

## PASTORAL LETTER

*“Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past... see I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up, do you not perceive it?”...*

Dear Friends,

By the time most of you read this letter, I will be part of ‘past things’, but I hope still very much in the memories of folks at Cumbernauld Old Parish Church, both in the Village and at Balloch.

I begin this wee note with a promise from me to you all with love... My promise is this:

”I promise faithfully that you all will remain so very much in my thoughts and prayers as you step into the future with your lovely new Minister and as you all take on a new way of working together for Gods Kingdom”.

I often say to people that lists of names are dangerous things, for the longer the list, the more the likelihood is that someone will be missed, so I have decided not to begin here!

But it would be so very wrong of me not to write a note of appreciation, and so I say to you all collectively: “Thank you”.

I especially say this to all the members of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board for allowing me the privilege to Serve God and to lead Worship on so many occasions.

And I thank the encouragers and the people who made things happen. Those who were often working away in the background to ensure that all things came together in good order.

I will hope in the future to hear that the young people of the Church are doing well. Memories of them will always be precious to me, and the lovely plant they gave to me is thriving.

I will aye be contented to know that I have been valued as part of the Church and the Congregation. And I know that because – each Sunday, as we shook hands at the door, or drank tea together, or chatted together informally – I was greatly touched by the acceptance shown and kindnesses given. Never a truer thing has been said that as we set out to bless others, we are blessed tenfold in return.

Please be assured that the fellowship and friendships that have grown over the past year or so will never be forgotten.

I understand the ethos of the congregation at Cumbernauld Old Parish Church is to aim to be an inclusive family of God where all are welcome and everyone is valued and involved. And that as a Church, you aim to play an active part in the communities that you serve – reaching out with the love and joy of Jesus Christ.

All I can say is that from my perspective, dear friends you do all this and more. Please continue in this way.

The Scripture verses quoted at the beginning of this letter goes on to say,

*"I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland".*

We can have great joy and hope in our God, who has done just that for all of us.

He is making his way known, and He will continue to make his way and his purposes clear to those who follow him with faith and courage.

May we trust these words to be true, and may God richly bless you all.

Warm regards

Reverend Marion Perry