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**Songs of Praise - December**

**God and Father, we adore Thee**

For the Son, Thine image bright,
In whom all Thy holy nature
Longed for while dim ages ran
Dawned on our once hopeless night.
Ere from Thee our footsteps wandered
It wandered through the earth and sea;
When the Lord of Glory came
And through the world did到处 differe.

**Hid in Infancy God revealing**

Loved for while dim ages run
Loved Divine we bow before Thee
Till we wake with Thy pure likeness
Let our life be new created
Ever-living Lord in Thee
When the Lord of Glory came
And through the world did到处 differe.

**Hark! Inebriate God revealing**

Loved for while dim ages run
Loved Divine we bow before Thee
Till we wake with Thy pure likeness
Let our life be new created
Ever-living Lord in Thee
When the Lord of Glory came
And through the world did到处 differe.

(submitted)
### First Registration of a Croft

Angus Macleod has registered his croft, 18 Coll Back, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 16th August 2022.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home.

The Croft registration number is C8047.

### First Registration of a Croft

Mr Iain MacKinnon has registered their croft 11a Habost, Habost, Lochs on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 3 August 2022.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home.

The Croft registration number is C8009.

### First Registration of a Croft

Kenneth Alexander Smith has registered his croft at 7 Gress, Isle of Lewis on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 5th August 2022.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home.

The Croft registration number is C8022.

### First Registration of a Croft

Margaret Macleod Macdonald has registered their croft 5A Doune Carloway, Uig, on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 24th August 2022.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home.

The Croft registration number is C8066.

### First Registration of a Croft

Norman Kerr has registered their croft 11 Upper Barvas on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 28 June 2022.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home.

The croft registration number is C7960.
Opportunities for Improvement

The Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS) will reopen for funding in January 2022 and be open for just over three months. It’s a competitive scheme that promotes land management practices which protect and enhance Scotland’s rich natural heritage, improve water quality, manage flood risks, and mitigate and adapt to climate change. AECS also helps to improve public access in rural areas and preserve historic sites.

How does that apply to crofters, land managers and common grazings in the Western Isles? We have many rich habitats such as machair and peatland and plentiful important species that can be managed through the scheme. To give a flavour of the scheme, I will focus on a few to give an idea of the management and support funding.

Grassland Wader habitats are under threat and under the AECS scheme the aim is to benefit ground nesting birds, particularly waders such as lapwing, redshank, snipe and curlew. Excluding or reducing the number of livestock in fields where birds are nesting will reduce the risk of damage to their eggs and fledglings from trampling or field operations. So, if stock are reduced in a nesting area for three months from 15th March to 15th June, or alternatively excluded for a period of six weeks during the Spring nesting period, you can receive an annual support payment per hectare of £80.

The scheme is competitive, and management must be adhered to once a contract is entered into with Scottish Government. There is a mapping requirement to show where management is to take place, vulnerable species assessments and stocking density and this must be completed on the Rural Payments system.

Applications with a range of management are more successful than individual items of management. So you may have three options such as Management of Wader Grazed Grassland, a Mown Grassland Area for Corncrake and an area of Species Rich Cover for Corncrake. The submitted plan is scored and assessed against other applications and the funding is a limited pot and not an open wallet.

It may seem daunting but if you are interested and think that you may have land that might qualify and have species and habitat present you can contact the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) locally who can assess and advise if it would be worth applying.

I can take this opportunity to wish all readers, on behalf of the staff at SAC Stornoway, a restful Christmas and a prosperous New Year when it comes.

Iain M Macmillan, Senior Agricultural Consultant, SAC Lewis and Harris

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**Proposed Assignment of a Croft**

Mrs Ishbel Campbell, residing at 5 Fleming Place, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, HS1 2NH, is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the Croft at 69 North Tolsta, Isle of Lewis, (R4726), to Roger Graham Hunt, residing at Kildonan, 53B North Tolsta, Isle of Lewis, HS2 ONW.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk by the 30th December 2021.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

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**Proposed Assignment of a Croft**

Murdo Macritchie is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 33 Swainbost, Isle of Lewis, to Donald John Macritchie, 104 Newmarket, Isle of Lewis.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot by 30th December 2021.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

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**Proposed Sublet of a Croft by Tenant**

Neil John Macleod is applying to sublet the whole croft at 24 North Shawbost to Andrew MacGillivray of 24 North Shawbost for 10 years.

Any relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV38NW by the 30th December 2021.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.