



COWAL KIRK NEWSLETTER

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

ISSUE NO: 30

MAY 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

MINISTER'S DESK - PRAYER

Dear Cowal Kirk,

I hope this message finds you well and filled with the blessings of faith and spiritual strength. Today, I want to take a moment to remind each one of us about the incredible power of prayer.

Prayer is not just a simple act of words, but a powerful connection to the divine. Through prayer, we can find solace in times of trouble, strength in moments of weakness, and guidance when we are lost. It is a direct line to God, a way to express our deepest thoughts, fears, hopes, and gratitude.

Let us remember that prayer is not restricted to specific times or places. We can pray anywhere, at any time, and in any situation. Whether we are in church, at home, at work, or even during our daily activities, we can always turn to prayer for comfort and guidance.

As members of this church family, let us make a commitment to incorporate prayer into our daily lives. Let us pray for each other, for our community, and for the world. Let us lift up our voices in unity and faith, knowing that God hears our prayers and works wonders in response.

I encourage each of you to strengthen your prayer life, to seek God wholeheartedly, and to trust in the power of prayer. Together, let us create a community of believers who are steadfast in prayer and bound together by our faith.

May the power of prayer bring us closer to God and to each other, guiding us through life's challenges and celebrating in life's triumphs.

With love and blessings, *Everisto*

CARE HOME WORSHIP

The services in May are noted below. Help on these occasions is much appreciated:

Ashgrove – Tuesday May 14th at 2.00 pm
Ardenlee - Tuesday May 21st at 2.30 pm

MID WEEK SERVICES

Short mid week worship will be held in Hanover Street Hall at 11.00 am on the Wednesdays below. All are welcome.

May 1st – Shirley Robins

May 15th – Simon Wallace

COWAL KIRK PREACHING ROTA FOR MAY 2024

5th May

Kirn & Sandbank

12th May

St John's – Scottish Submariners

19th May

Toward & Innellan

26th May

Kirn & Sandbank

2nd June

St John's

MANY THANKS

I am writing to thank Ruth, Sandy and Everisto for preaching at Holy Week services at Cowal Kirk, St John's Church Hall. Not forgetting Hilary and Frank who played the piano for Holy Week services.

And thanks for the ladies who put on the catering over Holy Week.

Thank you all.

Ewan Hamilton

MUSIC WITH MEMORIES

Our next get-together will be on Wednesday 15th May at 2.00 pm in St John's Church Hall.



Hope you'll be ready to sing!

Lynda Norris

**FOR THE ‘SHUT-INS’
FROM REV SANDY**

Dear Friends,

Sometimes I fear deep or complex theology can get in the way of a straightforward or uncomplicated approach to life and faith, and so I was delighted recently to read these helpful words penned by author Sonia Ricotti:

‘Accept what is, let go of what was, and have faith in what will be.’

That advice is, I think, useful for everyone, but perhaps especially so for those whose lives or circumstances have changed and are not what they once were.

Accepting new situations and being content to let go of at least some of what has gone before can avoid debilitating hang-ups and frustrations, and give peace of mind.....

.....and having faith in what the future holds speaks to us about our trust in God and in his Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We cannot change the past, and the present is what it is, but we can place our future in God’s hands, knowing that he will always be by our side and that his support will never ever falter or fail.

‘I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for.’

(Jeremiah, chapter 29, verse 11 - Good News Bible

Every blessing, Sandy

Cowal Kirk Guild

Sincere thanks are due to all who helped, donated or attended the Spring Tea on Saturday, April 20th. The wonderful sum of over £600.00 was raised and this will be distributed to good causes and projects supported by The Guild.

Special mention must go to Rev Ruth Griffiths for beautiful posters, Lawther Murchison for enthusiastic support, and tireless energy, and Jayne Boyle and Joan Ellis who have been wonderful ‘tea ladies’ throughout the year.

Thank you so much, everyone

If you would like to receive the Scripture Union Bible notes for July – September 2024 at a cost of £5.75 please contact Lydia Hook on 700958 as soon as possible – thank you

1st Cowal: Continuing our Growth



Boys Brigade is back, after the Easter holidays, and in typical 1st Cowal fashion, we're back with a bang! Over the Easter break, our leaders took the time to consider promotions between our sections, which allowed us to create space in our Anchor Section to clear our waiting list again. We welcomed 8 new young people on our first night back!

Unfortunately, the Anchor waiting list didn't remain clear for too long, and we have another four young people waiting to start their BB adventures when we have space available. We've even had to start a waiting list for our Junior Section too! Turns out we're so popular, we have families putting their children on our waiting lists from the age of three, which is absolutely phenomenal, and a real testament to the hard work of all our volunteer leaders!

We're delighted that, with support from BBHQ, we've been able to access a small grant, aimed at supporting companies with young people from priority areas, and thanks to an anonymous donation from a member of the Cowal Kirk, we're able to start planning some bigger adventures for the company, without risking our financial viability.

At the start of each term, our first night back comprises games that encourage our young people to get to know new friends, and learn new things about each other, and this term was no different. Over the next 9 weeks, we've got weekly sessions that are truly action packed!

Our Anchor Section will be looking at how they can play a role in saving Planet Earth, exploring The Lost Sheep, expanding their horizons looking at the Heart of Creation and Going Wild hunting for insects and making butterfly feeders.

Junior Section will be putting themselves into other people's shoes as we learn about Lip Reading, how to work together as a team and learning about our oceans in a programme linked to World Ocean Day.

Company and Senior Sections will be learning how different types of leadership impact teams in our Taking a Lead activities, using the story of the Prodigal Son to consider how forgiveness and unconditional love flow in abundance from our Perfect Father in Heaven and exploring the Mandela Effect in creating false memories.

Members of Cowal Kirk are asked to mark Wednesday 19th June 2024 at 6 pm in their diaries, as we invite you all to attend our annual Awards Night presentation, recognising the successes of all our young people over the year. Venue to be confirmed shortly.

We thank you all for your ongoing good wishes, support and prayers in developing the company. The 1st Cowal wouldn't be what it is without your support.

Jamie, Captain

FUNDRAISING GROUP

This month has just flown by. The WEE SHOP has been busy, we are SO grateful to everyone who has donated to us.

One really lovely item was a small, had embroidered table cloth, donated by Christina Matear, so nice we are offering it as our first prize for this month's Charity Appeal.

I am sure we all will be aware of our 'Shona's Challenge'. She will participate in this year's 'Kilt Walk' for the Beatson Cancer Charity. Shona will walk with 'Argyll' her bear! We wish her Good Luck. I will report on funds we have raised next month.

We had also been asked to help the Guild with their Spring Tea, which was a great success.

This is an important part of the Fundraising Group to support others.

We have a few other possible get-togethers to plan SO watch this space.

Lawther Murchison Fund Raising Group

COWAL KIRK FLOWER ROTAS FOR MAY

ST JOHN'S

5th	Vacant
12 th	Vacant
19 th	Mrs Rhona McClelland
26 th	Mrs Ann Cain
Contact Mrs Mary Forbes 01369-705364	

KIRN & SANDBANK

Mrs R McCarron
Mr & Mrs I Stirling
Mrs E Davidson
Mr & Mrs R Stokes
Contact Mrs M Robinson
01369-702903

High Kirk: Making Progress

The High Kirk Dunoon SCIO application was submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) on the 17th December, and we received charitable status on 1st February 2024.



Whilst this was underway, we begun engagement with the Scottish Land Fund, and have met with our advisor at Highlands and Islands Enterprise on the 12th March 2024 to discuss our proposals and next steps, which was delayed by the Scottish Land Fund until our charitable registration was concluded.

In tandem to this, we began the process to open our bank account, which is another required step in being able to purchase the High Kirk - you can't buy and building if you don't have any money! This was confirmed as being accepted on the 22nd April.

We have a draft tender document together to access Stage 1 of the Scottish Land Fund funding. This will enable us to access up to £30k to undertake preparatory surveys and develop our business case further, increasing the likelihood of success. Our advisor was impressed with how well we understood the local community and it's needs, and how well considered our outline business case was - a huge testament to the small group of volunteers we have working hard to make this a reality.

Our volunteers all have full time jobs and other significant volunteering endeavours - we working as hard and as fast as we can in the background to progress proposals, whilst ensuring they're representative of the community it serves. Unfortunately, these things are not always quick, and we refuse to cut corners and take a slap-dash approach to something that should be thoroughly considered!

We know we have some length of journey ahead of us, and that the waters won't always be calm. We are not afraid of this, and are preparing the strongest case for funding that we possibly can.

In all of this, we have faith in God. We firmly believe that this is the right path to follow, to support the community within Cowal, and it if is His wish, it will happen as He plans. Best wishes, *Jamie, Jen, Sam and Bobby, Trustees*

eXp Youthwork Annual Ceilidh, Cake and Concert



Event information

Date 24 May 2024

Cost £10 for 16 and over, £5 for 15 & under

Venue Dunoon Burgh Hall, 195 Argyll St, Dunoon PA23 7DD

Type Community & Fundraising Music, Theatre, Performance, Film

Tickets are on sale for the eXp Youthwork Annual Ceilidh, Cake and Concert at Dunoon Burgh Hall on Friday May 24th, 2024.

£10 for 16 and over, £5 for 15 & under, 15 & under must be accompanied by a responsible adult. There will be a raffle and fund raising games as well.

Tickets are available from the School of Music Young People and from the eXp Office at 63 Hillfoot Street, Dunoon PA23 7DR.

Every year we fund raise for our Summer Camp, buy tickets and help us to create an amazing experience for local young people.

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Please note: The deadline for the June newsletter is **Friday 24th May**. Please email your contributions to marionfyfe8@gmail.com – thank you.



**YOUR VIEWS
MATTER**

**COWAL KIRK – MISSION PLANNING
PLEASE 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?**
- **Or you may have other feedback which you would like to give us.**

If you are unable to attend one of our hub events but would like to have your say, please complete the box overleaf and hand it to your Elder, send it to our administrator, or pop it into the Minister's box during Sunday service.

**Have your say,
this is your church
this is our future
please let us know what you think.**

Cowal Kirk Mission Plan Review Group.

- 1. Is the Mission Statement still relevant?**
- 2. From your perspective is Cowal Kirk meeting the needs of the community?**
- 3. From your perspective is Cowal Kirk meeting the needs of the congregation?**
- 4. How do we make people aware/realise that the church is still relevant?**
- 5. Any other feedback you would like to give.**

Name :