

THE COVENANTER



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
CARMUNNOCK PARISH CHURCH

'the kirk in the braes'

OCTOBER 2024



The Church of Scotland

PARISH OF CARMUNNOCK

Interim Moderator: Rev. Alasdair R. MacMillan

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Dear Friends,

In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses shares several “God is...” statements as he teaches the people what it will mean to live in God’s amazing grace land. We live in a different context to Moses’ original hearers, but God is the same and he invites us to lay hold of truths about him and to rely on them in our lives. Let’s look at some of them.

God is...sovereign over everything.

“For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome.”

(Deuteronomy 10:7)

Surrounded by a plethora of gods, gods of everything and gods for everything, the people were invited to focus on the sovereign Lord. God above all others. We live in an age that still worships myriad gods (work, money, science, reason, sex, sport, hobbies etc.) Do you see that God is still on the throne; that God is able to deal with the challenges and worries around you?

God is...a generous God, gifting his people an inheritance and future.

“You are about to cross the Jordan to enter and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you.”

(Deuteronomy 11:31)

The promised land was understood as a land of amazing grace; a land gifted by God to his people, where his love was to be displayed in the way they loved God, loved one another, and even loved the stranger in their midst. Our inheritance looks a bit different. It’s kept in heaven for us, where it will never spoil, perish or fade (1 Peter 1) – but in it we see the generous nature of God remains the same. Are you displaying the gifts of God and sharing them with the world around you? Are you thanking God for this amazing grace?

God is...near whenever we pray to him.

“What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him?” (Deuteronomy 4:7)

Is anyone listening when you pray? We enjoy real intimacy with God through prayer. Anytime we pray God is with us. God sees, hears and answers our prayers. He blesses us with his presence and speaks to us in that place. Do you prayerfully seek the presence of God in your life and expect God to hear and answer your prayers?

God is...a jealous God desiring faithfulness.

“For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.” (Deuteronomy 4:24)

Tragically the people of God often exchanged the relationship they enjoyed with God for something far less. They worshipped things that did not deserve their love and devotion. God still wants all of us - heart, mind, strength and soul. Is that the kind of relationship you enjoy with God? Or are your devotions split?

God is...the one who holds us in his care.

“The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.” (Deuteronomy 33:27)

And finally, God is the one who cares for us. He holds us, protected, in his arms of love. Arms that are faithful for all of eternity; arms that never grow tired or weary. As we look to the future, we know there may be some uncertain days, but we know that we can trust in God who cares for us, shelters us and leads us into his plans.

May God bless you all,

Alasdair

"THE KIRK IN THE BRAES"

Session Clerk: Mr George Dow, 39 Busby Road, Carmunnock, Glasgow G76 9BN Telephone: 07801 613127

Treasurer: Mr David Miller, 45 Wakefield Avenue, East Kilbride G75 8HG Telephone: 01355 513 643 / 07576 850089

NOTICES

DEATHS

("...do not grieve like the rest of men who have no hope...")

30 August 2024 Tom Morton, Carmunnock

3 September 2024 Mary Canning, Annathill, Coatbridge, former elder at Carmunnock

CHURCH SERVICES

Unless otherwise indicated, services are held in Carmunnock Parish Church and are available via Facebook live - see details on Carmunnock Parish Church FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/Carmunnock-Parish-Church-108710167432265>

October – NB – new time!

Sun 6th **11.15am** Morning Service – Alasdair Fyfe

Sun 13th **11.15am** Morning Service – CIAG (*Harvest Sunday*)

Sun 20th **11.15am** Morning Service – George Dow

Sun 27th **11.15am** Morning Service – Alasdair MacMillan (*Communion*)

November

Sun 3rd **11.15am** Morning Service – Iain Lowdon

Sun 10th **10.45am** Morning Service – George Dow (*Remembrance Sunday*) Parade to War Memorial follows

Sun 17th **11.15am** Morning Service – John Wright

Sun 24th **11.15am** Morning Service – tbc

Tea, Coffee & Blether after the service each Sunday in the Clason Hall

Session Meeting - Wednesday 20th November, 7pm Reid Hall

Church Office - The church office remains closed for the time being.

Book of Remembrance - Forms to request an entry can be obtained from Mrs Shirley Ross at the church.



The deadline for articles to be included in the NOVEMBER Covenanter will be Sunday 20th October.

Psalm 46

1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

5 God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

7 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

8 Come and see what the LORD has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth.

9 He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

11 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

FLOWER LIST

OCTOBER	
6th	Mrs Mhairi Hearle
13th	Mrs Liz Leslie
20th	Mrs Moira Toppin
27th	Mrs Jean Thompson
Mrs Irene Hamilton will deliver the flowers	

NOVEMBER	
3rd	**VACANCY**
10th	Mrs Helga Thomson
17th	Mrs Jean Perratt
24th	Mrs Mary Hardie

** We have a vacancy to place flowers in the Church (see above). Please let Helen know if you would like to reserve this date.*

Flower Convener: Helen Thomson Tel: 0141 644 1292

Church Tea Rota 6th October 2024 – 24th November 2024

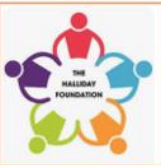
If you're unable to do your turn, please contact someone else for a swap.

6th October	Carolyn Hatfield, Sandra Hawkins	3rd November	Pam & Iain Lowdon
13th October	Ann Campbell, Lorna Dow, Mary Hardie	10th November	Ann MacDonald, Helen Thomson
20th October	Jeanie Lawson, Shirley Ross	17th November	Heather Wright, Lynn Burnside
27th October	Elaine Roxby, Ann Finch	24th November	Liz Leslie, Irene Hamilton

DUTY ROTA

OCTOBER	6th	F HEARLE	W LAWSON	J LAWSON
	13th	G BROWN	A CAMPBELL	H THOMSON
	20th	J DAVIDSON	M HEARLE	E LESLIE
	27th*	G CAMPBELL	I MARSHALL	E ROXBY
NOVEMBER	3rd	J DAVIDSON	W LAWSON	J LAWSON
	10th	G BROWN	A CAMPBELL	H THOMSON
	17th	F HEARLE	M HEARLE	E LESLIE
	24th	G CAMPBELL	I MARSHALL	E ROXBY
DECEMBER	1st	J DAVIDSON	W LAWSON	J LAWSON
	8th	G BROWN	A CAMPBELL	H THOMSON

* Communion



Carmunnock Parish Church is delighted to be hosting a pop up "Eco Fashion" event on Saturday 5th October from 10am-2pm in the Clason Hall.

There will be a range of new and preloved ladies fashion separates, coats, footwear, jewellery, gifts, handbags and household items ranging from £1-10 available.

Proceeds from the day will go to local charities:
the Halliday Foundation, Cojaco and Capability Scotland.
Your support would be much appreciated.

TEA & CHAT



Tea and Chat afternoons
2pm in the Reid Hall
14th & 28th October
11th November

Everyone welcome
Small charge of £1 to cover costs
Looking forward to seeing you!

CHURCH NEWS

The autumn session of the church's community action programme is shaping up nicely.

Saturday 21st September was a return to being part of Glasgow Doors Open Festival after a break of a few years. This year was particularly special as the church was part of a joint event with the Heritage Society, Community Council, Recreation Club, Drama Club, and the Castlemilk Hall Team. We had a continuous stream of visitors who enjoyed the archive exhibits in the Castlemilk Hall, the church guided tours showing the rich history and heritage of church life going back hundreds of years, and the recently launched Heritage Trail. Some of the drama club members played the role of the washerwomen of Carmunnock who took in laundry from the grand houses in Glasgow in the 1800s. All was supported with a display of children's games of times past and a splendid cuppa and selection of cakes from the "Club".

Working with other organisations is an important part of how the church sees its role within the parish. In addition to our partnership with our local organisations, we are now formally in a linked charge with Castlemilk Parish Church. The congregation at Castlemilk are looking for people to come along to their fundraising events on 4th & 5th October. The 4th is a sale of fashion clothing and on the 5th is a table-top sale.

Our regular toddlers' group "Tiny Tots" has restarted after the summer break and we have spaces for any little ones between the ages of 0 and 3 years. It's a friendly group which welcomes new faces.

Pickleball is growing in popularity across Scotland. We have a few spaces for both Tuesday morning from 10am-12pm and Wednesday evenings 7pm-9pm. It's a social sports game usually played as a doubles game. If you fancy a bit of exercise in convivial company, come along and give it a try!

Harvest celebration is on 13th October and once again the Church in Action Group is preparing to provide a lunch for the congregation and guests. Anyone who is helping provide a dish for the lunch can arrange this with Liz Leslie. We hope to see many of you at the lunch. Harvest is an opportunity to give to those who use the services of the Lodging House Mission, and a list of what is needed is in this magazine. You can bring your contribution to the church on the morning of the 13th or hand it to anyone in the congregation on your behalf.

Plans for the Christmas Festival are gearing up. The market has become very popular and already we have both halls booked up. The church added a grocery stall last year which raised a good sum towards the final total. Our intention is to repeat this and will be looking for donations of chutney, jam, tablet, shortbread - and not forgetting ginger wine which is always a favourite! Sandra is organising the chutney makers with her donations of apples and, as last year, we hope to see some interesting pots of goodies for the market stall.

The festival opens with the lighting of the Christmas tree on 6th December and the tearoom and market on the 7th (Saturday). Other ideas are a work in progress. Keep the date in your diary for now.

After the recent survey of church members and congregation we have a better understanding of what suits individuals in terms of ways to communicate with the elders of the church. So a big thanks to everyone who completed the survey.

The Pastoral Care team, led by Elaine Roxby, is beginning to get out and about after a long break due to Covid and ensuring we have the safeguarding certificates needed for all our visitors. It's a challenge for us to know of anyone who might benefit from a regular visit in their own home as it's easy to become isolated if unwell or finding life hard at times, so if you know of anyone who might enjoy a visit from a member of the church team then please let Elaine know. All information will be confidential and come under the church's safeguarding policy. Elaine's Contact details are listed in this magazine.

Mhairi Hearle

*When we lose someone we love,
we must learn not to live without them
but to live with the love they left behind.
Death ends a life, not a relationship.
All the love you shared is still there.
All the memories are still there.
We all live on... in the hearts we have
touched and nurtured while we were here.*

Some children at Sunday School were asked to write something about their Mums for Mother's Day, and then read it aloud in church the following week. One mother cowered in the back pew as her own spirited offspring began:

"My Mum doesn't work. She is a writer."

But by far the best tribute came from a small boy with a large grin: "My Mum's favourite things are shouting, chocolate, lots of wine, and going out."

Final update from Nominations Committee 19th September 2024

The Presbytery Vacancy Advisory Committee met with the Nominations Committee on 19th September and has paved the way for the committee to get on and actively pursue our search for the best person to lead our churches into the future.

The vacancy has been advertised for the past month and due to the interest shown the committee has agreed to put a closing date of Friday 11th October for applications. This will allow the committee to then have a clear picture of all applicants.

This will be the final update on progress, and we would ask everyone to refrain from asking the committee members for updates.

We would also ask everyone to keep us in their prayers as we work through the process and hopefully find the person God is calling to lead us.

Yours in Christ,

Alan Dunn

Convenor

Nomination Committee

THE HARVEST, A short story by local writer, Ellen McIntosh

"Go on holiday, Mum? What is a holiday?" Jan was puzzled. "Is a holiday a good thing?"

Mum laughed. "A holiday is a wonderful thing, great fun too, you and Dad will have a lovely time. Best of all no wee brother bothering you to play with him all the time and pull your hair. You can wear the lovely dress your Auntie Mary sent from Australia.

Jan and her dad set off two days later. She loved him and was very excited. He told her they were going to help a farmer he knew to work on a farm getting in the harvest with lots of other people. Her dad had only just come home from the War. Her mum said it was a very bad place and he was looking for a job like lots of other men. She would see sheep and cows, maybe even pigs with curly tails and some dogs too.

They arrived in time for tea which was lovely with lots of real milk and butter as well as potatoes and other delicious food. Jan was used to milk out of a big tin. Her mum said it was dried milk which Jan liked to eat with a spoon. The farmer's wife was called Mrs Clannahan and was very nice, she smiled at Jan, giving her a big hug before she went to bed. They

had to climb up wooden stairs to a place called the attic. Her dad slept in a bed next to hers. His feet stuck out the bottom which made them laugh.

After breakfast the next morning, all the men were given a job to do. Jan and some other children were gathered up by one of the farmer's grown-up sons, his name was Mark, who led them to a big field where there were horses. He said they were called Clydesdales. He told us children not to be afraid of them even although they were very big. They were born nearby and were very gentle horses especially with children. Jan felt very little and was also a bit scared. She looked up at one which was very close to Mark, and she was sure it winked at her with one of its great big eyes.

"Jan, would you like a ride on this one? His name is Hector. I will walk beside you so that you don't fall off." Mark smiled at her and held out his hand.

Jan looked up at Hector and was sure he smiled at her and before she knew what had happened she was sitting on his back. She felt very far from the ground and held one of Mark's hands as tightly as she could.

The other children clapped their hands and begged to be allowed to ride too. After a little while Jan felt very happy as she was gently carried along by Hector. She had a lovely day playing with the other children, running in the fields, gathering flowers for Mrs Clannahan, eating their picnic lunch which was a great treat. They had bread with cheese and little sweet berries which Jan had never tasted before, also more creamy milk. Later they all went into a big place called a byre and watched the cows being milked. Jan didn't want to milk them, she was happy just to watch. She was amazed to see so much milk and none of it was in a big tin.

Soon it was bedtime after supper and her dad had to carry her up the stairs to her bed, she was so tired. She had so much fun every day she was sad when one morning her dad called her.

"Morning, love, time to wake up, we are going home today."

She is now a grown woman with her own children, but will never forget the wonderful holiday she spent on the farm helping with the harvest.

Imagine life is a game in which you are juggling five balls. The balls are called work, family, health, friends and integrity, and you are keeping them all in the air. But one day you finally come to understand that work is a rubber ball. If you drop it, it will bounce back. The other four balls – family, health, friends, integrity – are made of glass. If you drop one of these, it will be irrevocably scuffed, nicked, perhaps even shattered. It will never be the same.

FAIRTRADE CELEBRATES ITS 30th BIRTHDAY

In 1994, a small, but significant step was made towards improving the lot of many thousands of farmers and producers around the world, when Green and Black's Mayan Gold chocolate appeared on supermarket shelves for the first time. Then, a short time later, Cafedirect coffee, Percol coffee and Clipper tea were introduced. These were the first products to carry the Fairtrade mark - a guarantee that the cocoa, tea, coffee and sugar producers had been paid fair prices for their products - a long overdue first. From these small beginnings, the Fairtrade movement in 2024 supports more than two million farmers and workers in 58 countries around the world. Now Fairtrade products range from cosmetics to cola, from poinsettias to platinum.

The great bonus is that as well as allowing the people who produce these products to enjoy a fair living, their communities benefit from the additional Fairtrade Premium. Schools, training colleges and health centres have been constructed. Housing stock has been improved. Infrastructure projects have made a huge difference to communities. Environmental improvements such as sewage treatment plants have been built. Projects to mitigate climate change have come on stream. Sustainable agricultural practices have been encouraged.

By 2022, it is estimated that Fairtrade producers had shared £1.7 billion in Fairtrade Premium payments. In 2022 alone, the Fairtrade Premium generated £28 million in the United Kingdom.

The Church of Scotland continues to play its part in promoting Fairtrade products. According to the church's Special Committee on the Ethics of Investment Practice, the Church of Scotland ***"has been at the forefront of getting Fairtrade products into mainstream markets."***

All of us, even in small ways, by deliberately using Fairtrade products in our daily lives, also have our own part to play. As one major supermarket says in its own advertising jingle:

"Every little helps."

Adapted from an article in September 2024's "Life and Work".

Iain Lowdon

CASTLEMILK PARISH CHURCH
PRESENTS A

FASHION SHOW

ON
FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER

AT
7.00PM-9.00PM

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

TICKETS £4.00

AVAILABLE FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE OR MEMBERS OF THE
FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

1 Dougrie Road, Glasgow G45 9NP 0141 634 7113
castlemilkparishchurch@gmail.com
Castlemilk Parish Church Charity No: SC015309



Have you been decluttering?
Do you have gifts you can't use?
Are you looking for an outlet for lovely things
you have made?

Why not take a table at our

TABLE TOP SALE

on
Saturday 5th October 2024
from
10 am—12 noon
at
Castlemilk Parish Church, 1 Dougrie Road

For only £10, you can take a table in the church building and sell your
wares. You keep all of your takings.
Refreshments will be available.
To book your table call us on 0141 634 7113 or email Castlemilkparishchurch@gmail.com

SC015309



*Whenever two people meet, there are really six people present. There is each person as they see themselves,
each person as the other person sees them, and each person as they really are.*

The Lodging House Mission Harvest Donation Request for 2024 is now with us (see list below). As always, we will make this part of our Harvest Service in Carmunnock Church, this year on Sunday 13th October. The LHM - now known as the LHM 360 - is a Glasgow-based, welcoming, inclusive and very practical centre for those people who are experiencing homelessness, those who are vulnerable, and those who are socially excluded. A very important part of the work of the mission is to provide nutritious meals, and our donations are vital to support this service. Please consult the list of food required and also, importantly, the section at the end which details goods which are not needed. Pam and Iain Lowdon will be happy to take in your donations at the service in Carmunnock on 13th October (and on the two following services if needed) or will be happy to collect donations from you. Telephone: 07708 709154 if that would help.

In addition, you are cordially invited to the Annual Homelessness Service on Thursday 10th October, at the LHM, 35 East Campbell Street, Gallowgate, G1 5DT. The service is at 7pm and the guest speaker will be the Rt Rev Dr Shaw Paterson. If you'd like to go, please RSVP (for catering numbers) or let Pam know by Sunday 29th September, and she will let the LHM know.

Many, many thanks!

LHM 360 – Harvest Donation Requests 2024

Thank you for your continued support for LHM, we really appreciate it. We have put together a list of things that are urgently needed in the kitchen. Ideally, we would prefer donations of foodstuffs, however we understand this may be difficult for you. (Also at the bottom is a list of items not required at this time.)

If you are able to make a financial contribution, we will ensure it is used wisely. We love fresh produce to allow us to prepare healthy and nutritious lunches for those who use our service, and will buy these, as required, to prevent food waste. We hope that you find this list helpful when choosing something to donate. (We have indicated items for which we are in urgent need.)

Thank you from all of us here at LHM.

* OUT OF STOCK/URGENTLY NEEDED

Cereal	Tinned Fruit & Pudding	Other
Corn Flakes/Crunchy Nuts	* Peaches	Brown Sauce
Weetabix	* Pears	Tomato Sauce
Rice Crispies	* Pineapples	Vinegar
Sugar Puffs	* Mandarins	Olive oil
Frosties	* Fruit Cocktail	* Vegetable oil
Coco Pops	* Rice pudding	* Bisto
Cheerios	* Custard	* Vegetable stock cubes/ bouillon
Porridge oats		* Sugar
Breakfast Bars	Dried Goods	* Jelly
Cereal bars	Mixed herbs	Crisps
Jars/Pastes	Garlic powder	* Baked beans
Pasta bake sauces	Ground turmeric	Spaghetti in sauce
Curry sauce/paste	Chilli powder	Tinned potatoes
Tomato paste	Crushed chillies	Individual packets sweets
Tinned Meat / Fish	Ground coriander	Jam
Tuna/Salmon	Salt	Coconut milk
Corned beef	Black pepper	* Tinned soups: tomato, vegetable, chicken, lentil, scotch broth, minestrone, pea & ham
Ham (ring pull if possible)	Pasta	
Kettle Foods	Long grain rice	
Pot noodles	* Coffee	Full-fat UHT milk
Cuppa Soups	* Biscuits	Small juice cartons
Dried mashed potato	Dried peas	Diluting/fresh juice
Toiletries – all types	Lentils/broth mix	

Not Required List

Salad Cream/Mayonnaise	Shredded Wheat Cereal	Red kidney beans
Pearl Barley	Muesli	Prunes
Marmalade	Alpen	Chickpeas
Grapefruit	Clothing	Bedding/Duvets/ Towels

“Hooray! It is harvest time”

The Rt Rev Dr Shaw Paterson highlights the importance of giving thanks for harvest.

HOORAY! It is harvest time!!

There we are, hurtling along the road in our car on some imagined mission of huge national importance, racing against the clock to get somewhere; muttering at cyclists and other drivers who are inconsiderate enough to want a bit of our road (and hoping they can't lip-read as we pass by), rounding a bend and coming up behind a tractor and trailer. It is silage time. Over the next few miles, with no opportunity to overtake, we notice there is another tractor in front of the one in front. But of course, after the silage is cut, the fields are often doused in slurry, which means our newly washed car is going to get covered with its own unique odour. And, we are in a hurry.

Hooray. It is harvest time and that means more tractors. I am certain that most of us on such a car journey do not start singing songs of everlasting thanks and praise to our great God for the generous provision, or blessing the farmers for the work they do to put food on our plates!

So here is our challenge for harvest and beyond. If we get stuck on our travels behind a tractor or a combine or a trailer or any other mysteriously shaped implement that belongs in a field, take it as an opportunity for reflection, for thanksgiving and for praise.

Why should we bother? Firstly, because praising God for our blessings should become a matter of habit in all of us.

Secondly, because we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the farmers who are taken for granted. Most of us have become emotionally and practically detached from the source of our food. Our food comes from the fridge... but we know it doesn't really come from the fridge as we get it from the corner shop or supermarket. We cannot and must not take food provision as guaranteed.

Speak to any farmer and we quickly learn of the issues of balancing production costs with sales figures. Climate change, population growth and world politics mean that it is becoming more difficult to ensure

there is enough for the world's needs.

Hooray. It is harvest time but we need to appreciate the year-round activity that is required to produce a harvest. Then, when we are inconvenienced and find ourselves stuck behind a tractor, take a deep breath (as long as the slurry trailer is not attached) and smile, and ask for God's blessing on all those who work on the farm and who play a part in providing our food.

For those in rural or semi-rural parishes, if the worship leader arrives late for the service on a Sunday morning you now understand why! While waiting for the service to begin, use the time to offer thanksgiving prayers to God (no matter the time of year) for the seed-time and the harvest and for our life, our health and our food (to paraphrase *We Plough the Fields and Scatter*).

Happy harvest to you all. ■

First published in Life and Work

The Rt Rev Shaw Paterson is Moderator of the General Assembly in 2024/2025 and minister of Strathaven: Trinit

The 900-year history of St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh has been recreated in a historical video game. In a collaboration between the iconic High Kirk, the University of Glasgow's 'Games and Gaming Lab' and game development studio Education Evolved, the free game will transport visitors through the Cathedral's architectural evolution. Stephen Preston, Deputy Head of Heritage and Culture at St Giles' Cathedral, said: "I knew showing how the Cathedral was built had to be an interactive experience and probably digital. Thanks to Interface, who put us in touch with the future Project Lead Dr Tim Peacock and his team, we will be realising this vision.

"UofG Games Lab really is at the cutting edge of how we interpret heritage sites. It's great for Scotland (and St Giles') to have such institutions like the Advanced Research Centre (ARC) on our doorstep."

Departing from traditional text and sign-based interpretation methods, the game will immerse players in the Cathedral's various ages through original artwork and multilayered information. As they answer questions and learn about the site's history and architecture, visitors will virtually reconstruct St Giles'.

The project represents a co-creative collaboration between academia, public bodies, charities and industry. Facilitated by Interface and engaging the innovative education technology company Education Evolved Ltd on game development, HeritAlge has explored responsibly using AI to translate heritage sites into game form. Louise Arnold, Business Engagement Executive, Interface, said: "The challenge facing St Giles' Cathedral is one facing many visitor attractions today – how do you attract more visitors on any given day. It's been great working with St Giles' Cathedral connecting them to Dr Tim Peacock at University of Glasgow Games Lab, and the collaboration with Education Evolved Ltd who saw the vision to undertake a cross-disciplinary research initiative exploring AI, cultural heritage and historical data translated into a research-informed historical video game.

"It's amazing to now see the working prototype of the interactive game, enabling visitors to delve into a virtual world of history and heritage." Dr Tim Peacock added: "We hope this research-informed game will contribute to making the already truly remarkable historic site of St Giles' accessible to new generations of visitors from around the world."

You can play the game at www.educationevolvedltd.com/stgilescathedral

Minister joins Scottish literary stars at book festival

A Church of Scotland minister is joining a host of contemporary Scottish literary greats at a major new book festival. Rev Neil Glover is taking part in the inaugural St Andrew's Book Festival in London in November alongside Sir Ian Rankin, Sir Alexander McCall Smith, Andrew O'Hagan, Christopher Brookmyre and Ann Cleeves. TV host Lorraine Kelly, tennis coach Judy Murray, poets Jackie Kay and Liz Lochhead and journalists Andrew Marr and Alan Taylor are also taking part in the week-long programme (25 November to 1 December) which includes crime fiction, poetry, history, cookery, economics and the environment.

Mr Glover, minister at Aberfeldy, Dull and Weem, and Grantully, Logierait and Strathtay parish churches and convener of the Church of Scotland's Seeds for Growth fund, is the author of 'Finding Our Voice'. He describes the book as "almost a manifesto" and a passionate call for the Church of Scotland and similar mainline churches to change and reverse the steep decline in numbers they have experienced for over half a century.

The St Andrew's Book Festival is being organised by Scots in London, a group set up to advance Scottish culture and heritage and to promote the social inclusion of people. It was founded by Scottish organisations in London, including St Columba's Church and Crown Court Church and the patron is HRH The Princess Royal.

Sir Alexander, a prolific international best-seller of well over 300 books including the No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency and 44 Scotland Street series, said: "Scottish writers have always kept an eye on London and London has always kept an eye on Scottish writers. This exciting festival keeps an eye on that tradition, and I can't wait to be a part of it."

Mr O'Hagan added: "Scotland is a moveable feast and London is one of its depots. It was Robert Louis Stevenson who once praised 'a strong Scots accent of the mind', and I've listened for that accent in Piccadilly and King's Cross as much as in Ayrshire and Edinburgh. Therefore, I'm delighted that there is a new Scottish Book Festival in London, which promises to be one of the richest and most various cultural events in the capital."

The festival is being staged at St Columba's Church, Scotland House and the Caledonian Club. It will showcase authors and Scottish themes including Sir Ian with his latest Rebus novel which will be hot off the press at the end of October and Ms Murray and Ms Kelly with their debut novels 'Wild Card' and 'The Island Swimmer'.

Ann Cleeves will discuss her famous detective stories featured in BBC One's Shetland.

The programme opens with a Spoken Word Gala on 25 November, supported by the National Library of Scotland. Chaired by Michael Pederson it will feature two former National Poets of Scotland Ms Kay and Ms Lochhead appearing alongside Bill Drummond and Bee Asha. The next day will bring a special event hosted by The Scotsman featuring the winners of this year's Saltire Awards and an evening session with Andrew Marr.

[View the full programme and book tickets here.](#)

Interfaith Week

Scottish Interfaith Week will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year with a programme of events on the theme of 'Discovery'. The event takes place from November 11-18, including a National Interfaith Conference in Dundee on November 12. Local organisations throughout Scotland are encouraged to hold their own events, which they can register through the organisers and have listed on the Interfaith Week website.

The website also includes a digital toolkit, including advice on holding and promoting events, and graphics to use on social media. There are also resources for schools.

Established by Interfaith Scotland in 2004, Scottish Interfaith Week provides an opportunity for interfaith groups, faith communities, schools, organisations and local communities across the country to celebrate Scotland's religious diversity by planning events that bring people together to promote dialogue, understanding and co-operation between Scotland's religious communities and cultures.

To find out more, access the resources and register your own event: <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>



AT A GLANCE DIARY		
4th October	Fri	Fashion Show, Castlemilk Parish Church, 7pm-9pm
5th October	Sat	Eco-Fashion event, Clason Hall, 10am-12pm
5th October	Sat	Table-Top Sale, Castlemilk Parish Church, 10am-12pm
20th October	Sun	Last day for articles to be included in the November Covenanter

THE KIRK SESSION

George Brown	0141 644 1178
Anne Campbell	0141 644 3735
Douglas Campbell	0141 644 3735
John Davidson	07920 116497
George Dow	07801 613127
Mike Hatfield	0141 644 4530
Fred Hearle	0141 644 5699
Mhairi Hearle	0141 644 5699
Jeanie Lawson	0141 644 3029
Willie Lawson	0141 644 4414
Liz Leslie	0141 644 4291
Iain Lowdon	0141 631 2594
Ann MacDonald	0141 644 3782
David Miller	01355 513 643
Elaine Roxby	0141 644 1809
Jean Thompson	0141 637 4339
Helen Thomson	0141 239 6071
John Wright	07484 704166
Ian Marshall	0141 647 7926
Joyce Bell	0141 644 1361

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Graham Campbell	01355 223 430
Caroline Davidson	07801 911466
Jim Hamilton	07817 613476
Carolyn Hatfield	0141 644 4530
Jeff Hawkins	0141 237 4225
Sandra Hawkins	0141 237 4225

The Church of Scotland

The Church of Scotland is the
National Church of Scotland.
It is in the Reformed Tradition and
part of the Universal Church.



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