

FERINTOSH FOCUS

CHURCH NEWSLETTER
SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF CONON BRIDGE & MARYBURGH



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

Ferintosh Parish Church meets at 11am and 6.30pm each Sunday.

Our friendly and welcoming congregation is made up of those from Conon Bridge, Maryburgh and the surrounding area. A breakfast club meets at 10.20am. Crèche (for those of pre-school age), Sunday Club and Ferintosh Youth Fellowship (FYF) meet during the morning service. Tea and coffee are served in the Church Hall at the close of worship.

You are invited to join us and we pray that you will experience a real sense of God's blessing during your time with us.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

When Jesus rose from the grave on the first day of the week the disciples were able to talk with Him, learn from Him, and get established by Him. But how did Jesus do all that for them? Well, Jesus reminded them of all that He had spoken to them. You could say Jesus took them back to His Words.

Consider two of those Last Words of Jesus from the cross.

1. (Luke 23:34) The Word of Forgiveness. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do".

Jesus had to die on the cross, and not in some other way, such as hanging or stoning. One of the reasons that He died the death of the cross was so that Jesus could have liberty to speak till his dying breath, so that He would glorify His Father and encourage those around Him.

Notice how unexpected this prayer was. Christ is praying for the people who are crucifying him! This prayer of forgiveness for His persecutors was answered not long after when many of those who had a hand in His death were converted by the preaching of Peter on the Day of Pentecost.

But it was also answered when the centurion who supervised the crucifixion was able to say after Christ's death, 'Truly this man was the Son of God.' He could say it because he had never seen anyone like Jesus before. Every other person he saw being crucified would have vented their anger and cursed the soldiers – but not Jesus! Never at this place had this word been heard or experienced before. This centurion heard Christ and believed Christ and received the forgiveness of Christ even after all he had done to Christ.

2. (Luke 23:43) The Word of Assurance. Jesus answered the dying thief, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

There were two thieves crucified with Jesus. At first, both men despised the Lord and tried to add to His torture. If the people ridiculed Jesus, the thieves were happy enough to join in.

But as the day wore on a change came over one of the men. He recognised Jesus to be the Son of God & King. When his friend kept heaping abuse on Jesus, this man spoke up for Jesus: "*... we are receiving the due reward of our deeds, but this Man has done nothing wrong!*"

Then the dying thief prayed, "*Lord remember me when enter into your kingdom*". The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ is "*Able to do exceedingly, abundantly above, all we ask or think*".

And never did Jesus prove that more fully than on the worst day of His life. Even then, under immense pressure, He was full of Grace, even saving sinners! This is the assurance the Lord gives to leave this dying thief in no doubt of his future happiness. There's nothing chancy about it—Jesus never said, "Hopefully, you will be with Me in paradise". Or possibly or probably or I think you might be!" No, nothing like that at all! There is a certainty to Christ's promise, a no doubt about it!

I finish with this – If Jesus Christ is in heaven (and He is!) the thief is with Him, WOW!!! The thief gained eternal life because of what Jesus Christ did for him through forgiveness of sins. If you're a Christian today – the Lord Jesus has done as much for you as He did for the thief. DOUBLE WOW! There is the ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS of sins when we come to Christ in repentance and faith. His Word said it – that settles it!

I hope to see you very soon, Your Minister and Friend, Stephen



RODDY'S JOURNEY OF FAITH

On 12th January 2019 Ferintosh Parish Church lost a devoted friend and the wider Church in Scotland lost a long and faithful servant. Below is an extract from the tribute given by Rev KD MacLeod to Roddy at the February meeting of Ross Presbytery.

Where does such a journey begin? Probably in the family home in Harris where he spent his formative years, and where Christian values and virtues influenced a young and tender conscience.

As a fourteen year old lad, Roddy became an apprentice joiner with Mackenzie & Macdonald of Dingwall; he also became an adherent of Castle St. where the Rev. Donald MacLeod, a native of Berneray Harris, was minister. Under Mr MacLeod's ministry Roddy, along with three others, became a communicant member of Castle St Church on the 6th of February 1949. He would have only been in his mid- twenties when he was ordained into the eldership.

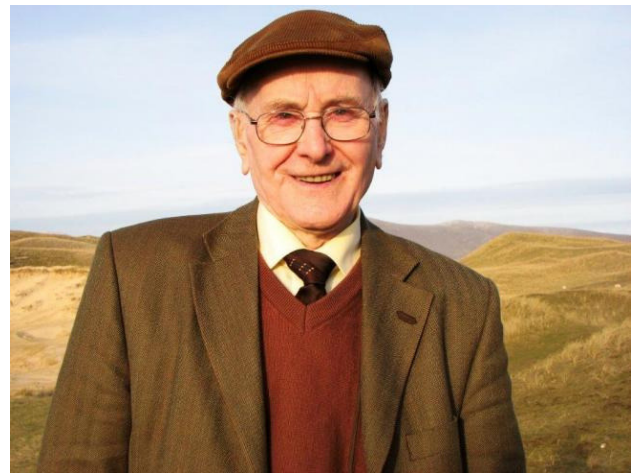
Rev Donald MacLeod encouraged Roddy to seek God's will for his life, and so he duly enrolled for a year's study at the Glasgow Bible Institute. His natural intelligence, love for Jesus and people equipped him for missionary service with the Church of Scotland on the Isle of Tiree.

Preaching, pastoral and Presbytery responsibilities, confirmed in Roddy's own heart that ministry of word and sacrament was his calling, and so after four years in Tiree he applied to the church and was accepted as a candidate for the ministry.

During his time in Trinity College Glasgow, Roddy served as a student assistant with Rev, Dr. Tom Murchison of St Columba Copland Road, and honed his preaching skills in Gaelic with Rev. Gilles of Partick, Gardner St.

It was December 1967, and Roddy was on his final year in Trinity College and looking forward to graduating the following year. He was about to board the Kyle train at Queen St. Station, ... and no doubt conscious, that any minister worth his salt, needed a good wife! When he espied a young and rather attractive lady waiting to board the same train; her heavy suitcases by her side.

The challenge of getting all of her luggage safely on board the train presented Margaret, a teacher in a Girls School in Moffat, with a real challenge... However, Roddy persuaded the porter that he was more than a match for the bags and soon the luggage was safely deposited in the carriage.



Margaret and Roddy got talking and contact details were exchanged. "I felt sorry for the poor student!" said Margaret later.

Roddy was inducted to his first charge, Daliburgh in South Uist on the 3rd of July 1968, which gave him about six months to prepare the manse for his bride to be.

The couple were married in Partick Highland Free Church on Christmas Eve 1968 by the Rev. Callum Morrison. Soon, Roddy and Margaret were blessed with the birth of a daughter, Rhona and a son, John. The family spent thirteen contented, busy and productive years in the parish. Roddy always took his tools with him; both the manse kitchen and church hall benefited from his carpentry skills.

In 1981 he received a Call from a newly linked congregation in Easter Ross; Kilmuir and Logie Easter. He accepted, and was duly inducted. This was a time of unprecedented industrial activity in Easter Ross, which placed a great strain on the local infrastructure, be it roads, housing, education, health and ever changing social values and attitudes. Many in the congregation trace their spiritual roots directly to Roddy's preaching, praying and pastoral work. He retired from Kilmuir & Logie Easter in 1995 at the age of sixty seven.

Retirement as you know was not in Roddy's vocabulary, however, retirement took Margaret & Roddy to Conon Bridge, where he continued to serve the Saviour and Church that he loved, and somehow along the way, had time to tend his garden and produce countless items of house and garden furniture.

Roddy served as Locum in no less than twelve vacant congregations; ranging from Thurso in the North, Golspie in the East, The Uists, Barvas and Stornoway High in the West and of course locally in Easter Ross.

RODDY MACKINNON - A TRIBUTE

Words that come to mind when I think of Roddy MacKinnon

INTELLIGENT

Loved to read; was a bit of a wordsmith, and had a retentive memory.

HUMOUR

If you felt down in the dumps, Roddy could make you smile with his endless reservoir of stories of real life incidents.

WISE

Was perceptive, compassionate and caring and was not afraid to dispense his accumulated wisdom.

ENCOURAGER & EVANGELIST

He encouraged many to consider membership, but also to take responsibility within the courts of the church. Challenging them to use their gifts and pointing them to God's endless resources in Christ Jesus. What many took to be casual conversations, Roddy saw as opportunities to share the gospel.

PASTOR

Lesser mortals did not understand where Roddy got his boundless energy. For he was a prolific visitor; parishioners felt, 'here is a man who truly cares.'

PRESBYTERIAN

He understood how the Presbyterian government of the church was supposed to function and worked within the system, using it wisely to promote Christ's cause. He served as Presbytery Clerk, both in the Presbytery of Uist and Ross, retiring from the latter shortly after I arrived in Invergordon. And as Clerk of Synod until that body was dismantled, and for many years was a valued member of The General Trustees.

VISIONARY

Roddy never lost his zeal, nor vision for the church. Recently at Presbytery he suggested that we prayerfully consider organised a Highland Wide Outreach based in a very popular venue hardly a stone's throw from where we meet.

FAMILY MAN

Roddy was a faithful husband; though Margaret seldom saw him as he was always visiting. Loving Father and grandfather. He loved his family and was besotted with his grandchildren; Somhairle, Martha and Fearchar.

How would Roddy have coped without his loving, supportive, gifted, hospitable, patient, understanding, praying and confidential secretary, and so much more - Margaret, I simply don't know!

The words of God through Moses to Asher, come to mind, "Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be." Deuteronomy 33:25. And that was certainly true in the life of our late brother in Christ, the Rev. Roddy Mackinnon.

Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The group continues to meet weekly on a Wednesday at 1.30pm in the Church Hall. The meeting usually lasts about an hour.

Since completing our Advent studies, we have been using Book by Book Study and have looked at the "minor" prophet Nahum. These have consisted of a 15 minute DVD where three well-known theologians have helped us understand what we are reading before we read and examine the passages in more detail. As always, the material has generated a great deal of thought and discussion. This was a topic not touched on very often of the righteous anger and judgement of God. The members take a collection each week and £70 was donated to Release International to help in their work with persecuted Christians worldwide.

During Lent we are using five studies from faithandworship.com by John Birch about "The Final Week" with the studies entitled The Journey to Jerusalem, Into the Temple, Preparations, Arrest and Trial and Crucified and Risen.

We are so grateful for the dedicated group of ladies who come along to study the Word of God. We'd love to have more people join us. There is no obligation to speak or read aloud. Much can be learned from a listening ear! Please give prayerful consideration to coming along even if you can't commit to every week.

The group continues well into summer. So there is still time to come along!



PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Team members try to help people in our community, not only people with church connections, who need a little bit of assistance. We take people to appointments either locally or Inverness; we visit people either in their own home or in the Care Homes in the area.

The people who call on us find it a very valuable service and we'd like to continue. The Team is quite small in number and would welcome any other volunteers.

Maybe you can't physically be part of the Team. However, the Team appreciates all your prayers for the work it does as it tries to do the Lord's work.

Breakfast Club

Sunday mornings
in the hall
10.20am - 11am

All Nursery to Primary School
age children welcome.

Food, Fun, Games and plenty
of fruit & chocolate toast!

And it's... **FREE!!!**

More Information: Ferintosh Parish Church
Or smacdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk

BEETLE DRIVE

This was held in the Church Hall on Saturday 9th February. There was plenty noise, fun and laughter as 24 adults and 10 children battled it out to see who could gain the highest score and win the coveted 1st Prize. There were some "scary creatures" produced and some which even resembled "Beetles"... Refreshments during the evening helped revive everyone for the 2nd part of the evening which resulted in Ruby being hailed the winner with Phillip needing a wee bit more practice... Thanks to everyone who supported this enjoyable event.

It is most encouraging to hear of the enjoyment people have when they meet up and participate in the social activities as these are an important part of our Church life. Many thanks go to everyone who contributes in any way to enable the events to take place as without your help and support, they could not happen. If you wish to become more involved with helping with the social activities, then please speak with Janet Murray (Social Convener).



SUNDAY TEAS

It is encouraging to have so many people come together for a chat, following both Sunday Services. Many thanks go to everyone who kindly provides and serves the tea and biscuits etc. If you would be willing to help with this on an occasional basis, please add your name to the list in the hall as once again your help would be gratefully appreciated. Perhaps you could encourage a friend to join you!

SOUP LUNCHES

These are now finished for this session but were enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks go to everyone who kindly provided the delicious soups for these events.

RIVER CAFE

This is held in the Church Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 2pm - 3.30pm and gives the opportunity to meet together, while enjoying some tea/coffee and home baking. If you haven't been before, why not drop in and "give it a go"? We look forward to welcoming you there. Over the past few months, we have welcomed groups from the Seaforth Centre who have enjoyed meeting up with everyone. If you would like to help or are willing to provide some home baking on an occasional basis, please add your name to the list at the back of the church or speak with Janet Murray.

*FORTHCOMING DATES: Wednesdays 10th April, 8th May and 12th June
We look forward to welcoming you there.*

CHRISTIAN AID - THE GATHERING

CONTRIBUTED BY JANET WINCHESTER

On 28th February I attended a Christian aid Gathering in Inshes church in Inverness. There were representatives from Churches all over Highland, Moray and even from as far away as Shetland.

The main speaker was Jeanne Kamara, Christian Aid's country manager in Sierra Leone, the country which will be highlighted during this year's Christian Aid week. Sierra Leone is a country which has great natural resources, including diamonds, but was one of the world's poorest – even before Ebola robbed it of thousands of people, including many of its most highly trained health workers, and put unprecedented strain on its frail economy.

Jeanne was an engaging speaker with an incredible store of knowledge. She spoke of the many ways in which Christian Aid is helping the people of Sierra Leone, from direct work with people living in the most remote and poorest villages to intervention at community and government level to tackle the sources of poverty. Of all the actions she described, two resonated particularly with me:

Firstly, a project to work with "model families" to promote gender equality within the family. Essentially, in a village a small number of families which appear to be good role models are selected for training which enables them to tackle the issues involved with their fellow villagers. It occurred to me that if I were selected for such a role, I would have considerable misgivings – What a responsibility! And what if something went wrong and my family could not live up to the ideal it was meant to represent?

Secondly, work during the Ebola epidemic to persuade people, in the interests of infection control, to act in a way which was contrary to their cultural



norms. Jeanne explained, for example, that while shaking hands was the normal form of greeting even between members of the same household on waking, during the epidemic people were told never to shake hands. Even during Church services they had to give each other "the wave of peace" rather than a handshake. There was also a problem with the food and water given out to households which were in quarantine due to a household member being infected, as people who had been brought up to share anything they had would invite family, friends and neighbours to their homes to share the supplies. One unexpected outcome, however, was that since large gatherings were discouraged national broadcasting service relayed a special New Year service to the whole nation.

There was also information on ways to help raise awareness of current global issues such as Gender Justice and Climate Justice, remembering that Christian Aid had been involved in previous successful campaigns in relation for example to Apartheid, cancellation of debt for the world's poorest countries and the series of climate change summits which led to the Paris Agreement. Those attending were also encouraged to exchange thoughts and information about what could be done in our own congregations and communities to further the work of Christian Aid.

SIERRA LEONE - KEY FACTS

LIFE EXPECTANCY - 52 YEARS

CHILDREN WHO DIE BEFORE AGE 5 - 11%
(DOWN FROM 26% IN 1990)

BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH
PERSONNEL - 60%



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE
12 - 18 MAY 2019



Do you remember May 1957?

This was the year Christian Aid launched its door-to-door collections, and held the first major fund raising week. A total of £26,000 was raised to help refugees around the world. By 2018 fund raising for the year had increased to the phenomenal figure of £8.5 million, with 57,000 volunteers and 12,000 churches throughout the U.K. taking part in this massive endeavour.

I am appealing to anyone with a few hours to spare during, or close, to C.A. week to help with fund raising. Don't be shy, please contact me if you have a fund raising idea, would like to meet people by exploring the Maryburgh/ Conon neighbourhood and delivering envelopes or shaking a can. Our merry band of volunteers has sadly diminished over the years and now with a very healthy congregation it would be heartening to welcome new faces to our team of 'movers and shakers'.

This year funds raised will help some of the poorest mums in Sierra Leone where at present every day ten women die from giving birth. Improved Health Centres are desperately needed and could be provided through the work of Christian Aid and its partners.

JOAN MACKENZIE

ALL MUMS SHOULD LIVE



Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows, it's not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and with every step Fatmata struggled to keep walking.

Jebbeh told us: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.'

This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safe for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mums a chance to live.

CROSSREACH

One hundred and fifty years ago, in 1869, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland decided "that a Committee be appointed to inquire as to the progress of Christian work in the country".

150 years later and that "Christian work" is found in 70 locations throughout Scotland, from Dornoch to Dunbar, Stornoway to Stonehaven, in social care services provided by CrossReach.

Rt Rev Susan Brown, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, visited the facilities in the Highlands during CrossReach Week. These were Oversteps Care Home in Dornoch, Beechwood House (residential rehabilitation and support for people affected by substance abuse), Cale House (move-on accommodation), Counselling:Inverness which offers one-to-one counselling to adults, children and young people at venues across the city including local schools. She visited WOW - Wee Ones at Whinnieknowe, an intergenerational project. Each week children from nursery enjoy crafts and activities and fun with the residents of the care home in Nairn.

CrossReach, for the next three years, is in partnership with the Guild on a project called "Join the Dots" which is aimed at combatting the great "disease" of our day - loneliness! This project hopes to work with all ages and folk to expose loneliness and isolation problems and to provide solutions for them. One example is the Befriending service in Inverness and, through this project, it hopes to extend its services to other parts of the Highlands.



The CrossReach News and Prayer Diary are available at the rear of the Church.



CrossReach operates in our name and your prayers are very much appreciated..

COMPETITION

Design a CrossReach Christmas Card for 2019

We will print the winning entry as a card and sell it through the CrossReach Christmas Card & Calendar Collection 2019 catalogue and website.

The Winner will receive a certificate and a supply of their winning design as printed Christmas Cards.

Open to ALL ages.

See website for full details

Closes: Monday 1st April 2019



HIGHLAND FOOD BANK

During March, the Foodbank has asked us at Ferintosh if we could donate washing-up liquid, washing powder (small packets), ladies deodorant as well as pot noodles, tins of ham, diluting juice and Smash (dried potato). Indeed it is so sad that in this day and age people should be relying on charity but the sad fact is that many in our society really struggle to make ends meet usually through no fault of their own. Some go to the foodbank because they have lost their income, their home or are suffering ill health and money has dried up. Just think, it could be one of us! Where would you turn?

Donations from Ferintosh have been very generous and we thank you for that. Unfortunately, the need seems to grow too.

Do think about donating whatever you can in non-perishable foods, toiletries, sanitary items, baby items or household cleaning items.

There is a new container in the annex for your donations. Carrier bags are also required for people to take the food home with them. Thank you.



Among all the food donated recently to our Highland Foodbank we found that some kind donor had put an encouraging note on every item they gave.



FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

This is an ecumenical and inclusive movement of prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation.

Each time a prayer is said the least coin is set aside as a symbol of the prayer.

This charity gives micro loans to women throughout the world which help to lift them and their families out of poverty and help to educate the next generation. April is the end of their financial year and we like to send our monies as soon as we can.

Please contact Janette Steele if you have been collecting for this cause throughout the year.

SEAFORTH HOUSE



Seaforth House services continue to be held every two months at 3pm on the first Sunday of the month by the Ferintosh team. Last month it was good to see a staff member joining in with helping us make friendship bracelets. The bracelets were to remind us that Jesus is our Friend which was our theme. Next month we plan to have Jesus is our Saviour as our theme.

Seaforth House is always very welcoming to us and we can always do with extra help from any of you from the Church to join the team.

IT IS TRUE! THE LORD HAS RISEN

Jesus is both our starting point and the goal to which we study the Bible. Jesus is the place we start because he shows us what the unfolding message of the Old Testament is really all about. Jesus said of himself in John 5:39, regarding the Old Testament, "that they testify of me."

The only Scriptures in existence during the personal ministry of Jesus were the Old Testament Scriptures. In all of His personal witnessing, in answering all people, whether seekers after the truth or hypocritical Pharisees, Jesus used Old Testament Scriptures which always testified as to who He was and is!

We remember Jesus was crucified on the Friday. On the Sunday following, two of his wider circle of disciples decided to leave Jerusalem and travel to Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem (Luke 24). As they talked of "all these things which had happened" and "reasoned; Jesus himself drew near and went with them." But God prevented them from recognising Jesus at that time (v16). Jesus noted their unhappy faces and asked them the cause of their sadness (v17).

They gave Jesus an account of Christ's life and character (v.19), his sufferings and death (v.20), their consequent disappointment with him (v.21), and, due to a lack of bodily sightings, their scepticism regarding reports of a resurrection (v21).

Jesus told them that their account of Christ's life and death exactly matched the predictions of the Old Testament prophets. They had believed some of the prophets' writings – the parts which spoke especially of the Messiah's glory. But they had not believed all that the prophets had spoken – especially the parts which spoke of the Messiah's sufferings and death.

So as Jesus walked with these 2 men, He showed them the divine viewpoint on His own death by going back to the Old Testament Scriptures to demonstrate that the Messiah "had to" suffer such things and only then enter His glory!

These 2 disciples had been looking for another glorious Exodus redemption, but they ignored the bleeding Passover Lamb which preceded it. They looked for the final and glorious Davidic King, but they ignored the murderous persecution of David which preceded his ascendancy to the throne. They were looking for the spoil-dividing conquering king of Isaiah 53:12, but they had forgotten the sin-bearing suffering Servant which preceded that. Having rebuked their foolish ignorance, Jesus then gave the disciples a full interpretation of the Old Testament Scriptures in the light of recent events.

Jesus uses the New Testament light to interpret the Old Testament Scriptures. In other words, Jesus "reads Himself back into the Old Testament". He uses New Testament events to preach from the Old Testament and where He shows these 2 on this Emmaus road "The Things Concerning Himself".

Jesus reads Himself back into the Old Testament for the benefit of Cleopas and his friend, and He did it in 3 stages! 1)"beginning at Moses (because Moses wrote the first 5 books of the bible)", He goes on 2)"all the prophets", and then expands into 3)"all the scriptures" (v27).

And it's no surprise to know that the Old Testament is made up of three parts: 1) the Law of Moses or the Pentateuch (the first 5 books of the bible); 2) the Prophets 3) the Writings (or all the other books in the Old Testament). Jesus began with Moses and all the prophets. And in v27 "he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." (Lk.24:27).



Jesus uses the New Testament light to interpret the Old Testament Scriptures.

Probably never had a journey passed so quickly and when it looked as if their travelling companion was about to part from them on the outskirts of Emmaus, we are not surprised to read that the disciples constrained Jesus to stay with them and continue the Bible Study.

Having succeeded in persuading Jesus to stay, they sat down to a meal. Then, as Jesus "took bread, and blessed it, and broke, and gave to them...their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight" (v30-31).

Then immediately walking back to Jerusalem they turn to one another, they reflect on their recent journey with Jesus, and say, "Were not our hearts burning within us, while he talked with us on the road, and opened the scriptures to us? Why did their hearts burn when Jesus spoke?!"

1. Because Jesus opened the scriptures

What does Jesus find as he opens the door of Genesis, then Exodus, then Leviticus, etc! He finds himself! Matthew Henry said, "Jesus Christ is himself the best expositor of scripture, particularly the scriptures concerning himself." If he tells us he is to be found from the very first book of Scripture, then we'll find him there. If we ever lose sight of Christ, we will find the whole Bible dark and full of difficulty. The key of Bible knowledge is Jesus Christ.

2. He opened their eyes

The two disciples were not blind. They saw Christ with their physical eyes. But this opening of their eyes is the giving of spiritual sight. In addition to opening up the Scriptures to them, Jesus opened the shut eyes of their faith.

3. He opened their hearts

They didn't see him for long before he vanished. But it was long enough to change their whole view of the world and their recent past!!! As they reflected on the spiritual privileges they had enjoyed over recent hours, they began to recognise that the faith that had finally flourished at the table had its beginning on the road.

These strange feelings; that unusual warmth in the heart; the spiritual excitement they felt as Jesus opened the Scriptures on the road was faith being fed; faith being nourished, and faith being revived! Their problem was dullness of heart; their need was for a Christ-centred study of the Old Testament Scriptures! And that's what Christ brought to them!

We don't find them comparing notes as they return to Jerusalem, but they do compare hearts as they review Jesus sermon on the road. Their cold hearts had been warmed. Their dark hearts were filled with light. Their dull hearts had begun to glow again. They rushed along the same road that just hours before was so hard because it seemed their hope was gone. Now with great peace after meeting the risen Lord and hearts ablaze with joy they reach Jerusalem to tell the others "It is true! The Lord has Risen."

PALM SUNDAY

14th April

11am Service

6.30pm Service

GOOD FRIDAY

19th April

7pm Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY

18th April

7pm Communion Service

EASTER SUNDAY

21st April

9.30am Breakfast

11am & 6.30pm Services

EASTER SERVICES AT FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH



SOUPER SUNDAY

On 20th January **Souper Sundae** was celebrated in style here at Ferintosh. Somewhere between 60 and 70 people enjoyed lunch in the hall, with a wonderful variety of soups and desserts provided by talented cooks within the congregation, cheerfully served by FYF members and other "volunteers". The craic over tea and coffee was great to hear, and a pictorial quiz had everyone racking their brains for any shreds of geographical knowledge.

It is over 30 years since AIDS emerged as a world-wide threat and the HIV virus was identified. In that time, much has changed. Notably, drugs have been developed which, if they do not provide a cure, at least offer the hope of a longer, healthier life than was previously the case, with much less risk of transmitting the virus to others. For this medicine to be effective however the virus must be detected, the person must have regular and affordable access to the medicine, as well as enough healthy food for it to work properly and education on how to live with the virus.

In countries around the world governments and non-governmental organisations, in many cases Churches and other faith communities, are working hard to end the spread of HIV/AIDS through education, increase the percentage of cases discovered at an early stage, provide medical care, education and practical social support for those infected, combat stigma, and meet the needs of families and communities adversely affected by HIV/AIDS. The Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS programme supports many such initiatives around the world and also here in the UK.

SOUPER SUNDAY

The Church of Scotland HIV Programme

Changing the world one spoonful at a time



That 'little lamp' which you lit by putting a donation in that first envelope, together with all the others has shone out in faith and love reflecting the light of Christ.

**OUR SOUPER
SUNDAE 2019
RAISED AN
AMAZING £222
TO SUPPORT THIS
PROGRAMME**



JOURNEY OF AN OLM (PART FOUR)

CONTRIBUTED BY IRENE MUNRO

How did I get to this place already – three quarters way through training for Ordained Local Ministry (OLM)? I had to do some serious reflections as I was preparing a talk on this subject for the Guild recently. The Guild Strategy for the next three years is 'One Journey Many Roads' and the theme for the year is 'Seeking the Way'.

And indeed my journey towards OLM (if I can turn the strategy around a little) has been not through many roads but one road which Jesus encourages us to: the narrow road and only road to God; not a promised easy, broad one. And on this road have been many journeys.

As some of you will notice I am not an infrequent traveller! And many of you take trips round the globe. Very few journeys are straightforward. Some of you when you come back from a trip will have tales to tell of tourism delights, or delays and detours.

If I am making a journeys to the islands I have learnt not to be presumptuous and so now I would say: I am 'planning' to go to Tiree or 'planning' to go to Canna; and when I get there people often want to know how long I am there for and I have to say – it all depends! And it makes me depend on God more as I pray for safe and successful travel.

Recent journeys have drawn comments from those waiting with me at the pier or terminal – will the boat come and if it comes will it be able to tie up without the ropes breaking and will the plane leave Glasgow and if it makes its way, will there be a window in the 50mph gale and horizontal rain for it to land?

So in other words we may get so far on the journey but will we reach our destination? But the comment which is so often made at the terminal is that it always depends on who is the pilot or who is the skipper. A confident, trustworthy pilot makes all the difference between a successful landing and berthing and an unsuccessful one.



So how did I get here and will I reach my destination?

My journey towards OLM has been not straightforward but with many delights and also delays and detours. The delights have been helped greatly by my encouraging companions along the way without whom I would not be this far on the journey. Robert Louis Stevenson said "to travel hopefully was better than to arrive". As Christians we want to travel hopefully and well along the journey but we most definitely want to arrive in the heavenly kingdom. Then we will be fulfilling God's purposes for each one of us on our journey as we 'seek the way', depending on Jesus Christ, our pilot and our faithful travelling companion. We are not all called to public ministry but we are all called to travel well along the way God chooses and glorify him as we go.

Thank you, Ferintosh folk for being my encouraging companions with me. I hope and pray that all of us will be travelling in hope and expectation, even with delays and detours by trusting in our heavenly Saviour and arriving at our heavenly destination – a place we are assured will be our great delight.

WE LOVE FERINTOSH!

CONTRIBUTED BY
ANJA MACLENNAN &
ANNA CRUICKSHANK

This term Stephen told us about the seven miracles from the book of John. We asked some of the members of Sunday Club and Youth fellowship what they enjoyed doing.

In January we went to Roller Bowl, which was great fun. We all got slushies and ordered a good platter.

We really enjoyed making pizzas for Jesus Feeds the 5000

RUBY & DARCIE

I really liked making the ooblek (which is cornflour and water) for the Walking on Water miracle.

ISLA

I liked the blindfold game for the week when we talked about Jesus healing the blind man.

ANNA



NEW PARENTS, BABIES & TODDLERS GROUP

This new group meets weekly in the Church Hall, led by Shona Vance and a team of helpers. There has been a brilliant group of 15-20 babies and toddlers each week, with numbers growing as word spreads. Please share the details with others who could benefit from the support and playfulness they provide.

FREE PARENTS/CARERS, BABIES & TODDLERS - ALL WELCOME!

BUNDLES OF FUN

CONON BRIDGE CHURCH HALL THURSDAYS 1pm - 2.30pm

A chance to relax over a cup of tea or coffee whilst you watch the children play.



MAKING ALL THINGS NEW - AN INVITATION TO THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

This short book written by the Dutch Catholic priest, professor, writer and theologian Henri Nouwen, explores the way to help people to walk quietly into the presence of God and begin to hear more sensitively.

It is written for men and women who experience a persistent urge to enter more deeply into the spiritual life but are confused about which way to go. It is helpful to those with a Christian background as a means of encouragement and direction. It is also meant to reach out to those for whom the Christian story is unfamiliar but who have a desire for spiritual freedom.



His theme is Jesus' words "Do not worry".

- a) He examines the destructive effects of worrying in our day-to-day lives, occupied and preoccupied with many things, while at the same time being bored, resentful, depressed and very lonely.
- b) Jesus' response of offering a new life, a life in which the Holy Spirit can make all things new for us. The call to follow Jesus on his obedient way and enter into the community of love of the Father.
- c) He gives suggestions of some specific disciplines which can help free us and allow God to do his work. He discusses solitude and community – allowing us to create some free inner space in our lives thus allowing the Holy Spirit to be manifest to us.

Henri was the senior pastor of L'Arche Daybreak in Toronto, a community where people with disabilities and their assistants create a home for one another.

A very thoughtful but very readable book

CONTRIBUTED BY JANETTE STEELE



We are usually surrounded by so much inner and outer noise that it is hard to truly hear our God when he is speaking to us.

CHURCH CONTACTS

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GET IN TOUCH WITH THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

As always, we welcome any comments, questions or suggestions about the newsletter. Submissions are now invited for the next edition of the Focus - these can be made to members of the editorial team, or sent by email to strathdrynie@gmail.com

A full-colour copy of this newsletter is available on our website.



Facebook -
Ferintosh Parish
Church

FROM THE EDITOR

E M M A S M I T H

I have to admit that "newsletter day" isn't my favourite day of the quarter. It is carefully chosen – enough time for articles to be written, a day of assembling it all together, the editing for those spelling & grammar mistakes that pass me by, the printing, stapling and distribution. As I draw towards ten years of Focus editions it's becoming a well oiled machine – until I go and change the whole look of it!

As different people play their part in putting together each Focus (some very willingly, others reluctantly sending in much requested articles at the last minute!) so we all play different parts in the Church and wider Kingdom of God. We can thank God for those who slip into Church at the last minute, but always have an ear to listen to the anxious worries of a new parent. We can thank God for those who take a role at the front, ramble on for too long but point us to the Bible again and again. We can thank God for the kids who spill juice, steal biscuits and remind us that the Gospel message of grace is for each and every one. I pray you can be confident in your role – whatever that is – and remind yourself and others often that you serve the Lord God each time you do so.



CHURCH ROTAS



CHURCH FLOWERS

April **Organiser – Miss J Winchester**

7th Miss J Winchester

14th Mrs M Wilson

21st Helen MacLennan

28th Mrs S Telfer

May **Organiser – Mrs J MacKenzie**

5th Mrs J McCulloch

12th Mrs J Steele

19th Mrs J MacKenzie

26th Mrs M MacKenzie

June **Organiser – Mrs J Murray**

2nd Miss S Menzies

9th Mrs J Murray

16th Mrs J Cameron

23rd Mrs S Telfer

30th Mrs A Smith



CHURCH WELCOME

April Mhairi MacKenzie

Joan MacKenzie

Hugh Fraser

May John Smith

Elizabeth Blackburn

Tom MacGregor

June Janet Murray

Isabel MacDonald

Isabel MacKenzie

CHURCH REGISTER

Funerals

Barbara Fraser – 18th December 2018

Margaret Maciver – 8th January 2019

Stuart McPhee – 29th January 2019