



By the way...

Easter
2025

The **Family Beetle Drive** in January was the usual noisy affair, with dice flying everywhere and people urging others to 'hurry up'. Everyone was ready to relax and enjoy supper at half time. This was a fun evening.

The March **Quiz Night with Sister Andrea** was a sellout. We were challenged with a variety of questions all connected to Scotland. This was another great night, and by public request, Sister Andrea has agreed to host another quiz in the autumn.

Thanks to Sister Andrea, to everyone who helped produce the lovely supper at both these events and to everyone coming along to support all of the events.

Elizabeth's Curry Lunch was a triumph. There was a choice of three different curries, followed by tea or coffee and cake. The money raised all went to the church redevelopment fund, thanks to the generosity of Elizabeth, who wouldn't accept payment for the ingredients.



50:50 PROMS

The new year kicked off with the Higham Quartet visiting early in January. The quartet played for the morning service, and in the afternoon returned with a programme bursting with tunes – Dvorak, Tchaikovsky, Haydn among others.



In March the Close Shave Chorus was back in Langbank, FIVE YEARS since their last appearance! They provided a wonderful afternoon filled with toe-tapping happy music! The audience "*left with a smile*", "*great chemistry between conductor and chorus producing a wonderful outcome*", and "*I knew all the songs!*"

The next Prom is on **Sunday 27th April at 2.30pm** – please put the date in your diary because the **Bearsden Fiddlers**' reputation goes before them and they are not a group you want to miss! Tickets £5 donation at the door on the day, as well as after morning service and at the Drop-in Café.

Further Prom concerts will be announced in due course, so keep an eye open for posters popping up, and check the church and village websites and Facebook pages.

Renfrewshire Council Winter Connections Grant

Following another successful grant application from the Langbank Swingpark Regeneration group we are grateful to some of the village groups and individuals for organising the following activities:

Hot chocolate and snacks for the young folks attending the *Get Active* coaching sessions at the MUGA each Wednesday evening throughout the winter.

Musical Bingo Night in Village Hall on Thursday 27th March - great night had by all!

Funding for **screen in Village Hall** to allow family movie nights, football evenings, etc.

Pickleball taster sessions at the MUGA.

Soup & Sandwich Lunch on **Wednesday, April 24th** in the Village Centre at **12 noon**.

For further information/details keep an eye out for information on the Community Facebook page, Village website and noticeboards. ALL WELCOME!



Church News

A WARM WELCOME

After many years without a regular preacher, Langbank Church congregation is delighted to welcome our new minister, Rev Steven Owens to lead us in worship.

Look out for him in the village, and say hello, or come along to the church any Sunday morning at 9.45am to hear him preach. You will be made very welcome.



A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW MINISTER

I am sitting in my study writing this welcome to the newsletter 8 weeks after my induction as minister of Houston & Killellan Kirk, linked with Langbank. What an 8 weeks it has been!



This is a move to a slightly different part of the country than what I am used to. I was brought up in Ayrshire and lived most of my adult life in the south side of Glasgow. I'm used to nice scenery but never fail to be impressed, especially on the drive over from Houston to Langbank.

Recently I was reminded of the great Psalm that many older generations would likely have been taught to memorise in their school days. Psalm 121 reminds us to lift our eyes to the hills (or mountains) and how easy that is to do in Langbank, almost from any vantage point. That reminder to lift our eyes to the hills is about looking for help, particularly from God.

All of this brought to mind a favourite joke of mine...

A man was trapped in a terrible flood and the waters continued to rise. He climbed up onto the roof of his bungalow and started to pray to God for help. A woman in a rowing boat came by and told him to jump into the boat and he replied, "don't worry, God will help me". An hour later a man in a speedboat came along offering a space in his boat and the reply was the same... "don't worry, God will help me". About 10 minutes later a helicopter appeared and a rope ladder is lowered and the man shouts "don't worry, God will help me". The man died, and as he was checking in at "the pearly gates" he says to St Peter "why didn't God help me?". St Peter replies, "God sent you a rowing boat, a speed boat and a helicopter... this is on you".

So where does your help come from? The love of God surrounds us and when we look into faces of those who help us, sometimes we might even recognise a glimpse of God. The church isn't just for its members, so in times of trouble, or even when you want to celebrate, don't hesitate to contact us. We are here no matter what the weather is like. You can also get a good view of the hills from the door.

May you be blessed and be a blessing.

Steven

ATTENTION BOOKWORMS!



From time to time books appear on the shelves by the Drop-in Café. Do please have a browse, and if you choose to purchase one, please drop a donation into the moneybox on the top shelf. There are all sorts of things to choose from, and occasionally something for the younger reader.

If you have any books you have finished with, please donate them to the Bookshelves for someone else to buy and enjoy.

More News

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

- Sun 13th - Palm Sunday service at 9.45am in Langbank Church
- Mon 14th - Joint service in Houston Killellan Kirk at 7pm
- Tues 15th - Joint service in Houston Killellan Kirk at 7pm
- Wed 16th - Joint service in Langbank Church at 7pm
- Thurs 17th - Joint Maundy Thurs communion service in Langbank Church at 7pm
- Fri 18th - Joint Good Friday service in Langbank Church at 7pm
- Sun 20th - Joint Easter Sunday Sunrise service in Houston Killellan Kirk at 8am, followed by breakfast, and service at 11.15am

The African Children's Choir is performing in Houston Killellan Kirk on Sunday, 13th April, at 6.30pm. Tickets: adult £5, child £3, Family £12. Pay at the door.

WELLY WALK

After a long absence, we're delighted to be reinstating the WELLY WALK on **Sunday 1st June 2025**. This is to raise extra funds for the three children the church sponsors in El Salvador, Kenya and Ethiopia. Everyone is invited to join in, put on their wellies and get walking! We will start at the church, walk to the Coast end of the village and back to the church hall for a soup and sandwich lunch. Hopefully it will be a better day than it was in 2013, when it really was 'A Welly Walk'!

The congregation has a monthly collection for these three children (Javier, Desy and Gemechu). You can find out more by coming in to read the information on display in the church hall. All donations welcome!



MUSIC IN WORSHIP



Week by week the Church Choir leads the congregation in worship, providing an introit and an anthem most Sundays throughout the year. From time to time they will introduce a new hymn to the congregation. In December 2024 the congregation was asked for requests, so favourite hymns were collected in the "postbox". These formed the outline of our Final Fling Carol Sing -cum- Nine Lessons And Carols. A good sing was enjoyed by all. Most recently, the Choir attended a Taizé workshop and who knows, some of these may crop up in an introit slot at some point. (In brief, the Taizé Community is made up of about one hundred brothers, Catholics and from various Protestant backgrounds, coming from around thirty nations. The community is a "parable of community" which wants its life to be a sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and between separated peoples.)

WELLY GARDEN

With the return of better weather, it's time to think about brightening up the church entrance. Let's get busy planting up our old wellies – why not give them a lick of paint first of all? – and when you're satisfied that your wellies are looking their brightest and best, bring them along to the side entrance of the church and add them to the display. You could also try your hand at constructing a plant-pot sculpture: we've had a lighthouse, a train, an elephant, a hippopotamus... see what else you can come up with and add it in. It's surprising just how many passers-by stop and smile at the uplifting sight of the plants and sculptures.



Has anyone made any New Year Resolutions this year and not stuck to them? Be it Walking or Exercising, Keeping Fit & Active, or even taking up a Sport.

Do you sometimes feel lonely & want to make new friends? Well **LANGBANK BOWLING CLUB** has the answer! Come along and join us anytime and try Bowling. You will love it! We will have members there to help you

For details phone [Ewen on 01475 540258](tel:01475 540258)

What's Happening

WHAT'S ON in the Church Hall

Monday 2pm to 4pm - drop in café

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

Dates for your diary.

Plant Sale: Saturday 31st May, 10.30

– **12.30** in the church carpark, with cream teas being served in the church hall. Order forms will be available soon, or just turn up on the day and take pot luck. More details on the church website, church and community FB and the village noticeboards.

Village Gala Day: Saturday 14th June, 2pm onwards in playing fields (weather permitting) – back by popular demand, although we do need volunteers to make this happen! We need people to help with organisation, setting up, manning stalls, clearing up or businesses who are willing to sponsor events or even have a stall. For further information or offers of help please email info@langbank-community.com

If you (unusually) have any leftover chocolate Easter eggs.....here is an easy recipe to use them up.

Easter Egg Fridge Cake

INGREDIENTS

300g of chocolate, mix of milk and plain, bashed into small chunks - this can be Easter Egg shells

100g butter

140g golden syrup

1 teaspoon of vanilla extract

200g of any plain sweet biscuits, tea, digestives, shortbread - bashed into small chunks

100g sultanas or any dried fruit

85g crispy rice cereal

Topping

100g Mini Eggs or Smarties (optional but nice)

50g white chocolate (small chunks)



METHOD

Line a 20 x 30cm baking tin with baking paper. Melt the chocolate, syrup, butter, in a bowl until it's all smoothly combined. Add the vanilla, biscuits, sultanas and rice crispies and stir to mix. Pour this into the lined pan and smooth the top with a metal spoon. While it's still hot press in the extra mini eggs/ Smarties if using them, and place the tin in the fridge to set and harden. Melt the white chocolate slowly, until it's smooth and glossy. Drizzle artistically over the tray and allow it all to set hard again in the fridge. Cut into small squares and serve. Keep in an airtight tin in the fridge, or put squares into small food bags and gift to friends.

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

7.30 to 9.30pm (2nd Wed of month)

- Community Council

Thursday

10 to 11.30am - Seasonal Flow Yoga

6.15 - 7.15pm - Pilates

7.30pm (3rd Thur of month) - SWI

Friday

9.30am to 12pm - Playgroup

For more details, or hall hire, see the Village Hall FB

page or contact langbankvillagehall@gmail.com

Best of luck to all of our young folks who are about to sit exams and for our P7s preparing to leave primary school – enjoy your last term!

Langbank Parish Church: Sunday Service – 9.45am

Visit our Website: www.langbankparishchurch.co.uk

Charity No: SC015085

Contact: Rev Steven Owens, sowens@churchofscotland.org.uk

tel: 07578128980

