



FEBRUARY 2017
CHURCH of SCOTLAND LOCAL PARISH NEWSLETTER
KILMORE & OBAN
Belonging, Believing, Blessing



WHAT'S ON

LATEST NEWS

SERVICE TIMES

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK



There are so many unsettling events in the wider world's political and economic life that it is good to gather in church to sense and draw close to the certainties of faith. For we encounter God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit through our ongoing worship and witness. And it is right to feel the security of faith and the encompassing love of God. This does not mean, however, that the Gospel is merely an eternal comfort blanket.

The Gospel challenges and turns the world upside down. We know that Jesus took on the established order where it drew people away from God and from their own image found in God. However, our ability to take risks in God's Way is grounded on the rock of faith. We are loved, we are saved, we are valued, we are gifted a Church of which we are a part.

So when we gather in worship week by week as the unpredictable events of 2017 unfold let us not see this as a withdrawal from the world, or irrelevant to the rest of our existence, but rather a way to see all of life – in the bigger picture – through a Christ who draws near.

Rev Dugald Cameron

MODERATOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends in Argyll congregations,

I am now half way through my year as Moderator of Argyll Presbytery and I am enjoying this privilege very much indeed. It has been a great pleasure to visit and lead worship in some of the congregations which have been experiencing long vacancies. Presbytery is aware of the frustrations that can arise during such times and offers support and encouragement, and also gives thanks for the witness and life of our churches, so diligently continued by our members.

Many discussions are going on at national and local level to try to find a way forward that will provide ministry for all the people of God. Our own Presbytery will have hosted two consultative meetings in January, one in Kintyre and one in Taynuilt. This will provide an opportunity for people to come together and discuss with members of Presbytery the problems and the opportunities that they are experiencing in vacancy.

One of my greatest joys has been to induct the new minister for Barra and South Uist and join in the lovely celebrations with the island folk.

In these past six months Chris Brett, our Presbytery Clerk, and I have been pursuing various initiatives to explore how the Church can become more involved in the community. At our Presbytery Conference we met with the new Chief Executive of Argyll and Bute, and we will continue discussions with him on matters in which we feel the church might be able to help. We are looking at ways that as a Presbytery, we might offer chaplaincy to Calmac. Chris and I have had the pleasure of meeting with Bishop Brian McGee (Roman Catholic Bishop of Argyll and the Isles) and Bishop Kevin Pearson (Episcopal Bishop of Argyll and the Isles). We were warmly received by both and we share much in common about the current situation in our churches. We hope to work together where we can, and perhaps plan a joint community initiative. One of my main interests and concerns is for young people, and with the help of our Youth Ministry Team I wish to try to visit most of the senior schools in our Presbytery to have informal conversations with our young adults about life and faith.

Every blessing, Marilyn Shedden





This year there will be a series of five reflective midweek services during Lent. Worship will be held in church on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, following the theme of 'Living God's Love'. Our worship team will take the lead, considering how we live God's love with generosity, joy, imagination, courage and for the sake of the world.

Please come and join us.

REV DUGALD OPENS NEW ACHA HOUSES

Our minister felt a deep honour in being asked to cut the ribbons and hand over the keys to the first occupants of new houses in the ongoing development in Glenshellach. At the opening ceremony Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of ACHA, said that the ongoing development was for the future of families, stability for young people in a warm spacious home and 2 ½ years of continuing work for 80 construction workers, including apprentices from school. Further, it was great to see the children from Park Primary there as part of their Social Studies field trip.

CHRISTIAN AID AND HOPE KITCHEN



Our retiring offerings from the Christmas services were split between Christian Aid and Hope Kitchen with each receiving a goodly sum. Islay Cameron and Ailsa Dowd's Coffee and Cake made c£570 for Christian Aid. (these girls, with great help from the congregation, have raised c£2,000 for Christian Aid over the last few years).

THE REFORMATION IS ON TRACK!



THE OTHER GLEBE

George Seaton and Marjory after their recent move are now worshipping in Fenwick Church, supporting this congregation during a vacancy. They are sorry to break membership of Kilmore and Oban. However, George wants us all to know that 'the Glebe' is doing well and will be planted out next Spring!! They have also installed Astro Turf in their postage stamp back garden.

THERAPETS

It is acknowledged that pets, particularly dogs with an amenable disposition, can have a beneficial impact in visiting residents of Care Homes where it would be impractical to keep permanent pets. If anyone is interested in their pet filling a gap that has recently arisen locally could they please contact the Church Office for further information.

CHOIR GET OUT AND ABOUT!



The church choir, augmented by singers from other congregations, ably led by Joy Mills and accompanied by fiddle and box, entertained shoppers with carols, first at Tesco and then out in the town on a sharp

Saturday afternoon before Christmas to convey the Christmas message and to raise money for local charities. Public response was generous and a goodly sum was collected.

LETTER FROM STATESIDE – REV CAT KNOTT (former Assistant Minister)

Hello from Hanover College, Indiana, USA, located near the Ohio River famous for Mark Twain and steamboats. Currently I am serving as College Chaplain. This private Institution of Higher Education was founded by a Presbyterian Minister – the Rev John Finlay Crowe in 1827. Part of its motto is 'hospitality towards all students' and 'service to the community'.

The College is my Parish where I teach and conduct worship services in our chapel, give pastoral care and do private study. Jason is at our home busy writing and looking after me real well. I think of ya'll often and miss Oban. Hope things are well with you all on your side of the pond and wish you the light of Christ in the midst of the world's mess.

Peace, Cat

MONTHLY EARLY COMMUNION

The Kirk Session has decided to temporarily cease the monthly Communion Service held in the vestry. Since the move of this service from Christ Church the numbers attending have been small. As this service was originally introduced to increase the number of celebrations of Communion we shall continue with this in mind. Therefore, the Kirk Session affirmed the continuation

of the Holy Week and Easter Communion and look towards encouraging other times to celebrate the Lord's Supper. For example, our next Kirk Session conference in May will include Communion. The ministers and elders will continue to review the provision and are open to suggestions from the congregation.

KILMORE KIRK – GAELIC SERVICE



The November Gaelic Service was conducted by the Rev Roddy MacLeod, assisted by Rev Dugald at Kilmore Kirk. This was the first such Gaelic service to be held in the building for several years and, courtesy of Alex Clark, we also have a photo of Margaret Fletcher, who played the organ for this service, back at a keyboard she knows very well..

THE GUILD



Welcomes Men & Women of all ages

The Guild celebrated Christmas in a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and friendship in a most relaxed atmosphere with Muckairn Bellringers who entertained us with seasonal festive tunes. We were delighted also to welcome Rev and Mrs George Cringles who sang together beautifully for what we hope will be the first of many appearances.

On presenting the newly married couple with flowers Margaret offered them the best wishes of The Guild on their recent marriage and wished them joy for the future.

The tea which followed was enjoyed in a most happy and relaxed atmosphere and it is in faith we look forward together to the challenges of 2017.

Margaret MacLean, Leader



FAMILY FAITHSHARE (last Sunday of the month)

For the first three months of 2107 we are thinking about how and why we pray, but in a very relaxed and creative way! Why not join us for breakfast at 10am and stay for informal worship together as a family.

BIBLE STUDY February – Wednesdays 7.00pm at the Manse

Each of the four Wednesdays in February, starting on the 1st will explore the Bible passage from which the sermon for the following Sunday will be based upon. This will offer the opportunity to come to the text having already been opened to the Spirit's guidance. So just come along. More info from Rev Dugald Cameron.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT KILMORE & OBAN

Sunday 5th February

10.30 PC Morning Worship
12.00 K Kilmore Worship

Sunday 12th February (Remember Lord's Larder)

10.30 PC Morning Worship

Sunday 19th February

10.30 PC Morning Worship

Sunday 26th February

10.00 CC Family Faithshare
10.30 PC Morning Worship
15.00 K 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*

Christina Selbie of Lorn Avenue, Oban

Christina (Chrissie) May of Lynn Court
(prev. Angus Terrace)

Lillian Myrtle McCulloch of Villa Road, Oban

Mary Margaret Mouat of Dunmar Court, Oban

Nancy Brown (prev. Dalriach Park Terr and
Lynn Court, Oban)

Angus MacFadyen of Kilnilver

David Rennie of Lunga Road, Oban

Dennis Russell of McKelvie Road, Oban

Kenneth Munro of Pulpit Road, Oban

Flora MacGillivray, formerly of Creran Gardens, Oban

Agnes (Nancy) Dunlop, formerly of Florentine Villa,
Ardconnel Road

John Bell of Sinclair Drive, Oban

EDITORIAL: Ken MacColl

*Our March edition will be available
on Sunday 26th February 2017.*

**Copy and photographs should be at
the Church Office or sent direct to the
editor at kenmaccoll@btinternet.com
by Monday 20th February.**

**Photographs and short news items
are always welcome.**

**Ken MacColl (01631) 566515
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LOOKING AHEAD IN 2017

Here are some happenings and initiatives which will be occurring in the life of Kilmore and Oban through 2017. We plan to have two main objectives this year. Firstly, we wish to introduce our new pew Bibles, the New Revised Standard Version. Secondly, we aim to focus on mission, reaching out to our members, friends and wider community.

March – we will launch the opportunity to donate a new pew Bible. Also in this month we will be holding special Wednesday Lenten services flowing into a complete Holy Week programme of worship.

October – God willing we will open up our new Bibles with a series of services and studies.

Autumn – a Season of Mission. Following on from a Kirk Session conference evening we plan to issue a special welcome to people, encouraging participation in the life of our congregation.

Many, many other things will continue throughout the year, such as Guild, Family Faithshare, Coffee and Chat, Choir, Sunday School, Christian Aid, the Esslingen trip etc. And of course we worship weekly in Oban Parish and monthly in Kilmore Kirk.

KILMORE & OBAN AT CHRISTMAS

