

The Presbytery of Lochaber

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Newsletter from Lochaber Presbytery - Summer '07



Welcome to the Summer 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.

New Presbytery Moderator

The Rev A. Ann Winning has been installed as the moderator for next session. In a moving service at Glencoe on 5th June the retiring Moderator, Mr John Fraser, installed Ann and thanked Presbytery for the privilege of being allowed to serve as Moderator.

This is Ann's third spell as Presbytery Moderator. Ann was the Minister of Morvern for 22 years and is now retired, living in Glencoe. She is still very active in her service to the church acting as Interim Moderator, and from July also as Locum, for the vacant charge of Kinlochleven linked with Nether Lochaber. We look forward to Ann's leadership and guidance next year.

Arisaig and Mallaig

On Sunday 27th May in Mallaig, the Rev John Christie was Introduced as the Interim Minister to the Church of Scotland Congregations of Arisaig and the Small Isles and Mallaig St. Columba's with Knoydart.

John, who was born in Glasgow, taught science in Tìree before being called to the Ministry. He was minister in Hyndland Church in Glasgow for fourteen years before joining the Interim Ministry Team.

Interim Ministers are placed into charges where, for example, there has been a long vacancy. John joins the Deacon Janet Anderson as the Ministry Team in Arisaig and Mallaig.

John, who will be residing in the Arisaig Manse until the upgrading work on the Mallaig Manse is complete, is looking forward to his duties with great enthusiasm. His interests include hill walking and sailing - a perfect combination for his stay in Lochaber! He continues to serve as the Convener of the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Committee.

Presbytery Conference

The Presbytery Conference which was held on 24th April was considered by all to be a great success. Proposals from the Conference have now been incorporate into Standing Orders.

Union of Fort William Congregations

At a historic meeting on 1st May, Presbytery agreed to the union of the two Fort William Congregations of Duncansburgh and MacIntosh Memorial under the name Fort William Duncansburgh MacIntosh. The union will take place on 1st September immediately following the retiral of the Rev Alan Ramsay, minister of the MacIntosh Memorial Church. The Rev Donald MacQuarrie, the present minister of Duncansburgh, will continue as the minister to the new charge.

The Service of Union followed by a "Songs of Praise" will take place in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church on Sunday 2nd September at 6.30 pm to which all are welcome.

Rev Alan Ramsay

Presbytery is to hold a Reception at 4.30 pm on Tuesday 4th September to mark the retiral of the Rev Alan Ramsay after forty years as minister of MacIntosh Memorial. Alan was Presbytery Clerk for sixteen years and Moderator on four occasions. He has served diligently at every Church level - Parish, Presbytery, Synod and on Assembly Committees.

Prayer section by Eric D Walker

Peace and Joy

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (Romans 5: 1-5)

Let us come together in prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come before you today accepting there are two sides to Christian life, on one hand we are all complete in Christ and on the other we are still growing in Christ.

As we strive to be more like Jesus we are forever conscious of the struggle of temptation and while we feel the presence of Jesus we are also aware of the pressure of sin. We enjoy the peace that comes from being made right with God but we still have to face the daily problems that help us to grow.

Lord, help us not to be discouraged as we face these daily problems and temptations, but show us the way, that it is only during prayer we learn to depend on the power available to us through Christ

Almighty God, who is alive and at work in our world through the power of your Holy Spirit, you are with each of us today. What great good news it is that there is someone who has promised to be with us whatever life may bring. Even when we are not aware of it, you are there.

How can we really fully comprehend your divine mystery? Our lives are lived in such a hurry; we never take enough time for you. O God we pray that even through the busyness of our day, we take the opportunity to find peace and enjoy the blessings you have to offer us.

We ask you to renew in us a sense of joy and let the eternal spirit of the Father dwell in us, filling every corner of our lives with light and grace and give you thanks for all things.

O loving God, with kindness, touch the lives of all those whose hopes have been shattered, whose dreams have been wrecked by grief or bereavement, those whose addiction to drugs or alcohol are a real cause for concern to their families.

Nurture and sustain all those whose lives are overshadowed by pain and disease, starvation and loneliness, give them all a sense of your presence now that they may know your love for them.

Heavenly Father you give us all we need to have peace and joy in our lives and we thank you for our life together in Christ. Though we are very different people and we come from different places it is in Him and through Him that we have been made one in Christ. For the wonder of your creation we thank you and ask that by your Holy Spirit we may live speak and act as your thankful people every day of our lives.

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

Amen.