

Cambuslang Parish Church
Congregational Newsletter

June 2026

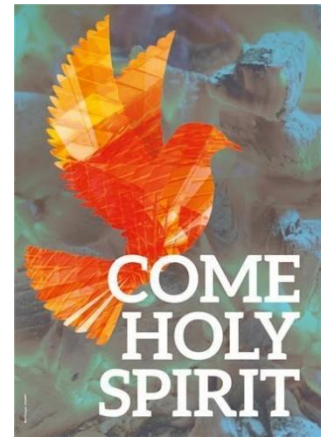
*Come
Holy Spirit*



Moving Forward
in the Power and Presence of God's Spirit

Dear Friends

Many years ago I was at Guide Camp at Gartocharn attempting to achieve my Patrol Leader's camp permit which would allow me to take a group of girls to camp on my own. We set up our camp in a small corner of the campsite and I remember we had a make shift flag pole and a union jack which was raised each morning and lowered at night. What I was not aware of, was thus - if you raise the Union Jack upside down, which is easy to do, it denotes an international maritime distress signal and regardless of Gartocharn's geographical situation being located nowhere near the sea, the Guiders at the bottom of the camp spotted the distress signal and ran full pelt up the field to see what was wrong. Duly advised of my error, I never raised the Union Jack upside down again!



This period of Interim Ministry at Cambuslang Parish Church has addressed much of the distress which was previously present in the governance and life of the congregation. The Church has moved from a place of anxiety to a place of optimism, and from a place of fear to a place of renewal. All this has been possible because of our great and faithful God who has held us, nurtured us, inspired us and brought us to the point where, not only can we look back and see what he has done in the life of the congregation, we can look forward, knowing that even better days are to come in his presence.

In this season of Pentecost we remember the disciples gathered together in an upper room in Jerusalem, not quite knowing what the future held for them and in some distress after Jesus had been taken up into heaven to be with his Father. As they waited and wondered, the windows and doors were blown open with force, a wind from heaven tore through the room and tongues of fire alighted on each of the disciples. The Spirit of God was poured out on each one of them and they were equipped to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

The energy in that room must have been breathtaking. A small gathering of anxious believers became a living, Spirit-filled church and through them God would change the world. The same Holy Spirit who moved among the disciples at Pentecost is the Spirit who continues to move among this congregation today. As we reflect on this period of Interim Ministry, we can recognise that God has been patiently shaping us and teaching us to trust him again and we have learned that the Church is not sustained by human strength alone, but by the grace and faithfulness of Christ himself, who is the head of the Church.

Pentecost was never intended to leave the disciples sitting comfortably in the upper room. The Spirit came to comfort them, but also to send them. In the same way, this time for Cambuslang Parish Church is not just about recovery from past distress; it is about recovering our calling for the future. God is preparing us not merely to survive, but to flourish in mission and ministry.

So together, let's step into this next chapter with thankful hearts and willing spirits, trusting that the Lord who has begun a good work among us will carry it on to completion. May Cambuslang Parish Church continue to be a place where the love of Christ is known, the gospel of Christ is proclaimed, and the Spirit of Christ is at work for generations to come.

Hilary

Hilary McDougall

Partnership Support Group

In Interim Ministry, the Partnership Support Group, [PSG] travels with the congregation throughout their journey and acts as a link to Presbytery. Typically, the PSG meets with a congregation at the beginning and at the end of the Interim Ministry period.

Our Partnership Support Group is Rev Hanneke Marshall who is currently Interim Minister at Knightswood Anniesland Trinity Church and Rev Derek Hughes, our former Interim Moderator. Hanneke and Derek met with the congregation at the outset of Interim Ministry and helped us identify goals for the 12 months of Interim Ministry. Their last meeting with us took place on the 25th March and thereafter, a satisfactory report of our life and worship was passed to the Presbytery requesting that our right to call be restored to the congregation.

Below is a summary of the PSG report.

A lot of progress has been made during the period of interim ministry. The general atmosphere is very positive, happy, and more united; and attendance is growing. Behind the scenes a lot of work has been done, in particular, in relation to governance and the functioning of the kirk session and its new teams.

The interim ministers have been sharing news and updates with the congregation on a frequent basis and as a result, the congregation feels that communication in general has improved greatly. A Communications Team will be formed and will implement recommendations regarding communication and administration; this will be particularly important after the interim ministers have left.

A small group has been working on 'What it means to be a Parish Church' and their recommendations have been fed back to the kirk session and have informed the work on the parish profile and the mission and outreach of the congregation.

The new Hospitality (with Pastoral Care) team have arranged events which encouraged fellowship and friendship.

Preparations have begun to prepare a parish profile and a profile of a minister who might fit. Some concern as expressed about how the congregation could sustain the momentum generated during Interim Ministry, in particular, the very well received Sunday services and the current style of worship with involvement of the children. They would like to have a locum rather than pulpit supply if possible. A good interim moderator would also be helpful.

In these months before the end of the interim ministry there is still time to address some of these concerns and it was made clear to the kirk session that in the vacancy the responsibility to lead the congregation's work would be on their shoulders (i.e. not rely on a minister or Interim Moderator). A suggestion of leaving the Kirk Session Teams with a calendar for the year with things to be addressed (with reference to the Congregational Action Plan) might help ensure that the agenda and business of the Kirk Session is clear and Teams can be prepared and keep things moving forward, even in vacancy.

Overall, the PSG believes that the kirk session and congregation are in a better place, with a clearer idea of what still needs to be addressed in the coming period. We recommend that their right to call a minister be restored by Presbytery.

Vacancy news May 2026

In August 2025 the congregation of Cambuslang Parish Church, in accepting a 12 month period of Interim Ministry, relinquished the right to call their own minister for that period. During the last 9 months of Interim Ministry much work has been undertaken by the Ministry Team, the Kirk Session and the congregation together, to address matters of governance and mission. The congregation is now stronger in number and in faith, there is an evident vibrancy and energy in worship and our Kirk Session teams have been reformed and are working well. Alongside this, we have sold our manse on Stewarton Drive and have been able to purchase a new build, 5 bedroom manse in the Gilbertfield Wood development in Cambuslang.

All of this information has been shared with the Presbytery who have now approved the restoration of the right to call to the congregation. And so, the vacancy process is now underway! I am happy to let you know that a group from the congregation, led by David Denniston, have been working on our Parish Profile which is nearly completed. The Session Clerk team have worked diligently on the congregational Action Plan which Presbytery requires of each congregation and this has now been approved by Presbytery. The Nominating Committee will be elected at a meeting after worship on the 7th June and thereafter will begin the search for a new minister in earnest. This is a highly confidential process and so you will not hear anything from the Committee until the point when they have identified a sole nominee who will then be invited to preach for the congregation. This may be some way down the line but it is important that you know now, that you can only vote for the new minister if you are a member or adherent of the congregation and your name is on the electoral roll and you must be physically present at the service. Church law does not allow proxy votes or postal votes.

We have known rich blessings during this period of Interim Ministry and we are confident of God's blessing upon this vacancy process.

If you have any questions about the vacancy, please do not hesitate to contact the Interim Moderator once he or she is appointed,

Hilary McDougall

Summer Services



Our series of All Age Summer Services will begin on Sunday 28th June at 10.30am.

This year the theme for these services will be 'Gardens of the Bible', and we will be seeking to reflect upon the various gardening themes found in Scripture, as we **dig deep** into the passages, in the hope of **sowing seeds** of faith, **nurturing** our discipleship, and **bearing fruit** for God.

Communion Service & Afternoon Tea



You are invited to a Service of Holy Communion on **Tuesday 16th June at 2pm** followed by afternoon tea in the Large Hall. This service is open to all and arrangements will be made to provide an opportunity for those who might not otherwise be easily able to attend worship, to be welcomed and included for communion and fellowship.

For catering purposes, it would be helpful if you would advise us if you were able to join us and also let us know if you require transport

Teams and Team Convenors

*We continue to recruit to, and develop the new Teams. The up to date list is below and a brief indication of the remit of each team is included. **If you would like to be involved in one of these teams, please do not hold back! Your contribution and involvement would be most welcome. Have a word with the Convenor, or one of the Ministry Team, or one of the Session Clerk Team.***

Communications

CONVENOR: **Hilary McDougall** *as of September*
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Alec Scrimgeour
SUPPORTING SESSION CLERK: Alison Thomson

To support the mission and ministry of Cambuslang Parish Church by ensuring clear, consistent and effective communication within the congregation and with the wider parish and community.

Community Involvement

CONVENOR: **to be appointed**
SUPPORTING SESSION CLERK: Isobel Allison

To developing connections with our parish including good relationships with other Christian congregations and groups in the area. Promoting connections with the wider church and Christian Agencies Including Christian Aid

etc, linking with Meet & 2 Veg, and developing connections with 'external' groups and organisations using our halls.

This Team has not yet begun to function, and it is hoped that it can be fully established after the vacancy.

Finance and Fabric

CONVENOR: **Bob McDougall**

TREASURER: Colin Fell

FABRIC CONVENOR: David Young

HALLS CONVENORS: Derek Burns & Stephen Dickson

SUPPORTING SESSION CLERK: Scott Hamilton

To deal with congregational finances, agreeing expenditure, WFO, Gift Aid, Standing Orders, and buildings maintenance, and halls and lets

Fundraising and Events

CONVENOR: **Tony Neeson**

SUPPORTING SESSION CLERK: Alison Thomson

Fundraising activities, congregational events including special events to promote community engagement.

Hospitality and Pastoral Care

CONVENOR: **Ohna Robertson**

PASTORAL VISITOR COORDINATOR: Janet Stewart

SUPPORTING SESSION CLERK: Lorna Morrison

To ensure and enable a welcoming environment for everyone who enters our church, to provide fellowship events, and to provide pastoral care for those who are elderly and/or housebound (including through organising and supporting a team of pastoral visitors, co-ordinated by Janet Stewart).

Worship, Education, and Prayer

CONVENOR: **Graham Macgregor**

THE MINISTER(S)

SUPPORTING SESSION CLERK: Isobel Allison

To support the Ministry Team, Musical Director, Choir, Praise Band, AV team, and Sunday Club in relation to Worship Services, including alternative and additional worship services. To promote and provide for congregational prayer opportunities. To promote and support Bible study, education and training.

Youth

CONVENOR: **to be appointed**

SUPPORTING SESSION CLERK: Lorna Morrison

To support and ensure good connection with the young people in our Sunday Club, and Uniformed Youth Organisations, to liaise with ReachOut in relation to their links with local schools, to offer appropriate youth and children's events in order to advance our ministry with and mission to young people.

This team is awaiting the appointment of a convenor

Safeguarding

COORDINATOR: **Susan Young**

We are required, both by Government legislation and by the Church of Scotland, to ensure that we adopt best practice so that our church is a safe space for all. This is done through providing appropriate training for those involved in various roles in our congregation's life, and ensuring that these people are part of the PVG scheme.

We are also required by the Church of Scotland to appoint a Safeguarding Coordinator, and in Cambuslang Parish Church the Kirk Session appointed Susan Young coordinates to this important role. It is the Coordinator's responsibility to promote good safeguarding practices to ensure a safe church for all.

The Safeguarding Coordinator assisted and supported by a 'Safeguarding Panel'.

All the Kirk Session Teams are required to take full account of Safeguarding requirements (as also Data Protection) in their work.

Your Elders

A number of elders have recently retired or been granted 'leave of absence'. The currently active and serving elders are listed here.

Seun Adideran

Jeanette Alexander

Isobel Allison

David Black

Charlie Burns

Colin Fell

Archie Fotheringham

Kenny Finnie

Scott Hamilton

Bob McDougall

Graham Macgregor

Lorna Morrison

Linda Neeson

Jim Nixon

Nicola O'Conner

Heather Reilly

Janet Stewart

Alison Thomson

Susan Young

Additionally, we hope to very soon be ordaining and/or admitting some new elders to our Kirk Session! This will be intimated soon.

Refurbishing the Sanctuary

Following a very thorough and prolonged 'Feasibility Study', and after a congregational indicative vote indicated support of the plans, the Kirk Session has resolved to proceed to implement proposals to refurbish and remodel the Sanctuary. This will involve various works to ensure that our worship space is

flexible, fit for the future, suitable for various worship styles, and comfortable. The most significant of these changes will be the removal of the current pews which will be replaced by flexible seating.

As well as ensuring that our Sanctuary is well suited for future needs, these changes will allow for flexibility in layout and use, and are consistent with the guidance being given by the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland, and will mean that we are in the company of a significant and growing number of congregations which have undertaken similar works.

At the time of writing, it is not certain just when the works will be undertaken. An Implementation Group will be set up to investigate the details, specifications, and timing of these works, and the congregation will be kept informed.

Stewardship



Everything we have comes from God. Our time, our talents, our resources — all of it is entrusted to us by a generous Father who gives freely and lovingly. (1 Chronicles 29:14) King David expressed this beautifully when he prayed, “Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand”. Because of this, our offering is never just a financial transaction. It is an act of worship — a recognition that God is the true source of our provision, and a response of gratitude for His faithfulness.

Our last Stewardship campaign was in 2020, to which you responded exceptionally with many increasing their offering and also setting this up as a standing order. However, we all know that in the time since then, the world around us has changed dramatically and continues to do so. Many households have felt the pressure of rising costs. For example, the typical household energy bill has risen by over 60% in the last five years, increasing from £1,126 to £1,849 per year, and as a church family, we want to acknowledge that honestly and compassionately.

These shifts affect all of us — including the operation of the church and the practical ways we serve our community. As well as being impacted by increased energy costs, we as a church are committed to paying our caretakers the UK Living Wage, which has increased from £9.30 in 2020 to £13.45 today, an increase of 45%. While this is welcome news for many workers, it also highlights how much everyday expenses have

grown. In the year just past we had a relatively small funding deficit but in 2026 with rising costs we face a much larger deficit of up to £10,000.

With this in mind, I want to gently and prayerfully ask each of us to review our offering. This is not about pressure. It is not about comparison. It is simply an invitation to reflect:

- Has God blessed me in ways that allow me to give a little more?
- Is my offering today still aligned with my gratitude for what God has entrusted to me?
- How might my giving help sustain and grow the ministry of our church in a time when costs are rising?

The apostle Paul reminds us (2 Corinthians 9:7), “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”. Our giving should always flow from joy, not obligation.

If you are able to increase your offering — even by a small amount — it will make a meaningful difference. It will help us continue to be a place of worship, welcome, and witness. It will strengthen our ability to support those in need. And it will reflect our shared belief that God has given us everything we have, and we return a portion to Him with thankful hearts. Let us pray together that God will guide each of us as we consider our part in sustaining His work here.

Colin Fell, Treasurer

Worship at Cambuslang Parish Church

Sundays 10.30am Morning Worship (Sunday Club for children).
Communion celebrated after or during worship on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Tuesdays 11.45am Tuesday Service
Please note that Tuesday Services will not take place during July and August. Consideration is being given to the form of these services after the summer, and this will be intimated.

Contact us

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Interim Ministers: Rev Hilary McDougall 07940 455473
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Rev David Denniston 07903 926727
DDenniston@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk: Scott Hamilton
sessionclerk@cambuslangparishchurch.org.uk