CARNTYNE and CRANHILL PARISH NEWS



December 2025

FROM the MANSE

From the manse desk

Do you ever get weeks that its feels like one disaster, one after another? I am writing this on the Sunday before the deadline, having intended to write this article for the magazine during the week, but life got in the way as it often does. And that is ok.

November has been a right mixed month so far (today is 16th November) where I have conducted a wedding, one more to do in two weeks' time, a funeral, had a week off so the dogs could be taken to Grantown on Spey and escape the fireworks that are loud in the area of Glasgow that the manse I call home in (it was the same in my last manse, it's a Glasgow thing!!) but it's also been a month where I have suffered a two day bout of feeling really not good enough for anything, a minor car accident, and a doubted my sermons! And it's only the middle of November, but I am not alone in sometimes can feel just that wee bit overwhelmed, and for no real 'good' reason, so took a four-hour time out yesterday. Out from church, presbytery, people, not the dogs \odot no

TV, radio, nothing, and spent an evening in prayer, reading scripture, and journalling. It was a blessing, and I would have liked more time like that but accept that visits had to happen, but my spiritual life, my mental health also need the TLC, and that is always ok. To listen to ourselves, to reflect, and to do it with God. That is a real blessing we can have in our faith, that when we need the time out, we can do it with God. When we need to be in prayer, we do it with God. When we need his love, we do it with God.

Verse two in the hymn, what a friend we have in Jesus, just nails what I am trying to say! Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged, **Take it to the Lord in prayer**. Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness, **Take it to the Lord in prayer**.

And, as the season approaches, Merry Christmas, and here is a new year with new things to come



KIRK SESSION

On 5th October the Session were pleased to welcome three newly ordained elders Fiona Craig, Amy Mckimmin-Logan and James Little. We wish them every blessing as they do God's work.

The Kirk Session are now meeting every two months, with newly formed committees meeting on alternate months. As all elders are on at least one committee they are working equally as hard.

MDS

At the time of writing our MDS Aileen McDonald-Haak has just left us to train for the Ministry. Aileen came here 6 years ago and had set up many activities for the older generation. She will be particularly remembered for her part in setting up the café on a Thursday morning. This has produced a welcome income for the church. There are around 50-60 on average who pop into this warm space for a cuppa, lunch or both and many stay on in the afternoon for the film show and companionship.

Aileen's post has been advertised and we ask you to join us in praying that we find the right person in the not too distant future. Meantime volunteers are keeping things running as normal.

Communion Roll

Elder districts are being re-organised. You should soon be visited by your elder or receive a phone call from them to introduce themselves to you. We will no longer issue Communion cards but Communion will take place as usual on 2nd Sunday in March, June, September, December and on Maundy Thursday. We look forward to seeing you then.

Events

As part of our fundraising events we have had a Show of Fashion. This proved to be very popular and another has been booked for Tuesday 14th April next year. Over the year we have had, amongst others, a Beetle Drive, Summer Coffee morning and our Band Concert a few weeks ago and all have proved to be very popular. Keep your eyes open for what is happening in 2026.

Carntyne and Cranhill Parish Grouping

For some time we have been working with Shettleston New Church and we have agreed to go into a Parish Grouping. Initially we plan to have joint services at Christmas, Easter and some joint social events. Information will be in the order of service, at a later date.

Christmastime

11.30pm on 24th December.

Our Christmas Fayre will be on Saturday 29^{tth} November.

Christmas Party on 6th December.
Bereavement Remembering Service is on 7th
December at 6pm followed by Carols at 7pm
Church Nativity will be on Sunday 21st December
Christmas Carols at 11pm and Watchnight at

On behalf of the Kirk Session, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

May Fawns Session Clerk



CHURCH LIFE

Funerals

David Hogg

Neil McMann

Elizabeth Betty Haddleton*

Weddings

Colin Brown to Laura Smillie- 8th November Declan Smith to Nicole Haetzman- 29th November



^{*}Denotes member

BUILDINGS UPDATE

Final applications for funding have been made and since the last update we are delighted to confirm that the Church of Scotland has awarded us a Grant of £250,000 towards our Project.

The last Funder we have to hear from is the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NHLF) and they are considering our application at the end of November. We hope and pray that this application is successful which would mean we could begin looking at dates to start work.



<u>ORGANISATIONS</u>

Ladies Club

The ladies Club meets on Tuesday at 7.30pm in the downstairs hall.

We look forward to seeing our regular members and hopefully some new faces. We play bowls, dominoes, darts and do some line dancing. We play for fun, no skills required. We also enjoy a chat over tea, coffee, cakes, and biscuits. Our Christmas dinner is on 20th December at The Springcroft

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Margaret Kelly Secretary

The 63rd Cranhill Girls' Brigade.

Our session began on the first Tuesday in September and after a visit to two primary schools in the area of Cranhill and one in Carntyne - on our first Tuesday night back we were overwhelmed with lots of wee girls! We have settled down a bit now and we have approximately 30 girls every week.

We had our dedication service at the end of September in which Rhona gave us a lovely service. It was also very fitting that the Company recognised and rewarded the long service of Mary Hastie and Catherine Ferries as they step back from the company. It gave me great pleasure to present them badges as Honorary Captains – however they will continue to work in the background - they are not getting free yet!!! One of the songs that the girls demonstrated was the song: "The Land of Scots" which is from Fischy music and was also the theme song for our summer club this year – it's one of those songs that you can't get out your head! By the time of reading this we will have had our theme party in October which this year is Cowgirl - so hoedown it is! Dooking for apples will also be done too! We are planning a Christmas pyjama party this year with a Christmas movie to watch.

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and peaceful New Year!

Karen Scott Leader in Charge

The 162nd Glasgow Boys' Brigade

The new Boys' Brigade session is well under way with more than 40 boys attending across the 3 sections on Monday evenings.

We were proud recently to have 2 of our older boys, Michael Lawson and Fraser Little, receive their King's Badge which is the highest award the BB presents.

I've been Captain for many years, and this is a first for me so huge congratulations to Michael and Fraser.

With Christmas approaching, preparations are under way for the church fayre (where our Anchor Boys will once again be singing) and for our annual trip to the pantomime. On behalf of all of the BB staff, may I wish you and your family a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Gary Lappin Captain

Girlguiding in Carntyne and Cranhill (278th Glasgow)

Rainbows

The 278th Rainbows have had a busy and exciting term! The girls have completed their *Express Myself* and *Know Myself* theme awards and celebrated their achievements with a special badge ceremony. Every Rainbow earned a minimum of six badges, with nine girls receiving their Bronze Award, four earning their Silver Award, and seven proudly achieving their Gold Award — an outstanding accomplishment for everyone!

We also enjoyed a fantastic trip to *Roar and Explore* at Blair Drummond Safari Park, where the girls learned about different animals and took part in lots of fun activities, including bouncy castles and fun football organised by Girlguiding. It's been a wonderful term full of learning, laughter, and adventure!

Brownies

What a Term We've Had! Our Brownies have been busy having a blast! We kicked things off with an amazing trip to Edinburgh Zoo. The girls loved every moment, especially our educational encounter where the guide shared fascinating animal facts.

Over the summer, Girlguiding launched 18 brandnew interest badges, and we've already ticked off two: Animal Helper and Craft. Right now, we're getting creative with the Kitchen Creations badge. But that's not all, we've been diving into the Brownies Take Action theme. It's all about finding our voice, learning our rights, and understanding why respecting others matters.

Of course, we've had plenty of celebrations too. Our Halloween party was spook-tacular (yes, some leaders dressed up). Pumpkin carving was a hit, though the leaders might disagree! For Bonfire Night, we made tasty edible sparklers and even lit real ones.

Now, we're in full festive mode with Christmas crafts underway. We can't wait for our Christmas party and badge-giving night, where some of our amazing girls will proudly receive their Gold Award.

What a term, it's been packed with fun, new experiences, and laughter.



Guides

This term has been full of exciting milestones and memorable moments for our Girl Guide unit! We are thrilled to announce that we now have our highest-ever number of girls, with 25 amazing girls! It's been wonderful to see our unit grow and thrive together.

One of the biggest highlights of the year was Lucy earning our very first Gold Award in May—a historic achievement for our unit! We couldn't be more proud of the hard work and dedication that

went into reaching this incredible goal. And the achievements don't stop there—another one of our girls Rebecca, is just weeks away from completing her Gold Award too! What an inspiring accomplishment.

Our unit also had the chance to take part in a special activity day to celebrate Glasgow's 850th birthday, where the girls enjoyed a variety of fun challenges and learned more about the city's history. It was a fantastic opportunity to be part of such a significant local event!

Of course, we couldn't forget our Halloween party, which was a spook-tacular success. The girls got into the festive spirit with costumes, games, and plenty of treats! Looking ahead, we're all excited about our upcoming trip to the Christmas Pantomime, where we'll be sharing laughs and creating more lasting memories together. It's been a busy and brilliant term, and we're looking forward to even more fun and adventures in the months to come!

Rangers

Although we only have 2 girls in Rangers at the moment, we still get through plenty of activities. In

the Autumn term the girls have been working on the *Express Myself* theme, as well as making candle jars and upcycling paintings.

In October the girls joined other Rangers and Young Leaders from across Glasgow for a trip to the Lake District where they took part in an Adventure by the Mountains at Great Tower Scout Adventure Centre. Despite the muddy conditions the girls enjoyed activities including a zip wire, Jacob's Ladder, tomahawk throwing and archery. We are finishing our session with a visit to the Citizens Theatre Christmas show *Beauty and the Beast* before the festive break. We would welcome any girls aged 14 –18 to join us in January.

Choir

When I started coming along to this church and saw that there was a choir I was really pleased – it took me a few weeks to pluck up the courage to ask how I could join! Julie Bell very kindly introduced me to one of the ladies and then I joined everyone the following Thursday evening and we ran through the hymns for the following Sunday.

I was made very welcome and we are a very friendly bunch – it is hard without Les and Janet but we are doing our best!

So if there are any secret singers sitting out there listening to the choir and wishing you were up beside us – please feel free to come and speak to us and come along at least for one Thursday night to see how you feel!

So pluck up the courage and take that first step!

Linda Grant Choir Member

Sunshine Club

Hi everyone,

I thought I would provide an insight on what happens at our Sunshine Club. This club runs in the church hall every Monday from 1:30 until 3:30. The first hour the ladies get to mingle amongst each other alongside an accompaniment of tea and biscuits. Within the second hour we have an entertainer who plays an instrument or sings, this differs on a weekly basis. We also celebrate special birthdays where the individual will receive a cake, chocolate and flowers.

At the festive period we host a Christmas party where we have caterers who serve a lovely Christmas dinner. To finish the day we have a show from one of our spectacular entertainers. At the end of term we have a bus run, for the last few years this has been to Largs. The day begins at 10am until late evening where we spend the day in the chosen destination. Here you are free to do as you wish and explore. We then attend the Willowbank hotel for lunch which is then followed by entertainment to finish the evening where the ladies get to show off their dance moves to the likes of the slosh and some line dancing. Here we also have raffles which the ladies thoroughly enjoy.

This is a small insight into the Sunshine Club, I hope to welcome you soon.

Ann McLaren

From the AA

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. If you think you need help, we are here every Wednesday 12.30 and Thursday 8pm Or call 0800 917 7650 or email help@aamail.org

ACTIVITIES and SUPPORT for OLDER PEOPLE

Monday:

Sunshine Club from 1.30-3.30pm. A cup of tea or coffee, a chat and some entertainment. (There is a charge of £4)

Come and Sing Café at Shettleston New Church meets every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month - 2.00 - 3.30pm. Live music with tea/coffee and cakes served from 2.00 p.m. The Come and Sing cafe is open to anyone living with dementia and their family/friends. 679 Old Shettleston Road (next to Aldi) G32 7JG.

Contact Douglas 07984 213214 for details.

Tuesday:

Coffeetime Chat 10- 11.30am. Meeting on Zoom for a blether and some puzzles.

Meeting ID: 865 5388 2010 - No passcode required.

Strength & Balance Class 12.30-1.30 in the church hall for people with reduced mobility.

Growing Together 2-4pm. A chance to explore with others the relevance of faith in today's world. Often includes singing, Bible discussion, prayer time, tea, coffee and chat. All welcome!

Ladies Recreation Club 7-9pm for fun and friendship.

Wednesday:

Health Walk - Meets at the Church gate at 11.00am for about an hour's gentle exercise and company. Followed by a cuppa in the hall. New members always welcome. No need to book- just turn up.

Monthly short afternoon service at the Bield last Wednesday of the month at 2pm followed by a cuppa and chat. All welcome.

Men's Recreation Club -Meets from 6.40-9pm in the church hall for fun and friendship.

Thursday:

Community Café - 9.30-12.30. Drop in for a hot drink and something to eat. Pay only what you can afford. Meet a friend, make a friend. Speak to Parkhead Citizen Advice Bureau advisors every second week or Bill, our technology volunteer, every other week.

Film Club at 1pm in the hall.

Friday:

Lunch club - at 12 noon a two-course meal in company followed by tea and coffee. This costs £4.10.

Young at Heart 1-3pm in the hall with dominoes, quizzes, some gentle exercise, a cuppa and bingo. Occasionally craft or a visit from a speaker.

Bereavement Group monthly on the first and third Fridays of the month from 3.30-5pm.

PAM

Some highlights of the last month.

Three days at The Good News Bible Church's first national Missions Conference in Tamale. It was good to see pastors enjoying taking up the challenge of The Great Commission, Matthew 28:19-20 for their congregations.

Meeting up with 4 retired teachers/head teachers from Sandema preparing to carry on the work of 1for50 in their own language.

Wishing the congregation a happy, blessed, and peaceful Christmas.

Blessings Pam

JANET in NIGERIA

Janet Martin's Prayer Letter October 2025 Holley Memorial Hospital, Ochadamu, Nigeria

Dear family and friends,

5.40am and the alarm goes off without fail! And keeps at it all day! At 6am life begins in earnest as it becomes light and it is cooler than later in the day. The vendors appear with their goods — tomatoes, bananas, onions, etc. carried of course on their heads. It is particularly busy on the road (sand track) outside my home this week as it is the week when 50+ patients are admitted for eye surgery. Many pass up and down on their motorbikes, the principal means of transport here, and a few in well-worn taxis

As the day gets underway, an older maintenance worker, here since the late 80's, stops to greet me as I sit working on the verandah. The children pass on their way to and from school, and others pause at the sight of a white face. Some greet in Igala, others in English and I reply using a mixture of both! The Administrator, who lives next door,

stops on his way to or from work to discuss where else I might want to go to see all that is going on here.

This is Simon who remembers the Thompsons and worked with Nigel Heath in the late 80's and is now getting on in years, but continues to do a little work each day clearing areas that have become overgrown.



Faith, 8 years old, daughter of a lady with long standing complications of leprosy, who lives here on the compound because, abandoned by her husband when she contracted leprosy, she has no-where else to go. Faith is selling me groundnuts at 7.30am!



These two represent a goodly number of the population on the hospital compound and in the surrounding area – who for one reason or another struggle to survive because of minimal or no regular source of income.

So, what of Holley Memorial Hospital? A very busy place - 150 beds: Medical, Surgical, Paediatric and Maternity Wards and Outpatients (OPC) at one end; the Eye Department and Leprosy, TB and HIV Wards at the other. In the centre of the compound is the College of Nursing; on the far side, the Primary and Secondary School and the Church; and all round the periphery, housing for staff and homes for 3 long term Leprosy sufferers and their families. There are long queues for the doctor. Sometimes the doctor who started at OPC at 10am is still seeing patients at 5pm. In every department there are faithful, hardworking people in key positions, some of whom have served here for 25 years and more. Auxiliary staff, amongst their many other duties, are interpreters for the senior staff who do not speak the local language. But, motivation amongst doctors and trained nurses to stay at the hospital is not high. The salaries that the hospital can afford to pay are not comparable to other

places and so, as the cost of living is high, trained doctors and nurses tend to stay around until they can find a better paid job and then move on. This makes continuity of care and planning of services difficult.

Doctor at work



Student Nurses



Long Queues for the Doctor



However, there is much for which to be thankful. At a wonderful Service in the church recently we celebrated with great joy and thanksgiving the fact that the hospital was at last debt free. This has come after a period of many years when the hospital had fallen into serious debt, morale was low and no-one could see a way out. The change is in no small way due to the efforts of the current Hospital Administrator who during his 2+years in office has made wise, not always popular decisions and by careful planning has brought the hospital to this position today. It was well recognised that this man's appointment at this time was in the providence of God. There is a sense of relief and hope as the hospital management can now look forward and begin to plan much needed maintenance.

The hospital Administrator with his wife and Some of the faithful long serving staff.







Another significant and wonderful event which I was privileged to be part of recently was the first ever Graduation Ceremony for 10 girls who, sponsored by a charity in a local town, had just completed a year's training as Health Care Assistants. As they led us in worship and thanksgiving, the presence of God was very real, and it was evident that these girls had gained so much more than Health Care training during their time at Holley Memorial. Mercy, the lady who cared for them while they were here, and who has shared so much with them about life and about knowing and following Jesus, will miss them as they scatter to various parts of the country to put into practice all they have learnt. 10 new students will start at the end of October.

The students exchanged gifts and showed their appreciation to Mercy and all who had taught them.





With 2 lads to interpret for me, it has been possible in September to begin a short teaching programme when the children come to play on the verandah once a week. Some of them are children of staff, live at Holley and have been well taught from the Bible before. But about 20 others are coming in from the local village — a white face draws a crowd here - and for some of them and also the little ones this is quite new. If a weekly programme of this kind is to continue it will be important to build up a team of local folk who have the vision and are willing to continue working with the children whether I am here or not.

They are great at singing. They love colouring and Wonder was very proud of this castle!







Worshipping with the leprosy patients on a Sunday afternoon in 3 languages is very worthwhile but quite challenging! Currently 4 patients are Igala speakers while one very disabled lady who has been in hospital a long time is a Hausa speaker. She is a Moslem and says her own prayers first but then comes along to join in what we are doing. So I have been glad to find a Nursing student able to translate for me into Hausa, and his efforts have been greatly appreciated. Simeon translates into Igala. He is the lad who puts on my generator, gives me lots of practical advice and also helps me with the children's programme. His exam results were good so he now awaits news of whether he has been accepted for a college place.



What a joy to be reunited with Afor my house girl from 42 years ago



With Paschal the 4 month old son of Clementina, one of the Health Care Assistant trainees Can't carry him on my back like they do!

I am very happy to be here and continue daily to meet new people and learn about new situations. A new law restricts visitors to a 30 day stay in Nigeria, but it is possible to ask for Amnesty and my application has been submitted. How long I will be able to stay depends on the outcome of that application.

So with me please give thanks

 for the commitment of the current Administrator, the current Pastor and many faithful long serving members of staff, and pray for their encouragement

And pray

- For the many who struggle to survive and for all who seek wisdom to know how to help
- For the Administrator who, often against the odds, is working very hard to enable the hospital to provide a high standard of care both physically and spiritually for all who come for help. He is a godly man who seeks to set an example by the way he goes about his work and it can be hard going, since not all with whom he has to do share his principles

- For the significant problem of lack of motivated and committed senior staff
- For the Health Care Assistants who have completed their training and those who will soon be starting and for Mercy as she cares for them
- For all the children who come each week for a time of learning and fun and for more committed helpers to allow this opportunity to continue
- That the worship time with the leprosy patients will enlighten and encourage those who attend
- With many thanks for your interest, support and prayers,

Janet.



Christmas Word Search



G Χ D Ε S Ε Z Х

frankincense	innkeeper	archangel	bethlehem	shepherds	nazareth
augustus	animals	journey	gospels	matthew	weather
gabriel	wisemen	donkey	prayer	census	caesar
manger	stable	angels	joseph	camel	egypt
story	choir	herod	straw	sheep	myrhh
kings	john	luke	mark	snow	host
song	star	gold	mary	inn	

WHATS on at CARNTYNE and CRANHILL PARISH CHURCH

For Young People

Sunday	11:00 am	Explorers
Monday	9:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Tiny Tots Anchor Boys Junior Section BB Company Sect BB
Tuesday	at CDT 6.15 pm 7.15 pm	Girls' Brigade Explorers Juniors /Brigaders
Wednesday	9:30 am 5:45 pm 6:00 pm 7:15 pm	Tiny Tots Rainbows Brownies Guides & Rangers
Thursday	9:30 am	Tiny Tots

For Adults

Sunday	7:00 pm	Narcotics	
Monday	1:00 pm	Sunshine Club	
Tuesday	9.30am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm 7:00 pm	Zoom Coffee Time Strength & Balance Growing Together Ladies Club	
Wednesday	10:00 am 11:00 am 12:30 pm 7:00 pm	Zoom Prayers Health Walk AA Men's Club	
Thursday	9.30 am 1:00 pm 6:40 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Community Café Film Club Clubbercise Choir Practice AA	
Friday	8:00 am 9:30am 12:00 pm 1:00 pm	Slimming World Slimming World Lunch Club Young at Heart	

WORSHIP AT CARNTYNE and CRANHILL PARISH CHURCH

Sunday

11am Morning Worship; with Explorers

DIRECTORY

Minister

Rev Rhona McDonald Tel: 07931708314

E-mail rmcdonald@churchof

scotland.org.uk

Session Clerk

Mrs May Fawns Tel: 0141 774 4250

E-mail <u>mayfawns@sky.com</u>

Treasurer

Mr Robert Fernie Tel: 0141 779 2510

Safeguard Security

Mr Jim Little Tel: 07960633851

Editor

Mrs Joyce Fernie Tel: 0141 779 2510
E-mail <u>jfernie42@gmail.com</u>

Christian Copyright Licence No.69473 Carntyne Church is a recognised Scottish Charity - Charity Number SC006729