



## Cowl Kirk Mission Plan

### INTRODUCTION

Following the establishment of the Cowl Kirk on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 it was agreed that a review of the current Dunoon area five Churches Mission Plan be carried out to clarify if it was still fit for purpose. To this end a representative group from the five Churches was established to carry out this review. This Group would be known as the Cowl Kirk Mission Plan Review Group.

Following a number of meetings the Cowl Kirk Mission Plan Review Group unanimously agreed to an Action Plan with timescales that would sit alongside as appendices to this Mission Plan to assist with progress and the delivery of the plan objectives. **See the appendices to this Mission Plan**

In our work and in the development of this Mission Plan, as Christians, we are confirmed in our faith, committed in our beliefs, and dedicated in our work to support the word of our Lord Jesus Christ, the great King and Head of the Church, the Gospel, and all that it teaches us. We are resolute, to do our very best, working with others in the community, supporting the needs of all our citizens. Through this work and with our Church, as Christians, with the love of Jesus Christ our Saviour, working positively and together to ensure that the word of our Lord God is shared, and that the real needs of all those who require help and support, can receive it.

### WHY ...

“ Whatever you do whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (**Colossians 3 : 17** )



## **WHAT...**

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap the harvest if we do not give up”. “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers”. ( **Galatians 6: 9-10** )

## **HOW ...**

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us”. “If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve, if it is teaching, let him teach, if it is encouraging, let him encourage, if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously, if it is leadership, let him govern diligently, if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.” ( **Romans 12 : 6 – 8** ).

## **Mission Plan Principles**

### **Internal**

- To actively work to make the Church a focal point in the community and not a place apart from it.
- To confirm the Church as a place of belonging, worship, service and relationships, somewhere that people can go when they are in need.
- To continue community engagement, as communities with the perception of little or no amenities feel forgotten, marginalised and overlooked.
- To promote, foster and carry forward the work of the Disciples who taught a whole new way of life with a network of relationships to community life



## **Cowal Kirk Boundary detail**

The boundary of the Dunoon area and five church Parishes stretches from Inverchaolain in the south to the head of the Holy Loch at Sandbank in the North. The combined five Parish population numbers:

<b>Kirn &amp; Sandbank</b>	<b>5,150</b>
<b>St John's</b>	<b>2,208</b>
<b>The High Kirk</b>	<b>2,453</b>
<b>Innellan</b>	<b>1,412</b>
<b>Toward</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,388</b>

## **Parish Profile Detail**

The Parish profiles for the Cowal Kirk area will require to be reviewed in the light of the Covid – 19 Pandemic experiences and the potential impact from this on Citizens and Parishioners living in the Dunoon area. See headings below and the known current Cowal Kirk Parish profiles.

- Total Parish populations
- Breakdown of the population by age groups
- Comparisons with Church attendances
- Household tenure within the Parish areas
- Household composition within the Parish areas
- Economic activity and those of working age and inactive groups
- Health and Care provision detail
- Detail on Carers
- Deprivation detail
- Ethnicity
- Religious affiliation.



## Assessment of Likely issues and Impact on Affected Age Groups

- Fuel Poverty..... Elderly and others
- Failing Health ..... All Ages
- Mental Health ..... All Ages
- Isolation, Loneliness..... All Ages
- Mobility, Disability ..... All Ages
- Physical Health..... All Ages
- Unemployment..... Economic Active
- Low Income ..... Elderly and others
- Welfare Support ..... Elderly and others
- Housing Conditions ..... All Ages
- Poverty, All Forms ..... All Ages
- Transportation ..... Elderly and others

## Religious Affiliation

From the current collective Cowal Kirk areas profile detail we are advised that across all of the five areas that 40% of the population are members of the Church of Scotland. This equates to approximately 4,556 Citizens in the Dunoon area. A further 40% approximately, advise that they have either no religion or did not state. This confirms that significant numbers of the Cowal Kirk community are affiliated to the Church of Scotland but do not attend Church. Ref **Church of Scotland**.

**From the above detail it can be seen that one of the clear issues and challenges for the sustainability of the Church, for Presbytery and the Dunoon area, is the need to identify what the real or perceived barriers to Church participation are, among its population and to positively address them.**

**Assessment of Likely Issues and Areas of Focus, Area of Priority Need, and Deprivation, within the Cowal Kirk areas of Dunoon**



The previous Dunoon area review collective Parish profile information and research detail, gives an indication on the required and important areas to focus on when considering the needs of the area. As follows :-



## **Health and Wellbeing**

- Very Elderly, Single Adults, Young People with issues around- Lifestyle, Physical Health issues, Mental Health, Housing Conditions, Loneliness, Isolation access and mobility.

## **Poverty**

- Economic Active, Mature adults, Young People with issues around – unemployment, low income, Welfare dependence, Universal Credit, Heating costs.

## **Housing Conditions**

- Very Elderly, Families, Single Adults, Vulnerable Groups, with issues around – Housing accommodation type and quality, Poor Heating and insulation, Universal Credit, access and situation.

## **Isolation**

- Very Elderly, Mature Adults, Young People – with issues around geography, housing, transport, access to services/facilities, support network, lack of neighbourliness, sense of belonging.

## **Area of Priority of Need**

- All age groups impacted – with issues around, Unemployment, Low Income, Welfare dependence, Universal Credit, Housing conditions, Health, Mental Health and Poverty.

## **Deprivation**

- All age groups and Parish areas impacted – with all the issues set down above.

**WHAT ARE THE ISSUES THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO THE DUNOON AREA AND THE COWAL KIRK CHURCH MISSION.**



## **Vulnerability, Health and Wellbeing, Housing, Employment, Mobility and Poverty.**

- To identify and to understand along with other agencies , vulnerability, the Health and Wellbeing issues of the population within the Cowal Kirk Parish area, and their impacts in relation to Loneliness, Isolation, Physical and Mental Health, Poverty in all its forms, Housing type and conditions, mobility, disabilities.

In relation to the above, and to the advised current statistics in the former collective Parish profiles, to clarify and understand why significant numbers of Citizens are in receipt of prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression and psychosis.

Further to clarify and understand the additional impacts on the Cowal Kirk population from the Covid-19 Pandemic including any impacts from the restrictions within the lockdown arrangements.

## **Barriers to Church Participation**

- To recognise and understand the issues and challenges advised as being common among people in particular young people in the Dunoon area and elsewhere as highlighted to us by eXp.

To clarify and understand why mature adults, young people, students and high School age children, appear to be avoiding Church participation and Christian activities.

To identify the real or perceived barriers to Church participation and to understand why so many people living in the Cowal Kirk area and that have religious affiliation, but are not attending Church.

## **Communication, Re-connection and Community Engagement**

- To understand how we can increase further on our knowledge of the needs of the community within the Cowal Kirk area and how/what we can do to re-connect, to improve on our engagement and activities in particular, on the part of each Church as a collective union within the Cowal Kirk area.



## **Support Arrangements**

- To carefully assess how we can support and re-connect further with our community, how we re-engage, and how we can create the people resource, that will support further the Cowal Kirk work, the new Parish, Community Leadership, the increasing responsibility and consequent work.



## **HOW MIGHT THE COWAL KIRK WORK TOWARDS ASSISTING WITH RESOLVING THE ISSUES AND IDENTIFIED NEEDS OF THE DUNOON AREA.**

**Church Congregations have an important role to play along with others in supporting and taking ownership of the challenges and work that lies ahead. Working in a collaborative way, with all the recognised and responsible agencies, assisting with activities as set down in the Action Plan, in a way that will contribute positively towards resolving those identified needs of the community and area.**

### **Short term initiatives and goals.**

- (a) To continue to develop and implement the Mission Plan Action Plan and all that it proposes for the Cowal Kirk area, with others, in a way that is flexible, is continuous and ongoing, and that retains/sustains the Church, spreading the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, sitting and working at the heart of the community for the next 5,10 and 20 years and beyond.
- (b) The Cowal Kirk within this Mission Plan and Action Plan, propose to re-connect with the community, to review further their current activities, and to develop along with others in the community, a programme of community initiatives in the Cowal Kirk area through the Mission Action Plan that will focus positively on the above identified issues and needs of the area for the next 5,10 and 20 years.
- (c) To develop inclusive, all age work initiatives, as set down in the Action Plan that will support the work of the Church in the community, promote collective training on Worship, Pastoral Care, training for young people, and young Carers. To develop partnerships with Community and Support Groups and to progress the employment of a full time Administrator that will support and assist with all the required processes and project support arrangements.
- (d) To continue our community engagement through our internal working arrangements and outreach activities with a special and particular focus on re-engaging with the Youth in the community, supporting the elderly, vulnerable individuals and groups and to encourage greater participation with the Church.



- (e) As an early priority and having regard to all the above, and the ideas in the Mission Action Plan, to focus on the lack of church connection within the Community, to focus our activity on the lack of connection with Youth in Society, to support the Elderly and Vulnerable, and to progress as a priority the High Kirk development project. To clearly understand and discuss what needs to be/ can be done, by the Cowal Kirk community that will positively address the identified issues and needs of the people in the Cowal Kirk area .To continue to promote and progress the priority list of actions for taking forward the Cowal Kirk Mission Action Plan, for the short and long term benefits of the Dunoon area.
- (f) To support inclusive initiatives, that specifically support the work of the Church, promote the Gospel with local Schools, Local Youth Groups and other citizens living in the Cowal Kirk areas of Dunoon, ensuring that all can participate and engage in structured authentic happiness activities, thus preventing and avoiding loneliness, isolation and disengagement with the Church.
- (g) To develop a collaborative Church and partnership arrangement that will involve all schools, eXp Christian Youth Project and other Youth Groups with the purpose of :
- Improving on connections with Young people and positively developing the High Kirk project as a priority and catalyst to this end.
  - Facilitating new approaches and ideas for worship
  - Involving more people with Churches especially the young
  - Initiating stronger and mutual links between eXp staff, volunteers and local Churches
  - Integrating eXp into local Church buildings and space

**To enjoy more Young People in Churches and more People with Young People.**

**Medium to Long Term initiatives and arrangements.**

- (a) Having regard to all the supplied information and to the above detail, to develop and implement along with other interested groups and individuals, the Cowal Kirk Mission Action Plan, through the initiatives



that are set down, to assist with greater participation in the Church, supporting low income families and individuals, addressing the issues of poverty in all its forms, the issues around loneliness and isolation in the community, securing with others, improvements in the health and wellbeing of citizens, and all this in a way that will assist positively, all those in the Cowal Kirk community with disabilities, physical and mental health issues requiring support.

(b) Within the Cowal Kirk Mission Action Plan to actively work as a strong collective congregation with other interested agencies and groups, in conjunction with the Church of Scotland, to secure the necessary resources both physical and financial, and all the support required to promote and sustain our Mission Plan inclusive of all the following interests for the next 5,10,20 years :-

- General Trustees
- Presbytery
- Different Forms of Worship
- To positively progress with Presbytery the High Kirk Development Project
- Pastoral Care and Support initiatives
- Better equipment for modern day pressures and demands
- Secure an Administrator for process and Project support requirements
- Progress the multiplicity of Grant funders with applications for financial assistance
- WEvolution
- Community Money Advice
- Church and Society
- Faith in Community Scotland
- Mission and Discipleship

**Within this Mission and Action Plan to actively work as a strong union within Cowal Kirk supporting the recognised Dunoon Area of Priority Need, the five Cowal Kirk areas deprivation issues, and further to create a governance structure that supports the objectives within this Mission Plan, addresses the**



**development of Ministry, Church Leadership for the long- term benefit and good of the area.**

**To positively work to secure all the finance required to develop this Mission Plan.**

**Please see as appendices to this Mission Plan the attached Cowal Kirk Mission Action Plan and proposed timescales for action.**



**As we progress our work and this strong union:-**

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

**Romans 15:5,6**

It was [Christ] who gave [gifts], to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God. **Ephesians 4: 11-13**

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. **Philippians 4:8**

Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind’. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments “. **Mathew 22: 37-40**