

The Presbytery of Lochaber

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www.cofslochaber.co.uk

Newsletter from Lochaber Presbytery - Summer 2006

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New Moderator

Mr John Fraser was installed as the Moderator of the Presbytery of Lochaber on 6th June. John is the first Elder to have held this position.

John is a Reader and is presently serving as Interim Moderator and Locum to Acharacle and Ardnamurchan, a charge which is vacant at the moment.

Rev Archie Speirs

Our previous Moderator has accepted a Call to the charge of Port Glasgow, St. Martins. His induction there is on Friday 23rd June at 7.30 pm.

Archie has served this Presbytery very diligently in the three years that he has been minister of Kinlochleven and Nether Lochaber.

Apart from being an excellent parish minister, Archie has served Presbytery as Mission and Outreach Convener as well as Moderator.

At the June Presbytery meeting he informed us of Two Lochs Youth & Community Project that he was instrumental in establishing.

We wish him and Christine every Blessing for their future in Port Glasgow.

Vacancies

Presbytery has ten charges and unfortunately five of them are now without a minister.

The **Rev William Burnside** is the Interim Moderator to Kinlochleven and Nether Lochaber. Billy is also still holding the fort as Interim Moderator at **Glencoe & Duror** while Alison is on maternity leave.

The **Rev Donald MacQuarrie** is now the Interim Moderator at **Morvern** replacing Archie Speirs. Presbytery is in talks with Morvern and **Ardgour & Strontian** with a view to forming the one linked charge.

At the last Presbytery meeting, **Acharacle & Ardnamurchan** were given permission to Call, but concurrence from the assembly committee has still to be given.

Mallaig & Arisaig have been given approval to plans to upgrade the manse at Mallaig which has been selected as the manse for the newly linked charge.

New Readers

Mrs Morag Muirhead and **Mrs Pat Walker** are both now at the very end of their training for Readership. They both received excellent reports for their final preaching assessments. It is hoped that they will be appointed in September.

Mr Eric Walker (Pat's husband) is also very near to completing his readership training. He is undertaking his final placement at Fort Augustus and Glengarry. It is hoped that he will be appointed towards the end of this year.

It never ceases to amaze how God provides.

Presbytery Web Site

The site continues to grow. Hits have dropped from the high of over 5,000 in December to 2855 in May. Have a look at it at www.cofslochaber.co.uk. All comments are welcome.

Jane Petty

Our former Missionary Partner Jane has had some family bereavements recently and is about to go to work in the Congo for two months. Remember Jane.

Prayer Section from John Maitland

"In the same way the Spirit also comes to help us, weak as we are. For we do not know how we ought to pray, the Spirit Himself pleads with God for us in groans that words cannot express." Romans Ch 8 v 26.

Why pray?

Why pray at all?

What is it that motivates us to pray?

In a real sense, of course, it is not what, but who.

The example of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He taught his disciples to pray (Matthew Ch 6 vv 5 – 14). He offered prayer to His Father for Himself, the disciples and the church (John 17) and He took time off to pray (Luke 6.12). So, when we pray, we are 'following' Jesus.

To have fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a church when we gather in prayer on our own, or as part of corporate worship, we reaffirm the resurrection power of Easter that says Jesus is alive. Prayer is central to our journey of faith with our risen Lord (Acts 2 vv 44 – 47).

It is astonishing that God, the Creator of all things, wants us to build a personal relationship with Him through Christ, by the mystery of prayer. Prayer is the conversation that underpins that relationship and is a dialogue that is both listening and speaking.

Father God, we pray that your blessing would be upon Mr John Fraser, the first elder to have the distinction of being installed as Moderator of the Presbytery of Lochaber. Give him understanding of the task that lies ahead of him, the ability to lead gently, and may you richly bless John with the wisdom and power of your Spirit, that he may know Your will and be strong to obey it, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please pray for the parishes in our Presbytery who do not have a minister at present: Mallaig & Knoydart with Arisaig & the Small Isles; Acharacle & Ardnamurchan; Ardgour & Kingairloch with Strontian; Morvern; and now Kinlochleven with Nether Lochaber. Pray that God's will may be done and that these congregations will have a minister to guide and care for them and bring them to maturity of spirit and the furtherance of the kingdom.

O Lord Jesus, we remember that You loved the church and gave Yourself for it. We pray: for those who seek to serve it with their lives; for those in church office – ministers, deacons and readers; for elders and congregational board members. Teach them the importance of dependence on You - without which they can do nothing, with which they can do all things.

Let us give thanks: -

For ordinary things – how extraordinary they really are

For the joys of home and family, for daily work and recreation

For neighbourliness which makes community life what it is meant to be

For human understanding which lightens many a load, eases the tension of the mind and heals the wounded heart

For the love of God in Christ which brings the peace that men and women cannot of their own efforts find

"True prayer consists in getting out of God's way and allowing the Eternal Good to flow into the life." Dr Frederick W. Bailes.