



# **NEWTON MEARNS PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

## **CROSSTALK**



**December  
2025**

I'm writing this looking out at blue sky and sunshine reflecting from my neighbours' windows – and making a mental note not to delay in getting outside with my dog, Barney, both of us well wrapped up, of course, to enjoy the precious light. Despite the often-enveloping darkness, Advent is one of my favourite times of year, not for the weather, but in the *church* year, as we yearn for and look forward to celebrating the coming of the Christ child. While much of our commercially driven society leaps straight from Halloween to Christmas, with the emphasis on bigger and better purchases, the observance of Advent invites us to delve deeper into the world's need for a new beginning in God, and helps us remember that the real surprise is not what we might find inside a wrapping paper, but that God chose to come among us in total vulnerability, and to share in every aspect of our human life. We remember, too, that, as John's Gospel eloquently puts it, it is because God *so loved the world* that this miracle of incarnation, beautifully laid out in the poetry of the Christmas story, is the real gift, to each and to all. If, like me, you find it increasingly difficult to bear the news of war, and rumour of war, along with the evidence of gross inequality and greed in many aspects of life, including political life, Advent is a time to re-focus on the character of God, and to re-commit to the response of faith: to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6 v6b). I recently shared a prayer with the group who gather to worship on Wednesday mornings, finding a mid-week opportunity to do some of that re-focussing. It requires no words, just breathing – slowly in and out.

Here it is:

Lord God, fill me with your Holy Spirit.

(Breathe in) I receive your love (Breathe out) release my insecurity

I receive your joy                      release my unhappiness

I receive your peace                  release my anxiety

I receive your patience              release my impulsiveness

I receive your kindness              release my indifference

I receive your goodness              release my ungodliness

I receive your gentleness            release my severity

I receive your self-control          release my self-indulgence.

(Continue to breathe quietly for another minute)

May you find yourself blessed this Advent and Christmas season.

Ian Galloway, Locum Minister



Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Second Sunday in Advent. Gift Service with Rev Ian Galloway. Gifts & donations to Glasgow Social Work Services
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Third Sunday in Advent Morning Worship
	12.00pm	Carols in The Avenue
	2.30pm	Lessons and Carols at Newton House Care Home
	6.30pm	Carols, Candles & Communion at Mearns Kirk Church
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	10.30am	Fourth Sunday in Advent. Morning Worship
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service at Mearns Kirk Church
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> December and all Sundays through January	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wednesdays	10.30am	20's Plenty short midweek worship, meeting weekly in the Boyd Scott Room, except 24 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec

Sunday Morning Worship is live streamed on the church Facebook page  
[www.newtonmearnsparish.org.uk](http://www.newtonmearnsparish.org.uk)

Charity no.SC004219

Dear Friends

I am writing to introduce both myself and the role I will have with the church over the next six months or so, a role I am excited about it as you embark on a new journey together.

I recently took on the role of Peripatetic Missions Worker for the presbytery and have been working with Orchardhill and Merrylea since the beginning of September. I will also now be working with you, and from a personal point of view this is great as I live in East Kilbride! My wife is Christine, and we have three grown up children and two grandchildren who are 8 and 5. I am an ordained deacon and have worked in parishes for almost 30 years, beginning in Cumbernauld, moving to East Kilbride and then to Govan. From there I worked with Castlemilk Parish Church, and a few years ago I had a slight change of role to work with Ruchill Parish Church as they went through the process of uniting with Maryhill. I then spent some time working with Carntyne and Cranhill on their union before spending three years supporting vacant charges. I hope all of this experience can be used to good effect in my new role, for example, many of these years in the parish have been spent working in the community and I have especially enjoyed the schoolwork I have been involved in. I hope that I can bring to bear some of the experience I have as we explore what it means for you to engage with young people in the parishes. This is very exciting and rewarding work and I will explain how I think we can help local schools.

School chaplaincy has changed since many of us were pupils and it is no longer about the minister coming in once a month to deliver an assembly. This may be part of what we do with schools, but I would like to focus on an initiative called 'Serve your local school' which is, as the name suggests, asking how we can use the gifts of the people of the church community to benefit local schools. We all bring talents and can all offer something to our schools. Teaching children how to knit or crochet, reading stories to the children on World Book Day, helping to supervise children during the lunch break, offering the benefit of our working life on careers day, these are just some of the ways we can use what we have to serve the local school. To that end I would like to poll the congregations by asking the question – what can you bring? I will contact the schools soon and let them know we are keen to be involved in the wider community so it would be great to hear from you what you feel you could offer them.

Another part of my role will be around worship, particularly midweek and care home services. Again, both of these offer great joy and it may be that you feel you could get involved here. I am happy to offer training in leading in both settings to anyone who feels they have something to offer. Presbytery can offer worship leader training to anyone who feels called to lead on Sunday morning. I also have material I have used to train people in leading funeral services. When we trained funeral leaders recently, we discovered that everyone who came on the course was more than

capable, what they lacked was the confidence needed to do it. The course gave them that confidence and I feel the same is true of the worship leading. Do you feel you could help lead worship in care home and midweek settings? It is not as daunting as it may appear and when a range of people are involved in leadership the worship benefits from the different styles, we all bring.

My role with you for next few months will be to come alongside the congregations and see where I can help you plan the next phase of church life. The new relationship you have is filled with potential, and as you consider what kind of minister you want to call, I hope my work can help you prepare the way for that ministry to be fruitful. I feel sure God is already speaking to someone and calling him/her to come and lead you into the future. I look forward to getting to know you better and to working with you.

Every blessing

Paul Cathcart



## **Pastoral Care**

I have recently had greatness thrust upon me and am now looking at the best ways to keep in touch with ALL our members and their families. Having glanced over the elders' lists, I know there are some of you who have not been attending church for some time, and perhaps for very good reasons, but wish to remain on the roll. If we are unaware of those who are vulnerable or ill, we cannot respond. I would urge all regular worshippers to let us know if there is anyone who would appreciate a visit, flowers or even a phone call and we will respond asap.

I am also aware that some members may not wish to be contacted but please do not hesitate to get in touch with me on 07743314289 if you would like a chat. If anyone has changed their telephone number from a landline to a mobile one, please can you inform me or the Church Office on 0141 639 7373.

We are the church family, and we want to ensure that you all know that you matter to us and that we are there for you at any time.

With best wishes

Mary McIntyre



## This month at NMPC

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December

**Christmas Coffee Morning** hosted by the Kirk Session. See separate article for details. There will be no Coffee Morning in January. February's Coffee Morning will be hosted by the 7<sup>th</sup> Mearns Guides and Mearns District Rangers.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December

**Music in The Mearns**, 3pm, when we are delighted to welcome back Gordon Cree and Cheryl Forbes, this time entertaining us with a Variety Christmas Show. Please spread the word and, more importantly, please come along to what guarantees to be a super concert. £10 cash at the door to include post concert refreshments.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December

**The Guild.** Festive Decorations, 2pm meeting in the Murray Mackay Room.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

**20's Plenty**, 10.30am short midweek service meeting weekly in the Boyd Scott Room except 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> December

**Kirk Session**, 7pm, meeting in the Boyd Scott Room.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December

**Guild Christmas Lunch** at the Eglinton Arms Hotel.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

**Wise Words** book group resumes, 2pm, meeting in the Murray Mackay Room.

January's titles are 'The Killing Stones' by Ann Cleeves and 'The Island' by Victoria Hislop

**Christmas card catalogues** are available in the back vestibule for both LHM360 and CrossReach, the social care arm of the Church of Scotland.

## Events happening further afield

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December

**Celebrate Christmas with Origin Scotland** 7.30pm in Findlay Church, 56 Clarendon Place, Glasgow G20 7PZ. Join the Origin Band, Choir, Orchestra, Big Band and guests for a spectacular evening of Christmas cheer. Tickets from [originscotland.org](http://originscotland.org) or call 0131 541 0117

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December

**Christmas with the Phoenix**, 7.30pm, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. Guest this evening are Whitburn Band ( Scottish Brass Band Champions ) and Glasgow CREATE (Junior, Senior & Chamber Choirs). Tickets £18 & £20 + booking fee from box office 0141 353 8000 or book online.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December

**Breakfast with Santa**, 9.30am, Columba Hall, Broom Church. £6 per child including gift from Santa, £3 adult. For tickets call the church office on 0141 639 3528.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December

**Broadway Christmas Carol**, 2.30pm in Mearns Kirk Halls with award winning singer Kirsty Duncan. Join us for an afternoon of festive cheer and Broadway sparkle in aid of Mearns Kirk Helping Hands. Enjoy a welcome drink, tea / coffee, home baking, raffle prizes and BYOB if you wish. For tickets, £15, call 07858 552 767 or email [hello@mkhelpinghands.org.uk](mailto:hello@mkhelpinghands.org.uk)

Many congratulations are due to MK Helping hands on being recently awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service for 2025.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

**A Musical Celebration of Christmas**, 7.30pm Maxwell Mearns Castle Church. An evening of Christmas lessons and carols with the joint choir of Mearns Kirk, Broom, Newton Mearns Parish, Maxwell Mearns and Clincarthill, followed by mulled wine and treats. Free entry. No tickets required. Retiral donations to local charities.



## Guild

Many thanks to the bakers, waitresses and the kitchen crew who helped at the Guild coffee morning in November. We raised £1100 which will be donated to the Guild projects and local charities.

The next meeting will be on December 8th when there will be an opportunity to produce Christmas decorations for your home. The Guild Christmas lunch is at the Eglinton Arms on the 15th December. There is still time to book a place if any members wish to go.

Lyn Knox



## Flower Donations

14<sup>th</sup> December Fiona Gilchrist

## Flower Deliveries December

7<sup>th</sup> December Christine MacLeod  
14<sup>th</sup> December Lyn Knox



## Coffee Morning

The Kirk Session will be hosting our next coffee morning on Saturday 6th December. We will be raising funds for the Lodging House mission and the local foodbank. There will be a Jigsaw stall and Christmas hamper raffle amongst others. We are looking for donations of home baking and mince pies. Please try to come along to support these very worthwhile causes.

There will be no coffee morning in January and the February one will be hosted by the Guides.

Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way with the coffee mornings, we have raised a fantastic amount for charity.

Merry Christmas and Best wishes for 2026.  
Susan and Belinda



## **Tea and Coffee Following Sunday Service**

### **December**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Adele Stewart & Hilda Reynolds
- 14<sup>th</sup> Helen Colvin & Marjory Buchan
- 21<sup>st</sup> Elsie McLellan & Evelyn Moran
- 28<sup>th</sup> Mary Hotchkiss & Yvonne Dunlop

### **January**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Margaret Bell & Ann Barnett
- 11<sup>th</sup> Eileen Wyper & Carol Love
- 18<sup>th</sup> Susan Rocke & Ann White
- 25<sup>th</sup> Eleanor Dalglish & Lynne Ross

### **February**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Adele Stewart & Hilda Reynolds

Thank you for supporting another year of this important part of Church life. I will be compiling next year's rota shortly... so if anyone does not wish to continue or wishing to become part of the rota, please let me know.  
Thanks & Seasons greetings.

Helen



## **Art classes for 5yrs to 16yrs with the artist Rosi Nyamakanga.**

Art classes for 5yrs to 16yrs with the artist Rosi Nyamakanga.  
New Spring term will start Wed 15th January 2025.

All artists materials are provided. Please email Rosi at [rosiartclasses@gmail.com](mailto:rosiartclasses@gmail.com) for info and to book. All class times are available in the What's On.





## **Singing for the Brain**

Wednesday 12.30-2.30pm Old Hall

Singing For the Brain group is for people living with Dementia. This group is run by The Richmond Fellowship Scotland and runs on a Wednesday 12.30-2.30pm in the Old Hall in the church. A light lunch will be provided. The charge for this group is £2.  
Contact Yvonne on 077 306 44 503 for more information.



## **Mearns Gymnastics Club – New Pre-School Classes**

Mearns Gymnastics Club is proud to provide a nurturing, fun, safe and supportive environment where children can develop confidence, coordination and a love for movement. Our qualified coaches deliver engaging sessions that encourage learning through play and build essential skills for life.

We are delighted to announce that we will be starting pre-school gymnastics classes for children aged 3–5 years in the Memorial Hall every Tuesday beginning on 13th January. These classes are designed to introduce little ones to the basics of gymnastics through fun activities that promote balance, strength and flexibility.

Full details and booking information can be found on our Class for Kids page:

<https://mearns-gymnastics.classforkids.io/> For any questions, please email us at [mearnsgymnastics@hotmail.com](mailto:mearnsgymnastics@hotmail.com)



## **Livewire Theatre Co**

Discover the magic of theatre at Livewire Theatre Co for children aged 4-16 yrs. Livewire inspires young performers through drama, singing, and dance, offering a fun and supportive environment where creativity and confidence flourish.

On Mondays, the Newton Mearns branch comes alive with engaging classes tailored to every age group. Each session is designed to foster imagination, teamwork, and self-expression, giving every child the chance to shine. Led by experienced teachers, Livewire's classes encourage students to grow as performers while having a fantastic time and getting ready to perform in our Annual Summer Showcase!

We would love to see you child there!

4.15pm-5.15pm 4-8 yrs Drama & Musical Theatre

5.15pm-6.15pm 9-12 yrs Drama & Musical Theatre

6.15pm-7.15pm 13-16 yrs Drama & Musical Theatre



## **Jhankar Beats – Kathak Dance for Young Generations in Newton Mearns Parish Church**

Jhankar Beats SCIO is a Glasgow-based charity dedicated to promoting Indian arts, culture, and heritage across Scotland. Since 2012, we have been engaging children, young people, and adults in music, dance, and cultural activities, fostering confidence, creativity, and community spirit. Our Kathak dance sessions provide young participants with a unique opportunity to connect with their cultural roots, develop discipline, and express themselves through classical Indian dance. Regular workshops and performances allow children to showcase their talents while learning about teamwork, rhythm, and storytelling through dance. By offering inclusive and engaging programmes, Jhankar Beats continues to inspire the next generation of artists and strengthen cultural connections within Glasgow's diverse communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/jhankarbeatsglasgow>

<https://www.instagram.com/jhankarbeatsglasgow>




### **Jo Jingles Glasgow South – Spring Term!**

Our Spring Term kicks off on 12th of January and runs until 13th of February — packed with music, movement, and magical moments! Each class features two instruments, lively songs, and a new weekly theme with exciting sensory props to keep little ones engaged and learning through play.

 Instruments  parachute play  fun props Bubble time

Our Newton Mearns class takes place every Wednesday from 11:20 am – 12:05 pm, offering the perfect midweek musical adventure for babies and toddlers.

 Book now or message Rachel with any questions!

 07539022576

 [glasgowsouthjojingles@gmail.com](mailto:glasgowsouthjojingles@gmail.com)

 <https://www.jojingles.com/glasgow-south/timetable>  
<https://jo-jingles-glasgow-south.classforkids.io>

# WHAT'S ON DECEMBER

Please check with all group leaders regarding times of classes over the holiday period.

<b>MONDAY</b>	9.30AM	LA PHYSIOTHERAPY PILATES 9.30AM + 10.30AM	<a href="mailto:INFO@LAPHYSIOTHERAPY.CO.UK">INFO@LAPHYSIOTHERAPY.CO.UK</a> 0141 258 2424
	10.00am	Mathain Beaga: Pàrant is Pàiste Siorrachd Rinn Friù an Ear – Gaelic Toddler Group	<a href="mailto:kirsteen@cnaq.org">kirsteen@cnaq.org</a>
	10.00am	Dance for Life	<a href="mailto:Dance-rs@hotmail.com">Dance-rs@hotmail.com</a> 07815 616 999
	11.00am	ERu3a Keep Moving	<a href="mailto:groups@eru3a.org">groups@eru3a.org</a>
	2.00pm	The Guild – fortnightly	<a href="mailto:lynknox04@btinternet.com">lynknox04@btinternet.com</a> 0141 639 5103
	4.15pm	Livewire Theatre Company	<a href="mailto:info@livewiretheatreco.com">info@livewiretheatreco.com</a>
	6.00pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Mearns Rainbows	<a href="mailto:mearnsrainbows1st@hotmail.com">mearnsrainbows1st@hotmail.com</a> 07779645877
	6.30pm	Mudra School of Bharatanatyam,	<a href="mailto:megalaitm@gmail.com">megalaitm@gmail.com</a> , 07462 082 396
	6.45pm	Traditional Taekwondo Assoc.	07709 721097 <a href="mailto:willpiers@aol.com">willpiers@aol.com</a>
	7.15pm	7 <sup>th</sup> Mearns Brownies	<a href="mailto:mearnsrainbows1st@hotmail.com">mearnsrainbows1st@hotmail.com</a> 07779645877
	7.30pm	Rhythm N Boots	<a href="mailto:rnbayrshire@gmail.com">rnbayrshire@gmail.com</a> 07787732924
<b>TUESDAY</b>	9.30am	Julie Gray Pilates	<a href="mailto:Physio.fit.julie@gmail.com">Physio.fit.julie@gmail.com</a>
	10.00am	LA Physiotherapy Pilates	07775841588 <a href="mailto:info@laphysiotherapy.co.uk">info@laphysiotherapy.co.uk</a>
	2.00pm	ERu3a Science & Technology 3rd Tuesday each month	0141 258 2424 <a href="mailto:groups2@eru3a.org">groups2@eru3a.org</a>
	4.20pm	Mearns Gymnastics Club (From Jan 2026)	<a href="mailto:mearns-gymnastics@hotmail.com">mearns-gymnastics@hotmail.com</a> 07736928043
	5.00pm	The Performance Academy 5.00pm Mini performers age 2.5-6 6.00pm Junior performers age 7-12 7.00pm Senior performers 13-18	<a href="mailto:lisa@theperformanceacademy.co.uk">lisa@theperformanceacademy.co.uk</a> 07813 518016
	6.00pm	Jhankar Beats Dance Class	<a href="mailto:info@jhankarbeats.org.uk">info@jhankarbeats.org.uk</a> 07518801946
	7.15pm	Badminton	<a href="mailto:dmair1982@hotmail.com">dmair1982@hotmail.com</a> 07743 861561
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	10.30am	Move It Or Lose It	<a href="mailto:urqueannet@aol.com">urqueannet@aol.com</a> 07425 156827
	11.15am	Jo Jingles	<a href="mailto:jojinglesglasgowssouth@gmail.com">jojinglesglasgowssouth@gmail.com</a> 07539022576
	12.30pm	Singing For The Brain	<a href="mailto:ylaird@trfs.org.uk">ylaird@trfs.org.uk</a> 07730644503
	2.00pm	ERu3a Scottish Country Dancing – 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> week of the month	<a href="mailto:groups@eru3a.org">groups@eru3a.org</a>
	4.00pm	Rosi Art Classes 8-10yrs	<a href="mailto:rosiartclasses@gmail.com">rosiartclasses@gmail.com</a>
	4.45pm	McLaughlin School of Irish Dancing	<a href="mailto:sinead_79@hotmail.com">sinead_79@hotmail.com</a> 07779 913815
	6.00pm	United Karate Association U.K.A.	<a href="mailto:unitedkarateglasgow@gmail.com">unitedkarateglasgow@gmail.com</a> 07597 210 237
	6.00pm	LA Physiotherapy Pilates	<a href="mailto:info@laphysiotherapy.co.uk">info@laphysiotherapy.co.uk</a> 0141 258 2424

<b>WED CONT</b>	5.45pm	Traditional Taekwondo Assoc.	07709 72109 <a href="mailto:willpiers@aol.com">willpiers@aol.com</a>
	7.15pm	Sanaa Akhtar Pilates	<a href="mailto:sonouk@live.co.uk">sonouk@live.co.uk</a> 07780718460
<b>THURSDAY</b>	9.15am	Yoga with Hilary	<a href="mailto:hilary.yogaforyou@gmail.com">hilary.yogaforyou@gmail.com</a> 07824873405
	9.30am	Julie Gray Pilates	<a href="mailto:Physio.fit.julie@gamil.com">Physio.fit.julie@gamil.com</a> 07775841588
	11.00am	Tai Chi	<a href="mailto:leehuatan@hotmail.com">leehuatan@hotmail.com</a> 07783 35893
	11.00am	ERu3a Yoga	<a href="mailto:groups@eru3a.org">groups@eru3a.org</a>
	4.00pm	Rosi Art Classes 11-16yrs	<a href="mailto:rosiartclasses@gmail.com">rosiartclasses@gmail.com</a>
	6.00pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mearns Brownies	<a href="mailto:morag.mccormick@hotmail.co.uk">morag.mccormick@hotmail.co.uk</a> 07835 548278
	6.00pm	Jane's Pilates	<a href="mailto:pilatesayrshire@gmail.com">pilatesayrshire@gmail.com</a> 07305270539
	7.30pm	7 <sup>th</sup> Mearns Guides and Mearns District Rangers	<a href="mailto:7th.mearnsguides@gmail.com">7<sup>th</sup> mearnsguides@gmail.com</a> 07814 322632
	7.30pm	Yoga with Lizzie – Menopause Yoga	<a href="mailto:yogawithlizzie@outlook.com">yogawithlizzie@outlook.com</a> 07713839011
	8.15pm	Sanaa Akhtar Ladies Boot Camp	<a href="mailto:sonouk@live.co.uk">sonouk@live.co.uk</a> 07780718460
<b>FRIDAY</b>	9.30am	Carried Away Play	<a href="mailto:info@carriedawayplay.co.uk">info@carriedawayplay.co.uk</a>
	9.45am	Tumble Tots Glasgow 9:45-10:30am - 6months to confidently walking 10:45-11:30am – walking to 2 years 11:45-12:30pm – 2 – 3 years	<a href="mailto:glasgow@tumbletots.com">glasgow@tumbletots.com</a> 07724 298982
	9.45am	Lesley Smith Art Class	<a href="mailto:Lesley.e.smith@sky.com">Lesley.e.smith@sky.com</a> 07740676558
	4.00pm	Rosi Art Classes 8-10yrs	<a href="mailto:rosiartclasses@gmail.com">rosiartclasses@gmail.com</a>
	6.00pm	79 <sup>th</sup> Glasgow Company Boys' Brigade 6.00pm Anchor Boys 6.30pm Junior Section 7.30pm Company Section Bible Class 7.45pm Company Section	<a href="mailto:bodaduk@googlemail.com">bodaduk@googlemail.com</a> 07973502095
<b>SAT</b>	9.00am	Rosi Art Classes 9am 11am & 1.30pm	<a href="mailto:rosiartclasses@gmail.com">rosiartclasses@gmail.com</a>
	10.00am	NMPC Coffee Mornings -1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday each month	<a href="mailto:assistant@churchatthecross.org.uk">assistant@churchatthecross.org.uk</a>
	10.00am	Margaret Gilbride School of Dance 10.00am Preschool 11.00am Preschool 12.00 Primary Foundation (Ballet, Tap, Jazz) age 4-6 1.00pm Primary (Ballet, Tap, Jazz) age 6-8	07837 170657
	12.50pm	La Jolie Ronde French for children 12.50pm 1.35pm 4-6 Yrs 1.45pm – 2.30pm 5-7 Yrs 2.30pm – 3.15pm 6-8 Yrs 3.15pm– 4.00pm 7-11yrs 4.00pm – 4.45pm 8yrs+(Year 1) 4.45pm– 5.30pm 8yrs+(Year 2)	<a href="mailto:julie@learnfrenchglasgow.co.uk">julie@learnfrenchglasgow.co.uk</a> 07762 428875