

September 2026 Magazine



All Saints Scottish Episcopal Church

Drymen Road, Bearsden



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Please do not contact the Rector in connection with hall bookings – the contact details for Celia, who deals with this, are above.

The cover picture: ‘The golden evening brightens in the west....’

Dear All,

September 2026

A NEW SEASON

A new season in the life of a church rarely arrives with fanfare. More often, it comes quietly: in the shifting light of an autumn morning, in the hum of conversation after a Sunday service, in the gentle sense that God is nudging us forward. Yet every so often, a season arrives with enough clarity that we can name it. And as I look around All Saints—at our worship, our ministries, our hopes, and even our challenges—I believe we are stepping into such a season: a season of new adventures.

“Adventure” is a word we don’t often use in church life. It sounds a bit daring, perhaps even risky, and we may want to resist the challenge. But the Christian story has always been one of holy adventure. Abraham sets out “not knowing where he was going.” Moses leads a people through the wilderness. The disciples drop their nets and follow Jesus into an unknown future. The early Church grows not through careful planning alone, but through the Spirit’s surprising, sometimes unsettling, always life-giving movement. Adventure is woven into our faith.

There are certainly many clear signs of new things happening which can surely inspire and encourage us as we look ahead with hope and confidence.

You can read elsewhere of Revd Kevin formally becoming our Associate Priest – a great relief for us after his long period of helping us and working alongside us yet leaving many uncertain as to what we might actually call him!

You can read, too, of my weekly online chats with Revd Roddy Hamilton from New Kilpatrick parish church, which continue to forge links between us and give opportunities to work and grow together.

And then there is the Natural Church Development process which encourages growing healthy churches and will help us to plan and flourish.

So what does adventure look like for us, here and now? First, it looks like **renewed imagination**. Every church has familiar rhythms—services, meetings, rotas, traditions we cherish. These are good gifts. But new seasons invite us to ask fresh questions: What might God be calling us to try? What ministries need to be rekindled? What ideas have been quietly waiting for the right moment?

Second, adventure looks like **deepening relationships**. Churches thrive not through programmes but through people—through the bonds of fellowship, trust, and shared purpose. As we move forward, strengthening these

relationships matters more than ever. Whether it's welcoming newcomers, reconnecting with those who've drifted away, or simply taking time to listen to one another's stories, every act of connection builds the foundation for what comes next.

Third, adventure looks like **embracing change with hope rather than fear**. Change is inevitable in church life: new faces join us, familiar faces move on; ministries evolve; needs shift; opportunities arise. It's easy to feel unsettled by this. Yet Christian hope reminds us that change is often the very place where God's grace becomes visible. We are not called to preserve the church as a museum of the past, but to nurture it as a living, breathing body—growing, adapting, responding to God's call in real time.

Fourth, adventure looks like **trusting God with the future**. None of us knows exactly what the coming months will bring. But we do know the One who walks ahead of us. The future of our church is not something we must engineer alone; it is something we discern together, prayerfully, faithfully, and with confidence that God is already preparing the way. Our task is not to predict the future but to be attentive to God's leading.

As we enter this new season, I want to offer a simple encouragement: **be expectant**. Expectant not in the sense of demanding particular outcomes, but in the sense of watching for signs of God's presence. Expectant that new ideas will emerge. Expectant that new people will find a home among us. Expectant that our worship will continue to deepen. Expectant that God will surprise us—because God often does.

And I want to offer a simple invitation: **be involved**. This season belongs to all of us. Whether your contribution is prayer, practical help, creativity, hospitality, or simply showing up with an open heart, you are part of the adventure. The church is never “someone else's” project. It is ours—together.

May this new season be one of joy, discovery, and renewed purpose. May we step forward with courage, curiosity, and faith. And may we find, as countless generations before us have found, that when we follow Christ into the unknown, we discover not uncertainty but blessing.

Rev'd David

UNDERSTANDING NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Canon Missioner Revd Dawn Matthew will be preaching at our 10.30am Eucharist on **Sunday, September 6th** before leading us in completing a survey during a bring and share lunch afterwards in the hall. *Please make every effort to be there* and if you can't, let Revd David know and he will get you a copy of the questionnaire. This is an important diocesan initiative which will help us shape who we are and what we do at All Saints now and in the future.

Introduction to NCD

Jesus said, *I came that they might have life, and indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.* (John 10:10). This vision of abundant life is at the heart of the Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway's commitment to Becoming a Church for Everyone - church communities that are healthy, faith-filled and flourishing, radiating God's love.

But what helps a church to become healthy and flourishing? Rather than adopting a one-size-fits-all programme, **Natural Church Development (NCD)** recognises that every church is unique. German theologian Christian Schwarz researched more than 1,000 churches across 32 countries, five continents and 18 languages. His research identified eight characteristics consistently present in healthy, growing churches. The research has since expanded to more than 100,000 churches.

These eight **Discipleship Characteristics** are:

- **Leadership that Empowers**
- **Ministry that Matches Gifts to Tasks**
- **Spirituality that Informs our Lives**
- **Structures that Work for the Common Good**
- **Worship that Inspires**
- **Holistic Groups and Teams that Bring Life**
- **Outreach that Meets Real Needs**
- **Relationships that are Loving**

NCD is rooted in Scripture. Jesus describes God's kingdom as seed that grows *all by itself* (Mark 4:26–29). Paul similarly writes, *I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow* (1 Corinthians 3:6). We have a part to play in sowing the seeds, but **God brings the growth**. Our task is to nurture the right environment.

The NCD process begins with a survey completed by people across the church community. The results reveal the church's strengths and areas where greater health could develop. These findings are then explored through a shared **story** of the church, helping the congregation recognise and celebrate what God is already doing while identifying opportunities for growth.

Particular attention is given to the **minimum factor** - the area currently most limiting the church's health and growth. A small group can then work with the wider congregation to prayerfully address this area through practical action – small steps make big differences. The Canon Missioner and the NCD Team are available to help churches understand their results and discern appropriate priorities, journeying with each church as they discern the life God is calling them to.

As churches grow healthier, the environment for God-given growth is strengthened. NCD is therefore not about chasing numbers, but about becoming healthier communities where people can encounter Christ, grow in faith and share God's love.

For more information: Rev Canon Dawn Matthew, Canon Missioner canonmissioner@glasgow.anglican.org | 07543 247180

BRING AND SHARE LUNCH 6TH SEPTEMBER

It would be good to provide a tasty lunch for the Canon Missioner, the Revd Dawn Matthew, and prepare us for the NCD survey. After all, the brain is a large muscle which needs feeding, but this is also a chance for people to catch up after the summer and share fellowship.



To help with organisation there will be a piece of paper at the back of the church for everyone to add what they can bring. Please do sign up for something-juice/crisps/bread/salads are fine if you're not a cook. It is useful to know in advance what food there will be so we know where the gaps are as well as what requires heating up etc.

If you have any questions, please contact Louise Benson.

A MESSAGE FROM REVD. KEVIN

Dear Friends,

Following excellent discussions with the Rector and with helpful input from Bishop Nick I'm delighted to say that my situation here has now been formalised and that I am an *Associate Priest* at All Saints!

At one level not much changes. My principal role is to support David in all aspects of his ministry and to offer cover when he's away - and this now formally extends to pastoral support for the congregation. We have agreed that in addition I will preach four times a year at our main Sunday service. I continue as a PTO, holder of the Bishop's Permission To Officiate, which authorises my leading worship within the Diocese and so I continue to offer deputising cover as at present. That support is currently for our friends at St Andrew's, Milngavie, and All Saints, Jordanhill, but this is always subject to change. So, things pretty much stay the same.

However, what this change does signify is the move towards a *Ministry Team* here at All Saints. *Initially we hope to have a curate with us for a few months as part of his training.* But the wider impact, and one Bishop Nick is keen that we pursue, is in developing a Ministry Team that incorporates lay (ie. non-ordained) participation in worship. One of the things that is most notable about our congregation is the quality of lay contribution Sunday by Sunday – and at all the special services we offer. Can we take this further, offering opportunity and training for those who do feel called to develop their role at All Saints and in the church more widely? There is always a process of discernment involved – such offices are never simply a matter of routine. The discernment and training (if accepted) is at a more intense level for Worship Leaders and yet more sustained for Lay Readers than for Pastoral and Eucharistic Assistants, but in every case discussions with the Rector form the starting point. I have extracted the following from what the Diocesan website (always a good starting point) says:

Lay Readers preach and teach as lay theologians, and are often involved in pastoral work too. They may take services using the **Reserved Sacrament**, and also funerals. They work closely in collaboration with their priest to support and develop the life of the congregation. Readers are trained to at least Certificate level by the Scottish Episcopal Institute.

Pastoral Assistants Lay people who primarily help with the pastoral work of a charge. Such tasks may involve, regular visiting, taking the Reserved Sacrament

to the housebound and ill, and assisting with other pastoral matters under the direction of the priest.

Eucharistic Assistants: Lay people who assist with the administration of the Sacrament during public worship.

Worship Leaders: Lay people who are authorised to lead worship or give an address on an occasional basis only in their own congregation.

I wonder when All Saints last had Lay Readers and/or authorised Worship Leaders? I very much hope that as Associate Priest I might be able to play some part in encouraging lay leadership in our worship and in the further development of our Ministry Team.

Revd Kevin (Associate Priest, All Saints)

VESTRY NOTES

- Revd. Kevin is to become Associate Priest at All Saints.
- Noticeboards - the Bishop has suggested that we have new noticeboards in more suitable places in the grounds, so that they can be more easily seen by passers-by. It is hoped someone in the congregation will be able to oversee this.
- Churches should have Wardens and we plan to re-introduce these: a Rector's Warden and a People's Warden. The latter will be chosen by the congregation.
- Quinquennial Inspection - the Church and halls passed their Quinquennial Inspection. A number of repairs are on-going. The inspection report on the Rectory is still awaited.
- Natural Church Development - the strategy will be introduced with a leaflet for all members of the congregation. Canon Missioner Revd Dawn Matthew will visit the church in early September to introduce the survey, and then to preach. She will stay for lunch and guide us through the survey which is expected to be filled in by all members of the congregation. (see article *p4* in this magazine)

Next meeting: September 14th

Brenda Long

SUNSHINE BAGS

We have certainly not had the heat that has been so prevalent in the South this summer but we have had some good spells of weather and hopefully, people have had happy experiences too.



This should mean that you have all been filling up your sunshine bags, ready to return them on Harvest Sunday, which is on **4th October**. There will be a basket at the back of the Church to receive the bags and they will be taken up to the Altar along with the collection.

If you do not have a bag but would like to participate, there are spare bags at the back of the Church. Please pick one up or speak to the steward on duty. If you are unable to come to Church on Harvest Sunday, the basket will remain ready to receive your contribution for a couple of Sundays after that.

Thank you all.

Ann Caie



Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

DIOCESAN BIG PICNIC



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Saturday 12th September

St Ninian's SEC Troon

12noon -3pm

Bring your own picnic and blanket to sit on -
tea/coffee and special cake provided.

Open to all and there will be lots of activities for
the children - everyone welcome.

**Teddy Bear Competition - bring your teddy
bear - best dressed will win a prize**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday, September 6th: Canon Missioner Revd Dawn Matthew preaching at 10.30am Eucharist. Followed by bring and share lunch in the hall and filling in of Natural Church Development questionnaire

Wednesday, September 9th: Wednesday Lunch Group recommences, noon

Saturday September 12th: Diocesan MU Big Picnic (see p8 poster)

Wednesday September 23rd: Wednesday Lunch Group: Talk by Revd. Kevin

Saturday September 26th: Cake Walk (see p21)

Sunday, October 4th: Harvest Festival. Said Eucharist at 9.00am and Sung Eucharist at 10.30am. Please bring suitable Harvest items for Drumchapel Foodbank to either.

Wednesday October 7th WLG Harvest Lunch

Sunday, October 25th: Bishop Nick celebrates and preaches at 10.30am Eucharist for Bible Sunday, followed by bring and share lunch in hall.

Sunday, November 1st: All Saints Day. Said Eucharist at 9.00am and Sung Eucharist at 10.30am plus Festal Evensong at 5.00pm

Sunday, November 8th: Remembrance Sunday. 10.50am Act of Remembrance at Bearsden Cross; 10.55am short act of Remembrance in church for those who prefer a service inside; 11.15am, Sung Eucharist

Wednesday, November 11th: Remembrance Day. Short act of Remembrance at 11.00am after usual Said Eucharist

Sunday, November 22nd: Annual Church Meeting after 10.30am Sung Eucharist

Saturday, November 28th: Parish Quiz Night and dinner (details to follow)

Sunday, November 29th: Advent Sunday. Sung Eucharist at 10.30am and Advent Carol Service at 5.00pm

GENERAL SYNOD 2026

General Synod met in June at the Stirling Court Hotel for three days of worship, debate, listening and conversation about the life of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

There was a great deal on the agenda: ordinand training, liturgy, the Season of Creation, youth representation, our relationship with the Anglican Communion, and the continuing work of the Legacy of Slavery project. As ever, some of the most important work happened not only in formal debate, but over coffee and in the conversations that help us listen to each other.

I was invited to share a reflection on mission and church health as part of Glasgow and Galloway's developing strategy. I am pleased to report that there was quite a lot of laughter, which I take as a good sign! We can speak honestly about the challenges before us without losing joy, warmth or hope. Indeed, those things may be among the clearest signs of the health we seek.

A range of Synod material is now available online at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/our-organisation/the-general-synod/> including the Primus' charge, the reflections on mission, the Legacy of Slavery presentation, Bishop Anthony Poggo's address on the Anglican Communion, and short interviews recorded during the meeting.

*From Bishop Nick's on-line Newsletter **Together***

You can sign up on the Diocesan website to receive the *Newsletter Together* by email <https://www.glasgow.anglican.org/resources/publications/>

MEETING ROOM AND CLOAKROOM

Some of you may have noticed how clean and tidy the meeting room, cloakroom and boiler room now look after the summer. A van was paid for to take away the larger items and the remaining things have been relocated/tidied away. This has been masterminded by John Brooker and we would kindly ask that you keep them as you find them – especially the meeting room which is, at last, fit for purpose.

Many thanks. Celia

REVS ON A BENCH



Revd. David is taking part in a weekly online video chat about life, ministry, outreach, the universe and everything with our friend Revd Roddy Hamilton, minister of New Kilpatrick parish church. The two ministers join forces each week to record **Two Revs on a Bench**, which is posted on social media channels and YouTube. You can also watch the conversations on our website each week.

The Church of Scotland minister originally recorded a weekly conversation with his former assistant church minister the Rev Barbara Ann Sweetin, who moved on earlier this year. Realising there was a space on the bench he asked David if he would like to take over the spot, given that the two churches already do several things together such as special shared services during the year.

The two Revs try to use a different location each week and in addition to moving onto the benches on offer outside the two churches they are looking at suitable seats elsewhere in the town. Subjects have included reflections on Sunday readings, working with different age groups and even Tunnocks teacakes. “It’s a great way of developing our work in Bearsden and beyond and we have a real sense of ecumenical co-operation,” said David. “We never know what we’re going to talk about when we sit down but our prayers for guidance always seem to work!”

*The two churches have plans to use **Tunnocks tea-cake foil wrappers** for something special at Christmas so if you have any please let David or Roddy have them rather than throwing them away.



REVD. DAVID'S SERMON 28TH JUNE

Readings: Jeremiah 28.5-9; Romans 6.12-23; Matthew 10.40-42

May I speak in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Jesus' words in our gospel today are deceptively simple:

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."

At first glance, this sounds like a gentle teaching about hospitality. But in Matthew's Gospel, these words come at the end of a long and demanding discourse about mission, which we've been studying ourselves for the past few weeks — about being sent out vulnerable, without money, without protection, without guarantees. Jesus sends his disciples into a world that may reject them, misunderstand them, or even persecute them.

And it's into that harsh reality he speaks this promise: Every act of welcome offered to you is an act of welcome offered to me. This is not just about being polite. It is about recognising Christ in the people he sends: not just prophets, the righteous, the impressive or the eloquent. Even "one of these little ones"—the least, the unnoticed, the vulnerable—bears the presence of Christ.

This is a radical re-ordering of value. In a world that honours status, Jesus honours the overlooked. In a world that rewards power, Jesus rewards compassion. In a world that measures worth by achievement, Jesus measures it by welcome.

Jesus then speaks of a cup of cold water. Not a feast. Not a grand gesture. Not a heroic sacrifice. Just a cup of cold water. In the Middle Eastern heat, perhaps even around the UK these past few days, that is the simplest act of kindness imaginable. And yet Jesus says it carries eternal significance. In the Kingdom of God, small acts done in love are never small.

A cup of water becomes a sacrament of grace. A moment of kindness becomes participation in God's mission. A gesture of welcome becomes a doorway into eternal life. This is good news for every Christian who feels they have little to offer. Jesus says: Offer what you can. It is enough.

There is another side to this teaching. It is not only about giving welcome; it is also about receiving it. The disciples are sent out with nothing so that they must rely on the hospitality of others. They must learn to be vulnerable. They must learn to accept help. They must learn to see Christ in those who welcome them.

So Jesus speaks of welcome—and he says that such welcome is not merely kindness; it is participation in God’s own mission. To welcome the messenger is to welcome the One who sent them. To offer even a cup of cold water is to align oneself with the Kingdom.

This is not sentimental hospitality. It is costly hospitality. It means receiving the truth-tellers, even when their message is uncomfortable. It means welcoming the vulnerable, even when it disrupts our comfort. It means recognising Christ in the least impressive, the least powerful, the least noticed. Jesus is saying: The way you treat the people I send reveals whether you truly belong to me.

In our **Old Testament** reading we hear about truth that costs something.

Jeremiah stands in the temple facing Hananiah, a prophet who promises an easy future: the exile will end quickly, the yoke will be broken, everything will be fine. It is the kind of message people want to hear. Jeremiah, by contrast, has spent years proclaiming a harder truth: that the people must face the consequences of their unfaithfulness and that the exile will not be short.

Jeremiah’s response is striking. He doesn’t shout Hananiah down. He simply says: “the true prophet is known when the word comes to pass.” In other words: truth is not measured by how comforting it sounds, but by whether it is faithful to God and borne out in life. Jeremiah reminds us that God’s word is often challenging before it is comforting. It calls us to repentance before restoration, obedience before reassurance. The easy message is not always the true one.

Paul picks up the same theme of uncomfortable truth. He speaks of freedom—but not the kind the world imagines. For Paul, everyone serves something. The only question is whom. Paul is blunt: Christian freedom is not freedom from responsibility; it is freedom for holiness. It is not freedom to do whatever we like; it is freedom to become what God intended us to be.

So across all of these readings this morning, a pattern emerges:

- Jeremiah warns us against the temptation of comforting lies.
- Paul calls us to the costly freedom of obedience.
- Jesus invites us to welcome those who bear God’s truth, even when they challenge us.

The Christian life is not built on easy assurances but on faithful endurance. It is not built on spiritual self-indulgence but on service. It is not built on grand gestures but on small, consistent acts of love.

In our own time, we still face the temptation to think of freedom as doing whatever we please. But Paul reminds us that true freedom is found in serving God. We still face the temptation to overlook the small, the ordinary, the inconvenient. But Jesus reminds us that the Kingdom is revealed in the smallest acts of welcome.

At its core, our gospel reveals something profound about God: God chooses to be encountered in human relationships. Not in abstract ideas. Not in distant holiness. But in the simple, messy, ordinary exchanges of daily life.

To welcome another is to welcome Christ. To serve another is to serve Christ. To love another is to love Christ. This is the Gospel summed up simply.

So today, Jesus invites us into a life of holy hospitality that sees Christ in the stranger, Christ in the disciple, Christ in the vulnerable, Christ in the one who offers even a cup of cold water.

May we be people who welcome Christ wherever he appears, and may we have the grace to recognise him in the smallest acts of love.

The good news is that God does not ask us to do any of this alone. Christ himself has walked the path of costly obedience. Christ himself has welcomed us when we were strangers. Christ himself gives us the Spirit who leads us into truth.

And so we can dare to follow him— in truth, in freedom, and in hospitality that reveals the very heart of God.

SUMMER OF SPORT



This surely has been the "summer of sport", with the Football World Cup, Wimbledon, the Open Golf championships, Cricket Test Match, the recent Commonwealth Games here in Glasgow, and the European Athletics and Swimming Championships.

So for our service at the end of July, David took on this theme and reminded us just how many references to sport there are in the Bible. "Run the race", "the runners all compete", "aim to win the prize". The Gospel told us to "strive to enter the narrow door", telling us of the struggle, commitment of an athlete, refusing to give up.

Our Christian life can be compared to this; a contest requiring faithfulness and commitment to finish the race. We should work hard at our faith to lead a more Christian life - not a sprint, but a long hard race.

The prayers also urged us to use the example of athletes to overcome adversity, and help us with our problems. We even had a special hymn sheet with hymns such as "Take my life and let it be , and "Fight the good fight".

An inspiring service, and plenty of thought for the 'sporty' and 'non sporty' amongst us to " Run the race of life with perseverance"

Kate and Ken Ross

A message from Jean Kerr: Can I say how much I enjoyed the summer of sports service. Well-chosen hymns and a great, funny sermon. Thanks a lot David

ALL SAINTS LUNCH GROUP

Our lunches will be recommencing on **Wednesday 9th September** and will once again be held fortnightly. We are looking to provide a little more entertainment this year.

At our second meeting on **23rd September** Rev Kevin has very kindly agreed to give us a talk with the intriguing title "Land of Lost Content"

Our third meeting on **7th October** will be a Harvest Lunch with a little more variety to the lunch.

Later in the Autumn, Pauline has agreed to hold another of her Christmas Stalls. She is looking for donations to place on the stall. We are hoping for a good response to this request as all of the monies raised will be donated to the Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme.

Further events are planned for later in the season and will be advertised in subsequent editions of the All Saints Magazine.

In previous seasons those who wished to volunteer to make soup, bake or help with the other tasks needed to put on a lunch have signed up on the sheet in the Hall. A new sheet for the current season is already in place for volunteers to add their names. As always, many hands make light work!!

We look forward to seeing you at our Lunches this season.

Brenda & Philip

THE LOVELY POLLARD'S FROM COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE

As many of you will remember from **June 28th**, our guests from Tennessee, the Pollards, who joined Mum and me at the morning service. Kennedy is a friend of mine from the University of Glasgow, and we have been friends from the first day of classes in year one. I stayed with the Pollard's at their home in the summer of 2025. After church we enjoyed a fabulous lunch at Massimos.

See some lovely words below from Lynn Pollard:

What a blessing for our family to be able to worship with Ellen and Gioia during our visit to Scotland. The sweet congregation at All Saints is truly such a welcoming group of folks. As I think about our time at All Saints, I realize that our small Cumberland Presbyterian Church 4000 miles away in Tennessee is similar in the most important way to a small Scottish Episcopal Church in Bearsden - we serve the same Lord. Our God is so good and we are thankful for all the blessings He showers on us every day. Thank you, All Saints, for shining His light in your community and for welcoming our family during our time in Scotland.

Ellen MacDonald

GRADUATION WEEK AT THE WHITMORE HOME

Between Mum and I we had two graduations on the last week of June.

I graduated from the University of Glasgow in my Master of Arts (Hons) in Politics and History on June 30th. The last four years have been truly exceptional, and I have loved every moment. I have made friends for life and some wonderful memories. My graduation day was truly special (even if I was filled with nerves) but seeing Graham's friendly face up on the stage made me feel at ease. My family were alongside me and cheered me on across the stage. It was just fabulous.

Next, we travelled up to Aberdeen for Mum's graduation from Robert Gordon University on July 3rd where she graduated with a Certificate of Higher Education Paralegal Practice in Family Law. It was a lovely



ceremony and got to watch with happiness and pride as Mum walked across the stage.



Thank you!

I would like to put a copy of the little speech that I gave at church on Sunday 5th July, just for those that were not there either in person or online.

Well.. who could have imagined that I would finally be here.

A massive thank you to the congregation for their support during my entire academic progression from Mosshead Primary School to Bearsden Academy, over the pond to American University in DC to finally getting my Master of Politics and History at the University of Glasgow.

I specifically would like to thank a few members:

Andrew – for your insightful teaching during History 1B and guidance during my Go Abroad application.

Kevin – your knowledge and support during my dissertation was exceptional and could not be more thankful.

Graham – thank you for your help during my graduation and it was so lovely to see you during my special day, and my family definitely loved the Lodging.

E-group – your kindness and prayers have always been so appreciated; I love coming to E-group and continue to learn from you all both spiritually and personally.

Finally, I would like to end by thanking Mr Alex Stirling, if it was not for his creation of Modern Studies. I may not be standing here today graduating in the subjects I truly feel passionate about.

Ellen

Below, some members of the E Group at the celebration in the church hall



Congratulations to Ellen!

SEPTEMBER WORDS FOR YOUR LAY REPRESENTATIVE

This month, I have been asked to provide a report about the Bishop's plans for our diocese. Bishop Nick's plans have been laid out in detail at recent synods (see diocesan website), so I don't think I want to paraphrase. What I would rather do is give you my own personal take on the future of our church.

First, when Bishop Nick was elected in January, 2025, he was clearly given a mandate for change. In his electoral documents and presentation he talked of his enthusiasm for the **Natural Church Development** approach. This involves everyone (or as many as possible) in the church filling in a lengthy, but light-touch, questionnaire about their church. The data from these questionnaires are analysed and recommendations for the foci of future work are given. I have written about the details of this approach previously in the magazine, and even more details are given in this magazine, ahead of our NCD session with the Canon Missioner at the beginning of September.

Whilst I'm sure that many of you are thinking "Why do we have to complete this boring questionnaire?" I really do urge you to engage with this process. Our Bishop, and others in the Diocese and Province, have thought very carefully about whether this is a worthwhile exercise. We will be one of the first charges in the diocese to start the process which I am sure will lead to interesting times ahead. So, please make time to come to the service and lunch on **6th September** so that we can move forward together. It may be that the resulting suggestions for our future will require us to make some difficult decisions: Maybe changes to how and when we worship, or other changes to how we do things, but I strongly believe that we have to face these decisions if we wish to survive as a charge.

Another current issue in our church is the Net Zero policy. I know that many of you think that environmental issues are political and should be kept separate from church. However, OUR church (i.e. the Scottish Episcopal Church) voted in favour of some radical Net Zero policies a few years ago and we should do what we can to achieve them. Again this involves some difficult decisions.

- Should we install solar panels?
- What should we do about insulation?
- What can we each do as individuals do reduce our personal carbon footprints?

Our property convenor, Robert, and myself visited St Mary's for All in Hamilton recently to learn about how the installation of solar panels there has radically reduced their electricity bills, so changes like these are achievable if we are willing to undertake them.

A final issue I want to write about is the legacy of slavery project. This project was initiated by the Diocese last year and involves each charge reflecting on how they may have benefited from the exploitation of others during the years of the slave trade and just after it. Whilst I am not aware of any specific details related to All Saints Bearsden, I am almost certain that at least some of our earlier members were in receipt of generational wealth that originated in slavery. Future work on this topic will tell us, but I, for one, think that this is an important topic for us to pursue.

I look forward to discussing some of these issues with you further as part of the natural development of our church!

David Simmons



A REFLECTION on THE UPLIFTING SONGS OF PRAISE

The Songs of Praise event held at All Saints, Bearsden, at 5 p.m. on 23rd August, was a delightful celebration of faith, music, and community spirit. The congregation had been invited weeks earlier to suggest their favourite hymns and Bible readings and, as more than could be fitted into one service were suggested, those hymns not in this service will appear in future Sundays. The service, which included friends from New Kilpatrick and other Bearsden churches, was a great success as it created an atmosphere of community and warmth.

Our Rector, Rev David, led the service and contributed to its resounding success by introducing each hymn with information about the author and its background. I found this particularly enlightening as we rarely think about the origin of the hymns we sing on a Sunday. (As an octogenarian I also checked the age of the hymn writer, but few ever reached my age!) Our gifted organist excelled, as ever,

with her accompaniment of the hymns and with her organ prelude and postlude. We are indeed lucky to have such an accomplished organist.

The selection of hymns was thoughtfully curated, blending traditional favourites such as 'All People That on Earth Do Well' with the contemplative "Be still, for the presence of the Lord". Many of the hymns were chosen because of the strong and sometimes emotional personal memories they evoke and this added to this inspiring and reflective evening; the readings complemented the hymns in their themes and I particularly liked the "Running a Straight Race" by Eric Liddell, the Scottish sprinter, rugby player and Missionary who refused to race on a Sunday at the 1924 Paris Olympic Games, but won a gold medal later that week.

We also enjoyed a wealth of cakes and goodies that was provided by the congregation. Many thanks to all who contributed to it. I spent Saturday hovering around the kitchen hoping to get a taste of Ann's baking; this was naturally denied, but I made up for it on Sunday evening when there was a free for all! A special thanks to those who organised the tea and did all the washing up for the 30-40 participants- 'for all the saints'! A marvellous conclusion to a highly successful event.

I'm sure we will repeat this service as it showcased the power of music and hymns to bring people together and uplift spirits.

Graham Caie

CAKEWALK 2026



This year's very gentle walk will take place on the afternoon of **Saturday September 26th**. The route is not yet finalised, but will certainly end with afternoon tea at Mairi's House, Ardbeg at Easter Carbeth.

As always, all are welcome, including those who would like to come for the tea, but not the walk!

Offers of help and cakes will be greatly appreciated.

Mairi

FREE WILL OFFERING ENVELOPES AND GIFT AID RECORDS

Free Will Offering Envelopes for 2026-27 will be available on **Sunday 13th September** in the church hall after the 10:30am service.

Gift Aid: If you have agreed the church can claim Gift Aid on your donations, please let me know if you have

1. **Changed Address.** When the Gift Aid claim is made, the church must provide the Inland Revenue with the addresses of Gift Aid donors.

2. **Want to cancel your Gift Aid declaration.** You must pay as much Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the tax year as the total amount of Gift Aid that will be claimed on all the donations you have made to charities in that tax year. Gift Aid is claimed as 25% of a donation.

Penny Inglis

COVER PICTURE

The photo on the front cover was taken by one of the Stack grandchildren on an evening walk along Kiloran Bay on the west coast of Colonsay. On the return to the east coast of this beautiful small island, we were greeted by the full moon rising over Jura. This was the last full moon before the eclipse in August.



SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

Our 10.30am services will be held both in Church and on Facebook. It is also possible to watch services on our Facebook page and on our YouTube channel afterwards

Date Sunday	6 September Pentecost 15 <i>Trinity 14</i> (Green)	13 September Pentecost 16 <i>Trinity 15</i> (Green)	20 September Pentecost 17 <i>Trinity 16</i> (Green)	27 September Pentecost 18 <i>Trinity 17</i> (Green)
Celebrant Preacher	Rev David Guest Rev Canon Dawn Matthew	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest
9.00am Service	Said Eucharist (1970 Liturgy)		Said Eucharist (1970 Liturgy)	
10.30am Service	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist
Stewards	Janet	Brenda	John	Dolina
Eucharistic Assistants	Graham	Jenny	Ailsa	Louise
Readings	Ezekiel 33:7-11; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18: 15-20	Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18: 21-35	Jonah 3:10 - 4:11; Philippians 1: 21-30; Matthew 20:1-16	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Philippians 2: 1-13; Matthew 21: 23-32
Reader	David Hamblen	Bryan Stack	Daphne Farquharson	Gillian Kingslake
Intercessor	Louise Benson	Mary Stott	Celia Fisher	David Hamblen
After-service Coffee	Ann Pauline	Fiona Gillian	Susan Kate	Elaine Mairi
Other events	• A 9.00am Said Eucharist is held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, using the 1970 liturgy. • There is a 10.30am Said Eucharist on Wednesday mornings preceded at 10.00am by Morning Prayer			

The Rector's usual days off each week are Thursdays and Fridays. One of these may occasionally change depending on other work demands.

The Editor for the October edition will be Janet Stack. Please send articles to janet.stack@btinternet.com by **Sunday, 20th September 2026**