



THE CARSE OF GOWRIE KIRK NEWSLETTER

Spring
2026



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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.

Lent/Easter Focus Dates

Maundy Thursday 2nd April:

7pm in Carse Kirk @ Inchtute: evening service with communion offered.

7pm in All Souls Episcopal @ Invergowrie: eucharist with feet/hand washing (t.b.c. please check)

Good Friday 3rd April:

7pm in Carse Kirk @ Longforgan evening service: the day Jesus died, forgiving.

7pm in All Souls Episcopal @ Invergowrie: walk the way of the cross.

(Saturday 4th April: Easter Egg Hunt, Carse Kirk @ Inchtute)

Easter Sunday 5th April:

7am Early outdoors celebration of the resurrection at South Latch near Abernyte PH14 9SU

(What3Words reference sublet.lads.safe)

9.30am Abernyte, 9.30am Inchtute,

(after the service in Abernyte there will be an Easter egg hunt on the Abernyte Glebe, finishing up with refreshments in the orchard at Abernyte House, weather permitting)

10.30am All Souls Episcopal Invergowrie,

11am Longforgan,

11am Invergowrie outdoors in the park

Strange, strong, life-giving by Rev Marc Prowe

The Christian faith can be described as weird because it states that a dead person came back to life: Jesus. But you can also look at it like this: the dark midnight of death turned into the bright morning with new life - or: even in the most unlikely situation, there is hope that will not die. It joyfully proclaims: all kinds of things come to and end, but love never ends.

There is no darkness that can end love.

There is no place where God is absent.

There is no illness, no death where God will not come and wipe away our tears.

Such faith may seem strange to some, but I see it as a tremendous joy and a never-ending strength: yes there is death in this world and difficult places, but God has the final laugh; love never ends, and the dawn of a new day is coming.

When you surrender to such hope, it will revolutionise your life, your outlook: there is no end to love, and as you can find in the bible: 'God is love', you'll never be without.

Taking part in the 'Growing Young' programme is helping us to re-prioritise and we have thought about 1. **key chain leadership** (passing on decision making by empowering others, esp. younger ones); 2. **empathise** with today's young people (not judging or criticising, instead: step into the shoes of this generation), 3. taking **Jesus'** message serious (not formulaic doctrine, instead: welcome into Jesus' adventurous way of living), 4. fuel a **warm community** (not focussing on looks or activities, but instead: warm intergenerational and peer friendships, like a family living life), 5. **prioritise young people and families everywhere** (pivotal, essential and beneficial to all), 6. **be best neighbours** (not condemning the world around us, but affirming what's good, social justice both local and global).

Resurrection is central to our faith as Jesus is life-changing, world-changing to this day, an inspiration and a great joy today: Jesus gives new life.

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 15 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

Property, Fabric and Buildings Group

We have a diverse set of churches and halls, with multiple needs, whether repairs or thoughts for making it better. In the past, we have done things individually with a variety of solutions, and variable results. It is important for any work on the buildings and their infrastructure to go through the group, as it may already be being dealt with. If you spot an issue or are having a problem with the buildings (including electrics, plumbing, drainage etc), then let the property team, run by Susan Lundie, know.

CoGKirkFabricandBuildings@outlook.com

Communications Team

Our communications team looks after many aspects of how we communicate with and reach out to our communities.

This means online and offline, so don't think you have to be a social media expert to help out!

If you have ideas of what we should be changing or doing to communicate our message, please get involved.

CoGKirkCommsTeam@outlook.com

Would you like to receive this newsletter by email?

We're measuring the appetite for producing this newsletter in email format. Not exclusively, but in an effort to reduce paper and wastage. If you'd like to receive this newsletter by email, please get in touch at:

CoGKirkCommsTeam@outlook.com

Christian Aid Week
10th—16th May



Why take part in Christian Aid Week?

This Christian Aid Week, your support could help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children.

Most most parents wake every single day knowing that they must go and earn money, otherwise their children won't eat that evening. Fridah knows this reality well. But she's determined to protect her grandchildren from hunger.

Through our partner, Beacon of Hope, she's received tools, seeds and training to grow fresh vegetables in a small city space – food she can cook for her family or sell to earn income.

'Now I can plan. I can buy this; I can buy that. I can help my family.'

Together we can turn hope into change. QR codes and Envelopes for donations will be available in the pews of all our Carse Kirk Churches

You are also warmly invited to a **Christian Aid Coffee Morning** on **Saturday 9 May**, from **10.00am to 11.30am**, in **Abernyte Church**.

This coffee morning is being organised by the **young people of Abernyte Church**, who are looking forward to welcoming the congregation and community. There will be tea, coffee, home baking, and plenty of opportunity to chat and spend time together.

As well as being a lovely social occasion, the morning is a chance to support the vital work of **Christian Aid**. Every cup of coffee enjoyed and every donation given will help make a difference.

Please do come along if you can, support our young people in their efforts, and enjoy a warm welcome in good company.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Carse of Gowrie Kirk Guild AGM

To be held at Invergowrie Church Hall with guest speaker Rev Marc Prowe: **Wednesday 8th April 2pm**

All Elders Meeting

All elders meeting on **Sunday 3rd May** in **Carse Kirk @ Invergowrie** at **2.30pm**.

This meeting is open to all elders whether on Session or not to hear what our thoughts and focus is on this year. It will also be a time of Fellowship with the usual cup of Tea/ Coffee

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Mary Mellor

Session Clerk

MISSING or GONE ON A MISSION?

The old King James V1 Authorised version of the bible belonging to the late Mrs Helen Carr, The Knapp, disappeared from its normal pew in Abernyte Kirk quite some months ago. Her name and address in her own handwriting was on the inner leaf of the well used Book. The bible is of sentimental value to her son, Alastair, who used it frequently to follow the service readings in the old biblical language with which his generation was so familiar. If anyone can shed any light on its whereabouts please inform any member of the regular attendees of the Abernyte congregation. Many thanks.

Do you know about.....?

Muddy Church / outdoors with God is something we experiment with, trying to connect with people who stay shy of church buildings but say they find God in nature. It's a quite possibly muddy way to worship, in the glorious outdoors. For people of all ages, active / hands-on, informal, with story and reflection. If you find 'Sunday morning church' difficult or want a bit of free space to explore, this may be just right for you. Dress for the outdoors and come ready for exploring. If you are interested or know of someone who you think would fit well, please get in contact.

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 @ Invergowie = Junior Church (plus toys at activity table)
 - 11.00 @ Longforgan = toys and some activities
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Messy Church: is many generations together, typically young people with their parents and/or grandparents, newborn to 80+. It's a completely informal style of church built around creativity, celebration and hospitality. Messy Church will have a different theme each month but will always explore faith and Jesus through a range of activities - crafts, food, games, discussion, singing and stories. We finish with eating dinner together so you don't have to cook. Messy Church in Carse of Gowrie and Sidlaw is on the last Saturday of most months 4-6pm, dinner included.

Do you know about.....?

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.

Collections for local foodbanks and initiatives:

Perth Foodbank, Cath's Kitchen, Starter Packs Dundee, Dundee and Angus Foodbank , collections for Ukraine, shoe box appeals - seasonal and other activism ... in the name of Christ who became poor himself for this world's sake.



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!

Carse Community Café

The Carse Community Café is a friendly monthly gathering offering a relaxed space to meet, chat, and enjoy refreshments together. It takes place on the from **10.00am to 11.30am**, in the hall at All **Souls Episcopal Church, Invergowrie** on the last Thursday of most months (we usually take a break in July and August).

Run by volunteers from Carse of Gowrie Kirk and All Souls Episcopal Church, the Café supports members of the local community, including unpaid carers and those they care for. It's an informal social gathering where everyone is welcome — whether you're looking for company, conversation, or simply a cup of tea and a friendly face.

We are also looking for volunteers to help run the Café. If you could help with setting up, serving refreshments, or welcoming others, your support would be greatly appreciated.

If you'd like to attend, or are interested in volunteering, please do come along on the day — we'd love to see you at our next cafe on **April 30th**.

TASH4UKRAINE

Many thanks to everyone who has supported Ukraine by donating items over the past four years .

Since the outbreak of war **117** lorries have set off from Errol taking humanitarian aid to where help is mist needed. Recently volunteers spent an evening making “trench candles “ which can be used as a source of light , heat and even improvised to heat up food and drinks during the regular power cuts . Small empty baked bean sized tins are still required . Old cup cake tins and wire cooling racks can also be made into heat sources using tea lights .

If anyone has any if these items which are no longer required please contact Elizabeth who would be happy to collect 07724188856 .

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.

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): 3rd May, Longforgan. 4th July, Invergowrie

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.