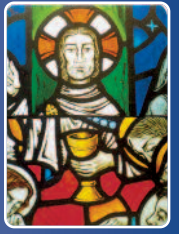




FEBRUARY 2020
CHURCH of SCOTLAND LOCAL PARISH NEWSLETTER
KILMORE & OBAN
Belonging, Believing, Blessing



WHAT'S ON

LATEST NEWS

SERVICE TIMES

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK



The Church points to the heavens

There is a phrase or cliché around at present – it is time to wake up and smell the coffee. Well, when I first saw this image of the Parish church I was drinking coffee and the buzz led to my thoughts ranging far and wide. There are so many things we can see as symbolic in this photograph.

The spire draws our eyes heavenward. The Church is the people of God – we are to worship God and enjoy Him for ever. Yet, the image places the church in a sunset. Does this symbolise the 21st century reality for faith in 21st century Scotland? We all know the statistics. We can name the challenges.

Look closer at the picture. Do you see the three chimney pots? So prosaic. There may symbolise that which we understand to be essential for the running for the church; heating, finance, resources. And this is true, yet, yet ...

Look even more closely. What is at the top of the spire? The cross of Christ. This is set far higher than anything else. And in seeing this representation of the cross we move from symbolism to inner and outer faith. If the church is to be here in continuity or

develop in radical ways which will unfold it is only through cross and resurrection that this will happen.

When we think of the Christ event, there was no element of self-preservation. Instead the Son of God died and rose again that we might be saved. We are in the days of wake up and smell the coffee faith where we trust Christ enough to let things die so that new life may come.

I earnestly pray that we in Kilmore and Oban have the faith, commitment and integrity to look ahead as Christians in such bold ways that in years to come this building may echo in the praises of people to God. Above us all will be the cross of Christ Jesus – always.

Rev Dugald Cameron



GERMAN GROUP IN OBAN



On May 6th of this year, 2020, a German Church Tour Group will be spending a night in the Royal Hotel. They contacted the Church Centre office to see if our minister would meet with them. They are interested to hear the history of the church in Scotland, and the reality of church life in 21st century Argyll.

Their leader is a retired minister, Pfr Dr Schulz. He worked as Pastor in the parish of Kirchengemeinde Rantza-Muensterdorf, and till March 31, 2019 in Kirchengemeinde Wilster. His parish belongs to the German "Nordkirche" (northern church) which is Protestant-Lutheran.

Parish link Rantza-Muensterdorf (in German)
www.kk-rm.de/

Photo: Wilster Kirche interior

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Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland. Scottish Charity Number SC011171

VISITOR



Joseph Moyo, from Njuyu Community Day Secondary School, Malawi was visiting Oban High School during the week and on the Sunday looked in on our Morning Service. He gave a short address on his Malawi School highlighting the strong links between Scotland and Malawi. He finished by singing a typical Malawi hymn.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Our Christmas retiring offerings amounted to £375.46 divided equally between Christian Aid and Hope Kitchen. Our Poppy appeal collection amounted to £266.05.

Again thank you to everyone who responded to our autumn finance Campaign Step Forward 2019. As yet we do not have the figures to report as these can only be assessed as we progress into 2020. Initially, though, we are most positive. More information will be communicated as this becomes available.

STATISTICS

Readers may be interest to know the statistics for Baptisms, weddings and funerals conducted by Rev Dugald during 2019. Dugald would like to record his grateful appreciation of the work done by Donald MacKinnon in the conduct of many of the funerals. Further, behind these numbers are people and families, love, happiness or loss. Each services is unique – and all are offered to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Baptisms	15
Weddings	2
Funerals	84

ECUMENICAL PARTNER LETTER: REV KEN ROSS

I am just completing my first six months back in Malawi. Naturally much time has been spent laying foundations and making plans, especially since my post is a new one with no pre-existing mould to fill. Overall this has gone well with things taking shape nicely. The last week provides a good example of the potential I can see in my appointment so let me share with you "a week in the life of a theological educator".

The week was spent at the University of Livingstonia, the country's leading private University. It draws very consciously on the educational tradition that was established by Livingstonia Mission during the late 19th century, particularly Robert Laws' dream of a University that would match those of Europe and America. Home from home for a Scot who remembers the mission history!

The programme for the week included both set-piece events and one-on-one consultations with faculty members. It covered the three campuses: Kaning'ina in the city of Mzuzu, the main urban centre in the north of Malawi; Ekwendeni, a town and mission station not far from Mzuzu; and Livingstonia, the famous mission station sitting high on a mountain plateau above Lake Malawi.

I gave public lectures at both Ekwendeni and Livingstonia. It was a new venture to bring together faculty and students from across different faculties to address a topic of common interest. My subject was the "strongman" leadership that has emerged as such a prominent feature of the global political landscape (Trump, Bolsonaro, Johnson, Salvini, Orban, Putin, Erdogan, Modi, Xi, Duterte etc). My question was whether World Christianity, with its ethic of servant leadership, can contribute to resolving the global leadership crisis. The

best bit was the audience response – exploring these themes in the Malawi context.

The other set-piece event was the launch of my new book *Mission as God's Spiral of Renewal*. The book takes a global view of the meaning of mission but from the perspective of an author who has one foot in Scotland and the other in Malawi. So there could not be a better place to launch it than Livingstonia! It was a happy day to see the book being well received by the academic community including many of my old friends and colleagues. But what made it even better was that the University was using the occasion as an opportunity to encourage research and publication from faculty members. They are on the cusp of launching their own University Press and part of the idea of the book launch was that it might be the first of many.

Meanwhile Malawians are holding their breath as they await the outcome of the court case about the validity of the results of the Presidential election, expected early next year. Whichever way it goes, however, it is unlikely to resolve deep-lying political tensions that are driven by inequality and injustice. The churches have the tough job of balancing their pastoral role in holding the nation together with their prophetic role in speaking truth to power.

A more immediate concern for the majority is rain. The past week has brought a sense of prayers answered as rain has been falling steadily in many places giving a good start to the growing season in a country still highly dependent on rain-fed small-holder agriculture. Now the hope is for rain to continue in good measure without the excesses of drought or flood that have sadly been a feature of our climate change age.

PROPERTY UPDATE

As of Saturday 11th January Planning Permission, Listed Building permission, and approved drawings from the Council have all been received re the work to be done on removing pigeons and renewing the louvres and spire interior. The only conditions attached to the Consents are described by our architect as "standard". Further, he has met engineers on site to discuss their "modus operandi".

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020

Our minister, Rev Dugald, will be attending this year's General Assembly in May. Many important decisions concerning the life of the Church of Scotland will be made at this Assembly, so please pray for the deliberations and outcomes. More info to follow.

RECORDER GROUP



Pictured at an Advent service, the senior group of recorder players were a blessing in our worship. The whole group will be playing again twice in worship in the early part of 2020.

ANGELS



The angels brought news of great joy. They still do!

FOR THOSE IN PERIL ON THE SEA



A choir of heavenly angels sing to greet the Oban Lifeboat.

THE GUILD



Welcomes Men & Women of all ages

The Guild next meets on **Wednesday 12th February at 2pm in the Undercroft** when our guest speaker will be Peter Darling from the Dove Centre. All welcome.

Sarah Kerr

GAELIC WORSHIP

Whether a native speaker or learner you are welcome to come along to our monthly Gaelic Service on the fourth Sunday of the month, 2.00pm, usually in Oban Parish Church.

Sunday 26th January
led by Duncan Sneddon

Sunday 23rd February
led by Alastair Scouller

Sunday 22nd March
led by Monsignor James MacNeil

Sunday 26th April
Communion led by Rev Dugald Cameron

Sunday 24th May Gaelic Praise
led by congregation (Kilmore Kirk)

FORTH BRIDGE ABSEIL 2020

Sunday 10th May

CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in



Abseil from the Forth Rail Bridge for CrossReach! Supported by Glasgow Climbing Centre and South Queensferry Rotary Club, this daring yet fun adventure will be the highlight of your year!

Registration is now open. Spaces sell out really quickly, so grab yours today! Sign up at www.rcsqsales.org.uk/register and choose 'CrossReach'. Places are £30 each with a minimum fundraising pledge of £150.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT KILMORE & OBAN

Sunday 2nd February (*Hope Kitchen next week*)

10.30 PC Morning Worship
12.00 K Morning Worship

Sunday 9th February (*Remember Hope Kitchen*)

10.30 PC Morning Worship

Sunday 16th February

10.30 PC Morning Worship

Sunday 23rd February

10.00 CC Family Faithshare
10.30 PC Morning Worship
14.00 PC Gaelic Service

KEY: CC – Church Centre
K – Kilmore Kirk
PC – Oban Parish Church

CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE

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

John Milliken of Helensburgh

Lexy Bryars of Lorn Avenue, Oban

Robin Douglas of Morvern Hill, Oban

Bobby McLuckie of Glasgow
(formerly Torosay Court, Oban)

Catriona MacPhail of Inverness

Flora Cameron of Etive Care Home
(formerly Torosay Court), Oban

Valerie Galbraith of Soroba Road, Oban

Wilson Scott of Cawdor Terrace, Oban

Jessie MacNaughton of Eadar Glinn, Oban

Doris Binnie, Oban

Samuel MacDonald of Alloa

Donald McDougall of Lynn Court
(formerly Lochnell Road, Dunbeg)

Billy Martin of Nant Drive, Oban

Catriona MacDonald of Kintyre Care Home,
Campbeltown

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

Harry Fraser Jamieson son of Fraser and Vanessa

A PARISH CHURCH FOR ALL AT CHRISTINGLE / CHRISTMAS



PASTORAL INFORMATION

The minister, and relevant district elder, will be most grateful if you know of anyone in hospital, and for this information to be passed on directly, or through the Church Office. Of course, this is if the person wishes a visit. Due to issues of confidentiality, it is not possible to ask the hospital for names of our members on the wards. Further, it can be the case that everyone thinks the minister and elder know, and that someone else has mentioned the need for a pastoral visit. Many thanks.

EDITORIAL: Ken MacColl

*Our next edition will be available on
Sunday 23rd February 2020.*

Copy and photographs should be at the Church Office or
sent direct to the editor at kenmaccoll@btinternet.com
by Monday 17th February 2020.

Photographs and short news items are always welcome.

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