

March 2021

The Parishioner



The magazine of the Portland Parish Church of Scotland: Tron



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

In speaking with Ruaridh McKellar recently about the vestments or falls that needed to be hung during a particular worship service, I realised that my American-ness might be showing through. Born and raised in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), I remember colours during worship. Each Sunday the falls from the lectern, the pulpit, and laid on the communion table, changed with the church's liturgical season, except during special circumstances. The special circumstances I remember were for a funeral or communion – it was always white.



For over a thousand years the church gave little attention to the use of colour. White vestments predominated, but not in every church. It was not until the twelfth century that schemes assigning colours to seasons and festivals began to appear in wealthier cathedrals, abbeys, and churches. Local custom, of course, predominated, and the practice varied from place to place. It was most common to reserve the newest and most beautiful vestments, regardless of colour, for the 'great festivals.'¹

In 1570, the Roman Catholic Church defined a sequence of colour usage. Calvinists in the sixteenth century saw no value in the use of mass vestments of varying colours, so they abolished them, and black vestments predominated. This practise was probably influenced by the traditional teaching robe or gentleman's gown. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, however, Protestants began to realise the value of involving people's eyes as well as their ears in worship. The result is that liturgical colours are now widely used.

In the PCUSA it is widely regarded that:

White and gold are for festivals of great joy that focus on the work of our Lord. (*Easter, Christmas, and Communion*)

Red is for the festival of the Holy Spirit. (*Pentecost and Ordination*)

Purple marks reasons of penitence and preparation. (*Lent and Advent*)

Green is used for all other times. (*Ordinary Time*)²

This is where my memories from childhood and my PCUSA seminary education influences me. White is also the standard colour for funerals for a funeral is in essence the work of our Lord.

The central doctrine of the Christian faith is the resurrection. Christians confront the reality of death, with its attendant sorrow and feelings of loss, as 'Easter people.' They/We grieve, but not as those who have no hope (1 Thess. 4:13). Their hope, our hope, is in Christ, who died and now lives, and whose death and resurrection have robbed death in victory (1 Cor. 15:55). Christians affirm that they belong, in life and in death, to their faithful Saviour, Jesus Christ. (Heidelberg Catechism, Question 1). The ministry of the church is therefore, shaped by this affirmation, and the funeral rites of the church bear witness to it.³

1. Bower, Peter C. ed. *The Companion to the Book of Common Worship*. Geneva Press, Louisville, KY, 2003. p 152

2. Bower, Peter C. ed. *The Companion to the Book of Common Worship*. Geneva Press, Louisville, KY, 2003. p 152

3. Bower, Peter C. ed. *The Companion to the Book of Common Worship*. Geneva Press, Louisville, KY, 2003. p 234.

There have been a number of deaths in our congregation since late December. Ten saints of the congregation have died including: Anna Jardine, David Neill, Ann Lawson, Marjory Hardie, Nancy Hay, Anna Leith, Marion Sinclair, James McSkimming, Harry Osborne, John Hart, and John Greene. Several other families in our midst have suffered the deaths of loved ones. The United Kingdom's death toll because of COVID surpassed 121,000, while the United States exceeded 500,000, and the world's death toll tops 2.48 million. ⁴

Each life mattered. Each life was someone's brother, sister, husband, wife, child, uncle, aunt, grandparents, someone's beloved. Each one of these lives lost, leaves behind a hole that only their life filled.

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, at the announcement of continued restrictions through at least 5 April 2021, if not longer, said this "Christians are Easter people, and we live with hope in all circumstances - hope that has sustained us through this last year." ⁵

What does it mean that we are Easter people?

In essence it means that we have hope.

We have hope that death does not have the final say. We have hope that while the pain and suffering of this world is real, there is something more. We have hope that, in death, our baptisms will be complete and we will rest with God, the fullness of love, the fullness of time.

That is what it means to be an Easter people.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia. (Yes even though it is Lent, I will say it!)

Amen.

4

https://www.google.com/search?sxsr=ALeKk02Byj1Da8lCIEsZmhZMto9tiuEfx%3A1614162058818&ei=iig2YN-tMemq1fAP7peZi-AQ&q=worldwide+deaths+from+covid&oq=worldwide++deaths&gs_lcp=Cgdnd3Mtd2l6EAMYADIKCAAQhwlQsQMOfDICCAAyCggAEIcCELEDEBQyBQgAELEDMgIIADICCAAyAggAMgYIABAHEB4vAggAMgIADoICAAQsQMqkOI6CagAELEDEIMBOgQIABANUPCCrwFYjJqvAWDFpK8BaAJwAngAgAGxAogBuROSAQcwLjcuNC4xmAEAoAEBqgEHZ3dzLXdpesABAQ&scient=gws-wiz

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<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/Reaction-to-timetable-on-re-opening-places-of-worship-with-restricted-numbers>

Portland Parish Church Happenings for March

Wednesday 3 March: Joint Troon Old/Portland Mid-week Lenten reflection
Sunday 7 March: Third Sunday in Lent
Wednesday 10 March: Joint Troon Old/Portland Mid-week Lenten reflection
Sunday 14 March: Fourth Sunday in Lent
Wednesday 17 March: Joint Troon Old/Portland Mid-week Lenten reflection
Sunday 21 March: Fifth Sunday in Lent
Wednesday 24 March: Joint Troon Old/Portland Mid-week Lenten reflection
Sunday 28 March: Palm Sunday

Holy Week Tentative Plan

Due to unknown circumstances and the likelihood of being unable to gather in groups of more than 50, Troon Churches Together, will be producing nightly worship services for Holy Week. The schedule is listed below but could be changed with the ever-changing restrictions.



Monday 29 March: TBD
Tuesday 30 March: Church of the Nazarene, Pastor David Rudge
Wednesday 31 March: Seagate Evangelical Church, Pastor Richard Woods
Thursday, 1 April: Troon Church Together Joint Worship lead by Ayr Presbytery
Moderator Rev. David Prentice-Hyers
Friday, 2 April: Portland Parish Church, Rev. Mary Elizabeth Prentice-Hyers
Saturday, 3 April: St. Ninians's Scottish Episcopal Church – Saturday Vigil
Sunday, 4 April: St. Meddan's Parish Church – Sunrise service
Sunday, 4 April: Portland Parish Church 10:30 worship, Rev. Mary Elizabeth Prentice-Hyers

**OUR NEXT ISSUE OF THE
PARISHIONER WILL BE IN
APRIL 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!**

The Phrase “He is Risen, He is Risen, Indeed!” is a phrase we use particularly on Easter morning. Over the course of the last year, we have learned a lot about technology and the ability to include several videos on the screen at the same time. John McDonald has offered to include, in our online worship for Easter, our congregation saying the phrase “He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!”

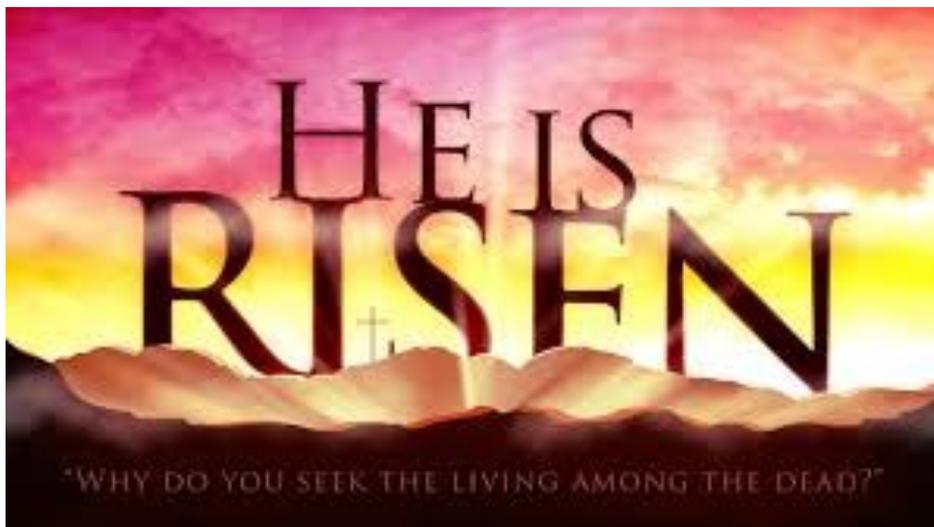
With that in mind, I invite you to record yourself and send it to John McDonald. Let’s make it 20 or more videos!

Please follow these simple instructions:

1. Put your phone in landscape mode or use your laptop computer.
2. Press record to make an mp4 file
3. Clap twice (this allows us to line up the videos)
4. Say in a loud happy voice “HE IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED!”
5. Wave to the camera
6. Count to five
7. Stop recording
8. Send the video to John McDonald using WhatsApp (07761 974778) or by emailing him at
9. mcdonald@troonportlandchurch.org.uk

If this is too complicated and you would like to participate, please be in touch with me and I can come and record you from your doorstep (me@prenticehyers.org)

Please have all videos to John McDonald by Friday, 19th March 2021.



I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Recent Deaths

James McSkimming	21st January
Harry Osborne	25th January
John Hart	11th February
John Greene	14th February
Isobel Quaey	February

MESSY CHURCH: NEW LIFE: NEW HOPE



Eastertainment



This year, families in Troon are invited to celebrate Easter in style with our Easter activities and our bag of accompanying crafts.

The craft team are busy already preparing activities to be put in bags for families on the theme of New Life: New Hope.

Children will be making flowers, birds, butterflies, chickens, fold up booklets, colouring in Easter pictures and going outdoors to fill matchboxes.

This time, two hundred bags will be available, as the Christmas estimate of one hundred quickly ran out and more had to be produced at short notice. Each bag will also contain a book with the Easter story.

Videos on our website.

<https://www.messychurchtroon.com/>

Usually Messy Church finances come from donations and from our funds in Troon Churches Together. As no donations have been collected during the lockdown period, we had almost nothing left after our Wintertainment event, particularly as packaging made it far more expensive to deliver than when done in person, When we meet in local churches for example, children can share equipment, but bags must contain everything that is needed to make the crafts. We were fortunate in receiving the support of the community council for our first Eastertainment in 2019 and a further grant this year from South Ayrshire council for well being bags.

Well-Being Bags

The craft team have also been heavily involved in making up well-being bags which are being distributed as part of the Micah project at St Meddans Church. These will be issued before Easter and will contain craft ideas and games.

There will also be information about the new2U service, where high quality children's clothes are being collected for re-use. Volunteers are needed for this and for the Tuck and Spread Out food project. Details available from St Meddans church website.



Housegroup talks about Commitment

LENT : as in given but wants back

LENT : as in propped against the wall, (sp)

LENT: as in thinking about Christ, and about commitment.

And indeed that was our theme on Ash Wednesday, that least of Presbyterian celebrations.

It can be a hard one to think about, and we all queried our own commitment and how we manage that in the midst of life. Even now life is full of family, and worries and the ' how to manage 'of day to day life. Online ordering of almost anything, food and how best to cope with that, the everlasting washing and sanitising. Motivation just to get through the day can be difficult. The internet can drive you slowly mad. The loss of those little things in life, hugs, grandchildren, grandparents or parents, meals, coffees, nipping into town to buy a screw or some summer seeds. We all took those things for granted.

But do we also take Christ for granted? Without the regular commitment of weekly church, and meetings, Session, Housegroup , Bible study ?

Can we lift our heads above the parapet and think what and how we commit to Christ. One of the ways we thought about was having two weekly house groups instead of monthly.

So we are going to try that . We meet on Zoom, clutching our tea , and managing to have laughter and chat as well as discussion.

Join us at any time , to try it out, or ongoing. No pressure whatever to speak or to lead. Just to give ourselves something which we have all found valuable. Drop in to any of our meetings.

Contact me on byshortoo@gmail.com if you would like to try us out. Barbie Short.

Next meeting : **Wednesday 3rd March / Wednesday 17th March 7.30pm**

Cell

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Help!	Trapped	within	these	cell	walls
2	I	just	live	from	data	day.
3	I	wish	I	knew	the	formula
4	so	that	I	might	get	away.
5						
6	Instead	I	dream	of	other	worlds
7	and	a	life	of	bold	adventure.
8	Come	rescue	me	before	I	am
9	completely merged and centred.					
10						
11						Brian Bilston

Read as Poem!

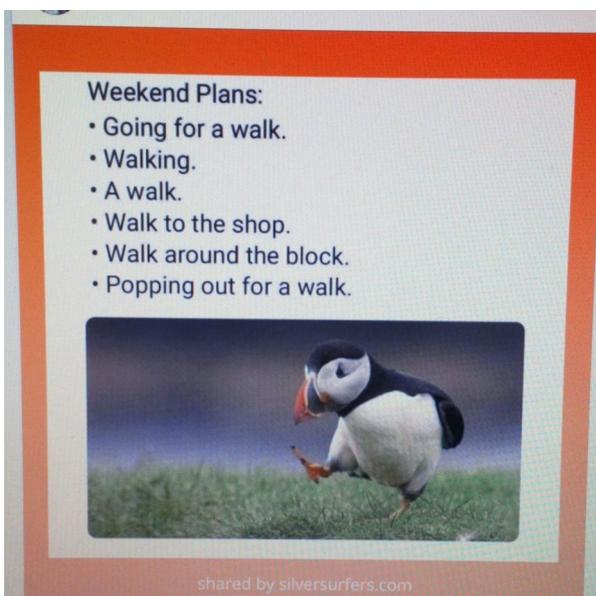
Life is amazing.
And then its awful.
And then it's amazing again.
And in between the amazing and the awful
it's ordinary and mundane and routine.
Breathe in the amazing, hold on through
the awful, and relax and exhale
during the ordinary. That's just living.
Heartbreaking, soul-healing, amazing,
awful, ordinary life. And it's
breathtakingly beautiful.



Zoom meetings are just modern seances



"There's someone who wants to join us."
"Elizabeth, are you there?"
"We can't hear you."
"Can you hear us?"



smile

PRAYER

Eternal Love,
at this Lenten time of testing
and of vaccination
may we hear your words to Joshua,
'I command you
to be determined and confident.
Don't be afraid or discouraged,
for I, the Lord, your God,
am with You wherever you go'

You are in our self-isolating and exercising,
in our working or volunteering,
in our home-schooling and online learning
in our caring and coping with disability
in our worrying about job or money.
You tell us to stay firm and resolute,
because of our trust in You
to companion and empower us,

You are in all our hospitals and health centres,
in all care homes and all family homes,
in all discussion and decision making chambers,
in all nurseries and educational establishments,
in all local communities and shops,
in all our public transport and emergency services.
You tell us not to fear or lose hope,
even if we are feeling overwhelmed
because You are there in every situation

You are there in our anxieties and panics,
in our feelings of hopelessness or lack of purpose,
in our loneliness and grieving
because wherever we go in our heads
You are there whispering Christ's words:
'Come to me all you who are tired
from carrying heavy loads
and I will give you rest.'

Lord God,
You are in every part of our
conflicted and unjust world.
Help us to share knowledge and medicine.
Lead us through this pandemic.

Ever-present Love,
You are each one
of Your global children,
So for all we pray:
Bless us and keep us.
Be gracious and look kindly on us.
May your face shine upon us
and give us peace.
Your peace. Amen



Visit the Troon Portland web page for our Weekly Sunday Service, Lenten Reflections, Videos of funerals which under normal circumstances you would have attended but could not just now, daily bible readings, and a recent addition—activities for children. And so much more. Please use this invaluable resource to keep in touch with your Church.

www.troonportlandchurch.org.uk



Contact Details

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