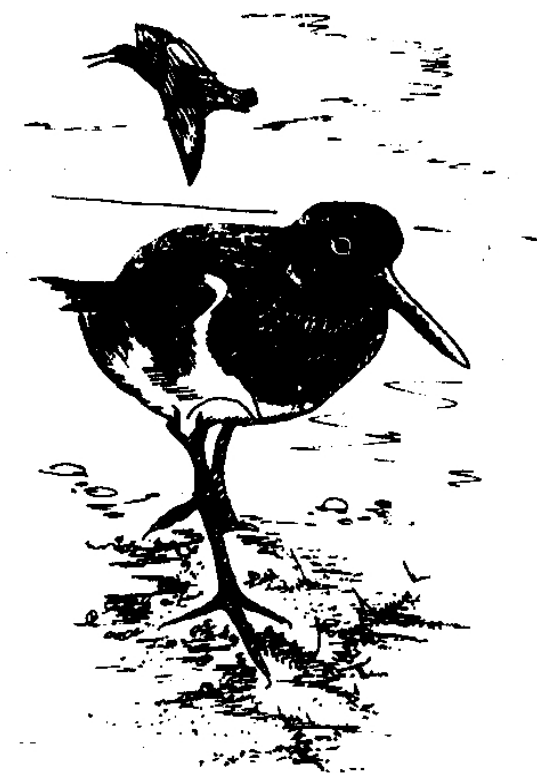


THE OYSTERCATCHER



THE MAGAZINE OF ST BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

KELVINSIDE, GLASGOW

NUMBER 441 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Scottish Episcopal Church Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

**ST BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
KELVINSIDE, GLASGOW**

69 Hyndland Road, Glasgow, G12 9UX
A Charity registered in Scotland, No. SC012625

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Rector's Warden:

Vacant

Lay Representative:

Mrs Carol Lovett

Alternative Lay Representative:

Dr John Davies

North-West Regional Council

Representative:

Pastoral Assistant:

Dr John Davies

VESTRY

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Mrs Carol Lovett

Mrs Anne Clackson

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PASTORAL LETTER

Dear friends,

How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

This is a verse from Psalm 137, a lament by the People of God during the exile in Babylon. Many leaders and people from Judah had been forced into exile in Babylon, and all their familiar patterns of life with God had been taken away from them. The loss of the Temple in Jerusalem was particularly bitter as the daily Temple worship which was at the heart of their faith could no longer take place.

I have now been your priest-in-charge for eighteen months. I have been generously welcomed by you, and I feel greatly encouraged by you in my ministry—I certainly don't feel that I am singing the Lord's song in exile! However, the situation of Christians in Scotland is very different from what I had expected. The closure of many Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic church buildings has affected us all. According to the Scotland Churches Trust, 114 Church of Scotland churches have recently closed, and at least 547 are in process of being assessed for closure—although a proportion of these will remain open; the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Glasgow is said to be closing about a third of its churches over the coming five years. In our own Diocese, Bishop Nicholas will certainly have to consider some church amalgamations and closures.

These are sobering figures, and coming freshly to Scotland it seems that many Christians are in mourning. Some of the structures that have sustained the Christian communities for many years have fallen away. At times in the wider community I have sensed not simply indifference, but actual hostility to the faith.

To be clear, I am confident that, under God, St Bride's will not close. Bishop Nicholas has already spoken to me—several times—of his hopes for St Bride's. We certainly face a significant challenge, particularly how to fund our work, but we must not lose heart. So, how can we sing the Lord's song in this strange land?

Many people in Scotland have lost belief in a God who acts in the world, and so God is reduced to a feeling, or wishful thinking. People have lost hope in a lifegiving future. They feel disconnected as if there is no authentic community to bind us together. This is not the case for everyone living in the West End, but is certainly true for many. In some deeper conversations with people who do not have faith, this bleak sense that their life has no meaning or purpose is clear.

In a time such as this, the calling of the Church is not to focus on getting people in the door, but to foster real encounters with the living God. I have always appreciated the Burning Bush is on the shield of the Church of Scotland. Moses came across this strange bush in the desert, burning but not charred up by fire, its leaves still green. It was there that Moses discovered God's name, Yahweh (or "I am who I am"). This fiery God is a God who acts.

As I look forward to the Annual Meeting and the coming year, I am ever more convinced that our focus on the beauty of God, given and received in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, is rightly at the core of our vocation as Christians in St Bride's, and of effective mission. In caring for the local community, we fulfil our calling as Christians to serve others, and show others why our faith is important; in our worship, through singing, music, light, colour, incense, Holy Scripture, participating in a real community where we belong, and silence—perhaps particularly silence—we invite people to meet the God who acts, who is fire.

As I reflect on eighteen months of ministry in St Bride's, I believe that we are being called to sing a new song, not a song of exile, but a song of hope and joy, Psalm 96, O sing unto the Lord a new song...O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

With my prayers and good wishes,

Peter

Fr Peter Bradley
Priest-in-Charge

GLASGOW DOORS OPEN DAYS FESTIVAL 2025

St Bride's is preparing a rich and varied programme of events for our visitors during this annual event.

Over the weekend we are inviting people to enjoy and explore our church's fine interior and rich musical tradition with a programme of themed tours, workshops, and special events including talks, a community singing workshop and concert all celebrating the music of Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), the first woman to compose western music.

Hildegard of Bingen was composing music in the twelfth century including the year 1175 AD, when Glasgow was granted the status of a burgh. Our programme of musical workshops and performances celebrating her life is also linked to the Glasgow 850 commemorations.

If you can support the event by welcoming visitors, helping with serving refreshments and conducting short stained glass tours over the course of the weekend, please speak to Harry or email him at harrydunlop@yahoo.com

Full Programme details can also be found at:
www.doorsopendays.org.uk/regions/glasgow/st-bride-s-scottish-episcopal-church

Programme Highlights

Saturday 20 September

The Art of Assemblage

12 noon - 15:00

In this workshop led by author, artist and illustrator Ben Morse, you can learn the art of collage and create your very own artwork from a range of printed materials.

Singing Workshop Come and Sing St Hildegard

12:30- 14:30

All are welcome to take part in this relaxed informal singing workshop. Alan Tavener will help you sing some of St Hildegard of Bingen's music (her Feast Day is 17 September), as well as offering singing tips. You will then have the option to take part in the performance with Canty later in the church at 4.00 p.m.

Beyond the music - the Legacy of Hildegard of Bingen

14:00 - 15:00

Hildegard of Bingen is known for her musical compositions and mystical writings. However, there is more we can learn from this remarkable mediaeval woman.

In this workshop, Father Peter Bradley will lead us through the secret language that Hildegard devised, her work on herbs and healing, her journalling, and her musical morality play. Participants will be able to choose a theme to explore together, and there will be a mediaeval recipe for medicated sweets for everyone to try.



Performance

'The Music of Heaven in all Things' St Hildegard the composer – a talk by Rebecca Tavener, followed after an interval by the concert 'Songs of Celestial Revelations'

16:00 – 18:15

St Hildegard's extraordinary music performed by professional vocal ensemble Canty; Bill Taylor (mediaeval harp and other instruments); The Schola Cantorum of St Bride; Gillean McDougall (reader). Directed by Rebecca Tavener. Community Choir directed by Alan Tavener.

All of the above musical events are facilitated by Cappella Nova and presented as part of its Cappella Nova Outreach at St Bride's programme.

Sunday 21 September

Decoding the Divine

12:30 -13:15

This tour led by Father Peter Bradley, Priest in Charge at Bride's will help you understand and interpret some of the architectural details and symbols found around the church.

A service of Choral Evensong and Benediction

15:30 - 16:30

Enjoy the sights and sounds of the traditional service of evening prayer and Benediction with Plainsong, choral music and organ music.

Events taking place on both Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 September

The St Bride's Great Animal Safari

Saturday 20 September 10:45 - 11:30

Sunday 21 September 11:30 –15:30

If you look hard, you will find carvings of different animals hidden in the woodwork of the church choir stalls.

In this family trail you will go on a safari and see how many different creatures you can find and identify. Beware - some animals might scratch or bite!

Illuminating the Divine – a short tour of St Bride’s Collection of stained glass

Saturday 20 September 10:00 - 10:45 and 11:30 - 12:15

Sunday 21 September 11:45 - 12:30 and 13:30 - 14:15

St Bride’s has a fine collection of stunning stained glass windows dating from the first half of the twentieth century. In this tour you will hear about the makers and design of the windows and some of the stories they illustrate.

A Sense of the Sacred

Saturday 20 September 10:45 - 11:30

Sunday 21 September 14:30 - 15:15

St Bride’s is known for its traditional style of worship and ceremonial. In this workshop you will explore some of the objects used in the ceremonies and services at St Bride’s and how they make worshipping at St Bride’s a rich sensory experience. You will also get a chance to ring the church bell!

Later on in this edition of *The Oystercatcher*, you will find details of the Annual Congregational Meeting which will be held on Sunday 21 September. There are vacancies for various official positions, including two seats on the Vestry. If you think this is a way in which you could serve St Bride’s, why not consider standing for election? If you’d like to know more about what’s involved, please feel free to have a word with me or Father Peter.

Jonathan Lord
Secretary to the Vestry

MUSIC FOR MARY'S MEALS, SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER



You'll have seen these multi-coloured banners for this event on Sunday 7 September...

The church will be open for a special edition of *Sing for Your Life!* on the theme of 'Food, Glorious Food!'. As usual, we invite anyone and everyone to join in, and Alan and Rebecca Tavener will be ready to welcome you at 2.00 for 2.15pm, ending at 3.15pm. That session is free, as usual, but...

...in addition there will be a wonderful programme of live music hosted by Nostrana, beginning at noon, and including some lovely jazz and performances of popular songs from our brass friends of The Bone Collective. To join the party please make a £10 donation to receive a ticket from: tinyurl.com/mfmm25

ANNUAL CONGREGTIONAL MEETING SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place after the Choral Eucharist on Sunday 21 September.

At this meeting, the Reports and Accounts will be received and elections will take place for the following positions:

- **Lay Representative**
- **People's Warden**
- **Two voting members of the Vestry**
- **Alternative Lay Representative**
- **North-West Regional Council Representative**

Nomination forms will be available at the back of church shortly, and should be returned to the Secretary to the Vestry by Sunday 14 September, duly proposed and seconded and accompanied by a statement from the candidate that he or she is willing to stand for election.

The Vestry hopes that all members of the congregation will make a particular effort to attend this important meeting.

**Jonathan Lord
Secretary to the Vestry**

Lay Representative's Report

There has been a distinct lack of Diocesan Events to go to over recent months and then, suddenly, there were two in one week. A bit like the proverbial long wait for a bus and then two turning up together. Firstly, there was the licensing of The Revd Canon Audrey O'Brien Stewart as Priest-in-charge of St Cyprian's, Lenzie. This was a joyous occasion with a full church of many from across the area. Bishop Nick was very laid back and joined in with the relaxed atmosphere where he could. After his sermon he wanted to make Audrey's family feel part of the evening, so he had small gifts for both of her daughters and another for her husband. He told us that her elder daughter, Hazel, had been more than helpful in guiding his choice so he knew all would be well.

The final hymn was 'Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You' and The Revd Audrey said we were all to dance down the aisle as had been done in the film 'Sister Act 2'.

Secondly was the Ordination to the Presbytery of The Revd Margaret Williams at Ardrossan. I've known Margaret for many years, and it was lovely to be able to be there and witness her reach this stage in her journey. Again, it was a very joyous occasion but with the necessary solemnity as and when required. It was lovely to see so many people who had turned out to support her and to be able to catch up with some friends whom I hadn't seen for many years.

I'm extremely grateful to Jonathan for transporting me to the first event and to Wendy for taking me to the second. I couldn't go to any events like these without the help and support of others.

Carol Lovett

Giving to St Bride's

If you would like to give to St Bride's on a regular basis, you can do so by taking out a standing order at your bank and making it payable to:

Account name: St Brides Episcopal Church

Bank: Virgin Money Branch code: 82-12-08 Account number: 30063266



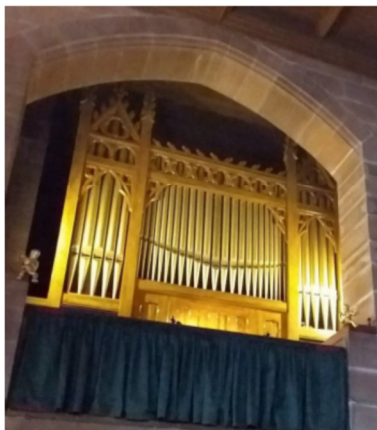
Organ Recitals 2025-26

first Sunday of the Month, 1.00-1.50pm

www.organrecitals.uk



St Bride's Episcopal Church, Glasgow G12 9UX



5 October 2025 Peter Wakeford (Glasgow)

7 December 2025 Alan Kitchen (Wellington Church)

4 January 2026 Eilidh Harris (Glasgow)

1 March 2026 Andrew Forbes (Glasgow Cathedral)

3 May 2026 Students from the Royal Scottish Conservatoire

7 June 2026 Pavlos Triantaris
(Letchworth Traditional Anglican Church)

www.organrecitals.uk

Free admission – donations to our Robert Lamont Music Fund welcome

www.stbridesglasgow.org



St Bride's Episcopal Church is a charity registered in Scotland, No. SC012625



THE REVD DR IVAN DRAPER 1932-2025

St Bride's clergy and congregation past and present were well represented at St Mary's Cathedral on Thursday 28 August as we gathered for a Requiem Mass for The Revd Dr Ivan Draper, who died on Monday 4 August at the age of 92. When I first came to St Bride's in the early 1980s, Ivan and Muriel were among the first people I got to know, and over the years I had many reasons to be grateful for their warm friendship and wise counsel. Muriel, of course, was a regular monthly contributor to this magazine, but Ivan's articles were also welcome, whether it was a sermon which had struck a particular chord or a piece which revealed his deep knowledge of, and sound attention to, doctrinal matters.

The Provost spoke movingly of Ivan's life and his decision to seek ordination after his retirement from his career as a consultant neurologist. There were smiles when he told of an occasion when Ivan was taken ill during a service in St Mary's Cathedral, at one point giving rise to fears that he had passed away. He soon recovered, and in no time was instructing the ambulance crew in how to interpret his own ECG readings.

Father Ivan was our Honorary Assistant Curate at St Bride's from 1990 to 1996, and again from 1999 to 2006. In the intervening period, he was our Interim Priest-in-Charge from 1996 to 1999. In these positions, he was deeply loved by the congregation and steered us through a long interregnum.

May he rest in peace and rise in Glory.

Jonathan Lord

THE OYSTERCATCHER

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Publication date is usually the last Sunday of each month; copy deadline is the penultimate Sunday of the month. The Oystercatcher is the bird traditionally known as "the servant of St Bride". Contributions can be sent to the Editor.

READINGS FOR SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

<i>Sunday 7 September</i> Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	Deuteronomy 30, v 15–20 Psalm 1 Philemon 1–21 Luke 14, v 25–33 <i>(The cost of being a disciple)</i>	Elizabeth Moignard Jo Mannion
<i>Sunday 14 September</i> Holy Cross Day	Numbers 21, v 4–9 Psalm 98 Philippians 2, v 6–11 John 3, v 13–17 <i>(The Son of Man must be lifted up)</i>	Viv Miller Andrew Lockyer
<i>Sunday 21 September</i> Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist	Proverbs 3, v 9–18 Psalm 119, v 33–40 2 Timothy 3, v 14–17 Matthew 9, v 9–13 <i>(The calling of Matthew)</i> CHORAL EVENSONG Psalm 34 Job 28, v 12–28 Matthew 13, v 44–52 <i>(The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field)</i>	Gilly McDougall Jonathan Lord Elizabeth Moignard Jane Ross
<i>Sunday 28 September</i> Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	Amos 6, v 1a, 4–7 Psalm 146, v 7–10 1 Timothy 6, v 11–16 Luke 16, v 19–31 <i>(The rich man and Lazarus)</i>	Talan Ferris-Morris Ebi Japhet

MUSIC FOR SEPTEMBER

Date	Readings	Setting	Psalms	Hymns	Motet	Voluntary Before	Voluntary After
Sunday 7 th 10.30 Trinity XII: Choral Eucharist	Deuteronomy 30.15-20 Philemon 9-10.12-17 Luke 14.25-33	<i>Fauré</i> Messe Basse	1	238, 456, 440, 393	<i>Rebecca Groom</i> <i>te Valde</i> Take up your Cross	<i>J S Bach</i> Andante & Adagio (Trio Sonata 3 in D minor, BWV627)	<i>J S Bach</i> Vivace (Trio Sonata 3 in D minor, BWV627)
Sunday 14 th 10.30 Holy Cross Day: Choral Eucharist	Numbers 21.4-9 Philippians 2.6-11 John 3.13-17	<i>Ireland</i> Communion Service in C	98	95, 90, 83, 76	<i>Philip Moore</i> The Song of Christ's Glory	<i>J S Bach</i> Adagio (Trio Sonata No 1 in E flat, BWV525)	<i>Buxtehude</i> Toccata in F, BuxWV 157
Sunday 21 st 10.30 St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist: Choral Eucharist	Proverbs 3.9-18 2 Timothy 3.14-17 Matthew 9.9-13	<i>Wills</i> Missa Brevis	119. 33-40	476, He sat to watch o'er customs paid, God we praise you! God we bless you!, 436	<i>arr David</i> <i>Blackwell</i> O Thou, whose all-redeeming Might	<i>Stanley Voluntary</i> in A minor, Op 6 No 2	<i>Prizeman</i> Songs of Praise
Sunday 21 st 15.30 St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist: Choral Evensong	Job 28.12-28 Matthew 13.44- 52	<i>Noble</i> Magnificat & Nunc dimittis in B minor	34	215, 216	<i>Bullock</i> Give us the Wings of Faith	<i>Gibbons</i> Prelude for Double organ	<i>Parry</i> Old 104th (words at NEH216) <i>John Gormley</i> , <i>Organist</i>
Sunday 28 th 10.30 Trinity XVII: Choral Eucharist	Amos 6.1a, 4-7 1 Timothy 6.11-16 Luke 16.19-31	<i>Fauré</i> Messe Basse	145. 7-10	376, 464, 333, 368	<i>Boyce, arr</i> <i>Alan Bullard</i> O praise the Lord	<i>Willan</i> Prelude and Fughetta (Five pieces)	<i>Willan</i> Finale Jubilante (Five pieces) <i>John Gormley</i> , <i>Organist</i>

KALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

September

1	Mon	<i>Aidan of Lindisfarne</i> (transferred)	St Aidan's, Clarkston & Fr Nicholas Taylor
2	Tue	<i>The Martyrs of New Guinea, 1901 & 1942</i>	For the Church in Melanesia and the Pacific
3	Wed	<i>Gregory the Great, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, 604</i>	For pastors and teachers of the faith
4	Thu	Feria	For a spirit of gentleness and humility
5	Fri	Feria	For those in prison and all chaplains to prisons
6	Sat	Feria	For the people of the Scottish Borders
7	Sun	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	Life and Ministry of St Bride's
8	Mon	Nativity of the BVM	For children, and for expectant mothers, and for the King
9	Tue	Feria	For all who work in health and social care
10	Wed	Feria	For spiritual directors and all who guide others
11	Thu	Feria	For all engaged in scientific research
12	Fri	Feria	For those who are hungry and homeless
13	Sat	<i>Cyprian of Carthage, Bishop and Martyr, 258</i>	For the unity of the Church
14	Sun	Holy Cross Day	Life and Ministry of St Bride's
15	Mon	Feria	For the Church's mission in the world
16	Tue	Ninian of Whithorn, Bishop & Missionary	For the churches of Galloway and the people of Whithorn
17	Wed	<i>Hildegard of Bingen, Abbess, 1179</i> (Ember Day)	For musicians, poets, and all who enrich the Church's worship Day of prayer for the ministry of the Church
18	Thu	Feria	For the Scottish Episcopal Church and its witness
19	Fri	<i>Theodore of Tarsus, Bishop, 690</i> (Ember Day)	Day of prayer for vocations
20	Sat	<i>John Coleridge Patteson, Bishop and Martyr, 1871</i> (Ember Day)	Day of Prayer for Theological Colleges and Ordinands
21	Sun	Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist	Life and Ministry of St Bride's
22	Mon	Feria	For refugees and asylum seekers
23	Tue	<i>Adamnán of Iona, Abbot, 704</i>	For the Church in the Highlands & Islands
24	Wed	Feria	For peace in places of conflict
25	Thu	<i>Finbar of Caithness, Bishop, c. 610</i>	For the churches of Caithness
26	Fri	Feria	For evangelists and mission workers
27	Sat	<i>Vincent de Paul, Priest, 1660</i>	For all who serve the poor and needy
28	Sun	Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	Life and ministry of St Bride's
29	Mon	St Michael and All Angels	For the ministry of angels, guiding and strengthening God's people
30	Tue	<i>Jerome, Priest and Teacher of the Faith, 420</i>	For translators, scholars, and all students of Scripture