

# *Strathnairn and Strathdearn Church of Scotland*

SC003301

Minister:

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## **SERVICE TIMES FOR JANUARY**

**The Strathdearn Hub, Tomatin at 10 am - Croy Church at 12 noon**

### **January 2026:**

**Monday 5th:** Monthly Afternoon Tea in The Strathdearn Hub, Tomatin from 3-4pm.

**Tuesdays:** Wellbeing Group at Cawdor Church at 2pm. Start with a prayer and a guiding passage from the Bible before having tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat afterwards. All Welcome.

**Thursdays: 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th:** Prayer Meeting in The Strathdearn Hub, Tomatin at 10.30am.

**Thursday 8th:** Spiritually Strategic Teams Night. Daviot Church from 7-9pm.

**Bible Study** at Daviot Church - Taking a break and will resume for Lent.

**Monday 12th:** Strathnairn Guild meet at 2pm in Croy Church.

Group discussion on Theme - Living Stones. Leader: Margaret Johnston.

**Monday 12th:** Kirk Session meet at 7pm in Daviot Church.

**Fridays 16th, 23rd & 30th:** Crafts, Coffee and Chat at Daviot church - 10.30am - 12noon.

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

### ***Thank You - To all our Christmas volunteers***

As we celebrate the joy of the season, We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who made our Christmas services so special. To those who decorated our places of worship, transforming the area into a beautiful place for worship which brought the spirit of the season to life. To all those volunteers who worked behind the scenes, from handouts at the door, taking part in the services, musicians and not forgetting the live streaming, all much appreciated. You made the season joyful for us all. You didn't just help with a task, you helped create a space where people could encounter the joy of Christ. Thank you all.



Find us on Facebook

**Strathnairn and Strathdearn Parish**

Our parish website can be found at:

**<http://www.strathsnairnanddearn.co.uk/>**

For recorded services at Croy go to YouTube and search for  
**Strathnairn and Strathdearn Parish Church**

### *Bitesize Hope with Ruth*

#### **2026. A new year, so, new years resolutions?**

They might not be so new after all, it seems about 4000yrs ago the ancient Babylonians were making them. And whilst resolutions can be good and helpful, I'm aware of Paul's words in Romans 12v2 '2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.' Or in the New Living Translation 2 Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.'

Following the way of Jesus would therefore teach us to have resolutions and patterns based on God's Word and His ministry in and with us. They might be new or it might involve a renewal of behaviours left on the shelf. I'm reminded of Zerubbabel, apart from having an awesome name, he was an Old Testament leader who led the first wave of Israelites back to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple and subsequently the city. It is vital the foundations are right for a building and likewise with our lives- as Temples to the Holy Spirit. A crucial lesson from Zerubbabel was the spiritual renewal of the people – they needed to be changed by renewing their thoughts and hence actions in accordance with God's word. We're talking worship and prayer.

How about our new years resolutions are a continual renewal of the foundations of our faith? Openness to God to transform our thinking, our actions, our living with building blocks of worship and prayer cemented into our daily routines in richer, deeper ways. And God encouraged Zerubbabel with these words Haggai 2v9 'The future glory of this Temple will be greater than its past glory, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. And in this place I will bring peace. I, the Lord of Heaven's Armies, have spoken!'

That's an incredible promise from God for 2026 isn't it?! Our lives are this Temple, this Church is this Temple and as we are more open to God, we will be more open and accessible to all those around us.

2026, the year of the Lord's favour!

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem.

A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby sitter."

#### **Prayer**

Most loving God,  
Lord of yesterday, today and forever,  
to You the passing of ages  
goes by in the blink of Your Creator's eye,  
you are the Lord of beginnings and endings,  
of time reaching out into a fresh start,  
of time come to its fullness.  
In all times of transition, the exhilarating,  
the disconcerting, the anxious, the hopeful,  
be to us, Lord, a source of steady presence.  
Give us, each day, sufficient strength,  
sufficient courage, and sufficient humour  
to walk with You;  
and the faith that trusts that in Your hands, our future is  
already held. As we move onwards,  
making wrong turnings and right ones along the road,  
bring us each time to places of decision,

where our faith in You Reaches out to be guided,  
to be helped, to be carried if needs be, until we can place  
our feet upon the road again and walk on.  
For your Church we pray in days of nervousness.  
We plan, but do not always see clearly,  
we decide, but do not always understand fully.  
Forgive us, humble us, and embolden us.  
Remind us that our Church is Your Church,  
and that we are worshippers and stewards -  
to praise in the present, and to hand on to the future.  
Loving Lord Jesus,  
send light and clarity to us, send vision and purpose to  
us, walk with us through these days, and every day to  
come, as we communicate our faith in action,  
and our belief in hope,  
for all to see and hear and feel and wonder.  
Good news for today, and good news for tomorrow.  
In the Name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

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For those unable to attend church there is an opportunity to give a donation/offering to our congregation through the donate page on the Church of Scotland website: <https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate/>  
Or if you prefer you can donate through bank transfer: Strathnairn and Strathdearn Church of Scotland;  
Sort Code: 80-91-26: Account Number: 00275784.