



The Church of Scotland

Clèir Eilean Ì:
Highlands and Hebrides

THE WEEKLY WORD

A Weekly Newsletter by Clèir Eilean Ì

EDITION 12

6 JUNE 2025

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JOYFUL JUNE

After a period of rest and reflection during the General Assembly the newsletter is back, the long and hot unexpected May weather that has now left us makes it feel like the days of high summer should be here and holiday time has arrived. It's easy to assume Church life will, in like manner, slow to a leisurely meander, but in June it doesn't.

If you're reading this while it's freezing outside or raining, the Church Year might not seem so out of place.

June is an active and exciting month: on June 8th we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, when we celebrate God pouring out his Holy Spirit on the believers.

We also have presbytery meetings, inductions and Moderator movement - a time for joy, thanks and celebration.



THE WEEKLY WORD

Message from.....

REV DOROTHY WALLACE

Pastoral Support

***“As a prisoner for the Lord, then I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”
(Ephesians 4:1-2)***

Loving each other. It must be one of the most difficult commands we are given by the Lord. It is quite easy to love our spouses or partners- usually. It is quite easy, to love our families, our parents, children and so on- usually. As with our friends and those who worship with us week by week, or who govern our three courts, in our Presbyterian tradition. Or it usually is easy. It should be easy.

While we are made in His image, we are imperfect humans compared with God’s perfection, so no, it is not always easy. We often have to try hard, to keep loving those we encounter. That is often far from easy. But whoever claimed following Christ was easy? It was never easy for the early converts, the ones who spread the Good News as far and wide as they could, across the lands accessible to them. For those who remained in 1st Century Palestine, facing persecution and death, that was not easy. The love we can offer our fellow humankind will never be as abundant as the love God showers upon us, we can only try our best to emulate the love we are offered. When we love one another, it makes that other great command, forgiveness, a little softer to practise. It makes it easier to put any past ill feelings, any slights we have experienced, behind us and move on, in love.

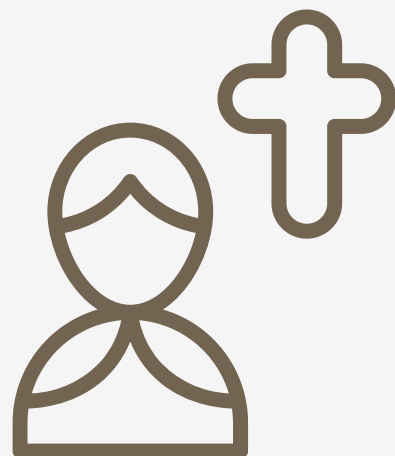
As we move forward as a presbytery, when we meet all together online, or in person, as we meet in smaller committees or groups, we keep the words from Ephesians to the forefront of our minds and firmly in our hearts. To be humble and gentle, to practise patience and bear one another in love. To borrow from our new GA Moderator, bear each other in Extravagant Love.

Yours in Christ,
Dorothy Wallace
Presbytery Pastoral Support Team

We will soon, as a team be in touch with all clergy and MDS very soon, to offer Pastoral Support.

However, if you are in need in the meantime, please contact Dorothy and a suitable carer will be offered asap. We have a dedicated email address at;

pastoralsupportcei@churchofscotland.org.uk



THE WEEKLY WORD

PENTECOST SUNDAY

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Pentecost Sunday 2025

Pentecost Sunday 8th June 2025.

Pentecost shows us a beautiful moment when people from different nations heard the apostles speaking in their own languages.

This miracle demonstrated that the Holy Spirit unites people despite their differences. It was a sign that God's message is for everyone, no matter where they come from or what language they speak.

The apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke to the crowd, and everyone understood them. This unity in diversity is a key theme of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit broke down barriers and brought people together, showing that the love of God transcends all human divisions. It reminds us that we are all part of one family in Christ.

This event teaches us the importance of inclusiveness in our faith. The Holy Spirit calls us to reach out to others, to embrace different cultures, and to share the message of Jesus with everyone.

We are encouraged to see beyond our differences and to focus on what unites us as children of God. Pentecost encourages us to celebrate our diversity and to seek unity in the Holy Spirit.

By doing so, we can build stronger communities and a more loving Church. Let us open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, allowing it to guide us in breaking down barriers and fostering unity among all people.

On Sunday, 8th of June at services across presbytery, we invite everyone to join in a celebration of Pentecost and thanksgiving, as we journey together to support us in raising funds for the Clèir Eilean Ì Malawi scholarship fund.

Please check with your local congregation if you are having a service and/or collection and let us unite all communities in faith, reflection and joy.

Come and be part of this special celebration!

If you can please donate what you can using the QR code or link below:

[LINK HERE](#)



THE WEEKLY WORD

Mission partner news

KEN ROSS AND CEI MALAWI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Masters in Contextual Theology at Zomba Theological University is a flagship programme which started in 2022 and has attracted high quality students seeking to strengthen their leadership calibre. Many prospective students cannot afford the annual cost of around £1,500. The award of the Clèir Eilean Ì scholarship will provide the opportunity for one such student to enrol and complete the course. Not only will this be life-changing for the student, it will make a significant contribution to supplying the kind of leadership that Malawi needs in challenging times.



Please give what you can [HERE](#)



For more information on the work of our Mission Partner simply look through our previous newsletters for updates and news or click [here](#) to find out more about his publications.

THE WEEKLY WORD

Membership request

Augusta Lamont Bequest Committee

The Committee is seeking to appoint a new member. The task is not onerous and most of the business is conducted by email. The Committee is responsible for the oversight of the bequest and is supported by our own local administrator and a finance officer from 121.

Applications are received from the beneficiary congregations, i.e. those charges located wholly or partially within Cowal, and these are reviewed by members of the committee via email to determine if these are appropriate. We also meet annually, typically online but can be in-person, to review the past year's work and to determine a budget for the following year. This meeting usually takes place in September as the financial year starts on the 1st January. Expenses associated with the conduct of business are provided.

To qualify, committee members must be members of Presbytery and whose affiliation lies within the bounds of the old Argyll Presbytery. However, anyone associated in any capacity with the beneficiary churches in Cowal are disqualified from applying.

For further information or to register an interest please contact Douglas Allan, Convenor on **douglas.allan423@gmail.com** in the first instance.

THE WEEKLY WORD

General Assembly 2025

GA 2025 REFLECTIONS



The 2025 General Assembly took place from Saturday, 17 May to Thursday, 22 May 2025, at the Assembly Hall on the Mound, Edinburgh.

Reports can be found below:

[REPORTS](#)

Publications and previous reports can be found below:

[PUBLICATIONS](#)



THE WEEKLY WORD

Bindal News - Mr Douglas Gordon

The countryside looks lovely, when the Oil Seed Rape (OSR) comes into flower. The bright yellow of OSR and green of spring barley creates a patchwork of colours. Then you have the bare ground of newly planted potatoes. The bumble bees and bees love the OSR, as there are so many flowers with pollen to choose from. It makes a white honey, once extracted from the honeycomb that needs to be stirred slowly in a pan, if it is stirred too fast, it will set rock hard.

I was bad with asthma & hay fever when I was young. But I can walk into a field of OSR, and it doesn't affect me.

As the pollen is that heavy, it either sticks to your clothes or falls to the ground when you brush against the flowers. The pollen will not blow in the wind like pollen from grass, barley etc, which are in flower at the same time. I know of some people who say are affected by the smell of it and brightness of the flowers.

We humans need the sun to brighten our day and warm us up, as it gives us Vitamin D. But too much can cause other problems. We live in a beautiful part of the world, which changes as the seasons change. OSR produces seeds in pods which when crushed can produce oil for cooking and making margarine and bio diesel. But we also need the oil that comes out of the ground. We need oil to lubricate our windmills and tractor engines, hydraulics, fuel, nitrogen fertiliser and sprays. But we also need oil for our medicines and creams which we use for ourselves. It is a fact of life and far better when we have our own instead of importing it from abroad, just like our food where we control it. It also helps the country's balance of payments with other countries.

The Bible tells us about Jesus, who is the author of life. He was in the beginning before the world was formed. In Revelation 22 v16, Jesus identifies himself as "the bright morning star". We need to look to Jesus to brighten our lives up and put our trust in Jesus and say we are sorry for our sins (which is guilt or wrongdoing). John 3 v 16. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. Yes, the devil (Satan) does not want us to be happy in Jesus. He hardens people's minds against God. Puts all sort of ideas in our head that will make us happy, some people experiment with drink & drugs. The devil will create lots of problems like depression. We need to pray (Talk) to Jesus and ask him to help us through our lives by lubricating our minds with what we read in the Bible. We need to slow down & take time to read the Bible and talk (pray) to Jesus everyday about our problems and ask him for help with our lives.

We live in a fast-moving world, where we can get instant answers on the Internet through search browsers like Google with answers to all our questions, some are false and lead us astray. But we need to take time & look around us at the beauty of the countryside, all the different colours, shapes of trees and hills that we can see.

The wonder of God's creation is all around us to enjoy it. But so many people are rushing around today, they don't take time to recharge their lives to help us calm down. That is what I like about church, we have a time to switch off from the world and sing praises to God and hear what the bible has to say about certain passages in the Bible. We listen to the preacher praying (talking) to God and we can make these our prayers too, when we go home and pray at home, and add our own prayers for family, friends and any problems that might arise.

Ephesians 3 v 17 "so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ".

Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."



THE WEEKLY WORD

Training & Events

TRAINING

Throughout Presbytery we try to offer as much training as possible and we are opening up more places and methods available to accommodate all - please continue to check in and have a look at upcoming training and opportunities that are coming up. **If you have any training or events that you would like to share just let us know.**

CHURCH IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE – A WEBINAR FROM CHURCH OF SCOTLAND LEARNING THURSDAY 19TH JUNE – 1.00-1.45PM

Together we'll explore: How do we respond to the changing landscape of church where we are? How do we journey together through these challenging seasons? How might we thrive and find hope and new growth in changing times?

We'll introduce you to four modules, new to the platform – Navigating Your Way Through Change, Being an Intergenerational Church, Future Focus and Ways of Working Together. These four modules demonstrate different aspects of the nature of change and how we can respond in the church.

You will have the opportunity to hear from Eleanor McMahon, People and Training Manager, who will introduce this relevant topic to us, as well as a panel of module contributors. We hope this will be a stimulating and encouraging time together, we'd love to see you there.

REGISTER HERE:

[Church in a Changing Landscape Public Link](#)



CATHEDRAL LECTURES ON CONFLICT AND RECONCILIATION

The texts of five public lectures on the theme of Conflict and Reconciliation given in Dunblane Cathedral Hall have now been published on the Cathedral website. <https://www.dunblanecathedral.org.uk/dunblane-cathedral-lectures>

In 2019 the Adult Education Committee of the, then, Dunblane Cathedral Kirk Session planned this series of five lectures but only the first two of them were given before the onset of Covid restrictions in 2020. The series was continued, post-Covid, in 2024. The texts brought together here have been developed by their authors from their original lecture notes. We are very grateful to The Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood, The Rev Scott Brown, The Rev Dr Donald MacEwan, The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers and Rt Hon Lord Robertson of Port Ellen for giving the lectures in this series and for permitting them to be published.

THE WEEKLY WORD

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EVENTS

Finding God Among Us

by Acorn

Inverness

at Inshes East Church
Monday June 16
coffees from 7.15, 7.30-9pm

*Come hear and share stories
of what God might be doing here and now*







WEST MORAY @ ST LAURENCE BUILDING
'Warm Space Initiative'

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, 14th JUNE 2025

OPEN - 11.00am - 1.30pm - ALL WELCOME

SERVING HOME-MADE SOUPS & SWEETS
TEAS - COFFEES - HOME-BAKES

Donations welcomed to help create sustainability
of the Warm Space Initiative but not necessary -
just happy to see you.

Dyke and Edinkillie Church
SC000585

Afternoon Family Service

Dyke Church

Sunday 8th June

At

4.30pm

Activities Hymns Prayers Bible Story

Whether you are 1
or 101 you are all
welcome to attend.



Seinn Spioradail

Sacred Soundscapes of
the Highlands & Islands



Events June 2025

With Dr Frances Wilkins (frances@franceswilkins.com)

Wed 18 th	4pm	TALK WITH SINGING - An Taigh Cèilidh, Church St, Stornoway
Thur 19 th	11.15am	TALK - Comann Eachdraidh Nis, North Dell, Ness
Thur 19 th	19.15am	EXHIBITION PRESENTATION PLUS SINGING - Comann Eachdraidh Nis, North Dell, Ness
Fri 20 th	12.30-2pm	LUNCHTIME TALK WITH SINGING - Comann Eachdraidh Chàrlabhaigh, Carlisay Village Hall
Fri 20 th	19.30pm	TALK WITH SINGING - South Harris Historical Society, Leverhulme Community Hub, Leverburgh



THE WEEKLY WORD

Training & Events

EVENTS CONTINUED



The Church of Scotland
**STAMP
APPEAL
2025-2026**

Collect your stamps to support the work of the Al Ahli Hospital in Northern Gaza.



The hospital is the only Christian hospital in the Gaza Strip and Gaza's only cancer hospital. It serves in time of calm during the occupation and despite all, and through all the bombing since Oct 2023, the hospital has continued to serve the population in whatever way they can with the small resources they have and with staff working under difficult conditions.

The hospital is run by our partner church, the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE:
Post your stamps to Stamp Appeal, 2025, Keith Scott, Dene Hard, Carlehead, Helensburgh, G84 0EL.
For other options and more information visit: www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamps

Scottish Charity Number SC011331
www.churchofscotland.org.uk

www.facebook.com/churchofscotland
[@churchscotland](https://twitter.com/churchscotland)

Invitation

CROSSREACH IN INVERNESS

Thursday 12th June 4:30pm - 5:30pm

CROSSREACH
Location: The Barn Church
Culloiden House Avenue
Inverness
IV2 7AB

CrossReach is one of the largest and most diverse not-for-profit providers of social care in Scotland. Across Inverness and the surrounding areas we offer loving care in:

- Cameron House - Specialist dementia care home (Inverness)
- Calle House - Move on support accommodation (Inverness)
- Beechwood House - Residential rehabilitation after substance use (Inverness)
- Nevis House - Residential rehabilitation after substance use (Inverness)
- CrossReach Counselling (Inverness)
- CrossReach Counselling (Moray)
- Oversteps Care Home (Dornoch)
- Whinnieknoye Care Home (Nairn)



We would like to invite friends, supporters and partners to join us at The Barn Church on Thursday June 12th 4:30pm - 5:30pm. Come along to meet our teams, and hear about about how CrossReach is looking to the future with optimism, ambition and most importantly love.

Please RSVP to emma.karas@crossreach.org.uk by 9th June.


Operating as CrossReach, Scottish Charity No. SC011331

www.crossreach.org.uk

*Love from
CrossReach*

RURAL PILGRIMAGE

<https://try.pilgrimage.org.uk/>



Saturday June 7th 10am-2pm
At The Barn Church, Culloiden



Free Family Fun Day Celebrating the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship at 80

A real MAF Plane, Flight Simulator, and much, much more, refreshments available.



AI SEMINAR

AI, Theology and Ministry webinar; Thursday 12th June, 7-9pm.

Register for free here and ideally by 10th June [REGISTER HERE](#)

Join us as we navigate the intersection of artificial intelligence, theology, and ministry with renowned international speakers, questions, and space for worshipful reflection.

Our speakers are Archbishop Emerita, Most Rev. Dr. Antje Jackelen; 'In pursuit of the optimal: AI and eternal questions' and Dr. Jonas Kurlberg; 'AI and Bible engagement' which is his research with the Bible Society.

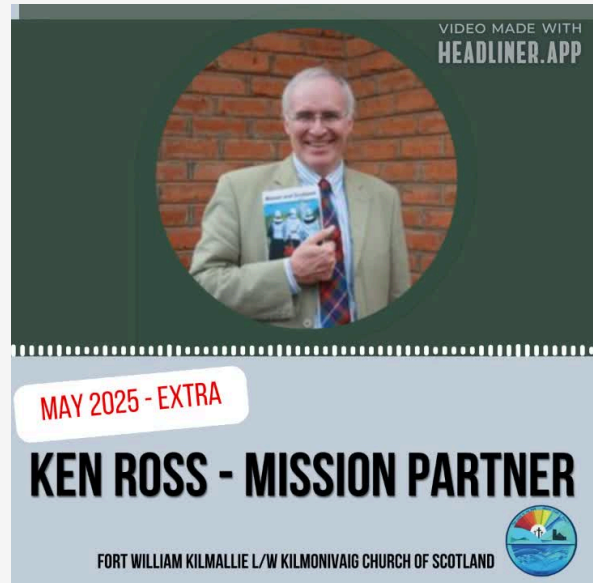
THE WEEKLY WORD

Podcasts, Video & Music

EVERISTO - GENERATIONS AND GOD!



REV DAVID SIM MEETS OUR MISSION PARTNER KEN ROSS



SANCTUARY FIRST - LIVE FRIDAY JAM - AT 3PM FRIDAYS



THE WEEKLY WORD

Prayer & Reflection

SPECIAL AWARD



1st Culloden Boys' Brigade held their annual parents evening and awards ceremony on Thursday 1st May 2025.

Many of the boys received achievement awards ranging from one year through to 12 years of service. Also presented were a wide range of awards. One boy received his President's Badge, the second highest award in the company.

Sergeant Archie MacDonald became one of the first ever to receive his King's Badge. This is the highest award in Boys' Brigade, previously the Queen's Badge for the duration of Queen Elizabeth II's reign.

Archie is pictured here with his Captain, Neil Mackenzie, and Chaplain Rev Pamela Kennedy

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Archie is pictured here with his Captain, Neil Mackenzie, and Chaplain Rev Pamela Kennedy

CONGRATULATIONS!

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

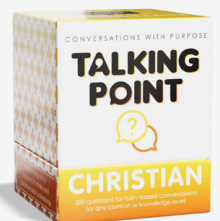
AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

PRAYER FOR THOUGHT

Would you like to network with other congregations/parishes in prayer, lets come together and encourage each other in church services/meetings, study & prayer groups - please contact Rev Donald Prentice on **dprentice@churchofscotland.org.uk** if you are interested.

MISSION IN MIND

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



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

THE WEEKLY WORD

Prayer & Reflection

JUNE PRAYER

Our Presbytery Prayer Mrs Janette Henderson, Prayer Co-ordinator

Loving and Merciful God, In this time of Lent, as we walk towards the cross we feel humbled and thankful in the same measure, as you bestow all goodness and love on us , your children. We ask forgiveness for all that we have said or done that has displeased you and caused sorrow on those we have offended. Our prayers go out to all who are troubled and afraid, those living with war, those who are abused and those who hunger and are thirsty.

We pray for our young people on holiday before facing exam time and pray that they benefit from the rest and the joy of being together with friends and family. May they be guided by their teachers and their families to love one another and to reach out to other young people who are finding life difficult whether in the class room or in their home. Surround them with love we pray.

Lord we pray for our churches coming to terms with change maybe a different time and type of worship. We must remember that you, our loving God, are at the helm of this great Ship that has seen us through life's trials and tribulations. We thank you ,Lord, when we feel sad and disillusioned you are there to comfort and to guide us. We pray for congregations working together and finding new ways, merging into new and happy congregations with their mission showing all how we reach out to communities in need.

We pray for our Presbytery as it faces change. May the angst be addressed and sorted out, as we work to calm our hearts and pray for guidance. Lord all are working in your Kingdom to make our churches and our communities into places where people feel save and are valued, this work we do in Your name

Lord as we walk towards the cross feeling shame and sadness, and then we experience the joy of Easter Sunday when the tomb was empty and the living Christ walked in the Garden. May that joy surround us and may we never forget the sacrifice made for each one of us in Jesus death on the cross.

We pray for ourselves may we be better Christians and live the life you planned for each one of us. All these things we pray in our Saviours' name.

Amen



THE WEEKLY WORD

Presbytery

PRESBYTERY MEETING

A 'Special Purposes' meeting will take place at **7pm on 16th June 2025** - in hubs and online - details will be issued via email.

The next meeting of Presbytery is **Saturday 21st June 2025** - zoom registration links and all paperwork will be issued in due course, HUB info be updated nearer the time.

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

16TH JUNE 2025 - LOOK OUT FOR UPDATES ONLINE AND VIA EMAIL



will operate at next meeting



will NOT operate at next meeting

INDUCTION

Rev Carol-Anne Porter to Dornoch Firth Church of Scotland on Sat 14th June at Dornoch Cathedral at 2pm. Presbytery to meet at 1.45pm

OTHER NOTICES

Please be reminded that our Property Convener, Mr Alan Walker has a new email address, please relay all buildings and property enquiries here

CEIProperty@churchofscotland.org.uk