



THE WEEKLY WORD

A Weekly Newsletter by Clèir Eilean Ì

EDITION 6

01 MAR 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 1 - Message from.....

- Message from Amanda Anderson, Presbytery Support Officer

Page 2,3,4 - Congregation in Focus

- An insight of things to come and an opportunity to engage with other congregations
- Westlochfyneside Parish Church: Inveraray, Cumlodden, Lochgair
- Local, National & Global news

Page 5, 6 - Training & Events

- Training
- Events

Page 7, 8 - Prayer & Reflection

- Prayer
- Music
- Mission
- Fun

Page 9 - Presbytery

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



ORDINATION CELEBRATIONS

Last night, at Kinmylies Church, Inverness - Presbytery, friends, family and the wider Church community came together to celebrate the Ordination of Rev Thomas MacGregor.

The service was lead by our Moderator (Rev Doug McRoberts). Prayers from Rev Russell Smith, reading from Rev Stephen MacDonald and Charge to Minister from Rev Scott Polworth.

Through song and praise we welcomed Rev Thomas McGregor to continue in his relationships in serving the wider church - we deeply value everyone's prayers and ongoing support; and to all those involved in this very special night.

Special thanks to the band and musicians and to the catering folks for delicious cakes and treats and keeping us topped up.

THE WEEKLY WORD

Message from.....

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESBYTERY SUPPORT OFFICER

Spring has sprung....Today marked the first day of meteorological spring, which covers the months of March, April and May.

As we head into Spring it's a time to remind us of renewal and transformation....we leave behind the harder, more harsh dark weathers and lean to the light. As the earth emerges from it's hibernation and winter rest, it is now in bud and waiting to blossom.

Just like each of us on our life's journey we also encounter similar moments of awakening and potential for lasting transformation. A time to nurture our relationship with God, to deepen our trust in His providence, and to surrender to His will. Spring is a time of renewed life and rebirth.

It may follow a period of uncertainty, when faith has been tested but this forges resilience and brings with it whispers of hope; softly reminding us of brighter days ahead, filled with opportunity and purpose.

As spring unfolds its petals, so too can our faith unfold as well.



'The Song of the Seed'

Life unfolds a petal at a time – slowly. The beauty of the process is crippled when I try to hurry growth.

Life has its inner rhythm which must be respected. It cannot be rushed or hurried. Like daylight stepping out of darkness. Like morning creeping out of night – life unfolds - slowly - a petal at a time – like a flower opening to the sun, slowly.

God's call unfolds a Word at a time – slowly. A disciple is not made in a hurry. Slowly I become like the One to whom I am listening. Life unfolds a petal at a time like you and I becoming followers of Jesus, disciplined into a new way of living deeply and slowly.

Be patient with life's unfolding petals. If you hurry the bud it withers. If you hurry life it limps. Each unfolding is a teaching, a movement of grace filled with silent pauses, breathtaking beauty, tears and heartaches. Life unfolds a petal at a time – deeply and slowly.

May it come to pass!

(From The Song of the Seed by Macrina Wiederkehr)

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

Westlochfynesside Parish Church: Inveraray, Cumloddan, Lochgair

OUR PARISH

Rev Dorothy wallace reflects on Westlochfynesside Parish Church.....

Our parish does as the name suggests, hugs the shores of Loch Fyne, from a couple of miles north of Lochgilphead to just before the Oyster Bar at Cairndow, with a little detour up the Dalmally road. We have two buildings, one in Inveraray, the other just on the south side of Furnace.

Our congregation is small but in the summer we are joined by a number of visitors, dropping in for worship en route to their holidays in mid Kintyre and beyond. Inveraray is a good spot to rest up and stretch weary limbs before heading off again. Our Kirk session is also small, small in number but big on commitment. We have elders in their twenties, forties, fifties and above. Our youngest elder, states that "Church is one of the few places where you can make friends, connect with people of many ages, a truly multigenerational space."



Inveraray

Cumloddan

We have a mission focused ministry here in Westlochfynesside, from our twice weekly Foodshare, our annual Gift Service, where the gifts for people of all ages in need, are passed on by our local social work department, to our quarterly Gaelic Service in Cumloddan Church.



'Christmas Fayre'



'Afternoon Tea for our Gaelic worshippers'

We hold Messy Church four times a year and have a great connection with our local school. In the summer months (May-September) we hold our Summer Sale in Inveraray Church Hall. This is our main fundraiser but it also provides a meeting space for our helpers and is a great place for a catch up. Many of our helpers are not church attenders but appreciate the role a church has in small town life.

In the next few months our adventure in serving and worshipping God moves into a different phase, as we link with our friends at Upper Cowal (Strachur and Strathlauchlin l/w Kilmorich and Lochgoilhead). Again, small in numbers but together we can pool our gifts and skills and serve our Lord.



THE WEEKLY WORD

Local, National & Global News

MAINTAINING CHURCHES

Free courses - maintaining Church Building

Maintaining Scottish Churches

Wednesday 28 May 9.30am-3.45pm
Lochgilthead Parish Church

Caring for a historic building can feel like a never-ending task, but thankfully there are some simple steps you can take to keep your building in good condition.

In this introductory one-day course, for anyone involved in looking after a church building. We'll show you the practical steps you can take to look after it.

You will learn

- why buildings decay and how to spot common problems
- building maintenance basics and why they are important
- how to plan the routine maintenance of historic places of worship
- professional inspections and reports and their role in building maintenance
- how to stay safe while maintaining your place of worship

Book your free place
www.spab.org.uk/whats-on

@spabscotland



Photos Lucy Stewart SPAB

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>

VIVID VISION

Watch this video [HERE](#)

The future of the Church lies in God's hands.



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 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.

ONLINE SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Cleir Eilean I



SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

FEB & MAR 2025

Day	Date	Training	Time
Monday	1 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

MAGNITUDE

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

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 | Strathgairn, Argyll - venue TBC
10.30AM - 3.30PM
ARRIVAL FOR 10AM
Please bring packed lunch

FUNERAL TRAINING
Sat 15th Feb 2025 | Dunblane Church, Oban Pl. ST 1QA
10.30AM - 3.30PM
ARRIVAL FOR 10AM
Please bring packed lunch

FUNERAL TRAINING
Tue 11th Mar 2025 | Hilton Church, Inverness
10.30AM - 3.30PM
ARRIVAL FOR 10AM
Please bring packed lunch

Register [HERE](#)
or contact Kathleen@churchofscotland.org.uk www.cei.presbytery.org.uk

COS LEARNING - NEWSLETTER



The Church of Scotland Learning

Presbytery Newsletter | February 2025

What's new on Church of Scotland Learning?

New Modules
We have just launched three new modules this year. The **Stewardship** materials encompass a suite of congregational resources as well as a module to equip anyone to facilitate a 'Narrative of Generosity' session in their context. **Navigating Your Way Through Change** is a module designed for individuals and aimed at Ministers; we hope it is a helpful accompaniment in challenging times. **Future Focus** is an established Church of Scotland resource which is now being made available on the Church of Scotland Learning platform.

Upcoming Modules
In the coming months, we will be launching several new modules, you can find out more by clicking the images below:

Coming Soon **Being an Intergenerational Church** - An introduction to bringing the generations back together.
Coming Soon **Being a Facilitator** - Equipping you to grow in confidence as a facilitator. A training module for facilitating Church of Scotland Learning modules.

The **Resources** area on Church of Scotland Learning contains a variety of resources to help you explore the platform, including: introductory films, workshops, access material, module information and tips and hints for group work.

How can we support you in your roles?

Role Specific Modules
Church of Scotland Learning has a vision of equipping people to live out the mission of God, from pew to pulpit. We have a number of resources that are specific to particular roles and may be of use to you in your Presbytery. If you are using any of these modules in your context, we would love to hear your thoughts and feedback.

Being an Elder
Helping you explore in the meaning, purpose and role of the office of Elder in the 21st Century Church of Scotland context.

Being a Session Clerk
Helping you to explore the meaning, purpose and role of Session Clerk in the 21st Century Church of Scotland context.

Moderating a Kirk Session
Equipping individuals to moderate Kirk Session meetings effectively.

Developing People for Funeral Ministry
Equipping people to support bereaved families and lead funerals. Please email learning@churchofscotland.org.uk for access.

What we can offer

The Church of Scotland Learning team are here to support you however we can. There are several opportunities for engagement that we can offer to Presbyteries. Please get in touch with the team if you would like to explore any of them further.

A conversation | connect with the team for an introductory conversation about your learning and training needs.

A 5-10-minute presentation | a short online presentation introducing Church of Scotland Learning to your Presbytery.

A 30-minute Taster Session | an online or in-person session giving people a 'taste' of Church of Scotland Learning.

A 30-90-minute Presbytery Conference workshop | an in-depth and specifically tailored workshop for your Presbytery.

Contact the team: learning@churchofscotland.org.uk

To read the newsletter in full and gain some further information on learning opportunities click [HERE](#)

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.



FREE Church Audio Visual Training Day
26th April
Larbert Baptist Church
108B Main Street
Larbert
FK5 3AG

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

Join us for an exciting day!

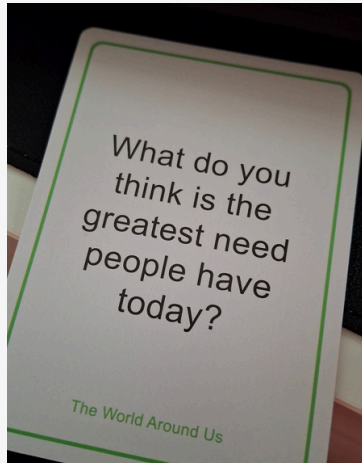
Link [HERE](#) to book

THE WEEKLY WORD

Prayer & Reflection

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?

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

WORLD PRAYER DAY



Tell us what you have done or what you have planned, post some pictures and share them with the wider presbytery - post these to our [Facebook Group](#)



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 - 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
- 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

DEATHS

