



The Church of Scotland

Clèir Eilean Ì:
Highlands and Hebrides

THE WEEKLY WORD

A Weekly Newsletter by Clèir Eilean Ì

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MOVING INTO MAY

Looking back on the past month there is much to give thanks for: Holy Week and Easter services and activities throughout Presbytery, baptisms and new memberships, and charity events to name a but a few.

Throughout May we continue to celebrate the resurrection and journey on towards the Ascension.

There are special services for Christian Aid week and for VE Day and preparations for the General Assembly are already in action.

General Assembly reports can be found [HERE](#)

We wish you all a peaceful bank holiday weekend.



THE WEEKLY WORD

Message from.....

MESSAGE FROM CALUM MARTIN

'General Assembly 2025 and Christian Aid Week'

In the run up to this year's General Assembly, and to Christian Aid Week 2025, I'm writing to share some the details of a few upcoming GA Fringe events being organised by Christian Aid Scotland and some of our Church of Scotland partners. These may be of interest to Presbytery members.

St Giles' Cathedral Special service to mark our 80th anniversary Saturday 17 May, 7pm
Our keynote will be delivered by The Right Honourable John Swinney, First Minister of Scotland, and worship will be led by the Wild Goose Resource Group and Siskin Green.

Doors will open from 6.15pm. Guests are warmly welcomed, and no RSVP is required. However, any guests planning to attend in a wheelchair or accompanied by a guide dog, please let us know by emailing edinburgh@christian-aid.org or phoning 0131 220 1254, so that we can reserve adequate space. Please note that as a historic building, the Cathedral does not have wheelchair-accessible toilets.

Lunchtime events (12.30-2pm) at St Columba's-by-the-Castle (EH1 2PW), all including a free lunch:

A Christian presence in the Holy Land: in search of Justice and Peace in the midst of war
Monday 19 May

Hear from William Bell, Christian Aid's Middle East Policy and Advocacy Lead and Rev Muriel Pearson, Church of Scotland Mission Partner.

The Power of Hope: marking 80 years of Christian Aid, Tuesday 20 May

Hear from Very Rev Dr Russell Barr, locum at Largo Parish Church and Ms Temwa Kasakula, Faith Share partner and Christian Aid Global Advisor for gender and reproductive health.

Repairing the world: The Church, justice and global reparations, Wednesday 21 May
Hear from Very Rev Sally Foster Fulton, Christian Aid Scotland's UK and Global Church Ambassador, and Tatianna Ennin, Christian Aid Reparations Programme Advisor.

This year we also mark the 80th anniversary of Christian Aid's founding by the churches in Britain and Ireland. There are special events and celebrations taking shape throughout the year, including services in Largo 11 May and Inverurie 13 May. These two towns share links with the Rev Douglas Lister, the Church of Scotland minister who first approached the churches about supporting European refugees after World War Two.

As we approach Christian Aid Week 2025, we'll be sharing stories from our work in Guatemala, where our partners are working with Indigenous communities to push back against the climate crisis with agricultural training and land rights education.

We've been in contact directly with many Christian Aid Church Representatives and supporting congregations within the Presbytery itself, but to just to share the offer too, that if there is any support we can give at a Presbytery or committee level, we'd be delighted to help.

Whether that might be hosting an 80th anniversary service or exhibition in the Presbytery, planting Trees of Hope, or whether we can help provide speakers or services for congregations do let us know.

As churches across the Presbytery shape and arrange Christian Aid Week and 80th events we'll also be sharing as many of them as possible on our Scotland events page.

THE WEEKLY WORD

Congregation in focus

Each week we will welcome a congregation and give them the spotlight - a chance to perhaps:

- tell us some historical facts and information
- welcome the Minister and larger congregation
- tell us about your role as “session clerk” or “fabric convener”
- fill us in on upcoming changes
- give us days and times for services and special services
 - upcoming
- share photos
- offer prayer
- provide some quotes
- get the children involved
- links to social media accounts
- clubs and gatherings

Give us an insight to your congregation, the community and the people that bring joy and hope each and every day!

Would you like to be the next Congregation in Focus?

To feature your Congregation please contact Amanda Anderson via email **AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk** with stories, information, pictures.....

THE WEEKLY WORD

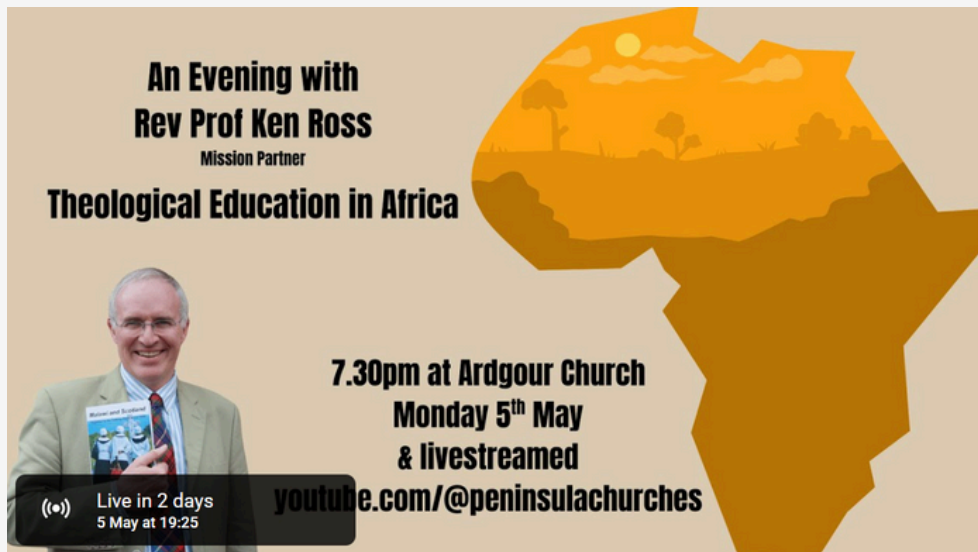
Mission partner news

MISSION ON THE MOVE

An evening with Rev Professor Ken Ross

On Monday 5th May, 7.30pm Ken Ross, Mission Partner will be at Ardgour Church - all welcome to join there or watch the livestream:

<https://youtube.com/live/SABVOFWW0IU> **you can also click HERE to join**



For more information on the work of our Mission Partner simply look through our previous newsletters for updates and news or click [here](#) to find out more about his publications.

THE WEEKLY WORD

MARATHON MINISTERS

Last weekend saw many sporting challenges take place across the UK - Etap in the Great Glen, The Kilt Walk along Loch Lomond and also The London Marathon.

A huge congratulations to our very own Rev Susan Cord and Rev James Bissett for taking on the London Marathon in aid of Maggie's Highland. So far, they have raised over £7,000 and have smashed their target - if you would like to congratulate them and help them reach this target for a super cause please donate <http://www.justgiving.com/page/revsrunlondon>

To read more about their story click on the link:
[HERE](#)



THE WEEKLY WORD

VE DAY - 80th Anniversary

VE DAY SERVICES AND EVENTS AROUND PRESBYTERY



**80TH
ANNIVERSARY
VE DAY
1945-2025**

**SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
AND REMEMBRANCE**

**ROSSKEEN FREE CHURCH
7PM
THURSDAY 8TH MAY**

Alness & District
Churches Collective
01462 850000

HER MAJESTY'S
LORD-LIEUTENANT

You are warmly invited to a special Civic and Ecumenical Service to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, taking place on Thursday 8th May at 7:00pm at Rosskeen Free Church.

This service will be an opportunity for our community to come together to remember the sacrifices made during the Second World War, to give thanks for the peace we enjoy, and to pray for continued peace in our world today.

We are honoured that Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Ross & Cromarty, Mrs Joanie Whiteford, will be in attendance as we reflect on this important milestone in our shared history.



COME CELEBRATE THE

**80TH
VE DAY
ANNIVERSARY**

**WITH
1ST FORT AUGUSTUS
BROWNIES AND GUIDES**

**AT ABERTARFF GREEN
5TH OF MAY
2PM - 5PM**

**MUSIC, FOOD, CHILDREN'S
ACTIVITIES AND MORE**



Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

Come and join 1st Fort Augustus Brownies and Guides on the 5th of May to celebrate VE Day at Abertarff Green 2pm - 5pm

Join us for a village street Party where there will be music, childrens activities and more. 1940's fancy dress optional. There will be food but you are welcome to take your own. A huge thank you to Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company for making this possible.

THE WEEKLY WORD

Bindal News - Mr Douglas Gordon

After all the spring barley has been sown, then there is the waiting time to see when the first leaves come through the ground. It determined greatly on the temperature of the soil. Depending on the crop the temperature of the soil needs to be at least 5°C, 8-12°C is optimal. Unfortunately, some years it might not grow in a waterlogged area etc. It amazes me (and it is a relief) to see the new leaves come through the ground. It doesn't take long to have a crop that is a green carpet of leaves covering the field! However, we still need rain and sunshine to keep the crop growing.

Then you can see the tramlines where the sprayer will go up and down the field every 28 metres, to keep the crop clean from disease and add nutrients when needed. When the weather is dry, we can add foliar feeds to keep the crop growing, as the roots will not take up moisture or nutrients in the soil if the ground is so dry. It's lovely to get a dew in dry weather to add moisture to the leaves so it can soak in the moisture.



Barley coming through the ground. Barley seed with leaf. Tramlines, barley now looks better as it grows bigger

When we read the parable of the sower in the Bible. Matthew 13 v 8. The seed sown on good ground where it produced far more than the single seed sown that was sown. It reminds me of crops we sow with the best seed, we fertilise it, so it produces the maximum yield & quality according to the weather conditions. It is the same with us, after we are born, as we grow up and learn to do things with our hands, feet and develop our brains. We want what is best for ourselves.

You develop your memory by what you see and read. What we are taught by our parents and teachers.

God wants us to read the Bible and speak (pray) to him. We must look to Jesus and ask him to come into our lives & save us from our sins by saying we are sorry for our sins. He wants us to follow him, so he can teach us through the bible how we should live. What is best for us. The 10 commandments give us rules to follow in Exodus 20.

He wants us to tell others about Jesus, so his church will grow. I wonder how many people in churches who just sit in their pew and think I am alright, and just let the preacher do all the praying, but we need to pray to God as well and ask him to help our church to grow and more people come to know Jesus. The more people who pray the better. Pray every day. John 4 v 35-36 "Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. 36 Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together." For every sinner saved there is rejoicing in heaven. Are you praying for others to be saved?

The Bible talks about straight & narrow in Matthew 7 v 13-14 13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it". The tramlines remind me of these verses in the Bible being straight & narrow. In a wet year if you have a wet hole and slide off the tramline and make a mess, you have a mess all the way to harvest.

THE WEEKLY WORD

Training & Events

TRAINING

Throughout Presbytery we try to offer as much training as possible and we are opening up more places and methods available to accommodate all - please continue to check in and have a look at upcoming training and opportunities that are coming up. **If you have any training or events that you would like to share just let us know.**

TRUSTEE TRAINING

INVERARY & OBAN

Trustee Training

in person courses

- **Trustee Course - Inveraray**
Church hall, PA32 8TP on 12 May
starting at 7pm
- **Advanced Course - Oban Church**
Centre, PA34 4DN on 2 June
starting at 12.45pm

contact Mrs Doreen Henderson to
book a place

dih379@live.co.uk

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

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SAFEGUARDING TRAINING



APRIL & MAY 2025

Day	Date	Training	Time
Thursday	24-Apr	Introductory	6.30pm
Saturday	25-Apr	Introductory	10.00am
Tuesday	29-Apr	Introductory	2.00pm
Thursday	01-May	Advanced	6.60pm
Wednesday	07-May	Trustee	2.00pm
Saturday	10-May	Trustee	10.00am
Monday	12-May	Trustee	6.30pm

ALL ONLINE COURSES

Please email Annette Clunas, Safeguarding Online
Training Contact



AClunas@churchofscotland.org.uk

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Easter Reflections

KILMUIR & LOGIE EASTER CHURCH - FOLLOWING THE CROSS



CROSS UP AT PORTMAHOMACK



DEACON DOT GETLIFFE'S DELIGHTFUL DAY

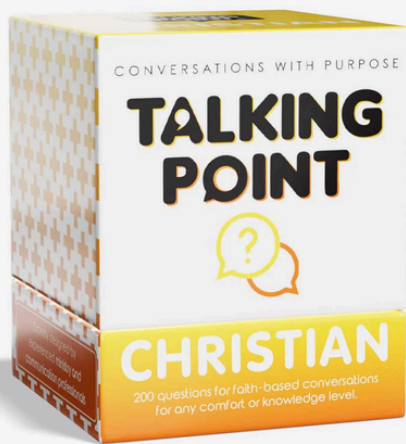
**Palm Sunday Assembly at a local Primary School...encouraging a small group of children to shout "Hosanna. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."
The children misheard, and started shouting "lasagne lasagne!"**

THE WEEKLY WORD

Prayer & Reflection

MISSION IN MIND

Have you looked at our mission card - what's your thoughts, let us know in confidence [HERE](#)



Talking Point Cards click [HERE](#) to order



ONE STOP SHOP SWAP SHOP

Something old, something blue, something borrowed, something new?

HAVE A BROWSE BY CLICKING [HERE](#)

We now have a place to add offerings and items on the website....perhaps you have some bibles or chairs that you no longer use but want to find them a good home.... drop me an email with info

AAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

CHURCH CLOSURE SERVICE



THE WEEKLY WORD

Presbytery

PRESBYTERY MEETING

The next meeting of Presbytery is **Saturday 21st June 2025** - zoom registration links and all paperwork will be issued in due course, HUB info be updated nearer the time.

PRESBYTERY NOTICES

Formal Presbytery Notices and updates can be found online - Unions, Ordinations, Vacancy information... click button to view.

[Notices](#)

VACANCIES

Our vacancies can be found [here](#)

<https://cei.presbytery.org.uk/one-stop-shop/detail/oss-vacancies>

As you may be aware the Parish of NW Lochaber has a Vacancy for a Minister, have a look at the Parish profile and please share.

COMMITTEES

Our Committee Conveners contact details and team members can be found online, click [HERE](#) to view. You can also use our contact form if you wish to send a message. Click on the box below to send a message.

[Contact](#)

OUR HUBS

- Duncansburgh Church, The Parade, Fort William, PH33 6BA
- Oban Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, Argyll, PA34 4DN
- Clachan Church Hall (North Uist)
- Fort Augustus & Glengarry Churches Church Hall, Fort Augustus
- Alness Church of Scotland, Perrins Road, Alness IV17 0SX -
- Thurso West Church, 10 Sinclair Street, KW14 7AJ
- Alvie & Insh church hall
- Inverness Crown Church
- Culbokie
- Aviemore, St Andrew's Church Hall
- West Church Hall, Dornoch
- Portree Church/Church Hall
- Tarbert Lochfyne HUB, Church Hall, Tarbert, PA29 6SX



will operate at next meeting



will NOT operate at next meeting

OTHER NOTICES

Please be reminded that our Property Convener, Mr Alan Walker has a new email address, please relay all buildings and property enquiries here

CEIProperty@churchofscotland.org.uk