



THE LINK NEWSLETTER



NOW WE KNOW

The most difficult part of preparing this newsletter is always trying to decide what should go on this front page, but, this month, that decision has been taken out of our hands following receipt of an email, on 2nd March, from the Depute Clerk to the General Assembly, confirming that our request for a review of the Presbytery's mission plan and its decision to close LPC by 2026, has been rejected by the Mission Plan Review Group.

Our request was first submitted in August 2022, so it has taken six months to reach this decision. It is disappointing to note that the panel decided to proceed solely on the basis of the written submissions from the various parties involved and did not see fit to consider using other powers available to it, including, for example, having face to face meetings with local parties. But, it is what it is. The panel's decision is final and there is no scope for any further appeals.

So what happens next? This decision by the MPRG panel means that LPC and the other congregations in the Dalriada Mid-Argyll group (Ardrishaig, South Knapdale, North Knapdale and Kilmartin) can now move on to take a vote on whether or not to agree to the union of the congregations and, with the exception of Ardrishaig and South Knapdale, whether Rev David Carruthers should be the minister of the united congregation. You will be advised of the date of the vote but everyone needs to be aware that only those attending the congregational meeting, which is

likely to be held after Sunday morning worship, will be allowed to vote.

Clearly, this is a disappointing decision for us as the congregation of Lochgilphead and will be felt beyond the doors of Lochgilphead Parish Church. However, assuming that the union is approved, it will be up to the Kirk Session of the new united congregation to decide what to do with the building and how to comply with presbytery's direction that the building be sold, let or otherwise disposed of by December 2026 and we should use the next 3 years to consider the possibility of closer ecumenical working with the other churches in Lochgilphead.

Some will say that this is all part of God's plan for the Christian faith in Mid Argyll. Is it? Only time will tell. Please hold LPC in your prayers.

Moderator's visit



The Moderator of the General Assembly, Rev Dr Iain Greenshields will be taking part in our service on Sunday March 19th, a united service with the other congregations in the Dalriada Mid Argyll group

*Our "Warm Spaces"
will end on Friday
31st March*

SUNDAY SERVICES

Services will be held in the Church Hall from January until end of March with the exception of March 19th, when the Moderator of the General Assembly will be visiting and taking part in the service in the Church.

WHO'S IN THE PULPIT

March

5th Rev. Steve Fulcher
12th John Morrison
19th Rev. Dr. Iain Greenshields
26th Rev. Chris Fulcher

April

2nd TBA
9th TBA
16th Joint Service, Ardrishaig
23rd Rev. Robert MacLeod
30th Rev. Roderick Campbell

DOOR DUTY

March

5th Ian Davidson
12th Malcolm MacFadyen
19th Sandra Morrison
26th Frances Fleming

April

2nd Christine Gilmour
9th Ann Hunter
16th Kirsten Thompson
23rd Malcolm MacFadyen
30th Ian Davidson

Tea/Coffee will be served in the hall after the service

DROP IN CAFÉ

The café will be open on the undernoted dates. Come along and enjoy a light lunch or a coffee with friends in comfortable friendly surroundings. Home baked delights on offer.

March 1st, 15th, 29th
April 12th, 26th

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

12th Annual Stated Meeting
13th Kirk Session Meeting, 2.00pm
19th Visit from the Moderator of the General Assembly



Treasurer Report

LPC Accounts for 2022 have now been completed and audited and are therefore ready to be presented to the Kirk Session and Congregation for approval at our Annual Stated Meeting, which is scheduled for **Sunday 12th March** after the Service. Copies of the Accounts will be provided to you at that time as normal and you will have the opportunity to ask questions on anything you are unsure of. You will see from them, that the General Fund (our working account) has more or less broken even in 2022, there being a small surplus of funds between Income and Expenditure, which is very encouraging.

I am therefore happy to report that we have started 2023 on a positive note with LPC finances, thanks to the generosity of the congregation. My hope is that with your ongoing support, this will continue throughout the year. Meanwhile, please keep using your FWO envelopes until such time as a firm decision has been made about the proposed union of the other vacant Mid Argyll Parishes (Dalriada Mid Argyll) at which time I will advise on any changes to your envelopes and/or the method of giving. I will continue to update you with any new information that I receive.

The other funds we have coming in from the Café and other social occasions is earmarked for maintenance and renovation of our Church, Hall and Manse when it becomes necessary and without these, we would be in dire straits as the General Fund could not begin to cope with this, so many thanks to Margaret and her team of volunteers for their valuable contribution.

I am very grateful to those of you who are still supporting us in any way, despite the present challenging times, so thank you all.

Mary MacDonald
Treasurer



Mothering Sunday is a day of mixed emotions. For many it's a happy, joyous day, but for others it's one of pain and grief. A day to celebrate love, while acknowledging those who cannot have children or have lost them and those who have no relationship with their mother.

In the dying moments of His life, Jesus honored Mary his mother by showing her love and care. He entrusted His mother to John's protection: *'When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.'* (John 19:26,27). While affirming the importance of mothers, Jesus reminds us that the love we show on Mothering Sunday is just a token of our continuous appreciation of them.

Jesus also creates a new way of being family, marking the beginnings of the church. In the past, people would go back to their *'mother'* church on this Sunday, to acknowledge its importance in their lives. Jesus invites us into this new family of love and mutual belonging, where we can find a place, irrespective of our own family circumstances.

Church is not always an easy place to be, because we are shaped by our own experience of mothering. We may find it hard to give or receive love without ourselves getting in the way. However, God's help is available to change things, *'because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.'* (Romans 5:5)

The mother of three difficult youngsters was asked whether she'd have children if she had it to do over again. *'Yes,'* she replied. *'But not the same ones.'*

GUILD MEETING

March 28th, 2.00pm,

AGM & Bring and Buy



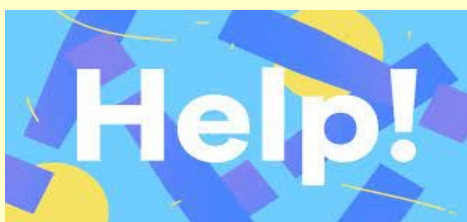


Do not let this Book ... depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night,...be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be ... successful.' Joshua 1:8

Any flying instructor will tell you that aeroplanes need to be 'trimmed' or 'balanced in flight' on a regular basis. After flying through storms and hitting air pockets, they get knocked out of line. That's true of our path through life. The bad storms of sickness, redundancy, divorce and disappointment, can knock us off our balance, too.

In other words, our attitude needs to be constantly checked and adjusted. Have you checked yours lately? What are you encountering at the moment that is putting pressure on you to veer off course? So long as we live, we will always need to look to God, to stay 'trimmed and balanced'. Lent is an excellent time to do this.

The best way to stay balanced is to read God's Word. It gives us a true map of the world around us, and it shows us where we are on that map. Here's an idea you can try for Lent: every week, for the next few weeks, choose a Bible verse and write it down on a small card. Carry it with you wherever you go and memorise it. In one year, you'll know 52 new scriptures, and more importantly, your attitudes will be more naturally in line with God's Word, your faith will be strengthened, and your life will be moving in the right direction.



We desperately need some extra help in the kitchen at the Drop in Café which runs every fortnight. If you have a spare 2/3 hours free once or twice a month then we would like to hear from you. Call Margaret on 01546 603784 or call in at the Café to find out more.



MYSTERY OF THE PASSION

"I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me though he were dead yet shall he live" John 11:25

It would have been hard on Good Friday for anyone to imagine the glory that was coming on Sunday morning. On Friday the situation seemed hopeless: Peter denied Christ three times; Judas committed suicide; the other disciples scattered in fear; Jesus prayed until His sweat became drops of blood; on the cross He cried out 'My God, My God why have you forsaken me?' The sky turned black as He died, the curtain in the temple was torn in two and Mary's heart was pierced.

All of this suffering bought our salvation, our healing, our peace and our eternal life. Because through His blood we are transformed into the sons and daughters of God!

The mystery of the 'passion of Christ' is almost incomprehensible, but whatever you are facing today I want to encourage you that Jesus has already paid the price for that....If we are sad 'Jesus wept', and He bought our joy. If we are sick, He purchased our healing. If we are troubled, He bought our peace. And for all the wrong things we have done, He bought our redemption from sin. We have been bought with a great price, and we are His.



Thank you to everyone who has already donated household items for MOMA. Thanks to you, they don't need any more duvet covers/ bedding but other household essentials are still required.

MOMA also needs food donations for their emergency food parcels - tinned meat, tinned veg, desserts, coffee, cereal, rice pasta sauce etc. There are a couple of boxes in the hall where you can leave your donations. (You can also leave your food donations in the box in the Co-op.) You will be helping those most in need.

SEA OF GALILEE

A vicar planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land was shaken when he found it would cost him £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee.

He protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. "That might be true," replied the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord Himself walked."

"Well," said the vicar, "at £50 an hour for a boat, I am not surprised!"



SUNDAY APRIL 30TH

Rev. Roderick Campbell

**HOLY
COMMUNION**



**DON'T FORGET
TO  SET
(LOCKS FORWARD!)**

MARCH 26TH

ADAM AND EVE'S TRUE NATIONALITY

A Brit, a Frenchman and a Russian were viewing a painting of Adam and Eve frolicking in the Garden of Eden. "Look at that garden they are maintaining so well," mused the Brit. "They must be British."

"Nonsense," the Frenchman disagreed. "They're naked, and so beautiful. Clearly, they are French."

"Ah, but no clothes, no shoes, no shelter," the Russian pointed out, "they have only an apple to eat, and they're being told this is paradise. They are Russian."



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WHO'S WHO?

INTERIM MODERATOR: Alison Hay 01546 886213

INTERIM SESSION CLERK: Ian Davidson 01546 603784

TREASURER: Mary MacDonald 01546 602087

FABRIC CONVENOR: Ian Davidson 01546 603784

SOCIAL CONVENOR: Margaret Davidson 01546 603784

CONTACT US

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