

# Williamwood Parish Church Newsletter February 2025



Dear Members and Friends of Williamwood Parish Church,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we journey together through this season of change and uncertainty, I want to take a moment to encourage you to remain steadfast in your faith and in your commitment to the life and work of our church.

We are all aware of the challenges that lie ahead as we face an unknown future. It is natural to feel unsettled, but we must also remember that the church is not just a building or an institution—it is a community of people bound together by faith, hope, and love. Our strength lies in our unity, our worship, and our willingness to serve one another and the wider world in Christ's name.

Now, more than ever, your participation is vital. Whether through attending worship, engaging in prayer, supporting the work of the church, or simply offering encouragement to those around you, every act of faithfulness helps to sustain and strengthen our congregation.

I urge you to continue playing your part—to be present, to pray, and to serve with joy. Let us not be discouraged, but rather trust that God is leading us, even when the path is unclear. The future may be uncertain, but our calling remains the same: to love God, love one another, and bear witness to His grace in all that we do. Please know that your presence and contributions—whether large or small—make a difference. Together, we will continue to be a beacon of faith and hope in our community. May God bless you and keep you.

Yours in Christ, Paul  
Locum Minister

Happy New Year to one and all.....

Holy Communion will take place on the 2nd March. We use Gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic wine. All are welcome at his table. Thank you to Carol Ferguson for preparing tablecloths. *Margaret Robertson, Session Clerk.*

If anyone would like a visit from the minister, please advise the session clerk.

## **Update from Forbes Barron, Property Convenor.**

Property wise, the 'baton' as Convener has passed on from Stuart Young to Forbes Barron and Douglas Goudie (Vice Convener). The reconfigured and refreshed Property Team (Forbes, Douglas, Stuart and David Ratcliffe as well as input at the church from Wally Black and Tony Drysdale (plus any volunteers please..!)) are busy finalising the arrangements for completion of the upgrade of all electrical installations in the Church, halls and annex.

As a church, we have already completed around half the works, and the remaining works have been facilitated by a grant of £21,997.50 from the East Renfrewshire Renewable Energy Fund. (87.5% of the cost of works remaining) allowing the very welcome completion and upgrade. This major grant came after an excellent team effort from a small number of office bearers over the past six months to obtain this external funding and now allows the completion of the comprehensive upgrade.

The East Renfrewshire Renewable Energy Fund aims to help projects that benefit East Renfrewshire communities. The money comes from renewable energy projects in East Renfrewshire. East Renfrewshire Council run the fund with contributions from:

- Scottish Power Renewables
- Whitelee Windfarm
- Middleton Windfarm

The boilers have just had their annual service and we have managed through the good services of Wally Black to 'nurse' a condensate pipe issue and small leak (now resolved) so that users have experienced no loss of heat during a particularly recent cold spell of weather.

We continue with putting in place arrangements to allow us to rent out the vacant manse, following approval from Glasgow Presbytery for the rental. Arrangements are in place during the current vacancy to manage the property and its continued insurance. Trees at the rear of the manse which are overgrown and dead will also be shortly removed to avoid issues and the upcoming bird nesting season.

## **COFFEE AT ROUKEN GLEN**

The next get-together at Rouken Glen Garden Centre will be on Tuesday 4th February 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.



# URGENT APPEAL

This is an urgent appeal to everyone who would like to see coffee after church continuing in 2025.

As many of you will be aware there are often Sundays where we are not able to provide tea and coffee after Church. This is because there are not as many people able to help serve out.



This is such an important part of fellowship in Williamwood, so we have decided to try to look at different ways that we could provide this more regularly.

**Please come along** to an informal meeting in the Session House to discuss how we can move forward, and how you can help out in any way, to keep this going.

The meeting will be on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm**, and will only be for an hour. We hope to welcome as many people as possible (those who already help out as well as any new faces).

Thanks,  
*Aileen Montgomery and Joan Black*

## Events

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Stall at the Fayre. We are taking a bit of a break for this year and will be having an Unwanted Gift stall in 2025. If you received any gifts at Christmas which you don't think you need or want, please consider donating them to the stall. Or, keep us in mind over the course of the year if you receive anything then which you would like to pass on. You can donate them anytime and we can store the items for you. Please contact Mary Montgomery, Lesley or Aileen. Thank you.



## Christian Aid Art Exhibition & Sale

Over the years a number of the congregation have either helped at or attended this event, which we have always appreciated. This is just to let everyone know that there is no Art Show this year but there is a good chance it will return in 2026. *Anne Clark & Ross McGhee, Christian Aid Representatives*

## 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.

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.



February		March	
2 <sup>nd</sup>		2 <sup>nd</sup>	
9 <sup>th</sup>		9 <sup>th</sup>	Kathy Craig
16 <sup>h</sup>	Jean Little	16 <sup>th</sup>	Lynne Mitchell
23 <sup>rd</sup>		23 <sup>rd</sup>	Irene Russell
		30 <sup>th</sup>	

## GUILD

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Belated Happy New Year wishes to everyone from the Guild.

The Guild ladies and friends had a very enjoyable Christmas lunch at the Eglinton Arms Hotel in Eaglesham on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Unfortunately due to wintry weather conditions we had to cancel our meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed our meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January when Anne Rankin brought Uno, her late husband's Dementia trained dog. Uno was very keen to meet all of us! Anne gave us a most interesting insight into the training of the dogs.

Our syllabus for February and March is as follows:

February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Scottish Afternoon	Jim Purvis
February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Toledo Cinema & other short films Tom Marchant	
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Guild Project	The Scottish Bible Society Bibles for Bairsn
Friday March 7 <sup>th</sup>	World Day of Prayer	St Joseph's Church
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Evacuee's Story	Anna Magnusson
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	AGM	

As always, if any of the items on our syllabus appeal to you we would be most pleased to see you. Ladies or gentlemen please feel free to come along to any of our meetings. We meet in the Session House at 2pm. *Evelyn Graham, Guild Convener*

## **BROWNIES**

Between the School October Break and the Christmas holidays we were very busy at our Wednesday evening meetings. We enrolled our new recruits at the end of October and continued to work on the Mindfulness Interest Badge, Skills Builders and Unit Meeting Activities for the theme 'Be Well'. Only regular attendees can gain a theme award, as they must complete the required elements at our meetings on a Wednesday evening. We were delighted to present 18 girls with their 'Be Well' theme badge at the end of November, which allowed the majority of our 8 to 9 year olds to gain their Bronze Brownie Award, with a few of the 9 year olds gaining their Silver Brownie Award. An amazing achievement!

We were delighted by the behaviour of the 9 Brownies who came along to the Remembrance Service on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> November and by the enthusiasm of the 6 Brownies who did 'Guess the Teddy bear's Birthday' at the Church Christmas Fair. Thank you to their parents/carers for supporting us!

We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Eastwood Theatre at the start of December to see our very own 'Abbie' starring in Jack and the Beanstalk. Abbie was amazing!!

We finished off our work for the Charities interest badge on the 11<sup>th</sup> December with a Christmas Dance-a-thon for our chosen charity: The Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity. All the girls danced for an hour and made a small donation. We raised £185!!!!



## **FUTURE DATES**

18 April	Good Friday
19 April	Holy Saturday
20 April	Easter Sunday or Easter Day
21 April	Easter Monday

Laura Gunning of Wildflower Wellbeing has been holding baby massage classes in the session house on a Tuesday morning for up to 9 mums/dads and babies. Baby massage helps if the baby has colic, constipation, restlessness, poor sleep and digestion problems. It helps the parent to bond with the baby and with communication and confidence. They receive a bottle of massage oil and a certificate at the end of the 5 week course.



**Any articles for the March newsletter should be with Evelyn Wallace by Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

**If anyone would like a large print copy of the Newsletter, speak to Evelyn Wallace, Joan Black or Aileen Cherry.**

## A SENIOR'S VERSION OF FACEBOOK

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot comprehend why Facebook exists, I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles.

Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom.

I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch and doing what anybody and everybody does every day.

I also listen to their conversations, give them a “thumbs up” and tell them I “like them”. And it works just like Facebook.



I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

**HA HA HA**

## CHURCH CONTACTS & INFORMATION

**Session Clerk - Margaret Robertson** Telephone: 07778148181

**E-mail:** margarectrobertson@gmail.com

**Deputy Session Clerk: Stuart Young** 0141 577 5707

**Website:** www.new.williamwoodparish.church

**Clerk:** Forbes Barron 0141 638 7408

**Treasurer:** Grant Keyes 01355 220033

<b>Safeguarding Contact:</b> Neil Little	<b>News Bulletin:</b> Evelyn Wallace
<b>Web Page:</b> Editor: Joan Black	<b>Facebook:</b> Lorna Barsanti
<b>Sunday School:</b> Maureen McCulloch	<b>Media Team:</b> David Liddell
	<b>Data Protection:</b>
	<b>Roll Keeper:</b>
<b>Hall Lets:</b> Fiona Gunning	<b>Director of Music:</b> Diego Rodriguez
<b>Guild Contact Person:</b> Evelyn Graham	<b>Flower Convener:</b> Jean Little