

Kintore Parish Church of Scotland

SC001406 Registered Scottish Charity

25 August 2023

Dear friends,

At the start of September our parish and congregation will become much larger. With a new name, Bennachie Parish Church of Scotland, our parish boundaries will extend all the way to Echt and will initially incorporate eight places of worship (although this will eventually reduce to just five). There will be an increase in our membership and we will have a Team Ministry initially of three ministers plus an assistant minister. The Presbytery service of union to establish this larger parish will take place on Sunday evening, 3rd of September at 6:30pm at Kintore, and I would love for you to be there if you are able.

I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you, firstly to thank you for the privilege of being your minister for the past nine years. The warmth with which my family and I have been welcomed, cared for and encouraged over these years has been a joy; your faithfulness in worship, energy in mission support, especially for our main charities, the Foodbank, Toilet Twinning and Christian Aid; and courage to experiment with new ministries like Messy Church, Drop-ins, Sustainable Kintore and others have all been remarkable; and your care for one another and our local community through shared fellowship and good neighbourliness has been an inspiration.

After the 3rd of September I will continue to be your minister, but I'm under no illusions that the relationship will change somewhat. On the one hand I will not be in the pulpit at Kintore as often as I was in the past, and on the other hand you will have two more ministers to call your own. Nevertheless, I want to assure you that weekly worship and our other activities will continue at Kintore church and that I will continue to be available to you as I have been in the past. Euan Glen and Sheila Mitchell are excellent, experienced ministers. We are immensely blessed to have them join our team. If I may ask one thing of you, it is that you would welcome them with the same hospitality you so generously lavished on me and my family when we first came to you.

So, this letter is neither a "Goodbye", nor an "Hello", but simply a marker for the next step along our journey together with Jesus. In a short while Sheila, Euan and I will write to you with a more formal "Hello" to all the members of the new Bennachie Parish Church. Until then, thank you and God bless you.

With much love,

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