



DORNOCH FIRTH PARISH MAGAZINE

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In this issue



DORNOCH SCHOOL CAMPUS REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

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Gareth Davis-Jones, singer-songwriter, at the Cathedral for Christian Aid tour.

And much, much more!

Minister's Thoughts

Dear friends

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are in the season of long nights. The season of trying to convince the dog it's later than it really is so he doesn't get us up TOO early...

And I kind of like it. I like the hunkering down, or 'coorying in' to use an old but now fashionable phrase. I think we all need a season more inviting of rest - or maybe I'm just a bear at heart who wouldn't mind eating my own body weight in food and then settling in for a right good sleep!

We are in the season of long nights. And I appreciate, it can be difficult too. Days pass all too quickly and nights feel, for many of us, far too lonely by far. Neither the radio nor tele' is much company really, it turns out, despite the familiar hum...

We need each other... We need each other to pick up the phone, to turn up... to tell more truthful stories... we need the tilt and lilt of laughter to blow away our lonesomeness...

We are in the season of long nights. But... as Christmas nears, we are reminded we are in this season too, the season of 'everlasting Light'.

*Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.*



Forgive the archaic language (we've been singing this for more than one hundred and fifty years, isn't that something).

Forgive the abbreviation of a much loved hymn (from the hand of Phillips Brooks, Episcopalian Priest).

Forgive all this and listen to the deep down song...

We are in the season of long nights... But even our longest nights... When our world comes tumbling down... When we lose more than we can bear... When we don't know how to get through even the hour...

Even in these long long nights...

Especially in these long long nights...

God is right here... God the 'everlasting Light'... holding all our hopes and fears...

Wishing you a truly joyful Christmas...

Praying you know God near.

With you,

Carol Anne

The Chosen

SOME OF US have just completed another season of *The Chosen*, the multi series drama of Jesus' life. Gathering together to watch seems to be of value to everyone, watching in company, having opportunity to talk together afterwards, these things feel to be an important part of it all.

We will pick up Season 3 next year. If you haven't found it yet, why not pick up a new Advent or New Year practise and get going? Each season has eight episodes so there's plenty of time to catch up and be ready to join in company for Season 3. In the meantime, here are some comments from folk who've been watching.

"I've enjoyed watching *The Chosen*, seeing the bigger picture - the plotting of the Pharisees, Jesus gathering his followers, the influence of the women followers."

"Through *The Chosen* we travel with Jesus and his disciples and others setting up camp, with the trials, tribulations, squabbling and fun of young men living in difficult situations. There are also women and we discover their troubled history. The locations are spectacular and the settings and costumes so well researched. At the end of Season 2, Jesus is preparing for the Sermon on the Mount and he and Matthew, who shows a compassionate side, wander off together, batting ideas. Jesus listens and implements many of Matthew's views. The last night of Season 2 is left on a cliffhanger as just before the sermon Judas appears on the scene. Surprisingly, he is showing a conscience! No spoilers please!"

"For me, one of the joys of *The Chosen* is the way that what we have in the gospels, and what can be deduced, is combined with imaginative storytelling, bringing it all to life. We've all fallen in love with Matthew (and his white coats – we must get some tips!) and, of course, with Jesus, as portrayed so wonderfully by Jonathan Roumie – he, Jesus, is every bit as human as we might hope. Really looking forward to Season 3 and to gathering again."

"*The Chosen* just brings the stories alive in ways I've not thought of before."

Carol Anne

Trees for life

THIS IS THE SEASON where trees come indoors for Christmas or for some families they also have a tree lit up outside. Enjoy reading these words below which can encourage folk to learn a little from the wisdom of trees and nature.....

Next time you walk through the wood,
Stop and think what's taking place right under your feet.
As the roots of the trees connect with each other, they form a support system.

One has access to water,
Another to nutrients,
And another to sunshine.

No single tree has it all but together they can grow, thrive, and withstand the storms of life.

Then we will grow in every way and be more like Christ, the Head of the Body.

Christ holds it together and makes all of its parts work perfectly as it grows and becomes strong because of love.

George & Mary Patience



© Ian Westacott

Harvest Services

AT THE BEGINNING of October we held our Harvest Services in the Cathedral and An Tobar. The gifts of food and vegetables were distributed to Tain Hub, Ardgay Larder and the Bradbury Centre Foodbank.



Harvest Service at Dornoch Cathedral



Celebration of harvest at An Tobar with a Soup Lunch



*Senior pupils from Dornoch Primary supported the
Meadows Care Home*

Remembrance Sunday

ON SUNDAY 9th November people from villages throughout the Dornoch Firth Parish gathered to remember those that gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.



Service at Ardgay



Soup & Sandwich lunch after the Bonar Service



Bonar Bridge Primary School



Service at Edderton War Memorial



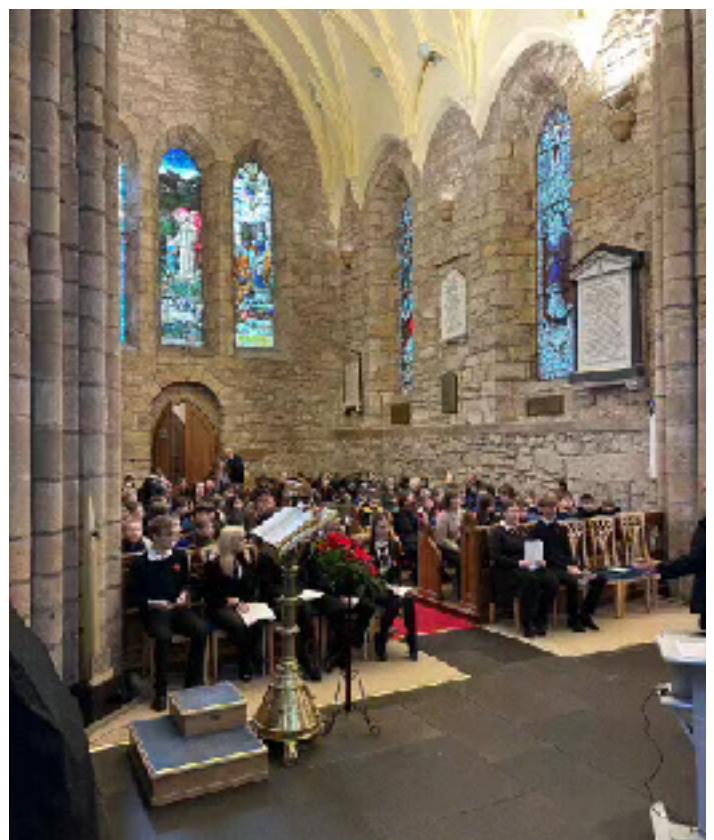
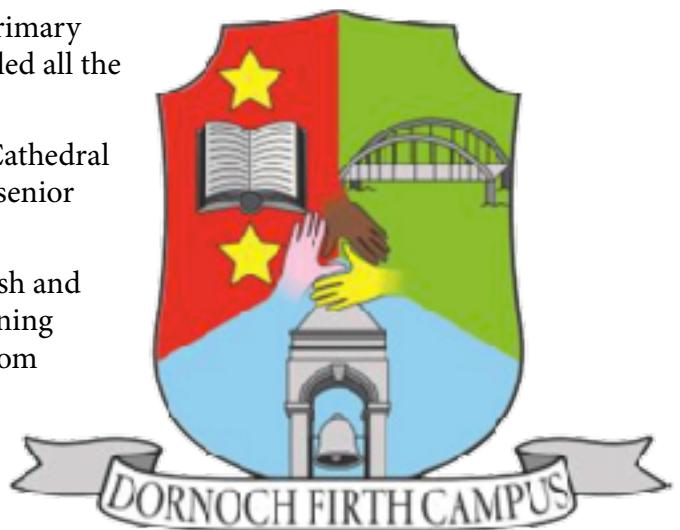
Service at Dornoch War Memorial

Dornoch Firth Campus Service

ON TUESDAY 11th November pupils from Bonar Bridge Primary School, Dornoch Primary School and Dornoch Academy filled all the pews in Dornoch Cathedral to mark this special day.

The Dornoch pupils were piped from the school to the Cathedral where Reverend Carol Anne Porter shared the Service with senior pupils with readings, prayers and hymns.

Archie Robertson, Alice Short, Neave Warner-Mackintosh and Boris Pavlenko spoke to a 'PowerPoint' presentation mentioning some of the young men from the area that never returned from World War I. They also illustrated how other countries wear flowers different to our poppy for the period leading up to Remembrance Day.



Flowers of Remembrance



SOLDIERS from all over the World died during World War One - and in every continent sadly people in the Services continue to die today.

In the UK, the Commonwealth, and the USA, the Poppy is our flower of remembrance. It was first suggested in 1918, as it was the first flower to grow back on the battlefields after the war. It is a symbol of perseverance and money from the poppies we buy goes towards families in the armed forces.

Other countries remember their dead in a different way to the United Kingdom:

In Newfoundland (Canada) and Germany, Forget Me Nots are the flowers of remembrance. The name of the flower has strong links to the idea of memory and not forgetting those who have died. They are often worn on the first of July to commemorate the battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916.

In Belgium, Daisies are the flowers of remembrance. They symbolise peace and innocence.

In France, the Cornflower is the flower of remembrance. It reminded soldiers of the cornflowers that had grown on disturbed ground. It was the official flower of remembrance from 1936.

In India, Marigolds are the flowers of remembrance. Their common nature means they symbolise the importance of everyday people.

Forget-Me-Not



Daisy



Cornflower



Marigold



Rosemary



Prayer Group

BEFORE the amalgamation of our parishes, a group from all the congregations began to meet to pray for the merger and the new joint parish. We prayed that God's spirit would guide the various decisions that needed to be taken - from the strategic and visionary, to the mundane or day to day, and we tried to give the decision-makers in the joint kirk session our prayerful support. We aimed to foster unity of vision and a single family of believers to take forward God's work in our parish.

These "Prayers for the Parish" continue on a monthly basis, on the third Thursday each month, alternating monthly between An Tobar in Ardgay and the West Church Hall in Dornoch. We continue to pray for our joint Kirk Session, and for the various activities and initiatives which are ongoing, as well as keeping Carol Anne and her family in our prayers.

At the moment, some of the subjects for prayer which we invite you to join us in bringing before God are:

- Our Kirk Session, the new elders recently appointed, as well as the long-standing elders dealing with this period of adjustment and the challenges of the new parish
- The various groups within the Kirk Session in particular the worship group, the pastoral care group and the mission group
- The work that is going on in primary schools with the young people of the parish, including helping with reading and classroom activities

Dates and locations in the next few months are:

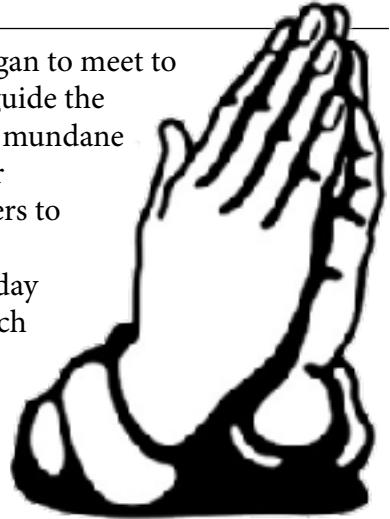
18th December West Church Hall

15th January An Tobar

19th February West Church Hall

We meet together at 10.00 and pray from 10:30 as the spirit leads. As ever, if there is something on your heart which you would like us to pray over in confidence, please speak to Carol Anne, to your elder or to any of the prayer group. But please also think of joining us on a Thursday as we bring our parish hopes and needs before our Heavenly Father.

Alison Barlett



Life Events

Weddings

25th November **Ayesha Hassan and Oliver Allison**

Funerals

8th October **Agnes (Nancy) Bain**
9th October **Michael Coleman**
17th October **Francis (Franny) Stewart**
30th October **Catherine Nelson**

Burials and Interment of Ashes

25th September **David & Jill Shaw**

A Blessing

For those who need a blessing... today... from Carol Anne

Blessed are you who are overwhelmed and can't think straight

God calls you beloved

Blessed are you who find yourself somewhere unexpected

you are Christ's hands and feet

Blessed are you who feel alone - even now - God is with you

Blessed are you who see the pain underneath for you see with the eyes of Christ

AMEN

Dornoch Firth Guild

OUR FIRST meeting was on Tuesday 21st September when Margaret Macrae and Annie Macdonald led us in worship before Margaret introduced our speaker, Louise Daker who is from Highlife Highland Libraries, working in Dornoch Libraries.

Lorna hails from East Sussex and has settled in Dornoch. She has loved libraries from a young age and enjoys being in such a vital part of the community. Libraries are not just places to borrow a book, the services on offer include, photocopying, on line newspapers and three computers for public use.

In 1906/7 when the Carnegie Library was founded in Dornoch there was a house at the back of the library which housed the Librarian and family. Dornoch library supports the Bookbug Scheme. Every child in Scotland is entitled to four free bags of books from birth to P1. There are Bookbug books included in the Baby Box. Get your Bookbug Baby Bag from your Health Visitor at 3-5 weeks. There are Bookbug Sessions, which are free story, song and rhyme sessions held in the library and all families are welcome. Why not go along and give it a try. Lorna spoke passionately about her work in the library. Mary Stobo gave a hearty vote of thanks and the members showed their appreciation for a most enjoyable afternoon.

On Tuesday 14th October the Guild met in *An Tobar* in Ardgay. There was a good turnout of members and the worship was led by Trish Geddes and Ann Creed. Our speaker for the afternoon was Sarah Horne from Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) which was born from a vision to make life-saving emergency care accessible to everyone, no matter how remote their location in Scotland.

As the Nation's only charity air ambulance, SCAA plays a crucial role in responding to the life threatening accidents and medical emergencies across Scotland. Their highly skilled and experienced crew of paramedics and pilots operate from two helicopter air ambulances and two rapid response vehicles from bases in Perth and Aberdeen. Again our speaker spoke passionately on her subject and Trish thanked her warmly for her time and knowledge that she shared with us. The members raised over £180 pounds for this worthwhile charity which was very gratefully received.

On Tuesday 28th October Liz Broadhead and Gwen Muir led the worship and then Gwen introduced our speaker. Moira McCarrell had come from the Scottish Bible Society to speak to us about one of the Projects that the Guild nationally is supporting over the three years of our theme Let us build a house.

Moira was especially talking about Bibles for Bairns. All children born from November 2025 are eligible to be registered with the Scottish Bible Society's Bible for Bairns. They will then receive a special gift every birthday till they are 5 years old, culminating in a children's bible. It is a wonderful introduction to the stories of the bible made in a fun and readable form for all to discover God's love for everyone. It was a most interesting afternoon and again we were blessed with an knowledgeable speaker who spoke passionately about her subject.

On Tuesday 11th November, Remembrance Day, Lizzie Campbell and Ann Barclay led the worship and welcomed Roddy Mclean to the meeting. It is always fun when Roddy is around and he led us in popular war songs from Pack up your Troubles, and Long way to Tipperary, Who do you think you are kidding Mr Hitler and Quarter Masters' store, any many more, finishing with the classic Vera Lynn -We'll meet again.

In between the singing Roddy had brought along his father's Air Warden tin helmet and his mother's gas mask. He also showed us his uncle's binoculars which had once belonged to a German Soldier. They were like new and in a beautifully made leather case.

Ann Barclay shared the Poem - 'Flanders Field' by John McCrae and 'The Life that I Have' by Leo Marks. She also spoke of John Maxwell Evans who wrote several epitaphs which became the Kohima Epitaph which is the well known inscription from the 2nd British Division Memorial, in Kohima, India, which reads, "When you go home, tell them of us and say, For your tomorrow, we gave our today." We finished the meeting by all saying the Grace and then we enjoyed a welcome cup of tea.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 25th November when we will have a Craft Afternoon with Linda McMurray.

Our Christmas Afternoon Tea will be on December 9th at the usual time of 2.30pm all welcome.

We wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to meeting again on Tuesday 13th January when the speakers will be Marc and Marion Foggin and then on 27th January.



Trish Geddes

Guided tours

ON THURSDAY 16th October our Cathedral tour guides entertained two contrasting groups visiting our Cathedral.

At 09:30am Willie MacKay and Gary Crduen met six members of the crew of HMS Sutherland, eager to learn more of the community after which their ship is named. They started with a trip up the tower to enjoy the views on a glorious autumnal morning. They then went on to learn about the history of Dornoch Cathedral.

At the end of their tour they presented us with an HMS Sutherland plaque. Afterwards the group proceeded to Historylinks to learn more of Dornoch's history, before lunching at Royal Dornoch Golf Club.

At 11:00 Roger gave a tour to seventeen members of Brora Community Hub. Although many of the group were from the local community, some had never been inside the Cathedral, while others had not been there for many years.

The group were awe-struck by the beauty of the building and asked many interesting questions. There was one moment of high humour. Whilst hearing about the sacking of the Cathedral in 1570, one member revealed she was a Mackay from Strathnaver! We didn't hold it against her and allowed her to stay!

Both groups thoroughly enjoyed their visits and enjoyed the inside of the building.

Roger Boyce



Roger Boyce, tour guide with the group from Brora



An HMS Sutherland plaque is presented to our Parish with Vice Lord Lieutenant, Kim Tulloch

Tour guides needed

OUR FIRST venture into guided tours of our beautiful, historic Cathedral has proved very popular with cruise passengers and members of our local communities.

2026 looks like being even more popular with at least one extra agency interested in promoting the tours. This means we will need to increase the number of guides.

Might one of them be YOU?

Guiding a tour is an enjoyable, rewarding experience.

If you would like to find out more, please come to a meeting in the Cathedral on either:

Tuesday 2nd December at 6:30pm Thursday 11th December at 6:30pm.

There is no obligation to join us if you feel it is not for you. However, it would help my planning if you would let me know if you can join me at one of the meetings.

Please use <rnbldavochfin2012@gmail.com> or 07867 618459

Thank you ... AND if you make a last-minute decision that's fine, just come along.

Roger Boyce

Womens' Group

IN NOVEMBER our Women's Group met for an evening in the wonderfully cosy and comfortable An Tobar in Ardgay. An hour or two of board games was the plan ... we got so much more than just that.

We were delighted that Lesley, Linda and Marion from the west end of the Firth joined us for the hilarity and ridiculousness that is the Women's Group playing word-related games. We split into two teams and played a selection of games that Morag had lent us even though she wasn't with us on the night.

The one called Tension, certainly did what it said on the box.....there were sweaty brows, brains being racked, arms being waved and much hand wringing. The other games may have been a bit less intense but no less entertaining and funny.

Luckily we had no scorer keeping records and no umpire presiding over us so we could bend the odd rule to suit our answers when all else failed. Fortunately the kettle boiled just as our brains were about to surrender!

We hope to have another games evening before too long but think we may veer away from words and too much thinking.....maybe Twister is the way forward!

Date for your diary – next meetings are Monday 8th December and Monday 12th January.

Contact <carriejgilchrist@gmail.com>

Caroline Gilchrist



The only TENSION visible is the game box - great FUN Evening

Dornoch Firth Junior Band

THE DORNOCH FIRTH Junior band has been working very hard recently learning some new tunes, which we hope to share with you all in the very near future. The next performance will be on the Cathedral Green (weather permitting) with Santa on Saturday 20th December.

The children are very excited to have been invited once again to play at the New Year Cathedral Concert on 2nd January and to play later in the month at the Dornoch Heritage Society Burns Supper in the Social Club.

Graham McCarthy



These talented youngster meet on Fridays after school

Youth Theatre group

ON A BREAK just now, the group will be up and running again from February 2026 when the children will be working on a version of Robin Hood with song classics such as "Riding Through the Glen", "I do it for You" and "I've Just Gotta Get a Message to You."

Graham McCarthy



Fund Raising group

AS CONVENOR of the Fundraising Group I have come to the end of my agreed time to lead this enthusiastic team and admired how they have worked tirelessly to keep the Parish finances on track to deliver surpluses for last year and this year. Many of the activities pursued delivered fun and funds. There was a lot to be gained through the social aspect of this.

I really appreciate the different levels of support that YOU have provided. If you volunteered, donated items, purchased items, or just came along and enjoyed yourself. THANK YOU.

The congregation, and the wider community we are here to serve have a vast range of skills to draw on, as was evident from the extremely successful Talents Activity Mhairi organised.

I appreciated the opportunity to work with the range of talent in the fundraising group.

John McMurray



JOHN'S DRIVE and enthusiasm has undoubtedly seen Dornoch Firth Church of Scotland finances bridge the gap from our accounts being in the dark red to light black. There is still on going activities planned but the change has been to know that we can hold most of these as social events in different areas of our parish and continue to attract currently non- church goers in the community to join us.

Thank you.

Natter and Nosh

THIS LUNCH CLUB meets on a Monday every two weeks and is open to everyone to come and enjoy a two course meal for £5 in a fun and friendly space. I am delighted to say that the numbers attending have gone up and we are catering for, on average 44 patrons.

Our dates in December are 1st and 15th . Tickets for 15th for the Christmas Lunch are limited so please make sure you have one so that you are not disappointed. We have to limit numbers to 48 so that we can give satisfaction to all. The price remains at £5.

We will start again on January 19th 2026, so see you all in the New Year.

A very Happy Christmas to all.

Trish Geddes

Singing Waiters

ALMOST 80 PEOPLE turned out for the second appearance of the Singing Waiters, in Bonar Bridge Hall and no one left disappointed. Willie MacKay, compare for the evening, welcomed everyone before introducing the smartly turned-out waiters: Ian Shearer, Mike Henley, Alasdair MacKay, John Mackenzie, John Chambers, Graeme McCarthy and music maestro Roddy MacLean.

A couple of songs from the waiters set the scene for the evening, before they left the stage to carry out their serving duties. Christine Mackay, along with daughter Valerie and son-in-law Neil, had spent the day in the kitchen, producing the tastiest meal.

Meanwhile Roddy and Willie had started a quiz which ran throughout the evening, and got folks mixing, or head scratching at their tables.

Soup served and cleared, the waiters were back on stage for part two of their programme, before ably serving the main course.



Nearly 80 people enjoyed an excellent meal and entertainment

a tie announced between Jeani Hunter's team and Wilf Hadley's. Willie called on 2 representatives to come up on stage from each team and dance to the music Roddy was about to play. Jeanie and Lizzie, Wilf and Jane gave it their all to Jacques Offenbach's "Can-Can", but the clapometer declared Jeani and Lizzie's team the overall winners.

A really happy evening was enjoyed by everyone. Rev Carol Anne Porter gave thanks to all those behind the scene who prepared, set-up, and cleared up and made the night the success it was.



*The "A" Team - Neil & Valerie Graham
(missing: Christine Mackay)*

Their third appearance at the end of the meal brought their programme of well known, mixed genre of music to a close. We'd enjoyed Mull of Kintyre, Yesterday, You Raise Me Up, My Eyes Have Seen the Glory, Give Me Joy In My heart and their fantastic rendition of Status Quo's Rockin' All Over The World, with Alasdair on air guitar!! Which by the following day had been viewed as far away as Bangkok. Such was the enthusiasm of the audience they sang an encore with Michael Row the Boat Ashore.

The quiz had carried on throughout until there was a tie announced between Jeani Hunter's team and Wilf Hadley's. Willie called on 2 representatives to come up on stage from each team and dance to the music Roddy was about to play. Jeanie and Lizzie, Wilf and Jane gave it their all to Jacques Offenbach's "Can-Can", but the clapometer declared Jeani and Lizzie's team the overall winners.

Roddy on keyboard, Ian, Mike, John M, Alasdair, John C., Graham



Roddy on keyboard, Ian, Mike, John M, Alasdair, John C., Graham

1st Dornoch Girls' Brigade

WE STARTED our second year in September and went right into our badgework. The Explorers are learning about space and all the planets. And this year, they decide what prayers we are having when joined with rest of the Company.

The Juniors have made great inroads into learning sign language for the educational side of the badgework. All of a sudden, Mondays nights are quite serene but I somehow don't think it will last !! For spiritual, we are concentrating on parables, of which the first was the lost sheep, and I literally manage to lose the sheep craft.

We have our dedication service at Dornoch Cathedral at the morning Service on Sunday 23rd November with the dedication of our colours. All are very welcome to celebrate with us.

Marianne Macleod, Leader



1st Dornoch Brownies

WE HAVE A VERY BUSY term ahead. On Sunday 9th November our girls did us proud again with their participation in the Remembrance Parade and the Church Service.

We have Viv from Blythswood coming in on the 20th November when we'll be filling shoe boxes for their Christmas Appeal. On Saturday the 29th November we have a stall at the Christmas Market in Dornoch Academy. The girls are busy crafting items for us to sell. For all their hard work and efforts they will be rewarded with a Christmas themed movie night.

Julie Herbertson



Preparing items for their stall at the Christmas Market

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

A SINCERE THANK YOU to all who contributed to the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal. Your gifts were gratefully received at their Evanton Depot.



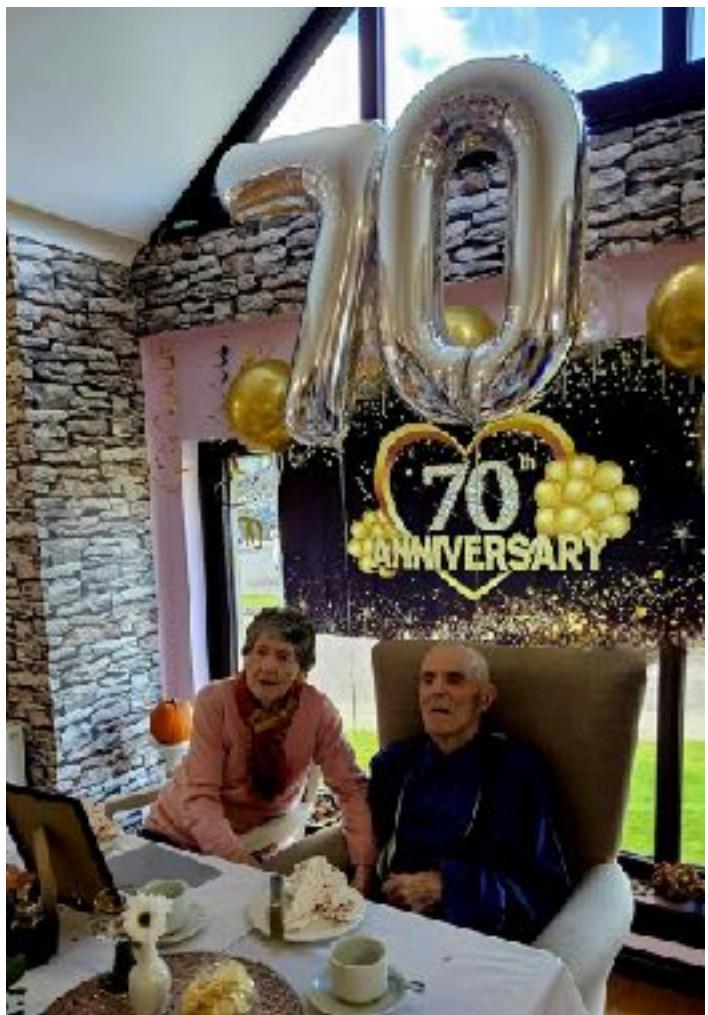
Meadows care home

OUR RESIDENT Paul Lippock and his wife Erintraude celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary with family and friends in the home. We welcomed the Birds of Prey for a visit to the Meadows which Mary and Mora loved and Mora was able to bring back some nice memories from her golf club years by attending the UHI for a golf day. Three of our residents Ella, Jean and Irene went on our first caravan holiday to Granny's Heilan Hame at Embo.

Jackie Macrae, Manager



Mora loved her golf and previously had served as Lady Captain for Royal Dornoch



Paul and Erintraude Lippock celebrating their Platinum Anniversary



This photo will bring back so many happy memories to many

MySelf-Management Living Better Group

DO YOU HAVE a long term condition or persistent pain? Or support someone who does? MySelf-Management support adults across the Highlands to self manage their conditions with in-person and online activities and learning. It is free to join and free to access nearly all activities.

We meet monthly in the West Church Hall on Sutherland Road to listen to talks, take part in crafts or play boccia (seated bowls) and we would love you to join us.

The next meeting is 27 November at 2pm. There is no charge and we ask for a few coins towards tea and biscuits from those who can contribute. Feel free to come and see what we are about before you join as a member. Future dates will be advertised in the In-Person section of our website www.myself-management.org.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email vicki@myself-management.org. We are looking forward to meeting you!



Vicki Nevin

Smartie Tube Collection

DID YOU COLLECT a Smartie tube in October? For those new to this way of making a donation to worthwhile causes you replace the smarties with 20 pence pieces, but the tube will also hold pound coins. This year the appeal will go to Gazza.

Please bring your Smartie tubes to morning Service on Sundays 7th and 14th December, but even earlier if you wish.

Thank you for your generosity.

Mhairi Mackay



Innis Mhor Afternoon Tea Friday 5th December

Join Residents at
Innis Mhor, Tain
for Afternoon Tea
on
Friday December 5th
2-3.30pm

Handmade stocking fillers, decorations
and cards made by the residents on the
sales table.



Dornoch Firth Group

OUR BABY MASSAGE group has been busier than ever, and we're delighted to welcome so many new babies and parents. It's a calm, nurturing space to slow down, connect, and learn gentle techniques that support babies' development while deepening that special bond. There's always time for a good chat and plenty of laughter too — a lovely way to spend a morning together.

Over at Little Otters, we've been exploring the pumpkin patch at Davochfin Farm, splashing through puddles, and making beautiful bits of transient art to celebrate Bonfire Night. The children have loved watching the seasons change, and we're so grateful to Rob and Emma for welcoming us into the barn over the winter months — a wonderful space for play, creativity, and connection.

Knit and Natter continue to produce fabulous handmade items for friends and family at an impressive pace with lots of laughs along the way. They are looking forward to afternoon tea at Dalmore Farm together later this month.

Our Tuesday Tots group continues to grow with our busiest ever session recently! Lots of littlies enjoyed the Halloween party with grown ups and children dressed up and enjoying some messy play. We've had visits from local organisations, encouraging children to brush their teeth and helping parents with information about getting back into work. We've also made some lovely baby keepsakes with teeny tiny hand and footprint artworks.

Our Mamas' Club met recently to create some hand-painted bags and share in the good news of some new babies. Christmas crafts from here on out!

We've been blessed with dry weather for our Storywalks so far, digging for treasure dressed as pirates on the beach in Dornoch and with Marcia the Countryside Ranger joining us for a fungal foray through Aldie Burn woods, complete with fire bowl and marshmallows.

Coming up SOON...

Don't miss our Christmas Fair, Tuesday 2nd December at Dornoch West Church Hall. If you have any raffle prizes to donate we would be most grateful! **Doors open at 11.00am**

Christian Aid Concert – Friday 19th December

GARETH DAVIES-JONES, singer-songwriter, is coming to Dornoch Cathedral on his Christmas Acoustic Tour supporting Christian Aid. No need to book, entry at the door with a suggested donation of £10.00. Look forward to an engaging evening of carols, Christmas songs, singalongs, and stories to celebrate the Christmas Season.



Outdoor learning at Davochfin Farm



Yummy Yummy



Dates for your diary

WORSHIP SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE PARISH:

DECEMBER

7th 11.00 am – Family Service at Dornoch Cathedral – return Smartie Tubes
14th 11.00 am – Morning Service at Dornoch Cathedral – return Smartie Tubes
21st 11.00 am – Morning Service at Dornoch Cathedral
21st 2.30 pm – Oversteps Service & 3.15 pm The Meadows Service
21st 2.00 pm – Christmas Songs & Stories in Gearrchoille Woods, Ardgay.
Meet in Drovers Square to set off at 2.00 pm.

Christmas Eve 11.00 pm Carol Singing in Dornoch Cathedral 11.30 pm Midnight Service

Christmas Day 10.30 am Family Christmas Service in Dornoch Cathedral

28th 11.00 am Morning Service in the West Church Hall Lessons and Carols
1.30 pm Christingle Service, An Tobar, Ardgay
31st 4.00 pm 6.00 pm Candlelit Labyrinth, in Dornoch Cathedral - *All Welcome*

JANUARY 2026 - Services in West Church Hall & An Tobar

4th 11.00 am – Family Service in West Church Hall
11th 11.00 am Morning Service West Church Hall
1.30pm Afternoon Service at An Tobar, Ardgay
18th 11.00 am Morning Service - Live streamed to An Tobar, Ardgay
18th 2.30 pm Oversteps Service & 3.15 pm The Meadows Service
25th 11.00 am Morning Service West Church Hall
1.30 pm Contemplative Service with Neil Simco, An Tobar, Ardgay

Also in December

2nd 2.30 pm Carols at Oversteps
10th 2.00 pm Carols at The Meadows

MORE DATES TO NOTE

DECEMBER

Monday 1st & 15th – Natter & Nosh – West Church Hall – 12.30pm
Tuesday 2nd – Tuesday Tots Christmas Fair – 11.00am
Tuesday 2nd & Thursday 11th – Tour Guide Recruitment – Cathedral – 6.30pm
Friday 5th December – Innis Mhor Afternoon Tea - 2.00pm- 3.30pm
Saturday 6th – West Church Hall, Soup & Sweet Lunch for Friends of Oversteps 12.00 – 1.30pm
Monday 8th – Women's Group
Tuesday 9th – Women's Guild Christmas Tea – West Church Hall - – 2.30pm
Saturday 13th – Golspie Choral Carol Concert, Ardgay Community Hall – 6.30pm
Thursday 18th – Golspie Choral Carol Concert, Fountain Road Hall, Golspie, 7.30pm
Friday 19th – Christian Aid Concert in Dornoch Cathedral, Gareth Davies-Jones – 7.00pm
Saturday 20th – Junior Band playing on Cathedral Green with Santa - 2.00pm – 5.00pm

JANUARY 2026

Friday 2nd – New Year Concert in Dornoch Cathedral – 7.00pm – Entry by Donation
Monday 12th – Women's Group
Tuesday 13th & 27th – Women's Guild – West Church Hall – 2.30pm
Monday 19th January – Natter & Nosh – West Church Hall – 12.30pm
Friday 23rd January – Dornoch Heritage Burns Supper – Social Club – 7.00pm

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year