



Seafield Parish Church of Scotland, Banffshire

www.seafieldchurchbanffshire.org.uk

Parish Post

5th April 2026

Welcome to your weekly 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

'He is not here; he has risen.' Luke 24:6

A reminder that God's love refuses to stay buried. Where we expect endings, he brings beginnings. Where we brace ourselves for darkness, he steps in with dawn. May this resurrection hope rise quietly but surely with us this Easter.

This Week

Mon 6th Apr

Monday Prayers at 8.30am in Portsoy Church Centre.

Tues 7th Apr:

Coffee 'n Company from 10am to 12 noon in Portsoy Church Centre.

Portsoy Guild meets at 2pm in Portsoy Church Centre. This month's speakers will be Anne and James Youn from Lighthouse Group, Buckie. All welcome, whether a Guild member or not!

CAOSS Group is offering a free Taster Session in Cornhill Church Hall from 7.30 to 8pm. This is an opportunity for anyone from P3 upwards to come along and try an instrument if they haven't played one before, and a chance for those who do play but who would like to play in a group to give that a try!

Sun 12th Apr:

Sunday Services at 9.30am in Cornhill Church and 11am in Portsoy Church Centre, both with Rev John Gow. No service in Cullen.

Looking Ahead

Fri 17th Apr:

The Well Café in Portsoy Church Centre resumes after the Easter break. 9.15-11.15am, with healthy snacks, tea and coffee and a play area for pre-school children.



Seafield Parish Church of Scotland, Banffshire

www.seafieldchurchbanffshire.org.uk

This Week's Word

Mark 16: 1-8

Most of our Bibles have Mark's Gospel with 20 verses, ending with Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalene, then to two disciples on the road, then to the eleven, before giving the Great Commission and ascending to heaven. But many translations add a wee note in brackets: "Some of the earliest manuscripts do not include verses 9-20."

In other words, the neat, familiar ending we're used to was probably not part of Mark's original text. The language feels different, the tone shifts, and many scholars believe those verses were added later to "tidy up" a Gospel that otherwise ends rather abruptly at the eighth verse.

Maybe that's exactly the ending that Mark intended, though...

Before we explore that, imagine a wee boy dragged to church one Easter morning. His shoes are too tight, his tie is choking him, and the sun is shining outside. As he sulks, he mutters: "I don't know why we've got to go to church at Easter. They keep telling the same old story and it always comes out the same in the end."

Many of us might sympathise. Easter can feel familiar: Jesus rises, appears to his friends, ascends to heaven, and the church begins. The same story, year after year. But Mark's original Gospel doesn't end that way.

He tells us about the women going to the tomb at dawn, wondering who will roll away the stone. They find it already moved. They hear the astonishing news from an angel: "He has risen." And then there's nothing. No appearance of Jesus. No joyful reunion. No Great Commission. Instead, his Gospel stops at this line: "They said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."

It's as if the Gospel ends mid-stride, leaving us suspended, waiting for the next step. Eugene Peterson once wrote that Mark leaves us "in balance," with the other foot needing to come down somewhere, in belief or unbelief.

I don't think Mark's 'unfinished' Gospel is a mistake. I think it's an invitation. I think it hands the story back to us.

The women at the tomb couldn't un-hear the angel's message. We can't un-know the resurrection story either. We're already in motion. The only question is where our next step lands. His Gospel ends with a choice, it's saying: "You've heard the Good News. Now what will you do with it?"

And into that unfinished space comes a detail from the angel's message: "He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him."

Galilee wasn't a holy mountain or a sacred temple. It was home, a place of ordinary life, familiar roads, daily routines. Jesus promises to meet his followers not in a set-apart spiritual moment, but in the middle of their everyday world. And that's how it is for us.

The risen Christ goes ahead of us into our own Galilees, into our workplaces, our kitchens, our hospital appointments, our difficult conversations, into our quiet mornings and anxious nights. He meets us where life is lived.

I think Mark leaves the last lines unwritten because they're ours to write.

Christ is risen. He goes ahead of us, and he waits to be met.

The question is how will we finish the story?