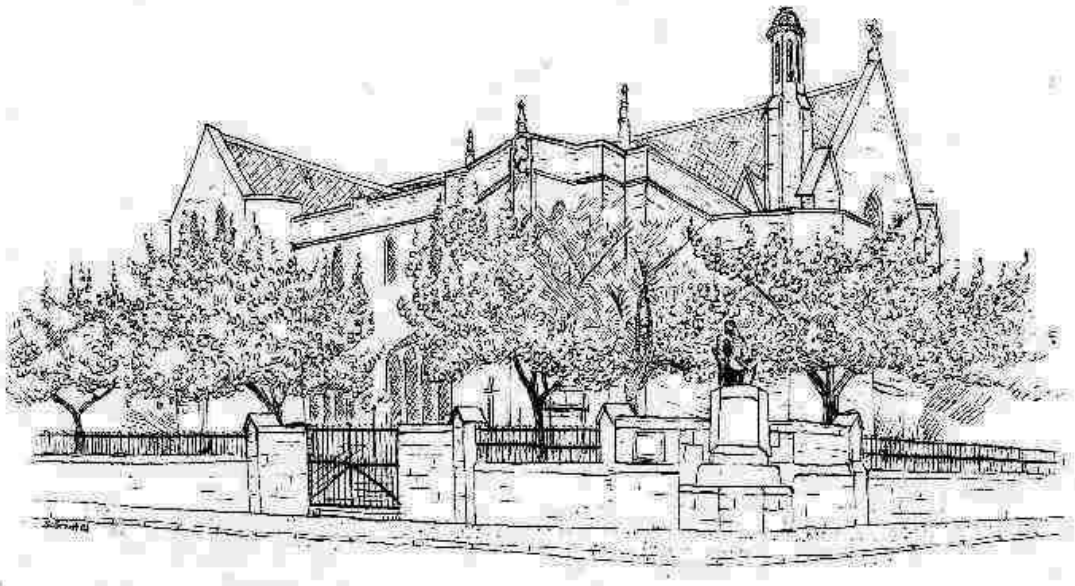


The Church of Scotland



Rutherglen Old Parish



Church Newsletter

November 2024

Registered Scottish Charity

Scottish Charities Number SC006856

ISSUE 4/24



Dear Friends,

The months seem to be flying past at an alarming rate. One can hardly believe that we are now in the month of November. No sooner will bonfire night have passed until we enter into our Christmas preparations. It is good to prepare well in advance. I am a great believer in good forward planning, but let us remember why we are celebrating at this time of year. God sent His Son to earth and while we all like to admire the new baby, we must not forget why Jesus was sent to us.

This year I would like to think about Jesus as the Prince of Peace. He was born into a dark and troubled world, like the one we are living in today. He was sent to bring peace into the world, to be our Redeemer. When we look around the world there is so much hatred, so much killing and so much grief. People are so obsessed by power that it prevents them from thinking in a logical manner. People can also be very selfish and think only of their own needs ignoring the plight of others.

Yes, it is a rather grim picture. No better than when Jesus came to earth, perhaps somewhat worse. The **GOOD NEWS** is that Jesus, once He had grown up and begun His ministry gave us a commandment that solves the problem. He told us to love one another as He loves us. If everyone obeyed that command there would be no hatred, no killing, no wars.....just **PEACE!** What a beautiful world it would be, rather like the one God created. What we must do is put Jesus words into action. It is all about caring and sharing. It is about making sacrifices so that others benefit. Jesus didn't count the cost, He gave His life! While we may not be able to go out and change things we can PRAY.

Let us enjoy Christmas but in the midst of all our many activities let us stop and pray for peace in the world, not just an absence of war but true peace that means reaching out to help others. Let us be glowing examples of Christ's love giving time and thought to the needs of others.

Peace comes from within and if we want to feel true peace we must trust our Lord completely. We don't need to know all the answers or be capable of doing everything. Let us have faith in the Lord allowing Him to guide us. He will give us all that we need enabling us to do His will, in His name for His glory.

When Christmas does arrive [and it will sooner than you think] may you know God's richest blessings.

Blessings,
Katie

FORTHCOMING COMMUNION SERVICES



The main quarterly celebration of the sacrament of communion will take place during our service on Sunday, 1ST December.

While all are welcome to attend any of our services, a special invitation is extended to anyone wishing to attend our communion services.



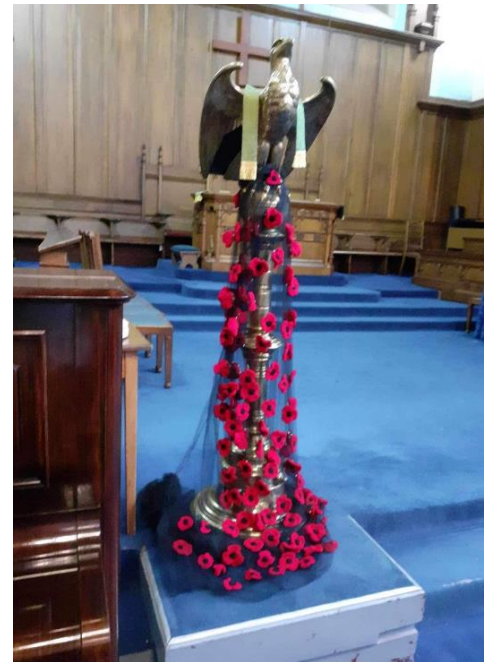
I would like to thank everyone for their visits, cards, phone calls and good wishes while I have been in hospital, it has meant a lot and kept my spirits up.

Note from Anne Millar

Poppies

A big THANK YOU to everyone who made 1189 poppies for our Armistice Display. Red wool must now be in short supply in the shops. Such support for the project is amazing and much appreciated.

Marjory Greig



August Newsletters Wordsearch Answers

H	C	W	D	V	R	E	G	N	I	F	S	I	H	N	O	G	N	I	R	P	H
T	E	F	S	T	A	R	V	I	N	G	N	U	R	B	K	P	X	V	O	L	J
H	L	W	B	C	L	A	E	G	N	M	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	S	F	L	F
W	E	P	A	R	H	N	M	K	O	L	G	D	O	G	J	K	M	A	S	E	S
E	B	S	G	S	Q	U	A	N	D	E	R	E	D	O	L	F	M	F	A	I	G
F	R	K	Q	U	L	H	J	S	H	K	R	L	Y	R	L	W	Y	L	N	P	R
B	A	D	T	B	X	O	Z	B	J	E	L	P	T	A	H	J	A	N	D	K	T
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H	I	J	R	Q	Y	K	A	N	A	L	E	S	G	H	A	P	R	O	S	A	Y
S	O	F	V	G	W	F	H	J	K	N	Q	H	M	G	N	L	I	L	O	D	H
W	C	G	A	H	K	V	N	Z	E	C	D	M	A	J	E	O	D	D	N	Y	T
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G	M	J	T	H	E	T	W	A	G	N	F	S	A	O	D	J	R	I	P	O	
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J	S	T	O	W	F	H	E	O	A	Y	J	T	W	O	S	O	N	S	E	D	G
D	I	Y	Z	I	N	A	O	L	P	I	G	S	I	N	P	A	S	D	T	W	N
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I	N	D	J	E	S	U	S	I	L	Q	E	B	E	S	T	R	O	B	E	V	L
S	I	N	N	R	G	W	G	J	N	X	D	F	E	H	J	P	O	T	L	K	O
T	G	F	W	O	I	H	T	L	A	E	W	H	K	B	D	F	E	Y	K	L	N

VISITING TIME

Janet looked up from the magazine she was leafing through when a young boy's face peeped round the door. She recognised him as the child she'd seen in the corridor. He grinned at her, revealing missing front teeth, and when she smiled back, he came and stood beside her chair.

"Hello."

"Hello. What's your name, young man?"

"I'm Timothy. Who's that?" He pointed at the patient in the bed.

"He's my son, Daniel. He's sleeping so I think he must be tired." How she wished that was the only reason.

Timothy leaned on the arm of the chair and swung his legs out.

"I'm to have an operation. There was a hole in my heart when I was born and the doctors had to wait until I was a big boy to fix it."

"How old are you?"

"Six, but I'll soon be seven. After my operation, I'll be able to play football."

Nurse Johnson hurried in, the heels of her shoes clicking on the linoleum floor.

"Timothy, your mum's here. Sorry, Mrs Ashford, Timothy will go to the children's ward when a bed's available."

"I was enjoying his company."

"Bye." Timothy waved as he left.

For days now, Janet and Daniel had been together within these walls. Yesterday her sister, Molly, brought the family photograph album to help jog Daniel's memory when he regained consciousness.

The monitor at the side of the bed beeped frequently. Numbers and lines flashed across the screen but none of these distractions disturbed her son.

Janet touched the scar on his chest, running parallel to the one from his operation when he was around the same age as Timothy. On that occasion both she and Simon had watched over Daniel, but Simon had been spared the ordeal this time around.

The cup of tea at her side had grown cold but she drank it anyway. It gave her something to do. Afterwards she held Daniel's hand and talked to him. Dr Neville had advised that some of what she said might penetrate his brain.

The hours dragged on. Just before eight o'clock Nurse Johnson came in to check the monitor and the drip bag on a stand at the side of bed. The nurse said goodnight and a short time later Janet heard the changeover to the night staff. Gradually darkness crept in, the pitch-black sky punctured here and there by the lights in the hospital grounds.

Next morning the sun warmed her back and created an aura around Daniel's head.

She'd been forty when Daniel was born; she'd loved him since he took his first breath and now, more than twenty-five years on, she prayed that he wasn't ready to draw his last.

Nurse Johnson, back on day duty, took Daniel's pulse and checked his blood pressure, writing the details on his chart which hung on a clipboard at the bottom of the bed.

"How's he doing?"

"He's a fighter. Would you like something to eat?" The smell of hot buttered toast wafted in from the corridor.

"Thanks, but I couldn't eat anything."

Timothy visited Janet again mid-morning. With younger siblings at home, his mum could only spend a short time each afternoon with him. He brought his owl, Olly, a book about Thomas the Tank and a pack of cards to play Snap.

When Timothy returned after his mother's visit, Janet was looking through her photograph album.

He climbed on to the chair beside her. "Is that Daniel?" he asked, pointing to the curly-haired baby.

Janet wiped a tear from her eye. "Yes, it is."

"He's got no teeth like me." Timothy touched his top gum.

He laughed at Daniel's short grey trousers in his first school picture. Nurse Johnson interrupted them. "Doctor wants to see you, Timothy," she told him and led him out.

When she came to a picture of Daniel holding his graduation parchment, Janet's eyes moistened. "I was so proud of you that day," she whispered.

How sad that Simon hadn't lived to witness their son's successful career.

She jumped when the monitor beeped loudly and an alarm sounded. Nurse Johnson raced in, a doctor behind her.

Janet was ushered out into the corridor while they worked on Daniel. Through the vertical blinds, she could see shadowy outlines around Daniel's bed.

Eventually the doctor emerged.

"What's happening?"

His smile was sympathetic. "He's holding his own."

When Janet went back into the room, Nurse Johnson looked up.

"It was a false alarm. We think he's turned a corner," she said, her smile reassuring.

Relief made Janet's legs give way and she slumped down into a chair.

"Now, could I tempt you with a cup of tea and a wee bit of toast?"

"Yes, please."

For the first time in days Janet felt hungry and, when the toast arrived, she wolfed it down.

That night Janet covered herself with a spare blanket and drifted in and out of sleep.

When she awoke it was daylight, a much duller day than yesterday.

Stiff from being scrunched up in the chair, she walked around the room to get her circulation going again.

When she sat down, she brushed her hand across Daniel's long, dark eyelashes.

She used to tell him they were wasted on him.

"Every teenage girl dreams of eyelashes like yours," she'd say.

Janet's anger surfaced once more at the van driver who'd shattered their world.

Since the accident happened, she'd lived in a time bubble, isolated from the outside world, interested only in what went on within these four walls.

Timothy came into the room, his eyes sparkling. "Guess what, I'm to have my operation tomorrow. Sorry I won't be able to visit you again."

Janet cupped the little boy's face in her hands. "I'll miss you Timothy but I'm glad you'll soon be able to play football."

They both turned towards the bed at the sound of Daniel's voice.

"Mum," he croaked. "Where am I?"

Her heart pounding, Janet kissed him.

"Daniel, it's wonderful to hear your voice. You're in hospital, but you're going to be fine. You gave me quite a scare you know."

He managed a smile.

"You don't get rid of me that easily," he said, his eyes moving over to the boy. "Timothy?"

Janet's heart sang. He'd heard her talking to him after all.

"Don't worry Daniel, I was here with your mum while you were sleeping." Timothy climbed on to the chair beside Janet and threw his chubby arms around her neck.

"Thanks mate." Talking had exhausted Daniel and he closed his eyes again, but the smile remained on his lips.

At that moment a watery sun burst through the clouds, and a ray of light landed on Janet's shoulder.

Thanks to Irene Lebeter

Woman's Guild

The members of the Guild have been enjoying our meetings at the start of the new session. These have included speakers, slides and games.

In the coming weeks we will hear about Heart for Art which is our project for this year, be entertained with Christmas music on ukuleles and finish the first half with our Christmas lunch. We invite others to join with us on alternate Thursdays at 2.30pm. It would be good to increase our numbers and enjoy the company of more people.

Margaret Alexander
President

SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY



The first BIBLES for BAIRNS have been despatched and handed out to those who applied. They have been very well received by parents and babies! In these days of electronic gadgets, it is good to think of parents reading to wee ones, particularly telling them about the love of Jesus. Over 300 babies registered in 2023 and it is hoped for even more in 2024. More information can be found at scottishbiblesociety.org/resources/bibles-for-bairns. Registered babies will receive a Bible gift and resources from their 1st to 5th Birthdays.

SBS Contact
Marjory Greig

WORLD MISSION NEWS



We have added another Mission Partner from whom to receive news. She is Rev. Muriel Pearson, working and living in very difficult conditions in Tiberias. Bombing and shooting are all around her, making daily existence a great trial. A copy of her latest letter is available on the church newsboard. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her, and also to Anne Davidson, helping so many street children in Zambia. Both of them strong women, called to serve our Lord.

Amen.

Marjory Greig
WM CONTACT

SCRABBLE



We have restarted in the Session House on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm. We would be delighted to have some new players join us. The tea is hot and the biscuits are crispy, so why not come along. No experience is necessary, just a sense of humour.

The Scrabblers

Thursday Cafe

The Church is open to the public from noon till 2pm each Thursday come along and join us for a coffee, all welcome! Tea, coffee and biscuits are available for a small donation. Feel free to bring your own packed lunch.

The church will also be open at this time for a quiet visit or meditation.

We are operating a rota of volunteers, looking ahead we need a few more volunteers to join the rota. This is a very simply duty of making tea coffee and washing up afterwards. (No qualifications required !!) Generally, no more than once per month depending on the number of volunteers.

If you are able to help, please contact Alison Bennet 647 4415.

Christian Aid



After a very successful fund raising in May, we looked forward to our Annual Coffee Morning on 26th Oct. (it will have taken place by the time this Newsletter reaches you). The venue this year is our own Greenhill Hall, so as expected we had a good turnout of friends to support us. We raised an amazing £1222 on the day, and thank all who came along. As usual, all monies raised will go directly to Christian Aid, helping where needed most in our troubled world. Our MP, Michael Shanks, accepted our invitation to come along and enjoyed a cuppa some home backing and learned a little more about our charity.

Thank you to everyone who continue to collect coins in the 'Wee Boxes'.

CA Committee
Jean & Marjory

Christian sayings

Inspired by a car window sticker I noticed a number of years ago -

"God is for life, not just for Christmas" here are a few more I have come across:

Inspirational

Download your worries and get online with God.
Dust on your bible leads to dirt in your life.
Faith tells me that God guards my path.

Funny

If God is your co-pilot, switch seats.
Spend time with God's book. Not facebook.
Jesus said "I'll be back" before Arnold did.
God recycles. He made you from dust.

Short

Exercise daily. Walk with the Lord.
The best vitamin for a believer is B1.
The man upstairs came downstairs.

Cute

Jesus is God's selfie.
a.s.a.p. = Always Say A Prayer
Prayer: The original wireless connection.
1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

Thanks to Gordon Spence

Monthly Coffee Morning – Does Dominoes & Donuts

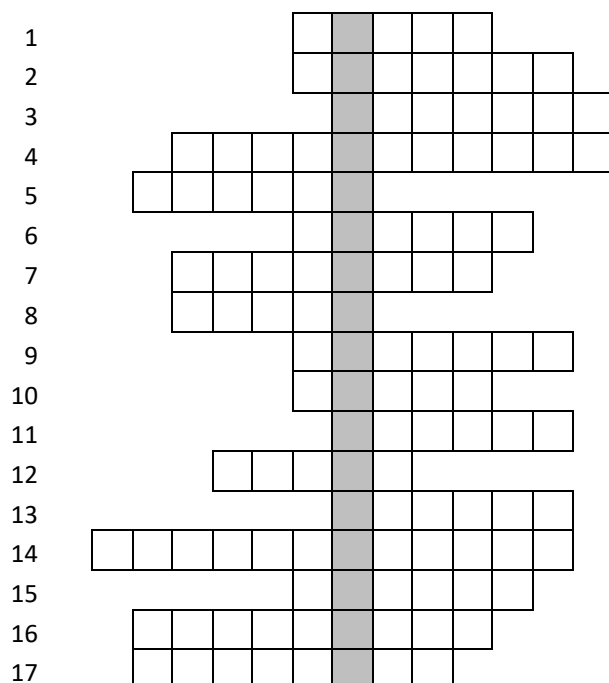
As well as our Monthly Coffee Mornings, we are always looking out for other ways to bring folks together, outwith our Sunday Services. Dominos and Do'nuts did that in a fun way, as well as raising over £200 for church funds. The Greenhill Hall was buzzing with chat and laughter as we all competed at Dominos with each other in teams of four. At half time along came the Do'nuts and tea, giving us all a sugar rush to continue playing a few more games.



We carry on our Monthly Coffee Mornings on the 2nd Saturday of each month, at 10am till Noon, and look forward to seeing our customers, old and new. You are all assured of a very warm welcome.

BIBLE QUIZ

Following the *success* of 'wordsearch' in last edition here's another little fun quiz.



Fill the answers into the grid.

- 1 On what day of creation did God create Man?
- 2 Angel who appeared to Mary?
- 3 Which New Testament book has Jesus' Sermon on the Mount?
- 4 How many books in the New Testament?
- 5 His father gave him a coat of many colours?
- 6 What language was the Old Testament written in?
- 7 What is the collective name for the stories Jesus told?
- 8 Who denied knowing Jesus three times?
- 9 What does the word 'RABBI' mean?
- 10 What was the first bird that Noah let out of the Ark?
- 11 Who was thrown into the lion's den?
- 12 Who was king when Jesus was born?
- 13 From which catastrophe does Joseph save Egypt?
- 14 What occupation did Zacchaeus have?
- 15 What did King Solomon ask for from God?
- 16 How did Jesus die?
- 17 What does the word 'GOSPEL' mean?

What well known passage can be read downwards in the shaded area? (bonus point for chapter and verse)

Good Luck, Gordon Spence



FLOWER FUND Donations and Deliveries



Thanks to the small team of ladies who take time to arrange the flowers each week. We would benefit from a few extra pairs of hands. It is not difficult, I am sure there are many of you who arrange your vases of flowers at home. If you can help please speak to any of the ladies Margaret Alexander, Marjory Greig or Jan Keenan.

We are grateful to Jean Caldwell who arranges the distribution of the flowers which have been displayed in the Sanctuary. Thanks also to those who will deliver the flowers.

If you know of anyone who would benefit receiving the church flowers then please speak with Jean.

If you wish to make a donation to the Flower Fund this can be placed in the "Flower Boxes" located at the entrance to the church on a Sunday.

There a number of people who contribute to the fund to commemorate a special date.

If you require further information please contact Alison Bennet 647-4415

November 2024 – February 2025 Flower Donor & Delivery List

		Donor	Deliverer/Driver
November	03/11/24	Miss I Kay	Mrs A Brown
	10/11/24		Mrs J Keenan
	17/11/24	Miss E Paton	Mrs I Campbell & Mrs P Cumming
	24/11/24	Ms M&M Dobbin	Miss I Kay
December	01/12/24		Mrs J Caldwell
	08/12/24	Miss A Bennet	Miss M Dobbin
	15/12/24	Committee	Mrs M Robinson & Miss A Bennet
	22/12/24	Committee	Mrs A Brown
	29/12/24	Committee	Mrs J Keenan
January	05/01/25		Mrs I Campbell & Mrs P Cumming
	12/01/25	Mrs S Stevens	Miss I Kay
	19/01/25		Mrs J Caldwell
	26/01/25		Miss M Dobbin
February	02/02/25		Mrs M Robinson & Miss A Bennet
	09/02/25		Mrs A Brown
	16/02/25		Mrs J Keenan
	23/02/25		Mrs I Campbell & Mrs P Cumming

AN UPDATE ON OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION

Most of you will remember that, financially, we had a very bad year in 2023. In fact, our General Fund deficit of over £18,250 was, by far, the largest we had experienced in my 20 years as Treasurer. Although, as I write, we are still 2 months away from the end of 2024, I am relieved to say that things are not quite so bad this year. It is highly likely that we will still be in deficit, but not on the same scale as 2023. However, this is thanks, in no small way, to our receiving two legacies in the course of the year. As you will appreciate, much as we are extremely grateful for these gifts, we cannot rely on receiving similar each year.

My financial report usually appears in the March edition of the newsletter. However, rather than wait until March 2025, I would like to take this opportunity, as we approach a new year, to ask those of you who have not reviewed your offerings in recent years, to consider doing so now. I realise that, financially, these are not easy times, and household bills continue to rise. However, our church is in a similar position – our bills also continue to rise. We are doing what we can to reduce our costs eg many of you will be aware that, in order to reduce our heating bills, we are holding some of our services in the Greenhill Hall during the winter months. Much as we regret doing this, we feel it is necessary to cut our costs.

Having made this appeal, I feel it is only right that I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the generosity of those of you who have responded to my appeal at the Stated Annual Meeting in March. Without your increased contributions, I have no doubt we would be facing a very bleak financial outlook.

As I leave you with these thoughts, may I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Irene Kay



Do you shop online?

Did you know by registering with [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) you could help raise funds for Rutherglen Old!

It's easy to register will cost you nothing and you can help raise funds when you shop at more than 3,300 retailers by just going through the [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) website.

Pick up a leaflet in church or ask Irene Kay for more details.

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

		W F O	Open Plate	Other Income	Fabric	Total
B/f		£19,779.30	£753.05	£11,695.67	£1,000.00	£33,228.02
Jul	7	£127.00				£127.00
	14	£211.00	£30.20	£120.00		£361.20
	21	£208.50	£1.00	£2,376.61		£2,586.11
	28	£2,746.00	£40.00	£0.20		£2,786.20
Aug	4	£203.00	£26.00			£229.00
	11	£163.00	£51.00	£4,500.00		£4,714.00
	18	£329.00	£6.00	£426.07		£761.07
	25	£2,446.00	£33.00	£20.18		£2,499.18
Sep	1	£479.00	£6.00		£250.00	£735.00
	8	£311.00	£11.00			£322.00
	15	£84.00	£31.00	£360.00		£475.00
	22	£344.00	£27.00			£371.00
	29	£2,541.00	£117.10	£373.24		£3,031.34
		£29,971.80	£1,132.35	£19,871.97	£1,250.00	£49,194.78

Income for period ending 30/9/24 (excluding Fabric) = £50,976.12
 Budgetted income requirement per week = £1,257.12
 Budgetted income requirement to 30/9/23 = £49,027.68

GIFT AID

Are you a Taxpayer?

If so your offerings and any other donations you make to the Old Parish could have 25p per pound added to them.

For further information please contact. Irene Kay



Our services are streamed live every week. Follow the link on our website www.rutherglenoldparishchurch.org or subscribe to our YouTube channel search Rutherglen Old Parish and subscribe.



Follow us on Facebook, search 'Rutherglen Old Parish Church' to make sure you don't miss out on events taking place including our monthly coffee mornings.



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NEWSLETTER Karen Morris caldwellkaren@yahoo.co.uk
EDITOR: 6 Highburgh Drive, Rutherglen, G73 3RZ Tel: 07894719953

PLEASE NOTE: Anyone wishing to consult the Minister may do so after the Morning Service any Sunday.

Intimation of change of address should be given to the Roll Keeper as soon as possible.

Website: <https://rutherglenoldparish.org/>

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

To enable the Congregational Roll to be kept up to date would members who have recently, or are about to, change their address please either complete the form below and forward it to Dr Janet MacDonald.

RUTHERGLEN OLD PARISH CHURCH

Name Date

is moving from Address

.....

Postcode

Tel. No.

to Address

.....

Postcode

Tel. No.

Please forward the completed form to:

**Dr Janet MacDonald
Rutherglen Old Parish
Church
Queen Street Rutherglen
G73 1JP**