

This week we celebrate Pentecost, the day when Jesus' promise that He would send the Holy Spirit to His followers was fulfilled. In the second chapter of Acts we read of the transformation of the disciples when the Spirit came "like a mighty wind" and "like tongues of fire". It must have been an amazing experience, like a dam bursting or like a wild electrical storm. Such an experience that words could not adequately describe. From then on the Holy Spirit has been given to all Christians to enable, encourage and guide us as we seek to follow Jesus.

Here is a short article by Chris Tabraham on Pentecost and St Columba.:

***Pentecost***  
***Sunday 31 May, 2020***  
***And the story of Saint Columba's death.***

Christians celebrate the festival of Pentecost fifty days after Easter Sunday; the word comes from the Greek meaning 'fiftieth'. We in the UK know it also as Whit Sunday (Whitsunday), when we recall the Holy Spirit coming in the form of flames to the Apostles, as recorded in Acts 2: 1-4. The *New Testament in Scots* (1983) translates the marvellous event thus:

"Whan the day o Pentecost cam round, they war aa forgethert in ae place, when a o a suddendite a sound like the rair o a blowsterin gell o wind cam oot o the lift an fu'd the haill biggin whaur they war sittin. They saw like tungs o fire, at sindert in twa an sattelt on ilkane o them, an they war aa filled wi the Halie Spirit an begoud speakin in fremmit leids, accordin as the Spirit gae them the pouer tae mouband their thochts."

564 years after the first Day of Pentecost, as early Christians were celebrating the Holy Spirit descending on the Apostles, here in Argyll a holy man of God was ascending into Heaven, for it was at Whitsuntide AD 597 that the blessed Saint Columba passed away on his beloved Iona. His biographer, Abbot Adamnan, ninth abbot of Iona, recorded his passing:

*'In the month of May, having found some of his brethren at work on the western side of the island (Iona), he began to speak to them saying: "During the paschal celebrations in the month of April now past, with desire have I desired to depart to Christ the Lord... But lest a joyous festival should be turned for you into mourning, I thought it better to put off for a little while longer the time of my departure from the world." ... After blessing the island and its inhabitants, the saint was carried back to his monastery. ...A few days afterwards, while he was celebrating the solemn office of the Mass as usual on the Lord's Day, he saw an angel of the Lord hovering above within the walls of his oratory; and as the lovely and tranquil aspect of the holy angels infuses joy and exultation into the hearts of the elect, this was the cause of that sudden joy infused into the blessed man. When those who were*

*present on that occasion inquired as to that joy, the saint looking upwards gave them this reply: "Wonderful and unspeakable is the subtility of the angelic nature! ... This day in the Holy Scriptures is called the Sabbath, which means rest. And this day is indeed a Sabbath for me, for it is the last day of my present laborious life, and on it I rest after the fatigues of my labours; and this night at midnight I shall go to the way of our fathers." After this the saint ascended the hill that overlooketh the monastery, and as he stood there with both hands uplifted, he blessed the monastery saying:*

*"Small and mean though this place is, yet it shall be held in great and unusual honour, not only by Scottish kings and people, but also by the rulers of foreign and barbarous nations, and by their subjects, the saints also even of other churches shall regard it with no common reverence."*

Saint Columba died later that night in the church he had built on Iona, surrounded by his brethren. His prophecy regarding Iona has certainly come true, for Iona is visited by countless pilgrims every year, and his own name is as revered today as it was in his own time.

CHRIS TABRAHAM

### **Christian Aid Week:**

The people of North Knapdale have donated the wonderful figure of £440 (plus £48 Gift Aid) through the various collection points across the parish this year. Many thanks to all who were involved and also to Norma for organising this during our lock down. I am sure that many others across the parish also donated through the Christian Aid website. There is no doubt that these donations are vital to assist in places of serious difficulties and lack of resources.

### **Malawi: Kasamba Congregation:**

The Mid Argyll Malawi Twinning group decided to send a substantial part of their funds (£3,750) – all donated by the people of Mid Argyll – to Kasamba so that they would have the money available to purchase equipment and food for those around them who are suffering under the restrictions imposed to limit the spread of the virus. The numbers infected are still low but the restrictions are causing a great deal of anxiety and poverty as people are unable to go to work.

We have received this short message on the 24<sup>th</sup> May from Joel, who many will remember, has visited us from Kasamba:

*"Good evening David*

*Let me take this opportunity on behalf of Kasamba CCAP (Church of Central Africa Presbyterian), to acknowledge receipt of the support you and the entire Mid Argyll Churches have done to us all in order to prevent the spread of Covid 19. Our treasurer accessed the money on Friday at the bank and the congregation was informed yesterday*

during Kirk Session meeting. The total amount accessed is Malawi Kwacha MWK 3,390,690.50. A receipt is shown below for information.

*The situation here in Malawi is that as of today we have reached 84 cases tested positive with the virus. However, Kasamba congregation still observe the preventative measures specially at our gatherings. I will be advising more on how the money will be utilised.*

*Regards*

*Joel."*

The Kasamba church continues to meet for worship on Sundays, and spread out over their two halls, with two services. They also provide water for hand washing and sanitising gel. They do not have the infrastructure or the equipment for on-line worship, and few in the congregation will have broadband. Also, I am sure you will realise that the health service in the country is limited and this figure of 84 cases will be seriously under the actual figure for those contracting the disease and many will also be suffering hardship as their income has stopped due to lack of work.

This e-mail from Desiree Mhango, also from Kasamba has also just arrived -

*Dear All*

*I would also want to concur with Joel to sincerely thank you for your heartfelt support in amid the COVID 19 pandemic. For the first time Malawi has registered 102 new cases of which 79 were returnees from South Africa and truck drivers. This has doubled the number of infected to 203 since first case diagnosed early April. While it started gradually with strict preventive measures we could have contained the epidemic but now its getting out of hand. Thank you very much for the timely support. A friend in need is a friend indeed. May the good Lord grant you more blessings as per his word. It is blessed to give than to receive. Amen*

*Many thanks*

*Yours in the Lords service*

*Desiree*

### **Mid Argyll Prayers:**

Catherine Paterson meets weekly with some others to pray for people and situations in Mid Argyll. The group receive requests for prayer for family, friends, neighbours, people going through difficult times and any other situation where people would welcome prayer support.

The group are about to start up a website so people can use it to ask for prayer and there will be an opportunity within the next couple of weeks for people to use this to ask for

prayer. Catherine will let us know when this website is live, and adds “ I have to say, we have had some amazing results from the prayers offered for people.”

This is a great asset for us all in Mid Argyll and as well as the website I am sure we will be able to contact the group to ask for prayers by telephone and e-mail. Please look out for more information.

### **Pentecost Service:**

The newly inducted Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Right Rev. Martin Fair, will be leading a special Scotland wide (and beyond) service to celebrate Pentecost and to bring people together, on line. Details are available at:

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/moderator-to-host-church-wide-pentecost-service>

I am sure this will be an inspiring and enjoyable event so, if you can, I would recommend that you try to take part on line through the Church of Scotland website or Facebook page.

### **Mary McLulich:**

We received the very sad news this week that Mary has passed away. At the age of 106 she died peacefully in her sleep to be reunited with Duncan in a better place. I think we can imagine her entering into her new life in Jesus Christ with grace and joy..

While her cremation service will be limited to family, they are hopeful that at some suitable time, we can have a service of thanksgiving for her life, and all that she contributed to life of Tayvallich and the much wider community. This will be our opportunity to show the esteem and love with which she was held. In the meantime please pray for comfort and support for all Mary's family as they grieve her loss.

### **Presbytery News:**

Here is the weekly update from Stewart Shaw, Presbytery Clerk:

**From:** Pres. Argyll

**Sent:** 29 May 2020 06:54

**To:** Pres. Argyll <Argyll@churchofscotland.org.uk>

**Subject:** Prayer Rota and Intimations

#### **Presbytery Prayer Rota**

**Sunday 31 May 2020**

**Please pray for the following congregations and their ministers:**

**Iona:** Minister – Rev Jenny Earl

**South Knapdale:** Minister - Rev David Carruthers

**Special Prayers for congregations with Alison Hay as Interim Moderator.**

Presbytery should know that there *are* congregations temporarily without an Interim Moderator because Alison has been furloughed. We should be holding these congregations in our prayers; and especially praying for those who are keeping these parishes going in the circumstances.

## **Intimations**

- **The Presbytery of Argyll will meet in extraordinary circumstances on Tuesday 2 June at 10.30am in the United Church of Bute for ordinary business. The only members present will be Douglas Allan, Moderator, Rev Owain Jones, Moderator-elect, Stewart Shaw, Clerk and Rev Sibyl Tchaikovsky. The Presbytery will therefore be quorate. As far as business is concerned, we will follow the procedures of the recent format of the Council of Assembly (See below). Papers, including the minute of the previous meeting, reports and deliverances will be distributed to presbyters. Any corrections to the minutes should be sent to the clerk. With regard to deliverances, if presbyters agree with them then they are asked to do nothing. If they disagree with any deliverance they should inform the clerk. If 4 or more disagree with a deliverance then it shall not be passed by the quorum and will be referred to the next Presbytery meeting where presbyters are able to attend. The meeting will be live-streamed on YouTube – Details will be sent to Presbyters.**
- **Douglas Allan, Moderator of Presbytery calls presbyters to weekly prayer together on Wednesdays at Noon. Prayer is on the Presbytery Website and will be circulated to Presbyters and Session Clerks.**
- **I have been informed by Rev Robin Mackenzie that Revd Peter Youngson, who was for many years minister of Jura, died on Friday last, 22nd May. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.**
- **Presbytery Facebook Page:** If anyone wishes something posted on the Presbytery Facebook Page **please contact either**  
**Liz Gibson ([egibson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:egibson@churchofscotland.org.uk))**  
**or Scott Burton ([Sburton@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:Sburton@churchofscotland.org.uk)).**
- **Online services available from Argyll**

The following services are being provided online for local congregations and those who wish to log in from places further afield:

**West Kintyre and Gigha – Rev Scott Burton -<https://www.westkintyreandgighachurchofscotland.org/> Worship**

**The United Church of Bute – Rev Owain Jones - <https://www.unitedchurchofbute.org.uk/>**

**The Shore Kirk – Rev Janet MacKellar –  
<https://sites.google.com/view/theshorekirk/home>  
or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/345399762209092/>**

**Ardchattan lw Coll lw Connel – Rev Willem Bezuidenhout <https://www.ardchattanchurch.org.uk/>**

**West Cowal – Rev David Mitchell  
<https://www.westcowalchurches.org.uk>**

**South Kintyre – Rev Steve Fulcher  
[www.kintyreparishes.org.uk](http://www.kintyreparishes.org.uk)**

**Netherlorn Churches Worship Team**  
<http://www.netherlornchurches.org.uk/>

**West Lochfyneside:**  
<https://www.westlochfyneside.org.uk>

**Kilmore and Oban: Rev Dugald Cameron**  
[www.obanchurch.com](http://www.obanchurch.com)

### **Daily Hope line**

It is introduced by the Archbishop of Canterbury. There are three options, you can:

1. Listen to a well-known hymn being sung then listen to a reflection on it, about 15 minutes.
2. Listen to well-known hymns being sung and sing along.
3. Listen to a prayer relevant to today's world

This service is called Daily Hope, the phone number is **0800 804 8044** Phone calls are free.

### **Keep Safe**

Stewart

W Stewart Shaw DL  
Clerk to the Presbytery of Argyll  
Registered Scottish Charity SC001424.

### **The church after lockdown?**

Stewart Shaw and Marilyn Sheddon have opened up a discussion on how we should be proceeding as congregations once the lock down regulations are lifted. Do we just pick up as we were before, do we try to integrate some of the lessons from using "on-line" services for worship, should we be meeting together differently? It seems to be that many more people are watching on line worship than ever came to church services – what can we learn from this, how do we encourage them to engage with the church from now onwards?

What are your views or ideas? Please let me know your thoughts on our future church in North Knapdale once we can get together again.  
e-mail me at [sessionclerk@northknapdale.org](mailto:sessionclerk@northknapdale.org)

Some ideas have already been submitted to Marylyn and Stewart and this is her initial reply. I will circulate more on this discussion as it comes in.

**From:** Pres. Argyll  
**Sent:** 29 May 2020 06:45  
**To:** Pres. Argyll <Argyll@churchofscotland.org.uk>  
**Subject:** Coming out of Lockdown A Message from Marilyn Shedden

Dear colleagues.

Stewart and I are absolutely delighted by the amazing responses to our request to open up a discussion about the future. We have 39 replies, and these have truly inspired us.

There is a feeling in general, of optimism, of enthusiasm, of ....dare I say it.....even a little excitement about the future.

Yes, of course there is a bit of worry and concern, a recognition of grief for what is dying, but there is trust and hope that this time is teaching us something.

A recent survey showed that 63% of the population in the UK do not want to go back to how things were before Covid.

This is interesting as people often hark back to the past, the rose tinted spectacle past, the 'we've aye done it this way' times.

Yet 63% want something better.....not just in the church, but in other walks of life For a long time now we have discussed at length the demise of the church, the ageing of the church, the irrelevance of the church..

We have complained it is the meeting place for the grey heided ones, and why are there no young folk in the pews?

Well, young folk don't like pews, they don't relate to 19th century communication on their 21st century lives.

We cannot get across to many in our churches that Messy Church IS church, and the objective is to welcome these families and youngsters into THEIR church, not to drag them into OUR church.

Amidst all the responses we have received there is much to celebrate in vision and enthusiasm and we so look forward to sharing this.

Richard Rhor said, 'we are all so intent in pointing out the problems that we are never actually willing to be part of the solution'.

Whatever our differences, whatever our views, your responses have clearly said that you also indeed want to be part of the solution.

Thank you all for this wonderful opportunity to build on the faith and beauty of the past, but to step into the future with a new song in our hearts to worship our God and be led into the unknown, but with the one who is totally known ....even Jesus Christ our Lord.

Interesting that this is Pentecost.....the Spirit is moving in Argyll.....did we ever doubt it?

Stewart and I will be in touch on Monday with all who have contributed to explain the ideas we have for the next stages.

Thank you and may God use all our thoughts and prayers, Marilyn

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W Stewart Shaw DL

Clerk to the Presbytery of Argyll

Registered Scottish Charity SC001424

## **Psalm 104 vs 24 to 34 and 35b**

This week's psalm is a hymn of praise to God, in particular how the Holy Spirit is involved in all creation and in sustaining all of life. At the very beginning of creation the "*Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters*" Genesis Ch1 v 2

The psalm rejoices in the Spirit's role and we too can rejoice for this, but even more so, how wonderful it is to hear from Jesus that this same Holy Spirit is given to us now, as our guide, our comforter, our helper, and our inspiration to follow Jesus. And also, we are promised a share in the energy/power of the Spirit - "*Jesus said 'Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are imbued with power from on high'*" Luke Ch 24 v 49.

O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom, you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your possessions –  
This great and wide sea,  
In which are innumerable teeming things.  
Living things both small and great.

There the ships sail about;  
There is that leviathan  
Which you have made to play there.  
These all wait for you,  
That you may give them their food in due season.  
What you give them they gather in;

You open your hand, they are filled with good  
You hide your face, they are troubled  
You take away their breath, they die and return to dust.  
You send forth Your Spirit, they are created;  
And you renew the face of the earth.  
May the glory of the Lord endure forever;  
May the Lord rejoice in His works  
He looks on the earth, and it trembles;  
He touches the hills and they smoke.  
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.  
May my meditation be sweet to Him;  
I will be glad in the Lord.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!  
Praise the Lord.

You can find news on our church website: [www.northknapdale.org](http://www.northknapdale.org)  
And our Face Book page – North Knapdale Church.