

Langtoun Central Church

Union of Abbotshall, Bennoch, Linktown and St Bryce

The Langtoun Echo

Summer Edition 2025



Letter from Julie Rennick Interim Moderator



Greetings to you all,

I am Rev Julie Rennick, appointed by Presbytery as the Interim Moderator following the departure of Rev Stewart McPherson. I retired from ministry last year after 20 years in Parish ministry and working as a Presbytery Clerk.

On retiring, my husband and I, with our spaniel, moved from South Lanarkshire to Fife in order to be closer to our grandchildren, and grown up children.

When I agreed to take on this role, I knew that for you as a congregation, life is full of uncertainty. As a new union, there is much work to be done. On a Sunday, we have a good congregation of folks who are looking forward with hope. But also, there is the natural period of adjustment - only a few months ago there were four congregations looking to find a way forward; now there is one, but still within that space there are unknown faces around us. We are Langtoun, but there are still echoes of Abbotshall, Bennoch, Linktown and St Bryce. Throughout history - in both church and nation, when things need to change we experience a period of turmoil, where nothing is familiar, and this feels uncomfortable, but in time we will find a new way of doing things, we will slowly begin to recognise those unknown faces; we will discover that Langtoun has its own rhythms and ways of doing things, and the unfamiliar becomes familiar. Being in the middle of the maelstrom is hard - but on the other side will be joy and light.

As the Interim Moderator it is my task to moderate meetings of the Kirk Session, to lead worship occasionally, and to help and advise as the union beds in and we begin the process of moving forward,

together, in faith. The Kirk Session is carefully filling the teams that will be the driving force that builds on the foundations we have; there will be new opportunities and experiences on offer, and it is hoped that you all as members of the congregation and supporters of the new Parish of Langtoun Central, will be encouraged to join in and become part of this new congregation.

I will be leading worship on 29 June for the summer communion service, and I look forward to seeing many of you then.

As the old hymn goes: *Look forward in faith, all time is in God's hand, walk humbly with Him, and trust his future plan.* We cannot know what the future will bring, but we can, trust in God's plan, and know that it is God who leads into the future together,

Every blessing to each of you,



Rev Julie Rennick
Interim Moderator
Kirkcaldy Langtoun Central Church

Celebration of Holy Communion

Sunday 29th June



From our Assistant Minister

Ewan Ritchie

Pastoral Care



As many of you will be aware, one of the areas of church life that is significant to folks within Langtoun Central is Pastoral Care. How we look after and support each other in the difficulties of life should be one of the marks of the church – in fact, it is a Biblical call for all Christians. Pastoral Care can, also, be hard work. How do we go about the work of Pastoral Care across a new, much bigger, parish and for a much-expanded membership roll? How do we focus the work and make it manageable for the number of volunteers we have? How do we support the most vulnerable and the house-bound? All these questions, and more, are the responsibility of the Pastoral Care Group. You will hear more over the coming months from them, but I wanted to provide an update on some of the work that is on going:

Prayer Cards and prayer box are now available on a Sunday morning in the vestibule, for anyone who might feel that they or others might benefit from the prayer of those in the church. We hope to see the use of these increase over time and to make prayer for each other a central part of what the church does and is.

There is currently a memorial book in the Bennoch building which contains names, messages and important dates for those in the legacy church. We are aware that the other legacy churches also had similar books and so there are discussions ongoing as to how we bring these together to make them accessible and so that they can be easily added to.

The flower ministry within Langtoun continues and I am sure we all are enjoying the fresh flowers on a Sunday morning. These are distributed after the service to folks who could use some

encouragement or who are celebrating significant events. Please get in touch if you know of someone who could benefit from this ministry.

Home visits have been continuing across the parish, and we are looking to restart the pastoral visiting group. This is early on in the planning, but as the membership of the congregation ages and more people require home visits, we are always in need of new people to take up the call to be pastoral visitors. You do not need to be an elder, or on a committee, so do get in touch if you are interested.

During the summer we are planning a pastoral event for those who struggle to get to the church on a Sunday morning. More information of this will follow in the coming weeks and so please do keep a look out for more details – it promises to be a great event, and we look forward to seeing folks there.

Finally, there is a reminder to everyone in the church that pastoral care relies on up to date information. If your details change, please do let the office know so that the roll is up to date. Also, if you find yourself in hospital please let someone from the church know. Sadly, the days when ministers and pastoral workers could easily find out who was in the hospital are gone, and so if you do not tell us, or ask the hospital to tell us, then it is hard to arrange a visit.

The work of the Pastoral Care group is ongoing and there is lots to be excited about. We would ask for patience as we try to find the best way forward for all but are committed to looking to give support to all who could do with a listening ear. As always, if I can be of any help, please do just get in touch.

If you are aware of anyone in hospital, or at home or Care Home who would appreciate a visit, then please get in touch with me
07814 674974 or email ERitchie@churchofscotland.org.uk

General Assembly 2025 – George Drummond, Session Clerk



An invitation was received earlier in the year for a member of our Kirk Session to attend the General Assembly this year as a Commissioner, which was presented to the Session. I happily accepted to attend along with Morag Michael.

I always enjoy attending the Assembly as there is a variety of interesting topics and decisions to be made but this year was a bit more special as Rev Rosie Frew (ex-Abbotshall Minister) was being appointed as Moderator of the General Assembly which is an honourable appointment and a person known to me and who Morag had the privilege to work alongside her in her position as Session Clerk at Abbotshall.

The Assembly opened on Saturday 17th May and met until Thursday 22nd May and was held in the General Assembly Hall which is located between Castlehill and Mound place in Edinburgh.

There are 17 Sessions spaced between the Saturday and the Thursday. No Sessions take place on the Sunday as there is a service held in St.Giles Cathedral.

Saturday was attended by Lady Elish Angiolini who represented King Charles as Lord High Commissioner and is the first practising Roman Catholic to be appointed in this position. Lady Elish Angiolini's appointment was made possible after a change in law. Both Houses of Parliament were required to change a law dating back to 1689 that barred Roman Catholics from holding the role. Lady Elish, LT, DBE, KC acknowledged that the people of Scotland will be aware of the "profound significance of the appointment of a Catholic to this role" in terms of breaking down barriers between Protestant and Catholic communities.



Pictured: First Minister of Scotland John Swinney MSP, Rt Rev Rosie Frew, Moderator of the General Assembly, and Lady Elish Angiolini, Lord High Commissioner.

The Assembly was opened by the retiring Moderator, Rt Rev Shaw Patterson who addressed the new Assembly and invited Rosie to her new position as Moderator of the General Assembly, a post she will hold for the next 12 months.

The Bible Society presented Rosie with her bible, a tradition of the Assembly. Her Bible was the New International Version (Readers Edition) which simplified many of the passages into a more easily understood version which, as a non-reader I found to be interesting and promised myself to 'check it out'.

Prior to the Monday Session I was invited by Rosie to be one of three individuals hand-picked by herself to welcome Lady Elish and her entourage as they arrived to attend the Assembly. One of those chosen on Monday was Rev Marc Prowe who was Minister along with his wife Rev Catriona Morrison at Linktown. It was good to catch up with Marc. It was also good to bump into Justin Taylor (ex-Minister at

Abbotshall) who was attending from his new position in the Channel Islands. Morag had the privilege to be part of the welcome team on the Thursday.

Rosie addressed the Assembly and welcomed Church leaders from all over the world, some of whom gave interesting and inspiring presentations. One of them was from the Most Reverend Hosam Elias Naoum, Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem who constantly referred to the situation in Israel and Gaza which was so humbling as he mentioned that despite the suffering, love is and always will be in the heart of the Gospel and will bring hope.

Rosie's theme for the Assembly was Extravagant Love, which is about loving deeply, unconditionally, and without reservation, even when it's difficult or inconvenient. This kind of love is often associated with generosity and unselfishness.

At the Assembly, every day opens with a short time of worship and on the Monday, traditionally, Communion is served at which Morag assisted all with near military precision.

The singing was incredible as it filled the hall and could probably be heard at the top of the Royal Mile where the Assembly Hall's back doors are to be found.

Assisted dying was debated at great length where people for and against presented compelling examples for both sides. This is a subject which the church has always opposed but there was evidence that whilst there is still opposition, there was a sense that this tide was starting to shift which was evidenced by the various testimonies and ultimate vote.

Other interesting Presentations and debates were around;
Concerns over Minister's training after 5 years in term
Modern Slavery

The decision to close down Life & Work
The role of Chaplains
The Guild
Crossreach (Social Care Council)
Ecumenical Relations
General Trustees

I can go on but all in all, it was a long but very enjoyable 5 days which I would recommend to all Elders to attend as Commissioners ,or to any member who can attend in the public gallery.

General Assembly 2025 – Morag Michael, Elder

Being a Commissioner at the General Assembly, this year was a privilege on so many levels.



The new Moderator, Rosie Frew, as minister of Abbotshall Church, ordained me as an Elder so I was really happy to see how well she conducted business once the formal Investiture was over. Perhaps people think the General Assembly is a boring or stuffy experience but it is not. There were many moments of hilarity and light-hearted banter between various people, there were the solemn moments of tradition and pageantry surrounding the arrival of the King's representative, Lady Elish Angiolini and, of course, the serious business of listening to reports and either approving them or opting for further discussion which could lead to voting on counter-motions or amendments. After all, the General Assembly is the highest court of the Church of Scotland and is somewhat akin to the AGM of the church, so commissioners are helping to shape the church's future.

I was further privileged to help serve Communion, something my

mother, Ruth Macintyre, did many years ago as one of the first women who performed such a duty, although she was told she had to “wear a dark coloured dress” whereas Rosie told us we could wear what was comfortable!



I also had the opportunity to greet Lady Elish when she arrived on the last morning, and her charm and grace were impressive. She spoke so well on the first and last days and her humility and grasp of current happenings in the church were formidable.

I was very glad to be able to represent our new, united Langtoun Central Church and I would recommend the experience of being a Commissioner to anyone offered the post in future.

General Assembly

Impressions of the installation of the Moderator

The installation of Rosie Frew as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was special for many members of the congregation of Langtoun. Many had met her and had heard her preach, and for those whose church before our union was Abbotshall, she had been their much loved minister. So, with great excitement, Margaret, Eileen, Kay and I set off from Kirkcaldy on a fine May morning, crossed the mist shrouded new bridge and headed for Edinburgh to see Rosie installed a sModerator.

We parked at the Gallery of Modern Art and took a taxi to the public entrance of the Assembly Hall, just below the Castle Esplanade.. The streets were alive with people — locals and tourists, bemused passers-by wondering what was happening, and all basking in the unexpected generosity of a Scottish sun.

Rosie had arranged tickets for us, and we were welcomed by the stewards who showed us to the Gallery with gracious efficiency. You could feel the sense of occasion building. Everyone was smiling — ministers and elders beneath us greeting friends they had not seen since last year, and staff hurrying about with quiet competence.

And there, outside the grand old building, was a busking piper in full swing, the skirl of the pipes cutting through the air like a secular benediction. As we made our way in, we met other familiar faces from Langtoun — hugs, laughter, and a lovely sense of belonging.

Then, the bell rang, and we had barely settled in our seats when the Assembly began.

The Precentor raised his arms and the congregation rose — a full Assembly Hall — joined in “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”. It was almost overwhelming. Hundreds of unaccompanied voices united in praise, the words surging through the space like a tide of hope and power. It’s at moments like that when you feel, truly and wholly, part of the body of Christ.

The installation of Rosie as Moderator was moving in its dignity and its intimacy. There she stood, humble and confident, pastoral and composed. I had never heard her preach, but friends told me of her sermons in Kirkcaldy, thoughtful and rooted in real life, her gentle kindness, her ability to meet people exactly where they were — whether at the door on a Sunday morning or at the bedside of someone in pain. And here she was, ready to take on the mantle of Moderator of the General Assembly — a role that will see her representing the Kirk to the world and helping to steer us through a difficult and challenging time of great change.

On being installed, her voice was clear and firm, her words wise and calm. She spoke of community, justice, and our calling as a Church to listen and to serve. Her emphasis on walking with people — not

preaching “at” them — felt right, and necessary, and deeply Presbyterian. And when she spoke of God’s love being "wide and long and high and deep" there was a feeling of deep peace and comfort. And then came a piece of history.

Representing His Majesty the King was Her Grace, Eilish Angelioni — the newly appointed Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly. And in this, we witnessed something truly remarkable. For Eilish is the first *Roman Catholic* ever to hold this role — a role that required, no less, a special Act of Parliament to make it possible.

History was being made, and Eileen and Margaret and Kay and I were there as it happened. Hundreds of years of history — shaped by Reformation, by division, by suspicion, by prejudice — giving way to something new. Something bold. Something reconciled.

To see her walk in, with grace and purpose, and take her seat as the King's representative — in full recognition and respect of the Presbyterian traditions of the Kirk — was to feel that we were watching something sacred unfold. Not just ceremony, but a symbol of what’s possible when faiths speak kindly to one another, when barriers fall, and bridges are built.

It was powerful. It was profound. And it reminded me of why I am part of this Church.

We have far to go. But we’ve come far too. And on a sunny morning in May, with the pipes playing and the voices rising, and Rosie in the Moderator’s Chair, it felt like we might just be moving in the right direction.

And Langtoun is moving with it.

Mary Bain Lockhart

Church Flowers

Thank you to all who have offered to put fresh flowers in the Church. They have been much appreciated by the recipients after the service. If you would like to be part of the flower ministry please let me know - either to donate to the Flower Fund or to put flowers in Church on a Sunday.

Ruth Fraser

01592 266451 ruthfraser330@gmail.com

Thank You

Thank you all very much for the beautiful flowers which were given to us on our 65th Wedding Anniversary.

It was very kind and thoughtful.

Jean & Jim Paton

Bequest

We are very grateful to acknowledge the bequest from the estate of Margaret Stewart, who died in December 2023.

Deaths



Mr Robert Bruce	27/03/2025
Mrs Joyce MacLaine	04/05/2025
Mrs Margaret Methven	06/05/2025
Mrs Jessie Adie	08/05/2025

OPEN DOOR PROJECT

The Olive Branch café at the Bennochly building continues to welcome, every Thursday, our regular customers, and several new faces, who enjoy the social aspects as well as the light lunches. Although we still have our Knit and Natter Group, we want to continue encouraging customers and small groups to come for tea/coffee/home baking from 11 am. Do come along not only for the lovely home -made soup, sandwiches and specials (served from noon) but also for a chance to meet friends old and new.

The Community Choir performed, for friends and family, on Monday 2nd June, for the last time with Ella and Graham Wilson at the helm. Choir members will very much miss their professionalism, enthusiasm and humour. However, we are delighted that the Community Choir will continue under new leadership in August and look forward to welcoming existing and new members. Day and times remain the same – Mondays at 6.30 till 8 in the large hall at the Bennochly building.

Further information from Alison Hamilton
(alisonrhamilton52@gmail.com)

Handbell Ringers

Handbell Ringers finished the spring session with a medley of folk, jazz and popular songs-all in full swing.

We resume in September and welcome any interested enquiry.

Of note is the Scottish Autumn Rally to be held in Langtoun Church, Bennochly Building, Saturday, 25th October when teams from all over Scotland will be demonstrating their repertoire of handbell ringing and finishing with a "massed" ring for all! Space permitting, this is open to the public.

Bennochly bells are happy to host the occasion, to listen and learn and of course to serve teas afterwards!

Margaret Simpson
Tel.01592 262005



The Guild finished the session on Tuesday 13th May with a lovely lunch supplied by the kitchen staff at St. Bryce Centre which was enjoyed by all 24 members.

The committee are now busy organising a New Syllabus for Session 25/26 starting on 9th Sept. 2025 hopefully coming up with a varied programme. We will be starting our new project Bear Necessities for Bulgaria which should be interesting and of course our Coffee Morning which has been booked for Saturday 15th November, so pop it in your diaries and any creative ladies start creating. New members very welcome.

On behalf of the Guild I would like to wish all our members, and friends in Langtoun Central Church a relaxing and healthy summer, and look forward to seeing you all in September

Jennifer Wilson.



The Olive branch at Bennochry

**Thursday from
11am until 2pm**

(last orders 1.30pm)

Serving tea, coffee and home
baking from 11am and
light lunches from 12 noon.

St Bryce Cafe

We are open

**Monday - Thursday
10am - 2pm**

serving tea, coffee and a large
variety of homemade cakes.

Breakfast rolls are available from
10am and hot lunches and soup
from 11.45am - 1.45pm We
specialise in gluten free cakes.

**Café will be closed from
7th—18th July
for staff holidays**

St Bryce Café

The Café has received the Community Café of the Year 2025 –Fife Award from Acquisition International, a modern business awards group

What's On

St Bryce Centre



Bible Study meets in the St Bryce Building on Monday at 10am for 10.15am until 11.30am. We are currently studying Paul's Missionary Journeys as recounted in the Acts of the Apostles. The Study group will take a break over the school holidays.

Programmes for the Guild, Friendship Group, and Girls Allowed new session will be displayed on the St Bryce Centre noticeboard.

Bennoch Halls

Young Church Sundays, during morning worship

Craft Group Mondays

Hall Lets

To hire any of our halls at our 4 buildings contact the Office at

St Bryce Centre Email office@stbrycekirk.org

Tel. 01592 640016

Kart AGM

Come and hear what we've been up to, celebrate the impact made in young lives this year, and find out what's next for our charity.

Date: June 24, 2025, Time: 7-8.30pm

Newcraigs Evangelical Church, Forres Dr, Kirkcaldy KY2 6YL

Tea, Coffee & Home Baking

Intimations

If you wish something included in the Service Sheet intimations please contact the office at the St Bryce Centre by Thursday lunchtime on 01592 640016 or email office@stbrycekirk.org

Fife Free Press

Press notices should be sent to Beryl Luke at berylluke@gmail.com by Monday lunchtime.

Website

If you wish something included on the website please email Allan Morton at office@lantouncentralchurch.org.uk

The Web site provides up to date details of all aspects of church life including our newsletter, latest information on activities in our buildings. documents, videos or read the online histories.

Langtoun Central Church Bank Account

Our new church has a new bank account and it is :-

Kirkcaldy Langtoun Central Church of Scotland ;

Sort Code 80-16-84 ; Account no. 00356308

If you have not already updated your SO arrangements we would ask you to do so soon, before the original church bank accounts are closed. Thank you

NEXT NEWSLETTER – October

Submissions by 3rd October

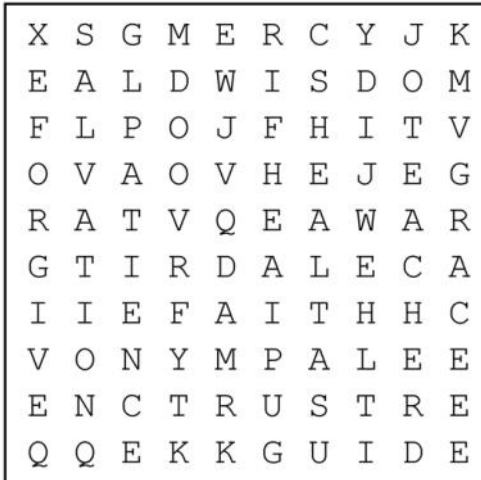
Fun and Games

Ten Quiz Questions from our Quiz Master
Names of Books of the Bible
(5 of OT and 5 of NT)

- 1 Leaving, Departing?
- 2 Sayings, Mottos, Aphorisms?
- 3 1,2,3,4,etc ?
- 4 His surname was Defoe?
- 5 Legal Operators, Sheriffs?
- 6 Sounds like See?
- 7 They spoke in Latin?
- 8 Episodes at the Theatre?
- 9 Sounds like a Scratch or a Strain?
- 10 Eye-Opener, Exposure, Giveaway?

Answers on back page of newsletter

God is Love Word Search



Word list:

FAITH
FORGIVE
GRACE
GUIDE
HEAL
LOVE
MERCY
PATIENCE
SALVATION
TEACHER
TRUST
WISDOM

Langtoun Central Church is an Eco- Congregation: but can we be even greener?



A huge thank you to those who have already shared your email address enabling us to contact you in this way. Being able to send items like the newsletter by email makes sharing news and communicating with our congregation greener, faster and simpler!

At the moment we print over **400 copies** of our newsletter!

This has a cost to not only our church finances but to our planet as well! This is where **YOU** can help...

You can help us save paper, costs and trees simply by telling us your email address: it's as easy as that!

We can assure you that we will only send you the newsletter and church related communications. (We will not share your details and you can opt out of our emails at any time.)

All you need to do is send a brief note from your preferred email asking us to contact you in this way and we can do the rest!

Use either:

office@stbrycekirk.org

or office@langtouncentralchurch.org.uk

If you would like some help to do this, please ask one of the welcome team to direct you to me, (Màura Lee) and I will happily help you do this.

If you do not want to give us an email address, you can read the newsletter on our church website: www.langtouncentralchurch.org.uk
You can also find lots of up to date information there about Langtoun Central Church and what's going on each week in our buildings.

Thank you.

Maura Lee

For the Communication Team.

Yearly Newsletter Diary Submissions by

Late February	mid February
before Easter Communion	mid March
before Summer Communion	1st week June
before Autumn Communion	2nd week October

Quiz Answers

1	Exodus	2	Proverbs
3	Numbers	4	Daniel
5	Judges	6	Luke
7	Romans	8	Acts
9	Mark	10	Revelation

Safeguarding and GDPR policy.

Articles and pictures are accepted from contributors on the basis that after review the Editorial team may modify content or refuse to publish to meet Safeguarding and GRPR requirements.

Articles published are contributed and their content may not reflect the views of the congregation or that of the Church of Scotland.

Find us on our website langtouncentralchurch.org.uk

or on Facebook  Langtoun Central Church

Contact email office@langtouncentralchurch.org.uk

office@stbrycekirk.org

Phone 01592 640016