

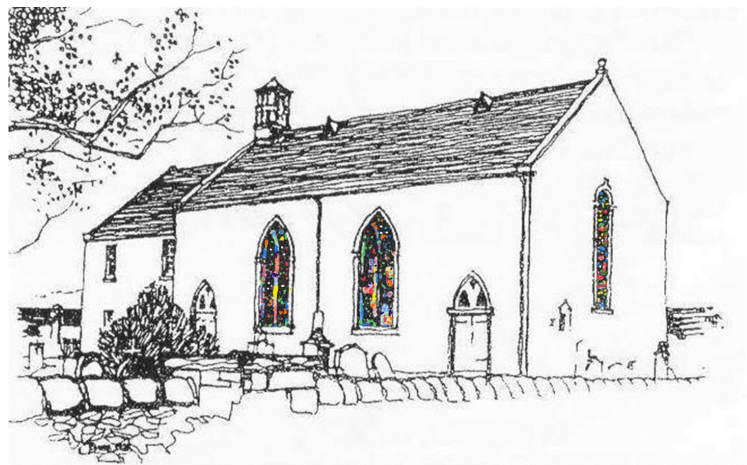


# FOSSOWAY CHURCH NEWSLETTER



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## A Word From The Minister

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022

Dear Friends,

“Everything on earth has its own time and its own season” (Ecc 3;1 CEV)

The seasons are changing, after what seems to have been a long dark winter, summer is peeping over the horizon with the glorious rays of the sun.

The lambs are gambolling in the fields and the daffodils and trees are blooming in the hedgerows and gardens. There is the feeling and promise of new life, or renewal and re-birth, as the earth comes alive once more.



There is a feeling of greater promise and freedom as well, as the dark fears and restrictions of two years of pandemic seem to be dispersing and life returning to that ‘new normal’ that has long been spoken of. A future of light and hope and promise lie ahead and plans of holidays and get-togethers with family and friends are being made.

In amongst all of this sense of hope and promise our National Church and Presbyteries are also making plans for the future. They say that it is a time to assess where we are, to prune for new growth and to sow seeds for the future. To see what our Lord is doing and where, and to work with him in his mission. Our National Church has seen that to be effective and to work within the resources of ministry and finance that are available, we have to be very realistic and make some quite robust changes. Perth Presbytery Planning and Development (P&D) Committee have presented proposals for the future in their draft Presbytery Mission Plan, which, along with a video of its presentation to Presbytery, can be found here: <https://perthpresbytery.org.uk/resources/>

This is the section of their plan that applies to us, in the Loch Leven Network of Churches area:

**“Loch Leven Churches comprising: Fossoway St Serf’s & Devonside, Cleish, Kinross, Orwell & Portmoak (plus Glenfarg)”**

**Allocation: 2.0 FTE** (reduced from 3.0 FTE)  
Population: 11,945 [5975/FTE]

**Proposal:** To allocate **2.0 FTE** to this network

To link and/or unite the congregations within this network and to allocate **2 FTE ministries** to form a team ministry comprising of ONE parish minister and ONE other ministry to be agreed by network.

\*It is being proposed that the village of Glenfarg and its parish should be transported and added to this network.

**Buildings:** There requires to be a reduction in the number of buildings in this network and it is suggested that the buildings at Cleish and Portmoak should be considered for closing within the timescale of the plan. Furthermore, the Arngask building at Glenfarg should also be considered for closing within the timescale of the plan. P&D Committee, however, strongly advise the use of the General Trustees Buildings toolkit in making decisions about buildings.”

(Presbytery Mission Plan Interim Report February 2022 p11)

As you can see, where in the past we have had three ministry posts in this area, this will be reduced to two full time equivalent posts (FTE). There are, of course, several ways to accomplish this and all the Churches of Scotland in our network will be considering the way forward that they feel is best for them. Our Kirk Session is presently in a period of consultation with both the P&D Committee and the other churches in our network.

The great sadness that comes through reading the full, proposed, Presbytery Mission Plan, is the number of church buildings that are being asked to close, two of which are in our own network. There was a great sense of shock and sadness when folks at Cleish Church learned that their building was being considered for closure.

I'd like to be quite clear here, as I was in my sermon last Sunday, this would be the closing of a building NOT a church. A church building may close but the church, the congregation, the special family of God move to take up residence elsewhere. The church does not close, it continues. There is change, there are new things that happen, but the church continues. Fossoway and Cleish Kirk Sessions have been very graciously working together and both agree that the natural way forward is for both of our churches to unite, and when that time comes there will be a very warm and open welcome for everybody at Fossoway Church as our two church families join into one.

I would like to reassure everybody that these changes will not happen next week or even next month. We are still in the very early stages of this planning process. Nothing will happen until the Presbytery Mission Plan has been revised, approved and adopted, at the end of the year. It will then take time to prepare ourselves; our Kirk Sessions, our members, friends and communities, and that will be the same for all the churches in our network and beyond, as the plan is rolled out. It will also take time to prepare and sell buildings, and meetings and services will continue until that happens.

I ask at this time for your patience and your prayers for never have we needed more to know the guidance of our Lord and Saviour for his churches and his people in our own area and throughout our National Church. Remember in your prayers all those in ministry posts whose lives and families will be affected by the proposed changes; all those who are grieving at the thought of their church building being closed; all those who are fearful for the future and what it holds, and those who cannot see a positive way forward.

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” (Is 43:19)

A future of promise and hope lies ahead. The opening up of new possibilities of seeing and understanding the new thing that God is doing in our midst and working with him through all these plans to bring his kingdom in. Roy Bennett said: “remember that every challenge — every adversity — contains within it the seeds of opportunity and growth.”

God bless  
From Rev Lis

## Prayers

### Prayers for Ukraine

*Heavy fighting, shelling and air strikes across Ukraine have had devastating consequences for ordinary people. Over 2 million people have fled the country in recent days, and many more have had to leave their homes to escape the fighting. At Ukraine's borders with Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Moldova, huge numbers of people are arriving with only what they can carry. In many places there are long waits to cross and scant facilities waiting for them on the other side, with temperatures dropping below freezing overnight.*

May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.  
The Lord be with all of you. (2 Thessalonians 3:16)

## Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
hear our prayers for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

Lord we ask for peace for those who need peace, reconciliation for those who need reconciliation and comfort for all who don't know what tomorrow will bring. Lord may your Kingdom come, and Your will be done.

Lord God, we ask for you to be with all – especially children who are suffering as the crisis in Ukraine deteriorates. Lord for those who are anxious and fearful. For those who are bereaved, injured or who have lost their lives. And for those who have lost loved ones. Lord hear our prayers.

Lord, we ask that decisions makers hear Your voice. Parents protecting their families – deciding whether to stay or leave. Church leaders as they support and comfort people. And Lord we ask for wise actions from global leaders - who have the power not only to start wars, but to stop them too.

And Father God we cry out for an end to this crisis. For mercy, peace, and truth – because You are light, hope, power, and love. Amen.

[\(https://www.worldvision.org.uk/about/blogs/a-prayer-for-ukraine/ \)](https://www.worldvision.org.uk/about/blogs/a-prayer-for-ukraine/)

## Blessing

### For Peace

As the fever of day calms towards twilight  
May all that is strained in us come to ease.

We pray for all who suffered violence today,  
May an unexpected serenity surprise them.

For those who risk their lives each day for peace,  
May their hearts glimpse providence at the heart of history.

That those who make riches from violence and war  
Might hear in their dreams the cries of the lost.

That we might see through our fear of each other  
A new vision to heal our fatal attraction to aggression.

That those who enjoy the privilege of peace  
Might not forget their tormented brothers and sisters.

That the wolf might lie down with the lamb,  
That our swords be beaten into ploughshares

And no hurt or harm be done  
Anywhere along the holy mountain.

John O'Donohue, Irish poet and philosopher

## Session Clerk Report February 2022

### Awareness Raising

At the moment I am in discussion with Tracey Kendrick about raising awareness of our church and its potential within the community.

Tracey is prepared to take photographs, help with text and then display the information on social media as well as an article for Kinross newsletter and maybe other ways of getting our information across to the wider community.

We all have a responsibility to spread the word as this could generate more regular income for us.

### Giving to Kenya

This is a note I received from John Gatehi over 12 months ago.

"DO NOT LET IT END IN A LANDFILL. Give it another life in KENYA. From bikes,gym equipments, clothing, household items,kids toys,furniture, carpets and rugs, garden furniture. Drop me an email or text.  
Email:mangj2.16@gmail.com,  
Tel:07935097000.  
John Gatehi"

John is coming to take away the old heavy filing cabinet with its drawers plus some toddler toys which our Toddler Group do not use. If you have anything you wish to donate please contact him on his email address. He is planning to be collecting in the Crook some time over the weekend of February 19th. The exact time and date will be confirmed later.

### Hydro Grant - £5,000 donation from the Rumbling Bridge Hydro Scheme to upgrade our hall facilities.

Having thought long and hard, had discussions with many, and spent well over £50,000 in my head, I recommend the following:

Upgrade the gents' toilet, approx. £1000

Buy a set of 3 stacking recycling bins £30

Put the remaining money to replacing one set of windows in the hall. It will be more than is left of the grant but hopefully it can be covered.

We had considered upgrading the kitchen but that could not be done within the £5000 limit. Maybe this is something we could request support for at a later stage.

3 stacking, recycling bins are now in place in the kitchen. We might need to reorganise the stickers depending on usage. This can be done when we see what the different groups require.

### Groups

At present the Baby and Toddler Group and the Crafting Group have both reopened in our church hall.

Refresh resumed in February, and the Men's Breakfast and the Film Group resumed in March.

Trudy Duffy started a Sewing Group on Saturday February 26<sup>th</sup> for a trial period of 4 weeks. This was a trial of 4, 3-hour sessions with space for 8 -10 sewing machines.

I have made enquiries to a local art group to use our hall as display space for their work. I have not yet heard back.

**Two questions from Trudy Duffy with her community council hat on**

Crook and Drum growing together met last week. It was brought up that we asked the church to install a tap on the outside, but as you were a little worried that this would freeze that wasn't going ahead. How about installing a waterbutt (Crook and Drum Growing together would pay) so both people tending the graves as well as people tending the flowers could use that? Just let us know.

Also, I know that there were plans for making a parking area behind the graveyard. I gather this is now dormant - the planning application has lapsed. Crook and Drum Growing Together would like to plant fruit trees (a small community orchard) on the patch between the path and the fence along the house. I don't think this would take a lot of space away from a future car park and at the moment this is a bit of a wild patch. The owners are Perth and Kinross Council and they are happy with the proposal - we are talking about the strip of land left of the path when you walk from the Village Hall to the Church. Could you please discuss this with the relevant people and let me know what you think?

*Both these questions seem very positive to me and I would support them both.*

Janet Harper

**KYTHER News**

**Join #TeamKYTHE and run the Loch Leven Half Marathon on 14th May**

Could you take on this exciting challenge and help to raise important funds for Kinross-shire Youth Enterprise (KYTHE)?

We are currently looking for runners and would love you to be part of our team!

KYTHE works to transform young lives in the local area through its universal youth services. By joining Team KYTHE you'll be raising funds to enhance the experiences and opportunities for everyone who uses the service.

So if you are ready to grab your trainers and enjoy some scenic views then **please get in touch by emailing: fundraising@kythe.org.uk**

**Funerals**

Mollie Wallace 7th January 2022

Malcolm Edward 10th February 2022

Moray Wallace 17th March 2022

Carol Mason 31st March 2022



## Money News

The accounts for 2021 were approved by Session and then audited by Annika Roberts.

For the year Total Offerings came in at £36,815 as against £36,313 in 2020. The 2021 figure includes £1,687 from the National Giving Day whilst the 2020 figure included £3,650 from the Christmas Appeal.

Tax Recovered on our offerings was £8,628 compared to the £8,870 of the previous year. Other Offerings were at £146 compared to £325 the previous year.

Our Other Income came in at £2,527 compared to £1,334 in 2020. We were able to be involved in the Fossoway Gathering which gave us income of £763 plus a truncated Bazaar earning us £339. (We also had further income of £125 from our Quiz Sheets but the funds only became available in January 2022).

This gave us Total Income of £48,117 compared to £46,843 the previous year.

Under Expenditure the first section is National Ministry and Mission & Wider Work coming in at £25,102 compared to £27,919 in 2020.

The second section is Local Staffing Costs coming in at £4,935 as against £4,939 from the previous year. In the last year of normal church life, 2019, this section came in at £7,335 mainly due to the fact that we still had organists for our services.

The third section is Building Costs standing at £9,137 compared to £8,596 in 2020 – the main difference was in the electric bill which was £847 lower in 2020 due to the church being closed for large parts of the year.

The fourth section is Other Local Costs at £4,790 as against £7,578 in 2020. The main difference here is that in 2021 we did not give KYTHE the usual donation of £2,500 from church funds.

This gave us Total Expenditure of £43,965 as against £49,063 in 2020.

Thus in our general expenditure we spent £4,152 less than our income.

Under the Fabric Fund we had income of £380 from VAT recovery from 2020 expenses, a £1,000 donation to assist with the purchase of new lighting for the church and a donation of £5,000 from the Rumbling Bridge Hydro Scheme to upgrade our hall facilities. During the year we spent £1,160 for the 5 year electrical testing, £887 on outside lighting, £2,620 on new church lighting and £1,843 on other various electrical works. We also spent £152 for our share of electrical works in the manse.

The Fabric Fund now stands at £9,047 compared to £9,253 in 2020 but does include the £5,000 donation which is already earmarked for work in the hall.

Our reserves with Church Head Office stands at £9,834 as against £2,827 in 2020 but does include, of course, the £5,000 donation.

Tom Mechan

## Response to Perth Presbytery Mission Plan

### Cleish and Fossoway's joint response to Perth Presbytery Mission Plan March 2022

As you will be aware, Perth Presbytery, as instructed by the General Assembly, is working on how best it can reduce the number of ministers to 16.5 from 27.5, and also reduce the number of buildings, by 2025. This is because of projected reduced income and a projected reduction in the number of ministers.

Both Cleish and Fossoway Kirk Sessions have met separately to discuss the possibilities within the Perth Presbytery Plan.

Both Kirk Sessions then met together to discuss what we consider to be our next steps forward with regard to the Presbytery Mission Plan. The interim report highlighted the implications of the reduction in ministry posts and the formation of large church networks so as to maintain the Church of Scotland's main principle (3rd article declaratory), which is, that the Church of Scotland shall have a presence in every parish in Scotland. Without this, we cannot call ourselves 'A National Church'.

The members of Cleish Parish Church agreed, sadly, that their building is one that should close. At their Session meeting, they had agreed unanimously, that their preference is to unite with Fossoway Church rather than link or unite with any of the other Kinross-shire Churches of Scotland.

The allocation for the Loch Leven Network, as per the plan, is two full time ministries and three buildings.

There seems to be 3 options;

- 2 ministers, 2 manses, 2 charges, 3 Kirk Sessions
- A team ministry, 2 ministers, 1 united charge, 1 Kirk Session
- A team ministry, 1 minister & one associate, (MDS), 1 Kirk Session

Members of both Kirk Sessions discussed openly and graciously how we could make major changes within the Loch Leven area without causing too much disruption, too much change and yet still making the recommended reductions in ministers and buildings.

#### Proposal

The proposal was that there should be the development of two charges, with two inducted Ministers of Word and Sacrament, in our area: a town charge and a rural charge. This would encompass the different outlook, needs and approaches associated with the different characters and aspects of life in our area.

Steps to be considered would be:

1. Cleish Church and Fossoway Church to be united and Cleish building to be closed and sold. Time will be needed to prepare both churches for this union with a mixture of appropriate meetings, services, social events etc. to bring both congregations together into one.
2. Portmoak church to be closed and sold. This congregation will also need time to prepare for this event similar to the above.
3. If Arngask Church chooses to join the network then it will need to be separated from its present charge and united with Orwell and Portmoak Church. This will, as above, take some considerable time regarding legalities, separation and preparation for the union of the two congregations.
4. A rural charge of Fossoway and Cleish linked with Orwell and Portmoak could be formed. (Probably a deferred linkage).
5. These linked charges, with their own inducted Minister, would have the potential to employ an outreach worker, maybe with some Pioneer Ministry training. This person could look at setting up a new rural outreach to the farming communities and small business and enterprises in the area, and of setting up new worshipping communities (Fresh Expressions of Church) in the rural areas. This worker would have the support of the churches in the charge who could form small outreach teams to work with the Outreach worker in their own areas.



Proposal to Perth Presbytery

Both Cleish and Fossoway Session Members feel very strongly that we should form a Parish Grouping where there are 2 ministers (as recommended by the plan) working closely together with 3 main places of worship, (as recommended by the plan);

1. Kinross, the town charge
2. The united charge of Orwell and Portmoak, with Arngask, linked with the united congregations of Cleish and Fossoway, the rural charge.

The latter are all rural communities. However, it could be said that Orwell is no longer a distinct, rural community, more an extension of Kinross. Arngask, Cleish, Portmoak and Fossoway are all very rural and with a minister of word and sacrament working with the rural charges, their rurality, their distinct personality, their needs and what all that means can be met more effectively.

We appreciate that changes have to be made, and we think that the decision above would be the best way forward to retain as many members as possible of our current church families and to grow the Kingdom of God in the diverse area which is Kinross-shire.

As with all change, this will take time but we feel that it would be a very manageable transition. If people are prepared for each step and encouraged to take their place on the journey to a new and very different landscape of church family life in this area, it will be accepted far more readily.

There was also a discussion about the sale of Cleish and Portmoak church buildings.

Due to the crippling cost of insuring an empty, unused building, it was suggested that having a monthly service (or whatever is specified in respective Insurance Policies as the minimum requirement to remain open without costs rising) whilst the building was up for sale could prevent those crippling costs but, this would in no way impede the sale.

**These are proposals being put forward by Cleish and Fossoway Sessions to the Presbytery Development team.**

**This does not mean that they will be adopted.**

**We have to consider the suggestions from Kinross and Orwell united with Portmoak.**

## Bits'n'bobs

### Spectacle Donation

Eileen Black is in the process of collecting used spectacles - without cases, men's and women's - to be forwarded to Marie Curie, who will dispense them to those in need. If you can donate please bring them to the Church for collection there. Many thanks.

take a break



TEA & CAKE  
LEV & CVKE

**Refresh** is open for refreshments on Thursday afternoons 2pm - 4pm in the Church Hall.

**All welcome!**



## Life And Work



Dear Session Clerk

18<sup>th</sup> March 2022

We recognise not everyone within congregations is a Life and Work reader. Therefore, to encourage new subscribers and keep people connected through the pages of the Church of Scotland magazine, we share details of our latest subscription offer.

### EASTER OFFER

- **Print:** 12 issues for the price of 10 offer price £30 - enter promotion code EAST22 to receive £6 discount. *UK delivery address and new subscribers only.*
- **Digital:** 12 issues for £14.99 (normally £20.99) no code required – simply select the introductory offer option.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of the savings should visit the Life and Work website [www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe](http://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe). The offer is valid until 30.04.22.

Subscribers to Life and Work support the vital and vibrant work of our Church while keeping connected with the Christian community in Scotland, and further afield.

We hope there is an opportunity for you to share news of this promotion with others and we thank you in advance for your support.

Best wishes  
The Life and Work Team

## Hedgehogs

Hello, I'm Moira Grant, a volunteer at 2 local rescues and a Hedgehog Champion with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society/Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species.

How long is it since you last saw a hedgehog? The UK has lost a third of its population since 2000, and their numbers are declining as fast as tigers in the wild. They are now officially classed as vulnerable to extinction in the IUCN's Red List for British Mammals. There are many reasons and it's sad to think that, for future generations, such a fate would make this lovely, prickly God's creature only a character in storybooks. Here are 10 simple tips to help them.



1. Link your garden with a Hedgehog Highway. Hedgehogs travel between 1-2 km a night searching for food and a mate. Leaving a small gap in your fence the size of a CD case will let hedgehogs through but be too small for pets. BHPT/PTES sell snazzy little recyclable Hedgehog Highway signs, for a few pounds. Ask your neighbours to do the same!
2. Create a wild corner in your garden so they can snuffle around for insects.
3. Tidy up netting and litter which can trap hedgehogs due to their spines. Even rubber bands dropped by the postie can become embedded in their skin, causing a slow, painful death.
4. Put out food and water. You can supplement their diet with wet dog or cat food (preferably not fish based). No bread, milk or mealworms, which are all extremely bad for them. For those who are into simple DIY you can make a feeding station to stop other animals having a free supper - details on the BHPS website/YouTube.
5. Stop using chemicals especially slug pellets. Hedgehogs are a gardener's best friend as they eat slugs as well as many other beasties which would otherwise be devouring your prize flowers and vegetables.
6. Check before mowing or strimming. Hedgehogs often sleep in long grass or hedges during daytime and won't run away if they hear a mower, resulting in horrific injuries or death. Use gloves to move a single hog to safety. If there's a family, call the BHPS for advice on 01584 890801, the SSPCA on 0300 999 999 or Google to find your local Hedgehog Rescue.
7. Be careful with bonfires or simply burning leaves. Piles of debris are irresistible to a hedgehog looking for somewhere to hibernate or nest - build it on the day of burning to avoid a tragic end, or if you have to build it before then check carefully with a pole or broom, not a spade or fork. They are usually in the centre.
8. Make a home for hedgehogs. A log pile is one of the best features for encouraging all kinds of wildlife, and easy to make. It will encourage insects and provide nesting opportunities all year around. Alternatively, you can make your own hedgehog house - download instructions from the BHPS website.
9. Keep an eye out for hedgehogs when driving at night and let it get over the road safely if you see one. If you see it too late try to steer so it will pass under the middle of the car where it is least likely to be harmed.
10. Record hedgehog sightings, including dead ones, on The Big Hedgehog Map website. This is important in building up a picture of where they are most active and how we can encourage local populations. A hedgehog seen during the day is usually in need of help and you should contact one of the organisations above. If you'd like to do more, you can become a Hedgehog Champion by registering on the Hedgehog Street website, where you can find lots of resources to make your gardens, neighbourhood and Parish, hedgehog-friendly zone. <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/>

## Contact Information

Contact	Email or Web Address	Telephone Number
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Website	<a href="http://cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk">cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk</a>	

## Newsletter Deadlines 2022

Summer	5th August 2022
Advent	11th November 2022

The newsletter is available on line at [cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk](http://cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk) and by email. If you no longer wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter please let us know by emailing [fossowaynewslettereditor@cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk](mailto:fossowaynewslettereditor@cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk)

## Dates For The Diary

### Fossoway, St Serf's and Devonside Events

Sunday 10th April	Palm Sunday morning worship 9.45am
Thursday 14th April	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at Portmoak Church at 7.30pm
Friday 15th April	Easter Adventure (Primary school age) at Kinross Church 10.30am - 12 noon
Friday 15th April	A dramatic reading of the Passion in the Green Hotel carpark at 1pm
Friday 15th April	The Last Hour, at St Paul's Church at 2pm
Friday 15th April	Good Friday evening service at Kinross at 7.30pm
Sunday 17th April	Easter Sunday morning worship at the loch side at 7.30am
Sunday 17th April	Easter Sunday Worship by Zoom 12.30pm
Sunday 17th April	Easter Songs of Praise at Fossoway Church at 6.30pm
Sunday 8th May	Proposed date for the Stated Annual Meeting
May 15th - 21st	Christian Aid Week
May 21st - 27th	General Assembly Week
May 29th	Celebration of Holy Communion
August 28th	Celebration of Holy Communion
October 30th	Harvest Thanksgiving service
November 13th	Remembrance Sunday
November 27th	Celebration of Holy Communion (1st week of Advent)

