



# PARISH



## NEWSLETTER

To Communicants and Friends of  
Tay and Lyon Churches

October 2025

### Armchair Musings from Sandra Seath, Outreach Elder

Hello everyone and welcome to your latest Autumn newsletter.

September is regarded as the beginning of another season of change, “the time of mellow fruitfulness”. The days, I notice, are shortening and the colours are changing, moving from green to orange and then to red.

It is all too easy to be caught up and continually work to complete endless lists of tasks, leaving no time to reflect and give thanks for the beauty of the world and the lands in which we live – beautiful sunsets, dazzling sunlight dancing on the hillside or loch, the wonder of the nuthatch, happily feasting amongst the long-tailed blue tits by the bird table.

Such happiness bring us joy and remind us it's good to stop for a moment, take a break from our routines, and give thanks for these moments that we so often take for granted, from the world in which we live. Elizabeth Gozney's poem – “Daily Thoughts” captures this sentiment.

Sandra (01887 830316)

### “Daily Thoughts” A Poem by Elizabeth Gozney

Don't we sometimes take for granted all the treasures of the sky,

The rainbow after showers, and the white clouds riding high?

Nature weaves eternal wonders, greater far than man can do:

- Seasons in their timeless pattern, as the light of day breaks through.

There's a purpose planned for living, from the greatest to the least,

Whether it be man or insect, bird or fish, or pastured beast;

Whether it be weed or flower or blossom time in Spring.

In the pulsing life around us, there's a joy in everything.

So remember when it seems the world appears a hopeless grey,

Stop awhile, and bask a moment, in the timeless hour of day.

Breathe the spirit of God's blessing, as His mantle ends all care;

From the shadows to the sunshine, God takes heed of every prayer...



## Lorimer Gray, Interim Moderator

### **Lorimer's farewell greeting to the Church family**

2025 has been a very challenging year! And it's been my privilege to share in this year with you, and also with the folk over in Rannoch.

The overall plan was to create a new linked charge between the parishes of Loch Tay and Glenlyon with the parishes at Loch Rannoch. If the plan was achieved successfully, it would open the door to finding a new Minister. It pleases me to know that our objective has been reached.

Initially, it required a new Union, a new Linkage, a new name, a new nominating committee and, eventually a new Minister. It all started with the Perth Presbytery Mission Plan, which was designed and then approved by the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland. The plan was designed to ensure that there would continue to be Christian worshipping communities on both sides of Schiehallion, served by a new minister, covering this vast area in Highland Perthshire.

Inevitably, it required critical, stressful, and even for some, very sad changes to enable the continuance of worshipping congregations under the Church of Scotland banner. These very painful changes have been brought about because of the severe reduction in regular worshippers, the steep increase in the cost of maintenance of buildings, and the apparent sad decline and disinterest from folk in attending church worship. All of that resulting in unsustainable and very serious financial difficulties. No organisation could cope with that kind of situation. Our churches are a typical

example of the realities of that truth and are mirrored by many other churches all over Scotland.

And so, on the 24th April this year, our Kirk Session acting as Trustees, voted by a large majority to sell Kenmore Church to the Kenmore and District Community Council, a decision fully approved by Perth Presbytery and by the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. Since then, the Community Council has been working hard to organise and process the purchase, including canvassing the views of the local community. This survey resulted in a large majority in favour of the Community Council plans, thus securing for them a strong brief to move ahead with the purchase.

Given the positive developments taking place regarding the sale of Kenmore Church, and the upcoming induction of our new minister, your Kirk Session, acting as Trustees, have voted with a large majority to now adopt a plan for ceasing to designate Kenmore Church as a place of regular worship from the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

Rev Joanne Foster, our new Minister, understands the reasons why we need to take this action now. She feels we should phase it in over the next few months, giving the members of the congregation an early indication that we are ceasing to designate Kenmore Church as a place of regular worship. This will be followed with a special service led by her to mark that cessation in Kenmore Church on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November just before Advent. This service would mark the change to a new pattern for the parish, and to Joanne's new ministry.

For me, this year has been a special honour and privilege to ride alongside both Kirk Sessions and Church families in each congregation, supporting you all with the changes, and finding suitable people for preaching week by week, bringing variety and quality teaching with warmth and insight. The icing on the cake is to have found a new minister.

I am indebted to the members of each Kirk Session who have graciously and diligently helped me steer the changes forward, eventually securing a wonderful new minister who will bring her gifting and experience to the new linked charge of Loch Tay and Glenlyon with Rannoch.

I will continue to pray for you all in the future, that the life of both congregations will grow and develop, honouring God and reaching out into the local communities with the Good News of the love of Jesus Christ.

I write this article with my heart-felt thanks and appreciation.

Lorimer Gray (07740378910)

## Latest Church News

### **Tay and Lyon Guild**

Over the past two years our local Guild, the Tay and Lyon Guild, has become depleted in numbers. The Secretary, Anne Towns and the Convener, Elaine Melrose approached the Dull and Weem Guild with a view to joining forces. We were welcomed and are now about to embark on the first year of this joint venture which certainly makes it more viable to invite visiting speakers along to the meetings.

The meetings are held from 2pm in the MacDonald Room at Weem Church on the second Thursday of the month.

The first meeting is on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October when a speaker from one of the current Guild Projects Partners, Crossreach, will come to talk about the project which is called 'Playful Beginnings'. With this Project, the Guild will support specialist perinatal therapy with creche support at Sunflower Garden in Edinburgh. They will also support the improvement of children's health and wellbeing through play and nurture at Daisy Chain in Glasgow, a community based, inclusive, early intervention project for children under 12 and their families. These projects will strengthen family relationships and support them to become more resilient.

You don't need to be a Guild member to come along to a meeting. You will receive a warm welcome and there is always a splendid afternoon tea!



### **Forticall "Pod"**

Just over a year ago, your newsletter reported that plans were underway to construct the upgrading of our toilet provision within the church at Forticall. We have now moved on! Because of the generosity and support of the new owner, Charlie Ramsay, of the Forticall Hotel, the construction of such a 'pod' is no longer necessary.

During services and any other events held in the church, the newly refurbished toilets, found on the side the hotel

opposite the church, are being made available for any person attending those events in the church.

We are extremely grateful for this act of kindness and support and for which Presbytery has given it's complete approval. Many, many thanks.

### **Disbanding of Nominating Committee**

On Sunday 31st August, the Reverend Joanne Foster was invited as the sole nominee to conduct worship on that day with a view to becoming our new minister. I am delighted to report that after her service, there was a unanimous positive response from both voting congregations so now we are so pleased and excited to welcome our new minister. She will be inducted at a service held in Fortingall church on Tuesday 7th October at 7pm. The Rev Joanne Foster will then take over church services from the 12th October, initially in both Kenmore and Fortingall churches.

### **Glenlyon Church News**

Due to drastically dwindling congregations in the Church of Scotland, Glenlyon Church, along with many other churches, has firmly been marked for closure in the near future.

Representatives of Glenlyon community are now exploring the possibility of purchasing Glenlyon church for the benefit of the community. To help us assess interest and viability of the project, a survey has been compiled which will be available shortly in hard copy as well as an online version. If you would like to receive information and updates on our progress, please contact us on [glenlyonkirk@gmail.com](mailto:glenlyonkirk@gmail.com)

### **A Time to say Goodbye**

#### **Patricia Tinto – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

After a very short illness, it was with great sadness that we learned of the unexpected passing of our great friend and faithful church family member, Patricia Tinto (Trish to many). For over 25 years, Trish was a hard working member within the Church Guild and the wider community. She worked tirelessly for "Mary's Meals", approaching various shops in and around Perth to provide, at a very minimal cost, the contents required for the backpacks, which were filled by guild members annually. Trish could always be relied upon to find a good bargain and get the best for her very appreciative recipients! She is very much missed by us all.

#### **Joan Miller – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

We were all saddened to hear the passing of our great friend and neighbour, Joan Miller (Jo). Jo was very active and supportive of life in her village of Fearnan, with words of encouragement to all who knew her. Always active, loving her golf, initially at the Taymouth Castle course and latterly at Killin Golf course, she was always very supportive of all local events. She and her husband, Douglas, responded to a comeback to church from Fortingall church a few years ago which allowed them to become regular attendees at church services in Fortingall. After Douglas died, to keep active and fit, Joan could be seen striding out along the road from Fearnan to Fortingall church on a Sunday morning, always with a cheery smile and a wave as you passed by. An extremely active and positive friend and neighbour, she is missed within our community.

### **John Lawrie – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

We were all very saddened to hear of the passing of John from Culderamone, a few weeks ago. John fought a very brave fight over this past year, after his very unexpected diagnosis. John and his wife Leslie joined our community a few years ago. As hard-working workers within their own business, they still found time to support all local events and initiatives, loving their decision to live and support in our Perthshire locality. John will be remembered for his bright and cheery positive attitude to life, his sparkling eyes and a wide smile for everyone he met was a huge encouragement for many. He will be sorely missed and our thoughts and prayers go to Leslie and John's family.

### **Joyce Holden – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

After a long and full life, Joyce was called on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025 to join her maker. In conversation with her, shortly before her passing, she told me she was so grateful for her life experiences she'd had and was excited about making her next journey. Joyce was a busy, friendly and helpful person, who was always ready with a story to tell! She loved looking after her garden and sharing it with her friends. Her other love and hobby was her music, which brought so much joy to us all. The Fearnan Ladies Choir met weekly in her home, practicing songs (in parts), to produce annual concerts in the village hall, raising funds for worthy causes. Those events were always very well attended. Joyce was a very well known, loved and respected member of our community, who will be greatly missed. Our sincere condolences and prayers go to Joyce's family.



# Church Services

Date	Kenmore	Fortingall	Preacher/Leader	Notes
12 <sup>th</sup> Oct		10am	Rev Joanne Foster	With Mark Foster, 12pm @ Rannoch
19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10am		Rev Joanne Foster	12pm @ Rannoch
26 <sup>th</sup> Oct		10am	Rev Joanne Foster	Harvest Thanksgiving, 12pm @ Rannoch
2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	10am		Rev Joanne Foster	12pm @ Rannoch
9 <sup>th</sup> Nov		10am	Rev Joanne Foster	Remembrance, 12pm @ Rannoch
16 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10am		Rev Joanne Foster	12pm @ Rannoch
23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	10am		Rev Joanne Foster	Kenmore closing service, 12pm @ Rannoch
30 <sup>th</sup> Nov		10am	Rev Joanne Foster	Advent Sunday, 12pm @ Rannoch

