



### Dear Friends

2025 is a special year for Lenzie Union and many other churches across Scotland as we move forward with the proposed Mission Plan and grasp the opportunities that a union can bring.

2025 is also a special year as it is the one hundredth birthday of Lenzie Union's pulpit. It is 100 years since the Women's Guild gifted our current pulpit to the church. Morag Barron who has played the angel in the Christmas Experience for several years had an epiphany moment in December 2024. Morag hides behind the open pulpit door until she needs to appear to the Shepherds. This ensures the children are not aware of her until it is time to walk into the bright light shining in front of the shepherds.

While Morag was quietly hiding there during a rehearsal in December she noticed on the inside of the pulpit door a brass plaque and fetched her specs to read the following.....

**"The pulpit was given by the Women's Guild on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1925"**

So Morag had found it just when the pulpit was about to enjoy a very special birthday on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025. We will publish a photograph of the plaque as soon as we get one.

We are reminded that when Jesus had helped the disabled man at the pool of Bethesda the Jewish leaders began to persecute him for working on the Sabbath. Jesus said to them "My father is always at his work to this very day and I too am working".

John 5:17

"Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy."

Matthew 5:7

Isn't it wonderful to think of all the good news which has been broadcast from that pulpit over the last one hundred years from four ministers of Lenzie Union and many others. Oh that our pulpit could talk....and thankyou to the Guild members of more than 100 years ago for their generosity.

Morag, Fiona, and Drena

### Church Family News

We celebrated the baptism of **Huw Deacon** at our family Nativity service on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. We give thanks for Huw, and ask for God's blessing on him, mum and dad Katie and Gregor and big sister Rae.

**Mrs Di Lynch** wishes to thank everyone who sent cards, flowers and words of support in recent weeks. Di and the family very much appreciate the support during this difficult time.

The family of **Mrs Jessie Reid** also thank everyone in the church who cared for Jessie over the years, and ensured she was able to attend church services. They also appreciated help given with Jessie's funeral service, the beautiful flowers and lovely music on the day.

## Sunday Services

**26<sup>th</sup> January 11.00am** – Mission and Discipleship Team will lead, with a focus on Mission

**2<sup>nd</sup> February 11.00am** – Joint Cluster Service in Lenzie Old Parish Church. There will be no Service in Lenzie Union

**9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**February 11.00am** – Mr John Nicolson will lead a series entitled “Who is Jesus”

**2<sup>nd</sup> March 11.00am** – Mrs Roberta Logan

## Mission Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 25

This Sunday's service will see Lenzie Union focussing on 3 of the main areas of mission that our church supports As well as looking at the ongoing local work in **Lodging House Mission**, with whom we have had a close working relationship for many years, we will also receive an update on the 2 overseas mission projects that LUPC supports financially and in prayer. Callum Henderson, from **Comfort International**, will be visiting us on Sunday and bringing us up-to-date with the work in **Rwanda**. Alan Logan will also be telling us the latest news and prayer items from **Graeme and Bequi Innes's Moldovan mission project**

Gordon Menzies

## Roberta Logan will attend a course on Designing and Leading Christian Worship

Between January and March, I am attending the course "Designing and Leading Christian Worship" run by Trinity College and the University of Glasgow with a variety of tutors and guest speakers. The focus of the course is to explore Christian worship, its history and theology and to give participants the skills to engage reflectively with their own church tradition and a wider range of worship and musical resources and to provide the opportunity to write or select prayers, music, readings and other elements and combine them into an integrated worship order that is biblically centred, sensitive to context, and engages participation.

I am particularly looking forward to the sessions on using the creative arts in worship and intergenerational worship and I hope my learning and experience will be of benefit to our worshipping community of Lenzie Union.

Roberta Logan

## You are warmly invited

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February** there will be a lunch after the service. Our first of 2025!  
Any dietary requirements to Sheila Milligan please on 07815851777

**Sundays Lighthouse** starts in church and moves into the New Hall for crafts, stories and games. For primary age and younger

**Sunday Bible Class** for secondary age meets in church and moves to the Atrium for Chat, video, quiz with a message

**Youth Café** meets on Thursdays 3.45 for an hour of fun, food, games, chat, music and pool. For secondary age young people



December Messy Church



**February Messy Church**  
**Will take place in Lenzie Union**  
**in the New Hall**  
**on 8<sup>th</sup> February**  
**4.00 till 5.00**

Children all welcome just bring an adult!

**Messy Church dates until June**  
**February 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**March 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**April 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**May 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**June 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Lenzie Loves Lego dates to be advised soon**

Lenzie Union's Pulpit is not the only piece of history we are celebrating. The Wednesday Coffee morning at the Meeting Place is now in its 39<sup>th</sup> year. We have been so lucky over that time to have had so many dedicated volunteers to serve and clear up each week. However due to illness and retirements our team now has only 4 regular members and **we'd love to recruit more people to help.**

"Pay" is in the form of tea/coffee and a goodie, and you'll have a chance for a blether with our friendly team and our customers. If you are able to join us either on a regular basis or on a rota, please contact Iris on 776 5170, at church, or at the Meeting place any Wednesday morning 10.00am

Iris Williamson

## **1<sup>st</sup> LENZIE COMPANY BOYS' BRIGADE – JANUARY 2025**

Having hoped that we had the staffing situation in the Company resolved for the medium term, we have just recently learned that the two registered officers in charge of the Anchor Boys, Jonny & Caroline MacDonald will be leaving at the end of this session, due to work pressures and other family commitments. We are incredibly grateful to Caroline and Jonny for their long years of service with anchor Boys. They will be missed.

This will leave the Anchor Boys with no registered officers and five helpers who attend on a rota basis. The Anchor Boys will not be able to operate on this basis as there must be registered leaders in attendance. As it takes time to recruit and process new officers including the requirement to attend Boys' Brigade Youth Leadership Training it is urgent that new volunteers come forward.

There is still a general requirement for more registered officers for both Junior & Company Sections as current officers are still working in these sections having already intimated their retiral and cannot be expected to continue indefinitely.

If you are able to offer, or perhaps know of someone who would be prepared to consider enrolling as an officer please contact the Company Correspondent, Hugh Wright (0141 578 0608 or email [hugh.wright7@ntlworld.com](mailto:hugh.wright7@ntlworld.com)). The Company would certainly appreciate prayerful support as we face uncertainty.

On a brighter note we can report that the three sections have restarted after the Christmas/New Year break and are looking forward to the spring session ahead with 19 boys in the Company Section, 18 in the Junior Section and 19 in the Anchor Boys. Three Company Section boys have reached the last four in Scotland in the B.B. U.K. national chess championships. They have already travelled to Dundee twice, Polmont once and will now be travelling to Scone for the semi-final. The 5 a side football team will be playing next Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb in the next round of that competition in Dundee!!

Company Section boys enjoyed a ten-pin bowling night before Christmas, Junior Section attended the pantomime at the Lanternhouse Theatre, Cumbernauld, and Anchor Boys had a Christmas party in the New Hall with Santa making a surprise appearance.

Hugh Wright Company Correspondent

## Presbytery Mission Plan Update Jan 2025

As you will be aware, a proposed union of Lenzie Old and Lenzie Union churches is due to take place by the end of 2025. A 'Basis of Union' has to be drawn up, and agreed by both Kirk Sessions and both congregations before a union can take place. The main points of this document will state the name of the new church, the ministry allocation and the building that will be the principal place of worship. Neither Lenzie Union nor Lenzie Old will be able to call a new minister until the proposed union takes place. The united congregation will then go through the process of appointment, when permitted.

Both Kirk Sessions met together 4 times during the first half of 2024, and updates were provided to both congregations after these meetings. As anticipated, the discussion on buildings was the main focus of the later meetings, and it was agreed that more information was required from both churches in order to further our discussion. The gathering of this information to provide detail for both churches on a 'like for like' basis has taken up to the end of last year.

Over the summer both churches had a walk around inspection by the Presbytery Buildings Officer. Both churches produced documents on their buildings condition and finance projections (as far as is possible). With the agreement of both Kirk Sessions in November, a drone survey of the roofs of both churches has been arranged, and should take place in the next few weeks.

A Steering Group has now been formed, to include 5 office bearers/elders from each congregation, plus both Interim Moderators, and our facilitator Alison Fenton. Both Kirk Sessions have agreed that this group has a mandate to :

- Fully discuss all areas relevant to the completion of a Basis of Union
- Present proposals to each Kirk Session for consideration, in respect of mission, buildings, finance etc

**NO decisions will be made by the steering group, but instead proposals for the Basis of Union will go to individual Kirk Sessions for agreement AND ULTIMATELY TO A VOTE BY EACH CONGREGATION.**

The steering group had a first meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January, and will meet again on 6<sup>th</sup> February when a member of the Presbytery Implementation Group will be invited to attend. Any news will be relayed through the monthly Update, and separate papers as required. We plan to provide opportunity for discussion and questions at our Annual Congregational Meeting in March.

## **GIVING TO GOD – A Time to Review**

It's not new within the church, and so you, as members, will be familiar with the challenge, as we start another year, to consider prayerfully how much the current work of the church means to you and whether you can help us keep doing what we do, particularly mindful of supporting our employees and higher energy costs, through a modest uplift in your regular givings.

As most of you helpfully contribute by Standing Order this is easily achieved using your direct banking or writing to your bank. A form is also available from the church if you require assistance. Please ask your Elder or the Treasurer.

Any assistance will be a welcome contribution to what will remain a year of uncertainty in the light of current Presbytery Mission Plan discussions. I look forward to sharing the challenges of another year, and wish you and your families every blessing this new year. **Ken MacLeod, Treasurer**

## **2024 – A YEAR OF CHANGE**

The departure of minister Dan and his family to pastures new earlier in the year was without doubt our biggest change. Being unable to call a replacement minister due to the current Presbytery Mission Plan meant that the services of many others, both external and from within, were called upon. This included an introduction to our Interim Moderator Kleber Machado who brought with him a wealth of experience as well as an interesting background. The change also generated a welcome range of resources, providing yet more evidence of the talents that exist within our membership.

Changes within the membership were recorded with the sad loss of some valued friends of many years and our thoughts and prayers are with their families at this time. Our church organisations, in particular our Boys' and Girls' Brigades welcomed new leaders and assistants to maintain their varied programmes and we are grateful for these volunteers.

The church opened its new website recently and we encourage you to visit it and to provide feedback on its effectiveness. Key to this is advertising a friendly and active church that welcomes all.

Reporting on the nine months of our financial year to September, the Treasurer welcomed the fact that income levels have been sustained despite the above changes and that, with an allocation of £10,000 from the Mackenzie legacy fund in support of our major youth work costs, LUPC was breaking even. Unfortunately he also reminded us of the much higher energy costs kicking in with onset of winter months that would affect our results, although we are able to allocate £5,000 from the Stewardship appeal earlier this year to offset these increases. Whilst too early for an annual position to be declared, he hopes that your generosity this year will allow us to report something close to breakeven later in the month. Support from the legacy in 2025 at a similar level to last year is available but will fully utilise such funds leaving our current running costs unsupported thereafter. Hence we stress the importance of ensuring that our regular givings are reviewed annually.

Whilst 2025 will inevitably see more changes it is good to know that Lenzie Union is relatively well resourced, both financially, and importantly, with many talented members. **Ken MacLeod, Treasurer**

# Thankyou

Thanks to Heidi and Charlie Campbell for the bookcase which means the area next to the organ is now much tidier.

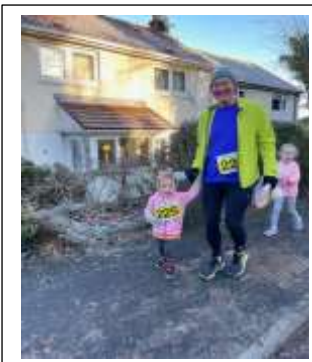
A retiring collection at our family Christmas Eve service raised £380.83 which will help support the work of the Lodging House Mission. Thanks to all who contributed



## Lodging House Mission

A very big thank you to Lenzie Union from their generosity in giving for both the Harvest and Christmas appeals. Without this generosity LHM couldn't carry out the important work of serving those on the margins of society. THANK YOU

*Some pictures from Christmas Experience, Afternoon Tea, and the Lenzie Jog*



# Robert Burns

S	E	I	S	S	A	L	Y	R	U	A	A	E	M
H	M	M	E	G	L	E	O	T	E	Y	Y	P	L
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R	U	O	S	G	E	R	E	W	L	R	E	D	Y
D	C	S	O	R	M	N	O	O	E	S	O	R	D
L	H	E	T	O	A	L	C	R	T	O	D	O	L
U	L	Y	U	E	L	H	D	A	Y	U	N	S	E
A	I	R	J	A	L	R	U	R	M	G	A	H	F
B	N	T	A	E	A	I	T	F	R	D	T	A	R
U	E	E	A	B	O	E	R	O	E	A	I	N	E
R	R	O	T	M	O	I	F	L	M	O	O	T	B
N	M	N	S	P	E	A	U	Y	R	E	N	E	A
S	A	Y	R	S	H	I	R	E	A	U	A	R	O
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JEAN  
 FARMER  
 ALLOWAY  
 ABERFELDY  
 DUMFRIES  
 LASSIES  
 MAUCHLINE  
 POETRY  
 ROSE  
 NATIONAL  
 BARD  
 LOCHLEA  
 BURNS  
 AULD  
 ROBERT  
 MOOSE  
 OSHANTER  
 RED  
 TAM  
 ARMOUR  
 BONNIE  
 AYRSHIRE  
 MEG

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