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23rd June, 2021

Benbecula and Carinish Pastoral Letter

Dear Church Family and Friends

Well, it is hard to believe that this will be the last of my pastoral letters for Benbecula l/w Carinish. We have enjoyed a run of 63 weekly letters uninterrupted. Thanks in part is due to Ishie who was able to keep things going when I needed a break. But not a bad run in my opinion!

We have covered some ground have we not? We have touched upon a number of themes over the months and weeks...waiting, mental health, prayer, reading/journaling, bears, canoes, almonds, home schooling just to name a few. There have been weeks with laughter and with tears and now with the news that, come the end of August, all restrictions could be lifted. Amen to that!

Many of you have commented that these letters have been a lifeline in many ways. Thank you for saying as much and I am glad they have perhaps helped in some small measure to bring a smile, relief or the hope of God's word in a timely manner to a needed situation. I would also like to thank those who have passed on or forwarded the letters. I have received emails from around the world commenting on aspect of various pastoral letter as they have been shared. Modern/high-tech missionaries you have been. Well done.

For my part and from my heart and home, I would like to say thank you to the congregations of Benbecula and Carinish, the elders, the boards, those in the pews, from youngest to oldest and to the communities that make up this amazing place called Uist. It has been an honour to serve you as minister, chaplain, friend and neighbour. Thank you for calling us. Know that you will be missed.

Michael W Smith who is a worship leader, sings a song that was penned by his wife Debbie, entitled *Friends*. As I finish, I would like to share with you the chorus...

And friends are friends forever if the Lord's the Lord of them. And a friend will not say never, because the welcome will not end. Though it is hard to let you go in the Father's hands we know that a lifetime is not too long to live as friends.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace, amen. In Him, we are never that far apart.

Service Bookings:

For Benbecula - Cherrie McKinlay at 07749232838 or cherrie.mckinlay@gmail.com
For Carinish - Alastair Banks at 01876 580617 or email banks@madasafish.com

In Christ
Rev Andrew Kuzma