



Cowal Kirk News



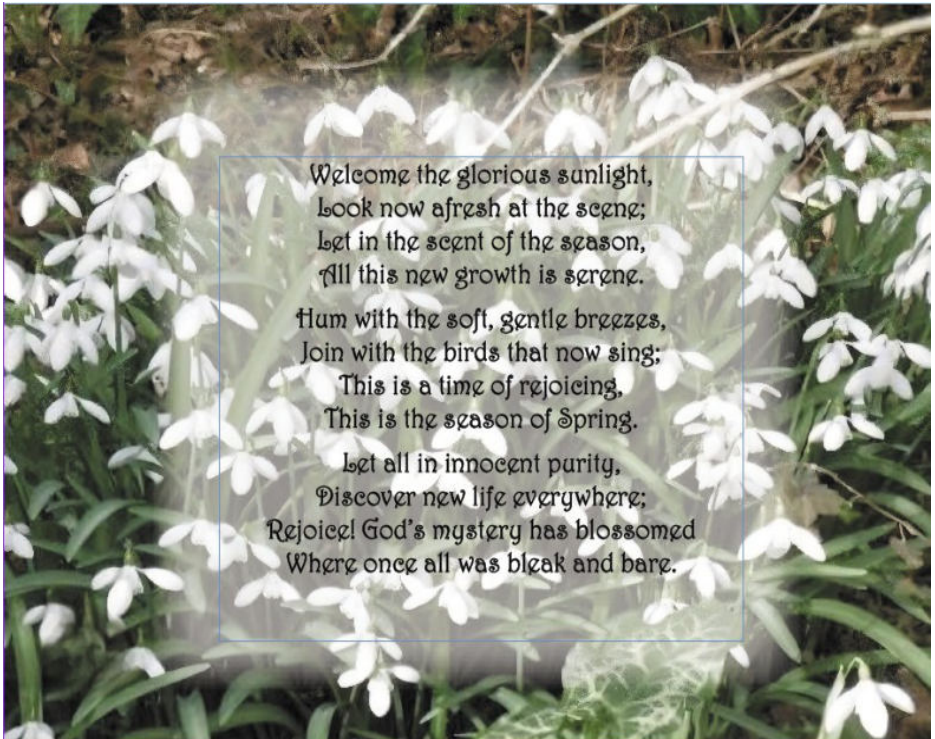
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
SCOTTISH CHARITY No. SC001976
ISSUE No. 50 ~ APRIL, 2026

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



Welcome the glorious sunlight,
Look now afresh at the scene;
Let in the scent of the season,
All this new growth is serene.

Hum with the soft, gentle breezes,
Join with the birds that now sing;

This is a time of rejoicing,
This is the season of Spring.

Let all in innocent purity,
Discover new life everywhere;
Rejoice! God's mystery has blossomed
Where once all was bleak and bare.



FROM THE MANSE

~ Looking To the Future ~

Dear beloved Cowal Kirk,

I want to take a moment to talk about something that's been a headline in our local newspaper.

As you know, we've been navigating some challenges with our church buildings, and I'm writing to prepare you for some tough decisions that are ahead of us.

As a community of faith, we've always prioritised people over buildings. We've invested in relationships, in ministries, and in serving our community. And I want to assure you that our focus remains on the people – the people who make up our church, the people we serve, and the people we're called to reach.

However, we can't ignore the reality of our buildings.

We've grown, we've changed, and now our facilities must be looked at. It's time for us to make some difficult decisions about how we use our resources and our space.

To this end, the General Trustees came and had a look at our buildings, and they provided us with some recommendations.

We have deliberated over these and have submitted our preferred options and working strategic recommendations to them for consideration.

Our preferred first option is:

Keep St John's as existing and use as Cowal Kirk centre of worship, this is to include the sale of Kirn and Sandbank church and grounds, retention of High Kirk Hall as a hall, and retention of Toward and Innellan Church and Hall.

Our second preferred option is:

Kirn and Sandbank Church to be used as Cowal Kirk centre of worship, this is to include the sale of St John's church and grounds, the sale of Toward Church and Hall and the retention of the High Kirk Hall as a hall.

I know this news may come as a shock, and I'm sure you will have

many questions and concerns, but I want to assure you that we will communicate clearly and often as we navigate this process. Whatever the final decision will be, it isn't about the building itself; it's about the people. It's about asking ourselves how we can best serve our community and advance the kingdom of God. And it's about being good stewards of the resources we've been given. In the meantime, I encourage you to join the Kirk Session in prayer, asking God to guide us as we make these decisions. Remember, our church isn't defined by a building; it's defined by our relationships, our faith, and our commitment to serving others.

Every blessing,

Everisto

The Church is wherever God's people are praising,
knowing they're wanted and loved by their Lord.
The Church is wherever Christ's followers are trying
To live and to share out the good news of God.

The Church is wherever God's people are loving
where all are forgiven and start once again,
where all are accepted, whatever their background,
whatever their past and whatever their pain.

The Church is wherever God's people are seeking
to reach out and touch folk wherever they are --
conveying the Gospel, its joy and its comfort,
to challenge, refresh, and excite and inspire.

The Church is wherever God's people are praising,
knowing we're wanted and loved by our Lord.
The Church is where we as Christ's followers are trying
to live and to share out the good news of God.

Carol Rose Ikeler

FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

The WEE SHOP

We are still really busy with recent donations and subsequent sales, which means that, as the holiday approaches, we will once again be needing more help. The wonderful ladies currently on the rota will be looking forward to some well-deserved time off/holidays, etc. So, if you can offer even just a half day every couple of weeks, that would be amazing.

FUNDRAISING

May is Christian Aid month, so keep a look out for the SMARTIES TUBES being distributed early in April which will enable us to finalise our donations by the last week in May. For those of you not familiar with this event, you will be offered a tube of SMARTIES and requested to fill it with 20p pieces. Each tubes holds £12.00 But if you find it difficult to fill the tubes due to a shortage of 20ps, then a £10 note and £2.00 of 20p coins might be easier. As you eat your SMARTIES, you may think of the less fortunate with not enough food, clean water or medical supplies to care for their children.

You may even remember, as I do, when dropping my 20p pieces in, of your Sunday school collection song: "Hear the pennies dropping."



As we become more tech-savvy, supposedly to make life easier, it is sad that there is still so much starvation and drought in our world. Will you be WEE SMARTIES this year?

*Lawther Murchison,
Activities and Fund-raising Co-ordinator.
Tel. 07747735987*

PREACHING ROTA

5th April	St. John's -----Easter Sunday
12th April	Toward & Innellan
19th April	Kirn & Sandbank
26th April	Toward & Innellan
3rd May	St. John's -----with Submariners



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES IN DUNOON : 2026

Monday 30th March	11 - 12 noon	Cowal Kirk, St. John's Hall
Tuesday 31st March	11- 12 noon	Cowal Kirk, St. John's Hall
Wednesday 1st April	11 - 12 noon 7:00 pm	Cowal Kirk, St. John's Hall St. Mun's Church: Stations of the Cross
Thursday 2nd April	11 - 12 noon 6:00 pm	Cowal Kirk, St. John's Hall Agapé Meal with Celebration of The Lord's Supper High Kirk Hall, Hanover Street
Friday 3rd April	11 - 12 noon 2:00 pm 7:00 pm	Cowal Kirk, St. John's Hall Shore Kirk, Strone Cowal Kirk, Kirn & Sandbank Church: Good Friday Service
Sunday 5th April	6:00 am 10:30 am	Dawn Service at Castle Hill Cowal Kirk, St. John's Church: Easter Service

**Walk of Witness
through the town centre on
Saturday 4th April
Meet at
ARGYLL GARDENS
at 1 pm**

BIBLE TRIVIA QUESTIONS

(Answers next month)

1. How old is the Old Testament?
2. Who is the oldest person written in the bible?
3. What is the shortest verse in the bible?
4. How tall was Goliath?
5. In 1 Corinthians, which is the greatest of the imperishable qualities?
6. Whose example does Paul say Christians should follow in Chapter 5 of Ephesians?
7. At what age did Moses die?
8. What is the last word of the bible?
9. How many prophecies does the bible have?
10. What is the longest verse in the bible?
11. What was Ruth's husband called?
12. What did Joshua command to stay still?
13. Around what sea did Jesus call His first apostles?
14. The total number of years the Israelites spent in captivity is?
15. What does Jesus say about judging others?
16. Where did Jesus grow up after returning from Egypt?
17. Who is the author of the Book of Revelation?
18. How many plagues did God send on Egypt?
19. Through what did God speak to Moses in the desert?
20. How many brothers did Joseph have?
21. Who were Adam and Eve's three sons listed in the Bible?
22. How many days did God take to create the world?
23. What four books tell about Jesus' life on Earth?
24. At which place did Jesus' crucifixion take place?
25. John the Baptist's father was?



The Bible contains much that is relevant today, like Noah taking 40 days to find a place to park!!

The TEN COMMANDMENTS in Rhyme

- I Thou shalt not have more Gods than Me
- II Before no idol bow the knee.
- III Take not the name of God in vain
- IV Nor dare the Sabbath Day profane.
- V Give both thy parents honour due,
- VI Take heed that thou no murder do.
- VII Abstain from words and deeds unclean
- VIII Nor steal, though thou art poor and mean.
- IX Nor make a wilful lie, nor love it,
- X What is thy neighbour's, do not covet.

Exodus XX

A cheerful heart is good medicine

Proverbs 17: 22

Thanks for the Memories

At a Service on 8th March, in Alloway Parish Church, Long Service Awards were presented to former Kirn Parish Church members, Andrew and Margaret Cook, in recognition of their long service in the Eldership of the Church of Scotland, and signed by the Moderator of the Assembly.

Margaret was presented with a 30-Year Certificate and silver brooch having been ordained in Nairn Old Parish Church in 1990.

Andrew was ordained in Kirn Parish Church in September 1973 and served in various congregations at different levels until returning to Kirn in 1997. He and Margaret left in January 2024 to live in Alloway. He received a 50-Year Certificate along with a lovely Celtic Cross memento.

Andrew says: "Kirn will always have a place in our hearts and we remember all the friends we made during the years we were involved in the congregation and in the community.

"We are however enjoying our twilight years in a lovely situation and are grateful to the Kirk Session of Alloway Parish Church for marking this latest milestone in our Church history."



Andrew and Margaret with their Certificates.

Children & Families News

God's GOOD News

As we again, approach the end of another month, I can relate more than ever to what Paul writes here in Ephesians:

"By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News."

Ephesians 3:7

All this months "work" has been a privilege and honour, to serve our church and our community here in Cowal. Sometimes I feel that I am the least qualified, yet, here I am, another month further into my journey as the Children & Families worker within the Cowal Kirk, giving me an opportunity to reflect as we bring the Good News to our newsletter.

What a JOY it is to have this role; I feel truly humbled and thankful every time I sit to type these pages. The more I

read and learn from God's word, and from the testimonies and teaching of others, the more I am convinced that we truly have Good News to share and that the future of all we do as His church is in His hands.



"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known."

Ephesians 3:10.

March 2026

This month we have continued our 'Made for More' theme, introducing it into everything that we do. We believe God is calling us to know Him more, and to love his people more — More love, More community, More of All he



has for us here in Cowal.

Another More is that we have had more babies joining us at the Kirk Café each week, and seeing all the prams fill the church makes my heart sing. We have celebrated birthdays and milestones with all the families, dressing up for World Book Day,

and plenty of fun in between. We have also had the privilege of sitting with people in times of struggle too. Journeying alongside people in the lows as well as the highs and being able to offer help



where we

can, or even just a listening ear, has been an extra privilege.

We have also been thrilled to see the children (and adults) bringing their prayer requests to Pizza Church and to witness them really wanting to pray for and with one another.

The Good Food Project

We have once more been out and about this month, around our local primary schools with our Good Food Market Stall.



This month's recipe was a Spring Risotto, with a lovely recipe created by Katie Mitchell.

Our recipe cards are bright and engaging for children, and on the reverse, we share our church details and ask families to send in any pictures they have of them enjoying doing things together at home. So far, the response has been great - we have been delighted with



how many families have wanted to send in their photos and to share how much they have enjoyed this real family activity. It has encouraged collaboration both within our local school community and with our church through social media, and it is a great conversation starter. As we meet with the families when out and about in our community, the kids have been eager to tell us how much they have enjoyed cooking - and, of course, eating the delicious results!

We always include some little additions in our bags as well - this month's contained a little card with a scripture verse and an Invitation to come along to both our Pizza Church and our Movie Night. (See over for poster with details) >> Please continue to pray for the families who receive these bags and for all the blessings the entire team receive, and the project itself.

The following are a couple of the comments received from the pupils that have really made my heart sing: "I don't really like risotto, but this turned the tables and I really enjoyed it." "Thank you for the gift and for coming in."

It has also been wonderful to have more volunteers come alongside us - enabling us to do more. In fact, if you are interested in serving alongside us in any of the projects on the go, we would be delighted to hear from you. After all: "Team work makes the Dream work"



"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20

Lorna McGinnigal, Children & Families Worker,
familiesworker@cowalkirk.org.uk



THE KING OF KINGS

A Story Told by Charles Dickens

MOVIE NIGHT

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL

6:30 PM

HIGH KIRK HALL

FREE

Tickets from Lorna / 07967191238

familiesworker@cowalkirk.org.uk



SU Scotland

See you
there!

mofac

ANGEL

KOVA

Watch it on all Digital Platforms NOW.

MID - WEEK WORSHIP

Short services are held at 11am on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. For April, they are as follows:

1st April — this is part of the Holy Week services
(it will take place in St. John's Hall)

15th April — with Simon Wallace
(in the High Kirk Hall, Hanover Street)



CYBER AND FRAUD UNIT

This month's Cyberbyte focuses on Phishing emails, but this time the Phish could be via Messenger, WhatsApp and social media, advertising fake job offers where the terms and conditions seem to tick every box for you in relation to high salary, generous bonuses, work anytime, from anywhere, with minimal effort required inducements.

Cyber Criminals/Fraudsters are very efficient with the methods they use in an attempt to scam us, so it is healthy

for us to keep our awareness alert.

So, if you receive an unsolicited message with a job offer, treat it with suspicion, if it sounds too good to be true, it most likely is.

Please feel free to share this with your family, friends and colleagues.

All Hands on Deck

Following health and safety advice, we had to empty and streamline the store in the High Kirk hall.

This involved three trips to the Bogleha Recycling centre. Fortunately the young legs of Jack and Lorna brought all the stuff for recycling, down to the front door. Members of our over 70s club, with only three good legs between them managed the three trips to the recycling. 😄

(names and addresses supplied)

Another job ticked off.



Care Home Worship

Services will be conducted in local Care Homes on the dates below.

Any extra help is always appreciated.

7th April — Ashgrove — 11am

14th April — Ardenlee — 2.30pm

Cowal Kirk Guild

The Guild session ended on Thursday, 26th March with a Social including musical entertainment from Lynda and I to whom we are very grateful for leading our praise each the winter.



At the beginning of the month, we were sad that the speaker Bute Crisis pulled out at very short notice, but members chose to view instead a powerpoint from Jeneffer of her time in the Holy Land. This proved very appropriate with the present crisis in the Middle East, and fitted our theme: “Let us Build a House - Living Stones”

The following week we had another lovely visit from the toddlers and staff of Clyde Cottage Nursery, and we loved the puzzles, pictures and Play-Doh (more pictures on Cowal Kirk Facebook page).

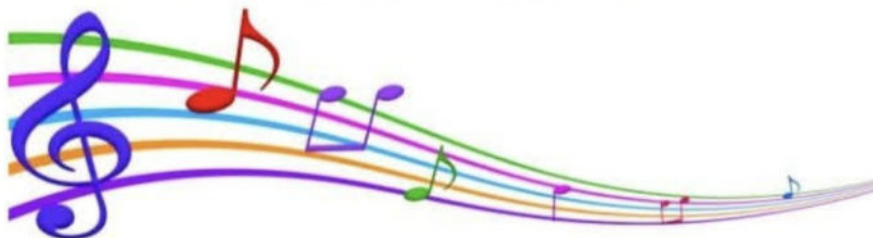
A visit to Robin House, the Children’s Hospice at Balloch was another enjoyable outing, though sadly not everyone was able to go, but the weather was idyllic, and Cara, the guide, so helpful.

We will also be busy on 18th of this month with our visit to Cairndow for the Big Little Sing — see over for details.





**You are warmly invited to join Strachur, Strathlachlan
and Cumlodden Guilds for their second**



Little Big Sing

**An uplifting afternoon of singing and worship
followed by tea/coffee & home baking.**

When? Saturday 18 April 2026

Where? Cairndow Village Hall

Time? 2-4pm

We hope to see you there!



Any small donations will go towards projects supported by The Guild.

If you need transport for this, please check with JZ on 706136.

eXp March 2026 Update



This month our young people had the chance to connect with the wider Christian youth community through two fantastic events.

C7 Youth Conference

Our first-ever visit to the C7 Youth Conference — run by C7 Church and Audacious Church Manchester — was a huge success. With

games, high-energy dancing, powerful worship, and an inspiring message from Paul Reid, the night was full of joy and celebration. Twelve young people and several leaders joined us, and we're delighted that some made the decision to follow



Jesus. Please continue praying for them as God moves in their lives.

Magnitude Worship Night

We also headed to SU Scotland's Magnitude Worship Night at Queen's Park Baptist Church. After a quick McDonald's stop, we arrived to a packed venue and an evening of heartfelt worship, prayer, and encouragement. Our young people engaged brilliantly throughout — another uplifting night for the team.

Summer Camp 2026

Plans for Summer Camp are well underway! We'll be heading to Kings Cross on the Isle of Arran from **20th –24th July**. Spaces are open



for New S1s–S6s from Cowal, and we'd love to see young people join

us for a week packed with adventure — Abseiling, gorge walking, powerboating, tribe wars, camp games, and so much more!

Camp is often a life-changing experience where young people explore faith in a supportive and joyful community.

Find details and sign up at:

www.suholidays.org.uk/exp

Kiltwalk Fundraiser

This year we're shaking up our camp fundraising! On **26th April**, our leaders (in extremely silly outfits!) will be tackling

the 14.5-mile **Glasgow**

Kiltwalk to help reduce the cost for young people attending camp.

Our goal is to raise **£1,000**, and we'd love your support to help us smash it.

Donate via our JustGiving page or directly to Jack McGinnigal on:

www.justgiving.com/team/expfundraisers



Thank you for supporting our young people and the life-changing experiences these events make possible!



Christian Aid is the official relief and development agency of 41 Christian churches in the UK and Ireland, and works to support sustainable development, eradicate poverty, support civil society and provide disaster relief.



It was founded in 1945 initially to help post-war European refugees, but has since grown into a major global charity.

There has been a significant digital shift since those early days of door-to-door collection, and although this still takes place during “Christian Aid Week,” with the aid of technology, donating can now be done on-line. This at least enabled donations to continue to be received during Covid-19 . There are also “delivery only” style envelopes that ask supporters to simply return them to a local shop or church.

As has been mentioned, Cowal Kirk is adding its own twist to the methods of raising funds for Christian Aid by handing out Smartie tubes. The joy of consuming those smarties is to be compensated for by then filling the tubes with 20p coins.

Christian Aid reported a 14% drop in income, driving the need for various new ways to support, whether campaigning for change, or simply joining with them in prayer. So whatever we do, it is vital that we do all we can to stand alongside people living in poverty. *Ed*

Flower Rota for St. John's

APRIL 5th Mrs Betty Jukes
12th Mr Lillian Laidlaw
19th Mr Barry White
26th Mr Richard Murry
Contact: Mrs Linda Murry **830022**
Mobile: **07779131257**



SAFEGUARDING

Our Presbytery Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Doreen Henderson, will come to Kirn & Sandbank Church on Sunday 6th September, at 2.30pm to deliver (Elder) training.

Please try to keep this date free and add it to your calendar

Jeanette Ferguson.

Some Christian One-liners

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile.

The Bible tells us to love our neighbours, and also to love our enemies ... is that because they might be the same people?

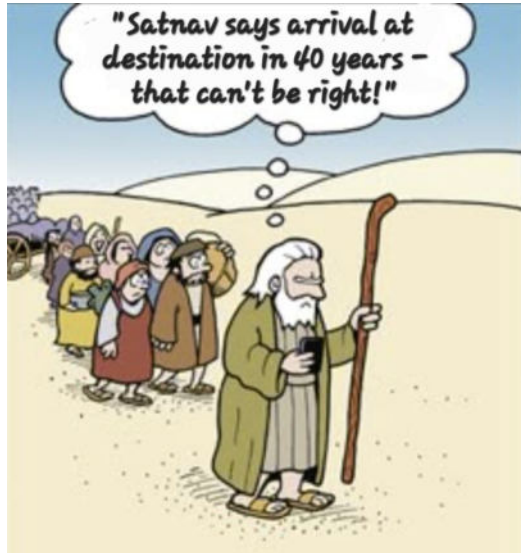
The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but the midge comes close.

People seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older — is that because they're cramming for their final exam?

Eternity is a long time to think about where you went wrong.

....and finally...

Forecast for tomorrow:
**"God reigns,
and the Son shines"**



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Please note: **Last day for May Newsletter contributions : 26th April**

Please email these to EDITOR as above – thank you.