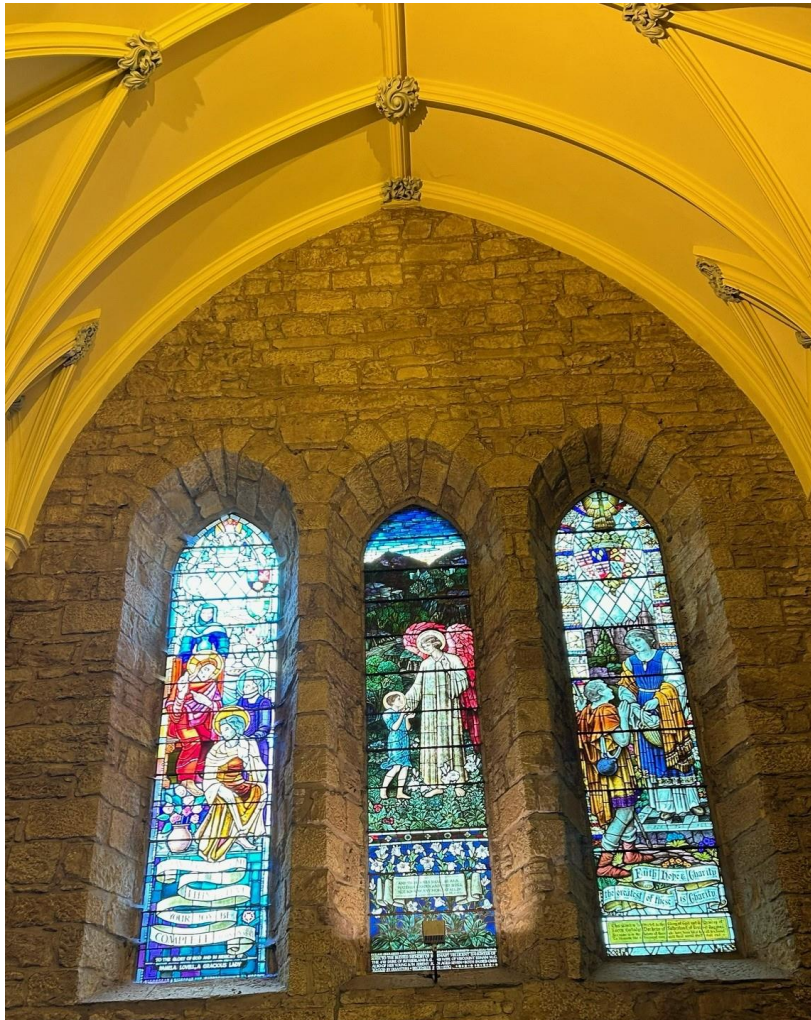




DORNOCH FIRTH PARISH MAGAZINE

Issue for August/September 2024

£1 towards costs



In the issue.....

Page 2

Our Locum Minister's Thoughts

Page 3

Obituary – The Very Rev. James A Simpson

Page 8

Fund Raising

Page 13

Girls Brigade & BBs

Page 15

Garden Party at Holyrood

Page 18

D-Day Celebrations

Page 19

Croick Communion

Page 20

Dates for your Dairy

(left) Lovell Window	(middle) Millicent Window	Duchess of Sutherland Window
In memory of Pamela Lovell with a theme of Christian Joy. Jesus is speaking to Simon, Mary & Thomas. Created by Crear McCartney.	In memory of Rosemary Millicent, daughter of the 4 th Duke of Sutherland and her son Jeremy who died age 7 in an accident riding his bicycle. Rosemary was killed in a air crash	Dated as 1947 and in memory of the Duchess of Sutherland, wife of the 5 th Duke of Sutherland with Dunrobin Castle visible.

Dornoch Firth 
Church of Scotland

Minister's Thoughts

Dear Friends,

I cannot believe it has been more than two years since I came to serve as Locum Minister to Dornoch Parish and another six months to Dornoch Firth Parish - how time flies when you only work Sundays!

I'm told Locumships are not normally so long though I myself had no expectation of how many months (or weeks!) you would put up with me. In truth, as you know, I just felt enormously glad and grateful to return to ministry after a significant time of regrouping and rest. I felt like I was home. Doing the thing God made me to do. And I will be forever grateful to the congregation and the parish for the opportunity to discover my ministerial feet hadn't walked out and left me!

The congregation is moving into a different phase of vacancy. By the time you have this newsletter in your hands or on your screens lots may have happened already. Work will be going on, unseen, by those elected by members and adherents to serve on the nomination committee which will, when it is ready, present a sole nominee to the congregation. This is as much as I know about the process - as much as it is right for any of us to know save those on the committee.

My purpose here is not to comment on these things but, as you inch toward what will be a more settled, though hopefully excited, period for the church and the communities it serves, to say thank you to those who have made me so very welcome these past months.

To those who've welcomed me into their homes or greeted me from a hospital bed. To those who've sung their faith alongside me, who've brought their whole selves - hearts and minds and humour and questions - to worship and to our life together. To those who have let me walk with them, holding stories too heavy to be held alone. To those who've handed over their little ones to be baptised and blessed. To those who've declared faith in our Risen Lord and brought their light to the door of the church. To those who have invited me to mark anniversaries with them or hear them pledge love as they become 'Mr and Mrs.' To those who've listened to countless daily videos and shared them with friends and sent messages of encouragement. To those who've volunteered to try to new things without really knowing what those new things might get them in to. To those who have taken time to get to know me, who've cooked for me and ate with me, to those who've welcomed my family and prayed for them. What can I say but a thousand thousand thank yous for the very great privilege of it all and, of course, God's blessing be on you as individuals and as a family as you discern together a direction of travel for days to come.

With deepest thanks for all that has been and, whatever unfolds for us all, wishing you fullest joy in what is yet to be.

Carol Anne



OBITUARY - Very Rev. James A. Simpson 1934-2024

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of the Very Rev. Dr James A. Simpson, a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and Royal Chaplain, was held at St Leonard's in the Fields Church in Perth.

Regarded as one of the Kirk's most distinguished ministers, Glasgow-born Dr Simpson served historic Dornoch Cathedral for more than 20 years.

He was also renowned as a popular after-dinner speaker and best-selling author, raising more than £80,000 for Cystic Fibrosis research and support for a condition which afflicted his first granddaughter, Sally.

In 1993, he was appointed chaplain in Scotland to Queen Elizabeth II.

A keen and low handicap golfer, Dr Simpson – known to his many friends as Jimmy or Jim – was an honorary life member at Royal Dornoch Golf Club, where being appointed captain was one of his proudest moments.

His two-year term was cut short when he was appointed Moderator in 1994/95.

The Perth service was attended by many of the family's friends from Dornoch, with the golf club tartan very much in evidence.

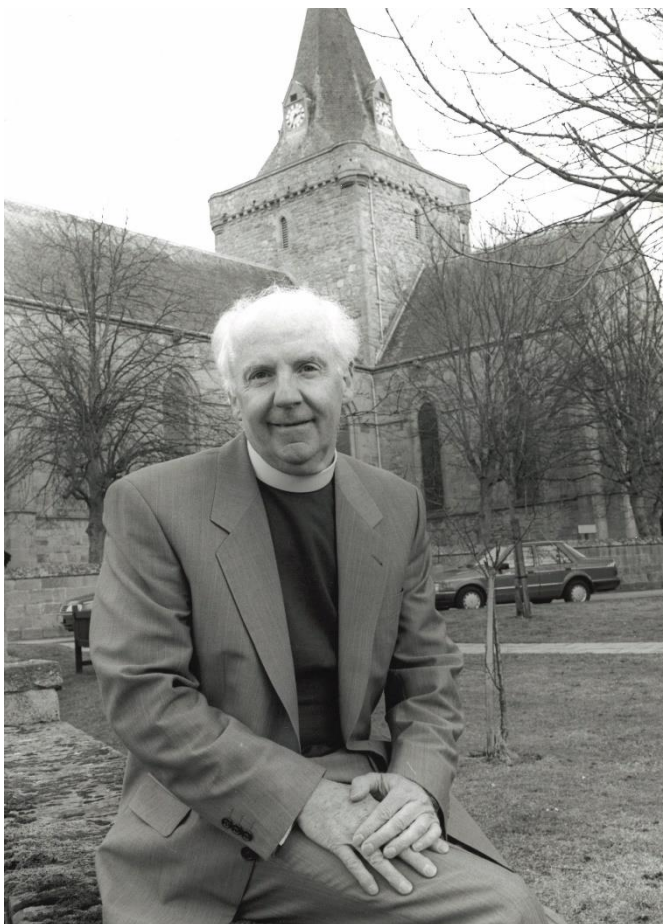
In a recent interview, Dr Simpson recalled: "When I arrived from Glasgow, life revolved around the Cathedral and the golf club, although I quickly realised there were more golfers than churchgoers when I preached as the solo nominee! Naturally, I joined the golf club and made friendships which have endured to this day."

His passion for golf saw an invitation extended to be chaplain at the 30th Ryder Cup held at the Belfry in 1993. The trophy was won by a US team captained by Tom Watson, edging out a European side led by Bernard Gallacher.

While he played celebrated courses such as Augusta and Pinehurst on his travels, Royal Dornoch enjoyed a special place in his heart and he wrote a short history of the club.

After graduating from the University of Glasgow with first class honours in Mathematics and Physics, Dr Simpson had contemplated a career studying atomic research.

At the time, however, there were no vacancies at Harwell, which concentrated on developing peaceful uses of atomic power. The only career opportunities were at Aldermaston, which specialised in developing nuclear weapons.



Not wanting to spend his life in the manufacture of nuclear bombs, former Eastwood High pupil Dr Simpson returned to his native city to study Divinity at Glasgow University.

After a spell at Greenbank Church in Clarkston, ministries beckoned with Grahamston Parish Church in Falkirk and St John's Renfield Church in Kelvindale before, in 1976, he was called to be minister of Dornoch Cathedral.

During his 21 years in the Sutherland town, he was credited with transforming the ailing Cathedral congregation into one of the most vibrant and best attended in the Highlands.

After retiring from his role in Dornoch in 1997 he became interim minister at Almondbank and Tibbermore, and went on to provide a valued helping hand to several churches, including Brechin Cathedral, St Leonard's, Scone Old, Crieff and Bankfoot.

Dr Simpson was a prolific writer of articles for the Church of Scotland – his regular column over more than 10 years in "Life and Work" was eagerly anticipated by readers - and various golf magazines at home and abroad. His first book, "Holy Wit," topped Scotland's best-sellers charts for months.

He went on to publish 13 further books, with "Life, Love and Laughter" and others recounting humorous and uplifting tales from his life as a minister and anecdotes about people diverse as Robert Burns, Martin Luther King and Lee Trevino.

During his time in Dornoch, he was proud to be awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Aberdeen University.

Dr Simpson campaigned for an "opt out" policy on organ donation. Granddaughter Sally died at the age of 27 after undergoing a double lung transplant two years earlier.

Dr Simpson died peacefully at his Bankfoot home near Perth – which he had named "Dornoch" - just a few weeks after family from near and far gathered along with Helen, his wife of 64 years, to celebrate his 90th birthday.

Past Moderators of the Church of Scotland, the Very Rev. Dr John Chalmers and the Very Rev. Dr Andrew McLellan shared the Service of Thanksgiving.

Another former Moderator, the Very Rev. Dr David Lacy, gave a reading and eldest son Neil gave a fine tribute on behalf of the family.

Dr Simpson's successor at Dornoch Cathedral, the Very Rev. Susan Brown, took an earlier private family service at Perth Crematorium.

With son-in-law Derick Macaskill playing "Highland Cathedral" on the bagpipes, retiring donations were invited for Cystic Fibrosis Research and Bankfoot Church Centre.

Dr Simpson is survived by his wife Helen, their five children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Gordon Bannerman

LIFE EVENTS

WEDDINGS

Caroline Paulin and Philip Thompson - 1st June

Tess Shennan and James Hutchison - 29th June

Hannah Sharpe and Kevin Young - 5th July

Jodie Ross and Andrew Rose - 6th July

FUNERALS

Robert Motion - Private Funeral – 19th June

Andrew Claude (Claude) Brownlow – 11th July (Interment of Ashes)

Alexander Glidden – Private Funeral 12th July

William (Bill) Ritchie – 13th July

Ellen (Blossom) Gow – 18th July

Whether thankful or sorrowing, we, as a church family, continue to remember all those we've cared for in recent weeks and hold them in prayer.

Nominating Committee

On Sunday, 7th July 2024, at a Congregational Meeting, the following people were elected on to the Nominating Committee for Dornoch Firth Church of Scotland, with office bearers appointed as noted at their first meeting held on the 9th July. We wish them every blessing in their task ahead and ask that you keep them all in your prayers.

John Calder (Convenor)	Morag Macaskill
Alasdair Mackay (Vice-Convenor)	Carol MacLean
Ann Creed (Clerk)	Jeani Hunter
Willie MacKay	Kim McCarthy
Susan Messem	John Gunn
Rhona Macaskill	Mhairi Mackay
Tracey Aldridge-Russell	

A good number of the congregation attended the meeting on Sunday to vote – 98. The Nominating Committee will report directly to the Congregation in due course (not to the Kirk Session).

The work of the Nominating Committee is strictly confidential and the congregation are kindly asked to respect this and not to ask questions of committee members about the work of the committee or about its progress. Instead they will appreciate knowing that you are praying for them and for their work.

While the Nomination Committee begins its work, Carol Anne continues her ministry as our much appreciated Locum Minister. We hope that she finds refreshment and rest in her holidays and we look forward to her return.

Rev. Alistair Drummond (Interim Moderator)

GIFT DAY 2024 - Current total - £38,239

Just before Gift Day we were looking at a year end deficit of £53,000. That was a daunting figure and we had a huge task ahead of us. Going on the 2023 figures we estimated that we would take in £15,000 on Gift Day so that was already included as income in the budget. Anything above that figure would go some way to reducing the deficit.

As it had been such a success last year, we again held Gift Day in the Cathedral. We had a tremendous response and were busy much of the day with locals and visitors alike enjoying the fellowship and the home baking.

With donations on the day and subsequent days, plus direct bank payments and cheques arriving in the post, the current total for Gift Day 2024 has mounted up and up and has reached an amazing £38,239, knocking a hole of £23,239 in the projected year end deficit. Reclaiming gift aid on many of these donations will reduce the deficit by a further £5,000.

Heartfelt thanks to all who contributed in any way to the day, whether by donating, setting up the tables, providing baking, serving refreshments, cleaning up afterwards, chatting to visitors and supporting us in any way. All were equally appreciated. Bless you all.

The Finance Team

Property Report

Have your say. How is the sound quality? Do you sit in the South (entrance from Cathedral Green); sit in the North (pews beside the organ pipes); West (entrance from the COOP side); or sit with the choir.

We have a very knowledgeable and determined person in Stephen MacKintosh, but he is also much in demand. I am sorry it took me so long to change the focus from the quality of *live streaming* to getting the sound within the Cathedral balanced.

I think the noticeable change came when we changed to having discreet vertical speakers instead of the speakers placed on the window ledges. This was tested in the West Aisle first and then we got two vertical speakers for the South Aisle. Feedback has been positive but I will most likely ask for more formal evidence once I meet with the Property Committee.

Another piece of equipment has arrived – the new amplifier and Stephen will get the new speakers linked into it soon. The old loop system has been replaced and is working well.

If you do have any issues with sound please let me know at the Service so I can discuss with Stephen. Sometimes when a lapel mic is used there is a difference when the Minister turns their head or has it fixed too low.

On Sunday 14th July we tried using a PTZ remote controlled video camera as well as the fixed camera we have been using. Well done Morag. It showed that we need a better light balance.

I am regularly chasing consultants to visit the Cathedral about new heating systems and installing LED lighting – little progress. I will keep trying.

Willie MacKay (Property Convenor)

VOLUNTEERS

Welcome Table

We do still need a few more volunteers to help cover our opening hours of 10 am - 4 pm, Monday - Friday. We have just about managed so far, with some folk doing extra shifts, but it's been a stretch, so if anyone feels they could help us in the remaining two months of the season, we would be so delighted to hear from you.

The shifts are 3 hours long, once a fortnight. Full details can be obtained from any of us below. Helping in this way will provide extra funds towards maintaining the Cathedral and it is a truly enjoyable way of spending time with a new or old friend, at the same time meeting interesting visitors from all over the world. If you're not already part of our team ... please could you think about it and give us a call?!

Sue Boyce 01862 810415 – Mob: 07833 698040 Email: sueboyce4@btinternet.com
Anne Chambers 01862 811520 and Lisa Dickenson 01862 810973

Cathedral Tower

We need more to help us have the tower open on Saturdays. Even on one Saturday when the Pipe Band was cancelled we raised £150 which helps with heating, lighting and general expenditure for our ministry.

The shift is from 7.30pm to 9.15pm and new volunteers will have a short training session. We need people who will be on the ground floor welcoming the visitors and one person on middle floor, one on the upper floor and one outside on the parapet. It can be breezy so dress to suit the weather, but the view and the chat with visitors makes the time pass very quickly.

Contact Graham McCarthy if you can spare 2 hours on a Saturday evening: gramgash@aol.com & 07908 076620

Cathedral Path

Who can help with the Cathedral flowers beds? We badly need someone to help weed the two flower beds on the West path (COOP side of the Cathedral). Not the most exciting of tasks but the single person we have works full-time and could do with help.

Ring Willie MacKay on 07368 208955

The Church Garden

*Like any garden the Church needs to be planted out with seed if it is to produce a harvest.
The following suggestions can help us to make our Church what is ought to be:*

First, plant five rows of "Peas" – Presence, Promptness, Preparation, Purity, Perseverance.

Next, plant three rows of "Squash" – Squash Gossip, Squash Criticism, Squash Indifference.

Then plant five rows of "Lettuce" – Let us be Faithful to duty, Let us be loyal and unselfish, Lets us be true to our obligations, Let us obey rules and regulations, Let us love one another.

No garden is complete without "Turnips" – Turn up with a smile, Turn up with new ideas, Turn up with the determination to make everything count for something good and worthwhile.

Parish Fundraising Group

The phrase "On target" comes to mind when considering our fundraising. Midway through our financial year, we have achieved more than 50% of our total £60,000 fundraising target. With the Barbeque, Youth Theatre, Concert, Gift Day and Tower visits behind us we have just reached over £30,000. Well done everyone.

That being said we still have to raise a further £30,000 in the next six months.

Our action plan is as follows:

- 1) To continue with the Cathedral Tower Visits on Saturday evening, 7.30pm to 9.15pm, which each week brings in £200-£250. It would be great if we could attract more volunteers to extend these visits to other times in the week, particularly when we have visitors from cruise ships.
- 2) We will be organising an opportunity for those interested to use their gifts/talents to produce items or sell a service to raise funds. More details about this later in the year.



Jill & Aimee first up the Tower

- 3) Gizzen Briggs will be holding a concert on Thursday 12th September in the Cathedral for our benefit and tickets will be on sale. The Dornoch Firth Junior Band will perform as the warm-up group. Get this date in your diary and do not miss a great evening's entertainment starting at 6.30pm until 8.00pm.

- 4) We are holding a Golf Event on the 5th October. Another date for your diary! More details about this can be viewed in the next edition of the Parish News, and on our website and social media. Please let friends and family members who are golfers know about this. It will be a special day involving pre-golf food, a round of golf on the Royal Dornoch Struie course, followed by a meal, auction and raffle with many prizes. The first person to have a hole in one will be the lucky winner of £500.
- 5) We are also considering some special treats approaching the Christmas and New Year season to bring enjoyment and fun to the festivities.

On behalf of the Fundraising Group we all thank you for your ongoing support in this venture and we hope that you will enjoy the activities planned for the future. Keep a eye for the GOAL target display board in the Cathedral.

John McMurray (Convenor)

Cathedral Tower

When it was last open to the public going up the Cathedral tower was very much part of a childhood Saturday night. A visit to the Cathedral Cafe with friends for some treats, watch the Dornoch pipe band and a visit up the tower was our Dornoch Saturday evening...perfect.

Now with the tower open again and being able to take my own children up the Cathedral tower on Saturday night was lovely. I have often told them of my memories of going up the tower with my family or friends. Listening to the pipe band from the tower parapet and spotting all the sights of Dornoch, seeing across to Tain and the Duke's statue on Ben Bhraggie and back in those days the Burghfield Hotel was full of tourists.



Carol Gruber (nee Ross)

WELCOME TEAM

Following our encouraging start in May, we're pleased to report continuing and increasing sales success, thanks to our wonderful volunteers ... and of course the many visitors who are flooding into the Cathedral this summer, purchasing guide books, cathedral memorabilia and other gifts to remind them of their time in Dornoch.

There is no doubt of their appreciation of the presence of a smiling welcome and the availability of information about the Cathedral. We all continue to enjoy witnessing the air of incredulity when a visitor steps through the south door and sees the beauty of the interior. It also helps to remind all of us how fortunate we are to have this wonderful building as "Our Church".



Sue Boyce

A selection of items we have for sale

With love from the Prayer Group.....

Our Sundays @ 7 Service in July, focused on being still in God's presence.

We were looking at what may help us be still and quiet in His presence, letting go of what we hold onto, enabling God to work in us and through us by His Spirit. We were looking at how difficult it can be in this busy and noisy world to make the time to be quiet and still perhaps somewhere outside or in your room alone with Him. It can take much practice! We suggest you start with two minutes!

Recently our prayer focus has been on all the initiatives to bring the congregations of Dornoch, Bonar, Ardgay and Edderton together into the one new parish – The Dornoch Firth Church of Scotland, with all the challenges that such a merger brings both physically and financially. With this in mind we continue to pray that God will guide the appointment of the new minister for the parish.

The Prayer Group meets on Sunday mornings in the West Church Hall at 10 o'clock, to pray for the parish, its services, the wider community and the world as well as for more personal things in confidence.

We would love to welcome any of you who would like to join us.

In this season of uncertainty, turmoil and change we invite you to pray this prayer with us:

"You have been our strength, O God:

At the beginning of the day You brought us from darkness into light;

At the ending of the day you lead us from busyness into stillness.

Be our strength today and the strength of new beginnings in this world."

The Prayer Group

Womens Group

Our latest 2 meetings have embraced this should-be-glorious summer weather! We met in June one evening for a walk at Ardgay to celebrate and include the members of the congregation from the top end of the Firth.

We were welcomed and guided on a lovely stroll around the village and surrounding countryside and then royally entertained to baking and refreshments.

In July, Bruce Begg, who had given our group a fascinating talk last year about growing flowers, fruit and vegetables for showing, invited us to visit his plot where he grows most of his prize-winning produce.



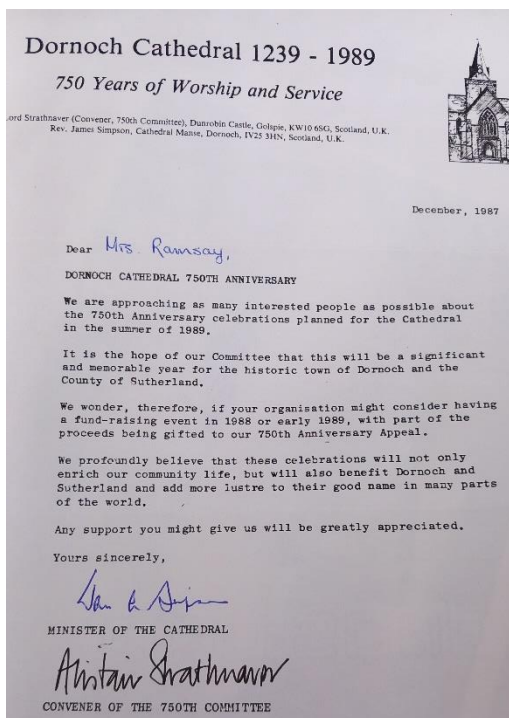
Those of us who managed to attend were treated to an evening that educated, entertained and inspired us. Bruce and Rhona were very generous with their time and knowledge, not forgetting Rhona's delicious baking.

We were able to ask endless questions which were answered with honesty, patience and humour. Bruce, also, shared some of his tips to produce vegetables that catch the judge's eye - including one involving a somewhat unexpected treatment for onions, which I couldn't possible divulge! Similar to The Guild, both groups welcome men attending.

We are very grateful to both Rhona and Bruce and wish them all success at this year's shows.

A little about our history.....

In 1987 the Young Woman's Group received a letter from Lord Alistair Strathnaver asking them to think of a fundraising event to be part of the Cathedral's 750th Anniversary Appeal. After much discussion it was decided to hold a display of Wedding Dresses from different decades in the West Church Hall. It was a wonderful Community event.



Letter from Lord Strathnaver



Front L-R Morag Macaskill, Helen Mailey
Back L-R Gwen Melville, Kathleen Munro

Caroline Gilchrist & Morag Macaskill

Dornoch Firth Junior Band

The band recently held its last session before the summer break and invited relations and friends to a mini concert to celebrate progress. Whereas at Easter the children could really only play one tune and parts to another, they now performed five and nearly everyone was playing the melody.

The youngsters were joined by adult instructors Roddy Maclean, Dominic Adams, Gwen Jenson, Heather Sangster and Rachel Graham and by teenage helpers Isla and Lucy Robertson, Robert Swayne and Polly Noble who played a lively traditional set to round off the performance.



The whole session was enhanced by some tuneful singing from an enthusiastic audience who were fulsome in their praise of the improvements the children had made. Sessions start again in August.

Youth Theatre Group at Eden Court

As a reward for all their hard work over the last year, members of the Dornoch Firth Youth Theatre Group (those available) visited Eden Court Theatre to watch Joseph and his Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat. They chose to attend the “singalong” session - a great innovation by the theatre management and thoroughly enjoyed by our young people.

Eileen Aitken was our special guest-of-honour for the trip in recognition of her unfailing support of the group and in appreciation of the wonderful coloured coat she made for our first ever performance which just happened to be our version of Joseph, entitled “*Joseph Now and Then.*” Happy times!



Graham McCarthy

GIRLS BRIGADE STARTING

The 1st Dornoch Girls Brigade is starting on Monday 2nd September 2024. This is open to all girls from Primary 1 through to 6th Year Academy Girls. We will meet in the West Church Hall on Mondays from September to March during the school term.

You will have great fun whilst developing friendships, sharing experiences, learning new skills & crafts and tackling new challenges.

Age groups and times are:

Explorers (P1 - P3) 6:15 - 7:15pm

Juniors (P4 - P7) 7:00 - 8:30pm

Brigaders (S1 - S6) 7:00 - 8:30pm



Please contact dornochgb@gmail.com for more information and enrolment details

Marianne MacLeod

BBs & Anchor Boys

Isabel and I have taken the brave decision to 'retire from Boys' Brigade. We have been a team for 25 years and know that it is now time to hang up our whistles when we are finishing each other's sentences. We have had lots of laughs, torn our hair out at times and loved nearly every minute of getting to know the wee boys that have passed through 1st Dornoch Boys Brigade.

Having lead the Shipmates for many years prior to BB I am now working with sons of boys that have passed through my hands. Prior to BB Isabel was a Sunday School teacher and a Brownie leader. Between us we have over 70 years of volunteering with young people in Dornoch.

We have tried to find people to take over the leading of Dornoch Boys' Brigade but to date no one has been willing. If you know anyone who may be interested please ask them to speak to either Isabel or myself.



Anchor Boys, BBs & Leaders (L- Morag Macaskill – R- Isabel Gillespie)

Prize List 2024

Anchor Boys with perfect attendance – Max Dawson-Clark and JJ McLaughlin

Anchor Boys with excellent attendance - Alfie Levens, Rhuraidh Cowie, Angus Smith, Miki Kot, Ollie Gilewski, Henry McCarthy, Travis Cameron, Dylan Saldias and Fraser Macdonald.

Other Anchor Boys getting an award – Seoras Munro, Nathan Porteous, Ben Cowie, Archie Rogers, Callan Pauley and Jack Tarry.

Junior Section boys with excellent attendance – Struan Phillips, Peter Mann and Elliot Richardson.

All the Dornoch Boys entered the North of Scotland Christmas Colouring Competition. In the Primary 3 category Fraser Macdonald was placed 6th. In the Primary 5 category Peter Mann was placed 6th.

In Junior Section the following Boys have earned their Bronze Award - Seamus Sutherland, Elliot Richardson and Khanyile Moyo

Silver Award – Magnus Mackintosh, Calvin Mackenzie , William Sutherland, Peter Mann and Harry Fleming.

Gold Award for their last year in BBs – Struan Phillips.

Best Boy in Anchor Boys. It goes to a boy who always tries to behave beautifully. He loves to chat about things he has learned and he asks the most interesting questions. The award for Anchor Boy best boy is Jack Tarry.

Best Boy in Junior Section who has gained the most points, who has had great attendance and has shown overall 'best-ness' and that boy for 2024 is Struan Phillips.

Thank you from the Kirk Session

On Sunday, 23 June, the BBs held their prize giving at a service in the Cathedral, enjoyed by many of their family and friends. The boys have shown great qualities over the past year and should be commended on all their hard work. Thanks were also expressed to Ally Morrison for all his assistance to the Leaders having been a former Anchor Boy and Junior BB.

Sadly we said goodbye to Morag and Isabel as they retire as BB Leaders after serving in community youth work for over 70 years between them. The Kirk Session have minuted their sincere thanks for their loyalty and hard work at a previous Kirk Session meeting and this was echoed at the service when both ladies were presented with a bouquet of flowers to say thank you. We wish them a happy and peaceful retirement and every blessing for the future.

Thank you from the Parents (some were former BBs)

On behalf of all the boys and parents Morag and Isabel were presented with cards, flowers and Milk and Honey vouchers as a huge thank you for all their hard work and dedication to the Boys Brigade.

The boys have loved attending on a Tuesday evening and have been lucky to enjoy activities such as marching competitions, beach trips, archery, cycling nights, roller bowl, BBQs in Camore woods to mention a few.

A particular highlight as a parent is to watch all the boys take part in the Remembrance Day parade each year for which Morag and Isabel put a lot of effort into preparing them for the day.

They will be a huge loss to the community having volunteered for an entire generation of Boys Brigade in Dornoch and we wish them a happy and well deserved retirement. Their Tuesday nights will be less noisy now!

Garden Party

To mark the 800th anniversary of the first stones of the Cathedral being laid, Liz Manson from our Session Clerk Team, was invited along with her husband James, to attend the King's Garden Party at Holyrood Palace.

Liz said she was extremely grateful to be invited and be there to represent Dornoch Firth Church of Scotland. It was a very special occasion.

Isabel Gillespie was also invited to attend to mark her many years of Service with the Boys' Brigade. She was accompanied by her sister Mary MacRae.



Patrick Marriot, Liz & James Manson



Mary MacRae & Isabel Gillespie

Natter and Nosh

Over the last 6 months there has been a regular number of patrons enjoying Natter and Nosh. Most days there was about 30-36. There is always room for more and everyone is welcome. Many people have benefitted from the lunches. While the meals are always good the 'natter' is so important too.

We could not work without the dedicated work of the volunteers who are cheerful and helpful and so willing. A huge thank you to them all. I am so grateful for their service.

My personal thanks must go, to Ros Oliver Jones and Kim McCarthy who really stepped up to the plate, no pun intended, when Roddy and I were unable to help in the kitchen. They kept everything going, not just cooking the meals but sorting menus and shopping. This all takes a lot of time and I know that a lot of folk would have been let down if they had not carried on so well.

No dates have been made yet but lunches will restart in September so watch this space. Thank you one and all and I look forward to welcoming you all back after the holidays.

Trish Geddes

Sundays @ 7

Please come along to the Cathedral for 30 minutes fun praise and enjoy stories and reflections from some of our congregation groups. The BBs as in previous years were a star act – see article. We had a most enjoyable concert with the Badenoch Chorale and their conductor John Crombie.

July

21st – Prayer Group

28th – Pastoral Care Group

August

4th – Surprise Evening

11th - Mission Team

18th - Womens' Group

25th – Roddy and The Choir



Mhairi Mackay

St Gilbert Awards

The St Gilbert Awards for pupils of Dornoch Primary School are sponsored by Dornoch Cathedral. The winners are chosen by votes from their fellow classmates. The awards are given for showing kindness to others. Presentations took place at the end of term Assembly and Prize Giving.



St Gilbert Awards for Primary 1, 2 & 3 pupils

St Gilbert Awards for Primary 4, 5, 6 & 7 pupils



Meadows Care Home

The residents have had a busy time with various activities. They entered the spirit of Wimbledon with a Tennis Fun Day, and as well as attending the Primary School Sports Day, pupils in the Higher PE class helped the staff to hold a Residents Sports Day. They had a Meadowlands Music Festival and also a cake stall at the Academy School Fayre.



Meadowlands Music Festival



Meadows Wimbledon Fun Day

Jackie MacRae, Manager

Dornoch Firth Group

Loads of summer activities during school holidays. Woodland Story Walks; Little Otters; Baby Massage Classes and lots more.....

For Davochfin Farm Experience – book info@davochfinfarm.co.uk

East Sutherland Active Schools – see Facebook and High Life Highland website.

High Life Highland Summer Family Treasure Hunts

Contact Jen@dfgcommunity.com or eilidh@dfgcommunity.com

Visit our Facebook page [DornochAreaFamilyEvents](https://www.facebook.com/DornochAreaFamilyEvents)



Dornoch Firth Group Woodland Walks

D-Day Celebrations at Dornoch

On Thursday 6th June throughout the United Kingdom young and old paid their respects to the Armed Forces to commemorate the 60th anniversary since our Allied Forces had launched an attack on Occupied France.

The evening started at the War Memorial where children from the Young Curators section of Historylinks were dressed in period costume as evacuees. They were joined by the Brownies.



Then they made their way to the Cathedral Green led by Piper, Derick Macaskill, for a short Service.

At 6.30pm the Cathedral bell was rung in unison with thousands of bells across the nation.

Rev John Chambers and Simon Scott conducted a short service and a wreath was laid at the fountain on Cathedral Green.

The sizeable crowd made their way to the beach where the East Sutherland Rescue Association had organised a BBQ and music at the Cadogan Lifeboat Station where Historylinks had a display of memorabilia.



Both the Dornoch Pipe Band and members of the British Legion paraded.

Major General Patrick Marriot, CB CBE our Lord Lieutenant read the International Tribute and Act of Remembrance.

He commented, "It was an honour to be invited to read the tribute. D Day was a momentous event in our history and it is entirely right that it was properly commemorated. We all owe a very great deal to those who fell liberating Europe. Dornoch rose to the occasion with its 80th commemorations and my thanks to everyone who played a part in organising the day."



Neil Dalton, Chair East Sutherland Rescue Association said, "I hope that we produced an event that will be remembered down the years, the lighting of the beacon was especially spectacular and coincided with the lighting of bonfires at Inver and Portmahomack. The most moving part of the events for me was the children reading out the national remembrance on Cathedral Green with the Cathedral Bell tolling in the background."

The beacon was lit which was one of many that stretched across Scotland and the Home Nations.

Croick Communion & Pilgrimage Sunday 18th August

Come and join friends from Dornoch Firth Parish for a short journey with a difference. Don't be put off by the word pilgrimage – it's not just for people who go to church every Sunday It's a time open to everyone to take time out just to reflect while enjoying the walk or the drive up to the Church.

You can travel direct to Croick and park there or walk from Amat. The walk is only one mile and follows the river upstream from Amat to Croick church, retracing the steps of the people of Glencalvie and Alladale who were forced off their lands in 1845.

It's a time to reflect and allow the wild beauty, solitude and peace of this hidden valley to heal our aching minds and spirits. For those who wish, there will be some verses or thoughts at places to pause to help us on the journey, but others may prefer to allow their hearts to lead them.

The service at Croick church begins at 3pm bringing together all of God's family, whatever their background and you don't have to have taken part in the pilgrimage to join us there. Communion will be offered for those who wish this. Do come and celebrate with us.

Timings:

1.15pm meet at Cathedral Green for car share

1.40pm meet at Ardgay for car share if walking from Amat

2.00pm meet at Amat Bridge to walk to Croick Church

3.00pm Communion Service at Croick Church

Transport back from the church to Amat for walkers.

Everyone is welcome to walk or just come to the Service.

Mary Stobbo & Jeani Hunter



Dates for Diary

Cathedral Tower open every Saturday until 8th September – 7.30 to 9.15pm

Sundays – 21st July - 18th August – 15th September
Oversteps 2.30pm & The Meadows Services 3.15pm

Sundays @ 7 – see article with list for July and until 25th August.

Sunday 18th August – Communion at Croick Church

Monday 2nd September – Girls Brigade starts – see article

Thursday 12th September – Gizzen Briggs Concert in Cathedral 6.30pm

Sunday 15th September – Communion in Cathedral

Saturday 5th October – Dornoch Firth Parish Golf Event – see Cathedral website

WORSHIP ALL WELCOME

Minister led Services

Sunday, 21st July - 11.00 am Dornoch Cathedral
Live Streamed to Tea Room, Village Hall, Bonar Bridge

Sunday, 28th July
11.00 am Dornoch Cathedral
1.30 pm Tea Room, Village Hall, Bonar Bridge

Sunday, 4th August - 11.00 am Dornoch Cathedral

Sunday, 11th August (two Services)
11.00 am Dornoch Cathedral
1.30 pm Tea Room, Village Hall, Bonar Bridge

Sunday 18th August
11.00 am Dornoch Cathedral Service also
3.00 pm Communion at Croick Church

Sunday, 25th August (two Services)
11.00 am Dornoch Cathedral
1.30 pm Tea Room, Village Hall, Bonar Bridge

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