



Cumrae, Fairlie &
Largs Parish Church

Scottish Charity Number SC002782

April 2026 - #10

NEWSLETTER

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Hello Everyone,

It is Easter; the time when we remember and reflect upon the worst of humanity and the overwhelming goodness of God.

In the week leading up to the crucifixion, from the shadows emerged anonymous sources of lies, made up stories and deception 'but their stories did not agree', as some people who realised that their way of religion was being challenged rallied around and co-ordinated an

attack to remove the obstacle to their desired path. At the same time someone who was a long-time friend of Jesus betrayed Him for money; the love of which, Timothy tells us, 'is a root of all kinds of evil.' However, from the beginning of His ministry until His final breath, Jesus revealed a new understanding of God and through what some people would have considered to be an utter mess, God's will was accomplished.

When Jesus died on the cross His followers scattered before coming back together and hiding away, in case of further reprisals. But when Jesus was raised from death they experienced a newfound confidence; the love of God grew within them, and with the power of the Holy Spirit they went out

to preach the Good News of salvation in and through Jesus. This message is the same message that we have today, and through His Great Commission Jesus still calls us to go and share it. And as a Christian Community we will only accomplish what Jesus asks of us when we follow Him with honesty and integrity.

In life it is easy to become distracted from God's way and focus on what we consider important. That's what the Pharisees did. And, in doing so, they excluded themselves from God's grace. Then, lacking God's grace and always seeking to prove that they were right in their understanding, they repeatedly made the same challenges of Jesus about His healing, His miracles and, preferring their own kind, His inclusion of those whom they considered not worthy. Jesus, however, despite these ongoing attacks, steadfastly held to His mission and continued to reveal God's love for everyone. This is our challenge for the future of our parish: to put aside all the unnecessary distractions which keep us from following Jesus and keep our eyes focussed on Him, and His will for us.

I hope that you can enjoy this time of Easter in new 'resurrection light.' And may we never forget that God has a bigger plan for us and His Church than we will ever know.

With every blessing, Graham

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You are warmly invited to share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday 26th April 2026

All are welcome to gather around the Lord's Table as we remember Christ's love, grace and faithfulness together.

SERVICE TIMES Fairlie: 9.30am Cumrae: 11.00am Largs: 11.00am

Whether you are a regular worshipper or have not shared Communion for some time, you will be very welcome.

The Retiral of Rev. T. David Watson - Sunday 3rd May

After the Service at 1pm in the Clark Memorial Hall there will be a Celebration of David's Ministry.

It will take the form of a Buffet Lunch. To facilitate the catering sign-up sheets will be provided for all three Church buildings from Sunday 29 March and must be completed by Sunday 19th April. Members of the congregation, who wish to attend, should sign their sheet.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES IN CFL PARISH SINCE DECEMBER 2025

Baptisms

11th January Jaydan Shandorf Woode 19th April Louie Stewart Fotheringham Robertson

Funerals

Elizabeth Easton (Bette)	9 Glen Grove, Largs	George Ross	Hutton Park Nursing Home, Largs
Alex Dobbin	8 St Maura Gardens, Millport	Margaret Neil	41 Haco Street, Largs
Jean Young	Hutton Park Care Home, Largs	Mearns T McCaskie	7 Douglas Street, Largs
Doreen Whyte McConnell	8 Millburn Gardens, Largs	Sheena Walker	30 Castlepark Gardens, Fairlie
Mary Mitchell (May)	Buckreddan Care Home, Kilwinning	Brenda Urquhart	76d Brisbane Road, Largs
Ian Dewar	25 Douglas Street, Largs	Linn Munton	3a Routenburn Road, Largs
Jeremy Dawson (Jerry)	1 Bowencraig, Largs	Stanley William Harris Ferrier	Fullarton Care Home, Irvine
Zandra Combe	38 Sinclair Drive, Largs	Jane Cameron	Queens View Care Home, Troon
Ian Hastie	1 Whinhurst House, Portencross	Colin James Spencer	26 Snowdon Terrace, Seamill
Carol Julie Donkin	Laigh Baidland Farm, Fairlie Moor Road, Dalry	James Geddes	Burnlea Care Home, Largs
		Mary Catchpool (Maria)	2 Newton Court, Millport

God's Families at Cumbrae

The welcoming smell of bacon rolls, the chit chat & laughter from the children making their way into the church, the musical sounds of *Ho Ho Hosannah* flooding the air all setting the theme of another God's Family at Cumbrae Community Church.

Just under a year on from when we first started God's Families, encouraged and overseen by the Rev Graham McWilliams. A fab team of 14 people committed to sharing the love of Jesus in a fun way with the children and their families every two months. God's Families allow these families to learn about Jesus and His love for them by taking part in theme led crafts, exciting worship songs and interactive stories as well as engaging in talking to Jesus and eating together.

Last week we met together to learn about Palm Sunday and the events that followed, to Jesus dying on the cross and rising from the dead. Donkey masks, individual Easter banners, paper palm branches, a colour in Easter table cloth, the story told from a box of half a dozen eggs...yup, true and an exciting fun procession complete with said donkey masks, Palm leaves and one donkey on a stick leading the way, filled the morning.

Providing these families with the opportunity to come and learn about God and that Jesus loves them and He wants to have a relationship with them is an immense privilege. Please pray for Millport, the families on the island and the God's Family team, that seeds that are sown as a result will mean that more families will get to hear of the love of Jesus and the impact that He can have in each of their lives.

Boys' Brigade 'Sleepover'

A most successful sleepover took place on Friday the 13th of February at Cumbrae Parish Church with 1st Millport hosting the evening for their guests, members of the 1st Largs Junior Section and their officers.

The staff of both Companies work well together so the evening was off to a good start. A full programme of activities formed a fun filled event – The Junior Section Big Sleepover Quiz, games, laser tag, late night movie with hot dogs, popcorn, etc with everyone settling down for a good night's sleep!

A hearty breakfast was served with all leaving for home at 9.30am on Saturday morning.



Cumbrae Guild



Does time fly? It definitely has this year. The first meeting of 2026 was Old Glasgow in Pictures and the next meeting was our Scottish afternoon and thanks to Christine Gillettie and John Orr for a wonderful afternoon. The speaker for our next meeting, unfortunately couldn't manage and Marjory Mackay stepped in and presented a most imaginative quiz. Well done !!

Playful Beginnings, which is one of the Guild Projects, was our next meeting on February 16th. We welcomed Sheila and Steven from Crossreach and they gave us an insight into the work done at the Daisy Centre in the southside of Glasgow, helping mothers who require a bit of help with their wee ones. Guild office at 121 Edinburgh send out lots of material to use at meetings if you have no speaker so on the first Monday in March we had a DIY afternoon and we made little money banks and had a quiz. Any Questions was on the 16th March with 4 locals making up the panel another great afternoon. Our AGM and closing meeting was on the 23rd and our guests were members of the Sonoro choir, a wonderful end to another Guild year

Living Water

As bombing spreads across the Middle East, we see much anger, hatred, bitterness and prejudice leading to destruction, and the loss of innocent lives. At times we see some of these emotions nearer to home too, in broken relationships of all sorts. We see the results of unrestrained anger in abuse and broken homes. What of our own lives? Have we met such anger? Have we felt it? When disagreements and anger go deep, can we seek healing or offer it?

Jesus offers us "living water" (John 4.10 and 7.38), His life in us, bubbling up in us like a spring, the new life that he offers to anyone. We can come to Jesus, with all that is broken in us, and ask him to wash that away. We can, if we are willing, let his new life transform us. We need to let him in to the sore places in our lives. Do we? We need that living water.

Morag Fowler



Fairlie Guild

2026 began with 'Resolutions'. Lots of fun and laughter was had at what we might promise to do, not sure how many of us are going to manage to keep them! What we did commit to was to support the church and Guild as we are able and to reach out to others.

To mark the Guild theme 'Living Stones', we embarked on stone painting, the pictures tell their own story.

Alison Burnett came from Arran to tell us of her visit to Malawi. She was representing Ayrshire Guilds Together to forge closer links with the 'Mzimba Ayrshire Twinning'. At the AGM we hope to contribute to the New Maternity Unit in Bandawe, Malawi.

We have been delighted to welcome new members this year to our varied programme. We look forward to extending our interests by attending future Ayrshire Gatherings to discover the reach of the Guild as it supports deserving Projects in Scotland and in the World Church.



Fairlie Monday Lunch Club

This is the opportunity to come together for a delicious lunch of homemade soup with crusty bread, followed by sandwiches/rolls and cake. Vegetarian and gluten free options available. We are delighted that the Walking Group from the Men's Shed in Largs have been joining us, along with passers-by who have seen our sign. This is open to everyone. Dates are Mondays 27th April, and 25th May from 11.30 to 2.00pm.



Celebrations

We have been blessed to share in some special celebrations over the past few weeks. Tom and Margaret McLauchlan celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary recently with members of their family coming from near and far to celebrate and worship with us in Fairlie. A

beautiful cake was shared with the congregation. We wish this special couple every blessing. We were delighted to surprise Allister McGregor with a cake and card on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Have a great year ahead.

The Craft Café, Fairlie

The Crafters have been working diligently producing children's jumpers and cardigans, along with baby blankets for the Largs Academy trip to Malawi. The pile is growing, we are grateful to those who have donated wool and patterns also to those who knitted them, the Deadline is May.

We meet for crafts, chat and cuppa on Tuesdays 14th & 28th April / 12th & 26th May / 9th June from 2.00 – 4.00pm. All Welcome!

Good Causes

There are two upcoming opportunities to support good causes.

Fairlie are renowned for their coffee mornings with all the delicious home-baking.

The **Brownie Coffee Morning** is the only fundraiser that the local pack hold.

The **Strawberry Tea** is held to support **Christian Aid**. Come along and bring a friend.

Brownie Coffee Morning

Saturday, 25th April

10am – 12 noon

Baking, bottle, raffle & gift stalls

Christian Aid Strawberry Tea

Saturday, 16th May

2pm – 4pm

God's Families at Largs

On Saturday 28th February we celebrated the 10th Birthday of God's Families at St Columba's.

We originally called our monthly gathering for Praise and Play 'God's Tots'. However, having come through lockdown, when we returned the children were older, so we renamed our gathering 'God's Families' and it has grown in number.

As we now prepare the building to be sold, this was our last gathering in St Columba's. We will continue to meet as usual on the final Saturday of each month but will now do so in the Dunn Memorial Hall, from 10.30-12.00, for Praise, Play and, of course, the all important bacon rolls and snacks.

All families across Largs and beyond are invited.



Scottish Evening a Great Success

The Scottish Evening on Saturday 21st February in the Clark Memorial Hall raised £1055 for the RNLI.

The event was well attended, in spite of the awful weather! It was a wonderful evening filled with songs, poetry, foot tapping music and laughter. Truly an evening of fellowship.

The Committee is now looking towards Holy Week and providing refreshments after the Walk of Witness on Good Friday (3rd April) and after the Son-rise Service on Easter Sunday (5th April).



Thursday Contact

January's meeting was a meal at the Thai Restaurant which 19 attended. February was a Beetle Drive which was an evening full of concentration as the competitive spirits took hold! There was a cuppa and chat night on 19th March and a craft night with Beryl on 30th April. 28th May is a visit to the Lifeboat Station. A follow-up to the talk on the RNLI by Ronnie Copeland last year.

New members are always welcome. Meetings start at 7pm. If you'd like to get involved contact Fiona Page 687196.

Jolly Tots Toddler Group

The group meets in the Dunn Memorial Hall on a Wednesday morning at 10am and is going from strength to strength. Victoria McCann, who is part of the Kingdom Kids leadership team, is organising the group. The children are enjoying taking part in simple dances, led by one of the mums who is a professional ballet dancer!

Kingdom Kids

Meeting on a Sunday morning during worship, we are growing in number, and now have a small group of older children who take part in age-appropriate teaching and activities in a different part of the hall.

On Easter Day we will have a variety of fun activities in the hall after we leave the Church.

Christian Aid

The lent lunches in Largs Parish Church were well supported and the fellowship was greatly appreciated by all. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the Christian Aid Fundraiser.

A Quiz Night is planned for the 13th May at 7.00pm in the Dunn memorial hall.

Bible Study Group

A Bible Study Group meet on a Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Mary Stewart Chapel within Largs Parish Church.

The group is led by our ministers who expertly extend our knowledge and our thinking as we explore different aspects of the Bible together. Please think about coming along on a Wednesday evening. You will be made most welcome.

BB Battalion Service



Our recent BB Battalion Service was a lively and memorable afternoon built around the theme "Last Man Standing."

With sumo suits, a "Bang Out of Order" quiz, and a final challenge, there was plenty of fun and energy. Alongside this, the message was clear — what helps us stand firm when life knocks us down?

Through Scripture and music, we were reminded that true strength is not in ourselves, but in Christ — the one who faced every trial and is still standing today.

A great afternoon of fun, faith, and fellowship.