Mar 2026

Clarion

CLAREMONT & SOUTH PARISH CHURCHES

The Church of Scotland

Living the Lord's way, Loving the Lord's people, Sharing the Lord's message

Hello friends,

Isn't it amazing how you can read a familiar bible passage, and still see something new in it?

For the Midweek Fellowship service just before the start of Lent, I – rather unimaginatively – thought I'd talk about Jesus' temptation in the desert. That's in Luke 4:1-13, but I'm sure you're all familiar with the story. Or at least you thought you were! I thought I was too, but then when I read it again, the very first verse caught me out,

"Jesus returned from the Jordan full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the desert,"

It dawned on me, for the first time, that this story immediately follows Jesus' baptism. The Holy Spirit came down on Jesus after his baptism (Luke 3:22), and straight away led him out into the desert. Luke interrupts the flow of events with Jesus' genealogy, so that's my excuse for not having noticed the sequence earlier!

We learn two things from this verse. One is that Jesus was called by God. Yes, we know from the Christmas story that Jesus was sent by God, to live a fully human yet divine life. Jesus, the human, still needed to be called away from his human concerns. God had to call him individually away from his Earthly cares, away from his Earthly task of providing for the family through his manual skill as a carpenter (Mark 6:3). Secondly, having answered God's call and being baptised, Jesus had to figure out exactly how to go about his task. How do you save the whole world? Knowing what we know of Jesus' later life, it seems likely that he spent much of these 40 days in prayer, learning from God how he should go about

his mission. Jesus was probably alone in the desert, so the story of his time there could only have come from his own lips. That tells us that this is important teaching.

The calling applies to all of us. We all come to church because God called us here, individually. In different ways, at different times, at different stages of life, God called us all. Then, having been called, we all needed to spend time discerning what it was that God was actually calling us to do, and how to go about it. The church is only effective when it is made up of people with different skills and different callings – people doing different tasks, none more or less important than another.

In the not-too-distant future, the congregation of Calderglen Parish Church will be asked to appoint a Nominating Committee. That committee's job will be to identify the minister that God has already chosen for Calderglen. If we are to learn anything from Luke 4:1, it is that the committee must pray for guidance, it must pray that God would speak to the members and to the committee as a whole, that God would make His intentions clear. The committee must trust the Holy Spirit. And, of course, the rest of the congregation must pray these same prayers on behalf of the committee.

This is an exciting time for the new Calderglen Parish Church. My prayer is that you enjoy the thrill but do not get carried away in your excitement, and that you remember that God has everything in hand. You only need to ask!

Many blessings to you all,

Bill Henderson

Locum Minister

Calderglen Conference

We held our very first Calderglen Conference on Saturday 17th January, with nearly 70 in attendance. Among other things we discussed what the priorities might be for our new church going forward. The discussions were lively, the contributions excellent and the mood very positive. A summary report on the outcomes will be published in due course.

A grateful thanks to all who came along and supported the event and to all those who helped make it happen.

After a successful day, the next day we then had the Big Vote!

David Alexander from Presbytery came on Sunday 18th January to oversee the vote for the Union of Claremont and South Parish churches.

The vote was taken and by the Grace of God was overwhelmingly in favour of the Union.

We are grateful for the openness and honesty and faith that has marked every step in this journey together. We now look forward to our Service of Union.

The next stage will be to form a new Kirk Session and steering groups to take us forward as a united church covering St Leonards, The Murray and Whitehills area.

We are hopeful of what lies ahead and that our future is stronger together and we will continue in the path that God had chosen for us.

Helen Cuthbertson

Claremont Church Artefacts

I believe Claremont Church has three interesting artefacts, namely:

- Two Communion wine flagons and cup
- The church bell
- A folio Bible

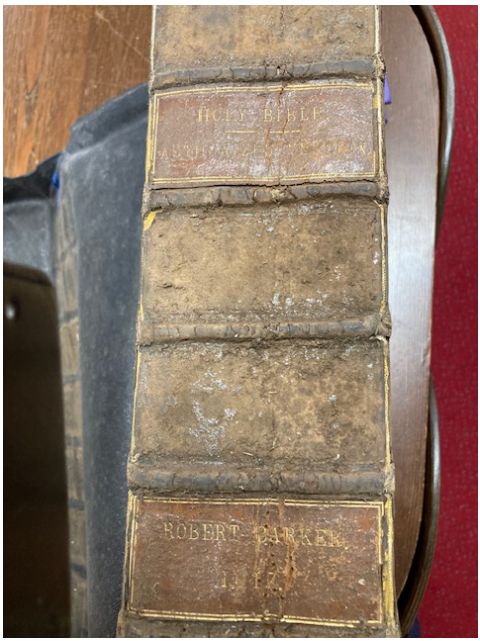
The two Communion Flagons and Cup are engraved "Claremont Church October 1856"! I understand that they came from Claremont Church, Claremont Street, Glasgow (on the right-hand side just off the west end of Argyll Street). They were gifted to us some time after the Church was closed and the building was sold and repurposed. Recently, Gordon McCracken told me he had been a member of a church which previously had been formed as a union with others and that Claremont had been one of them – it's a small world!

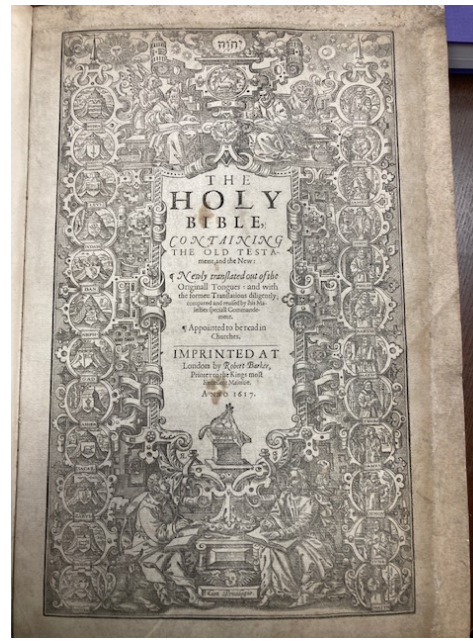
In early 2024 the church bell, installed on the boiler-house chimney, stopped working, we had an electric “ding” but no “dong”! At a Board meeting I volunteered that Lewis Hunter and I would check it out. On inspection we found that the moving parts were all rusted up so after some minor cleaning and a temporary fix, we got it working again. I contacted the manufacturers (James Taylor, Loughborough) through a label on the control bell box to enquire if replacement parts could be made and included some photographs we had taken. They responded positively and requested some further details, dimensions, etc. As the Bell was still working, despite losing its temporary fix during a gale, we were in no rush, but got back up in December to provide the requested details. On sending the information we received an email from an archivist. We did not realise that the Foundry had setup a Charitable Museum Trust to manage the Foundry archives as they had been casting church bells for hundreds of years. He confirmed that the Bell was one of two cast for Scotland in the year of 1867 and that it was sent to St. Mary’s Mission Church of Scotland in Cross of Jackston, near Fyvie, Aberdeenshire at a cost of £9 11s 3d!

On its closure in the early 1960's the Bell was sent to the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh for safekeeping . It was offered and accepted by us as Claremont Church in 1968, the foundation stone for the Claremont building being laid in 1970. The bell was sent back to the Foundry in 1970 for conversion from rope pull to electric operation costing £147 16s 5d. A new larger Bell had been quoted at £9,439 9s 2d!

The folio Bible was printed in 1617 and has a handwritten note in the fly leaf signed by Francis Fry in1865 in Bristol *(editor's note- a well-known Quaker, scholar of English Bible translations and part of the family that brought us Fry's Chocolate Cream and Turkish delight!).* Goodness knows how and when we received it and where it's been.

John Weir





Just a short note to say THANK YOU again to those who regularly donate to the Leprosy Mission. The amounts are as follows:-

The Leprosy Mission Scotland

21st October 2025 £82

14th December £11.34 from Claremont and £90.45 from the folk in Davaar.

Thanks to all who continue to donate.

Please be aware that a speaker from the Leprosy Mission will come along to the Midweek Fellowship on 26th March. All are welcome to join us and hear just how your donations help this worthy cause.

Thank you for your generosity.

Anna Weir

John Ross Memorial Mission Church for the Deaf

May I continue to ask for your prayers for the Deaf Church. Thankfully we have managed to agree a preaching rota from now till end of June. Please continue to pray for the team who have volunteered to lead services and for our joint services with Queen's Park Govanhill church for communion services. Neither Queen's Park nor ourselves currently have a full time minister, so special prayers needed that we will find someone soon, who will be willing to work with both churches.

Many thanks and God bless you all.

Anna Weir

07745256757

East Kilbride Integration Network

EKin

Monthly café

The café happens on the first Sunday of every month at the Village Centre. If you'd like to see EKin in action, this is a great way to do it. There's tea, coffee and cake (of course), plus board games, dominoes, Jenga etc. There's a barber, and there's often a visitor / speaker from a relevant organisation. The next ones are on 1st March and 5th April, from 3-5pm. Do look in if you can.

Christmas is well behind us now, but I'd like to say a couple of things about what Christmas meant at EKin.

Gift bags

First of all, we can't thank you enough for your thoughtfulness and generosity in response to our appeal for gift bags. We had plenty of bags for everyone, and even a few left over – the contents of these will be distributed over the next few weeks. They were given out at our Christmas party and at our first (of 2026) EKin cafe. The guys from the Bruce Hotel were delighted and grateful. Thank you so much for your part in that.

BrEKin Bread Christmas Dinner and the Star Guest

Another excitement at Christmas was the BrEKin Bread Christmas Dinner. You can read more about BrEKin Bread below.

There were lots of special guests at the Christmas Dinner, but none who achieved more excitement than … Santa Claus! After he had distributed selection boxes to everyone, Santa was given a comfy seat, and anyone who wanted their photo taken with him came to join him. There was a considerable queue, and a great number of photos were taken!

BrEKin Bread Christmas Dinner. Do you recognise anyone?

Maureen Thomson and Anne Collard

BrEKin Bread

EKin have been running their successful project since last May and are now halfway through the second session. Eight men who are staying at the Bruce Hotel while claiming asylum are trained by an enthusiastic Chef, Mr T, from Nigeria to prepare and cook meals over eight weeks and to serve to invited guests who use the Food Bank. This assists the men to gain new skills, gain a food hygiene certificate and a qualification and make valuable links and friendships with others in the community. The guests, chefs and volunteers all eat together, sharing the delicious food, get to know each other and learn different customs.

During the meals each week we are privileged to hear a chef share his story and his (often traumatic) journey to this country.

After the eight weeks, the Food Bank guests can enrol to learn how to cook the meals alongside the chefs under the guidance of Mr T, which helps friendships grow and a lot of banter happens.

I am privileged and humbled to volunteer and to work alongside these lovely, kind, well mannered men who are so grateful, and keen to give back and be part of the community.

Maureen Thomson

Food Bank Appeal for Helpers

Many thanks to folks who have offered to help out so far. If anyone else is interested in helping out with Calderglen's slot at the East Kilbride Food Bank (Monday mornings every 3 or 4 weeks), please speak to me after the service or give me a call and I can let you know what's involved.

Many thanks

Helen Morton

07749 266800

Editor's note: South Parish's slot is on a Friday morning- if you would like to volunteer and a Friday would suit you better, please speak to Fiona Bulman.

Cafe Clare - Tuesday 10-12 pm

If you are free on a Tuesday morning please pop in to our Café in Claremont Parish Church where you will be warmly welcomed. We offer toast, toasted fruit loaf, home baking or a biscuit, a hot drink and more importantly an opportunity to chat to one of our regulars. There is no charge, but a donation box is available - all proceeds supporting the Food Bank. We have around 30-40 people coming along and some are now coming on a Sunday and to Good Companions and new friendships have been made. If you have been thinking about coming and are not sure, why don't you call in and see for yourself - we would love to see you there.

Cafe Clare Team

CHS Befrienders

We had our Christmas lunch at the school on Thursday 18th December. (I had just got out of hospital the day before). Our guests were Depute Lieutenant Morrison Young, Councillor Kirsten Robb, Councillor Graham Scott, Bill Henderson, volunteers from the Foodbank, befrienders and befriendees Struan, Sheila, Liz, Mr & Mrs Smith and Alva. Our meal was prepared and served by S3 pupils who study Home Economics.

Six members of the school Jazz Band played Christmas carols for us then befrienders and befriendees told us of their time visiting.

Duncan McDade was a great help getting the photos, acting chauffeur and many more things.

I don't know what we would do without him! Thank you.

Mr Steve Odger presented Helen Morton, the Foodbank co-ordinator for Claremont, with a much-needed cheque for £500 from the school to support the Food Bank.

On 9th December several of us went out to Strathaven to hear the School's Jazz concert. Several of our Befrienders were playing in it and it was conducted by an ex pupil of Calderglen who was a Befriender, and after graduating at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland became a music teacher at Calderglen, teaching the saxophone.

In January I was invited by East Kilbride Rotary club to speak on our 17 years of Befriending. This, I think, will become very promising.

We are aiming to raise some money to buy more bricks for Tony's Path at the Kilbryde Hospice. The pupils have sponsorship forms to help them do this. We have already three bricks on the path from previous years.

I got a huge surprise last week when phoning the school to be told by the office they were holding a letter for me. Being curious I asked them if there were any clues on it. They said it was a brown envelope from the Treasury. Getting really nosey, I asked them to open it - were they looking for money from me or what?!.Well , you can now read it yourself. The first half was not news as I had already received an e-mail saying we had not been selected, but I feel the second half is just as good as getting the award. I feel proud for all pupils and seniors who have helped to keep Befrienders running all these years.

Thank you to all.

Avril Anderson

07944 890435

The King's Award
for Voluntary Service

The King's Award for Voluntary Service
100 Parliament Street, London
SW1A 2BQ
kingsaward@dcms.gov.uk

11 December 2025

Avril Anderson,
Calderglen High School
High Common Road,
East kilbride,
Lanarkshire,
G74 2LP

Dear Avril Anderson,

The King's Award for Voluntary Service 2025

We were delighted to receive a nomination for Calderglen Befrienders for the King's Award for Voluntary Service 2025. This has been considered very carefully by our local assessors and the independent National Assessment Committee, and I am now writing to let you know the outcome.

The work your group does for the community was very much admired by the National Assessment Committee. However, I am sorry to say that following close deliberation it was not among those selected to receive the award this year. The King's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest accolade given to volunteer groups across the UK and the very fact that you were nominated independently for this honour shows how highly local people think of you. This is great recognition in itself and I hope that your volunteers will be able to take great pride in this.

Our local and national assessors were impressed by your substantial achievements in supporting your local community. Please convey to your volunteers and staff our warm appreciation of all you do, and we wish you the very best in continuing your valuable work, now and in the future.

With much admiration - and warmest wishes

Martyn Lewis

Sir Martyn Lewis CBE

Chair, KAVS National Assessment Committee

CHS Befrienders

Befriending is an incredible part of our community as it benefits and helps each befriender and befriendee. We have loved building a relationship with Avril as we get to know each other through our weekly chats and board games. It is great company and is very interesting to share stories about our lives to bridge the gap between generations. Befriending is also great in that we are able to help the elderly befrienders with tasks that may have been too difficult for them. It is nice to give back to the community and it gives us a real sense of accomplishment. We are very thankful to have the opportunity to take part in this amazing organisation.

Liam, Ryan, Logan and Keiran

We have been running the Murray Community Hub for a year now, meeting in St Mark's Episcopal Church, Telford Road on a Tuesday afternoon. It is well established with around 20 people coming along every week. It has developed into a great community of people connecting with and supporting each other. Some choose to play games, listen to music or just sit and chat, while enjoying a lovely bowl of homemade soup.

There have been visits from various organizations providing self-help information or giving taster sessions such as chair yoga and community drumming as well as entertainers. Real bonds of friendships have grown and the people that attend have started to plan and lead activities - this resulted in the steering group changing their planned outing to a Christmas lunch at the Harvester.

This group began as a way for the South Parish congregation to continue to serve the people of The Murray after the church building closed and it has developed into a vital service for many people who were feeling lonely and isolated. It's been great to see God at work through his people in this way which has enhanced the work that our congregation had already been doing through the Thursday food bank cafe, the Toddler Group and our youth organizations.

It would be good if we could expand our reach to connect with more people in our community, and this would be easier with more help.

If you feel that you would be able to spare some time on a Tuesday or Thursday, then please speak to Fiona McEwan. Likewise, if you know of anyone feeling lonely or isolated in the Murray area or beyond, do let us know. There will be a warm welcome waiting.

Fiona McEwan and Wendy Kerr

Smarteenies

This toddler group started when the toddler group that I was attending at Murray Primary School closed suddenly. One of the elders at South Parish suggested that I start my own group at the church. That was 24 years ago and I couldn't guess how many adults and toddlers we have served in that time. It hasn't been plain sailing, with some challenges that have caused us to come close to closing. But mostly it has been great fun and hugely rewarding to offer friendship to the adults and to see the wee ones learn how to socialise and grow.

Claremont and South have already been working together for quite some time but as we begin our time officially as a new congregation, we look forward to being more integrated in our outreach to our community. We are grateful to God for all his guidance in this important work and remain committed to keep working within The Murray area, which has seen withdrawal of facilities and community activities.

We would ask for you to pray for our group and specifically for more volunteers to ensure that we can continue to be connected with the people in this part of our parish.

Many blessings,

Wendy Kerr

The Broughs, our mission partners in Malawi

As you may have noted in the last letter from the Broughs before Christmas, they are returning to Scotland soon to restart their lives in Lenzie. House moves can be stressful, doubly so having a young family and moving from Malawi to Scotland! Let's remember them in prayer, that they have a smooth transition and that they manage to balance the administration of this with the need to have quality time with people before they leave Malawi.

Gary starts in a new job with different responsibilities and the girls a new school, which is a wee bit daunting at first for all of them. Jacqueline has been doing online courses and will be deciding whether or when to continue with this.

It will not be easy leaving Malawi after so many years. We ask God to help them in knowing human limits and to trust God for the continuing work in Malawi.

With a house currently full of lists and boxes, please pray for their protection and sustenance over the next few weeks as their departure gets closer and they all look to what the future holds.

Iain Campbell

The Boys' Brigade

2nd/7th East Kilbride Boys' Brigade

It has been a busy term in the BB in the lead up to Christmas with a number of theme nights, competitions, weekends away and nights out taking place.

National Competitions

This year we started with nine teams taking part in a variety of National Competitions in Badminton, Table Tennis, Chess, FIFA, Football and in the Masterteam Quiz.

These are competitions between companies across the whole of Scotland with only the best two companies from each national region going forward to the UK Finals in March.

We are delighted that Post Christmas period we still have two teams remaining in Chess and FIFA competitions. Each competition starts with over 100 entries from companies across the UK, so it is an incredible achievement to still be in the later stages of the competitions. Well done and Good luck to Aaron, Daniel and Oscar in their upcoming National Semi Final Chess match against 1st Irvine BB and Arran, David, Lucas and Nathan in their National Quarter Final FIFA match against 1st Strathaven BB.

Seniors Rowardennan Residential

During October, nine of our Senior boys went on a residential weekend staying at Rowardennan Youth Hostel. They walked part of the West Highland Way along the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond on Saturday and climbed Ben Lomond on Sunday.

It was a great weekend of team bonding with activities including a quiz on the Saturday night at the youth hostel. For some of our younger boys, the weekend was a great insight into the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Awards programme which they will get the opportunity to start in 2026.

Winter Coffee Morning

The BB hosted a coffee morning in the large hall of Claremont Parish Church on 15th November to raise funds for the church roof appeal and support our programme planning. Thank you to everyone who came along to support the event. We are delighted to announce an amazing £975.11 was raised which will allow us to subsidise and run events to give young people fabulous opportunities to live life to the full.

Matches at Hampden Park and Murrayfield

In 2025, some of our Company and Senior boys got the opportunity to attend Scotland's three home matches in the build up to World Cup Qualification. This concluded with an unforgettable night at Hampden Park when Scotland scored 4 goals past Denmark to qualify for the World Cup next June for the first time in 28 years. What a Night!!!

Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 9th November it was great to have so many young people along to the Service of Remembrance at Claremont and East Kilbride War Memorial Cenotaph to pay our respects and pause in memory for those who gave their lives in conflict.

Christmas Pantomime and Seniors Christmas Night Out

Our final week of BB activities in 2025 was a trip to EK Village Theatre to see Snow White and the Seven Muppets in pantomime which was thoroughly enjoyable by all...oh yes it was!!! Our Seniors also enjoyed a night Go Karting at Team Sport where they enjoyed the buzz of competitive Go Kart Racing.

Fantasy Premier League Competition

This season we started a Fantasy Premier League (FPL) competition amongst young people, staff, parents and friends of the BB community. Each week each person scores points based on the performances of each player in their starting 11 in the Premier League.

As of January, Gavin Thomson leads the way in the Overall Community League. Lucas Sinclair leads the way in our Young Persons' league and Thomas Lemon leads in the Officers' league.

Family Quiz Night

The BB are planning on running a Quiz Night again 2026. Last year the event was well supported by all within the BB and church family. A date for the Bingo and Quiz night will be confirmed very soon.

King's Badge Award

This year we have 11 young people completing their King's Badge Award. This is the highest award within the Boys' Brigade and requires a huge amount of dedication and commitment

from the young people who complete at least 60 hours of voluntary service, participate in a Youth Alpha Discussion Course and progress other sections related to their Silver DofE programme.

In the last six months, our King's Badge participants have worked in partnership with K Woodlands and Friends of Langland's Moss to complete their community volunteering. These are amazing charity groups run by volunteers that benefit the community in so many ways.

In March, all 11 Seniors should complete a three day Completion Residential at Lapwing Lodge before receiving their certificates at the City Chambers in May.

Good luck to Arran, David, Fraser, Jack, Lucas, Matthew, Nathan H, Nathan T, Noah, Oliver and Reuben!

Still spaces available to join

Limited spaces are still available to join us for session 2025/26. If you are a parent or grandparent of a young person between 5 and 18 years old and love reading about the amazing adventures the BB gets up to, or if you know of any young person aged 5-18 who would be interested in joining BB then send us an email at 2ndand7thEKBB@gmail.com or drop us a DM on Facebook, X and Instagram. Here's a reminder of our regular meeting times:

Anchors (P1-P3) ~ Wednesday 6:15pm to 7:30pm

Juniors (P4-P6) ~ Wednesday 7pm to 8:30pm

Company (P7-S2) ~ Friday 7pm to 9pm

Seniors (S3-S6) ~ Friday 7pm to 10pm

Thomas Lemon, Boys' Brigade Captain

teamSport
KARTING

paycare
DONNAY

Getting to know you: Sandra MacKenzie talking with Avril Anderson

Avril Anderson is quite possibly the most positive person I have ever met. And that's in spite of her life being frequently touched by sadness. Avril will celebrate her 85th birthday later on this year and can look back on lots of successes in her life.

She was born in Church in Accrington and is the oldest of four sisters, two of whom have sadly died. Her mum was from Glasgow and her dad from Kent. He was in the RAF and was posted to Australia at the end of the war. The family were due to move out to join him but her mum changed her mind and her parents divorced. Her dad stayed on in Australia.

Two or three years later her mum went to a friend's engagement party and met the man who was to be her second husband and whom Avril fondly remembers as her "real" dad.

"I had a very happy childhood and wanted for nothing," she recalls with a smile.

Avril attended Hillhead High School and although her parents wanted her to stay on at school she decided she wanted to work and got her first job in a lawyer's office. Her adopted dad paid for her to attend Skerry's College to learn shorthand and typing. But typing wasn't for her. She later attended night school to learn bookkeeping.

When Avril was 17 her beloved dad died and her mother was a widow at the age of 39. A tragedy that was to be repeated when Avril was 39.

Her next job was with a firm of Chartered Accountants and they paid for further training because they were so impressed by her work ethic. Within three years she was team leader in her office.

"I loved that job," reminisced Avril with a fond smile.

Avril attended debating society meetings at Glasgow University in her late teens and made some interesting friends - Menzies Campbell, Donald Dewar, Jim Gordon, Neil MacCormick, Robert Maclennan and Douglas Crawford among others.

Avril recalls meeting her first husband Graham when she was 21.

"I didn't realise that he had a drink problem and after we were married, we came home from our honeymoon to discover he had lost his job. We lived in London for a time but came back to live with Graham's brother in Musselburgh before our son Alastair was born and then we moved to live in Glasgow in the West End. But when Alastair was three we got divorced and I had to get a job."

In 1970 Avril met her second husband Alex and in 1971 they got married. They moved to Dalbeattie where Avril's second son Alan was born.

"Three years later we moved to Kilwinning and after another three years we moved to East Kilbride and I've been here ever since."

Tragedy struck when Alex died in 1980, three years after they moved to East Kilbride.

"I was widowed at the age of 39," said Avril. "I was the same age my mum had been when my dad died."

A chance meeting in Glasgow led to Avril rekindling her friendship with Douglas Crawford. He was a journalist with The Herald and had been MP for Perth and East Perthshire from 1974 until 1979. They were best friends until his death in 2002.

"I didn't love him in any other way than as a friend, but he was very good to me and my sons," said Avril.

When Douglas died, he left Avril his timeshare in Melfort. Avril reciprocated by publishing a book of some of his writings and some tributes to him after his death.

“After finishing my book on Douglas, I was invited to a service in St Catharine’s (Douglas’s college) in Cambridge. I was then invited to walk with the Master to dinner and sit at the High Table with him and many other dignitaries.

“After the main course we were invited to move to a side room for dessert. A lady who was chatting to me said how she had enjoyed meeting me and I replied it was nice but wouldn't happen again as it was for people who had passed during that year”

Avril heard a voice from behind her saying, “Oh I don't know, just wait!”

Avril was made an associate member of the St Catharine’s College Alumni Society! She was dumbstruck (not something that happens often to Avril as those of you who know her will know!).

“I didn’t know writing/ compiling the book on Douglas would result in this,” said Avril.

Every year since then she has received magazines and invitations to Garden Parties and Boat Races which she has never been able to go to for one reason or another.

Avril’s faith has always been important to her. She attended Sunday School and Bible Class and became a member of the Church of Scotland: Partick High and Dowanvale when she was 18.

When she moved to East Kilbride, Alastair attended Cubs in the John Wright Sports Centre and Sunday School in East Mains Baptist Church and Avril attended there for a time but eventually moved to Claremont.

She became involved in church life through Paul Cathcart and Kidzone. She also became very involved in the Community Council and served as secretary until 2011.

Tony McDaid who was the headteacher of Calderglen High School at that time attended the community council meetings and asked Avril if she would volunteer at the school in their Triple V work - Vision, Value and Vocation - which included an emphasis on befriending. Avril took on this work getting volunteers from S6 to go out to visit older people in the community.

"The Calderglen High pupils were also involved in visiting Cafe Clare until Sanderson High stepped in. However, they are still very involved with the Food Bank on Mondays. They take the bags donated by Claremont to the Food Bank storage facility in the town centre, sort the items onto the shelves and bring back the bags required by Cafe Clare for Tuesday.

“They also now attend the Kilbryde Hospice on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The pupils go along at lunchtime to chat to people attending the Hospice. The Hospice bus collects them and returns them to school. There are also about ten homes of senior citizens in St Leonards where the pupils visit."

Avril showed me some of the awards she has received for her work with the pupils including her Local Hero Award which was presented to her in 2024 at the Scottish Parliament by King Charles.

"There have been so many awards celebrating the work of the pupils in their community including an award from the Council - the Silver Salver presented to young students who have performed a service to their community in terms of volunteering," said Avril.

"In fact, they received an award from the Council every year until Covid. Certificates were also presented to the church and to me," she added.

Avril has had her photograph taken with three members of The Royal Family - The King, Queen Camilla and Princess Anne.

"I met Princess Anne three times," said Avril. "And the second time I met her she said she remembered meeting me before!"

Avril has managed to fit in some world travelling along the way. She visited her sister in the USA three times, once when she lived in New Jersey and twice later when she moved to Florida. She also sailed to Australia stopping off at various ports on the way. The trip took six and a half weeks.

“I think you could say I’m far travelled,” laughed Avril.

Avril’s son Alastair also lives in East Kilbride and her son Alan lives in Glasgow. She has three grandchildren; Alastair has a daughter Ellie and Alan has two children, Sorcha is 15 and Magnus is 12.

Members of Claremont will remember Ellie who attended church with Avril from a young age sitting on her knee and progressing to Sunday School and Brownies. Ellie recently graduated and is going off on a gap year (or two!) to Australia.

"She’s going off for a time of exploration and adventure," smiled Avril.

Well, Avril certainly knows all about that. Some might say Ellie is following in her Gran’s footsteps - a life FULL of exploration and adventure.

Sandra MacKenzie

Bible Study

Wednesdays 7pm, Primrose Room, Claremont

We have been enjoying looking at the life of David (the man after God's heart) along with associated Psalms in the last few weeks.

By the time you read this we will be preparing for Easter. It would be lovely to have new voices in our discussions, cuppa included.

You would be welcome to join us, come, taste and see.

Ishbel Campbell

Douglas's Musings

Twelve things to remember.

1. The past cannot be changed.
2. Opinions don't define your reality.
3. Everyone's journey is different.
4. Judgements are a confession of character.
5. Overthinking will lead to sadness.
6. Happiness is found within.
7. Your thoughts affect your mood.
8. Smiles are contagious.
9. Kindness is free.
10. It's okay to let go and move on.
11. What goes around comes around.
12. Things always get better with time.

Douglas Johnston

Calderglen High School Music Department

Calderglen High School Music Department is under funded.

I have in the past been involved in collecting instruments from church members.

I have lost count of the number of guitars, keyboards and all sorts of instruments I've received including a 100 year old Trumpet and an 80 year old Mandolin.

We are getting near the time for Spring Cleaning. This could be the ideal time to clear out any unwanted or unused musical instruments. The Music Department is always grateful to receive any donations and we may be able to get them to give us a concert in the near future. If you have never been to one of the school concerts you would be in for a great treat. Thanking you in anticipation.

Contact me if you need anything picked up from your house.

Duncan McDade, 07528 790630

Good Companions

The Good Companions had our Christmas dinner on 11th December. All who came enjoyed themselves and the food was excellent. We started back after the Christmas break on 8th January and the Jolly Bees entertained us all. On 22nd January we had a Burns' celebration, enjoying the poems and songs of Burns and Scottish songs sung by Christine and Alex. We loved the ginger wine, shortbread, cheese and oatcakes.

I want to also thank Jan and Douglas.

We meet every second Thursday in Claremont at 13:15 for a 13.30 start. All are welcome.

Forthcoming meetings:

5th March

14th March Coffee morning (10.00 am- 12.00) tickets £2.00

19th March AGM

May Summer outing

Thanks

Janet Wilson, Secretary (07853 033672)

Mid-week Fellowship

The Mid-week Fellowship meets every second Thursday at 1.30pm in Claremont Parish Church. Anyone is welcome to join us. We stay seated throughout the service. It is a very informal meeting but all who attend do feel blessed for being there and sharing in the fellowship with other believers.

Here are the dates and speakers for our meetings till June. Please note that our meeting on 26th March will welcome a speaker from the Leprosy Mission, so please feel free to join us if you are one of our regular donors to this worthy cause.

12th March	Murdo MacDonald - Communion
26th March	Leprosy Mission
9th April	Gordon Palmer
23rd April	John Collard
7th May	Maureen Thompson - Café Clare and the Foodbank
21th May	Bill Henderson
4th June	John Collard - Communion
18th June	Praise and Prayer

I would welcome anyone able to help with picking up and dropping off members to be in touch.

Thanks.

Anna Weir
07745 256757

Ladies' Circle

Dear friends

We hope you are all well. We are looking forward to our new session, all meetings start at 1.30pm in Claremont unless otherwise stated.

3rd March	Quiz
17th March	Lesley McIllhagger- St. Andrews
31st March	David Atkins- Glasgow Snap Shots
14th April	Afternoon Tea at the Bowling Club
28th April	Linda G.-Singer
12th May	AGM, Bring & Buy

Anna Forrest

Used Stamps

The Church of Scotland Used Stamp Appeal has now ended. Many thanks to everyone who has been saving them and bringing them to church.

However, if you are happy to continue collecting them, I will now send them off to the R.N.L.I.

Can I kindly remind you that stamps should be trimmed (about a 1cm border all round if possible) and torn or damaged stamps should not be included.

Thanks again,

Moraig Drumgold

May I extend a huge Thank You to all members of our very caring congregation for the hugs and the many cards and flowers we received as a family on the death of Husband and Father Kenneth MacDonald. He faced his Cancer diagnosis with his usual life is for living view. He had two and a half years of treatment and many visits to Monklands and Hairmyres Hospitals. He is now at peace. Thank you all,

Jean, Kirsty and Andrew MacDonald

I would like to say a big Thankyou for the flowers I received on 9th November. They were stunning and a lovely surprise. Thanks to my friend and neighbour Sheila who kindly delivered them.

Linda Wood

Thank you so much for the church flowers that I received on 1st February. They were a lovely surprise and cheered me up.

Mary Kerr

Can I please say a heartfelt THANK YOU to the ladies of Café Clare who organised an extra Café for folk after the Thanksgiving service for our dear sister Pat Baird. You did really well, and it was just what Pat would have wanted.

Thanks too for the church flowers I received the following Sunday.

Anna Weir xx

I would like to say thanks for the beautiful flower arrangement I received following the memorial service. It made my day a lot brighter. Thanks again to all involved in the flower arranging and delivering, It's much appreciated.

Rose Ralston

Thank you to my church family for the beautiful poinsettia and to Margaret Paton for delivering it.

Sending love and blessings,

Pamela Templeton

Thank you very much for the lovely flowers I received after my fall. I am recovering well. The flowers are very much appreciated. Thank you again.

Mary McGrellis

With regret we advise the passing of the following Claremont members

Mike Matthews

Mary Wyllie

Betty Henderson

Dorothy Arnott

Pat Baird

With regret we advise the passing of a Claremont Friend

Kenneth MacDonald

South Parish Congregational Board & Session Meeting - 24th February at 7.30pm

Claremont Kirk Session Meeting - TBA

Claremont Congregational Board Meeting - 24th March

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9.30am Prayer Meeting
10.30am Morning Worship

Interim Moderator	**REV MURDO C MACDONALD** St Andrews Parsih Church Church St, Blantyre **email:** murdo.macdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk	Mobile: 07714 016805 Tel: 01698 769699
Clarity Youth Group	**DAVID and PAMELA MCGOWAN** **email**:office@claremontparishchurch.co.uk	
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Articles for Jun Clarion due by 5th May

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