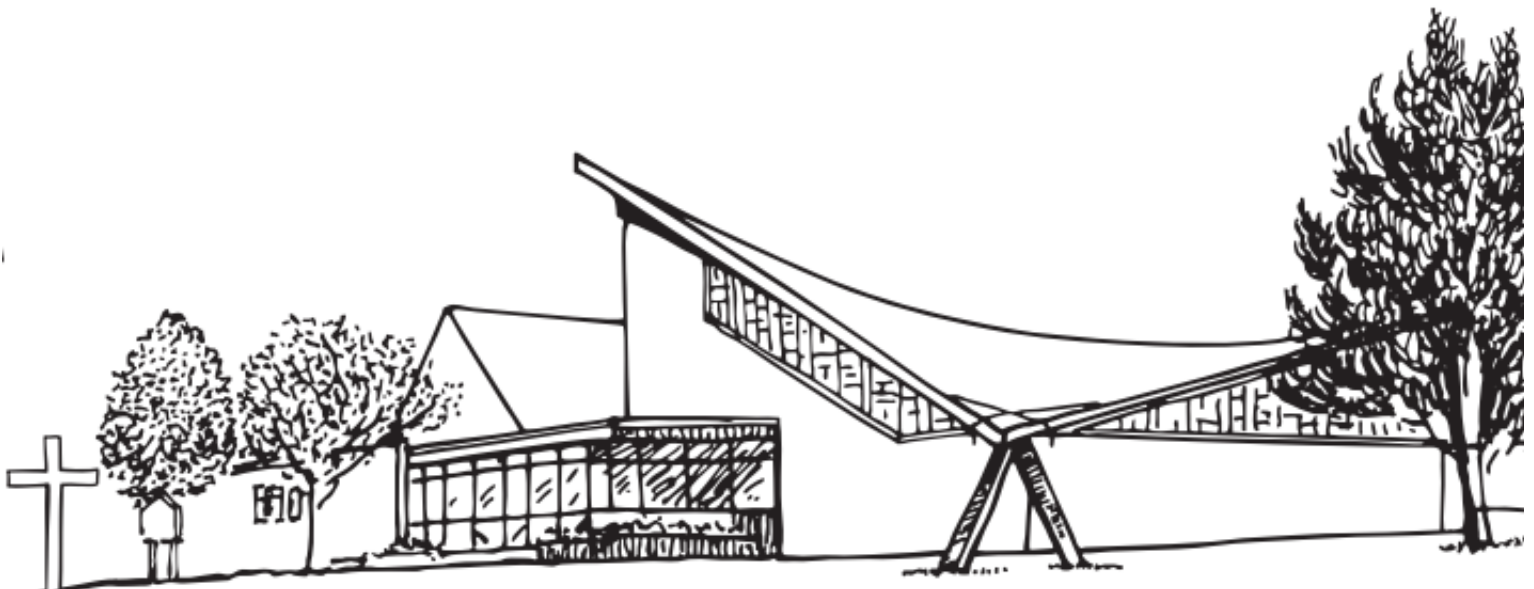


Church Magazine

Autumn Edition 2026

What's happening in Boghall?



A word from our Minister...

Dear friends,

One of the things I value most about ministry in Boghall is the way our church is connected with the wider community. The Church is not simply a building where we gather on a Sunday morning. It is a family of people called to notice what God is doing around us and to join in.

We see that through our relationships with the local primary schools and high school. It is always a privilege to spend time with children and young people, whether through assemblies, special services, school visits or simply being available when support is needed.

Our children and young people bring energy, honesty, curiosity and plenty of questions.

They remind us that faith is about being willing to wonder, to learn and to grow together.

Our connections with the Drop-In Centre, Art Link and the local food bank also allow us to share friendship, encourage creativity and offer practical support to people across our community.

The Bible tells us that Jesus did not wait inside a building for people to come and find him. He went out into villages, homes, streets and ordinary gathering places. He shared meals, listened to people's stories, welcomed children and noticed those whom others sometimes overlooked. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells his followers: "You are the light of the world."

Light does not exist for itself. It shines so that others can see. Sometimes that light is found in a church service, but it can also shine in a classroom, over a cup of tea, through a piece of artwork, in a listening ear or in a simple act of kindness.

Our links with local organisations are not simply projects to be added to a church calendar. They are relationships. They are opportunities to learn from one another, support one another and recognise the gifts already present within our community. We will not always get everything right, but I believe God is already at work in our schools, community groups and gathering places. Our calling is not to arrive carrying God with us, as though God were absent before we appeared. Our calling is to notice where God is already at work and to join in.

My hope is that Boghall Parish Church will continue to be a church with open doors, open hearts and open hands, a church that is not only present in the community, but truly part of it.

The love of God was never meant to be kept within church walls. May we continue to notice that love, encourage it and share it together.

Every blessing to you,

Rev Dawn x

What's happening at Boghall Church?



GIRLS BRIGADE

Day - Thursday

Time - 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Explorers P1-3

Juniors P4-7

Time - 7:45pm to 9pm

Brigaders S1-S4

Come along for some fun, worship and
friendship.



FRIENDSHIP CAFE

Day - Wednesday

Time - 11am to 12 noon

Join us for tea and coffee served
by the children of Boghall Primary



YOUTH GROUP

Day - Sunday

Time - 6.30 - 8pm

FOOD BANK

Day - Tuesday & Thursday



ART LINK

Day - Tuesday

Time - 11am to 2pm



HOUSE GROUP

Day - Tuesday

Time - 2:30pm



FLOWER CALENDAR

The flowers which are arranged in the
church on a Sunday are then given to
people after a service.

To mark a date which is special to you or
someone you know please write this in the
flower calendar in the hall of fellowship

YOGA CLASS

Day - Tuesday

Time - 7pm

Cost - £9

Upcoming events

Sunday Services

September

- Sunday 6th – Sunday Service @10:30am & Lunch in the hall afterwards
- Sunday 13th – Sunday Service @10:30am
- Sunday 20th – Sunday Service @10:30am
- Sunday 27th – Sunday Service @10:30am

October:

- Sunday 4th – Harvest Service @10:30am
- Sunday 11th – Sunday Service @10:30am
- Sunday 18th – Sunday Service @10:30am
- Sunday 25th – Sunday Service @10:30am

November:

- Sunday 1st – Girls Brigade Dedication Service @10:30am
- Sunday 8th – Remembrance Service @10:30am
- Sunday 15th – Sunday service @10:30am
- Sunday 22nd – Sunday Service @10:30am
- Sunday 29th – 1st Sunday in advent @10:30am
- Sunday 29th – Advent Reflection Service @3pm
- Sunday 6th December – Communion @10:30am

Events

September:

- Saturday 12th September – Autumn Fayre – 10am – 2pm
- Saturday 26th September – Christian Aid Coffee Morning – 10am – St Marys Church Hall, Bathgate

November:

- Saturday 7th November – Family Ceilidh @ 7pm – tickets £5
- Friday 27th November – Christmas Fayre – Doors Open 18:30

Spotlight on: Two of our new elders

Malcolm McNeill was ordained as an elder at St John's Parish Church in May 1993, beginning what has now been more than three decades of service as an elder within the Church of Scotland. After becoming part of the life and worship of Boghall Parish Church, Malcolm was formally admitted as an elder here on 1 February 2026, bringing with him considerable experience and a real commitment to serving both the church and the wider community.

Malcolm's service extends well beyond the walls of the church. For the past ten years, he has served as a Street Pastor in Bathgate, offering practical help, a listening ear and a caring presence to people within the community, particularly during the night-time hours.

Over the same period, Malcolm has also volunteered with the Edinburgh City Mission and Bethany Christian Trust Care Van, supporting people experiencing homelessness and others who find themselves in vulnerable or difficult circumstances.

Across these different roles, Malcolm has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to putting his faith into action through practical service, compassion and care for others. His many years of voluntary service, alongside his experience as an elder, reflect his willingness to give generously of his time and to serve wherever he can make a difference.

Lynn Sutherland has been involved with Boghall Parish Church for most of her life. She was christened by Rev Tom Milroy in 1961 and attended both Girls' Brigade and Sunday School during her childhood. She also regularly attended Sunday worship with her grandmother, and in time it felt like a natural step for Lynn to become a member of the church herself.

Later, Lynn returned to Boghall Girls' Brigade as a helper after initially being asked to come along for just one evening to lead an activity with the girls. That one night turned into around 15 happy years of volunteering and supporting the work of the Brigade.

Alongside her involvement in the church, Lynn spent 39 years teaching in schools across West Lothian, with the majority of her career at Bathgate Academy, where she had also been a pupil herself.

In 2023, Lynn took on the important role of Safeguarding Coordinator for Boghall Parish Church. Following her retirement from teaching, she accepted the invitation to become an elder in 2025, feeling that she now had the time to give the role the commitment it deserved.

From growing up within the congregation to serving its children and young people, overseeing safeguarding and now serving as an elder, Lynn's story reflects a lifelong connection with Boghall Parish Church and a continuing commitment to its life and work.

Spotlight on: Church Groups

Harvest & Shoebox Appeal

Our Outreach Team will once again be leading our annual Family Harvest Service on Sunday 4th October. It is always a lovely opportunity for us to come together as a church family, give thanks for all that we have and think about how we can share with and support others.

This year, our chosen Harvest charity is CHAS – Children's Hospices Across Scotland, supporting children with life-shortening conditions and their families across Scotland. Harvest envelopes will be available in church for anyone who would like to make a donation, and these can be returned at any point throughout October. There is absolutely no pressure to give – every contribution is gratefully received.

We would love to see you at our Family Harvest Service. Come along, bring the family and join us as we celebrate together.

October also sees the return of our annual Shoebox Appeal with Blythswood Care. Each year, shoeboxes filled with simple gifts and everyday essentials are sent to people across Eastern Europe, bringing a little joy and reminding someone that they are thought about and cared for.

If you would like to fill a shoebox this year, please pick up a leaflet in church or download the Blythswood Care information, which explains what can be included and how to prepare your box.

Whether you fill a whole shoebox, make a donation or simply help us spread the word, there is a way for everyone to get involved.

Let's make this Harvest a time of gratitude, generosity and sharing a little joy beyond our own doors



Spotlight on: Church Groups



1st Boghall *Girls Brigade* Enrolment Evening



Games



Badgework



Friends



Fun



Cooking



Crafts

Looking for something fun to do on
Thursday Evenings?

Come Along to **Boghall Parish Church**



Thursday 20th August 2026

All Girls Welcome!!!



Explorers

P1 - P3

Every Thursday

6.30pm - 7.30pm



Juniors

P4 - P7

Every Thursday

6.30pm - 7.30pm



Brigaders

S1 - S6

Every Thursday

7.45pm - 9pm



For more information, please contact **Karen** on **07769 899616**

Becoming a More Inclusive Church

Becoming a More Inclusive Church

Recently, members of our congregation took part in autism awareness training led by the Rev Steven Owens. It was a valuable opportunity to learn more about autism and to consider how we can make Boghall Parish Church a more welcoming and inclusive place for everyone.

As a result of the training, we have been thinking carefully about some of the practical ways we can support autistic and neurodivergent people within our church.

Visual storyboards will be available to help children, young people and adults know what to expect when they come to church. We will also have a selection of helpful sensory tools available for anyone who may benefit from using them during worship or other church activities.

These resources are for anyone who finds them helpful. Please feel free to use them yourself or to ask a member of the church team if someone you know may require additional support.

We recognise that becoming a truly inclusive church is an ongoing journey. We hope these small but important steps will help everyone feel more comfortable, supported and fully included in the life and worship of our church.



Youth Work

Our Sunday Club welcomes children and young people from nursery age upwards. It is a friendly and relaxed space where they can explore Bible stories, ask questions, enjoy crafts and activities, and discover more about God's love for them.

Sunday Club gives our young people the opportunity to build friendships and grow in faith together. New members are always welcome, whether your family comes to church regularly or you are joining us for the first time.

Our Youth Group for those in S1 and above also meets monthly, providing a space for young people to relax, have fun, talk about life and faith, and spend time together.

We are also excited to announce a new group called Inspiration, created especially for young people from P7 to S3. Inspiration will be launching in late October, so please look out for more information soon!

We believe children and young people are not simply the future of the Church, they are an important part of the Church today. We want every young person who comes through our doors to know that they are welcomed, valued and loved.

If you would like to know more about Sunday Club, our monthly Youth Group or Inspiration, please get in touch dwestwood@churchofscotland.org.uk



Come and See

COME AND SEE

Come and See

A six-week journey into
the Christian faith



A welcoming space to ask questions,
read the Bible together, and
discover who Jesus is.

Welcome

Whether you're exploring Christianity for the first time, returning to church after many years, or simply wanting to grow deeper in your faith, you are welcome.

This isn't a course where you're expected to have all the answers. It's a place to **ask questions**. To **read the Bible together**. To **discover who Jesus is**. To **learn alongside others**. To **experience the welcome** of the Church.

Over six weeks we'll explore the story of Scripture, the life of Jesus, prayer, grace, the Church and the hope we have in God.



Our aim isn't simply to learn more about Christianity. Our hope is that together we will encounter Jesus.



We normally read from the New International Version (NIV), chosen for its clear, accessible language. You are very welcome to bring and use any Bible translation you prefer.



Every week **BEGINS** with one question
Before we talk about the video...
what did you notice in today's Bible passage?



Every week **ENDS** with one question
What is one thing you'll take away from tonight?

JOHN 1:38–39

"Jesus turned and saw them following him and said, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi, where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.'"



Each week you can expect...



WELCOME

We begin by settling in and welcoming everyone.



BIBLE READING

We read a short passage from the Bible together.



ONE SIMPLE QUESTION

Before we talk about the video...
what did you notice in today's passage?



SHORT BIBLEPROJECT VIDEO

A short video to help us see the big picture.



BIG IDEA

We explore the main thought for the evening.



CONVERSATION & QUESTIONS

A chance to ask questions and explore together.



PRACTICE THIS WEEK

One simple idea to try in everyday life.



ONE CLOSING QUESTION

What is one thing you'll take away from tonight?



COME AS YOU ARE. COME AND SEE.

A place to belong. A journey to discover.

New ways to Give

'It is more blessed to give than receive.' Acts 20:35

The Joy of Giving

Generosity loosens fear's grip, it reminds us that what God Places in our hands can become care for someone else.

Giving may look like time, attention, encouragement, hospitality, or practical help. We reflect Jesus whenever love moves outward without seeking applause. As our church continues to grow, we want to make giving as simple and accessible as possible. Many of us no longer carry cash, so we have introduced a Payaz payment machine for contactless giving. You can use your bank card, phone, or smartwatch. It is secure, easy to use, and helps us support the ministries and outreach we care about.

We are always looking for ways to make staying connected simple and accessible. Many of us use QR codes every day, so we have added one to our church materials. When you scan it with your phone, it takes you straight to our secure giving page or important church information. It is quick, safe, and helps us support the ministries and outreach we care about.



BOGHALL BRAIN BREAK!

QUICK QUIZ

1. How many animals of each kind did Moses take onto the Ark?
2. What is the only fruit with its seeds on the outside?
3. How many disciples did Jesus choose?
4. Which month has 28 days?
5. What is Scotland's national animal?
6. In the Bible, who was swallowed by a great fish?
7. If you overtake the person in second place in a race, what position are you now in?
8. What was Jesus' first recorded miracle?

CAN YOU UNSCRAMBLE THESE?

All of these words have something to do with church or faith:

SJEUS

RYPEAR

HCRUHC

VLOE

ECAEP

EOPH

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

If Jesus walked into Boghall today

and said:

"Come and see..."

Where do you think he might take
us?

WOULD YOU RATHER?

Would you rather...

Have been on Noah's Ark during the storm OR camping with the Israelites in the wilderness?

Tea after church OR coffee after church? There is a wrong answer. 😊

★ JUST FOR FUN

How many books are there in the Bible?

- A) 39
- B) 66
- C) 72
- D) 100

CHURCH NOTICEBOARD BLOOPERS

Church notices don't always come out quite as
intended...

"The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on Water.
The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus."

Bible books: 66

Unscramble: Jesus, Prayer, Church, Love, Peace, Hope

8. Turning water into wine

Answers: 1. None — it was Noah! 2. Strawberry 3. 12 4. All of them 5. Unicorn 🦄 6. Jonah 7. Second

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