



# Strathnairn and Strathdearn Church of Scotland

SC003301

Minister:

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## SERVICE TIMES FOR APRIL

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

### April 2026:

**Thursdays: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th:** Prayer Meeting in The Strathdearn Hub, Tomatin at 10.30am.

**Thursdays 2nd, 16th and 30th:** Whist at Cawdor Bowling Club from 2-4pm.

**Monday 6th:** Monthly Afternoon Tea in The Strathdearn Hub, Tomatin from 3-4pm.

**Wednesday 8th:** Guild meet at The Hub, Tomatin at 2pm. AGM and Board Games.

**Thursdays 9th and 23rd:** Crafts & Knitting at Cawdor Bowling Club from 2-4pm.

**Fridays 10th, 17th & 24th:** Crafts, Coffee and Chat at Daviot church - 10.30am - 12noon.

**Monday 20th:** Kirk Session meet at Daviot Church at 7pm.

**Wednesday 22nd:** Restart Bible Study at Daviot Church at 7pm.

**Tuesday 28th April:** Prayer Gathering at Daviot Church at 7.30pm

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

## HOLY WEEK and EASTER SERVICES

Tuesday 31st March: The Easter Story.

Get comfortable for the Easter story being read at 4pm in the snug, The Strathdearn Hub, Tomatin.

Maunday Thursday 2nd April: Communion, 7.30pm at Daviot Church.

Family friendly communion during Holy Week to prepare our hearts for Good Friday.

Good Friday 3rd April: Joint Service, 7pm, The Barn Church, Culloden House Avenue, Culloden, IV2 7AB.

All are welcome for a special Good Friday service with our friends at the Barn, Culloden and Ardersier Church.

Our Good Friday gathering is a Tennebrae service which is a simple, contemplative service involving scripture, candles, and silence led by Ruth and Rev Pamela Kennedy.

Easter Sunday 5th April: Early Service 7.30am at Croy School car park. Simple breakfast in the church after.

Church Service at 10.00am.

Service at Tomatin at 12 noon.



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 April 2026, Part of the Flock***

I was recently chatting with a farming family who are gearing up for the lambing season and was left with the impression that it entirely takes over family life. It may be they are particularly good farmers and caring shepherds who care for their sheep, they certainly had a lot of compassion for their animals when they talked of them. You might be like me and have no experience of farming life but we can still empathise with sleepless nights and being constantly ready to respond to a call. A bit like becoming a new parent (congratulations to those of you) or emergency services or oncall workers (thank you to you) or carers in our own homes (you wonderful people).

But then, we also might know sleepless nights because of worry or our daytime thoughts are disrupted due to anxieties. This is where our new preaching theme is relevant; *'Jesus is...'* Over the coming weeks, we'll be exploring different words to complete that sentence—such as sacrificing, living, and returning—but also taking time to reflect more deeply on who Jesus is.

In John 10:11 we read that Jesus is . . .the good shepherd. 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.' We see this in action at Easter.

As the good shepherd, Jesus knows that we might worry about money and possessions, letting our plans and thoughts be about them rather than being entirely taken over by the wonders of God. And to this, Jesus says: 'Don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.' (Luke 12:32).

These are words that warm your heart with love, tenderness and certainty that our heavenly Father provides all that we need.

It's so good to be in the flock of the Good Shepherd, isn't it? I hope we all leap for joy like newborn lambs this month remembering these words of Jesus.

Love and blessings, Ruth

### ***The Parable of the Butterfly***

As a butterfly soared overhead, one caterpillar said to the other, "You'll never get me up in one of those things."

Yet for every caterpillar the time comes when the urge to eat and grow subsides and instinctively begins to form a chrysalis. The chrysalis hardens and you'd think for all the world that the caterpillar is dead.

But one spring morning the life inside the chrysalis begins to writhe, the top cracks open, and a beautifully-formed butterfly emerges. For hours it will stand stretching and drying its wings, moving them slowly up and down, up and down. And then, before you know it, the butterfly glides aloft, effortlessly riding the currents of the air, alighting on flower after gorgeous flower, as if to show off its vivid colors to the bright blossoms.

Somehow, the miracle of the butterfly never loses its fascination for us. Perhaps because the butterfly is a living parable of the promise of resurrection.

On Easter morning the disciples saw Jesus' graveclothes lying on the cold slab still wrapped round and round the corpse. Only the corpse was gone, much like an empty chrysalis deserted by a butterfly who has left to soar free. "He is risen as He said," an angel told the incredulous disciples. Later that day he appeared to the disciples, and then, over the course of the next few weeks, to as many as five hundred people at one time. Even "Doubting Thomas" didn't doubt for long that Jesus was really risen from the dead.

What do we Christians say in the face of death? There are many mysteries. But Jesus' resurrection from the grave is God's proof to us that death is not the end. The empty tomb and Jesus' Spirit within us testify that Easter morning is God's triumph over death. And ultimately, Jesus promised, God will raise from the dead us who believe in His Son.

Join us this Easter as we celebrate Life!

And if you look closely Easter morning, you might even see a butterfly.