

Good Morning all, another week, rain and sun, time passes and we discover more things to do, and yet discover more reasons why a return to “normality” would be so welcome. There are people we long to see, to hug, to sit and chat with. There are places we want to visit, summer visitors who will not come this year, birthdays which pass by without parties.

Last week we raised the questions around, “How can church buildings be used again?” There is no clamour in North Knapdale it would seem for a rush to re-open! (I had very little response to the request last week for views on reopening!) There is a certain resignation that church services will never be the same again. Church re-opening is not at the top of people’s wish list – seeing family, meeting friends, visiting – these are the priorities, we are social beings and we want to return to being sociable. TV and online services of worship, and teaching are meeting some of our desire to worship, it is the social aspects of church services we miss most.

Lockdown has been eased a bit, and will probably be eased more to allow a few more people to meet together. If so, I suspect that this will be part of the way forward for us to begin meeting again. Small groups of two or three, five or six people, meeting to recover social contacts, to laugh and chat together, and maybe use the time to have a wee bit worship, listen to a hymn, share a bible reading. As we can come together, we can use the opportunity to share our being together with God, with our loving Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It wouldn’t take much for someone to suggest this with their friends as we can start to see each other again. Just a quiet start up with no complex planning, no strategic goals – just people getting together with God and each other for fun.

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### **This week’s Psalm is 13:**

How long O Lord? Will You forget me forever?  
How long will You hide your face from me?  
How long shall I take council in my soul,  
having sorrow in my heart daily?  
How long will my enemy be exalted over me?  
Consider and hear me, O Lord my God;  
Enlighten my eyes,  
Lest I sleep the sleep of death,  
Lest my enemy say,  
“I have prevailed against him”  
Lest those who trouble me rejoice  
When I am moved.  
But I have trusted in Your mercy;  
My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.  
I will sing to the Lord  
Because He has dealt bountifully with me.  
(Psalm 13 New King James’ Version)

When we think of King David, we invariably remember the story of his fight with Goliath, or his friendship with Jonathan, or possibly his affair with Bathsheba and murder of her husband. However, long periods of David's life were spent in hiding, being hunted by enemies and living as a fugitive. Life was difficult. From these times of desolation we have these psalms, which give us insight into his faith in God, and can be inspiring and encouraging for us as we work through crisis and desolation in our own experiences. Four times David cries out "How long.....?" Is this condition to be interminable, when will it end? David again cries out to God, and he pleads for God to act in order to save his life, and to deny his enemy the opportunity to gloat over his victory (v 4).

The defeat of his enemy is as important as saving his own life. For David, his enemy is God's enemy and God's victory is paramount. David is completely aligned to God's will and purpose.

So, he can trust completely in God's mercy and rejoice that God will save him.

In the final verse David demonstrates his confident assurance that God is with him, by predicting that, at some point in the future, he will be able to sing to the Lord and look back on God bountifully dealing with him. He is looking forward, trusting that he will be able to look back in joy and thanksgiving.

Let us pray that, like him, when we are in distress, we can look forward to looking back in thanksgiving to Him:

Loving God, I trust in your mercy, I rejoice in Your salvation for this time of distress, and I look forward to singing praise to you and to looking back on how You have dealt bountifully with me.

Amen.

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### **On line services:**

- **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/>

Service is available by Phone on 01369 510 932

**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)

**Barra and South Uist : Rev Lindsay Schluter(audio only)**

Can be accessed via telephone (01871-200336) or the South Uist website

([www.southuistchurchofscotland.com](http://www.southuistchurchofscotland.com) )

**eXp facebook page:** - a worship and discipleship resource for young people.

<https://www.facebook.com/expdunoon/>

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

And our Face Book page – [North Knapdale Church](https://www.facebook.com/northknapdalechurch).

If you would like any articles put into the newsletter please send it to

[sessionclerk@northknapdale.org](mailto:sessionclerk@northknapdale.org),

North Knapdale Church of Scotland - Charity No: SC001002