

Our parish this weekend has experienced the opening up of our communities as visitors return to their holiday homes and caravans. Well known faces reappear for the summer, and strangers pop up in rented cottages - all so pleased to be able to experience the freedoms of our countryside and the wide spaces around us. For them it is joy, for the businesses dependent on the tourist visits it is some economic relief, and for the local population it is a concern of being exposed to strangers from afar who may bring Covid into our community.

We are faced with the reality that has bound much of our country to a greater extent than we have experienced – now for us washing hands, wearing masks, keeping apart seem to be a more serious imperative than before. We are called to welcome the stranger and to love our neighbours – we can do both by recognising their need for protection as well as our own, and allowing them the freedoms we always enjoy in living in this open and peaceful part of Scotland.

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There continues to be a wide range of responses to the question – how should our church services look after Covid 19 is dissipated? A spectrum of thoughts from – “Let’s get back to exactly the same formats as before” to “we need to harness all the initiatives of on line worship and put less focus on our congregational worship in our buildings”. There is no “right” answer here – there are benefits and drawbacks with whatever format we move forward. The important words here are “move forward” because we cannot recreate the past or ever in our lives go back to where we were. Life moves on, yesterday is gone and is now a lesson from which to learn.

My attention was drawn this morning to a short passage in the book of Ezra Chapter 3 vs 11 to 13. This was when the foundation of a new temple was being laid after the first one had been destroyed by the invading Babylonians:

*“...and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord:*

*For He is good, for His mercy endures forever toward Israel’*

*Then all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the priests, and Levites and the heads of the father’s houses, old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of the temple was laid before their eyes. Yet many shouted aloud for joy, so the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy, from the noise of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout and the sound was heard afar off.”*

Some people were sad, quite rightly because the new temple would not be the same as the old one they remembered. Some people were joyful, because once more they would have a place to worship together. Sadness and joy combined to make a loud noise which was heard afar off.

## North Knapdale Church : Newsletter 10.7.2020

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When the time comes to reopen our buildings, some will be sad that we cannot rewind time and go back to exactly as we were, others will be joyful because they see new ways developing. Neither is wrong, both are right in some ways – but what is most important is that when we re-open – the sound of our re-opening will be heard “afar off”. It will be a time for us to shout out - “here we are to worship together”.

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Each week the presbytery newsletter focuses prayer on two parishes. This week the focus is on North Mull and ourselves in North Knapdale. Together, the members of session have put together the following topics from our Parish:

Please pray for our situation of having no minister. Give thanks for the return this week of our Interim Moderator who has been on furlough for the last three months.

Pray for the recommencement of discussions on the “Mid Argyll Mission Plan” to decide on the shape of the five Mid Argyll parishes so that we can move forward together and the two vacant parishes of North Knapdale and Glassary, Kilmartin and Ford can have some access to ministerial leadership.

Please give thanks for the work of the local businesses which are upholding our communities during lockdown, particularly the local shopkeepers, the Co-op and the Tayvallich Shop, and West Coast Motors, and all the people who have gone out of their way to help others during lockdown.

Pray that visitors to the area are mindful of the directives still in place and respectful to keep our communities safe.

We pray for all those in our communities who have lost loved ones during this period. Help them to grieve as they are isolated from family and may they be able to share their sorrow and find comfort with others in our community.

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**This is the weekly Presbytery News and Prayer Rota: after the payer is a useful list on line services.**

**From:** Pres. Argyll

**Sent:** 10 July 2020 13:36

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

**Subject:** Presbytery Prayer Rota and Intimations

## **Presbytery Prayer Rota**

**Sunday 12 July 2020**

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

**North Mull:** Interim Moderator- Rev Jenny Earl --Locum-Rev Liz Gibson

Rev Liz asks that,

“We give thanks for the mutual support of the community.

We ask for calm and sensitivity all round as we adjust to greater movement of people, including the welcome of visitors to the island and the increased opportunities for islanders to travel further afield. We pray too for the ongoing process of uniting as one parish.”

**North Knapdale:** Interim Moderator – Mrs Alison Hay

Session Clerk, David Logue asks us to:

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### Intimations

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

- **Rev Owain Jones, 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.

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](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/>

[Service is available by Phone on 01369 510 932](tel:01369510932)

**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>

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**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/>

## 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

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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