

Whose victory?

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 6. 12



Another of Paul's memorable one-liners that Christians quote to remind ourselves to avoid getting caught up in worldly conflict!

However, these spiritual struggles have a nasty habit of spilling over into real life, in a way that cannot be ignored or avoided. The eruption of Nazism in Germany during the 1930s is one example. On this occasion religious leaders had no qualms in encouraging believers to take up physical arms as well as the spiritual armoury which Paul is about to enumerate in his letter to the church in Ephesus.

This month marks the 75th anniversary of the end of that conflict we refer to as the Second World War. It is fitting that we observed the occasion, both in its poignancy and in celebration of our liberation from a great evil. It should be remembered that many Germans opposed Hitler and his fanatics; many more were swept along in a national momentum to which we are all vulnerable and therefore their experience should stand as a caution to us all.

I believe that crucial to the success of the campaign of resistance which our forebears in this country led, is the prayers which were expressed by everyone from the King in Buckingham Palace to those

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 back page.

Strath & Sleat
Church: Isle of
Skye is a Charity
registered in
Scotland No
SC001285

Website www.sschurch.co.uk

Notices lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk

From the Minister (cont.)...

serving on the front-line in Europe, Africa and Asia - and in the skies and on the high seas. These prayers were not for personal or material gain but in order to take the fight to where it originated: in the heavenly realms.

As we continue our struggle against the invisible enemy of Covid 19, let us pause a moment in grateful memory of our deliverance, drawing inspiration from those who lived faithfully then and made sacrifices for our benefit. Then let us ask what great cause we must rise to now and what resources we may bring to bear for the sake of future generations. Most importantly let us draw strength from the one who won our ultimate deliverance on the cross of Calvary and in whose service ultimate victory is assured!

Your Minister and friend, Rory MacLeod

'A NEW NORMAL'

"The new normal" has become the latest addition to our dictionary of clichés. But like most, if not all, clichés it refers to an insight which has enveloped all of us. Yesterday's mailing from Church HQ included the following poem by Lezley Stewart, which offers a fresh and helpful perspective on this latest phenomenon:



Every normal was once new....
it did not arrive,
but came to be.

Time and tide,
call and creativity,
all played their part
in where we arrived -
in this life in God
which we called normal.

And what of Christ,
our hope, our strength -
whose normal,
once,
was family life,
learning carpenter's ways?

Did he welcome
his call and challenge,
this change to all he knew?

Did he also feel loss,
longing for the familiar,
even while bringing life?

And one day our new normal,
(still becoming) will also bring
new hope -new ways to be.
Things will change again and always,
for life and faith never stand still.

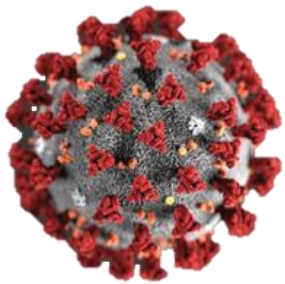
God is making all things new.

Even what is normal....

CORONAVIRUS PROCEDURES

Church Provision

Spring 2020



Due to the Coronavirus, all planned group activities have been cancelled to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We are meeting through Zoom, putting up daily blogs on the website, and updating facebook regularly. We will try to keep people updated on each church through e-mail. If you currently do not get church e-mails, please let us know so that we can add you to the list. E-mail Lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk to get added onto the Broadford/Kyleakin/Elgol lists, or strathandsleat@gmail.com for the Kilmore list.

If you are not on the internet, please let us know, and we will maintain contact through telephone. You can still join the Zoom LIVE BY RINGING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS JUST BEFORE THE START OF THE SERVICE – enter the ID number and password when prompted (and remember to only 'un-mute' your phone if you are asked to)

0131 460 1196 OR 0203 481 5237 OR 0203 481 5240

11am Morning Worship: Meeting ID: 173 461 111 Password: 458436

3pm Gaelic service: Meeting ID: 995 750 933 & Password: 601375

6pm Fellowship: Meeting ID: 660 693 462 & Password: 389583

What about my weekly offering?

Thanks to all who continue to or have started giving through standing order, and we ask that you **continue to do so**. If you previously donated by weekly envelope / open plate we now encourage each of you to consider setting up a Standing Order. Our outgoings will continue as before so it is imperative that church giving continues, if at all possible. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND at this time that a lot of people may be affected by the downturn in the tourist industry, so we ask that you **give what you can**. Please e-mail Margaret, if you are not able to set up a standing order, but would like to give.

The bank details you will need are **Strath & Sleat Church of Scotland**

Sort code: **80-05-83**

Account number: **00930508**

SHAPING THE CHURCH

What are the values we share as Christians and how might they shape our church?

I was prompted to ask these questions through my involvement in the process to restructure the Presbytery system in the Church of Scotland. The idea is to create larger regional centres to which resources of people and money can be redeployed from Church HQ in Edinburgh, so that they can be more responsive to local situations. To be effective, it will be important to ensure that the new entities, or groupings of parishes, share similar values and priorities. And to do that each congregation must know its own response to these questions.

To get the ball rolling here in Strath & Sleat, I offered the Kirk Session a list of about 20 values and asked them to add any that were missing and then rank their top 10. Next I offered a similar list of characteristics, asking them to do the same thing in order to describe what we might expect a church, which is shaped by the values we selected, to look like. A couple of elders accompanied their lists with more descriptive remarks, to expand and qualify their response. Both of these additional submissions were readily endorsed by the rest of the Kirk Session.

So what we emerged with were two lists: of the values we believe are important and of the characteristics which we believe would describe a church which is shaped by these values. These were tempered by a couple of reflective documents, describing some cherished features which are not as readily quantified but are just as much a part of what and who we aspire to be, as a community of faith focused on the Lord Jesus and invigorated by the Holy Spirit.



Values

- Commitment to Christ
- Biblical focus
- Belief in the power of prayer
- Pastoral care as priority
- To be disciple-making disciples
- Mission as priority
- Ministry to all ages
- Welcome for visitors
- To be outward looking
- Creating intimacy
- Attentiveness to the needs of vulnerable people
- Commitment to growth
- Environmental awareness
- Generosity
- Contemporary style



Profile

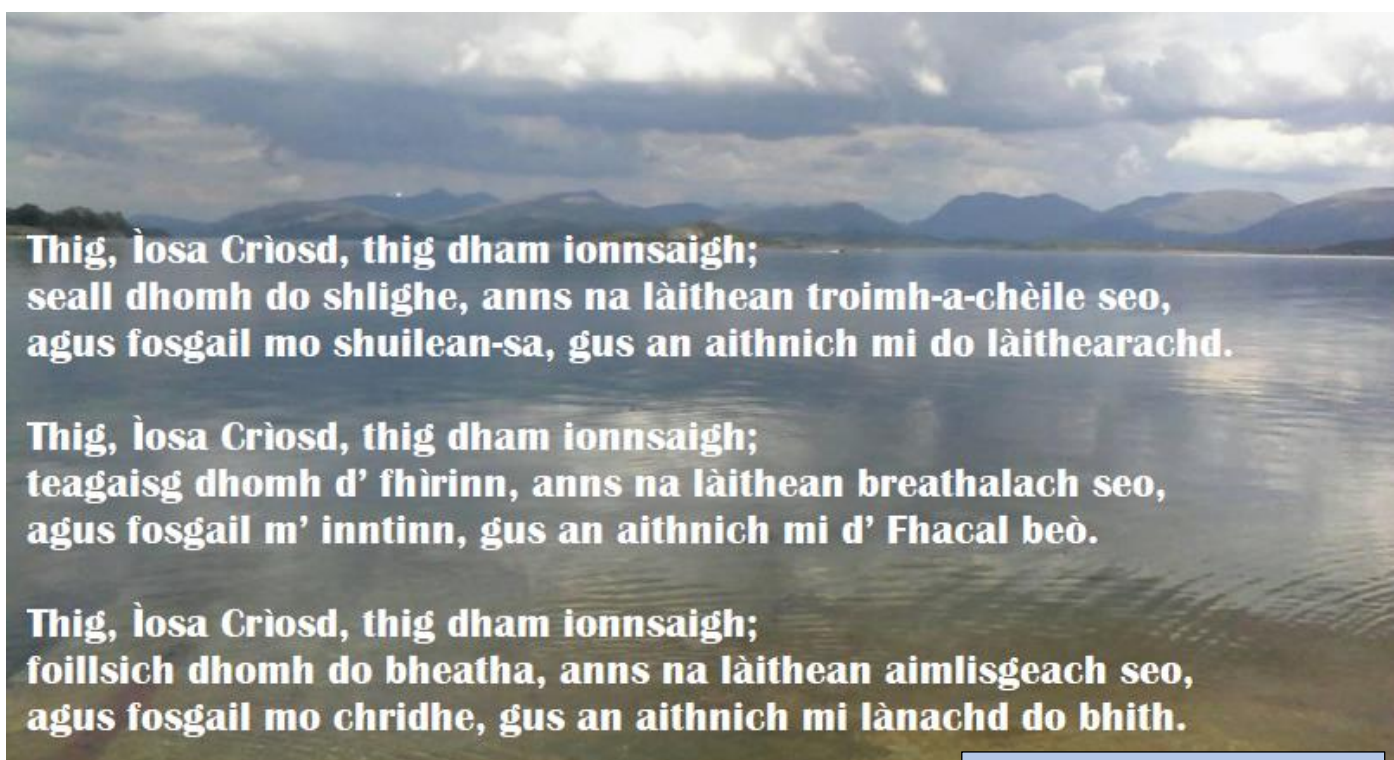
- Christ-centred
- Scripturally oriented
- Prayerful
- Growing: as individuals and as a body
- Missional
- Caring
- Welcoming
- Outward looking
- All-age
- Eclectic praise and worship
- Generous
- Bi-lingual
- Disabled friendly
- Contemporary praise and worship
- Intimate

The next stage will be to engage everyone in the congregation, so that we reach a whole-church perspective. Although the motivating purpose is to guide the redesigning of our Presbytery system, such an exercise also has its merit in helping us reflect on the church we are becoming, as we emerge out of lock-down into the “new normal”. I am choosing my words carefully here to emphasise that lockdown itself is not the “new normal”. This is no-man’s-land and we look forward to moving beyond it.

But we are warned that we shall have to adjust to living with the threat of a relapse, or another virus. Also, there will be positive and negative reflections which also deserve our attention. Air and sea quality have enjoyed significant improvement; how can we preserve that as we re-start the economy? How can we ensure that the recognition of those who emerged as “heroes” (medical staff, teachers, shop workers, &c) is not forgotten in the clamour to move on? What message has the Church for a global community which may conclude that it is coping well enough without any help from on high? These are some of the questions which will shape the “new normal”.

There is a lot at stake, these are momentous times and there are big issues to face. But we have a big God and God has a Church that he has been preparing to meet the hour. So, please look forward to sharing your convictions so that we can hear what the Spirit is saying to our congregation through one another. Every single person who belongs to Strath & Sleat has something to offer, which is so vital that we are incomplete without it!

In grateful anticipation of your involvement, Rory



**Thig, Ìosa Crìosd, thig dham ionnsaigh;
seall dhomh do shlighe, anns na làithean troimh-a-chèile seo,
agus fosgail mo shuilean-sa, gus an aithnich mi do làithearachd.**

**Thig, Ìosa Crìosd, thig dham ionnsaigh;
teagaisg dhomh d’ fhirinn, anns na làithean breathalach seo,
agus fosgail m’ inntinn, gus an aithnich mi d’ Fhacal beò.**

**Thig, Ìosa Crìosd, thig dham ionnsaigh;
foillsich dhomh do bheatha, anns na làithean aimlisgeach seo,
agus fosgail mo chridhe, gus an aithnich mi lànachd do bhith.**

translated by Duncan Sneddon

KILMORE WINDOWS

UPDATE FROM THE FABRIC COMMITTEE::

We have now accepted a quote from Compass Building and Construction Services to replace all the windows with a special kind of double-glazed unit which will satisfy the planners stipulations. That quote is for £87,227+vat and additional costs are professional fees (£1,800+vat) and a compulsory asbestos survey (£546, no vat element), giving a total of £89,573 excl. vat and £107,378 incl. vat.

Funding already secured is:

Central Fabric Fund (General Trustees, Church of Scotland):	£ 20000
Ferguson Bequest Fund	£ 5000
Baird Trust	£ 8000
Consolidated Fabric Fund	£ 35000
Proceeds from appeal (online and offline)	<u>£ 14838</u>
Total:	£ 82838

In addition, we can apply to the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme for a refund of all vat elements (£17805) after the work is completed and have the offer of a loan of £13000 from the General Trustees which we could use to help bridge this time gap.

We have also submitted an application for another £5000 from the Miss ME Swinton Trust and expect the result of this mid-June. If this was successful, we would be getting very close to the vat exclusive figure.

However..... the covid 19 situation could affect prices: although we have accepted a tender price, the signing of the contract with the contractor has been delayed due to the current restrictions and there may be genuine reasons for a review of prices, so we cant take our eye off the ball yet. In a best case scenario, we need AT LEAST another £2000 and possibly more. The appeal remains open, both on and offline. Please contact Nicola, Jean or Margaret if you need further information

And, of course, the current situation is likely to delay the timing of the work but we are still hopeful that Kilmore will be wind and watertight, cosy and welcoming by this coming winter!! I'm sure we all pray for and look forward to the time when we will be welcoming each other in our respective church buildings throughout the Parish.

#BIGKIRKWEEKEND 2020

The weekend of 16th and 17th May has been earmarked as the C of S BigKirkWeekend. Various events can be streamed live on the Church of Scotland website and our Facebook

Saturday 16th May 11am – Rev Dr Martin Fair will be installed as Moderator of the General Assembly. The ceremony will take place in the Assembly Hall with only a few people physically present because of the covid restrictions but followed by thousands of people across Scotland and across the world. The service will be captioned and there will be the option of BSL interpretation. Join us for an historic occasion and a clear statement that the Church is alive and active in these difficult days.

HEART & SOUL CELEBRATION 2020

A special celebration of the life of the Church of Scotland in all its richness and fullness is being streamed online.



The digital version of Heart and Soul, which will be shown on Sunday, 17 May, promises to be a “beacon of light and hope” during the dark days of the Coronavirus lockdown.

The programme, which will run for just over two hours from 2pm via the Church website and Facebook page, features an eclectic mix of worship, music, stories & conversation with a host of guests.

People accustomed to attending the colourful event in Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh – a key part of the General Assembly, which has been cancelled due to the pandemic – will be able to watch it later at a time of their choosing.

Hosted by Rev Ken Froude, Seonaid Knox and Rev Justin Taylor, the abridged event will begin with a replay of the historic online installation service for the new Moderator, Rev Dr Martin Fair, at the General Assembly Hall the previous day at 11am. Rev Bryan Kerr, convener of the Heart and Soul Project Board, said: “At a time of difficulty and concern for a lot of people across society we wanted to send out a clear message that the Church is still open and there to support people.

“It is still a beacon of light and hope in these dark times, and we felt that having a big weekend of celebration when the Moderator is installed in an historic way was a good opportunity to do something different.”



The line-up includes Heart and Soul regulars Fischy Music, who will lead a segment for all ages. There will also be some very special conversations on a range of topics, including how faith guides decision making.

Journalist Hugh Pym, an elder at St Columba's Church in London, will be speaking to Professor Jason Leitch, the National Clinical Director of the Scottish Government, who has been heavily involved in the response to the pandemic.

The BBC's health editor will also be chatting to Viv Dickenson, chief officer of CrossReach, the operating name of the Church's social care council, which runs 70 services for people of all ages across Scotland, including care homes.



Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, convener of the Church's Faith Impact Forum, will be discussing climate justice with Green MSP Ross Greer, a member of Bearsden Cross Church in East Dunbartonshire and Tara Shannon from Church of Scotland Youth. (COSY)

Rev Anne Stewart, a chaplain at HMP Castle Huntly near Dundee, will be in conversation with Hospital chaplain, Deacon Mark Evans DCS, about chaplaincy as a career and the impact of Coronavirus in their places of work. Speaking ahead of the event, Mr Evans, head of spiritual care at NHS Fife, said: "Chaplains affirm the unique worth of each individual and Covid-19 has required healthcare staff to find new ways of working.



The online event will be rounded off with some highlights from the archive over the last ten years of Heart and Soul, the Guild Big Sing and the General Assembly.

PENTECOST CELEBRATION 2020

Sunday 31st May 10-10.30am – Pentecost – streamed on the Church of Scotland website and Facebook

The Moderator will lead a service to mark the birthday of the Christian Church with contributions from many different places. Like the disciples on that first Pentecost here is the invitation to step confidently into whatever the future holds. We would like to invite you to join the national celebration before we continue with our service of praise at 11am.

THY KINGDOM COME: ASCENSION-PENTECOST

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.



I'd like to encourage you to follow the same pattern as last year. Praying for 5 friends/family to come to know the Lord and put their trust in him. If you click on the link above, the web site has quite a lot of downloadable material:
<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/lightuptheworld>

As part of this and as a result of us not being able to come together this year, we have the 24/7 prayer initiative, that is 168 hours of prayer, beginning midnight Sunday 20th and finish midnight Sunday 31st.

If you would like to be part of this click on the link below or contact Mary Fennell for further information prayercoordinator1995@gmail.com

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1arzz5XxV2z5_kzHRurkNvZVBwkCGRcMwq35GEOynwn0/edit?usp=sharing

This will take you directly to rota where you can add your name into as many of the slots as you want. You don't have to do a full seven days or even a full hour- if you only want to do just half an hour at a time then put your name in the slot and then let Mary know.

You can never have enough prayer, so if all the slots have been taken, praise God, but don't let that put you off. Add your name to a slot, in addition to the previous person.

REFLECTIONS ON A DANDELION

This comes from Christine Miles. Christine is part of the National Committee for World Day of Prayer.

As I have taken my permitted daily exercise during this period of isolation, I have seen masses of dandelions. As a Christian I think that we can learn a lot from the dandelion. Often the dandelion is seen only as a weed and is rejected. For quite a large part of the year it is not seen but if we were to dig up a dandelion, we would discover that its roots reach down a long way. They remain firm. When the time is right new buds appear and warmed by the sun they slowly emerge ----- gradually emerging (as if with hands closed) until eventually they become the radiant flower that gives out so much brightness. If we look closely, we realise that it is made up of countless 'strands' - varying in size but each one playing its part in creating the flower as a whole. Eventually of course in due time it becomes a 'clock' and its seeds are scattered far and wide. As 'Christian Dandelions' there are times when we might seem dormant, but we need to remember to keep our roots firmly in the solid ground of God's love. In God's time we are encouraged to be more positive and although sometimes we seem to take quite some time to respond to the warmth of His love, He still calls us to be radiant for Him as we live each day. Let's recognise too that we are scattering seeds. Like the seeds in the parable of the sower they will not all fall on good ground.



Fancy being a dandelion?

Church Life

Funerals

Sheila Stewart, 18th April 2020, Balmacara

Janette Haugene, 30th April 2020, Inverness

Nan Fraser, 7th May 2020, Ashaig

John Pilling, 7th May 2020, Inverness

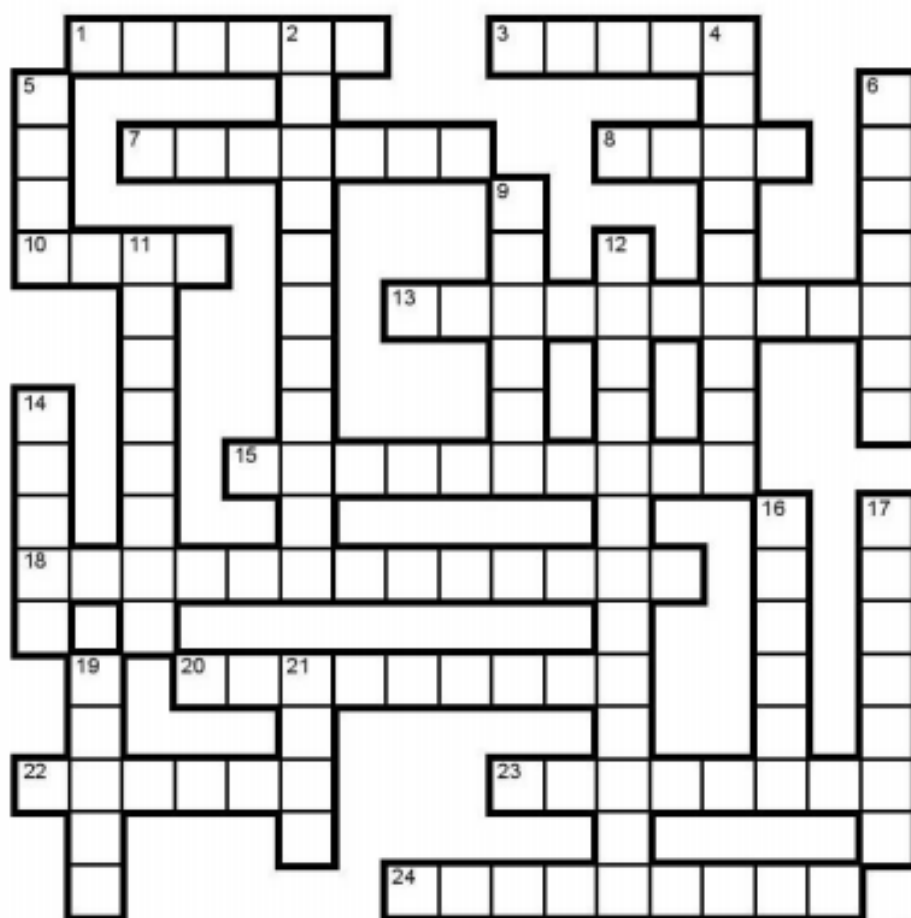
SERMON ON THE MOUNT CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Not to be put under a bushel. (6)
- 3 Let yours shine before men! (5)
- 7 Moth and rust will do this to your earthly store. (7)
- 8 If you do this, you will find. (4)
- 10 These should not be done in view of men. (4)
- 13 The eight sayings by Christ at the beginning of his sermon. (10)
- 15 They sound trumpets in the streets when they are being charitable. (10)
- 18 The peacemakers will be called this. (8,2,3)
- 20 They were with Jesus when he gave the sermon. (9)
- 22 You can't serve God and this. (6)
- 23 Fellow believers. (8)
- 24 The earth is this to God. (9)

Down

- 2 Jesus gave this as example of how to communicate with God. (5,6)



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 4 Don't lay these upon the earth. (9)
- 5 Whoever says this to his brother shall be in danger of the council. (4)
- 6 Those who are given happiness and good fortune. (7)
- 9 When engaging in this, you should enter into your closet and shut the door. (6)
- 11 Where the sermon was given. (8)
- 12 You should search for this first, before worrying about food and clothing. (13)
- 14 What you should do to your eye if it offends. (5)
- 16 They which do this shall be filled. (6)
- 17 The hypocrites disfigured their faces while doing this. (7)
- 19 If you are forced to go a mile with someone, this is how far you should go. (5)
- 21 The foolish man built his house on this. (4)

STRATH & SLEAT

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Times & Contacts

Our Churches

Broadford
High Street
Broadford
Isle of Skye
IV49 9AB



Elgol

Elgol
Isle of Skye
IV49 9BL



Kilmore
Kilmore
Sleat
Isle of Skye
IV44 8RG



Kyleakin

Kyleakin
Isle of Skye
IV41 8PH



Regular meetings and services are postponed until further notice. If you are self-isolating, let us know how we can help:

☐ Picking up shopping

☐ Posting mail

☐ A friendly phone call

☐ Urgent supplies

Contact your local elder or minister below.

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.

#ViralKindness

Church Session BROADFORD/ELGOL

Mairi Dick 01471 822441

mairid375@gmail.com

Farquhar Graham 01471 822671

wfgraham@hotmail.com

KYLEAKIN

Tony Breen 01471 822121

tony_kirsten@hotmail.com

Lesley Jones 01471 822023

lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk

SLEAT

Jean Gillies 01471 844281

jeangillies@btinternet.com

Nicola Thomson 01478 833255

strathandsleat@gmail.com

Minister **Rev. Rory MacLeod**
rorymofg@gmail.com 01471 822416

Treasurer **Margaret Macrae**
mfmacrae@aol.com 01599 534695

Young Church leader **Timmy Currie**
timmycurrie@gmail.com

Prayer secretary **Mary Fennell**
prayercoordinator1995@gmail.com 01471820168

Worship Teams

Broadford	Mary Strachan	01471 822262
Kilmore	Heather Dodgson	01471 833295
	Peter McDermott	01471 844362
Kyleakin	Tony Breen	01471 822121
	Harry Saunders	01599 534145