



COWAL KIRK NEWS

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
SCOTTISH CHARITY No. SC001976**

ISSUE No. 33

AUGUST 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 EDITOR

Dear friends,

As Everisto is on holiday, it has fallen to me to put a few words together where his pastoral letter might otherwise be.

As it happens, I have just *returned* from ‘holiday,’

although if the image that word creates is of a

relaxing time, then perhaps I should limit it to “I’ve been away!”

And that’s because, apart from visiting my daughter and her children, who live in France, the other purpose of my visit was to help her get her home ready to welcome guests for the summer period.

And it’s this word WELCOME that I found myself pondering over.

I gather it’s origins are from the Old English wilcuman; where wil means desire or pleasure, and cuman means come. So, welcome has always meant “it is good that you have come.”

Whilst I was in France, however, I came across another quaint tradition, where the homeowners in Provence used to plant three cypress trees at the entrance to their property - some still do.

Traditionally this was a symbol of hospitality, of welcome; but it goes further. One cypress tree by the gate tells the traveller they are welcome and may quench their thirst. Two cypress trees means the traveller is welcome for a drink and something to eat. Three cypress trees mean the traveller will be provided with full accommodation: a drink, something to eat and a bed for a good night’s rest. Now that’s some welcome!

But what does the Bible say about welcome: well, in Romans, Paul writes, “Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you.” And of course there are countless other reminders of God’s extravagant, welcoming embrace all through the Bible. Best remembered, perhaps, is in Matthew: “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” God welcomes all... all kinds of people.

Our challenge is to follow that example, in our daily lives, into our homes and into our church. May we all rise to that challenge.

With every blessing,

Ruth



Deep Sea Divers

**5th to 9th August
Hanover Street Hall**

As the weeks draw closer to the our Deep Sea Divers Holiday Club, plans and preparations are well underway. We are all feeling very excited!

So we are asking you to please pray for the Team as we prepare for the week. Pray also for the children who will be joining us. And pray for God to guide us in all we do and for us to be alert and attentive to his voice.

We are also delighted to tell you that we have been approached by Morrisons Community Champion, who have offered to provide a healthy lunch and snack for all the children each day. We are overwhelmed at their generosity and we thank God for this initiative and their kindness.

Lorna McGinnigal

Cowal Kirk Families Worker

FROM the EDITOR

Just a wee follow-on to my questions/suggestions in last month's newsletter re how you would like to see these pages filled. Are you happy with its current format? I'm open to any new ideas you may have and look forward to hearing about them. It could be that you'd like more stories about what's been happening in the community, or maybe you'd like to tell us about the things you've enjoyed in church? Perhaps you have ideas for other activities we could organize? And I'm still interested to know what you think about a title ... other than just Newsletter? It's your magazine, so let me know. *Ruth*

Kirn Cafe Celebration



What a JOY-FULL morning we had yesterday celebrating the first year of the Kirn Café. The church was bursting full with COLOUR and NOISE and FUN - and lots of sweet treats too. It has been such a wonderful year. From watching the littlest ones grow each week - newborns to (almost) 1-year-olds, and all the other fabulous ages and stages - to watching friendships grow and develop.

Having a safe space for a friendly chat and ears to listen, where all ages can come together, and sharing delicious treats each week

from our fabulous Morian and Maureen who bake for us each week, and *never* run out of tea! We especially want to thank Laura and Fiona for their hard work and commitment all year round, and for pioneering such a lovely community group for us to be part of.

A special thank you, too, to our



big helpers from Kirn Primary who helped deliver some little gifts. All the little ones were gifted with lovely bible story books and we hope and pray they will be able to read them at home with their families.

It was a wonderful morning of celebration and has been an utter pleasure to be involved with it this year.

We will miss the Kirn Cafe over summer but we are excited for all that lies ahead!

*Lorna McGinnigal,
Cowal Kirk Families Worker.*



Cowal Kirk Guild

The committee is making plans for the new session, but is seeking advice from members on how to proceed. To this end, a questionnaire has been sent to all who attended last year, and folks are asked to pass their completed forms to Morian Fletcher, John Paterson or Jeneffer Zielinski by August 18th, 2024.

The Guild will meet in the first week of October in Cowal Kirk, St John's Hall and everyone will be welcome.

Care Home Worship

Services in August are as follows:

Ashgrove:

Tuesday, 6th August at 2pm.

Ardenlee:

Tuesday, 20th August at
2.30 pm.

Any help on these occasions will be much appreciated.

THANK YOU

At the Kirk Session on 27th June, I was presented with a lovely floral arrangement and some delicious chocolates on my 'retirement' as Editor of the Cowal Kirk newsletter.

Many thanks to you all for such kindness which was a lovely unexpected surprise. It has been a pleasure to be of use to the Kirk over the years, and I thank you all for your contributions.

Best wishes to Ruth for resuming her role as Editor.

Thank you again, Marion Fyfe.

Flower Rota for August

Kirn & Sandbank

4th	Mrs Senga Wilson
11th	Mrs Rosemary Benn
18th	Mr Ken Togwell
25th	Kenneth & Stuart Taylor
Contact:	Mrs M. Robinson
	(01369) 702903

St. John's

Mrs Cathie Burgess
Mrs Louise Cannon
Mrs Ann Cooper
Mrs Ishbel Henderson
Mrs Mary Forbes
(01369) 705364



Heaven's Grocery Store

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago. One day I saw a sign that read: 'Heaven's Grocery Store'.

As I got a little closer, the door came open wide, and when I came to myself, I was standing inside.

I saw a host of angels; they were standing everywhere. One handed me a basket and said, "My child shop with care." Everything a Christian needs was in that Grocery Store, and if you couldn't carry all, you could come back for more.

First I got some PATIENCE, LOVE was in the same row. Further down was UNDERSTANDING, you need that wherever you go.

I got a box of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH; I couldn't miss the Holy Ghost, for He was all over the place. I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me win the race, and though my basket was getting full, I remembered to get some GRACE.

I didn't forget SALVATION, for salvation, that was free. So, I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me. Then I walked up to the counter to pay the grocery bill, for I thought I had everything to do my Master's will.

As I ravelled up the aisle, I saw PRAYER, and I just had to put that in, for I knew when I stepped outside, I was sure to run into SIN.

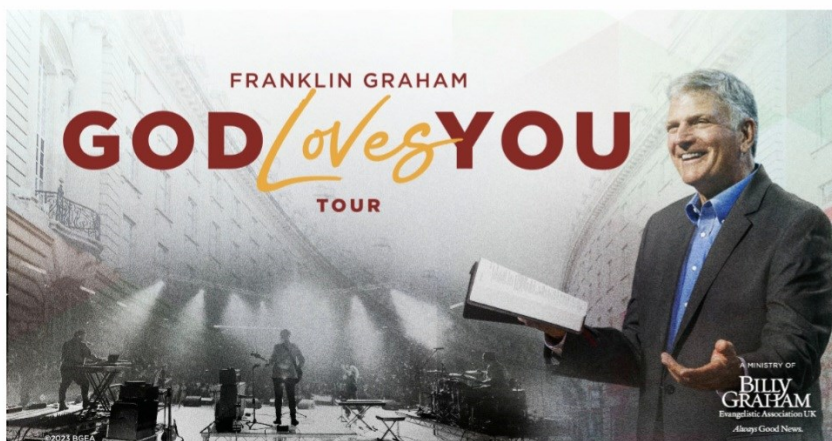
PEACE and JOY were plentiful, they were on the last shelf; but SONGS and PRAISES were hanging near, so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the Angel, "Now how much do I owe?" He just smiled and said, "Just take them, everywhere you go!"

Again I smiled at him and said, "No, how much do I really owe?"

The Angel smiled again and said, "Jesus paid your bill, my child, a long time ago."





On Saturday 22nd June, Jayne Boyle, Jim Anderson and Moira Keddie all attended the Franklin Graham 'God Loves you' Tour at the OVO Hydro in Glasgow.

The event started with some wonderful rock, pop and gospel music by musicians Taya, Michael W Smith, Dennis Agajanian and the Tommy Coomes Band. The music was enjoyed by more than 10,000 people of all ages, and they joined in the gospel singing throughout the evening.

It was a great atmosphere in the arena as people filtered in to their seats. Equally encouraging was to see so many young people and families, a testament that the Christian faith is still thriving in our country.

Franklin Graham then delivered a very interesting sermon, after which there was the anticipated invitation to members of the audience to come forward, if they wished to make a commitment to Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Over 1,000 people took up the invitation and were presented with bibles and reading material to help them on their own personal journey, supported by the Franklin Graham team.

We really enjoyed the experience and the companionship of friends from other churches in Dunoon. There was a nice atmosphere on our coach and an enjoyable time was had by all.

FUND RAISING REPORT

It is the 18th of July, and it's 8.01 am. My day off! What will I do with myself? Well, the rain has started, so that's put paid to the garden. Still got to walk the dog. The phone beeps ...ominous (sigh) Yes, another day off cancelled! And yet another member of staff off sick.

You must be fed up reading about all the difficulties we have in keeping the shop open. I think the time has come to reduce the hours - or close? - when there simply isn't enough help to cover.

CAN YOU HELP?

It's only 10am till 1pm, or 1pm till 4pm, and as a main source of income for Cowal Kirk ... is this too much to ask?

On a happier note we are still enjoying a fair share of the footfall in Argyll Street. The school holidays have made the shop a little busier with our 'good as new' children's clothes being a big success.

Another little snippet from the WEE Shop ... We were able to kit out one young boy who's parents had come for a trip 'Doon the Watter'. Unfortunately, the lad got too enthusiastic at the water's edge and fell in! They'd been directed to us, and the lad left us dry and well-dressed from the skin out ...all for less than £10.00 :)

You just don't know what's ahead of you when you open the door. That was a particularly nice day, and the family promised to return. By the way: Thank you to Linda Murry, who has just offered to cover for me this afternoon, this is REALLY APPRECIATED.

Our MEET and GREET days are held on the first Monday of the month (with the exception of August which will be on the 12th) **Please note the change of date.** They continue to be great afternoons of fun and games; not to mention the fabulous afternoon "Cuppa".

So far we have had Bingo and Beetle, and this month the theme is Game On! These afternoons are FREE, all we ask is that you bring a little gift for the Raffle, and the events are open to everyone, whether members of Cowal Kirk or not.

Get your ticket from myself or any fund raising member — this helps to assess what we need for catering.

See you there?

Yours aye

Lawther

Following on from last month's successful "Cakes and Cookies" event held in the foyer of St John's on 23rd June, plus the addition of several red envelopes which were handed in after three church services, the grand total has increased to £1,065.

On top of that, 22 of the envelopes also had the Gift Aid declaration completed, which enables us to claim a further 25% in proportion to the amount donated. A magnificent result, and huge thanks to all.



WEEKLY FREE OFFERING ENVELOPES

Many of our members place their offerings in the open plate in numbered envelopes which we provide. If you are a tax payer and have signed a Gift Aid Declaration, this provides the Finance Group with the means

in which to record any cash donations. We would encourage all tax payers to do this. At no cost to you it allows us to claim 25% back from Inland Revenue ...free money for us!



Our offertory envelopes order is due for renewal. If you would like to receive a supply for 2025 please let me know by 30 September, 2024. Similarly if you no longer wish to receive envelopes I would be grateful to hear from you. If you received envelopes this year and wish to continue to do so, no action is required.

Shona Ritchie

THE HAVEN AT COWAL GAMES

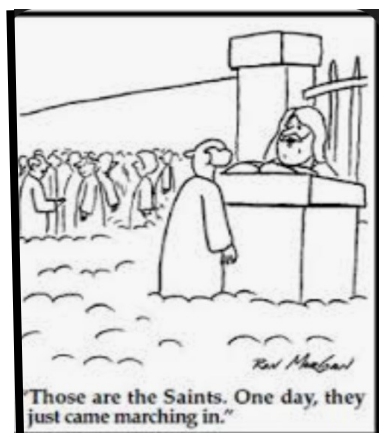
Arrangements are well advanced for the Mission effort when all the Cowal churches come together in the Haven Tent to provide refreshments, activities, worship material and conversation, at the Stadium on Saturday, 31st August.

Some slots are still to be filled and volunteers are invited to add their names to the planning sheet at the Church on August 4th, 11th or 18th. Please give a thought to whether you can help. A briefing meeting will be held on Monday, 26th August.

HOLY HUMOUR

A Primary school teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied: "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said: "But no-one knows what God looks like." Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied: "They will in a minute."



"The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible!"

attrib. George Burns

When visiting his grandparents, a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages.

Suddenly something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages.

"Mum, look what I found," he called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in his voice, the boy answered: "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

A new minister was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door.

He took out a business card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back and stuck it in the letterbox.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned, but added to it was this cryptic message "Genesis 3:10".

Reaching for his Bible to check the citation, he broke into gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock". Genesis 3:10 reads: "I heard you in the garden, and was afraid for I was naked."

FOR THE 'SHUT-INS'

Dear Friends,

I am always interested, although not really surprised, at the number of folk who tell me that worry causes them to lose sleep. The early hours of the morning seem to be times when people lie awake, going over and over some problem or other.

And, of course, when we do that, the scale of a problem can become unjustifiably exaggerated, often wholly disproportionate.

It would be naïve to think that none of us ever has difficulties with which to wrestle, or anxieties to confront but, particularly if we are on our own and feel we have nobody with whom we can talk issues through, they can become all-consuming.

Here, then, are some words which I hope you will find helpful:

WORRY is a conversation you have with yourself
about things you cannot change.

PRAYER is a conversation you have with God
about things he can change.

You see, we are never completely alone, for God is always by our side, and when we find ourselves restless with worries or concerns, when we talk to him we can unburden ourselves and find a weight lifted off our shoulders.

In the words of the Psalmist: 'But I trust in you, Lord; I say, 'You are my God. My times are in your hands' (Ps 31; vv 14, 15)

Every blessing,

Sandy.

PREACHING ROTA

Sunday:	4th August	St. John's
	11th August	Toward & Innellan
	18th August	Kim & Sandbank
	25th August	St. John's



eXp Annual Summer Camp

July 22nd-26th

Our families worker, Lorna McGinnigal and family were able to join the team for this week down at Whithaugh Park where eXp were to hold this year's camp. The Cowal Kirk minibus was used to take all the volunteers down on the Saturday for training, and to prepare for the young people arriving on the Monday morning.

Susan and Jack Whyte and the team have been working tirelessly to prepare for this, which is no small feat. But it is an utterly worthwhile project to provide these young people with such an amazing week full of fun and lots of amazing new experiences.

We hope to have some feedback in next month's Newsletter.

MID - WEEK WORSHIP

These Services are held on alternate Wednesdays in Hanover Street Hall at 11am on the following dates:

August 7th : Jeneffer Zielinski / August 21st : Simon Wallace
(Apologies - the dates in the July newsletter were incorrect)

Please note: on August 7th, as the Holiday Club are using Hanover Street Hall, the service will take place in St John's Church Hall.

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Please note: The **deadline** for the September newsletter is **Monday 26th**

Please email your contributions to EDITOR as above – thank you.