

The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it was visible to the ends of the earth. Its leaves were beautiful, its fruit abundant, and on it was food for all. Under it the wild animals found shelter, and the birds lived in its branches; from it every creature was fed.

Daniel 4:11-12

Need prayer or someone to pray with you?

Email Mary Fennell: prayercoordinator1995@gmail.com

Need to talk? Questions about the Christian faith

Contact the Session Clerk, who will find the right person to speak to you. Details are on page 12.

Website: www.schurch.co.uk

Notices: lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk

Mission Statement

Our purpose is to honour and enjoy God, proclaim Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, serve our community in Jesus' name, strengthen one another in our spiritual life, and influence our world through prayer, witness, truth and grace.



Accepting the Call to Strath & Sleat

I must admit that I was fairly optimistic about finding a new minister for Strath & Sleat, given how active the parish is and the wealth of information that had been included in the Parish Profile prepared by Kirk Session. However, even I hadn't imagined there would be someone in place within the year!



It was a resounding "Yes" for Rev. John Murdo Nicolson, when he preached as sole nominee in Broadford Church on Sunday 18th August at the Service of Nomination. Many congregants attended from across the parish, which resulted in a 71-3 vote in John Murdo's favour.

We are currently awaiting the green light from Presbytery, who are finalising the processes behind the scenes, and who will then agree a start date, at which point he will move back to Skye, with his wife Debbie and their son Samuel.

Whilst I don't know John Murdo myself, it seems it will be full circle for him, given his first charge as a Minister of Word and Sacrament was in this very parish, where he served as Associate Minister alongside Rev Iain Reid back in the 1990s. He then moved to Portree where he took on the role of Parish Minister.

He met and married Debbie before they left for Canada where they spent 10 years and where their son Samuel spent his formative years. They recently returned to John Murdo's native Lewis, serving at Martin's Memorial and then as Minister in Cross Church, Ness.

The nominating committee are to be praised for their diligence in recruiting a new Minister, with thanks noted in particular to Peter McDermott and to Mairead MacDonald, who served as Convenor and Secretary, respectively.

Whilst I'm not quite off the hook yet as Interim Moderator, I have to say it has been a most enjoyable period for me, and a very steep learning curve as my first time in this role. I'd like to thank you all for making me feel most welcome and supported, for making my work as easy as it could be and for being such an encouragement, in terms of your faithfulness, your enthusiasm and your ability to work as a close-knit team serving our Lord. God bless you all and I look forward to seeing you at the induction!

Rev Fred Vincent, Interim Moderator



*John Murdo with wife Debbie
and son Samuel*

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Skye and Lochalsh Health, Wellbeing and Welfare Collaboration: Building a Community-Led Future

Part of my Presbytery role involves creating partnerships with relevant organisations outside the church on projects that align with the Five Marks of Mission. One project I have worked on over the past year is developing a faith-based programme in North Skye, aimed at helping individuals struggling with addiction and other life-controlling issues, as there are significant issues in this regard in our communities. When I was invited to attend the Skye and Lochalsh Health, Wellbeing and Welfare Collaboration event in this capacity, I saw it as a valuable opportunity to connect with others who share similar goals in health and social care. The experience exceeded my expectations, highlighting the powerful role collaboration plays in driving meaningful change.

The event brought together a diverse range of local organisations and community groups, including Alzheimer Scotland, Kyleakin Connections, Counselling Care Skye & Lochalsh, and the Skye and Lochalsh Mental Health Association. Facilitated by David from the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC), we explored the concept of co-production - a model that emphasises working with communities to design services rather than relying on a traditional top-down approach.

As we work to establish this new programme in the north of the island, co-production is exactly what we need. Collaboration among various services and individuals is essential to supporting those on the road to healing. Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a community to support a person on their journey to restoration.

Co-production aligns well with our faith-based approach, empowering individuals to take an active role in their recovery. This shift, driven by Scotland's Community Empowerment Act, has opened new possibilities for our project to be integrated into the fabric of the community, supported by partners committed to this collaborative model.

Key Takeaways from the Event

During the event, we discussed how co-production can transform the delivery of health and

social care services locally. We explored co-production as a collaborative, trust-based effort to share knowledge, resources, and outcomes, rather than a competition for funding or an offloading of responsibilities onto the third sector. A vision for the future was also developed: a locally led health and social care system in Skye and Lochalsh, with a five-year goal to create a robust collaboration that ensures services are tailored to community needs, with clear roles for each organisation.

Building Connections and a Collaborative Future

This event reinforced a belief I've long held: no single organisation can tackle these challenges alone. By joining forces with other local groups, we can create stronger, more effective solutions. The vision of a locally driven health and social care system, where statutory services work as partners with the community rather than imposing solutions, is a model our faith-based programme can greatly benefit from, and being invited to participate in this collaboration has been encouraging for all involved.

For anyone involved in health, wellbeing, or social care, whether within or outside the church, this collaboration offers a unique opportunity to be part of something bigger. If you have the chance to attend future events or get involved, I encourage you to do so. Whether your interest lies in improving mental health services, supporting families, or tackling social isolation, or you are just curious to find out more, there's room for everyone to contribute. Together, we can create a brighter, healthier future for our community.

For more information on how to get involved or to keep up to date on progress visit the SLCVO Website: www.slcvo.org.uk.

Anne Sikorski, Mission & Ministry Development Worker, Clèir Eilean Ì: Highlands & Hebrides



This partnership aligns with Marks 3 and 4 of the Five Marks of Mission, which are highlighted in the Church of Scotland's Radical Action Plan as a foundation for effective mission and ministry. These marks are further emphasised in the Church's Faith Action Plan.

Newsletter Deadline



The deadline for all things Christmassy is Monday 11th November. Please send anything you would like to have included in the Christmas newsletter to me at alisonorr1@gmail.com. News, articles, poems, book reviews, photos, how God is moving in your life. Please send plain text with photos as attachments. Thank you!

Alison Orr, Newsletter Editor

The title is the theme of this year's Season of Creation (seasonofcreation.org), which runs from 1 September to October 4. The 2024 symbol is "The firstfruits of hope", inspired by Romans 8:19-25.



The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The season has been increasingly recognised by the international Christian community over recent years as a time to celebrate the wonders of Creation, but also to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation.

We have a triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, bringing changed weather patterns, ecosystem damage, serious health impacts and other consequences. Many people experience despair, "eco-anxiety" and hopelessness. In this situation, Christians are called to bring the hope inspired by our faith, the hope of the resurrection.

Just as faith without works is dead, so hope without action is meaningless to a suffering world. The firstfruits of hope include actions: advocacy campaigns, sustainability initiatives, even Creation Care studies for a deeper understanding of how caring for God's Creation is central to the Christian faith.

According to the World Council of Churches, "The planet is in trouble and 'creation is groaning' as the Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 8. In the midst of this, we are called to be responsible stewards and citizens as we care for and sustain the earth which belongs to the Lord."

Global carbon emissions continue to rise, and coal, oil and gas (fossil fuels) cause most of the emissions. The International Energy Agency is just one of the authorities warning that "any new coal, oil or gas production is incompatible with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C target". Thus the main advocacy initiative for the Season of Creation this year is that churches and individuals around the world will join together in supporting the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (fossilfuel treaty.org) which calls for a halt to new fossil fuel projects.



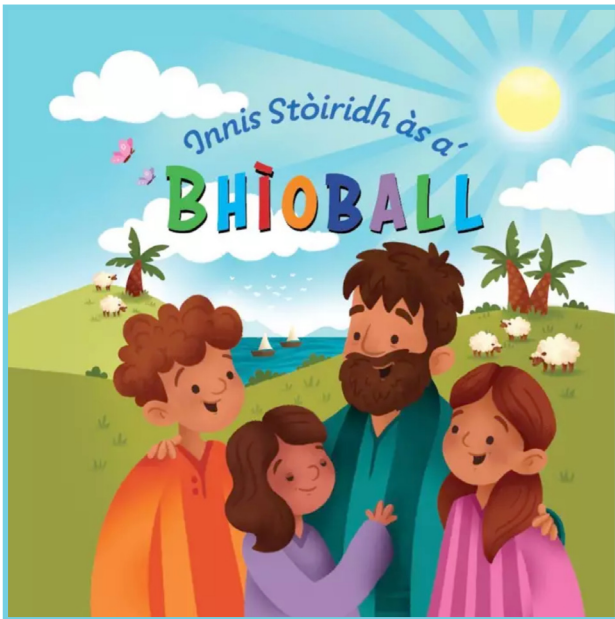
There are lots of resources available on the Eco Congregation website: www.ecocongregationscotland.org/creation-2024 for praise, prayer, and activities for children or adults, as well as links to other Christian organisations celebrating the Season of Creation. Have a look. Then have a walk outside and consider some aspect of Creation (flower, mountain, bird, tree, clouds...) with wonder and gratitude.

Anne MacLennan

Gaelic Update

The Church of Scotland Gaelic Committee meets on a regular basis, has a membership from across the country and is convened by Roddy John MacLeod. Working to a Gaelic Plan, the committee has had a very active year, in particular around the development of Gaelic resources for youth and children. A revised Gaelic plan and progress update will be presented to the General Assembly in May 2025.

You may have seen some of the LEGO videos which have been translated into Gaelic and are being offered via GoChatter, alongside LEGO instructions and teachers' resources. They have proven very popular among school teachers.



There is also a new Gaelic book of bible stories, "Innis Stòiridh bhon a' Bhìoball" (Share a Story from the Bible) which is also a translation. It is a beautiful book to read with young children and is available free of charge if you'd like a copy. Funding has meant that the book can be made freely available to children in Gaelic medium and in Sunday School across the country. *(It is also available as an audiobook at www.scottishbiblesociety.org/resources/stoiridh-as-a-bhioball - Ed.)*

Rev Hugh Stewart, based in Uig, Lewis, has been the driving force behind many of these resources coming to fruition and thanks are also due to the team of volunteers who have given of their time and skills with translation, publishing and logistics.

Plans currently underway include a training course for Gaelic lay preachers which has been in the pipeline for some time and is a real priority for us here in Strath & Sleat. The Gaelic preaching rota is even more challenging than usual now we have lost Rory. We are hugely indebted to Ian Strathaird for his faithfulness in taking one of the monthly services and to all those who have been kind enough to visit the parish for the second monthly service. If you've not been to a Gaelic service, it would be lovely to see you there. We meet in Broadford on the first Sunday and Kilmore on the third Sunday of each month, at 3pm.

Now, if you can cast your minds back to earlier in the 2000s, the Rev John Urquhart created the An Sgeul Mòr website, as part of the mission project he was involved with at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig college. This website now sits within the Gaelic Group and is updated on a fairly regular basis by Duncan Sneddon. It is a great portal for all things Gaelic and Christian - resources include Gaelic sermons, prayers, devotionals, hymns, etc. Well worth having a look and we hope to add more links to it in due course. www.ansgeulmor.co.uk

And finally, Seinneamaid Còmhla, the Gaelic hymnary, is being reprinted, which will be good news to those of you who have asked in the past for your own copy. I'll let you know when they are available.

If there are any resources you'd like to see available in Gaelic or if you have any other ideas for the Gaelic Committee, do get in touch at any time.

Nicola Thomson, Gaelic Committee member

In February of this year, I went to the opticians for my annual sight check up. I was told I had the beginnings of cataracts, quite normal for a person of my age, and nothing to worry about.

Fast forward a couple of months. We had been to Fort William and 'Other' Catherine was driving home. I commented how the cloud had come down during the day and how misty it was. "Catherine," she replied, "there is no mist, it's a lovely clear day."

I thought that perhaps I was tired so, for the next couple of days, I wore my glasses more and kept testing myself to see what I could see. Realising that my sight had deteriorated I made an appointment with my optician. Craig scanned my eyes and confirmed that my cataracts had thickened and were just bad enough for a referral, though I was to expect a delay. He assured me that I was within legal driving limits as long as I wore my glasses.

Within two weeks I had stopped driving, feeling unsafe and being unable to see where the road ended and the grass verge began. That week I went to see my GP for a routine blood test and I mentioned how my sight was deteriorating. She advised me to go back to the optician as the speed things were happening was unusual, to say the least.

I went back to see Craig, he tried to scan my eyes again but couldn't, not enough light was passing through the lens to allow an image to be recorded. Craig said that my cataracts were a rare form which had developed quicker than he had ever known. He promised to make a further, urgent referral.

Within a week I was seen at the National Treatment Centre in Inverness and told that I would hopefully have an appointment within a month. By this time I was seeing only fuzzy shapes in hazy colours. I couldn't drive, read, watch television, walk the dogs or safely cook a meal. Although it was scary I was reassured that cataracts were easily and successfully removed and everything would be fine.

Many friends prayed for me, for an urgent appointment and for the restoration of my sight.

Within the following two weeks I lost my sight completely. I could not see even fuzzy shapes, nor could I see any colour at all. My world shrank, but I was calm and confident that God was in control and everything would be fine.

Ten weeks after first noticing the "mist" I had my surgery. There was no pain and the only discomfort was from the water used to irrigate my eyes which dripped onto my t-shirt, meaning I had a wet collar!

After just over two hours I sat up in the theatre chair and the first thing I saw was a rainbow! The trolley containing the surgical instruments had seven drawers in the colours of the rainbow. The surgeon laughed and said she'd never heard anyone refer to her trolley with such excitement, but I could see.... and in colour.

My sight was fully restored, and five weeks later Craig confirmed that I now have 20:20 vision, no need for glasses at all.

The world is truly a beautiful, wonderful creation. The colours of the wild flowers, the delicacy of a raindrop on a spider's web, the majesty of the mountains and the wonder of the sea that surrounds us. I no longer see "men like trees walking." I too, have my sight restored.

My very own personal miracle. Praise God.

Catherine Aden

A Place for Healing, Creativity and Community

Recently, my daughter Grace and I attended a few open workshops at Rag Tag, where we tried needle felting, making Harris Tweed bags, and weaving. Each time, we rocked up thinking, "This is going to be our new thing - we'll be expert weavers and needle felters with Harris Tweed bags rolling off the production line in no time!" Well, we quickly discovered we weren't going to be experts, but we had an absolute blast and shared a lot of laughs with the friendly tutors and the rest of the attendees.



Started as a coaster, dreamed of being an octopus but, due to technical difficulties, proudly settled as a pin cushion!

Rag Tag is located up in the industrial estate beside the West Highland Free Press in Broadford. It's a little gem of a place, especially for those dealing with challenges like low mood, depression, anxiety, or social isolation. It's a really welcoming space offering support through creative activities, making it a safe environment to learn new skills, make friends, and find purpose.

In addition to the crafts, Rag Tag also provides practical help, such as giving access to a computer for official forms and letters.

There are two ways to attend Rag Tag. You can become a student and join sheltered workshops. This requires a referral from a health or social work professional. You can self-refer initially, and Rag Tag will contact the relevant professional for you. Student workshops are held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in Broadford. Alternatively, you can attend open workshops on Mondays and Thursdays, which are open to everyone. The "Snug" sessions on Thursdays from 11 – 3 are very relaxed and offer coffee, cake,

conversation and a warm, welcoming environment. Everything they offer, from workshops to support, is available at no cost, ensuring it's accessible to everyone.

Whether you're looking to grow, connect or simply relax, Rag Tag is a nurturing space for everyone and, if you would like to go but don't fancy going by yourself, you can give me a call and we can go together until you see if you like it. If you have any craft skills to share - whether it's woodwork, painting, glass-making, knitting - anything really, Rag Tag are always looking for people to share. Your talents could make a big difference in this wonderful community.

*Anne Sikorski, Mission & Ministry Development Worker, Clèir Eilean Ì: Highlands & Hebrides
asikorski@churchofscotland.org.uk*



Grace's mushroom was a masterpiece! Mine – not so much...

Last week, I caught up with Jo Ford, Chief Officer at Skye & Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations (SLCVO), to learn about some of the services they offer and how these can benefit people in Strath & Sleat. One project that really stood out to me is their Befriender Service. Loneliness and isolation can affect anyone, and befrienders play a crucial role in improving social contact, building friendships, and opening up a range of activities that enhance community connections.

Befrienders can make a significant difference in someone's life. Perhaps you know someone who could benefit from a befriender, or maybe you could use one yourself. Befrienders can visit people at home, take them on outings, make regular telephone calls, or help with hobbies. This service is free of charge, and anyone can make a referral, even a family member.

They also have an innovative hospital and post-discharge service that is funded by NHS Highland and the Highland Council. As part of this service, befrienders will interact with patients who may feel lonely, isolated or bored on the wards. They spend time talking with patients and support with activities at their bedside or in the day room. Post-discharge, volunteers will visit a person at home for a block of six weeks, they may help collect shopping and prescriptions if they can, but will not be involved in personal care or domestic tasks. This service is also free of charge.

If you would like to become a volunteer befriender to help any of these projects in Strath & Sleat area, or would just like to find out more about them you can contact Sammy-Jo at SLCVO on 01478 272058 or email befrienders@slcvo.org.uk.

Anne Sikorski, Mission & Ministry Development Worker, Clèir Eilean Ì: Highlands & Hebrides

Kilmore Ladies Group

Kilmore Ladies Group had a break over the summer but met for lunch one day for a chat and catch up. We restarted on 29th August when we put together a plan for our studies over the next few weeks. For further information, please contact jeangillies@btinternet.com



Friends of Hope and Faith School

Friends of Hope and Faith School held a fundraising cafe on 15th August and raised £700.02 on the day, with a further £60 coming in in donations afterwards. Thanks are due to all those who attended, donated food and helped on the day. The money will be put to such good use in the school for payment of salaries and for the feeding programme which provides a hot meal for each of the 600 pupils every day.

Ray Johnstone & Jean Gillies serving at the cafe; some of the younger children at Hope and Faith School at assembly in the new school hall; some of the homemade goodies on sale!



Rites of Passages

Funerals

Broadford

01/08/24 John MacInnes (Rev Roddie Rankin)

31/08/24 Margaret (Peggy) Mackenzie (John Lamont)

Kilmore

01/07/2024 Iain Craighead (Peter Piddock)

24/07/2024 Gwyneth Steadman (Rev Fred Vincent)

**CAN YOU FIND THE BOOKS OF THE
NEW TESTAMENT**

J E G P T R P U H T L M E D W S G W Q J
 W P I T S P O J S G C B D Y P O F I D G
 X Q I T N K S U C F I S G I E S H Q G R
 M A T T H E W D A O N L D F N U X D C E
 I T E L P E T E R A L S R A M V G Y U C
 N O X V R H S O I K E O I O I R E S T Q
 V M L B T N I S E M N P S J M G N I S Y
 H E E R E V E L A T I O N S O A E Q M M
 J H T P V H O J E L E L D X I L N A R V
 Z G N E P F G K I M O S W H C A S S Q Z
 H A B E S U U H H A O N T E E T N A P Z
 W U R I U L P S C R K N I J C I V S E F
 X Y A F U Q R N E K I Z M A E A K X L S
 G R J W O T R T V R M J O H N N M J F L
 R O R S M A O C O U H H T D G S A T C O
 L L M A M O P C Z I D P H K U Z G S R C
 I R N S M L O X I I G L Y T R L N X A S
 L G F A R M R S A Q T I I P Q H T L N N
 O N L N E E T T X A O T N D E O H N E O
 R I H T N Q X P L E S J Q K M L G F L F

ACTS COLOSSIANS CORINTHIANS EPHESIANS GALATIANS
HEBREW JAMES JOHN JUDE LUKE MARK MATTHEW PETER
PHILEMON PHILIPPIANS REVELATION ROMANS THESSALONIANS
TIMOTHY TITUS

FYI

The new presbytery, Clèir Eilean Ì, has a website and facebook page with a wealth of information. It is well worth having a look to find out what is going on around Presbytery. There seems to be a lot happening now in a more joined-up fashion, which is great news.

Clèir Eilean Ì: cei.presbytery.org.uk

Clèir Eilean Ì Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/211849078641746

The Church of Scotland has also created a suite of learning materials and not just for office bearers. You can explore your spiritual calling and discipleship, as well as finding support in eldership, developing your voice and funeral ministry.

churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/church-of-scotland-learning

Services and Meetings

OUR CHURCHES

Broadford

High Street
Broadford
Isle of Skye
IV49 9AB

Kilmore

Kilmore
Sleat
Isle of Skye
IV44 8RG

Kyleakin

Meuse Lane
Kyleakin
Isle of Skye
IV41 8PH

SUNDAY SERVICES

All three churches have an 11am Sunday morning service

NB Except 4 times a year when the whole parish meets in one church to celebrate Communion (please see weekly notices for dates)

Kyleakin 4.30pm **Nourish**, 1st Sunday of term-time months
6pm **Fellowship**, on the other Sundays

Gaelic Services 3pm **Broadford**, 1st Sundays
3pm **Kilmore**, 3rd Sundays

MID-WEEK MEETINGS (please contact one of the elders for more information)

Mondays 10.30 -12.30 **Make It Count Sleat** - babies with parents/carers - in the Sleat & Strath Free Church, Teangue.
11am **Prayer for Revival** (on Zoom)

Tuesdays 10.30 -12.30 **Make It Count Broadford** - babies with parents/carers - in Broadford Church
7.30pm **Kykeakin Prayer Meeting** in Kyleakin Church hall

Wednesdays 7.30pm **Buidheann Bhiobail** ann an Seòmar Eige, ACC, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
7.30pm **Broadford Bible Study** - in Broadford Church foyer

Thursdays 1.30pm **Ladies' Group Meeting** in Kilmore Church - all ladies welcome - please speak to Jane McDermott or Jean Gillies for further info. *Please note the new time.*

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Joy Westerman

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