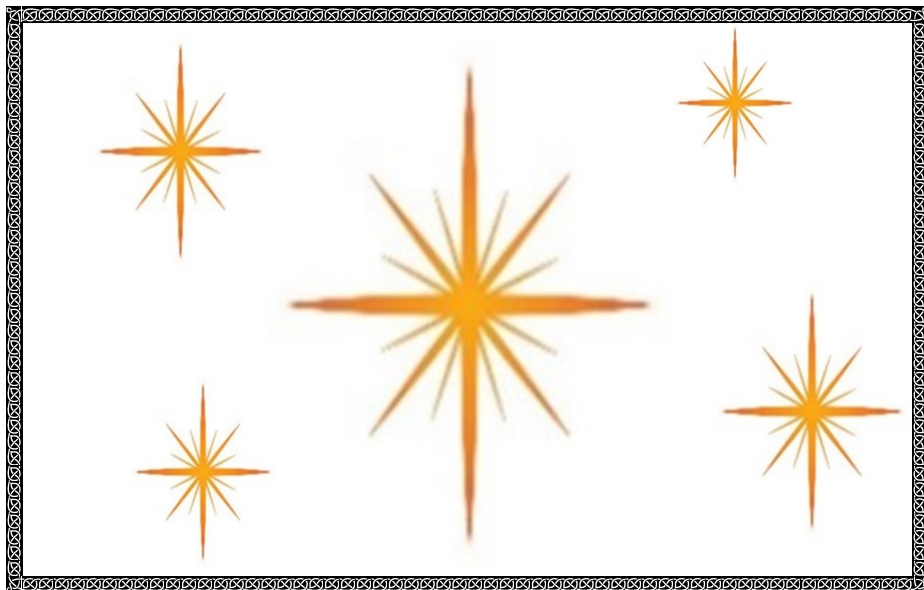




# THE CARSE OF GOWRIE KIRK NEWSLETTER

Winter

2025 -2026



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**[carseandsidlawchurches.org](http://carseandsidlawchurches.org)**

## 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.*

## A Hymn for Christmas 2025

O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see you lie  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in your streets is shining  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in you tonight.

O sad and troubled Bethlehem  
We hear your longing cry  
For peace and justice to be born  
And cruel oppression die,  
How deep the need for that great gift  
Of love in human form.  
Let Christ be seen in you again  
And hearts by hope made warm.

While morning stars and evening stars  
Shine out in your dark sky,  
Despair now stalks your troubled streets  
Where innocents still die.  
And Jesus, born of Mary,  
Whose love will never cease,  
Feels even now your pain and fear,  
Longs with you for your peace.

Amazingly and lovingly  
Jesus the child has come  
And, brought to birth through human pain,  
Makes broken hearts his home.  
He comes to comfort all who weep,  
To challenge every wrong  
And, living with the weak and poor,  
Becomes their hope, their song.

*Phillips Brooks (1835-93)*

*amended by Wendy Ross-Barker (2013)*

## ***The JOY of NEW LIFE***

When our first child was born, I felt such a deep joy, indescribable, words fail. Also in all family members around there was tremendous joy as if saying: “our story will go on!”; and in the wider community, our church, the joy was shared and celebrated, too: taking turns in holding the baby, having a look, making baby noises and so on, a delight!

With a newborn young parents are stepping into the unknown - lots of first-time doing, a bit like stepping into a newly remade world, hoping “we will grow with it”. The young parents need to find their own new way with their newborn (even if older experience is helpfully offered).

The Christmas story is full of the Joy of new life and full of, “do not be afraid”, both in the gospels of Luke and Matthew. When Jesus is born there are difficulties, challenges and dangers - but the joy wins out. Not Herod the despot’s plans of control, not lack of shelter, not being refugee determine everything - but the love of God and the openness of Mary and Joseph to God’s prompting.

‘Magnify the joy, listen to God’, then, could be the underlying motto around Jesus birth. How can that be a guide for each of us? How can it be a guide for everyone being church together - to magnify the joy, to listen to God.

Taking part in the ‘Growing Young’ programme is helping us to re-prioritise and we have met with some young people to hear of their needs and vision, and there will be more listening to younger generations. Magnify joy, hearing more of Jesus - telling more of Jesus, as this adventurous courageous boundary-breaking mature Jesus was a baby only at the very start. He is life-changing, world-changing to this day, an inspiration and a great joy today: Jesus gives new life.

*Rev Marc Prowe*

# Carse and Sidlaw Messy Church



Meets in Muirhead Church on the last Saturday of the month  
between 4pm and 6pm.

We share fellowship, faith, fun and food  
and we welcome all ages.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

January 31<sup>st</sup> 2026 - Perseverance

February 28<sup>th</sup> 2026 – Love

March 28<sup>th</sup> 2026 – Courage

April 25<sup>th</sup> 2026 – Integrity

May 30<sup>th</sup> 2026 – Community

June 27<sup>th</sup> 2026 – Justice

For more information email [euansmith63@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:euansmith63@yahoo.co.uk)

Recently the Growing Young Group invited young people of secondary school age to gather round a fire, eat pizza, toast marshmallows and tell us what they thought of church. We were delighted when eight turned up and we had apologies from another half dozen.

The young people were frank in their discussion and talked of not wanting to be 'snooshed' in the middle of the children and the adults. They wanted something just for them where they could **develop faith, discuss what is important and learn more about Jesus**. They decided Saturday evenings worked best and as a result we are planning a monthly gathering for this age group which will start in January. We will work with the group to look at the format, decide a name etc. but one thing we are sure of it will include food! That's where **we need you!**

Would you be able to help prepare and serve a simple meal on the odd Saturday evening....you don't have to commit to every month? If so let me know and we can agree on a suitable date.

## Teens Group

Having had a successful evening with our teenagers we now want to listen to what our young adults have to say. On **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December** we are inviting them to join us at the Manse to eat their way through the nativity...marshmallow sheep, star biscuits....who knows what else will be on the menu!

As well as having a bit of fun with our food we do want to hear their views and concerns. If you know of anyone who might be interested, then ask them to get in touch with me.

## Muddy Church

Do you like being in the outdoors? Would you like to take time to wonder at and reflect on God's creation? Then Muddy Church might be just what you are looking for. On **10<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 10.00am** we will take a walk through the Redwoods at Inchtute, reflect on God's goodness, take part in some activities, maybe sing a song or two and then head across to the church for some hot chocolate and toast. Everyone is welcome, just turn up with your wellies and a willingness to take part...and maybe get muddy!

We will meet in the car park behind Inchtute Primary School and should be heading to the church between 10.45am and 11.00am.

If you want more information on any of the events, or the work of the group then email [euansmith63@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:euansmith63@yahoo.co.uk) or speak to any member of the group.

*Euan Smith*

 Christmas Sing-a-long   

Sunday 21st Dec. 3.30pm in Abernethy Church PH14 9SS:

A very popular annual event with a well-known fun selection of songs both popular and traditional to cheer you. Musicians young and old are forming a mixed band for lots of Christmas joy. Refreshments afterwards.



# Community Carols by Candlelight

Monday 8th December 2024

Longforgan Church 6.30 pm.



Mulled wine, tea, coffee, juice and Christmas nibbles  
will be served in the Church Hall afterwards.

All Welcome! Bring your own torch!

The collection will be in support of  
The Archie Foundation (SC039521) [archie.org](http://archie.org)

The British Red Cross [www.redcross.org.uk](http://www.redcross.org.uk)

## **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

Longforgan Church and Church Hall

Saturday 6 December 10 – 12pm

Everyone is warmly invited to a Christmas Fair  
in Longforgan Church and Church Hall  
on Saturday 6 December from 10-12pm

Santa will be there for the children. Teas will be served in the  
Church. Stalls in the Church Hall will be Cake and Candy,  
Produce, Gifts, Books, Gifts made by Guides, Tombola  
and Prize Draw.

Donations for stalls can be handed into the Church Hall  
on Friday 5 December from 2.30 – 4pm and 6 – 7pm.

Thank you for your support.





Inchtire Folk Nights are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30 in Inchtire and Kinnaird Church.

Admission £10 includes half time refreshments.

The Eilidh Grant Trio were the artistes this month.

The next two dates are

Thursday 18th December and 15th January

in CarseKirk@Inchtire at 7.30 pm.

Tickets £10 including refreshments



### *Lunch Club*



On the last Monday of every month at 12.30 pm in Inchtire Church, a group of folks get together to enjoy a bowl of soup as well as a cuppa and a good old chinwag. If you would like to join in, contact Linda B, Agnes S or Lisa/Jenny at the Post Office, to book yourself/yourselves on the Wednesday before the group meets so they know how many portions of soup are required.



### The Pop-In



On Wednesdays, 9.30 - 11am, in Longforgan Church Hall: tea or coffee and toast ... Parents, and carers on the school run, can pop in to meet each other and have a chat. Around 10am the older age group joins in; the place is buzzing with chat and laughter - good for social contacts, discussing the latest local news, or just talking about the weather and the state of your health!

## “Hugs from Scotland in a Box”

During November in 2022 TASH4UKRAINE sent 450 Christmas gift bags to our partners in Ukraine for distribution to the children affected by the war. In 2023 five hundred boxes were sent and in 2024 1,000 boxes were lovingly prepared. The target for this year was 2,000 boxes . With the help from generous donations from individuals, groups, schools and businesses and all the volunteers at Errol and in the satellite hubs this target has been surpassed .

Thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way  
to make this possible .

The volunteers will be having a break over the festive season from  
17th December and the warehouse will reopen on  
Monday 5th January 2026.

## Ukrainian Family Concert

After a series of temporary stops in Poland and Canada, the Aftanaziv family from Ukraine has recently set up home in Longforgan.

They arrived with few possessions, but the Carse community rallied round with hospitable enthusiasm and donated many items to help them. They have already made friends in the village and the children are settling in to their schools.

In return for this generosity, they staged a highly enjoyable musical concert to an audience of about 60 in the comfortable surroundings of Longforgan Bowling Club on the afternoon of Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November.

They turned out to be wonderfully talented musicians, able to play a wide range of musical instruments!

The concert was followed by a buffet of traditional Ukrainian food.

*David Gauld*



## Growing Young

I recently attend a service in another church. I arrived about 15 minutes before the service with a couple of friends and sat in a pew in the near empty church. Soon we were asked to move along as first one, then a second and finally a third lady squeezed into the same pew despite there still being many other empty pews available. The vibe we got was we were in their pew, and apart from asking us to move they did not try to engage us in conversation.

In Matthew 19 v 13 (Message version) we read *'One day children were brought to Jesus in the hope that he would lay hands on them and pray over them. The disciples shooed them off.'*

Had I been looking for a new church to join (I'm not!), or if this was the first time I had felt brave enough to enter the unknown and enter a church I definitely would have been shooed off by the actions of these ladies.

This was the theme for the second of our Growing Young Conferences....what does the culture, and our actions, say to the young people in our community if they dare cross our threshold? Will it shoo them off or entice them to join us the next week?

Do we make them feel welcome? Does what they wear matter (God doesn't mind jeans) If a child is crawling around the chancel, do we glower at the parents or do we smile and rejoice in the fact a new family has joined us for worship? Do we hide the nice biscuits away in case the children eat them, or do we say 'take two'? Do we squeeze into 'our pew' beside them, or do we sit in the pew behind, lean over and introduce ourselves?

Our actions, and the culture of our church is important if we want to attract and keep young people in our church. Over the next few months our group will be thinking more about this aspect.

As well as having a bit of fun with our food we do want to hear their views and concerns. If you know of anyone who might be interested, then ask them to get in touch with me.

Ewen Smith

## 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 - an 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.

Throughout Advent and Christmas this year  
we are inspired by lines from carols.  
Thank you to those who sent in their suggestions.  
Can you spot all the carols they come from?

Sunday 30th November - 9.30 am in Abernyte and Inchtute,  
11am in Invergowrie and Longforgan  
**"Fling wide the gates and welcome him"**

Sunday 7th December - 9.30 am in Abernyte and Inchtute,  
11am in Invergowrie and Longforgan  
**"Mary did you know?"**

Sunday 7th December - 6.30pm in Abernyte  
Evening worship with communion  
**"Rejoice! Rejoice!"**

Sunday 14th December - 9.30 am in Abernyte and Inchtute,  
11am in Invergowrie and Longforgan - readings and carols  
**"News of great joy"**

Sunday 14th December, a quiet service - 3pm in Longforgan  
**"The wondrous gift"**

Sunday 21st December, with nativity plays - 9.30 am in  
Abernyte and Inchtute, 11am in Invergowrie and Longforgan  
**"Give my heart"**

Christmas Eve, family Christingle service - 6.30pm in  
Invergowrie  
**"We won't go until we've got some"**

Christmas Eve, watchnight service - 11.30pm in Inchtute  
(with carol singing from 11pm)  
**"A thrill of hope"**

Christmas Day, including communion - 10am in Invergowrie  
**"God is with us"**

## *One-page-overview of organised activities*

Sunday church services every week:

9:30 in Abernethy with children activity table ,

9:30 in Inchture & 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: 4th January 10am, in Abernethy.

Evening Services every month first Sunday of month 6:30pm in Abernethy (next 7th December, after that 1st February)

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 Inchture 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 Inchture on the last Monday noon of every month

Guild Invergowrie Wednesdays 2pm monthly

Knit and Natter in Invergowrie Mondays 7 - 9pm

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

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

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

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

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

More detail on website [carseandsidlawchurches.org](http://carseandsidlawchurches.org) including the 'events calendar' there.