

# The Presbytery of Lochaber

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News from Lochaber Presbytery - Autumn 2005



## New Session

The new Presbytery Session has been very busy with meetings on 6<sup>th</sup> September and 25<sup>th</sup> October.

The new committee structure is now in place and is operating. The hope is that more of Presbytery's work is undertaken at committee level.

## Retirement

Both Ann Winning, Minister at Morvern, and James Carmichael, Minister at Ardgour & Strontian, have announced their intention to retire at the end of January 2006. Both will be sorely missed both by their congregations and by Presbytery.

Ann was ordained in Morvern in 1984 and James was ordained in Ardgour & Strontian in 1976. Both have been very active in their home congregations and at Presbytery level.

Both have been very faithful servants to the national church.

Ann is planning to retire to Glencoe and James

plans to remain in Ardgour, so they will still be around locally. Archie Speirs, Minister at Kinlochleven and Nether Lochaber is to be appointed as Interim Moderator at Morvern and Ruth Lawson, Auxiliary Minister, to Ardgour & Strontian.

## Alison Burnside

Presbytery has been pleased to receive a report that Alison Burnside will be off on Maternity Leave from 20<sup>th</sup> February, or there about! Husband Billy has agreed to act as Interim Moderator. Congratulations to Alison and Billy from all of us.

## Ian & Jacqui Pittendreigh

An email received from them was read to Presbytery. Ian's induction in New Zealand included being piped in and out of the service to 'Flower of Scotland'.

They both seem very happy. Their email address is

[jipitt@ekit.com](mailto:jipitt@ekit.com) if you

want to drop them a note.

## Sexual Health

At the October meeting, Presbytery received a very full report from the committee examining NHS Highland's draft Sexual Health & Relationship Strategy 2005 - 2010.

The committee's responses to the document included that Presbytery:

"Encourages NHS Highland to continue to promote the acceptability among young people of saying 'no' and abstaining from sexual intercourse; while recognising that there are those who will experiment or not abstain and must be encouraged to act in a responsible manner.

Congratulates NHS Highland on seeking to use a multi-agency approach that will reach all young people in identifiable and understandable ways, in an attempt to reduce the number of unplanned teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections; while encouraging people to respect both themselves and other people."

### Prayer Section from John Maitland

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it." John Ch 15 v 7

"Prayers are the stairs we must climb every day,  
if we would reach God there is no other way  
for we learn to know God when we meet Him in prayer  
and ask Him to lighten our burden of care.

So – start in the morning, and though the way is steep  
climb ever upwards 'till your eyes close in sleep.  
For prayers are the stairs that lead to the Lord." Helen Steiner Rice

As the Presbytery continues to dedicate itself to the work and responsibilities involved in carrying out God's will,

please pray...

for the Moderator, the Rev Archie Speirs, minister of Kinlochleven and Nether Lochaber.

May his year in office be a year in which the Presbytery may go forward to attempt new and greater things in the name of Jesus Christ.

please pray...

for the Presbytery Clerk, the Rev David Anderson. Give thanks for the dedication and zeal David brings to the duties of Clerk and pray that he may respond to any challenges that lie ahead with wisdom and courage in the strength of our Lord Jesus Christ.

please pray...

for the Presbytery committees and their conveners, that they be responsive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and that all their plans and decisions may be in conformity with God's will.

please pray...

for all members of Presbytery that each one will be blessed with the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit, that they may know God's will and be strong to obey it.

*Father God, You know the needs of Your Church in every place; lovingly remember at this time the vacant parishes of Mallaig St. Columba's and Knoydart and Arisaig & the Small Isles, also Acharacle & Ardnamurchan. Give to each charge a faithful minister who may serve You in diligence and humbleness and, by Your blessing, bring many people to the joys of Your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

At this time of harvest let us PRAISE God for "all good gifts around us, sent from heaven above". Let us give THANKS for farmers, foresters, fishermen and industrialists and for the fruits of their labour.

"'In My Name,' this oft repeated phrase means 'in My nature'. Our prayers should be in accordance with the nature of God, therefore the answers are not in accordance with our nature but with His. We are apt to forget this and to say without thinking that God does not answer prayer; but He always answers prayer and when we are in close communion with Him we know that we have not been misled." Oswald Chambers

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