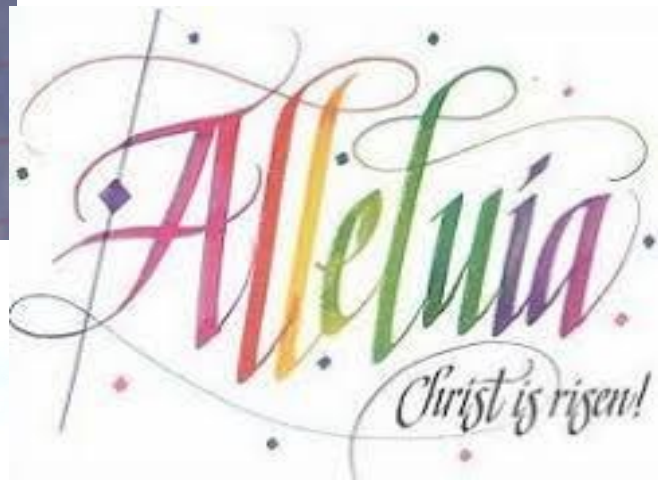


May 2020

The Parishioner

The magazine of the Portland Parish Church of Scotland: Troon



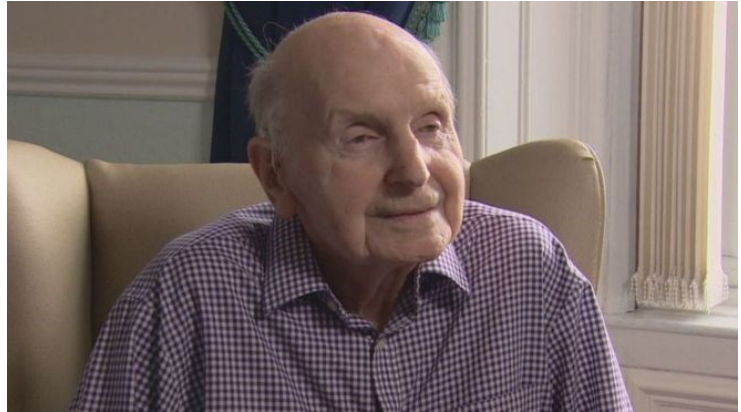
Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1:3

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

CONGRATULATIONS!



In April Portland member and one of Scotland's Dunkirk veterans celebrated his 100th birthday.

Harry Osborne served as a gunner in the Royal Artillery and was deployed to France in January 1940.

A planned party to mark his 100th birthday had to be cancelled because of the coronavirus outbreak.

However, the occasion will still be marked at the care home in Troon, where Harry lives.

Death of a member

Mrs Annabel Lewis died on Monday 13th April. She had been in Bereland House, Prestwick, for quite a long time and was in the room next to Peter Livingstone. Her daughter-in-law is Jennifer Lewis. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this sad time.

**DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE ISSUE OF THE PARISHIONER—
SUNDAY, 24TH MAY
FOR POSTING ON WEBSITE ON SUNDAY, 31ST MAY
(assuming we are still on lock down)**

As I am sure you will have already discovered in these times it is important to share and stay in touch so please submit something for the Parishioner—about your experiences, the kindnesses you have received, a poem, an article, a prayer—I for one will be very grateful! Margaret

Easter is not just a day. In the liturgical calendar of the church, Easter is a season. For fifty days after Easter, we are in a season of Eastertide. If we gathered together as a congregation, we would use the word *Alleluia* more and all of our music would be joyful. In worship, I would wear my white stole or scarf. We would begin with the words ‘Christ is Risen – He is Risen Indeed!’ We would celebrate that death has lost its sting and the world rejoices in new life.



With lockdown restrictions still in place, it is highly unlikely we will spend any of Eastertide together, but this does not mean we cannot mark this time differently.

At home, what can we do? Can we reach out to our neighbours and friends and see how they are coping? Can we plant seeds and prepare for summer growth? Can we look for rainbows on our daily walks? What are you doing to see new life around you?

We have the opportunity and live in the liminality of a time and space where hope and danger are held together in dialectical tensions. We all have hope that this will be over soon, but we all know the dangers are still very real. But for now, in this in between time, how can we go about thinking about the future? When we do return to ‘normal’ it will look and feel very different. It will be different. We will not emerge from this unchanged. How can we as a church, a body of people that know the promise of new life through the events of Easter, go back to the old normal?

It is my hope that the church, the community, the world, can reset the old normal. It is my hope that this time of lockdown opens our eyes to the needs of the vulnerable, opens our hearts to the need of community, for fellowship of other people, and opens our minds to the needs of the world.

After all that is also what resurrections looks like – new life.

Thanks be to God.
Alleluia

Rev. Mary Elizabeth (Mel) Prentice-Hyers

Tribute to Peter Livingstone

It was with great sorrow and sadness that we learned of the death of Peter Livingstone at the grand age of 97 years, on the Monday 6th April 2020 at Berelands Care Home.

Peter had a long and distinguished life as a Doctor and latterly as Consultant General Surgeon at Kilmarnock Hospital over many years. When he retired from his hospital commitments, Peter carried on with private consultancy work from his home Surgery until his mid-seventies. Over the years, he had a number of written contributions to the medical journal, *The Lancet*. One significant presentation in 1958.



He was married to Kathleen (Bunty) and had 2 children, Morag and Cameron. Morag followed her father's steps and became a doctor and is still functioning as a General Practitioner in the South of England. Cameron is associated with Hotel Management in London. Sadly, Peter's wife passed away in January 2010.

Apart from medicine, when he could find the time, Peter's social life was spent with Bowling, Tennis and Golf. He was a member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club in St Andrews, Royal Troon Golf Club and Prestwick Golf Club.

In the last 12 years at least, he liked nothing better than having lunch at Piersland Hotel on a Friday and at Prestwick Golf Club on a Wednesday and Saturday where he would meet his good friends.

Music was a major influence and joy in Peter's life. He was a committed Christian and had a particular liking for Organ Music and had a strong bass voice which he applied to several choirs over his lifetime, none more so than Portland Parish Church Choir in Troon. Peter gave a substantial donation for restoration of the of the organ at Portland Church and lived to enjoy the beautiful sound this organ each Sunday.

Peter was proud to be ordained as an Elder of Portland in 2000 - Peter lived a qualitative yet humble life where his gentle influence and infectious smile would have a tremendous influence on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

There will be no 'formal' funeral due to the present restrictive situation, however Peter will be cremated and in line with his wishes, his ashes will be taken to East Lothian and interred in the grave of his Mum and Dad at Gladsmuir Church of Scotland, Tranent.

We remember with thanksgiving and gratitude the loyal and unwavering service Peter gave to the Church and to our Lord and the inspiration that he has been for others. We commemorate the life and witness of Mr Peter Livingstone and to him we attribute the words found in the Gospel, "Well done, good and faithful servant – enter thou into the joy of your Lord". He was a remarkable person and we give thanks for his deep convictions and strong faith. We salute his memory. We entrust Peter into the loving hands of God and continue to hold his family and friends in our hearts and prayers. Many lives have been enhanced with the knowing of Peter Livingstone and we thank God for this and entrust him to His eternal care.

*John Reid
Session Clerk, Portland Parish Church*

Tribute to William Harvey

William Harvey was born on the 27th of March, 1921 in Kirkcolm and died peacefully 28th of March 2020 in Troon.

During World War II Billy faithfully served his country with the Royal Engineers in Italy. As one of the last remaining WWII veterans Billy laid the wreath at the Troon Cenotaph for the Centenary Armistice Service in 2018 impeccably dressed and wearing his military medals.

In the days after the war Billy worked as a driver for W B Anderson delivering fruit and veg in the Stranraer area. After his mother died Billy moved to Irvine to stay with his sister. While he was working as a school meals delivery driver Billy met Marion and his life took a marked turn in a blessed direction.

As time rolled on he drove for the Department of Social Work and worked as a caretaker for the Troon Youth Centre. In retirement he enjoyed travel, gardening and social occasions with friends and family.

Billy was kind, thoughtful, and generous. He had a great sense of humour and, with a twinkle in his eye, he was always ready for a bit of fun. Jean Storer recounts that in the 1970s Billy helped provide transportation to a playgroup for children with disabilities that met in Portland Church Hall. The bus came to collect the children each day, and “Billie-the-bus” was the driver. Many people in Troon will remember Billy with great affection, and admiration for his cheerful help and commitment to others

Billy was interested in everyone and everything and more concerned for others than for himself. He was interested in people, he was interested in the World and he was interested in current affairs. He read the newspaper from cover to cover every day and had gently delivered opinions on many subjects.

Billy and Marion enjoyed many holidays, cruises and social times with friends and family over the years – he was a much loved uncle and brother in law.

Billy’s life was lived with strength, compassion, hope and love.

As a church family we know his presence will be missed and keep Marion and family in our thoughts and prayers.



Marion would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of condolence, which were a great support and consolation.



It's daunting. It's overwhelming. It's all different. Our lives have been turned upside down in a matter of weeks. For some the idea of social distancing may be all too familiar as the pattern of life has evolved over time, for others it is the stuff of nightmares. The key things to remember are that you are safe at home (not stuck) and that God is with you, even in this near unrecognisable world that we are all living in.

Our routines and habits have shifted dramatically. The loss of the familiar can cause anxiety and distress but God is with us. Psalm 23 reminds us of this:

¹The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
³ he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,^[a]
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.



Use this time to draw close to God and experience his peace and love. It can be tricky to keep God at the centre and to know where to start so I have compiled some resources to support folks during this time.

I pray that you will be blessed by these!

Lesley McFarlane

Prayer is a great way to offload your worries and concerns. You may be feeling overwhelmed by worry and anxiety because there is so much uncertainty in so many spheres of your life, health,, work, friends, family what life will look like after this is over. It can be hard to find the words. Pete Greig and the 24/7 prayer team have written a prayer specifically for the COVID-1 crisis:

[A Prayer for Deliverance from the Coronavirus](#) by Pete Greig & 24-7 Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we ask you to protect us from the spread of the coronavirus. You are powerful and merciful; let this be our prayer –

[Response] *“Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.” (Jeremiah 32:17)*

[Response] *“Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.” (Psalm 57:1)*

Jehovah Shalom, Lord of Peace, we remember those living in coronavirus hotspots and those currently in isolation. May they know your presence in their isolation, your peace in their turmoil and your patience in their waiting. Prince of Peace, you are powerful and merciful; let this be their prayer –

God of all Wisdom, we pray for our leaders: the World Health Organisation, national governments, and local leaders too - heads of schools, hospitals and other institutions. Since you have positioned these people in public service for this hour, we ask you to grant them wisdom beyond their own wisdom to contain this virus, faith beyond their own faith to fight this fear, and strength beyond their own strength to sustain vital institutions through this time of turmoil. God of all Wisdom and Counsel, you are powerful and merciful; may this be our prayer –

[Response] *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear” (Psalms 46:1-2)*

I bless you with the words of Psalm 91: “Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.” (Psalm. 91:3-7)

[Response] *“Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.” (Psalm 4:1)*

May El Shaddai, the Lord God Almighty who loves you protect you. May Jesus Christ, His Son who died for you save you. And may the Holy Spirit who broods over the chaos and fills you with his presence, intercede for you and in you for others at this time.

[Response] *“May your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need. Help us, God our Saviour, for the glory of your name.” (Psalm 79:8)*

God of all Comfort and Counsel, we pray for those who are grieving, reeling from the sudden loss of loved ones. May they find your fellowship in their suffering, your comfort in their loss, and your hope in their despair. We name before you those known to us who are vulnerable and scared - the frail, the sick and the elderly. [pause] God of all Comfort, you are powerful and merciful; may this be our prayer –

[Response] *“He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us.” (2 Corinthians 1:10)*

Jehovah Rapha, God who heals, we pray for all medical professionals dealing daily with the intense pressures of this crisis. Grant them resilience in weariness, discernment in diagnosis, and compassion upon compassion as they care. We thank you for the army of researchers working steadily and quietly towards a cure - give them clarity, serendipity and unexpected breakthrough today. Would you rise above this present darkness as the Sun of Righteousness with healing in your rays. May this be our prayer –

[Response] *“The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (2 Timothy 4:18)*

24/7 Prayer have produced a devotional resource with an emphasis on prayer. It covers a week of devotions and is available for free here:

<https://downloads.24-7prayer.com/pdf/Lectio%20365/Coronavirus%20Lectio%20365%20Week%20PDF.pdf>



In this month’s Life and Work you will find one of Avril’s photographs - well done Avril. Over the last few weeks the evening skies have been a lovely reminder of how lucky we are to live in Troon.

To help children and young people process what is going on through prayer and reflection, 'Prayer Spaces in Schools' have produced active prayer ideas to use at home as a family. There are loads of different ideas! Here are the links to the pages:

<https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/prayer-spaces-at-home>

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/downloads/Prayer%20Spaces%20in%20Schools%20-%20Coronavirus%20Prayer.pdf>

To the right is an example from the PDF download.



Lectio 365
24-7 prayer
#105 in Lifestyle
★★★★★ 4.5, 65 Ratings
Free

If you are tech savvy you can download the Lectio 365 app. It has a daily 10 minute or so devotion with prayer. All you need to do is hit play and chill. Those that lead it have very soothing voices!

If you are looking for an alternative or an additional daily devotion, check out Bridgetown Church, you can access this through a simple search on your podcast platform or head over to their website to listen in. The website runs a day behind the podcast but there is plenty of content available here:

<https://bridgetown.church/series/bridgetown-daily/>

Set your alarm for 7:14! For a twice-daily worldwide prayer event!

“IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND HEAL THEIR LAND”

2 Chronicles 7:14

“We believe that through our prayers we can see God’s Kingdom Come.

It’s time to take God at his word: to humble ourselves, to get our hearts right, to pray for the healing of our lands from the Covid-19 virus - and for an outpouring of God’s spirit in the midst of this crisis.”

24/7 Prayer

So set your alarm to participate in a worldwide movement-7:14am/pm daily/

There are prayer resources, updated weekly, to support this available here-just scroll to the bottom of the page:

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/unite714>

Keep Me Safe

Equipment: water, soap

Set Up: You could do this simple activity every time you wash your hands in a sink.

Suggested Instructions:

Using soap and water, thoroughly wash your hands for at least 20 seconds.

As you wash your hands, think about how you feel about the coronavirus disease.

If you want to, you can say a hope or a prayer for safety.

Psalm 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”





Do you need a worship hit of joyful music? Follow 'Rend Collective', an Irish worship band, on Facebook for a **weekly** live worship session. They are based in America so please note the time difference (6 hours), therefore starting at 10pm in the UK.

If you follow 'Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland' on Facebook, the Moderator leads daily devotions live at 10am.

The Church of Scotland's Facebook page and Twitter page are publishing daily prayers and reflections.

Do you want to plug into a conference? There are loads of resources available for free on YouTube of conferences from last year and even before that.

'24/7 Prayer Conference', Belfast 2019 and Vienna 2018 are available here:

https://www.youtube.com/user/247Pray/playlists?view=50&sort=dd&shelf_id=13

Mike Pilavachi and Andy Croft, Soul Survivor Church Watford, lead the 'Naturally Supernatural Conference' and have an amazing back catalogue of conferences available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeIZDX9PGpxO0HnlWpw2yMA>

The 'Keswick Convention, an annual 3-week conference based in Keswick, have catch-up audio and videos available for you to explore here:

<https://keswickministries.org/catch-up-video-audio/>

Spring Harvest, which normally run around the Easter holidays over multiple weeks have switched their conference to online and the week's resources are available online with different content aimed at kids and adults. It is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SpringHarvest>

Boy's Brigade Unite Conference, 'Unite' for those aged 11+ is going online too. It is running Friday 22nd-Monday 25th of May. Although an event organised for the English and Welsh BB organisation it is open to all and I know of some of the organisers, who are of Scottish origin. This event is open to all! Further details are to follow and can be found here:

<http://www.unitebb.org.uk>

Give Tearfund Scotland a follow to find out soon-to-be released details of worship concerts live from musicians homes with various performances from Scottish talent. There is also a 'Cakes, Bakes and Faith' live event in the pipeline too with some 'Great British Bake Off' stars.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched the Daily Hope Line, offering hymns, prayers and words of encouragement to people over the phone. All folks need to do is phone in for free 0800 804 8044.

Finally if you wish to join some Portland Church socials and events, on the video chat platform Zoom, drop an email to virtualportland@gmail.com for more information and invites. It would be great to maintain some 'unity in the Portland community' during these changed days. We are all in this together! So, come and hang out with us! Tech support can be offered!! (Jennifer Lawrie 01292 313961 07740 781203 jenniferglawrie@btinternet.com)

Bit damp unfortunately.....

it's a slight disadvantage of kneeling on wet grass. Not that I had realised it was wet, but then when is grass in Scotland ever not wet. One might think one might learn.....

Anyway I thought I had seen some frogspawn.....or toad spawn , I am unfussy which. I have a pond. It is all of half a metre by about 2 feet(?!?) so not large. Back in Another Time in the Deep South of the UK , I had a large pond.

It started when the little boys came home from the fair with Daddy bearing 2 goldfish in plastic bags. I doubt they do this nowadays, but that was then . Daddy was unable to cope with wee fish in a small tank so he dug a pond. After a bit he dug a bigger pond. And yet a bigger pond. We had plants including a fascinating one that disappeared down and then serenely floated up again , and lilies , the lot. We had the original fishthey grow you know. Huge . And some more we were given. Eventually we had great crested newts and toads and frogs.

Frogs are fascinating animals. They scream - honestly .Well they did when the cat (another stray , homeless , adopted after a very cheerful Boxing Day with my ex- brother in law , when same two but slightly larger boys assured me that was all their sister needed to make her life complete. I knew nothing about cats and life became complicated although the large Bearded Collie we had absolutely loved Holly-gerrit, Christmas - the cat. Think she thought it her puppy).

I digress. One of Holly's pastimes was to sit intently staring into the pond and try to scoop a frog out. When they screamed , she jumped back and on we went. Never put her off.

Sadly I have no spawn and no frogs in my pond now. But it is loved by the birds and the grandchildren, whose father mutters about mosquitoes; we ignore him, and it gives endless delight. I am lucky to have a garden ; God's gifts are many and various. This one is special.

Barbie



Maybe this is of help...

Morrison's Troon are offering Doorstep deliveries particularly to the elderly and vulnerable or to anyone who cannot come into the store. They are covering a ten mile radius from the store so this includes Troon, Loans, Dundonald and Monkton. Call 0345 611 6111 and press option 5.

Update on Malawi from Bill Weir

From earlier today (27/4), in an email I shared with John Reid, Bill Duncan and Mel.

Good morning everyone.

It's another beautiful morning and I hope you are all well and able to enjoy it. In the past week Catriona McKellar and I have been in on-line discussion to agree the available funding for our partner congregation at 31 December 2019. This amounted to a total of £2,000 being a mix of funding mainly from Sunday Coffees; the Stirling Bequest; our Harvest Appeal, and the harvest festival soup lunches. Accordingly a total of 1,670,000 MWK has been remitted to Rev Asayiwe Mwenitete who has today sent the following message:-

*Asayiwe Mwenitete: Morning Bill,
Grateful to inform you that we have collected the sent money today. The session executive, Prayer house chairpersons, guilds chairpersons and the finance and planning committee (an emergency kirk session) met last Saturday 25/04/20 and agreed to share MK400,000.00 to rejoin art project.*

The remaining amount we agreed to electric materials and labour charge payment for electricity connection and cement for either sunday school hall plastering or building the pulpit. I will be updating you at every stage.

This was to minimize the number of session members due COVID-19 issue since not many people are allowed to meet and discuss issues.

God bless you and the Church in Scotland for your continued support.

*Thank you,
Asayiwe*

Prior to remitting the money Asayiwe and I had been in discussion regarding the utilisation of these funds when we shared thoughts which may have been helpful in guiding their kirk session in allocating these precious funds wisely so that they are used for God's glory in the most appropriate manner. Having launched their Rejoin Art Project last year with financial support from both Ayr Presbytery and Portland I am glad that they are continuing to support it with an allocation of almost 25% of the funds. We may need to wait and see whether an element of these funds is ultimately used to build the pulpit, which I hope will turn out to be the case, but if not, the plastering of the Sunday School hall will also help to glorify God, and maybe our next funds transfer will complete the task.

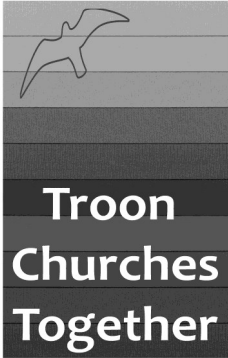
Bill Weir

This is the Easter gathering in Limphasa Church. Let me take this opportunity to share with you that the inside part of the Church is now fully plastered as you can see. May I also inform you that we are through with the plastering of the extended Limphasa Church except for the Sunday School hall which is not yet plastered. We also still have the church floor and the electric wiring remaining to be completed.

We thank God for giving us money to do the work. God bless.

Asayiwe Mwenitete





April 2020

It will be no surprise that the AGM planned for Thursday 30 April will not now take place and will have to be postponed till a later date.

The joint Easter services were also affected by the lockdown regulations and it was heartening to see the speedy response from the churches to ensure that people could worship in their congregations, not by physically coming together, but on line, with various arrangements put in place for those without internet access.

Messy Church was the first TCT activity that had to be cancelled, followed by Eastertainment. A great deal of work had already gone into the planning of both events, which can be recycled for future occasions.

It has been agreed that in the light of the current uncertainty about schools reopening that the backpack and PE kit initiatives will be put on hold. Letters will not be sent out to the head teachers as has been done in previous years. Instead it has been suggested that congregations are urged where possible to support any local authority or other local enterprise who are trying to take care of the needs of children and parents. TCT would actively welcome any other suggestions on how we can help vulnerable families.

Avril McDonald; Sandra McCallum

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

Contact Details

| | |
|--|---|
| Locum Minister: Rev. M. E. Prentice-Hyers | locumminister@troonportlandchurch.org.uk |
| Interim Moderator: Bill Duncan | interimmoderator@troonportlandchurch.org.uk |
| Session Clerk: John Reid | session@troonportlandchurch.org.uk |
| Treasurer: Catriona McKellar | treasurer@troonportlandchurch.org.uk |
| Church Officer: Ruaridh McKellar | churchofficer@troonportlandchurch.org.uk |
| Church Office: | office@troonportlandchurch.org.uk |
| Organist/Music Convener: Dorothy Howden | dhowden55@gmail.com |
| Hall's Convener: Catriona McKellar | halls@troonportlandchurch.org.uk |
| The Parishioner: Margaret Short | parishioner@troonportlandchurch.org.uk Articles to parishioner45@gmail.com |
| Website: | www.troonportlandchurch.org.uk |