



A new beginning, shaped by hope and rooted in God's promise

Exploring how to love God, love our neighbour, and live out the Gospel with integrity, compassion and joy

FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR...

It seems that summer had finally arrived! At least there have been a few days of sunshine in a row. It's amazing how a bit of sunshine lightens the mood a bit, at least until it gets too hot and we all start complaining again!

Things are progressing well at South Calder Parish Church. The Kirk Session are working their way through all the policy updates we need to make as a new church and things are settling into a bit of a pattern as you all get to know each other better and work out how to be a new community.

The vacancy process is going well too. We're about to send the Parish Profile off to Presbytery for their approval and in the coming weeks we will be forming a Nominating Committee.



VACANCY COMMITTEE

We hope to appoint 15 people. To be on the committee you need to be a member. We're hoping for a real mixture of people with different experiences and outlooks. The Nominating Committee will be the ones who receive applications from potential ministers, who go to hear them lead worship, and who invite people for interview. When they think they have a Minister that's right for South Calder they will invite them to preach as 'sole nominee'. That just means 'the one we nominate'. That person will preach and all the members will get the chance to vote.

So, the Nominating Committee has a very important role. I'd ask you to pray, to consider, to pray some more and to speak to people you think might be good to have on the Nominating Committee. We'll have more information soon about when the committee will be formed. June, our Session Clerk will read a notice telling you when for the two Sundays before that meeting which will take place after church.

These are exciting and important times in the life of your new church and it's been a pleasure to make this journey with you.

I hope the summer brings you some rest and relaxation as these exciting new chapters approach.

Blessings

Stewart
Interim Moderator





USEFUL INFORMATION

Locum- Lynette Jardine, lpjardine@blueyonder.co.uk

Session Clerk - June Irvine, june.irvine@icloud.com

Deputy Session Clerk – Fay Parker

Hall Lets – Fred Hall (Newmains) and Tom Gormill (Allanton)

Pastoral Care – See Contact Us on webpage

Website - <https://southcalderparish.church>

FaceBook - <https://tinyurl.com/SCPCFBP>

YouTube - <https://tinyurl.com/SCPCYT>

Streaming - <https://southcalderparish.church/services/>

Prayer Link - See Prayer request on webpage

OUR PEOPLE - Fay Parker, Depute-Session Clerk - Football, Furbabies and Faith!

Hello, I'm Fay Parker and I have lived in Newmains all my life. Being part of the local community and the Church has always been important to me, and I have been privileged to serve as an Elder since 2000. I currently serve as Depute Session Clerk and before that I was treasurer at Coltness Memorial Church for 19 years

Over the years, I have enjoyed a varied working life. I began my career on the commercial side of Motherwell Football Club during the time when Ally Macleod was manager following his return from leading Scotland at the World Cup in Argentina. I later spent eight years working with Falkirk Football Club.

After my time in football, I owned and ran a newsagent and grocers shop in Airdrie for 9 years. For the past 29 years, I have worked as a receptionist with the NHS, where I enjoy meeting and working with people from all walks of life.

I feel very fortunate to have been part of this Church and community for so many years. Serving as an Elder has given me the opportunity to support others, share in the life of the congregation and help the Church continue its important role in our community.

I look forward to continuing to serve and to getting to know both familiar and new faces within our Church family.

Oh and I'm the proud owner of Wally and Huey who walk me off my feet every day!

Fay Parker



OUR CHURCHES - Newmains

There is so much going on at both our sites of worship it is hard to keep track of everything. Here is a summary of some activities. We will go into some of these in more detail in future edition.

Some organisations are off over the summer - so please check the website or with a leader before going along.

Let's continue with Newmains church-

Church Service - Sunday

We worship each Sunday in Newmains Church from 10.30am till around 11.30am (except joint services). Everyone is always made welcome in Church, and after the service there is an invitation to everyone, to come through to the Church Hall for a cup of tea and a blether.

Guild - Monday



The Church of Scotland Guild is a movement within the Church of Scotland which invites and encourages both women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action. With around 11,000 members, the Guild is one of Scotland's largest voluntary organisations.

2nd Cambusnethan Boys' Brigade - Monday

We are one of the biggest Christian youth organisations in the United Kingdom



We have faith in young people and provide opportunities for children and young people to learn, grow and discover in a safe, fun and caring environment which is rooted in the Christian faith.

There's something for every young person whether it's camping or kayaking, first aid or five a side, music or crafts. Members develop skills, build confidence, make friends, take responsibility and are encouraged to make a real difference in their communities – sharing the values that make us who we are.

Art Class - Tuesday

A social group meeting to explore their creative expression and friendship.

OUR CHURCHES - Newmains, cont.

1st Bonkle Rainbows, Brownies, Rangers and Guides-Tuesday/Friday

7th Wishaw Rainbows and Brownies - Tuesday

Through fun, friendship, challenge and adventure we empower girls to find their voice, inspiring them to discover the best in themselves and to make a positive difference in their community.



Live Well Foodbank - Wednesday

The demand on the Foodbank continues to be high. We have had 244 referrals this year so far, (Jan - June), have helped 327 individuals and distributed 286 parcels.

We are occasionally running very low on most non-perishable items as a result. You can make a donation by putting items in the dedicated trolley behind the tills at Asda Newmains, or in the box at the back of the sanctuaries. We are very grateful for the amazing support and generosity so far this year, which has helped us help the most vulnerable people in our community. Thank you to all who have contributed.

The Live Well Foodbank Team

OUR CHURCHES - Newmains, cont.

CAP Wishaw debt centre

The centre continues to be fully booked each month. The effects of the cost of living crisis are still being felt by many people and demand for our service remains high. We are currently supporting 44 clients and their families on their journey to become debt free. 2 people went debt free recently. We continue to pray with all our clients and point them to Jesus, who can bring healing and freedom from sin and its effects as well as financial freedom.

Due to the demand, we are opening a satellite centre in Larkhall (in partnership with Larkhall Christians Together) later this month. Maureen Young has completed her training as a debt coach and will join Nicky, Tony Sykes & Fiona Lamont in visiting clients in their own homes.

If you would like to volunteer to accompany us on the home visits for a couple of hours per month, please get in touch with Nicky. The debt coaches need a befriender/visitor to accompany them on the home visits, and we require a bigger team of volunteers to do this.

If you know of anyone needing help with their debts, please encourage them to call 0800 328 0006 to book an appointment for our free service.

Nicky McLaughlin Wishaw CAP Debt centre manager 07400 189398.



OUR YOUTH GROUPS

1st Allanton Girls' Brigade - Allanton

The Girls' Brigade meet in Allanton Church Hall every Tuesday evening.

- *Explorers (Primary 1 to Primary 3) 6.00pm to 7.30pm*
- *Juniors (Primary 4 to Primary 7) 7.15pm to 8.30pm*
- *Brigaders (S1+) 7.15pm to 8.30pm*



Our girls have all been very busy this year, learning new skills and completing all of their badge work. This is a fun friendly Girls' Brigade group and we encourage all girls in this area to join. Our Parents night was in Allanton Church Hall, on Tuesday 9th June and was well attended. The girls and leaders now are enjoying a summer break, and will return after the school holidays - date to be confirmed

1st Shotts Girls' Brigade - Shotts

Dear Friends, we hope you enjoy this roundup of our G.B. Session 2025-26!

On 20 August 2025, the Guild Room was lively as the Company began our New G.B. Session. Members, both new and returning, were eager for upcoming activities. All girls regularly attend, and we aim to make Wednesday nights interesting and engaging. We finished this Session with 7 Explorers, 14 Juniors, 11 Brigaders, and 10 Leaders.

The Explorers badgework theme this Session was 'Animals' – they looked at animals from around the globe including farm animals, nocturnal animals, water animals and even insects. Whilst learning about the animals they undertook a variety of crafts & baking related to same. Juniors chose 'Lots to do with Lego' (Educational), 'Kindness' (Service), 'Smoothie Smash' (Physical) and 'Ramadan & Lent' (Spiritual). They had fun exploring and learning all about their topics.

The Brigaders also tackled a variety of subjects this Session including Love to tote shop and Pom Pom Christmas Wreaths (Educational), Children in Need Fundraiser (Service), Indoor Games (Physical), True love in the Movies and Relationships (Spiritual).

As most of you will be aware, badgework is just one aspect of the fun and friendships we experience at G.B. Now, let me fill you in on some of our other activities.

OUR YOUTH GROUPS

1st Shotts Girls' Brigade - Shotts, cont.

On Friday, 12 September 2025, 18 girls and 6 leaders travelled to PGL Dalguise in Perthshire for an Activity Weekend filled with fun and adventure. Despite the changing Scottish weather, everyone enjoyed activities like abseiling, giant swing, zip wire, problem solving, challenge course, Jacob's Ladder, fencing, and a campfire. It was such a success that we plan to return this September.

Since indoor space is limited, the whole Company likes to participate in outdoor physical activities whenever the weather is nice.

Our Annual Dedication Service took place in the Church on 5 October 2025. This event marks the beginning of each new Session, as we renew our commitment to uphold the aim and principles of The Girls' Brigade and promise to 'Seek, Serve and Follow Christ.'

The whole Company went swimming on 8 October 2025 – the girls had a wonderful time, but I am not so sure how the other swimmers felt about the G.B. invasion on the pool.

On 29 October 2025, the Company held a Movie Night wearing our pyjamas and onesies instead of the usual Fancy Dress Party, enjoying popcorn and refreshments together.

We had some 'sparkling' fun outside at the start of November for Guy Fawkes night.

Company representatives attended the Service of Remembrance on 9 November 2025 and laid wreaths at the Church Memorial and Cenotaph.

On 19 November 2025, we visited Hollywood Bowl in Coatbridge for our Christmas 10-Pin Bowling Trip with members of the 3rd Shotts Boys' Brigade. We had a fantastic night of bowling and sharing tasty treats! You can never go wrong when you have some food!

December was buzzing as the girls made a variety of crafts and cards in preparation for our 'Children in Need' event.

We concluded 2025 with a Christmas Night for 'Children in Need,' organised by the Brigaders for their badgework. The event featured a Christmas poem, carols, Hokey Cokey, crafts for sale, a surprise guest in a red suit and white beard, and refreshments. Thank you to everyone who donated and attended.

OUR YOUTH GROUPS

1st Shotts Girls' Brigade - Shotts, cont.

2026 started with calendars and New Years Resolutions – not sure if anyone managed to keep them!

In February, the girls celebrated St. Valentine's Day by making cards and gifts for loved ones, and in March, they created Mother's Day gifts for mothers and the other women who help look after them.

Explorers, Juniors, Brigaders & Leaders took part in Motherwell & Wishaw Division Craft Competitions and the Rosebowl Competition in March – again the Competitions was completed in the Company. Explorers had to design a G.B. Easter Egg, the Juniors had to design a Poster for G.B., and the Brigaders & Leaders had to design a set of G.B. Nails. For the Rosebowl Competition the Juniors had to design a modern-day coloured coat for Joseph. We managed to win the Explorer Trophy.

On 1 April 2026, we held an 'Easter Bonanza' in aid of Alzheimer's Scotland. The girls sold the crafts they had made, and we had some Easter Games and refreshments. Thanks to all who came along and supported the event. £375 was raised.

9 of our officers completed the Glasgow Mighty Stride Kiltwalk on Sunday 26 April 2026 from Glasgow Green up to Balloch (22.7miles) raising £6,003 for Alzheimer's Scotland. Thank you to everyone who supported us and gave generously for such a deserving cause.

May has primarily been taken up with rehearsals for our Display. Some of the officers & Brigaders attended the Divisional AGM in Bothwell on Monday 11 May 2026 where we saw Chloe Hyslop and Chloe Tait presented with their Brigader Brooches (second highest award in G.B.). Skye Clake, our third Brigader Brooch recipient, could not make it to the AGM – well done to these three Brigaders!

OUR YOUTH GROUPS

1st Shotts Girls' Brigade - Shotts, cont.

The Company is also privileged to have three Queen's Awards recipients this year – this is the highest award in G.B. The Queen's Award is designed to be challenging and is gained through active participation in a programme of seven modules, each with different requirements in terms of time and skills. that the candidate must complete over at least a two-year period. The modules are My Faith Journey; Citizenship, G.B. and Me; My Creative Project; Girls' Brigade Commitment and Service; Two Initiative Tasks; Voluntary Service and Participation Event. A special congratulations to Anna Pringle, Christie McNaughton & Emily Rodgers for their hard work completing the modules and receiving their Queen's Award. The Company is immensely proud of their achievement.

Following our Annual Display & Presentation of Awards on Wednesday 20 May 2026 where the theme for the evening was 'We'll be coming... Are You?' (centred around Scotland reaching the World Cup), the leaders are looking forward to a well-earned break over the summer.

The Company resumes with our Enrolment Night for the 2026-27 Session on Wednesday 19 August 2026 - 6:30pm to 7:30pm for all Sections.

The Company would like to thank all Parents, Carers, Family & Friends who have supported the Company throughout the session – it is much appreciated!

Best wishes for a fantastic summer!

From the Officers & Girls of 1st Shotts G.B.



Next issue we will hear from the Guiding groups.

STUFF WE DO!!

Some organisations are off over the summer - so please check the website or with a leader before going along.



Family Fun Days – Everyone Welcome!

Plans are well underway for our upcoming Family Fun Days at South Calder: Newmains and Allanton. An enthusiastic team of volunteers is busy preparing a variety of fun activities for all ages.

These events are a wonderful opportunity to welcome people from across the communities we serve, introduce South Calder Parish Church, and share the many groups, activities, and opportunities that take place within our church family. We hope to build new friendships, strengthen community connections, and extend a warm Christian welcome to any children, young people and families who come along.

We would be grateful if you could help spread the word by inviting your family, friends or neighbours who have any children or young people. A personal invitation can make all the difference.

Please also remember these important outreach events in your prayers. Pray for all those involved in the planning and preparations, for everyone who attends, and that God will use these occasions to help people experience His love and discover a welcoming church family here at South Calder Parish Church.

The dates and times are as follows –

- *Newmains 29th August, 12.00 -2.00pm*
- *Allanton 5th September, 12.00 – 2.00pm*

Anne McGowan



STUFF WE DO!!

From Strength to Strength: Continuing Our Prayer Journey

South Calder Parish Church's first Prayer Brunch, which took place on Saturday, 30th May in our Allanton building, confirmed our church family's commitment to prayer as a priority.



Long before it started, people from across the community gathered to connect with one another. To use the vernacular, 'the place was buzzing'! The singing was sublime and made all the more uplifting by live music. Prayers for the world, for the Church, for our communities, organisations and agencies as well as for ourselves were said with humble and sincere hearts. In the silence which followed each prayer, people were encouraged to think about or write down a few words on a post-it to put in a 'prayer jar'. After Grace was said, we were treated to a veritable feast, not just a brunch, and were able to spend time with our brothers and sisters in Christ some of whom we'd met for the first time.

With God's blessing we hope to hold another Prayer Brunch on Saturday, 12 September, this time in our Newmains building.

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Margaret Byrne

Walking Group

The Walking Group meets on the last Saturday of every month at 2.00pm at Bonkle Church Car Park. Below is a list of the walks we planned doing this year. For any more information please contact Matthew Gray.

- 25th July: Kelpies
- 29th August Strathclyde Park
- 26th September: Bellfield Loop
- 31st October: Murdostoun Castle



STUFF WE DO!!

Allanton Church Cafe

Every second Friday in Allanton Church Hall, we have our popular Cafe, which opens at 12 noon and runs till around 1.30pm. We serve soup with delicious home baked bread, followed by a huge selection of home baked cakes, pancakes, shortbread and the ever popular meringues. The Cafe is busy and buzzing and has always been an opportunity to catch up with friends, old and new.

The Café is off during July and August and we start back again on Friday 4th September. Everyone is made welcome and we look forward to seeing all of our regulars and, hopefully, some new faces too. It is free to all.

Maureen Cardwell

Blether Inn - Allanton

Allanton Church Belther-Inn is a welcoming weekly social gathering for seniors and friends of the church. It offers a warm space to meet, share stories, remember special moments, and celebrate life's milestones. Each gathering begins with a prayer of welcome and ends with thanks for the blessing of fellowship. Everyone is invited to come along, take part, reminisce, and enjoy good company. Recent conversations have covered family life, education, work, hobbies, food, healthy living, and our changing world. Activities also include On This Day, Faces and Places, and a weekly big-screen visual quiz. The group meets on **Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:30 pm**, with hospitality and a warm welcome always assured.

Stewart Govan

OUR CHURCH GROUPS

Allanton Guild

Our Guild meet every Tuesday in the Vestry with Allanton Church from 2.00pm till around 3.30pm. This year, we have had lots of interesting speakers, when we all learned something new. We've continued with our keep-fit days and our quiz and games days. Recently we all enjoyed a day out to Rosebank Garden Centre for lunch and huge cakes. We had a wander around the garden centre too, when we purchased clothes, ornaments and lots of plants and flowers. Everyone enjoyed the day and this has become an annual event in our calendar. The Guild has now finished for the summer and we'll start up again on Tuesday 1st September, when everyone will be made welcome.



Maureen Cardwell

Social Group



Since being formed in January after the Union of our Churches we have been active in arranging several successful events, one these being our Afternoon Tea.

The Afternoon Tea, which was well attended, was held in South Calder Newmains Church Hall on Saturday 6th June at 2pm. Along with Tea and Coffee, sandwiches, cakes and scones were provided and a big thank you must go to the ladies from both Allanton and Newmains churches for their contributions, it was greatly appreciated as were the volunteers who gave of their time making sure everything ran smoothly.

The highlight of the afternoon was the entertainment which was provided by Same Difference under the leadership of Janet Anderson, and I am sure everyone who attended will agree they were outstanding.

We are looking forward to arranging more events in the coming months and your support.

Your Social Group

OUR EVENTS



Christian Aid

Firstly let me introduce myself – I am Sandra Preston and I organised Christian Aid in Cambusnethan North Church for over 30 years. The organisers in the other cluster Churches gave me the privilege of carrying out this duty on behalf of South Calder Parish Church

Through the generosity of the congregation, we were able to transfer **£1464.17** to Christian Aid funds and look forward to further fundraising in the future.

Craft Exhibition



We have just celebrated our 26th annual Craft Exhibition, held at our Newmains church. This exhibition is open to everyone wishing to exhibit or sell their crafts. It's a very social event with folks enjoying the crafts, coffee bar with home baking and meeting up with friends.

It was well attended considering the very wet weather and raised **£2707** for the church and Lanarkshire Cancer Care. Next year's chosen charity is Parkinson's UK.

Fay Parker



Praise Gathering

Just sitting here thinking about Praise Gathering Choir, realising the blessings I have received since joining the choir four years ago. 2017 was, I felt, the worse thing I've had to experience and overcome, I suddenly became unable to sing, the thing I believed to be my gift from God.

I prayed and asked for direction and at the Filling Station, I was given advice to read Psalm 37:4 which says "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart". With lots of prayers and encouragement from my faithful friends Elizabeth and Margaret, in faith, I signed up for the P.G. Choir. And wow! The Lord definitely showed up and truly blessed me with the desires of my heart.

You have to experience the feeling of God's goodness, and the invitation is there for all by believing and putting our trust in the Lord. We are so thankful to all who come along and support P.G. and pray you get to experience the same joy and blessings by being there with us praising and worshipping our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Can't wait 'till next year to do it all over again.

Isabel McIntyre

JOINT SERVICE SURVEY

We recently held a survey, conducted over a few weeks, to get feedback on the joint services.

The *overwhelming* response was positive - the services promote unity, fellowship and help us grow together as one church. People also enjoyed the singing of a larger congregation!

The times of some of the services and knowing when they were on were the main challenges.

These points and others will be looked at by the Kirk Session to improve the joint services.

FEEDBACK & INSIGHTS

What You Said About Joint Services



Key Themes from Joint Services Feedback & Reviews

01

CONTINUE

A clear majority of respondents expressed a desire for joint services to continue in some form.



UNITY

02

One church, sharing communion together, getting to know each other were frequently expressed views. A desire to continue growing together as South Calder is widely shared.

03

ACCESSIBILITY

Timings, location, frequency of services, transport and parking concerns were frequently expressed views.

FELLOWSHIP

04

Socialising, unity, getting to know each other and maintain existing relationships were widely expressed views amongst many respondents.

05

NEXT STEPS

Considering different forms of worship, reviewing timings and frequency of services, linking to communion were the most common suggestions as possible next steps.



South Calder Parish Church





**SOUTH CALDER
PARISH CHURCH**