

Langtoun Central Church

Union of Abbotshall, Bennochy, Linktown, and St Bryce Kirk congregations

Welcome to Worship

12th January 2025 11am
1st Sunday after Epiphany—The Baptism of Jesus



Led by—Stewart McPherson & Ewan Ritchie
Music—Stewart Abercrombie

Bible readings for this week

Isaiah 43.1-7; Psalm 29;
Acts 8.14-17; Luke 3.15-17,21-22

Water has all the symbols of danger, cleansing, renewal, refreshment, fear, death and new life, so no wonder it was used as a symbol in scripture when a powerful message was required. Isaiah speaks of going through deep water and being afraid; the Psalm speaks of storms and overwhelming tides; the people of God travelled through the red sea and across the river Jordan to freedom. Going through the waters was symbolic of an arduous, scary, but necessary road to freedom. Symbolised in the Baptism of Jesus, he enters the journey to freedom, immersing himself in a commitment to God's love for his people.

This Sunday, when we recall Jesus' baptism it does not stand in isolation but links the breath of God giving order to the chaotic waters at the dawn of creation; revisits the Old Testament journey of the people of God through difficulty and fear; continues the Christmas story when the holy family had to flee to a safe land through the fear of Herod; and it is another Epiphany moment which reveals to us something of the very nature of God. "Do not be afraid. When you pass through troubled waters I will be with you!" Isaiah 43.2

Ministry News

Worship

Sunday 19th January
in St Bryce at 11am
Sunday 26th January
in Linktown at 11am
All led by Stewart McPherson

Interim Minister

Stewart McPherson, is serving as your Interim Minister on a part-time basis which will include a Sunday and two days each week. Obviously establishing a working pattern will take a little time. However, it can mean, for example, some delays in replying to emails.

Assistant Minister

Ewan Ritchie is sharing his time between Langtoun and Heart of Fife Church (Glenrothes area), where he will focus on pastoral care and funerals as well as participating in worship.

Pastoral Care

If there is anyone you are aware of in hospital or at home or Care Home you feel would appreciate a visit, then please get in touch.

Check out our website langtouncentralchurch.org.uk

Find us on Facebook [Langtoun Central Church](https://www.facebook.com/LangtounCentralChurch)

Published by Langtoun Central Church of Scotland Charity Number: SC031064

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Order of Service

Please feel free to stand or remain seated during hymns
An induction loop is installed. Switch hearing aid to 'T' position.



GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Offerings received in the plate as we enter church
The Bible brought in as a symbol of God's Word among us
Welcome and intimations draw us together

WORSHIPPING GOD TOGETHER

Minister God created us,
All and gave us life
God formed us,
and called us by name.
God redeemed us,
and made us his own
God gathers us together,
and calls us his people.

CH4.234 'Tis winter now, the fallen snow
Offering brought forward during singing

Prayer including Lord's Prayer

All-Age Talk Called by name

CH4.191 Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you

Youngsters may now leave for activities in the hall

REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Readings Isaiah 43:1-7 God Promises to Rescue His People
Luke 3:15-17 & 21-22 The Baptism of Jesus

Reader Ewan Ritchie

CH4.619 & 620 Spirit of the living God (remain seated to sing)

Sermon Called my beloved

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CH4.722 Spirit of God come dwell within me

Prayer Gratitude & Concern

CH4.336 Christ is our light!

GOD'S BLESSING & DISMISSAL

All say Amen

All sing **CH4.803—We will walk with God!**

SHARING IN FELLOWSHIP

Refreshments Served in the hall after worship

A prayer on the Baptism of Jesus

May the baptism of Christ remind me of my own calling
That I might immerse myself anew into the abundant life you offer
living as one, whom you have called beloved,
upon whom you have poured out your spirit,
to identify with those in need,
humbling myself to your service,
fulfilling the potential you place in me.
Forgiven, Cleansed, Replenished, renewed
and willing to take up the cup of baptism you offer.

Intimations – 12th January 2025

Kirk Session

Your elders will meet together for the first time following worship on Sunday 19th for fellowship over a soup lunch before constituting as the Kirk Session. At that meeting a few items will require to be decided, some priorities set, and a date arranged for the next meeting a few weeks later. Please pray for all your elders as they come together to make plans and decisions for our journey.

Induction of Andrea Fraser

Rev Andrea Fraser, who was for a time Interim Moderator at Abbotshall, is being inducted this afternoon at 3pm - Sunday 12th January – as one of the ministry team at Forthview Church. The service is in Dalgety Church which will be the community of her main focus along with Aberdour.

Church Ceilidh

Langtoun Central Church is holding a Ceilidh, at Bennoch Halls, on February 22nd between 7.30 and 10pm. The Ceilidh band "Quern" have very kindly offered to play for us, and it will be held in aid of CHAS (Children's Hospices across Scotland). Tickets costing £7.50, to include light refreshments, will be available at the church door on Sundays. We hope this will enable further integration of our members, both off and, especially, on the dance floor. "Organised by our Social Team

Communication

Fife Free Press

The Communication Team met this week to make plans. Such things as updating church noticeboards, editing and producing a newsletter, weekly intimations, press releases were all discussed and some arrangements made. For example, any items of church matters for the Fife Free Press will be submitted on behalf of the church by Beryl Luke, berylluke@gmail.com and tel. 07801 511864. Please notify her by Monday lunchtime if you wish anything included in the press notice. As usual, organisations and groups should continue to deal with their own publicity.

Website

A new website is now live and will be developing as we go on, looked after by Allan Morton. Initially you will find links to the websites of the four churches. Search for **langtounchurch.org.uk**

Facebook

There is also a new Facebook page for the church being moderated by Nancy Gilmartin and Maura Lee where you will find posts and information about our congregational life. Search for, and 'like', and even become a 'friend' of **Langtoun Central Church**.

Streaming

Streaming of services from Bennoch can be accessed on either Bennoch or Langtoun websites from this Sunday.

Olive Branch Café

Unfortunately, due to staff illness, the Olive Branch Café will not now open until Thursday 23rd January.

New Quiz

Bob's new quiz on TV quizzes and games is now available, online and in the hall, along with answers to the previous 'puddings' quiz.

Bennochty Bells

The Handbell Ringers resume on Tuesday 4th February at 2.30pm. New members very welcome. Contact Margaret Simpson.

Assistance please

As you are aware our Church Officer, Peter Chapman left his position effective 5th January and Lorraine Fairful has indicated she will be resigning from her position as Halls Convenor effective 1st February.

It would have been inappropriate to offer these positions to others whilst the future staffing of Langtoun was being considered, so we need to offer these positions to whoever is willing to assist on an interim basis until the new Kirk Session decides on the future staffing structure.

Both these positions were salaried and I feel it only fair that we offer these payments as an incentive to whoever takes on the role until the decisions are made by the Kirk Session.

Can I seek your assistance please to either considering to take on one of these roles or reach out to someone who you feel would be most suited to help out. Training would be given.

Please direct any interested parties to me please.

Many thanks
George

January Blues

During January, in the Bennochty Church building, there will be a number of 'warm space' sessions when all are welcome to come along and enjoy some company, play board games, do a jigsaw, read, knit or just relax and listen to music. Soup and hot drinks will be available. Sessions are on

Sundays,	1 – 3pm
Mondays,	11.15am – 1.15pm
Thursdays,	3 – 5pm.

Intimations

If anyone has anything they wish intimated in the next few weeks please either submit in the normal way or, preferably, email Stewart as early in the week as possible.