

Kilsyth Anderson Parish

Church News

October/November 2023



Dear Friends

“Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own.” That old saying is reminiscent of the second of two sayings spoken by Jesus in Matthew 22:37-40, where He reminds His followers that loving God with all of one’s heart, soul and mind is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: *“Love your neighbour as yourself.”*

Whether our ambitions, aims or goals are spiritual or purely worldly in nature, seldom do they come to fruition. There are of course the exceptions, such as the old apostle Paul, who, conscious of his imminent ‘departure’ wrote to Timothy, his son in the Faith, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”* 2 Timothy 4:7.

Sadly, by the time we realise that our life’s ambition is nothing more than a dream that is fast disappearing over the horizon, it is far too late to plan, never mind attempting to execute them.

We discover that work pressure, health restrictions, family responsibilities, maybe meagre resources, or simply reality, has driven an unyielding wedge between what we long for and what may realistically be achieved.

Cycling from John-O-Groats to Land’s End may have to be permanently shelved in favour of a more leisurely ride along the Forth & Clyde footpath from the Boathouse at Auchenstarry to the Kelpies! And clambering up Dumgoyne Hill may have to suffice rather than attempting to scale all the Munros! And the family will have to be content with Captain Birdseye fish fingers rather than the seven pound, fly caught salmon from the Barvas Loch that I had ambitions to hook.

In the book of Jeremiah 8:20, we read “*The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved.*” For God’s people it meant that,.... ‘One season of hope after another had passed, but the expected deliverance never came, now all hope is gone.’

I wonder how many people secretly promised themselves that before they pass from time to eternity, they will make ‘their peace’ with their Maker. However, the tyranny of time, along with the unwelcome deluge of fear, doubts and worries have left them in a state of spiritual paralysis.

And like the people of Jeremiah’s day, all they can say is, ‘*The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.*’ Be encouraged, remember our Lord’s response to the penitent thief, who, in deep distress of soul, cried out to the Lord, “*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*” “*Jesus answered him, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.’*” Luke 23:42-43.

Or the challenging, yet reassuringly words of welcome given by Jesus to His hesitant hearers in John 6:37, “*All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.*” The King James Version, renders it, “... *and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*”

The late J. C. Ryle commenting on this verse, writes, ‘Jesus meant that He will not refuse to save anyone who comes to Him, no matter what he may have been. His past sins may have been very great. His present weakness and infirmity may be very great. But does he come to Christ by faith? Then Christ will receive him graciously, pardon him freely, place him in the number of His dear children and give him (her) everlasting life.’ Ryle goes on to say, ‘The terms of the gospel are wide and simple, everyone may ‘look and live’.

Harvesting here in Scotland is coming to an end; apart of course for our beloved ‘spud’ ,the summer is ended, but Jesus still offers salvation to any who will receive it. Now that is an achievable goal! Go on, believe Him, receive Him and rejoice in the blessing that you are now a child of the King and an heir of His everlasting Kingdom.

Eternal Blessings be yours in great abundance,

Your friend,
Kenneth.



Garden Gang Holiday Club

A warm welcome awaits P1-7s at our October event. Please spread the word to any children who would like to come along and join the fun!



Registration is available on the day, or contact Hazel (07986 861834) to book a place in advance.

We are collecting empty 450 or 500g **yoghurt pots** for one of our crafts—please save these for us.



And... if you have any **old wellies**, **watering cans** or **large flower pots** that we can beg or borrow, please get in touch. Don't worry if they're damaged or muddy!

Many thanks in advance for your continued support for this outreach to the young people in Kilsyth.



Manse

As stated in the last magazine, the family who were renting the property moved out in August. To date we have not been able to secure a new tenant, but the Estate Agent is going to refresh the advert to try to obtain some interest.

Presbytery Plan

Following a meeting on Thursday 14th September with Presbytery representatives there has been a change to the plan for the linkage leading to union with Burns and Old. The linkage was originally to be agreed by Easter 2024. However, the plan now is, that there will be no linkage – we will go straight to a union. The timescale has been extended, and the union will not take happen before December 2025. This gives us a bit of breathing space letting us work together and it means that we can keep the services of Rev. K.D. MacLeod.

Accounts

Accounts for 2022 have been finalised, circulated to the congregation, to Presbytery and submitted to OSCR. Thanks to the generosity of our members, some of whom are unable to attend the services but might watch on line and continue to make their offerings, we are in a healthy situation. Our total income for 2022 was £84,253 and expenses of £81,326 leaving us with an excess of income over expenditure of £2,927 in the current difficult financial position, it is good that we not only covered our expenses but had some income left. Thank you to all who continue to give generously.

Christine Johnston, Session Clerk

**This year Bible Sunday takes place on
29th October.**



Our theme this year is 'God's Big Story'. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible reveals a consistent and compelling portrait of who God is and what he is doing in our world.

God, in his love and mercy, revealed himself to successive generations, before entering into the human story through the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is our hope and prayer that The Big Story of who God is and what he is doing, as revealed in the Bible, is shared with all people and nations across the world. More at www.scottishbiblesociety.org

Services and important dates

October 1st	Youth Parade and Dedication Service	
October 8th	Harvest Thanksgiving – goods received for Foodbank. Joint service in Anderson	
October 15th	Robbie Toop – Mission Africa	
November 12th Anderson.	Remembrance Sunday – Youth Parade and official parade No joint service	in
November 25th	Christmas Fayre	
November 26th	Communion	
December 3rd	Gift Service 3pm Service at Craig-en-Goyne	
December 10th	Joint service in Burns and Old	
December 17th	Nativity	
December 24th	Christmas Eve Service at 11am	

Cleaning Day

Every week a team of volunteers comes down to clean and tidy the church before the Sunday service. We thank everyone who gives their time to do this essential task.

We would like to do an extra one off clean up to cover some of the jobs that the teams can't cover on a regular basis—for example windows, skirting boards, high level dusting and the up-stairs of the sanctuary. There may also be a few outside tidy up tasks.

Some extra help is required! Could you give your time for just one day? Please speak to Rona McFadyen or Jean Ewen if you could help out and a date will be set soon.



Church and Manse Gardens

Volunteers are sought to help with upkeep of the manse gardens in particular.

Either meet on a Tuesday afternoon for a bit of company and craic or just do odd jobs when you can.



Boys' Brigade

The Boys' Brigade has started with a bang, with plenty of new faces, as well as returning boys. This year celebrates the Boys' Brigade's 140th year, with more details below.

With that we have a number of events coming up. We, 3rd Kilsyth will be celebrating on the 4th, a Wednesday evening, with a cake and also a company photograph. We are also attending a 140th monopoly day in Glasgow along with a fun day at Twechar. We are all looking forward to these events.



As many of you know, Christine took a group of Boys to Malawi in June, which had plenty of adventure and challenges. More to come separately on the trip, however I would like to thank each and every one of the congregation and friends who provided support, prayers and best wishes. It was gratefully appreciated by all boys, staff and parents.

We have plenty planned for the year ahead and will keep you all updated in future newsletters!

Scott Anderson, Captain.

Union of Anderson & Burns & Old Churches

Well, we have reached a milestone in our discussions about the future. The Kilsyth Missional Development Group, as we named our steering group, has achieved its aim of getting us to where we are now. A smaller group will now be chosen to come up with specific ideas as to how we want to move forward and into 2024 and 2025. One helpful development has been the removal of the need for both parishes to move into Linkage by Easter 2024. Instead the trajectory of travel is hoped to be towards a full Union by the end of 2025, which seems like a long way away but actually is anything but.

As for what that Union might look like, or even what a single Kilsyth parish church might be called, all these things and more remain to be agreed, but can I ask for your prayers for all those who are involved in this project. Can I also ask that you pray for our brothers and sisters in Presbytery who are voluntarily shouldering the huge burden of administering change across Scotland.

I am confident that with God's help, and with our hearts and minds focused on the future of Christ's message in the town, we can look forward to a glorious new dawn in the next couple of years. Let us hold one another up and get on with it.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13

Rev Bob Johnston, Burns & Old.

Summer Holiday Club

The holiday club in August was a great success and we are happy to share a few pictures of the activities, taken by Catriona Clark. We see a cheeky monkey managed to photo bomb one of the pics!



Thanks to everyone who contributed or helped out in any way.

Thanks

Thank you for the lovely flowers you gave us, it was very kind of you and much appreciated.

Good bless.

Steven & Andzia Wardrope

Thanks to the congregation for the lovely flowers and your thoughts and prayers for Elspeth and the family. It has been a difficult six months but we appreciate your interest and concern.

Elizabeth, Allan and Anne Strang

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for the beautiful flowers and good wishes we received. And thanks to Christine for delivering them. We appreciate your prayers at this difficult time.

Kind regards,

Margaret & Charlie Whyte

Margaret and family thank the Rev Kenneth MacLeod for spiritual comfort and all at the Anderson Church for the kind expressions of sympathy, and all the cards and flowers sent to us on the sad occasion of George's passing.

You have all been a great comfort to us at this sad time.

Margaret Laird.

I was surprised, but delighted, to receive flowers last week on behalf of my Mum who is in hospital. Hopefully she will be out soon. Thanks again for thinking of me.

Margaret Cochrane

Thanks so much for the lovely flowers we received recently. They were very much appreciated.

God bless

Isabel Tennant

I have been unable to attend church due to a painful back following an accidental fall.

Thanks to the Church family for the Beautiful flowers arranged and delivered by Margaret Martin. Margaret's visit was much appreciated.

Margaret Waddell

We would like to thank the church very much for the beautiful flowers we received recently.

They were very much appreciated, thank you once again.

Aileen and Tom Anderson

BB 140th Anniversary

This year the Boys' Brigade celebrates its 140th Birthday! A milestone that is unrivalled by most youth organisations and certainly should not go unnoticed. The Boys' Brigade was founded in Glasgow by Sir William Alexander Smith on 4 October 1883. Sir William Alexander Smith was a Scottish businessman and a Sunday school teacher at his local church. He felt there was space for an organisation for young men which would help to develop Christian manliness by the use of a semi-military discipline and order, gymnastics, summer camps and religious services and classes. So on the 4th of October, the 1st Glasgow Company was formed.

Very soon the idea took hold and other companies, both in the UK and overseas, began to be formed. In 1888 William Smith gave up his business career and became the Brigade Secretary, at a salary of just £350 per annum, a post he held until his death. He was Knighted in 1908 for his work in the Boys' Brigade. By 1910, there were about 2200 companies connected with different churches throughout the British Empire and the United States, with 10,000 officers and 100,000 boys.

The Boys' Brigade motto 'sure and steadfast' comes from a phrase from the Bible 'Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.' This motto has been part of the Boys' Brigade from the very early days and is as relevant today as it was then and has guided the Brigade Secretaries, committees, officers and helpers over the years to face the many challenges that we all come up against. The Brigade will undoubtedly face many challenges as we move into the next 140 years, but with hundreds of thousands of members, across the globe, I am sure you will all join me in praying that the motto will guide the Boys' Brigade to become even stronger.



SBS want to help teachers feel confident teaching Religious and Moral Education (RME) so they can share the Bible with children in their classes.



That's why we're launching **RME Days from Must Know Bible Stories**.

During an RME Day, we will spend the day in a Primary school, delivering lessons from our free Must Know Bible Stories resources and leading an after-school training session for staff.

We'd love to visit Primary schools across the whole of Scotland, to do that we need your help! **Could you let your local Primary school know about this free opportunity, and share this information with any teachers you know?**

Find out more at <https://scottishbiblesociety.org/rme-days>



On the 24 October, 7-8:30pm, join Christian Aid Scotland and some of our Scottish church partners online as we **pray for peace** in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The vigil will include input from our partners in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and is part of a worldwide prayer movement. If you are interested in taking part, please contact atominson@christian-aid.org.

Join us for a week of prayer and action!

From 30 October to 5 November, join Christians around the world praying for and responding to the world's rubbish problem.

With governments meeting in November for the third round of negotiations on a global plastics treaty, we have an opportunity to pray for the outcome and call on leaders not to throw away this opportunity!



Find out more at <https://www.tearfund.org>

The BB trip to Malawi was a once in a lifetime experience for the boys. We heard last time a bit about the travel and challenges that had to be overcome. This time we share some photos taken at the school and of the work in progress.



Children ran for about a mile alongside the minibus to welcome us.



The finished article—looking spick and span with clean walls, a blackboard and neat rows of desks.



This was how the classrooms looked. We attached paint brushes and rollers to long tree branches to make extension poles.



The lattice work in the windows took ages to paint as it was very fiddly!



This man was severely disabled. He told us he could have been begging but that he wanted to work and thanks to Classrooms for Malawi, he has a job!

2nd Kilsyth Girls' Brigade

Blythswood Shoeboxes

We have had a successful return to Girls Brigade with some new members.



Our Bramble picking, which the girls love, didn't happen this year because of poor weather. We are looking forward to our Girls' Brigade Lunch on the 1st October.

We are also going to fill Shoeboxes again this year for Blythswood. Last year the church family helped with donating empty adult shoeboxes and some items to fill them. We were overwhelmed by some people's generosity. Any donations at all this year will be very welcome.



It is good for the girls to realise that some children's Christmas gifts are very different to what they receive. The girls were very enthusiastic last year and really enjoyed their trip to Home Bargains with some GB money to spend on fillers.

Thanks

Jean Ewen



The Guild begins its new session on Monday, 2nd October at 7pm. It is the last year of the Guild strategy, 'Look forward in Faith' with our new theme being 'New wine, new wine skins'.

We are looking forward to the Rev. Kenneth McLeod introducing the theme followed on the 9th October with our Opening Social where we will be entertained by the Anderson Singers.

If you haven't done so before please consider joining us on a Monday evening. The Guild is open to both ladies and gentlemen and you can be sure of a warm welcome. We are a friendly group ever remembering, 'Whose we are and Whom we serve.'

Margaret Brown, convener.

What do you know about your energy supplier and where your power comes from?

Greenwashing is when a company presents itself in a way that makes you think they're green or sustainable – when they're not. They do this to convince you to buy their product or service over those sold by their competitors. Advertising can be misleading by making you think you're having a positive impact, when you're actually still supporting unsustainable business practices that are damaging our planet.



Examples of greenwashing include:

- Oil and gas companies investing in advertising that promotes their clean energy initiatives, while continuing to invest substantially more money in fossil fuel extraction that is causing climate breakdown.
- Clothing brands promoting small sustainable ranges that make up a miniscule fraction of their overall stock of fast fashion.
- Domestic energy suppliers claiming to supply your home with renewable electricity, despite not buying any from renewable generators.

Most suppliers that claim to offer green tariffs simply buy the electricity they supply customers on the wholesale market, which comes from a mix of sources, including fossil fuels. They calculate the overall amount of power their customers use and then buy enough renewable certificates to claim that it's green through what's essentially an accounting trick.

Bulb says its electricity is sourced from renewable generators 'wherever possible'.

The data shows that is only 4% of the time. The other 96% is greenwash.

British Gas has bought certificates relating to renewable electricity generated in other countries that never even enters the UK power grid!

OVO's own fuel mix webpage noted that the carbon intensity of the electricity it supplies is higher than the grid average. 212 grams per kWh versus the average of 208.

Last deadline for the December/January edition will be Sunday 26th Nov for publishing on Sun 3rd Dec.

Please send emails to andersonchurchmagazine@outlook.com or give your articles to Rona McFadyen on a Sunday.

Thank you for your support and the articles you send—please keep praying for the magazine!

Rotas

Week ending	Door Duty	Reading	Cleaning	Intimations
1 Oct	Mr & Mrs T Anderson	George Ewen	Team 2 (Thurs)	
8 Oct	E Graham O Brittian/W Shaw	Jean Chalmers	Team 3 (Thurs)	
15 Oct	C McIlwain	Olivia Brittian	Team 4 (Sat)	
22 Oct	A Mitchell	Margaret Brown	Team 5 (Thurs)	
29 Oct	Mr & Mrs Ewen	Ann Sneddon	Team 1 (Sat)	
5 Nov	Mr & Mrs Brown	John Weir	Team 2 (Thurs)	Bill Smith
12 Nov	Mr & Mrs Clerk, H Provan, I Ross	John Gordon	Team 3 (Thurs)	John Weir
19 Nov	Mr & Mrs McFadyen	Jean Chalmers	Team 4 (Sat)	William Shaw
26 Nov	J Millar,	Ian Ross	Team 5 (Thurs)	Hazel Gordon