

The Presbytery of Lochaber

Scottish Charity No: SC010199

www.cofslochaber.co.uk



Newsletter from Lochaber Presbytery - Spring '07

Welcome to the Spring 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. We continue to have over 3000 "hits" per month.

Kinlochleven I/w Nether Lochaber has been given permission for a full and unrestricted call. Their charge became vacant last June when the Rev Archie Speirs moved back to his home area of Port Glasgow.

Glencoe St. Munda's I/w Duror has been upgraded to a full charge. Previously their ministers were inducted on a reviewable basis with the funding for the charge dependent on the chaplaincy for Glencoe Hospital. These restrictions have both now been removed.

The **Fort William** town charges continue to hold talks regarding union. The date that they are working towards is 1st September. The MacIntosh building is now being advertised for sale.

At a moving service on 18th February in Kilmonivaig, Eric Walker, the Presbytery Prayer Coordinator, was "set aside" as a Reader having completed his course of study. Congratulations Eric.

Presbytery Conference

At the March meeting, the Clerk presented a paper in which he outlined the challenges presently facing the Presbytery.

It was agreed to hold a Conference to discuss these issues on Tuesday 24th April at 7.00 pm in Caol. Members will be given written notice, but anyone with an interest is welcome to attend.

Among the issues which may be addressed are: our relationship with other Presbyteries; the deployment of Readers, Auxiliary Ministers and Retired Ministers; our committee structure; the frequency and location of meetings.

Should the conference come up with definite recommendations, it is hoped that these will be implemented next session.

The **Rev A. Ann Winning** has been elected Presbytery Moderator from June 2007. Ann, who now resides in Glencoe, was the minister at Morvern prior to her retirement. She will be installed on 5th June in St. Munda's Glencoe.

Iain MacIver, who was a probationer minister at Duncansburgh and Kilmonivaig, is to be ordained and inducted to the charge of Carinish in the Presbytery of Uist on 20th April. Further details are available from the Rev Donald MacQuarrie.

Presbytery has welcomed the **Rev Alan Cobain**. Alan was previously an Army chaplain but is now a history teacher at Ardnamurchan High School in Strontian. Alan is conducting the occasional Pulpit Supply in the Presbytery.

Our Commissioners to the **2007 General Assembly** in May are: Ministers – Adrian Varwell, Alan Lamb, Ruth Lawson and David Anderson; Elders – Lin Ramsay, Jean Coke, Kathleen Cruickshank and Andrew Chalkley.

Acharacle have now raised over £67,000 towards the cost of remedial work to the Church building. This includes £16,000 from local fund raising with the rest from grants. Congratulations to them on this fine effort. The total cost of the repairs is over £73,000.

Prayer section by Eric D Walker

Grant us grace, Almighty Father, so to pray as to deserve to be heard.
(Jane Austen 1775-1817)

Almighty God,

We set aside this time of quiet contemplation, to come before you in recognition of your greatness. Mere words fail to praise the fullness of your wonder, yet in Christ we see your Glory and hear your words of truth, and know your forgiving love.

We commemorate the creation of your world, and all that is in it, the beauty that surrounds us that we often take for granted, help us recognise all that you have created for us, for this life and the life of this world.

Focus our minds on you now as we thank you for the great gift of life, teach our hearts where and how to find you, so we may worship you in the faith and spirit of Jesus Christ.

Take away all the barriers, which prevent us from following you, forgive us the wrongs we have done and said which have hurt others, take away our hearts of stone and give us a heart of flesh, so we may love you and follow you with true repentance.

Lord, we ask that you be with all those called to your service, that they may be worthy of their Christian vocation, Ministers, Readers, Elders and all those whose commitment to the work of the Church often goes unseen by us. Provide them with the wisdom, patience and courage, to fulfil their calling to your witness and care for all your people, in a fellowship of understanding and love.

O Heavenly Father we pray for all those who are suffering from illness, who may be confined to hospital or at home recuperating, and whose treatment may be causing additional discomfort and distress. We ask that you give them strength and hope amidst all the difficulties of this mortal life and that they may depend on your mercy to ease their pains.

In this time of Lent, we take this opportunity to grow in our relationship with you O God. In our busy world, provide us with an opportunity at this time to reflect, to pray more deeply and to experience the regrets for what we've done and failed to do, and to be generous to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Lord, we are aware that Easter is just around the corner and as we approach this time, we are conscious of the suffering of your son Jesus Christ, and who through His death and resurrection, we might be saved. Give to each of us such a vision of His risen Glory that we may forever trust in His power.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.
(Isaiah 55:6)