



CHRIST CHURCH LANARK  
CLYDESDALE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MAY - JUNE '24

# Schedule of Services

## May

Sunday 5

### Easter 6

08.30 am – Said Eucharist  
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 12

### Easter 7

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 19

### Day of Pentecost

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 26

### Trinity Sunday

10.30 am – Eucharist (Lamington)  
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist (Lanark)

## June

Sunday 2

### Trinity 1

08.30 am – Said Eucharist  
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 9

### Confirmations & Receptions Silver Jubilee of Rector's Ordination Celebration Lunch

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 16

### Trinity 3

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 23

### Trinity 4

10.30 am – Eucharist (Lamington)  
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist (Lanark)

Sunday 30

### Trinity 5

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

## July

Sunday 7

### Trinity 6

08.30 am – Eucharist  
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 14

### Trinity 7

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

# News in the Pews

- On Sunday 9 June Bishop Kevin will be with us at Christ Church to help the Rector celebrate his Silver Jubilee of ordination as a priest. On that day there will be an opportunity for anyone in the congregation so desiring it to be confirmed or received. If this is something you might be interested in, please add your name to the list on the table at the back of the church. We are planning a celebration lunch and the planting of a new commemorative tree to replace the one that was recently removed from the church garden. Get the date in your diaries and get signing up!
- Our curate Jackie has started leading services at Beechgrove Nursing Home on the last Wednesday of each month at 1.30 pm. Residents and relatives are most welcome.
- Congratulations to baby Eilidh Carter (Doreen and Bob Cleary's grand daughter) who was baptised on Sunday 21 April. Every blessing to her and to her family.
- Our curate Jackie along with The Revd Liz Clelland will be launching a new fortnightly initiative called "Brunch and Browse" on Thursday 2 May from 12 noon until 1.15 pm. They will use study materials on a variety of Christian and religious topics. The first three sessions will be led by Liz on the subject of "Art and the Gospel". The next three will be led by Jackie on the topic of "Prayer". All welcome.



Jane's beautiful Easter flowers

# Clergy Cogitations

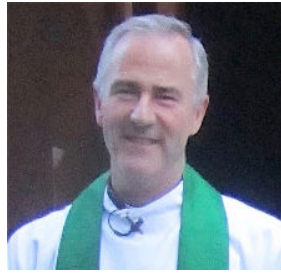
Dear Friends

The images that we are seeing on our television screens of the wars in The Holy Land and Ukraine leave us all shocked, horrified, angry and sad beyond belief.

War is inhuman, and the words of St John Paul (formerly Pope John Paul II) on the subject are particularly relevant. He wrote: “the scale and horror of modern warfare – whether nuclear or not – makes it totally unacceptable as a means of settling differences between nations. War should belong to the tragic past, to history; it should find no place on humanity’s agenda for the future.” We must pray that one result of these latest wars will be to convince people of this truth – and yet, already the nations are restocking their armouries with the newest and latest weapons and planning the next offensive. If we are really serious that war “should find no place on humanity’s agenda for the future” we have to devote a great deal more energy and resources to effective ways of avoiding war, and that will not be easy, because evil is at work in the world, and evil can do terrible things when it takes root in human hearts. There is a major task ahead for all committed peace-makers.

Such thoughts link our experience of recent months with those terrible events in Jerusalem two thousand years ago. We can see a reflection of the sufferings of Jesus in all human afflictions and tragedies, because Jesus assures us that God himself stoops down to share our sorrows and our pains. That is part of the Good News which the Church exists to proclaim: wherever God’s children suffer, God himself in Christ is beside them, sharing their sufferings with them and for them. But that is only a part of the Good News: there is only limited help in knowing that someone is with you in your pain and what we really need is someone who can do something about it. We cannot separate Good Friday and Easter, because the Resurrection does not reverse what happened on Good Friday but it does show us how to interpret it. On the cross a man was also locked in terrible combat with death itself and all the powers of darkness and conquered them by his refusal to capitulate to their demands. They could not break his obedience and his love even although he was tried to the uttermost. The triumph that rings out at Easter is the triumph of life over death, of love over hatred, of service over self.

It is the task of the Easter-Christians to put this vision into effect in daily living. The Cross shows us a power the world does not understand, the power of unflinching love, which is the power of God. In earthly terms, Jesus nailed to the cross was utterly powerless, but he, not the Jewish politico-religious establishment or the Roman military machine, won the lasting victory, a moral and spiritual victory. But so often we are completely blind to that dimension of human affairs. “The human race is afraid and it’s fears are about power – about having it or not having it”, wrote Archbishop Michael Ramsey. “Those who have it are frightened of those with it. This is true of groups, classes, nations and races.” To live by faith is to live in the conviction that the resources made available to us through the cross and resurrection of



Jesus can enable us to confront the powers of darkness in God’s world. What is frightening about war is that so often both sides are operating with similar moral values and systems but one is more efficient militarily than the other – might, not right, eventually conquers.

But can we really do anything? “Tragic things happen, cruel deeds are done, things seem to have got out of hand, God’s hand as well as ours. How can the prayers of individuals or even congregations help to cure such tragedies and widespread evil?” writes Bishop George Appleton (formerly Archbishop of Jerusalem). “Our prayers keep such situations tied to God and prevent God being pushed out. The second clue is that most man-made situations arise from wrong attitudes within the minds and spirits of people, so that the struggle is basically a spiritual one. Prayer is a spiritual activity and operates within the spirit of the one who prays and also within the spirits of those prayed for.”

In Gethsamane Jesus warned us that “all who take the sword will die by the sword” (Matthew 26: 52). Violence is continuous – once you start you cannot escape from it; it is reciprocal and it generates its own momentum so that it is not possible to say “thus far and no further” once violence has been engaged in – notice the subtle shift of justification in the course of conflict as the level of violence increases and what was once unacceptable gradually becomes acceptable and then laudable. These are the things that must be tackled by all who are committed to erasing war from humanity’s agenda. Too often our concern for peace takes second (or third or fourth) place to our comfort and other consequences of power.

It is surely significant that our Lord’s first words to his disciples after the resurrection were: “Peace be with you”. Peace is at the top of God’s agenda and we cannot rest content until it is top of humanity’s agenda as well. The Church must be a community devoted to praying for peace and working for peace in every human situation, because the risen Lord has chosen us to be his agents, to be the ministers of his work of reconciliation, in the world. We cannot do Christ’s work by any means other than his own, and on the cross he showed us the prayerful, forgiving love and the obedience to the Father’s will despite the cost to himself, which are the secret of the victory he won for us and for all people everywhere.

May our Lord’s resurrection bring us new joy and new hope, so that we are all renewed in our work for peace wherever we are, that peace which is Christ’s bequest to his church and through his church to the world. “Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called the children of God”, Jesus promised (Matthew 5: 9). Pray that God’s blessing may be upon all who work for peace and may prosper all their efforts;

and pray that we who know ourselves to be God’s children may give effective witness to this wonderful status by working ceaselessly to bring peace wherever there is hostility, suspicion, hatred or fear.

May the peace of the risen Christ fill your hearts and your homes.

Drew

## Deacon's Deliberations

We have done it! Mark and I have made the move to Carluke, and boy has it been stressful. The boiler didn't work, so for five days we had no heating or hot water! Add to that the fact that we need a new kitchen, new windows and doors, and you'll understand why it hasn't been an easy time. Even the garden is in a right old mess.

In the Gospel of Matthew (11:28-30) Jesus says: "Come to me all of you who are weary and carrying very heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light".

How wonderful are the scriptures. They teach, encourage and reassure us that God our Father, Christ Jesus our Lord, and the Holy Spirit are with us every second of every day. They also show us that praying is vitally important when we are stressed. I'm sure you all know the old hymn "What a friend we have in Jesus". It goes like this:

*What a friend we have in Jesus. All our sins and griefs to bear  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit. O what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer*

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged. Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness. Take it to the Lord in prayer.*

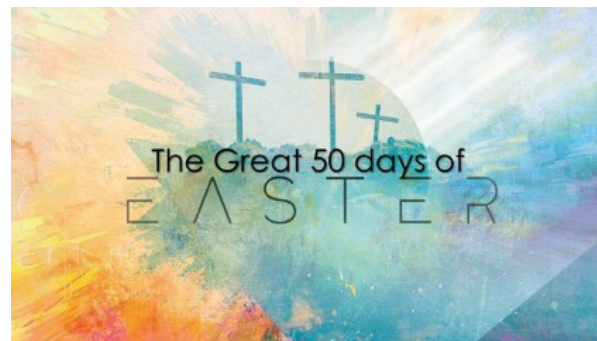
Those words helped me to cope in recent times. They helped me to destress, to focus and to keep going in faith. When times are hard for you and your stress levels rise to fever pitch, try carrying it all to God in prayer. You'll be pleasantly surprised. It really works.

The stress of our move is already beginning to be behind us. All the work we know we need to do will get done in time. As the old saying puts it: Rome wasn't built in a day!

Lots of people have been very helpful and kind to us. Thanks very much for that. I'm sure we will be very happy here as part of the community in Clydesdale.

Jackie

## Monastic Musings



The period immediately after Easter Day is known as "The Great 50 Days". Easter is not just one day; it is 50 days. It takes us 40 days to prepare for it – Lent – and 50 days to celebrate it – The Great 50 Days.

Why do we spend so much time on Easter? As St Paul puts it: "If Christ has not been raised from the dead, our faith is in vain." Everything depends on the rising of Jesus from the dead. Nobody saw him rise, but what they did find was an empty tomb on that first Easter morning. Proof that was enough for the disciples should be proof enough for us too.

These great 50 days of Easter have a lot of things going on in them. We read from the Acts of the Apostles almost every day in the liturgy. In those readings we hear again and again about the exploits of our forebears in the faith as they tried to work out who they were, what was to be their mission and calling, how they could be faithful to what they believed about Jesus Christ being raised from the dead.

We see this reflected in those who are baptised and received into the church at Easter and we can take a lesson from it for ourselves. The Great 50 Days are a time for us to deepen our own faith.

In Medieval times there was a lovely old custom during The Great 50 Days of telling jokes. People did this because Jesus Christ played the ultimate trick on the Devil when he rose from the dead. He overcame sin, suffering and death and put the Devil back in his place. That's what our ancestors in the faith believed and they celebrated every day by telling each other jokes!

So, in these Great 50 Days of Easter, be happy, rejoice, celebrate every day, deepen your faith and tell some jokes! Jesus Christ was the first to rise from the dead. If he didn't, our faith is in vain. But by saying with conviction that he was the **first** to rise from the dead, those who do our best to follow him will rise with him too.

Gerry Creaney

# Bishop's Easter Message

Dear Friends,

How does the Cross of pain become the Cross of joy?

The cross consists of three pieces, by tradition. The standard piece, looking at the cross as an individual, I identify as Guilt. The crossbar which allowed Jesus to carry the cross and is the weight of the cross, that piece I identify as Regret. The two pieces are held together by the nails or tied together with the secure rope or Fear.

**Guilt**, the overwhelming sense of having done wrong. This is so often encapsulated in simple statements: “If only I hadn't done... been... seen... said...”.

**Regret**, the “what might have been if only”. If only I had been taller, thinner, more confident, more adventurous, more astute.

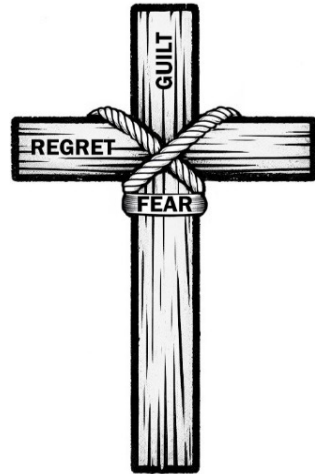
**Fear**, the fear of being found out, the fear of loneliness, the fear of not being worth very much, and the greatest fear – “Who cares anyway?”.

There is, indeed, the cross of pain which Jesus carried to show that God understands such feelings.

When on Palm Sunday we hear in the epistle the exhortation “let the same mind be in you as was in Christ Jesus”, there we see the depth of understanding of what it is to be human, what it is to be made in the image of God. Jesus in Gethsemane with friends who were a disappointment, wrestling with his own questions and doubts. There is the depth of understanding that allows us to enter into the very soul of God. The soul, that place where that what I think meets what I feel meets what I most yearn for. Even, especially, carrying the cross of pain.

In all the stories of the resurrection Jesus is depicted and described as having all the marks of pain, crucifixion and death on his body. There is no attempt to disguise the physical suffering or mental anguish of the Passion narrative. In fact they are highlighted, literally: Jesus appears having left the tomb and bathed in light and full of new life, new love – resurrection.

Thus, the cross of pain in resurrection light has meaning and purpose, it becomes life-giving.



Guilt, that standard of pain becomes trust. **Trust** in God who forgives. Trust in God who is love. Love that is of such depth that we cannot quite comprehend that God has always our best interests at heart. What we think of love goes beyond doubt and questions but makes sense of both. What we feel of love – affection, warmth, understanding, acceptance – these feelings show us something of God, make sense to the soul. The soul, where what I most yearn for – to be loved and to love – there the Holy Spirit leads to discern love that is most fulfilling, so that I may grow into being more like the person God shows in Jesus I can be.

Regret then ceases to weigh down the soul and the spirit. Confidence that these things and regrets cannot hold us forever, confidence that God is with us, confidence in love that helps us make sense of who and what we are. Confidence given by Jesus carrying the cross, confidence that God gives us as many second chances as we need. Confidence that the Holy Spirit is present in our desire to be better people who can show God's love and understanding, acceptance and affection.

**Trust** in God's confidence through Jesus bring real Hope and Joy, the hallmarks of the Holy Spirit.

**Hope** is not simply optimism that all will be well. Hope in the resurrection of Jesus brings real Joy. When as Christians we speak of Joy, we speak of the cross, of the pain, of guilt, regret and fear. We cannot deny these facets of being human, but Jesus' resurrection proves that we may look at those facets of our lives we would rather be without and see guilt from the different angle of Trust in God. Regret is seen as painless when we recognise all that we become in our Lord Jesus Christ and so confidence emerges from being made in the image of God. Trust and confidence bring hope that out of the mess of human experience we can encounter God in many ways, through people whom we may see in a new light, resurrection light revealing, showing, the Holy Spirit of discernment in our souls and in our world. Our world which knows the cross of pain, but in which we may play our part to show God trusts all his people made in God's image. Confidence that our Lord Jesus Christ shows all we might be and hope that we may discern in all our lives and situations the Holy Spirit of God's love and discernment in seeking new ways, new light of understanding and acceptance.

The Lord is risen from the dead. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! May the joy and hope of Easter be yours this day and always.

+ KEVIN



## Autumn Ladies

Rev. Canon Sheridan visited Autumn Ladies in February and gave us a short history lesson on the beginnings of the Anglican Church. It is the first Church of Scotland and not a version of the English Church.

On the 13th March Nicky McLaughlan from Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre, Wishaw showed us some slides and a short video. Telling us how people slipped into debt due to many reasons. Loss of a job, poor health, low wages compounded with high rents.



Individuals did not always seek help until they really hit rock bottom with loss of self respect and feelings of shame. Experts are available to help through a critical time in an individual's life and volunteers visit the home providing compassion and support. Giving hope and restoring self confidence. Nicky reminded us of the story of Jesus, when at his lowest after hearing of the death of his cousin John, still had compassion for others. Thousands of people had followed him, but there was no food available. He instructed his disciples to feed the people and not turn them away hungry.

Nicky compared Jesus's act of compassion and kindness over 2,000 years ago with the needs of people today. His fellow volunteers show compassion and provide confidentiality today. CAP is supported by a local charity shop in Newmains and foodbank at the Church.

At the end of March Liz Bartham from Clydesdale foodbank gave us an insight into the work and increasing need for the foodbank. They cover the whole of Clydesdale - 500 miles. They have now purchased their own transport with refrigeration. Keeping fresh foods and veg. cool on their long trips. Sometimes as far as Leadhills. Where transport and local shops are scarce/expensive. Liz explained she had been part of a prayer group at St. John's in Carlisle some years ago. An anonymous slip of paper had been placed on the prayer tree requesting help. This ignited the foodbank idea and people became proactive in collecting and providing food to the less fortunate. The service has increased greatly and they now help large numbers of people including families with groceries. The service constantly needs donations and cash to ensure people do not go hungry, and their transport stays on the road. A couple on a low income with high rent, electricity costs etc can be caught up in poverty. A food parcel can save lives. Liz told us people had to be referred by one of a variety of agencies. The foodbank does not stand alone. When people require their assistance they usually need other types of help in their lives.

As I write, Autumn Ladies are looking forward to making their own floral displays with the help of Jane our own expert on flowers.

On the 24th April Mike Taylor will speak on Art History and on 8th May Helen will tell us of her Journey into the world of Art.

On Saturday 13th April we are holding a fund raiser for the Cancer Care Drivers. A coffee morning being held in the Tolbooth.

Nearing the end of our Wednesday meetings before restarting in the Autumn. We are looking forward to a day out to Dumfries House, with a trip around the House itself.

*Isobel Malcolm*

### A poetic prayer for Pentecost

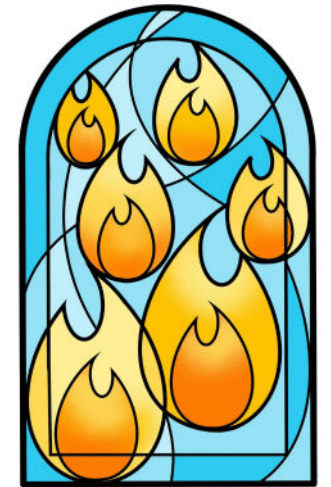
Happy Birthday to all Christians,  
This is where it all began;  
Out from here went the apostles,  
Taking Christ to everyone.

Able now to speak to nations,  
With the good news to proclaim;  
Crucified for our salvation,  
Hear His message, learn His name.

Out they went to every corner,  
Fearless as they spread the word;  
Bringing light to those in darkness,  
Giving hope to all that heard.

So must we with every blessing,  
Follow in the steps they trod;  
Showing love and help and kindness,  
All come from the breath of God.

By Alan Millichip



## Pentecost - not a Ghost but a Gift

We used to call it Whitsun – ‘White Sunday’ because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. There are no processions nowadays, and we’ve even changed its name. It’s now ‘Pentecost’, which is more accurate but needs explaining.

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover, they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn’t helped by the earlier title ‘Holy Ghost’. The spirit is not spiritually a ‘ghost’ but a precious gift.



## Garden Notes

Sadly, the very old cherry tree in the church garden was slowly dying and needed to be removed by tree surgeons before it fell down and damaged church structures. This has left a gap in the centre of the woodland which, although it will take a bit of getting used to, could also give us an opportunity to replant with something else.



Hopefully the blue anemone blanda and the daffodils will recover from their trampling and flower once again.

Our church is in Gothic Revival style, built by John Henderson in 1858. A garden style that is appropriate historically is the “picturesque” garden, which our woodland is like. This is a romantic and wilder arrangement of trees and shrubs, giving an atmosphere of a secret Gothic space. The greenery should look natural and abundant. A good example of this style is seen in the Blue Italian Spode plate design. (Though we can do without the resident hermit!). This contrasts with the Hope Street streetscape and frames the church stones and windows. It also gives a soft green backdrop to the formality of the pots along the paths and shows up the colours of the flowers. The pots are arranged symmetrically to give a strong formal pattern. This contrasts with the informal woodland area. Thus, both these areas compliment each other.

However, the romantic wilder garden also needs managing, otherwise nettles, brambles and ivy will overwhelm the box, azaleas and other shrubs. There should, therefore, be a programme of skilled editing. To this end, I have planted vigorous perennials like perennial geraniums, goat's beard, crocosmia and pink campion along the edges near the organ pump room, thus preventing too many nettles.

Taking out the dying cherry tree was not an easy decision but I am looking forward to the regeneration of this part of the garden. Roll on spring and summer!

Joan East

Numbers

1. What number is represented by the Roman numerals XC?
2. In English law what is the smallest number of people that can constitute a riot?
3. How many zeros are in One Trillion?
4. What is the letter 'G' worth in the board game, Scrabble?
5. What number on the Beaufort Scale represents a Hurricane?
6. How many rows of stars are there on the American Flag?
7. In the original board game 'Monopoly' how much does it cost to buy a station?
8. How many sides does a Dodecahedron have?
9. In what century was the series Poldark set?
10. How many books are contained in the Old Testament of the Bible?

Answers

1.90, 2.3, 3.12, 4.2, 5.12, 6.9,  
7.£200, 8.12, 9.18<sup>th</sup>, 10.39.

**Laughter is the Best Medicine**

**Children's exam papers**

The following real-life answers to various exam papers explain why teachers need long holidays...

What is a nitrate?  
Cheaper than a day rate.

What was Sir Walter Raleigh famous for?  
He is a noted figure in history because he invented cigarettes and started a craze for bicycles.

What did Mahatma Gandhi and Genghis Khan have in common?  
Unusual names.

Name one of the early Romans' greatest achievements.  
Learning to speak Latin.

Name six animals which live specifically in the Arctic.  
Two polar bears. Four seals.

How does Romeo's character develop throughout the play?  
It doesn't, it's just self, self, self, all the way through.

Name the wife of Orpheus, whom he attempted to save from the underworld.  
Mrs Orpheus.

Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed?  
At the bottom.

What happens during puberty to a boy?  
He says goodbye to his childhood and enters adultery.

State three drawbacks of hedgerow removal.  
All the cows will escape. The cars drive into the fields. There is nowhere to hide.

What is a fibula?  
A little lie.

Why would living close to a mobile phone mast cause ill health?  
You might walk into it.

What is a vibration?  
There are good vibrations and bad vibrations. Good vibrations were discovered in the 1960s.

Where was Hadrian's Wall built?  
Around Hadrian's garden.

The race of people known as Malays come from which country?  
Malaria.



Regular worshippers were upgraded to first class



# CHRIST CHURCH LANARK

Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

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Registered Scottish Charity: No SCO 14937