

North Knapdale Church : 7.8.2020

This week you may have seen that one or two congregations in Mid Argyll are planning to reopen their buildings for Sunday worship. However, in North Knapdale we are not yet planning any opening of buildings as we believe that the constraints of the regulations, and the risk to those attending still outweigh any benefits of worshipping together in our buildings.

At a national level, the Moderator is calling us all to be involved in a week of prayer for guidance on the way forward from the 17th August. More information and details will follow next week, but please consider how best we can be involved in this as individuals, households, or small groups.

Here is the letter from the Moderator for information:

4 August 2020

The text below has been sent to:

Presbytery Clerks, Ministers, OLMs and Auxiliaries, MDS, Interim Moderators and Locums, Readers, the Diaconate, Ministry Candidates & Probationers and Session Clerks

Dear Friends,

While some churches have already re-opened for public worship, most are still considering how best, and when, to do so. The need to navigate our way through the challenges involved and to properly implement the published guidelines is causing a degree of anxiety not seen since the beginning of lockdown. Rightly so, there are all kinds of questions to be answered and systems to be put in place to ensure as much as possible that those who visit our buildings are kept safe. I am enormously grateful to all those who at national, regional and local levels have worked so hard to get us to this point.

But while we order supplies of sanitising agents and face coverings, measure our sanctuaries to calculate allowable numbers, and work out how best to handle 'in church' worship alongside digital content, we mustn't miss the opportunity that is now before us to ask the crucial questions of what it is we're going back to do and how best are we going to do it? Will it be business as usual or might this be an opportunity for us to invite a fresh blowing of the wind of the Spirit to refresh and reinvigorate us and to 'revive us for this hour?' This may well be a critical moment in the life of our Church - a paradigm-shifting moment. And if that's true for the Church then it may be equally true for the country, not least as COVID-related economic realities begin to bite.

It's with that in mind that I have decided to offer A Week of Prayer for Church and Country, believing that as we head into such a critical period we should be 'on our knees' before the One who has promised to lead us. The week will run from Monday 17 to Saturday 22 August and I'm presently working with a group of wonderfully creative colleagues to put it all together. Fuller details of how to get involved and how to involve congregations will follow, but in brief there will be a short, recorded reflection and prayer each morning and an opportunity to gather nationally online each evening. These gatherings will be entirely interactive and there will be ways for individuals and congregations to participate - as little or as much as possible.

I very much hope you'll want to participate in this week, as you are able, and that you'll encourage members to do likewise.

'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.' Colossians 4:2

Yours in Christ,



Rt Revd Dr W Martin Fair , Moderator

The Psalm for this week is 105, verses 1 to 7.

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 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!

Just reading this through makes you excited to know God. Six exclamation marks on statements which lift our hearts to the wonders of God. The mystery of His being. This is a call to get excited about God's works, His strength, His wonders and His judgements. Tell, sing, glory, rejoice, seek, remember all He has done, is doing and will do! Take a while to consider all He has done in our own lives, how He is with us in all situations, how He comforts and cares, and how He guides and encourages.

The rest of the psalm takes the reader back to the history of Israel, how Abraham was called to follow the living God, Yahweh, how He prepared the way for the Hebrews to go to Egypt during a famine, and how He called Moses to take them out of captivity into their promised land. In our lives, what do we look back to and celebrate as we can see in hindsight how God has led us to where we are now? As we look back this increases our faith and trust that He will continue with us in our lives from now onwards as well.

Presbytery Moderator Letter and Prayer

This week Rev Owain Jones is having a break so I have not received a written copy of his "Presbytery letter and prayer" this week. However, he has recorded it on You Tube and you can listen to him on the North Knapdale church website

You can also find news on our church website: www.northknapdale.org

And our Face Book page – North Knapdale Church.

North Knapdale Church of Scotland - Charity No: SC001002