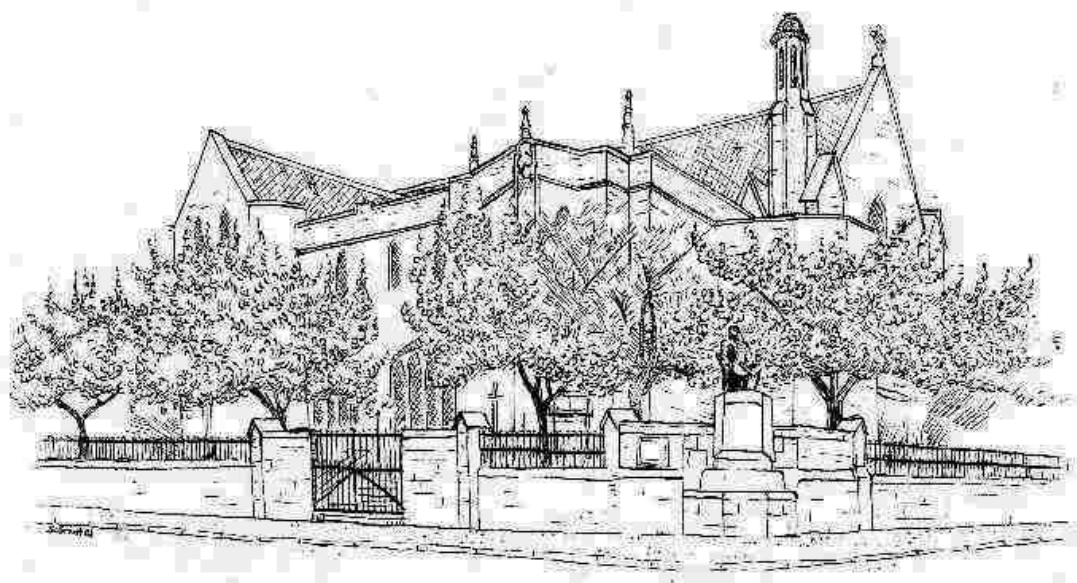


The Church of Scotland



Rutherglen Old Parish



Church Newsletter

May 2025

Registered Scottish Charity

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ISSUE 2/25



THE HOUSE OF GOD

A beautiful sanctuary may help us feel comfortable in our worship, and all the latest technology may help us worship better, but it is not these things that make a building the sanctuary of the Lord, a holy place—to be consecrated and set apart for the Lord's will to be done.

Throughout the Bible, we read about how important a sanctuary is to God. In Exodus, God told the Israelites, "Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them." God desires to live among us, not apart from us. He does not want us to live and worship here while He is somewhere else. He wants us to be close to Him, in body and spirit, so we can feel His glorious presence!

Our sanctuary is an example of that. What makes our sanctuary holy? The answer is very simple: It is holy because God is here, and we worship Him. This is a place where it is not about you or me, it is all about what you and I can sacrifice to God from our hearts. Our sanctuary is a place where we will covenant with God to use it for His purposes, and not just our purposes.

It is a wonderful privilege to have a beautiful sanctuary; one that has all the latest technology and beautiful decorations. And while there is nothing wrong with having these things, it is not these things that make our sanctuary holy. It is because it is a place set apart and consecrated to the Lord, and in return, God will bless this place by making it a holy place - a place where His presence dwells.

Whenever the Lord makes His wondrous presence known anywhere, that place is turned into a holy place. God has made His presence known in this congregation and this sanctuary, and that makes the place we gather every Sunday a holy place. A place where sinners can gather with their God in worship.

When we enter this building, we are not just walking into a building or entering real estate. We enter a sanctuary; we are entering a holy place. The term "holy" means to be set apart for a distinct and unique purpose for God's glory. That can be a patch of sand, a sanctuary, or even a person who has made the conscious decision to dedicate their personal life to Jesus Christ.

When Christians talk about marriage, they refer to it as "holy" matrimony and not as a "civil" union. That is because "holy" is from God and "civil" is from mankind. Likewise, when we speak of a church's sanctuary, we say it is "holy" because it is for God, and not mankind.

We come together on Sundays and other holy days as one body of believers, the church. We read God's Word in this place; we lift our praise in song in this place; we pray and communicate to our Lord those things that are upon our hearts.

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. PSALM 100:4

Congregational Roll

Change of Address:

We wish Betty Paton well in her new home. Despite her move Betty remains in district 16, with Katie Morrison as her elder.

FORTHCOMING COMMUNION SERVICES



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

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

Update on the Presbytery Plan

As you know, we have been in talks with the folks at West and Wardlawhill Parish with a view to possible union. Although some progress has been made, we have not yet reached a decision on buildings, which as you can imagine is an emotive issue. It would appear that Presbytery is unlikely to allow us to keep more than one set of buildings, therefore in order to enable us to reach an informed decision, along with West and Wardlawhill we are going to ask an accountant to look over our figures (i.e. income and running costs) for the past three years, taking into account differences in circumstances, book keeping methods etc. to allow a like-for-like comparison of costs of upkeep. Difficult decisions will have to be made, and we ask you to keep the situation in prayer, to allow mission plans to go forward, and that we may all continue to serve the parish of Rutherglen in the best way possible well into the future.

Kirk Session representatives

The STATED ANNUAL MEETING of the Congregation of RUTHERGLEN OLD PARISH CHURCH was held on Sunday 23rd March 2025, immediately following the morning service.

The Rev Jean de Villiers open the Meeting with prayer.

The Notice calling the Meeting, which had been intimated on Sundays 3rd March and 10th March 2025 and signed by Katie Morrison Locum and the Clerk, was taken as read.

Minutes of the Stated Annual Meeting held on 24th March 2024, and printed in the May 2024 edition of the Church Newsletter were taken as read and on the motion of Janet MacDonald and seconded by Gordon Callaghan were approved and signed.

The Treasurer's Report

Irene Kay Treasurer presented the Annual Accounts for year ending 2024

Irene opened by saying she would keep her report as brief as possible and assumed people were familiar with the format by now.

As well as the full version of our OSCAR Accounts, you have, as usual, the single sheet summary and, on the reverse of that, the budget for 2025. This sheet is simply a user-friendly summary of our Accounts.

Whether you look at the OSCR version of the accounts, or at the single sheet summary, the bottom line is the same. It is either good news or bad, depending on whether you are a glass half-full or a glass half-empty person. Our General Fund finished the year with a deficit of £7,579. Obviously, in an ideal world, we would prefer to balance our books or, indeed, finish with a surplus, and we did do that for many years prior to 2021. However, compared with last year's deficit of £18,256, this year's deficit shows a considerable improvement in our finances

A reminder at this point that the £7,579 does not include Fabric income and expenditure, which will be dealt with separately.

Income

Income increased overall by just under £4,000. However, this does not tell the whole story.

Open Plate increased by £719 or almost 54%. Total WFO was more or less the same, but Gift Aided WFO donations rose by just over £2,360, while Non Gift Aided donations fell by a fairly similar amount. Donations rose by almost £2,000 and thanks was expressed, in particular, to the Coffee Morning, the Guild, the Carpet Bowlers and the Scrabblers for their donations of £2,000, £250, £400 and £150 respectively.

Gift Aid, i.e. the refunded tax received from HMRC, increased by £890. It is worthwhile reminding you at this point that, as well as claiming tax back on the Gift Aided donations, under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme, or GASDS for short, we are also able to claim the tax on any anonymous donations of £30 and under. This covers most offerings given by WFO envelopes, which are not already Gift Aided, and donations by Open Plate. It also covers such things as donations in the Flower Fund box, donations at the Thursday Cafe and, of course, any other small incidental donations that come our way.

Use of Premises income decreased by £700, due to the loss of the Keep Fit class the year before. However, the good news is that a new dance class started at the end of the summer, so hopefully that will continue for the immediate future.

Interest is also slightly up, which was a bit surprising bearing in mind we had to dip into our Reserves after the 2023 deficit. However, we have to assume that interest rates during 2024 still favoured savers.

Expenditure

Total Expenditure decreased by £7,538, most of this down to a decrease of £6,000 in the combined Giving to Grow and Presbytery Dues payments, which we were aware of this time last year. It was certainly welcome news after the substantial increase in 2023.

The decrease in Staffing costs includes the £700 Pulpit Relief costs due to us at the end of 2023, which did not come through until the beginning of this year, and it is safe to say that the decrease in Heating & Lighting costs of £660 is a result of our using the Greenhill Hall for some of our services during the winter months, much as we regret doing so.

The increase of £730 under Repairs & Maintenance is mainly down to the power flushing of the heating system at the Manse, and the increase of £550, under Other Buildings, to increases in insurance and council tax costs. Fortunately, the anticipated massive rise in insurance premiums did not materialise in 2024, but cannot not rule out a substantial increase this year and of course, we are already aware of the higher Council Tax charges for this coming financial year.

So, in spite of an increase of £4,000 in Income, and a decrease of £7,500 in Expenditure, excluding Fabric, with total income of £64,999 and total expenditure of £72,578, we have finished the year with a deficit of £7, 579. It is of course disappointing, but it is certainly a sizeable step in the right direction.

A few words on Fabric Fund.

The Fabric Fund incurred a deficit of £1,043 during the year. Income included donations totalling £1,050 from the Thursday Cafe, which is really quite amazing, and Legacies to the value of £7,000. We were very fortunate to receive 2 legacies in the course of the year. Had we put that money into what we term our "General Fund", we would more or less, have wiped out our deficit. However, unless otherwise requested by the donor, we traditionally put any money received in this way to our Fabric Fund. It does not seem right to use such money to offset our day-to-day expenses.

As far as Expenditure was concerned, there were several one-off projects in the course of the year. These included replacement lights in the sanctuary and repairs to emergency lighting, upgrading of our microphones, installation of the replacement boiler in the kitchen, a new garden shed at the Manse, and repairs to the Manse roof.

Each year, it is hoped that we have seen the last of the major expenditure on Fabric, but still it goes on. However, at least we can be fairly certain that both the church and the manse are in sound condition, not sure that many congregations will have that peace of mind.

Once again, Irene stated, this is not the report you would have wanted to hear, but it needs to be highlighted that it is a definite improvement on 2023. At this point last year, members who had perhaps not reviewed their offerings in recent years, were asked to consider doing so. This plea was reiterated in a footnote to the Treasurer's Report in the May 2024 Newsletter, and again in an Update to our Financial Situation in the November 2024 newsletter. Irene stated she did not find this easy to do, as she was aware that times continue to be difficult for many. A good number of members responded to my appeals, and it is only right to take this opportunity to thank them for their generosity. Again, those of you who haven't reviewed your offerings in recent years to please consider doing so. It is not too late."

The single sheet presented at the meeting is attached for your information and if you wish a full copy of the OSCR report you can contact the Treasurer Irene

Irene Kay Treasurer

Appointment of Office Bearers

Six members of the Board due to retire but eligible for re-election are Mrs Irene Campbell, Ms Elizabeth Cunningham, Mrs Kirsteen Dunn, Mrs Janet Keenan and Mrs Sandra Stevens they are all willing to be re-elected for a period of 3yrs but in light of the proposed union they will be elected for 1 year.

On the proposal of Marjory Greig and seconded by Katie Morrison. Mrs Irene Campbell, Ms Elizabeth Cunningham, Mrs Kirsteen Dunn, Mrs Janet Keenan and Mrs Sandra Stevens were re-elected to serve on the Board for another year.

There remains one vacancy to give us a full complement of Board members if anyone would like to join the board they will be most welcome. The Board were given permission to co-opt members during the year.

Vote of Thanks

As is customary at the end of the Stated Annual Meeting, a Vote of Thanks is proposed, this was undertaken by Dr Janet MacDonald our Session Clerk.

Janet welcomed back Rev Jean de Villiers and highlighted that we were indebted to Katie Morrison our Locum who had led and supported the congregation over the last 18 months along with our Interim Moderator Rev Gillian Rooney. Janet continued to thank everyone involved in the life and work of the Old Parish for their support and commitment to the various organisation and activities.

This being all the business, the meeting was then closed by us all saying the Grace together.

Alison G Bennet

Clerk to the Congregational Board

RUTHERGLEN OLD PARISH CHURCH

Treasurer's Report

23 March 2025

Income & Expenditure for the period ended 31 December 2024

Income

	2024	2023
Open Plate	£2,059.63	£1,340.16
W.F.O. Gift Aid	£35,574.40	£33,212.56
W.F.O. Non Gift Aid	£4,750.40	£7,146.14
Donations	£6,154.48	£4,178.33
Gift Aid	£11,180.97	£10,292.47
Use of Premises	£2,330.00	£3,030.00
Interest	£2,949.67	£2,661.23

£64,999.55	£61,860.89
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Expenditure

Giving to Grow	£33,373.00	£40,822.00
Presbytery Dues	£3,203.00	£1,757.00
Local Staffing Costs	£11,978.99	£14,304.94
Repairs & Maintenance	£2,560.36	£1,831.55
Heating / Lighting	£11,420.15	£12,083.71
Other Building Costs	£8,497.43	£7,949.65
Other Costs	£1,545.73	£1,368.02

£72,578.66	£80,116.87
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Expenditure over Income

£7,579.11	£18,255.98
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Fabric Fund for period ended 31 December 2024

Balance b/f	£12,704.46
Income	£1,800.00
Legacies	£7,000.00
Expenditure	£9,842.97
Balance	<u>£11,661.49</u>

Easter Lunch



We all enjoyed lunch together after the service on Easter Sunday it was a real treat! Thanks to all who worked hard both preparing for and serving the lunch. A special thanks to Mrs Raeburn for the beautiful handmade crosses we all got to take home.

Kids and Church

A mother asked her children, as they were on the way to church service,
"And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"
One bright little girl replied, "Because a lot of people are sleeping."

A little boy was overheard praying:
"Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand.
"Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked.
"He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied.
The boy thought a moment and then said,
"Did God throw him back down?"

3-year-old, Reese:
"Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen."

I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, the Lord's Prayer for several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully pronounced each word right up to the end of the prayer:

"Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail."

Woman's Guild

Our 2024 – 2025 session has now closed and thanks to our (Guild) secretary Marjory Greig we enjoyed many meetings with speakers with very interesting subjects to talk to us about. We are looking forward to our next session and would be pleased to welcome ladies from the congregation to join us

Myra McNair
President

Monthly Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who continues to support us, month by month, year by year. Lots of coffee drunk and cakes eaten, over a long period of time. It is especially nice to welcome visitors from other churches and denominations, also passers by who just pop in, having seen our sign.

We helped host a very enjoyable Easter Lunch, when members of our congregation sat down together in fellowship to partake of sausage rolls, pizza and sandwiches, followed by a selection of gateaux. Many thanks to the folks whose generosity provided it all.

We are always happy to have more servers and bakers, and if you feel you could help, just let us know.

Wishing you all a Happy Summer, at home or on holiday.

THE COFFEE CREW

ALISON, CAROLINE, MARJORY & SANDRA

SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY



SBS continues to work in Scotland to develop projects, products and events to raise the profile of the Bible. The members partner with Global Bible Societies so that all people can have the Bible in a language they understand, a form they can access, and at an affordable price, to aid genuine encounters with God.
SBS Contact

Marjory Greig

World Mission New



Easter greetings were sent and received from Muriel Pearson, our partner in Jerusalem. Although she tells us she is not in any immediate danger, normal living is still very difficult for her. Please remember her in your prayers, and also Anne Davidson in Makululu. Both women carrying out their work in the Lord's name.

Marjory Greig
WM CONTACT

SCRABBLE



Our group has finished for a Summer break but will commence playing in October in the Session House at 2pm. Although small in number, we are very enthusiastic and would welcome new players to join us.

The Scrabblers

Thursdav 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 simple 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.

Christian Aid



We held a very successful Family Quiz in March, raising over a thousand pounds. Thank you to everyone who supported this happy evening. It is lovely to raise funds in such an enjoyable way.

Christian Aid celebrates 80 years of Christian service, helping those in most need around the world. Rev Douglas Lister, a Church of Scotland minister, being an army chaplain at the end of WW11, sought help for refugees in Northern Germany. He requested army help, which was not forthcoming, so he wrote to churches across the country, and they sent blankets and food etc. That appeal later grew into Christian Aid. This year we hold Christian Aid Week on 11th – 17th May, and Val Brown, head of CA in Scotland says “thank you to everyone who has helped raise funds over the past 80 years”. Let us continue the work which Rev Lister and Scottish churches began in 1945, and keep supporting the charity.

To continue raising funds for Christian Aid some of our congregation will be running, walking, or cycling 150K in May! We wish them luck and if you would like to sponsor the team you will find sponsor sheets in the vestibule or look out for the just giving page on our Face book page where you can follow their progress.

CA Committee



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.

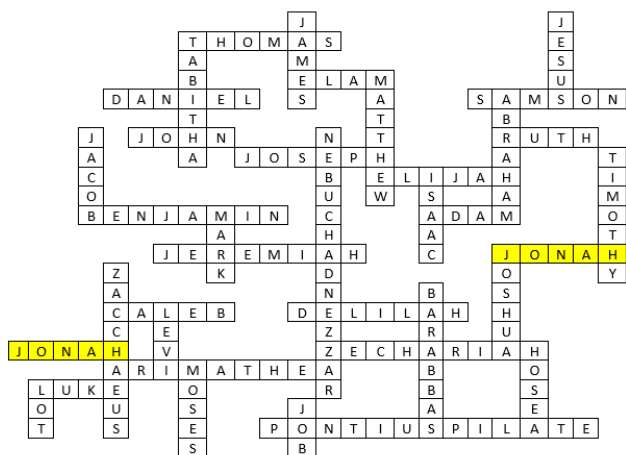
There a number of people who contribute to the fund to commemorate a special date.

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

November 2024 – February 2025 Flower Donor & Delivery List

		Donor	Deliverer/Driver
May	04/05/2025	Mrs A Louden	Miss M Dobbin
	11/05/2025	Mrs Sandra Stevens	Mrs M Robinson & Miss A Bennet
	18/05/2025		Mrs A Brown
	25/05/2025		Mrs J Keenan
June	01/06/2025		Mrs I Campbell & Mrs P Cumming
	08/06/2025		Miss I Kay
	15/06/2025		Mrs J Caldwell
	22/06/2025		Miss M Dobbin
	29/06/2025		Mrs M Robinson & Miss A Bennet
July	06/07/2025	Mrs J Keenan	Mrs A Brown
	13/07/2025		Mrs J Keenan
	20/07/2025	Mrs E McWhinnie	Mrs I Campbell & Mrs P Cumming
	27/07/2025	Dr J MacDonald	Miss I Kay
August	03/08/2025	Mrs A Louden	Mrs J Caldwell
	10/08/2025	Mr G Callaghan	Miss M Dobbin
	17/08/2025	The Hamilton Family	Mrs M Robinson & Miss A Bennet
	24/08/2025	Mrs A Louden	Mrs I Campbell & Mrs P Cumming

February Quiz Answers



Apologies for minor error in last newsletter issue as I had repeated a 5 letter word in the Criss Cross as in JONAH, as you can see in above solution. Thanks to Jean Caldwell for pointing it out.

MISSING LETTERS

Fill in the missing letters to find these men and women of the bible.

O _UA

T_M_TH_

R_ _H

_A_S_N

T_BI_H_

DA_I_L

I_AA_

J_ _ES

J_ _N

_IM_N

RE_ _CC_

_AT_H_W

_A_Y

_E_U_

O

_L_JA_

Good Luck! Gordon Spence



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.

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

		W F O	Open Plate	Other Income	Fabric	Total
Jan	5	£176.00	£16.00	£19.00		£211.00
	12	£205.00	£19.00			£224.00
	19	£227.00	£41.20			£268.20
	26	£3,005.00		£2,737.58		£5,742.58
Feb	2	£483.00	£32.00	£200.00		£715.00
	9	£241.00	£5.00			£246.00
	16	£154.20	£30.00			£184.20
	23	£2,680.00	£132.78	£560.15		£3,372.93
Mar	2	£180.00	£11.00	£205.00		£396.00
	9	£308.00	£11.00			£319.00
RWW	16					£0.00
	23	£437.01	£21.00	£20.00		£478.01
	30	£2,631.00	£37.50	£673.21		£3,341.71
		£10,727.21	£356.48	£4,414.94	£0.00	£15,498.63

Income for period ending 31/3/25 (excluding Fabric)	
=	£15,498.63
Budgetted income requirement per week =	£1,296.53
Budgetted income requirement to 31/3/25 =	£16,854.89

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

Do you shop online?

Did you know by registering with 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 website.

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





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jdevilliers@churchofscotland.org.uk

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1143 Cathcart Road, Mount Florida, Glasgow, G42 9HF Tel: 649 8079

ROLL KEEPER: Hugh Millar hughmillar49@googlemail.com
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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 email the roll keeper (hughmillar49@googlemail.com) or complete the form below and forward it to Hugh Millar.

RUTHERGLEN OLD PARISH CHURCH

Name Date

is moving from Address

.....

Postcode

Tel. No.

to Address

.....

Postcode

Tel. No.

Please forward the completed form to

Hugh Millar
137 Blairbeth Road
Rutherglen
G73 5BU