

August 2020

The Parishioner



The magazine of the Portland Parish Church of Scotland: Tron

Word To All

Be strong
and take heart,
all you who hope
in the Lord.

Psalm 31:24 NIV



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

We have been building forts and dens in our house lately. In one of the sofa ottomans we store all of the quilts my mother and my grandmother have made for us over the years. The quilts make great covers for dens and forts and we have plenty in our house. My mother made a baptismal quilt for each of the boys with biblical symbols stitched into the squares. She has also made several t-shirt quilts for Dave from all of the week-long residential camp t-shirts he acquired while doing youth ministry. But as we were bringing out ALL of the quilts, we ran across one that the boys had not seen before. This twelve blocks quilt is a bit older and each of the 12 blocks has a different design. Angus asked, "What is this?" Pointing to the snowman in the upper left-hand corner.



I went on to explain that the twelve blocks marked the twelve months of the year. Each month depicts a scene that might be typical that particular month. For example, January, a snowman, February a heart, July has fireworks (this is an American quilt so the 4th of July is of note), etc.

I tried to explain that their great grandmother made this quilt 20 years ago not knowing who they were, but with the tremendous hope that one day, her grandchildren, my generation, would pass along a quilt to their children. Finlay, my six-year-old asked, "How did she know who we were?"

Without getting too scientific, too biological, or just too much, I answered, "Well, her love for me was so big, so hopeful, that one day, I could share it with you."

In our gospel lessons this summer, we have been working through the parables of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew. In Matthew we see Jesus speak about the sower, the weeds, the mustard seed, and feeding the 5,000. In the parable of the sower, Jesus says the Kin-dom of God is like and compare God's Kin-dom to a mustard seed, yeast, hidden treasure, and a net cast into the sea to fish.

What could we compare God's love to that might make it more understandable? With the simple explanation of why my grandmother made a quilt for them, I found myself explaining to my children God's love for them. Before they were born, they were loved.

God's love for us is that deep. Before we are able to articulate, before we are able to think and feel, God's love wraps us into God's fold. We then see God's love enacted throughout our lives in ways that catch us off guard.

If you had to finish this sentence, what would it look like: God's love is like

God's love is like a grandmother's love for her granddaughter that it might be shared with her children. God's love is like feeding those that are hungry so that everyone has enough. God's love is like looking out for what is best for the whole community rather than just ourselves.

This month, what does God's love look like to you?

Rev. Mary Elizabeth (Mel) Prentice-Hyers

See sermon on 26 July to understand the use of the word Kin-dom.

Message from the Session Clerk

Dear members and friends of Portland

The easing of restrictions by the Scottish Government has allowed the possibility of Portland Church reopening its building for worship. We hope to reopen the church for Sunday worship soon, but we must be cautious in our approach following the best advice on offer from the Scottish Government and the Church of Scotland.

We can only reopen the church building for worship if we put the following measures in place to ensure that everyone can worship in as safe an environment as possible.

The worship service will last around 20 minutes.

There can be no singing.

Only the church sanctuary will be used.

Entry will be by the front west door and a one-way system will be operated.

Everyone must give their name and contact details (for Trace and Protect, if required).

A maximum of 50 people are allowed in the building.

People must sit at a marked pew space (families may sit together).

Exit will be by the two front doors and the west side-door.

We must all follow the latest Scottish Government guidelines by:

Maintaining physical distancing advice (currently 2m).

Washing or sanitising our hands on entering.

Wearing a suitable face covering while in the building.

Wiping down hard surfaces on entry and before we leave.

The church sanctuary will be cleaned before worship and all hymn books and bibles removed from the pews. Pew cushions will also have to be removed to allow the seats to be wiped clean. You can bring your own cushion and bible if you wish but they must be removed from the church as you leave. A collection box will be available for free-will envelopes and/or cash donations in the vestibule of the church (no collection during the service).

We will continue to provide an online worship service which can be accessed via Portland Church's website or via Facebook. You can also listen to the worship service by telephone.

We fully understand that returning to a worship service in the church building is a personal decision and we are all asked to be cautious and careful. We are all God's children and we will look after each other. Worship God in a place that you feel safe. We hope to be able to intimate a reopening date for Sunday worship soon.

Pray for our Interim Moderator, Bill Duncan and our Locum Minister, Rev Mary Elizabeth Prentice-Hyers. Pray for the isolated members of our community and help those you can.

May God's peace be with You,

John Reid (Session Clerk)

From Columba to Covid

I have appreciated the singing during the online services broadcast, the church website and also on Facebook and YouTube. Times have changed but it is good to have been able to call on the anthems sung by Portland church and have these as part of the services and to hear the whole congregation singing the blessing at the end of each service. It has been good to share in Sunday church services on line and hear Mel's sermons. The worship team excelled on the 24th May. In his welcome John gave the background of the hymn *Take My Life* and we owe a debt of gratitude to those who have written the hymns we use in worship and those who sing them so beautifully.

In the first burst of clearing out, when I stupidly imagined I would actually do all the things I had been putting off for months and sometimes years, I found an article in a magazine and was fascinated to learn that probably the first recorded hymn sung in Scotland was Psalm 45, sung by St Columba on one of his evangelical journeys round Scotland. These are recorded in the biography written after his death. When Columba arrived at the fortress of the Pictish king, Bridei, he chose to sing this psalm, which seems an apt choice as it was written by the psalmist to another king. The story is more believable in that there was no miraculous conversion, but plenty of amplification. Columba's voice is recorded as thundering out and we do know that his persistence paid off ultimately in that he and his followers brought many to Christianity.

Communal singing is some way off at present as we move gradually towards reopening churches for worship. Meanwhile there have been some inventive ideas to let us continue to enjoy hymns and hymn singing.

Synchronising communal singing is not easy, but one tour de force was the Self Isolation choir singing the Messiah live, while thousands of members from all over the world sang at home. The Scottish Churches Disability Group researched the hymns available on YouTube and compiled a list of these which is available in the online Magazine, with a special link to those where the hymns have signing. <http://scdg.org.uk/>

I particularly enjoyed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EW3jJpac1Sk> I will meet you in the morning / Advent Harmony Choir

A first search for Psalm 45 found at least 3 versions with different tunes. Columba would probably approve.

Sandra McCallum

**DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE PARISHIONER—
SUNDAY, 23RD AUGUST
FOR POSTING ON WEBSITE ON SUNDAY, 30TH AUGUST**

**PLEASE THINK OF CONTRIBUTING TO YOUR MAGAZINE—
parishioner45@gmail.com**

Messy Church

During the COVID lockdown there has been no specific Messy Church activity but Helen Hogg at St Meddan's Church has been active online presenting messages and ideas for children. Both Eastertainment and the last scheduled Messy Church were victims of the lockdown.

It is not clear when, how or even whether, Messy Church will resume.

The current Church of Scotland guidelines for work with children would need to be considered carefully. Similarly, the situations of Troon Nazarene, Our Lady, and St Ninians.

We would welcome your input and your prayers as we reconsider the current format and potential future provision.

Sandra McCallum

YOU'VE GOT LAUGH

.....

A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

The Sunday School teacher was describing how when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mummy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

After being shipwrecked on a desert island for twenty years, a Scotsman was picked up by a passing ship. The Captain gazed over at the island, seeing two churches at opposite ends of the island, and asked, 'How many of you are there on this island?'

Just me.' replied the man.

'Well then why have you built two churches, man?'

Aye, well yon's the one I refuse to worship at,' came the reply.

The preacher was sounding off from the pulpit. 'Nobody is perfect,' he said. 'Hands up anyone here who is perfect.'

There was no response from the congregation, so he tried again.

'Hands up anyone who is perfect.'

A little man towards the back slowly raised his hand.

'Are you telling me you're perfect?' asked the preacher.

'No, I'm speaking on behalf of my wife's first husband,' came the reply.



GO AWAY.....

No, not youit's the pigeons . They seem to feel that coming into my garden and pecking about under the bird feeders is their favourite thing. This wouldn't be so bad if they managed not to decorate the patio stones with the obvious result of stuffing their faces. Nasty stuff, pigeon poo, yuck. Full of ghashliness.



I like the other birds and the only way to get rid of the pigeons is to remove the bird feeders and thus the tits, goldfinches, sparrows etc. Probably the blackbird who enjoys all the worms in the grass, and the robin would stay.

But wait. Apart from the mess, and after all it rains quite a lot and clears it, why don't I like the them?

Am I just tiny bit jealous?

They can come and go as they please. They seem to get extremely close to each other (did you know they are monogamous...good for them, I know humans who, well anyway, they can breed 6 times year, producing 2 eggs a time. The eggs in turn can produce , well you do the maths).

So big family, all happily stuffing themselves, cooing enthusiastically, life hasn't changed at all.

Even my pathetic attempts to shoo them away usually fail.

So perhaps I should give up, embrace all nature and look forward, ever forward to a future where we are all back to a big hug all round.?

God will support us through even this .

Barbie Short

SUNDAY MORNING ZOOM

As the months have gone on more and more we have edged into the new technology, and while we are missing our after service tea and coffee time, the Portland Zoom get together is a good opportunity to see familiar faces and share our experience of life as we know it.

Though I am sure we all hope normal service will be resumed shortly, please think about joining the group for a chat for half an hour at 10am on Sundays. We would love to see new faces. E-mail virtualportland@gmail.com and I am sure Lesley or Jennifer will be happy to send the required link.

Margaret Short

BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD IN THE WORLD

We all have two lives. The second one starts when we realise we only have one.

Confucius

Things money can't buy: manners, morals, respect, character, common sense, trust, patience, integrity, love

To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people just exist. *Oscar Wilde*

Calm is a Super Power.

The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion. *Paulo Coelho*

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Remember that sometimes not getting what you want, is a wonderful stroke of luck.

Dalai Lama

Never discourage anyone who continually makes progress, no matter how slowly.

Plato

Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.

Albert Einstein

Life is like a camera.... Focus on what's important, capture the good times, develop from negatives, and when things don't work out ... take another shot.

Those who dance are considered insane by those who can't hear the music.

If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody.

Here are some more of today's pictures from Limphasa showing how the team at ReJoin have used the recent donation of money in their fight against the spread of Covid-19

Bill Weir
14th July, 2020



MESSAGE FROM MALAWI

Hi Bill,

How are you doing together with your family?

FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19 IN OUR COMMUNITY

The community and the team at ReJoin are so thankful to you and the Church of Scotland for the role you have taken in helping us to take part in a fight against COVID-19 here at Limphasa. May God bless you abundantly. Also, receive sincere appreciation from our Chief (Traditional Authority), our District Health Officer, Our moderator and the Open Market Chairperson.

ReJoin team, having received the funds, sat down in a meeting with the Church Session, the Traditional Authority, the District Health Officer and a few selected community representatives in order to inform them how the funds will be used and ask for their contributions.

The following core areas were chosen.

- i. Buying enough materials to produce at least 2000 face masks within a period of 14 days with the available sewing machine at ReJoin
- ii. Buying 30 tap buckets, 30 plastic basins and 30 plastic stools (complete hand wash sets)

By Tuesday last week everything was in place and the team at Re-Join started the donations with primary targets being the markets, community health centres, churches and youth organisations as planned. The donations were success (see the pictures and videos in the next email or emails). During the donations we also managed to give out to the women with babies a carton of clothes (sweaters) which was earlier on sent to Limphasa Church from Scotland and then forward to ReJoin.

Lastly, and on a sad note, I would like to inform you that the cases for COVID-19 are rising very fast in Malawi and including our district.

Bill, please don't forget us in case the other members whom you shared our initial concept paper with responds positively. I trust you Bill. Again, I am so thankful for the love that you and the entire Church of Scotland has towards Limphasa community.

Stay safe and please let us know for any news.

Alick

Manager, ReJoin Art Community Project – Limphasa

MORE GOOD NEWS

Maisie Evelyn Julia Philp was born on Monday 29th June in Crosshouse Hospital just after 1 am. She weighed in at 6lbs 15 oz. Both Valerie and Maisie are in good health and were allowed home on Monday evening where she met with her big brother Harry who was understandably very pleased to see her. It is an exciting time for him as his wee cousin Joshua is 4 weeks old now. If only we could get out of lockdown and all meet up together. For now we'll just have to make do with window visits until the First Minister says otherwise. Hopefully not too much longer .

*Colin and Evelyn Philp
30th June 2020*



God and the Group

And so the new Normal heaves into view - we cannot meet yet as Housegroup but we will, we will.

But we are very sad to announce that Ann and Ken White are relocating to Fife and will no longer join us. Sad because we will miss them terribly but happy for them starting a new life near their son.

Ann has led our group throughout and has just been great. We have ranged over a huge number of topics, always based on our Bible reading. We have learnt about ourselves and about each other in a much more in-depth way than we can in a church service. You need a leader who can guide you, and she has never failed us.

Ken has brought a new light on many topics and has always been a huge asset to our thinking.

Was it 2017 we started? It seems a long time that we have sat together, joined in discussion together and ended on tea and chat. Together.

Ann, Ken , Goodbye and good luck . You are welcome back to our homes anytime (that we are allowed) in the future. Send us news and photos of the New House.

Barbie Short ,on behalf of all of us.

Spirit of the living God
fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me:
break me, melt me,
mould me, fill me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.

*Daniel Iverson (1890-1977)
Hymn 619*

Spirit of the living God
move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind,
make us one in love,
humble, caring,
selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God,
fill our lives with love

*Michael Baughen (b. 1930)
Hymn 620*



ONE MORE STEP TO THE NEW

.....
NORMAL???



One More Step Along the World I Go

Daniel Shiells

One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go;
From the old things to the new
Keep me traveling along with you
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.
Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn;
And the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.
As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me traveling the way I should;
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.
Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough;
Leap and sing in all...

Dial-in to our services

If you know someone without internet access who might enjoy our service then they could dial in at any time on 01292 43 97 91* and listen in to our latest service
*normal local call charges apply

Visit the Troon Portland web page for our Weekly Sunday Service—Choir anthem, prayer, bible reading, sermon and hymn singing—JOIN US.

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

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