



PARISH



NEWSLETTER

To Communicants and Friends of
Tay and Lyon Churches

January 2024

Rev Robert Nicol, Interim Moderator

At our first service of the year, I described the four 'projects' that our congregation has to tackle in 2024. These are all consequences of the new Presbytery Plan. Here, briefly, is what we have to do.

Project 1: The Linkage:

The Plan says that our parish will be linked to the Rannoch parishes to form a new charge. There is a staged process before we get there, and it is underway. The first part has already happened: the linkage of Rannoch with Blair Atholl has been severed, with Blair Atholl now linking with Pitlochry. Then the linked parishes of Braes of Rannoch and Foss & Rannoch will unite. That united parish will then link with us. It all takes a bit of time, but I expect it to happen within the next few months. The new charge will be given permission to fill the vacancy, which means electing a new Nominating Committee, advertising, interviewing and, hopefully, calling a new minister. Something to consider: can we come up with a snappier title for the charge than 'Fortingall, Glenlyon, Kenmore and Lawers linked with Braes of Rannoch and Foss & Rannoch'?

Project 2: Fortingall:

Fortingall Church is categorised in the Plan as an 'A' building, which means it is expected to continue in use beyond 5 years. However, it does need a bit of upgrading to make it a suitable worshipping space for the 21st century. We have an outline proposal for creating a pod within the building, in the area where we currently serve coffee. This pod would contain a disabled-access toilet and a small kitchen area, making minimal impact on the existing structure. We will need approvals from Presbytery and the Council, and the scheme will have to be developed by professionals, but we have already discussed it with the Presbytery's new Buildings Officer who will guide us through. It is not just about the building though: we also have to be thinking about what we are doing this for, and for whom? Who will be worshipping here in 5, 10, 15 years from now? How do we sustain and grow a vibrant, active worshipping community in this area?

Project 3: Kenmore:

Kenmore Church is a Category 'B' building in the Plan. This means it is scheduled for closure by 2028, unless we can make a case for keeping it open, perhaps based on the radical changes taking place in Kenmore and surrounding areas with the Taymouth Castle development. In doing so, we will have to be careful not to undermine the case for keeping Fortingall. An enormous sum of money has been spent in dealing with the dry rot discovered some years ago, and we have still not solved all the fabric problems. Category 'B' means we can now only spend on essential work to keep the building safe and weather-proof.

Project 4: Innerwick:

The Glenlyon Church is also Category 'B'. For the last couple of years, we have held occasional services, and these have all been well-attended, particularly on Christmas Eve. Is it justifiable to keep the building for such use? What is the attitude of the Glenlyon residents? Can they imagine other uses for the building, whilst keeping it as a place of worship? But, what price can anyone put on the unique atmosphere when the Glen's residents, friends and visitors meet together in that special place?

2024 is going to be a crucial year for this parish. Amidst all the questions and decisions, we mustn't forget that we are servants of Jesus Christ, stewards of His resources and temporary custodians of His Church.

Happy New Year to you all.

Rev Robert Nicol

[Armchair Musings From Sandra Seath, Outreach Elder](#)

New Year Greetings to everyone, as we move into 2024 full of hope for a promising and rewarding year.

January has treated us to some spectacular sunsets over Loch Tay. Several times this month, I have been completely transfixed by the beauty of the colours unfolding across the sky, bathing the snowcapped hills in glowing colour and setting the waters of the loch on fire!

A few years ago, while writing one of these newsletter articles, the subject was **CHANGE**, and how difficult we find it. Actually, nothing changes – we found change difficult then and it is just the same today!

[Church Services – Jan to March 2024](#)

Fortingall:

- 28th January at 11am, Elaine Melrose
- 11th February at 11am, Robert Nicol
- 25th February at 11am, Robert Nicol (Communion)
- 10th March at 11am, Elaine Melrose
- 24th March at 11am, Robert Nicol
- 29th March at 11am, Robert Nicol (Good Friday)

Kenmore:

- 21st January at 11am, Robert Nicol
- 4th February at 11am, Robert Nicol
- 18th February at 11am, Geoff Davis
- 3rd March at 11am, Geoff Davis
- 17th March at 11am, Alex Towns
- 31st March at 11am, Robert Nicol (Easter Sunday Communion)

In Paul's letter to the Romans the Apostle wrote – "Adapt yourselves no longer to the pattern of this present world, but let your minds be remade and your whole nature transformed. Then you will be able to know the will of God – what is good and pleasing to Him," In other words, don't let your life be dictated by your politicians and peers. Instead, let it be dictated and shaped by the words of the Gospel. In the first part of Rev. Robert's talk on the first Sunday in January, Robert gave us many suggestions going forward into the New Year. I have taken up one of his challenges and decided to make just a little time to read and reflect the bible in daily doses this coming year – a book has been bought and the pleasure begins. There are opportunities to be grasped as

we reform and reshape our lives amidst many difficulties.

My book suggests, rather than large initiatives or special events to effect change, simple encouragement to share with gentle reachable goals will play its part in reshaping our lives reshaping our church with simple, effective communication at its very heart.

I hope this finds you all well. Take care! As we step into this New Year, let the gift of positive and kind communication beat the heart of the months ahead.

Very Best Wishes,

Sandra

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A Challenge

Our dear friend, the Rev Robert set us a challenge at the beginning of this New Year. The New Year is bringing with it many changes, one of which will be the extending of our church family's – we are in the process of being linked with the churches of Rannoch so we need to think of a new name! Get your thinking caps on please!! We will place a box in both churches which you can post your suggestions for consideration, discussion and, hopefully, a voted decision!

Words of Wisdom



Notice when you drive home today, you have got a big windscreen on the front of your car. And you've got a little tiny rear-view mirror. The reason the windscreen is so large and the rear-view mirror is so small is because what happened in your past is not nearly as important as what's in your future.

Anagrams!

Unravel the following anagrams to reveal the famous fictional detectives:

- MOCK SHORE SHELL
- CANDY WREN
- SLIMMER SPA
- DRY KNIT GEL
- CURLIER TOE HOP
- MY PEN ROARS
- PROSECUTION AS CLUE
- HAM PILLOW PERIL

Saying Goodbye

It is with great sadness, that I write to inform you of the passing of our church's good friend and neighbour, Willie Watson, who died on Friday 5th January 2024 in a nursing home in Coupar Angus. Willie took it upon himself to be the custodian of Fortingall church, making sure 24/7 all was well and in good order beyond the church gate. He was a well known and respected figure in the village and was always ready with a helping hand. Our thoughts and prayers reach out to Margaret and his family. He will be sorely missed.
