

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

"Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them."
Mark 11.23



In the middle of May the Church of Scotland holds its annual jamboree: the General Assembly. This year it's my turn to go (again), which is why the Gaelic service (on the 21st) has been cancelled... unless someone decides to seize the initiative and hold one themselves! Were that to happen I would not be offended; I would rejoice. We need that edgy, risk-taking spirit in the Kirk today. The professionalisation of society has led to a spirit of timidity, in which people are afraid of getting things wrong, or being sued, or both. The consequences are stultifying. By contrast, the apostle Paul reminds us in his Second Letter to Timothy, chapter 1 verse 7: "... the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." Jesus goes even further, promising the ability to move mountains.

At a pre-Assembly briefing we heard from the Assembly Trustees, who set the agenda. They were alerting us to how the drop in both ministers and members continues, further and faster than expected. The majority of congregations no longer pay their way and so depend on the few of us who do to support them. The stark warning is that without urgent action the Church will collapse in 5-10 years.

Rather than being paralysed with alarm, we are urged to focus on mission and growth: 100 new worshipping communities over the next 10 years. To facilitate this a £25 million *Growth Fund* has been established, while reform and restructuring have been happening at central and presbytery levels, in order to channel resources into local churches. And the gifts and potential of every believer are to be mobilised.

I have my doubts. It is not that I am against mission and reform; far from it. It's just that I cannot help feeling that we are reaping the whirlwind of decades of complacency and denial, where we have maintained a priestly model of ministry resulting in generations of still-born believers who have not been encouraged to develop their faith, nor exercise their gifts. So what happened to Israel, when they confounded the Spirit in the Old Testament, is happening to us today. God purges and refines a faithful remnant until they are ready to grow again. From the New Testament onwards another thing that occurs is that God allows the Church to diminish in some places so that it takes off in others, like a fire moving across the land.

Continued on page 2...

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

Minister's message continued from page 1...

Rather than lashing out in desperation, this is a season for digging deep and trusting God. Nothing is certain about the future of the Church of Scotland but I guarantee the Church of Jesus Christ will still be here in 10 years - and until the Lord returns. And I want us all to be part of what will happen next. If it is just us and those of other churches who already believe, so be it. If it involves fresh waves of outreach and growth, praise God. But we shall need to be up for the task, hence the emphasis on going deeper – into our personal faith and into the fellowship we share in Christ. The evidence in Strath & Sleat is that the Holy Spirit is already at work...

Gun ullachadh Dia sinn uile airson a' theachd-ama!
Rory

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KILMORE BIBLE STUDY



In November the ladies from Kilmore Bible study met to celebrate some very special birthdays with a lovely afternoon tea. What an enjoyable afternoon we had!

CHRISTMAS UNWRAPPED!

What a real privilege it was to be a part of this event for local schools organised by Jackie!! 'Christmas Unwrapped' was held in Broadford, Kilmore and Kyleakin churches. All the children from south Skye came along with their school for this interactive event at Christmas. They visited their local church and in small groups of 6 or 7, visited five 'witnesses' of the amazing events in Bethlehem on that first Christmas.



Broadford



Kilmore

In each of the churches, five volunteers dressed up as Mary, Joseph, the angel Gabriel, a shepherd, and a wise man (great camel Peter!!). In small groups, the children then went to each of the 5 areas to hear what the witnesses had seen, and to ask questions. The kids demonstrated how really engaged they were, by asking questions like "who looked after the sheep while the shepherds went to Bethlehem?" after they had visited each of the witnesses they all gathered together with Timmy to bring all the events together. It was easy to see that the children really enjoyed the whole event.

A shepherd



Kyleakin



WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

In 2006 I led the first group of local young people from COOL to work with street boys in Peru. Many will be aware that during that trip I struck up a friendship with Ernesto Zavala, a local SU worker, whose original vision it was to develop a street boy ministry. At the same time he also had a great heart for the deaf community in Peru, an often overlooked and poorly educated group. Over the years this became his primary focus and I have since taken many young people to meet some of the deaf children being educated in their own language, Peruvian Sign Language, thanks to Ernesto's work.

A number of years ago Skye & Lochalsh local churches were able to support a mother and her deaf son in their visit to the World Federation of the Deaf in Brazil. This year the opportunity for two more, Patty and her son Owen, has arisen to travel to Seoul, South Korea, to attend the 2023 conference. Patty herself is deaf and Owen is the only hearing person in an extensive deaf family. As a result he has become the voice and ears for his family in all aspects of life. He is a very able individual who desires to become an interpreter for the deaf, but Peru does not have a school of interpreting and is desperately in need of professionals to take ownership of their language and culture to set up just such an institute.

For Patty and Owen to travel to Seoul would mean enabling them to inform and train others in seminars and universities in Lima. Indeed, Owen could potentially be instrumental in transforming the next generation by informing, educating, and interpreting in both deaf and hearing communities, but he needs exposure to the possibilities. There are intense challenges standing in his way: Latin America's Deaf are under much pressure, under-resourced, and often overlooked. There will be very little participation from within Peru and Patty and Owen would be the only Peruvian Christians participating. Trained deaf adults are urgently needed to bring knowledge and resources to the deaf and hearing communities of Peru.

The cost of sending both Patty and Owen to Seoul in July of this year is about \$9000. We are really excited that through COOL and Rory's recent charity head shave, locally we have been able to contribute nearly 20% of the need. However, Ernesto currently only has enough funding to be able to send Owen. If you feel able to contribute any more, please do contact myself or Robert McRae. Time is of the essence as we need to send the funds through during May.

Dave Mockett, April 2023



THE GOSPELS IN FILM, READ IN GAELIC

Goireas ùr:
Na Soisgeulan ann am film, air
an leughadh sa Ghàidhlig.

New resource:
The Gospels in film, read in Gaelic.

<https://www.scottishbiblesociety.org/resources/lumo-gaelic-films>



THE POWER OF PRAYER - LADIES DAY IN BROADFORD

The second Strath & Sleat Ladies Day was held on Sat 13th May. We welcomed thirty women into Broadford church from as far and wide as Scarborough, Lewis, Gairloch and Kensaleyre.

Margo Cunningham, from East Lothian, came to speak about the Power of Prayer, which was our theme for the day. Margo has spent many years working with Pray for Scotland and gave generously of her time to share testimony and some tools for prayer routines. A real blessing to us all.

The day was broken up with some workshop sessions looking at contemplative prayer, various ways of approaching praying and how to pray effectively with children and young people. There was also an opportunity to learn more about prayer ministry and have a time of private prayer at the end.

Jean Gillies gave a relevant talk about a praying woman we all know– Rosemary Mumbi of Hope & Faith school - which was our chosen charity for the day. An incredible £420 was raised.

Huge thanks are due to the boys at the Coffee Bothy for providing some extravagant looking cakes and to the Cosy Corner team in Balmacara for providing lunch. It was a great opportunity to support some local businesses.

The event was supported by the Skye & Lochcarron Presbytery with the legacy aim of creating a Ladies' Network across the presbytery area, with a view to running a range of events throughout the year.

With that in mind, the next event will be a Meal & Movie night in Broadford church, on 23rd June at 6.30pm, where we will be showing "The War Room", which was referred to a number of times during the day. It will also be shown by our friends in Gairloch on the same evening.

Feedback has confirmed that many were aware of the presence of the Lord on the day. It was an added blessing to have Debbie Nicolson and some friends join us. Our praise sessions – led by our own Peter McDermott – were really very special.

As with any event, much goes on behind the scenes to make it happen and so a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the day. We can't wait to see what lies ahead! *But first, pray.....*

Having our Parish Development Assistant role is key to being able to arrange events like this. Please pray for funding avenues that will enable us to continue this important role.



MEAL & MOVIE

Friday 23rd June
Broadford Church, 6.30pm
Dinner provided

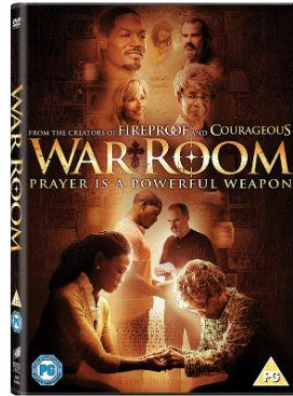
BOOK NOW

strathandsleatpda@gmail.com
Donations for YV's trip to Jordan

You're Invited!



Lochcarron & Skye Presbytery Network



STRATH & SLEAT
Church of Scotland
AN SRATH IS SLEITE

Lionra nam Ban

Lochcarron & Skye Presbytery Ladies Network

NEWSLETTER EDITOR – JOB VACANCY!

This is the **LAST NEWSLETTER...**

unless there is a volunteer to replace Lesley!



If you might be able to take this on, and would like to find out more, please contact either:
Rory rorymofg@gmail.com 01471 822416 or Lesley lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk 01471 822023
to find out more.

FAREWELL TO JOHN NORMAN AND JANET MACLEOD



In April, we bid farewell to John Norman and Janet MacLeod, who have moved to Inverness. They are in the process of building on John Norman's family croft up in Staffin, so we hope they'll visit us again soon!

Young church in Strath and Sleat



BROADFORD: Christingle Party



Valentines Party



Palm Sunday Mystery Party



KYLEAKIN: Christmas Family service



YV

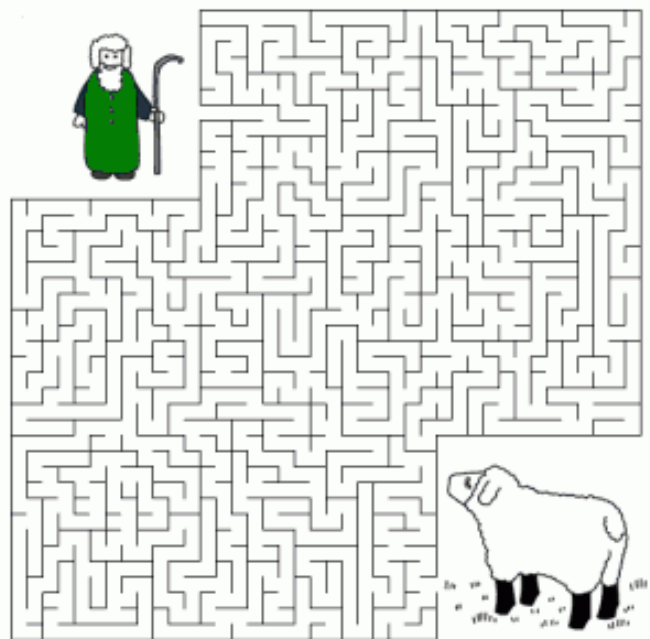
KILMORE

Sunday -
School



Can you help the farmer find his lost sheep?

In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away! *Luke chapter 15, verse 7*



YV HEAD TO JORDAN

Kilmore's YV team are heading to Jordan! After years of discussing it, we finally got our flights booked in May and head off for 8 nights on 11th October, flying from Inverness-London-Amman. We'll spend our first 4 nights with Rev George al-Kopti and Mary, his wife, at the manse at St Paul's church – which we are twinned with as a parish. Archie MacCalman and Rory went over for the inaugural visit back in 2018 and George and members of his team were due to reciprocate but that was pre-Covid.



George and Mary have arranged for a teen camp that weekend, where we will spend quality time and fellowship with other teens who are involved with St Paul's. They have also offered to take us around the biblical sites around Amman, including Mount Nebo and the baptismal site of Jesus at Bethany beyond the Jordan.

St Paul's has a number of ministries on the go and it will be a great experience to get involved in some of their mission projects and engage with other cultures in the area.

There are three members of YV heading over – Caramarie MacCalman, Eubha Campbell and Emily MacDonald. They will be accompanied by Archie and by Nicola Thomson, who leads YV. Iain Munro, our fourth YV member, was due to come too but has secured himself an apprenticeship which we're delighted about – but unfortunately it starts just shy of our leaving date.

The second part of the trip we plan to do independently, hiring a car and heading south to visit Petra, spend a night in Wadi Rum and visit the dead sea, before heading back to Amman for a final night with George and Mary. A camel ride is on the cards!

YV have an ambitious target of £5,000 for the trip and will be running various events and fundraisers throughout the summer months. We have already secured £1,500 from the Church of Scotland Gaelic Committee and the financial equivalent of two return flights from the Faith Share team at the Church of Scotland.

The new Presbytery Ladies Network have kindly offered to take donations for the trip at their next event - Meal and Movie – which is being held in Broadford church on 23rd June.

Broadened horizons and strengthened faith and fellowship opportunities are certainly up there in the aims of such an exciting trip. These guys are our first generation of YV and will be starting 6th year next month. We would appreciate your prayers for their continued development, final year of school, and the coming together of plans and funding to make this special trip possible.

For more information or if you would like to make a donation, you can contact Nicola on strathandsleat@gmail.com
Here is the just giving link...

[Crowdfunding to raise funds for Kilmore YV's trip to Jordan on JustGiving](#)



WORKING WITH LOCHCARRON SKYE PRESBYTERY

Working with Lochcarron Skye Presbytery has been a real honour and I feel incredibly fortunate to be helping its mission during these uncertain times. In the past few months, there's no shortage of action - from organising events to forming partnerships, it feels like my calendar is as full as ever! Here are a few things I have been up to.

Community Detox



Anne, Stevie and Living Hope supporters receiving the cheque from Frances from Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership (HADP).

Stevie Boyle and myself secured funding from the Highland Drug and Alcohol Partnership's Highland Outcome Improvement Fund, to research local capacity for a community detox program in Skye & Lochalsh. There is a real need for detox facilities at the crucial entry phase of recovery, but we lack the proper resources to help people. The funding will enable Stevie and me to dedicate time to the project and identify if there is enough local capacity to deliver this project. Christian and local church support will be crucial to the project's success. Contact me via email if you're interested in getting involved or just praying for us.

'Healing for Hurting Hearts' & 'Stronger'

Anne MacLeod of the Free Church in Kyle has been collaborating with Jackie MacLennan and myself to develop pastoral care training that can help individuals become more confident in visiting. We decided to start with the Healing for Hurting Hearts course. Sarah from Gairloch parish delivered an online version during the pandemic and returned to lead the face-to-face sessions over two Saturdays in Kyle Free Church. The course was enjoyable, insightful, and highly relevant, allowing various churches and denominations to come together in fellowship. Many attendees expressed an interest in more training, so we are planning to run the original course again on August 26th and September 9th, followed by the follow-on 'Stronger' course in October and November. To find out more go to www.presbyterysupport.co.uk/coursesandevents.

COOL, Foodbank & Warm Lounge Cafe

In Lochcarron the church has partnered with COOL to deliver and develop youth work, and we have recently developed collaborations with the Free Church, resulting in really encouraging experiences. We are also very fortunate to have had Jackie MacLennan provide locum youth work support at various events, her contributions to these have been invaluable in bringing much-needed energy and vibe.

In addition, Lochcarron has launched a food bank and has opened a Warm Lounge Café on Saturdays, which has been well-received. Due to its success, they plan to continue this initiative every winter as a platform for various outreach and mission activities.

Anne Sikorski, Presbytery Mission & Ministry Development Worker

HELP! ... YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

Even if you can only spare half an hour a month, you can really help our church. Here are just some of the ways you can offer your time.



Teas after the morning service.
Operating the AV during services
Cleaning the church buildings



Building maintenance

Welcome

Young church



Scripture reading

Praise

Door welcome

All-age talk

Newsletter



If you would like to help with any of these, please contact the minister or one of the people listed below:

Rory rorymofg@gmail.com 01471 822416

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

KILMORE CHURCH

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Jane janemcd.aird@gmail.com 01471 844362
Peter misty.croft@btinternet.com 01471 855245 or 07942 360450
Nicola strathandsleat@gmail.com 01478 833255

KYLEAKIN CHURCH

Lesley lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk 01471 822023
Tony strathandsleatworship@gmail.com 01471822 121

The more people on the rotas, the less everyone needs to do!

CREATION CARE FILM EVENING: THE LETTER, 27TH MAY ONLINE



The Letter is a fantastic film, a powerful documentary, released in October last year. There is some wonderful footage of the natural world and it is not obviously religious - possibly surprising as it was commissioned by the Vatican. Join in 7.30 -9.30pm on Saturday 27th May by Zoom. We'll watch the film and there will be time for a brief discussion at the end. There will then be opportunity for a monthly study group to meet afterwards, connecting the film's content with biblical teaching.

As background, Pope Francis wrote *Laudato Si'* (The Letter) in 2015 to every single person in the world about the environmental crisis. A few years later, four voices previously unheard in global conversations were invited to an unprecedented dialogue with the Pope. They came from Senegal, the Amazon, India, and Hawaii, bringing perspective and solutions from the poor, the indigenous, youth, and wildlife into a conversation with Pope Francis himself. The documentary follows their journey to Rome and the extraordinary experiences that took place there. It contains moving personal stories alongside up-to-date science to show how spiritual values call us to take action on the planetary crisis. You can watch the trailer on the website: <https://www.theletterfilm.org/>

Contact Anne for the Zoom link. Let me know too if you would be interested in / could help with a physical screening or would like to join in a follow-up study group aomacl@tighgorm.scot

CHURCH LIFE

Funerals:

Broadford:

Nov 22	Seonaid Anderson
21.12.22	Florence Fraser
03/03/23	James Clark. (F Macleod)
25/03/23	Angus D Sutherland (F MacLeod)
20/04/23	Mary Kate Smith (F MacLeod)

Kilmore:

09/12/22	Alasdair Nicolson (by Gordon Matheson)
24/01/23	Julie MacDonald (by Rory MacLeod)
06/04/23	Alasdair MacDonald (by Roddy Rankin)

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:

Broadford - 11am: Morning service

Kilmore – 11am: Morning service

Kyleakin – 11am: Morning service & 6pm: Fellowship except 1st Sunday of term-time months 4.30pm: 'Nourish'

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)

Gaelic Service – 3pm Broadford 1st Sundays & Kilmore 3rd Sundays

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

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MINISTER Rev. Rory MacLeod
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TREASURER Margaret Macrae
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YOUNG CHURCH LEADER Timmy Currie
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PRAYER SECRETARY Mary Fennell
prayercoordinator1995@gmail.com 01471820168

PARISH DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT Jackie MacLennan
Strathandsleatpda@gmail.com 07835249640

WORSHIP TEAMS

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	Joy Westerman	
Kyleakin	Tony & Kirsten Breen	01471 822121
	Harry Saunders	01599 534145
	Micha Constant	
	Reid Constant	