



THE CARSE OF GOWRIE KIRK NEWSLETTER

Summer
2026



Ministers:

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STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATION

We affirm the dignity of all people.

We welcome into the life of our community of faith people of every age, gender, race, country of origin, ethnic heritage, sexual orientation, mental or physical abilities or condition, educational, marital or economic status, cultural or religious background.

Summer Focus Dates

Sunday 4th July:

Joint Service and Annual Stated Meeting
- Carse Kirk @ Invergowrie—10am

Sunday 26th July:

Communion—Carse Kirk @ Invergowrie (11am)

Diary of a Disciple Holiday Club:

3rd—7th August (more details in this newsletter)
Sidlaw Parish Church

Saturday 15th August:

Messy Church Returns
Sidlaw Parish Church

Sunday 30th August:

Communion—Carse Kirk @ Inchtute (9.30am)

Carse of Gowrie Kirk Guild:

23rd September—2pm

First meeting of the new session in Carse Kirk @ Invergowrie

Belonging here, from around the world by Rev Marc Prowe

‘Around the world’ is the motto of Inchtute’s village fete this year. At the mens football World Championships, the Scottish team, too, are having many international encounters, and the ‘Tartan Army’ is loved for their friendliness and sense of celebration, come what may.

International encounters are life-giving, they enrich us when we have been sitting inside a too small bubble for too long. What would Scotland be without Macaroni Cheese, Vindaloo or the umbrella? But even more so, what would Scotland be without immigrants from Africa, Asia, South&North America, Australia? The NHS, takeaways, corner shops, IT, ... pretty much everything would seriously struggle. ‘They’ are ‘us’, too.

Numerous Scots were/are immigrants around the world. Jesus, too, took his disciples abroad (Syria, a long journey on foot!) and made them encounter different people; to find out that everyone needs to be loved, healed, fed. ‘We’re all Jock Tamsons bairns...’.

Jesus knows that each of us is different and unique, and that shall be to our benefit. Jesus teaches grace, generosity, mercy and inclusion, and in the very early church (bible book of acts) this is worked out in practical ways, making Christians an international community from around the world - from east and west, from north and south.

When our takeaways or corner shops receive threatening phone calls by racist bullies; when anyone who ‘looks different’ in any way is singled out: we as Christians are called to stand beside our friends, against hate being whipped up. Our community, villages, towns and churches shall be united, claiming the flags of St Andrew and St George as flags of Christ who himself made international and ‘outside’ friends of many sorts, cared about them, welcomed, healed, included them of course, like all and everyone of us. In Christ, we all are a diverse ‘us’.

Jesus is life-changing around the world to this day, an inspiration and a great joy today: Jesus gives new life to all. God bless, Marc

Groups; Appeal for Volunteers

When we became a union in January 2025 it was decided apart from the Session we would have smaller groups running day to day things who will then report to session. This would give Session a chance to focus on the bigger challenges of developing the union.

The groups are; Faith
Finance
Pastoral
Fellowship/ Fundraising
Communications
Property/ Fabric and Buildings
Youth/Growing Young

We are now 18 months into the union and are desperately looking for people to join these groups especially Fellowship/Fundraising, Communications and Property.

You do not have to be on session or an elder to help. It is important to get as many people as possible involved, it will not only help the groups to run well, but also help foster the sense of belonging and community that a church needs to thrive. The age old saying that many hands make light work, is so very true. We have a large communion roll with a wealth of talent and experience. It would be amazing to see more people involved in the groups, making our church even better. I feel very sad when I look at the groups and see the same names on several groups when we have such a large community that could help.

If you are interested then get in touch with me, or any of the session members.

Mary Mellor Session Clerk CoGKirksessionclerk@outlook.com or 07743924223

Christian Aid 2026.

The total raised this year is **£3669.96**

This was raised from Hunger Lunch, Church Envelopes, e-envelopes and Gift Aid.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this wonderful total.

It will make a difference in the fight against poverty.

-Fiona Smart

In addition to this,

The Carse Kirk @Abernyte Christian Aid Coffee Morning, held on 9th May, was a truly heartwarming occasion. It was wonderful to see the young people of Abernyte so enthusiastically involved, busily serving tea, coffee, and a tempting array of cakes, with cheerful smiles. Their energy and willingness to help created such a welcoming atmosphere, making everyone feel right at home from the moment they arrived.

The event brought a lovely sense of community togetherness, and it was fantastic to welcome friends from our neighbouring churches too. Thanks to everyone's generosity and support, a fantastic total of **£266** was raised for Christian Aid.

Would you like to receive this newsletter by email?

In an effort to reduce paper and wastage, we are actively offering this newsletter to be delivered by email. We currently print 400 copies, and would love to reduce this number. If you'd like to receive this newsletter by email instead, please get in touch at:

CoGKirkCommsTeam@outlook.com

Charity Box Appeal

The charity box appeal runs in the 4 churches that make up Carse of Gowrie Church. What we collect is changed every month (or occasionally a 2 month run). There are some charities that we help on a regular basis, but the rest is up to the organisers and suggestions from the congregation.

Our current charity box appeal is aimed at supporting families in our communities with uniform items for starting the new school term in August. Buying new uniforms often puts a strain on family finances and last year the families we supported were grateful for our help.

If you would like to help a family this year you can either pick up one of the wee slips in the church and buy items for that specific child or buy any uniform/school items and we will match these with the requests we have or donate these to Social Flock in Perth.

Charity Box Appeal Organiser.

Euan Smith has been organising the Charity Box Appeals very successfully for a number of years now. Initially in Inchtute, and now for Carse Kirk.

Euan feels it is now time to pass on the responsibility to someone else...sitting nicely with one of the Growing Young Principles, 'Keychain Leadership'. so we are now looking for someone or a group to take over this role.

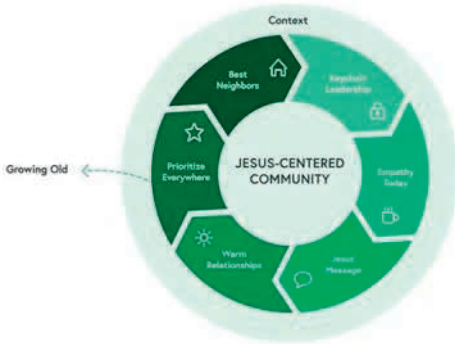
I would like to thank Euan for the work he has done on behalf of CoG Kirk and the many charities we have managed to help.

If you would be interested in taking on this valuable role please get in touch with us. Euan will be happy to give advice and pointers to help you on the way.

Mary Mellor; Session Clerk CoGKirksessionclerk@outlook.com or 07743924223

Euan Smith euansmith63@yahoo.co.uk

Growing Young



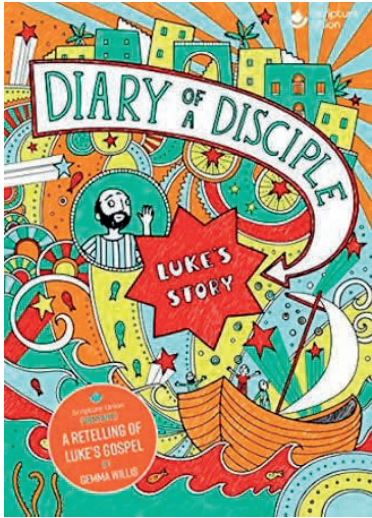
The Growing Young group continue to meet regularly as well as attending national conferences and webinars. Over the past months we have been discussing *Prioritising Young People Everywhere*, and *Taking Jesus' Message Seriously* as well as managing change, and Marc and Catriona preached on the principles of Growing Young in the spring.

At our most recent webinar we were encouraged to celebrate our successes, and these include our Snooshed Group (our monthly group for secondary school aged young people), and a change in ethos which allows young people to confidently ask questions and take more responsibility across our churches. Although not as a direct result of our work we were delighted when the young people of Abernyte decided to take on the responsibility of running the annual Christian Aid Coffee Morning. They did a wonderful job of organising the event and ensuring our cups and plates were never empty on the day!

We presented at the recent Elders' Gathering and were delighted with the level of engagement in the discussion which followed. We challenged each participant to make one small change which would support the work of the group. The change may be speaking to a family they had never spoken to before or to share their skills with a young person and gradually pass on some responsibility to that young person orthe list of opportunities is endless. Could you take on this challenge as well? What small change can you make which encourages and welcomes the young people in our communities to take an active part in our church?

As well as taking on the challenge mentioned above we would ask that you keep the work of the group, and all of our young people in your prayers.

Diary of a Disciple Holiday Club



This year the Carse and Sidlaw Churches holiday club is based on a version of Luke's Gospel called Diary of a Disciple, Lukes' Story and takes place from 3rd to 7th August in Sidlaw Parish Church, Muirhead. The club is open to all children of primary school age and runs each morning from 10.00am to 12.00 noon.

On Friday 7th August at 12.00noon we are inviting families of the children along with members of our congregations to join us for a light lunch and an opportunity to find out more about what the children have been up to during the week.

Diary of a Disciple, Lukes' Story is a modern translation of Luke's Gospel with engaging text and graphics and is aimed at 8 -11yr olds. At the end of the holiday club we would like to gift each of the children either a copy of the book or, for the younger children, a suitable alternative. The books cost approx. £8 and we are asking the congregations of Sidlaw Parish Church and Carse of Gowrie Kirk to sponsor a book.

During June/July small envelopes will be available at all of our services and if you would like to get involved in this sponsorship you can pop some money into an envelope and put it in the collection plate. If you can donate £8, fantastic! If you can donate £1, fantastic, we will add it to other £1 donations to buy a child a book. We will be grateful for all donations.

Registration forms for the holiday club are now available on our website under the 'Young' tab or from our site at <https://linktr.ee/CarseofGowrieKirk>

If you want to find out more, speak to Catriona Morrison, Marc Prowe, Sarah Mathieson or Euan Smith.

Do you know about.....?

Muddy Church / outdoors with God

Do you love outdoors? Not minding to get muddy? Do you like active, involved, in the fresh air? Then please contact us: we want to hear what is important to you, what times may be fitting. We would like to build 'Outdoors with God' based on what works for YOU. Please get in contact.

Intergenerational

Primary School and Nursery

chaplaincy ongoing, by ministers, invited by head teachers

Timeless Connections (Carse Kirk @ Inchtute)

is an intergenerational community meeting; meetings are very joyful and lift the spirits of both young and old.

Young people & children in Sunday morning

church: We are very relaxed about children moving and talking in church. We see the church family as intergenerational where young ones and old ones can benefit from each other. We want to ask and hear from young people what works best for them.

The first 15 minutes of a Sunday service are shared intergenerational, normally:

- 9:30 @ Abernyte = activity table, toys, children in and welcome,
 - 9:30 @ Inchtute = Sunday School (*not in school holidays*),
 - 11.00 @ Invergowrie = Junior Church (plus toys at activity table)
 - 11.00 @ Longforgan = toys and some activities
-

Do you know about.....?

Messy Church

Our Messy Church continues to meet on the last Saturday of each month and people of all ages are welcome...we just ask that you let us know if you will be there so we have enough food for our shared meal. During the evening we have lots of different fun activities, informal worship and food.

There will be no Messy Church in July so we resume in August....but with a change of date for one month only. A number of the team will be at the Growing Young conference in Edinburgh on the last Saturday of August and so our Messy Church gathering will be on **Saturday 15th August**. We then return to our normal dates of 26th September, 31st October, and 28th November .

From August our sessions will be based on the Five Marks of Mission; Tell, Tend, Transform, Teach and Treasure.

Snooshed Group (for ages 12-18)

Food, Friendship, Faith, and Fun, **3rd Saturday Each Month**. Help shape this group as we gather in the upper room of Carse Kirk @ Invergowrie.

A light meal will be served during each gathering.

Explore Jesus, God and faith; Discuss what is important to you ; Everyone has a say in how the group runs – your ideas and thoughts are welcome! Meet new people, relax, and enjoy good company in a welcoming atmosphere.

Please let Sarah at **smathieson@churchofscotland.org.uk** know if you can be there so we have enough food. Please also let us know if you have any food allergies.

ILL, NOT COPING OR IN HOSPITAL ? YES, WE DO PASTORAL VISITS

THE COMMUNITY GROUP

Is there to meet people and exchange how life is going, often (but not necessarily) by meeting in a Café or by doing an outing together. There is also the idea of freeing up a care-giver from their responsibility (which can be non-stop) so they can catch up with themselves. For more info, contact Freddie Warden, Sheena Lamond, Gavin Stafford or Liz Kay.

HOUSEBOUND AND IN CARE

Invergowrie brings from among its church people a 'pastoral care convener' and visitors. The focus here is on staying in contact with people who have moved into care homes or who are housebound. This happens by telephone, by card, by flowers or by visiting as deemed appropriate. For more info, contact Fiona Smart.

HOSPITAL VISITING

Hospitals and care homes can only share information with the closest family - not with your church friends nor ministers. That's why you or one close to you needs to contact us if you want us to know. And hospitals move on patients as quickly as possible, so the speed of your communication is essential. For minister visiting the hospital, contact Marc.

TALKING WITH A MINISTER

Your ministers, too, are here for you to talk with, very happy to do so. As ministers move between different places of worship it is hard to keep track of who is there, who on holiday, who not there, ... as ministers cover a wider area, they do not see the same congregation sometimes for 3 weeks - this simply means your getting in contact is vital.

FOR ALL PASTORAL CONTACTS:

We encourage you to be in contact, please do not sit waiting for 'someone' to find you or your loved one. Don't rely on 'the word going round'. Please do **communicate**: You yourself - or a family member or friend - can get in contact with your **elder**, or with your **pastoral visitor**, or with the **minister**; speaking in person, by phone, email, letter, facebook, whatsapp, website contact form; it's always good to hear from you.

One-page-overview of organised activities

Sunday church services every week:

- 9:30 in Abernyste with children activity table ,
- 9:30 in Inchtute & Kinnaird with Sunday School,
- 11.00 in Invergowrie with Junior Church (plus toys at activity table)
- 11.00 in Longforgan with a box of toys ready

Next joint services (10am): 4th July—Invergowrie, 6th Sept—Abernyste

Evening Services first Sunday of month 6:30pm in Abernyste
A reflective, informal gathering with contemporary liturgy, prayer, symbol and music.

Online services weekly on *youtube* channel 'Carse of Gowrie Kirk' offshore or not able to come into church? You can access worship anytime

Folk Night: monthly, 3rd Thursday evening in Inchtute Church: Original, creative, diverse. A completely inclusive community event organised by church people.

Heart and Soul Ensemble invites you to sing or play, make lively music (Gospel Spirituals) in friendly community, some Tuesday evenings.
Anyone can join in.

Choir in Invergowrie Sundays 10am in Invergowrie: humour, friendship and good sound.

Supper Club Invergowrie on the second Sunday 5pm every month

Lunch Club in Inchtute on the last Monday noon of every month

Carse Kirk Guild meets in Invergowrie Wednesdays 2pm monthly

Knit and Natter in Invergowrie Mondays 7 - 9pm

Community Cuppa in Inchtute 2nd Tuesday of every month 10am - 12noon

Pop-In Longforgan Wednesdays 9.30 - 11am in Church Hall Main Street:
tea/coffee toast

Coffee Morning, first Saturday in the month, Invergowrie Hall 10.00 - 11.30am

Table Tennis in Longforgan Mondays 7pm - 9pm Church Hall - everyone welcome

Walk and Talk in Auchterhouse 2nd Thursday of every month, starting 1.15pm

More detail on website carseandsidlawchurches.org including the 'events calendar' there.