



# **COWAL KIRK NEWS**

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

**ISSUE No. 35**

**OCTOBER 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

*“Get on with it!”*

Oh, how time flies! This is an expression that I’m sure you and I have used so many times. I cannot believe that nine months have gone already. Before we know it, it will be Christmas again! Where does the time go?

This past month marked three years for me in Scotland, and I can tell you now that a lot has been happening, so much so that we’re left asking ourselves as a family: “Where does time go?” We have just, like everyone else, experienced our highs and lows and, as someone once said, such is life, we all go through these things. But what matters most is not so much what we go through, but how we come through them. As I reflect on my time here, one question that people often ask me is: “Have you settled well?” To which my answer is: “Oh, well, we have - and I guess we just have to get on with it”.

One of my close friends often asks how my family is, and my answer has always been, well they have no choice but to just get on with it. Why do I have to get on with it? Because I know my redeemer lives. Because I know that God is in control of everything and he will always see us through.

Friends, knowing who we are in God makes all the difference. It helps us to realise whose we are and what our God can do. Life is full of ups and downs and our faith in God should help us to get on with it.

Recently I visited someone, and when I asked them “how are you?” the response was quite interesting, the answer was: “Well even if I was to complain, who would care to listen, I guess I just have to get on with it.”

We do serve God, who cares to listen, and he gives us the strength and willpower to get on with it. Whatever you experience in life, get on with it in the strength of the Lord. His grace is sufficient for all to help us get on with life.

With Every Blessing,  
*Everisto*

## REQUESTS FOR VISITS

There is going to be a continuing shout out on these pages for all of us to be more alert to the needs of our members as well as those in our wider community.

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 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.

## PREACHING ROTA

|        |      |          |                                 |
|--------|------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday | 6th  | October  | St. John's                      |
|        | 13th | October  | Toward & Innellan (Harvest)     |
|        | 20th | October  | Kirn & Sandbank                 |
|        | 27th | October  | St. John's                      |
|        | 3rd  | November | Toward & Innellan               |
|        | 10th | November | St. John's (Remembrance Sunday) |



## Flower Rota for October

|          | <b>Kirn &amp; Sandbank</b>    | <b>St. John's</b>              |
|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 6th      | Mrs Lawther Murchison         | Mrs Roberts Brown              |
| 13th     | Mrs Marion Fyfe               | Mrs Sheena Walker              |
| 20th     | -                             | Mrs Linda Murry                |
| 27th     | Mrs Sadie Swanson             | Mr William Ponton              |
| Contact: | Mrs M. Robinson <b>702903</b> | Mrs Linda Murry <b>830022/</b> |

**07779131257**



# Cowal Kirk Guild

## Session 2024/25



The Guild will resume on Thursday, October 3rd at 2pm in Cowal Kirk St John's Hall. The meetings begin at 2pm and everyone is welcome, but *please* remember to bring your own mug.

The theme for the next 3 years is: 'Let's Build a House,' and this first year's motto is: 'A Sure Foundation'.

Details of the October programme are listed below, and the Syllabus for the year will be available soon.

Thursday, October 3rd

*Opening Social (with music from Philip and Lynda Norris)*

Saturday, October 5th

*"Little Big Sing", Cairndow Village Hall (with afternoon tea) SEE BELOW*

October 10th - *The new Projects*

October 17th - *Quiz*

Tuesday, October 22nd

*National Roadshow at Old Gourock & Ashton Church, 2pm.*

October 24th - *James Clark, 1st Cowal BB & GA*

October 31st - *Morag Nimmo, Psychologist*



## A little Big Sing!

Jointly organized by the local  
Church of Scotland Guilds from around  
The top of Loch Fyne

Where?

Cairndow Village Hall

When?

Saturday 5th October 2024

What time?

From 2-4pm

(includes afternoon tea)

**All Welcome!**





## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

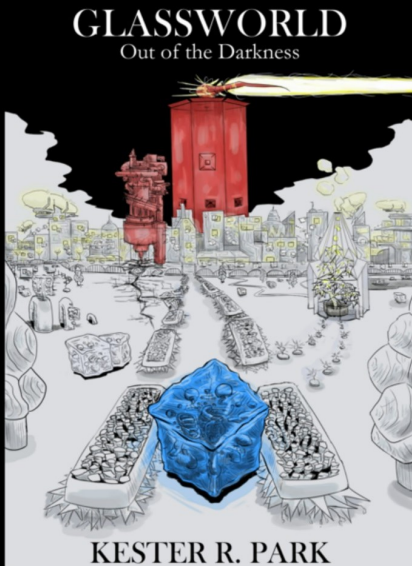


On 17th September 1948 in  
Cathcart Baptist Church,  
Bob Graham married Helen  
McMillan, which means they  
have just celebrated

**SEVENTY-SIX**  
years of wedded bliss!  
We wish them both all the  
very best.

Glassworld: Out of the Darkness

Kester R. Park



I may be abusing my position as Editor to announce another celebration, albeit of personal significance, but one in which you may be interested: It's the publication of my son's first novel: "Glassworld - Out of the Darkness".

Although I say it myself, it *is* an enthralling story, full of innovative warm-hearted characters confronted by a serious dilemma. Should you go so far as to purchase, I'm sure you will find it a good read.

At the moment it's available from Amazon and on Goodreads.com but, hopefully, it will also soon be found in all good book shops.

# Our Wonderful Church Family

Beautiful September.

It has been a lovely month. A very quick month, hardly seeming like any time at all since the kids were going back to school in August and we regained some sort of routine.

Yet here we are,  
almost at the October  
holidays for it all to go  
to pot again!

Such is life with  
children and families...  
And truth be told, we  
really wouldn't have it  
any other way.

In these last few  
weeks, we have

enjoyed re-establishing our Kirk Cafe. We miss Laura of course, (and the other Mums who have since returned to work after maternity) but we've been delighted to

welcome some new faces and babies and the chance to build on these  
super wee friendships that are budding  
away.

We have also welcomed familiar faces  
from the church, from the local  
community, from the local care homes,  
and even some passing golfers!

It has been wonderful to build on all  
these opportunities for friendship, and at  
the same time we see the church gardens  
coming into full colour and bloom. I  
love that we can see God's hand and  
creativity in it all.

We've also been out and about with a  
new exciting initiative being piloted in  
Argyll & Bute, called Planet Youth.



Helen, Ruth and myself had an afternoon in the Queen's Hall, alongside a lot of other local organisations and charities, a time to see and share information on all the help that is available for young people and families in the area. It is a longer term project which we are excited to be part of and I'm sure I will have more to report on it in the coming months. But it



was a great place to listen to the voice of the young people in our community, to hear their stories, and also to have a space to tell them about our forthcoming fun events within the Cowal Kirk. Which leads me to just what that is - - -

Following on from the fabulous family BBQ last weekend, our first "Pizza Church" is almost upon us. We've had a great response so far, with families who are usually very hesitant about coming to 'church' but being very open to this new idea. We really want people to feel welcomed, to feel that they can come exactly as they are, and know they will be accepted just like that. We want to feed the families, both physically and spiritually, and have lots of fun along the way.

By the time you read these ramblings, we will have had our first one, so thank you for your prayers. And please keep praying, for the families we meet and for all their children, that God will go before us in all we do and will continue to lead us into all the adventures ahead. Life truly is an adventure, especially with Him leading our steps. Till next time,

*Lorna McGinnigal,*

*Cowal Kirk Families Worker.*

[familiesworker@cowalkirk.org.uk](mailto:familiesworker@cowalkirk.org.uk)



## Care Home Worship

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

Tuesday, October 1st - ASHGROVE at 11.00am.

Tuesday, October 29th - ARDENLEE at 2.30pm.

Help at these services is much appreciated.

## LECTERN BIBLES

We still have a number of old Lectern Bibles in storage. These are no longer required but, before they are disposed of, would you please contact the Administrator:

[admin@cowalkirk.org.uk](mailto:admin@cowalkirk.org.uk)

or 07471650380

if you would like to have one.



## Holy Humour



The children were all lined up in the school canteen for lunch. At the head of the table was a large tray of apples. The R.E.



teacher slipped a note onto the tray: "Take only ONE, God is watching."

At the other end of the lunch line was a tray of chocolate chip cookies. One of the pupils slipped a note onto this tray: "Take as many as you want. God is watching the apples."



## The Haven at Cowal Games



What a blessing that the last Saturday in August was such a good day weatherwise, as so many families came and enjoyed the spectacular event at our Stadium.

Once again this year, volunteers from across the Christian Churches worked

hard to provide teas, coffees, juice and biscuits, and we are proud to have raised £750 for the Cowal Hospice.

This was also a mission opportunity; a time to offer prayer, tract and counselling chats to the visitors from all over the world. This would not have been possible without the substantial grant from the Augusta Lamont Bequest, and the energy of all the volunteers from Holy Trinity, Cowal Kirk,



Dunoon Baptist Church, Exp, and the New Life Fellowship, especially Duncan Freeman whose van was essential for transporting equipment and returning it safely where it belongs.

Deep and sincere thanks to all.



SHE COULD HARDLY BELIEVE SHE HAD WON ON HER FIRST VISIT TO CHURCH



## FOR THE 'SHUT-INS'

From Rev. Sandy

Dear Friends,

Quite recently I watched a television programme about a near-death experience airline passengers had on a flight to Kenya. It was scary stuff! However, it reminded me of another airline story which has a message for us, and that message is - as we might say - 'out of the mouths of babes and sucklings.'

An airliner was in mid-flight when the captain activated the 'fasten seat belts' sign and told the passengers to return to their seats and buckle up - air turbulence was ahead.

And soon the aircraft was violently buffeted around, quite alarmingly so. The passengers became quite alarmed, fear crossed their faces, and many began to scream.

An old gentleman passenger, however, looked across the aisle and saw there was one passenger who looked totally unconcerned, completely at ease, as she quietly sat and read a book.

It was a young girl, she seemed to be on her own and, albeit with difficulty, the old man went across to speak to her. 'Are you OK?' he asked. 'The aircraft is twisting and turning all over the place, everyone is worried, but you seem completely calm.' 'Oh, I'm absolutely fine', said the girl. 'You see, my Dad's the pilot, and I know he will get us safely to our destination.'

Such faith - and a lesson for us all as we go through life.

Mostly our days will be uneventful, our lives enjoyable, but now and again we might hit a rough patch and, perhaps quite suddenly, we find ourselves buffeted around. But we too, have a 'Dad' who is in control - our Heavenly Father - and he will see us safely through.

As I have said on many occasions, God does not promise us a trouble-free journey, but what he does promise us is a safe arrival. He is, as it were, in the cockpit, at the controls, and we can rely utterly on him to chart s safe course for our journey.

Every blessing,

*Sandy.*

## Fund Raising News — **FAMILY BARBECUE**

The Barbecue held after the service on 15th September was a resounding success, with fun and games enjoyed by all. Huge thanks has to go to the Fletcher family for providing such an entertaining afternoon. To Graeme and Willie Ferguson for delivering the food to a professional standard. To Janet



for setting up the hall and serving, and to Linda Murry for never seeming to run out of tea or coffee. The photos on facebook tell more of the story. A total of £450 was raised for Macmillan Nurses.

### **Further dates for your diary:**

Unless otherwise stated, these will ALL be held in the HIGH KIRK HALL.

Monday 7th October: Meet & Greet - Beetle

Saturday 28th October: Christmas Fayre

Monday 4th November: Meet & Greet - Bingo

Monday 2nd December: Meet & Greet - Santa Beetle

Thursday 5th December: Christmas Tree Festival (in Kirn & Sandbank)

### **MID - WEEK WORSHIP**

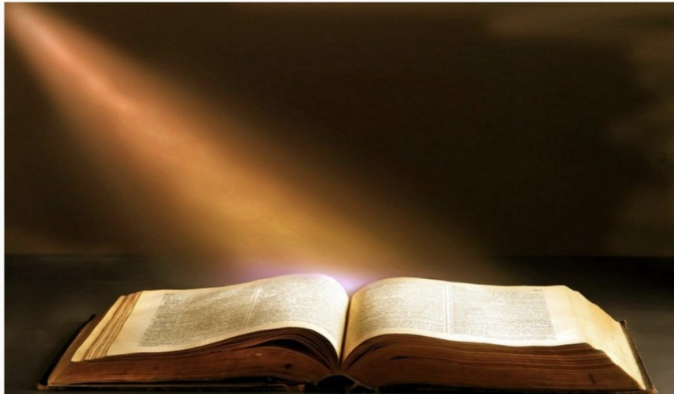
These short services are held in the High Kirk Hall at 11am, on the first and third Wednesdays of every month ~ **All are welcome.**

**Wednesday, October 2nd - Marion Fyfe**

**Wednesday, October 16th - Simon Wallace**

# BIBLE STUDY

An opportunity for anyone interested to come together and enjoy an afternoon of Bible Study is going to begin in November on Tuesday



afternoons in the Manse.

If you would like to join in with these informal discussions, please keep an eye open for the intimation.

MINISTER: Rev. Everisto Musedza

(01369) 268482 / 07748347487

[EMusedza@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:EMusedza@churchofscotland.org.uk)

SESSION CLERK: Mr Jim Anderson 07725186379

[sessionclerk@cowalkirk.org.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@cowalkirk.org.uk)

ADMINISTRATOR: Mrs Helen Cooper

[admin@cowalkirk.org.uk](mailto:admin@cowalkirk.org.uk)

FAMILIES WORKER: Mrs Lorna McGinnigal

[familiesworker@cowalkirk.org.uk](mailto:familiesworker@cowalkirk.org.uk)

O.LM: Rev. Sandy MacPherson

[SMacPherson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:SMacPherson@churchofscotland.org.uk)

SAFEGUARDING: Mrs Jeanette Ferguson

[jbellcoltd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jbellcoltd@yahoo.co.uk)

EDITOR: Rev. Ruth Griffiths (01369) 830145 / 07875466412

[ruthigriffiths@gmail.com](mailto:ruthigriffiths@gmail.com)

Please note: **Last Day for November contributions : Monday 28th**

Please email these to EDITOR as above – thank you.