



CHRIST CHURCH LANARK  
CLYDESDALE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
APRIL - '26

## Schedule of Services

### April

Sunday 5  
**Easter Day**

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 12  
**Easter 2**

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 19  
**Easter 3**

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 25  
**Easter 4**

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

(Lamington)

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist(Lanark)

### May

Sunday 3  
**Easter 5**

08.30 am – Said Eucharist

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 10  
**Easter 6**

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 17  
**Easter 7**

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 24

**Day of Pentecost**

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

(Lamington)

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

(Lanark)

Sunday 31

**Trinity Sunday**

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

## News in the Pews

- In March we bid a fond farewell to long standing member of Christ Church, Doreen Dixon, who died at the age of 92 after a long, happy and fulfilled life. Over many years she contributed much to the life of our congregation through her cake making, her running of The Lunch Club and her involvement, at the sharp end, with reading, administering a chalice and taking communion to the housebound. She will be sadly missed. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.
- Recently we were delighted to be able to mark the coming of age of two popular “birthday girls” in the congregation – Morag Hobbs, who turned 80 and Lenore Rickards, who turned 90. Congratulations to both of them and lots of love from us all. Many happy returns.
- The Rector has been invited to act as Chaplain to The Lord Cornet’s Club this year. This will mainly involve preaching and presiding at the annual “Kirkin of the Cornet” service at St Nicholas Church at the start of Lanimer Week. It may also involve him getting back on a horse if his creaking bones and ageing body will allow him to!! Pray for him!!!
- We held a very successful games night in the church hall to raise funds for our hall re-roofing project. Nearly £700 were raised on the night. Well done to the organisers. Know that we are rooting for you as you painstakingly fill in the massive and complicated grant forms that will help us to meet the cost of the works.

### A message from our young, Iranian Refugee

With sincere respect, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the Reverend and the valued members of the church in Lanark.

Being part of this congregation has been not only an opportunity for worship and spiritual growth, but also a precious blessing through your genuine kindness, care, and support. Your warmth, compassion, and sincere attention have had a deep and lasting impact on my life, strengthening my sense of belonging, peace, and hope.

Your spirit of unity, generosity, and love truly reflects a living faith and noble hearts. I am sincerely thankful for the safe, respectful, and welcoming environment you have created through your unwavering kindness.

Wishing the Reverend and all the dear members of the church continued blessings, health, and success.

With deepest respect and gratitude, *Hadi*





Sunday 29 March

***Palm Sunday***

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist with blessing of palms

Thursday 2 April

***Maundy Thursday***

7 pm – Institution of the Eucharist,  
Washing of the Feet, Stripping of the Altars, Watch of the Passion

Friday 3 April

***Good Friday***

2 pm – 3 pm – Devotion

Saturday 4 April

***Holy Saturday***

7 pm – Ceremonies of the Easter Vigil

Sunday 5 April

***Easter Day***

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist with renewal of baptismal vows

## The Torch – The people who inspired



When I was very young, even younger than that, my grandfather took me out into the world. We went walking with the dogs, fishing - sometimes even where we should, and visiting castles and homes with the National Trust. He was a quiet reflective man who would take his time to form opinions and was never keen on idle gossip my Nana loved to be in the centre of. His patience was extraordinary with a pair of young brothers poking around in everything from the carburettor that he was cleaning to the rabbit hutch that had more nails than boards.

It was in this Northumbrian man that I found a great calm in the world. However he wasn't some sort of mystic. A miner and an engineer he was a very practical man but also a man of wit and mischief. It was because of these moments sitting on a grassy bank that this young child went to school absolutely certain that the trees made the wind. When the trees are swaying wind happens, when they are still there is no wind, with a simple demonstration of waving his newspapers in front of my face.

The thing about Grandad Bob was that in all that he did he sat back and thought through the pros and cons. He weighed and waited. Life was urgent enough for other people but if any decision needed to be immediate then it was probably a bad one to try to make. This is a hard life lesson. Especially in this world he never knew. We hurtle from one thing to another, making decisions and projecting statements without ever giving them a second thought.

I left home at eighteen and life seemed to accelerate. University, a degree, a life in Surrey, work, career, family — one thing followed another so quickly that it barely felt chosen. Somewhere along the way the way we communicated changed too. Messages became instant, replies expected, pauses suspicious. Then came Covid, and isolation made that immediacy unavoidable. Life sped up even as the world stood still.

That pace lingered but a few years ago I started to reconsider how I was spending my time. I came off all the social media platforms and re-engaged with the actual world around me. I began to paint more, make things in the real world rather than on a computer, slow down and consider the options as my grandfather would. And I have discovered afresh that the world is a good place. There are those who fight to make it their own, but when you sit on a grassy bank and watch the world drift by, you cannot help but see the trees in the distance and just wonder.

*Rob Thain*

## Clergy Cogitations



On the day of the resurrection, some of the followers of Jesus went to the tomb. They were going to make the final preparations of Jesus' body, because he had been buried in such a hurry. When they got there, they were met with the

amazing revelation that Jesus was no longer dead. He had been dead, but now he wasn't anymore. He was very much alive. And different. Mary didn't recognise him. He had to speak her name so that she knew it was him. He wasn't just resuscitated. This was something different. He was made new.

This wasn't just something that happened in the morning. He also came back in the evening and met the disciples in the upper room. That very same evening he met two other disciples on the road to Emmaus. The Easter event was an all-day thing. Some people think that the early Christians worshipped on Easter night because of all the events that had taken place on that first Easter night. But that wasn't the only time things happened. He kept coming back. He came back to the upper room, he had breakfast with them on the beach, he brought them together when he gave them the great commission and ascended into heaven. The resurrection was an event that went on and on and on. And in the wake of it, it was the apostles who kept the resurrection business going, with their ministries, healing, and preaching. All of it was a witness to the resurrection.

Each year we start the 40 days of Lent with Ash Wednesday and an invitation to all of us to live a holy Lent. "Dear people of God, the first Christians observed with great devotion..." I always get goosebumps when I read these words aloud to you each year.

But, are we missing a trick here? Why an invitation to a Holy Lent and not also an invitation to a Holy Easter? Why do we treat the 40 days of Lent with such great devotion and mistake the 50 days of Easter for a morning's work.

How many clergy will post to Facebook or Twitter on Easter Day something like: "Jesus has risen...now I'm going to bed."

Like the collapse of the 12 days of Christmas into a morning's work of unwrapping presents, we've shrunk the Great Fifty days into a few hours as well!! I believe Easter should have just as much a stirring invitation as Lent. I think we should observe with great devotion the season of Resurrection. I think we should invite our people to be witnesses to the resurrection, not just when we're in our Sunday best on Easter morning...but with a month and a half. And then a life.

Because that is the life of the baptised. We are to be living witnesses to the one who conquered death and lives still. We should be able to tell the story of his resurrection, but we should also be highly attuned to the stories of resurrection that are around us. The ways we've seen resurrection, experienced resurrection, felt resurrection.

Maybe one of these days something like the following might appear in our Eastertide Liturgies here at Christ Church.

*Dear People of God, on the day of resurrection, and on the days immediately following, the disciples saw and experienced the Risen Christ again and again. Jesus spoke to them, called them by name, offered them his peace, fed them, broke bread with them, and sent them out. The first Christians observed the celebrations of the great Fifty Days of Easter with great devotion, and it is when they welcomed new Christians into their fellowship through the waters of baptism. By their words, their actions, and their lives they witnessed to the new life that Jesus brought and still brings. By the power of the resurrection they moved from disciples to apostles, from sin to holiness, from death to life.*

*I invite you therefore, in the name of the Church, to a holy season of Easter. I invite you to be nourished by God, and to nourish others by your witness to the resurrection. May these Fifty Days be a time when you are renewed, and where fed by the scriptures, prayer, and worship you would aspire to bring food to the hungry, comfort to the afflicted, hope to the hopeless, and faith to those who doubt. For in doing so we follow in the footsteps of the apostles, and in the promises we made in the waters of baptism.*

*Let us make a right beginning now, as we join in the ancient acclamation made by those who live in the wake of the empty tomb: Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!*

*Drew & Jackie*

## Minister's Meditations

In the last few days I have been reminded on separate occasions of Jesus teaching on how we are called to look after one another. The first was during a funeral service when the reading was Matthew 25: 31-40 - the parable of the sheep and the goats. Here, Jesus reminds his followers of the importance of caring for those who are hungry, thirsty, naked, sick and in prison. Saying whenever we looked after those in need, we were in fact looking after him. The second occasion was when the gathered congregation sang the hymn, "When I needed a neighbour were you there... and the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?"

It's just over a year now since the congregation of Christ Church began to engage in partnership with the charity Blue Triangle which has accommodation just around the corner from the church. Blue Triangle is an award-winning national charity and registered landlord providing social care and homelessness support across Scotland. It provides safe, trauma-informed accommodation and 24/7 person-centred support to help people secure and maintain their own tenancy. For over 50 years they've been a lifeline for individuals facing homelessness, delivering over 35 services across 12 local authorities.

Our contact began when a resident of Blue Triangle began to worship with us and we started to learn more of the charity. The next contact came after last year's joint church Lenten Lunches, when we took any leftover soup and rolls up for the residents. Out of these contacts "*Broth & Blether*" was born.

Rev Jackie arranged a meeting with the staff there and it was agreed that we could come each Monday with a simple meal of soup and rolls, (which has recently included cake!) A rota was set up of Jackie, Ruth Webb, Ed Trevillion and myself to undertake to visit. Aably and generously helped by the congregation in donations of food and money.

I think it's fair to say there was a little bit of trepidation on both sides at the beginning, but that soon passed and we are made very welcome each Monday when we arrive. One of the guests recently said "This is my favourite day of the week when you guys come" And, there's always a great interest as to the soup of the day.

After the initial busyness of getting everything ready for service, a member of staff lets the guests know "soup is ready" and we wait to see who will arrive. Some folks have been in the accommodation for a number of months, others seem to be allocated homes more quickly. However long folks stay I think it's as important that we have time to sit down at the table and listen to their stories, of what led them there and what their hopes are moving forward. Sometimes they ask what church we come from and we can share a little of Christ Church.

One thing we became aware of was that when a flat is allocated there's often little time from the phone call coming in and a taxi arriving to take them to their new home. The flats allocated have basic furniture and kitchen white goods but little else. So we began to wonder if we could help in some way to provide kitchen equipment, and bedding. We asked the staff for a list of items and we then set about putting together 'starter packs'. We did some fundraising and were able, just before Christmas, to take down 10 packs. The staff were so grateful and quite emotional to think we would want to help. Since then we have provided another 9 packs and given one away to someone else known to us who was in need.



I count it a real blessing to be part of this ministry and constantly give thanks for the generosity of God and our congregation.

A few weeks ago we were down to nothing in our funds. It crossed our minds that we might have to do some more fundraising, but I thought, let's just pray and wait and see what God does. In a matter of days we had three cash donations amounting to £188.77 and a single donation of £1,000. Amazing!!

We give thanks to God that our congregation can play a small part in this important work in the community and for your unstinting generosity. One thing to remember, of course, is that this is Jesus' ministry we are engaged in. He said, "Love your neighbour as yourself, and love one another as I have loved you"

With every blessing,

Liz

## Memory Lane

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! And his risen presence is felt in so many areas of our congregation's life, bringing love, acceptance, inclusion, new life, hope and joy to so many people beyond the walls of the church.

One of the ways in which our Lord's risen presence is experienced as alive and well in the community of Lanark is through our Memory Lane initiative and the work that we do on behalf of those with Dementia and their carers.

For those of you who may be familiar with our name, but not with what we do, allow me to explain.

For the past seven years, once a fortnight, on a Wednesday, between the hours of 1 pm and 3 pm, we meet in the hall for a delicious afternoon tea of scones and baking, all washed down with lashings of tea and coffee.

We spend the first hour munching and blethering, giggling and laughing, gathering stories, making connections and lending a listening ear. Then at 2 pm everyone is gathered together for a sing song on a theme. The words of the songs appear in a Powerpoint on the big television at the bottom of the hall, while the Rector batters out the tunes on the hall piano. We start and end every sing song in exactly the same way. Our opening song is always: Come in, come in, it's nice to see you (first sung by Andy Stewart of White Heather Club fame); our closing song is: O we're no awa' tae bide awa' (another Andy Stewart belter). The songs in between range from Irish Songs to Scottish Songs, Romantic Songs and War Songs, pop songs and songs from the Musicals. They are all familiar to the people, who sing along, or tap along. Sometimes, to give the Rector a rest from tinkling the ivories, we invite choirs or bands or "The Ukelele Ladies" to come and provide us with some entertainment. Jean Patrick's grand daughters are also frequent visitors, leading us in Armchair Yoga and entertaining us with songs.

The recipe for Memory Lane is a simple but effective one. We stick to the same ingredients at every meeting. And it works. I recall one lady, who used to turn up in a wheel chair with a face like fizz. She would say: "I don't want to be here". We would cajole her, get her settled, feed her to bursting, then get her singing. At the end of every session she would leave the hall with an enormous smile on her face and her foot tapping on the support pedal of her chair. That to me was a success. That to me was proof of the risen Christ among us.

Like the NHS we work to ensure that the service we provide is "free" at the point of need. To make this happen the Team applies for grants and organises fund raising events of our own. The money that we have been successful in securing enables us to purchase the baking materials and beverages, the music, cutlery and crockery and the serving equipment. It has meant that we could refurbish the small break out room, making it into a comfortable private space should anyone need time out. It helps us to afford a couple of bus trips a year and a two course Christmas Dinner. It even helped us to put on a no expenses spared, home-spun Panto just before Christmas last year.

None of this would be possible without a lot of hard work on the part of the team, which consists of: Jean Patrick, Mary Gibson, Jane Milliken, Morag Hobbs, Jeannie Westgarth, Jean Rance, the curate and me. Together we are living proof that Christ is risen, he is risen indeed. And here's some proof!



## Games Night

On Saturday, 7th March, starting at 7pm, lots of folks from Christchurch gathered together in the hall to share an evening of fun and games together under the direction of Robert Coates.

In tables, we scratched our heads to answer quiz questions, we raised our voices to shout "UP" or "DOWN" in encouragement, we rolled coins to hit the bottle, we discovered who had the steadiest of hands and we thrilled as our horses galloped around a race course. It was all rather frantic but such good fun, such good fellowship and such a fantastic financial fundraiser in aid of the new hall roof. At the time of writing, nearly £650 was raised, which was incredible.



So thank you to all who came. Thank you, Danny, for organising everything. Thank you Robert for giving your time and expertise so generously. Thank you Ruth (W) and Glenys for your hard work with tea and clearing up. Thank you Hadi for your help in setting up and dismantling the equipment.

It was a great evening of laughter, joy and entertainment, and lets hope we do not have to wait too long before we can meet together again in a repeat event.

*Ruth Coates*



## Autumn Ladies

We had Alyson from a family run care provider in Lanark in February. Their company tries to provide personalised service and will tailor care according to the needs of client and family. If requested they will also help with the government forms for care benefits.

Revd. Liz Clelland shared her personal experiences during her Pilgrimage on the Camino. And Ethyl Smith gave us an insight into the Covenanters in March. In April we have David Logan from Lanark U3A and then a fun afternoon creating Beatles.

One of our older ladies, Doreen Dickson passed away on the 6th February. She visited the group when we first started but unfortunately became more housebound. She will be sadly missed.

Another of our ladies, Kathleen, moves to France with her family soon. We wish her Bon Voyage.

Our numbers remain steady, meeting in Christ Church Hall alternating Wednesdays with Memory Lane.

Happy Easter,  
*Isobel*

## Green Christian Course: Plenty

How concerned are you about Climate Change? Do you think, as Christians, we should be trying to do more for God's Earth? Would you like to find out what, if anything, you could do – both individually and as a group?

Green Christian is an organisation based in England with relatively few members in Scotland at the moment. They have a lot of information and discussion points on their website: [greenchristian.org.uk](http://greenchristian.org.uk) as well as running webinars an online prayer meetings and courses. I have explored a number of resources on the website, and, in particular, have looked at a course called Plenty, which I think would be a good start to explore the issues around Climate Change and actions.

I would love to try to run this course for anyone who is interested – regardless of church affiliation – to see whether we could do more in Lanark. If you might be interested please send me an email on [ruthwebb@sky.com](mailto:ruthwebb@sky.com) and we may be able to organise something to suit. It can be done online or in person or as a mixture depending what suits people.

*Ruth Webb*

## Celebrations

Two of our congregation have had significant birthdays lately and were presented with cards and plants.



Morag



Lenore

We wish a very happy 80<sup>th</sup> to Morag and an incredible 90<sup>th</sup> to Lenore

We are delighted to share the happy news that Elizabeth and Keith Baxter's Granddaughter Orla Eden Baxter was born on the 29th of January. She is a much loved little Sister for her brothers Rowan and Cameron.



## Laughter is the Best Medicine

*When you mix children and religion...  
You get some unexpected gems. The following are extracts from religious exam papers...*

In the first book of the Bible, Guinnesses, God got tired of creating the world, so He took the Sabbath off.

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark because Noah built an ark. The animals came on in pears.

The Jews are a proud people and throughout history they've had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.

Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.

The Seventh Commandment is: Thou shalt not admit adultery.

Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.

The people who followed the Lord were called the twelve decibels.

St Paul cavorted to Christianity down the Damascus Road. There he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.

### Speeding

A speeding motorist was caught by radar from a police helicopter in the sky. An officer pulled him over and began to issue a traffic ticket. "How did you know I was speeding?" the frustrated driver asked.

The police officer pointed soberly toward the sky. "You mean," asked the motorist, in awed confusion, "that now even God has installed speed cameras?"

### Cured

A Sunday School teacher asked her pupils if they could describe any of the miracles that Jesus performed. One youngster responded: "Yes, He cured people who had leopards."



# 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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