

Cairnlea Parish Church

'COMMITTED to CHRIST – CARING for OUR COMMUNITY'

September 2026

Airdrie Cairnlea Parish Church of Scotland is a registered charity, ref no: SC014555

www.cairnleaparishchurch.co.uk



Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The Lord's words are sweeter to me than honey.

Ps 34:8, Ps 119:103



FROM THE MINISTER

Dear friends,

There are times to act. I was thinking about that just this morning as I read for my own devotions in Luke chapter 10. Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan, and one of the lessons there is that he didn't just pass by. He stepped up to attend to the need in front of him. It was his time to act. And yet, immediately on the back of that parable, we have the account of Mary and Martha with Jesus, and Martha being all but reprimanded for doing and doing and not stopping to listen. There is a time to act and a time to sit and listen.

There are times to act. In a Bible Study we have read through Ezra and Nehemiah, books called after key figures who chose to act when the time was right. And then we have started in the Bible Study the book of Esther, and Aaron has preached twice on that book – a book always to be remembered not least for the line, "And who knows but that you have come to royal position, i.e. to the place you're in right now, for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14). In other words, for her then and there, Mordecai the speaker reckoned it was not time for Esther just to sit and listen. Except that, actually that's what she did immediately. For three days she sat and listened, listened for God's guidance. And then she did act.

So this month's thought? Build in time for what needs to be done, acted upon, not allowed to pass us by? And, equally importantly, are we building in time to sit and listen? I rather hope that the beauty of church, of being part of church, of being in the church, is that we have a regular coming and going between "doing" and "sitting and listening". We all need it, not least myself! We can't be forever just doing, we can't be forever just sitting.

And to be clear. Doing may mean physically engaging, but there are other ways also to act. By phoning, by writing, by praying, to name a few. And sitting and listening, well a real issue in today's world is where we sit, who we sit with, who we listen to. How I encourage you to build prayer and time with God into being part of that too! Read Psalm 1!

Yours,

Peter

DOING ... AND SITTING AND LISTENING

Here in Cairnlea, as well as on a Sunday offering time to come together (or else, listen in online via YouTube, "Cairnlea and Calderbank"), we aim to match our day to day activities with multiple times for prayer and fellowship. On the last Wednesday of every month (in the evening), it is mostly prayer and you are encouraged to be part of that as well as of other gatherings.

With Clarkston and Calderbank, meetings of the Elders all together have started up and will continue so as to allow talking through of the many details and questions surrounding the likely change in our configuration. This will be at times hard work, and so again prayer is more than necessary. The plan is to have some special prayer and fellowship gatherings and not just for Elders, so that we can journey forward with God's blessing rather than attempting to do our own best. Watch this space!

Comfort International is a charity we have supported and continue to care about for its work in sub-Saharan Africa, bringing healing and education. They ask your prayers and maybe action for the "children of liberty" (former child soldiers being helped back into normal life), and for the Comfort Transformation Centre (designed to provide safe and life-enriching community space). www.comfortinternational.org

Tearfund does amazing work amongst some of the poorest and most vulnerable in our world. They encourage us to participate, one way or another, in the Global Week of Prayer, 6-13 September: www.24-7prayer.com

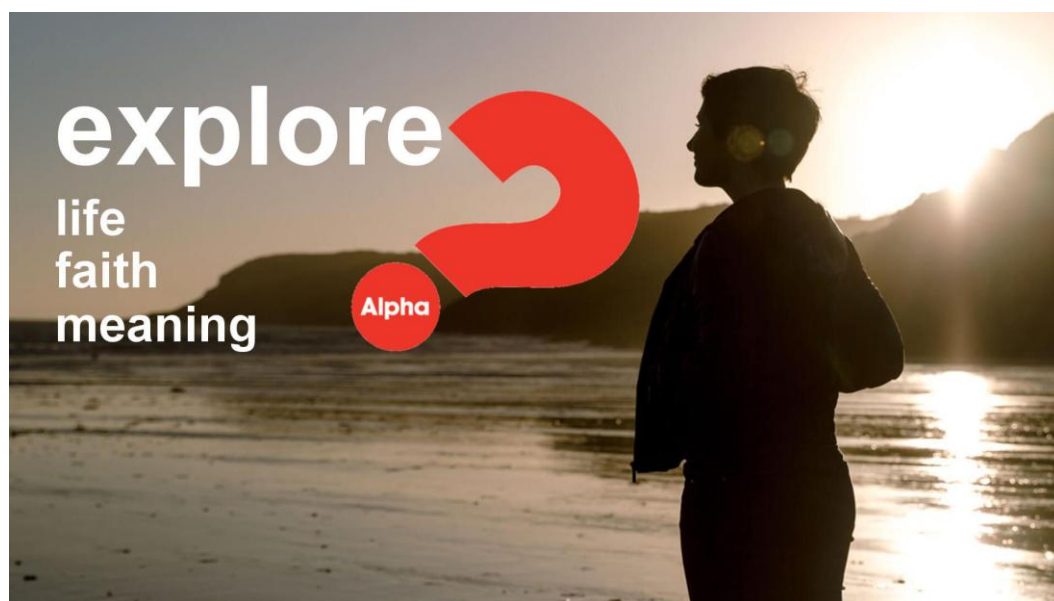
Blythwood Care, who do the Shoebox Appeal and much more, have a celebration event on in Glasgow, Friday 11th September at 7 pm in Harper Church, 60 Craigiehall Street, G51 1EU. It marks 60 years of the charity. There will be updates in person from Ukrainian partners.

In October, Christians from many different churches will be coming together in the SEC Armadillo, on Thursday 1st October, at 6.30 pm. It's called "The Revival" – a gathering for praise and worship, for teaching and for prayer. Tickets will be needed. www.therevival.scot

Last but not least, while the Cairnlea 2020 report gives you much of the news, you will get the sense that there is both plenty being worked on to plan a new building but also a real need for us to care for one another through that process. Some folk are carrying large responsibilities; and

then also it matters that we harness all possible wisdom even on relatively small details. Keep this in your prayers please; and be ready to take part in the ongoing consultation process.

EXPLORING FAITH



We have done it before but we'd like to offer "the Alpha Course" again on a Tuesday evening, for anyone who would like to explore faith in the company of others. It's a very non-threatening, easy environment. A

video is shown, there is opportunity for questions and discussion by those who want to speak, and others maybe just listening in, and that's it. You can join having been before, since inevitably new questions and thoughts arise, or you can take part even from having not been involved much in church at all, or from any point in between. Why not come and try? We shall hope to start on Tuesday 15th September, at 7.30 pm. There will be refreshments to welcome you!

MIGHT YOU BE INTERESTED?

Peter and Aaron have been offered an opportunity to help run something like a safe space / drop-in at Airdrie Academy. Probably on a Thursday lunchtime, 12.30 till 1.20 pm. Senior pupils we hope will help out, but ideally we need always to have two adults, and so this is asking, would you be willing now and again to be present? It's about being there. Engaging with the young people if they want to speak, or else just supporting a quieter space being offered in a big, noisy school.

Please ask more, and if possible offer yourself. And please do it very soon - because we will all of us need to satisfy Safeguarding requirements. The aim would be to start up after the October break, i.e. in later October. If we can get volunteers, we would run a rota to suit. But we need to know soon!!

From Finance Committee

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer and if you managed to get away on holiday you had a great time.

Perhaps we should be glad that we live in Scotland and have missed the extreme heat that “down south” have experienced.

Now that we move into Autumn various Groups, Organisations etc start up again. The Finance Group is no different. During the summer, the work of the Treasurer doesn't really stop, salaries and bills have still to be paid and collections counted etc.

The Finance Group had their first meeting since May on 10th August. As you can imagine it was a full agenda. Our first duty was to welcome our Assistant Minister –Aaron to the group. Aaron will be a member during his time at Cairnlea. I am sure that he will have a lot to contribute over the months ahead.

The main item up for discussion was the decline in our Finances, since the beginning of the year and the effect this is having on our Church reserves. It was decided at the meeting that the Treasurer will put a separate article in this month`s magazine so I don`t really want to encroach on what he might say. The Group are concerned and actions are being taken, particularly over expenditure, to try and address the position. We will continue to monitor the effect of our measures closely over the remaining months of this year.

Other items that were discussed were:-

- 1) Property update-----only essential expenditure e.g Health & Safety matters
- 2) Stewardship
- 3) Banking Arrangements. There had been a change by our Bankers regarding how we banked our Sunday collections. This had caused a bit of difficulty to our Sunday duty teams. After a meeting with the Bank a compromise was reached and things are more or less back to normal.
- 4) Cairnlea 2020—we received an update, also a note of their current Financial position.
- 5) Update 3,C`s – How it might affect the Finance Group? David Calvert gave an update. Given that there are important meetings scheduled over the next few weeks we will carry this matter over until the position becomes a bit clearer.

- 6) Succession Planning. -Discussion took place on this but again given the possible amalgamation of Churches this item will be carried over meantime.
- 7) Few other Matters a) Card Machine –been tested and is working fine. Once some training has taken place to the Duty Teams it will be operational for Open Plate donations.
- b) Our Treasurer is in discussion with some of the service utilities over billing etc.
- 8) Monday, 5th October has been provisionally set for our next meeting.

As is usual here are some of the Income & Expenditure Figures for July, 2026 together with those of the previous year.

INCOME	2026 (£)	2025 (£)
Freewill Offerings	13,034	12,581
Gift Aid Offerings	36,861	36,980
Open Plate	2,760	2,939
Tax Recovered	3,881	14,993
Use of Premises	13,894	11,362
Telephone Mast	2,355	3,698
EXPENDITURE	2026 (£)	2025 (£)
Fabric Repairs etc.	21,948	14,896
Heating & Lighting	23,694	10,250
Giving to Grow	51,870	43,844

****Remember this is a“ snap shot” at the end of July for both years. Number of Sundays may differ and also when we receive invoices/accounts for payment.**

Any queries, comments etc or if you are needing help with envelopes, standing orders etc. please do not hesitate to contact myself or one of the other people listed below.

George Martin On behalf of the Finance Committee

Myself:- 01236 767206 email georgemarelle@btopenworld.com

Treasurer:- Shanly Watson – email jsbwatson5@yahoo.com

Free Will Offering:- Lynn Turnbull - 07960 344375

Gift Aid:- Margaret McCombe - 01236 763977

Asking for your help

Year on year our church's life is sustained by people's generous voluntary giving. It is so good that you and I can share in offering that, so that God may be glorified and our community served.

In this year, 2026, we are rather conscious however of expenditure up to this point outrunning money coming in. While givings have covered the assessed contribution we make to ministry costs across Scotland ("Giving to grow"), our more local costs, in particular with charges around the buildings (maintenance, heating, cleaning), have been heavy. Thankfully outside rentals do make a very significant contribution here, but there has been a need to draw on capital reserves. We don't aim to keep an excessive amount of money in the bank but the Treasurer and Finance Committee certainly have concerns that our spare pot is being too quickly emptied.

So alongside Shanly Watson our Treasurer and George Martin our Finance Convener, I write to encourage you if possible to give a little more. Since our Stated Annual Meeting, some already have made moves on this, and thank you for that. For others, might a 10% increase be possible? Whether regularly through the bank or by putting in a one-off donation, that would be greatly appreciated. And if you pay tax at all on your own income, do remember that Cairnlea can claim back money from the Government, which increases what we receive from your donations. For that you need to have completed a Gift Aid Form. Otherwise it costs you nothing!

Thank you!

Peter



"Teambuilders" was the theme of this year's Holiday Club, run very ably by a large team of volunteers headed by Jo Jones and Esther Watson. There was an excellent cross section of children age-wise, and everyone seemed to have a great time! Very many thanks for your support, in both prayer and donations. Teamwork made for the success of the venture, each doing what they were able.

For your Diaries

Flower Calendar	
September 2026	
6	-
13	Bill & Mary Thomson
20	J. Calvert
27	Lesley Remfrey

Duty Teams	
Dates	Team Leader
6 & 13 September	Graham Henry
20 & 27 September	Jim Lewis

N.B. If you are unable to do your duty, please arrange a substitute.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING LUNCH



On Sunday 4th October, the Community Group are holding a Harvest Thanksgiving Lunch of soup and sandwiches after the morning service. There will be a retiring offering in aid of Drumpark School. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Esther Watson

THANK YOU!

A **BIG** thank you to my Cairnlea family for helping me to get to my 90th birthday.

Many thanks for the lovely cards, gifts and best wishes.

John Elliott

CAIRNLEA 2020 REPORT

Hi Folks,

During the last couple of months, we have been enjoying the heat and for some holidaying whether at home or away. We hope that you have enjoyed your summer and are looking forward to getting involved with all of the activities now starting back. We have had a busy time working on the various contracts and all “the legal stuff” for the new Annexe.

Here are some of the details coming from the 2020 group.

1. THE CAIRNLEA CENTRE ANNEXE – A WELLBEING HUB FOR AIRDRIE.

The Stage 2 Application for the 2026/2027 RCGF funding was successful, and the Scottish Government have granted £1.7Million towards the cost of the new build Community Annexe.

The present status of the grant is that The General Trustees of COS require to enter into a contract with North Lanarkshire Council for the legal aspects of the grant funding. Negotiations between both parties are continuing.

Meanwhile the 2020 Group are working on the Annexe re-design, and the planning concept is being prepared by the Architect for our final approval. Thereafter, the professional team will create Tender documents to allow final costings to be ascertained.

2. Electricity Supply.

The Electricity meter complaint is still unresolved with Scottish Power (SPEN). We have decided that new meter will be included in the new Annexe works detail.

3. Cash Flow

Bank Balance as at 18.09.2026 is **£144,280.10**

4. Fund Raising

We have secured a grant of £250,000 from the General Trustees.

An additional £50,000 has been promised by an external donor.

We are in discussion with a VAT Consultant who will advise on the best method to apply for a VAT rate adjustment for our new building.

5. Roof Project.

Being held over until the Annexe project is well under way. We shall re-visit this mid-2027.

6. Marketing.

Bookings and Income continue to be stable.

7. Building Signage & Direction Boards

We have obtained costing for improved signing / direction boards circa £1975 +VAT. The Cairnlea House entrance hallway noticeboard price is still awaited. New maps and updated directions are being posted on the Church web site. **HELD TILL NEW ANNEXE DESIGN IS FINALISED.**

8. Cairnlea 2020 – Community Anchor Development Centre

Following receipt of the successful grant (£10,000pa for 3 years), we have now setup a SCIO called "Cairnlea Community".

The Trustees have been appointed, and a new Bank Account is in place.

The first year's funding will be transferred in early September, thereafter, we can commence with our community services programme.

A programme of Monthly meetings of the NLC Anchor Consortium will be held in our buildings as we are the hosts for the Airdrie district.

Going forward we can expect the Trustees of Cairnlea Community to report on their new community activities.

Malcolm Ross

Convener

25 August 2026

Used Stamps Appeal

Please continue to put your used stamps in the box in the foyer or give them to ourselves.

Over the years Keith Scott has sent £140,000 to the Church of Scotland but unfortunately, that department has now closed at 121 George Street, Edinburgh.

Used stamps are now going to Dementia Research UK.

Thank you,

Betty & John Elliott

From our Session Clerk

Greetings: I hope you all had a peaceful and enjoyable Summer, and for those who went on Summer holidays, I hope you had a relaxing break. Indeed, an interesting Summer with some great weather and even an eclipse of the Sun, albeit scarcely visible in Airdrie. Despite the Moon hiding the Sun for a short time, there was much to be bright about. Our Holiday Club attracted about 20 young people and was a great success with its theme of 'Teambuilders', so thank you to those who made it an enjoyable experience for the young.

We also hosted the annual Christian Aid quiz night which was well supported. Thank you to those who planned the quiz and helped with refreshments.

Our activities are now re-starting and may our organisations and all users enjoy an interesting and successful session. Meetings of Finance Committee, Cairnlea 2020, Business Committee and Kirk Session have already taken place. You can read of the news in the magazine.

Our Services:

During August, we held a joint service with our friends at Clarkston and thank you Rev. Hanna Rankine who led much of the service. Our Probationer Rev. Aaron Johnstone has settled in well and delivered very interesting and engaging sermons on Ruth and Esther. Esther was particularly interesting, being the wife of King Xerxes and who saved the Jewish people in exile in Babylon from persecution and death. A really wonderful Old Testament read. In Ruth, we read of loyalty, *'Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God, my God.'* In Esther, courage, *'And spare my people, this is my request. For I and my people have been sold for destruction and slaughter and annihilation.'*

Live streaming of services on 'Youtube' at 11:00am each Sunday morning continues, and previous services can be accessed at any time. For those who cannot attend, we hope you continue to enjoy our services. Thanks are due to the audio/ visual team, especially Robert and Mary Cunningham who serve us so well.

Kirk Session and Business Committee meetings

The latest meeting of the Business Committee was held on 19th August and of the Kirk Session on 26th August; brief reports are set out below:

Cairnlea 2020: Much has been happening over the Summer and a report is included elsewhere. A bat survey and site investigation have been carried out, both necessary prior to any work. We are working with our professional team to do as much early planning as possible. Thank you for the commitment of the team.

Finance: A more detailed report is included elsewhere. Income and expenditure continue to be closely monitored and thanks are due to our Accountant and the team.

Spiritual Growth: Harvest Thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 4th October; the next joint service with Clarkston will be held on Sunday 27th September. Our regular joint service with Calderbank will be held on Sunday 1st November, all services at Cairnlea.

Community: The Christmas Fayre is planned for Saturday 28th November. Plans are also being considered for a Toy Appeal for those less advantaged in our community.

Property: A further outbreak of dry rot was discovered in the foyer of the Sanctuary and speedy remedial work was carried out.

Communication: An update of the Cairnlea brochure for issue to areas in our Parish is under preparation.

3C moving forward together: The elders of the 3C churches, Cairnlea, Calderbank, Clarkston met together on 22nd August and will meet again on 9th September and 7th October. The 22nd August meeting looked to identify vision rather than look at detail. Several topics were noted and individuals added their names for those topics to be discussed. Such topics included Finance, Property, Pastoral Care, Youth and Children, Worship, Mission, Communication, Christian Education, Kirk Session and Governance.

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO): This has now been set up with Trustees to manage Cairnlea's nomination to be Airdrie's Community Anchor Organisation. We wish the group well in this important endeavour.

Poets' Corner:

The Lake Isle of Innisfree

By William Butler Yeats

WB Yeats (1865-1939) was a great Irish poet and dramatist:

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

Caring for us:

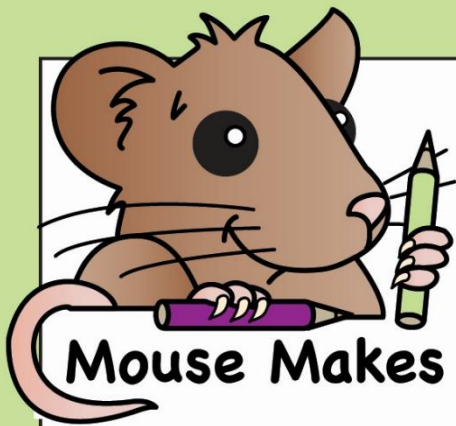
Our prayers are as always for those who are ill or alone, those who still provide emergency services, those in schools and care homes. Please also remember those who feel threatened by several concerns of health, family, loss of income and other matters, and the most vulnerable in our society who may be suffering from a variety of ailments. Please also remember those in our world who are subjected to wars, famine, persecution. Please keep in touch with family and friends, especially those who are alone or vulnerable, and remember them in your prayers. Should you know of any members who are in hospital or ill at home, please speak with the Minister or myself.

David

Wedding guest

A little boy at Sunday School learned about the time Jesus went to a wedding and changed the water into wine. "And what did you learn from that story?" asked his father afterwards.

The boy thought for a moment and answered, "If you're having a wedding, make sure Jesus is there."



Mouse Makes



READ
John 15:1-17

THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

— — — — —
John 15:1

What does Jesus
ask us to do?

"Go and bear

— — — — —"
John 15:16

What happens
to the branches
that do not remain
in the vine?

Thrown into the

— — — — —
and

How many
times does Jesus
use the word
FRUIT?

What does
Jesus command?

*To — — — — —
one another.
John 15:12,17*

How many
times does Jesus
command us
to **LOVE**
one another?

— — — — —
John 15:6

H T H R O W N A W A Y
I R A B I D E W I S B
D U F R U I T F U L U
N E R A J S I A M J R
C V U N F C U T V P N
L J I C W I T H E R S
E O T H O P J E S U S
A Y V W R L C R O N V
N G A R D E N E R E I
O S F J E S I S W S N
E R E M A I N F I R E

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Minister	Rev. Dr Peter Donald	01236 753159 07453 359531
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Roll Keeper	-	-
Presbytery Elder	Aileen Barrie	01236 760655
Church Treasurer	Shanly Watson	01236 372571
Finance Convener	George Martin	01236 767206
Freewill Offering	Lynn Turnbull	07960 344375
Gift Aid	Margaret McCombe	01236 763977
Property Convener	Angela Wagstaff	07718 432581
Community Convener	Esther Watson	01236 372571
Pastoral Care Convener	Rob Jones	07761 782714
Communications Convener	Les Turnbull	07854 164380
Cairnlea 2020 Convener	Malcolm Ross	07734 684667
Spiritual Growth	Rev. Dr Peter Donald	01236 753159
Church Cleaner	Rachel Black	01236 609919
Church Flowers	Elizabeth Reekie	01236 762948
Music Director	Marjory MacDonald	01236 762669
The Guild	Anne Gray	01236 765047
Funday Club	Pamela Spence	01236 769146
Girls' Brigade Captain	Lesley Curran	01236 628625
Saturday Tea & Coffee Morning	Shanly Watson	01236 372571
Toy Library	Margaret McCombe	01236 763977
Parents & Toddlers	Jacqueline McLaughlin	07785 567676
Senior Citizen's Club	Morag Stewart	01236 766439
Probus Club	George Lindsay	07709 078028
Safeguarding	Irvine Wright	01236 595351
DVD Recording of Services	Robert Cunningham	01236 761337
Health & Safety Co-ordinator	-	-
Cairnlea 2020 Treasurer	Gordon Barrie Calum MacInnes	01236 760655 01698 860588
Sunday Car Rota	Shanly Watson	01236 372571

Contributions for the October magazine to be in the hands of the editor by Monday 21 September, 2026.

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**BLYTHSWOOD CHRISTMAS
SHOE BOX APPEAL**

We are offering you an opportunity if you would like to fill a Shoe Box for Blythswood Care Christmas Appeal 2026.

Leaflets giving details and suggested content lists, age ranges etc are included with this magazine. There are also leaflets available at the front door of the Church.

The filled boxes will be required at Church by **Sunday 22nd October.**

We thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity to helping others in need.