

Glasgow Unitarians News & Views August 2026

The golden grain is bowing low,
The summer sun begins to wane;
The first sweet fruits of earth we know,
And bless the harvest come again

In August GUC is closed for
services. We will re-open on
September 6th with a
Service by Lyanne Mitchell.

GLASGOW UNITARIAN CHURCH (SC016472)
UNITARIAN HOUSE, 72 BERKELEY STREET GLASGOW G3 7DS

Lughnasadh



Pronounced LOO-nah-sah its a traditional Irish Gaelic festival marking the start of the harvest season. Celebrated on 1st August it sits between Litha (summer solstice) and Mabon Autumn Equinox) on the wheel of the year.

Lughnasadh was established by the Celtic Sun God Lugh to honour his foster mother, Tailtiu, who died of exhaustion after clearing the plains of Ireland for agriculture. Traditionally, Lughnasadh is commemorated with feasting, athletic contests (the ancient Tailteann Games), market fairs, and offerings of the "first fruits" of the harvest.

The word breaks down into "Lugh" (the god of arts, light, and craftsmanship) and "nasadh" (an assembly or gathering).

Central to Lughnasadh is the gathering of early grains. Adapted by early Christians, it is associated with the Anglo-Saxon festival Lammas (meaning "loaf-mass"), where communities would bake loaves from the freshly harvested wheat and bless them on church altars.



Lughnasadh holds a significant place among the four Cross-Quarter holidays on the Celtic Wheel of the Year." It is a time

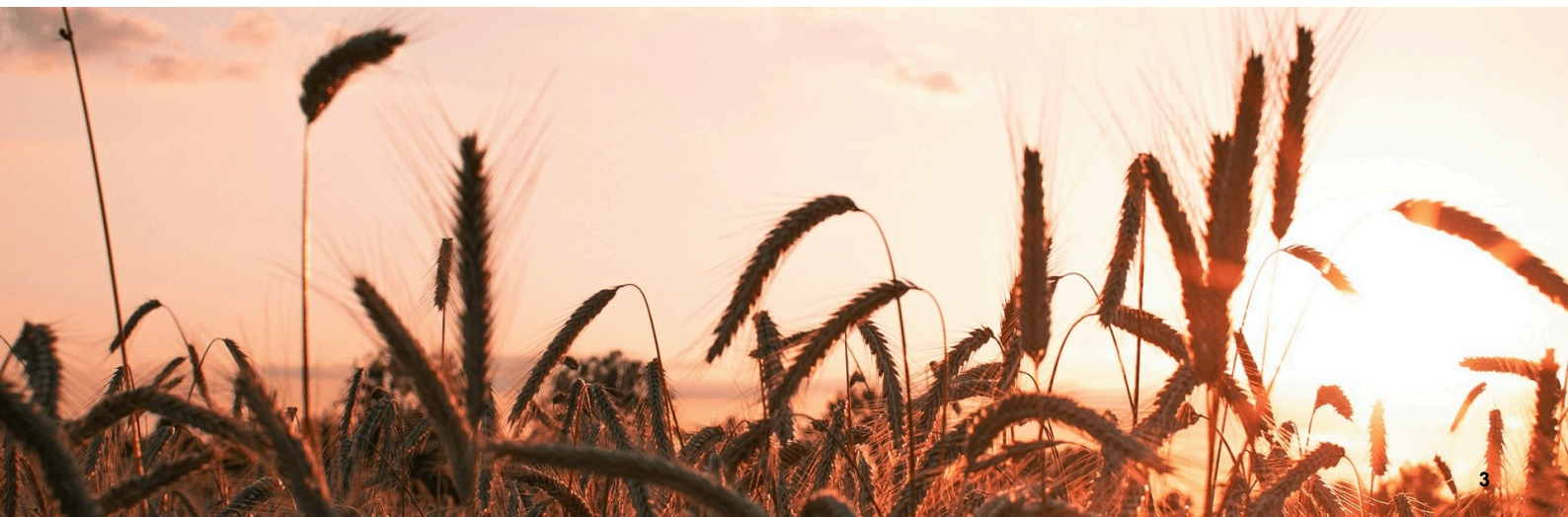
of joy for the summer's bounty, combined with the recognition that the darker days of winter are slowly approaching.

Rituals & Observations

- Handfastings: The month of August is historically considered an auspicious time for handfastings (pagan weddings) and community matchmaking.
- Traditional celebrations often involve visiting local bodies of water or sacred wells. Participants walk clockwise around the water, offering prayers for health and leaving biodegradable tokens.
- People traditionally climbed sacred hills and high mountains, a custom later transformed into Christian pilgrimages like Reek Sunday on Croagh Patrick.
- Celebrants offered the first harvested grains and wild foods, particularly bilberries, marking a communal feast of gratitude and relief as new crops became ready.
- Large ceremonial fires were lit to honour the sun god's sustaining warmth and to protect the developing crops from blight.



Ruth - Lughnasadh 26 July 2026



July in Pictures - a month of Flowers!



Tom & Margaret leading the annual Flower Communion and tribute to Norbert Capek. Communion cups on display! 12th July

5th July - We do love our flowers. July is a clearly a good month for them!



Tris 12th July



*Choosing a flower, nice one
George
12th July*



*Donald & Ruth making
their flower choices 12th*



Rita & Margaret 12th July 2026

*Jim - envisaging Vision Day
19th July*



More flowers - 19th July



Ruth - Lughnasadh 26th July

**If I can stop one heart from breaking,
I shall not live in vain;
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin
Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.
Emily Dickinson (on flowers)**

Book Review

"Across a Waking Land"

by Roder Morgan- Grenville

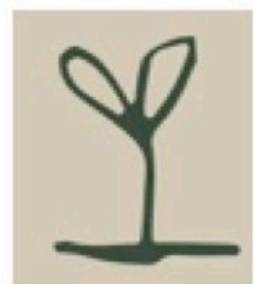
If you, like me, are dismayed by the bleak prognosis of increasing worldwide biodiversity loss and doubtful of whether a "greener" future is possible for ourselves, in the UK, or our planet, read this book.

At the age of 61, the author undertakes a thousand-mile walk from the Channel to Cape Wrath to examine for himself the efforts which are being made to establish a healthy balance between human activities and the attempts at re-naturing already taking place in the UK.



Trees
for
Life

As you will be aware, Trees for Life (TFL) is currently one of the main recipients of our church's charitable efforts. The author of the book is much impressed by his visits to the 4000-hectare (15.4 square miles) TFL site at Dun Drennan near Fort Augustus.



Morgan- Grenville notes that there are three things which have made this tree planting initiative so successful and are the key features of its leading role in re-wilding.



The first of these is its insistence on sourcing tree seed from the difficult to reach remnant populations of the old Caledonian Forest which had once stretched from coast to coast. Secondly, TFL has a deer culling programme, the aim of which is 13 deer per square mile, against a present estimated

population of 30 per square mile. Thirdly, TFL's tree planting is concentrated in Glen Affric with the intention to spread out from there to the east and west. They will only be enabled to do this by working hard to establish forward- looking partnerships with local landowners. Without such partnerships, re-wilding is unlikely to succeed.

I intend to gift this book to the church library, where I hope members will be able to borrow and return it. It is full of interesting information, relating opportunities, setbacks and unseen consequences in the drive for re-wilding.

The author's concluding sentences are -

"in the fight to protect and enhance what we still have, none of us can be neutral anymore. If you want it, then, for now, you must fight for it. We all must. Every inch of the way."

Ruth Gregory

Vision Day

13 September 2026

A Vision Day will be held at the Church on 13 September 2026. All members are formally invited to come along in person or on Zoom. While we would not exclude non-members from attending, there will be no service and only members of the Church will be able to participate in any votes.

The Church Secretary, Jim Millar has asked for possible topics to be forwarded to him or the Church Officer. To date there has been a lot of discussion around what we might discuss but only two have been agreed.

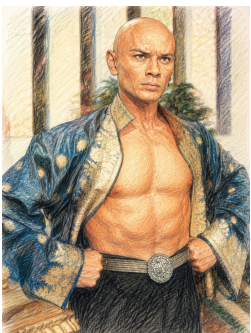
1. conservation/restoration of The Four Seasons Wallhanging
2. viability of employing a minister.

The September issue of **News and Views** will be dedicated to reports on these two topics, along with some other ideas for discussion.



Other possible ideas for discussion:

1. **Publicity & Social Group**
2. The **Preaching Schedule Working Group** would like to find out what you from services. f?
3. **Church resilience**, do we rely too much on too few members?
4. **News & Views**; how can we get more members to contribute?



This list is far from exhaustive. I haven't mentioned repairs and redecoration, the toilets, the hearing loop, narrowcasting services..... etc, etc, etc.