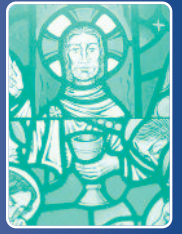




DECEMBER 2009 / JANUARY 2010  
CHURCH of SCOTLAND LOCAL PARISH NEWSLETTER  
**KILMORE & OBAN**

*The future looks good!*



WHAT'S ON

LATEST NEWS

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## NOLLAIG CHRIDHEAL AGUS BLIADHNA MHATH ÙR



### FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Leanabh an aigh,  
an leanabh bh'aig Mairi;  
rugadh an stabull  
Rìgh nan dul:  
thanig don fhasach,  
dh'fhuling nar na-aite –  
son' iad an aireamh  
bhitheas dha dluth!

These are the words of the carol Child in a Manger in the original Gaelic. This beautiful hymn to God-in-Christ has been sung for many years in these parts. And many of you reading this minister's letter will be able to sing the first verse, if not all three, off by heart.

These two factors of continuity and personal experience remind us of the importance of tradition. For through tradition you may learn something of our Christian faith. However – and this is the crucial – it has to be a living tradition.

A tradition that is stuck in the past is best left there as it will have atrophied. A tradition that seeks to go forward taking what is best and blending with new Gospel insights will be better placed to impact upon people's lives.

With all this in mind make sure you and your loved ones make worship part of your Christmas tradition. And our prayer is that what we as a congregation offer to God in worship and service – through the power of the Holy Spirit – will speak of a faith being born anew, not just in Bethlehem but in 21st century Kilmore and Oban.

*Dugald Cameron*

Minister: Rev. Dugald Cameron; Associate Minister: Rev. Cat Knott  
Administrator: Mrs Maureen Devine, The Church Office, Glencruitten Road, Oban PA34 4DH *Open: Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm*  
Tel: 01631 562405 E-mail: [obancofs@btinternet.com](mailto:obancofs@btinternet.com) Website: [www.obanchurch.com](http://www.obanchurch.com)

Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland. Scottish Charity Number SC011171

## ORGANIST

Many of you will know that Mrs Margaret Fletcher has recently retired from the position of organist. Over more than two decades Margaret has shown an outstanding commitment to leading worship Sunday by Sunday, accompanying the choir in rehearsal, and playing at countless funerals and weddings. All of us have been blessed though her musicianship and inspired by her dedication. In the near future we plan to show our appreciation of Margaret in the form of a gift. Anyone wishing to contribute this can do so through the Church Office.

Kilmore and Oban is blessed in our pool of musical talent and from our membership we are glad to announce that Ken Moncrieff has been appointed our new organist. Furthermore we now have a depute organist in Dr Andy Henderson. So please hold both Ken and Andy in your prayers as they seek to take forward our musical tradition.

We should also note Dr Jim Young and Elizabeth Little, our new choir leader also regularly play the organ for us. What a wonderful pool of talent and commitment.

## PRAYER ROOM UPDATE

Due to Rev Dugald's absence the final touches needed to bring to completion the newly developed prayer room in Corran Esplanade Church have not quite been applied. However, funds are in hand to finish this project and early in the New Year we plan to dedicate this space and start using it in ways that will evolve over the coming months.

Corrie Barrow and Chloe Johnstone attended the National Children's Assembly on the Isle of Iona for four days in October. They were accompanied by Cynthia McKeown and took part in many activities around the Abbey and over the island with children from all over Scotland and the rest of the world. A report of the Assembly work appears in this month's edition of Life & Work and the children will give a more personal local report to the 11.30 am service at Glencruitten Road on Sunday 13th December.

## CORRAN ESPLANADE CLEANING

As we approach the end of the year thanks should again be expressed to the 22 folks who have worked hard to ensure that the Corran Esplanade Church has been kept clean and ready for Worship each week. Most of these people have been giving this Service over many years and it is, perhaps, largely taken for granted. I have very much appreciated their support over the years in making up the rota. In future this task will be undertaken by Sandra Clark so if you feel you could help out please contact her on 564684.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### CHRISTINGLE Friday 19th December 6.30pm Corran Esplanade

As the lights go down and the words of Away in a Manger are on our lips, the Christingles are lit up throughout the church to remind us of the Christlight –the warm light of God dawning throughout the world. This is now an established part of our Christmas services, a short, 30 minute family friendly act of worship to remind everyone of the true joy and meaning of Christ's birth. Spread the word and help this service to grow as a sign of our Christmas Celebrations. It's the talk of the town and that is the way it should be. The orange is the symbol of our Earth; the red ribbon is the blood of Christ. The four sticks with the colourful sweets represent the fruits of the earth and the four seasons while the candle, when lit, signifies the Light of the World.



### NATIVITY: Sunday 20th December 11.30am Glencruitten Road

At our nativity service all children will be made especially welcome because they will have a hands on participation in the story! Rev Cat has had an idea! So come and see.

### CHRISTMAS EVE: 24th 7.00pm Corran Esplanade 9.00pm Kilmore Kirk

#### WATCHNIGHT SERVICE: Glencruitten Road 11.30pm

Get a life and come to church on the most important evening of the year. (TV is rubbish and rots your brain anyway). Services such as this make an impression that lasts a life time.

Details of all our services are on the back page.

## CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2009

### .....they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts

This year the Kirk Session has decided that the offerings from our special Christmas services will be divided equally between two different charities.

The first charity **'Mary's Meals'** will probably be already known to many as an international charity based in Dalmally. This started as Scottish International Relief (SIR) in 1992 when the MacFarlane-Barrow brothers collected aid to transport to the war region in Bosnia. Over the next few years the work gradually expanded spreading to other countries around the world. By 2002 the project had reached Malawi, and there the idea of providing one good meal per day for children in their schools was born. This would help not only relieve the chronic malnutrition endemic in that country, but also encourage children to stay in education and so help lift them out of poverty in later life. This policy has proved spectacularly successful, and Mary's Meals now provides daily meals for 375,000 children around the world. The largest group to benefit are in Malawi, where as little as £6.15 can feed one child for a whole year.

The second charity **'FROM Scotland'** (Famine Relief for Orphans in Malawi) is less well known. This was set up in 2001 by Dr Tracy Thomson and her family. Tracy was for many years an enthusiastic member, then leader, of the Christian organization SSC which is well known to many teenagers from

Oban and across Scotland. When she graduated Tracy travelled to Malawi, where she now works with her husband and brings up her young family. Working there she was made aware of the terrible poverty and plight of the many children in that country who are orphaned by the scourge of AIDS, and so, with the help of her family back home in Scotland, she set up a charity to provide aid for this very needy group of young people. As a result FROM Scotland is now able to provide daily meals for around 800 children, as well as providing them with essentials such as mosquito nets, water treatment equipment, medical supplies, and seeds for staple crops. In addition, a classroom has been built in Mwananyana village and a borehole for fresh water is nearing completion. Midwifery services are being supported, and financial help has been given to help with the repair of the Ekwendeni Hospital\* which was damaged by storms in 2008. All of this has been achieved with the £100,000 raised so far. As the charity is run entirely by volunteers, every penny raised goes directly to fund the individual projects.

Please give generously to these worthwhile charities. Your gifts will go a long way!

*Andy Henderson*

\* Ekwendeni Hospital is featured in an article in the December Life & Work. (Editor)

## FROM REV CAT

A very Happy New Year to you all! I may sound a bit daft, but really, Advent is truly the beginning of the church calendar for Christians around the world- we come together, watching and waiting. The season of Advent traditionally provokes more solemnity than a party atmosphere, and is a lot less "fun" than your standard Hogmanay celebration. However, it's a great way to start things off, because it speaks to the promise of hope and salvation for the world, because of the incarnation of God in the person of the little Christ child.

In an old African American spiritual, this time is seen as a precursor to an enormous wedding feast/party/powwow when we are waiting for the bridegroom, eyes a lit in anticipation. The words sing out:

***Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.  
Children don't get weary, the time is drawing nigh.***

We were told in a parable once by Jesus himself that waiting for God's coming is like being a member of a bridal party, waiting for the wedding to start. We don't have the time down pat, we feel a little bit in the dark, but we are hopeful and excited. We have to keep all of the lights on, get the music ready, and start a countdown for the best of New Years- when God's kingdom comes, and all is as it should be. It's a party that's been promised, and will be the best one we've ever seen! We need to make sure we're ready, and take a little time this Advent season to prepare the way for God's coming!



### SOPHIE

Sophie owns David and Sheila Mitchell and is a regular weekly visitor to Eadar Glynn where she is welcomed and spoiled by staff and residents. Many elderly residents react very positively to visiting pets and Sophie is not at all averse to exchanging love and affection for Jelly Babies, Milky Ways, Custard Creams and Ginger Snaps. Her official status is as a Therapist.

## WELCOME TO THE 'MALAWI CORNER'

The Lighthouse Christian Centre continues to be a blessing – our days are long and tiring, but they are so worthwhile. Our Christian library is completely unique and our books (donated by the people of Oban and Inverness before I left) are just wonderful. Through this new Library Discipleship, we hope to bring people into Christian maturity. It is our hope that their faith will be strengthened and that in turn, they will be better equipped to do the work of the Lord. We are also working to reach out to non-Christians and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to as many people as possible

Our challenge now is to make a bit more money; this money will help us to develop this new ministry in Kasungu and support the wider work of Joy to the World Ministries here in Malawi.

Please keep us all in your thoughts and prayers – it is the most powerful way in which you can help and means so much to us. Thank you.

*GOD BLESS*

*Jayne Powers*

## THE GUILD

**Welcomes Men and Women of all ages**



Kilmore and Oban Guild successfully launched the new Session when the Rev.Cat explored this year's theme "Called to act Justly" at the Afternoon Meeting and the Rev Cat and the Rev Dugald considered Homecoming from both sides of the Big Pond at the Evening Meeting. Since then the Afternoon Group have had a fascinating glimpse of life as an Honorary Sheriff from Alexandrina MacDonald and the Evening Group heard of the work of the Fair Trade organisation.

The Guild marked Guild Week by distributing plants to those members who are no longer fit to attend meetings and by hosting an Afternoon Tea at which Robert McCulloch showed slides of Old Oban and the Recorder Group played. Members rededicated themselves to the work of the Guild.

The Coffee morning in October was a great success raising £730 and the Guild is extremely grateful to everyone who gave their support on what was a very dreich morning outside although the fellowship in the Hall more than made up for that.

Both groups will be celebrating Christmas at the December meetings and we take this opportunity to wish the entire Congregation every Blessing at Christmas and Peace and Health in 2010.

*June Campbell*

## NEXT EDITION

The February edition of our newsletter will be available on Sunday 31st January 2010. Copy should be handed in at the Church Office by Friday 22nd or sent direct to the editor at [kenmaccoll@btinternet.com](mailto:kenmaccoll@btinternet.com)

The Editor is always looking for short articles and photographs.

## LADIES' BADMINTON

Sessions cost £1.00 and are held in the Church Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 2-4 pm. Newcomers are welcome. Beginners should come on Tuesdays.

December Tuesdays – 1st, 8th and 15th

December Thursdays – 3rd, 10th and 17th.

January Tuesdays – 12th, 19th and 26th

January Thursdays – 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th

*Margo Macdonald*

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT KILMORE & OBAN

## Sunday 6th December – Advent 2

09.15	CE	Holy Communion
10.00	CE	Morning Worship
11.30	GR	Family Worship
18.00	K	Evening Worship

## Sunday 13th December – Advent 3

*(Remember Lord's Larder)*

10.00	CE	Morning Worship
11.30	GR	Family Worship

## Friday 18th December

18.30	CE	Christingle Service
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## Sunday 20th December – Advent 4

10.00	CE	Morning Worship
11.30	GR	Nativity

## Thursday 24th December – Christmas Eve

19.00	CE	Christmas Family Service
21.00	K	Christmas Family Service
23.30	GR	Watchnight Service

## Friday 25th December – Christmas Day

10.30	CE	Christmas Service
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## Sunday 27th December

10.00	CE	Morning Worship
11.30	GR	Family Worship
15.00	GR	Gaelic Service

There will be no Family Faithshare in December but we look forward to welcoming you on January 31st 2010.

## Sunday 3rd January 2010

09.15	CE	Holy Communion
10.00	CE	Morning Worship
11.30	GR	Family Worship
18.00	K	Evening Worship

## Sunday 10th January 2010 *(Remember Lord's Larder)*

10.00	CE	Morning Worship
11.30	GR	Family Worship

## Sunday 17th January 2010

10.00	CE	Morning Worship
11.30	GR	Family Worship

## Sunday 24th January 2010

10.00	CE	Morning Worship
11.30	GR	Family Worship
15.00	GR	Gaelic Service

## Sunday 31st January 2010

10.00	CE	Morning Worship
11.15	CC	Family Faithshare
11.30	GR	Family Worship

**KEY:** CC—Church Centre, Glencruitten Road.  
K—Kilmore Kirk. CE—Corran Esplanade Church.  
GR—Glencruitten Road. Church. EG—Eadar Glinn

## CHRISTIAN FOCUS WEEK



Christian Focus Week – A great week with the 'Check it Out' team – a week in Oban High School with the band and drama group, who led assemblies, worked with RME classes, P7's from Rockfield and Park Primaries, with Higher music pupils and with H<sub>2</sub>O groups on Tuesday evening and at Glencruitten Hostel. The CiO team also led two workshops at the S3 Faith Matters Conference. The week culminated in a concert on the Thursday night. Close to 150 young folk attended and were given the opportunity to respond to the Gospel message of love. 17 young folk did so and H<sub>2</sub>O are getting alongside these folk to move forward as they discover more of the Christian faith. Funding for the week was provided by local churches, Scripture Union and local business.



## CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE

### Baptisms *....And a child shall lead them*

Daniel John Munro MacInnes son of Donna and Ian MacInnes

### Funerals *....Nothing can separate us from the Love of God*

Margaret MacKinnon of Lynn of Lorn, Benderloch

Catherine MacKenzie of Kilmore

Kenny Campbell of Etive Road, Dunbeg

Archie MacGillivray of Hazeldean Crescent, Oban

Peter Wilson of Lismore Crescent, Oban

Catherine Dewar Simpson of Longsdale Crescent, Oban

Dr. Margaret Barnes of Ganavan Road, Oban

Tommy Duncan of Glencruitten Drive, Oban

Wilma Matheson MacDougall of Mossspark Care Home, Fort William

Jessie Spink of Creag Bhan Village, Oban

## EDITORIAL: Ken MacColl

*Our next edition for February 2010 will  
be available on Sunday 31st January.*

**Material and photographs should be at the  
Church Office or sent direct to the editor at  
[kenmaccoll@btinternet.com](mailto:kenmaccoll@btinternet.com)  
by Friday 22nd January 2010.**