

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.



*...rejoice in the Lord your God,
for He has given you the
autumn rains because He is
faithful.
Joel 2:23*

Image by freepik.com

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: lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk



From the Minister

As I look back over this summer, it is with a sense of thankfulness to The Lord for His many blessings. In the world around us, we have had such a good summer, enjoying many hours of sun and glorious days, meeting new people, in and out of church. The summer months have flown past so quickly, as autumn beckons us.

In the Church, we have received many spiritual blessings. We have been encouraged in our faith, as we have seen answer to prayers, we have witnessed some growth with new people coming along to church, and others returning to church. As a minister I always want to see more people coming along to services, but I am reminded in the Bible: *"not to despise the day of small things."* Zechariah 4:10. To be patient, to be thankful for what we have. God is working in our lives day by day, changes are happening through the preaching of the Gospel, through fellowship with each other. I would like to thank the preachers in our church who share Jesus with us. When we exalt Him, He draws people to Himself.

I am reminded of what Jesus said to the great multitude, when He said: *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."* Matthew 5:6. When the church, the believer, is spiritually hungry, they feed upon God's Word, they read Christian literature, they pray. When they do these things, they meet with God, and they change. One of the outward signs of spiritual hunger is that we meet together as a church family. This is an area that we need to grow in. We are a church family of three churches; when we come together, there is power in unity. I would encourage us all to make the effort to be together whenever we have joint services. Those who do attend and come along feel the spiritual benefit of Christian fellowship. In our body, when we are hungry, we eat to be nourished, to have energy, to live. If we neglect to do this, we neglect ourselves, and ultimately die.

If you are in a place where you are struggling with your faith, reach out for help, ask God to direct you, reach out to Christian friends, and be built up in your faith once again. We all need each other in the church, to encourage, to support one another.

On a personal note, we are approaching one year since we came to Strath and Sleat. We are so thankful to be here, we are so thankful for you as a church family, let us keep praying, believing for great adventures with God in this coming year.

Rev John M Nicolson

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New Office Bearers

At the Annual Church Meeting in March, the reins were handed over to Lesley Taylor, Breakish, as Treasurer, and to Jackie MacLennan, Kyleakin, as Session Clerk. After many years of faithful service, both Margaret Macrae and Nicola Thomson stood down from their respective roles. They were warmly thanked for their commitment and presented with beautiful flowers in appreciation.



Lesley Taylor

Lesley and Jackie have been answers to prayer, stepping forward with a willingness to serve in these important roles. Much of the work of the church happens quietly in the background, and both Margaret and Nicola gave generously of their time and energy during what has been a particularly busy few years.

We are delighted that Lesley and Jackie have already settled in well, and we are very grateful to those who continue to support them in their responsibilities.



Jackie MacLennan



Joint Evening Services

In Psalm 133:1-2, we read: *"Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity. It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down the collar of his robes."*

Over the last year, the joint evening service with the churches in South Skye and Lochalsh have resumed in Kyleakin Village Hall at 6pm. We aim to meet 4 times in the year. There has been a real sense of unity between the people of God as we come together, and a sense of the presence of God amongst us. The Psalmist tells us there is something special that happens when we come together as the people of God. For myself, I feel encouraged by worshipping together, I feel strengthened and fed by the Word of God. And feel so blest to take communion with believers from other churches. People have commented how blest they feel as they see the family of God together.

It has been wonderful to be able to worship as one Christian body, and to see large numbers of Christians gathering and loving each other as God has loved us.

The ministers in the area each take part in the service, and we end the service by taking communion together.

We live in a day where church attendance has fallen off drastically after Covid. It is important that we make every effort to be together, move out of our comfort zones and be the living church here in South Skye and Lochalsh. We will keep you posted on our next service together.

Rev John M Nicolson

Praise and Testimony

Just before I arrived in Skye as your minister, I was asked by the vacancy committee how I would gather the church together. It was a good question. As you are aware, we only have morning service in each of our churches. One thought that came to my mind about the way forward was a Praise and Testimony evening, which we hold on the second Sunday of the month and rotate it around the parish.

Our testimony is so important to share, to tell what God has done in our lives. In the book of Revelation, it tells us that *“they overcame him [Satan] by the Blood of the Lamb [Jesus] and by the word of their testimony.”* Revelation 12:11.

A testimony is our story of faith, of trusting in God, of knowing His help and strength in our lives. We have heard testimonies that have been so different, some dramatic, some gentle. But all speak to when the person of Jesus Christ became real to them, and they trusted in Him as their Saviour.

In listening to people testimonies, I have often been touched in my heart by how people walk with God, and how God speaks to them. I would encourage us as a Church in Strath and Sleat to make the effort on the second Sunday of the month, to come out to these services and be encouraged, be built up. And, one day, share your story about God in your life.

We will resume our Praise and Testimony services on the following dates:

October 12th	Broadford Church, 6pm
November 9th	Kilmore Church, 6pm
December 14th	Kyleakin Church, 6pm
January 11th	Broadford Church, 6pm



Rev John M Nicolson

Kilmore Summer Club Thanks

A big thank you to all who volunteered to cover a week each over the summer to free up Young Church teams. Young Church is a big commitment and it is really important that the team get some down time. Equally, it is great to offer children and families a summer club option, so they don't feel summer is not so suitable for them in church. For those who had prepared a session but there were no children present, you're all set for next year's rota already! Win win!

Images by freepik.com



Would You Like to Help?

Running a church involves far more than you might see on a Sunday morning. And supporting our church life is not only a blessing to the congregation but can be a real joy for you too. We've always worked as a team ministry here in Strath and Sleat, and there are so many ways you can get involved. Whether you've got a regular bit of time to give or can help now and then, it all makes a difference.

Some of the ways you could help include:

- Serving tea and coffee after church
- Welcoming people at the door
- Assisting with the Young Church rota
- Operating Zoom during services
- Helping on the crèche rota
- Doing readings (Gaelic or English)
- Supporting the worship teams
- Cleaning the church
- Creating the PowerPoint with notices and hymn lyrics
- Writing for the newsletter
- Counting and recording the open plate offerings at the end of the service
- Helping with health and safety
- Supporting buildings and maintenance
- Weeding and painting
- Taking a turn on the flower rota
- Helping with the Broadford and Sleat Make It Count groups
- Visiting or assisting at An Acarsaid
- Offering admin support
- Baking for special services or conferences
- Providing accommodation or hospitality for visiting preachers/speakers
- Website support
- Treasurer support
- Offering lifts to church

If there's something on this list that you'd like to know more about — or if you have a skill or idea that isn't listed — please speak to one of the elders or drop Jackie, our Session Clerk, a message at strathandsleat@gmail.com. Many hands really do make light work, and we'd love to have you on the team.

Rites of Passage

Funerals

Broadford

21/03/2025 Jimmy Logan, Camuscross
22/03/2025 Neil Murray, Broadford/USA
02/04/2025 Peter J MacKinnon, Elgol
12/05/2025 Mary S MacIntosh, Elgol
9/07/2025 Neil "Heaste" MacKinnon

Child Dedication

Kilmore

10/07/2025 Lieke B McDermott
10/07/2025 James P McDermott

Baptism

Broadford

23/08/2025 Brian Inyang, born 20/05/2025



Healing of the Heart Ministries



In Luke 5:27–32, we read:

After this, He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And He said to him, "Follow me." And leaving everything, he rose and followed Him. And Levi made Him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at His disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

In this story we see Jesus on mission and inviting Levi, the tax collector, into that mission as well, and the mission is this: to reach out to those who recognise their spiritual need for healing and forgiveness. Jesus uses this analogy of "the healthy not needing a doctor, but the sick", to explain His purpose. Jesus is the great physician for those who are spiritually sick, which is all of us. We all have things in our lives that need healing, we all need deliverance. We have all sinned and been sinned against, we have all been hurt and hurt others, and we recognise in our lives the need for Jesus to come and extend forgiveness, for us to receive that forgiveness, and receive healing in our heart and deliverance from things that the enemy would use to oppress us.

In our church here in Skye, Church of Scotland, Parish of Strath and Sleat, leaders and elders and many congregants have come to prioritise this need for healing of hearts because we see lives being changed for the better, and we see from the Holy Scriptures, it was the mission of Jesus for all of mankind. This is why Jesus came and suffered and died on a cross for us, not just so that when we leave this earth we can be in heaven with Him but while we are on earth, we can have life and life abundant. And this is what healing of our hearts does for us.

Dr Ken Smylie has been a long-term friend of myself and John Murdo for many years. God used Ken in our lives while we were in Canada, to minister so much healing to both of our hearts, to our marriage, and it was such a beautiful gift to our lives and to our family. We were then blessed to have Ken offer to come to Skye and speak in our church on this very subject and to minister the love and the healing of Jesus to many people while he was here. And so, in early July we were blessed to have a Healing of the Heart Conference with our guest speaker, Dr Ken Smylie from Gainesville, Florida, and it was a wonderful day. Together with a group of people who are hungry for Jesus and desiring to know freedom and healing in their lives, throughout that day we saw many people being touched by the love and mercy of Christ, hearts being healed and completely transformed, people set free and encountering the love of Jesus in so many ways. What a blessing and gift it was to have Ken with us here in Skye for that time.

At the end of August of this year, we were blessed to have Priscilla Smith, from Big Green Heart Ministries, who offered to come and do something very similar with the women of our parish. She came to share her teaching on Healing of the Heart and to minister to women that are seeking and desiring to come into greater freedom and peace in their lives. The reality of life is that all of us carry some depth of hurt because we live in a fallen world. But we don't have to stay hurting and wounded and carrying that wound around with us, affecting us negatively in our lives and relationships, we can come to Jesus and let Him heal our hearts and be set free from these things that can be so burdensome in our lives. Nicola gives a short report on the next page.

What a gift Jesus has given us in bringing Dr. Ken Smylie and Priscilla Smith to Skye as we continue as a church to seek Jesus in the fullness of His life in us and through us.

*Much peace,
Debbie Nicolson*

Ladies' Conference

On Friday 30th August, women from across the parish gathered in Broadford Church for this year's Ladies' Conference. The theme was The Power of Forgiving and the sessions were led by Priscilla Smith of Big Green Heart Ministries.

It was a very special day as Priscilla shared openly from her own experiences, reminding us of the freeing power of forgiveness and highlighting that it is the only directive we are given in the Lord's Prayer.

The programme also included uplifting times of worship, led by Debbie Nicolson, Jackie MacLennan and Alison MacLennan, along with a couple of moving testimonies. A big thank you goes to Debbie for arranging the day, and to all who contributed in different ways.

We were also delighted that a few of the mums were able to join us, with Alex B kindly keeping them busy with crafts.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 18:18



Big Green Heart works with individuals, groups and school children to guide them through a process that empowers forgiving from the heart to enable positive change for mind, body and spirit.

You can find out more at www.biggreenheart.org

If you have suggestions for future conference themes, please feel free to speak to Debbie, Jackie or any of the elders.

Nicola Thomson



Fruit of the Spirit/ Toradh an Spioraid Gràdh

U O G G D K Y W T X A W R N U
N F V O M Y C X C I O P G E S
X E Z F O O V O Y H I A E G F
P I C N A D W D R V B T N Z F
E N I G C I N K B I H I T K K
A S U A S F T E B P N E L I M
C M I O I S H H S T E N E N A
E A N L T Z C E F S A C N D I
T C E Y H H C J L U S E E N T
V H A G Q K U E E Y L V S E H
W D S Y D L O V E W Y N S S E
F O I G H I D I N N Y M E S A
J S E L F C O N T R O L Y S S
O F M B Q W C O I B H N E A S
Y D I L S E A C H D D W M J G

Faithfulness

Gentleness

Dilseachd

Patience

Maitheas

Self control

Fein-smachd

Goodness

Ciùineas

Peace

Foighidinn

Aoibhneas

Coibhneas

Kindness

Love

Sìth

Gaol

Joy



On Monday 11th August, the Make It Count groups hosted a Messy Church style session for our families. We led the children and the parents through the story of when Jesus fed the 5000 with the aid of some very special friends.

Our very own, very creative Joy had prepared the story for the children to have their own picnic basket. They had decorated fish-shaped biscuits, and decorated different fish.

Joy told them simply and with the aid of her puppets, the story of how Jesus fed all the people who came to the hillside to hear him speak with just two fish and five loaves of bread. Then, with the addition of some superb bread rolls, we all shared in the goodies and had our own picnic.



We sang some songs and did some of our usual action songs.

This is the first time we have held a session which has specifically taught a story from the Bible, and we were encouraged with how it was received and plan to do others in the future.

We meet in Sleat, in the Free Church building on a

Monday morning from 10.30 – 12.30 and in Broadford Church on a Tuesday morning 10.30 – 12.30 during term time.

We have several families who come along for informal play and chat. Some travel quite a distance to come and join us. Most have no connection with church.

We are a small team of volunteers who come along and make a cuppa and chat to the families. No qualifications necessary, other than that you can make tea and talk!



Why not consider joining us? The groups are so much fun and it's been a real privilege for the last four years, seeing families grow and the children move on to the next stages of their lives. We are always open to more people, so get in touch if you have time on Monday or Tuesday mornings to help us out.

Jackie MacLennan

Pizza Plans!



YV celebrated the end of term with pizza at Gasta's new pizzeria in Broadford. Between slices, there was plenty of chat about the term ahead - with new members moving up from Sunday School and some exciting fundraising ideas for a residential weekend at Nethy Bridge. It seems we've got a few budding entrepreneurs in this group, with talk of candles, calendars, and tea towels, alongside bake sales and cafés. Keep an eye out - and your purses handy - as they head into full planning mode this term! It's always nice to have our teens in church. We know it's not always possible for them to be there every week, so we're thankful for every Sunday we get to spend time together - sharing, learning about Jesus, nurturing faith and tackling some of the bigger questions teenage life brings. Oh, and the pizzas? Gasta blasta!

Nicola Thomson

Here is a new project, a collaboration between Highland Theological College and Clèir Eilean Ì (our new presbytery), aimed at providing training in the three separate areas:

Leading Worship,
Conducting Funerals and
Preaching the Word of God.

The courses each last 10 weeks and are delivered one evening a week.

For further information please contact
kathryn.stewart@uhi.ac.uk

Pathways:

Pathways is a collaborative project between Highland Theological College and Clèir Eilean Ì – the Church of Scotland in the Highlands and Hebrides

Three courses designed to equip you with a skillset that will assist the church.



A partner of





Leading Worship	Conducting a Funeral	Preaching the Word of God
Commencing 17th September This course helps you plan, prepare and deliver worship services. It gives Biblical and historic background and addresses issues and challenges faced by local congregations today.	Commencing 23rd September Training to equip you to plan and conduct a funeral service, support the bereaved family, write a eulogy, and liaise with the funeral directors.	Commencing February 2026 Teaching and practical exercises into handling the Biblical text in the preparation and delivery of a sermon.

Applications are welcomed with approval from your minister or supporting church leadership

Contact kathryn.stewart@uhi.ac.uk

James and Lieke's Dedication

James and Lieke McDermott were dedicated together in Kilmore on Sunday 10th August. Just two weeks old, Sleat's newest arrival, James Peter, and his lovely big sister, Lieke Berendina, were welcomed by the congregation. Alongside their parents, Daniel and Marianne, we promised to surround them with Christian love as they grow.

It's always such a joy to have children in the church - new life brings hope and reminds us of God's goodness in very real ways.

Marianne's parents were visiting from the Netherlands, so it was an extra blessing to have all four grandparents there in person. Thanks to the wonders of Zoom, family from further afield were also able to join the celebration.

We pray for the whole family as they adjust to life with another little one, and we give thanks for the many ways they have already enriched our congregation and community since moving into the Kilmore manse. *Veel zegen!* Many blessings!



Christmas Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for all things Christmassy is Monday 10th November. Please send anything you would like to have included in the Christmas newsletter to me at alisonorr1@gmail.com. News, reports, articles, poems, book reviews, photos, how God is moving in your life. Please send plain text with photos as attachments. Thank you!

Alison Orr, Newsletter Editor

Maria Joy

Ishbel and I were in Inverness recently for our granddaughter's 1st birthday and here she is in all her one year glory, with her adoring parents, Robbie and Suma! If you're very sharp you will see her other grandfather - Paul Manava - who gave a lovely wee talk centring on the name Mary, his wife's name, but, more importantly, the baby's name. She is Maria Joy, and Grandpa Manava assured her of his prayers that she will have much joy and share it with all of us. One interesting aspect of the day was that Maria, having previously yelled whenever she saw Grandpa Cameron, probably because of the hair round my chin, was on her birthday all smiles. Ishbel was so pleased to be there and we both, as did everyone else, greatly enjoyed the party.

"Let the little children to come to Me."

Matthew 19:14

Cameron Tallach



Image by freepik.com



Fruit of the Spirit/ Toradh an Spioraid Gràdh



Faithfulness
Gentleness
Dilseachd
Patience
Maitheas

Self control
Fein-smachd
Goodness
Ciuineas
Peace

Foighidinn
Aoibhneas
Coibhneas
Kindness

Love
Sith
Gaol
Joy



Sometimes these sermons can just go on and on...! Eòghan enjoying a wee *norrag*.

Services and Meetings

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 term-time 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	Kyleakin Prayer Meeting in Kyleakin Church hall
Wednesdays	7.30pm	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

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