Contact

February 2025 No. 440

The Magazine of Lenzie Old Parish Church

A date for your diary!

The first Sunday of the month, Family service and Kids Club, Lenzie Old Parish Church.

Be great to see you all!

Sunday 2nd February, 11am
Sunday 2nd March, 11am
Sunday 6th April, 11am
Sunday 4th May, 11am
Sunday 1st June, 11am

Coffee and Cake will be shared after the service.

Best wishes,

Julie

Rev. Julie Hearty

PRAYER

Are you in need of some Good News, some positive message of Hope, some Grace? Then take up Christ's invitation that he offers in Matthew's Gospel (Chapter 11) in the “Message” :

“ Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me - watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of Grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”

and in John (Chapter 20) :

Jesus said to his disciples “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” He breathed on them and said “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Take a moment to be aware of your breath, thank God for it and Pray :

“Come Holy Spirit …….....breathe your breath into me that I may be your New Creation and breathe into life those I hold before you”

Liz Laird(Prayer Co-ordinator)

EASY FUNDRAISING

Please make a difference to Lenzie Old Parish Church by raising free donations whenever you shop online. Sign up and support the church on #easyfundraising and earn free donations when you shop with over 8,000 brands. All the big names like Tesco, M&S, Argos and Just Eat are ready to donate at no extra cost to you. Please sign up today and the church gets a £5 bonus.

Sign up at
https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/lenzieoldparishchurch/B5QC4L/s2s/s5mCzfHw/R3049/facebook/

SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY

Thanks to all who donated or supported the Bible Society in two recent fund-raising events. The first was our annual quiz, which raised £343. The winner this year was Dr Joan Ross from Lenzie Old!

The second event was our Burns Coffee morning on Jan 25th. This event was in doubt until the last minute due to the storm, so we were delighted by a large turnout from all churches in the area and the total of £519. There was a definite air of celebration that we were there to tell the tale!

Including donations after the events we have been able to send a cheque for £1040 to the Scottish Bible Society.

Thanks to all for the support on behalf of the Scottish Bible Society

Lorna Hall

CHRISTIAN AID

Thanks to all who have continued to use and fill small boxes and other containers for Christian Aid during 2024. I realise fewer folk have loose change as they use debit cards or phones for financial transactions, but the need for aid never goes away. There is now a supply of boxes on the table in the vestibule.

Our total banking for Lenzie Old alone during 2024 was £2733.98 from all sources and events.

On Saturday 25th March, Lenzie Old will be the venue for a "Drop In" morning for Christian Aid reps from East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and North East Glasgow. As well as a get together, we will be given an update on current projects and Christian Aid Week 2025.

No one should have to live without the hope of a better life

It's easy to feel powerless when we hear of the overwhelming challenges caused by global conflict, climate emergencies, injustice and exploitation.

At Christian Aid we believe that no one should have to lose their children to malnutrition or disease – when the means to save them are within our reach. No one should have to live without the hope of a better life, when there are simple and practical ways for people like Sadeq, from Afghanistan, to lift themselves out of poverty.

Sadeq was a proud shepherd before war and insecurity meant he and his family had to move to Herat. Left paralysed from a mine explosion Sadeq had little choice but to beg to feed his family.

"Other than this aid, there is no help for my family. Without it there would be no food tonight. The biggest problem my family faces is poverty and half of the Afghan population share this with us."

Too many people throughout the world are living in extreme poverty – people like Sadeq who is no different to us, except for the circumstances of his country and the impossible odds he faces every day of his life.

With every new project and every day that passes, we see the impossible become possible. Family by family, community by community, people are transforming their own lives. And we can help – inspired by our Christian faith and a belief that change is possible, fuelled by the amazing progress we see every day.

Thank you on behalf of Christian Aid for all your support.

Lorna Hall, Coordinator, Kirkintilloch and Lenzie Action Group

COME & SING

We continue to have around 70 members attending each meeting. We are happy to be joined occasionally by small groups from various care homes in East Dunbartonshire. They very much enter into the spirit of the day, particularly by their dancing.

In December, 75 of us celebrated with a Christmas dinner in the hall. This was very much enjoyed by all!

We're delighted that eight 5th year students from Lenzie Academy have been joining us as part of a care module. They're relaxing in our company now, making friends and are bemused by our songs. The added bonus is that they are becoming experts at stacking chairs and tables, for which we are very grateful!

We have been invited with the Thursday club to this year's Spring Fling in Lenzie Academy on March 25th. This is an event we all really enjoy, when we will be entertained with music and refreshments.

Our forthcoming guests are The Silver Singers from Kilsyth in February and the Nanas and Papas in April. At the other sessions we just enjoy singing favourites old and new, celebrating birthdays and all make great use of the "chat time". The biggest challenge for those leading is trying to pause the chat!

The Happy Songsters continue to visit care homes, both in the Kirkintilloch area and Bearsden, where they are very well received. Thanks to those who support this venture.

From the committee and the 15 Yellow Shirts!

P.S. Anyone is very welcome to come along and don a yellow shirt, help lay out the hall or help with transport!

THE CRAFT GROUP

The craft group have been busy making items for KINDNESS. We also had a talk at Timeout from the ladies who started up this wonderful Project. They run this charity as volunteers. We are continuing to support this very worthwhile cause.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON CLUB

We now have an average of 28 members meeting every fortnight in the Church Hall from 2 till 4pm and everyone enjoys these afternoons.

We are as always very grateful to those who provide transport, bake and help set up, make tea and tidy up!

Our Christmas Party was a big success.

We were entertained by the Church Choir which was organised by Jane Stirling who sadly couldn't come along on the day and we are very grateful to Stanley Howie who played the piano at short notice and accompanied David Calder on his flute.

We had a lovely afternoon tea, some games and finished the afternoon by singing Christmas Carols together.

We have been invited to Lenzie Academy on Tuesday 25th March for their annual Spring Fling which is always very enjoyable. This is on a Thursday Club week so we will not meet on the Thursday.

One of our members and elder of the Church was 90 years old on 30th January.

Ruth Cribbes is pictured here blowing out her candles.

As always, anyone interested in coming along or helping in any way, please contact me.

Mary Calder

KIRKINTILLOCH MALE VOICE CHOIR

The Annual Concert of the Choir takes place on the evening of Saturday 5th April at St. Mary's Parish Church, Kirkintilloch. The varied repertoire ranges from music associated with Irving Berlin to John Rutter, Elvis Presley to The Righteous Brothers and a well loved piece from the Wizard of Oz.

John Rutter music is of course very popular with our Church Choir and the programme will include his beautiful "Gaelic Blessing" which is one of his many compositions that our organist Jane has chosen as a Sunday Anthem over the years.

The main attraction from a Lenzie Old perspective is a specially chosen piece dedicated to the memory of the well loved Jane Gibb who of course faithfully served the Church Choir for over 30 years.

This piece has been chosen by Alex and his family both in Milngavie and Australia and the piece has been specially arranged by the Choir MD Sally McLellan.

Alex will of course be taking part in the concert and is looking forward to performing the item in Jane's memory with the support of his Male Voice Choir colleagues including myself. Tickets costing £10 are available from me for anyone interested in attending the Concert.

David Calder

GIFT AID

It’s been a while since I had an article in Contact about Gift Aid. This is a simple way to increase the church’s income. In 2024, Lenzie Old Parish received a repayment of £12,092.58 from HMRC. For every £1 of offerings/donations received from members registered for Gift Aid, the church receives 25p. To be eligible to register you must be a UK taxpayer. If registered for Gift Aid there are three ways of giving – Standing Order, Free

Will Offering or annual/bi-annual cheque, the most popular being Standing Order.

To register, a form must be completed giving name, address and signature. Confidentiality is paramount therefore only the Treasurer, one other member of the Finance Committee and myself have access to members' offerings/donations.

With the church's rising costs, I would ask you to please consider signing up and I would be very happy to provide further information.

If already registered and you stop paying income tax would you please let me know.

Vina Burns
Gift Aid/FWO Convener

CONTACT MAGAZINE

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles, there would be no magazine without you. Articles for the next edition of contact should be submitted by Wednesday 7th May 2025. Pictures to accompany the articles will also be appreciated, ideally in JPG or PNG format.