



Larbert Cross Church



He is Risen!



EASTER 2026

Wishing you a Blessed
and Joyful Easter

Easter Joy

By Joanna Fuchs

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So, we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Saviour; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!



MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER REV ANDREW J MOORE

The sun is shining. After the dark cold winter, the light is bringing life again to the world.

Winter in Scotland can be tough going. The days shorten so much that for many the sunlight hours are spent at work. The temperature drops so much that a daylight stroll can feel like an exercise in cold therapy. Nothing grows in garden or field, and nature struggles to survive.

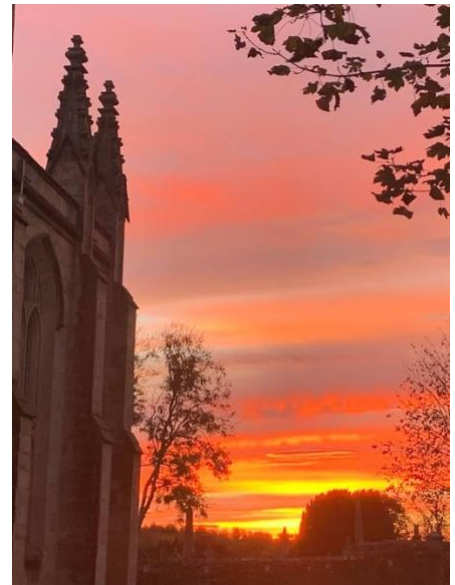
Of course, that is not quite true. For many, winter is a unique chance to enjoy our spectacular land. In the sunlight, nature glistens and glows. The air feels crisp and clear. Evergreens are brighter than ever. Garden and field prepare for new growth. Behind the dark cold winter, the light continues to shine as brightly as ever. And then it breaks through.

It started with a jump in temperature. Then blue skies. Now daffodils are blooming. The light has broken through. Life is here.

This ancient pattern mirrors the Easter story. As we move towards Calvary, the world gets darker and darker. Plotting, betrayal, denial, rejection, conviction, torture, crucifixion. Darkness covers everything. The light of the world is slain.

Yet, throughout it all, his light shines still. Christ gave himself in love for us. Bearing our darkness. Suffering our death. Light and life burst forth from the grave on that first day. And the world is forever bathed in his light. Eternal life is here.

We are called to follow Christ. At Larbert Cross we have gone through some dark days. We have faced uncertainty and closures. But as this new year unfolds, as we build our new Church together, let us do so with faith.



Faith that Christ loved us and gave himself for us.

Faith that the light of the Resurrection followed the darkness of Calvary.

Faith that Christ will build his Church, will build Larbert Cross, to his great honour and glory.

The light is shining.

May the glory of the Resurrection shine in your hearts and lives.

Your Minister,

Andrew

The Rev Andrew J Moore
amoore@churchofscotland.org.uk
01324 570 525



Easter Communion

Sunday 5th April

11am

A WELCOME TO OUR NEW SESSION CLERK

With the retirement of Eric Appelbe as Session Clerk, I thought I would introduce myself and give a brief background.

I was brought up in Charlotte Baptist Chapel in Edinburgh and attended until my marriage to Colin in 1979. We stayed in Broxburn and then moved to Bonnybridge; I did not attend church as much during that time.

I have 1 daughter and 1 granddaughter. Colin died in 2009 and I married Iain Scoular in 2012, whose wife Christine had also died. Iain has 2 children and 5 grandchildren. Iain was already heavily involved in church and I realised that I'd missed that part of my life.

We attended St John's Church in Bathgate where Iain was Parish Assistant and then moved to Bathgate High Church. It was at Bathgate High that I was part of the ministry team. It was whilst I was there that we set up the Friday Club with over 100 children attending each week. I also helped Iain to set up Street Pastors in Bathgate which we ran for 5 years, but ultimately the travelling from Bonnybridge to Bathgate spending nights on the streets until 4 or 5 in the morning and then making Sunday morning service, became difficult and so we had to hand over the reins. It is pleasing to know that Bathgate Street Pastors are still going to this day.

Iain was peripatetic by this time, and I played the supporting role of "minister's wife". This continued when he became locum at Larbert Old. I became more involved with Larbert Old, joining the social committee and the Blossoms Ladies Club.

It became very apparent to me that once Iain had retired as locum and Eric indicated his intention to retire at the end of 2025 that I could make a further contribution to the Church and I put my name forward to be Session Clerk at Larbert Cross. Iain would then effectively be my support "Session Clerk's husband".

I have never been Session Clerk before, although I have been and still am secretary to various Motor Racing club championships, so I do have a bit of experience.

I am very excited at this new opportunity working together as a Team to Build this new Church of God at Larbert Cross. I will do my best, with a lot of support, to carry out my duties as Session Clerk.

Leslie-Ann Scoular
Interim Session Clerk



RETIRING THOUGHTS FROM A SESSION CLERK

I was appointed Session Clerk to the Kirk Session of Larbert Old on 23rd June 2015 on a temporary basis at a time when there was ongoing discussion about the Union of Larbert West and Larbert Old. I remember it was The Very Rev John Chalmers who administered the oath of the office. Larbert Old was to be the place of worship and would take the name “Larbert Cross” (yes - it was first proposed in 2015!). I recall that some members of the congregation were unhappy with the name but given the lack of an alternative, Larbert Cross was agreed. I was part of the team that held lengthy discussions with representatives from Larbert West. Although the Basis of Union was agreed, in due course Larbert West Session withdrew from negotiations and the union failed. Eventually a Listening Group was appointed, John Chalmers and Albert Bogle – both previous Moderators of the General Assembly, and after much discussion agreed the union would not work. And so began the period of Guardianship of Larbert Old. We were fortunate to have John Brown and then Walter Willaimson MBE appointed as Interim Moderators and a number of Locum Ministers who worked with the congregation very effectively. They were good to work with, and one, of course, stayed, Iain Scoular.



When Union was finally identified to take place on 1st June 2025, I decided it was time to relinquish the post of Session Clerk and advised Session I would retire as Session Clerk at 31st December 2025.

It has been my privilege to be Session Clerk when the congregation was well aware of the issues that have been to the forefront for some 13 years. Once our very own mini disruption was over, and Union and then arbitration had failed, we could move on and work and worship together both internally but also looking out to the wider community. The development of a church that was earmarked to close has been wonderful to behold and we continue to thrive.

It continues to be a busy time for the church and in a way I am disappointed that I have had to relinquish office when 3 churches have come together and there is so much to do. A considerable amount of work is still required to bring the initial steps of the Union to a satisfactory conclusion. My health is not what it should be, and I have had to take a step back.

I intend to remain as a working Elder on the Session and do not intend to go anywhere else. Margaret and I will continue to worship at Larbert Cross subject to Margaret's organist duties elsewhere. After 33 years as organist at Larbert East she has now retired and duties are not as onerous as they once were.

The work as Session Clerk has not become any easier and I wish Leslie-Ann Scoular all the very best as your new Session Clerk. I have no doubt you will give her every support.

Eric Appelbe

'A CUT ABOVE THE REST'





MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER

When I last wrote to you, I emphasised the need for church members and congregations to be aware of the true costs of ministry and I asked you to consider increasing your giving if you were able to do so. I am very pleased to report that many of you have indeed done this! We also notified members about our new bank account for Larbert Cross Church. I am happy to report that most of you have kindly switched your regular standing orders into our new bank account, and I am very grateful for your attention to this and for your generosity. The Larbert Old account remains open, but I plan to close it by the end of February so if you still haven't switched, you do have time to do so. If you need assistance with this, please get in touch with me.

Combining three churches into one is an expensive and time-consuming business. We have been able to sell the manses in Larbert and in Falkirk with the proceeds being invested in the Church of Scotland's Consolidated Fabric Fund. We still have the churches in Falkirk and Bothkennar & Carronshore to sell and are therefore responsible for keeping them secure and wind and watertight, which is costly. Our property convenors Kenny, Alan and Lenny have all worked hard in this respect and we are grateful for their dedication.

I can report that our 2026 Giving to Grow contribution to the Church of Scotland has been set at £83,345 (by comparison, Larbert Old paid £29,620); our insurance costs for 2025 amounted to £12,335, our heat and light costs were over £10,000. We are undertaking cleaning and repair work on the church windows for which we have a very generous legacy from my predecessor Alistair Simpson plus our annual income from the Ferguson Trust. Our windows are wonderful to behold and will even be brighter and more beautiful once this project is finished. We have also had the church vestibule treated for damp, re-plastered and painted so it is looking fresh and welcoming. In our halls, we have installed new safer doors, repaired the leaking chimney and laid some new flooring. Suffice to say that we have many calls on our funds and our expenditure continues to rise so we rely very much on the income from our generous members. Thank you all for your contributions to the life and work of our church.

I am currently preparing the annual statutory accounts for Larbert Cross Church for the year ended 31st December 2025 and will be presenting the highlights to the congregation at the end of the Sunday service on March 15th. As always, I will welcome any questions and comments!

In the meantime, please note that offerings can be made by cheque, payable to Larbert Cross Church, by offering envelopes or by monthly standing order. Please get in touch if you need information on any of these options. If you can Gift Aid any donation, that would be great! Our bank details are below.

Warmest thanks for your commitment and support.

Joanna Stevenson

Treasurer

Yew Bank, Central Park Avenue, Larbert FK5 4GR. Tel: 01324 570134



BANK DETAILS

Virgin Money

Larbert Cross Church

82-12-08

50228443



COMMUNION ROLL

I can now report that as of the 4th March 2026 there were 465 members on the Communion Roll of Larbert Cross Church.

Sadly, since the last bulletin 11 people have been called to Higher Service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of Mrs Marion Miller, Mrs Catherine Robertson, Mr William Knox, Mr David Page, Mrs Elspeth Moore, Mrs Anne Morrison, Mr Brian Moodie, Mrs Nancy McLeod, Dr Tom Anderson, Mr Matthew Baxter, Mrs Eleanor McGuire.

Mrs G. M. (Pearl) Paterson, Mr William Clark, Mrs Joan Ross, Mrs Nan Paton and Mr Donald MacLeod have transferred to other Churches.

We are pleased to welcome into the congregation Mr Robert and Mrs Dianne Mitchell and Mrs Isabella Wighton who have recently moved into the area.

Mary Petrie (Roll Keeper)

Join the
**SOCIAL LADIES
BADMINTON GROUP**
EVERY FRIDAY
IN THE CHURCH HALLS
1PM - 3PM

No previous experience
required!



2ND LARBERT BOYS' BRIGADE

Dear All,

Well, here we are into the second half of the session and who would believe it. Where has the time gone?

I am pleased to report that the company continues to meet the objectives of our Founder, Sir William Alexander Smith. He sought to provide young men with a sense of obedience, discipline, self-respect, and a Christian education while at the same time having fun.

I do not know how many of you follow the Company on Facebook where I try each week to provide a little insight into what we get up to. A bit like the Larbert Cross Facebook, please "like" and "follow" us.

The Anchor Section meet in the upstairs hall for an hour on a Friday night. They are a lively bunch, and the three officers / helpers have their work cut out. I popped up one Friday so see them and it was indeed difficult to get them to keep quiet and stand still. They all wanted to contribute! Perhaps it is just a sign of my age, but a couple of the boys were jumping about all over the place, and I asked if they had "ants in their pants". That is what my mother used to say to me. The boys thought that this was hilarious and the Captain just being silly. Anyway, they go home at the end having had fun and invariably with something to show their parents that has been made during the evening. I am all for this as it shows the parents that the boys are actively engaged.

The Juniors are in the Main Hall from 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm and are a nice group of in average 10 boys. This is a workable number to be able to do activities and for the staff to cope with. In November the Juniors paid a visit to 1st Falkirk Company as the halls which were being prepared for the Christmas Fayre. It was a good night and showed the boys that what we do is very similar to what other companies get up to on a Friday night. One difference was that 1st Falkirk's Anchors and Juniors meet with the same staff. How lucky are we that we have enough staff for all three sections.

The boys in the Company Section start their evening all over the place. Ben, who already has his King's Badge helps with the Anchors until 8pm, having recently been promoted to Staff Sergeant.

Tymek and Allan who are on their final stages of their King's Badge work with the Juniors and the other boys are in the Ferguson Lounge for opening devotions and at least one activity. A condition of programme planning is that if there is food involved in an activity some must be left for the three boys for when they join us.

Talking of food, we tried for the first time a form of mini-Burns Supper involving all three sections. The haggis was piped in by David MacKenzie, one of the Company Section leaders, a piper of some standing having been the lone piper at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Chef - Dr. Dave, as the boys like to call him, carried in the haggis which was "addressed" by the Captain with one of the senior boys doing the Selkirk Grace. It was a grand supper of haggis, mashed tatties, carrot and turnip with oatcakes and cheese to follow. Of course, all washed down with a good supply of Scotland's other national drink – Irn Bru. Sadly, we ran out of time which was very unfortunate as Mr. Duncan, from our Junior Section, (resplendent in his kilt) was ready to recite "To a Louse" and then some community singing with his guitar. It was for many of the boys their first experience of a Burns Supper and I hope that it is something they would like to repeat next year. It also shows the commitment of the staff in getting involved and giving the boys that Boys' Brigade experience.

On Saturday 17th January we were given the opportunity to recruit, and fund raise at Asda in Stenhousemuir. Our thanks to all the customers, including several of our own congregation who got cornered and donated. We raised over £600 which was very impressive and showed that having two wee "angelic" Anchor Boys with their buckets at key locations in the store was a sound idea. Who could refuse them!! It was great to be advised by the store's Customer and Community Champion that they "were happy to have you and the boys instore" and I received nothing but praise, from my colleagues, regarding the behaviour of the boys so please pass on my gratitude to them. We have been invited to get another date.



On a final note, I became an officer (Staff Sergeant) back in 1977 and I was to retire last year until I was told that if I didn't stay on to see one of my boys through his King's Badge, he wouldn't do it. I stayed on. It is my hope to retire this year, but finding a replacement Captain is proving difficult and some are saying "Brian you have to see in the 50 years of service in". Please queue up after church to volunteer as Captain. I will be delighted to consider your application!

Best wishes
Brian R Allan

RESTORATION OF STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

The restoration of our church windows has now commenced. As Joanna has already explained, we are undertaking a programme of cleaning and repair work a project being made possible through a very generous legacy from Alistair Simpson, together with our annual income from the Ferguson Trust.

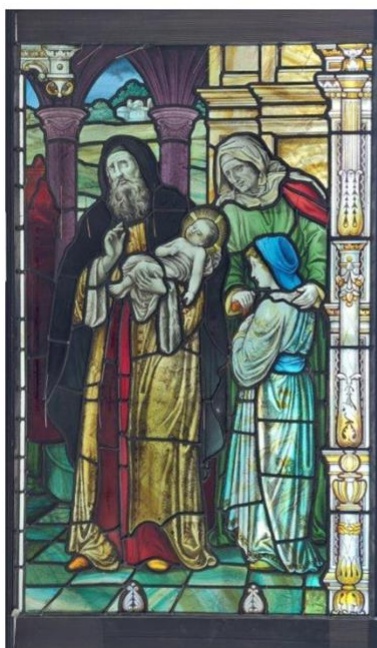
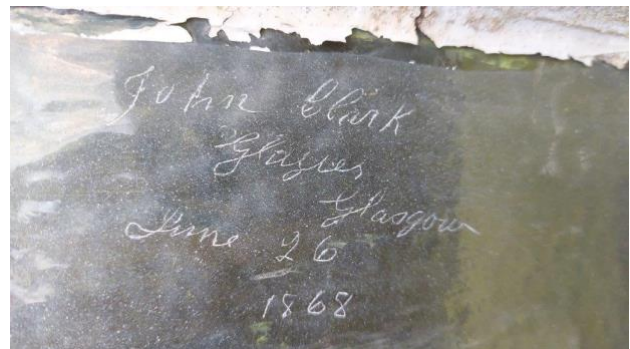
The church windows are one of many delights on entering Larbert Cross with their fantastic array of colours whilst celebrating the lives of faithful pastors and generous patrons. Once this work is completed, they will be even brighter and more beautiful, allowing their colour, detail and craftsmanship to be seen as they were originally intended.

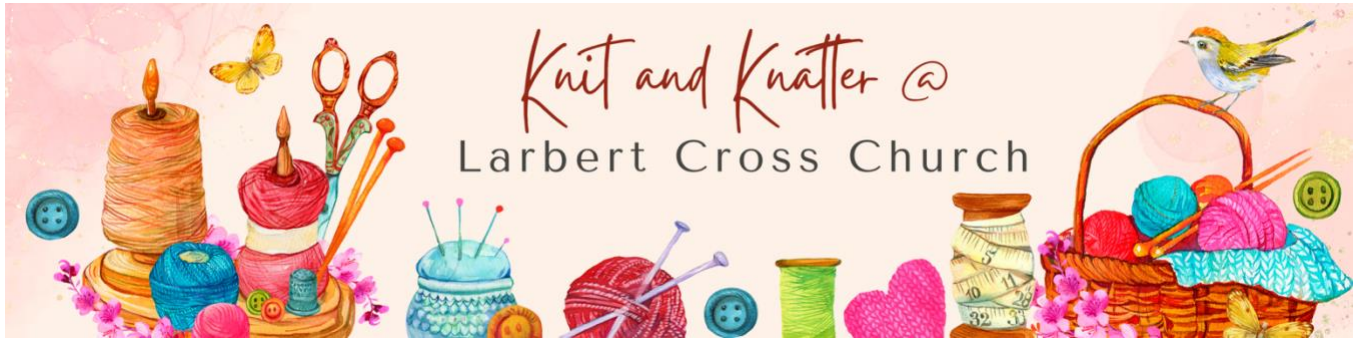
The first window to be cleaned is *The Song of Simeon*, which depicts the Holy Family with Jesus in the Temple. It was designed by Robert Dickson and Alexander Walker and installed in 1913.



Below are photographs from Rainbow Glass, who have just completed the first stage of the restoration.

Found during the restoration was the name and date of the glazier involved creating the original window





KNIT 'N' NATTER – TUESDAYS 1PM-3PM

Both Wilma (in her 90th year) and I have started to attend the Knit and Knatter Group on Tuesday afternoons in Larbert Cross Church Halls (13.00 to 15.00) as often as we are able. We both previously attended Bothkennar and Carronshore Church.

Wilma is a keen and talented crocheter and I have always loved knitting, craft and sewing.

Just turn up. The group will make you feel very welcome. No need to be able to either Knit or Knatter or indeed be a member of Larbert Cross Church.

This is a lovely friendly little group if you just want some time out, a cuppa, fellowship or advice. They also knit for charity, the baby unit and have a stall at Larbert Cross Christmas Fayre selling seasonal items.

Recently I saw a knitted scarf I liked in a High Street store priced at £29.95. At the group one of our lovely members had the exact pattern for this scarf to share with us. One £3.30 ball of double knitting wool (made from recycled bottles) later and I now have an almost identical scarf!

I have yet to meet the challenge of taking my mug every week, but I am working on it!

If you need more information, please contact Susan Cunningham on 07989858959 or Sallie Allan on 07717222709.

Maureen Russell and Wilma Laing

Thank you to whoever donated a large box of wool recently; a lot of it is being used to make items for the hospital.





Thursday Afternoons 2pm - 4pm

Last year saw the beginning of a new group within Larbert Cross aimed at providing a space for men in the Parish. In particular men who were looking for a place where they could meet and share, with like-minded individuals, their stories and interests.

Within the congregation we have a reasonable number of men who are now retired from work, those who now find themselves living alone and others who have free time to fill. All still have something to offer and share, whether it be active skills or vast experience and knowledge the range of gifts is enormous.

Whether you want a place to have a coffee and a blether or want to offer some skills and knowledge in a practical way around the Church, the Bothy is the place for you.

Last year, we enjoyed external speakers on varying subjects; Scottish Fire and Rescue, mobile phones and the Internet, Laurel and Hardy Films, to name a few. We had day out visits to; Boness and Kinneil Railway, The Falkirk Wheel and a day out with the Seagull Trust. Some have helped with movement of furnishings between our Churches, clearing the carparks and grounds, gardening tasks, drawing, painting and constructing for the children's Holiday Club and lots more. We have started discussions on our major project for 2026; the building of a scale model Railway.

With more visits planned, starting with Denny Men's Shed we have lots of variety with something that suits everyone.

Interested?

Then come and join us for a blether, you would be made very welcome. We meet every Thursday in the Church Hall between 2pm and 4pm. There is a seat waiting for you in The Bothy!

Iain and Bill



CHURCH FLOWERS

After nearly 9 months on the “job” I think I might be starting to get to the end of my probation. The flowers displayed in church are regularly delivered by members after Sunday service to the bereaved, to celebrate life milestones and to those going through difficult times. Our flower ministry delivers one or two small bouquets most weeks. If you know of anyone who would welcome some comforting or celebratory flowers please contact Sallie Allan (07717222709) Susan Cunningham (07989 85895907) one of our elders or myself to arrange. We are also so grateful to those who have generously donated to the cost of weekly flowers.

Maureen Russell
07909 541392



General Privacy Statement

We, the Kirk Session of Larbert Cross Church of Scotland, are committed to protecting your privacy and security. As a data controller, we process your personal data (such as contact information) to fulfill our contract with you, based on legitimate interests, and to comply with legal obligations. We do not keep your data for longer than necessary. You have the right to access, correct, or erase your data at any time. For more information, please contact our Data Protection Officer (Brian Allan) on e-mail brian.allan@larbertcross.church



We would like to thank everyone who supported our events during 2025.

We had a really busy year with many activities raising money for Marie Curie, the Church and wider community.

The Social Committee have ideas going forward into 2026 and started the year with a very enjoyable time at the first 'Beetle Drive' which included a yummy fish supper.

Our next event coming up will be the return of the Tenement Jazz Band, this was a total sell out when they came in 2024. The tickets are £10 and this is a BYOB event, with funds raised going to 'our friends in Ukraine', if you'd like a ticket they are available after Church on a Sunday morning from Iain, Leslie-Ann, Mary Petrie or Theresa.



TENEMENT Jazz Band
'Stomp Off!'
A night of Jazz, Ragtime and Blues

Winners of Best Band Scottish Jazz Awards 2022

LARBERT CROSS CHURCH HALLS
SATURDAY 25th APRIL 2026
BYOB, SNACKS AND GLASSES
7:30pm SHARP **Ticket £10**
TICKET £10
Proceeds in aid of our friends in Ukraine

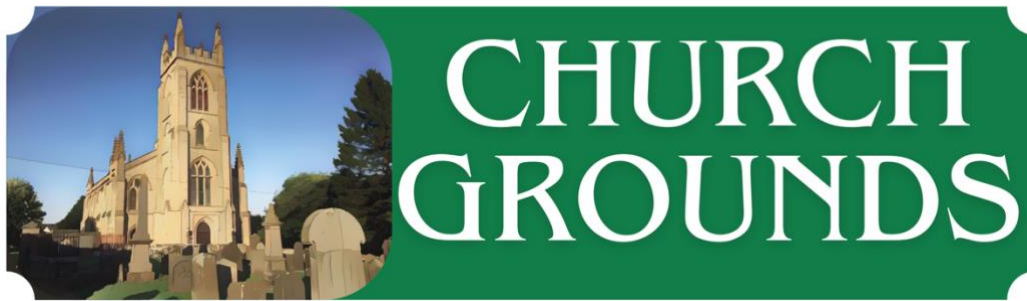
On Saturday 20th June from 1pm – 4pm we are having our first Summer Fete, with a Strawberry Tea available in the Church Halls and games and activities on the lawn in front of the Church.

SUMMER CHURCH FÊTE
Strawberry Tea in the Church Halls
Saturday 20th June
1.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Activities Include:

- **Beat the Goalie**
- **Steel Band**
- **Giant Garden Games & summer fun for all ages**

Everyone welcome — bring friends and family and enjoy a lovely summer afternoon at the church!



The grass cutting equipment has been picked up by Russell's of Larbert for the annual service. This ensures the machines are in good condition for the coming season.

You may have noticed that one of the stained-glass windows has been removed and the window boarded up. This is all part of planned restoration work on the South facing windows. The wooden inner frames are rotting, the stained glass is needing cleaned and the secondary glazing needs to be replaced. The work will take a few weeks off site before the window is refitted.



Photos show the stained-glass window removed prior to being boarded up and the new lower centre window being fitted.



The company undertaking the work are Rainbow glass. They have also replaced the centre window at the front of the church.

Been working in the bottom car park to remove some rhododendron and brambles that have started growing there. These are very invasive and will cover many meters if not managed. I've also cut back many of the shoots from the large trees. Also removed and burnt many of the small branches that have come down over several storms that are preventing the leaves from being blown away. If the leaves re allowed to build up then the brambles and rhododendron start colonising the area.



What's on in our Church?

Our halls are really busy - please see the groups that run during the week and contact them through their own Facebook page, website, or direct message us on hello@larbertcross.church and we'll help you get in touch.

YOUTH

Monday and Wednesday 9:30am – 11:30am – Playgroup
Wednesday 4pm – 5pm – Enjoy-A-Ball
Wednesday Evening – Rainbows, Brownies and Guides
Thursday 9:30am – 11:30am – Mother and Toddlers
Friday Evenings – Boys' Brigade Anchors, Junior, and Company Section

FITNESS GROUPS

Tuesday Mornings – Physioled Pilates
Tuesday 6:30pm – 7:15pm Pi-Yo with KMac Fitness
Tuesday 7:30pm – 9:30pm – D and E Dancing
Wednesday 1:30pm – 2:30pm – Paracise with Karen
Friday 11am-12pm Sweaty Mamas
Friday – Social Badminton 1pm-3pm

HEALTH AND WELLBEING AND COMMUNITY



Monday Evenings – Falkirk Art Group
Tuesday Afternoon – 1pm – 3pm – Knit and Knatter
Wednesday 12pm–2pm – Creative Bible Study, second Wed monthly
Thursday Afternoon 1-3pm – Auchenbowie Ladies 1st & 3rd in the month
Thursday Afternoon 2-4pm Larbert Men's Bothy
Thursday Evening –Self Help Groups
Saturday 7:30am – 11am – Slimming World





Praise God, our light and salvation.
We gather to worship God,
the stronghold of our lives.
Praise God, our shelter in times of trouble.
We gather to thank God,
our light in the darkness.
Praise God, our protector and source of strength.
We gather to be God's faithful people.
Amen.



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Minister	Rev Andrew Moore	Tel: 01324 570525
Session Clerk	Mrs. Leslie-Ann Scoular	Tel: 07896 840966
Treasurer	Mrs. Joanna Stevenson	Tel: 01324 570134
Hall Convenor	Mrs Sallie Allan	Tel: 01324 555478

