



# Towards our Union of the 4 Cs

News from Cairnlea, Calderbank,  
Chapelhall & Clarkston Churches

Issue 2: March 2025

This is the second in a series of newsletters to keep us all informed of what's happening towards the union of our 4 churches.

Discussions began in the summer, and since then Elders and Ministers have met specifically three times to establish carefully how we might sustain worship and spiritual growth at the heart of the new Union that we are preparing for.

Representatives from all four congregations have been fully involved, and a first draft definite proposal went to all four Kirk Sessions in January 2025. On the back of how that proposal was received in each of the four KS, now in March 2025 all four Kirk Sessions will formally be voting on a proposed scheme.

We share with all the people in the churches what precisely this means; and furthermore give information on what else is being worked on. We hope very much this will be helpful, both for the sake of information and to enable the

fullest possible engagement in the way forward.

*On behalf of all those involved:*

**Margaret Currie (Chapelhall)**

**Peter Donald (Cairnlea l/w  
Calderbank)**

**Hanna Rankine. (Clarkston)**





**On worship and spiritual growth, the proposal to be voted is that when the Union begins we shall have:**

### **Weekly**

1. A Sunday morning service in what is currently called Cairnlea Church
2. A further two services every week – but with different emphases / style from that on Sunday morning. At this stage we do not commit to locations or timings, given uncertainties about what buildings will be available. But we do commit to sustaining and growing a presence in various parts of the large parish, for the sake of effective Christian mission; we know how currently villages have their distinctive identities.
3. Part of our ministry, i.e. in terms of time and investment, being devoted to growing a new form or forms of church, in pioneer mode and amongst constituencies so far little touched by Christian worship and witness.

Note: the two full-time posts for Ministry have an obvious role in giving a lead here – though not necessarily in person leading on every single occasion, since the valued

contribution of others to lead worship will help our life and growth

### **Monthly or in some other very regular pattern**

4. Midweek meetings for prayer – no doubt going around various locations
5. Messy church(es) - one or more of these being in what is currently called Clarkston Church Hall; but possibly elsewhere too

### **Seasonally, for the sake of spiritual growth**

6. Adult Christian education – in the form of Bible Study etc
7. Discipleship groups, i.e. for the sake both of new people and of those already within the life of the church wishing to devote some time to growth and development alongside others

[again, these things not being tied just to one location]

## **What else is going on?**

### **On the future of buildings:**

Calderbank and Chapelhall are working on what sort of future provision in their areas are missionally necessary and in every other way sustainable. Clarkston is engaged already in an upgrading project on its Hall. Cairnlea has completed Phases 1-3 of its four phase project to upgrade the facilities on its site.

### **On how a Union can work in terms of Kirk Session, ministerial workload etc:**

following on a working group in the summer of 2024, Session Clerks and Board Chairs are in touch with one another to share information and to discern the best way of working into the future. The two Ministers in post will be needing to discern where they feel their own direction for the future will lie.

### **On how to manage finance and property in the new Union:**

We are sharing as much information as possible especially borrowing on the expertise of those who in the four congregations currently handle money and property matters – again to discern how best to think into the future.

### **On how to help people to know and love one another!**

All four congregations are committing to run one or if possible two events during

2025, primarily social i.e. for the sake of chat and encounter, and with a spiritual element too. These will be well publicised. Do plan to come to any or all!!

### **On how further to build our common belonging while we are still not in a union**

We enjoyed a rather special 4Cs service on 19<sup>th</sup> January. During this year Clarkston congregation will come to worship in Cairnlea Church building on six occasions – or strictly speaking five, since the sixth will be in Calderbank in terms of the usual linkage sharing of worship that Cairnlea and Calderbank already practise. And as well as that one in Calderbank, the Calderbank congregation will come on one occasion over to Cairnlea, again as usual in the linkage. Chapelhall people are of course warmly invited to be part of any of this.



*The  
Church*  
we are family!

**So that we all know how it works:**

As long as we are four entities, each Kirk Session and ultimately each congregation will have its own voting powers.

Although theoretically the first Mission Plan was for the union to be on its way by June 2025, an extension of time was granted to Calderbank and Chapelhall, but therefore also to Clarkston, which put as the absolute latest date June 2027. That is the date by which the Presbytery needs to have signed off, with the concurrence of the national Church of Scotland body, resolutions on what Calderbank and Chapelhall buildings are required for mission in our parish. (In other words, work on that realistically needs to be complete by ?December 2026. Clarkston Hall and the Cairnlea site are already agreed upon.)

As and when we are ready to sign off on a Basis of Union, which will legally define our ways of operating, this is what will go for formal voting first by Kirk Sessions and then by congregations. It should be noted that at that stage any congregation presently not under a Minister who is choosing to continue if called will get the right also to vote on that Minister.

Any questions?! We all have them! What we are doing is trying to deal with one thing after another, so that the detail is worked

out as carefully as possible prior to what will be quite a short legal Basis of Union.

