



The Church of Scotland

Clèir Eilean Ì:
Highlands and Hebrides

THE WEEKLY WORD

A Weekly Newsletter by Clèir Eilean Ì

SAMPLE EDITION - EDITION 1

20 JAN 2025

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NEW YEAR - NEW LOOK!

New year, new look, perhaps a new skill - our very own Rev Everisto Musezda demonstrating that anything is possible!

Welcome to our new-look weekly newsletter; you spoke and we listened. This week's update will give you an opportunity to explore the new look. We will also tell you about some great upcoming events that you can engage with.

THE WEEKLY WORD

Message from....

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESBYTERY SUPPORT OFFICER

Dear Lord, bless this new year with peace and love. May our hearts be kind and our actions reflect your grace. Help us bring joy to those around us. Amen.

Welcome back – I hope you all have had a great New Year! In the last edition of the Bulletin, I mentioned change and resolution.....

Resolutions relating to relationships, parenthood, careers, health, or money are often made at the start of the year. A lot of us usually determine after the holidays that there are actually certain things that we want to do better.

A few questions to ask oneself now that the year has begun: What aspects of my life am I happy with? What aspects of my life need to change for the better?

Change for some can be a scary thing but look what our Presbytery has achieved in a year! People tend to shy and hide away from change because they are fearful or anxious about what the result might be for others it's a case of "Moral Force" the thinking being "The old way is the best way. The old way is the right way! God would want us to do it this way!" but does he really...

Joshua 1:9 Good News Translation

Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go."

Maintaining a resolution can be hard, challenging but requires determination and confidence – but God is always there!

Resolutions pertaining to our relationships and health are undoubtedly beneficial, but we also need to consider where we are in our relationship with Christ.

The fact that there are so many individuals who claim to believe in Christ but do not follow the Lord is one of the biggest obstacles facing the Church in today's culture. We should be living lives that show testament to salvation.

So, are you walking or running – perhaps you are just strolling thinking about the possibility of change? How's your journey going? What are your stronger areas and your gifts? Which ones do you need Him to help you commit to doing more – ask for guidance! Take control and don't undertake any of this lightly, do it with passion - do not do this to become a kinder person or a better version of yourself.

Please,do it for Jesus.

Warmest wishes for 2025!

Amanda



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!

Next issue we feature..... **Forres Community Church**

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

THE WEEKLY WORD

Congregational News Around CEI

WEST MORAY CHURCH



What's On This Week

Tuesday 21st January

12.30 - 1.30pm

Soup and Sandwich Lunches in St Leonard's Hall

Wednesday 22nd January

12.00 noon

Prayer Time in St Leonard's Portacabin

Thursday 23rd January

12.30pm

Bite and Blether Lunches in St Leonard's Hall

Sunday 26th January

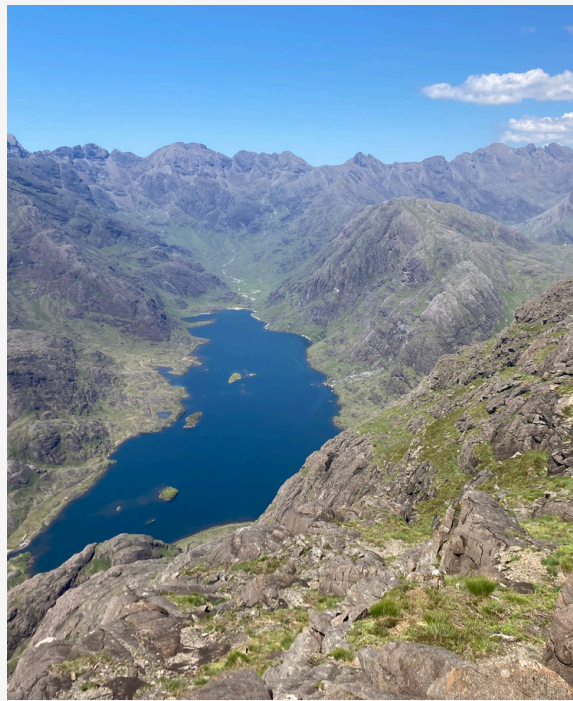
10.30am

Morning Worship in St Leonard's Church Hall
Rev Cleopas Takavada

Come and Join Us

Visit www.westmoraychurchofscotland.org.uk
SC00711

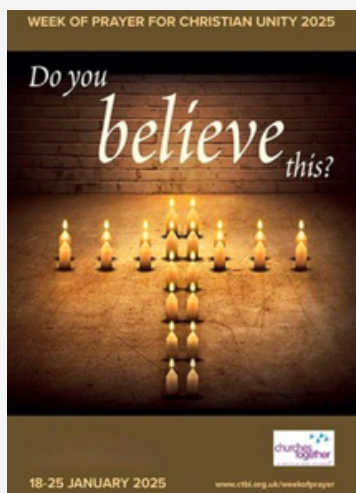
PIECE OF HEAVEN



Cuillin Ridge - Sgurr na Stri photo kindly taken and shared by Rev David Whillis

ARTS & CRAFTS

CHURCHES TOGETHER



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN INVERNESS

As part of the Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity, Churches Together In Inverness are holding a Service in Crown Church at 7.30PM on Thursday 23rd January.

All will be welcome at the Service.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2025



THE WEEKLY WORD

Training & Events

WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING

Book your place [HERE](#) - please remember to bring a packed lunch. Venues that have still to be confirmed will be relayed in due course.



Worship Leader Training

This training is for those wishing to lead worship within their own congregation. Further dates and venues will be released in February 2025. Please ensure you have the agreement of your parish Minister prior to signing up.

CHURCH

WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING	
Sat 11th Jan 2025 10.30AM – 3.30PM <small>ARRIVAL FOR 10AM</small>	Strachur, Argyll - venue TBC <small>Please bring packed lunch</small>
FUNERAL TRAINING	
Sat 15th Feb 2025 10.30AM – 3.30PM <small>ARRIVAL FOR 10AM</small>	Dunbeg Church, Oban PA37 1QA <small>Please bring packed lunch</small>
FUNERAL TRAINING	
Wed 5th Mar 2025 10.30AM – 3.30PM <small>ARRIVAL FOR 10AM</small>	Inverness - venue TBC <small>Please bring packed lunch</small>

Register [HERE](#)
or contact AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

www.cei.presbytery.org.uk

GUEST SPEAKER



In conversation with Ken Ross
A webinar connecting the local and the global

Tuesday
21 January 2025

7pm

online
Link with be sent upon registration

Join us for an immersive evening of conversation as we hear from Ken Ross about leadership formation at Zomba Theological University in Malawi.

Reverend Professor Kenneth R. Ross OBE

REGISTER NOW

An opportunity to explore the plan for Clèir Eilean I's scholarship programme.

www.cei.presbytery.org.uk

LEADERSHIP SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Here are the dates and links to book:

- Wednesday 22nd January – 9:30am – 2:30pm [BOOK HERE](#)
- Wednesday 5th February – 9:30am – 2:30pm [BOOK HERE](#)
- Tuesday 11th March – 9:30am – 2:30pm [BOOK HERE](#)
- Wednesday 19th March/Thursday 20th March – 2 EVENING SESSIONS (7-9:30PM/7-9:15PM – both must be completed for certification) [BOOK HERE](#)
- Wednesday 30th April – 9:30am – 2:30pm [BOOK HERE](#)
- Tuesday 6th May – 9:30am – 2:30pm [BOOK HERE](#)

Individuals must have attended Introductory and Advanced training prior to this module which is the last in the training pathway. Refresher training thereafter is mandatory every 5 years.

THE WEEKLY WORD

Training & Events

LEGACY OF SLAVERY

Dear Friends,

As convener of the Church's Racial Justice Programme group, I'm reaching out to share a short [video](#) inviting you on a journey of learning and reflection about the Church of Scotland's legacy of slavery. Following the 2023 General Assembly report, the Church committed to acknowledging past sins and their enduring impacts of racism and inequality. We seek to engage every presbytery and congregation through prayer, dialogue, and shared learning, including reflections from an ecumenical pilgrimage to Jamaica.

Your voice matters. Please join one of our open sessions:

- 22nd January 2025, 7pm - 9pm
- 5th February 2025, 1pm - 3pm

Scan the QR code in the video or register here: [Registration Link](#).

As we begin this New Year in the season of Epiphany, celebrating Christ's universal mission, I hope this video inspires meaningful conversations and encourages participation in these vital discussions.

With every blessing for the year ahead,

Rev Dr Elijah Obinna
Convener of the Racial Justice Programme Group

MAGNITUDE

[BOOK HERE](#)



Watch out for more information coming this week from Ms Lizzie Brayshaw, our Under 40's Advisor on this exciting upcoming event.

INTERIM MODERATOR TRAINING

The next round of training is on Saturday 15 February 2025 from 10am-12.30pm (online). Please secure your place in advance of this date [HERE](#)

THE WEEKLY WORD

Prayer & Reflection

POWERFUL POETRY

During advent we featured some of Rosemary Powers' poetry and she has kindly given Presbytery another beautiful piece of work.

Decoys

There were decoys -

foreigners with passports
travelling the lesser roads
with staff staying
at the poorer inns;
open to challenge
of ways and means,
braving a slow pace
to the border of home,

for the family who fled
in the peril of night
with what they could carry,
their home behind them
and no star beyond them.

But neither saved
another's child
or stayed the wrath
of power unchecked.

Their boy survived
and later told
of the goodness of life,
but never returned
to the House of Bread.

by Rosemary Power

CYPTIC CHALLENGE

Mission

Across

5. In America in 1962 who became the new host of The Tonight Show?
7. In which year did the show "Sesame Street" first air on television?
10. Who did John F. Kennedy defeat in 1960 to win the presidential election?
11. Which Alfred Hitchcock scary movie was released in 1960 with a famous shower scene? (A)
12. What was the name of the famous English four piece band that came out of Liverpool? Hint: named after an insect.
13. What movie won the Oscar for the best picture in 1963 starring Audrey Hepburn & Rex Harrison? Hint: A phonetics expert takes on the challenge of showing a Cockney girl how to speak like a Queen.

Down

1. The first woman in space came from which country?
2. In the late 1960s the US Airforce released a report concluding there were no such things as UFOs or Extra Terrestrials what was the name of the report?
3. What year was the famous Woodstock Festival held?
4. Who was the first man to walk on the moon in 1969?
16. What was the name of the first James Bond movie released in 1962 starring Sean Connery & Ursula Andress?
17. Which classic science fiction show began in 1966?
18. What popular long running soap opera still running on TV debuted in 1963? Hint: As the world turns so does the...
19. In 1963 Martin Luther King Jr gave a memorable speech at the Lincoln Memorial on the steps what was the name of the famous speech?
9. Who famously sang happy birthday to John F. Kennedy in 1962 actually she sang happy birthday Mr President.
14. In 1962 three inmates escaped from which prison that was supposedly an inescapable prison near San Francisco?
15. In 1967 Dr Christian Barnard performed the first transplant of what human organ in South Africa.

GOD'S UNFOLDING STORY

God's Unfolding Story: Episode 1

Welcome to the start of an incredible journey! In this first episode of God's Unfolding Story, we dive into Genesis 1:1-2:3, exploring the awe-inspiring story of creation.

Here's what we're talking about:

- * God as the Creator of everything, bringing order and goodness out of nothing.
- * The significance of being made in God's image.
- * How the story of creation points us to Jesus, the light and hope of the world.

Tune in now to discover how it all began and why it matters today.

Listen [here](#)

Next week, we'll explore Genesis 2:4-25, looking at humanity's unique purpose and our relationship with God. Don't miss it!

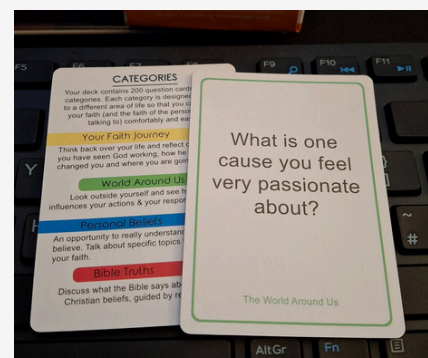
[#GodsUnfoldingStory](#) [#Podcast](#) [#Genesis](#)
[#Creation](#) [#Hope](#)

Bible Reading: click [here](#)

[With thanks to Forres Community Church](#)

MISSION IN MIND

This weeks mission card - what's your thoughts, let us know in confidence [HERE](#)



This weeks card was selected from the [green](#) category 'World Around Us'

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

THE WEEKLY WORD

Prayer & Reflection

WHATS IN A SONG?

Have you ever wondered about the meaning behind a song or hymn derives.....perhaps you are still humming Christmas tunes today! Mrs Evelyn Mowat of Thurso West worship group, has provided us with this insight.

12 Days of Christmas

1. A Partridge in a Pear Tree

The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young

2. Two Turtledoves

These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. The doves are the biblical roadmap that is available to everyone

3. Three French Hens

These birds represent faith, hope, and love. It also represents the Holy Trinity

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

4. Four Calling Birds

These fowls represent the four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

5. Five Gold Rings

The gift of the rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

6. Six Geese a-Laying

These lyrics can be traced back to the first story found in the Bible. Each egg is a day in creation when God “hatched” or formed the world.

God created the heavens and the earth, the sky and seas, the land and plants, the sun, moon, and stars, fish and birds, land animals and man



7. Seven Swans a-Swimming

It would take someone quite familiar with the Bible to identify this gift. Hidden in the code are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Prophecy, Ministry, Teaching, Exhortation, Giving, Leading, Compassion. As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they would seem to be a perfect symbol for spiritual gifts

8. Eight Maids-a-Milking

As Christ came to save even the lowest of the low, this gift represents the ones who would receive his word and accept his grace. Being a milkmaid was about the worst job someone could have during this period, this code conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of royal blood. The Eight Maids represent the 8 Beatitudes. You can find these in Matthew 5:3-10

9. Nine Ladies Dancing

These nine dancers were really the gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit, which include, Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self control

10. Ten Lords a-leaping

This is probably the easiest gift to understand. As lords were judges and in charge of the law, this code for the Ten Commandments, was fairly straightforward to Christians

11. Eleven Pipers Piping

This is almost a trick question, as most think of the disciples in terms of the dozen. But when Judas betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, only eleven men carried out the gospel message. Therefore, the Eleven Pipers Piping signifies the 11 Faithful Disciples

12. Twelve Drummers Drumming

The final gifts are the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed. You can find this printed as Hymn 628



THE WEEKLY WORD

Presbytery

PRESBYTERY MEETING

The next meeting of Presbytery is **Tuesday 11th March at 7pm 2025** - zoom registration links and all paperwork will be available in due course, HUB info will also be updated.

PRESBYTERY NOTICES

Formal Presbytery Notices and updates can be found online in the web space, you can access this space directly by clicking below.

[Notices](#)

ORDINATION



Thursday 16 January 2025

Clèir Eilean Ì: Highlands & Hebrides is delighted to announce the ordination of Rev Thomas MacGregor, as Assistant Minister of Inverness: Kinmylies on Friday 28 February 2025 at 7pm (Presbytery meets at 6.45pm) in Kinmylies Church. Rev Doug McRoberts, moderator of Clèir Eilean Ì, will lead the worship. All are welcome.

Roderick A R MacLeod
Clerk

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
- 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
- Tarbert Lochfyne HUB, Church Hall, Tarbert, PA29 6SX

- will operate at next meeting
- will NOT operate at next meeting

CONGREGATIONAL STATS

Session Clerks/Roll Keepers will now have been issued with the annual request for 'cong stats' - guidance to help explain why the research questions are vital for the Statistics Department at 121 George St, Edinburgh. The deadline for completion is **7th Feb 2025**, blank copies for completion are on the web [HERE](#) many thanks for your continued support in gaining this data. If you have any questions or queries please contact
Amanda Anderson
AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk