



LIFE AT LOUDOUN

The autumn 2017 newsletter of Loudoun
Church of Scotland



‘God is our refuge and strength’

Information on services and events can be found in the Kilmarnock Standard, on our church Face book page Loudoun Church, on Twitter @loudounpromises and on the website: www.loudounchurch.org.

Dear Friends at Loudoun,

At a recent Sunday Evening Service we were reading from **Psalm 46**. The words of the Psalm were written many hundreds of years ago and yet in some senses they could have come from news reports of some of the recent devastating hurricanes, floods, storms, and earthquakes that have been affecting parts of the world.



v2 tells of the earth giving way and the mountains falling into the heart of the sea: v3 of the waters roaring and foaming and the mountains quaking with their surging: Sounds familiar!

v6 of the Psalm informs us that - nations are in uproar and kingdoms fall. This also is just so relevant to the international scene politically in parts of the world and the ongoing tensions we hear of.

The Psalmist lived through troubled times just as much as we are living through troubled times. I hope that as we see the way the writer of the Psalm coped with all he was facing that we also can gain assurance for our day, our times, and our lives whatever we may be coming through.

The Psalm begins in v1 with the reassuring words, “God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in times of trouble!” How positive is that? Twice in the Psalm the writer tells us, “The Lord Almighty is with us”. How we need to be constantly reminded of that in these days. The message given for the times of trial – “Therefore we will not fear”, and this is compounded by the verse that quite simple states, “Be still and know that I am God”.

The focus for the writer of the Psalm of so long ago, living through difficult times, is on the City of God where the Most High dwells. So our sights must be similarly fixed on the Heavenly Kingdom, trusting in Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. In the Letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament we read, “let us fix our eyes on Jesus, who for the joy set before Him endured the Cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God, consider Him...., so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

(Hebrews Ch 12 vs 2 and 3)

As your friend and Locum Minister let me encourage you as you read these words and as we face difficult and challenging days.

In the Lord’s Name,

Andrew

Sunday School—*What happens when the children leave the church building to head for the hall?*

Joan and Jean never quite know what each Sunday will bring!

The youngsters can rely on a mug of hot chocolate or a drink of juice along with one or two chocolate biscuits for a start! That takes care of one type of hunger! And they catch up on one another's news.

Then we pray together before the bible lesson is started. The children will tell you that we remember A -C-T-S : A for adoring God, C for confessing to Him that we've sinned, T for thanking Him for all his goodness and especially for His gift of a Saviour, and S for supplication or "please will you help" prayers.

We pray for the children who are supported and sponsored by us through the Christian organisation called Compassion. Since last year, our sponsored child is a little girl age 6 in a village in the highlands of Ecuador. Her name is Jhalys and we've sent money to help her education and her family. We recently had a first letter from her, and we will soon post a Christmas card and a paper gift to her, as well as a cheque to help her education and her family.



*Our lessons since the summer holidays have been on the story of Elijah. It's great to see the youngsters' responses to what they can increasingly read for themselves in the bible, and they are encouraged to look the passage up to make sure their teachers are getting it right! Sunday school teachers themselves are conscious of fresh insights into passages they have read for years, and trust that God will bring lasting fruit in these young lives where the seed has been planted. This is the other hunger which can be satisfied! Our own children (and their teachers) need the prayers of the congregation. **Jean Fleming***

The Flower Class meets on the first Monday of each month. We were particularly happy to welcome new members at this meeting raising our membership to 15 ladies.



Over the last few years we have enjoyed fellowship and company together while we increase and improve our knowledge of flower arranging. Proof of our improving skills can be seen each time they decorate the church for a special service.

Now that Harvest Thanksgiving is over our next big event will be Christmas. **Anne H. Scott**

Special Services

Marriage Conducted:-

16th September, - Adam Duncan and Lorna White asked to be married in the church congratulations to them and our prayers for their life together.

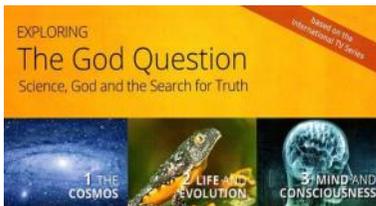


Funeral Services :-

11.07.17 – David Dunlop

27.07.17 – Eric Borland

“Thank you!” to all those who attended Presbytery in June for my installation as Moderator . It was a lovely and pleasant surprise to see so many well-wishers from Loudoun Church that night and I’m most grateful. It is very good to that I am in your prayers, **George Lind.**



Do you have friends or family members who would like to enter dialogue on the existence of God? I have twice run a DVD-led series entitled “Exploring the God Question”. It has formed the basis of many an exciting discussion. The series comes in 6 units and includes a Companion Guide. Ever so many

people nowadays are assuming that science has made God, or even any talk about Him, redundant. This series challenges that notion head-on. Please get back to me if you or any of your friends are interested. I’d be happy to run it in our home at a time that will suit most, or if numbers are too large, in a suitable alternative venue.

The Flower Ministry

continues week by week thanks to the generosity of church members.

I once again want to thank those who weekly contribute to the Flower Fund and also to those who assist me in the distribution of flowers each Sunday. Thank you also to members of The Flower Class who

willingly place the flowers in the sanctuary if I am away from home for any reason. Your pedestals improve with practice ladies!

Finally a huge 'thank you' to those who work in The Coffee Pot. Your gift to the Flower Ministry is greatly appreciated.

Anne H. Scott
Flower Convenor