



# THE WEEKLY WORD

A Weekly Newsletter by Clèir Eilean Ì

EDITION 5

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Stuart Goudie at Melness Church in Sutherland, part of his first parish. Picture: Chic Lidst

## REFLECTING ON RURAL MINISTRY

**This week we explore the Church of Scotland's monthly Talking Ministry publications, have a look online and read about Rev Stuart Goudie, a familiar face within our presbytery.**

"I discovered that rural ministry ticked all my boxes because it was all about the people," says Mr Goudie.

Rural ministry, as with rural living in general, has its own particular challenges, such as the distances involved for work, leisure and shopping.

For ministers, another potential challenge is their profile within the community.

"You can't just switch off," Mr Goudie acknowledged.

Read the full article [HERE](#)

# THE WEEKLY WORD

Message from.....

## MESSAGE FROM OUR CLERK

*“A dh'aindeoin sin, airson 's nach toir sinn oilbheum dhaibh, thalla chun na mara is tilg dubhan innte, agus gabh a' chiad iasg a thig suas; is nuair a dh'fhosglas tu a bheul gheibh thu bonn airgid. Gabh sin is thoir dhaibh e air mo shon-sa agus air do shon fhèin.” Mata 17.27*

Latha a bha siud, thill Ìosa gu Capernàum far an deach iarraidh airson cìs an teampaill. Rinn e deasbad le Peadar ma dheidhinn agus aontaich iad nach robh e feumail dhaibh. Ge-tà oidich Ìosa gum bu chòir Peadar dol air adhart a-rèir na briathran os a chionn. Abair sgeulachd annsach iongantach! Nach seallaidh e dhuinn gu bheil tuigsinn air àbhachdas aig Dia? A bharrachd air sin, nach nochd e ùghdarras Ìosa air a' chruthachadh agus toileachas Ìosa ar fiachan a phàigheadh? Abair Slànaighear fialaidh mar sin!

We talk about pulling rabbits out of a hat. The Bible is replete with stories of how God produces answers to situations that defy expectations. Indeed the narrative stream of scripture is about how God redeems the whole of creation despite humankind's hopeless failure as stewards of that creation and despite the malevolent intervention of the Devil. At every level and in every place God is transforming apparently futile situations into transforming experiences of healing, grace and hope.

And he is still at it! Examples continue to abound of the Holy Spirit bringing the love of God into the darkest and most unlikely corners of life and of the world.

Should this not encourage us in our struggle to make sense of a chaotic world, in our bewilderment over the state of our church and the indifference of society to the voice of God? Of course it should.

We are resurrection people, witnesses to the fact that Jesus died our death and then overcame the power of death, so that we who believe and trust and follow him can share in his inheritance of eternal life.

Let that promise fortify us in our personal struggles, when tragedy hits or in ordinary moments of self doubt, and as we wrestle to live faithfully through the restructuring of the Church of Scotland in the Highlands & Hebrides. Last night I attended the ordination of the first OLM in the neighbouring Presbytery of Lewis.

Today I joined the faithful of Upper Cowal for the swansong of our oldest serving Minister of Word & Sacrament. God is good as life goes on...



# THE WEEKLY WORD

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## 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](mailto:AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk)** with stories, information, pictures.....

# THE WEEKLY WORD

Lochgoilhead & Strachur

## FINAL SERVICE

Reverend Robin Mackenzie led his final services at Lochgoilhead and Strachur on Sunday. He has been minister for Strachur and Strathlachlan for 26 years and for many years now in Lochgoilhead and Kilmorich.

Nearly 100 people gathered in Strachur hall to share lunch and Reverend John McCulloch led warm tributes to Robin. It was a lovely event with a strong feeling of fellowship.



**'A packed hall'**

Robin hopes to remain in the local area so we will be able to keep in touch and ask for God's blessings for Robin and his family for the future. Blessing for the future Robin.

Rev Sandy MacPherson will be appointed as Interim Moderator effective 16th Feb 2025.

Donations had been collected for a gift for Robin but he decided he wanted this to be given to help a health programme in Malawi. To date £1,700 has been collected and the full amount will be donated through the Church of Scotland.

# THE WEEKLY WORD

Local, National & Global News

## HISTORY BEING MADE

*From Rev Professor Ken Ross in Malawi*

I spend a fair bit of my time writing history, not so often making history. But we have a credible claim that history was made on Friday 14 February when Zomba Theological University awarded its first Master of Theology degrees. This is the programme that we conceived during the Covid pandemic and have been steadily implementing since. Now, finally, the moment came when Thokozani Chilembwe and Hastings Phale successfully completed the degree and were ready to graduate. Others hope to follow in their footsteps soon.

ZTU is the only institution in Malawi offering a Masters degree in Contextual Theology so we have introduced something new to the educational landscape. Now we can only hope that our graduates will be equipped to bring transformation to the context.

Ken's blog: [www.thinkingmission.org](http://www.thinkingmission.org)



## ORDINATION

**SERVICE OF ORDINATION**

REV THOMAS MACGREGOR

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 IN KINMYLIES CHURCH. REV DOUG MCROBERTS, MODERATOR OF CLÈIR EILEAN Ì, WILL LEAD THE WORSHIP. ALL ARE WELCOME.

PRESBYTERY IS INVITED TO MEET AT 6.45PM, AND THE PRESBYTERY MEETING WILL CONCLUDE WITH THE BENEDICTION AT THE END OF THE SERVICE

KINMYLIES CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, 36, KINMYLIES WAY, INVERNESS IV3 5TP  
ALL WELCOME

## SOLAR POWER BOOST

Great news for the local community and historic buildings!

Inverallan Church has just been granted planning permission on appeal to install solar panels on the roof. The result has saved this Category B listed building for the local community and future generations.

Following a history of refusals and resistance by the Highland Council, TheTownPlanner Ltd provided advice and a Planning Supporting Statement which helped overturn the decision today.





# 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.**

### CRUSE SCOTLAND



A friend from Cruse Scotland will be popping in on 24th Feb 2025 at 4pm 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.

### ONLINE SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Cleir Eilean I

## SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

FEB & MAR 2025

Day	Date	Training	Time
Monday	17-Feb	Introductory	7.00pm
Wednesday	19-Feb	Introductory	7.00pm
Saturday	22-Feb	Introductory	10.00am
Monday	24-Feb	Trustee	7.00pm
Thursday	27-Feb	Trustee	2.00pm
Saturday	01-Mar	Trustee	10.00am
Wednesday	05-Mar	Advanced	7.00pm
Saturday	08-Mar	Advanced	10.00am

[BOOK NOW](#)

Please email Annette Clunas, Safeguarding Online Training Contact

[AClunas@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:AClunas@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### MAGNITUDE

**BOOK HERE** or contact our Under 40's advisor Lizzie Brayshaw for more information

**[EBrayshaw@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:EBrayshaw@churchofscotland.org.uk)**



# 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.

**WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING**  
Sat 11th Jan 2025 | Strachur, Argyll - venue TBC  
10.30AM - 3.30PM | Please bring packed lunch  
ARRIVAL FOR 10AM

**FUNERAL TRAINING**  
Sat 15th Feb 2025 | Dunblow, Church, Obar, PA37 1QA  
10.30AM - 3.30PM | Please bring packed lunch  
ARRIVAL FOR 10AM

**FUNERAL TRAINING**  
Wed 5th Mar 2025 | Inverness - venue TBC  
10.30AM - 3.30PM | Please bring packed lunch  
ARRIVAL FOR 10AM

**Register HERE**  
or contact AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

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.

### FACE-2-FACE SAFEGUARDING TRAINING



Face-to-Face/in person training  
**Safeguarding Training**



**Trustee Training 11am Sat 15th Feb**  
**Induction Training 2pm Sat 15th Feb**

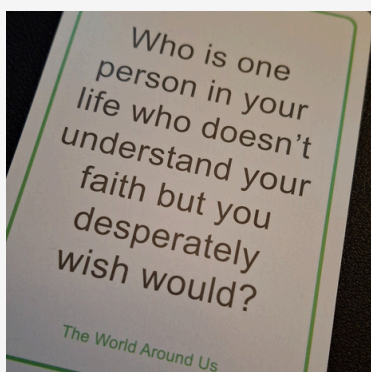
- United Free Church Hall Isle of Bute • Trainer - Janet Buchanan  
to book email Janet [innishaelcott@gmail.com](mailto:innishaelcott@gmail.com) or call  
**07979140355**

# THE WEEKLY WORD

## Prayer & Reflection

### 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 'The World Around Us'

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

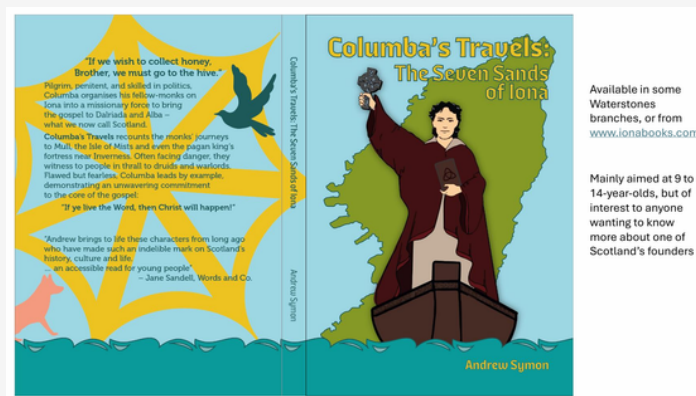
### ONE STOP SHOP SWAP SHOP

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

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](mailto:AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### WRITTEN WORD



Columba's Travels is a new book that recounts the saint's journeys around what is now Scotland. Aimed principally at 9-14 year olds, it will also be of interest to anyone looking to start or further their enquiries about the saint and his mission (see quote in **blue** text from a senior parishioner below).

"I know it was intended for young readers, but I have to say that I found it very interesting in relation to the issues which you raised about how Columba dealt with the druids, how they carried no arms and went out in peace, grounding all that they did among the people in prayer. I had never thought before about the difficulties which they had in communicating with the Picts. I realised anew the hardships they must have had in the cold and rain and in finding sufficient to eat."

To purchase a copy click [HERE](#)



# THE WEEKLY WORD

## Prayer & Reflection

### FEBRUARY PRAYER

*Our Presbytery Prayer has been kindly submitted by Mrs Jeanette Henderson.*

Loving and caring God, we give thanks for your care as a loving parent.

Some times we have strayed from the path you choose for us, a word spoken in anger, a task ignored, a kind word unspoken to give hope to the lonely, bereaved and the sick. Lord we are sorry that sometimes we have let you down and filled with our own selfish ways we take the easy way out by putting aside the teachings of Jesus to live our lives in His name and by His example. We pray for our churches, ministers and all who administer service to the people of Cleir Eilean I. The worship and fellowship in the setting up of warm places in the cold weather within our communities, helping to alleviate the loneliness of the dark Winter months. Lord, we ask that all may be comforted by the clergy and elders of our churches throughout the Presbytery.

As half term approaches we pray for our young people. May they take advantage of the holiday to refresh their thinking and to return to learning with new impetus and a keenness to learn and to face exam time calmly. Thinking of their future and how their lives will unfold in their community in the years to come.

Lord we pray for peace in the places in conflict now. We hope that the fragile peace in the Middle East can be strengthened by working together to rebuild families and properties damaged by War.

We pray that the tenacity of the people of Ukraine can be awarded a peace agreement to suit the needs of the communities who have lost family and possessions in the invasion of their country. Lord there are so many places of conflict throughout your world and we pray that peace can come through the love we have for one another.

We pray for all in our communities who are finding life difficult just now. Those who are grieving, those who are lonely, those who are having to make choices due to the economic situation and those who long for Winter to turn into Spring when the shoots coming through the cold soil can blossom and colour our world and trees provide shade and shelter to all.

Lord we long for peace and the blossom of Spring and ask blessings on all who work to broker peace and gardeners who are tending tender plants to give colour to your world. We pray as a presbytery who cares and who works to praise your Name. We ask that the Spirit is moving in this place and that we become the loving caring people of Cleir Eilean I.

In Jesus' name we pray these concerns.

Amen



# 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](#)

### 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
- 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 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 was **7th Feb 2025**, blank copies for completion are on the web [HERE there are still congregations outstanding](#). If you have any questions or queries please contact Amanda Anderson [AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk)