

CANCELLED

Act of Remembrance - Sunday - 8th November – 10.00am, Barnluasgan

CANCELLED

I regret that we have to cancel gathering next Sunday as an act of remembrance at 10.00am. The latest instruction from the Church of Scotland, in the light of the changing government regulations is that gathering for acts of Remembrance on Sunday should not take place.

This is a great pity, but it does reflect that it is vital to follow the rules in order to reduce the impact and spread of Covid 19.

I would suggest that as an alternative way of demonstrating respect for those who have fought and died in war, that we stand outside our homes at 11.00am to unite with people throughout our community in holding a two minute silence at that time.

“They shall not grow old,

As we that are left grow old;

Age shall not weary them,

Nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun

And in the morning,

We will remember them

We will remember them.”

North Knapdale Prayer Group

To pray is a blessing to both those who pray and those prayed for. Praying with others for the same topics is encouraging and brings fellowship and unity in the church.

North Knapdale Prayer group is an opportunity to pray for our communities, and those experiencing difficulties and challenges. The group will start at the beginning of November, so please pray about whether this is something to include in your regular activities.

Here is the invitation from Catherine:

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.

tel: 01546 603672

catherine@dochasfund.org.uk

Thanks – Catherine (Paterson)

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal.

A reminder that you still have time to make up a Christmas gift in a shoe box for children and young people in Eastern Europe. Shoe boxes should be delivered to Libby by the 31st October. (or Monday the 2nd November!) Leaflets in the Tayvallich Shop or see details on line at

<https://blythswood.org/shooboxappeal>

Malawi twinning Group – report from Kasamba Congregation:

The Kasamba Congregation of the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia greatly appreciates the support rendered by the Mid Argyll Community in preventing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic in the country. Earlier this year over £4,000 was sent from donations given in Mid Argyll. The support is helping the church in controlling the spread of the pandemic among its members at church as well as in their households. The donation made to hospitals will not only support the church members but all communities that access health services at the hospitals as well as hospital personnel through provision of their protection from COVID-19 as they deliver their duties.

The remaining balance amounting MK678, 998.35 will be channeled to procure extra COVID19 items for the church and the report will follow.

A total of MK 4,376,435 (Malawi Kwacha) was sent from the Mid Argyll Churches Malawi Twinning group earlier this year to support Kasamba congregation in their work to reduce the impact of Covid-19 on the community. (MK 1,000 is approx. £1)

The support from the church was distributed over 3 main areas:

1. The congregation:

To manage continuing services during the pandemic. This included providing facemasks, hand washing facilities, PPE, and equipment to “beam” the worship services to an overflow hall to allow safer distancing. They also increased the number of Sunday services from 2 to 3 to allow reduced numbers at each.

2. Kawali Health centre: a community health centre in the same district as Kasamba.

Provision of masks, PPE, infra red thermometers, and other medical equipment.

“Staff from the health centre appreciated the good gestures as they explained how the items were to fill the gap on protective and preventive items on the shortfalls being experienced by staff at the clinic.” (quoted from the Kasamba report)

3. Mitundu Community Hospital:

“The Church Health and Safety Committee identified Mitundu Community Clinic because it is one of the major rural health clinics in the city that supports a large community in the outskirts of the city. The hospital is located about 45 kilometers from the city of Lilongwe and is within the area where two of the Kasamba prayer houses are located namely; Chipoka and Mitundu . It covers a radius of 74 kilometers in its community outreach for health service provision. Members from the Mitundu and Chipoka Prayer houses of the Kasamba congregation as well as surrounding communities access their health services from this hospital.

In response to the support provided, the Doctor expressed great appreciation to the cash support and thanked Kasamba church and the reverend for their consideration to support Mitundu community hospital. He further explained that the support will go a long way in narrowing the gaps and sorting out some of the challenges faced by them as hospital staff working in the rural areas. Among other things, he explained that the funds will be used in intensifying the community sensitization and awareness of COVID-19 and other diseases which has been a big challenge due to low literacy levels.”

(quoted from the Kasamba report)

There is a great deal more information in the full report sent to us from Kasamba, including a balance sheet detailing how the sums were spent on different items, and more on the impact of Covid on Malawi, and the benefits of the support given.

Also photographs from the services at Kasamba and from places receiving donations.

The full report with lots of pictures is on the Church website

<http://www.northknapdale.org/help-for-malawi/>

OR – if you cannot access that I will be pleased to send you paper copy if you let me know – David Logue – 01546870647.

Psalm 107

This week we have a short passage from parts of Psalm 107:

Verses 1 – 3

O give thanks to the Lord for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
Whom he has redeemed from the hand of his enemy,
And gathered out of the lands,

From the East and from the west,
From the north and from the south.

Verses 35 to 37

He turns a wilderness into pools of water,
And dry land into water springs.
There he makes the hungry dwell,
That they may establish a city for a dwelling place,
And sow fields and plant vineyards,
That they may yield a fruitful harvest.

Sometimes it is best to just read words from the psalms and allow the words to move in your mind and heart.

I am not going to say anything this week about this psalm and suggest that you sit quietly and allow God to give you a time of peace. A time for yourself to just “be”, without rushing off to “do something”.

Here are some words to use to spend time in silence with our caring God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

I weave silence on my lips
I weave silence on my mind
I weave silence within my heart
I close my ears to distractions
I close my eyes to attractions
I close my heart to temptations.

Calm me Lord, as you stilled the storm
Still me Lord, keep me from harm

Let all tumult within me cease

Enfold me lord, in your peace.

Presbytery News and Prayer Rota

From: Pres. Argyll

Sent: 30 October 2020 15:05

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

Subject: Presbytery Prayer Rota and Information

Presbytery Prayer Rota

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

Sunday 1 November

Appin: Interim Moderator – Rev Tom Telfer

North Mull: Interim Moderator: – Rev Jenny Earl

Locum Rev Liz Gibson

Please pray

for the newly formed Nominating Committee

for those making sure our buildings are as safe as possible when open

for those leading worship in person and recorded

Attached Presbytery Prayer for November from Prayer Coordinator Janette Hendeson.

Please pray for the Business Committee as it meets on Tuesday 3 November.

Please pray for the NHS and social care services.

Intimations

The Presbytery Clerk's phone number is changing!!

I will now be able to be contacted on 07775926541

This replaces 07470520240

- **Suicide Awareness Training – A message from Marilyn Shedden, Mission Convener**

Would you please intimate the Zoom meeting with Tracy Preece on **Tuesday November 10th at 11 am**

Due to regulations becoming even more restricting for people as we go into the winter months, mental health issues are becoming a real concern. We are pleased to have the opportunity to invite Tracy Preece to guide our thoughts on these difficult issues.

This will take place on Tuesday 10th November at 11 am by Zoom Please inform those in your congregations who may be interested.

It is essential to let Marilyn know if you are going to attend. (marilyn.shedden@btinternet.com)

Domestic Violence

A Message from Janette Henderson

Please visit our web site www.ifgoda ,which gives an insight into what we do etc. and information on up-coming training events.

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://www.ardchattanchurch.org.uk/>

West Cowal – Rev David Mitchell

<https://www..org.ukwestcowalchurches>

Netherlorn Churches Worship Team

<http://www.netherlornchurches.org.uk/>

West Kintyre

westkintyreandgighachurchofscotland.org

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

This weeks prayer and letter from Rev Owain Jones

Hello again, everyone

I'm one of those people whose car-clock is always set to GMT! I find, especially in springtime, that for about a week after the clocks change, there's a reason I feel as weird as I do! We're creatures immersed in the flow of time, and disturbances in our sense of that flow affect us more than we realize. I think that probably, for most of us, the transition back to Greenwich Mean Time at the end of October is gentler – but I'm still thrown by it.

I think we all are. There's a particular aptness that a condition that affects many, many people as winter encroaches has the acronym SAD – Seasonal Affective Disorder, a real and sometimes debilitating condition which is caused by a physiological as well as psychological reaction to falling levels of light, and shortening

days.

I was aware as I wrote that, that I had used the word “physiological” as though it somehow reinforced, made more real, a condition that some people might think less of if it were considered “just” psychological. We should all know better than that. The psychological is every bit as real as the physiological, in fact in many respects more so. Jesus healed people holistically, as embodied souls. We should know better than sometimes we do.

I mention this because, once again, I’m aware that some people are starting to talk about this continuing strangeness “getting to them,” and for them the deepening darkness and the change of the hour constitute something which reinforces this sense.

And that’s who our congregations are ministering to. We speak, joyfully, of the light of Christ shining in the darkness, and so we should. Our calling is to witness to the Light, by reflecting it into the world in lives burnished by the love of God. But this year, that metaphor is somehow even more resonant. And of course, we, the Church, we the members of this Presbytery, in our congregations, live in this strange new reality, and we are not immune from these things ourselves.

Yet I suspect that we have all been buoyed up this year by an astounding sense of the far reach of the Gospel, and a recognition in society of the relevance of the Church. We are called to be translucent – to let the light of Christ shine out of our life into the world. This year, we will surely see that this is no metaphor. It’s the reality of who we are, and what we are called to be.

In Christ’s light and love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. W. W.' or similar, with a stylized flourish at the end.

**If I say, "Let only darkness cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you,
the night is bright as the day *Psalm 139:11-12***

**Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising. *Isaiah 60:1-3***

**...the day shall dawn upon us from on high
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of
death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Luke 1:78b-79***

**In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. *John 1:4-5***

1

The clocks have changed, and it is nothing
but a curiosity of the way in which we organize our lives, our work, our society.

The clocks have changed, Lord, and it is for many a *big thing*,
a big thing when affect is tied to the season,
depressed by its darkness,
a big thing when the encroachment of darkness on light
symbolizes the anxiety that pervades the lives of the fragile.

The clocks have changed, Lord, and perhaps
it is a bigger thing for *us* than we are prepared to admit –
this year especially.

The clocks have changed, and we remember
that lockdown came before we sprang forward
with the changed hour
half a year ago,
and now we fall back into the darkening winter.
Had we thought we would be in a different place by now?
Wherever we are, Lord, remind us
That you are here, and that we are with you.

2

You know us in the humanity in which you made us;
You know and love us in – and often, we know, despite
what *we have made* of our humanity;
You know how easily we are ambushed by gloom,
Unsettled when we cannot see.

You know how “things get to us”,
The darkness unsettles us,
And we lose sight of the things that should sustain us.

Forgive us Lord.

Remind us that faith is not the strength of our grasp of you,
but trust – your gift - in the firmness with which you have grasped us in your love,
and will not let go.

Yet we, we of all people, know -
- for we are your people, your church for the world –
that the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
This, we know, is the true light,
coming into the world.

3

Light of Christ, lit in our hearts,
Shine out of our lives.

Light of Christ, lit in the life of each congregation,
Sustained against the darkness,
Shine among your people:
in worship – socially distanced, and songless for now,
yet full of the light Christ-in-the-midst
in the wakeful, bluish light of flickering screens –
Zoom, YouTube, emails “just to keep in touch”...

Light of Christ, lit in your Church,
shine out of our hope, and joy, and faith
into the wintry world.

How shall we minister to those around us?
How shall we minister to each other?
How shall we be congregations in our communities,
with our communities,
in our communities, witnessing to Christ, and hope
and the beyond-all-this to which you will bring us?

We pray for those in our communities,
ministered to by our congregations,
who were there for them in their loss, and bereavement
and will be there for them through their grief.

We pray for those in our communities
Aware in past years of the tinted gleams of light
shining from kirk windows the Gospel
of the coming of Christ in the flesh.

We pray for our congregations as they prepare for this Christmas
Inevitably a strange and different Christmas, this strange and different year.
We pray for them as they marshal the gifts
with which the Spirit has gifted them,
even beyond their realization of it.
We pray for them as they seek to imagine, and re-imagine:
the glory of the Christmas Gospel;
the needs of those around them;
the ways in which they might speak the best of Good News
to human beings just like them –
just like us –
and bring to our corner of the world
the word of Christ, the hope of the world.

We pray for the people in our Presbytery's charge,
the congregations within our bounds,
for whom the joyous down-swing of faith
into the deep and dreamless sleep,
the intimate darkness of the mystery of Christmas
Will surely be followed by the upswing into the strange and strengthening light
of a new year of change and challenge.

The clocks have changed, Lord, and it is nothing;
The times have changed, and are changing,
And only in your gift of faith
can we see these things as discipleship -
a following wherever Christ leads.

Where are we going?
Into what new world have we emerged?
We are not where we were – but our journey is into you.

The times change around us,
But you are always God.

We bring our prayers for those whose needs we know...
or can guess at...

or whose names we are prompted to remember before you, not knowing why, and
not needing to – for you know.

[SILENCE]

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 –
Tel: 01546 870647
e-mail - sessionclerk@northknapdale.org**

North Knapdale Church of Scotland - Charity No: SC001002