

From: Pres. Argyll Argyll@churchofscotland.org.uk
Subject: FW: Presbytery Prayer Rota and Intimations
Date: 8 May 2020 at 07:47:06

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To: Pres. Argyll <Argyll@churchofscotland.org.uk>
Subject: Presbytery Prayer Rota and Intimations

Dear Presbyters and Session Clerks

There are some weeks when we are flooded with information. This week falls into that category. Please find below our usual Prayer rota and Intimations along with 3 attachments referred to.

Happy reading while you

Keep Safe

Stewart

Presbytery Prayer Rota

Sunday 10 May 2020

Please pray for the following congregations and their ministers:

Ardchattan: Minister – Rev Willem Bezuidenhout

Killean & Kilchenzie: Minister – Rev Scott Burton

Please pray for the **Rev Martin Fair as he is installed as our new Moderator of the General Assembly**. His Installation will be broadcast on the Church of Scotland's Website and Facebook page on **Saturday 16 May at 11.00am**.

Intimations

- **Douglas Allan, Moderator of Presbytery calls presbyters to weekly prayer together on Wednesdays at Noon. Prayer is on the Presbytery Website and will be circulated to Presbyters and Session Clerks.**
- **Principal Clerk's "Update for Presbyteries"** I attach a copy of George Whyte's report which he has given permission to circulate and for your information proposals on how the Lutheran Church in Germany is planning to come out of Lockdown.
- **Rev Ken Ross:** I attach a copy of Rev Ken's latest newsletter from Malawi.
- **A Message of Appreciation received by the Moderator and one of our Session Clerks.**

Thank you both for all you are doing prayer and otherwise to support people at / during this very unique and scary time.

As someone who seeks and sees opportunities in everything - because every cloud has them, I am encouraged as you seem to be too, by the increase in people using the internet to be church. As such I have taken the liberty of forwarding to you both an email from Roy Crowne encouraging us to build on what we have now, for the future.

I feel this approach needs to be emphasised as so often I am hearing people voice their yearning for 'things to return to normal'. Maybe the normal we had was not the best normal we could be aspiring to in terms of enabling people to know the gospel and of having a personal relationship with Jesus.

It states in the email (although I fully appreciate you may not agree with this), that "The church we left is not the church we are returning to" although I gathered from the Presbytery Prayer last Wednesday that this is indeed being recognised locally. I

have loved sharing services with new folk, different ministers and new ways of being church. The Rev Scott Burton from West Kintyre and Gigha and his 'Church without Walls' I have found especially inspiring.

It is my heartfelt request that we build on what we have now, to establish and maintain these new relationships as well as our more traditional ones and for us as a church not to strive to get 'back' to normal but to strive to move 'forward' to a new normal.

I do appreciate how it might feel to be 'back' with the familiar, with the sense of safety and security that comes with being there, but our call to faith in Christ was never about safety and security in human terms was it?

There is a wonderful opportunity to be taken here. It is my prayer we have the faith and the courage to respond positively to it.

May you and all those you love be blessed.

'See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland' (Isaiah 43:19)

Back in 2019 as we dreamed what 2020 would look like we wrote: 'Imagine your church at the heart of your community as a beacon of hope for the least, the lost and the lonely. Imagine your neighbourhood transformed as the network of people connected with members of your church discover fresh hope as they come to know Jesus' love for themselves....Many individuals and ministries are sensing that 2020 is a significant year in which we will see the church in the UK grow.'

We had no idea how God would work in this year. Now we see many people looking in on virtual church services and searching online for 'How to Pray' and 'Peace with God'. We are committed to supporting the local church through this season, helping churches to make Jesus known with words and action together. We are developing new online resources and praying that churches will seize the opportunities of this new day, to help people find the hope they are looking for – hope found in Jesus.

Roy Crowne

HOPE Together's Executive Director

• **Online services available from Argyll**

The following services are being provided online for local congregations and those who wish to log in from places further afield:

West Kintyre and Gigha – Rev Scott Burton -<https://www.westkintyreandgighachurchofscotland.org/> Worship

The United Church of Bute – Rev Owain Jones - <https://www.unitedchurchofbute.org.uk/>

The Shore Kirk – Rev Janet MacKellar –