



THE WEEKLY WORD

A Weekly Newsletter by Clèir Eilean Ì

EDITION 8

16 MAR 2025

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Your
Apprenticeship
starts here...



IS GOD CALLING YOU?

The Apprenticeship Route is a brand-new way for people to explore one of those biggest of questions: what am I going to do with my life? Of course there are lots of ways in which that can go but does exploring a call to serve God describe something of where you're at?

In particular, do you have a sense, however tentative, that that might involve ministry in one form or another. Maybe the best way to find out is to try it out. The Apprenticeship Route offers you exactly that opportunity.

More info [HERE](#)

THE WEEKLY WORD

Message from.....

MESSAGE FROM OUR MODERATOR

Expect the unexpected

It was in the wee small hours of the Monday of Holy Week, exactly 40 years ago, when Lesley and I knew for certain we had to head for Raigmore's Maternity Unit. The twins, a month before they were due, clearly weren't going to wait. It was also the 1st of April. So when I phoned my BBC colleague Ian to explain that I wouldn't be able to go into the station at 6.00am to prepare and put our daily news programme on air at 7.30, and he would have to do it, he took some persuading that this wasn't just a prank, and he really would have to get up and go. Yes, BBC Highland's Morning Report programme nearly didn't get broadcast on April Fools' Day 1985... Expect the unexpected...

Clèir Eilean Ì, now just over a year into its existence, is teaching us all to expect the unexpected. People, congregations, groups of Christians across over 40% of Scotland are coming together in new ways. New ways of worshipping; new ways of working mission; new ways of understanding the call that goes right back to that first Holy Week, and a procession led by a man on a donkey. Jesus. Christ. The Messiah. The one promised from beyond time, here in our time.

'So, as we continue to discover new possibilities and opportunities, let's continue together in love, in the strength of Christ, and in the expectation of the unexpected. Oh, and just to finish the story of 40 years ago – the birth was amazing! Two little bundles of joy born ten minutes apart. And, in a family with some history of twins – always boys, and always identical – these two couldn't have been more different. Naming Struan was easy. We'd worked through lots of boys' names. But now we had to find a girl's name too... as Hannah was our unexpected delight. And "Morning Report" went on air next day with the news...

Doug McRoberts



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

Clerk *pro tem*

WELCOME....

Following on from our Presbytery meeting on 11th of March, many presbyters have asked about our Clerk *pro tem*. Details can be found on the website however this week we feature and welcome, as well as offer our thanks to Mr Stewart Shaw - welcome to our Presbytery!

Stewart was born and has lived most of his life in Rothesay on the Isle of Bute. He is married to Fiona and has two married sons and one grandson.

Educated at Rothesay Academy, he graduated from Glasgow University with an Honours Degree in Mathematics and undertook teacher training at Jordanhill College.

He began his career in teaching at Largs Academy. After three years he transferred to his old school, Rothesay Academy, remaining there for 33 years and rising to become Depute Head Teacher. He was then promoted to Head Teacher of Dunoon Grammar School where he served for five years before retiring in 2013. He was also a partner in family newsagents business in Rothesay for several years.

Stewart became a member of the High Kirk of Rothesay when he was 17, he was married in and joined St Ninian's Church, North Bute where he was ordained as an elder in his late twenties. At that time he served as an officer of the 1st Rothesay Co. of the Boys' Brigade. In 1999 five congregations on Bute united to form the United Church of Bute. He served in various positions including a seven year term as Session Clerk.

On his retirement from education, he was appointed Presbytery elder to the Presbytery of Argyll, serving on the Business committee, Superintendence committee and education representative on Argyll & Bute Council's Community Services Committee, before being appointed Presbytery Clerk in 2016.

On behalf of the National Church, Stewart served on a Presbytery Review Panel to help 3 Presbyteries, PMPIG and the General Trustees reach an agreement regarding their Presbytery Mission Plans

He is presently serving as the Property Convener of the Isle of Bute Parish Church.

Among his interests Stewart lists cooking, crosswords, watching Countdown and golf. He is a patron of Bute Arts Society and a member of Ballianlay Choir on Bute. Stewart is a past President of the Rotary Club of Rothesay. He serves as Deputy Lieutenant of the Lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute with responsibility for Bute, a post he has held since April 2015, the highlight of which was organising a visit and meeting the Duke of Rothesay, now our present King.

Contact details:

cleireileani@churchofscotland.org.uk



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Local, National & Global News

NESS CASTLE TREATS ON THURSDAYS

On Tuesdays after school at pick up time for parents and carers at Ness Castle School, which forms part of a new housing development in Inverness it's treat time!

Our Community Deacon, Dot Getliffe and our faithful volunteers serve up teas/ coffees/ water and juice and biscuits to all, making connections with folks and enjoying local conversation....we are looking forward to some photos and we thank everyone involved for connecting.

HEARING THE WORD



Hearing the Word

Who is it for?
Atheists, agnostics or believers! It is for anyone interested in learning more about the Jesus of the Bible! No previous knowledge of the Bible is expected or necessary.

What is its aim?
It is to encourage people to read the Bible carefully for themselves, and not simply accept what others may say of it.

How does it work?
Groups of 3 or 4 are formed amongst friends. After an eye-catching introduction, a single passage is looked at in 10 explorations. Opinions on each one are then discussed in the groups, before the leader will draw views together and progress to the next section.

Date, time, place?
Fri 14th Mar 7.00 – 9.00 – Sat 15th Mar 9.30 – 1.00 pm
Strachur - Heron Hall

How much does it cost?
Nothing!

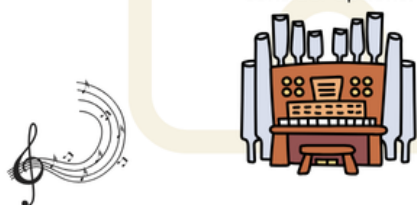
Guarantee?!
Participants, willing to apply themselves, will enjoy the experience. They may not be taught anything but they will learn much!

nigel.barge@icloud.com 07931 994426

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>

CHURCH COLLECTION

A collection which raised £1,800 from Strachur and Strathlachlan, Lochgoilhead and Kilmorich churches and people in the local area and beyond has been passed on to a Malawian health project (via the Church of Scotland) which is screening women and girls for cervical cancer and hopes to also vaccinate against this cancer. One of the elders in Lochgoilhead has close links to the project.

This area has had close ties to Malawi for many years with local people visiting Malawi, sending out containers of goods organised by the Raven Trust and receiving visitors from there so it is good to be able to renew contact once again.

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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.**

COFFEE & CLOTHES

KILMUIR & LOGIE EASTER
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Scottish Charity No. SC701375

SWAP SHOP *Do you have clothes, toys or books that you no longer wear or use?* **SWAP SHOP**

Coffee morning

If you have items you no longer need, bring them along and swap for items you do!

(Please, no household items furniture or electrical goods!)

Kilmuir Easter Church
Saturday 22nd March
10.30am - 1.00pm

CRUSE SCOTLAND



A friend from Cruse Scotland will be popping by to say 'hi' in March for a wee online Zoom call - a 30 minute session to tell everyone about what bereavement support Cruse offers and a chance to ask any questions you may have. Link to follow.

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.

AUDIO VISUAL TRAINING

FREE Church Audio Visual Training Day
26th April
Larbert Baptist Church
108B Main Street
Larbert
FK3 3AB

Are you looking to take your church's Audio-Visual ministry to the next level?

Join us for an exciting day!

Link [HERE](#) to book

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

Minutes from the last Presbytery meeting on 11th March will be circulated this coming week.