



## **COWAL KIRK NEWSLETTER**

### **CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

**SCOTTISH CHARITY NO: SC001976**

**ISSUE NO: 27**

**FEBRUARY 2024**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

As a church family, we seek to grow closer through fellowship, more compassionate through outreach, and stronger through worship. We aspire to be a caring, inclusive community within a spirit of Christian love. Our focus will be to:

- † Connect with the youth in society
- † Support the elderly and vulnerable
- † Put our church at the heart of the community

## From the Minister's Desk January 2024

Dear Cowal Kirk,

As we begin this new year, I am filled with gratitude for every one of you. The past year has been filled with both challenges and blessings, and through it all, our community has remained strong and resilient.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage each of you to approach this year with hope and faith. Let us continue to support and uplift one another, and to seek opportunities for growth and renewal in both our personal lives and our shared journey as a community.

May we continue to find strength in our faith and may the love and compassion we offer to one another continue to be a source of inspiration and comfort.

I am confident that together, we can make this year one of deeper connection, spiritual growth, and meaningful impact in the lives of those around us.

Let us hold onto the hope that brighter days are ahead. Let us support one another with love, kindness, and compassion. Let us find strength in our shared beliefs and the knowledge that we are not alone.

As we journey through this season, may we draw closer to each other and to our faith. Let us take comfort in the knowledge that we are supported by a loving and compassionate community.

I encourage you to reach out to those who may need support, and to seek help if you, yourself, are struggling. Together, we will emerge stronger and more united than ever before.

May our hearts be filled with hope, and may our actions be guided by love.

Blessings

*Everisto*

**FOR THE 'SHUT-INS'  
from REV SANDY**

Dear Friends,

I have lost count of the number of people who tell me they worry, and that very often they do so in the early hours of the morning. I have to admit to being something of a worrier myself, so I can empathise!

I recently came across this prayer which I hope you might find helpful, and which reminds us of these words of Jesus: *'So do not worry about tomorrow; it will have enough worries of its own. There is no need to add to the worries each day brings.'* (St Matthew, chapter 6, verse 34 : GNB):

Dear God,

As I lay me down to sleep, relax the tension of my body, calm the restlessness of my soul, still the thoughts which worry and perplex me.

Help me to rest myself and all my problems in your strong and loving arms.

Let your Spirit speak to my mind and heart while I am asleep, so that, when I wake up in the morning I may find that I have received in the night-time, light for my way, strength for my tasks, peace for my worries, forgiveness for my sins.

Grant me sleep tonight; and tomorrow, power to live.

Amen.

Every blessing

Sandy

**FLOWER ROTAS FEBRUARY 2024**

**ST JOHN'S CHURCH**

4<sup>th</sup> Mrs Grace Black  
11<sup>th</sup> Mrs Lynda Norris  
18<sup>th</sup> Mrs Dorothy Docherty  
25<sup>th</sup> Miss Margaret McVicar  
3<sup>rd</sup> March

**KIRN & SANDBANK**

Mrs P McIntyre  
Mr & Mrs D Rose  
Mrs M McDonald  
Mrs A Reid  
Mr & Mrs A Croucher

Contact Mrs Cathie Burgess  
01369 702116/07811600115



### **World Day of Prayer**

The service for this year has been prepared by the Christian Women of Palestine.

The Theme is 'I beg you to bear with one another in love.' Ephesians 4: 1- 7.

Worship at St Mun's RC Church, Dunoon at 2.30pm on Friday March 1st.

Everyone is invited to attend.

### **Care Home Worship**

Due to ill health the Ashgrove service in January had to be cancelled. Dates for February are :

**Ardenlee** - Tuesday 13th February at 2.30pm. **Ashgrove** – Tuesday 20th February at 2pm. It is a blessing to have company to lead these services.

### **Cowal Kirk Guild**

The Guild continues to meet on Thursday afternoons at 2pm in Hanover Street Hall. Everyone is welcome. Please bring your own mug. Speakers for February are listed below:

Thursday February 1st - Exp

“ February 8th - Chris North, Ukraine Support

“ February 15th - HELP @ 25 years old

“ February 22nd - Rev Sarah Brown, Hear our Voice UNIDA Brazil

“ February 29<sup>th</sup> - Leap Year Day

Friday March 1st - World Day of Prayer - 2.30pm

St Mun's RC Church, Dunoon.

*Jen Zielinski*

## ‘BACH’S ‘IN THEE IS JOY’’

My organ teacher, Annie Bell, organist at St Cuthbert’s, Dunoon, from the early 1950s till it closed in the early 1980s, studied in Paris in 1936 with Marcel Dupre, one of the famous Parisian organ teachers. While there, she befriended a girl who was studying with Louis Vierne, organist at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Her friend introduced her to Louis Vierne, who invited her up to the organ loft in Notre Dame.



While she was sitting on the organ bench beside him, he asked her what she would like him to play. ‘Bach’s ‘In the is Joy’ was her reply. So, he played it for her there and then, a memory never to be forgotten. I don’t know if anyone in Dunoon knows this, so it may be worth an airing in the newsletter now.

*Frank Barclay*

### SCOUT TROOP CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY 2023

26<sup>th</sup> Argyll (Sandbank) Scout troop is immensely grateful to all of you who used their Christmas card delivery service.

A total of 800 Christmas cards were delivered on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December. £250 was raised to benefit the Scout Group.

A huge **THANK YOU** to all who used the service.

*Dougie Orr Scout Group Leader*

### FROM THE WEE SHOP

The monies raised from the rocking horse raised £150 towards Cancer Research which we gave to Leonara Towart (Cowal Kirk treasurer) to add to the retiring collection from St John’s.

We had a successful Christmas culminating in our evening out for all volunteers able to attend the ‘Royal’ at Innellan.

I reported last month we had two new volunteers but unfortunately with one member sick, another visiting family in USA, one travelling to China, it got a bit frantic!! We donated two treadle sewing machines to ‘Smileawi’ via Alan Stewart who was delighted to receive them and at the same time I was able to give them a dozen ‘fish and chip’ dresses and hats. I have friends who bring them to me when they come on a visit. Anyone still knitting/donating for Malawi the next trip, I believe is March.

*Lawther Murchison 07747735987*

## A Stepping Stone

I am sitting in Saint Andrews Church, Kirm, on a Sunday morning with all the other children in the Sunday School. It is 1948. I am eight years old.

The church is very beautiful, built of red sandstone. There are all sorts of pillars which you can sit behind and not be seen from the pulpit. That suits us fine, because we are now in the junior Sunday school, which means we have to sit through the whole service and not go down to the crypt at halftime where we were once taught Bible stories.

So, being big girls and boys, we are meant to listen to the most boring sermons delivered by our minister, the Rev. James Thompson. We don't do that. When the sermon starts, that is our signal to switch off and amuse ourselves in our own way. After all, we have about 40 minutes to endure. We take out our little cloth handkerchief, twist them into little mouse shapes, and then flick them about on the handbook board, making them jump and frequently they land on the floor.

We are also quite good at dropping – accidentally, of course – our collection pennies onto the quarry tiled floor, which makes such a noisy clatter that several dozing parishioners waken up with a start. Old ladies sitting nearby can be heard 'tutting' at our naughty behaviour, which makes us stifle or giggle. As we normally sit in a block of pews away from the pulpit, we feel less inhibited about being slightly restless. However, today is different. For some reason, we are sitting in the pews right in front of the pulpit. Oh, horror! Now we can't hide!

Mr Thompson is speaking to the congregation, and we learn that it is Remembrance Sunday and a rather special location. Today, two new war memorial candelabras will be dedicated. Attached to the wall on either side of the chancel, is a plaque naming the parishioners who perished in World War I and World War II. And, now above each plaque is a wrought iron triangle, shaped like a Christmas tree, with an electric candle bulb at the end of each branch, which flickers, realistically, denoting the eternal flame of Remembrance.

The minister walks solemnly to the middle of the chancel, and intones, in his inimitable 'dreich' voice, the words of dedication of the memorial lights. The congregation is standing as he does this. The main part of the service and his speech over, he walks over to the left-hand plaque and reads out the names of the fallen of the Great War. He turns around and crosses slowly to the Second World War plaque and continues reading out these names. I listen disinterestedly as he reads out reverently and carefully the names written there.

A name is read out:

‘Duncan Gow Hedrick’, Merchant Navy, and realisation dawns. That is my father.

Tears spring from my eyes and I sob. Up till now, I had blithely listened, people in my father’s ship had been hit by a U-boat in 1942, and he had been drowned. Suddenly, the whole horror of the situation is brought home to me. The sobbing becomes uncontrollable, and a kindly teacher gathers me up and takes me downstairs to the crypt.

Then, someone takes me across the road to Mrs McGugan’s sweetie shop, where I am brought into the back shop and sat down and a cosy, easy chair beside a glowing, dancing. coal fire. The warmhearted, stout, white haired, Mrs McGugan bustles about and makes a lovely cup of sugary tea, which she hands to me with a sympathetic smile and comforting words.

My mother had not come to church that day, and now I know why. It was not until I was in my 60s that I felt that I could sit through at a Remembrance service with hindsight, I realise that that particular Remembrance day served as a stepping stone to growing up and facing the truth. In all its ugliness, the scars of war must be borne, though not necessarily shown.

*Marion Morrison (nee Hedrick)*

#### **MISSING VASE**

One of the brass vases from Kirn & Sandbank Church has gone missing since Harvest when three ladies took them home to polish (one vase each). Does anyone have any idea where one of the vases has gone as it is currently missing?

Please contact me if you should come across the vase or know where it might be hiding. I have been all over the Church searching for it already – so far it is still missing. Thank you in advance. *Maureen Robinson 702903*

#### **SCRIPTURE UNION BIBLE READING NOTES**

If you would like to receive the notes for April – June 2024 at a cost of £5.75 please contact Lydia Hook on 700935 as soon as possible – thank you

As Hanover Street Hall is very busy we are looking for a volunteer to assist the hallkeeper Sandra Lothian with general operation of the hall. Please contact: [admin@cowalkirk.org.uk](mailto:admin@cowalkirk.org.uk) if you are interested.

## PREACHING ROTA

28 <sup>th</sup> January	St. John's	
4 <sup>th</sup> February	Toward & Innellan	
11 <sup>th</sup> February	Kirn & Sandbank	
18 <sup>th</sup> February	St. John's	
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Toward & Innellan	
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Kirn & Sandbank	
10 <sup>th</sup> March	St. John's	COMMUNION
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Toward & Innellan	
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Kirn & Sandbank	Palm Sunday
31 <sup>st</sup> March	St. John's	Easter

Also: Wednesday mid-week services at 11.00 am in the Hanover Street Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February, everyone welcome.

Please note the deadline date for the March 2024 Newsletter is **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**, email your contributions to [marionfyfe8@gmail.com](mailto:marionfyfe8@gmail.com) as a word attachment to the email – thank you

<b>MINISTER:</b>	Rev Everisto Musedza 01369 268482/07748347487 <a href="mailto:EMusedza@churchofscotland.org.uk">EMusedza@churchofscotland.org.uk</a>
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER (OLM)</b>	Rev Sandy MacPherson MA BSc FRSA 01369 707969 SMacPherson@churchofscotland.org.uk
<b>SESSION CLERK:</b>	Mr Jim Anderson 01369 705104 sessionclerk@cowalkirk.org.uk
<b>CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR:</b>	Mrs Helen Cooper <a href="mailto:admin@cowalkirk.org.uk">admin@cowalkirk.org.uk</a>
<b>SAFEGUARDING LEAD:</b>	Mrs Jeanette Ferguson <a href="mailto:jbellcoltd@yahoo.co.uk">jbellcoltd@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</b>	Mrs Marion Fyfe 01369 705818 <a href="mailto:marionfyfe8@gmail.com">marionfyfe8@gmail.com</a>