LINK

Harvest 2026



Baldernock Parish Church

Linking the Parish

Reverend Lynsey Brennan



Baldernock Harvest

Pastoral Letter x

Dear Friends,

Harvest
As we come into this season of Harvest, we are reminded that growth takes time. Seeds are planted, tended, watered and, in time, bear fruit. And perhaps Harvest invites us not only to look back with gratitude, but also to look forward with hope.
Baldernock church has always had something distinctive about it. It is warm and welcoming; peaceful; a place of rest and quiet; a place where there is room for silence, and where we believe the Spirit moves. These are precious gifts, and they are part of the story of who we are.
As we seek to partner with God in discerning our action plan and our future, we are praying for a vision that God himself births, a vision that is life-breathed and that springboards life in Jesus' name. We want to dream not simply about what we can do, but about what God might grow among us.
So we invite you to dream with us:
What would it look like to you if Baldernock became the church you'd always hoped for?
And if Baldernock Church could offer you one thing, what would it be?
(Do tell me your answers to these questions: Lbrennan@churchofscotland.org.uk)
As we dream, vision and partner with God, may it cement all that we are, all that we have been, and all that we could be together.
At Harvest, we remember that God is a God of growth, new beginnings and abundant life. And so we hold onto his promise:
"Look! I am doing a new thing." (Revelation 21:5).
May we have the courage to notice it, the faith to nurture it, and the joy of seeing it bear fruit.

Please as always do reach out if myself or Rev John can help or support you in anyway.

Love and blessings.
Your minister. Lynsey x

Dear Friends,

This song has been buzzing around my head over these last few days.

“Try to remember the kind of September When life was slow and oh, so mellow. Try to remember the kind of September When grass was green and grain was yellow…”

As autumn begins to settle around us; we enter once again into the beautiful season of harvest. The fields are gathered in, gardens offer their final colourful displays, and the trees slowly release their golden leaves. Harvest is a time when we naturally pause to remember and give thanks — for food, for creation, for those who work to provide it, and above all for the generosity and goodness of God.

However, for some within our church family, this season may bring a mixture of emotions. While we celebrate harvest, there may be an empty place where someone we love once sat and when we remember them, it may be with a sore heart.

If that is your experience, please know that there is a place for your sadness within our church community. Joy and grief can sit alongside one another. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who grieve for they shall be comforted”. We can give thanks for the blessings of today, while re-membering with love those who have gone before us. The laughter, memories and love we shared with them remain part of who we are.

I`m leading a Griefshare course which supports and helps people come to terms with their grief. It will be run at St Pauls Church, starting on Wednesday 7th October from 10.30 – 12.00. If you are interested in joining this course, you are welcome to contact me for further information.

May the joy of the harvest season fill our church with thanksgiving, our fellowship with warmth, and our hearts with a renewed awareness of God's goodness as we try to remember “the fire of September that made us mellow…”

With every blessing,

John MacGregor

07387 851020 Pastoral Assistant

5th - 6th September, Baldernock was the centre of attention

At least with the Kirk open for both afternoons and the Chris Hoy Bike Ride on the Sunday afternoon, it was a joy to see so many getting to know the Baldernock countryside as well as discovering - for many - that our church is very much open and active!
Thanks to Tesco for donating refreshments for the spectators and any tired cyclists, of which there were a few who paused on their journey.
One gasping cyclist was told that coffee was available in the church and when asked if she had been in Baldernock previously replied, no I am from Bristol, and so our hospitality fame is now well travelled.
As Baldernock was well publicised in the Open Days booklet we had approximately 40-50 visitors over the two days with many unaware that we are still an active, worshipping congregation, and so we were delighted to correct that belief..
Of course many were interested in the history of the church, and so it was a great pleasure to move on to show them the proposed extension drawings and describing our ambitions for the future.
Two particular observations were “it is so calming in here” - “it is so peaceful in here”
The cycle ride itself demonstrated the difficulties that many have to face yet deal with them head on supported by friends and relatives, and prayers
Our own session clerk, Alison, took part in the ride as well as those suffering fom cancer - they were wearing the brown armbands



They may “look sweet on a bicycle built for two” but this gentleman deserves our prayers, he is a cancer sufferer



Our Session Clerk Alison Hazel joined the many riders who were takng part raisng funds for the Beatson

Baldernock Harvest Thanksgiving



A previous Harvest celebration showing fresh produce grown, literally, around the parish

Our thanksgving service always has a special meaning as we are surrounded by the beautiful countryside of our parish. Whilst it is a delight to cycle and walk around the places we live and worship, we remember that it also provides the food we need on a daily basis and it does not happen by magic.

Travelling around the parish it is difficult not to feel grateful to the farmers and their families, blessed with God's guidance, to deliver our needs. Our thanksgiving may just be once a year yet daily we see sheep and cattle moved from field to field, tractors ploughing and harvesting, walls being re-built and much more.

So, on the 4th October we gather at 9.30 to offer our thanks for all that we have been provided with and your contributions may be left at Church on Saturday morning 10-12 or brought to church for the service.

Donations go to The Lodging House Mission, Glasgow.


From darkness came power.
From power came glory.
Power & Glory
A Journey from Darkness to Discovery to the Dawn of Electricity

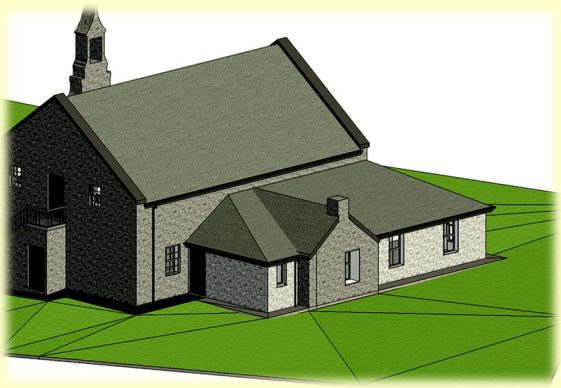
Movie Nights

We are holding the world premiere... Yes, WORLD PREMIERE... of our own Norman Stone's latest Feature Film Drama - **'Power and the Glory'.** Set in the 1800's this is the story of about (slum-born) Michael Faraday, and his dangerous harnessing of Electricity, which changed the entire world. This **World-First** screening of this movie will be shown in Baldernock Church, on the 16th of October. with the Director being available for questions after the show.
Free Entrance and Refreshments for all viewers.

ALSO… we would like to follow up with some more movie nights at Baldernock, initially featuring some of Norman's other films such as 'Man Dancin' (Funny, edgy and emotional, this is a powerful, contemporary gangster movie with an unusual ray of hope at its core.) and 'The Most Reluctant Convert' (An elder C.S. Lewis looks back on his remarkable journey from hard-boiled atheist to the most renowned Christian writer of the past century).
In the New Year we will move on to other films, potentially including a matinee for younger 'movie goers'.

Power and Glory

This is a full length feature film lasting approx. 1hr 45 mins with doors opening at 6pm



Church Extension

Although progress slowed down over the summer. We have been liaising with EDC who have now organised work on the stone walls surrounding the graveyard.

We met with the architects who informed us that the granting of the Building Warrant is imminent as all queries raised have been answered and we are now waiting for the report from the heating engineer as to the most efficient way to heat the church including the new extension.

Once we have that and the scope of works from our Quantity Surveyor we will be ready to go out to tender to establish the actual costs of the proposed work; the tender will include all items of maintenance needed to be undertaken as a requirement of the interim fabric report from Presbytery.

Once we have the figures, we will approach Presbytery for permission to get started and hope that we would be able to commence work early in the New Year.

A new scheme has been announced on the 18th August 2026 – Historic Environment Scotland Listed Places of Worship Scheme which appears to allow Listed Buildings to recover VAT on Building works, replacing the previous scheme which was withdrawn late last year. There is only a limited amount of funding available, but if we are able to take advantage of this, it will be of significant assistance to Baldernock.

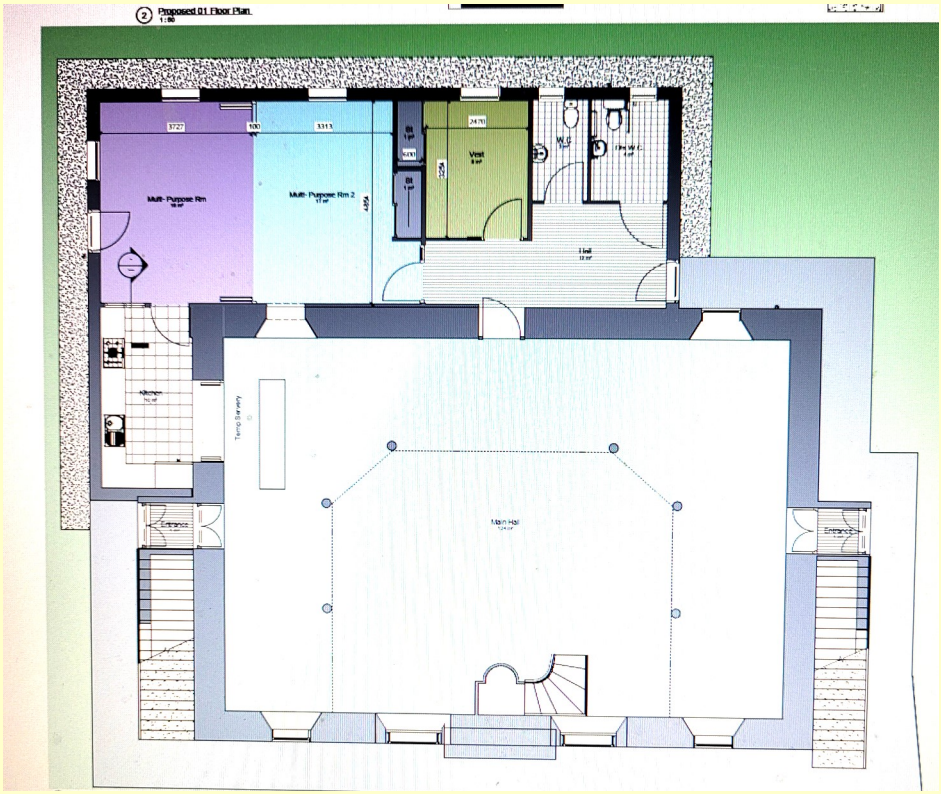
The team would like to thank you for your continued trust, support and prayer.

Mark Hazell

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Baldernock Church Extension

A reminder of the plans for the extension that now has full planning consent and the article on the opposiste page provides an update of the progress to date - nearly there!



Note The final, approved proposal,excludes the servery into the Church from the kitchen.

Swaziland Schools Project

As many of the Baldernock Congregation will know we have been supporting students for many years to attend school in Swaziland and we do this by filling smartie sweet tubes with 20p coins - or larger! - and then Winifred Docherty transfers the funds tp assist the school students arrangements.
We regulary receive updates from the Swaziland Schools Project and the recent correspondence includes a letter from a grateful student.

Dear sponsor,
My name is Siyabulela Thandolwethu Khumalo and I am incredibly grateful for the bursary I received from Swaziland Schools Projects, and the support will help me in many ways.
I can assure you that I will not fail an exam, repeat any class or drop out of school.
I am in form 2B and my favourite sports are football and table tennis.
This academic year is better than the previous year as I was struggling to adapt to the new high school environment.
I would like to thank SSP and their donors for letting me have a high school education…
I can assure you that I will not disappoint you.
Yours sincerely,
Siyabulela





Another Milestone

SSP's journey over the last 27 years has led to many major achievements and milestones and another one is around the corner!

We have built 18 brand new classrooms but at our next building project at Maphalaleni primary school we will reach the incredible figure of having renovated 100 classrooms!!!

Our Trustees: The People Behind the Charity

Matthew Lawson, Chairman of SSP writes:
Behind every school we support, every bursary we fund and every project we deliver in eSwatini, there is a small board of volunteer trustees in the UK giving their time **freely to guide the charity.**



Baldernock support through your smartie tube donations is so very much appreciated and we hope you will continue.
If you are interested in adding to the donations please do speak to me and thanks you for all your contributions to date
Winnifred Docherty



Community Information

Yes, this is the magazine of the Baldernock Parish Church but we are also deeply involved with much that happens within the Parish, not least the Tennis club.
Bardowie Tennis club has experienced a resurgence of interest owing to the influx of some new families to the area, many of whose children are attending the Primary School. There have been a number of events such as barbecues and social gatherings as well as tennis and pickleball sessions. One challenge has been trying to get a coach for the children as coaches attached to other clubs are not available at the times convenient to our youngsters as the junior members in their own clubs have the same time constraints.

I am training to become an LTA coach and the tennis club is offering activities for children and beginners which I am now leading

Mark Hazell

Baldernock LINK magazine

As we move forward on many fronts, with the physical development of our building in parallel with the shaping of an updated Mission Plan it is perhaps right that we look at how LINK reflects what Baldernock represents to the Congregation, the Parish and indeed wider afield.

Following the recent Doors Open Days,it is clear that the history of our Church is so important to many. When explaining that to visitors it was a pleasure to say - “well, that is where we have come from” but more importantly, is where we are heading” and going on to discuss the extension proposals and how we plan to use the new facilities!

The past, present and future need to be the core elements of our magazine, not necessarily in strict order nor indeed evident in every edition, but helping to shape how we present our worship to all, near and far.

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Any omissions/errors/spelling mistakes are entirely the responsibility of the editor Brian Atkinson - with my apologies