

## Mission & Ministry Development in the Presbytery

Working with Lochcarron Skye Presbytery has been a real honour and I feel incredibly fortunate to be helping its mission during these uncertain times. In the past few months, there's no shortage of action - from organising events to forming partnerships, it feels like my calendar is as full as ever!

Here are a few things I have been up to.

### Winter Wonderland



At Christmas time Lochcarron Church stepped out and ran a Winter Wonderland, based on the model run every year by Xcel Church in Portree. The aim was to build relationships between each other and the community. A number of community organisations participated in the activities including the local historical society which ran a memory corner.

We slipped up not taking pictures of the festive layout which included many 8ft inflatables, hundreds of balloons (fortunately I discovered the invention of the electric balloon pumps beforehand!) and reindeer! but here is the advert for the memory corner and the invitation we sent to various community members, including our friends in Glenelg, Kintail and Lochalsh who will be joining Lochcarron at the end of the year in the parish restructuring.

**Many thanks to Xcel Church who so willingly let us use all their stuff!**



### Café Church

For a year now, Café Church has been operating in Lochcarron. We've been continuously assessing, evaluating, and adjusting it based on feedback to make it as pleasant as possible for the existing congregation while creating a more aesthetically appealing environment for today's younger society, which we believe will join us one day. In all these developments we are very aware that we do not have adequate capacity to build and reach out. We do what we can trusting that God will honour our efforts. And we take encouragement in Genesis 7:5, where the Lord did not tell Noah that he had to go out and catch two of every animal to bring them into his Ark, rather he said to Noah what Kevin Costner says in the classic movie Field of Dreams "if you build it, they will come". And so our hope is built on nothing less.



## Community Detox

Stevie Boyle from Living Hope Skye & Lochalsh and myself secured funding from the Highland Drug and Alcohol Partnership's Outcome Improvement Fund, to research local capacity for a faith-based community detox program in Skye & Lochalsh. There is a real need for detox facilities at the crucial entry phase of recovery, but we lack the proper resources to help people. The funding will enable Stevie and me to dedicate time to the project to identify if there is enough local capacity to deliver this project. We currently believe we need 8 Christians within any area looking to provide this service. We recognise that no one church is likely to have this capacity so it will require different churches to work together in order to share the work. We will be connecting with every church sometime during the summer to ascertain interest. In the meantime please contact me via email if you're interested in this area of work or just praying for us. This is a picture of Stevie, Living Hope supporters and myself receiving the cheque from Francis of the Highland Drug and Alcohol Forum.



## 'Healing for Hurting Hearts' & 'Stronger'

Anne MacLeod of the Free Church in Kyle has been collaborating with Jackie MacLennan (Parish Development Assistant in Strath & Sleat) and myself to develop pastoral care training that can help individuals become more confident in visiting. We decided to start with the Healing for Hurting Hearts course. Sarah from Gairloch parish delivered an online version during the pandemic and returned to lead the face-to-face sessions over two Saturdays in Kyle Free Church. The course was enjoyable, insightful, and highly relevant, allowing various churches and denominations to come together in fellowship. Many attendees expressed an interest in more training, so we are planning to run the original course again on August 26th and September 9th, followed by the follow-on 'Stronger' course in October and November. To find out more go to [www.presbyterysupport.co.uk/coursesandevents](http://www.presbyterysupport.co.uk/coursesandevents).



## COOL, Foodbank & Warm Lounge Cafe

In Lochcarron, the church has partnered with COOL to deliver and develop youth work, and we have recently developed collaborations with the Free Church, resulting in really encouraging experiences. We are also very fortunate to have had Jackie MacLennan provide locum youth work support at various events, her contributions to these have been invaluable in bringing much-needed energy and vibe.

In addition, Lochcarron has launched a foodbank and has opened a Warm Lounge Café on Saturdays, which has been well-received. Due to its success, they plan to continue this initiative every winter as a platform for various outreach and mission activities.



## An Tobar and Ladies Network

A few weeks ago, we organised our second ladies' day, featuring Margo Cunningham, formerly of Pray for Scotland, as the main speaker, along with several workshops. As our legacy aim, we decided to develop An Tobar as a network and establish a Ladies' Network to support one another across boundaries. The next event is a Movie and Meal Night, where we will watch the Christian film "War Room". Thanks to Atlas Arts cinema equipment we hope to be able to provide an authentic experience! To stay informed about (or even better contribute to) courses and events across the area, email [strathandsleat@gmail.com](mailto:strathandsleat@gmail.com) to join the mailing list.



## Last but not least - Patmos Prayer

During the same weekend, I hosted a Prayer Retreat for ladies from Patmos Prayer, who lead intercessory prayers for this area via Zoom on the last Thursday of each month. It wasn't planned for these two events to coincide, but it became apparent it was God's plan and turned out to be a real blessing as people from across Scotland gathered at the Ladies Conference. Many connections were formed and seeds planted over the coffee machine and teapot! And I am excited to see how these relationships grow in the future. That Sunday, we also visited Skye Bible Church to share about the work of Patmos Prayer and had a house meeting in Kensaleyre with some ladies from our monthly prayer gathering. Any ladies interested in joining Patmos on Tuesday nights for their (excellent) Spiritual Formation Class can contact Debbie or me directly (Debbie used to live in Skye when her husband John Murdo was minister in Portree).

A flyer for Patmos Prayer UK. The top right features a photograph of a lighthouse on a rocky shore at sunset. The text is as follows:

**PATMOS PRAYER UK**

Is an international and interdenominational ministry for women who are looking for Christian discipleship and are desiring to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus.

**WATCHMEN FOR THE NATIONS PRAYER GROUP**

- Every Monday (\*excluding holidays)
- 9:30 am (BST)
- Zoom

Where we meet for prayer and intercession for the nations. Open to anyone who loves to pray.

**SPIRITUAL FORMATION CLASS**

- Every Tuesday (\*excluding holidays)
- 7:30 pm (BST)
- Zoom

Where we meet for scriptural meditation and contemplative prayer.

For more info, contact:  
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Patmos Prayer UK  
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