

DORNOCH PARISH MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2018

Scottish Charity No. SC000315



Minister The Rt Rev. Susan Brown B.D Dip.Min Chaplain in Ordinary,
**If anyone needs the services of a minister during the
absence of the Rt Rev Susan Brown**

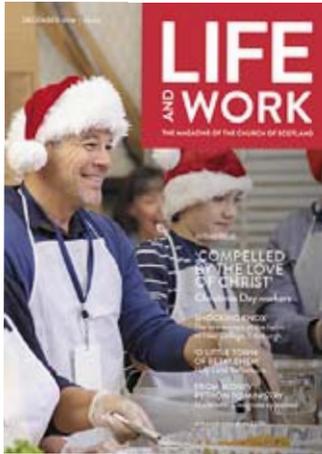
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CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN THE CATHEDRAL

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sunday 23rd December | 4th Sunday in Advent. |
| Monday 24th December | Christmas Eve Service 11.30pm
(Carol Singing from 11.00pm) |
| Tuesday 25th December | Christmas Day Service 10.00am
An informal Service for all to
share the spirit of Christmas. |
| Monday 31st December | Labyrinth 4.00pm - 6.00pm
Experience the Labyrinth,
Taize style. |



LIFE AND WORK

DECEMBER 2018 EDITION

Christmas 2018

The Christians who will be working on Christmas Day

Chris Wigglesworth reflects on a personal journey to Bethlehem

The Moderator urges us to celebrate Christmas by reaching out to others

The Rev Dr Margaret Forrester considers Christmas from the perspective of the innkeeper's wife

Ron Ferguson argues the best Christmas gift would be justice for all

Shocking Knox

The two women at the helm of New College, Edinburgh

O Little Town of Bethlehem

'The Love of God Transcends Everything'

David McKee looks back on a study visit to the Holy Land

Czech Connections

An opportunity for Church of Scotland congregations to host ministers from abroad

The Very Rev Albert Bogle

The Sanctuary First minister reflects on leadership and nurture

John Hume

The history of Rutherglen and its churches

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

Online visit us at www.lifeandwork.org for regular news and exclusive features, find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @cofslifeandwork

Subscribe online from £12, or download a digital copy for £1.99; or speak to your church's Life and Work coordinator.

ROTAS For DOORS & EVACUATION DUTY DECEMBER 2018

Door Duty: W.Mackay, J Creed, A Creed, M.Mackay
D Goskirk (North Door)

Evacuation Duty: K.More, S.Boyce, D.Goskirk

READERS FOR DECEMBER 2018

2nd December	Ian Shearer
9th December	Elsbeth Sim
16th December	Alison Bartlett
23rd December	Fergus Robertson
30th December	Morag Macaskill

Duty Rota for both Oversteps and Meadows

16th December 2018

Oversteps:

Leader: Willie MacKay Pianist Roddy MacLean

Meadows:

Leader: Willie Mackay Pianist Roddy MacLean

DEACONS COURT (WCH)

28th November 7.00pm

Cathedral Register

Weddings

10th November William Solway to Siobhan Cowan

Deaths

Mr Angus (Angi) Sutherland

Mrs Jean Heming

Parish Calendar - Cathedral Life isn't just about Sundays.....

There are lots of things going on in the Parish every week. Get involved, volunteer, join in!
[WCH = The West Church Hall]

<u>Sundays</u>	Sunday worship in the Cathedral, 11:00am, all welcome Sunday Prayer Group , Upstairs room in WCH 9:45 -10:40am, all welcome Monthly services , 3 rd Sunday of the month, <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oversteps at 2:30pm• The Meadows Nursing Home at 3:15pm, anyone welcome to join the residents in worship
<u>Mondays</u>	NatterNNosh Twice a month, from September to June, 12:30pm in WCH, main room. Open to everyone, come along and enjoy a two course meal for £4.50 [DFG] Inter-church prayer group , last Monday in the month, in various homes, 2.30-4.00pm All welcome to join with friends from other local churches
<u>Tuesdays</u>	NatterNKnit Every week, 10.00am-12:30pm in the upstairs room of the WCH. Open to everyone, bring your crafting and enjoy a blether and a cuppa. £1.50 [DFG] The Guild Twice a month, usually 2.30-4.00pm in the WCH main room but occasional evening meetings. Open to everyone....men too! Anchor Boys/Boys Brigade weekly meetings in school term at 6-7pm for the youngsters and 7-8.30pm for the older boys. In the WCH. [Morag Macaskill: momacaskill@btinternet.com]
<u>Wednesdays</u>	Common Ground , Weekly, 7-9pm in WCH. Activities and occasional outings for adults with learning difficulties [DFG]
<u>Thursdays</u>	Brownies , Weekly meetings in school term 6-7.30pm in the WCH [Kate Matheson: katepip@btinternet.com]
<u>Saturdays</u>	Social events, Cake Sales, Sales of Work, Coffee mornings , usually in the WCH.....keep your eye on the Cathedral notice board and the Order of Service
<u>Restarting soon.....</u>	The Bakery For adults with physical or learning difficulties who meet up to prepare and cook a meal which is then shared with carers, family and friends. In WCH. [DFG]
<u>To come.....</u> And on Tuesdays	Community Men's Shed – Renew your hobbies and interests or start new ones over a chat and a cup. [DFG] Playgroup , 10.00-11.30, WCH [Fay Wilkinson: fay@ecosse.net]

Many of our community activities are under the auspices of the Dornoch Firth Group [DFG]. If you are interested in any of the activities marked "DFG" please contact Charles Minall, DFG Outreach Worker 07533 518 399 or 01408 641279 or email Charles on charles@dfgcommunity.com

DORNOCH SWI

At the November meeting of Dornoch SWI, President Phyll Thompson welcomed speaker for the evening, Dr Victoria Connor, archivist at Skibo Castle.

Victoria gave a most interesting insight into the life of Andrew Carnegie, who was born into a poor working class family in Dunfermline in 1835. Even at a very young age he was showing signs of future entrepreneurial skills when, having received a rabbit and a hutch as a gift from his father with the proviso it was his duty to provide food for the rabbit, he organised his friends to collect dandelions and such from the fields in exchange for the promise to have any bunnies the rabbit might produce named after them. Times were very hard for the family and when Andrew was a young teenager, the family set sail for America in the hope of a better life. Victoria explained how Andrew worked his way up from his start as a 'bobbin boy' in a mill to eventually becoming the richest man in the world, making his vast fortune from steel. One of his principles in business was, that while other men watched their profits, Andrew always watched his costs.

When Andrew married Louise Whitfield in 1887, he took her to his beloved Scotland on honeymoon and she too fell in love with Scotland. They then spent their summer holidays in Scotland. When their daughter, Margaret, was born ten years later, they decided they would like a more permanent Scottish holiday home and purchased Skibo Castle, which at that time was a small, pretty rundown place. The Carnegie's renovated the Castle to the highest standard, increasing its size 3 fold, making it into a most desirable residence. The finest furnishings and art work filled their home and much of it remains at Skibo to this day. The Carnegie's were holidaying in the Highlands in 1914 when news broke of the start of the first World War, this was devastating news for Andrew had always been a great advocate for peace. He and his family headed back to the US and Andrew was never to return to his beloved Skibo, although the Castle stayed in the family until the late 1980s.

When Andrew retired in 1901, he decided he would become a philanthropist. His entrepreneurial ventures in America's steel industry had earned him millions and he, in turn, made great contributions to social causes such as public libraries, education, music and international peace.

Mary Gall thanked Victoria very much indeed for such a wonderful evening.

Competition results:

Flower of the Month: Gold: Mora Douglas and Catriona Wood

Silver: Brenda McNeil and Stella Pettit

Handmade Christmas Decoration: 1st : Maureen MacKay

Tea hostesses, Fiona MacDonald and Stella Pettit were thanked for the lovely tea.

The next meeting will be our Christmas lunch at Grace of Dornoch, on Tuesday 18th December at 12.30pm.

OVERSTEPS CHRISTMAS SALES TABLE.

The Residents have been busy throughout the year at their weekly craft sessions, producing a variety of small gift ideas.

**These will be on sale at Oversteps
on Wednesday 5th December**

2.30pm – 4.00pm

Hope to see you there.

Two ways you can support the Cathedral while shopping – at no extra cost!

If you use a Co-op members card please support the Cathedral new toilet fund by visiting: <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/30031>

Please shop locally for Christmas, but if you must shop online please go through [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

It is easy to register and choose a charity to support.

USED STAMPS

Many thanks for those of you that save used stamps and leave them in the box by the West Door.

With Christmas nearly upon us, please do save all the used stamps, leaving around 1/4 inch on the four sides.

Christmas paraphrasing of 1st Corinthians Chapter 13.

If you decorate the house perfectly with tinsel, cards, strands of twinkling lights and shiny baubles, **but** do not show love to your family, you are just another decorator.

If you slave away in the kitchen, bake trays of mince pies and sausage rolls, pore over recipe books to prepare the gourmet dishes and set the Christmas table so that it looks like something out of a magazine, **but** do not show love to your family, you are just another cook.

If you fund raise for the homeless, sing carols in the local care home and take bundles of items down to the charity shops, **but** do not show love to your family, it profits you nothing.

If you trim the tree with shimmering angels and crocheted nativity figures, arrange Christmas parties and sing in the church choir **but** do not focus on Christ, you have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. **Love** sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse. Love is kind even when stressed and exhausted. Love doesn't envy the house next door with its winter wonderland decor and co-ordinated Christmas, table clothes and napkins.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful that they are **there** to be in the way. **Love** doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, **Love** never fails. Computer games will crash, selection boxes will be eaten, clothes will wear out, golf clubs will rust, but the gift of **love** is a blessing forever.

Highland Hospitals'
HCH
Carol Concert
Committee

Highland Hospitals'

Carol Concert

supporting CLIC Sargent

*at the Drumossie Hotel
Sunday 2nd December 2018
at 3.00pm*

Tickets £14 each

All Proceeds are in aid of CLIC Sargent, supporting young people with cancer across the Highlands & Islands

Tickets available from

The Music Shop, 49 Church Street, Inverness

Tel. 01463 233374 (payment by cash or credit / debit card only. Cards will attract a £1 surcharge)

**YOUNG LIVES
vs CANCER**
CLIC SARGENT

On entering a church in France...

This poster can be found in many French Churches.

The translation is:

By entering this church it may be possible that you hear "the call of God".

However, it is less probable that He will call you on your mobile.

Thank you for turning off your phones.

If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him.

If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving...

Il est possible qu'en entrant
dans cette église
vous entendiez
l'appel de Dieu

Par contre, il est peu probable
qu'il vous contacte par téléphone



**MERCI
D'ETEINDRE
VOS TELEPHONES**

Si vous voulez parler à Dieu, entrez,
choisissez un endroit calme et parlez-lui,
si vous voulez le voir, envoyez-lui un TEXTO en conduisant...

RECIPES

CHOCOLATE SPICE CAKE

Ingredients

115g (4oz)	Margarine
200g (7oz)	Sugar
60g. (2oz)	Plain Chocolate
2	Eggs (Separated)
1/2 tsp	Cinnamon
1/2 tsp	Mixed Spice
120ml (8 tbsp)	Milk
30g (1oz)	Mixed peel
1 tsp	Salt
1 tsp	baking soda
1 cup	Plain Flour
225g	Nuts
1	Juice of Lemon

Method

1. Cream marg and sugar, blend in melted chocolate and egg yolks, sieve spices and flour. Stir in alternately with milk.
2. Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites and peel.
3. Place mixture in a 20cm (8") lined square tin.
4. Bake at 180 degrees C (350 degree F) for 40-45 min.
5. When cool, cover with chocolate butter icing.

ARE YOU FREE
ON TUESDAY MORNINGS?

We intend to start up a playgroup for pre-school children
on Tuesday mornings from 10-00 - 11.30
in the West Church Hall.

Would you like to help? Duties involve, getting toys out at
the start, making tea and coffee, and tidying up afterwards.

Please e-mail fay@ecosse.net or speak to Fay (in the choir).

New events that are coming up outwith Dornoch.

Full details can be found on the
new noticeboard in the Cathedral.

Go for it Conference

4th December Glasgow

National Mindfulness Day for Christians

23rd March 2019 Edinburgh

Like really fresh veggies? Grow your own?
Or just an excuse to be outdoors for well-being ?
The Dornoch Community Garden have a vacant plot for you .

For more information contact
Kate Robinson on 01862 810519 or 07900 532558
or email: kcsrobinson@gmail.com

CURRIED APPLE SOUP

1 Medium Onion
1 Medium Carrot
1 Stick Celery
2 Cloves of Garlic
2 Large cooking apples, peeled, cored and chopped.
2 or 3 teaspoons medium curry powder
1 Pint of Stock, of whatever kind you prefer, or plain water.
Seasoning (Salt)
Olive Oil.

Method

Wash, peel and dice the Onion and Carrot.
Peel and crush Garlic Cloves
Remove the threads from the Celery and dice.

Heat a large serving spoon of Olive Oil, when hot, add the vegetables, stir and cover.

Cook until the onions are soft and clear.

Add the Curry Powder, stirring into the vegetables and cook for about five minutes until the Curry Powder has 'cracked'.

Add the chopped Apples and cook for further five minutes.

Add the stock, stir and cover and simmer until all the vegetables are soft.

Blend with a 'Stick Blender' adjust the consistency, if required by adding stock or water, check the seasoning.

LAST DATES FOR ARTICLES IN MAGAZINE

Last date for January is December 16th

Last date for February is January 20th

Please do try and let me have the material by the deadlines, the reasons are twofold, one I have to fit it in with my full time work, and two, the publication date being the last Sunday of preceding month.

Many thanks. Jonathan.

“

What would you like for a Christmas present?” For any young girl, such a question would evoke delighted visions of long-wished-for possessions, but for Dolly the answer to her father, John Byron, was, “Please write me a poem”. So on Christmas morning in 1749, Dolly found on her plate at breakfast a piece of paper on which was written a hymn entitled “Christmas day, for Dolly”.

Soon after, John Wainwright, the organist of Manchester Parish Church, wrote a tune for it. On the following Christmas morning, Byron and Dolly were awakened by the sound of singing below their windows. It was Wainwright with his choir, singing Dolly’s hymn, “Christians Awake”.

*Christians, awake, salute the happy morn,
Whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
Rise to adore the mystery of love,
Which hosts of angels chanted from above;
With them the joyful tiding first begun
Of God incarnate and the Virgin’s Son.*

The Funny Side.

A little boy and girl were singing their favourite Christmas carol, “Silent Night”. The boy concluded the rendition with the words, “Sleep in heavenly beans:”. His sister quickly corrected him: “It’s not beans, it’s peas.”

It was Christmas, and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner, “What are you charged with?”

“Doing my Christmas shopping early” replied the defendant.

“That’s no offence,” said the judge. “How early were you doing this shopping?”

“Before the store opened.” countered the prisoner.

Six-year-old Beth was asked what she was going to give her brother for Christmas. “I don’t know,” she answered.

“What did you give him last year?”

“The Chicken pox.”

LENDWITHCARE

Whether it's opening a market stall, or perhaps a small tailoring business, or diversifying the crops they grow; people across the developing world are bursting with business ideas – all they need is a helping hand to get started. Lendwithcare, an initiative of poverty fighting charity, CARE International UK, is a revolutionary way to help some of the world's poorest people work their way out of poverty with dignity. Lendwithcare allows you to lend as little as £15 to fund a small business and once your money is repaid, you can choose to recycle your loan to support another poor entrepreneur or withdraw your money. 100% of the money loaned through Lendwithcare goes to the entrepreneur you choose to support.

Lendwithcare currently works in eleven countries and works through local Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) to help provide financial and non-financial services to poor entrepreneurs. Lendwithcare promotes a strict code of conduct in microfinance and all our partners must comply with this as well as our ethical lending policy. More information about this can be found on <https://lendwithcare.org/info/how-it-works/microfinance-institutions/> Since starting in 2010, Lendwithcare has supported approximately 100,000 entrepreneurs, predominantly women, with the capital needed to operate and expand their businesses. One of our women entrepreneurs Jane Chiumia who runs a timber business using sustainable wood in Malawi says, “before the loans I had very little capital. I was unable to grow my business or even feed and clothe my family. But now, I am able to look after my family and build us a new home with running water and electricity.”

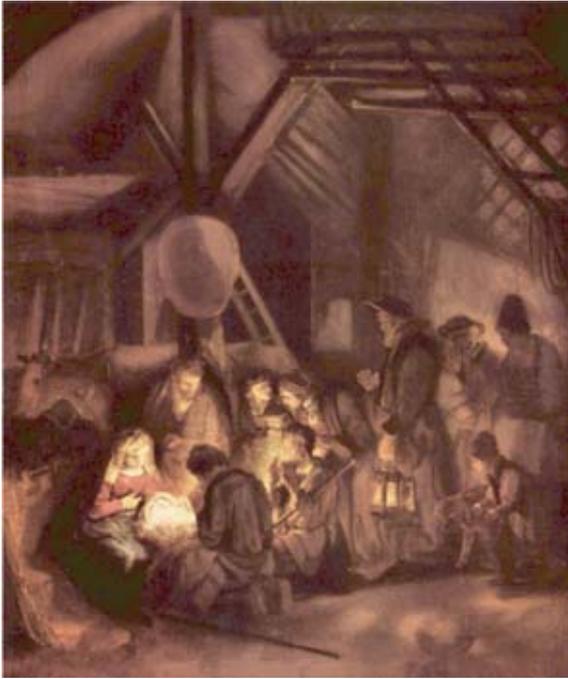
To date, 52,000 Lendwithcare lenders have supported individuals like Jane, whose generous contributions of just over £2 million have provided poor entrepreneurs with the much-needed funds to sustain their livelihoods, send their children to school and manage day-to-day expenses. Lendwithcare hosts a warm community of lenders who recognise the difference that their investments can make in the daily lives of the spirited entrepreneurs they support.

If you are looking to give the gift of opportunity this Christmas, you can buy a Lendwithcare gift voucher, which gives your friends or family the chance to choose which business they want to fund, and then when their loan is paid back they can either withdraw the £15 or re-lend it again and again to other hardworking entrepreneurs. Indeed, it's the gift that keeps on giving, and is sure to leave you with a nice, warm feeling.

Vouchers can be bought online at www.lendwithcare.org/gift_vouchers



Editors note:- Both Ann and I have been lending to this organisation for around a year, We choose the business we want to support and then when the monthly repayment arrives, we re-invest in other businesses that need supporting.



Light in Darkness

On the Adoration of the Shepherds
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606 - 1669)

Cunning Rembrandt understood
The play of dark and light,
And wisely chose an old Dutch barn
- Home ground - on which to site

Point X where light and darkness meet.
Observe his use of space.
A lantern gleams: the darkness glooms.
We never see the face.

Of - Is it you? - who gently shields
The warming flame that glows.
Greeting the smallest person there.
See how the radiance grows.

And flows from man to child and back,
Unshadowing those who bend
In silent puzzled wonderment.
Should such a moment end?

That ancient barn is here and now.
The artist got it right.
Time and eternity have kissed
On one decisive night.

John Coutts



Carols for Christian Aid

Service of Carols and Readings

in

Dornoch Cathedral

Tuesday 11th December 2018 at 7.00p.m.

Come and join us at our informal service of Carols
and Readings.

Donations at the door for Christian Aid and Help for Heroes



Tea and Coffee will be served at the close of the service.



Reaching out

Celebrating the Christmas message best comes by reaching out to others says the Moderator, the Rt Rev Susan Brown.

PEOPLE'S reaction to Christmas and all the hype that surrounds it can be a bit like a certain yeast extract: people either love it or they hate it. That goes for those who have a faith as well as for those with none.

I have to say clearly though, that it's not the message of Christmas that's the problem. The notion of God with us and among us, is amazing, wonderful and jaw-droppingly humbling. The problem is all the cultural and social baggage that has grown up alongside the good news of the birth of Christ. Much of it has so entwined itself around the celebrations that it can be hard to tell what is central to the faith and what is not: what is truth and what is fiction.

Adverts on our screens portray happy families, round a Christmas tree, all smiling and looking like models; the children with a pile of presents at their feet and the dog and the cat wearing Christmas hats at a jaunty angle, curled up in their respective baskets.

A picture that is so far from what is the reality for so many of us!

It's not just that in our house, the dog would be running off with the turkey and the cat would be up the tree, while the children would each want what the other had, while dad fell asleep in the chair. It's

the fact that for many families, there may not be enough money to buy presents.

Or a tree.

Or food.

While for others, Christmas Day is a long, lonely endurance test because they have no one to share it with or because it is full of memories of people who are no longer around. Think too of the parents longing for children and of the children who long for a family.

Then there are those who, like the parents of the baby Jesus, have nowhere to call home and others again, for whom home is no more than a cardboard box in a shop doorway.

That's the other thing about Christmas.

People don't like the party being dampened by what is the reality of the lives others live – and yet as people of faith, we believe one of the main reasons Christ was born, was to share the pain of those who hurt and are suffering and to bring hope to the whole world. That means we celebrate Jesus' birth best when we let its message speak to the very real fears and failures, disappointments, grief and despair of very real people and point to what is the powerful and central message of the Christmas story which is God's utter commitment to his people and his world. Especially the poorest and the most vulnerable.

“

The problem is all the cultural and social baggage that has grown up alongside the good news of the birth of Christ. Much of it has so entwined itself around the celebrations that it can be hard to tell what is central to the faith and what is not

Donning party hats and Christmas jumpers alone, is not going to do that. Using the Christmas period to reach out to the lonely however, to offer space to the upset, to feed the hungry and look for ways to house the homeless, will.

What we are celebrating is Good News for all the world.

Let's make sure all the world hears it. 

The Rt Rev Susan Brown is minister at Dornoch Cathedral and Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2018/19.

The above article is reproduced from the current Life and Work, where it first appeared. © Life and Work.

Dornoch Cathedral Guild

The Guild met on Tuesday 23rd October 2018

Malawi Fruits is a Scottish Christian Charity working in partnership with The Guild. We welcomed Lorimer Gray who is the **Malawi Fruit's** rep in the North, based in Nethy Bridge.

We started with a quiz to see what we all knew about Malawi.

This was good fun and very informative.

Here are some interesting points from a very enlightening talk:



*Through the **Paprika Project** farmers are able to pay for education and healthcare by growing a cash crop.

*Young farmers are able to take out a loan to buy a **Futurepump**, which is a portable solar irrigation pump.



*There are training programmes available for inspiring young farmers.

*The United Nations Development Programme will match fund all monies raised by the Guild
Good news

*The Guild can help by filling a "coin card", by signing up to the email newsletter and by prayer.



We send God's Blessing

More details can be found at malawifruits.org.uk



Dates for your Diary: Everyone Welcome 2018/19

Tuesday 4th December
Tuesday 8th January '19
Tuesday 22nd January '19

CHRISTMAS LUNCH
POETRY, PROSE & PROFITEROLES
LOOK AT ME: Learn more about Lip Reading

Venue TBC
In House Entertainment
Debbie Miller