

FOCUS

Portsoy Church Magazine



February 2025 — March 2025

A Message from the Manse

So it's the end of January, a time (as we all know) for fresh starts, grand plans, and, of course, resolutions. We all know the drill, don't we? I spoke about it in church at the beginning of the month, we promise to live a bit healthier, eat more veggies, spend less time on our phones, and maybe even read the Bible cover to cover. But let's be honest—by February (and that's only days away, already!) many of those resolutions, they're as broken as the Christmas ornaments we forgot to pack away carefully.

But broken resolutions aren't the end of the world. Actually, they can be a timely reminder of our humanity.

The Bible's full of stories of people who made grand promises and then, well, who didn't quite follow through. Take Peter, for example. He swore up and down that he would never deny Jesus and then he did, three times before the rooster crowed. Or David, who despite being a man after God's own heart, made some pretty big blunders. These stories remind us that even the best of us have our moments of weakness.

The beauty of our faith lies in grace, you see. Grace is like that friend who shows up with a big smile and a fancy pie just when you need it most. It's the unmerited favour of God, it's a gift we receive not because we deserve it, but because God loves us unconditionally. When we break our resolutions, it becomes an opportunity to experience this grace in a profound way. . Instead of beating ourselves up, we can turn to God,

asking for His forgiveness and for the strength to try again. Broken resolutions can also teach us humility. They remind us that we're human, with all the quirks and imperfections that come with it. This humility can deepen our reliance on God, as we recognise that we can't achieve our goals through our own strength alone. In our weakness, God's power is made perfect (2 Corinthians 12:9).

And broken resolutions can foster a sense of community within the church too. When we share our struggles and failures with one another, we create an environment of support and encouragement. We realize that we're not alone in our journey, and we can lift each other up in prayer and fellowship. This sense of community, it can be a powerful source of motivation and accountability as we strive to live out our faith.

Every Blessing

John

If you need me for anything or you'd just like to call for a chat, my numbers are 01261 838506 and 07941 511192, or drop me an email at jgow@churchofscotland.org.uk

Please contact John on 07941 511 192 if you know of anyone who is ill at home or in hospital.

Funerals

31 December: Agnes Gifford

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

WELCOME TEAMS

10.00am Portsoy Church Centre

February

2 February	Margaret Whewell & Olwen Christie
9 February	Edith Stuart & Eileen Brown
16 February	Helen D'Arcy & Yvonne McKay
23 February	Moira McKenzie & Sheila McKay

March

2 March	Margaret Whewell & Olwen Christie
9 March	Edith Stuart & Eileen Brown
16 March	Cullen
23 March	Helen D'Arcy & Yvonne McKay
30 March	Moira McKenzie & Sheila McKay

April

6 April	Margaret Whewell & Olwen Christie
13 April	Edith Stuart & Eileen Brown
20 April	Helen D'Arcy & Yvonne McKay
27 April	Cornhill

Flower Rota

February

2 Margaret Whewell
9 Edith Stuart
16 FF
23 Eileen Brown

March

2 Olwen Christie
9 Helenor Henderson
16 Cullen
23 Helen D'Arcy
30 Anne McArthur

April

6 Yvonne McKay
13 Sheila McKay
20 Easter FF
27 Cornhill

Many thanks to all donating to the Flower Fund. This gives us beautiful flowers in church each Sunday, which we gift to members of the community after the service. If you would like to join the flower rota, please let Margaret know. More volunteers are always welcome.(01261 843125) FF = Flower Fund



The CARTOON KRONICLES

Photo

'Carols & Teas in the Church Centre was a great afternoon - wish we could say the same about John's jokes...'





Prayer Focus

"Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually."

1 Corinthians 12:27

It is wonderful to see so many people gathering together at 'Coffee and Company' and having a happy time week after week. There is a real buzz of chatter and they all seem to be sharing happiness, problems and concerns with each other and with the 'Coffee and Company' wonderful volunteers serving coffee and teas etc.

Fellowship is so much more than people getting together in the same place for the same reason. We need to get out and about and serve in ways, such as providing comfort and compassion, offering physical assistance, giving emotional support to anyone going through a tough time at work or at home, offering financial relief and helping someone find inner strength to follow God's leading in his/her life. We don't need to go far to serve others. I am sure there are those in need who live around us who would appreciate a helping hand or a time spent together for as little as a chat and Company.

Christian fellowship also shares things like trust, hope, a sense of security, lifelong friendships, faith, patience, and best of all, true unconditional love that can only come from people who have a personal relationship with God.

God created the perfect "company" for fellowship, and that is the family where He intended that daily fellowship would be a means of developing deep loving relationships. For those who have received Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour, their "family" extends beyond what most people consider as family.

Father, we recognise that the Church is a living body, containing many parts. We trust that it lives, moves and it touches many hearts. Thank you for all the benefits which come to us through being a member of Your Church. Help us to reach out with love and support. Please open the hearts and minds of those who attend "Coffee and Company " that you showed true love and compassion in the sacrifice of Your Son Jesus Christ for them.

We thank You for the many times when we too have received love and compassion from many kind members in our Church in times of sickness, sorrow and heartache.

Amen




Thank You

Kathy Milne would like to say Thank You for her visit from Olwen and the beautiful flowers she received from the church following her recent short stay in ARI.

FOCUS DEADLINE

The next edition of Focus will cover April to May 2025. Please let Johanna Sturrock have articles and any photographs for inclusion no later than Sunday 16 March. unicornathome@gmail.com.



2025 sees us looking at yet more amazing women.

January 29th : Miriam and Zipporah
February 26th : The wives of King David (How many!)
March 26th : The wives of King David continues...
April 16th : (Holy week) Easter women
May 28th : Finally Bathsheba. The last wife of King David.

There's always good company, a cuppa and something delicious to eat!

It's a group for those with faith, no faith or a different Faith.

It's for people from this Church, that Church or NO church at all!

Come along - You will be given a warm welcome!

No need to bring anything except yourselves.
We meet in the Church Centre at 7pm until 8.30pm unless otherwise advertised.
Always a Wednesday.

Programme and dates may occasionally need to change.

If you want to know more about us please contact Kath on: 07759692968 or ask a Link lady.

Link Ladies

Link Ladies had a lovely Christmas celebration together and we look forward to meeting up again on the 29th January. We usually meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7pm until around 8.30pm.

Our group has grown over the 18 months of being together but we would love to have more 'linkers' . We have people from different churches, faiths and communities. Come along and

give us a try! I think I am safe in saying that the evenings are enjoyed by all who come.

This year we continue to look at some interesting characters from the bible. We are going to put the searchlight on King David's wives over the next few months. They have very interesting stories to tell!

I have enjoyed learning about the very many different women in the Bible and am amazed, as I look to plan for the next year, just how many stories there are that I had never really thought about before!

If you would like more information please feel free to get in touch: Kath on 07759692968 OR ask someone who already comes along. Kath Findlay

House Group

Our house group has been running now since October last year in our home in Aird Street.

We usually have about 9 of us meeting every fortnight to study the bible, and our next meetings will be February 4th and 18th, and March 4th and 18th.

We are now nearing the end of our study on the book of James. It's been an extremely interesting book to kick off the house group meetings and we have had some great, and often stimulating conversations around it, and, also some fun too.

We are close to the maximum for numbers of people attending but if the interest is there, we would happily run a second group on a different evening.

If anyone would like to attend, or even just to find out more about the group, please speak to myself or Kath.

Ian Findlay

Portsoy Church Guild

Hello all Guild members, and a slightly late Happy New Year! It seems almost unbelievable that we're in February already, doesn't it?

I think you'd all agree that we had a successful term before Christmas. Thank you to all who helped with the Christmas Coffee Morning - what an event that turned out to be, eh? We raised the magnificent total of £936.69 for Guild Project charities. Thank you to all who helped and supported the event.

Our final meeting of the year was our Christmas lunch, an enjoyable time, with both good food and good company.

Our first meeting this year is on Tuesday 4th February as usual at 2pm in the Church Centre, and our speaker will be Shona Milne, Case-Officer for North-East Scotland Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RSABI) a charity which provides support for people in Scottish agriculture which I'm sure is a subject close to the hearts of many of our members.

On March 4th we welcome Alison Wood, Senior Perinatal Counsellor from Crossreach, a charity which our Church has long faithfully supported.

And then we come to our AGM on 1st April! Suggestions for entertainment or a speaker for this meeting would be very welcome, as we have nothing definite planned at the moment. Please let me know your thoughts.

I look forward to seeing you all on 4th February. Love and blessings, Margaret. (margaret.whewell@bopenworld.com 01261 843125)

Directory

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Mr Ian Whewell - as above

Church Centre Convener Mr Ian Whewell - as above
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Centre Caretaker

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Focus

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Service Times

10.30am at the Church Centre every Sunday

Except for the following joint service:
16th March 10.30am at Cullen Hall Church

(refreshments served after Sunday services)

Please join us for all are welcome

Website—<http://www.portsoychurch.org>

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Scottish Charity No: SC 000522