

DORNOCH PARISH NEWS

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*The Kirk Session and Congregation of
DORNOCH CATHEDRAL
Give many congratulations to
REV. SUSAN BROWN
On her nomination as
MODERATOR
Of
The Church of Scotland for 2018
Our thoughts and prayers will be with you as
you do God's work throughout the World*



The celebration of the sacrament of Communion will take place in the Cathedral on Sunday 19th November at 11.00 a.m. and will be conducted by the Rev. Susan Brown.
All who love the Lord are invited to His table.





From The Manse

The post came this morning and there was a book in it. I couldn't think of having ordered anything, but my name was on the front of the package. I opened it and discovered it was a book in German. There was a photograph of a beautiful little girl on the cover with the title "Umarmen und loslassen" which could be translated as 'hugging and letting go'.

The authors are a couple called Shabnam and Wolfgang Arzt. The little girl is their daughter. She was born with Edward's Syndrome (or trisomy 18) a rare but serious genetic condition that causes a wide range of severe medical problems (I'm quoting the NHS website here!). Life expectancy for babies with the condition is very poor. But why were a German couple sending me their book?

Because 3 years ago, as they were facing their first Christmas without their daughter Jael who had died aged 13, Shabnam and Wolfgang had decided they couldn't spend Christmas at home and so they had stuck a pin in a map and gone first to Dublin and then they had arrived in Dornoch. They had come to church and we spent some time talking. They came to our house and we talked some more. They were and are, a lovely couple who at that time, were so full of the pain of having loved and hugged a daughter for 13 years and whom they had just had to let go. Their book has been written in the intervening time since we met and it charts their journey of parenthood and their experiences of having a very sick child. It is a very personal story, but it is also a very beautiful one. I haven't yet had time to read it all, but it seems the people they have met along the way who have helped and cared for their daughter with them, is truly amazing. But what brought me to tears, was the fact that their 5 days in Dornoch seems to have made such a powerful impact on this grieving couple.

The warmth of the locals wherever they went. The music they heard. The beaches and forests. The church - everything played a part in helping to soothe their sadness. An "Ort des Trostes" they called our little town: a place of comfort.

We don't know who we might be sitting next to in church. Or what that person might be going through. We don't know who we might meet in the street or how much of a difference it might make to them to be on the receiving end of a simple smile or a 'hello'. Shabnam and Wolfgang's story reminds us of how important it is to reach out a hand of friendship to whoever we come across, because that hand can be comforting. It can be healing. It can be life-affirming. It can be a blessing.

As the days get darker, the arrival of this book is a reminder that we, you and I, are the lights that can brighten the darkness. In Jesus' name. So - go shine on!

Please note that each Sunday's sermon is now available on the website - www.dornoch-cathedral.com and navigate to bottom of worship page.

Cathedral Register

Baptisms Olivia Jean Bruck, infant daughter of Jack and Claire



Weddings David Catanach and Emma Eadie
James Smith and Pamela O'Keefe



Funerals Mr. Thomas Anderson (Tom), 4Hartfield Gardens Tain
Mr. Gordon Gunn, The Dale, Fleuchary, Dornoch
Mrs. Louise Suggett. Ospisdale, Dornoch

Sympathy

ROTA OF ELDERS AND DEACONS FOR DOOR DUTY AND COLLECTION

NOVEMBER

Door Duty: I. Shearer K. Malone S. Duncan M. Robertson

Doorkeepers: North: D. Goskirk South: S. Boyce West: M. Macrae

DECEMBER

Door Duty: W. Mackay K. Black T. Weekes Maureen Mackay

Doorkeepers: North: J. Creed South: L. Broadhead West: Rosemary Cattanach

ALL ARTICLES FOR THE DECEMBER EDITION OF THE PARISH NEWS SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN SUNDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2017

READERS FOR NOVEMBER

5th Roz Oliver Jones
12th RBLs
19th Trish Geddes
26th John Calder



READERS FOR DECEMBER

3rd Ian Shearer
10th Elspeth Sim
17th Alison Bartlett
24th Fergus Robertson

Duty Roster for Homes

Oversteps

Meadows

November 19th	Rev Susan Brown	November 19th	Rev Susan Brown
December 17th	Willie Mackay	December 17th	Willie Mackay

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
DORNOCH CATHEDRAL**

You are invited to

Monthly Buggy Service - all Welcome

We are writing to parents of all the babies baptised in the Cathedral since 2013. Our new Buggy Service is planned to offer an informal, fun-through-play/music time as away of introducing young children to the faith, and to help parents keep their own vows, made at their child's baptism. You and your pre-school children can be assured of a warm welcome, as well as a cup of tea/coffee/squash and a biscuit, and we look forward to getting to know you better in the relaxed atmosphere of a baby child friendly environment. The light-hearted service will be held in the upstairs room of the West Church Hall on the following dates, at 9.45am

Thursday, 30th November 2017

Sunday, 24th December 2017 at 11.00 am in The Cathedral

If you know of any other Mums or Dads and babies who would like to come along as well,

please bring them with you. All are welcome!
We look forward to seeing you on the 30th March.

Rev Susan Brown
And "Buggy Team"



Dornoch Cathedral Guild

The new Guild session opened on Tuesday 26th September 2017
The theme for this session is “Go in Love”

Our own **Susan Brown** gave a talk on **Women in the World Church**. Susan recently chaired a panel of some inspiring Christian women from Burma, Lebanon, USA, Pakistan, Malawi, Trinidad & Tobago and Scotland to discuss “Women, Mission and World Christianity” There is a publication available which highlights the achievements and challenges of women in World Christianity following their diverse experiences through gender discrimination and injustice.

The Guild has a copy to borrow but if you wish your own copy please contact:
wmoutreach@churchofscotland.org.uk

At our second meeting on Tuesday 10th October 2017 we welcomed **Ibby McIver** who gave an enlightening talk entitled “**Gleanings of a Farmer’s Wife**”. She is a keen photographer and highlighted and guided us through the lambing season with some beautiful images along with some poignant sheep-related quotes from the bible. Our final hymn was Stuart Townend’s version of “The Lord is my Shepherd”, which was fitting and very moving. Isobel Calderwood gave Ibby a heartfelt vote of thanks.

This meeting was followed on Tuesday 24th October 2017 with a talk by **Karina Ross** on the work being done by **Dementia Friendly Communities** in Helmsdale.

A variety of programmes have been set up to support life with dementia including:

The Hub: providing music, games and lunch.

Bridge over Troubled Waters: a service to provide assistance in times of transition or stress.

Dinner to your Door: daily hot meals delivered to the home.

Art and a Blether: Art classes available mainly for the carers.

Men’s Shed: these are garnered to specific needs e.g. gardening or maintenance skills

For more information please visit their website: <https://adementiafriendlycommunity.com>

2017 Dates for your Diary: Everyone Welcome

Tuesday 14th November

AFRICAN TEABAGS..... ?

Alison Bartlett

THE QUEEN’S STREET PARTY

Margaret MacRae

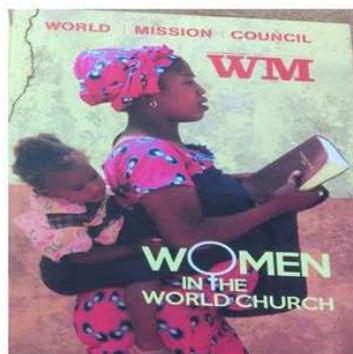
Tuesday 28th November

FROM B&B OWNER TO AUTHOR

Joan Campbell

Tuesday 12th December

CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Dornoch SWI

The October meeting was held in the West Church Hall, where President Phyll Thompson introduced speakers for the evening, Peter and Sally Wild. Sally and Peter had recently made their third trip to India, but having done the touristy bit on their first two trips, this trip was centred around the Gujarat area, visiting small villages where there is a strong textile heritage, a true passion of Sally's. Peter's excellent photography gave us a wonderful insight into life inside these towns and villages, where tourists are rare. We saw people go about their daily jobs; farmers, cotton plantation workers, textile designers, printers, and weavers, those working in a salt field, potters and other craftsmen, even a bell maker. The nature and wildlife photos were amazing as too were those of the buildings, some of which are very elaborately carved. The thing most remarked on were the beautiful colours throughout, in clothing and fabrics, on buildings, bicycles and carts, boats, in fact everywhere you looked.

Peter and Sally were warmly thanked by Catriona Wood for such an enjoyable evening.

On a 1977 syllabus found recently among the possessions of the late Nannie MacDonald, it was noted that in November that year, the speaker had told of a 'Trip to India'. Remarkable that we should plan that same topic 40 years later!

Tea Hostesses, Mora Douglas and Lisa Henderson, were thanked for providing a lovely tea.

Competition Results: Flower of the Month: Gold - Catriona Wood; Silver - Mora Douglas, Brenda McNeill; Red - Stella Pettit

Clashmore Institute S.W.I.

After welcoming everyone and completing the Business part of the Meeting the President introduced Speaker Terry Keating. The Members were looking forward to hearing from Terry as he had visited the Institute a few years before, giving a lively talk. This time Terry described his Fiddle explaining that there is no difference between a Fiddle and a Violin. His Fiddle was made locally in Ardgay from different kinds of wood including Maple and Spruce both of which have beautiful graining. It is a standard size of instrument the measurements being the same as a Stradivarius.

The fiddle is used worldwide to accompany dances and many dance and pipe tunes have Military connections such as "The Barren Rocks of Aiden". Terry went on to play a selection of tunes from "Mrs. MacLeod of Raasay" to "Cape Dalrymple", and at Helen Kruger's request, "The Hen's March to the Midden". This was a family favourite which her father played on the fiddle when Helen was a child in Aberdeenshire, and she sang words to the tunes that she sang with her father, some repeatable, others more doubtful! Everyone including Terry was helpless with laughter and Helen was thoroughly enjoying herself. Following this, two teams were formed and Terry gave a musical quiz. The first few tunes held Place names, the next, Girl's names and the third, Animals. To finish, five tunes were played without stopping and they contained seven different kinds of trees. There was great excitement and amusement as some clues were solved at the last minute and after marking the answers Terry kindly presented the winning team with a box of Maltesers. This was an afternoon which will be remembered for a very long time because of the fun, friendship and laughter.

President Eileen Aitken gave the vote of thanks and this was followed by a delicious afternoon tea served by June Hoyle and Kenlyn Mcbean.

Winners of The Flower of the Month Competition were;

First; Marlene Egan, Second; Helen Kruger.

The next meeting is on November 8th when Neil Dalton will speak about East Sutherland Rescue. Visitors are welcome.

NATTER/N/NOSH

12.30pm in the West Church Hall. A two course Lunch with tea/coffee for £4.50.
All welcome.

Future dates:
6th and 20th November
4th and 18th December.

We look forward to seeing you all

?????QUIZ NIGHT?????

Friday 10th November

7.30pm

West Church Hall

Raffle

BYOB

£5 per head

All welcome

COFFEE/TEA MORNINGS

CHRISTIAN Fellowship runs the above event each Wednesday morning

Starting from 6th September 10.30-12.30. Come and join us for refreshments and home baking in the Room above the Library. Every one is welcome from children to young at heart!

There is a table packed with DVDs and Books available for loan.

Highlight of the wonderful baking—Tony's Scrumptious Pancakes are the best. Looking forward to seeing you all.

LIFE AND WORK

NOVEMBER 2017

'Okay God, You Win'

Thomas Baldwin considers the new Hollywood film *The Case for Christ*, charting one man's journey from atheism to faith.

'It's Here'

Jackie Macadam meets Dr Pam Cairns and learns the shocking truth about human trafficking.

Remembrance Prayer

From the Moderator of the General Assembly

Time for Change

In the second of a series on the need for reform in the Church of Scotland, the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers urges the church to resist the Presbyterian instinct for dispute

The Guild's Annual Gathering

Lynne McNeil reports from Dundee's Caird Hall

When I Needed A Neighbour

Maureen Jack highlights the response of churches in Lebanon to the Syrian refugee crisis.

Congregations Urged to Take Part in World's Biggest Sleep Out

A challenge to congregations to help end homelessness in Scotland

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

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Gift subscriptions are also available: an ideal Christmas present!

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
12th NOVEMBER 2017

The Royal British Legion Scotland
Dornoch Branch



The above branch will hold a Remembrance Parade and Service on Sunday 12th November 2017. A warm invitation is extended to all persons to join our Legion Members on this parade/service.

Legion Members, Service Units, Youth Organisations

Fall in Dornoch Square 10.30 March off 10.35

Form up at the War Memorial 10.46

Padre takes over and starts service 10.50

Order of Service: Psalm, Lesson, Prayer Two minute

Silence Piper's Lament God Save the Queen Laying of Wreaths

Parade reform and march back to Dornoch Square Five minute fall out

Reform and march to Dornoch Cathedral 11.15

After the service the parade will reform and march back to Dornoch Square for dismissal.

There will be a retiring collection in Cathedral for the Earl Haig Fund.