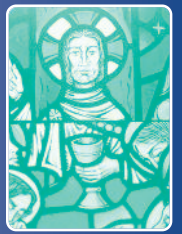




JULY/AUGUST 2010
CHURCH of SCOTLAND LOCAL PARISH NEWSLETTER
KILMORE & OBAN

The future looks good!



WHAT'S ON

LATEST NEWS

SERVICE TIMES

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK



Recently, I attended two meetings with entirely different atmospheres. During the first meeting, which was not within our congregation or town (and which cannot be named!) the boredom nudged me towards losing the will to live.

The other meeting which can be identified was our recent Congregational Board. The business was dealt with efficiently, with good points being made and heard, there was a supportive atmosphere, and our office bearers – who do such good and important work – were valued and affirmed.

Now, it is unusual to take inspiration from what is in reality a big committee meeting. However, I felt that grouping of people mirrored the positive atmosphere within our congregation. So many good things are happening. Here are a few:

- Step Up 2010
- Worship developments
- Family Faithshare
- Sanctuary enhancements (CE Prayer Room and GR painting)
- Worship Group (Lenten worship and Summer Sundown)
- PowerPoint: its use in worship and with children
- The increasing use of the Church Centre

And of course, there is so much more, particularly in the seemingly ordinary, but truly extraordinary, love and commitment shown by elders and members and friends of Kilmore and Oban.

Thanks be to God for our church, and the Holy Spirit's guidance into the present and future.

Dugald Cameron



Sunday 20th June saw the anniversary of Rev Cat's induction to our congregation. To celebrate the occasion the church flowers were supplied by her mother.

SUMMER SUNDOWN

Throughout July and August our annual Summer Sundown services will be taking place in Corran Esplanade Church on Wednesdays at 8.30pm. This year's theme takes us around the world church. Come along and share in these beautiful services led by our Worship Group.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

The next edition of the newsletter will carry lots of information about our Development Fund, explain more of the reasons why we are doing what we are doing, and share the positive vision we have for the Christian Church in Kilmore and Oban. Copies will be delivered to every home of our members and friends.



The results from our spring finance campaign have been extremely encouraging. As at mid-June we have gained 60 new Standing Orders and 75 new Gift Aid declarations. We also can report we have distributed 22 new sets of FWO envelopes. This is a brilliant response from the congregation and so once again a big thank you goes out to everyone involved in Step Up 2010. The financial results of the campaign are still being worked out, but the above figures suggest a very positive trend.

DEVELOPMENT FUND 2010/11

As you will be aware our congregation is faced with a number of specific challenges and financial demands. Whilst Step Up 2010 should result in our general giving increasing to meet the normal running costs of our church our reserves are not sufficient to meet the exceptional demands currently placed upon us. So the positive reaction of the Congregational Board has been to back a Development Fund Campaign which will run over the next couple of years.

Through a three element strategy we hope to raise c£35,000 by 2012. Our first method will be to approach the congregation through a direct appeal. The second approach will be to run lots of events. Thirdly, we will appeal to the wider community of Kilmore and Oban.

Whilst the initial fundraising will address the need for a new organ, and the redecoration of Glencruitten Road, we also know that Corran Esplanade may face considerable future expenditure. Kilmore will also benefit from enhanced lighting. This is why we are framing our campaign as a Development Fund which will benefit all three places of worship. Lots more information will be coming to us all as events unfold, so please bear with our office bearers as they put in a lot of hard ground work.

Ecumenical
Accompaniment
Programme
in Palestine
and Israel



Over the last year I have been working my way through the selection process and training requirements for becoming an Ecumenical Accompanier (EA) in Israel/Palestine under the auspices of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), and have just recently completed all requirements. Since in one sense I have been and will be carrying forward the policies of our own Church (through General Assembly Determinations), perhaps it would be useful to offer a few words of explanation.

In 2001, after the international community failed to agree a resolution to provide an international monitoring mechanism to help protect Palestinian civilians from human rights abuses (vetoed by USA), the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem called on the World Council of Churches (WCC) and others to send international observers to stand by Palestinian Christians and non-Christians alike and to promote and support non violence in the region. To their great credit the WCC responded positively and so the EAPPI came into being, and through WCC, the Church of Scotland has been a strong supporter in addition to maintaining other direct links with the region and with the Palestinian cause. It's nice to see the St. Andrews Church of Scotland standing proudly in Jerusalem.

There are now fourteen countries throughout the world that send volunteers to do this work, usually for three month spells, resulting in around twenty EAs being there at any one time.

I will be posted to the West Bank in early October and will return home at the end of December. While there, I will be allocated to one of six EA locations which have been selected for their record of human rights

violations or for other contraventions of International Human Rights Law by the military occupation. I will be living within Palestinian communities armed with my camera and lap-top and, simply by my presence as an international, will afford some comfort and protection from abuses. If international laws are being broken, the perpetrators don't like witnesses, especially international ones! I will also be liaising with Israeli peace activists in order to offer mutual support. Other duties will include accompanying vulnerable groups (school children, the elderly etc.) when at risk from Israeli settler attack, and yes, I know it sounds incredible that this is necessary but having visited before I know that it is.

Just as important as all of the above, however, is the advocacy which EAs undertake to perform on return from the field. EAPPI is acutely aware that only overwhelming world opinion will eventually be instrumental in ending the military occupation by Israel of Palestine and restoring a just and lasting peace there, and so the task is for each of us to present the shocking facts of what we have witnessed happening there day in and day out, to as wide an audience as possible and to hope that, in turn, their shock and disgust will be translated into political action.

For my part, Argyll (or further afield) is a good place to continue the work of previous EAs from the area, and I will be happy to make presentations to interested groups from mid February 2011 onwards.

Meantime, I hope to hear from you with booking requests and will endeavour to keep you posted on developments from Palestine while there.

David Mitchell

ORGAN (MARK 1) ON TRIAL

We have a replacement organ presently on trial at Glencruitten Road Church. Later in the Summer an alternative instrument will also be tried out.

Mr Ken Moncrieff faces the congregation at the console of the trial organ



ANGELS UNAWARE

Following Rev Cat's article in last month's newsletter we received the item below from an anonymous source.

Angels? What or who are angels? Do they have wings, a halo, long flowing robes? They are mentioned within the Bible 400 or more times. In Hebrews there is a suggestion that "we have entertained angels unawares" I think that I have!

Three youngsters, baseball caps on the wrong way round, picked me up one dark night in the Co-op car park when I managed to sprain both ankles. A chap I hardly knew cleared a path for me in the snow then went on to clear my drive to make it easy for me to get to the hospital to visit my husband. Other folks helped transform my garden into something manageable. People, again some I hardly knew, who have supported me through the last difficult weeks. They were all very down to earth; no wings, no halos, no flowing robes.

Have you perhaps entertained angels unawares?



Our Angel can be seen each Sunday at one of our churches. Someone is nominated to take charge of our angel and keep it at home for a

week, bring it to church on Sunday and nominate a keeper for the following week.

SENIOR CITIZEN SETTING THE PACE!

Mrs Helen Pearson (snr) is to abseil from the tower of St Columba's Cathedral on Saturday 10th July to help raise funds for the Glencruitten Road organ fund. She is looking for sponsors and may be contacted at 564186.

ALIVE@5

Alive@5 is to resume in the autumn as a number of members have now reached the age of 16 where they can undertake training as leaders and ensure that the good work of the group will continue.

BEAUTIFUL MINDS

Earlier this year, I spoke to Rev Dugald about the possibility of setting up a support group for people who are suffering from depression, after personally being very frustrated at the lack of support whilst recovering from this a couple of years ago. Beautiful Minds now runs in the Church Centre monthly aiming to bring together people who suffer from mental health problems, parents and family members and carers of those who struggle with this type of illness.

Still very much in its infancy, our group is looking to reach out to others who may be in the same position, by offering support and encouragement, a listening ear, advice and a sharing of experience, whilst moving forward to promote recovery and get rid of the stigma surrounding mental health illnesses.

As 1 in 4 adults will suffer from some form of mental ill health in our lifetime, I am sure we will all know someone who we can share the news of this group with. We meet in the Church Centre on the 3rd Mon of the month from 7-9pm for a cuppa and a chat and would be glad if more folks would like to join us.

If you wish to find out a bit more about the group, please get in touch with me on 01631 564405 or by e-mail hcpearson@btinternet.com.

AN EXAMINED LIFE IS WORTH LIVING

Socrates once said that the unexamined life is not worth living; we who subscribe to the Christian faith say the same, devoting our lives to the real questions of truth. We ask questions and reflect both as individuals encountering the living God, and as a body of Christ who seeks to be faithful to the Gospel.

This upcoming August, we have opportunities to reflect on who we are both as children of God and as people of God: in our worship and in our own personal lives. Around the end of August, we would like to have a conversation as a congregation regarding our monthly worship service at Kilmore. We feel that though this service only meets monthly, it is an important part of our lives together as Christ's body in this particular place. We'd like everyone who has an interest in that service to come, to help us discern what we may do for our monthly evening services to meet the needs of the community, but especially to encourage an

enthusiastic and hopeful response to the Gospel in our worship. We've not got a date set yet, but we are tentatively hoping to meet at 7 p.m. at the Kilmore Village Hall on 31st August.

We are a body of Christ, and yet we also worship God and get to know God through Christ as individuals. This is why prayer is such an important practice in our lives. On Sunday, August 8th at 11:15 am, we will be going to Craig Lodge in Dalmally as a group for a special prayer retreat. Lunch will be served at the hall, followed by an afternoon encountering the ancient practice of examen prayer. Please bring 6 pounds for lunch and we'll meet at 11:15 a.m. at Corran Esplanade Church to go over to Dalmally. We'll have sign up sheets available at both church services- we'd love to see you there!

Rev Cat

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT KILMORE & OBAN

Friday 4th July

9.15	CE	Holy Communion
10.00	CE	Morning Worship
11.30	GR	Family Worship
6.00		Kilmore Evening Worship

Sunday 11th July (*Remember Lord's Larder*)

10.00	CE	Morning Worship
11.30	GR	Family Worship

Sunday 18th July

10.00	CE	Morning Worship
11.30	GR	Family Worship

Sunday 25th July

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

Sunday 1st August

9.15	CE	Holy Communion
10.00	CE	Morning Worship
11.30	GR	Family Worship (Sanctuary may be closed)
6.00		Kilmore Evening Worship

Sunday 8th August (*Remember Lord's Larder*)

10.00	CE	Morning Worship
11.30	GR	Family Worship (Sanctuary may be closed)

Sunday 15th August

10.00	CE	Morning Worship
11.30	GR	Family Worship (Sanctuary may be closed)

Sunday 22nd August

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

Sunday 29th August

10.00	CE	Morning Worship
11.15	GR	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

GLENCRUITTEN ROAD CHURCH DECORATION



Our Glencruitten Road church will be revitalised over the summer. For the first time in almost three decades the sanctuary, vestibule, session house and vestry will be painted. This redecoration is badly needed. Our aim is to brighten and lighten our worship space, to make coming into the building a more visually positive experience. Thanks to a £7,500 grant from the Oban Common Good Fund we can proceed with the decorating.

Work will start around Monday 26th July and the church will be closed for three Sundays to enable the work to be completed. As more details emerge as much information as possible will be given out.

CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE

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

Caillan Duncan Baxter Fleming son of Colin and Ann Fleming

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

Ivor Hammond of Pulpit Road, Oban

Neil Sinclair MacKinnon of Dunmar Court, Oban

Maureen Elsie Mary Ross of Musdale Road, Kilmore

Peter Campbell of Longistan Road, Oban

Donald MacKenzie of Lynn of Lorn (prev. Hazeldean Crescent) Oban

EDITORIAL: Ken MacColl
*The September Newsletter will be
available on Sunday 29th August.*

**Copy should be at the Church Office
or with the editor**

Note temporary address

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by Mon 23rd August 2010