

July 2025 Notices

SERVICE TIMES FOR JULY

The Strathdearn Hub, Tomatin at 10.00am - Croy Church at 12 noon

July 2025:

Wednesdays: Bible Study at Daviot Church Summer Break - Resumes 20th August.

Fridays: Crafts, Coffee and Chat at Daviot church - Summer Break - Resumes 1st August.

Sunday 6th: - Preacher - Rev Edward Andrew

Monday 7th: - Monthly Afternoon Tea in The Strathdearn Hub, Tomatin from 3-4pm.

Saturday 12th: - Book and Blether at The Strathdearn Hub, Tomatin from 10am - 12 noon.

Sunday 13th: - Preacher - Rev Edward Andrew

Tuesday 15th: Bible Study, Coffee and Chat at Cawdor Church at 2pm ***NEW Every Tuesday***

Sunday 20th: - Preacher - Vivian Roden

Sunday 27th: - Preacher - David Whillis (Foodbank Sunday)

EVERYONE WARMLY WELCOME AT ALL OR ANY OF OUR SERVICES OR EVENTS

BLYTHSWOOD FOODBANK ITEMS - JULY

Please help Foodbank by donating the items we are short of in July 2025

UHT milk • Tins of ham • Tins of mince/ravioli • Jars of pasta sauce
Tins of corned beef • Long life juice/diluting • Deodorant/shampoo • Bags for life new or used

Thursday 3rd, 17th & 31st: Cawdor Knit & Natter group meet at Cawdor Bowling Club at 2.00pm. Everybody welcome to bring ANY Craft or just to come along for a cuppa and chat. Donation for heating, tea and biscuits - £3.

REGULARS

Bible discussion group meet at Daviot Church - Summer Break - Resumes 20th August.

Every Thursday morning at 10:30am in The Strathdearn Hub - Prayer Meeting.

Every Friday morning from 10.30am to 12.noon - Coffee & Crafts at Daviot Church. Resumes 1st August.

Being Thankful for What We Do Have: A Christian Perspective

In a world that often encourages us to focus on what we lack, it's easy to overlook the blessings we already have. As Christians, gratitude isn't just an attitude—it's a spiritual practice and a profound acknowledgment of God's provision and sovereignty. The Bible continually calls us to be thankful, not just in moments of abundance but in all circumstances.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul writes, *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* This verse doesn't say to be thankful only when things are going well. It challenges us to adopt a posture of gratitude even in trials. Why? Because thankfulness aligns our hearts with God's will and reminds us of His ultimate control over our lives.

It's natural to focus on our unmet desires: the promotion that didn't come, the relationship that didn't work out, or the healing that hasn't yet arrived. But when we pause to reflect, we see God's faithfulness in our lives. The roof over our heads, the meal on the table, the friends who support us—these are all evidence of His goodness.

When we choose to be thankful, we shift our focus from what we don't have to what we do. Gratitude is a powerful antidote to dissatisfaction and envy. It helps us see life through the lens of abundance rather than scarcity.

Consider the story of the Israelites in the wilderness. After being miraculously delivered from Egypt, they quickly began to complain about the lack of variety in their diet. In their grumbling, they forgot the miracle of manna God provided daily. Like the Israelites, we too can forget God's blessings when we dwell on what's missing. Choosing gratitude helps us keep His provision in view and fosters a spirit of contentment.

Thankfulness is a form of worship. When we express gratitude, we acknowledge God as the source of every good thing. As James 1:17 reminds us, *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights."* When we praise God for what we have, we deepen our relationship with Him, recognising His hand in every aspect of our lives.

King David exemplifies this in the Psalms. Even when surrounded by enemies, David often began his prayers with thanksgiving, remembering God's past faithfulness. His gratitude strengthened his faith and allowed him to trust God for future victories.

Even in difficult seasons, we can find reasons to give thanks. Romans 8:28 assures us, *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."* Trials refine our character, draw us closer to God, and reveal His sustaining grace.

When we focus on the blessings God has already given us, we cultivate joy, peace, and a stronger faith. Let us take a moment to thank Him today—for the big things, the small things, and even the things we may not fully understand. In doing so, we honor the One who is faithful in all seasons.

Gratitude is more than a response to blessings—it's a declaration of trust in God's plan and His goodness. As you navigate life, remember that being thankful for what you have is not just an act of obedience but a source of profound spiritual strength. In gratitude, you will find joy, peace, and a closer connection to the God who loves you beyond measure. Let your thankfulness be a light to others, pointing them to the infinite goodness of our Heavenly Father.

Prayer is a conversation with God — a sacred rhythm of listening and speaking. Just as we connect with one another in many ways, prayer opens our hearts to connect with God. In times of conflict and suffering, it becomes a powerful act of hope, compassion, and a longing for peace, for ourselves, and the world.

We turn to God in prayer - Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God in unity, God in community, we pray for our world. Where there is war between nations or within nations we pray for peace. Where tensions are building we pray for calm. Where there is judgement and prejudice we pray for dignity and respect. Where there is a break-down in relationship we pray for openness and understanding. Where human hearts are breaking we pray for care and compassion. Where there is sorrow and loss we pray for comfort and healing. We pray for our world, one world, God's world, enfolded in love, living in unity and community, this day and all days. Amen.

A church had a picnic and invited the entire community to come. The minister placed a basket full of apples on one end of a table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please - Remember that God is watching."

On the other end of the table was a plate of cakes where one of the children had placed a sign saying, "Take all the cakes you want -- God is watching the apples."