

Christ The King

This Sunday is designated as the Celebration of **Christ the King**. It marks the last Sunday in the Church Calendar, as next Sunday is the first Sunday in Advent, as we get ready to welcome the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

Here is an explanation of the Feast of Christ the King from the Church of Scotland website:

“The feast of Christ the King was first marked in 1925, just a few years after the end of the First World War, in a time of rising totalitarianism. Pope Pius XI was deeply concerned about the state of the world; worried (as he said in the encyclical that established the feast) that “the majority of men had thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law out of their lives; that these had no place either in private affairs or in politics: and ... that as long as individuals and states refused to submit to the rule of our Saviour, there would be no really hopeful prospect of a lasting peace among nations.”[1].....

“The bringing of the world into the order of God transcends political vision and political authority. But that does not mean that this is an otherworldly vision, and our readings this week remind us of how we prepare for the kingdom of God through our actions in this world. Recognising Christ’s kingship is also about responding to injustice and also about speaking out against the ways in which authority supports injustice.”

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/71202/22-November_Christ-the-King-V2.pdf

I am having a week’s holiday next week – in Argyll!, so I will not send out a newsletter. The next one will be in two weeks time.

This week I am repeating some of the articles from last week so there is another opportunity to think about taking part:

An Advent Activity – The Nativity Window Trail

Hi everyone

Christmas is coming!

We are going to miss all our usual pre Christmas activities, including the afternoon carol service.

As an alternative we’d like to invite you to take part in a community advent activity.

THE NATIVITY WINDOW TRAIL

Would you like to decorate a window in one of the iconic nativity scenes?

If so, please let me know which of the scenes below you feel inspired to create, so we have the whole story covered.

We have plenty of craft materials to share from the Messy Church boxes so you will be welcome to come and choose some. For example we have large black card, cellophane and tissue paper for a stained glass effect, and paint to mix with washing up liquid to make it stick to window panes.

Once the windows have been created we can all walk round and follow the story.

Happy advent!

Louise

1. The angel Gabriel talks to Mary
2. The wise men set off from the east.
3. Mary and Joseph set off for Bethlehem
4. No room at the inn
5. Jesus is born in the stable
6. The angels come to the shepherds
7. The shepherds visit Jesus
8. The wise men visit Jesus
9. Mary, Joseph and Jesus escape to Egypt

Louise Logue

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North Knapdale Prayer Group

This group meets weekly under the guidance of Catherine Paterson and everyone is invited to take part, either by joining in with others on Zoom, or by receiving prayer topics by e-mail. It is a great privilege we all have, to be able to pray for one another, and to intercede for situations both local and afar off.

If you would like to pray with others, or have topics you would like prayers for, please let Catherine know:

tel: 01546 603672

e-mail: catherine@dochasfund.org.uk

Zoom (House) Group.

The North Knapdale house group is continuing to meet weekly, no longer together in our home, but now on line using Zoom – so there is even more room now for people to attend!

This autumn we are having a series of meetings where we invite church leaders and friends from across Scotland (and further afield) to talk to us about their “Faith Journey” - how they came to follow Christ, their story so far, and some thoughts for the future. These have been really fascinating and encouraging. We are also, on alternate weeks, watching a video on how we can share our own faith journey with those who don’t know what Christianity means. This gives us lots to talk about.

Anyone and everyone is welcome to join us, so please let me know and I can send you out the link for zoom. If you don’t have internet, you can join I with an ordinary telephone.

If you have not used zoom, it is quite easy, and we can arrange for one to one guidance for you if you wish.

David Logue: 01546870647

On line worship services and other meetings – borrow a tablet to try!

While our Sunday services have been closed down, many churches have been providing services to watch or join with “On-Line”, either using Youtube or Zoom. These have been very much appreciated by those who can access them at home, but unfortunately not everyone is comfortable using a computer, laptop or similar, and some do not have a computer or internet connection.

So, to try to help with this, the church has bought a “tablet”, a small computer, which does not need an internet connection to watch on screen services etc., and is simple to use. This tablet is available on loan to anyone in the community who would like to try it out, either for services or to join in a zoom meeting. One person has already used it successfully to join in to the House group. Louise is looking after this and will be pleased to bring it to you and provide tuition and help to get connected. Please let her know if you would like to try it out!

e-mail – mail@northknapdale.org

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Looking into the History of North Knapdale

An invitation from Chris Tabraham

DISCOVERING NORTH KNAPDALE’S CHRISTIAN LEGACY: THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND’S *CHURCH RECORDING PROJECT*

In 2019 HRH The Princess Royal helped launch the Church of Scotland’s *Church Recording Project*. Its aim is to record as much as we can of the contents of our churches and their social connections to the community, particularly at this moment in time when yet more of our churches are being disposed of. We only have to think of our own kirk at Inverlussa to appreciate the importance of recording for posterity what we have inherited, and what we might otherwise lose.

The Church Recording Project (CRP)

The CRP specifically calls for a comprehensive recording of our churches – not so much the buildings, which are largely already covered, but their contents. The CRP lists ten categories:

Archival/Material/Bibles & Hymnaries/Memorials/

Metalwork including Communion Plate/

Miscellaneous/Paintings/Stonework/Textiles/Wooden Furnishings

Would members of the congregation be interested in, and willing to undertake such an exercise for Bellanoch and Tayvallich. And although Inverlussa has recently been disposed of, would we perhaps consider including that building also, subject to the consent of the new owner? Clearly the current pandemic precludes conducting surveys at the present time, but we could start planning now, perhaps via ZOOM, or by telephone.

Burial ground surveys

Moving beyond the remit of the CRP, a valuable next step might be to record the memorials (gravestones, etc) in our burial grounds – particularly those at Carsaig and Inverlussa.

All those interested in taking part in this should contact :

Chris on 01546 870248 or

chris.tabraham@icloud.com

This week's psalm:

Psalm 100

Make a joyful shout to the Lord,
All you lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness;
Come before His presence with singing.
Know that the Lord, He is God;
It is he who has made us,
And not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him and bless His name.
For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting.
And His truth endures to all generations.

This psalm of praise – as you read it you can almost see and hear a crowd of people processing and shouting and singing with joy as they come up to the temple in Jerusalem. We hear an invitation to actions – each one bringing us closer to God – “**shout** to the Lord; **serve** the Lord; **come** before His presence; **know** the Lord is God.” Then the identity – who are we? “We are His people”. This gives such assurance, such comfort, and also such responsibility. We matter because God made us as we are. We are His sheep whom he provides for, but also His sheep who follow Him.

The psalm invites us to “enter His gates” and “into His courts”, the picture of the temple again, the place of God’s presence. But that temple in Jerusalem is no more. God’s presence is not in that temple, but His presence is with His people.

As Paul says in the first letter to the Corinthians, Ch 3 v 16 – “do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you” – and the people in the church at Corinth were a very badly behaved bunch! For us, like them, this is the wonder we have, no matter that none of us think we are good enough, none of us are!

But we can be thankful, and we can bless God – for He is good, He is the root of all goodness, and His mercy to us is unending, and his truth – real undeniable truth, lasts for all time.

Jesus does not expel us for not being good enough, He invites us in, as He invited Zachaeus, the cheating tax collector, as He invited the fishermen off the beach at Galilee, as he invited Saul/Paul to follow Him when he was on a journey to arrest or kill the recent Christians. To each one of us He says “Come into my presence with thanksgiving”. So that as we live, we can be in His presence, whatever we have done, or how guilty or unsuitable we feel, we are invited in.

Lift up your hands, and accept His invitation.

This is the last week of the Christian calendar – next week marks the start of a new year as we enter into Advent. We turn towards God coming to us as Jesus, His Son. We begin again to prepare for the celebration of His birth, the wonder, the awe, the magnitude of that step Jesus took for us, to show us the Way of life.

Let’s look forward to Christmas – it may not be as “normal”, but it will be worth celebrating.

Letter and Prayer from Rev Owain Jones, Moderator of the Argyll Presbytery

Hello, everyone,

I can't imagine you'd be entirely surprised that my thoughts for the Presbytery Prayers this week are informed by the joyous anticipation of my **finally** getting to do something as Moderator that isn't digitally mediated!

Well – not entirely.... Lyn's induction on Sunday will, God willing – these times, and our occasional technological difficulties have reinforced for us that we must **always** say "God willing" - be brought virtually to a much larger congregation than can be fitted into the sacred space. Nevertheless, I'll be, along with representatives of the congregations of Skipness and Tarbert Loch Fyne and Kilberry and the parish communities.

And Lyn Peden will begin her ministry, and in days and years to come, I shall, God willing, look back and say, in the words of my illustrious compatriot Max Boyce, "I was there!"

I wonder how it will feel. The truth is that we still aren't "used to" this new world in which the life of the Church is being lived. The deeper truth is that in many ways, that's no bad thing. Part of the problem of our existence as a church, as an institution in society, has perhaps been that having been too used to a world which we understood, we had spent five decades mourning its passing, and our now living in a world-made-strange.

It seems to me that we have crashed through THAT stage, of familiarity with a world in which we no longer made sense, to a new world in which **no-one** is at home, and everything is made strange, and we can rediscover how to be ourselves – and more importantly, how, truly, to be Christ's. I wish that the circumstances of Lyn's induction were not these! And yet...

Visibly, publicly and – God willing! – digitally, in-the-flesh-really and virtually-really, a ministry will begin in full sight of the world, in ways that were unimaginable eight months ago.

It's an outing for the Moderator, a celebration for parishes and presbytery, it's the beginning of a ministry to a whole community, and it's a public witness to the world that the Spirit of God is unconstrained, and that in the Spirit, the life of the Church is freed – again – into the world.

As we live our worship and witness on the flickering screens of devices, the expression "the visible Church" seems to have acquired a new dimension. What is done, God willing, in Tarbert on Sunday, is done before the whole world – and Lyn and her congregation are at the epicentre of it.

Lyn – you are in our prayers.

And you will all know how I'm going to choose to sign off this week!

Yours in the Adventure of Christ,



**"May we know what this new teaching is which you present? For you bring some strange things to our ears; we wish to know therefore what these things mean."
Acts 17 19b-20**

"I want you to know, brethren, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel..." Philipians 1:12

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before people, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. *Matthew 5:14-16*

They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; thy word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. *John 17:15-18*

1

Lord, when are we visible as a Presbytery – and where?

To each other, yes, when we meet – and meet by Zoom;
in our committees, processing the work of the court;
and yes, in ordination and induction.

We are visible there to the wider community,
as we process from hall to kirk, (or did, before all this...)
as we present a new Minister to her parish, not just her congregation,
as we point to her, and say –
"This human being, sent by God to pastor you – **she is us**,
for she is **of** us, the Presbytery;
and she **is our** love and concern and care among you,
as she expresses Christ's care, and concern, and love."

As we address her and seek to convey
– and strive, each one, with every fibre of our being, to mean it,
individually and corporately, present or far away -

- "We are your sisters and brothers.
- We will support you.
- We will pray for you.
- We will delight in your presence among us.

- We will hear you.
 - We will listen to you.
 - We are glad that you are here, with your people”
- remind us of the enormity and solemnity of these things.

We thank you for an induction which is
 a node, where strands of the Church’s life are brought together;
 a lens, through which to view our suddenly-visible connectedness;
 a nexus, the joining of congregation and presbytery
 in the person of a human being sent to minister.

2

In ordination, in induction, we stand before the world.

Yes Lord – but when else do people see us?

Do they associate us, the Presbytery,

with the care offered to them by each parish church,

- shown in identifying and meeting needs,
- shown in love lived out practically, and the life and challenge of the kingdom, witnessed to among them,
- shown in bereavement and loss,

in celebration, sadness and remembering?

We have such a gift for asking and answering the wrong question Lord!

Does it matter?

The work is ***done***,

- done by the Church in each community,
- done by the congregation,
- done by the individuals gifted for the work,

and to God be the glory.

Give us the humility to ask

“So what if they ***don’t*** make the association,

don’t see the connection,

don’t realize, when they see their local congregation in outreach,

that the Presbytery is not separate from that?”

But we must make the connection.

Open our eyes to see...

What are we, as a Presbytery, if not our Church together;

a different dimension of oneness and belonging,

a system of the Body of Christ,

integrating, supporting, shaping, enabling

the life of the Church in our communities?

Help us grasp anew, loving God,

how each congregation is the Church –

the Church in its community;

each presbytery, no less the Presbytery of Argyll,
is the Church all together within its bounds.

We reflect on this.

3

We pray for our Court, in the work you have given us.
We give thanks for the ties which bind us together,
from community to community, congregation to congregation.
We pray for our congregations...

[SILENCE]

Especially this week we pray for Skipness and Tarbert Loch Fyne and Kilberry.

[SILENCE]

We pray for Lyn.

[SILENCE]

We pray for those among us – members of this Court, members of our congregations,
parishioners
Whose needs we have come to know,
Whom others have commended to our prayers,
Or whose needs are known to you alone...

[SILENCE]

Have we not wrestled in this time of pandemic, Lord,
with what we are, and who you call us to be?
Have we not discovered,
as our connections and contacts and time together
have multiplied and morphed in unimagined ways;
that what constitutes us as a Court
is what constitutes us as the Church,
is the life of the Body,
the love and presence of Christ -
and that these are the living ties which bind us?

Will the prayer with which we constitute not, from now on,
plumb new depths of understanding, and grace, and love?
Lord, grant that it may be so.

We have seen it in so many ways,
And now, we pray, let us see it anew
in an induction, numbers-restricted, socially-distanced,
webcast, live-streamed, distance-abolished,
one in Christ: and so

for all that you have given
In the face of all that the pandemic has taken away
we give you thanks.

And as Jesus taught us, we pray:

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

And our Face Book page – North Knapdale Church.

Contact David Logue – Tel: 01546 870647

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North Knapdale Church of Scotland - Charity No: SC001002