



CHRIST CHURCH LANARK
CLYDESDALE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
APRIL '25

Schedule of Services

April 2025

Sunday 6

Lent 5

(Passion Sunday)

08.30 am – Said Eucharist

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 13

Palm Sunday

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Thursday 17

Maundy Thursday

7.00 pm

Institution of the Eucharist
Washing of Feet, Stripping of the
altars, Watch of the Passion

Friday 17

Good Friday

2 pm – 3 pm

Holy Hour

Saturday 18

Holy Saturday

7.00 pm

Ceremonies of the Easter Vigil

Sunday 20

Easter Day

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 27

Easter 2

10.30 am – Eucharist (Lamington)

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist (Lanark)



Golden Wedding

On Sunday 16 March Curate Jackie presented Richard and Doreen Evans with a beautiful plant to celebrate the 50 years of marriage.

News in the Pews

- Marilyn Caddell celebrated her 80th birthday on Tuesday 11 February and received a greetings card and a plant from the congregation on the following Sunday. Ad multos annos!
- Memory Lane, our Dementia Support Group, had its 6th birthday in February. A special lunch and sing song were laid on in the church hall. A great time was had by all.
- The very popular Christian Aid Lent Lunches, which fell into abeyance during the Covid years, have started up again, with Christ Church and St Nicholas sharing the hosting of the lunches in their respective church halls. All proceeds will go to Christian Aid. Come along and enjoy a bowl of soup, a roll and cheese/ham and a cuppa, all for a minimum donation of £3.
- The front garden of the Rectory has had a complete makeover and is now looking very smart and tidy. The Rector's reputation in leafy Cleghorn Road has been restored!!!
- On Sunday 2 March, at the end of the Sung Eucharist, Anne Glen received official confirmation of her retirement from the post of Vestry Secretary, a position she held with distinction for many long years. Here she is receiving her presentation....



Clergy Cogitations



that Jesus is alive.

It's often the case that on Easter Day the gospel reading is taken from John. In fact the earlier version of the resurrection is in Mark's gospel and it is seldom if ever read on Easter Sunday because of the way it ends, at verse 8. Mark ends his account with the women coming to the tomb, finding it empty, meeting a mysterious stranger with the shattering news that Jesus was not there, and then, "...they went out and fled from the tomb; trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid."

We want Easter to be a day of joy and gladness. Mark gives us a picture of distress, fear and terror. No wonder we prefer Luke or John's account. But the question has struck me, what was there to be afraid of on the day of resurrection?

Maybe the women were afraid they'd be accused of stealing Jesus' body. Maybe the women were afraid that the authorities, religious or political, would come after them and make them scapegoats. Maybe they even began to struggle with the earthshattering, death-defying reality of whatever happened to Jesus. We don't have the detail, we do have the effect. Easter Day is the reality of God on the loose. God is out of the box. There are ways in which that is exciting, comforting and thrilling. But there are also ways in which that is exciting, comforting and thrilling. But there are also ways in which that is unsettling, disturbing and terrifying. God is not tied down by religion or by our doubts. God is free and on the loose.

Christians are challenged by the mystery and the unsettling nature of resurrection that, if we are truly to celebrate Easter and what it stands for, God on the loose, then we need constantly to be willing to hand over control to God.

The Season of Easter is one of the glories of the Christian Church. It coincides – hopefully – with the start of the longer days and the strong signs of the earth rejuvenating after the Winter months. In the Church we move out of the time of reflection and introspection that goes with Lent and reconnect with the good news

We must allow God to be God. We don't have all the answers, but we do have many questions, and God on the loose can help us move towards all kinds of answers and solutions.

Former leader of the Iona Community, Rev John Harvey, writes that maybe Mark is right to end his Easter story with this jagged edge. He doesn't try to pretty it up or analyse it or make it fit what we want it to be. I like the idea of Jesus striding out, free, totally out of our control, bursting into all our lives, inviting, challenging, summoning us to be free like Him, and on the loose in the world with His good news and radical love.

Drew

An after-Easter prayer

Don't leave our Lord amidst the lilies
Within a hallowed sphere
Don't praise Him only in your churches
In Easter hymn and prayer...

Keep Him beside you through
The business of ordinary days,
In the common place encounters
Along the humdrum ways.

Our Master told us very simply
What He would have us do....
He taught: "Love one another
Even as I love you."

By Elsie Campbell



Deacon's Deliberations



Have you ever played an April fool's joke on anyone? Have you ever wondered where the tradition of April Fool's Day came from?

April Fool's Day is traced through every country of Europe to the Hindus. In most countries it is on the first day of April. It received its name from the custom of playing practical jokes on this day - for example, telling friends that their shoelaces were untied or sending them on so-called fools' errands. Although the day has been observed for centuries, its true origins are unknown and effectively unknowable.

There are many different stories about where April Fool's Day came from. One of them came from William Ralston Balch (1895) who wrote: "Humorous Jewish Origin of the Custom of Making Fools on the First of April. This is said to have begun from the mistake of Noah in sending the Dove out of the Ark before the water had abated on the first day of the month among the Hebrews, which answers to the 1st of April; and to perpetuate the memory of this deliverance it was thought proper, whoever forgot so remarkable a circumstance, to punish them by sending them upon some sleeveless errand similar to that ineffectual message upon which the bird was sent by the Patriarch. The custom appears to be of great antiquity, and to have been derived by the Romans from some of the Eastern nations."

Genesis 5:8-9: Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so, it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark.

Was Noah a fool to send the dove out of the Ark before the water had abated? Genesis 5:13-17: By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you - the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground - so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."

Perhaps Noah had forgotten that God would never forget or forsake him, that God would eventually bring him to dry land; and so, being impatient, he sent out the dove in search for dry land. If this is the case, then Noah was a fool to send out the dove.

Let us not be a fool, let us always remember that God is always with us, God will never forsake us, God will always love us.

Let us not go on a fool's errand down the wrong path. Let us stay on the right path, the path that leads us to a loving God who will never forget us.

Jackie

Monastic Musings



In a world often characterised by materialism and excess, the Christian journey invites us to explore the beauty of simplicity and minimalism. These principles align closely with the teachings of Jesus, who encouraged a focus on the eternal rather than the temporal. As Christians, we're called to lead lives full of purpose, contentment and a deep connection with God, while letting go of materialistic desires.

Matthew 6:19-21 says: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

This teaching from the Gospel of Matthew points to the fleeting nature of earthly possessions and emphasises the eternal value of spiritual treasures. It lays the foundation for a Christian approach to simplicity and minimalism that is rooted in faith. In today's world, which is filled with materialism and consumerism, it's essential to remember the message of 1 Timothy 6:6, "But godliness with contentment is great gain." This reading reminds us that true wealth lies in the contentment of our souls, not the accumulation of worldly goods.

Allow me to explore with you how these ideas connect with the Bible and how we can use them in our daily lives. This journey isn't about giving up things but about choosing to let go of what we don't need, so we can focus on what really matters. The call to simplicity is an invitation to simplify our lives and declutter our hearts and so to align them with God's grace and love. It encourages us to release the grip of materialism, find contentment in Christ, and practise generosity. Embracing simplicity and minimalism on our Christian journey isn't just for personal transformation. It's a way of living as a light to others, bearing witness to the peace, contentment and joy that can be found when we live in harmony with our faith. It's a lifelong commitment to reevaluating priorities, allowing our faith to guide us as we navigate the complexities of this world.

Here are 7 ways that we can embrace simplicity and minimalism in our daily lives as Christians.

A Call to Simplify

Christianity invites us to simplify our lives, letting go of the excess that can clutter our hearts and minds. This simplicity isn't about deprivation but rather a shift in focus. It's an intentional choice to prioritise what truly matters. Matthew 6:33 says: "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." This verse encourages prioritising God's kingdom and righteousness, which resonates with the idea of intentional choice to focus on what is most important.

Decluttering the Heart

Just as we declutter our physical spaces, we should also declutter our hearts. This means letting go of resentment, pride, and worldly desires, making room for God's grace and love. James 4:8 says: "Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded." This emphasises the importance of purifying our hearts and drawing closer to God.

Letting Go of Materialism

Material possessions are not inherently wrong, but when they become the focus of our lives, they can lead us away from God. We embrace minimalism by evaluating what we truly need and releasing the rest. Matthew 6:24 says: "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." This verse highlights how our focus on material wealth can clash with our commitment to God.

Finding Contentment in Christ

Minimalism and contentment are closely intertwined. As Christians we find our ultimate contentment in our relationship with Christ, not in the accumulation of possessions. Hebrews 13:5 says: "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have because God has said, 'Never will I leave you;

never will I forsake you.'" Here, contentment is directly linked to trusting in God's presence and provision rather than in the accumulation of wealth.

Practising Generosity

One of the beautiful aspects of minimalism is the freedom it provides to be more generous. As we simplify our life it becomes easier to share our resources and time with those in need, reflecting the love of Christ. 1 John 3:17-18 says: "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." Minimalism, by reducing our attachment to material possessions, can empower us to act in love and truth by helping others in practical ways.

Environmental Stewardship

Minimalism often leads to a more sustainable lifestyle, which ties in with the Christian call to care for God's creation. Embracing simplicity can have positive environmental impacts. Genesis 2:15 says: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." This verse highlights humanity's role as stewards of God's creation, emphasising the responsibility to care for and nurture the Earth.

Living as a Light to Others

As we embrace simplicity and minimalism in our Christian life, our example can be a powerful witness to others. Our life can then reflect the peace, contentment, and joy that come from living in alignment with our faith. Matthew 5:16 says: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." This verse underscores the importance of setting an example through our actions and so allowing others to witness and be inspired by our faith.

Embracing simplicity and minimalism offers a path to a deeper connection with God and a more meaningful Christian life. By decluttering our heart, mind, and physical spaces, we can focus on what truly matters. Aiming for simplicity and minimalism in our Christian walk is a journey, not a one-time task. It's a continual process of reevaluating priorities and striving to draw closer to God.

May God bless you on that journey this Lent and Easter.

Gerry Creaney

Autumn Ladies

The Autumn Ladies had an excellent start to the New Year with Amy Jo, a minister with the Salvation Army. If anyone has a busy life it is certainly Amy Jo, covering many subjects, giving us a real insight into the life of the Salvation Army (SA). Going to America on behalf of the SA, organising events and bringing others back to the UK to work here. She will speak at the United Nations on Women's Rights. She thanked older ladies for opening the doors to today's generation, enabling them to have independence in thought and deed, having their own money and to live a life which is not controlled by others. Of course we all know this does not happen across the board because there are still horror stories of enslavement and abuse of women. Some of which she shared with us. Her message will go across the world. Four youngsters were taken to London by her and had a fantastic time. This no doubt has helped them in their development and understanding of travel and city life, having lived in a small town all their lives. Food is prepared and served to the needy on a regular basis and Christmas Day was special for many as the S A prepared and served Christmas Dinner to many people who would either be on their own or could not afford a Christmas meal. 'A hug at a time of need is worth a thousand words'.

On Wednesday 29th January we had a very interesting talk from Andrew on Drones. They have moved forward so much now from when they were first introduced. They can be a basic camera with telephone technology. Ranging from taking photography of weddings to identifying and alerting authorities to thieves behaving suspiciously. Used to great advantage by forces in warfare. Some of the technology sounds frightening as they can calculate their own distance and make sure they return to base before they run out of power.

On 12th February one of our ladies experienced a specialist beauty treatment from a qualified clinician. After she had a facial treatment her skin looked radiant. There were many questions on the care of skin which were expertly answered.

At the end of February we had a visit from a very inspiring lady called Anne, whose best friend was a large cuddly Alsatian guide dog. Anne started the Pathfinder dog charity after she decided they were the dogs of choice for her. She was born blind and during the reign of Margaret Thatcher she underwent pioneering eye treatment. This gave her sight for many years but sadly she lost her sight again. This however gave her the opportunity to record in her mind's eye colours and other things we all take for granted. She trains and cares for the Alsatian dogs assisted by her staff and volunteers. She has worked with Alsatian dogs most of her life e.g. the police force.

Her own guide dog is called Karma and it cost around £36,000 to train him. During his visit to us he loved to be patted and spoken to and settled quietly while Anne kept us entertained with her wisdom and wit. We were thanked for the generous donations of stamps, plastics, DVD's and clothing. We all thank Bobby for his special gift of first edition stamps.



The Autumn Ladies have regularly donated to charitable causes who have visited and enlightened us on the work they carry out. Recently a photograph of some of the ladies and Doreen with her hand made quilt appeared in the Lanarkshire Cancer Care Trust news magazine. The Autumn Ladies had donated £410 to aid their work in 2024.

At the beginning of March some of the Autumn Ladies will be helping at the Lenten Lunches. The money collected will go to Christian Aid. We have had an amazing start to the New Year and look forward to other excellent speakers and craft work in the coming months. 9th April, Easter Story in Paintings. 23rd April, Scott's Jams. 7th May, Life Stories. 21st May, Salt. 4th June, Trip. We meet on alternative Wednesdays between 2-4 p.m. Best Wishes to all,
Isobel

Lenten devotion *words from Pope Francis, 2017*

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Happy Birthday



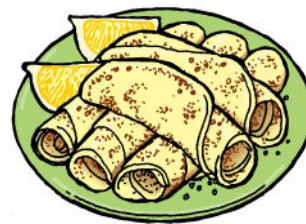
A big thank you for my beautiful orchids. It is hard to believe that I am now in my 80th decade and married to Frank for 57 years in October. I had to come halfway round the world to find him! I spent two years in New Zealand and came back in 1966. My job was being kept for me if I returned within a year. Having gone there by sea through Suez Canal I came back through Panama Canal, so I have sailed right round the world.

I was staying with my parents down south near Brighton. A short while before I arrived Frank, brought up in Glasgow, went down to Brighton for a job and our paths crossed. He popped the question after 6 weeks and we were married 7 months later! Our children were born down there and we lived in Sussex and Suffolk, until Frank's job moved us up to Scotland in 1983 and we have been very happy here in Lanark.

Frank looks fine in the photo, but it has been so hard - so much pain for more than a year and a half. He was doing so well at one point and then it started again. It was wonderful that on my birthday he was able to take part in the lunch at Inn on the Loch, that he and two friends had organised in secret. There were 7 friends that came to my spinning classes until lock down. The following day we had a lunch with our son, who brought the wonderful Shaun the Sheep cake.

Since then Frank has had a hernia operation. Hopefully the end of pain will soon be in sight. We must keep optimistic.

Marilyn Caddell

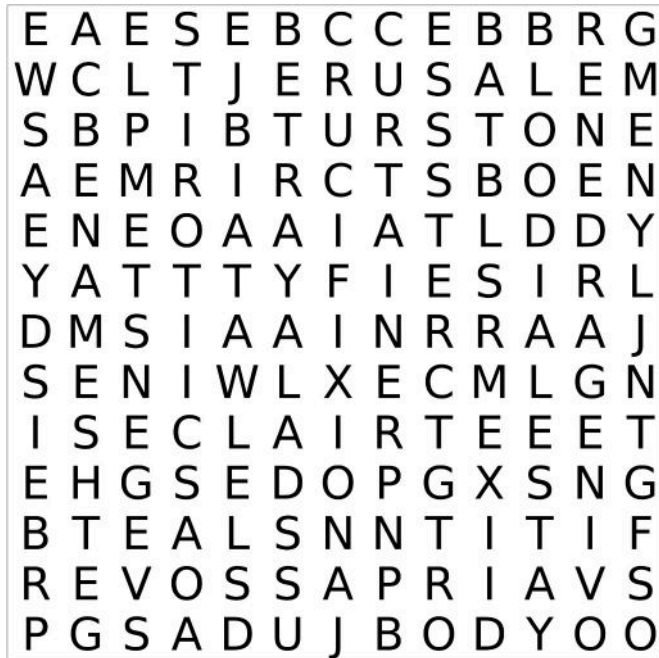


Pancake Party



On Shrove Tuesday we held our annual Pancake Party which was much enjoyed by all. Many thanks to our hardworking cooks, Jane, Mary and Margaret who flipped hundreds of pancakes for us all to enjoy.

Easter Wordsearch



Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! April brings us to Easter – the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - the triumphant highlight of the Christian year. As St Paul pointed out, unless Jesus really did rise again, our faith is useless, and we may as well forget any hope of heaven or eternal life. But because He does live, we have a sure and certain hope for our future.

passover	jerusalem	soldiers	tomb
bread	pilate	cross	angel
wine	judas	nails	stone
body	gethsemane	vinegar	risen
blood	trial	temple	gardener
betrayal	crucifixion	curtain	Mary

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Good Friday

I was standing in line at the bank when there was a commotion at the counter. A woman was very distressed, exclaiming, "Where will I put my money?! I have all my money and my mortgage here!! What will happen to my mortgage?! You can't do this to us!"

It turned out that she had misunderstood a small sign on the counter. The sign read: WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY.

Joseph's tomb

Pontius Pilate: "Joseph, I really don't understand you. You're one of the richest men in the region, and you've just spent a fortune on that new tomb for you and your family - and now you want to suddenly give it to this man Jesus?"

Joseph: "Well it's just for the weekend."

What can I eat for Easter?

Can't eat beef.....mad cow.
 Can't eat chicken..... bird flu.
 Can't eat eggs..... Salmonella.
 Can't eat pork.....fears that bird flu will infect pigs.
 Can't eat fish..... heavy metals in the waters.
 Can't eat fruits and veggies..... insecticides and herbicides.
 Can't eat potatoes, pasta, bread, rice.....
 ...nasty carbs.
 Hmmmmmmmm! I believe that leaves.
chocolate.

Teenagers

Mother to teenage girl wearing a mini-skirt. "I didn't say your slip is showing. I said your hip is showing."

Old lady to grandson in sports car, "don't put your foot down too hard on the exhilarator."

A teenager who returned home with his father's damaged car in tow, said, "At least Dad, you've not been pouring these car insurance payments down the drain."

Teenagers are people who:

- Express a burning desire to be different by dressing alike
- Get hungry again before the dishes are even washed



"I'm really not sure about this trend for clergy dressing down, dear."

CHRIST CHURCH LANARK

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Please remember Christ Church in your will as an act of thanksgiving for the Church. For confidential advice please speak to the Treasurer

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