including Craig Crawford from Howwood, for all their work over 2025.

Further thanks are due to the band of volunteers who carried out a number of decorative improvements over the summer and to those volunteers who look after the church grounds all year round.

Malcolm MacAskill, Property Convener



Easter Extravaganza will take place in the hall  
on 28<sup>th</sup> March from 10am-12noon

## Messy Church



On Saturday 13 December, after registration and welcome, there was a group activity where all the children made a Christingle.

Christingle celebrations are named after the Christingles that are made around this time. Christingles are oranges wrapped in red tape, decorated with dried fruit or sweets, with a candle on top. The tradition began in Germany over a hundred years ago.

Each part of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps us tell the Christian story.

- The orange represents the world and every person
- The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love of Jesus
- The fruits and sweets represent all of God's creations
- The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, giving us hope.

Our Christingle Messy Church is a special event where families gather to share fun, laughter, food and to hear a very special message of love, hope and light. The highlight is when we all gather in the church to sing carols and hear the Christmas story. Sitting amongst the beautiful decorations being led by the praise band is a truly amazing time that really brings home the real meaning of Christmas. Our sincere thanks to the praise band for leading the singing, their time and talents are very much appreciated.

In January our theme was New Creations based on Genesis chapter 1. The crafters excelled themselves with some really messy crafts, there was paper earths using shaving foam and paint, 3D balls to colour, finger paint trees of life (more paint) fairy cakes to ice and sun catchers.

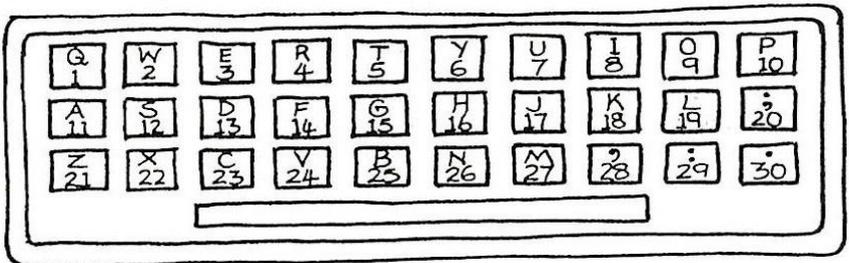
## Messy Church (continued)

On the 21st February we had 40 participants. We looked at the story from the Gospel of Mark, chapter 2, when Jesus healed a paralysed man, thanks to the faith and effort of the man's friends, who were so determined to bring him to Jesus, they lowered him down through the roof!

Our crafts reflected the themes of compassion and care and included pop-up cards, rainbow hearts, butterflies, heart shaped cookies, heart paintings, chocolate heart in a box and a large heart shaped poster for the wall.



Use the keyboard to crack the code below about what Jesus has won for us by his sacrifice on the cross.



5 16 3    10 7 26 8 12 16 27 3 26 5    5 16 11 5



25 4 9 7 15 16 5    7 12    10 3 11 23 3    2 11 12    7 10 9 26



16 8 27 28    11 26 13    25 6    16 8 12    2 9 7 26 13 12



2 3    11 4 3    16 3 11 19 3 13 30



(Isaiah 53:5)

## Junior Church



Well a new year and Junior Church session has begun. Our first Sunday back we discussed new beginnings and the children decorated a box into which they were asked to write something they wanted to improve for themselves and something they could do to help others this year, these statements were then put in the box for safekeeping, only to be opened at the end of 2026, so a kind of 1 year time capsule.

The subsequent two Sundays we looked again at the spread of Christianity in our world and discussed Russia and Malawi, the children did a Russian doll craft and we learned all about Mary's meals and the work they do in Malawi, helping to feed children so they are able to focus on their education, especially in remote communities.

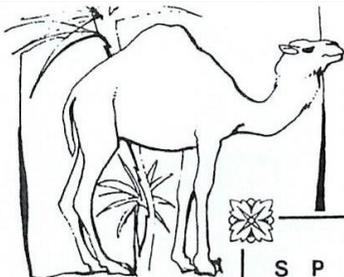
Our next theme is learning more about each of Jesus' twelve disciples individually, as we have talked about them as a group many times but have never looked at each one on his own. Thus far the children have discovered more about Andrew and John. For example did you know that John was the only disciple to die of natural causes, all the others were martyred. I am sure we will all learn some interesting facts about each disciple, teachers and children alike.

We are also asking the children for their favourite bible stories so we can revisit these with them and will incorporate these into our weekly theme schedule.

The installation of the TV in the small hall is a game changer, especially for showing videos related to our weekly themes, so a BIG thank you from Junior Church for this, we love it!!

We hope all our children and their families have had a good start to 2026 and that the year ahead is a happy and healthy one for all our Church family.

Ros, Shona, June, Katie



# BIBLE CREATURES

APES  
ASPS  
ASS  
BATS  
BEAR  
BEHEMOTH  
BOAR  
CAMEL  
CHAMELEON  
CATTLE  
CHAMOIS  
COLT  
CONIES  
DOG  
DRAGON  
DROMEDARY  
FALLOW DEER  
FERRET  
GOATS  
HARE  
HART  
HIND  
HORSE  
LEOPARD  
LEVIATHAN  
LION  
MOLE  
MOUSE  
MULE  
OX  
PYGARG  
ROE  
ROEBUCK  
SATYR  
SHEEP  
SNAIL  
SWINE  
TORTOISE  
UNICORN  
WEASEL  
WHALE  
WOLF

S P S A P E S E H R O E F C I  
R Y T A S Q R S I A D G E A R  
E G R O P S S R N U R D H T U  
E A A N T T G O D V A E C T L  
D R E A T R A H X W G Y B L S  
W G B E H E M O T H O Z A E H  
O A O B E N R O C I N U M N E  
L C A A D H I R J L M L M L E  
L F R G T O R T O I S E O O P  
A E N I W S E A B X W M U L E  
F J K K L N D C E X V A S E P  
E R C M I A S E I N O C E V Q  
R S U N O I F G H U H H Y I T  
R U B H E L D T I A T A R A R  
E T E P G R P J M S R M A T U  
T Q O D A K S E N P Q O D H S  
L F R P L N L L O M F I E A V  
O C O O R E U A L L K S M N Z  
C E Q M O X W H O J I B O A W  
L I O N Z V Y W H X O C R D Y  
B A W E A S E L G X X F D E X

“God created the world out of nothing, and as long as we are nothing,  
he can make something out of us.”

*Martin Luther*

## Scottish Country Dance Class

The SDC Class, which meets on Tuesday evenings in the Church Hall, continues to maintain an enthusiastic support from its members. We have a regular attendance of 20 dancers each week, with 24 attending on a good night. Everyone thoroughly enjoying the music, the dancing, the fun and a good chat over tea and coffee at the interval.

The class forms part of the outreach within our community with some dancers being members of our Church, others are members of local churches and others not members who come along to join in, and are made most welcome. On 24th March the class will be guests of Elderslie Kirk SDC Class when both groups join up to have an end of session dance. and a wee refreshment.

The following week, our class will finish with a little party night, giving the dancers a chance to throw away any inhibitions and let rip with their favourite requests.

Anyone who is interested and have often thought that they would like to give it a try, just come along. Watch and have a laugh at the general carry on and enjoy the music, or why not join in ? The class organiser Helen Miller would be happy to give any information and encouragement.

Les Lambert. Class Teacher



## Hillwalking Club

Our AGM was held in the small hall in November. Twelve of us planned a varied programme of fourteen walks and two weekends away for 2026. Please email me at [eilidhfmhenderson@gmail.com](mailto:eilidhfmhenderson@gmail.com) if you'd like a copy or more information about any of the walks.

December's walk was around Chatelherault Country Park. Nine of us walked ~8km (5 miles) on well made, but occasionally muddy, paths. It was good to see lots of kids (and a few adults) on mountain biking lessons around the park. We had an elevenses stop for coffee and cake in the trees, visited the ruined Cadzow Castle and its old oaks, and timed our finish perfectly to avoid the weather warning for rain, which came to fruition with a vengeance that afternoon.

In January, nine walkers completed a 9km loop with 325m ascent (5.6 miles, 1066ft) around the Ardgartan forest. The route was mainly on wide forestry tracks and had some pretty views of Loch Long, in spite of the drizzle, which had not been forecast. We finished the outing with coffee and tea in the Village Inn in Arrochar.

February's walk was around Balloch Country Park then up Whinny Hill. There was an excellent turnout of 15 walkers! The route was 10km (6 miles) long on very good paths, rising gradually from the loch side to 160m (520ft) on Whinny Hill. Our lunch stop in the woodland included cake to celebrate Angus McNicoll's (my dad's) 80th birthday.

Our upcoming plans are:

- 14th March: Carleatheran, Campsies
- 11th April: In search of Jesus' Thimble, Kilpatricks
- May: 1st-3rd: Weekend in Kincaig, near Kingussie
- May: 2nd: Lochgoin Loop, Whitelee Windfarm

For all walks we will meet at the Steeple at 9am (note that this is an hour later than usual!). Any new members would be very welcome on these or any subsequent trips.

## OUR “Local Hero” Marjory Love

Readers will be delighted to learn that our Treasurer, Marjory Love, was recently presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Tennis Scotland Awards 2026.

Marjory received a standing ovation as she was honoured for her decades of extraordinary success and commitment to tennis - which resulted in her becoming world number one for her category at the age of 74.

Among her long list of achievements, Marjory played at Junior Wimbledon in the 1960s and has enjoyed success at various levels of the sport, while regularly representing Scotland and Great Britain on the international stage. She now has a remarkable 91 titles to her name on the International Tennis Federation Masters Tour dating back over 25 years.



At the awards ceremony, Marjory also won the **Senior Veteran Player of the Year Award** after going through the entire 2025 ITF Masters Tour season undefeated in singles.

## OUR “Local Hero” Marjory Love (continued)

Marjory said: *“I want to say a huge thank you to Tennis Scotland for this award, I am very humbled to receive it. I consider myself very fortunate to still be participating in a sport that I enjoy and has been very good to me - it has been a game for life.*

*“Although tennis is mainly an individual sport, some of my best memories are as part of a team. Over some 60 years I have played as part of many teams, club teams at Newlands, Edinburgh University, West of Scotland county and international teams as a junior and veteran. One of my highlights was playing with the late Elena Baltacha for Newlands in the Scottish Cup.*

*“I have been overwhelmed with the interest in me since I became world number one, and I would not be receiving this award without all the support I have received over the years.”*

Marjory’s achievements are truly an inspiration to us all.



Christian Aid Week 2026.  
10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May

For 80 years, the organisation has been an expression of faith in the unstoppable power of hope to create a more just and peaceful world.

Kilbarchan, and the surrounding area, has been a strong supporter of Christian Aid for many years and we hope that your support will be there again this year, in particular during Christian Aid Week.

We will be seeking volunteers to help distribute donation envelopes around Kilbarchan and Brookfield and to receive donations at locations in the villages during the week itself. You will be contacted directly if you have volunteered before, but if you wish to offer additional support or want to know more about what is involved, contact Alasdair Law on 07805 918509.

## A major milestone for Mary's Meals

mary's  
meals

a simple solution to world hunger

Following our successful Harvest Lunch last year, where we raised more than £1,100 in support of Mary's Meals, I was privileged to join a webinar celebrating the charity's milestone achievement of more than 3 million meals provided each day.

Panji Kajani is currently head of operations in Zambia and he spoke in some detail about the charity's work in southern Africa.

In particular he spoke about the measurable impacts of Mary's Meals and described three aspects :

- Short-term. When Mary's Meals (M.M.) first starts in a school, many new children will appear, see that there is a meal, and begin to attend school regularly. An increase in attendance of 25% has been measured, following the arrival of M.M.
- Medium-term. Regular attendance produces results. In Zambia, the schools where M.M. is operating have regularly been the best-performing. Provision of a daily meal improves not only attendance levels but pupil performance.
- Longer-term. Children gain an education and also develop practical skills which are valuable to their communities. Many become volunteers or employees with Mary's Meals or go on to further education. Family members become involved in growing the necessary crops and in helping to make and serve the school meals.

Panji also spoke about some of the challenges they face :

- Food price inflation
- Physical access to schools in remote areas where local infrastructure is poor
- Global and local unrest

## A major milestone for Mary's Meals (continued)

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, CEO, gave an overview of the last 12 months, during which the milestone of 3 million daily meals had been achieved. In summary :

- There are now 1,240 schools receiving Mary's Meals, across 16 countries
- An additional half a million children have been fed in the last year
- 89% of the food provided in the meals is locally sourced
- There has been increasing engagement with governments to get them more involved in these projects and to take ownership. To achieve this, M.M. will always strive to provide evidence of the impact which their work produces

Looking forward, Magnus said that they have been approached by a number of countries keen to join the initiative, but involvement had been limited to advice and guidance at this stage.

The key limiting factor would always be funding. Mary's Meals have a constant focus on efficient stewardship of resources, with 93% of all funds raised going directly to providing meals for the children.

The result is that the cost of feeding one child for a school year is a mere £19.15.

In summarising, Magnus made these key points :

- Wherever Mary's Meals goes, there is HOPE
- The challenge is huge, but the impact is so dramatic
- Young people go from "How can I eat" to "What can I become when I grow up".

The philosophy of Mary's Meals is a very simple one, provide one meal to a child each school day, they will learn, develop and make a valuable contribution to their community.

Alasdair Law

# Renfrewshire Foodbank

The following is an excerpt from the first edition of the Foodbank's Community Newsletter "Food for thought"

## ***Welcome to Food for Thought,***

*Hello and welcome to the very first edition of Food for Thought, your monthly update from Renfrewshire Foodbank.*

*We're launching this newsletter because you, our donors, volunteers, and supporters, are at the centre of our work. We always want to keep you in the loop so you know exactly how your kindness makes a difference, what's happening in our community, and how we can work together to support local families facing crisis.*

*For nearly 14 years, Renfrewshire Foodbank has been here for families when crisis hits. Operating as part of the Trussell Trust network, we work with local agencies across Renfrewshire on a referral basis to provide emergency food parcels to people who have nowhere else to turn. Last year alone, we were able to support over 10,500 people.*

*But behind every statistic is a person. A parent skipping meals so their children can eat. Someone waiting for a benefit payment. A family hit by unexpected bills. We see them, and thanks to you, we can help.*

## ***December 2025 - By the Numbers***

*The reality behind the tins and crates: **Over 10,500 people fed in 2025** (up from previous years). Up to **150 food parcels distributed every week**. Four distribution centres across Renfrewshire (Paisley, Johnstone, Renfrew, Inchinnan). Three days of meals in every parcel: breakfast, lunch, and dinner for individuals or families. We operate on a referral basis, working with local agencies to support people through crisis and help them find longer-term solutions.*

## Renfrewshire Foodbank (continued)

But here's what Crystal Clayton, our senior manager, wants you to know: *"A few years ago, it used to be about people maximising their incomes. Now people can't budget money which is no longer available to them. With inflation, wages, and basic benefits, the numbers just don't add up for a lot of families to stretch their income far enough for the month."*

*People aren't here because they've made bad choices. They're here because life happened.*

*December was extraordinary. But January to March are our toughest months. Donations typically drop off after the holidays, but the need doesn't. Bills stay high. The festive spending catches up. Heating costs rise. More families will walk through our doors in the coming weeks than almost any other time of year.*

### **THANK YOU!**

*We can't say it enough: you are making a real, immediate difference. Families are eating tonight because of you. Children have full bellies because you picked up an extra tin of beans. Someone is having a warm drink because you donated a jar of coffee.*

*This is what community looks like.*

Crystal Clayton and the team at Renfrewshire Foodbank

### **Graham's Observation**

Our donations to the Foodbank are down a little on previous years and I'm now making donation drop-off trips every other week. I sincerely thank everyone who continues to support the work of the Foodbank, and ask if you are able, consider supporting the Foodbank. This can be done by making donations of food items, under the sink/household cleaning items or by making monetary donations, online or direct to myself for delivery to the Renfrewshire Foodbank at Porterfield Road.

Thank you in anticipation, Graham

## Mission Team

We were delighted to welcome around 50 people to our Family Christmas Film afternoon in early December when we all enjoyed a showing of the Muppet Christmas Carol. Many thanks are due to Alan Fulton and his team who organised this event and supplied the sweets, chocolates and drinks to ensure everyone had a great time.

You will be pleased to know that we are holding another **Soup Lunch in the Hall on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April after morning worship**. All donations received will be going to support the work of Christian Aid. In addition, we plan to hold a further Soup Lunch after the service on Harvest Sunday with all donations going to Mary's Meals. Further details to follow.



## Fairtrade



Fairer pay gives farmers a better chance to take on the climate change that threatens their livelihoods. Choosing Fairtrade is one way you can choose a fairer future for people and planet.

Visit [fairtrade.org.uk/bethechange](https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/bethechange). #BeTheChange #ChooseFairtrade.

Watch out for the next Rainbow Turtle stall on 16th March in the Church hall after the service, or visit the shop 10.00-5.00 every day except Sundays.

Thank you, Moira Stark

## Eco Group

A very big thank you to everyone who supported our Green Christmas stall at the Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December where we made £180 from pre-loved decorations and Eco Friendly paper and tags. Please hold onto any surplus decorations for next time! Thanks are also due to those who came along to the first Christmas Tree Festival on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

The Eco Group has been busy beavering away behind the scenes in preparation for our next set of events: **Joint Litterpick with Kilbarchan Smile on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm**. Come along and do your bit to keep your Village looking beautiful and enjoy a welcome cup of tea/coffee and cakes in the hall afterwards with the opportunity for a well-earned seat and a chat.

We are also in the process of organising a **Recycled Clothing Evening in the Church Hall on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May**. I'm delighted to report that this event will be done in Partnership with St Vincent's Hospice and City of Glasgow College Fashion Department. Please take a note of these dates and watch this space for further details.

Two members of the Eco Group, Colin Campbell and Isobel Arnott, were recently invited to visit New Kilpatrick Church in Bearsden where we took part in the morning service and gave a presentation to the Congregation about our Eco Journey to date.

We were very well received and when we met with their Eco Group after the service, they seemed very keen to learn from our experience.

Many thanks for your continuing support,  
The Mission Team and Eco Group

**Eco Tip: we have recently discovered the Dunelm Store will now accept your unwanted duvets and pillows for recycling**

## The West Kirk organ sounds again

*(We have had to edit Tom Ferguson's article to fit the available space.*

*If you wish to read the full article or have any questions, please contact Tom at the email address below).*

In November of last year, I made my second visit to Prenzlau, in north-east Germany, to see the organ from Kilbarchan West in its new home. The date was chosen on the basis that work was scheduled to be complete, but, alas, this was not the case.

All of the Great (played from the middle keyboard) was in place, along with most of the Choir (played from the lowest keyboard) and some of the pedals, but none of the Swell stops (played from the top keyboard) were in place – I was actually able to sit inside the Swell box! The organ has been completed since my visit.

I had the opportunity to play the organ for some time, and to go downstairs and listen to it as Hannes (the organist at Prenzlau) played. The sound is magnificent, particularly in the acoustic of the Marienkirche which is in the same league as St Paul's Cathedral in London. A new gallery has been built for the organ (and choir), allowing the organ to be laid out exactly as it was in Kilbarchan. It is now a very striking feature of the church.

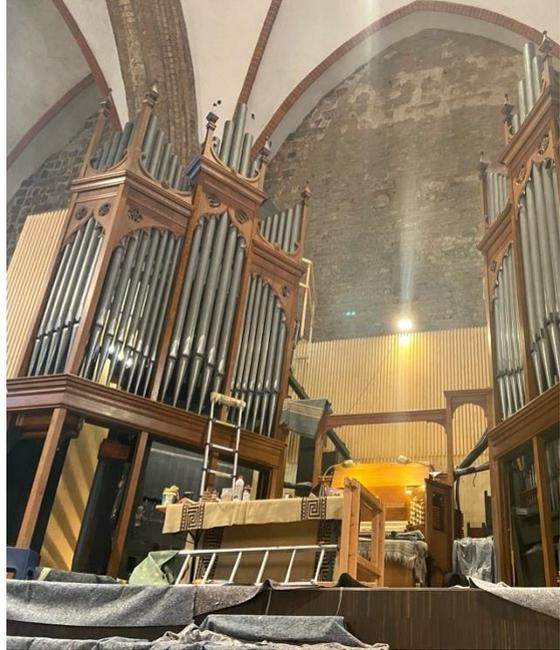
A series of events will take place from **14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026**.

The inauguration service on Thursday morning (14th) will include my setting of *Consider the lillies*, written for the celebrations for the Centenary of the Kilbarchan West Church building in 2001, with Hannes conducting the choir and the organ played by myself, on the instrument for which it was written. The usual Friday evening 'Rush Hour Recital' at 5.00 pm, will feature myself as the soloist.

There will be a number of recitals over the weekend with music from a wide range of composers and a variety of invited organists from Germany and the UK. Details can be found at - [hill-festival.info](http://hill-festival.info)

## The West Kirk organ sounds again (continued)

If you would like to attend this exciting event, I would advise you to book soon, as there are not many hotels in Prenzlau, although there are hotels in nearby towns with good train connections to Prenzlau. There are flights from Edinburgh to Berlin, and train connections from Berlin Airport to Prenzlau are good. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information.



Many people will remember the organ from the photograph on the left, taken early this century. The picture on the right (November 2025), while rebuilding was still under way, demonstrates that the reconstruction of the organ in Prenzlau will be faithful to Hill's original 1904 design.

Tom Ferguson

Please note my **new** email address is: [tom.ferguson.25@outlook.com](mailto:tom.ferguson.25@outlook.com)

## Worship Programme

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	11.15am	Morning Worship
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	7.00pm	Joint Maundy Thursday service in Kilbarchan
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	7.00pm	Joint Good Friday service in Howwood
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	8.00am	Early service at Weaver's Cottage
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	11.15am	Morning Worship including Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	11.15am	Morning Worship including Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	11.15am	Morning Worship

