



CHRIST CHURCH LANARK
CLYDESDALE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER '25

Schedule of Services

September

Sunday 7

Trinity 12

08.30 – Said Eucharist

10.30 – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 14

Trinity 13

(Mission to Seafarers)

10.30 – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 21

Trinity 14

10.30 – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 28

Trinity 15

10.30 – Eucharist (Lamington)

10.30 – Sung Eucharist (Lanark)

October

Sunday 5

Trinity 16

08.30 – Said Eucharist

10.30 – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 12

Trinity 17

Harvest Thanksgiving

10.30 – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 19

Trinity 18

10.30 – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 26

Trinity 19

10.30 – Eucharist (Lamington)

10.30 – Sung Eucharist (Lanark)

November

Sunday 2

All Saints Sunday

08.30 – Said Eucharist

10.30 – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 9

Trinity 21

10.30 – Sung Eucharist

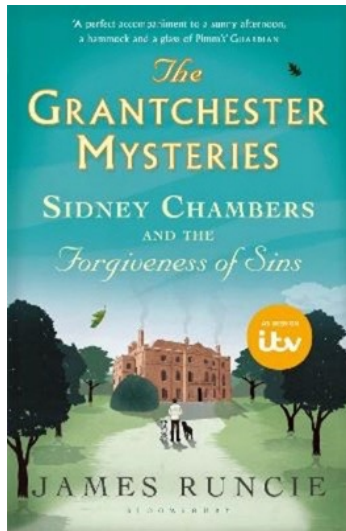


News in the Pews

- Very best wishes and lots of love go to Joan East, who has become an octogenarian and to Doreen and Bob Cleary, who have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations go to all three of them!
- The Revds Jackie and Liz will be starting a Taize service on the first Wednesday of every month at 6 pm in Christ Church. The first service will be on 3 September. Please spread the word about this new venture and, if you are intrigued by Jackie's article in the current magazine, do consider coming along for a time of peace and serenity in our beautiful, holy sanctuary.
- Our weekly soup kitchen at The Blue Triangle in the Wide Close is proving to be very popular with the residents there. They really appreciate our interest in and care for them. As part of that interest and care we are hoping to provide "Starter Packs" to help them as they move from temporary accommodation into a first tenancy. To that end, if you have any old/unused/unwanted cutlery, crockery, saucepans, sheets & pillowcases, please bring them in and leave them at the back of the church. These we will make into first tenancy packs to help them on their way.
- Over the next few months The Revd Liz Clelland, Rob Thain, Bobby Burgon and Sheila Cardwell will be withdrawing from the preaching rota in order to focus on personal and professional matters. In the meantime, you'll all have to get used to more of The Rector's Ramblings and The Deacon's Deliberations again!! Pray for a speedy return of our intrepid four!! We thank them for all their contributions in the past and hope they return with renewed vision and vigour in the not too distant future!
- Brunch & Browse will hold a Day Retreat at Braehead House, Crossford on Thursday 4 September from 10 am until 4 pm. Cost: £20 per person. For this you will have a full day's programme, a lovely lunch and access to the beautiful house and grounds. If you would like to participate, please add your name to the sign up sheet on the table at the back of the church..
- Our Harvest Thanksgiving service will be celebrated on Sunday 12th October. As usual, we would ask people to bring along ring-pull cans which will be given to the Clydesdale Food bank. We will also hold a 'Bring and Share Lunch' after the service - more details to follow.



Rector's Ramblings



One of my most favourite TV series is “Grantchester”, which is based on The Grantchester Mysteries” written by James Runcie. The main character of the books is The Revd Sidney Chambers – a fictional vicar with a difference: he is also a reluctant detective. In the course of several stories set in the 1950s he stumbles across a series of baffling cases: the suspect suicide of a Cambridge solicitor; a scandalous jewellery theft at a New Year’s Eve dinner party; the unexplained death of a jazz promoter’s daughter; and a shocking art forgery that puts a friend in danger. The vicar discovers that being a detective, like being a clergyman, means that you are never off duty.

James Runcie, the son of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd Robert Runcie, clearly has an understanding of the work of the clergy, having seen it at close hand in his father’s ministry. There are lots of nice touches. “Singing is the sound of the soul”, the vicar observes; “...my involvement is not so much on the pages of people’s lives, but in the margins.” In an observation about how people come to work out the meaning of life he quotes the Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard: “There are many people who reach their conclusions about life like schoolboys: they cheat their master by copying the answer out of a book without having worked out the sum for themselves.”

For the detective, for the clergyman, and indeed for anyone life is never that easy. There is no book (not even the Bible) that we can look up, turn to the back, and find all the answers. Life is simply not like that. Kierkegaard also tells us that life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced; and he also said, “Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.” Think that’s about enough Danish philosophy for one pastoral letter!!!

As we stand at the beginning of a new Church year (*and yes I know that, liturgically, it runs from Advent to Christ the King, but I’m a former teacher, so my year still follows the school year – September to June!*), with things beginning to start up again after the summer, we learn from the experience of the past, but we dare not to let that experience dictate our every move. We may have our feet planted on the ground of experience, but our arms reach upwards and outwards to an as yet untested future. I think that is, for me, one of the ways of thinking about what faith is.

There are certainties, things that can be counted on, but the purpose of real faith, lived out faith, is to reach out and stride out and move forwards. Faith protects and nurtures, but only in order to send us out into a world where hope and love are needed. Faith encourages us to discover faith and experience, to be bold and to be courageous.

So, we launch into a new session, filled with trials AND adventures. We may choose to crest the waves or to allow ourselves to paddle in the shallows. Jesus calls us out into the deep places of faith. Are we ready to strike out and to follow his call and his example?

Drew

Second Quarter Away Giving

The second quarter away giving collection raised £350 for Mary’s Meals.

Autumn Ladies

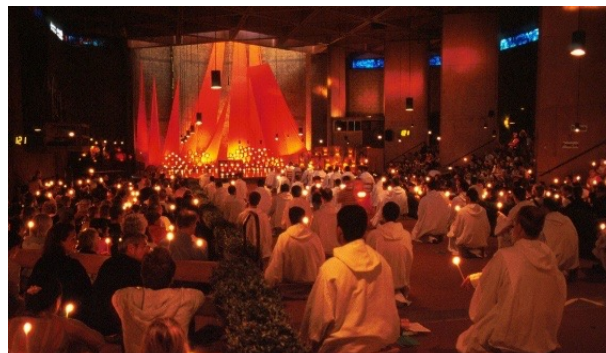
We recommence our meetings on the 10th of September. I look forward to seeing everyone for our Autumn months of entertainment and companionship over a cup of tea/coffee. I hope everyone has had a good summer.

Isobel Malcolm



Deacon's Deliberations

I'm sure you've all heard of the French town of Taizé?



It's a small village in Burgundy, near Cluny, in southeastern France.

It was to this small village in 1940 that Roger Schultz went looking for a house to rent. At the age of 25 he was a newly ordained pastor. He had grown up in Switzerland in an ecumenical family; his father was a Protestant

pastor, his maternal grandmother was catholic. He felt that God was calling him away from the safety of Switzerland to a life in communion with people who were struggling in occupied France. He was joined by a few friends and, together, they got involved with the underground movement moving people to safety and visiting prisoners in the nearby POW Camp. They became known to the SS and for a while had to flee back to Switzerland.

They returned in 1945 and started to live their life of faith in joy, simplicity and sharing in line with the sentiments of the Beatitudes. They continued to visit the POW camp where the prisoners were now the German SS guards. The impact on these German guards as they were treated by Br Roger and his friends in exactly the same way as they had seen them treat the French prisoners caused many to come to Christ. After they were repatriated, they returned to visit Br Roger, bringing friends. They helped repair the damage that the SS had done.

Since then, Taizé has been the home of an ecumenical Christian monastic community made up of brothers from different countries and different denominations (Protestant Lutherans, Baptists and Anglicans; Catholics; Greek and Russian Orthodox).

The brothers live and share a simple life of work and prayer and support themselves financially through their own skills and labour.

What is a Taizé service?

Taizé worship is distinctive through its use of candlelight, repeated prayer chants and periods of stillness and silence. This deep-seated peace reinforces in us the conviction that God's loving grace is always with us, helping and guiding us.

The elements of a Taizé service consist of music that is repetitive with short refrains. Bible readings and Psalms. Silence for private prayer and reflection and intercessions. The service is one of reflection and contemplation and offers us an opportunity to worship God in a different way.

The Rev Liz Clelland and I will be starting a monthly Taizé service on the first Wednesday of every month in Christ Church starting on 3rd September 2025 at 6pm. We hope you will join us and discover, for yourselves, the deep peace and spiritual groundedness of this most beautiful of worship forms.

Jackie



The Quiet Revival: Gen Z leads rise in church attendance

Church attendance has risen by 50 per cent over the last six years, busting the myth of church decline. The findings

come in The Quiet Revival, a survey commissioned by Bible Society and conducted by YouGov.

Church decline in England and Wales has not only stopped, but the Church is growing, as Gen Z leads an exciting turnaround in church attendance.

The most dramatic church growth is among young adults, particularly young men. In 2018, just 4 per cent of 18–24-year-olds said that they attended church at least monthly. Today, says The Quiet Revival, this has risen to 16 per cent, with a notable rise in the proportion of young men attending. To find out more, google: [The Quiet Revival: Gen Z leads rise in church attendance](#)

Ed: Let's hope Scotland will soon follow this trend that is apparent in England

Monastic Musings

*As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
(Psalm 42:1)*



As I write these words for the September/October magazine, we are coming to the end of another summer, in which the weather was unusually hot and sultry. Paddling pools were in great demand, shorts showed off white knobbly knees, and most of us spent as much time as possible in the shade with a fan and an iced drink.

In Scotland we are not used to long spells of heat and drought. Air conditioning is in short supply, dog walkers only venture out at dawn or dusk, and we find ourselves changing our daily patterns of behaviour in order to keep going.

On such a day, imagine yourself going out for a long walk in the noon-day sun. There is not a cloud in the sky and you find yourself taking breaks in the shade. You embarked on your walk ill-equipped – you didn't remember to bring liquids with you to keep hydrated. The nearest café is another couple of miles away, as you struggle to make progress. Your mouth becomes so dry that your tongue cleaves to the roof of your mouth. Eventually you arrive at your destination – a local café, which, to your great relief, is still open.

The person on duty in the café takes one look at you and pours a large glass of tap water, which you down in a few short gulps. For the last mile the only thing keeping you going was the thought of a tall glass of something cold to drink to quench your thirst. The utter relief and delight as you recover makes you so appreciative

When the Psalmist wrote the Psalm quoted above, the language of intense thirst which he used to describe a relationship with the living God was equally life-giving.

As a Christian I believe that God is the source of all life on earth. In a similar way to the desperation you or I would feel before having an intense thirst quenched, so many have experienced a spiritual thirst - a deeper significance in their lives that has been found in a living, changing relationship with Jesus Christ. He is the only one who can truly satisfy our deepest longings, and he always has our best interests at heart because he created us in his image and likeness.

The next time you are really thirsty and drink a long, cool glass of water, be reminded of the offer of eternal life which can be found in drinking of the waters that spring up from a living relationship with Christ.

Gerry Creaney

1-1-1

Robert and I have started a new initiative called 1-1-1. This is one task, lasting for up to five hours, for one person/couple/group, once a month.

So, if you have a genuine need for a bit of extra support, we will try to help out. So far, Robert has provided entertainment for Good Food, Scotland. He repaired the TV network at Denniston new parish church, and he is providing a party for the Glasgow children's hospital in the near future.

However, the vision for 1-1-1 was always to reach out to people who might not have a convenient source of support for help with some of the everyday tasks in life, such as tidying the garden, doing the shopping, taking you to the hospital, even if you would just appreciate some company!!

Do not hesitate to contact either of us and we will do our best to make life a little easier for you.

Ruth 07758753810
Robert 07713152969

Ruth Coates

Minister's Meditations

**“We will come back changed. Of that there I am certain. But of course, that is why you go on pilgrimage in the first place. To find the holy, stumble upon God in action, and be changed forever by the experience.”
(Canon Trevor Davis)**



Ten years ago on 10th October, my 60th birthday, I walked into Santiago de Compostela, having walked to last 100 kilometres of the pilgrimage walk. I hadn't realised when I booked the trip that I would be walking in on my birthday, but it seemed to me to be a wee blessing.

Since then I have been on the walk another three times completing the whole walk twice.

This year as my 70th birthday looms and being increasingly aware of my aging body (e.g. sore knees and hips) I decided to go and do the whole route one more time. My daughters are not too happy knowing my propensity for falling over, but as I said to them "what could possibly go wrong!!!"

So, on 9th September I fly out and then begin to walk the 5000 miles on the 10th walking for 36 days.

I read that last year over 499,000 people made this pilgrimage, and I know from previous trips I will encounter a wide variety of pilgrims. People from all over the world, from all walks of life. Young, old, walking solo or in groups. People who have a faith and those with none. People walking in memory of a loved one who has passed away or who have recently had a failed relationship. People who are at a crossroads in life, and those taking time out from busy working lives. Last time I was there I met a man from Ireland who had recently been made redundant and had decided to take a year to walk back and forth on the Camino. So many people, all drawn, or called to make this journey.

For me it is definitely a calling to step out in faith. To walk, to pray, to follow in the footsteps of fellow pilgrims down through the centuries. To seek healing, to seek spiritual well-being, to be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit as I step out day after day.

I know from past experience that there will be good days and more difficult ones, and I know that there will be times when I have to ask for help from fellow travellers and be ready to offer help to others who may be struggling.

I am excited to be going and know that I will be changed by my time away for every pilgrimage is unique. And of course, joy of joys! now I am retired I don't have to think about coming home to go back to work! (*Ed, lucky you!!*)

Please keep me in your prayers.

Who would true valour see, let him come hither;
One here will constant be, come wind come weather.
There's no discouragement shall make him once relent,
His first avowed intent, to be a pilgrim."

The Revd Liz Clelland

The Pilgrim's Aiding

God be with thee in every pass,
Jesus be with thee on every hill,
Spirit be with thee on every stream,
Headland and ridge and lawn;

Each sea and land, each moor and meadow,
Each lying down, each rising up,
In the trough of the waves, on the crest of the billows,
Each step of the journey thou goest.

A Celtic prayer collected by Alexander Carmichael

Congratulations



It was a double celebration in church on 10 August.

Drew and Jackie presented Joan East with a card and a beautiful orchid to mark a significant birthday

... and Doreen and Bob Cleary were also presented with an orchid and a card to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary

Very best wishes to all three of you



Enter all the angels, led by Michael

What is an angel? Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.

Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though she was long past child-bearing age had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless, Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In many stained glass windows he's seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel - Gabriel - appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his fiancée, Mary, and later - also in a dream - warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young man', whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there - He had risen (Mark 16:5).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels, those should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practice hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of His will. Sometimes they are human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that anyone, in any situation, who is at that moment God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So, when we say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!

Wordsearch for September

On 3rd September, the Church remembers St Gregory the Great (540 – 604AD), one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages. He is well worth remembering, because he also changed the course of history in the British Isles. The son of a very rich Roman senator, Gregory converted as a young man, and then sold his vast estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome. He gave generously to the poor and became a monk.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, "They are Angles." Moved with compassion for these despised men, he replied, "They are not Angles, but angels!" He planned to go to England to evangelize the Angles, but plague broke out in Italy about 590, and during this time he was elected Pope. But Gregory did not forget the Angles. In 596 He sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the apostle of the English.

Gregory
History
Son
Roman
Senator

Converted
Young
Estates
Monasteries
Generous

Poor
Monk
English
Slaves
Angels

Angles
Plague
Pope
Apostle
elected



Laughter is the Best Medicine

Fresh ideas for doing church

The elderly priest, speaking to the younger priest, said, "You had a good idea to replace the first four pews with plush bucket theatre seats. It worked like a charm. The front of the church always fills first now."

Quotes that biblical characters might have said:-

~ Adam: "You are what you eat."
 ~ Eve: "At least he doesn't compare me to his mother."
 ~ Abraham: "I'm goin' not knowin'."
 ~ Moses: "From a basket case to the promised land."
 ~ Prodigal Son: "All roads lead to home."
 ~ At the Sinai desert: "Winding road for next 40 years."
 ~ At the Red Sea: "Caution! Subject to sudden flooding."

Church service

A minister, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the pastor asked the man where he had gone. "I went to get a haircut," was the reply.

"But," said the minister, "why didn't you do that before the service?"

"Because" the gentleman said, "I didn't need one then."

No men

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, so I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

When young children begin to pray...

"Lead a snot into temptation."
 "And forgive us our trash baskets, as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."
 "Give us this day our jelly bread."
 "Our Father, who art in heaven, how didja know my name?"



"Delivery for whoever ordered the trendy alternative to a basket of groceries..."

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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