

## **TOP LINE NEWS: - Baby born!**

Delighted to announce that Nick and Courtney Smith now have a new arrival. On the 28<sup>th</sup> June, Azalea was born – a wee sister for Daisy and a delight for the proud parents. Well done both!

## **Sunday Worship Service:**

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> we held a worship service in Tayvallich Church. This was held under the Church of Scotland and Government Covid regulations so included Face Masks and distancing and no getting together for chats. We sang two hymns and we followed an on line service by Rev Dr Martin Fair on the LED screen.

This was fine with some people but others found difficulty in following it – possibly the sound was a bit low towards the back of the church and after the service some people said they had difficulty hearing. However it was a service and overall people were pleased to have been there and all enjoyed the opportunity to sing hymns together (suitably masked). Nine households were present. We will need to adjust the sound levels in future as there will be more services using the screen as pulpit supply of “live” people is getting scarce.

Please watch the website, paper (squeak) and newsletter for dates and times of future services.

## **Mid Argyll Mission Planning**

We have now held the third meeting of the representatives from the Mid Argyll parishes to develop a mission plan for the area as required by the Presbytery. This is in response to the directives from the General Assembly on Mission taking into account the declining numbers attending Sunday services, the reducing numbers of ordained ministers and other ordained posts such as Youth workers and Family workers etc. Presbytery has asked we produce a Plan for the Mid Argyll area as soon as possible so that we can begin to redevelop the mission of the church in this area.

At the meeting today (Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July) it was agreed that the plan should focus on the concept of one united parish of Mid Argyll led by a team of at least one ordained minister, with support from Readers, Local Worship leaders, other voluntary workers and ideally one other full time paid worker possibly to concentrate on Youth and Community outreach. However, to be effective, this team will require assistance from members of the congregations throughout the area to be involved in various ways, contributing time, abilities and interests.

Some principles which were agreed were:

- The church should develop and encourage connections with the community – with young people, with elderly, with young families.
- The church should provide opportunity for groups of people:  
to worship together

to study the bible and share their faith with one another  
to pray and intercede for the needs of the area and its people.

- The church should provide Pastoral Care to those who would wish to have pastoral visits for any reason.
- The church should provide encouragement, training and support for those with ideas for sharing the Christian faith in their community or the wider community of Mid Argyll.

Some initiatives already suggested for consideration are:

Link with the very active work already being undertaken by the Mid Argyll Youth Development project (MAYD).

Make effective use of technology to share services and other events across the united parish.

Consult with congregations and the wider community to consider what might be the most appropriate day and time for worship services and other activities.

Integrate initiatives such as the Lochgilphead Wednesday Café and Café Connect in North Knapdale into the Mission Plan.

Review the existing Church Buildings to consider what we need and what we can share.

Discuss the plan with the other denominations in the area with a view to link in with their planning and activities.

The next meeting is on the 26<sup>th</sup> July when it is hoped to put a draft Mission Plan on to paper which can be taken to congregations for discussion toward reaching agreement.

### **Reflection for this week:**

The reflection this week is taken from the Church of Scotland website on Worship material for the 11<sup>th</sup> July –

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship/monthly/2021-july/july-11th-seventh-sunday-after-pentecost>.

There are reflections on various readings and I have taken this section from the Letter to the Ephesians as it is such an encouraging and full description of how God develops His relationship with us in love and wonder.

Ephesians CH 3 vs 3 to 14 – have a read through this first -

Paul opens his letter to the Ephesians with this great hymn of praise to the God of grace. The language is florid and effusive, Paul heaps blessing upon blessing. The reading is also linguistically complex. Pauls moves quickly through verbs, which refer variously to God, to Jesus, to us; there is the added complexities of prepositions ('in' Christ, 'through' grace); the voice of person changes (from 'we' to 'you'); and the aspect of time changes rapidly from the here-and-now to eternity, from 'before the foundation of the world' to 'the fullness of time'. For all the rhythm and expansiveness of Paul's poetry here, there is also the opportunity to lay out some of the content of what is said, all of which is carefully constructed.

- Verse 3 is an exclamation of blessing to God, on account of Jesus – in whom we find ourselves abundantly blessed.
- Verse 4 is the introduction of the theme of God's choosing us before eternity, not because of our own worth, but 'in Christ'.
- By verse 5, we are assured that we have been – through Jesus Christ – destined to be God's children.
- Verse 6 highlights that this choosing of us is 'in praise of God's glorious grace'. This is the first mention of the grace that is key to the opening section of Ephesians.
- In verses 7-8a the explicit content of that grace is drawn out – namely our redemption and forgiveness through Christ's blood, according to His grace.
- Verses 8b-10 concern the idea that in Christ, the 'mystery' of God's will for us has been made known to us: the plan to 'gather up all things' (in heaven and earth) in Christ.
- Verse 11: according to God's will, we have obtained, in Christ, an 'inheritance'...
- ... in order that we might live (verse 12), and live for the praise of God's glory.
- Verse 13 moves person to 'you', who are also 'marked with the seal' of the Holy Spirit (this marking happening to the 'you' who have heard the truth of the gospel of salvation and believed in Christ).
- Verse 14 joins the 'we' and 'you' to state the joint pledge and belonging to the inheritance towards redemption as God's own people.

I am sure that you will have found this encouraging and amazing – we are loved by a wondrous Father.

**You can find news on our church website:**

**[www.northknapdale.org](http://www.northknapdale.org)**

**And our Face Book page – North Knapdale Church.**

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