



IN THE LOOP

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Being church

From Calum

As we now break from our series Being church I thought it might be helpful to take stock and reflect on what we have covered before we head for advent.

1. Church of **Ephesus** (Revelation 2:1–7). **Sunday 14th September**

Key picture - Jesus walking watchfully amongst the lamp stands

Theme: Orthodoxy without love

Q1. In what ways might I be “doing the right things” for God while neglecting my love for Him or for people?

Q2. What specific practices can I return to that once helped nurture my love for Christ?

2. Church of **Smyrna** (Revelation 2:8–11). **Sunday 21st September**

Key picture - Christine as conqueror. Jesus is the first and the last who died and is alive

Theme: Faithfulness in suffering

Q1. How do I respond to pressure, hardship, or opposition because of my faith—fearfully or faithfully?

Q2. What fears currently challenge my trust in God, and how might remembering Christ’s victory help me endure?

3. Church of **Pergamum** (Revelation 2:12–17). **Sunday 5th October**

Key picture - Jesus as the warrior prophet, with the double edged sword coming out of His mouth

Theme: Holding fast while resisting compromise

Q1. Where am I tempted to compromise my beliefs or values to fit cultural expectations?

Q2. What false teachings, influences, or habits have subtly shaped my thinking, and what steps can I take to realign with truth?

4. Church of **Thyatira** (Revelation 2:18–29) **Sunday 19th October**

Key picture - king Jesus the one with all authority - eyes of flaming fire and feet of burnished bronze

Theme: Love and service mixed with tolerance of sin

Q1. Is there anything in my life or community that I excuse or tolerate, even though I know it leads away from God?

Q2. How can I grow in discernment so that my love and service are also aligned with holiness?

5. Church of **Sardis** (Revelation 3:1–6). **Sunday 9th November**

Theme: Reputation vs. reality—spiritual sleepiness and complacency

Key picture - Jesus holding the seven stars (the messengers) and the seven spirits (the perfect Holy Spirit) in his hand.

Q1. Are there areas in my spiritual life where I appear “alive” outwardly but am actually stagnant or complacent?

Q2. What specific actions would help me “wake up” and strengthen the things in my life that are spiritually weak or dying?

Calum



Pergamum

If you've missed any of this series you can catch up on our YouTube channel by CLICKING THE DATES above.

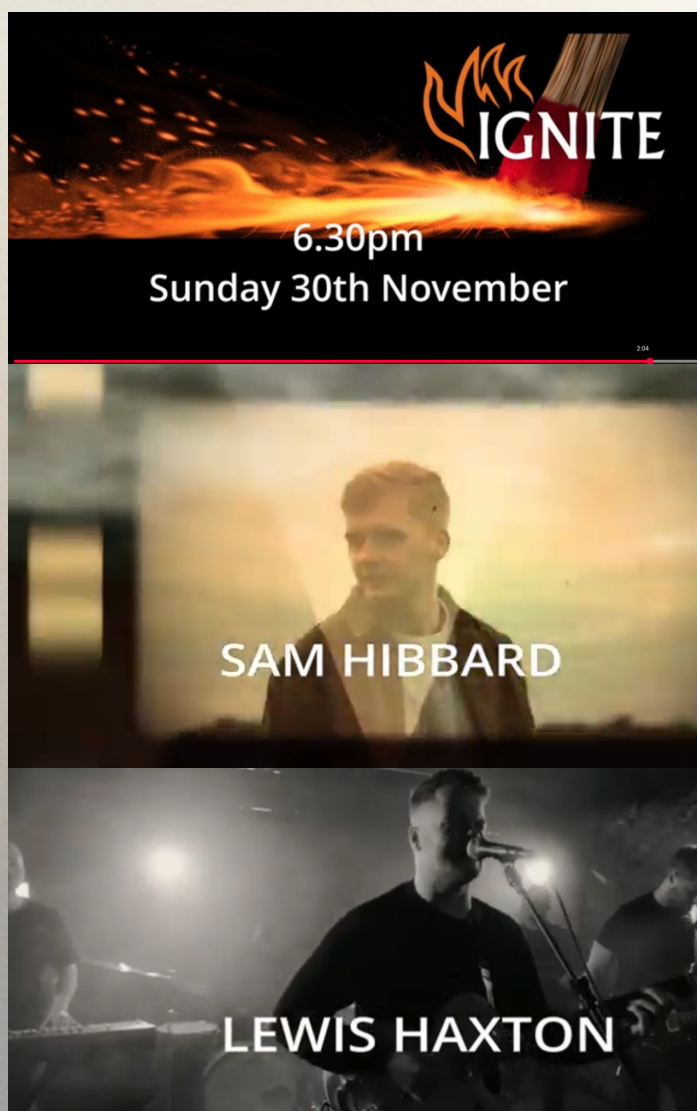
You may also like to go back and hear the powerful introduction to this series on **Sunday 7th September**



These groups are meeting at 4 locations in evenings and afternoons across Strathaven. Speak to David Moreland or Calum for details. At these groups you will experience warm fellowship, practical and spiritual support as you bond over reading God's word together. Ideally most people in both churches should attend one of these.

Click here to see full church diary





Invitation Event next week

IGNITE SESSION
SAM HIBBARD
LEWIS HAXTON

We're getting really excited about our next invitation event on Sunday 30th November with Lewis Haxton and Sam Hibbard coming to our Ignite Session. It will be a lively evening with the lads sharing some of their own compositions, the stories behind their songs and leading worship with some well known songs as well.

We're really keen to make the most of this opportunity - so firstly *please come*, but secondly *please consider if you have a friend or contact who would like to join us too*.

The Crossbeats team recorded a show with them last week which will go out live at 9 am this Sunday (23rd November) but will be available on listen again at CROSSBEATS on avondaleradio.com. Tell your contacts to listen in too!

The evening is FREE but you may wish to make a donation to help us support the event and these talented young man in their work.



Please click here
NOW to see the
promotional
video





From Dawn Cunningham

Kintsugi Hope at Avendale and Drumclog

I would like to share some information about a Wellbeing Group I am planning to run from January to March 2026.

As many of you know, our church partners with a Christian Charity called Kintsugi Hope, who work with Churches and other Christian organisations across the UK to support emotional health and wellbeing. They do this by supporting churches to run Kintsugi Wellbeing Groups.

These groups offer a safe, welcoming space for anyone who wants to build a better sense of their own wellbeing. I am a trained group leader and have already led two groups within our church, both of which were women only. Dependant on interest, the next group can be women only, men only or mixed.

I'd like to share a few comments from past participants -

"The course helped me understand myself and my reactions to the ups and downs of daily life better. The course material was a good base for our discussions and everyone was supportive."

"The course has taught me strategies which I can apply now to situations I encounter more positively. It has been an extremely beneficial, positive experience, helping me to reassess how I deal with life."

"I hope and pray more people will take up the opportunity to attend the Kintsugi course. I for one will definitely recommend it."

"Refreshing, worthwhile, encouraged"

If you would like to know more or register your interest either speak to me at church (Avendale) or email me Dawncunningham2@aol.com by end of November.

There are posters in the church/hall and leaflets available to pick up.

Once I know who is interested, I will confirm the day and time, with the aim of starting in the first week in January.

I hope some of you will consider joining as we explore how we can maintain positive emotional health and wellbeing in the midst of our very busy lives.

If you know of a friend, family member or neighbour who might be interested please pass on the information. You do not need to attend a church to join.

Thank you
Dawn

Sunday 30th November - 1st in Advent
9.30 Drumclog
11 Avendale
Ignite 6.30 - Sam Hibbard & Lewis Haxton

Saturday 6th December - Christmas Fayre
10-12 Avendale

Sunday 7th December - 2nd in Advent
9.30 Drumclog incl communion
11 Avendale incl communion



4.30 - 6
His Kids/Messy Church Christmas Party

Monday 8th December - Christmas Big Sing
7 Avendale

Sunday 14th December - 3rd in Advent
9.30 Drumclog
11 Avendale incl Children's Nativity

Monday 15th December - Sandford & Gilmourton School
Christmas Concert 7 Avendale

Sunday 21st December - 4th in Advent
9.30 Drumclog
11 Avendale
6.30 Service of Lessons & Carols

Wednesday 24th Christmas Eve - 5 Avendale -
All Age Christingle Service
7 Drumclog -
Christmas in the Country

Christmas Day - 10 Avendale
All age Christmas Service

Advent Services.....

Let's hear it for the girls!

Sunday 30th - Elizabeth - A woman with Faith....the overlooked are seen.

Sunday 7th - Mary - A woman of obedience - the lowly are lifted up

Sunday 14th - Anna - a woman who worshipped - the faithful are fulfilled

Sunday 21st- All age service

Tickets on sale now!
Philippa Hanna and band,
Saturday Feb 7th 2026,
Strathaven. Click Here to book
tickets through the Avendale
and Drumclog website.

selling fast

connect
WOMEN



Wreaths are appearing on doors across Strathaven.....Christmas is coming. **Connect Women** are hosting their annual wreath making evening on Thursday 11th December in Avendale Church Hall. Tickets cost £15 each and were sold out in a matter of hours!!

It is wonderful so many women are keen to connect with one another in this creative and festive way!

If anyone has been unable to get a ticket and would like to get involved, please get in touch and we can add you to our waiting list.

All at Connect Women wish everyone a very Merry Christmas when it comes. Look out for our beautiful wreaths on our doors across Strathaven and beyond. Grace

Contact Grace Lacey 07813752853 or Sandi Allan 07791659835 for more info.

Let's Connect!

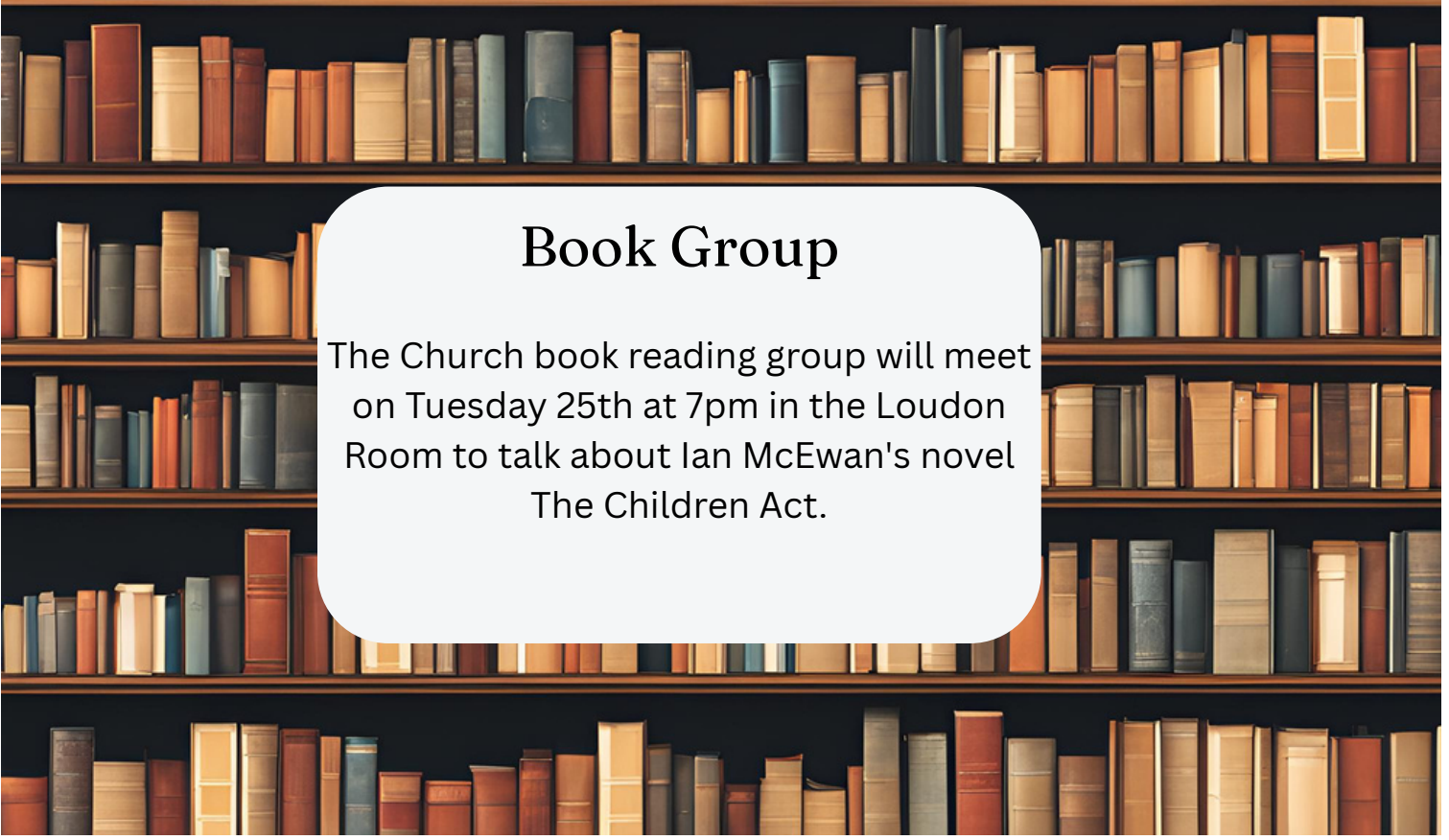
MEN
CONNECT

Men's Connect is our group for men who are 20-40's.

Contact Chris Somerville to be included in the info circle.

Pizza Night
Tuesday 2nd December
45 Glassford Road
Eat your fill!





Book Group

The Church book reading group will meet on Tuesday 25th at 7pm in the Loudon Room to talk about Ian McEwan's novel *The Children Act*.

Fairtrade Update

The Fairtrade Group in Strathaven is very small (if you might be interested in joining us, you will be warmly welcomed!), but continues to work, promoting and encouraging businesses and customers to think “fair trade” in their buying and selling decisions. The Scottish Fairtrade Forum, our umbrella organization, also promotes support for local producers, environmentally- aware production as well as trying to end international trade injustice, which has long seen Western nation benefit from staple produce at a low price, while exploiting the work of producers in poorer parts of the world.

Fair trade has gone from a fringe campaign into the mainstream, over the last 40-50 years, and Fairly and ethically traded goods are available in many of our local shops, and, although we no longer have a Fairtrade stall here at Avendale, the Kirk Session has supported the use of Fair Trade marked tea, coffee and sugar for all our use in our church. Now that Sainsburys have a wide range of Fairtrade coffees and teas, I purchase those there.

Can I request that those generous people who sometimes donate tea or coffee please buy only tea and coffee with the Fair trade mark?

Meanwhile the local group have recently had a new bench put into position in the Common Green, between the postbox and the bus stop- it has been designed by a local business, with input from Strathaven Academy pupils, and the help of South Lanarkshire Council. We are grateful to the funding body, Point North who awarded us the grant to make this possible. Look out for the bench next time you are there.

Even more excitingly, we are well on our way to having a large mural, in a central position, which marks Strathaven’s long history of being a Fairtrade town. This has been a long road to seek appropriate permissions, find the best location, achieve funding and seek out an artistic team to bring the design to life. This month Spectrum Arts Group from Edinburgh, are holding workshops here in Strathaven with children with from all the local schools, so that this will be a truly community driven project.

If you are thinking about fair trade goods for Christmas gifts and need help sourcing suppliers, talk to me and I will try to help. And please consider joining our local group- nothing too arduous, but we could really do with a few more on the team!

Alison Muntz