

**Houston & Killellan Kirk**

# **The Record**

**December 2024**

**Houston & Killellan Kirk  
Church of Scotland**

**13A Kirk Road, Houston, PA6 7AS**

**Scottish Charity No. SC012822**

**www.houstonkillellankirk.org**

**INTERIM MODERATOR:**

**Rev Barbara Ann Sweetin**

**07988 938476**

**BSweetin@churchofscotland.org.uk**



## **MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM MODERATOR**



### ***Hello Friends,***

CAN you believe that we are now into December!

As a church, we have been through many changes this year; I arrived in January, when you had to adjust to my style of worship, and from September we have had a series of guest speakers and pulpit supply.

I was delighted that the Rt Rev Dr Shaw Paterson, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, came to preach as part of our 150th anniversary celebrations and it was lovely to welcome our former minister, Rev John Thomson, back in church too.

Since our organist retired, we have also enjoyed different styles - and speeds - of playing as part of our process to find a replacement.

A further change is that Annabelle, our Communications Officer, and Frankie, our Families and Community Development worker, are both leaving to take up new work opportunities.

We would like to thank them for their hard work and all the new initiatives they have been involved in, and wish them every blessing going forward.

As Interim Moderator one of my main tasks is getting the church ready for your new minister. To

make life easier we have reorganised the districts so that members are now grouped by their addresses. Each district has an elder who will visit, phone or email to keep you up to date.

As this is likely to be my last Record message, I would like to thank you all for the warm and loving welcome when I arrived, and for your patience during this vacancy, which is hopefully drawing to a close. In the meantime, I am looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all this Christmas season and in the coming year.

***Barbara Ann***

## Progress on finding Kirk's new Minister

IT has been 10 months since Gary left Houston & Killellan Kirk to take up his new charge in America and, in true Church of Scotland fashion, things might appear to have moved at a very slow pace; in fact, we have been a lot quicker in getting to where we are than many other churches.

When something takes time, it provides us with an opportunity to reflect, to identify areas where we can make changes and improve – and that is what our Kirk Session have been doing during this time.

The congregation and members of Houston & Killellan Kirk have

to preach on a Sunday that is suitable for both churches and fits in with the church calendar.

When this day comes it would be good to see as many of you as possible at the service so that you can vote in favour or against after hearing them preach.

It is worth noting that, while you are free to vote as you choose, the Nominating Committee have done a great deal of work in the background to identify an individual they believe is best suited to lead both Houston & Killellan Kirk and Langbank Church forward.

The nominee will preach at Langbank



all played a big part already. Together, you voted to form a linkage with Langbank Church, and you also voted on the membership of your Nominating Committee.

Hopefully we will soon be voting on who our new minister will be.

The Nominating Committee have been working hard and we would like to thank them for everything they have done so far.

There were a number of applications for the vacancy, and the Nominating Committee are now at the shortlisting and interview stage. If any of the applicants are suitable, there is an extensive list of formalities to go through.

First, they will need

Church at 9.45am and then at Houston & Killellan Kirk at 11.15am. Langbank's voting papers will be brought to Houston & Killellan Kirk and mixed in with our voting papers.

If the vote is in favour, it is then up to the minister to decide whether they wish to accept.

This is not a given, as this will likely have been their first introduction to both congregations and they may decide that it is not the right fit for them.

However, if they agree to be our minister, we can move to conclude the recruitment process with all systems go.

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more updates.



## Our 150th celebrations for 2025 will have you in a whirl

OUR busy programme of 150th anniversary celebrations for 2025 kick off with a Ceilidh on 25 January and a Quiz Night and Fish Supper on 22 March.

Congratulations to the Guild for hosting a wonderful Victorian-themed Afternoon Tea in September.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious spread of cakes and sweet treats prepared by the ladies, and the event raised £500 for Church funds. Well done!

Our Heritage Weekend, also in September, was a great opportunity to discover fascinating facts about our Church and its place in our community.

A big thank you to Houston and Crosslee Historical Society for creating the displays and guiding visitors on the day.

It was a pleasure and privilege to welcome the Rt Rev Dr Shaw

Paterson, Moderator of the General Assembly, to preach for us in November. He paid tribute to all who had worshipped in Houston & Killellan Kirk over the last 150 years and reminded us to look forward and follow God's path, which may involve change and innovation at times. His sermon was inspiring.

As well as conveying the good wishes of the national church to us, he also presented gifts including a special tile depicting symbols of the Moderator's role and a large tile with his details on it.

Our Session Clerk Helen Dunn presented the Rt Rev Dr Paterson with our 150th anniversary pin badge and a set of special coasters with views of the Church and Houston. These are on sale now.



## MARGARET'S WALK RAISES



A BIG shout out to Margaret Moncrieff and friends, who raised a fantastic £1,800 for Scottish Huntington's Association (SHA) with their annual Walk of Hope in September.

The group walked along the banks of the River Clyde at Erskine, to raise awareness of Huntington's Disease (HD) as well as funds for the charity.



## Plea to boost donations to ease deficit

RUNNING a church is an expensive business. Our expenditure in 2023 works out at around £3,400 per week, higher than previous years due to unforeseen repairs to church heating and a general rise in salary and utility costs.

Against this, our average weekly income is around £3,200 leaving us £200 per week short, with annual deficit of £10,400.

On top of this, we have used more than half the money in our fabric fund to cover much-needed renovations of the manse, ready for our new minister. Running a deficit over time is risky – we face eating into our reserves or having to reduce our community activities – both of which we are loath to do.

Since around 200 members already donate regularly, an extra £1 a week from each one would cover the gap; a little more would create a surplus that would enable us to continue with all we do in our community.

A recent survey found that almost 40% of our members who currently donate give £20 or less each month (this works out at less than £5 per week) and more than half have not amended their giving in over five years. We know that budgets are stretched but we believe that, with your support, addressing the £200 a week shortfall we have should be easy.

There are three steps we would ask you to consider:

1. Can you increase your giving by at least £1 per week, or £4.50 per month?

2. Can you give by standing order, to give us a consistent and predictable source of income? It is easy to set this up with your online mobile banking app, by calling your bank, or popping into a branch.

3. If you are a UK taxpayer, can you sign up for Gift Aid, which enables us to claim back an extra 25% in tax relief? Please speak to a member of the Finance Team if you are not registered for Gift Aid with us.


If you are not a member of our congregation but would like to donate, simply visit our website, [houstonkillellankirk.org](http://houstonkillellankirk.org), and click on the Giving tab.

Thank you.

## HUGE SUM

The money supports the work of HD advisors, who support families affected by this devastating neurological condition.

Margaret said: "This was our 13th Erskine Walk of Hope, and we all enjoyed ourselves. The support we receive from the Kirk and our community is always much appreciated."



### Emeritus Elders

A HUGE thank you to our Emeritus Elders for their years of faithful service, dedication and hard work for our church.

They are: Elizabeth Bowie, Robert Finnie, Alastair McGregor, Irene McLaughlin, Sheila Moore, Marion Simpson and Janice Thomson.



**HOUSTON KIRK POSTIE**

**Our festive Sorting Office is open from 10am-12pm & 7pm-8pm on December 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th in the West Halls, Main St, Houston**

**Guaranteed delivery to anywhere in Houston & Crosslee by Dec 17th for only 30 pence per card**

**Raising funds for St Vincent's Hospice and The Haven Kilmacolm**

## Walk group's great strides

WE had a record turnout for our walk in the grounds of Houston House on 9 November, with a welcome number of new faces.

Thanks to Mark Crichton Maitland for arranging our access to the estate, which was much appreciated.

Our next walk, on Saturday 7 December, is a circular route via Chapel Road, North Mains Farm and Ardgryffe. We will start at the Carrick

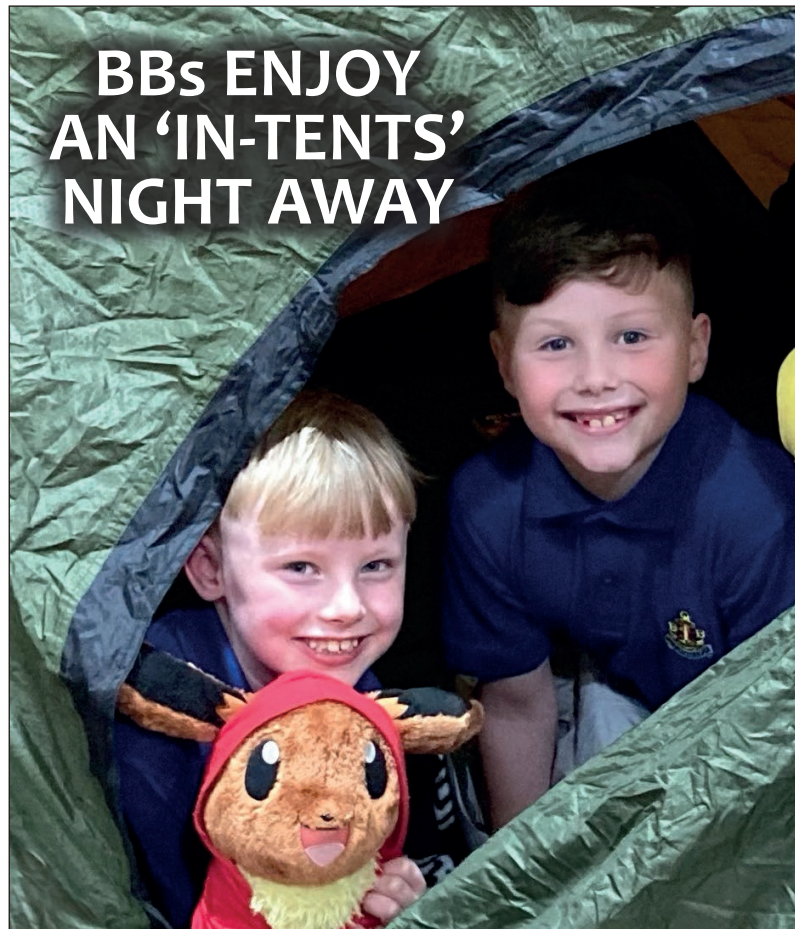
Centre at 10am and finish back there at about 12pm.

It is a flat walk on country lanes with the possibility of a short section being quite muddy. Regulars, families and new walkers are very welcome, and this route is dog-friendly too.

On Saturday 21 December, we will walk along the Clyde from Bells Bridge to the city centre, followed by lunch at the Christmas Market.



## BBs ENJOY AN 'IN-TENTS' NIGHT AWAY



OUR Junior boys took part in the Juniors BIG Sleepover event in October. The national event involved over 1,300 Juniors at more than 70 locations across the UK. In Houston 13 boys were involved in the daytime activities – including a visit to the playpark in Bridge of Weir, walking a section of the Gryffe Valley Way from Bridge

of Weir to Houston and eating pizza for tea.

We also took part in the national online gathering, watched magician Paul Brown deliver a special message and toasted marshmallows over the fire pit. Ten boys opted to sleep over, finally crashing out for the night in four indoor tents in the West Halls, for their 'Nights Away' award.

## Do you enjoy reading the Record? Can you help with the production cost?

We publish it four times a year and print enough copies for every home in the village but each print run costs us around £700 and any contributions towards this cost would be much appreciated.

You can donate online by going to the Giving page on our website [www.houstonkillellankirk.org](http://www.houstonkillellankirk.org) or by setting up a standing order. Our bank details are account number 50330392, and the sort code is 82 61 11. Please include the word RECORD as reference.

*Thank you*



## Spook and dook fun for Toddlers



WE have had a very busy start to our session, with around 30 children attending regularly with their mums, dads, grandparents and carers.

Everyone has been having lots of fun with our new Play-Doh table and our comfy new reading corner, climbing frame and ball pit. Hopefully we will upgrade some of our sit-on toys in the new year.

Our Halloween party was a great success, with the best dressed prize awarded to Leo, who came as a creepy crawly spider.

We dooked for apples and posed for pictures in front of our new Halloween backdrop.

This year, for something a wee bit different, we are planning a Christmas outing – more details to follow.

We meet from 9.30am to 11.30am in the West Halls on Thursday mornings during term-time and new members are always very welcome. Please email: [houstontoddlers@hotmail.com](mailto:houstontoddlers@hotmail.com) for info.



## Hope for poetry

WE were thrilled to work with author Lorna Hill for Book Week Scotland this year, creating poems about what hope means to us.

In the morning we worked with 12 children from St Fillan's and Houston Primary Schools, who wrote their very own pantoum poem.

We then spent a wonderful afternoon with a small group of adults, creating a second community poem with Lorna.

Together the group reflected on what brings hope, before everyone wrote their own line on what hope means to them.

Both poems will be included in our 150th anniversary Time Capsule.

Our thanks to Lorna for leading the group, and to the Scottish Book Trust for funding the workshop as part of Book Week Scotland.

## Houston Hello to song and dance

WE have been very busy recently, with visits from Kirsty McKay School of Dance and Screen Memories by Michael White.

Kenny, a singer and guitarist, and Leon, who sings and plays the flute – have also entertained us and both proved very popular. Everyone had a fabulous time. We also enjoyed a visit by children from Houston Primary School Nursery, who chatted to everyone and sang some of their favourite songs. They are planning to visit again with some Christmas songs.

We are all looking forward to our Christmas Party on 12 December, when DJ Jubbly will be entertaining us all with music and dancing.

Houston Hello meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, at 2pm in the West Halls, Main Street and our lovely volunteers always make sure that everyone receives a warm welcome.

Houston Hello Singers, our dementia inclusive choir, meets at 2pm in the West Halls on the first and third Thursdays of every month. No previous experience is necessary as it's just for fun.

Both groups are for anyone living with dementia, those who support them, and anyone wanting a blether and company.

People living with a dementia must be accompanied by someone who can support them unless they are able to attend independently.



In November, all Sections of 1st Houston Boys' Brigade paraded to Houston & Killellan Kirk as part of our Remembrance Day activities. Additionally, our Junior Section boys also participated at the Paisley & District Battalion Ten Pin Bowling event at Xsite in Braehead.

December will be a busy month too, with an outing to

the Mother Goose pantomime in Johnstone on 5 December for Anchors and Juniors, Christmas craft and party nights and the possibility of a special festive party guest for our younger BB boys.

BB is back Thursday 9 January for Anchors and Juniors and Friday 10 for Company Section.



## LUXURY POP-UP BREAKFAST

Beat the winter blues with our annual Luxury Pop-Up Breakfast, back by popular demand!

**9am – 11.30am**  
**on Saturday, February 1**  
**at the West Halls, Main Street**

**Enjoy a huge range of tasty treats: – from fresh fruit, prunes, figs, porridge, cereals, home-made muesli, yogurts, home-made marmalade, lemon curd, jam, chocolate spread, honey, fresh bread, croissants and brioche rolls, cold meats, pate, prawns, cheeses, cold boiled eggs, tomato, cucumber, smoked/poached salmon, smoked mackerel, soused/sweet-pickled herring – and a range of gluten-free options, as well as filter coffee, teas, fruit juice and smoothies...**

*Donations on leaving, with all proceeds going to support projects in Mwandí.*



## MWANDI UPDATE

OUR Missionary Partners Keith and Ida have been busy as usual. The American surgical team has been back – they carried out 51 operations and saw another 275 patients.

Having suction equipment installed in vital areas like theatre, maternity, ICU, casualty and for six beds in the general wards has made a real difference. Keith and Ida are so grateful for the donations from us, and from St Mark's Parish Church in St Andrews, which covered the costs of copper piping and accessories. The suction machine itself was kindly donated by the Czech Republic.

Unfortunately the current drought, which is badly affecting crops, also affects the electricity

supply because most of the power comes from hydro-electric sources including the Kariba Dam and the Victoria Falls power station. This means that there are regular power outages.

The Mission currently has three building projects underway: a student hostel, a centre for Gender Based Violence and a Nutrition Centre. These projects are also providing opportunities for workers in the brickyard, who are kept busy fulfilling the or-

ders. Keith and Ida were recently invited by the Presbytery Bishop to join a group invited by the Anglican Bishop of Lesotho to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Lesotho nation - a great privilege!

Huge thanks to Houston Toddler Group for their fantastic donation of clothing for babies and children up to age five, which we will send out to Mwandí. Ida really appreciates these parcels, as they encourage mums to access

healthcare. We are always looking for volunteers to fill them and for donations towards the postage costs, so please let Barbara Ann Brown know if you can help. It costs about £16 to send 2kg of clothing.

Our latest fund-raising target, along with other churches across Scotland, is to raise £11,000 for a lorry to help transport goods in Mwandí.

The local roads are poor, the distances to be covered are huge and petrol costs have rocketed – so having their own lorry would be a huge benefit.

If you would like to help us reach this target simply scan the QR code above to donate, or support us by buying a 'Wheely Good' gift this Christmas.





## Searching for a 'Wheely Good' Christmas gift?

How about making a charitable donation to help our Overseas Mission partners in Mwandia, Zambia, buy a lorry on behalf of friends or family?

Owning a lorry will make it much easier to get supplies and deliver goods to customers, boosting much-needed income and helping to support vulnerable youngsters find employment.

Visit the News section of our website at: [houstonkillellankirk.org](http://houstonkillellankirk.org) click the donation link and go from there.

You can also make a donation in Church after Morning Worship on December 8 and 15 and collect your gift certificate from Caroline Morrison at the same time.

Gift certificates will be available online until Saturday December 14. Contact Caroline on **07711 348423** for more information.



## Bee Happy with next foodbank collection

A HUGE thank you to everyone who continues to support our Foodbank Collection Point with regular donations.

Every single item you give really does help make a difference to people across Renfrewshire and is very much appreciated.

Bee Happy's brilliant team of volunteers have now collected almost 200 crates of food since they launched their 'Doorstep Collections' last November. This is a fantastic achievement and a significant boost to our donations to Renfrewshire Foodbank. Thank you to Jake Fulton and the team for making this such a success. They will be out again collecting items on 17 December.

Thank you too to our friends at Langbank Church and Langbank Primary School, who regularly deliver a car boot load of items.

Our Foodbank Collection Point is open on Tuesdays, from 10am-12pm and 7pm-8pm at the West Halls, Main Street. The last donation day before Christmas is 17 December, and we will return on 7 January.

Please check our Facebook page for weekly updates on the items that are most needed.

## STAMP OF APPROVAL

THANK you to everyone who continues to donate their used postage stamps – either at the rear of the church or at our Foodbank Collection Point on a Tuesday. We pass these to St Vincent's Hospice to help raise funds.



## News from Langbank

WE are looking forward to welcoming everyone to our festive events this year, including Journey Through Christmas, an interactive event for all ages which features 12 stations, each representing part of the Christmas story or people connected to it.

Enjoy a cuppa at the Innkeeper's table once you've finished exploring. This event is on 14 December (10am-4pm) and 15 December 12pm-3pm. Tickets will be available nearer the time. We also have the following events:

**8 December:** 50:50 Prom, 2.30pm at Langbank Church. Join us for an hour of fun festive music; wear something Christmassy!

**15 December:** Carols by Candlelight, 7pm at Langbank Church.

**29 December:** Final Fling Carol Sing, 10am at Langbank Church.

**17 January 2025:** Family Beetle Drive.

## MEN'S GROUP IN SIGN FORM

OUR fabulous new noticeboard at the front of the Kirk was dedicated in September and it looks amazing!

We are very grateful to the Men's Shed for generously covering the cost of all the materials, as well as giving their time and effort for free to complete this project for us.

Special thanks to David Macdonald for his skills in creating such a beautiful wooden frame for the board – a big improvement on what we had before!

Last month some of the Shedders were delighted to install a bench at our Community Orchard in memory of Charles Green.

It is a lovely spot to sit and reflect and we hope many of you enjoy taking some time out there.

The Shed's Pop-Up Christmas shop selling festive reindeers, snowmen and robins has been very popular. Thank you to everyone for all the orders that have come in – we are now down to



**WE NEED YOU!**

DO you have a couple of hours spare a week, or even a month?

Would you like to get involved in what we do? There are lots of practical ways to help the charities and community groups we support.

Opportunities range from joining the team that organises our Kirk Carnival or volunteering at groups like Houston Hello, our demen-



## WITH SANTA'S 'WORKSHED'

the final few and all the money raised goes directly back into the Shed.

This helps us to carry on making and upcycling items for the whole community and helps our members to make social connections that boost their wellbeing.

The Sheddors meet on a Wednesday morning from 10am – 1pm at the West Halls, on Main Street. Email [mensshed.houstonkirk@gmail.com](mailto:mensshed.houstonkirk@gmail.com) for information about how to join us.



tia-inclusive café, or our youth groups – HKK Girls or the Boys' Brigade.

Can you help with the vital work our Flower Ministry team does? Every week they create wonderful arrangements in Church.

They then help sort them into bouquets which are given to members of the congregation or the village when it is important to let

people know that we are thinking of them.

If you love singing (even if you can't read music), why not join our Church Choir? They meet at 7.30pm on Thursdays, in the Killallan Halls and are keen to recruit some new faces!

See the Volunteer section of our website, [houstonkillallankirk.org](http://houstonkillallankirk.org) What are you waiting for?

## HALLS FOR HIRE

Our church halls, including the West Halls on Main Street and Killallan Halls at 13A Kirk Road, are available for hire.

Both facilities offer great spaces for a range of activities - from yoga and dance classes to arts and crafts or children's parties. They are available for one-off events and short/long-term lets.

Email Carol Rankin at: [hkkhallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:hkkhallbookings@gmail.com) for more information.



**Houston & Killellan Kirk Guild**

# Daffodil Tea

**Saturday 8th February**

**10.30am - 12noon**

**West Halls, Main Street**



**Enjoy delicious home-baking, a cuppa and a catch-up with friends in aid of our Church and Guild charities. All welcome!**

## CELEBRATION CEILIDH

Celebrate our 150th anniversary with a Ceilidh and enjoy live music from The Elderberries

7pm on Saturday January 25, 2025  
at the West Halls, Main Street, Houston

Tickets are £10 each and available from  
Marjory Dooley at [marjory.dooley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:marjory.dooley@yahoo.co.uk)



**BYOB**

**RAFFLE PRIZES**

## AUTUMN CREAM TEA A

THE Guild has been rather busy these last few weeks enjoying several events. The first was the Afternoon Cream Tea on 25 September as part of our activities to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Houston & Killellan Kirk.

Guild members prepared and presented a delicious spread, raising £500 for church funds. Everyone had a lovely time!

This was followed by our annual Autumn Cream Tea on 12 October, which is always our first fundraiser of the season. The final total raised was £830.50 – so thank you very much to all involved in helping us raise such a fantastic sum.

Our Guest Afternoon, on 12 November, proved to be a most enjoyable affair. Rev Barbara Ann Sweetin and our



THE start of our new session in September coincided with the start of our 150th anniversary year, so we spent time thinking about the place of our Church in the community and what it means to all of us.

We enjoyed taking part in services exploring this and had fun making a banner about all the different things our church can mean for different people.

It was also time to say a fond farewell to Wendy Kirkwood,

who has been an enthusiastic and dedicated Sunday Club teacher for many years. We played party games and ate cake as we wished Wendy the best of luck in her new home.

In November we made a Remembrance Day poster with Sunday club finger painting poppies and Bible Class added paper cut poppies and lettering to finish the display.

Preparations for our Nativity performance on 15 December are well under way and we

# HUGE SUCCESS FOR GUILD

Guild Elder, Jim McBeath, both attended along with guests from St Fillan's, St Machar's Ranfurly and Erskine Guild. The entertainment was provided by Langbank Singers.

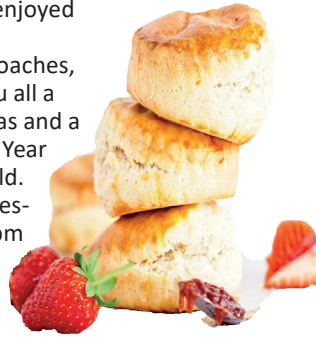
Finally, our ever-popular Christmas Market took place on 23 November and was very well supported.

It was wonderful to welcome so many of you once again and

we hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

As Christmas approaches, the Guild wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a more peaceful New Year throughout the world.

We are back on Tuesday, 7 January, at 2pm in the West Halls, and all are very welcome!



## SUNDAY CLUBS TOGETHER WITH FAREWELL CAKE



have been busy learning lots of great songs.

We meet every Sunday during term-time, from 10.50am to 12pm, in the Killallan Halls at the back of the Church.

Our motto is Love, Care and Share and we explore how to bring these values into action with a range of activities for children and young people aged three to 18. We are always delighted to welcome new children – so come and find us!



## Gifts needed for prisoners' children

SINCE we are celebrating Houston & Killellan Kirk's 150th anniversary, we have set ourselves the target of gathering 150 Christmas gifts for prisoners' children, which we will hand over to CrossReach, the social care arm of the Church of Scotland. They run a visitors' support and advice service at HMP Perth, and a visitors' centre family hub at HMYOI Polmont.

Many of the children of prisoners have very little and, at Christmas time especially, they can often feel left out.

Gifts can be handed in to our Foodbank Collection Point this coming Tuesday, December 3 (from 10am to 12pm) – or brought along to our Christmas Gift Service at 11am on 8 December.

Head to our Facebook page and website for some suggestions for gift ideas to help you get started. Please place NEW, unwrapped items in open gift bags.

There is no need to label them by age/boy/girl etc as staff at CrossReach will sort through the donations themselves, before the gifts are handed out to children.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Warm Winter Clothing appeal in October. Again, we set ourselves the target of 150 items – and you smashed it!

We gathered a grand total of 512 items of new clothing. This is a fantastic amount and will make a real difference to the families and young people across Renfrewshire that Barnardo's Threads works with.

## Party fun at SWI

AFTER a very successful start to our 95th year we are all looking forward to our Christmas Party on 11 December.

We start back on 8 January 2025 when we will hear all about 'Arlene's Travels' and on 12 February we have our meal out.

Our programme for the rest of this session includes soap making on 12 March and our AGM and Macmillan Charity Evening on 9 April.

We meet in the Carrick Centre, Main Street, Houston, at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month. We have a variety of activities and speakers so come and join us. You will be made very welcome.

Please contact Barbara Ann Brown on 01505 325 452 for more information.

## CALENDAR OF SERVICES

1 December	11am Morning Worship
8 December	11am Christmas Gift Service
15 December	Nativity Service (Retiral Offering in aid of charities)
22 December	11am Nine Lessons and Carols
<b>24 December</b>	<b>11pm Mulled wine and mince pies</b> <b>11.30pm Watchnight Service</b> (Retiral Offering in aid of charities)
<b>25 December</b>	<b>11am Christmas Morning Worship</b>
29 December	11am Morning Worship
5 January	11am Morning Worship
12 January	11am Morning Worship
19 January	11am Morning Worship
26 January	11am Morning Worship
2 February	11am Morning Worship
9 February	11am Morning Worship
16 February	11am Morning Worship
23 February	11am Morning Worship
2 March	11am Holy Communion (Retiral Offering in aid of charities)

All services are live-streamed and available on YouTube.

## CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

### DEATHS

Sheila Sanderson, Houston – 16 August  
Allan McNeil, Houston – 21 August  
Dorothy Bell, Houston – 21 September  
Mary Reid, Houston – 4 October  
Diane Gray, Houston – 20 October

**“I am the resurrection and the life.”**

### BAPTISMS

Amy Helen Morag Whiteford – 29 September

**“The Lord bless you and keep you.”**

## THANK YOU

Jean, Allan and Elspeth Dawson would like to thank everyone for the many cards, floral tributes and messages of sympathy following Marion's death. Thanks to Rev Fraser Aitken, the office bearers and all who attended the Service of Thanksgiving.

Thank you to Rev Barbara Ann Sweetin, Kay Crawford and her team, and all our friends in the church family for everything that you did to help us at the time of the sudden, sad death of our younger grandson, Stewart. We have been overwhelmed by kindness. Thank you all, from John and Margaret King and family

**SAVE THE DATE**

**5 December:** Kilmacolm and Houston Rock Choir Concert, 7pm, Houston & Killellan Kirk

**10 December:** Houston & Killellan Kirk Guild: Christmas Greetings, 2pm, West Halls, Main Street, Houston

**11 December:** SWI Christmas Party, 7.30pm, Carrick Centre, Main Street, Houston

**12 December:** Houston Hello Christmas Party, 2pm to 4pm, West Halls, Main Street, Houston

**25 January:** 150th Anniversary Ceilidh with live music from The Elderberries, 7pm, West Halls, Main Street, Houston

**1 February:** Luxury Pop-Up Breakfast from 9am to 11.30am, West Halls, Main Street, Houston. Enjoy all the usual treats from fresh fruit, muesli and home made jams to croissants, cold meats, and gluten-free options with tea, coffee and fruit juices. All proceeds to support projects in Mwandia

**8 February:** Daffodil Tea with Houston & Killellan Kirk Guild, from 10.30am to 12pm, at the West Halls, Main Street, Houston. Tea, coffee, delicious home baking. In aid of Church and Guild Charities

**7 March:** World Day of Prayer, 7pm, Houston & Killellan Kirk

**22 March:** 50th Anniversary Quiz Night and Fish Supper, 7pm, West Halls, Main Street, Houston

**30 March:** Clocks spring forward by an hour

**10 May:** Houston Kirk Carnival



## CONTACTS

### Session Clerk

Helen Dunn - 07723 959583

### Deputy Session Clerk

Matthew Alexander - 07771 921221

### Safeguarding Officer

Sandra Griffiths - 01505 321960

### Roll Keeper

Irwin Jefferson - 01505 612962

### Hall Bookings

Carol Rankin  
hkkhallbookings@gmail.com

### Property Convenor

Jim McLaughlin - 07541 276118  
Mclaughlin\_jim@hotmail.com

### Treasurer

Kay Farley - 01505 613314  
mikeandkayfarley@btinternet.com

### Distributor

Sandra Griffiths - 01505 321960  
The Record is distributed to most homes in the parish. If you are able to help with distribution, please contact Sandra on number above.

NEXT EDITION: **Sunday 2 March, 2025**  
All articles should be submitted as early as possible and by deadline of: **Monday 10 February, 2025** please.