



The Church of Scotland

Clèir Eilean Ì:
Highlands and Hebrides

THE WEEKLY WORD

A Weekly Newsletter by Clèir Eilean Ì

EDITION 3

2 FEB 2025

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LISTED PLACE OF WORSHIP SCHEME

This week we learned that the UK Government announced that the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme will be extended for 2025/26.

The grant is claimable up to a year in arrears so if you know of any works to listed buildings that have been completed in the last year, or any upcoming, please check with your congregation to make sure they are aware of the scheme. Full details can be found by clicking **[HERE](#)** or for advice contact our Finance Officer, Tom Jordan **TJordan@churchofscotland.org.uk**

THE WEEKLY WORD

Message from.....

MESSAGE FROM OUR BUSINESS COMMITTEE CONVENER

A story which I have told often in recent weeks tells of a conversation between a sparrow and a dove!

“How heavy is a snowflake?”, asked the sparrow. “Why nothing more than nothing”, the dove replied. “Well, then”, said the sparrow, “I have a marvelous tale to tell you. One day I was sitting on the branch of a fir tree when it started to snow - nothing too violent, it was really quite peaceful and gentle, almost dreamlike and having nothing better to do, I decided to count the snowflakes that landed on my branch. Their number? Exactly 3,741,492, and then one more snowflake slowly descended, weighing nothing more than nothing, as you say. That 3,741,493rd snowflake landed on my branch - and the branch broke.” And the sparrow flew away, leaving the dove to ponder this tale. And the dove concluded “maybe it only takes one more person to stand up. One more voice, one more volunteer. One more, little snowflake to join all the others. and achieve so much.”

Around Clèir Eilean Ì we have lots of wonderful ministers, deacons, elders, members and friends of our congregations - with so many gifts and skills and abilities, and in the business committee of the presbytery, we want to draw on all those gifts from the whole people of God.



I'd like to invite you to take five or six minutes to tell us about your skills, your gifts, the things you can bring to presbytery. <https://forms.office.com/e/gFmxsN83JD> is a link to the Microsoft form. After clicking 'START NOW', you will be presented with 13 questions. It will only take you a few minutes to complete. Please only answer what you are comfortable with; answer as much or as little as you wish. We'll ask you your name, which congregation, which committees you might consider serving on in the future something about your current involvements, locally presbytery, wide, and indeed nationally. Do please complete the survey form.

Thank you for all that you bring to the life of Clèir Eilean Ì, and for all that you will bring in the future as together we use our gifts, our skills, our talents, our abilities, and let all the little snowflakes come together to create a huge amount of good around the Church, as we seek to be the Church, to seek God's will in building up the Kingdom this place. Thank you.

Rev Donald McCorkindale
Business Convener

PS: You can also see this in Video form at: <https://youtu.be/-PDznvsXupY>. Do please share with your congregation

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!

This week we have keep the news about Milawi and Rev Ken Ross...next week we look back at Creich Church....next issue we feature..... YOU? 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

Ken Ross

MESSAGE FROM KEN ROSS

“What a great pleasure it was for me to connect on zoom with friends old and new from around Clèir Eilean Ì on Tuesday 21 January. It was a great opportunity to imagine together what we might be able to do as I get into gear as international mission partner for the Presbytery. I am really impressed that, from the word go, the new Presbytery is not only thinking of internal issues but already exploring how it can make a difference in the wider world. In my role as Dean of Postgraduate Studies at Zomba Theological University in Malawi, I am often aware of good students who struggle to meet the financial demands of their course. This has sparked the idea that, by a combined effort, Clèir Eilean Ì might be able to support a scholarship for a ZTU Masters student. Watch this space! For more on my work in Zomba see www.thinkingmission.org “

Ken Ross

WORK IN PROGRESS



New Postgraduate Studies Centre currently being built
photos kindly shared by Ken Ross



THE WEEKLY WORD

Local, National & Global News

RESTORE SCOTLAND

A group of church members from different churches have been praying together, asking the Lord to save Scotland. They have booked the impressive Caird Hall in Dundee for 14th and 15th February, 7-9pm.

There will be a gospel message, and a worship group will lead the singing.

Please pray for its success, get the word out!



**Come Meet Jesus,
Come Find Hope.**

RESTORE SCOTLAND

**CAIRD HALL
DUNDEE**

**Friday 14th or Saturday 15th February
@ 7pm - 9pm**

**Your Ticket to Free Entry!
Scan & Book in Seconds!**

SCAN ME

As One

QR code

FOND FAREWELL



Rev Lyall Rennie and his wife and Isobel. The presentation, which was attended by members of the congregation, took place in the Pentland Hotel after a service on 12/01/25 on the occasion of their departure from Caithness.

We wish you both all the best for the future and thank you both for the empowering work and the joy you brought.

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, 56, KINMYLIES WAY,
INVERNESS IV3 8TP
ALL WELCOME

Logo: The Church of Scotland in the Highlands and Hebrides

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.

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

INTERIM MODERATOR TRAINING

The next round of training is on Saturday 15 February 2025 from 10am-12.30pm (online). Secure your place [HERE](#)

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

MAGNITUDE

[BOOK HERE](#) or contact our Under 40's advisor Lizzie Brayshaw for more information

EBrayshaw@churchofscotland.org.uk



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

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

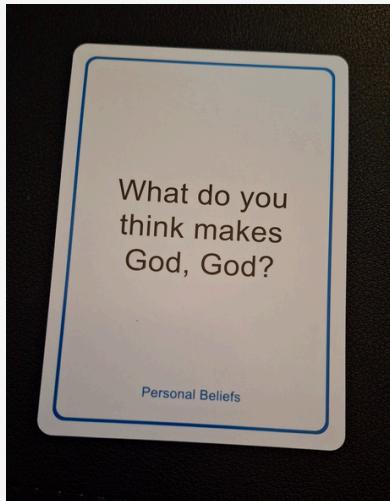
• United Free Church Hall Isle of Bute • Trainer - Janet Buchanan
to book email Janet innishaelcott@gmail.com or call
07979140355

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 [blue](#) category 'Personal Beliefs'

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

WEATHER INSPIRATION

A wee hymn in these stormy weathers.....have a listen to Norton Hall Band perform

“Rock Of Ages”

This hymn was written by Augustus M. Toplady in 1763. One day when Toplady was travelling to a nearby village to preach, he was caught in a storm and took shelter in the nearby gorge. While he was waiting in the narrow gap in the rocks for the storm to pass, he was inspired to write this hymn.

[CLICK HERE](#)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Oh Lord,
As I start a new week this Monday, I ask that You bring great things my way this week. Pave the road ahead with positivity and blessings so that I can experience Your glory and share it with others. Help me to be a good steward of all that You give me.
In Jesus' Name,
Amen.

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

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](#)

COMMISSIONERS FOR GA 2025

WE NEED YOU.....

- Serve as commissioners at next year's General Assembly (we have space for both Ministers and Elders)

If you are interested please email the Clerk at cleireileanl@churchofscotland.org.uk
Information can be found [here](#)

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