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# *DORNOCH PARISH MAGAZINE*

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*The Cathedral on Easter morning, just after sunrise*

Our popular 'Sundays @ 7' resume on 4th June in the Cathedral. These short evenings of praise during the summer months consist of lots of singing, mingled with prayers and readings; everyone is welcome. Our Locum Minister, The Reverend Carol Anne Porter, will start these on Sunday 4th June.

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We can get you there!

**And much more!**

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# Minister's Thoughts

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## Dear friends

The summer term has brought a lovely opportunity to spend Friday lunchtimes with small groups of pupils at Dornoch Primary. The purpose is to do something crafty - origami, painting, felting, whatever is within our gift. But the really lovely thing about it is we get to sit around the table, chatting and swapping tales with wonderful young minds.

The first session really set the tone for the project. We told broken bone stories to see whose was most gruesome! And there was an unexpectedly theological discussion about the stranded whale at Loch Fleet! As I write, I'm not long back from another session where the talk was as colourful as the art being made.

I had a 'crafty' neighbour with me today. She had collected stones - large, small, smooth, textured, fissured, calloused, all sorts - and had with her a selection of fine and not so fine tipped pens which she claimed were probably older than the pupils we'd gone to meet! But the pupils, after choosing a stone for themselves, used those perfectly good pens to decorate the stones in the way they wanted to.

They were all beautiful and unique of course. But it was only when the bell was about to go at the end of lunchtime, and the stones all piled into a cairn, I noticed one in particular that told that very story.

One of the pupils had taken a pencil and traced lines around marks on the stone she'd picked out for herself - the discoloured parts, the dents, the cracks and pockmarks. And then she'd written words as powerful as they were profound: *You're pretty*. And then *Love yourself*.

We worry all the time these days about young people and the image they have of themselves, I know I do. And here was one who had absorbed and was able to express the message that we are beautiful, perhaps not despite our perceived flaws, but because of them.

Oh wow. If ever there is a moment to whisper a 'thank you' to our Maker...

It is written in the Psalms, that most honest, sometimes joyful, sometimes angst-filled, book of songs, *You shaped me, inside then out. You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body* (and which are broken, we could add!) *You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. And you are wonderfully made.*



Friends, young and young-at-heart, winded and wounded and wearied, know, today, the truth of those words. Know yourself loved, inside and out. Such truth changes how we feel about ourselves. And it can change how we feel about others, when we can look at them and understand they, too, are known and loved beyond measure in the heart of heaven.

Go well today. Be well. And much peace and joy to you,

Carol Anne



## A good read?

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There's nothing better than having a book close by to lose yourself in. Which is why I thought I'd mention some books I've read recently in case they might be of interest to you. None are new and all can probably be begged, borrowed or ordered!

*Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger was loaned to me by a friend and I found it impossible to put down. It is sad and beautiful and searching and hopeful... and the characters are so so vivid.

If autobiography is your bag, *Cranky*, *Beautiful Faith* and *Accidental Saints: Finding God in all the Wrong People*, both by Nadia Bolz-Weber are beautifully eye-opening reads (neither is suitable for anyone offended by some rather choice language here and there). *In the Shelter: Finding a home in the world* by Padraig O Tuama is a tender telling of stories of shelter and welcome.

A new find is *I see a city* by Gerard Kelly, a beautiful collection to mine for those who enjoy poetry. For the younger folk in our lives - children, grandchildren - *Only One You* by Linda Kranz is an affirming read (for big kids too, I think). And *Children of God Storybook Bible* by Archbishop Desmond Tutu is a compelling book of stories from Scripture, retold in Tutu's own words, with beautiful art work by artists from around the world.

Carol Anne

## Life Events

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### Funeral

**Pauline Sylvia Mackintosh** (nee Fletcher), Died 19th April - aged 88, Funeral held 4th May and then Balintore Cemetery.

*Great is your love towards me, you have delivered me from the depths of the grave* – Psalm 86.13

## Sundays at 7

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Our Sundays at 7 resume on 4th June. These are short informal acts of worship during the summer months which consist of lots of singing mingled with prayers and readings. Everyone is welcome.

This year, like last, the services will be led by members, adherents and friends of Dornoch Cathedral. Please join our first evening of praise which will be led by our Locum Minister, Rev Carol Anne Porter.

### June dates:

- 4th Rev Carol Anne Porter
- 11th Led by our Prayer Group
- 18th The Boys' Brigade
- 25th Trish Geddes and friends

### July dates:

- 2nd - Alan and Anne Barclay
- 9th - Sue Boyce and Fay Wilkinson
- 16th - Young Womens Group
- 23rd - Rev Elizabeth Campbell
- 30th - Members of The Guild

### August dates:

- 6th - Elikuren Chamber Choir from Germany
- 13th - Jeani Hunter and friends from Creich
- 20th - Rev. Mary Stobo and friends from Kincardine
- 27th - Roddy Maclean and Dornoch Cathedral Choir

**Come and help us raise the roof in *Songs of Praise to Our Lord!***

# Christian Aid Week

This was 14th to 20th May and this year donations will help farmers in Malawi plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for the crops, and build happier futures for their children.

In our Sunday Service we heard about Esther who lives in Malawi.

For Esther and her community, pigeon peas are like the tiny mustard seed, growing the hopes and dreams of their children and grandchildren. £10 could pay for a 2kg bag of seeds to plant pigeon peas – a hardy, drought-resistant crop.

With these peas, Esther can bake delicious bread. And that's not all ... by selling these pigeon peas, Esther can pay for her grandson to go to nursery and to help her children's dreams come true:

- to go to school,
- to start their own businesses,
- and to help their friends and their neighbours.

Esther is working with Christian Aid and others in her community. Together they have:

- formed cooperatives to secure a fairer price,
- boosted the quality of the seeds they use,
- added value by baking and selling bread made from pea flour,
- built warehouses to keep peas safe from weather events,
- and even produced a pigeon pea recipe book.

**To donate, go to [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) and click on DONATE**



*Esther*



*Pigeon Pea seeds*

# Easter Sunday Sunrise Service

Our early morning Easter Sunday Service at Dornoch Beach was well-attended and full of emotion as the sun rose above the horizon at 6:20am. To remind those there of the morning and let others know this is a brief outline with some photos.

Trish opened the Service with prayer.

*Lord, we lift our hearts to you. As the dawn breaks, may we carry the unity we share into every moment, knowing that we are one with the risen Christ.*

*Lord, we lift our eyes to you; as the sun rises, may this moment stay with us, reminding us to look for the beautiful colours of promise in your word.*

*Lord, we lift our prayers to you. As the dewy air falls, may we breathe this morning in and know that like the earth, you sustain us, keep us and work within us always.*

*We will lift our voices to you, as we celebrate the greatest day in history, when Jesus rose from death, defeated darkness and bathed the world in stunning resurrection light. May we ever live to praise you. Amen*

We sang Hymn 78 - Morning has Broken and then Sue introduced the Moderator's Prayer which she and Trish read followed by a few short readings from the scriptures.

We all sang Alleluia ... Alleluia ... Alleluia – several times until the sun rose.

Sue read the final prayer: *Lord, thank you for the sweet surprise of Easter Morning. We are so thankful that when you arose from your sleep of death, you didn't go immediately to heaven, but instead you went and visited people. This visit of love reminds us that it was for all of us - your people - that you died. We ask for your blessing on those of us here, our families, our loved ones and friends, in Dornoch and throughout the world. When we leave each other today, we will be refreshed by our hope and faith in you!*

And in unison *Christ is Risen, Hallelujah!!*



# Holy Week and Easter Service



Holy Week Evening Services saw the Worship team well supported by members of the congregation to deliver the Easter message each weekday evening. Easter Sunday time saw a very full Cathedral with the cross being carried to rest at the pulpit. Our week closed with our Emmaus Service with Communion on Sunday Evening.



# Cathedral Prayer Group

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## Change

Dear Lord

Spring is a time of new beginnings, and change is all around us in this season

- new life in the garden from the frost of winter
- New growth from the brown of winter fields
- Green buds in the trees colouring the bare branches of winter
- New life in lambs and calves

Thank you for all these welcome signs that winter is behind us and the light and warmth of summer is on its way.

But we also face changes which might be less welcome,

- Changes due to getting older
- Changes due to ill health or infirmity
- Changes due to bereavement or loss of a loved one
- Changes due to cognitive decline or dementia
- Challenges due to the cost of living increases



We ask for your presence with each of us as we walk through life, patience in dealing with challenges, and strength and cheerfulness in the face of unwelcome change.

We also think particularly of the likely changes arising from ongoing review of our church buildings and congregations. We ask that those making decisions on behalf of congregations across Scotland, and particularly in the Presbytery of Sutherland, be guided by your will for us, and also that we may be prepared and open to the coming changes and new challenges.

We pray all this in Your Holy Name  
*Amen*

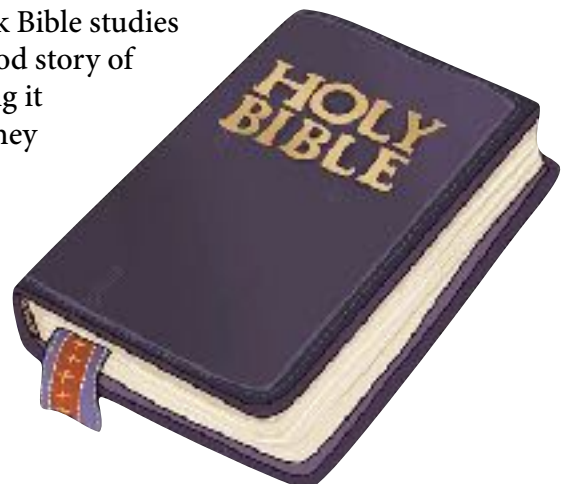
## Presbytery-wide Bible Study on Zoom

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About 16 from different congregations enjoyed the first of the 4 week Bible studies led by Rev John Sterrett, Golspie. We looked at the familiar childhood story of Moses but got so much more out of it through reading and discussing it together. Quite a few people were new to Bible studies and I think they enjoyed the informal and relaxed atmosphere where everyone's contribution was valued.

The next study every Tuesday evening in June will be led by Rev Lorna Tunstall. If you would like to join in please email <fay@ecosse.net> and you will be sent the zoom link.

*Fay Wilkinson*



## The Cathedral and Me (Part 2)

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Dornoch, The Cathedral and something called COVID. The WHO (World Health Organisation) first declared Coronavirus an international pandemic on 30th January 2020. Arguments still rage as to its origin but what is sure is that it has profoundly affected the way we live and indeed how we shape our future. It has affected everyone, old and young alike and it has sucked the life out of some communities ... but not Dornoch.

Scotland immersed itself in its own form of self-regulation and most people would agree that it was relatively effective in preventing the spread of the disease and thus keeping the disease under some form of control . However, there were victims, both individuals and communities alike. Society as we know it, shut down. Social interaction was forbidden both on a private and public level.

Can you imagine Dornoch without golf? Well it happened.

Can you imagine Dornoch without a Church? Well that didn't happen.

Metaphorically speaking that is. For although the physical Churches were closed, the essence, the spirit of the church never closed. The former Minister of Dornoch Cathedral, Right Rev. Susan Brown, often described Dornoch as a "Thin Place" i.e. the space between heaven and earth was negligible, it was like a cigarette paper. This allows the interaction between the spiritual and the terrestrial to be more keenly felt. It allows the celestial juices to flow and fire up flagging human spirits. It was this spirit that enabled support groups to function, for neighbours to keep an eye out for the most vulnerable in the community and for Dornoch to ride the storm. Andrew Carnegie often spoke of the magic that pervades this part of the world. That magic is never more keenly felt than at eleven o'clock on a Sunday morning when the Cathedral doors are opened wide for all to enter.

Aye, there is magic in the air.

## Prayer Tree

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The number of prayers, thoughts and memorial notes hung on the Prayer Tree during the last few weeks, early on in the visitor season, is evidence of the number of people who come into the cathedral to explore its history and beauty on a daily basis.

Over the Easter holiday period the number of prayer tabs used was over two hundred and amongst those prayers were many written by children.

Whatever was in their hearts, whatever they expressed in their writing and in placing the prayer tabs, it's a reminder that all prayer is heard.

We look forward to welcoming many visitors young and old over the summer.



## Dornoch Cathedral Guild

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Our meeting on 14th March had to be cancelled due to bad weather. It was the right decision but we were so sorry as the Womens Group should have joined for the meeting. We hope to re-schedule for September.

On 28th March Margaret Macrae welcomed members to the last meeting of the session which started with our AGM. The committee of Margaret Macrae, Gwen Muir, Lizzie Campbell, Ann Creed, Liz Broadhead, Morag MacAskill and Trish Geddes all agreed to stay on.

Margaret thanked the committee for all their work through the year. Many thanks also to Anne Barclay and Anne Chambers who helped the committee by taking turns in leading worship. Lizzie presented the Treasurer's report, which was approved and Margaret thanked Lizzie on behalf of the members. Margaret closed the AGM with prayer.

Anne Chambers led the Group in worship which was followed by Trish Geddes presenting a short quiz which was the "Entertainment." The group was divided into three teams who tackled 20 questions on General Knowledge some questions posing more discussion than others and also some amusement. There was also a round of 10 second lines of well-known hymns for the teams to guess the First Lines! This was quite fun too. Everyone was a winner.

Tea followed and that was the last meeting of the Guild until we meet again in September.



## Cathedral Youth Theatre Group

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Enjoy our talent young people performing their version of The Lion King on Saturday 24th June in the West Church Hall. Such is the demand that there are two performances with the afternoon starting at 2.30pm and the evening begins at 7.00pm. Get there early. Entry is by donations at the door.

The costume making, the scenery and rehearsals are all progressing well with great enthusiasm and no shortage of volunteers for all parts in this popular musical first produced in 1994 as an animated Walt Disney film. Long before the youth group were born but, the director was left school by then (guess who?).

The Plot: a pride of lions rule over the kingdom from Pride Rock. King Mufasa and Queen Sarabi's new born son, Simba, is presented to the gathering animals by Rafiki and ... all will be revealed on 24th June.





## Friends of Oversteps

Our Coffee Morning on April 1st raised a most gratifying total: £713 was the result! Very many thanks indeed to all involved to help raise funds for Oversteps' Activities Fund.

This, of course, was due to the legendary generosity of the folks of Dornoch! The "Friends" group are extremely grateful to friends of "Friends" who were so helpful in the Kitchen, on the Cake Stall and the Raffle.

Many thanks, too, to Maureen Mackay who inspired Oversteps Residents for over 14 years to make really lovely craft items. Maureen still had lots to sell - Covid having put the kybosh on such sales as on so much else! So she manned a superb half-price stall and raised nearly £100!!

We are also very grateful indeed to all those - some local businesses, some private individuals - who donated so many lovely prizes for the Raffle. We had to start the draw early, there were so many!

Thanks, too, to Milk & Honey for a beautiful cake, successfully auctioned for £20. (The wee Scotty dog is yet to be won - he's at Oversteps!)

Oversteps were delighted with such a generous contribution to the Activities Fund. Some will fund a visit of two "Therapy Ponies" next month - they are two gorgeous, wee Shelties which will "say hello" to Residents both outwith and within the Home!

The "Friends" hope you'll buy our quizzes from local shops - keep the grey cells moving for a good cause!

Advance notice: November it will be the 65th Anniversary of the opening of Oversteps as a Care Home (then designated an "Eventide Home"). Obviously this will be marked with celebrations. The Staff would love to make a display of Oversteps' history and so would be really pleased if anyone with photo's, memories/stories, interesting facts could give or lend them to the Home.

If you can, please let a "Friend" or a member of Staff know. (Manager: Lynne O'Donnell, Deputy Manager: Leah Graham, Activities Co-ordinator: Lorraine MacSween. Home phone: 01862 810393)

If you are interested in joining the "Friends", please do get in touch - we need you! (Present Chair: Shiona Stuart: 07762 232788)



## Friday Coffee Mornings

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Thanks to all who have supported the Coffee mornings. On 28th April we had a good number come along and £200 was raised for our Cathedral funds.

Our next coffee morning is on Friday 26th May and then 23rd June. We will then have a break for the summer and resume in September.

There is a lovely friendly atmosphere which is enjoyed with people to meeting and chatting. Thanks to our team of volunteers and Faye who manages the hall .

*Una Reid*

## Cathedral Bake Off

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We had requests for tray bake recipes from those that stay for teas and coffees after Sunday Service.

### **Chocolate Peppermint Squares**

#### **Ingredients:**

4 oz. margarine	8oz. icing sugar
2 dessertspoon of drinking chocolate	½ teaspoon peppermint essence
1 dessertspoon of sugar	Few drops green colouring ( <i>optional but nice</i> )
1 ½ tablespoons syrup	5oz. melted chocolate
1 packet of rich tea biscuits, crushed finely	

Melt margarine, sugar, syrup and drinking chocolate in a pan – slowly – do not boil.

Add crush biscuits gradually mix well. Press into a greased swiss roll tin.

Make up water icing with sugar icing, and only a little hot water, peppermint essence and colouring. Spread carefully over the biscuit base.

When icing has set, cover with melted chocolate.

Leave to harden (maybe use your fridge) and then cut into small squares.

(Rich Tea biscuits – a standard packet)

## Royal Dornoch Juniors

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Royal Dornoch Golf Club's junior programme is now in full swing, with coaching and on-course playing resuming at the end of April. From Primary 1 all the way up until finishing high school, there is a clear pathway for any child wishing to play golf thanks to the hard work of the coaches and parent volunteers. There are currently 110 children in Dornoch taking part in golf each week.



The programme allows juniors to not only experience golf at Royal Dornoch: with frequent trips to other golf clubs within the country, and a biannual trip to America for 'A' Section for the Morcott Challenge, there are fantastic opportunities available to those taking part in the junior programme. Eight players will be heading across the Atlantic in July to represent Royal Dornoch and compete against a team from Chicago, which is sure to be a great experience for those involved.

**Next Edition: details about the Junior Cricket Club, Junior Squash Club, Junior Football Club**

## Cathedral Sales & Welcome Table 2023

We are delighted to report that on Monday, 1st May, we re-opened for 2023. Unfortunately that particular week the weather decided to throw a chilly wind in our direction, which ensured that our stalwart volunteers needed to be warmly clad on duty! However, we understand that the weather is set to improve during the month. It was really good once again to have a welcoming presence in the Cathedral for the many visitors who came by, many of whom stayed and chatted for some while, enjoying the ambience within, learning more about the building and its history and also making small purchases to remind them of their visit. It always warms the heart to see hesitant faces enter through the South or North Doors, wondering what might lie inside, and then see their jaws drop as the magnificent windows, stonework and amazing ceiling are revealed. Calling out a welcome often results in a “Wow, I wasn’t expecting this”! It gives one such a buzz! We have experienced a very encouraging start - both with sales and visitor numbers.

We do still desperately need one more couple to complete our Rota, as well as a few “Reserves”, so please, please could you give some thought to helping us out if you possibly can.

Thank you to all our wonderful team - we couldn’t do it without you!

*Sue Boyce (01862 810415), Anne Chambers (01862 811520), Lisa Dickenson (01862 973)*

## Dornoch Cathedral Women’s Group

Our group recently met for our AGM and made plans for our get-togethers/ meetings over the next few months. We would love to welcome members of the congregation, their family and friends to join us for any meetings they can manage.

On Monday 8th May, Bruce Begg, a prize winning horticulturist, gave a talk on 'Growing for Showing' which covered all aspects of growing vegetables for both showing and for the kitchen.

We were delighted to welcome some additional members of the congregation on the evening to swell our numbers. Bruce entertained us with advice and instructions on growing a wide variety of vegetables for both showing and eating.



He shared a number of photographs which illustrated some of the pitfalls as well as his many successes. His humour, enthusiasm and common sense approach inspired us all and led to a lively exchange of views, experiences and questions. We are very grateful to both Bruce and Rhona who had put a great deal of work into the presentation and, as well as offering plenty of instructions for growing a range of vegetables, they handed out seeds and some plants to those who were keen to get home and get digging.

### Future dates or your Diary:

**Monday 5th June** – we have a walk through the woods at Dunrobin Castle and back along the beach to Golspie. Meet at 7pm, parking venue to be confirmed. Car sharing is encouraged and dogs are welcome.

**Monday 3rd July** - we have an evening of “Pick your own Fruit” near Tore. Car sharing is encouraged and time to be confirmed.

For any further information please speak to any member of the Women's Group.



# Natter and Nosh

We meet on Monday 29th May and our final meal for this session is Monday June 12th.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who help prepare, cook and serve the meals providing a much needed resource for the many who attend so regularly. They bring their own “Natter” and we love seeing them enjoy each other’s company.

## 1st Dornoch Brownies

We currently have a group of 22 girls and a waiting list of girls eager to join when they turn 7. Our new girls are working on Brownie Promise. We now serve the new King, hence the wearing of crowns.

We would like to thank Royal Dornoch Golf Club Community Grant Fund for the payment we received. Like everything else in this cost of living crisis our subscriptions per head have increased. The money received will go towards some of this and replenishing our craft cupboard and Brownie badges.

It is quite apt that we are working on our charities badge. It has been requested that we work on the baking badge next. On the Girlguiding website it states



“Bake it until you make it. Baking is much more than just mixing flour, eggs and water. It’s a yummy tool for expressing yourself.” We’ll keep you posted!

### No Christmas Tree

Each of the Dornoch Brownies received a Queen’s Badge to honour her being Patron of Girlguiding. The badges were used to decorate the “No Christmas Tree” in honour of the Queen with the Brownie promises displayed.



## Natter & Knit

*“Natter and Knit has been a key factor on my road to recovery regarding my mental health. Having the support and encouragement from the wonderful ladies means a lot. I look forward to our Tuesdays and try to avoid missing a week as the group means a great deal to me.” – Kath Hay*

### **From Fiona Pheby**

*“I first came along to the group with a dual purpose – to learn to crochet and to make new friends having recently moved to the area. Not only did I achieve both objectives, but I was also welcomed warmly into the fabulous group of ladies who have become highly valued friends and our weekly meetings have become a hugely important feature of my new life here in the Highlands.*

*“There’s a wealth of experience, knowledge and useful information amongst the ladies and we all learn something from one another every week. And there’s always a degree of hilarity to be had!*

*“In the group I learned how to crochet and made items as part of my Marie Curie fundraising challenge. I wouldn’t have mastered it without the support, encouragement and advice of the lovely Natter and Knit ladies.”*



*Fiona wearing her first wearable crochet creation*



## Dornoch Boys' Brigade

It has been a busy few months. At the end of March the Junior Section boys took part in the Highland Battalion Figure Marching competition. The Dornoch boys were narrowly beaten by the boys of 12th Inverness Company. It was a lovely, happy evening with all the boys sharing juice and cake together after the competition.



*Bbs with Judges Allan Barclay & Eric Halkett*

At the end of April the older boys in Junior Section had an activity weekend away at the Abernethy Outdoor Centre in Nethybridge. The boys took part in many different activities including crate climbing, swimming, Jacob's Ladder climbing and orienteering. The Centre and instructors were super, food was plentiful and tasty, sleep was minimal and washing was optional which explains why so many towels came home clean!!

After Easter we started our outdoor programme. Both the Anchor Boys and Junior Section boys have had a walk under Dornoch Bridge and games on the beach. We look forward to craft nights, cycle runs and barbecues before we finish for the summer in June.



*Bbs Marching in West Church Hall*



*Bbs enjoying their Away Weekend to Nethybridge*

Our Annual Prizegiving will take place at 7pm on the 18th of June at the "Songs at 7" in the Cathedral. The boys themselves will lead this Service and we would be delighted if you would join us that evening.

# Dornoch Firth Group

Our Buggy Walking group now meets weekly during term time with alternate weeks at Camore Woods, Dornoch and Gearrhoille Community Wood, Ardgay. DFG works in partnership with Home Start East Highland to run these walks.

Kelly Noble from Home Start attends as a walk leader along with Eilidh Smith. They walk under the Think Nature Health Walks Project through Paths for All. As well as enjoying the benefits of being outdoors in nature the families who attend also get to experience some different family friendly arts and crafts as well as song and story time.

On a recent walk the children collected different leaves, flowers and natural resources on our walk and then used these with some sun sensitive paper to create art for the families to take home.

## Walk dates for your diary:

Every Monday during term time there are Buggy Walks at 10:30am They alternate between Camore Woods and Gearrhoille Community Woods, Ardgay.

### CAMORE WOODS:

29th May – The Gruffalo

12th June – Bug Hunt

26th June – Teddy Bear Picnic

### GEARCHOILLE COMMUNITY WOODS, ARDGAY

5th June – Stickman Adventure

19th June – Signs of Summer Scavenger Hunt



## Tuesday Tots

Continue to operate from the West Church Hall every Tuesday morning during term time. Running from 10:00 to 11:30 and for ages of new babies up to 5 years old. A £1:50 donation per family is all it is for lots of fun for the adults and the Tots.



**Contact:** Eilidh Smith, Assistant Outreach Worker,  
Dornoch Firth Group  
M: 07732714490 E: eilidh@dfgcommunity.com

## Concerts in the Cathedral

Dornoch Cathedral's popularity as a music venue continues to grow, with an exciting programme of performances this summer. Our West Church Hall is also booked to host the Scottish Opera Pop-Up Group. As we go to print we received two requests to use the Cathedral for Concerts.

**Index Cantorum** who have sung in the Cathedral previously were in contact. Their Director, Mark Williams emailed with, "We would love to perform in the Cathedral on Tuesday 30th May, late afternoon, and Saturday 3rd June, late afternoon/early evening, e.g. before the pipe band. We'll be circa 14 -16 in number. All very informal, in the manner of open rehearsal or pop-up concert, with people free to wander around the building as they would normally". For further info on the group, see <https://www.indexcantorum.org.uk/> scrolling down in 'Past programmes' the concerts we gave in Dornoch Cathedral.

**Musica Viva** a choir from Slovenia whose visit in 2020 couldn't happen will perform in the Cathedral on Saturday 24th June. We have suggested a 7pm time which suits for the Pipe Band which plays at 8pm.

### Concert with Music Fyne – Thursday 8th June – 8pm

The Highland choral group Musick Fyne directed by D. James Ross are delighted to be returning to one of their favourite venues, Dornoch Cathedral, with a programme of music under the theme *Love & Loss* with music by Vivaldi, Lotti and Nola and a newly discovered masterpiece by Alessandro della Ciaia.

The concert features two excellent soloists from the choir, soprano Aileen Cuthbert and alto Morag Ainslie, as well as organist Gordon Tocher and cellist Robert Wallace.

Musick Fyne have recently celebrated their fortieth anniversary, and throughout this time they have been performing regularly in Dornoch Cathedral.

Admission programmes for their concert on June 8th are on sale at the door for £10 in aid of the Cathedral and The Highland Hospice.



Musick Fyne singing in Pluscarden Abbey

### Scottish Opera Pop-up Opera – Sunday 24th – The West Church Hall

The production comprises 30 minute samples of operas such as *Die Fledermaus* and *Eugene Onegin* with a storyteller and two singers plus instrumentalists.

Tickets available at  
<[www.scottishopera.org.uk](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk)>





## Concerts in the Cathedral – continued

### Concert in aid of Highland Support Refugees – 30th June at 7pm

Highland Support Refugees was started in Inverness in 2015 and has volunteers from Shetland to Moray. They collect donations of clothing, toiletries, tents and sleeping bags which, once sorted, are packed and sent to camps across Europe with over 200 tons of aid dispatched so far.

They also seek to engage with local communities about the refugee crisis and resettling refugees in the Highlands. Simon Evans, violinist, teaches English to refugees, having taught Syrians in Dingwall and Inverness and currently teaches Ukrainians on the Black Isle and Afghan teenagers in Invergordon.

Julian Davis has played piano since childhood and obtained the LRAM diploma in the 1980s. He worked until recently as Professor of Medicine at Manchester University and Manchester Royal Infirmary, while remaining active as an amateur musician. He has regularly given recitals as a



Simon Evans and Julian Davis

soloist and in chamber music ensembles and often with Simon having played together since 1992.

Entry is by donation and you can look forward to enjoying varied music with Beethoven's Spring Sonata a beautiful sunny piece with wonderful melodies. The Bartok is full of Hungarian Folk tunes and brims with energy. The Richard Strauss sonata is an exciting youthful piece with an extremely virtuosic piano part.

### Concert by Solo Pianist Robin Colvill – 3rd August – 7.30pm

*"A wonderful evening of entertainment from a virtuoso pianist and accomplished raconteur."*

This will be a very welcome return visit by Robin, who previously performed a programme with music that delighted and touched everyone in some way.

A highly experienced and successful international pianist who first studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and then continued to study in Vienna and then Salzburg Mozarteum.

With his new programme "*Popular Piano Classics*", Robin will once again deliver a joyous cultural treat for everyone, with his light-hearted 'musical journey' of popular works by the great classical masters (Bach, Mozart, Chopin, Paganini, Grieg) and Highland Cathedral, Song for Ukraine and a fantastic arrangement of The Lambeth Walk. Altogether, a concert not to be missed!



*Tickets are available at the door on the night £10 for adults and £1 for children and students under 14 years*

## Concerts in the Cathedral – continued

### Elikuren Chamber Choir – Sunday 6th August for our Sundays at 7

Elikuren is a young chamber choir of 14 people from Wunstorf near Hannover in Germany. The choir regularly performs locally and love to travel having had tours of Egypt in 2011, Ghana in 2013, Iceland in 2015, Canada in 2017 and Ireland in 2018. Charity concerts they organised are benefitting the construction of a children's hospital in Ghana.

Christiane Kampe says, *“We are very excited to visit Dornoch on our tour of Scotland this year. The repertoire we will perform includes classical German pieces by Bach and Mendelssohn. Our performance will be an Evensong with prayer opening and closing the service. We are happy to perform free of charge. We would like donations to benefit a charitable cause.”*



## Dornoch Community Transport – taking bookings

The service is currently available seven days a week for anyone living in the IV25 area, on a donation for use basis. There are volunteer drivers who all hold clean driving licences and who have Disclosure Scotland's PVG Scheme confirmation. The vehicle is a Volkswagen iD3 all electric car.

Glen McGill, Vice Chair of DACIC, who helped with the project and the launch says, “It can be used for a wide variety of purposes such as to attend medical appointments, to visit friends, to access events in the area, or to go shopping. The car is there for people who don't have access to their own car or where current public transport options don't suffice. The project aims to connect residents with surrounding towns and tackle social isolation in the community.”

Please get in touch if you would like to use this service or find out more about this new project. To make use of the service email [transport@dornochhub.co.uk](mailto:transport@dornochhub.co.uk), or phone 07341 284 405.

**NOTE:** The office and telephone line is staffed Monday to Friday between 10am and 2pm, but phone messages and emails will be dealt with promptly.



Glen McGill, vice chair, DACIC and Dawn Noble, project co-ordinator, Dornoch Community Transport.