

THE MAGAZINE
OF
NEW LAIGH KIRK
Church of Scotland
KILMARNOCK

Scottish Charity No.:SC031334

June 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.

7.00 to 9.00 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)*
Ranger Guides (14-18 years)
Howard Centre
Contact Erin Malcolm (07821 549508)

Safeguarding Coordinator: Ian Anderson

Safeguarding Panel Members: John Dale, Lora Barclay and Ellen Stewart

New Laigh Kirk Manse
June 2026

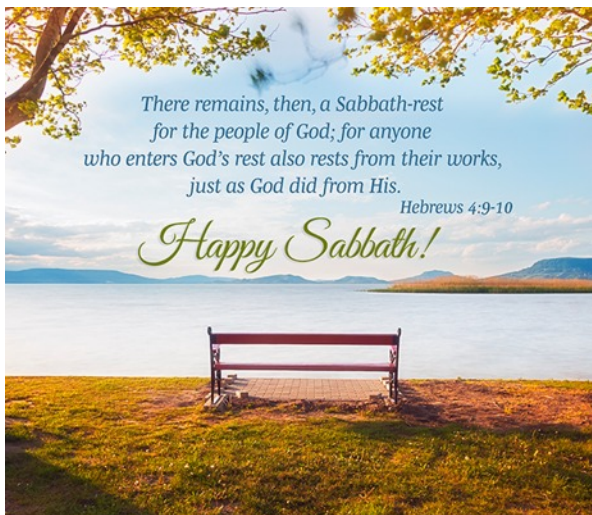


Hello Folks

Summer often brings a change of pace. For some it is a holiday away from home with time to travel, to see family, to step outside the usual routine. For others it may not be a holiday at all but simply a different rhythm of life, children off school, different working patterns, longer evenings and a sense that 'normal' church life pauses or slows down. In the life of our church summer is a season of fewer meetings, fewer organisations, and a welcome easing of the weekly activities as organisations stand down until the autumn. This summer pause should be understood not as absence but as a gift with an opportunity to rediscover what the bible refers to as Sabbath rest.

From the beginning of time rest is woven into creation itself:
And on the seventh day God rested from all his work. Genesis 2:2–3

Rest is not an afterthought. It is part of God's design. In a world that so often measures worth by productivity and activity Sabbath reminds us that we are not defined by what we do but by whose we are.



Jesus also extends this invitation:

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

This is rest for the soul.

Stepping back from regular church activities over the summer is not a sign of less faithfulness. Instead it is a way of making space for renewal. Rest allows us to just pause, listen more carefully, notice God in ordinary moments, reconnect with family and creation and return with renewed energy for service.

We are not sustained by activity alone. We are sustained by God. Even when organisations pause, prayer continues. When meetings stop, the Spirit moves. When we step back God is still at work in our church and town, our homes and our world.

There is something important about a church that is willing to pause. This summer, perhaps you might receive rest not as inactivity, but as an invitation.

To pray more simply.

To listen more deeply.

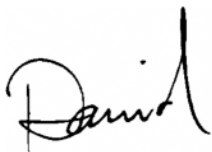
To notice the people around you more.

To rediscover Sabbath not just as a day, but as a way of life.

Perhaps in doing so, you might return to the busyness of autumn not exhausted but renewed.

Have a great summer.

With prayerful good wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping tail.

General Assembly 2026



The 2026 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met in Edinburgh at a moment of both challenge and cautious hope. Across four days of worship, debate and decision-making, commissioners wrestled with questions that go to the heart of the Kirk's identity: how to sustain ministry in a changing Scotland, how to resource mission faithfully, and how to move from managing decline towards nurturing growth.

Perhaps the most significant theme was the clear strategic shift towards 'growth' as the organising principle for the Church's future. A major report from the Assembly Trustees set out a vision for 2026–2031 that seeks to move beyond what it described as a cycle of reactive cost-cutting. Instead, it called for a renewed focus on growing disciples, strengthening congregational life, and increasing the Church's impact in communities. The emphasis is not simply numerical growth, but a wider vision of spiritual vitality, service, and confidence in mission. However, critics within and beyond the Assembly questioned whether such aspirations are realistically achievable, given ongoing demographic decline and falling membership.

Closely linked to this was a frank recognition of financial pressures. While the Church reported an improved operating position for 2025, much of this came from one-off income such as legacies and investment returns rather than sustainable trends. Commissioners were warned that continual reductions alone cannot secure the Church's future and were asked to consider not only how money is spent, but how ministry itself is sustained and shared across the Kirk. In this context, attention was also drawn to ongoing work around the Church's property portfolio, including the leasing of the Scots Hotel in Israel as part of a wider strategy to generate more stable income from historic assets.

The debate moved towards more fundamental questions about how ministry is funded and how congregations might be encouraged to take greater ownership of mission and resourcing, alongside the proposed development of a more flexible Financing Ministry model.

Another major area of decision-making centred on ministry formation and training. The Assembly considered proposals to streamline and reshape ministerial education, including the recommendation that Trinity College, University of Glasgow, become the lead academic partner for training ministers and deacons. The aim is to provide a more integrated, coherent approach to formation, combining academic study with practical, reflective ministry experience.

Alongside structural and financial issues, the Assembly also addressed a range of wider concerns reflecting the Church's public witness. Reports touched on ethical oversight, safeguarding, social care provision through CrossReach, and engagement with ecumenical partners. A report on the causes of decline was also presented, signalling an ongoing willingness to confront difficult questions about membership trends, cultural change, and the Church's place in modern Scotland.

Underlying many of these discussions was a shared sense of tension, between tradition and innovation, heritage and adaptation, survival and renewal. While the language of decline was not absent, there was a noticeable determination to reframe the narrative towards opportunity, seeing change not as loss alone but as a call to renewed mission.

For many commissioners, the 2026 Assembly therefore represented less a set of isolated decisions and more a turning point in tone. Whether the ambitions for growth, financial reform and renewed training will bear fruit remains to be seen. But the direction of travel is clear: the Church of Scotland is seeking to re-imagine itself for a new era, while holding fast to its conviction that it remains called to serve the people of Scotland in the name of Christ.



**Notes from the
Session Clerk**

Hello everyone.

We would like to thank one of our members, Brian Stutt, who generously purchased and donated a lovely garden bench which is located beside the planters at the porch doors.

Also we thank Margaret Brown who kindly donated her garden bench and this is also located near the entrance to the porch doors.

I would also take the opportunity of thanking Lesley Wright for taking care of our planters at the porch doors. It forms the initial welcome to our church.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking (at this mid-term stage) all who have assisted one way or another at our various events and in the general running of the church. It is really appreciated – but please don't ever hesitate to ask "what can I do to help?"

**Benches and planters at the
Porch doors**



The next Kirk Session meeting will be held in the church on Tuesday 23rd June at 7.00pm.

Derek I'Anson



It seems fitting that as the Commonwealth Games comes to Glasgow in July, we are well on our way for our gold award. And like our athletes, preparation and engagement with everyone is vital for our success. You can read more about the pollination project and the photography competition elsewhere in this magazine but I wanted to share a little of what goes on in the background for these awards.

The Eco committee is a small team, but high on energy and enthusiasm, and that clearly has been infectious to everyone, with the chats, questions and positive comments that you share with me, when I am clearing the recycling each week.

Our focus for our award covers four topics:

- Our general planning and monitoring.
- Our spiritual life.
- Our practical steps as individuals, congregation and community.
- Our steps towards local, national and global issues due to climate change.

The positive support that NLK provides towards the work of Christian Aid is one of the important ways that we can demonstrate our actions across the globe. The work of our Fair-Trade ambassadors is also a key piece of our commitment towards action for climate change.

We also can make a difference locally. Food poverty unfortunately remains an increasing concern in our community, our town and across Scotland. NLK working with EACHA, is one example of how we work within this local concern. EACHA is reaching out across the churches for support to reduce food waste, by encouraging cooperation across the

different churches. One example of this was a bag of potatoes, which was not used and no longer required. This was redirected to the community garden in Shortlees and used as seed potatoes. That one bag of potatoes could have fed one family for a couple of meals; being used as seed, it will grow and produce sufficient potatoes to feed 5 families for a few meals. And there are other ideas that we are exploring.

Our Minister includes prayers for our world and Creation every Sunday, and we all encouraged to continue this in our private prayers. Easter Sunday had a wonderful display of flowers brought into and then taken home again along with distribution of Fair-Trade Easter eggs. Wonderful demonstrations of what we are trying to achieve. The planned renovations will include improved energy efficiency measures for our lighting and heating.

The recycling continues to go from strength to strength. I promise it wasn't me who broke the recycling bin in Boots (honestly!), but we have found another partner pharmacy (its good to have someone in the know!), so I am a regular in Superdrug Pharmacy, Newton Mearns, who have been incredibly helpful.

Soft furnishings, crockery and small electricals have also been an amazing success so that EACHA are now very well stocked to support their Fresh Start work. Again, thank you for redistributing items that still have life in them for use by those who need them.

Please keep sharing your ideas and thoughts with me. I haven't forgotten about the ink cartridge suggestion..... I just got a bit waylaid with the different projects we have been involved with since the start of the year, but I promise, I am back on to it! All these suggestions are needed; please don't be shy to come forward with suggestions. We may not be able to do everything, but I promise that each idea will be considered.

Elaine Paton





NLK will be hosting the next parish litter pick on Saturday 20th June!

Please come along and support this event. There will be catering provided by the Rapid Relief Team (RRT) with hot drinks and hot rolls available before and after the event for volunteers.

Meeting is 9.30am in the church for a safety briefing and equipment distribution, and finish by 12noon.

The focus will be areas within the parish, which includes north west of the town.

Thought for the Day

Kindness is costless but also priceless.

Another Thought for the Day

Have you ever noticed that a woman's "I'll be ready in 5 minutes"
And a man's "I'll be home in 5 minutes"
are exactly the same?

Photography Competition

Wow, just wow!! The response and quality of entries for our first photography competition have been amazing! Our theme was creation, and it was brilliant to see how everyone interpreted this from our wildlife, wildflowers, moments of Creation wonder or as our world emerges from winter. Some of our younger entrants also considered the impact of pollution, which fits brilliantly with our eco-congregation work.

Thank you and well done to all our entrants. The judges really did have a tough time to score and pick winners across our two categories. My thanks to Karen Simpson (local professional photographer), Peter Stewart (Kilmarnock Photography Club) and Kirsty Boodhna (Acting PT Art, design & Creative Industries, Kilmarnock Academy).

12 winning images have been selected for inclusion in our fundraising 2027 calendar, and three winners from each category were selected as prize winners.

Open Category

Winner: Jim Muir - £200 Amazon voucher, sponsored by HALO

Runners Up: Ann Redpath – Iris photography shoot with Karen Simpson Photography

Natassia Wallace - £30 in store voucher and photo commission, sponsored by Brownings the Bakers.

School category:

Winner: Ruby Dorricot – new camera, sponsored by Scotmid COOP

Runners Up: Rebecca Stamp – photo commission, sponsored by Brownings the Bakers

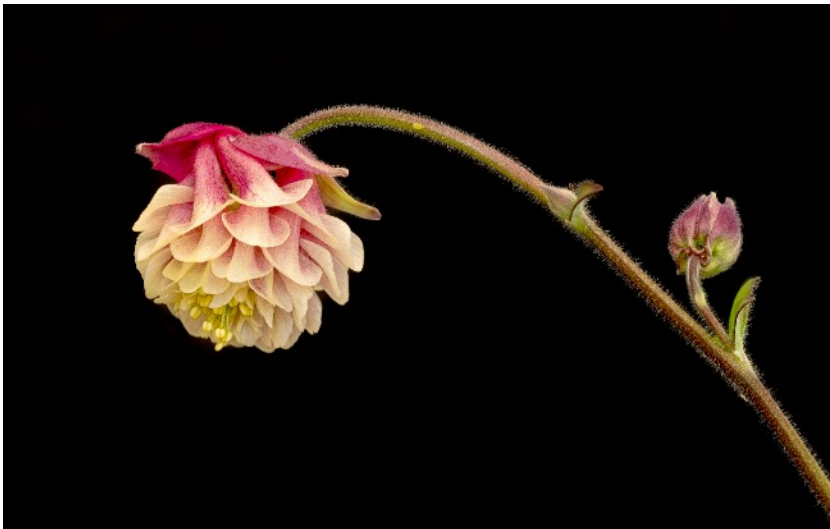
Louis McCulloch - Amazon voucher, sponsored by
Scotmid COOP.

Congratulations to all our winners whose photos are shown are below.

The 12 images will be printed on a fundraising calendar as part of the renovation fund and available in the autumn. Costs are still to be established, so more info to follow.

Thanks again to all our entrants, our prize sponsors, judges and winners for making this such a success.

Jim Muir - Aquilegia detail



Ann Redpath - Heart of Creation



Natassia Wallace - Sky opening



Ruby Dorricot
(Kilmarnock Academy)
Highland Moo



Louis McCulloch
(Kilmarnock Academy)
Mystery of the universe



Rebecca Stamp - Where life begins to trust (Grange Academy)





New Laigh Kirk Eco Group's Pollination and Diversification Project



Using funding from our Kirk Session, our Eco Congregation group devised a small pilot project based on pollination and diversification and encompassing many of the requirements for our progression towards the Gold Award.

Our aims included engagement and partnership working with groups and individuals of all ages, including people who may not engage with, or are marginalised within the local community.

What we have achieved:

- We engaged with four local schools, three of which are growing flowers in planters for residents of three care homes located within our parish boundary, whilst a small group formed of pupils and staff from another school has made and donated two bird nesting boxes.
- Our four uniformed organisations for girls are growing flowers in tubs in their own small outdoor area, as well as growing flowers in small containers to be distributed, with the assistance of the Pastoral Care Group and members of the congregation, to housebound or isolated members and individual members resident in care homes throughout Kilmarnock.
- The Anchor Boys and Junior Section of the 4th/5th Boys' Brigade are growing vegetables in a garden plot to the rear of The Howard Centre to supply meals for local people, with any surplus going to organisations providing food to vulnerable people.
- Three groups from EACHa are growing flowers and vegetables, the latter being donated to organisations providing meals or food to people and families in food poverty.

- Tubs of flowers are being grown by EACHa Women’s Group in a new outdoor courtyard to the rear of EACHa’s new premises. One is to remain there for EACHa staff and participants, while the other will be donated to a local charity.

Two of the EACHa gardening groups already worked with Community Open Gardens, Shortlees (COGS) - with whom we now also work in partnership, sharing seeds, propagation space, supply of compost and seed trays. One of the groups is responsible for looking after the cholera grave garden in Howard Park, and we have supplied flower seeds to them. The second of those is a new vegetable growing group, to which we have donated seeds, seed potatoes, onion sets and herbs. To further encourage

pollination and diversity, packets of wildflower seeds have been included for all flower growers.

We aim to enable the whole congregation to make the link between their Christian Faith and environmental concerns. We engaged with the congregation by asking for donations of pollinating flowers, including wildflower seeds, vegetables and other items such as bird nesting boxes.

Our project had initially been envisaged as a small project, perhaps attracting around 50-75 participants. We have engaged with **over 325 people** - many of whom had not previously engaged with us. We also established working partnerships and communication across the local community. Individuals and groups within the congregation have been most generous in their giving.

Ellen Stewart
Eco-Congregation



Highlights Klub

At the end of April, we held our annual charity quiz night, in aid of Ayrshire Cancer Support. We had a fantastic turnout and are delighted to have raised the tremendous sum of £1179.37 including Gift Aid. Combined with the money we raised at our 50p auction in January, along with your loose change in our collection tin, we have been able to give a total of £1528.51(including Gift Aid) to Ayrshire Cancer Support this session. Many thanks to all who supported this fundraising in any way.

Great fun was had by all at the quiz, and we were delighted to welcome several visitors, who came along to support us. We hope you will join us again.

We finished our session in May, with a lovely Spanish themed evening at The View at Monktonhill.

The beautiful weather allowed us to have a drink outside before going into the restaurant for our tapas and sangria, which were delicious! Here we are enjoying the sunshine – other photos have been shared on the NLK Members Facebook page.





Congratulations to Lilian for winning the prize for the best Spanish holiday outfit – she never disappoints!

We are currently working on ideas for next session, so watch out for details of the new syllabus in the next magazine and in our group WhatsApp chat.

Thank you to all our ladies once again, for your support throughout the year. Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you again at the start of next session.

If you are a member of the Highlights, and are not in our WhatsApp group, or if you would like to join us, 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.

For more information on the Highlights, please contact me on 543488 or 07887 541651, or any of the committee.

Eileen Murphy, Chairperson

YOGA

Looking to relax and renew? Interested in some gentle movement and breathing practices along with deep relaxation? Then the Thursday evening yoga class at New Laigh Kirk Halls might be for you.

The yoga classes in the upper hall restart on Thursday 6 August and run until 10 December. Classes are from 7.30 to 9pm, cost £7 and are run on a drop-in basis.

For further information please contact Fiona Hayes, yoga teacher, on 07887 840957 or fionadhayes@hotmail.com.

Medicine Blister Pack Recycling What happens afterwards???

A few people have asked me recently what happens to the medicine blister packs that go for recycling. To be honest, I didn't know the detail except that the components were broken down and recycled. But it did make me curious to find out, so I did!



This bag is two weeks' worth of medicine blisters brought to church by the congregation (honestly!). Once the bag is full, it is taken to a pharmacy who is offering the recycling, but what happens next?

The pharmacies are working with a recycling firm who will uplift the bags and take them to their recycling plant where the blister packs are shredded and then separated into the different components of foil and plastic. The separated aluminium in

the foil is smelted into new metal ingots and the plastics are made into plastic based materials for use in construction, fencing or furniture. Outer cardboard boxes and patient leaflets can be placed into the domestic paper recycling. The weekly dispense compliance aid boxes can be separated and placed in the domestic paper and plastic waste.

Please remember that any unused medicine should be returned to the pharmacy.

The introduction of the medicine blister pack recycling was a suggestion from the congregation – thank you! Look how much we are stopping going into the residual waste bin by bringing them into the church each week!

Elaine Paton



I am a great consumer of news, reading The Herald and BBC news online in the morning and watching several TV news programmes throughout the day. I like to know what is happening and do not want to be caught out as I was many years ago when I did not know that Princess Diana had died and wondered what royal tragedy the minister was praying for that Sunday morning!

However, most of the news these days seems tragic, as we see scenes of war, destruction, social unrest, hatred, racism, outbreaks of deadly disease... Bad news piled upon bad news! So I was in complete agreement with the poem, "Serenity Prayer" by Brian Bilston which I read recently.

"Send me a slow news day,
A quiet subdued day
In which nothing much happens of note,
Save for the passing of time,
The consumption of wine
And a rerun of Murder She Wrote.
Grant me a no-news day,
A spare- me- your- views day
In which nothing much happens at all,
Except a few hours together, some regional weather,
A day we can barely recall."

These words make us smile and bring some relief from the depressing barrage of disaster, even though we do care about and feel sympathy for all those affected. I was reminded of the real answer last Sunday when we sang the old favourite hymn, “What a friend we have in Jesus” where we are encouraged to ‘take it to the Lord in prayer.’ When we are ‘cumbered with a load of care’, Jesus is our refuge who will bring us peace and solace, in place of pain and sorrow. Good news indeed!

We usually meet in prayer on the first Wednesday of the month online and a few of us meet in person at Inspire! on the second Wednesday of the month, at times indicated by email or in the intimations. Ask for details if you would like to take part. You would be most welcome. In the meantime, here are some suggestions for your own private prayer times:

- Pray for the new members of our congregation, that they may feel increasingly at home with us.
- Pray that we may all enjoy the summer months and holiday time, so that we may feel refreshed and invigorated.
- Pray for the situation in the Middle East, that a route to peace may be found through words, not weapons.
- Pray for peace in Ukraine and Russia, where the ordinary folk on both sides must be weary of violence, destruction and death and long for a return to normal life.
- Pray for the Church of Scotland, that the positive signs of growth mentioned at the General Assembly may turn into a real revival.

But whatever your worries or concerns, your hopes or dreams – remember to take it to the Lord in prayer!

Lesley Wright.



The Guild



We had a wonderful day out for the closing of our session on Monday, 23rd March. We visited the Scottish Police Mounted Branch which is



just outside Stewarton and spent an hour and a half being shown round the stables. The two constables who took us round told us all about the job of the mounted police, a job that must be applied for after several years 'on the beat.' Applicants need to be within a certain height and weight limit as, although the horses are big, they have to think of the combined weight of the rider, the tack and all the other equipment, such as helmet, shield and other riot gear. Our guides were two

wee slips of lassies, but they still have to be able to get onto their horse without using a step, in case it is necessary when on duty.

We met all the horses and were able to pat their noses and give them a carrot. We had to keep our bags and pockets out of their reach! We heard about



their backgrounds before becoming police horses, their personalities and what happens to them when they retire. They are cared for 24 hours a day, as there are grooms employed to look after them, as well as the police officers. They also have regular visits from the vet and the farrier. They were all absolutely magnificent and it was easy to see why the officers were so fond of them.



I was amazed to discover that the officers themselves drive the lorries which transport horses to wherever they are needed – all over Scotland and sometimes to the north of England. Can you imagine driving a huge lorry with six horses in the back? What a responsibility! The horses can be exercised in the fields round the stables and there is also an arena for inside work. It was fascinating to hear all

about this branch of the police and we were made very welcome.

We finished off our outing with lunch at the Glasshouse Restaurant at Rowallan where we met some of our members who did not go to the stables. It was lovely, a fitting end to another successful Guild session.



As usual we have three summer meetings.

On Monday 29th June we are going to have a 'Build a House' drive, like Beetle! On 27th July there will be strawberry tarts and on 24th August we will organise the Guild Coffee Morning which will take place on Saturday, 29th August from 10am till noon. Tickets will be available at church in the weeks leading up to it. Anyone who would like to join the Guild is very welcome to come along to these summer meetings to see what we are like. Quite normal really!

And we are already thinking about the syllabus for next session and the Annual Gathering in Perth in September. It's all go!!

Lesley Wright

Church Open Doors

New Laigh Kirk is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 12noon to 2pm. The church will be open for those who want some solitude or prayer or to view the stained glass windows from the inside or to discover some of the church's history.

As some of the elderly volunteers can no longer undertake their duties, we urgently require some more volunteers during the summer when some of the usual volunteers go on holiday, so if you could spare a couple of hours every four to six weeks, we would be delighted to hear from you. Volunteers will be contacted in advance so that the shifts will fit in with their commitments.

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

Treasurers Report for 2025

I can confirm that Rogerson + Goldie our Chartered Accountants, having examined the accounts, have no matters that have come to their attention that cause them concern under the acts and regulations.

The accounts for 2025 have been approved by the Southwest Presbytery and are now on OSCR's website.

My thanks to the members of the congregation who continue to give generously. Without you we would not have a beautiful church.

INCOME

Our income from offerings and donations for 2025 was £168,254 an increase of £25,171 from 2024.

The income tax received through Gift Aid was £37,120, an increase of £5,068

The shop rental from our properties generated £26,770 income, with hall lets income of £5,262

Our fund raising activities and donations raised £9,552 in 2025.

This year again we received £9,500.00 from the Arbuckle trust.

We will now be receiving a cheque from the Buchanan Trust. This originally was given directly to ministers of the parish to be distributed at their discretion. This year we received £4,850.

EXPENDITURE

Our Giving to Grow contribution to the Church of Scotland was £128,425, a decrease of £352 from 2024.

The presbytery dues saw an increase of £1,745 from 2024 to £5,196. This is calculated at 1,5% of our assessable income.

Our heating cost for the church was £9,320 (£10,445 in 2024) and the hall £10,096 (£7,179 in 2024).

Repairs and Maintenance saw a decrease of £1,159. Cost in 2025 was £12,363.

SUMMARY

Our net assets stand at £306,821 at 31st December 2025.

Our assets at 31st December 2025 consisted mainly of:

- Investments £133,217
- CoS Short Term Deposit £66,102
- Bank Accounts £52,667

A summary of the Accounts for 2025 will appear in another page of the magazine. Anyone wishing a full copy of the 2025 Accounts can email me on janetlamberton248@gmail.com or speak to me at church.

EASY FUNDRAISING

A big thank you to all who raise free funds for us on #easyfundraising. In 2025 we raised £205.

If you're not signed up yet, please join today and you can raise free donations for New Laigh Kirk Church Kilmarnock every time you shop online. All the big retailers are ready to make a free donation at no extra cost to you.

Sign up at easyfunraising.org/new-laigh-kirk-kilmarnock

Once again, I would like to thank all the congregation who contribute to the Church and who support us in all our fund-raising activities.

Jan Lamberton

Treasurer

Kilmarnock: New Laigh Kirk Scottish Charity SC031334

Year Ending 31st December 2025

Financial Summary

	2025	2024
Income		
Offerings	168,254	143,083
Gift Aid Tax Recoverable	37,120	32,052
Legacies	9,850	-
Donations etc (Unrestricted & Restricted)	30,006	80,250
Weddings, Funerals & Baptisms	250	701
Grants	9,500	9,500
Rents Received - Use of Premises	32,032	33,023
Other Income	11,337	-
Deposit Interest (Church of Scotland)	5,710	5,710
Bank & Other Interest	<u>2,987</u>	<u>3,056</u>
	<u>307,046</u>	<u>307,375</u>
Expenditure		
Giving to Grow	128,425	128,777
Presbytery Dues	5,196	3,451
Ministers Expenses	2,349	2,753
Mission & Outreach	6,197	7,546
Pulpit Supply	660	770
Other Salary & Pension Costs	51,126	64,053
Fabric Repair & Maintenance	12,363	13,522
Council Tax	3,451	3,199
Water Rates	2,262	1,457
Other Building Costs	30,163	33,136
Insurance	5,146	6,857
Grants to Congregational Organisations	4,500	4,000
Special Charitable Donations	2,436	4,603
Church Office Expenses	10,715	8,412
Organ & Music	2,039	2,061
Other expenses	17,125	19,945
Independent Examiners Fee	1,850	1,660
Depreciation of Owned Assets	<u>1,601</u>	<u>1,779</u>
	<u>287,604</u>	<u>307,981</u>

Balance Sheet as 31 December 2025	2025	2024
Fixed Assets:		
Tangible Fixed Assets	14,411	16,012
Investments	<u>133,217</u>	<u>126,411</u>
	<u>147,628</u>	<u>142,423</u>
Current Assets:		
Debtors	26,104	21,181
CoS Short Term Deposits:		
1 General Purposes	66,102	63,290
2 J W Blackwood Bequest	4,127	3,952
3. Murdoch Memorial	6,314	6,046
4. Church Choir Fund	749	717
Bank Accounts:		
RBoS Accounts	5,999	4,638
Skiipton Building Society	46,668	46,783
Organisations Current Accounts	<u>7,337</u>	<u>8,022</u>
	<u>163,400</u>	<u>154,629</u>
Current Liabilities:		
Creditors Falling Due within one year	<u>4,207</u>	<u>8,069</u>
Net Current Assets	<u>159,193</u>	<u>146,560</u>
Net Assets	<u>306,821</u>	<u>288,983</u>
The Funds of the Charity:		
Unrestricted Funds		
General Funds	-23,594	-21,822
Designated Funds	<u>92,625</u>	<u>93,309</u>
	69,031	71,487
Restricted Funds:	231,680	211,386
Endowment Funds	<u>6,110</u>	<u>6,110</u>
Total Funds	<u>306,821</u>	<u>288,983</u>

Notes

1 Offerings from members have increased

2 Grants include £9,500 Arbuckle Trust

	2024 ACTUAL	2025 PROJECTED	2025 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTED
INCOME				
ORDINARY				
Open Plate	2771	2800	3371	3000
Offerings	140314	145314	162933	175000
Tax refund on Gift Aid	31473	31000	31842	32500
Legacies	0	1000	3000	2000
Grants	0	1000	0	0
Donations	1436	2000	1180	2000
	175994	183114	202326	214500
EXPENDITURE				
Amount payable to Edinburgh (Giving to Grow)	128777	128425	128425	112928
Salaries,pension and supply	60973	55000	52576	54592
Presbytery Dues	3151	4000	5196	5500
Outreach	7472	6000	6337	6500
Cleaning	9713	9400	9262	9300
Repairs	2715	4000	4550	5000
Water Rates	1457	920	2262	2400
Council Tax	3199	3300	3451	3693
Heat and Light	22625	20500	22364	23482
Insurance	6785	5500	6340	6500
Church Office Expenses (Stationary,Computer, Expenses,Printer/copier Expenses,Telephone etc)	8202	8250	10566	9000
Minister's Car Expenses	2431	2800	2454	2550
Church Improvements· Costs	7671	0	0	0
Other expenses	12226	8000	7628	8000
	277397	256095	261411	249445
Bank Surplus/Deficit on Ordinary Income	-98252	-68981	-58791	-34945
OTHER INCOME				
Rents	26230	26230	26230	26230
Hall Lets	6613	5000	5712	4000
Interest	7474	7000	7339	7300
Arbuckle Monies Receipt	9500	9000	9500	9500
Arbuckle Monies Payment	-4000	-3000	-4500	-4000
	45817	44230	44281	43030
	-52435	-24751	-14510	8085
Major PLANNED Expenditure				
Church Repairs and Improvements	0	1000	0	1000
Church-Camera,broadband and streaming	0	1000	0	0
Feasibility Study	0	0	0	0
Hall Repairs	7560	2000	4902	5000
Manse Repairs	2110	5000	4188	5000
	9670	9000	9090	11000
	-62105	-33751	-23600	-2915
BANK DEFICIT FOR YEAR	-62105	-33751	-23600	-2915

Music For All - Crossroads Community Choir

The most recent of our *Music For All* concerts in late May was organised by the team Chair, Elspeth Dale, and featured special guests Crossroads Community choir conducted by Ruth Campbell and accompanied by pianist, Marion Mackie. Jay Ward was a wonderful MC for the event and Jan Lamberton was our sound supervisor.



The choir, which was formed five years ago, has been fund-raising actively over the past three years and has donated over £6,600 to various charities. They have over seventy choristers, though only forty were needed to entertain us in New Laigh, in our event. With a marvellous blend of beautiful harmonies, community spirit and inspiring music, the choir entertained the large audience fabulously. Benefiting from a glorious day full of sunshine this was a perfect way to be entertained in the Kirk, followed by tea, coffee, good company and chat, as ever. The evening raised £530 towards NLK's refurbishment project.

A great evening of music for all! Thanks to all who assisted and supported.

NEW LAIGH KIRK KILMARNOCK

2026 EVENTS

JAN / FEB

- 11th – 25th Anniversary Rev. D. Cameron's Induction
- 24th – Rotary Inter-School Quiz
- 28th – Beetle Drive Fund Raiser

MARCH

- 1 Mar – 26 Apr – Eco Photo Competition: Creation®
- 6th – World Day of Prayer
- 14th – Jazz by Candlelight (Music For All)
- 22nd – Community Litter Pick

APRIL

- 5th – Easter Garden Party
- 16th – Pastoral Care Afternoon Tea

MAY / JUNE

- 3rd May – Elders' Lunch (after Communion Service)
- 28th May – Crossroads Community Choir (Music For All)
- 6th June – Coffee Morning Fund-raiser (tbc)
- 20th June – Killie Pickers' Litter Pick
- 20th June – NLK Drama Group Comedy Showcase (matinee & evening)

🎵 🎤 27th June – NLK's Got Talent 🎵

JULY & AUG

- July – Robert Burns World Federation music event
- 10th to 12th August – NLK Summer Club
- 29th August – Guild Coffee Morning

SEPT / OCT

- Eco Photo Exhibition hosted in the Halo Centre
- Eco group 2027 Calendar sale
- 26th September – MacMillan Coffee Morning
- 3rd October – KAOS in The Kirk! (Music For All)
- 4th October – NLK Eco group Litter Pick

NOV / DEC

- NLK Trekkers' Afternoon Tea (tbc)
- Rotary Club Young Musician Competition
- NLK quiz evening fund-raiser
- NLK Drama Group pantomime
- Pastoral Care Christmas Tea



We have had a very busy spring in Kilmarnock with Christian Aid activities. There was a concert on Friday, 17th April in Kay Park Parish Church, which was very well attended, and raised the magnificent sum of £1,057.03. The Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra entertained the audience, along with twenty fiddlers from Barcelona who were hosted by local families. These young people displayed remarkable talents including some Spanish dancing. Charlie Meiklejohn came and spoke about the work of Christian Aid which featured Nairobi in 2026. In the informal settlements most parents waken realising that they will go hungry if they are unable to earn money. Fridah is widowed with children and a grandchild. Her determination and support from Beacon of Hope helps her to provide food. Christian Aid provides tools and training to cultivate crops. Fridah can grow produce to cook at home and sell at market.

There was a very successful collection at Tesco at the end of Christian Aid Week, raising £727.70. James Adams and the boys from the 4th/5th Kilmarnock Boys Brigade came with their buckets on Saturday morning before going to the Forum Cafe for ice cream. The ladies from Holy Trinity and New Laigh Kirk collected in the afternoon without the temptation of the Forum Cafe!

Fundraising continued with members of New Laigh Kirk filling their envelopes at Sunday worship raising a further £950 to date. Many people completed Gift Aid Declarations giving Christian Aid 25% extra. All the generous donations are very much appreciated.

Helen Colman

Music for All- Lorna Reid



We were absolutely thrilled when the Lorna Reid jazz quartet agreed to appear in our *Music For All* series of concerts in March this year. A widely acclaimed vocalist, Lorna has been described as having the blues of Bessie Smith; the swing of Ella Fitzgerald; the heart of Billie Holiday and the soul of Nina Simone. She has appeared in jazz festivals in London, Edinburgh and New York and was joined on stage by hugely talented jazz instrumentalists – Campbell Normand on electric keyboard, Andy Mitchell on string bass and Jim Drummond on drums. The jazz

by candle-light event was a very enjoyable new venture for us and was sold-out, making £1444 (over £900 profit) towards our refurbishment project.





Amy - Community and Families

Hello everyone!

We're finally into the summer months and after a rather cold and drizzly winter and spring, I'm excited for an action packed summer ahead! Things are starting to quieten down for the summer months but we've still lots in store for our children and young

people!

Our Little Seeds group has thrived over the last two years, and the term has been bursting with new families. We are now at full capacity for our Little Seeds baby and toddler group, but no need to fear, as we have now implemented a waiting list and as soon as spaces become available, families will be notified. We're thrilled that Little Seeds has become so popular over the last year and I want to thank our team of volunteers, who come along every week and who provide a warm and friendly welcome to the families in the group. Our Little Seeds Summer Party will be held on June 23rd from 10am-11am and we will then pause for the summer term before returning again on August 25th. Similarly, our Bible Tea sessions for all young people aged 12-18 will be paused over the summer and return on Sunday, 27th September at 4:30pm. However, we plan to have a Trekkers social night on Sunday 30th August at 4:30pm as we jump back into the new term. Details of Trekkers events can be found on our website and social media channels.

Coming up for children and youth we have Summer Club! Summer Club will be running on August 10th, 11th and 12th from 6pm-7:45pm in our church halls. We're excited to run summer club this year, focusing on a sports themed club as the summer of 2026 hosts both the Glasgow Commonwealth Games and the Football World Cup- so what an excellent opportunity to encourage all children from primary 1-7 to

come along and join in some sports themed activities. As always, summer club will be packed full of fun games, crafts, team activities, food, Forum ice cream and so much more! So, we encourage everyone who has children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbours, to sign their children up for summer club. Summer club is a big event within our church, and it would be amazing to have as much hands-on help as possible, so if you would like to volunteer with our summer club, or you would like to sign children up for the club, please contact me at: amy_bh@hotmail.co.uk or 07980665432.

Church Unplugged is another venture that has developed over the last year. One Sunday evening a month, we encourage everyone to come along to worship and praise God in a more contemporary and informal service. Church Unplugged also embraces a more family focused style that aims to engage all members of our congregation- everyone is welcome at Church Unplugged! There is no age restraint, so please come along and enjoy the welcoming and friendly atmosphere of our Church Unplugged services. Church Unplugged will be running throughout the summer on the following dates:

- Sunday 14th June
- Sunday 16th August
- Sunday 13th September
- Sunday 18th October
- Sunday 15th November

Over the last few years, I've been working with both Onthank and Annanhill schools, delivering monthly assemblies and I have had the privilege of delivering short Bible and religious education sessions within the classrooms, throughout primary 1-7. I aim to tailor each session to the classroom's current topic, ensuring the children always have a Bible link within their learning journeys. I've recently completed a 'Bible Alive' training course, run by Scripture Union, which helped develop my resources and skills that I can use within the schools. With

the training, I can deliver more fun and engaging Bible stories to larger groups of primary children.

Lastly, I've been thrilled to be part of the Music For All Team for the last few years, bringing concerts, music events and community services to our town and we're constantly thinking up new and fun concert ideas for everyone to enjoy. Our next concert is 'NLK's Got Talent' which will be held on June 27th at 7pm in our church. NLK's Got Talent is a talent packed evening of performers, including some of our younger members, our worship band and much more! Tickets for these can be purchased from me or will be available through Ticket Source, which will be advertised on our social media channels, website and orders of service. Please come along and support (and enjoy) all the concerts we have planned- all information about up-and-coming events by the Music For All team are noted in the orders of service, website and socials

Amy

Men's Club

Just a reminder that the Men's Club meets periodically for coffee and a chat and we welcome new members at any time.

Don't wait to be asked, just let Ken Stewart or me know and we will add you to the mailing list.

Although I still retain a telephone landline, my answering machine is not working should you try to leave a message, therefore it is best to call me on my mobile:

07989 473142

Derek I'Anson

LIVE

BREAKING NEWS



New Laigh Kirk presents...

SUMMER CLUB!

MONDAY 10TH
TUESDAY 11TH
WEDNESDAY 12TH
AUGUST

6PM-7:45PM

PRIMARY 1-7

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT:
AMY_BH@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

**SCAN
ME!**





The national Badminton final took place at the end of April, when 6 teams from across the UK met at Grangemouth. The 4th/5th Kilmarnock team of Jack Armstrong, Logan Wallace, Kaima Chizitere, Harris Evans and Declan Angus won a worthy 2nd place only being beaten by 1st Granshaw in the final.



All 3 sections have had their Presentation of Awards and the main winners are as below:

Anchor Boys:

Best 1st year: Rory McMahon

Best 2nd year: Taylor Nightingale

Best 3rd year: Bryce Gibson

Junior Section:

Best 1st year: Harry Wales

Best 2nd year: Logan Campbell

Best 3rd year: Lewis Vernall

Company/Senior Section:

Best 1st year: Archie MacDonald

Best 2nd year: Daniel Hamilton & Callum Borthwick

Best 3rd year: Harris Evans

Philip's Trophy (best senior): Declan Angus

Lymburner Shield (best overall): Logan Wallace

Company Section



We had 4 boys who have gained their King's Badge this year, which is the highest award in the Boys Brigade. They are Logan Wallace, Freddy Cogswell, Ruairaidh Chapman and Jack Armstrong. Jack is not in the photo below as he was doing his Duke of Edinburgh hike with the school at the time.



The 4th/5th Kilmarnock will enrol for the new session on the Friday after the schools start back in August. Details will be published on our Facebook page nearer the time.

We would like to thank all the leaders, helpers, parents, the congregation and the boys for their continued support of the 4th/5th Kilmarnock Boys Brigade.



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, we at EACHa have had a busy time since the last magazine. We are now operating three food outlets!

Our Community Friends now provide a hot breakfast, in the John Dickie Street hub, on four mornings a week. This is proving very popular, with around 40/50 people enjoying breakfast each day. This gives those who attend a structure to their day, a place to be welcomed and socialise with their friends while enjoying a nutritious meal. We are also still providing lunch at the church halls on a Wednesday, feeding between 50/60.

Our Community Café, Each Bite Matters, on Wednesday evenings has become very popular. This café is where anyone can enjoy a three course meal for only £4. Not only that, but children under 16 eat free.



The menu is a vast variety of starters, main course and desserts selected by chef Michael, And if you think this café is not for you let us stress, it is for everyone. Come along and try, we look forward to seeing you! Open from 5 till 7pm, each Wednesday.

Staff at the Welcome Area of the EACHa Cafe



Our third café is very imaginatively called the EACHa Café! It is our social enterprise, and is open to the public each weekday, from 12noon till 2pm. Have a look at the photos, you go in the white door on John Dickie Street. It's a commercial café, selling the likes of paninis, hot rolls, baked potatoes, a hot dish of the day, and delicious tray bakes. Not to mention the coffee! You can sit in to enjoy your lunch, or takeaway if you like. You can also 'pay it forward' to allow someone else to have a coffee or a snack. Please come along and try it, and tell your friends!

Our chef Michael says being able to provide the support and community spirit to East Ayrshire is amazing. It's also heartwarming to see staff and volunteers coming together to help people. 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

HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

I was walking down life's highway, when it began to pour
then I noticed a sign that read "Heaven's Grocery Store"

As I got a little closer, the door came open wide
and when I came to myself, I was standing inside

I saw a host of angels - they were standing everywhere
one handed me a basket and said "My child, shop with care"
Everything a Christian needed was in that Grocery store –
and all that you couldn't carry, you could come back that day for more

First I got some PATIENCE, LOVE was in the same row
further down was UNDERSTANDING, you need that everywhere you go
I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH ----
I just couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST for he was in every place

I stopped to get some STRENGTH & COURAGE to help me run this race
by then, my basket was getting full, but I remembered I needed GRACE
I didn't forget SALVATION for salvation that was free
so I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.

Then I started up to the counter to pay my Grocery bill
for I thought I had everything, to do my Master's will
As I went up the aisles, I saw PRAYER & I just had to put it in
for I knew that when I walked outside, I would run right into sin.

PEACE & JOY were plentiful, they were on the last shelf
SONGS & PRAISES (were plentiful), they were hanging near, so I just
helped myself

Then I said to the Angel, "How much do I owe?"

He smiled & said "Just take them everywhere you go"

Again I smiled at him and said "How much do I really owe"

He smiled again and said "My child Jesus paid your bill -A Long Time Ago".

Church Register

Baptism

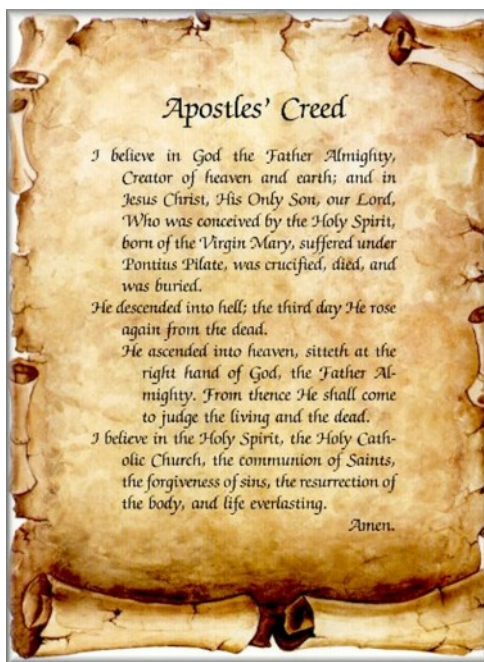
5th April 2026 Martin Black 3 Aberfeldy Place, Kilmarnock
Kelly Styger 55 Talisker Ave, Kilmarnock

New Member by Profession of Faith

5th April 2026 Karen Blackwell 41 Treesbank Road, Kilmarnock
Martin Black 3 Aberfeldy Place, Kilmarnock
Kelly Styger 55 Talisker Ave, Kilmarnock
Johannes Styger 55 Talisker Ave, Kilmarnock

Admitted by Resolution of the Kirk Session

5th April 2026 Maureen McNeil 1 Forest Grove, Kilmarnock
June Khan 57 Mure Ave, Kilmarnock



Funerals

25 th Mar 2026	Elizabeth Agnew (M)	64 Samson Ave, Kilmarnock
30 th Mar 2026	Christine Borland (M)	The Cottage, Altonhill Farm, Kilmarnock
20 th Mar 2026	Elsie Sim (M)	Springhill Care Home, Kilmarnock
15 th April 2026	Archie Parker (M)	64 Main St, Symington
22 nd May 2026	Billy Dempster (M)	5 Esson Pl Kilmarnock
4 th June 2026	Netta Dunlop	Howard House Kilmarnock

When I am gone, release me, let me go.
I have so many things to see and do,
You mustn't tie yourself to me with too many tears,
But be thankful we had so many good years.
I gave you my love, and you can only guess
How much you've given me in happiness.
I thank you for the love that you have shown,
But now it is time I traveled on alone.
So grieve for me a while, if grieve you must
Then let your grief be comforted by trust
That it is only for a while that we must part,
So treasure the memories within your heart.
I won't be far away for life goes on.
And if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I will be near
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear
All my love around you soft and clear
And then, when you come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and a "Welcome Home".



My flesh and my
heart may fail.
but God is the
strength of my
heart and my
portion forever.

- Psalm 73:26



NLK'S



Got

TALENT!



**SATURDAY
27TH JUNE**



7PM



**NEW LAIGH KIRK CHURCH,
JOHN DICKIE STREET**



TICKETS:

£6

AND ARE AVAILABLE
VIA **TICKET SOURCE**
OR THE FOLLOWING
QR CODE

