

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 06 September - 10.30am

Loanhead Church
Communion Service

Friday 18 September - 7.30pm

Loanhead Church Hall
Women's Group

Tuesday 22 September - 11.30am

Loanhead Church Hall
Daytime Small Group

Saturday 26 September

Roslin Church Hall
Coffee Morning

Sunday 27 September

Loanhead Church
Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Saturday 03 October - 7.00pm

Loanhead Church Hall
Quiz Night (more info inside)

Sunday 04 October - 10.30am

Loanhead Church
Communion Service

Saturday 10 October - 12.30am

Bilston Church
Soup Lunch

Sunday 25 October - 9.45am

Roslin Church
Communion Service

Sunday 08 November - 11.15am

Loanhead Church
Remembrance Sunday Service
(the service starts immediately after
the service of Remembrance in
Loanhead Memorial Park)

Loanhead Church will be hosting
both their Guild and Youth
Dedication services in October.

Please check our website and social
media for further information.

REGULAR PATTERN OF SERVICES

Loanhead

Weekly Sunday service starting at 10.30am

Roslin

Weekly Sunday Service starting at 9.45am

Bilston

Sunday Service on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month starting at 11.30am



loanhead
bilston &
roslin
parish church
news
Autumn 2026



A Message from Keith Mack

Interim Moderator

As I write this, our congregations in Loanhead, Bilston and Roslin are continuing through a period of vacancy. A vacancy can sometimes feel like a time of uncertainty, but it can also be a valuable season in the life of a church — a time to pause, reflect, pray and look ahead to what God may have in store for us.

One of the things that has encouraged me greatly during this time is the way in which the life of the churches continues. Worship, prayer, fellowship and service have not stopped. The Church is, after all, much more than just the person who occupies the manse. It is the people of God, gathered together in faith and seeking to serve Christ in our communities.

I want to thank everyone who continues to contribute to the life of the church in so many different ways. To those who lead worship, offer prayers, welcome others, organise activities, visit, provide music, prepare the buildings, support our organisations and simply turn up faithfully week by week — thank you. Often it is the quiet, unseen acts of service which make the greatest difference.

At this stage of our vacancy, it is particularly important that we continue to pray. Please pray for our three congregations, for those who carry responsibility during this period, and for wisdom and discernment as we consider the future. Most of all, let us pray that we remain open to God's leading and trust that, even when we cannot see the whole picture, God is already at work.

A vacancy is not a time when the Church stands still waiting for a new minister to arrive. It is an opportunity for all of us to remember that we each have a part to play in the life and witness of the Church. We have much to be thankful for in Loanhead, Bilston and Roslin, and there is much to look forward to.

The words of the prophet Jeremiah are a helpful reminder: "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."

That hope is important. Whatever the future holds, we can face it together, prayerfully and confidently, knowing that our churches belong not to us, but to Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your patience, your faithfulness and your encouragement during this period. It is a privilege to serve as your Interim Moderator, and I look forward to continuing to journey with you as we discern the next chapter in the life of Loanhead, Bilston and Roslin Parish Church.

With every blessing

Keith Mack
Interim Moderator





Join our daytime small group for The Tabernacle Project

Our daytime small group will be starting brand new material called The Tabernacle Project on Tuesday 22nd September. This 8-part video study from Jill and Aaron Boyd focuses on The Tabernacle explored in Exodus.

Each week, alongside the discussion questions, there is a song written by Aaron Boyd that will complement the study material.

The group would love you to join them for this new study. Please get in touch with Catriona Anderson to join the group who meet every Tuesday between 11.30am and 1.00pm, with the first session of this new material being on Tuesday 22nd September.

We'd love to be praying for you

The Mission & Discipleship team are meeting weekly to pray for our parish including our Sunday services and the activities that take place in all three churches throughout the week. We would love to be able to pray for you too. It would be great if you could add a prayer request to the prayer tree in Loanhead church and/or submit a prayer request through the parish website (this provides a more confidential route). In-person prayer requests are also very welcome, please reach out to Amy Pickering, Catriona Anderson, Kirsteen Rawcliffe or Laura McIntosh. We plan to open the prayer meeting up to others once we settle into a good routine so look out for information about this in the coming months.

Blythwood Shoebox Appeal

We are very grateful for the generous way in which the appeal has been supported this year.

In September we are looking for stationery items and this is a great time to get a bargain as Scottish schools have gone back and colleges and universities are about to re-start so supermarkets are clearing the last of their seasonal stock.

The local collection date (which is usually in October) will not be announced till mid-September this year, however we have initially arranged two filling sessions in the church hall on Wednesdays 23 and 30 September.

If you are able to help us fill the boxes this year, please come along and drop in for however long you are able between 1 and 4pm on either of these dates. Your help is very much appreciated and of course, there's always a cuppa on offer!

Mary and the Shoebox Elves

Gala Day

A huge "thank you" to the small army of folk who supported our fundraising efforts on Gala Day. The brilliant total of £2,000 was raised towards church funds.



New Monthly Women's Group

In the hustle and bustle of life, it can be hard to see the unique purpose God has for each of us. It's all too easy to forget that, together, "we are God's masterpiece" – each with a unique part to play in his grand plan and story.

The Holy Spirit connects us together as one body, and every one of us is needed for the church to flourish. Through our new monthly Women's Group, we hope to encourage the women of our parish in their faith, build one another up, and give each of us renewed confidence in the part we have to play in God's story. So, we hope you'll join us for the launch of our Women's Group on Friday 18th September, from 7:30pm-9:30pm.

And don't worry if you can't make it the whole evening – if you need to arrive a little later or leave early, that's absolutely fine. We'd much rather you came for a short time than didn't come at all!

From September onwards, we'll meet on the second-to-last Friday of each month in Loanhead Church Hall, exploring sections of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Our first gathering will be an overview of the letter, helping us get started and discover some of the themes we'll explore together over the coming months.

Each evening will include a mixture of worship, Bible study, discussion and practical application, alongside dedicated spaces for prayer and reflection. Every session will stand alone, so you can join us whenever you're able, with as much or as little involvement between sessions as you would like.

Most importantly, this is a place to connect with God, connect with one another, talk honestly about faith, and discover what it means to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received" (Ephesians 4:1).

Let's be women of purpose!

Summer Holiday Family Lunches

Each Friday through the school holidays we were pleased to welcome families into the church for a soup and sandwich lunch, good chat and lots of play!

The weekly lunches were greatly enjoyed by everyone who came along. Thanks to the team of helpers and soup and sandwich makers.

Session Clerk's Update

I hope you have had a good Summer with time to relax, enjoy the lovely weather and recharge your batteries.

However, with the distinct change in the weather in recent weeks and a sense of the seasons starting to change, our thoughts turn to the last 4 months of the year which are always particularly busy around our 3 churches. More details of which you can find elsewhere in this newsletter.

Several months into our time of vacancy, it feels appropriate to reflect on and acknowledge how fortunate we are to have the team of worship leaders who serve us so well on Sunday mornings. Please remember them in your prayers, encourage them and give thanks for all they do for us.

Please also pray for the Nominating Committee as they continue to work on our behalf discerning who our next minister should be. May they know God's leading and guiding in all their deliberations and discussions.

With best wishes and blessing.

Audrey

Calling All Gardeners!

Thanks to Jean Kirby who responded to our previous appeal for help with the Loanhead church and manse gardens, also to Finn and Lewis for their help with grass cutting, however more volunteers are needed to keep the gardens looking neat and tidy.

If you can spare a few hours, either as a "one off" or on a regular basis, please speak to Margaret Hurst or Audrey McLaren for more information.

Kyle Anderson

In August Kyle stepped down from his role as youth worker to take up a new post of schools' worker with a grouping of churches in West Lothian.

We are very sorry to lose Kyle and are thankful for all the work he has done with our teenagers and children.

I know you will join me in congratulating Kyle and wishing him all the best in his new role. Please pray for him and the young people he will meet, as he continues to share with such passion the Good News of Jesus.

Because of his new role, we won't see so much of Kyle on Sunday mornings, but he remains a member of our church and Kirk Session and we look forward to his continued involvement through these channels.

The Kirk Session is considering how, on an interim basis, we fill the gap left by Kyle moving to his new role. We also need to consider a longer term approach to supporting and developing our work across the parish with young people, but it feels appropriate to wait until we have called our new minister to do so.

Garden of Remembrance

The display of poppy crosses and field of poppies will once again be in place in the church garden at Loanhead in the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday, 8th November.

On Saturday 7th November the "pop-up poppy shop" will be open at the church from 10am-2pm with the Boys' Brigade manning the shop between 10am-1pm. A range of poppies, poppy crosses and poppy merchandising will be available.

Loanhead Boys Brigade

We are going strong with some of the best numbers we have had in many years! As always we are still looking for anyone who wishes to join our staff team!

The Company section had a great summer camp in Wales and are looking forward to returning next summer! We also have a in-person Monopoly event coming up in Edinburgh in October which should be good fun!

The Juniors Section are also looking forward to October where we have a STEM workshop all about Helicopter coding!

The Anchors Section are welcoming Suzanne and Hannah Ralston to the team and they are also looking forward to the year ahead with all the fun and games to come!

We are all very excited for the year ahead!

Food Donation Drop Box

Thank you to everyone who brings along donations on Sunday mornings and drops them in the box in the entrance vestibule. The items are delivered to Kilbreck House hostel. All donations of non-perishable food items and gents' toiletries are most welcome.

Rwanda Soup Lunch

The annual fundraiser Soup Lunch will take place after the morning service in Loanhead Church on Sunday 13 September.

Roslin Flower Calendar

To those who continue to support brightening our church each Sunday a big thank you. When flowers are available they are distributed in the community to the bereaved, lonely or folk just needing a bit of cheer!

Church Garden

Thanks to June and Ian for working so hard in keeping the church garden area looking so good.

How would you like to receive your magazine?

With the cost of printing our magazines increasing each year we are looking at ways we could save in both time and cost in getting this to our members. Many hours are spent printing off the magazines, then collating and organising delivery of them, not to mention the cost.

While hand delivering a hard copy of the magazine will still be an option, we would like to ask if you would consider receiving your magazine by email, thus receiving it faster and at the same time helping us reduce our costs.

If you would be happy to receive your church magazine by email, please email ncairns07@btinternet.com in the first instance. Any personal information you provide will be kept securely and handled in accordance with UK GDPR requirements. Your information will only be used for appropriate church purposes and will not be shared with others

Monthly Coffee Mornings

The next date for your diary is **Saturday 26th September** for our Harvest Coffee morning.

Come along between 10.00am and 12.00pm and enjoy home baked scones, cake, tea or coffee and a chat. Everyone welcome for a chance to meet new people or catch up with old friends. We always have a home baking stall which proves very popular.

Further coffee morning dates: Saturday 31st October and 28th November. We look forward to seeing you there.

Roslin Harvest Gift Service

Our harvest gift service will be on Sunday, 27 September. There will be an opportunity to donate a monetary gift for church funds or non-perishables for Penicuik North Foodstore who we continue to support.

Roslin Pastoral Care

Please remember we are always here for church members and anyone in the community. You can telephone either Ros McLeish on 07900 887185 or Nan Cairns on 01968 672757 for a chat, or to arrange a visit.

Foodstore

Over the Summer, thanks to a grant, the Penicuik North Kirk Foodstore were able to support 59 families. This meant 159 children, who receive free school lunches during term time, were able to have a meal each day. After starting 14 years ago, the Foodstore is still fighting child food poverty in the area. A big thank you to all of you who support this worthwhile cause with both your donations of provisions and money.

Roslin thru' a Lens

On the 22nd and the 23rd of May, Roslin Heritage Society held a successful and very enjoyable exhibition in Roslin Church. The photos portrayed both the life of the Church and the community over quite a time period. It was lovely to see the then new church surrounded by fields. Photos of the interior showed a completely different decor, with gas lighting. Sunday school picnics, Nativity plays, Young wives, the Guild, BBS, the choir and fund raising events were all represented over the years.

The Community life covered was very diverse and provided points of interest for everyone. Some were fascinated by the photos of the carpet factory where grandparents had worked while others spotted relatives or themselves taking part in activities from the Drama Society shows to pensioners outings.

A big thank you to the Heritage Society especially to Winnie and Tommy Stevenson, without whom the event could not have taken place.

Bilston Coffee Morning

Bilston Coffee mornings are every Tuesday between 10.30am and 12.00pm. It would be wonderful to see you.

Bilston Soup Lunch

We will be holding a soup lunch to raise money for church funds on Saturday 10 October at 12.30pm. The cost is £7 for adults and £2 for kids.

Bilston Sunday Services

Bilston Sunday services are the second and fourth Sunday of the month starting at 11.30am followed by tea and coffee. It would be good to see you.

Our Next Quiz Night



Our next Quiz Night will take place at 7pm on Saturday, 03 October in Loanhead Church Hall. The theme will once again be "A Quiz Night of Game Shows".

Tickets always sell quickly so please get yours as early as possible to avoid disappointment. Tickets are available from Dean and are priced at £5 per adult with kids going free. It's also BYOB but only wine, beer and fizz please - the only spirit allowed in Church is the Holy Spirit!

We would also welcome contributions for the half-time grazing table.

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Bilston will be continuing to fill the shoeboxes with gifts for adults and children in eastern Europe affected by poverty, trauma and exploitation.

Since the first Shoe Box Appeal in 1993, Blythswood have delivered more than 2.9 million shoeboxes - each one is different, each one personal, each one an expression of your care and kindness towards a stranger in need.

Christmas Hampers

Bilston are continuing to prepare food hampers for distribution at Christmas.

Pastoral Care News

In Roslin, we were delighted to welcome so many people to our Afternoon Tea, in June.

The day was bright, and we welcomed many folk, who were ready to enjoy some delicious food, but most of all to make connections with people whom they hadn't seen for some time. We had organised some background music but did we need it? No! There was such a happy atmosphere in the hall, and the chat levels were high!

For those few who had to cancel at the last minute, we delivered an Afternoon Tea, thus enabling them to enjoy it in their own home. The organisers have enjoyed reading your thank you cards and receiving telephone calls expressing your thanks. All of us were delighted with the outcome and hope to plan some future events.

Ros and Nan would like to thank all those who helped with the preparation of the food, which made this event such a success.

As always, we are here to help in any way we can. You can telephone Ros McLeish 07900887185 or Nan Cairns on 01968 672757 to chat about any pastoral care matters.

Coffee and Blethers

Wednesday Weekly in Roslin Church hall 10.30am - 12pm. We continue to meet in the church hall and would be delighted to see you if you feel like a Cuppa and a Blether.

We were so saddened to hear of the death of Kate who was one of our regular attenders. Such a gentle lady who will be missed dearly but remembered very fondly. Our thoughts and prayers are with The Mann family.



We are delighted to have started off our new Mumco year of Good Company with some familiar faces and some new mums joining us. We have Caroline and Amy back leading our evening group on Wednesdays, and Catriona continuing to lead our Monday morning group, both meeting fortnightly.

We have some exciting topics lined up, a mix of MumCo material focussing on Good Company, restoring real life authentic friendship, and guest speakers covering topics that the mums requested last term. From sleep experts to speech and language therapists, and even an inside track on all you need to know about how the nursery and primary school system works. There's such a variety of topics covered, and we always start each meeting with food and end with an activity, something to take home and remind you of what you learned.

We still really need more KidsCo crèche volunteers, so if you know anyone interested in cuddling babies or playing with toddlers for a couple of hours once a month or fortnight, please let me know.

Please extend an invite to all the mums you know. We all need Good Company, but mums need it more than most. Find us on socials @mumcolanhead

Catriona
canderson.lpc@gmail.com



Roslin Village Fete a huge success!



The volunteers gathered in the Hall at 10.00am all eager and looking forward to the day ahead. Cars were loaded with tables, gazebo, etc and of course the many bottles donated by you. The gazebo was erected by Tommy, Andrew, Dean and Paul so a huge thanks to the boys!

Friends and families gathered – a great day out for them with something for every age group. The park had a great atmosphere.



The bottle stall would not have happened without your support of donations of many bottles, a very varied collection of shapes, sizes and contents!! A BIG THANK YOU to all who so generously donated and to all our helpers for their assistance in organising this fundraiser. A fantastic £455 was raised.

Thank you.