

The Presbytery of Lochaber

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News from Lochaber Presbytery - Winter 2004/05



**Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year
to you all.**

Annual Dinner

The Presbytery held its annual Christmas Dinner and reception for Readers, and others, in Caol Hall just prior to the meeting on 7th December. Thanks to the ladies of Kilmallie for doing us so proud once again. The numbers attending the dinner were well up this year! Normally there are about 25, but this year 41 sat down. The ladies coped admirably!

Guest Speaker

The speaker at the start of the February Presbytery meeting will be Mr Rob Rawson of Scottish Crusaders. As Presbytery is a public meeting, anyone who is interested in this talk can attend.

Kilmallie Induction

The Induction of the Rev Dr Richard Corbett to Kilmallie will take place in Caol on Thursday 6th January at 7.00 pm. He and his wife will stay in the Caledonian Apartments in Corpach while the new manse is being built. We welcome them both into our midst.

Mallaig & Arisaig

The situation there at the moment is that the Presbytery has decided to link these two vacant charges and this linkage has been agreed to by the Assembly Appraisal Committee. Both congregations have, however, objected to this linkage, so proceedings to call a minister have stopped until their objections are examined.

Ruth Lawson

Ruth was ordained to the Auxiliary Ministry in Caol on 9th November. The church was absolutely packed for this very moving occasion. Ruth has now been assigned to the three "town" charges which include Kilmonivaig.

Deep Impact

This is a major event for Youth Leaders at Aviemore. Karen MacDonald of Mallaig is one of the leadership team. The dates are 14th to 16th January. For further details contact the Rev Adrian Varwell.

Child Protection

Very successful trainings were held recently led by Mr Forbes Jackson (formerly Mallaig). Fifteen attended the Co-ordinators Course and thirty six the Volunteers' Course. Thanks to all involved.

Prayer Section from John Maitland

"Behold, I bring to you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the lord. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" Luke2: 10-11, 14

Father God; at this time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, Your Son and Saviour, into the world, give us the grace to truly celebrate. We celebrate Your loving concern for us. We celebrate Your willingness to share life with us. We celebrate Your identification with us. We celebrate Your salvation of our souls.

During this Christmas season when so much attention is given to gifts, may we think primarily of Your gift to us of Your Son who gave life---of his sacrifice which gives eternal life---of his abiding presence in the Holy Spirit which gives meaningful life. As we dedicate our lives to You, please accept and bless us, and strengthen each one of us with Your great gift of grace. In Jesus name we pray Amen

Rejoice with the congregation of the parish of Kilmallie as they prepare for the induction Of the Rev Dr Richard Corbett as their minister. Pray that this ministry will be richly blessed and that together with their new minister the church in Kilmallie will be joyful in worship, united in witness, working, caring, praising, loving, to the glory of the name of Jesus Christ our Lord

Give thanks for the ordination of the Rev Dr Ruth Lawson to the Auxiliary Ministry. What a wonderful occasion that was, Caol church full to overflowing with folk from all parts of the Presbytery. Pray that this new ministry will be richly blessed and that Ruth will lead God's people courageously, care for them lovingly, teach them faithfully, and send them to be His witnesses in the world

Jane Petty our missionary at Muandi, Zambia has had a far from peaceful life since her serious road accident in May 2003. First she had to struggle back to fitness and health, always with the threat of legal proceedings to worry her. Give thanks for the good news that the case has been heard and Jane has been fully acquitted. She is so grateful for the large number of people who prayed for her recovery from the injuries and that she would be declared innocent.

Continue to pray for the vacant charges of Mallaig St Columba and Knoydart, and Arisaig and the Small Isles. Although negotiations have been taking place for some time now to fill these vacancies, agreement still has to be reached. Give

Thanks for the excellent work of the locums, the Rev Alan Lamb in Arisaig and the Rev Rod Mallinson in Mallaig. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and empower all who share in the responsibility of bringing the negotiations to a successful conclusion. May God's will be done.

There are no limit to the manner and forms that are available to communicating the Good News that Jesus Christ is born

We need to share this Good News personally
We need to share this Good News prayerfully
We need to share this Good News in the present

A blessed Christmas to one and all and a happy New Year

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