



**Cumbernauld Old  
Parish Church**  
Newsletter – May 2022



**HOPE IN THE MIDST OF DESPAIR**

AND I WILL TRUST IN YOU ALONE,  
AND I WILL TRUST IN YOU ALONE,  
FOR YOUR ENDLESS MERCY FOLLOWS ME,  
YOUR GOODNESS WILL LEAD ME HOME.

On Sunday 8th May, we celebrated the long service and dedication of six elders who have given so much of their time, talents and money to the work of Christ's Kingdom and, in particular, Cumbernauld Old Parish Church. You can find their photograph in this magazine.

We thank God for these servants and are inspired to serve like them. Sometimes, though, it can be hard. Hard to keep going with church; difficult to see the vision in it all; challenging to keep up the energy: tough to be enthusiastic.

The Church of Scotland is facing formidable challenges in 2022. Change is essential but the process is onerous – and hugely concerning for those at the frontline. like our deacon Val, and the many ministers you know. It is also very concerning for you, the people who love and serve the local church.

Let's remember. though, on Sunday 8th May, we also thought about Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who will never abandon us. His goodness will lead us home. Nothing in this process of change is going to take the Lord by surprise. The Kingdom of God is not under threat. What we need to do is listen for His voice and His leading. In the midst of all the discussions and the airing of opinions. what is Jesus asking YOU to do? What is Jesus asking US to be? Where can we see evidence of Jesus at work? How open are we to the things in which Jesus is calling us?

Personally, you might be finding life really hard just now – illness, loneliness, uncertainty, grief, fear, addiction, hopelessness, weariness, busyness, and so much more. None of us is immune to these things, but all of us can know the comfort and companionship of the Good Shepherd carrying us through them.

Psalm 23 is well known and loved by many. We sang a new setting of it on the 8th May – you may have been there, you may have watched online... here is a link to the song on YouTube. May it bring to you, as it so often brings to me, hope in the midst of despair.

Your friend and (interim!) minister

<https://youtu.be/-eIQQayhpak>

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.  
***And I will trust in You alone,  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.***

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know.

Stuart Townend Copyright © 1996 Thankyou Music

The Church of Scotland is in the process of reviewing its mission. This has been prompted by a shortage of ministers, a surplus of buildings and the need to find new expressions of church.

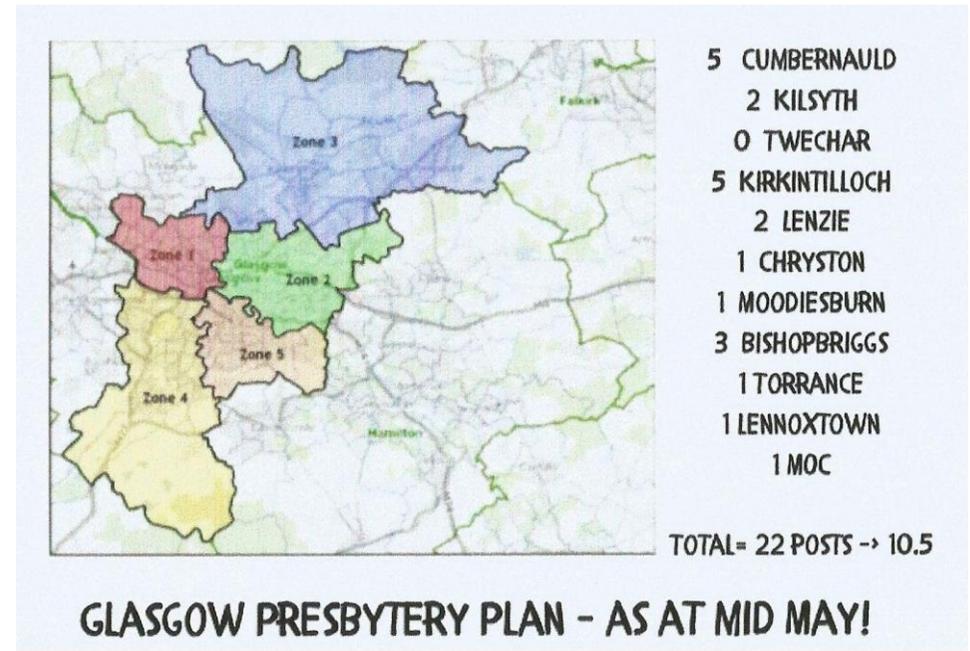
Every congregation is being asked to evaluate their buildings, their activities and their impact on the local community.

The principal benchmark for this evaluation is mission. If what we do is not deliberately about making Jesus known and encouraging people to follow, then why are we doing it?

Along with every other congregation, we are looking at the Five Marks of Mission.

Where are we doing well? Where is there room for growth? Are there things we need to stop? Would our community notice if the church closed?

You can add your voice to this process by speaking to Caroline Edwardson.



Cumbernauld Old is in Zone 3 of Glasgow Presbytery.

You will see from the information above that the total number of ministry posts needs to be more than halved. Each congregation is being asked to 'cluster' with neighbours and so we are working alongside Moodiesburn and the other churches in Cumbernauld to come up with a Mission Plan. This needs to be done by the end of June. As yet, we don't know how many of the 10.5 posts will be allocated to our cluster, nor how many will be deacons / ministers.

Please do pray for those involved in the discussions, for those whose futures are uncertain and let's hope that MISSION really is the driving force behind every decision that is made.

## Mission in Action

The Mission In Action group has continued to meet and plan for the future of Cumbernauld Old. As you know, Cumbernauld Old is now part of the Presbytery of Glasgow. We have been tasked with creating a mission plan in collaboration with other local churches. This plan will help to direct the mission tasks that we undertake in the coming 5 years. To help us with the creation of the local mission plan, we have been asked to consider what we are currently doing with reference to the 5 Marks of Mission – Tell, Teach, Tend, Treasure, Transform.

The Kirk Session and the Mission In Action group have been discussing how we, as a church family, reach out into our community and the wider world to address the 5 Marks of Mission. The Mission In Action group has also considered what we would like to do in the future to realise fully the mission statement of Cumbernauld Old Parish Church:

**“Cumbernauld Old Parish Church aims to be an inclusive family of God, where all are welcome and everyone is valued and involved. We aim to play an active part in the communities we serve, reaching out with the love and joy of Jesus Christ”**

Here are some of the things we are already doing at Cumbernauld Old that are helping us to serve our local community and the world beyond Cumbernauld – Sunday worship, pastoral visits, Foodbank donations, Fairtrade events, Christian Aid fundraising, Toilet Twinning, prayer chain. As you can see, we have already established a good foundation on which we can build, as we plan for our future as an active church within Glasgow Presbytery.

To help the Elders to stay in touch with these developments and to provide an opportunity for meaningful fellowship, the Mission In Action group organised a second coffee event at Caulders on 19<sup>th</sup> April. Once again, this was a very enjoyable occasion, providing a chance to chat, to reconnect, to think about what we are already doing, and to consider what we would like to do in the future to reach out in mission as a church family.

Please keep the Mission In Action group in your prayers as we work together and with others in our local church cluster group to create a meaningful and effective mission plan.

Thank you – the Mission In Action group



## Fairtrade

Fairtrade continues to be an important aspect of life at Cumbernauld Old.

Our monthly Fairtrade Shopping List has had a successful start and the Fairtrade group would encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to order from a selection of ethically-traded goods. These will be collected from Gavin's Mill in Milngavie and will be available for you to uplift on the last Sunday of each month.

The Shopping List is available in the basket in the church vestibule and on the church website. Each order supports our status as a Fairtrade Church and, more importantly, the livelihood of farmers across the world who benefit from the work of the Fairtrade Foundation. Many of these producers are facing extreme difficulties including the injustice of climate change.

Your choice to buy Fairtrade goods makes an incredible difference to the lives of people living and working in the world's poorest communities.

In April, the Fairtrade group, ran a stall at an Easter Egg Hunt in the Manse grounds. We were kindly invited to participate in this event by the organisers from the Wellness Cottage. It was a great opportunity to share the Fairtrade message and encourage others to make a difference by choosing ethically-traded goods.

Thank you for your continued support.  
The Fairtrade Group



## Fundraising Update

The fundraising team would like to thank everyone who helped us to raise a grand total of £868.60 from sales of Easter cards and crafts with all those knitted crotchet and crafted items filled with a variety of Easter eggs and fluffy chicks. We are indebted to the ladies of the Craft Group and all the other volunteers who knitted for us. We would also like to thank Dickson's Garage in the Village who are always happy to have a basket of our items to help us support the church by fundraising

Cumbernauld Old Smart Savers was relaunched on 8th May when everyone attending worship had the opportunity to pick up a tube of *Smarties* to enjoy then fill with 20p coins.

We have a number of social and fundraising events on our calendar in the next few months that we hope you will enjoy, starting with a charity concert in aid of Doctors Without Borders that was held on Tuesday 17th May at 7pm. The Sounds of Spring concert, organised by local pianist David Swan and a quartet of young up-and-coming musicians, played a mix of their own compositions and a variety of classical, folk and jazz music inspired by and in celebration of spring. David is the grandson of one of our members, Liz Swan, and we were delighted to host his concert for such a worthy cause.

We will have a post-worship Congregational Get-together on 5th June when we'll celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee over a light lunch.

Then in August we plan to hold a concert by the Bruadar Duo, one of whom is our organist Lynn Strang. They were our last in-person fundraiser before Covid struck and it was a lovely evening, so we are delighted to be able to welcome them back.

Our fourth planned event is going to be held in the manse grounds in September in partnership with the Dandelion Trust, where there will be teas and coffees. More details to follow nearer the time.

Just a quick reminder that Cumbernauld Old Parish Church is registered with both Amazon Smile and Give As you Live.

So, if you are shopping on Amazon be sure to go in through [www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) – the website is just the same as the main Amazon one, but this way the church gets a percentage of any purchases you make. This is added up and is sent to us quarterly.

By using [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com) for your non-Amazon online shopping you can then shop from many well-known online retailers and again Cumbernauld Old will get a percentage from each purchase made at no extra cost to you.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us support the church through fundraising, your support is very much appreciated.



## Krafting for Ukraine

Members and friends of Cumbernauld Old Parish Church have been knitting and crocheting beautiful handmade items on behalf of the DEC Ukrainian appeal. They consist of colourful lap blankets, small traditional 'Victorian' dolls, favourite character dolls and children's cardigans, available to buy for a minimum donation of £5.

The dolls' clothes and pram blankets are available at £4, the three larger dolls with a minimum donation of £7 and a beautiful Aran hat glove and scarf set at £10. Delivery is free in Cumbernauld.

They make beautiful gifts, and your donations will help families in war-torn Ukraine. Phone Elizabeth (01236) 726451 for more details or to order.

## Mission Circle

Our Mission Circle continues to support our Mission Partners, Rev Graham and Sandra Duncan, in their work in South Africa. They work closely with their local church and over the years have used our money to help the needy in a host of ways – providing food parcels, essential clothing, helping fund school places, etc.



Members pay £1 a month, nothing for us but it can do wonders in South Africa. If you are interested in joining in, please speak to Elizabeth (01236) 726451.

## Food bank

We at Cumbernauld Old continue to support the valuable work of Bethlehem House of Bread at Cornerstone through our regular donations.

Our Easter Egg Appeal (right) was a resounding endorsement of our ongoing commitment. It's especially humbling to see such concern for others in these challenging times. Donations are always welcome. Thank you for your amazing support.



## Property Report – April 2022

Due to continued COVID-19 restrictions there have been no Property Committee meetings held during 2022. Weekly Fire Alarm testing and monthly Emergency Lighting checks have been carried out as usual by the Property Convener. The Property Convener continues to ensure any maintenance issue are followed up and resolved.

Due to the departure of our Minister the Manse remains empty and for Insurance purposes the Property Convener makes twice weekly checks on the Manse to ensure it is secure and there are no water leaks etc and the building continues to be maintained.

On a recent visit by two members of the Glasgow Presbytery Property Committee overall they were impressed by our Manse. One issue they wanted followed up was for a Structural Survey to be carried out on the second-floor lounge ceiling and the bedroom floor above to ascertain if there was any Health and Safety issues with the ceiling and the sagging floor of the bedroom above. This is in-hand and an update will be given in the next magazine issue. This will need to be addressed if we want to put a Caretaker in the Manse.

The Manse Study ceiling has now been repainted after the repair due to the water leak from the Bathroom shower unit above.

The Church upper North-east and North wall of the East Gallery have been repaired and repainted by Gary Maxwell.

The Sit-on lawn mower has been serviced and is back in the Outbuilding garage and the first cut has been carried out by Duncan Whyte.

The Manse ground floor lounge Log Burner Stove has been repaired and was serviced on 26th April.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Property Committee for their continued support with the upkeep of the Church buildings, etc.

Matthew Sime  
Property Convener

## Needles and Natter Craft Group



The Craft Group has been meeting regularly on Thursday afternoons and once again has played a vital part in church fundraising by producing a wonderful variety of beautifully-crafted items for Easter.

Since Easter their thoughts turned to helping Ukraine, initially by knitting trauma teddies for Ukrainian children arriving as refugees, an initiative led by the 'Rural', as one of the craft group members is also in that organisation. From there they went onto blue and yellow pennants that can be displayed in people's windows and blue and yellow lapel badges to show support for Ukraine. In addition, Isobel Robinson has knitted some beautiful dolls which are being sold again to help Ukraine. All money raised will be sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC).



The ladies are also making knitted bunting to brighten the gazebos as outdoor events have become possible again, and are turning their thoughts to items for their craft stall at an event in the not-too-distant future.

The craft group would like to thank Dickson's Garage in the Village who are always happy to have a basket of our items to help us support the church by fundraising.

New members are welcome to join us in the Church Session House on Thursday afternoons from 1 – 3pm.

## Singing Group

We are considering starting a singing group where people who like to sing can come along weekly or fortnightly, join in and sing a wide variety of music with like-minded people for fun.

It is a great way of improving your mental health if you are feeling down or anxious, so if you or someone you know are interested, please get in touch with Caroline Edwardson, Liz Snedden or Anne Morrison or Lynn Strang.



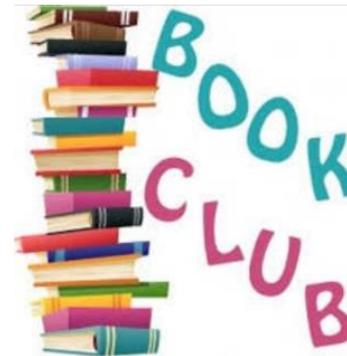
***Do you enjoy reading?***

***Do you like talking about books with others?***

***Would you like to read book genres you hadn't considered before?***

***If your answer to any of these questions is yes, would you be interested in joining a book group that would meet monthly in the Session House?***

***If so, speak to Anne Morrison.***



**Church Register**  
**Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals**

(conducted at Cumbernauld Old Parish Church, or by the Ministry Team)

**February – April 2022**

**Baptisms:** None

**Weddings:** Duncan Whyte & Helen Eccleson 02/04/22

**Funerals**

**Date of Funeral**

Euphemia (Phemie) Gray	09/03/22
Elizabeth Lindsay	24/03/22
Margaret Meenagh	11/04/22
Marion Allen (Elder)	26/04/22

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As Julie mentioned in her article on the front page, on Sunday 8th May we celebrated the long service and dedication of six elders. Below we see Peter, Rae, Duncan, Ivy and Robin with their long-service certificates. Congratulations and well-done to all concerned!



**The Holy Spirit – a poem**

*God's spirit was here well before  
Over our earth it did soar  
There was darkness, then light  
Then days followed as they might  
Then God looked and created some more*

*He made Adam and then with insight  
Eve then followed and for him was just right  
In the garden then wandered  
But God's rules they did squander  
As the apple had lost its first bite*

*Then Eden just lost its appeal  
Sin seeped in and things then became real  
The arguments started  
Love soon was departed  
God's wrath wasn't part of the deal.*

*God knew that things had to change  
He loved us and so he arranged  
To bring His Son Jesus  
To love and to free us  
Paying our cost with His life in exchange.*

*Jesus our main source of Joy  
He arrived as a small baby boy  
He waits till invited  
Entering hearts now united  
In God's love, for his work to deploy.*

*So today if you want to know too  
Ask someone to pray over you  
Ask God's spirit to descend  
And your sins to amend  
It's amazing what God's love can do.*

JG

## Contact Details

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For all the latest news, visit our website

Cumbernauld Old Parish Church of Scotland is a Registered Scottish Charity SCO00877

## Weekly Offerings for the work of the Church... A survey

There are now a few different ways being used to make offerings for the work of the Church:

- Open plate at a Church Service.
- Freewill envelopes.
- Standing Order.
- Online Donations.

We invite you to please answer the questions on the back page of the newsletter to help us gather information and to enable us to respond to any requests as we plan for future financial needs of our Church.

Once you have completed the survey (we'll also put a downloadable copy on our website) please detach the page and return it to us. Thank-you!

I would like to make my Church offerings using the open plate at Church Services.

Yes/No

I would like to make my Church offerings using Freewill envelopes.

Yes/No

I would like information on how to make my Church offerings using Freewill envelopes.

Yes/No

I would like to make my Church offerings by Standing Order.

Yes/No

I would like information on how to make my Church offerings by Standing Order.

Yes/No

I would like to add Gift Aid to my Church offerings.

Yes/No

I would like information on how to add Gift Aid to my Church offerings.

Yes/No

Name: .....

Telephone: .....

Email: .....

Please return your survey either to your elder, or when you next visit the Church or by email to Alex Edwardson at [Alex\\_ed@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Alex_ed@hotmail.co.uk) Returns as soon as possible, but by end of June, would be appreciated.  
Many Thanks