



BRIDGE OF WEIR PARISH CHURCH



www.bridgeofweirparish.org

Newsletter

Late September, October, November, 2025

Dear Friends, It has been quite a year!

A new church, which has brought challenges and opportunities.

A summer to remember- Bridge of Weir got on the weather news because there had been so many consecutive dry days!! (Who would ever have imagined that!!)

For the Gray's there was a trip to Australia for Timothy and Megan's wedding (we also got to see a little of that vast country). Later on we visited an even bigger country when we went to see relatives in Canada.

When we were in Canada and Australia we visited different churches to worship. The essential core of every service was the same but they seemed unfamiliar because of the little things which were different.

We were also outsiders and didn't know the rhythm and nuances of the congregations. One of the churches had just appointed a lady minister to the team- the first in Australia for that particular denomination and a number of people had left as a result!

Talk about feeling at home!!!

It is going to fall to me to make decisions about the future pattern of worship. I am committed to blended worship but things can be blended in many ways!

We also depend on skilled musicians and singers who have their own views and preferences which will need to be taken into account.

In the end decisions will need to be made and I will have to make them.

It has been an encouragement to everyone to be part of a larger congregation and I hope that more of us will want to linger after the service to share in fellowship and to get to know more people.

At the end of Acts chapter two we read about the early church coming together. They came together every day because they were excited about their new faith- they even sold their possessions and shared with those in need. They meet in each others homes and eat together. The non-believers took notice and the church grew. That is the formula:

sincere faith, loving hearts and a generous nature.

My prayer is that these will be what defines us.

SAVE THE DATE

Everyone is invited to Timothy & Megan Gray's Scottish Wedding 3PM Saturday 27th September. There will be a worship service followed by afternoon tea in the Large Hall.

Gryffe Voices Concert

Monday 15th September at 7.30 pm in the church. Everyone is welcome and admission is free. There will be a collection for Christian Aid.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	TIME	COMMUNION
Sept 21 st	10.30am Morning Worship 7pm Evening Service	
Sept 28 th	10.30am Morning Worship 7pm Evening Service	
Oct 5 th	10.30am Morning Worship 7pm Evening Service	Communion
Oct 12 th	10.30am Morning Worship 7pm Evening Service	
Oct 19 th	10.30am Morning Worship 7pm Evening Service	
Oct 26 th	10.30am Morning Worship 7pm Evening Service	Baptisms
Nov 2 nd	10.30am Morning Worship 7pm Evening Service	
Nov 9 th	10.30am Morning Worship 7pm Evening Service	
Nov 16 th	10.30am Morning Worship 7pm Evening Service	
Nov 23 rd	10.30am Morning Worship 7pm Evening Service	
Nov 30 th	10.30am Morning Worship 7pm Evening Service	
Dec 7 th	10.30am Morning Worship 7pm Evening Service	

Car Park Garden

We have had lots of comments this summer from passersby about how they enjoy seeing the garden. It has flourished in the summer sunshine. Thank you to everyone who has continued to regularly work in the garden to keep it in order.

Autumn is always a busy time in the garden so please try to come along on the mornings of the second Saturday and fourth Friday of each month as we have a lot of planned work and hope we may be able to spread more forest bark in September to keep the weeds down.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND I AM THE LIFE' John 11:25

James Ogilvie - June 2025

William (Billy) Wilson - July 2025

Grace Macleod - August 2025

SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME' Matthew 19

Grace Elizabeth Drummond – August 2025

Our vision "To be a caring Church, rooted in God's word, growing in Christ and transforming the community"

Kirk Session News

After a brief welcome lull in activity during the weeks of warm summer weather, there has been a significant upsurge in activity and meetings recently as we resume a new session in the life of the church. A few salient areas are mentioned below.

Organists and Music

Bridge of Weir Parish church commenced in April with two organists who have been working well together, but it was our intention that in the medium term we would need to reduce to one organist. Over the course of the summer Ian Munro was offered a position in one of the Edinburgh city centre churches and has decided to accept this. As I write this coming Sunday, 31st August, will be his last day with us. We are very grateful to Ian for all his years of service at St Machar's Ranfurly then his contribution in the united church. In recent years Ian had also led the Junior Choir, a group of local primary school children, and it is hoped that the Junior Choir will be able to continue. Graham Murnane has kindly agreed to step in and lead it for the next two months, and thereafter it is likely that Nicola Lawrence, our other organist, will assume leadership of it and we are grateful to her for that. Meanwhile we are reviewing our Sunday morning worship arrangements.

We would be very happy to firstly receive any congregational feedback/suggestions on worship, and secondly to hear from any members with an interest in joining the choir or Praise band or contributing to the music in the church in any other way. Please speak to us or email us if you would like to comment or volunteer.

House-groups

The fortnightly Thursday afternoon Bible Study for ladies has recommenced, and the Wednesday and Thursday evening house-groups are scheduled to recommence this month. For more details on the house-groups please see the order of service intimation sheets or contact us. Recent academic work has shown that today's generation of young adults is the loneliest in history, and that loneliness has an adverse influence on mortality equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes per day! The house-groups are a great forum for forging friendships in the church and particularly helpful for new members. The groups usually engage in some form of Bible study together.

Property

Our property team have been busy in recent months addressing our fabric needs. Work to install a fixed external ladder to access the roof void is now underway, and a number of roof maintenance works will commence over the coming month. An architects' firm has been commissioned to draw up provisional plans for a programme of building renovation and improvement. They will present these to the Kirk Session in early October and we anticipate arranging a congregational meeting subsequent to this in October or early November.

The General Trustees of the Church of Scotland have formally approved the sale of the St Machar's Ranfurly building. We have done what we can to expedite this process but are bound by central church procedure so the timeframe for marketing and sale remains unclear at the time of writing. The St Machar's Ranfurly halls continue to be used by a number of groups and are available for hire.

Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association

The BB & GA got underway for the new session at the end of August. Numbers are low in the Anchors and Juniors so please encourage anyone you know to give it a go. Please note that there is now no girls only section but all 3 sections are open to both boys and girls. [Anchor P1-3, Thursdays 6.15-7.30pm; Juniors P4-6, Mondays 6.30-8pm; Company P7-S6, Fridays 7.30-9.30pm] On June 1st we held a 10-mile sponsored walk for Christian Aid which raised a total of £837.50.

Many thanks to all who took part and those who made donations.

Over the Summer, four of our senior boys successfully completed a 3-day, two-night camping expedition, navigating their way round Bute. This counts for King's Badge and DofE Silver.

We are looking forward to another action-packed session with the first big event being a trip round the Clyde 'Sugar Boat' in John Semple's RIB on 12th September.



Christian Aid Week 2025

Yes, it seems like a long time ago! Unfortunately, submission deadlines meant I was unable to let everyone know about the final C.A. Week figures in the last newsletter before the summer break. Some of the BB boys did a sponsored walk for Christian Aid on Sunday 1st June. They raised the magnificent sum of £675 in donations and, with gift aid, this resulted in £837.50 for Christian Aid. Huge thanks to Brian for organizing this, the boys who did the walk, the adults who accompanied them and of course the people who supported the boys with sponsorship.

C. A. Week this year was given a flying start with St Machar's Ranfurly holding a "mug sale" and retiring collection at the last service of the congregation in that building before the Union. This raised £600.

Overall, combining the BB walk, the St Machar's mug sale, envelope collections at the church and The Bridge, and the digital envelope for online giving, we managed to raise £5,467.62 in donations which, together with the gift aid, resulted in a grand total of **£6,482.87**.

Thank you so much to everybody who enabled this to happen – organisers, house-to-house deliverers, walkers, and, of course, the people who generously donated. Now, got any good ideas for next year?

Dave Macdonald

Bridge of Weir Parish Church Junior Choir

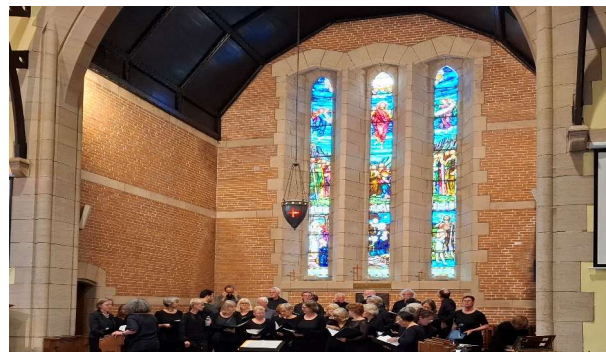
The Junior choir will start rehearsals on Thursday 4th September at 4.15 pm in the Parish Church. All Primary 3 to Primary 7 pupils are invited to attend for a session focused on music activities.

The Coffee Morning for Dreamflight, held on a rainy June morning was a resounding success, thanks to the brilliant Bakers, terrific Team, supportive Stallholders, and all the fabulous folks who turned out in force to support our fundraising event!

The Hall was so busy, and the atmosphere was so full of the chat of people having a great time! The Diltoid Quiz, Guess the Bunnies Birthdays, and the Sweet Jar count were all popular and added to the fun!

Raising £2082 in two hours was beyond our wildest expectations, and we can only say a huge "Thank You" to everyone who supported us before, during and after the event.

Linzi has been invited as Deputy Group Leader on Dreamflight 2025, the 37th trip to Orlando, and hopes to be able to show pictures on her return of the children that your kind generosity supported on their Life changing Holiday.



Saturday 21st June 2025 International Music Day

A big thank you to Ian Munroe for organising various items of music from 9am to 8pm to take part in International Music Day. We were paid a visit by a choir from Stuttgart who were presenting a recital from Purcell to Rutter (17th to 21st Century!). the choir were touring Scotland and had been singing in Inverness and Edinburgh. Bridge of Weir was their last stop before flying home from Prestwick. The music was sublime.

Degerlocher Kantorei Michaelskircke Stuttgart

There were opportunities to play various instruments, including the St Machar's Ranfurly Church organ. Graham Murnane sang his favourite songs and we learned some Taize chants.

Other highlights were Bridge of Weir Parish Church Junior Choir whose company is a joy. As Ian has a new post in Edinburgh, we no longer have him to lead the children. If you are interested in taking this forward, please make yourself known to the Session.

This was an open drop-in day and a huge thanks must go to those who helped support by

Hello everyone.

With us joined and as a new church there are many events happening across the village.

These are perfect opportunities for us to reach out and welcome others into the work that we do.

The new website www.bridgeofweirparish.org has been up and running from our date of union.

There are many areas that I would like to be enhanced but I can only do that with your help.

If you have any regular meetings/events. Please let me know.

You can email me on info@bridgeofweirparish.org or Miller.g@bridgeofweirparish.org

I would like to add a working calendar on to the website which will allow for easier booking of our church Halls

If you have pictures or anything you think might help showcase our church. Please send it over to me.

You can also call me on 07538530478 or get me on WhatsApp.

I look forward to seeing your input.

Greg Miller, Joint Property Convenor

Our vision "To be a caring Church, rooted in God's word, growing in Christ and transforming the community"

The Freemachars group for retired men have enjoyed a varied programme of speakers and outings this year and would extend a warm welcome to any men and their friends who would like to join them. They normally meet on the last Tuesday of each month. Their most recent outing was a visit to the Donald Malcolm Heritage Centre at Linwood. The remaining events for this year's programme are: **30 September** - Visit to Medieval Glasgow; **28 October** - Talk by Graham Murnane on trademarks entitled "Percy Pigs, Penguins and Puffins"; **25 November** - Talk by Ian Murray on 'Building a Warship'; and **16 December** Christmas Message by Rev Kenneth Gray followed by festive lunch at Bernie's Deli. Intimations of these events will be given nearer the time. *(photo shows men at recent outing to Glengoyne Distillery)*



The Parish Ramblers have been on the go for many years and would welcome anyone wishing to join them for some fresh air, exercise and fellowship, with attractive scenery thrown in. They normally meet on the last Saturday of each month and their walks rarely exceed 8 miles in distance with as few hills as possible thrown in. Their remaining walks this year are **27 September** - Strathblane Pipetrack; **25 October** - Rowardennan to Balmaha; **29 October** - Loch Humphrey; and **20 December** - Kenmore Temple (Castle Sempole) via Parkhill Woods. *(photo shows group at recent walk in the Trossachs)*

INVENTORY

Our new Church has two buildings with a considerable wealth of inventory. It also has a considerable amount of junk which has been built up over a long period.

The work to bring the two into one has started and you may have already noticed items in the parlour being identified as surplus. These are being offered to anyone who will take them away on a "first come, first served" basis. If appropriate, a donation may be given and we recommend that this is given to the Treasurer for the Church in Ukraine.

Once we have the initial transfers completed, we will start on the more sensitive items which will need a level of discussion. A team has been set up under the leadership of the Session Clerks for this purpose. We also take cognisance of the possible changes being recommended by the Architects and the Property Committee. If anyone would like to assist in this task, they will be made most welcome. Please speak to either of the Session Clerks, Dennis Taylor or Graeme Harris

Bridge of Weir Parish Church: Gifts

If you are new to the church and would like to contribute by making a donation or weekly gift by direct banking or by standing order, please find the bank details below:

Bridge of Weir Parish Church
Bank of Scotland
Sort Code : 80-05-82
Account | No : 00353325

Alternatively, if you would like to pay by cash on a weekly basis, we have church envelopes available please speak to the treasurer. Also, if you are a tax payer and would like to contribute through gift aid please ask for a Declaration Form.

Lesley Smith, Bridge of Weir Parish Church, Congregational Treasurer

The theme for this year's summer drop in was 'Food in the Bible' Over 20 young children and their carers, over 7 Fridays, enjoyed crafts, treasure hunts and bible stories and songs focusing on olives, grapes, fish, apples, figs, seeds, and salt. Can **you** place these in the Bible? Thanks go to those who provided the morning snacks and to all the volunteers who supported this outreach event.

Mary Taylor

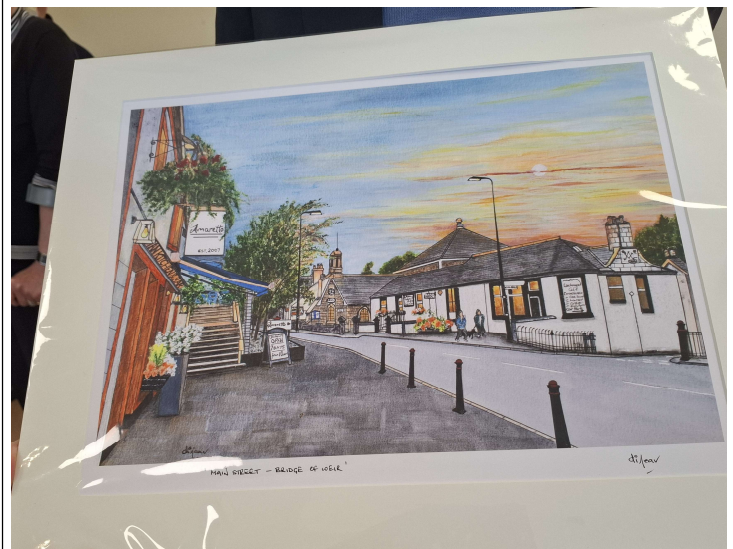


Organist Departure

On Sunday 31st August, one of our organists left for pastures new. Ian Munro, has been one of our Organists in the new Church after having been the organist at St. Machar's Ranfurly for the past five years, played in the Church for the last time. Ian has taken up a post as organist in one of the city centre Churches in Edinburgh.

After the service, the congregation filed into the Hall where Ian's contribution was celebrated along with coffee and cakes.

The picture shows Ian along with Joint Session Clerk Dennis, having been presented with a painting by a local artist of Bridge of Weir.



Our vision "To be a caring Church, rooted in God's word, growing in Christ and transforming the community"

DATE		CHURCH FLOWERS GIFTED BY	DELIVERED BY	WELCOMING TEAMS
Sept	21st	Barbara Walker	Margaret Adam	Tom Garrett, Gerald Smith, Jennifer Bradnock
	28 th	Kay Scott	Morag Cunningham	Brian Logie, Ian Gillies, Elizabeth Lyle
Oct	5 th	Ruth Murnane	Marion Whiteford	Meg Gilzean, Joyce Gillies, Morven McLeod
	12 th	Lorna Jackson	Jennifer Bradnock	Paul Birch, Janet Birch, Ann Hart
	19 th	Margaret Coats	Irene MacFarlane	David Adam, Mgt Adam, Sarah McNaught
	26 th	Janice Stevenson	Meg Gilzean	Graeme Harris, Mgt Harris, Bill Robb
Nov	2 nd	Marlene Preece	Ian Kerr	Ian Brodie, Mary Taylor, Dennis Taylor
	9 th	Shirley White	Margaret Coats	Ian Kerr, June Deitz, Marion Whiteford
	16 th	Morag Cunningham	Margaret Adam	Allan Bennie, John Burt, Pat Allen
	23 rd	Flower Fund	Marion Whiteford	Tom Garrett, Gerard Smith, Jennifer Bradnock
	30th	Muriel Searl	Morag Cunningham	Brian Logie, Ian Gillies, Elizabeth Lyle
Dec	7 th	McHugh Family	Irene MacFarlane	Muriel Searl, Bill Christie, Fiona Holbrook

The next issue of the Church Newsletter will be available for distributors on Sunday 30th
November, 2025

Please endeavour to pass all material for this issue to Meg Gilzean week beginning 17th
November,

THANK YOU

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Minister	Kenneth Gray	690918
Session Clerks	Graeme Harris	613870
	Dennis Taylor	612417
Treasurer & Income Co- Ordinator	Lesley Smith	07872 605099
Church Newsletter Editor	Meg Gilzean	07931 302689
Safeguarding	Ian Brodie	690931
Roll Keeper	Margaret Harris	613870

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