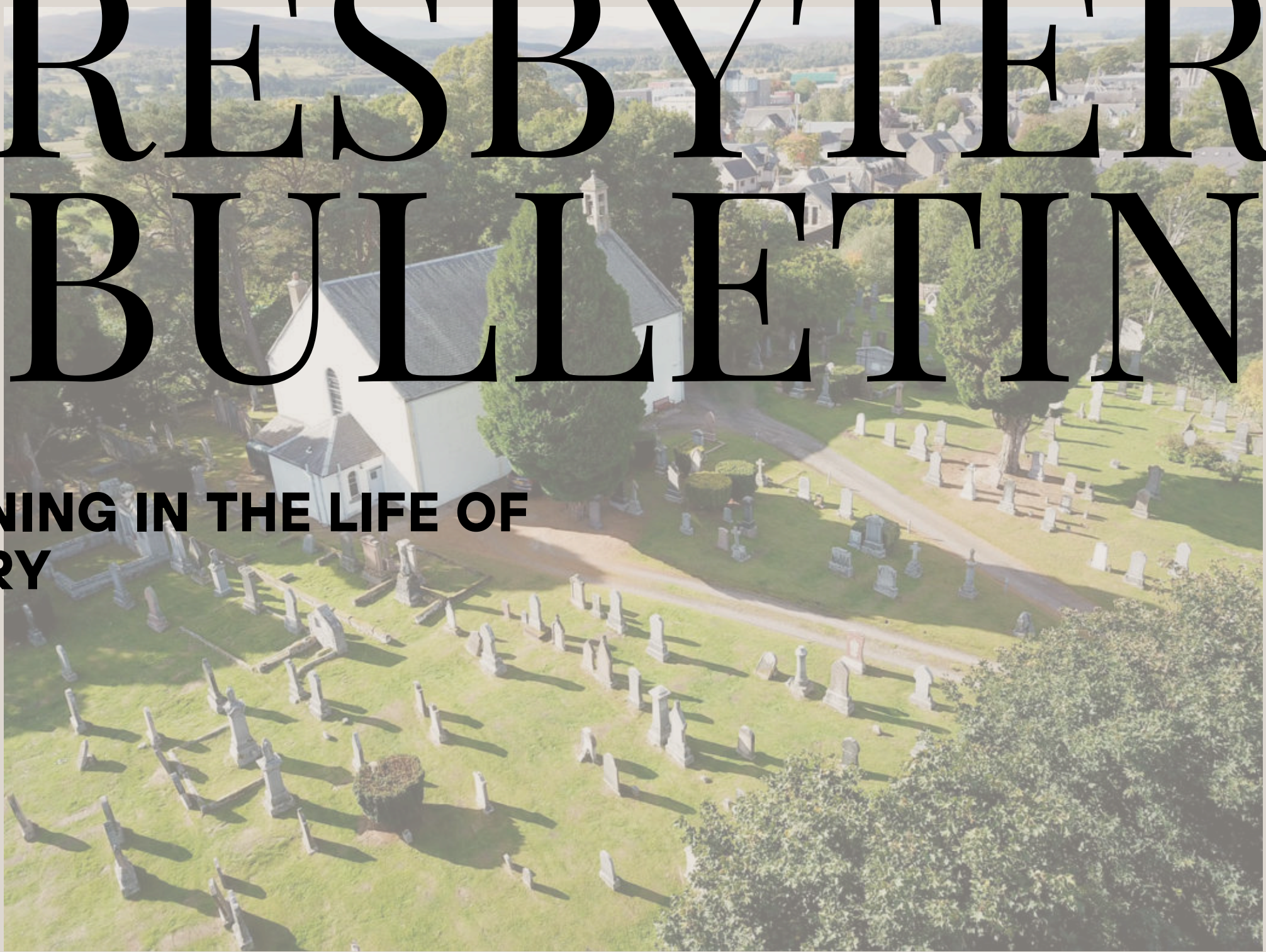


PRESBYTERY BULLETIN

An aerial photograph of a church and its surrounding cemetery. The church is a small, white, rectangular building with a grey roof and a small steeple. It is surrounded by a large, green cemetery filled with numerous gravestones of various shapes and sizes. The cemetery is bordered by trees and a path. In the background, a residential area with houses and more trees is visible under a clear sky.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LIFE OF
OUR PRESBYTERY**

Week ending 13th October 2024

www.cei.presbytery.org.uk

HELLO & WELCOME



Greetings in Christ! We're so glad you're here! This 'live' bulletin is going out to all of the active members here at Clèir Eilean ì, to not only remind you of our upcoming Presbytery Meetings, but to keep you updated of important events and information and also to encourage you to explore our digital platforms! You are now part of a growing community connecting everyone across our presbytery. This notice board will be updated, changed and edited frequently and a weekly email reminder will *ping* into inboxes to remind you to view new entries. All formal Presbytery business and meeting invitations will continue to be transmitted via email. A PDF VERSION IS NOW AVAILABLE THAT WILL BE EMAILED FOR PRINTING PURPOSES.

Can you name our featured iconic church building on the front cover?

CONNECT GROUPS AND WEBSITE

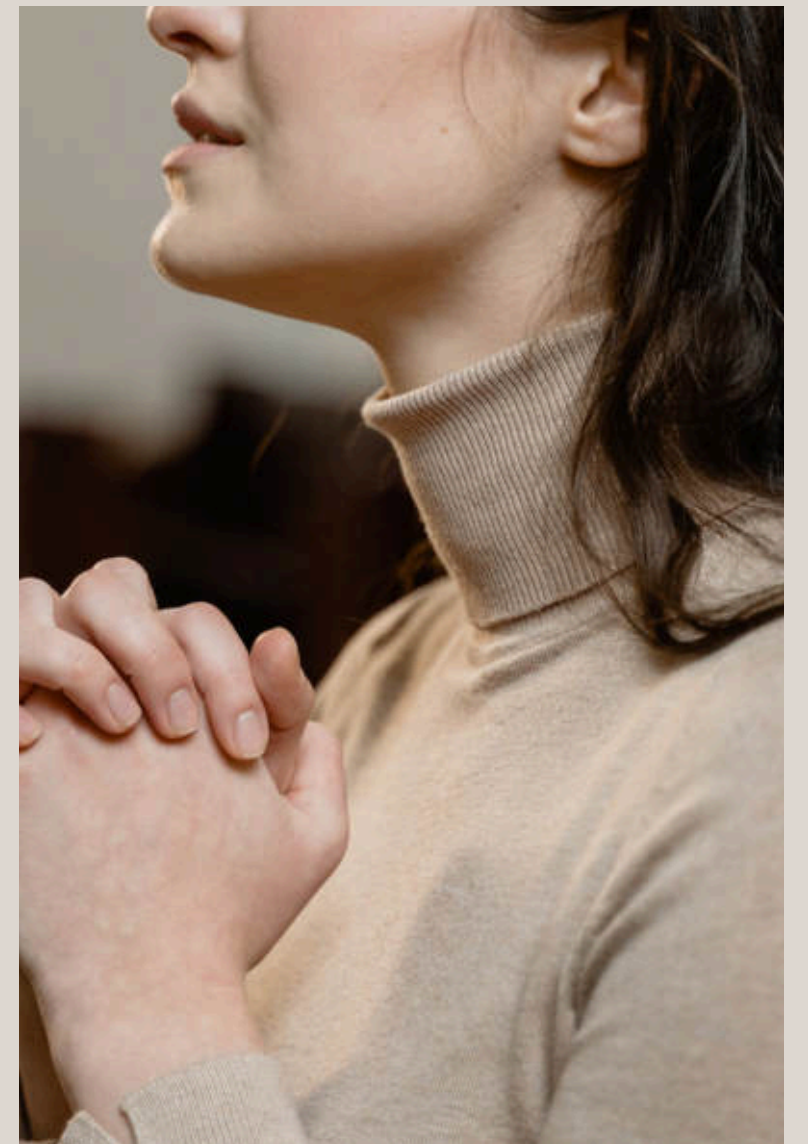


[Facebook Group Page](#)



[Clèir Eilean ì: **Highlands and Hebrides**](#)

FIND OUR FACEBOOK GROUP TO SHARE YOUR FAITH JOURNEY WITH US.
CLICK ON THE LINKS OR ICONS ABOVE TO VIEW AND JOIN.





DIARY DATES

PRESBYTERY SPECIAL DATES SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2024

Saturday 19th October, Induction of Rev Robert Brookes to Kingussie, Laggan & Newtonmore. Service at 14.00; Presbytery to meet at 13.45 at Kingussie Parish Church and then refreshments at St Brides Church, Newtonmore

Assisted Dying Discussion - 6th Nov 2024 @7pm - details below and online

October 29th - Legacy of Slavery Workshop - 7pm on Zoom - details online and below

CEI Full Presbytery Meeting - Saturday 16th November at 9.30am - details and links to follow

CEI Christmas Advent online celebrations - Wednesday 18th December @11am, all info and links on website

Presbytery will meet 15 minutes before each service. Any live stream links for services will be posted on the website and in our Facebook Group Page

FOR THE PRESBYTERY DIARY PLEASE CLICK **HERE** ALL DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE IN THE EVENTS SECTION

PRESBYTERY ADMIN



We can confirm that our website 'Members' log in area is now ready and Members of Presbytery will be issued with log in details in the coming week/s - please be patient as we work down the list - we have a few 'tweaks' to make

ALL PRESBYTERY ZOOM MEETING LINKS WILL BE EMAILED IN DUE COURSE

Session Clerks and Ministers in a charge will be issued with website log in details to enable you to update your church and congregational info and pictures onto the main presbytery website. THESE HAVE PINGED TO INBOXES TODAY.

AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Unfortunately you will be denied access if your data has not been confirmed/up to date, if you need to amend data please do so [HERE](#)

PRESBYTERY NOTICES

Lets talk strategy..... **dates have been extended to 27th October**

Over the next coming days you and your Congregation will be asked to come together and share tea and cake to consult together and help us on creating a Strategic Plan that will guide us over the next 5 years, but to be able to formulate that plan we need to listen to the views and vision of all members of the Church. To this end, we invite you and all members of your congregation to participate in discussion and feedback. Information will be sent to Ministers, IMs and Session Clerks - please ensure to share this info!

Have you managed to chat within your congregation yet?



PRESBYTERY NOTICES – ANNIVERSARY OF CONFLICT IN ISRAEL AND GAZA

Dear All,

There are no words that can adequately sum up our feelings and emotions as we reflect on a year of conflict in Israel and Gaza. The massacre in Israel on 7 October 2023 and the war, with the widespread destruction within Gaza that followed, has brought suffering to hundreds of thousands and elevated tension between communities throughout the world. It is hard to imagine that we are still witnessing scenes of horror and devastation, and yet it is a reality. Innocents are still suffering; families are still mourning; what we see through media images are an everyday reality for so many. We are horrified by the extensive loss of life. While we cannot articulate words to describe what people are living through, we must use words to bring about a resolution to this dreadful situation.

Last year, my predecessor, the Very Rev Sally Foster Fulton made comment about the conflict: "We call for calm and active consideration for the innocent civilians who are suffering in Israel and Gaza. Peace in our world can never come through violence. Peace in our spirits can never come through revenge."

As events continue to unfold, we too pray for an end to the war on Gaza and Lebanon, an end to the attacks, and for a just resolution for all the people of Israel and Palestine, and call upon all parties to lay down their weapons and enter meaningful dialogue to bring this conflict to an end.

Our prayers are with those who are suffering the effects of this year of conflict that they might be comforted. We pray also for an end to hostilities and for meaningful dialogue that gives Israelis and Palestinians their rights to safety and self-determination. We pray that the familiar words from Isaiah will become a reality: "they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2:4)



PRESBYTERY NOTICES – ANNIVERSARY OF CONFLICT IN ISRAEL AND GAZA

A prayer for peace

Lord God, you have commanded us to love our neighbour
... And yet we have failed.

Lord God, you have commanded us to love one another
... And yet we have allowed hatred to grow in strength.

Lord God, you have commanded us to follow the example of Christ
... And yet we have become motionless and silent.

Lord God, you have commanded us to reach out beyond every human made barrier
... And yet we have closed our senses to the problems that exist in our world.

Help us to turn the word peace into a verb that we become active in seeking opportunities for dialogue and meaningful discussion as a means to identify a path to peace for all people in Israel and Gaza.

Almighty God, as we note this significant anniversary, we pray for an end to the war on Gaza and for a just resolution for all the people of Israel and Palestine. We condemn all acts of violence and atrocities and pray that every individual may live free from the horrors still being endured. May this anniversary be an opportunity to step back from further escalation as we see it unfolding in the Middle East, and may we work together for peace and justice for all.

We remember all those who endure continued trauma and distress, those suffering physical and emotional injury and those who have been bereaved. Give to them your comfort and enable them to know that they are surrounded by your love.

PRESBYTERY NOTICES – ANNIVERSARY OF CONFLICT IN ISRAEL AND GAZA

You may wish to shape your own prayers, and in a Joint Partner Plan Letter from Stewart Gillan (Jerusalem) & Muriel Pearson (Tiberias) last month, they provided some specific prayer points. I encourage you to utilise these in your personal and public devotions. Our thoughts and prayers are with them both as they continue to minister in Jerusalem and Tiberias.

Prayer points

- **As we contemplate the anniversary of 7 October, hold before God all who suffer from Hamas' attacks on 7 October, and for all who suffer as a result of Israel's war on Gaza. Hold before God all who suffer as a result of Israel's occupation of the West Bank.**
 - **Pray for those in the North of Israel subjected to rocket attack from Hezbollah, displaced from their homes; and for those in Lebanon killed, injured and displaced by Israeli attacks.**
- **Pray for all bereaved, all wounded, all suffering trauma and distress, all held hostage or imprisoned, whether Christian, Muslim, Jewish, or Druze.**
 - **Pray for those charged with care of the vulnerable on all sides, and raise up leaders with a vision of peace with justice for all.**
 - **Pray for bold support for peace from the international community, and for international law to be upheld and strengthened.**
 - **Pray for aid workers, UNRWA staff, medics and journalists who are struggling to bring humanitarian aid with limited resources.**
- **Pray for those struggling to hold onto their humanity, who come under suspicion for reaching out to neighbours who are different from them.**
- **Pray for us and our ecumenical associates at St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias, that we may know God's peace in seeking to carry out the ministry of Christ.**

Yours faithfully,

Rt Rev Dr Shaw J Paterson

Moderator

General Assembly of the Church of Scotland



The Church of Scotland
MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PRESBYTERY NOTICES



Induction Service in Kingussie Parish Church Saturday 19th October at 2pm

You are warmly invited to join with the congregations of
Kingussie, Laggan and Newtonmore
to celebrate the Induction of our new Minister

Rev. Robert Brookes

Followed by refreshments at St Brides Church Newtonmore
Come and meet Rev Robert Brookes

Everyone is welcome

Sun 20th October
Preaching In Services

9.30 - Kingussie Parish Church
11:30 - Newtonmore Church

Sun 27th October
Services

9.30 - Laggan Church
(Joint service with Newtonmore)
10.15 - Kingussie Parish Church
Fellowship and Coffee
11:00 - service
(to allow for travelling time)

Kingussie Parish Church Sc021546 linked with Laggan and Newtonmore Sc005490



Saturday 5 October 2024

A NOTICE OF DECISION OF VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE – Section 2(1)
To be read on one Sunday

Notice is hereby given that the Vacancy Procedure Committee of Clèir Eilean Ì proposes to appoint Alison Hay as Interim Moderator for Benbecula Iw Carinish, which duty she will combine with her guiding of the congregations uniting to form the parish of Uist & Barra under a team ministry of 2 FTE ministry posts. This action will proceed unless at least four persons, who are either communicant members of this congregation of Benbecula Iw Carinish or full members of Presbytery, together or separately submit to the Presbytery Clerk a request for this proposal to be considered at the next meeting of the Presbytery. Any such request must set out the relevant reasons. You should submit any such request in writing to Rory MacLeod, 7 Goathill Crescent, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, HS1 2TA by 14 October 2024 (or 21 October 2024 if this notice is not read until next Sunday 13 October). If four valid requests are received, then the proposed appointment will be suspended and the approval of Presbytery will be required.

Roderick A R MacLeod
Presbytery Clerk

NB this intimation is also to be displayed as prominently as possible at the church buildings for seven days.



Friday 6 September 2024

A NOTICE OF DECISION OF VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE – Section 2(1)
To be read on one Sunday

Notice is hereby given that the Vacancy Procedure Committee of Clèir Eilean Ì proposes to appoint Rev Donald McCorkindale as Interim Moderator for Nairn Old with Rev Linda Walker serving in an auxiliary capacity, providing pastoral leadership and organising the preaching rota. This action will proceed unless at least four persons, who are either communicant members of this congregation of Nairn Old or full members of Presbytery, together or separately submit to the Presbytery Clerk a request for this proposal to be considered at the next meeting of the Presbytery. Any such request must set out the relevant reasons. You should submit any such request in writing to Rory MacLeod, 7 Goathill Crescent, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, HS1 2TA by 15 September 2024. If four valid requests are received, then the proposed appointments will be suspended and the approval of Presbytery will be required.

Roderick A R MacLeod
Presbytery Clerk

NB this intimation is also to be displayed as prominently as possible at the church building for seven days.

PRESBYTERY MEETINGS – ‘HUBS’ and links



OUR HUB LOCATIONS

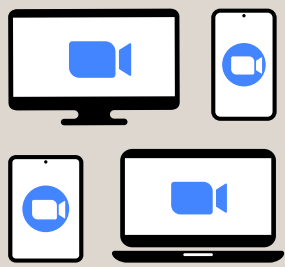
- Duncansburgh Church, The Parade, Fort William, PH33 6BA
- Oban Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, Argyll, PA34 4DN
- Clachan Church Hall (North Uist)
- Fort Augustus & Glengarry Churches – Church Hall, Fort Augustus
- Alness Church of Scotland, Perrins Road, Alness IV17 0SX
- Thurso West Church, 10 Sinclair Street, KW14 7AJ
- Pulteneytown Church, Argyle Square, KW1 5AL
- Alvie & Insh church hall
- Inverness Crown Church
- Culbokie
- Aviemore, St Andrew's Church Hall
- West Church Hall, Dornoch
- Portree Church/Church Hall
- Church Hall, Tarbert, PA29 6SX

*Will your HUB
be operating for
the November
meet?*



Find out where your local church is on our **location map**

UPCOMING ZOOMS, WEBINARS & TRAINING



LEADERSHIP PATHWAY

Safeguarding Training



13th November 2024

5th February 2025

9.30am - 2.30 pm

online, 'Eventbrite'



This is a reminder that there is a safeguarding course online all day for those in parish ministry. This includes OLMs, Auxiliary Ministers, Locums, Readers as well as those in team ministry posts, interim and transition ministry posts. (some MDS and diaconate workers may be required to do this depending on what they are doing).

The course builds on what we have received in the introductory and advanced courses.

Our presbytery is being offered the course on Wednesday 13 November.

This is being offered again early in 2025 but I would strongly encourage you to commit to the November day if you can.

I suggest those in the above categories register as soon as possible

Rev Dr Malcolm A Kinnear
SAFEGUARDING CONVENER
MKinnear@churchofscotland.org.uk

Leadership Training Pathway

I am aware that some have tried to register for the course in November and discovered it is fully booked.

There is now another one in 2024 on 4 December being offered for our presbytery as well as the one in 2025 which is on 5 February.

Here is the link for the course on 4th December

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/leadership-safeguarding-training-online-cleir-eilean-i-tickets-1015416015637?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Please register in advance to avoid disappointment.

You will be aware this new safeguarding training is now a requirement for parish ministers and others involved in parish ministry, associates, team ministers, auxiliary ministers, OLMs, transition ministers, interim ministers, probationer ministers, locum ministers, armed forces chaplains, readers.

It is also a requirement for many of those in diaconal ministers, and in MDS posts.

Those of us in these categories should have already done the introductory and advanced safeguarding courses. If you have not done so yet get yourself onto these first and then attend the leadership course.

Please note that this day course starts at 9.30am and goes into the afternoon.

[Register Now](#) - click here

UPCOMING ZOOMS, WEBINARS & TRAINING

INTERIM MODERATOR TRAINING

Rev Victoria Linford is going to be leading the next Interim Moderator training session on Monday 2 December 2024 from 7pm-9.30pm.

As before, this is the required training for elders and deacons who are willing to be appointed by Presbytery as Interim Moderators, and the Presbytery must be happy for them to attend the training. It is also open to any ministers who'd like training or simply a refresher. IMs have to be members of Presbytery, so if not already members of Presbytery they must be eligible and Presbytery would need to be able to admit them to membership at least for the duration of their appointment as IMs.

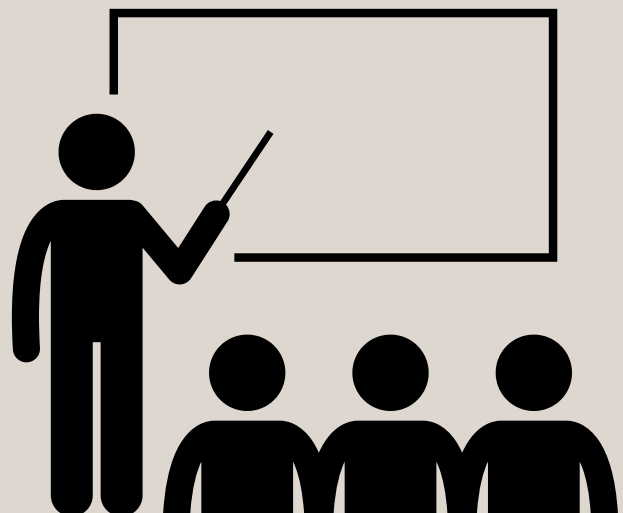
The training will be held online and the link will be sent out to participants beforehand along with a handout.

Also, to give you some advance notice, I'm planning that the first IM training session in the new year will be on Saturday 15 February 2025 from 10am-12.30pm (also online).

Please use the link below to register your interest and preferred course date - all links and paperwork will be issued in due course.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST HERE copy and paste the link below into your search bar

<https://forms.office.com/e/u2sNREFgd0>



UPCOMING ZOOMS, WEBINARS & TRAINING

Legacy of Slavery online discussion @7pm on 29th of October

Join us **HERE**

For some reading prior to this discussion please see this article
from Church of Scotland online Legacies of Slavery | The
Church of Scotland

details can be found online via the website

UPCOMING ZOOMS, WEBINARS & TRAINING

Assisted Dying Online Discussion

**Please see the news item below ahead of our online discussion on
6th November 2024 at 7pm**

To register with Zoom please use this link HERE

**[https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-
events/news/articles/church-submits-written-evidence-on-assisted-
dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland-bill](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/articles/church-submits-written-evidence-on-assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland-bill)**

***Please share the above and invite your local MP and/or medical staff - please let
AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk know if they intend on coming along!***

UPCOMING ZOOMS, WEBINARS & TRAINING



One-day online training course on Schools Ministry, led by the Church of Scotland Education and Schools Group.

A free one-day online Schools Ministry Training Conference for Chaplains and others interested in how churches and other Christian organisations can work with schools.

This will provide an update on current issues within schools and look at a range of support and available resources. There will be a particular focus on supporting resilience and mental health and wellbeing for pupils and staff, with contributions from a range of practitioners alongside practical suggestions and opportunities for discussion and reflection. This is an online conference with interactive contributions from Fischy Music, Jay Thomas (Scripture Union, Serve Your Local School), Sue Thomson (Scottish Bible Society), Lorraine Webb (Children's and Youth Work Programme Officer, United Reform Church), Steve Younger (national chaplaincy specialist), a current Headteachers and a discussion facilitation by chaplains. All are welcome, and whether you are an experienced Chaplain or a new volunteer just looking to start making connections, please come along – we hope there will be something for everyone. Book your place via

<https://forms.office.com/e/tsnWhxpyha> or contact
education@churchofscotland.org.uk if you would like more information.

UPCOMING ZOOMS, WEBINARS & TRAINING

Chalmers Lecture Series 2024 – click on the image to find out more

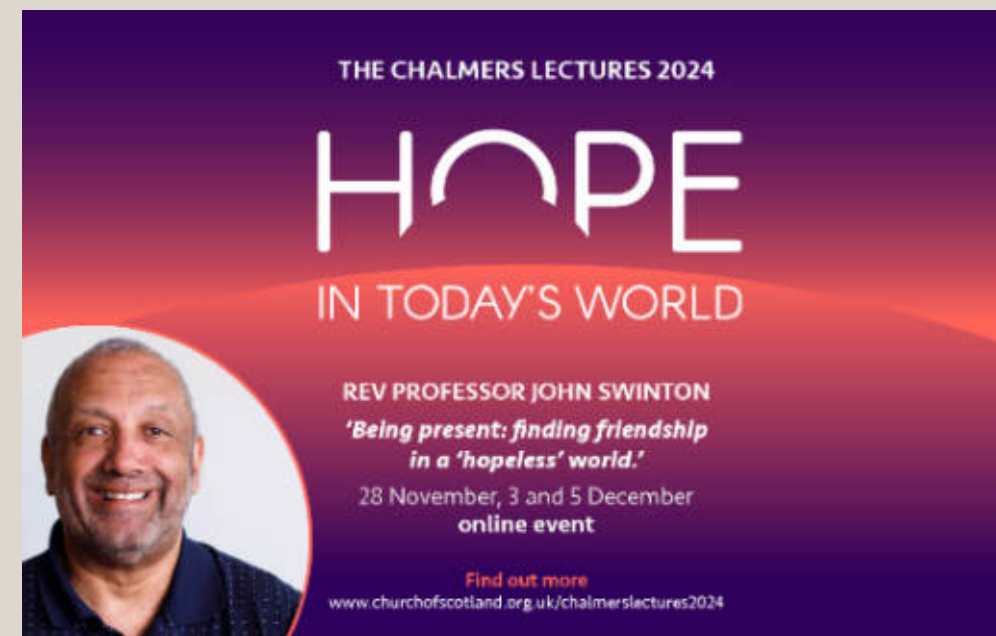
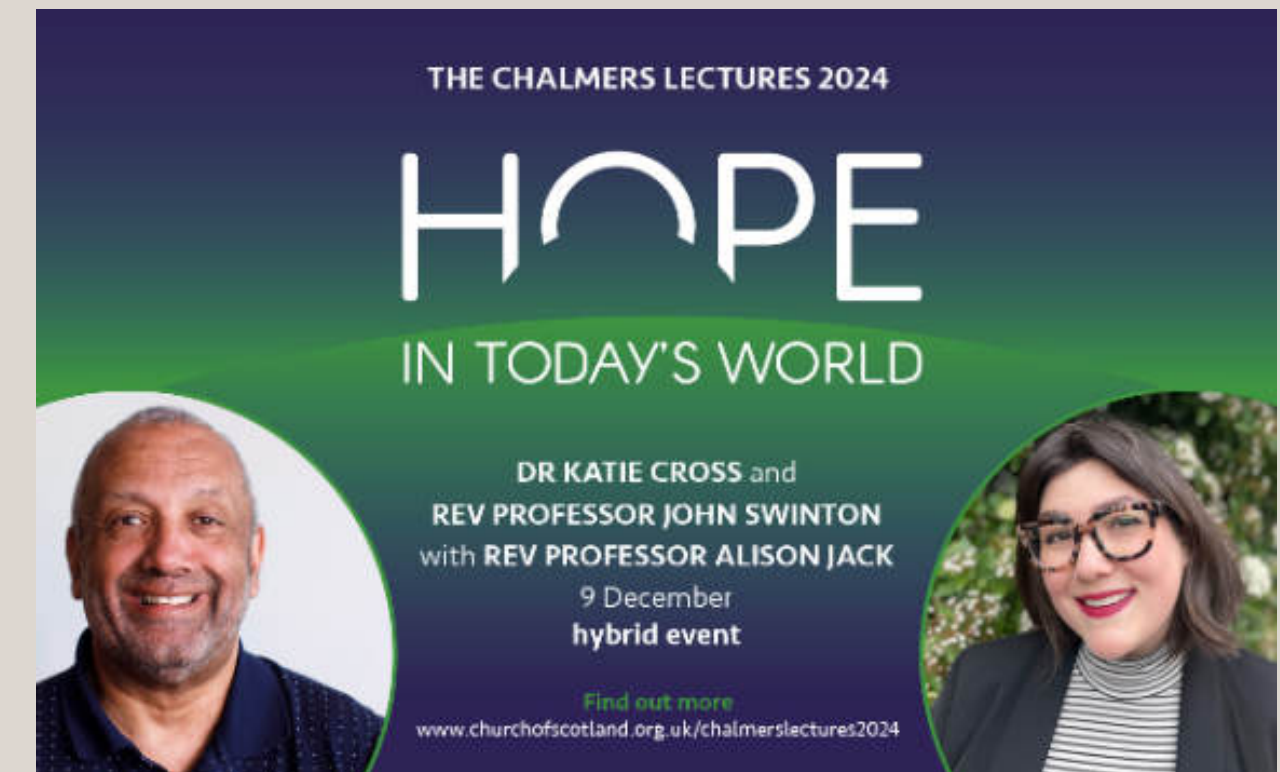
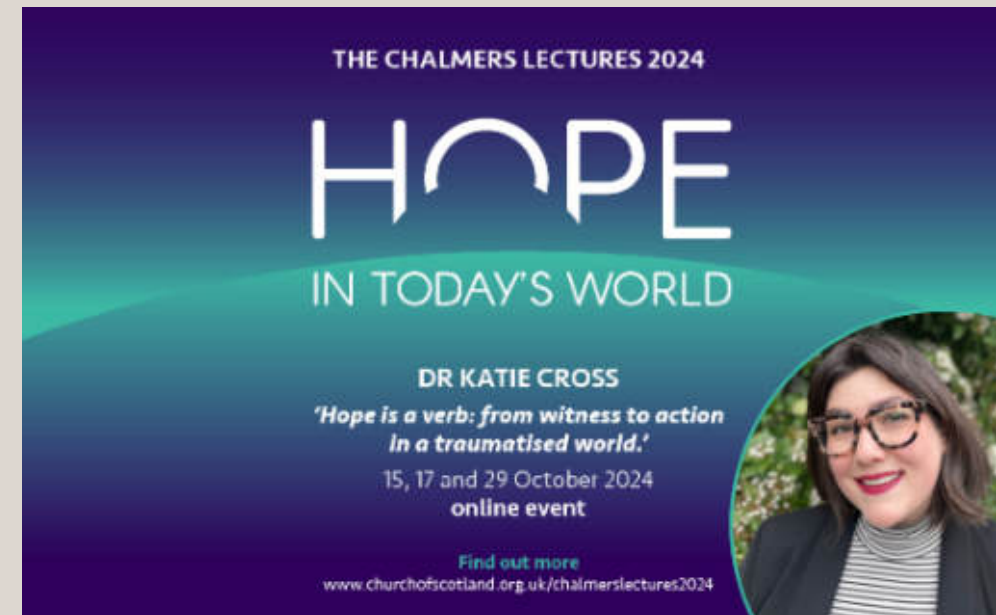
LECTURES

Chalmers Lectures

This season's lecturers are Professor John Swinton and Dr Katie Cross – the theme is Hope in today's world. Both theologians are looking at this subject from very different perspectives – each will give 3 online lectures with Q&As and then at Aberdeen University they will come together in dialogue at a hybrid event facilitated by Rev Professor Alison Jack. Full details of when, where and how to register for free for these lectures along with publicity material can be found here:

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/chalmerslectures2024>

[register HERE](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/chalmerslectures2024)



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Teaching Bible Stories at
School

—
How can teachers feel
empowered help their
students engage in meaningful
experiences as they look at
stories from the Bible?

FREE DOWNLOADABLE
RESOURCES from The
Scottish Bible Society

EXP NEWSLETTER

eXp Newsletter October 2024



Issue 20, October 2024



Welcome to Autumn!

Here we are, into Autumn. When did we blink and miss our Summer?

Our young people are back into school, or moved onto new horizons. Some of us have considered moving into our warmer clothes and our lives go on...

The eXp Team have put away the resources from eXp'24 and have moved back into the schools and our community High School aged Club which started on Friday 6th September - yes Friday! Please note the new day if you have missed that. Still the same venue and time, starts at 7pm. It was great to welcome back our young people and new members too!



"Autumn is the mellow season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits."
Samuel Butler

Page 1

eXp Summer Camp 2024 Rookies shine at Morning Clubhouse Session

The 2024 eXp Summer Camp will be remembered for many things: the camaraderie, the excitement, all the fun activities and discussions in and out of the dorm group times. We are so grateful to all our volunteer leaders who once again did their best to make camp a fun, safe and inclusive environment for every camper. The time at Whithaugh Residential Activity Centre proved to be memorable for everyone involved.

Under the guidance of Jack, the Rookies organized and executed four morning clubhouses packed with fun, games, and spirited competition. The goal was clear: to create an engaging and lively atmosphere that would energize everyone for the day ahead. And they did just that.

Creativity and Competition

From the outset, the Rookies infused the Morning Clubhouse with a sense of fun and creativity that set the tone for each day. They designed a series of activities that were as diverse as they were entertaining, ensuring that there was something for everyone. Whether it was a high-energy game or a brain-teasing challenge, the Rookies made sure that every camper had the opportunity to get involved and contribute to their tribe's success.

The structure of the sessions also reflected the Rookies' strategic thinking. By organizing the camp into four tribes, they introduced an element of competition that added to the excitement. Each tribe was eager to outdo the others, and this friendly rivalry made the mornings even more engaging. The campers weren't just participating in activities; they were competing to be crowned the overall camp winner—a title everyone wanted to claim.

Leadership in Action

The leadership displayed by the Rookies throughout camp was exemplary. They embraced the opportunity to be the first cohort of Rookies in eXp's history to plan and implement the morning clubhouses at camp. They handled the responsibility with maturity and poise. From planning the activities to managing the logistics and ensuring everything ran smoothly, they showed a level of organization and teamwork that impressed everyone.

The time the Rookies invested through the school year in learning about leadership and putting that learning into practice during the term time clubs helped them to display all that they had learned during our time together at camp. This blend of leadership and autonomy helped the Rookies grow in confidence and competence, making their contribution to the camp even more significant. The Rookies should be proud of what they have achieved this past year.

Page 2

A Lasting Impact

As the camp ended, it was clear that the week was memorable for everyone. The singing in the evening clubhouse time raised the roof and staff at the site mentioned they could hear and enjoy it from the office and their onsite accommodations. The speakers' topics each evening fed nicely into the small discussion group time which was embraced by the young people. The questions asked helped meaningful discussions to happen. The multitude of activities kept everyone busy and helped to build positively on existing relationships and make new ones. Some young people tried activities that they had never done before or that they had been previously too fearful to try. There was a tangible sense of accomplishment and triumph as a result throughout the week. The camp cooks worked hard to feed the group with hardy homemade meals and deserts.

The only negative feedback we got: The week is too short! Already booked summer camp 2025 at Whithaugh again - July 19th & 20th Leaders training, 21st - 26th CAMP (and yes that is one day longer for the young people!)



Page 3

EXP NEWSLETTER

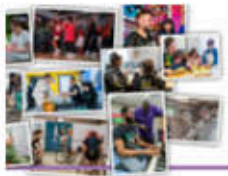
eXp Newsletter October 2024



A Haven at the Cowal Gathering

If you attended the Cowal Gathering and enjoyed the beautiful weather, pipe bands, Highland dancers, and Highland games, you might have stopped by the Haven tent for a refreshing cuppa and a biscuit.

In collaboration with the local churches in Cowal, members of eXp helped serve the refreshments and enjoyed chatting to interested visitors from near and far.



We're part of the Cowal Local Community Fund

**Choose us as
your cause**

exp.co.uk/membership

eXp continue to be a Community partner with the local Co-operative store. If you are not already a member, please consider signing up and choosing us as your cause. So far this year we have raised £1,385.00 and we hope this figure will increase for the remainder of the year.

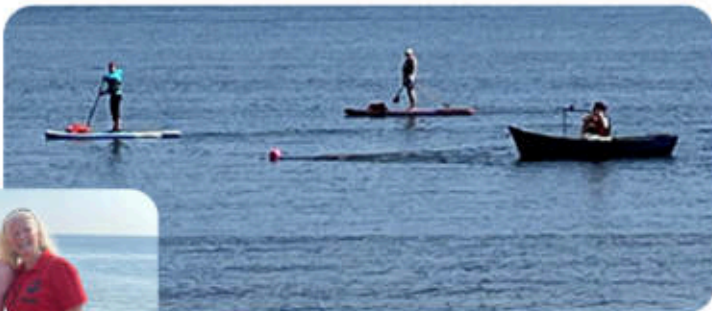
Soap on a Rope!

We would like to pass on our sincere gratitude to Jimmy Love and his team of supporters both on and off the water, who on Saturday 7th September swam across West Bay Dunoon, towing a rowing boat carrying Kenny from Soap, to raise funds for eXp Youthwork and Pink Ladies - both great causes!

There was great music, again both on land and from the boat, to accompany and encourage Jimmy in his efforts. Thankfully this was a beautiful and sunny day so all the supporters and onlookers enjoyed the event and walk along West Bay.

All the money raised (for eXp over £600) will be put towards running our Friday Night Club and other activities throughout the year.

Thank you Jimmy!



eXp is a charitable organisation and as such we rely on funding received from outside sources.

There are currently three ways you can donate to help us:

1. BACS payment to sort code: 80-22-60, Account Number: 14678962
UK tax-payers can increase their donation by completing a Gift Aid declaration. For any further information please contact anne.armstrong@expyouthwork.org.uk
2. Donations can also be made via: <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/sumercamp24>
3. Become a member of our local Co-Operative store and choose eXp for donations

All donations, regardless of amount, are greatly appreciated and go towards the work that we do with the young people of this community.

Looking Ahead at DGS Continuing the success of MAD Club

As we move forward into another exciting year at DGS, I'm thrilled to continue the journey of making a positive impact in the lives of our students. Last year, we saw incredible growth and community-building within the MAD Club (Make A Difference), and I'm committed to ensuring that this success not only continues but expands in new and meaningful ways.

MAD Club: A Safe Space for All

The MAD Club has become more than just a lunchtime activity—it's a safe haven for our young people. Every Tuesday, students gather to share their thoughts, support each other, and engage in activities that promote kindness, inclusion, and personal growth. My goal is to maintain this supportive environment where every student feels valued and heard.

Creating a space where students can come as they are, without fear of judgment, is at the heart of what MAD Club stands for. Whether they're dealing with personal challenges or just looking for a break from the daily routine, the club is a place where they can find solace and understanding. I'm proud of the community we've built and excited to see how it evolves in the coming months.

Building Stronger Relationships

Beyond the MAD Club, my focus this year is on continuing to build strong, positive relationships with our students. Every interaction is an opportunity to make a difference, and I'm dedicated to being a source of support and guidance as our students navigate their academic and personal lives.

Supporting students isn't just about helping them with their studies—it's about being there for them in all aspects of their development. Whether it's offering advice, providing a listening ear, or simply being a consistent presence, they can rely on, my aim is to help each student achieve their full potential. I believe that when students feel supported and understood, they are more likely to thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Looking Ahead

As we embark on this new school year, I'm filled with optimism and excitement for what lies ahead. The success of MAD Club last year has set a strong foundation, and I'm eager to build on that momentum. Together, we'll continue to create a school environment where every student feels safe, supported, and empowered to be their best selves.

I'm grateful for the trust that the DGS community has placed in me, and I look forward to working closely with our students, staff, and parents to make this year even more successful. Let's continue to make a difference, one Tuesday at a time, and ensure that every student at DGS knows that they have a place where they belong.

EXP NEWSLETTER

eXp Newsletter October 2024



An update from Lorna McGinnigal, Families Worker for Cowal Kirk

As we come to the end of the summer we can reflect on the 'Deep Sea Divers Holiday Club' and truly give thanks for what was a wonderful week it was for all involved. 🙌

Working alongside Dunoon Baptist Church, eXp, New Life Fellowship Church & Morrisons supermarket, 40 plus children each day we came together to have fun, dive into the bible and learn about Jesus. 📖

The children had so much fun as did everyone involved, it was such a happy week! Songs and dancing filled the hall. Games and crafts captured the children's imagination, and most importantly, a safe space was created for them to Dive in and hear stories about who Jesus is and the things he done when he was here on this earth.

We learned memory verses together, won prizes, soaked leaders! We shared lunch daily with the children, thanks to Morrisons community champion- which was a wonderful time to chat with the children and really get to know them.

On our last day, we invited parents and carers in to give them a wee taste of the week their children had been having. We had some lovely chats with them and received wonderful feedback. One parent said it was the best week of the summer holidays for her children. 🙌

We started back / afresh with our Kirk Cafe in Kirn & Sandbank Church. It would be wonderful to see any members of the church come along with a friendly face and chat. Please pray for all who may come along this year that they all feel truly welcomed and find a safe, warm place to share a cuppa and our lives together.

Our first "Pizza Church" was held on Friday 27th September and it was a great success with 70+ people, of all aged, enjoying food, fellowship and fun!



"Pizza Church"



Deep Sea Divers Holiday Club

eXtreme Tour Visits Dunoon!

It was encouraging to have the eXtreme Tour Group visit Dunoon. Twelve musicians from Canada, the USA and the UK slept on the floor of the Baptist Church September 23rd, 24th and 25th. They did 4 workshops for the Grammar School music department on the 24th – Song writing and performance design. It was great to hear the teaching staff say how valuable these workshops were for the students and the department.

On Wednesday 25th, a few of us visited the Learning Centre in the school to do another active workshop based on the truth that everyone has a light to shine and encouraging them to let it shine. It was fun to see the young people playing the percussion instruments we handed out and interacting by telling us the way they liked to shine. Answers were varied from acting, singing, playing football, and telling jokes – "beautiful" was how the staff in the Learning Centre described it - "Could you come back every week?"

On Wednesday evening the group did a free concert which was so positive and encouraging. The music started out with some heavy rocking rap and went on to some rock, country pop, solo pop, and a bit of off stage 'campfire' singing to close an inspiring evening with those who attended.



EASY LISTENING

The New Normal August 4th 2024
Breaking the glass ceiling
Sunday 17.00 – 18.00

My Guest – Bishop Libby Lane **Your Host – Ian Hall**

With music from: Ruth Campbell, Sidewalk Prophets, Brian Tucker, Toby Mac, Karen Mattheson, Anthem Lights, Leahy, Citizen Way,

107.1 FM Radio or www.speysound.com
Repeats: Tues 6th Aug 15.00, Thurs 8th 13.00, Sat 10th 02.00

The local Radio Station in Fort William, Nevis Radio, which transmits across Lochaber and also by Internet all over the world, allocates a slot every weekday morning on their breakfast show and also on Sundays during the Sunday morning show, for a two or three minute 'Thought for the Day'.

A local retired consultant surgeon and Rev Morag Muirhead share the task of organising their large list of contributors from churches and fellowships of all denominations all over Lochaber. We manage to cover every weekday and Sunday throughout the year, contributing ourselves too, when it is our turn.

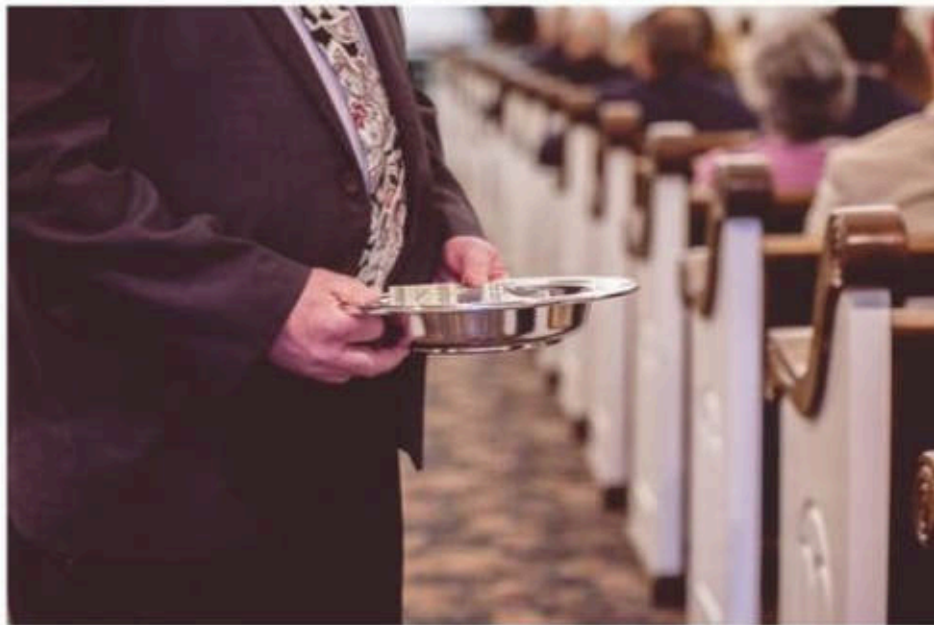
It is a great privilege to have the opportunity to share a Christian message across the airwaves almost every day of the year, including Christmas Day and Easter Sunday - many thanks to everyone who help to provide this service - tune in **HERE**



You can listen to the programme on FM Radio, On Alexa or Google Home or on the **internet**

READING AND VIDEO

Click **HERE FOR THE FULL ARTICLE**



Pass the plate? Understanding the time of offering

Does your congregation uplift an offering during worship? Does it matter? What is the Church of Scotland's understanding of 'offering' as an act of worship?

In the current edition of *Theology in Scotland*, one of our Stewardship Consultants explores how the history and theology of the offering has developed in the Church of Scotland, to help congregations explore their current and future practice. You can download the article for free using the link below.



"I think it's really important that we read the Bible together as a family...our children are learning to love Bible stories. They're learning to love reading for themselves."

-Lynne

It's time to register babies born in 2024!

We had over 400 babies register in 2023 and now our registrations are open for babies born in 2024. To register a child, you can be the parent or carer, or known to the parent or carer. You must ask the parent or carer's permission before registration.

Bibles for Bairns is back for 2024 - online registration is open - [CLICK HERE](#)



The Scottish Bible Society now has videos of the four Gospels which now includes a translation in Scottish Gaelic....click on the link below to view these videos

[lumo-gaelic-films](#)

CONGREGATIONS



Tell us what's been happening in your congregation.

News, clubs, upcoming events??

AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

MODERATORS MISSION PROJECT

Our Moderator, Rev Doug McRoberts, at Al Shurooq School for Blind Children, in Bethlehem, as featured at our June Presbytery meeting... Doug has asked that churches throughout Clèir Eilean Ì consider supporting this school, and Jeel al Amal orphanage and school in Bethany, with prayers and fundraising. Both work with disadvantaged children – including some from Gaza – almost entirely through voluntary donations.

Both, of course, are beyond the Separation Wall from Israel. And both depend on the direct support of McCabe Educational Trust (MET) – the charity arm of McCabe Pilgrimages. Until the 7th October atrocity, and the war in Gaza which followed, MET was funding Christian-led care and education of children (of any faith) in the West Bank and elsewhere, children who are blind, deaf, orphaned or poor – and sometimes more than one of those things, spending about £250,000 a year, all of it raised through charity donations. But there is now an urgent need; a recent report from MET said:

Up until October 75% of McCabe's pilgrims were visiting the Holy Land; for the last ten months this has been impossible... The income of MET has halved virtually overnight; we are fast running out of money. But the needs of the children we have been supporting have more than doubled.

At Jeel the MET has recently financed two projects which have greatly cut costs and improved life; we have fitted a solar power system that has brought down their monthly energy cost from 7,000 shekels to 200 shekels; and we have installed a water cistern that is now providing them with clean water; until then water was delivered once a week and had to be paid for by the tanker load. Their biggest problem now is the salaries of the staff: the Palestinian Authority has run out of money and most staff are accepting half a salary or no salary at all until funds are made available. Funds are also needed for food, new mattresses, medicine, stationery... MET have guaranteed Jeel £4k a month, but their costs are more like £20k a month, and other funders have had to reduce or cancel their contributions.

The same is true for Al Shurooq. Their new sensory room, funded by the Trust, has to be seen to be believed. There are real problems getting blind children, some from Gaza, to school in these trying times, and staff there too are working for half pay or less.

Doug says: "Please pray – and consider whether your church, or group of churches, could help financially, particularly during the next year when the funding crisis is at its peak. These children are part of the future in the Holy Land; but they need our love and support right now. Thank you."

To donate click [HERE](#)



PRESBYTERY & BEYOND – VACANCIES



Become an Assembly Trustee of the Church of Scotland – Lead Us Toward Renewal and Growth

The Church of Scotland stands at a pivotal moment in its history, facing financial challenges but filled with resilience, vision, and a commitment to mission. We are seeking passionate Charity Trustees to help guide us through this time of transformation and ensure the Church's vital work in communities continues to flourish.

As one of Scotland's largest charities, we play a crucial role in worship, social care, and community engagement, all of which demand careful financial stewardship and visionary leadership. This role is not simply about balancing the books – it's about nurturing generosity, supporting renewal, and ensuring that our cherished resources are used to advance Christ's mission in a changing world.

Our "Seeds for Growth" initiative and new ministry recruitment programmes position us to invest in the future, but we need bold leaders to help us seize the opportunities ahead. As an Assembly Trustee, you'll help shape the future of the Church, ensuring we continue to proclaim the Good News while adapting to the needs of today.

Are you ready to make a difference? Join us in leading the Church of Scotland toward renewal, embracing bold decisions, collaboration, and change. Together, we can chart a course for a hopeful future.

Due to the basis on which the trustees' term operates, we have three vacancies to recruit for, up to three of which may be filled by ministers. We are looking for people who have a sense of call to lead in a national setting who have skills honed at Board level in governance or finance. Following the 2025 General Assembly, we will be seeking to appoint a convener and vice-convener from the group of trustees.

Details are on the Church of Scotland website: [Become an Assembly Trustee | The Church of Scotland](#). Please read what is involved, consider the opportunity and highlight it to anyone you think may be interested in applying to come and join the Assembly Trustees.

The successful applicants will serve for three years from May 2025 with the possibility of a further term at the end of that period.

The webpage [Assembly Trustees](#) also includes the latest Assembly Trustees' Update, for May 2024.

VACANCIES
PAGE - Click
here to view
our
vacancies
page

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE



The Nomination Committee of the General Assembly.

The next round of nominations to standing committees of the General Assembly will begin at the start of November 2024. The Nomination Committee is scheduled to meet on 29th and 30th January 2025 to consider nominations to standing committees.

These committees make a vital contribution to the decision making of the General Assembly and are strengthened by the diversity, skills and competencies of their members. In seeking new volunteers, we ask you to please promote the work of the Nomination Committee to fill vacant positions. Please share this information through communications with your congregation.

Watch this video for more info:

<https://youtu.be/fbgl2cRI8gl?si=jzivybGfSlKRvj8k>

PRESBYTERY PENNIES

Every penny counts.....this page will give advice on all things 'financial' to help aid your congregational budgets, spending and give up to date knowledge of grants and advice....

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

- **Do you have a listed church building?**
- **Have you had any works done to it in the last 12-18 months?**
- **Have you claimed under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme?**

If your congregation has had fabric work done on a listed church, you may be able to claim part of the cost back as grant, up to 12 months in arrears. For more information go to Your paragraph text or contact the Finance Officer, Tom Jordan at TJordan@churchofscotland.org.uk. The scheme ends in March 2025, so don't delay.

Presbytery expenses for the conference are being processed - your patience is appreciated



QUICK ONLINE RESOURCES

PLEASE SEE OUR RESOURCES PAGE ON THE WEBSITE AND HAVE A LOOK AT OUR 'ONE STOP SHOP' ON THE WEBSITE - CLICK ON THE ICONS BELOW

RESOURCES PAGE



ONE STOP SHOP PAGE



PRESBYTERY GALLERY



Captured a piece of heaven? Send your pictures to AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

STAY CONNECTED



AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk
CleirEileanI@churchofscotland.org.uk



Rory MacLeod 07841 654 281
Amanda Anderson 07906 758 720



www.cei.presbytery.org.uk



Face Book Group Page



[Presbytery - Youtube](#)



Presbytery [Podcast](#)



[pop in to your local church](#)

STAY CONNECTED – COMMITTEE CONVENER CONTACTS

Business - Donald McCorkindale

DMcCorkindale@churchofscotland.org.uk

Finance - Lorraine Sinclair

LSinclair@churchofscotland.org.uk

Land & Property (Interim) - Alan Walker

agtezel@gmail.com

Mission & Ministry - Janet MacKellar

JMackellar@churchofscotland.org.uk

Mission Planning - Monika Redman

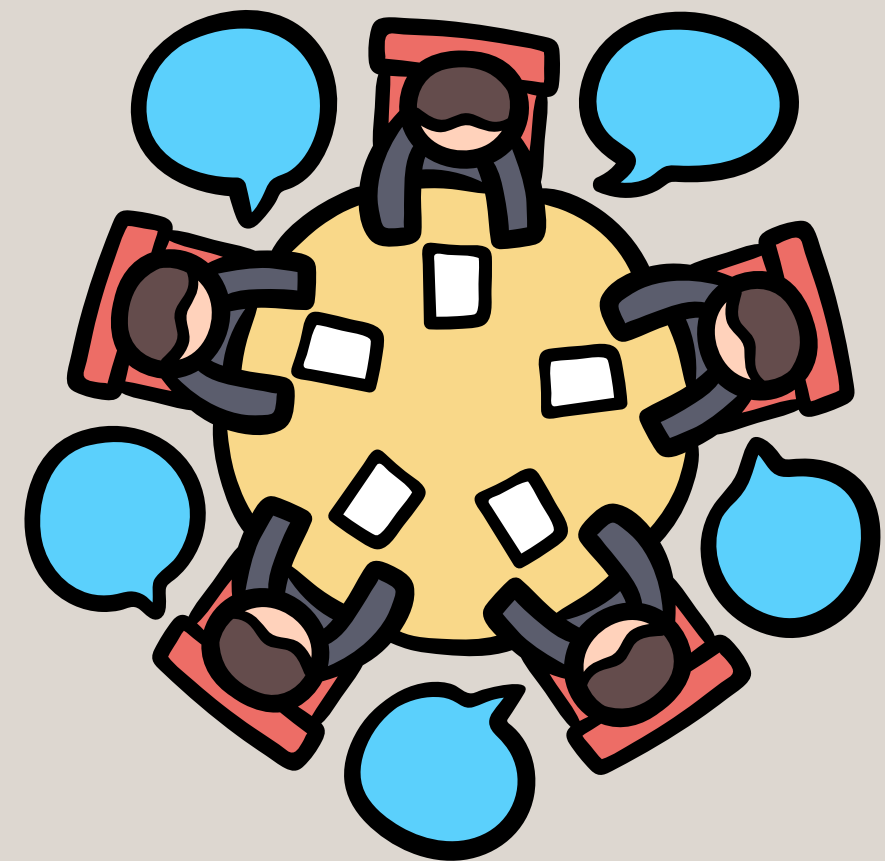
MRedman@churchofscotland.org.uk

Safeguarding - Malcolm Kinnear

MKinnear@churchofscotland.org.uk

Superintendence - Lyn Peden

LPeden@churchofscotland.org.uk



NOTE A CHANGE

If you wish to be removed from the monthly mail reminder please click [HERE](#)

Changed your details or need to add your details? No problem at all, please let us know so we can stay in touch....note any changes you have by clicking [HERE](#).

We adhere to strict GDPR guidelines with sensitive data at all times.

**Members can request a copy of the Presbytery Directory
[HERE](#)**

