

Clachan Church Newsletter

May 2016



In Matthew`s gospel ch 9 v.37, Jesus said “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore to send out workers into His harvest field.”

In the weekly prayer meeting recently we spent some time focussing on our commitment, as a church, to mission. John and Margaret Smith thought back to the days in Lochmaddy congregation when although families would have had less, it would seem, than nowadays, thousands of pounds were sent to various overseas mission organisations. Clachan church congregation have been generous also in this way. Alongside this practical support mission work relies also on the ongoing support in prayer.

And so we should seek to encourage one another to continue on, in this most essential task. We have been greatly blessed in recent months by representatives of various mission organisations. Many more mission organisations than can be list here, are supported quietly and individually, by our church members. It is good to just look back and reflect however, on what this church is doing for mission work, and I share just some here.

Representatives from Pray for Scotland visited us during late autumn last year, informing and encouraging the congregation to be diligent in the work of intercession for our nation. During the winter and at harvest thanksgiving services, fundraising was done for the ongoing work of Tear Fund, and Mary`s meals. More recently we were visited by people in active work for WEC (World Evangelisation for Christ), and heard of how one lady was called to work with the nomadic people in Chad (Africa). She has utilised mobile phone technology, downloading and sharing the Jesus film, in order to share the gospel with the people there.

Malcolm Gardiner preached at some services. Although he is now retired, he spent many years working for MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) and Wycliffe Bible translators.

We look forward to a visit soon from members of JKMC Kenya, coming under the churches twinning arrangement, who so appreciate the practical help given by members of this congregation in support of the church school orphanage there. Rose of Sharon Ministries hope to visit the Uist churches in August. Their work in the townships and squatter camps of South Africa, and their Bible translation and gospel outreach work there,

goes on. Most recently a collection has been taken in our church for the worthwhile and ongoing work of Christian Aid, for work in this country and overseas. This church's Guild has really exercised the Lord's instruction to visit the sick, clothe the needy etc., through the many projects related to mission work, which they have supported over the years. The above list is by no means exhaustive!

The work of mission and pastoral support goes on, hand in hand with the preaching of God's word. We would want to be of those who hear the Lord saying as in Matthew 25:35 ... "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me."

We have had much to encourage us over this winter, in our church's ongoing vacancy, and we have also had many times of blessing to share. Elders and members have been leading services at times, and finding new encouragement in doing so. The church family has been blessed by several of our younger members having taken part in worship leading also.

Our Congregational Board has grown substantially, and they have begun working together to encourage others. There have been times of closeness to God, and blessing in Thursday evening prayer meetings, which have been very special. There have been men's prayer breakfasts, visiting preachers bringing different insights into God's word in our worship services, and all the care for one another, which this congregation does so well. This is all through God's provision, and we have much to thank the Lord for.

The work of mission, and encouraging one another, and encouraging others to seek the Lord Jesus for themselves, should always be ongoing work, in a living, loving church. There is always more that we could be doing, and so we do see that still there are white fields, and much to be done. God looks to His people to be always active in the work of mission locally, nationally, and indeed with a worldwide vision for His Kingdom.

Rev. Ishie Macdonald (o.l.m.) – locum minister.

Church Updates

Current Church Officer Bearers

Ordained Local Minister (OLM) and current locum:
Rev Ishie Macdonald.

Elders serving on the Kirk Session:
Alastair Banks (Session Clerk); Donnie Johnson; Alasdair MacDonald; Roddy Macleod; Peter Matheson; Robin Wallace; Colin Rankin; John MacDonald; Tina Wakeling and Sarah Banks.

Elder retired from the Kirk Session:
John Macdonald (Sidinish).

Members of the Congregational Board:
Flora Matheson; Katherine Macleod; Betty Wallace; Donald Haxby; Charlie Matheson; Alistair MacQuarrie; Margaret MacDonald; Anne Quarm; Christine Marshall and Ruth Owenson.

Sunday School Superintendent and Church Safeguarding Officer:
Karen Maclain

Church contacts

Intimations and other church information can be viewed on our church web page www.carinish-church.co.uk

In our present vacant situation, if there are any bereavement, or pastoral issues, community or hospital visiting required, please contact, in the first instance the session clerk, Alastair Banks Tel 01876 580219, email (banks@masafish.com) or Reverend Ishie Macdonald. Tel 01876 580367, email macdon18@hebrides.net

Church Twinning Visit 3rd – 14th June

Once again, as part of the church twinning arrangement, we prepare to welcome a group of six members from Jerusha Kanyua Memorial Church (JKMC), in Chuka , Kenya. They are Ben (trip organiser who has been here before), David (recently graduated teacher, former street boy, sponsored and educated by help from JKMC), Mary (wife of Mike who visited here before), Eunice (Nurse who supports the church school in that capacity), Millicent (social worker), and Polyn (midwife, and wife of Alphan).

Clothes are being collected to send back to Chuka with our visitors, for the children at the church supported school there. Everything which has been sent in recent years has been very much appreciated.

Items for ages 5-10 (boys and girls), would be very useful this time, especially underwear (pants, socks, and vests). The cases go to Glasgow on the empty mini-bus which goes to collect the group, so things need to be packed a bit earlier this time. Please bring any donations of clothes to the church before the last weekend of May.

The next joint service with Benbecula will be here in Clachan and not on the last Sunday of May as would be expected, but on 5th June.

This is to enable our visitors from Kenya to be with both congregations together for morning worship.

There will be a buffet lunch after the service that day, please speak to Cathy Johnson if you can help with this.

Bereavements

Since our last newsletter there have been a number of bereavements connected to our church family, some who were born and lived locally most of their lives, and also some close neighbours of the manse.

Angus Macdonald from Knockquein, was a member of our congregation and had been cared for at Trianaid for several years.

Two brothers from the same township, Angus and Donald MacPhail passed away within weeks of each other.

John Alick MacVicar Broad Island, a faithful worshipper at our services, and dear husband of our Sunday School teacher Lachina, passed away recently, after a period of illness.

Ewen MacAskill of Newton Ferry, also a faithful worshipper with us here in Clachan over the years, passed away in April after being ill for only a short time.

Two close neighbours of the manse Annie MacDonald Cnoc-na-Luib, and Angus Macleod, Clachan houses, passed away in recent months.

John Archie and Morag Campbell lost their son-in-law Jim who lived on the mainland, and had been ill for some time.

Peter Mathieson one of our elders has sadly lost his brother, Alick Murdo, who lived in Lewis very recently.

Mary Ann Morrison, aunt of Katherine MacLeod, Clachan died just recently, after a life spent in the Lord`s service overseas.

Just this week the community, and her loving family, have been saddened by the death on Mary Flora MacDoughall, Claddach Carinish.

The thoughts and sympathy of the church family remain with all of their loved ones.

News from some of our young people

Padruig Morrison

Our annual Mission Week took place at the beginning of February, bringing together the four universities in Edinburgh: Napier, Queen Margaret, Heriot Watt, and Edinburgh University, for a whole week of telling the Gospel to non-Christians through daily events. The University Christian Union's primary aim is to allow all of the university students, 35,000 at Edinburgh University alone, to hear and respond to the Gospel; a mission team, rather than a Christian club!

The main events of the Mission Week took place each evening in Greyfriars Kirk, where a speaker would come and share something from their lives. The first evening was very striking: a convicted teenage murderer who is now a community pastor, shared something of his spiritual journey from his challenging childhood, to life in prison, and to now, helping youths who might be at risk of following a similar route.

Similar talks took place each evening for the rest of the week, looking at, mental health, university studies, and dealing with death. Beginning with tea, coffee and doughnuts, and a few songs from young Christian singer-songwriters, each event was positioned as very open, and not overtly Christian, making it easier to invite non-Christian friends - most nights welcomed between 200 and 300 people!

Each morning began with a Prayer Breakfast from 7.30 to 9, which gave everyone a chance to sing some hymns, to pray about the day's events and to have some bacon and eggs before going to classes.

An additional daily event was a 'Lunch Bar Talk', an hour long session where we gave out free lunches, heard a 25 minute talk on questions such as 'Why would a loving God allow suffering?' and 'Is the Bible a reliable source?' which allowed for a further 15 minutes of questions. This was again a relaxed environment for inviting friends.

For three weeks afterwards we held weekly follow-up events and have helped several people come to trust in Jesus, and they are now adding to the number of students who attend weekly meetings. This is a snapshot of some of the events we put on throughout the year - I will write about other aspects of the CU at other times.



Edinburgh University Christian Union Prayer Breakfast

Stewart Johnson

Stewart Johnson has been involved in the youth work of the Free Church for a number of years, both through summer residential camp work as well as through the work of the Free Church Youth Conference, serving as the Convener for this year's event. The Free Church Conference is held every year in Lendrick Muir, Kinross. Encouragingly, numbers have been growing in recent years and now has a regular attendance of 150 young people being present for a weekend of teaching, fun and fellowship. Stewart is currently a Ministry Assistant with the Free Church and based in Paisley. Please pray for him as he tries to encourage and develop the work of the Free Church in that town. Please pray also for him as he marries his fiancée, Sarah, on 4th August this year in Ayr.

Sarah Maclsaac

Sarah Maclsaac (Johnson) is involved in the work of the Destiny Church in Edinburgh particularly among the homeless. Alongside her husband, John, they take part in the work of that Church as it supports the growing number of homeless people in Edinburgh. This involves providing clothes and food as well as talking to people and listening to their stories. The congregation of Clachan have been most helpful to this work as they have supplied a large number of hats, gloves, scarves and other warm clothes for the Project's 'Hats for the Homeless' initiative. This has been a huge encouragement and has proved invaluable in keeping Edinburgh's homeless people warm and clothed through the cold winter months.

Peter Banks

Peter Banks and his wife Menuo live in Edinburgh and are worshipping at Central Church (formerly Morningside Baptist) in Tollcross in Edinburgh. Peter regularly plays bass guitar with one of the bands involved in leading Sunday worship. They have in the past helped to lead Alpha courses, but currently they are busy with new son Tsüktiren who is 6 months old. Please pray for them as they seek God's guidance for their future as they look to move back to India at the end of the year.

If you would like to share any news about what young people who have been members of our Church are involved in for a future newsletter please speak to Sarah Banks.

World Day of Prayer 2016

The annual World Day of Prayer service takes place on the first Friday of March – this year 4th March.

For the last two years this service has been held in the Church Hall at 7.30pm with as many members of the congregation as possible taking part.

This year's service was prepared by the women of Cuba with the theme 'Receive children, receive me' and included descriptions of the Cuban lifestyle as experienced by different generations. This meant we were able to include all members of our church community too and Anna, Mairi and Seamus Maclain willingly joined us to represent our younger generation.

The congregation was slightly larger than last year and we all felt that this year's service was one of the best we had experienced. We all enjoyed tea and biscuits afterwards and we look forward to next year's service on Friday 3rd March 2017.

Ruth Owenson

Men's Breakfasts

Men's Breakfast – Food, Friends and Fellowship!

Since the end of last year, under the direction of Colin Cuthbert, Benbecula and Clachan churches have on alternate months hosted a "men's breakfast". The early morning (not too early!) Saturday get-togethers enable an informal environment where the men can meet, chat and have fellowship together as well as enjoying a good breakfast!

The breakfasts are open to men from any denomination or even if they do not attend church at all.

Colin usually arranges for a speaker to be present and there has been a good variety over the months bringing words of testimony and encouragement.

Each gathering starts off around 8.30am with a substantial breakfast followed by some singing, a time of prayer and then a short talk by the invited speaker.

All in all, a good way to spend a couple of hours on a Saturday morning so please feel free to come along – there's always plenty sausage, bacon and egg but more importantly plenty of spiritual food as well!

Donnie Johnson

The Perfect Church (Anon)

If you should find the perfect church
Without one fault or smear
For goodness sake don't join that church
You'd spoil the atmosphere.

If you should find the perfect church
Where all anxieties cease
Then pass it by, lest by joining it
You'd spoil the masterpiece.

If you should find the perfect church
Then don't you ever dare
To tread upon such holy ground
You'd be a misfit there.

But since no perfect church exists
That's made of perfect men
Let's cease on looking for that church
And love the church we're in.

Of course it's not the perfect church
That's simple to discern
But you and I and all of us
Could cause the tide to turn.

What fools are we to flee the past
In that unfruitful search
To find at last where problems loom
God proudly builds his church.

The 'one another' statements of the New Testament

- Be at peace with each other (Mark 9:50)
- Love one another (e.g. John 13:34; repeated 18 times!)
- Stop passing judgment on one another (Romans 14:13)
- Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you (Romans 15:7)
- Carry one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Be patient, bearing with one another in love (Ephesians 4:2)
- Forgive the grievances you may have against one another
(Colossians 3:13)
- Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)
- Encourage each other (e.g. Thessalonians 4:18; repeated 5 times)
- Spur one another on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24)
- Don't grumble against each other (James 5:9)
- Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling (1 Peter 4:9)
- Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another (1 Peter 5:5)

Anagrams

The following are all anagrams of books of the Bible. Can you solve them all?

1.	gin sees
2.	I pin hip slap
3.	I jeer ham
4.	threes
5.	is veil cut
6.	burns me
7.	chisel corn
8.	met thaw
9.	tarnish coin
10.	I hem a hen
11.	nominal state
12.	a rich haze
13.	hip melon
14.	be shrew
15.	lover in tea