

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

I have just been listening to Kenny Borthwick preaching at the Kingdom Gathering in Kyleakin. His text was Jeremiah, chapter 6, verse 16: "This is what the Lord says: 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is and walk in it...'"

But rather than reading into that verse the call for a return to traditional values, he directed our attention to Abraham and his willingness to obey the call of God, despite his age and there being no guarantees as to where his journey might take him.

Since beginning this letter I was interrupted by a phone-call from a senior colleague, who also happens to be a distinguished academic. He had just received an invitation to attend a conference in Tokyo which was gathering three Christian churches who had never met together before. When I enquired about the topic they would be addressing, he replied: 'What have church leaders to re-learn in order to connect with younger generations.' Brave call for a 95 year-old!

Many of us are concerned by the dwindling numbers in church, especially children. There are significant exceptions and the Session Clerk and I visited one recently. But I cannot help thinking these are exceptions which prove the rule: traditional patterns of church-going may not have disappeared but they are increasingly rare.

It is tempting to think that, if only we tried a little harder or got a little better, the glory days would return. But what if they do not? What if the problem is not that today's church leaders are worse than yesterday's but that society has moved on? That would imply that churches must change too, in order to reach the post-church generations with the same Good News.

(continued overleaf)



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.

Rev. Dr Rory MacLeod Phone: 07841 654281 rorymofg@gmail.com

Website www.sschurch.co.uk

Notices lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk

From the Minister (continued)

Because we do not know where that will lead, it puts us onto a similar footing to Abraham and requires the same willingness to change the habits of a lifetime, demonstrated by my senior academic friend.

A Gaelic proverb puts it well: "Obair là - toiseachadh" (A day's work getting started)! The challenge is formidable. The one piece of feedback I received from the first two editions of this re-launched newsletter pleaded for less academic articles, so they would be easier to understand. So I shall be as straight-forward as I can. I have no idea what the sort of church which God wants us to become looks like but I am certain that it will require two things: our willingness to sacrifice cherished habits and our attentiveness to new ideas.

For that to happen we must be prepared to sit in silence before God and before his children, ready to act on what they tell us. Another thing that Kenny, our Kingdom Gathering speaker, warned us, was that this kind of radical obedience may well make us look foolish in the eyes of the world and incur the ridicule of our neighbours. Surely we would rather remain pillars of our community? But what if God wants us to be fools for Christ?

One of the things people love about the Kingdom Gathering is the way it brings Christians together from different churches and denominations. That is why it is important that it remains independent, as well as ecumenical. But, as with any mountain-top experience, we have to go home at the end of it all. Whether it has been worth the effort is determined by one outcome in particular: that we return more committed to our local church. Because that is where the rubber hits the road as far as following Jesus is concerned!

Your friend and minister, **Rory**

Church Life (October 2017)

Funerals

Don Stiles, 21st Sept, Inverness,

Mary Black, 11 October, Broadford

Mrs Marjory Henderson (Marsali) 20th October, Broadford

John Taylor, 25th October, Broadford

Weddings

Jamie Bankhead & Lisa Corse, Kilmore 6th October 2017

What's on???

November

Thu 2 Nov	7.30pm	Congregational Board, Broadford Church Foyer
Fri 3 Nov		Deadline for Blythswood shoe boxes to shop
	6pm	New Song Café, Kyleakin Church Hall
Sat 4 Nov		Gaelic Precenting Workshop, Broadford
Sun 5 Nov	1.30 - 3pm	Y:Sunday, Broadford Village Hall
Tue 7 Nov	10am	Presbytery, Kyle Church of Scotland
Sun 12 Nov		Remembrance Sunday
Thu 16 Nov	7.30pm	Kirk Session, Broadford Church Foyer
Sat 18 Nov	7pm	Hope & Faith School Curry Evening, Ardvassar Hall
Sun 19 Nov		Persecuted Church Sunday
Fri 24 Nov	12.30 for 1pm	Lunch Club, MacKinnon Country House Hotel
Sat 25 Nov		Wedding, James Finlay and Gemma
Sun 26 Nov	11am	Kyleakin Communion
	6pm	South Skye & Lochalsh AREA Communion

Further Ahead:

Sun 3 Dec		Advent Sunday- Christmas Gift Service
Sun 10 Dec	TBC	All age Carol Service, Kyleakin Village Hall

Steve Aisthorpe returns to deliver a series of evening workshops to help identify and develop our "gifts":

Tue 12 Dec	7-9pm	Kyleakin Church Hall
Wed 13 Dec	7-9pm	Kilmore Church Meeting Room
Thu 14 Dec	7-9pm	Broadford Church Foyer

Christmas Gift Services

There will once again be an opportunity to donate gifts of food to make up Christmas food parcels for local families/elderly folk. These will be collected at the morning services on 3rd December and will be distributed by the team at the local social work department. Both staples and more festive items will be very welcome and should have sell-by-dates post Christmas Day. The social work team has expressed its appreciation of our willingness to do this once again and highlighted how much it means to families who are experiencing difficulties at this time of year.

All the girls.....

Here are a couple of events coming up next Spring which some of you may already have attended in the past. Just wondering if it might be a chance to get away together as a group and spend some quality time outside of our Sunday morning and weekly routines and for those of us who don't get much chance to travel around the parish, a good opportunity to make new acquaintances...



First up is **Women of Faith 2018** which is held in Abernethy at the centre in Nethy Bridge. This event is for women aged 16 + (no upper age limit!) and is a 2-nighter. This year's main speaker is Jan Peach, from Northern Ireland. Jan is passionate about local church and reaching young people with the gospel. I attended last year's one and it is a great time for fellowship, making new friends and having some quality "me" time. The price includes 2 nights full board, teaching sessions and seminars, times of worship, an afternoon activity (optional) and access to the sports facilities and pool. £132 per person.

<http://www.abernethy.org.uk/about-us/individuals-families/women-faith/>

Ordinary Women, Extraordinary God - Saturday 19th May 2018

Women Across the Highlands conference is in May with Heidi Johnston. This annual conference takes place in Smithton Free Church near Culloden. I have only been once but thoroughly enjoyed it. A couple of sessions with the main speaker and then sessions throughout the day with lunch. Maybe an hour in the shops too! womenacrossthehighlands.co.uk They tend to book up pretty fast. Last time was around £18 for the day.



If anyone is interested and fancies going along, you could drop me a line or let me know in passing - strathandsleat@gmail.com

Invite your friends! The more the merrier.

Nicola Thomson

Our purpose as a church: Part 2. Present and Future

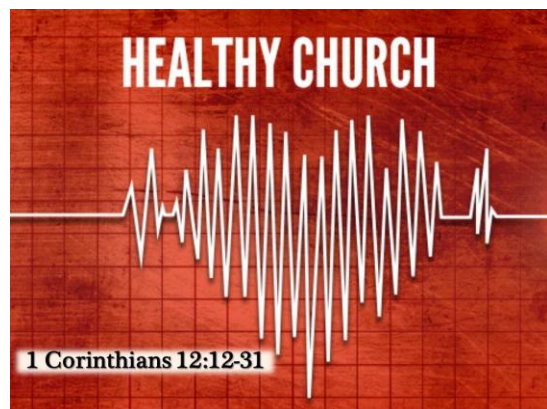
While preparing my doctoral thesis, I enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on the way in which God interacts with his church. It struck me that it happens through the Holy Spirit operating in judgment, blessing and vocation. These are broad categories, within which we may observe more precise activities. So for instance, God might bless someone in mourning by comforting her with a sense of his presence, or he might judge a church's unfaithfulness by allowing its decline.



This insight has revolutionised my understanding of events, so that I no longer wonder where God is in any given situation. Instead I assume his presence, asking instead how I should understand and respond to what he is doing. You might be thinking: nice theory but what about events that run contrary to God's good intentions - like human atrocities or natural disasters?

Easy answers are seldom helpful. It may be that God permits natural disasters in judgment of our abuse of creation; but why is it that it tends to be the poor who suffer while the wealthy perpetrators escape? In Paul's letter to the Romans, there is a passage where the apostle interprets God's anger against human wickedness in the following terms: "... since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done" (chapter 1, verse 28). That would inevitably lead to an unfair situation, where the vulnerable suffer disproportionately the consequences of general human misbehaviour.

As the tangible expression of God's presence in the world, the church is called to proclaim the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. This will include obedience to his instructions for how we are to live, summarised in the traditional Jewish aspiration that we love God and others, as two sides of the one coin. At the same time, advocating care for creation should surely be instinctive to those who know and love the Creator?



American theologian, Darrell Guder, identifies the marks of a healthy church by reading backwards that reference in the Apostles Creed to "one, holy, catholic and apostolic church". He contends that being "apostolic" makes reaching out in mission our priority. "Catholic" means all-encompassing and therefore

challenges us all to work together. To be “holy” does not mean we are better than others but that we have been set apart for a special task. That task is what makes us “one” in unity of purpose.

More recent missionary thinkers, closer to home, point towards another set of indicators for what constitutes a healthy church. First is the awareness of how a community’s needs connect with the story of their local church. Second, its leaders must enjoy the support of their office-bearers (even when those office-bearers might not fully understand what their leaders are up to!). Third, prayer is at the heart of all that they are and do. Fourth, they are not limited by resources but they trust God to supply what they need to realise their vision. And, finally, they communicate - at all levels and in all directions!

In a report intriguingly titled ‘From Anecdote to Evidence’, Church Army researcher George Lings discerned the characteristics of healthy churches as those that enjoy good leadership, a clear mission, willingness to reflect and the involvement of lay people. Crucially, their priorities are growth, praise and disciple-making. By contrast, the defining characteristics of failing churches were quite simply: lack of under 16 year-olds and the tendency to amalgamate with other struggling churches, thus compounding their problems.

I feel reassured by this because my own instinct is to plant churches rather than close them. But in a climate of fewer minsters, declining congregations and buildings which are increasingly expensive to maintain, how is this possible, let alone responsible? Only by thoroughly re-imagining how we are and do church; by weaning ourself off our reliance on ministers and buildings; and by taking responsibility - for paying our way and for sharing the Good News. Fewer ministers and shared buildings would reduce costs, while greater lay participation in mission and ministry would increase capacity. The collapse of church as we know it is as sure as the Lord’s return. But our faith in the resurrection enables us to believe that, while things may never be same again, they can always be better!



Come along for a time of fellowship, sharing a simple meal and spending time praising God through learning some new worship songs. If you have an instrument, please bring it along.

STRATH & SLEAT
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

new song cafe

Kyleakin Church Hall

6pm

Friday 3rd Nov 2017

E-mail: tony_kirsten@hotmail.com

LAOIDHEAN GÀIDHLIG

Tha laoidhean Gàidhlig air a bhith gan cleachdadh airson greis a-nise aig cuid de na seirbhisean maidne againn. A-nise tha iarrtas air nochdadh bho dhaoine aig nach eil Gàidhlig airson beagan taic le bhith gan tuigsinn agus gan seinn. Aig an aon àm, tha ùidh aig daoine aig a bheil Gàidhlig ann a bhith a' coinneachadh airson barrachd eòlais a chur air na laoidhean.

Air sgàth sin, tha sinn air buidheann a chur air bhonn a bhios a' coinneachadh aig a' Chill Mhòr dà thuras san t-seachdain airson mu 6 seachdainnean. Gach seachdain bidh sinn a' coimhead air laoidh eadar-dhealaichte, a thèid a thaghadh le Ruairidh, a' dol thairis air na faclan agus gan t-seinn còmhla, le cuideachadh bho luchd-ciùil.

Bidh sinn a' tòiseachadh air Diluain 30 Dàmhair aig 12.30 aig a' Chill Mhòr, le buidheann eile a' coinneachadh air Dimàirt 31 Dàmhair aig an aon àm. Bidh gach buidheann ag obair air an aon laoidh – An Crìosd a-mhàin – a chaidh eadar-theanagachadh bhon Bheurla le Iain Urchardan.

Aig an ìre seo, tha measgachadh mòr de dhaoine air ùidh a shealltain anns an iomairt seo – eadar daoine a tha fileanta agus daoine aig nach eil Gàidhlig idir. Tha an aon mheasgachadh a' nochdadh a thaobh comasan seinn! Ge bith dè an ìre aig a bheil sibh, bidh fàilte chridheil romhaibh airson “ceòl a thogail gu suilbhireach”, mar a tha e air iarraidh oirnn ann an Salm 95.

Gaelic hymns have been used at some of our morning services for a while now, and some non-Gaelic speakers have requested help with understanding and singing the hymns. At the same time, there are Gaelic speakers who are interested in getting to know the Gaelic hymns better, as these have not been a major part of our worship in the past.

We've now set up a group which will meet at Kilmore twice a week for the six weeks or so. Each week we will be looking at a different hymn, selected by Rory, going over the words and pronunciations and practising singing the hymns together, with the help of some of our musicians.

We'll be starting on Monday 30 October at 12.30 at Kilmore, with a second group meeting on Tuesday 31st at the same time. Each group will be working on the same hymn and for the first week that will be *An Crìosd a-mhàin* (In Christ alone) which has been translated into Gaelic by John Urquhart.

So far, we've had interest from quite a mixture of people, ranging from fluent speakers to people who don't know any Gaelic at all. There is a similar range of musical ability! Regardless of your level of language or music, you will be very welcome to join us in “making a joyful noise”, as we are encouraged to do in Psalm 95.

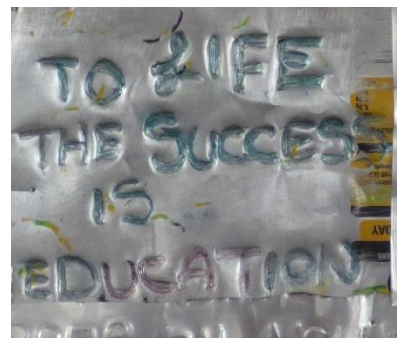
For more information, contact Mairead on capasdal1@hotmail.com

friends of hope & faith school

helping to build Zambia's future



As part of a school project, sponsored by the British Council, myself and another teacher from Portree High school were fortunate enough to go out and work in the school for the first week in October. We were doing a project called Hopes & Dreams, where students from both Skye and Lusaka were looking at what "Quality Education" means, and why it is so important for 21st century pupils.



There are over 600 pupils currently in the school, the majority being in year 1-9. Students need to pass a year 9 exam to allow them to progress. Between year 10-12, there are approximately 60 pupils, 28 of whom are sponsored by friends in Skye, due to lack of financial means to attend school (due to unemployment of parent or being orphaned).

Each student is given a meal each day, cooked by 6 cooks, and comprised of a simple Nshima (a thick starchy maizemeal), cabbage and beans. Again, money raised by selling Christmas cards over the last 2 years have been able to pay for the ingredients for a meal. For many of the pupils, this is their only hot meal of the day.

In the compound, there is limited water supply, and again, the school is one place that there is a constant supply, due to a drilled borehole and electric pump, which enables the water to be stored in a water tower.



Yet again, this work can only be continued through the vital support given by the generous people of Skye.



The students have real aspirations, and this is only made possible by financial assistance, so thank you again. If you do not already support the school, and you would wish to get involved, you can make a donation, either one-off or through standing order, or you could sponsor a child, paying for their uniform, school fees, etc. for a year. This year, we will be selling 2018 Calendars to support the school, and there will be a fundraising Curry Night at 7pm on 18th November at Ardvasar Hall to look at the recent pictures, and hear about the progress of the school. Tony Breen



Friends of Hope and Faith School

SC041376

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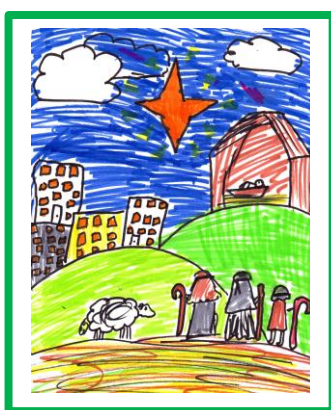
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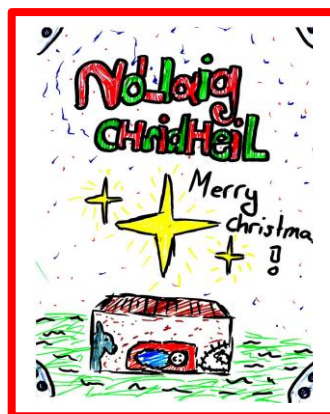
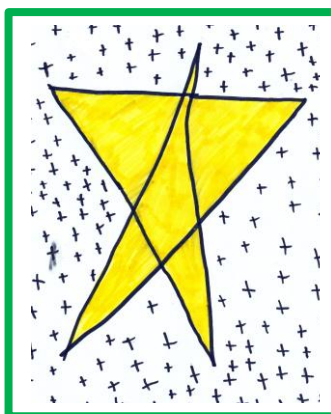
CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR ALL - SOUTH SKYE

We are planning to deliver a Christmas card (designed by the Sunday-schools) to every house in the South of Skye. It will have all the dates and details of all the Christmas services and events in the parish of Strath and Sleat. So we are hoping that as many people as possible will offer to hand deliver a few cards to their neighbours and so cover as much of the area as possible (so not too much for any one person!). Each church will have a list of very small areas which people will be invited to offer to deliver cards to. And so in this way it is hoped that every house will get a card.

Some of the children in our Sunday schools have been busy designing Christmas cards. They are already very eager to deliver cards to all their friends and neighbours!



Here are a few of the wonderful designs we have received from the children so far.



Designers are, (clockwise from top left)...Lexi, Mia, Grace, Iona, Ruairidh, Charis, Eva, Kylah, Arianna and Keziah

Card designs to be in Lesley's hands by **Monday 13th November** at the very latest. Please email scanned image to lesleyinskye@yahoo.co.uk or deliver originals to Grianach, Harrapool, Broadford (at the corner of the road to Heaste).

Choinnich Buidheann Ghàidhlig Eaglais na h-Alba ann an talla na h-Àrd-Eaglaise ann an Steòrnabhagh aig deireadh na Sultaine. Chaidh a' bhuidheann seo ath-steidheachadh leis an Àrd-Sheanadh ann an 2015 agus tha am Fìor-Urr. Aonghas Moireasdan na Chathraiche le measgachadh de bhuill bho air feadh na dùthcha. Thugadh cuireadh do Mhinistearan na sgìre a bhith an làthair aig a' choinneimh seo agus chuireadh fàilte air an Urr. Iain Murdo Dòmhnallach, an Tairbeart, an t-Urr. Uilleam MacLeòid, Barbhas, an t-Urr. Iain Murdo Caimbeul, Ceann Loch agus fear air a bheil sinn fhèin gu math eòlach, an t-Urr. Ben Johnstone! Tha a' bhuidheann am beachd Plana Gàidhlig nàiseanta a chur air dòigh gus a' Ghàidhlig a bhrosnachadh anns na coitheanalan far a bheil fàilte ga cur oirre agus misneachd a thoirt do Mhinistearan agus cuid eile a bhios a' searmonachadh a tha airson sin a dhèanamh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Fhuair £10,000 bho choitheanal Gàidhlig Lunnainn airson cuideigin fhasadh airson obair tòiseachaidh a dhèanamh air seo mus tèid Plana ùr dhan Àrd-Sheanadh sa Chèitean agus gu Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Ma tha beachdan no ùidh agaibh sa ghnothach faodar bruidhinn ri Nicola no ri Boyd a tha an-dràsta air a' bhuidhinn.

'S iad na buill: Am Fìor-Urr. Aonghas Moireasdan; an t-Urr. Ùisdean Stiùbhairt, Ùig, Leòdhas; An t-Oll. Boyd Robasdan; Mata MacIomhair; Ruairidh Iain MacLeòid, Dùn Èideann; Nicola NicThòmais; Matthew Ross (ACTS); Catherine Forsyth (prìomh oifis Eaglais na h-Alba). Tha a' bhuidheann a' tighinn fo stiùir Chomhairle an Ard-Sheanaidh.

Tha Church of Scotland Gaelic group met in the latter half of September at the High Church in Stornoway. The group was reconstituted by the General Assembly of 2015 and tasked with developing a Gaelic plan for the national Church. The group is chaired by past Moderator, the Very Rev, Angus Morrison and there are representative from across the country. This time, an invitation was extended to the local Ministers and we welcomed Rev Iain Murdo MacDonald, Tarbert; Rev William MacLeod, Barvas; Rev Iain Murdo Campbell, Kinloch and an old friend Rev Dr Ben Johnstone! In developing a Gaelic plan the group is looking to appoint a development officer to take this forward and has received £10,000 from the Gaelic Congregation of London. We hope to encourage Gaelic within congregations where it is desired and to increase the confidence of Ministers and preachers alike who aspire to leading worship and services through the medium of Gaelic. If you would like more information about the group or have any ideas please contact either Nicola or Boyd who both sit on the group presently.

Membership: The Very Rev Angus Morrison; Rev Hugh Stewart, Uig, Lewis; Prof. Boyd Robertson; Matthew MacIver; Roddy John MacLeod, Edinburgh; Nicola Thomson; Matthew Ross (ACTS); Catherine Forsyth, (121 Church of Scotland offices). The group reports directly to the Council of Assembly.

And Finally... There are dedicated organists and then there is Heather! A huge thank you to Heather Dodgson who, having broken her wrist during a walk along Irishman's Point in Broadford earlier in the week, managed to play through her usual Sunday services and a funeral! Amazing lady and we are very thankful for all she does. Praying a speedy and full recovery!



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

10am 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

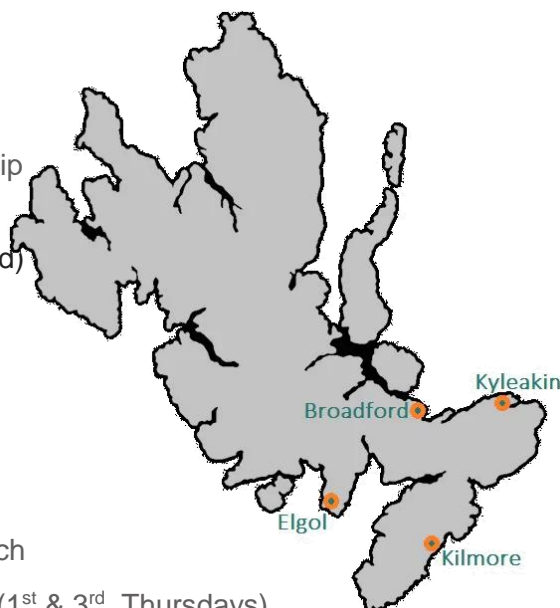
Tuesdays 7.30pm - Kyleakin Prayer Meeting, Church Hall

Wednesdays 7.15pm Sleat Midweek Group

7.30pm Broadford Bible study, Broadford Church

Thursdays 1.30pm Ladies Group, Broadford church foyer (1st & 3rd Thursdays)

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



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Session

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Kyleakin

Mary Strachan

Heather Dodgson

Tony Breen

Harry Saunders

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