



DORNOCH PARISH MAGAZINE

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Holy Communion will be held on Sunday, 19th November

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Compassion...endless compassion...

Dear friends

If we were sat across a table from each other... or if we met in some random way... and you heard me say, *How are you? Like... really... how are you?* What would you say?

Would the *Fine* roll off your tongue before you even had chance to think.

Or would you dare something else, something closer to truth. *Tired. Excited. Fed up. Curious. Up to the neck in what I'd rather not be.*

I've been sitting here. Alternating between staring at a blank screen and watching the wind whip through yellowing leaves, wondering what to write.

Should it be about the fact that the cathedral has been vacant, that is without a permanent minister, for two whole years. Yep. Really that long.

Should I try to explain. Try to predict what will unfold.

But... the truth is I don't know. I don't know what the next few months will bring except that it will see the congregation inch into union with the Kyle of Sutherland Churches (Creich Church at Bonar Bridge and Kincardine, Croick and Edderton) all of whom must, together, try to figure out how to be church and how to do church by way of a new shared ministry.

These things will be worked out. With time and patience and listening and empathy, the process will unfold as meant.

And... honestly... it's back in this here and now moment, you and I, me asking how you are, that feels most important to me right now.

Maybe you're someone whose seeking God. Maybe God is nowhere on your radar. But I want you to know that wherever you are on that spectrum, and however you are today, as you read these words right this moment, I want you to know God looks on you with nothing but compassion. I know this because it is the lens through which Jesus looked... always. And Jesus is the most tangible, most vivid picture we have of God.

There's the story of Jesus getting out a boat one day and finding himself before a crowd of folk. And it's like he could read their hearts. See beneath their practised *I'm fine, thanks*. Jesus saw them, really saw them. And he began to teach them - what stories, what he said, we aren't told - but my guess is he talked to them about how God is as restless for them as they are for home.

Another time, on the outskirts of Jerusalem, Jesus, knowing already he is on a collision course with the powers that be, stands with his friends, watching all the people going about their business... tears rolling down his face. He is not crying for himself. No. *If only they'd known*, his friends will hear him say. *If only they'd known what makes for peace*.

And, days later, on the cross, in answer to the cry of the dying man next to him whose last wish is simply to be with Jesus, he will turn, struggling for breath himself, and say, *Today you will be with me in the garden*.

Compassion Compassion Compassion.

It is how God comes to us. In death and, most importantly for now, in life.

Friends, trust this truth is for you. And if you cannot yet, lean into the faith of those who do. God is for you. Always for you.

Go well. Be well. Much love and peace to you.

Carol Anne



A message from our Finance Team

Current Financial Situation, Dornoch Cathedral

This is an extract from the Finance report given to the Deacons' Court on September 14th 2023.

“For the second month running available funds are at a minus in the Cashflow Account. The figure on 31.07.23 was -£776.30, and unfortunately this is just not sustainable.

As of today we have a massive -£2806.39 as our Cashflow balance. Our outgoings are just way above our income and it can't continue.

I have to ask again, please think about your weekly offering in relation to the current costs of running the Cathedral.

To cover our costs, we need an average of at least £15 PER PERSON PER WEEK. That is £15 per person, not £15 per couple.

Since the session meeting where I made the same plea for people to review their offerings, 3 people have increased their standing orders – thank you so much for that, it is much appreciated. However, to an extent that has been evened out by 2 people either reducing or stopping their standing order, giving us only a small net gain.

Does that mean everyone else has reviewed their offering and decided against giving more or has nobody else looked yet... I don't know... it's a difficult one as the last thing I want is for those who genuinely can't offer more to feel in any way pressured. If you can't do it, it's absolutely fine, but if you can and have chosen not to I will say this again – if we want to keep worshipping in the Cathedral we will have to be prepared to pay for it, it's as simple as that. We accept coffees and meals out, golf club fees, etc, costing more every year, yet we go for 10 years without changing our church giving... it doesn't somehow add up...

We also have members who do not give at all – even allowing for those who are absolutely not in a position to give anything, we still have a good number who could maybe give but still give nothing. We also have the people who think they don't have to give the days they don't attend. That mindset needs to change somehow but I don't know how.”

So please please think again about your weekly offering. If you can increase it even a little it would help immensely. If you can't, that's fine too. Your welcome at the Cathedral is not in any way dependent on what you give – everyone is equally welcome irrespective of whether you give a lot, a little, or can give nothing at all.

Kim McCarthy, Treasurer

Gift Day

A huge thank you to all who have contributed so far. The account is still open throughout October. Please use either bank transfers - details are 80-06-36, 06002380 or cheques made payable to Dornoch Cathedral and send to Kim McCarthy, Gashagaich, Dornoch, IV25 3NH or take to the Cathedral.

Christmas and New Year Best Wishes

If you would like to pass on your best wishes to friends and family via the Parish News we shall include them in the next edition issued at the end November for a donation to Cathedral funds.

All hand written messages must be received by **Sunday 5th November**. Please enclose them in an envelope marked *Parish News Christmas Greeting* and handed in at the door with your donation.

Or you can email them to <newsletter@dornoch-cathedral.org> by Friday 10th November.

To make your donation you can either use:

Bank transfer - details are Sort Code 80-06-36 Account 06002380 reference Christmas Greetings.

Cheques made payable to 'Dornoch Cathedral' – or **Cash** in an envelope

– take to the Cathedral with your name on the envelope and marked *Christmas Greetings*.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 25th September at 2.30 and 7pm
THE LION KING – WEST CHURCH HALL

Saturday 7th October
CEILIDH – BONAR VILLAGE HALL BY CREICH CHURCH

Sunday 8th October
HARVEST SERVICE

Saturday 14th October 3pm
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN CHAMBER CHOIR

Saturday 11th November
65TH ANNIVERSARY OF OVERSTEPS

Sunday 12th November
- gather at the Square at 10.30am
ACT OF REMEMBRANCE AT THE WAR MEMORIAL – SERVICE AT CATHEDRAL

Saturday 18th November at 12pm – 2pm
OVERSTEPS FUND RAISING LUNCH – WEST CHURCH HALL

Saturday 18th November at 7pm
QUIZ NIGHT – WEST CHURCH HALL

Sunday 19th November
COMMUNION SERVICE

Tuesday 12th December
CAROLS FOR CHRISTIAN AID

Sunday 24th December
SUNDAY SERVICE 11:00AM

Sunday 24th December at 11.30pm
WATCH NIGHT SERVICE
Carols from 11pm

Monday 25th December at 10am
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Life Events

Weddings

1st July – Lauren Anderson & Finlay Murray
5th August – Cara Marquardt & Nathan Ferguson
12th August – Jacqueline Paul & Glenn Herbertson
2nd Sept. – Emma Mackay & Craig Mulholland
16th September – Holly Ross & James MacLennan

Baptisms

9th July – Imogen Jessie Ann Young
30th July – Jamie Luke Moodley

Funerals

Mrs Audrey Hellier – Died 3/8 funeral 21/8
Mrs Lily Anderson – Died 23/8 funeral 1/9
Mrs Norine Watt – Died 2/9 funeral 13/9
William (Graeme) Ross – Died 18/9 funeral 25/9
Margaret Brannigan – Died 17/9 funeral 26/9

Bible Verse:

The Lord is near to the broken hearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Psalms 73.26

Prayer Tree

August saw the highest number of visitors to the Cathedral of the summer season, and many of these visitors left prayers, reflections or memories on the prayer tree.

During August, there were tabs with a range of bible verses of God's Promises printed on them which visitors were invited to take from the tree and keep.

There was a high take-up of the 'God's Promises' tabs, with visitors either writing on them, or taking one of these bible verses away with them. In all, over 450 tabs were used.

A full set has been attached to the tree for September.

Gillian Gordon



Social Committee

The Social Committee coffee morning, on 1st September, in aid of the Sudan Appeal raised £325.

The congregations from our link churches, Kincardine and Bonar Bridge were invited and we welcomed those who were able to attend. Thank you all for your generosity.

Coffee Morning Dates:
20th October; 10th November; 8th December.

Come along on Fridays from 10:30 to 12:00 and enjoy company and home baking in the West Church Hall.

A Quiz Night will be held on Saturday 18th November, with John Mackenzie, quizmaster, doing his Magnus Magnusson impersonation.

All these social events, as well as having good fun, raise much-needed funds for maintaining the West Church Hall, our Cathedral and the grounds.

Christmas Gift Food Parcels *shown here* will be on sale after Sunday Services on 10th and 17th December and Natter and Nosh on Monday 11th December.

Una Reid



Ceilidh

Our friends at Creich Church, Bonar Bridge, are holding a Ceilidh on Saturday 7th October in the Bonar Bridge Village Hall. Doors are open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start with a variety of local talent and dance music by the Rogart Ceilidh Band. It is a B.Y.O.B. evening and you can book your tickets in advance by contacting Jeani Hunter using <nielsenhunter@btinternet.com> or buy them at the door. A nice opportunity for Dornoch and Kincardine congregations to get to know the Bonar folk.

Natter & Nosh

This popular Monday lunch group has restarted after the summer break. Held every second Monday at 12:30 in the West Church Hall and continuing through October, November and into December when the Christmas Lunch is on Monday 11th. Everyone is welcome.

DATES

October 2nd, 16th and 30th

November 13th and 27th

December 11th



The Guild

The new session started on Tuesday 12th September at 7pm when there was a joint meeting with the Women's Group. Liz Broadhead and Margaret Macrae welcomed everybody, old friends and new, then led us in worship.

Rev Alister Macinnes spoke about the difficult decisions to be made during the process of adoption and then the joy of becoming a family. We then watched a video produced by the charity Home for Good which is one of the projects that the Guild is supporting during the three years of Looking forward in Faith. The charity helps vulnerable children find safe homes.

Anne Barclay gave a warm vote of thanks to Alister for sharing his thoughts and experiences with us.

We finished with a hymn and prayer and tea was served by the Women's Group who had prepared some lovely baking.



Guild Syllabus 2023 - 2024

Meetings are held on TUESDAYS at 2.30pm in the West Church Hall

Theme: Look forward in faith Year 2 Topic: New Wine, New Wineskins

2023

October 10th - Bring Joy to Others, Blythswood Care with Elma MacKay

October 24th - Network for help, Highland Senior Citizens with Ann McDonald

November 14th - Crafting with Rhona Begg

November 28th - The Haven Centre, Inverness with Rona Matheson

2024

January 16th - Rev. Carol Anne Porter

January 30th - At-Home Guess Who?

February 6th - A Chat with Friends

February 20th - Guild Projects: Star Child and Unieda with Morag Macaskill

March 5th - A Working Life in Social Work with Nan Gibb

March 19th - AGM & Any Questions

The aim of the Guild is to invite and encourage members to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and to enable them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action.

Oversteps Care Home

Saturday 11th November is the 65th Anniversary of the opening of Oversteps. If you have any stories, memories, photographs of Oversteps over the years, the Management would be delighted to receive them. Contact is Jennifer MacDonald (Manager) or Jenna Farrell (Deputy Manager) on 01862 810393

Saturday 18th November – Oversteps Fundraising Soup & Sandwich lunch in the West Church Hall.

Donations of soup or sandwiches gladly received and help on the day. Please contact Shiona Stuart on 07762 232788 if you can help in any way.

CROSS REACH

Care you can put your faith in

Mary Mackay

Mary Mackay has moved from Dornoch to be closer to her family and is settling well in Residential Care at Balmedie, Aberdeenshire, after being in the super care of the Cambusavie Unit where it became evident how much she thrives on company.

Mary and family appreciate all the bonny cards you sent to her with your best wishes on "her new home." Amazingly, her recent 96th birthday was fun for her.

Mary has a big bright room which she's nicknamed her "mansion" as it's spacious enough for her to welcome you if you're in the area.

It's been a great comfort to the extended far flung Mackay clan that she's been part of the very caring Dornoch area community.

She'd connected with a few groups of people along her journey and just too many to mention individually here. She misses your companionship.

Special thanks with love to neighbours Celia and Derry and her dearest pal Moira who've supported her along the way with their kindness.

Mary sends Best Wishes to all you dear folks in the Parish.



Sundays @ 7

Alan & Anne Barclay

(This was held over from Issue 5)

With Allan's lengthy connection with the Boys Brigade one of his Hymns was 737 "Will Your Anchor Hold.," but he also told us the story about George Matheson born in Glasgow in 1842, one of 8 children. He gained a First class honours in classics, logic and philosophy.

However, he went blind at the age of 19 and lost his then girlfriend. While he was alone in Innellan Manse in Argyll in 1892 he had a mystical moment having a severe headache when he was inspired to write a Hymn. He said it was the quickest bit of work he ever did in his life. He had the impression of having it dictated to him by some inward voice. It is Hymn 557: "O love that wilt not let me go."

The Guild

For the final Sunday in July the Guild took the evening Service and spoke about a Hymn that had a special meaning for them. One of the Hymns was 553

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that your blood was shed for me,
And that you call us, "Come to Me,"
Oh Lamb of God, I come.*

Written by Charlotte Elliot who had a happy, carefree childhood but was struck by illness in her twenties and left bedridden for life by the time she was thirty.

When her clergyman brother was holding a fund raising bazaar for a school which he wanted to start for children of poor clergymen., Charlotte was left on her own, unable to take any practical part in proceedings. Imagine the frustration. She began to reflect on her Faith – her Lord, His power and his promises.



Sundays @ 7 – continued

She wrote this Hymn and when her sister-in-law popped home to check on Charlotte, she showed her what she had written. Her sister-in-law took a copy of the Hymn to the bazaar and it became very popular. So much so that the royalties from the Hymn raised more than the whole bazaar had made.

Doesn't God move in mysterious ways?

Elikuren Chamber Choir

This young German choir of 13 students and conductor, Christiane Kampe from Wunstorf near Hanover were a thrill to listen to and a full house (Cathedral) enjoyed their talent. An extra delight was the "intro" of a highly skilled organist from within the Choir, who also played to draw the evening to a close.



Creich Church (Bonar Bridge)

Members of Creich Church brought some snippets of the Songs of Praise service which was part of their flower festival. Their theme was service and their floral displays had represented several local groups who serve the community as well as emergency and medical services, and the service of individuals such as Mary Slessor and some of our own local church folk.

It was a good opportunity to recognise the service which goes on locally as well as nationwide.

We were reminded of the commandment in John 13:34 to love one another and encouraged to show love in simple acts of kindness to others

The hymn, *'Take my Life and let it be dedicated Lord to Thee'* is a favourite and we sang of committing to working for and through God.

'Longing for light', is another favourite and sings our plea to Christ to be our light so that through Him we can see and respond to the needs of others and be servants one to another.

These wonderful hymns and beautiful tunes help us to take our thoughts in Church away with us. How often do we find ourselves singing them in our heads as we walk home or through the next days?

Kincardine, Croick and Edderton Church

The Rev Lizzie Campbell and friends from Kincardine Church took one of our evening Services.

Carol MacLean chose the Hymn *'Just as I am'*, as it meant a lot to her. Carol told us, *"I was a member of the Girls' Brigade and 'Just as I am' was a particular favourite, sung regularly on Parade Sundays. The hymn, and the tune 'Saffron Walden' always bring back happy memories."*



Sundays @ 7 – continued

The words of this hymn were written over 150 years ago and are just as relevant today as they were then. They remind us that, wherever we are, however we are, God is with us and before us, and waiting for us.

Roddy MacLean and our Cathedral Choir

Our Cathedral Choir presented the final Sundays @ 7 Service. Hymns were interspersed with a varied programme which included Psalms, Anthems, extracts from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* and concluded with a sung blessing.

An enthusiastic evening of praise was enjoyed by all. This brought to a close a very successful and well attended Sundays @ 7 season.



Womens Group

A Taste of Ukraine

Over 80 people enjoyed this lunch which was organised by our Cathedral Womens Group on Sunday 27th August, after our morning Service. The West Church Hall as you see in the photos was beautifully decorated in Ukrainian national colours of blue and yellow.

The opening prayer was in both Ukraine by Yuliia Kovalyshyn and English by Maggie Hope.

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Loving God, thank you that we can share this time together. May your spirit be with us.

We pray that you bless us today. May this be a time of friendship and connection.

May we learn more about one another, share our stories and stay friends.

Even when we don't have the words to say, help us to show love for one another in our actions.

Fill us with joy and peace through your Holy Spirit.

After we had one minute's silence we had a toast with **UZWAR**, a tasty beverage made with apples, honey and spice. The Toast was: *Glory to Ukraine - Glory to the Heroes.*



We sipped our Uzwar and 3 times called out **WOODMO** (Bon Appel).

Our Soup course was **BORSCHT** which is beetroot soup served with sour cream. This was followed by **PIEROGI / VARENYKI**, savoury vegetarian dumplings. To finish we tasted **KIELBASA**, which is a chocolate cake, served with tea and coffee.

As well as very tasty food the service was excellent. Nearly £1,000 was raised with all proceeds being donated to a Church of Scotland link Church in Hungary where Ukrainian refugees had to flee from the war.

Concerts

We had a very successful and enjoyable run of concerts throughout the summer months with Robin Colville, Concert Pianist and Elikuren Chamber Choir from Germany performing in August.

We now look forward to Autumn when we welcome back to the Cathedral the University of Aberdeen Chamber Choir *shown here* for another concert – at 3pm on Saturday, 14th October. Donations will be taken at the door and everyone is welcome.



Cathedral Youth Theatre Group

The Mural

During the last week of the summer holidays the children helped to paint some of the features of the mural in the West Church Hall. The group were expertly led by Judith Macrae as the youngsters added their own snakes, crocodiles, butterflies, bees, salamanders etc to Judith's wonderful work. Nearing completion, the mural will form the backdrop to our play "The Lion King".

Joining the cast for the performance will be our new recruits from primary six who bring with them an abundance of enthusiasm and no little talent and they'd love to see you all at the show which is



Cathedral Youth Theatre Group – continued

scheduled for Saturday 25th November with performances at 2:30 pm and 7:00 pm. We'd love to see you all there!

If anyone has any costumes, clothing or materials which might be suitable for the animal characters, do please get in touch. Graham on 07908076620 or Margaret on mags_mccarthy@yahoo.co.uk

QUESTION: When the children are asked what is their favourite part of theatre group, what do you think they say? Is it acting, singing or dancing? *Answer on page 13.*

Visit to Landmark

To celebrate a fun year of creative activities, the youngsters from the Cathedral's Youth Theatre Group visited the Landmark centre at Carrbridge. Grey clouds threatened rain all day but in the end they were blessed with perfect weather to dash from one activity to another.



Just the right age group to make the most of the challenges on offer, the children had a ball. The climbing wall, the waterslide, the very high tree top walk and the even higher “step into oblivion” were the highlights for most. They can't wait for next year!

Boys Brigade

1st Dornoch has been up and running for a few weeks now after the Summer break. We have a large number of Anchor Boys, both returning and new boys, which is great and they will definitely keep us on our toes!

The Junior Section numbers are lower as we 'retired' last years seniors as they are now all in Primary 7. We look forward to Autumn Tuesday nights in the West Church Hall filled with games, puzzles, team competitions and various Bible activities.



The North Gate

When I asked Nelson Paterson if he would allow his photo to be taken beside the newly painted North Gate, I didn't know that I would learn so much about the history of the Cathedral and the voluntary skilful work that he completed over several years.

Nelson worked for many years for Russell Mackenzie crafting metal repairs for farmers and tradesmen that needed special work done locally as well as customers wanting new metal gates.

Doctor Hugh MacLeod, from Embo, wanted to gift a new gate for the North entrance as a donation to the Cathedral in memory of his wife and son. Nelson had already made the disabled entrance and crafted the metal rail and screen as we enter the North doorway.

Nelson made every piece of curved and twisted metal for the gate. He made the metal "burning bush" and still has the templates in his home in case they are needed.

The wooden base for our lectern is another piece of work by Nelson and when Susan Brown came to Dornoch Cathedral he made the steps inside the pulpit to give more height.

His hardest task was when he decided to replace the rope with a metal handrail for visitors to climb the stairs when we had the tower open on Saturday evenings. Carrying the acetylene welding unit up the stairs, step by step, and measuring the bars for the curves and right angle and then climbing back down to bend them in a special device he made.

Nelson's most interesting work was when he helped to get the St Gilbert window, designed by Crear McCartney, installed to commemorate 750 Years of Dornoch Cathedral. Nelson went to spend three days in Aboyne with Michael Farley, a stained glass artist, helping to finish the lead edging and getting the sections of the window to Dornoch and installed in time for HRH Prince Charles to dedicate the window. Martin was deaf from an early age and had to lip read. In Nelson's words, "It was like working with a gigantic glass jigsaw - I loved every minute."

Willie Mackay



The St Gilbert window



Nelson Paterson beside the newly painted North Gate



Nelson with Martin Farley in Aboyne working on the St Gilbert Window

Prayer Group

Following our glorious Indian Summer, Autumn has definitely arrived. The leaves are turning colour and even falling off the trees. We have so many trees around us don't we? Have you ever looked closely at a tree stump or section of a fallen tree and counted the rings showing the age of the tree?

Perhaps you have looked at the width of each ring too and wondered at the resilience of the tree. The width of the rings indicates *how* the tree grew each year. Where the rings grow closer together the conditions were not ideal for uniform growth. Was the weather more severe so it had to hang in there until the conditions improved? Was there a drought and the tree had to take what it had or could in order for it to grow just a little? Were the conditions for a number of years on an even keel producing year on year regular growth? Did a storm damage it or lightning strike it leaving its mark? No matter how it grew it is still a beautiful pattern isn't it?

Someone once said 'In the darkness you need to remember what you learned in the light and in the light you need to remember what you learned in the darkness'. Wise words. In this changing world and in our daily lives much is uncertain but one thing is for sure: God is the same, unchanging and loving Father, the same yesterday, today and forever. He cannot be unfaithful to Himself, to His own promises.

And how difficult is it or how challenging or how much of a delight is it to *make* time to spend time each day with the Father who loves you to grow in your knowledge and love of Him?

How do we grow in our knowledge of and love of Him? One way is to set aside time each day to read the Bible perhaps with some notes or thoughts to help you. Many of you will have heard of Scripture Union and may once have gone to an SU group at school or perhaps to an SU Camp. You may be familiar with SU Daily Notes, Daily Bread or Encounter with God in the booklet form still available today.

You may be familiar too with the little book 'Daily Light', with 100% scripture on a theme each morning and evening throughout the year and with additional scriptures for special occasions such as thanksgiving, bereavement and anxiety.

You may be very comfortable with this form of daily Bible reading and contemplation. Perhaps you fancy a change but don't know what to try. Perhaps you are wondering what else is out there to help you grow in your faith and to develop your resilience. Perhaps you have never tried anything like this at all before.

The Prayer Group of the Cathedral would like to share some Apps and websites of the sources of inspiration and guidance that are available today with today's technology and that they use daily themselves as individuals.

- 1) ODB (Our Daily Bread) <odb.org/>
- 2) Lectio-365 – An App put together by the 24/7 Prayer Team <24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-265>
- 3) cac.org (The Centre for Action and Contemplation) <cac.org/daily-meditations>
- 4) Alive to God <AlivetoGod.com>



The Theatre Group's answer to the question,
'Which is the most enjoyable: acting, singing or dancing?'

Answer: **toast and jam!**



Natter and Knit

With Autumn just around the corner we've seen some beautiful crocheted blankets created at Natter and Knit in the last few weeks. Well done to Diana and Eileen for these gorgeous and cosy creations. Our group runs every Tuesday at the West Church Hall between 10am-1230pm and anyone is welcome to attend. Just pop along and have a cuppa and natter to see what we do and how friendly the group is. No need to book but you can get more details from <jen@dfgcommunity.com> or 07943052467



Above: Eileen Aitken

Left: Trish (hiding); Diane (who made the blanket) & Kath

Tuesday Tots

The families at Tuesday Tots that meet in the West Church Hall have been delighted to receive a generous donation of £250 from the Dornoch Spar. We popped along to the Spar to thank them in person for this fantastic boost to our funds. We meet from 10 – 11:30am and our age range is 0 – 5 years and contact 07943052467 for information.



Buggy Walking group

This term every family who attends has been given a pack to take along on their outdoor adventures. Included is a sketch book to draw in and stick treasures inside, magnifying glass and magnified bug viewer. The idea is to create a journal of our walks so the families have a keepsake of our time in the woods together.



Cathedral Welcome Team & Sales Table

At the close of our summer season, we are celebrating our most successful year yet, having raised (considerably) in excess of £6,000 towards the upkeep of the Cathedral.

This achievement could not have been reached without the wonderful support of our amazing volunteer team, who have turned up daily through rain, wind and heatwave to welcome the many hundreds of visitors passing through our doors. As we have mentioned before it is heartwarming to receive or simply to overhear so many expressions of awe and delight and to be told so many times how lucky and blessed we are in our Cathedral. An enormous thank you to “the team” you all know who you are.



The popular “Crosses in Pockets” sold on the table are made by a small group of local ladies and contribute in a major way towards our profits. Each one is donated and then sold to our visitors for £3.00 each. This year, we sold 462. I’ll leave you to do the sums! A massive thank you to our sewing ladies ... if anyone would like to join us, please get in touch as we’ll be re-starting our fortnightly stitching group shortly. All are welcome - the crosses are NOT difficult, and tuition will be given.

Our delightful little “Bags of Cheer”, are sold at £1 each and are made by one local lady (many of you will know her!) in memory of the late Helen Fairgreve, who started the initiative. This year we have sold 340! Yet again we can see where useful annual income is gained as well as bringing a smile to visitors’ faces. It is all these small acts of kindness and generosity from within our community - whether sewing, volunteering or supporting - which contribute to give us a **GOOD FEELING**: that in the Cathedral Sales & Welcome Team we all work together FOR the Cathedral. If you’re not with us already, how about next year?! Please let us know.

We’ll be back in touch for Christmas! With our heartfelt thanks, Sue (01862 810415), Anne (01862 811520) and Lisa (01862 810973)

Extra fun fact: Lots of you, as well as all our visitors, love our little wooden Cathedral Mice. Well, after this year’s sales, there are well over **500** more running around the world, reminding folk of their summer visit to Dornoch!!! 🐭 You never know when you might meet one! 🐭🐭🐭

Carols for Christian Aid

Tuesday 12th of December 2023 in Dornoch Cathedral at 7pm

A Service of Carols, Readings and Musical Items in the lead up to Christmas. Last year our Musical contributors ranged from the Boys' Brigade to the Cathedral Choir. Our readings were equally as varied ranging from A.A. Milne to The Bible.

Make a date in your diary to come along and see what is on the programme this year. Donations at the door.



DORNOCH
CATHEDRAL

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Sunday, October 8th

JOIN US IN CELEBRATION!

Donations towards the Dornoch and Tain Foodbanks will be gratefully received. There is a special need for tins of food and household items such as washing powder and soap, as well as Bags for Life. All fresh produce will be donated to Oversteps Care Home.

Please bring your donations along to Morning Worship at 11am and leave in the boxes at the doors.

Thank You

Oversteps Fundraising Soup & Sandwich

Saturday 18th November
12-2pm in West Church Hall

For donations of soup or sandwiches and help on the day please contact Shiona Stuart on 07762 232788

QUIZ NIGHT

West Church Hall
Saturday 18th November
7pm

John Mackenzie – quizmaster