

CHRIST CHURCH LANARK
CLYDESDALE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
JULY - AUGUST '25

Schedule of Services

July

Sunday 6

Trinity 3

08.30 am – Said Eucharist

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 13

Trinity 4

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 20

Trinity 5

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 27

Trinity 6

10.30 am – Eucharist (Lamington)

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist (Lanark)

August

Sunday 3

Trinity 7

08.30 am – Said Eucharist

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 10

Trinity 8

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 17

Trinity 9

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 24

Trinity 10

10.30 am – Eucharist (Lamington)

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist (Lanark)

Sunday 31

Trinity 11

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

September

Sunday 7

Trinity 12

08.30 am – Said Eucharist

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 14

Trinity 13

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist



News in the Pews

- Our new initiative, providing soup, fellowship and basic starter packs for the residents of The Blue Triangle in The Wide Close, is proving to be very successful. The residents thoroughly enjoy it and turn out in good numbers. Thanks to everyone who has kindly donated soup thus far. A new rota will be appearing in the near future.
- The VE Day Evening Service and the Kirking Service for the new Lord Cornet were very well attended and much appreciated. After a long period of inactivity post Covid it is good that all of the clergy in Lanark are now working together and contributing once again to the ecumenical scene, which was always very strong in the town.
- Vestry has decided to restrict the number of times we ask you for money. In future we will be sticking to the official four Away Giving Campaigns that we run each year, plus the Blythwood Shoebox Appeal. We hope that you will all appreciate our need to stop “ad hoc” requests for money.
- Many congratulations to Sandra Pringle, whose son, Edward, was elected Lord Cornet this year. We wish Sandra – and her boy – all the very best for the year ahead. We look forward to seeing Sandra sporting in church some of the millinery creations she acquired for Lanimer Week!! Get those fascinating fascinators and flying saucer brims on for us all to see, Sandra!!
- It was with much sadness that we learned of the death of former Vestry Secretary and Christ Church stalwart Anne Glen. Her funeral in her beloved Christ Church was very well attended. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Magazine Subscriptions

When Covid caused the closure of the church for many months, the decision was taken that all subscribers to the church magazine would receive their copy by post. With normal service patterns now resumed and with the increasing costs of postage, the Treasurer is now suggesting that we should return to the previous model of magazine distribution where most people pick up their copy from the church vestibule and only those who specifically request that they would like the magazine posted will continue to receive it by post.

Nothing will change until November when the magazine renewal subscriptions take place but meanwhile please contact either the treasurer or the magazine editor if you have any comments you wish to make on this plan.

Sylvia Russell

Rector's Ramblings



Why did the ancient pagans worship the sun? Was it because it was by far the largest thing in the sky? Or was it because they understood it as the source of all light, heat, power and life? As we move into July and August we should (hopefully) begin to feel some of the sun's warmth and allow its effects to lift our spirits and make us feel better. The sun may even make us think about God.

In the Bible, believers were constantly warned that the sun could become an idol. Unlike God, the sun isn't eternal – in Genesis 1 it is not created until Day 4 (!) and Revelation tells us that one day it will no longer be needed because 'the Lord God will be their light'. Unlike God, the sun isn't in control – it can be made to stand still. The sun is to be regarded as a gift from a loving Creator, not an idol.

Having said that, the sun can provide us with profound ways of thinking about God. It can illustrate some of the amazing attributes of God in a way that nothing else can. It can help us reflect on God's glory, God's otherness (holiness), transcendence and immanence. It reminds us of God's all-seeing, all-illuminating character which brings heat and revelation to the entire world. When the apostles want us to see the splendour of Christ, sunshine is the only metaphor they need: 'He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light'.

The sun is the gravitational centre-piece of the solar system, pulling everything else into its orbit. Although it is created, its existence points to the independence of God, because it produces light itself, unlike the moon which can only reflect light. It's at the centre of how we measure time (the hours of the day) and space (the points of the compass). Apart from human beings it's hard to think of anything in creation that highlights as many of God's characteristics as the sun.

Maybe that is why Jesus is described as the sun of righteousness. Malachi prophesises that the Lord himself will come to judge all wickedness and usher in the joy of God's kingdom. The return of the King will make the whole world feel as though it's being healed by beams of celestial light. We will want to dance with joy because the long-awaited Day of sunshine has come.

As we enjoy the summer sunshine this year, may it remind us to 'hail the sun of righteousness – light and life to all he brings; risen with healing in his wings.'

Drew

Autumn Ladies

We have had great meetings this year. Our numbers are increasing and our speakers have all been excellent. I am no longer the lone baker as Joyce now helps to provide a variety of cakes. This week she produced strawberry tarts as well as home made pineapple cakes, both were delicious.

Our speaker in May was John Wilcox who gave us a very interesting talk on the production of salt and that it was the third most important export of Scotland in years gone by. Giving us a lovely tale of how salt is most important to life.

We decided to go for a meal in June when we met for our last group meeting of the spring/summer.

Our new syllabus is now available and if anyone would like one to keep in their purse please ask me.

The months from January have passed quickly and we all look forward to our summer holidays. We recommence our meetings on the 10th of September. I look forward to seeing everyone for our Autumn months of entertainment and companionship over a cup of tea/coffee. I hope everyone has a good summer,

Isobel Malcolm



Deacon's Deliberations



At this time of year many people enjoy a holiday away from home. It's a time to get away from it all, a time for rest, relaxation and recuperation. But it wasn't always like this.

There have always been holidays but, until the middle of the nineteenth century, holidays didn't mean going away. As their name implies holidays began as religious festivals – holy days. This isn't to say that holidays weren't highlights in the year. Holidays based around Christmas and Easter and the various saints' days were an opportunity for everyone to gather together and celebrate. The festival might have begun with a service in church.

Decorating the church with fresh greenery and flowers would be part of the fun. Then the rest of the day would be given up to merriment with fun, music, parades, dancing and drinking. They were days out of the ordinary, days to look forward to, days to remember.

Later, wealthier people might have travelled to stay with family members or friends who had married and moved away, but most people couldn't take more than a day or so away from their work on the land. Travelling was slow, and besides – where would they go?

As industry changed so did the ability to take time off work to go to the seaside for a well-earned break. The right to take holiday leave became a legal right for workers in 1939. By 1975 most workers had two weeks paid holiday leave.

By 1979, for the first time in history, Britons spent more on overseas holidays than on holidays at home. For £50 you could spend a week in glamorous Majorca with hotel bedrooms that had balconies and – unheard-of luxury – ensuite bathrooms! Travel entrepreneurs were developing mass-market tourism abroad on an unprecedented scale.

Glasgow is unique with its "Glasgow Fair Fortnight". The Glasgow Fair Fortnight is a holiday usually held during the second half of July. 'The Fair' is the oldest of similar holidays and dates to the 12th century. The Fair's earliest incarnation occurred in 1190, when Bishop Jocelin obtained permission from King William the Lion to hold the festivities.

Until the 1960s, most local businesses and factories closed on 'Fair Friday' to allow workers and their families to get away on holiday, typically spending their time in the Firth of Clyde, Ayrshire coast, Rothesay or Millport. This practice was known as going "doon the watter" (literally "down the water" in the Glasgow dialect.)

While the Fair Fortnight is much less adhered to in the modern day with the introduction of annual leave and 24-hour businesses it is still marked by many Glaswegians. This year Fair Fortnight begins on 21st July 2025.

God desires rest for us because it does not come naturally to most of us. To rest we have to trust that God will take care of things for us. We have to trust that, if we take a day off, the world will not stop turning on its axis. If one of the definitions of "relax" is "to become less firm," then relaxing our grip on our own lives, careers, families, etc., and giving them over to God in faith is the best way to relax.

For the Christian, the ultimate rest is found in Christ. He invites all who are "weary and burdened" to come to him and to cast our cares on him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28). It is only in Him that we find our complete rest - from the cares of the world, from the sorrows that plague us.

I hope you will have a wonderful holiday and that the sun will shine whether you're staying at home, going doon the watter or travelling abroad. However you are spending your holiday, enjoy the rest, relaxation and recuperation.

Jackie



Monastic Musings



In the beauty and intricacies of God's created world there are many parallel ideas and objects that mirror each other. I was thinking recently about how the seasons of the year mimic the seasons of life, particularly the spiritual aspects of life and the patterns of our individual spiritual growth.

The season of summer represents the time in our lives when everything is going smoothly and we are naturally happy in our surroundings. The warmth of the sun and the length of days have the ability to make everything brighter, better and more enriching. The summer of our spiritual life is when everything is easier. It's easy to pray and be thankful for our

blessings. We soak in the love of God like our skin soaks in the warmth of the sun. Our little prayers and sacrifices seem to be as fragrant and full of purpose as a field of summer wildflowers. We find acts of kindness to be almost effortless because we are in a joyous and giving mood.

Summer can reflect the state of grace in our souls. Just like the season of summer where nature is bursting with life, so our souls are fully awake and alive when we live in grace. We are renewed in God's mercy as refreshing as the morning dew on the lush grass. After a season of barren temptations, chilled hearts, and cold discouragements, our souls transform with new life, just as winter ice melts to summer growth.

In summer our routines change, often slowing down after a year of busy schedules and commitments. If we are still up to our eyes in it in the summer it is usually a more pleasurable busy from the rest of the year. We are going on holiday, having barbecues with friends and enjoying outdoor activities. We are able to take a break from our normal routines and timetables and find refreshment. Just like the summer season of our spiritual lives we find more space to rest and be at leisure so that we are renewed and ready to face the harshness of the cold dark days again.

The seasons will continue to cycle around us, and through each season our souls learn different lessons. In the abundant season of warmth and grace we have the opportunity to feel fully alive, to experience joy in our tasks, gratitude in our hearts, and a lightness to our burdens. This spiritual fullness prepares us for the empty season of spiritual dryness, sinful choices or harsh suffering where we have to battle against the cold winds of selfishness, frustration, monotony, anxiety, or fear. In this difficult season, we long for the touch of God's warmth. Our dependence on God pulls us through the stormy blizzard towards the season of summer-like joy again.

This summer, I'm going to try to be intentional about my time and my need for renewing rest, both in my spiritual life and my family life. As we all try to do the same, I wish you every blessing and happiness.

Gerry Creaney

Torso Croce

In Syracuse, Italy there is a park containing 27 various sculptures. There is also a cave in the park where for centuries a material called 'Greek Fire' the mixture used to attack enemies with fire, was extracted. This particular sculpture called 'Torso Croce' now stands within the cave.

The theme of the exhibition is based around intersection of imprisonment and the yearning of freedom, dreams and reality. This sculpture represents a possibility of redemption that even goes beyond the Christian symbol itself. The sculptor asks the cross to melt into flesh, to become part of the body, transforming sacrifice for humanity into historical necessity, into inevitable destiny.



The contrast of light in the gigantic niche ends up summarising the meaning of faith in something greater; lights for believing and shadows for doubting.

Elizabeth Baxter

Minister's Meditations



On my daily wanderings up and down country paths I've noticed that this year there seems to be a profusion of buttercups in the fields and roadsides. These wee flowers always bring a smile to my face with their "pop" of bright colour.

I was reminded of two things recently - one of when I was a child, picking buttercups and holding them beneath the chin of friends to "see if they liked butter" Surprisingly they always did!

Another memory was on my first visit to Iona. It was at this time of year and again I was amazed to see so many buttercups in the fields there. I was also amazed at the different colours visible in the sea, blues and greens and greys. Sunrise and

sunset brought forth myriad different colours.

I'd heard the term "a thin place" but it was only on that trip to Iona that I understood the meaning of it properly. Thin places are where heaven comes close to earth. The phrase has been around for centuries made popular by Celts who associated the phrase with a location and by Celtic Christians who associated the phrase with the infusion of the Divine presence.

On the second morning of my stay on Iona I rose early and went down to the abbey to sit in the silence for a time. Sitting in the quietness of that place where so many pilgrims have worshipped and prayed over the years I was acutely aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

After a while a young man entered the abbey and began to play the grand piano. The music filled the space and I recognised the tune. It was a hymn composed by John Bell and Graham Maule (Wild Goose Music)

She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters,
Hovering on the chaos of the world's first day;
She sighs and she sings, mothering creation,
Waiting to give birth to all the Word will say.

She wings over earth, resting where she wishes,
Lighting close at hand or soaring through the skies;
She nests in the womb, welcoming each wonder,
Nourishing potential hidden to our eyes.

She dances in fire, startling her spectators,
Waking tongues of ecstasy where dumbness reigned;
She weans and inspires all whose hearts are open,
Nor can she be captured, silenced or restrained.

For she is the Spirit, one with God in essence,
Gifted by the Saviour in eternal love;
She is the key opening the scriptures,
Enemy of apathy and heavenly dove.

We are entering the season of Pentecost. A time to be aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit moving in our lives and in our world. A season to be on the lookout for signs of the Kingdom of God.

I pray that we will know the blessing of God, Father, Son and Spirit as we move through the coming season.

The Revd Liz Clelland

Quotes with our world leaders in mind

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power. - Abraham Lincoln

Self-praise is no recommendation. - Anon

Only those who do not desire power are fit to hold it. - Plato

Power intoxicates men. - James F Byrnes

It's dangerous to try and be number one, because it's next to nothing. - Anon

Your ambition, not your words, are your real creed. - Anon

It is easier to look wise than to talk wisely. – Ambrose

Truth needs no flowers of speech. - Alexander Pope

Never expect to govern others until you have learned to govern yourself. - Anon

Property Proposition

TO KEEP OR NOT TO KEEP – THAT IS THE QUESTION!



At its scheduled meeting on Wednesday 19 March the Vestry had a discussion about the state of the carpeting and flooring in every area of the church building.

Members of Vestry agreed that it was high time to replace the carpeting and flooring as it has been down for many decades and has seen better days. This will be happening in the near future. When the church is out of bounds for the works to be carried out we will create a temporary worship space in the

church hall so that our Sunday services can continue as usual.

To facilitate the lifting of the existing flooring the Vestry noted that it will be necessary to lift all of the pews. This led to a further discussion about whether we should keep the pews or not. Many churches in the Diocese, which, like us, use their buildings for multiple purposes (concerts, meetings, private ceremonies), have already gone down the road of replacing the pews with chairs (similar to the ones in the Memorial Chapel). The question for us is: do we follow suit?

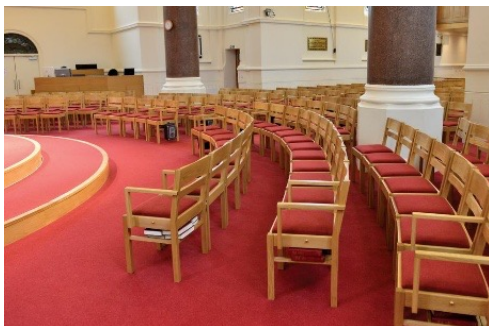
When it comes to matters such as this there are usually very strong opinions for and against and it can be very unsettling and upsetting for congregational members. It is for this reason that we are flagging this issue up so that you can think about it calmly and have the opportunity to express your views before we proceed or not.

To that end a box has been placed on the table at the back of the church next to slips of paper which ask you to state whether you would like to keep the pews or replace them, with a comment box if you wish to make further observations.

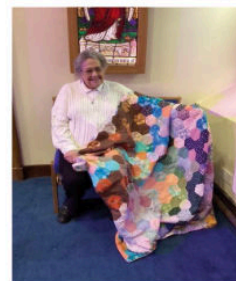
This box will remain in place for two months (from the date of publication of this magazine) to give you all the time you need to think, pray and decide.

For and on behalf of the Vestry

The Rector



Support Doreen Dixon's Fundraiser



Many of you will know that over a period of about 25 years I did a large amount of cake baking and decoration. However, I am no longer able to do this, and so I have a large collection of cake-making equipment which I would like to go to a good home. If anyone is interested in rehoming a mixer or any of my tins, cutters, boards, boxes, chocolate moulds etc, perhaps for a small donation to a charity of your choice, you can speak to me directly on a Sunday morning.

In addition, I would like to use my handmade patchwork quilt (which you will have seen hanging in the hall) to raise funds for Lanarkshire Cancer Care, a charity which has been of great help to me personally. I am now ready to launch 'Sponsor a Square for Cancer Care' (even though the patches are in fact hexagonal!) and I now have my own Just Giving online page. I wanted to link this in some way with Christchurch, so the idea is that every £5 donated will 'sponsor' a square, and the donor's name will be displayed on the digital version of the quilt which you will be able to see on the church website www.christchurchlanark.com. (Larger donations will sponsor more squares, and you can also donate anonymously if you wish.)

I am hoping to raise at least £500 with this project, so please do share this as widely as you are able.

My page can be found at justgiving.com/page/doreenatchristchurch or you can use the QR code shown. My thanks to Rob Thain and Glenys for setting this up, and to Bob Cleary who produced the high quality photograph for the digital image.



This is one of Doreen's beautiful creations that she made to celebrate Drew's Institution at Christ Church in June 2016

Wordsearch for July 2025

If you ever struggle with doubt, take heart: so did one of the apostles, whose Feast Day is this month. St Thomas just could NOT believe that the Jesus he had seen crucified and dead on the cross could ever come back to life. But Thomas was an honest sceptic, because he really wanted to know the truth. Jesus could help such a man. And so He appeared to him and the other disciples. Instead of scolding him, Jesus simply showed him the wounds. Thomas's response was immediate: "My Lord and my God" (John 20.26ff). Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72 AD in Mylapore, near Madras. 46 ancient churches in England are dedicated to him.

Thomas
Doubt
Apostle
Cross
Dead

Truth
Sceptic
Wounds
Lord
God

Appeared
India
Patron
Martyred
Spear

Mylapore
Missionary
Showed
Saint
madras



Life in the Circus

A couple who worked at the circus wanted to adopt a child. Social workers had doubts about their suitability, but the couple produced photos of their large motorhome, which was equipped with a beautiful nursery. As for education, not only was there a nanny, but also a full-time tutor to teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin and computer skills. Finally, the social workers were satisfied and had only one last question. "What age child are you hoping to adopt?"

"Oh, we don't mind at all," the couple assured them. "As long as he or she fits in the cannon."

Church notices that didn't quite 'make it' ...

The preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.

Churchyard maintenance is becoming increasingly difficult, so it will be appreciated if parishioners cut the grass around their own graves.

Baptism

The vicar announced that an additional font would soon be placed in the church, so that babies could be baptised at both ends.

A gentleman is a man who calls a spade a spade without adding any qualifying adjectives.

Our next hymn

A visiting minister, seeing the list of hymns chosen for the Sunday service, sent a message to the organist to say that the last hymn (519) did not suit his sermon, and so he wanted it replaced by 213. The organist's message replied: 'In this church the organist chooses the hymns and I will play 519.' The minister shot back: 'At this service I announce the hymns and I shall still announce 213.'

Encore!

The new curate had visited the local prison and taken along his electric guitar. He was so pleased with the applause that he responded: 'Thank you very much for your appreciation. I so hope that I will see you all back here again next year.'



"It's not a new stained-glass window – the Youth Club put its skateboard ramp too close to the church's west wall!"

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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Registered Scottish Charity: No SCO 14937