



The Church of Scotland

South East Ayrshire Parish Church Magazine

September 2026



Dear members and friends

It is good that we are now beginning to see signs of progress in the vacancy procedure.

We now have an excellent Parish Profile approved and ready for circulation.

We will very soon be appointing our Nominating Committee who have the task of finding a sole nominee for the first minister to be appointed. The committee in their work have to be extremely confidential so please do not question them about any applicants. A minister applying for the charge may already be in a charge and may not want his/her congregation to know that at this early stage. So confidentiality in the Selection Committee is paramount.

You will be notified as soon as there is something to announce.

In the meantime it is very important that we all pray regularly to God that he will identify ministers who will be suitable for our new charge and influence them to inquire and apply. Nothing is more important as South East Ayrshire Parish Church is not our Church but his Church and he may very well already have identified men and women who would be suitable for our situation so please pray, pray, pray.

In the meantime we must work in a way that does not fear

change, which will be inevitable, but work to support it.

You have a very exciting journey ahead of you which ought to retain all that has been good in the last and can still be good and relevant now, but also with new ideas and growing attention to mission. Jesus has commissioned us to go into the world and bring people into the fold under the Good Shepherd.

I was delighted with the recent inquirers class which was run online for eight weeks. 17 people enrolled and at the end of the course 12 have decided to become communicant members of the Church. Others are committed to attend worship when they can and have started on a new journey.

Some will be baptised and all admitted at the morning service in New Cumnock at 11.15 am on Sunday 23rd August.

Please pray for them as they set off on their new journey led by our Lord who is surely rejoicing in their new commitment.

Best wishes to you all.

Rev Ken Yorke.

Locum minister at Lugar & New Cumnock.



Back To Church

The Mission Committee has chosen September as “back to church month”, a time to focus on encouraging people to again attend our worship services and other gatherings. Some may ask why should we attend church? I think this is a question worth taking the time to think about. In past generations many would attend church because that was the cultural norm, it was simply what you did. Sadly, that is not the case for most anymore. I think it is helpful to know why we should attend church, not only to help motivate us to do so, but so that we can be reminded and encouraged to keep the focus on what a church should be doing.

There are a great many reasons, I believe, to attend church. I am not going to go into much detail, both to make this article relatively short and also because I intend to preach about many of these subjects in the coming weeks. A primary reason to go to church is to worship God together, Scripture calls believers to be part of His family, His body, and His Church. To mention just a few of the instructions in the Bible that imply coming together as the church: we are to love one another, make disciples, not forsake the assembling together, build up the body, encourage one another, care for one another, in short, we are to live life in Christ together not apart. There is an expression I like, the banana that leaves the bunch gets peeled, meaning if you separate yourself from other believers, you tend to stray from the faith, we need one another.

In Acts 2:42 there is listed four things that the early church did right from the start, four things that I think are still key for us today. They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching, that is to sound Biblical teaching and doctrine.

They devoted themselves to fellowship, that is meeting and spending time together, living life, (in fact if you continue to read in Acts 2 you will see how they care for one another, giving sacrificially to meet needs). They devote themselves to the breaking of bread, that is to Communion and remembering Jesus' death for our sins. And they devoted themselves to prayer, spending time praying together and for one another.

I sincerely hope that September will indeed see many "come back" to church, all are welcome, as the saying goes the ground is level at the cross, and we all need Jesus and one another. So please come and join us!

May you be blessed,

Scott Daily

September

BACK TO
Church
MONTH

COME AND BE PART OF A CHURCH NEAR YOU

Not sure where to begin?
START HERE

LUGAR
9:45 am

CUMNOCK
10:30 am

NEW CUMNOCK
11:15 am

MUIRKIRK
12 noon

CHILDREN ALWAYS WELCOME!

Church of Scotland Number: 070465 Charity Number: SC 008025

The Church of Scotland

SOUTH EAST AYRSHIRE PARISH CHURCH

Dates for your Diary

August

Thursday 20th	Coffee Bean, New Cumnock	9.45am
Sunday 23rd	Admission of New Members New Cumnock	11.15am
Monday 31st	Fabric Committee, Lugar Church	7.00pm

September

Tuesday 1st	Events Committee, Bute Hall	4.00pm
Thursday 3rd	Prayers for Schools, Bute Hall	4.00pm
Saturday 5th	Coffee Morning & Sanquhar & District Silver Band New Cumnock	10.00am
Sunday 6th	Communion Service Lugar New Cumnock	9.45am 11.15am
Monday 7th	Publications & Multi media Committee Trinity Church Hall	7.00pm
Tuesday 15th	Guild - Songs of Praise New Cumnock	2.00pm
Wednesday 16th	Soup & Sweet Lunch Cumnock Church Hall	12.00 noon
Sunday 20th	Communion Service Cumnock Muirkirk	10.30am 12 noon
Wednesday 23rd	Kirk Session Meeting Trinity Church Hall	7.00pm

October

Sunday 4th	Tryst Concert, Cumnock Church	7.30pm
Monday 5th	Mission Committee 7 Wellwood Street, Muirkirk	7.00pm
Tuesday 6th	Guild, New Cumnock	2.00pm
Tuesday 13th	Guild Cumnock & Lugar Church Hall, Barrhill Rd, Cumnock	2.00pm

November

Sunday 8th	Remembrance Service	
	Lugar	9.45am
	Cumnock	10.00am
	New Cumnock	11.15am
	Muirkirk	11.30am

South East Ayrshire Parish

New Cumnock Church

Coffee Morning



Music by

Sanquhar & District Silver Band

Saturday 5th Sept 2026

in Church Hall

10.00am - 12.00noon

Tea / Coffee & bacon roll £3

Cakes etc 60p each

CofSNo. 070465

Charity No. SC006025

Moderator Visit

What a great day of praise, worship and fellowship we had at New Cumnock church with the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Gordon Kennedy! We were delighted to welcome Gordon's wife Fiona, their son Andrew and his wife Bonnie. Thanks to all who attended and helped in any way to make this a very memorable occasion. Following worship around 120 gathered in the church hall to enjoy soup, bread and home baking along with tea and coffee. Gordon is encouraging support of Tearfund during his moderatorial year and the retiral offering on that Sunday raised £455.





Finance

Finance committee Gift day in June in Cumnock Church brought in £1795. Picnic at Lugar Church made £456 Tearfund collection at Moderator of the General Assembly's Service in New Cumnock was £455. Saints & Sinners at Lugar Bowling Club raised £843. Lugar Afternoon Tea raised £295. Thanks to everyone who donated. Can I please remind everyone who hasn't filled in a new Gift Aid form to please do so as soon as possible. If you need a form please contact Jan Wilson on jan.wilson@gmail.com or 07779162323 or your elder.

Lilly Stevenson,
Convener.

Email address lilly.stevenson@btinternet.com.

Telephone Number: 07540572914

MALAWI

If you have "Change for Malawi", please give it to Fiona Ferrans.

Fundraising & Events

We have nothing new to report as our next meeting will be on Tuesday 1st September at 4 pm.

We have made a later time to allow anyone who hopes to attend but has work commitments, able to do so.

Kind regards

Ann Riddell

Guild

I hope and pray that everyone has enjoyed the summer time including a wee bit of the five heatwaves we have experienced over these last months!

During Guild Week on Tuesday 15th September starting at 2pm we plan to have a Songs of Praise in the church at New Cumnock, Members of all our Guilds are invited to attend and, indeed, anyone else who wants to come along is very welcome. Guild meetings for the new session 2026-2027 begin again on Tuesday 6th October at 2 pm where we look forward to welcoming all our existing members and anyone else who would like to join us. New members pay nothing for the first year and the cost for everyone else is £18.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10: 24-24-25

Carol Ann McEwan

Secretary

Kirk Session

Meeting on Wednesday 3rd June – Session agreed new hot water geysers and the installation of a new kitchen in Muirkirk church; a new blind in New Cumnock church; and roof repairs at Cumnock Church. The clock in Cumnock church has also been repaired and is now working. A review of current multimedia provision is being undertaken and two events in Lugar church are confirmed. Members are encouraged to ensure that standing orders and new gift aid forms are completed as soon as possible. Both Logan Hall and the Manse at Barrhill Road are now up for sale.

Meeting on Tuesday 11th August- The Presbytery Vacancy Committee attended and outlined the next steps in advertising for ministers. Our Parish Profile was very well received, and our new logo and Mission Statement are included in this magazine. At the next Kirk Session meeting we will be arranging congregational meetings in each church to form a Vacancy Committee who will have the task of interviewing suitable candidates initially for the post of minister preaching in Lugar and New Cumnock churches, although they will have responsibility across the whole Parish of South East Ayrshire. The second ministerial post will follow soon after.

Lugar held a very successful Picnic in the church and grounds in June.

Thank you to all who attend Session and Committee meetings, we are working together as one!

Christine Wilson

Session Clerk

Christian Action Group

Once again we held an Afternoon Tea, this took place on Wednesday 12th May. Entertainment was provided by Just 3 Guys. All who were present enjoyed the afternoon. I would like to thank everyone who helped in any way, without your help events like this would not be possible.

Congratulations and best wishes were sent to the following people on their special occasion -

80th Birthday - Mrs B Liddell, Mrs B Hodge,
Mrs I Lorimer, Mrs V Walsh

Golden Wedding - Mr & Mrs J Paterson

Diamond Wedding - Mr & Mrs G McConnell



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If you know of anyone due to celebrate a special event please inform Nan Paterson.

I am grateful to everyone who has supported the group and continues to do so, the support given is very much appreciated.

Nan Paterson

Joseph Word Search

Search for the given words below hidden in the squares.



FORGIVENESS

BENJAMIN

GOBLET

SLAVE

NAPHTALI

OBEDIENT

JACOB

HONEST

ZEBULON

ASHER

JUDAH

SIMEON

LEVI

COAT

ISSACHAR

GAD

REUBEN

DREAM

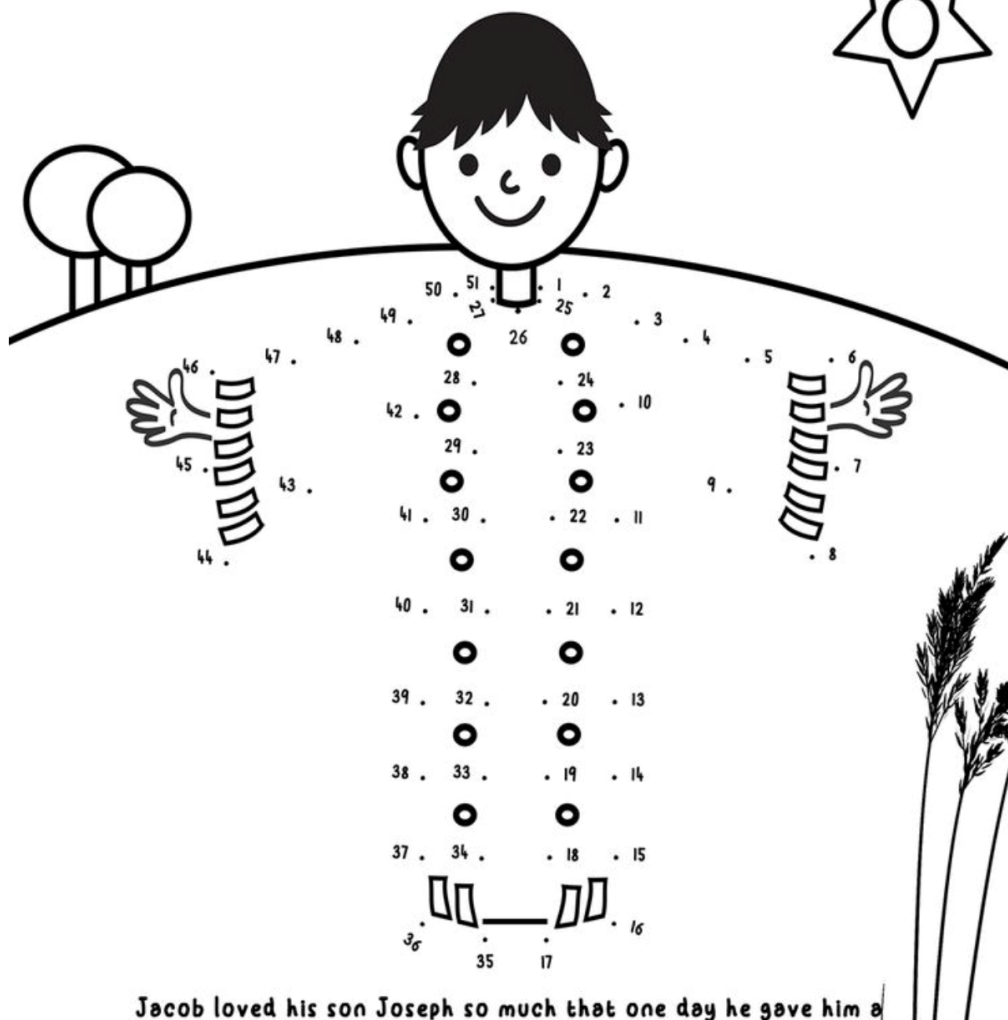
DAN

POTIPHAR



JOSEPH'S COLORFUL ROBE

Connect the dots



Jacob loved his son Joseph so much that one day he gave him a
very special gift, a beautiful colorful robe.

Genesis 37:3





“Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors.” —Genesis 37:3

The Story of the Moderatorial Cross:

In October 1999 Andrew McClellan had been nominated for the millennial role. Douglas Galbraith who was then in Artistic Matters also contributed to the discussions. One of Andrew's son's was a student at Glasgow School of Art and this led to the idea of commissioning a design competition amongst students there. Norman MacFarlane generously offered funding of around £2,000. This funded an award to the winning design and for the creation of the Cross itself. An expert judging panel was assembled and the winning design (it is understood created by a young Irish woman) selected.

The brief was fairly general - essentially a pectoral cross which was contemporary, distinctive, Scottish and appropriate for the purpose.

The result reflects links with Saint Andrew who brought the boy with the loaves and the fishes to Jesus. There is a fish design in the chain and also a representation of small loaves of bread. The material used include Scottish gold and silver.

At the heart of the cross is the burning bush emblem of the Church of Scotland, reflecting the time God spoke to Moses.

The cross bars are in the form of waves - reflecting St Andrew's work as a fisherman.



Cumnock Church

As previously notified the guilds of Cumnock and Lugar have amalgamated for the 2026/2027 session. All meetings will be held in the Church Hall, Barrhill Road, Cumnock. The Convenor Mrs Betty Entwistle and her very able committee are drawing up a very full and varied programme. Meetings commence on Tuesday 13th October at 2:00pm, a warm welcome will be extended to anyone wishing to attend.

Soup and Sweet lunches held in the church hall under the guidance of Mrs Moureen Jones and her committee raised £1650 over the last session. It is planned to hold 9 such events during the period September 2026 to June 2027 with December being a blank month because of all other activities being held at that time of the year. The first lunch is scheduled for Wednesday 16th September 2026 from 12 noon until 1:30pm. The ongoing events will be intimated at church.

Prayers for Schools under the leadership of Dr. Ross Adams continue to meet quarterly in the Bute Hall Cumnock church. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday 3rd September at 4:00pm. A warm welcome will be extended to anyone wishing to attend.

The sale of the manse 33 Barrhill Road Cumnock is progressing slowly. The property has now been advertised on the Church of Scotland website and there have been



viewings by 3 different families. We await the arrival of the For Sale sign which hopefully could trigger some local interest.

The church hall continues to be very well used with regular bookings from dance schools, Sound Bath and the Wellness Wheel. The Hand Bell

Ringers and the Guild will soon be re-starting and these activities make use of the hall on Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

There will be a Tryst Concert in the church on Sunday 4th October at 7:30pm. This will be a joint concert featuring The Wallace Collection and the cooperation band. The Brass Players will be taking up positions in the church's galleries to create a surround – sound. It should be a wonderful experience for all lovers of brass music.

Ian Ronald

Magazine

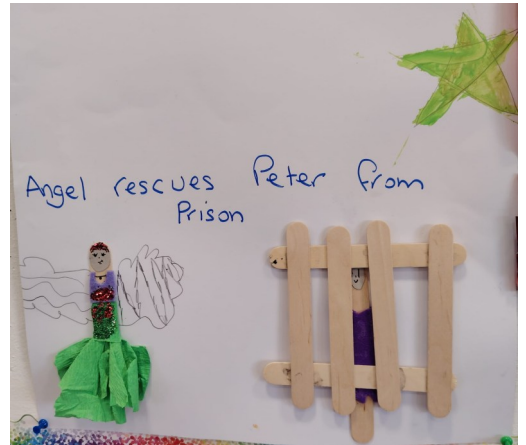
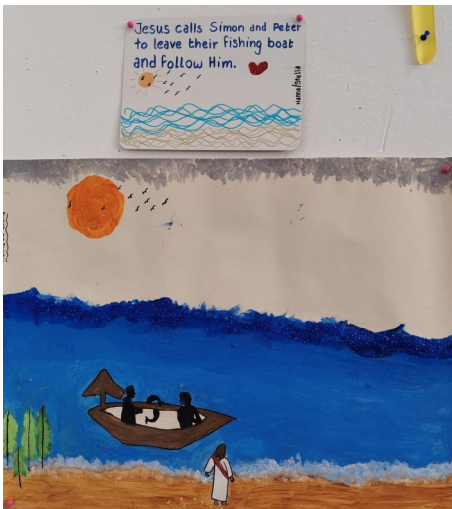
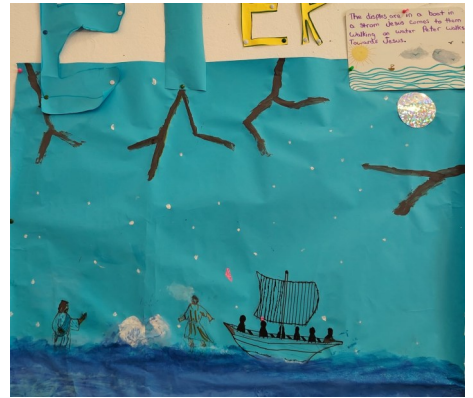
What would you like to see included in the magazine?

Could you please forward articles for the next magazine to nancy241@hotmail.co.uk by 1st November.

Moderator & South East Ayrshire Kirk Session 2/8/26



B. L. A. S. T. (Believing, Learning And Sharing Together)



Our children and young people have been looking at the "UPS" AND "DOWNS" in the life of Peter. Here is some of their work to share with you.

PRIVILEGE - - > - - PIT - -> - - POTIPHARS PROPERTY - - > - -
PRISON - - > - - PHAROH'S PALACE.

Can you guess the Bible characters life our children and young people will explore next???? As we look at God's faithfulness through good and bad times we will discover that God was working out His purpose and plan for good. Just as He is in your life and mine. This isn't revealed till the end of this person's story and up to then the journey's pretty rough!!

Could you make it possible for a child or young person from our wider parish to share in the journey of faith . There's actually nothing more important you could do for them!!

Your prayers for all children, young people and leaders are so valuable and we depend on them greatly. We as youth leaders and as a Church are very blessed to have such a lovely group of children and young people to cheer our hearts and encourage us that indeed God is working in our midst. In July we all enjoyed a fun afternoon at New Cumnock Swimming Pool followed by games and pizza in the hall. Also the children received a small gift of a book to encourage them in their Christian walk in this often strange and confusing world that they are growing up in.

Every blessing from all the leaders as we journey together as South East Ayrshire Parish Church.

Fiona McGurk

Multimedia & Publications

We hope you are enjoying reading the new Parish Magazine and hearing about all the news and events from all our Churches and Communities. About 800 copies were printed and distributed throughout the Parish so a huge thank you must go to Nancy Young and Louise Simpson for their work in putting the magazine together and printing it off. Thanks also to the Elders and Distributers who delivered the magazines. Your help is much appreciated. We always welcome new articles or suggestions for future editions.

We welcomed 3 new members to the Committee, Carly Anne Cree, Louise Simpson and Jim Littlejohn and we are pleased to say that Carly Anne took on the role of Convenor.

The New Cumnock Church website has now had its name changed to South East Ayrshire Parish Church, incorporating the four churches. Thanks to Andy Gillies for his time organizing the changes.

<https://southeastayrshireparishchurch.org.uk>

Help will still be required to manage the website and volunteers from each church will be needed to help share information regarding news or events from each Church and Community.

A broken monitor has been replaced in New Cumnock Church which will enhance the worship experience of the Congregation, so again thank you to the team there for sorting that out.

A funding application towards the upgrade of Multimedia equipment in New Cumnock Church was successful, and a welcome addition to the fund. Another grant application is due to be considered in September so we await a decision on that. Many thanks to Carol Ann McEwan for her perseverance with grant funding.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday September 7th at 7pm in Trinity Church Hall.

Brenda Peden

Secretary

QUICK BIBLE STUDY

I was recently approached by a couple of American ladies in Ayr High Street, asking if I would be interested in going along to their church the following Sunday.

Immediately sensing that they might be Mormons, I thanked them for their invitation, but declined the offer, and explained that I was doing so due to fundamental theological differences between their religion and Christianity.

They then entered into a debate about why their approach

was the right one, during which I quickly detected that their view of the Trinity is completely at variance with orthodox Christian teaching.

They do not accept the concept of the Trinity, and that Jesus is part of that Godhead, telling me that the Trinity idea was an artificial concept, formulated at the Christian Council of Nicaea in 325AD.

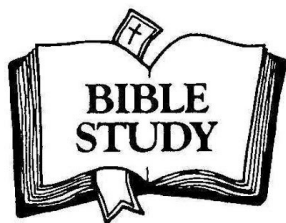
I countered that with the words of Jesus Himself, who originated the idea of the Trinity, in Matthew 28:18-20, where He tells His disciples, after His Resurrection, in the words of the Great Commission ‘Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’.

The Trinity idea was indeed formalised at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, and further emphasised at the Council of Constantinople in AD 381, following great work by the 3 Cappadocian Fathers (2 brothers and their friend), who put it on a proper logical, theological and philosophical basis, to whom we should be eternally grateful, in helping us to counter wrong theological thinking.

The takeaway message here is, know your Bible, know Church history, and beware of imitations of Christianity!

Ross Adams

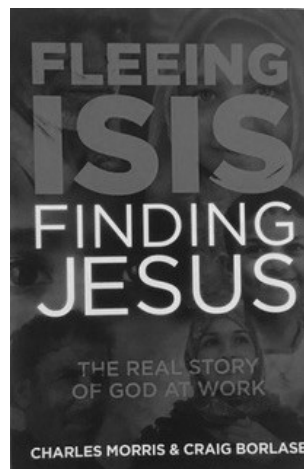
Cumnock Church



Book review “*Fleeing ISIS Finding Jesus*” by C. Morris & C. Borlase

I hope

- you have three good meals a day
- you have a safe house
- you have warm clothes
- you have a nice car so you can go and buy new clothes whenever you want
- you have a good job that pays well.



I hope

- you know that if you have all these things but you don't have Jesus you actually have nothing that matters, nothing that lasts, nothing that counts for anything in the end.
- you know that if you have none of these things but have Jesus, you have everything you need.

This book is set around 2014 when ISIS was terrorising Iraq and Syria. Many Christians had everything in first list but they ended up knowing the reality of the second list.

This book will appall you at the treatment and hardships that Christians suffered, but I hope that it will thrill your heart at the stories told of encounters with the risen Jesus and His protection of His own people.

I hope it will encourage you to know Jesus more.

V. Trotter

Funerals

28/5/26	David Stephen Smith	Hawkshaw Terr., Muirkirk
11/6/26	Barbara Alexander,	Hapland Cottage, Barony Rd, Auchinleck
11/6/26	Wendy Stewart	34 Oakbank Dr., Holmhead, Cumnock
	Anne Lawrence	
July 26	Doreen Ferguson	76 Glaisnock St., Cumnock
11/7/26	Andrew Frew	Henderson Drive
22/7/26	Grace McCormick	Mauchline (formerly of Muirkirk)
18/8/26	Scott Williamson	16 Murray Crt., Cumnock

Jesus said: 'I am going there to prepare a place for you ... and I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14.2-3)

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Session Clerk	Christine Wilson	07968746190 cmw15holm@gmail.com
Magazine	Nancy Young	nancy241@hotmail.co.uk
Church Website	https://southeastayrshireparishchurch.org.uk	
Presbytery Website	https://wwwsouthwestpresbytery.org.uk	
Presbytery Facebook	Presbytery of the South West	



South East Ayrshire Parish Church

Communicants Invitation

You are invited to join us for Communion

Sunday 6th September 2026

Lugar - 9.45am, New Cumnock - 11.15am

Sunday 20th September 2026

Cumnock 10.30am, Muirkirk - 12noon

"This do in remembrance of me."

Mission Statement

Rooted in Faith,
Together serving our communities,
Through worship and action.