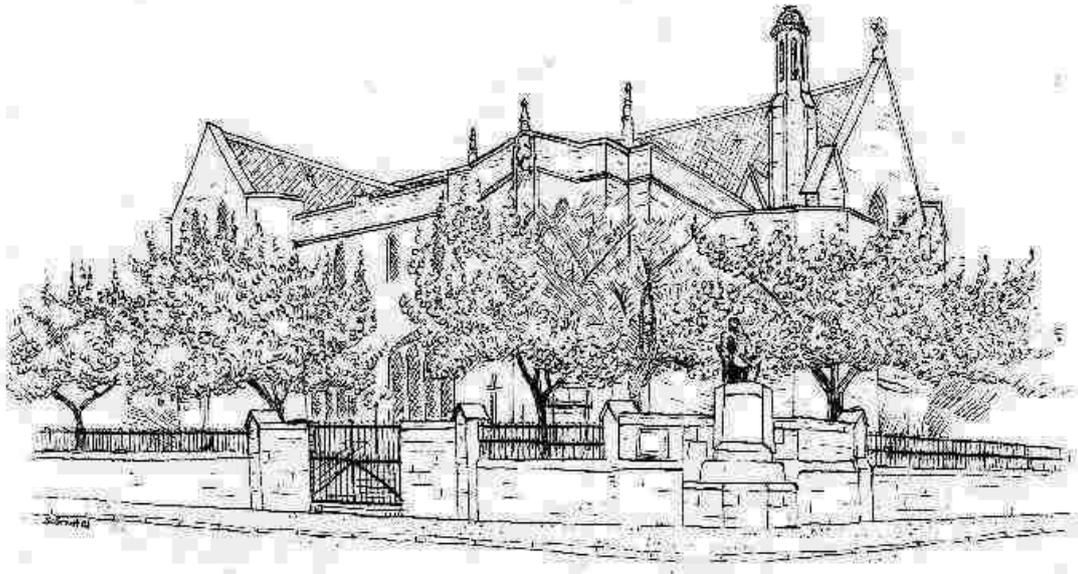


The Church of Scotland



Rutherglen Old Parish



Church Newsletter

February 2026

Registered Scottish Charity

Scottish Charities Number SC006856

ISSUE 1/26



Dear friends,

I can't believe that we are approaching February. January has rushed past but it is not too late to wish that we all have a healthy, happy and more peaceful year.

Mid December saw our Lessons and Carols service where we were ably supported by Gathered Voices. We all retired to the Greenhill Hall where we enjoyed a splendid Christmas Lunch.

The Salvation Army Band brought much joy to our Christmas Eve worship. The 31st December saw the departure of the Rev. Jean de Villiers. After a presentation we all enjoyed a buffet lunch.

Now we are on a journey towards a Church union. It has been a slow process but we must carry on, putting our trust in the Lord as we travel. We don't know where the journey will lead us but do remember that Abraham didn't have all the details either.

He put his faith in the Lord and was obedient. We too must be strong in faith and obedient to the Lord's commands.

I am delighted to be caring for the flock once more. Let us journey together and see where God leads us.

May you know God's richest blessings,
Katie



Thanks from everyone at Rutherglen Old to our Locum Katie for her guidance and support throughout 2025.

Congregational Roll

Change of Address:

We wish Lourens and Shaun de Jager well in their new home. Despite their move Lourens and Shaun remain in district 1, with Caroline Brodie as their elder.

The following members have died:

Name	District	Elder
Andrew Flockhart	6	M Robinson
Christine Hood	9	R Stewart
Elaine Robinson	1	C Brodie

Letter from Paul Cathcart our new Interim Moderator

Dear friends

It was wonderful to be able to come to worship with you on Sunday 25th January, a bit later than I had hoped to. It was great to be able to stay after the service and chat to folk and I get the sense there is a real energy around the congregation which is terrific to see as you enter a period of uncertainty. When a minister leaves, and especially at this time when the future of the congregation is in question, it can be daunting and as Interim Moderator my job is to share that journey with you and support you in whatever way I can. In the coming months Presbytery will establish a scheme of delegation which will look at the merits of each congregation and building and then decide which building will be retained after the union. This is no easy task, especially for the Kirk Session who will possibly be asked to make difficult decisions based on the report. I am pleased that I can be part of this journey with you and would want to be available for any questions or concerns you may have.

I can't promise what the outcome of the scheme of delegation will be, but I have lots of experience of presbytery planning so please don't sit in silence if there is anything you would like answers to. I think it is important to keep the congregation up to date with developments throughout the process so if there are things to say then I promise you will hear about them. It is also important that you feel you have a voice so I will pass on anything needed to the relevant people in Presbytery. In the meantime, worship will continue including communion. As a deacon I cannot celebrate the sacraments, though I can conduct wedding's. I will ensure a minister can come and lead communion services and any baptisms which may be asked for.

The days ahead may seem like a mystery, but the ways of God are a mystery and so is our faith. Amongst the angst that may be felt, may we all feel a sense that we are moving together with our friends in West and Wardlawhill as brothers and sisters in Christ. It is not easy for our neighbours either at this time but what is most important in all of this is that God is given the glory through the way we serve as Christians. It is important, as Katie reminded us when I was with you, that we trust God has a plan for the church even if we don't understand what that plan is. Whatever the coming months have in store, worship will continue and Christian service will continue as they have done for 900 years in Rutherglen. The church building stands as testament to many years of witness, and many people who have shaped our faith throughout the centuries. We are part of that no matter how uncertain things feel just now. We are the witnesses in our day and we follow generations who came before us. Let us celebrate that history and feel the honour that comes with being God's co-workers in our day. I look forward to working with you in these days to come.

Every blessing

Paul

FORTHCOMING COMMUNION SERVICES



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

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

As we enter a new year may I wish everyone a happy New Year, as we look forward to meeting our family and friends as before. Our secretary Marjory has arranged interesting speakers for the second half of our syllabus. We welcome ladies from the congregation to join us in an afternoon of friendship and good company.

Myra McNair (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

World Mission News



Around our troubled world, the Church of Scotland, and others, are spreading the word of God by caring for, and helping, the sometimes forgotten souls. Missionaries are dedicated in their vocation and know that God will look after them. An example is Anne Davidson in Zambia, who fearlessly cares for street boys and girls, some of whom have had horrific lives and are, therefore, difficult to cope with. Please remember them all in your prayers.

Marjory Greig
WMCONTACT

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.

Monthly Coffee Morning



We are delighted to report that our visitors have kept coming, in spite of inclement weather some Saturdays. The buzz of chatter and laughter is good to hear, as folks enjoy companionship and homebaking. We can always fit in some more customers, if you would like to come along on the 2nd Saturday of the month, at 10am till Noon.

Our December Coffee Morning was dedicated to Rutherglen and Cambuslang Foodbank. As a result of this, we were pleased to be able to pass on a cheque for £400, which was gratefully received. Thank you once more to everyone who supported this venture.

We were very happy to help organise our Congregational Christmas Lunch and also a Farewell Lunch for Rev de Villiers. Both were enjoyed by all who attended.

Thinking ahead, our June Coffee Morning will be held on Landemer Day, which this year is being celebrated on Saturday 6th June. This is because of Rutherglen 900, a year long celebration of 900 years of Rutherglen being a Royal Burgh. Various events are taking place throughout the year, with more information available at the Town Hall. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

The Coffee Crew

ALISON, CAROLINE, MARJORY & SANDRA

Scrabble Group



Our meetings take place on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm in the Session House.

Anyone who would care to join us will be made most welcome, even on an occasional basis.

The games are light hearted, and we manage to squeeze in a cuppa and biscuits.

The Scrabblers

Christian Aid



Workers from Christian Aid continue to attend to the needs of folks requiring assistance and guidance throughout the world. Your donations help farmers grow crops, and women learn to sew on machines. Help is given to purchase a goat or some chickens, or to get fresh water from a well. All these things, and more, are made possible by ordinary people like us giving just a little of what we have. It is all greatly appreciated.

Our next fundraiser is a Quiz Night on Friday 13th March 2026 at 7pm, to be held in West and Wardlawhill Church Hall in Western Avenue. Tickets costing £5, including Tea/Coffee will be on sale. Hope to see you then.

CA Committee
Jean & Marjory



Flower Fund Donor List February - May 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

February - May 2026 Flower Donor & Delivery List

		Donor	Driver/Deliverer
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
March	01/03/26	Mrs M Robinson	Miss M&M Dobbin
	08/03/26		Miss A Bennet Mrs M Robinson
	15/03/26	Miss I Kay	Mrs A Brown
	22/03/26	Mrs A Louden	Mrs J Keenan
	29/03/26	Mr I Lindsay	
April	05/04/26	Ms E Cunningham	Mrs I Campbell Mrs P Cumming
	12/04/26		Miss I Kay
	19/04/26		Mrs J Caldwell
	26/04/26		Miss M&M Dobbin
May	03/05/25	Mrs A Louden	Miss A Bennet Mrs M Robinson
	10/05/25	Mrs S Stevens	Mrs A Brown
	17/05/25		Mrs J Keenan
	24/05/25		Mrs I Campbell Mrs P Cumming
	31/05/26		Miss I Kay



November newsletter 'Christmas Carol Match' answers

1. G, 2. M 3. R, 4. J, 5. P, 6. A, 7. L, 8. O, 9. T, 10. D,

11. Q, 12. F, 13. H, 14. C, 15. B, 16. S, 17. E, 18. N, 19. K, 20. I

Thanks to all who entered their sheet for the prize draw held at the Christmas Lunch. Congratulations to all the winners.

Dingbats

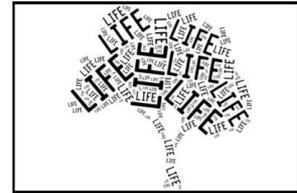
A little pictorial quiz this month. Please try and identify these parables, quotes or words found in passages from the bible. To quote a well-known TV show - 'say what you see'



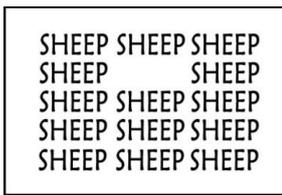
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3 _____



4 _____



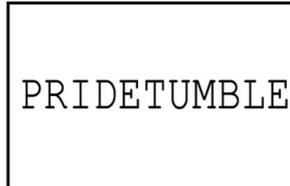
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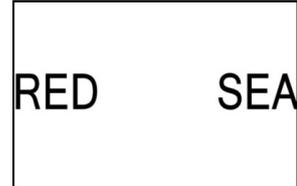
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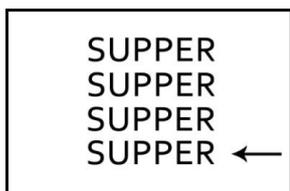
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9 _____



10 _____



11 _____



12 _____

Good Luck
Gordon Spence



Sunday the 28th December was the final service conducted by the Rev Jean de Villiers whose ministry at Rutherglen Old Parish ended on 31st December 2025. Our Session Clerk, Dr Janet MacDonald, marked the occasion by making a presentation to Jean towards the end of worship which was followed by a most enjoyable buffet lunch.



We once again welcomed Gathered Voices to our Lessons and Carols service and all enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch after the service. Our thanks go to the coffee morning crew, and all their helpers for the hard work organising and serving the lunch.

The Swing of Life

Life is just a great trapeze
Swinging to and fro
It takes us to its upmost crest
Before returning low.

Our hopes arise and up we soar,
Onto the dizzy heights.
Seeing things so clearly,
Our future – sparkling bright.

That's when the swing begins its fall,
Obeying "Newton's Law".
Returning us so quickly,
Into the depths once more.

Depression sets upon us,
Our spirits sink so low.
We feel we've been forsaken,
Our worries start to grow.

No matter what we strive to do,
Or just how hard we try.
We can't dictate direction
This great trapeze should fly.

The only thing that we can do,
Is simply hang on tight.
Keep ourselves from falling,
Whilst life is in full flight.

So long as we can stay there,
Our emotions will take wing.
Then know there's lots to live for,
And await its reverse swing

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

	W F O	Open Plate	Other Income	Fabric	Total
B/f	£31,485.21	£1,285.08	£14,371.13	£9,323.88	£56,465.30
Oct					
5	RWW			£350.00	£350.00
12	£285.00	£56.00		£350.00	£691.00
19	£117.00	£41.00			£158.00
26	£2,990.00	£63.00	£2,622.57	£1,330.00	£7,005.57
Nov					
2	£237.00	£26.00			£263.00
9	£216.00	£144.60	20		£380.60
16	£186.00	£116.71	£1,047.90		£1,350.61
23	£198.00	£26.00	20		£244.00
30	£2,549.00	£25.00	£817.63		£3,391.63
Dec					
7	£215.00	£150.00	£2,660.00		£3,025.00
14	£294.00	£7.00	£20.00	£275.00	£596.00
21	£188.00	£246.00	£19.00		£453.00
28	£2,717.00	£26.00	£854.58		£3,597.58
* 31				-£10,353.88	
	£41,677.21	£2,212.39	£22,452.81	£1,275.00	£74,373.71

Income for period ending 31/12//25 (excluding Fabric) =	£66,342.41
Budgetted income requirement per week =	£1,296.53
Budgetted income requirement to 31/12//25 =	£67,419.56

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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PLEASE NOTE: Anyone wishing to consult the Locum 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 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.

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