



PARISH



NEWSLETTER

To Communicants and Friends of
Tay and Lyon Churches

March 2025

Armchair Musings from Sandra Seath, Outreach Elder

Hello everyone, and welcome to our latest Spring newsletter!

How lovely it is to wave goodbye to the dismal, dark, wet and windy Winter days as we look forward to Spring and all the new shoots it promises to bring.

The new season brings longer days of hope and light into our world. Amidst the challenges and angst of our world today, we must not lose sight of the light that can be found in many places and spaces within our community. We must not forget the light which continues to shine brightly in our neighbourhood in the form of those many volunteers responding to local needs which inform outreach and various initiatives, such as food banks, warm spaces, dementia cafes, various interest groups, lunch clubs, exercise classes and so many more! This is not an exhaustive list! As we immerse ourselves in the Easter message of hope, let the light of the resurrection continue to shine on our community.

The Church of Scotland is in the midst of constant and difficult change – it is a reforming church. We are part of this new developing church, looking forward to, hopefully, attracting a new minister to take us forward on this journey. Our Guild

has been a little 'quiet' of late but new enthusiasm and energy has been found and already, steps have been taken to take us into a positive future!

As we experience the powerful Easter message, we hope and pray that our eyes and ears can be focussed on the inevitable changes before us and that we can feel able to consider and experiment with those changes, as Jesus did.

Easter Blessings to you all.

Sandra Seath, Outreach Elder

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Words of Wisdom

Just think...

When you are going through hard times and wonder where God is, remember the teacher is always quiet during a test.

...and Just Smile

The journey home, all gets heavier as we get older because we have a lot more information in our heads. So, I'm not fat. I'm just really intelligent and my head couldn't hold any more so it started filling up the rest of me! That's my story and I'm sticking to it!



Lorimer Gray, Interim Facilitator

New Beginnings...Linked with Rannoch

On the first of January 2025, our new Church of Scotland 'charge' was formed and informally called 'The Churches of Loch Tay and Glenlyon with Rannoch'. It is

made up from the long-established churches of Braes of Rannoch and Foss and Rannoch, now united as Rannoch Church, and they have been successfully linked with the historical Fortingall, Kenmore, Glenlyon and Lawers Church to create the new family. It is a new relationship, and I am pleased to say that so far, the 'engagement' is working well!

At the tail end of 2024, we sadly said thanks to Rev Robert Nicol for his 5 years of faithful ministry on this side of Schiehallion and over in Rannoch a similar expression of thanks was extended to Rev Grace Steele for her 10-year period of service in the Rannoch area. Both are much missed, deeply appreciated and both, thankfully, continue to play their part in preaching and handling other responsibilities around the parishes, for which I am very grateful.

I feel very privileged to be acting in the capacity of Interim Moderator, initially with the main task of facilitating the Union of the Rannoch Churches and then formally enabling linkage between the two Congregations. Now four months into the role, I realise my contribution and gifting is more as an Interim Facilitator, attempting to support the two excellent Kirk Sessions and steering the direction of both churches towards finding a first-class new minister as carefully, yet speedily, as possible. We are all currently blessed by the rich variety and capability of so many delightful preachers who are helping Sunday by Sunday to lead our services. This is an area which is not my calling.

So far, we are doing well. The Union and the Linkage are in place. Our guides and mentors in Presbytery have been extremely helpful and have approved us to

start the process of calling a minister. Inevitably, we have lots of hoops to go through, over the next coming weeks. We will be hearing Edicts and Imitations of different meetings and there will be voting on issues and congregational meetings arranged after the Sunday worship to select our Nominating Committee. Then, the work begins in earnest to find that person, chosen and prepared by God, to lead the churches into the future.

One other important practical task is to ensure the Manse is in good condition so that our future minister, and family, are excited about where they will live. A subgroup from both congregations have been inspecting it recently, with a few necessary improvements planned. Generally, it is in good order and was complimented by the Presbytery Buildings Inspector. In due course, a small 3-person committee from Presbytery will visit again when it is all looking spick and span.

Will you do something for me? Please will you personally commit yourself to pray regularly that God will be preparing His chosen person to respond to our advertising and subsequently apply, and that the new Nominating Committee, when appointed, will have outstanding discernment and God's wisdom in selecting the right person for our exciting new charge. Paul, in his letter to the church in Colosse in Chapter 4 Verse 2 highlighted the importance of praying. He wrote, *"Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart."* So, let's make a pact to do it! Over the next few months, I look forward to meeting more of you and in the meantime, wish you God's rich blessing.

Warmly,

Lorimer

Latest Church News

Moving On

Our Kirk Session met with the Presbytery Vacancy Advisory Committee on the 6th March to be advised on the next steps required to be completed on our journey of calling a new minister to our parish. As a result of these discussions there have been various edicts read out at the beginning of our Sunday services.

Please make a note of the date regarding the selection of the Nominating Committee. Our congregation is seeking 6 people to serve on this committee. The congregation will meet to vote on the candidates for the Nominating Committee after worship on Sunday 4th May 2025.

Church Linkage Service

On Thursday 13th March, within Rannoch Church Centre, there was a Service of Union between Braes of Rannoch and Foss, and Rannoch Church of Scotland, and, the Linkage of Fortingall, GlenLyon, Kenmore and Lawers. Eight members of our congregation made the journey over the hill to join with members of Prebytery and the local congregations to be part of this historic service which was taken by the Rev. Mark Foster from Pitlochry and the Rev. Alan Reid, Moderator of Perth Presbytery.

At this time of change within the Church of Scotland, in the so many ways we live our faith, a message of encouragement, a message of enthusiasm and love was bestowed on us as we take our new steps together into the future within this new union and linkage.

The moderator offered comfort to the many congregations within Scotland having to close much loved and cherished buildings but we were cautioned to remember there was no closure on our memories, on the years of history...they very much live on.

The delivery of God's Word is evolving... the important message of God is for all his PEOPLE wherever they are in their daily lives.

They are the Church...not the buildings.

And so, another step in our church story has begun...

Roddy Riddel's Tribute to his Uncle, Major Donald Ian Molteno

Sunday 16th February 2025 was not only our communion service in Fortingall Church but this date also marked the 80th anniversary of the death of Donald Ian Molteno whose memorial plaque is situated on the north wall of the Kirk.

At the close of the communion service, Roddy Riddell addressed the congregation and delivered a particularly moving tribute to his uncle, Major Ian.

" Ian was born in 1918 and the family lived in Surrey but often stayed at Culdarmore during the holidays. In 1937 the whole family moved to Glenlyon House and so his love of this area and its community was reinforced. Aged 13 he went to school at Loretta in Edinburgh and was there from 1931 to 1937. On leaving school he went to Trinity College Cambridge but on the outbreak of war left to join the Army. He was commissioned into the Black Watch in June 1941.

He went with the 1st Battalion to North Africa, arriving in August 1942, and took

part in the Battle of El Alamein in October of that year and in January 1943 he was severely wounded at Wadi Zem Zem, losing his right eye.

On returning to duty, he became an instructor at a battle school in Egypt and then at a battle school near Barnard Castle in the north of England. Unusually he was granted a Regular Commission and against much opposition he was allowed to return to the 1st Battalion the Black Watch in February 1945. Many of his brother officers said to him that he had sacrificed enough but he was obviously a man who put duty above self and by this stage of the war the Infantry were very short of combat experienced officers.

He was killed within days of returning to the front and is buried in the Reichswald Forest Cemetery near Kiev. The personal inscription on his grave reads; "His heart is in Scotland, but his valor is here".

He died aged 26 leaving behind his wife, Margot, and his two daughters. To add to the poignancy, his death occurred on his mother's birthday."

After the war, Pipe Major Allan Watters, who had served in the Black Watch, wrote a pipe tune called "Captain Ian Molteno". And so, it was most fitting that members of the Riddell family and members of the congregation were led out of the church, to the war memorial, by Black Watch Pipe Major Alastair Duthie playing that same Retreat March. It provided a moving end to a fine tribute to a remarkable man.

Alexander Towns (Session Clerk)



Church Services – April to June 2025

Fortingall:

- 13th April at 10am, Elaine Melrose (Palm Sunday)
- 18th April at Time TBC, Alex Towns (Good Friday)
- 27th April at 10am, Fiona McDonald (Bible Society – Lorimer)
- 11th May at 6pm, Elaine & Alex (Etape Sunday – Songs of Praise)
- 8th June at 10am, Elaine Melrose
- 22nd June at 10am, Donald Strathairn

Kenmore:

- 6th April at 10am, Grace Steele
- 20th April at 10am, Rev Robert Nicol (Easter Sunday with Communion)
- 4th May at 10am, Grace Steele
- 18th May at 10am, Donald Strathairn
- 1st June at 10am, Grace Steele
- 15th June at 10am, Geoff Davis
- 29th June at 10am, Rev Robert Nicol (Communion)

Glenlyon:

- 25th May at 10am, Rev Robert Nicol

