

North Knapdale Prayer Group

Thanks to those who have contacted me about a North Knapdale Prayer Group, praying for one another as we hear of requests from people across the parish. We will pray in our own homes with a weekly list provided of prayer requests. To protect the identities of those involved, we will use initials.

We would like to have more people involved so please think about joining and contact me to find out more.

catherine@dochasfund.org.uk

tel: 01546 603672

Thanks – Catherine (Paterson)

What has Climate change got to do with us?

What gets us excited? What are our passions? We are not good at displaying our emotions, particularly as we get older, and also, for many of us, it is built into our Scottish west coast personalities. I have recently been meeting on line with a number of very passionate people, and all passionate for the right reasons. There is a growing group of people from across Argyll meeting under the name “Time for Change” and it is led predominantly by people under 30. They are passionate about addressing the issues of Climate change – because it will affect them considerably more than those of us over 60 or 70. Climate change is having a critical impact on our world and something needs to be done about it – from individuals living, eating and travelling more sustainably, to national governments stopping the extravagant burning of fossil fuels and plundering of our natural forests.

Why is this in a church newsletter? Because this planet, this place of God’s making as a home for his creatures, is being destroyed by our failing in our God given duty as stewards of creation.

So, I believe that if the Christian church is to have any relevance today in our Western culture, we must be seen to seriously question and address the activities which are causing climate change and destroying so many species.

There is a growing realisation within the church that Climate Change and the abuse of creation are issues we must address as followers of Jesus. Jesus who was there “in the beginning” and who tells us that God cares for every sparrow as well as counting the hairs on our heads.

To many of us the huge scale of the problem and the complexities of any solutions make us feel that our own efforts can do little to make any difference. However, many of the issues can be addressed by local, small scale initiatives.

For example, some of the people from the **Time for Change** group have started a group for Tayvallich to develop a **Tayvallich Sustainability Plan** in collaboration with the Keep Scotland Beautiful organisation.

This is a follow up from the well supported Sustainability Jam event in the hall last year and involves six meetings hosted by KSB to give our community the opportunity to imagine what our future could be like while taking steps to counter Climate Change and to help us towards creating a workable plan. KSB and TfC want to encourage all members of the community to have their say. If you would like to

attend these meetings on zoom or want to know more please contact Alan Brown on alan.brown@keepsotlandbeautiful.org or the Time for Change team on timeforchangeargyll@gmail.com

and at National level....

Scottish Churches COP26 Pledge: Divestment and the Just and Green Recovery

Eco-Congregation Scotland is joining today with Christian Aid Scotland, Operation Noah and Friends of the Earth Scotland to launch the **Scottish Churches COP26 Pledge**, committing to fossil fuels divestment and support for a just and green recovery from coronavirus.

Launched as this year's General Assembly of the Church of Scotland takes place online, as an ecumenical environmental charity Eco-Congregation Scotland welcomes moves by the Church of Scotland, locally and nationally, to develop a strategy for reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

The new pledge complements this, demonstrating support across Scotland's churches for urgent action on fossil fuels divestment, responding to the climate crisis and supporting a just and green recovery from Covid-19 as we approach the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow next year:

"We believe it is unethical for Churches to invest in an industry that is harming the planet, as seen in ever more extreme and life-threatening weather events locally and globally."

"We support the campaign for fossil free Churches and are conscious of the increasingly severe impact of the climate crisis, especially on people living in poverty and on all life in our common home."

"We recognise the urgency of the need for a just transition from fossil fuels to clean alternatives that offers jobs and wellbeing to people in Scotland and across the world."

"We commit ourselves to using our financial resources to contribute to the flourishing of God's creation, both now and for generations to come."

Individuals are called to register support for the pledge, reviewing their own investments or pensions and seeking ethical alternatives.

Congregations are asked to work towards divesting their own funds and call on national and regional bodies - including Presbyteries and Dioceses - to divest from fossil fuels.

Denominations, regional Church bodies and Christian organisations in Scotland are called to commit to divestment within the next two years, seeking investments with positive environmental benefits and which support a just and green recovery.

Please sign in support today as an individual or on behalf of a church or organisation at:

<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/scottishchurchespledge/>

Don't forget - Blythwood Shoebox Appeal

Once again this year, Blythwood are doing a tremendous work in taking "Shoebox" gifts to suffering families in eastern Europe. We are collecting in North Knapdale.

Details on the appeal can be found at : <https://blythwood.org/shoeboxappeal/>

Or there are leaflets available in Tayvallich Shop

Please deliver your boxes to Libby by the 31st October so they can be safely delivered to Blythwood on time. Ÿ

This week's psalm:

Psalm 99

The Lord reigns; let the people tremble!
He dwells between the cherubim;
Let the earth be moved!
The Lord is great in Zion,
And He is high above all the peoples.
Let them praise Your great and awesome name –
He is holy.

The king's strength also loves justice;
You have established equity;
You have executed justice and
righteousness in Jacob.
Exalt the Lord our God,
And worship at His footstool –
He is holy.

Moses and Aaron were among His priests
And Samuel was among those who
Called on His name;
They called upon the Lord, and He answered them
He spoke to them in the cloudy pillar;
They kept His testimonies
and the ordinance He gave them.
You answered them, O Lord our God;
You were to them God-Who-Forgives,
Though You took vengeance on their deeds.
Exalt the Lord our God,
And worship at His holy hill;
For the Lord our God is holy.

The essence of this Psalm is **“Our God is holy”**

This is repeated three times in the psalm, three different characteristics which draw out the praise – “He is Holy”. Holy – a small word which for the psalmist includes - “set apart, dedicated to sacred purposes, clean, morally and ceremonially pure. Holiness is separation from everything profane or defiling. God is entirely holy in His nature, motives, thoughts, words and deeds.” (*notes from NKJV Study Bible*).

In the first section God is holy as he reigns above all in might and power. Let people tremble, he lives with the Cherubim, the mighty angels of heaven, He is of another place and yet chooses to live in the temple of Zion, the earth moves, he is immovable, the people tremble at His might and majesty, and praise his awesome name. He is holy

The second section proclaims that he is the root of justice and of equity, He has applied His justice and righteousness in Jacob – in His chosen people, and so the people should exalt and worship Him. He is holy

The third section reminds us of His relationship with individuals, with Moses and Aaron, once more taking the reader back to God’s leading them out of slavery into freedom, and then recalling the obedience of Samuel – responding to God’s call - “speak Lord, for your servant listens”. Then finally the psalmist praises God as the God-who-forgives – what other god from that time or from the present time, from the old testament middle east of the psalmist, or the modern culture of today’s world can be described as “God-Who-Forgives”. Only God our loving Father, and so we can join with the psalmist and worship – “For the Lord our God is Holy”

Presbytery Prayer rota and news:

From: Pres. Argyll

Sent: 15 October 2020 20:45

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 18 October

Campbeltown: Lorne and Lowland: Interim Moderator – Rev William Crossan

Campbeltown: Highland : Minister – Rev Steve Fulcher

Rev Steve asks that we give thanks for the successful re-opening of Sunday worship, and the dedicated work and support of the church officers at Highland. Also the very positive response from the congregation to the new technology.

Intimations

**The Presbytery Clerk's phone number is changing!!
I will now be able to be contacted on 07775926541**

Godly Play Experience

31st October @ 10:30 am - 12:00 pm via ZOOM

Do you remember the Godly Play demonstration at our Presbytery meeting in December?

Would you like to find out more?

Are you looking for new ways to engage with younger folk?

Godly Play Scotland are pleased to be able to offer a **Godly Play Experience** on Saturday 31st October from **10:30am**. This is the first step in our online Discovery Day series and there is **no charge for this event**.

These are for people who are wondering what Godly Play is.

The **Godly Play Experience** is a chance to hear and wonder about a Godly Play story, to respond to that and to gather together again for our feast and blessing – a whole Godly Play session. We follow that with a chance to ask a few quick questions. And the whole Experience takes about 90 minutes.

The Experience is followed by three sessions, each looking at the different Godly Play story types and allowing more time for questions and discussion. (There is a charge for these).

Spaces on all these sessions are limited. **Book on the Godly Play Scotland website at www.godlyplayscotland.co.uk**

Anyone wishing an intimation posted should inform the clerk no later than Wednesday 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)
- **Online services available from Argyll**

Online services are being provided for local congregations and those who wish to log in from places further afield:

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://](https://www.ardchattanchurch.org.uk/)

www.ardchattanchurch.org.uk/

West Cowal – Rev David Mitchell

<https://www.org.ukwestcowalchurches>

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.

<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

Letter and prayer from Rev Owain Jones, Presbytery Moderator

Hello again, everyone.

I've been disappointed to discover that there's no doctrine of Moderatorial Infallibility in the Kirk! You all know that anyway, so I only need to add that what follows is a personal perspective with which your disagreement is as likely to be as fruitful as your agreement. As always, these are just my thoughts; as the Americans say in such contexts, "Your Mileage May Vary" (or YMMV, for short!)

I was very struck this week at how quickly the feel of the pandemic reality around us has changed over a few days. We don't live in a culture that thinks of such things in spiritual terms any more, but it seems to me that this moment presents a profound spiritual challenge. And that's our responsibility.

From the end of lockdown, and the steady easing of restrictions, there's been a sense that we are moving steadily through things. But suddenly, there has appeared a different, conflicting sense, that we are being swept into what may be a difficult, challenging winter, as all the indicators reverse themselves, and infection rates accelerate. It seems to me that this collision is producing a dangerous moment for society. And it's affecting people – the people to whom we have a spiritual duty of care given us by God.

On the one hand are those whose impatience at the return of restrictions is palpable – and issues in some behaviours which have likely contributed to the acceleration of the pandemic again. That’s caused outrage – a lot of it indiscriminately directed at *young* people – students in particular – as though they were all behaving with excess and irresponsibility. *That’s simply not true.* The restrictions under which young people live their lives now, and the life-events they are missing out on, not to mention the expectations which – yet again – they will be revising downwards for the future, constitute a tragedy, which by and large they are bearing with a humbling fortitude. Demonization is the last thing they deserve – apart from the fact that demonization is *always unhelpful.*

On the other hand, there are those whose fears of COVID were never dispelled, and are now intensified. We’ve had discussions in our own congregation that have highlighted that. We share so much, and reading each other’s mood isn’t difficult; it’ll be the same in your congregations! That mood has changed radically in the last few days, hasn’t it? Many of our folk are in the vulnerable categories; they are worried, and we worry for, and with them. But there are dark rumblings of impatience with, and dismissal of, their anxieties in some places, even high places.

Polarization, demonization, impatience - we speak of the “social fabric” – and that fabric is under tension, and straining. And there’s another metaphor again, and it’s the one that’s preoccupied me this week. It feels as though these tensions are causing a fraying in the fabric of our society.

But the work of God is that of healing, of repairing, mending, and making what is torn whole again. We have a responsibility for the care of that social fabric in Argyll. Our congregations have a particular calling to be witnesses to, and instruments of, God’s healing purpose in their communities.

And it’s a *joyous* calling! Perhaps you’ve read this far thinking “Crivvens, Jones is in a bleak mood this week!” But I’m not! We are called to reflect the light of Christ, the Light of the World, into that world however dark things might be. Rejoice in all things... But in sum, that’s where my mind has been this week, and this is where my focus is. I hope it’s helpful to you, where you are.

Yours in our shared high calling,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:4-7*

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

**a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
a time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zeb'edee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them... *Mark 1:19-20*

No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; if he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. *Mark 2:21*

Lord, you have woven us into a rich fabric of belonging -
a tapestry of colour, and texture and difference,
its threads pulled together by the frame, a stretcher, of love and purpose, and
challenge:
your love;
your purpose;
your challenge to us, gentle and insistent,
that we love as we are loved,
and, in your love, grow.

We know that human selfishness and greed,
human anger and fear,
human foolishness, and pride, and obstinacy

have ripped the tapestry of human belonging -
and that in loving incarnation
the Son was woven into this torn fabric,
for its mending.

And so you have woven your Church – us -
into the life of the world,
in our humanity,
as threads of healing, and hope, presence and promise.
Our life is in Christ, but our living is in the world,
Not as tangle and confusion but as warp and weft,
A remaking of what was rent,
And the pattern of what shall be
When the tapestry is restored.

Our privilege as your Presbytery in this place
Is to see these threads and connections -
congregations woven into the lives of their communities,
bringing mending and reconciliation,
highlighting colours and patterns,
bringing Life to the forms of life.
Our privilege and calling as your Presbytery in this place
is to be a node where threads meet,
a knot, to bind together,
a nexus, a place of meeting, a place where the strength of the threads
becomes the strength of the woven fabric
of the Church woven into the world.

We live in a society frayed, and fraying,
ties of belonging, of responsibility for each other,
of compassion, of social bond,
stretched beyond their capacity to hold.
You call your Church to witness to the mending work of Christ in the world,
and the patient, meticulous repairing activity of your Spirit:

- empowering the peace-builders;
- reinforcing the meek;
- stirring up those whose appetite is for what is just,
- elevating the merciful,
- clothing in dignity the pure in heart,
- blessing and cheering those who hope, and are mocked – for you are the source of all hope.

Loving Lord, who does these things,

do them through us, your Church, too, according to your will.

And where these things are done in your name, in the communities of Argyll,
by the congregations of your Church under our care and oversight, let us be

- quick to see,
- prompt to support,
- vocal in encouraging,
- practical in our aiding.

Let us, your Presbytery, draw together the threads
of each congregation's work and witness
into a wholeness of work and witness
to and for Christ's love.

We pray for our congregations, in their communities.
We pray for those communities in the pressures they face.
We pray for our society, its fabric stretched taut,
Its resilience fraying and wearing thin.

We bring our prayers for all whose needs we know,
Especially, now, those within our sphere of care.

Ahead of us lies a challenging winter, and challenging days lie beyond that.
you call us to truth, and therefore to realism;
you will not permit us to flee into our own wish-dreams,
for it is in the reality of the word that Christ meets us,
and on, from here, through the reality of world
that Jesus calls us to follow.

Weave us into the reality of the world
That the world may trace the threads, in us
Of Christ's incarnate presence
And the Spirit's working of your design, Father,
In the world you have made, and are making and remaking.
AMEN

And as Jesus taught us, so we pray: *Our Father...*

**You can find news on our church website: www.northknapdale.org
And our Face Book page – North Knapdale Church.**

**Contact David Logue –
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North Knapdale Church of Scotland - Charity No: SC001002