



Killearnan Church of Scotland

The Grapevine

September 2018

Message from the Minister

Seasons! It's something I have been pondering a lot recently. There's the seasons of the year, and unlike previous years, we've definitely had a summer and winter; the seasons of the church year (from Advent, through Lent, Easter and back around to Advent again); and the seasons of life.

I've also been pondering how we, as church, work with the seasons God sets before us. Not in the calendar year or church year, but in the worship and witness for God's kingdom we are called to do.

Thinking of the fields near me, due to the wet spring we had (remember that!), they were ploughed and sown late. The farmer needed to get the timing right – too early and the grain would rot rather than grow; too late and there wouldn't be enough of a growing season for the grain to grow in time for harvesting. Once the grain was sown, it is left. Patience is needed. Patience and hope that the right amount of sun and rain will come (it's debatable if the latter happened this year). Then, when the crop is ripe, the combine goes in to gather it all in. Again, it's farmer's role to work out when the right time for that is. Too early, and though looking ripe, the grain won't be swollen, too late and the crop might be ruined. Now, the fields lie in stubble, waiting for the next growing season to come around. Seemingly nothing is happening, but in time, the cycle will come round again and it will be time for ploughing again.

Do we act, as church, like a good farmer? Knowing when the conditions are right to prepare the ground, to sow the seed, to harvest? Knowing, at the end of the day, we labour in vain unless God blesses the act? And, much of what we may sow we may never see germinate, never mind harvested, for the work of the church is more like the work of a forester, where it could be decades, or even centuries, between a tree seed being planted and the tree being felled. In the meantime, the forest can be a rich habitat for animals, insects, bushes, flowers, ferns, lichen and so on. It can even be a place for people to relax, feel invigorated, to exercise in; a place where branches offer shelter for all.

Maybe that is church. A shelter for all. But what season of the forest of God are we in? I don't have that answer, but I pray together we may seek it so the worship and witness we undertake is to God's glory and in God's timing.

With every blessing

Susan

Summer Outing

There is no doubt that we had a stunning spell of weather over the summer months and on Monday 4th June, a group of 27 people from Killearnan, Knockbain and other friends went on a bus trip on one of those sunny days. Our first stop was at Brodie Countryfayre for coffee and 'blethers', followed by some retail therapy.

We then drove up over the Dava Moor to Grantown on Spey to the Grant Arms Hotel for soup, sandwiches, tea and coffee. After lunch everybody was given a choice of more retail therapy or going on a walk in the woods, organised by Jill. The walk was lovely on such a perfect day.

Then we were back on the bus for a short drive to the Heather Centre at Dulnain Bridge. A very interesting garden centre! Unfortunately the restaurant area had been ravaged by fire around a year ago, but despite that, due to their resilience, they are back operating with a small cafe, beautiful plants and they have just started to rebuild. More shopping!!!

The bus brought us all safely home about 5 pm after a very enjoyable outing.

A.M.

Inverness Street Pastors

We recently welcomed two of the Inverness Street Pastors to our morning service, and they spoke about the work which they do. The Street Pastors have been working in Inverness town centre for a number of years now, and are all trained volunteers from local churches who care about their community. They patrol in teams of men and women, to care for, listen to, and help people who are out on the streets. Whilst much of their work is done over the weekend nights, typically 10pm to 3.30am, they also patrol during the afternoons. In addition, their work has expanded to take in Hilton and the Merkinch/South Kessock areas on a weekend evening.

They engage with people, and work in conjunction with other agencies, such as the Police. The results have been encouraging, with a large reduction in recorded crime in the town centre, such as a 55% reduction in breach of the peace cases, 89% reduction in vandalism cases, and a 31% reduction in cases of theft. Simple things like providing flip-flops (instead of stilettos) to girls to protect their feet, emergency fleece blankets, potentially saving someone from hypothermia, or hot food or drink to someone in need.

Recently, they have employed the use of bicycles to enable them to patrol areas of the town like Hilton and the Ferry; and the provision of lollipops has been proven as an effective antidote to anti-social behaviour! The town centre can be an intimidating place for the unwary at the best of times, and we should commend the work of the Street Pastors as they go about their task of helping to make our streets safer for all. As a charity, they are dependent on voluntary donations to continue their work, and such donations will be gratefully received. Their local co-ordinator can be reached on 07761 293 108, or by email to their Administrator at robyn@loveinverness.org .

A.B.

German Brass Band Visit

On Friday the 24th July the German Big Brass Band were coming to play at Knockbain Church. I had heard rave reviews from their last visit to Killearnan but to be honest I wasn't sure it was my cup of tea!!

How wrong I was....I went along with 3 friends and what a great evening of entertainment we had.

The music was rousing, mixed in with amazing vocals from 4 young male singers who sang unaccompanied in both English and German, with testimonies and readings from the Band members.

The music covered a wide genre with Hymns, popular music and some classical pieces, played brilliantly and the audience was invited to join in with singing and actions.

The band leader gave us some insight and history into how as Christians they had come together and formed the band and travelled around sharing their music and passion.

It was all over too soon and, following many encores and a standing ovation, Susan and James gave a wonderful "Thank you" in both English and German, which went down very well.

As usual the Ladies of Knockbain did not let us down and had prepared and served a fantastic tea for everyone.

By the amount of chatter and fellowship in the hall afterwards it was clear that everyone had enjoyed the evening as much as me.

Looking forward to the next time.

Christine Paul

Children's letters to God

*"Dear God,
My teacher says the North Pole is not really at the top. Did you make any other mistakes?
Jimmy"*

*"Dear God,
That fairy you sent left 20p for my tooth and 50p for my brother's, so you still owe me 30p.
Peter"*

*"Dear God,
If you don't take the baby back – I won't clean up my room.
Anne"*



Baptism

On 5th August we welcomed baby Rowan, into our Church Family. Rowan came all the way from Vienna for this special occasion, with his Mum and Dad, Natasha and Struan. We hope to see them all again soon.

Tuesday Club

The Tuesday Club resumes on the last Tuesday of this month, the 25th September, following their summer break. The first speaker is Phil Dobson with his guide dog. Then in October you will have the opportunity to hear from the Inverness Street Pastors, in case you missed them when they came along to a morning service back in July. The speaker for the November meeting will be Jo Graham of Ness Soaps and I am sure there will be lots of lovely items to buy for Christmas presents.

Do try to come along to support these entertaining get-togethers and enjoy a lovely afternoon tea with home baking.

Flower Festival

The “Beauty of the Earth” Flower Festival was held over the weekend of the 24th August and was a huge success, raising over £1000 for Church funds.

A big thank you goes to the pupils and staff at Tore Primary, to Susan Munro and her team who prepared the amazing floral displays and to the members of Killearnan Art Group for their beautiful art work. Thanks also to those who provided the baking for the teas and welcomed visitors to the Church.

Our Fellowship Convenor, Anne McConachie, co-ordinated the whole event and must have had a number of sleepless nights in the run-up to the weekend. Well done, Anne, for making the event so successful.

One Sunday morning, a minister announced to his congregation:

*“My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons
a £500 sermon that lasts five minutes
a £200 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes,
and a £100 sermon that lasts a full hour ...*

Now we will take the collection.”



New Elders

George Bertram and Nicola MacDonell were ordained as elders of Killearnan Church at the morning service on 26th August. We welcome them to our Kirk Session.



The Highland Foodbank provides emergency food packages with enough food to last 3 meals for 3 days to people who would otherwise go hungry.

In this year's Harvest Appeal, they would be grateful for items from the following list:-

- Jars of pasta sauce
- Tins of tuna
- Tins of mince/ stew
- Sugar
- Cartons of milk
- Washing powder (small)

Future Events

Curry Evening - Friday, 26th October

Christmas Fayre – Saturday, 17th November

Keep an eye on the weekly orders of service sheets for further details of these events and more.....! Next edition of "the Grapevine" will be November, 2018.

"Ode to the Spell Checker"

Eye halve a spelling checker, it came with my pea sea
It plainly marcs four my revue miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye strike a key and type a word and weight four it to say
Weather I am wrong oar write it shows me strait a weigh.
As soon as a mist ache is maid it nose bee fore two long
And I can put the error rite its rare lea ever wrong.
Eye have run this poem threw it I am shore your pleased two

no,
Its letter perfect awl the weigh, my checker tolled me sew.

Scottish Charity No SC010319