

Arrochar and Luss Church Newsletter December 2018



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Message from the Minister

When I saw the advertisement for the position of Transition Minister in Luss and Arrochar, I felt that the Lord might be calling me. The job description resonated with me and I applied. During the process, meeting people and discussing the needs of these parishes, the calling became a reality. To me it is a great privilege to serve as the minister of Arrochar and Luss. My remit in Presbytery also includes Pilgrimage and Rural Parishes, aspects of Church life that I am passionate about.

My wife, Elsie, and I have been warmly welcomed in both congregations. I would also like to thank the ministers who have been looking after these Churches in the past and who have helped us to settle in.

It is important to me to visit our people. I will begin by visiting those who request a visit, and those who are needing a visit, but I hope to visit all our people as soon as possible.

After my induction, I have preached on the following principles: Openness, Oneness and 'Muchness'. I regard these principles as the basis of my work.

- **Openness**

What is required, is an openness of the heart. When God gave Solomon the opportunity to choose a gift, he asked for a 'hearing heart' - a receptive mind, an openness to hear the voice of one another, to hear the voice of God, to hear the voice of creation. We need an openness to one another's needs, an openness to experimentation, an openness to a future that we cannot even imagine now. We need an openness to life and to that which is lovely, an openness to the love of God that is manifested in so many ways.

- **Oneness**

Jesus' dream for us is that we should be one. The Church is called to be a family. We should look at one another as my brother, my mother. The other person becomes the other self. We must establish an inclusive fellowship. A family without conditions. We are the body of Christ, each one a member, bringing our own personality, gifts, experience into the family.

- **Muchness**

The word 'muchness' does not appear in an English translation of the Bible, yet it ought to. In Deuteronomy 6:5-6 we read: _

*Listen Israel, the Lord,
our God, the Lord is One.
Love the Lord with all your heart,
with all your soul
and with all your 'muchness'.*

It implies that there is something of substance in us, being created in the image of God, we are full of something that is wonderful and strong. In the process of transition and development, we should discover our muchness, our abilities, our gifts. We should develop our gifts. The family of God, the body of Christ, should come alive and delight in its ability, its assets. God has invested a lot in us. Let us acknowledge it and use it.

It is my wish to serve the needs of the people of Arrochar and Luss and to support the mission of the Church. The mission of the Church in these parishes cannot be formulated by me – all of us should consider the way forward prayerfully, to define our mission and to take ownership of it. For this purpose we have held two conferences in each congregation. An open invitation was extended to all people in the parish to take part in the discussions. I am happy to say that wonderful ideas were put forward, which will now be formulated in terms of structured goals and aims. The future will require hard work, but it will be fulfilling and

exciting. May it be a blessing. In the following article I will summarise the ideas and projects that were generated at the conferences.

A summary of the results of the planning conferences held in Arrochar and Luss

In this summary the results of the conferences in Arrochar and Luss are combined, as there are many similarities in the outcomes.

Discovering gifts and enabling people

Our congregations are small, yet, there are gifted people in our parish. In truth, each one of us has received gifts from God that can be used in the life of the Church. It will be good to discover the gifts of our people and to involve all our people in the life of the Church. For this reason, workgroups could be formed in the congregations and training provided. All of these groups will be inclusive – all are welcome to join:

- Worship group – (we will start by discussing the way we worship, planning services and some may eventually be prepared to take responsibility during worship)
- Friendship group – (this group will work within the congregation, their remit will be visiting, welcoming, delivering recordings of services)
- Outreach team (we will focus on reaching out to visitors)
- Social events committee (social events and fund raising will be initiated and synchronised)

Church and Worship

Special services like a Passover Meal, early Easter Morning service (in nature), Christingle, Family Services, an Evening Service for visitors and Songs of Praise can be held. Some of these can be joint services. A choir can be formed to celebrate the joy of music and to enhance singing. More instruments can be used. The orders of service can contain important coming events. Church flowers can be delivered to specific people after the service

As many people cannot attend the church, recordings of services can be delivered to the housebound and home communion can be offered.

The church premises can be used for cultural events like concerts and music evenings, flower festivals or groups like mother and baby group.

A visit to the churches can be enhanced by redecorating the church and by sharing spiritual information. There can be reflections based on each window, and informative and uplifting cards can be made available. Seating in the church can be rearranged in order to make the space more versatile. The position of the organ and speakers should be reconsidered. At Arrochar we plan to restore the pipe organ. At Luss the loft will be tidied up and restored. At Christmas time a Christmas tree can be brought in and a Christmas Tree Festival can be held.

Spiritual development and activities

A Bible Study and Prayer Group will start soon. We intend to organise Christian retreats and conferences in our parishes.

Art and craft exhibitions can be held on Church premises. The Church can facilitate creativity and training in art and craft – needlework, painting, pottery and stained glass.

Social events will create an environment for people to get to know one another

Nature and spirituality

There are wonderful walks in our area. We intend to write new guides, which will bring a spiritual dimension to the walks, including Bible readings, reflections and prayers relating to the walk. We will also include local knowledge of places and people. Our people will be the first to use these guides and to 'test' it.



Pilgrimage

Our parishes are on established Pilgrim Routes. We intend to provide information to pilgrims in our churches. It will be done in collaboration with 'Faith in Cowal'. There are plans to develop a Biblical Garden at Arrochar Church and to re-develop the Glebe at Luss as a pilgrimage destination which will include a sensory garden.

Communication

It is important to communicate well with our members and our communities. At our churches there will be notice boards that will be updated. We intend to communicate through social media, as well as through web sites. A regular newsletter will be distributed that will include ecumenical and community information. We will continue with streaming services in Luss, and intend to record services for distribution to the housebound at Arrochar. We intend to publish a Church Calendar that will contain dates of church events for the coming year.

The Glebe and Manse at Luss

A number of exciting ideas were brought forward regarding the use of the Manse and the Glebe at Luss. The principle that all agreed on, was that it should serve the mission of the Church and the needs of the community. These ideas will be discussed and shared in our next Newsletter.

In conclusion

As you can see, there is enthusiasm to start with new initiatives and to improve what we are doing. However, our people and their needs will still be our first priority. We hope that all people, whether they are members or not, will join us on this journey. May it be a blessed journey.

Arrochar Parish News

Rededication of the War Memorial

Over 50 people attended a service led by the Rev. Dr. Louis Bezuidenhout and Fr. Michael Maloney for the rededication of the War Memorial at the junction of Church Road and the A83. Sir Malcolm and Lady Colquhoun were principal guests.

In his speech Sir Malcolm referred to the original ceremony in 1921 when the memorial was dedicated by his grandfather, a veteran of the Great War, who had lived in Arrochar in his childhood, and doubtless knew many of those named on the memorial. Sir Malcolm also quoted from the local paper's report of the 1921 ceremony.

Findlay Mustarde laid a wreath.



Remembrance Day Service Sunday 11th November 2018

After a shorter-than-normal Sunday worship a service of Remembrance was held at the war memorial, conducted by the Rev. Dr. Louis Bezuidenhout, to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War I. Peace bells were rung at both churches in the evening as part of the world-wide commemoration.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

A very enjoyable Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch was held on Tuesday 4th December at the Claymore Hotel.

The Over 55s Lunch Club

The Over 55s Lunch Club is held on the second Wednesday of every month in the Three Villages Hall. The cost is £4 per person. To book a place for the next lunch club please call

in at the Hall or telephone 01301 702669. The lunch club is followed by Bingo and a Blether, which is run separately.

Pontoon and visitor moorings

The Loch Long Jetty Association has been awarded £84,000 from one of the UK's largest charitable funders, The Garfield Weston Foundation. The funding will enable the charity to provide and install a pontoon and visitor moorings on Loch Long, for the use and enjoyment of Arrochar residents and visitors. Construction work on the pontoon is expected to commence on the project in Spring 2019.

Dates for your diary - Arrochar

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| Sunday 09-12-18 | 10:00 | Church Service Arrochar Church |
| Tuesday 11-12-18 | 19:00 | The Bible through the eyes of artists (part 1) at the Church (informal discussion with pictures) <i>Everybody welcome!!</i> |
| Sunday 16-12-18 | 10:00 | Christmas Family Service Arrochar Church - the return of the lost sheep. Sheep trail Prize draw. All very welcome! |
| Tuesday 18-12-18 | 13:00 | Arrochar Primary School Christmas Concert in the Church |
| Tuesday 18-12-18 | 19:00 | The Bible through the eyes of artists (part 2) at the Church (informal discussion with pictures) <i>Everybody welcome!!</i> |
| Sunday 23-12-18 | 10:00 | Church Service Arrochar Church |
| Monday 24-12-18 | 23:30 | Christmas Eve Service Arrochar Church |
| Tuesday 25-12-18 | 10:00 | Christmas Day Service Arrochar Church |
| Sunday 30-12-18 | 10:00 | End of year Service Arrochar Church |

Communion will be celebrated at Arrochar Parish Church on Sunday 13th January 2019.

Quiz Night - There will be another Quiz Night in February. Look out for more information around the village early next year.

Each Wednesday the **Chat and Craft Circle** meets in the Church Hall between 1pm and 3pm. Those who would like to paint or draw are also welcome to join us. This is a non-denomination group and everyone is welcome. Crafting is NOT a requirement. Come along and enjoy some company and a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. The cost is £1 per week.

The Guild meets, usually, on the first Thursday of each month in the Church Hall. We enjoy talks and slide shows, good company, tea and coffee and spiritual fellowship. Our members

and visitors come from all denominations and none. You will be very welcome to join us. Donations at the meetings are given to charity.

January 10th: The Practice Nurses - Health related issues

February 7th: Dr David Pollard - Kirkstall Abbey, Leeds 1147 - 1539

March 7th: Mary Haggerty

April 4th: Ann Maceachern - Quilting

Arrochar Parish Church is open to visitors every Wednesday between 1pm and 3pm.

Luss Parish News

Luss Charity Advent Fair

A very successful Charity Advent Fair was hosted in the Loch Lomond Arms Hotel in aid of St George's Ethiopia on November 11. There were many craft and art stalls as well as food stalls, gifts and homewares. There was also entertainment in the form of musicians as well as storytellers. More than £2,000 was raised at the event.

The Fair is held in aid of St George's Ethiopia, a charity school set up by Sir Malcolm and Lady Colquhoun of Luss.

Remembrance Sunday

On the 11th of November a special memorial service was held at the War Memorial in Luss to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. The service was very well attended by the local community as well as guests and visitors. It was followed by a short service in Luss Church.

Luss Church Guild

Luss Church Guild will support the following 6 projects for the next 3 years:

- 1 Crossreach JOIN UP THE DOTS - to tackle the problems of loneliness and social isolation in Scotland.
- 2 World Mission Council JOURNEYING TOGETHER EMPOWERING TEENAGE MOTHERS IN ZAMBIA
- 3 Sailors' Society A CHAPLAIN FOR OUR PORTS
- 4 The Free to Live Trust's SEEMA'S PROJECT
- 5 Malawi Fruits GROWING THE FUTURE
- 6 The Boys's Brigade FAITH IN YOUNG PEOPLE

Dates for your diary – Luss

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|--------------------|-------|--|
| Sunday 09-12-18 | 11:30 | Church Service Luss Church |
| Tuesday 11-12-18 | 19:00 | Guild night Christmas Party Heritage Hall |
| Wednesday 12-12-18 | 19:00 | The Bible through the eyes of artists (part 2) at the Heritage Hall (informal discussion with pictures) <i>Everybody welcome!!</i> |
| Thursday 13-12-18 | 19:00 | Luss Primary Panto in the Village Hall |
| Sunday 16-12-18 | 11:30 | Christmas Family Service Luss Church - the return of the lost sheep. Sheep trail Prize draw. Soup and a roll after the service. All very welcome! |
| Sunday 23-12-18 | 11:30 | Church Service Luss Church |
| Monday 24-12-18 | 23:30 | Christmas Eve Service Luss Church |
| Tuesday 25-12-18 | 10:00 | Christmas Day Service Luss Church |
| Sunday 30-12-18 | 11:30 | End of year Service Luss Church |

Luss Church Guild meets in the Heritage Room at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month from October to April. We have a varied syllabus for our meetings. At each meeting we have a collection that goes to the funds and are dispersed to Luss Church

11th December at 7pm **Guild Night Christmas Party**

8th January **Burns Night**

12th February **Guild Night**

19th February **Annual Guild Meeting** Kilbowie St Andrew's Parish Church, Clydebank

1st March **World Day of Prayer** from 10am in the morning

12th March **Guild Night**

9th April **Guild Annual General Meeting**

Saturday 14th May **Summer Rally** in the Manse ground