

## Newlands South Church

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Interim Moderator:  
Rev. Gillian Rooney



June 2026

### From the Interim Moderator

Dear friends,

I write to you today from the 2026 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. The moderator this year is the Rev. Gordon Kennedy, a parish minister who has served in New Cumnock, Port Patrick and now serves in Craiglockhart in Edinburgh. His theme for the year, *Walk in all His Ways*, comes from Deuteronomy 10:12; *'And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul'*.

These are ancient words and even in this difficult season for your church these words are still relevant and still worth clinging to. This is a call to love our neighbour and the Lord High Commissioner Lady Elish Angiolini echoed this call whilst reminding the Assembly of the corporate responsibility we have to each other to make our streets safe for women.

We also heard from our international delegates who encouraged the Assembly that God is still at work across our world and that we are still invited to participate in this work. Here in the southside of Glasgow there is work to be done in and through the congregation of Newlands South where all can partake as you feel led.

I ask you to continue to support your Kirk Session in action and in prayer as it seeks to find a way to keep the family of faith moving forward together.

Please be assured of my continued prayers and support in the days ahead.

With my best wishes

**Gillian.**

## **Kirk Session News**

### ***Presbytery Mission Plan Update***

As previously intimated, following the decision of the Presbytery of Glasgow on 10 March 2026 not to reclassify our church building as Category A, and its subsequent determination that the building will close on or before the end of 2027, the Kirk Session met on 16 March to consider the implications of this decision.

After lengthy discussion, guided by our Interim Moderator, together with members of the Kirk Session possessing relevant legal expertise, the Session resolved not to seek a formal review of the Presbytery's decision on the grounds that it was considered unlikely that the required criteria for such action could be met. The Session did, however, agree to submit a formal letter of complaint to the incoming Principal Clerk of the Church of Scotland.

As instructed, the Clerk forwarded this correspondence on 20 April and subsequently received an acknowledgement from Ms Christine Paterson, Depute Clerk of the General Assembly, stating:

*“Dr May starts work in the office here immediately after the Assembly and we will forward your email to him in the meantime. We will be in touch again in due course, after the General Assembly, which closes on 18 May.”*

The Kirk Session met again on 30 March and agreed to canvass the congregation directly regarding their preferred way forward for the future of Newlands South (NSC). District elders were accordingly asked to contact/visit members within their districts over the following three weeks in order to gather views. The closing date for responses was 24 April. A further meeting of the Kirk Session took place on 29 April to consider the results of the congregational canvass. These additional meetings in March and April were convened as Special Purposes meetings, outwith the normal schedule of Kirk Session meetings.

Following careful analysis of the responses received, and after extensive discussion, the Kirk Session voted not to proceed with the proposed linking and eventual union with Langside Parish Church as less than 10% of respondents had chosen this option. Both Glasgow Presbytery and Langside Parish Church were informed of this decision and an Extract Minute was submitted to the Presbytery Clerk on 30 April.

In light of the responses received, the Kirk Session further agreed to explore the possibility of union with an alternative, local congregation. This option received the largest number of votes. A revised Presbytery Mission Plan (PMP) Working Group was therefore appointed and tasked with identifying a small number of suitable neighbouring congregations and undertaking visits to assess the most appropriate potential fit for the family of NSC. This proposed approach was shared with, and supported by, the Presbytery Clerk.

In accordance with Data Protection requirements, all primary data arising from the congregational canvass was anonymised prior to consideration by the Kirk Session and the original material was destroyed following the meeting.

Following morning worship on Sunday 3 May, the PMP Working Group met and established a programme of visits. It is anticipated that these visits will be completed in advance of the next scheduled meeting of the Kirk Session on 3 June, at which time the findings will be reviewed in full. It is hoped that this process will enable the Kirk Session to recommend to the congregation of NSC a preferred congregation with which to unite. Any such proposal would, in due course, require the approval of both Presbytery and the prospective partner congregation.

### **Some important information and points for members and adherents to consider;**

- If we opt for union with another congregation, the new united congregation would be required to assume responsibility for the maintenance, insurance, and security of the NSC buildings until they are disposed of, sold, or leased. A united congregation would also benefit from a wider pool of office-bearers and volunteers to share these responsibilities. There would also be larger financial resources available to the united congregation for this purpose.
- If we take our Ministry Allocation into any future union — even if it is less than 0.5 and not attached to a Ministry Development Staff post (MDS)— the united congregation would be required to provide a full manse linked to that ministry allocation. This could represent a significant ongoing financial commitment for the united congregation. However, this could be offset by the greater financial resources of the united congregation and the possible increase in value of the second manse.
- If distance and travel are viewed as barriers to a future union with another congregation, transport to and from NSC could be arranged on Sundays.
- In the event of a future union, all restricted and unrestricted funds belonging to NSC would transfer to the united congregation. This would ensure that the financial resources remain within the local area and continue to support the mission and ministry of the united congregation. It could be used to purchase support for the Minister in terms of pastoral care or youth leader to name only two, without the necessity of purchasing an additional manse.
- Monies held within the Consolidated Fabric Fund (CFF) in the name of NSC would also transfer to the united congregation. However, these funds are restricted solely to fabric-related matters and cannot be used to support additional ministry initiatives such as a Pastoral Care Assistant, Youth Worker, or dementia support projects within the united congregation.
- Interest generated by the monies in the CFF are held in the CFF Revenue Account and these funds can be used for payment of energy bills, insurance costs and if specific criteria are met i.e. the Five Marks of Mission these funds can be used to support ministry and mission within the united congregation.

- If we unite with another congregation, members would still remain free to attend — and, if they wish, join — another congregation of their choice. The Roll Keeper would facilitate the transfer of their lines to their chosen congregation.
- If agreement cannot be reached with a suitable local congregation regarding union, the option of dissolution would remain available. In that event, all members would be issued with Certificates of Transference (“lines”), which they could present to any congregation they may wish to join. The Roll Keeper would assist members throughout this process.
- Should dissolution take place, monies held within the CFF would pass to the General Trustees in Edinburgh for the support of fabric projects across Scotland. While some of these projects may be local, this would not necessarily be the case.
- Monies held within NSC’s restricted and unrestricted funds would also pass to the General Trustees in Edinburgh and be used for general expenditure in accordance with Church procedures and regulations.
- All members and adherents of the congregation will be given the opportunity to vote on whichever option the Kirk Session may recommend to the congregation.
- The voting procedure will be undertaken and overseen by members of Glasgow Presbytery.
  - The format is by secret ballot
  - Members and adherents must be present on the day selected for voting (a Sunday) to be eligible to vote.
  - Votes are not transferable.
- Whether through union with another congregation or through dissolution, parish boundaries would require to be redrawn. Following any such changes, residents within the new parish boundaries would continue to retain the right to request that the Parish Minister conduct their funeral service.

### ***Easter Services***

Once again, Rev. Catherine Beattie, minister of Giffnock South Church (GS), kindly invited members of NSC to attend the Lenten course running at GS, which was held at 10.30 a.m. each Thursday throughout Lent. The reflective services were well attended, with numbers and support growing steadily as the weeks progressed. The music was of an exceptionally high standard, enhanced on several occasions by the contribution of a gifted cellist whose playing added greatly to the atmosphere and enjoyment of the services. At the final service, Catherine’s husband, Robert, now retired, accompanied the pianist on classical acoustic guitar.

We also joined with our neighbours from Langside Parish Church for the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday evening services, with the venue alternating between the two churches.

Unfortunately, the Dawn Service planned jointly with St Margaret's had to be cancelled at short notice due to Storm Dave.

### ***Congregational Gardens and Gardening Event***

On a Wednesday morning in mid-May, a dedicated band of volunteers gathered to tame and shape the vigorous new growth of our many shrubs and bushes, ensuring our gardens remain both attractive and manageable. The application of bark to the front and side gardens last year has proved highly successful, significantly reducing the growth of weeds and helping to keep the beds looking neat and well-tended.

The gardens down the lane on Riverside Road are looking particularly splendid. If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes - or longer - to visit and enjoy the oasis that has been created there. Sarah and Alex, formerly gardening tutors with Glasgow the Caring City and now employed by NSC on a part-time basis, have been working tirelessly. Their guiding principle is *"Recycle wherever and whenever you can!"*

Many members generously donated slabs, pots, plants, seeds, bulbs, and a variety of other gardening materials, all of which have been creatively reused to establish thriving herb and vegetable gardens. The produce grown there can either be purchased or donated to charities such as LHM for use in their soup kitchens. We even have strawberries and potatoes flourishing there this year!

The more observant amongst you may also have noticed a newly planted young apple tree in the garden on Langside Drive. This forms part of a scheme led by the charity campaigning for the reopening of Govanhill Baths. Through the Creative Canopy Project, between 480 and 780 fruit and nut trees are being planted in back courts, gardens, and schools throughout the G42 and G43 postcode areas to create what is described as a "dispersed community orchard". We are delighted to be part of this scheme, which fulfils the fifth Mark of Mission of the Presbytery Plan - *Safeguard creation and renew the earth*. NSC is due to receive a second tree within the next few weeks.

### ***Session Clerk Team***

We are approaching the first anniversary of our Session Clerk Team taking office. This new team model has been an incredible success. The handover was so seamless that you may not have even noticed a shift in operations! A huge thank-you to the volunteers leading our church forward across our spiritual, administrative, pastoral, and missional ministries.

Even though we have been without a permanent minister for a prolonged length of time, the NSC community has grown closer than ever. The congregation has stepped up and worked incredibly well together.

As we look ahead to a possible union, let us pray that we will find a new congregational partner with whom we truly feel 'at home'. Let us also pray for a new minister who will lead

us positively forward and challenge us to serve, with love, one another, our neighbours, the vulnerable, and the wider world. With your continued dedication and support, the essence of NSC - of helping others, of nurturing our youth, and of giving freely of our time and undoubted talents – will continue to make a meaningful difference both locally and globally.

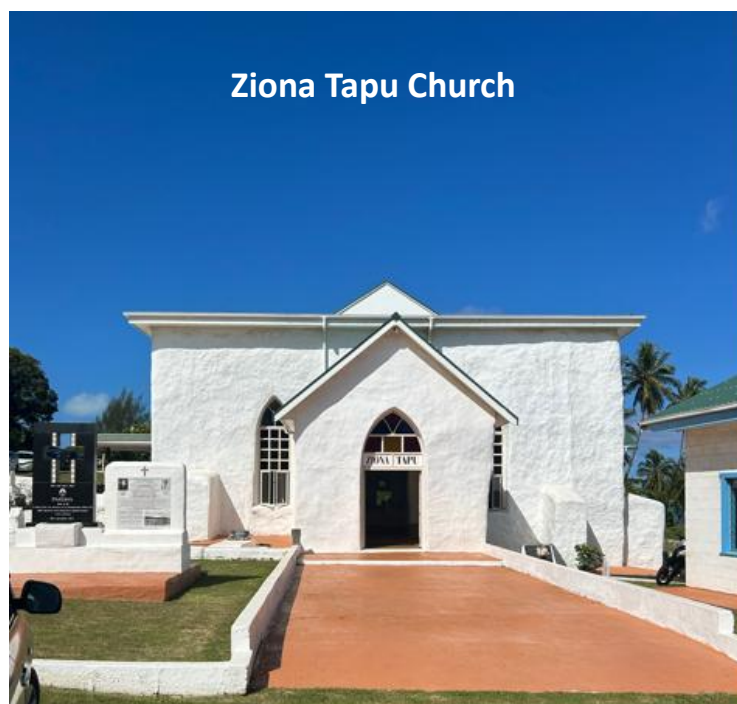
***Catherine Taylor, Session Clerk.***

## **A visit to Ziona Tapu Church, Cook Islands**

This year we were fortunate enough to visit the very beautiful Cook Islands in the South Pacific, a self-governing group of 15 islands but linked with New Zealand. The islands, the largest of which is Rarotonga, have their own parliament modelled on that of the U.K. at Westminster. The native language is Maori but it is not quite the same as New Zealand Maori.

The islands are divided into two groups; 6 northern and 9 southern islands, each with its own dialect of Maori. The flight north from Auckland to the capital, Avarua, which we visited two years ago, takes four hours. This time we took an extra one-hour flight, in a small plane, further north to the island of Aitutaki. Rarotonga has a population of about 5000 and Aitutaki about half that.

On Sunday our hotel ran a bus to the local church, Ziona Tapu (Holy Zion), part of the Cook Islands Christian Church. I joined other guests and in due course arrived at an immaculate pure white building with simple stained-glass windows and every door and window wide open and fans running full blast.



Normally the parishioners wear their best multi-coloured clothes to church but this being the first Sunday of the month it was communion so anybody wanting to take communion wore all white outfits; the ladies, white dresses with woven wide brimmed Panama hats with a hole on top, presumably for ventilation; the men were in pure white formal suits, white collared shirts with a white tie and white shoes. Some of these people were from very basic homes but the white clothes were dazzling white!



The service was from 10.00 till 11.30, followed by communion which we did not attend. The Minister and his wife arrived with much handshaking and welcoming from many churchgoers and while she sat at the foot of the steps he climbed up to a high pulpit which was decorated with strings of tiny shells elaborately swathed around the edge.

There were many vases of beautiful white frangipane flowers around the pulpit and on the wide-open square in front of it. Many of the ladies wore floral wreaths round the brim of their hats so the perfume was everywhere. The congregation sat on wooden pews arranged in a U-shape around the pulpit.

Everybody was made to feel welcome by the minister who explained that while we tourists were in different coloured outfits as opposed to the white of the regular attenders it did not matter as we were all there to enjoy fellowship and join in their service. It was hard to make out exactly what he was saying as he was Maori by birth and English was his second language, however we knew roughly what he was saying most of the time.

The first hymn was announced and a large lady stood up and started off the singing using a small book for the words. The rest of the congregation followed, with the singing raising the roof. No words were displayed nor were hymn books in evidence but everybody knew the words and sang joyfully, swaying to the music. The ladies sang their parts and the men theirs and often in descant! It was as if the whole congregation was the choir!

At the next hymn somebody behind me started off the singing and again the hymn was in two parts, male and female, with descants and everybody knew the words. At the third hymn a young girl stood up and she had her words on her mobile phone which made me smile - so the young folk there are the same as our young folk regarding technology!

The prayers were long and delivered in Maori although we heard the odd English word slipping in! And then came the sermon, delivered mostly in Maori with an abbreviated English version for the tourists and delivered Billy Graham style! Even if you didn't get the words you got the message!!

We came out just before the communion as planned and got the bus back. Thinking about it afterwards I realised that the parishioners were older rather than younger and wondered how the congregation would fare in the future. My visit left a lasting impression with the church feeling very alive. I loved the simplicity of the service and the enthusiasm of the singing and the pristine outfits. We may have been on the other side of the world but the welcome for fellow Christians was warm and genuine and it was lovely to share in the fellowship.

***Sheilagh White.***



## **Brief Report on the General Assembly 2026**

The 2026 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met in Edinburgh from 15–18 May under the Moderatorship of Rev Gordon Kennedy, minister of Church of Scotland congregation South Leith Parish Church. Lady Elish Angiolini again served as His Majesty The King’s Lord High Commissioner.

A recurring theme throughout the Assembly was the urgent need for renewal in the life and mission of the Church in the face of continuing membership decline and financial pressure. Several reports emphasised that the Church “cannot cut its way to sustainability” and that future stability will depend upon growth in discipleship, local mission, and community engagement rather than simply further reductions in staffing and buildings.

The Assembly approved a number of measures aimed at continuing institutional reform. These included further work on presbytery restructuring, safeguarding procedures, legal and governance simplification, and new financial models intended to give congregations and presbyteries greater responsibility and flexibility in ministry planning.

The Assembly received important reports from the Faith Action Programme, the Theological Forum, and the Special Commission examining the Church’s historical links with slavery. Members reflected on the Church’s witness in Scottish public life, the importance of intergenerational ministry, and the need to communicate the Christian faith with confidence and clarity in contemporary society.

## Treasurer’s report

Despite the uncertainty over our long-term future, during the first 4 months of the year our finances remained stable and I am confident that we will be able to fund all our necessary and projected expenditure as it falls due this year.

	<b>31/12/2025</b>	<b>30/04/2026</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>	151	154
<i>Restricted funds</i>	1	9
<b><i>Funds available locally</i></b>	152	163
<i>Central Fabric Funds held</i>	49	19
<b><i>Total Funds Available</i></b>	<b>201</b>	<b>182</b>

A net expenditure of £19,000 over income during the first 4 months of the year.

Budgeting has been challenging this year as it is hard to forecast the impact of Presbytery decisions – but the first draft budget suggested that we could face a deficit of almost £55,000.

The results for the first 4 months though are better than forecast, but as it is only now clear that Newlands will close by the end of 2027 it is still very difficult to make confident predictions for the current 12 months.

### Income

Congregational Giving is ahead of budget at £35,000 which includes almost £6,000 in tax recovered on gift aid donations for the final quarter of 2025.

Hall Rental at £17,500 is also ahead of budget despite the delay in implementing our increase in charges and some credits due to hall users as a result of the boiler issues during late March.

Overall Income is £10,700 ahead of budget

### Expenditure

The use of Central Fabric Fund (CFF) Revenue Funds is limited to fabric, energy and insurance costs. We have claimed for energy and insurance costs incurred in full and for ‘one-off’ fabric costs. In addition, we claimed for 2025 insurance costs which were not claimed last year. In total we received £30,000.

General expenditure was in line with budget.

Going forward the Fabric Committee have identified £50,000 of essential/urgent repairs required over the next few months and we have the funds to undertake this work.

While there may be challenges to be addressed over the rest of this year I am confident that we have the financial resources to meet them.

***Margaret Forsyth, Treasurer.***

## **Fabric matters**

Over the summer months significant maintenance works will be undertaken.

Given that the church will be closing in little more than a year, it may seem paradoxical to commit to such effort and expense but we are obliged to deal with all significant problems prior to closure and disposal of the building. The proposed tasks are as follows:-

- Fitting of new boiler
- Treatment of rising damp in basement
- External drain repairs
- Replacement flooring in ladies' toilet
- Repairs to Brides' room roof
- Repairs to parapet on Blair hall roof

The approximate cost of these works is expected to be £50,000. We have adequate financial resources to cover these costs. Additionally, undertaking these tasks will enhance the property as we prepare for disposal, lease or sale.

***Donald Blackwood.***



## From the Roll Keeper

### *Deaths*

We are sorry to report the death of the following member.

Margaret Milne                      Edinburgh (formerly Newlands)                      May 2026

Margaret joined Newlands South in 1968. She moved to a nursing home in Edinburgh in early 2025 but was keen to retain her long-standing link with the congregation. We extend our condolences to her family and friends.

### *Disjunctions*

Dorothy Wyllie	Deaconsbank	February 2026
Thomas Cordiner	Eaglesham	March 2026
Deirdre Cordiner	Eaglesham	March 2026
Barbara Watson	Cairndow	April 2026
Trevor Watson	Cairndow	April 2026

Many will know Dorothy better by her maiden name, Dorothy Armour. She joined Newlands in 1982 and is now attending a church nearer her home. The Cordiners have moved to Spain on a permanent basis. Tom joined Newlands in 1977 and Deirdre in 1999. Trevor and Barbara, both of whom have been connected with Newlands since childhood, have decided that now is an appropriate time to break the link and intend to join a congregation nearer to their home in Strachur.

We are sorry to see all of them go but we wish them well in their new homes and/or places of worship.

### *Bruce A Lindsay.*

## Answers to Cryptic Quiz

page 25.

1. Partick
2. Hawkhead
3. Kelvinbank
4. Crosshill
5. St Andrews
6. Milngavie
7. Cumnock
8. Greenock
9. Lambhill
10. Partick



## **Crèche News**

We have enjoyed time with our younger members this year and are looking forward to others joining after the summer. If you make use of the service the helpers over the next few months are as noted below. Please note there is no crèche in July.

In the interim we all wish you interesting and happy holidays.

### ***June***

07 Elspeth Lindsay

14 Una Kyle

21 Janet Moffett

### ***August***

16 Janet Moffett

23 Linda Lowrey

30 Claire Kennedy

### ***September***

6 Kathryn McPhee

13 Elspeth Lindsay

20 Una Kyle

27 Holiday

### ***October***

4 Alan Moffett

11 Holiday

18 Janet Moffett

25 Linda Lowrey

### ***Janet Moffett.***

## **February 2026 Ramble** (*Ramble number 402*)

As noted in the last Quarterly, the plan was to go to the canal at Bowling. This did not happen, partly because one of the walkers injured herself at a church sporting activity and would have liked the canal walk (so we postponed it till she recovers) and partly because the weather forecast was poor.

Two of us set off to walk locally and, as often happens on the Rambles, the weather was not as forecast. The rain did come in but not until we were back at the car, and the heavy rain waited till the afternoon when we were safely home. We had also hoped to have had two new walkers but they had other engagements. We drove to Pollokshaws and headed into Pollok Park. We had crossed through the park on a very hot day last year but had not done this loop for over two years. The weather was not just dry but bright and with little wind.

We headed into the park and along the Cart to Pollok House and then up the main carriageway and over the hill. We noticed a route off to the right which we had not noted before and decided to head up there. We did what I used to do with the children and took turns deciding which path to take when we came to a junction. We came down near the north-east corner of the Burrell building and stopped for a hot drink and a snack. Our route then took us through woodland and close to the main route through the park near the entry from Pollokshaws Road and so out and back to the car.

On our first entry into the park, we noted that the river was quite low. We saw a number of mallard there and later others. Immediately we were in the park we saw swathes of snowdrops, the first of many throughout the park. It was only on our way through woodland at the end of the walk that we saw a lot of crocuses. Blossom on prunus trees, rhododendron buds and catkins also caught our attention. There were also some daffodils out and some primula in the boxes near the entry. After walking along the river for some time with open ground to our right we came to a woodland area. Just at the start of this there was a good bird-feeding area. Here we saw a robin, a blackbird, some tits and a nuthatch called by our family a 'noo-thatch'. The birds were quite tame and not bothered by us or the other people taking photos. Elsewhere we saw pigeons, gulls and crow family members.

We found ourselves having to backtrack since the routes around the stables and part of the gardens were closed off. A sign seemed to suggest that the re-opening of the stables area is not many months off. Scaffolding is hiding parts of Pollok House. We saw that the pirate ship is now very overgrown with plants. Once back in the wooded area we saw many fallen trees. Some have been cut up and left to rot and already we saw some interesting fungi on them. The path which was new to us had some ditches dug out to direct rainwater away from the path. There were lots of other walkers, joggers, dog walkers and occasional cyclists. We saw no park-runners, but maybe they had finished their run by the time we got back round to their route.

As we were leaving the Burrell after our snack, we saw lots of families and buggies coming in to the park. They may have been deceived by the good morning but would soon have suffered from the heavy rain which we missed. Before going in for our snack we had thought of going along the path to the north of the building but a sign said it was closed for some work though we saw no such work underway. I had wanted to see from the outside whether the Lohan (a Buddhist statue) was back on display at the Burrell. I discovered later that he was not though he now is.

Our walk was only about 2-3 miles but we did enjoy it. All being well it will be the canal in March.

***Margaret E. Anderson.***

## **Ramblers, Amblers and Strollers**

### **March 2026**

The title reflects the slow pace we enjoyed!

Three of us had a glorious walk along the canal in the Bowling area. One had her arm in a sling (see February Ramble), while another lady who had hoped to join us was having to support her mother in Carlisle.

It was warm, mainly sunny, and dry. We had a couple of glitches on our drive down to Bowling but corrected them fairly quickly. You all know by now that the Newlands South ramblers never get lost, just try unexpected routes! Our turn down to the harbour at Bowling involved a very tight right turn to avoid three large potholes and

then a very narrow route between walls where the car mirrors had to be retracted. We parked near the loos and showers but found that though the showers were open the loos were not. They needed yale keys and so the mortice disabled loo one I had would not have helped. Luckily, we did not need the loos at that stage.

We crossed a couple of footbridges over the canal and admired the vessels in the lower harbour area. We headed up to the towpath on the south bank. In the upper basin there were many boats including narrow boats. From one of those a lady, who lives in her boat full-time, was feeding ducks; the ducks were obviously torn between hoping we might have food for them and knowing that the lady opposite us did. Moorhens were also attracted by the food. On one narrow boat there were some skeletons posed on the roof. One boat was called Laika, like the Russian dog sent into space in the late 1950s.

We saw many birds on the canal, four swans, one with slightly fuller feathers who seemed younger, many mallard and moorhens. We think another duck was a goldeneye. There was a small plane overhead doing 'circuits and bumps', i.e. taking off, doing a circuit then a brief stop on the ground and off again. As on another ramble a few months ago we were on a Blue Train route and often saw them passing.

There were many other walkers, dogs, families with buggies, cyclists and joggers, and someone in a small electric buggy. We had just noted that there were no fishermen around when we came across one; later we found a small girl fishing with her dad beside the bascule bridge. Near here was a replica of a wall slab from the fort at the end of the Antonine Wall which was around this point.

Flowers we saw included, daffodils, crocuses, flowering currant, gorse, and butterbur with pinky-lilac flowers in shape like hyacinths; pussy willow, algae and catkins and many bushes and trees were showing the first leaves of the year. Another sign of spring was a butterfly. We also saw robins, bluetits, a blackbird, and sparrows, as well as pigeons and gulls.

We reached the road under the Erskine Bridge which, down to the right, takes one to the old slipway for the ferry which closed in the early 1970s. Ironically there was a queue of cars there just as there used to be but they were actually heading to the recycling yard and awaiting their chance there. As we went down the slipway we could see lots of drinks cans and bottles beyond a dyke which seemed strange so near to the recycling but the attendant told us that on a regular basis someone came to clear them.

We could see across to the former ferry house on the north bank of the Clyde and to the Mar Hall, formerly Erskine Hospital, estate. It is sad to see the river so empty these days, though we did see what looked like a converted fishing boat with a crane in the bows moving smartly upriver a little later on. We turned right into the Saltings reserve. This formerly marshy area was infilled by the debris from the construction of the Erskine Bridge, and has a number of different routes through it going west. We chose the one called the Swan Trail and initially went even further left along the shore. Once back on the trail we found a seat near what is the remains of the swan sculpture. This just suited the three of us and we could look across the river and to the Lang Dyke, part of the narrowing engineering works by John Golbourne in the 1770s, while enjoying apples.

At points in the walk, we could look downriver to the Henry Bell obelisk west of Bowling, and to Dumbarton Rock. Two ladies stopped to talk to us; one had a sleeping boy in a buggy who would be 1 a week later and her husband was with their autistic older son who had been enjoying special activities for him. The older lady who came afterwards with a lovely German shepherd dog, 14 months old with a rich full coat, had just lost her husband to cancer in September at the age of 53. She did work for the NHS, and had not been impressed by the care he had had, so different from what our experience had been for my husband.

I had had problems printing off the notes for the walk but remembered that if we walked back along the old railway line we would have to come down a steep slope back to the canal bank. Rather than risk that, we headed up a boardwalk and back to the canal to retrace our steps. In fact, as we got near to that steep bank, we found that good steps had been cut in it. We took our time over this walk and often stopped to talk to others out enjoying the day, e.g. a couple with a lovely pair of collies. In the wood to the side of the canal there were the remains of canal buildings such as stables and also buildings from the old railway line from the Central low-level line.

There were various figures in the wood, Bill and Ben, the Flowerpot Men and their colleagues, and other gnome-like figures. We returned to the harbour area and managed to get a table at the café near there. We were just too late for our usual breakfast rolls but two had cakes, one even needing a doggy bag to take part home since it was so large, while the third had a bruschetta. There were Happy Birthday signs all around the café, which were for a lady who worked in one of the businesses nearby and who had been 21 the week before.

There were also many photos of 'Our Favourite Customers' – all dogs! The café had a marquee extension which was needed on this busy day. There was a useful loo block linked to the café too. Once we got back to the car we found it was almost too hot with the sun baking down on it. Having been held up by roadworks on the motorway on the outward route we came off it at Braehead on the return and were back in Newlands quicker.

According to the canal book notes we walked around 3 miles.

***Margaret E. Anderson.***



## **April Ramble** (*Ramble number 404*)

This ramble was almost a repeat of our excursion in December 2025; brunch was enjoyed at the Derby Café, together with Ronnie Douglas who was one of the three people who started the Ramblers' group in February 1988. Unfortunately, Diana was not free to join us. In fact, I think Senga Topping, who was also with us, was on the original outing to St. Mary's Loch. My family only joined the group in April that year with an outing to the Trossachs when two groups set out to do different routes.

This month three of us walked up from the church to join three former ramblers at the café. The forecast was to be sunny with showers and since the previous day had seen some very short, sharp, heavy showers we were expecting that. We had a brief short shower on the outward part of the walk but generally it was dry and often sunny but with a brisk wind at times. The route took us from the church via the Cart into Linn Park by the road past the site of Cathcart Castle. Within the park we did two detours compared with the December 2025 walk, one was where we stuck to a tarmac road rather than a muddy path and the other was when, having crossed the White Bridge, we continued along the riverside through woodland and then up some steps to bring us out near Netherlee School, not far from the café.

As in the winter, we could still get good views across to Holmwood since the foliage was not heavy enough to occlude the view. We had considered heading across the Snuff Mill Bridge and either into the park immediately or climbing up the hill and along via the cemeteries, but decided that the first option would be very muddy and the 2nd did not appeal as much as going through the park.

The park had lots of people and dogs though not as many as on our last visit. We met a family looking for the equestrian centre. On a bench near the start of the park section, we found a dog's lead which one of our number thought had been there before. We noted that the metalwork of the benches had carved heads of dogs or lions. Flowers seen included daffodils, some bluebells, gorse and forget-me-nots, while many trees had blossom on them.

We enjoyed our brunch and chat with the former ramblers. The talk was on two main topics; looking back at the decades of rambling and remembering places, people and food enjoyed, and the decision to close Newlands South church. The former was happy, the latter not so happy. Getting to a nearby church within walking or easy public transport distance or parking possibilities were of greatest concern.

We returned past Netherlee Church and down to Sainsbury's. The gardens we passed had lots of lovely displays, with tulips a special feature, camelias in various shades, magnolia, pieris – which have been flowering heavily this year, grape hyacinths, heliobore and narcissi. The view from the top of the hill only let us see the Campsies vaguely. We only saw two mallards, a male and a female, not on the water or beside it but sitting on top of a wall at the back of Millbrae Crescent!

Blackbirds, tits and magpies were also seen. There were many large leaves of giant hogweed along the river banks. Various jogger groups were out and a set of cyclists, who were not happy that we were on the pavement! The river was flowing fast but was not too full; grass islands near Old Castle Road, where we often see birds were

empty and the water was flowing fast past the grass on them. The community garden near here was looking good.

The route was a bit up and down hill once we were in the park and on the way home. We possibly did 5.5 miles including the walks from home. It was a good walk and good to have the others join us at the café.

**Margaret E. Anderson.**

### ***Glasgow & west of Scotland cryptic place names quiz***

1. *River crossing article embraced by priest in Glasgow district (7)*
2. *Shelter ultimately accepted by aggressive bird in Renfrewshire area (8)*
3. *Valley banker reportedly working in west-end location (11)*
4. *Mixed choir's call oddly surrounding hill in south-side district (9)*
5. *Saint initially touring university town for golfer (2,8)*
6. *Dairy worker reportedly upset about extremely good suburban village (9)*
7. *Come to strike revolutionary Ayrshire town (7)*
8. *Green retreat accommodating duck beside the Clyde (8)*
9. *Young sheep climbing slope in northern Glasgow district (8)*
10. *Ticket partly retained by player in west-end area (7)*



Happy gardeners!! Next year Chelsea!

## **Church Activities**

### **Sunday**

*10.30am Morning Service (Crèche available) (followed by Coffee/Tea and fellowship)*

*10.30am Children's Club (All departments)*

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Month – Food Bank Donations*

### **Monday**

*2.00 pm Badminton Club (Ladies)*

6.00 pm Krav Maga

7.00 pm Lucie Potter Yoga

7.00pm Bump & Baby

7.00 pm 77th Glasgow Disabled Scouts

7.30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

### **Tuesday**

9.25am Rugby Tots

*10.30am Pop in Club (October—May)*

5.00pm The Folks Music Project

*7.00pm Badminton Club October—May)*

6.15pm Lucie Potter Yoga

### **Wednesday**

4.00pm Glasgow Academy of Performing Arts

6.00pm Lisa Cunningham Boxercise

6.30pm AcA, The Big Red Book Study

7.00pm 141st Guides and Rangers (Aug- June)

7.15pm AWARE Scotland (every 2nd Wednesday)

7.30pm Hilltop Tutoring, Italian Classes

*7.30pm Last Wednesday Group (last Wednesday of every month)*

*(Church groups are in italics)*

### **Thursday**

9.45am Lucie Potter Yoga

10.30am – Homestart

1.00pm U3A (3rd Thursday of the month)

6.00pm Pilates, Megan Armit

*6.00pm 59th Rainbow Unit*

*6.00pm 59th Brownie Guides*

*7.30pm Table Tennis*

### **Friday**

9.25am Rugby Tots

10.30am Boogie Bairns

1.00pm Braidholm Playgroup

4.00pm Glasgow Academy of Performing Arts

6.00pm Krav Maga

### **Saturday**

9.00am Pilates, Megan Armit

9.00am Rugby Tots

1.00pm Yoga, Anne-Marie Milne

2.00pm Krav Maga

### **Sunday**

1.00pm—5.00pm June—November Gang Show Rehearsal

### **Secretarial Hours:**

**Monday – Friday 9.00- 12.00 pm [secretary@newlandschurch.org.uk](mailto:secretary@newlandschurch.org.uk)**



Newlands South Church is the known name of Newlands South Church of Scotland Scottish  
Charity Number SC000042