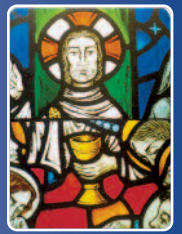




DECEMBER 2017 / JANUARY 2018
CHURCH of SCOTLAND LOCAL PARISH NEWSLETTER
KILMORE & OBAN
Belonging, Believing, Blessing



WHAT'S ON

LATEST NEWS

SERVICE TIMES



FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God'. (Isaiah 40:3)

Would anyone deny that, one way or another, a lot of preparation goes into the next few weeks?

In town, a huge amount of planning and preparation went into the Winter Festival and so many groups are busy planning special Christmas events for their members and service users.

As the days go by, the excitement will start to build amongst the children (and quite a lot of adults too!) as Christmas Day, and all that it holds, is eagerly anticipated. Even for those of us who live quietly nowadays, a little planning is needed to make sure that everything is done in time for Christmas Day.

Dugald and I certainly need to prepare all the services that will be held in church, schools, Dunmar Court and Lynn Court. We also have our own families to think about, with presents to buy, cards to write, menus to be planned etc..

In church, we will hear again the familiar message of the Old Testament Prophets and of John the Baptist telling everyone to prepare, of Mary and Joseph who had a journey and a birth to prepare for, of the Magi who so carefully planned what gifts to bring to the Christ Child.

So much planning!

What, I wonder, would OUR planning look like if we were to write it all down? If we wrote it in two columns, how much would be secular and how much would be sacred? At a time of year when Christianity is challenged at every turn, how can we help turn the tide and bring the focus back to things of faith?

In the midst of all our secular busy-ness, I encourage you to set aside a little time each day to be quiet and focus on the **real** 'reason for the season'. In the words of a Taizé chant: Prepare the way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of our God.

May you experience God's blessing this Christmas and in the year ahead.

Rev Chris

Christingle: Friday 15th – 6.30pm

Over the last eleven years our Christingle Service has grown and grown. An old Bohemian tradition has become an established fixture in Oban's Advent calendar. So make sure you bring along your children and grandchildren for this thirty minute candle-lit worship. Our children's Recorder Group will be leading worship at this service. It is great to see them participating in our worship with confidence and enthusiasm.



Nativity: Sunday 17th – 10.30am

At our nativity service all children will be made especially welcome. There will be room – honest! So come and see. Afterwards is our Coffee and Cake at the Church Centre. Santa hopes to squeeze a visit into his busy schedule.

Christmas Eve – Sunday 24th

Family Service: 7.00pm – Come to church on the most important evening of the year. Make an impression that lasts a life time.

Family Service: 9.00pm Kilmore Kirk This service is always a highlight of the year. Come along to this special country kirk worship and sing praise to God. Be a part of a tradition lasting hundreds of years.

Watchnight Service: 11.30pm Find yourself in God's house as the new born Christ is worshipped in this service full of carols and words of faith.

Christmas Day: Monday 25th – 10.30am

(worship will last 30 minutes)

In the warmth of worship we acknowledge Christ is with us.



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Administrator: Mrs Maureen Devine, The Church Office, Glencruitten Road, Oban PA34 4DN Open: Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel: 01631 562405 E-mail: obancofs@btinternet.com Website: www.obanchurch.com

Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland. Scottish Charity Number SC011171

RETIRING OFFERINGS AT CHRISTINGLE AND ON CHRISTMAS EVE

The offerings from these four services will this year be given to Mary's Meals and to Christian Aid – the ecumenical expression of compassion of the churches of Scotland and the wider UK.

PRESBYTERY PRAYER ROTA

In the next two months, please pray for the following:

3rd December

Congregations of: Glassary, Kilmartin & Ford; Tobermory
Across Presbytery: Presbytery Meeting

10th December

Congregations of: North Knapdale; Torosay & Kinlochspelve
Wider Community: The Media, Arts & Entertainment

17th December

Congregations of: South Uist; Kilmore & Oban
Across Presbytery: Ministry Committee

24th December

Congregations of: Dunoon St Johns; Coll

31st December

Congregations of: Inellan; Ardrishaig
Across Presbytery: Presbytery Clerk

7th January

Congregations of: Toward; Campbeltown; Highland

14th January

Congregations of: Kilfinan; Barra
Across Presbytery: Those in training for Ministry

21st January

Congregations of: Kilmodan & Colintrave; Craignish
Wider Community: Christian Unity

28th January

Congregations of: The Shore Churches (Cowal); Cumlodden, Lochfyneside & Lochgair
Across Presbytery: Property Committee

SHARING FAITH...

SHARING } { FAITH

On 5th November, we were delighted to welcome Robbie Morrison, C of S Mission Development Worker, to preach on the subject of 'sharing faith'. As he preached, Robbie emphasised many of the things that had come up in conversations during the four 'Sharing Faith' courses that took place this autumn.

The intention now, is to look at some of the key elements in more depth, giving as many of you as would like to be involved the chance to talk about the 'big

questions' of faith, and also providing the opportunity to share our faith stories and experiences with each other.

The long-term aim is to develop a culture of invitation among us, culminating in a Weekend of Invitation in June 2018. If you would like to know more about the 'Sharing Faith' course, please ask Revs Dugald or Chris. More details about discussion groups, bible studies etc. will follow in in the New Year.



CAROL SINGING: Saturday 23rd December Tesco at 3.00pm

Come along and sing with our choir and others from the churches around Oban. Enjoy bringing the Christian Christmas spirit to the shoppers of Oban and Lorn. Wrap up warm and sing. The money we raise will be equally split between Mary's Meals and Tesco's charity choice.

Unsung heroines (& heroes)? Several members of the congregation have commented to me in recent weeks of how much our choir with their lead., along with introits and anthems, enhance and sustain our worship. This would be a fine opportunity to stretch the vocal chords and lend them some support. – Ed

HARVEST FESTIVAL



We are indebted to Breckinridges who generously donated all the fruit and vegetables.

Fiona MacCallum and Margaret MacLean arranged the flowers and the display.

Baskets of fruit and flowers were delivered to house bound members by volunteers from the congregation.

ESSLINGEN VISITORS



Pfr Christoph Bauerle and his daughter Lea Sophie were in church recently. Lea Sophie is currently volunteering at Hope Kitchen and Greenshoots before returning to Esslingen for Christmas.

THE GUILD



Welcomes Men & Women of all ages

November was a very busy month with two meetings taking place within a week.

Our monthly meeting was held in a very relaxed atmosphere when Catriona Petit came along to show us how to use our skills in using the beautiful Autumn leaves from her base at Glencruitten House. I think it would be fair to say that it was many a day since most of us had last tried our skills at making bookmarks!!!!.

Our Guild played host to the Autumn Guild Rally when our guest speaker was Susie Alvis from Solas. It was interesting to hear of the work which is involved in our own town for the homeless and for people of all ages who are suffering from addictions and whose lives are severely troubled.

Once again we are grateful to Helen Jordan and members of Oban Strathspey and Reel who gave of their time and talent to lead our praise.

We look forward to Christmas when Soroba Young Families are going to be our guests.

Margaret MacLean

KILMORE IN THE NEW YEAR

Our first service of 2017 in Kilmore Kirk will be on **Sunday 7th January at 12.00** noon. It is good to worship God on the very first day of a new year – and to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism!



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT KILMORE & OBAN

Sunday 3rd December *Advent 1*

10.30	PC	Morning Worship
12.00	K	Kilmore Worship

Sunday 10th Dec. *Advent 2 (Remember Lord's Larder)*

10.30	PC	Morning Worship
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Friday 15th December

18.30	PC	Christingle Service
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Sunday 17th December *Advent 3*

10.30	PC	Nativity
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Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve *Advent 4*

10.30	PC	Morning Worship
19.00	PC	Christmas Family Service
21.00	K	Christmas Family Service
23.30	PC	Watchnight Service

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

10.30	PC	Christmas Service
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Sunday 31st December

10.30	PC	Morning Worship
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N.B. There will be no Gaelic Service this month. There will be no Family Faithshare in December but we look forward to welcoming you on January 28th 2018.

Sunday 7th January 2018

10.30	PC	Morning Worship
12.00	K	Kilmore Worship with Sacrament of Baptism

Sunday 14th January *(Remember Lord's Larder)*

10.30	PC	Morning Worship
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Sunday 21st January

TBC	TBC	United Ecumenical Service – time and venue to be confirmed.
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Sunday 28th January

10.00	CC	Family Faithshare
10.30	PC	Morning Worship
15.00	PC	Gaelic Service

KEY: CC – Church Centre
K – Kilmore Kirk
PC – Oban Parish Church

CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE

Funerals ...*Nothing can separate us from the Love of God*

Jessie Downie of Longsdale Terrace, Oban
Anne Fraser of Campbell Crescent, Oban
William MacKinnon of Dalriach Court, Oban
Andrew MacIntyre of Millpark Avenue, Oban
James Fraser of Nant Drive, Oban
Malcolm MacDougall of Sinclair Drive, Oban
Janice Alexander of Morvern Hill, Oban



FROM THE CONGREGATION

Sine MacVicar

I became a member of the church in 1969 when a pupil at Oban High School at the same time as teaching in the Sunday School. Recently retired and about to begin a very new chapter in my life I look forward to continuing to enjoy the

fellowship and privilege of serving as an Elder here. I also look forward to spending more time with family between Oban and North Connel and enjoy visits to the parishes of Peebles and Eddlestone in the Borders where my brother in law is minister. What a small world too as Calum attended fraternal with our own Rev Dugald when they served in neighbouring churches in Edinburgh.

I spent most of my early years moving between Police stations throughout Argyll – for good reasons I might add – from Kirn to Appin, Oban, Tobermory and finally back to Oban for 2nd year at Oban High School when I had to stay in lodgings as hostel accommodation was not available for all pupils in these days. I have had the privilege of making lasting friendships in all of these places although moving from a 2 pupil class in Appin to a 40 strong class in Rockfield was a huge shock! Friends in our present congregation played an active role in my early life. Lillian Carmichael walked me to school daily in Appin and Sandra Clark looked after me when working as a very young secretary in the police office at Tobermory.

After deciding on teaching as my career I trained for three years at Ayr's Craigie College of Education before taking up post in Dunbeg Primary at a time when teaching jobs were plentiful and I would had access to the family car! Planning on staying for two years I was quick to get involved in wider school life, conducted the school Gaelic choir, trained the netball team and was given the opportunity to teach infants when the Head asked if I would mind taking on the 'micro-people' for him! My last twenty five years as Head Teacher when I experienced teaching a third generation allowed me to ensure that school aims and values saw all pupils being encouraged to meet their full potential in a warm, caring and positive ethos where happy children were a must! My interests tended to be following the wider achievements of pupils either in the musical or sporting field – I have sat through many piping competitions at Music Festivals, followed the shinty team to Aviemore in the early days, joined pupils on many occasions, organised by my janitor, to watch Scotland play at Hampden, and took off often in a bus to the Playhouse Theatre in Edinburgh with 'The Lion King' being the most recent highlight. I am an avid Andy Murray fan and have been fortunate enough to watch him play in the Davis Cup in Glasgow! Interests include being among people, eating out – I have never been much of a cook – theatre visits, especially musicals, and traveling. Presented by staff with a Fitbit and new 'Sketchers' on my retirement I think the hint is to get walking!! So watch this space!

My favourite hymn would have to be 'One more step along the world I go' which was very much the favourite and sung regularly at Dunbeg Primary assemblies and church services over the years

EDITORIAL: Ken MacColl

Our next edition will be available on Sunday 28th January 2018. Copy and photographs should be at the Church Office or sent direct to the editor at kenmaccoll@btinternet.com by Monday 22nd January. Photographs and short news items are always welcome. Ken MacColl (01631) 566515 or kenmaccoll@btinternet.com