



loanhead  
parish church  
**news**

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*creating a place for everyone*

**SEPTEMBER 2025**





Dear Friends

This summer has been a remarkable one weather wise as we have enjoyed lots of sunshine. It has allowed me to play lots of golf – though, sadly, my game has not improved, despite the practice! A lesson last week may help in that but time will tell. As the Autumn season beckons though and so much begins to change in nature, I am acutely aware that in church life we are entering a period of change. Change as we consider a union with Roslin Church. You will find some details about the plans for the union later in the magazine. Also change as we prepare for my retirement early in 2026. I don't want to dwell on the latter for now but I am aware that it does create some uncertainty.

It does for me too and it was this I took into our church retreat at Peebles earlier in the month, where the topic was “listening for God.” It was a really helpful day and one of the things we were encouraged to do was to stand or sit outside the front of the church where we were to look and listen out for what God was saying to us. As I gazed at the hills in the distance I was reminded of the way God has carved those out over time and the way they have stood for generation after generation. Our God is powerful and majestic.

I sensed that there was something closer though – and saw two trees in the gardens of the church along with a majestic oak tree in the park at the foot of the hall. All were being buffeted by the strong winds which had been around all week. I was reminded of my own plum tree that had blown over in the winds only days before. In that moment as I watched the winds blow, I sensed God saying that the church at Loanhead was deeply rooted and wouldn't be blown over. That the roots were deep and secure in Christ and that, as a result, while storms might come, it would not be destroyed.

I took real comfort and encouragement from this – and share this in the hope that it may encourage you too as we face changing circumstances. That it may encourage you to trust, in the knowledge that God has us and holds us even as we step into this period of transition and change.

With every blessing.

**Graham Duffin**

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29 v 11



## **Tribute to Eric Monteith**

Eric died very suddenly on Sunday 6th July, having helped serve communion in the church service that morning.

Born and brought up in Edgefield Road, Eric stayed in Loanhead all his days. Incredibly proud of his community he was always ready to play his part – whether it was helping out with the Gala Day, at the Round table then the Rotary; as a local councillor; Eric also served as a Justice of the Peace until his early 60's and for a long time was involved in the Scouts too.

He just threw himself into whatever he did, though most of what Eric did was behind the scenes. That carried over to church too. Eric was brought up in the East Church, where his mum played the organ and he got involved in church life. He was ordained an elder in his 20's and served in that role for almost 60 years. In his younger days he taught in Sunday School – and then shortly after the union of the churches, he found his niche as Fabric Convener. Making sure everything was right. And after he retired from his work at MacTaggart's, Eric was in the church almost every day. Cleaning, replacing light bulbs, moving chairs. Even cutting grass, despite the fact he hated gardening.

He just got on with whatever needed done. In on a Friday for Tea & Chat, around on a Sunday, helping with the lunch club. Eric always with an eye for how he could help.

It wasn't just what Eric did though that was important - it was the person he was. He was good company. There was an honesty and integrity that shone through everything. A kindness and concern that showed in all he did. A deep faith that informed the whole of life and a “roll your sleeves up and get on with it” attitude to everything.

What was most important to Eric though was his family. He and Heather enjoyed almost 60 years together. With Graeme and Gayle, enjoying spending time with them, supporting them in any way he could. With his grandchildren Caitlin and Fergus too. So proud of them.

So much that we remember about Eric – but we stand sure that he has heard those words of Jesus.

“Well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.”

# 'The Quiet Revival'

## Expressing faith in extraordinary times

Hosted by Lothian & Borders Presbytery in Loanhead Church Halls

Friday, 24 October - 9.15am (Refreshments served from 8.45am)

What's going on?! How do we respond?

Many of us in the church have noticed signs of a surprising new receptivity to the gospel in a society low on hope. We can see something, even if small, of 'The Quiet Revival' in our midst.

In such changing times are we as Christians ready to dialogue and make connections with those seekers? What do or can we do? How do we position ourselves and dialogue about faith in such spiritually open times?

A morning with Roy Crowne of Gospel Entrepreneurs.

Roy is currently President of HOPE Together and founder of Gospel Entrepreneurs.

Promoted in our neighbouring presbyteries this is a morning open to all. Speak to the minister if you would like to attend this event.



## Upcoming Praise Night

Previous praise nights organised jointly with other local churches have been a great success and have mixed powerful worship with thought provoking teaching. We hope you will be able to join us at the next praise night that will be taking place in Bonnyrigg Parish Church on Sunday 5th October from 7 pm. The Anderson family will be hosting food beforehand so keep your eye out for details of that nearer the time.

The Mission & Discipleship working group would also like to invite you to join Dalkeith St Johns & Newton Church at their monthly praise night on Sunday 2nd November at 6 pm with an outing to the Origin Scotland Christmas event at Usher Hall on Saturday 6th December at 7:30 pm. More details to follow closer to the time but please do make a note of the dates for your diary.



# Parish Grouping

Loanhead, Bilston & Roslin Churches

The Presbytery Plan for the area includes a union between Roslin, Loanhead and Bilston, to take place at the time of a vacancy at Loanhead and Bilston. The plan allows for the retention of all three sets of buildings and discussions have been taking place over the last eight months about this. A formal “Basis of Union” is being finalised and will be issued in the next few weeks. This will be voted on by the elders at Loanhead and Bilston along with the office bearers at Roslin. A vote by the congregations follows this and is planned for Sunday 30th November after morning worship.

**Please put this date in your diary.**

Those eligible to vote are members and adherents on the church roll. (Adherents are those who attend worship regularly but are not formal members.) Please speak to Magaret Hurst or email her if you would like your name added to the church roll or would like to check that your name is included [mhurst4472@outlook.com](mailto:mhurst4472@outlook.com)

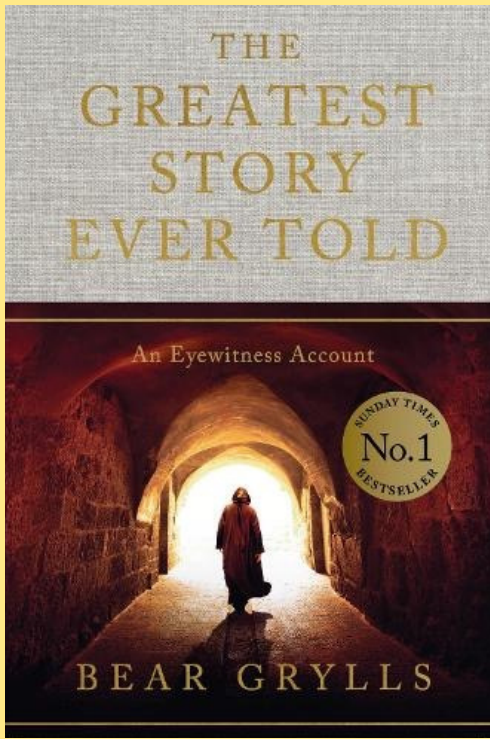
The pattern for Sunday services is set out in the table below.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Roslin 9.45	Minister	Minister + stay after	Reader/Retired Minister	Reader/Retired Minister	Reader/Retired Minister
Loanhead 10.30	Minister from 10.45	Others preach & lead service	Minister	Minister	Minister
Bilston 11.30	No service	Minister	No service	Reader/Retired Minister	No service

The proposed name for the union is Loanhead, Bilston and Roslin Parish Church (Church of Scotland) but when referring to activities and events taking place in the 3 worship centres, the intention would be to refer to Loanhead Church, Bilston Church and Roslin Church, believing this to be the most unambiguous way of communicating in our respective communities.

Further details are available in a briefing note – copies are available at the church or online. Use the QR code below.





The Mission & Discipleship working group have been discussing ways for us to engage with those that visit our church during the festive period, whether that be to our Christingle services (including the Christingle at Bilston church), or to our gift-giving session. We hope to be able to provide Bear Grylls' latest book, *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, as a way of introducing the gospel message. Each book will contain details of how to connect with a church member as well as how to join our different outreach activities including MumCo sessions throughout the year and the Alpha course, which will be running from February 2026.

In addition to asking for your prayers for the success of this missional project, we are also seeking financial support. Each book costs roughly £12 when ordered in bulk so we are looking to raise at least £250 to cover the cost of at least 20 books to give away. If you are able to provide any financial support then please do so via Graham or Amy Pickering. Any and all contributions to this missional work would be greatly appreciated. Let's pray that God is able to use these books to reach those that are searching for God's hope this Christmas time.

Thank you.

## Birthday Celebrations for Jetta



Congratulations to Jetta Fisher who recently celebrated her 90th birthday.



## AUTUMN WORDSEARCH

N	R	O	C	A	H	Q	I	R	S	B	N	I	C
E	R	E	B	M	E	V	O	N	E	I	G	T	U
R	B	O	N	F	I	R	E	W	K	D	Y	R	H
S	O	E	Z	I	A	M	B	P	R	G	I	A	B
Q	H	C	U	S	O	O	M	P	H	A	R	P	L
U	F	A	T	O	C	U	E	O	Y	V	I	E	S
I	I	G	L	O	P	E	S	G	E	Y	N	N	L
R	R	N	L	L	B	T	I	S	E	R	E	N	Y
R	E	I	L	N	O	E	T	K	E	A	D	O	T
E	W	N	A	N	K	W	R	K	A	E	L	S	S
L	O	E	F	R	B	U	E	S	E	D	O	A	I
V	R	V	K	N	T	Z	K	E	E	M	G	E	M
P	K	E	R	C	H	E	S	T	N	U	T	S	R
K	S	G	N	I	V	I	G	S	K	N	A	H	T

TURKEY  
HALLOWEEN  
HARVEST  
SPIDER  
PUMPKIN  
SQUIRREL  
FIREWORKS  
GOLDEN

RAINY  
OCTOBER  
THANKSGIVING  
EVENING  
NOVEMBER  
MAIZE  
GHOST  
ACORN

CHESTNUTS  
SEASON  
BONFIRE  
FALL  
COBWEB  
KERNEL  
MISTY



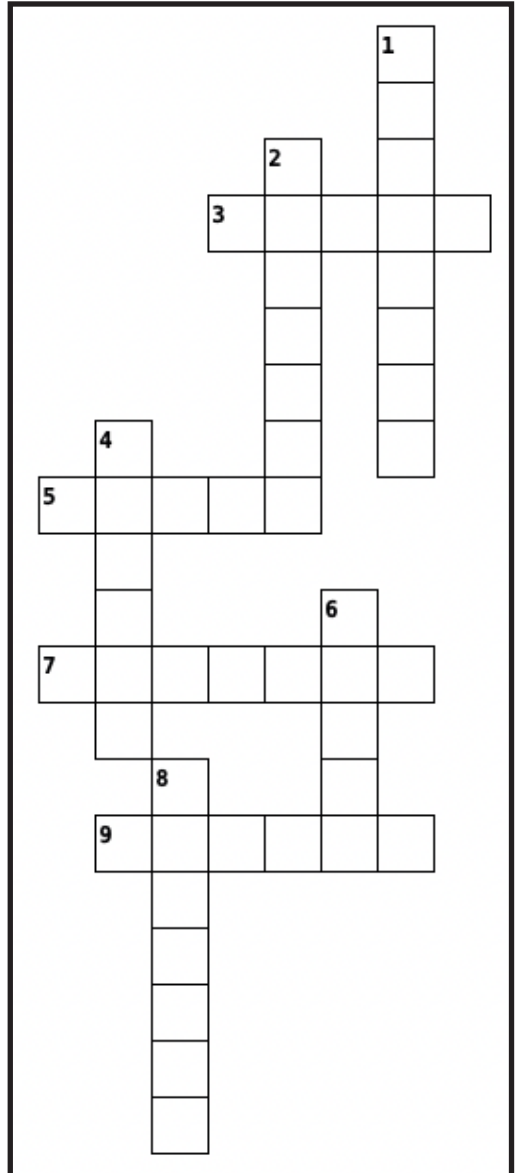
## CROSSWORD

### Across

3. POPULAR HIGH STREET CHEMIST LOCATED AT THE RETAIL PARK
5. SURNAME OF MARGARET, LOANHEAD CHURCH SESSION CLERK
7. THE MISSION CHURCH IN OUR PARISH GROUPING
9. HOW WE ALL KNOW THE MASONS ARMS PUB

### Down

1. BEAUTY SALON ON THE CORNER OF ENGINE ROAD AND CLERK STREET
2. NAME OF CHINESE TAKEAWAY ON MAYBURN AVENUE
4. OUR MINISTERS SURNAME
6. THE NAME OF THE SHEEP CLONED IN ROSLIN
8. THE NAME OF THE INDIAN RESTAURANT ON CLERK STREET



## SUDOKU

2		5			7			6
4			9	6				2
				8			4	5
9	8			7	4			
5	7		8		2		6	9
			6	3			5	7
7	5			2				
	6			5	1			2
3			4			5		8

# BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL 2025

Ah yes - it's that time again!

We're currently seeking donations in preparation for the Blythswood Care shoebox appeal. Are you able to help?

A small team will be meeting on Wednesday afternoons between 1.30pm and 4.00pm in the church hall during September to fill shoeboxes ready for transportation to Eastern Europe later in the year. Please join us if you are able.

Each box will take hope and love to someone vulnerable this Christmas.

Donations of new clothing and small toys, toiletries and stationery items would be particularly welcome as would cash to help with the cost of the transporting of the boxes.

Full details can be found online at [blythswood.org](http://blythswood.org), or ask Mary Millan for further information.

Please take a look at the checklist for boxes which details necessary items and any restrictions as to what can be included.

An additional list of suggested filler items can be found in the church hall.

Please ensure that filled shoeboxes are brought to church by Sunday 12 October 2025.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Mary Millan

## CHECKLIST

TOOTHBRUSH AND TOOTHPASTE  
SOAP  
UNDERWEAR  
SOCKS/TIGHTS  
TOY\*/GIFT  
SWEETS\*\*

\*Small toy for children such as cars, dolls, balls etc. Please only include new shop-bought toys.

\*\*No chocolate. split multipacks or any other food items. No loose sweets, lollies or undated bags of sweets. Best before date no earlier than 31st March next year.

### TOILETRIES

Shampoo or Shower Gel  
Face Cloth / Moist Wipes  
Deodorant  
Moisturising Cream  
Comb / Brush  
Sanitary Products  
Shaving Foam / Razors

### MISCELLANEOUS

New make-up  
Sewing equipment  
Household candles  
Screwdrivers / pliers  
Kitchen utensils

### STATIONERY

Pens / Pencils / Sharpener  
Notepads / Colouring Books  
Rulers / Rubbers

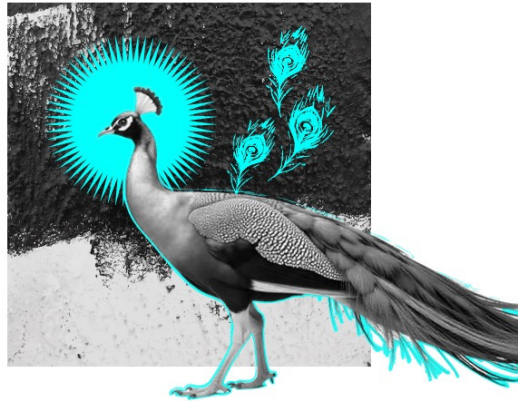
**Do not** include used or damaged items; war related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; chocolate or any food other than sweets. Chocolate eclairs and chocolate limes are not allowed; books that are mainly words should not be included.



THE MUMCO  
BY MOPS INTERNATIONAL



**MAKE  
IT  
AWKWARD**



## MumCo Appeal for Volunteers

Our MumCo 2025/26 year kicked off on Monday morning with our Make It Awkward theme and we had a great turnout, lots of returning mums and quite a few new faces too. As a result we had lots of babies and toddlers in creche and the ladies volunteering were very busy. We really need more creche volunteers urgently as we don't want to have to turn mums away. If you can't help, can you think of someone? Maybe a neighbour or a friend? Anyone interested should get in touch with me or Margaret Hurst.

With Amy's new arrival imminent and Caroline starting a new job, we have had to make some changes to evening MumCo. Catriona will be running this in the short term, meeting just once a month on the last Monday of each month. This is a child-free zone with no creche, ideal for mums who have returned to work.

If you are interested in supporting the MumCo, aside from creche, we can also use help in Hospitality and we'd love to have a couple of Mentors in the mums' meetings, bringing your experience and wisdom to discussions. Contact Catriona for more info. If you want to know more about the ministry visit [growthechurch.com](http://growthechurch.com)

Catriona Anderson [canderson.lpc@gmail.com](mailto:canderson.lpc@gmail.com)



# Listening FOR God

## **The latest Church Day Retreat - a place to Listen for God**

The Mission & Discipleship working group would like to thank all those that attended the latest church day retreat on Sat 9th August, which was led by Shona Stirling, a Christian counsellor, coach, and speaker. It was clear that everyone really appreciated the time away from their day-to-day life to focus on listening out for what God had to say to them and it was so encouraging to witness God speaking into the lives of those at our church.

After starting the day with a breakfast pastry and hot drink, Shona introduced herself and we had a time of sung worship before learning and using Lectio Divina in our first listening exercise. After some time to reflect individually, there was an opportunity to share our experience of Lectio Divina in a smaller group. After a coffee break, we spent some time in silence with God before learning about how to tune into God's voice. This led nicely into discussing what can prevent us from hearing from God in our small groups.

After a lunch break, with sandwiches, fruit and drinks provided, there were a range of options to enjoy, including a guided prayer walk, an additional Lectio Divina exercise, the opportunity to walk and share with someone else, or to spend time in quiet with God. We finished by again sharing together in our small groups before talking through how we can know for sure that we are hearing from God. Everyone went away feeling more informed about why God wants to speak to us, different ways that we can hear from God, and what might be preventing us from tuning into his voice. My favourite aspect of the day was the opportunity to spend time listening to others as they spoke about their experiences of listening to God and their faith highs and lows. What a great opportunity to become more connected to others in the church!

As we start to make plans for the next Day Retreat, which we are currently planning for Sat 7th February 2026, it would be lovely to hear what you would like to see covered at that retreat. If you have any feedback or suggestions then please do get in touch with Graham or Amy Pickering so we can take your suggestions onboard. A huge thanks again to everyone that came along and made the day so special, with special thanks to Shona for leading the day and helping us to hear from God.

# Bilston Mission Church Updates

## Coffee Morning



Bilston Mission Church's Coffee mornings start on Tuesday 02 September, between 10.30am and 12noon. All are welcome.

## The Vision for Bilston Mission Church

The next meeting to discuss the vision for Bilston Mission Church takes place at Bilston Church on Monday, 15 September at 7.30pm. It is an opportunity for us to explore as a group the work that the Church can do to support the community and how we can encourage more people in Bilston to explore their faith.

If you would like to be involved in shaping the future of Bilston Mission Church please join us.

## Fund Raising Lunch

Bilston Church are hosting a Soup Lunch on Saturday, 04 October. Doors open at 12.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Please contact Donald Bain on 07710 577603 for tickets, or any number on the poster.

## Small groups make a big difference

Small groups are a great place to strengthen your faith while building relationships. Each group will soon be starting new material after the Summer break so now is the perfect time to think about joining a group - new members to each group are always welcome.

The exact material we will be working through hasn't quite been finalised but we can guarantee there will be plenty of opportunity for asking questions, learning together, growing in faith, and building relationships.

These are the small groups that currently meet in-person on a fortnightly basis (group leaders are mentioned first):

Tuesday 11.30am - 1.00pm

Catriona, Lillias, Claire Macintosh (home in Loanhead)

Tuesday 7.30pm-9.00pm

Graham, Martin, Leslie, Campbell, Andrew (Manse)

Thursday 7.30pm-9/9.30pm

Jane, Lorna, Margaret Hurst, Shelagh, Kathleen, Jean, Alison (home in Loanhead)

Day flexible around availability of the group - evening

Jackie, Tom, Kayleigh, Audrey (home in Penicuik)

Thursday 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Kirsteen, Lynne, Nicola, Matthew, Ashleigh (Small Hall)

Additionally there is an online small group that meets weekly Thursday 8:30pm - 9:15pm Catriona, Elizabeth, Hoi, Jen, Louise

If you are interested in joining any of these small groups then please either speak to the group leader directly, Graham or Amy Pickering and we can help you to get involved.

## Quiz Night 4

**THIS TICKET ADMITS ONE PERSON  
WHO HAS BEEN DEEMED CLEVER  
ENOUGH TO ATTEND**

**QUIZ NIGHT 4  
DECADES QUIZ  
1960's - 2010's**

**SATURDAY 04 OCTOBER 2025  
ADULTS £3 / KIDS FREE**

Our next quiz night will take place on Saturday 04 October, starting at 7pm as normal, and will be a decades quiz covering the 1960's through to the 2010's. This will hopefully appeal to people of all ages meaning it can be enjoyed by everyone.

The last three quiz nights have been a sell out so we advise that you get your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Tickets are priced at £3 for adults and free for kids.

As always, you are welcome to bring alcoholic beverages (beer, wine and fizz only please - no spirits) and we would appreciate food contributions for our half time grazing table.

## Giving to the Church

You can give financially to the Church in a number of ways.

### By Standing Order:

Sort Code: 801742

Account Number: 00451198

### Via our website:

You can give to the Church via our website by scanning the QR code on the back page of this magazine where you can also add Gift Aid to your donation. Gift Aid allows us to reclaim tax on your donations.

Last year we were able to claim more than £17,000 through this. Forms for this are available in the vestibule.

You can only share in this if you are a UK tax payer - but if you are please do fill in the form and get it back to us.

**Gift Aid increases your giving by 25%  
at no cost to you!**

## Do you have a favourite recipe for our new Church Cookbook?

Theresa Campbell is putting together a Cookbook which will be sold in the community to raise funds for the Church.

If you have any recipes, please send them to Theresa by email at the1202resa@yahoo.co.uk, or alternatively there will be a box at the entrance to the Church where you can leave your recipe. If you have photos of your creations it would be great to receive those too. We will let you have any photos back.

It is hoped that the recipe book will be printed in time for Christmas so if there are any recipes you would like to be included they need to be received by the end of September.



We are delighted to welcome back all members and families of the 1st Loanhead Boys' Brigade after the summer holidays!

We are desperately trying to recruit new and dedicated officers to support us on a Wednesday and Thursday evening so if you, or anyone you know, is interested in joining our team then please feel free to contact me.

Additionally, if you would like more general details about Loanhead Boys' Brigade you can email me also! My email address is [danielmchale27@gmail.com](mailto:danielmchale27@gmail.com).

Thanks

Daniel McHale

## Guild Update

The new session of the Guild starts on Tuesday, 9th September at 2pm. The theme for this year is "Living Stones" and our first speaker is our minister, the Rev. Graham Duffin who always gives us positive things to think about.

At our meeting on the 14th of October, Bronwen Ryalls will give a very fresh update on her visit to Rwanda and on the 11th of November we have a speaker from Wycliffe Bible Translators. We hope to have our Christmas Lunch on the 9th December.

The Guild is open to both members and non-members and anyone is very welcome to come to one or two or all meetings.

Lillias Steele.

## Rwanda Update

A big thank you to everyone who is sponsoring a young person through school or has made a donation over the last year. Money was transferred to Rwanda in late August.

Thirteen children continue to have support with school fees, uniforms, equipment and health insurance. Half of these children have recently sat National Exams and are waiting for their results. These will determine which school they attend from September and for most of them in which subjects they will specialize in their senior years.

Inkurunziza Rugende Church is also being supported in their work with under privileged families. Over the last year they have been running a Saturday teaching and feeding program for 25 pre-school children. I plan to visit the church while I am in Kigali and find out what further help Loanhead Parish Church might offer.

I will hopefully also have the opportunity to visit the families of our sponsored children, many of whom have been supported in small income generating projects in the past. A number of the women have formed a food growing co-operative overseen by Marie- Therese. While they sell some of the produce the majority is distributed among the families we support. I will be staying with her and her family while I am there.

Please pray for all those I meet and that it will be a productive visit.

The Rwanda Group will be hosting a Soup Lunch on Sunday 28th September to raise funds for the continuation of our work there. This includes supporting a few of the children through upper secondary school as they do not have named sponsors.

I look forward to reporting back to everyone on my return.

Bronwen Ryalls

## **Bible Reading Notes**

Leslie Steele is producing daily bible reading notes which are available on the church website and weekly intimation sheets

## **September Communion**

Our next formal communion service will be on Sunday 7th September at 10.30 a.m.

## **Harvest Thanksgiving**

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service this year is on Sunday 28th September. There will be an opportunity to make a donation to our community outreach fund, which is used to support local families throughout the year.

## **Youth Dedication Service**

Our Youth Dedication service this year will be on Sunday 26th October. This gives us a great opportunity to celebrate the work that goes on with youth and children in different ways around the church and to pray for our youngsters along with their leaders.

## **Remembrance Sunday**

On Sunday 9th November our morning service will start at 11.15 a.m. to accommodate the service at the war memorial at 11 a.m.

## **Kirk Session Meeting**

The next meeting of the Kirk Session will be Wednesday 03 September

## **Offering Envelopes and Standing Orders**

If you would like a set of envelopes to set aside an offering each week to bring to church, please speak to Margaret Hurst. Alternatively, you might consider giving through your bank. Standing Order forms are in the vestibule at the church – or you can set one up through your online banking app.. For more information please email [jackieeastonlpc@gmail.com](mailto:jackieeastonlpc@gmail.com)

## **Finances**

There are no major developments in the finances of the church, with income and expenditure on budget for the first part of the year.

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU for your ongoing financial support. It is deeply appreciated.

## **Gift Aid**

Gift Aid is a UK government scheme that allows charities to claim 25p of basic rate tax for every £1 donated by a UK taxpayer. This means that the donation is effectively increased by 25% at no extra cost to the donor. For example, a donation of £10 becomes £12.50 with Gift Aid.

As a church, this makes a huge difference – last year alone we were able to claim more than £17,000 through this scheme. If you are a tax payer and haven't signed up to this yet, please do. You can pick up a form in the vestibule of the church – or email [iangillespie77@gmail.com](mailto:iangillespie77@gmail.com) It doesn't cost you anything but significantly impacts on our income.

## **Fundraising Update**

Thank you to everyone who helped with and supported the fundraising for the Gala Day. We had a very successful day, raising well over £2,000 for church funds.

The team has a number of ideas taking shape for the remainder of the year including another quiz night in October (see opposite), and if we dare mention it, some Christmas fundraising activities

## **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Tea and Chat are hosting a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer support on Friday, 26 September between 10am and 11.30am.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sunday 7th September - 10.30 a.m.  
Communion Service

Sunday 14th September 10.30 a.m.  
Morning Service

Sunday 21st September - 10.30 a.m.  
Morning Service

Sunday 28th September - 10.30 a.m.  
Harvest Thanksgiving (Family Service)  
followed by Soup Lunch to raise funds for Rwanda work.

Saturday 4th October - 12.30pm  
Bilston Church Fundraising Lunch (see inside)

Saturday 4th October - 7.00pm  
Quiz Night 4 - Decades Quiz (see inside)

Sunday 5th October - 10.30 a.m.  
Communion Service

Sunday 12th October - 10.30 a.m.  
Guild Dedication Service

Sunday 19th October - 10.30 a.m.  
Morning Service

Sunday 26th October - 10.30 a.m.  
Youth Dedication Service

Sunday 2nd November - 10.30 a.m.  
Communion Service

Sunday 9th November - 11.15 a.m.  
Remembrance Sunday Service

Sunday 16th November - 10.30 a.m.  
Morning Service

Sunday 23rd November - 10.30 a.m.  
Morning Service

Sunday 30th November - 10.30 a.m.  
Family Service – vote on union with Roslin

Sunday 1st December - 10.30 a.m.  
Communion Service