

GOOD NEIGHBOUR

DECEMBER 2025



JOY TO THE
WORLD!

the Lord is come

Living our **faith** by our **actions**



at the heart of the **community**

Parish Register

DEATHS

22nd October 2025
14th November 2025
18th November 2025

Mr Alexander John Cunningham Dykes of Giffnock
Mr Herbert (Bert) McCrum of Clarkston
Mrs Elizabeth (Liz) White of Clarkston

PULPIT DIARY

DECEMBER

Sunday 7th December	10.30am	Gift Service with Sunday Club
Sunday 14th December	10.30am	Service of Nine Lessons & Carols
Sunday 21st December	10.30am	Family Worship with Sunday Club Nativity
Wednesday 24th December	6.30pm	Children's Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday 24th December	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Sunday 28th December	10.30am	Family Worship (no Sunday Club)

JANUARY

Sunday 4th January	10.30am	Family Worship (no Sunday Club)
Sunday 11th January	10.30am	Worship & Sunday Club
Sunday 18th January	10.30am	Worship & Sunday Club
Sunday 25th January	10.30am	Worship & Sunday Club

FLOWER LISTS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Communion Table

Windowsills

7th December	Odette McClenaghan	
4th January	Bert & Rita McCrum	Ray Stewardson
11th January	Bill Stein	Anne Stewart
18th January	Calder Watson	Helen Howard
25th January	Jane Livingston	Jan Millar

The sheets for 2026 flower lists are on the windowsills in the transept.
You can put your name down to put flowers on the Communion Table or on the windowsills for next year in Church. A member of the flower committee will contact you during the week prior to your date.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With thanks,
Elizabeth Cross



December 2025

I am so happy to be here with you as your Locum Minister, and now also as your Interim Moderator. The IM role is complementary to that of Locum Minister and I am familiar with it, having served as an IM twice previously during my years as a Parish Minister. It is a privilege to be appointed by Presbytery as your IM in this time of change and new beginnings and I thank you for the warm welcome you have given me.



Taken in Australia, March 2025

As we journey together through Advent and Christmas 2025 we will be celebrating God's love for the world and his coming to us as a baby born in the humblest of circumstances. We will give thanks for his birth among us, his life and teaching, his death and resurrection bringing hope for all. We will tell once more the stories of our faith. In doing so we will look back to events of over 2,000 years ago, celebrate the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit alive and active today, and we will look forward to Christ's coming again.

As a saved people we are concerned not only with the next world, but with this world. We are to wait and to be prepared. We are to make straight the path for the Lord, serving the Lord without fear, holy and righteous, pious and at the same time filled with a passion for justice and peace. A passion which leads us to ensure that our doors are kept open every Sunday for worship, that the church can go on providing for the community it serves through baptisms, weddings and funerals; that the new halls are comfortable and open to all to use for community activities throughout the week; that a Church of Scotland congregation continues here - to speak out as individuals and as a church and to take action locally and in our wider world. My friends, we dare not take that for granted in these times.

My prayer for you is that you will feel welcome to play your part, not only in the story of the past, but also in the story of the future of the church in this place. With Christmas ahead, this is a time for new beginnings and an opportunity for every one of us to renew our commitment. Whoever you are, whatever your own story, be assured that a warm welcome awaits you.

May the peace of the Christ child live in you this Christmas,

Rev Ruth Halley

Reverend Ruth Halley, (Interim Moderator and Locum Minister)

Prayer Diary

"Sing a song of mincemeat,
Currants, raisins, spice,
Apples, sugar, nutmeg,
Everything that's nice,
Stir it with a ladle,
Wish a lovely wish,
Drop it in the middle
Of your well-filled dish,
Stir again for good luck,
Pack it all away
Tied in little jars and pots,
Until Christmas Day"

("Mincemeat" - Elizabeth Gould)

Give thanks for the feelings of goodwill which come with the approach of Christmas but also pray for those who are alone at a time when there's a focus on families; those who feel pressured into spending money they don't have; and those who have no belief at all.

'He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end!' (Luke 1:32-33)

'Somehow, not only for Christmas,
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you.
And the more you spend in blessing
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to make you glad.'

("The Joy of Giving" - John Greenleaf Whittier)

Give thanks that we live in a peaceful country but pray for everyone who does not. Ask that God's peace will come to a world marred by conflict.

'but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people." Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!"'
(Luke 2:10, 13-14)

Give thanks for the beautiful world we live on and pray that the coming year will bring a deeper focus on looking after it, and each other.

'Sing a new song to the Lord! Sing to the Lord, all the world!' (Psalm 96:1)

'Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go.
Ring out the false, ring in the true.'

(excerpt from "Ring Out, Wild Bells" - Alfred Lord Tennyson)

Gillian Foy

Prayer Promoter

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you need prayer for yourself, a loved one or a friend, requests can be sent to the Prayer Promoter, Gillian Foy, via the church office at office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk. Those for whom prayers are requested will be prayed for throughout the following month by members of the Prayer Group. Anyone who would like a copy of the prayer list, in order to pray for those on it, should contact Gillian.

LEGACY PROJECT

The September edition of Good Neighbour included a number of pictures from inside the new annexe. Since then, things have moved on significantly. Those who regularly pass the site may not have noticed many changes over the past couple of months, but work inside the annexe has continued at pace. The electrical wiring and plumbing have been installed, many of the internal walls are now lined and insulated and acoustic panels are being installed to ensure a good quality of sound within the building



The annexe will have under-floor heating and the next major step is to lay that, after which a screed is poured which provides a smooth level base for the flooring. It is also hoped that, over the next few weeks, the coverings on the wall at the manse side of the church where the new doors are being knocked through will be removed.

The external paths have been tricky for many people and unfortunately this will continue up to very close to the end of the construction. Landscaping is always close to the last work to be carried out.

The budget is, of course, of prime importance and so far the project remains on budget with an estimated completion of end March 2026.

Up to this point a great deal of effort has inevitably been expended on property related matters. This is quite understandable as we work towards creating the physical infrastructure we need for the future.

However, as we move into the final four months of the build period, we now need to turn our attention to maximising the use of what will have been created. By the early summer of 2026 we should be almost ready with a fully functioning, purpose designed facility. We will need folk who will accept the challenge of taking the project to the next level.

At its last Session meeting, the Session was thinking about this and used the words of a very familiar hymn as an inspiration, challenge and structure for its thinking. The hymn was ***Let us build a house where love can dwell***. The verses of that hymn include these words, *built of hopes and dreams and vision, where the cross shall stand as witness and the symbol of God's grace, a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone and live the Word we've known*. And it ends with the words, *let this house proclaim from floor to rafter all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place*.

That really captures the vision behind our Legacy project.

Stop Press!

The source of power for our new annexe heating will be an air source heat pump. This is good for the environment and should mean more reasonable energy costs. We have been chasing a grant from The Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) to help with the cost of this and have recently heard that we have been awarded a grant of £31,644. Well done to Diane Adam for all the work she did on this application.

Gordon Dickson
Chair of the Legacy Project

LEGACY FUND

Thank you again to all those who continue to contribute to our Legacy Fund.

Pledges can be, and have been, made for any amount of money you can afford, and spread over a few years by standing order if that suits you better. Alternatively, a one-off payment by bank transfer or cheque can be made, and you can also donate to the project online by logging on to our church website, following the link to the Legacy Project and clicking the red "Donate Online" button. Spare pledge and bank standing order forms are available from myself or the Church Administrator, should you require any.

Please remember that **every donation**, of whatever size, is both needed and warmly welcome.

Alistair Smith, Treasurer



YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE



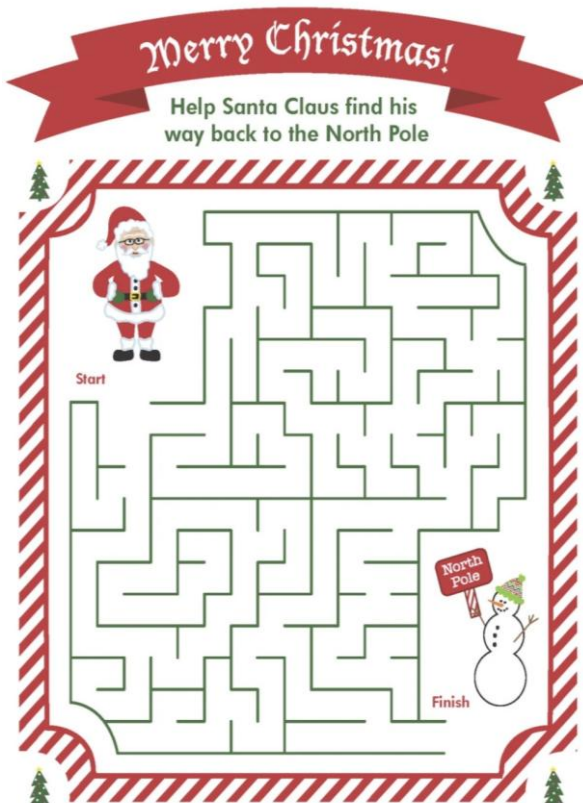
In the Netherlands, a parade is held at the beginning of December to honour St Nicholas or Sinterklass

THE LEGEND OF ST NICHOLAS

Did you know that in the Dutch language, the name Santa Claus or Sinterklaas means St. Nicholas? Long, long ago, there really was a St. Nicholas who lived in the country we now call Turkey. When Nicholas grew up, he became a bishop who helped many people come to know and love Jesus. Bishop Nicholas was a kind man. He healed the sick and saved people from drowning after a shipwreck. Instead of sending thieves to jail, he talked them into returning the things they had stolen.

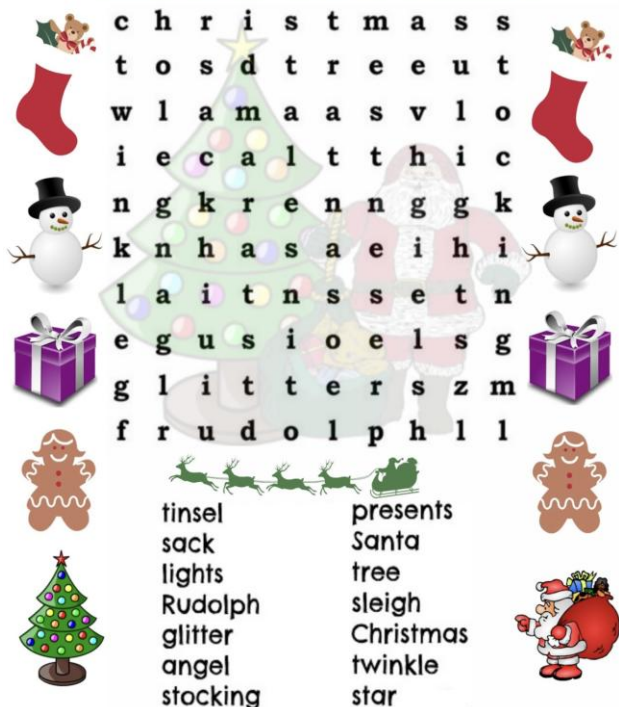
Legend has it that Nicholas heard about a poor man with three daughters. The man had no money to give his daughters so that they could be married. The man was worried that his poor daughters would have no one to love and care for them. One night Bishop Nicholas put some gold coins in a small bag and threw the bag of money through an open window of the man's house. Then he ran away. The family rejoiced when they found the money, and soon the oldest daughter was married. A short time later, Nicholas again made a secret visit to the poor man's house and left another bag of money. The family rejoiced again and used the money to help the second-oldest daughter get married.

The poor man began looking out his window every night. He wanted to thank the person who was saving his daughters from lives of loneliness and poverty. After a few weeks, Bishop Nicholas brought one last bag of gold to the house. But before Bishop Nicholas could run away, the poor man saw him, caught up with him, and thanked him again and again. The man told everyone he saw about Bishop Nicholas' generosity. St. Nicholas shared the gift of love, friendship and generosity and we should do the same. This Christmas and all year round remember how St Nicholas showed his love for Jesus, our Saviour, by sharing these gifts with family and friends and those who need help.



Merry Christmas Word Search

Search for the words going up, down, left and right.



Hi Everyone,

We are edging closer to the most exciting time of the year!

We hope that all the children are very excited and behaving themselves, so that Mr Claus can visit them with some surprises!!!!

-  Our Sunday Club Gift Service will take place on **Sunday 7th December**.
-  Our Sunday Club Christmas Party will take place on **Sunday 14th December**, with lots of games, crafts and fun for the children.
-  We are going to celebrate the birth of baby Jesus with our Sunday Club Nativity, which will take place on **21st December**. We hope you will all enjoy it!

Sunday Club Team

Dates for December are:

Sunday 7th December – Sunday Club in Church and Manse - also Sunday Club Gift Service

Sunday 14th December – Sunday Club Xmas Party in the Manse 10.15am – 11.45am

Sunday 21st December – Sunday Club Nativity presented in church

Sunday 28th December – Sunday Club on holiday

Dates for January are:

Sunday 4th January - Sunday Club on holiday

Sunday 11th January - Sunday Club in Church & Manse

Sunday 18th January - Sunday Club in Church & Manse

Sunday 25th January - Sunday Club in Church & Manse



SUNDAY CLUB GIFT DONATION



The Sunday Club would like to invite everyone to please donate a gift to help brighten up what might otherwise be a rather bleak Christmas for some children, young people and families in our city. We are collecting gifts for 3 groups:

-  new born babies and mums at the QEUH Neo-natal unit, eg, new-born clothes including hand-knitted items, and toiletries for mums;
-  children aged 8-12 at Church House, eg, toys, games and art/crafts;
-  young people aged 13-18 within ERC, eg, supermarket gift cards.



Please bring your new, unwrapped gifts to church on Sunday 7th December or put in the box at the rear of the sanctuary from Monday 24th November. Thank you for your support and generosity.

DID YOU KNOW?

Boxing Day is actually about boxes

It was traditionally a day when servants had the day off to visit their families. Their employers would send them home with "Christmas boxes" containing money, gifts or food to thank them for their reliable service throughout the past year.

Xmas doesn't take Christ out of Christmas

In fact "X" comes from the Greek letter "chi" which happens to be the first letter of the Greek word for Christ (Χριστός), and Greek was the original language of the New Testament. The word was simply created as an abbreviation and was first used in the mid 1500s.

Christmas was banned in Britain!

About 350 years ago, the Puritans, who'd come to power after they got rid of King Charles I, thought there was too much eating, drinking and fun and enjoyment at Christmas. So, they banned it – much to the annoyance of the people who promptly rioted. As one person put it, 'Thus are the merry lords of misrule suppressed by the mad lords of bad rule at Westminster.' The ban lasted until King Charles II came back as ruler in 1660.

The Nativity Scene was invented by St Francis of Assisi

Showing the birth of Jesus in the stable with Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men, angels and all the animals using real people, statues or models is a tradition first thought up by St Francis of Assisi 800 years ago. Very few people could read the Bible and St Francis created the scene of Jesus' birth using straw and real animals so that people could worship him too and feel like what it was to be there that first Christmas.

Jingle Bells was the first song broadcast from space

History was made on 16th December 1965 when a song was broadcast from space for the first time. It happened on board NASA's Gemini 6A spacecraft when astronauts Wally Schirra and Thomas P. Stafford told Mission Control that they could see an unidentified object 'probably in polar orbit' piloted by someone 'wearing a red suit'. They then started playing Jingle Bells on a harmonica and a set of tiny sleigh bells which they'd smuggled on board.

What's On

BIBLE GROUP

The next meeting of the bible group will take place on **Wednesday 3rd December** at 7.00pm till 8.15pm in the manse. For this meeting, we are looking at and discussing "*the fruits of the Spirit*" with the focus on PEACE, with all most welcome to attend. There will be tea/coffee, and please bring a bible. (We are currently looking at 7th January for the following meeting.)

Marie Forster

SATURDAY MORNING BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting will be held on **Saturday 6th December** in the manse. We meet at 9.45am for coffee/tea and nibbles and start our meeting at 10.00am. We are still reading David Gibson's book, "*The Lord of Psalm 23*", and we will be looking at Chapter 8, "*What He Sends*". New members will be made very welcome. We are a friendly group who enjoy exploring our Faith through Christian literature. So please do come and join us. For more information please contact Ronnie McNeill or church office.

GREENBANK PLAYERS

Dates for your diary: Rehearsals are in full swing for our next show "*Yet another evening with the Greenbank Players*" to be held in the church on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th February 2026 at 7.30pm. Tickets will be on sale in the New Year.

Liz Smith
Secretary

THE GUILD

As they continue to meet in the manse, the Guild are very much looking forward to the new annexe being opened, and enjoy watching the progress each week.

It is time to mention our Christmas Lunch! This will be held in Parklands on Wednesday 10th December at 12.30pm and it will be our last gathering for 2025. Guild resumes on 14th January 2026 when our programme is as follows:

14 January	<i>Optical Confusion</i> : Rev John Martindale
21 January	<i>Reminiscences of a Heidy</i> : Helen McIntyre
28 January	<i>Guild Project</i> : James Fraser

Enid Dron
Secretary

TIME OUT

December is a quiet month for us so we don't have any meetings scheduled though we will be having our Christmas dinner night out at the Derby on 11th December, which we all look forward to.

We kick off the New Year on 8th January with a well-needed Keep Fit class, get rid of all the extra calories from the holidays!!! The 22nd January will be our annual Burns Night with some Scottish fare and entertainment. Always an enjoyable evening. These two meetings will be in the Manse.

Come along and join us.

Elaine Carr
Chairperson

BUSHIDO KARATE CLUB

All our students have been preparing for their gradings at various levels/grades and when this newsletter goes out, the Association's Senior Black grading will have taken place, and we have 12 students being put forward. They have all trained hard and are prepared for a great night.

We have had another student achieving their coaching qualification where we now have 15 coaches in our club. Having qualified coaches is important for child welfare and ensures a consistently high standard of coaching in every class. In any activity/sport, always ensure the coaches are qualified – ask to see their qualifications and PVG certificate.

A recent article noted that Karate is one of the best activities you can choose for your children. It offers skills that last a lifetime, and an opportunity for continuous learning and development. Kids who practice karate have excellent focus and develop useful self-defense skills. The martial art keeps them fit and lets them thrive within a community of strongly bonded friends.

We will have a new intake of students in January and would encourage anyone of any age to join our great club and start their journey – even if you would like to come along for a taster session first.

Finally, Bushido Karate Club would like to wish all our friends at Greenbank Church a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

John Elliot

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Clarkston Community Choir will perform their annual Christmas charity concert at Greenbank Parish Church on 19th December, accompanied by a fantastic 14-piece orchestra. This year, the choir have chosen to raise money to support the ongoing building work at Greenbank Parish Church, as well as local charity 'The Yard at Linn Park', which provides adventure play for disabled young people and their families. Tickets are priced £6 and are available from choir members or by contacting June Alexander at junemalex49@gmail.com – due to limited capacity, pre-booking is heavily encouraged!

If you are unable to see the choir sing on the 19th, you can catch them at Langside Parish Church on Sunday 7th December 7.00pm-9.00pm, or at Princes Square (raising money for Maggie's) on Saturday 13th December 1.30pm-2.30pm.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Unlike our Legacy team today, who have pledged that we won't build anything till we have the money, our predecessors built the Manse with borrowed money. In 1907, in order to clear off a debt of £1,000 (approximately £150,000 today) they held a Grand Bazaar in the centre of Glasgow.

Liz Allan



News and Updates



DONATIONS for the LHM can be put on the trolley in the church vestibule on Sunday mornings and in the box in the manse hallway during office hours. **At the moment biscuits, diluting juice, pot noodles/packet noodles, tinned meatballs/ravioli/bolognese and tinned potatoes are particularly requested.**

Envelopes are also available for donations of money. Please complete your details on the envelope (so that Gift Aid can be claimed if relevant and your donation can be acknowledged) and either hand to me or place in an offering bag during the service. Please do not leave these envelopes on the trolley or in the box. Donations can also be made online at www.lhm360.org/donate. All donations are very much appreciated.

VOLUNTEERING TO HELP GREENBANK HELP THE LHM: Would you like to join the rota in 2026 to deliver the donated items to the LHM on a suitable day during the week? If you would like to help, please speak to me at church or give me a phone.

CHRISTMAS CARDS will be on sale at the back of the church on Sundays after the service until 7th December. Each pack of 10 cards costs £4.50. It would be really helpful if you brought the correct money.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

The Christmas Panto takes place this year at 1.00pm on Wednesday 3rd December. To help with catering, please book your seats by phoning the LHM on 0141 552 0285.

The Christmas Carol Service with Mission Voices will be held on Tuesday 16th December at 2.00pm. The blankets from the Close Knit project will be distributed after the service to clients and to external agencies, which support vulnerable people in the area. Some will also be given to clients in the Glasgow Royal, who are there long term.

MEAL FIGURES FOR OCTOBER: The LHM provided 4,271 meals in October, which was almost as high as the busiest month in April with 4,325 meals.

Liz Smith
LHM Representative

MATURE DRIVER ASSESSMENTS

Throughout October and November, Road Safety Scotland is running a campaign entitled 'Fitness to drive'. This campaign is aimed at drivers aged 65 and over.

In conjunction with I.A.M. Roadsmart, (Formerly the Institute of Advanced Motorists), the campaign seeks to help the mature driver continue to enjoy the independence afforded by safe driving for as long as possible.

Assessments are being offered to any driver in the age bracket who wishes to have a professional assessment of their driving. These 1 hour assessments are free of charge and are conducted in the driver's own car. Funding for this initiative is provided by the Scottish Government.

Those interested may access an assessment by signing up at any of the Roadshow events currently touring Scotland.

Further details of Roadshow dates and locations can be obtained from the Road Safety Scotland Website and Facebook pages.

[Link: Driving Safety for Longer](#)

Mark Allan



POSTAGE STAMPS

Stamps have continued to come in this autumn. Thank you everyone. They swell the funds that will ultimately go to help in the work of the Al Ahali Hospital in Gaza. This is the only Christian hospital in the Gaza strip and is run by our partner church, the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Collections for this charity will run into 2027. So far the sum raised is very nearly £3000.

Please collect all postage stamps, being careful not to damage every edge of the perforations and including those of the QR code when there is one.

Christmas stamps came on sale on 4th November. This year the all world one costing £3.40 is included.

LAST UK POSTING DATES for cards:

-  UK 2nd class – Wednesday 17th December
-  1st class – Saturday 20th December

LAST ALL WORLD POSTING DATES:

-  Western Europe – 7th December
-  Canada and USA – 8th December
-  Africa Australia and New Zealand – 11th December
-  All other countries – 4th December



Wishing you all a joyous festive season and time spent with friends and family..

Elizabeth McKenzie

OFFERING INCOME

Dear Friends,

I wish to thank all those who continue to support the church, whether by standing order, direct payment into our bank account, weekly freewill offering or putting money in the offering bag each Sunday. Offering income is essential to the work of the church and any increases in offering income to Greenbank are always welcome. You may also, or instead, make a contribution to the Greenbank's Restricted Fabric Fund.

I recognise that some of us may not be able to increase their offering which makes it all the more important for those who can, to do so. For those unable to come to church for whatever reason, but still wish to contribute financially, you may contribute by any of the above methods.

For a standing order form, or details of the church's bank account to make a direct payment, please email me or write to me at the church address and I will be happy to assist. You may also post me a cheque and/or your freewill offering contribution to the church office address. Thank you all for your continuing support.

Alistair Smith, Treasurer

HALL HIRE

Greenbank Church Halls will not be available to hire for children's parties until the new halls are built.

 PC PANIC Fast, Friendly and Reliable PC & Laptop Repair We come to you... Fraser Gall 07887 613 362 www.pc-panic.com 	DENHOLM PROPERTY SOLUTIONS <table> <tr> <td>PLASTERING</td> <td>EXTERNAL PAINTING</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ALL JOINERY WORK</td> <td>DECKING</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PAINTING & DECORATING</td> <td>KITCHENS / BATHROOMS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ROUGHCASTING</td> <td>GUTTERS & DOWN PIPES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FENCING</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> FOR FREE QUOTE PLEASE PHONE : 07740585246	PLASTERING	EXTERNAL PAINTING	ALL JOINERY WORK	DECKING	PAINTING & DECORATING	KITCHENS / BATHROOMS	ROUGHCASTING	GUTTERS & DOWN PIPES	FENCING	
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If you know of anyone who might like to place an advert in Good Neighbour, which is distributed to over 600 people in Clarkston and the surrounding areas, please contact our church office on 0141 644 1841.

ARTICLES FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF GOOD NEIGHBOUR
 should be submitted to the Church Office: office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk
 and the Editor, Jill Liddell: liddell.jill@gmail.com, **by Sunday 11th January 2026** please.

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