

Blythswood Shoe box appeal:

This year North Knapdale has sent 18 Shoe Box presents to the Blythswood trust for children and young people in Eastern Europe. These will bring some cheer to people living in poverty and distress in some of the most deprived areas of Europe.

<https://blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal>

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

Tel [01546 870647](tel:01546870647)
mail@northknapdale.org

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.

On line worship services and other meetings.

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. 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

tel: - 01546 870647

This week's Psalm:

Psalm 123

Unto You I lift up my eyes,
O You who dwell in the heavens.
Behold, as the eyes of the servants
Look to the hand of their masters'
As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
So our eyes look to the Lord our God,
Until He has mercy on us.

Have mercy on us O Lord,
have mercy on us!
For we are exceedingly filled with contempt
Our soul is exceedingly filled
With the scorn of those who are at ease
With the contempt of the proud.

A short psalm to consider – what is the psalmist saying? This was probably a psalm of approach, sung by priests as they processed up to the temple for worship. It has two sides.

First - an act of submission to a mighty God – God of the heavens – we await your call, to do your will, and receive your mercy. The picture is of a servant, or of a

ladies' maid, standing waiting for the slightest request from their master. Their focus is all on the master, or mistress, nothing else matters. A servant or a maid lives to serve the master and mistress well, and so looks attentively for the signal of the hand asking for their attention.

So the people of God sing and praise as they process, they are like servants, attentive to receive the mercy of God. How do we focus attentively on God, awaiting and expecting His mercy, His love?

Secondly, the psalmist turns outwards to exclaim why they cry for God's mercy. They are living in times when they are subject to the contempt and scorn of others. This probably refers to those of the surrounding countries, the Samaritans in particular who were oppressing and invading their country. They are surrounded by people who mock their religion, who deny the God of Abraham, who worship false gods and idols and want to destroy the faith of the Jews. The psalmist describes them as "those who are at ease", and "the proud". We all have met people like this, those who mock Christianity, who speak disdainfully of those who have talk of God, or of Jesus as Son of God. People who talk grandly of "The God delusion", or the myth of Jesus. The psalmist was writing over two and a half thousand years ago and we today remain subject to scorn and disdain from some people. In this country it is rarely more than harsh words and mockery, in other countries it can mean exclusion, suffering and even death.

So, as we submit to our Father in heaven, as we try to follow the way of His son, Jesus, we are seeking to live in a place of the mercy of God. No matter the words or actions of others, we can know His love, we can know His mercy, and we can trust in His leading to live with our lives in His hands. We are His servants waiting to respond to serve as He signals to us.

Presbytery news and prayer topics

From: Pres. Argyll

Sent: 12 November 2020 17:03

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 15 November

South Knapdale: Minister– Rev David Carruthers

Rev David comments "The media hype has been "rescue Christmas!"

But "God has not mandated that we celebrate Advent. Or Christmas. Or Easter. Or any other particular feasts and festivals . . ." (David Matthis)

So Lord God, show us, throughout this coming Advent season,
how to, meaningfully, acknowledge the birth of Jesus,
especially in our small congregations and with our communities;
whether it be in churches, barns, halls or on the interweb.
Help us to rediscover that Jesus is the rescuer, the Messiah."

Colonsay & Oronsay: Interim Moderator – Mrs Alison Hay

Please pray for our Readers without whose calling many congregations would be in difficulty in providing worship.

Pray also for our schools and colleges especially at this dreadful time of pandemic. We think of pupils and students whose learning has been interrupted, of their teachers, assistants and lecturers and all other staff who endeavour to provide rich learning experiences in establishments across the Presbytery.

Intimations

Forthcoming Presbytery Meetings

Presbytery will meet pro re nata, for the induction of Rev Lyn Peden to Skipness lw Tarbert Loch Fyne & Kilberry at Tarbert, on Sunday 22 November 2020 at 11.15am; (Formal notification attached) and for ordinary business by Zoom on Tuesday 1 December at 10.30am. Due to COVID19 restrictions, at the induction Presbytery will be represented by Rev Owain Jones, Moderator, Stewart Shaw, Clerk, Rev Chris Fulcher and the commissioned elders of both congregations.

Suicide Awareness Training – A Message from Marilyn Shedden, Mission Convener

Dear Colleagues,

We had a very successful training and advice session with Tracy Preece about suicide awareness.

The statistics about the increase of people suffering from depression and at risk of suicide are worrying. There were 6507 suicide deaths in the UK in 2018.

It is anticipated that this will be exacerbated during and after the pandemic.

Tracy helps us look for and recognise signs that may give concern, and offers useful advice.

The session lasts for two and a half hours and I would recommend this to you.

As the last session was oversubscribed, Tracy is willing to run this course again for those who missed it.

Tracy prefers to have about 12 people at such meetings.

If anyone else wishes to take part in the training please let Stewart and me know

We will then make a date with Tracy.

Marilyn

Please find attached latest newsletter from Rev John McCulloch

The Presbytery Clerk's phone number is changing!!

I will now be able to be contacted on 07775926541

This replaces 07470520240

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.westcowalchurches.org.uk/>

Netherlorn Churches Worship Team

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

West Kintyre

westkintyreandgighachurchofscotland.org

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

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