



PARISH



# NEWSLETTER

To Communicants and Friends of  
Tay and Lyon Churches

June 2024

Rev Robert Nicol, Interim Moderator

**Our Rev Robert is on vacation.**

You will notice that our Newsletter has not opened with the usual greetings and message from our dear friend and minister, Rev Robert. He and Lorna are currently taking a much needed and well earned holiday in the sunshine and recharging their batteries! I am trying to publish this newsletter before I go off on holiday so, on this occasion, I haven't interrupted Robert's break from Church duties and asked for a contribution. I know you will all understand!

Sandra (01887 830316)

## ARMCHAIR MUSINGS FROM SANDRA SEATH, OUTREACH ELDER

Hello again, Dear Friends,

Here we are, well into June as I write this part of our Newsletter. People are perhaps looking forward to summer holidays or warmer days. The word of the moment is **CHANGE**. Our political party leaders are beating their drum, trying to convince us of all the good changes they are going to make to our lives if we choose their party for National Government on July 4<sup>th</sup>. There's not a lot to laugh about when listening to those political debates...! And so I thought about my uncomplicated life

and the part that laughter plays in it for me!

### Laughter

Laughter is a safety valve,  
Against life's stress and strains,  
It lets us take a breather,  
From all our aches and pains.

You can have your pills and potions,  
And therapy by the mile,  
But there's no better remedy,  
Than to see someone smile.

You'll find a smile's reciprocal,  
With everyone you meet,  
It gives out that good feeling,  
As you stroll along the street.

So next time I'm on downer,  
And things don't go my way,  
I'll change my thoughts to positive,  
And let laughter have its say!

I look forward to passing on the outcome of the church session's next meeting with the Presbytery re the possibility of linkage with Rannoch. In the meantime, I hope we all enjoy and give thanks for some warm summer sunshine and peaceful days in this lovely part of God's kingdom.

Sandra

## OUTER HEBRIDEAN HOLIDAY MEMOIRS FROM ANNE TOWNS

Many years ago, in 1987, we visited the Outer Hebrides for the first time. We stayed at a place in Lewis called Cliff, in the days before it was a surfing destination. A very pleasant three weeks passed, during which we visited Stornoway a couple of times. Surprisingly, in the Main Street, there was a thriving

business, describing itself as The Hat Shop.

Later, during our stay, we attended the Church of Scotland service in Miavaig. As the ladies of the congregation entered the church, we realised why the Hat Shop was so successful! A lapsed custom now as all are bare-headed these days! The service was conducted by the local GP who was a Lay Reader. The service was a special evening service in English but all the hymns were still in Gaelic and there was no organist. The congregational singing was led by a Precentor and very moving to listen to. Prayers were said standing and hymns sung seated. A visit during the sermon by the doctor's dog added to the uniqueness of the experience!

In recent years, we have been visiting South Uist every year, at least twice! We stay near Howmore, a historical Christian site with interesting ruined buildings. The current Church of Scotland, which we go to, is a lovely old building. It's claim to fame is its central Communion Table, which is still in use, along with the Common Cup. There are little gates to open before all sitting on benches around the long communion table. The cup is passed along from hand to hand. Presbyterians are very much in the minority in South Uist although there is also a Free Church of Scotland in Daliburgh.

A feature of South Uist is the huge Hew Lorimer statue, Our Lady of the Isles. The Parish Priest, who was nicknamed 'Father Rocket', raised funds to build it when the MOD built a rocket testing range in Uist. South Uist and Eriskay are also the only places in the UK to have wayside shrines. There are several Catholic Churches,

including a small one next to our holiday cottage. Mass is said there every week on a Wednesday, and well attended.

The Church of Scotland charge of South Uist is a joint one along with Barra. Our ministers may sometimes face a journey in inclement weather, but, at least, they never have to get on a ferry!



#### Church Services – July to September 2024

##### **Fortingall:**

- 14<sup>th</sup> July at am, Robert Nicol
- 28<sup>th</sup> July at 11am,
- 11<sup>th</sup> August at 11am, Robert Nicol
- 25<sup>th</sup> August at 11am, Robert Nicol
- 8<sup>th</sup> September at 11am, (Guild Service)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 11am, Robert Nicol

##### **Kenmore:**

- 7<sup>th</sup> July at 11am, Robert Nicol
- 21<sup>st</sup> July at 11am, Geoff Davis
- 4<sup>th</sup> August at 11am, Robert Nicol
- 18<sup>th</sup> August at 11am,
- 1<sup>st</sup> September at 11am, Robert Nicol
- 15<sup>th</sup> September at 11am, Geoff Davis
- 29<sup>th</sup> September at 11am, Robert Nicol

## LATEST CHURCH NEWS FROM ALEXANDER TOWNS, SESSION CLERK

### Linkage with Rannoch

At the meeting of the Kirk Session in early May, it was noted that, following the visit to Rannoch in February, we had not received any feedback regarding linkage. We expressed our concerns about the viability of this proposed linkage to the Convenor of the Presbytery Planning and Deployment Committee. Now, there is to be a meeting of the Kirk Session with representatives of Presbytery later this month. We will keep you informed of developments.

### Fortingall "Pod"

We were visited by the Presbytery's Buildings Officer (a conservation surveyor and heritage specialist) and a director of Mill Architects, who is an RIAS Advanced Conservation Architect, on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. This allowed an initial survey to be undertaken and preparatory plans to be drawn.

## GLENLYON CHURCH NEWS FROM ROBERT BROWN

A delightful service was held at Glenlyon church on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024. The service was led by our Interim Moderator, the very Reverend Robert Nicol. The church looked beautiful and was artfully decorated with a wide variety of seasonal flowers, including laburnum, tulips, aquilegia, clematis, lupins, Lily of the Valley and rose garlands.

After the service, we had a lovely time catching up with one another over tea, coffee and a groaning table buffet. More than a few people, asked about the future of Glenlyon church as the Church of

Scotland undergoes what has been described as "radical reform" amid falling congregations.

Well, we hope and pray, that once the dust has settled, Glenlyon will become a festival church. A festival church is a church building, which is not used for weekly worship, but is valued and required by the community for local events, and for festivals of the church and for rites of passage (ie baptisms, weddings and funerals). These festivals include Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter, but also local festivals such as Mother's Day and Remembrance Sunday etc. A festival church can also accommodate more secular events, for example, a music night.

We plan to have our next service at Glenlyon church sometime in October. We hope you can join us in fellowship.

Robert Brown



## A TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

### Elizabeth Christina McDiarmid

It was with great sadness, we had to say goodbye to our friend and faithful church family member, Elizabeth. After the sale of Lawers Church, Elizabeth found spiritual comfort in the back pew of Fortingall Church where, when well enough, she was a very regular member of the church. Laterally, she was cared for in the Falls of Dochart Care Home in Killin, where she passed away on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024. She has now found her last resting place, down in Old Lawers Church graveyard. Our thoughts and prayers are with her sister, Margaret and all the rest of her family.



Elizabeth McDiarmid's Headstone

### Mairi Helen Taylor

We were saddened to hear of the recent passing on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024 of our friend, neighbour and church family member, Mairi Taylor, who came to live in Fearnan 35 years ago. She was a skilled lady in many directions but particularly in crafts with embroidery being her forte. The work she displayed in our church exhibitions brought loud acclaim. Mairi moved to Abbeyfield House in Aberfeldy 7 years ago, where she took a great interest in all their events. We send our condolences and prayers to all Mairi's family at this sad time.

### Alison Skinner

A few days ago, we received the sad news noting the passing on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024 of Alison Skinner in her 97<sup>th</sup> year. Alison was a conscientious, kind, warm and a friendly Elder within Kenmore church. She and her husband George, came from the Joppa area of Edinburgh, in the late 70's, to reside in the first of the new-build houses behind the Fearnan Village Hall. She moved to Manchester to be beside her family in 2013. After a long and fulsome life, may she rest in peace.