



CHRIST CHURCH LANARK
CLYDESDALE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MAY - JUNE '26

Schedule of Services

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

June

Sunday 7

Trinity 1

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

12 noon – Kirking of the Lord

Cornet Elect

Sunday 14

Trinity 2

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 21

Trinity 3

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 28

Trinity 4

(Lanark)

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

(Lamington)

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

July

Sunday 5

Trinity 5

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist for Confirmation & Reception

Sunday 12

Trinity 6

10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

News in the Pews

- Congratulations to our new Iranian member Hadi on his baptism into the family of God on Sunday 12 April. We wish him much joy and the support of our prayers as he journeys forward with us in faith, hope and love.
- A recent hall kitchen inspection, carried out by the Health & Hygiene Department of South Lanarkshire Council, gave us a glowing report and passed us with flying colours. All thanks due to our super-duper hall cleaners, Ann and Irene, our very on-the-ball hall convener, Ruth, and our master of works, Danny. Everyone is agreed that we should keep you all!!
- A wee reminder that, if your Mothering Sunday Narcissi have gone over and you are thinking of throwing them away, DON'T! Nic Broadbridge would love to have the bulbs to plant in the grounds of his home at Linmill in Kirkfieldbank, where he already has a superb display of Narcissi, Daffodils and Lent Lilies – amongst other things! Leave your pots on the pew in the porch for him to uplift.
- On Sunday 5 July, at the 10.30 am Sung Eucharist, we are looking forward to seeing Ruth Coates being received into the Scottish Episcopal Church and Luke Patrick being confirmed by our new Diocesan Bishop, The Rt Revd Dr Nicholas Bundock. Please get the date in your diary and turn out en force for this very happy and special occasion.
- Our curate, Jackie, is still suffering a lot of pain and incapacity with her broken shoulder and wrist. She may need surgery to sort her problem. We should expect her to be absent from church and duties for some time to come (at least 12 weeks). Please continue to hold her in your prayers.

First Quarter Away Giving

The first quarter away giving collection for the Bishop's Lent Appeal, Water Aid, raised £500

Clergy Cogitations



As I sit down to write this, the evidence of spring is all around us - days are getting longer, the green is deepening in the trees and hedgerows and a sense of life seems to be bursting forth. There is a profound parallel between the season of creation and the liturgical season we are currently in. Having walked through the solemn reflection of Lent and

the joy of Easter we now find ourselves in the season of growth - Pentecost and Ordinary Time.

May: A Season of Light and Life

The month of May brings the energy of Ascension and the promise of the Holy Spirit. It's a time to remember that we are not left alone. The disciples were told to wait for power from on high and that same power is available to us today. It reminds us that our faith is not static; it's a living, breathing relationship that empowers us to serve our local community. As we look forward to the promise of summer, I invite you to see the "new growth" God is bringing to your own life and our church community.

June: Reaching Out and Resting In

As we turn the page to June, our focus shifts to community and looking ahead to the summer months. In the Catholic Tradition it's the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart, reminding us of the immense love God has for us. June is a good time to review the first half of the year, to celebrate what has been achieved while resting in the knowledge that God is in control of our future.

Reflecting on Change

We all know that the world, and indeed the Church, is constantly changing. Nothing stands still, and that can sometimes bring a sense of uncertainty. However, in the midst of change, our mission remains the same: to reach out in love, to support one another, and to grow in faith. Whether it's through supporting local initiatives like Memory Lane and Broth & Blether, or contributing to our Away Giving Campaigns, or attending the worship of Christ Church as much as possible, or simply being a listening ear, we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Upcoming Diary Dates

Please check the calendar inside and the weekly online notices for details on upcoming events. As we approach the summer, we have a few special services planned and, of course, our ongoing ministry in the community. Let's make the most of these brighter days to connect with friends, neighbours, and with God.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who works so hard behind the scenes to keep our church vibrant and welcoming. Whether you tidy the church and grounds, make apres service coffee, or hold someone in prayer, your work is a precious offering.

Let's step into this May/June season with joy, gratitude, and a readiness to grow.

With every good wish and blessing

Drew

Faith

When your prayers at times appear to go unanswered,
And the words of your worse doubters seem so true,
When it seems the whole wide world is all against you,
Just put your faith in God and you'll pull through.

When your life is like a maze with no known exit,
And your future appears to be as black as night,
When it seems that all your efforts end in failure,
Just put your faith in God, he'll see you right.

For those who put their faith in God have reason,
For confidence to face each trial and test,
and know better times are just around the corner,
For faith is the soft pillow that gives rest.

By Colin Hammacott

Christ Church Journey to Net Zero

In line with the aims of the dioceses Christ Church has been looking into how we can make improvements that will also help the environment.

Energy produced and used by the church and the hall all adds to the quantity of harmful Carbon gases that are released into the atmosphere.

If you have endless amounts of money you can purchase all the modern insulation and technology that would dramatically reduce your carbon foot print. Surprise, surprise we do not have endless amounts of money so we have to be smart with the resources we have.

The church has made a good start to reducing our production of harmful gases.

1. The Church and hall now have smart meters, this has enabled costs to be monitored more closely with estimated bills a thing of the past.
2. The gas heating system has been given a new control system. This enables times to be set directly inline with the times the church is going to be used. The setting of the times can be carried out remotely, by someone monitoring weather conditions from their home.
3. All the lights in the church and hall are now LED fittings, even the large three in the centre of the church. Some of this work involved new light fittings and others were simply a matter of changing the light bulbs. The proportion of savings on power is equal to comparing two light bulbs one LED and one old metal filament to produce the same light. A 3 watt LED equals a 60 Watt old stile. With all our lights changed electricity bills have been reduced.
4. The infrared heaters that were in the church were failing and not as effective as modern fittings. We made the decision to replace the old ones following an extensive search for the most suitable heaters and controls systems for our church. The new heaters are high frequency infrared with individual remote controls. Again they can be set by someone from home and used directly as needed. We are now trying to balance the use between the gas boiler and the new heaters.

All that work has been completed



3 projects we are working on to improve the hall and the rectory use for future work

1. Lowering the hall ceiling to reduce heating bills.
2. Providing additional solar and battery storage.
3. The roof on both buildings has been costing more and more each year to repair. They need to be reroofed.
4. Other improvements will be carried out along with the major works : fire protection systems and improved hall lighting.

All of the above will only be possible if we gain grants and that is a major undertaking to source these funds.

We will keep you undated and if any one knows of suitable funds giving out grants for community projects please let us know.

Danny

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 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 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.

Hadi's Baptism

Sunday 12 April, Easter 2, also known as Low Sunday, was anything but “low” for those of us who gathered in Christ Church to celebrate the baptism of Hadi Ghadrian.

Hadi, a 33 year old architect and refugee from Iran, converted to Christianity in his homeland, before coming to the shores of Britain to seek asylum. His first contact with the Anglican Church was through a chaplain assigned to the refugee centre in the south of England where he was held upon arrival. Just before he was about to be baptised in the chaplaincy church he was informed that he had to move north of the border. This brought him to Lesmahagow and, eventually, to us at Christ Church.



In the short time that Hadi has been with us he has established himself as a very thorough gentleman and endeared himself to us all. His presence in our congregation is most welcome. We look forward to him being with us for many, many more years to come.

It was an absolutely privilege to baptise him and welcome him, not only into the family of Christ Church, but also into the worldwide family of the Church of God.

From the photographs that Sylvia took in church and afterwards in the hall, where we celebrated his big day with a lovely lunch and two special cakes, it is clear that a very happy and emotional time was had by all.

A Message from Haddi

With a heart full of joy and gratitude, I sincerely thank the church pastor and the dear church family for being with me on my baptism day with so much love and dedication.

This day became very special and memorable for me, and your kindness and support made my celebration even more beautiful and meaningful.

I am deeply grateful for the lunch, the cake, and all the love you showed me.

This day will always remain in my heart.

The Torch – The people who inspired



David Orr has submitted this month's story to the Torch. His tale is amusing and remarkable for its bravery, not least David's own in recovering from his stroke.

Reading Ken Scott's piece under the headline "The Torch" and how his mother left God's fingerprint on his life, I thought of my father.

12 March 2026 marks the centenary of the birth of Ian Orr into Christ Church, Lanark. His mother (Jessie Lamb Orr - my gran) walked to this church 3 times on a Sunday (0800 sharpener, 1100 main event, and 1830 evensong) and my Dad grew up no less committed to worship at this church until his death in 1996. While their guidance kept me anchored to this church, it didn't stop me straining at the chains - particularly during my 32 years in the RAF....

Over 2 years ago, I had a serious stroke which, following 6 months in hospital, necessitated learning to walk & talk again and, most difficult, to connect the damaged parts of my brain to function satisfactorily. This piece of writing is the culmination of 30 months effort and the encouragement and support of a great number of people. Two people stand out (in addition to my initial Torch figure, my father Ian Orr) Squadron Leader Stuart Mitchell DFC RAF, and Major Pete Norton GC RLC.

Stuart and I endured the same Officer Training Course at RAF College Cranwell 44 years ago then on graduation, were to continue our friendship on Basic Flying Training at RAF Linton-on-Ouse. As the 'Distinguished Flying Cross' post-nominal suggests, Flying Training went better for Stu than me with him having a stellar career in aviation, my having a 'Stella' career in military logistics. Stu graced this church in 1991 as a member of the sword-wielding, guard of honour at my first marriage. This was during a period of 'Rest & Recuperation' from Gulf War 1, flying over Iraq.

In 1999 as pilot and Captain of the large Tristar tanker aircraft conducting air-to-air refuelling over Kosovo and on one occasion had to penetrate hostile airspace to provide support to 2 carrier-based US Navy attack aircraft critically short of fuel. Over the Serbian border, the formation encountered poor weather requiring a descent to low level where they were illuminated by surface-to-air missile systems. The Tristar had no self-defence aids and was no longer receiving support from airborne early-warning aircraft, but Stu continued to transfer fuel so that the US Navy aircraft and their 4 aircrew could return safely to their carrier. Are you listening President Trump?

Last summer Stu visited Lanark to check on my recovery and offer his best wishes over a coffee and sarnies - 900 miles in a day, that meant a lot to me. Stu died last month as a result of a fatal stroke. Thank you Stu, for being an agent of God's fingerprint on my life.

I'll round this tale of torchlight off with a charity luncheon meeting with Major Pete Norton GC RLC (Retd.) at the RAF Club, Piccadilly, a couple of months ago. I joined the Benevolent Autocrats Leisure & Luncheon Society (.think about it..) at its formation in 1989. We meet twice annually for Lunch in central London and once a year for a day of golf. In the 36 years of its existence, BALLS has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for members favoured charities (even giving a sizeable donation to this church in the wake of my father's death). Take a wild guess at the character flaws required for membership. So it was that I arrived at the Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, complete with electric wheelchair for the first time in over 2 years, to an embarrassing standing welcome-back ovation.....

I didn't recognise the member to my right at the lunch table, but when he used his left hook (literally) to help me manipulate my roast beef, and his right to pour us wine, I knew we would get on famously. Pete had been proposed for membership in my absence through my stroke, but I listened to his potted life story and it was remarkable - not because he didn't modestly mention he had been awarded the George Cross, but because of something entirely different: In the aftermath of the lunch, Port, speeches, Port, money-raising auction, Port, we repaired to a local pub we 40 diners - me and Pete in our electric wheelchairs - Major Peter Norton was an Ammunition Technical Officer within the British Army's Royal Logistics Corps. In 2005 he deployed to Iraq to lead a Joint Combined Explosives Team with the Americans. Going to the aid of a US Army patrol that had been attacked by Improvised Explosive Devices on 24 July 2005, he was checking for secondary devices when he was himself hit by IED. Pete lost his left leg, left arm, most of his right leg and suffered serious injuries to his lower back. He refused to be evacuated instead continued to give orders to his team, fearing that there might be additional devices in the area - fears that were well-founded, a third device was subsequently located and dealt with. Pete's (now safe) team included 2 special agents of the FBI, meaning that in addition to the George Cross (the second highest order of Valour in the land) Pete was awarded the prestigious FBI Star. Are you listening President Trump?

But that is only a part of the Peter Norton story. In 2013 he retired from the Army, now divorced (his first wife being another victim of his service) he wrote extensively, featured on the lecture circuit, in fact he became a model of self-help. But there was something missing. Pete found love again this time with a widow with 2 wee girls. Idly answering the host of questions set before him by a 4 year old, he said that he was not much for religion... but of course that didn't need to stop her going to Church with her mummy and Sunday School with her wee sister....a curious, reflective air informed their chats for the next few days until one day the wee girl came out with an other life changing question. She wanted to know if when they all die, mummy, and her sister and her and go to heaven, will they not see Pete again? This, accompanied by 4 year olds tears.....

An old Army Padre mate of Pete's was pressed into service, congregation mustered, godfathers (with much amusement) appointed, and a couple of weeks later Major Peter Norton GC, newly believing in Jesus Christ as Lord & saviour, was baptised into the CofE, much to amusement, delight and relief of a certain front-row congregant.

Thank you Pete, for being an agent of God's fingerprint on my life.

Trying a new liturgy!



Welcoming Our New Liturgy

There is a rhythm to the life of faith. Just as the seasons change, so too do our ways of worshipping. While anchored in ancient patterns, they often evolve to help us express our devotion more deeply, our faith more accurately, our respect for one another more sensitively. In the first section of the long Trinity Season (beginning on Trinity Sunday at the end of May), I would very much like us to trial, at Christ Church, the new liturgical format that has been in use now for many years in the Diocese and, which, I believe, it is high time we experienced in our Sung Eucharists.

Change in worship can sometimes feel unsettling. We are creatures of habit and we love the familiar phrases that have carried our prayers for years. However, the updated liturgy is an opportunity for us to look at the "greatest mystery of our faith" with fresh eyes.

Why a New Liturgy?

This new form of worship is not a "passing fad" or a mere gimmick. Rather, it is a response to a deep longing for roots that connect us to another reality - a world set apart that runs parallel to our modern, chaotic lives.

The new liturgy aims to:

- *Deepen Our Roots:* Reconnect us with ancient, time-honoured practices that have sustained the Church for centuries.
- *Enhance Participation:* Move us from being spectators to active participants, where the work of worship is truly "the work of the people".
- *Enrich Our Vocabulary:* Offer new words and structures that can lead to a deeper understanding of our faith.

What to Expect

As we introduce the new liturgy we may feel at times that we are learning a new language. There may be moments of hesitation, a few stumbles, and perhaps even some "suppressed giggles". This is perfectly normal. The goal is not perfection, but engagement. We are aiming to discover a "reverent liturgy" that incorporates moments of silence and allows us to encounter the risen Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Preparing Our Hearts

To prepare for this change, I invite you to do three things:

1. *Read Ahead:* Familiarise yourself with the new responses (copies will be available at the back of the church nearer the time of the introduction).
2. *Come with Openness:* See this as a "graced moment" to rediscover the treasure of Anglican/Christian prayer.
3. *Embrace Silence:* Allow the moments of quiet to nourish your interior life, rather than rushing to fill them.

Liturgy is "ever ancient and ever new". I am convinced that this period of trial will be an inspiring moment in the life of our congregation and lead us into a deeper experience of God's presence.

Drew

Easter Flowers

Many thanks to Jane and the Flower Team for the beautifully decorated church for Easter. It made our hearts sing.



Many Christ Church members are also regular attenders of Music in Lanark Concerts and will remember the young blind boy, Ethan Loch, making his debut appearance at New Lanark.

Ethan Loch Update!

When I first moved to Carluke almost 9 years ago one of the first things Nelson introduced me to, was 'Music in Lanark' then held at New Lanark.

One of the first concerts I attended was to hear Ethan Loch, who Nelson had already seen perform. I found the first concert performance by Ethan profoundly moving, given his age and blindness. Little did we realise that 9 years later we would be continuing to follow his career.

He's now a regular guest performing with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. His recent performance playing Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue' followed by Ethans 'Cadenza' from his own piano concerto led to a very exuberant and for us an emotional standing ovation.

On a personal level last July Nelson and I went to stay at Doune to meet the family. We arrived early and decided to visit Dunblane Cathedral. Unfortunately it was about to close for lunch but a 'volunteer' told us there was to be a recital that night given by Ethan Loch! We said we would have attended but for the 'dinner engagement'. After touring the area a little more we started to head for our hotel and realised we had time to 'try the Cathedral' again, this time it was open! The volunteer at the entrance told us about the concert and we explained how disappointed we were as we'd seen Ethan play several times. 'Why don't you wait, he's due to come and rehearse in a few minutes'! Not wishing to interrupt a rehearsal we tried to leave but Ethan, his Mum and the Minister arrived before we could! The volunteer explained why we were still there to Ethan's mum, who immediately asked if we would like to hear him play. Thinking this was to be part of the rehearsal we said 'yes' to which she responded 'What would you like Ethan to play?' We were both speechless but managed to say Rachmaninov's 2nd Piano Concerto, "Oh good", says Ethan, "I've just been practicing that". So there and then we had our own very special performance of this work and made a precious memory!

Since then Ethan was shortlisted for the Royal Philharmonic Society Young Artist 2026.

If you want to see Ethan, he is premiering his work called 'Earth, Water, Wind & Fire' as well as playing two pieces by Debussy on Sunday 7th June beginning at 1pm in the New Auditorium at Glasgow Concert Hall.

Barbara Waters

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Nine

I was meeting a friend in a restaurant and as I went in, I noticed two pretty girls looking at me. "Nine," I heard one whisper as I passed. Feeling pleased with myself, I swaggered over to my buddy and told him a girl had just rated me a nine out of ten. "I don't want to ruin it for you," he said, "but when I walked in, they were speaking German."

When technology goes wrong

The father of a family - who was a big-time techie - got his oldest daughter an iPhone for her birthday. He also got an iPad for his son. Later he bought an iPod for the youngest daughter. Then, when his wedding anniversary rolled around, he got his wife an iRon. That's when things went wrong.

Geraniums

A man burst into a flower shop and urgently demanded two pink potted geraniums. The clerk explained that they did not have any, but could offer him African violets instead. "No," said the man sadly. "It was geraniums that my wife told me to water while she was gone."

Who's been good?

A father of five young children won a toy at a raffle. Back home, he called his children together to let them determine which one should have the present. "Who is the most obedient?" he asked. "Who never talks back to Mother? Who does everything she says?"

Five small voices answered in unison: "You, Daddy!"

Notices found in church newsletters - that didn't quite come out right!

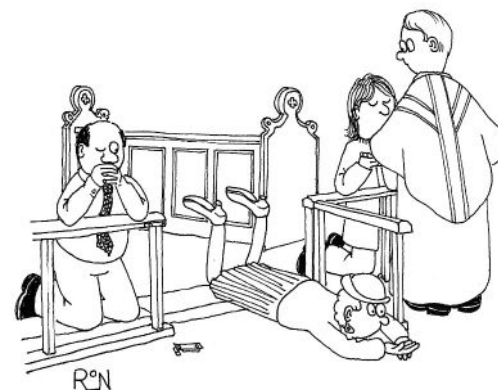
Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of the vicar's sermons.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married last weekend in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Ladies are requested not to have children in the church kitchen.



Terry made a note to fix the bolt

CHRIST CHURCH LANARK

Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

Bishop: The Right Revd Dr Nicholas Bundock, c/o Bishop's Office,
Diocesan Centre, 49 Cochrane Street, GLASGOW, G1 1HL.

Email: bishop@glasgow.anglican.org Tel: 0141 221 5720

Rector: Revd Canon Andrew Sheridan, The Rectory, 1 Cleghorn Road, Lanark,
ML11 7QT. Email: thecanteringcanon@outlook.com Tel: 01555 663065

Assistant Curate: Revd Jacqueline Fenton, 6 Cairnhill Court, Carluke, ML8
4EP. Email: jacqueline.fenton@outlook.com Tel: 07712 761249



Church Office: 01555 663065

Lay Readers: Robert (Bobby) Burgon, Rob Thain

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Sheila Cardwell 07949 756771

Adult & Child Protection Officer: Revd Jacqueline Fenton 07712 761249

Vestry:

Sheila Cardwell - Rector's Warden	07949 756771
Jane Milliken - People's Warden	01555 751514
Danny Craig	01555 667606
Ken Scott	07900 857247
Ed Trevellion	07951 196956
Glenys Wilcox	07722 520257
Rob Thain, Lay Representative	07966 595156

Secretary - Mark Fenton 6 Cairnhill Court, Carluke ML8 4EP markfenton06@gmail.com	07484 358453
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Treasurer - Robert Burgon 16 Mill View, Hyndford Park, Lanark ML11 8FT	07929 603391
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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

Church Flowers: Jane Milliken, 01555 751514

Church Hall Bookings: 01555 663065

Web site: **www.christchurchlanark.com**

Magazine Editor: Sylvia Russell: 01555 662676

E-Mail: sylviarussell555@gmail.com

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