

Hi everyone, I am writing this on Wednesday looking out on to a very wet, drizzly, almost cold July summer day. Why am I surprised? The middle of the school holidays and the village is full of visitors – as it should be at this time, but everyone keeping their distance. This is summer in Argyll.

We would normally (what is normal?) be looking forward to the annual events around the area, Tayvallich Weekend, Ardrishaig Gala, Mid Argyll Show – please add in your own – but this year we are going without – no crowded stalls, no children's races or ceilidh dances. Just getting on with our lives in a low key and steady way. It is not really a hardship, just a bit sad, and the various charities which benefit from the income will this year miss out.

However, we are so aware of how well off we are in this area. In other areas, food banks are busier than ever, in other countries - health services are minimal and Covid 19 can spread rapidly. The appeals from Disasters Emergency Committee, UNHCR, Christian Aid and many others tell us of the plight of millions. I am sure you will have seen many appeals but I think this one from UNHCR gives us an understanding of the problems just one country is facing:

In Yemen, life hangs by a thread for millions.

Earlier this year, the World Health Organisation (WHO) warned that if coronavirus came to Yemen, it would mean a 'perfect storm' of a humanitarian disaster.

That storm has now arrived, with a vengeance.

It's unknown how many Yemenis have died of coronavirus, and how many are infected. **The health system is on the brink of collapse, there's little testing and nobody knows the true numbers.** But I can tell you what I do know and what I've seen.

Yemenis confirmed with the disease are dying in shocking numbers. Fatality rates from the virus are significantly higher than the global average and new cases continue to climb. And what health facilities remain are having to turn people away because they're full, or because they don't have the equipment or medicines to treat them.

The Yemeni people I live and work alongside are resilient – but how much more can they take? After five years of war 24 million people rely on humanitarian aid for their daily survival, 3.65 million have been forced to flee their homes and 2 million children are at risk of starvation.

As UNHCR's Representative in Yemen it's important I don't let my emotions get the better of me – so I hope you'll forgive my frustration that the global community hasn't done more to reduce people's suffering here. **For the last three years we have said that Yemen is the world's worst humanitarian crisis, yet the war still goes on and the people still suffer.**

What keeps my team and I going is the knowledge that, with your support, we can save lives. Please give what you can to help displaced Yemeni families survive.

By making an emergency gift today, you could help displaced families access life-saving essentials such as urgently needed food, clean water, medical care and safe shelter.

People in Yemen have suffered enough. But together, we can help save lives.

Thank you,

Jean-Nicolas Beuze

UNHCR Representative Yemen

P.S. Your support could mean the difference between life and death for some of the most vulnerable families. Please make an emergency gift today and help displaced families to live through this. If you have already donated in response to this ongoing crisis, I can't thank you enough for your kind gift. Your generosity will provide life-saving assistance for displaced families.

We are fortunate living where we are, but that also gives us the opportunity to look outwards to share what we have been given with others who are in serious difficulties.

This week's Psalm is 105 vs 1 to 11:

Oh, give thanks to the Lord!
Call upon His name;
Make known His deeds among the peoples!
Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him;
Talk of all His wondrous works!

Glory in His holy name;
Let the hearts of those rejoice
Who seek the Lord!
Seek the Lord and his strength;
Seek His face evermore!
Remember His marvellous works
which he has done,
His wonders, and the judgements of His mouth.

O seed of Abraham His servant,
You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!
He is the Lord our God;
His judgements are in all the earth.
He remembers His covenant forever.
The word which He commanded,
For a thousand generations.

The covenant which He made with Abraham,
And His oath to Isaac.
And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute,
To Israel as an everlasting covenant.
Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan
As the allotment of your inheritance."

These verses come in two halves – the opening paragraphs invite us to look outwards, to give thanks and to tell "the peoples" about God, what he has done and is doing, tell others

and rejoice as we seek God and get to know Him more. Seek His strength, remember His works and wonders and all that He has said.

The second half encourages us to look back, at what has gone before in our history, following God. For the Hebrews this always goes back to the calling of Abraham, His trust in God's leading and His faith in God's promises. On these, the bond between God and His people is founded. We too, can look back to Abraham. We, as followers of Jesus, as children of God, are the descendents of Abraham, who God promised would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. (Genesis Ch 15 vs 5) We are some of those stars. Stars who can tell of the glory of God, who can sing psalms to Him of His wonderful works and can seek His strength and His words.

But, sometimes this seems all too much for us, we need to sit, we feel we have done enough. We are weary in our faith, and just want to rest. I found this poem in a book of prayer:

Speak to me Lord, give me your peace.
Show me the way to go.
I need your love, I need your strength,
All of my needs You know.

Be by my side, be in my heart,
Be in my every prayer.
Filling my life, filling my soul,
All of the time be there.....

Give me your love
- Give me your peace.....
(*Ros Robertson, Celtic Prayer Book 1*)

We also have this week the news and prayers from Presbytery:

Presbytery Prayer Rota

Sunday 26 July 2020

Please pray for the following congregations and their ministers/Interim Moderators:

Tiree: Interim Moderator – Mr Douglas Allan

Tiree Parish Church would welcome your prayers for its members and the wider population of this remote island as it comes to terms with the effects of the pandemic on a fragile community. We pray for those whose livelihoods are threatened through a dearth of tourism, for fishermen and crofters as they struggle to get their produce to market and for our members still isolated at home. We pray too for our online worship and other worshipping communities on the island. Lord, we seek your guidance in our deliberations on opening the church building so that we can do this safely for everyone.

Dunoon St John's: Interim Moderator – Mrs Alison Hay

Intimations

The Presbytery Office is now closed for the week and will re-open on Monday.

Anyone wishing an intimation posted should inform the clerk no later than Thursday each week.

- Rev Owain Jones, Moderator of Presbytery invites presbyters to weekly prayer together on Wednesdays at Noon. Prayer is on the Presbytery Website and will be circulated to Presbyters and Session Clerks.
It can also be viewed on the following link

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPXtIED6SuGHrf7DYJtMj8w>

- **Presbytery Facebook Page:** If anyone wishes something posted on the Presbytery Facebook Page please contact either
Liz Gibson (egibson@churchofscotland.org.uk)

or Scott Burton (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/>

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

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

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

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

(www.southuistchurchofscotland.com)

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

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

You can find news on our church website:

www.northknapdale.org

And our Face Book page – North Knapdale Church.

Contact David Logue – sessionclerk@northknapdale.org

North Knapdale Church of Scotland - Charity No: SC001002