

## Glen Funnel – The Induction

Following the service at which Caitlin had preached, her mini biography was made available the following Sunday. She had been a minister for about 9 years and had served in a united parish with 2 churches in Angus. She had studied Social Science at Aberdeen University, combining that with Celtic Religious Studies, but following that she had gone on to do a ministerial training course, then after her ordination she had worked as a hospital chaplain. They were used to living in the countryside and the children had always had transport to school. Her husband, James, had begun to develop MS about 5 years previously, but was able to work from home. Their children – Margo, who was just 16, and Charlie who was nearly 14, were well into secondary school, but quite happy to move on and complete their schooling elsewhere. It was still fairly near the beginning of the School Year, so Mum and Dad were praying that there would not be too much disruption. As a family they had been involved in Scripture Union for a number of years and both children had apparently become Christians at that year's summer camp, not that the short bio gave that information.

The first convenient date for Caitlin's induction was Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October. It gave Caitlin time to tidy up things at her old parish and allow the Presbytery time to organise the service and ensure that sufficient Presbytery members could be present. It had been suggested that an online induction service might be suitable, seeing that the Rev Alastair Duncan had been installed as the parish minister of St George's Tron in that manner. It was eventually decided that if the Presbytery members who would attend, managed to get to Dunoon, then a minibus would be the best option.

There was great excitement in Invercross and Jim McDade, the convenor of the Nomination Committee, was now happy to be free from his responsibilities; he could sit back and again be a regular member of the congregation. Like other churches in a similar situation, a working party had been set up to spring clean the buildings and sort out the ground around the grave yard. A separate

group were responsible for the manse and had been in touch with Caitlin to see if there was anything specific that needed her input.

The service of Induction was to follow the second, newer format published by the Mission and Discipleship Council, described as being 'a more radical revision which expresses something of creativity in worship within the Church today'. The Moderator was selecting hymns and readings and had asked one of the Paisley ministers to come and preach. Much baking took place in the run up to the service for the social event afterwards.

The weeks just seemed to fly by and the big day arrived. The regular congregation had grown slightly since the Burger Supper and a few other interested villagers we also present. The church was the fullest it had been in a long while.

Eilidh had been asked to make the introductions: *On behalf of the congregation of Glen Funnel, I welcome each of you. We are here because God has led us to this time and place in the journey of faith of our community. This place of worship and living is our spiritual home and today we celebrate as we reaffirm through this service of induction whose we are and who God has called us to be.* The service then continued as per the format: there were readings from the Old and New Testaments, an excellent sermon, the proclamation of the Creed and then what was described as 'a very brief account of the story of the congregation leading to the appointment'. You already know most of the story, so we will skip over that!

The Moderator then asked Caitlin the appropriate questions and having answered them she signed the oddly named Formula (a term from generations past, relating to the Westminster Confession of Faith): *I believe the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith contained in the Confession of Faith of this Church. I acknowledge the Presbyterian government of this Church to be agreeable to the Word of God, and I promise to observe the order of worship and the administration of all public ordinances as the same are or may be allowed in this Church.*

He then continued: *Members of Clyde Presbytery, come to serve God in the ordination of Caitlin Beattie. God has called you to Glen Funnel, come and be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament..... Among God's people, Caitlin has confessed her faith, she has affirmed her commitment to the life and work of this Church and to the work of ministry within it and she has accepted a call to serve God within this congregation – let us stand and pray for her together:*

Following the prayer, the Moderator continued: *I now declare you to be inducted to the office of the Holy Ministry in this church and as token thereof we give you the right hand of fellowship.* And so, Caitlin was offered the Right Hand of Fellowship by the Presbytery members and selected members of the congregation. The service then drew to a close.

Following the service everyone went through to the church hall for the refreshments, which were followed, to most people's surprise a Ceilidh, the talent among the expanding congregation was amazing.

Caitlin and family had moved in at the beginning of that week, school half term week, so there was minimal disruption. What would her first service in post be like? How would she settle in? Perhaps another Burger Supper was in order.