



---

# *DORNOCH FIRTH PARISH MAGAZINE*

---

Issue No. 5  
October/November 2024

---

£1.00 (to cover costs)

---



The view from Cathedral Green as Autumn begins

---

## Contacts

**Locum Minister:** Carol Anne Porter

Email: <ca.porter76@icloud.com> & 07400 313 303

**Session Clerk Team:** Liz Manson, Jeani Hunter and Mary Stobbo

Email: <sessionclerks@dornochfirthcofs.org>

**Treasurer:** Kim McCarthy

Email: <treasurer@dornoch-cathedral.com>

## In this issue

---

### Our Locum Minister's thoughts

---

Page 2

We all have a lot of 'stuff' we could let go of.

---

### Croick Pilgrimage

---

Page 3

A special service and Communion in fine weather at this historic venue.

---

### Parish Fundraising

---

Page 6

A host of successful events make the target ever closer.

---

### 700 years celebrations

---

Page 12

How we marked the occasion in 1924.

---

### Cathedral Concert

---

Page 15

Stunning performances by Gizzen Briggs and our own Junior Band.

**And much more!**

---

# *Minister's Thoughts*

---

## **Dear friends**

---

IT SOUNDS STRANGE to say but we have been in the process of moving house for a while now.

It was to a new house, and as there was little pressure to leave the old one quickly, it all happened, car load by car load, over a number of weeks, maybe even months.

We started out taking the things we most relied upon - toothbrushes, gaming device (guess who), clothes, bedding, bits and pieces for the kitchen... the dog.

And... gradually it got to the point where we looked around and decided we had pretty much all we needed (and more probably). Then came a head scratching moment. If we had all we needed, we wondered, why was the old house still full?

We can make excuses. One of us lived in the old house for a long time and stuff built up as it inevitably does. Another two of us moved in, bringing our clutter with us. The house is connected to a business which, over the years, has led to keeping various items either because you have to (records) or just in case (spare parts for this, that and the next thing). Stuff. Stuff. Stuff.

Interestingly, the youngest of us was most discerning when it came to what to take with them. It was like shedding a skin almost, leaving what had perhaps come to be thought 'childish things' behind.

As for me, I couldn't quite part with such precious things as a much loved dolly (a long ago gift from a thoughtful uncle), and a pair of tiny shoes belonging to said youngest, and years and years of pictures which were hung on the fridge, and books... so so many books (shockingly, I found as a result of moving, I even had duplicate books having obviously bought one and then lost it under clutter (!) and, thinking I didn't have it, bought it a second time).

It does make me ask questions about what I really need... and, drawing on the example of the youngest to move, what might it be time to let go. And I think, when it really comes down to it, I'm no longer just talking about objects. I'm talking about ideas, habits, self-blame, replaying that same scene in our minds over and over. We all have a lot of 'stuff' we could do with letting go.

I wonder if it's time to make friends with living lightly, taking a bit less from the world, putting a bit less pressure on ourselves. Maybe it's time, ultimately, to really make friends with the One who longs to take the strain, the burden, from us, and who invites us to ease-full living.

I offer my friendship to all who are finding life hard or struggling with problems, says Jesus of Nazareth to you - you, the one reading these words right now. I offer my friendship to all who are finding life hard or struggling with problems. I'll teach you to relax. I'm a carpenter by trade. I can recommend the yokes I make for oxen. They're well known for being smooth and light. I'm a teacher too; my methods are gentle and I don't bully my pupils. Rest assured, you'll be at ease with me.

Go on. Make friends. Keep each other company as you go. And let him help you loose your grasp on whatever needs losing for a more graceful, more relaxed way to move through the world.

Deep, deep peace to you,

*Carol Anne*



# Croick Pilgrimage and Communion Service

---

FOR MANY YEARS it has been the tradition that some people have walked the mile from Amat to Croick as a Pilgrimage before joining others at the Communion service in the church. Thankfully, this year, the weather was kind for this. There were several “places to ponder” where the folk that walked were encouraged to stop and take some time to consider a Bible verse and how this relates to life now.

It was so good to have so many people filling the pews in the church and gathering around the long communion table for the Sacrament. We are now the proud possessors of the pewter Communion set from Croick dated 1843 which was discovered at an auction a couple of years ago and, thanks to generous donations, we were able to buy back.



It is very special to be able to use these vessels which must have been used by the residents who were cleared from Glencalvie in 1845 and others who suffered the same fate. Something very tangible by which to remember them and the trials they faced.



Thanks to the members of the congregation who took part in the service and those who organised the cuppa afterwards (no mean feat in a place with no water!) Kerry’s shortbread was much appreciated as was the opportunity to have a time of fellowship with friends, old and new, from many other churches from around the area and some visitors too.

Hopefully we will be able to welcome even more people to share in this special service next year.

*Rev. Mary Stobo*

## Life Events

---

### *Baptisms*

**Vivien Rose Radloff** – 4th August  
**James Stewart McGillivray** – 18th August  
**Liam Murray Connell** – 8th September

### *Weddings*

**Emily Elizabeth Williams & Christopher Franklin** – 27th July  
**Marian Morrison & Paul Niven** – 23rd August

### *Funerals*

**Robert J.J. Wickham** - 26th July  
**Elizabeth Robertson** - 8th August  
**Duncan Allan** - 12th August  
**Ronnie Bruce** - 15th August  
**Nelson Patterson** - 20th August  
**Rosie Cameron** - 23rd August

# Congregation Nominating Committee

---

YOUR NOMINATING Committee (NC) continue to meet and work diligently towards identifying the minister of God's choice for the congregation of Dornoch Firth Church of Scotland. The NC ask for your prayers as we listen carefully to each other, recognise the gifts and strengths of each of our members, ask of each other the clarifications we need in order to understand each other well, and shape a process that will bring us into meaningful conversation, dialogue, and mutual exploration with those who will apply for the position. The NC are intent on developing among ourselves as deep and comprehensive a sense as possible of who it is we are looking for to present to the congregation in due course as sole nominee.

Even as the NC have the particular focus on preparing ourselves for each stage of this task assigned to us, we ask all of the wider congregation to join us in prayer that our new enlarged community might know that same journey of discovery amongst each other, that same mutual recognition of gifts and strengths, that curiosity and interest across all our differences, that same listening to each other and desire to know the fullness of Christ's love as it may yet be manifest in our recently formed congregation.

Please appreciate the committee treat all information with a high level of confidentiality and cannot comment on progress.

*Rev. Alistair Drummond (Interim Moderator)*

## Mission Team Update

---

OVER THE SUMMER months, the main thing to report has been opportunity to introduce ourselves to you in the Sundays@7 service and to give you a flavour of what mission means to us. I hope perhaps this gave you food for thought and might inspire you to think of ways in which you might get alongside people and integrate yourselves in the community, as we seek to find opportunities to meet people where they are.

There is a beautiful story of St Francis in his garden. A passer-by commented on how beautiful the garden was looking, adding, "You must have offered many prayers to get your garden looking as beautiful as that." "I did" replied St Francis, "but every time I prayed, I picked up my hoe."

We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,  
And those who feed upon the seed are saved by God's good hand.

But for the harvest to be reaped, the seed must first be sown;  
And the workers to the fields must go to bring the harvest home.

When Jesus lived among us, His example was His oath;  
He tilled the land, prepared the soil and made hearts right for growth.

So, to the fields He calls us now, each one pick up your hoe;  
He'll show us what and where and how, we simply need to go.

God bless.

*Dornoch Firth Mission Team*

## Sundays @ 7

---

THANK YOU to everyone who organised, led and took part in our Sundays @ 7 services over the summer months. It was a real privilege to share personal stories and favourite hymns, and to get to know one another a bit better.

Thanks to Roddy for playing the organ, and most of all, thanks to members, visitors and friends of the congregation for coming along and singing with such great enthusiasm.

*Mhairi Mackay (Organiser)*

## Prayer Tree

---

MANY SUMMER visitors to Dornoch Cathedral have made their way to our Prayer Tree... a quiet place to think, reflect or pray, and to jot down those thoughts, memories and reflections. Positive feedback from volunteers at the Welcome Tables has been that visitors have been happy to visit the tree.

There have been more summer visitors than ever hanging messages on the tree, and during August, over 400 tabs were hung from its branches.

Prayers were in many languages and writing styles, praying for ourselves, families, others around us, and the world. Universal indeed!

*Gillian Gordon*



## Finance update

---

NOT TOO LONG ago we were looking at a £53,000 deficit at the year end. (December).

Thanks to the support of the congregation, the community and the dedication of the fundraising team, the position is now looking more hopeful.

Based on the projections, if we continue to get good support for our fund raising activities, by the year end we will break even or maybe even better than that.

Watch this space!

*Kim McCarthy (Finance Team)*

## Gift Aid

---

THE UK GOVERNMENT'S 'Gift Aid' scheme, whereby we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give (at no further cost to the you), makes a hugely important contribution to Parish funds, adding more than £20,000 in 2023.

Many of you will recently have been asked to complete an updated Gift Aid Declaration form. This is an important administrative exercise to ensure we have up-to-date permission to reclaim tax on your donations, and we are asking all donors in the new parish to update their details.

Please give your completed gift aid declaration to your elder, bring it to church service and leave it with whoever is on the door, or pop it into either of the safes in the cathedral when you are next passing and it will make its way to the right place!

Our original supplier of parish gift aid envelopes which you can use for your weekly offering is no longer in business so, our apologies, but it has taken longer than we hoped to find alternative supplies.

However, we now have new white gift aid envelopes for you to use so if you are a UK tax payer and would like to gift aid your regular donation, please ask Fay or Alison for envelopes at church or by emailing <fay@ecosse.net> or <ak\_bartlett@btinternet.com>. The new envelopes are not date or number specific, so please write your name or old number on the envelope so that we can identify you correctly.

You will also see yellow gift aid envelopes in the pews which are exactly the same, but are for use by visitors to our services, or occasional visitors who want to gift aid their donations.

Thank you so much for your continued financial support of the parish, whether or not you are part of the gift aid scheme, it is very much appreciated.

*Alison Bartlett (Finance Team)*

*giftaid it*

# Parish Fundraising Group

THE OPENING devotions at our last Fundraising meeting looked at Romans 15 and reminded us of the need for unity, working together for God's purposes. So, I would like in this article to describe what the individuals in our group are doing together to achieve the goal of raising £60k this year.

Kim McCarthy as the parish treasurer is very busy on all the matters relating to the finances of the parish. Kim coordinated all the volunteers leading up to and on Gift Day. This achieved almost £25k above the target of £15k.

Alison Bartlett also involved in the finance side of the parish focusing on Gift Aid, has been updating the signage in the Cathedral providing more information for those wishing to support the work through donations. Linda McMurray provided the new design for the posters.

Graham McCarthy coordinates all the volunteers who enable visitors on Saturday evening and now on Community Market days to go up to the clock tower. It is anticipated that this may raise up to £4k over the summer period, (not that we had much summer weather this year!)

Willie MacKay is updating the general signage around the cathedral and bringing it into a more consistent approach as well as making it more visual. He is also involved in promoting and delivering the golf event on 5th October using his many contacts.

Eric De Venny is majoring on the golf event and has recruited sponsors for each of the 18 holes at £200 a hole. He is also supporting it by encouraging local businesses to provide items for the auction and raffle as well as providing some himself.

Mhairi Mackay will be during the autumn/winter organising a talents activity for the parish. More news about that in later Parish News issues. Mhairi will also be heading up a halfway house on the day of the golf event.

Jeani Hunter and Christine Mackay focus on making contact with those families that have had a marriage or baptism in the parish and are planning special services to celebrate these. It is likely this will be in 2025.

Pat Murray has been putting together visitor tours for those people on cruises coming to see around Dornoch. They will become live in 2025. Pat has recruited volunteers with training in September. These local volunteer tour guides will take visitors around the cathedral and other interesting parts of Dornoch.

Will Porter (and Carol Anne) held a barbeque at their home for the cathedral heating and raised £2,401. Will is also organising a concert on Thursday 12th September (7pm in the cathedral) involving Gizzen Briggs and the Dornoch Firth Junior Band.

Kisha Black has updated and redesigned the information board describing the history of the cathedral. This will be used for the visit to the tower and tours around the cathedral.

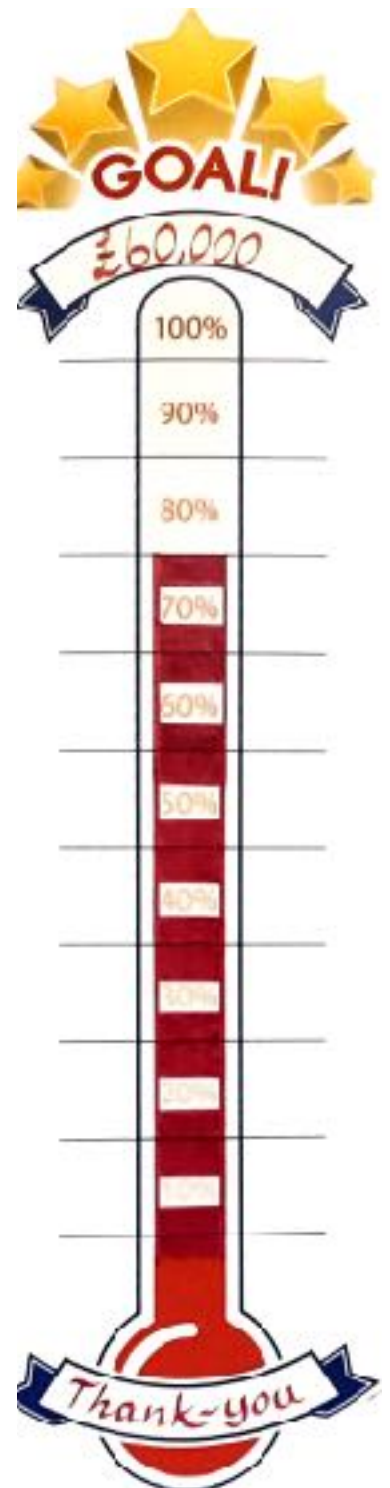
Anne Chambers is the fundraising group link with the Welcome Table. As you all will know the welcome table volunteers greet visitors each weekday during the summer. Visitors learn a little about our history and are given the opportunity to purchase a reminder of their visit.

I, John McMurray, have the privilege of supporting these folk and help out where I can. I am also involved in coordination of the golf event.

We know that we have the support of the whole congregation in our endeavours, and we are grateful for this. Maybe you have an idea that could raise funds? We would love to hear it.

We are nearing 70% of our £60,000 target having raised £42,000 so far. Thank you to all volunteers who support events with their time and also for everyone that bought tickets, made donations and made items for the welcome table and generously gifted.

*John McMurray (Convenor)*



## Cathedral tower

WE HAD MANY locals as well as tourists climb the tower to enjoy the views of Dornoch and the surrounding countryside.

A massive thank you to all the volunteers that manned the safety stations and collected payment and endured what we had for summer (It can be chilly and windy on the parapets).

You have all contributed to raising £4,590 so far with one more Community Market Wednesday to go, with the tower open from 11am to 12.30.

One couple from Australia, Mark and Tracey Miller, who spent a lot of time in awe of our beautiful Cathedral wrote the following:

*"I have travelled for many years, visited many Churches and Cathedrals, some very well-known and many not so. I was taken aback and mouth open when I walked through the main door as to the beauty and magnificence of Dornoch Cathedral. It has such a warm and wonderful feeling, so welcoming indeed. It can only be said what an honour it is to visit.*

*Thank you to all both Cathedral and Community for allowing us this visit."* Mark.

*Graham McCarthy & Willie MacKay*



*View from the tower parapet towards High St and UHI Campus*

## Women's Group

"LIFE CAN BE TOUGH but scones make it better"... a sentiment that may well have been echoed by one or two visitors to the Dornoch Highland Games a few weeks ago. Our Women's Group will be known by some of the congregation for the frequent scone baking activity, and we have been at it again!

The Dornoch Highland Games organisers kindly allowed us a pitch near the main ring to pop up a gazebo from where we offered scones layered with jam and whipped cream to passers-by. In return for this tasty delicacy, we were very happy to accept donations towards the upkeep and running of the Dornoch Firth Church of Scotland buildings. The significant amount raised delighted us all and we are grateful to members of the congregation and of the group who baked the delicious scones, as well as for the generosity of the scone 'munchers'.

One member wishes to make a public apology to the Women's Group, the scone eating visitors to the Highland Games and to the Church of Scotland in general... they baked their 2 batches of scones but before delivering them to the games field they met a large troop of rather hot and hungry looking French boy scouts sitting on the side of the road and decided that their need for scones was probably greater than most! The resulting decrease in funds available to the Church is regrettable and the baker in question will not let it happen again.

*Caroline Gilchrist*



## Golf event

ROYAL DORNOCH Golf Club and Dornoch Cathedral share a heritage dating back hundreds of years. Clergy lured north from St Andrews are credited with bringing golf to the Highlands.

The world-famous golf club, ranked 2nd in the world outside of the USA, is playing its part in a major fundraising drive.

On Saturday October 5th, the Struie Course is hosting an event which will benefit the Dornoch Firth Parish funds. It is being sponsored by Morrison Construction, the company building the new clubhouse, which is on target for a 2025 opening.

A four-person team challenge has been teed-up, with prizes for the top three, along with rewards for a hole in one, nearest the pin and the longest drive. The £70 per head entry fee includes pre-round tea/coffee and a bacon roll and a one-course dinner. In addition to a raffle, a range of items will be auctioned, including golf and in-demand whiskies.

The Rev. Carol Anne Porter, locum minister, said: “We are so pleased to have support from Royal Dornoch Golf Club. The club’s generosity will help us ensure the Cathedral stays open and in the best condition possible for all those who, in visiting or sharing in worship here, find peace and perspective.”

John McMurray, Fund Raising Convenor, said “We are delighted that through the support of Royal Dornoch, our main sponsor for this event is Morrison Construction, the contractors building the new clubhouse.”

Neil Hampton, general manager at Royal Dornoch, noted that the town had been built on the Cathedral and golf. “It was worrying to learn that the Cathedral is facing financial challenges. The club is eager to back the fundraising campaign. I’m confident the autumn golf day will be well supported, and some fabulous items have been secured for the raffle and the auction.”

“There have always been close ties between the church and the golf club, with several ministers serving as captains, and local members and visitors worshipping at the Cathedral.

Earlier this year it emerged that a shortfall of more than £50,000 was anticipated in the kirk finances, posing a threat to the future of a popular tourist attraction staffed by volunteers which is also used for concerts and events, in addition to worship.”

There are a limited number of dinner tickets available at £20 to non-golfers that might consider supporting the golfers and enjoying the excitement of the auction after dinner.

Entry forms can be secured from fundraising committee convener John McMurray via

< [johnmcmurray1400@gmail.com](mailto:johnmcmurray1400@gmail.com) >  
and 07801496609 or from  
<[www.dornochcathedral.com](http://www.dornochcathedral.com)>.



*L-R. Neil Hampton, General Manager at Royal Dornoch Golf Club, the Rev Carol Anne Porter and fundraising committee convener John McMurray*



# Property Update for the Parish

---

KINCARDINE CHURCH and Hall has had a closing date set with offers being considered in time for the Kirk Session meeting on 17th September.

- I. Creich Church now up for sale on the Church of Scotland website has had a few viewings.
- II. Croick Church transfer to Historic Churches Scotland is ongoing.
- III. Dornoch West Church Hall – we are waiting for quotes to repair kitchen and toilet windows.
- IV. Ian Mackay and David Reid are keeping the outside very neat, but it will soon be leaf gathering time.

## Dornoch Cathedral

- We have had our lightening conductor system inspected and it was found in good order. It was certainly tested a few weeks ago when we had thunder and lightening
- We had a visit by Historical Environment Scotland – awaiting the report.
- LED Lighting – we have had one visit by a company who are now working on a plan which we can consider and another company due soon.
- We are waiting for a quote for additional electricity sockets so we can install the Live Streaming fixed and PTZ cameras which will allow us to change from using the video camera on the tripod.
- Sound – Stephen McIntosh has installed the new amplifier which was used for the first time on Sunday 8th September. Minor tweaks to the Chancel area where the Choir sit but reports from the North, South and West Aisles were positive as was the loop system. As always – any issues please contact Willie MacKay on 073683208955 or see me or Carol Anne after the Service.
- Cleaning gutters and removing old seagull nests is being planned while looking at preventative measures to deter nesting next year.
- It is autumn and we will soon need to look at leaf gathering as so many enter into the Cathedral. Signs at the doors have helped with most visitors closing the doors after entering and leaving.

*Willie MacKay, (Convenor)*

## Morning recitals

---

MANY OF US on duty at the Welcome Tables, as well as visitors to the Cathedral, have enjoyed listening to some wonderful piano playing this summer. Martha Smith, from Florida, visits Dornoch every year and plays the piano most days as well as joining in with the choir.

Martha also writes a blog and you can look at what she says about Dornoch at <[mksconbrio.com](http://mksconbrio.com)>.



*Right; Martha Smith at the Cathedral piano*

## Welcome and Sales Team

*“Chatting with you this morning has made our visit to Dornoch and your beautiful Cathedral, extra special”*

THIS HAPPY endorsement of how we all try to welcome our cathedral visitors was made to one of our lovely volunteers one morning recently. Being a modest soul, she would never have mentioned it, I know, but I overheard it!

It gives so much pleasure, seeing visitors leave the Cathedral with smiles on their faces and know that we have contributed towards making their holiday a little happier.

As I write, we have only two more weeks of the summer season to go, so huge thanks and appreciation must go to our Sales & Welcome volunteers for their steadfast help. Sales have been better than ever and we hope to report a significant profit by the end of year.

New items to our range - e.g. Tartan and Harris Tweed Teddy Bears, have sold well, but our tried and tested regular items continue to prove extremely popular .... crosses in pockets, bags of cheer, cathedral mice, pocket tokens, prayer cards, our special Dornoch Cathedral products, and many more.

Thank you from Sue Boyce (01862 810415), Anne Chambers (02862 811520), Lisa Dickenson (01862 810973).



*Welcome Table – a selection of gifts*

## Dornoch Firth Guild

THE NEW GUILD session will be dedicated during the morning service on 15th September. The Guild session will start again on Tuesday 17th September at 2.30pm in the West Church Hall.

The theme for the next three years is 'Let us build a house' and the heading for 2024/25 is 'Sure Foundations.'

The committee has arranged a variety speakers and events for the coming year which hopefully will appeal to all. We hope to hold meetings in Bonar Bridge as well as Dornoch and look forward to welcoming new members and continuing members on 17th September in the West Church Hall.

Our speaker on 17th September will be Carrie Macdonald who is the Community Fundraiser for the Highland Hospice.

A warm welcome awaits.

*Trish Geddes*



# Dornoch Firth Church Social Committee

---

COFFEE MORNING dates for your diaries:

Friday 20th September 10.30-12.00

Friday 4th October 10.30-12.00

Friday 15th November 10.30-12.00

Friday 13th December 10.30-12.00

All are welcome. Come along and enjoy freshly baked scones and pancakes and our baking stall and enjoy company and a catch up with friends.

*Una Reid (Convenor)*

## Natter and Nosh

---

NATTER AND NOSH is a much needed lunch and social group and we need your help. The social interaction is so important and if you like a blether then please come and join our team. We meet fortnightly in the West Church Hall, Dornoch.

If you are interested please get in touch with Ros -07734 108075, Kim – 07961 152147 or Trish – 07751 015956.

We will be starting on Monday 30th September at 12.30pm and look forward to seeing you all back, well kent faces and new ones, all welcome.

The dates are:

30th September 14th & 28th October; 11th & 25th November; 9th December

*Trish Geddes*



## 1st Dornoch Girls Brigade

---

OUR 1ST COMPANY NIGHT was on Monday 2nd September which was a fun night with games: Badgework starts next week.

We had 10 Explorers (Pr.1 – Pr.3), 2 Juniors (Pr. 4 – Pr.7) and 3 Brigaders (S1-S6). This brings us up to near capacity given the girl to leader ratio. If you would like to help in any form please contact us on [dornochgb@gmail.com](mailto:dornochgb@gmail.com)



Our mantra for setting this company has been “with God all things are possible” and we would like to thank the congregation for their prayers and well wishes in making this happen.

*Mariane MacLeod (Leader)*

# 700 Years Celebrations

Thanks to the Northern Times issues on 28th August and 4th September 1924 we found a great deal of detail about the 700 Years Celebrations. Here are some extracts.

• • •

Dornoch Cathedral, the seven hundredth anniversary whose founding was celebrated yesterday, is a sacred edifice of historic and ecclesiastical interest. Its erection, under the most adverse conditions, and in a remote part of the country just emerging from the barbarism of an earlier age, was indeed a notable achievement and a tribute to the courage, enterprise, and devotion of its pious founder and builder.

When Gilbert de Moravia, Archdeacon of Moray, became Bishop of Caithness in 1223, he found the diocese in state of turmoil and chaos. Caithness was in a turbulent condition owing to the dreadful punishment inflicted upon its people by King Alexander for the brutal murder of Bishop Adam in 1222.

He decided to transfer the seat of the diocese from Halkirk to Dornoch, where it had been a monastic settlement of the early Celtic Church since the sixth century. He selected a site to the west of St Barr's Church for his Cathedral.

He found stones for his building in quarries at Embo and Dornoch, while glass for the windows was made at Cyderhall. Where the skilled workers came from is not known. The marks of his master masons are visible on the old pillars of the Cathedral.

Their work was sufficiently far advanced in 1239 to hold a service and allow for the re-internment of the body of Bishop Adam within the building, which was completed in 1244. It consisted of a nave with aisles four feet wide, two transepts, a chancel, and a massive tower supported by four fine clustered pillars and richly moulded pointed arches. To the north wall and the choir was attached the Chapter House.

Bishop Gilbert was the last Scotsman enrolled in the Kalendar of the Saints, and his festival on 1st April – the anniversary of his death – was given a place in the Scottish Prayer Book of 1637.

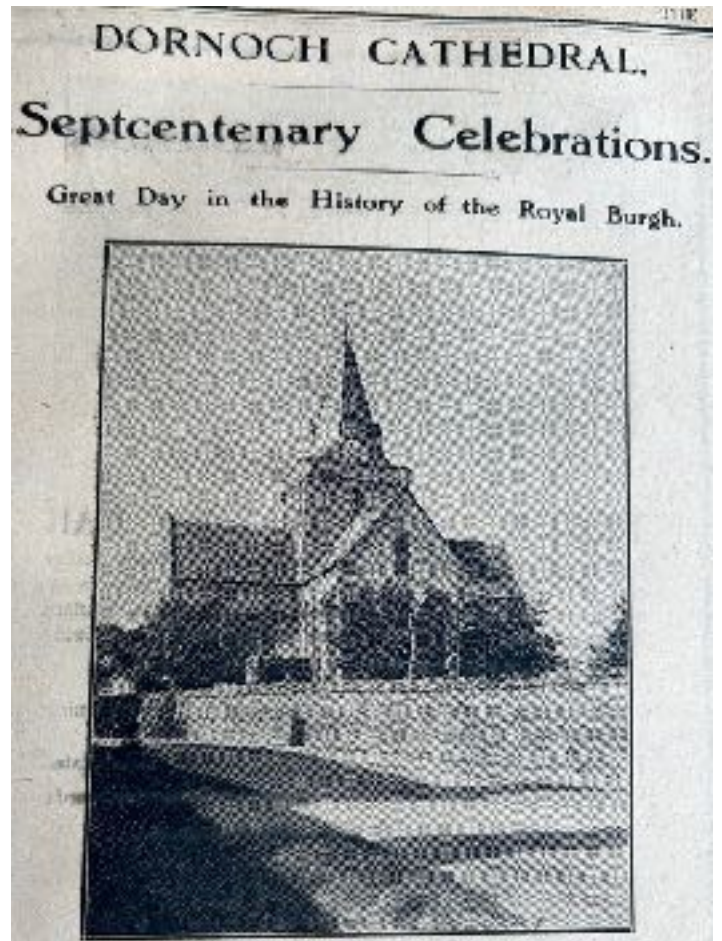
Disaster came to it in 1570, when Dornoch was besieged and burnt by the followers of the Master of Caithness and Y. Mackay of Farr. During the conflict Sutherland of Evelix, in a fit of savage frenzy, desecrated the tomb of St Gilbert.

The ruined Cathedral was further damaged in the great storm on November 5th 1605, which wrought such havoc in the North of Scotland. It blew the pillars of the north arcade of the nave over the outer wall of the aisle. The Cathedral ravaged by fire and tempest, lay in ruins until it was partially repaired in 1634.

Cordiner's Sketch gives a good idea of its appearance in the 18th century. During Mr Bowie's ministry services were held in some other building. In 1732 lofts were erected in the choir and south transept owing to a scarcity of accommodation.

Dr Bethune, for forty years minister of Dornoch, made a woful picture of the incompetency of the Cathedral for public worship. His appeal bore fruit for in 1835 the Cathedral was re-edified through the great generosity of the Duchess-Countess of Sutherland at a cost of £6,000.

**THE GREAT DAY** – In the history of the Royal and Ancient Burgh of Dornoch, yesterday August 27, was a great day – the greatest in the memory of those who had the privilege to take part in or witness the celebrations of the 700th anniversary.



*The Northern Times - 1924*



## 700 Years Celebrations – continued

Large numbers of people unloaded from early trains, the afternoon trains brought another mass, and in the evening there was still another influx. It was a constant stream from the station all day long, augmented by droves of people who came by motor cars and charabancs.

PROCESSION – it was a masterpiece of organisation under the direction of Mr R Robertson, Dornoch. The procession was a great imposing spectacle as it rhythmically, headed by pipers, marched it way to the Cathedral.

SERVICE IN THE CATHEDRAL – The Cathedral was full to overflowing. Many who managed to get inside had to be content with standing room. What a volume of sound was raised in the singing of the 100th Psalm, with which the service was opened.

The first part of the service was conducted by the Right Rev. Dr Cathels, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, followed by Dr Inch, Moderator of the United Free Church. Rev. John Fraser, U.F. Church, Dornoch, and Rev. C. D. Bentick, The Cathedral, also took part. The unveiling of St. Gilbert's memorial was fittingly performed by Mrs Carnegie, Skibo Castle. The impressive and inspiring service was concluded with all joining in the singing of the National Anthem.

## Oversteps Care Home

WE'VE HAD a busy month so far. The residents have enjoyed baking together, and we've all enjoyed the results! We've had a visit from our friends at the Golspie Hub, which has reconnected friends and family. Mahairi Campbell had a fantastic day on the beach, with the help of the Dornoch Beach Wheelchairs.

*Jen Macdonald, Manager*



*Baking at Oversteps*



*Mahairi Campbell at the Beach*



*Golspie Hub visitors*

## Meadows Care Home

AS WELL AS attending the Dornoch Highland Games we enjoyed our own Highland Games in the Care Home Gardens. We had a community Topsy Tea Party and we now have a Walking Group on a Thursday afternoon from 2pm weather permitting. If anyone would like to join us for a wee stroll just come along before 2pm. We also have weekly visits to Dornoch Cathedral with different residents.

*Jackie Macrae, Manager*



*A visit to the Cathedral*



*The Oversteps Highland Games*



*Oversteps Topsy Tea Party*

## Dornoch Firth Youth Theatre Group

WE HAVE A DATE for your diary! Join us at the West Church Hall on Saturday 14th December for “Revolting Cinderella”. The shows will be at 2:30 pm and 7 pm. Whilst the traditional tale may have been tweaked somewhat, there will be many familiar tunes - favourites from the past - such as Esther and Abi Ofarim’s “Cinderella Rockefella.”

In the last couple of weeks we have welcomed to the group pupils from primary five and I am delighted to say that they have settled in brilliantly with no lack of talent and enthusiasm.

We all look forward to seeing you at the show! Saturday 14th December

*Graham McCarthy*



## Dornoch Firth Junior Band

BY THE TIME you read this article the band will have played at the Gizzen Briggs concert on Thursday 12th September. We really enjoyed working on the arrangements for our performance and are now learning three new tunes before embarking on well-known Christmas Carols. Watch this space!

*Graham McCarthy*



## Cathedral Concert



*Gizzen Briggs perform*

THE DORNOCH FIRTH Junior Band was delighted to be asked to perform at the recent Gizzen Briggs fund-raising concert. Inspired by this invitation, the children have worked really hard since the summer holidays.

With the Cathedral full, it was a thrilling experience for this group of young musicians in what was only their third live performance. They played everything they knew, starting with the lovely Gaelic tune the Fairy Lullaby which settled everyone's nerves. The hauntingly evocative 'Sine Bhan' was sensitively played and how the audience played their part! Invited to sing along with The Drunken Sailor, Coulter's Candy and the Skye Boat Song, they certainly didn't disappoint! Their singing complemented the instrumental pieces beautifully.

The band is going to learn a couple of new, fun tunes before turning its attention to Christmas tunes with festive performances in mind.

Thank you all for your kind words after the concert and weren't Gizzen Briggs wonderful?!

### Editor:

The concert was enjoyed by everyone and raised £2,304. Gizzen Briggs should be very proud once they receive this review by Rory MacDonald of 'Runrig', who lives locally in Dornoch.

*"What a pleasure it was to hear Gizzen Briggs perform at the Cathedral last night. Their deft arrangements of well chosen material brought to life by the group's high standard of musicianship and intelligent use of dynamics, was thrilling to experience – one could readily sense this potent mix being imparted throughout the sold-out audience, such was the warm, appreciative response from everyone. The future of Trad Music is in safe hands with young talent like this."* (R.M.)



*The Dornoch Firth Junior Band*

# Dornoch Free Church

FOR THOSE that did not manage to attend the dedication of the refurbished Free Church, here is a look at the upstairs where services are held, with the ground floor now a hall area.



# Dornoch Firth Group

SCHOOL IS BACK, with activities running on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for families in and around Dornoch.

**Monday** – Jen and Kelly are back on a Monday with the Woodland Story walks at Camore Wood and Mamas’ Club at the Old School in Embo. These groups run on alternate weeks during term time. So far at Camore Wood families have enjoyed a visit from Marcia, Countryside Ranger and in Embo a wonderful morning of beach combing and beach art creation with Charlotte from the Arts in Nature project. For more information contact Jen email <jen@dfjcommunity.com>.

**Tuesday** – Baby Massage and Tuesday Tots at the West Church Hall in Dornoch. Join Eilidh bright and early at 9.30am for a relaxed half hour of Baby Massage. This class is suitable for younger babies who are yet to get too wriggly! This is a drop-in class and is free for parents to attend. Please bring a pillow and a towel for your baby to lie on. Contact is <eilidh@dfgcommunity.co.uk>.

‘Tuesday Tots’ runs between 10-11.30am and we are delighted that so many new families are joining us for our themed sensory play days. Our aim is to provide families with a range of activities which stimulate the senses, provoke curiosity and support the developing skills of the babies and toddlers who attend. It really is a great morning out! It costs £1.50 per family to attend. Contact is <jen@dfgcommunity.com>



Wednesday Group Fun Day



Monday Group Beach Art



Tuesday Tots

**Wednesday** – Eilidh and Kelly started the term at the Davochfin Farm Fun Day on Saturday 17th August where over 100 families attended to enjoy this fantastic community event. With giant bubbles, log slice prints and sensory play it was a great opportunity to showcase what happens at our Little Otters outdoor baby and toddler group. Every Wednesday during term time Little Otters meets down on the farm between 10-11.30am. It costs £1.50 per family to attend. Contact <eilidh@dfgcommunity.com> for Little Otters Outdoor Baby & Toddler Group.





## Dornoch Firth Group – continued

---

The Men's Shed has recently welcomed eight new members to its ranks. Contact is <charles@dfgcommunity.com>.

Knit and Natter group on a Tuesday morning now has more than thirteen regular attendees. Contact is <jen@dfgcommunity.com>.

DFG are now part of a scheme which can issue SIM cards to those who cannot access the internet. Please contact Charles for more information and to receive a SIM card email <charles@dfgcommunity.com>.

Join our Facebook page <<https://www.facebook.com/DornochAreaFamilyEvents>> to keep up to date.

## Harvest Community Service – Sunday 29th September

---

Come and enjoy this special Community Harvest Celebration Service with Rev. Carol Anne Porter at Midfearn Farm, courtesy of Mr & Mrs Charlie Brooks.

Enjoy a cuppa after the Service in the barn. As well as the attached map, the farm entrance will be signposted; it is on the Dornoch Firth side, between Ardgay and Edderton.

Details of Transport for those that require a lift and car share will be in the Order of Service. From Dornoch Cathedral Green at 3.20pm and other pick-up points to be confirmed.



**CAROL ANNE** wishes to thank the generous soul who left a gift for her in the Cathedral donation box. It was totally unexpected and undeserved but received with gratitude.

# Dates for your diary

---

## SUNDAY WORSHIP IN THE PARISH

### SEPTEMBER

- 22nd Cathedral and Bonar Village Hall  
29th Cathedral - 11.00am and Live streaming to Bonar Village Hall  
29th Harvest Community Celebration Service – 4pm - Midfearn Farm – details on page 17

### OCTOBER

- 6th Cathedral, 11.00am - Harvest Thanksgiving  
13th Cathedral, 11.00am and Ardgay Community Hall, 1.30pm  
20th Cathedral, 11.00am and Livestream to Ardgay Community Hall  
20th Care Home Services - 2.30pm Oversteps & 3.15pm The Meadows  
27th Cathedral, 11.00am and Ardgay Community Hall, 1.30pm

### NOVEMBER

- 3rd Cathedral, 11.00am

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10TH

Remembrance Sunday Parade 10.30am from Dornoch Square  
to the War Memorial, followed by service in the Cathedral, Rev Carol Anne Porter  
10.45 – 11.15am Service at Edderton War Memorial - Michael Brown

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10TH - CONTINUED

- Services at Bonar Bridge & Ardgay War Memorials - Rev Mary Stobo  
10.30am Bonar Bridge War Memorial-10.45am Ardgay War Memorial  
plus a follow up service in Ardgay Community Hall  
17th Communion Service - Dornoch Cathedral, 11.00am  
Care Home Services - 2.30pm Oversteps & 3.15pm The Meadows  
24th Cathedral, 11.00am and 1.30pm Ardgay Community Hall

### OTHER DATES

Saturday 5th October

### GOLF EVENT AT ROYAL DORNOCH GOLF CLUB

entry forms from <johnmcmurray1400@gmail.com> & 07801496609  
also Dinner tickets at £20 for non-golfers who can enjoy the auction and raffle.

Saturday 19th October at 3pm in the Cathedral

### THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN CHAMBER CHOIR

*NOTE: Dates for both Natter & Nosh and Coffee Mornings are given earlier in this newsletter.*



---

## Contacts

**Locum Minister:** Carol Anne Porter • Email: <ca.porter76@icloud.com> • Tel: 07400 313 303

**Session Clerk team:** Liz Manson, Jeani Hunter, Mary Stobo  
Email: <sessionclerks@dornochfirthcofs.org>

**Treasurer:** Kim McCarthy • Email: <treasurer@dornoch-cathedral.com>