

FOCUS

Portsoy Church Magazine



August 2025 — September 2025

A Message from the Manse

Those who were present at a Sunday service recently, or who were watching online, might know that the latest gadget I've treated myself to is a pair of smart glasses. They look pretty much like ordinary glasses, I think, they're just a bit thicker and heavier. And they're not especially flashy, but they quietly offer a new way of seeing things. With a short tap I can take a photo, a longer tap films a video. I can respond to a message, I can check directions. The glasses allow me to engage more deeply with what's around me, without pulling me away from it.

But, I've been wondering too though: if these glasses can help me see more clearly (and they do, I've got my varifocal lenses in them!) and stay more connected, is there a chance they might reflect something of the Gospel too?

The Bible's full of stories about vision—about eyes opened and hearts awakened. Think of the disciples on the Emmaus Road, for instance, whose eyes were suddenly opened as Jesus broke bread. Or, there's the blind man in John 9 who, having been healed, not only sees the world for the first time but at the same time sees the truth of the One who healed him.

Smart glasses like mine won't bring that kind of transformation (they'd have to be an awful lot more expensive, if they did!) but they do make me think about what we miss when we're distracted, and what we gain when we're tuned in to our surroundings. In the Gospel, Christ calls us to see differently, though - to notice the forgotten, to perceive grace in ordinary places, to fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is

unseen.

Technology often encourages us to look down at the wee screens in our hands. But maybe the invitation of the Gospel is to look up, and to see not just with our eyes, but with attention, wonder, and compassion. If smart glasses can help us stay present while we're still connected—then maybe they offer a small echo of the Gospel's invitation: "Stay awake. Be present. Look for what matters."

Even in our age of notifications, though, scripture says something deeper to us: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." In the blur of technology and screens, maybe all that we actually need are new lenses - not necessarily the kind you buy, but the kind that God offers: lenses of grace, clarity, and love.

Every blessing
John

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

Funerals

12 June:	Rena Smith
20 June:	Frances Smith
24 July:	Jim Hamilton

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

Portsoy Church Guild

Well, the summer break seems to be flying by, and before we know it the new Guild year will be starting! However, as most (all?) of you will be aware, the Guild has been active through the summer break. We held our usual Boat Festival Teas in the Church Centre on the Saturday of Boat Festival, and welcomed many people - both regulars and visitors to the town - for a much-needed rest from the bustle and excitement of the Festival. All seemed to appreciate the refreshments on offer, and also enjoyed the friendly welcome and service from our faithful and hard-working team of servers, not forgetting those working tirelessly behind the scenes, making the lovely sandwiches and keeping the plates topped up with scones, cakes and pancakes. And of course, keeping the tea and coffee pots at the ready! Thank you to you all. The total raised was £1,224.00

Only two weeks later, we were hard at it again for our Thrift Shop. Thank you to all who donated clothing, books and other items for sale, and again to our team who sorted and set up, manned the stalls, and kept the rails and tables looking fresh and inviting all week. Again, an excellent total was raised: £2014.00.

One of the best things about the Thrift Shop is that - like the Boat Festival Teas - it brings visitors into our beautiful Church Centre. Many people expressed their admiration for the building, commented on the beautiful wall-hanging and asked about the history of the church. And some just enjoyed the break from the intense heat outside!

Now we look forward to the new Session of Guild, beginning on Tuesday 2nd September. It is hoped that our first speaker will

be Tracy Flemming from "Homestart". The new syllabus should be ready before then, with good meetings planned. Some still to be confirmed at the time of writing this.

Please do bring a friend along if you can. We would love to have new members, but visitors are also always welcome.

Blessings, Margaret. Margaret.whewell@btopenworld.com Tel: 01267 681543 or 07870 124654



A full house in the Church Centre for Cafe Church with Beyond Boyndie on Haal Weekend.



Sankey Hymns at the Boat Festival in the company of the 75 Club choir was a great success.



Prayer Focus

"A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" Proverbs 18:24

In each of our lives there are many people who need prayer that it is hard to remember to pray for them all each day. The best way to do this is to start praying for the people closest to you...your immediate family and friends. Then move beyond them to your extended family and acquaintances. Pray for people you will see in your day or week...the people at work, at church and the local shops or wherever you go. Ask God to bring to mind anyone who needs your prayers and He will remind you of someone you might not have otherwise thought of. The list of people who need your prayers can be quite extreme... parents, children, extended family, friends, neighbours, our church family, people we meet and so many more. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as choose which ones to pray for and when. The list will help you to think of those who might need prayer more than others, and it will enable you to remember someone you might otherwise have forgotten.

Once you have prayed about a person, release him or her into God's hands. That doesn't mean you don't pray about him or her again when you think of that person. Enjoy the peace of knowing you have surrendered that person and situation to God and He has heard your prayers and will answer in His way and His time.

If you ever find yourself becoming impatient when you don't see your prayers for other people answered as fast as you would like, keep in mind that you are still thinking of someone.

someone. Remember you are uniting with God to see His will done. It is your job to pray. Trust Him to answer your prayers for others in the way and time He decides.

Lord help us to always have compassion and love in our hearts for others. Help us to treat everyone with affection, kindness and care. Give us humble hearts. Bless every relationship we have. Teach us to be good friends with others and to pray for them at all times. May we have confidence that all will be done in Your time and in Your way through Jesus Christ our Saviour and friend. Amen

Flower Rota

August	September	October
3 Margaret Whewell	7 Helenor Henderson	5 Yvonne McKay
10 Edith Stuart	14 Anne McArthur	12 FF
17 FF	21 Cullen	19 Sheila McKay
24 Eileen Brown	28 Helen D'Arcey	26 Cornhill
31 Olwen Christie		

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

FOCUS DEADLINE

The next edition of Focus will cover October 2025 to November 2025. Please let Johanna Sturrock have articles and any photographs for inclusion no later than Sunday 21 September. unicornathome@gmail.com.



TWIDDLE MUFFS

The Presbytery of North East and Northern Isles encouraged congregations to knit Twiddle muffs to then pass on to their local care home. In addition to keeping hands warm, the muffs provide sensory stimulation and sooth restless hands, especially for those with dementia.

The Twiddle Muffs are hand knitted in various colours and textures with buttons, bows, beads and ribbons attached to both inside and out.

WELCOME TEAMS

10.00am Portsoy Church Centre

August

3 August	Helen D'Arcy & Yvonne McKay
10 August	Moirra McKenzie & Sheila McKay
17 August	Margaret Whewell & Olwen Christie
24 March	Edith Stuart & Eileen Brown
31 August	Helen D'Arcy & Yvonne McKay

September

7 September	Moirra McKenzie & Sheila McKay
14 September	Margaret Whewell & Olwen Christie
21 September	Cullen
28 September	Edith Stuart & Eileen Brown

October

5 October	Helen D'Arcy & Yvonne McKay
12 October	Moirra McKenzie & Sheila McKay
19 October	Margaret Whewell & Olwen Christie
26 October	Cornhill

If any of the dates are unsuitable please arrange a swap.

REV WILLIAM SIMMERS MEMORIAL TRUST

Invitation to apply for financial support

In 1985 Portsoy Church received a bequest following the death of Alyce Simmers in Los Angeles, California, a descendent of the late Rev William Simmers, a former minister of the Parish.

Acting as trustees for the fund, Portsoy church was given the responsibility of investing the money and ensuring that the interest was distributed on a regular basis.

Over the past 4 years the interest has accumulated and is now available for distribution.

The terms of the Trust stipulate that the interest be divided into 4 quarters -

One quarter to the minister

One quarter to church funds

One quarter to local amenities/organisations

One quarter to a memorial bursary for those studying fulltime at Aberdeen universities

We now invite written applications for funding assistance from local organisations in Portsoy, Fordyce and Sandend and students studying at Aberdeen Universities which should be sent to: Mr Raymond Wilson 5 St Tarquin's Place, Fordyce, AB45 2SH, e-mail: raymondwilsonpfp@btinternet.com

Applications must be received by 30th September.

Directory

Minister

Rev. John Gow
Tel: 01261 838 506
E-mail: jgow@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk

Mrs Yvonne McKay, 11 The Steadings,
Findochty, AB56 Tel: 07592 395 581
E-mail: Yvonne@therealmckay.co.uk

Treasurer

Mr Raymond Wilson 5 St Tarquin's Place,
Fordyce, AB45 2SH Tel: 01261 842204
E-mail: raymondwilsonpfp@btinternet.com

Gift Aid Convener

Mr Ian Whewell, Eynhallow, 14 South High
Street, Portsoy. Tel: 01261 843 125
E-mail: ian.whewell@btinternet.com

Church Website

Mr Ian Whewell - as above

Church Centre Convener Mr Ian Whewell - as above
(For bookings)

Centre Caretaker

Mrs Sarah Willis, 40, Gordon Crescent,
Portsoy Tel: 01261 843 928 or
07756 53 5731
E-mail: sarahsfamily@btinternet.com

Focus

Mrs Johanna Sturrock
21 Hill Street, Portsoy. Tel: 07766 390 318
E-mail: unicornathome@gmail.com

Service Times

10.30am at the Church Centre every Sunday

Except for the following joint services:
21st September 10.30am at Cullen Hall Church

Special Services:
5th October Harvest Festival

(refreshments served after Sunday services)



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

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Scottish Charity No: SC 000522