



DECEMBER 2016 / JANUARY 2017
CHURCH of SCOTLAND LOCAL PARISH NEWSLETTER
KILMORE & OBAN
Belonging, Believing, Blessing



WHAT'S ON

LATEST NEWS

SERVICE TIMES

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK



Martin Luther wrote this, 'I would not have preachers torment their hearers, and detain them with long and tedious preaching, for the delight of hearing vanishes therewith, and preachers hurt themselves.'

There is a saying within the Church of Scotland that the Word became flesh and then through preaching became word again. So, both of the foregoing thoughts worry that in Church we say too much – with the inference, perhaps – that we should watch and listen more.

There is no better a time to put listening and looking to the forefront when we have Advent and Christmas. For in this period we anticipate the birth of a child – and God's love becoming incarnate, human before us.

We can visualise this coming amongst us of God. We know what a child is in its vulnerability and we are aware of the hope and anticipation that is bound up in this wee bundle of life. Blessing falls upon us too because we know what Christ Jesus, as the human face of God, taught and lived with integrity. We encounter not so much a theory as a lived example. We are confronted with God alive in our world, in our lives.

So give thanks for the wonder of Christmas, the music and carols, the Nativity scenes, the calls upon our charitable giving, and yes, the words of the stories. For they are stories that fill our hearts and minds with pictures which inspire our living of the Gospel.

Rev Dugald Cameron

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

CHRISTINGLE

Friday 16th at 6.30pm

This will be the tenth year that we celebrate and in that time the service has become a much loved part of our Christmas calendar. Be sure to bring along your children and grandchildren for this thirty minute candlelit worship.

Our Children's Recorder Group will lead worship at this service. It is great to see them so confident and enthusiastic.



NATIVITY

Sunday 18th at 10.30am



At the Nativity service all children will be made especially welcome. There will be room – Honest!. So please come along and share The Christian Aid Coffee and Cake event hosted by Islay Cameron and Ailsa

Dowd at the Church Centre (see advert) follows morning worship. The girls would greatly appreciate donations of baking and your support. Proceeds will be passed to the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal which is focussing at this time on those fleeing violence.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Saturday 24th

at 7.00pm Come to church for the early service on the most important evening of the year. After the hectic preparations for the morrow it is good to relax and share fellowship.

at 9.00pm KILMORE KIRK This service is always one of the highlights of the year. Come along to this special country kirk worship, sing praise to God and continue with a tradition that stretches over hundreds of years.

at 11.30pm PARISH CHURCH WATCHNIGHT SERVICE Find yourself in worship as the new born Christ is celebrated in this service full of familiar carols and words of faith.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 25th

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

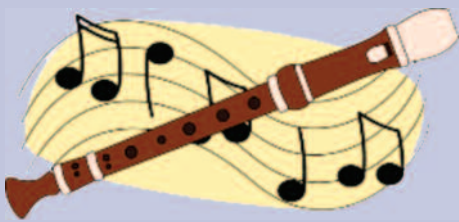
ADVENT LITURGY

Each Sunday through Advent people from groups within the church will be leading our Call to Worship and lighting a candle on the Advent Wreath. These Call to Worship are taken from Christian Aid, and therefore we will be united with many other congregations in hearing and responding to God's summons to praise and follow.

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH?

If you can no longer attend church, then church would like to come to you! The service is recorded and available on CD for anyone who would like it. Each CD comes with an order of service and the intimation sheet, so you can continue to feel part of our worshipping community.

Please tell your Elder and we will put things in place for you.



RECORDER GROUP

Our children's Recorder Group will be leading worship at the Christingle Service. It is great to see them so confident and enthusiastic.

KILMORE IN 2017

Our first service in Kilmore Kirk in the New Year will be on **Sunday 1st January** at 12 noon. It is good to worship God on the very first day of the year.

MODERATOR APPOINTED

The Rev Dr Derek Browning, (54) Minister at Morningside Parish Church, Edinburgh, since 2001 has been named as the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and will take over the role in May 2017.

A brief profile of the Moderator Elect will appear in a future edition of the newsletter.

CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

Our Choir, led by Joy Mills, along with volunteers from other Oban churches and friends and supporters and, we hope, a few musicians, will be singing carols at Tesco from **2.00pm on Saturday 17th December**. This has become a regular Christmas event, bringing the Christian Christmas spirit to the shoppers of Oban & Lorn. The money raised will be equally split between Hope Kitchen and Tesco nominated charity choice.



RETIRING OFFERINGS AT CHRISTINGLE AND ON CHRISTMAS EVE

The offerings from these four services this year be given to our local charity working to help the homeless and roofless, Hope Kitchen, and to Christian Aid – the

ecumenical expression of compassion of the churches of Scotland and of the wider UK.

Christmas Coffee and Cake!

Come along after the Nativity
18th December 10:30am service
at Oban Parish Church

Entry Donations will go to
Christian Aid, Light The Way
and Christmas Appeal

*Light The Way will support people
fleeing violence this Christmas*



Islay and Ailsa appreciate your support,
and baking brought along to the
Church Centre (9:30am onwards)

01631 562405 or obancofs@btinternet.com

Scottish Charity No. SC01117

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND: GET BEHIND OUR ONLINE ADVENT CALENDAR

www.churchofscotland.adventcalendar.com

Dear Parishioner,

The Church has created a new online Advent calendar for this Christmas. Each day, from 1st December, our online Advent calendar windows will reveal a short film from one of our Ministries team reflecting on a word which expresses the meaning and spirituality of Christmas. We hope you'll find their messages reflective and uplifting.

If you sign-up now at www.churchofscotland.adventcalendar.com, you'll receive

an email alert when each Advent window is open and ready to reveal a new short film.

You can also watch this video on www.youtube.com which anticipates our online Advent Calendar for 2016.

Please spread the word of our online Advent Calendar amongst your family and friends.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2017

There will be a united service on **Sunday 18th January** to which everyone is invited.

Churches take it in turns to lead worship and this time the service will be led by Oban Baptist Church.

However, the service will be held here, in our own church, because of the size

congregation we hope to welcome that day.

The service will be held at 10.30am and refreshments will be served afterwards.

Please look out for further details in the intimations over the next few weeks.

MONDAY PRAYER GROUP

11.30am, in the Church Centre

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

Philippians 4:6

If you would like to join, please come along any Monday morning.

If you have a specific prayer request, please let Rev Chris know.

OUR YOUNGEST READER?



It is fairly commonplace for publications to feature readers of their journals pictured in exotic or unlikely locations. So far the newsletter has not felt able to compete in

this field but this picture of young Julia MacFarlane must surely qualify for illustration of our youngest reader

THE GUILD



**Welcomes Men &
Women of all ages**

The Guild has had a very busy Autumn to start of our year.

Our Coffee Morning was once again successful and was followed the next day by the Rev Chris preaching at our Dedication Service. At our first meeting our guest speaker was Oban man Nicolas MacLean recalling his time spent in the Prison Service at Dartmoor.

As always, Oban Guild plays host to the Lorn Presbyterial Autumn Rally and we were delighted on this occasion to welcome Mrs Rosemary Johnston, National Convener, to our meeting. What an inspiring and happy afternoon of fellowship and friendship was spent in her company with our neighbouring guilds!

All this and it was only mid October.

John MacLean was our November guest and, as always, his Old Oban slides were of great interest; our only concern now is when we are going to be appearing in them!

We now look forward to celebrating the festive season in the traditional manner as the December meeting is entitled Let the Bells ring out for Christmas.

On behalf of The Guild I would like to take the opportunity to thank our ministers, Rev Dugald and Rev Chris, along with the congregation and friends for their continued support and to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas as together, with God's Blessing we look forward in faith to the challenges of a New Year.

*Margaret MacLean
Guild Leader*

GUILD CHRISTMAS

A reminder to The Guild and indeed everyone else that they are warmly invited along to Christmas Party on **Wednesday 14th Dec 2.00pm.**

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT KILMORE & OBAN

Sunday 4th December *Advent 2*

09.45	PC	Holy Communion
10.30	PC	Morning Worship
12.00	K	Kilmore Worship

Sunday 11th December *Advent 3 (Remember Lord's Larder)*

10.30	PC	Morning Worship
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Friday 16th December

18.30	PC	Christingle Service
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Sunday 18th December *Advent 4*

10.30	PC	Nativity
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Saturday 24th December *Christmas Eve*

19.00	PC	Christmas Family Service
21.00	K	Christmas Family Service
23.30	PC	Watchnight Service

Sunday 25th December *Christmas Day*

10.30	PC	Christmas Service
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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 29th January 2017.

—2017—

Sunday 1st January 2017

09.45	PC	Holy Communion
10.30	PC	Morning Worship
12.00	K	Kilmore Worship

Sunday 8th January *(Remember Lord's Larder)*

10.30	PC	Morning Worship
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Sunday 15th January

10.30	PC	Morning Worship
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Sunday 22nd January

10.30	PC	Morning Worship (United Service)
15.00	K	Gaelic Service

Sunday 29th January

10.00	CC	Family Faithshare
10.30	PC	Morning Worship

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

Santa's Dilemma

'Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck
How to live in a world that's politically correct?

No presents that might be construed to pollute
Nothing to aim with, nothing to shoot
Nothing that clamoured or made lots of noise
No things for just girls, or just for the boys.

Nothing that claimed to be gender specific,
Nothing that's warlike or too non-pacific,
No candy or sweets 'cos they're bad for the tooth.
Nothing that seemed to embellish a truth.

So Santa just stood there, disheartened, perplexed,
Unable to figure on what to do next.
His sack was quite empty and limp on the ground,
For nothing completely PC could be found.

But then he remembered-it gave him a lift!
That there's one thing left over to give as a gift.
So here is his wish and it's priced beyond worth;
"May you and your loved ones enjoy Peace on Earth!"



CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE

Baptisms ...*And a child shall lead them*

Callum Mitchell Black son of Gemma and Donald Black

Marriages ...*Commitments in Love*

Fiona McCulloch to Tatenda Mutandwa on 29th October 2016 by Rev. Dugald Cameron at Kilmore Kirk.

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

Norman (Norrie) Finlayson of Fladda Road, Oban

Rosalyn Cook of Creran Gardens, Oban

Roseanne Martin of Falkirk

Caroline Duff of Colonsay Terrace, Oban

Cameron Logan of Cawdor Place, Oban

Sheila MacIntyre of Lynn of Lorn (Prev. Croft Road, Oban)

Iain Reid of Balquidder House, formerly Benderloch

Alexander (Fergie) Ferguson of Scalpay Terrace, Oban

EDITORIAL: Ken MacColl

Our February edition will be available on Sunday 29th January 2017.

Copy and photographs should be at the Church Office or sent direct to the editor at kenmaccoll@btinternet.com

by Monday 23rd January.

Photographs and short news items are always welcome.

**Ken MacColl (01631) 566515
or kenmaccoll@btinternet.com**