

CHRIST CHURCH LANARK
CLYDESDALE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FEBRUARY - MARCH '25

Schedule of Services

February 2025

Sunday 2

Candlemas

08.30 am – Said Eucharist

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 9

Epiphany 5

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 16

Epiphany 6

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 23

Epiphany 7

10.30 am – Eucharist (Lamington)

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist (Lanark)

April 2025

Sunday 6

Lent 5

(Passion Sunday)

08.30 am – Said Eucharist

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

March 2025

Sunday 2

Transfiguration

08.30 am – Said Eucharist

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 5

Ash Wednesday

7.00 pm – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 9

Lent 1

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 16

Lent 2

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 23

Lent 3

10.30 am – Eucharist (Lamington)

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

(Lanark)

Sunday 30

Mothering Sunday

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

News in the Pews

- We were saddened to hear, on Monday 6 January 2025, of the death of Alison Burroughs, who, with her husband Maurice, was a stalwart of Christ Church for many years before moving south to be closer to family after her husband's death. We pray for her family in their time of loss and for Alison, that she may enjoy eternal rest in God's peace, and, in the fullness of time, rise in glory.
- A massive thank you to the Christmas Tree decorators, the Christingle makers, the church flower arrangers and the social committee for all their hard work in the lead up to and over the Christmas period. The church looked beautiful and our usual ministry of welcome was very much appreciated by all who attended services and events.
- The search for a new bishop for our Diocese gets underway in January, with a "meet the candidates" synod on Saturday 11 January and a "vote for your candidate" synod on Saturday 18 January. Play keep the whole process in your prayers. We hope that cries of "Habemus Episcopum" will soon be on our lips.
- Upcoming social events for your diary include: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party - 4 March and Soupa Sunday – 9 March.
- Brunch & Browse, our fellowship and study group run by Revs Jackie and Liz, will reconvene in Lent. Watch our usual information for a for further details.
- Thank you for your enthusiastic response to our request for nominations of "Christian" charities for our Away Giving Campaigns for 2025. We received 7. Mary's Meals. Street Level Carlisle. Christian Blind Mission. Care for the Family. Mission Aviation Fellowship. Leprosy Mission. Glasgow City Mission. Three of these will be chosen by vote at our Vestry Meeting in January. Those not chosen this year will be re-considered for next year.

Our 4th Quarter Charity Collection raised £500 for Neuroendocrine Cancer UK

Clergy Cogitations



Dear Friends

We sometimes hear people talking about someone who is worrying himself or herself into an early grave, or about someone who has already done so! Worry is certainly something that is hazardous to health, and psychologists will tell us that their consulting rooms are full of people who are burdened with worry.

Seasonal ‘depression’ is something that we can cope with and it is easily shrugged off. Have sympathy for those who suffer from Depression with a capital ‘D’ and who cannot just shrug it off!

Worry, however, is a bit more subtle and can lurk in the darkest corners of our mind, even when we are feeling that the world is being nice to us.

As children we worry about silly things like shadows in the bedroom and ogres that may live under the bed, but as adults, our thoughts may be just as irrational. We can be tempted to worry about things that are yet to come and, most of the time, never will come. We can easily create our own ogres; some of them can be more horrific than any childhood fantasy.

St Paul exhorts us not to worry, as does Jesus, and scripture is very plain in its condemnation of those who will worry: “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will look after itself.”

On my pinboard in the Rectory Office I have a little card that has written on it: “Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow”. These words have helped me (and many folk) to keep “everything in perspective”.

Loosely translated it says: “There are two days in every week about which we should NOT worry, two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension. One of these days is yesterday (with its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains). Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control. Yesterday is gone. The other day we should NOT worry about is tomorrow (with its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and poor performance). Tomorrow is also beyond our immediate control.

Tomorrow’s sun will rise, but until it does, we have no stake in tomorrow, because it is yet unborn.

This leaves only one day – today. Anyone can fight the battles of just one day. It is only when we add the burdens of those two awful eternities, yesterday and tomorrow, that a temptation to despair can arise.

So, feel good about yourself and your life TODAY. It is the only day in 2025 that we have, and there is NO need to worry about it, because it’s already here.

Drew

Autumn Ladies

Autumn Ladies resumed on the 15th January in the Church Hall and it was great to see some new faces. If you would like to join us, just pop along for one afternoon if there is something you would like to participate in eg our craft afternoons.

We have a good selection of speakers and crafts again this year: 29th Jan. Drones. 12th Feb. Surprise afternoon. 26th Feb. Pathfinder Dogs. 12th March, Felt workshop. 26th March, Easter Flowers. 9th April, Easter Story in Paintings. 23rd April, Scott's Jams. 7th May, Life Stories. 21st May, Salt. 4th June, Trip.

As you can see we have a variety of afternoons lined up. Join us for a hot cup of tea and cake in the cold winter months ahead.

Isobel

Deacon's Deliberations



On the 14th of February many people enjoy celebrating Saint Valentine's Day. But who was Saint Valentine? Why was he a Saint? Why is Saint Valentine linked to love? Where is God and the Christian faith in Valentine's Day?

It would appear that there were Multiple Martyred Saint Valentines. Valentine was a popular name in ancient Rome, and there are at least 50 stories of different saints by that name.

The most popular story (and the one that I will focus on here) is that Saint Valentine was a clergyman – either a priest or a bishop – in the Roman Empire who ministered to persecuted Christians. He is the patron saint of beekeepers, epilepsy, engaged couples and marriage.

Saint Valentine would perform secret weddings against the wishes of the authorities in the third century. Imprisoned in the home of a noble he healed his captor's blind daughter, and converting the whole household to Christianity therefore sealing his fate, he sent the girl a note signed "Your Valentine," before being tortured and decapitated. He was martyred and his body buried on the Via Flaminia on 14th February, which has been observed as the Feast of Saint Valentine (Saint Valentine's Day) since at least the eighth century.

We may have the English poet Geoffrey Chaucer to thank for the way we celebrate Valentine's Day. There is no record of romantic celebrations on Valentine's Day prior to a poem Chaucer wrote around 1375 titled "Parliament of Fowles." He links a tradition of courtly love with the celebration of St. Valentine's feast day, although this tradition did not exist until Chaucer's poem received widespread attention.

This tradition was taken up with factory-made cards, which became popular in the nineteenth century. In 1913, Hallmark Cards of Kansas City, Missouri, began mass producing valentines cards.

Whatever our view of St. Valentine and the day that honours him, it is clear that loving others is God's intention for us and that Saint Valentine not only practised and shared his faith but showed the love of God by his actions.

We too are called to show God's love; we are so many passages in the Bible about love and loving each other. In Matthew 22:39 we read, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself". And in John 13:34-35 Jesus says this: "I'll give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Whether you celebrate Valentine's Day by giving your loved ones cards, chocolates, a special meal or not... remember: love as God loves us.

Jackie

Happy Retirement!

Bobby (Burgon) has now retired after 11 years as Diocesan Treasurer. The job involved looking after Diocesan accounts and supporting treasurers in the charges throughout the Diocese. He regularly went to Glasgow for meetings and sometimes on-line, especially during Covid.

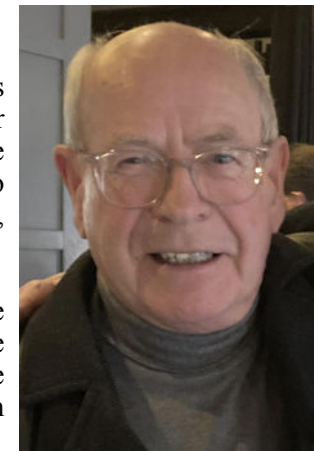
It was decided a couple of years ago to amalgamate the jobs of Diocesan Secretary and Treasurer into one full-time role and so the search started for someone with suitable skills who would become Diocesan Administrator.

An appointment was made last March and Bobby spent the remainder of the year gradually showing her the ropes. Because of the Diocesan Constitution, however, the Diocese still has to have a Secretary and Treasurer elected by Synod who ensure the keeping of minutes and finances.

This was a very busy period in Bobby's life and together with his duties as treasurer here in Christ Church, he worked at his computer or on his phone nearly every day.

The Diocese showed its appreciation in the many gifts and cards he received on leaving – and – no, that doesn't mean he is now free to take on the role of treasurer of other organisations!

Sandra Burgon



Monastic Musings



As part of our novitiate formation for monastic life, we aspiring monks were all taught to think of the present moment as a sacrament. Of course, it's not one of the official seven sacraments of the Church, but if you think about the definition of a sacrament, it would certainly qualify. A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace. Aside from the fact that the present moment was really instituted by God the Father when God created heaven and earth, the definition of a sacrament fits. God gives us the present moment

as an outward sign to help sanctify us and give us an opportunity to receive grace if only we will cooperate with it. The present moment is the only one we can actually live in and take advantage of; the past is gone and the future hasn't happened yet.

In his book *Abandonment to Divine Providence*, which has a translated version titled *The Sacrament of the Present Moment*, Father Jean Pierre de Caussade says "There is not a moment in which God does not present Godself under the cover of some pain to be endured, of some consolation to be enjoyed, or of some duty to be performed." Every moment that we have is an opportunity to serve and glorify God in whatever we are doing, whether it is our work, leisure, or some trial we are undergoing. It is all an opportunity for grace. When we ask God to be with us at every moment of our day to help us cooperate with the graces God is offering us, we sanctify the present moment and take full advantage of this little sacrament that God has instituted for us.

For those of us who suffer from anxiety, reminding ourselves that the moment we are currently in is the only one that matters and the only one we can make use of may help, as well as just telling Jesus, "I'm struggling with these thoughts, Lord. Help me bear this cross in a way that is pleasing to you and give me greater trust in your plans for me."

Just as with the official sacraments of the Church that we receive regularly, we need to be open to receiving all that the sacrament of the present moment has to offer us in order fully to reap its benefits. Asking God to help us see God in every moment of our day will open our hearts to see the graces God is offering us and be able to cooperate with them fully.

I pray that 2025 may be a year full of sacramental moments for us all.

Gerry Creaney

Shrove Tuesday: Who's for pancakes?

Why do we have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, as we call it today? And what is Shrove Tuesday? And why do thousands of people feel it rewarding to race along a street somewhere tossing pancakes from their frying pans as they go?

Well, the answer to the first question is that it is the day before Lent begins and for well over a thousand years that has meant it was the last chance to enjoy meat, fat and other tasty dishes until Easter Day. The 'Lent Fast' was widely and strictly observed. The food in the larder wouldn't keep for six weeks so it had to be eaten. With all these rich foods no wonder the French call it 'Fatty Tuesday' – Mardi Gras.

So, what have pancake races got to do with all this solemnity? 'Shrove' is an old word for 'forgiven' and in those days to prepare for the rigours of Lent people would want to confess and seek forgiveness – not quite what you want at a party. The answer is quite simply enjoying yourself while you can! So, on Shrove Tuesday this year let's have some fun and make it last as long as possible.

The most convincing (and amusing) of the explanations of pancake races is of outwitting the Sexton who rang the curfew bell that marked the start of Lent. He was reluctant to do it while the race was unfinished. So, the revelry caused by dropped pancakes, postponed the inevitable.

Since the Reformation it has not been so rigorously observed in Britain, but still people will resolve to 'give up something for Lent'. Six weeks is about right as a duration and Sunday has always been exempt but make the most of those pancakes. They may well not reappear until April 15th.

Don't Forget
Christ Church Pancake Party
Tuesday 4th March



More Clergy Cogitations



Candlemas (2nd February) or Candle Mass was originally a service in which the priest blessed the candles for use throughout the year; candles which were to be used in church but also in the homes of the congregation. The light of candles was used to signify Christ as the Light of the World. There are some similarities with our Christingle Service.

Joseph and Mary brought their Child to the temple. Proud parents, full of love, carefully carrying this new life, they brought their Child to the temple for God's blessing. Once inside the temple walls, probably in the forecourt, in the Court of the Women, Joseph, Mary and Jesus met with Simeon. Simeon had been led by the Holy Spirit to the temple; it's as if the Holy Spirit created and enveloped this encounter. 'You will not see death,' said the Spirit to Simeon, 'until you have seen the Lord's Christ.' Hence, the Nunc Dimittis, from Simeon's lips, 'Now let thy servant depart in peace, for I have seen the salvation of the Lord.' Simeon is captured by an inner peace which not even the prospect of his own death can shatter. This peace or inner strength is the 'commodity' which the Church, at its best, offers the world.

In this moment of reflection and meditation, take yourself into that holy scene, into the presence of Joseph, Mary, the Child and Simeon. What do you see or feel? Simeon takes Jesus into his arms, holds him and in that moment, at once, feels he can die happy, satisfied, his life completed. What does Simeon do? He looks at the Child, gazes at the Child and embraces the Child. And that is the spiritual message in this story. The Bible is primarily a spiritual tool, there to lead us deeper into the divine, into a richer relationship with the holy. Simeon looked at the Child, gazed at Jesus, and embraced Him. This passage isn't history but a word icon for us to gaze into and be drawn into.

What does it mean to look at Jesus or gaze at Christ or embrace Him? The American Episcopal priest, Barbara Brown Taylor, says that there is a hunger for God, for life-giving words, even in the Church. She says that the decline of the churches is, in part, due to its failure to deal with the silence of God.

It's true that we can become tired of words – including sermons – and crave contact with the ultimate reality, the ineffable, the inexpressible. Rowan Williams says that an orchestra, in performing a symphony, is working towards the fleeting silence that comes after the last note has finally evaporated: those precious silent seconds are where the meaning lies. Barbara Brown Taylor calls on the churches to explore the richness of silence. Pope Francis calls Christians to 'spiritual activism'. The inner peace which touched and changed Simeon came when he looked at Jesus, gazed at the Christ and embraced Him. The evidence for God is inner evidence and what we mean by God is mysterious, elusive yet very, very penetrating.

Drew

Magazine Subscriptions

Do you enjoy reading the Christ Church magazine? If so, have you paid your subscription? The Treasurer reports that quite a few parishoners have not yet paid. If this is you, could you please let Bobby have £16 as soon as possible. It is easy to forget in the run up to Christmas so we won't 'name and shame'!

The annual subscription is £16 which includes postage. Please send a cheque to Robert Burgon, Treasurer, 141 Hyndford Road, Lanark, ML11 8BG. Cheques should be made payable to 'Christ Church Lanark'.

Alternatively, you can transfer your subscription directly to the bank:
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Holy Day in February

18th Feb: Fra Angelico, patron of artists



The Annunciation, 1443

If you enjoy drawing or painting, Fra Angelico is the patron saint for you. This devout Dominican priest of the Early Renaissance (1387-1455) used his superlative talent to the glory of God to such an extent that even six centuries later we are inspired and blessed by his art.

For while you may not be familiar with his name, but you'll know his work: Fra Angelico's *The Annunciation* or *Adoration of the Magi* has adorned many classical Christmas cards. He is reckoned to be one of the greatest Italian painters of the 15th century.

Fra Angelico was born at Vicchio near Florence, and as a young friar worked at illuminating manuscripts such as the *Dominican Diurnal*. Ordained priest at Fiesole in 1418, he continued painting, spending the 1430s decorating the interior of the friary of San Marco, Florence with his masterpieces. Work at the Vatican followed, especially his paintings of Stephen and Laurence in the chapel of the artistic pope Nicholas V.

Fra Angelico's work is sublime, revealing a marvellous command of colour, light and perspective. It radiates spiritual serenity, and a dedication to God that is matched by few others. He has been described by experts as having "a rare and perfect talent", and that "it is impossible to bestow too much praise on this holy father, who was so humble and modest in all that he did and said, and whose pictures were painted with such facility and piety."

From 1449 to 1452 Fra Angelico was prior of Fiesole. Then he moved to Rome, where three years later he died. He was beatified in 1960 and declared patron of artists in 1984. Pope John Paul II described his paintings as 'miracles'.



Coronation of the Virgin, 1432

February Quiz by Bob Rabagliati

Question	A	B	C	D
1. Approximately how long ago was Stonehenge built?	10000	7000	5000	3000
2. Of these four, which city receives the most annual rainfall?	Tokyo	Chicago	London	Sydney
3. Which ABBA member was not born in Sweden?	Agneta	Frida	Benny	Bjorn
4. Which is the odd one out?	Diana Ross and the Supremes	Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers	Bob Marley and the Wailers	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
5. Which of the following is not a primary layer of the atmosphere?	Stratosphere	Troposphere	Exosphere	Mesosphere
6. Which country uses its underground hot water currents for heating 85% of its housing?	New Zealand	Iceland	Greenland	Canada
7. Which is the fastest flowing river in the world?	Amazon	Congo	Nile	Thames
8. In 1926 Agatha Christie mysteriously disappeared for 11 days. Where did she go?	Blackpool	Ludlow	Harrogate	Windermere
9. Which Country has the largest film industry?	India	USA	France	China
10. Who said, 'Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen'?	Margaret Thatcher	Abraham Lincoln	Mother Theresa	Sir Winston Churchill

Answers

1. C 2. A 3. B 4. D 5. C 6. B 7. A 8. C 9. A 10. D

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Home Schooling

Back in the 'good old days', we didn't appreciate how much education was given at home...

Our mothers taught us TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE: "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

Our fathers taught us RELIGION: "You better pray that that will come out of the carpet."

Our mothers taught us LOGIC: "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the shops with me."

Our fathers taught us MORE LOGIC: "Because I said so, that's why."

Our mothers taught us about CONTORTIONISM: "Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

Our fathers taught us about the science of OSMOSIS: "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

Our mothers taught us about BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION: "Stop acting like your father!"

Our mothers taught us about ESP: "Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

And finally, our fathers taught us about JUSTICE: "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

Hearing

A tiny lady was the guest preacher. A few minutes into her sermon, she paused and said: "Can you all hear me at the back?" A kind voice replied: "We can hear you fine. But sadly, we can't quite see you." (*Could this have been 'our Liz'?*)

Visit

The new vicar was doing the rounds to meet his parishioners. At one house where he knocked, a woman inside called out: "Is that you, Angel?"

The vicar hesitated and then called back: "No, but I'm from the same department."



'...Dry-rot, Thomas, what dry-rot?'

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Registered Scottish Charity: No SCO 14937

