

May 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

Pentecost comes from the word ‘pentecoste’ meaning ‘fiftieth day’ and is 50 days after Easter, a time that the church pauses to remember the birth of the church. According to scripture in Acts 2:1-13, God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower witnesses to the resurrection. This began in the speaking of tongues so that all people may hear the good news of the gospel in their native language. With the gift of the Holy Spirit the early church is set on a trajectory to grow.



This year on Pentecost, 23 May, we will gather together to welcome a new member and ordain a new elder. That is a gift in and of itself. Growing our congregation and adding to the leadership of the church are both ways that invite people into the church and allow us to send them out into the world.

We will also be partaking in communion, only the second time since the pandemic began in March 2020. Communion will look and feel different because we will take communion in individual pre-sealed cups. While they are small, they do the job of joining us together in spirit to celebrate the sacrament of communion. If you are anxious about the ability to open the cups, do not fear, people will be on hand to help you.

In celebrating communion, adding a new member, and increasing our kirk session, Pentecost will indeed be a day of celebration. Since the Holy Spirit, unseen like the wind, is represented by flame, breath, fire, the traditional liturgical colour of Pentecost is Red. I hope you will join me in wearing red and help celebrate the birth and continued growth of the church.

Pastoral Note:

This past year has been a strange time to attempt to establish relationships. I started at Portland Church weeks before the world went into a lockdown of unheard-of isolation. It grieves me that I have not gotten to know and form relationships with all of you.

As restrictions continue to ease, I am happy to come for a visit, especially now that the weather is warmer, and we can sit in the garden. If you are in need of a phone call or visit, please let me or your district elder know.

Rev. Mary Elizabeth Prentice-Hyers

Housegroup looked at 2 Corinthians ch 9 v 6 onwards

The theme was *giving*. God loves a cheerful giver (v7)

I think we all know the saying about reaping what we sow, and casting our bread on the waters, but we all felt we need to think a little more deeply into this. After all, giving often seems to refer to money. And of course, money is important, we cannot live without it.

What is more important is giving generously of time and talents.

We all know people who give and people who take. How much more does Life mean if we are givers? How much more can we achieve as givers? It takes thought and it takes time, but it does indeed benefit us as much as those we give to.

It is and should be part of our Christian life. It can be as small as smiling!

It can be as large as spending ages on helping an organisation to flourish.

It can be walking 300,000 steps for Christian Aid week, which some of our members we hope are going to achieve.

www.christianaid.org.uk

[300,000 Steps Challenge](#)

Get Fit whilst raising funds. Walk, Jump, Skip, Hop, Run.

The interesting aspect of HG is that taking quite a small part of the bible can give us an hour of thinking time. We have read these verses before, but have we really thought about them? We leave each other feeling better, feeling good and that is worth a great deal.

So let us all think about giving in whatever way we can.....and smile!

Next meeting : **Wednesday May 12th 7.30 pm**
 Wednesday May 26th 7.30 pm

You're very welcome to join us, for any meeting - contact Barbie on
byshortoo@gmail.com

Barbie Short

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Recent Deaths

Mrs. Jean Fraser of Sanderling View
April 2021

Mr. Bob Jardine of Sanderling View
21st April 2021

Spirit of God, In a world still airless from lockdown, Come, breathe new life into the way we live. In a Church still breathless from the challenge to change, Come, breathe purpose and steadiness in the way we witness.



In our lives still recovering from a season of weariness and restriction, Come, breathe hope into our hearts and souls. Spirit of God, Come as flame, to purge and brighten, Come as water, to wash and refresh, Come as breath, to warm and stir.

Come as dove, to hover in presence and protection.

Spirit of God, In this day let us be challenged and comforted, Stilled and made restless As we respond to the world around us.

Fill us with gladness, fill us with wonder, Fill us with vision, fill us with dreams. Spirit of God, Give us grace to be shaped by You, And transformed by You, And illuminated by You, And lifted up by You.

Into our faithfulness breathe compassion. Into our compassion breathe insight.

Into our insight breathe action.

Spirit of God, Move over the arid places of our lives, And bring us, in time, to blossom with Your fruit: Love, joy, peace, Patience, kindness, goodness, Faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Amen

First appeared in May 2021 edition of Life and Work

**OUR NEXT ISSUE OF THE
PARISHIONER WILL BE IN
JUNE 2021 POSTED AT THE
BEGINNING OF THAT MONTH TO COVER THE SUMMER MONTHS
THE NEXT ISSUE WILL THEN BE THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE
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!**

On this day when Troon reopens after five months of lockdown and Coronavirus appears to be receding, if not actually defeated, we can see some freedom and happiness on the horizon. We can look back on Troon's role with pride. Not only were there multiple offers of help to those who were unable or unwilling to go out, but also essential shops felt safe and welcoming.

Best of all, our open spaces like the beach, Ballast Bank, Fullarton Woods, the Library gardens were always attractive. Nobody was questioned as to their provenance – although this happened elsewhere. On a very hot summer day the beach was busy, and I don't believe these families were all from Dundonald, although 5 miles was the range of permitted travel at that time. Other places were not at all welcoming, terrified of the virus affecting them. At that time, I started to wonder "What would Jesus do?" and remembered the lepers He healed. He did not keep them at arm's length because He might catch leprosy, but waded in to cure them. The least we as a town could do was offer fresh air, seaside activity, and leisure.

The Beach Kiosk had customers in the worst of weather and service with a smile was the order of the day – every day.

Photographs taken on the 2nd January and more recently of the Library Gardens.

Avril McDonald



Avril posts photographs on our website each week—did you see her lamb for Shepherd's Sunday?

A small team is planning to undertake a 300,000 step challenge to raise money for Christian Aid. Each of us will walk or run 300,000 steps in the month of May and although many of you do this on a regular basis, we would be very grateful for your support. This is an opportunity to donate to Christian Aid in a year when there have been no collections or events to support charities. We have called ourselves the Portland Plodders.

The website for donations is www.JustGiving.com/PortlandPlodders

Thank you, Christine Nairn, Clare McDonald, Julie Gray and Jane Potts



JUST BEEN JABBED?
Here's what you need to know



Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Symptoms to watch out for over the next few days are:

- Bouts of extreme smugness.
- Sense of superiority over anyone who hasn't had a vaccine.
- Absurd curiosity over whether your friends have had AstraZeneca or Pfizer.
- A need to tell everybody how short the queue was and how smashing all the volunteers are.
- Compelling desire to take a photo of your vaccination card and post it on social media.
- Misguided feeling of immortality.
- Failure to understand why you still can't go on a foreign holiday.
- Ability to annoy the hell out of 20-year-olds by asking "When are you going to have yours... Oh they've run out, have they?"

For those very grateful to be going for their second vaccination

Troon Churches Together 23.04.21

Holy Week joint services took place with participation from the following: the Church of the Nazarene, Pastor David Rudge; Seagate Evangelical Church, Pastor Richard Woods, Troon Old, Rev. David Prentice-Hyers; Portland Parish Church, Rev. Mary Elizabeth Prentice-Hyers; and St. Ninian's Scottish Episcopal Church. There was a Saturday Vigil, a Sunday Sunrise service and a joint virtual choir featured in the week's worship.

Eastertainment took the form of inviting families to book bags on line to celebrate and join in via the Messy Church website to watch specially prepared videos. Each bag contained a book with the Easter story and accompanying crafts on the theme of New Life: New Hope. All two hundred bags were taken up and feedback has been very positive.

Before the lockdown Helen Hogg had outlined her ideas at Troon Churches together for what was to become The Micah Project, but after lockdown it was structured differently. It was based in St Meddans Church under her leadership, the auspices of the Community and World Concern Committee and was financed by grant money from South Ayrshire Council.

The Project took forward three main initiatives, Well-Being, new2U clothes and a food project. The Messy Church craft team were heavily involved in making up Well-Being bags which were issued in March and contained craft ideas and games, but this was the only area where TCT were directly involved. In the Spread Out food project, 1400 meals were provided to families this Easter, deliveries by the Rotary Club and other volunteers. The new2U service is on-going.

Sandra McCallum



Malawi Partnership Report

This month's report brings news of a wonderful personal achievement by Rev Asayiwe Mwenitete who is the minister of our partner congregation in Limphasa, Northern Malawi. It takes the form of an exchange of WhatsApp messages which are shared below.

Bill Weir

Morning Bill,

Am grateful to inform you that on 11 th May 2021, I will be graduating with a bachelor's degree in Theology at the University of Livingstonia.

I therefore would like to invite you, your family and the entire Troon Portland Church to virtually join me and my family to celebrate this memorable event in my life. The more interesting news on the same is that I have passed the examinations with a Credit. To God be the glory.

Asayiwe.

Congratulations! What lovely news to share with us. That is a great result to achieve and testament to a lot of dedicated study over a considerable period of time. It is most kind of you to invite me and the entire Troon Portland Church to join in your special day of celebration of gaining a Credit.

I would like to share the good news of your success with our Kirk Session and would appreciate hearing from you with some more information to help us to know more about the course and how you managed to study e.g. was it all distant learning or had you to attend in person for parts of it? Was it a set program of studies or did you get to choose special topics of particular interest to you? I presume that you have been studying for this degree over a number of years. Can you share the timeframe to help me to understand how long it had taken and the dedication you have given to complete it while also being a very busy parish minister with additional presbytery responsibilities? You have a story to tell and I look forward to hearing it from you if you are happy to share.

Hello Bill

Thank you so much for the appreciation of the Kirk Session on my success of university education of a Bachelor's degree in Theology.

To share you some more information of how I managed to get this degree with a credit, in fact it has been a very tough time for me as you have already alluded to it that being a parish Minister with presbytery duties.

It was a two years course from 2018-2020. This is because I already have a diploma in Theology so I was upgrading my Theology education. It was a distant learning where sometimes I could attend classes for one to two weeks and come back to the manse. I tell you I could sleep very little hours, but spent a lot of my time with my studies. Sometimes when I am at school then if we have holy Communion or any church activity I could make sure I don't miss the activity more especially holy Communion, guilds committee, funeral of an elder and Kirk sessions during weekends.

We were supposed to graduate on 12/10/2020 but due to the increase of COVID-19 cases in the country, then it was postponed to early this year. The first proposed scheduled date was in February, it failed again on the same reason. Finally it is on 11/05/2021. It really was not easy for me but I thank God that finally I have completed the course with good results though a distinction was going to be a very good grade for me but have not managed it. It was a self-sponsored program with my little stipend I get I managed to pay for my education. The good thing of it was fees payment was by instalment. I was intending to proceed and register for a master's degree course for another two years, soon after getting my first degree paper. But this now will be tougher than the first degree since it will need more time for concentration, it needs one to have good time for his/ her studies, it is also expensive, it was at MK1,500,000.00 per year. With the unstableness of our Kwacha things goes up every time.

I have not yet made a final decision on this matter because I want to have a spare two years as years of preparations for the program. I may register for master's degree in 2022/2023 though normally it is good to continue with school as the brain is still full of school stuff. Pray for me on this.

Asayiwe

Am sure this will help you to know how I have managed to get a bachelor's degree in Theology. Please pass my tender greetings to my brothers and sisters in Christ in Scotland, in particular Troon Portland Church.

Asayiwe

We are fortunate in Portland to have such a well prepared and edited Parishioner, The following have appeared in church bulletins or have been announced in churches.



Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off- let the church help

Miss Charlene Mason sang ' I will not pass this way again' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

The rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing ' Break forth into joy'

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5pm- prayer and medication to follow.

The sermon this morning will be ' Jesus walks on the water' The sermon this evening, 'Searching for Jesus'

At the evening service tonight the sermon topic will be ' What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening there will be hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.


This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the alter.

Weight watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at side entrance.

The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7pm.The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

Submitted by Jane Potts



Count your **smiles** instead of your tears.
 Count your **friends** instead of your enemies.
 Count your **joys** instead of your sorrows. Count your **blessings** instead of your problems. And **trust God** through it all.

The meaning of life



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