

## Ascension Day

This week in the Christian Calendar we celebrate the “Ascension” of Jesus. After meeting with and teaching the disciples for about six weeks as the Resurrected Jesus, He leaves. This person, the Son of God, as a living breathing man with all the limitations He accepted for that time, goes away.

God intervened in the world by sending His Son as a baby in Bethlehem. The Gospels tell the amazing story of His life and teaching and actions, and now that time is over.

Looking through the Gospels, there is very little written about this “Ascension” event. Christ’s birth is described in detail, His crucifixion and resurrection are given lots of narrative, but there is little information on His ascension. Matthew and John don’t mention it

All Mark reports is that:

*“...after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God” Mark Ch 16 v.19*

Luke only writes:

*“...while He blessed them, He was parted from them and carried up into heaven” Luke ch 24 v 51*

The first chapter of Acts (also by Luke) expands this a bit:

*“...while they watched, he was taken up and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel. “Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” Acts Ch 1 v 9 - 11*

Altogether a fairly low key event, but so absolutely essential to the message of Jesus. Jesus came as a baby, lived as a man, died as a saviour for all, demonstrated his defeat of death and all the powers of evil, and then left quietly, watched by a few of His followers. How could God leave His human form to recover His place with his Father? How could he fulfil His promises – “where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst” or “Lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age”?

He couldn’t hang around as a man – in one place and one time – He needed to recover His divinity, his place in the God of Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Before He went, He gave His disciples an instruction and a promise. A direction for their lives and the power to carry it out:

Matthew Ch 28 v 18: *“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.. Teaching them to observe all Things I have commanded...”*

Mark Ch 16 v 15: *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature..”*

Luke Ch 24 v 49: *“Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you, but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high”.*

Acts Ch 1 v 8 *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and to the end of the earth.”*

Jesus was getting His earthly body out of the way! His earthly presence was no longer necessary, it was a hindrance, what is needed now to spread the Good News of the Kingdom of God are people empowered by God – filled with the Holy Spirit – lots of people, all of whom He would be with as they lived, preached, taught, and suffered, all across the world. Hundreds, thousands, millions of people who could know His presence, and live with Him, live following Him, and live serving Him.

This low profile, quiet, unobtrusive event of Jesus ascension opened the way for the explosion of the reality of Jesus Christ, Son of God, Jesus Christ, Saviour and redeemer, Jesus Christ – showing the Way, the Truth and the Life, to people, including us, all across the world.

Without His ascension, without His command “to go...” and without the arrival of the promised Holy Spirit for all believers, we would not know the Gospel. We would not have the life, and purpose and hope we have in the truth of the blessing:

“The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Be with us now”

Let us give thanks this Ascension day for all we have received in our faith in Jesus Christ.

### **The Psalm for Ascension Day is Psalm 47:**

This is a psalm of praise and rejoicing – as you read through this – imagine you are in heaven, watching as Jesus ascends from His earthly body to take up His place with God the Father, and all the people in heaven are singing:

O clap your hands all you peoples!  
Shout to God with the voice of triumph!  
For the Lord most high is awesome;  
He is a great King over all the earth,  
He will subdue the peoples under us,  
And the nations under our feet.  
He will choose our inheritance for us.

The excellence of Jacob whom He loves.  
God has gone up with a shout.  
The Lord with the sound of a trumpet  
Sing praises to God, sing praises!  
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!  
For God is the King of all the earth;  
Sing praises with understanding.

God reigns over the nations;  
God sits on his Holy Throne.  
The princes and the peoples have gathered together,  
The people of the God of Abraham.  
For the shields of the earth belong to God  
He is greatly exalted.  
Amen.

### **Mrs Eileen Barr**

This week the people of North Knapdale and beyond, but particularly those of Tayvallich have been saddened to hear that Eileen Barr has passed away. She was a very well known resident whom many of you will have known for a long time as an active member of the community.

Unfortunately in the recent past she has been confined to her home due to illness and frailty and she has been wonderfully cared for at home by her family.

In the light of the current restrictions the family arranged that the family only funeral would be at Carsaig on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May and that prior to this the hearse would move slowly through the village so that villagers could line the route to pay their respects.

Please pray for comfort for all the Barr family.

### **Moderator urges churches to support “Thy Kingdom Come”**

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**The Moderator is encouraging everyone to join him in taking part in the Thy Kingdom Come global prayer movement.**

Right Rev Dr Martin Fair has backed the Scottish Church Leaders Forum in calling all Christians to join the ecumenical season of prayer, which will run from Ascension Day, 21 May to Pentecost Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May.

The Scottish church leaders have released a statement saying:

“On behalf of the undersigned churches in Scotland, we welcome the opportunity to participate in the Global Prayer Initiative: [Thy Kingdom Come 2020](#).

“Now in its fifth year, the movement draws thousands of Christians together, across different denominations and traditions, to pray for their friends, family and neighbours to come to know the love of Jesus.

In the face of the Covid 19 pandemic, Thy Kingdom Come resources have been adapted to enable churches, families and individuals to pray and worship in their homes, through a collection of resources, in line with social distancing guidelines.”

Full information on this can be found on the “Thy Kingdom Come” website:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

This is well worth looking through for ideas and resources for this vital time of prayer.

If you do not have access to the internet then perhaps you could ask someone to look into this for you.

You can find news on our church website: [www.northknapdale.org](http://www.northknapdale.org)

And our Face Book page – North Knapdale Church.

North Knapdale Church of Scotland - Charity No: SC001002

## Argyll Presbytery News:

Here is the weekly e-mail from Stewart Shaw from Argyll Presbytery:

**From:** Pres. Argyll

**Sent:** 22 May 2020 14:46

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

**Subject:** Presbytery Prayer Rota and Intimations

### Presbytery Prayer Rota

**Sunday 24 May 2020**

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

**Kilninver & Kilmelford:** Interim Moderator – Mrs Alison Hay

**Connel:** Minister \_ Rev Willem Bezuidenhout

Please pray for

*\*Our team who handles the virtual services of worship. They are working very hard and we have pledged to continue to do this until the churches are opened again'*

*\* We are desperately looking for a treasurer, still. (We have been without a treasurer since the end of last year.)*

Please pray for **Other Denominations**

### 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 by Friday 29 May. 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.**

- **Scotland's Churches Trust** has asked me to send you the link to a talk by Professor Adam Cumming, who is one of SCT's trustees and co-organiser of our Church Recording Project. The talk was originally given at the National Trust for Scotland Edinburgh Members' Centre. Please feel free to share it on your Presbytery website and in any other electronic newsletters you may be circulating at this time.  
[Historic Scottish Churches - The European Connection](#)
- **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)).
- **An Intimation from Linda Tighe, Session Clerk of Glassary, Kilmartin and Ford Parish Church**  
It is with great sadness that we heard about the death of Niven MacVicar on 14th May 2020. Niven was born in January 1921 and would have celebrated his 100th birthday next year. Niven had spent the last few years in a home in Dunoon where he had many happy times and was able to join his friends in Glassary, Kilmartin and Ford Church on various lunch outings, his nephew David and David's wife Janet accompanying him on these trips. Niven thoroughly enjoyed these occasions; the company and the reminiscences -- the laughter and chat at his table was always evidence of that.

He will be sadly missed by many in the church and wider community. A memorial service will be held in Kilmartin at an appropriate time.

- **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:**

[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