



# STRATH AND SLEAT PARISH PROFILE

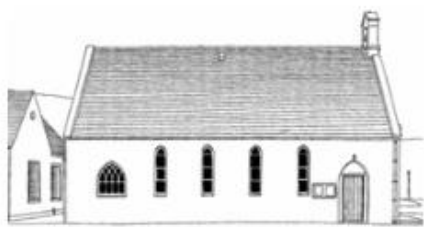


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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in Strath and Sleat parish! We are excited to share our parish profile with you and hope that we have covered as much useful and helpful information as possible. If you have any further questions, you would be very welcome to contact the Interim Moderator or the Session Clerk (details at the end of the [document](#)). Our prayer is that you will take the time to discern that call and we look forward to hearing more from you, if you feel that God is calling you to this wonderful part of the world.

The vacancy in Strath and Sleat has been created due to our Minister taking on the new role of Presbytery Clerk with the new Clèir Eilean Ì: Highlands and Hebrides Presbytery. Our Minister has been in post for nine years and covered a parish of four churches.

As a parish of multiple congregations, we know this can seem like a big challenge for one person, but we want to reassure you that we are a friendly, God-loving, dynamic and capable group of Christians who work well together. Our churches have been functioning under group and team ministry for many years and you can be sure that you will not be left to carry the load alone. We are hugely hospitable, enjoy encouraging one another and helping those around us. We recognise that for some of us, sharing our faith comes more easily than for others, but our prayer is that with discipleship and further equipping, we would be enabled to share our faith more confidently in our local communities as we are aware that the need for God's saving grace and mercy is great.

If you have a heart for sharing the good news of Jesus in our parish and a desire to nurture the faith journeys of this varied congregation who will prayerfully support you, then please, read on!

# 2. HISTORY OF THE CHARGE

## **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.”

As part of the last Local Church Review, each church was given the opportunity to consider its own local mission, identifying individual needs in addition to the overarching mission of the parish. The Kirk Session reviews the mission and parish needs annually at its annual office bearers conference. The work of the Parish Development Assistant post (see [section 10](#)) is closely aligned to those needs.

With three separate buildings to run, team ministry is essential within the parish, both to cover the preaching but also to ensure the churches function from week to week. Each church runs its own rota in terms of readers, hospitality, AV, cleaning, Zoom operator, doorkeepers, cashiers and



young church provision etc. Whilst the parish benefits from a committed team of volunteers, it is very much recognised that some teams are better equipped and larger than others. The congregation is ageing and there is currently not a formal succession plan in place, although there are people and opportunities for others to step up, given some encouragement and equipping.

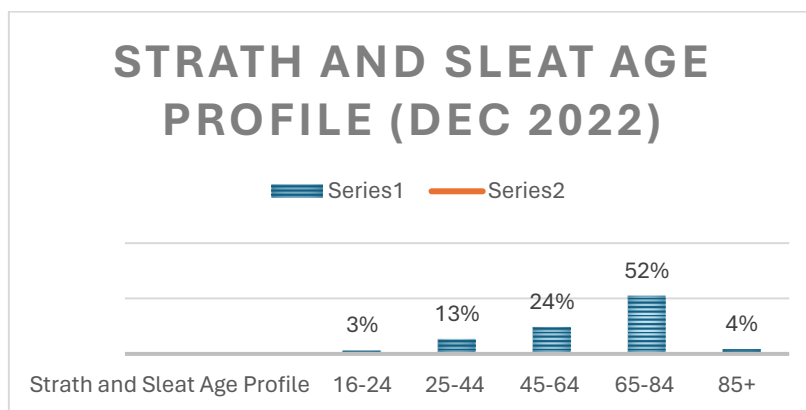
Two of the three congregations have weekly Sunday School and Youth groups (Youth Vestry – Kilmore and Youth Church – Kyleakin) for those in High School. A fledgling group for families is being piloted currently in Broadford – Families Together - following a couple of attempts to attract children back into the church. There are two families attending Broadford church regularly (the second having just moved to the area).

Kilmore has 13 children in the Sunday school (ages 2-11) and 4 teens in YV (all aged 17 and due to leave at the end of next Summer). There are 3 members on the Sunday School Team who rotate and 1 on the Youth Vestry team. Kyleakin has 8 in Sunday School, 3 in creche and 3 attending a monthly YF. The Sunday School is run by one person, accompanied by a rota of helpers, and the creche is run by the parents. The Kyleakin Young Church (YC) has moved to a monthly basis mostly due to a lack of folk able to take it on. As a result, attendance is patchy.

The Kirk Session recognises that many within the congregation are not comfortable sharing their faith or feel that they are not equipped to help grow the church, or disciple others. The Session applied to the Seeds for Growth Fund, based on the idea to create a network of training and development to strengthen spiritual gifts and talents, develop prayer ministry opportunities and help members gain confidence in their faith outwith the church setting. This was declined in December but there is an opportunity to reapply (see 10).

At the 2022 statistical return, there were 96 communicant members and 129 adherents on the roll.

Average attendance in each church is split evenly across the three churches, with between 30-40 in each church, including young people.



There has been a small but notable increase in regular attendance during the last five years, including children, which has been encouraging. A very small number (fewer than 5) have not returned since Covid, although they are able to engage with the services via Zoom.

Zoom is available most weeks and rotates between Kyleakin and Kilmore, where there are teams equipped to manage the technology. Only the sermons are posted online, allowing for personal



interaction to continue during the service e.g. the children's address, the Minister's box (marking any achievements/news with the children) and an open call for prayer requests.

Our **Presbytery Mission Plan** calls us to manifest the **Five Marks of Mission** and use all our available resources of people and buildings. The following objectives were included for Strath & Sleat in the recent Presbytery Mission Plan:

1. **To achieve readjustment sensitively, in a positive and harmonious way**
2. **To provide worship opportunities that will more fully engage those already attending**
3. **To nurture faith and discipleship**
4. **To develop the use of livestreaming to share worship services between scattered rural locations while remaining committed to the ensuring the participation of those who are digitally excluded**
5. **To replant church communities e.g. Elgol congregation and Broadford youth**
6. **To support ecumenical initiatives**
7. **To engage children and young people in new ways while supporting local initiatives**
8. **To develop effective connections with the '20 – 40's' in our communities**
9. **To collaborate with other partners, including local community groups, local community councils and the Highland Community Partnership, in support of those living with deprivation who have health & well-being challenges; are economically deprived; impacted by the educational attainment gap, and are rurally isolated**
10. **To promote inclusion of the elderly within society**
11. **To encourage participation from the 'invisible/ hidden church'**
12. **To share the gospel with those who have little/ no faith**
13. **To welcome tourists and travellers**
14. **To interact with those interested in heritage of faith/ cultural identity, e.g. the Gaelic interested community**
15. **To develop effective connections with those in the 50-65 age range in our communities, and especially those who are new to the area, both working and recently retired.**
16. **To develop links with harbour/ port communities**
17. **To provide respite to the local/ international stranger/ friend we have not yet met while supporting those engaged in mission abroad through giving and prayer**
18. **To promote peace and reconciliation locally and internationally**
19. **To be exemplars in taking practical actions, within our own spheres of influence, which promote creation care through tackling climate change and the loss of biodiversity**

The Parish of Strath and Sleat was the only parish within the Presbytery not to join in union with another, as part of the recent reorganisation. The parish also has an unrestricted tenure currently.

### **The Kirk Session**



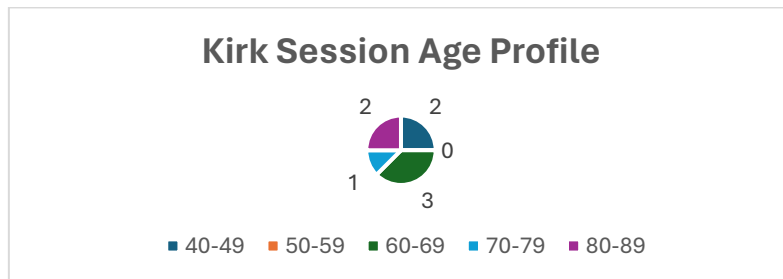
There are eight elders on the Kirk Session. In addition to the Elders, the Treasurer and Parish Development Assistant usually attend the monthly meetings. The Kirk Session comprises three males and five females and is fairly representative of the parish.

The Kirk Session meets monthly and to date has not created any formal sub-committees, although this is currently under review considering the now completed Presbytery Mission Plan. Kilmore does, however, have a property committee, which meets as required and reports to Session.

Once every quarter, the usual Session meeting is replaced by an opportunity to spend time in fellowship, working through the Church of Scotland's LEARN booklet of focussing on a specific topic such as communion. This is an important part of the Session's own team building, time of fellowship and theological development.

All but three of the current elders were ordained in November 2016. Of those three, one had remained since the previous Session and an additional two were ordained/readmitted in 2023.

The elders are spread across the parish although a representative from Elgol would be most welcome: Kyleakin – 2 Broadford – 2 Kilmore – 4 Elgol – 0

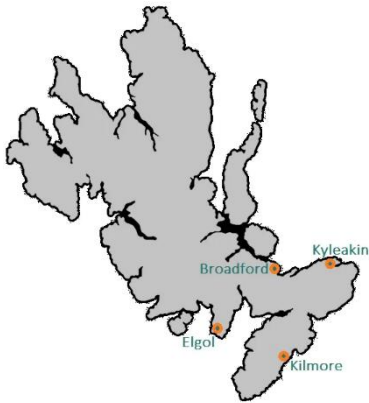


Some of the Elders, now retired from Session, provide much needed pastoral care locally, and are part of a wider ecumenical rota for services at An Acarsaid, the local care home for the elderly and hospital visits.



# 3. COMMUNITY PROFILE

If Strath and Sleat were a population of 100 people:



- 8 would be in Primary School.
- 4 would be in High School
- 22 would be aged between 25 and 44
- 18 would be aged 65 or over
- 76 would be of working age (16-74), including
  - 16 who have no qualifications; 30 who have a University degree
  - 24 who work full time; 14 who are retired
- 72 would describe themselves as 'White - Scottish'
- 4 would describe their health as bad or very bad
- 9 would be providing unpaid care
- 35 would say they belonged to the Church of Scotland

The Parish of Strath and Sleat is situated in the south end of the exceptionally beautiful Isle of Skye, off the northwest coast of Scotland, and is connected to the mainland by the Skye Bridge and ferry crossings at Glenelg and Mallaig. It is geographically a large and scattered parish consisting of the two main peninsulas of Sleat and Strath. Broadford is the main centre of population but there are many smaller villages scattered around the parish.

**Kyleakin** sits at the Skye end of the bridge and is a small community which has recently had 30 new houses built and inhabited. Kyleakin is a busy village with backpackers and has recently seen an increase in jobs by the Mowi fish farming unit which has become one of the largest employers in the area.

The **Sleat** peninsula (home to Kilmore church) has a population of just under 1,000 and is also the home of the Gaelic College, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. The college is part of the University of the Highlands and Islands, and a new phased village is currently underway near to the main campus, with up to fourteen new houses currently being built. Further south, in Armadale,



1 Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Gaelic College, Sleat



fourteen new homes have just been completed. Around 28% of the parish of Strath and Sleat speak Gaelic and Gaelic is an important feature of the parish. There is a Gaelic service once a month and Gaelic features in most services, either in readings or a Gaelic hymn. The Kilmore Sunday School and YV is delivered in Gaelic by 2 of the 4 volunteers (unless any children attend without Gaelic). There is a Free Church of Scotland in Sleat and Strath which is also currently vacant.



*2 Broadford Bay sunset*

**Broadford** is 25 miles from Portree to the north, and 8 miles from Kyle of Lochalsh on the mainland. The church is very visible, on the main street. Broadford also has a monthly Gaelic service. Broadford is the main village in south Skye where most people go for services – hospital, filling station, Co-op and some shops.



*3 Elgol looking across to the Cuillins*

**Elgol** is a small village, 15 miles of single-track road west of Broadford. A small crofting township, it has recently lost its church building as part of the wider Presbytery's well-equipped spaces in the right places scheme. There is a small but loyal congregation in Elgol and in addition to the





seasonal joint parish service held in its very well-equipped community hall, it would be a great blessing to the parish to see worship re-established.

Funerals tend to be held in the Church of Scotland buildings, due to them being bigger, in Broadford, Kilmore and Kyleakin, and they are available for use by all the denominations.

The distance from the main manse (in Breakish) to the parish churches ranges from 2 to 16 miles.

The parish benefits from a new hospital, opened in 2022, in Broadford. There are schools in each of the three church areas – Sleat Primary which is a Gaelic-medium education (GME) school with an English unit, Broadford which provides a GME stream and Kyleakin English only school. Elgol primary school was mothballed in 2022, as there is a gap between the High School aged children and the pre-schoolers.

There are surgeries/health centres in Sleat, Broadford and just over the Skye bridge from Kyleakin (in Kyle of Lochalsh).

There are well-used community halls in each of the four areas in the parish and active community development trusts and groups in Strath (which covers Broadford and Elgol) and Sleat (Kilmore).

**COOL (Christian Outlook on Lochalsh)** is an independent charity which employs a fulltime Youth Worker. As part of his remit, he provides monthly assemblies and other events/contact with each of the Primary Schools in the parish (and neighbouring parish of



Glenelg, Kintail and Lochalsh) as well as weekly contact with the pupils in Plockton High School. A Holiday Club is also run every Easter and Summer as an ecumenical event with the Free Church, which spans Strath and Sleat and South West Ross Church of Scotland (a recent union of Glenelg, Kintail and Lochalsh with Applecross and Lochcarron). There is no current link with Portree High School other than that the Head Teacher is one of our Elders.

Skye and Lochalsh is served by two high schools – one in Portree and one in Plockton, which is also home to the Music School of Excellence. The catchment area for Plockton includes Kyleakin and some pupils from Broadford and Sleat also opt to attend Plockton. Most Skye pupils, however, attend Portree and there is a residential hostel for those living in outlying areas of the island (i.e. south of Sleat and Elgol), who stay up from Monday - Friday.

The schools are generally receptive to any outreach and the last two years, thanks to the work of the **Parish Development Assistant**, all Primary Schools participated in the Christmas Unwrapped and Christmas Journey programmes, delivered by the PDA, COOL worker and



*4 Nativity in Kilmore church 2023*



volunteers within each congregation, which saw the entire school spend the morning in their respective churches learning about the story of Jesus' birth.

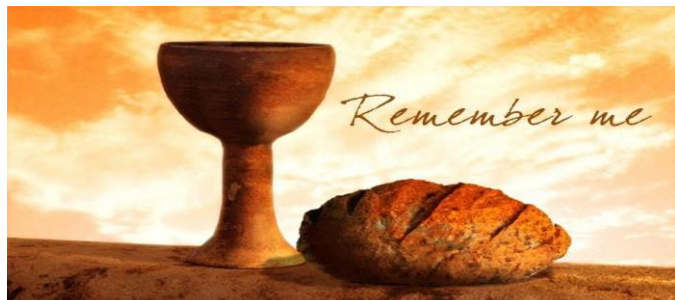
Bun-sgoil Shlèite (Sleat Primary School) holds its own Christmas service in the church every year, which is open to all parents and the community.

Workplace chaplaincy has not been used yet within the parish, although a Gaelic ministry ran for around 4 years (approx. 2009-2013), An Sgeul Mòr, which was funded by the Emerging Ministries Fund, which focussed on providing pastoral care and spiritual development in Gaelic to the staff and students of Sabhal Mor Ostaig.

## 4. WORSHIP LIFE

Sunday services are held in the three churches at 11am. A preaching rota comprising the Minister and a team of lay preachers, ensures that each church has a weekly morning service. This means each congregation has the Minister on a rotation basis, normally every three weeks.

Communion is held quarterly, once in each church, as a joint parish service. Gaelic services are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday, in Broadford and Kilmore, respectively. Sunday fellowship takes place on Sunday evenings in Kyleakin. Services are similar in format (usually a traditional format) but vary significantly in terms of content and style, depending on the preacher and praise leader. Kilmore and Broadford tend to be more traditional and Kyleakin is considered to be more modern, in terms of praise. But overall, all congregations are open to new things. Most of the preachers rotate but the praise teams tend to stay within their own respective churches.



### Midweek provisions



#### **Mondays**

Church revival group – weekly – Zoom  
Make It Count – Baby and toddler group – Sleat

#### **Tuesdays**

Kyleakin Prayer Meeting – ecumenical group  
Make It Count – Baby and toddler group – Broadford



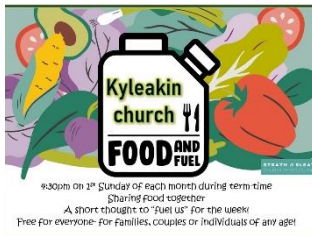
## Wednesdays

Broadford Bible Study

Gaelic bible study with students from the Gaelic College and congregation members

## Thursdays

Kilmore Ladies' Group



## First Sundays (term-time)

**Nourish** – Food and fuel for the week.

Aimed at families who can have a hot meal and hear the gospel.



5 Summer bible study, Tarskavaig, Sleat



6 Kyleakin Morning Worship

Worship usually follows a traditional format, beginning with the notices and a prayer from local elders before the preacher or Minister takes over. Children's addresses are included, and the children and young people tend to go out to Young Church after the second hymn.

Preachers are usually prescribed a topic or a suggested reading, so that the parish is hearing about similar messages, whilst recognising that some preachers may receive a word from the Holy Spirit which they are, of course, free to run with. Readings are bilingual in Kilmore and at joint services with a Gaelic hymn normally included for Kilmore and Broadford too.

Gaelic services follow a much more traditional format, and continue with the dedicated precentor, who leads the singing.

The gospel is preached weekly and usually aimed at those already in the church. It has been noted as a priority going forward that discipleship and evangelism are areas many feel they would like to see developed within the parish. The strengths within the parish are currently more around hospitality, encouragement and helping one another.

Communion is celebrated quarterly, at joint services although this had been under review during the last few months of 2023. The Session has agreed to make the information around communion much clearer to those in attendance and as accessible as possible, whilst recognising that Church of Scotland regulations still requires a public profession of faith, usually followed by the



partaking of communion. However, local practice is that the communion table is open to all. Children can take communion and the decision is left to the parents but again, this is an area which could be better communicated as part of the Session's ongoing review.

Since 2018 there have been five baptisms and one dedication across the parish.

Special services take place at Christmas time, with an evening Christmas Eve service in Kilmore (7pm), a Christmas Eve Watchnight in Broadford (11.15pm – although this might change to an evening service) and a Christmas Day service in Kyleakin (short and informal, led by one of the elders).

There is also a Back to School with God service held every August in the Kyleakin Village Hall, which is led by the COOL Youth Worker and open to both parishes and other churches too.

There are worship teams within each church who agree with the relevant preacher what will be sung/played each week. Each church also has an AV team who ensure the words are put up on the screens, along with the relevant readings and other notices. Most of the music is used from Mission Praise/CH4 (Kilmore and Broadford) or from contemporary worship bands (Kyleakin).

Broadford praise is led by an organ and keyboard and accompanying musicians on flute and trumpet.

Kilmore has an organ, although a keyboard is also used depending on who is playing, and this is often accompanied by a cello.

Kyleakin is usually led by guitar, piano and flute.

There is no printed order of service. Weekly notices are issued via email which include information about the weekly services and anything else going on that week, e.g. local fundraising, church related events etc. A minimum number are printed for those who are housebound or without internet access, and these are hand delivered weekly by the elders. Some copies are also available in church.

A quarterly parish newsletter is issued and distributed, and this is an excellent way of sharing parish news with the wider community too.

There used to be an ecumenical Joint Area Communion held quarterly in Kyleakin Hall, organised by the COOL Worker) but this has not returned following Covid. It was always very well attended and would be a great blessing if it could be resurrected.

Elders, both serving and retired from Session, manage most of the pastoral care, along with the Minister. Given the changing demographic of Session, the traditional visits have diversified, and folk are contacted in numerous ways either online, in person or on the phone. The Church is part of a wider group of volunteers who provide a thought on Sunday afternoons in An Acarsaid, which is a residential care home in Broadford. Elders regularly visit the Broadford hospital too, as did



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Gach Ciad Shàbaid  
An t-Àth Leathann 3f



**Seirbheisean Gàidhlig**



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the Minister, and are always made welcome. There is no longer an official hospital Chaplaincy role.

Elders can advise the Minister of any pastoral concerns or emergency situations. The island is serviced by two excellent undertaker businesses.

Since 2018 there have been 75 church funerals, although a number of these have been taken by other denominations but held in Strath and Sleat churches.

There have been 8 weddings during that same period, of which 4 were for people visiting the area rather than living in the parish.

## 6. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



7 Kyleakin Creche

Kilmore and Kyleakin churches have long-standing Sunday Schools and YV (Youth Vestry) for those in High School. Creche facilities are also available in Kyleakin and in Kilmore they usually join from aged 2. Broadford has had a few wilderness years in terms of children although this is currently being turned around, with the recent arrival of two new families.

One member has taken the initiative in co-ordinating a variety of trial activities, called “Families Together,” the most successful to date being held on recognised holidays e.g. Christmas, Valentines, Halloween etc. These have been very well attended although the children attending on Sundays remains at the two families. A new team of volunteers has emerged because of this mission work, and they are optimistic for the future.

YV in Kilmore recently visited St. Paul’s Episcopalian Church in Amman, Jordan, as part of its twinning programme. The Kilmore YV group (3) are all in their final year of High School and the next cohort, about to start High School in August, will move up then (3).

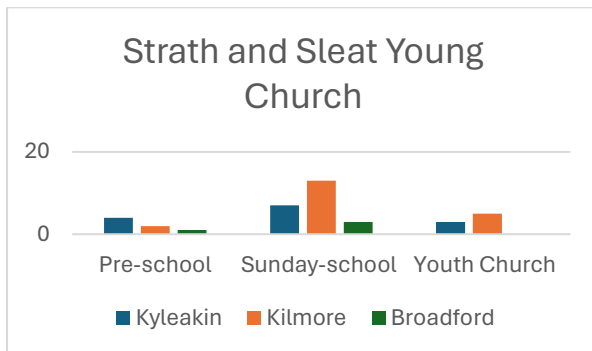
YC Kyleakin was meeting monthly, but this has recently stopped due to lack of volunteers and young people. There are a couple of regular teenagers, but they just stay in for the service. YV



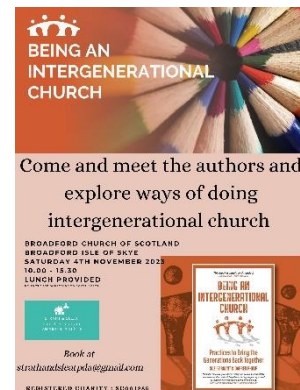
8 YV and leaders in Jordan, at a Youth Conference



Kilmore is now leading the Sunday School monthly as part of their personal development. This has been really encouraging. The children and young people take part in services across the parish, especially at specific times e.g. Christmas and Easter. YV Kilmore also served communion last Autumn at a Kilmore communion aimed at those who tended not to travel for the joint services. It was a special time together and several people commented on how nice it was to see the young people doing this. They are also on the tea/coffee rota and help with anything else as required. All-age services are a common event too, depending on the time of year and the preacher. Sometimes the youth will take the entire service, as happened in Kyleakin and Kilmore for the Christmas service.



Outside of the Bible studies, there is no Christian education or outreach for the adults at present, although an Alpha course was trialled with congregation members as a pilot back in 2022, but the numbers were not high enough to run it again for the public. There has been some discussion around an early discipleship programme for those who have been attending church but might be at an early stage in their faith. A couple of training days took place as part of the Parish Development Assistant’s role.



## 7. ECUMENICAL CONTEXT

There used to be a regular forum for ministers and preachers of the various denominations (Church of Scotland, Free Church, Episcopalian, Catholic and the independent churches). It has fallen by the wayside due to co-ordination and timings but would be a very welcome addition to supporting church leaders across the island.

As mentioned, there used to be a Joint Area Service, organised by the COOL Worker, between the Free Church of Scotland, the Church of Scotland and other local Christian groups, which included South Skye and Lochalsh, but this no longer runs.





9 Ladies' Day Worship in Broadford, refurbished church

A Ladies' Network was established by a group of members alongside the Parish Development Assistant, which encourages women from all churches and none, to come together for fellowship, equipping and training. To that end two conferences were held in Broadford Church in addition to a movie night, which attracted some local people who do not currently attend. It is hoped this work can be expanded.

## 8. WORLD CHURCH

The parish is linked to the Hope and Faith School, in Zambia, providing thousands of pounds annually to support their school for orphaned children, via an independent charity set up by members of the church. On average, around £20,000 will be sent to the school each year and there are currently 27 individuals and families sponsoring High School aged pupils. There has always been strong community support of the project too. There have been reciprocal visits a number of times, including sending over teachers from Skye to support with the curriculum.



10 Hope & Faith School Pupils enjoying lunch



The partnership with St Paul's Episcopal Church in Jordan has been running for around 5 years and it is hoped that a reciprocal visit can be planned soon.



11 First visit to St Paul's Jordan in 2018



The church participates in Christian Aid week annually and supports local charities such as Blythswood, and the local Food Bank. A Gift Service is held each year which provides donations of food for local families too.



12 Walk across Skye bridge for Christian Aid week

The parish has recently been involved on two occasions in the New Scots Holiday scheme which provides holidays for refugees settled in other parts of Scotland, usually in an urban area. Church families hosted the visitors in their own homes and organised activities to give the families a break and experience of another part of their adopted homeland. This has been hugely successful, and both the hosts and the beneficiaries have really gained a lot from the experiences.



13 New Scots guests arrive in Kyle train station

There is a Creation Care group which has tried to take practical steps over the last 5 years, however, interest has been fairly limited so far. Projects have included working on the Broadford church gardens and showing movies such as The Letter, to a wider audience.

## 9. STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

	Income	Expenditure
31 Dec 2019	£140,041	£106,357
31 Dec 2020	£186,702	£186,935
31 Dec 2021	£137,133	£129,141
31 Dec 2022	£137,363	£155,412

In 2021 there was a surplus of £12,556 in the General Fund and in 2022 a surplus of £6,135 in the General Fund. (Note: 2023 figures are not finalised yet)





The Giving to Grow contribution 2024 gross figure is £58,953. Strath and Sleat has always met its target for the Ministries and Mission allocation (prior to 2022) and Giving to Grow allocation (since 2022).

The parish is not part of a National Stewardship Campaign.

The Treasurer tries to keep the congregations aware of preferred local giving methods - Free Will Envelopes, Standing Orders and Gift Aid.

We also do quite a bit of fundraising, some for our buildings and some for specific charities and projects, through charity cafes, quiz nights, car washes and other events.

We were registered members of the Eco-congregation programme for a few years up to 2022 but our membership has now lapsed although we still receive the newsletters. Most of the eco-congregation work is looked after by our Creation Care group.



*14 Enthusiastic car washers!*

## 10. STAFFING

Strath and Sleat currently has one employee - the part-time Parish Development Assistant. This post was fully funded by a local legacy left to the church and runs up to the end of March 2024. An application to the Seeds for Growth fund to run a project aimed at equipping and discipling those within the church, was declined in December, albeit with an offer to develop the application with Church of Scotland personnel. It was decided, however, at Session to put this on hold until a new Minister is in place. The current Parish Development Assistant's contract will cease on 31 March 2024. The PDA is line managed by one of the Elders and she attends all the Kirk Session meetings.

### **Supporting the Minister**

Whilst there is not a Church Secretary, the Session members and Office Bearers provide support to the Minister in the following ways:

The Session Clerk co-ordinates the Preaching Rota, the annual church calendar and services the Kirk Session, as well as general administrative requests during the year. Local Elders are responsible for managing their local church teams and rotas (e.g. door, readings, AV, praise), ensuring that weekly worship is arranged, independent of input from the Minister except in the church in which they are preaching.





In addition to the accounts, the Treasurer also manages the Church Roll and is the Gift Aid Convenor and Stewardship Convenor. Cashiers are in each of the three churches, and they each make deposits and keep financial records for reporting back to the Treasurer. The previous Treasurer also supports the Treasurer. Accounts are independently examined annually.

A member of Session prepares and distributes the weekly notices.

The parish newsletter has a new editor from the congregation, who has edited two excellent issues so far.

Life events (baptisms, weddings, funerals) are recorded in a secure shared drive and are accessible by Session members. Requests for pastoral visits are currently routed via the Session Clerk while the parish remains vacant.

## 11. CHURCH, MANSE AND HALLS

A copy of the most recent survey is available should you be called for an interview.

### The Churches

The buildings continue to require time and resources. **Broadford church** was refurbished in 2021, where the pews were removed, modern heating installed and the floor sanded back, to provide a multi-use space. This has enabled the church to be used in a variety of formats which has led to new external lets and increasing footfall from the community. However, there is a very basic kitchen area which has limited the opportunities available for further use. Plans are being considered, but it is recognised that any changes would incur costs not currently available within parish funds.

**Kilmore church** recently replaced all its windows with double glazing to warm and dry the building which suffers from water ingress in various areas. The work has helped to an extent although water ingress remains an issue, coming in mostly from the belltower which has been an ongoing issue for years. The Youth Group is most impacted as the vestry space used by them is very damp.

**Kyleakin church** is in good repair with the only actual costs this year being an improved technical system.

However, Kyleakin and Kilmore are due to have heating assessments which could result in new systems for both, likely to be a substantial outlay with funding applications required.



## **Manses**

There are two manses linked to the charge – the main manse, situated in Breakish, and a newer manse, which was built for a previous Associate Minister in Sleat. The Sleat manse was on a long-term commercial let for 8 years but has recently been let to a local family. The rental monies are paid into the Central Consolidated Fabric Fund but are available to the parish for use.

The church does not own any other property outside of the churches, halls and manses.

The Manse Schedule is attached as an appendix. There is some work being done, and recently carried out, on the Breakish manse and full details are included in the schedule. The Breakish manse is a substantial building, in a beautiful setting, with splendid views out to Broadford Bay. The house was built in 2004. It is a detached bungalow with four bedrooms, study, sitting room, dining room and large kitchen, plus a detached garage and large garden. No further cosmetic changes will be made until a new Minister is appointed.



*15 Breakish Manse, with Beinn na Caillich in the distance*

*16 Breakish Manse from the main road, A87*





17 Kilmore Manse, currently let to a local family.

## Halls

There is a church hall attached to Kyleakin church which is used for Sunday School, fellowship and hired out to various groups through the week.

Kilmore does not have a hall but has attached community rooms which provide space for Young Church and fellowship. The local church choir met regularly although it has not reconvened since Covid. These rooms are also used as spillover space frequently at funerals, with a linked monitor to watch/listen to the service. The main issue around extended use of these rooms is the lack of parking outside the church.

Broadford does have a church hall, behind the church, but the building was condemned some years ago. As the building contains some asbestos, it requires specialist treatment for demolishing. It is classed as B on the presbytery plan, which means it will be disposed of within the life of the current Presbytery Mission Plan. Demolition will be expensive and other avenues are currently being explored by the Kirk Session.

## Lets and Hall hire

There are lets currently in place for various groups, usually just for a few hours here and there, and they include the Highland Council for Baby Massage and Social Services sessions, the local choir for performances in the churches, the local florist for workshops, the local Counselling Care organisation for events. Within the church, spaces are used for Baby Groups, Bible studies, Ladies' groups, mid-week worship sessions, Creation Care groups, the local church revival group, fellowship and family ministry such as Nourish and Families Together. It is hoped a series of CAP training will start sometime next year.



## 12. CONCLUSION

We hope that you have enjoyed reading about our parish. We are expectant for what God is going to bring for us in the coming year and if you feel that you might be called to be part of that, we would love to hear from you.

## 13. LINKS

Further information about the church, the parish and the wider communities can be found below.

[www.sschurch.co.uk](http://www.sschurch.co.uk)

[www.camuscross.org](http://www.camuscross.org)

[Strath and Sleat Parish Data](#)

[Home - Broadford & Strath Community Company \(broadfordandstrath.org\)](#)

[www.visitsleat.org.uk](http://www.visitsleat.org.uk)

[Facebook and Instagram](#)

[www.sct.org.uk](http://www.sct.org.uk)

[OSCR accounts](#)

[www.sleat.org.uk](http://www.sleat.org.uk)

## 14. FURTHER INFORMATION

If you require additional information you should contact the Nominating Committee (see web for details) but you may also contact the following, for more general information.

Fred Vincent

Nicola Thomson

Interim Moderator

Session Clerk

[fvincent@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:fvincent@churchofscotland.org.uk)

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