

Williamwood Parish Church Newsletter December 2024



A Christmas Message from our locum minister

As we approach the season of Christmas, our hearts turn once again to the timeless story of God's love revealed in the birth of Jesus Christ. The season reminds us of a light that shines in the darkness, a hope that cannot be extinguished, and a peace that surpasses all understanding.

For many, Christmas is a time of celebration and togetherness, filled with joy and anticipation. For others, it may bring moments of reflection, perhaps even sadness or longing. Yet, in every circumstance, the message of Christmas speaks to us all: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people" (Luke 2:10).

As your Locum Minister, albeit for a short time, I have been privileged to walk alongside you. I've witnessed the warmth, faith, and care that embody the spirit of Christ's Church. Whether through worship, outreach, or quiet acts of kindness, your commitment to living out the gospel is a testament to the enduring power of God's love.

As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, let us remember that the gift of Christ calls us to share His light with others. In a world still yearning for healing and reconciliation, we are called to be bearers of hope and peace, not just during this season but in all seasons of life.

May this Christmas be a time of renewal for us as individuals and as a church family. Let us come to the manger with open hearts, ready to receive the gift of God's presence and to share that gift with the world around us.

May the peace, joy, and hope of Christ fill your homes and hearts this Christmas and always.

**With every blessing,
Paul
Locum Minister**

CONGREGATIONAL ROLL

Deaths

June 2024 Roy Hall, late of Braidholme Crescent.
November 2024 Jane Wilson, late of Vardar Avenue.
November 2024 Elizabeth Cairnie, late of Aidan's Brae.

COFFEE AT ROUKEN GLEN



The next get-together at Rouken Glen Garden Centre will be on Tuesday 3rd December at 10.30 am. As usual, all are welcome, so come along for an hour or so of fellowship and chat. No need to book.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Williamwood Church Christmas Services 2024

Sunday 1st December at 11am - Holy Communion
and the 1st Sunday of Advent (HOPE)

Sunday 8th December - 2nd Sunday of Advent (PEACE)

Thursday 12th December at 10.45am - Toddlers/Nursery Service

Sunday 15th December 3rd Sunday of Advent (JOY)

Sunday 22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent (LOVE)

Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve 6.30pm Service, will be
inside the Church this year.

No Christmas Day Service

Special Christmas retiring collections
this year will go to
Christian Aid
and
Lodging House Mission

THE GUILD

We started our November meetings on a high note. Four of our members were presented with Church of Scotland Guild Long Service Certificates.

Margaret Robertson 34 years Ethel Campbell 33 years
Margo King 31 years Jean Reid 31 years.

The certificates were presented by Forbes Barron, who was visiting us as our Kirk Session Elder.



Our speaker on that Monday was Paul Algeo from Blythwood Care. We had a most interesting afternoon hearing about the work Blythwood Care do in many different parts of the world.

On the 18th November we had Russell McMillan from East Renfrewshire Good Causes. It was amazing to hear about the wonderful work done by ERGC. In the 17 years they have been in existence they have helped 8,380 people to a total value of £2,300,753.

In December we are having our Holy Beetle Drive on Monday 2nd at 2pm in the Session House. Please come along and join in an afternoon of fun, and fellowship. Monday 16th December is our Christmas Lunch at the Eglinton Arms Hotel in Eaglesham. If anyone would like to join us I would need to know by Sunday 8th December at the latest.

Our syllabus for January to March is as follows:

January 6 th	In house Quiz	
January 20 th	Dementia Dog	Anne Rankin
February 3 rd	Scottish Afternoon	Jim Purvis
February 17 th	Toledo Cinema & other short films	Tom Marchant
March 3 rd	Guild Project The Scottish Bible Society	Bibles for Bairns
March 17 th	Evacuee's Story	Anna Magnusson
March 31 st	AGM	

We would be pleased to see both ladies and gentlemen at any of the meetings that would interest you.

Evelyn Graham, Guild Convener

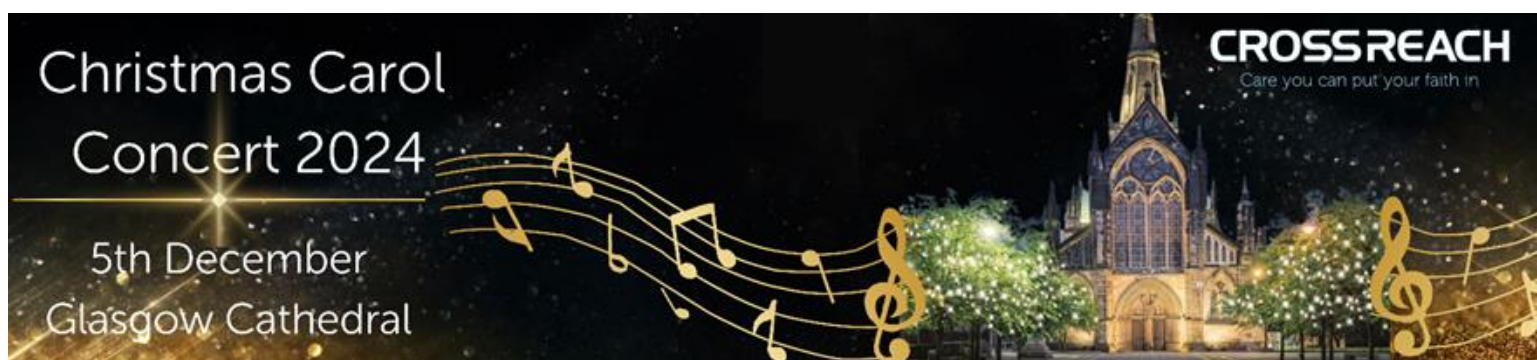
CROSSREACH

Crossreach Christmas Carol Celebration, takes place on **Thursday 5th December 2024** at the beautiful **Glasgow Cathedral**.

Get into the holiday spirit with heartwarming performances from a variety of choirs, inspiring stories from those we support and help us celebrate the incredible work of our CrossReach services, while raising vital funds to continue supporting people all across Scotland.

Doors open at 18:30 where you will be greeted with the incredible artwork from our Heart for Art groups, giving people with dementia a beautiful way to express themselves.

Visit www.crossreach.org.uk/christmas-carols or scan the QR code below to get your tickets.





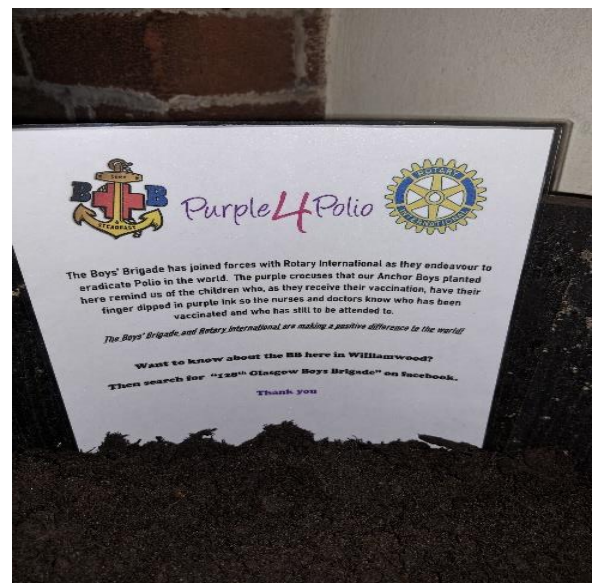
THE BOYS' BRIGADE – UPDATE NOVEMBER 2024

Apologies for not sending updates for inclusion in the Church Newsletter, not sure where the time has gone, and possibly got out of the habit of doing these things. The BB, as you may have seen at the recent Remembrance Service has seen a drop in numbers, especially at the older age group. However, we are enthused to have a good number in the younger Anchor Boys and Junior Section which gives us encouragement for the future. New members are always welcome, so if you know of any boys in the local area, or beyond, of school age, please tell them that The Boys' Brigade in Williamwood is something they should enquire about.

The purpose of this article is to inform the congregation of a joint initiative that the wider BB (UK and Ireland) is working on to support Rotary International. As many of you may recall, our former Captain and Honorary Captain, the late Alistair K Denholm, was an active member of this organisation, one of many good causes that he supported. It was therefore fitting that the 128th got involved with this. Rotary International have been working hard to eradicate Polio, and since they started this project in the 1985, they have achieved this in 123 countries where it was endemic. There are now only two countries left (with the noted odd case that appears due to migration in the troubles), Pakistan and Afghanistan, where Polio is classed as endemic, and Rotary International is endeavouring to make Polio the second human disease that man has been able to eradicate from the world! Polio mainly affects children under the age of 5, but the consequences will affect the rest of that person's life. For the sake of a 20p immunisation, their "Purple 4 Polio" campaign will potentially improve the life of over 2.5 billion children globally who have already been immunised.

So why 'Purple'? When the children come to be immunised, the nurses dip their pinky finger in purple ink, so they can know who has been immunised that day, ensuring they don't get a second dose, and that those who are still to receive the vaccine do so. If you are entering the Church Halls you will now see a new planter to the left of the door (pics attached) that our Anchor Boys have planted crocus bulbs in, on the understanding that these will all be purple and in the spring time we will be able to see the flowers bloom and remember why we planted them in support of this worthwhile cause. The 128th has also raised over £100 to donate to this campaign. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is helping with 2-to-1 donation matching, so this donation will be worth over £300 to Rotary International. This is effectively in excess of 1500 immunisations that we will be providing for children.

Mark Gordon
Company Captain



FLOWER CALENDAR

A big thank you to those listed below who are providing the flowers in the Church over the next two months.

They are greatly appreciated by those in the Church and those who receive them after the service on Sunday.

The Flower calendar for 2025 will be put up in the vestibule some time in December.

If you would like to donate flowers for the chancel, please add your name to the 2025 calendar at the church vestibule or contact Jean Little. Thank you.



December	
1 st	Ross Johnstone
8 th	Margo King
15 th	
22 nd	Lorna Goudie
29 th	

THANK YOU FROM PAM COCHRANE

Thank you very much to the flower committee and congregation for all the beautiful flowers I have received. They have really cheered me up and I hope one day to be back with you all.
Pam Cochrane.

The next newsletter is due in February. Any articles should be with Evelyn Wallace by Wednesday 25th January 2025.
CHURCH CONTACTS & INFORMATION

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Hall Lets: Fiona Gunning	Director of Music: Diego Rodriguez
Guild Contact Person: Evelyn Graham	Flower Convener: Jean Little

