

The vision of the Church of Scotland is to be a church which seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities.

Summer 2026

Kay Park Parish Church Newsbite!

A WORD FROM THE MINISTER

Some weeks ago I shared with the congregation words from the outgoing Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev Rosie Frew. She explained that during her year as Moderator she had often used plastic building blocks (e.g. Lego) with congregations she has met. Everyone is given a building block as they came into church, they are all different shapes, sizes, and colours.



One brick.

‘There is not much you can do with one brick but if you put all the bricks together then you can build something... the Church of Scotland has a membership of around a quarter of a million people. Think what we could build with a quarter of a million bricks.’

The Sunday I spoke about this I gave the YC who were present Lego bricks and during the sermon this is what they built.

The pile of individual bricks had turned (with their imagination) into an Aldi Store (other supermarkets are available)! This Lego Aldi even had its own flower garden and a swimming pool.

Photos of Lego Aldi with garden and swimming pool



In the New Testament letter of 1 Peter, the apostle writes to the believers and speaks. *‘You are the ones chosen by God... God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others the night and day difference he has made for you.’* (1 Peter chapter 2 v 9-10 from The Message Bible paraphrase)

(Cont. over page)



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Paperchains
- Abertillery Choir
- General Assembly

FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

To teach, baptise
and nurture new
believers

To strive to safeguard
the integrity of creation
and sustain and renew
the life of the earth

To proclaim the
Good News of
the Kingdom

To seek to transform
unjust structures of
society, to challenge
violence of every kind
and pursue peace and
reconciliation

To respond to
human need
by loving
service

THOUGHT FOR THE SUMMER

God is **standing** in our tomorrow. **He** is **standing** in the next day and every single day after that. **Standing** there with His **Love**, waiting on us with His **Wisdom**. Going before us with His **Hope** and His **Provision**.

“The lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” Deuteronomy 31:8

Wherever you go this summer I pray that this gives your heart comfort .

*‘Even if you think you don’t have anything to give, there is prayer.
There is always prayer’*

MINISTERS WORD (cont.)

Chosen by God, each one of us is part of building God’s kingdom by living out and sharing the Good News of great joy that the angels heralded the first Christmas.

There is a Saviour who loves us and offers to us forgiveness and new life. There is love, grace, care, and compassion that we can share every day of our lives in Christ’s name. Let us each take time to consider what we are ‘building’ as individuals but more so what we build together as God’s people.

As we enter the summer months, the pattern and pace of life is different as (hopefully) the sun shines and we have time to enjoy being outdoors, and perhaps days away. Remember, God goes with you wherever you travel and you take the love and light of the Lord with you too.

To each of you reading,

May the Lord Bless with love, light and peace

Rev Fiona

BLYTHSWOOD CARE—SHOEBOX APPEAL 2026

A very big thank you to everyone who supported the Appeal last year. A total of 73 boxes were collected plus some sponsored boxes. It will be October before our boxes will be needed but now is the time to start collecting our bits and bobs to avoid that last minute rush.

Leaflets with all the details will be available shortly including details of how to sponsor a gift filled shoebox.

Bring warmth, joy and hope to a stranger this Christmas.

Janet Grant

CHURCH GROUPS

Monday Boys—Meet every Monday afternoon from about 1pm till 3pm to carry out general maintenance around the church building and grounds as weather permits. Then a cuppa and chat and a chance to share ideas and knowledge.

Guild—Meet every other Tuesday during the Autumn, Winter and Spring from 2pm when they have visiting speakers and entertainers followed by a tea/coffee and blether. During the summer they meet in the café for coffee & chat.

Dates : Tuesday 30 June, 28 July, 25 August

Wednesday Café—Open every Wednesday morning in the church café from 10am till 12 noon for a catch up over tea/coffee and something sweet. There is also cup-a-soup and toast available.

Friendship Club—Meet every other Thursday at 2pm for entertainment and tea/coffee and chat. During the Summer they will meet for coffee & chat.

Dates : Thursday 4 June, 30 July, 3 Sept

Walkers—Wednesday walkers meet every Wednesday at 10am in Kay Park for a gentle walk around the park, then down to the church café for a cuppa and warm up.

Strollers & Striders -Meet fortnightly for slightly longer and more strenuous walks in the local area usually followed by refreshments in a local café. All walks will be advertised in the order of service the week before.

Young Church—Meet on Sunday mornings during term time to enjoy their own activities and spend time together. They have lots of fun and are making a real impact in the lives of our young folk.

Church Choir—The Choir meet Thursday evenings at 7pm in the choir room for an evening of practice and also fellowship. They also add so much to the morning service by leading the congregational singing, opening worship with an introit and quite often an anthem.

‘Faith is when you praise God in the storm, you trust Him in the valley, and you follow Him in the dark’ Corrie ten Boom

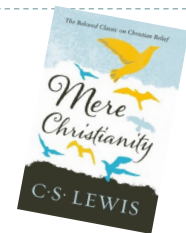
BOOK REVIEW

Mere Christianity by C.S.Lewis

- ◆ Want a back to basics look at faith?
- ◆ Mere Christianity is made of deep reflections from C.S.Lewis
- ◆ You’ll find the roots that underpin all of Christianity

The book brings together C.S. Lewis’s legendary radio broadcasts during the war years, in which he set out simply to ‘explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times’.

Rejecting the boundaries that divide Christianity’s many denominations, ‘Mere Christianity’ provides an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to absorb a powerful, rational case for the Christian faith.



Kay Park Parish Church 'Acts of Kindness'

CHURCH FLOWERS

Sincere thanks to the following people who have donated to the Flower Fund

March

Mrs Anne Stewart
Mrs Isabel Aitken
Mrs Marjory McConnell
Mrs Maureen Moore
Mrs Marilyn Malcolm
Mrs Nan Head
Mrs Audrey Gray
Mrs Grace Ferguson
2 Anonymous Donations

April

Mrs Sheena Wight
Mrs Anne Granger
Mrs Maureen Taylor
Mrs Jean Inglis

May

Mrs Mhairi MacNamee
Mrs Cathie Williamson
Mrs Maureen Moore
Mr John Smith
Mrs Anne Stewart
Mrs Aileen Sansum
Mr Alex Dempster
Mrs Grace Ferguson
2 Anonymous Donations

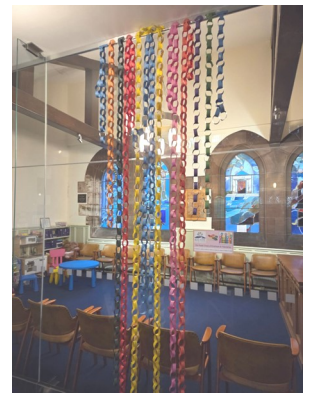
Donations can be placed in an envelope marked 'Flower Fund' and either put in the offering plate or given to Aileen Sansum.

The idea of the 'Acts of Kindness' paper-chain was launched on Thinking Day way back in February during the cold months of Winter. Spring, warmer days and Pentecost seemed a long way away, but Spring and Pentecost are here, maybe not the warmer days, although hopefully these will come soon.



So the idea was to highlight all the kindness shown to others and display them in the form of a paper chain. In essence, each time someone carries out a kindness, they'd keep a note of it and when the group next meets, they'd write their name, act and date on a strip of paper (provided) and add this to the chain - easy peasy!

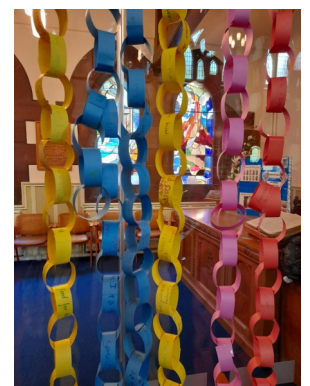
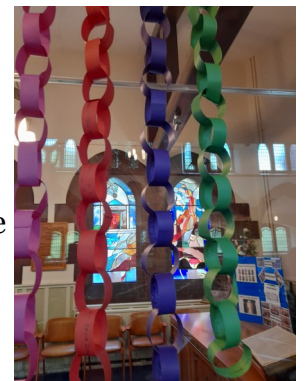
The aim was for each organisation to make a 100-piece chain in time for Pentecost on Sunday 24th May, when the church is already aiming to be all bright and beautiful! YES you were encouraged to wear something red or orange to Church that day.



And you didn't disappoint, the paper chains were hung displaying each Act of Kindness carried out by a member of the congregation during the last few months.

Rev Fiona is thinking about making it even bigger and better for next year, are we ready to rise to the challenge .

Think of the many **Acts of Kindness** we could achieve in a whole year and what a difference we might make to our friends, neighbours and the community we live in, work in and socialise in.



THANK YOU

A huge thank you to the hospitality TEAM for all the catering they have done in recent months, they have provided us with so many delicious treats. Thank you.

FIONA MCBRIDE

From Postie to Pulpit - well almost

For over 20 years, I have felt called by God to some form of ministry within the Church of Scotland. During that time, I tested that call on a couple of occasions, but it was never sustained by the Church.

It took one person, in the last couple of years, to encourage me to think again about what God might be asking of me. The way the Church discerns and tests a call has changed over time, and I recently entered what is known as a period of Discernment. During this time, I was paired with a minister as a mentor and another as a Presbytery representative, who together guided me through six months of reflection.

That period involved taking part in different services, reading, journalling, and reflecting on pastoral care and how the Church engages with the community. I also met regularly with both my mentor and Presbytery representative. I began the process with a sense of where God might be leading me, and throughout those six months, that sense was continually affirmed.

At the end of the discernment period, I took part in a local review, where—given the form of ministry I was applying for—the final decision would be made. I am delighted to say that my call to serve God in ministry was sustained, and I have been accepted as a Reader in Training within the Church of Scotland.

This ministry will, after training, allow me to serve in a variety of ways—acting as a locum during vacancies, being part of a ministry team, or providing pulpit supply. I am looking forward to discovering how my training develops and how I will serve God in the years ahead.

It took one person to remind me that God still had a plan for me, and that I shouldn't leave that sense of call in the past. What a wonderful feeling it is to finally begin to understand what God has had in store for me all these years.

'Be strong enough to stand alone, smart enough to know when you need help, and brave enough to ask for it'

CHRISTIAN AID

For Christian Aid week this year we have been involved in 2 fundraising events, the first was part of the Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches. We were delighted to host a concert in April when the entertainers were The Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra & friends from Castellar del Valles, Barcelona. It was a wonderful evening of music performed by some very talented musicians. Everyone left the church tapping their feet and smiling. At this concert a sum of £1,057.03 was raised.

We then had our own fundraising, when we had envelopes available in the church over a few weeks and we raised £ 549.90.

This money will go to supporting the work of Christian Aid who are working with someone like Fridah to **grow food for their hungry children.**

“Where hardship means hunger ... urban farmers can grow hope.”

In Dagoretti, Kenya, most people earn less than a dollar a day, and many regularly go without meals. Fridah, a widowed grandmother, is determined to support her three children and young grandchild on what little she earns. Fortunately, support was on hand when Fridah really needed a neighbour. Kenyan partner, Beacon of Hope, offered tools, seeds and agricultural training so that Fridah could farm a future beyond hunger—right in the streets where she lives. Fridah is changing her families life, but there are many who are still caught in the injustice of poverty.

ABERTILLERY ORPHEUS MALE VOICE CHOIR

The Power of Music

On the weekend 8–10 May 2026, two male choirs, who live almost 400 miles apart and were strangers, met in Kilmarnock to share a weekend which would include a concert and other activities.

Abertillery Orpheus Male Choir from South Wales who perform concerts throughout the year, including one or two tours, approached Kilmarnock Aeolian Male Voice Choir in December 2024 to suggest such an event.



After long distance discussion, a weekend programme was agreed and consequently -

Friday evening accommodated a joint practice, followed by a “getting-to-know-you” event at the Portland Bowling Club, all of which provided the best of starts to the weekend.

Saturday afternoon witnessed a wonderful joint concert in the Howard Centre. It was a sellout and extremely well received, which delighted all concerned.

In the evening, a lovely dinner accompanied by “in house” entertainment was enjoyed at the Fenwick Hotel. What an evening we had, with songs, stories, laughter and warm friendship.

And finally, on Sunday morning, the Abertillery party attended the morning service at Kay Park Parish Church and contributed beautifully to the service by singing two songs in Welsh—followed by an “encore” requested by Rev Fiona.

Such a heart-warming and uplifting weekend of music and friendship involving two groups who never knew of each other’s existence.

Such is the “power of music” Bill Caldwell.

‘If God is making you wait, do what waiters do and serve’

PENTECOST

Here are just a few photos from our Pentecost Sunday. There was a beautiful Pentecost display as you entered church and this was by Grace Ferguson, The Young Church made a display for the hall and the hospitality committee made a fruit cross and also strawberry tarts which everyone enjoyed, unfortunately we didn’t get a photo of those, but I hear they were delicious.



YOUNG CHURCH WONDER WALK

The Young Church recently enjoyed a Wonder Walk, as you can see from the photographs it was a beautiful sunny day. The children met at the Howard Park and using the Bible Society's material explored God's creation.

Why not go out for a walk yourself over these summer months it might be in a local park, or down at the coast. Try to take time to look at the world God has created for us to enjoy, look at the tiny flowers and the detail in the petals, or the different types of bark on the trees. There is just so much for you to be amazed at this summer.



*'What I cannot understand, **Jesus can.** What I cannot change, **Jesus can.** What I cannot overcome, **Jesus can.***

MEDIA TEAM

Could You Be Part of the Team Behind the Scenes?

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes on a Sunday morning? From the sound that helps us hear clearly, to the words on the screen that guide our worship, to the live stream that connects us with those at home — it all happens thanks to a small, dedicated media team.

The good news is... we'd love to welcome some new faces!

We're looking for people who would be interested in helping with:

- Operating the sound desk
- Running the live stream cameras
- Managing the laptop for words and visuals

You don't need any prior experience — full training will be provided. If you're curious but unsure, why not come along one Sunday to shadow the team and see what's involved? There's no pressure, just an opportunity to explore.

This is a great way to serve, learn new skills, and play a vital part in our worship life together.

If you'd like to find out more, have a chat with Vanessa or Fiona McBride — they would be delighted to hear from you!

Fiona McBride

COMMUNITY HALL LETS

Mon	Scalliwags	9.30am
	Brownies & Guides	6.00pm
Tues	Killie Heartmates	6.00pm
Wed	Physio Class	2.30pm
	GA	7.15pm
Thur	Killie Heartmates	6.30pm
	Rock Choir	7.30pm
Fri	Fit for Future Exercise Class	11.00am

For more information on any of the above groups or information about hiring the halls, please contact the Church Administrator.

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS SCOTLAND

Gamblers Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who have joined together to do something about their own gambling problem and to help other compulsive gamblers do the same.

Is Gambling causing problems in your life?

If so We can help!

- Website: www.gascotland.org
- Email: info@gascotland.org
- Helpline: 0370 050 8881 (24 HRS)

HALL LETS

The Church halls are used on a regular basis but there is still availability for other lets. Over the last few months we have had yoga classes, birthday parties, Anxiety Management classes and concerts. We are a multi purpose building and will try to accommodate most events.

To hire our halls contact the church administrator on

07394 173977 or

kppcchurchoffice@gmail.com

SCALLIWAGS

The Scalliwags meet every Monday morning from 9.30am, the group caters for children under 3 and are usually accompanied by parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends. It is a friendly group and all are made welcome. If you would be interested in joining the group please email scalliwags@live.co.uk

ROCK CHOIR

If you like to sing, you'll Love Rock Choir!

Pop, rock and chart singing for adults and teenagers.

No auditions and no need to read music



BROWNIES & GUIDES

17th Kilmarnock Brownies and 6th Kilmarnock Guides meet most Mondays at 6pm and 7.30pm

KILLIE HEARTMATES

Killie Heartmates is an active cardiac exercise group. They meet all year round to offer support and help to improve members health and fitness. The group have fully qualified B.A.C.R. instructors (British Association of Cardiac Rehabilitation)

KILLIE HEARTMATES

At the Tartan Tea Party at the end of April the Killie Heartmates raised £2725 for Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland. Here is a photo of some members from Killie Heartmates along with Gordon Anthony, Manager of the Park Hotel and a representative from Chest, Heart & Stroke receiving the monies raised by the group.

Well Done to All



Back by popular demand for 2026

Postcards from around the Globe

We would love to see where you've travelled to this holiday season. If you're away for a holiday or just a day trip then either send us a postcard or bring one back and put it in the post box at the back of the church. We'll then display your cards and see how far the congregation has travelled this year.



Kay Park Parish Church, London Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 7AA



Strollers walk at Dumfries House

'Prayer doesn't remove every burden, but it reminds me I don't carry it alone.'

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026

From the beginning this year's Assembly was going to be different I first attended as a Commissioner in 2001 and 25 years later, after many attendances in between, there were big changes. In my first year the number of Commissioners was over 1000, this year there were 481. The timetable – length of business – until now was 7 days from Saturday to Friday. This year it was 4 days from Friday to Monday and for the first time there was business conducted on the Sunday. The first day we were in session from 9.15am – 9pm!

One item of business was the Church of Scotland apologising formally for its connection with slavery many years ago. This was very moving and as something I wasn't entirely familiar with the details etc I plan to find out a bit more of this part of history. Another moving moment was when the Lord High Commissioner (the King's representative at the GA) informed us that the guests in her gallery that day were the parents of Sara Everard (I'm sure this name will be familiar to you all). It is comforting to know that support given to many people in tragic circumstances continues long after the events.

The Guild reported on various projects which they support and it was encouraging to hear that in 2025 700 babies were registered for Bibles for Bairns (Scottish Bible Society) adding to the 900 already registered. There are lots of reports on many Committees and CofS projects etc online and I would encourage you to have a look.

The day after I returned home I received a questionnaire from the Assembly Business Committee regarding this years format. It will be interesting to hear the results of the survey!

Jean Johnston

God is my....

Answers on the back page

Psalm 23:1 -----	Psalm 18:2 -----	Psalm 46:1 -----	Exodus 15:26 -----	Genesis 22:14 -----
Psalm 28:7 -----	Psalm 3:3 -----	Psalm 27:1 -----	Psalm 91:2 -----	Psalm 59:17 -----
2 Cor 1:3—4 -----	Psalm 18:2 -----	Romans 8:15 -----	Judges 6:24 -----	Isaiah 43:19 -----
Psalm 23:3 -----	Romans 15:13 -----	Hebrews 6:19 -----	Exodus 17:15 -----	Exodus 15:2 -----
Psalm 73:26 -----	Isaiah 54:5 -----	Hebrews 13:6 -----	Psalm 47:7 -----	Isaiah 25:4 -----
Jeremiah 23:6 -----	Psalm 46:1 -----	Revelation 22:13 -----	John 10:11 -----	Colossians 3:11 -----

Here is a different type of word search designed by Tracey Neilson. There is just one word to find and the word is GOD but this is hidden 3 times within the grid. in 3 different diagonal orientations:

This will either drive you crazy or you'll spot the words straight away.

Answers on request.

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Abraham trusted God
When the promise made no sense

Joseph trusted God
In a prison he didn't deserve

Job trusted God
When everything was taken away

David trusted God
In caves before the crown

Esther trusted God
When obedience cost her life

Daniel trusted God
When faith meant facing the lions

Different people.
Different stories.
Same God.
If they trusted him then, we can trust him now.

Kirk Session Committees

Business

Convenor: Rev Fiona Maxwell
Jean Johnston
Jeff Davies
Gordon Slater
Michael Lacy

Finance

Convenor: Gordon Slater
Ian Bremner
Alex Dempster
Bryan Sansum
Alex Steven

Property

Convenor: Michael Lacy
Alex Dempster
Alex Dunsmuir
John Dyet
Jim Wilson

Safeguarding

Co-ordinator Olive Gow
Olive Caldwell
Janet Grant

Pastoral Care

Convenor: Janette Steven
Bill Caldwell
Jean Deans
Olive Gow
Morag Lindsay
Mary McDowall

Connections

Convenor: Jeff Davies
Bobby Goudie
Moira Graham
John Houston
Elaine McPherson

Hospitality

Convenor: Moira Graham
Barbara Dunsmuir
Marlyn Gorman
Liz Goudie
Claire Lobhan
Maureen Miller
Maureen Taylor

Hall Letting

Convenor: Vanessa Twomey
Jean Herbert
Gordon Slater
Alex Steven

Staffing

Convenor: Michael Lacy

Other Church Committees

Media

Fiona McBride
Bobby Goudie
Audrey Gray
Sandra Jane Grier
Heather Lohoar
James McMahan
Vanessa Twomey

Flower

Aileen Sansum
Grace Ferguson
Jean Inglis
Marilyn Malcolm
Maureen Moore
Janette Steven
Ann Stewart
Maureen Taylor
Vanessa Twomey

Communion

Jean Deans
Maureen Taylor

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jane.johnston2@hotmail.co.uk

Depute Session Clerk

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Treasurer:

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Kay Park Parish Church

London Road

Kilmarnock

KA3 7AA

www.kayparkparishchurch.org.uk

Scottish Charity No: 008154

FUNERALS

'In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you'

Mrs Mary Lapham Monday 16 March 2026

Mr Alex Gilchrist Tuesday 5 May 2026

UPCOMING DATES

Communion	Sunday 7 June 2026
Praise Evening	Sunday 7 June 2026
Annual Stated Meeting	Sunday 14 June 2026
Young Church Finale	Sunday 21 June 2026

KIRK SESSION MEETINGS

7pm in the Church Hall

Wednesday 17 June

A Summer Blessing

May you walk with God this Summer,
in whatever you do and wherever
you go.

May you talk to God this Summer,
every day and in every situation.

May God guide your steps and
strengthen your hearts during this
Summer break.

Answers to God is my...
Shepherd, Rock, Refuge, Healer, Provider, Strength,
Shield, Light, Fortress, Defender, Comforter, Deliverer,
Father, Peace, Way Maker, Restorer, Hope, Anchor,
Banner, Song, Portion, Redeemer, Helper, King, Refuge,
Righteousness, Ever-Present Help, Beginning & End,
Good Shepherd, Everything