

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.



DATES FOR EASTER

Friday 29th March **GOOD FRIDAY**

Sunday 31st March **EASTER DAY** (NB: clocks go forward!)

6.30am: Sunrise Service at the viewpoint on the Heaste road

11am: Easter Family-friendly Service in Broadford Church

11am: Easter Service in Kilmore Church and Zoom – YV & Sunday School

11am: Easter Service in Kyleakin Church – YC & Holiday Sunday School

3pm – 4.30pm: Families Together (Teaghlaichean Comhla) - An Easter Party!

- in Broadford Church

NB: No Kyleakin Fellowship

Need prayer or someone to pray with you?

Email Mary Fennell:

prayercoordinator1995@gmail.com

Need to talk? Questions about the Christian faith

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

Website: www.sschurch.co.uk

Notices: lesleyinsky@yahoo.co.uk



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Kyleakin Hall was all set up just like a wedding on 3rd February, as guests waited to welcome Rory and Annice. However, it wasn't a renewal of vows but an opportunity to say farewell to them both, after nine years as minister in the parish.

It was a lovely, informal evening, with folk from right across the parish. We kicked off with a nice buffet and pudding. We then enjoyed a short time of worship led by Mary Strachan before Farquhar delivered an excellent speech, reflecting on Rory's time as Minister. The couple were then presented with gifts by some of our young church: a painting of Blaven by Peter McDermott, a painting of Ashaig beach by Kirsteen Graham, and a monetary gift, all from the congregation, before Rory gave his kind response. Peter McDermott then led us with a rendition of the Goodness of God and we watched a video prepared by Hope & Faith School in Zambia, giving thanks to Rory too. Iain Strathaird presented a psalm to close the night. And unlike your average church event, we finished on time, with most getting away about at 8.30pm!

It was nice too to have Rev Roddie Rankin from the Free Church start the evening off with grace and to welcome Rev Sandor Fazakas, Portree Church of Scotland's Minister, on behalf of Presbytery, and soon-to-be Rev Jade MacLean, on the cusp of her own induction, having spent some of her training in Strath & Sleat.

Thanks to Tony for being the MC for the night and to all those who brought puddings. Special thanks to everyone who set up, handled all the tech, served and cleared up – young and old!

Of course, Rory is not quite away, away, as he remains in the Manse with permission from the Kirk Session, until the end of the school-term (unless a minister is in place before then). Although based in the Manse, Rory has been flying around the country, setting up the new Clèir Eilean Ì presbytery. We've probably not heard the last from him, it is fair to say!

We give thanks though for his time in Strath & Sleat and for his encouragement to us all.

The next event will hopefully be an induction for our new minister! Of course, that date has yet to be confirmed.

Nicola Thomson



Well, it has certainly been a busy few months since Rory announced he would be leaving.

- Since then we have held a few Kirk Session meetings under the leadership of Rev Fred Vincent, our Interim Moderator
- We've finalised the Electoral Register and produced an attractive Parish Profile
- We have held Rory and Annice's farewell event
- We've appointed the Nominating Committee, comprising the following 11 members:

Catherine Aden, Kilmore
Tony Breen, Kyleakin
Timmy Currie, Kyleakin
Màiri Dick, Broadford
Jack Fraser, Broadford
Kirsteen Graham, Broadford
Neil Graham, Broadford
Dave Mockett, Kyleakin
Peter McDermott, Kilmore
Peter Piddock, Kilmore
Mairead MacDonald, Kilmore

The inaugural meeting was held on Thursday 7th March in Broadford Church.

The process will now continue under the remit of the Nominating Committee and the Kirk Session will have no further involvement until the Nominating Committee proposes a sole nominee. Three members from the Session were elected onto the committee but they act as independent members of their congregations, rather than as Elders. Nominating Committee business is held in strictest confidence.

We pray that the Lord will direct someone to us in His good time.

Nicola Thomson

Free Printer

Fully working basic printer (compatible to sign up for HP Instant Ink). If you could make use of this, please get in touch with either Lesley (lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk, 01471 822023) or Tony (strathandsleatworship@gmail.com, 07758 978615).



Rory's departure has meant that we are down on Gaelic preachers for the twice-monthly Gaelic services which take place on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, in Broadford and Kilmore, respectively. Iain Strathaird has very kindly taken up the mantle, by taking the service once a month, in addition to presenting at each one. So that left us with one extra person to find each month.



Donald and his wife Sìne

We've so far had a good mix to see us through the first half of the year. We had Niall MacKinnon, from our own congregation, lead the service in February, reflecting on Daniel and the Lion's Den. This month we welcomed Donald MacDonald from Staffin. The essence of his sermon was one of great encouragement as we go through this time of vacancy. Whilst Staffin have been four years without a minister, he happily shared with us that they are currently in the process of making an appointment. Next month we will have Rev Hector Morrison, a well-known friend of the parish and Principal of Highland Theological College in Dingwall. Hector has kindly agreed to take the morning service too on that Sunday (21st April in Kilmore). In May, we look forward to welcoming a fellow Sgitheanach, Roddy John MacLeod, latterly Lord Minginish, retired Chair of the Scottish Land Court. Roddy John is also Chair of the Church of Scotland's Gaelic Committee.

The programme for the second half of the year is not yet complete, but we do have Rev Ishie MacDonald, previously of Strath & Sleat, now Benbecula, planning to join us in August. Again, Ishie will also take the English morning service, in Kilmore. If you are aware of any Gaelic lay preachers, please send me a wee note to let me know: strathandsleat@gmail.com

Nicola Thomson

Easter Resources

The Bible Society has some great resources for Easter and Pentecost. In partnership with ALIVE: Families, check out the wonderful children's Easter booklet *The Awesome Easter Surprise*, watch the free accompanying video animation and download the brilliant *I Spy and Snack* activity sheets for children. All designed to share the good news that Jesus is alive! tinyurl.com/biblesocietyeaster



Parish Development Assistant Report

As her contract comes to an end, Jackie MacLennan reflects on her time as Parish Development Assistant. We have been fortunate to have Jackie a year longer than planned and give thanks for all her good work in the parish.

So how do I sum up the last two and half years?

Challenging, exciting, nerve wracking, emotional, and intense are all some of the words I would use to describe my time working as Parish Development Assistant. I have learnt so much about our parish and the people within it, as well as lots about myself and my own journey of faith. Some will ask, "Well, what did you do?" and sometimes that is hard to quantify. But I have been busy working mostly in the background to connect our church and our community together. There are so many different things which have been established as a result of this post and I feel the church's standing in our community is in a better position than before. A lot of this is due to the tireless work that so many of you do week by week in our communities to represent Jesus in all aspects of our lives.



At the beginning of my term, I was challenged by the Kirk Session to connect with the communities in which our churches are situated. I was quick to establish two parent and child groups which have continued to go from strength to strength. Make it Count Sleat and Make it Count Broadford. These have raised up wonderful volunteers who will, with my input from time to time, continue to run each of these groups. We have forged links with families in the community who would never come into the church, and we have shown them practical help and emotional support through some of the most challenging things life can bring. We also have welcomed several of the youngest of our residents and been able to show them that the church and Jesus is a place where they are welcome and somewhere for them to find love. We have had the opportunity to bring our faith to these families and have shared how our love for Jesus is central to our lives in many ways. Please continue to support these groups with your prayers. I have had more

conversations about my faith in these groups than probably anywhere else.

Another highlight has been the Christmas celebrations, where the local primary schools have been invited into our buildings for an interactive fun session which focuses on the Christmas story and the message which Christmas brings. It was incredible to see every child in the parish have the opportunity to come into the church and, again, my thanks go to the volunteers who dressed up as camels, angels, wise men and other important characters, to give the children and the staff a really memorable experience. One teacher was reported to say that she was very disappointed not to see the angel Gabriel again when finding that this last year we had opted for less costume and more activity. This is something that would be great to add to our church calendar every year and I hope that this year we might be able to do this again. We also have a camel costume which simply needs to be brought out again!

During my time we have seen the beginnings of our Ladies' Network and have hosted two very successful Ladies' Days. The first one was a little experimental and we looked at the theme "He called her name". We were privileged to hear from a few of our own ladies about their experiences of when they had heard Jesus call their names. We had ladies from far and near join us. It was a real blessing to see these women come together in praise and worship. Some of the feedback was so encouraging with one lady telling me how wonderful it had been and that it was so nice to feel that they had other women in the area who also shared their faith. They had felt so isolated since covid, and the day had given them a real sense of belonging to a bigger Christian family.



Our second day was centred around prayer and how we can improve and develop our quiet time and prayer lives. We again hosted ladies from around the area and from our neighbouring parishes. These days have allowed us to connect with others from our island and the mainland but have also given us a network of women who are in similar places and positions to ourselves.

Directly on the back of our second day, we planned and hosted a film night. Using the amazing equipment from Atlas Arts, we were able to create a cinema experience in the church in Broad-

ford. We shared a meal and afterwards we sat round to watch the film War Room. (if you haven't seen it, we highly recommend). I think everyone who was there that night enjoyed the company of other women and went home challenged about how they pray and how they see their prayers answered. It was such a joy to see women from all the generations enjoying sharing company and their faith together.

Another big part of my work was to be part of delivering the Healing for Hurting Hearts course. This course from the Scottish Bible Society is such a great tool to allow us to look at some of the big things this life will give us: bereavement, what happens when we get sick, past traumas, and many other difficult subjects. It is completely Bible-based and helps us focus on what God says in these hard situations. I'm grateful to Sarah Wright from Gairloch who came to facilitate the course and to Anne Sikorski, Mission and Ministry Development Worker, and Anne Macleod from Plockton and Kyle Free Church for all their help in facilitating and organising these days. At first, we delivered the course on Zoom, which was great, but we wanted to try to see how well it might be received if an in-person course was held. We were so encouraged by the response and had two very stimulating and fruitful days, with up to thirty folk joining in. These subjects are hard to talk about and are very soul searching and we learnt lots about ourselves but even more about our friends who were participating alongside us. The part which I particularly found helpful was just how rooted in the Bible the course is. This isn't just a course to help you feel better about yourself or give you a better understanding of some things other people might go through. This course allows you to look at what God has for us and what the Bible says about these things, and then to allow the Holy Spirit to help you apply them in the situations of life you might find yourself dealing with. We also were able to have two further days where anyone who had participated in the first two days could come along, and we looked at some subjects which we didn't have time to in the original days. These days were smaller in number but so beneficial. The hope would be to run these courses again, and if you haven't already been part of one, I urge you to consider joining the next. We come across so many people in our communities who are hurting and need some kind of love and support. This course will help you be that extra neighbour, that one friend that someone knows they can turn to, as well as helping you in your own journey of faith.

There have been so many different highlights of my work with you over the last few years it would be difficult to mention all of them, but I would like to pay special tribute to our Session and their support. I would like to thank them for their openness and willingness to allow me to forge these new things and for their support in prayer and vision in having an employee working in our parish. It has been my privilege to do this and to see how far we have come over the last two and a half years. I am also very grateful to all of you who have volunteered, supported and prayed for me, especially those who have stepped up and joined me on the adventures, there will be more I promise! There will be more opportunities for us to share our faith and the good news that Jesus brings and, as we move forward and look forward to welcoming a new minister to our parish, let's keep on showing Jesus to our neighbours and those whom we encounter. So, whilst I may not be in my present post, the work is still going on and for the future. Watch this space.

Jackie MacLennan



Last term in Sunday School, we made felt boards and Velcro-backed figures so that the children could use them to retell the story to someone at home, or a friend or neighbour. And pictures from their boards illustrated the story of the birth of Jesus during our family service at Christmas. The older children read the account of the Lord's birth from Luke and Matthew, while the younger children read some of the many prophecies from "Old Testament scrolls", concerning the promised Messiah and the details of how He would come. (And I must add that all the kids read beautifully!) And then the Sunday after Christmas we had a birthday party for Jesus!



This term we are looking at the disciples, and how they gradually got to know Jesus.

Lesley Jones



Three Broken Legs



Three broken legs in the back row of Kilmore, just before Christmas! Domhnall Angaidh and Jean are both on the road to recovery. Thank you for your prayers.



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Help Wanted



One of our Broadford parishioners is looking for occasional help with cooking and baking, for no more than a few hours a week, preferably in your own home. All ingredients and any necessary utensils will be supplied and there will be payment made for time spent. The cook **must** be self-employed and have access to transport to deliver the cooking/baking. If you think you can help, please get in touch with one of our elders (see back page).



Rites of Passage

Funerals

<i>Date</i>	<i>Service led by</i>	<i>Funeral Director</i>
Broadford		
09/12/23	Harris Morrison, Broadford	Donnie G / Gordon Matheson Dignity
28/12/23	Ian Martin	Gordon Matheson F MacLeod
10/01/24	Marie Mona Stoddart, Torrin	Visiting Minister (friend), Rev Colin MacLeod, Lewis F MacLeod
Kilmore		
01/12/23	Hector MacKenzie, Camuscross	Rev Fred Vincent Dignity
12/01/24	Betty Robertson, Ferrindonald	Rev Fred Vincent F MacLeod
16/02/24	Pat Newman, Ferrindonald	Rev Fred Vincent
13/03/24	Anne MacDonald	Rev Fred Vincent
16/03/24	Norman Sandeman	Peter Piddock
TBC	Roddy Murray	Rev Fred Vincent
Kyleakin		
3/02/24	Catherine (Katy) MacLeod	Rev Fred Vincent Interred, Bernera

OUR CHURCHES

Broadford

High Street
Broadford
Isle of Skye
IV49 9AB

Kilmore

Kilmore
Sleat
Isle of Skye
IV44 8RG

Kyleakin

Meuse Lane
Kyleakin
Isle of Skye
IV41 8PH

SUNDAY SERVICES

All three churches have an 11am Sunday morning service

NB Except 4 times a year when the whole parish meets in one church to celebrate Communion (please see weekly notices for dates)

Kyleakin 4.30pm **Nourish**, 1st Sunday of term-time months
6pm **Fellowship**, on the other Sundays

Gaelic Services 3pm **Broadford**, 1st Sundays
3pm **Kilmore**, 3rd Sundays

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

Mondays 10.30 -12.30 **Make It Count Sleat** - babies with parents/carers - in the Sleat & Strath Free Church, Teangue
11am **Prayer for Revival** (on Zoom)

Tuesdays 10.30 -12.30 **Make It Count Broadford** - babies with parents/carers - in Broadford Church
7.30pm **Kykeakin Prayer Meeting** in Kyleakin Church hall

Wednesdays 7.15pm **Buidheann Bhiobail** ann an Seòmar Eige, ACC, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
7.30pm **Broadford Bible Study** - in Broadford Church

Thursdays 2pm **Ladies' Group Meeting** in Kilmore Church - all ladies welcome - please speak to Jane or Jean for further info

Contacts

CHURCH SESSION

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WORSHIP TEAMS

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Peter McDermott 01471 844362
Joy Westerman

Kyleakin Tony & Kirsten Breen 07758 978615

Harry Saunders 01599 534145