



The Church of Scotland

Clèir Eilean Ì:
Highlands and Hebrides

THE WEEKLY WORD

A Weekly Newsletter by Clèir Eilean Ì

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 1 - Message from.....

- A day in the life of Rev. Everisto Musedza

Page 2,3,4 - Congregation in Focus

- An insight of things to come and an opportunity to engage with other congregations
- News from Cowal Kirk

Page 5 - Easter

- Digital Ministries

Page 6, 7, 8 - Prayer & Reflection

- Training
- Prayer
- Mission
- Fun

Page 9 - Presbytery

- Presbytery meetings & HUB info
- Notices
- Committee contact information

"Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things."

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7



MOTHERING SUNDAY

These words perfectly describe a mother's love. Use the above passage to celebrate how mothers embody each quality of love—patience, kindness, humility, and perseverance.

Mother's Day is more than just a day to celebrate; it's an opportunity to pause, reflect, and express our deepest gratitude and love for the incredible women who've shaped our lives in myriad ways.

We thank God for the women who have been like spiritual mothers to us; For the Sunday School leaders, the youth workers, the church leaders, the worship leaders, the prayer warriors. Thank you for those who have shared with us the good news of your love for us, who have taught us more about you, and have encouraged us along our journeys of faith. Help us also to take on this role, encouraging, guiding and raising up others in their faith.

Happy Mothering Sunday to all!

THE WEEKLY WORD

Message from.....

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF REV EVERISTO MUSEDZA

“Together we can”

We sometimes fail to appreciate the breadth and depth of a Minister's work—the significant transformations, the invisible healing, the holding us and keeping us on our spiritual journeys as we navigate life and everything in between. And it's definitely not reflected in the money. However, the value of the effort is evaluated in altered lives and awakened souls rather than in monetary terms.

It doesn't fit neatly into job descriptions or can be organised into tidy boxes. However, the work is as real as light and shadow and as genuine as our every breath.

I asked Rev. Everisto Musedza this week for some motivation and his perspective on a *normal week*.

“I never quite know what to expect every week let alone every day, but I guess that's the privilege of being a parish minister. It is such a privilege and an honour to journey alongside the parishioners. Ideally this is how my normal week is like.

Morning worship: I lead the Sunday service, and I love to welcome everyone, so I stand at the door and do just that and I also see everyone out.

I then go for the tea and coffee and spend a bit of time chatting and answering any questions.

During the week I get to do a bit of the administrative duties, emails, correspondence, and planning for upcoming events.

I do meetings, I meet weekly with our session clerk and administrator.

I run two bible study groups on a Tuesday afternoon and a Friday afternoon. The Tuesday one is for adults and the Friday one is for teenagers.

I am passionate about visitations, so I try and do that also during the week.

I do set time aside for my personal reflection and study, and I must say I do enjoy my bowling, so Tuesday night is bowling time.”

With thanks to Rev Everisto Musedza for sharing.



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 the Cowal Kirk

CHILDREN & FAMILIES UPDATE

A presbytery update from Lorna McGinnigal - Children and families worker

Kirk Café

The Kirk Café continues to provide a warm and welcoming space for the local community on Wednesday mornings. We have established a core group with babies and toddlers who attend regularly, while also welcoming new visitors each week.

The young children enjoy healthy snacks, and our dedicated volunteers, Morian and Maureen, do a wonderful job ensuring that everyone feels at home by offering hot drinks and home baking. Fiona has been sharing her crafting skills with some of the Mums, helping them develop new abilities and grow in confidence. Additionally, each week we take time to read, sing, and engage with stories and songs that reinforce how precious and loved each child is in the eyes of God.

Pizza Church

Pizza Church continues to grow, with a regular group attending each month alongside new families who join us for the first time. Thankfully, attendance has remained manageable within the capacity of our Hall!

Each gathering is an opportunity for fellowship, learning, and worship, creating an atmosphere that is both engaging and welcoming for all. We explore a different theme each month through a family-friendly message, music, craft, and prayer.

In February, we reflected on the theme of Gratitude, focusing on Psalm 100. It has been particularly encouraging to see new volunteers stepping forward to support—some from within our congregation and others who are new to church life but eager to serve and be part of the community and family that Pizza Church is fostering.

Summer Club

Planning is well underway for this year's Summer Club. We have begun discussions with Scripture Union and other local churches in Dunoon to explore opportunities for collaboration.

The Summer Club will take place from 4th to 8th August, aligning with the final full week of the school holidays. We believe this timing will allow us to be a significant blessing to families in our community. The chosen theme, "A Tale of Two Kings," is a Scripture Union programme that will explore the lives of King David and King Jesus, helping children engage with biblical stories in a meaningful way.

THE WEEKLY WORD

From the Cowal Kirk

CHILDREN & FAMILIES UPDATE

A presbytery update from Lorna McGinnigal - Children and families worker

Serving & Feeding Our Community

At the heart of our ministry is a desire to serve and care for our community, particularly through hospitality and shared meals—an approach deeply rooted in the example of Christ in the Gospels.

We are preparing to launch a pilot initiative, the Cowal Kirk "Good Food" Market Stall, which will run from now until the summer. Further details will be shared in due course as we refine our plans



Closing Thoughts

These ministries continue to strengthen the Cowal Kirks outreach and engagement with the wider community. We are grateful for the ongoing commitment of volunteers and the continued presence of new faces seeking connection, fellowship, and faith. We ask for the Kirk Session's support in prayer as we develop these initiatives further



THE WEEKLY WORD

Holy Week: Digital Ministry Resources

EASTER

Part of the digital ministry strategy is to create resources and host sessions to enable us to create locally produced resources and teams. We have produced digital ministry resources for Holy Week based on the lectionary readings for use in services, sharing on websites and social media.

A theme appeared through the readings of the servant heart of Jesus which underpins the content as we seek to explore the mercy found at the throne from Hebrews 4:14-16, a reading for Good Friday.

Each day has a different item of content with multiple contributors from across the Church. Horizontal videos are typically best for Facebook, Youtube and websites. Vertical reels are usually best for Instagram and TikTok. The blog has images and can be shared on multiple platforms or might be helpful for a service.

The Tennebrae service for Good Friday has no licence requirements as it is a bespoke creation by Phill Melstrom, national worship development worker.

Holy Week content (free to download) and suggested descriptions/text are in the folder here <https://we.tl/t-ltEcd5rJ12>

Overview:

- *Palm Sunday*; 'Holy Week @thestart' (intro to what Holy Week is) by Rev Ruth Kennedy, Digital Ministries Advisor. Vertical and Horizontal videos.
- *Monday*; 'the value of Mary' artistic reflection by Linda Hoskins, Christian artist in Edinburgh (LindaHoskinsArt). Vertical video only.
- *Tuesday*; 'Inside not outside?' Thoughts by Rev Trish Archibald, Assistant Minister, Stirling North Parish Church. Vertical and Horizontal videos.
- *Wednesday*; 'Mercy that serves to the end' Blog (possible sermon points) by Neill Shaw, Priority Areas Development Worker. Word and pdf.
- *Thursday*; 'Jesus held my feet' testimony by Steven McLeish, Scotland Country Head, The Leprosy Mission.
- *Good Friday*; 'Tennebrae Service' explanation and 13min service by Phill Melstrom, Worship Development Worker. Horizontal video with readings and lyrics included.
- *Holy Saturday*; 'Hope for Holy Saturday' reflective poem by Christine Colliar, Reader and Candidate for OLM, Scots Kirk Lausanne. Vertical and Horizontal videos.
- *Easter Sunday*; 'Easter Message from the Moderator' will be shared on the national platforms.

If you share the content on your social media, we would love it if you might please tag 'the Church of Scotland' as it will help us know that these types of digital ministry resources are useful.

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.**

TRUSTEE TRAINING



ISLE OF LISMORE

Trustee Training

in person course
Tues 29 April 2025
starting at 2.45pm

Church House , Lismore P34 5UL

contact Mrs Doreen Henderson to
book a place

dih379@live.co.uk

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING



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SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

APRIL & MAY 2025

Day	Date	Training	Time
Thursday	24-Apr	Introductory	6.30pm
Saturday	26-Apr	Introductory	10.00am
Tuesday	29-Apr	Introductory	2.00pm
Thursday	01-May	Advanced	6.60pm
Wednesday	07-May	Trustee	2.00pm
Saturday	10-May	Trustee	10.00am
Monday	12-May	Trustee	6.30pm

ALL ONLINE COURSES

Please email Annette Clunas, Safeguarding Online Training Contact

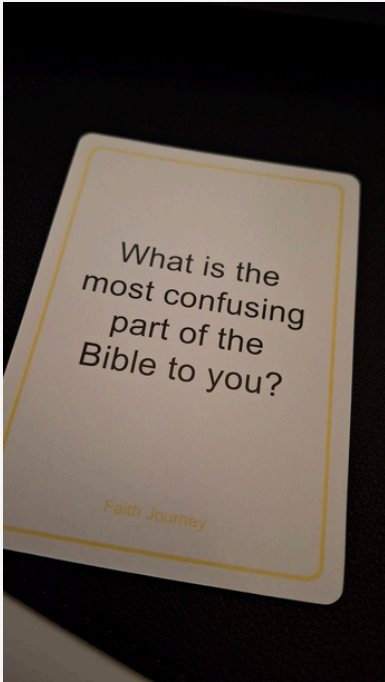
 AClunas@churchofscotland.org.uk

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

ONE STOP SHOP SWAP SHOP

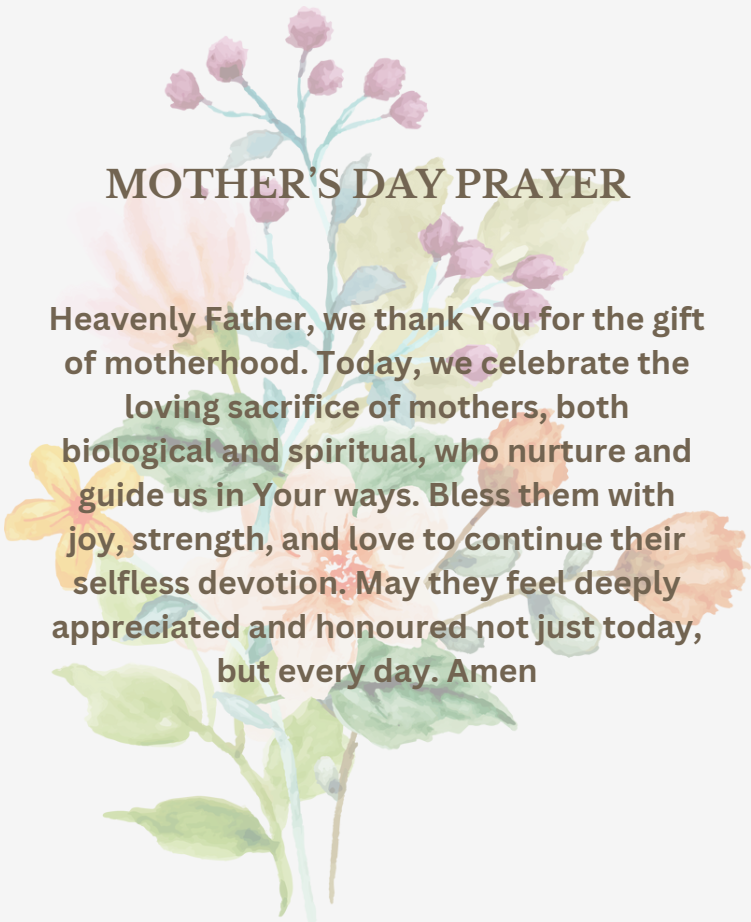
Something old, something blue, something borrowed, something new?

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

MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER



Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of motherhood. Today, we celebrate the loving sacrifice of mothers, both biological and spiritual, who nurture and guide us in Your ways. Bless them with joy, strength, and love to continue their selfless devotion. May they feel deeply appreciated and honoured not just today, but every day. Amen

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 21st 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 Property Convener, Mr Alan Walker has a new email address, please relay all buildings and property enquiries here

CEIProperty@churchofscotland.org.uk