

From: Pres. Argyll <Argyll@churchofscotland.org.uk>
Date: Jun 19, 2020 6:12:53 PM
Subject: FW: Presbytery Prayer Rota and Intimations
Attachments: Assembly Trustees Update 2.01 June 2020.pdf, UPDATE FOR PRESBYTERIES ISSUE 3.docx

From: Pres. Argyll
Sent: 19 June 2020 18:07
To: Pres. Argyll <Argyll@churchofscotland.org.uk>
Subject: Presbytery Prayer Rota and Intimations

Presbytery Prayer Rota

Sunday 21 June 2020

Please pray for the following congregations and their ministers:

Kilfinichen, Kilvickeon & Ross of Mull: Minister – Rev Jenny Earl
 Rev Jenny asks that we pray that we shall all have a new sense of commitment to mission when the need is so great and the possibilities so many, and work together harmoniously to do God's work in this place.

Southend: Minister - Rev Steve Fulcher

Intimations

- **Assembly Trustees Update:** The latest update is attached
- **Principal Clerk's Update:** Issue 3 attached. There is much information within the report on the way ahead, including examples from other Presbyteries, which will inform our own decision making. You will receive further information from the Business Committee which is due to meet on Tuesday 30 June.
- **Rev Owain Jones, 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.
- **A Message from Marilyn Shedden – Convener of the Mission Committee**
Please share it widely among your congregation.

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, a group (let's call it Vision Argyll) of about 50 people from across our Presbytery have been having discussions about the way forward after this Covid time. After some very useful and positive conversations by e-mail, Vision Argyll met via Zoom on Tuesday. There was much enthusiasm and a lot of wisdom to share, and the technology allowed us to get together in person, which was very welcome. We are very sensitive to the fact that we wish to include the views, thoughts, reservations and even fears, of all our people. We wish to have as many ideas considered and every question listened to if possible. To this end, we would invite you to become involved by giving us your feed back and your thoughts. **We also invite you to share this venture with your own people in the congregations and community.**

Please respond to Stewart and me by **July 3rd** after which Vision Argyll will meet again to continue

our discussions.

To summarise where we are, at our previous meeting we focussed mainly on worship.

We discussed the pros and cons of online worship, and felt that this should continue after lockdown is lifted.

We need to find ways to safeguard our ministers as they cannot be expected to do an online service every week with the full busyness of parish work and perhaps other services.

We thought about those without internet, those who want to get back into the church building, and all this involves.

We need a blended approach to worship. What about young people?

We talked about different ways of 'doing' worship outside the building

eg using the local hotels for a 'parable, a pie and a pint', take the service to the gardens of the housebound, have a service on the beach, in the church car park, on the ferry, in each other's homes...and more.

The church is relational and requires interaction - we are a spiritual community.

We must reach out and bring people together, and think about how we do this.

We remembered that Jesus met people where they were, not necessarily in the synagogue.

Many people, not normally involved with the church have been drawn in to help at this time. We must find a way to nourish this.

We do feel that this is a time of opportunity and excitement, when we have discovered new ways to worship and to reach out to people who are not normally in the pews on a Sunday.

We are grateful to the wonderful work Susan and the eXp team are doing with young people and we commend this to you.

We wish to consider ways to engage with, and minister to, children in our midst and be sure that they are included in any future planning.

Perhaps you could use these points to share with people and let folk know that as a Presbytery, we are committed to think creatively about the future.

We are committed to include all our people, those with technology and those without, those confined to their homes, and those who find God on the hills, those who are at the youngest end and those who have watched many sunsets, those who wish to be in their church building and those who are not comfortable there.....ALL our people.

We wish to use this time of learning, to find new ways to be a missional presence throughout Argyll and to encourage discipleship for every age.

It is important that everyone knows what is happening as everyone has a part to play and a voice to be heard.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Prayers for our journey,

· Marilyn

- **Lockdown Phase 2** You will be aware that the Scottish Government has officially moved us into Phase 2 of the return from lockdown which permits churches to open for individual prayer and contemplation. However, the guidelines from the Church of Scotland **insist** that we carry out all the necessary Health and Safety procedures, as contained in their guidelines produced last week before allowing this to happen. They are also now asking that these be approved by Presbytery.

You will have noted from the Principal Clerk's update that

"The basic message is that no-one is being forced to open their church building for individual prayer or indeed funeral services until they are ready to do so."

Our Guidance will be produced following the Business Committee meeting of 30 June.

- **Presbytery Facebook Page:** If anyone wishes something posted on the Presbytery Facebook Page **please contact either**

Liz Gibson (egibson@churchofscotland.org.uk)

or Scott Burton (Sburton@churchofscotland.org.uk)