



COWAL KIRK NEWSLETTER

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
SCOTTISH CHARITY NO: SC001976**

ISSUE NO: 29

APRIL 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

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Dear Cowal Kirk Family,

I am writing to you today with great excitement to kickstart our mission planning discussions under the theme "Have Your Say." This is a crucial time for us to come together as a community and collectively shape the future direction of our congregation. Your input, ideas, and feedback are incredibly valuable as we aim to make meaningful decisions that reflect the values and aspirations of our congregation.

We believe that each and every one of you has a unique perspective to offer, and it is by working together that we can truly achieve our shared mission. Whether you have been a lifelong member or recently joined our congregation, your voice is important and deserves to be heard.

There will be opportunities for you to participate in various discussions, workshops, and feedback sessions over the coming weeks. Your involvement during this time is vital. No contribution is too small, and every opinion is a stepping stone towards a stronger and more unified congregation.

I urge you to take this chance to have your say and be part of this significant process. Together, we can pave the way for a brighter future for our congregation and make a positive impact on our community.

Thank you in advance for your dedication and commitment to this important mission planning endeavour. Let's join hands and work towards a collective vision that truly represents all of us.

Warm regards,

Everisto

MID WEEK SERVICES IN APRIL

LED BY:

Wednesday 3rd April

Kathryn Hamilton

Wednesday 17th April

Rev Jane Campbell

All welcome for short informal worship of approx 30 minutes.

If you would like to receive the Scripture Union Bible Reading Notes for July – September please contact Lydia Hook on 700958 – thank you. Apologies for the error in Lydia's telephone number last month.

Dunoon's Hartley "Dynasty"

Frank's article in our February newsletter concerning Annie Bell's meeting the famous organist and composer Louis Vierme together with a chance encounter brought to mind the Hartley family of organists in Dunoon.

In September last year, some of the members of the Hartley family were visiting Dunoon and looked into St. John's. Our visitors were the granddaughter, great granddaughter and great grandson of Ernest G. Hartley. Granddaughter Eileen vividly remembered worship in the church and Sunday school in the hall. I was delighted to show them around and many photographs were taken including some at the organ console.

In 1896 Ernest Hartley, proprietor of Hartleys Silver Line coaches, had become the first permanent organist in Dunoon Free Church (St. John's U.F. from 1900). Ernest's wife and older children were members of the choir. Mr. Hartley would continue as organist in the church until 1938.

Why Hartley "dynasty"? Well, in later years both Leo Hartley and Harold Hartley were organists in St. Cuthbert's and the High Kirk respectively. I understand Leo was organist in the 1940s and Harold from the end of World War I until the mid-1950s.

I have consulted Donnie McDiarmid but remain unable to confirm the exact dates when both were in post – perhaps someone else knows? This information would be worth recording as part of the history of Cowal Kirk. Dunoon must surely be unique in having members of the same family as organists in the town's three main churches.

John Paterson

CARE HOME WORSHIP IN APRIL

Tuesday 9th April

Ashgrove at 2.00 pm

Tuesday 16th April

Ardenlee at 2.30 pm

Help at these services will be much appreciated

Jen Zielinski 07808277119

FOR THE 'SHUT-INS' from REV SANDY

Dear Friends,

I think it is true to say many of us have a profound love of the Psalms, where we can find verses which respond to our every mood, and need, and situation: comfort, consolation, encouragement, reassurance, strength.

Perhaps from time to time, and especially when day-to-day life has become more restricted, or when there is a feeling of isolation or loneliness, there is a tendency to feel rather downhearted.

Here is a verse from Psalm 42 which speaks to us if we are feeling dejected:

‘Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.’

Those words are as given in the King James version of the Bible, but very recently I read this same verse in what we might call ‘everyday’ language:

‘God is saying to you, “I know you feel tired, stressed, and completely overwhelmed. But know that I have your back. I am going to send you a blessing to remind you that I’m always in your corner.”’

These words combine sympathy with encouragement, they speak to us of God’s unfailing presence and support, and they remind us of his countless blessings which we enjoy and from which we benefit throughout our lives.

In His name

Sandy

FUNDRAISING/THE WEE SHOP

The WEE SHOP continues to receive some wonderful donations, for which we are grateful. It is quite exciting opening the various boxes to find someone’s treasure. We encourage you to come in for a look around, it will surprise you just what we do have. Don’t leave without your bag of tablet! Always grateful to the volunteers who are working extra hard these days to cover holidays, more help would be appreciated, remember there is also a ‘stand by’ list.

Anne is planning her ‘Real Meaning of Easter’ window. We normally join the Easter Walk but this year we are both working so will shut the shop to watch the walk pass. Muster for the walk on Saturday 30th at St John’s Church at 2.00 pm.

Lawther Murchison 07747735987

Strathclyde House Christian Housing Complex in Skelmorlie

Strathclyde House is an independent living housing scheme set in beautiful, landscaped gardens with large terraces that look directly across the Firth of Clyde to the islands of Bute and Arran. It was opened in 2000 and became part of Pilgrims' Friend Society in 2019.

We would love to share with your congregation all that Strathclyde House has to offer for anyone looking to come and live within a Christian housing complex. Our flats are available for anyone over the age of 50 and particularly suitable for folk who are looking to downsize but want to continue to live independently within a safe and happy environment.

If you wish to receive our bi-monthly newsletter you can sign up by following the link www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk/strathclyde-house-skelmorlie and scrolling to the bottom of the page.

Elaine McKenzie-Smith

Working together Ecumenically in Cowal

Over the past 6 months, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Dunoon and West Cowal Church of Scotland have been working together to run occasional Episcopal services in Kyles Church in Kames. These services take place on Sundays when there is no other service in Kyles Church, thereby maintaining continuity of worship in this community.

For Holy Trinity, they represent the re-start of the St Martin's Episcopal congregation, which used to meet from time to time in Kyles Church until it ceased to be viable in 2013. For me, it has been a joy to be involved in this expression of our common faith in Jesus.

This informal ecumenical partnership is running for a year to begin with, after which it will be reviewed. It represents the latest development in the long-standing ecumenical collaboration between the Cowal churches. The different denominations all work together under the banner of eXp, ministering to the children and young people of Cowal. The latest development in eXp's ministry is the "Open the Book" programme, which brings enacted Bible stories into primary schools across Cowal, helping the schools to deliver the RME curriculum. The Open the Book team has been received enthusiastically by both pupils and teachers, and is great fun for the actors as well!

Chris Brett, 22nd March 2024



COWAL KIRK
Scottish Charity no: SC001976

Cowal Kirk Guild

SPRING TEA

Hanover Street Hall
Saturday, April 20th
10 am - 12 noon
£3.00

Please note we have been asked to help at the Guild Spring Tea.

Please contact Lawther to note your
interest – thank you.

Lawther Murchison
01369-70830474
07747735987

PREACHING ROTA APRIL 2024

7 th April	Toward & Innellan Church
14 th April	Kirn & Sandbank Church
21 st April	St John's Church
28 th April	Toward & Innellan Church
5 th May	Kirn & Sandbank Church

COWAL KIRK APRIL FLOWER ROTAS

	ST JOHN'S	KIRN & SANDBANK
7 th	Mrs Lilian Laidlaw	Mr J Leckie
14 th	Mr Barry White	Mrs J McFarlane
21 st	Mrs Sheena Walker	Mr & Mrs A Stevenson
28 th	Mrs Margaret Johnson	Mrs L Douglas
5 th May		Mrs R McCarron
Contact: Mrs Linda Murry 01369-830022 07779131257		Contact: Mrs M Robinson 01369-702903

Please note: Deadline date for the May newsletter is Tuesday 23rd April. Please email your contributions to: marionfyfe8@gmail.com - thank you

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**YOUR VIEWS
MATTER**

**COWAL KIRK – MISSION PLANNING
PLEASE COME ALONG, JOIN IN, YOUR POINTS AND COMMENTS ARE
IMPORTANT TO US
‘MISSION FOR A NEW TOMORROW’**

Dear Friends,

Cowal Kirk, your Kirk, is currently in the process of reviewing our current Mission Plan and developing a new Mission Plan for the next period of 18 months and beyond. We need your help to assist us with the completion of this initiative for us. Your points and comments will be important, as we progress to understand the issues facing our church and congregation and to put in place objectives with priorities that can address them.

We have put together four questions to begin with, that we would like to have a conversation with you our congregation on, as follows:

- **Is the Mission Statement still relevant?**
- **From your perspective is Cowal Kirk meeting the needs of the community?**
- **From your perspective is Cowal Kirk meeting the needs of the congregation?**
- **How do we make people aware/realise that the church is still relevant?**

In our arrangements, we invite you to join us at a series of hub conversation activities, planned to take place as follows:

- **South Hub - Toward & Innellan Church on Tuesday 16th April at 2.30 pm**
 - **Middle Hub - Hanover Street Hall on Tuesday 23rd April at 2.30 pm**
 - **North Hub - Kirn & Sandbank Church Hall Tuesday 30th April at 2.30 pm**
- Tea and Coffee will be available.**

We look forward with much anticipation and enthusiasm to your support of our work.

Have your say, this is your church this is our future please come along.

Anyone unable to attend the hubs can make their views known by writing to the church Administrator. Please include your name in the letter and place it in the Minister's Box at church.

Cowal Kirk Mission Plan Review Group