

19th SUNDAY after PENTECOST

8th October 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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THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Collect

Almighty God, you have built your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone.

Join us together in unity of spirit

by their teaching, that we may become a holy temple, acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you, O Father and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

St Regulus

+FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by

imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

+SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;

his righteousness endures for ever.'

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry, you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

+Gospel: Luke 17: 11-19

Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, 'Do not weep.' Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, 'Young man, I say to you, rise!' The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, 'A great prophet has risen among us!' and 'God has looked favourably on his people!' This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country. The disciples of John reported all these things to him. So John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the

Lord to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'

St Andrew's & St John's

+FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

The Word of The Lord

+Psalm: 80:7-14

O Shepherd of Israel Come to Help Us. Alleluia!
O Shepherd of Israel Come to Help Us. Alleluia!
Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.

O Shepherd of Israel Come to Help Us. Alleluia!
You prepared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land. The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

O Shepherd of Israel Come to Help Us. Alleluia!
You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea and its branches to the river.

O Shepherd of Israel Come to Help Us. Alleluia!
Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

O Shepherd of Israel Come to Help Us. Alleluia!
Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

O Shepherd of Israel Come to Help Us. Alleluia!

+Epistle: Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.
The Word of the Lord

+Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'" So, they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (9-14)

MON :

TUE : 7:00pm Eucharist in St Regulus'

WED : 9:00am Celtic Morning Prayer via

Zoom (to join please contact

annegilliannevman@gmail.com)

10:00am Charity Shop
10:00am Bible Study Group

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

FRI :

SAT : 10:00am Charity Shop

Sunday 15th October 2023

20th Sunday after Pentecost

THE HOLY EUCHARIST (HARVEST FESTIVAL)

9:45am in St John's with Rev Christine

11:30 in St Andrew's with Rev Christine

(Readings: Deut 28.1-14, Psalm 65, 2 Cor 9.6-15,
Luke 12.16-30)

RESERVED SACRAMENT

9:45am in St Regulus' with LR Barrie

(Readings: Is 25.1-9, Ps 23, Phil 4.1-9, Mt 22.1-14)

HARVEST FESTIVALS

St Regulus 8th October 9.45am

The lovely banners the children at the primary have made, as a token of their thanks to Father Mel for his assemblies in school, will be received by +Mark at this service. The service will be family friendly, and all are cordially invited. There will be refreshments to follow. After refreshments, willing helpers can stay to help plant a fruit tree and bulbs for next spring, along with general tidying of the children's garden, followed by soup and sandwiches. All welcome to any part of or all our celebration.



St Regulus Church Harvest Festival



**Harvest Festival Service
At St Regulus Church
With Bishop Mark Strange
Sunday 8th October at 9.45**

The lovely banners the children at the primary have made, as a token of their thanks to Father Mel for his assemblies in school, will be received by the Bishop at this service. The service will be family friendly and all are cordially invited.

There will be refreshments to follow.

After refreshments, willing helpers can stay to help plant a fruit tree and bulbs for next spring, along with general tidying of the children's garden, followed by soup and sandwiches. All welcome to any or all of our celebration.

St Andrew's & St John's 15th October

Harvest Festival will be celebrated at St Andrew's & St John's on 15/10/23 (9.45am at St John's & 11.30am at St Andrews) and we will be making a special collection for the Highland Foodbank in both churches. The team at Blythwood are particularly requesting the following:

Tins of potatoes, UHT semi-skimmed milk, Jars of pasta sauce, Tins of chopped tomatoes, Oatcakes/crackers, Tins of ham/corned beef, Tins of

fruit, Tins of mince, Tins of carrots, Washing up liquid, Deodorant, Toilet rolls.

Many thanks.



HOLY DAYS THIS WEEK

Elizabeth Fry

(12 Oct)



Elizabeth Gurney was born in Norwich, England in 1780 to a well-off Quaker family. In 1800 she married Joseph Fry who was also a Quaker.

The Quakers were founded by George Fox in the 1650s as a Christian church which believed in the equality of men and women, and did not have a church leader, or liturgy. Anyone could contribute to their Christian meetings. They followed the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 25:35-36. On their understanding of the Bible they were, and still are, pacifists. They helped draft the conscientious objector clause in the 1916 Military Service Act which introduced conscription. They worked with other groups to set up and run the Kindertransport from 1933.

Present day Quakers believe in faith in action and are involved in seeking to bring social justice and peace in the world. They step up to the mark to take on authorities and powers to bring about change. Elizabeth Fry exemplifies that life of action two centuries ago.

When she was 33, she visited Newgate Prison. There she observed women and children in terrible conditions. Elizabeth began working for reform, campaigning for segregation of the sexes, female

matrons for female prisoners, and for education and employment and religious instruction for them. In the 1820s she inspected prison conditions and established more groups to campaign and lobby for reform. In 1823 prison reform legislation was finally introduced in Parliament. She was also involved in investigating and proposing reforms in mental asylums. For more than 25 years she visited every convict ship leaving for Australia and promoted reform of the convict ship system.

She worked to improve nursing standards and established a nursing school. She worked for the education of working women, for better housing for the poor and was responsible for the establishment of soup kitchens.

“But be doers of the word, not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James 1:22

Elizabeth Fry died in 1845. The Lord Mayor of London founded an institute for ex-prisoners in her memory called The Elizabeth Fry Refuge. Today the Elizabeth Fry Charity still runs accommodation in Reading, and gives support and training, for women leaving prison.

JOINT PRAYER MEETING FOR THE BLACK ISLE CHARGE

The next prayer meeting will be on 6th November at Rev Christine's house in Fortrose.



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 Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East

OUR DIOCESE

For our Sisters and Brothers of Aberdeen & Orkney 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, for Fr Mel as he makes the transition from Rector to retirement, and all, priests, lay readers and Eucharistic Ministers, helping to maintain our cycle of worship during the interregnum. For the congregation of Gordonstoun School: Chaplain – Christian Collett. Assistant Chaplain - Philip Schonken 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 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 be in need of our prayers.

A DAILY PRAYER for the WEEK

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

Through Christ we are sons and daughters of God: in him we see what we shall be when we come to the Father. With confidence we pray:

- ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

Guide leaders and governments: give them wisdom and integrity and inspire them to make the right decisions for all the people.

- ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

You are the Lord and source of our freedom: bring those in captivity of mind or body to the freedom of the children of God,

- ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

Give courage and strength. To the young. Help them to choose their work and make the right decisions for their future.

- ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

Give patient tolerance to all who are no longer young: open the hearts of the young to accept from them understanding and love.

- ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

Receive the departed into your eternal kingdom: sustain our hope to reign with you for ever.

- ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

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.

A note from Rev Christine to all Merry widows, widowers and live-aloners.

If you would like to spend a Sunday afternoon in company rather than on your own, join us for lunch on Sunday 8 October at 1.00 pm, at the Home of Elizabeth Waters – St Catherine's, Union Street, Fortrose. **Booking essential** at christinemylne67@gmail.com or on 01381 621975. No need to bring anything, but ... a SMALL contribution towards cost would be appreciated. Please let me know if you have any **food allergies**.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CHARGE

As we are currently in the interregnum, I hope to maintain this part of the newsletter by asking for

occasional contributions from people in the different churches and from our Interim Rector, +Mark. As a joint Charge it would be nice to get the news from around the patch but of course that is up to invited contributors delivering something for the relevant week's newsletter.

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.

And please do read the newsletter. There is a lot of information in here and it is our main means of communication across the Charge for those signed up.

If you want to receive it regularly by email and currently do not do so, please contact Isla Cruden (isla@ricruden.net) who will arrange to add you to the circulation list. Or you can bookmark it online at <https://episcopalblackisle.scot>

This Week: - A MESSAGE FROM +MARK

Dear Friends,

I thought I would write to you through the newsletter to talk through what will now happen in the Black Isle Charge.

You gave Fr Mel a wonderful send off and I know he was deeply appreciative of all that you did for him to help his retirement begin on a high.

The Committee charged with preparing the Charge Profile have completed their work and we now need to make decisions about what might need doing regarding the Rectory and to decide on when to advertise the Vacancy.

During this period things will seem a little different. I have managed to prepare a rota of ministers to lead Sunday worship and with the wonderful support of Rev Christine we are going to attempt to maintain as much of the midweek worship as possible. It would be really helpful if any of the Eucharistic ministers could indicate their availability, especially regarding the Tuesday evening service in St Regulus. I am often away on Diocesan and Provincial business and that complicates matters.

People will need to know how to contact me in an emergency. The best way is to phone the office phone number and leave a message, the number is 01463 811333.

I am looking forward to spending some time with you during the next few months, I remember the visits I made during the last Vacancy, it makes me realise how long I have been doing this work!

Bless you all in the ministry and prayers you share.

+Mark

NEWSLETTER, FB & CHARGE WEBSITE

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

If you want a particular person mentioned in our **prayers**, please let me know & I will add them for the remainder of that calendar month.

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.

Jean (jeanmedavis@gmail.com)

OPERATION SHOEBOX – UPDATE

Dates for the diary. The next Filling Stations will be October 27th and November 3rd. More information to follow nearer the dates.

PET BLESSING

Here is a photo from last Sunday's blessing of the pets at Munloch Animal Aid. Looks like it was enjoyed by humans and animals alike and the weather was kind.



STREET PASTORS

Street Pastor numbers have fallen alarmingly since Covid but this year we are blessed with 14 new recruits who are currently undertaking training. Among them is our very own Sandie Evans from Arpafeelie. It costs around £350 to train and kit out a new Street Pastor so to this end we would welcome any financial support you could offer, however small. If you are able to help contributions could be sent to Peter via online banking or cash, put in an envelope in the collection plate. Either way please use the reference Street Pastors so Peter can earmark the money accordingly. The new trainees will be commissioned during a short service at Crown Church,

Inverness on Friday 3rd Nov at 7pm. We will also be commemorating 15 years of Inverness Street Pastors. If you could attend to show your support for Sandie that would be wonderful!



Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and IN FAVOUR WITH GOD AND PEOPLE. Luke 2:52

“I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbours always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it. I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbour: the first — by deed, the second — by word, the third — by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me. By this means a soul glorifies and pays reverence to My mercy.” (Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, 742).

Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy. (Matthew 5:7.)

There is a response of mercy from God to our mercy to others.

Luke 6:36 Be merciful as your father in heaven is merciful.

This is to be generous in our forgiveness and our opinion and love of others, and indeed of ourselves too for we are to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Sally Ann