

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE



**'Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").' John 20.16**

The conversation between Mary and Jesus on the first Easter Sunday has all the freshness, spontaneity and wonder you would expect from such an unlikely encounter. With the benefit of hindsight we take it for granted that Jesus rose from the dead three days after his crucifixion. The prophets said he would and so did he. Why were the disciples so slow to understand?

Of course things look very different up close and as they happen. People don't generally recover from death. In fact no one has ever died so conclusively and risen so vibrantly as Jesus, rendering that event unique in human history and of transforming significance to salvation history. And it's not just that Jesus pulled off another miracle...

The resurrection of Jesus confirms the efficacy of his death as a ransom for sin. To defeat death Jesus had to be perfect because death is the consequence of sin so, where there is no sin, death has no grip. And to pay the price for sin Jesus had to live a perfect life because the only adequate sacrifice is a perfect one. So Jesus' death and resurrection pays the price for sin and opens the way to heaven. What a gift!

No wonder Christians are excited about our message. There are plenty of other religions and philosophies which will promise you a good life or a better hereafter but only Jesus delivers a remedy to sin and an invitation into God's New Creation. As we look forward to life after lockdown, let's not stumble into it as if we've been hibernating and suddenly it's time to wake up. Let's plan to harness the opportunity to learn lessons, enjoy a fresh start, do some things differently while relishing getting back to others that are cherished and sorely missed. Our priority must be renewed commitment to our mission, hence all the fuss about Alpha: PLEASE GET INVOLVED!

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### 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."

#### Need prayer or someone to pray with you?

Email Mary Fennell [prayercoordinator1995@gmail.com](mailto: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.sschurch.co.uk](http://www.sschurch.co.uk)

**Notices** [lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk)

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

(MINISTER'S MESSAGE continued...)

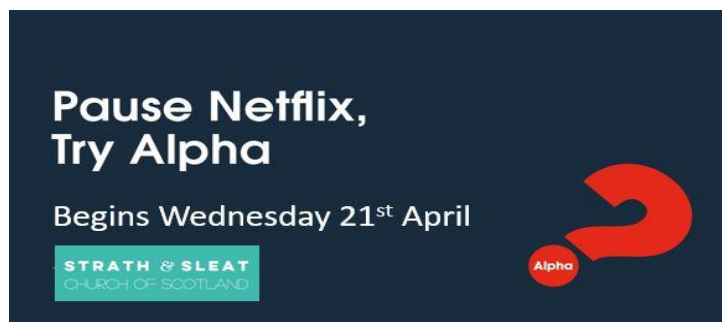
For effectiveness we need to make sure our behaviour and our profile reflect our message. The recruitment of a parish development assistant is designed to help us do that, by identifying areas of need and opportunity in the church and in the community and making connections.

Making sure our buildings conform to the new Church of Scotland mantra "well equipped spaces in the right places" is especially relevant in these environmentally sensitive days. I want to seize on something Anne MacLennan says further on in this newsletter, when she suggests walking around the Broadford Church grounds to imagine how they could be transformed so that they conform to the message we want to proclaim to the world. Well, let's do that with all of our buildings!

Heritage is becoming an increasingly familiar word, probably in response to the superficiality of so much of contemporary life. And we have heritage in abundance. In addition to the inheritance of faith and the Bible which we share with all of our sisters and brothers in Christ, our local story can be traced all the way to the arrivals of Saints Columba and Maolrubha. The parishes of Strath & Sleat have witnessed the ravages of the Viking era, the glories of the Lordship of the Isles, the chaos of the clans, the tragedy of the clearances. And here we are – still; by the grace of God; ready for the next chapter. May you find rest and inspiration in this season of hope we call Easter!

Rory

## ALPHA



**Weekly, from 21st April, Wednesdays @7:30pm.** The church Alpha Course is starting after Easter and running for the ensuing 11 Wednesday evenings. It is our opportunity to explore the faith we share, as a church, so we can be confident in our faith and in sharing it with others appropriately. Here is the link for the google form to register for the alpha course:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf5D0a0ckVP6vltimwfgUhcqMaGymDyFS9IHQ7\\_W7HliefyMhA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf5D0a0ckVP6vltimwfgUhcqMaGymDyFS9IHQ7_W7HliefyMhA/viewform)

For those wishing to join Alpha by phone, please let the minister or one of the elders know (And please register if you feel you might be able to host one of the small groups in the breakout rooms. Training for hosting the small groups in the breakout rooms is on Wednesday evening on 14th April)

# CREATION CARE CORNER

We are living in a time of crises: Covid, Brexit, fake news, biodiversity loss, climate change, and gross inequities within the human populations of the world. It is easy to add the lack of spiritual direction and hope in society, but are we, as a Christian community, clearly demonstrating the direction and hope that we have through faith in our loving, omniscient, omnipotent Redeemer?

The number of hungry people in the world has been increasing since 2014. In 2019, 690 million people were undernourished, 144 million children were stunted due to malnourishment and 38 million were overweight. For the same year, Scotland had a persistent poverty rate of 12%, or 16% for children (19% in England). Since then, the pandemic has exacerbated societal inequities. Scotland currently wastes about one third of food from production through to households.

Meantime, demands for more and ever-cheaper food for rich countries are driving forest clearances, with loss of wildlife habitat and reduced biodiversity, increasing vulnerability to extreme weather impacts and further pandemics. The well-publicised Australian floods are affecting areas devastated by last year's terrible wildfires. Less well-publicised are the many disastrous weather events in third world countries, with loss of lives, homes, and jobs. Forced migration, conflict and mental health sequelae are all too common.

We are living in a time of multiple assaults on, and insults to, God's creation. God's people are needed to do his work, bringing love, peace and hope to a troubled society. Eco-congregation Scotland (ECS) provides guidance, ideas and support for churches to make a difference in their own communities and beyond. Strath and Sleat Church joined ECS a few months ago, so we can embrace their mission of discovering what it means to care for God's creation in prayer, worship, and conversation; and then putting that care into action, desiring to live justly in a transformed world.

We are not called to fix everything on our own, but to let God work through us. There are many things we can do individually to become less wasteful of resources and more respectful of our environment, but what can we do as a church community?



One idea is to develop the Broadford Church grounds. To show that we care about our environment and the wider community. Suggestions have included planting fruit trees or bushes, placing bird feeders, growing colourful flowers and shrubs, and establishing a 'sit-ooterie' at the back. The grounds are not extensive, and there are some issues to sort out, but potential advantages include: making the church site more attractive to passers-by, increasing biodiversity, growing local food – perhaps for the food bank, inviting other community groups of adults and children to join us and share the space, and having a place to relax, socialise or worship. This could open up more outreach opportunities.

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## CREATION CARE CORNER *Continued...*

I invite you to have a stroll round the church, think about the possibilities and get back to me. Think too, of other projects for the parish or individual churches, for instance litter-picking, repair workshops, or teaching and learning new skills. I would also welcome any eco-tips for the weekly Notices in case I run out of ideas!

Have a look at the ECS website for ideas. Join in with some of the Zoom meetings and webinars on a range of topics: Upcoming Events ([ecocongregationscotland.org](http://ecocongregationscotland.org))

Creation Care meetings are held on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday every month by Zoom, 7.30-9pm. All welcome

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April: Starting a series of Tear Fund studies on Christianity and Climate Change, with discussion after a short video talk. Zoom link in the Notices each week.

Anne aomacl@tighgorm.scot 01471 822 501



## MUSINGS ON PALM SUNDAY 2021

This morning I rose early – the clock had moved forward an hour during the night. I made a cup of tea and tuned in at 8.10 to Radio 4 to listen to the morning service, led by the Methodist minister The Reverend Doctor Calvin T Samuel.

There was variety in the style of praise, and it occurred to me that the more modern praise items were all rendered in an American accent. This got me wondering ... did the BBC import singers from “across the Pond” to deliver the praise? Surely not, in a time of Covid, travel bans and lockdown. In that case, are the singers British, but rendering praise in American accents? And if so, why? Is God more receptive to American accents?

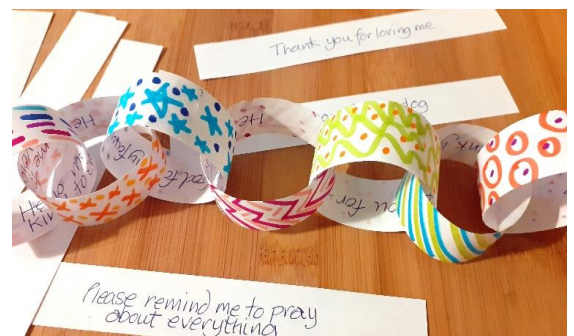
If so, then it could be extended to other areas of the church service – the sermon, the readings. Rory and Jade could have devoted some time during lockdown to perfecting an American accent, thereby gaining a more direct line to our heavenly father, taking tips from another Rory, Rory Bremner. (And the trump shall sound .....

As for those doing the readings – well, I could make a fair stab at delivery à la Dolly Parton. I'm not so sure about the Gaelic praise and readings, but perhaps a Cape Breton accent might be appropriate.

My Palm Sunday musings are probably just a load of rubbish. Or should I say trash? (Anon)

## PRAYER PAPER-CHAIN FOR LENT

If you have made any of the prayer paperchain for Lent, and would like it to be joined to the whole parish paperchain, please drop it off in Lesley's porch at 'Grianach' on the corner of the road to Heaste in Harrapool, Broadford. (Even if you just have a few!)



# KILMORE WINDOWS

Despite the fact that there have been a few hold ups in the project to replace all the windows in Kilmore Church, we are almost there!

The delays have been partly due to covid related problems in supply of materials and the associated effect of that on contractors' schedules. In addition, during the work, further necessary repairs were identified which had to be dealt with. These were:

- The replacement of 6 balcony joints which were found to be rotten
- The replacement of the lintel in the vestry toilet
- Re-pointing of skews in vestry toilet
- Replacement of lead to skew of south facing gable
- Waterproofing of the belltower (to prevent further water ingress)
- Waterproofing of the south facing gable

The outside work is now complete and the scaffolding was removed last week. All that is left to complete is the internal finishing work to three windows; the one above the pulpit, the one in the vestry and the upstairs one in the south gable. These windows have had a water ingress problem for some time and some of the extra work done has been to remedy this. However, we won't know for some time if this has been completely successful, although the signs are good. In the meantime, we have been advised not to complete the internal finishings in order that the situation can be monitored and the windows finished properly at a later date. In the meantime they will be given a temporary plywood finish for cosmetic purposes. This work will be done in the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> April so the work will be completed by the end of that week.

Of course, this extra but necessary work has come at a price and we have a projected deficit of approximately £12000 for the financing of the project. We therefore hope to do some more fundraising in the months that lie ahead, including the relaunching of our online appeal which brought in the amazing sum of (approximately) £14000.

We do so look forward to being able to gather in Kilmore once again so that we can experience the benefits of the work done! With a great big thankyou to everyone who has helped in any way.

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## SURVEY & CHURCH RE-OPENING

We really appreciate how generously people responded to the survey (74 people returned their survey questions!) For reasons of confidentiality, we can't share the whole survey but we will be sharing the highlights in the next newsletter.

Moving forward, we will open up gradually, starting with Broadford church after the Easter holidays. We will broadcast on Zoom from here and there will be a booking system in place for the whole parish. Please note numbers will be very limited due to social distancing and priority will be given to those currently unable to attend online. Kilmore will also open up once the building work is complete. Kyleakin is likely to open up once restrictions have lifted further (currently too few could attend given the space). Elgol will open in May.

Singing and fellowship are still not permitted. Booking details will be in notices nearer the time.

# ONE YEAR OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS

AND OUR PURPOSE REMAINS THE SAME...

One year of virtual meetings and our purpose remains the same...

to honour and enjoy God

to proclaim Jesus Christ as Saviour

to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord

to serve our community

to strengthen one another

to influence our world

prayer witness truth & grace

STRATH & SLEAT CHURCH

Strath & Sleat Church of Scotland

Together  
WE are CHURCH

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

## 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."

A huge thank you to Tony for capturing this wee moment of our time together.



## CHURCH LIFE

Funerals: Kenneth Graham on Friday 26th March. Service was held in Kyleakin community hall and the interment at Ashaig cemetery.

### 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

**N.B. Regular meetings and services are on zoom or postponed until further notice.**

**If you are self-isolating, let any of us know how we can help:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping   | <input type="checkbox"/> Posting mail    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call | <input type="checkbox"/> Urgent supplies |

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

**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

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lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk

#### SLEAT

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Nicola Thomson 01478 833255  
strathandsleat@gmail.com

**MINISTER** Rev. Rory MacLeod  
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**TREASURER** Margaret Macrae  
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**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