



By the way...

August 2025

50:50 PROMS

The afternoon Proms continue to attract a large audience who support a wide variety of music. The **Bearsden Fiddlers** were great fun back in April and had us all singing and “swaying” along with them. They donated their share of the takings to Mountain Rescue which was their charity for the year.

In June **Neilston Strings Ukulele Band** made a return visit. They played a great selection of popular toe-tapping songs. They too will be making donations to charities, and they will let us know which ones they are supporting this year.



Next on the list is **ST JAMES'S HANDBELL RINGERS**. They are coming on **Sunday 7th September** at **2.30pm** and tickets will shortly be going on sale. You will, however, ALWAYS get in at the door on the day. Other Proms dates for your diary are **Sunday 26th October – Langbank Singers** and **Sunday 30th November (Advent Sunday)** when **Renfrew Burgh Band** will kick off our Christmas celebrations. All concerts are at 2.30pm. Tickets are available on a Sunday morning after morning worship, at the Monday Drop-in Café and at the door on the day. Children are free.

At the time of going to print we are trying to arrange an Organ Recital. The date is currently being negotiated but won't be until 2026. Keep an eye on the church and village websites and Facebook pages and look out for posters around the village.

ANYONE FOR PICKLEBALL?

Our village MUGA continues to be well used, particularly by our young folks who can regularly be seen playing football or basketball there and the Get Active Coaching sessions on a Wednesday from 6.30 – 8.30pm (all children age 6 to 16 welcome) continue to attract great numbers. Over the summer we had a number of days dedicated to tennis; when the full-size nets were put up for folks to enjoy and it was great to have villagers, and visitors, of all ages enjoying this activity. Pickleball has now been added to the list of activities with the recent purchase of nets, balls and paddles – we are even fortunate to have one of the sport's Scottish ambassadors come along to run taster sessions!



Of course all of this wouldn't be possible without the efforts of the Langbank Swingpark Regeneration Group or the Langbank Community Council, so please if you can provide any support or help email info@langbank-community.com or come along to LCC meetings at the village hall, **2nd Wednesday of month at 7.30pm**.

Look out for details of events on the Community Facebook page or website. The MUGA is one of the village projects which will benefit from any funds raised at the **Village Gala on 6th September**, so please come along and join in the fun.

In July, the village sadly lost one of its **Community Champions - Neil Barrington**, who served the village wholeheartedly for over 30 years. Neil volunteered in too many ways to list in the space available here, but his roles ranged from chairing Community Council meetings, ensuring our voice was heard within the wider Renfrewshire area and beyond, organising village Clean-Up days, cutting back overgrown vegetation and other odd jobs in our public spaces. He did these things with empathy, kindness, professionalism and a sense of humour.

In his own words Neil “always wanted to make a difference for the village and make sure we were not ignored.” **AND HE DID!** Thank you, Neil, may you rest in peace.



Church News

I can't believe that six months have passed already in my new role as minister here in Langbank and Houston & Killellan Kirk. The work has been varied, and I have seen many different aspects of life in this beautiful part of Scotland.

Church life has changed significantly since a church appeared in Langbank in 1866. It is near impossible to imagine what life would have been like for the people that have gone before us, especially in those earliest days. I often find myself wondering what they would think of what they saw if they walked into the church today. I don't worry about how critical they might be of my own style which will be significantly different, because my style is meant for today. The ministers and the congregation of their day were meant for their time and place. No doubt we would be critical of them if we were able to go back to such times.

I am writing this in the week that I am preparing to dedicate a new church bible. We will be moving away from the days of the Good News translation that had become the main translation for many churches over the last 50 years or so. The new bible is gifted by a church member in memory of her husband and the dedication insert has a bible passage noted.

"You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word." (Psalm 119: 114)

The church is not our refuge but rather God is. These words (obviously not originally in English), were written thousands of years ago, very far from the banks of the river Clyde. These words still speak to us though. I don't think the bible is a rule book to follow but rather a way for us to try and understand God as a creator. The words written in the bible should help us with that understanding and when we need it most, we should find comfort in it. Is it that easy? I don't think so.

I believe that if we want to truly feel the comfort and safety of God, we have to use the hope we have from the word of God. To gain a better understanding of God, we need to embrace the words of the bible and develop an understanding that can only come from hearing another perspective or from seeing the love of God being acted out in our communities across the world.

If you are reading this and think you want to try and understand God more, then why not try and do that alongside the good folks that are your neighbours here in the village. If a church service is a step too far, the cakes at the drop in café on a Monday afternoon are excellent and the chat can be good too.

Every blessing to you all on behalf of Landbank Church.

Steven - Rev Steven Owens, Houston & Killellan Kirk, linked with Langbank.



MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Even with Choir members disappearing off on holiday over the summer months, those remaining in attendance still enjoy providing an introit each week which is greatly appreciated by the congregation. Term will shortly be resuming which means a return to anthems in due course. The Higham Quartet put in a morning appearance early in June and will no doubt be back in the wintertime, weather- and travel-permitting. We were pleased to welcome organist Gordon Armour who was equally happy to deputise for Elspeth's holiday leave.



WELLY WALK



Away back in June we had our WELLY WALK which helped raise extra funds for the three children the church sponsors in El Salvador, Kenya, and Ethiopia. We put on our wellies (on a lovely morning!) and walked along to Coast and back to the church, where we enjoyed our communal picnic lunch.

You can read a brief update about our three sponsor children Javier, Desy and Gemechu, on the next page. They lead a very different life to ours and are so grateful for the support we offer. How many children in this country would spend their birthday money on buying food for their family?

More News and Updates

Jesus

is the light of
our Christmas,



the joy of our hearts,
and the hope of
our world!

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

It is hoped that we will be having a hands-on all-age crafting event in mid-December within the church. There will be several crafting places each describing things associated with Christmas and how everything is linked to the Baby in the Manger – the Light of the World. There will be hot chocolate and mince pies in the tea-room with plenty opportunity to chat with friends and to compare decorations you've just made! Further details will be available nearer the time, so watch church and Community Facebook and website pages.

Javier, Gemechu and Desy - an Update

We continue to hear from our sponsored children - check out the church website to keep up to date with their latest letters. It's amazing to see how much they have grown since we first heard from them.

Javier tells us that, thanks to God, his family are doing well. He says: "What I enjoy the most is being with my family, playing, and watching movies. I also have a friend named Victor, and I really like playing ball with him. At school, I have a teacher named Juan; he is an excellent teacher and a very good person. My favourite story is about Pinocchio."

Gemechu is growing up too: "I am doing well, thanks be to God, and my family is also doing great. I am about to finish my school. In parallel to my regular school, I work in the garage. I received the gift you have sent me, and I bought clothes for myself and for my family. Thank you for all your help. I want to be active in my study and effective in my job. Thank you for your letter. I love you a lot."

Desy is the oldest, and online soon will be her latest long letter, which she wrote herself in English - sharing that she has never been happier, enjoying school, playing football, and her recent exam successes just like our own children here in Langbank.

They all thank us - and God - for the support they receive which sets them up for a fantastic future.

Langbank SWI 2025/2026 season opens on

Thursday, September 18th, 7.30pm until approximately 9.30pm.

This year, we will meet in the Church Halls, NOT the Village Hall.

I'm delighted to say that for our first meeting, on September 18th, we will have a "Cookery Demonstration" with Elizabeth Burns (a main course). Please come along, all welcome.

Marion Dorman, President, Langbank SWI



Drop-In Cafe

If you're out and about any **Monday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm**, why not pop into the **Drop-in Café** in the church hall?

You'll meet new people and enjoy a chat along with tea/coffee and homebaking.

Once a month the proceeds of the café will go to a charity nominated by those who attend. September 22nd proceeds will be donated to CrossReach, the Church of Scotland's social care providers.



Langbank Bowling Club
Invites you to come along
For Free

All through
September



Mon @ 10am
Wed @ 2pm
Sat @ 2pm

We have
everything
You need
Just bring
flat soled shoes

Lawn Bowls
For
Beginners
Give it a try



For an evening session call Ewen on 01475 540258

What's Happening in Langbank

Upcoming Events

- Sat Sept 6th - **Village Gala Day**. 2pm to 6pm. With Bouncy Castle, Goal score, Pet Show, Church Bottle Stall, raffle, BBQ, bar, pizzas and more. Details on Community FB page.
- Sun Sept 7th - **St James's Handbell Ringers Prom**. 2.30pm in the church
- Sun Sept 28th - **Church Harvest Festival**. 10.45am
- Fri Oct 3rd - **Quiz Night** in the Village Centre. By popular demand, Sister Andrea has agreed to host another quiz night. Admission is by ticket only as numbers are limited, so check FB, noticeboards, and the church website for information nearer the time and get your tickets in plenty of time.
- Sun Oct 12th - **Church Communion Service**
- Sun Oct 26th - **Langbank Singers Prom**. 2.30pm in the church
- Sun Nov 9th - **Church Service of Remembrance**. 10.45am
- Fri Nov 21st - **Village Christmas Shopping Night**. 7.30pm in the church. 12 stalls are reserved already, and there will be the usual refreshments.
- Sun Nov 23rd - **Village Tree Light Up and Singalong**. 6pm in church for singalong with tree lights being switched on at 7pm. Festive refreshments!
- Sun Nov 30th - **Renfrew Burgh Band Prom**. 2.30pm in the church



By attending village events and activities you are helping to support a number of village groups and initiatives, as well as helping us foster a real sense of community.

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

7.30pm 2nd Wed of month Community Council

Thursday

10 to 11.15am - Seasonal Flow Yoga

6.15 - 7.15pm - Pilates

Friday

9.30 - 12pm Pre-school Playgroup (ages 3 to 5)

Saturday

9.30 to 10.15am - Mini Kickers (starting 13th Sep)

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

WHAT'S ON in the Church Hall

Monday 2pm to 4pm - drop in cafe.

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

Thursday

11 to 12.30pm - Langbank Singers

7.30pm (3rd Thur of month) - SWI

Friday

10 to 12pm - Under 3s Playgroup

For hire of church hall contact

langbankcnl@gmail.com

Langbank Singers

The new session of the Singers begins on Thursday, September 18th at 11.00 in the church upstairs hall. New members are always made very welcome, so if you enjoy singing come along and join us. It doesn't matter if you can't read music, many of us don't. We just like to sing.



Langbank Parish Church: Sunday Service – 9.45am

Visit our website: www.langbankparishchurch.co.uk

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