

Langtoun Central Church

Langtoun Echo

Advent/Christmas Edition 2025



Love comes down  
at Christmas

# Letter from Eileen Miller Interim Minister



Greetings Friends,

Thank you for your warm welcome at my Service of Introduction on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and during the weeks since. At the time of writing, I am into my 5<sup>th</sup> week in post as your Interim Minister, and it has been a busy start with Communion and Remembrance services back-to-back. I very much enjoyed sharing the Communion service on 26<sup>th</sup> October with Rev Arthur Christie, Moderator of the Presbytery of Fife. When he offered to come to Langtoun Central Church, I quickly pinned him down to a date! I am enjoying meeting folks, both new and some known faces, although I confess it is difficult to remember which legacy church people came from - perhaps this is a good thing as we journey together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

I will be with you for up to 3 years to assist you in the transition towards discovering the potential and possibilities of Langtoun Central Church as we build upon the hard work that has been and continues to be done. The histories of legacy congregations will never be forgotten as they are part of who you are, as people of God in Kirkcaldy. I hope we can find appropriate ways to honour the history and legacy of former congregations as you begin to move forward in discovering more of what has been entrusted to you. I am confident that together we can prayerfully and wisely use the gifts, skills and resources at our disposal to move forward intentionally and missionally as Langtoun Central Church.

To assist this process, early in the new year, there will be a meeting to which the congregation and Kirk Session will be invited. This meeting will be facilitated by colleagues from the Interim and Transition Ministry team. The plan is that the aims and objectives going forward over the next three years will be discussed at that meeting, although decisions already made regarding buildings will not be changed. I know from conversations that the decision to

close much loved church buildings continues to be painful. As it is with loss and grief, there are no shortcuts or easy solutions, and all we can do is to find ways to acknowledge the pain, and then to do what needs to be done in the best way we can together.

## ADVENT

We will soon be entering the season of Advent, which is a season of waiting, longing and praying for God's light in the darkness. Sometimes in the rush to get to Christmas, Advent can give way to a gradual ramping up of the celebrations that ought to belong to Christmas. But if we can stay in that challenging place of waiting with God during Advent, we become more aware of our own need of the work of God in Christ and of God's presence even in the darkness.

In July 2019, I was on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and I remember standing in a field on the outskirts of Bethlehem, close to the Church of the Shepherds. Earlier in nearby caves, where shepherds over the centuries have taken refuge from the sun, rain and cold, the group of ministers read about those first shepherds waiting and watching their sheep in the dark of night. It was into the darkness, in that part of the world, that God broke through, from heaven to earth, sending angels to bring a message to humanity. That message was and still is "Good news of great joy that will be for **all the people**" and it is as relevant and needed today as it was then. Into the darkness, LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS in the form of a vulnerable baby, the Christ child. A baby born into a world full of conflict and strife, as a living message of peace and goodwill to all who receive him.

Have a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Eileen

# Advent and Christmas Services

*30<sup>th</sup> November*

*11am Advent Service  
Bennochy Building*

*2 pm Reflective Service for those bereaved  
St Bryce Centre*

*7<sup>th</sup> December*

*11am Gift Service  
Bennochy Building  
\* see page 5*

*14<sup>th</sup> December*

*11 am Lessons & Carols Service  
Bennochy Building*

*21<sup>st</sup> December*

*11am Pop up Nativity Service  
Bennochy Building*

*24<sup>th</sup> December*

*6.30 pm Family Christingle Service  
St Bryce Centre*

*28<sup>th</sup> December*

*11am Sunday Service  
Bennochy Building*

## Gift Service on 7<sup>th</sup> December

You are invited to support the local community by enabling the Salvation Army to deliver Christmas gifts. If you can, please bring a gift, new and unwrapped, for a child or teenager, aged 0-18 years.

The Salvation Army is also collecting gifts for parents and, in particular, toiletries and chocolates, but no gifts that require a size such as slippers or clothes. There will be a representative from the Salvation Army joining us for the service on 7th December who will collect all gifts after the service.



Anyone who wishes to help with making up the parcels on 8th December should contact the Salvation Army on 01592 265621 or email [kirkcaldy@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:kirkcaldy@salvationarmy.org.uk).

Gifts can also be dropped off at a table in the St Andrew's Hall on Sunday 30th November.



**Carols & Pints**  
**Wednesday 10th December**  
**7:30 pm in**  
**The Duchess, Nicol Street**  
**Music: Richard Michael**

## Ecumenical matters from Eileen

As a member (and former Vice Convener) of the national Ecumenical Relations Committee and as the Convener of the Fife Presbytery Ecumenical Task Group, you will not be surprised to know that I am interested in ecumenical matters!

The photo below was taken of those who took part in the service in Heart of Fife: St Margaret's Church on 16 November 2025. The service was a celebration of the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the St Margaret Declaration (of friendship) between the Church of Scotland and the Catholic Church in Scotland. Two of the three signatories who signed the Declaration at Dunfermline Abbey on 16 November 2022 were present at this service - Archbishop Leo Cushley and former Church of Scotland Moderator, the Very Rev Dr Iain Greenshields - the third signatory is the Princess Royal who was not present.



## Langtoun Guild

On Saturday 15th November we held our Coffee Morning at St Bryce Centre which was a great success, thanks to everyone who helped and of course to all who came along and supported us, spending lots of money. The Coffee Morning raised £1,504.90 which will be shared between our Charities at our finance meeting in December.

On behalf of the Guild a very big thank you to you all for your support.

## Moderator's Visit

On the 17th October the Moderator of the Church of Scotland the Rt. Rev. Rosemary Frew paid a visit to Langtoun Central Church.



Rosemary was a previous minister of Abbotshall Church.

As well as preaching the sermon, she presented long service certificates to some of our elders.

After the service there was time to socialise and reminisce with a Christian Aid soup lunch.

Christian Aid is one of the causes Rosie is promoting during her year as Moderator.

## Deaths



Merciful Father, We lift up the souls of the faithful departed into Your holy care.

These are the ones who loved You, who walked in faith, and now await the fullness of Your promise. Amen

Mr John Baillie                      Mr John S.Methven  
Mrs Elizabeth Beattie      Mrs Margaret Mentiplay  
Mr Andrew Henderson

## Prayer for Advent

Dear God, as we enter into the season of Advent, help me prepare my heart for the coming of Christ.

Let this season be one of reflection, repentance, and anticipation.

May my heart be open to receive the joy and peace that only You can bring.

Prepare me for the coming of our Saviour and fill me with the hope of His arrival. Amen.

## Update from our Member's Survey

A **big thank you** to all the members who have completed and returned our Member's Survey forms, they are still trickling in.

So far we have had an over 60% return.

We understand that some members may be housebound or have changed their email address, so if you have not received the Member's Survey or have been unable to return it contact the church office.

The returns to date have been analysed and a report will be presented to the Kirk Session. Using the returns the Congregational Roll has been updated.

Thank you to those members who have provided us with their email address to add to our list of members who can receive information online. These members will now receive notification of the Newsletter by email, helping to reduce our Newsletter printing cost. Based on the returns, our Pastoral Care team will now work with our new Interim Minister to be in touch with those members who requested a contact.

To those who have submitted comments, these will be addressed in due course.

## Women's Group

We meet fortnightly at Bennoch on Tuesday evenings starting at 7.00 pm. Our final event of the year is our Christmas Dinner at the Strathearn Hotel. We have an interesting syllabus for the coming year.

We start 2026 with a Quiz Night and preparation for our Burns Supper.

We have 33 members, *who wish you all  
a Peaceful, Restful Christmas.*



at Bennochy Building  
Thursday

11am until 2pm  
(last orders 1.30pm)

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

The Olive Branch is closed  
from 11<sup>th</sup> December to  
8<sup>th</sup> January.



The Olive Branch volunteers  
dress for Halloween

## St Bryce Café

Monday - Thursday  
10am until 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.

St Bryce Café is closed  
from 19th December  
to 5th January

## Share Christmas Greetings

This year you can share Christmas greetings to one  
another via our website, in place of Christmas cards.

To send your greetings please click on the link below:

[https://langtouncentralchurch.org.uk/?page\\_id=6579](https://langtouncentralchurch.org.uk/?page_id=6579)

or send via email to [xmas@langtouncentralchurch.org.uk](mailto:xmas@langtouncentralchurch.org.uk)

All greetings will also be printed off and displayed on the  
Church noticeboards at regular intervals.

# What's On

## St Bryce Centre

<b>Monday</b>	Bible Study Group	10:00 am
<b>Tuesday</b>	Friendship Group	1st, 3rd and 5th weeks of the month 1.30 pm
	The Guild	2nd and 4th weeks of the month 1.30 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Brownies	6pm
<b>Friday</b>	Guides and Rangers	6.30pm
	Girls Allowed	1st week of the month 7:00 pm
	Trefoil Guild	2nd week of the month 6:45pm

## Bennochty Halls

<b>Sunday</b>	Young Church	during morning worship
<b>Monday</b>	Craft Group	10:00 am
	Carpet Bowling	2:00 pm
	Community Choir	6:30 pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Handbell Ringers	2:30 pm
	Women's Group	fortnightly 7:00 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Guiding	from 5.30pm

## Linktown Halls

<b>Wednesday</b>	Scout Group	5 pm - 9:30 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Drift Inn	1st and 3rd weeks of month from 2:00 pm

## Abbotshall Halls

<b>Thursday</b>	Guiding	5 pm
<b>Friday</b>	Scout Group	5 pm - 9:30 pm

## Blythswood Shoeboxes

Many thanks for the lovely gifts that are now on their way via the Shoeboxes you filled, 98 in total.



There were boxes for elderly folks with cosy vests & socks etc, also boxes for adults with suitable tools & cooking items. Teens were given writing equipment, make-up, fancy socks & nice smelly items.

Then the wee ones & the babies - they got such a variety of gifts, clothes, toys, tin mugs, games etc, etc - and everyone got sweeties.

We were also able to send money to help with the expenses re transport costs, to the tune of £105.



Keep saving your shoeboxes, because we do it all again next year !!!

Mary Stark

## Langtoun Central Church Craft Group

The Craft Group meet in Bennochty every Monday morning 10 am - 12 noon.

We are currently involved in preparing for our **Christmas Fayre on 29th November, 10 am to 1.00 pm.**

We would like to thank members of the congregation for their help and also generous donations.

Christmas brings out the best of us. We could not do it without you, we are all very grateful for your support.

We hope to have a very happy, family festive Christmas Fayre.

*Our good wishes and Merry Christmas to all  
from the Ladies of the Craft Group.*



# CHRISTMAS FAYRE

## LANGTOUN CENTRAL CHURCH

Bennochy Building, Elgin Street  
Kirkcaldy KY2 5HR

Embrace the season's spirit and discover  
a treasure trove of unique handmade crafts,  
delightful treats and festive joy

## 29<sup>th</sup> November '25

10:00am - 1.00pm

£3 entry includes refreshments  
u/12s FREE

Tombola Hamper Raffle Jewellery  
Toiletries Cake & Candy Plants Stall  
& much much more

### Visitors from Canada

On October 28th, Abbotshall had a visit from a young Canadian couple who came to view the church and graveyard in order to see their family plot and the church where their Great-grandfather, Alexander Graham had worshipped in. Alexander emigrated to Canada in 1846.

The reason Abbotshall is remembered in the family is the Great-grandfather penned a number of poems including one reminiscing on Abbotshall's graveyard.

## The Auld Kirk Yard

O' Kirk's ere I saw  
The most dear to me -  
The Kirk o' Abotshaw  
In my nativity;  
Where the sainted dead  
Within the coffin lid,  
Lie in their narrow bed  
In the auld Kirkyard.

Full thirty years have passed  
Since I left childhood home;  
Dear friends since then, in dust  
Lie in the silent tomb,  
Found on earth below,  
They're lying long ago  
In the auld Kirk yard.

Where for centuries back  
My forefathers lie,  
Except by fire and rack,  
Some o' them did die.  
When in Scotland rife  
There was popish strife,  
Some did lose their life  
An' get nae auld Kirk yard.

When alive they had, like us,  
Life's battles to fight,  
And through hardships had to pass,  
Needing all their strength an'  
might.  
But now, their struggles o'er,

They gained the other shore –  
We've yet to explore  
'Yont the auld Kirk Yard

There's many now lying there  
I left in youthful bloom,  
Whose health and strength  
bade fare  
Long life this side of the tomb.  
But death comes to a'  
Has ta'en them a' awa;  
There lying in Abotshaw  
In the Auld Kirk yard.

The parents I loved dear  
Are now a' lying there.  
Down whose cheeks came the  
tear  
Fu' oft for my welfare.  
Sisters and brothers, too,  
And many schoolmates true,  
Who have bade earth adieu,  
Crown the auld Kirk yard.

I've wished oft wi' a sigh  
That my life would be spared.  
To see before I die  
The Auld Kirk Yard.  
Altho' that ne'er should be,  
When death shall set me free.  
I hope them a' to see  
Where there's nae Kirk yard.



## Community Choir Christmas Concert

The Bennoch Community Choir's Friends and Family Annual Christmas performance will take place on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm** in the Bennoch Sanctuary.

Everyone is very welcome and light refreshments will be served after the event. It would be very helpful for our catering, if those attending could let a choir member know in advance. This is a free event but there will be the opportunity to donate to charity on the night.

We look forward to seeing you.

To All at the Langtoun Central Church,



### Donation to Kirkcaldy Foodbank

On behalf of the board and everyone involved in Kirkcaldy Foodbank, I wish to thank you so all much for your recent donation. We so appreciate your support.

I am so sorry there has been a delay in thanking you for your donation. We are run entirely by volunteers and must work around their availability, which can sometimes lead to delays in letters being sent. Apologies for that.

Sadly, in the current climate, the problem of food poverty continues to grow, and we are struggling to meet the needs of our users, those less fortunate than ourselves. Your continued support is crucial to our endeavours, and we thank you once again for your kind support.

Yours sincerely

Sue Nicholson For Kirkcaldy Foodbank

## Lothian Speak Their Name Quilt

On behalf of all that were involved in the making of the Lothians Speak Their Name Quilt, I extend a heart-felt “thank you” to each and every one of you who made its time on display in the foyer of the St Bryce Centre such a blessing for all who saw it.

As you may already be aware, this is a suicide memorial quilt, made by family members and friends who have lost someone to suicide - showing something of the way they lived, not how they died.



The quilt gave a focus for much-needed conversations about mental health and suicide. It has given a voice to some people who have been too embarrassed or scared to talk with anyone, especially those for whom suicide has been a taboo subject. Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts. It really means a lot.

I hope it will have a long-lasting impact in our church and beyond. Remember, keep having these often-difficult conversations - it may be just what someone needs to hear ... it might even save a life.

Sandra Davies

Photographs and a Video of the Quilt’s time here can be found on the Lothian Speak Their Name facebook page or a video on YouTube <https://youtu.be/HxiDZJDLArI>

## **NEXT NEWSLETTER - February 2026** **Submissions by 16th January**

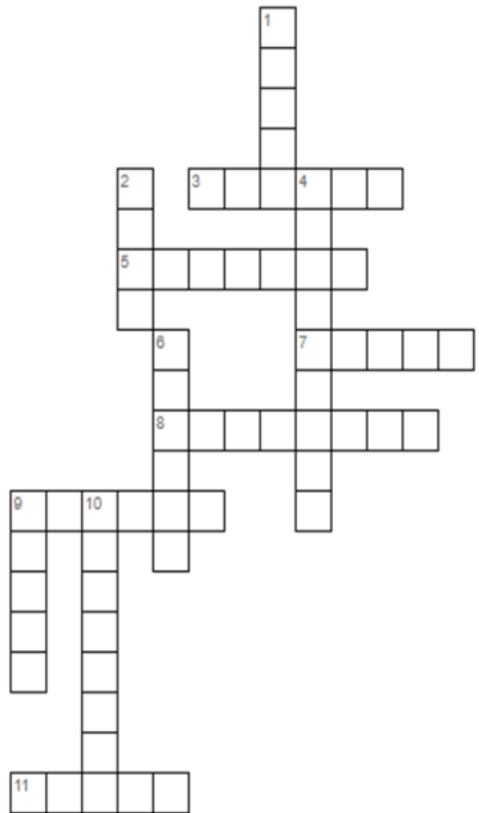
Articles for our next newsletter can be submitted to the Office at St Bryce Centre or by e-mail to [office@langtouncentralchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@langtouncentralchurch.org.uk). *THANK YOU*

**ACROSS**

- 3. The list that was being made to record the details of all who lived in the area
- 5. The angel who gave Mary the news she would have a baby
- 7. The king that the Magi visited on their way to see the newly born Jesus
- 8. The town where Joseph and Mary lived
- 9. Where the baby Jesus had to sleep after he was born
- 11. The country that Mary and Joseph flee to after a warning in a dream


**DOWN**

- 1. The Empire who ruled over the place where the Christmas story takes place
- 2. Also known as the Three Wise Men or Three Kings
- 4. Those who heard the good news on a hillside
- 6. Animal that accompanied Mary and Joseph on their trip to Bethlehem
- 9. One of the gifts brought for the baby Jesus from the East
- 10. Alternative word for the story of the birth of Jesus



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

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 Contact email [office@langtouncentralchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@langtouncentralchurch.org.uk)  
 Phone 01592 640016

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