

November 2021

# The Parishioner

The magazine of the Portland Parish Church of Scotland: Troon  
(Charity Number SC003477)



*We will  
remember them*

***Love your neighbour as yourself***

## **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**

**N**ovember is going to slip through our fingers if we don't watch out and soon, we will be knee deep in Advent. The church worship calendar is quite busy:

- 07 November: Baptism
- 14 November: Remembrance Sunday (please note worship will start at 11:30 a.m. after the parade to the cenotaph)
- 21 November: Baptism
- 28 November: First Sunday of Advent



It is with great joy that we get to baptize/christen two little girls this month. As the parents bring their children forward, they are making a promise publicly of what God is always and already doing in their child's life. In baptism we are named and claimed as God's very own. The parents make promises, but as a congregation we make a promise too. The question is this:

*Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ  
Promise to guide and nurture not just (the child of the day),  
But every child that comes through these doors  
By word and deed, with love and prayer  
Encouraging them to know and follow Christ?*

It is my hope that we can all say a resounding, 'Yes!' We make a promise that, as a church, the sanctuary and our community is a place they, and everyone, feel welcome.

You all may have noticed we have a 'pray ground' or a 'wobble room,' (name still to be determined) up at the front of the sanctuary. Since Harvest Sunday we have had the opportunity to welcome the children back into our midst. And since we all know that children have the wiggles (so do adults for that matter), we have created a space for the children to stay busy but remain in the wider community's presence. It is amazing what children can pick up from just being around things. For instance, Finlay is now interested in learning the Lord's Prayer and Angus has discovered a new way of praying using the hand poppers. Parents have commented to me that they feel more relaxed coming to church knowing that their children can have a space to wiggle.

I recently met a family to discuss a baptism. We met in the sanctuary to let the children get familiar with the space. The older brother said, 'What's that?' pointing to the pulpit. I invited him up to the font, to the communion table, and even the pulpit, to look and see. He was fascinated. He asked what each place was for and in these moments I got to share about the sacraments of the church. Who knows if it stuck? But the fact that he was curious gave me hope.

I hope this month we can welcome even more children into our midst, living and fulfilling our promise that we make at each baptism, *by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging* children to know and follow the one whom already loves them.

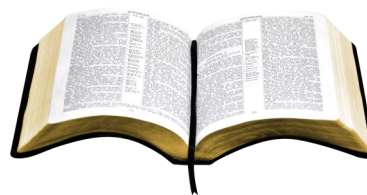
*Rev. Mary Elizabeth Prentice-Hyers (Mel)*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

05 December	Second Sunday of Advent, Communion
12 December	Third Sunday of Advent, Show up on the day Congregational Nativity
19 December	Lessons and Carols
24 December	Watchnight Service (11 p.m. Hospitality, 11:30 p.m. Worship)
25 December	Joint Christmas Eve Service with Troon Old Parish Church, 10:30 a.m.
26 December	Troon Churches Together present a joint worship service <b>ONLINE ONLY</b>

## HOUSE GROUP

***Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.***



Philippians 2:3

Not a bad start to Housegroup .....we are all aware of each others' strengths and they are all different. This is what makes the group work. Considering this Bible reading; we then went on to read Luke 24, 13-35, The Road to Emmaus, and that way we all get something new out of reading which we may have felt we knew well.

Would we recognise Jesus if he walked beside us? Or should we assume everyone is Jesus and treat them all well. Who do we walk beside? And how do we cope with the occasional awfulness of life; does our faith hold us up? How do we strengthen it?

Inevitably there was some talk at the end of churches in Troon as we had a cup of tea. And brownies..... . Weirdly I then came across this :

***You will be joined together, and you will give glory to God the father of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ accepted you, so you should accept each other.***

The wise words from Paul's letter to the Romans 15: 6-7

We pray this may happen and we are enabled to join together truly as three churches in one faith.

All are welcome at our next meeting :

**Wednesday November 10th at 7.30pm-9pm. 33 Beach Road**

*Barbie Short*

I'd like to add a postscript to Mel's excellent eulogy on Raymond at his Memorial Service in Portland last month. There was a fulsome tribute to Raymond's church and travel activities, but my Portland photo album has one or two extra angles.

The Property Committee benefitted from his expertise and commitment and this photo shows him in happy mood with the committee of that time.

The Sunday School and Holiday Club were of particular interest to Raymond and he enthusiastically got involved in the activities there. No role was considered too humble or small for him. As a shepherd or a Wise Man in the Nativity he excelled.

As a keen gardener I'm sure Raymond was a contributor to the Gardening Day though I think he was ill by the time of our last Gardening Day as there is no sign of him in the photos. As Head of the Communications Committee he kept us all in order---yes, it was a big committee then.

The Saturday café was a happy place for him. He loved the home-baking and the chat in equal measure. Oh happy days!

*Avril McDonald*





## **BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOE BOX APPEAL**

If you haven't already bounced into action—as so many of you have—thank you—this is a gentle reminder that the closing date for this appeal is Sunday, 7th November. If you do not feel able to fill a box (or a draw string bag which is an alternative), then a donation of any items on the list for a child or adult as given on the Blythswood Care website [www.blythswood.org](http://www.blythswood.org) Shoe Box Appeal 2021 will go to filling a box and will be much appreciated. Thank you.



*Margaret Short*

**S**t Ninian's Episcopal Church are holding a Global Singing Workshop on Sunday 7th November from 2 pm - 4 pm, as part of COP26, in the Church Hall, Bentinck Drive, Troon. Anyone interested in attending should email [troonrector@myphone.coop](mailto:troonrector@myphone.coop) or phone 01292 313731 to book a place.



*You may be a trained singer, an enthusiastic amateur or someone who has never really sung before, all are welcome. The workshop will be led by the Rector, Rev Keith Thomasson, learning songs gathered by the Iona Community. He will teach music by ear and printed music will be available.*

## **THANK YOU**

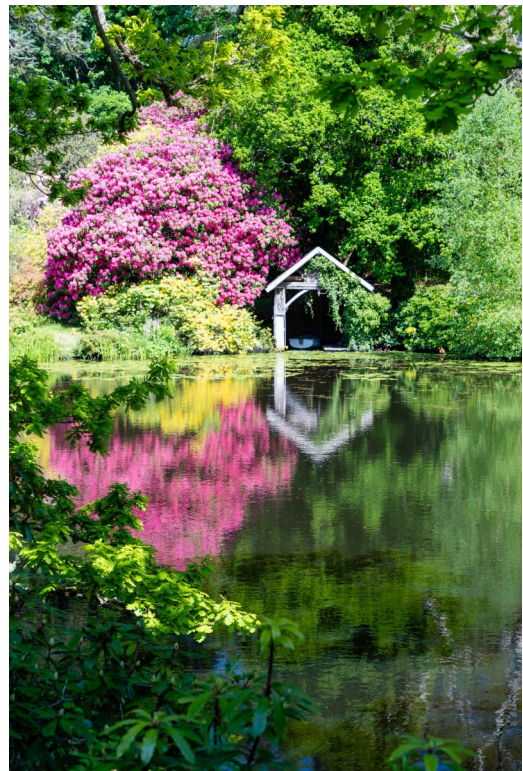
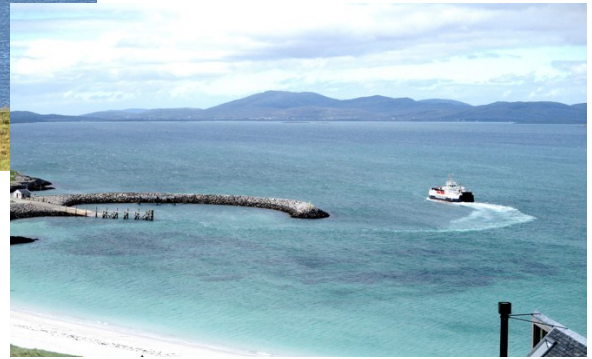
Christine, Bob and all the family would like to express their sincere and grateful thanks to the Portland family for the kindness and support given to them following Raymond's death.

Special thanks goes to Mel for two heartfelt and comforting services and to Grace and her team of willing helpers who laid on a wonderful tea in the Halls afterwards.

Also thank you to all who generously donated £482.00 to Chest, Heart and Stroke, Scotland.

## HOLIDAYS 2021—where did we go?

In 2021 many of us will now have happy memories of days out or holidays in Scotland. Can you guess where some of our Portland family went?







## **FREEWILL OFFERING**

A wee reminder that I am very willing to collect your offering if you have not been able to hand it in. My phone no. is 01292 314143, give me a call and I will arrange with you when to collect it. Thank you

*Kennedy Howden*  
*Joint Freewill Offering Convenor*

## **CONTACT**

**T**he church mailing list has 90 addresses on it. The list was made up some time ago so some members may have forgotten it exists. If you know of anyone who is not receiving the church emails please inform them of the list and ask them if they want to be on it. If so they should send an email requesting this to [mcdonald@troonportlandchurch.org.uk](mailto:mcdonald@troonportlandchurch.org.uk)

**E**veryone is welcome to come to our next Messy Church on Sunday 21 November from 2 p.m until 4 p.m. in St Meddans Church, Troon's Wintertainment day. There will be craft tables, puppets, refreshments (cold drinks, coffee, tea, biscuits) and other goodies, including a book with the Christmas story. There will also be the chance to take away items from the high quality Micah clothing bank, a stall with craft items for sale and a Traidcraft stall.



## **Troon Churches Together**

TCT held an in-person meeting on 29 September 2021 in Seagate Church and it was lovely to have a good turn-out of clergy and lay representatives from so many churches, the Lighthouse, Nazarene, Portland, St Meddans, St Ninian's, Seagate and Troon Old, with apologies from Our Lady and Dundonald. After many years of service to TCT, Brian Duncan of Troon Old has stood down. We are grateful for the invaluable contribution he has made over the years, including masterminding the publicity for joint services.

Anne Gardiner opened with prayer and welcome, especially to Keith Thomasson who has recently joined St Ninian's. Since this was the first meeting for almost two years, Anne Gardiner played a short video of some of TCT's previous activities, which can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxMe7opHjsg>

### **Messy Church / Wintertainment**

Details of 'virtual' Messy Church events during lockdown had been circulated. A Messy Church has been planned in St Meddans for Sunday 21 November, with 5 craft tables. The £500, agreed at our last meeting for Messy Church activities, was confirmed. At present, there are two other events planned in the New Year. All Messy Church literature has the TCT branding clearly visible. Some of the present craft team cannot take part at present and it is hoped that more parents can be recruited to help.

### **Joint Christmas Services and distribution of literature.**

A joint service would be difficult due to the possible numbers attending and Covid restrictions. A 'virtual' joint service was discussed. It was agreed that the ministers and church leaders should meet to discuss details. A leaflet would be produced and delivered with Troon's Going Out.

**Election of Office Bearers**, Sandra McCallum was thanked for her time as Convenor and David Prentice-Hyers agreed to step into this position.

### **Micah Project**

Helen Hogg gave an update on progress, outlining how it works with TEAM AROUND which has input from schools, social workers, and churches. There has been a high level of need in the town over the last two years.

### **Job Club at Seagate and Christians against Poverty**

David Shaw of Seagate is willing to come to any church or organisation to speak about their Life Skills initiative, a seven week course where Christians and non-Christians come together to assist people to live on a low income. It is built around a prayer, soup and sandwich, and a prayer. Items include managing bills, getting good cheap food by shopping at the right times and fixing fire alarms and detectors. The talk lasts about 10 minutes. After the course people keep in touch and make sure those who have taken part know that somebody cares. Contact [artieshaw49@gmail.com](mailto:artieshaw49@gmail.com)

**Next Meeting** - Tuesday 21st February 2022 **in Church of the Nazarene.**

The Meeting was closed with The Grace.

*Avril McDonald  
Sandra McCallum*



# MALAWI PARTNERSHIP REPORT

Over recent months our partner congregation in Limphasa has celebrated the completion of the works to furnish their church building with a newly constructed Communion Table, three beautifully crafted chairs, a Lectern and a fine wooden Pulpit. These complement and grace the much enlarged building and it is most satisfying to see how our financial contributions towards the funding of these works have been put to use in such a pleasing way.

In thanking Portland Church for all of our financial assistance towards the total rebuilding of their church over the past four years the Rev Asayiwe Mwenitete has shared some photographs which help to illustrate this wonderful achievement and which show the inside and outside of the building.

As this has not been our one and only mission outreach to Malawi since our partnership commenced in 2012 I have prepared a summary of the background to our involvement together with a listing of some of the other significant projects we have supported in that time in fulfilment of its objectives. It is without doubt an impressive achievement by the members of Portland Church in following Christ's command to: *'Go and preach the good news to everyone in the world'*.

*Bill Weir*



Church Entrance



Rear view of church

# Our Malawi Mission – Fulfilling a Promise

Portland Church is twinned with Limphasa Congregation in rural northern Malawi. It lies between the lake shore district of Nkhata Bay and the City of Mzuzu and consists of the Main Church building within the Mpamba Community and eleven remote Prayer House congregations.

The Partnership was originally agreed between Rev Alick Mhone and Rev Jamie Milliken with the formal Twinning Agreement being signed in 2012. Since 2018 Limphasa Church has been led by Rev Asayiwe Mwenitete.

The origins of the Partnership were in 2004 when a World Mission team, including a minister from the Presbytery of Ayr, had visited Malawi just after a very poor harvest. The story of the traumatic experience of witnessing many people facing starvation led to a Presbytery of Ayr team visit in 2006 to determine how best to help. This resulted in a Covenant of Partnership between the Presbytery of Ayr and Bandawe and Limphasa Presbyteries of the CCAP which encouraged individual churches in the Presbytery of Ayr to twin with individual churches in the two Partner Presbyteries. Five subsequent team visits have taken place in support of this with the most recent being in 2017 when a senior elder from Portland Church was part of the visiting team to Malawi from Ayr Presbytery. These visits have greatly helped to sustain, develop and strengthen these links and to manage the specific projects that are supported. On quite a number of occasions Ayr Presbytery has also welcomed our Brothers and Sisters in Christ from Malawi as their guests and in 2015 Portland's Partnership with Limphasa Church was greatly strengthened as a result of such a visit to Portland by their minister.

The Partnership Agreement states:

*We agree to work together in a twinning partnership to understand and support each other in our faith and works.*

*Our purpose is to:*

*Build a positive partnership in which we can understand each other's culture*

*Share our resources and knowledge with each other in appropriate ways*

*Assist in enriching the lives of our partners however possible*

In the years since entering into this agreement in 2012 Portland Church has worked consistently to fulfil these objectives while also actively supporting initiatives by Ayr Presbytery such as their Alternative Gift Schemes to provide the twelve partnership churches with mosquito nets; solar lamps; and with seeds and fertiliser.

Some of the key achievements in this time have been the following:

Helping to fund reconstruction of a severely flood damaged prayer house

Funding supplies of maize to supplement flood damaged crops

Providing solar lamps to aid opportunities for study by students

Securing funding for a youth engagement and marketable skills project

Being a major source of funding for the reconstruction of Limphasa Church following its condemnation as being unsafe due to termite destruction. This has resulted in a substantially enlarged building now with electric lighting, and with its internal walls rendered, and with a smooth concrete floor.

Helping with the funding of a newly crafted Communion Table together with three chairs and a fine new wooden pulpit.

Arranging for the delivery of donated goods including sewing machines and a large number of beautifully knitted baby hats and new born clothing

Helping to fund various Covid prevention measures including youth programmes to manufacture 10,000 face masks and with the provision of hand washing stations and the dissemination of health advice within the community including the translation of information into the native language

Supporting the welfare of the minister and the education of his family

Providing a second-hand motor cycle to enable the minister to travel to outlying communities and distant prayer houses much more readily. Until then visits were made on foot with some involving a three hour journey

Assistance and supplies have also been provided to Ekwendeni Mission Hospital

We are most grateful for all of the support so generously given by our members and also by others in our community in reaching out to our friends in Malawi. We have been blessed to be in a position to provide help. This is not just financial help. It also means maintaining a relationship with communities and individuals in far off Malawi and letting them know that we care.

*Bill Weir*



Session House at rear of church



Church Chairs



Pulpit, communion table, lectern and chairs



Inside church from pulpit



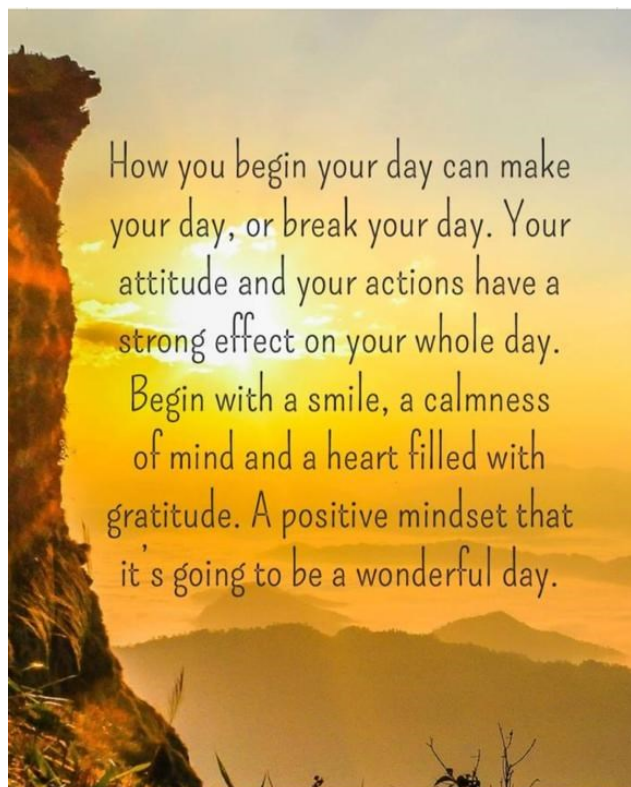
Side view of church with Presbytery Office



Communion Table



**OUR NEXT ISSUE OF THE  
PARISHIONER WILL BE IN  
DECEMBER 2021 POSTED AT THE  
BEGINNING OF THAT MONTH  
PLEASE SEND ANY  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR  
MAGAZINE TO –parishioner45@gmail.com**



How you begin your day can make your day, or break your day. Your attitude and your actions have a strong effect on your whole day. Begin with a smile, a calmness of mind and a heart filled with gratitude. A positive mindset that it's going to be a wonderful day.



Life is better when you cry a little, laugh a lot, and are **thankful** for everything you've got.

**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:**

**Hall's Convener:** Catriona McKellar

**The Parishioner:** Margaret Short

**Website:**

#### **Contact Details**

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