



Fort William Free Church



High Street, Fort William, Inverness-shire, PH33 6EE

Newsletter ~ July/August 2018

Issue 5



Dear Friends,

Welcome to our fifth and final newsletter. Due to a change in personal circumstances, the present editor will no longer be able to produce the newsletter. If anyone else is interested in taking over the role then please speak to one of the elders. The church website will still be kept up to date with any important news, announcements and visiting speaker lists. For those in the congregation who do not have internet access a list of visiting speakers will be available in print. We would like to thank everyone who contributed articles for the previous newsletters, your help was greatly appreciated.

God's Truth Within

And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: ~ Mark 4:11 (KJV)

It is astonishing how differently the truth of Christ looks from within and from without. It is like the stained-glass windows in a church. One who stands outside and looks at them sees none of their rich beauty. They seem dull, opaque, and without meaning. But let one stand within the building and look at the rich windows, and all is transformed. The lines and figures appear in all their rich loveliness.

It is the same with the truths of God's Word. They are not attractive to those who are without. People sometimes sneer at the faith of Christians, as they find them leaning upon an unseen God, and clinging to intangible hopes. But when one becomes a Christian, all is changed. Where there was no loveliness, there now appears the loftiest beauty. What was laughed at before, is now seen to be worthy of highest admiration. Only those who have received Christ, can really understand the wonderful things of His Love.

~ Anon.

Upcoming Services

Services at 11.00am & 5.30pm, conducted by visiting speakers.

Sunday 1st July

Rev. Douglas MacKeddie.

Sunday 8th July

Rev. Alasdair MacLeod.

Sunday 15th July

Rev. Andrew Fraser

Sunday 22nd July

To be confirmed.

Sunday 29th July

To be confirmed.

Sunday 5th August

Rev. Alasdair MacLeod

Sunday 12th August

Rev. David Ford

Sunday 19th August

Rev. Finlay MacKenzie

Sunday 26th August

Rev. Andrew Fraser

Any changes to this list will be announced in church intimations and the website.

The Family Whom Jesus Loved

"Now it came to pass, as they went, that He entered into a certain village, and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard His word." **Luke 10:38,39(KJV)**

This is our introduction to the Bethany family, and to me, the whole history of Mary, Martha and Lazarus is one of the most beautiful portions in all the Scriptures.

We discover very quickly the different characters of the two sisters - Martha busy and bustling over household arrangements, anxious to provide a good meal for the LORD and His disciples **(v.40)** And this was commendable, showing her great love for Jesus, desiring to show Him honour and respect. But we read that Mary "sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word". We know from the following verses which sister Jesus praised and which one He reproved. We find Martha under pressure, becoming ruffled in her mind, and making a complaint to the LORD about her sister. J.C. Ryle states that "this holy woman sadly forgot what she was, and to whom she was speaking". **(Exposition of Luke 10:38-42)**

Although Jesus reproves her, we read of His kind and gentle manner in so doing. "Marth, Martha..." He says. We read later in the Scriptures that the LORD says, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten". **(Revelation 3:19)** All Martha's trouble and work were good and proper in their own way, but at this time, when the Saviour was under her roof, how much better it would have been had Martha done as Mary did, and sat at the feet of Jesus. How much better for her needy soul to have listened to Him, drinking in the gracious words that He spoke, and been instructed by an incomparable teacher.

Martha expected that Jesus would compel Mary to go and help her. Poor Martha must have been shocked when the LORD instead reproved herself and praised Mary for what she was doing. **(v.41,42)**

Let us never forget what Jesus said to Martha, to us all, "one thing is needful."

How good it would be for each of us to love the LORD and His teaching so much that we would daily "sit at His feet" and hear His gracious voice. This we can do by coming to Him in prayer and by reading His word, asking that the Holy Spirit would bless it to us, and give us understanding. If we are trusting in Him alone for our salvation, we will know that He has granted us the wisdom to "choose that good part, which shall not be taken away from us"

~ Anon.



Condolences

His Lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. ~ Matthew 25:21 (KJV)

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Soldier of Christ, well done!
Praise be thy new employ;
And while eternal ages run,
Rest in thy Saviour's joy.

~

Sincere condolences to the family of Alec MacDiarmid who passed away on 9th May 2018, aged 89. Alec often precented in our church, leading the congregation in singing to the glory and praise of our Lord, he will be sadly missed. Please remember Alec's family in your prayers.

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Please also remember in prayer all those who have recently suffered bereavement and are going through difficult times after the loss of a loved one.

Kilmonivaig Church

After the visit by the presbytery, the recommendation was made to pursue the sale of the Kilmonivaig church building and grounds as a matter of urgency. We can confirm that the sale of the church has now been agreed and will be completed at the beginning of July.

Quinquennial Update

Further to the quinquennial report, draft architect plans have been drawn up to address some of the issues raised by the presbytery visit. The plans are on display in the church hall downstairs if you would like to see them. They give a possible solution to the issue of the toilets not being available to people who are disabled and can't use the stairs to reach the current toilets downstairs. The new plans also include removing the pews and replacing them with comfortable seats, creating a communal meeting area at the church entrance which would include a disabled access toilet and small kitchen area. This would allow the church to use the area for fellowship after Sunday services and provide a suitable area which could be utilised by the local community in general.

Church Building Renewal Trust

The Presbytery recommendations for modernisation of our church building will of course cost money and enquiries have been made into grants available and the various ways in which funds could be raised to pay for alterations. The Church Buildings Renewal Trust has provided lots of information and advice which has been extremely helpful, they have also met with our interim moderator and elders to discuss options available to us. Updates on the progress of discussions and decisions made regarding plans will be made available on the website in due course.

Thank You

The church website has been an invaluable resource for our congregation and visitors alike. It contains lots of information about our church and surrounding area and gives us a platform for promoting our YouTube channel where our weekly sermons are available to the world. You can also visit the website of our retired minister Rev. Gordon Mair and listen to his sermons via a link on our site. A list of visiting speakers is also available, along with any relevant information pertaining to the church. Please bookmark the site and visit regularly to be kept up to date with news and information. We would like to thank Professor John Angus MacLeod at the Edinburgh Theological Seminary for his help in setting up the website, his patience and guidance was very much appreciated.



Devotional Contributions

One of the sources of the devotional pieces used in past newsletters is a book lent to us by a member of our congregation. The book contains a collection of inspirational writings by Bible commentators, poets and scholars, all neatly hand written and saved. The date this particular book was first used to record these quotations and verses in, was 1963. The following photograph is of the back page of the book where newspaper cuttings of church services were saved. It's been a privilege to have had the opportunity to share some of the contents of this book with you all.





THE BIBLE WORD SEARCH



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

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|----------------|-----------|--------------|
| BAPTISM | GOOD NEWS | NAZARETH |
| BIBLE | HEAVEN | PRAYER |
| CHRIST | HOLY | RESURRECTION |
| CREATION | ISRAEL | REVELATION |
| EARTH | JERUSALEM | SALVATION |
| FOREVER | KINGDOM | SAVIOUR |
| GARDEN OF EDEN | LIFE | SIN |
| GENESIS | MARY | SPIRIT |
| GLORY | MESSAGE | TEMPTATION |
| GOD | MOSES | WATER |

Quick Quiz

New Testament Trivia Questions

1. How many books are in the New Testament?
2. Paul was shipwrecked on which island?
3. What is the shortest book in the New Testament?
4. Who was the first person to come across the injured man in the parable of the Good Samaritan?
5. What tribe was Paul from?
6. In the Gospel of John, which apostle doubts Jesus's resurrection until he sees Jesus with his own eyes?
7. Who baptised Jesus?
8. Who murdered John the Baptist?

Answers are in your Bible.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father which art in Heaven,
 Hallowed be thy name. Thy
 kingdom come, Thy will be
 done in earth, as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our debts as we
 forgive our debtors. And lead us
 not into temptation, but deliver
 us from evil: for thine is the
 kingdom, and the power, and
 the glory, for ever, Amen.

Visiting Speakers List

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEAKER (11.00am & 5.30pm services)</u>
01/07/18	Rev. Douglas MacKeddie
08/07/18	Rev. Alasdair MacLeod
15/07/18	Rev. Andrew Fraser
22/07/18	To be confirmed.
29/07/18	To be confirmed.
05/08/18	Rev. Alasdair MacLeod
12/08/18	Rev. David Ford
19/08/18	Rev. Finlay Mackenzie
26/08/18	Rev. Andrew Fraser
02/09/18	Mr. Ronnie Christie
09/09/18	Rev. Gordon Martin
16/09/18	Mr. Alan Pettit
23/09/18	Rev. Andrew Fraser
30/09/18	Mr. Len Cazaly
07/10/18	Rev. Douglas MacKeddie
14/10/18	Rev. Andrew Fraser
21/10/18	Mr. Alan Pettit
28/10/18	To be confirmed.

Any changes to this schedule will be announced in church intimations and on the website.