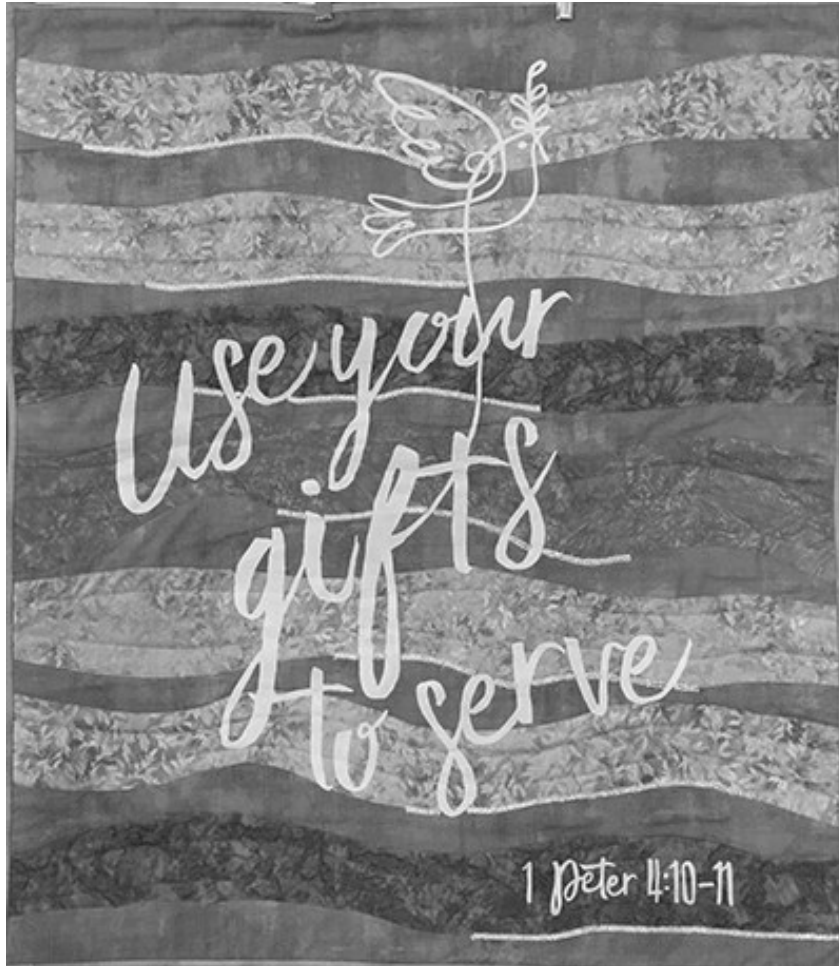


February 2020

# The Parishioner

The magazine of the Portland Parish Church of Scotland: Troon



***“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms”***

## **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**

**DEATHS**                    “I am the resurrection and the life”

January 2020        Mrs. Celia Leburn  
15th January        Mr. Jack Dunn  
January 2020        Mrs. Doreen Douglas  
20th January        Mr. Colin Cameron

**BAPTISM**                    “Let the children come to me”

19th January        Blair John Matthews son of David and Fiona Matthews

**CHURCH CALENDAR**

**February**

2nd                    10:30 Morning worship led by Rev. Mel Prentice-Hyers  
Wed., 5th Feb        House Group 7.30 pm 33 Beach Road  
9th                    10.30 Morning worship led by Rev. Mel Prentice-Hyers  
16th                    10:30 Morning worship led by Rev. Mel Prentice-Hyers  
23rd                    10:30 Morning worship led by Rev. Mel Prentice-Hyers  
24th                    Prayer Group 7.30 pm, Bible Study 8 pm in the  
                             Millennium Room—all welcome at either or both

**HOME AND HOSPITAL VISITS**

Cards are available in the church vestibule, if you are aware of a member or adherent who would benefit from a visit please complete a card and pass it on to either the Minister or Church Officer. The contact form which can be accessed from the first page of the church website can also be used for this purpose.

**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE PARISHIONER—  
WEDNESDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY  
FOR ISSUE ON SUNDAY, 1ST MARCH**

PLEASE THINK ABOUT WRITING SOMETHING FOR YOUR MAGAZINE OR SUBMIT A PHOTOGRAPH  
TAKEN AT A CHURCH EVENT - E-MAIL TO    parishioner45@gmail.com

ALSO IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANYTHING INCLUDED IN OUR SUBMISSION TO THE “GOING OUT”,  
PLEASE CONTACT JOHN MACDONALD

# MESSAGE FROM THE SESSION CLERK

Dear members and friends of Portland

May I wish you all a very Happy New Year, and wish you all good health and happiness in 2020. The year begins with good news. The position of Locum Minister has been filled by the Rev Mary Elizabeth Prentice-Hyers. We are very grateful to the Rev Mary Elizabeth Prentice-Hyers for accepting the position of Locum Minister and we look with anticipation to moving forward together as a Portland family.

Our vacancy continues with the working group meeting regularly. The working group consists of four members from each of the congregations of Troon Old, Troon St Meddan's and Troon Portland. The group hope to bring a proposed model for Ministry in Troon to each congregation very soon. As members of the congregation of Troon Portland, you will, along with the other congregations, have the final say. The group will only take an accepted model for Ministry in Troon to Presbytery for final approval. Nothing can change unless the congregations all agree to the change. I would encourage you to ask questions and get involved in any decision-making.

Our Bible study on the Beatitudes from the Gospel of Matthew continues with:

***Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.***

To be pure of heart means to be free of all selfish purposes and self-seeking motives. Jesus was the ultimate example of this as He sacrificed his own life for the redemption and salvation of mankind.

***Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.***

Peacemakers not only manifest peaceful lives but also work to share peace and friendship with others and to cultivate peace between God and man. However, we cannot give others what we do not possess and must strive to achieve peace within ourselves.

In this time of change within the Church of Scotland and within the Church in Troon, we must act as Jesus taught us - to be free of all selfish purposes and self-seeking motives and also work to share peace and friendship with others.

We must continue to support one another and keep the future of the Church in our prayers. Pray for our Interim Moderator, Bill Duncan and our Locum Minister, Rev Mary Elizabeth Prentice-Hyers. Show your support by attending worship on a Sunday and getting involved. The Church is not a building. The Church is you and me worshiping together and walking the path that Jesus walks with us.

Peace and Blessings,

*John Reid (Session Clerk)*

# HOUSEGROUP

**What are the hard topics you might like to discuss?? ( no , NOT Brexit....)**

**Housegroup, fearless as ever , tackled Satan and Evil.**

The devil goes by many names — Satan, the Prince of Darkness, Beelzebub and Lucifer to name a few — but besides this list of aliases, what do people really know about the brute? That is, how did the story of Satan originate?

The ancient world struggled with the coexistence of good and evil, They hypothesised a kind of demonic, divine force that was responsible for evil, arising out of the notion that a good God could not be responsible for bad things.

Is that what we believe today? Or does a demonic force exist, with which we struggle? Or is it temptation that besets us all?

Is God good and all powerful and if so, why do bad things happen to good people?

We wound our way through all these aspects and felt the better for it. Often such things are not brought up in church. What we need is a safe forum to discuss our own insecurities and our knowledge..... or lack of it. In this we are so ably led by Ann White , basing all our discussions on the Bible, and ensuring we do not stray too far from the topic.

Feel free to join us , we are open to all and welcome a range of opinions. In fact it helps! Lifts available just give me a ring.

Next meeting:

**Wednesday February 5th 7.30pm**

*Barbie Short*



## CHRISTIAN AID BAG PACK IN MORRISONS

The fundraiser bag pack in Morrisons for Christian Aid raised the wonderful total of £1112. The Troon Committee thank all those who gave of their time, money, energy and enthusiasm to make this such a success. The fellowship between the volunteers from the various churches in the Town and the chat with the shoppers made this a very cheery and worthwhile experience. We have also thanked Morrisons for allowing us to collect money in their store. This donation will take forward the work of Christian Aid, help those who are less fortunate than ourselves and give hope to many in 2020. Thank you for your continued support.

*Margaret Weir*

# CHOIR IN CRISIS

**T**he Sunday School lacking children, the Guild gone. Is the choir the next part of the Kirk to disappear?

I wish to place on record my salute to the present choir who have served faithfully for many years and who are continuing to do so in spite of all the odds. I would respectfully suggest that their loyalty is now being stretched unreasonably and that the present situation is no longer tenable.

Unfortunately we do not have a Gareth Malone in our congregation, so for the foreseeable future we are stuck with a Dorothy Howden.

## **THIS IS AN EARNEST APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

There are in our midst many excellent singers, I have heard many of you. During the present crisis in our Portland we need ALL hands on deck. Yes, it is yet another appeal, but this one MUST succeed.

We in the choir have no delusions of grandeur or aspirations to be something we are not – we merely wish to lead God's praise to the best of our abilities. Please fellow Christians, tell us what is putting you off coming forward. IS IT ----

1. The wearing of gowns? The choir discusses this from time to time and is agreed that this question can be readdressed at any time in the future and should not hold anyone back from joining us.
2. The inability to read music? This should never hold anyone back from singing if they want to. It may be that we will have to change our approach altogether by changing the format of the music we sing and how we learn it. I have been teaching by rote all my working life and have had some measure of success in enabling singers to access many different styles of music. It does not always have to be Classical.
3. Choice of music? The Church of Scotland is agreed that radical change is required if the Church is to survive and reach out to the populace: we musicians have a vital part to play in this.
4. Commitment? Please be assured that by joining the choir you are not giving up your entitlement to a private life. You ARE allowed to go on holiday, sometimes feel unwell, have family concerns and commitments and occasionally 'sleep in' nor do rehearsals take up an entire Thursday evening.

## **FINAL THOUGHTS ----**

I sincerely want your thoughts and nothing will be accomplished if you ignore this. I will be very happy to receive your opinions and hopefully act on them. I can be contacted at [dhowden55@gmail.com](mailto:dhowden55@gmail.com) or 01292 314143 or talk to any member of the choir. Alternatively drop a note to the Church Office.

*Dorothy Howden*  
*Convenor of Music*

# New Year, New Church!

**I**t's a new year and we are looking positively-hopefully - to a new (model) of church. The new year is often peppered with expectation to make a resolution. To give something up or take up a new habit. This got me thinking about habits and rhythms to our lives. In a geekish way, I calculated the amount of time in a year a person would spend at a church. I looked specifically at the amount of teaching time that a person would get—essentially a church service. If a person goes every Sunday morning each week, for a year and the service worked out at 1.5 hours a week then we spend 0.89% of our total time (in a year) learning about God through a sermon. That is 78 hours out of 8,760 hours. A startlingly low number. For some this is all they do. For others it's the minimum. God has so much to teach us—how can we learn it all in such a small quantity of time? We have a personal responsibility in our faith growth. We cannot solely rely on a Sunday sermon to learn, to become more Christ-like but where to start? Perhaps we should take up a new habit in seeking God and seeking what his 'new' church may look like to be the salt and light in our community.

Here are some suggestions to kick off the new year. All tried and tested!

Disappearing Church by Mark Sayers

Reappearing Church by Mark Sayers

All of Mark Sayers' books are great to understand a post-Christian culture by looking at the historical markers which have got us to where we are today.

The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry by John Mark Comer

Rumours of God by Jon Tyson and Darren Whitehead

Pray by Pete Greig

Red Mood Rising by Pete Greig

Generous Justice by Timothy Keller

For the tech savvy amount you, some amazing podcasts to check out:

The Danielle Strickland Podcast

More Than Me Red Church

Fight hustle, End Hurry

Church of the City New York

Worship Central

This Cultural Moment

These are great to plug in to teaching about modern culture and what discipleship looks like against the backdrop biblical teaching. It also explores what worship is truly about.

Some apps to develop spiritual formation\*

Lectio365

Inner Room

\*A great article exploring spiritual formation.

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/articles/spiritualformation/beingformed.html>

This is a brief list. These are the highlights. I could honestly go on for an age about cool books I have read or podcasts I have listened to that explore faith, prayer, discipleship post-christian culture but I don't want to bore you. Instead I implore you to check some of these resources out and see how it changes your perspective! It's a new year so perhaps this could be your new habit to influence our 'new' church.

*Lesley McFarlane*

## PRESBYTERY CONFERENCE JANUARY 2020

A few of us from Portland attended the Presbytery Conference on 11<sup>th</sup> January at Alloway Parish Church. We were welcomed with excellent bacon rolls and had time for fellowship before moving into the sanctuary for worship then the conference.

The invited speaker was Rev Prof David Fergusson - OBE QHC FRSE FBA - a Scottish theologian.

The first session was 'The Mission of the Church of Scotland Today' and started with some history of the formation of the church and more recent changes especially the decline in membership.

He discussed some myths about the decline of the C of S and that we are not all necessarily either 'panickers or deniers'. We should not allow lament or nostalgia to prevent our rethinking of the future. Without real change we will simply be managing decline. We need to ensure greater variety in church life and local engagement, and there is a need for major structural reform.

There was time for questions then the second session entitled 'Structural Reform in the Church of Scotland'. The Special Commission on reform looked at – the elimination of the financial deficit, enabling more effective leadership, and redistribution of resource, function and responsibility from the centre to regions and localities.

He compared our Presbyterian structure with that of some American churches and the Church of England, and that we may need to adapt some of our structures to function now.

We were told about the planned reduction of the number of Presbyteries from 43 to 12. There will be challenges relating to this but also opportunities. It was suggested that the General Assembly structure and costs also needed to be considered. Again, there was time for questions.

I found it very relevant to the situation we at Portland find ourselves in.

All in all, a very interesting morning and I would recommend you to consider attending in the future.

*Jennifer Lawrie*



Creator God, as February leads us to the gate of spring we thank You for changing seasons and pray for our precious planet. Help us each to care for the little regions that we inhabit. May our lifestyle habits neither harm nor damage earth, sea or sky and all that lives therein. May Your Spirit unite us as peaceful protestors and passionate practitioners against climate change.

Wise God, as February brings us International Thinking Day, we thank You for the World Association of Girl Guides and Scouts, and for the diversity of its movement across world zones and cultures. We pray for the welfare and empowerment of young people globally. Help us each to welcome, to include and to treat as equals all who are made in Your image. May Your Spirit gather us into one in union with Christ Jesus.

Loving God, in all times, Equator of our souls, we thank You for the Sun that gives light to us by day, and for the Son whose light shines even in darkness. Thank You for Your assurance that whatever climes we may be in You are there – before, behind, above and beside us – because nothing in life or death can distance us from Your love. So write Your law, we pray, on every human heart, transform us from within, that we be the seismic change of Your Kingdom come for person and for planet.

**Amen.**

This Prayer first appeared in the February 2020 edition of *Life and Work*

## Fairtrade Plea for Cocoa

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT**  
**24 FEBRUARY — 8 MARCH**



Thomas Baldwin reports on the theme around this year's Fairtrade Fortnight

THIS year's Fairtrade Fortnight is continuing to focus on the people – in particular the women – who grow the cocoa in our chocolate.

The annual celebration of Fairtrade, which this year takes place from Monday February 24 to Sunday March 8, is continuing the campaign for a living income for cocoa farmers in West Africa.

The Fairtrade Foundation says that the average cocoa farmer in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana earns less than 75p per day – well below the extreme poverty line of around £1.40 a day. The situation, they say, is even worse for women, who often do the majority of the work while having fewer rights and bringing in less money than men.

And to make matters worse, the climate crisis is bringing with it less predictable seasons, more extreme weather events and more plant diseases, so life is even harder for poor farmers.

The organisers say that in 2019 Fairtrade Fortnight events reached a million people, and that since there have been notable successes. On August 7, Fairtrade campaigners and staff handed in a signature with more than 50,000 signatures calling for the UK government to back cocoa farmers fighting for a fairer deal.

In October, the Fairtrade Minimum Price for conventional cocoa was raised from \$2,000 to \$2,400 per tonne, marking a 20 percent increase. For organically farmed cocoa, the Fairtrade Minimum Price will be \$2,700. And the Fairtrade Premium increased from \$200 to \$240 per metric ton, the highest fixed premium of any certification.

Meanwhile, Fairtrade welcomed announcements by the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana that they will increase the farm gate price of cocoa for all farmers in October 2020, by requiring companies to pay an extra Living Income Differential on all cocoa exports.

This year's Fairtrade Fortnight, it is hoped, will help continue that momentum towards a fairer deal for all cocoa farmers.

The materials for the Fortnight focus on the stories of cocoa growers in Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone: Therese, who is supporting her eight children through education so they will have opportunities she missed out on; Edith, who has teamed up with other women to create a community farm; and Lucia, who wants to protect her forest home at the same time as earning a living.

The Fairtrade Foundation is hoping that supporters will share these stories with their communities, through storytelling events, through their local radio stations or podcasts, and by working with local artists to find a creative way of telling a story in a public space.

They have also created 'storybombs' which can be hidden in envelopes around public areas, with the idea that they will be found and read by people who may not otherwise have been reached – suggestions include cafes and shops, on public transport, hairdressers, bars and libraries.

Another suggestion is that Fairtrade stories could be incorporated into events for World Book Day (March 5) and International Women's Day (March 8), which both fall within the Fortnight.

*Fairtrade Fortnight 2020 physical and online resources, including storybombing kits, posters, leaflets and postcards, can be ordered or downloaded from the action guide at [www.fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight).*

*This article first appeared in February 2020 edition of Life and Work*



# BANANA BOX TRUST

The latest container was loaded and shipped in December. So our sewing machines and boxes taken up to Dundee in September are now on the high seas.

Doonfoot Primary in Ayr is collecting children's hoodies, pull-overs or cardigans to send out to their partner school in Bandawe. It can get cold there at night and in the winter so any extra would be very welcome and can be added to the boxes being sent out.

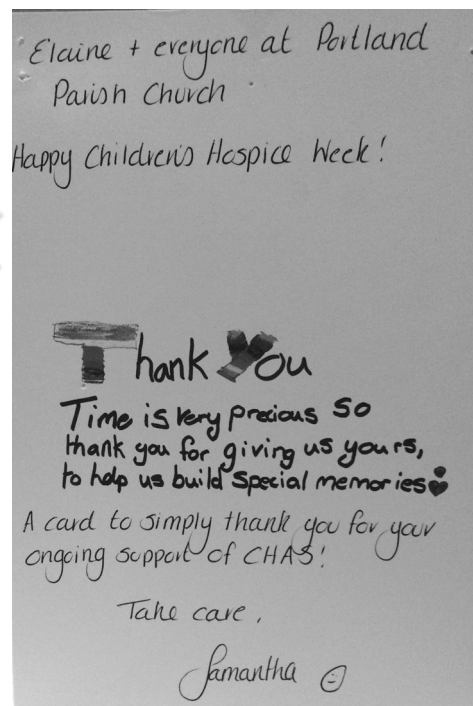
Baby clothes and knitted goods can be sent to the maternity hospital where they try to send each baby home with a cosy suit or blanket. Knitted vests and mittens as well as hats, preferably in bright colours, are welcome. They say knitting is great for mindfulness so have a look at the easy pattern on the back page.

Any other clothes, shoes etc will be sent to our friends in Lymphasa.

And of course any donations are welcome as it costs £15 per box to ship.

Many thanks for your support.

*Jennifer Davis*  
01563 852048



## FLOWER GROUP

**D**uring Advent I hope you enjoyed our beautifully decorated Church and I have to thank the whole Flower Group team for all their hard work and skills to provide these floral displays at this time and also at Easter and Harvest.

Also, thanks to all who supplied, arranged or distributed flowers during 2019, together with donations received through the Flower Box, which are very much appreciated.

Now that Christmas is over, it seems an appropriate time to invite any members of the Congregation who would be interested to hear more of the enjoyment to be had by joining the group to contact me on 314144, or after Church most Sundays.

The Flower Group is responsible for ensuring that there are flowers in the Sanctuary every Sunday throughout the year, and you may be happy to place flowers in Church, or give a donation as a way of remembering a personal anniversary on a particular date.

There are a number of uncommitted Sundays and we are forever looking for additional help. We would be pleased to speak to anyone who is interested in assisting in any way.

Every Sunday at the end of the service, the flowers are delivered to the home of a member and we pray that they find some comfort from knowing that they are in our thoughts.

Best wishes for 2020.

*Fiona Hay*  
Flower Convener

## CHURCH MAILING LIST

Towards the end of last year, errors began to appear when the weekly notes were sent out. Some addresses on the list received the emails while others did not. Enquiries were made with our website provider and eventually it was realised that this was probably due to changes in the email systems of the Internet to try to combat unwanted (or spam) emails. The systems were treating 90 emails coming from the church as spam.

The mailing list has now been split into 5 groups (4 of 20 and 1 of 10). When the church notes were sent out on 9<sup>th</sup> January no error messages were reported by the computer in the office so this problem may have been resolved. If you think you should be receiving church notes each week and did not receive them on 9<sup>th</sup> January please report this to [mcdonald@troonportlandchurch.org.uk](mailto:mcdonald@troonportlandchurch.org.uk).

*John McDonald*

## ANY TAKERS?

The purchase of a new printer by a member of the congregation has resulted in two Canon 541 Colour inkjet cartridges and one Canon 540 Black cartridge which are unopened, but can no longer be used. If anyone else can use these please contact [mcdonald@troonportlandchurch.org.uk](mailto:mcdonald@troonportlandchurch.org.uk).

*John McDonald*

## MESSY CHURCH



**T**he first Messy Church of 2020 was held on Sunday 19 January in Portland. We had 16 children and several babies, with twenty parents exploring the theme of David Livingston and Africa. In addition, we welcomed a good number of 'the young at heart' from Portland and other churches.

The session started with a quiz, crafts and games. As usual our highly talented craft team provided a range of items including a 2020 calendar, that would remind the children of the theme at home. Bill Duncan had a Malawian display and he persuaded some helpers to dress in colourful African shirts and sarongs. One hit with the boys was the example of a football created by African children out of plastic bags. It was shown to be fully functional in an impromptu game. There was also a display of cosy baby hats and an opportunity to add some stitches to one hat, Andrew McGurk showing off his mastery of knitting.

Next, in the church, the children gathered at the front for a talk and slide show by the Rev Andrew McGurk, assisted from the audio desk by John McDonald. Adults and children were given an insight into the lives of people in present day Africa and were able to see children wearing the hats and knitwear that had been on display in the Main Hall.

The Messy Church grace was said in church before the boys led an enthusiastic dash to the meal, which was cooked and served by a team of highly efficient ladies from Troon Nazarene, who had come armed with a collection of slow cookers. Thirty-six places had been set in the Lesser Hall, which looked very festive with newly donated plates and beakers. About forty meals were served.

The next session is at Our Lady on Sunday 16 February 2020 from 4-6pm when the theme will be The Prodigal Son. Other dates for the diary are Sunday 15 March at St Ninians where the topic will be Joseph and Saturday 11 April, the full day Eastertainment event in the Walker Hall starting at 11 am.

Although this article shows that we have much to be positive about, we are still in the process of evaluating our effectiveness and considering the future. Comments, constructive suggestions and offers of help are always welcome either by personal contact or by email at [troonmessychurch@gmail.com](mailto:troonmessychurch@gmail.com) Pictures and news can be found on Facebook at Messy Church Troon. <https://www.facebook.com/messychurch.troon>

*Sandra McCallum*

## COME AND JOIN US

Congregational Life Committee are pleased to invite you to a **SANDWICH LUNCH** on Sunday, 2nd February, so stay after the service and enjoy a relaxed lunch and fellowship.

It is planned to make this a monthly event on the first Sunday of the month.

Sandwiches, along with the normal tea, coffee and biscuits will be served.

*Congregational Life Committee*

## Fish and Chip Baby Jumpers and Hats—knitting pattern

Many babies in Africa are sent home wrapped in newspaper to keep them warm. The Fish and Chip Baby Jumper initiative provides jumpers and hats to keep these babies warm. The jumpers are very easy to knit and can be knitted in one piece. Bright coloured stripes look attractive and are good for using up small oddments of wool. Please don't use white or baby pastels as they are unlikely to be washed.

### Jumper Pattern (knitted all in one)

Using double knitting wool and no. 4mm needles cast on 44 stitches  
Work 18 rows in K2, P2 rib  
Work 30 rows in stocking stitch (1 row plain, 1 row purl)  
Cast on 12 stitches at beginning of next 2 rows and at the same time change to K2, P2 (for sleeve)  
Rib 22 more rows  
Next row: Rib 21, cast off 26 stitches, rib 21  
Next row: Rib 21, cast on 26 stitches, rib 21  
Work 22 rows in K2, P2 rib  
Cast off 12 stitches at beginning of next 2 rows  
Work 30 rows stocking stitch  
Work 18 rows, K2, P2 rib  
Cast off and sew up side seams

### Beanie Hat Pattern

Using double knitting wool and no. 4mm needles  
Cast on 64 stitches and work 14 rows in K1, P1 rib  
Work 24 rows in stocking stitch or until work measures 11cm from cast on edge  
Shape crown as follows:  
Row 1: \*K6, K2 tog. Repeat from \* to end of row (56 stitches)  
Row 2: Knit  
Row 3: \*K5, K2 tog. Repeat from \* to end of row (48 stitches)  
Row 4: Knit  
Row 5: \*K4, K2 tog. Repeat from \* to end of row (40 stitches)  
Row 6: Knit  
Continue decreasing in this manner until (K1, K2tog) has been completed and 16 stitches remain.  
Knit 1 row. Break yarn and thread through remaining 16 stitches.

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

**Interim Moderator:** Bill Duncan

**Session Clerk:** John Reid

**Treasurer:** Catriona McKellar

**Church Officer:** Ruairidh McKellar

**Church Office:**

**Organist/Music Convener:** Dorothy Howden

**Hall's Convener:** Catriona McKellar

**The Parishioner:** Margaret Short

**Website:**

#### Contact Details

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