

Well – another week –or more really, a new month and the start of a new season. I think we can reasonably say that Autumn is beginning! More rain, cooler days and bracken turning brown. But September can often also give us surprises, so let's enjoy the days as they come.

We will all remember this summer of 2020 – the limitations, the concerns, the lack of contact with others and the restrictions on our travel. But we will also remember the kindnesses of others, the helpful shop keepers and drivers, and the concerns of neighbours as they “go the extra mile”.

I am sure we all have stories of good things which have happened to us, so I am thinking that it would be encouraging for us all to hear these good news stories! So, can you tell us your good news story, a helpful action, some kind words, an unexpected meeting, a blessing, an answered prayer. Please send them to me – in a few words or as many as you like – and I can put them all together in a newsletter and send them out for everyone's encouragement.

Please share these with us – send your story in to:

Post: David Logue, 3 Braeface, Tayvallich, Lochgilphead, PA31 8PN

e-mail: sessionclerk@northknapdale.org

phone: 01546 870647 (I will take a note of your story over the phone and write it out)

looking forward to gathering these and sending them out!

The Psalm for this week is Psalm 149:

Praise the Lord!
Sing to the Lord a new song,
and His praise in the assembly of saints.
Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;
Let the children of Zion be joyful
in their King.

Let them praise his name with the dance;
Let them sing praises to Him

with the timbrel and harp
For the Lord takes pleasure in His people;
He will beautify the humble
with salvation.

Let the saints be joyful in glory;
Let them sing aloud in their beds
Let the high praises of God be in
their mouth.
and a two-edged sword in their hand,
to execute vengeance on the nations,
and punishment on the peoples;
To bind their Kings in chains,
and their nobles with fetters of iron;
To execute on them the written judgement –
This honour have all the saints

Praise the Lord

This psalm, like many, falls into two parts. The first part paints an idyllic picture of a people giving thanks to God for the benefits of His pleasure in them, for the comfort of salvation in His name. Sing and give thanks for the new things which He is doing, rejoice, dance, sing and play music for God's blessings to us. We can get into that, we can join in as we consider our own blessings, and so we should.

In the second part the psalm takes on a darker tone to our ears. The people are encouraged – as they praise, to take up their sharpened swords; as they sing, to seek vengeance on other nations and tribes; and as they rejoice, to conquer and bind the foreign kings and nobles. These were warlike times.

At that time the Hebrews were a very small nation, following a God only they recognised, and surrounded by nations and tribes intent on invading and pillaging their country. Nations who worshipped pagan gods and followed blood curdling rituals to appease them. The Hebrews were very conscious of the fragility of their position and their dependence on God for survival. They see security and safety very clearly bound up in death to their enemies and victory over their neighbouring kings.

But this is not for us, we who live now after the revelation of God in Jesus, after the life and teaching of Christ, after the resurrection, and after the establishment of the people of God, His church, His body.
We know God through the lens of the Gospels and the New Testament.

In the letter to the Hebrews, the writer says – “For the word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit...”

Not for us a sword of destruction and death, but a call to seek God in His word to us, and thereby following His way for our lives.

Not for us the desire to capture and imprison foreign leaders, (tempting though that thought is), but rather, as Paul wrote to the church at Corinth – “...for though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

2nd Cor Ch 10 vs 3 – 5.

The Hebrews anxiously defended their country and longed for victory over aggressive neighbours, we are exhorted to capture our thinking and bring it into obedience of Christ. Probably a much more challenging objective as it involves every thought and action of our days.

This involves warring against a much more subtle and invasive enemy - as Paul encourages us:

“Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore, take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

And the good news is that in the Gospel of Jesus Christ we are assured that these principalities and powers, although troublesome, are already beaten, and have no power over us. Jesus Christ is our saviour from all the attempts of the evil one to defeat us and bring us down. So, in the joy and assurance of that news, - as the psalmist encourages – we can *“sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise in the assembly of the saints”* –

Anyone for a dance or a tune on the timbrel?

Change of Interim Moderator:

At the presbytery meeting on Tuesday, the arrangements for Interim Moderator cover in our area were changed. Mrs Alison Hay has stepped down as our Interim Moderator and will concentrate on the busy schedule of her other charges, and we

will now have Rev. Scott Burton, minister of West Kintyre and Gigha, as our moderator. We look forward to working with him as we continue through these changing times.

Presbytery Prayer Rota and news:

From: Pres. Argyll

Sent: 03 September 2020 09:57

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

Subject: Presbytery Prayer Rota and Intimations

Presbytery Prayer Rota

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

Sunday 6 September

Ardrishaig: Minister- Rev David Carruthers

Rev David draws to our attention, "May the words of the Lord to Joshua ring true for all congregations as we venture into unknown territory: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)"

Kirn & Sandbank: Interim Moderator – Mrs Alison Hay

Intimations

Presbytery Meeting

Please find attached a note of the deliverances of Presbytery on 1 September 2020.

Vacancy: Please find attached an advert for the post of Ministries Coordinator.

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 will be circulated and posted on the Presbytery Website.

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**

Online services are being provided 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)

North Knapdale Church : Newsletter4.9.2020

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.

<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
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