

The Presbytery of Locharaber

Scottish Charity No: SC010199

www.cofslocharaber.co.uk

Newsletter from Locharaber Presbytery - Autumn '07

Welcome to the (late) Autumn 2007 edition of our Newsletter. Remember that you can keep up to date with the latest news from the Presbytery by logging on to our web site. The site is regularly updated.

Acharacle Church

The first service back in Acharacle Church after its extensive refurbishment will be on November 11th at 2.00p.m. It will be a Remembrance Day Service as well as a rededication of the church.

At a total cost of just under £75,000, the church has a new roof, repaired purlin ends with new wood in the roof where needed, as well as a permanently situated fan which copes with the condensation. There will be a new door and drainage around the church building. Congratulations to everyone involved in this very fine effort.

Ageing Congregations

The Rev Dr Richard Corbett, minister of Kilmallie, has presented to Presbytery figures that he prepared from the 2001 Census results which show, for each parish, how many more, or fewer, parishioners there are of each age than there would be if the parish had the same age

distributions as Scotland as a whole.

These figures clearly demonstrate that for most parishes, we are missing people from the late teens to just below forty, but are holding our own for the fifty plus.

These figures are available from Dr Corbett and the Clerk.

Moderator's Visits

The Presbytery Moderator, the Rev A. Ann Winning continues her visitations to all congregations within the Presbytery. At the conference in April 2007, it was recommended that the Moderator and/or the Clerk should conduct worship in all congregations each year as a way of improving communication between Presbytery and congregational members. To date Ann has visited eight congregations and reports that she has received a warm welcome in all.

Service of Linking

Kilmonivaig will be formally linked to the newly united Fort William congregation at a special service on Tuesday 20th November at 7.00 pm in Kilmonivaig.



Kingairloch Celebrates

On 28th October the culmination of the 150th anniversary celebrations of the erection of the Church building at Kingairloch took place at Kingairloch Church on 28th October 2007.

The Service of worship was conducted by the retired minister of the parish, Rev James Carmichael. A number of members and friends of the church also took part in the service reminding the congregation of past events which had taken place and the need for future visions for the parish.

The building was bustling for the occasion and the joyful congregation joined in heartily with the singing of hymns of praise to God for His faithfulness over the years.

Rev James & Mrs Carmichael cut a celebratory cake at the conclusion of the service to begin more informal celebrations and reminiscences.

More from this story with pictures are on the web site.

Aitken Bequest for Skiers

The above named Trust was established 'to provide religious services for skiers'. For further details contact the Presbytery Clerk.

Prayer section by Eric D Walker

"Seven days without prayer, makes one weak"

O God, early in the morning I cry to you. Help me to pray and to concentrate my thoughts on you; I cannot do this alone.

In me there is darkness, but with you there is light; I am lonely, but you do not leave me; I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help; I am restless, but with you there is peace.

In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience; I do not understand your ways, but you know the way for me.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Prayer opens our eyes our minds and our hearts. It sheds light into the darkness of our fears our anguish, suffering, pain, our sorrows, our hopes and joys, our shame and our pride. It gives us new ways of seeing life and relationships. The power of prayer is real and conspicuous. You can feel it and know it and depend on it. It comes to us as a gift from God, but we need to do our part as well. We need to invite God into our lives and God calls us to pray and through our prayer, God empowers us and gives us strength.

Heavenly Father

We come before you now in this time of quiet to honour and praise you, to thank you and to ask your forgiveness. We come into your presence with reverence and humility, remembering your love and your greatness and the trust we place in your power over us.

Lord we thank you for the beauty that surrounds us, for your creation that is perfect in nature, for the running water, the light, and for our senses to appreciate the wonders of the seasons. In this time of autumn when the leaves are turning, your beauty in Lochaber is all the more spectacular. Help us to appreciate all you do for us.

We come before you to seek your forgiveness for the wrongs we have done to others, we do not lead blameless lives, and ask that you strengthen us in our weaknesses and help us to realise that when we deny ourselves the truth we deny you also. Be with us now as we seek your grace and mercy.

Enter our lives now with all its failings and limitations, so that others may see your love and humility at work in us, and may all your people everywhere be a force for peace and justice. Awaken in us the gospel of Jesus where His vision for humankind was to overcome evil with good.

And the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

"God does not give answers - God is the Answer"