

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.

*Let us acknowledge the Lord;
let us press on to acknowledge Him.
As surely as the sun rises,
He will appear;
He will come to us like
the winter rains,
like the spring rains
that water the earth.
Hosea 6:3*

Image by Freepik

Need prayer or someone to pray with you?

Email Mary Fennell:
prayercoordinator1995@gmail.com

Need to talk? Questions about the Christian faith

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

Website: www.sschurch.co.uk

Notices: lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk



From the Minister

I trust that this short letter finds you well. It is hard to believe the passage of time since our last newsletter. It is good to see the days getting longer and brighter, with the hope for better weather after the long winter storms and cold.

A lot has happened in our parish over the last number of months. We celebrated The Lord's Supper in February, and we have just remembered the events of the Holy Easter weekend.

In our Christian life, these are two important events that call out to us. Down through the ages of the Church, The Lord's Supper and Easter demand our attention, because they are central to our faith and spiritual development.

The author and preacher Tony Campolo delivered a stirring sermon adapted from an elderly black pastor at his church in Philadelphia. "It's Friday, but Sunday's Comin' " is the title of the sermon, and once you know the title you know the whole sermon.

In a cadence that increases in tempo and volume, Campolo contrasts how the world looked on Friday - when the forces of evil won over the forces of good, when every friend and disciple fled in fear, when The Son of God died on a cross - with how it looked on Easter Sunday, when evil fled before the risen Christ, and death was defeated.

The disciples who lived through both days, Friday and Sunday, learned that when God seems most absent, He may be closest of all; when God looks most powerless, He may be most powerful; when God looks most dead, He may be coming back to life. The disciples learned never to count God out of the picture.

Good Friday and Easter Sunday are the most significant days for us and perhaps for the whole church calendar. But many of us live our lives on the Saturday, the day in between, in the silence.

Can we trust Jesus to make something holy and beautiful and good out of a world that includes wars, squalid refugee camps, severe drug and alcohol addiction issues, dishonest leaders and politicians in this day?

Human history grinds on, between the time of promise and fulfilment. It's Saturday on planet earth, will Sunday ever come?

The Gospel writers devoted a lot more space to Jesus's last week, Holy Week, to fill us with hope of the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and our place with Him.

Redeemed, saved, held in His hands. We might feel like it's Saturday, but Sunday is surely coming to us.

Keep the faith, in the darkness, keep the faith in the storm, keep the faith in the silence, Sunday is coming.

Rev John M Nicolson



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Ray and Ron would like to record their heartfelt thanks to the minister and congregation for their thoughts and prayers during Ron's recent illness. Until you have to face it, it is difficult to appreciate the value of such kindness. The feeling of family comes over so strong. There is such a sense of belonging.

We have a particular thanks for Jean and Norman. Thanks to them we were able to get back to church. They define the help we have had from all the community.

We are now back to normal and so glad to be in our church family.

Thank you everyone.

Ronald Johnstone

Thank you from repeated visitors

Living in tied housing we wanted a base of our own and in 1977 bought a dilapidated cottage at Ord to be near Liz's parents in Broadford. We are here whenever possible and over 47 years have sat under a variety of ministries in Kilmore, from Mr MacKenzie (we were the youngest attenders by a decade or three) to John Murdo. The constant has been the kind, friendly welcome from the Lord's people. Liz and I do thank you. It means a great deal to us.

Peter and Liz White

The Moderator's Easter Message

“HE IS RISEN – AND HE IS MINE”

The first human experience of the resurrection of Jesus was a call, by name... “Mary!”

The second was a touching... a hug, even as the tears of sorrow turned to a flood of joy in her heart...

Because she took time at the tomb, Mary Magdalene experienced God in ways the other disciples missed.

After she discovered the tomb was empty, she rushed back to tell the others. Peter and John raced each other to the tomb. John won, and looked in. Peter, moments later, rushes headlong into the now-empty tomb and has a look around. Then, John says, “The disciples went back to their homes...”

To a locked upper room. They were terrified! For all they knew either the Romans or the Jewish leaders had removed the body to further humiliate Jesus and His followers.

But Mary stayed... And so, she experienced something no-one else did. She must have spoken of this precious moment later, to John. So we know that she was crying - so hard she couldn't actually see Jesus, at first, through her tears. We shouldn't miss the mourning. It's part of the miracle.

Peter and John didn't yet get it. John says, “They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.”

Mary stays – and she does get it. She is first to discover the meaning of the empty tomb. The resurrection is God's “Yes” to the world's “No.” And she's the first to discover just how intensely personal this resurrection is. Jesus calls her name, as He must have done a hundred times before. And she knows.

Not only is He alive, He is still with those who love Him. It's as real, as close, and as personal as the embrace they share, before Jesus gently urges her not to keep clinging to Him – but to take what she now knows with all her mind and heart and soul to everyone else in her life...

And the single, central, greatest miracle in all of human history and experience is complete. It's life-changing, earth-shattering, mission-creating... and it's deeply personal. “Alleluia – what a Saviour!”

Take time, and so have a blessed Easter.



*Doug McRoberts
Moderator, Clèir Eilean Ì*

On Easter Sunday evening, at the joint churches communion service, our minister, John Murdo, spoke about the two people walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus (Luke 24). He spoke about the difficulty they faced, having lost their leader. They exhibited and expressed disappointment and deep grieving, "But we were hoping it was he who would redeem Israel". (v 21). We were assured these are normal in Christian experience, but we were also encouraged to see how hope is also in the message from this story. "Then their eyes were opened"(v 31). They recognised Him and realised why their hearts had been "burning within them as HE had talked with (them)" on the way. Disappointment turned to new hope, grief replaced with great joy and excitement.

As he applied this to our experience as 21st century Christians, John Murdo spoke of the disappointment of (seemingly) unanswered prayer and, in relation to this, spoke, among other things, about Christians praying for revival and not appearing to get any response from heaven. The prayer meeting for revival was included in the church intimations, so it seemed appropriate to write something about it for the newsletter.

Some 13 years ago, John Urquhart was preaching in Broadford. He referred to revival that arose in the village of Cambuslang in the south of Scotland in the 18th century and how important prayer had been in preparing the way for revival. Some of those present agreed that it would be right to begin meeting for prayer, specifically for revival, and so this meeting began. Initially we met weekly in the vestry of the Broadford Church, but this had to stop during the Covid 19 outbreak. Several weeks into lockdown, Stevie and Catriona Boyle, in contrast with the darkness of the time, had a very bright idea. They kindly offered the use of their Zoom service to re-start the prayer meeting. This was gladly accepted and so the meeting has continued by Zoom since that time. Numbers attending vary, from 3 or less to 9, though there were more at the beginning. What a blessing that Jesus is not offended by small numbers, provided people meet "in my name"! Despite the fact that we are not physically in one another's presence, we have enjoyed sharing experiences and thoughts and ideas with one another and, of course, sharing our common interest in and prayer for revival. This sense of fellowship is very precious to us. The Shorter Catechism (Q98) describes prayer as an "offering up of our desires to God", so a desire for revival is essential for effective prayer for it. The Bible also says faith is essential if we are to please God (Hebrews 11:6), and surely the demonstration of our faith is asking God with expectation that He hears us and will answer our prayer.



Image by Freepik

So, why the long wait? As our minister assured us, God has the answer, but we can be sure there is a good purpose behind it - to strengthen our faith, to test our sincerity, to teach us perseverance, to give us opportunity to learn what revival really means?

Of course, there are others in our parish who pray for revival and it is good to know we share that interest with them - and with many other believers throughout Scotland, and throughout the United Kingdom. If anyone with an interest in revival and a real desire for it would like to join us, please contact Mary Fennel who will gladly add your name to the list of people to whom she faithfully sends the link to join our Zoom group. Our "meeting" is at 11.00 on Monday mornings. If you have a real interest in joining but are hindered by the time, please get in touch with Mary or Cameron. Revival is not just a way of increasing church attendance, or of improving finances. It is a powerful work of God's Spirit by which large numbers of unbelieving people have an encounter with Jesus which enables them to put their faith in Him, and His believing people are enlivened in their relationship with Him. Our nation has a desperate need of such change.

*Will You not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in You?
Palms 85:6*

Cameron Tallach

Kyleakin Sunday School

Since the last newsletter, we've had our family Nativity Service. The nativity story was told from the shepherds' point of view, through Bible readings and imagining how they would have felt.



In January we started to look at the life of Moses. We've looked at his birth, his faults, how God called him to free the Israelites and then lead them back to a life relying completely on God for everything. More recently, we've taken a break from Moses to look at the events of Easter.



And a huge "Thank you" to all those who help with our young church every week.

Lesley Jones

A Brief Meditation, "I AM" on Romans 1:20

Since the creation of the world (God's) invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead.

God revealed in His works - the invisible seen in visible things He has made. So the trees speak to us, not in some mystical way, but simply by being, by living, by growing. So also the flowers, birds in flight or singing from the tree-tops, lambs leaping and dancing in play, deer running, perhaps from some suspected foe, but running, leaping so elegantly over fences or streams in their way. Then we have the sun - yes, we have the sun - not to control, but given to provide warmth and light for us and, at night, with a cloudless sky, we can see the moon and gaze into the unsearchable depths of the universe, noting the stars and constellations in all their beauty, just as people have done for ages past. Not a cheep do we hear from them and yet they speak to us. All of nature whispers to us, and all parts of it combine in unison to convey this message, "God is". And those whose hearts, by God's Spirit, are opened to believe hear not only nature, but the voice of God Himself saying, "I AM". Hearing, we respond with praise to our Creator, joining the symphony -

Bless the Lord all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Psalm 103:22

Cameron Tallach

Hope and Faith School

As most of you know, the connection between the Strath and Sleat congregation and Hope and Faith School in Lusaka, Zambia, has been ongoing now for almost 20 years. A big part of the support we provide is the sponsorship programme we run for some of the children in the last three years of school, grades 10-12. The programme has been running for about 12 years and provides support for children from poor backgrounds, many of them having lost one or both parents, to enable them to finish their schooling and greatly improve their life chances. We have seen some of these children progress on to tertiary education (with sponsorship from our sister support group in Oxford) or procure stable employment to allow them to support themselves and help their families.

Sponsors come mainly from our church family, with a few also recruited from our wider community. The current cost is £290 for the year which pays their school fees and also for other necessary items such as shoes, schoolbag, uniform and books. Sponsors are able to communicate with the young people through letters and the school also provides information about exam results, etc.

In 2024 we provided sponsorship for 28 young people and this year we have managed to maintain that number by sponsoring eight new pupils to replace those who completed grade 12 last year. The attached pictures show some of these new children pictured with the items that were provided from the sponsorship money. The other picture is also of a new girl, an orphan, pictured with her aunt who cares for her. The aunt also has 4 children of her own and the family's income comes mainly from the vegetable stall pictured.

Opportunities to sponsor children occur every January, at the beginning of the school year. If you want further information about any of the work of the charity which oversees this work, please contact Jean Gillies at jeangillies@btinternet.com.

Jean Gillies



Advice

O son of mine,
Play not with love when you are grown a man.
Love greatly and, having chosen, to the end be true.
So shall one woman out of all the world
Keep faith in love by keeping faith in you.

*O Dad of mine,
I thought the words you wrote to guide me failed.
I chose, not wisely, but once done. your next advice prevailed.
To be as true as you had urged, I struggled through the years.
I gave my all to keep my vows and what I got was tears.*

*And then at last
The sun came out so life was warm and bright.
A gentle soul and beautiful, who I could make my wife,
Love greatly and keep faith with for the rest of my new life.
So did one woman out of all the world keep faith in love
By keeping faith in me.*

(Just as you advised).



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Peter Piddock

Written after the death of Peter's wife, Val, in 2018

Later

(something I'm sure we'll all identify with!)

Barely the day started and... it's already six in the evening.
Barely arrived on Monday and it's already Friday.
... and the month is already over.
... and then the year is almost over.
... and already 40, 50 or 60 years of our lives have passed.
... and we realise that we lost our parents, friends
....and we realise it's too late to go back...
So... Let's try, despite everything, to enjoy the remaining time...
Let's keep looking for activities that we like...
Let's put some colour in our grey...
Let's smile at the little things in life that put balm in our hearts.
And despite everything, we must continue to enjoy with serenity this time we have left. Let's try to eliminate the later...
I'm doing it later...
I'll say it later...
I'll think about it later...
We leave everything for later like "later" is ours.
Because what we don't understand is that:
Later, the coffee gets cold...

Later, priorities change...
Later, the charm is broken...
Later, health passes...
Later, the kids grow up...
Later parents get old...
Later, promises are forgotten...
Later, the day becomes the night...
Later, life ends...
And then it's often too late...
So... Let's leave nothing for later...
Because while waiting for later, we can lose the best moments,
the best experiences,
best friends,
the best family...
The day is today... The moment is now...

We are no longer at the age where we can afford to postpone what needs to be done right away.
So let's see if you have time to read this message and then share it.
Or maybe you'll leave it for "later"..

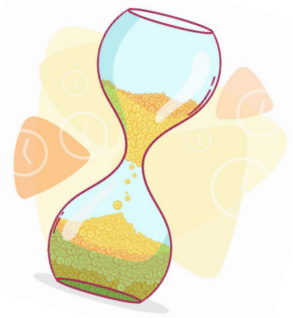
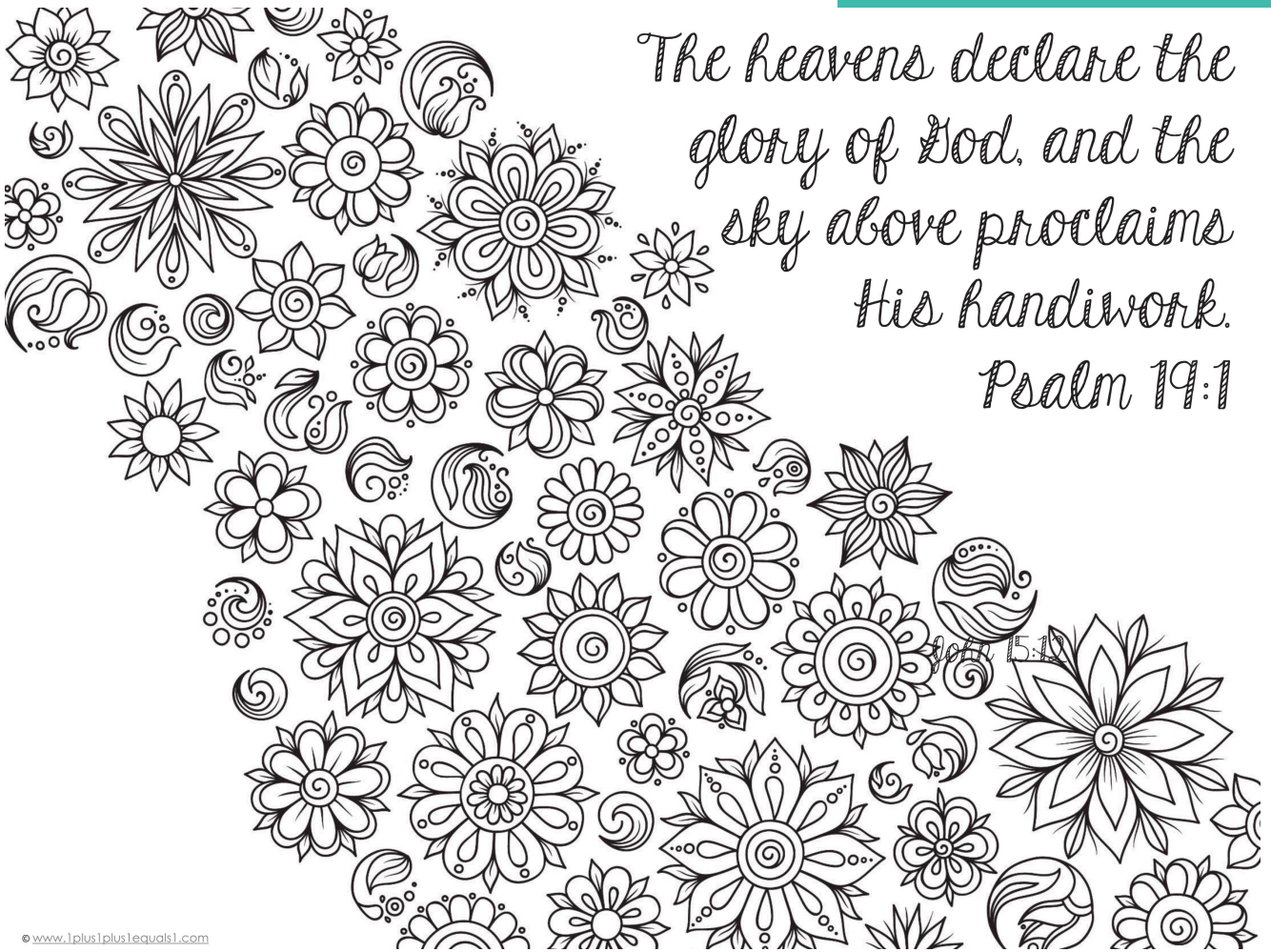


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The heavens declare the
glory of God, and the
sky above proclaims
His handiwork.
Psalm 19:1

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Autumn Newsletter Deadline

Due to the lateness of this edition, there will be no summer newsletter in time for the school holidays. The deadline for the autumn newsletter will be **Monday 25th August 2025**. Please send your news, event reports, articles, poems, book reviews, and especially news about how God is moving in your life, to alisonorr1@gmail.com by the deadline. Thank you!

Alison Orr

Rites of Passage

Funerals

Broadford

22 March 2025

Neil Murray, (Rev John M Nicolson)

Kilmore

21 March 2025

James (Jimmy) Logan, (Rev John M Nicolson) garden service. Dignity

28 March 2025

Janet MacDonald (Tokavaig), Rev James MacInnes

Kyleakin

14 February 2025

Dorothy Henrietta Sutton (Memorial service - Rev Francis Minay),
cremation

Elgol

2 April 2025

Peter John MacKinnon, Elgol (Rev John M. Nicolson), F Macleod

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 term-time 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	Kyleakin Prayer Meeting in Kyleakin Church hall
Wednesdays	7.15pm	Buidheann Bhiobail ann an Seòmar Eige, ACC, 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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