



COWAL KIRK NEWS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

SCOTTISH CHARITY No. SC001976

ISSUE No. 37

DECEMBER/JANUARY, 2024/25

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

Here we are again.

The festive season is once more upon us, and we are left wondering just how we got here this quick. The year has just gone by too soon and all we can say is: “here we are again,” doing what we’ve always done. For some, the Christmas decorations are already out, yet for others the season brings mixed emotions.

Whatever you may be feeling, though, the reality is in life that we are always dealing with mixed emotions, and the experiences of this festivity can be daunting. For some it will be a happy occasion as families come together to share lovely memories and Christmas stories. For others it’s that here we are again feeling, having to deal with tricky and complicated family relations.

For some, the period will remind you of times past, and take you down memory lane reliving those times you had with loved ones who are long gone. For others Christmas is a time that’s so hard to comprehend because you don’t have anyone to share it with. Loneliness is your company. All these experiences can leave us unsure of what this season is about.

Here we are again friends, as we recollect the ancient story of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here we are again reminds us of why he came into the world. We will be singing Joy to the world the Lord has come, and here we are again reminded that he came so that we can have life in abundance. So, whatever your situation, remember this season is all about Christ who came to make a difference to this world; you might also do well by making an effort to make a difference.

Then, shortly after the festivities of Christmas are over, the new year is upon us, and here we are again, being afforded another chance to start afresh. It will feel as if time is on our side as 2025 is ushered in, but before we know it, we will once again be saying, where does time go? The beginning of the year is a perfect reminder of new beginnings, an opportunity to try again, a wonderful chance to fine tune that which worked so well, and an opportunity to explore new things.

Here we are again.

FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

This last month has been quite hectic, we have recovered from the Christmas Fayre; the Soup and Sandwich Lunch was a success, and something to consider for next year. That was quickly followed by our Meet and Greet, which once again had 50 eager Bingo fans causing havoc! The atmosphere was amazing and new friendships are developing but there's always room for more. All you need is your FREE ticket, and *Don't Forget* to bring an item for the Raffle. And this month, on the reverse of your ticket, write your name — you could be the winner of our Door Prize! The Wee Shop had yet another poignant window display, expertly put together by Anne, which was much admired. This was quickly followed by the 'Children in Need' window, when every toy sold was donated to PUDSEY. We raised £85.00! So, a huge thank you to all who supported us. Monday, 2nd December, will be our last Meet and Greet for 2024, but we will return in February, after the committee has had a well earned rest. But why don't you come along for a special **SNOWMAN DRIVE**? See BELOW

The poster doesn't say, but along with your usual afternoon tea or coffee and cake, we will also have a Special Guest, a sing-along, and the Raffle. What better way to spend a Monday afternoon? ... at **2pm in High Kirk Hall**, Hanover Street.

SEE YOU THERE!



Remember
to bring a
contribution
for the
Raffle!

ADMISSION
IS
FREE !



WELCOME
to our December
"Meet & Greet"
FUN event

A
**Snowman
Drive**

High Kirk Hall,
Hanover Street
Monday, 2nd December
2pm to 4pm



And please
don't
forget to
pick up your
Free Ticket
to help with
catering

A HEARTFELT THANKYOU

I would like to thank all the people who attended the memorial service on 14th November at Kirn & Sandbank Church for Alex Hunter. He had been having more health issues than he was able to overcome. But he still had questions every Sunday re the turnout, the preacher and the message. He was faithful to the end.

The wonderful people of the church, neighbours and friends, all expressed their love and support in their cards, flowers, phone calls and text messages, and of course the hugs!

Thank you all for celebrating his life and supporting us. And thank you, also, for your donations to Cowal Elderly Befrienders, Alex's buddies on Thursdays for lunch time.

Special thanks must go to those who visited him, including Rev. Everisto Musedza who also conducted the beautiful service.

Love and hugs to you all.

Janet Hunter

PREACHING ROTA

Sunday	1st December	Kirn & Sandbank	
	8th December	St. John's	with the Salvation Army
	15th December	Toward & Innellan	
	22nd December	Kirn & Sandbank	
	24th December	St. John's	7pm Family Service
		Kirn & Sandbank	11.15pm Watchnight
	25th December	Toward & Innellan	Christmas Day
	29th December	St. John's	
	5th January	Toward & Innellan	
	12th January	Kirn & Sandbank	
	19th January	St. John's	with Holy Communion
	26th January	Toward & Innellan	





Come and join in some
**Carols
 for Christmas**

at
Cowal Kirk St. John's
 on Sunday,
15th December
 at 3pm



Tea or coffee
 and Mince Pies
 to follow.

Flower Rota for December and January

Kirn & Sandbank

St. John's

DECEMBER

1st	Mr & Mrs J. Anderson	Mr Lindsay Hunter
8th	Tree in place	Decorations
15h	Tree in place	Decorations
22nd	Tree in place	Decorations
29th	Tree in place	Decorations

JANUARY

5th	-	-
12th	Mrs Liz Jackson	Mrs Margaret Hunter
19th	Mrs Jean Morrison	Mrs Moira Ross
26th	Mrs Gordon McKellar	Mrs Margaret Stewart

Contacts:-

Mrs M. Robinson **702903**

Mrs Mary Forbes **705364**





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**

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR SENIORS (or keep taking the Tablets)

1. Talk to yourself. There are times when you need expert advice.
2. "In style" are the clothes that still fit.
3. You don't need anger management, you just need people to stop irritating you.
4. Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for halfwits that needs work.
5. The biggest lie you tell yourself is: "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."
6. "On time" is when you get there.
7. You've noticed people your age are much older than you.
8. Ageing has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
9. You still haven't learned to act your age.
10. "One for the road" means paying a visit before you leave the house.

PIANO LOOKING FOR LOVING HOME



Debbie Magoffin is offering her late husband's Yamaha piano (seen here) to anyone who would truly appreciate it. If you or someone you know would be interested in receiving this instrument at no cost, please in the first instance contact Helen Cooper, Church Administrator at: admin@cowalkirk.org.uk

COWAL KIRK GUILD

The Guild continues to meet in Cowal Kirk St John's Hall at 2pm on Thursdays; but in the New Year we will move to the High Kirk Hall, Hanover Street.

Everyone is welcome, but please bring your own mug.

Programme details are as follows:.

December 5th Dunoon Primary School entertains with Cowal Elderly Befrienders.

December 12th Carols by Candlelight.

~ 2025 ~

January 9th AGM

January 16th Street Connect, Dunoon

January 23rd Robert Burns (with Arthur French)

January 30th Music Quiz



MID - WEEK WORSHIP

Services continue to be held in the High Kirk Hall, Hanover Street at 11.00am on Wednesdays as listed below:

December 4th	Rev Jane Campbell
December 18th	Christmas worship (with staff of Wi'am, Bethlehem)
January 8th, 2025	Simon Wallace
January 22nd	Donald McDiarmid

Everyone is welcome for this short time of devotion.

RETIRING OFFERINGS

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

8th December : Salvation Army Service - Salvation Army

24th December : Christmas Eve Family Service - CHAS

There's still time to avail yourselves of the Scouts Christmas Card Delivery



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

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

Cards can be handed in (with payment) to any Cub Pack meeting on Mondays from 7 to 8.30; Beaver Colony meeting on Tuesdays from 6.30 to 7.30; and Scout Troop meetings on Thursdays from 7 to 9. These are all held in the Scout Hall, Crawford Lane, Hunter's Quay. Alternatively, you can hand them in at Kirn & Sandbank Church on Sunday, 1st December; or at St. John's Church on Sunday, 8th December.



SCO42913

Children and Family News

Hello all -

Well, this has been another fun and full month in the life of the children and families of the Cowal Kirk community... and beyond! It began by our hosting a second Pizza Church in the High Kirk Hall, which was a truly great night, and we pray that everyone left FULL OF PIZZA and full of LIGHT. We ate, we played, we prayed. We talked about our fears, both big and small, even voicing our own fear to shine. By the end of the night when the hall was full of little dancing lights and songs, it seemed as if the whole room was shining brightly. We thank God for everyone who came and walked through our doors, and we pray that we will all keep on shining.



PORT BAN with eXp

A massive **THANK YOU** to the Cowal Kirk for the use of the Minibus, which took a bunch of our wonderful young people to Portban Carvan Park earlier in the month with eXp Youthwork. They had a brilliant



weekend packed full of fun, the great outdoors, music, food, firepits, games, and not to mention many discussions and teaching from the Bible.

We also had a group of young people join us from Campbeltown, which was really great.

It's such a privilege to be

able to be involved in these young lives. They are a huge blessing to us and our community.

Kirk Cafe

The Kirk Cafe has also been running weekly on Wednesdays; the kettle is always on, and the chat flowed while baked goods were just waiting to be eaten. *continued over the page...*

This month, we will do some crafting for Christmas which so far has been thoroughly enjoyable. We would love to see you there any week .../... if you are able to join us. All are very welcome.

The BIG Conversation

Last week, I travelled with Everisto to Glasgow to be part of the Church of Scotland's **The Big Conversation: Faith, Worship, and the Cornerstone of Christ!**

It was a meaningful conference with lots of time for discussion, reflection, and fellowship.

Representatives from the churches all over Scotland were there, and it was truly inspiring and uplifting to hear of the good things that are happening in the church all across the country.

The prayer from the team organising the event, was that each of us would leave refreshed and with a deeper

understanding of the importance of the Cornerstone in our lives and communities.

I can certainly say that it feels their prayers have been answered, and so this is now my prayer for each one of us here in Cowal.

PIZZA Church

Our next Pizza Church 'Dine In' date is Friday 20th December, and again **ALL ARE WELCOME**. The theme December is **FULL OF JOY**. If you are able to join us, or would like to help out in any way on the night, can you please drop me an email at familiesworker@cowalkirk.org.uk or phone me on 07967191238.

My mobile is always with me, and my email is always open, and I will always be delighted to hear from you.

Every blessing,

Lorna McGinnigal





Pizza Church
Christmas Special

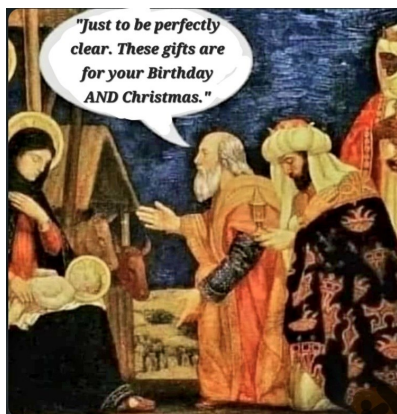
Friday 20th December
High Kirk Hall, Hanover Street
4.30 - 6.30pm

Dine In Only!

  **PIONEER MISSION FUND** 

PIZZA CHURCH VOLUNTEERS!

We are looking to build a team to help with our fabulous Pizza Church nights. If you are able (and willing) and can help in any way, we would be delighted to have you join us. These nights are for everyone; to share Pizza, and our lives with each other. Come along and join us, and be part of the team. Please contact me for more information at: familiesworker@cowalkirk.org.uk Many thanks, Lorna





CARE HOME WORSHIP

Services will be held in Ashgrove and Ardenlee
on the following dates:

Ashgrove - Tuesday, December 10th,
and Tuesday, January 14th at **11.00am**

Ardenlee - Tuesday, December 17th
and Tuesday, January 21st at **2.30pm**

easyfundraising



£86,856
has been paid to
religious groups and buildings

SOMEONE DOES CARE

I found God in the morning;
and we just sat and talked.

I kept Him right beside me,
everywhere I walked.

I called on God at noon time,
my heart filled with despair;
but I felt His quiet presence,
and knew He was there.

We met again at sunset,
at the waning of the day,
I knew I'd made Him happy,
for I had lived 'His way'.

Later, when at bedtime,
I silently knelt in prayer;
once more I felt His gentle presence
~ Someone does care.

easyfundraising

Christmas is traditionally a time of giving, perhaps as a reflection of the gifts given to the baby Jesus by those wise men?

Well, now we have the chance, if you are shopping online, to give, but also support Cowal Kirk, through easyfundraising.

As has been said before, more than 8,000 retailers, including M&S, Argos and Tesco, donate via your everyday shopping. So, whether you receive your CK News in print or by email, you should be able to copy or click on the link below to join in.

Give it a go - sign up today:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/cowal-kirk/12W2A5/s2s/N5Znntup/Q1332/facebook/>



REQUESTS FOR VISITS

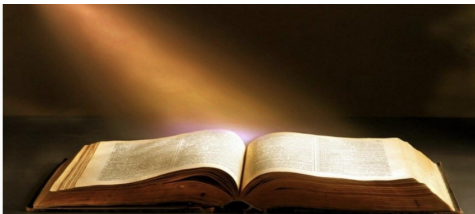
If you know of anyone who would like a visit, for any reason or none, either from an Elder or from the Minister, would you please pass the information on to either Everisto or Jim Anderson.

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.

BIBLE STUDY

An opportunity for those interested in coming together for an afternoon of Bible Study takes place on Tuesday afternoons, in the Manse.

The last one before the Christmas break will be on 10th December,



and they will resume on 14th January. If you would like to join in with these informal discussions, please just come along to the Manse at the appointed time.

Starter Packs Plus

This year so far we have had **36** requests! And each one of these needs the full set of provisions as pictured (items are listed on the posters). We have had some very generous donations, for which we are most grateful, but we are constantly in need of more. Small items such as tin openers and peelers, tea-cloths and small bottles of washing-up liquid or other cleaning fluid are always welcome; but if you have surplus fitted sheets, both single and double, that are clean and in good condition; these would also be much appreciated, as would toiletries (soap, toothpaste, shampoo). If you are able to help with any of the above, please contact me: (Editor/Ruth) or call 07875466412.



FOR THE 'SHUT-INS'

From Rev. Sandy

Dear Friends,

Very often when we come to December we hear people say: "Where has the year gone? Time seems to fly!"

I think it is probably true to say that as we get older the years do indeed seem to go past more and more quickly.

2024 is nearing its end, and New Year will soon be upon us. No doubt there will be lots of Hogmanay and Ne'erday celebrations, but this can be a poignant time for very many folk.

As midnight chimes we look back on the 'old' year, perhaps on many years past, and memories flood in. We reflect on the happy times we have enjoyed, but perhaps we have had to cope with times of sadness too.

The clock strikes twelve and we are immediately propelled into a new year.

What will it hold for us, and for our friends and loved ones? Whatever experiences lie ahead of us, let us remember that our Heavenly Father will be by our side throughout, so:

Let's not run ahead of God;

Let him direct our steps;

He has plans, and he has his time;

God's clock is never early, neither is it ever late;

It always chimes right on time.

As the old hymn says: 'My times are in thy hand; my God, I wish them there!'

We can do no better than put our whole trust in God for the year which lies ahead. He will support us in any difficult times, he will laugh with us in the happy moments, and he will enrich our well-being.

Best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful 2025.

Sandy.

A Service of Comfort
at 2.00pm

Kirk & Sandbank Church,
Tuesday, 7th January, 2025.



A Light in the Darkness

for when the season is hard



An opportunity for quiet reflection in a sacred space

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EMusedza@churchofscotland.org.uk

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Please note: **Last day for February Newsletter contributions :**
Monday 27th January.

Please email these to EDITOR as above – thank you.

