

### 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

We may have been embroiled in the "silly season" but plenty has been happening in the church over the summer. Nor does the start of another academic year mean that it is back to business as usual; significant changes are looming on the horizon. You can read all about it in this latest edition of the parish newsletter. Thanks are due to our contributors and to Tony Breen for putting it all together and printing off the hard copies.



Despite the Kyleakin Village Hall being initially unavailable, the annual Holiday Club happened and was better than ever! If you know of any children who came along and are not currently involved in any of our churches, please follow up and assure them of a warm welcome.

Later in the summer some of our senior young people enjoyed the Soul Survivor experience. Exhausting as it is for leaders and attenders alike, such events have life-changing potential and so deserve our enthusiastic support. Completing the educational trio, this edition's Gaelic article celebrates the first year of the Christian Union at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Deagh obair!

The above initiatives are designed to introduce our young people to the Lord Jesus in accessible ways. Although we long the pews of a Sunday. Increasingly people are to see the fruit,

(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)

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## From the Minister (continued)

we should not be impatient to see them filling coming to faith and journeying on outside the church. How should we respond? Elsewhere in this newsletter I offer some thoughts about why I think it is important to belong to a church. But maybe we need to think creatively about how to engage those who will never bring themselves to commit in this way?

If there is merit in becoming more agile in our operating as well as in our thinking, then changing our constitution may help. This also is discussed, following up an article in the previous edition of this newsletter. The Unitary Constitution, as it is called, is being commended to all congregations and is designed to reflect recent changes in the law affecting charity trustees, as well as helping congregations to work more efficiently and therefore more effectively.

Of course, the effort involved in reforming our administration is only worthwhile if it enables us to be more faithful witnesses and followers of Jesus. Two articles, which are relevant to this, address the issues of prayer and overseas mission. Nothing useful is possible without prayer and so I trust we shall be attentive to our Prayer Co-ordinator Mary Fennell's promotion of this year's National Prayer Weekend. And I trust there will be a similarly enthusiastic response to the twinning opportunity we have with a church that is on the front-line of refugee support, working with Muslim neighbours in the heart of the Middle East.

So not many dull moments in Strath & Sleat! Please get excited and get involved – and let us know what God is doing in your life or in your part of the parish...

With love in Jesus, Rory

### Church Life

#### Funerals

30 June	Archie MacInnes, Broadford
5 August	Seonaid MacKinnon, Elgol
24 August	Valerie Piddock, Kilmore

## What's on???

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> August 6.00pm

Tue 30<sup>th</sup> August 7.30pm

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 3pm

Thu 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 7.30pm

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Sept

Sat 22<sup>th</sup> Sept

Tue 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30am

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 11am

6pm

## *June-July*

Joint Area Communion, Kyleakin village Hall

Congregational Board, Broadford Church

Kingdom Gathering, Kyleakin village Hall

Kirk Session 'Learn' meeting

Next Work Party/

Crossreach Zip Wire Challenge, Aviemore

Presbytery Planning Day, Kyle

Joint Parish communion, Kilmore

Joint Service with Free Church

## **Sjogren's Syndrome Information Day**

Mary and Steve would like to thank all those who came along to the Sjogren's Syndrome Information day on the 24th July and also those who donated baking we managed to raise £130.00 for BSSA.





# HOLIDAY CLUB

Back in July, we held a holiday club for primary aged children, every morning for a week in the Kyleakin village Hall. Forty-five children enjoyed a fantastic week of looking at the Bible through having fun, singing songs, doing quizzes, playing games and making crafts.



The teenagers were all amazing (we really could not have managed it without them)!! They were wherever they were needed; from working the power point and volunteering to do the devotions at one of our pre-club team meetings, to helping and encouraging the kids, cheerfully agreeing to being stuffed inside a dustbin to read out jokes, making up actions to help us sing the songs, and being doused in water while reading out a weather report! We were all so impressed by them all!

It was great to be a part of something which involved people from four different churches (the Free Church, Grace Church, Catholic Church and Church of Scotland) all coming together and creating a space for the kids to learn about Jesus in a simple way that was also fun.





The theme for the week was 'holiday Rock' and explored the life of Peter and his relationship with Jesus.



There was a fantastic atmosphere all week. The kids were enthusiastic about everything and loved the team games which we were lucky enough to be able to enjoy out in the sunshine.



On the last day we invited the parents in for tea and cake and to see what the kids had been doing all week.

I'm sure I can speak for all who were there, that not only the kids, but all of us who had helped, felt really blessed by the whole week.

## UNITARY CONSTITUTION

In the previous newsletter, Jean Gillies announced the Kirk Session's proposal to move Strath & Sleat's constitution (the structure whereby we govern ourselves) from the old 'Model Constitution' to the newer 'Unitary Constitution', in line with Church of Scotland policy. This move is being driven by the developing responsibilities of trustees. At the moment our trustees belong to both Kirk Session and Congregational Board, with all of the Session automatically belonging to the Board. But that is not the case the other way round (ie not all Board members are elders). This means that whenever the Kirk Session makes a decision, all trustees are responsible for that decision even if they are only on the Board and therefore had no part in it. This is not fair!



There are other advantages which the proposed change might bring, not least the efficiency of having one leadership team and not two. In her article, Jean described how the new system would operate, with the Kirk Session guiding the policy of the congregation and its decisions being put into effect by a network of committees (or action groups, as some prefer to call them). According to church law, every congregation must have, at least, a Kirk Session, a Treasurer and a Finance/ Property Committee (this is known as a 'Standing Committee'). In addition a congregation may have any number of 'Ad Hoc' committees, appointed to carry out particular tasks, whether regular or occasional (eg Young Church, Pastoral Support, Fund-raising). Anyone may be appointed to these committees/ action groups, even non-members. Each should have a clearly defined remit and a budget, so they can be left alone to get on with their task.

I trust you can discern the advantages of working this way? We are not changing our beliefs or values but rearranging our structure to be more inclusive and effective in putting them into practice. All the current members of the Congregational Board who are not on the Kirk Session have been consulted and have given the initiative their blessing. And no one raised any objections to Jean's article. So does that mean that everyone is happy to move ahead? To be honest, nobody got in touch to say what a wonderful idea this is, either! However, if we are to press ahead, the next step would be to call a congregational meeting for this specific purpose, at which the proposal to change the congregation's constitution would be presented and, if a majority votes in favour, it will happen. It is on the agenda for the next Kirk Session meeting so watch this space and, if you have a view on the matter, why not express it in a letter to the editor?



# CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Recently the Kirk Session spent a whole evening exploring the topic of membership with the Minister - and emerged none the wiser! That being the case I am trying a different approach, putting pen to paper so to speak, in order to bring us all to a common understanding of what it means and why it matters.

Like joining a shinty club or a trade union, church membership is about commitment. It is a public statement that tells the world that the person in question believes in the organisation they are joining enough to become a part of it. As Paul reminds us in the Bible, just as a body is composed of members, so those who join the Church become part of the “body of Christ”. And, of course, the great thing about body parts is that all are different and all are necessary.

Yet despite these advantages, the fact is that people aren’t joining like they used to, neither sports clubs nor churches. There are various reasons including the fact that, in an age of endless choice and constant mobility, people dislike tying themselves down. Another reason is that those who have grown up in one church and then moved somewhere else don’t necessarily want to join a new one, especially if it is of a different denomination. But probably the major difficulty in our own case, in Strath & Sleat, is that we belong to a denomination whose heartland (central belt) and style (broad) appear opposed to our own highland, evangelical traits.

While it is fair to say that the Bible does not mention “membership”, it has plenty to say about “commitment” and Jesus looked for followers who were prepared to leave everything behind for his sake and the Gospel’s. We may consider the church to be more of a movement than an institution but that should not put us off committing. Or we may feel unhappy about decisions being taken by our governing bodies (Presbytery and General Assembly). But following Jesus is about being faithful where we are and joining the church we attend is an expression of that. Membership also gives us the right to speak to those in authority about things we don’t agree with!

It may well be that you don’t feel ready to make the degree of commitment to the Lord Jesus which joining his movement, the Church, implies and no one should feel unduly pressurised. It is also desirable that a congregation should keep a generous “fringe” of enquirers, who feel comfortable about coming along to explore issues of faith and meaning without being pounced upon. But, as Minister, my concern is for believers to draw ever closer to God and to one another, growing in grace and maturity. And, for this to happen, it helps to be on the park rather than hanging around on the touch-line!

If you would like to discuss the process of becoming a member, please consult your elder. On second thoughts, get in touch with the Minister...

# CHURCH TWINNING

Previous editions of this newsletter have introduced the prospect of Strath & Sleat twinning with St Paul's Episcopalian Church in Amman, Jordan. Alastair Sutton, a friend of the Minister with links to St Paul's, has visited on a couple of occasions to explain what is involved. Overseas twinning, especially where it involves working with other denominations and faiths, is a core policy of the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland: to encourage every congregation to find its place in the worldwide Church of Jesus Christ, as well as being his faithful witnesses where we live and work.

St Paul's has a remarkable ministry to Christian refugees from Iraq and we were originally drawn to it for that reason, out of a desire to make our contribution to the crisis which continues to paralyse so much of Europe and the Middle East. The church is helped by Sunni Bedouins, who are Muslim, rendering the project inter-faith as well as interdenominational. In case that sounds alarm bells, let me stress that there is no blurring of the boundaries between faith groups in terms of religious conviction. But through working together in a humanitarian cause, significant learning opportunities arise, not to mention growth in mutual respect.

Strath & Sleat has made a formal application to the Twinning Department of the World Mission Council. The next step is for St Paul's to do the same. In the meantime, the aforementioned Alistair Sutton is gathering a group of re-settled families from the Middle East in order to bring them to Skye, so that we can begin to learn about what we can expect to find when the twinning gets underway.

It is likely that, if successful, financial support will be made available to bring across a delegation from St Paul's. Accommodating our fellow believers in our homes and families will initiate personal contacts which can be developed though a return trip. Some people worry that such exchanges are an extravagance that would be better used by sending money. But the evidence is that our suffering sisters and brothers draw greater strength from our presence than our presents!

Another concern is that this initiative will distract from the overseas relationships we already have, to Hope & Faith and the various missionaries we support.





## Aonadh Crìosdail Shlèite

## Sleat Christian Union

Bidh Aonadh Crìosdail Shlèite air ais aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig bho thoiseach na Sultaine. Tha sinn an dùil (mas ann a rèir toil Dhè a tha e) cùrsa Alpha a ruith a-rithist aig SMO. Tha Aonadh Crìosdail Shlèite na bhuidhinn aig a bheil prìomh amas soilleir: Soisgeul Ìosa Chrìosd a sgaoileadh am measg nan oileanach. Thòisich sinn bliadhna air ais mar CU agus tha Dia air a bhith math dhuinn thar na bliadhna sin. Rinn sinn tachartasan mar Oidhche Chaireall, Grill a Minister agus Text-a-Toastie. Mar thoradh air Text-a-Toastie chaidh a ràdh rinn gun do cheannaich cuideigin Bìoball dha/dhi fhèin, ag aithneachadh gum faighear a-mach barrachd le bhith ga leughadh. Leis gu bheil Rhona air falbh a-nis tha CU a-nis fo stiùir Sheumais MhicGillEathain agus Màiri NicLeòid. Mòran taing airson ur taic a chur rinn an-uiridh (agus taic bho na h-eaglaisean ionadail gu lèir)! Cùmaibh Aonadh Crìosdail Shlèite nur n-ùrnaighean! Airson barrachd fios mar dheidhinn, cuiribh post-d gu Seumas ([12007949@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:12007949@uhi.ac.uk)) no gu Màiri ([08006225@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:08006225@uhi.ac.uk)).

Sleat Christian Union returns to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig at the start of September. We hope to do the Alpha course with students at SMO (God willing). Sleat Christian Union is a group with a clear main aim: to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ amongst students. We started a year ago as a Christian Union and through that year God's grace and goodness has been steadfast. We did events like a Carol Service, Grill a Minister and Text-a-Toastie. As a result of Text-a-Toastie we were told that someone bought a Bible for themselves, realising that they can find out more by reading it. As Rhona is graduating from Sabhal Mòr the CU is now being run by Jamie MacLean and Mairi Macleod. We are very grateful for the support we received from Strath and Sleat Church of Scotland, and from all the local churches in our first year as a CU! Please keep Sleat Christian Union in your prayers! For more information about Sleat Christian Union, send an e-mail either to Jamie ([12007949@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:12007949@uhi.ac.uk)) or to Mairi ([08006225@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:08006225@uhi.ac.uk)).







### 5 words to describe Soul Survivor:

† Inspiring † Life changing † Challenging † Fun † Interesting

Over 20 teenagers from Plockton High went to the Christian Music festival this year, to worship and enjoy being with over 1000 other young Christians. In addition to the amazing worship, there were various seminars and Christian teaching throughout the week. The Young people really grew closer to God over the week. Thanks to Megan, Angus and Jackie, who led the group.



## **National Prayer Weekend 28th – 30th September**

This is a great opportunity to join with others from around the UK to pray for our local community. What I have decided to do is concentrate on the Broadford and Breakish area on this occasion, but as you can imagine the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few and wondered if it would be possible for folks in other parts of our parish to help out.

Over the next few weeks I will do some Spiritual Mapping and then over that weekend Prayer Walking.

Spiritual Mapping – this will mean me getting an up to date map of the area to be covered and then praying over it. This will also give me an idea of the area to be covered.

Prayer Walking - This is a powerful way of praying for your neighbours but there may be some of you thinking you can't be part in this because you can't walk far or you are housebound, this is not true. If you drive you can use the car to drive, if you are housebound you can pray in your armchair for your neighbours.

All I would ask you to do is to register your interest with me, so I know which street or area you are covering.

I need to prepare all this before the actual weekend so please if you can help get in touch by email its Mary Fennell 1995gideon@gmail.com or phone 01471 - 820168

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September, there will be a Taize Evening 7pm, in Broadford Church. This will be an evening of prayer, readings and music.

**Mary Fennell,**  
**Parish Prayer Co-Ordinator**





# 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

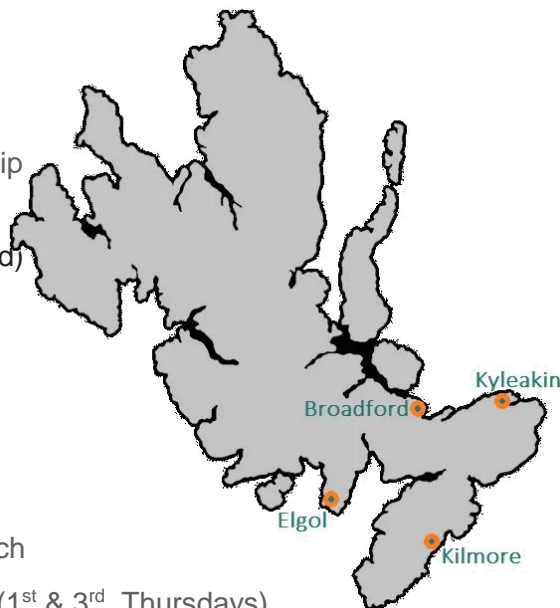
**3pm** Elgol (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month) **6pm** Kyleakin Fellowship

## 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 (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays)
	7.30pm Housegroup, Grianach, Harrapool (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays)



## Church Contacts

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## Session

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## Congregational Board

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**Dolly Robertson** **01471 822320** [dolina.robertson@talk21.com](mailto:dolina.robertson@talk21.com)

**Jackie Scott** [jacki.scott@btconnect.com](mailto:jacki.scott@btconnect.com)

## Young Church leader

**Timmy Currie** [timmycurrie@gmail.com](mailto:timmycurrie@gmail.com)

## Prayer secretary

**Mary Fennell** **01471 820168** [1995gideon@gmail.com](mailto:1995gideon@gmail.com)

## Worship Teams

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