



KIRKTONPARISHCHURCH  
A PLACE FOR ALL

# KIRKTON CHURCH

February

2024

# FAMILY CHATTER

[www.kirktonchurch.com](http://www.kirktonchurch.com)  
Scottish Charity Number: SC026539

## **Dear Friends,**

As I look out of the window, I am delighted to see the first snowdrops beginning to appear, a sign of growth, and new life. As we sit in the afterglow of Christmas, having packed away all the decorations, I wonder how you have kept the light and love of Jesus shining. How might we look to find God in the ordinary places, where sometimes are we surprised that we encounter God? We encountered God in the faces of the young people at school assemblies over the Christmas period as we told the Christmas story, in the care homes that we have shared services in, in the services that were both in the Sanctuary and online, we found God in the encounters with our neighbours and with the stranger.

In the next few weeks, we will begin a journey through lent and into Easter. When people think about Lent it is often discussed what should we give up for Lent, perhaps chocolate, or crisps, or social media. Instead, I wonder what I might put down for a while and might I consider picking up something new, or something that I used to find joy in.

We see examples throughout scripture of Jesus taking himself away and giving himself time to rest, pray and reflect. How do we carve out time with the pressures of today to do the same. Jesus also found joy in spending time with friends, and finding new friends as he moved around teaching, over Lent we are having a bible study, perhaps you might consider joining us at one of these studies, that are with the churches within Carluke and Law. Meeting friends old and new as we journey in faith together.

Like that snowdrop Lent and the journey to Easter, gives us a chance to grow in our faith, to get to know God better, to have a fresh encounter with him. Gods not finished with us yet.

See you soon,

**God bless. Dawn**

## **Update from Bryan & Dawn**

In December Val MacSween decided that it was time for her to step down as Session Clerk. There are many who have and will continue to express their grateful thanks to Val for all her hard work and commitment not only to the role of Session Clerk, and also the support she gave to the elders and congregation of Kirkton.

Val has work tremendously hard over the years to support both administratively and pastorally. At their last meeting in January, the Kirk Session expressed their heartfelt thanks to Val and paid tribute to all that she brought to the role.

We would both like to publicly express our thanks to Val for the support, guidance and challenge she offered as we took up our roles as Interim Moderator and Probationer Minister respectively.

As a congregation we will have the opportunity to express our gratitude to Val for all her work formally within a service in the coming weeks, when we can all celebrate and give thanks together.

In the meantime, we pray God's richest blessings and peace on both Val, Willie and their family at this time of transition.

Many thanks once again Val,

God bless you.

**Bryan & Dawn**

## Thank you



As most of you will already be aware, I resigned from the role of Session Clerk in December.

I have loved having the privilege of serving the Session and the Kirkton Church Family over the last few years.

They were not always the easiest of years thanks to Covid but they were never dull!

With all sincerity I say that I could never have fulfilled my responsibilities without the caring support I received from so many of you.

Some of you will have noticed that your phone and emails have been much quieter of late 😊 and I want to acknowledge that those of you who have, went the extra mile, for me and for Kirkton Church.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the work given and the loving support I have received from everyone.

All that remains is for me to wish our new Session Clerk, Susan Forbes, all the very best and ask that you support her as well as you have supported me.

**Val Macsween**

**Hi Everyone,**

As most of you know I have taken over the reins as Session Clerk for Kirkton and just wanted to introduce myself.

I currently live in Carluke with my husband Kenny although grew up just down the road in Waterloo. Kenny and I have been married for almost 36 years and before settling in Carluke as Kenny was in Royal Air Force we had a few different places to call home.



We have two children Gemma and Nicola, both of whom have flew the nest, Gemma is married to Kevin and we have two beautiful grandchildren (granny is biased) Jack and Abbie.

I retired from nursing in December 2020 having worked 37 years, I was lucky and could retire at 55 (now you all know how old I am). I predominantly worked in Intensive Care and latterly with NHS24.

I have grown up within the Church of Scotland and was a longstanding member of Overtown church. Over the years I had many hats, Sunday school leader, Elder, Holiday club facilitator, Clerk to Congregational Board and a stint as Session Clerk so come with a bit of experience.

A good proportion of my spare time is taken up with my grandchildren and I just love watching them grow and learn. I enjoy reading, watching a good murder mystery and I am an avid theatre goer.

I look forward to meeting you all and putting names to faces as we start this journey together.

Every blessing,

**Susan Forbes xx**

## **SCOUT GROUP**

At the start of the year, The Scout Group are putting in place our plans for the coming months and 2024 will again be a busy year for us. The following are examples of activities already being planned:

- Group and Parents visit to the Transport Museum.
- Beaver and Cub Activity Day.
- Cub weekend camp at Wiston
- Scout Weekend camp at Avondyke
- Summer Camp at Meggernie, Glen Lyon, Perthshire
- Program Projects at the Community Garden, supported by a grant from the Community Council
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions for the Explorers

The Beavers have also already held a Sleepover, as follows:

### **Beaver Sleepover 2023**

We are always looking for exciting ways to engage our youngest members of the Group and what a better way to spend a cold January night than a Beaver Scout Sleepover!

Following a very successful sleepover last year, the children were keen to have another night under canvas, even if it was still indoors!

Seventeen children arrived at the church hall at 7pm, ready to pitch their tents, roll out their sleeping bags and get involved with lots of Scouting games and activities.

Our senior Explorers were on hand to help with the tents and provide guidance and encouragement, making sure that their shelter would remain upright. Following some games with the Scout section, the Beavers settled to some supper, campfire songs and a bedtime story.

In the morning, we all had breakfast, washed up and packed our adventure away. Hopefully having sparked an eagerness to do it all again soon!

Our sleepover allowed the Beavers to develop their confidence, independence and to solve small problems on their own. Taking responsibility for their belongings, respecting others, and their needs around them, it was a fantastic experience for them all.





## Support

To continue to run such an active program of activities, the Group requires the support of Parents and friends.

At present we have a very small Leader Team and really need more support and help from the Congregation. The Group has been part of The Church since 1968 and never more have we needed help.

Please feel free to contact John Moffat on 07470224776 and every little bit of help will assist.

The Scout Group look forward to being in Church for our Founders Day Service on 18 February.





## **Update from Lesley Ewing**

I still recall the first Christmas that we were 'lockdown' - it was the strangest Christmas ever.

No Messy Christmas & Christingle Service. No school Christmas assemblies. No All-Age Nativity...well our online 'Lockdown Nativity' still made history with the youngest ever baby Jesus! No Watchnight or Christmas Day Services either.

Fast forward to Christmas 2023 and for the first time since Covid things have really felt 'normal'. School shows, parties, concerts and assemblies were all in the diary for December, and we were delighted to have carried out Christmas assemblies for our High School pupils - the first ones since 2019! And thanks to Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year Dawn and I carried out four services in 24 hours, and it was wonderful...very exhausting but so heart-warming to see old and new faces at these services.

2024 is already shaping up to be a busy year! The diaries are filling up with requests from our cluster schools for Chaplaincy support - it is a huge privilege to be regarded as part of a school family.

It's a difficult time for all our young people (of all ages) - pressure to succeed in exams, mental health issues and limited resources to support this, cost of living crisis, and so many other factors are affecting their everyday lives.

As ever, I ask you all to pray for our young people, their families, and the teaching and support staff at all our schools, and maybe ask yourself (or me) what can I do to help?

**Lesley xx**



Holy Communion

at

Kirkton Church

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

You are invited to share Communion with us

in The Sanctuary

**11am**

Tea and Coffee before and after the service

## What's On

### **Sunday Worship:**

Weekly **Sunday Services** continue in the Church at 11am.

Tea and coffee are available in the Church from 10.30am and after the service in the Large Hall. Please come and join us, you will be made very welcome.

We are live streaming services. We will also continue recording our services and making them available **online** at [www.kirktonchurch.com](http://www.kirktonchurch.com) or Facebook at [Kirkton Church, Carluke](#). We also continue to provide the Sunday service on DVD or Audio CD. If you require a copy, please contact your elder or phone the office on 01555 750778 and leave your name and number. We have DVD players for loan if required.

