

THE MAGAZINE
OF
NEW LAIGH KIRK
Church of Scotland
KILMARNOCK

Scottish Charity No.:SC031334

April 2026



"A caring welcoming church at the heart of Kilmarnock reaching out to all"

Minister: Rev. David S Cameron, 1 Holmes Farm Road, Kilmarnock (525416)

Session Clerk: Mr Derek I'Anson

Depute Clerk: Mrs Margaret Patterson

Community and Families: Amy Tanner

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY

11.00 a.m.
11.00 a.m.

MORNING WORSHIP

Ignite Children's Church (Age 4 --Primary 7)
Trekks (11-17 years)
Contact: Amy Tanner (07980 665432)

MONDAY

7.15 p.m.

7.30 p.m.

Guild (every second Monday)
Contact: Lesley Wright (523039) or Elspeth Dale (01292 541240)
Highlights (Mondays as per syllabus)
Contact: Eileen Murphy (543488)

TUESDAY

10.00 - 11.00 a.m.

7.00 p.m.

Little Seeds (Babies - 4 year olds)
Contact: Amy Tanner (07980 665432)
Session Meeting (Dates as arranged)
Contact: Mr Derek I'Anson (07989 473142)

WEDNESDAY

6.00 to 7.15 p.m.

6.00 to 7.30 p.m.

7.45 to 9.15 p.m.

Rainbows
Contact: Sheena Baillie (07749 617204)
Brownies:
Contact: Fiona Malcolm (07903 212703)
Guides
Contact: Fiona Malcolm (07903 212703)

THURSDAY

7.00 p.m.

Vestry
*Contact: Rev. David S Cameron (525416) /
Mr Derek I'Anson (07989 473142)*

FRIDAY

6.00 to 7.00 p.m.

7.15 to 9.00 p.m.

7.00 to 9.30 p.m.

Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys (5 to 8 years)
St. Marnock's Halls
Contact: Mr Stewart Chapman (07745162694)
Boys' Brigade Junior Section (8+ to 11 years)
St. Marnock's Halls
Contact: Elaine Park (533464)
Boys' Brigade Company Section (11+ to 18 years)
New Laigh Kirk Hall *Contact: Mr David McDonald (544037)*

Safeguarding Coordinator: Ian Anderson

Safeguarding Panel Members: John Dale, Bill Sherry and Ellen Stewart



New Laigh Kirk Manse
April 2026

Hello Folks

Are you looking forward to Easter? I always do. I particularly like the journey we take through from Palm Sunday through Holy Week. In the church, Palm Sunday used to be just that, Palm Sunday. Now in many places it is Palm and Passion Sunday and the reason is a little uncomfortable. Too many of us were missing the services in the middle of the week. We were moving straight from '*Hosanna!*' to '*He is risen!*' without passing through the journey of Holy Week events to '*Crucify him!*' Who wouldn't prefer celebration to sorrow? Most of us would happily wave our palm branches and avoid the cross altogether, but the real Holy Week refuses to be avoided.



That first Palm Sunday was full of hope. The people wanted a king who would solve their problems. They were tired of waiting for change. Palm Sunday wasn't just a parade; it was a protest. Their world, much like ours, was broken by systems that chewed up the poor, and leaders who spoke of peace while sharpening swords. They waved those branches because they wanted someone to relieve them of the oppression they endured. Jesus didn't enter Jerusalem the way people

expected. He came humbly, riding a donkey, and when the cheers died down, he wept over the city.

If we follow this same Jesus, the road leads not to a throne, but to a cross. Holy Week reveals a different kind of kingdom, one where the least are greatest, the meek inherit the earth, and love proves stronger than death. It is a bittersweet account and stubbornly alive.

As Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Day fast approach, the invitation is simple - stay for the whole story. Wave your branches. Share the meal. Keep watch in the garden. Stand at the cross. Because the road to resurrection always runs through this week of broken bread and fierce love, and here is the promise that carries us through: nothing, not failure, not suffering, not even death can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

Whether your *'Hosanna'* is a shout of joy or a whispered plea, it is heard.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

May the joy of this Easter Season fill your hearts and homes with peace and may the hope of Christ lead you forward in faith.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The script is cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.



Holy Week and Easter Services 2026

Maundy Thursday Services:

There will be two **Maundy Thursday** services.

At 6.30 p.m. a service will be held at the Salvation Army in Sturrock Street.

Holy Trinity Church will host a service at 7.30 p.m. This will include the traditional Stripping of the Altars ceremony, leaving the church bare of decorations prior to the solemn observation of Good Friday.

Good Friday Walk of Witness (Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches):

Meeting at the Salvation Army.

Start at 10.45 a.m. beginning at Sturrock Street and walk towards the Cross.

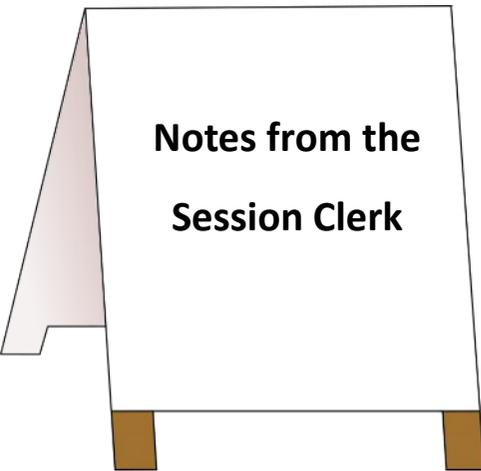
Good Friday Vigil: hosted by New Laigh Kirk

12 noon prompt start, concluding at 3.00 p.m.

Easter Sunday:

Easter Communion Service in the Kirk yard beginning at 8.30 a.m. followed by breakfast in the halls.

Easter Celebration Service 11.00 a.m. followed by **Easter Celebration Garden Party** in the Kirk Yard.



Notes from the Session Clerk

Hello everyone.

The next Communion will take place on Sunday 3rd May. There will be a lunch provided for the Elders' following the service.

As already advertised in the magazine we invite the congregation to what has now become an annual event, our Easter Garden Party. Easter day is a busy and joyful day. We start the day with a most poignant short communion in the church yard at 8.30 a.m., followed by breakfast in the hall. Great moments of fellowship.

The Easter service starts at 11.00a.m., followed by the buffet lunch which, if the weather holds (and my contacts assure me that yet again it will be a fine sunny day!), will be served in the church gardens. We will have a few chairs outside for those who cannot stand for any length of time.

Which brings me to an appeal: does anyone have a garden bench that is now surplus to requirements? We would place it permanently beside the large planters at the porch doors.

Derek l'Anson

Thought for the Day

I will try to strengthen my mind. I will study. I will learn something useful. I will not be a mental loafer. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration.



Vivid Vision

Recently we've been thinking a lot about what New Laigh Kirk means to people — the warmth, the welcome, the care. And we want to make sure we keep being that kind of church in the years ahead. That's why we're starting something called Vivid Vision. It's simply a way for us to look forward together and think about where God might be leading us next.

Vivid Vision isn't about changing who we are. It's about imagining what life at NLK could look like in a couple of years.

- What does worship feel like?
- How do we support each other?
- How do we stay connected with Kilmarnock?
- How do we show God's love in ways people can really see and feel?

It challenges us to consider what we do well and what is harder for us to do. By considering these questions, we can start to answer

yesterday's questions – where do we want to be in a few years' time and how do we get there?

Our congregation have been voting on potential priorities during February and a small working group will now consider these votes and begin to shape our Vivid Vision for NLK. Thank you to all who have shared your thoughts on this.

Our Vivid Vision will describe what a thriving, faithful Church of Scotland congregation in Kilmarnock will look like in 2–3 years' time. It is not a strategy or action plan, but a compelling picture of the future that will guide decision-making, prioritisation, and resourcing.

More information on this will be available in the Summer magazine as we aim to develop what this means for NLK.



Pastoral Care Group

Pastoral Care Group Invitation

The Pastoral Care Group will host a Spring Afternoon Tea in New Laigh Kirk's Halls from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursday, 16 April. Come and enjoy time with friends whom you have not seen for a while. Relax in their company as you enjoy entertainment and a good afternoon tea. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to book a place so that we can estimate numbers for catering. To book a place, contact Sheena MacPherson at 01563-524660 or Barbara Graham at 01563-522108.

Door to door transport can be provided if required. Please give ample notice if you need this so that we can arrange for a driver to contact you.



Eco-Congregation- A flying start to 2026!

I love spring; I love being out and about, taking walks through the park in-between the farmland and watching the newborn lambs gingerly find their way with their mothers in the fields. I love the longer days (well actually it is more about preferring a commute in daylight) but I love knowing that some spring sunshine is on its way. And it usually brings a burst of spring cleaning to Chez Paton. And judging by the response to our extended recycling, you have all been having a bit of a clear out as well!



Our extended recycling calendar (more details are elsewhere in this bulletin) has meant that we are now able to recycle empty medicine blisters, with a carrier bag full being taken to Boots each week. In addition, I have handed in over 60 pairs of unwanted spectacles to Specsavers. In both cases, the medicine blisters and glasses are sent to a partner location to be separated and broken down into the different components for recycling and are made into other things.



Both ideas came from members of our congregation. And the ideas are still coming – we are looking into recycling of ink cartridges so more info will be available soon.

Reducing what we waste in our lives is not only about recycling, but what we can also reuse or repurpose. All of these contribute to reducing what is sent to landfill, and ultimately, impacts on climate change.

In January, the Highlights held an auction with funds raised for charity. At the auction, the ladies made bids for donated items, which were either unwanted gifts, or surplus to requirements. As they say, one person's trash is another person's treasure, and the auction allowed these items to be re-used, rather than disposed of. To encourage and support this sort of waste reduction, another flyer has been developed and is included in this magazine for you to pull out and keep at home as a reference.

Another key aspect of our actions against climate change is to improve our sustainability, and our energy efficiency within the church buildings. Our property team has been busy installing improved, brighter and more efficient lighting in the vestibule of the halls. Not only is it looking brighter and using less energy, but this is also a fantastic example of how we are all working together to achieve our gold award.

As well as our recycling, the Eco group has been busy planning and launching our pollination project. This piece of work will contribute immensely to our gold award evidence for developing biodiversity, as well as outreach. This is being carried out with Community Open Gardens, Shortlees (COGS) and EACHa recovery group. In addition, we have three schools involved in an outdoor activity and linking, where possible, with care homes visited by our pastoral care group. Onthank Primary School and Hillhead Primary School will plant and grow flowering tubs for us and will donate them to Crossgates and Graceland Nursing Homes respectively. This will allow residents to enjoy a burst of colour in their outside spaces but as the children are planting pollinating flowers, this helps the bees as well. Willowbank School will explore outdoor learning with their young people for their

own outdoor space. Argyll House will not miss out though. We are actively seeking alternatives for their residents to also enjoy and will donate some bird feeders to the care home.

Sticking with biodiversity, we are hoping to plant some wildflowers in the church yard and are exploring the hows and wheres to do this. We have also been gifted two “build a house” seed boxes from the Guild, and will put these to good use as part of this work as well.

But our community outreach has not stopped there!!! By the time that you are reading this, our first NLK community litter pick for 2026 will have taken place on Sunday 22nd March, leaving the halls at 1.30.

Photos will follow in the next bulletin (promise!)

There will also be a summer of litter picks in conjunction with Kay Park Parish and St Marnock’s around the three parishes. We will be supported by the Rapid Relief Team who will have some hot drinks and hot roll lunch ready on our return. It would be fantastic to see NLK friends and families supporting these events:

- **Howard Centre 11/04/26**
- **New Laigh Kirk 20/06/26**
- **Kay Park 12/09/26**

Part of the Eco Congregation work is to link environmental issues with Christian faith. To bring our community outreach, faith, climate change and eco work together, we have launched our first photography competition ,with photographs based around a theme of creation. Again, more info is elsewhere in this bulletin. We have been delighted to have sponsorship from local businesses for our prizes, and thanks are extended to HALO projects, Brownings the Baker, Karen Simpson Photography and Scotmid Coop. 12 entries will be selected for a 2027 NLK fundraising calendar – more on that much later in the year!!

Our eco work does not stop with issues locally or even nationally, but reaches out across the globe. This has been the driver for the toilet

twinning that has been undertaken over the past two years and has now entered its third year of sponsorship.

Toilet twinning is in collaboration with Water Aid to improve access to hygienic sanitary conditions across the world. NLK are delighted to announce that we have sponsored two new locations for 2026 - another in Malawi and one in Nigeria. These locations are not picked randomly but are suggested from our mission partners or through our organisations. Malawi was also suggested in 2025 as part of the Guild visit; Nigeria has been suggested for 2026 as part of the World Day of Prayer.

It has been a fast-paced start to 2026 for the Eco group and it has been fantastic to see so much of this now coming to fruition. Not everything will appeal to everyone but please join in whatever and wherever you can. Remember, it is the small changes that matter. There has been so much going on since the last church magazine, I am sure that I have forgotten something. If I have, then I am so sorry – but it does show the amount of wonderful work that everyone is supporting in this space.

Thank you to everyone who shares their small changes with me on a Sunday, whether it is ideas for recycling, or doing your own litter pick, or even sharing hints and tips, I am very grateful and its wonderful for all of us working together to make that small difference.!

Elaine Paton



“Creation” Photography Competition

Are you a keen, amateur photographer? Are you passionate about celebrating Creation and/or eco sustainability? If so, then the first NLK photography competition may be for you! With some amazing individual prizes, thanks to our local sponsors, 12 images will also be selected for a 2027 NLK fundraising calendar and a possible exhibition in collaboration with HALO, Kilmarnock later in the year!!

There are two categories – secondary school pupils (from age 11-18), and those aged 18+. Entrants should live or work within the town, or attend NLK and can submit up to two photographs per entry.

Entry details and terms and conditions are listed on our website. Prizes include:

- £200 voucher sponsored by HALO Ltd, Kilmarnock
- £30 in store voucher and portfolio experience commission sponsored by Brownings the Bakers
- Iris Photography Voucher sponsored by Karen Simpson Photography

School entrants:

- Compact Camera sponsored by Scotmid
- Portfolio experience commission sponsored by Brownings the Bakers
- Amazon Voucher sponsored by Scotmid

The competition is open to NLK members and residents of Kilmarnock so get out there, enjoy a bit of nature and get snapping!

NEW LAIGH KIRK
PRESENTS...



Photography COMPETITION



ENTRIES OPEN FROM
MARCH 1ST - APRIL 26TH

SPONSORS:



HALO



KAREN SIMPSON
PHOTOGRAPHY



BROWNING'S THE
BAKERS



SCOTMID CO-
OPERATIVE

COMPETITION DETAILS:

Photograph theme: Creation

Two age categories:

- 1.) Ages 11-17
- 2.) Aged 18+

Open to anyone in the Kilmarnock area or students enrolled at Ayrshire college digital photography courses.

Entries limited to two photographs and must be in digital format.

No professional photographers please.

Prizes include vouchers, photography experiences, photoshoot.

FOR T&CS, PLEASE VISIT:

 www.newlaighkirk.com

SCAN THE QR
CODE TO ENTER



Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches' Debate Night

Some people say that faith and politics don't mix, but it is our civic duty to use wisely the vote which people strived for us to have. This is why the Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches is the only group locally which gives electors the opportunity to hear all the candidates for the Scottish Parliament Elections in a Hustings Debate. The fact that the Fellowship is apolitical is respected by the candidates and the audience. Freedom of speech is observed without descending into a slanging match.

This year's debate will take place in the Howard Centre from 7.30 to 9 p.m. on Friday 24 April. All candidates will be invited to attend to declare their manifesto and answer questions from the audience. Questions can be about any relevant issue which is important to you. You may wish to note that the Right Reverend Rosie Frew, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, has written to all Presbyteries in Scotland, urging churches to organise or attend Hustings Debates. Her letter suggests the following items affecting churches which can be raised at such meetings.

- Urge political leaders when making decisions to uphold the values inscribed on the Scottish Parliament's Mace: Integrity, Compassion, Justice, Wisdom.
- Consider the Church of Scotland's statement on the Assisted Dying Bill:
"Acknowledging the diversity of sincerely held theological views within our broad Church, we re-affirm the Church of Scotland's opposition to assisted dying".
- Urge MPs and MSPs to oppose the UK Government's decision to end the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, which let such places of worship reclaim VAT on repairs. This can add significantly to the cost of maintaining church premises.

HIGHLIGHTS

Firstly, a belated happy new year from all at the Highlights – at the time of writing, we are hoping that March will bring some better weather!



The Highlights ladies ended the year with a lovely Christmas night out at CentreStage, where we enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner, followed by a private screening of the Christmas film, Love Actually, in the auditorium. We all thoroughly enjoyed our evening, the film being a great hit, not only with those of us who could almost recite the script word for word, but also for quite a few of the ladies who had never seen it before.



Our January evening took the form of a 50p auction in aid of Ayrshire Cancer Support. The ladies all brought along unwanted gifts and we enjoyed some bidding wars and banter, as we tried to secure our chosen items.

By reusing these items, rather than disposing of them, we were reducing waste, therefore contributing towards our congregation's eco activities.

Our total raised was a fantastic £256.00, which we will add to the money raised at our quiz night in April, to form this year's donation to the charity. To all those who attended and / or donated, thank you for your generosity.

At the end of March, we will be celebrating all things Italian at our Taste of Italy event. The evening will include a welcome Italian cocktail and wine tasting, so please don't bring the car that night! We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Our annual charity quiz night is on Monday 27th April, and as usual the cost is £6 per person, with £5 going directly to the charity and £1 going towards the cost of refreshments. As before, we ask that teams are between 6 – 8 people, and there will be our usual raffle. Please give generously to this very good cause. We're looking forward to another great turnout from members, friends and visitors.

If you are a member of the Highlights, and are not in our WhatsApp group, please contact me with your mobile number and I will be delighted to add you. If you do not use WhatsApp, please let me have your email address so that we can keep in touch.

New members are always welcome, and for more information on the Highlights, please contact me on 543488 or 07887 541651, or any of the committee.

Eileen Murphy, Chairperson



Amy - Community and Families

Hello everyone!

After a rather wet winter, I'm very much looking forward to the brighter season ahead, as well as all the events and services we have planned for the Spring/Summer session!

Firstly, I'd like to update you on our Little Seeds baby and toddler group. Little Seeds is thriving! So much so, that we have had to cease any new members coming to the group, due to hall capacity, and have started a waiting list which is already filling up! Parents and grandparents of Little Seeds have already been asking for a second group to run due to its popularity! The Revive Group is ecstatic that the group has grown so much over the last two years. The success of Little Seeds is very much down to the magnificent group of volunteers who help to run the group so well. Between snacks and drinks for the children, refreshments for the adults, door registration, crafts, toys, games, songs, dances and so much more, each part of the group is led by a different person which makes the machine run as smoothly as it does. Thank you to all those who volunteer or take part in our Little Seeds group and for making it such a success!

Secondly, our Trekkers group is back into the swing of things with our Bible Tea series. Bible Tea runs one Sunday evening a month for young people aged 11-18 and offers young people the opportunity to come together to share a meal, join in with group discussions and explore themes of the Bible together. Recently, we had visits from Jill Young, the Scripture Union regional worker, along with a group of young people, who came to promote Magnitude; a youth focused worship

camp that we aim to take our Trekkers to one day this summer. We also had Elaine Paton, who explained our Vivid Vision work within the church and collected the Trekkers' thoughts and input to what our church should look like going forward.

Our next Bible Tea dates are:

- March 29th
- April 26th
- May 31st
- August 30th
- September 27th
- October 25th
- November 22nd

All our Bible Tea sessions run between 4:30pm-6pm in the church. For any questions about Bible Tea or Trekkers youth work, please feel free to contact me at: amy_bh@hotmail.co.uk

Thirdly, before the winter session, we began a new series of worship services called 'Church Unplugged'. Church Unplugged is a contemporary and informal style of worship service that welcomes people of all ages to come along and experience a welcoming atmosphere where people can come as they are and encounter the presence of God. Whether someone has followed Jesus for many years or is simply curious about faith, the service is designed to help people connect with God.

The service usually begins with music led by a live worship band, creating a space for people to reflect, pray, and focus on faith. This is followed by a message from the Bible that speaks into everyday life, offering hope, guidance, and encouragement. Throughout the service, there are also moments for prayer and reflection.

Our hope is that anyone who joins us will leave encouraged, refreshed, and more aware of God's presence in their life. Whether you are searching for faith, returning to church, or looking for a place to worship, we invite you to come and experience God's love with us.

The next Church Unplugged services, between 7pm-8pm, are:

- March 22nd
- April 19th
- May 17th
- June 21st
- July 19th
- August 16th
- September 13th
- October 18th
- November 15th

All are welcome!

Lastly, our annual Summer Club is only a few short months away and we're so excited to get started!

This year, our Summer Club will run **Monday 10th, Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th August**, between 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in our church halls on John Finnie Street. Our Summer Club is the perfect place for children in Primary 1-7 to learn, play, and make unforgettable memories during the holidays! Packed with exciting activities, from creative arts and crafts to outdoor/indoor games, team challenges, and themed adventure days-every day brings something new to explore. Our friendly, experienced group of volunteers create a safe and



welcoming environment where children can build confidence, make new friends, and enjoy an active summer. Whether your child loves being creative, energetic, or adventurous, our Summer Club offers a joyful mix of fun and learning that will keep them smiling all day! To book your child's place, please use the QR code beside this article or contact me on the email above.

As well as Summer Club fun, this year, we're also branching out with a new venture: Faith in Fitness! Faith in Fitness is a sports initiative that will run in June, July and August and is open for all kids and youth, age 5-18 who enjoy active and fun filled sports activities! More details are to follow, so please follow our social media pages for more details.

Amy

Thank-you

I want to thank my friends at New Laigh Kirk for all the cards and good wishes that have been sent to me since I went into hospital. I am now home and hopefully improving each day. This kindness to me from the church family is much appreciated.
From Moira Smith

LET'S UPCYCLE TOGETHER

Turn old into gold – creative ways to reuse and refresh!

Why Upcycle?

- Save money and reduce waste
- Give new life to old items
- Enjoy fun, social crafting together

Environmental Benefits of Upcycling

- **Reduces Waste:** Keeps items out of landfill and cuts down on rubbish.
- **Conserves Resources:** Less demand for new materials means saving energy and water.
- **Cuts Carbon Footprint:** Lower production and transport emissions.
- **Promotes Sustainability:** Encourages mindful consumption and care for creation.



What Can We Do?

1. Home Décor

- Tin Can Planters: Paint and decorate old tins for herbs or flowers.
- Glass Jar Lanterns: Add twine and tea lights for cosy lighting.
- Fabric Bunting: Use scraps from old clothes for colourful decorations.



2. Fashion & Accessories

- Scarf from Old T-Shirts: Cut and braid for a stylish accessory.
- Jewellery from Buttons: Create unique necklaces or bracelets.



3. Practical Items

- Shopping Bags from Pillowcases: Sew handles onto old pillowcases.
- Storage Boxes: Cover old shoe boxes with fabric or wrapping paper.

What Can We Do?



4. Seasonal Crafts

- Christmas Ornaments: Use old cards or fabric scraps.
- Easter Baskets: Repurpose old containers with ribbons and paint.

5. Furniture & Household Goods

- Paint & Refresh: Sand and paint old chairs, tables or shelves for a new look.
- Repurpose Drawers: Turn an old drawer into a wall shelf or planter box.
- Fabric Revamp: Recover cushions or stools with leftover fabric.



Sell or Swap Online

Upcycling isn't just about crafting – you can also give items a second life by selling or swapping them online:

- Vinted: Great for clothes, shoes and accessories.
- eBay: Perfect for homeware, books, and unique finds.
- Facebook Marketplace: Quick and local for all sorts of items.

Tip: Take clear photos, write honest descriptions, and set fair prices to make your listings stand out.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." — 1 Peter 4:10



New Laigh Kirk – Recycling Calendar

Following suggestions from the congregation, we are expanding our recycling capacity within NLK.

All the products listed below will be sent to local locations for onward recycling or redistribution. As space is very limited in the sanctuary, we are introducing a recycling calendar or schedule. This will enable us to support all the suggestions across 2026 whilst being mindful of storage etc in the church building.

Item	Months
Domestic batteries	All year
Medicine blister foils	All year
Specs/glasses	January, February, September
Cabling, phone chargers	March, August, September
Small electricals (eg toaster, kettle, iron)	April, May, October, November
Soft furnishing eg cushions, towels, bedding	June, July, December
Mobile phones	March, June, September

Please note:

- Small electricals (e.g. toaster, kettle, iron). These must be still working and undamaged for distribution via EACHa Fresh Start programme
- Soft furnishings will also be distributed to EACHa. Includes, bedding, towels, cushions, cushion cover.
- Mobile phones will be assessed by local trade in dealer or recycled. Any cash offered by dealer will be donated to NLK renovation fund.
- Medicine blister packs must be empty. Any blisters that still contain unwanted or unrequired medicines must be returned to the pharmacy for destruction.

Elaine Paton



DRAMA GROUP



Our pantomime “A Lad in Killie”, written and directed by Ann Burley, was a great success with all our 4 performances sold out. All monies generated from ticket sales and raffles will be used to pay for the upgrade of the hall sound system.



The fabulous pantomime cast

Our next performance will be a Comedy and Drama show on the 20th June with both a matinee and evening performance. These performances will consist of three short plays written and directed by Derek, Yvonne and Doreen - our very own drama group members. Again, all proceeds will be put back into the upkeep of the hall, as the group is extremely thankful for the use of this venue on a Tuesday night.



Open Doors in New Laigh Kirk

New Laigh Kirk is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 12noon to 2.00pm. The church will be open for those who want to come for a period of solitude or reflection, to see the stained glass windows from the inside or to find out some of the history of the church and town.

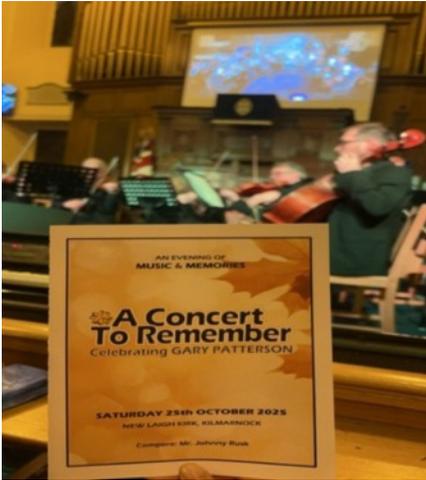
As some of our more elderly volunteers have decided to retire, and others are planning holidays, we urgently require some more volunteers during the spring and summer, especially on Wednesdays, to welcome the visitors, so if you could spare a couple of hours every month to six weeks, we would be delighted to hear from you. There will be the opportunity to volunteer on different days as volunteers are contacted in advance with suggested dates and shifts are arranged to suit people's commitments. This is an ideal opportunity to meet different people as you do not necessarily have to be on duty with the same people every month. We would be grateful if you could spare the time to help at a couple of sessions occasionally if you are unable to help on a monthly rota. Craig will open and close the church for you.

If you would like to be included in the rota, please speak to Helen Colman, E:helenmcolman@gmail.com. Remember that the more volunteers that there are, the less often you will be on duty!

Helen Colman

A Concert to Remember

Celebrating Gary Patterson 25th October 2025



As many of you will already know, my husband Gary and I, along with our elder daughter, Catherine were involved in a serious road traffic collision in July 2021. Sadly Gary died at the scene and both Catherine and I were admitted to hospital. In the aftermath of the crash, my family and I received support from many people, as well as two road safety charities, Brake and RoadPeace.

As New Year 2025 approached, it struck me that we should be celebrating Gary's 70th birthday on October 24th, and I wondered if I could organise a concert to mark his 'big' birthday', and at the same time raise much needed funds for Brake and RoadPeace. Gary had been a musician in HM Royal Marines Band Service for 7 years in the 1970s and after leaving the Marines, he had worked as a brass instrumental instructor in Ayrshire for over 40 years, teaching many pupils in that time, as well as conducting various bands and ensembles both in and out of school.

I asked 2 of Gary's colleagues, Steven Robson and Paul Wood, if they would help me plan the concert. Steven had worked with Gary at Cumnock Academy while Paul had been Gary's line manager in East Ayrshire Council's Instrumental Music Service; both were in contact with many of Gary's former colleagues and pupils. Over the months which followed, Steven, Paul and I met regularly in the Park Hotel over coffee to plan the concert and the programme began to take shape.

The concert took place on Saturday 25th October in New Laigh Kirk and I was thrilled with how it went. Every performance had a connection to Gary, including pupils he had taught, colleagues he had worked with, friends from the Ayrshire Symphony Orchestra, his cousin Linda, A

Chaired Taste, in whose concerts he had played, and with whom I now sing. Video footage taken during some of Gary's school band European concert tours was also shown on the screens. For me, a particular highlight was the



Soloist Josip Petrac



Gary's cousin Linda

performance of Gary's friend and colleague, the cellist, Josip Petrac. He played the solo in Ye Banks and Braes, a Burns song which meant a lot to me and Gary. Gary greatly admired Josip's talent, and many people have told me how much they enjoyed his performance.

During the planning process, Steven, Paul and I had discussed what would be the best way to end the concert. I was keen to see everyone leave the church with a smile on their face and Steven came

up with the brilliant idea of the audience singing that well known Killie FC anthem, Paper Roses – very apt as Gary had been a season ticket

holder at Rugby Park for many years!

My children, Catherine, Judith and Adam and I are very grateful to everyone who supported the concert in any way to help raise the fantastic total of £3480.

The concert is available on YouTube if anyone would like to see it – simply search “Gary Patterson concert”.

Miriam



A Choired Taste



Members of the Pastoral Care Group who attended the Dementia Friends training course at Alzheimer Scotland receiving their certificates.





It's been a busy time at 4th/5th Boys Brigade. Since Christmas we have visited Kilmarnock Fire Station to see what's involved with a career in the Fire Service, and to get a tour of the station and the fire engines. Continuing the emergency services theme, Margaret McGrath from St. Andrews First Aid visited to pass on her skills at First Aid and CPR techniques, as well as giving us all instruction on using a defibrillator. Hopefully we will never have to use one.

The boys participated in the Battalion Drill competition at Stewarton and a "Chase The Flag" event at Irvine organised by the North Ayrshire BB Battalion.



The Junior section has retained its title as winners of the East Ayrshire Battalion Supergroup by 1 point in a tight contest with Stewarton.

In the National Competitions we have had consistent success across all the events:

In the Masterteam the boys again reached the Scottish Final and were

placed 3rd.

In the Company Section 5-a-sides, 4th/5th Boys Brigade reached the Scottish Finals and were unlucky - narrowly missing out on a place in the competition final. It all hinged on the result of the last match, which did not go our way.

In table tennis, the team reached the last four in Scotland in an exciting and very close game, that went to the last point.

The chess team reached the last 8 in Scotland and, in a very close match, was beaten by a team from Irvine.

The 4th/5th Badminton team has been the most successful this year and has reached the National Final, which is being held on 25th April, when 2 teams each from Scotland, England and Northern Ireland will travel to Grangemouth to decide the title.



Badminton Team

Well done to everyone involved in those competitions - a great effort all round this year.

Thought for the Day

Start each day with a grateful prayer



In Christian Aid Week 2026, your support could help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to

feed their children. Most parents wake every day knowing that they must go and earn money, otherwise their children won't eat that evening. Fridah knows this reality well, but she's determined to protect her grandchildren from hunger.

Through Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope, Fridah has received tools, seeds and training to grow fresh vegetables in a small city space - food she can cook for her family or sell to earn income. Fridah is a recently widowed grandmother and the sole provider for her family. Rent, school costs, water and food all depend on what she can earn. There are two ways in which you can respond to the needs of millions of people like Fridah.

Christian Aid Concert

Friday 17 April, 7.30 p.m., at Kay Park Church

A feast of musical entertainment will have your toes tapping. The renowned Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra will be joined by 20 fiddlers from Barcelona who will be their guests at that time.

There will be an opportunity to buy the Orchestra's recordings. The concert will include a speaker who will talk about the work of Christian Aid. Refreshments will be provided at the close of the concert.

Please spread the word to your friends that this will be a night to remember. Doors will open at 7 p.m. No tickets are required as admission is free!



A collection for the work of Christian Aid will be taken and it is hoped that the audience will donate generously as the work of Christian Aid is needed more than ever in view of an escalating level of need around the world.

Christian Aid Week - May 10-16

Christian Aid envelopes will be available at Sunday worship where you will be invited to donate. UK taxpayers are encouraged to complete the Gift Aid Declaration to raise 25% extra for Christian Aid.

You may also contribute online.

We hope to hold a collection at Tesco Extra on Saturday, 16 May.

Volunteers to help with this collection should contact Helen Colman at helenmcolman@gmail.com

Further information online is at <http://www.caweek.org>.



The Guild



The second half of the Guild session opened on 12th January with a visit from an old friend as our speaker. Barbara

Graham has often come to our aid in the past when another speaker has had to cancel but this time she was on our syllabus in her own right. Her subject was Flora MacDonald, known to most of us only by association with Bonnie Prince Charlie and how she was involved in helping him escape capture, dressed as a serving maid, “over the sea to Skye.” Barbara expanded our knowledge of that story and also told us about the rest of Flora’s life, in which she crossed over the Atlantic Ocean and back again. An adventurous and hazardous life!

Our next speaker on 26th January was James Adams, whose topic was Kilmarnock, and in particular its association with Robert Burns. His talk was accompanied by photos of places all over the world with statues of Burns, of places in our town and area linked to Burns and of people, particularly writers who were influenced by Burns. We were also quizzed on our knowledge so we had to be on our toes! As well as being a most interesting and amusing speaker, James helped dry the dishes. He can come back any time!



James Adams
drying dishes

On 9th February we were hosted by St Marnock’s Guild – the third time we have joined up to hear a speaker from one of the Guild projects. This makes it easier for them to cover as many guilds as possible and this time it was a speaker from CrossReach, the Church of Scotland social care charity, telling us about ‘Playful Beginnings.’ This project helps parents of very young children who are experiencing

difficulties, especially with their mental health or they might just feel unable to cope with the challenges of new parenthood. The Guild has already given them more money than they had hoped for, so they are going to be able to help groups in Inverness and the Highlands, as well as Glasgow and Edinburgh. Great news!



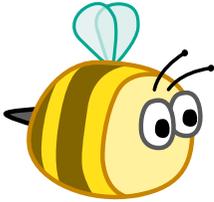
At our most recent meeting on 23rd February we were entertained by Tom and Sheila Adams. They were billed as SMT but their friend Mary was unwell and unable to sing. However, they still gave us a most enjoyable evening with a range of music from Scottish songs to Elvis, The Beach Boys and ABBA. Their singing was all accompanied by photos and historical background and Tom gave us a quiz on adverts from the birth of commercial TV. He sang the first lines and we sang the rest. “You’ll wonder where the yellow went.....” – we did not miss one! It was a great night which lifted the spirits!

On Wednesday afternoon, 25th February, nine members of our guild attended the Ayrshire Guilds Together meeting in the Howard Centre. We were treated to a delicious afternoon tea and great entertainment from Good Question, a trio who sang a varied selection of music and made us laugh with their jokes and stories. A very enjoyable afternoon in the company of guild members from all over Ayrshire.

We have our AGM on 9th March and finish with a trip to the police stables outside Stewarton and lunch at the Glasshouse at Rowallan. And then we close till our summer meetings. Time flies when you’re having fun!

Lesley Wright.`

NLK Eco Group Diversification and Pollination Project



In the Christmas 2025 issue of our Kirk Magazine, we reported that as part of our journey towards achievement of the Eco-Congregation Scotland Gold Award, we were planning a sustainable garden-based project, aimed at encouraging more wildlife and different types of wildlife in gardens and outdoor spaces within our community. In addition, the criteria for the Gold Award include connection and cooperation with new organisations and people, including people who have not been involved previously in an 'Eco' activity.

Tubs of flowering plants, and later bulbs, will be donated to Care Homes and individuals within our parish. Onthank Primary School and Hillhead Primary School have partnered with us through this project and will grow tubs of flowers and donate to Crossgates and Gracelands care homes. Willowbank School is also participating and will grow pollinating flowers for their young people to enjoy in their outdoor space. We are hoping to donate some bird feeders or bird houses for residents in Argyll House, to allow them to share in the biodiversity and enjoyment of this project.

Grown vegetables will be donated to local Food Banks and organisations providing food to vulnerable people. We have delivered one bag of second early potatoes and one bag of maincrop potatoes, plus an onion set, to two EACHa gardening groups who work in partnership with Community Open Gardens, Shortlees (C.O.G.S). One of the groups helps look after the cholera grave in Howard Park and

also hopes to grow a few veg and flowers in a very small outdoor area to the rear of new EACHa/Recovery Hub in John Dickie Street. The other is a new project called “Oor Wee Veggie Group”, also in association with C.O.GS. We are delighted to be working with EACHa groups and will be working shortly with the Women’s Group.

We are also working with our uniformed youth organisations, in addition to the schools.

Eco group members and friends are happily very busy now, - and we hope the growing activities of our participants will lead to a greater diversity of wildlife visiting our gardens and open spaces, and to small birds, butterflies and bees happily and successfully gathering lots of pollen!

We’d very much like YOUR help. Here’s how:

- By donating a packet or two of seeds from the list at the foot of this article.
- By donating a small bag of Peat-free Compost
- By donating a biodegradable seed tray or seedling pot
- By donating a SUSTAINABLE (ceramic, wooden or metal) container. It can be one you no longer need.
- Experienced gardeners - by sharing your knowledge and expertise. (If you want to know more, speak to a member of the Eco Group)
- Offering spare Greenhouse space.
- Growing pollinating seeds (including wildflower seeds) or plants in your own garden, hanging basket, tub or window box.

Pollen-rich FLOWER seeds for early SPRING sowing:

- Aster, Antirrhinums, Petunia, Marigolds, French Marigolds, Sweet Pea, Pansy, Viola, Nasturtium, Salvia, Sunflowers (any type), Nicotiana.

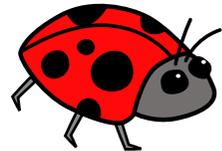
Vegetable Tubers and Seeds for early Spring sowing or planting

- Seed Potatoes 1st or 2nd Early
- Runner Beans
- Garden Peas
- Onion Seeds or Onion Sets
- Shallot Seeds (long varieties) or Shallot Sets
- Lettuce Seeds Mixed
- Leeks
- Carrot Seed any type
- Broccoli seeds (purple flowering)
- Spring Onions
- Cabbage seeds
- Cauliflower Seeds
- Mixed Peppers (Capsicums)
- Tomato Seeds (main crop or cherry)

Please hand packets of donated seeds to any member of the Eco Group: Elaine Paton, Jan Lamberton, Ellen Stewart, Charles Sim or Craig McCance.

By working together, we can achieve more.
Thank you!

Ellen Stewart





The World Day of Prayer 2026 took place in New Laigh Kirk on 6th March at 2pm. For anyone who is not familiar with this event, it takes place annually on the first Friday in March and is an ecumenical service written by a group from a different country every year. It is usually a group of women, because it started life as the Women's World Day of Prayer and was organised through women's church organisations, such as the Guild, and does tend to focus on the issues faced by women throughout the world.

This year it was written by women in Nigeria and dealt with problems such as being a widow with children in a society where she faces rejection and extreme poverty; Christian girls and women who face persecution and the threat of kidnap by Boko Haram; or families facing poverty in a country which is rich in resources but poor in leadership and hope. However, they are sustained by their faith, as one of them says, "burdened but not broken."

This service takes place in villages, towns and cities across the world so that at every moment, in some place, these prayers are rising to God from the lips of Christian people, in solidarity with the people of Nigeria. I love the idea of a world encircled with prayer! Just as God has the whole world in his hands, we too can hold it in a circle of love. A group of us still meet in prayer via zoom, led by our minister, David, usually on the first Wednesday of the month at 6.30 p.m., although he occasionally has to change it to fit in with his other commitments.

Inspire! continues to meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 11 a.m. in the church session room. We are small in number but where two or three are gathered, there is Christ in our midst! We would welcome newcomers, to pray aloud or silently for there is much in our world that needs our prayers.

Meanwhile, here are some suggested topics for your own prayer times:

- Pray that all women in the world may be treated equally, fairly and with respect.
- Pray for the situation in the Middle East, arising from the attacks on Iran by USA and Israel. Pray for communities living in constant fear, for the wounded and bereaved and for those who try to treat and aid them.
- Pray for travellers who are worried about how they will get home or for those who hoped to visit relatives and now fear they will miss out.
- Pray for the people of Ukraine who have endured a freezing winter, often with no power, heating or running water. Unimaginable to us but that is reality for them because of war!
- Pray for a world in which so many people endure poverty and starvation, while others spend their country's money on bombs.

In the words of the song, "War – what is it good for? Absolutely nothing!" As we approach Easter, let us ask the Prince of Peace, who sacrificed his life that we might live, to fill this world with his resurrection power. May we know his love and his peace in our world and in our hearts. Wishing you Easter blessings!

Lesley Wright.



East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action
Scottish Charity SC052257

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 11:2

Well, the Christmas party at Community Friends will be remembered for many years! 112 men and women were served by our volunteers with a three course lunch, and each person was given a gift to take away with them. The service and the quality of food were as good as –or better than – a top class restaurant! Everyone was treated as special, everyone said that the party made Christmas for them. Many had not had such a meal for a long time, some had never in their lives had a restaurant quality Christmas dinner. It was a day to remember!

CHRISTMAS PARTY



Hall setup and Biscoff Cheesecake

We have exciting times ahead! Our breakfast service will move across the road to the John Dickie Street hub during March, serving free breakfasts from 9.30 till 11.30 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The café will then be open to the public from midday for takeaway snacks and hot drinks. Come along and try – we have a top class chef!

On Wednesday evenings there will be a Recovery Café, serving families and individuals a low cost nutritious meal, as well as a safe place to spend a couple of hours.

Our Community Friends lunch service on Wednesdays will remain at the New Laigh Kirk hall. We regularly have 55 people for lunch on Wednesdays, attracted by the food on offer, the friendly welcome, and the safe space to enjoy spending time with friends. Some of those who attend are regulars, several having attended Community Friends for many years, while others come only for a few weeks while they are in crisis. We are there for everyone, whatever their needs. Some may need a hot meal, others a warm coat or pair of shoes, some others may need professional support for their benefits, their housing, or their health. For many, we simply offer somewhere safe to sit for a while among friends – no questions, no judgement.

We are proud of how we have grown over the past 20 years, and look forward to exciting new developments!

Thank you all for your support – your donations of cash and goods, your time as volunteers, and most of all your prayers.

Michael Smith tel 07484 432790
Janice Grant tel 07581 722331

New Laigh Kirk Events 2026

- 11 January – 25th Anniversary Celebration of Induction
- 24 February – Rotary Club Inter-School Quiz
- 28 February – Beetle Drive fund-raiser for refurbishment
- 1 March - 26 April Eco group photo competiion "Creation"
- 6 March – NLK hosting World Day of Prayer (2pm)
- 14 March – Jazz by Candle-Light 7pm (Music For All event)
- 22 March – Community Litter Pick 1.30pm
- 5 April – Easter Garden party – Kirk yard
- 16 April – NLK Pastoral Care Afternoon Tea
- 3 May – Elders' Lunch (after Communion)
- 28 May - Crossroads Community Choir (Music For All event)
- May/June – NLK Eco group – photo competition awards
- 6 June - Coffee Morning fund-raiser
- 20 June – NLK Drama Club comedy (matinee and evening)
- 20 June - Killie Pickers litter pick (Town Centre churches)
- June – NLK's Got Talent (tbc)
- July – RBWF – Burns event
- July – LMS concert – Music For All event (tbc)
- August – Young Musician of The Year (NLK event) tbc
- 29 August – NLK Guild Coffee Morning
- Sept/Oct – Eco group photo exhibition (hosted at Halo)
- September – K.A.O.S. in the Kirk – Music For All event tbc
- 26 September – MacMillan Coffee Morning (Kirk Session)
- 4 October – NLK Eco Group Litter pick
- October – NLK Eco group 2027 Calendar Sale fund-raiser
- November – NLK Trekkers' Afternoon Tea fund-raiser (tbc)
- November – Quiz NLK fund-raiser
- November – Rotary Club Young Musician competition
- November – Boys' Brigade Coffee Morning
- 29 November – KK Christmas Lights switch-on
- November/December NLK Drama Group Pantomime
- December – NLK pastoral care Christmas Tea

www.newlaighkirk.com

Church Register

Funerals

25 th Nov 2025	Jeannette Duff	Springhill Nursing Home, Kilmarnock
3 rd Dec 2025	Robert Seton (E)	Pockington and Hillhead Farm, Galston
21 st Jan 2026	Doris Campbell (M)	10 Ash Place, Kilmarnock
29 th Jan 2026	John Seton (M)	Burnbrea Farm, Moscow
5 th Feb 2026	Chrissie Bland (M)	31 Carmel Ave, Kilmarnock
9 th Mar 2026	Bunty Fraser (M)	4 Maple Place, Kilmarnock
11 th Mar 2026	Ronnie Armstrong (M)	Queens View Harbour Nursing Home, Troon

*How can we know how long you wait
to see the setting sun,
or how you yearn to hear God speak
the loving words, 'Well done'?*

*Your body cannot win the race
your eager mind would run;
yet God has seen your faithful course
and counts the victory won.*

*Can we who walk with steady feet
embrace you and extend
the grace you need until you hear
'Come home now, faithful friend'?*

*All praise to God whose love abides
in bodies weak or strong,
and gives to us the strength to sing
our own triumphant song!*

Edith Sinclair Downing





YOU
ARE INVITED



NEW LAIGH KIRK'S
EASTER GARDEN PARTY

5TH APRIL 2026

NLK Kirk-yard after Easter service



Alleluia