



PARISH



NEWSLETTER

To Communicants and Friends of
Tay and Lyon Churches

October 2024

Rev Robert Nicol, Interim Moderator

This will be my last Newsletter article as your Interim Moderator. On 1st November, I will hand over to Lorimer Gray, who will also take over the Rannoch parishes on 1st December. He will then steer the Kirk Sessions and congregations through the union and linkage processes, followed by the vacancy procedure for the new charge. I will not be disappearing though: to help you and Lorimer, I will continue to take some of your services, at least until the end of the year.

The main objective of any Interim Moderator is to get a congregation to the point of calling their own minister, and as quickly as possible. You don't expect to still be in post after 5 years, but that's what has happened here. We launched the vacancy process in 2019, and did have some serious interest, but Covid came upon us and made it all more difficult. Then, with the radical restructuring of the Church of Scotland and the need for new Presbytery Plans, all vacancies were suspended. The plan for the new Presbytery of Perth required our parish to link with a new Rannoch united congregation and only when that is in place will the right to call a minister will be re-instated.

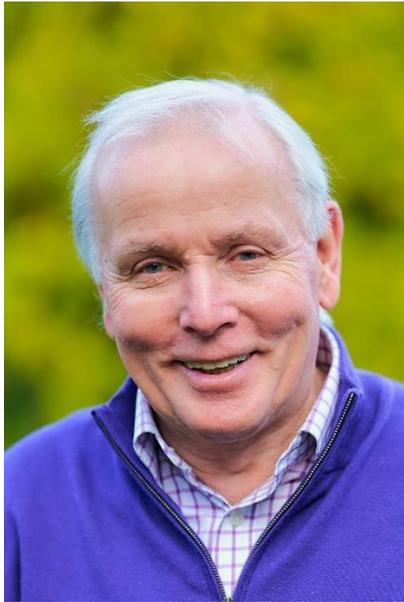
Those are the dry facts. But I can tell you that, for me, these last 5 years have been a joy and a privilege. It has been so rewarding to get to know you and the community in which you live, and to serve you through the happy and sad times. You have always been supportive towards me and my ministry. I have greatly appreciated your kindness and encouragement, as well as the many laughs we've had. We have shared some difficult challenges too, particularly the painful decisions over the future of our buildings.

There have been many special moments. Here are just a few: the children from Kenmore School running into church for their end of term services; the warm, happy atmosphere in a packed Innerwick Church on Christmas Eve; wedding couples and their guests delighted to be here for their special day; the loving support given to bereaved families by the community in funeral services. But most of all, I have valued the 'ordinary' Sunday mornings, when we have worshipped together, prayed together and explored God's Word together – a bunch of ordinary Christians in an ordinary church, living out our extraordinary calling to be Christ's people in this place and at this time.

God bless you on the next stage of your journey together.

Rev Robert Nicol

Interim Moderator



Who is Lorimer Gray?

Hello to you all in the church family of Fortingall, Glenlyon, Kenmore and Lawers.

My name is Lorimer Gray, I was born in 1947 and brought up in Glasgow within a well grounded and happy family with committed Christian parents. I attended the High School of Glasgow from aged 5 to 18 and it was during my early teenage years that I made a commitment to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

I was a keen rugby and tennis player, and in my teens developed my interests in skiing and golf. Both of which I still actively enjoy doing.....but now with limited vigour!

I have had the pleasure of being married to Moira for 54 years, and we have 3 married children, and 7 grandchildren, ranging from 11 to 26 years old.

In 1965 I left school and trained as a Quantity Surveyor in Glasgow. Four not very satisfying years and a potential career I did not enjoy. But it was important in the big picture because of the lessons learnt

about building work that would be handy in days to come. I realised my real interest was in working with people rather than bricks and mortar. In 1969 I was given a great opportunity to join the Human Resource Department within Caterpillar Tractor Company in Lanarkshire. Three years later due to a downturn in the earthmoving business I recognised it was time to seek a new employer with the result in that in 1972, I was appointed as an HR manager with Thomson Regional Newspapers, firstly with the Scotsman Publications in Edinburgh and then Thames Valley Newspapers in Reading.

Whilst in Reading at the age of 27, I felt strongly called by God to make a big change of direction by accepting the invitation to become the Chief Executive Officer of the Abernethy Trust, a group of 4 Christian residential outdoor adventure centres based in Scotland. The aim was to reach out with the Christian message to over 12,000 young people annually using the programme of exciting adventure activities and the young teams of Christians who worked with us as the means of communication. I suppose those earlier years were extremely helpful in this new position as I applied the skills of Surveying and HR to the new appointment. Plus, of course, it was now very important to acquire professional qualifications in at least some of the outdoor pursuits we offered. I retired in 2012 at the 40th Anniversary of the Abernethy story after serving for 36 years and remain today a strong supporter of the Abernethy ministry.

On my retirement from Abernethy, I was invited to be the Chairperson of More

than Gold 2014, an exciting mission opportunity mobilising all the main Church denominations in Glasgow, including the Church of Scotland, to serve the Commonwealth Games in 2014. It was a thrilling experience seeing the range of Churches across the city rise to the challenge with many people contacted with the good news of Jesus Christ through hundreds of innovative schemes of outreach.

Over the years I've had the privilege of chairing and serving as a trustee of various UK and international boards of Charitable Trusts working in places like Malawi, Brazil, USA and of course Scotland. One particularly role whilst I was at Abernethy was serving for 12 years as the International Chairperson of CCI Worldwide, the umbrella organisation serving Christian Residential Outdoor Centre Associations in ninety countries across the world, supporting them in reaching out to over 15 million young people each year. Back in the 80's and 90's Abernethy also played a part in the development of Snowsports in Scotland and the UK. Abernethy's Board supported my involvement in chairing the boards of the British Association of Alpine Ski Instructors and a few years later the Association of Ski Schools in Great Britain.

The most relevant aspect of my experiences in my life to date with regard to my new role with all of you is that I served for 26 years as Session Clerk of the Abernethy Parish Church in Nethybridge and was involved with the appointment of 3 new ministers in that period serving on each nominating committee as Clerk to the committee. Now, I am an active member of Aberfeldy Parish Church.

So, what is my remit? To serve you, to help you, to encourage you in this next exciting chapter as we form a new Church linkage, adjusting to change and moving ahead to find a brilliant new minister who will meet the expectations of you all. My role is to encourage, to enable and, importantly to pray for us all that in this journey together we will grow in our faith and that God will bring His chosen person to carry on the leadership role as your new minister. My 'gifting' is not in preaching, but I do hope I can serve you effectively as a friend, as a leader and as a counsellor, demonstrating Christ's love and sharing fun and fellowship, too.

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

Hello again, dear friends,

Some words of wisdom to think about.

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.



Here we are, now into October and welcoming the season of Autumn with all

its promise of changing colours and beauty to brighten each new day. In the last newsletter, my thoughts were dwelling on **CHANGE** and once again, change is very appropriate now!

In September 2019, our Interim Moderator (IM) introduced himself to us as the Reverend Robert Nicol, having been appointed by Presbytery to act as the minister in charge for the period of our vacancy. Nobody expected that vacancy to have lasted 5 years and still counting!

However, we seem to be on the last lap. Once the procedures and decisions made of the Church of Scotland have been followed regarding the Rannoch linkage, proposed by Presbytery, a new minister can be called. A new I.M will lead us through these stages. CHANGE rears its head once again! Our minister, I.M Rev Robert has become a dear friend as well as a wonderful leader to us all and whose guidance over the past 5 years has been hugely beneficial and greatly appreciated.

We are about to step into the next level of change and with that, our future journey. Nothing stays the same – in most cases, nothing is quite so good the second time its done. We need to think of new initiatives to drive our church mission forward and make it fit our present day world. We can use the past for guidance, learn from our mistakes and LOOK FORWARD IN FAITH.

My very best wishes to you all.

Sandra (01887 830316)

[Latest Church News from Alexander Towns, Session Clerk](#)

The Linkage: Stop Press News!

Following a very constructive meeting in Fortingall Church on 24th October, chaired by the Reverend Neil Glover, the consensus was one of broad agreement on the text of the linkage document.

There are still details which require to be worked out but essentially progress is being made and a provisional timetable has been drawn up.

One thing which will have to be settled is that of a name for the new linkage. For some months now an opportunity for suggestions from anyone interested has been available in the suggestion box provided. It would seem that most people have sensibly opted to keep this simple as “Tay and Lyon linked with Rannoch” would appear to be the favored name for the new charge. We will keep you informed as to developments.

A.T. (Session Clerk)

Fortingall Church Pod

Plans have been drawn up to fit a toilet ‘pod’ and tea prep area within the main knave of Fortingall church. The pod will be tucked neatly and seamlessly to the back of the church near the entrance. The toilet will comply with DDA criteria and will provide baby changing facilities. The open-plan tea prep area would sit adjoining the pod below the main arched window and will benefit from natural light. The pod would be bespoke manufactured so that the external paneling will match the profile and style of the existing paneling within the church.

These new facilities will increase our potential for welcoming visitors and the wider community into the church and help us in creating a comfortable place where faith can be explored and deepened.

Robert Brown

[A Time to say Goodbye](#)

Roger White

Roger White passed away on 17th August, aged 82. Roger was such an enthusiast about so many things in life, especially his engineering exploits. He was passionate about his love of the Gaelic culture and language. A perfect gentleman, he was always so willing to help others. In our church, he was known to quietly fix little problems and polish up the furniture. He will be so missed within our community. He leaves behind two brothers. A memorial service will be held in Fortingall church for Roger on the 9th November.

Peter Conway

We were so saddened to hear that Peter gave up his fight for life and passed away on 23rd August at Pitlochry hospital. Peter was a much loved husband of our Church Elder, Kate, and a great supporter of all the works of our church. After he left the navy in 1968, he enjoyed working on land. First on the Butterstone Estate, then over to Meggernie and on to Cashlie in Glen Lyon. The church was completely full to capacity for his funeral service – a fact that showed how well respected and loved he was in our community. We have all lost a great character – he will be sorely missed.

Gordon Evans

It was with great sadness that we learned of our friend Gordon's death on 28th July. Gordon was typical of the talented 'incomers' who have contributed so much to our church and local community. To the Kirk Session of which he was a very active member, Gordon brought valuable professional experience in Barclay's Bank and a lively sense of humour. He made an effortless transition from the City to advising on our more parochial financial concerns. Gordon had a passionate interest in sport – especially cricket – and, as a member of Marylebone Cricket Club, was undoubtedly the only Elder to have attended a Session meeting wearing a gold and scarlet MCC tie. This exalted sporting background did not, however, deter him from playing for the less celebrated Grandtully Bowling Club. Gordon was a charming, unassuming man with a twinkle in his eye whom we shall remember with gratitude and affection. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Gillian, and their family at this time.

*In
Loving
Memory*



Church Services

Fortingall:

- 3rd November at 11am, Alex Towns
- 10th November at 10:15, Rev Robert Nicol (Remembrance Sunday)
- 24th November at 11am, Elaine Melrose
- 8th December at 11am, TBA (2nd Advent)
- 22nd December at 11am, Elders (4th Advent – Lessons and Carols)

Kenmore:

- 10th November at 11:30, Rev Robert Nicol (Remembrance Sunday)
- 17th November at 11am, Rev Robert Nicol (Communion)
- 1st December at 11am, Worship Team (1st Advent – Gift Service)
- 15th December at 11am, Rev Geoff Davis (3rd Advent)
- 25th December at 11am, TBA (Christmas Day)
- 29th December at 11am, TBA

Glen Lyon:

- 24th December at 5pm, Robert Brown