



By the way...

Christmas
2025



CHRISTMAS IN LANGBANK

- Wed Dec 10** - Festive Soup and Sandwich Lunch in the Village Hall at **12.00pm—1.30pm** (sponsored by Renfrewshire Council's Winter Connections Grant).
- Sat Dec 13** - Christmas Crafternoon in the church. **2pm - 4.30pm** (see separate article)
- Sun Dec 14** - Candlelight Service in the church **7pm**
- Wed Dec 24** - Watchnight Service **11.30pm**
- Sun Dec 28** - Final Fling Carol Sing. **9.45am** in the church

All Welcome!



Date to be confirmed; **Santa & Co Visit Langbank** - we are still finalising The North Pole team visit to Langbank but hoping this will happen on **23rd December**. Once date is confirmed it will be shared on Community Facebook page, with village groups, on Community Website and village noticeboards.



50:50 PROMS



Thanks to all of you who come along to support the afternoon Prom concerts. There has been quite a variety of visiting artistes this summer, from ukuleles to handbells, voice to brass band.

NEILSTON STRINGS UKULELE BAND has asked it to be made known that they included the money raised in their visit to Langbank in their donation of £1110 to Macmillan.

ST JAMES'S HANDBELL RINGERS tinkled their tunes in a delightful programme. There was an opportunity to try it yourself, proving that it's much harder than it looks!

Following their Prom, **LANGBANK SINGERS** generously donated their share of the takings. They sang a lovely selection of songs old and new, ably accompanied by Stewart, interspersed with flute and cello solos.

The final Prom of 2025 features **RENFREW BURGH BAND**. They are very much looking forward to coming to Langbank with a magical Christmas programme.

Looking ahead to 2026 the **HIGHAM QUARTET** will be playing on **Sunday 18th January's** morning church service. The Quartet will also be playing in the afternoon Prom concert at 2.30pm.

On **8th February** **PETER CHRISTIE** will be giving an Organ Recital on Langbank's lovely Lewis organ at 2.30pm.

Tickets for each concert is a bargain at only £5 a head (children free). They 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.

Other performers have been contacted and once their dates are confirmed details will be announced so please keep an eye on the church and village websites and Facebook pages, and look out for posters around the village.

Langbank Neighbourhood Watch.

Langbank Neighbourhood Watch is being renewed, and further information will be provided in the coming weeks via Community Facebook page and website. Meanwhile, any residents may register with Neighbourhood Watch Scotland and express an interest in joining the Langbank Neighbourhood Watch by following the information and steps on the NWS website

<https://neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk>

As well as registering, you can sign up for updates from Neighbourhood Alert, a secure community messaging system at <https://neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/sign-up-for-alerts>

Regular advice is provided via email and other means by Neighbourhood Watch Scotland and partners including Police Scotland and Get Safe Online.



Church News

As the days grow shorter and the nights draw in, we find ourselves once again on the threshold of Christmas. The lights that begin to twinkle in windows and on trees remind us that even in the darkest season of the year, there is a promise of brightness and hope. Advent is a time of waiting, of expectation, and of preparation... not just for the festivities we enjoy with family and friends, but for the deeper mystery of God coming among us in Jesus Christ.

My friend's company had an icebreaker that asked what Christmas makes you think about most. Is it, Santa, presents, snow or parties? I know not everyone will think about the birth of Christ, but maybe it should have been an option? Christmas reminds us of all those things, no doubt, but it should also remind us that God chooses to dwell not in palaces, places of power or even church buildings but in ordinary lives, in ordinary villages like Langbank and in ordinary hearts.

This message feels especially important in times when the world seems unsettled. We long for peace, for kindness, for a sense of belonging. The angels' song of "peace on earth" is not just a line from a carol; it is God's promise to us, and God's call upon us. Each of us is invited to be a bearer of peace in our homes, our community, and our wider world. That might mean offering a listening ear, extending forgiveness, or simply sharing joy with those who need it most.



Christmas also invites us to gratitude. We give thanks for the gift of Christ, but also for the gift of one another. As we exchange cards, gifts, and greetings, let us also remember those who may feel lonely or burdened, and reach out with compassion.

As we look ahead to the New Year, we carry with us the hope that Christmas brings. We cannot know what the new year will hold, but we can choose how we will walk into it: with faith, with courage, and with love. The God who came to us in Bethlehem continues to walk beside us, guiding our steps and strengthening our hearts. Christmas isn't always filled with joy for everyone, so look out for those who might need you.

So, as Christmas approaches, may you know the joy of Christ's presence in your life. May your celebrations be filled with laughter and love. And may the coming year bring peace to your home, hope to your heart, and blessings to our whole community.

On behalf of the church, I wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Steven

LANGBANK CHURCH—A PLACE OF REFUGE

While the rest of the world is in turmoil at present, at least your local church is still present – a rock in these turbulent times. If you're battling health problems, struggling through your week, if you've suffered a bereavement, if you wish to give thanks for the safe delivery of a child, for the recovery from an operation or illness, or just to give thanks for today – why not drop in to the church? If you wish to attend Sunday morning service (9.45am), you will be warmly welcomed, and you will be invited through for tea/coffee thereafter.

You could come along to the Drop-in Café any Monday afternoon (2pm-4pm). Bring a friend or two along with you and enjoy the chat and the marvellous array of home-baking. The sanctuary is left open for you to wander in and have a little bit of quiet breathing space before you return to the Café or the outside world. The church has a host of Christmas things going on; by the time BY THE WAY reaches you, you will already have enjoyed Renfrew Burgh Band kick-starting the Christmas season. Details of all the other things are to be found elsewhere in this magazine.

Church and Community News

Is your blue bin always full to overflowing 2 weeks before it's uplifted? Here's a solution.



The church is collecting newspapers, magazines and thin card e.g. cereal boxes, which are then recycled into packaging, raising funds for the church. These can be tied up and placed in the old brown bin outside the church hall door at any time. (Not the garden refuse bin at the foot of the steps beside the other bins). Solve your paper problem while supporting the church. Win, win!

LANGBANK CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

The church is about to submit their application to Presbytery to proceed with the much longed-for plan to redevelop the church by removing all the pews, and turning the church into a large community venue, as well as a place of worship. This would exist alongside the present Village Hall, with space for larger events.

To help promote this, how do **YOU** see the building being used? A wedding venue? A children's party venue? A concert venue? Badminton hall? If you have a brainwave, please jot it down and hand it in at the Café any Monday afternoon, or on a Sunday morning after the service. You can also post into the post box outside the hall, or email it to langbankcnl@gmail.com.



'LIGHT OF THE WORLD' CRAFTERNOON

This all-age hands-on crafting afternoon is on **Saturday 13th December, 2pm-4.30pm in Langbank Church.**



There will be several crafting tables each describing things associated with Christmas and how everything is linked to the Baby in the Manger – the Light of the World. You can make Christmas decorations; you can take some home, you can hang some up in the church which will be on display right through until Twelfth Night.

Children: bring your grannies and your friends.

Mums & Dads: come and hone your decoration-making skills.

Grandparents: come along to join in or just enjoy watching the fun.

Everyone can join in – it's FUN for ALL the family!



The tea-room will provide an opportunity to compare decorations with friends while tucking in to hot chocolate and gingerbread men!

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

The Choir members have all returned from their summer holidays, fully refreshed and in very good voice. Sunday by Sunday they sing an introit and anthem which enhances Sunday worship.

The Christmas selection will be starting in December! They, together with the Langbank Singers, will be singing first at **Finlaystone on Saturday 6th December**, raising money for CHAS, then at Rashielee Care Home and finally at the Candlelight Service at 7pm on **Sunday 14th December**.

Weather and travel permitting, the Higham Quartet will be accompanying the choir and congregation on Sunday 18th January.

With very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy 2026!



EAST NEUK FISH VAN

We were all sad when our previous Fishman, Alex Dunn had to retire on health grounds.

A new fishmonger is now coming to Langbank on a trial basis.

David Kirkwood from Cellardyke brings his fish van to the village on **Wednesday** afternoons. He stops on the **Main Road**, near to where the shop used to be, from approximately **2.45 to 3.15pm**.

He has a large selection of fresh fish, potatoes, oat-cakes and some baked goods.

So far his van has been well supported, the fish is fresh and delicious.

We hope that he will continue to have enough regular customers to ensure his Langbank stop becomes a permanent fixture.

What's Happening

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 Group

For hire of church hall contact
langbankcnl@gmail.com



Get Active Coaching sessions at **MUGA** 6.30 to 8.30pm every Wednesday. Open to all our young folks age 6 to 16.

Winter break—last session will be 17th Dec and will start back 7th Jan 2026.

DROP-IN CAFE

Once a month, the proceeds of the Drop-in Café are being donated to charity. In September, £84 was donated to Crossreach in Erskine, and Marie Curie received £75.70 in October. November's proceeds went to Clyde Presbytery's mission partners in Mwandia, where it will go towards the purchase of a lorry to transport goods throughout the region.

If you haven't popped into the café yet, please pay it a visit any Monday between 2pm and 4pm in the church hall. Everyone receives a very warm welcome.

A FRIEND

A friend is someone we turn to when our spirits need a lift.

A friend is someone we treasure, for friendship is a gift.

A friend is someone who fills our lives with beauty, joy and grace.

A friend makes the world we live in, a better and happier place.



2026 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun Jan 18- 50/50 Prom; The Higham Quartet
- 2.30pm in the church.

Fri Jan 23 - Family Bingo Night in the Village Hall
- 7.30pm

Sun Feb 1 - Communion – 9.45am

Sun Feb 8 - 50/50 Prom; Peter Christie's organ recital
- 2.30pm in the church

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.

Please keep up to date with information on the Community FB page and website. Community Council email is info@langbank-community.com

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

For more details or hall hire see the Village Hall FB page or contact

langbankvillagehall@gmail.com



FINAL FLING CAROL SING

The congregation has been invited to suggest favourite Christmas hymns for the Final Fling Carol Sing to be held during Sunday morning service on 28th December. Come along and join in the marathon sing! It's the last chance you'll have to join in the festive hymns until next December!

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