the presbytery of
forth valley & clydesdale
sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ by working with, working for and being with each other.

Weekly Bulletin

22nd October 2026

Vacancies | The Church of Scotland

VACANCY LIST

Local Vacancies

Take a look at our local charges looking for a minister:

Kirkmuirhill Parish Church Home Page
Calderglen Parish Church Calderglen Parish Church
South Calder Parish Church South Calder Parish Church

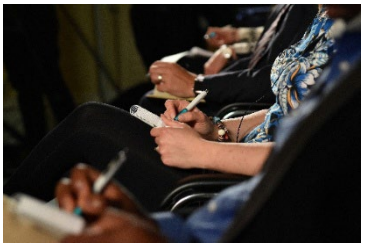
Save the Date: Presbytery Day Conference

Saturday 21st November 2026 10am – 2pm

One Step Beyond

Open to all! Full details and booking link to follow, so watch this space!

Autumn Safeguarding Training



Here is a list of the Autumn Safeguarding Training dates. Feedback from the Trustee Safeguarding training has been very positive, so do book on if you are a Church or Presbytery Trustee. There are **only a few places left**, be sure to book your space! **Please note**, there is a new link to sign up to the online Trustee Safeguarding Training on Monday 16th November. If you have already signed up to this training, you do not need to register again.

Trustee Training

- **Saturday 7 November** 10.30am (Denny) Safeguarding Training Denny Link
- **Saturday 14 November** 10am (Airdrie) Safeguarding Training Airdrie Link
- **Monday 16 November** 7pm (Online) Trustee Safeguarding Training (Online)

Introductory Training

- **Monday 2 November** 7pm (East Kilbride) Safeguarding Introductory Training East Kilbride Link

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Light in the Darkness
Church of Scotland Day of Prayer - 31 October 2026

On **Saturday 31 October**, congregations, presbyteries and small groups across the Church of Scotland are invited to come together for an hour of prayer, praying for the light of Jesus to transform our Church, our communities across Scotland, and the places around the world where the Church worships and serves.

Churches and groups taking part can add their light to the **Map of Light on the Church of Scotland website,** helping to show people joining together in prayer across Scotland and beyond. A live-streamed service from West Kilbride Parish Church will also take place at 11am, followed by an **online prayer gathering on Microsoft Teams at 4pm**.

It would be fantastic if as many of our congregations as possible signed up for the Day of Prayer so that our churches in Forth Valley and Clydesdale can be part of lighting up the Map of Light and join in praying for light in our nation.

As Saturday 31 October is also our next Presbytery meeting, we will do something within the meeting to mark this special Day of Prayer and help be a light in the darkness.

More information on how to sign up for the Day of Prayer as well as resources and branding can be found here:

Light in the Darkness | The Church of Scotland

NEWARTHILL AND CARFIN PARISH CHURCH MUSIC FOR EVERYONE

Organist, Duncan Mackay, is holding a 'Music for Everyone' concert in aid of church funds in the sanctuary on **Saturday, 24 October 2026 at 2.30pm**.

Duncan will perform music from a range of musical genres, from classical, Scottish, and jazz to film and modern-day pop hits, on the church organ, piano and his workstation keyboard.

Refreshments will be served at the interval. Entry is by donation to church funds.
A warm invitation is extended to all to attend

How Did We Get Here?

Christian singer-songwriter Rob Halligan brings he How Did We Get Here? musical to Upper Braes Parish Church on Wednesday 28 October at 7.30pm. Admission is by donation.

Everyone has a story to tell and every one of those stories has a headline but it's often only the sensational headlines that catch our attention. Look past the headlines - we all carry a story, and in those stories lie the familiar echo of our shared human journey - the moments of joy, the sting of loss, the screams of doubt, and the tender ache of longing.

In 2001, Rob Halligan lost his father in the 9/11 terror attacks. A week later he found himself in New York City on the start of a journey, trying to make sense of what he'd seen. From a dysfunctional childhood and life on the streets, to being an ambassador for vulnerable children and an acclaimed songwriter, Rob's journey whistles hope into a hopeless world and invites us to do the same.

Through songs and stories, "How Did We Get Here" takes us down a road underpinned by a simple faith and the belief that love is bigger. This would be a great event to invite friends and family to, particularly those who may not Jesus yet.

Bible Sunday 2026 – Sunday 25th October

The Scottish Bible Society would love to welcome your church to join them for Bible Sunday 2026, with churches from across Scotland already preparing to take part. This year's theme is **Sowing the Word of Life.** Together we will explore how God's Word can take root in our lives and bear fruit in today's world. There are free resources available to help you plan a meaningful service for your congregation.

Download your free resources now

Stewardship Webinar

The Stewardship Team wants to support you as you plan for the church year ahead by inviting you to their forthcoming webinar which is particularly relevant for ministers, deacons, readers, MDS and local worship leaders:

Stewardship Webinar: Preaching Generosity - Weaving stewardship into Lectionary Year B

Tuesday 27 October 2026 4pm - 5pm Online via Zoom

This second event in the *Preaching Generosity* series turns to Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary. This one-hour session is designed to equip you with practical ways to integrate stewardship themes into your preaching and worship throughout the year. During the event, we will:

- take an overview of Revised Common Lectionary Year B, with a specific focus on Mark's Gospel
- signpost resources for encouraging generosity as an expression of discipleship
- hear from our guest panelists, Rev Fiona Anderson, Very Rev Dr Derek Browning and Rev Douglas Hamilton, as they reflect on the theme and share insights from their own ministry and experience.

Register now for the webinar: https://PreachingGenerosityYearB.eventbrite.co.uk

If you can't make the live event, you can catch up with the subsequent recording on our YouTube channel.

Messy Church Regional Teams Gathering

You are invited to the very first Messy Church Regional Teams Gathering; a time to connect locally, to share ideas, pray together, learn from one another and feel supported by people who understand the joys and challenges of Messy Church.

There are two opportunities to attend, both via Zoom: an evening meeting on Tuesday 3rd November, and an after-lunch meeting on the 5th – further details and the booking link can be found here: https://www.messychurch.brf.org.uk/regional-teams/

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) Maintaining Scotland's Churches Course 29th October 2026

SPAB are offering another opportunity for a day of church maintenance talks for people involved in looking after their buildings and this time it is to be hosted in the center of Glasgow at the Synagogue in Garnethill on October 29th. This is a very interesting building and has the usual issues to deal with in looking after the fabric.

Tickets are £12 and include a catered lunch and refreshments. Further information and booking link can be found here: https://www.spab.org.uk/whats-on/maintaining-scotlands-historic-places-worship-glasgow

Events Across Presbytery

It is wonderful to see so many churches sending us information about their events for the Bulletin. However, we are getting so many in that we will need to limit the number of events we can 'advertise' on our Bulletin or indeed on our forthcoming new website when it launches in the near future.

We will now look to highlight events which are special one-off events such as an 150th Church Anniversary or similar, or events which are specifically missional in nature and where others within the Presbytery might wish to attend or bring friends or family members to. We hope that this change will enable us to highlight some important events within the life of our Presbytery so that we can celebrate together and also share the good news of Jesus with others. If you are in any doubt whether your event qualifies for this, drop us a line and we can have a chat with you – we wouldn't want Presbytery to miss out on hearing about suitable events.

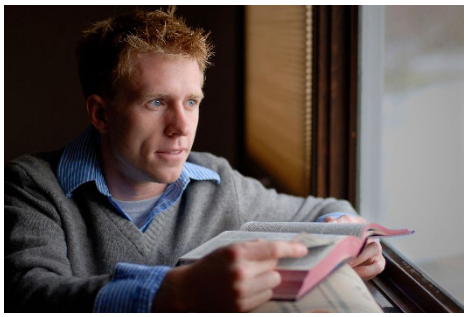
Musical Theatre Group comes to South Wishaw

The Shine Touring Group are supporting South Wishaw Church with fundraising by putting on their musical show which covers well known songs from many hit musicals.

The group is part of the Shine Youth Theatre based in Carluke, for children aged from P4-17years. Their ethos is to promote musical theatre, whilst instilling skills for the youngsters through a musical and dancing route. However, one of main aims is to instil confidence, team working and communication for youngsters within a safe, fun setting.

We look forward to a great night of entertainment and encourage you to come along.

Conversations – The Bible in Local Church Life



The Scottish Bible Society is hosting regional conversations about the Bible in the life of the local church—including i**n Glasgow on Wednesday 4 November, from 10am–12 noon**, with refreshments and networking from 9.30am. Church leaders are invited to hear a snapshot of current research, share what they are seeing in their congregations, and reflect together on Bible engagement and confidence in church life.

Further information and registration are available here:
https://www.scottishbiblesociety.org/bible-engagement-in-the-local-church-event-registration

Knitted Bible Exhibition

Lochmaben and Lockerbie Church's invite you to see the famous Knitted Bible Exhibition. Created by crafters at St George's United Reformed Church in Hartlepool, this collection of 36 different Bible scenes now travels the country, drawing crowds of visitors wherever it goes. This is only the second time that it will have come to Scotland.

Teas and coffees will be available, and activities for children as well. There is no charge for entry.

If you would like more information, or to book a group visit, please contact their Session Clerk Mrs Winifred Dickie on 07590 435058. Otherwise, just go along, and they will be delighted to welcome you.