



Insch, Leslie, Premnay, Oyne

Church News

April 2026

from the manse. . .

I hope you had a good Easter. All our events at the church were well attended this year, including the family gathering at St. Drostan's at 8am on Easter morning. It might have been even better had we gathered at the top of Dunnydeer as planned, but Storm Dave rather put paid to that idea.

I return to Easter deliberately, because it is all too easy to move on too quickly. Having had forty days of Lent, it is surely only right that we celebrate Easter for more than a single day. I trust that the hope and the promise it brings are still alive within you.

Certainly we are living through days when hope and promise are much needed. It is almost impossible to adequately comment on the grave situation our world finds itself in — one that seems to change by the hour, never mind the day. If ever there was a time when we need to be faithful to the teachings of Jesus, it is surely now. And if we as a church cannot gather our strength to spread hope and promise, then where else will it be found?

The message of Easter needs to remain alive within us — the message that light will always overcome darkness in the end, that love will always triumph over hatred, that life will always be stronger than death. Without such hope we risk falling into despair, only adding to the negativity already circulating in our world. With that hope, we can be a beacon of light for many.

So let's never take Easter for granted, or move on from it too quickly. Let's keep it alive and keep celebrating it. That is what the church is here for, and that is what we will always try to do together.

Best wishes,

Jan Manson



Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will take place this year after the service on Sunday 10th May, when the service will be shortened a little to accommodate it. This is never the most hotly anticipated event in any congregation, but it is, of course, a vital one. We are required by law to keep all our members informed of what the trustees have been doing and what they are planning — but more than that, we want the chance to celebrate all the work that is done in the name of our congregation, much of which goes on unseen by most. So I hope you will make time to be there if you can.

As already mentioned, we will explain the planned changes to the leadership structure of our congregation and vote on approving them. We will also hear from some of our organisations about the work they have been doing, and there will be an update on our finances and budget for the year ahead.

None of that may sound exciting, but we hope you will agree that it sounds important — and that the people who make it happen are worth celebrating.



A prayer

*May the warmth of God's presence surround you,
as the earth stirs with colour and light.*

*May the peace of Christ settle upon you,
through the busyness, beauty and night.*

*May the Spirit who moves through all living
breathe new life in you, day after day.*

The Wider Church

The 2026 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will take place from 15–18 May, and our minister will be one of the commissioners. You might notice that it is shorter now than the full week it used to take up, but no doubt there will be plenty to discuss as the church nationally continues to reshape itself for the future. The Assembly is always available to watch as a live stream, so if you are interested, our minister will be able to point you in the right direction.

Meanwhile, our Presbytery (The North East and the Northern Isles) meets on Tuesday 28th April, with no shortage of business across such a wide area.

Our Constitution

We want to let you know about an important and positive change that is coming for our congregation. Like many Church of Scotland congregations, we will be moving to the new Unitary Constitution — a more straightforward way of organising how our church is run, designed to help us focus our energy where it matters most: on our life together, our worship, and our service to those around us. The change has been agreed by our elders and approved by the Presbytery, and we will have a vote to confirm it at our Annual Meeting on 10th May.

As part of this change, different areas of our church life will be cared for by small teams of people — covering everything from worship and pastoral support to outreach and the day-to-day running of the church. We hope this will mean that more of us have the chance to contribute in ways that suit our particular gifts and interests. No experience is necessary — only a willingness to play your part. If you are interested, or simply want to know more, please do get in touch with Susan. (07704 895574)

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week runs from 11th – 18th May, and we wanted to take a moment to highlight the difference your support makes. Behind every donation is a community somewhere in the world that is a little more resilient, a little more hopeful, a little more able to face what lies ahead. Christian Aid works with some of the world's most marginalised people, and does so with skill, compassion, and a deep commitment to human dignity. We encourage everyone to give what they can — and to remember that this is one of the most practical ways we have of putting our faith into action. Look out for our Coffee afternoon, or other ways to support this important part of work.

Future Newsletters

We hope to produce shorter newsletters more frequently, and sharing them will be much easier if we can do so by email. If you are happy with this, we would appreciate it if you could pass your email address to Susan — susandonald14@btinternet.com. We will of course keep this information secure in accordance with our data protection policies.

Communion Sunday

We celebrate Communion on Sunday 26th April, so it is a good time to remind everyone that we are all welcome to participate in this ancient practice, as we remember the core of our faith in shared food and drink, as well as in word and song. It is a great opportunity to pause and return to what really matters.

Music Concert

On the afternoon of Sunday 24th May, we are delighted to welcome the trio of Graeme Mitchell, Neil Dawson and Allan Taylor for what is always an entertaining and enjoyable concert. This a particular coup for us, as Allan has just won the *Bothy Ballad Champion o Champions*. They will be joined by pupils from the Brenda Gordon School of Dancing. Tickets cost £10 and are available from the usual places.

Coming Up...



Sunday 26th April	10.30	Service of Holy Communion
Saturday 2nd May	08.30	Men's breakfast in the Church Hall
Sunday 3rd May	10.30	Rev Neil Meyer leading our worship
Tuesday 6th May	2.00	Fun and Friendship in the Church Hall
Thursday 7th May	2.30	Monthly Service in Drumdarroch Care Home
Sunday 10th May	11.30	Annual Stated Meeting after the Service
Tuesday 12th May	7.30	Kirk Session & Congregational Board
Tuesday 19th May	2.00	Fun and Friendship in the Church Hall
Tuesday 24th May	2.00	Musical Concert
Saturday 20th June	2.00	Mad Hatters Tea Party

Plus all of our regular Services in **Insch Church** every **Sunday at 10.30**.

Remember you can keep up to date with church news on our Facebook page—

www.facebook.com/ILPOCHURCH,

and our website—*www.inschlesliepremnayoyne.com*