



February 2020 Newsletter



WELCOME

LORD'S DAY

Morning Worship—11.00am

Evening Worship—6.30pm

PRAYER MEETING

Thursday—7.30pm

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Word from the Manse.....2
- News & Events.....3

CONTACT DETAILS

Stornoway RPCS
 Bridge Community Centre
 Bayhead Embankment
 Stornoway, Isle of Lewis,
 Scotland, HS1 2EB

www.stornowayrpcs.org

info@stornowayrpcs.org

Scottish Charity No: SC043043

WORD FROM THE MANSE

Dear congregation,

This month brings us to another communion season. Growing up in Ireland, each communion season included the reading of the terms of membership, often printed in the bulletin also. A communion season is a good opportunity for all the communicant members of the church to be reminded of the vows they took before the Lord. If in the course of our self-examination we discover that we have grown lax in fulfilling our vows then we ought to repent by God's grace and yield to Him once again.

Reflecting on the terms of membership also gives a chance to those who are not communicant members to consider their own position. Are they a believer? Then they should, by God's grace, take their seat at the Lord's table. Is there something lacking in their faith? Why is that the case? Perhaps it is the time to weigh up these matters seriously and earnestly.

Here are the terms of membership in the RPCS:

Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the infallible Word of God and the supreme rule of faith and practice?

Do you believe that, because of your sin, you were under God's just condemnation and in need of salvation, and that Jesus Christ alone has paid the penalty for your sin?

Have you, by repentance and faith, received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour and do you promise that, by the help of the Holy Spirit, you will endeavour to forsake sin and live a life consistent with the Word of God?

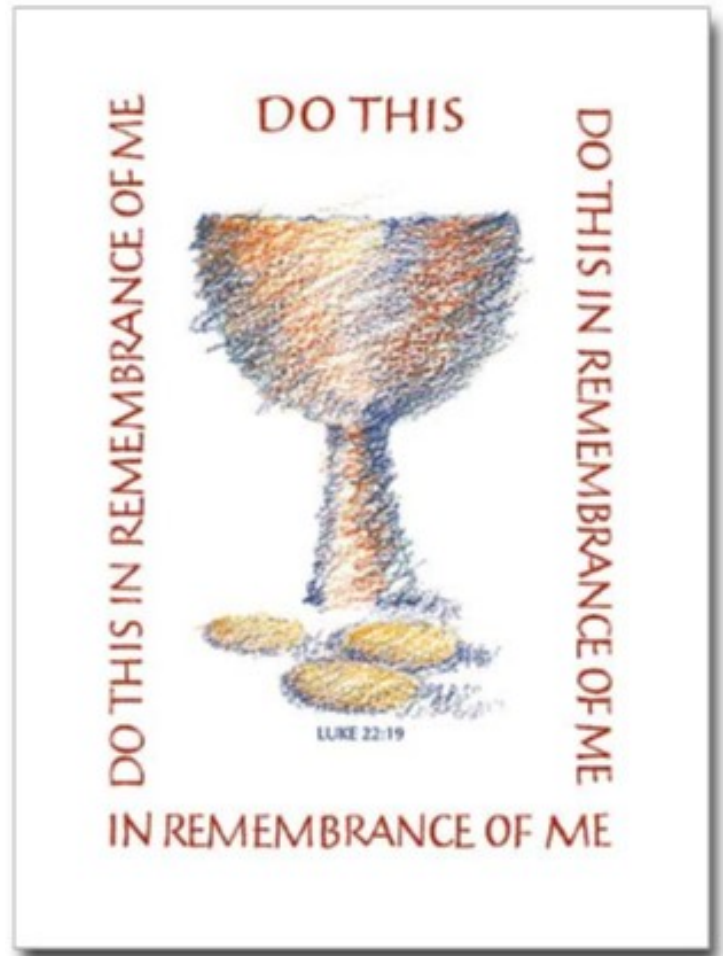
Do you believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is Lord of all, supreme in church and state and due the obedience of all mankind?

Do you promise to submit to the biblical authority of the elders as they encourage you to grow in your love for God and obedience to Him, and to be attentive to the Word of God, prayer, public worship, the duty of biblical giving and observing the sacraments?

The terms contain doctrines that must be believed in order to be a Christian as well as pointing to the necessary Christian experience (repentance and faith). Finally, the promise is made to submit to the Biblical authority Christ has placed in the Church, recognising that it is for our own good.

Let me encourage those who are communicant members to examine themselves by these questions, remembering that our testimony is not simply how we were saved by Christ but also how Christ is continuing to work in our lives since. Are you submissive to the elders? Are you heeding the Bible? Are you giving careful attention to prayer, both private and the public prayer meeting? Are you at worship on every occasion that you physically can be? Are you a tither and a cheerful giver? Are you seeking to observe the sacraments?

Let me also urge those who attend church but are not communicant members to examine yourself by these questions. Do you truly believe the Bible is God's Word? Do you realise the severity of your sin and guilt before God? Have you heeded the Gospel? Do you recognise that Christ is Lord of all and is owed your obedience?



In Christ,

Stephen

NEWS & EVENTS

FEBRUARY COMMUNION SERVICES

The February communion services are due to take place from 13h-17th February. The visiting minister will be Professor Robert McCollum. Professor McCollum is the Principal of the Reformed Theological College in Belfast, the seminary of the RPCI. He is Professor for Pastoral Theology and Homiletics. Robert was minister of Lisburn Reformed Presbyterian Church for over 37 years up to his retirement in November 2018. Robert is married to Sandra and has three grown up children and seven grandchildren.

All of the services, aside from the Lord's Day services, will be held in the Brethren Hall, as follows:

Thursday 13h February 7.30pm—**(Brethren Hall)**

Friday 14th February 7.30pm—**(Brethren Hall)**

Saturday 15th February 11.00am—**(Brethren Hall)**

Saturday 15th February 6.30pm—Prayer Meeting **(Brethren Hall)**

Lord's Day 16th February 11.00am—**(Bridge Centre)**

Lord's Day 16th February 6.30pm—**(Bridge Centre)**

Monday 17th February 7.30pm—**(Brethren Hall)**



Professor Robert McCollum

BOOK STUDY

Many of us find witnessing difficult. Should I speak up or keep quiet? How will I know what to say? What if they react badly? I don't think I know enough to answer their questions.

Randy Newman's book *Bringing the Gospel Home* is designed to help us think of attitudes in our hearts to help us witness to friends and family members. Many of you in the congregation have heavy burdens on your hearts because those that you love do not believe in the Saviour. Perhaps you struggle to know how to interact with them. This book gives some counsel to help us in our relationships. Many of the principles also apply to interactions with other people and strangers and so is useful in a wider context outside the family.

We are therefore planning a **monthly** book study at the manse to work through this book. The study will take place on a **Wednesday** evening at 7.30pm. As with the Christianity Explored Course I make the commitment that the discussion will **end promptly at 8.30pm**. This means that those who are busy can come knowing it is only a one hour commitment once a month. Of course everyone is welcome to stay on afterwards and chat if they would like.



The format will be **informal** and over a cup of tea and a biscuit. Each participant will have their own copy of the book and should try to read the scheduled chapter (one chapter per month), but if you don't manage the whole chapter you are still welcome to come! I will draw up some questions to guide our discussion. As with all books there will be parts we find more or less helpful and with books from American authors there will be parts more or less suitable to our context. Indeed even theologically there will be parts that we will discuss and ask if there is a better way. But the great thing about a book study is that it gets the discussion started and we can learn from each other too.

I want to really encourage you to come to these studies, if you are able. All Christians should be preparing themselves to give a reason for the hope that is in them – it ought to be a priority for us.

In terms of logistics, I am happy to order in bulk the copies of the book and try to get a good deal. I expect that the cost will be about £7 per person. **Please let me know asap** if you want me to get you a copy of the book so that I can ensure that we have enough. I will put a signup sheet on the table at church. If cost is a problem, please speak privately to me and I will cover the cost for you so that you can benefit from this study. I will intimate in good time when the study will begin but I expect it will be mid-March.

Stephen

GAMBIA COFFEE MORNING

The Gambia Partnership
Supporting Gospel work in the Gambia

THE GAMBIA PARTNERSHIP INVITES YOU TO OUR...

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 1st February,
10 AM-12 Noon
The Failte (Retirement) Centre

Find out more : www.thegambiapartnership.co.uk

“HE FORESAW MY
EVERY FALL, MY EVERY
SIN, MY EVERY
BACKSLIDING; YET,
NEVERTHELESS,
FIXED HIS HEART
UPON ME.”

ARTHUR W. PINK

“FAINT NOT; THE
MILES TO
HEAVEN ARE BUT
FEW AND
SHORT.”

- Samuel Rutherford