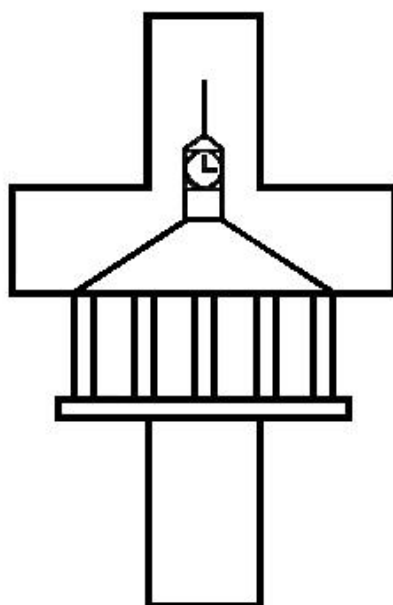


# CHALLENGE

## **Bridgeton St Francis-in-the-East Church of Scotland Parish Magazine**



**Let us rise up and build**

Church: 26 Queen Mary Street, Glasgow, G40 3BB  
Tel: 0141 556 2830

Interim Moderator: Rev Robert Silver

Locum: Mrs Lynne Robertson

Session Clerk: Mrs Barbara Jennings

[bridgetonstfrancis.wixsite.com/church](http://bridgetonstfrancis.wixsite.com/church)

[Facebook.com/bridgetonstfrancis](https://www.facebook.com/bridgetonstfrancis)

[Twitter.com/bridgetonchurch](https://twitter.com/bridgetonchurch)

Scottish Charity SC012535

**AUTUMN 2025**

# *Message from our Interim Moderator*

## A NEW THING FROM GOD SPRINGS UP

'The Quiet Revival' is a survey commissioned by the Bible Society and conducted by YouGov in England and Wales. It is believed the results of this survey would be similar in Scotland. Key findings are as follows:

- From 2018-2024 the number of 18-24-year-olds attending church at least monthly rose from 4% to 16% (the figures for young men have gone from 4%-21%)
- Men (13%) are more likely to attend church than women (10%) reversing a standard view
- 19% of churchgoers are from an ethnic minority
- Nearly 50% of young Black people aged 18-34 attend church at least monthly
- Overall churchgoing population has increased from 8%-12% (2018-24 ie from 3.7m-5.8m)
- Some publishers report an 87% increase in bible sales from 2019-24

God is moving by His Spirit in the life of the UK, and this should give us hope. Parts of the church are in decline but there is measure of renewal happening at the same time, as God reforms his church and brings fresh growth and life.

We give thanks for those who have kept the flame burning and been faithful to what they have known. We are now to bend over backwards to accommodate younger generations who are seeking the truth, that they might find the Lord in contexts that are relevant to them. Christians of many years standing can be like mothers and fathers to the upcoming generations – preparing to pass on knowledge and experience.

'Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it?' (Isaiah 43:18-19)

All this should encourage us to pray with fresh hope and fervour. Our speech, which is the overflow of our heart, can declare God's truth and promises. We can work with God, listening for

His still small voice. We frame the future with God for surely he will have a Bride fit for His Son.

God bless you.

- *Robert Silver* (Interim Moderator)

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## **CAUSEWAY TOLLCROSS - LINKAGE**

The members of Bridgeton St Francis in the East voted unanimously to approve the linkage with Causeway Tollcross Church and accepting Rev. Monica Michelin-Salomon as our new minister.

Unfortunately at the time of printing this magazine we are still waiting on a date from presbytery for the service of linkage.

Once we are linked our Sunday services will be at 10.30am.

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## **UNITARY CONSTITUTION**

A congregational vote took place on Sunday 22 June regarding adopting the unitary constitution. The vote was unanimous in favour of changing to the unitary constitution. This has also been approved by presbytery. Therefore the Congregational Board was disbanded as of Sunday 22 June. All financial and fabric matters have reverted back to the responsibility of the Kirk Session. Our elder will be trustees; Congregational Board members are no longer charity trustees.

We would like to thank all members who have served diligently on the board over many years. Particularly Betty Arbuckle, Sadie Barr, Robert Humphries and May Livingstone for their exceptionally long service as board members, Rita McKenna for her long service as Clerk to the Board and Una McGhie for serving as minute secretary these last 5 years. The Church of Scotland have acknowledged their long service, with certificates signed by the moderator; they were presented with them on Sunday 31 August.

■ Barbara Jennings  
(Session Clerk)

# ROLL KEEPERS REPORT



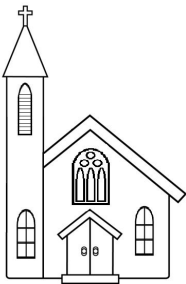
We have 53 members on the church roll.

At the June Communion 29 members communicated.

- *Betty Glassford*  
(Roll Keeper)

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## CONGREGATION NEWS



Communion Service – **Sunday 26 October**

Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Sandra McKenna on 30 July.

Happy 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Rita McKenna on 10 August.

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## CHURCH CAFE & CHARITY SHOP

**Every Wednesday 10.30am to 12.30pm**



Everyone is welcome to come along to either the café or shop, it doesn't matter if you come to church or not, these events are for the whole community.

The charity shop is in the upper hall, feel free to have a browse anytime you are in the church.

Thank you for all the donations to the charity shop. Items go out as fast as they come in – so please keep us in mind if you are having a clear out. Donations of goods can be left in the upper hall at any time. Clothes are always in demand and right now we have very little household items. We could also use more **coat hangers** if you have any spare. Thank you 😊

If you would like to help at the café or shop please speak to Edith, Sharon, Stuart or Barbara.

# *Message from our Locum*

Dear Friends,

## **Endings and Beginnings**

I've been with you for just over a year and what a year it's been for all of us. I've moved house to Motherwell, a number of you have been ill and a few landed in hospital. There have been good times and bad times, happy times and sad times. Through it all we have supported each other. I've never known such support and especially prayerful support.

Now you are preparing to go into a linkage with Causeway church and I'm preparing to work in a new Presbytery. The crucifixion marked the end of Jesus' earthly life but it was followed by His resurrection three days later, ending and beginning coming hand in hand. Endings are sad but they are followed by a beginning which is positive. We go forward in faith into a new beginning for all of us and I hope and pray that you will support Monica as much as you have supported me.

Blessings

*Lynne Robertson*

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## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

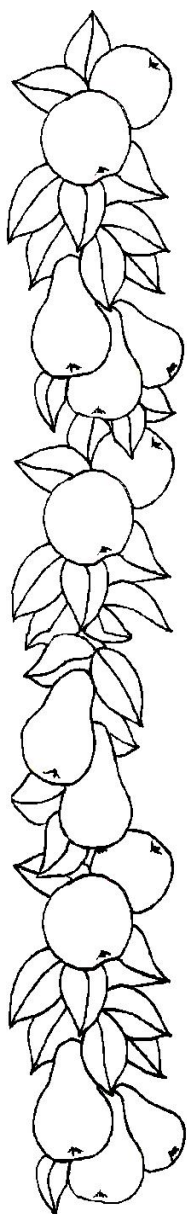
Our Remembrance Service will start at **10.50am\*** on **Sunday 9 November**, so we can mark the 2-minute silence at 11am.

\*If the linkage with Causeway has started by Remembrance Sunday, the service will be at 10.30am as usual.

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Find out what's going on at **Causeway Church** at [facebook.com/CausewayChurchTollcross](https://facebook.com/CausewayChurchTollcross)

# HARVEST 2025



Our Harvest Thanksgiving service will take place on **Sunday 12 October** at 11.00am (10.30am if the linkage with Causeway has started)

There will be two ways that you can give a harvest gift, either by putting a cash donation in a Lodging House Mission envelope or by bringing something for the harvest display.

Food donations will be distributed to those in our church who are housebound and to the Lodging House Mission and our Food Bank.

Non-perishable gifts for the harvest display that are most needed by LHM & FoodBank are tins (fruit, custard, rice pudding, baked beans & soup), biscuits, vegetable oil, bisto, veg stock cubes, diluting juice, sugar, tea & coffee.

The church will be open at 11am on Saturday 11 October to receive your harvest gifts and for setting up our harvest display. Please come along if you would like to help set out our display.

THANK YOU all in advance. Your generosity is much appreciated by the charities we support.

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## HARVEST PRAYER

"Dear God,

Thank you for the sunshine and the rain, which help crops to grow in the fields. Thank you for all the farmers who grow, look after and harvest the food that we eat. Thank you for all the adults who cook and provide us with food when we are hungry. We pray for children in the world today who are hungry. Please help us to play our part in making the world a fairer place for all. Amen."

## BIBLE READER ROTA

|        |                  |
|--------|------------------|
| 7 Sep  | Jim Gibson       |
| 14 Sep | May Livingstone  |
| 21 Sep | Oge Ndabai       |
| 28 Sep | Adam Collins     |
|        |                  |
| 5 Oct  | Edith Watt       |
| 12 Oct | Rita McKenna     |
| 19 Oct | Ugo Ndabai       |
| 26 Oct | Willie Arbuckle  |
|        |                  |
| 2 Nov  | Sadie Barr       |
| 9 Nov  | Sandra McKenna   |
| 16 Nov | Dkie Ndabai      |
| 23 Nov | Graham Collins   |
| 30 Nov | Robert Humphries |
|        |                  |
| 7 Dec  | Betty Arbuckle   |
| 14 Dec | Betty Glassford  |

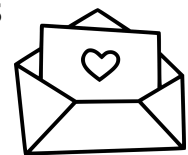


If you would like to join the rota for reading the Bible at our Sunday service please let Alan or Barbara know.

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## GREETINGS CARDS

There is a table in the church hall with greetings cards for all kinds of occasions – birthday, baby, anniversary, thank you, wedding, retirement. Some are handmade, but we also had a large donation of cards.



**All priced at 50p.**

Please have a look next time you are at church.

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*"For we walk by faith, not by sight."*

**2 Corinthians 5:7**

# CHURCH FINANCE

May I remind readers that our financial position in 2025 is being affected by two matters which are outwith our control. Firstly, our contributions to the Central Church and to Presbytery have increased by over 50% following the General Assembly's decision to change the basis of calculating what churches should pay. We have raised this issue with Presbytery but they have confirmed that they are not in a position to help as the issue has arisen as a result of a General Assembly decision which they are required to follow.

The second point affecting our financial position is that fact that in previous years we benefitted from an extremely generous donation from an anonymous donor. This source of income ended towards the end of 2024 hence affecting all of the finances of 2025 and beyond.

In addition to these two points, I note that general weekly income is lower than in previous years due I think to smaller attendances at morning worship. We should all remain grateful for the donations made but with an ageing membership there is perhaps an inevitability that it becomes harder and harder to keep income up to the very high standards experienced in Bridgeton in years gone by.

I have completed the accounts for the current year up to the end of July. This shows that there was a loss in the general account in the first seven months of the year of about £8,000. This is very much in line with what was anticipated at the beginning of the year.

Everyone should be aware that we have plenty of money in the bank to cover any expected losses for the whole year and beyond barring, of course, something totally unpredicted happening. Let us all hope and pray that nothing arises.

- *Duncan McGhie*  
(Treasurer)



# GUILD

Hope you all had a nice break. I warmly welcome you all back to the Guild on **Tuesday 2nd September**. Our new syllabus is out and you'll see we have quite a busy programme and a couple of quiet ones too. If anybody not in the Guild sees something they might be interested in please feel free to join us you will be very welcome.



2 Sep – Welcome Back  
9 Sep – Shaun (Churchy)  
23 Sep – Natter & Cake  
30 Sep – Erskine (Alison Sturgeon)

7 Oct – C.H.A.S. (Ben Morgan)  
14 Oct – Quiz  
21 Oct – Glasgow Bridges (John Broadfoot)  
28 Oct – Hallowe'en

4 Nov – Release International (Voice of Hope)  
11 Nov – Fish Supper Afternoon  
18 Nov – Alzheimer's (Kevin Black)  
25 Nov – Games Afternoon

2 Dec – Taste & Try

- Edith Watt



**Every Thursday 10.45am to 12.45pm**

The food bank continues to be busy on a Thursday. The team thank you for your support. Please continue to support us, all donations gratefully received.

- Betty Arbuckle

# FLOWERS

We would like to thank Rita McKenna for her decades of work arranging the church flowers and organising the flower fund. Rita has reluctantly decided it is now time to step back from flower arranging and we thank you for all your beautiful arrangements over the years. ♥

Going forward if there is anyone who would like to put flowers in the church, perhaps in memory of someone or an anniversary, etc., please speak to Sharon Miller.

Many thanks to all who contributed in any way to the church's Flower Fund. Your donations are always appreciated.

Donations are as follows:-

## JUNE

*"In Loving Memory of my dad Hugh"  
from Sandra McKenna*

*"In Loving Memory of my son William" from Sadie Barr*

*Flowers donated by May Cross*

## JULY

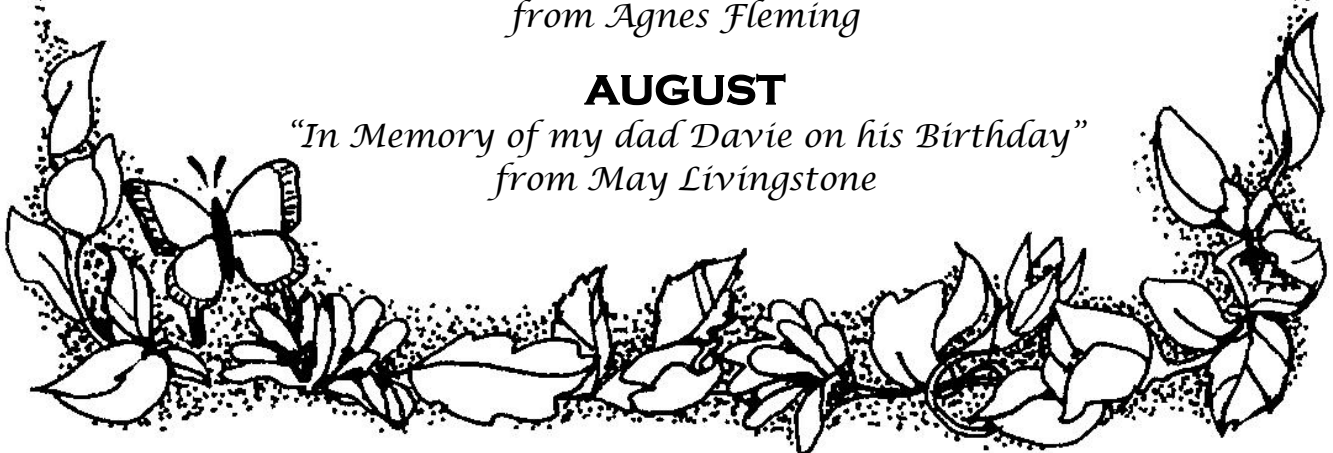
*"In Memory of my Husband Davie" from Betty Glassford*

*"In Memory of my Brother David" from Sadie Barr*

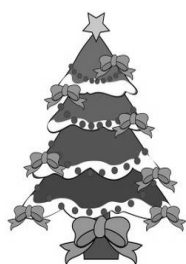
*"In Memory of my friends Brenda Bruce & Renee Gibson"  
from Agnes Fleming*

## AUGUST

*"In Memory of my dad Davie on his Birthday"  
from May Livingstone*



# CHRISTMAS FAIR



Our Christmas Fair will be on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November** from 11.00am till 1.00pm. Any donations will be greatly appreciated - home baking, books, gifts, bric-a-brac, bags, jewellery, toys, Christmas decorations, etc. We will be having a tombola as usual, so any suitable prizes would be very welcome.

Donations for the Christmas Fair can be left in the billiard room, please leave a note on it so it doesn't get mixed up with the stuff for the upper hall.

We are also looking for some helpers to set up the stalls on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November from 9.30am and volunteers to "man" the stalls on the Saturday. Please see Sharon Miller or Barbara Jennings for any further information.

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## LIFE & WORK MAGAZINE

Sadly the Church of Scotland's magazine Life & Work will no longer be published. The August 2025 edition will be the final issue.

For over 140 years, Life and Work magazine was the voice of the Church of Scotland. Firmly rooted in the affairs of the Kirk, it covered a broad range of subjects from international affairs and British political and social issues to science, ethics, and the arts, offering a forum for views on current social and moral issues; a monthly meditation; articles on the spiritual side of life; reviews of Christian resources; and features on the Church.

At the General Assembly in May 2025, the Church made the decision to end the publication of the magazine.

The final edition is available for free on the Church of Scotland website. If you had a subscription to Life & Work you will receive a refund in due course.

# CHRISTIAN AID



Thank you to everyone for their support during Christian Aid week and ongoing fundraising. The total raised this year was over £1000. Well done for all your efforts.

- Edith Watt

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## DOOR DUTY ROTA

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| 7 Sep  | Sadie Barr, Nancy Humphries & Robert Humphries |
| 14 Sep | Jim Gibson, Betty Glassford & May Livingstone  |
| 21 Sep | Rita McKenna, Sandra McKenna & Margaret Miller |
| 28 Sep | Betty Arbuckle, Graham Collins & Edith Watt    |
| 5 Oct  | Sadie Barr, Nancy Humphries & Robert Humphries |
| 12 Oct | Jim Gibson, Betty Glassford & May Livingstone  |
| 19 Oct | Rita McKenna, Sandra McKenna & Margaret Miller |
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| 16 Nov | Betty Arbuckle, Graham Collins & Edith Watt    |
| 23 Nov | Sadie Barr, Nancy Humphries & Robert Humphries |
| 30 Nov | Rita McKenna, Sandra McKenna & Margaret Miller |
| 7 Dec  | Jim Gibson, Betty Glassford & May Livingstone  |
| 14 Dec | Rita McKenna, Sandra McKenna & Margaret Miller |

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## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

This year's coffee morning will take place **Sunday 21st September 2025** after the church service. If you can, please join us and support the wonderful work of MacMillan, who not only take care of end of life care, but can help financially, along with a very valuable helpline for patients and their families. Please donate what you can, and help a very worthwhile cause.

**THANK YOU**

- Jackie Hughes



## **LHM UPDATE**

### **LHM HARVEST APPEAL**

Can you believe harvest time is not that far away!! If you would like to donate goods for LHM Store Cupboard, please see the notice board. Please pay particular attention to the items marked with the \* as these items are critically very low and some items such as beans, tinned fruit, tinned meats and diluting juice are having to be purchased on a weekly basis. If you feel carrying these items is difficult, then if you can please make a donation in one of LHM Envelopes. THANK YOU for your continued donations to help feed around 130 visitors a day with breakfast and a hot lunch 5 days a week.

### **LHM HOMELESSNESS SERVICE**

LHM Homelessness Service will take place at LHM, 35 East Campbell Street on **Thursday 9th October 2025** at 7pm. The service will be led by Rt. Rev. Rosie Frew, who is the Moderator of the Church of Scotland General Assembly.

### **LHM CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

I apologise for mentioning the "C" word, but if you would like to donate gloves, scarves, boxers, or socks, it is an opportunity perhaps over the next few months to purchase some of the above. THANK YOU

Once again THANK YOU for donating to the LHM APPEAL over these past few months, especially with vital items needed for the LHM Store Cupboard and for your donations in LHM Envelopes and a special THANK YOU from LHM Staff and the visitors who visit LHM on a daily basis. Without our help LHM would not be able to provide feed 130 visitors with breakfasts and hot food.

- Jackie Hughes  
(LHM Rep)

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*"So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest."*

**Galatians 6:9**

# NOTICEBOARD

If you would like to be added to the rota of **BIBLE READERS** at our Sunday service - please let Alan know.

Please remember to look at our table of **FREE LITERATURE** near the front door of the church and take from it anything you want.

Remember to keep looking at our church **NOTICEBOARDS** for events and information

If you would like to view recordings of our services please go to our **YOUTUBE CHANNEL:**  
[youtube.com/@bridgetonstfrancis](https://youtube.com/@bridgetonstfrancis)

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all who donate tea and coffee for the Tea Room/Café. It is greatly appreciated.

Visit our **FACEBOOK PAGE** at:  
[facebook.com/bridgetonstfrancis](https://facebook.com/bridgetonstfrancis)

There is a **SUGGESTION BOX** on the table at the front door of the church. All suggestions will be carefully considered.

It would be very much appreciated if more people were able to assist with the **CHURCH CLEANING**. Cleaning is currently carried out in Thursdays from 1.30pm onwards. Further information from May Livingstone or Alan Brown, at [bridgetonstfrancis@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetonstfrancis@gmail.com) or 07710 532 711.

Collection box for **USED STAMPS & OLD/FOREIGN COINS** for RNIB is located in the church kitchen.

Visit our **WEBSITE** at:  
[bridgetonstfrancis.wixsite.com/church](https://bridgetonstfrancis.wixsite.com/church)  
or scan the QR code below:



# WEEKLY EVENTS

## EVERY SUNDAY

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Church Service | 11.00am |
|----------------|---------|

## EVERY TUESDAY

|       |        |
|-------|--------|
| Guild | 1.30pm |
|-------|--------|

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Church Café  | 10.30am-12.30pm |
| Charity Shop | 10.30am-12.30pm |

## EVERY THURSDAY

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Food Bank | 10.45am-12.45pm |
|-----------|-----------------|

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## SEPTEMBER

|    |                                   |                       |
|----|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4  | Kirk Session                      | 1.30pm                |
| 7  | Guest Preacher (Barbara Drummond) | 11.00am               |
| 14 | Guild Week Service                | 11.00am               |
| 21 | MacMillan Coffee Morning          | after 11.00am service |

## OCTOBER

|    |                              |         |
|----|------------------------------|---------|
| 12 | Harvest Thanksgiving Service | 11.00am |
| 26 | Communion Service            | 11.00am |

## NOVEMBER

|    |                    |                |
|----|--------------------|----------------|
| 9  | Remembrance Sunday | 10.50am        |
| 22 | Christmas Fair     | 11.00am-1.00pm |

Anyone wishing to submit material for the magazine should either hand it to Barbara Jennings or email to:

[barbara.jennings1@ntlworld.com](mailto:barbara.jennings1@ntlworld.com)

The deadline for the Winter 2025 magazine will be

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025**

If you would like to go paperless and receive a digital copy of our magazine, please email Alan in our church office:

[bridgetonstfrancis@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetonstfrancis@gmail.com)