



In this Newsletter

Year of Invitation = Lent & Easter resources = Tackle climate change

Is there anyone you know who might like (a part of) this newsletter?
You could maybe copy and send (just the section) to them.
Anyone interested in being added to the mailing list can email us.
The next copy will come out in a fortnight.

To the church...

'He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross' *Phillipians 2: 6-8*

Dear friends,

The root word for Lent is the Dutch word *Lente* –which, as a Dutchman, I never knew - In Dutch, it means Spring and may refer to the lengthening of days. In Christian idiom, the 40-day period is linked to the Greek word *Sarakosti*, which is rooted in the word *forfeit*, relating to Jesus' time of fasting. Thank you dear Jesus for forfeiting your divinity and emptying yourself on a cross for us. May this period of Lent helps us to cleanse our body and spirit in preparation for a deeply meaningful Easter season.

We are making 2021 a Year of Invitation

By Scott McRoberts, minister of St Columba, Dores and Boleskine

After getting this interesting idea -through Here to Serve no 27 and a nudge by our Presbytery's mission development worker- we encouraged each person in our church to make 3 invitations over the next 3 months. It could be the same person to 3 different things, or 3 different people, but 3 invitations as a goal. It's easy to think that there's nothing to invite people to just now, but we found 8 ideas to offer people in our church context:

- going for a walk
 - coming to our Sunday worship on Zoom or YouTube
 - Zoom groups for Alpha
 - our regular Friday night church quiz
 - our daytime bible study
 - our Sunday primary kids' group
 - our over 50s group
 - and the idea of reaching out to neighbours with a neighbourhood Zoom quiz.
- We've seen a few people join in in different ways so far and make interesting connections - we'll see how the next three months go!

New Horizons

By Ian Manson, minister of Kilmorack & Erchless (Beauly)

It is now five years since I came to Inverness Presbytery. I arrived just after what seems to have been a legendary meeting which went on until nearly midnight, making the move seem rather daunting. I'm glad to say that such a thing has not been repeated, even if it might have felt like it sometimes!

My previous charge was in Geneva, a cosmopolitan city centre church in the Presbytery of Europe. I was aware that I was returning to a Scotland and to the Kirk at a time when change was in the air, though naturally I could not have predicted the kind of changes we would see in those five years; first of all politically with our departure from the European Union and more recently with the many issues caused by Covid 19.

Now we can view those olden times with some nostalgia; times when the idea of change was still something we discussed, recognised the need for, and wondered about. Today we are all too aware that it is being imposed upon us here and now, and that we seem to have very little say in the direction it will take. The recent paper which Trevor Hunt shared from David Kendall make that all too plain.

There may have been times when people joined the church looking for stability and certainty, but those are not our times. We know that to be the church requires faith, hope and love, trust in things which are beyond our control, and a willingness to serve which might take us beyond our comfort zones. Perhaps that is how it always ought to be, and perhaps we can see this as an exciting time as we wait faithfully and actively to see how the future takes shape.

Lent and Easter resources

For Lent:

<https://40acts.org.uk/> 40 days, 40 challenges, 40 ways to make a difference.

<https://licc.org.uk/resources/trusting-god-journey/>

Trusting God, a 40-day prayer journey

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/lent/> Various reflective prayer Lent journeys

For Lent and Easter:

<https://www.cru.org/us/en/blog/life-and-relationships/holidays/easter-outreach-ideas.html> Ten Easter outreach ideas

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/easter/>
Resources for Lent & Easter, for families, individuals & churches

<https://www.cpo.org.uk/easter-resources> Many cards, booklets and banners

<https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/blog/usefulresources/2017/02/08/free-resources-for-easter-outreach/> Various thoughtful videos and resources

For children:

<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resource/summary-easter-resources>
Full packs & downloads and many further links

<https://ministry-to-children.com/childrens-ministry-links-for-easter/>
Lots of crafts, lessons and colouring pages

<https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/resource/all-resource-easter>
A jam-packed church resource book full of creative ideas, including crafts, dramas, monologues, all-age talks, games, teaching outlines and more. £11.99

Glasgow 2021, uniting the world to tackle climate change.

The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow in November. The UK will be on the frontline of climate change to inspire climate action. This will be the largest summit the UK has ever hosted. You can find out more on <https://ukcop26.org/>. [Ecocongregationscotland](#) is trying to get churches more involved through a pack of materials to get their congregations talking about climate change, care for creation and how we as Christians can engage with and support COP26 when it is able to come to Glasgow. Find it here : [Let's talk about the climate emergency](#)

What is the church and why is it important?

The Rev Professor Andrew McGowan, former minister of the East church and Professor of Theology, is now Director of *the Rutherford Centre* for Reformed Theology. The centre is concerned with the education and formation of ministers and elders, the promotion of evangelical church life and the maintenance of an evangelical testimony in national church debates. You can find various resources on their website www.rcrt.scot.

They will broadcast a series about the nature and purpose of the church. Professor McGowan is conducting interviews and discussions, which will be posted on their website and on their [facebook page](#) in the morning of;

- Wed Feb 17th: Archbishop Peter Jensen of Australia. He was the first General Secretary of the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON).
- Wed 24th February: Dr John Drane, who is involved with the Emerging Church movement and helps churches understand what it means to follow Christ today.
- Wed 3rd March: The Very Rev Albert Bogle. Former parish minister, founder of the Vine Trust, now helps non-church people to be disciplined through digital technology.
- Wed 10th March: The Rev Dr Fergus Macdonald, former Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland and former General Secretary of the United Bible Societies.

Verse of the week 'God's resource; His Strength' **memory verse 25 Isa 41:10**

'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.'

More info: <https://www.navigators.org/resource/topical-memory-system/>.

You can learn to memorize these verses by repeating them frequently, or even hand-writing them on a piece of paper. Maybe you could do this together with a Christian friend, and quiz each other. Building a regular rhythm at a set time and place that suits you might be key.

Gospel goodness

We would love to post more news about your church & parish in this newsletter, but you'd need to let us know what is happening



Adventures with God had a powerful first evening, with some of the feedback saying:

'Loved it and look forward to the journey ahead', 'Good balance of chat, Scripture and theology', 'Loved it, so good to see people from other churches,' and 'I am so glad I didn't miss it.'

On Thu Feb 25 at 7.30 on Zoom, Fiona and Paul will discuss how to build the connections with people God wants us to build. If you are interested in this, do contact Paul, details at bottom.

Please pray for online Alpha courses at *St Columba* and *the Barn*.

Benefits/council services. The single free helpline number – **0300 303 1362** – will connect callers to relevant Council specialist teams (Mon to Fri from 8am to 6pm).

Latest advice on Covid-19

This is a common section in every newsletter just to make sure you can access relevant and up to date info: [NHS](#) ~ [HIGHLAND COUNCIL](#) ~ [CHURCHOFSCOTLAND](#)

<https://www.covidhelp4highland.org/resources-and-information.html>

Information on volunteering, shopping responsibly, where to find additional support, helping your neighbours, friends and family, advice for community groups and businesses can be found here: <https://www.readyscotland.org/coronavirus/>

Food Standards Scotland advice on Covid-19:

<https://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/consumers/food-safety/coronavirus>

IPCS

Please contact us with your stories and signs of hope or for further help or info, or let us know if you'd like to be added to (or taken off) the email list (people from beyond Inverness Presbytery are welcome too)

We thank many for their advice and input.

IPCS consists of Mission Development Worker Paul Haringman with support from Adrienne Dempster, Russell Lees, Kathleen Mackinnon, Linda Cook and Sheila Murray

Contact Paul on 07837903277 or paulharingman.mission@gmail.com.