



DORNOCH FIRTH PARISH MAGAZINE

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Our Minister Carol Anne Porter was inducted on Saturday, 14th June

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50 years as part of Sutherland.

And much, much more!

Minister's Thoughts

Dear friends

DEAR FRIENDS,

*everyone needs a place to rest
a place to wonder
a place to belong
whatever feels right, whatever has gone wrong
there is room here for everyone
there is room here for you*

These come from a moment in worship recently.
And, as I sit here, writing, thinking about you and what to say, it is this I'd like you to hear.

I - or, more properly, 'we' I think...

WE at Dornoch Firth Parish Church really want the spaces we create and inhabit, the people we are becoming, to feel like home - to everyone, to you.

Wherever you're from, however long or short you've lived in the parish.

Whether your teeth are still coming through or sitting in a glass by the bed.

Whether it's exercise that motivates you or strawberry tarts.

Whether you've been at this following-Jesus-thing for a while or beginning to find your way.

Whether following feels easy or there are years and years and years of lies passed as doctrine to be got rid off.

Whether you're outgoing or prefer a quiet corner.

Whether life has been a straight line or a series of twists and turns and sometimes u-turns.

There is room here for everyone.

There is room here for you.

And truth is, we are more beautiful, more loving, more complete, more ourselves, with you a part of us.

So, please, will you give us opportunity to make space for you, to learn from you? Will you give us opportunity to love you. I - WE - can think of nothing more WE'D rather do.

Come and worship. Let us meet you where you are. Together... let's eat and talk and pray and laugh and sigh and work and sing... together. All of it... All of us... held in the wide and tender embrace of our loving God.

With you, right here with you,

Carol Anne



Carol Anne's Induction Service

THE OFFICIAL induction for Rev Carol Anne Porter to be the minister for our Dornoch Firth Parish took place on Saturday 14th June in Dornoch Cathedral. As seen on page 1 the Cathedral was full and the Service was led by Rev Doug McRoberts, Moderator of Eilean I Presbytery and supported by Rev Alistair Drummond who along with Rev Iain MacLeod served as Interim Moderators for Dornoch Firth Parish during the nomination process to elect a new minister. Readings were by Tracey Aldridge-Russell and Pat Murray and Sue Boyce led us in the first prayer. A very well attended buffet was held after the Service in the West Church Hall.



Carol Anne Porter with Rev Doug MacRoberts



Members of the Eilean I Presbytery who attended the Induction



Buffet after the Induction Service



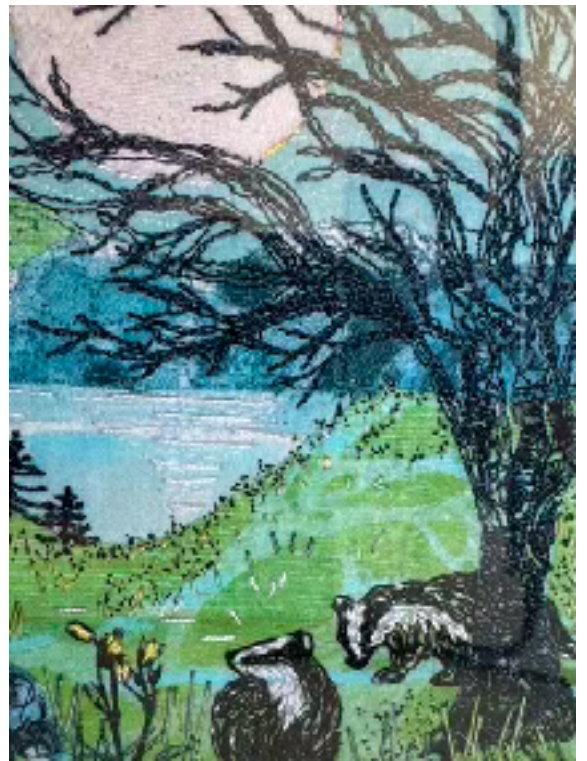
Session Clerk, Liz Manson, hands over gifts from Elders and congregation

Thank you

THANK YOU to everyone who shared in the induction service and who came along to the teas after. And thank you to you all for the cards and gifts given to me, including those from the congregation as a whole - not just to myself but to Will and Tyler too. Tyler's voucher is long ago spent. And Will is proud of his Tain silver cufflinks. The flowers given to me were gorgeous, the "Pride of Dornoch" scarf is too. And I now have a debate to have with myself about where to hang the beautiful "Sheltering Tree" picture.

Thank you all so much, you're so, so kind.

Carol Anne, Will & Tyler



The Chosen

AS SUMMER gives way to autumn, you are invited to gather to watch *The Chosen: Season 2*. For those who don't know, *The Chosen* is a multi-season drama about Jesus. What's in store in Season 2? Well, there are new disciples to meet - Thomas, Ramah, Philip and Nathaniel to name just some. There are lessons to learn and relationships to be worked out - think Simon and Matthew, taxed and taxpayer (or at least doer of the taxing) - who are not exactly friends. Mary is haunted by her past - following Jesus, living into the truth of who we are is no overnight thing. John the Baptist appears and Roman spies lurk and religious leaders challenge. And, what else? Well, as someone says to Nathaniel who errs on the side of wryness maybe, just come and see yourself! We'll work out the 'where' and 'when' and spread the word. Keep your ear to the ground. And if you missed Season 1 and want to catch up download *The Chosen* App or go online to <https://watch.thechosen.tv> or to Amazon Prime.



Carol Anne

Summer Family Fun

BY THE TIME this issue makes its way to you there will be two more opportunities left maybe to join in Summer Family Fun sessions. These have gone on throughout the summer, alternating between Ardgay and Dornoch. Hopefully we will have news and pictures to share about it all next time. In the meantime the remaining sessions (Tuesday 5th August, Kincardine Church Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm and Tuesday 12th August, Dornoch Cathedral Green, 10.30-11.30am) are opportunities for us to be welcoming and generous and just have fun with whoever comes along.

Carol Anne



Summer Reading Group

AT THE TIME of writing, we are only a little way into our summer reading, “Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again”. It’s a book by the late Rachel Held Evans about the author’s own relationship with the Scriptures which formed and informed her faith in different ways throughout her life. More than that, it’s an invitation to us to consider our own relationship with the faith stories that form and inform us. Those who want to will try to meet through the summer or however long it takes us to work through its chapters. We are all looking forward to where the book and its questions might take us and what our thoughts might be on the other side of all that. So... more later!

Carol Anne

Prayer

buffeted by winds of change and chance
we come to you
not to escape what is
but to find you, God, in the midst of it
to hear you name and claim us as your own

break down our defences, God
unclench our fists
unfurl our balled up hearts

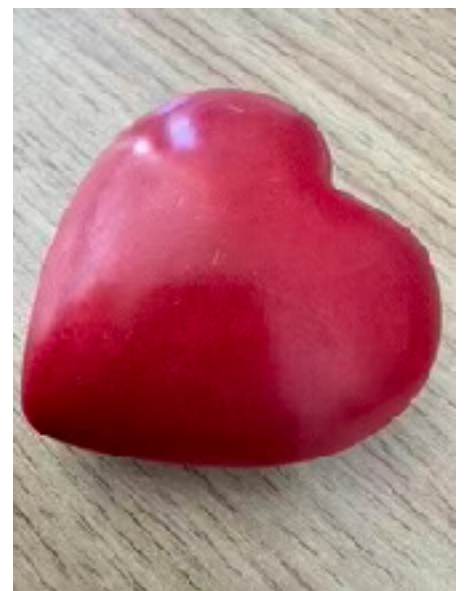
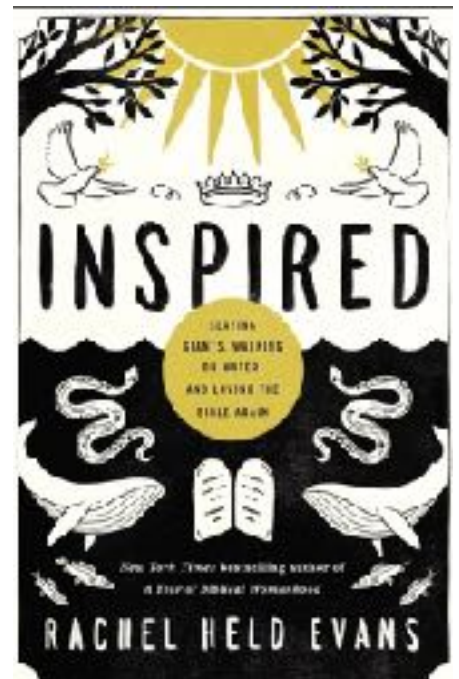
make us unafraid to dare candour
to wear humility and vulnerability -
well made as we are

God who calls

God who calls us “beloved”

we give ourselves wholeheartedly to you
knowing
hoping
we might find ourselves more connected, less alone
believing we might find ourselves home. Amen

Carol Anne



Brew in the Pew!

EVERY SUNDAY, after worship, the buzz seems to be growing a little louder. More and more folk are lingering, brew in hand, chatting and sharing with one another. Sometimes conversations are between folk who've known each other long; sometimes they are between folk who might never meet again; all of it is a sacred act of care especially when we remember to keep an eye out for who might not be in conversation and include them.

And so, a new feature for this issue is Brew in the Pew! Imagine yourself, cuppa in hand, listening, chatting to whoever is beside you. In this first go, I've shone the spotlight on myself (after all, you can't ask folk to do what you're not prepared to do yourself!) but I will be coming to a pew near you and maybe even a shop, a park bench, a cafe, to see who's there and ask a question or three. Right, here goes!

Carol Anne... tell us...

How did you come to be in Dornoch Firth Parish Church?

I came to Dornoch Cathedral initially to join the pulpit supply rota when the charge became vacant. This was after a few years of not being in ministry, when I was beginning to feel something like a heavy old door opening within me, letting light in, blowing out the stour. Added to that, someone I barely knew and had never really spoken to turned up at my door, compelled they said, to ask, "had I thought of entering ministry again". It was a hair-rising-on-the-back-of-my-neck-moment. And now I have the privilege of serving as minister for Dornoch Firth Parish and am looking forward to whatever God is going to do next.

What thing - big or small - has reminded you recently, life is good?

A tub of Capaldi's strawberry ice cream from the bookshop and a pigeon sun bathing on the grass beside me.

How has the way of faith been for you: slow... evolving... or ? What difference does it make? (Sorry, that's two questions I realise!)

I can't really remember a time when I didn't believe in something beyond ourselves, something good, something loving. And for me it was natural to call that something 'God'. There are seasons along the way of faith though, all different. I definitely feel this has been a 'deepening' time for me. And I feel more compelled than ever to know this Jesus guy who showed up saying, "Here's what it really means to be human".

Is there something about this following Jesus that surprises you still and that you'd like to know more about?

I think I'd like to know more about how Jesus as a Jewish man understood his 'origin' stories. What we think of as the Old Testament (and some of the New) is kind of fearsome but I'm curious enough to want to know (most of it!) and want to try to be truthful in talking about it.

Has there been a person who has particularly helped you in your following? How so?

Oh, many. Family. The church choir when I was a teenager. Girls' Brigade and Sunday School leaders. Poets. Preachers. Musicians. People in and beyond our church family who ask questions, who seek to live authentically, to love wholly... they're everywhere.

Favourite food? Cooked by you or someone else?

Vegetable curry (of any variety) for sure, preferably cooked by someone else... rich, subtle with a hint of hot.

Books? Music? Podcasts? Films? What is getting you thinking just now or keeping you entertained?

I really enjoyed Lamorna Ash's book recently - "Don't Forget We're Here Forever" - about what faith and following looks and feels like for those among the Gen Z age group (20s-30s). The "Strangers on a Bench" podcast by actor and musician Tom Rosenthal is a good listen if, like me, you're curious about people.

What is your idea of a perfect day or even a perfect hour?

Maybe just wandering in the fields near home, listening to the skylarks, feeling the breeze Or maybe a concert if I'm lucky, Karine Polwart (her Wind Resistance show was one of the most beautiful experiences I've ever had), or the collective behind the Lost Words: Spell Songs even, that would be perfectly perfect!

Thing you wished you'd known sooner that might be useful for someone else to know?

The person you see in the mirror is okay you, know. And, if you're going to try to cool Prosecco quickly by putting it in the freezer, don't leave it in so long you end up with iced Prosecco and broken glass!

Question you wish you'd been asked but weren't?

Phew! I think that's enough of me for long while!

Carol Anne

Life Events

Funerals

6th June	Maureen Smith
10th June	Alan Wilson
13th June	Joan T L McNaughton

Interment of Ashes

4th July	Mrs Mary Thompson Edderton Old Church Cemetery
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Wedding

5th July	Kathleen Margaret MacDonald and Jason Christopher Douglas
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We continue to hold close in our hearts and minds all those whom we are called to care for in times of joy and sorrow.

'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.' - Jesus of Nazareth

Summer Sing

ANOTHER enjoyable afternoon in Kincardine Hall when Fay Wilkinson enlightened us about all of the health benefits of singing at this well attended Summer Sing. A variety of hymns mainly from Songs of God's People, with the addition of a couple of children's choruses, had everyone participating enthusiastically.

After listening to these important health benefits, the ladies of Kincardine saw that lost calories were replenished in plentiful quantities.



Calorie replacement



Jesus' love is very wonderful

Summer Walks

FIRST THERE WAS Natter n Nosh and then we had Knit & Natter. This summer has added Walk & Chatter. Friendships, socialising, a cuppa and off course the odd biscuit and maybe cakes helped the energy levels. There were other walks as the Parish News was at the printing stage so we shall share photos from 17th, 22nd and 29th July in the next issue.

Why not join for the final two for this summer? –

Wed. 6th & Thurs. 14th August

Read what Wendy and Malcolm Hayes thought of this first walk on Tuesday 8th July where some sixteen hardy souls met at the Kincardine Parish Church at 14:00 on the 8th June for this 6km walk passing through Gledfield and Dounie Estates organised by Christine and Valerie.



A well-earned refreshment stop

We headed west along Church Street past Gledfield Primary School taking a left before another left down a grass farm track to meet the Culrain road where another left at the bridge led to a path along the south banks of the river Carron. The river was definitely low and in need of further rain.

As we walked Valerie told us of points of interest, the many 'fishing' locations with interesting names on boards attached to the trees and who owned the estates with future plans to enhance the area. Close to the path we saw valerian and some orchids including the greater butterfly orchid.

We spied a group of fishermen having a picnic by their hut on the north side of the river and we arrived at our halfway refreshment area. What a lovely surprise it was with several cake stands full of a variety of cakes (all low calorie I was informed with tongue in cheek) hot tea, coffee and juices.

Reluctantly we had to move on, more slowly now following our refreshment break and head back to our starting point with Mary Stobo following in her car should anyone wish to have a lift.

This was a wonderful walk, very well organised by Christine and Valerie. The scenery was spectacular, the weather brilliant for walking and the company a pleasure to be part of. The lovely 'pit stop' half way round was excellent and has certainly set a standard for future walks.

One of many Reflections

ONCE AGAIN Carol Anne draws everyone's attention.

At Pentecost we had great fun, playing with bubbles and thinking of the Spirit filling the disciples and their words about God rising across the listening crowd.



Prayer Group

The Prayer Group continues to meet each Sunday in the West Church Hall, before the morning Service (9.55 – 10.50am).

Our “Sundays @ 7” Service at the beginning of July set me thinking again about how important prayer is in all our lives. God's presence with us, especially when things are tough, brings comfort and encouragement, guidance and peace of mind. The stories that were shared that evening illustrated how God had met the deepest needs experienced by each person.

God's light overcomes the darkness.

As a small group we pray for vision and guidance for Carol Anne, our elders and all the many others who work so hard to make Christ's light shine in the parish and in the wider community. We also pray for world issues as we feel led.

New members would be a great strength and very welcome. All that is shared of a personal nature is respected and confidential.

Do come and join us.

Prayer:

Dear Father, we thank you for Jesus whose suffering and death has brought us new life of love and hope. As Your children help us to share the same love, hope and joy throughout our journey with you.

ALSO - Prayers for the Parish – this group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month alternating between the West Church Hall and Kincardine Church Hall.

Everyone is very welcome to join these informal prayer meetings

Dates: 24th August – West Church Hall; 18th September – Kincardine Church Hall

Rosie Reid



Pilgrimage to Croick – Sunday 10th 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 (or even occasionally!) 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.

The journey can be by foot or by car. It is only a mile long and follows the river upstream from Amat to Croick church, retracing the steps of the people of Glencalvie 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.



We meet at Amat junction, beside the red phone box, on the road to Croick at 2pm on Sunday 10th August. Transport back from the church to Amat can be provided for those who walk.

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

Reverend Mary Stobo

Sundays @ 7

THE INVERGORDON SINGERS and Golspie Choral started our series of short evening Services at the end of May. This was followed by a very interesting number of groups with the Worship Team, The Guild, Morag Macaskill and Youth Organisations, Natter n Nosh, The Prayer Group and Carol Anne along with support from Hannah, Ella, Jack, Imogen & Patience.

Mhairi Mackay



L to R Jack, Patience, Ella & Imogen helped to illustrate a poem

Social Committee

COFFEE MORNINGS August-December – Fridays 10.00 to 12.30

15th August – to support VJ celebration
19th September
17th October
21st November
12th December

Christmas Gift Parcels:

Sunday 12th and 19th December

We look forward to seeing everyone. Feel free to bring friends and family.

Una Reid, Social Convenor



Natter & Nosh

THE NATTER AND NOSH Lunch Club meets on a Monday every two weeks and is open to everyone to come and enjoy a two course meal in a fun and friendly space. We have a break for the summer and will start again mid-September so lookout for dates nearer the time.

A massive thank you to the many volunteers that set up tables, cooked, served and washed up afterwards.

Trish Geddes

Welcome Team

THIS YEAR is proving to be our busiest so far as the number of visitors to the Cathedral increases year on year. This makes the time all the more interesting for our volunteers, as they welcome and chat with folk from all over the world. Many of us are often surprised at the sometimes amusing coincidences which frequently arise - shared experiences, shared places of birth, shared acquaintances there is no doubt that the oft repeated phrase "it's a small world" is as true nowadays as it has always been.

We continue to do extremely well with sales and it is a delight to see happy folk leaving with something to remind themselves of their visit - a Cathedral tea towel, a prayer card, a cross in a pocket, or a happy child clasping a cathedral mouse or a tartan clad teddy bear.

And yes we're still recruiting! If you would like to join us on a "one off" basis or more regularly for a 3 hour shift once a fortnight, we would really love to hear from you.

Sue Boyce (01862 810415), Anne Chambers (01862 811520), Lisa Dickenson (01862 810973)



Moira Rennie and Anne Harding making a sale

Fancy meeting you!

SERVING on the Welcome Table is always an enjoyable experience and it is gratifying to know one is helping to make a contribution to the upkeep of our beautiful cathedral. However, to my mind, what is most enjoyable is talking to so many interesting visitors. To illustrate this, here are a few of the more interesting people I have met in the last twelve months.

Last year I met a lady engineer from Aachen. She was very interested in the construction of our Cathedral and was able to tell me about Aachen Cathedral, which until the construction of the Basilica in Rome, was the tallest building in Europe, then becoming the tallest north of the Alps. However, what was more interesting was her current job. She was working with a scientist on the development of artificial lungs! The idea is to apply the same technology as used in artificial kidneys. We did not go into details!

To continue the German theme, I later met a gentleman who explained why the railway lines run as they do around Cologne; all to do with the position of the Cathedral and who owned what land.

A third person I met restored historic ceilings. He was very interested in ours and offered some insights into its construction. (He was unable to get up close to confirm his thoughts!)

On the subject of the fabric of the building, this year we were visited by a stained-glass window maker. Again, I learned much from him about the techniques used. Apparently the red colour is derived from a gold paint and so was very expensive. Tones were developed using differently heated areas within the kiln. He also explained that the modern windows were probably made using sand-blasting. He regretted he could not get close enough to confirm this.

Just last week while conversing with a Canadian couple, the gentleman revealed that his grand-father's cousin was Col. John Macrae, who penned the immortal lines: "In Flanders fields the poppies blow, between the crosses row on row". Our discussion then moved on to the plague village of Eyam, bubonic plague and the Black Death!

I have also been quizzed by the grand-daughter of a Bishop of Moray. Given I am English, apparently I passed satisfactorily on the subject of the Church of Scotland!.

One can be asked interesting questions; the most challenging this year being: "Can you explain the difference between Presbyterianism and Calvinism?" "Pass!"

These are just a few examples from my experiences. I am sure other helpers have equally interesting experiences and we would love to read about them.

If you enjoy meeting people and hearing stories, why not volunteer. Sue, Anne and Lisa would be delighted to hear from you!

Roger Boyce

The Guild

THE COMMITTEE has been meeting over the Summer months to organise the syllabus for 2025/2026. This is Year Two of the theme "Let us Build a House" and we are called to be 'Living Stones'. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd September at 2.30pm in the West Church Hall. The speaker has still to be confirmed but will be announced at a later date. We are hoping that more men will come and join our Guild and it is open to all and a warm welcome awaits.

Trish Geddes



Fund Raising

THE EAGLE-EYED folk among you will have noticed that the Funding Thermometer on the organ pipes in the Cathedral has reached 25%, indicating that we have raised to date £10,000. Well done everyone.

I hope that you are enjoying the opportunity to use your talent to swell the £20 that Mhairi gave you. As well as raising funds for the parish it is great to get you thinking of how you can bring people together, maybe your neighbours for afternoon tea or a barbeque. Or using your talent to make something for others to buy. Or get to know someone better by valeting their car! Thank you to the almost 50 people who have accepted £20 with the intention to make it grow.

Our Guided tours around the Cathedral are needing some helpers in the form of guides. If you fancy learning a little bit about the history of our impressive building and passing that knowledge on to visitors Roger Boyce would love to hear from you. Roger's email address is rnbdavochfin2012@gmail.com

Similarly, those volunteers that ensure visitors around the tower are safe and well informed could do with more assistance. Graham McCarthy is the person to contact. Graham's email address is gramgash@aol.com

A BIG THANK YOU to all of you that made the recent Barbeque such a success. We raised over £2,500 but more importantly we had a wonderful evening greeting and feeding old friends and new. The change of venue to the West Church Hall proved to be an amazing success.

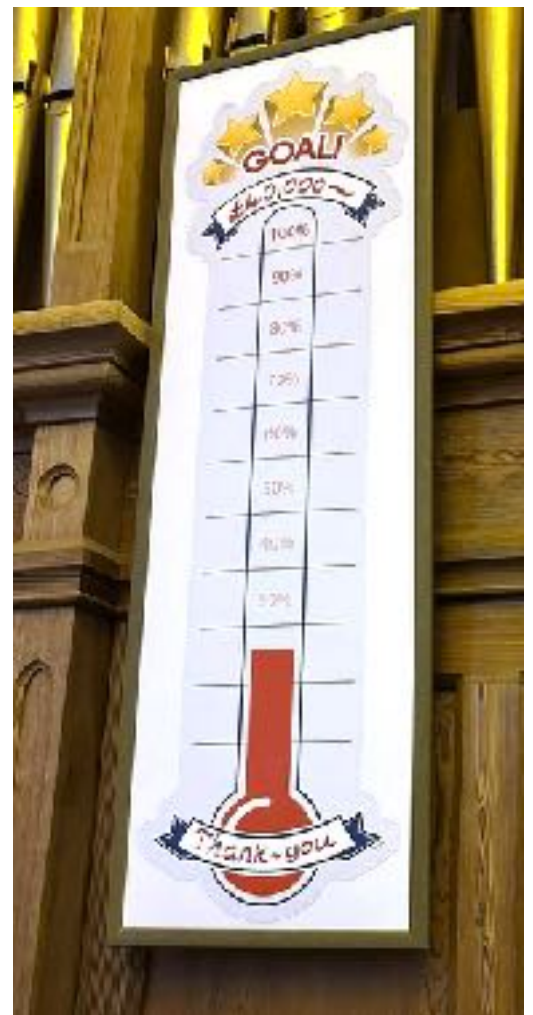
Looking ahead to the Golf event on the 13th September, Royal Dornoch's Struie course still has room for your team of four. If you haven't a team of four but would love to play, we have other available players ready to make up teams. Entry forms available from johnmcmurray1400@gmail.com and mobile 07801496609.

Individual entries £75 and Team of Four £300 which includes a goodie bag, pre-golf bacon roll, tea/coffee, and after golf two course meal followed by a raffle and auction.

We thank Royal Dornoch for the courtesy of the Struie golf course and our main sponsors Morrison Construction and Glenmorangie Distillery. All proceeds go to Dornoch Firth Parish .

This winter is going to see a change in the Cathedral as we increase the wide range of different concerts and invited speakers. This will be a combination of the parish's events along with additional events organised by the newly formed Sutherland Cultural Collective.

John McMurray (Leader)



Cathedral Tours Are Much Appreciated!

THE INTRICATE stained-glass window that tells the story of our generous visionary, St. Gilbert; the drama of the Battle of Embo that surrounds the ancient sarcophagus; the terrifying story of the marauding Mackays of Strathnaver whose antics destroyed the elegant nave; the gangrene that was the punishment for the desecrator of Gilbert's tomb; the cryptic stonemasons' marks easily missed by the hurried visitor... need we go on? Our venerable Cathedral holds many intriguing stories that can only be fully appreciated by taking an exclusive guided tour conducted by one of our dedicated Cathedral experts!

The Royal Dornoch and Cathedral tours offered to the cruise ships are clearly much appreciated by the passengers who are choosing them this summer season.

Our tours have not only been offered to cruise ship passengers. Our guide Roger Boyce has conducted tours for the local Rotary Club, the Guilds Together, and soon, to Brora Hub. Gary Cruden led a tour for a private group from Dundee, joined by our very own Minister, Carol Anne Porter. Alison Bartlett and Morag Macaskill have been honing their skills on friends and family, preparing to convey to the visitors arriving over the coming weeks, the fascinating stories that lie within the Cathedral's walls.

If you are interested in training to be a Dornoch Cathedral guide, please contact Roger Boyce at: rnbdavochfin2012@gmail.com

Pat Murray

Women's Group

Early in June, our group were delighted to be welcomed to an 'Introduction to Bowls' evening by members of the Dornoch Bowling Club Jean, George and Liz.

They invited us to join them on the immaculate green and then, with patience, advice and a great deal of good humour, they let us loose to try our hand at this skilful, testing and fun sport. Although not all of us had a natural talent or ability (!) we all improved as the evening wore on and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The evening was rounded off perfectly by tea and refreshments which our kind hosts served in their comfortable clubhouse. We are so grateful to them for giving up a Monday evening and for putting up with our laughter and hilarity.

*Caroline Gilchrist
(Sports Correspondent)*



Gary Cruden with a tour group in the Chancel



Jean Mezzetti conducting the warm-up



Gwen Muir bowling with a delivery that grazed the jack.

£20 Challenge

DATES TO NOTE:

- Wednesday 13th and 27th August from 9.30-1pm Mhairi Mackay has a stall at the Community Market. If you'd like to sell your produce on that day please let Mhairi know. Mobile 07867771028

- Sale of Work in the West Church Hall on Saturday 23rd August, 10am to 12 o'clock.

The Fund Raising Team are delighted that **SO FAR**, 46 kind people have taken up the £20 challenge to use their talents to increase the cash by the end of August. There are still some £20 notes available, it's not too late to join in. Get in touch with Mhairi for your £20 starter money. Tell me what you are planning to do so we can promote your talents to the congregation and the Dornoch public.

Here are a few of the talents on offer:

- John Calder is making and selling bird boxes
- Eric de Venny, The Eagle is auctioning a bottle of whisky.
- Alison Bartlett is growing plants for sale.
- Liz Manson has potted up bedding plants.
- Margaret MacDonald is knitting baby jackets.
- Jeani Hunter is making coasters from photos.
- Trish Geddes is selling tablet.
- Ruth and Liz Broadhead are selling lucky squares for a lamb box.
- Mary Stobo is making cards.
- The Choir will organise a Sundays @7.
- Mhairi is offering scone making lessons.
- Rhona Begg is selling baking.
- Roddy McLean is offering to wash and valet your car.
- Ann Creed is selling jam.
- David Hannah is selling quizzes.
- Carol MacLean and Babs Gemmel are having a cream tea.
- Maureen MacKay is knitting socks.
- Eileen Aitken is crocheting.
- Gladys McCulloch is organising a walk followed by afternoon tea.
- Morag Macaskill, Christine Mackay and Irene Chisholm have all bought chicken feed and are selling their eggs.
- Will Porter is selling lucky tickets for a bottle of malt.
- Maggie Hope is selling quizzes.
- Some have already completed their activity and are ready to go again – Well Done Fay Wilkinson who held an afternoon tea and also the Social Committee who had a baking stall. Jane Wilson and Roz Oliver Jones held an afternoon tea.

Mhairi Mackay (Organiser)

Oversteps Care Home

PAM CELEBRATED her birthday this month, and had a beautiful cake made by our senior care worker, Mel. She was delighted with her presents and all the love from family & staff.

Three of our nightshift team completed a walk from Tain to Oversteps, as part of our year-long fundraising for a minibus. We've raised almost £12,000 so far and we're hopeful that we'll manage to purchase the bus before the end of the year.

Our fundraising to buy a minibus is important for the residents and donations can be made on our Justgiving page, or handed in at Oversteps.

Saturday 9th August Summer Fair in Oversteps grounds, Earls Cross Road, from 12 noon to 4.00pm
Bouncy Castle, Face Painting, Music, Food & Lots More.

Jen MacDonald, Manager



At first it looks like flowers but Pam enjoyed her special birthday cake.



Looking fresh after their 10 mile walk from Tain

Meadows Care Home

LIFE IN THE Meadows Care Home has been busy for the residents and staff. There was lovely sunshine for the sports day when primary 4 & 5 pupils from Dornoch Primary came to the Meadows. Some residents had a trip to Balnagown Castle, and other a trip to the Toulvaddie Distillery, near Fearn, and everyone enjoyed our annual Meadowlands Music Festival.

Jackie Macrae, Manager



Dornoch Primary Pupils tug-of-war



Who needs Belladrum with Jackie's Meadowland Music Festival?

Brownies

ANOTHER BUSY TERM has come to an end as the girls now enjoy their summer holidays. They have been busy showing and telling us about their Collections and have earned their Collecting badge respectively.

Thank you thank Lynne, Darren and Daryl at Dornoch Caravan Park for letting us host the girls' end of term party there. A great time was had by all. Happy Summer

Julie Herbertson (Brownie Leader)



The water chute was great fun

Girls' Brigade

OUR JUNIORS won the Frazer Trophy this year, a competition for the Highland Division. The topic was using rubbish and they made TV's with their favourite programme out of discarded lunch boxes. Well done girls in their first year being formed.

Marianne MacLeod (Leader)



TVs and remote controls from rubbish

St Gilbert Awards

THE ST GILBERT Awards for pupils of Bonar Bridge and 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 to pupils from Bonar Bridge, Dornoch, Edderton and Gledfield. As well as certificates pupils received a Family Pass to gain free entry to the Cathedral Tower on Saturday evenings.



A selection of photos from the schools



Youth Theatre Group

THE DORNOCH FIRTH Youth Theatre Group held its summer show recently in the West Church Hall. Entitled, "Dances, Songs and Snapshots", the youngsters performed items from many of their shows over the past seven years as well as new material.

A sizeable and appreciative crowd had gathered and joined in enthusiastically with songs of yesteryear, such as Gotta Get a Message to You and Sugar, Sugar. Swept along by the children's obvious sense of fun, the audience members were fulsome in their praise of their endeavours and everyone left feeling all the better for having witnessed such wide-ranging and heart-felt performances (twenty-one no less!) in just one hour.

Graham McCarthy



This cast performed an energetic Time Warp routine. They are: Rear (l to r) Lilly Tarry, Myla Skene, William Traquair, Lily Le Roux, Skye Hamilton, Fearne Mackay. Front (l to r) Hollie Sangster, Rosie Minty, Morven Cameron, Olivia Sutherland and Alexandra Graham.



Isla Swanson reprising her role as Lucy, which she played in the 2022 show, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. She is singing the Bob Dylan classic, Make You Feel My Love.

VJ Day Celebrations – Friday 15th August

- 9.30am Short Service at War Memorial & raising the flag
- 10.00am Coffee Morning in West Church Hall – 1940 style service
- 12.00 to 2.00pm Fancy Dress 1940's style on Cathedral Green
- 2.00pm Children's Paper Crafts in Library
- 5.30pm Episcopal Church Quiet Time
- 6.30pm Ringing of the Bells for Peace
- 7.00pm Free Buffett at ESRA Boat Station
- Live music ; Quiz; Community Singing
- Historylinks Display
- Dornoch School Campus Display
- 9.30pm Lighting of the beacon at the beach
- Firing of the cannon.

Neil Dalton



Dreams of Peace and Freedom

THE CATHEDRAL was a fitting place for Artistic Director Tom Blackmore and his talented family to perform 'Dreams of Peace and Freedom' written by Sue Casson. The song cycle commemorates the 75th anniversary of the signing of the European Convention on Human Rights through the eyes of Tom's grandfather, British artisan, David Maxwell Fyfe.

David's mother was born at Tordarroch, a stone's throw from the Cathedral, now the home of Rose Matheson. As a child he spent every summer in the town, growing up with stories of injustice towards his family during the late Highland clearances. As an adult he became a Human Rights lawyer and was a member of the Prosecution team at the Nuremburg Trials after the Second World War. David was made a Freeman of Dornoch in 1955 and took the name Lord Kilmuir.

Dreams of Peace and Freedom tells David's story of the birth of the convention through narrative, film and song, interspersed with extracts of letters between David Maxwell Fyfe and his wife Sylvia, and the poetry of Rupert Brooke, and James Logie Robertson among others.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event. The show is now winging its way to the Edinburgh Fringe and then on to Liverpool, London and Oxford.

The Blackmore family have donated all ticket sales to the Cathedral raising over £700 for Dornoch Firth Parish.

Special thanks go to Logan Mackay for piping the audience into the Cathedral before giving a rousing rendition of Highland Cathedral.

Lynne Mahoney (Historylinks Curator)



Tom Blackmore of Dreams of Peace and Rose Matheson who lives in Tordarroch

Open gardens at Invershin

OVER THE WEEKEND – 7th and 8th June, our gardens at Lower Balblair and Daylesford, welcomed visitors from all parts of Sutherland and Ross-shire.

The gardens at Invershin spread up from the waters of the Kyle of Sutherland and the distant forests and hills give a feeling of timeless beauty. We were truly blessed with the sunshine and only light breezes which kept the midges away.

All who came enjoyed not only the planting and the gardens but also marvelled at all this being established in an old gravel quarry over the last 10 years - Sutherland's "Eden Project"! Beautiful views, peaceful areas to wander in, time to sit and reflect, together with excellent refreshments provided and served by a great group of volunteers, all made for magical visits.

Over the two afternoons, £880 was raised - £530 for Save the Children Fund and £350 for the Dornoch Firth Parish.

Grateful thanks from Julia, Adrian and myself to everyone who came and gave so generously of their time and money.

Rosie Reid



Ardgay Celebrations

ON 17TH MAY Golden Jubilee Celebrations were organised for Ardgay and District area to mark 50 years since they became part of Sutherland during local government reorganisation. There was a theme of a Spirit of Togetherness for the day.

This milestone provided the inspiration for a small but dedicated team of local residents to organise a community-led celebration for all ages. The event aimed not only to reflect on the past but also to learn from it and move forward with a shared vision for the future, rooted in the Highland tradition of mutual support and community spirit.

With generous support from the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust and the Ardgay and District Community Council, which provided funding to cover the costs of the weekend, the planning process began in earnest.

Festivities included a badminton tournament which started the celebrations, followed by a school treasure hunt, a colouring competition, and badge-making workshops, all of which engaged local children and encouraged creative participation.

The main celebration took place on Saturday, beginning with a formal and symbolic raising of the Sutherland flag, performed by the Lord Lieutenant of Sutherland, Major General Patrick Marriott, accompanied by Tyler Macleod. Also in attendance was Deputy Lieutenant Angus Watson of the Ross & Cromarty Lieutenancy.

Local piper Angus Smith entertained the crowd with a stirring selection of traditional tunes. Jason Ubych, curator of the Tain and District Museum delivered an engaging and informative talk on the historical presence and influence of Clan Ross in the Ardgay area.

There were community stalls and activities for all ages, from traditional games to craft displays. A historical exhibition curated by Fiona Macdonald took attendees on a journey through decades of local life. The display featured photographs, documents, and memories that painted a rich picture of Ardgay's past, offering a nostalgic "trip down memory lane" for many long-time residents and newcomers alike.

Local band Buttons and Bows provided the music for an evening Ceilidh celebrating Highland culture and heritage. The laughter, music, and shared memories made it a great evening.

The weekend of celebration concluded on Sunday afternoon with a thoughtful and heartfelt church service in Drovers Square, led by Reverend Carol Anne Porter. Her words reflected on the themes of gratitude, remembrance, and hope, encouraging the community to continue building a future grounded in care and connection.

The Ardgay and District Golden Jubilee was not only a commemoration of a significant historical milestone, but it was also a reaffirmation of community, heritage, and hope. It served as a shining example of what can be achieved when people come together with a shared purpose, and it leaves a legacy that will be remembered fondly for years to come.

Christine Mackay



Sunday afternoon Open Air



Refreshment after Saturday's afternoon activity

Dornoch Firth Group

Knit and Natter

Our knitters continue to amaze us with their beautiful creations - from jumpers to jammie covers, beanies and blankets. They recently enjoyed a live performance by some excellent young trad musicians, have been cooking up a storm selling delicious jam, marmalade, cake and tablet to fundraise for the cathedral and are planning a lunch out together over the summer.

Mamas' Club

Our Mamas' Club has had a lovely term, filled with crafts including making peg people, Father's Day cards and a relaxed morning experimenting with watercolours. We have lots of bumps in the group and at least one of them will be joining us earthside by the time we go back after summer! We also recently welcomed twin boys to the group and everyone is enjoying cuddles with them.

Seaside Storywalks

Our Seaside Storywalks are always popular with varied themes - recently the children created a beach racetrack alongside counting stories and songs and we shared a picnic and play in the park - but the hungry seagulls thought they were also invited...!

Tuesday Tots

Tuesday Tots Baby and Toddler Group is our busiest family group with around 20-25 families each week. Toddler sports day was a hoot with lots of littlies getting lost and distracted half way through a race, a few cheating at egg and spoon race and some very competitive dads for the grown up's race! We were delighted to host a pair of very talented young musicians who gave a fantastic soundtrack to our toddler music day including a mini ceilidh!

We very much enjoyed reflecting on our family groups and putting together a little video about what we do that was shown at a Sundays@7 Service in the Cathedral, we are proud to be part of such a wonderful community!

Our regular family groups return after the summer w/b 25th August (a week after schools go back), we would love to welcome any new families who haven't been before or are visiting - no group is more than £2 per family. There will be a few pop-up events running over the summer, find us on Facebook @DornochAreaFamilyEvents to keep up to date.

Thank you to everyone who has come along to our groups this term and have a wonderful summer!

Eilidh & Jen



Making Fathers Day Cards



Seaside Storywalk – "I spy..."

Art with Conviction

CAROL ANNE welcomed over 50 people to the launch of the art exhibition held in the Cathedral.

She said, “.... For over 800 years a long line of folk have gathered here to worship God whose love is impartial but whose concern is very much biased toward those most at risk in society, those too often disregarded. It is, then, a great privilege to share in hosting this exhibition making visible, not only art, but those who made it and the challenges they’ve come or are coming through.”

Local man, Robert Morrall, established Pictora, a social enterprise company with the purpose to create art activity for people in prison and vulnerable people in society. For every one pound made for selling artwork and goods 50p goes to Pictora. This might be used for those in prison to make and send cards to the family and friends, therefore maintaining relationships. Art work came from HMP Inverness, Dundee and Glasgow.

Jacob Reid spoke, “10 years ago, I was serving out time in custody. I was but a shadow of the man that stands before you today. Plagued by my mental health. Unable to understand myself, unable to truly express myself. I remember sitting, contemplating the life my family would live, if I successfully didn't make it through tomorrow. I thought of my parents, my dog, my friends and colleagues. It was enough at least for me to pause.

One of the mental health workers invited me to the art group that ran in the main location. I recognised there was a choice to be made. So, I picked up the pen, and began to put down my pain on paper, through the creative medium, of art and poetry.

How special it is to me now, that I have the opportunity to talk to you, about how the pen, or the pencil, can change your life. Art took me out of a box, into a place beyond where barriers, be it a physical wall or otherwise could hold me. It gave me a voice, it gave me a direction, and then it gave me a purpose. As a result, I stand before you now, a different man. Art and poetry gave me freedom. Art in prison, is more than a picture on a wall, it is a gateway to a life that person never thought was possible to walk through.”

Chloe Jenkins, Tutor at Fife College, spoke of the therapy elements of art. How it allows connections to family, builds resilience, presents challenges, helps control anxiety and can provide a calmness. Kerry O'Hagan, Head of Residential at HMP Inverness, told the audience how art and poetry help with rehabilitation and build community relationships and art is the most popular of the many activities offered.

Kim Tulloch, Vice Lord Lieutenant for Sutherland, officially opened the art exhibition.



People at the launch enjoying a drink and shortbread in the Cathedral crossing



L-R Chloe Jenkins, HMP Inverness; Rev. Carol Anne Porter; Kerry O'Hagan, Fife College; Robert Morrall; Jacob Reid.



A selection from the 60 pieces of artwork

Dates for your diary

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE PARISH:

AUGUST

- 3rd 11.00 am – Morning Worship at Dornoch Cathedral and at 7pm ‘Sundays@7’
- 10th 11.00 am – Morning Worship at Dornoch Cathedral and at 7pm ‘Sundays@7’
3.00 pm – Communion Service at Croick Church, preceded by a Pilgrimage Walk at 2.00 pm, starting at the Amat Crossroads.
- 17th 11.00 am – Morning Worship at Dornoch Cathedral, live streamed to Kincardine Church Hall and at 7pm ‘Sundays@7’
- 24th 11.00 am – ‘Back to School Sunday’ at Dornoch Cathedral and at 7pm ‘Sundays@7’
1.30 pm – ‘Back to School Sunday’ at Kincardine Church Hall
- 31st 11.00 am – Morning Worship at Dornoch Cathedral and at 7pm ‘Sundays@7’
3.00 pm – Contemplative Service - by Neil Simco at Kincardine Church Hall

SEPTEMBER

- 7th 11.00 am – Family Service with Dornoch Youth Band at Dornoch Cathedral
- 14th 11.00 am – Morning Worship at Dornoch Cathedral
1.30 pm – Minister-led service at Kincardine Church Hall
- 21st 11.00 am – Morning Worship at Dornoch Cathedral live streamed to Kincardine Church Hall
- 28th 11.00 am – Morning Worship at Dornoch Cathedral
1.30 pm – ‘Soup Sunday’ - Cafe Style Worship at Kincardine Church Hall

OVERSTEPS & MEADOWS SERVICES

Sunday 17th August & 21st September

PRAYERS FOR THE PARISH

Sunday 24th August in West Church Hall

Sunday 18th September in Kincardine Church Hall

MORE DATES TO NOTE

Saturday 9th August – Oversteps Summer Fair 12 o'clock to 4.00pm

Friday 15th August – VJ Day Celebrations – details in magazine

‘Myself Management Group’ meetings are on Thursdays 25 September, 30 October and 27 November in the West Church Hall.

More details on: <https://www.myself-management.org/taim-dornoch> and from vicki@myself-management.org

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**Please look out for further information on line and locally, regarding Back to School Sunday,
the Contemplative Service and Soup Sunday!**
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