

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

"Don't go to church. Be the church."

Now there's a slogan worth adopting!

It comes from a Christian conference in

Nigeria sponsored by Tearfund, whose 50th anniversary we were celebrating last year. It expresses one of the fundamental misunderstandings people have about the church, including Christians. So many of us have fallen into the trap of assuming church is a place we go to, once on a Sunday and again during the week – if we're really keen. Keeping church at arms-length like this makes it easier to criticise and we feel less responsible for supporting and maintaining it.

The truth is, however, that the church is not a faceless institution, it is you and me: the body of believers who are privileged to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our generation. We are related to our fellow Christians as brothers and sisters and accountable to the Lord Jesus himself. It's a daunting prospect but there is nothing more worthwhile and, when you think, about it, we have such a positive message. While everyone else obsesses with personal ambition and worries about whether nuclear war or environmental melt-down will get us first, Christians have a message of hope – in the renewal of creation and the healing of brokenness wherever it occurs.

(Cont 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

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From the Minister (cont.)

But are we living in denial? Far from it, our mandate is to care deeply about every aspect of creation because we know the Creator and we know the glorious purposes he has for his Creation: humans, animals, the environment, everything! It's a huge and noble agenda which is why God gives gifts to every believer – and it is why he expects us to use those gifts, working together to pursue his agenda for the world, beginning where we are.

I hope everyone is beginning to notice the greater levels of participation which are happening throughout Strath & Sleat: more locally-led services, initiatives like the new community choir and art class in Kilmore, the ever-expanding music group in Broadford, another Youth Vestry starting up – in Kyleakin. And it's exciting to see how the Kingdom Gathering, which reaches folk within and beyond all of our churches, is growing in size and scope. If you have an idea or sense that the Lord is calling you into a new avenue of service, please approach your elder or myself for encouragement. And when confronted with a first-time preacher or pastoral visitor or someone seeking support for a project in the community, please encourage them. We are in this together – on His Majesty's Sacred Service!

With love in Jesus, your minister and friend, Rory

What's on???

Feb-March

| | | |
|--|---------|---|
| Sun 24 th Feb | 11.00am | Joint Parish Communion, Broadford Church |
| | 6:00pm | Thanksgiving Service, Broadford Church |
| Thurs 21 st March | 7.30pm | Annual Church Gathering |
| Fri 5 th -7 th April | | Kingdom Gathering, Kyleakin village Hall |
| Sun 21 st Apr | 6pm | Joint Area Communion, Kyleakin village Hall |

THIRD HOPE AFRICA

We are two months into our training programme with the twenty ex-child soldiers we are working with this year. We are providing a course in Sustainable Agriculture in the Tropics and supplementing that with vocational training in carpentry and tailoring. It is a joy to work closely with the six women on the course and to get to know them individually, as we plant trees together and learn how to use a peddle sewing machine. I've not got the hang of it yet - more practice needed!



We've also begun a course on Peace and Reconciliation, tackling the tough and challenging issues that the journey of forgiveness brings up. This course is based on the restorative justice practised by the Truth and Reconciliation Committee in post-apartheid South Africa. The content of the course is touching deep issues and we are counterbalancing that with drama and music sessions. We are also working on a simplified version of the Requiem Concert, translating some of the songs into Acholi. We intend to perform this on International Child Soldier's Day on 12th February and the group are really enjoying rehearsing that.

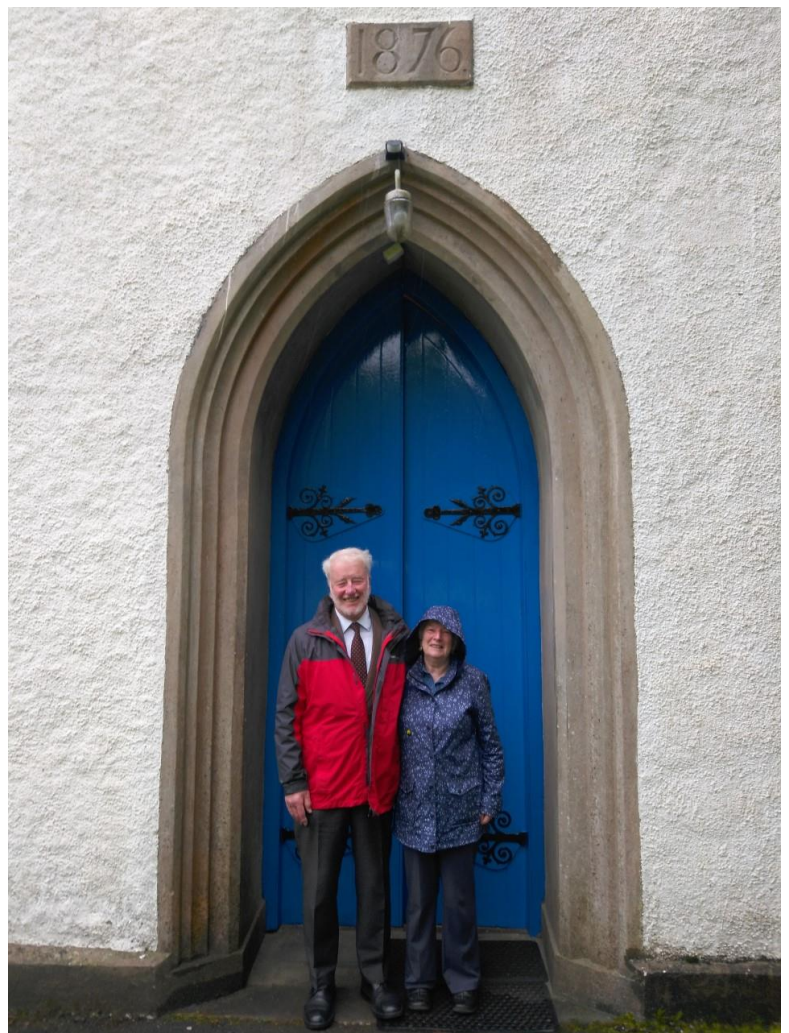
Meantime the trees are continuing to grow, and some are starting to bear fruit. Oh, and we have a pregnant donkey! Well we think we do – it's hard to tell with donkeys! If a foal arrives, we shall surely send a photo. The community here on the Model Farm is growing and we are now ten adults, two of whom are ex-child soldiers, and eight children. We're learning to share our lives together and support one another through the daily challenges of life here. We hardly know Christmas is near, however we do know the nearness of the One who was born at this time!

In friendship, Rose-Mary

Kilmore door refresh



Innes Grant spent a couple of weeks chiselling away at the many layers of paint on the old Kilmore church door. He then repainted it, replaced the decorative hinges and fixed the bottom of the door ensuring it will see a good few many more years. Amazing what hard-work, patience and skill can achieve. Mòran taing Innes! (First photos was taken in Spring, modelled by Cailean John and Babaidh 😊). New door pictured is Innes and Marrion Grant, Isleornsay.



Go-4-it

New Go-4-it groups started in Sleat this month with the first meeting of the new community choir attracting 26 people! The community choir in Kilmore is for anyone interested in starting off the week with a good singsong! Running at lunchtimes, every second Monday, Amanda Smith will be putting her conducting skills to use again! The community choir hopes be singing all kinds of songs and genres subject to requests.



The Go-4-it idea emerged following a Mental Health Conference run by the church back in November in Kyleakin which some of our congregation attended. The inspiring speakers, mostly practitioners from the NHS mental health services, helped us to consider ways in which we as a community and a church could get more involved in addressing issues such as isolation, loneliness and poor mental health.

A concept like the choir or art classes will work well, we hope, as it can attract folk from across the community creating a common link. There is no requirement to have prior experience and essentially we just hope people will have fun, enjoy a good singalong and create new friendships.

GO 4 it
SLEAT COMMUNITY GET-TOGETHERS

LOVE SINGING?
Come along and be part of a **NEW Sleat COMMUNITY CHOIR**

come along and sing

**Mon 18th Feb
Mon 4th March**
THEN MONDAY'S FORTNIGHTLY
12.30 - 200pm
Kilmore Church
Community Room

"all abilities welcome - no singing experience needed"
If you would like to attend but have a problem with transport or anything else, please let us know and we will try to help.

**CONTACT: Amanda: 01471 844 385 | amandasmith3529@gmail.com
Nicola: 01471833255 (evenings only) | strathandsleat@gmail.com**

Strath and Sleat Church of Scotland is a registered charity SC01385

In March a pop-up Art class will take place with Julia Christie which will probably look at still life for its first session. Depending on interest it may become a regular event. Whilst we don't want to start too many things at the same time, we would be interested to hear of other ideas which may be popular and also to share ideas with other parts of the parish.

The next meeting of the Community Choir will be on Monday 18th February, in the church community rooms.

Art class will be 23rd March, details to follow. Why don't you **Go-4-It?**

The Benefits of Giving Thanks

In the book, “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”, Willie Wonka issues five golden tickets so the five lucky winners can enter his amazing chocolate factory. God has issued at least seven billion golden tickets, and you’re one of those lucky recipients. You’ve been chosen to enter God’s amazing world.

- A world where water falls out of the sky.
- A world where ants build hills.
- A world where water melts, drips, freezes again and makes icicles – genius!
- A world with magnetic poles so compasses point north.
- A world in which a string sounds a note and then when you halve the string’s length, it sounds the same note a perfect octave higher – what are the chances?
- A world in which you can skim stones across water – it’s magical.
- A world of puns and rhymes and rhythm and alliteration – a world in which words are fun.
- A world in which music can make you cry

You have no reason to be bored in God’s world

Giving thanks is a powerful act. We all too easily focus on what we lack and feel discontented. A thousand adverts are designed to reinforce that feeling so we buy the products they offer. But gratitude redirects our thoughts away from the trifles that we lack and towards the amazing blessings that are already ours. Sunshine, birdsong and friendship are all waiting to be enjoyed, to be relished – and all without requiring any payment. And that is before we begin to count the blessings that are ours as children of God. The key that unlocks this treasury of joy is gratitude.

Even more significantly, gratitude lifts our eyes from the gift to see the Giver. In other words, gratitude leads back to God. Jesus once encountered ten lepers who cried out to him to have pity on them. Jesus sent them to the priest, the person who could certify that they had been cleansed (Luke 17:11-19). As they

went they were healed. One of them returned to Jesus, threw himself at his feet and thanked him. At the end of the story all ten lepers were former lepers. But only one was with Jesus. Only one was enjoying communion with Jesus. And what had drawn him back to Jesus was gratitude. Gratitude may not affect our physical location. But it will bring us close to God, the great Giver.

All the things we enjoy, says John Calvin, are “ladders by which we may ascend nearer to God.” “God,” he says, “by his benefits, gently attracts us to himself, giving us a taste of his fatherly sweetness.” But Calvin also warns, “There is nothing into which we more easily fall than into a forgetfulness of him, especially when we enjoy peace and comfort.”

Think back over the past week at all the good things you have enjoyed. Identify five things to give thanks for. A specific number helps you to think harder about how God has been kind to you. Imagine each one being handed to you as a gift from your heavenly Father. One way we relate to the Father is to receive these things as his gifts – to thank him for these things, to look for answers for prayer, to tell other people how he’s provided for us, to celebrate every good thing as his provision.



**From the book “Enjoying God”
by Tim Chester, published by
The Good Book Co.**

<https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/enjoying-god>

Kilmore Sunday School and YV

Kilmore Sunday School and YV have been pretty steady for the last six months, with YV marking the beginning of its second year. We now have 6 young people regularly attending YV (P7 up at the moment) and Sunday School is now up to a maximum of 12. The Sunday School are working their way through the heroes of the Bible at the moment. YV has just embarked on CY, the Christianity Explored course, aimed at 11-14 year olds. The course also includes an away day and we hope to arrange that soon.



YV usually remain in the church during our Locally Led services and we try to involve them in the services. A couple of them have been all-age which has allowed the Sunday School to remain in church too. We are very fortunate to have a talented and willing bunch of young people which means they are always happy to get involved in singing, reading and praying and uplifting the offering!

YV also produced a short Gaelic film for the FilmG competition, called Spèis (respect) which you can see here <http://filmg.co.uk/en/films/1897/>



Nethy Bridge Weekend Youth Vestry

YV set off on their weekend to Nethy Bridge christian outdoor centre back in October. Having taken part in the Everest Anywhere challenge they succeeded in raising over £1200 for their trip by climbing the height of Everest collectively. Ben Nevis was to be the final peak but was postponed due to the weather and this will take place in May.

Six young people headed to the centre with group leaders Archie MacCalman and Nicola Thomson. There were another couple of christian youth groups at the centre at the same time due to it being a Year of Young People weekend. The kids took part in some skiing, bushcraft and climbing wall in addition to spending some free time in the pool, sports hall and enjoying some hot chocolate and DVD time! We attended Nethy Bridge harvest service on the Sunday and enjoyed an Explore session with the Nethy Bridge youth leaders.

They all had a great time and on the last night we enjoyed a fireside singalong out in the grounds where we got to teach the Nethy Team a couple of Gaelic songs too!

Trips away are such an important part of building relationships and strengthening faith. We would love to go away again given the chance and it might be nice to have a parish trip to include the new Kyleakin youth group too. The chalets are pretty old and worn now but a couple of nights on an uncomfortable bunk-bed is part of the experience! Nethy Bridge is currently about to being on a well-needed new and fully accessibly accommodation block. So that led us to toying with the idea of an adult trip too.....watch this space!

We'd like to give a big thank you to all who sponsored YV, joined us in the climbing and prayed for our safe returns! Note: The monies leftover will be used towards an outing for the Kilmore Sunday School and some refurbishment of the Sunday School room. If you would be interested in joining us climb Ben Nevis, we are planning on a May outing and would love you to join us! Please contact Nicola or Archie.



Well done, Strath and Sleat, for raising £299.20 for Kerala, south India, where the worst rains in more than 100 years caused the loss of 400 lives during the monsoon season. Christian Aid and its local partners are responding to the urgent needs of shelter, food and clean water for over 20,000 people.

"Climate Change is the biggest challenge we face, but together we can restore God's earth"

Millions of the world's poorest people are experiencing the worst impacts of climate change, and scientists predict more floods, drought and extreme weather patterns to come. For those living in poverty, this means more hunger, conflict and insecurity, and a more uncertain future for us all.

You can help by petitioning banks and governments at



www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/climate-change-campaign

"Who can stop climate change? We can. We have a responsibility that began in the Garden of Eden to "till it and keep it" not to abuse it, not to destroy it."



Christingle Service

What a blessing we had at the whole parish service in December. Not only was there a great sense of unity, but also it was lovely that all the generations participated in making Christingles to take home after the service. As someone who regularly worships in Broadford I must say it was wonderful to have so many young people with us. Their presence gave encouragement that the true light will continue to shine brightly into the future.



Nativity Service at Kyleakin

In Kyleakin Sunday-school we have been continuing to travel through the Bible, making a time-line. But since the October break we took time out to prepare for Christmas by making some papier- maché nativity figures. Each week we looked at the individual people who were there at the birth of Jesus and tried to imagine what it must have been like for each one of them at the time.



For our Family service on the 23rd December, some of the Sunday school read the story from the books of Matthew and Luke (very beautifully!) while others helped the younger ones to use the figures to act out the nativity story. As we heard the familiar words we tried to imagine we were hearing them for the first time, and appreciate afresh what a truly amazing story this is.

Lesley J

Macleod's visit to India October 2018



We were in India from Monday 15 to Thursday 25 October. Officially I was on Study Leave, which is a scheme operated by the Church of Scotland to encourage ministers to keep our grey matter working. There is an annual allocation of £200 and two weeks, which can be accumulated to a maximum of 7 years-worth. Since returning to parish ministry, after my years as a

military chaplain, I have been developing a project under the grandiose title of 'Christian Responses to Post-Modernism'. I started in New Zealand because two friends of ours had just gone out to revive student outreach in what was being billed as "the most secularised (ie post-religious) country in the world". My research consisted of criss-crossing the country in a campervan, interviewing everyone I met: on the road, in churches, around universities. Alongside occasional signs of renewal, my overwhelming impression was that Christians in New Zealand were looking to the USA for inspiration, which struck me as bizarre because, statistically, America is the least secularised western country.

So 5 years later we investigated, camping and driving from Boston on the east coast to Seattle on the west. This time we were struck by the sheer variety: some communities were deeply religious, others were rampantly materialistic. And we were impressed by how versatile churches and Christians are in sharing their faith, whatever the circumstances. At the end of the trip we enjoyed the opportunity to visit Regent College in Vancouver, where I was able to share my experiences with the staff and gain some perspective on what I had observed. The complexity of the situation left me with an appetite to explore a place where the church is breaking new ground and making disciples of those who

have never heard the Gospel before. My opportunity came when I was invited to return the visit of an Ethiopian pastor whom I had recently hosted on behalf of Tearfund.

This time, another 5 years on, just Somerled and I ventured forth, for a whirlwind tour of Christian self-help groups in a mixture of urban and rural settings, well off the beaten track. For a fortnight we never saw another white face but every day we met people whose lives and communities had been transformed by the church and by the Gospel of Jesus; Hallelujah! The inspiration for how the Evangelical Kale Heywet Church of Ethiopia approached its mission came from India. So, guess where we were going next?...

And so to our sojourn last October. We landed in Chennai (which used to be called Madras), where the apostle Thomas introduced Christianity, making it one of the first places in the world to be evangelised. Our guide was a Hindu gentleman, who made it his business to teach us everything we know about what is, after all, the dominant religion in that country.



Far from feeling put upon, we enjoyed his candour and were quickly impressed by how instinctively multicultural India is, despite the attempts by the present government to impose Hinduism. From Chennai we travelled west and south on a mixture of trains, cars and aeroplanes encountering Muslims, Christians, Buddhists and Hindus all of whom were candid about their faith and wanted to learn about ours. Our itinerary took in Bangalore, which prides itself on being the tech capital of southeast Asia, and Kerala, whose claim to fame is as the “Venice of the south”.

For all that, my personal highlight was a scruffy place called Sri Ranga Patna, because it is where a direct ancestor was awarded a medal for his role in overwhelming Tippoo Sahib, the local strongman and nemesis of the British colonialists. More respectable was the thrill I felt, walking in the footsteps of my favourite theologian. Lesslie Newbigin was a Church of Scotland missionary, who arrived in South India during the 1930s and stayed. During his service he learned Hindi, was ordained a founder bishop of the united Church of South India and became the father of missional theology, which is a way of contemplating the Bible and communicating the Gospel which anticipates how society is changing. When he arrived back in Britain during the 1980s Newbigin was horrified by materialism but gratified by the accuracy of his predictions.



So, where to next? That would be telling! In the meantime, I have enough to be getting on with making sense of what we have recently experienced and the more immediate challenges and opportunities facing us in Strath & Sleat and in our twinning with St Paul's Church in Amman...

Stop Press announcement that funding has come through for a two way visit to St Paul's Episcopal Church in Amman, to get our twinning underway. There will still be a significant amount of fund-raising to do, so I am planning a sponsored walk which I hope will raise the necessary.

5th-7th April

**Kyleakin
Village Hall**



**KINGDOM
GATHERING**

- **Worship**
- **Ministry**
- **Children's work**

All are welcome

**You are invited to
CSW's 40 Years Celebration**

Join us to look back at 40 years working for religious
freedom and celebrate God's faithfulness.

Gather with us on Skye

Portree

Saturday 23rd February

Aros, 7.30pm

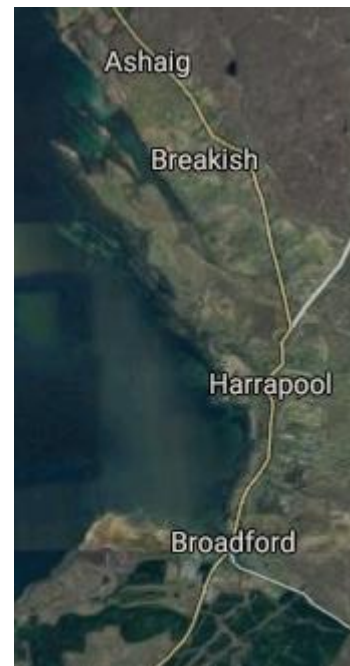
Church Life

Funerals

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| 29 October | Donald Fraser, Broadford |
| 8 November | John Marioni, Broadford |
| 27 November | Janet Anderson, Broadford |
| 12 December | Ruairidh MacKinnon, Broadford |
| 19 December | Cathy Grant, Kyleakin |
| 25 January | Mariana van der Merwe, Broadford |

The Praying for Broadford Initiative

On Saturday 26th January a few of us gathered together to discuss and pray together about the task ahead, this is not a quick fix and does require commitment and perseverance. I have divided Broadford into 9 sections and have 6 of those now covered in prayer. What we are talking about here is prayer walking the area not as a whole group together but as individuals just as the Holy Spirit leads, also to add to that we will be praying for folks who live in Broadford by name.



At the moment I'm looking for 3 others who can make a commitment to prayer walk an area of Broadford and persevere until we see a break through, also we have members of our congregation who are unable to prayer walk but can still be part of it by Spiritually mapping the area. The more prayer we can pour into the area the better.

There might be some in our congregation who think this task is too big for us, and you would be right but we know with God all things are possible, it's our job to work in partnership with the Holy Spirit.

For further information or if you just want to talk about it please get in touch with Mary Fennell 01471 – 820168 or email 1995gideon@gmail.com

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

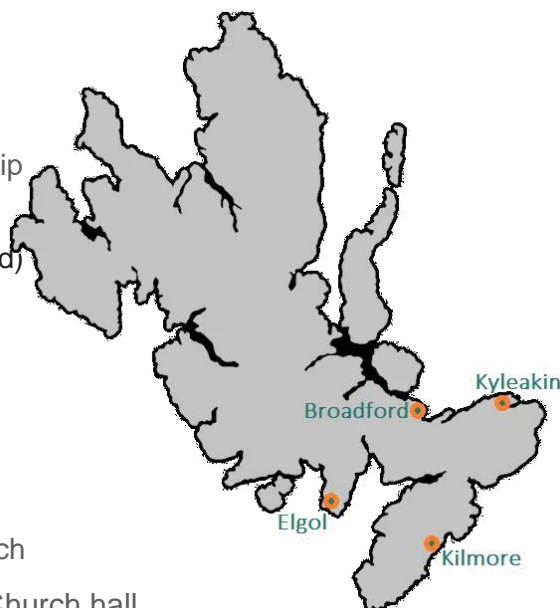
3pm Elgol (2nd & 4th Sundays of the month) **6pm** Kyleakin Fellowship

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 | 1.15pm Sleat Midweek Group |
| | 7.30pm Broadford Bible study, Broadford Church |
| Thursdays | 10-12 'Parent and toddler' group Kyleakin Church hall |
| | 1.30pm Ladies Group, Broadford church foyer (1 st & 3 rd Thursdays) |
| | 7.30pm Housegroup, Grianach, Harrapool (2 nd & 4 th Thursdays) |



Church Contacts

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Dolly Robertson **01471 822320** dolina.robertson@talk21.com

Jackie Scott jacki.scott@btconnect.com

Young Church leader

Timmy Currie timmycurrie@gmail.com

Prayer secretary

Mary Fennell **01471 820168** 1995gideon@gmail.com

Worship Teams

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