

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

12th January 2025



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

Phone: 01463 811333

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Charge Website: episcopalblackisle.scot

Vestry Secretary:- Isla Cruden: isla@ricruden.net

A wee reminder for each church to contact their rota'd presider ahead of the service and if there are any issues to contact our Interim Rector +Mark.

Sunday 12th January 2025

The Baptism of Our Lord

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

9.45am in St Regulus with Re. Christine

9.45am in St John's with Fr. Arthur

RESERVED SACRAMENT SERVICE

11.30am in St Andrew's with Lay Team

(Readings: Is 43.1-7, Ps 29, Acts 8.14-17, Lk 3.15-17,21-22)

WEEK AT A GLANCE 13th Jan – 20th Jan)

MON:

TUE:

WED: 9.30am Celtic Morning Prayer (Online)

10.00am Bible Study

10:00am Charity Shop

THU: 10:30am Service at St Andrew's

FRI:

SAT: 10:00am Charity Shop

Sunday 19th January 2025

Epiphany 2

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

9.45am in St Regulus with Rev. Ellie

11.30am in St Andrew's with Rev. Christine

RESERVED SACRAMENT SERVICE

9.45am in St John's with Donald & Isla

(Readings: Is 62.1-5, Ps 36.5-10, 1 C 12.1-11, Jn 2.1-11)

+PSALM 29

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore. The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

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 and for the Church of the Province of West Africa.

OUR DIOCESE

For our brothers & sisters in the Porvoo Communion of Churches. For Stuart T & 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. We pray for the congregation of St. Donan, Lochalsh: Jane Whittell. & we pray 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 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.

CELTIC MORNING PRAYER

Celtic morning prayer takes place every Wednesday morning at 9am via Zoom for about 30 mins. To add your name, contact Gillian Newman. annegilliannewman@gmail.com

JOINT PRAYER MEETING FOR THE BLACK ISLE CHARGE



The next prayer meeting will be on 3rd February 2024 at 7pm at Christine's house

ROTA OF PRAYER LEADERS AND READERS AT ST ANDREW'S

– a note from Lois MacDonell.

Having taken over the rota for prayer leaders and readers at St Andrew's recently and already found that there are two others who would like to be included as readers, I am wondering whether there are still more who would like to join the list? If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at loismac4@btinternet.com with your email address, if you have one. If you don't, please speak to me or leave me a note at the back of the church.

Regards,

Lois.

INSTITUTION OF NEW RECTOR

Announcement

Institution of Father Alex Lane OSB as Rector of the Black Isle Charge of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

(St John's Arpafeelie, St Andrew Fortrose & St Regulus Cromarty.)

Bishop Mark Strange Presiding

**at
St Andrews Episcopal Church, Fortrose**

**On
Saturday 1st February 2025
Service at 12 midday**

To be followed by a reception in Fortrose Town Hall

AND A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW RECTOR



From Fr Alex Lane OSB

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

By the time this reaches you, January will be here, and I will have left All Saints Twickenham and will be preparing to move to the Black Isle.

I'm sure you are wondering what your new Priest will be like, just as I am wondering what all of you will be like! So here is a short picture of me.

I was born and brought up in South Wales but have spent most of my Ministry in the Church of England, in Sussex, Yorkshire and London.

While living in Sussex I discovered the Sisters of the Society of St Margaret (Founded by John Mason Neale) which have been hugely influential in my Spiritual and everyday life. One sadness is that both Betty Sutherland and Alison Callinan are not here to see me your Rector. The Sisters have instilled in me a love for Music and Liturgy (I am also an organist) and for the Religious Life in our Church. I currently Chair the Anglican Religious Life Project, which seeks to promote the Religious Life in the Anglican Church.

I am also Prior of the House of Initia Nova, a Benedictine Community with Members in the UK, Australia, USA and whose Mother House is in Puerto Rico. So, you don't just get a Rector but you get a Religious Community also!

Also coming with me will be my Partner Fr Gerry, who is also a priest, and while he will not be licensed to the Black Isle, I am sure you will see him lots, and I hope he may be allowed to help out when needed. He is Scottish and has family connections with Sutherland so is very familiar with the area.

That's some of the Church Background. Some other information about me. I enjoy cooking, history, especially social history and travel, technology and am a big believer in the use of social media as a Mission Tool.

Change is always a slightly disconcerting thing, for the Priest arriving in a new parish, having to learn so many new names and things about a particular place, but also for you with a new Rector. Inevitably some things have to change, and we can never be the same as our predecessors. I hope we can travel this journey together. Some things will work, some may not but the openness to try is always a good thing.

We are both very much looking forward to being with you and getting to know you all. Please do pray for us as we prepare to move, and for All Saints as they begin the Vacancy, as we pray for you.

Yours in Christ

Fr Alex

OPERATION SHOEBOX 2025!!



Dear Everyone,
I wish you a Happy and Blessed New Year. There has been a lot of the flu and infections about, and I hope you managed to avoid them. We begin the 2025 Blythswood Shoebox campaign, and we would welcome any donations of Christmas wrapping paper, and shoeboxes. The wrapping paper should be in the sales now, and we would be very grateful of any purchased.

We begin again, on the 31st of this January month, at the Lodge, Fortrose, and between the hours of 2-4pm we will meet to wrap the boxes. All instructions given if you have not joined us before, and we supply the scissors and Sellotape. If you have your own tape dispensers you might find these useful. We have tea and coffee and. Cake/biscuits halfway through.

This month we would also welcome any donations of bars of soap. I know Tesco and Asda do bars for 30p, and they are individually wrapped too.

I look forward to seeing you at the Lodge on the 31st,

God Bless,

Jan MacLennan

TALKING PANTS!!

I am just about to send another lovely huge box of bras and new pants off to **Smalls for All** again and wanted to give you an update on where they go, and who makes use of our laundered, but second-hand bras and new pants if donated.

In December alone:

1,800 pairs of pants and bras were sent to the AMUKA foundation, an organisation working with the remote villages of Karare, Marsabit County in Kenya.

191 pairs of pants and bras to the Cyrenians, a homeless charity in Edinburgh.

1,800 pairs of pants to Chifundo UK, an organisation working with women and girls in Malawi.

1,686 pairs of pants to Diamonds in the Community, who run a clothing bank for the Monklands and greater North Lanarkshire area.

970 pairs of pants to Freedom4girls, a period poverty charity that makes dignity kits for girls in Kenya.

120 pairs of pants to Care4Calais (Brighton), an organisation supporting people seeking asylum in Brighton and Hove.

130 pairs of pants to the Simon Community, who work with the homeless in London.

A few months ago, Smalls for All were able to provide underwear to Uganda Youth Soccer Academy Their leader Ivan Kakembo told the organisation "You can make a big difference; make a magic transformation for children who do not have any social relatives that can support them. Children who mainly live as orphans in the slum and streets around the Academy training field, with no school, and only one meal a day, not existing and totally forgotten by any authorities, and a very poor future with no access to basic needs like clothing. We are fighting day and night to open up the eyes of organisations around the world and people everywhere to see that here are children in real need of basic needs and everyone who cares, can change the future and write a new story. The children involved in our project have nothing and need everything". The photo is of the underwear distribution at the Soccer Academy for the children from the slums.

Let's help make a difference. Don't put your bras into Landfill. No one else wants them, but the people mentioned above do!!! Pants if donated have to be new for obvious reasons but gladly received.

Thank you for reading this,

God Bless,
Jan MacLennan
Xxx

DIOCESAN MISSION & MINISTRY DAY

On Saturday the 8th of February (10.30-15.00) the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Board have organised a Mission and Ministry day where Bishop Mark will unveil his mission and ministry vision for this Diocese. The day is open to all to attend, but the DMMB particularly request the presence of treasurers and all those involved in ministry and on vestries to attend. Further details and an online registration form are available from the Vestry Secretary: - Isla Cruden: isla@ricruden.net

FROM BLYTHSWOOD FOODBANK

As yet I have not received the details of specific needs for January & February. I will post it in the FB page when I receive it & here in the next available newsletter edition. Meanwhile below are details of items they were short of in November December & I'm sure these will still be gratefully received: -

Please help Foodbank by donating the items we are short of in: **NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2024**

Tins of potatoes / smash

Small jars of instant coffee

Tins of mince / meatballs

Tins of ham

Weetabix

Tins of corned beef

Tins of custard

Washing up liquid

Toilet rolls

Please ensure all donations have a **three month use by date.**

Blythswood are so grateful for your generosity & thank you for your care and love for others. it makes such a difference to the individuals and families visiting their food banks.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Hoping everyone had a joyous & blessed Christmas & a Happy New Year.

As we enter a New Year, we look forward to welcoming our new Rector on 1st February (see above for a message from him). Fr Alex is keen to livestream services and has set up a stand-alone FB account to facilitate this. Here is the link.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61571449641616>

And here is a reminder of our usual FB page where service and event information and news will continue to be available.

<https://www.facebook.com/blackislecharge>

Here is the usual reminder to send any information you want included in the newsletter to me by email by noon on Tuesday each week.

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)