

WORD FROM THE CROSS

Summer 2026



The Church of Scotland
Bearsden Cross Church

Bearsden Cross Church – Scottish Charity No: SC009082 – Congregation No: 1811



Contacts

Minister: Rev. Dr Graeme R. Wilson
GWilson@churchofscotland.org.uk
61 Drymen Road, Bearsden, G61 2SU | 942 0507

Minister's Secretary: Anne Reid
Office: 942 0507 | Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30-12.30am

The Secretary may also be contacted by email secretary@bearsdencross.org

Session Clerk: Douglas Thomson
SessionClerk@bearsdencross.org

Editor: Peter Grant
MagazineEditor@bearsdencross.org

Cover picture:Horgabost, Harris ©Peter H. Grant

Content for the September 2026 edition of Word from the Cross should be sent to the editor **no later** than **Friday 21 August 2026**.

Web version of the magazine
www.bearsdencross.org

Parish Letter



Dear Friends,

By the time you receive this magazine we will be on the threshold of the 2026 World Cup. A solid qualifying campaign was topped by that incredible 4-2 victory against Denmark last November, with wonder goals from McTominay, Tierney and MacLean ... not to mention former Ayr United player, Sir Lawrence of Shankland! Lawrence Shankland and centre half Scott McKenna both played for Ayr so we can claim a wee bit of the squad was forged at Somerset Park!

I can remember Scotland playing in the 1974 World Cup, and then qualifying for and playing in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina, where the Scotland manager was Ayr United's very own former manager, Ally MacLeod! Mmm... maybe I should quit here!

As the World Cup draws near many across Scotland are daring to hope once again. After years of disappointment and near misses, the national team's return to the world stage has stirred pride, joy, and a renewed sense of possibility throughout the country. The famous "Tartan Army" spirit — loyal through triumph and frustration alike — reminds us of something important about human nature — we are people shaped by hope.

Even those who are not especially interested in football can appreciate the sense of shared identity and encouragement such occasions can bring. As Christians, we understand hope not simply as wishful thinking, but as something deeper. Paul writes, *“Hope does not disappoint us”* (Romans 5:5). The hopes we place in sport can inspire and unite us, but they also point toward the greater hope we hold in Christ — a hope rooted not in results or trophies, but in God’s faithfulness and love.

Over the coming weeks, perhaps we might pray not only for success on the pitch, but for good sportsmanship, safety for travelling supporters, and moments of joy and unity in a world that often feels divided. Major sporting events remind us that people from many nations and cultures can gather peacefully in celebration — something surely worth cherishing.

Whether Scotland progress far in the tournament or not, the excitement itself already offers a gift ... to celebrate our shared identity, and to remember that hope can lift the human spirit. May we carry that spirit of hope into our homes, our parish, and our daily lives.

Wishing you a happy, sunny and hopefully successful(!) summer.

Shalom,

Graeme

Linkage with Drumchapel: St Mark’s

Things are continuing to slowly progress with the proposed linkage. A Basis of Linkage and Team Ministry is largely complete. Once this is signed off at 121 then it will go to both Kirk Sessions and congregations. I would anticipate this coming to the congregation at the end of the August/early September and information for every member to consider will be issued before then. We will get there!

GRW

Joint Summer Services with New Kilpatrick Church



We have decided to continue the practice over the last couple of years of holding joint services with New Kilpatrick Church over the summer weeks. At present we anticipate that there will only be one service at 10.30am each week, though if this changes we will let you know in the intimations and on our website.

The schedule of services will be as follows: -

10.30am Traditional Morning Service

Date	Location
28 th June	New Kilpatrick
5 th July	New Kilpatrick
12 th July	New Kilpatrick
19 th July	New Kilpatrick
26 th July	Bearsden Cross
2 nd August	Bearsden Cross
9 th August	Bearsden Cross
16 th August	Bearsden Cross

Graeme

Celebration of Communion

I know that for many of you, myself included, the celebration of the sacrament of Communion is a central part of our faith life and experience – a way of connecting at a deeper level.

We will next **celebrate the sacrament of Communion on Sunday 14th June at 10.30am and at 4pm.**



Home Communion

I know that for some of you, getting to church can be difficult or even close to impossible. If that is the case, then the Church can come to you!

I am always willing to bring communion to your home if you wish. I would be accompanied by your Elder, or another, to celebrate the sacrament together with you. This is a way in which to remain connected to the church and its life, even when you are less physically able to do so.



The Minister's Communion ware – from the shores of the Sea of Galilee

If you would like to arrange for Home Communion to be brought to you then please contact the Minister on 0141 942 0507 or email him at gwilson@churchofscotland.org.uk or contact your Elder.

Graeme

Funday Sunday

Funday Sunday continues up to the school holidays and will meet on the 14th and 21st June. The children have enjoyed hearing about Christian Aid, the Shepherd King and other bible stories.



The garden has been tidied and planted for summer. Further work will take place to make it a bright setting for us all to enjoy.

The children will enjoy our prizegiving for the Anne Dutton prizes on the 21st June.

Funday Sunday will start again at the beginning of September following the summer holidays

Any information please contact Anne in the church office.

Anne and Lesley

Phoenix Circle

We are now able to provide members with definite information regarding our 40th anniversary celebrations. The date for your diary is **Monday 21st September 2026**. The venue will be Bearsden Golf Club, Thorn Road, Bearsden where a 2 course lunch plus tea/coffee will be served. The cost will be in the region of £20.

Further information will be sent to you, probably in late July or early August.
Thank you

Senga Dempster

TMC

TMC continues to meet on the last Monday of the month in Massimo's for food and fellowship.

There is no need to book for Massimo's. Just turn up on the night at 7 for 7:30

Anne E Henderson

Men's Group

The Men's Group continues to meet for conversation and company.

Our next gathering will be at Massimo's Restaurant, New Kirk Road on **Thursday 11th June at 7pm.**

Please let me know if you are interested in coming along so that I can book a table accordingly. Also, please also feel free to just turn up on the night.

Looking forward to seeing you on **Thursday 11th June at 7pm.**

Graeme



CHURCH FLOWERS

“ There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens . “

Ecclesiastes 3:1



With grateful thanks to those who provided funds for flowers and to those who ensured they were in Church.

MAY FLOWERS

Provided by:

Arranged by:

3rd. Thelma Struthers in memory of her
sister Sheila Gibson.
10th. Anonymous.
17th. Mrs. E. Anderson.
24th. From Funds.
31st. From Funds.

Jenny Gillespie
Kate Edmond
Rosemary Walters
Lesley Whyte
Christine Taggart

As in recent years The Cross Church and New Kilpatrick Parish Church are uniting for our summer services

which will commence.

28th June - 19th July. N.K.P.C

26th July - 16th August. B.C.C.

Wishing everyone a relaxing summer.

Christine Taggart

Well, that's Christian Aid Week over for 2026, with most of the donations counted. Apart from the contents of a few penny boxes and some intelligent (!) guesswork on all the anonymous donors on the Bearsden Churches JustGiving page, we know roughly how much was raised. The excitement is over – except for discovering who won the Quiz! – but the most important task remains, viz. saying “thank you”.



As usual, first thanks must go to Diane Walker and Jim Stewart for doing the Kiltwalk (see photo above). Their joint total raised was £4,225.12, including £650 in Gift Aid, both online and by can or cash in hand. That's an amazing sum and always a great inspiration to the rest of us, not just to sponsor them but to walk a bit more ourselves!

Thank you both very much – just glad the sun shone!

Christian Aid Week itself began on 10th May and Graeme turned the morning service into a Christian Aid service which focused us on the real purpose of our efforts and the Christian love we are trying to demonstrate by them. Thank you, Graeme, for that.

What is now an established annual event was the Coffee Concert by the vocal students of the Conservatoire who gave a delightful range of operatic pops which we all enjoyed. The amount raised by this event was £1,100, our highest total yet, and for that we are most grateful to Nairn Young for organising everything, and also the kitchen team who baked the cakes, served the coffee and tea before the concert as they always do – and washed up afterwards. Thanks to all of you. Hint:- maybe a few more Bearsden Cross members might come to a Coffee Concert or two in future.... ??

Grateful thanks also to the many folk who let themselves be enticed into buying a Christian Aid Quiz and especially to those who have put their entries in the box. The total raised was £177.10. Answers and winner will be announced on 7th June.

The main appeal for Christian Aid Week by Bearsden Churches was, as usual, through the JustGiving page set up and the flyers distributed around the parish advertising it. Jim Stewart once again must be warmly thanked for preparing the flyer and sorting out batches of it for delivery by a fair number of volunteers. It's a tiring and time-consuming but very necessary task and you all deserve a gold star for doing it.

And the total as so far known is £5,953.62 which, along with anonymous online gifts, should come to considerably over £6,000. That should help Fridah with her vertical garden and also perhaps a few of the other groups that Christian Aid is trying to help. It may not go as far as we would like but remember what Jesus did with the loaves and fishes! Thank you all.

Katie Thomson

Glasgow City Mission



In 2019, there were in Glasgow approximately 250 individuals accommodated during winter (when our church provided a team to help with the Glasgow City Mission Night Shelter) in temporary settings, including hotels and B&Bs. Over winter 2025-26, that figure has increased to over 2,500, and, with the continuing shortage of housing and cost-of-living crisis, it has been much harder for GCM to help homeless people.

Trying always to adapt to the needs of the moment, the Mission this year went back to having a through-the-night service, providing hotel-based emergency accommodation, as it had a few years ago, BUT ALSO providing the Housing Support Officers system to work one-to-one with guests and seek long-term housing outcomes. These two approaches had worked best previously and the link-up has been successful. Britannia Inn provided emergency rooms for homeless guests and its staff were very supportive in every way. Guests felt welcomed and safe and it gave the GCM staff an opportunity also to see what other needs they had, especially medical care. The aim throughout was to reassure the guests that they were seen, valued and supported as children loved by God, and, for some, having a few minutes of prayer with a GCM staff member was a precious means of restoring hope. Indeed, some of the guests who had fled from their home countries on religious grounds specifically asked for Bibles in Farsi and Arabic.

Immigrant guests become homeless once they are granted refugee status in the UK as they are no longer entitled to Government-provided accommodation. Some are highly skilled and eager to work but, even when offered a job, have been unable to afford to rent a home near the job, and so have had to choose between taking work or staying unemployed but with some sort of temporary roof over their heads. Other guests include victims of domestic abuse or trafficking, or people within the criminal justice system, or people asked to leave previous homes for various reasons. Families came for help as well as individuals and this year four dogs were welcomed too! The GCM H.S.O. team are all fully trained with a wide range of skills and experience – plus patience, imagination and compassion.

A brief set of stats from this year's Report on the Winter Project reveals how much they achieved despite all the problems they faced:-

- * 478 unique guests used the system this winter.
- * 14% had No Recourse to Public Funds and 86% were eligible for support through Health and Social Care Partnership.
- * 75% were male, 25% female and the average age was 36.
- * 1051 emergency hotel rooms were provided through GCM.
- * 1254 face to face interviews and interventions took place.
- * 87% of those guests are now in positive outcomes.

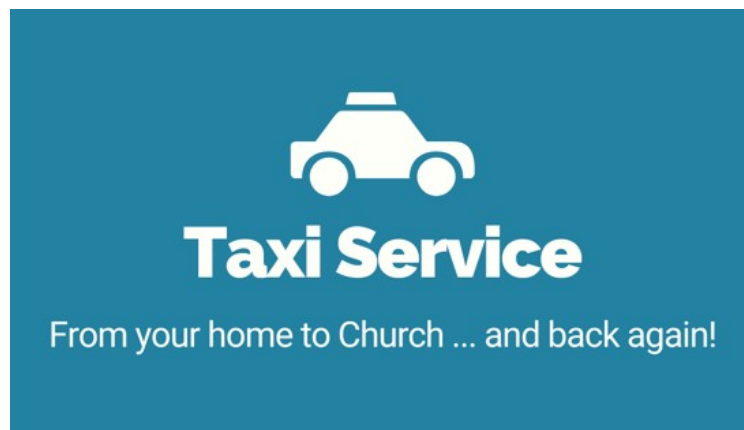
The Mission is very swift to pay tribute to all the corporate sponsors who helped financially and all



the other charities in the Glasgow area who helped with their special skills as they do every year. But it knows how much it relies on its own regular volunteers who help in so many ways, especially at the drop-in where they are often the first welcoming faces the guests see, and also by filling in to let the regular staff help directly with the Night Shelter. That includes our team, of course, and also those in our church who have donated and prayed so faithfully, not just over the winter but all the time. Glasgow City Mission is very grateful to you all! Thank you for everything.

Katie Thomson

Taxi Service



The Kirk Session has established a free 'Taxi Service' to enable people to come to church who might not otherwise be able to do so due to a lack of transport.

The 'Taxi Service' will operate as follows: -

1. Those interested in using the taxi service should contact the Church Office on 0141 942 0507 to register with Church. Leave a message on the answerphone if there is no reply.
2. You will then be given a Password, which is unique for the church account, which is 'Bearsden Cross Church'.
3. Once registered you can then phone Station Taxis on **0141 942 4555** for a taxi to church, giving the account name 'Bearsden Cross Church' and the unique password. This can be pre-booked the previous day, or up until 10am on the Sunday.
4. Return taxis can also be booked for after the service.
5. If there are a couple of folk nearby each other then perhaps taxi sharing might be considered when booking.
6. **There will be no charge for this service.** The cost will be borne by the Session Fund, which exists for purposes such as this.

I hope that this service will enable people to get to church who might not otherwise be able to do so, and I look forward to seeing people back in church on a Sunday morning where they belong!

Graeme

Church Register

Funeral

28.05.26 Mrs Elspeth Campbell

Certificate of Transfer issued

30.04.26 Mrs Carolyn Forrest

Dates for your Diary

May 31	Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
June 7	Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
	Bible Class	10.30 a.m.
11	Men's Group (Massimo's)	7.00 p.m.
12	"Mind That Song"	2.00 p.m.
14	Morning Communion Service	10.30 a.m.
	Funday Sunday	10.30 a.m.
	Bible Class	10.30 a.m.
	Afternoon Communion Service	4.00 p.m.
18	Trustee's Safeguarding Training	6.30 p.m.
21	Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
	Bible Class	10.30 a.m.
	Funday Sunday	10.30 a.m.

Summer Sunday services

June 28– July 19 inclusive Services at **New Kilpatrick**

July 26- August 16 inclusive Services at **Bearsden Cross Church**

Morning Service 10.30 a.m.

August

23	Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
	Bible Class	10.30 a.m.
30	Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
	Bible Class	10.30 a.m.

September

6	Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
	Bible Class	10.30 a.m.
	Funday Sunday	10.30 a.m.

Recordings of the Church Services

An audio recording of each morning service is made, and circulated weekly to those who have expressed an interest in listening, To be added to the distribution, please email secretary@bearsdencross.org.

If you do not have email, we can let you have the recording in any way which suits you, please speak to the Minister or Session Clerk.

Anne Reid

Submissions to the Magazine

Contributions to the **September 2026 edition** of the magazine should be with the editor **no later than Friday 21 August 2026**. Contributions reflecting all aspects of the life of the Church and congregation are welcome, including photographs! It would assist editing if contributions could be prepared in Calibri font, size 14.

Also, please only send photographs that are of sufficient resolution to print clearly. Do not send multiple photographs asking the editor to choose (select those you would like included and send only those).

All contributions should be sent to: MagazineEditor@bearsdencross.org

Jesus said to them, "Come with me, by yourselves, to some remote place and rest a little".



*Borve, Harris
©Peter H Grant*