



# THE CARSE OF GOWRIE

## KIRK NEWSLETTER

Autumn / Winter 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.***

## Autumn / Winter Focus Dates

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October:

Communion – Carse Kirk @ Longforgan 11am

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October:

Messy Church, Sidlaw Parish Church 4-6pm

Email [cogkirkyoung@outlook.com](mailto:cogkirkyoung@outlook.com)

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October:

Session Meeting, Carse Kirk @ Longforgan, 7.15pm

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November:

Together Service

- Carse Kirk @ Longforgan - 10am

Carse of Gowrie Kirk Guild:

|        |                                                                       |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nov 11 | Bear Necessities – Guild Project<br>with Cathy Reece & Christina Ross |
| Dec 9  | Christmas Meal for Guild Members<br>Invergowrie Inn, 12.30pm          |

## **Essential sharing** by Rev Marc Prowe

Let's tackle what appears hardest: sharing your faith with others and inviting them into faith. 'I'd rather talk about the weather, thank you.' But the weather will not grow the church (Fascinating as it is!) It's easier than you may think (sharing faith):

1 **Love.** Nothing without love. "I may have the gift of inspired communications; I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith needed to move mountains—but if I have no love, I am nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:2)

2 Be a **friend.** Keep your eyes peeled and ears open for someone in distress, dire straits, anxious ... and be with them, gently ask them about it, be their friend. Don't do it all alone, connect your friends with others, including at church.

3 **Listen.** To be really listened to is experiencing love. No pat answers or jumping to conclusions - real listening means asking, finding out more; often solutions are hidden in people themselves, but your help to unearth them is welcome.

Do not judge. You're sharing the Good News (not the bad). With Jesus it's never about rules nor 'behaving'. People may feel fear, guilt, loneliness ... but you are to share "don't be afraid", forgiveness, grace, mercy, "God has not forgotten you, you're not alone".

What about suffering? 'God came down and lived among us in Jesus. He suffered terribly at the hands of humanity. But his love was stronger. Christ lifts our eyes even beyond the most awful. Christians live in the bright horizon of Christ's resurrection. No place without hope.' (Say this.)

When? As you go, in daily life, normally where **trust** and friendship have grown authentically.

**Love, be a friend, listen.** "Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger." (James 1:19) Listen, understand and empathise, like Paul: "To the weak I became weak, so that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22). And: "Rejoice with those who rejoice,

weep with those who weep.” (Romans 12:15) Christ, the most trustworthy person of all, came into a broken and hopeless world to be with us and to share a message of great hope. We are to do likewise. 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

### **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](mailto:CoGKirkCommsTeam@outlook.com)

### **Shoebox Appeal**

Filled or partially filled boxes need returned by 1<sup>st</sup> November  
please

Donations gratefully received for Robert Ramsay's books  
amounted to **£251.95** which will be gifted to Carse Kirk.

Many thanks to all who donated.

Sheila Ramsay

## Carse Kirk - Pastoral

### 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 for ministers to keep track of who is (not) there, who on holiday, ... 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 getting round'. Please do **communicate**: You yourself - or a family member or friend - 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.

## **Faith**

Would you like to take part in a faith course, exploring faith and what it means?

We want to offer an opportunity for anyone to explore faith together which could lead to confirmation and formal Church of Scotland membership or could just stand alone.

Please get in touch or speak to either Marc or Catriona if you'd like to come along. When we know who is interested, we can work out time and place.

So mostly aimed at those who are not currently members of the church, but if you'd like to renew your vows or just want to explore things around faith, you're very welcome. Contact details below.

## **Church Membership**

We have a lot of people who worship at Carse Kirk who are not formally on the church roll. Are you one of them? You might belong to another denomination. You might have moved here from elsewhere. You might have been confirmed or been a member of a church some time ago and aren't quite sure what to do about it.

We'd like to hear from you and see what we can do to formalise that membership. Becoming a member of Carse Kirk doesn't mean that you have to leave the denomination you've been part of - it's probably part of you! But it does make it easier for working together here.

So please get in touch with either Catriona or Marc and they can chat about what's the best option for you. Thank you.

## **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

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](mailto:CoGKirksessionclerk@outlook.com)  
or 07743924223



## Ukraine Icons in Dunfermline Abbey

Some of our volunteers visited a new exhibition in the memorial Chapel of Dunfermline Abbey in July, called 'Icons on Ammo Boxes'. It was made up of 16 religious icons painted on ammunition boxes in brilliant colours by Sofia Adantova and Oleksadr Klymenko. These paintings had been brought out of eastern Ukraine, mainly from Bakhmut which is still held by Russian soldiers. Special forces fighters brought them out of Ukraine and they have been exhibited in many countries. Funds raised by sponsoring the icons were used for the purchase and repair of vehicles for supporting front line needs in Ukraine. The fundraising was co-ordinated by 'Spiders for Ukraine' and 'Sunflower Scotland' and meant that vehicles like Land cruisers and Rangers, and an ambulance could be sent to regions in the East. Our volunteers couldn't find out where the exhibition goes next but understands they are extremely precious and therefore this information is kept under wraps.



Photos and information from volunteers Susette and Allan on their visit.

## Growing Young

The group continue to meet regularly and have recently attended a national summit.

After breakfast rolls, praise and a prayer the day began. We had a review of the Growing Young wheel and through discussion, the different ways congregations are working with it

The summit provides all the teams with encouragement and support and allows us to share experiences and ideas.

Recorded interviews with younger members of congregations, (there was input from our Kirk), were screened and there were several common and strong themes.

The Question asked were

What's good about the Church?

*Community, welcoming, inclusive, belonging*

What would you change about the Church?

*Make more inclusive, physical and mental needs of people to be thought about, a safe place for wellbeing, focus on climate change and more music types*

What would you say to the Leaders?

*We want community outreach and investment, social justice: stand with the persecuted and stand with marginalised, inclusion and listened to.*

Do these answers surprise you? What would be your answers to these questions?

How can you support the young in the Parish and the community? Do you have knowledge or a skill to share?

We have attended fetes with activities designed to encourage conversations and had a picnic for the families of young children. All were successful and hope to be repeated.

Please pray for the young in our Parish.

Give them courage to live boldly, have wisdom to make choices and compassion to shine.

Keep them safe, guide their steps and fill them with hope

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

## **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.

Messy Church will be on 31<sup>st</sup> October, and 28<sup>th</sup> November.

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](mailto: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.

## **Proposed Christmas Event Dates**

|                            |                                                            |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>  | Christmas Coffee Morning, Invergowrie                      |
| <b>7<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>  | Carols by Candlelight. 6.30pm, Longforgan                  |
| <b>13<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> | Quiet Christmas. 3pm, Longforgan                           |
| <b>20<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> | Christmas Sing a long. TBC, Abernyste                      |
| <b>24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> | Christingle. 6.30pm, Invergowrie                           |
| <b>24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> | Watchnight Carols. 11pm<br>Service. 11.30pm, both Inchtute |
| <b>25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> | Christmas Day. 10am, Invergowrie                           |
| <b>27<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> | Services:      Abernyste 9.30am<br>Invergowrie 11am        |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Jan</b>  | Together Service. 10.30 am, Inchtute                       |

All of the above are proposed dates and times, please look for confirmation nearer the time!

One-page-overview of organised activities

Sunday church services every week:

9:30 in Abernyte with children activity table,

9:30 in Inchtute & Kinnauld 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

Evening Services first Sunday of month 6:30pm in Invergowrie

A reflective, informal gathering with contemporary liturgy, prayer, symbol and music.

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.

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

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](http://carseandsidlawchurches.org) including the 'events calendar' there.