



# *Parkview Quarterly*

## EASTER 2026

### **THE MANSE**

Have you ever wondered, what it would be like to be Mary, standing at the empty tomb on Easter Morning; hearing Jesus shout your name - Mary! John! In Isaiah 43:1, it says, "Fear not for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name, you are mine." Jesus called Mary by name, Jesus loves us all, with an everlasting, unconditional love, which doesn't depend on our response. God in Jesus loved his followers, his church, as a group. But he also loves us as individuals. He loves Mary, as Mary, and calls her by name. And when he does so, there's instant recognition.

God loves, because God is love; and I believe God can't not love, because love is the essence of his being. If you go to an airport, you'll see people hugging, as they welcome others for it's human to touch, to hug, even when we don't like hugging! Mary hopes and expects Jesus to reach out to her as he'd always done in the past. But Jesus says, "Do not hold on to me."-That must have hurt. Mary had been so close to Jesus, so dependent on him, and her heart must have skipped at least 1 beat, when she saw him alive again, after the agony of the cross. Mary wants to go back to how things were, and it can't. Even in the church we'd love to be able to go back to how things were, but we can't. Everything is different.

If you ever remember holding a child, while learning to ride, we realise as they do, we can't hold onto the person forever. To help us grow, our relationship needs to evolve. Mary's relationship with Jesus had to move onto maturity. Maturity means, we need to loosen our grip, let go of what we know, take risks, as we go into the unknown. And like Mary, we need to realise, we're never alone. Jesus is still with us, not physically, but just as Mary did - learn to open our life, so Jesus can live within us, enabling us to have a closer relationship than before.

Saint Augustine said, "God is closer to us than we are to ourselves." Jesus said, he will dwell within us as the father dwells in him. Jesus is already holding on to us.

This Easter, open your heart to Jesus. Pray for His peace to be within you; Trust in Him. Learn more about Him. Read the Bible and Pray; Watch and Pray.

May God Bless you, this Easter

***Alison***

## **LENT**

A few weeks ago, I asked in church who was looking forward to spring. A lot of us long for longer days, warmer weather. It feels like the world starts to open up to us a bit more and there is more opportunity to get out and about. The fear of falling on ice becomes a distant thought, one to leave in the past until it is winter again. Although there is a predictability because the seasons come round every year, they also bring a change. Perhaps unusually it's one we look forward to. We remember the springs and summers of years gone by and get excited about experiencing them once again. Other types of change are harder, whether it's changes in church or in other areas of our lives. We can be more resistant to these, more likely to cling to the memories of the past. It is the good memories that make change hard, but it is also the creation of new ones which helps us to embrace it. One of the loveliest parts of spending this time with you are the experiences which I know will be good memories when I look back on being at Parkview, and I'm sure there will be plenty more in the next few months. I am even more sure that our faithful, unchanging God walks with us through all the changes life throws at us. The ones we look forward to and the ones we find hard. As we embrace the spring, and approach Easter, let's remember all the times God has been with us, and look forward to creating new memories of walking in the light of our risen Saviour.

***Bethany Pringle***

## **BABY/TODDLERS**

A new year for the Group and our numbers remain good.

We see the babies growing up so quick and some are now crawling and walking and developing their wee characters.

Some of the toddlers are now reaching that time when they will be coming of age to join school nurseries. Whilst we will miss them they are also welcome during the nurseries holidays.

A thank you to all who contributed to our Christmas Raffle and congratulations to all prize winners. We raised £296.00.

We would also like to thank the Girls Brigade for their contribution to our Christmas Party.

Easter is fast approaching and we hope the Easter Bunny will have surprises for the Group.

I can be contacted on 07876743595 if anyone wishes to enroll their little ones.

***Margaret & Joe***

## **BIBLE STUDY**

The Bible Study (Laughing group) meets fortnightly on a Wednesday morning at 10.30am. Bethany has been using an Ignatian spirituality method over Lent, which everyone has appreciated and worked in well, with Lent. I am told everyone who comes enjoys learning more about the Bible. You don't have to say or read anything out loud if you don't want to - just come along and be in the presence of others, enjoying their fellowship and willing to learn more about our faith and the Bible.

Another group began in Lent, for those who've never attended a Bible Study, so everyone is at the same stage. It meets fortnightly on Wednesday evenings at 6.30pm. So far, we have been thinking a little about Jesus journey to the cross, and comparing it in the different gospels and applying it to our lives.

Please come along to any of the studies. You will be made most welcome.

***Alison***

## **BLYTHSWOOD**

Blythswood Care started in Glasgow in 1966 by a group of young Christian men, handing out Christian messages seeking to introduce people to the Lord.

The first Shoebox Appeal, 1993 delivered Christmas boxes, packed with love and strengthened with prayer to the poorest and most vulnerable communities in Eastern Europe. Since then, there has been more than 2.8 million boxes each one different, each one personal, each one an expression of care and kindness towards a stranger in need.

Last year unwavering support enabled Blythswood to send over 85,000 shoeboxes to eight different countries, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

Read only one of the stories of how the shoeboxes make such a difference at Christmas.

Serbeze's Story:- For four year old Serbeze, a shoebox full of gifts isn't just a present --- it's treasure. Serbeze's parents are both unemployed and live in extreme poverty, struggling daily to provide food for their three children. As a result, the children do not attend school and miss out on the opportunities that education can bring. To make ends meet, the parents collect rubbish and cans on the streets where they live doing whatever they can to support their family.

Serbeze found essential items she needed, such as toothbrushes, soap and a comb. All of which will help promote cleanliness and create self-confidence. She also appreciated the hat and scarf which will help her to keep warm during the cold winter. For Serbeze, the shoebox isn't just a gift, it's a moment of joy and love.

Here in Parkview Church, we donated 92 shoeboxes along with a large amount of money.

Thank you to everybody for your kindness and generosity.

***Blythswood Team***

## **BOYS BRIGADE**

Our 2nd half session is always a busy one for all groups.

We run three groups. All 3 groups meet Friday nights.

Anchors	5 to 8 year old
Juniors	8 to 11 year old
Company	11 to 18 year old

Anchors have loads of fun making things doing things learning about things and have loads of fun and enjoy themselves.

Juniors do much the same and take part in several competitions for Maze Marching, Christian Faith, Football and various other competitions. This session 1 team winning the Battalion 5 a-side Competition at Polmont and also 2nd team winning the Sporting Team Award. Successful, also once again returning with the Figure Marching Trophy.

Company section programme involves Bible Class, Drill and classes on various things and play games such as Table Tennis, Pool etc on a Friday. They also participate in various events over the year in Drill, Christian Faith, 1st Aid and various sporting events. Recently taking 2nd place in the Battalion Drill Competition only losing out on a tie breaker after it ended in a tie with 1st Polmont. Several competitions are upcoming and I will update on results as they happen. They also take part in National Competitions this year in Master Team Quiz, Chess and Fifa Football.

The programmes the boys working are all supplied by the BB and are wide varied and interesting.

As captain I have to say I have a great Staff of Officers and Helpers with long experience and help is always welcome if you want to contact a Member of Staff.

***David Wilson***  
***Captain***

## **PARKVIEW COFFEE CLUB**

The Coffee Club meets on Wednesday afternoons at 2.00p.m. alternating month about with the Guild in either the Sanctuary or the hall.

To date, both the Guild and the Club have worked together very successfully in the kitchen.

The afternoon is normally very informal with tea/coffee and biscuits served followed by an activity ranging from quizzes to “craft “and an occasional musical afternoon.

This session we were invited to the Guild’s hospitality afternoon. We were entertained by the Strathcarron Singers followed by a lovely afternoon tea in the hall. This was enjoyed by everyone.

One afternoon we had a mini-Burn’s Supper where we were entertained by the schoolchildren from Moray Primary who provided a selection of recitations and dancing.

The Club has 56 members (on its books) with a regular attendance of over 40. The members like to support local charities and this session have managed to make donations to Moray Primary School and Strathcarron Hospice.

New members are welcome and are under no obligation to attend every week or to stay for the full afternoon if they have other commitments. It is very fluid and is designed purely for fellowship.

***Isobel and Eric Davidson***

## **FINANCE**

I fell into the role of church treasurer when Wallace Nicol from Abbotsgrange passed away suddenly a few years ago. I had a background in administration and felt I could keep abreast of the day to day management of the accounts but was not sure about the end year return. I achieved this

for a couple of years before our union and was humbled to be asked if I would continue the role in Parkview.

Usually, the treasure's role involves.

- working with the duty teams to collate and bank the Free Will and plate offerings each week
- paying any invoices received and setting up any new direct debits
- keeping spreadsheets up to date and bank statements balanced each month
- keeping paperwork in an organised fashion for year-end accounting checks and Gift Aid collection
- preparing reports for Kirk Session and annual reports for accounting checks and returns to Presbytery, George Street and the charity regulator.

As this was our first year of a new union, there have been other challenges. We have been working with three banks accounts. All three needed the signatories changed. This has only just been achieved. All accounts such as utilities, trade waste, water rates, cleaning contracts have needed name changes and contact details changed. These have not always been straight forward.

Another challenge for me was getting to grips with Minister's expenses and salaried staff. We did not have a minister at Abbotsgrange or paid staff so taking these into account was totally alien to me, however, Carol Vause was and still is a god send. You were very fortunate to have her look after your accounts.

I have the title of Treasurer but there is a team of people working with me. They are Nigel Harris, Laura Moore, Evelyn Baker and Jennifer Colliar. I am very grateful for the roles they play in the Finance team, and the advice and support they provide.

If you have any questions or would like to know how to get free will offering envelopes, standing orders to pay through or use gift aid to support congregation, please just ask any of the finance team.

***Kirsty Nicholson***  
***Treasurer***

## **FLOWERS**

In our church we are blessed by the generosity of members of our congregation who donate the flowers which are put on the communion table every Sunday.

Most Sunday`s the flowers are bought and placed by Bett Jones using monies that are donated by a sponsor or place by the sponsor themselves. The flowers are then delivered by either me, the sponsor or volunteers to members of the congregation. The flowers are really appreciated by all every Sunday.

The Sunday Flower rota can be found on the notice boards in both the Hall and church vestibules these are monthly or a complete list for the year can be found on the notice board in the hall.

***Andrewina Houghton and Bett Jones***

## **GARDENERS**

As I write this in the first week of March, the rain has finally stopped and a hint of Spring is in the air. The snowdrops, narcissus and daffodils are out and giving us an early show of colour.

The hoes, edging shears and secateurs will be cleaned, sharpened soon and the mower has already been serviced.

The storage hut continues to deteriorate and despite requiring attention throughout the year a more permanent solution needs to be sought.

It will shortly be time for placing our order of bedding plants with the nursery, to give them plenty growing time although it will be May before we can plant out. The roses are already ahead of themselves with many shoots already showing, feeding and pruning will start late March.

The gardeners will resume work again on Wednesday 1st April, anyone who wants to assist is welcome, it is from 9am to 10am every Wednesday with a cuppa and a biscuit in the hall after.

“Gardening is one of the purest forms of mortal pleasure...Planting a garden means believing in a better tomorrow.” – Ashwini Shenoy

***Happy Gardening – Tom Davidson***

## **GIRLS BRIGADE**

As always, it has been a busy time since August and we are truly grateful to have a successful and thriving company. Our numbers remain healthy, which is a real reflection of the dedication and enthusiasm of all the officers who plan each week so thoughtfully, providing the girls with fun and engaging topics and activities. We have adapted well to our new surroundings, making good use of the space and filling it with enjoyable activities.

This year we celebrated our wonderful officer, Carol Ramsay's 70th birthday with cake for everyone. She truly is amazing.

The Explorers have been learning about the animal kingdom this year, working their way through the different animal groups. They have explored amphibians, fish, reptiles, bugs and beasties, birds and will finish with mammals. Along the way they have enjoyed making masks, creating their own parrots and frogs and sharing a few sweet treats. We have also been learning new songs and hearing animal-themed Bible stories as each topic changed. We think they will all remember the story of Daniel and the lions' den, especially with the energetic storytelling! They even received their own talking parrot, Blossom and had a special visit from a tortoise.

The Juniors have had a varied and exciting year. They have been inventing, cooking, baking and crafting. They particularly enjoyed stepping back – and forward – in time, learning about Viking gods and imagining life 3,000 years in the future. They also showed great trust in one another by completing blindfolded obstacle courses. Games nights with new games have also been a regular highlight. Unfortunately, the highlight of the Junior year, the Junior Easter Camp, has had to be cancelled as the Guide Camp hall requires some work. While this is disappointing for everyone, we are hopeful that things will return to normal next year. The Brigaders have been travelling around the world this year. Their journey has taken them to the Caribbean, Greece, Poland, Africa and Canada. Along the way they have sampled food, learned about different cultures and explored how each country is unique. They have particularly enjoyed making crafts linked to each place. They also tried their hand at breaking a few world records, discovering that it is harder than it looks! We have yet to confirm where we will be travelling in the summer, but plans are already underway.

At Christmas we held our Breakfast with Santa event, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. We also hosted a brunch with breakfast rolls. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

Our year has been filled with events and celebrations and we have enjoyed every minute of it.

With the Easter holidays fast approaching, we will soon be preparing to finish up in May for a well-earned break.

***Lorraine Hamilton***

***ENP***

***ED/MIU***

## **GOOD 2 TALK**

Our Good to Talk group meets on the 1st Tuesday of every month in the church session room from 2.30 - 3.30pm

This is not counselling. It is a bereavement support group for anyone who has suffered a loss recently or many years ago there is no time limit on grief.

This is a safe space to come along and chat or just listen to others in a similar situation to yourself over a cup of tea or coffee.

Anything shared within this group stays within the group.

We are here to listen and offer support.

If you or someone you know would like to come along but are not sure about walking in on your own, speak to me in church or if you prefer call or txt 07931369674 and I can meet you at the door.

***Avril Yorston***

## **GUILD**

The Guild has been maintaining numbers with around 35 ladies attending each week. We have had a busy time with our Hospitality Afternoon, we had all the ladies from the different Churches visiting and the ladies from the coffee club joined us for the entertainment. We were very well

entertained by the Strathcarron Singers and the amount of £622.95 was raised for Strathcarron. We have had a very interesting talk about Stirling Castle, Our Guild Project for this session, Rosebank Distillery etc.

We try to do as much mission work as we can by collecting glasses, stamps and bras for different charities.

We hosted a meeting of all the guild members in the Falkirk area with discussion re. Churches and Guilds coming together. This was most enjoyable hearing other guilds points of view.

We had our elders visit and the ladies all made glass pendants that day, now awaiting them to be fired and returned to us.

We ask that if anyone would like to visit the Guild or get more information, please speak to myself or any member of the Committee. I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work making the Guild the success it is.

***June Kemp***

### **HALL LETS**

Anyone wishing a Hall let can email: [parkviewchurch.lets@gmail.com](mailto:parkviewchurch.lets@gmail.com). A reminder to all groups or organisations requiring a hall let that they need to book if this is out with their normal booking as this enables us to keep track of who is using the building.

A monthly Church planner can be found on the notice board in the hall vestibule.

***Andrewina Houghton***

### **MISSION GROUP**

The Church of Scotland seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities.

The Church of Scotland agreed this ambitious statement during the General Assembly of 2020.

So, what has the Mission Group been doing to help achieve these aims?

We have continued to organise monthly Café Church evening services which are now being held at the Sealock Centre in Montgomery Street. Attendances have been showing some modest growth and the support from those members of the congregation who participate with such enthusiasm is greatly appreciated. However, we are still struggling to attract more than a very few members of the local community who are not church goers. We plan to continue the services until June and will review the situation then.

We have maintained the Fun and Games events for the young people who in the most part are members of the congregation's youth organisations. These have been reasonably well attended and those who come along do enjoy themselves – so much so that we sometimes have to remind them that it's time to go home!

We considered making an application to the Church of Scotland's Seeds for Growth Scheme. However, the process is detailed and lengthy and would require an input of significant resources. We felt that an application in tandem with plans to develop our buildings could give us more scope to submit a constructive application with a greater chance of success, possibly in 2027.

***John Thomson,  
Mission Group Leader***

### **PASTORAL CARE NEWS**

Our Pastoral Care Visiting team has grown by 2 following our recent training. Our small number of Pastoral Care Visitors regularly visit members of our church to offer Christian fellowship and to act as a link between the church and our members who are unable to attend our church services.

As a Pastoral Care team we speak and meet regularly to offer support to each other.

If we come to visit you and you are not available we can come back at a time more convenient to you. We have cards which we will leave that let you know we had come to visit and you were not at home. On this card there is information for you to get in touch with us to arrange another visit.

Additionally members of the pastoral care team have been cleared by Disclosure Scotland to visit church members who are now in Care Homes. Disclosure Scotland is required as visiting someone in a Care Home is defined as a church role by Church of Scotland.

If you, or someone you know, would like us to visit please just get in touch and let us know your name, your address and your phone number and any helpful information which will allow us to plan our visits to accommodate any needs you may have.

If you would like to be part of our Pastoral Care Visiting Team please just let us know. Contact Eileen or Alison ( 07761101476)  
Information on Pastoral Care can be found on our notice board in the Church Hall.

Jesus tells us in Matthew Chapter 18 verse 20

“For when 2 or 3 are gathered in my name, there am I with them. “

May the blessing of Easter be with you all.

***Avril, Caroline, Eileen (07973172063), Janice***

### **PRAYER GROUP**

The prayer group meets monthly, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 2pm, for approx. 30 minutes. We use different items and methods to help us pray. This is not a gossip shop! In fact, we rarely mention a name, just about situations dear to ourselves, the community, the church, the world. We sometimes listen to quiet music and allow the Holy Spirit to direct our

thoughts and prayers. There can be between 4 - 6 people attending, praying for many issues. Again, you would be made most welcome.

***Alison***

## **PRAYER DIARY**

Prayer is an essential part of our faith journey. Knowing the Lords will and nearness each day. We have a Prayer Circle in Parkview praying for others and situations using text messaging which is completely confidential.

To request Prayer please use the Prayer Box at the Church Door or by Telephone using 01324484458, 01324485299 in complete confidence only First Name or situation is needed.

***Jean Jackson***

## **PROPERTY**

From the Desk of the Property Convenor.

So what does the Property Convenor and the Property team do? I hear you ask...

The team is responsible for everything relating to the fabric of our church building inside and out.

Some of the things we are involved in include:

- Responding to issues written in the property book in the hall
- Looking out for any faults or concerns in and around the church building
- Regular meetings to report back to the Kirk Session
- Necessary paperwork for Presbytery approval.
- Meetings with contractors as required
- Ensure we are complying with all aspects of Health and Safety
- Complete the annual Trade Waste Contract with Falkirk Council
- Carry out minor repairs, including painting/decorating.

Anyone got skills to help out or learn new skills as part of the team? Feel free to get in touch.

Thanks

***Liz Urbanczyk***

***Property Convenor***

### **SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR**

I am the Safeguarding Coordinator for Parkview Parish Church. I have been involved in safeguarding through the Church of Scotland for over 20 years and have seen many changes in our role and responsibilities. Most of the work is now done on line but there are still some aspects that require me to talk directly to volunteers e.g. reviewing Identification paperwork.

My main duties involve

- Promoting good safeguarding practices to ensure a safe church for all
- Receiving reports of any witnessed, suspected or reported harm or abuse of children or vulnerable adults, and take any immediate action required including informing the safeguarding service, the police or social work services
- Ensuring all workers are recruited using the Safeguarding Safer Recruitment process and facilitate the Basic Disclosure and PVG application process as required, that the Kirk Session ratify the appointment of workers going through the process and that the congregation is compliant with safeguarding training.
- Providing a Safeguarding update report to every Kirk Session meeting ensuring they are aware of all safeguarding issues within the congregation and from the Safeguarding Service.
- Ensuring that all record keeping is up to date and available on request. This information is required for the annual attestation and is presented at Kirk Session.

A full Job description for a Safeguarding Coordinator can be found on the safeguarding section of the Church of Scotland – safeguarding forms (SG28) If you have any question about this role please just ask, email me on [kirsty.nicolson57@gmail.com](mailto:kirsty.nicolson57@gmail.com), or, text or call on 077087 918 766.

***Kirsty Nicolson***

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Easter Coffee Morning – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 10am -12noon  
Donations of home baking and raffle prizes will be gratefully received.  
Tickets £3 at the door or from Janice Gray or Laura Muir.

Church Quiz – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 7pm  
Teams of 4-6 players, tickets £5 per person, register through Janice or Laura.  
Quizmaster Paul Belamy – BYOB & Nibbles

***Janice Gray and Laura Muir***

## **STITCHERS**

We currently have around 25 members in the group.  
Some folk do crochet, sewing and cross stitch, but the majority knit.  
We currently give baby hats to Forth Valley Maternity Unit - all new babies are given a hat, so they do need them! I recently made contact with a community midwife, and we will be donating baby jackets and hats which they will give to women who need them.

In November we gave baby jackets to the nurseries in the town to be given to those in need.

We have previously given knitted goods to CHAS, Strathcarron and Maggies Centre - all of which have been grateful.

Knitted toys are very popular, and we have been selling some of those at Christmas and Easter celebrations in the church.

We are a very sociable group, so there's lots of chats and laughter at our meetings. If you'd like to come along that would be great. We meet fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons from 2 - 4pm.

If you'd like more info, please give me a call on 472980.

Kind regards  
***Joan Hermse***

## **SUNDAY COFFEE**

Our teams are now well integrated in providing the coffee and tea after the service on a Sunday. This is much appreciated by the congregation who enjoy this time of fellowship. We are especially grateful for the regular donations of home baking which are enjoyed by all. A big thank you to all the members of the teams. If this is something you might like to help with, please speak to Margaret Campbell (tel: 07909695233). You will get lots of support until you feel confident, and you will enjoy contributing to church life.

***Margaret Campbell***

## **SESSION CLERK**

I would like to say that it is my honour to serve as the session clerk of Parkview.

Our current Kirk Session consists of 26 elders who for OSCR reasons are the designated trustees of our charity account.

This comes with a great weight of responsibility and we welcome your prayers in all our deliberations.

Under the direction of our Mission Plan we must look for ways to attract more and younger folks to our church.

This may mean changes to ways in which you feel comfortable with and some of which you may not wish to change but the challenge for us all is how do we ensure there is a relevant church here for future generations. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow but we must look at new ways to deliver that message to a wider audience.

***John Russell***  
***Session Clerk***

## KIRK SESSION

### MINISTER

Rev Alison A Meikle BD.

Tel: 07761101476

[ameikle@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:ameikle@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### CHURCH TREASURER

Mrs Kirsty Nicolson.

### SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR

Mrs Kirsty Nicolson.

### CHURCH ORGANIST

Mr Brian Millar.

**FACEBOOK:**

**CHARITY NUMBER:**

[Parkviewparishchurch.org](http://Parkviewparishchurch.org)

SCO13114

### SESSION CLERK

John Russell.

Tel: 07485173436

[russell@5298@sky.com](mailto:russell@5298@sky.com)

### CHURCH ROLL-KEEPER

Mrs Mary Fullerton.

Tel: 01324 486952

### PROPERTY CONVENOR

Mrs Liz Urbanczyk.

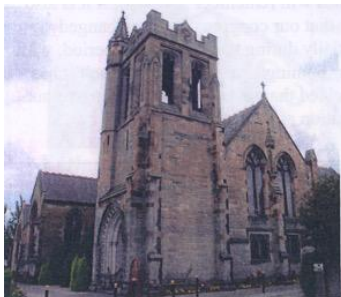
### HEALTH & SAFETY

### ADMINISTRATOR

Mr E. Colliar.

I am the Church

You are the Church



We are the Church Together