



COWAL KIRK NEWS

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

ISSUE No. 36

NOVEMBER 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 MANSE

It's a small world.

Recently, I got a chance to take a break, and we all set off for Peebles Hydro. We got there late afternoon and, upon settling in, I decided to go for a walk, just to familiarise myself with my surroundings. As usual, my daughter decided to come along. So, we set off and, a few yards away from the reception, we saw

two ladies having a conversation. From what we could hear they were not speaking in English and, as we drew closer, we soon figured out what language they were using, so I quickly interrupted their conversation. With much delight, we felt as if we had known each other for a long time. They were Zimbabweans ... it's a small world!

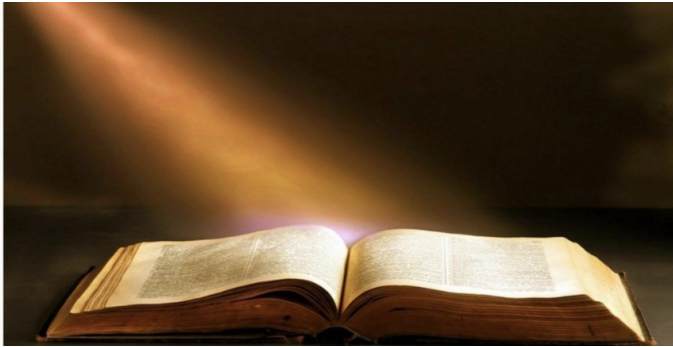
Those of you who tuned in to BBC Radio Scotland will have heard me share on the programme New Every Sunday. It was such a delight to be invited to share, and I didn't hesitate to accept the offer, as this took me back to a time when I used to work for a Christian radio back in Zimbabwe. So, a few days after the programme, I got an email from a retired minister who used to serve in Cardonald Parish Church, who informed me that one of his friends had listened to the programme and was delighted to hear a Zimbabwean voice as he had been born in Zimbabwe. The minister inquired if I would be willing to give the listener a call and, me being me, I agreed. She is 96 years old and had lived in Zimbabwe for 53 of those years. She asked me if I knew or had heard of a couple of Presbyterian ministers. It's a small world. One of the ministers we both knew had died, and I was one of the pallbearers. It turned out that the other minister is the minister serving in the charge I served in just before moving to Scotland. It truly is a small world indeed.

I am sure as you read this, you might be able to recall a time in your travels when you have met someone and, upon chatting, you have found that you know the same people, places, or events. Such is life.

The writer of the Gospel of John reminds us that as many as believed in Christ, they are given the right to be called children of God. We are God's children, and in this small world, we can only love one another.

BIBLE STUDY

An opportunity for those interested in coming together for an afternoon of Bible Study began on Tuesday afternoon, 30th October,

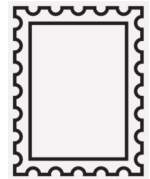


in the Manse.
It is intended to hold these every Tuesday: from 2pm to 3pm.
If you would like to join in with these

informal discussions, please just come along to the Manse at the appointed time.

CofS Stamp Appeal

Church of Scotland's Stamp Appeal is supporting Firmly Planted who make a sustainable impact across Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe by establishing tree nurseries, thus addressing food insecurity, deforestation, climate change and youth unemployment. **Boxes will be available** in each church, so building, so please bring along all your used postage stamps and place them in the boxes. They will then be sent on to help the Appeal.



Flower Rota for November

Kirn & Sandbank

3rd	Mrs M. Munro	Mrs Pat Paterson
10th	~ Remembrance Sunday ~	
17th	-	Mrs Ann Cain
24th	Mr & Mrs John Stirling	-
Contact:	Mrs M. Robinson 702903	Mrs Linda Murry 830022/

07779131257



IN CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS

Elizabeth Anderson, always known as Betty, has had a connection with Cowal Kirk (as we now know it) that covers virtually her whole life.

Her parents were members of St. Cuthbert's Church in Dunoon, and she attended the Sunday School, and was subsequently married there to Bobby in 1948.

They then attended the High Kirk where their children were baptized; but in 1950 she moved her 'lines' to the Matheson Church.



Since then her family's association has encompassed baptisms, weddings and, sadly, funerals, but it is a story of the best part of 100 years connection with Cowal Kirk one way or another.

Betty only left Innellan in 2023 to move into 'Ardnahein', where she still takes an active part in whatever is going on, whether it be quizzes, bingo, craft activities or the occasional outing, and she loves to keep "tabs" on whatever the younger members of her family are getting up to.

We wish Betty many more happy times and congratulate her on this remarkable achievement. God's Blessings, Betty.



Words of wisdom: "There's a fine line between a long, drawn-out sermon and a hostage situation."

URGENT

Our Wee Shop is struggling to survive!

We are currently only managing to keep open 5 days a week through the willingness of some to take on extra shifts whenever one of the regulars is ill or has an appointment or is called away for other reasons. As a result it is coming to the point when we may well lose our shop altogether!

We are desperately in need of three people (**at least**) to offer just **ONE** Saturday morning per **MONTH** in order for us to keep going.

Might that be you? Just the **one** Saturday morning? If so, please contact Lawther as soon as possible.



MID - WEEK WORSHIP

These short services are held in the High Kirk Hall at 11am, on the first and third Wednesdays of every month ~ **All are welcome.**

Wednesday, November 6th - Mr Donald McDiarmid

Wednesday, November 20th - Ms Shirley Robins

REQUESTS FOR VISITS

If you know of anyone who would like a visit, for any reason or none, either from an Elder or from the Minister, would you please pass the information on to either Everisto or Jim Anderson.

So often we learn too late that someone has had a fall, been in hospital, is having a difficult time or is just feeling lonely. We are a caring community, so we need to keep abreast of all such circumstances.



Everisto on the Radio

We are delighted that our minister, Everisto, was invited (and agreed!) to participate in the programme: 'New Every Sunday' on Radio Scotland on two Sundays in October - 13th and 20th. The first of these was in recognition of Black History Month. You will be able to listen to both editions of these

broadcasts via the Cowal Kirk [website](#), or BBC Radio Sounds.

Retiring Offerings

As we did last year, during the service on Remembrance Sunday (10th November), we will be scrolling on the screens the names of the fallen, listed church by church. While this is being displayed, there will be an opportunity for those attending to come and lay a poppy cross in our small remembrance garden, at which time you may also leave a donation.

Retiring offerings for the Sundays listed will be sent to the following:

10th November : Remembrance Sunday - Erskine
8th December : Salvation Army Service - Salvation Army
24th December : Christmas Eve Family Service - CHAS

PREACHING ROTA

Sunday	3rd November	Toward & nnellan	
	10th November	St. John's* Remembrance Sunday	
	17th November	Kirn & Sandbank	
	24th November	Toward & nnellan	
	1st December	Kirn & Sandbank	

* Please note

The Service on 10th November will begin

15 minutes earlier at 10.15 a.m!



This is to allow any folk who wish to attend the service at the Cenotaph the opportunity to slip out and get there on time.

The 25th Anniversary of HELP

On the 15th of October, 2024, local charity HELP celebrated its 25th Anniversary.

HELP supports some of the most vulnerable young people in our society, providing support with Housing, Employment and Health and Wellbeing and, as local people, you will have seen a number of the many environmental projects undertaken by HELP's young people to improve our community.

At a celebration lunch, held in HELP's offices, Janet MacKellar, their founding Manager, spoke of the early beginnings of the organisation when she turned up on that first day and found there was no office, and no desk! In fact all that was on offer was a tea trolley on which to contain all her files and paperwork and she would roll it up to the desk of anyone who happened to be on holiday or off sick - the early beginnings perhaps of what is now widely known as 'Hot desking'?

HELP has come a long way since those early days, supporting over 4,000 young people, many of whom now have families of their own, and attribute their successes to the support and encouragement they were given in those early youthful days. A number of them have even set up their own successful businesses, as well as establishing themselves on positive career paths.

There was, however, a poignant moment during the celebrations, when Janet explained that there had not always been a happy story to

tell, and that in recognition of the young people that our town lost during those past 25 years, two of HELP's young people unveiled a beautiful stained glass window, designed by a group of the charity's young people, created by Alec Galloway Stained Glass, and dedicated by Rev Everisto Musedza.

The service, which also has a base in Rothesay, looks forward to serving the young people of our community for years to come, and is thankful for the support given by the Cowal Kirk, and Starter Pack Plus.



Starter Packs Plus

And speaking of Starter Packs, although we still have some funds, thanks to the Lotteries Community Fund, we really have to keep these in reserve. This means we are continually in need of your donations, and currently our shortages are for the following: Ladels, Mashers, Spatulas, Tin openers and Peelers, as well as tea-towels. At the top of our list, however are fitted sheets, both single and double. If you are able to help with any of the above, we would be most grateful. Please contact me (Editor/Ruth) or call 07875466412.



~~ FUND RAISING NEWS ~~

On **Monday, 4th November**, we return for our monthly Meet & Greet event, which will be another **BINGO** session. **BUT** on **Monday 2nd December**, there will be a slight change. Whilst the format will be a Festive **SANTA BEETLE**, those who pick up tickets and present them at the door will be entered into a **PRIZE DRAW**. Getting your tickets beforehand really does help us with catering, so please, if you can, get yours before you come along. On this occasion we will also have some Christmas fun and entertainment.

DON'T MISS IT— GET YOUR TICKETS & COME ALONG!!



COWAL KIRK GUILD

The meetings for November will be in Cowal Kirk St John's Hall at 2pm on Thursdays as listed below, **EXCEPT** Thursday, November 7th when the meeting will be in the **HIGH KIRK HALL**, Hanover Street. Everyone is welcome, but **PLEASE** remember to bring your own

mug.

7th November - Carol Finlay, Faith Action Team

(in High Kirk Hall, Hanover Street)

14th November - Julie McPhee, Clyde Cottage Nursery

21st November - Fun Day

28th November - Rev Sandy Macpherson: '50 years at the Console'

CHILDREN & FAMILY NEWS

In writing this, I cannot believe we're already almost at the end of October. Our hearts (and bellies) are still FULL OF LOVE (and Pizza) from our first ever Pizza Church which took place in the High Kirk Hall on the last Friday of September. And we are so grateful to everyone for coming and making it all such a great event, a time to gather together, to eat pizza, to share stories about life together. It truly was a family friendly style of church for all as we had all ages, from great-grannies to babies (and everyone in between) sitting round tables or out in the garden, singing, colouring-in, and even learning some African songs, thanks to eXp.

There was laughter and prayer, new friendships made and stories of old shared round the tables. There were lots of familiar faces and quite a number of new ones too. I was so inspired by Zeke, my 2nd eldest, who took some of the flyers into school and handed them out to his classmates, a number of whom came along with their grannies and aunts. Let us never underestimate the power of an invitation.

Our word for the night was from Romans chapter 12, quoted here from The Message translation:

*"So here's what I want you to do,
God helping you:*

*Take your everyday, ordinary life -
your sleeping, eating, going-to-
work, and walking around life -
and place it before God as an
offering.*

*Embracing what God does for you
is the best thing you can do for
him."*



We truly hope everyone had the best time at Pizza Church and our prayer will always be that we take away something from the night, and this month it was this > "To embrace what God does for us all, in our everyday, ordinary lives." He never leaves us, and for this I am truly thankful.

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(Cont'd)We've now had our second successful Pizza Church on 25th October, with **98** people coming along! Our theme for that night was FULL OF LIGHT (and pizza, of course!)

The following are our next Pizza Church "Dine In" dates :

Friday 29th November and Friday 20th December

DON'T MISS IT! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

If you are able to join us, or would like to help out and serve on either of these dares, please drop me a email: familiesworker@cowwalkirk.org.uk or phone on 07967191238. My email is always open and I'll always be delighted to hear from you.

Lorna x

LECTERN BIBLES

This is another chance for you to take ownership of one of these old Lectern Bibles. They are no longer required by the church, but before they are disposed of, if you would like one, please contact the Administrator:
admin@cowwalkirk.org.uk or 07471650380



Five and a half Stars!
Honestly, people are so judgemental these days.

Welcome to
HEAVEN
★★★★★
- Trip Advisor



Christmas Card Delivery

26th Argyll (Sandbank) Scout Troop will once again be delivering Christmas Cards in the local area, to raise the groups profile as well as providing them with funds. The cards will be franked and delivered with a smile on **Sunday, 15th December.**

The cost will be **30p** per card, or **£1.50** per 6 cards, which is more than 50% cheaper than a 2nd Class stamp. The areas covered will be: Dunoon, Sandbank, Kirn and Hunter's Quay, Kilmun/Strone.

Please note: whilst they will endeavor to deliver all the cards, some of the far-flung regions of Cowal are beyond the range of wee small legs!

Cards can be handed in (with payment) to any:-
Cub Pack meeting, Mondays: 7pm-8.30,
Beaver Colony meeting, Tuesdays: 6.30-7.30,
(Scout Hall, Crawford Lane, Hunter's Quay),
Scout Troop meetings, Thursday: 7pm - 9.00.

Or: Kirn & Sandbank Church on Sunday, 1st December; or St. John's Church on Sunday, 8th December.



Easy Fundraising

This is another shout out for Easy Fundraising. As the UK's biggest charity shopping site, it now has over 2 million supporters who have raised over £50 million for thousands of causes. Here in Cowal Kirk there are already 23 supporters who, in just the last 30 days have raised £43.33 through purchases made. And it is SO easy to use. If you already shop on-line, you simply download the app, then, before you go to your preferred website, click on the link, enter where you're going to shop and click Go Now. And that's it! When a sale is made via easyfundraising, a small percentage of your total spend is transferred to your chosen cause or charity. Over 8,000 outlets participate, such as: eBay, Next, M&S, B&Q, etc, However, Amazon do not! If you receive a digital CK News, simply copy and paste the link below, and get shopping.
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cowal-kirk/>

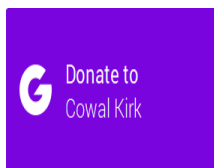
JustGiving®

You can donate to the Church either by giving a one off payment or by giving regular monthly contributions. Either type of payment can be made via our Just Giving page which allows for simple and immediate online payments.

Just Giving allows churches, individuals and businesses to send and receive money online.

Just Giving offers a secure online service and, unlike other payment platforms, make no charge for payments to charities – but they will ask that you **consider** a voluntary contribution to support their platform's upkeep in the form of a small % charge. As this is voluntary you can edit the suggested amount.

Ways to access the Cowal Kirk JustGiving page



On the Cowal Kirk website under the Giving tab you will find this icon to click on



Or you can scan the Cowal Kirk QR code using your phone



Look for these posters appearing in all Cowal Kirk buildings

THANK GOD FOR LAUGHTER

O Lord, giver of joy and laughter, we thank you for these gifts: For the moments of laughter and unrestrained delight. For the opportunity to poke fun at ourselves. For the boisterous laughs of children. For friends and family who love us because of our quirks and foibles; and for artists who give us the opportunity to see the world through the surreal.

We thank you for the courage to smile even when difficulties arise, and for those who have hope even when others believe there is no hope; and that when we are weak, your strength shines through us. For the words of Jesus that defy our logical minds; and for his teaching us that we can be born again. For the woman who finds a lost coin and calls her friends and neighbours to celebrate.

For the absurdity of a camel trying to fit through the eye of a needle, and for the father of the prodigal son who cares not if he looks foolish as he runs to greet him.

For the generosity of the landowner who will pay workers a whole day's wage when they've only worked one hour. For tiny bits of faith that can move entire mountains, and for the reality that nothing can live unless it first dies.

For the great reversal of the Gospel: that the last shall be first, and that the rejected stone became the cornerstone.

For the truth that those who wish to be great must serve; that the lost will be found; and that though you are Wisdom, you choose to forget our sins.

O Lord, giver of joy and laughter, we thank you for giving us such wonderful gifts.



Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre that was held in the High Kirk Hall on Saturday, 26th October was a complete success. Having a slightly different format than previous years, with the option of a Soup and Sandwich lunch, as well as the usual cup of tea or coffee plus mince pie or shortbread; suffice to



say there were no sandwiches left and only a wee drop of soup!

The total amount raised was **£1,355** and it appears a good time was had by all who attended.

Thanks of course must go to those who took

charge of the stalls, managed the door, as well as those who slogged away in the kitchen; those who served, and those who came to be fed; those who made purchases at the stalls and those who chanced the Tom-bola.



FOR THE 'SHUT-INS'

From Rev. Sandy

A very good friend who was mourning the loss of someone dear to them said to me the other day, 'You know, we may not always truly value what we have until we no longer have it.'

That, I think, is true in many aspects of our lives. We tend to take lots of things for granted, and it's only when we no longer have them that we realise how much they meant to us and how greatly we will miss them.

This is acutely so when we lose a loved one, a life's companion, a close friend, and perhaps we may regret not having cherished them more. We may reflect on what might have been, on many things left unfulfilled or unsaid.

Of course, we cannot turn the clock back, but we can remember and take pleasure from lots of happy memories, of enjoyable times shared.

There is, however, one constant in our lives who is with us always and never leaves our side, and that is our Heavenly Father who, through his Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, loves us and cares for us unfailingly.

May we never take him for granted, but share every part of our lives with him, knowing that when we allow him to walk with us he enriches our lives beyond measure.

Every blessing,

Sandy.

Care Home Worship

Worship in the Care Homes this month will be as follows:-

Tuesday, November 5th - ASHGROVE at 11.00am.

Tuesday, November 19th - ARDENLEE at 2.30pm.

Help at these services is much appreciated.



Cowal Kirk & friends invite you to their

Christmas Tree Festival



in
Kirk & Sandbank Church
from
Thursday to Saturday
5th, 6th & 7th December
10am - 4pm



Admission
£3.00

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Please note: **The last day** for the combined **December/January**
Newsletter contributions is : Friday 22nd November

Please email these to **EDITOR** as above – thank you.