



Fort William Kilmallie

linked with Kilmonivaig Church of Scotland

August 2026 Newsletter

This newsletter is to provide you with an update as the congregations of Fort William Kilmallie linked with Kilmonivaig look forward to what God has in store for us during the rest of 2026 and anon.

Open Days Success

Our Open Days at The Duncansburgh Church have been a wonderful success. We have welcomed visitors from near and far, including Belgium, Slovenia, Sweden and the USA, many of whom have commented on the beauty of the church and the warm welcome they received.

Although fundraising is not our main aim, visitors have generously donated over £400 towards the work of the church. People come through our doors for many reasons: sightseeing, seeking a quiet place for reflection, enjoying a friendly conversation, or exploring a local Christian community.

A huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to make this possible. Your hospitality is helping Duncansburgh Church remain a welcoming presence in the heart of Fort William.

Summary of our Mission Statement

For the Place for Hope process our Mission Statement has been summarised as follows: “Our purpose is to come together to love and serve God, our two congregations, and our communities.”

Prayer points for August & September 2026

- Thank God for His guidance and blessings on all of us, such as answers to our prayers about the possibility of an Interim Minister.
- For opportunities to share the good news about Jesus who bridges the gap between God and humans.
- For our two linked congregations as we go forward together, with encouragement from Scripture such as Philippians 4 verses 6&7:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and asking with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

- For the Holy Spirit to guide our discussions, activities, and in making decisions for the future of our congregations: thinking especially of the Congregational meeting on 25th August 2026.
- For the health and well-being of the Ministers helping us, and all in both congregations.

Our Timeline

BY REV DUGALD CAMERON

As we go to print, this is the timeline we are looking towards as Presbytery interacts with the congregations of Fort William Kilmallie linked with Kilmonivaig.

- ✓ **Place for Hope** – report imminent
- ✓ **Congregational Meeting with Daran Golby of the national office of the Church of Scotland** in relation to an Interim Ministry appointment. Tuesday 25th August, 7.30pm in The Duncansburgh. All members of Fort William Kilmallie and of Kilmonivaig are invited to attend and vote.
- ✓ **Presbytery Special Committee meet with trustee elders,**
Wednesday 16th September- 3.00pm Kilmonivaig
7.00pm Fort William Kilmallie
- ✓ **Presbytery Special Committee meet with trustee elders,**
presenting their findings
Tuesday 20th October 3.00pm Kilmonivaig
7.00pm Fort William Kilmallie
- ✓ **Presbytery Special Committee report to the Presbytery of Cleir Eilean I** on 26th November

The purpose of the above meetings is to draw up a plan of action to address issues within the congregation, whilst at the same time appoint an Interim Minister for a period of two years. His or her job, on a full-time basis, would be to further the recommendations, be a pastor to all, and pave the way for the future ministries of both a Parish Minister of Word and Sacrament and a full-time MDS staff worker.

Interim Moderator's Letter August 2026

BY REV DUGALD CAMERON

***If you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
-Romans 8:13 NLT***

St Paul would say that the flesh is a mind-set. It is an acceptance of the things of the world. He spoke from his time; we hear his words in ours.

Paul wants you to stand back, stand back and look at it all – for our time. What does the world tell you to do, or be? So look, and you will see that powerful forces construct our social reality and our mind-set – parenting, schooling, television, social media, advertising, dress code, corporate ethos, political messaging. So prevalent are these forces that they become the given.

It is as if we walk about in a trance, a kind of hypnosis. If we are not careful, we become what we are conditioned to be or want. The psychologist, Carl Jung, a son of the German manse, wrote of this.

The individual who is not anchored in God can offer no resistance in his or her own resources to the physical (flesh) and moral blandishments of the world.

This is what Paul said two thousand years before.

In Gaelic tradition storytellers referred to what could be called, 'glamour'. This was a spell cast upon the eyes by witches, or sithean, that made the worthless seem attractive.

Modern advertising seeks to cast the same spell. There was an advert for Mercedes Benz, which drew transparently on psychology, it said, in reference to what in the end is just four wheels and a fancy engine. Soul – at the heart of all we create today.

Many forces impact upon our church life. Each of us needs to put away the things of the world – nostalgia, harking back churchiness. Instead, we look to life in the Spirit in whom we find life. Life in all its fullness, which embodies and opens up Kingdom living.

Rev Dugald Cameron, Interim Moderator



Thank you for straightening the Cross

Thank you to the, as yet unknown, thoughtful soul who straightened the aluminium cross painted gold, just to the right of the organ in the Duncansburgh Church. This has been appreciated by a number of the congregation. It was made by Mr Norris Galloway, brought down from the MacIntosh Memorial Church and looked after by Mr Alex Callison. It is a simple, yet striking, reminder of God's presence with us.

Mary Elliott, Session Clerk

Congregational Meeting on 25th August 2026

ABOUT AN INTERIM MINISTER FOR FORT WILLIAM KILMALLIE
LINKED WITH KILMONIVAIG

Everyone is invited to a Congregational Meeting due on 25th August 2026 at 7.30pm in the Duncansburgh Church when Mr Daran Golby from 121 will explain what having an Interim Minister would involve for all of us.

Here is a description for the meeting from Mr Golby :

“This is a congregational meeting that I am invited to by Presbytery, for me to give a presentation on Interim Ministry. My presentation usually last about 20 minutes and then there will be time for questions.

“After the Q & A time, those present who are eligible, will be invited to vote on whether they are in favour, or not, of having an Interim Minister, based on the information I have shared and the subsequent questions and answers.

“Only those Members and Adherents on the Roll present can vote; and all votes are in person and not online or otherwise. The vote can only be taken on the night of the presentation and not at any time in the future.

“A vote in favour would constitute the sisting [pausing] of the Right of Call for the duration of the interim ministry. Once the interim ministry is concluded, Presbytery will be asked to reinstate the Right of Call.”

Please share this information through the two congregations and encourage folk to attend this congregational meeting on 25th August 2026, at 7.30pm in the Duncansburgh Church. If you have questions in the interim, please contact a Session Clerk, if by email via the Parish Administrator.

Wednesday Online Prayer Group

BY JOAN MACKINTOSH

In March 2025, after some of us had attended the Learning Communities course, we decided to start a wee prayer group. After thinking about it, the decision was made to make it online/phone based as our congregation is spread across the parish. Since then, we have met every Wednesday at 8pm via Zoom. The group is small in number but includes folk from Kilmonivaig and other areas of Lochaber. It lasts just about 30 minutes and is very informal, with some folk praying out loud and others supporting silently. Our prayers vary enormously from very specific requests, to general worldly worries and those who 'attend' carry the prayers forward throughout the week. We also have prayer cards in the session house, for anyone to add a request; please feel free to write one, if you have something you would like prayed for. If you would like to join us, please speak to Mary Elliott or Joan MacKintosh, and we will get the joining details to you. As mentioned before, the group is small, but we.....

Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. -Romans 12:12 NLT

New Booking System

Booking a church space is now easier than ever, just scan the QR code or head to our website for more information.



Service Timetable for August/Sept 2026

Here is the schedule of services which are due to be held at the Kilmonivaig Church, the Duncansburgh Church and Kilmallie Church (Corpach) on Sundays.

Date and Service	Time	Place
9th August	10am	Kilmonivaig
	12 noon	Duncansburgh
	12 noon	Kilmallie, Corpach
16th August	10am	Kilmonivaig
	12 noon	Duncansburgh
23rd August	10am	Kilmonivaig
	12 noon	Kilmallie, Corpach
30th August	10am	Kilmonivaig
	Joint Service	
6th September	10am	Kilmonivaig
	12 noon	Duncansburgh
	Communion Service	
13th September	10am	Kilmonivaig
	12 noon	Duncansburgh
	12 noon	Kilmallie, Corpach
20th September	10am	Kilmonivaig
	12 noon	Duncansburgh
27th September	10am	Kilmonivaig
	12 noon	Kilmallie, Corpach

Church Group Activities

Day	Activity	Venue	Time	Dates
Mondays	Men's Breakfast	Lochaber Cafe	9.30am	3rd August 7th September
	Craft Group	Kilmallie Church, Corpach	2-4pm	7th, 14th & 21st September
	Singing in Praise	MacIntosh Hall	7-9pm	7th, 14th, 21st & 28th September
	Local History Group	Kilmallie Church, Corpach	2-4pm	28th September
Tuesdays	Bible Study	Free Church, Caol	2-4pm	1st & 15th September
Wednesdays	Bible Study	Upper Room, MacIntosh Hall	10.30-11.30am	2nd & 16th September
Thursdays	Worship	Duncansburgh Church	12.15-12.45pm	3rd & 17th September
Saturdays	Soup Saturday	MacIntosh Hall	11am-2pm	5th September
Sundays	See Page 8			

Local Events

Metro Big Band Comes to Fort William

LOCHABER OUTREACH GROUP

The Lochaber Outreach Group is delighted to be hosting The Metro Big Band from Origin Scotland. This promises to be an enjoyable evening of high-quality big band music featuring a mix of well-known jazz standards and contemporary arrangements, interwoven with personal stories of faith and the hope of the Gospel. Origin Scotland's events are designed to bring churches together while providing an accessible opportunity to invite friends, family, neighbours and colleagues who may not normally attend church.

Admission is free (with an opportunity to make a donation to Origin Scotland), making this a wonderful outreach event for the whole community. Please come along and consider inviting someone to join you for what promises to be an uplifting evening of music, fellowship and encouragement.

Monday 17th August 2026

7.30pm at The Duncansburgh Church



Local Events

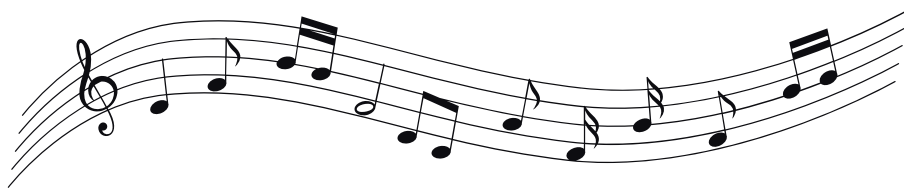
St Andrews Church

COMMUNITY CEILIDH

St Andrews Church invites you to its summer community ceilidh. Promising an evening of traditional dancing, music, and singing, the event will be brought to life by the Lochaber Strathspey & Reel Society. Open to both locals and visitors, it's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the spirit of the Highlands, connect with others, and celebrate the start of summer in a warm and welcoming setting.

Wednesday 26th August

5-7pm at St Andrews Church



Singing in Praise

BY ISOBEL MACKENZIE

Our community choir will begin rehearsing again on Monday 7th September 2026 in the Macintosh Hall. Gather from 7 pm if you would like some refreshments and chat, ready to sing from 7.30 pm until 9 pm. We would be delighted if you were able to come along to join with us in fellowship and praise. Contact Isobel MacKenzie (07413170893) if you would like more information.

Monday Evenings from 7th September 2026

7-9pm at the MacIntosh Hall

Local Events

Lochaber Alive 2026

LOCHABER OUTREACH GROUP

The Lochaber Alive outdoor services have been very well attended, bringing people together for worship and fellowship on The Parade outside the Duncansburgh Church. There are two remaining gatherings on Sunday 2nd August and Sunday 9th August, with refreshments served afterwards. Everyone is warmly welcome to join us as we continue worshipping God together.

Sunday 2nd and 9th August

3pm, The Parade



Contacts

Interim Moderator: Rev Dugald Cameron
Dugald.Cameron@churchofscotland.org.uk

Reader: Bill Skene
BSkene@churchofscotland.org.uk
Tel. 07717 183773

Safeguarding Coordinator: Mrs Morag MacNeill
Tel. 01397 712226

Fort William Kilmallie Church of Scotland

Session Clerks: Dr Mary Elliott & Mr Ian Fleming

Parish Administrator: Hannah Bateman

fortwilliamkilmalliecofs@gmail.com

Office Tel. 07359820391

Office Hours: Monday to Friday

9.30-11.30am & 14.30-16.30pm

www.fortwilliamkilmalliecofs.org.uk

Facebook: FortWilliamKilmallie



Kilmonivaig Parish Church

Session Clerk: Mr Gordon Smith

www.kilmonivaig.org

Facebook: Kilmonivaig



