



THE LINK NEWSLETTER



"THE LINK" IS BACK

This is the first edition of our new Church newsletter, albeit smaller than previously. The Kirk Session wants to be able to keep in touch with the congregation, especially those who don't, or can't come to Church regularly, so that everyone is kept up to date with what is happening. We would welcome feedback so please let's have your comments and suggestions.

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING

It's all change at LPC!

Obviously, the most significant event to happen in the last few months has been the retirement of our minister, Rev Hilda Smith on 30th August. Hilda conducted her last service on 8th August after which she was presented with flowers and a cake. At a garden party attended by over 100 people, Hilda was



presented with a cheque. Her letter of thanks is on page 2.

And...we are open again! Following a decision of the Kirk Session, the Church opened again for Sunday worship on Sunday June

6th, 2021. The church building is limited to a maximum of between 54 and 94 spaces (depending on whether individuals or couples) in the Sanctuary. This allows 1m distancing to be maintained. Seating has been reduced to reflect these numbers - only alternate pews are being used.

If you haven't been back to Church, please give it some thought. The Church is as safe as we can possibly make it. It would be great to see you again.

THE FUTURE

The Church of Scotland has recognised that the number of ministers has to be reduced. It estimates that approx. 600 will be required throughout Scotland and has allocated a number to each presbytery. Argyll Presbytery has been allocated 18 ministers.

All presbyteries have been instructed to prepare a Mission Plan setting out how they see the Church in the years ahead. A draft Mission plan has been prepared. This plan envisages Lochgilphed joining with Ardrishaig, Kilmartin, North Knapdale and South Knapdale as one congregation with one minister. An option would be for this grouping joining with West Lochfyneside with two ministers working as a team ministry.

The next step will be a meeting of the Kirk Session and representatives of Presbytery. You will be kept advised of what is happening. In the meantime, if you want to read the draft plan, a copy can be found on the Church website at www.lpchurch.co.uk. Feel free to comment.

FINANCE

LPC is once again feeling the pinch with not enough income since we re-opened the church, to cover our essential ongoing costs, ie heat & light, insurance, pulpit supply etc. We are appealing for your support even if you are unable to attend church at the moment. Would you consider setting up a regular Standing Order for your offering or even just handing your FWO envelopes to your Elder or the Treasurer? Alternatively, arrangements could be made for collection, if that was more convenient for you.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mary MacDonald if you have any questions regarding this.

What's On

DROP IN CAFÉ

The Café will be open on

**Wednesdays Nov. 17
December 1st
December 15th**

From 10.30am - 2.30pm for teas/coffee and light lunches. Come along and enjoy some good food and a warm welcome.

THE GUILD

The next Guild meeting will be held in the hall on the afternoon of Tuesday November 23rd at 2.00pm when James McLellan will lead a Bible Study.

COFFEE MORNING

The next Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday November 27th, 10.00am - 12.00 noon. Donations of raffle prizes and home baking for the kitchen and sales table will be most welcome.

WHO'S IN THE PULPIT

November

28th: Rev. Robert MacLeod

December

5th: Rev. Robert MacLeod

12th: Jim Malcolm

19th: Carol Service (see back page)

26th: Jim Malcolm

There will be no Watchnight Service in LPC this year but everyone is welcome to attend the service in Ardrishaig Church at 4.00pm on the 24th December.

A MESSAGE FROM HILDA

Dear Friends,

I write this letter to offer my sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the gorgeous flowers and the incredibly generous cheque I was gifted to mark my retirement. To know that people in the community also contributed was deeply moving. The cake we shared on 8th August was also stunning and thanks has already been expressed to Rowan.

I also want to thank everyone who came along to the Garden Party. That was the perfect way to mark my retirement as no one in the Church or Parish was excluded. That meant a lot to me as a Parish Minister. It was a lovely informal, relaxed celebration, just perfect on what was a gorgeous day. Being out in the open made it feel a lot safer for those who are apprehensive of meeting up with large groups of people so again gave everyone the opportunity to come along.

My sincere thanks goes to everyone who worked hard in the weeks leading up to the Garden Party and on the day to make it so special for me. So much work goes into events like that. There was the team who set up the marquees and set out the tables and chairs and packed them all away again. There was the team of people who donated baking and sandwiches with thought being given to those who were vegan, vegetarian or gluten intolerant. There was also the team of people who set out all the food, served and cleared up afterwards. That is a huge amount of work and much appreciated. Such attention to detail didn't go unnoticed and again allowed everyone to share in the buffet. It was an amazing spread. Thank you so much.

There were the photos that reflected something of the last sixteen years of ministry. How we have all changed in that time! However, it was also very moving to see people who are no longer with us but who were such a large part of our lives and of our Church family. It sort of made them still feel part of the celebration on the day. Thank you for that. To have some of the children there, too, was great and to see them all enjoying their crafts and games was lovely. Even the big kids had fun which was good to see!

A perfect day for everyone. As I write this letter, I am three days into my retirement. So far, I have been a lady who lunches and had the opportunity to meet up with some friends which has been lovely. I also had a friend visiting for a couple of weeks and we really did have a holiday in Argyll, travelling around armed with our cameras. The weather was superb and there is no better place to be.

It has been a real privilege to be your minister and to minister to people in the parish, too, for the last sixteen years. I thank you for calling me and supporting me, personally, and in the work that we have done over the last sixteen years. Now comes a period of adjustment for all of us as we move into a

new chapter in our lives. Many years ago, I realised that we could lose everything, family, friends, our home, our health, our job, our financial security, our and so on. The only thing that no one can ever take from us is our faith and as Jesus said, He will never lose any of those who have been given to Him. We are held securely in the palm of God's hand, no matter what lies ahead. I end with Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 16: ".....stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all."

God Bless you, my friends.

Hilda Smith

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE—Sunday Dec. 19th

On the last Sunday before Christmas we will be holding a Carol Service, with readings and hope to have musical items played by guest musicians. The church will be decorated, candles will be lit and the Christmas tree will be twinkling. Let's fill the Church with Christmas spirit. Numbers attending church have been small recently and it would be lovely if we could have a good turnout to celebrate our Lord's coming and to support those who will be putting a lot of work into the organisation of the service. There will be tea/coffee/mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

DROP IN CAFE.

Since lockdown the turnout to the café has been slow. The café is important to the Church as it is a hub for the community and members of other churches, enabling them to meet together in a warm and friendly environment. We would really like to see all our friends again. We follow all Covid regulations and the area is as safe as it can be. We are missing you all, so please considering paying a visit, meeting old friends and making some new ones.

HOW CAN WE KEEP IN TOUCH?

Due to the changes being proposed for Churches in the Mid Argyll area, it is important that we are able to keep you informed. The best way to communicate with all our members is by email. Therefore we would be grateful if as many members as possible would send their email address to: lochgilpheadparishchurch@gmail.com.

By doing this it would also save on printing costs for the newsletter. We are aware that not everyone has email and in these cases the newsletter will be hand delivered. Thank you for your assistance.

WHO'S WHO

INTERIM MODERATOR: Alison Hay 01546 886213

SESSION CLERK: Sandy Taylor 01546 606218

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