



70 Years of Married Bliss



On Tuesday, 4th June, Ted and Ena Bell celebrated their Platinum Wedding Anniversary with family and friends, at Gleddoch Hotel.

The Bells have lived in the village for almost 50 years, and are well loved members of the church here in the village.

On Sunday, 2nd June at the morning service, they received a blessing from the Rev Morris Dutch, and George Macmillan presented them with a card from King Charles and Queen Camilla, to mark their 70 years of married life. They received many gifts, including a beautiful bouquet of flowers from Renfrewshire Council and flowers and a card from the church family.

SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH

We are delighted to announce that the Soup and Sandwich lunch will recommence on **Wednesday, September 4** in the Village Centre from **12 – 1.30pm**



This is an excellent opportunity to have a chat, and enjoy a bowl of homemade soup, sandwiches, tea/coffee and biscuits all for £5.

Everyone welcome!

50:50 PROMS 2024

We have been treated to a surfeit of good music over the last few months. We have enjoyed being entertained by an amazingly gifted woodwind ensemble which showcased every instrument in the group. Flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, all teased out tunes for our delectation.

Most recently the cello duo Take Two brought a programme filled with music old and new, familiar and unfamiliar, classical and traditional.



All concerts start at 2.30pm on a Sunday afternoon; tickets are £5, children free. It is hoped that the Close Shave Chorus will be able to fit us in to their schedule. Keep an eye on the church and village FB and websites for details, and posters will appear nearer the time.



**Update on Alex
Dunn, 'the
fishman'.**



Many of you may already be aware that unfortunately Alex, who comes with his van to deliver fish and other produce to the village each Wednesday and Friday morning between 10.15am and 12pm, was rushed to hospital with an aneurism on 20th July.

Alex has now had bypass surgery and is recovering well. He is receiving regular visits from nurses and physios and is now down to one crutch so is hoping to be back making his deliveries in the near future.

Dear Friends,

By the time you receive this newsletter, the formal service of linkage between Langbank Church and Houston and Killellan Church will have taken place. That road has been a long and uncertain one for the congregation as to what would happen to the church. From moving out of the linkage with St. Andrews in Port Glasgow, then placed into Guardianship under the Presbytery, then the Presbytery Plan which was changed in a very different direction from where we had first thought the church may be linked with. However, the talks with Houston and Killellan that began only a few months ago have been met positively by both Kirk Sessions and the two congregations voted unanimously agreeing to the linkage. So begins a new chapter in the life, witness, and worship of Langbank Church, firstly under a new Interim Moderator, Barbara Ann Sweetin, who is also Interim Moderator at Houston and Killellan. Plans though are afoot to quickly appoint the Nomination Committee representatives from both congregations and to then allow the Committee to do their work in seeking a new Minister who will come and serve among you.

As this will be my last pastoral letter for the newsletter, my near five years as Interim Moderator at Langbank Church have come to an end, I want to thank George Wilkinson and then David Steel as Session Clerks for their help and friendship, Elspeth Munro for her help with the music and praise when I was down taking worship, the Elders who were faithful in their attendance at Session meetings and also those of you whom I met. I am grateful too to Liz Geddes and Eleanor Hood who served as Locums in and through the pandemic years. Finally, I am grateful to friends and colleagues who served regularly, leading worship at Langbank Church over recent months. As the church goes forward, I will be remembering it in prayer as you seek a new Minister, remembering the words of the Psalmist "For this our God, is our God for ever and ever, He will be our guide even to the end." (Psalm 48 v14).

Every Blessing,
Stuart



EVERYONE WELCOME !

LANGBANK'S GREEN-FINGERED GARDENERS

Thanks are due to the keen green-fingered gardeners who quietly and unobtrusively get on with taking care of the church's gardens. Weeds in the car park are being kept at bay, bushes are being trimmed back to keep them tidy, flowers are blooming and colourful in the flowerbed. Behind the building, the extraneous exuberant growth is kept in check. If you have some spare time, enjoy gardening and would like to do your bit, please speak to anyone you see working in the garden, or get in touch via FB/website.

Thanks are due to **YOU** too for providing such blooming pretty wellies and quirky sculptures which cheer up the dull concrete and brighten any duller day. It's an eye-catching display which lasts right through the summer. It's never too late in the season to add yet another wee splash of colour, so if you come across any late plants, please just add it or them to the collection. It brings a smile to any passer-by, and many visitors stop to take a photo.

Thanks also to the LSR group and LCC for the provision of the new village planters on Main Road. Special thanks also to those who took the time to plant these up and also to the villagers who are helping to look after these.

Thanks also to the villagers who do regular litter picks in and around Langbank, helping to keep our village looking nice.



Langbank Swingpark Regeneration Group News

Following a successful Renfrewshire Council (RC) Winter Connections Fund grant application, we partnered with Get Active Coaching, a Community Interest Company (CIC), to deliver two hours of free multi-sport activities at the village MUGA for 8 weeks at the start of the year. This was so popular with the children of Langbank, when Get Active Coaching secured money from the National Lottery Young Start Fund to deliver a Community Sport programme, they agreed to provide one hour of free multi-sports activities in Langbank for 3 years. LSR recently secured a grant from the Local Area Committee to fund the second hour for the next year. The sessions run every **Wednesday night from 6.30 – 8.30pm** and all children aged 6 to 16 are welcome.

The MUGA is managed, on behalf of the community, by a small volunteer committee who are looking for help with the upkeep of the MUGA and the surrounding area. If anyone can spare an odd hour please email info@langbank-community.com

Hopefully many of you will be enjoying the new equipment at the playing fields. The children's play equipment was funded from Renfrewshire Council You Decide campaign which was voted for by local residents. The outdoor exercise equipment was funded by another successful grant application to the Villages Investment Fund and the LSR working with RC to have this equipment installed. Further collaborative working with RC and yet another grant will hopefully see the old damaged picnic benches in the playing fields refurbished and once again ready to use in the near future.



Could You Help out?

The church is desperately seeking a new Treasurer. Applicants needn't be a church member, so if you have accounting experience and think you could help out, please email langbankcnl@gmail.com for more information.

This isn't a onerous job and guidance would be given if required.



A massive thank you to everyone who supported the coffee mornings and donated money to Alzheimer Scotland.

The total raised to date is **£4,869.35**. All money helps to ensure no one faces dementia alone.

Billy, Caroline, Angela & Julie x

COMPASSION UK

As you know, the church family in Langbank helps to support three children through the Compassion UK project: Desy in Kenya, Gemechu in Ethiopia, and Javier in El Salvador. We exchange regular letters, and we've just received two updates. From Ethiopia, Gemechu has told us how rainy it is with him – what we might think of as a curse this Summer, he sees as a blessing as rain is vital to sustaining life. He also tells us that he's just finishing the equivalent of his second year at secondary school. Desy has shared a very long letter which we'll post on



the church website. In it she thanks us for supporting her as she approaches adulthood and looks forward to her future after school, as well as sharing pictures of some of the things our recent gift has helped to provide: a school uniform and extra food for Desy and her extended family.

At Javier's project he's been receiving training about how to eat nutritious food, drafting letters and other correspondence, and took part in a special camp called Chosen, where the children worked as teams and shared the love of Jesus amongst all who attended. You can see them enjoying a reward for all their hard work in this picture.

We take up a collection for our children once a month – all donations welcome. If you'd like to know more or offer a contribution, please do speak to any member of the Langbank church family. We're immensely proud of the difference our small village is making to the lives of our children from around the world.

What's Happening in Langbank

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- The Village annual **Christmas Shopping Night** will take place on **Friday, November 22, at 7.30** in the church. There will be the usual stalls, plus a number of new ones, a tombola, raffle and refreshments. This is always a popular event, and a good opportunity to shop early for Christmas.
- The **Christmas Tree Switch On and Sing-along** is on **Sunday, November 27** at 6pm. For more details nearer the time see the Langbank Community FB page, website and village notice boards.
- A **Family Beetle Drive** is planned for **Friday, January 17, 2025**. Watch out for more information on the noticeboard, FB and the church website.

WHAT'S ON in the Village Hall

Monday

10.30 to 11.30am - Move It or Lose It

7.00 to 8.00pm - Dog Training

Tuesday

9.30 to 10.30 am - Pilates

6.30 to 7.30pm - Zumba

Wednesday

6.00 to 7.00pm - Circuits

Thursday

10 to 11.30am - Seasonal Flow Yoga

6.15 - 7.15pm - Pilates

Friday

9.30 - 12pm Playgroup

For more details or hall hire see the Village Hall FB page or contact the committee at langbankvillagehall@gmail.com

Huge thanks to the volunteer Hall Committee who work hard to keep this village facility running. We can support them by promoting the hall, encouraging new lets and attending groups running in the hall.

The hall is ideal for private parties as well as group activities, so if you know have any ideas please contact the committee.

New kids dance class coming soon - look out for more information!



**Langbank
Camera Club**

Why not join the Camera Club and learn more about photography. Our first meeting for 2024/25 is being held on Monday 9th September at 7.30pm in the church hall.

Being part of our club is a great way of sharing your experiences, developing your skills and knowledge, in order to take great photographs. If you come along to one of our meetings you will receive a warm welcome no matter whether you are a beginner or a seasoned veteran.

For More information please contact Derrick McPherson at langbankcc@gmail.com.

WHAT'S ON in the Church Hall

Monday 2pm to 4pm - drop in café

Enjoy some home baking and a cuppa.

2nd & 4th Monday of the month @ 7.30pm - Langbank Camera Club

Thursday

11 to 12.30pm - Langbank Singers

Friday

10 to 11.30am - Under 3s

For hire of church hall contact langbankcnl@gmail.com



FREE BOWLING LESSONS

For Residents of Langbank
During September

Mondays 10am
Wednesdays & Saturdays 2pm

If you fancy an evening lesson

Call Ewan on: 01475 540258

Langbank Community Council meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. These are open meetings and everyone is welcome to attend. If you wish to raise any agenda items please send an email to info@langbank-community.com in advance of the meeting.

Langbank Parish Church: Sunday Service – 9.45am from October (currently 10am)
Visit our Website: www.langbankparishchurch.co.uk Charity No: SC015085