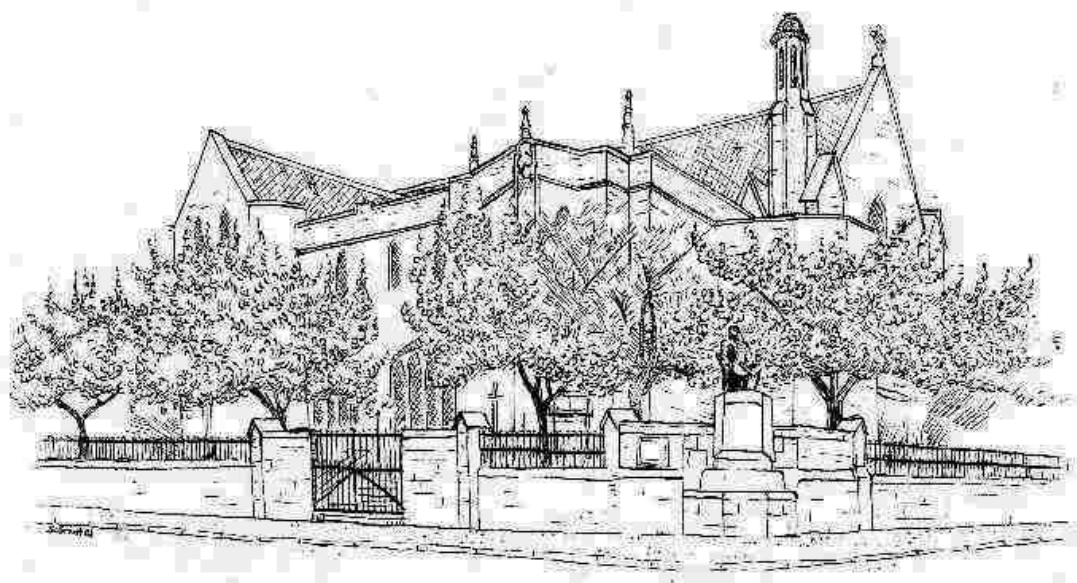


# The Church of Scotland



## Rutherglen Old Parish



## Church Newsletter

November 2025

Registered Scottish Charity

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ISSUE 4/25

# Christmas Message 2025



## Reflecting on the Passage of Time

Time seems to rush past at an incredible speed, or at least that is how it feels to us. In the Christian calendar, Easter now seems a distant memory, and once again, we find ourselves on the threshold of Christmas. If we do not consciously pause to take a breath, we will soon be swept into the new year almost without noticing.

The world around us is filled with a constant stream of news, headlines, rumours, stories, and the occasional fact. This flood of information can leave us feeling disoriented, as what appears to be true today may be dismissed tomorrow, and vice versa. Christmas, too, is celebrated amidst this blend of fact and fiction.

## The Story of “Silent Night”

Let me share a story with you. Imagine, if you will, a cold Christmas Eve morning in 1818, in the small Austrian mountain village of Oberndorf. A solitary figure makes his way along the road, the wind howling and his cloak twisting around him. Heavy snowfall limits his visibility, but he knows the way well, his feet carrying him along a familiar path even through a blizzard.

This man is Father Joseph Mohr (1792–1848), the local vicar, on his way to visit his friend Franz Gruber (1787–1863) in the neighbouring town of Arnsdorf. Mohr carries with him a poem he wrote two years earlier. With the midnight mass only hours away, he is in urgent need of a new carol. Despite the world’s chaos, he holds in his hand the words that would bring peace to millions. He hopes Gruber—who serves as the church’s choirmaster and organist—can set his poem to music.

Gruber agrees, believing he can do something with Mohr’s words. That afternoon, he composed a melody for the poem. However, the parish organ is out of commission due to recent flooding of the nearby Salzach River, so Gruber sets the music for guitar instead. A few hours later, Gruber and Mohr perform the new song at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf. That evening, the world hears for the first time the carol “Silent Night”.

## Fact and Fiction in Christmas Traditions

Is this story true? It is a mixture of fact and fiction. Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber indeed introduced the famous carol “Silent Night” on Christmas Eve 1818. It was indeed written for guitar and performed that night in St. Nicholas’ Church in Oberndorf. However, the tale of the broken church organ is likely a myth. Similarly, the story of the first Christmas, as many understand it, is a blend of fact and fiction.

The undeniable fact is that Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, who was the very first Christmas gift—God’s gift to the world. The fiction is the common portrayal of the Christmas story as a quaint, romantic tale, reminiscent of something like “Little House on the Prairie”, and the mistaken belief that it holds no relevance for the complexities of the 21st century.

## Who Was Jesus?

So, what do we truly know about Jesus? On paper, his credentials were hardly impressive:

- He was born to an unmarried mother and bore the associated stigma.

- He never married or started a family.
- He never held high political office.
- He was not a renowned military leader.
- He was not part of the religious establishment; he was neither a minister nor a bishop.
- His public ministry lasted only three and a half years, ending in his execution as a common criminal. At his death, his followers abandoned him.

Yet, what set this particular baby apart, considering thousands of others were born across the Roman Empire on the same day? Why do we focus on him, and how did his followers manage to so profoundly change the world within 300 years?

## Questions to Consider This Christmas

This Christmas, I invite you to consider why Jesus has had such a significant impact on our society:

1. Does it stem from his teachings?
2. Does it relate to the extraordinary claim that Christians make—that Jesus died and rose again? Or is that claim truly so extraordinary?
3. Is it because of his mission: to restore people everywhere to a relationship with God, a relationship broken by our wrongdoing or sin?

Whatever the reason may be, let us ask ourselves: can we really afford to ignore Him this Christmas?

## Congregational Roll

Change of Address:

Mrs Susan O'Donnell has moved home but remains in district 18 with Janet MacDonald as her elder. We wish Susan and her family well in their new home.

Hugh Millar has also moved home and been removed from district 15 but added to district 5 with Mary Clark as his elder.

The following member has been removed from the roll:

Name	Reason	District	Elder
Iris Clark	moved to Troon	9	R Stewart

## FORTHCOMING COMMUNION SERVICES

The main quarterly celebration of the sacrament of communion will take place during our service on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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



## Womans Guild

Once again the members of the Guild are enjoying each other's company on alternate Thursday afternoons. Recently we had a talk making us aware of how much power we use and waste in our homes. Our last meeting in the hall for this session is on the 11th December. And we have our Christmas lunch in the Burnside Hotel on the 18th December.

Margaret Alexander (president)

## 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*

## Monthly Coffee Morning



We have had a busy summer, welcoming customers old, and new. It's good to hear the Greenhill Hall ringing with laughter and chat.

If you haven't already visited, we are open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from 10am till Noon, and we shall be very happy to see you. We serve Tea/Coffee and Cakes, and there is also marmalade, tablet and cakes for sale, to enjoy at home.

Please join us.

The Coffee Crew  
ALISON, CAROLINE, MARJORY & SANDRA

## World Mission News



Our Mission Partner, Rev Muriel Pearson is home from the Holy Land. She is now working as an Interim Minister with Forth Valley and Clydesdale Presbytery. We thank her for her time in Jerusalem, working under extreme difficulties, and wish her Blessings in her new position.

Our other Partner, Anne Davidson, has had IT problems in Zambia, hence the reason she was out of contact for a while. She has been home on family leave, to visit her Mum and Dad. She was leaving the day after I was in touch.....'back to my children and the heat' to quote Anne. Please remember her in your prayers, and all the street children for whom she lovingly cares.

**Marjory Greig**  
WMCONTACT

## Scrabble Group



We are meeting, once more, on Wednesday afternoons in the Session House at 2pm. Scrabble is an easy word board game, played by a maximum of 4 people per board. We have extra boards and will be happy to have folks join us, even on an occasional basis. We also enjoy tea and biscuits at these light hearted games.

The Scrabblers

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## 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 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.

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

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## Christian Aid



By the time you read this, our Annual Coffee Morning should have taken place in Stonelaw Parish Church. Last year was our turn and was very successful, so we are sure that this year will be no less so. We are blessed, in Rutherglen, with great support from local churches, and this is hugely appreciated by everyone at Christian Aid Headquarters. We all work well together, as a team, to raise funds. Speaking of which, we shall be hosting another Quiz in March, but more of that in the next Newsletter.

Very many thanks, again, to everyone who buys our tickets and attends our events. All the money donated goes to help those in dire need, giving them some dignity and assistance. Thank you also, to those in the congregation who save coins in 'wee boxes'. Those too, are very much appreciated.

CA Committee  
Jean & Marjory

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## Flower Fund Donor List November 2025 to February 2026

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 are 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 2025 – February 2026 Flower Donor & Delivery List

		<b>Donor</b>	<b>Driver/Deliverer</b>
November	02/11/25	Miss I Kay	Mrs I Campbell Mrs P Cumming
	09/11/25		Miss I Kay
	16/11/25	Miss E Paton	Mrs J Caldwell
	23/11/25	MS M&M Dobbin	Miss M&M Dobbin
	30/11/25		Miss A Bennet Mrs M Robinson
December	07/12/25		Mrs A Brown
	14/12/25	Miss A Bennet	Mrs J Keenan
	21/12/25	Committee	Mrs I Campbell Mrs P Cumming
	28/12/25	Committee / Miss A Millar	Miss I Kay
January 2026	04/01/26		Mrs J Caldwell
	11/01/26	Mrs S Stevens	Miss M&M Dobbin
	18/01/26		Miss A Bennet Mrs M Robinson
	25/01/26		Mrs A Brown
February	01/02/26	Miss A Millar	Mrs J Keenan
	08/02/26	Ms E Cunningham	Mrs I Campbell Mrs P Cumming
	15/02/26		Miss I Kay
	22/02/26	Mrs M Alexander	Mrs J Caldwell



## Christmas Carol Match

Just a little quiz to get you in the mood for Christmas.  
Match the lyrics on the left to the song title on the right?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| _____ 1. "In the meadow we can build a snowman"             | A. THE FIRST NOEL                         |
| _____ 2. "....Right down Santa Claus lane"                  | B. JINGLE BELL ROCK                       |
| _____ 3. "In the air there's a feeling of Christmas"        | C. RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER         |
| _____ 4. "Troll the ancient Yuletide Carol"                 | D. JINGLE BELLS                           |
| _____ 5. "Bearing gifts we traverse afar"                   | E. THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY                 |
| _____ 6. "Born is the King of Israel"                       | F. ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH           |
| _____ 7. "Seven Swans a swimming...."                       | G. WINTER WONDERLAND                      |
| _____ 8. "Where the treetops glisten, and children listen"  | H. O CHRISTMAS TREE                       |
| _____ 9. "From now on our troubles will be out of sight"    | I. AWAY IN A MANGER                       |
| _____ 10. "Dashing through the snow..."                     | J. DECK THE HALLS                         |
| _____ 11. "Jack Frost nipping at your nose"                 | K. JOY TO THE WORLD                       |
| _____ 12. "Gloria in excelsis Deo"                          | L. 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS                   |
| _____ 13. "Your branches green delight us"                  | M. HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS                 |
| _____ 14. "Then one foggy Christmas Eve, Santa came to say" | N. SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN          |
| _____ 15. "Giddy-up jingle horse, pick up your feet"        | O. WHITE CHRISTMAS                        |
| _____ 16. "It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth"     | P. WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE           |
| _____ 17. "Our finest gifts we bring, pa rum....."          | Q. THE CHRISTMAS SONG                     |
| _____ 18. "He's making a list, checking it twice"           | R. SILVER BELLS                           |
| _____ 19. "Let earth receive her King"                      | S. O HOLY NIGHT                           |
| _____ 20. "The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head"  | T. HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS |



Once completed if you put your name below and drop it in the box in the vestibule by **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December**, you could win a little surprise for your Christmas stocking!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Good Luck  
Gordon Spence



We were pleased to welcome Robin Stewart as an elder on Sunday, 31st August. Robin will be overseeing districts 9 and 12 and we encourage the members of these districts to welcome Robin into their homes when he visits them.

### A poem from Gaza

If I must starve,  
Let it be with dignity in my children's eyes,  
not with my hands tied by silence.  
Let the world witness  
that I did not bow to the hunger  
but stood, even as the sky emptied  
and the earth closed her mouth.

If I must starve,  
let it be while I still cradle my child's hope,  
not as a number lost in footnotes.  
Let the sea carry my name  
to the shores that forgot my people,  
and let the wind whisper:  
she fed love when bread was gone.

*Nour Abdel Latif, July 2025.*

We cannot tell the precise moment when friendship is formed.  
As in filling a vessel drop by drop, there is at last a drop that makes it run over;  
so in a series of kindnesses, there is at last one which makes the heart run over.

*James Boswell (1740 -1795) in his "Life of Samuel Johnson" published in 1791.*

### August Crossword Answers

							G					F
	P			C			O				R	O
	A			U			O				I	R
	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D			G	E
	T		N				N				H	V
	U		E				E				T	E
	R		M				S			F	E	A
	E		I				S				O	
	S		E		W						U	
				S	H	A	D	O	W	S	S	
						T			A	N	O	I
						E			N	U	E	
C	O	M	F	O	R	T		T		L	S	
					S						S	



## CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

		W F O	Open Plate	Other Income	Fabric	Total
B/f		£20,957.21	£821.41	£10,793.37	£9,323.88	£41,895.87
Jul	6	£170.00	£38.50	£105.00		£313.50
	13	£168.00	£39.47	£2,459.23		£2,666.70
	20	£230.00	£47.00			£277.00
	27	£2,630.00	£60.00	£0.14		£2,690.14
Aug	3	£236.00	£36.55			£272.55
	10	£75.00	£37.00			£112.00
	17	£278.00	£67.40	£60.36		£405.76
	24	£227.00	£32.00			£259.00
	31	£3,250.00	£13.00	£485.13		£3,748.13
Sep	7	£229.00	£16.12	£210.00		£455.12
	14	£180.00	£26.00			£206.00
	21	£233.00	£21.00			£254.00
	28	£2,622.00	£29.63	£257.90		£2,909.53
		£31,485.21	£1,285.08	£14,371.13	£9,323.88	£53,555.77

Income for period ending 30/9/25 (excluding Fabric) =	£47,141.42
Budgetted income requirement per week =	£1,296.53
Budgetted income requirement to 30/9/25 =	£50,564.67

**NB** Fabric Income includes £9023.88 insurance settlement

### 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](http://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](http://easyfundraising) website.

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





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

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



Our services are streamed live every week. Follow the link on our website [www.rutherglenoldparishchurch.org](http://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.

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

## ***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.

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### ***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  
38 Melrose Court  
Rutherglen  
G73 3DB