Langtoun Echo

Advent 2026

A church in the heart of Kirkcaldy with the people of the town at our heart



From our Interim Minister



Dear Friends,

As I write it is only mid-November and there are still two weeks until we move into the season of Advent when we start to prepare for Christmas. However, selection boxes are on the shelves in shops, and the Christmas tunes are playing just in case we forget Christmas is coming!

On Christmas Eve, a few years ago, an email dropped into my inbox with the subject title "The Gift That Saved Christmas". I expected it to be a message about the birth of the Christ child and was disappointed to read the message which was that the gift that saves Christmas is gift cards for anyone who finds themselves unprepared for Christmas!

The gift that saves Christmas is at the heart of the Christmas story which is why we give gifts. I have discovered that Langtoun Central is a generous church that likes to give gifts! Over the last few months, you have been involved in many ways to support others locally through Harvest donations of money and food to Kirkcaldy Foodbank; donations to Kirkcaldy Area Outreach Trust (KART) to support work with children and teenagers; 96 shoeboxes filled full of items that will make a difference to the lives of children, teenagers and adults in Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia via Blythswood Care; a financial donation to Poppy Scotland on Remembrance Sunday to support veterans. On 6th December, we will be supporting the Salvation Army Toy Appeal to give those who may go without a gift on Christmas day. I want to

acknowledge and thank you for your practical and heart-warming generosity.



The terrified shepherds on a hillside heard the message "*Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.*" This is the message we are sharing this Christmas through the knitted angels project with patterns available to those who wanted to knit. The knitted angels will be gathered in at the service on 13th December and then they will be gifted to others.

The message of Christmas is that over 2,000 years ago, a baby was born in Bethlehem, into a world full of conflict and strife, as a living gift of peace and goodwill to humankind. The birth of the Christ child is a gift to you and me which brings hope, peace, joy, and love in the troubled times in which we live.

I hope you have a very happy Christmas,
Yours in Christ

Eileen

Deacon's Report



We are now into November, and I am starting to feel a nip in the air. Even on the sunnier days, a coat and gloves are needed, we are truly into the colder months.

As the summer fades, I often reflect on what has taken place over the summer months and especially since the last newsletter. I thought I would report on all that I have been doing over the last few months.

Pastoral Care

I have been visiting people in Care Homes and at home.

Worship

I have taken part in services when I have been present. Covering Eileen's holidays on 1st November and 22nd November. Conducting a funeral on 10th November.

Messy Breakfast

Took place on 1st November with lots of help from others, and music provided by Fischy Music.

Philp Hall

I attend, when I am able, the Community Hub on a Friday where I get a chance to speak with locals and with the volunteers as well as the CLD people and chairperson of Linktown Community Action. There will be a Community Carol Singing event in the Community Garden next to the Philp Hall on Monday 14th December, time to be confirmed. It was suggested that home baking would go down very well. I believe this is something Church members could help with. The only requirement is that ingredients are provided in case of allergies.

Toddlers

I have managed to spend some time chatting to the adults on two separate occasions. I also got a chance to play with some of the children.

Training

I have completed three short courses on Place for Hope training, and also a day training event for Place for Hope in Glasgow. I am also doing Domestic Abuse training on the Church of Scotland Learning platform.

Presbytery

As Convener of the Board of Mission, I have been supporting Lorraine Orr, the Mission Director, with collecting the Congregational Action Plans, although she has a group of people who will be looking at them with her. I am also trying to get paperwork together, with help from others, for the review of charges which will start happening shortly.
I am facilitator for the Transition Group at Limekilns, Cairneyhill, Culross and Torryburn Union. The vote will take place on the 15th November so hopefully, I will be finished there soon.
I have also been asked to be a Presbytery Assessor for someone going through Discernment. This will involve meeting with the person on a monthly basis.

Pastoral Supervision

I attend group Pastoral Supervision have a Presbytery Chaplain and recently started a six-session Reflective Practice course with the Guntrip Trust.

Diaconate

As the Vice-president of Diaconate Council, I am responsible for sending out cards particularly on special anniversaries of ordination/ commissioning and special birthdays. We meet monthly on Teams to deal with things which affect Diaconate Council, planning for future Council meetings etc.

This is just an example of the things I am involved in and would welcome your prayers for all these activities.

May you all have a blessed and peaceful Advent and Christmas season. Blessings *Pamela*

Events over the last months

Harvest Thanksgiving

Our Sanctuary Display by ladies of the Craft Group





Our donations from our Harvest Thanksgiving Service ready for delivery to Kirkcaldy Foodbank



Our shoe boxes ready for Blythswood Care

Remembrance stones painted by 34th Kirkcaldy Brownies



Advent and Christmas

29th November

11am Advent service & Christmas Tree lighting
2pm Reflective service to remember those no longer here*

6th December

11am Gift service
to support the Salvation Army Gift Appeal
3pm Christmas Carol Service*

9th December

7:30pm Carols & a Pint in
The Duchess, Nicol Street.

13th December

11am Lessons and Carols
7pm Ecumenical Christmas Carol Service*

20th December

11am Pop Up Nativity Service

24th December

6:30pm Family Christingle service*

*These services will be held in
the St Bryce Centre Sanctuary
Services on Sunday at 11am are held
in Bennochy building, Elgin Street.



Sound and Vision Matters

During services members will have spotted two people sitting beside the organ dealing with technical stuff.

What are they up to, you might ask?

Well, one of course is responsible for projecting hymns and pictures to the screens. The second handles the sound system plus all that is involved in broadcasting the service for viewing at home.

We have a rota of volunteers taking turns at each of these jobs and we would like to add one or two more people to the projection rota. The laptop programme we use is similar to Powerpoint, so if you are familiar with this, and think you might be interested, please speak to those on the desk.

It might come as a surprise to many that the online viewers typically number well over 300, including those who watch the recording later in the week. More accurately, these are the numbers of connected screens that we are aware of - it is likely that most of these will have more than one viewer.

The easiest way to find the online output is via the website: langtouncentralchurch.org.uk. Look for the Facebook and YouTube links.

Remembrance

On Sunday 8th November we presented a Remembrance video showing all our War Memorials a reminder of the Memorials in the current 4 buildings.

As part of the union of our 4 churches we will need to find a place where the Memorials from Linktown and Abbotshall will be moved to those buildings we retain. This falls to the Kirk Session, but they need to hear your opinions on this matter, so please let the Session know your thoughts by speaking to an elder or the Session Clerk.



Carols and a Pint

@ The Duchess

Nicol Street

On Wednesday 9th December 2026

at 7:30—9 pm

Music provided by Richard Michael

Community Choir Christmas Concert

The Bennochy Community Choir's Friends and Family Christmas performance will take place on **Monday 14th December at 6.30** in the Bennochy Sanctuary. As well as being entertained by the choir, the audience will be encouraged to join in with well-known Christmas carols!

Everyone is very welcome and light refreshments will be served after the event. It would be very helpful for our catering, if those planning to attend 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.

Salvation Army Annual Gift Collection

The time has come round to think about the Salvation Army Annual Gift Collection. As a church we have previously been very successful in the collection of gifts for the parents and children.

Please remember gifts should be new and unwrapped.

There will be a table set up in the Methven Hall from mid November to receive your gifts.

Our Caring Congregation

Over many years, all our Legacy Churches have given generously (in money, goods and time) to many charities – local, national and international. We are very fortunate that this has continued with our Langtoun Central Church congregation as we strive to spread the Christian Message through our actions locally and in the wider community.

Recently, thanks to the congregation (and friends) almost 100 Blythswood Shoe Boxes and over £200 in transport costs are heading to countries where they will bring some Christmas joy to people who have very little.

Our Harvest Appeal for Kirkcaldy Foodbank 'reaped' approximately 50 large shopping bags of much needed groceries (and £315) to support the local community.

Soon it will be time for the annual Gift Service when large numbers of toys are donated to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. More recently, we have also contributed toiletries so that parents and carers can enjoy a little extra at Christmas too.

In addition, members of the congregation gave the following over this year -

Samaritans - £100
Christian Aid Week (May) - £1800
Dysart Band - £50
Christian Aid Venezuela Appeal (August) - £950
KART - £340
Poppy Scotland - £428.58

We will probably never know any of the people who have benefitted from our contributions but they all are our neighbours.
Thank You.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Alan and Moira Hill who have celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

Deaths



Jesus promises to prepare a place for believers in His Father's house.

John 14:2–3

Agnes Berry
Charles Oliver
Hazel Weir
Muriel Gray
Rowland Carson
Catherine Low
Margaret Page
Jean McAndrew
June Keddie
Mary Robertson
David Hay



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.

Last day on 10th December and reopens on 7th January

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.

Cafe closed 17th December and reopens on 6th January

Bell Ringers

We have enjoyed the Autumn "ring" with a variety of something old and something new. Nice old numbers including "Daisy Belle" and "Lambeth Walk" contrasted with "Moon River" and "Connemara Cradle Song" among others.

Interestingly, we found a series of "Amens" very good for chord practice! (See the back of the Church Hymnary for examples)

Approaching the season of Advent, we have Christmas music in hand and will be playing to residents of Abbeyfield and Marchmont, early December.
There is an open invitation to join us with Abbeyfield visitors in the Bennochy Building on

Tuesday 1st December at 2:30 pm

– a good start to the season!

Anyone interested, contact:
Margaret Simpson 01592 262005

Langtoun Central Church Guild

"Whose we are and whom we serve"

The Guild meets **every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 1.30pm in St Bryce Centre**. We have between 26 and 32 members attending to hear a variety of speakers.

Our recent meetings covered the Great Lakes, then Bibles for Bairns which is our Project this session and Dianne Waddell spoke of her time on Iona.

We have just had a very successful Coffee Morning on November 14th, raising over £1600, so we thank people for their support.

Before Christmas we have Scottish Air Ambulance telling us of their work on 24th November then on **December 8th** is our finance meeting and Snowman Drive.
Our first meeting in January is on the 12th when Ian Mitchell will update us on the Malawi Partnership.

You are welcome to join us at any of our meetings.

Pastoral Care

There will be a **Carol Service on Sunday 6th December at 3pm in the St Bryce Sanctuary.**

This will be open to all members and friends of Langtoun Central Church and will be led by the Rev. Eileen Miller.

Members who are on the list of the Pastoral Care Committee have been invited to a festive meal after the Service. This will be served in the Large Hall and it is hoped that it will be the usual happy event when old friendships are continued and new connections made.

We look forward, on that occasion, to begin to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dorothy Murray (Pastoral Care Coordinator)

Langtoun Central Church Women's Group

The Group meet Tuesdays, fortnightly, in Bennochy Building , St Andrews Hall, 7pm to 9pm. We have welcomed new members to the Group bringing our number to 38. We are so fortunate that the Group numbers are still increasing. We have had a busy start to the session with various speakers such as Arthur Lloyd, the Bakers Apprentice and Iwan Thomas. We were also delighted to have a visit from Pamela Scott.

We had an outing to the Adam Smith Theatre. Bruce Farrell joins us on 24th November for a talk on the history of Abbotshall Church and that takes us to our Christmas Dinner on December 15th.

We have a busy and interesting Syllabus after the Christmas break: our Burns Supper, a visit from Blood Bikes, Moira and Derek Lawson to talk about their travels in the Ministry, our Silent Auction and preparation for the Bunny Drive.

We have had a successful session and our last donation to the Church was the sum of £1,250. Our future fundraising events are Festive Coffee Morning, Bunny Drive and Silent Auction for Church Funds. We have also given donations to speakers on behalf of their charities.

We wish all members of the Church Community
a happy healthy Christmas.
Thank you for the support given
to the Group for our fundraising events.



Langtoun Central Church Craft Group

Our meetings take place weekly on Mondays in Bennochy Building, St Andrews Hall, 10.00 am to 12 noon. We had a busy start to the session. We welcomed new members to the Group, increasing our numbers to 22.

We have been taking the opportunity to learn new crafts and share our craft ideas.

We had a very successful Strawberry Tea raising money for Church funds and we are now busy preparing for Christmas. We started selling cards and Christmas gifts after the Sunday service and also at the Olive Branch Cafe. We also plan to sell our Christmas crafts at the Women's Group 'Festive Coffee Morning' on 28th November 2026.

Since last November we have given donations to the Church amounting to £4339.55.

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and to thank the Church community for the donations of craft materials and all their support at fundraising events.



Find us on our website: langtouncentralchurch.org.uk
Contact email office@langtouncentralchurch.org.uk
Phone 01592 640016
Facebook Langtoun Central Church

What's On

St Bryce Centre

Monday	Bible Study	10:00am	
	Rainbows	5:30pm	
Tuesday	Friendship Group	1st, 3rd and 5th weeks	1:30pm
	Guild	2nd and 4th weeks	1:30pm
Wednesday	Brownies	6pm	
Friday	Girls Allowed	1st week	7:00pm
	Guides & Rangers	6:30 pm	
	Trefoil Guild	2nd week	6:45pm

Bennochy Halls

Monday	Craft Group	10:00 am	
	Carpet Bowling	2:30 pm	
	Community Choir	6:30 pm	
Tuesday	Handbell Ringers	2:30 pm	
	Women's Group	fortnightly	7:00 pm
	Country Dancing	6:30 pm	
Wednesday	Guiding	from 5:30 pm	

Linktown Halls

Wednesday	Scout Group	5:00 pm - 9:30 pm	
Thursday	Drift Inn	1st and 3rd weeks	2:00 pm

Abbotshall Halls

Monday	Country Dancing	7:30 pm
Thursday	Guiding	from 5:00 pm
Friday	Scout Group	5:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Articles are accepted from contributors on the basis that after review, the Editorial team may edit the content of the article as necessary.

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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