

NEWSLETTER

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 Monday - Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm

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Dear Friends,

"On a journey" has become a popular phrase in recent times. It usually means I changed my views about something or I am discovering new things about myself, but I'm not there yet. As people of faith, we are a people on the move, on a journey, from darkness to light, from despair to hope, from doubt to certainty. Change is the only constant in life

and it is part and parcel of being on a journey.

When Moses led the people of Israel from slavery to freedom, he took them on a journey from Egypt to Canaan. More importantly, he took the Israelites on a personal journey from reliance on the Egyptians to a place where they relied and trusted in God for their needs. He got "push back" from people who missed the security of slavery, and bed for the night and a regular food supply, even if they forgot that being a slave was hell. They forgot that they were cruelly exploited as slaves and that their sons were drowned in the Nile when they looked on the past with nostalgia.

Populist politicians are adept at being able to engender both a nostalgia for the past and a fear of change. They are good at apportioning blame but have no real solutions to the problems we face. They give a simplistic explanation of what is wrong but have no clue how to fix it. Going back to the way things were is never an option, even if at times we feel that we have taken a wrong turn.

We cannot get stuck in the past, being on a journey is central to who we are as people of faith. If we are not moving forward, we are going nowhere! Jesus didn't call his disciples to stay where they were and to keep doing what they had always done. He called them to journey with him and to be transformed in the process. As a church we are on a journey and even if we don't know the destination, we trust in God to lead us.

2026 will bring changes for all of us, some will be welcome and some less so.

As we journey, we don't always know where we will end up or how long it will take to get there, but faith is an adventure. As people of faith, we believe that God, who has wisely led us in the past, will be with us throughout the journey.

Rev David Watson

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You are warmly invited to share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday 25th January 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

Cumbrae: 11.00am

Largs: 11.00am

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

World Mission

We are delighted to say that 13 Banana Boxes are on the way to Mzimba Church in Malawi with items for their nursery school and for local families.

The WMD Committee sincerely thank everyone who donated goods and sponsored the cost of shipping the boxes. Furnishing of Theological Centre, Malawi - A number of money boxes have been handed in totalling over £200. We would like to continue this project as an ongoing part of our World Mission work. If you'd like to take part, boxes are situated at the front door of each of the churches.

Mission and Discipleship

Our ministers plan to run a Bible Study group during the first part of this year. Details will be given shortly in the church intimations across the Parish.

Jolly Tots Toddler Group meet each Wednesday morning in the Dunn Memorial Hall from 10 am until 11.30 am. Jolly Tots is one of the groups for young people across our Parish, along with Kingdom Kids in Largs, Young Church in Fairlie and God's Families in Largs and Cumbrae. Please tell any families that you know about Jolly Tots and in addition, if you could spare a couple of hours once a month or so to help to prepare snacks, please email gillianmcelenychurch@yahoo.com.

Kingdom Kids in Largs is looking forward to a busy year but we desperately need more help. This does not have to be a weekly commitment as help even once or twice a month would be greatly appreciated. Again, please contact Gillian McEleny.

Having explored some of the stories in the Old Testament we are now looking at the New Testament and learning about all the amazing things that Jesus did and discovering that Jesus can make everything possible.

Plant to Plate

As the year comes to an end we thought we would share with you all that has been happening with the garden at Cumbræ. For those of you not familiar with the project, we use part of the church garden to work with Cumbræ Primary School, teaching the children about growing food and caring for the environment. None of the volunteers have a great knowledge of gardening so it is very much us all learning together.

This year we have had success with our tomatoes and courgettes. Some of the delicious crop we donated to the Millport food larder and some we sold at the Guild coffee mornings. Using the proceeds to help fund supplies for next year.

The children plan what they want to grow and we discuss how long things take to ripen and when we can then harvest.

Our first attempt at growing corn was an interesting project. It was fantastic to see how quickly the corn grew, it truly does grow 'as high as an elephants' eye'. The corn, tomatoes and courgettes all grew in our polycrub which is a real hothouse in the summer months. We are very grateful to Eleanor, Janis and Lorraine who devote their time to watering.

It was interesting to also grow tomatoes and courgettes outside in our raised beds and for the children to see the comparisons.

Working with the teachers we also used the produce to prepare different dishes. Salad, leek and potato soup, pea salad, rhubarb crumble and of course we had to buy some ice cream to go with the crumble.

An exciting day was a visit by the film crew from channel 4's programme 'Our Tiny Islands' when the children showed what they planted, how they cared for it, harvesting and then enjoying eating the results. Watch out for it on your tv in the new year.

Cumbræ Guild



We've had a varied programme since starting back in October, Clyde Coast Fiddlers, the Guild theme - Living Stones, Project - Operation Hope and our session finished with our Christmas lunch in The Newton Lounge where we had our church choir singing Christmas music and everyone singing carols.

There was a lot of fundraising by the Guild. Coffee mornings in the summer, an evening with The Journeymen and our Christmas Fair. The money raised has gone towards the surfacing of the completed rear part of the Church car park. We thank the organisations who donated financially to the project which will hopefully be completed by Christmas, weather permitting.

We start back on Monday the 5th January when we'll be at Old Glasgow in Pictures.

Cumbræ Guild wish you all a Peaceful Christmas and every Blessing in 2026.

The Garden at Cumbræ

The most sought after jobs are watering, which can get messy, feeding the worms and eating the raspberries.

The garden is mostly dormant now for the winter except for a few hardy leeks. The children harvested seaweed from the shore, cleaned it and added it to the raised beds to nourish the soil for the spring. We are having a break as the teachers and children are busy with their Christmas plans, while volunteers are just keeping things tidy. The children will be planning what to plant so we can start again in the spring.

If anyone with gardening experience would like to help and advise, please speak in the first instance to Elaine Ross. It is a joy to see the children's excitement and enthusiasm as plants grow from tiny seeds to food to eat.

Elaine Ross



Baubles

Baubles on our Christmas trees are attractive, mainly because they reflect light. We long for light, not just in the physical darkness, but in the many dark places in our world today. I have a bauble painted with a dove and an olive branch. It was made in Bethlehem, with the steps of glass-blowing, painting and

packing done collaboratively by a Christian, a Muslim and a Jew. That speaks to me of light being carried forward in the Holy Land. The five verses of the hymn 'Longing for light' (CH4 543) speak of several areas of darkness, and of our willingness to reflect light in the world, from the one who is our light, Jesus Christ.

Morag Fowler



Fairlie Guild

GOING FORWARD IN 2026

The Guild in the New Year



The first half of our Guild session went well with food for thought, fun and fellowship and the joy of welcoming new members. We finished with the welcome Christmas lunch.

Our second half begins on 6th January with 'New Year Resolutions' for ourselves, the Guild locally and hopes for the future with our links to Guild projects and Malawi.

Two weeks later, on 20th January we turn to crafting with 'Stone painting' on the Guild theme – Living Stones.

February 3rd sees Christine Gallettie speaking on 'The loves of Robert Burns', then Alison Burnett from Arran sharing 'My visit to Malawi' on February 17th.

Finally, on March 3rd Tom Macintyre presents 'Cross-words' – a reflection on his extensive collection of crosses gathered over the years. March 17th is the AGM.

'Bear Necessities' is the Guild project we have adopted this year and we will be holding an event to fund raise for this worthy cause.

Please join us at any of our meetings. You will be most welcome.

Tom Macintyre

Fairlie Prayer/ Study Group

**We meet on Thursdays at 10am in
Millennium Room.**

It is encouraging that our group has three new members, who have greatly enhanced our study and meditation (not to mention the singing). This is an informal meeting and everyone is welcome.

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

Across Cumbrae, Fairlie and Largs, with the help of family and friends, together with the parents and children from our local Primary Schools, as a Parish we sent off an amazing number of shoe boxes filled with our love and Christmas good wishes to adults, teens and children in Eastern Europe.

In addition, a significant amount of money was donated to cover transport costs, some of which was given after last year's appeal.

Sincere thanks are offered to everyone who spent hours covering boxes, donating filled boxes, items or cash (+Gift Aid), as well as all those who set up, sorted and filled boxes during the Shoebox Appeal. If it wasn't for your generosity, as well as the generosity of those who gave of their time to deliver the boxes to

Glasgow and Irvine, where they were gratefully received, hundreds of people would not have had as fulfilling a Christmas as they did.



Fairlie Christmas Fair

What a magical, bustling afternoon we had for this! Santa stopped by and looked splendid in his grotto.

Thanks to all who donated items for stalls and raffle, helped set up the church, manned the stalls, served the teas/coffees, counted the final amount, came along and spent their money to raise the magnificent sum of £1806.75. Special thanks to Shirley McGinty for masterminding the event.

Fairlie Monday Lunch Club

We will meet on Mondays, 26th January, 23rd February and 23rd March from 12 to 2.30pm.

There is a choice of 2-3 homemade soups, tasty sandwiches, cakes etc. (vegetarian and gluten free options), tea and coffee. A warm welcome is extended to come along and bring a friend. The Club were delighted to welcome the Walking Group from the Men's Shed and they returned again to sample the catering delights.

The Craft Café, Fairlie

We will meet on Tuesdays, Jan 13 & 27, Feb 10 & 24, Mar 10 & 24. The Café is open to any crafter, skilled or beginner, to come along for good company, chat and a cuppa.

We were happy to knit scarves, hats and gloves for the Shoebox Appeal. We are delighted to have a new project for which to knit. Largs Academy are sending some young folk to Malawi and local Young Citizen of Fairlie, Ella McPake, is part of the team. We have been in touch with the school and they welcome knitwear, so from January we will be knitting colourful children's cardigans of all sizes as well as baby blankets. We are looking for donations of wool and are excited to be part of this special project. Come along and find out more.



LARGS PARISH CHURCH

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre on 22nd November was another successful event in Largs.

A special thanks to Christine Eardley and her team for organising it. The total raised was £2786. A fantastic effort. A big thank you to everyone who supported this event by baking, donating goods, helping or simply coming along on the day.

Largs United Guild

The Guild has enjoyed a very successful autumn session with varied and interesting speakers. We ended our session by distributing Christmas gifts to our Fireside members and to the local Teen Challenge team, followed by Christmas Lunch at the Willowbank Hotel with entertainment from Malcolm Buchan.

We start back on January 5th with a rousing, toe-tapping afternoon with our friends, the Clyde Coast Fiddlers.

In the Spring section of our syllabus we look forward to talks about Dundonald Castle, 60 years of Largs Lifeboat and the History of Largs. Check out the posters for the full programme and come along to any, or all, of the talks which take your fancy.

We hope that many of you will come along and support our annual Charity Concert at 2.30pm on Saturday 7th March 2026 in the Dunn Memorial Hall, when we will be entertained by the Jimmy Blair Accordion Orchestra who will provide a programme of music to sing along or dance to. The proceeds will go to our projects and the many charities which we support. Tickets are priced at £10 and will be on sale shortly. The afternoon will include a raffle and refreshments.

Feel free to join us any Monday afternoon at 2.00pm in the Dunn Memorial Hall. You will be made very welcome.

Christine Gallettie, Secretary



Cuppa and Chat

The Cuppa and Chat event on Saturday 1st November was well attended. It proved to be a successful event with people enjoying the opportunity to come together and chat. The event was free of charge but £55 was raised from donations. This amount was added to the Largs Christmas Fayre total. The Largs Social and Outreach Committee will organise a second one soon.

Thursday Contact

Beryl's Craft Night on Thursday 27th November was great fun. Those who attended made two Christmas decorations. A lovely evening getting into the Christmas Spirit. Thanks to Beryl Shaw for all her effort and preparation. Looking forward to the next craft night in April.



Christingle service at Largs