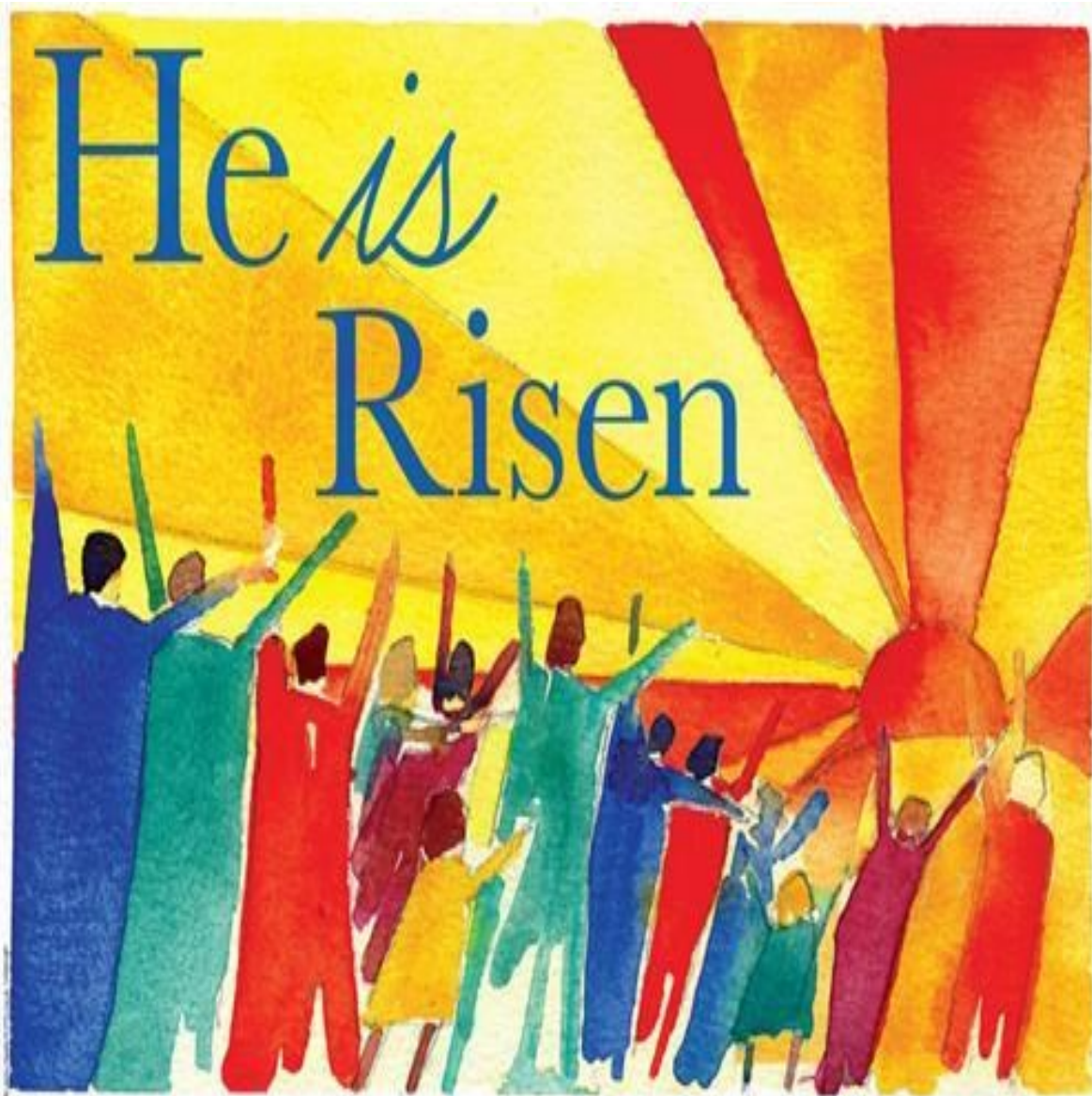


April 2021

# The Parishioner



The magazine of the Portland Parish Church of Scotland: Troon



## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**With God's support we are developing Portland as a dynamic, Spirit-led Church impacting on our town and beyond through encouragement, nurture and service**

Christos Anesti!  
Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed.



**T**hose are the ancient words that the early church would have used to greet one another during the season of Easter. To say that Christ has Risen is to say the God continues to surprise us at the depth, and length, and height to which God goes to show us love. While we do like to focus on the Risen nature of Easter, the lead up to Sunday morning's event is noteworthy as well. Washing the feet of his disciples, making a meal holy, teaching a new commandment, forgiving his betrayer and denier, are also noteworthy. The length and depth of God's love is truly made known to us in ALL of the activities of Holy Week. It is my hope during the season of Easter, you will see the depth of God's love made known to you in all that you see and do and speak.

Let us pause and shout Alleluia!

Christos Anesti!  
Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!

Rev. Mary Elizabeth Prentice-Hyers (Mel)



## Holy Week Services

The online services are available through a link on the Troon Old website –  
<https://www.troonold.org.uk/holyweek/>



Tuesday, 30th March	Troon Nazarene Church provides evening worship online
Wednesday, 31st March	Seagate Church provides evening worship online
Thursday, 1st April	7.30 pm Maundy Service of Communion in-person at Portland Parish Church
Thursday, 1st April	Online worship from Troon Churches. Provide your own communion in the comfort of your own home
Friday morning, 2nd April	Lighthouse Church provides online worship
Friday evening, 2nd April	Portland Church provides online worship
Saturday evening, 3rd April	St. Ninians Church will stream their Easter Vigil starting at 7.30 pm
Sunday sunrise 4th April	St. Meddan's Church will provide sunrise service online
Sunday 4th April 10.30 am	Portland Parish Church in-person worship as well as an online service. <b>Come celebrate Our Risen Lord!</b>

## A Church on the Way

**A**s we move through the pandemic, governments are being challenged to construct an exit route out of lockdown. Churches and churchgoers over the last twelve months have had to find ways of coping with whatever the current situation demanded. And ways have been found.

As we consider how and when we meet again, often people talk about getting back to normal. Perhaps though **back** is not the best word. The covid crisis has forced many people to rethink. What really matters to us? How can we achieve it?

Can we pool our ideas for positive actions to grow the church in Troon into a vibrant force for good in our community, reaching out to spread the good news of Christ's gospel to all?

There are many still living in Troon who used to be members of Portland. Could they be invited back, reminded that the church is ready to welcome them?

What can we offer the teenage generation whose studies, friendships and whole lives have been disrupted by lockdown?

There are so many areas to consider.

Concrete ideas and constructive suggestions are urgently needed. Getting *back to normal* is NOT enough

*Sandra McCallum*

# Housegroup ZOOOOOOM

It's not the same as meeting together but.....we still enjoy the zoom. So much so that we will have two dates for you at the end, always 2 weeks apart so easy to look up.

And we discussed Mothering Sunday, many of us of course not seeing our mothers or our children. Awful isn't it> But it will get better.

Medieval mothers probably only saw their children infrequently, and Mothering Sunday was the day when they could come home from field labour or from being in service. Simnel cake was on offer; lovely if you love marzipan, and goodies which otherwise you couldn't eat in Lent.

And the organ and singing were allowed in church. Lucky them. Easter without singing.....still we have lovely organ playing.

We veered onto a wide ranging discussion centring on Judging people , or rather NOT judging people, and on nurture and support as a Christian community. And our prayer can be as relevant to mothers or merely caring.

Our Prayer went like this

Gather us now before you , O God,  
as a hen gathers her brood to protect them.  
Like a mother you gather your people to you ,  
You are as gentle with us as a mother with her children.  
As we meet today and follow your example,  
protect us, support us, and feed us  
with your unconditional love . Amen

Next meeting :       14th April 7.30 pm  
                              28th April 7.30 pm

Barbie Short: [byshortoo@gmail.com](mailto:byshortoo@gmail.com) : All are very welcome to join us .

**OUR NEXT ISSUE OF THE  
PARISHIONER WILL BE IN  
MAY 2021 POSTED AT THE  
BEGINNING OF THAT MONTH  
PLEASE SEND ANY  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR  
MAGAZINE TO —parishioner45@gmail.com**

**WE WOULD BE VERY GLAD TO HEAR OF ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE  
TO SHARE—YOUR THOUGHTS AND EXPERIENCES AND NEWS!**

## Christian Aid week 2021

Christian Aid week is the 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May and the focus is on the climate crisis, in particular the need for a reliable source of water. In Kenya, the cycle of severe drought and flooding has led to reduced or damaged crops. The extra demand on water supplies, due to increased hand washing in the fight against coronavirus, has meant that current supplies dry up quickly.



There will not be a house-to-house collection undertaken by our church members this year but there are ways in which you can support the appeal.

**300,000 steps:** Get sponsors to encourage you take just under 10,000 steps a day and challenge yourself to take 300,000 steps in May. Sign up at [caweek.org](https://www.caweek.org) and donate.

**Kiltwalk across Scotland 23-25 April 2021:** Register at [thekiltwalk.co.uk](https://www.thekiltwalk.co.uk) and your funds will be topped up by 50% thanks to the Hunter Foundation. You can take on any Kiltwalk Inspired challenge you wish – go for a walk (of any length), a cycle, jump on a trampoline or even a family scavenger hunt!

You decide on your challenge and as long as you're raising funds for your chosen Scottish charity ... anything goes!

If you simply want to donate then log on to <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

**Cheques:** can be posted to Christian Aid, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL

Thank you to everyone for listening to the voices of those in need around the world.

Margaret Weir and Barbie Short



# Malawi Partnership Update

The latest message from our partner congregation in Limphasa, Northern Malawi, brought the unwelcome news that their main staple crops of maize and rice have been badly damaged by insect infestation and by drought respectively. Sadly this will leave many families with insufficient food in the weeks ahead causing them real hardship. On learning of this situation Portland's Kirk Session has had further discussions with their minister, Rev Asayiwe Mwenitete and in turn with their Kirk Session, to offer some immediate financial assistance to help the congregation with measures to feed those in greatest need.

Thanks to the generosity of Portland's members in responding to an appeal for funds to assist the Limphasa congregation through the difficulties it faced as a result of the Covid pandemic we have been able to remit 2.4 million MWK (approximately £2,450) which will now be allocated by the Kirk Session in Limphasa to include:

- hunger relief support
- further Covid prevention measures
- education fees for the manse family
- funding towards the construction of the pulpit inside their new church
- additional funding to help with completing the flooring works in their new church building

Every pound that is donated makes a real difference to the lives of our partnership friends as they reach out to their congregation and the wider community with necessary support to help combat the spread of Covid, and now also in providing aid to those faced with food shortages. Our prayers and ongoing support are greatly appreciated as they seek to fulfil God's mission for them in Malawi, known as the warm heart of Africa, and among some of the world's poorest communities.

If you would like to assist in supporting our partner congregation with a donation, this can be done online using the following information:

Troon Portland Church  
Bank Sort Code 80-09-88  
Account number 00931213  
Reference C-19 Malawi

*Bill Weir*

## I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

### Recent Deaths

Lyndsay Hoyle	7.2.21
Donald MacLeod	19.3.21



Donald MacLeod



## FREE DIGITAL SUPPORT HELPLINE

### HAVING A BIT OF TROUBLE USING YOUR DEVICE?



Would you like some support to  
connect online with your  
Phone, Laptop or Tablet?

- Set up and use emails
- Order prescriptions online
- Connect to family & friends
- Find information
- Help connect to your Broadband
- And so much more.....

You can call **South Ayrshire Lifelines Digital Support** on  
**Freephone (Mon – Fri 9am -5pm)**

# 0800 432 0510

Our dedicated team member will support you over the  
phone to try and resolve your issues or to help you get  
online. This service is **FREE**.

Note: We cannot assist with device maintenance or repairs. Neither can we support you  
with devices given to you through one of our partner programmes such as Connecting  
Scotland.

Scottish Registered Charity: SC028234

### Smiling Is Infectious by Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious,  
you catch it like the flu,  
When someone smiled at me today,  
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner  
and someone saw my grin.  
When he smiled I realized  
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile,  
then I realized its worth.  
A single smile, just like mine  
could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,  
don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic quick,  
and get the world infected!



Below is the prayer I used for Mothering Sunday, 14 March 2021. It is modified from a prayer written by Rev. Patty Lawrence which she posted on her blog: A Pearl Down Under.—Mel

Holy God, today we pause and remember the many faithful women of the bible,  
who provide strength and comfort  
in their love for God and family.

We remember Sarai  
who was taunted by others in the household  
because of her inability to have children.  
All-encompassing God,  
we pray for those who feel excluded like Sarai.



We remember Esther,  
who was adopted and raised by her cousin.  
God who embraces us all,  
we pray for those who cannot be raised by their parents,  
for a short time or permanently.

We remember Jochebed, the mother of Moses,  
who placed him into a raft on the river.  
Redeeming God,  
we pray for parents who struggle to raise their children  
and who seek radical solutions to provide for their families.

We remember Hannah,  
who loved her child so much she handed him over to another to raised.  
Loving God,  
we pray for parents who have placed their child in another family.

We remember Naomi,  
who grieved the death of her sons.  
God, who grieves with us,  
we pray for parents who mourn the death of a child  
We remember Ruth,  
who gave up her family to be family to another.  
Inclusive God,  
we pray for those who choose to be family  
to those isolated by culture or language or distance.

We remember Elizabeth,  
who had a child in old age  
and we remember Mary,  
who had a child as a teenager.  
Ageless God,  
we pray that as a community we accept people of varying life stages  
and responsibilities and relationships.



We remember other people not named in the Scriptures,  
like the mother of the prodigal son  
and the woman at the well.  
Companion God,  
we pray for those who wait for a phone call or a visit,  
cut off from family and friends by distance and disagreement.

Nurturing God, we give thanks for those  
who enrich our lives by their presence  
who teach us about your abundant love  
who encourage us to journey in faith.

We pray these things in the name of the one who taught us to love saying:

Our Father,  
who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.



Resurrection Garden in  
Portland grounds

Sometimes, amongst all the angry posts,  
politics, global warming and stress, you just  
need a picture of a mouse sleeping in a flower



Thank you Sheila .....

**Locum Minister:** Rev. M. E. Prentice-Hyers

**Interim Moderator:** Bill Duncan

**Session Clerk:** John Reid

**Treasurer:** Catriona McKellar

**Church Officer:** Ruaridh McKellar

**Church Office:**

**Organist/Music Convener:** Dorothy Howden

**Hall's Convener:** Catriona McKellar

**The Parishioner:** Margaret Short

**Website:**

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