

NEWSLETTER

Church Office

cflparish@gmail.com 01475 675186
Monday - Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Rev David Watson

dwatson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Rev Dr Graham McWilliams

gmcwilliams@churchofscotland.org.uk

Hello Everyone,

We trust that you are well as we enter the time of Lent which leads us towards Holy Week, Good Friday and the wonderful celebration of Easter Day. As we set out on this journey of reflection and renewal, we are reminded that Lent is a time of challenges, hope, love, peace, and, above all, surrendering to the will and guidance of God.

Life often presents us with trials that test our faith and patience. Yet, in these challenges, God calls us to trust in Him and His divine plan. Just as Jesus faced the desert with unwavering faith, we too are invited to face our struggles, knowing that they will both challenge and strengthen us. Lent is also a season of new beginnings. No matter where we have fallen short, God's mercy is boundless, offering us a fresh start. This is a time to reconcile with Him and others, to seek forgiveness, and to renew our commitment to living as His disciples that we may grow in faith.

Over the last few weeks, the Kirk Session has gathered to discuss how we, as a new parish, will move forward with our mission to share the Good News of Jesus with those around us. As we live in the west of Scotland, there is a need for us to have a safe, warm, and accessible place from which our mission can be led. Having agreed to sell the former St Columba's building, and with well-appointed churches on Cumbrae and in Fairlie, the Kirk Session received two presentations looking at how our mission could be directed from either of the refurbished suites of buildings within Largs. After receiving the presentations, the Kirk Session, by a clear margin, indicated a preference

for the proposal to redevelop and remodel the former St John's buildings. Subsequently, on 2nd March, it was decided unanimously that there should be plans drawn up to redevelop the site of the former St John's to accommodate the new sanctuary and ancillary facilities for the new Largs Parish Church. It was also agreed unanimously that the congregation should at present retain the sites of both the former St John's and the former Clark Memorial since both are required for the ongoing mission of the church in Cumbrae, Fairlie and Largs.

Like Lent, this is a time of change. However, we have a journey to go before we will move to worship in our newly refurbished buildings. Hope for the future is the light that guides us through our Lenten journey; and the light of Christ is what gives His people hope for the future in our parish.

At the heart of Lent is love: the love that Christ demonstrated through His selfless sacrifice. And, so, our challenge as we journey through the times ahead is for us to mirror this love in our daily lives, extending kindness to those in need, forgiving those who have wronged us, and serving others with a generous heart. Our love for God should inspire us to care for others, especially those who are suffering and struggling.

As we walk this journey together, may we find peace in the assurance that God walks beside us. And may we all grow in faith, hope, and love, drawing ever closer to Christ, until we rejoice in the glory of Easter.

With every blessing, Graham and David

LARGS UNITED GUILD

Our Spring session has almost come to a close and we look back on many happy Monday afternoons with interesting speakers and great fellowship. We will round off our meetings with a night out at the Willowbank Hotel, followed by '9 to 5' by Largs Amateur Operatic Society at Barrfields.

Our Charity Concert was a great success, ticket sales raising £827 for our projects and charities, and the raffle raising £303 for Beatson Cancer Charity and our local RNLI. Our grateful thanks go to all those who took part, sharing with us their time and talents, all those who came along to support us and all who contributed in any way to a successful afternoon.

Look out for our programme of meetings for 2025/26 on the church notice boards and join us if you are interested in any particular topics. You will be made very welcome.

Christine Gallettie, Secretary

trypraying.

The Kirk Session has agreed to be part of the next national Try Praying campaign from Sunday 25th May – Sunday 8th June.

This will allow God's Families in Largs and Cumbrae to participate as part of their scheduled meetings.

Please keep preparation for this initiative in your own prayers and let us hope that others will find strength in their own lives through prayer.

BIBLE STUDY

The recent Bible Study met in the Clark building over 26 weeks. The group studied Genesis using workbooks and has just concluded. Led by Rev Sandy McCallum who provided workbooks. Sadly he has indicated this was his last study. The folks attending felt blessed by their time together.

David Hamilton

CHURCH FLOWERS

If you would like to contribute to the flower ministry within each of our church buildings, or if you know of someone who would appreciate receiving church flowers, please speak with either Muriel, Liz or Jackie who would be only too delighted to give you further information.

Largs	Muriel Craig	01475 675551
Fairlie	Liz Clark	07936 328864
Cumbræ	Jackie Wilson	07957 716533

Largs Church flowers for March, April & May donated by

<i>March</i>	Mrs M McGowan	Mrs C Plant
	Mrs J McGregor	Lady D Belch
	Mrs N Young	Mrs J Madden
	Mr F Scott	Mrs F Maclachlan
<i>April</i>	Mrs J McGregor	Mrs C Eardley
	Rev E Watson	Mrs A Little
<i>May</i>	Mrs F Anderson	Mrs M Craig
	Mrs J Lawrie	Mrs J Scott

RETIREMENTS FROM CHURCH SERVICE

On 8th December the Kirk Session presented gifts of crystal crosses to Mrs. Christine Thomas and Mr. Bill Hastie. After many years as treasurer at Fairlie Parish Church, then Fairlie and St Columba's, and most recently of our new Parish of CFL, Christine stepped down to dedicate more time to her family. While Bill has been part of the property team at Fairlie Parish Church for too many years to remember, looking after the manses along the way. We are grateful to Christine and Bill for their dedication and commitment to the work of the kingdom in all that they have done.



PARISH REGISTER - since November 2024

Baptisms

Bonnie Thomson Brown 22nd December
in Fairlie Parish Church

Funerals

November

- 7 Bill Weir, Allan Park Street, Largs
- 8 Jeanette Mackinnon, Glenacre Drive, Largs
- 12 Lillias O'Brien, Curlinghall, Largs
- 12 Jacqueline Taylor, Holehouse Road, Largs
- 15 Jennifer Henderson, Douglas Street, Largs
- 18 Emma Garroway, Fairlieburne Gardens, Fairlie
- 29 Catherine (Katy) Barbour, East Kilbride

December

- 5 Russell Allison, Millport.
- 11 Christina Neilson, Millenium Court, Largs
- 12 David Young, Castlebay Court, Largs
- 12 Elizabeth (Betty) Fawdry, Balloch Crescent, Millport
- 13 Peter Connor, Kilbirnie
- 20 Sheila Williamson, Greenock
- 27 Elizabeth Findlay, Dippie Gardens, Largs

January

- 9 Christina (Chrissie) Campbell, Cumbræ Gardens, Largs
- 15 William McNaught, Bowen Craig, Largs
- 20 Anne Bell, Haylie House, Largs
- 28 Gary Fleming, Glasgow Street, Millport

February

- 5 James Craig, Burnlea, Largs
- 7 Alberta (Berta) Rodger,
- 11 Anne Grieve, Haylie House, Largs
- 17 Rosemary Jarvie, Fairlieburne Cottage, Fairlie

BLUEPRINT

We are used to thinking of blueprints as what an architect draws when a building is to be constructed. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr used the idea to speak of our life's blueprint, a basis for building the structure of our lives. He suggested that we need belief in our own worth, and the determination to do our life's work well.

In this time of change and opportunity, we are on the verge of working out a blueprint for our churches in Largs. What is God's blueprint for us? What is our worth for the world? Are we determined to do our work for him well? How can we be the best we can be for God and for our parish? We need to stay close to our Lord and learn, step by step, what he wants for and of us. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29.11)

Morag Fowler

DIARY OF COMING EVENTS

March

- 5 Ash Wednesday: beginning of Lent
Lent Lunch in Clark Memorial Hall from noon
- 7 LDCT-World Day of Prayer
at Episcopal Church - 2.00pm
- 8 Guild Concert in Dunn Memorial Hall
- 12 Lent Lunch in Clark Memorial Hall from noon
- 13 Meeting to prepare for God's Families on Cumbrae
- 19 Lent Lunch in Clark Memorial Hall from noon
- 26 Lent Lunch in Clark Memorial Hall from noon
- 29 God's Families in Largs - 10.30 – noon
Coffee Morning at Fairlie Parish Church - 10 – noon
- 30 Mothering Sunday. Clocks go forward

April

- 2 Lent Lunch in Clark Memorial Hall from noon
- 3 Fairlie Primary Easter Service in Fairlie Parish Church
- 5 God's Families on Cumbrae - 10.30 – noon
- 6 Sacrament of Baptism in Fairlie and Largs
- 9 Lent Lunch in Clark Memorial Hall from noon
- 13 Palm Sunday : Largs Parish Church at 5pm
LDCT-Service for Peace

HOLY WEEK

- 14-17 10.30am. Time of Reflection in Largs Parish Church
7pm Journey to the cross in Fairlie Parish Church
- 16-19 6:30pm. Time of Reflection in Cumbrae Parish Church

Communion will be celebrated on Maundy Thursday

- 17 7pm. Cumbrae Lord's Supper at the Cathedral of the Isles

GOOD FRIDAY

- 18 10am LDCT - Walk of Witness (Largs Episcopal Church
11am Stations of the cross at the Cathedral of the Isles
followed by Good Friday liturgy
7pm. Journey to the cross in Fairlie Parish Church

EASTER DAY

- 20 Early Morning Service in Largs
9.30am Easter Day Praise
11am. Easter Day Praise in Largs and Cumbrae
- 27 Celebration of Communion across the Parish



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2025

11th to 17th of May

Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and not just the ones next door or at the end of the street. Christian Aid Week unites over 20,000 churches to put this love in to action.

A few years ago all the efforts to raise money for the work of Christian Aid as it works to bring an end to poverty around the world - tackling its root causes as well as its effects - was concentrated on the official 'Christian Aid Week'.

However, due to the busy-ness of many people, over the last few years the churches have spread the effort through the year.

Great thanks are due to everyone who is involved in the arrangements for Christian Aid, which works with people in need whether they have a faith or not.

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB

At the beginning of the year, at church, we spoke about Jesus being the 'Lamb of God', giving His life to save humanity from our sin. On speaking about stories or poems about lambs someone suggested 'Mary had a little lamb.' I came across this version. I'm not sure who composed it, but I hope you find it enjoyable and it may help us remember the real meaning of Christmas.

Mary had a little Lamb,
He was born on Christmas day.
She laid him in a manger bed
To sleep upon the hay.
Angels filled the night-time sky
And they began to sing.
Shepherds heard them all proclaim
The birthday of a King.
Wise men saw a blazing star
Up in the sky that night.
They followed it until they found
The King of love and light.
Mary had a little Lamb,
But He wasn't hers, you know,
He was the very Son of God,
The One who loves us so.
The Father of this little Lamb
Loved the world so much
That He sent his only Son to earth
So we could feel His touch.
He came to give us joy and peace
And take away our sin.

So when He knocks on your heart's door,

Be sure to let Him in.
Why do I love this precious Lamb?
What can the reason be?
The answer is quite plain to see,
It's because He first loved me!



Church - but different, with something for everyone.

It is 'all age' and everyone is welcome. We have bacon rolls and coffee for the adults and snacks, toys and crafts, for the children – it really is good fun.

LARGS - ST. COLUMBA'S BUILDING
LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH - 10:30am - 12 noon

NEW - CUMBRAE PARISH CHURCH
SATURDAY 5th APRIL - 10:30am - 12 noon

For further info: gillianmcelenychurch@yahoo.com



Cumrae, Fairlie
Largs Parish Church

**HAMILTON CALEDONIAN
BOWLING CLUB**

MALE VOICE CHOIR

**DUNN MEMORIAL HALL
CHURCH STREET, LARGS**

**FRIDAY 28TH MARCH
7.30PM**

TICKETS (£8) AVAILABLE FROM:
Social and Outreach Committee
Largs Parish Church Office
Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 12.30pm
At the door on the night



Saturday 17th May Strawberry Tea

for Christian Aid week
2.30-4.30pm
in Fairlie Church

No tickets, just a donation at your table for this worldwide cause. 2025 Christian Aid's focus centres on Guatemala, where climate change is devastating this vulnerable country.

Please come along and support us.

MIDWEEK YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

**THE BOYS'
BRIGADE**
> the adventure begins here



1st LARGS BOYS' BRIGADE

Meet in Largs Parish Church on Fridays
Anchors: 5:30 - 6:30pm Juniors: 6:45 - 8.15pm
Company & Seniors: 7 - 9pm
David Hannah: 1largs@boys-brigade.org.uk

1st MILLPORT BOYS' BRIGADE

Meet in the DA Hall on Fridays
Anchors & Juniors from 6pm - 7.30pm
Company & Seniors from 7.30 - 9.15pm
Jackie Wilson: jwilsonbob@aol.com

1st LARGS GIRLS' BRIGADE

Meet in Dunn Memorial Hall on Tuesdays
Explorers: 6 - 7:15pm
Juniors & Brigaders: 7 - 8:30pm
Vicky McGregor: 1stlargsgb@gmail.com

Cumrae Parish Spring Fayre

**Saturday 12th April
2pm - 4pm**

Age Concern Hall

Adults £3 Children £1.50
Tea, Coffee, Biscuits & Scones

Raffle | Tombola | Gift Stalls

