

Fortingall, Glenlyon, Kenmore and Lawers



Fortingall, Glenlyon and Kenmore Services: April - June 2020

| Date | Fortingall | Kenmore | Preacher | Notes |
|----------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---|
| 5 April | 10:15 | 11:30 | Robert Nicol | |
| 9 April | Mauandy Thursday 17:00 | - | Robert Nicol | Meal and Communion, Molteno Hall, Fortingall |
| 10 April | Good Friday | - | Robert Nicol | Joint Service |
| 12 April | Easter Sunday | - | Robert Nicol | Joint Communion Service |
| 19 April | | 10:15 | | 11:30 |
| 26 April | | - | Robert Nicol | 11:00 |
| 3 May | | 10:15 | Robert Nicol | 11:30 |
| 10 May | | 10:15 | | 11:30 |
| 17 May | | 18:30 | Worship Team | Songs of Praise (Etape Sunday) |
| 24 May | | 10:15 | Geoff Davies | |
| 31 May | | 10:15 | Robert Nicol | |
| 7 June | | 10:15 | Geoff Davies | |
| 14 June | | 10:15 | | 11:30 |
| 21 June | | 10:15 | Robert Nicol | 11:30 |
| 28 June | | 10:15 | Robert Nicol | 11:30 |

Minister ~ Interim Moderator

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Newsletter

The Newsletter Team works under the Outreach umbrella of the church

We welcome articles & news items from every part of the parish which should be no more than 300 words (half-page) with an illustration, and around 500 words (full page) without photographs. Please email items, in Microsoft Word if possible, to the Editor or submit copy to the article gatherers (see below).

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A Poem for Holy Week

The Cornish poet Charles Causley said that this poem, one of his best-known, was inspired by a 17th century crucifix that he saw in Normandy. In this variation on the form of an Elizabethan sonnet, Christ is speaking from the cross using the concept of God as the great 'I am'. It is a reflection on contemporary society that repeatedly chooses to turn away from God.

In St John's Gospel Jesus makes seven 'I am' statements about Himself: I am the Bread of Life...the Light of the World...the Door...the Good Shepherd...the Resurrection and the Life...the Way, the Truth and the Life...the Vine. The poem echoes some of these. The final couplet brings home the message: God gives us freedom of choice, and therefore we must accept the responsibility for our actions.

I am the great sun, but you do not see me,
I am your husband, but you turn away.
I am the captive, but you do not free me,
I am the captain but you will not obey.

I am the truth, but you will not believe me,
I am the city where you will not stay.
I am your wife, your child, but you will leave me,
I am that God to whom you will not pray.

I am your counsel, but you will not hear me,
I am your lover whom you will betray.
I am the victor, but you do not cheer me,
I am the holy dove whom you will slay.

I am your life, but if you will not name me,
Seal up your soul with tears, and never blame me.

CHRISTMAS 2019 QUIZ RESULTS

There were TWO joint winners: the Nicol family and Heather & Grant Smith. Both scored 19 out of 20 and have been presented with prizes. Many thanks to all who took part and to Linda Gillett for devising this very original quiz, which raised £80 for Mary's Meals.

| No. | Clue | Answer |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | <i>Floral Mountain</i> | <i>MONTROSE</i> |
| 2 | Facial Features | EYEMOUTH |
| 3 | Almost a measure of spirits | ELGIN |
| 4 | Boundary of the church | KIRKWALL |
| 5 | Scottish pudding | MACDUFF |
| 6 | Knowall! | KENMORE |
| 7 | Afraid of Gran | FEARNAN |
| 8 | Almost a murder | KILLIN |
| 9 | A forbidden vowel | OBAN |
| 10 | Robert in a sticky way | TARBERT |
| 11 | Heather mixture | STIRLING |
| 12 | Rocky harbour | STONEHAVEN |
| 13 | Royal boat | QUEENSFERRY |
| 14 | Angry fruit | APPLECROSS |
| 15 | Tasty tart | ECCLEFECHAN |
| 16 | Royal storage facility | KINGSBARN |
| 17 | Patron saint of dentists! | ST FILLANS |
| 18 | Dark crossing | BLACKFORD |
| 19 | Saucy drink | PORTSOY |
| 20 | Sheep's drinking place | POOLEWE |

Parish Newsletter – Rev Robert Nicol, Interim Moderator

This parish has been in vacancy since Anne Brennan retired in September 2019 and you may wonder what we are doing about finding a new minister. These things take time in the Church of Scotland and that can be frustrating, but it reflects a principle which our forebears fought for – that each congregation should be able to choose its own minister, without a bishop or landowner deciding for us. We do, though, need the approval of Presbytery to call a minister, and they must look at the overall situation in the area, and the deployment of what has become a scarce resource. We have approval now to call a minister on what is called a “five-year renewable tenure”. So, we can appoint someone for five years, and after that the position will be reviewed, with the possibility of an extension.

By the time you read this we will have elected a Nominating Committee from members of the congregation. Their task is to advertise, go and listen to potential applicants, interview, and then make a nomination to the congregation. That individual then comes and preaches as “sole nominee”, and the congregation vote by secret ballot. It will all take a bit of time yet, but I am hopeful we will find a suitable person to come and be the minister for this delightful parish.

One of the many good things about our churches here is the number of visitors we have at our services. This was particularly the case at Christmas, when all the services were very well attended. We are coming up to Easter, and it would be great to see locals and visitors. For Christians, Easter is an even more important commemoration than Christmas. At Christmas we rejoice that Jesus came into our world; at Easter we remember why he came. Easter is for all those who are puzzled that we live in a broken world; who wonder at the suffering of so many; who are angry with God because of what has happened to them or their loved ones; who grieve over their loss. In the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross, God does not give us a simple answer, but rather demonstrates how much he loves us, as he identifies with, and shares in, our suffering. In the resurrection of Jesus, he shows us that death does not have the last word.

If you would like a quiet space to come out of the world and all its busy-ness, and to think about these things, do join us at one of our services over the Easter period. You will be very welcome.



Tay and Lyon Churches Guild

The current session is almost at an end. By the time you read this report, the annual general meeting (AGM) will have been held and soon we will be exploring options for next year's programme on the theme of '*The Extra Mile*,' the third strand of the overall three year strategy of '*One Journey, Many Roads*'. The Guild meetings start again in September, but we do intend to have a fundraising event in the summer to raise money for our chosen charities for 2020.

The meetings of the Guild have been generally well attended, which has been very encouraging. We have explored many topics on this year's theme – '*Companions on the Road*'.

We started the session in September with a Quiz. Our next topic was the work of the charity **PAMIS** – an acronym that stands for **Promoting A More Inclusive Society**, which seeks to help severely disabled people to enjoy activities that others take for granted. We then visited South America with Fiona Perry. Robert Nicol entertained us by talking about folks that had influenced him – his 'companions on the road'. Following an enjoyable Christmas lunch, we had our winter break in January. In February, Anne Duff regaled us with tales of her work among the prisoners in Barlinnie and before the business of our AGM, Stan Pirie also used the theme to give us an amusing talk about his 'companions on the road'.

Elaine Melrose, Chair Tay & Lyon Churches Guild. T: 01887 830 682

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Charity Quiz Night - Saturday 25 April

The McLean Hall, Fearnan, is holding its annual Charity Quiz Night commencing at 7pm with supper, followed by the Quiz.

A Darwinian Connection in a Local Churchyard - Fran Gillespie

In the small enclosure near the entrance to Fortingall churchyard is a marble tablet set into a wall, commemorating one Marmaduke Ramsay MA FLS, who died at Duneaves near Fortingall in 1831.

He's described as 'Fellow and tutor of Jesus College, Cambridge'. Ramsay was only 36 when he died; an engraving shows a good-looking, dark-haired young man with an intelligent face. The letters FLS are intriguing, as they indicate that Ramsay was an elected fellow of the Linnean Society. His early death was not a sudden one as his mother is recorded as 'having attended him in his last illness'.



We know comparatively little about his life.

One of seven sons and seven daughters of an Aberdeenshire landowner, several of his brothers pursued distinguished careers in the army and navy and one, the great Edward Bannerman Ramsay, was Dean of Edinburgh. Marmaduke was a scholar with a remarkable range of interests. He was involved in the publication by *The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge* and *The Library of Entertaining Knowledge* of treatises on topics varying from mathematics, geography and the history of Rome to the anatomy of the horse and another on birds' nests, grandly entitled *The Architecture of Birds*.

Given such an enquiring mind it's not surprising that Ramsay became the friend of a man with similarly wide-ranging interests: Charles Darwin, who described him as 'a delightful man'. They were planning a voyage of scientific enquiry to Tenerife in the Canary Islands when Marmaduke's death put an end to the expedition. In a letter conveying this sad news to Darwin a mutual friend suggested that he join the *Beagle* voyage.

If poor Marmaduke Ramsay hadn't died when he did, would Darwin have come up with *On The Origin of Species*, at least in the form he eventually published? It's an intriguing thought.

Recollections: 38 years in Highland Perthshire - Anne Towns

When we came here in 1982, we moved to a little market town called Aberfeldy. Having come from the anonymity of the city, we took a while to learn that everybody knew everybody else and often were related to them.

We came to a town that boasted a Cottage Hospital, a Police Station, a Fire Station, a secondary School with three hostels for out-of-town pupils, a Mart, regular Auctions, a car dealership, public toilets, three banks, a newsagent's and ONE coffee shop! The Co-op, then in the Square, seemed to be taken by surprise every summer when tourists arrived. It frequently ran out of bread and milk!

Most of the teachers, nurses, support workers actually lived in or near the town. I think some council houses were kept aside as well as a police house. Most of these people don't live in the area now - they can't afford current house prices! We were lucky and found a building plot out of town, a rarity at that time! We moved to Keltneyburn in the last days of it being the 'real' country. All the farms were still working farms and the stabling buildings were inhabited by livestock, not people! Winters were punctuated by significant snowfall, ice, frosty sunshine and power cuts! We had a special kit for those with paraffin lamps and camping gaz.

We had lovely neighbours and were lucky enough to know some of the last old country bachelors. True gentlemen, like Geordie McLaren, who lived across the Keltneyburn from us and Donald Stewart, who farmed at Croftgarrow. Two of our neighbours actually still had a 'house' cow when we first arrived.

Delivery vans still came around and milk, in bottles, was delivered every day. A postbus went to the top of the Glen and back every day with the driver doing extra errands for people who needed help. For my pre-school children, the highlight was the visit of the Strathtay Stores van because they got a sweetie! They looked out for it coming and at the same time waved to the occasional car that went past. The outlying schools, in places like Amulree and Bridge of Gaur, were still open and the large manses in Weem and Kenmore were still occupied by ministers of the Kirk!

How things have changed!

DONALD JOHN CAMPBELL 30 April 1928 – 14 January 2020

A Tribute by the Rev Anne Brennan

About 20 years ago, Donald was, along with Margaret McLaughlin, the first elder to join the Session at Kenmore and Lawers during my ministry. Donald and Margaret always maintained a special bond from their time as 'new' elders. The church had always been an important part of Donald's life, and his faith was very much at the core of who he was as a person, and how he treated others, both inside and outside the church community. He was an excellent elder, looking after the north part of the Loch, where he had once farmed. Visiting with communion cards or magazines was never a speedy process! Latterly, when Doreen was doing the driving, both were welcome at many homes for a chat and a cuppa. Donald also formed an effective team with Alex Tinto, looking after the fabric of Kenmore Kirk and the Manse, tackling all sorts of maintenance - painting, plastering, woodwork, plumbing, roofing (though sometimes we were glad the 'safety elves' - the health and safety people - didn't visit when ladders were involved!).

While they lived in Kenmore Donald daily opened and closed the church doors, and often was around at other times, often delighting visitors with his welcome and local knowledge. On a Sunday morning, I would arrive from the Fortingall service to find the order of service and hymn book open at the right place, microphone waiting, and a glass of water handy - much appreciated, and an example of Donald's quiet way of seeing what needed to be done, and unobtrusively doing it.

On a Sunday, Donald and Doreen were regularly there, just under the gallery, even after the move to Aberfeldy, when health, and visits to their beloved grandchildren, didn't prevent it.

Donald stepped down from the Kirk Session when problems with his sight and hearing made meetings and duties difficult, but he was always very much part of the church in Kenmore, not just a Christian for one day in seven. Even more importantly, he had a quiet faith that sustained him, an impish sense of humour (no po-faced religiosity for him!) and a faith which he lived, day in day out. Always charitable about others, he was well loved and well respected within the church and without.

Mary's Meals

Good news! 1,667,067 children in 18 countries are now being fed by Mary's Meals. This number is an increase of half a million in the past 5 years, all thanks to everyone who has continued to give. Linda's quiz, which was entertaining even for those who didn't win, raised £80 – another 4+ youngsters fed.

In Turkana, Northern Kenya, 23,000 younger children receive meals in nurseries scattered across this barren landscape. Sadly, there are no funds as yet to extend feeding to their older siblings in primary school. Only around half the children in Turkana are still enrolled in school – a school without food holds little appeal. This is a desperate situation crying out for an urgent response. Mary's Meals stands ready to serve meals in these primary schools just as soon as they can raise the necessary funds.

This work is far from finished! You can help by sharing this story with family and friends. Unfortunately, we do not have the opportunity to raise funds in the Aberfeldy Thrift Shop this year, but WE HOPE TO DO SOMETHING! Ideas are still hatching, but watch this space and in the meantime, thank you for your help thus far.

Margaret McLaughlin

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## Lost in the Wood

At a recent Guild Committee meeting, fund-raising possibilities were considered including continuation of church calendars and mugs with local scenes – one of Anne Brennan's successful innovations. This brought to mind a somewhat surreal episode soon after Anne's departure at the beginning of September.

As the Fortingall mugs had sold well, Anne contacted the Edinburgh printer to order another box of 36, featuring the Kirk and Yew Tree. Their delivery was delayed by increased demands on the firm during the Edinburgh Festival and they had not arrived when Anne and

Brian left the manse at Balnaskeag. A few days later, I telephoned to arrange for the mugs to be delivered to me instead and was surprised to hear that the mugs had just been delivered to the manse. I checked with Kenny MacVicar who had volunteered to keep an eye on the empty house but he had not seen a large box in the vicinity.

In the meantime, the printers had been in touch with their courier and been assured that the box had not only been delivered but had been signed for by someone named 'Wood' who was assumed to be a neighbour. Another telephone call to the Kenmore elders who know everyone in the district but no-one by the name of 'Wood'. With the mystery unsolved, James Duncan Millar offered to investigate the scene and found the box which he kindly delivered to Fortingall.

It had been on a pile of wood sheltered by the eaves round the west side of the manse and it transpired that, on his report form, the van-driver had scrawled the word 'wood' in the box marked 'Safe Place/Neighbour'.

## Gordon Stark

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Scripture Lessons!

- The spies said that the Promised Land was flowing with milk and honey and they brought back a bunch of grapes to prove it.
- *Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof*, means you mustn't do too many bad things all in one day.
- Joseph lived a straight life, so Pharaoh made him into a ruler.
- *The Ark landed on Mt Anorak*. And who built it? *Joan*.
- Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.
- Who was Peter? A rabbit.