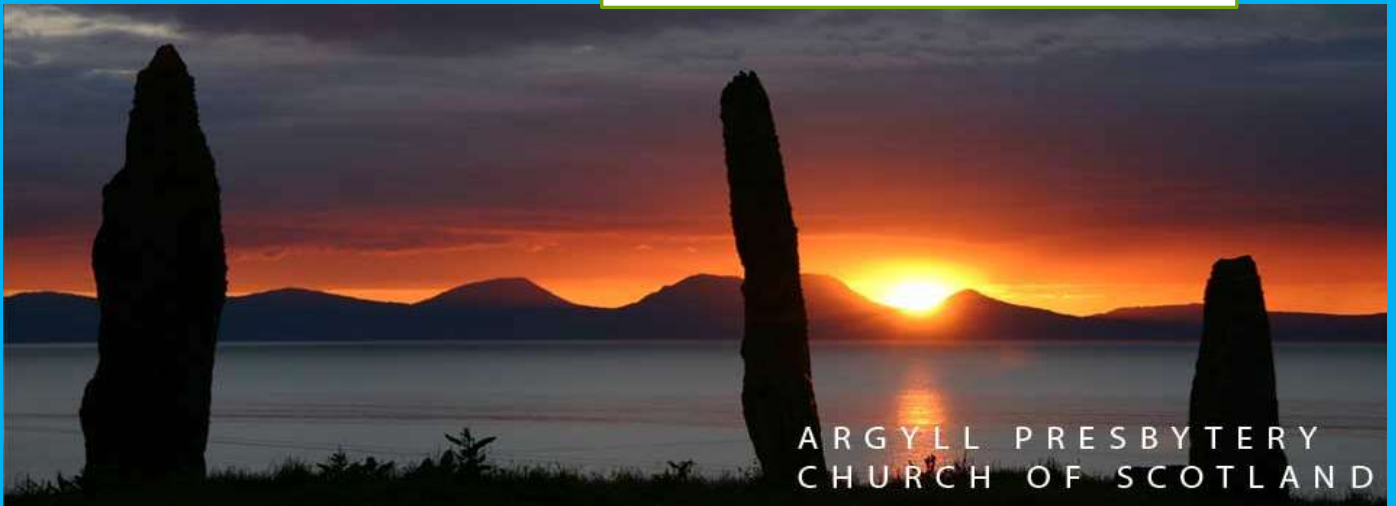


The Church of Scotland
PRESBYTERY OF Argyll

XXXXXXX Parish Church

LOCAL
CHURCH
REVIEW

OUR
CHURCH
TODAY



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Introduction

The Local Church Review (LCR) report that follows is your report; a report on your congregation and parish written by you – office bearers, members and minister. Some things have already been completed; for instance, much of the statistical information has been completed from Presbytery records. But what we want to see most are your opinions, thoughts, concerns, hopes and aspirations.

Every parish church is unique; every story is different; you know your own story better than anyone else. That is why you are asked to write your story, tell us of church life in your parish, tell us of your worship, evangelism, service, discipleship, fellowship and so much more. Your story is vital in understanding the life of your congregation.

Before visiting your congregation the team from Presbytery will have read your report with great care and will use it as a basis for their meetings with you and for the questions they ask. The written word conveys only part of a picture and visits and dialogue add so much more. These visits are a sign that we are in partnership – local church and Presbytery and we hope that all that follows reflects togetherness. Whilst some of what is asked is factual, such as numbers and compliance with legal requirements, the overall context is mission.

We hope that the questions asked are clear and that the processes to be followed are understood. However, the leader of the visiting team and/or the Convener of Superintendence is happy to be contacted for discussion or clarification.

The leader of the visiting team is Joe Soap Tel - 01234567893; email jsoap@clean-co.uk. My own contact details are; Tel 01680300001; email – JPaton@churchofscotland.org.uk The Presbytery Clerk, Mr W Stewart Shaw is also available to you; Tel 07711944807; email - Argyll@cofscotland.org.uk.

The pack has been produced using MS Word and you are asked to complete and respond electronically. Do not feel constrained by the size of the response boxes. As you type the boxes will expand to accommodate your text. Responses do not need to be wordy as the visiting team for the Superintendence Committee will discuss responses with you and will ask for more information if required.

LCR is now new – under ACT 1 of the General Assembly of 2012 LCR replaces the former Quinquennial Superintendence system. What we are doing in Argyll builds on the previous Superintendence scheme, and links in with the Plan for Presbytery.

We look forward to receiving this completed report by ????????. ????????

Johnny Paton
Convener of Superintendence

1. The story of your church

1.1 Suggested content:

Please tell us something of your church's history. Think back over the last ten years. Share the recent story of your congregation – the celebrations, the struggles, the dreams. Where have you seen God at work? How did you get where you are in church life? Where do you think you are?

The report that follows asks many questions and the answers given will tell much. Therefore, your story below need not be more than a very few paragraphs.

1.2 Your Church's Story:

2. Life of the congregation

Tell us about congregational life and its worship, fellowship, service, discipleship and evangelism. Please type responses in relevant box and it will expand to fit your text.

2.1 *Worship – The shared experience of meeting God; we gather to express our need for God and to express our gratitude for all that God has done for us.*

- **Style(s) of worship – describe a typical service format;**
- **Number of weekly services; patterns of worship;**
- **Musical range; praise band; organ; soloists; etc;**
- **Use of audio visual equipment;**
- **Congregational member involvement in leading worship;**
- **Anything else you would like to tell us?**

Responses:

2.2 *Evangelism - The calling of every Christian to be a witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is all the ways in which we share our Good News and bring others to the point of beginning their own journey of faith.*

- **How do you help people begin their journey of faith?**
- **Communication;**
- **Anything else you would like to say?**

Responses:

2.3 Service - *The living out of our faith in practical ways. Jesus called us to be servants of all and this is shown to others as we care for our neighbours.*

- **What systems of Pastoral Care (elder districts, etc.) do you have?**
- **How do you respond to the needs of others in the parish and beyond?**
- **How are you involved with school or other chaplaincies?**
- **In what ways are you involved with social issues?**
- **In what ways do you work in partnership with community groups or agencies and/or mission partnerships at home or abroad?**
- **Anything else you would like to say?**

Responses:

2.4 Discipleship - *The act of following Christ. It is about learning what it means to be a Christian as we experience life and question what we believe. The church should equip its members with "practical guidance for expressing their faith in the world during the week."*

- **How do you help people of all ages grow in their faith?**
Children, Young People, new members and adults
- **In what ways do you promote personal devotions, private prayer and opportunities to reflect on life experiences?**
- **Which resources do you use?**
- **Anything else you would like to say?**

Responses:

2.5 Fellowship - *The opportunity of experiencing God's grace and love in and through God's people; this is about people really getting to know each other.*

- **How do you build relationships within the church?**
- **How do you encourage people to meet outwith worship?**
- **Anything else you would like to say?**

Responses:

3. Congregation and Wider Church

3.1 Wider church – *Your relationships and involvement with Presbytery, central church structures and other denominations.*

- **How would you describe your involvement with Presbytery?**
- **Tell us about any relationships with Councils (and/or their committees) of the General Assembly.**
- **Tell us about any ecumenical relationships.**
- **Anything else you would like to say?**
- **Tell us about any partnerships you have with the World Church**
- **Tell us about your involvement with organisations like Christian Aid.**

Responses:

4. Resources – people, buildings, money

4.1 Human Resources – *People helping to make your mission statement a reality.*

- **Who are your ministry team members?**
- **What support is there for your minister/ministry team including admin support?**
- **How is training and development (in-service training, study leave, staff appraisals, etc.) supported?**
- **With your present staffing and volunteers are you resourced to achieve the developments highlighted in this report?**
- **Anything else you would like to say?**

Responses:

4.2 Buildings – *Sanctuary, halls, manse, church officer's house, etc.*

- **Describe how your church buildings are used,**
 - **What is their state of repair?**
 - **Describe their suitability for purpose?**
 - **Do you have a five year Property maintenance plan?**
 - **Anything else you would like to say?**
-

Responses:

4.3 Money, Time and Talents.

- **Comment on your ability to finance all you are currently doing.**
- **How is the work of your church financed – is it mainly from givings or is it dependent on income from hall lettings, legacy interest, etc?**
- **Are you over-dependent on givings from any particular age group or individuals?**
- **When did you last address stewardship, what stewardship programme are you using and when will stewardship next be addressed?**
- **Anything else you would like to say?**

Responses:

4 •

5.

Communication

5.1 Communication Strategy – *Tell us about your communication*

strategy/plan including website use:

- **How do you promote your vision and mission?**
- **How do you keep in touch with members?**
- **How do you encourage members to keep in touch with one another?**
- **How do you advertise your church and its activities?**
- **Anything else you would like to tell say?**

Response



