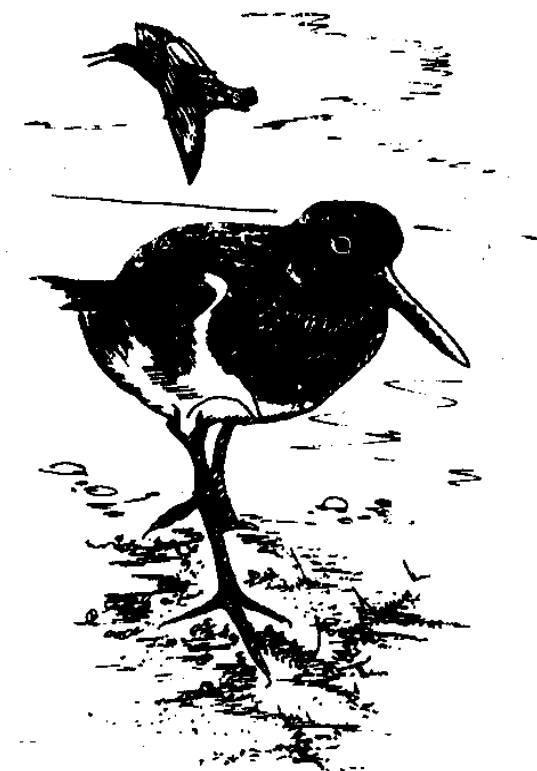


THE OYSTERCATCHER



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

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Rector's Warden:

Mr Andrew Lockyer

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Mrs Carol Lovett

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North-West Regional Council

Representative:

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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



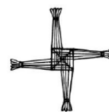
very promising young musician to continue to progress towards a professional career in music. You can access his Page at <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/masters-degree-at-the-rncm---tuition> or by going to the Explore area of the Crowdfunder Website and entering 'Eden' and 'Manchester' in the two search 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

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

Fantasia on a Harbour
Voluntary in C
Two Hebridean sketches

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

Allegro alla Marcia

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

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

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

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.

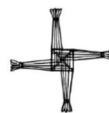
our next Organ Recital...

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

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

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

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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 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



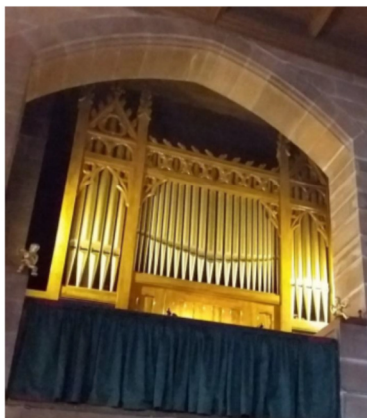
Organ Recitals 2025-26

first Sunday of the Month, 1.00-1.50pm

www.organrecitals.uk



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 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

Cappella Nova Outreach at St Bride's

Sing for Your Life!

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

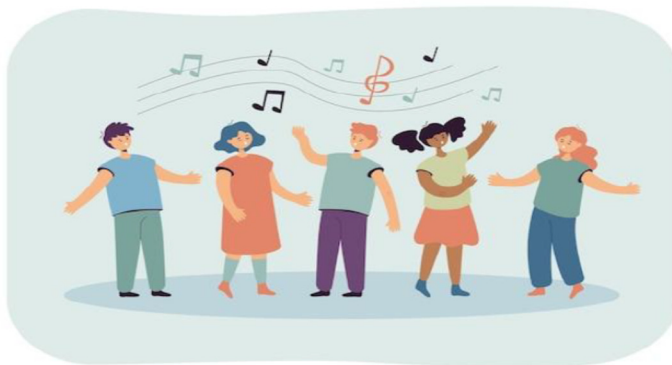
Thursdays, 2.00 for 2.15-3.15pm

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

...or, just turn up!

READINGS FOR SERVICES IN DECEMBER

<p><i>Sunday 7 December</i> Second Sunday in Advent</p>	<p>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></p>	<p>Server Andrew Lockyer</p>
<p><i>Sunday 14 December</i> Third Sunday in Advent</p>	<p>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></p>	<p>Server Ebi Japhet</p>
<p><i>Sunday 21 December</i> Fourth Sunday in Advent</p>	<p>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></p>	<p>Jane Ross Harry Dunlop</p>
<p><i>Wednesday 24 December</i> CHRISTMAS (At Midnight)</p>	<p>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></p>	<p>Gilly McDougall Viv Miller</p>
<p><i>Thursday 25 December</i> CHRISTMAS DAY (In the Morning)</p>	<p>Isaiah 52. 7–10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1. 1–4 John 1. 1–14 <i>(The Word became flesh and dwelt among us)</i></p>	<p>Annie Blackwood Jonathan Lord</p>
<p><i>Sunday 28 December</i> The Sunday after Christmas Day</p>	<p>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></p>	<p>Joe Mannion Elizabeth Moignard</p>

MUSIC FOR DECEMBER

Date	Readings	Setting	Psalms	Hymns	Motet	Voluntary Before	Voluntary After
Sunday 7 th 10.30 Second Sunday in Advent: Choral Eucharist	Isaiah 11.1-10 Romans 15.4-9 Matthew 3.1-12	<i>Sumison</i> Communion Service in F	72.1-2, 7-8, 12-13,17	5, 12, 27, Holy Virgin by God's decree	<i>arr Malcolm</i> <i>Archer</i> People look East	<i>Buxtehude</i> Wie schön leuchtet der Morgen- stern, BuxWV 223 (words at Hymn 27)	<i>J S Bach</i> Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland ("Saviour of the Nations, come"), BWV 661
Sunday 14 th 10.30 Third Sunday in Advent (Refresh- ment Sunday): Choral Eucharist	Isaiah 35.1-6a, 10 James 5.7-10 Matthew 11.2-11	<i>Oldroyd</i> Mass of the Quiet Hour	146.4-9	14, 9, Be still, my soul, 3	<i>Paul Maniz</i> E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come	<i>Tallis</i> Veni Redemptor Gentium ("Saviour of the Nations, come")	<i>Parry</i> Dundee ("The Race that long in Darkness pined") (words at Hymn 57)
Sunday 21 st 10.30 Fourth Sunday in Advent: Choral Eucharist	Isaiah 7.10-16 Romans 1.1-7 Matthew 1.18-25	<i>Harris</i> Communion Service in F	80.1-7, 16-18	19, 11, 180, 188	<i>Elgar</i> Ave Maria	<i>Brahms</i> Es ist ein' Ros entsprungen, Op 122 No 8	<i>Buxtehude</i> Nun lob mein Seel den Herren, BuxWV213
Sunday 21 st 15.30 Nine Lessons and Carols	Organ music before the Service: <i>Jean Bourvard</i> Variations sur un Noël Basque, <i>John Ireland</i> The Holy Boy Organ music after the Service: <i>John West</i> Fantasy on Two Well-Known Christmas Carols <i>William Briant</i> , <i>Organist</i>						

Wednesday 24 th 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>	<i>J S Bach</i> 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	<i>J S Bach</i> In Dulci Jubilo ("Good Christians, all rejoice") <i>William Briant,</i> <i>Organist</i>
Wednesday 25 th 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	Sternenson Doubles on Rubbra's <i>for solo organ</i>	<i>Daquin</i> Noël X	<i>Daquin</i> Noël Suisse
Sunday 28 th 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	Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland	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	Sun	Second Sunday in Advent	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	Sun	Third Sunday in Advent	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	Sun	Fourth Sunday in Advent – O Oriens	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	Wed	Feria / Christmas Eve	Peace in the Holy Land
25	Thu	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	Peace on Earth
		CHRISTMAS	
26	Fri	Stephen, Deacon and Martyr	Persecuted Christians
27	Sat	John, Apostle and Evangelist	St John's, Baillieston
28	Sun	First Sunday after Christmas	Life and Ministry of St Bride's
29	Mon	Holy Innocents	Infants
30	Tue	<i>Josephine Butler, 1906</i>	Workers in the cause of justice
31	Wed	<i>John Wycliffe, Priest, 1384</i>	Biblical Translators