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The Orwell and Portmoak Quarterly Parish Magazine

Scottish Charity Number: SC015523

A TIME FOR EVERYTHING And everything in time



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Friends,

they say that "the nights are fair drawing in". While we watch the colourful country landscape change before our eyes, we should spare a thought on how the world's harvest is being affected by war and weather.

In time of war, everybody loses and the pressures on Ukraine are being felt globally. The Russian invasion has made fields unsafe because of mines, prices have slumped and distribution become difficult with blocked routes. Amid the climate crisis, it is the poorest people in the world who are hit the hardest. Fertile fields have been scorched as a result of months/years of no rain. Elsewhere livelihoods are destroyed by sudden storms and monsoons.

Climate change is a large-scale, longterm shift in the world's weather patterns that is having a devastating impact on our world. 'TEAR Fund Scotland' has shared this news of how climate change has changed the harvest season. Mahima and her husband are farmers in Nepal. In the past they had enough to provide for their three children but now summers are getting hotter with less rain and Mahima struggles to grow food.

Through TEAR Fund's partners in Nepal, a new irrigation system has been installed. **"This has helped us to grow good crops, both** in quality and quantity. Even without rain, we can grow crops." The lack of rain and high temperatures have led some farmers to re-train and look for different employment. One farmer, Amar, showed interest in metalwork and is now making farming tools for others in his community. I am grateful that charities like TEAR Fund Scotland keep us connected with the world.

We have hope in dark times because the Christmas season is about the light of Christ shining in the darkness. We are facing very difficult times in our own country but let us 'light a candle in our hearts' for the rest of the world. On 24 December, I would invite you to take time out to reflect on the world that Christ came and died for. Please come along to one of the Christmas Eve services at Portmoak (6.30 pm) or Orwell (11.30 pm).

Your friend and locum minister, **Rev. Robert Calvert**

Rabi Rokka/Tearfund - used by permission



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P.S. The day before the funeral service of our late Queen Elizabeth II was a Sunday. We closed our services by singing a specially written hymn that really caught the spirit and touched our feelings. It is printed in this issue. R

CONTENTS

- I LOCUM'S LETTER Effects of war and weather
- 2 ALL WELCOME Improved spaces to see
- 3 NIGHT WITH NATURE Camping adventures at Vane Farm
- 5 RAINY DAY DELIGHT Water levels restored
- 6 DO YOU REMEMBER? Memories of a different time
- 7 BRIDGING THE GAP Volunteer driver lifeline
- **10 THE GOOD SHEPHERD** Help for difficult days
- 12 HEALING WELL Curative power for Kings and pilgrams
- 14 OLD KIRKYARD Maintaining historic ground
- 15 PARISH GROUPING PROPOSAL

Presbytery Mission Plan update

- 16 IMPORTANT DATES Know what's happening when
- 17 PRAYER CORNER Mourning a Sovereign

DESIGN Sarah Deighan email sarahdeighan@hotmail.com

A bag of Kilombero rice can TRAIDCRAFT change a life!

The 90kg Rice Challenge by JTS, a Scottish based fair trade food importer, is an exciting way that we can all make a difference to the lives of farmers in Malawi while enjoying **delicious rice.** Also, if you would like to make even more of a difference, you could buy two 1kg bags and donate one to Broke not Broken! We sell it on our Traidcraft Stall at The Farmer's Market and in the Orwell Church Office.

90kgs is the amount of Kilombero rice that gives hope to the rice farmers of Northern Malawi and provides them with enough of an income to create sustainable livelihoods and allows them to reinvest in their farms, feed and clothe their families and send a child to secondary school for a year. It gives them a route to work their way out of poverty with dignity.

#ChooseTheWorldYouWant



KARENA JARVIE





OPEN DAY

If you haven't been into Orwell Church recently you might think that not much has changed. The building looks pretty much the same as it has done for decades - from the outside anyway. Inside however is a different story.

On Thursday 17th of November the church will be open from 4-8pm for anyone to have a look around. This will be an opportunity for folks to see how a rather gloomy, draughty building has been transformed into a flexible, accessible space which is bright and comfortable.

Perhaps you are one of the very generous people who bought a "brick" or attended one of the fundraising events which helped to finance the transformation. Or maybe your business or charitable trust contributed to the success of the project.

On the 17th of November everyone is welcome to come and have a look at how the money has been spent creating a comfy family room, installing a well-equipped kitchen and accessible toilet facilities. All this, combined with the open area with its flexible seating provides a space suitable for all sorts of activities.

Of course the building is used on Sundays for services but it is available for hire throughout the week for other groups, organisations or individuals. The audio/visual and catering equipment make it ideal for meetings and conferences.

Thanks to all who contributed to the project and to those who support Orwell and Portmoak Church financially throughout the year. We are very grateful for your continued support!

Please come and have a look. A very warm welcome awaits as well as a cup of tea and a slice of cake!



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2.15pm-3.15pm Workshop 1	9am Breakfast
3.30pm-4.30m Workshop 2	9.30am Moth trap explore
4.45-545mWarkshop3	10am Thank you E feedback
Gpm-7:30pm BBQ & free time 7.30pm Campfire	
8 pm Campfire quiz	
9pm-10pm Bat walk	
10pm Malt trap oct up Bed time Stat	WIT TAS
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BIG WILD SLEEPOUT Story Competition for 2022 Schedule Kinross Show 2022:

A day on the farm or a day in the countryside.

One Saturday, me and my granny went for a spectacular sleepover at RSBP Loch Leven in our tent. We got to the campsite and put our tent up. Me and granny's tent didn't take long to set up because it was a pop-up tent for two people, all we had to do was put the pegs in.

At 2:00 in the afternoon we started activities. We went in our groups, I was in group ladybug and we started den making and fantastic fire lighting. In fire lighting I lit cotton wool pads, mine burnt and it looked like a flower, I also managed to light steel wool and the flames were like fireworks.

Secondly we did pond dipping. I found lots of things that they were the only ones that were there. Lastly we made marvellous mini rafts and tested them in the little pond close by. Me and granny had a competition to see which one was the best but we drew.

Later on we had dinner then at 8:00pm we went and toasted marshmallows on the fire, I had 4 marshmallows. Then at 9:00 at night we went bat hunting and used a thing that picks up the bat sounds, I was really good at it. After that we went to our tent and went to bed.



In the morning at 7:30 we went down and had a warm cup of tea, then we went for an early bird walk at 8:00 and saw lots, after that we went for breakfast and me and granny had a bacon roll which was the best ever!

Finally we went to see what was in the moth trap there were lots of different species then we packed up and went home. We had so much fun! Katie (age 9)





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Victoria Gordon Art

While at Kinross Show I visited the craft tent and discovered a gifted local talent. The wildlife paintings on Mugs, coasters, mats, and cards were so lifelike I had to buy some.

Victoria lives at Easter Balgedie and has a studio to paint her wildlife in the beautiful, terraced garden beside the house, with lighting and cameras to record the finished painting. She then takes it up to the workshop in the house and has machines to take the painting and put it on china, or to cloth, coasters, mats, and cards.

Victoria was born and raised in a small village in Yorkshire, and after a happy childhood went on to Art Collage. Having qualified there she went to London to do a fashion degree but found London not to her likening and left after six months.

She then trained as a Mental Health Nurse and after three years training worked for two years. Then came the lock down and after a while the stress caused her to suffer ME, and she had to rest for a year.

Her partner David bought her a box of water colour paints, the medium she had used at School and college. He took pictures of wildlife as a hobby, and they both enjoyed rambling and seeing the animals in their natural habitat. David had become a very good photographer.

So, she used his pictures to paint, and when she finished the picture of a stag, he asked he where she bought it. He was most supportive and encouraged the enterprise. When she went back to work, she painted in the evenings, and realised that this was what she was happiest doing.

In February this year she was painting full time, and sells at fairs, farmers markets, and has a successful site online. I had a preview of her Christmas lines and know where my Christmas shopping will start! The Christmas lines will be online by the time this is published.

She also does portraits of animals. She loves dogs having a German Shepherd herself, and I saw her latest of a Border Terrier looking at me out of the page.

The site is www.VictoriaGordonArt.com Email victoriagordonart@hotmail.com









As I write this article it is raining, a sight that many farmers are delighted to see after enduring some fierce hot days and warm drying winds during the spring and summer months. Although there has been some rain from March through to July it has been useful for the grass and cereals to keep on growing but not so much for the drinking water supply. By this I mean the springs that feed the ditches and burns which in turn quench the thirst of the cattle and sheep.

We have fields at the top end of the farm, which have had no water since the middle of April. We grazed these grass fields with ewes & lambs, which were watered via IBC tank after pumping water from a burn; one tank holds 1000 litres and last 4 days before replenishing. If we tried to graze these fields with cows & calves, we would have had to fill 6 IBC tanks every day, not practical and very time consuming.

Our biggest concern has been our private water supply. This is dependent on springs filling the water tank and the springs are reliant on rainfall. In 2021 we had issues of the springs running low and by early August some of the houses that draw water from our water supply were struggling, this after imposing a hose pipe ban in June. This year we issued a hosepipe ban in early May and the water supply managed to hold out until early August before the same houses began to struggle.

I bought a water pump to pump water from a burn that was still flowing to fill IBC tanks as well as washing out the cattle shed. We also tried to pump water from a spring to the water tank. Unfortunately, there was not enough flow in the spring to sustain enough pressure to pump to the water tank.

Then on Sunday 14th August 2022 thunder, lighting and rain arrived; 8.00am 16th August 2022 and 75mm of rain had fallen which after a couple of days managed to replenish some flow of water into the water tanks but not at full bore. We now have good water pressure, but should we get another prolonged dry spell it would put the private water supply under pressure again.

We are not alone with low water reserves. You look around the country and reservoirs are at extremely low levels. These reservoirs were built decades ago to water the townships around our nation. But over time since the reservoirs were erected the population has grown rapidly therefore more water being used from the same reservoirs.

Like the fields full of grass, cereals, vegetables, trees, etc these reservoirs are reliant on a constant flow of water to fulfil the requirements to feed and water the livestock, plants, and people. No water, no life!

Psalm 65:9-12 "You visit the earth and water it abundantly, enriching it greatly. God's stream is filled with water, for you prepare the earth in this way, providing people with grain. You soften it with showers and bless its growth, soaking its furrows and levelling its ridges. You crown the year with your goodness; your ways overflow with plenty. The wilderness pastures overflow, and the hills are robed with joy."

WRI

The Woman's Institute was founded in Canada in 1897 and by 1916 it had reached England via the English Agricultural Organisation Society. Longniddry was the first Scottish Womens Rural Institute in Scotland.

"If you know a Good thing pass it on" was adopted as a Scottish slogan.

Milnathort "Rural" has been in existence for 105 years (the second oldest Institute in Scotland). We would love to welcome local women to our meetings whether as a member or guest. We are not all about baking and knitting!! However many of our members are interested and take part in baking, cooking and crafts of all kinds. We love to find out about new crafts and share any talents we have - and yes - we like to take part in competitions and showcase these talents. But most of all we like to get together, find out about all manner of things going on, chat and share our news and views over a cup of tea and we are always pleased to hear others' ideas and points of view.

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month in Milnathort Town Hall at 2pm and usually last about 2 hours. You can tum up as a guest, see what's on and have a cup of tea for £3 and should you wish to become a member it will cost £30. We meet every month except for July and August. Why not come along to our next meeting and maybe bring a friend or two.

On October 20th we have a speaker coming to tell us about Guide Dogs for the Blind, on November 17th we have a demonstration of Kanzashi Flowers. In December we usually go out for a Christmas meal and on January 19th we are going to hear about Loving Hands, a charity based in Kelty. On February 16th we are having a Cookery Demonstration from one of our own members.

We hope to see you at one or more of these meetings.

Do you remember?

For us "oldies" do you remember sudden dates? 9/II when the planes flew into the tower block in USA, the shooting of President Kennedy, and the late King George VI death?

I was 9 years old, and at Craigmount School based at Scone Palace at the time. Lessons were interrupted and everyone had to go to the library, Miss Laird the head mistress was there and when the whole school was assembled, she turned on the wireless which announced that the King had died. We all returned to lessons in an unusual quiet with none of the usual banter.

It was strange to sing God Save the Queen for a while, and it will take some young folk a wee while to Sing God save the King without remembering the Queen.

Having died at Balmoral she will be the last monarch to have died in Scotland since 1542. James V died at Falkland Palace after the defeat at Solway Moss on 14th December 1542; he was only 30 years old and may have died from cholera. His son James born in 1540 and Arthur 1541 had both died very young, but his wife Mary de Guise was pregnant again and on December 14th had a daughter at Linlithgow Palace. The dying king is said to had said "*it cam*" wi' a lass and will gang wi' a lass".

This lass grew up to be Mary Queen of Scots, who was executed in England by Elizabeth Tudor on 8th February 1587, and her son James became James VI who inherited the English throne in 1603. The union of the crowns in 1603 meant when he died of a massive stroke on 27th March 1625 he was buried in Westminster Abbey.

So watching the Queens coffin, covered by her personal flag, proceeding down the road from Barmoral to Edinburgh, to lie in state before being flown to London was very special.



God save King Charles III. Her heir and in a different world, where modern technology meets tradition, in a seamless blend.

Dorothy Thomson

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Kinross-Shire Volunteer Group And Rural Outreach Scheme

In 1981 Norma Denwick of the Social Work Department (SWD) in Kinross asked a member of Kinross Parish Church if three ladies from the Women's Guild would be willing to visit the housebound. These volunteers were then asked to take SWD clients

to hospital clinics and on outings for which the SWD paid expenses. This small beginning was the start of the group now known as *"Kinross-shire Volunteer Group and Rural Outreach Scheme"* (KVGROS).

This well-established voluntary organisation provides a vital service to the elderly, disabled and vulnerable members of the community to give them a greater feeling of independence. We provide volunteer drivers to enable clients to attend hospital, health centre and other health related appointments such as the podiatrist or dentist as well as taking people to have their Covid Booster vaccinations in Perth and other centralised hubs. Drivers also help clients with shopping and requests for social purposes to help reduce social isolation and support people's mental health and wellbeing. This is a door-to-door service with the driver remaining in attendance at all times.

Families are now more spread out and maybe not living locally, public transport is on the decline and NHS services are being increasingly centralised meaning clients have to travel further afield for their appointments. The service is open to all the community and accepts requests for local appointments and more widely to hospitals in Alloa, Dundee, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Kirkcaldy and Perth. KVGROS works in partnership with key services such as Loch Leven Health Centre, Social Work Departments, Community Learning and Development and other local charities such as Broke Not Broken and the Kinross Day Centre.

The committee of the Kinross-shire Volunteer Group and Rural Outreach Scheme (KVG-ROS) wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who visited our stall at the Kinross Farmers Market on 27th August. The sun was shining which meant there was a wonderful turnout. This was a great opportunity to raise awareness about our service and potentially recruit much needed new drivers. We are very grateful to everyone who so generously donated prizes for the Tombola and to those who came along to say hello and support us on the day.

On 10th September a special buffet lunch was held to celebrate over 40 years since this service began and to thank all the KVG-ROS volunteer drivers and those who have helped the group to run successfully including through the challenges of the past couple of years. The weather made this a very special afternoon and we are very grateful to a local businessman who kindly sponsored the lunch.

Demand for the service is continuing to grow and without our wonderful





team of volunteer drivers we would not be able to provide the service we do which enables the residents of Kinross-shire and Glenfarg to access services they would otherwise not be able to.

We are actively recruiting new drivers and if you have some spare time and would be interested in volunteering for this award-winning service, we would be delighted to hear from you! For further information please contact Iona Philp: administrator@kvgandros.org.uk or phone 01577 840196.





Not every school or hospital bears the name of the town or city where it is located.

How many can you identify by their location without resorting to websites?

Where are these Scottish seats of learning?

1. This school was opened in 1837 and known as Webster's Seminary until 1967 when it was renamed Webster's High School. It is a local authority comprehensive school and has four houses named Clova, Isla, Moy and Prosen.

2. An independent day school which is featured in The Good Schools Guide, Morrison's Academy was opened in 1860. There are four school houses: Murrays, Campbells, Grahams, Drummonds. The town also has local authority primary and secondary schools.

3. St Aloysius' College is a co-educational school with kindergarten, junior and senior schools. It was founded in 1859 by the Jesuits and named after Saint Aloysius Gonzaga. Its religious affiliation is Roman Catholic.

4. Formerly housed in a very large, imposing A-listed building in a city, Donaldson's school relocated in 2008 to a purpose-built facility in a town about 15 miles away. It has the special equipment required for the children in its care. 5. The Morgan Academy opened in 1889, but had begun life as the Morgan Hospital in 1866. The school suffered a disastrous fire in March 2001 which destroyed a very large part of the building. The original facade was saved and the school rebuilt and reopened in November 2004.

In which Scottish town or city will you find each of these NHS establishments?

6. The Gilbert Bain Hospital is nearer Norway than it is to Edinburgh. The current hospital was opened by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother in 1961, but is in need of upgrading or replacement which will not be a "quick fix".

7. Dr Gray's Hospital was established by means of a bequest by Dr Alexander Gray in 1807. A number of redevelopments and expansions took place between 1993 and 1997 greatly improving health services for the town and its environs.

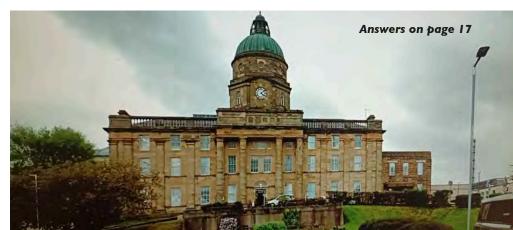
8. The staff at Belford Hospital are well used to dealing with patients

with climbing and hill walking injuries, situated as it is in one of Scotland's popular mountainous areas. Teleconference facilities enable participation with colleagues in other hospitals.

9. Founded in 1941 Raigmore Hospital is the only acute hospital serving a huge area of Scotland from this city. Consisting of eight floors, it has Medical, Surgical Facilities, Clinical Support as well as Quality and Patient Safety Divisions. Patients from further afield who require the special facilities available at Raigmore may need to travel for up to 4 hours by ambulance to get there.

10. The Borders General Hospital probably has more than its fair share of sports-related injuries to deal with, situated as it is among Scotland's rugby towns and where the famous Rugby Sevens event is held. It is just outside a town which has a famous abbey.

Can you identify the buildings in the photographs?



IT'S GOOD TO GET MESSY AGAIN

After what seemed like a very long time of being unable to host Messy Church at Orwell and Portmoak, we are so thrilled that we have been able to restart...after nearly two and a half years! It has been fantastic to get together again for all-age fun, fellowship and food with families and it has been great to welcome both new and familiar faces back with us. We have really been enjoying hosting Messy Church in the newly refurbished Orwell Church and it's great to have lots of new found flexibility with our space.

Messy Church is a congregation of people in its own right, is for all ages and is open to people at any stage of their faith journey. We explore faith in a fun, interactive and accessible way, through crafts and activities, games, music and stories, and the whole event is centred around hospitality, finishing with a meal enjoyed together.

Since starting again, we have already explored some great messy themes.

In August we thought about what forgiveness means and how with God's love and help we can know forgiveness and learn to forgive others. In September, we looked at God's love for the planet and had a lot of earth based messy crafts and conducted some science experiments!

Absolutely everyone is welcome, whether young in age or at heart, and we couldn't do it without you! So do come along and join us, and why not bring a friend or two? The dates we already have planned for the end of this year and the start of next are detailed below. We look forward to seeing you!

Messy Church: upcoming dates for your diary

(all in Orwell Church, Milnathort from 4pm to 6pm)

Saturday 3rd December Saturday 28th January Saturday 25th February Saturday 25th March













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PHOTOS: Below: Queen Elizabeth after her wedding, 1947; Right: Coronation portrait by Cecil Beaton, 1953; Opposite Page: Top Right: In Auxiliary Territorial Service uniform, April 1945; Bottom Left: Formal portrait, 1958.

Light in the darkest valley'

Prayer: May the words of my mouth and the meditation of all our hearts be always acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

In Psalm 23, earlier read to us, David the poet wrote (v. 4): 'I will fear no evil, for you are with me.'

On Thursday evening, the world received the heavy and sad tidings of the passing of our beloved Queen, Elizabeth, bringing to a peaceful close a long, extraordinary life of devotion to the service of God, our country and the Commonwealth of nations. There is so much this morning that could be said about this truly great lady we were privileged to have as our monarch for so long. Her remarkable life of commitment to faith, service and country will be spoken of for years - centuries - to come. At this time I wish simply to highlight the fact that she was a person of sincere and deeply held Christian faith. Earlier this year, she said herself: 'Throughout my life, the message and teachings of Christ have been my guide and in them I find hope.' We have been privileged to witness this, some at particularly close quarters, as our sovereign lived out her faith with such grace, joy, wisdom and peace. The love and light of Christ shone brightly in her life.

Today we mourn her going hence. We feel that our world has somehow completely changed, that things can never be quite the same again. It is difficult to measure the greatness of our loss.

I wonder what the Queen herself would say to us today. Reflecting on that, I remembered being told once that the Psalm we read this morning was Her Majesty's favourite. In that regard, it is maybe significant that it was sung, to the tune Crimond, at her marriage to the Duke of Edinburgh, all these years ago. I think she would have approved that in the BBC Gaelic radio service earlier today, which I had the privilege of conducting, it was sung to that tune.

I just wonder, were Queen here today, recognising our united grief, if she might say to us, '*Remember Psalm 23 and its message of faith and hope.*' For in such a beautiful manner this Psalm gives expression to the faith that was at the foundation of her life. That is doubtless why she valued it so much. Here too we might find renewed strength and trust and hope at a difficult time.

Of course, even without the death of the Queen, there is much sorrow and anxiety and pain around. Problems and challenges press in upon us from many quarters. I think that is one reason why we feel her passing so acutely – for in all the changes and changes and troubles of these times, she was for many of us a rock and a solid, fixed point of reference. But our Psalm, as she would point out, holds before us an even greater and more solid point of reference. It was her own. I mean the allimportant matter of our relationship to God. 'The Lord is my shepherd.' It's the mind-blowing truth that God our Creator who sustains the whole universe he has made in being wants to be in a relationship of love with each one of us. He wants to replace fear with faith in our troubled hearts. He invites us to cast all our cares on him, for he cares for us.

That meant so much to this poet. The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down, he refreshes me, he leads me, he guides me. His care, as Shepherd, for his individual sheep is astonishing and extends to every aspect of their life. How beautifully that was brought out in our gospel reading. This is the kind of shepherd who when he discovers that just one of his many sheep is missing, has strayed, leaves the rest and goes in search of the missing one, never resting until he finds it and brings it home rejoicing.

Many people have been remarking on how the Queen made them feel as if they had her complete and undivided attention when she spoke to them as an individual. It was a remarkable gift and I think we may know where she learned it.

This is a remarkably personal Psalm. There are no plural pronouns but





only singular pronouns – me, my, you. The Psalm is an outflowing of David's personal relationship with God. And I think that one of the reasons this Psalm remains so attractive to so many people, sung as it is in all sorts of contexts, happy and sad, is that deep in the human hear there is a homesickness for God. As St Augustine famously expressed it, 'You have made us for yourself and our heart is restless until it rests in you.'

From a Christian perspective, the psalmist's God would one day become a character in the drama he himself scripted and in the person of Jesus live, die and rise again for our redemption and that of the world he loves. Jesus would say, I am the Good Shepherd. His love for his sheep is unqualified and for them he gave his



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nail care/reduction corns & callous heel pain fungal infections diabetic & arthritis care footcare advice all. I give to them eternal life, he says. No one can ever remove them from my care or that of my Father. Here, in the Good Shepherd's words is indeed a solid basis for our faith and hope in challenging days. He knows, he loves, he cares; nothing this truth can dim.

Can I call your attention also to something deeply interesting and significant in the shape of the Psalm. It begins, as you know, with David speaking about God as his shepherd in the third person, telling others what he has done and is doing for him. But when, in verse four, he comes to the dark valley of the shadow, there is a striking change of direction. No longer is he speaking about God, in this difficult place he is speaking directly to God. And this is what he says: 'Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.'

It's reminder that our wisdom in difficult times lies less in speaking about God and more in coming near to him in prayer. '*Try praying*' says the famous slogan. 'Good advice,' says David. For when the glen grows dark and the shadows lengthen, the Good Shepherd in his love and grace and compassion is right there. 'I will fear no evil,' he says, 'for you are with me.' And if he is with us then in Lady Julian of Norwich's words, 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.'



Even in the face of death itself, the gospel of Christ gives us a sure and certain hope. Because he rose, death has lost its power. It is not a closed but an open door. In believing in Jesus we are confident that the best is yet to be, with joyful reunions in a new heavens and a new earth in which God will wipe away every tear from every eye. 'We know,' wrote Paul, that 'neither death, nor life nor anything else at all will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

This was central to the faith and hope of our departed, beloved Queen.

In difficult days, as David did, as Elizabeth did, let's fix our eyes on the Good Shepherd, and we too shall discover the truth of the ancient words that form the climax of our Psalm: 'Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.'

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



The story of the Hospital and Friary at Scotlandwell

If you take a walk along Friar Place in Scotlandwell you will find – at the end, on the left hand side, a small field with some grave stones and a plaque erected in 1896. The

photograph shows what remains today. The plaque tells us that on this site was a place of worship for the Culdees and the site of a hospital and chapel, and the graves (behind the enclosure) are the wife, mother and children of the Rev. Ebenezer Erskine, Father of the Secession Church, who was minister of Portmoak Parish between 1703 and 1730. There appears to have been a hospital - a place dedicated to the care and shelter of the sick, poor and travellers - especially pilgrims, in Scotlandwell from about 1178. It was originally dedicated to St Thomas (Thomas Becket - murdered in 1170), but by the 1230s this hospital is dedicated to St Mary.

In 1220 the Bishop of St Andrews, William Malvoisine 're-established' this religious house with a hospice for the reception of 'poor and needy' folk to make use of the curative powers of the waters at the Well. The hospital would have been kept busy with travellers because pilgrims are travelling all the time between

Culross and St Andrews. They are visiting the holy shrines at Culross, Dunfermline and St Andrews and needed to make stops along the way - and it seems as if these pilgrims used the hospital beside the mystical spring at Scotlandwell for rest and recuperation. People seemed to think that the water had remarkable healing powers and the friars charged the pilgrims money to get them refreshed and on their way. The priory at that time is under the supervision of the Priory of St Andrews but for some reason. in 1251 the new Bishop, David de Berham, granted the hospital to the Trinitarian order.



This was an order of monks set up by St John of Matha and Felix of Valois about A.D. 1197, confirmed by Pope Innocent III and based in Paris who wore white robes with a red and

blue cross on the chest. They were also called the Red Friars. Their main aim was to buy back Christians who had been captured by pirates along the coast of North Africa and made into slaves. They had eight houses in Scotland. These friars knew all about using herbs and water in curing skin diseases and other ailments. King Robert the Bruce is thought to have come to try the waters to cure his leprosy. This would have given the hospital a lot of publicity and attracted more pilgrims. The friars needed as much money as they could get - as it allowed them to buy back more captive Christians, so, this result was just what was needed, and their hospital -the Ecclesia Hospitale of Fons Scotiae became very successful and wealthy.

However, the Arnots of Arnot Tower near Scotlandwell wanted this money for themselves, and pushed their younger sons into the order – so that eventually Friar Archibald Arnot became The Minister (*head*). This was not thought to be a good idea by the Head of the Trinitarians in Scotland – but the Trinitarians were pushed out and no matter how hard they tried they could not get it back. The Arnots held it, until eventually the religious order and the



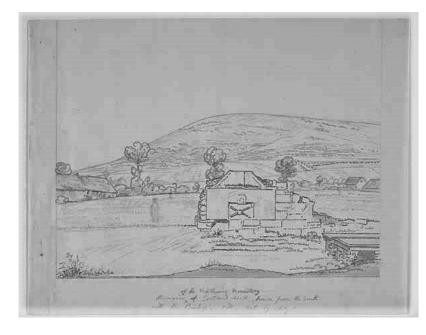


This event has been supported by the Year of Stories 2022 Community Stories Fund. This fund is being delivered in partnership between VisitScotland and Museums Galleries Scotland with support from National Lottery Heritage Fund thanks to National Lottery players.

hospital was closed and torn down after the Reformation in 1560. The remains were there in the field at the end of Friar Place - but local people took away the stones to build their houses so little is left. The drawing from the Hutton Collection in the NLS – done on October 17th 1789 shows the remains of the Friary and Hospital at that time.

Excavations have been done at the site on several occasions - 1895,1957 and 1972 and findings have shown foundations of a building measuring about 20m by 6m sited East -West, and the photograph shows the cobbled surface which was discovered in the 1972 excavation of the Hospital site. It was thought that it could be part of a courtyard and Mediaeval pottery was also found here.

This story is part of the Year of Stories Exhibition at the Kinross Museum - Heaven and Hell, Stories of Hope and Despair from Kinross-shire



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PHOTOS: Opposite page main photo: 2022 Picture of the plaque / graveyard on Friar Place, Scotlandwell; Opposite page centre: Trinitarian Friars; Below Left: Hutton drawing of the hospital site in 1789; Below right: The cobbled surface from the archaeological excavations



This is an update on the old Portmoak Chapel in the middle of Portmoak airfield and a reminder of its history Portmoak Chapel

On a small mound near the western end of the Scottish Gliding Centre's runway a handful of gravestones are all that is left of the site where Portmoak Chapel, later to become the parish church of Portmoak, once stood.

This chapel, along with the monastery of Lochleven on St Serf's Island, and the Red Friar's hospice in Scotlandwell, was an important place in the medieval diocese of St Andrews.

Originally this site was associated with the early Christian Culdees, or 'servants of God', a religious group of Irish origin, here connected with St Serf or Servanus (also meaning 'servant'), one of the chief saints of west Fife. It is suggested that St Serf and St Moak may be one and the same person, the name Moak being a Gaelic rendering of Serf. This version of the saint's name survives in the name of the parish of Portmoak, the 'port' here referring to the harbour on the old shoreline of Loch Leven close to the chapel that was used to connect with St Serf's Island before the lowering of Loch Leven in the early 19th century.

Portmoak Farm, which had been acquired by the Kinross Estate in 1900, was for a number of years leased to three separate tenants as arable land, grazing land and a shooting let. It was eventually sold in 1960 to the tenant farmer Mr William Bell. Three years earlier in 1957 the Scottish Gliding Union (SGU) had purchased 50 acres



adjacent to Portmoak Farm and in 1967 the SGU bought the remainder of the farm from Mr Bell.

Between the mid 16th-century and 1900 Portmoak was farmed successively by the Whyte, Hoy and Arnott families. A David Arnot was one of the patrons of the Kinnesswood-born 'Gentle Poet of Lochleven', Michael Bruce (1746-67), whose poem Daphnis: A Monody describes his childhood friendship with William, the son of David Arnot of Portmoak Farm. One of the gravestones at old Portmoak, an ornate table stone, is thought to mark the grave of young Willie Arnot, who died aged 14.

An upright stone closeby bears the date 1684 and two additional table stones are decorated with coats of arms and inscriptions now impossible to decipher. The last person to be buried in the graveyard at old Portmoak was William Arnot's brother James Arnot, who died in 1758. Between 1830 and 1832 Loch Leven was lowered by $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet as part of a major scheme to reclaim land around the loch. As a result of this, the shoreline receded to its present position, leaving the steading at Portmoak and the site of the chapel some distance from the water's edge.

An elegantly carved Celtic cross-slab, possibly dating from the 9th, 10th or 11th century, was found on the site of the old chapel in 1976. Decorated with a fine interlaced cross carved in relief, this stone can now be seen in the parish church near Scotlandwell where it was installed in a special service of dedication on 7th February 1993.

Detail from an 1895 Ordnance Survey plan showing the location of



the former chapel and graveyard next to the steading of Portmoak Farm.

The Portmoak Stone, a thousand-year-old Celtic cross-slab discovered in 1976 in the old kirk yard.



From old Ordnance Survey maps we have

marked out the limits of the original building as best as we can. We have marked the 4 corners with 4 tall Italian cypress trees. Or at least we hope they will be tall one day and whatever happens to the site, we hope these will be there to show where the building was.

We have also created a space below the priory on the site of an old outbuilding. We have placed a wooden table and bench there and there is an informative plaque on the wall nearby.

Because the site is in the middle of an active airfield, access is controlled. If you want to visit we are authorised to take people out on site and we would be delighted to do so, so just phone Moira or myself on 01592 840215

We have made our best endeavours to maintain the site for a number of years now. However, when Lockdown began the airfield was out of bounds and even when lockdown eased, access was limited so that we were unable to get access to it for any kind of maintenance.

As a result the site has become somewhat overgrown and requires some attention. There are only two of us now doing the maintenance and we really would appreciate some assistance. If you would like to give us some time or even become part of the maintenance team, please phone me on 01592 840215

Alistair Smith





We are back! Oasis Ladies Group have been meeting in Portmoak Church, New Room for sixteen years with a two year gap when COVID hit and so many meetings and get togethers were cancelled.

We are a small group who meet together on the last Friday morning of the month, except for a Christmas break and, of course, a Summer break too. We enjoy a varied programme of speakers and craft work.

Our meetings always begin with coffee and a lot of chat. After all some of us haven't seen one another since the last meeting. We share a word for today and short prayer. Oasis is there for everyone, those of faith or no faith, young or older. We are a friendly group who always manage to have fun together with lots of laughter in a very relaxed, welcoming atmosphere.

Our programme for the rest of the year is as follows:

October 28th 10.15am to 12.00pm Tina Mart - Her Work as a Doctor

November 25th 10.15am to 12.00pm Crafts for Christmas

December 16th 10.15am to 12.00pm Christmas Celebrations. Coffee, mince pies and carols

Do join us at any of these dates. We look forward to welcoming you. Margaret Ritchie and Avril Rogers

Dear Friends,

I want to share with you a brief update on the state of play regarding the Presbytery Mission Plan and it's

outworking locally. As you may be aware the draft mission plan was published in February of this year, and this was followed by a period of consultation with every Kirk Session (including Orwell & Portmoak) over the spring and early summer. In addition, a thorough process of assessing every single building owned by the Church across the Presbytery (called the Asset Managment Building Audit) has taken place over the course of the summer and the Presbytery's Planning and Development Committee are currently in the process of reviewing the draft plan in the light of all the data. There will be two meetings of the Presbytery on 8th and 22nd November at which the final draft of the Mission Plan will be discussed and voted on before being submitted to the General Assembly's Presbytery

Mission Plan Implementation Group for its approval.

Meanwhile the session clerks and ministers of Cleish, Fossoway, Kinross and Orwell & Portmoak held a number of meetings to consider how the Kinross-shire churches could work more closely together going forward. A proposal for the formation of a formal Parish Grouping was developed and was considered by each of the four Kirk Sessions before being brought to a conference meeting on 22nd September at which each there was detailed discussion of the proposal around tables with representatives of each Kirk Session before each Kirk Session met separately to vote on the Basis of Parish Grouping. I can report that there was unanimous approval from all four Kirk Sessions.

So, although it may appear that little has been happening, there have actually been major discussions underway at every level. In the near future we will be calling a meeting of the congregation to report on the final outcome of the Presbytery Mission Planning process and its implications for us here and to put the Basis of Parish Grouping to the congregation for its approval. Detailed information will be made available before the meeting and there will be ample opportunity for the asking of questions.

I would like to put on record my gratitude to all the elders for the part they are playing in keeping the mission of Orwell & Portmoak church moving forward and also to the Rev Robert Calvert for his service as Locum. While we undoubtedly face challenging times, the work of the congregation is in good hands, and I would encourage you all to play your part as you are able.

With all prayerful good wishes, Alan Reid Rev. A.D. Reid

Interim Moderator



From the beginning of February, our All-Age Service will be held every month on the first Sunday of the month in Orwell Church. We have decided it makes sense to move this service to Orwell every month due to the enhanced provision, flexibility of space and excellent audio/visual equipment.

We also plan to livestream these services on the internet (YouTube).

The camera will be focused on the front of the sanctuary but there may be occasions where the congregation may be caught inadvertently. We completely understand that not everyone wishes their children or themselves to be filmed in this way so please do not hesitate to let us know if this is the case. We want everyone to feel welcome and comfortable it is not a problem. Just like to bring your attention to some changes to our All-Age Services starting in the New Year.

We look forward to seeing everyone at all our services and especially at our All-Age, all-inclusive celebration when there is always time for a chat and a cuppa after.

All-Age Joint Service

January 1st - Portmoak 10.30am February 5th - Orwell 10.30am March 5th - Orwell 10.30am

November

6 th	All-Age joint Service
	Portmoak - 10.30am

13th **Remembrance Service** Portmoak - 10am

> Service Orwell - 11.30am

Short Service War Memorial - 12.45pm

- 17th **Open Event** Orwell Church - 4-8pm
- 20th Service Portmoak - 10am

Service Orwell - 11.30am

- 25th Oasis Ladies Group Portmoak Church new room - 10.15-12noon
- 27th Service Portmoak - 10am

Service Orwell - 11.30am

29th Kirk Session Meeting Orwell Hall - 7.30pm

December

- 3rd Messy Church Orwell Church - 4-6pm
- 4th All-Age joint Service Orwell - 10.30am
- 10th Christmas Fayre Orwell Church - 10-12noon
- IIth Service Portmoak - 10am

Service Orwell - 11.30am 16th Oasis Ladies Group Portmoak Church new room - 10.15-12noon

> Christmas Tea and Blether Orwell Hall - 1.30-3.30pm

Carols at the Cross Milnathort - 7pm

18th

24th

Service Portmoak - 10am

Service Orwell - 11.30am

Afternoon Service Ashley House - 2pm

Early evening service Portmoak - 6.30pm

Watchnight service Orwell - 11.30pm

25th **Joint service** Orwell - 10.30am

January

20th **Tea and Blether** Orwell Hall - 1.30-3.30pm

28th Messy Church Orwell Church - 4-6pm

February

17th Tea and Blether Orwell Hall - 1.30-3.30pm

25th Messy Church Orwell Church - 4-6pm

March

17th Tea and Blether Orwell Hall - 1.30-3.30pm

and i

25th Messy Church Orwell Church - 4-6pm

Prayer Corner

We stand to mourn a sovereign, a nation's guide and friend, who through long years of tumult was faithful to the end. We offer our thanksgiving for all that she instilled: her constancy of service, her lifetime's vow fulfilled. Now from our world departed – though never from our hearts – receive her in the peace, Lord, your love alone imparts.

And as we mark a passing of sceptre, orb, and throne, we'll find in her compassion a pattern for our own: that all who stand in mourning, or languish now in fear, may know again your promise to wipe away each tear. With her we'll join in witness, Christ's mercies our refrain: great Sovereign of the nations, eternal is your reign! Buildings quiz answers from page 8

- Kirriemuir
- 2 Crieff 3 Glasgow

T

- 3 Glasgow 4 Linlithgow
- 5 Dundee
- 6 Lerwick 7 Elgin
- 8 Fort William
- 9 Inverness
- 10 Melrose

Pictures:

- A Dr Gray's, Elgin
- B Morgan Academy, Dundee

Words: © Dominic Grant, September 2022 Tune: Thaxted

Winter & Festive Events at LOCH LEVEN'S LARDER

October

6th October - Christmas Food Online Ordering now available 19th & 20th: Pumpkin Floral Workshops with Stunning Flowers (6.00pm - 8.30pm)

November

18th: Winter Market Under The Stars (6.00pm - 9.30pm) 20th: Stir-Up Sunday (9.30am)



December

7th & 8th: Wreath-Making Workshop with Stunning Flowers (6.00pm - 8.30pm) 8th: Late Night Shopping (5.00pm - 8.00pm) 14th & 15th: Wreath-Making Workshop with Stunning Flowers (6.00pm - 8.30pm) 15th: Late Night Shopping (5.00pm - 8.00pm) 22nd & 23rd: Early Morning Shopping (8.00am - 5.00pm) 23rd: Family Christmas Bingo Night (5.00pm - 8.30pm) 24th: Opening Hours (8.00am - 3.00pm)

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