

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord..."
Colossians 3.23

Things are about to get busy... And I don't just mean for our new Prime Minister and government. We stand on the threshold of the season of Remembrance, a sober interval where we reflect on the sacrifices of present and previous generations for the freedoms and resources we enjoy. Then comes Advent, so much more than the build-up/ count-down to Christmas, this is a time for reflection and preparation: to celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus and to anticipate his return in glory as Lord of all and everything.

Not that we have been idle... This bumper edition - for which Lesley is to be congratulated as editor - is full of testimony to fruitful service and opportunities for future engagement. Three cheers for Catherine Aden who lit up the Young Church in Kilmore and, for a while through her story-telling on zoom, the whole parish. As she enjoys her retirement, fàilte bhlàth do Angela NicAoidh mar a leumas i anns a' bhrògan aice! Further hot news emanating from Kilmore is that a new Safeguarding Coordinator has stepped up to succeed Ray Johnstone: Sarah-Jane Campbell. Mar sin, taing do Ray agus meal do naigheachd gu Sarah-Jane.

Volunteering is like tithing. Both involve sacrifice - of time and of money respectively - except that, when practiced in the context of faith, these become privileges not chores. Jesus himself established the Church as the "New Israel", God's elect to be salt and light in the world with an eternal inheritance awaiting... And we get to participate through his personal invitation: What a thrill! What an opportunity! To be committed to a local church is to be part of the answer to the challenges facing society, to be nothing less than the hope of the world. Please look out for Joy Westerton's account of her own experience of getting involved in *Make it Count* and be encouraged.

I shall not steal any more thunder by rehearsing all of the reports and articles which follow; I commend all to your close attention. Suffice to mention two initiatives: *Teaghlaicean Còmhla* is the new family-friendly gathering every week at 9.30am in Broadford Church, while *Café Church* meets informally at 3pm on the 4th Sunday of the month in Elgol. Both need our prayerful support because the stakes could not be higher: no less than the survival of the light of Christ in these two precious communities of Broadford and Elgol.

Life is not only busy, it can be lonely as well and it is set to get harder because of the "cost of living crisis" - not to mention wars, global pandemics and climate change. On the face of it there is plenty to be anxious about and good reason for concluding that everything is slipping out of control. Yet the Church exists to proclaim a different view: God is in control; the Holy Spirit is at work bringing about reconciliation and healing and Jesus is coming back to complete the process. So there is hope. And hope is not a cop out or a comfort blanket. It is a promise built on courageous faith and sacrificial service. It shines brighter every time a new believer joins the family. Air adhart còmhla...

Rory

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

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

Notices: lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk

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

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CREATION CARE

The pictures show the Creation Care group relaxing in the sun with coffee and delicious baking, but we also did some very hard work in the garden on Sat 10th September, and showed our respect to the late Queen with 2 minutes silence and quiet reflection. What better place to do it!

Our current aims are to encourage schoolchildren in to help, and students from the college crofting course to build a wee bridge over the burn, establishing connections with the community, all the while honouring God's creation.

We would like to continue with these monthly gatherings, so keep an eye out for the next one. Oh, and we still need garden tools - ones you don't use!



KILMORE YOUNG CHURCH



Catherine Aden retires

After 5 and half years of paper plates, story-telling and catchy gospel choruses, Catherine Aden retired from her role in the Kilmore Sunday School, at the end of August. A special service was held by our young people to celebrate her contribution and they made a lovely wee video for her to keep.

We hope Catherine will be still be willing to do the odd children's address in the future but for now, we hope she enjoys being able to stay in the service and enjoy worshipping with the adults.



Welcome Angela

Angela MacKay, recently joined the team too and has been helping with the Sunday school group. Angela, from Lewis, has been living in Sleat with her husband Alistair and their three children Lexy, Seumas and Maisie, for many years. Some of you may know Seumas as one half of the frequently announced 'sleepovers' when the minister's box is on Zoom at Kilmore!

Once the Zoom rota is shared with Broadford too, we hope to have Archie back on regular slots with Sunday School too. They have missed him and whilst Zoom is a very important function, we in Young Church would much rather he was using his skills with the kids!



Youth Vestry YV has returned to regular sessions too after their busy spring and summer preparing for exams and subsequently working in local hotels. All now turned 16, it is such a blessing to have them as part of our congregation. And we have big news coming soon! A trip and a HUGE fundraising target. Watch this space!

AND FROM CATHERINE ADEN...

"Having retired from my post as a Primary School Headteacher in Lancashire in 2015, we moved to Skye and I vowed that I was going to go to Church each week, keep my head down and not get involved. It's strange how God had other ideas.

The following summer Rory put out a plea for volunteers to help with Summer Holiday Club in Kyleakin. Before I knew it I was there and hey presto, after that found myself in Sunday School at Kilmore.

Over the last five and a half years we've had lots of fun, lots of adventures and made so many things out of paper plates that I feel I could write a book on 'A hundred things to do with a paper plate.' We've made angels, shepherds, and kings by making cone shapes, we've wound wool to make stars, poppies and window hangings, we've made boats, sheep, snakes, doves, quail, crowns, tongues of flame headbands and much, much more.

'And from Catherine' - continued on page 4...

'And from Catherine' - continued from page 3...

Not all Sundays have seen us indoors... I remember us causing havoc the week we enacted Joshua marching around the walls of Jericho... we marched around church banging home-made drums, trumpets and shakers. I don't think the adults heard much of Rory's sermon that day! I remember too the day we enacted 'the Lost Sheep' (our version of hide and seek). The children were so good at hiding that I was beginning to think we really had got a lost sheep/child!

But, the time has come for me to retire from Sunday School too. I was moved and humbled by the love and thanks that were shown to me last weekend. The flowers I was given are absolutely beautiful and the card from the children will find its way into my 'memory box'. I hope and pray that Sunday School will go from strength to strength as, in the words of the late Michael Jackson, 'I believe that children are our future'. It has been a privilege and a pleasure not to have just kept my head down, but to have been able to serve in Sunday School and hopefully sow some seeds of faith in the next generation of our Church.

Thank you for the pleasure.

Catherine

A QUICK UPDATE FROM JACKIE

I have been very busy over the summer and last few months. We now have two Make it Count parent and child groups running in Sleat on a Monday and Broadford on a Tuesday. We have a core group of parents who come along regularly and have all expressed how much they appreciate the space and the support of us in this part of their lives.

We are currently looking at how we can extend our Tuesday use of the church and offer a warm space, with the provision of a light lunch. This is currently in the planning stage, and we have some ideas on how this will work and what we will offer. I hope that this lunch time activity will begin at the beginning of November and would love to see people bringing their friends along, for a bit to eat and a natter.

I have been working in collaboration with Timmy Currie and COOL. I was part of the team who brought a very successful Holiday Bible Club for the primary aged children of our community. I am also currently working on plans for a Christmas Unwrapped event where we have invited our local schools to come to the church building in their locality to meet some of the characters from the Christmas story and look at some of the traditions we have at this time of the year.

I have also been developing AN Tobar with Anne Sikorski. We have been challenged to see what God was saying with this project and it still is developing and taking shape.

Strupag n Craic. We have a core group of women who have met most months over the course of the summer. We have had a couple of social evenings where we have shared in a takeaway together. And of course, done what women do, chat! We usually meet on the first Thursday of the month in Kyleakin Church Hall and sometimes we have an activity, or a time when we share books we have read or even try and guess whose Desert Island discs are the choices of the others. Basically, lots of fun and laughter. Join us on Thursday 3rd November 1.30 - 3.00.

So I hope you can see I am busy, trying to open doors and spread a little of Jesus' love for the people we share this community with.

Jackie MacLennan PDA

HARVEST FOOD BANK DONATIONS

A huge thank you to all those who donated food for this year's harvest collection for the Skye and Lochalsh food bank.

Photos: Just some of the donations!



PRESBYTERY MISSION & MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

Life in the Presbytery has been very busy with all the changes taking place, it's been amazing to watch so few people embrace such wide sweeping change taking it all in their stride, it really is testimony to the commitment people have to the cause. From my perspective there has been a lot of changing direction on the hoof as things have chopped and changed and the workload for ministers and elders has increased as deadlines for change draw closer. Flexibility has taken on a whole new meaning!

One such project that has changed is An Tobar. In the spring Jackie and I began piloting this project to identify priorities for development, from the things we trialled courses and events were the most sought after and successful, while developing it as a 'hub' was not identified as a priority. We are now progressing it as a project, still with the same overarching vision of supporting collaboration between Christians and churches and sharing what we each have to support effective mission and ministry in this area. You can find out more about it at www.antobar.org.uk. If you have the same vision or a vision that can add to it, we would love for you to join with us. In the meantime, we would value ongoing prayer for this.

Some other projects I have been developing are Café church, Messy church, coaching and volunteer support groups, spiritual growth and transformation opportunities for women and course development. There is a particular need for courses that equip and empower the body to bring hope, healing and restoration to folk in our communities. You may have seen Healing for Hurting Hearts course advertised a few times, we are very grateful to Sarah Wright who is a member of Gairloch Church of Scotland for bringing this to us, you can read more about it later in the newsletter and also about the one we ran on Spiritual Warfare.

Less interesting work but none the less important has been helping connect churches digitally and identifying new patterns of services so that when the new boundaries come into effect there can still be access to regular services in remote communities. And of course, setting up a Presbytery Facebook page, my deepest thanks to Mary Fennell who set up and administers this, something that is not my skillset at all but I'm working on it! [follow us on facebook](#) for updates on courses, events etc or just send me your email address.

If you would like to see any particular courses or events run, ministries developed, or just have a sense of something God might be saying that you would like considered anywhere in the Presbytery please be in touch. Anne Sikorski, Presbytery Mission & Ministry Development Worker.

Tel: 07426 776415, email: asikorski@churchofscotland.org.uk

NEW BEGINNINGS CAN BE TOUGH.

'It sounds good in principal, but will it work?'

'What if no one comes?'

'What will we call it?'

'What if I do a bad job?'

'I don't know if I can do this'

It can be hard to commit to doing something we can't clearly see will work. Yet so many of the things that God asks us to do are, at best, a fuzzy outline of the future, with a promise that 'if you follow Me, then everything will be alright.'

And in our case, as Broadford began a new season with the trial of the new family-oriented service, we not only had the uncertainty of our own worries and concerns, we also faced a series of practical challenges that over and over threatened cancellation or delay.

COVID, illness, lack of volunteers (everyone was away that Sunday!), lack of children, even a crying baby brought us right to the edge of calling it quits and cancelling it at the last minute.

But it has been so clear that God is doing something here at Broadford, and so clear that this is the direction we are meant to go, however fuzzy the outline, that we didn't want to just give up. So instead we prayed. And prayed. And prayed again.

And God answered.

The volunteers came (even 2 from America!) The COVID test finally came back negative (just barely in time!). Even the sick, crying baby settled (with just minutes to go!)

And the kids came! Praise God!

The best part, though, was that this service had that wonderful feeling of 'family.' The adults gathered with food and drink around a table together. The happy buzz of children in Sunday School, the sound of their learning and playing encircling the adults' deep, honest discussion of the Creation account. Babies cheerfully playing with toys, occasionally checking in with mum or dad. A mountain of croissants, sliced bananas and blueberries covered the table in the foyer next to the help-yourself coffee and tea.

It was a place of belonging, of warmth.

And so we are naming this service Families Together (Teaghlaichein Còmhla) not only because it has been arranged with families in mind, but because we want a space where we can all come together as a family.

We officially launched Families Together on 23 October, fittingly by welcoming wee James Scott into the family of faith through baptism, and will continue to meet weekly, through Christmas.

And so we would like to invite you to join us for Families Together every Sunday at 9.30 AM for coffee, a chat, and fun for the kids. All are welcome.

'But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.'

2 Corinthians 4:7



HEALING FOR HURTING HEARTS



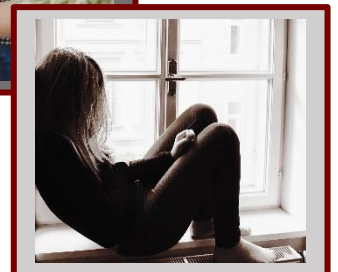
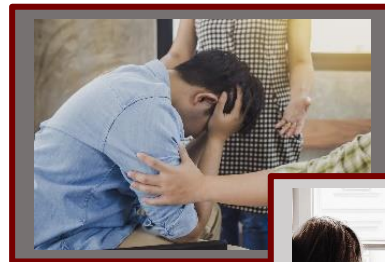
At An Tobar Jackie and I are busy developing projects that support collaborative working across parishes in our Presbytery area – indeed across denominations too. One course that we have been running is Healing for Hurting Hearts. This course really is an answer to prayer as for many years I have carried a big burden for people struggling from the impact of adverse experiences, and one of the things I felt God showed me to do before starting this job was to develop ministries that bring hope, healing, and restoration to people. I had the mandate if you like but really didn't know where I was going to find someone in the Presbytery area that could help me with this. Then one day I was on the Presbytery zoom account scheduling a meeting when I saw "Healing for Hurting Hearts" scheduled - for 6 weeks! Well it didn't take me long to find out who was behind it and soon we were working together. That person is Sarah Wright, a teacher in Shildaig and a member of Gairloch Church of Scotland.

About Sarah

Sarah worked as a mission partner in Nepal for sixteen years during which time she was involved with women's groups in local churches. They studied the Bible together, prayed for each other and lived life's ups and downs together. She found and worked on some resources that helped to teach how the Bible speaks into the difficult situations that we all face in life like bereavement, family problems and serious illness. Together in those groups they learned more about who God is and how he cares for people, how understanding this can help heal us from the wounds of our hearts and how we could carry each other's burdens. Shortly after she moved to Gairloch she saw that the Scottish Bible Society were equipping churches and training facilitators with similar resources. She was keen to get involved and with the blessing of the kirk session took the training during lockdown.

The need for this ministry

In our communities many have experienced bereavement, conflict, abuse, accidents, crime, relationship breakdown, illness and other adverse experiences. Many are wounded inside by these things. In addition to this the pandemic has left unprecedented numbers of young and old folk alike feeling isolated, struggling and alone. Community services, and churches in particular have never been more vital to the solution, with sources of faith and hope identified as a key method of resilience building, but an underused method in mitigating the impact of adversity.



This course is a basic introduction to healing of the heart that will enable you to better help yourself or others through difficult times. It is for both men and women, and Christians from all denominations and none are welcome to join. It is 1.5 hours a week for 6 weeks and is delivered via zoom, though we are also planning to run some face to face over two Saturdays. We need 8 people to run it, so if you are interested let us know and when we have 8 we will schedule one to run at a date and time convenient to all.

There is a particular need for men to be able to get alongside other men with this hope of healing for the heart. If you are a man and might be interested in doing this course you can contact Cameron Tallach, email skyetallach@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01471 822076 if you would like to chat about it. Cameron recently did the course and is happy to speak to any men that might like to find out more. For all other enquiries or to register email asikorski@churchofscotland.org.uk or go to www.Presbyterysupport.co.uk/coursesandevents.

Please note, if you, or someone you know would like to sign up but do not have internet access or zoom get in touch to discuss alternative ways to join.

Anne Sikorski, Presbytery Mission & Ministry Development Worker

SPIRITUAL WARFARE COURSE



As we move to larger parishes we, the laity, need to be ready and equipped for all the things the enemy will throw at us as we step up to the mark and shine a light throughout this area. So when a friend in the Middle East told me about a course he was running to help people shining a light on that spiritually dark land I immediately asked him if he could run it here too, so in August a group of us did this via zoom.

The aim was to help us be better prepared to handle spiritual pressure and have a deeper relationship with God. Often in the church we don't acknowledge in practice the reality of the enemy and it can sometimes feel like the proverbial elephant in the room, as such we are not always best equipped to recognise and deal with these attacks.

But we are plainly told, in the Bible, that we have an enemy that will do anything in his power to keep us from being effective followers of Jesus. He is a cunning and powerful adversary, but God has called us to "stand" and to "resist" him, not run away from the battle. What is more, God Himself has given us the ability to not only endure in this spiritual battle, but also to thrive and be victorious. The answer is not found in focusing so much on the enemy and his tactics, but rather fixing our eyes on the One who is our strength and source of our victory.

If you have ever, in your spiritual journey, felt that you were under pressure or under spiritual attack and would like to know more about HOW to stand read more about this short course at <https://www.presbytery-support.co.uk/coursesandevents> and let me know if you would like to see it or other similar courses run in the future.

Anne Sikorski, Presbytery Mission & Ministry Development Worker

DUAN NA BANRIGH

(Inspired by an unexpected opportunity to attend Her late Majesty's lying in state in Edinburgh)

'S ann dìreach ann an coimhead air ais
a thuigear cho fad 's a thàinig sinn.

Mar an ceudna, 's ann dìreach na call
a thuigeas sinn dè cho brìghmhor
's a bha a' bhanrigh nach maireann.

Cha mhaireann sibh sa bheatha seo
ach beò bith-bhuan sa rìoghachd shuthainn.

A Mhòrachd, nach do theagaisg sibh dhuinn
adhbhar ar bith-beò aithneachadh
gus ar beatha fhèin a choisrigeadh.

Ged a bha sibh ro airidh air
cha do thaisg sibh ar moladh idir;

Ach chomharraicheadh sibh an taobh thall
gu bun ur cumhachd, an t-ionad
dom buin ur mòrachd fhìor gu bràth.

It is only in looking back
that one realises how far one has come.

Likewise, it is only in her loss
that we appreciate how noble
was the late queen.

You may be dead to this life but
but alive forever in the eternal kingdom.

Your Majesty, you taught us
to discern the reason for our existence
in order to consecrate our lives.

Though you were most worthy of it
you never hoarded our praise;

But you would point beyond
to the source of your power, wherein
lay your true greatness.

Rory MacLeod

WHAT YOU'VE SAID ABOUT SOME MID-WEEK MEETINGS...

And thank you so much to all those who responded!

BROADFORD BIBLE STUDY:

"Building friendships and sharing concerns is extremely helpful. Being a small group, confidences are shared, especially requests for prayer which happens following the study."

Mairi Dick

MAKE~IT~COUNT IN BROADFORD

Volunteering at Broadford Make it Count Parent and Toddler group.

"When I heard about Jackie starting up the Make it Count Parent and Toddler groups I felt I should be involved in this, but at the time I wasn't able to commit to help.

I had recently moved to Skye from Yorkshire, built a house, set up a croft and settled the family into College and school life so life was very busy. That was the first year dealt with.

The second year continued to be busy with a few family visitors including my mum and dad in August 2021.

In October 2021 mum was diagnosed with a secondary cancer, a brain tumour and was given 2 months to live. My time was then taken up travelling up and down to Yorkshire until April, when mum passed away on Easter Sunday this year. Mum was a Christian and faithful prayer warrior she would always say "let's pray about it" whatever the situation was and what was to be faced. All the comments about mum from family and friends after she passed away were summed up "how she had made a difference to their lives, how they were better people for knowing her, how she had prayed for them" a great legacy not of finance or property but of greater value.

After mum's funeral and a short rest I contacted Jackie to see if she still needed volunteers for the group in Broadford, she did and I started to help in June this year.

It's great to serve the Lord in our community and this is one way I can help. We have lots of lovely families attend the group and they are so appreciative of what we do for them. We look forward to serving further in the future and seeing our groups grow. It's a privilege to serve with Jackie, Mary and Rory at the group."

Joy Westerton

KYLEAKIN PRAYER MEETING:

"If you enjoy praying with others, come and join us on a Tuesday evening in Kyleakin. We bring to God the needs of our families, church family and friends in fellowship with one another.

I have experienced God's love in our group when I so needed it and let me say that is really precious and a blessing."

Marianne MacMillan

"When I was invited to join in with the prayer meeting many years ago I balked at the very idea, but after a lot of coaxing I relented. I was a tad nervous about praying with other people, but once I plucked up the courage, my fears melted away. I can't think of a better way of spending time with fellow Christians."

Harry Saunders

'What you've said about some mid-week meetings' - continued on page 10...

BUIDHNEAN LEUGHADH A' BHIOBAILL:

"Tha dà choinneamh leughadh a' Bhiobaill a' dol gach seachdain air Zoom, 's iad air an stiùireadh le Donnchadh Sneddon: buidheann de luchd-tòiseachaidh na Gàidhlig gach Dimàirt aig 6f (tro mheadhan na Beurla), buidheann de na h-adhartach gach Diciadain aig 6f (tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig).

Thòisich na buidhnean seo cha mhór cho luath 's a thàinig glasadh-sluaigh a' Chovid oirnn ann an 2020. Tha iad air a bhith cho feumail 's cho soirbheachail, ge-tà, a' tarraing daoine còmhla bho fad is farsaing, gu bheil mi an dùil 's an dòchas gun cùm iad a' dol a-nis gu sìorraidh! 'S ann à gach ceàrnaidh de dh'Albainn a tha a' mhòrchuid a bhios a' gabhail pàirt, ach tha feadhainn a' tighinn a-steach cuideachd bho Shasainn, Albainn Nuaidh, Brasil, Argentina, na Stàitean Aonaichte agus Nirribhidh.

Bidh sinn a' cur tùs air a' choinneimh le ùrnaigh, mar as trice bho chuideigin eadar-dhealaichte gach seachdain, agus an uair sin ag obair tro theacsa a' Bhiobaill. Bidh Donnchadh a' dol timcheall na buidhne ann an cearcall, a' gairm air gach duine mu seach earrann a leughadh agus a eadar-theangachadh gu Beurla. Tha e làn-cheadaichte do dhuine fuireach 'na thost ag èisteachd, ge-tà, mura bheil e a' faireachdainn comasach gu leòr gus leughadh no eadar-theangachadh a dhèanamh, agus bidh daoine uaireannan a' dèanamh sin.

Tha sinn ag obair leis an eadar-theangachadh ùr Gàidhlig den Tiomnadh Nuadh, a tha uile air-loidhne aig bible.com. Tha buidheann an luchd-tòiseachaidh ag obair tro na soisgeulan, soisgeul Mharcais an-dràsta. Tha na soisgeulan nas fhasa rin tuigsinn oir tha an cànan nas simplidh, agus cuideachd tha sinn uile gu math eòlach orra. Dh'obraich buidheann nan adhartach tro Ghnìomhan nan Abstol, far nach robh an cànan ro dhoirbh, ach tha sinn a-nis ag obair tro litrichean Phòil, far a bheil an cànan gu tric toinnte gu leòr. Bho bhith gan leughadh agus gan tuigsinn sa Ghàidhlig, tha sinn gu tric, saoilidh mi, a' faighinn tuigsinn orra nach fhaigheamaid bho bhith gan leughadh sa Bheurla a-mhàin. Thòisich sinn cuideachd air pàirt den uair a thìde againn a chur seachad air na Sailm, on a cleachdadh bidh sinn gan gu tric, ach tha gu leòr annta a tha doirbh ri thuigsinn an-diugh a thaobh gràmair agus briathrachais.

Nam bu toigh leat pàirt a ghabhail sna coinneamhan seo, cuir post-d gu Donnchadh, sneddon.duncan@gmail.com. Cuiridh e air an liosta thu, agus gheibh thu fiosrachadh gach seachdain air a' phìos a bhios sinn a' leughadh, agus air a' cheangal Zoom. Chan eil feum sam bith a bhith an làthair a h-uile seachdain. Faodaidh daoine tighinn agus falbh mar a thogras iad."

Caoimhin O Donnaile

BIBLE READING GROUPS (on zoom)

"There are two Bible reading meetings every week on Zoom, led by Duncan Sneddon: a group of Gaelic beginners every Tuesday at 6pm (through the medium of English), an advanced group every Wednesday at 6pm (through the Gaelic medium).

These groups started almost as soon as the Covid lockdown came upon us in 2020. They have been so useful and successful, however, drawing people together from far and wide, that I expect and hope that they will continue to go on forever! The majority of participants come from all over Scotland, but there are also some from England, Nova Scotia, Brazil, Argentina, the United States and Norway.

We start the meeting with prayer, usually from someone different each week, and then work through the Bible text. Duncan goes around the group in a circle, calling on each person in turn to read a passage and translate it into English. It is perfectly permissible for a person to remain silent and listen, however, if he does not feel competent enough to read or translate, and people sometimes do that.

We are working with the new Gaelic translation of the New Testament, which is all online at bible.com. The beginners' group is working through the gospels, the gospel of Mark at the moment. The gospels are easier to understand because the language is simpler, and we all know them very well. The advanced group worked through the Acts of the Apostles, where the language was not too difficult, but we are now working through Paul's letters, where the language is often complicated enough. From reading and understanding them in Gaelic, we often, I think, get to understand points that we wouldn't understand from reading them in English alone. We also started to spend part of our hour on the Psalms, since we use them so often, but there is enough in them that is difficult to understand today in terms of grammar and vocabulary.

If you would like to participate in these meetings, please email Duncan, sneddon.duncan@gmail.com. He will put you on the list, and you will receive information every week on the piece we read, and on the Zoom link. There is no need to attend every week. People can come and go as they please".

Caoimhin O Donnaile

LIVING HOPE AND THE LIGHTHOUSE CENTRE

Stevie Boyle



As most of you may know, I have been supporting people with alcohol and substance misuse issues since we moved here 13 years ago now. Last year with the help of a very hard-working board we achieved charitable status for 'Living Hope (Skye & Lochalsh)' to continue offering help to people with life-controlling issues, poor mental health, relationship breakdown and homelessness. I am very thankful to the board members, my wife Catriona Boyle, her father Gilbert MacKinnon, Robert MacRae and Calum MacAskill who have worked tirelessly to support this ministry and get us where we are today.

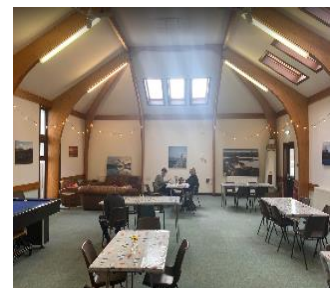
OUR STORY

Over the last few years Catriona and I, along with many others have carried a big burden for those bound in addiction in Skye & Lochalsh, and I had been increasingly keen to get a building to base the ministry from, in order to provide a better service for those who needed it. Nothing opened up until a couple of years ago, when in conversation with good friends from Lochalsh Christian Fellowship we heard of their plans to give up the lease on the Lighthouse Centre and move to a home Church model. With a few years left on their contract they were praying and desiring that Christians would take it on and wondered if we could use it for the ministry. After further discussion with the leadership, a transfer was arranged. It was a real answer to prayer in a lot of areas.



Although the Lighthouse is now the home of Living Hope, the ministry is still missional and involves outreach work across the communities of Skye and Lochalsh. We were very grateful to work in partnership with Stuart Mackinnon who is a brilliant pioneer and initially developed a coffee shop for the dual purpose of subsidising the work of *Living Hope*, and also to provide an open door to all members of the community to come in have a chat and build relationships. He started a great Pay it Forward scheme which allows anyone to come in and have a hot drink and food for free. This summer Stuart, having well developed the café, and handed it over to *Living Hope* moved onto other pastures.

The Cafe now has charitable status, and we are very pleased to have a few new committed workers and volunteers.



During the winter the Café will continue to

stay open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 10am till 3pm, as a place to come for good food, chat and just a place to build relationships. We have a number of regulars who come daily, sometimes for many hours.

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'Living Hope and the Lighthouse Centre' - continued from page 11...



I try to be there on Wednesdays, Thursday afternoons and Fridays to meet with people. If you or anyone you know needs some support, please feel free to drop in anytime, this also extends to those who might be concerned for others in the community and want a bit of a chat/support.

On Tuesday nights we run a Road to Recovery group from 7-9pm, anyone impacted by life controlling issues is welcome to just come along, or if you want to speak to someone in advance you can contact me.

Sally has worked hard to sort out the pop-up charity/bric-a-brac shop and is maintaining it weekly and all donations of items go to support the work of Living Hope.



We are also starting up again the youth drop in for teenagers in the winter, beginning the first Friday in November from 7-9pm - all teens welcome.

Young Carers continue to use the building twice a week in the evenings and Skye & Lochalsh Mental Health Association run their drop in on a Tuesday. Over the year there have been a few successful fundraisers including the COOL café a few weeks ago.

Finally, on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month we have open door praise, worship and testimony time from 3pm. This is to encourage, not only those who come to Living Hope meetings but for everyone from any denomination. All are very welcome to join.



MOVING FORWARD

In the new year we are hoping to start a joint Alpha Course with other churches in the area, please pray for this and if you would like to be involved or know someone who might like to come, please be in touch.

Realising the need this year I am hoping to try and go full time early next year in this work. I've also been approached by a church in the North who would like to partner with me in the work realising the increasing need around them. We would value your prayer for this as the Board try and work out how this can happen. Get in contact if you feel you can support in any way.

And... We have just been given an opportunity to be one of the local community groups for Kyle COOP fund and this is the link for anyone to sign up so that their COOP shop will contribute directly the Lighthouse. <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/74077>

If you or anyone you know is struggling with life controlling issues and requires support, please don't hesitate to contact me, and if anyone would like to be a part of this ministry or has a heart for it, please get in touch.

Stevie Boyle, Living Hope

07715 435341, stevenboyle40@hotmail.com



SEASON OF CREATION: HEAR MY PEOPLE, HEAR THE EARTH!



The Season of Creation ran from September 1st until October 4th as the annual Christian celebration to listen and respond together to the cry of Creation: the worldwide ecumenical family unites to pray and protect our common home, the Oikos of God.

The burning bush is the Symbol for 2022 (Exodus 3:1-12). God had heard the cries of his people and revealed himself in the fire, calling Moses to set his people free and bring them to the promised land. Moses was just doing his everyday work and wasn't keen to change his lifestyle and go to Pharaoh despite the spectacular miracle of holy flames from God which did not damage the bush itself. Moses had, unknowingly, been standing on holy ground in the presence of his Maker. The all-powerful God promised to be with him as he carried out his mission of relieving oppression and injustice. Not only that, but the people were to be taken to a fertile land which provided food in abundance.

Perhaps now God is calling us to relieve the suffering of his people caused by oppression and injustice and to restore the beauty and abundance of his creation for all to enjoy. Today's unnatural fires do untold damage and are a sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet. Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice. Add to that, the storms, floods, droughts, destroyed homes and harvests. Perhaps we have to rethink our lifestyles too, but as so long ago, God still promises to go with us.

First steps are reconnection with God in nature and living more simply. "It's time to move from a theology of plunder to a theology of wonder." Try wrapping up and going outside to pray. Maybe focus on a flower, a bird, the waves, the colours and shapes around you. Be awed and give thanks.

Anne Simpson



PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION

Creator of All,
From your communion of love your Word went forth to create a symphony of life that sings your praise.

By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of creatures who praise you in their being. You called human beings to till and keep your garden. But we turn in on ourselves and away from our co-creatures.

We fail to listen to the cries of the poor and the needs of the most vulnerable. We silence the voices of those who hold the traditions that teach us to care for the Earth. We close our ears to your creative, reconciling and sustaining Word that calls to us through the Scriptures.

Creation cries out as forests crackle, and animals alike flee the fires of injustice that we have lit by our unwillingness to listen.

In this Season of Creation, we pray that you would call to us, as from the burning bush, with the sustaining fire of your Spirit. Turn us from our inward gaze. Teach us to contemplate your creation, and listen for the voice of each creature declaring your glory.

Give us hearts to listen, enlighten us with your grace, and fill us with the hope to quench the fires of injustice with the light of your healing love that sustains our common home.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/>

CHURCH LIFE

Funerals:

Kilmore:

30/04/22 Will Clarke
15/07/22 Aeneas Rosie
27/08/22 John MacKinnon
07/09/22 Donnie (Hearrach) MacKinnon
06/10/22 Peter MacDonald

Broadford:

2nd May - Ryan Johnston
26th October - Kennethina MacLure.

Baptisms:

Broadford:

23rd October '22 James Scott



Broadford

High Street
Broadford
Isle of Skye
IV49 9AB

Elgol**Kilmore**

Kilmore
Sleat
Isle of Skye
IV44 8RG

Kyleakin

Kyleakin
Isle of Skye
IV41 8PH

SUNDAY SERVICES:**Broadford**

9.30am: Families Together (Teaghlaidhean Comhla) and 11am: morning service

Elgol – Next Café Church on November 27th at 3pm

Kilmore – 11am: Morning service

Kyleakin – 11am: Morning service and 6pm: Fellowship

N.B. The first Sunday of the month is a joint parish service which rotates round the churches (there are no 11am services in the other churches)

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

Broadford – Wednesday 7.30pm: Bible study in the church

Kilmore – Wednesday 7.15pm: Bible study either in the church or on zoom (check notices)

Kyleakin – Tuesday 7.30: Prayer meeting in Kyleakin church hall

Harrapool – 2nd & 4th Thursdays 7.30pm: Thursday Fellowship 24 at Grianach

ALSO: 'Make it count' 10.30am - for babies and parents/grand-parents etc. In Sleat Free Church on Monday, and Broadford Church on Tuesday

CHURCH SESSION**BROADFORD/ELGOL**

Mairi Dick 01471 822441
mairid375@gmail.com
Farquhar Graham 01471 822671
wfgat14lb@gmail.com

KYLEAKIN

Tony Breen 01471 822121
strathandsleatworship@gmail.com
Lesley Jones 01471 822023
lesleyinsky@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

PARISH DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT Jackie MacLennan
Strathandsleatpda@gmail.com 07835249640

WORSHIP TEAMS

Broadford	Mary Strachan	01471 822262
Kilmore	Heather Dodgson	01471 833295
	Peter McDermott	01471 844362
	Joy Westerman	
Kyleakin	Tony & Kirsten Breen	01471 822121
	Harry Saunders	01599 534145
	Micha Constant	
	Reid Constant	