

Luss Church Chat



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2021

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BIBLE STUDY

Nine members of the congregation took part in a nine-week bible study course which examined the topic of Faith. The sessions were all held on the Zoom platform and used a study guide from the life builder series. The sessions were facilitated by Lindsay Voigt, with everyone having the opportunity to explore Faith from various perspectives including the Faith of Old Testament characters such as David and Abraham, and new testament heroes such as Paul. The studies enabled the group to consider what it means to ask God for something in Jesus' name and for Faith to lead to action.

This was the first such bible study series and the group found the sessions to be thought provoking and interesting. It is hoped to hold another series in the autumn.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS.



A big thank you to all who contributed to our request for support for the local food banks. The donations were divided equally between the Helensburgh and Lomond Food Bank and the Food for Thought Food Bank. They were delivered by one of our Elders, Rosie MacMillan, and were well received.

The respective recipients thanked everyone for their support through their social media platforms. Their thanks are contained in the following links-

<https://www.facebook.com/foodforthoughtdumbarton>

“We'd like to say a HUGE thank you to Luss Parish Church for their recent donation of food! Everything will go towards making up our food bags and providing extra bits for families with kids”

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=helensburgh%20and%20lomond%20foodbank>

“Susan Davidson, Vice Chair of the Foodbank is pleased to receive a donation of food from Luss Parish Church thank you to the Church Elder and driver who dropped this off before heading to Dumbarton. It's good to share”.

Thanks again from the members of the PWG to all who contributed.

A POEM FOR AUTUMN

FALL, LEAVES, FALL by Emily Bronte.

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.



KNITTED POPPIES



As you can see Elder May MacDonald has been very productive knitting poppies for our Armistice Commemoration. We would love to have more donations of poppies and the knitting pattern was in our summer issue.

If you would like to knit for us and have lost the pattern, please contact the PWG and we can send it out to you. Poppies can be handed in to church prior to Sunday 31st October or popped though the letter box at the manse.

We hope to make a really touching display for this special occasion.

Thank you.

BOOK STALL IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS.



A book stall was held at the beginning of September to help raise much needed funds for the church. Many thanks to all who supported the book stall.

NEWS FROM THE SESSION

The 24th October 2021 is Church National Giving Day.

Session Clerk Donald Hardie explains that this Giving Day is different as all monies received may be used specifically for the benefit of Luss Church and will not be subject to M and M contributions.

Depending on the monies received, Luss Church may develop the Outreach potential of the Glebe as a spiritual experience, with the bridge accessing the Glebe receiving some much needed renovation.

We are appealing for people to send cheques for whatever amounts they feel appropriate, payable to Luss Church, to Donald Hardie, East Lodge Arden G83 8RD.

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This year our harvest thanksgiving service will on 24th October coinciding with Church National Giving. Any donations of non - perishable food stuffs can be delivered to church prior to the service or left with our Beadle John Taylor and will be delivered to local food banks by PWG members.

We thank you for your continued generosity to others in these difficult times.

BAPTISM

The baptism of Sophie and Robbie Cameron took place 26 September 2021.

REVEREND EWEN SINCLAIR NICOLL

It was with much sadness we heard of the death of the Reverend Ewen Nicoll past minister of the linked parishes of Luss and Arrochar.

Ewen died 10 September 2021 and was laid to rest 7 October 2021. He was a fine man who served his parishes unstintingly, sometimes to the detriment of his health. He was instrumental in fighting for, and ultimately saving, Arrochar Parish Church from the Presbytery threat of closure.

He is remembered as a quiet man, a grand piper, a man of God and a true Gentleman. The world is poorer for his passing.

Our deepest sympathy to Evelyn, Alistair and Alison at this sad time.

DUNBARTONSHIRE GUILDS TOGETHER - CHRISTMAS PROJECT

The Guilds Christmas Project for this year will be in support of the Simon Community Scotland who would welcome 'cosy packages' which they will distribute to homeless folk on the streets and to people in temporary accommodation.

We would especially welcome hats, gloves, scarves for men or women and hot water bottles.

Our Beadle, John has offered to put a box between the storm doors and the front door of the manse between 1st and 12th December. Anyone who wants to leave hats, gloves, scarves or hot water bottles can do so by dropping them into the box. They will be picked up on Sunday 12th December and taken to the Simon Community to be distributed by them.

Anyone who would like to give, and this method does not suit, please contact Christine Buchanan by telephone on 01389850278 or email, Christine.Buchanan3@outlook.com.

TIME FOR REFLECTION WITH KAREN GILLON - ASSOCIATION SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL GUILD

I don't know about you, but if this past 18 months has done nothing else it has given me time to think and to mull things over more than I have done for a long time. Perhaps it's because the usual hustle and bustle of life took a much slower pace, or perhaps it's because everything that has happened made me think more about my faith and how in every situation God is there.

Psalm 139 is one of my favourite Psalms and the hymn 'O God You Search Me and You Know Me' is certainly in my top 10!

Sometimes, knowing that God has searched me and knows me fills me with dread. Yes, he knows those times when I have been sighing inside and maybe not being as kind as I ought or when I have looked for an excuse not to do something that I really should have. But he also knows the times when I am struggling, and that phone call from a friend, the kind word of a stranger or even the words of a hymn or poem coming to mind just comes at the right time to pick me up.

In the Psalm itself, there are such real words of assurance and affirmation. In verse five, we are told "You hem me in - behind and before". That assurance that God holds you together when you are falling apart; memories overwhelming you; present troubles causing pain and anxiety. And then: "You have laid Your hand upon me". Can you imagine feeling God's hand on your shoulder? That close, fatherly contact with the living God; reassuring, loving, strengthening. It's an amazing feeling. In the message translation, it says "I

can't take it all in". I know I sometimes think, 'how awesome is our God?' Then, by verse 13 we read: "For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb". I am not an expert knitter but I know folk who are and they know all the variety of stitches, producing beautiful shawls and jackets. Think of God knitting you stitch by stitch into a unique individual. How well and intimately He must know us; not just our bodies but our innermost, deepest emotions. We sometimes drop or unravel stitches when we become distracted or look away, but He never does, He is never distracted or looking away! He is with us, in each and every situation.

As we begin to meet together with others again, some of us are really excited and some are more nervous. Whichever you are, God knows, understands and walks with you, holding you in the palm of his hand.

In the months ahead, the church has so much to offer in bringing people together again, enabling us to be in fellowship with one another and again showing God's love in action. To do that we need to step out with the one who goes ahead of us and trust that he has everything planned out.

KEEP IN TOUCH

As ever please keep in touch with us at Luss Church by contacting us at lusschurchpwg@gmail.com

We welcome any contributions of articles for the newsletter.

If you would like a pastoral visit or call from your elder please contact the PWG and we will ask your elder to make contact.