

Issue No. 50



Summer 2024

# Clarkston Church Record

The newsletter from  
Airdrie Clarkston Parish Church of Scotland



## Our Mission

We, the people of Airdrie Clarkston Parish Church, seek to celebrate God's presence and love through prayer, worship, fellowship and service in the life of our Church, our community and in the wider world.

In this issue.....

*Ministerial Matters*

*Update on the Presbytery Mission Plan*

*News from the Boys Brigade, the Rainbows and Messy Church*

*Community Fun Day information*

## **Church Weekly Calendar**

- Sun Morning Worship, at 11:00am  
Crèche, during morning worship, for babies & children aged 0-3 years  
After church tea/coffee, in the Church Hall  
12:00 noon
- Tue The Guild  
2:00pm every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday  
(Oct - Mar)  
Church Board & Session Meetings  
7:00pm-9:00pm,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday (Sept-June)  
"Messy Church"  
17<sup>th</sup> Sept (TBC)
- Thurs Property Maintenance Group  
a.k.a "Dad's Army"  
10:00am-12:00noon  
Carpet Bowling Group  
2:00pm-4:00pm (Oct - Apr)  
Boys Brigade Junior Section  
7:00pm-8.30pm
- Fri Boys Brigade Anchor Boys  
6.00pm-7.00pm  
Boys Brigade Company  
Section  
7.30pm-10.00pm

For more details on any of the above activities, please contact the Session Clerk (details on the back page), or see the church website,

[www.airdriec Clarkstonparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.airdriec Clarkstonparishchurch.org.uk)

or follow us on Facebook at  
"Airdrie Clarkston Parish Church"

## **Newsletter Dates**



Next Edition Autumn

Publish Date 8<sup>th</sup> Sept (TBC)

## **Congregational Register**

No entries to record

## **Church Piggy Banks**

To update you all on our Church Piggy Banks that we started in January 2019 as a fundraising exercise. At the present time the total amount collected by the Church Piggy Bank holders since it started now stands at £10,145. This is really a magnificent effort by everyone. Thank you all for this.

Anyone who would like to join us and have their own Church Piggy Bank can get one by contacting any of the duty team on a Sunday morning at Church.

Thanks again,  
Colin McKay

## **Community Fun Day**

Building on the success of the previous two years, we will once again be holding a Community Fun Day in the summer.

This will take place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August from 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm.

We would really appreciate new/unused items that could be used as Tombola prizes.

Also if anyone has cuddly toys they would like to re-home please bring along to the church or speak to Barbara Sefton who will arrange collection.

MOST IMPORTANTLY please support us by coming along and enjoy all the fun that the day offers - side shows, games, tombola, food, snack stalls and tearoom.

## **Special Church services over the Summer period**

The following special Church services are due to take place around the end of the summer period. Dates are not confirmed at the time of going to press, however these will be announced in due course.

All services will take place in Airdrie Clarkston Parish Church unless otherwise stated.

Harvest Festival service

Church uniformed organisations dedication service

## Ministerial Matters

Airdrie Clarkston Church has been so blessed by the number of people, who, over the years have served God. So many acts of service, big and small, have blessed the church, and those our church is called to minister to within our parish.

Many of those belonging to the congregation of Clarkston have served as Elders or as Board members, and we are so grateful for their leadership and faithfulness.

Earlier this year a number of our Elders were recognised for their long service. This was during a special service of thanksgiving for the long service for many of the Elders across the Presbytery. The service took place at an evening service held at Hamilton St Johns Parish Church. The past Moderator of The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Very Reverend Sally Foster-Fulton, was there to award certificates. Thirteen of our Elders were recognised – some for 25 years, some 30 years, some 40 years and one of our Elders was recognised for 60 years of service! Our church surely has been blessed by so many faithful years of service and for that we do give thanks to God.

As I write this, we are preparing to ordain a new Elder. This specific individual has agreed to use their God given skills for the continued work of Jesus within

our community. It is amazing to think that the ministry that Jesus began 2,000 years ago is continued to this day and that we are all called to play our part in God's unfolding plan of human redemption.

The liturgy that is used when ordaining an Elder is beautiful – I find it always convicts me afresh as a Christian to be aware of not hiding my light under a bushel (as the song goes!)

The opening words of the liturgy of ordination, taken from 1 Corinthians 12, go like this –

*There are different gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them. There are different ways of serving God but it is the same Lord who is served.*

Every single person who is a part of our church family offers their own forms of service to God. Together, we are the body of Jesus here on earth and we are all called and equipped by the Spirit to serve in our own unique way. The Holy Spirit gives each and every one of us different individual gifts. We all have so much to give and as we follow God, we will come to know how best to use those gifts and skills.

Sometimes we may look at other Christians and when we measure ourselves against them, we may feel inadequate and disheartened.

But that is not how it should be – we must remember ‘there are different gifts, but it is the same spirit who gives them.’

I pray that God may give you wisdom as how to use the gifts you have been given. It might be writing a letter to someone you haven't seen in a while or giving them a phone call. It may be to pray. It may be to show hospitality. It may be to visit those in hospital. It may be to speak a word in season to someone going through a hard time. All of these acts, big or small, are ways in which we serve the God of love as He works to reconcile all things in heaven and on earth to Himself through the blood of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us always remember that the church is the body of Christ in this place. That means that we are called to be Jesus' arms, stretched out open in love. We are called to be Jesus' legs that we might journey with people on their exploration of faith. We are called to be Jesus' mouth as we speak words of good news, peace, and love.

Let us rejoice in the service of all our members, Elders and Congregational Board members. Let us give thanks for the service offered in the past, offered in the present, and the service that will be offered in the future. Let us remember that

*(Continued on page 4)*

## **Ministerial Matters (cont.)**

*(Continued from page 3)*

this is holy work and that it is offered for the glory of God.

Let us remember that we are one body - a family of faith, serving one another as we walk on the only path that leads to life

in all its abundance through Jesus Christ our lord.

God bless, Hanna

## **Four churches moving together as one: an update**

The Presbytery Plan was agreed at the end of April that for ourselves the four churches – Cairnlea, Calderbank, Chapelhall and Clarkston – should move towards becoming a single unit. There will be two full-time ministry posts.

Determinations have to be made on all the buildings at the latest by June 2027.

What next?

The formal agreement of the Plan has two final stages at the Presbytery and General Assembly level, which will probably be settled by the beginning of June.

Work needs to be done especially in Calderbank and Chapelhall\* to assess what buildings are most essential for mission. In part that will involve giving consideration to all the physical options open to us.

Work also needs to be done, involving all four congregations,

on what the detail would be of becoming a single unit, with two full-time ministry posts. How would this team ministry operate? How would decision-making happen under the authority of a single Kirk Session? What worshipping patterns would be offered? And what new things would we aim for in terms of mission and service? Under these four questions there is a lot of detail to be talked through, and the hope is that representatives of the congregations will set to doing just that over the summer.

We all want to be able to ask the right questions and so little by little discern the right answers! Because there is so much to think about in the detail, the strategy we reckon is to get small groups drawing up a first stage of proposals. Then larger numbers of people – not just Elders, but all of us in our congregations – may then have

something concrete to assess, comment on, refine and improve. If at all possible, we shall start that wider consultation process in the autumn of this year.

So, to be clear. The Presbytery Mission Plan, which is broad in outline, is all but finally agreed. The details of its implementation – how it will actually work in practice – are now needing our attention. Please join your prayers for this challenging exercise: that all we consider and come to make decisions on may help us to grow as people who are a “dwelling place of God in the Spirit” (Ephesians 2:22).

*\*The Plan has already determined that the buildings at Cairnlea will be retained, as will the Church Hall at Clarkston; and that the church building at Clarkston will be closed.*

## **Church Hall fundraising**

A fundraising group has been set up to raise money to upgrade and maintain the Church Halls for future use. From now until June 2025 there will be a calendar of fundraising

events which will be advertised on the Church website, Facebook page and in church intimations and there will be something for everybody to enjoy. There is also a new

edition of the Church recipe book to look out for in the near future.

The Fundraising Team

## Organisations News



### **2<sup>nd</sup> Airdrie Rainbows**

The big news this time from the Rainbows is all about four of our girls who took part in the Girlguiding Airdrie Division Weekend Away event.

It all started on the Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May, when Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and their leaders from units all over Airdrie, including our four Rainbows and leaders Margaret and Kirsty boarded two coaches at Drumgelloch railway station car park to take us to the Fordell Firs Scout Activity Centre near Dumfermline, Fife.

When we arrived the Rainbows were shown where they would be staying, for just one night in the case of the Rainbows. After getting their beds ready with their sleeping bags etc., we all went for a cup of hot chocolate. It turned out to be a late night for everybody, however the Rainbows slept well and looked forward to the day ahead.

Saturday was a busy day but we had lots of fun; the first item on the programme being a ceremony to raise the Girlguiding flag on the flag pole at the centre. All the girls and

leaders attending had formed a huge circle round the flag pole, all one hundred girls and leaders which was an amazing sight.

The Rainbows went on to do their first activity which was decorating a white t-shirt with fabric pens, our girls did some amazing designs. That was followed by making jewellery out of pasta tubs with pens to colour them and then string was threaded through to make a necklace.

Our third activity was an assault course which is used by adults and children alike and for this we had a activity leader from the centre to guide us round. After being kitted out with safety helmets our Rainbows tackled the ten obstacles on the strenuous course without hesitation. Kirsty was able to take photographs of the Rainbows tackling the course to share with their parents, who were amazed at what their daughters were doing! Kirsty and Margaret are very proud of the four girls, and their enthusiasm and willingness to participate.

After lunch the Rainbows played games outside and had great fun in the sunshine.

All too soon it was time for the Rainbows to get changed back

into their uniforms and have a meal before we left Fordell Firs for home late Saturday afternoon. The coach was very quiet coming home as the Rainbows slept for the whole journey after a busy and enjoyable event.

2<sup>nd</sup> Airdrie Rainbows have now finished for the summer with a party and we have sadly had to say goodbye to six girls who have moved up to the Brownies to continue their Girlguiding adventures.

The Rainbows will start back for the new session in August.

Margaret MacFall

Unit Leader

2<sup>nd</sup> Airdrie Rainbows

P.S.

Congratulations to 2<sup>nd</sup> Airdrie Brownies who are celebrating the unit being 90 years old this year. With every meeting held in Clarkston Church Halls...Brilliant

## Organisations News (cont.)



### **3<sup>rd</sup> Airdrie Boys Brigade**

The three sections of the Boys Brigade have had a very successful session.

The Anchor boys won the 140 second's trophy, this was the first competition that the boys have entered and they had to take part in various games as a team and record their results which they won comfortably.

The Junior section and Company section took part in all the battalion competitions and

The last Messy Church of this session was a Barbecue on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June. As the weather was quite windy and chilly it was held in the Church Hall rather than the garden.

There was a super turn out of children and adults with 72 people attending and the atmosphere in the hall was wonderful.

The theme of the evening was Creation and as the photographs opposite illustrate, everyone enjoyed the variety of linked activities that were on offer.

I recently read an article by

both sections were runners up in their respective battalion trophies.

We had our annual parents night on 17<sup>th</sup> May with 150 parents and friends in attendance.

Mr Stewart Bone the Battalion secretary was the guest of honour along with his wife Jenny. Our chaplain the Reverend Hanna Rankine was also in attendance taking the opening and closing devotions and we thank them all for their attendance.

We had a very good session with 70 boys attending on Thursday and Friday nights.



the Archbishop of Canterbury after a visit to a Messy Church in Gloucester.

He said

*"Messy church services are an incredible way to engage families of all kinds in interactive worship, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. It was a joy to be part of the service at St Paul and St Stephen joining in with arts and crafts activities and*

Cameron Miller was awarded his Queen's Badge at the parents night, Cameron has worked very hard to gain this award and has been 12 years in the company.

I would like to thank all our officers and helpers for the work they do looking after the boys and the fun and games that they do with them.

We are looking forward to next session and hope to have some new boys in all sections.

Archie Easton

Captain

3<sup>rd</sup> Airdrie Boys Brigade

*chatting with the children and families who worship here.."*

Messy Church in Clarkston will be ten years old in December and we are heartened by the number of families we have engaged with over these years giving us the opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus.

We pray that we will be able to continue this mission for many years to come.

Messy Hugs to the Messy Church team in Clarkston Parish Church who work with such dedication to make each event meaningful and fun.

Barbara Sefton



Clarkston Church

# Community Fun day

is

## back this summer

on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August

## From 1pm until 4pm

Tombola, Tea Room, Clarkston Beach,  
Burgers, Face Painting, Beat the Goalie,  
Ice Creams ..... and a whole lot more....

### Church Contacts

Minister: Rev Hanna Rankine  
07990 620989  
email: [hrankine@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:hrankine@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Session Clerk: Mrs K. Harrison

Clerk to the Board: Mrs M. Brown

Property Convenor: Position vacant

Treasurer: Mr C. Brown

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Facebook: "Airdrie Clarkston Parish Church"

Charity No: SC011239

The next issue of this newsletter will be the Autumn edition, which is scheduled for publication in September 2024.

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