



COWAL KIRK NEWS

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

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JULY & AUGUST 2025

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

~ Celebrating Life Together ~

Dear Friends,

On the 14th of June, we marked a significant milestone – two years since I began serving as your minister. I'm humbled and grateful for the opportunity to journey with you in faith, growth, and service.

As we reflect on this chapter, I'm reminded of the importance of the foundations that sustain us: the Scriptures, prayer, and serving one another. Let's continue to cherish and prioritize these pillars:

- The Scriptures: God's Word is our guiding light. Let's dive deeper into its teachings, applying its wisdom to our lives.
- Prayer: In prayer, we connect with God, seeking guidance, comfort, and strength. Let's cultivate a rich prayer life, individually and corporately.
- Service to Each Other: We're called to love and serve one another. Let's look for ways to support, encourage, and uplift each other.

I'm grateful for your warmth, kindness, and support over the past two years. Your partnership in ministry has meant the world to me. Together, we've shared joys and challenges, and I'm honoured to be your pastor.

As we celebrate this milestone, let's renew our commitment to our shared mission. May we continue to grow in faith, love, and service, shining God's light in our community.

Thank you for entrusting me with this sacred role. I'm excited for the journey ahead, and I look forward to our continuing to serve and worship together.

With gratitude and blessings,

Everisto



MID - WEEK WORSHIP

These services are held in the High Kirk Hall, Hanover Street at 11am as listed below, but **please note** that due to the Holiday Club taking place, the service on **6th August** will be held in St. John's Hall.

All are welcome at these short acts of worship.

Wednesday, 2nd July — Rev. Sandy MacPherson

Wednesday, 16th July — Simon Wallace

Wednesday, 6th August — Donald Manson (in St. John's Hall)

Wednesday, 20th August — Jeneffer Zielinski

FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

The month of June has been a hectic one for the shop volunteers, which causes me to say, though I don't say it often enough: **THEY ARE FABULOUS!** They have stepped up when the need for cover occurred... and it seemed to occur weekly!

We continue to receive an amazing variety of donations; and this month we have been given - and sold - two nice fireside rugs, as well as a lace maker with wonderful ivory bobbins. We were also donated an electric sewing machine and an amazing amount of fabric. Anne took this as her cue and designed an amazing "Art and Crafts" window, which attracted a lot of our local crafters, and we even sold the sewing machine! This week the window now displays bedding and curtains, continuing the fabrics theme.

This month was Christian Aid month and **A HUGE THANK YOU** is due to EVERYONE who saved the 20p pieces - I know it was quite a performance for some of you, so WELL DONE, we raised over £1,000.00 from the Smarties Appeal. I'm sure the total from the envelope donations and the Smarties will be announced elsewhere in the magazine. There will also be news of the concert by The Phoenix choir in the Queens Hall. The WEE Shop has the tickets already, SO be sure to come and get yours early.

Lawther

P.S. Today I attended a 'first' for me - the Installation of our own Rev. Janet MacKellar as Moderator of Cleir Eilean Ì. There was a good turnout and the fundraising committee was asked to cater, so Thank You to Linda Murry, Lorna Croucher, Jayne Boyle, Joyce Muir and Tina Walsh you were terrific!

MODERATOR'S VISIT

We are delighted to announce that on Thursday, 24th July, The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will be holding a service in Kirn and Sandbank, starting at 7pm.

During the service the Moderator will be awarding long service certificates to Elders who have served for more than thirty years.

All are welcome to come and be a part of this special service.

Tea and coffee will be served following the service.



Rt. Rev. Rosemary Frew, Moderator of the General Assembly.

PREACHING ROTA

6th July	St. John's	
13th July	Toward & Innellan	
20th July	Kirn & Sandbank	
27th July	St. John's	
- - o o O o o - -		
3rd August	Toward & Innellan	
10th August	Kirn & Sandbank	
17th August	St. John's	with Communion
24th August	Toward & Innellan	
31st August	Kirn & Sandbank	

CARE HOME SERVICES

Services will be held as listed below, and any help on these occasions is greatly appreciated.

Ardenlee

Tuesday, 8th July, at 11.00

Tuesday, 12th August, at 11.00

Ardenlee

Tuesday, 15th July, at 2.30pm

Tuesday, 19th August, at 2.30pm



RESULTS OF SMARTIE TUBE COLLECTION



The total raised for Christian Aid through our 20p collection in Smartie tubes was **£1087.20**, and added to that the sum raised via the envelopes was **£516.00**, making a grand total of **£1603.20**. This is an absolutely amazing result, but we have to give a hearty **Thank You** to Lawther and Ann, who took on the burden of counting a THOUSAND POUNDS in 20p pieces. I'm quite sure they don't want to see another one.



Children & Families News

June has been an exceptionally vibrant month for the children's calendar in Cowal, bustling with exciting activities as we approach the summer holidays and the end of the academic term.

For our families, there has been a wide array of school events, from energetic sports days and convivial barbecues to successful fundraisers and heartwarming awards ceremonies – truly, a whirlwind of positive engagements.

Here at Cowal Kirk, we've mirrored this celebratory spirit, concluding the school year with our final Kirk Café and Pizza Church gatherings. Our recent Wednesday



café was a joyful hub, filled with happy children and their parents or carers. As

always, there was an abundance of delicious food and lively conversation. We were delighted to present each child with a gift: books designed to foster a love for God and for



reading together at home. We pray these books will cement the sense of value and belonging we always try and place on them each week at our Café.

At our recent Pizza Church, we marked the culmination of the year with a delightful recap of our shared journey! We revisited all the wonderful lessons learned each month, culminating with our very own Pizza Church Quiz and lots and LOTS of dancing!



It brings me immeasurable joy to serve in this role and witness families discover a true sense of belonging within our church community. We understand that family life presents its own unique challenges, and providing a safe,

welcoming space where highs and lows can be openly shared is a privilege I deeply cherish.

I'd like to conclude with the lyrics of one of our new Pizza Church favourites, a song that also boasts an epic viral dance which was the hit of the night at Pizza Church!

I need a friend to call my own
I need a house to call my home
When I'm broken down inside
And there's nowhere else to hide
I need a place where I feel known
Can someone help me?
Then I hear your reply
Bringing teardrops to my eyes
Saying I'm not alone.

Oh, Lord, I need You now more than ever
Would you put my heart back together
I searched the world 'til my head hurt
Just to find out Your way's better
Oh, Lord, Your way's better
Jesus, Your way's better.
His way is ALWAYS better.



And now as we sign off for some rest - our hearts are full only of Gratitude.

Of what has been and what is to come later in the Summer as we take the Youth away on a Camp with eXp and we host our second Holiday Club here: “A Tale of Two Kings” in the High Kirk Hall from 4th to 8th August. Please be praying for it all.

Lorna McGinnigal

familiesworker@cowalkirk.org.uk



The Haven at Cowal Gathering

As in previous years, all the churches in Cowal are uniting to provide a welcome, tea, coffee, juice and biscuits in a marquee on the top field on Saturday, 31st August.

While any funds raised are donated to Cowal Hospice, this is seen as an opportunity to share our faith with the wider community, and this year we will have Extreme Tour, some young evangelists from USA to witness and support.

As many volunteers as possible makes for a happy, relaxed day for all, so **Please Sign Up** if you are able, as soon as the rotas are circulated.



The 1st Cowal AWARDS NIGHT on Wednesday, 25th June, 2025.



That's a Wrap...

As another incredible session draws to a close, we pause to celebrate the achievements, adventures, and unforgettable memories created by the young people of the 1st Cowal Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association.

Ardentinny Adventure Day: A Splash of Courage

On 14th June, 30 of our intrepid explorers journeyed to Ardentinn Outdoor Centre for our second annual adventure day. Bursting with energy, laughter, and just a bit of water (okay — loads!), the day was filled with canoeing, archery, and the exhilarating challenge of gorge walking. The undeniable highlight? Climbing up a waterfall — and sliding back down it in style. These days are about more than just fun. They're about recognising hard work and nurturing growth through teamwork, leadership, and resilience. Every young person inspired us with their bravery and support for one another. With hearts full and spirits lifted, we're already plotting our next big adventure for 2026.

Awards Night: A Celebration of Dedication

On Wednesday 25th June, St John's Church came alive for our annual Awards Night, as 62 young people were honoured for their commitment, growth, and infectious enthusiasm. In just over an hour, we presented more than 200 awards — including 27 Steadfast Spirit Awards to those with 72%+ attendance and a consistently positive attitude throughout the year.

One of the most special moments was the historic presentation of two President's Badges — the second-highest award in the Boys' Brigade — to Elise Wilson and Alexia Wilson. And in a closely fought contest, Fraser Whitworth-Foster earned the High Kirk Trophy, recognised for his unwavering effort, courage, and heart.



We also said a fond farewell to Elise Wilson, our first Senior leaver, as she sets off for university with our prayers and blessings (and a parting gift to carry with her).

Among the joyful surprises of the night were Long Service

Awards presented to two of our dedicated leaders. Jen Zielinski received her 15-Year Award, and, following a playful “Stop the wedding!” interruption from Sam, Jamie was surprised with his 18-Year Award, presented by Alan Wylie, Battalion President of Inverclyde & District Battalion.

Our deepest thanks to those who made the evening possible: John Paterson, Jayne Boyle, Jim Anderson, Alan Wylie, Bill Dempster, and Rev. Everisto. Your generosity and support help us shine a spotlight on each young person’s journey.

Sustaining the Mission: The Adventure Fund

At 1st Cowal, we believe every young person deserves access to adventure and opportunity. We’ve committed to keeping costs low —just £1 per week — so that no-one is ever excluded. But running our programme sustainably costs around £3,000 a year. With only £10 remaining per young person after essential fees, we created The Adventure Fund — our way of making outdoor learning and award celebrations a continued reality.

If you can support us — no matter how small the gift — it would mean the world. Donate online via

<https://justgiving.com/campaign/1cowalbbadventurefund>

or speak to Jamie or Jen for cash contributions.

Thank you for believing in our young people. We are the 1st Cowal Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Association. We have faith in them — and thanks to you, a bright path ahead.

With gratitude,

Jamie and the 1st Cowal Team.





ICE SKATING SUCCESS

A few years ago, one of our younger members, Rhiyanna Steveley, decided to have a go at ice skating at the Waterfront in Greenock, where they provide lessons for all ages. Finding she had the ability to keep her balance and wanting to get better at it, she began taking private lessons every Saturday, her confidence growing week by week. She has now been recognised, not just for her

improved ability, but also for performing a solo routine to music - for 1.5 minutes! - in front of the gathered crowds and judges. This in itself takes a lot of nerve, and so she well deserves the medal she received. The photograph shows her receiving her award and flowers.

Congratulations Rhiyanna!



Flower Rota for July and August

JULY	Kirn & Sandbank	St. John's
	6th McIntosh family	Mrs Mary Forbes
	13th Mrs Louise Band	-
	20th -	Mrs Linda Murry
AUGUST	27th Mrs J. Munro / Mrs B. McLeod	Mrs Cathie Burgess
	3rd Mrs Senga Wilson	-
	10th Mrs Rosemary Benn	Mrs Louise Cannon
	17th Mr K. Togwell	Mrs Ann Cooper
	24th Mr Stuart / Kenneth Taylor	Mrs Ishbel Henderson
	31st Mrs M. Smith	-
Contacts: Mrs Maureen Robinson 702903		Mrs Linda Murry 830022
Mobile: 07570 973011		Mobile: 07779131257



STARTER PACKS PLUS

In the first six months of this year, Starter Packs received 20 referrals. All but one of these (as the guy had already been gifted) required a duvet. However, as some of these referrals are for families, this need for duvets is multiplied by however many are in the household. So, in actual fact, those 20 referrals resulted in our providing 17 single duvets and 18 doubles, which suddenly shows the demand is much greater than the original number would suggest.

We are very grateful for all the donations that are made, whether in goods or cash, but it is a constant battle trying to source the items needed at reasonable prices. My request therefore is: if you happen to notice a retailer selling any of the items (as on our poster), at what you think would be a lower than average price (and still reasonable quality) could you please let me know. I do try to avoid “going across” as that means purchasing ferry tickets, but sometimes it is necessary. Buying on-line is another option, but that comes with its own risks as you can’t “see” what you’re getting. Currently we are very short of saucepans, kettles, toasters, glass tumblers, tin openers, potato peelers, knives, soap and flannels, and, of course, duvets!!

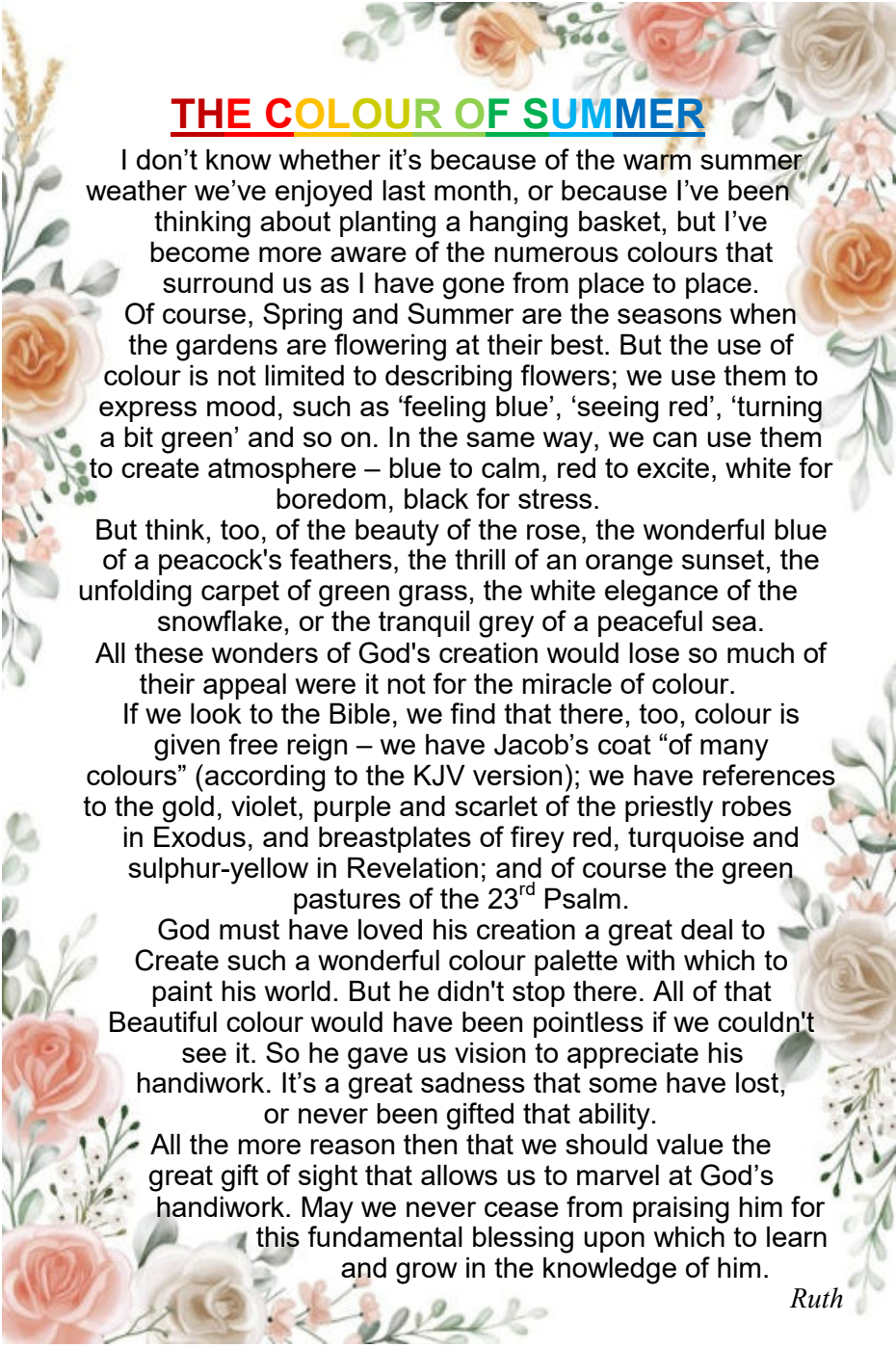
Ruth

After starting a new diet I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favourite bakery. This morning I accidentally drove by the bakery and, as I approached, there in the window were a host of chocolates, doughnuts and cheesecakes.

I felt it was no accident, so I prayed ... “Lord, it’s up to You. If You want me to have any of those delicious goodies, create a parking space for me directly in front of the bakery.”

And sure enough, on the eighth time around the block, there it was!

A kindergarten teacher was walking around her classroom while her pupils drew pictures. One little girl was scribbling so intently that the teacher asked what she was drawing. The little girl replied: “I’m drawing a picture of Jesus.” The teacher said, “Oh, honey, nobody really knows for sure what Jesus looked like.” The little girl, without missing a beat, responded, “They will in a minute.”



THE COLOUR OF SUMMER

I don't know whether it's because of the warm summer weather we've enjoyed last month, or because I've been thinking about planting a hanging basket, but I've become more aware of the numerous colours that surround us as I have gone from place to place.

Of course, Spring and Summer are the seasons when the gardens are flowering at their best. But the use of colour is not limited to describing flowers; we use them to express mood, such as 'feeling blue', 'seeing red', 'turning a bit green' and so on. In the same way, we can use them to create atmosphere – blue to calm, red to excite, white for boredom, black for stress.

But think, too, of the beauty of the rose, the wonderful blue of a peacock's feathers, the thrill of an orange sunset, the unfolding carpet of green grass, the white elegance of the snowflake, or the tranquil grey of a peaceful sea.

All these wonders of God's creation would lose so much of their appeal were it not for the miracle of colour.

If we look to the Bible, we find that there, too, colour is given free reign – we have Jacob's coat "of many colours" (according to the KJV version); we have references to the gold, violet, purple and scarlet of the priestly robes in Exodus, and breastplates of fiery red, turquoise and sulphur-yellow in Revelation; and of course the green pastures of the 23rd Psalm.

God must have loved his creation a great deal to Create such a wonderful colour palette with which to paint his world. But he didn't stop there. All of that Beautiful colour would have been pointless if we couldn't see it. So he gave us vision to appreciate his handiwork. It's a great sadness that some have lost, or never been gifted that ability.

All the more reason then that we should value the great gift of sight that allows us to marvel at God's handiwork. May we never cease from praising him for this fundamental blessing upon which to learn and grow in the knowledge of him.

Ruth

THE GLASGOW PHOENIX CHOIR



"In Honour of all who believe that Life was made for Friendship"

Conductor: Cameron Murdoch Accompanist: Matthew McIlree

 presents

A Choral Celebration from the Classics to Scots Songs to Music from the Shows

DUNOON: Queen's Hall
9 Argyll Street PA23 7HH

Saturday 13 September 2025
Doors 2:00 pm ~ Concert 2.30pm

in association with Cowal Kirk
and St Mun's RC Church

**all proceeds to Church
and local Charities**

TICKETS: £15 / 10 Concession at www.wegottickets.com/event/660672
or in person from Churches on Sundays or in person at 'The Wee Shop' Dunoon.
CONTACT the GPC at www.phoenixchoir.org ~ Scottish Charity SC002904

**THIS IS GUARANTEED TO BE A GOOD EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT,
SO MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY.**



As previously mentioned, A Tale of Two Kings tells key stories from the life of King David, who points us towards King Jesus.

During the course of this year's holiday club, we will journey to the castle; we will make things, join in games, sing songs and have a lot of fun.

We will meet all sorts of people — some knights, perhaps, maybe a princess or two and some bards? We will also learn all about these two Kings and what happens to them.

Get ready for the adventure!

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Please note: **Last day for September Newsletter contributions is :
Sunday, 24th August**

Please email these to EDITOR as above – thank you.