

SUMMER 2025

The Grapevine

The Newsletter of St Magnus Cathedral Congregation
Scottish Charity SC003099 / CCL No 119086

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Cathedral Services

Sundays 11.15am

Early Morning Communion 9.30 am every Sunday in St Rognvald's chapel
during July & August

And every third Sunday for the rest of the year

Pre Recorded Online Sunday services please e-mail Rosemary if you wish to be on the mailing list
rosemarymoon@mac.com

Mid week online meditations every Wednesday at 6pm

Everyone is welcome to join no matter where you live in the world.

Just e-mail me to receive a link JFreeth@churchofscotland.org.uk

News from St Magnus

I'm writing this on the longest day and the rain is lashing against the windows and its blowing a gale. It just doesn't seem possible that the year is passing so quickly. So the vacancy continues but we remain optimistic that our new minister is just around the corner and will soon arrive. Marjory has written an update just over the page. In the mean time we plod on with various locums. I greatly enjoyed my few months as locum and I thank everyone for their love

and support. You were all so kind and encouraging. Now we are ready to say Thanks and Goodbye to Lance and we await the arrival of Barbara Quigley our next Locum who with her husband will lead us through the summer months. But I will still be taking one service a month and I will be around so please feel free to get in touch if you need a listening ear or if you hear that someone is ill.

Have a wonderful summer

God Bless, June

The Cathedral Vacancy

From the Kirk Session:

It's very frustrating in a vacant congregation as time goes on and the work of the Nominating Committee continues. They can't share their work with others, and so no-one else knows how far through the process they've got. And, as every minister will tell you, they have to wait long enough to fill the vacancy with the right person, not rush to fill the vacancy quickly (sometimes it's possible to do both, and sometimes not). So we all wait, and trust their judgement, and share their patience, and put faith in the Holy Spirit to show them what's just right for everyone.

In the meantime, my job on behalf of the Kirk Session of the united Orkney charge is to make sure you have locum cover; and you've had all shapes and sizes over the last year and a bit. I'm grateful to Elinor and John, Susan and June, and now Lance, for bringing the different colours and shapes of their leading of worship to the Cathedral (and for popping up in all sorts of other places too, as did Derek!). Rev Barbara Quigley, a recently retired minister from Dundee, will be with you from July to Sept, with John Cowie returning for October.

Best wishes,
Marjory (MacLean)

Theology Hot spot - Question from the congregation and answer.

Someone recently asked a question about the prayer ending that I often use, “We ask these things in the name of the Lord of love whom we call Jesus.” The question asked was, “Isn't it actually Jesus?”

This prayer ending is a common way to end a prayer in Christian tradition. It's nothing new or modern and it is widely used around the world. The “We” makes it a very inclusive prayer, we are all praying not just the minister. It signifies that the prayer is being offered with the authority and in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, who is believed to be the embodiment of love and the mediator between God and humanity. This practice is rooted in biblical teachings, particularly in John 14:13-14, which promises that whatever is asked in Jesus' name will be done, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

Authority and Mediation:

By praying in Jesus' name, believers acknowledge that their access to God is through Jesus. It's not a magical incantation but a recognition of Jesus' role as the bridge between humanity and God.

Alignment with God's Will:

Praying in Jesus' name implies that the requests are aligned with God's will and character, as revealed through Jesus.

Glorifying God:

The ultimate purpose of praying in Jesus' name is to bring glory to God the Father through the Son.

Faith and Confidence:

It reflects faith and confidence in God's promises and power, as expressed in scriptures like John 14:13-14.

Not a Guarantee:

While praying in Jesus' name expresses faith and belief, it's not a guarantee that every request will be granted exactly as desired. The focus remains on aligning with God's will and glorifying Him. John 14:13-14 states, "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in my name, I will do it." This passage emphasizes Jesus' promise to answer the prayers of his followers when they are offered "in his name," which implies alignment with his will and purpose. The verse is often interpreted as a powerful encouragement to pray, but it's crucial to understand the context and the meaning of "in my name".

I hope this answers the question posed.

So Yes, The Lord of love is definitely the one who we call Jesus.

Rosemary Moon reflects on being a Worship Leader

I've made it!

I am now a fully fledged Worship Leader in the Church of Scotland after my course through New College, part of the University of Edinburgh. Obviously, my home is here at St Magnus Cathedral, but I am ready and willing to be out and about, all over the Orkney Parish, as so many churches do not have a minister and welcome a new face from time to time.

I can both lead and support in worship - and I enjoy both. This is really the lowest rung on the ladder for leading worship, but it means that I can be out doing it now, instead of spending two years studying to gain a higher qualification. And two years would put me into my eighth decade, so Carpe Diem and here I am! However, I would like to do more and possibly conduct funerals, so doubtless there will be more learning to do for that.

This summer I will be jumping on and off ferries a lot, with services booked in Stronsay, Eday, Sanday, Shapinsay and, hopefully, North Ronaldsay as well as Westray and Papay, which will be a return visit after a very enjoyable day there last September with Iain MacDonald. I have already been to Hoy & Walls (and hope to get back there in the late autumn) and Flotta. The island visits are great as many are still new to me, and Nick and Patch, our collie, are planning to come too on quite a few of the trips. There is always the chance to get a set of photos from visits for the on-line services. On the theme of islands, I am also going to be helping out with the Chaplaincy group for the Island Games - it will be interesting to see where those conversations at Picky take us.

I have also been to St Margaret's in The Hope, and the East Kirk. I'm back to The Hup in September and, a week later, will be at the Peedie Kirk, which will be lovely. Four hymns, five or six? Organ,

harmonium or music box? Screen or no screen? Sharing of the Peace or not? I'm learning to ask questions before service planning - along with are refreshments available anywhere on a Sunday, or is it a packed lunch and a flask? I would like to carry on with my travels in the winter, but will take advice on that. And whether the congregation is a dozen or less on the islands, it simply doesn't matter. Sharing worship in a place that means something to those that worship there is enough - everyone should have a chance to worship locally, even if only occasionally.

I would really like to thank everyone who enquired about how my course was going, and who encouraged me, when I felt like a rabbit in the headlights at the thought of entering academia, even at the local worship leader level. Combined with Nick very occasionally cooking the supper, you got me there!

St Magnus on-line services

When Fraser Macnaughton started producing weekly on-line services with the technical assistance of Michael Mappin, both in putting the segments together and taking the photographs, there can have been no thought that the services would still be going strong, with a growing congregation, five years later. But that is what is happening. When Michael needed to step down post COVID, my husband Nick took over the technical side of putting each week's worship together, while I chose the music and hymns and chased Fraser up if he was late with his files! Since Fraser's retirement I have been joined by a great team to share the work of writing and recording the reflections and blessings. The current team is Mark Causer; Tim Morrison from Shapinsay who is about to begin training for

Ordained Local Minister (like June); Marjory MacLean from St Margaret's in The Hope; Iain MacDonald from Westray and Papay, Jim Wallace and me. Our various locums have taken turns too: Lance Stone did one service, Barbara Quigley will be doing one a month while she is with us and I've scheduled John Cowie for two while he is with us again in October as he was willing last time. So the on-line worship offers a variety of styles and deliveries and is a great showcase for the living and vibrant church here in Orkney. Our current parish student Emma MacMillan will lead one service and read the Gospel recently.

A quiet week of viewings across Facebook and YouTube might be 300 views. A busy week is 600+ views and our Easter service this year was closer to 900 across both social media's. Fraser

certainly started something with this, and we know that we are viewed within and out with Orkney and around the world. We hope that when our new minister comes, that they will embrace our on-line community as well as those of us who come week by week to the Cathedral.

Anne Flint is fabulous at sharing photographs with us for the services and local photographers, especially Graham Campbell and Judy Gilbert, are very generous in allowing us to use their images too. If you like to be out and about with a camera, can remember to shoot in landscape and have **no people in the shots**, and would like to occasionally send us some topical pictures to use, please contact me on rosemarymoon@mac.com.

Thanks, Rosemary

Ed. Congratulations and well done Rosemary.

Malawi News

We have started another fund raiser for Malawi. I am doing a Slimathon to raise money for a borehole. It would be nice to think that we could raise enough to finance a St Magnus Borehole but they are very expensive to drill. Inflation has doubled the costs. BUT we do have the money. As the old church saying says "We have the money but its still in your pockets!" So I need to shed the pounds (or stones if I'm going to be honest.) So the idea is simple. Every time I'm in the Cathedral on a Sunday I will put out my big water bottle. If you think I have lost some weight please put a donation in the bottle.

Please lets give a village clean water to drink.

Thank you,
June



Summer thoughts and gorgeous photos from Anne Flint

A member of our congregation reminded me of the poem by W.H Davies when chatting about the wonder of nature.

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare

No time to stand beneath the boughs,
And stare as long as sheep and cows

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance

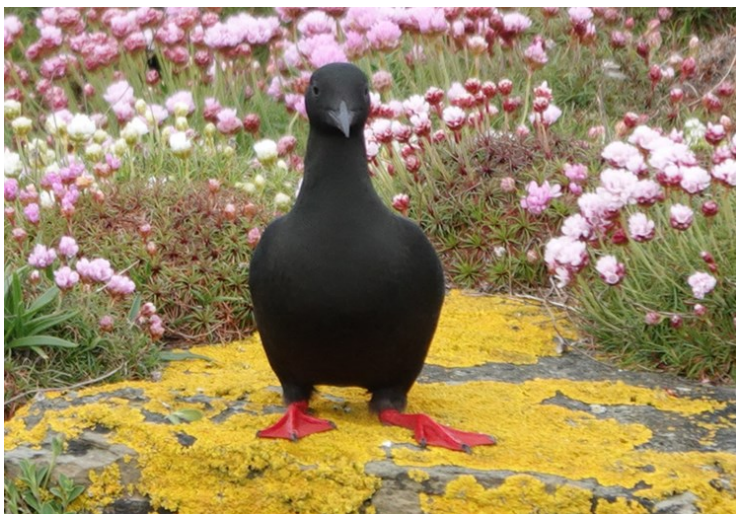
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare



BLACK GUILLEMOTS

As most of you will know, I love to watch and photograph wildlife. At this time of the year the Arctic terns are breeding on a small islet off the Birsay coast. They are not the only ones enjoying the relative safety of this place. Beautifully camouflaged are female eider ducks sitting on their eggs, and the more visible oystercatchers doing the same. However, my favourite birds amongst all the action are the black guillemots (tysties). They don't always put in an appearance, but it's a delight when they do. Such beautiful birds, predominantly black with red webbed feet, red inside their beaks and a large white patch on the upper side of their wings during the summer. Their 'community' is a special place to relax and enjoy nature.



Torn Shirt by Linda Jones.

Torn shirt, no shoes,
My brother.
Hungry, he touches my heart and I ache to understand, to see,
to feel, to reach,
to share his life,
his laugh, his dance.
I even drink the coffee that he grows,
And smell the flowers that he picks,

My brother,
Lord, May his hunger and thirst change my heart.
God of compassion,
I see him now,
Torn shirt, no shoes,

My brother.
Our lives meet in the global market,
woven together in the web of trade.
But he's hungry, thirsty
he touches my heart
And I ache to understand,
To share his life,
his laugh, his dance. God of compassion and justice,
May such hunger change my heart.

Parish Register

Funerals

The following funerals have been taken by the Cathedral Clergy:

May 21st	Ian Deans
May 23rd	Kathleen Sclater
June 2nd	David Robertson