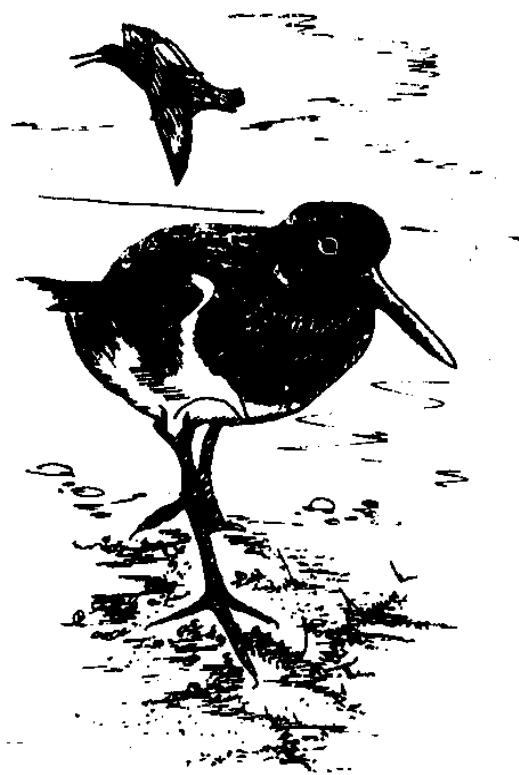


# THE OYSTERCATCHER



THE MAGAZINE OF ST BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

KELVINSIDE, GLASGOW

NUMBER 444 DECEMBER 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

**Priest-in-Charge:**

The Revd Peter Bradley

Flat 1/1, 25 Queensborough Gardens, Glasgow, G12 9QP.

Telephone: 07543 186404 or e-mail [clergy@stbridesglasgow.com](mailto:clergy@stbridesglasgow.com)

**People's Warden:**

Miss Anne Blackwood

**Rector's Warden:**

Mr Andrew Lockyer

**Lay Representative:**

Mrs Carol Lovett

**Alternative Lay Representative:** Dr John Davies

**North-West Regional Council**

**Representative:**

**Pastoral Assistant:**

Dr John Davies

**VESTRY**

The Revd Peter Bradley (Chair)

Miss Anne Blackwood

Ms Viv Miller

Mrs Anne Clarkson

Professor Elizabeth Moignard

Dr John Davies

Mr Alex Steele

Mr Andrew Lockyer

Ms Moira Simpson

Mrs Carol Lovett

**Treasurer:** Mr Paul Carberry

**Secretary:** Mr Jonathan Lord

11 Melrose Gardens, Glasgow, G20 6RB      Telephone: 07774 788844

**Website:** [www.stbridesglasgow.com](http://www.stbridesglasgow.com)

**Webmaster:** Vacant

**Safeguarding Officer:** Ms Moira Simpson

[pvg@stbridesglasgow.com](mailto:pvg@stbridesglasgow.com)

07598 815707

**Director of Music:** Mr Alan Tavener

## THE BISHOP WRITES ....

*With the permission of the Bishop, we reproduce the sermon which he preached in St Bride's on the Feast of Christ the King, 23 November 2025.*

Good morning. It's a real joy to be with you on this feast of Christ the King, and to stand here in a place that carries so much beauty and devotion. St Bride's has a particular gift – this blend of the transcendent and the intimate. Worship that lifts us into the mystery of God and at the same time sits close to the heart. It's precious. And it matters for the diocese.

Today's readings give us a window into the kind of kingship that shapes that gift.

Jeremiah speaks about shepherds who scatter the flock. Leaders who leave people vulnerable, untended, unsure of their place. And then he promises a shepherd who will gather the people again – gently, patiently, with justice.

And when we look at Christ in the gospel, that shepherd is revealed in a remarkably unexpected way. He's not on a throne. He's on a cross. The true king doesn't dominate. He doesn't coerce. He reigns by holding the broken, by forgiving, by making room for someone who can offer him nothing but their own need.

This is the kingship we gather around. This is the Church we're called to be. Not scattered. Not anxious. But held by Christ, and held together.

Now, I want to say something directly into the life of this church, because I know you've been working hard, trying new things, welcoming new people, and wondering what the future might look like.

Let me be clear. As a diocese, we're not asking you to chase numbers. Our vision is to become a church for everyone. And the core metric for that vision is not size. It's health.

Healthy churches grow in depth long before they grow in breadth. Healthy churches welcome children even before they have many. Healthy churches pray with reverence and celebrate with joy.

Healthy churches hold people's stories with tenderness. Healthy churches

honour the mystery of God – which is what St Bride’s does so well.

Father Peter is leading you beautifully in that direction. And as your bishop, I want to reassure you that we have a plan – not a quick fix, but a structured, steady five-year plan.

It includes:

- **A partnership with our new Canon Missioner**, who will help you build on the good foundations already here.
- **A clear process of church development**, rooted in Natural Church Development, for discernment, planning, and prayer.
- **A gradual, gentle and negotiated weaning off ministry support**, done in a way that strengthens the parish rather than burdens it.
- **Regular diocesan accompaniment**, so you never feel you’re navigating this alone.

Listening to the warnings in Jeremiah - you are not being set adrift. Quite the opposite. We’re investing in you because of who you are and what you offer to the wider diocese – a community of sacrament, beauty, and faithful witness.

And all of this turns us back to Christ the King.

The king who gathers the scattered.

The king who reigns from a cross.

The king whose strength looks like mercy.

The king whose glory is to draw people home.

That’s the shepherding we want to echo in our diocesan life. No one left behind. No parish forgotten. No community scattered.

So when you come to the altar this morning, come knowing that Christ holds this church with a love that does not let go. And come knowing that your diocese stands with you as you grow in health, depth, and confidence in the years ahead. Amen.

**AND THE BAFTA GOES TO .....**



Andrew Lockyer is pictured with the Entertainment award at the BAFTA Scotland Awards 2025. The programme Andrew produced was *Up Late with Nicola Benedetti*, made by IWC Media for Sky Arts, filmed at the Edinburgh International Festival in 2024. It's still available on NOW TV and occasionally pops up in the schedules of Sky Arts.

## St Bride's Women's Group



**Please note that it has been necessary to cancel the meeting scheduled for Thursday 11 December owing to Katja Frimberger's work commitments. The Group will next meet on Tuesday 20 January.**

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST**

As some of you may be aware, I recently came across some historic material both in the ‘office’ downstairs and in the safe which I found fascinating. I have been scanning some of this to keep a record. There has been a selection of past ‘Newsletters’ which I’ve not yet had time to read. However, a small paragraph on one from September 1954 did catch my eye:

“The Bishop is administering CONFIRMATION on Monday morning at 7.15 a.m. in St Bride’s, to a member of the congregation. I hope that as many of you as can will be there to encourage her, and join with her as she makes her First Communion.

On the following Saturday at 11, the Bishop will marry her to another member of the congregation. The Service will be completed by a Sung Eucharist. Many of her friends are Presbyterians, so please may I ask for a good congregation to help with the services.”

I wonder how many would have turned out at 7.15 on the Monday morning, and then again on the Saturday? Not something that would happen today I don’t think!

**Carol Lovett**

## **KNIT AND NATTER GROUP**

The Knit and Natter Group will meet on **Thursday 11 December**. We will then close for the Christmas holidays and meet again on **Thursday 8 January**.

**Sheena Connolly**

**A big thank you to the wonderful team who cleaned and prepared the church for Advent and Christmas.**

**Harry Dunlop**

# CHRISTMAS EVENTS

30 November 3.30 p.m. Advent Carol Service

7 December 3.30 p.m. Christingle

14 December 3.30 p.m. Community Carol Service and blessing of Christmas Tree

21 December 3.30 p.m. Nine Lessons and Carols

24 December 5.00 p.m. Crib Service

24 December 11.00 p.m. Midnight Mass of the Nativity

25 December 10.30 a.m. Mass of the Incarnation

26 December 12.00 noon St Stephen: Mass

26 December to 1 January inclusive (except 27 December)  
8.00 p.m. Compline by Zoom

28 December 10.30 a.m. Holy Innocents: said Mass with Carols (Fr David Cameron)

1 January TBA Naming of Jesus / Circumcision of Christ (Fr David Cameron)

## Appeal from a former Choral Scholar



Many readers will remember Eden Devaney who joined us at St Bride's in the Autumn of 2022 as a Choral Scholar, a role which he fulfilled for two years. During his time with us, he was a Student on the Vocal Performance Course at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and became increasingly sought after as a tenor soloist. At the same time, he proved himself to be a great team player, both in his role in St Bride's

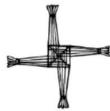
Choir and as a willing helper when needed in tasks ranging from taking the role of Crucifer to troubleshooting the ailing sound system! He relished a brief opportunity to rehearse and conduct the Choir and, at this particular moment, I am recalling his beautiful singing and communication of Orlando Gibbons's *This is the Record of John* with consort of viols at our Advent Carol Service exactly two years ago!

A couple of months ago, Eden embarked on his Masters Course at the Royal Northern College in Manchester, but unfortunately his funding has been cut. In an attempt to make ends meet, he has set up a Crowdfunder Page, and anyone wishing to contribute to this appeal will do so in the knowledge that they are helping a very promising young musician to continue to progress towards a professional career in music. You can access his Page at <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/masters-degree-at-the-rncm---tuition> or by going to the Explore area of the Crowdfunder Website and entering 'Eden' and 'Manchester' in the two search fields.

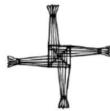


Thank you!

**Alan Tavener**  
**Director of Music**



**St Bride's Episcopal Church  
Glasgow G12 9UX**



**Sunday 7 December 2025 at 1.00pm**

# **Organ Recital**

**Alan Kitchen (Wellington Church)**

**Free admission – donations to our Robert Lamont  
Music Fund welcome, scan here to donate**



Moderato Op 22  
Perfect Peace

Niels Gade (1817-90)  
David Paxton (1934-2015)

Wachet auf ruft uns die Stimme  
Wachet auf ruft uns die Stimme

J G Walther (1684-1748)  
H Schmidt (1861-1923)

Fantasia on a Harbour  
Voluntary in C

Kenn Tay (b1992)  
John Stanley (1712-86)  
Richard Powell (b1951)

Two Hebridean sketches

1. Round the shores of green Iona
2. An t-Eilean Muileach (The Isle of Mull)

Allegro alla Marcia

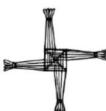
Albert Lister Peace (1844-1912)



Alan Kitchen, originally from Coatbridge, studied music at Glasgow University, gaining his B Mus (Hons) degree in 1980. In his final year he studied organ with Professor George McPhee. Since 2005 he has been Organist and Director of Music at Wellington Church. Outwith liturgical playing, he is in demand as a choral accompanist and recitalist, having given well over 300 recitals on the fine Lewis organ in nearby Kelvingrove Art Gallery. He is a trustee of the Glasgow Society of Organists. As a full time freelance musician, much of his work is in the field of light music and entertainment music, covering a wide variety of musical styles. However, organ playing, liturgical or otherwise, remains a large part of his work. Alan is a trustee of the Glasgow Society of Organists. Leisure pursuits include fair-weather cycling.

our next Organ Recital...

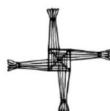
**4 January 2026 Eilidh Harris (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)** in a programme reflecting the turn of the year, with music by Bach, Buxtehude, Franck and Mendelssohn.  
[www.organrecitals.uk](http://www.organrecitals.uk)



**...and at 3.30pm on Sunday 21 December Festival of  
Nine Lessons and Carols** sung by St Bride's Choir (with  
organist William Briant)

[www.stbridesglasgow.com](http://www.stbridesglasgow.com)

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



## FROM THE EDITOR

With this edition of *The Oystercatcher* (number 444), we celebrate thirty-seven years of unbroken monthly publication since the first edition in January 1989. My thanks to all our contributors – both the regular and occasional. May they continue their efforts throughout 2026. We always welcome articles from new contributors, and in this connection I was delighted to welcome our Bishop to our pages for the first time this month. He will always be welcome.

**Jonathan Lord**

### THE OYSTERCATCHER

**Editor:** Jonathan Lord, 11 Melrose Gardens, Glasgow, G20 6RB  
Telephone: 0141 946 5045 Mobile: 07774 788844  
E-mail: [jcl30@btinternet.com](mailto:jcl30@btinternet.com)

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 may be sent to the Editor.

### 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](http://www.organrecitals.uk)



St Bride's Episcopal Church, Glasgow G12 9UX



**5 October 2025 Peter Wakeford (Glasgow)**

**2 November 2025 William Briant (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 Conservatoire of Scotland**

**7 June 2026 Pavlos Trianaris  
(Letchworth Traditional Anglican Church)**

[www.organrecitals.uk](http://www.organrecitals.uk)

Free admission – donations to our Robert Lamont Music Fund welcome



[www.stbridesglasgow.org](http://www.stbridesglasgow.org)



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

*Cappella Nova Outreach at St Bride's*

# *Sing for Your Life!*

*Boost your health and wellbeing –  
have fun with like-minded people!*

**Thursdays, 2.00 for 2.15-3.15pm**

**2025: 9 October, 13 November, 11 December,**

**2026: 15 January, 12 February, 12 March,**

**16 April, 14 May, 11 June**

**St Bride's Church, Hyndland Road, GLASGOW G12 9UX**

*... featuring a wide range of favourite songs*



Led by Alan and Rebecca Tavener, this singing-for-fun session is FREE to all, requires no experience of music or singing, and is a cheerful, relaxed get-together to enjoy the pleasure and health benefits of singing. Refreshments will be available.

Feel free to make contact in advance, [cappella.nova@strath.ac.uk](mailto:cappella.nova@strath.ac.uk)  
*...or, just turn up!*

## READINGS FOR SERVICES IN DECEMBER

<i>Sunday 7 December</i> Second Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 11. 1–10 Psalm 72. 1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17 Romans 15. 4–9 Matthew 3. 1–12 ( <i>Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.</i> )	Server Andrew Lockyer
<i>Sunday 14 December</i> Third Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 35. 1–6a, 10 Psalm 146. 4–9 James 5. 7–10 Matthew 11. 2–11 ( <i>Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?</i> )	Server Ebi Japhet
<i>Sunday 21 December</i> Fourth Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 7. 10–16 Psalm 80. 1–7, 16–18 Romans 1. 1–7 Matthew 1. 18–25 ( <i>And they shall name him Emmanuel</i> )	Jane Ross Harry Dunlop
<i>Wednesday 24 December</i> CHRISTMAS (At Midnight)	Isaiah 9. 2–7 Psalm 96. 1–3, 11–13 Titus 2. 11–14 Luke 2. 1–14 ( <i>Unto you is born this day a Saviour</i> )	Gilly McDougall Viv Miller
<i>Thursday 25 December</i> CHRISTMAS DAY (In the Morning)	Isaiah 52. 7–10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1. 1–4 John 1. 1–14 ( <i>The Word became flesh and dwelt among us</i> )	Annie Blackwood Jonathan Lord
<i>Sunday 28 December</i> The Sunday after Christmas Day	Isaiah 63. 7–9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2. 10–18 Matthew 2. 13–23 ( <i>Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt</i> )	Joe Mannion Elizabeth Moignard

MUSIC FOR DECEMBER

Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> 23.00 Christmas Eve: Sung Eucharist	Isaiah 9.2-7 Psalm 96.1-3, 11-13 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-14	Grayston Ives Salisbury Service	32, 42, 30, 35, 26	Hollins Christmas Cradle Song <i>for solo organ</i>	J S Bach Lob sei dem allmächtigen Gott ("To God we render thanks and praise"), BWV 602, Der Tag, der ist so freuden- reich ("This day, the wondrous Child is born"), BWV 605	J S Bach In Dulci Jubilo ("Good Christians, all rejoice") <i>William Briant, Organist</i>
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> 10.30 Christmas Day: Sung Eucharist	Isaiah 52.7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1.1-4 John 1.1-14	Grayston Ives Salisbury Service	24, 25, 30, 37, 26	Stevenson Doubles on Rubbra's <i>for solo organ</i>	<i>Daquin Noël X</i>	<i>Daquin Noël Suisse</i>
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> 10.30 Sunday after Christmas Day: Eucharist with Carols	Isaiah 63.7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2.10-18 Matthew 2.13-23					

## KALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

### December

1	Mon	<b>Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland</b>	The people of Scotland
2	Tue	<i>Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, 1637</i>	People who live in community
3	Wed	<i>Francis Xavier, Priest and Missionary, 1552</i>	Churches of India, Southeast Asia and Japan
4	Thu	<i>Clement of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, c. 214</i>	Bishop Andrew Swift
5	Fri	<i>Feria</i>	Woodlands Methodist Church
6	Sat	<i>Nicholas of Myra, Bishop, 4th Century</i>	All Children
7	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Second Sunday in Advent</b>	Life and Ministry of St Bride's
8	Mon	The Conception of Mary, Mother of the Lord	Expectant Mothers
9	Tue	<i>Feria</i>	Families under stress
10	Wed	<i>Feria</i>	Broomhill Hyndland Parish
11	Thu	<i>Feria</i>	Kelvinside Hillhead Parish
12	Fri	<i>Feria</i>	Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Luke
13	Sat	<i>Feria</i>	Hillhead Baptist Church
14	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Third Sunday in Advent</b>	Life and Ministry of St Bride's
15	Mon	<i>Feria</i>	Hope and perseverance in times of waiting
16	Tue	<i>Feria</i>	Grace to recognise and follow God's will
17	Wed	<i>Feria – O Sapientia – Ember Day</i>	Embracing God's Call
18	Thu	<i>Feria – O Adonai</i>	The grace to trust in God's promises.
19	Fri	<i>Feria – O Radix Jesse – Ember Day</i>	Those discerning their life's calling
20	Sat	<i>Feria – O Clavis David – Ember Day</i>	Vocations to the religious life
21	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday in Advent – O Oriens</b>	Life and Ministry of St Bride's
22	Mon	<i>Feria – O Rex Gentium</i>	Justice, peace, and reconciliation
23	Tue	<i>Feria – O Emmanuel</i>	The presence of God in our lives
24	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Feria / Christmas Eve</b>	Peace in the Holy Land
25	<b>Thu</b>	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS</b>	Peace on Earth
26	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Stephen, Deacon and Martyr</b>	Persecuted Christians
27	<b>Sat</b>	<b>John, Apostle and Evangelist</b>	St John's, Baillieston
28	<b>Sun</b>	<b>First Sunday after Christmas</b>	Life and Ministry of St Bride's
29	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Holy Innocents</b>	Infants
30	Tue	<i>Josephine Butler, 1906</i>	Workers in the cause of justice
31	Wed	<i>John Wycliffe, Priest, 1384</i>	Biblical Translators