

Time for the newsletter again – and looks like we may have a bit longer to stick with the limitations on our activities due to the continuing Corona virus restrictions. However, in so many ways we have more to be thankful for than to complain about, so let's always keep that in mind. But also, we can look out for those around us who are finding life hard, for so many reasons.

One of the joys of our Christian Faith is our freedom and ability to pray for others, (and ourselves) and to know that when we pray we talk with our Father who listens, loves, cares, and acts.

We now also have the opportunity to pray together as Catherine Paterson has introduced North Knapdale Prayer group:

NORTH KNAPDALE PRAYER GROUP

If you would like to join a North Knapdale Prayer Group on a weekly basis to pray for our members and the local people we serve please contact:

email: catherine@dochasfund.org.uk

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.

Also, if you have a prayer request for yourself or others, email Catherine on

email: catherine@dochasfund.org.uk

Thank you,

Please contact Catherine to give your support or to find out more details

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

Once again this year, Blythswood 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://blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal/>

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

Crossreach – 150 years!

"CrossReach, is a leading and well-respected provider of social care for over 10,000 people in Scotland. We walk alongside people of all ages who find themselves facing challenging circumstances at some point in their life.

Multiple issues affect hundreds of thousands of people day in, day out. Depression and anxiety, loneliness, discrimination and poverty, to name just a few.

We have been responding to these ever-changing needs for 150 years, constantly pioneering so that we can make a positive difference to individuals and to their communities."

You can see the wide ranging and essential work that Crossreach are doing by looking at their 2019/20 report:

<https://www.crossreach.org.uk/news/making-a-real-difference-crossreach-impact-report-2019-20>

Internet access for all

At last month's Kirk Session meeting, it was agreed that the church would buy a tablet (a device that looks like a large mobile phone) and let members of the community try it out (with help and instruction). So far we have had one member use the tablet to enable them to join the church house group remotely. After only a couple of supported practice sessions she was able to join the house group herself!

If you or anyone you know would benefit from being able to access online church services, video call friends and family or join in with the house group, or other activities, please get in touch with David on sessionclerk@northknapdale.org. You do not need to have a broadband connection for this, the tablet uses the mobile phone signal.

Most older people who have not got internet access don't want it because they don't think it would be of use to them or it would be too difficult. But....once they have tried it for themselves, the story is very different! We will be very happy to have a chat about it.

The General Assembly – 2020. – A lean and fit Plan for Growth

The assembly was held for the first time ever as an "on line" meeting last weekend. Full reports will be issued in due course from the Church of Scotland Website but I am grateful that the Upper Cowal Churches newsletter this week had an article on the assembly and I have noted the following points out of their fuller article:

- Covid 19 has had a drastic impact on church income –
Ministry and mission contributions are reduced by 18% to £38.1 million to assist local congregations.
- Faith Impact and Faith Nurture Forums are set budget reduction targets of £4million.
- Work is to be done on streamlining structures of the church
- £8m of reserves are to be utilised during 2021 to maintain fiscal control.
- The Growth Fund is to be put on hold for the time being
- Trustees are to identify suitable buildings to replace the national offices at 121 George Street, Edinburgh; possibly sharing with other denominations
- Presbyteries are all tasked to work on reducing the numbers of charges, buildings and ministries across Scotland.

- The convenor of the Trustees, Rev John Chalmers said – *“Covid 19....has accelerated the need for change, a very different shape of church lies ahead, and against the extraordinary challenges that we face, we have to be ready, lean and fit for purpose – we cannot go back to the old ways.”*

This week's Psalm

This week we look at a section of Psalm 106: verses 1 to 6 and then 19 to 23.

The psalmist does not come across very well from this psalm. After a standard statement of praise:

*“Praise the Lord!
O give thanks to the Lord for he is good!
For His mercy endures forever.
Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord?
Who can declare all His praise?
Blessed are those who keep justice
And he who does righteousness
at all times.”*

No one can argue with that sentiment – an exhortation to keep justice and righteousness, and to give praise and thanks to God, but.....in the next verses there is the realisation by the psalmist that he /she is not worthy to meet this standard – he needs to know the favour and salvation of God in order that they might enter into this praise, and to experience the Lord's mercy, and so from a universal declaration of praise, he turns to a prayer, a request for favour and salvation.

*“We have sinned with our fathers,
We have committed iniquity,
We have done wickedly.”*
Then from vers19 –
*“They made a calf in Horeb
And worshipped the moulded image.
Thus they changed their glory
Into the image of an ox that eats grass.
They forgot God their Saviour
Who had done great things in Egypt.
Wondrous works in the land of Ham,
Awesome things by the Red sea.
Therefore he said that He would destroy them,
Had not Moses His chosen one
Stood before Him in the breach,
To turn away His wrath,
Lest He destroy them.”*

So it is with us is it not? We wonder at the acts of God, we enjoy his creation and we give thanks for His mercy and goodness, and then we realise how we fall short of His expectations, we ignore His guidance and His rules for life, in short we sin.

The remainder of this psalm then links the individual writer with the nation of Israel. He recites the history of Israel and the way they have fallen away from the Lord again and again and again, and worshipped other gods, and followed other's ways, in short, they sinned.

For the psalmist, the bright light is Moses – who stood in the breach before God, who pleaded for his people, and turned away God's wrath. God showed mercy, and yet his people returned to their sinful ways, worshipping self made gods, and ignoring God's salvation.

Moses stood in the breach before God on behalf of the Israelites. The psalmist longs for another Moses to save them in his time. The psalmist had to long for that "new Moses" in the future, but we have the joy and assurance of knowing that He has come:

"In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God....

And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

And of his fullness we have all received, and grace for grace, for the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" John Chapter 1 v 1, v 14 and v 17.

Moses, as a man sought God's favour to save the Israelites, but in sending Jesus, God has given us a continuing saviour, a manifestation of God himself, by whose grace we can receive God's love, experience His compassion and know His forgiveness for each of our sins.

God meets us at our point of need in the person of Jesus Christ, and in Jesus we can receive all His power, his provision and his forgiveness.

"so I (Jesus) say to you, ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you, for everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Luke Ch 11 v 10,11.

What better invitation can we have?

Please get in touch with me if you have any news or items you would like to let others know about.

Thanks.

**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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