

Tribute

Donald Macleod, Shawbost

Donald Macleod was born on 22nd February 1941 to Kenneth Macleod and Margaret Mackay. He was the youngest in a family of four, a brother to Mary, Catriona, and Effie.

Donald was **devoted** to his family. He married Cathie Mary Macleod, of 14 Tolsta Chaolais, in July 1976. Their marriage was blessed with three lovely daughters – Mary, Marjorie, and Kaye. Donald found great joy in seeing his family grow. Mary married John Forbes and they are blessed with five children – Katherine, James, Donald, Elsa, and Kenneth. Marjorie married Iain Buchanan, and they are blessed with three children – Alasdair, Isla, and Angus. Kaye married David Macleod and they are blessed with three children – John, Matthew, and Ruth. Donald was devoted to them all and loved to spend time with his grandchildren.

Donald was a **designer**. He was naturally artistic. He had a natural ability in mechanical and technical things. He loved style, he loved detail, and he loved to design. This combination of talents was put to good use in his career in the Harris Tweed industry. He began to work in the local Harris Tweed Mill at Shawbost before stepping out to own and build up his own Harris Tweed Mill. He continued in his retirement to put his experience and skill to good use in the design and production of knitting yarn, a work in which he was engaged until shortly before his passing.

Donald was **dedicated** to his Lord and Saviour. He came to know the Lord Jesus as his Saviour in 1979 after a spiritual struggle, during which he lost interest in the social life in which he was very active, and came to the point of faith in the Lord Jesus which he described as a clear change of will and affections and the discovery of satisfaction in the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He professed faith in the Lord Jesus in October 1980. He was ordained as a Deacon on 23rd November 1981. He was ordained to the office of the Eldership on 29th January 1991.

Donald took great **delight** in Christian fellowship. His love for his Saviour, his desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and his unique analytical mind, found expression in his love of discussing the Word of God and in the searching and probing questions about the personal experience of salvation and theology. This often led the fellowship discussion into areas and depths which hitherto were unexplored by those sharing fellowship with him. Time spent with him was therefore an education, a time of discipling, and an opportunity to develop understanding of the Christian faith. It was a privilege for all who were present to share fellowship with him in his home for the last time on Wednesday 26th April 2023.

Donald was **dutiful** in his life as a Christian and as an Office-bearer in the congregation. He was faithful in his attendance at all the means of grace. His place in the prayer meeting was never empty. He led the praise in the public worship of God regularly, and with particular aptitude and inspiration when leading the praise in Gaelic. His sense of duty to the cause of Christ extended to his commitment and industry in the financial and material affairs of the congregation. He served for a long period as Congregational Treasurer. His technical ability, and his artistic and designer mind, was put into good use in all matters of the maintenance and refurbishment of congregational property. He left his mark, if not his fingerprint, on every aspect change and development.

Donald became unwell in March 2020. He bore his illness with grace and patience. It was evident to all who shared fellowship with him during his illness that the Lord was preparing him for a better place. The process of sanctification, which he often spoke of in fellowship, was accelerating, and the transforming power of God's Spirit was completing His work. He passed peacefully to his eternal rest, in the Western Isles Hospital, on Sunday 7th May 2023.

We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Cathie and the family, to his sister Effie, and to the wider family circle.

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!” (Revelation 14:13).