

Advent 1
3rd December 2023



The Scottish Episcopal Church on the Black Isle
Eaglais Easbaigeach na h-Alba san Eilean Dubh

Charity Number SC010781

St Regulus' Cromarty + St John's, Arpafeelie + St Andrew's,
Fortrose

The Most Rev'd Mark Strange,
Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness
Interim Rector

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If you wish to receive the newsletter via email, please
contact Isla Cruden: isla@ricruden.net who will add you to
the circulation list.

THE ADVENT WREATH

First Sunday of Advent

Keep awake! Be watchful! The Son of Man is coming
with power and great glory.

**Hold your heads high, for your salvation is
near.**

We light the first Advent candle, reminding us how
God's promised Messiah will break into our time and
space to show us the way of salvation.

May we stay alert for his coming.

Light the first candle.

Sing...(Tune: *Away in a Manger*)

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright:

A candle of **Hope** in December's dark night.

While angels sing blessings from heav'n's starry sky

Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

Come Lord Jesus.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Collect

Stir up your power, Lord, and come: that, with you as
our protector, we may be rescued from our sins; and
with you as our deliverer, we may be set free; for you
live and reign with God the Father, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

+FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come

down, so that the mountains would quake at your
presence as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire
causes water to boil-- to make your name known to
your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at
your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your
presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for
those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who
remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and
we sinned; because you hid yourself, we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean, and all
our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade
like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us
away.

There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to
take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from
us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and
you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not
remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all
your people.

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

Show the light of your countenance and we shall be
saved.

**Show the light of your countenance and we
shall be saved.**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph
like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the
cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin
and Manasseh. Stir up your might and come to save
us!

**Show the light of your countenance and we
shall be saved.**

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be
saved. O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be
angry with your people's prayers?

**Show the light of your countenance and we
shall be saved.**

You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given
them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the
scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among
themselves.

**Show the light of your countenance and we
shall be saved.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we
may be saved.

It has been burned with fire; it has been cut down; may
they perish at the rebuke of your countenance. But let
your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one
whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will
never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call
on your name.

Show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

+ SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.

Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

Therefore, keep awake--for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (4-9)

MON:

TUE: 7:00pm Eucharist in St Regulus'

8.00pm Advent Study Group St Regulus - to join please contact annegilliannewman@gmail.com

WED: 9:00am Celtic Morning Prayer via

Zoom - to join please contact annegilliannewman@gmail.com

10:00am Charity Shop

10:00am Advent Study Group in Fortrose

THU: 10:00am Eucharist in St Andrew's

FRI:

SAT: 10:00am Charity Shop

Sunday 10th December 2023

Advent 2

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

11am at St Andrews with + Mark

Followed by the AGM of THE BLACK ISLE CHARGE

Please note this will be the only service.

(Readings Is 40.1-11; Ps 85.1-2,8-13; 2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mk 1.1-8)

PRAYER REQUESTS

For grace to be Jesus' hands, feet, voice, eyes, and heart in the world...that we may all LIVE and Be the GOOD NEWS.

OUR WORLD

For healing and peace among all nations. For an end to terrorism and hatred in all its forms. For our fellow Christians and all who are persecuted for their faith.

OUR COMMUNION

Pray for the peace and unity of the Church. Pray for our sisters and brothers of The Church of North India (United).

OUR DIOCESE

For our brothers & sisters in the Porvoo Communion of Churches. For all who are studying for Ordination or Readership. For their instructors & all who support them. For Mark, our Bishop, and all priests, lay readers and Eucharistic Ministers, helping to maintain our cycle of worship during the interregnum. For the congregation of St. Ninian, Glenurquhart: Rt. Rev. Rob Hardwick. For our sister Dioceses of Québec, Canada & Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe, Ireland.

OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY FAMILY & FRIENDS

For our three congregations, those who can join us in public worship and those joining us in spirit at home. For the Eilean Dubh care home & all care homes and for our church members who are living in them. For Laura S, Stuart T & all studying for ordination & readership. For the repose of our sister Jane R & for the recovery our sister Diana MacD. For Igor, Oleksii & Families. For all who are ill in mind, body, or spirit. Pray for our Granny in Guatemala: Santos De La Cruz Mendez. For all we know to need our prayers.

A DAILY PRAYER for the WEEK

Spend a moment in silence and call to mind any concerns... then pray:

Christ is the high priest of his people: it is in him that we come together to make our prayers to the father of us all.

- *Father, put new hearts within us.*

We thank you for calling us into the Church: bless us with constant faith and make it a source of life for others.

- *Father, put new hearts within us.*

Lord, bless Mark our Bishop and Primus: we pray that his faith may not fail, and that he may strengthen his sisters and brothers.

- *Father, put new hearts within us.*

Turn sinners back to you: grant us a humble and contrite heart.

- *Father, put new hearts within us.*

Your Son knew what it was to be excluded from his homeland. Be mindful of those who must live far from their family and country.

- *Father, put new hearts within us.*

Give eternal rest to the dead: bring the whole church together in heaven.

- *Father, put new hearts within us.*

In a moment of silence, call to mind the concerns of your own heart with those listed above and lift them up to God. Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

JOINT PRAYER MEETING FOR THE BLACK ISLE CHARGE

The next prayer meeting will be on 11th December at 7pm at Rev Christine's house in Fortrose.



Jesus grew IN WISDOM and in stature and in favour with God and with people. Luke 2:52

God says to us: I will be your God and you will be my people.

I have heard your prayer.

I love you with an everlasting love.

My peace I give to you.

I will never leave you nor forsake you

I am with you always even to the end of the age.

I have engraved your name in the palm of my hand

Do not be afraid for I am with you. Do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Even if a mother should forget her child, I will never forget you.

Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.

I am God and there is no other. I am God and there is none like me.

Before me no god was formed nor shall there be any after me.

And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.

Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord!

Sally Ann

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS Sunday 3rd December 7pm

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols



The members of St John Scotland (Highland) extend a warm welcome to attend our annual **Service of Nine Lessons and Carols** in St Andrew's Church, Fortrose –

On

Sunday 3rd December at 7.00 pm

Followed by

Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Shortbread in the Seaforth Masonic Club, Fortrose.



Come along, bring your family and friends, and join in with St Andrew's Church Choir

Collection in aid of St John Eye Hospital

Rise Up against domestic abuse Respond Inform Support Impower Unite Pray

The Red Chair Project

Stand against domestic abuse

25 November - 10 December

Resources Pack



This autumn sees the start of the Mothers' Union preparations to raise awareness of domestic abuse in our dioceses. But domestic abuse doesn't just happen during the UN 16 days of activism it happens every day. The Mothers' Union have launched a campaign at their General Meeting in York called Rise Up (against domestic abuse), this is for us all to rise up on 356 days to raise awareness of abuse in our communities.

Worldwide President Sheran's Harper's address at the general meeting was very empowering showing us the concerns particularly on gender abuse from around the world. We would highly recommend you read this. Here is an extract.

I was asked to speak in a Cathedral overflowing with people from 10 Dioceses in the Eastern Region of Uganda where child marriage and domestic abuse were the norm of the day. I could remain silent no longer ... and spoke out ... the following day my address was carried in the national newspaper, and on television in a good way ... as though they were happy someone was brave enough to call for an end to the atrocities that destroy the lives of our beautiful girls.

What are we doing for the 16 days? Many are using the Empty Red Chair with the poster which symbolises the victim who was killed at the hand of their partner or ex-partner. You could designate a chair in your church, at a local cafe, or even a public space like a park bench (remember to ask permission first if needed!). Using red fabric to cover the chair is really powerful, but if you can't get hold of any, printing the sign and making sure the chair is left empty will still have impact. Let's try to have our local communities involved, maybe other churches would like to be involved? We could use some of the prayers on the Mary Sumner House website.

Let me know what you are doing and take a photograph. Let's see if we can show comfort and support for survivors during these 16 days and beyond.

Hilary Moran

hilary.moran@btinternet.com

[Note: The UN Women The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

Further information can also be found at <https://www.restored-uk.org/partner/cneda/red-chair/>

And here is an article from our provincial website.

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/cathedrals-join-call-for-more-action-to-tackle-violence-against-women-and-girls/>

ADVENT TALKS 2023



The Rev Prof Michael Hull
Pantonian Professor of Divinity

The Coming of the Christ
A series of talks in Advent 2023


Here is the link for more information and to register.

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/new-series-of-talks-in-advent-2023-the-coming-of-the-christ/>

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Copies will be available in the churches, and it is posted separately on the website at: -

<https://episcopalblackisle.scot/advent-christmas-events-services-2023/>



OUR CHURCHES

OUR MISSION
We are a community where ALL are welcome.
We are a community where all seek to be loving and caring, welcoming and forgiving, serving and healing.
We are a community where the poor can go for help, the lonely for company and the sorrowing for comfort.
We are a community where, with fidelity to our own faith and respect for that of others, we seek the unity for which Christ prayed.
In the spirit of faith, service, and community, we strive to bring people closer together and closer to God.

The Most Rev'd Mark Strange,
Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness
Interim Rector
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Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/blackislecharge>

THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON THE BLACK ISLE
EAGLAIS EASBAIGEACH
NA H'ALBA SAN EILEAN DUBH

SERVICES & EVENTS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
Come and join us for all or any of our events and services. All are welcome!

Photos by Robert Thiemang on Unplash

The Scottish Episcopal Church on the Black Isle. A Charity registered in Scotland
Charity Number SC010781

EVENT
Octavoce
Friday 22nd December
7.30pm
A Candlelight Concert
At St Andrew's Fortrose



Followed by festive refreshments.
Entry is by donation (suggested at £10).

10th December
One service only at 11am in St Andrew's Fortrose & to be followed by
Black Isle Charge Annual General Meeting

Sunday Services During Advent/Christmas
9.45am in St Regulus' Cromarty
9.45am in St John's Arpafellie
11.30am St Andrew's Fortrose
(Apart from 10th Dec - see separate announcement re AGM)
Midweek Services
Tues 7pm Eucharist or Reserved Sacrament at St Regulus, Cromarty
Wed 9am - Celtic Morning Prayer
(via Zoom, Contact: AnneGillianNewman@gmail.com for details)
Thurs 10am - Eucharist at St Andrew's Fortrose

Services at St Andrew's Fortrose
Sun 3rd December 7pm - Order of St John Carol Service

Events & Services at St Regulus' Cromarty
Advent Posada Trail daily at 4pm. The Holy Family journeying around Cromarty & arriving at St Regulus at 9.45am Christmas Eve.
Thurs 21st December 7pm - Carols by Candlelight (community choir)

Service in North Kessock Hall
Hosted by St John's Arpafellie & The Church of Scotland
Wed 20th December 7pm - Carol Service

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
CHRISTMAS EVE
Morning services at usual times
Sun 24th December 10pm - Midnight Mass at St Andrew's Fortrose (10pm is midnight in Bethlehem)

CHRISTMAS DAY
St Regulus' Cromarty - 9.45am
St Andrew's Fortrose - 11.30am
St John's Arpafellie - 10.30am

A message from the editor.

A reminder to send any information you want in the newsletter to me by email by noon on Tuesday.

For the FB page, information about St Regulus' activities should go to Stuart Thomson, St Andrew's, to Alison Garraway & St John's to me.

If anyone is housebound and would like to receive Holy Communion or simply a visit, please contact a member of the Ministry team of your local church who will be happy to arrange.

Jean (jeanmedavis@gmail.com)