the presbytery of forth valley & clydesdale

Weekly Bulletin

12th November 2026

VACANCY LIST

Vacancies | The Church of Scotland

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

Vacancy – Assistant Clerk

The Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale is looking for an Assistant Clerk! Do pass on this information to anyone you know who might be interested:

Assistant-Clerk,-FV-and-C-job-description-Nov-2026.pdf

Deadline for Property Works Applications

The last Presbytery Property Group Meeting of the year takes place on 25 November, therefore any Applications for Works should be with the Property Committee by **18 November**.

October Presbytery Meeting Update

Presbytery met on Saturday 31 October at Motherwell, Kirk at The Cross Church. It was a real joy to welcome both Rev Gavin Black and Rev Ibidun Daramola to the Presbytery, both having moved to the Presbytery from other areas of Scotland. There were some items of business including the approval of church unions and several property matters. The Rev Ross Blackman has been appointed as the new Moderator for the remainder of the 2026/27 Presbytery year.

However, the main focus of the meeting was the apology for chattel slavery, which had been delivered initially at this year's General Assembly. We heard moving testimonies from Rev Mandy Ralph and Rev Everisto Musedza both of whom spoke about their own experiences with racism as they seek to minister in their churches and communities. Presbytery had the opportunity to then discuss in small groups and respond to what they had heard. Rev Scott Burton, outgoing Presbytery Moderator, read out the Apology for Chattel Slavery from the General Assembly. There was a meaningful response time in prayer as members of Presbytery lit candles for each of our churches as part of the Light in the Darkness Day of Prayer.

One Step Beyond Mission Conference

One Step Beyond Conference
Saturday 21 November
9.30am – 2pm
Venue: Motherwell, Kirk at The Cross

What does ministry and mission in our local communities look like beyond the Presbytery mission plan? How can we play our part in the mission God calls us to in our community and what does that look like?



Join the Presbytery and Forth Valley of Clydesdale for One Step Beyond, **a conference to help you develop mission relevant to the skills and abilities in your congregation and appropriate to your community.** Inspirational workshops and discussion to help you develop mission relevant to the skills and abilities in your congregation.

Our keynote speaker for the day is the **Rev Dr Doug Gay** who will open our conference with an overview of contextual mission.

Delegates will then have the option to attend three out of four workshops on offer:

- **Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)** - Derek and Helen Pope unpack what this is and how it can enable your church to develop local mission.
- ***Taking SHAPE* -** David Cameron will consider how our Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality and Experiences can help shape our mission and develop our congregation.
- **Mission Audits -** Lyndsay Cameron helps us consider how a mission audit can enable us to better understand the needs of our local communities.
- **New Spaces -** Peter Wood will be exploring Fresh Expressions and Pioneering and how these new spaces can enable more effective mission in different contexts and people-groups.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Over lunch the Presbytery Staff Team will be available to chat about how the Presbytery can help resource churches for mission including creating stepping stones to faith and belonging.

We would encourage as many people as possible from the Presbytery to attend this conference and take the opportunity to learn from some **great speakers** and practitioners and would be a space where a few members of your church might wish to attend so that you can then unpack the themes with your congregation at a later time.

The **conference is FREE** and tickets are available using the Eventbrite link below. **Please note**: due to lunchtime catering, we won't be able to accommodate people turning up on the day.

One Step Beyond Tickets, Saturday, November 21 • 9:30 AM - 2 PM | Eventbrite

Look forward to seeing many of you there!

Session Clerk Conversations



Join Lorna and Scott for our Session Clerk Conversations focussing on Action Plans. There are three dates to choose from, Wednesday 18th November 10am, Monday 23rd November 1pm or Thursday 26th November 7pm. Please register using this link Session Clerk Conversations – Fill in form

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Grant Funding Opportunity

New Cherish Scotland Grants available – deadline 19 January 2027

Thanks to an extension of the successful Cherish programme in Scotland, granted by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to help places of worship in Scotland remain open and in good repair, the National Churches Trust is delighted to have £100,000 to award to churches of any Christian denomination in Scotland for urgent repairs or project development work. There are grants of up to £10,000 available and the deadline for applications is 10am, Tuesday 19 January 2027. This is likely to be a one-off grants round, with decisions made in March 2027. To find out more, including eligibility criteria or connecting with one of our Scotland Support Officers who can help offer guidance with your application, go to nationalchurchestrust.org/grants

Funding & Support Drop-in Session

Learn more about grants and support available from National Churches Trust, including Cherish funding, at our upcoming event on Thursday 19 November, 1pm-4pm at Findlay Church, Glasgow. Find out more and sign up here: National Churches Trust Funding & Support Session, Glasgow – Fill in form

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Drama Kirk - Gospel in a Day – Hamilton Old Parish Church



On Saturday 14th November, a unique event is taking place in Hamilton. Drama Kirk, known for bring the Easter story to life in the town centre, are taking things a step further by staging the whole gospel of Luke.
The play will present the entirety of Jesus' life, from the well-known Christmas story right through to his death and resurrection. To complete the day, Drama Kirk will also present the events that follow the resurrection, up to the birth of the church at Pentecost.

Saturday 14th November from 10am, Hamilton Old Parish Church, 01698 281905. Free entry, refreshments available. Audience are welcome to come and go throughout the day.

Service of Hope and Remembrance

at Grahamston United in Falkirk

Sunday 22 November 3pm

A gentle opportunity to pause, remember those who have died, reflect on precious memories and find comfort and hope. Everyone is welcome.



Fundraising Concert – Larkhall New

Larkhall New are welcoming the Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra as an enjoyable evening of music and as a fundraising concert.

This takes place on Saturday 28th November at 7.30pm.

Tickets £5. All very welcome.

St Andrews Church Blantyre - Christmas Concert Welcomes Arietta Ladies Choir

St. Andrew's Church Blantyre Christmas Concert with the Arietta Ladies Choir is on Friday 4th December at 7pm.



Come along for an excellent evening of song with enjoyable refreshments of tea/coffee and homebaking afterwards. Arietta is a female voice choir of over 30 voices who are based in Hamilton Scotland and have been singing together since 2014.

Tickets cost £6 and are available from the Church Membershp Group or they can be purchased at the door on the night. It would be lovely to see you at St. Andrew's Church, Church Street, Blantyre, G72 0NY to enjoy a great evening of live entertainment.

Rememberance Sunday

A number of our churches across the Presbytery have created displays for Remembrance Sunday. Here are just a few which have been shared with the Presbytery Office.





South Wishaw Parish Church




Blantyre Old Parish Church


Calderglen Parish Church



