

Message from the Minister



*Leave your nets... take up your cross... follow me...
Jesus in the Gospels*

It feels like stepping out of a comfortable house on a blustery autumn day. Moving on from being your minister to serving the new presbytery – Clèir Eilean Ì: Highlands and Hebrides – as full-time clerk is a challenging prospect. From the moment we arrived in Strath and Sleat nearly nine years ago we were enveloped in the warmest of welcomes. I was pleasantly surprised at the appetite for innovation and impressed with the wealth of gifts so liberally scattered around the congregation and the willingness of people to use them. I believe that, together under God, we have been part of something beautiful: a creative church which is diverse in outlook yet united in faith. This has not come without cost. To maintain three concurrent Sunday services without bankrupting ourselves has obliged our preachers to forego the compensation to which they are entitled. Our praise leaders also serve without financial reward, each one contributing their own style and often gathering other musicians to enrich our worship. And that is just the tip of the iceberg. Our churches all take the responsibility for local mission, midweek meetings, pastoral care, maintaining their buildings and gathering their offerings. They can do this because of the leadership provided by a small and very hard-working Kirk Session.

Nor does it end there. Mobilised by our Parish Development Assistant, new initiatives are springing up all the time and volunteers are stepping up to develop them. I have deliberately avoided using names because there are too many to mention. Suffice to say that this is a special place full of wonderful people: the most attractive congregation in Scotland in my estimation. So why am I leaving?

The Church of Scotland has been in decline for many decades and throughout that period we have either lacked the energy to tackle the issues or we have lived in denial. We are now so near the precipice of collapse that the institution has no choice but to take action. God alone knows whether we shall be like the dry bones in Ezekiel's vision or the dead branch in Jesus' parable. But we have what Scotland needs: hope! And so prophetic voices are summoning the national

Need prayer or someone to pray with you?

Email Mary Fennell:
prayercoordinator1995@gmail.com

Need to talk? Questions about the Christian faith

Contact the minister, who will find the right person to speak to you. Details are on the last page.

Website: www.schurch.co.uk

Notices: lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk

Mission Statement

Our purpose is to honour and enjoy God, proclaim Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, serve our community in Jesus' name, strengthen one another in our spiritual life, and influence our world through prayer, witness, truth and grace.



church to arise as a mighty army.

To facilitate the fresh wave of mission that would unleash, the Kirk is reorganising itself both at the core and in the regions. This includes co-ordinating our plethora of small and struggling presbyteries into larger entities which are capable of delivering more resources closer to where the action is. From the beginning I have been involved in the transition team which is poised to unveil the new presbytery which will serve the Highlands and Hebrides, covering over 40% of Scotland and including over 100 charges and 23 ferry crossings. As a serving presbytery clerk, I felt bound to offer my service along with others and the interviewing panel chose me.

So duty calls and, in leaving, I want to encourage you not to rush into appointing my replacement. You have an outstanding Kirk Session and you are on a healthy trajectory of maturing discipleship and effective outreach. It is time to take stock and seek inspiration from God regarding the minister who can most appropriately support your further development. You will have my prayers and, forever, my gratitude.

Fada fada nur comain

Rory



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Holiday Bible Club

We had a fantastic Holiday Bible Club at Kyleakin hall again this summer with around 55 children each day attending from all over the parish, and from across in Kyle and Plockton too.

Our theme this year was the Great Green Garden Show (try saying that fast a few times!) where we were discovering what amazing things happened in the gardens of the Bible. From the Garden of Eden to the Garden of Gethsemane to the Paradise Garden in the New Creation, we took a journey through the Bible and had some wonderful times in the small groups discussing them further.

As well as crafts, games, a garden party and lots of fun, there were some deep questions that show our children are eager to know more of God. We aimed to have most of the club outdoors as we have seen such a benefit to this over the past few years, and the large group shelters made this much easier this year.

Thank you for all your support and particularly your prayer support. Give thanks to God for all His provisions throughout the club and pray that He continues to speak into the hearts of the children who attended.

Timmy Currie, Young Church Leader

Team games outside every day



Each group had their own outside group shelter where they had time to explore the theme of the day

Each group used any spare time to make and decorate their potting shed



Note from a Holiday Bible Club Volunteer

Obviously, I volunteered because I wanted to help, but every year I forget how blessed I feel to be a part of this and feeling “nourished” myself! It was wonderful to see how engaged all the kids were, and not just with the activities. While they were hearing about what God has done, and is doing, in their lives, it was obvious by the questions they asked that they were really listening (not just being quiet during the teaching!). Questions like, “Who made God?” after hearing about how God had created everything. It was wonderful to witness God’s spirit moving in that space. Even though I contributed nothing to the planning, I feel privileged to have been a small part of it. Can’t wait for next year!



Ladies' Movie Night

Following our successful Ladies' Day in May, we decided to hold a Meal and Movie evening in June. We showed “War Room” and started the evening with a selection of chilli dishes and sides. We were really fortunate to have the Community Cinema Kit available from ATLAS Arts, who ran a training session beforehand. A great bunch of ladies turned up and the film was really encouraging, exploring the power of prayer in our everyday lives.

Knowing how busy summer is for everyone, we agreed that the next event would probably not be until early autumn, and it would probably be an open event for all. Watch this space...

The aim of this Ladies' Network is to equip and support women across presbytery, through events, sharing resources and creating opportunities to come together. The Ladies' Network is an off-shoot of An Tobar, which is the Presbytery-wide development network currently being developed by Strath and Sleat as a pilot project. Keep an eye out for progress in the next newsletter.

Nicola Thomson

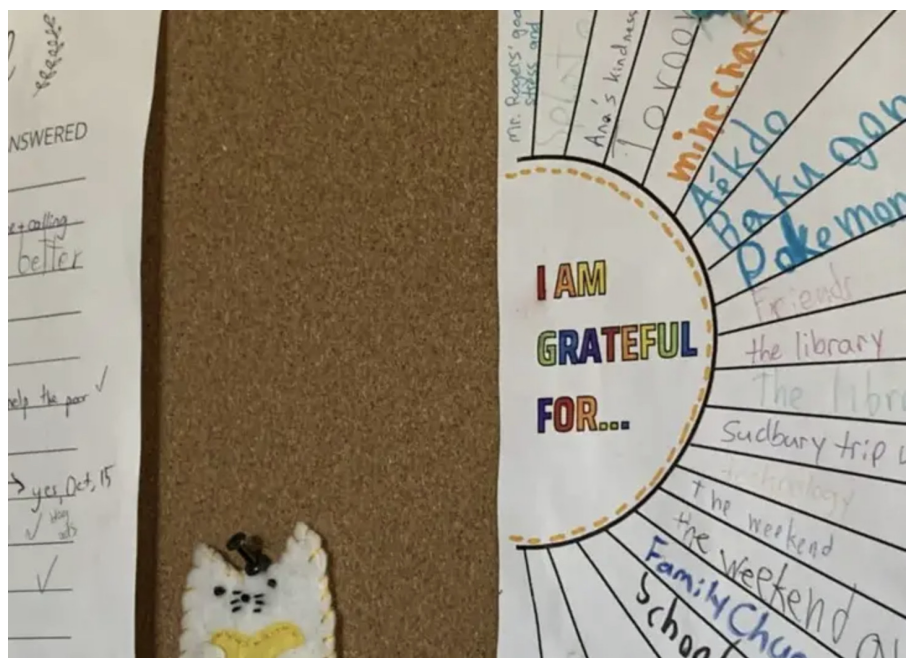


How to Make Your Own Prayer Wall

Following on from the film, I discovered these suggestions at *Out Upon the Waters*: tinyurl.com/outuponthewaters. Reproduced by kind permission of Rebecca, the site owner - Editor

A DIY prayer board [or prayer wall] is a simple space that you set up – using a bulletin board, a whiteboard, or even a simple piece of paper – that allows you to keep track of your prayers throughout the day and come back and see answered prayers. It can be really simple. The easiest and simplest prayer board that you can set up has two sections: Prayer Requests and Answers to Prayer. Here are some simple and creative prayer board ideas to get you started.

- Divide your prayer board in two and have two headings: Prayer Requests and Answered Prayer. Use notecards or post-it notes to record prayer requests. As prayers get answered, move them from Prayer Requests to Answered Prayer and write how they were answered.
- Use a printable prayer journal page (tinyurl.com/freeprayerjournal) to record prayer requests and answered prayers. Include a gratitude tracker (tinyurl.com/gratitude-facts) for prayers of thanksgiving. Optional: include small items that represent things you are thankful for or things you are looking forward to, like photos, party invitations, awards received... Cycle out these small items occasionally.
- Use the ACTS prayer formula to organise your prayer board. Separate your prayer board into categories of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Record “wow” moments and praises to God, things you are sorry for, things you are grateful for, and people and situations that you want to bring before God.
- Use Help, Thanks, and Wow to categorise your prayer board. Include prayers for others, yourself and the world under Help. (What do you want God’s help with? Who in your life needs prayer?) Include gratitude under Thanks. And include praise under Wow: things about God and about the world that you find amazing, or things that you were impressed with.
- Make a collage style prayer board. Write PRAYERS on the top of your prayer board (or the side of your refrigerator) and record prayers on notecards. Stick them to your prayer board with pins or magnets. Use different colours for prayer requests, answered prayers, gratitude, and any other categories you would like.
- Divide your prayer board into categories and make your headings. Include prayers for others, prayers for yourself, prayers for the world, thanksgiving, worries, and things you are sorry for (this could also be a “God please help me to...” prayer, eg. be more patient, think before I speak, etc). You can use note cards or post-its to record prayers. You can also cut out pictures and words from magazines and newspapers (include a collection of these in a little basket next to your prayer board).



Reflections of the Summer

Over the summer months you would be fooled if you thought things quieten down. Not only is it a time to reflect and evaluate what has been happening in our parish. It's holiday club season!

I was privileged to help Timmy Currie with the leading of the Holiday Bible Club here in our parish and also over in Lochcarron. Our theme this year was The Great Green Garden Show. We looked through songs, crafts, Bible stories and a whole heap of other fun activities, at the perfect garden and God's creation. How man spoiled that and disobeyed God. And how we turned away from God and tried to live life without Him. We then looked at how God sent us a way in which we can make our way back to Him and, for our finale, The Great Garden Party, which we celebrated on our final day and where we looked at the party we will have when we get to heaven.

My role was to host with Dug the Gardener and to be the chairwomen of the local garden show committee, Lady Flora MacBean! Those who are in the know will know that I took this role very seriously and made sure that the week ran with efficiency and finesse!

During both weeks, we had great opportunities to share Jesus to these young people and to be able to answer some of their amazing questions. We really pray that these seeds which we have planted are fertilised and that we may see our children coming to faith. It was also a great opportunity to connect with some of the families in our communities and to be able to serve in this way.

I have also been given some time to evaluate the events and things we have begun over the last two years, and have given some thought to the future and how I can be more effective in giving us opportunities to share Jesus to our neighbours.

Our two Make it Count groups (groups which run for parents / carers and their little people) continue to be well supported. Several of the families who have come to the Broadford group are from different parts of the island and travel a fair distance to come and join us. I am very grateful to my wonderful volunteers who come week after week, make tea and coffee, and help us connect with those who come.

There's always room for more so, if you can help, drop me a message. (See contact details on page 18.)



Jane, Jackie and Jean - current volunteers for the Sleat Make It Count group at the Back to School picnic at the Clan Donald in August

I am in the process of writing a Christmas programme when we will again invite the schools to come to our churches to participate in. It will be interactive and tell the Christmas story using lots of different activities. We will look at Advent, Christmas and Epiphany and the journeys which were made to get to those events. I have invited the schools and am looking forward to engaging with some of you to help us deliver this to our school communities.

We are also currently running the Healing for Hurting Hearts course which also will have a follow-up two day course, Stronger, which will look at resilience and how we can best support each other. Watch out for the details of these courses. I really would encourage you to try and par-

ticipate in these courses as it's so helpful to look at our emotional health for our own personal benefit, but also for those whom we strive to show Jesus to.

A lot of the summer has been spent looking to the future and what God is saying in our locality. We are currently investigating and applying for funding from the Church of Scotland's Seeds for Growth Fund. Please pray for us as we prepare this and submit our application. We strive to hear what God is saying in the process and for Him to be at the centre of the application.

Jackie MacLennan, Strath and Sleat Parish Development Assistant

Hope Amidst Hardship: Morag's Fight for Justice

Many of us here in the parish have a deep connection with Morag from Kyleakin. In 2013, she answered God's call on her life to journey to the Arabian Peninsula where she is involved in voluntary work with a well-known reputable organisation. Since then, I've had the privilege of being part of her support team and visiting her on various occasions. During the pandemic, Morag became acutely aware of a heart-wrenching reality - the silent crisis faced by migrant workers in the region.

Her experiences shed light on a harsh truth for many in Bahrain, where their situation, to all intents and purposes, mirrors that of badly exploited individuals we in the West might describe as modern-day slaves. Stringent visa regulations tie them to specific employers who, due to a lack of legislation, endemic corruption and whitewashing, can keep them ensnared in exploitative situations.

So, how do they end up in these circumstances? Mostly they are drawn by the promise of a better life, only to find themselves trapped in a system that seems impossible to escape.

Shocking practices, such as failure to pay wages for extended periods and blatant labour law violations, subject them to gruelling conditions. Labouring outdoors for 14 hours a day in soaring 45 degree temperatures is considered normal. Many do this day in and day out and have not received a wage for over 18 months. They return to overcrowded camp-like accommodations at 9pm and survive on meagre rations, mostly plain rice and bread. These dire living conditions take a toll on their physical and mental well-being; for the majority, access to healthcare remains an unattainable luxury, making it impossible for them to receive treatment for any sickness they may experience.

The separation from families is another heavy burden, with many having not seen their loved ones for several years. Indeed some, whose wives were expecting when they left, have never even seen their children, many of whom are now between 5 and 8 years old.

The promise of government assistance often proves empty, as whitewashing prevails and corruption hinders efforts to address these pressing issues.

Since the pandemic, Morag has felt an even stronger calling to help these individuals. She is regularly trying to find them medicine, arranging for them to see doctors, then going to their appointments with them, while negotiating with lawyers, police and embassies to keep them out of jail or to advocate for their release and deportation conditions if they get caught without visas, has become part of her daily life. The injustice is that it should be their employers who are penalised for failing to obtain or renew their workers' visas but, instead, it is the migrant worker who is incarcerated before being deported with only the clothes on their back. For many of these men the shame of returning home empty-handed can last a lifetime.

What Morag does offer is a small bit of hope in the face of desperate circumstances, but the scope of the problem is vast. Morag and I have discussed for years how more could be done, including starting a charity, but this is very complex in Bahrain due to various legal, administrative and cultural factors. This would be the ideal solution, allowing for a more concrete and systematic approach.

In the meantime, if you'd like to contribute specifically to this cause please contact Robert McRae who oversees Morag's finances, robertemcrae@hotmail.com, with a note that your contribution is for the migrant appeal. If you have thoughts on how we can further support Morag in this work, please share them with us and, please, more than anything, pray for this heart-wrenching situation to change.

Anne Sikorski

Hope and Faith School

Most of you know that there has been an ongoing connection between Hope and Faith School in Lusaka, Zambia, and our Parish since 2005 when Rosemary Mumbi, the founder and Director, visited an ex-teaching colleague in Skye and told her story to our congregation. Since then, we have supported the school financially (forming a proper charity in 2010) and have formed strong relationships with staff and pupils, which have been boosted from time to time by visits in both directions. We raise funds through covenanted donations and fundraising events / activities throughout the year. A significant sum is also raised each year by Portree High School, which is now officially linked with the school through the British Council. We send two lump sums annually to help with general running costs and the feeding programme (usually around £4000 each), and also run a sponsorship scheme to support pupils in the last three years of schooling. This year, we are sponsoring 28 of the senior pupils, paying their school fees and also a contribution toward other expenses, such as uniforms and books.

We were blessed to be able to visit the school this year again and during our stay had meetings with different staff members and also with two of the office-bearers from the Parent Council, finding out more about the school's achievements and also about some of the challenges they face. We spent time in various classrooms, attended an assembly, visited a local organic farm with some of the pupils and, of course, were entertained by the pupils' singing, dancing and acting skills. A highlight was meeting up with all the 28 sponsored pupils and presenting them with a small gift from their sponsors - a Bible for those who didn't already have one and Bible bags for those who did. We spent time chatting with them and getting to know them, and it was inspiring to hear a bit about their different backgrounds and their hopes and dreams for the future.



Rosemary and the sponsored pupils

We were also able to visit the (almost completed) new school building which has been financed by our partner group, Friends of Hope and Faith School (Oxford). This amazing building will provide them with a much-needed new kitchen, a hall, gym hall, library, computer room and extra classrooms. Since our visit, the official opening took place on 9th September and was combined with a celebration of the school's 20th anniversary.



Some of the younger pupils

Rosemary, whom many of you have met, continues to lead the management team at the age of 82, but is planning to step back from the lead role in the near future. The school has already been working toward these necessary changes but is now actively engaged in planning to ensure that the school is well-managed into the future and remains sustainable. Everyone at the school would appreciate your prayers for a smooth transition when the time is right. Rosemary has been the driving force behind the school for the last 20 years and it is hoped she will continue to play a role, but one which will allow her to lead a less hectic life!

Last, but not least, Rosemary, the staff and pupils all send their love and a massive "Thank you!" to everyone who contributes in any way to the support of the school. They remember us in their prayers all the time, as we remember them.

And... just to say, we plan to do a presentation sometime soon to give people a chance to hear more about what is happening at the school and to see some of the many colourful pictures we took. To whet your appetite, please enjoy the picture of Rosemary and the sponsored pupils, and one of some of the younger pupils.

Jean and Norman Gillies

SDG

We are surrounded and swamped by a host of groups of initials, but you probably won't recognise this one. Johann Sebastian Bach, the great baroque composer, was a faithful Christian all his life, and much of his musical output was for use in church. He was a Lutheran and was for many years in charge of the Thomasschule in Leipzig. He would compose a cantata for the service to be held on the Sunday morning, every week for several years. This would have been a major undertaking, involving instrumental and choral pieces, solo or small group sections and parts for all the participants in the half-hour piece. He wrote hundreds of these Sunday worship cantatas, as well as two major versions of the Passion, one based on the gospel of St John and the other on St Matthew's. He also wrote an amazing B minor setting of the mass (especially since he was not a Roman Catholic), as well as a setting of the Magnificat (Mary's song in response to the announcement by the Archangel Gabriel of her impending motherhood of Jesus), and various other shorter choral pieces for liturgical use. At the beginning of each manuscript he would write, "j.j." (for "Jesus Juva" - "Jesus help") and when he got to the end of his finished work he would add to the end of the manuscript, "s.d.g." This stood for the Latin, "Soli deo gloria", "To the glory of God alone".

Peter Pidcock

Jordan Fundraising

The Jordan fundraising has been a great success and the target of £5,000 was raised following a range of local events, including a car wash and a quiz night, and gifts from some very generous donors. It wasn't just the YV (Youth Vestry) team and parents either; a small team of thoughtful school children held a bake sale during the summer, raising over £600, and kindly split it between three charities, including our trip.

As a result, our final fundraiser, the Afternoon Tea, was changed to a Thank You Afternoon Tea for the community – a free event. For those who had been waiting for this event to make a donation, or for those who felt they wanted to make one anyway, it was agreed to give any proceeds to St Paul's Church in Amman, who will host us in October.

We will spend the first few days with Rev George al-Kopti and his church in Amman, with some time working on their mission projects, visiting some local sights, including the baptismal site of Jesus, Madaba and Mount Nebo. We will be part of a Christian youth conference on 12-13th October, which Nicola and Archie will be helping deliver. They will also attend and participate in the Eucharist service on the Sunday morning before heading south.

On Monday 16th, a long drive down to Petra, where we will spend a night, then, on Tuesday, Wadi Rum (the desert), camping there for a night also, then visiting Aqaba and the Dead Sea on Wednesday, before returning to spend our final night with George and Mary again in Amman.

We'll have a full report for the next issue!

We would appreciate your prayers while we are away.

Nicola Thomson



*The Car Wash Team
YV Quiz night at An Crùbh*



Kilmore Youth

After a busy summer holiday, we welcomed back our young church and were very excited to have an addition to our Sunday School teaching rota – YV (Youth Vestry)! They will be leading once a month, as part of their own personal development, and it is a huge encouragement to us all. They had their first session at the end of August and Bàbaidh gave them a whopping rating of 100/100.



Caramarie, Emily and Eubha will be working on their personal statements for their UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) forms in the next few weeks, as they prepare for what their next steps might include, post high school. Helping out with these sessions is a great addition to their skillsets and, as any of you who have ever been involved in young church will know, there is nothing quite like having to explain a story to children to make you do your homework!



Bàbaidh thrilled with her new teaching team!

Session leader Ange MacKay has enjoyed Sunday School so much that she has left her job and gone to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to train as a Gaelic teacher! Ok, so it probably wasn't the only reason she chose teaching 😊 but it does provide a great chance for Ange to practise her lesson-planning skills, and the kids (and adults) are really chuffed to have her on the team alongside Archie and Amanda. Your name doesn't have to start with an A but it helps...!

YV News

We've been enjoying meeting in the manse these last few months, as the vestry in the church is so small and damp. It's been a real treat to have a nice sitting room to chill in with our cuppa and cookies. Much of our time has been spent on planning our trip and fundraising but, in these final weeks, we are going to really focus in on some of the areas we will be visiting, reminding

ourselves of the sacred parts of scripture which are associated with them, and allowing the realisation to dawn on us that we are going to be in places Jesus Himself spent time in. It really is awe inspiring stuff to be thinking about.

On personal levels, we congratulate Caramarie, Emily and Eubha, who are all prefects in their final year of school and, in addition, a huge "Well done!" to Eubha and Emily who were also appointed Head Girls in their respective high schools, Portree and Plockton. Iain has left school now and started his apprenticeship with the MoD base in Kyle / Inverness College, and moved into halls at the end of August. We might pop in for a visit on our way home from Jordan!

Please continue to pray for all our children and youth, for all their ages and stages; that their personal faith and relationship with Jesus continues to grow and be strengthened. Remember, too, the teams who are supporting them in that; for their own faith and for their continued willingness to step up.

Nicola Thomson

Deich Rudan mu dheidhinn Ìosa

1. Tha Ìosa a' dèanamh rudan mìorbhaileach.
2. 'S e Ìosa mac Dhè.
3. Tha gaol aig Ìosa orm, fiù 's aig na h-aman-nan nuair a bhios mi a' dèanamh rudeigin ceàrr.
4. Tha Ìosa daonnan còmhla rium.
5. Tha fios aig Ìosa air a h-uile sian.
6. 'S urrain dhomh ùrnaigh a dhèanamh gu Ìosa uair sam bith.
7. Tha Ìosa còir ris a h-uile duine.
8. Chaidh Ìosa a mharbhadh airson na rudan a rinn agus a nì sinne a tha ceàrr.
9. Dh'èirich Ìosa air Latha na Càisge agus tha e còmhla ri Dia ann an nèamh.
10. Chì mì Ìosa làtheigineach!



le Bàbaidh NicThòmais

Fradharc

Solas ùr na maidne
a' laighe air mo shùil;
solas glan an latha
toirt dhomh sealladh ùr.

'N oidhche air siubhal seachad,
a sgòth a-nis air chùl;
deonaich dhomh do mhaitheas
anns a' mhadainn ùir.

Taing dhut airson fradharc
lem faic mi mais' gach dùil,
is slàinte a tha fallain
anns a' mhadainn ùir;

Slàinte a bhith gabhail
ceum le tlachd is ùidh,
air raointean mòra farsaing
anns a' mhadainn ùir.

Solas ùr na maidne
a' laighe air mo shùil;
solas glan an latha
toirt dhomh sealladh ùr.

le Dòmhnall Meek

Living Hope Fundraiser

Stevie Boyle and "Paddleboard Steve" Bannon are teaming up to complete 3 extreme endurance challenges in 3 weeks to raise funds for Living Hope.

Living Hope is a Christian charity based in Kyle (livinghopesl.co.uk) that provides support to those affected by substance misuse and related issues, or who just find themselves in adverse circumstances. Living Hope meets people at their point of need through group and individual support at The Lighthouse in Kyle and through one-to-one pastoral care.

All funds raised will go directly to the work of Living Hope. A portion of the funds will also be shared with an on-the-ground charity in Ukraine that transports urgently needed supplies to the hardest hit areas.

To support Stevie and Steve, please contact: contact@livinghopesl.co.uk or follow this link: tinyurl.com/hopesl. Your support to share the information with friends and neighbours and online through social media is also very much appreciated!

ROKMAN *Stevie and Steve's*
3-in-3 To Give 

Extreme Endurance Challenge
Charity Fundraiser

15-17 September Stevie Boyle
Rokman Challenge: 4 miles,
every 4 hours, for 48 hours 

18-20 September* Paddleboard Steve
Paddleboard 15 miles from
Elgol, Isle of Skye to Rum
*Weather depending 

1st of October Stevie Boyle
The Loch Ness Marathon 

93 miles...
3 weeks...
1 goal

Living Hope

To learn more: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/3-in-3-eec>
Living Hope (Skye & Lochalsh) is a registered charity SC050950

Gentle, Informal and Fun!

That's not the first three words I'd associate with meetings about going deeper in worship and discovering a fuller experience of the Holy Spirit, it would be more like *intense, confusing* and *scary*!!

That's certainly how I felt as a young Christian when Jane (my wife) used to drag me along to Come Together meetings in the late seventies. I hated them, people raising hands in worship, singing songs multiple times, and always the possibility of something unexpected happening because of the "Holy Spirit moving" (whatever that meant)! I felt out of my depth and didn't understand what was expected of me and, frankly, I would have avoided them like the plague. Trouble was, I was head over heels in love with Jane and just wanted to be with her no matter how uncomfortable the circumstances!

So, why do I confess to this? Well, because I know many of you might feel the same way when you hear about the two meetings we're planning to run on a regular bi-weekly basis from the middle of October.

Both, in different ways, are designed to help us have a deeper experience and walk with Jesus through the guiding hand of the Holy Spirit.

The first, titled Going Deeper with the Holy Spirit, is an exciting series of evening encounters where we get to meet and interact with the Holy Spirit, learn about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, how to practically apply prophecy and how to interpret what we see in the Spirit.

The second, Going Deeper in Worship, is a series of evening sessions where we learn new worship songs, understand the importance of reflective singing, what it means to "soak in His presence" and seek to take time in worship so as to reach a deeper place of connection with Jesus.

Our intention is to run the meetings every other week, alternating each one, so, once every two weeks, Going Deeper with the Holy Spirit then, two weeks later, Going Deeper in Worship. The meetings will be held centrally in Broadford Church, timing and day yet to be finalised.

I'll be leading each of the meetings and instead of *intense, confusing* and *scary*, I promise they will be *gentle, informal* and *fun*, where you'll be able to ask lots of questions and where we can all make mistakes without feeling foolish. I'll be sharing everything I've learned since those scary Come Together meetings all those years ago, the mistakes I've made, the lessons I've learned and the life-changing experiences which I so long to encourage you to also experience.

So, who's it for? Everyone - regardless of age!!! I promise, in the coming weeks you will begin to hear more clearly from the Lord, receive pictures to encourage other people, discover His peace which passeth all understanding and find a closer walk with Jesus.

Let's discover that together - it should be great (and fun)...

More details in the notices in the middle of October.

God bless.

Peter McDermott



Creation Care

We live in turbulent times. Two major and interlinked crises are climate change and biodiversity loss, largely caused by mankind's careless and exploitative use of natural resources and vulnerable populations.

Climate change has frequently hit the headlines this year, with wildfires, floods, droughts and storms around the world. Thousands of people have died and hundreds of thousands have been displaced, ie. evacuated locally or forced to migrate. Many have lost homes, possessions and livelihoods.

A report from the World Wildlife Fund last year found that the global population of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles fell by almost 70% between 1970 and 2016 (tinyurl.com/3pcfmw9n). We are now experiencing the sixth mass extinction. (The fifth was about 66 million years ago).

LAUDATO SI' GOALS



HOPE FOR THE EARTH AND THE POOR

In recognition of the seriousness of these twin crises with their unjust impacts on the poor and marginalised, Pope Francis addressed his encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home* (2015), to everyone living on the planet, the whole human family. In it, the Pope calls on "all people of good will" to undergo an ecological conversion, ie. moving toward a greater love of God, each other and creation, by acknowledging our contribution to the ecological crisis and acting in ways that heal this common home and our relationships.

A documentary, *The Letter*, was released last October as part of his ongoing commitment to the environment and to restoration of just relationships. It is a high quality film, inspirational, challenging – and free to watch on YouTube: www.theletterfilm.org/watch

The film was screened in Broadford Church on 6th September. Members of the congregation were joined by a group from the Roman Catholic community, including Father Ronald, and friends from Skye and Lochalsh Faiths Together. After a cup of tea there was a short discussion, during which people shared their reactions to the film and possible responses. Attendees were generally grateful for the opportunity to come together and watch. The most used written comments were "thought-provoking", "moving", and "powerful".

A recurrent theme in the encyclical and the film is that we each have a role to play and that we need to work - and play - together. We can each take action to address these crises, from consuming less to enriching the natural spaces around us, but we are more powerful working together.

During September, there are weekly study sessions to work through the issues presented, to deepen our spiritual understanding of creation care as discipleship, and to help formulate appropriate responses. Tuesdays, 3-4pm in Broadford Church, or Thursday, 7.30-8.30pm by Zoom. All welcome. You don't have to come every week and you don't need to have seen the film. Contact me for details at aomacl@tighgorm.scot or on 01471 822501.

"...the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. For believers, this becomes a question of fidelity to the Creator, since God created the world for everyone."

Laudato Si

Anne McLennan

Why does Bible Study matter?

Bible Studies and prayer meetings have been running for many years across our parish, like many others, and even survived the shift to Zoom during COVID, which, on reflection, has been a handy back-up during the winter months when folk are less keen, or able, to travel.

In Sleat, the Bible Study cohort had become quite large and yet there were also a significant number from the congregation who were not involved in a church group outwith the Sunday morning service. So the elders decided to pray over the situation, with the result being a pilot with some smaller groups, each with different interests, formats and/or demographics, to see if that might attract others whilst enabling a smaller group to go deeper in their discipliship and fellowship together. Initially, they have started a Gaelic group, which is held at the College, and includes students; a Ladies' Group which meets in the church on Thursdays at 2pm; there is talk of a possible Tarskavaig group, and possibly an additional mixed group or a discipleship group for those who feel like they are not quite at the "Bible study" stage.

Terminology is so important, isn't it? For many of us, these terms and associated gatherings are things we have been aware of growing up but not been involved in, and we probably each have a preconceived idea about what a "Bible Study" or a "prayer meeting" is. Or perhaps Bible Study is such an established concept, and you've always felt it was for others and not you? Nowadays, it is fairly common practice for anyone attending a church to be automatically assigned to a house-group or similar. This provides new members with support outwith the Sunday service and offers a chance to make real friends while exploring their faith together. In cities, it works well, anyway, where people might be turning up at a church where they don't know anyone. That's not usually the case somewhere like here, but it doesn't preclude the need for everyone to have a group of their own.

Nurture, disciple, grow

It is within these small groups that people are able to really nurture, disciple and grow their faith through asking questions, having allocated time to really spend time reading God's word and sharing life with a small group of close friends. Bible Study shouldn't be seen as a hierarchical model or as something that needs to be aspired to. It is simply a group of like-minded folk and, the more groups are available, the more likely we are to find the one that is a good match for us. If you have an idea as to the kind of group you might feel comfortable in, but have never been to one before, speak to one of your elders and we'll pray about it from there.

You might not be a sharer - not everyone is. But, in my experience, there is always at least one person who will happily share their experiences, and growth comes through hearing about those too. So don't let shyness or inexperience of talking about your personal faith stop you, no-one will ask you to share.

Find your niche

Maybe you have never been to a Bible Study before but would feel strange being a newbie, when you are not a newbie in church? Maybe you think everyone else's Biblical knowledge way exceeds yours? I mean, after all,



who doesn't know their Zephaniah from their Zechariah? 😊 Do you feel like you might not agree with some of the stuff in the Bible or what you've seen the Church of Scotland stands for (and against)? Do you struggle to explain what the Bible is actually saying on some issues? Maybe you don't know what the church stands for? Maybe you have never spoken about your faith (or your desire to have one) out in the open?

Please be assured, that not even one of these is a reason not to attend a group. They are in fact the very opposite – each is a reason these groups exist. Whilst Sunday morning services are a key part of our weekly worship, it is in these small, loyal groups that we are given the opportunity to really discuss what's on our hearts and to do life together, through faith.

It's all about the brand...

Maybe it's all down to branding.... If you received an invitation in the post, which one of these would you be most - and least - likely to choose, I wonder? How does each one make you feel?

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Bible study | Word collective |
| Prayer meeting | Fight club |
| Life group | Connect group |
| House group | Scripture study |
| Bible group | Growth group |

Fundamentally, regardless of what they are called, they should each be trying to do the same thing: nurture, disciple, do life together.

I encourage you - urge you, even - to step out of your comfort zone and give it a go.

Even if it's the "awkward conversations with people who have never felt as awkward as they do discussing the Bible together" group. Likeminded souls, spending time with Jesus. Amen!

Nicola Thomson

Bake for Bibles

From The Bible Society

Are you ready to embark on a culinary journey that will bring joy and fulfilment to your heart? Get ready to whip up some delectable treats to raise money for the cause of Bible mission here and around the world.

Here's how you can make a difference:

1. Advertise your bake sale. Spread the word among friends and family, and in places like your church newsletter or social media. Don't forget to use the hashtag #bake4bibles so we'll see your social posts.
2. Whatever it is you have in mind – a Victoria sponge, brownies, cupcakes, fruit loaf or something more exotic – get baking!



3. Hold your bake sale and send the proceeds to Bible Society **before the end of October**, and you'll be creating opportunities for people around the world to discover the Bible.

You can take part as a group or as a church. Holding a bake sale can be a wonderful community-building experience. If you can find a group of bakers to join you, you could quickly and easily fill a table with a delicious assortment of cakes and biscuits for an afternoon of fun.

But small is beautiful too. You could host a bake sale at home for friends and family, at work for colleagues, or at your church around your usual service time. The options are endless.

And you don't need to be an expert in the kitchen to get started. There are so many quick and easy recipes that are delicious, fun to make and great to share. We'll be sharing Bible-themed baking recipes on social media, so make sure to follow us!

Don't forget to label your cakes, clearly marking any allergenic ingredients including gluten and nuts. If you can, it's a good idea to provide bakes that are suitable for a range of dietary requirements.

Your donation will help to change lives by sharing the precious message of the Bible, here and around the world. You be enabling all kinds of transformative Bible work, from translation projects to the training of ministers. Thank you for your support.

For details on paying in the money, please see the Bible Society website: tinyurl.com/2c26wrkk

Church Life

Funerals

Broadford

12/06/22 Neil Bem MacPherson, (F MacLeod)
15/06/23 Heather Harrigan, (F MacLeod)
16/06/23 Neil MacKinnon (Mossfield), (F MacLeod)
29/07/23 Robert Parry, (Rory MacLeod), (F MacLeod)
31/07/23 Malcolm Sinclair, (Donald MacVicar), Memorial service

Christmas Newsletter deadline: Monday 13 November

Please send anything you would like to have included in the Christmas newsletter to me at alisonorr1@gmail.com. I would also very much appreciate any feedback on the newsletter, constructive criticism especially! Is there anything you really like about it? Is there anything you really don't like about it? I will do my best to take on board all your comments. Thank you!

Alison Orr, Newsletter Editor



Services and Meetings

OUR CHURCHES

Broadford

High Street
Broadford
Isle of Skye
IV49 9AB

Kilmore

Kilmore
Sleat
Isle of Skye
IV44 8RG

Kyleakin

Meuse Lane
Kyleakin
Isle of Skye
IV41 8PH

SUNDAY SERVICES

All three churches have an 11am Sunday morning service

NB Except 4 times a year when the whole parish meets in one church to celebrate Communion (please see weekly notices for dates)

Kyleakin 4.30pm **Nourish**, 1st Sunday of term-time months
6pm **Fellowship**, on the other Sundays

Gaelic Services 3pm **Broadford**, 1st Sundays
3pm **Kilmore**, 3rd Sundays

MID-WEEK MEETINGS (please contact one of the elders for more information)

Mondays 10.30 -12.30 **Make It Count Sleat** - babies with parents/carers - in the Sleat & Strath Free Church, Teangue
11am **Prayer for Revival** (on Zoom)

Tuesdays 10.30 -12.30 **Make It Count Broadford** - babies with parents/carers - in Broadford Church
7.30pm **Kykeakin Prayer Meeting** in Kyleakin Church hall

Wednesdays 7.15pm **Buidheann Bhiobail** ann an Seòmar Eige, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
7.30pm **Broadford Bible Study** - in Broadford Church

Thursdays 2pm **Ladies' Group Meeting** in Kilmore Church - all ladies welcome - please speak to Jane or Jean for further info

Contacts

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