



Cumbernauld Old Parish Church

Newsletter – November 2021



Dear friends,

It has been good to meet with some of you as we gathered for worship in the church building over the last few weeks. I know that others of you have been watching the live-stream – thank you for being part of our services. For those of you who haven't met me or seen me, let me give you some information...

Glasgow Presbytery has appointed me to be the Interim Moderator during your current vacancy. I have been the minister at Milton of Campsie for the past 15 years and, a long time ago, I worked for Scripture Union Scotland as a schools and church staff worker; before that, I taught History at a secondary school in the East End of London.

I became a friend and follower of Jesus when I was 8 years old – at a Summer Mission in Girvan. I'm still involved in Summer Mission (now called GoMAD) every summer, and lead an SU camp every year, too.

I'm married to Laurence and we have two children – Josiah is 8 and Esther is 6; I'm sure you'll meet them at some point. They are all actively involved in church life at Milton of Campsie. My parents moved to MoC almost four years ago and are also involved in a variety of ways in the congregation. Some of you will have met my mum, Phyllis Wilson, as she is a retired minister and has done pulpit supply at Cumbernauld Old.

So, what does an **Interim Moderator** do – and what do they *not* do? My role is to provide the link between the congregation and Presbytery – to ensure that your voice is heard and to make sure that the congregation is fulfilling its obligations to Presbytery. However, my key task is to ensure that you, the people God has called to live and serve within Cumbernauld Old, are encouraged in your vision and enabled to explore what it means to build God's Kingdom in this place and at this time.

Valerie Cuthbertson, your invaluable **Deacon**, will provide ongoing pastoral support, conduct funerals and, for many of you, be the first port of call. Ivar Struthers, one of your elders and a **Reader**, is going to be conducting many of the services. There will be some occasions when I am conducting worship, most usually when we are celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper or Baptism, or there is a blessing. Other ministers, readers and lay preachers will be called in to help. Be assured, there will always be a service on a Sunday morning, it will be well prepared and it will be of benefit for you to be there!

I enjoyed meeting with the **Kirk Session** in November and another part of my Interim Moderator role is to ensure that these meetings happen regularly. I'll be at some other types of church meetings, but this will be limited by time, the distance (it takes nearly 30 minutes to get to you!), the fact that I already have a full diary with the congregation in MoC, not to mention two young children! Each of you will have an elder – please pray for them, encourage them and contact them if you have concerns.

I hope that this introduction helps you to understand my role in your vacancy. I'm not a **locum** (providing pulpit supply and pastoral support) and Presbytery has decided that, for now, they won't appoint a locum but rather see how we go forward with the approach I have described above.

Let's keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, let's encourage one another and bear one another's burdens, let's be seeking God's leading and guiding – and let's trust that God holds us in His hands.

May you know God's love surrounding you, Jesus' hand stretched out for yours and the Holy Spirit's comfort, both this and day and in all the days which lie ahead – *Julie*

Fundraising

As you are all aware we haven't been able to hold our planned fundraising events during the last 20 months but, despite the restrictions, have still managed to continue raising funds for the church.

We ordered packs of **10 Christmas cards** for sale again this year, featuring a lovely winter nativity scene. They have been available for ordering and delivery by some of the fundraising team and have also been available in the vestibule on Sunday mornings. The cards are excellent value for money at £4 a pack, and we are happy to report we have sold all our stock though there are a few packs still available. Thank you to everyone who bought some.



Once again we are taking orders for knitted **Christmas Chocolate oranges** for £3. Last year the number of orders exceeded all our expectations, so get your orders in soon for this year. The fundraising team are indebted to our wonderful team of knitters.

Finally, remember to keep saving your 10p and 20p coins. Now that we are all able to be safely back at church together we hope to be able to surprise you with a tube of *Smarties* with your Order of Service for our Cumbernauld Old Smart Savers Initiative very soon.



Thank you for all your help and support – it really makes a difference.

The Fundraising Team

Your Church Needs You!



Now that the church is open each week, the **Admin Team** is resuming its responsibilities for producing the Orders of Service and Weekly News.

Unfortunately, two members of the team have had to step down recently and therefore we need two (or more!) new members to join the team. This is not an onerous task and can be done from the comfort of your own home.

Producing the Order of Service and Weekly News usually takes no more than an hour and would require approximately 3 hours of input each quarter. In addition, we all take a share at printing copies of the Newsletter, again no more than an hour's work every quarter.

We would really welcome anyone who would like to join our small team and support this work. If you would like to know more, in the first instance please phone Janice Smillie on 01236 733510.

The **Finance Group** has been meeting throughout the pandemic on a monthly basis (usually online) to review church income and expenditure and to make financial decisions on behalf of the Congregational Board.

Due to a variety of reasons we now urgently need at least 2 new members to join this group and become actively involved in financial matters and ensure that the church can continue to operate and flourish.

You don't need to be a mathematician! (none of us are!) but if you would like to get involved in this crucial aspect of church life, we would very much appreciate your support.

If you would like to find out more, please speak to any member of the Finance Group (Barrie Sheppard, Janice Smillie, Liz Dalling, Matt Sime).

Vacancy Update

All members of the congregation should be aware that Cumbernauld Old Parish Church is now in a vacancy situation. Elspeth has now departed, her last morning worship service as Minister at Cumbernauld Old took place on Sunday 17th October and she was inducted as Minister at Paisley Abbey at a special service on Monday 25th October. At the service on October 17th, Elspeth, David and William were thanked for their time and contribution during their four years at Cumbernauld Old and presented with gifts from the congregation. While we were sad to see the family leave, they begin their new life at Paisley Abbey with the best wishes of the congregation.

On Elspeth's departure, Glasgow Presbytery appointed the Reverend Julie Moody, Minister at Milton of Campsie Parish Church, as Interim Moderator at Cumbernauld Old and we were pleased to welcome Julie to Cumbernauld Old on Sunday 31st October where she led worship and met members of the congregation. Julie has since met with members of the Kirk Session. It is the task of the Interim Moderator and the Kirk Session to lead the congregation during the period of vacancy and Julie will be working closely with the Kirk Session over the coming months.

As the Church of Scotland embarks on a massive programme of radical change, which will undoubtedly result in a significant reduction in the number of Presbyteries, parishes, churches and Ministers across Scotland, Presbyteries are not allowed to grant permission to congregations in a vacancy situation to call a Minister other than in exceptional circumstances. Glasgow Presbytery have started work on their Presbytery Plan and this work is expected to run until the end of 2022. It is unlikely that we will know the future shape of Glasgow Presbytery, and the Cumbernauld area, before the end of 2022 therefore we are expected to continue in a vacancy situation until then.

Under normal circumstances Presbytery would appoint a Locum during a vacancy to conduct weekly worship services and baptism, wedding and funeral services. However, this will not be the case during our vacancy, therefore we can expect to see several worship leaders conduct the weekly services for the foreseeable future. As Elspeth's husband David was also church organist we found ourselves with two vacancies on their departure. Thanks to Lynn Strang and Siobhan Argyle, who have agreed to work a Sunday rota between them, we will continue to be accompanied on a Sunday morning.

While the future is uncertain, it is not all out of our hands, in fact there is much we can control. We have been invited to help formulate the Presbytery Plan and members of the congregation have been attending a series of meetings looking at the challenges and opportunities to shape the future of Glasgow Presbytery and in particular the Cumbernauld area. There is also much work to be done closer to home, in the church, in the parish and in the community. While Julie and the Kirk Session will be working together, Elders, Board members and the wider congregation need to step up and take a share of the workload if we are to come through the vacancy and beyond. At this stage we can't be certain what the future holds. It can be a bright one, but only if people get involved, take on the vacant roles, share the load, and work together towards the brighter future we all desire and pray for.

Brian Smillie, Session Clerk
November 2021



Dear all at Cumbernauld Old,
Just a little note to thank you all for the wonderful presents we received at my last service. The picture will remind me of the wonderful times we had in Cumbernauld Old and the very generous cheque will buy something for the new Manse. William is very grateful for his Waterstones voucher too and is plaguing me to take him to Waterstones to spend it!

We have settled down here – just!

There are still many more boxes to unpack, but no doubt we'll get there!

Love
Elspeth, David and William

Needles and Natter Craft Group

Unfortunately the craft group has not been able to meet and craft together yet but remain optimistic that we will be able to restart soon.



Despite not being able to meet, the ladies continue to craft to support the fundraising team and also to support good causes.

This year, among other things, the ladies have knitted and crocheted hats and scarves for the homeless which were passed on to CACE; matching pairs of knitted hearts for the NHS initiative started during COVID lockdown when families who suffered a bereavement were given one heart and the other was put in coffin with their loved one; also knitted hats and jackets for premature babies, to name but three, as well as all those knitted and crochet covers for chocolate oranges and cream eggs.

Although we are not able to craft together yet, the group are very much looking forward to starting up again and in the meantime have booked Christmas lunch to meet up and enjoy a natter without the craft.



Mission Circle

Our Mission Circle continues to support our Mission Partners in South Africa.

Rev Prof Graham Duncan was minister here at the Old Parish for almost 18 years and when he left us to take up a post at Pretoria University, he and his wife Sandra became our Mission Partners. We set up a Mission Circle to support their work and have been involved in various projects and exchanges over the years and they keep in regular contact with us through their partner letters.

Their most recent letter has been posted onto our church website and has details about their involvement with an orphans' project in Mamelodi, a new church building under construction and a 'nearly new' shop that's being established. They also sent some photos from Violet Mashao, Session Clerk at Mamelodi East church, near Pretoria, showing how some our donations are being used. The photos show the distribution of food parcels to children-headed families, and shoes and sanitary products bought from our recent donations. Sandra wanted to let people know their donations are so well received.

If you are interested in getting involved in our Mission Circle please speak to Elizabeth at church or at (01236) 726451. We invite people in our Mission Circle to donate £1 per month to continue our support for the Duncans in their work in South Africa. Although £1 might not buy much here, it can go a long way there and make a real difference to lots of families. Anything you can spare will be put to good use. Thank-you!



If you are an online shopper, whether for Christmas gifts or at any time, please remember that you can shop online and help Cumbernauld Old Parish Church at the same time.

Simply go to Give As You Live – www.giveasyoulive.com – select select Cumbernauld Old Parish Church as your chosen charity and then shop to your heart's content (within reason of course!) A percentage of what you spend will be donated by the retailer to our church, at no extra cost to you! It's as simple as that. There are over 5,500 shops and stores to choose from, so why not make it your habit to support our church when you shop online? Thank-you!

If you shop on Amazon, there is a scheme called Amazon Smile that works in much the same way. For each purchase you make this way on Amazon, a percentage is donated by them to our church. Rather than logging on directly to Amazon online, instead log into smile.amazon.co.uk and if you are happy to choose Cumbernauld Old Parish Church as your chosen charity, then you are all set up to start shopping. It's still the same Amazon, but by using Amazon Smile your shopping can make a difference to Cumbernauld Old. Thank you for choosing to make a difference!

Mission in Action

'Mission in Action' is a small group of Church members who are keen to regenerate the enthusiasm and motivation that have always sat at the heart of our life at Cumbernauld Old. However we need more interested people who want to be proactive as we move into a new chapter as a Church family – a family that we hope will grow in the future.

As we return to a Church life that we can recognise as more 'normal', maybe you feel joyful but also a bit apprehensive about what the future may hold for Cumbernauld Old? This is a time when we, as a Church family, need to take strength from working together.

As part of Glasgow Presbytery we are being asked to consider how we meet the Five Marks of Mission which can be easily remembered by the 5 Ts – Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform, Treasure

I'm sure that many things are popping into your mind – great things that we already do at Cumbernauld Old that put 'Mission into Action': Foodbank, Fairtrade, Men's Group, Craft Group, Toilet Twinning etc. – the list goes on! However, there are so many other things that we can still do to progress our Mission journey, to help build a strong foundation for the future of our Church. If you are interested in being part of our 'Mission in Action' group, please contact Caroline Edwardson at the following number – 07935 411068.

Village Cemetery

During lockdown a small group of volunteers from the church and the Village Community Council have been working in the Village Cemetery. After consultation with NLC we have cleared the walls and headstones of brambles and ivy. We have created flower beds, replanted bare areas of grass, weeded and cut back overgrown trees and bamboo which was blocking the view from the pavement.

At the bottom of the main path we thinned out trees and discovered a memorial that had been hidden for years and around it we established a secluded area, which we believe was the resting place of babies and children.

We are currently working around the main gate to try and make it an attractive, colourful entrance to our beloved old cemetery.

It is now just a case of general maintenance and we would love more help. It is not heavy work nor is it time consuming. You don't even need to be a gardener!! A wee hour now and again when it suits you, can make a tremendous difference. If you are interested in lending a hand, please speak to Elizabeth (01236) 726451.

In any case, please make time to take a walk round and enjoy a few minutes of peace and calm.

Beyond the Battlefield

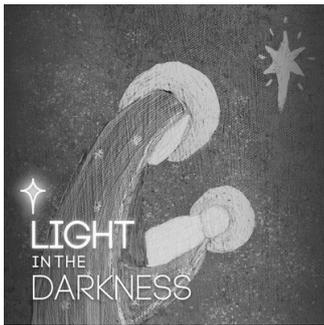
We are hoping to follow up our WW1 booklet with one detailing the soldiers who gave their lives in WW2. We have discovered however that many names who should have been included on the panel at the memorial have been missed out. If you have any information on a relative / friend etc whose sacrifice has not been recognised, please speak to Elizabeth (01236) 726451.



Christmas Gift Service



Our annual Christmas Gift Service will be on **Sunday 5th December** and, instead of gifts of toys, toiletries, etc. as in previous years, Cornerstone have asked that we donate gift vouchers or gift cards. One such card is a One4all card, available in most shops and Post Offices and which can also be used by the recipient in most shops. Other cards are, of course, available! All cards and vouchers donated will be passed to Cornerstone and distributed by them to people in need before Christmas. Thank you, as always, for your generous support to our community.



Christmas Worship (and more!) at the Parish Church:

Sunday 5 th December	11.00am	Gift Service
Sunday 12 th December	11.00am	Morning Worship
Thursday 16 th December	7.00pm	BB Carol Concert
Sunday 19 th December	11.00am	Readings and Carols
Tuesday 21 st December	7.30pm	Charity Musical Evening
Friday 24 th December	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Sunday 26 th December	11.00am	Worship for Christmas+1
Sunday 2 nd January	11.00am	Worship for the New Year

Stop Press!

- Our Boys' Brigade company will be holding a Carol Concert in the Parish Church on **Thursday 16th December** at 7.00pm
- There will also be a musical night in aid of charity in the Church on **Tuesday 21st December**. Organised by talented local musician David Swan, this will be an evening of Christmas songs and music featuring different styles from popular to classical.

Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for further details of both these events.

Contact Details

Interim Moderator:	Rev Julie Moody	JMoody@churchofscotland.org.uk
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