



Seafield Parish Church of Scotland, Banffshire

www.seafieldchurchbanffshire.org.uk

Parish Post

9th August 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

'Thos who look to Him are radiant.'

Psalm 34:5

A gentle encouragement to always lift our gaze, and to remember that light has a way of finding us.

This Week

Tues 11th Aug: Coffee & Company in the Portsoy Centre from 10am to 12 noon.

Looking Ahead

Fri 21st Aug: The Well Café returns after the summer holidays, with a play area for pre-school children and healthy snacks and drinks for all. 9.15 to 11.15am.

Wed 26th Aug: Service in Wakefield House, Cullen at 2pm. All welcome to join in the singing!

Thurs 27th Aug: Kirk Session meeting in the Portsoy Centre at 7pm.

Sun 9th Aug: Sunday Services at 11am in Cullen Hall Church with Rev Iain and Anthea Macnee and 11am in Portsoy Church Centre with Rev Dr Kay Gauld (no service in Cornhill).

This Week's Word

Acts 18: 1-3 & 18-26

Over these past weeks, our series on "Bible Pairs" has taken us through some of Scripture's most memorable relationships. We started back in July with an image from our Thrift Shops of a single glove sitting alone on a shelf, waiting for the half that makes it whole. Along the way, we've looked at pairs torn apart by rivalry like Cain and Abel, undone by deception like Samson and Delilah, and bound together by deep loyalty like Ruth and Naomi.

This week, we're finishing the series by looking at a pair who're not so famous, but maybe much closer to how most of us live out our faith: Aquila and Priscilla.

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They don't have a dramatic story arc, and they don't have a book of the Bible named after them. They appear and disappear here and there throughout the book of Acts and in a few of Paul's letters. But every single time they're mentioned, they're together, and they're doing something useful.

We first come across them in Acts 18. When Paul arrived in the busy port city of Corinth on his own, he met Aquila and Priscilla, an Italian Jewish couple who'd recently been forced out of Rome by an imperial decree. They were tentmakers and because Paul shared their trade, they opened their workshop and their home to him.

Paul's mission in Corinth didn't begin with a grand public strategy; it began at a work bench with ordinary tradespeople who simply said "yes" to taking in a stranger.

Later, when the couple travelled with Paul to Ephesus, they encountered Apollos - a gifted, eloquent speaker who taught passionately about Jesus but who didn't have a full understanding of the gospel. Rather than calling Apollos out in public or humiliating him, Priscilla and Aquila quietly took him aside in private and explained the way of God to him in more detail. It's interesting to notice that Luke names both of them in doing this teaching - in fact, Priscilla's often named first, highlighting a true, equal partnership of shared calling and ministry.

But why does their story matter so much for us today?

Well, I think sometimes there's a temptation to assume that "mission" is something reserved for ministers, evangelists, or people with theology degrees. But Aquila and Priscilla weren't apostles or priests; they were ordinary tradespeople who used the life, the skills, and the home they had for God's work. They probably wouldn't have even used the word "mission", they were just living out their faith naturally.

"Mission" isn't a job title, a church committee, or a special program. Biblical mission is simply the way of God spilling into the lives of ordinary people and then spilling out again into the world around them.

Sometimes mission looks like preaching, sure, but sometimes it just looks like opening your front door to welcome a stranger. Sometimes it looks like taking someone aside to offer gentle encouragement or guidance. Sometimes it looks like just being present when someone's going through a hard time.

Mission begins in the ordinary places, at the kitchen table, over the shop counter, in the street, or in a quiet conversation on a doorstep. It happens whenever someone chooses welcome over indifference, gentleness over embarrassment, and presence over avoidance.

As a church family across Portsoy, Cullen, and Cornhill, Seafield Church doesn't have a minister (me!) who's "doing the mission" on everyone's behalf. Mission is happening in all sorts of places. It's happening when any of us visit the housebound or sit with someone who has received bad news. It's present with all those who work for our churches, like arranging church flowers and setting out the chairs, as much as with those who take the opportunity to share what their faith means to them to enquiring minds.

Aquila and Priscilla never got a spotlight, but the early church grew precisely because of steady, faithful people like them. And I pray that we'll continue to be a church of everyday "Aquilas and Priscillas", taking whatever life skills, personal strengths and homes we have, and using them for God quietly, faithfully, and together.

Every blessing

John