

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."

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From the Minister

Welcome to the new-look church newsletter! Building on the solid foundation laid by Fay and John Henderson, who deserve our appreciation, the intention is for a briefer but more frequent publication.



People often want to know if their faith makes a difference. So, in this first edition, the articles which follow are about opportunities to put our faith into action. Some are local, such as 'Men at Work, Men at Play' and 'Workplace Chaplaincy', two are based in the Eastern Mediterranean, while CSW's 'Home Tours' brings the world to our doorstep.

One of the first commands God gave the Israelites, when they settled in the Promised Land, was to care for aliens "... for you were foreigners in Egypt" (Exodus, chapter 22, verse 21). Jesus develops the principal to include all those in need, especially strangers and enemies (Luke, chapter 10, verses 25-37). The same theme finds further expression in the New Testament letters.

I hope that a feature of this newsletter is that it grows increasingly interactive. It is for exchanging ideas and I promise to share whatever I receive (as long as it is respectful!). Another significant difference is that I shall not be chasing up the usual contributors for their input (though I reserve the right to approach people from time to time, if they have useful ideas or information). This is in order to reduce pressure on our busiest people and to create space for fresh news. So, if you have something to say, please say it!

Autumn marks the end of summer and the beginning of a new "academic" year. May God, in his graciousness, help us all to move on well...

Rory

Need prayer or someone to pray with you?

Email Mary Fennell 1995gideon@gmail.com

Need to talk? Questions about the Christian faith

Contact the minister, who will find the right person to speak to you.

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What's on???

September:

Sat 2	11am - 2pm 12 noon	Hope & Faith Charity Cafe, Ardvasar Village Hall 'I'll Sing On' by Gilbert McKinnon, Book Launch, Aros
Sun 3	1.30 - 3pm	Y:Sunday, Broadford Village Hall
Tue 5	12 noon 2pm	Presbytery Communion Service, Kilmore Feill nan Oileanaich, Sabhal Mor Ostaig
Thu 7	7.30pm	Kirk Session, Broadford Church Foyer
Fri 8	Charles & Helen	Clark (Senegal) visiting until Sunday 10th
Sat 9	10am - 3.30pm	'Being a Disciple' Day Retreat, Broadford Church
Sat 23 - Sun 24		Gaelic Group Weekend Away, Lewis
Tue 26 - Thu 28		Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) Home Tour to Strath & Sleat
Fri 29	12.30 for 1pm	Lunch Club, MacKinnon Country House Hotel

Further Ahead:

Sun 1 Oct		Kilmore Communion
Thu 5 Oct	7.30pm	Kirk Session 'Learn' Evening, Manse
Fri 6 - Sun 22 Oct		School Holiday!
Fri 20 - Sun 22		Kingdom Gathering, Kyleakin Village Hall
Fri 27 Oct	12.30 for 1pm	Lunch Club, MacKinnon Country House Hotel
Sun 29 Oct	11am	Parish Service, Broadford
Tue 31 Oct	6 - 9.30pm	Local Church Review (LCR), Manse
Thu 2 Nov	7.30pm	Congregational Board, Broadford Church Foyer
Sun 5 Nov	1.30 - 3pm	Y:Sunday, Broadford Village Hall
Sun 12 Nov		Remembrance Sunday
Thu 16 Nov	7.30pm	Kirk Session, Broadford Church Foyer
Sun 19 Nov		Persecuted Church Sunday
Fri 24 Nov	12.30 for 1pm	Lunch Club, MacKinnon Country House Hotel
Sun 26 Nov	11am 6pm	Kyleakin Communion South Skye & Lochalsh AREA Communion
Sun 3 Dec		Advent Sunday



CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

Home Tours Programme

Following a successful launch last year, we are expanding the opportunity to engage in Christian Solidarity Worldwide's (CSW) Home Tours programme. This year there will be three venues to choose from, if you would like to learn more about the plight of our persecuted brothers and sisters, with a view to doing something positive and compassionate about it. Here is the Scottish Coordinator to explain...

Hi, I'm Ruth Donaldson and I look after the work of Christian Solidarity Worldwide, based in Edinburgh.

A huge part of my life growing up on Skye was gathering at the end of the day with family and friends in Portree to talk over a drink and bite to eat. So I've tried to bring that tradition into speaking about how we can support those who are persecuted for their faith through my HomeTours initiative.

HomeTours re-create the traditional Scottish house ceilidh, but with a CSW twist! Last November, I visited Rory & Annice's house with members of the Strath & Sleat Parish. There I shared stories of faith and endurance from all of the countries where CSW works before we conversed about what we heard over cheese & wine, coffee & cake. The conversation that night was fascinating as HomeTours bring a much more discussion-based approach and are ideal for church home groups or charity socials. It's a great way to gather and stand up for the rights of others as we talk and pray about the issue together.

On the 26th, 27th and 28th of September, I will be returning to Strath & Sleat Parish with more stories to share in three different homes, each starting at 7.30pm. You'll find out how you can make a change in these people's lives through prayer and action – and the positive impact it can have in your own life, too. If you would like to come along and be part of the conversation during these HomeTour dates, please speak to Rory or one of your local elders to confirm your place.

Please also feel free to email me for more details: ruthdonaldson@csw.org.uk.

I hope you can make it along.

Ruth Donaldson
CSW Development Coordinator Scotland





Skye's first Workplace Chaplain

Those who are familiar with Steve Aisthorpe's research into the "invisible church" (Christians who do not go to church) will be aware of the growing number of believers with whom the church is losing touch. Add to this the successive generations who do not believe and

who never come to church and you may wonder how we can continue to serve the communities we seek to reach with the love of Christ.

The answer is that we shall have to learn new ways of getting alongside people. One exciting and effective example is Workplace Chaplaincy. Here to tell us what it is all about is Skye's first Workplace Chaplain...

My name is Stephen Plant and I am a voluntary Workplace Chaplain for Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland, a nationwide organisation.

Who are Volunteer Chaplains?

A Volunteer Chaplain is someone who feels called by God to offer pastoral and spiritual support to any workplace staff in need. WPCS Chaplains visit places of work to meet people in their own environment. They offer pastoral and spiritual support in the highs and lows of life and always in strict confidence.

Chaplains seek to relate the Christian faith to daily life and to embody Christian values and ethics in relationships, methods and goals in the workplace and beyond.

They may also be called upon to arrange special events, for example Carols at Christmas, Sea Sunday Services or Remembrance Day events. Or, as in my case, giving a monthly 'Thought for the week' on Cuillin FM Radio.

Chaplains are there for people of all faiths and none and offer a confidential listening service.

What is Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland (WPCS)?

WPCS is a Christian organisation which seeks to practically share love and compassion in a way that is accessible and understandable to all. It is not a proselytising organisation. Its function is not to evangelise, make converts for any church, but it works with all secular organisations, local churches and employers in offering its services. It serves to support the Work Place Chaplains with a professional organisation offering training, uniforms and materials.

Where do I work on Skye?

I am based in Portree and currently the workplace I support is Portree Harbour, the harbour staff, lifeboat crew, fishermen and all those whose livelihoods depend on going out to sea.

However, it is becoming clear that there is a need to support all the harbours and ports on the island. There are work place issues and stresses of differing natures at Kyle and Kyleakin, Armadale, Elgol and Uig.

Together with the WPCS Regional Co-ordinator there have been conversations with the Fire Brigade Service on Skye. There are 6 retained fire crews in and around Skye and the Fire Officer in charge is very keen to have these crews supported by chaplaincy. Informal conversations have taken place with the Coast Guard Service and the Skye Mountain Rescue Team. All of these voluntary emergency services put their lives at risk to help and save the public. Sometimes they have to attend difficult situations and encounter awful events. Having someone to talk to about what they have witnessed and experienced can help them to process these thoughts and images. A Chaplain who is confidential and removed from the immediacy of the situation can be such a person.

I have found an acceptance and welcome when visiting the harbours and there are opportunities for more chaplains on Skye, not just to the emergency services but to work places in the retail and service sector. It has even been suggested that the Shinty Club might welcome a chaplain!

Conversations sometimes do centre around faith issues or those relating to spirituality. These are usually initiated by the person the chaplain is talking to but the chaplain can listen and respond appropriately.

Before coming to Skye I was a chaplain to the construction industry in Longbridge, Birmingham, the former car production site. One day I saw a man I hadn't spoken to before and he was part way down a manhole. I said hello and he looked up and saw 'Chaplain' on my Hi Vis Jacket and asked 'Chaplains, are they the constructors?' In a moment of divine inspiration, I replied, with a straight face 'yes they are the oldest construction company in the world. Founded over 2000 years ago by a carpenter.' He nodded as if to understand, then as my face broke into a smile the penny dropped and we had a good laugh.

After that every time he saw me he would ask 'is the carpenter around today?' to which I would reply 'Oh yes, he's around here somewhere!' We had made a friendly connection. Then one day he came up to me with a sorrowful look and said, 'Stephen can you have a word with the carpenter, my Mum is very ill.' I told him I would but that he could talk to the carpenter too. I'm not sure what image he had of our Lord before but I like to think he went away with a picture of someone who was more accessible to him.

As it says in Matthew 9: v 37 & 38.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

I would be happy to come and talk to any church groups that you feel appropriate about work place chaplaincy and the opportunities that are developing here on Skye.



Men at Work...

Men at Play



We all know that people are different and what works for some leaves others cold. So it is encouraging when new ways of expressing faith and being church arise. A great example is the following idea which Gordon Brown is introducing...

"Men at Work" is a new initiative being considered where some of the men in the parish are able and willing to carry out work for those in need in the community. Initially aimed at the congregation but with a future possibility of extending to the wider population. All projects will be considered. The "Men at Play" is a chance for fellowship in a relaxed way with options of a variety of activities. Already, some of the men have met and had a day of kayaking, followed by a curry.

To register your interest in either becoming a "man", please contact Gordon on 01471 822025 in the first instance. If you have an idea of a project, please contact any member of the Kirk Session.



Middle eastern Projects

One of the momentous events of our time is the refugee crisis emanating from North Africa and the Middle East. How we respond will live with us forever.

Earlier in the year the Kirk Session arranged a meeting with David Bradwell, the Scottish Churches Officer for Refugees, to seek his advice about what an island church could do to help. He confirmed that there are no refugees in the area and the modest number that have been admitted to other parts of Scotland are being well catered for. To our surprise, he recommended exploring opportunities to get involved at the far end, in the camps where the refugees first gather.

How providential then, that the minister should receive a call from the brother of a school-friend to invite Strath & Slea's involvement in two projects he is developing in the Middle East. The first is not specifically to do with refugees but with people who are marginalised within their own homeland. The parallels with previous generations of highlanders quickly becomes apparent, as does the attraction of helping out in such an iconic location. The second project would take us right into the heart of the refugee situation and for the long haul. Have we got the stomach for it? See information in the church buildings about the two possible projects.





SEPTEMBER 2017



COOL

During September we have been invited to assist another Associate Trust, The Clydesdale Christian Youth Trust, on an away day to consider their on going vision. As COOL looks to the future at the beginning of a new school year, we are conscious that it has been five years since we held our last strategy day, so this term we would hope to be able to make space to consider how we continue to go forward for the young people of our area. Over the summer we also said goodbye to Moira Lane who has started a PGCE in Primary Education at UHI, Inverness. We wish Moira all the very best and thank her for her tireless work for COOL since she joined the committee in 2007.

AUTUMN TERM

A few days to recover before heading back into schools, we now look forward to our usual autumn events, including another trip to Rome with twenty-five young people and the annual S6 Big Questions Day after the October break. The school assemblies are booked. This term we kick off with a High School assembly followed by this year's S3 Youth Philanthropic Initiative funded by the Wood Foundation. Having had the YPI introduced this week, I deliver the first preparatory lesson where we consider charitable work and the local charities that we have in Ross-shire.

PRAYER

give thanks for...

- the visit of the Eden Bus
- All those impacted by the holiday clubs
- God's hand at Soul Survivor
- All our volunteers
- the COOL school work

pray for...

- The Word shared over the summer
- New S1s
- Creativity in preparing assemblies and events
- COOL's future direction
- Associate Trusts across Scotland



SKYE'S THE LIMIT

Report from Latin Link's Scottish Co-ordinator, Martin Haworth

"We're thankful for safety, cycling on the very busy roads on Skye and stamina to make it right around the island and on time for 13 meetings over 9 days. The hospitality was superb and we were told that having young folk talking of their mission experiences in Latin America was an encouragement to the Skye churches. We are very thankful for the donations given for this sponsored cycle ride – (we can't give a figure as yet as donations are still coming in). But far greater than finance, I was proud of a team that gelled very well together and shared meaningfully. They also had a great attitude during considerable challenges along the way, contending with voracious midges, wild camping and some deluges of rain. So much to thank God for as the encouragement seemed to permeate everywhere, both with the team and with the churches."



<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MartinHaworth1>



Church Life (May-August 2017)

Baptisms

Abigail MacKinnon, 7 May, Broadford

Charlie MacDiarmid, 11 June, Kyleakin

Weddings

Claire & Ian, 10 June, Eilean Donan

Jess & Andreas, 13 June, Kilmore

Funerals

Katie Fraser, 26 April, Broadford

Cathy Reid, 2 May, Kyleakin

John Angus Robertson, (Twiggy), 6th June, Broadford

Stan Donaldson, 27 June, Broadford

And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

Ephesians 1:23

STRATH & SLEAT

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Times & Contacts

Our Churches

Broadford
High Street
Broadford
Isle of Skye
IV49 9AB



Elgol

Elgol
Isle of Skye
IV49 9BL



Kilmore
Kilmore
Sleat
Isle of Skye
IV44 8RG



Kyleakin

Kyleakin
Isle of Skye
IV41 8PH



Regular Sunday service times

9:30am Kilmore 11am Kyleakin 11am Broadford

3pm Elgol (2nd & 4th Sundays of the month) 6pm Kyleakin Fellowship

Seirbheisean Gàidhlig

6f An t-Ath Leathann (a' chiad Sàbaid), A' Chill Mhòr (an treas Sàbaid)

Midweek Meetings

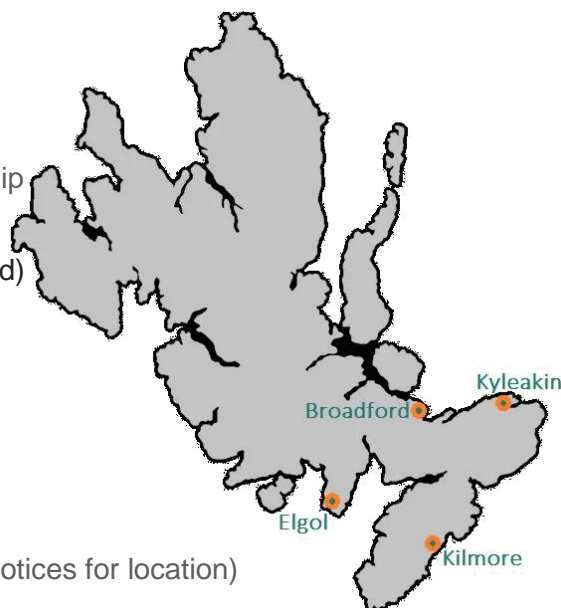
Mondays 10am - Prayer for revival in Broadford Church

Tuesdays 7.30pm - Kyleakin Prayer Meeting, Church Hall

Wednesdays 7.15pm Sleat Midweek Group

7.30pm Broadford Bible study (please check notices for location)

Thursdays 7.30pm Housegroup, Grianach, Harrapool (2nd & 4th Thursdays)



Church Contacts

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Mary Fennell

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Kyleakin

Mary Strachan

Heather Dodson

Tony Breen

Harry Saunders

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01471 833295

01471 822121

01599 534145