

## 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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Strath & Sleat Church:  
Isle of Skye is a  
Charity registered in  
Scotland No SC001285

## From the Minister

"Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come..."

Song of Songs, chapter 2, verse 12



The Protestant Reformation reminded us that Jesus has fulfilled "The Law" and therefore we no longer have to tithe our cumin, mint and dill and we can celebrate Christmas in July if we want to... But there may still be merit in observing the church calendar – not as our passport to heaven but as an aid to faithful living.

The seasons of Advent and Lent can help us prepare for Christmas and Easter, when we celebrate the birth and death and resurrection of Jesus. Many use these periods to improve their well-being, by giving up what is harmful and taking up healthier practices. There is much to be said for doing this but Christians will want a more devotional focus as well, something that will energise our belief in God, bring us closer to Jesus and make us more mindful of creation.

This year I have been using a booklet called 'Alive' by Tearfund. It poses the questions: "Am I living the abundant life that Jesus offers? And, just as importantly, am I helping others to do the same?" Taking us back to the beginning of Genesis, Tearfund's theological adviser, Gideon Heugh, reminds us of the various ways God has fashioned us for blessing and to be a blessing.

(Cont overleaf)

### Need prayer or someone to pray with you?

Email Mary Fennell [1995gideon@gmail.com](mailto:1995gideon@gmail.com)

### Need to talk? Questions about the Christian faith

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

Rev. Dr Rory MacLeod Phone: 07841 654281 [rorymofg@gmail.com](mailto:rorymofg@gmail.com)

Website [www.sschurch.co.uk](http://www.sschurch.co.uk)

Notices [lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk)

## From the Minister (cont.)

The Church's mission is to be and to share God's Good News. But what is "The Good News"? And how can I share it if I am not a trained evangelist? It is actually the job of every Christian to be ready to share their faith, which is why I stated that my aim this year was to make it possible for every single member of Strath & Sleat to feel confident about expressing what they believe. If your preferred way is one-to-one, then please invite me around and we can discuss it in the comfort of your home, or a neutral venue. On the other hand, those preferring a more social approach have found the Alpha Course helpful. You will find information on how this works and how to get involved later in the year (the course in April is now postponed).

While the roads and restaurants empty, the airways are choking with opinions and advice in relation to the coronavirus crisis. Once we have acted swiftly to protect the vulnerable, safeguard the livelihoods of our workforce and enable the education of our children and students, we need God's guidance for how to respond faithfully to our strange new circumstances. The temptation will be to rush into all sorts of worthy initiatives, to look after each other. Already social media are on the look-out for heroic examples to propel/shame us into action. But let's remember that what matters is that we meet people's genuine needs and to discern these we need to start by listening. At a deeper level, we should probably also be asking what permanent changes this crisis might be calling for? After all, it hasn't happened in a vacuum but in the midst of climate-change, civil wars and international conflict, growing income disparities, slavery, celebrity culture... the list goes on. As Christians, our horizon lies beyond - in the new creation. But rather than ignoring our present challenges, this gives us a bright, rather than a gloomy, reason to engage. If the future is governed by your worst nightmare, then the best you can hope to achieve is damage limitation; but if you are looking forward to heaven coming to earth, then every constructive act is charged with eternal significance...With love and blessings, Rory

"There is a time for everything... a time to be silent and a time to speak."

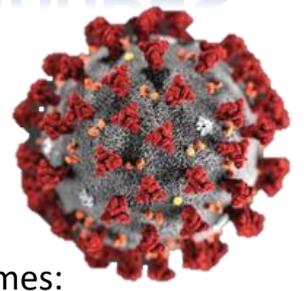
Ecclesiastes 3. 1,7

*still*

# CORONAVIRUS PROCEDURES

**What's on????!!!**

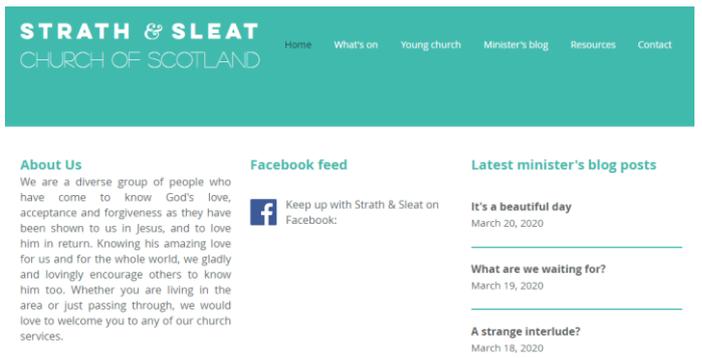
**Spring 2020**



Due to the Coronavirus, all planned group activities have been cancelled to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We are looking at a different way of being church over these turbulent times:

**Strath & Sleat Website-** Rory will put up a daily blog of encouragement/ thought/ scripture <https://www.sschurch.co.uk/>



**Sermon page-** Rory will record a sermon

and we will put it on the website each Sunday. Sermons from 2019 and this year from Kyleakin are still available to stream. Follow the link through the website, under "resources" or go direct: <https://sites.google.com/view/sschurchsermons/>

**Virtual meetings-** We are currently looking at ways to do live streaming of a "house" service, where we will sing some worship songs, and share with each other.



**Church facebook page-** Keep an eye on the church facebook page, where we will put any information.

<https://www.facebook.com/Strath-and-Sleat-Church-of-Scotland-645274585502378/>

**E-mail list-** we will try to keep people updated on each church through e-mail. If you currently do not get church e-mails, please let us know so that we can add you to the list. E-mail [Lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk) to get added onto the Broadford/Kyleakin/Elgol lists, or [strathandsleat@gmail.com](mailto:strathandsleat@gmail.com) for the Kilmore list.

## CORONAVIRUS- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*What about getting into the church building?* Church buildings may be open at specific times for prayer, but we ask all people who attend to follow strict self-distancing procedures by remaining at least 2 metres away from others.

The church will then remain closed for at least 72 hours to prevent any spread of virus from surfaces.

*What about my weekly offering?*

If you give through standing order, we ask that you **continue to do so**.

All plate donations will need to stop, so if you currently donate by weekly envelope or cash in the open plate we now encourage each and every one of you to consider following the lead of Margaret Macrae, our Church Treasurer, who has set up a Standing Order.

Our general finances operate pretty close to the wire and our outgoings will continue as before so it is imperative that church giving continues if at all possible. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND at this time that a lot of people may be affected by the downturn in the tourist industry, so we ask that you **give what you can**. Please e-mail Margaret, if you are not able to set up a standing order, but would like to give.

The bank details you will need are Strath & Sleat Church of Scotland

Sort code: 80-05-83

Account number: 00930508

*What about Pastoral visits?* Unfortunately, pastoral visits will need to stop, due to the latest developments, but please continue to speak with people over phone, skype, facetime, etc. If you wish to chat to someone about getting support, please contact our minister, Rory, or any of the session- the contact details are on the back page. Mary continues to run the prayer chain, so please contact her with any requests.

*I am self-isolating- what should I do?* First of all, let us know! Contact Rory or your local elder, either by email or phone, and we can help you, either practically, by collecting shopping, medicine, etc. or by having a chat. See the back page for further details.

*How can we help others in our community?* If you are able to, we have included “ #viral kindness” postcards in this edition that you could hand out to your neighbour to support those in the community, and share the love of Christ with them. If you are reading online, print the page out, and pass to neighbours.

**Holy week- these events can take account of current social distancing procedures, but are subject to change**

10<sup>th</sup> April - Good Friday, 2-3pm      Broadford church- a short time of meditation before the Silent Witness opposite the Broadford Church of Scotland, at 3pm.

12<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Sunday 6:15am      Sunrise service, top of Heaste hill (sunrise at 6:20am)

## Church Life

**Funerals**      Chrissie MacRae, 14th February 2020, Broadford  
Willie Inglis, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Broadford

## HOPE & FAITH SCHOOL, ZAMBIA

I'd like to pass on a HUGE thank you to all members of the local community, who supported our partner school in Zambia by purchasing cards and calendars in December. Over £1000 was raised, which will cover the school's feeding programme for a whole year!!! We are looking forward to this year's Connecting Classroom teacher exchange, where I and another teacher from Portree High will be working in Zambia, and Maureen Chewe, the Hope & Faith School Chemistry Teacher, who herself went to the school, and Richard Bunda, the Depute Head, will be returning to the UK. Maureen will have the opportunity to work with all junior classes in the High School, looking at the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and Richard will be working at Broadford Primary School. We are hoping to do this exchange Now in September/October.



## A' CHÀISG AIR A' GHÀIDHEALTACHD

Tha a' Chàisg air a bhith air a chomharrachadh ann an diofar dhòighean thairis air na linntean air a' Ghàidhealtachd.

A-rèir Carmina Gadelica, bha Gàidheil o shean a cumail a-mach gun robh a' ghrian fhèin a' dannsadh le aoibhneas air madainn na Càisge, a' cur fàilte air aiseirigh Chrìosda – dealbh bhrèagha a b' fhiach a chumail nar cuimhne nuair a bhios sinn fhìn a' coinneachadh air madainn na Càisge.

Ann an sgìrean Caitligeach na Gàidhealtach, bha làithean agus amannan sònraichte mar Dimàirt na h-Inide (Shrove Tuesday) agus An Carghas (Lent) riamh air an cumail, còmhla ri seirbheisean sònraichte air Dihaoine na Ceusta (Good Friday) agus Didòmhnaich na Càisge.

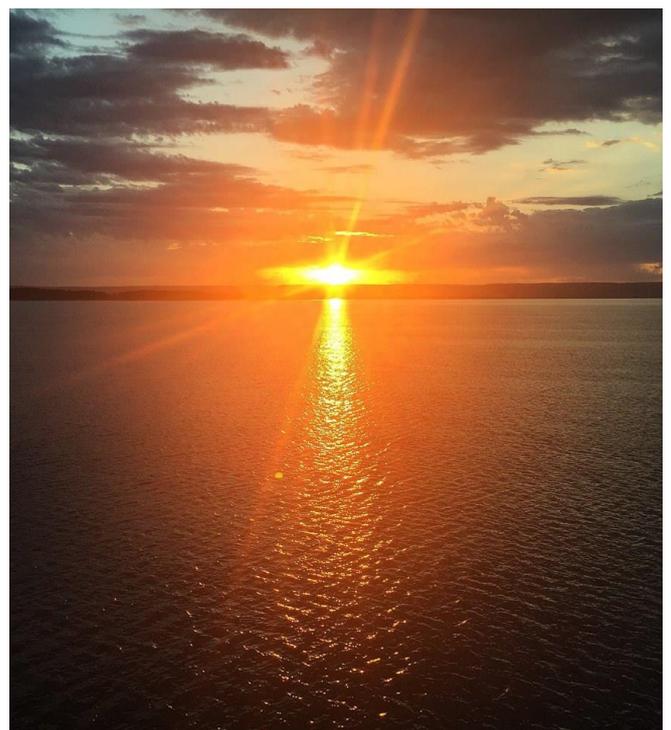
Gus o chionn ghoirid, cha robh e na chleachdadh aig a' mhòr-chuid de dh'eaglaisean Pròstanach air a' Ghàidhealtachd a bhith a' cumail sheirbheisean sonraichte airson na Càisge ach bha e cumanta gu leòr ann an cuid de choimhearsnachdan a bhith a' comharrachadh na Càisge le beagan spòrs – m.e. a' roiligeadh agus ag ithe uighean. (Tha clàr air làrach-lìn Tobar an Dualchais, ag innse mar a dh'ith aon bhodach ann an Leòdhas 18!).

Bhathar cuideachd a' sgaoileadh teachdaireachd na Càisge tro laoidhean is dàin spioradail. Seo dìreach criomag bho Gràdh m' Fhìr-saoraidh, laoidh a sgrìobh Pàdraig n is dàin spioradail. Seo dìreach criomag bho Gràdh m' Fhìr-saoraidh, laoidh a sgrìobh Pàdraig Grand san naoidheamh linn deug:

*'S e gràdh m' fhìr-saoraidh a bhitheas na cheòl  
dhomh*

*'S ann air bu chòir dhomh bhith dèanamh sgeul;  
On 's e thug còir dhomh, le fhuil a dhòrtadh,  
Air saorsa ghlòir-mhor a chloinne fèin.*

Teachdaireachd na Càisge dha-rìreabh!



# ELDERS RETREAT 2020

The Elders spent the weekend at the end of February on retreat in Inverness, where devotion and thoughts over the two days were led by Martin Haworth, former Scottish coordinator of Latin Link, who now runs Roaming Scotland, a tour group that focuses on the life of St Columba, around various Celtic locations in Scotland. Our sessions included times of worship, bible reading and prayer, and helped us to reflect on our journey as Elders. The weekend meditations also provided time and space to study His word and hear from God.

We also spent an afternoon on a walk to the Pictish Fort in Inverness, linking the Local History of St Columba and the Pictish King with the stunning beauty and solitude of the places they inhabited.



# CHURCH OF SANCTUARY SEMINAR

On Friday 13 March, Church of Sanctuary met for a roundtable seminar in Edinburgh. Church of Sanctuary is characterised by three features: willingness to learn from refugees, commitment of the whole congregation, enthusiasm for telling others. The movement is being pioneered by Inderjit Bhogal, himself a refugee from India, whose journey brought him to the UK via Kenya and Tanzania and from Sikhism to Christianity. He challenged us to prioritise our common humanity, to practice hospitality and to challenge hatred and hostility. In small groups we shared our experience of serving refugees and explored the opportunities and obstacles facing us in developing that service.



The day after (Saturday 14 March) Jayme Reeves, who calls herself a “public theologian”, presented three dimensions of refugee service: Table Fellowship – meeting the practical and social needs of refugees; Intellectual Welcome – respecting the attitudes and beliefs which refugees cherish; Protective Hospitality – providing a safe place for refugees to recover and begin life anew. These principles are common to the three so-called Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Their context is the hostile environment in which

these faiths were nurtured, their shared experience of persecution and resistance and the prophetic responsibility which arises out of such a heritage – to use our freedom to speak out on behalf of those who are still oppressed. Next up was Sabir Zazai, Head of the Scottish Refugee Council, also a refugee (from Afghanistan). His story illustrates how much refugees have to offer those countries which provide sanctuary. Karina Martin then introduced the network of Welcome Churches, which offers training and support for churches who wish to identify as ‘Refugee Friendly’, in a similar way to those which identify as ‘Eco-Friendly’.



In between came an audience with Andy Bevan, who runs the Scottish office of International Justice Mission. IJM recently celebrated its 20th anniversary and the liberation of over 50,000 slaves, many of them children. The organisation is guided by Scripture and fuelled by prayer. Its operational model involves local offices identifying situations in which people are enslaved, mobilising the authorities (police and local government) to rescue victims and arrest perpetrators, then providing after-care for as long as necessary. The

connections between IJM and Church of Sanctuary/ Welcome Churches are obvious at the theoretical level but have yet to be worked through in practice.

Through our twinning with St Paul's Amman and our involvement with New Scots Holidays, Strath & Sleat is in the forefront of refugee and justice ministry. And so we should be! Jesus himself began life as a refugee in Egypt. Both Old and New Testaments prioritise care for the outcast. And believers are encouraged that those who welcomed strangers have found that they were entertaining angels. Most importantly, Jesus teaches that it is in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable that we serve him. So, where to from here for our church? On the one hand, we can develop our involvement in New Scots Holidays and in our twinning with St Paul's. There are many ways to do that, from helping with transport, the organisation of activities, providing hospitality, to visiting Jordan even. On the other hand, we need to make our church communities places of hope for current residents of Strath & Sleat. Neither will be easy. Both will involve sacrifice and risk. Most crucially it challenges us to change our thinking: from what do I want out of church to how can I contribute to making our churches places of hope and sanctuaries of welcome?

## *A Prayer of the Persecuted Church*

*God of all creation.*

*Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*The earth, and everything in it, belongs to you. (Psalm 24.1)*

*Your righteousness towers like mountains and your justice goes deep as the sea. (Psalm 36.6)*

*Your love is everlasting; your faithfulness extends to all generations. (Psalm 100.5)*

*Every promise you make is fulfilled. You do not lie or change your mind. (Numbers 23.19)*

*Spread your protection over those who seek you, that they may rejoice in you. (Psalm 5.11)*

*Be a father to the fatherless and defend the cause of widows. (Psalm 68.5)*

*Bind up the broken-hearted and comfort all who mourn. (Isaiah 61. 1-2)*

*And deliver them from the evil one. (Matthew 6.13)*

*As they call upon your name. (Psalm 91.15)*

*That the life of Jesus may be revealed in them. (2 Corinth. 4. 11)*

*Amen*

From Open Doors' Worldwatch List 2020

# PROFESSOR JOHN BROWN

Late last year we said goodbye to a good friend and familiar figure – in the person of John Brown. John and Margaret have a house in Breakish, where they have enjoyed relaxing with their grown-up children, Stuart and Lorna, over many years. We offer them our condolences.

Though John delighted in his island home, he did not shut himself away here. Indeed, on the day he died, he had been enjoying an aerial view of the Cuillin in a light aircraft and delivered a lecture about the wonders of the cosmos in Tarskavaig.

Among his audience was one of our younger church members, who remarked afterwards: “My mind is completely blown!” John’s chauffeur on that occasion was Kerry, whom he had tutored to a First Class degree in Astrophysics and who was teaching him to play the saxophone in return.

John’s talks might have been mind-blowing but they were never dull. This is because they were invariably laced with another passion of his: magic tricks. These were a fitting expression of the playful side of this serious scientist, among whose many accomplishments were the Professorship he held at Glasgow University, the OBE he was awarded for his contribution to Astrophysics and the honorary title by which he was known to many: Astronomer Royal for Scotland.

Rory was invited to conduct the funeral, which well reflected this remarkable man’s breadth of interests and the affection in which he was held by so many. Culdross Crematorium was filled to capacity and there were not one but four tributes from colleagues, friends and family. Roddie Rankin, minister of Kyle & Plockton Free Church, with whom John had enjoyed exploring issues of faith, led the prayers, while Margaret’s Glasgow minister delivered a well-balanced homily. Most memorable was the praise, led by Lorna and Stuart’s jazz band.

Those who enjoyed John’s company might appreciate the book he recently published, featuring the poetry of his friend, Rab Wilson, and entitled ‘Oor Big Braw Cosmos.’ The minister has a copy if anyone would like to borrow it...



## KILMORE WINDOWS APPEAL

The hard work to raise the funding to replace the windows in Kilmore Church is paying off and we have now raised enough money to allow us to accept the tender we received from Compass Building and Construction Services of £87, 227 plus VAT to replace all the windows with a special kind of double glazing that meets the specifications required by planning regulations for a listed building. On top of that there will be professional fees.

Funding applications so far have raised £73,000 and we will be able to claim back the VAT element from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme once the work is completed. Our online appeal and fundraising has raised approximately £11000 and gift aid will be due on some of that. We have had great support from the local community, including a £1000 donation from the Clan Donald Lands Trust and our charity café and silent auction held on 22nd February was extremely well attended by members of the local community and raised £2900, including donations made on the day.

Efforts need to continue though and there will be a further grant application submitted soon and more fundraising. We would appreciate your support if you are able to help in any way; here is the link to our online fundraising page.  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/kilmore-church-windows>

Kilmore congregation is very much looking forward to the day when we can worship in a building without boarded up windows and in warmth and comfort. Please help us to achieve that if you can!!



# 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 meetings and services are postponed until further notice. If you are self-isolating, we can help! Contact your local elder or minister below. Let us know how we can help:**

Picking up shopping

Posting mail

A friendly phone call

Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

**Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.**

**#ViralKindness**

### Church Session

#### BROADFORD/ELGOL

**Mairi Dick** 01471 822441

[mairid375@gmail.com](mailto:mairid375@gmail.com)

**Farquhar Graham** 01471 822671

[wfgraham@hotmail.com](mailto:wfgraham@hotmail.com)

#### KYLEAKIN

**Tony Breen** 01471 822121

[tony\\_kirsten@hotmail.com](mailto:tony_kirsten@hotmail.com)

**Lesley Jones** 01471 822023

[lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk)

#### SLEAT

**Jean Gillies** 01471 844281

[jeangillies@btinternet.com](mailto:jeangillies@btinternet.com)

**Nicola Thomson** 01478 833255

[strathandsleat@gmail.com](mailto:strathandsleat@gmail.com)

### Minister

**Rev. Rory MacLeod**

[rorymofg@gmail.com](mailto:rorymofg@gmail.com) 01471 822416

### Treasurer

**Margaret Macrae**

[mfmacrae@aol.com](mailto:mfmacrae@aol.com) 01599 534695

**Young Church leader** **Timmy Currie**

[timmycurrie@gmail.com](mailto:timmycurrie@gmail.com)

### Prayer secretary

**Mary Fennell**

[1995gideon@gmail.com](mailto:1995gideon@gmail.com) 01471820168

### Worship Teams

Broadford	Mary Strachan	01471 822262
Kilmore	Heather Dodgson	01471 833295
	Peter McDermott	01471 844362
Kyleakin	Tony Breen	01471 822121
	Harry Saunders	01599 534145

# HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

**My name is**

.....

**I live locally at**

.....

**My phone number is**

.....

**If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping   | <input type="checkbox"/> Posting mail    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call | <input type="checkbox"/> Urgent supplies |

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

**Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.**

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