



The Church of Scotland

Clèir Eilean Ì:
Highlands and Hebrides

THE WEEKLY WORD

A Weekly Newsletter by Clèir Eilean Ì

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CURRENT APPEALS?

Have you ever browsed the 'current appeals' page on the Church of Scotland website.

The HIV Programme's aim is to break the silence on HIV and AIDS, stand together with partner churches, offer practical support, speak up for the voiceless, and involve every member of the church.

Poverty and lack of development often contribute to the spread of HIV, which can lead to ill-health and even death.

People living with HIV throughout the world do not look for our sympathy but our solidarity and practical support. The HIV Programme aims to provide that support, and so to bring hope, around the world through its partnerships with church-related and other faith-based organisations.

THE WEEKLY WORD

Message from.....

MESSAGE FROM OUR BUSINESS CONVENER

Sharing...

As we journey through Lent, Holy Week and Easter are fast approaching. As I write this on the 20th of the month, I'm reminded of the copy deadline for the local community newspaper 'De tha dol?' - what's happening?. That rather focuses the mind on Holy Week and Easter plans and the detail we want to share with others. Beyond sharing info and inviting people into Church services and other events, I'm also aware of the need to share something of the good news of Easter with the wider community in 'De tha dol?', social media, posters and the various forms of communication available.

When Paul was writing to the Corinthians he spoke of being 'all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.' What means could you possibly use this Easter to share the gospel that some might be saved.



The Scottish Bible Society has excellent resources including 'Wonder Walks' Journeys through the Easter Story - a little booklet outlining 8 walks - which could be actual walks around the community, virtual walks, or adapted for use seated around a table.



And CrossReach invite us to consider supporting their Crossreach Spring Fling Fundraiser. What other resources and ideas could you share as together we seek to reach many with the Good News of Easter? On the Presbytery Facebook Group there's a post creating a space to share Holy Week and Easter ideas.... Do share!

With every blessing...

Donald

Rev Donald McCorkindale
Business Convener



THE WEEKLY WORD

Congregation in focus

Each week we will welcome a congregation and give them the spotlight - a chance to perhaps:

- tell us some historical facts and information
- welcome the Minister and larger congregation
- tell us about your role as “session clerk” or “fabric convener”
- fill us in on upcoming changes
- give us days and times for services and special services
 - upcoming
- share photos
- offer prayer
- provide some quotes
- get the children involved
- links to social media accounts
- clubs and gatherings

Give us an insight to your congregation, the community and the people that bring joy and hope each and every day!

Would you like to be the next Congregation in Focus?

To feature your Congregation please contact Amanda Anderson via email **AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk** with stories, information, pictures.....

THE WEEKLY WORD

From Ken Ross in Malawi – Hey Jude

CYCLONE JUDE

Our March update from Rev Dr Ken Ross....

This past week southern Malawi had an unwelcome visitor – Cyclone Jude. Mercifully Jude did not quite have the force of Freddy in 2023 but still enough to damage buildings and bring down trees. It came up close and personal for me when a big tree next to my house fell on the power lines – sparks everywhere. With my neighbours we were thankful for timely attention from the electricity company to prevent any further harm being done. Such experiences are a wake-up call about climate change. No doubt it is a threat to future generations, but it is also a palpable reality right now in a context like Malawi.

If I can find hope anywhere it is with the environmental awareness and activism of our students. On Friday they decided to adopt “Green Theology” as the slogan for this year. They hope to apply this both to our shared life on the campus and to their outreach into communities where they have opportunities to be involved. Watch this space.

Ken Ross

Ken’s blog: www.thinkingmission.org



If you wish to read any of Ken’s work and papers, these can be found [here](#) in publications.

THE WEEKLY WORD

Local, National & Global News

COMING SOON - INFORMATION ON GRANTS

Many churches, chapels and meeting houses were built to be at the heart of their communities; to be busy and used by all. There are many ways to ensure that this is still the case.

Discover how to create the perfect welcome, tell your story and more.

From how to develop and manage a church building project, to keeping your church in good condition by regular maintenance, you can find out about the key things you need to do to look after your church building.

The National Churches Trust have already had meetings with General Trustees, Principal Clerk and others, their aim is simply to award grants in line with the above.

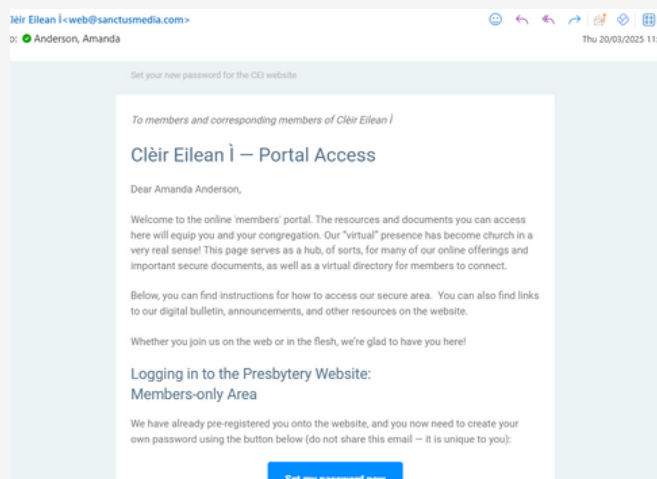
We will soon welcome Mr David Lynch who will provide us with a series of online information gatherings (AM, PM and evening) so that everyone who is interested can join.

Personally, David has lived and worked in the Highlands, specifically in church related roles, including CofS roles for the last 25 years, and has a passion for supporting our remote areas.

More updates will follow with dates and links.

MEMBERS AREA

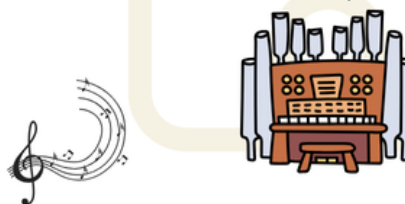
At our last presbytery meeting on 11th March you may remember that we discussed the launch of the members area - please look out for an email like the image below popping into your mailbox from Monday. **Please also check 'junk' mailboxes** and if you have any questions during roll out please let me know **AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk**



SOUND OF MUSIC?

Church Organ Repairs

Are you experiencing problems in arranging repairs of your Organ. Repairers often have to travel considerable distances which can cost Parish Churches a lot of money. Although the Organ Advice Committee provides useful free advice, perhaps, it might be possible for a number of churches to get together to approach the Organ Advice Committee for help as it would be cheaper to send an expert to a group of Churches rather than to only one. It might also be easier for a group of churches to access any available grants. Please click **HERE** if this applies to you, and we can collate any information to consider options.



Organ Advice Committee:

<https://www.scotsorgan.org.uk/advice-on-organs>

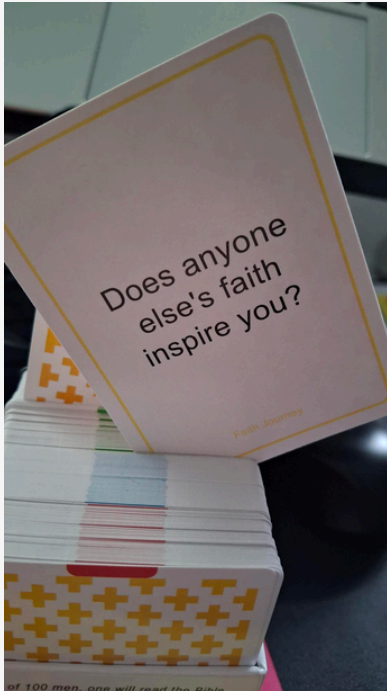
www.cei.presbytery.org.uk

THE WEEKLY WORD

Prayer & Reflection

MISSION IN MIND

Have you looked at last weeks mission card - what's your thoughts, let us know in confidence [HERE](#)



This weeks card was selected from the yellow category 'Faith Journey'

Talking Point Cards click [HERE](#) to order

GAELIC CHURCH SERVICE



ONE STOP SHOP SWAP SHOP

Something old, something blue, something borrowed, something new?

HAVE A BROWSE BY CLICKING [HERE](#)

We now have a place to add offerings and items on the website....perhaps you have some bibles or chairs that you no longer use but want to find them a good home.... drop me an email with info

AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

THE WEEKLY WORD

Prayer & Reflection

MARCH PRAYER

Our Presbytery Prayer Mrs Janette Henderson, Prayer Co-ordinator

Loving and creator God,
We give thanks for all creation, for the seasons and the air we breath. Lord we sometimes forget the gifts you give us in our daily lives, and that each one of us is unique in your sight, yet each of us has a purpose in your plan. We often stray, but yet you call us back to the path you have set before us.

Lord forgive us as we make mistakes and wander , make us heed your call and listen to your voice.
As Winter turns to Spring we marvel at the snowdrops and crocus in our gardens and the trees beginning to bud to provide shade and shelter for the birds wakening us each morning. These are reminders that the warmth of the cold earth absorbing the spring sunshine, is coming alive after the darkness and the chill of Winter. May the coming of these signs of life be an inspiration and a reminder of the energy within us to make a difference as we go about our daily lives may our example connect with all we meet.

We pray for the young people in our Presbytery as they approach the exam season, and the educators who work tirelssly to encourage and mentor all who pass through their classroom.
As we come into the season of Lent may we remember the path Jesus has had to walk to fulfil the wishes of His Father and the prophets of old. May we carry the life of Jesus in our hearts and spread the good news of the Bible to those who have strayed ,yet still need the assurance of the teaching of the living Lord.

Lord we ask for healing for those who are sick and peace for those who are bereaved and lonely.
May they find peace in this time of despair.

Our Presbytery meets to discuss and plan the way forwards for our churches and ministers. Churches who are meeting with a new format and a larger congregation as they have joined together to make a vibrant position for the Church in Scotland. We pray for all conveners and those who have administrative posts in our Presbytery, may they be strengthened by your hand and a guide to our Churches and the Ministers in CEI
We pray for all the conflict throughout the world in particular the people of Ukraine who are having to rebuild towns and lives, the people of Israel/Palestine who have to learn to live together in Peace.

Lord we pray for all caught up in conflict, may they find peace.

Lord we ask blessings on our mission partner Ken Ross out in Malawi/Tanzania and on all who work in your name in different parts of the world, keep them safe and work through them to make a difference to lives in countries where farming, growing and clean water are difficult due to climate change. Lord we know the solutions but, through greed, the solutions are sometimes pushed aside may the governments and leaders of these countries heed these warnings
make changes so that all can live in health and in safety of disease.

Lord we pray for all in CEI who through their Church connection are making a difference in our churches and that all who preach the word may be energised by their congregations . These things we pray in Jesus Name Amen

Psalm 145 v 8-9

THE WEEKLY WORD

Presbytery

PRESBYTERY MEETING

The next meeting of Presbytery is **Saturday 14th June 2025** - zoom registration links and all paperwork have now been issued, HUB info has also been updated to the right and on the web.

PRESBYTERY NOTICES

Formal Presbytery Notices and updates can be found online - Unions, Ordinations, Vacancy information... click button to view.

[Notices](#)

VACANCIES

Our vacancies can be found [here](#)

<https://cei.presbytery.org.uk/one-stop-shop/detail/oss-vacancies>

As you may be aware the Parish of NW Lochaber has a Vacancy for a Minister, have a look at the Parish profile and please share.

COMMITTEES

Our Committee Conveners contact details and team members can be found online, click [HERE](#) to view. You can also use our contact form if you wish to send a message. Click on the box below to send a message.

[Contact](#)

OUR HUBS

- 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
- Alvie & Insh church hall
- Inverness Crown Church
- Culbokie
- Aviemore, St Andrew's Church Hall
- West Church Hall, Dornoch
- Portree Church/Church Hall
- Tarbert Lochfyne HUB, Church Hall, Tarbert, PA29 6SX



will operate at next meeting



will NOT operate at next meeting

OTHER NOTICES

Please be reminded that our current Clerk *pro tem* is Mr Stewart Shaw - he can be reached at cleireileani@churchofscotland.org.uk if you want to know more about Mr Shaw you can find details on the website and also in 'edition 8' of the newsletter [HERE](#)