



Seafield Parish Church of Scotland, Banffshire

Parish Post

15th February 2026

Welcome to your Parish Post, a roundup of all that's happening in and around the churches of Cornhill, Cullen and Portsoy, and giving you the chance to read a digested version of John's Sunday message. If you'd like a copy emailed to you or delivered to your home, please let John know on 07941 511192 or jgow@churchofscotland.org.uk

Verse of the Week

'The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.'
Lamentations 3:25

When answers feel slow, God's goodness is never absent.

This Week

- Mon 15th Feb: Monday Prayers at 8.30am in Portsoy Church Centre
Movie Monday at 2pm in Portsoy Church Centre. This week, showing Jane Austen's 'Emma', with the usual intermission halfway through for tea/coffee.
- Tues 17th Feb: Coffee 'n Company from 10am to 12 noon in Portsoy Church Centre
- Wed 18th Feb: Soup & Pancake Lunch in Cullen Hall Church from 12 noon to 2pm, including a raffle and product stall (plants, bakes etc) Volunteers to help with serving, washing dishes etc would be gratefully accepted – contact Rev Kay if you're available. Donations of prizes for the raffle would be much appreciated.
- Thurs 19th Feb: Kirk Session meets at 7pm in Portsoy Church Centre.
- Fri 20th Feb: The Well Café in Portsoy Church Centre from 9.15 to 11.15am.
- Sun 22nd Feb: Sunday Services at 9.30am in Cornhill (with a special celebration of 100 years of World Thinking Day) and 11am in Cullen, both with Rev Kay Gauld, and 11am in Portsoy with Rev John Gow.**

Looking Ahead

- Thurs 26th Feb: Portsoy 75 Club Bingo Night in the Station Hotel, Portsoy, in aid of church funds. Doors open 7pm and eyes down at 7.30. Donations of raffle prizes would be appreciated for this too!
- Thurs 5th Mar: Coffee Corner in Cornhill Church Hall from 10am to 11.30am
- Friday 6th Mar: World Day of Prayer service in Portsoy Church Centre at 7pm.



Seafield Parish Church of Scotland, Banffshire

This Week's Word

Luke 11: 1-13

In the passage I've been thinking about this week, the disciples watch Jesus pray and realise there's something different about the way he does it. He isn't repeating set phrases or relying on priests to speak to God on his behalf. He's talking to God with the ease and honesty of someone speaking to a loving Father. And so they ask him, very simply, "*Lord, teach us to pray.*"

Jesus responds by giving them what we now call the Lord's Prayer. It's not meant to be a strict script, it's meant to be a pattern - a way of shaping our prayers so they include praise, trust, forgiveness, and dependence on God. It's a framework for a relationship, not a formula for getting results.

But Jesus knows that even with a pattern, prayer won't always feel straightforward. There'll be times when we pray and feel as though nothing's happening. Times when God seems silent. Times when we wonder whether our prayers are even being heard. So Jesus tells a story about someone who keeps knocking on a neighbour's door until he gets what he needs. The point isn't that God's reluctant or needs to be pestered. It's the opposite: if even a tired neighbour eventually responds, how much more will God - who loves us - hear and answer.

Jesus then gives us some well-known words: "*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened.*" These words aren't about wearing God down. They're about trust. Persistence in prayer shows that what we're asking for matters to us, and that we believe God is listening even when we can't yet see the outcome.

This is where faith comes in. Hebrews describes faith as "*the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*" Persistent prayer is one of the ways we live out that conviction. It's how we say, "God, I believe you're here. I believe you care. And I'm not giving up."

Of course, many of us know what it's like to pray persistently and still feel stuck. And Jesus doesn't pretend that every prayer gets an immediate "yes." Sometimes the answer is "not yet," and sometimes it's "no." Those answers can be painful, but Jesus reminds us that God's "no" is never harsh or careless. It's the "no" of a loving Father who sees more than we do and wants what is truly good for us.

Paul experienced this when he prayed for the a thorn in his flesh to be removed. God didn't give him the healing he asked for, but instead gave him the strength and grace to endure his pain. Paul came to see that God's presence in his weakness was the deeper gift.

And that's what Jesus ends his advice to the disciples with: a promise that God gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask. In other words, God gives us Himself. Prayer isn't just about answers; it's about a relationship. It's the place where we bring our hopes, our hurts, and our trust - and it's the place where God meets us with His presence.

So when prayer feels difficult or slow, Jesus encourages *us* not to give up. Keep asking. Keep seeking. Keep knocking. Because the God who loves us is always listening, and always nearby.