

EDITION 2



AUTUMN 2026

# BLACK ISLE EAST PARISH NEWS



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# WELCOME!

Welcome to the second edition of "Parish News" our end of summer publication for Black Isle East Church of Scotland: it includes a range of topics connected to the church and parish - sometimes looking inwards and sometimes out beyond our boundaries to the wider world. In this edition, we have articles on the "Spring Special" and the two "Summer Specials" plus reflections by folk in the church community on topics of interest and recent events. Although we have been encouraged by the repairs to the church tower, the forthcoming renovations are still pending - though significant progress is going on behind the scenes – we hope to be able to give an update in the next "Church Digest."

In 2026, Black Isle East's communications also include:

- the "Church Digest" (comes out towards Christmas and Easter) which aims to keep us aware of all that's happening in the church and for mission-related activities in the Beauly Firth area and organised by the regional Presbytery of Clèir Eilean ì - the Church of Scotland in the Highlands and Hebrides;
- the "Website" for Black Isle East Church of Scotland: see <https://www.blackisleeastchurch.com/> this is an up-to-date source of information including "Worship" on Sundays as well as the regular range of "Activities" that take place in the parish under the headings: 'Explore', 'Deepen' and 'Create' and about church life in general, including the impact of the ongoing 'renovations'.

We hope that you will enjoy this edition about life in the parish of Black Isle East and its connections to the wider world!

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# CHURCH LIFE

*Rev. Dr. Warren R Beattie*

## Black Isle East Church Groups & Activities - Autumn 2026

All are welcome to join any of the below groups and activities!

### SUNDAYS

#### 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service

Rosemarkie Church / Avoch Hall (in "renovations")

- Worship and Bible Teaching

### TUESDAYS

#### 2 - 4 p.m. Create - Crafts Group

Seaforth Hall, Fortrose

- Craft activities

### WEDNESDAYS

#### 3:30 – 5 p.m. Explore – Discussion Group

St. Regulus, Cromarty

*Refreshments served each week*

- Discipleship Explored (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays)  
*Starts 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of Sep 26*

### THURSDAYS

#### 3 – 4 p.m. Deepen – Bible Study Group

Ethel's House, Fortrose

- Bible Study on the Epistles of John

#### 4:15 – 5:15 p.m. Create - MAJN

Rosemarkie Church / Avoch Hall (in "renovations")

- Music for Advent and Christmas 2026

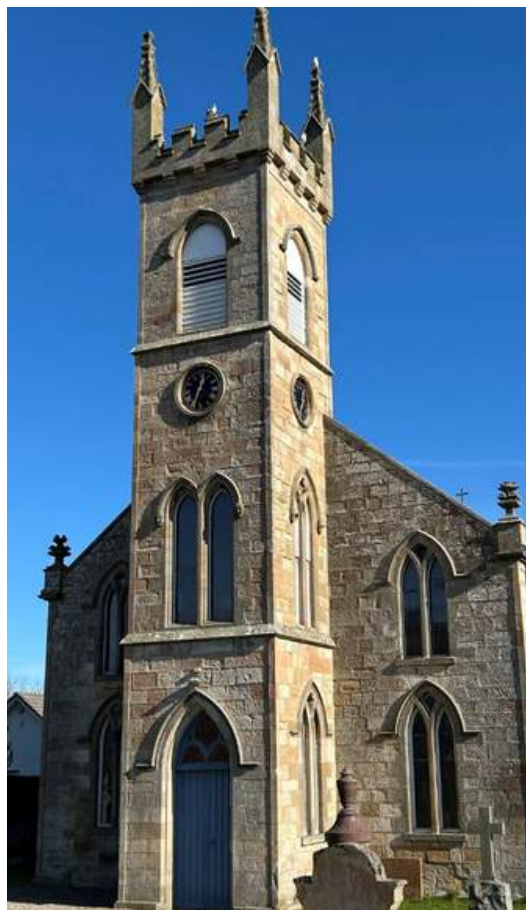
#### 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Deepen – Prayer Meeting

Zoom (details from Minister)

- Weekly prayer for Church, Community and the World

### Occasional and Special Activities

- See our website – <https://blackisleeastchurch.com/our-activities>



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# MINISTER'S ARTICLE

Rev. Dr. Warren R Beattie



## A visit of John Stott to South Korea (1993)

Over the summer Warren normally does a Sermon Series that looks at life from a fresh angle. This year, his theme “Look at the Birds of the Air: Lessons from Ornithology” was inspired by John Stott, the former Rector Emeritus of All Soul’s Church London, from his book *The Birds our Teachers*.

Stott looks at ten different birds from the ravens to the larks – considering how a particular activity that could easily be associated with that species gave rise to theological reflections of relevance to human beings! The series at Black Isle East only had space for five topics, so the focus was on:

‘The value of Sparrows - Self-Esteem’;  
‘The feeding of Ravens – Faith’;  
‘The migration of Storks – Repentance’;  
‘The wings of a Hen – Shelter’ and  
‘The soaring of Eagles – Freedom’.

In Autumn 2023, John Stott was speaking in South Korea, where Warren worked and he was able to attend one of Stott’s events in Seoul; a few days later, he was invited to a Birdwatching Day Out on Kangwha Island with John Stott and Dr. Moon Yoo Boo a leading South Korean ornithologist.

After a false early start where Warren got up, waited and went home - the phone rang to say, “The birdwatching group were running late – but would be passing a key intersection in around half an hour!” By noon, we were installed in a simple restaurant in Kanghwa island having a somewhat late breakfast for birdwatchers.

Stott was asked what bird he would most like to see. “Oh, the fairy pitta, would be of enormous interest,” he replied enthusiastically – only to be told, “I’m so sorry, we’d need to have been on the go much earlier in the day to see that – they’ll all be hiding by noon!”

As this sad news was breaking, an advert for the Crown Bakery which starred our birding guide appeared on the television screen in the restaurant. Dr. Moon was depicted getting up in the dark (at the right time!) heading off with an enormous camera lens to a distant estuary but coming back to civilisation as the bright lamps of the bakery shone in the fading dawn. Cheerfully smelling the fresh bread on the counter, he must have impacted the buying habits of a whole generation!

Crown Bakery Commercial Featuring Yoon Moo-boo - Migratory Bird Filming Edition  
Image - YouTube Screenshot –  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1TYG5gUjA>



Rev'd Dr. John Stott  
Photo owned by Langham Partnership International  
BlueVoices at en.wikipedia, CC BY 3.0.  
<<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>>  
via Wikimedia Commons.

Dr. Moon was an excellent and knowledgeable guide – giving my first views of black-capped kingfisher and Chinese sparrowhawk – though we didn't see black-billed spoonbills or red-crowned cranes on that occasion - unusual birds that visit Kanghwa Island. As the only two native English speakers, I also had some specialist input from Stott who pointed out, as we munched biscuits baked specially by Stroma, about the four subspecies of the Eurasian Oystercatcher, the fourth kind *Haemopotus ostralegus osculans* is only found in parts of Eastern China/Siberia, Japan and Korea, that is to say like the very one we were watching on the beach right in front of us ...

Enthusiastic as I was in sharing my Korean birding experience with my congregation, (I did refrain from showing all four subspecies), I certainly gained lot of insights about lessons from birds in the bible from reading and sharing about *The Birds our Teachers*. Stott's reminder about stork migration and God's recalcitrant people from Jeremiah 8:6-7 (NIV-UK) has a powerful message:

“Even the stork in the sky  
knows her appointed seasons,  
and the dove, the swift and the thrush  
observe the time of their migration.  
But my people do not know  
the requirements of the Lord.”

The birds really can be our teachers!



Black-capped Kingfisher  
TARUNJYOTI TEWARI, CC BY-SA 4.0  
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Vola Storks 02 - White storks  
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Eurasian Oystercatcher (Far Eastern) -  
*Haematopus [ostralegus] osculans* - svetlanakhanty, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons

“Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons,  
and the dove, the swift and the thrush  
observe the time of their migration.  
But my people do not know the requirements of the Lord.”  
**Jeremiah 8:6-7**

# MEMORIES OF THE DEPARTED

## Margaret Mackenzie

Margaret Mackenzie's first school was Scotland Street Primary one of the many buildings in Glasgow designed by the late Charles Rennie MacIntosh and is now a museum. Throughout these years she also attended Maxwell Parish Church and there is no doubt that she developed her singing voice during this part of her life - she was clearly shaped by artistic surroundings and influences from an early age!

At sixteen, Margaret decided to leave school to follow in her parents' footsteps and begin a career in nursing. She trained at the Victoria Infirmary in Glasgow, qualified as a Registered General Nurse and would later train as a midwife in the Southern General Hospital in Govan, returning to the Victoria Infirmary where she took up a position as theatre sister aged twenty-four.

While on a night out with some nursing colleagues at the Cameo ballroom in Shawlands in the spring of 1964 she would meet a young Highlander and so a long-term relationship was formed. This had nothing whatsoever to do with the young man's skills on the dance floor. This was something that would not improve over the years - he would never have made "Strictly"!

In the late sixties, a decision was made to move to the Black Isle where son Craig was born in 1970. A suitable site was purchased and work on a new home had begun.



Towards the end of 1972, John, Margaret and two year old Craig moved into the new home in Greengates Place - later to be joined by Lindsay and Andrew. At first, the house somewhat resembled a building site and throughout that first winter there were a series of strong gales which prompted John to announce to Margaret that they would not be spending another winter in this house! Well, fifty-three years later and counting ...

Though Margaret was uncertain about returning to nursing after Craig's birth, she eventually joined the team at the newly formed Raddery School as their school nurse. She would continue to work there as her role gradually changed into one where she supported emotionally challenged children and later took the same position at Central Primary in Inverness and continued with that role up until her retirement.



As a resident of Fortrose in the 1970s, Margaret resumed her association with the Church of Scotland and joined the church choir under the guidance of the late Mrs. MacInnes. A fellow choir member recently referred to the high standards expected at choir practice every Friday evening in Fortrose Church under the choir master's demanding leadership.



In more recent times, she became a member of Rev. Warren Beattie's group known as MAJN which stands for "Make a Joyful Noise" - she always loved to sing and was a very faithful and much appreciated member of MAJN. She had participated in all our events from the very inception of the group and really enjoyed sharing the music in all the different services across the seasons of the year.

Margaret's calm and caring presence was always welcome in any gathering and we give thanks for the many ways that she contributed to our local community in her decades in the Black Isle.

*Images – the Mackenzie family*

# SPRING SPECIAL

Rev. Dr. Warren R Beattie

## I AM Art

In May this year, we were delighted to welcome back Rosie and Phil Messeder to share at church around their ongoing ministry in Guatemala. Factoring in the care of two small children and the practicalities of grandparents based in Perthshire, they ended up sharing at two different events.

**Phil came to preach at our Sunday Service discussing Paul at the Areopagus (Acts 17)** and reflected on lessons for sharing faith in Christianity in Guatemala with local indigenous people. He was able to draw on ministry experience that he has been doing using and teaching house-building and carpentry skills especially with younger men. Beyond Phil's spoken account and vivid pictures, we were able to share some Latin American Christian music in the service to help imagine his daily world.

**Rosie's presentation on the Thursday afternoon – a "Spring Special with Creative Church elements"** was inspired by workshops she carries out amongst teens in Guatemala, with an Arts Ministry entitled "Athentikos – I AM Art" (the opening word meaning "authentic").

She shared a song that Aileen and Warren had prepared in an English version, entitled "Solo Dios" [God Alone] - with the intriguing subtitle "Kintsugi". This latter word is a Japanese term applied to an art form that replaces breaks in ceramics with golden dust – so that the break is mended but always visible due to the golden dust seal ...



As the song puts it (paraphrased into English):

*What was once a single pattern – fell apart  
Like a mirror's broken fragments – touched  
my heart  
Only God, God alone ...*

*God alone - the one who restores us  
Can always restore us ...  
In His hands all things can mended be*

*God alone - redeems with his mercy ...  
Will give us a vision  
Only God gives life and freedom true*

It's a powerful metaphor of the restorative power of the gospel turning lives around, healing, bringing change and true freedom.

This idea drives the five one-day "I AM Art" Workshops that Rosie leads with teens in Guatemala – where they go through a five-stage process. They begin with the idea "**I am art**" – working on an art project; they move on to "**I am connected**" – where they share and exchange projects with those around them, together. The third day is more traumatic - "**I am broken**" leads at the end of day three, to the work to date being consciously spoiled ... Three days in, to say that the teenagers find this a shock is an understatement! Art becomes 'heart-wrenching' and the Latino teens have plenty to say or even to shout about.

Rosie simulated the process for us in 10-minute blocks: we created an image – **“I am art”**; shared it round **“I am connected”**; at this point, Rosie went through the room with a separate large A5 piece of cross-shaped sellotape for every single participant and spoiled them one by one – steadily, ruthlessly, completely ... The reactions said it all, “Did she just ruin my piece of art with that sellotape?” a voice muttered darkly above the shrieks of distress: **“I am broken”** – we all were ...!

Rosie then took us through the final two stages for the teens in Guatemala – **“I am restored”** (we coloured in the back of the sellotape) and **“I am loved”** (this saw us cutting out black backing to our reverse images) creating a startling final product – a beautiful, once-spoiled but now restored cross. Like the teens, at the end of the fifth day, we became happier people, our products displayed with pride, and we humbly sang the final verse of “Solo Dios”:

*We are artworks of great beauty  
care bestowed on every fragment - every  
fragment  
We are broken but restored now  
with the glue of patient loving - patient  
loving ...*

After we completed the song, Rosie rounded off on the power of the acted-out metaphor of God’s restoration - in life, as in art! We were left with admiration for the work of Athentikos - their ministry summarised in the slogan: “Pray, Follow, Join, Give”. Back at the Manse, there was a supper party with lots of lively discussion about different approaches to mission.

We’re grateful to Rosie and Phil for sharing in-person with us and delivering clear reminders about what is possible with the creative skills that God gives us as we seek to serve our broken world with the restorative love of Christ Jesus in ministries that engage with local people.



@ Rosie Messeder



@ Rosie Messeder



@ Dr. Stroma Beattie

Learn more about Athentikos and I AM Art Camps in Guatemala here: [www.athentikos.com](http://www.athentikos.com)



Learn more about how you can support the Messeder family here: [www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20534563](http://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20534563)



Teens holding their artwork at the end of I AM Art Camp in Guazacapan © Athentikos

# KESWICK CONVENTION

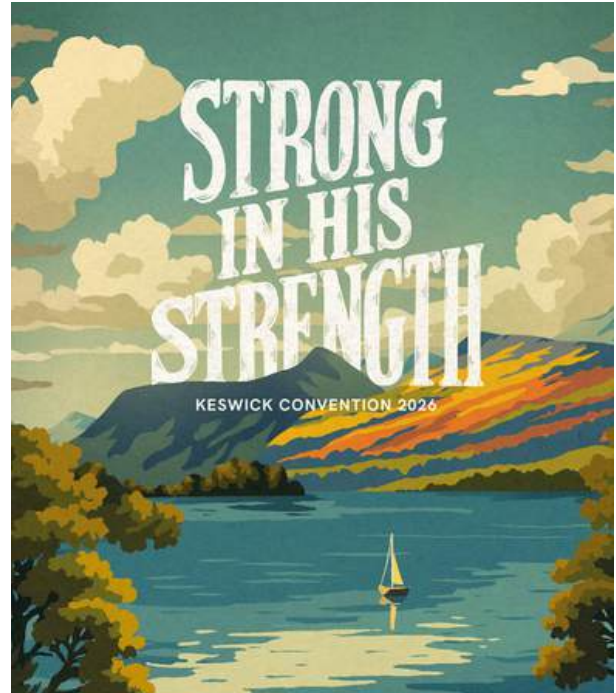
*Jack Kernahan*

## ‘Strong in His Strength’

The purpose of the Keswick Convention, now in its 151st year, is the spiritual renewal of God’s people for His mission and the World. It is thus primarily for practising Christians to strengthen and encourage them. The founders longed to know God better and since 1875 the convention has transformed the lives of hundreds of thousands of Christians.

400 people gathered at that first meeting, their purpose being guided by Psalm 62: 5 “My soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from him.” Knowledge of God should be deep and life transforming.

This year’s theme was the encouragement that we should be ‘Strong in His Strength’ and that was most ably demonstrated in the five morning Bible Readings at which Christopher Ash expertly and grippingly explained the constant battle which continues to rage between the ‘serpent and the serpent-crusher’ (Genesis 3:15) exemplifying how there was victory over Satan through subsequent events described in Genesis: sacrifice (Abraham and Isaac), struggle (Jacob and the angel) and suffering (Joseph and his brothers).



© Keswick Ministries

The evening celebrations took us to Revelation, where seven gifted preachers, some well-know to convention attendees, others new to the lectern, showed how His Strength to conquer Satan was available in the varying circumstances of the seven churches to whom the letters were written as recorded in Chapters 2 and 3. The same situations are still with us today and I did wonder what would follow if there were to be a letter commencing, “And to the angel of the church in Rosemarkie write: ...”!

*Yes, my soul, find rest in God;  
my hope comes from him.  
**Psalm 62:5 NIV***



Over 15,000 adults and 3,400 children were expected over the three weeks of the convention, with youngsters between six and twenty-four all catered for in six different age groups where the same message as the adults were considering in the Bible Readings from Genesis was taught and explained in a way suitable for their ages. The bookshop run by the publishers '10 of those' was always packed with browsers and with purchasers. The 5,000 attending in the first week bought 20,000 books!

Many Christians long for a deeper understanding of God himself, the message of the Bible being that God longs to change us and make us like his Son.

The preaching in the second week of the convention, which Catherine and I attended, most certainly greatly encouraged us to be 'Strong in His Strength.'



### **KESWICK CONVENTION 2027**

Week 1: Saturday 17 – Friday 23 July 2027

Week 2: Saturday 24 – Friday 30 July 2027

Week 3: Saturday 31 July – Friday 6 August 2027

Visit: <https://www.keswickministries.org/convention>

# BOOK REVIEW

Robert S Moore

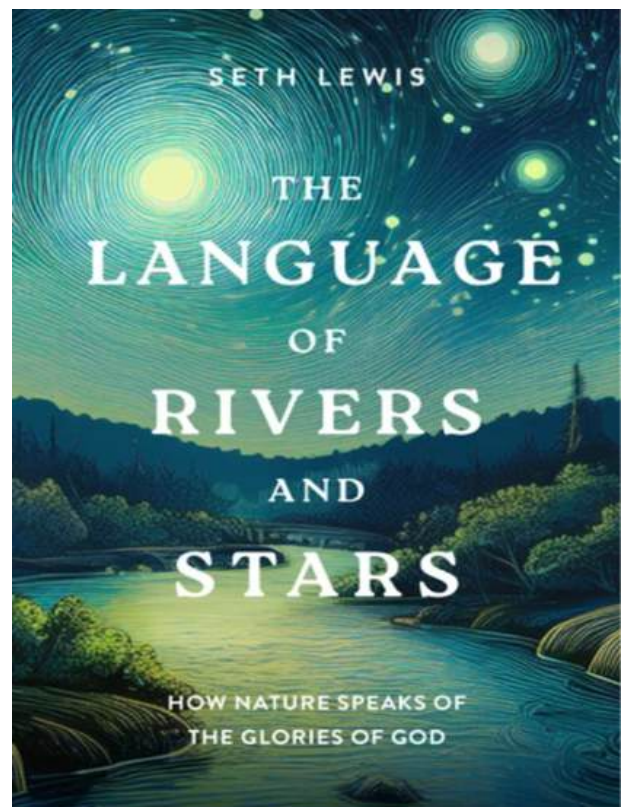
## *The Language of Rivers and Stars* by Seth Lewis

Seth Lewis prefaces the first chapter of the book with a quotation from C. S. Lewis: “Nature gave the word ‘glory’ a meaning for me. I still do not know where else I could have found one.” If you are not already a nature lover, this book might turn you into one! And if you already feel wonder when you sit in nature, this book is going to “strike all the right chords.”

Seth Lewis begins with the Genesis account of creation and Psalm 19 as the Biblical backdrop to understanding God’s masterpiece. But then, he pulls out a magnifying glass to examine each day of creation one-by-one in detail as he marvels at all the wonders God has created.

Ideas are carefully woven together in this volume to showcase how God’s works in Scripture and in nature share a common language. The special revelation of Scripture is sufficient for our salvation and tells us all we need to know about God, yet it doesn’t contain all that God intends to communicate to us.

Seth Lewis argues as follows: “Before God communicated to us in the language of words, he first had to communicate to us in his language of physical realities.” God could have merely stated that He’s powerful, and we would be obliged to believe him. On the other hand, how would we know what the word “power” means without real, tangible experience of the word. What is power? By making a sun for us, God gave us the ability to understand what he means by this - with a sun shining above us, we immediately recognise the reality that word represents.



The last chapter of the book is introduced by a quote from Charles Kingsley, “Never lose an opportunity of seeing something beautiful - beauty is Gods handwriting ...” This is good advice. I warmly recommend that you get yourself a copy of *The Language of Rivers and Stars* – then read it and enjoy!

# A SONG FOR SUMMER

Robert S Moore

## World of Sunshine

Of the several new hymns on “Creation” that have been introduced to us over this summer season, the one that I’ve enjoyed singing the most is undoubtedly “It’s a World of sunshine, a World of rain.”

This all-age hymn was written by the Church of Scotland minister Rev. Ian D Cunningham specifically for his congregation in Carluke where he was minister from 1987 until his retirement in 2022.

The sentiments of the song were inspired by a catchy secular song, but Ian wrote his own tune “World of Sunshine” and reframed the central ideas around a Christian understanding of God’s care for Creation and our shared responsibility for the world. I particularly like the liveliness and rhythm of the tune which I found easy to pick up and to sing.

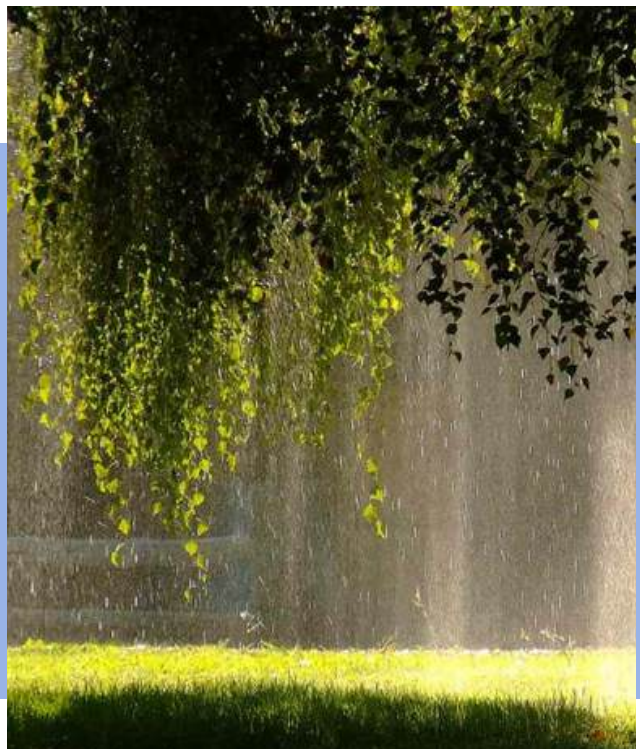
The words contrast key realities of human experience: “sunshine with rain, laughter with pain, plenty with need and faith with doubt.” They also emphasize that humanity must share the earth and learn to care for it and reaffirms that despite the world’s contrasting experiences of greed or hardship, “The world belongs to God”! As such, it remains fundamentally a “Good World.”

To jog your memory,  
the last verse is reproduced below:

It’s a world of water, a world of drought;  
It’s a world of faith, and a world of doubt;  
It’s a world we must share, where we must  
learn to care,  
For the world belongs to God.

*This is Gods world after all,  
This is God’s world after all,  
This is God’s world after all.  
Yes, it’s God’s good world.*

Rev. Ian D Cunningham



# SUMMER SPECIAL 1

*William Mather*

## Church in the pouring rain – Outdoor Church

An experiment. Church. Outdoors. In the pouring rain ... Well, it probably wasn't meant to be like that, but the rain it did come. First a thin drizzle. OK, we can cope with that. But once things got going it really, really did come down.

There were about twenty-five of us crouched under a gazebo and umbrellas. And yes, it was Rosemarkie Beach. And was anybody else around? Well – hardly!

But the show went on and Alan Taylor, who was leading it, didn't seem to mind at all. He had brought some binoculars and a magnifying glass and encouraged us all to look around us with fresh eyes – even through the rain – and appreciate the wonders of creation.

This could be looking at a blade of grass or it could be the vastness of the sea. Inspiring stuff. Then we had half an hour to walk the beach, paddle in wellies, explore under the trees or look out to sea from the covered area in front of the Beach Café.



© William Mather



© William Mather



© William Mather

# SUMMER SPECIAL 1 *cont.*

There was also a sheet of poems and readings to help us think, pray and meditate.

It was special. It was saying 'church' is not just for buildings – but can be any situation where people get together, meet or chat.

Alan, with his wife and family lives on Fortrose High Street, following 20 years of pastoral work in Manchester. He and Rev Warren Beattie – of Black Isle East Church of Scotland (at Rosemarkie) – had chatted about experimenting in different ways of 'doing church.' This was one of them, a 'Summer Special', and there had been another 'Outdoors Church' up Feddon Hill, in the woods above Fortrose.

People still love Jesus and want to follow him, so maybe, just maybe, this is a fresh experiment of meeting with others who want to do the same. And even call it 'church.'

*Sketches - all by William Mather*



© William Mather



© William Mather

# SUMMER SPECIAL 2

*Rev. Dr. Warren R Beattie*

## **“Reactions that ‘Rocked’ the World – Geology and the Black Isle”**

This summer we were delighted to host a “Summer Special” that had as its focus the geology of the Black Isle. We gathered in the church on a Thursday afternoon at the end of July starting with refreshments at 4:00 p.m. The “Make a Joyful Noise” music group rounded off the welcome with a couple of songs from the World Church and the whole globe was certainly in focus for the rest of the afternoon.

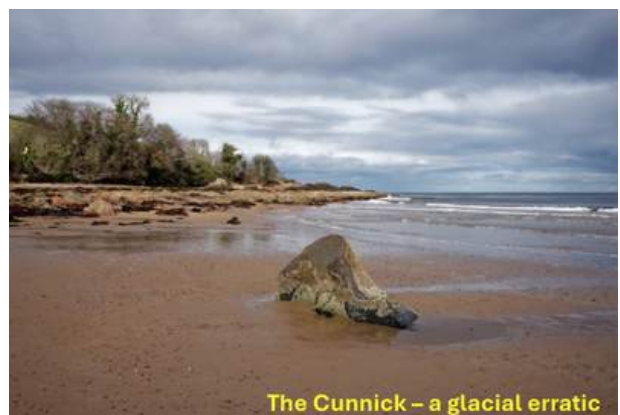
The session was led by Dr. Ian Basham, a local geologist who has been able to travel the world in his profession. Ian opened with a brief overview of Geological Processes - but started at a very practical level showing a range of examples of geological phenomena - landscapes and rocks from around the world - and ended up with granite and sandstone to whet the interest of the local audience. He then gave a brief overview of geological timescales - showing the relevance to Scotland in places like the Great Glen Fault and Rosemarkie's Metamorphic Complex of red microgranite.



© Black Isle East

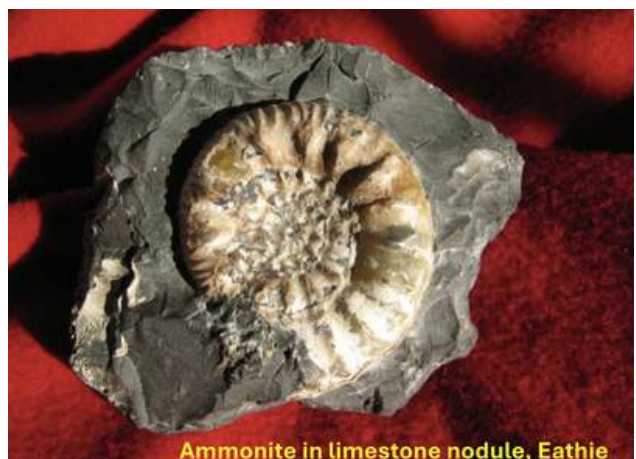


**Raised Beach**



**The Cunnick – a glacial erratic**

# SUMMER SPECIAL 2 *cont.*



There followed a more technical section on the impacts of colliding continents and the way that materials that find their way into terrain, shores and sea-beds over long periods eventually are reshaped under geological forces and ultimately resurface as the layers of local landscapes.

Ian used striking photos from the local area to show how the passage of time as well as impacts from more recent eras have left striking features like raised beaches, glacial deposits and metamorphic complexes that have become part and parcel of the modern Black Isle landscape.

At the conclusion – Warren Beattie thanked Ian and Sheena for coming and giving such a lively presentation - and the afternoon ended with the Bashams displaying a remarkable collection of rocks and chatting to the many visitors who had come to the “Summer Special.”

*Images - Dr. Ian Basham*

# WILD SWIMMING

*Pam Masden*



## A guide for beginners

My friend sent me a coaster recently describing wild swimmers:

**‘Wild Swimmers’ (Noun)  
‘Part fish, part lunatic  
They willingly plunge into freezing water  
Claiming it’s invigorating’**

This is how I describe open water swimming. It is relaxing, invigorating; it can be inexpensive; you can swim almost anytime dependent upon the type of water you are in.

- If swimming in the sea you have to consider the weather, tides, are there any strong currents, rips or marine life (some may give you a nasty sting!)
- It is recommended that you NEVER swim alone, always stay near the shoreline for easy exit should you have problems (cramp, feel cold, and son on).
- If there are lifeguards always obey their rules.
- If swimming in lochs, lakes, rivers, etc always check your entry and exit points. Enter the water slowly as sudden immersion could cause \*cold water shock Plus there could be submerged objects such as large rocks, boulders, tree roots, and similar.

\* Cold water shock - effects when entering the water could be: Uncontrollable gasping causing you to swallow water, hence affecting your breathing. Strain on your heart, possibly causing a heart attack. Inability to breathe.

### Essential Gear

- **Swimsuit** - wearing two can help to keep your body core warm.
- **Hat** – bright colours so that you are visible to boats and people on land.
- **Goggles** – lenses appropriate to the weather (whether cloudy or sunny).
- **Wetsuit** – definitely keeps you warmer and helps with floating - there are various designs/styles available for different budgets.
- **Tow float** – brightly coloured to help with visibility, plus you can hold onto it should you need to catch your breath!
- **Warm clothes** for after your swim. Layering is best as it helps trap the heat in.
- Remember a **warm wool hat** as approximately 80% of heat is lost through your head.
- A **warm drink** and a **snack** will help the warming process.

Dress quickly as swimmers can get the post swim ‘after drop’. This is when cold water returns to your core as you warm up. It can cause hypothermia.

Last but not least, if you are swimming alone always inform someone of your plans: location, approximate time of return, and if possible be contactable by mobile phone.

From a complete open water novice you could be the next long-distance swimmer - swimming around the Island of Jersey ... the English Channel ... the Straits of Gibraltar to mention but a few!!

Most of all ENJOY!

# DISCIPLESHIP EXPLORED

*Stuart Tickner*

## **‘Explore’ Discipleship Explored**

We are pleased to announce that Black Isle East Church of Scotland is running a new:

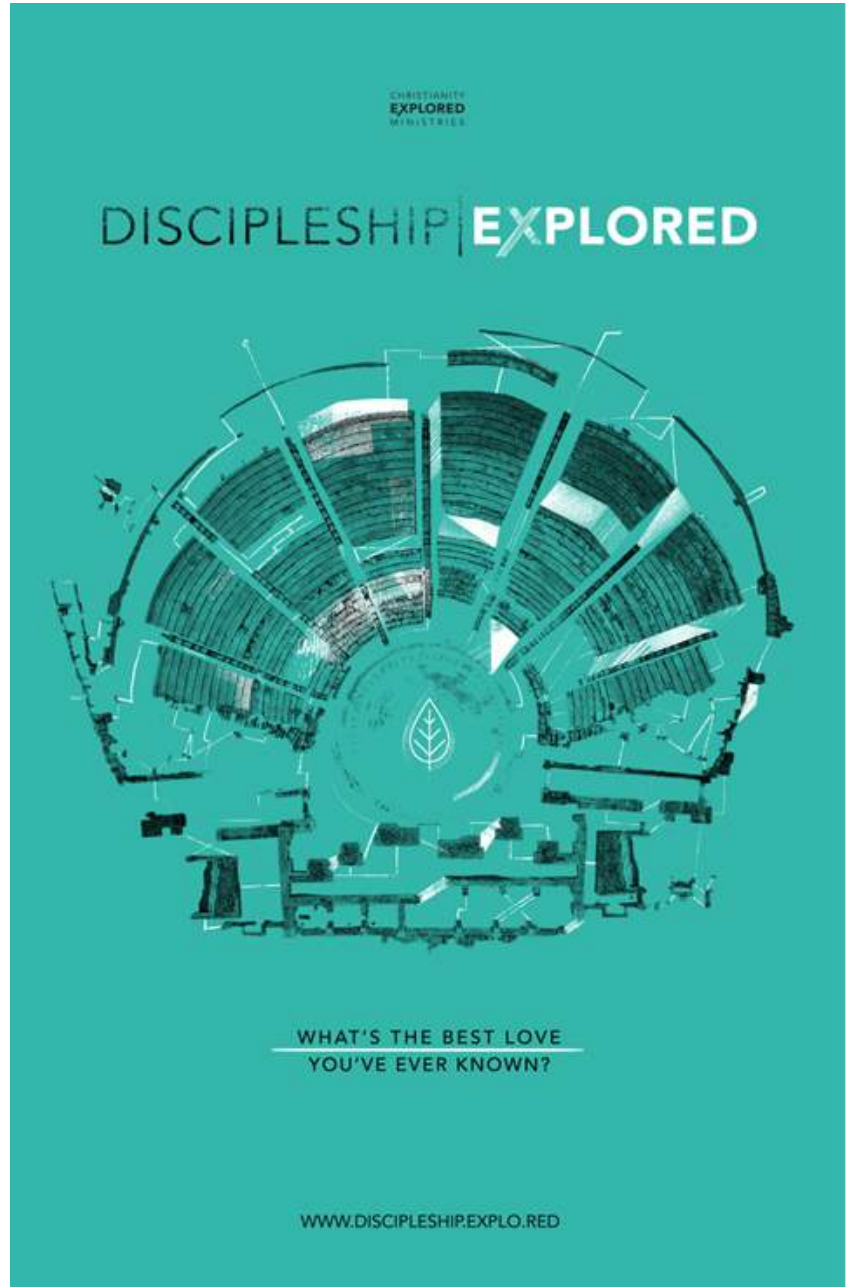
### **Discipleship Explored Course**

On the 1st and 3rd  
Wednesdays of each month  
(+ 5th Wed in September)

In St. Regulus Church,  
Cromarty at 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

This is an interactive group which always starts with refreshments, followed by a 15-minute video and then discussion of themes based on the book of Philippians in the New Testament.

All welcome - free entry!



# EDINBURGH FESTIVAL CHORUS '26

*Aileen Fraser*

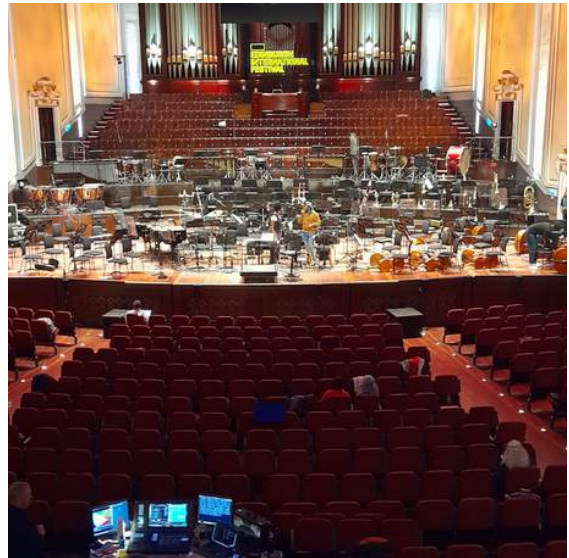
## The Edinburgh Festival Chorus 2026

In the Edinburgh Festival, I sing with the resident Edinburgh Festival Chorus, (music director James Grossmith), taking part in unfamiliar or rare pieces requiring huge forces, with the finest international orchestras, soloists and conductors. A much-appreciated delight for me!

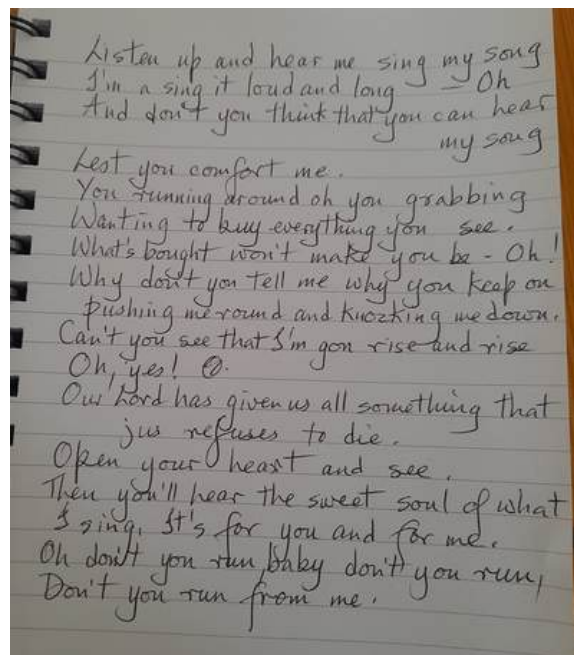
The Edinburgh Festival focused attention on America this year, including its culturally diverse communities. Our first piece 'All Rise', composed by multi-gifted trumpeter, Wynton Marsalis, had its first performance here, with the composer playing, as part of the performance. It's his story of music from birth/the beginning of time, with the 12-bar blues integral in each movement. His strong belief and testimony of the glory of God is stated in the final up-beat Chorus. This year, celebrating his last as Artistic Director of Jazz at the Lincoln Center, he brought his fellow instrumentalists the Jason Max Ferdinand Singers over from New York.

'The Song of Hiawatha', composed by the Anglo-African composer Samuel Coleridge Taylor, is based on the poem about a native American, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. A Victorian piece, it was performed annually in the Albert Hall for decades but is rarely heard now.

The beautifully dramatic 'Das Klagende Lied' [The Song of Lament], by 19th century Gustav Mahler, is based on a moralistic story by the brothers Grimm.



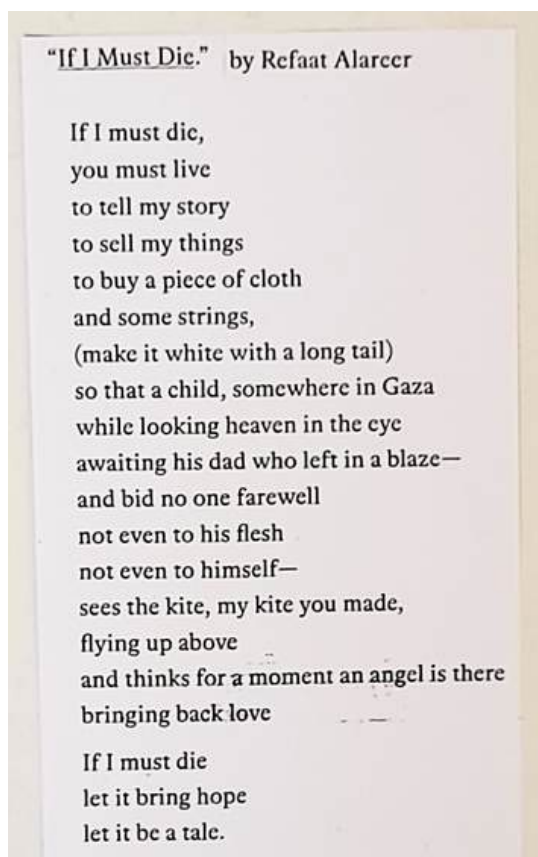
© Aileen Fraser



Postponed, owing to Covid - as it is not easy or desirable to sing or play wind instruments wearing a mask! Swathes of sopranos and altos were missing this time owing to a virus. Was this Covid rearing its ugly head again?

Swedish conductor Sofi Jeannin had us all 'at her feet', with 'improvements' delivered with utter tact, humour and kindness, whilst we performed 'This Shining Night' with varied pieces, some by Americans, and some lightly accompanied, but minus the orchestra. As we all trooped off-stage, she was in the wings, smiling, and thanking each of us. This was a late-night Bean-bag concert! Seating in the stalls was replaced by brightly coloured beanbags and a comfy-looking audience, enjoyed some spirituals.

A memorable exhibition by glass artist, Alison Kinnaird, featured her ability to make a glass kite look as though it was as pliable as silk. It was her response to this poem:



Sofi Jeannin  
Jean-Pierre Dalbéra, CC BY 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons



Three of the four Concerts are being broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and will be available on BBC iPlayer for a calendar month from the date of broadcast:

Mahler's *Das klagende Lied* (14 Sep 26)  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00317fj>

Coleridge-Taylor's *The Song of Hiawatha* (15 Sep 26)  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00317d4>

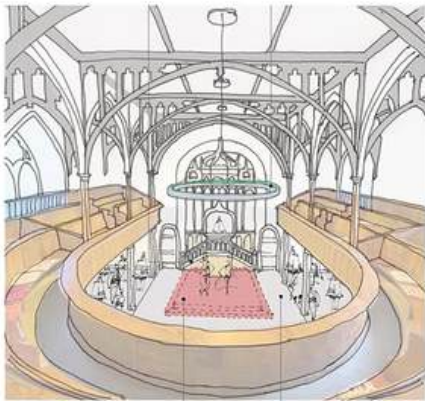
Wynton Marsalis: *Symphony No 1 'All Rise'* (17 Sep 26)  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00317yb>

# ROSEMARKIE RENOVATIONS

Jack Kernahan

## Rosemarkie Church Building - Renovations

We are still working towards the coming planned interior renovations of the Rosemarkie Church Building interior – but we wanted to remind you of the recent changes that have been made to the exterior of the building - like the Tower - as seen against the backdrop of some heavenly lighting!



HRI Munro Architecture - sketch of projected sanctuary space



© Claire Hemsworth

This is an extract from our website below:

*The Church of Scotland Presbytery Mission Plan has encouraged church buildings to be “well-equipped spaces in the right places.”*

*Following assessments of our church building, the congregation was encouraged to refurbish. Work continues at a measured pace around the improvements to the Rosemarkie building. It has taken around five months to obtain Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent. The Building Warrant process continues ...*

*... These renovations will make the building more accessible and contemporary allowing it to be a more flexible space for worship and congregational community life.*

# PATHWAYS TRAINING

*Rev. Dr. Warren R Beattie*

## Equipping God's people to serve their local church

This Autumn, the Presbytery of Clèir Eilean ì - the church of Scotland in the Highlands and Hebrides will run two 'Pathways' training courses for elders and members who would like to develop ministry and pastoral skills through the Highland Theological College (University of the Highlands and Islands).

The 'Leading Worship' course, led by Rev. Dr. Warren R. Beattie offers a 10-week training (from Wed 16 September 26) for those who would like to develop their skills to 'Lead Worship' in local congregations. The course covers key topics and includes practical activities plus a relevant assignment with a short presentation. It enables students to arrange three 'church practicals' to gain 'hands-on' experience. Those who complete the necessary requirements will be accredited to 'Lead Worship' in the Presbytery of Clèir Eilean ì in a range of situations.

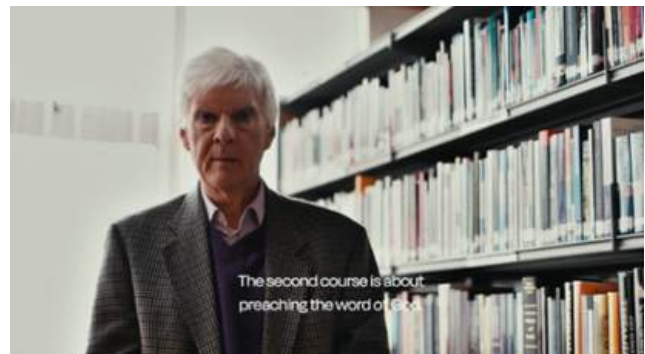


A parallel 10-week course around the skills for 'Conducting a Funeral' will be led by Pastor Mike Rattenberry (weekly from Tues 15 September 26). This will offer similar kinds of training, interaction and accreditation.

Later, in the spring of 2027, the Rev. Hector Morrison (Principal of HTC) will lead the third parallel 'Pathways' course entitled, 'Preaching the Word of God' to equip for that aspect of ministry development.

See the Advert and 2026 Video for more details:

<https://www.blackisleeastchurch.com/about-us>



A poster for 'THE PATHWAYS COURSE'. The title is in large white letters. Below it, the tagline 'Equipping God's people to serve their local church.' is written. The poster lists three courses: 'Leading Worship' (September 2026), 'Conducting a Funeral' (September 2026), and 'Preaching the Word of God' (January 2027). To the right, under 'Apply Now', it says 'Applications are welcomed with the approval of your minister or supporting Church Leadership.' and provides the contact email 'kathryn.stewart@uhi.ac.uk'. At the bottom, it states '3 online courses with each course conducted over a 10-week period every Tuesday evening, 7:30-9pm'.



# BLACK ISLE EAST PARISH NEWS

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**Join us on Sunday Mornings at 10:30 a.m.  
and throughout the week**

**For more information visit:**

**Website:** [blackisleeastchurch.com](http://blackisleeastchurch.com)

**Facebook:** Black Isle East Church

**Email:** [blackisleeastchurch@gmail.com](mailto:blackisleeastchurch@gmail.com)

**Location:** High Street, Rosemarkie, IV10 8UF

**Minister:** Rev Dr Warren R Beattie