

The Link

The Newsletter of Dalriada Mid Argyll Church
(www.dalriadamidargyllchurch.org.uk)

June–July 2025

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"Summer Suns are Glowing"

As summer arrives in its fullness and "summer suns are glowing over land and sea," we find ourselves surrounded by the beauty of God's creation. The warmth of the sun, the abundance of life in the fields and gardens, the long, light evenings—all remind us of the constancy of God's love and provision. Just as the earth drinks deeply of the summer rain and flourishes under the sunlight, so too are our hearts invited to open more fully to the presence of God.

The old hymn "Summer Suns Are Glowing" invites us into a posture of gratitude and reverence. The words point not only to the natural beauty of the season but also to the spiritual truth that God's mercy shines brighter than even the noonday sun. As we bask (hopefully) in the warmth of summer days, we can also turn our hearts to bask in the light of Christ, who never ceases to shine upon us, even in the more shadowed seasons of life.

This season offers a unique invitation to rest, to reflect, and to renew. Whether you find time for a holiday, a walk in the countryside, or simply a quiet evening in your garden, use this time to reconnect with the Lord. Creation itself speaks of God's glory—each flower and blade of grass testifies to a Creator who delights in beauty, in growth, and in life.

But soon, too soon, we will have reached Mid-Summer's Day. Mid-summer invites us to consider the balance of the year. From this point, the days will slowly begin to shorten. Nature teaches us the rhythm of life: times of growth, times of rest, times of sowing, and times of reaping. Our spiritual lives are no different. Whether we are in a season of energy and activity, or one of stillness and reflection, God is present, working in and through us.

This is also a time to give thanks—for the blessings of the year so far, for the beauty of the world, and for the fellowship we share. It's also a time to recommit ourselves to walking in the light of Christ, bearing fruit in our lives, and sowing seeds of kindness, justice, and hope.

As you enjoy these midsummer days—in your garden, in conversation with loved ones, or in quiet rest—may you know the deep peace of God. May the sunlight warm not only your face but your heart. And may you carry the light of Christ with you into all that lies ahead. May this summer be a season of peace for you. May your soul be refreshed, your spirit lifted, and your heart encouraged. Let the warmth of the sun remind you of the even greater warmth of God's unchanging love.

Quiet Spaces and Gala Celebrations

As intimated during May we hope to have our church buildings open, at advertised times, each week over the summer months; inviting people to come in for a time of peace in a quiet and restful building.

It may be that folk will want to come in to pray, or simply sit, to ponder or to "just be" for a while, away from the hustle and bustle of life.

Prayer cards, ideas/topics to reflect upon etc will be made available, as well as a Prayer Box for prayer requests to be left in.

Pens, paper etc and a book to write comments/creative writing or those who want to leave a message, memory or a prayer will also be available.

Over the summer months we will also have a presence at the various Gala events throughout our community, taking Dalriada Mid Argyll Church into the places where people are gathered for fun and community get-togethers.

We intend to be at Kilmartin on 1st June; Tayvallich on 26th July; Lochgilphead Celtic and Pictish Festival on 2nd August and Ardrishaig on 16th August.

Our theme is "Christians from the Celtic Church came to Argyll in the 6th Century—and look we are still here!"

We will chat with folk as they wander around and show that we, the Church, are interested in them and our communities.

Please let us know of any other local galas we could attend.

All these events and activities need people to help. Could one of them be you?

A quiet acknowledgement, a simple greeting, a welcoming smile—these are among the requirements to opening our churches during the week—being present to help people feel welcome. Your presence could make all the difference.

At the Gala stands we are looking for volunteers who are willing to say 'Hello' and chat with passers-by or to talk about what we are doing and why? We also need help setting up,

If you can give some time to help with any of these events, on one occasion or more often, then please get in touch with me and we can chat about what you would like to do—David Logue on 07554709290 or davidlogue286@gmail.com

You could also have a word with any of our Mission Group – Catherine MacLellan, Melanie Norman, David Witter, Louise Logue, Jim Malcolm or David Carruthers.

If you are unable to be present at these events, please remember you can pray for them. You can pray that people will come and be inspired to find out more about Christ; to wonder about what the Church is for; the helpers who are there, and that prayers made and conversations held will be both fruitful and encouraging.

This edition of *The Link* begins and closes with reference to two 19th century hymns—relating to the season and to our times. Both are in our current hymnbook, CH4.

Norman MacLeod, son of Dr Norman MacLeod was born at Campbeltown on 3rd June 1812. He studied at the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh before going to Germany and then completing his studies at the University of Glasgow, from which, received the degree of D.D. In 1858.

Twenty years earlier he was appointed parish minister of Loudoun in Ayrshire. Then in 1843 to Dalkeith, and in 1851 of the Barony, Glasgow. He became one of the Queen's Chaplains in 1841, and in 1860 the editor of Good Words. He was one of the most influential ministers in the

Church of Scotland of his time, and was Moderator of the General Assembly in 1869. He was also grandfather of George Fielden MacLeod, Founder of the Iona Community.

His hymn *Trust in God, and Do the Right* was written for a Christian rally of working men and published in 1857. It is based on verse 13 of 1st Book of Chronicles, Chapter 22.

Courage, brother! do not stumble,
though your path be dark as night;
here's a star to guide the humble:
trust in God, and do the right.
Let the road be rough and dreary,
and its end far out of sight;
foot it bravely; strong or weary,
trust in God, trust in God,
trust in God, and do the right.