

October 2021

The Parishioner



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



*For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:
Christ, our God, to you we raise
This sacrifice of praise.
Hymn 181*

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**

I imagine a table long enough to fit the whole church around it. Imagine the table heavy with the weight of food because there is such an abundance. Imagine that all of your friends, your family, your neighbours, your acquaintances, even your enemies have a place at the table. Those are the images I like to think about when presiding at the Lord's Table, especially on Harvest Sunday.



This year our Harvest Sunday occurs on 3 October 2021. Portland Church is taking this opportunity to fling wide the doors, welcome those who have been every week and those that have not been in a long time.

We would like to welcome you back to church and invite you to celebrate communion (in a COVID friendly way) with us. There is enough room at the table, so come! While we can't set up a table long enough for everyone to sit around given the current COVID situation, know that you are welcome at the Lord's Table and we hope that you will join us.

Please note that communion will be taken by individual pre-sealed cups. For those that struggle to open them, assistance will be freely given by our elders.

As we come to be fed at The Lord's Table, we can also feed others. We invite you to bring donations of food for the South Ayrshire food bank which operates out of Troon Old Parish Church.

The food bank requests are: main meals, vegetables, fruit, puddings, l.l.milk, powdered or tinned potatoes, small shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste, washing up liquid, small washing powder, packaged biscuits. ***Please no pasta, rice, or tinned beans or soup.***

We had to close the church building on 20th of March 2020 and we all had to learn to do life differently. The Church had to learn too. All of us have learned lessons, maybe one of the most important lessons is the human need for relationship. Relationships are the foundation of the church and even when our doors were closed, we could still ***be the church to one another.*** *We hope that you know that you are always welcome in our building, but more importantly you are welcome in our midst.*

Following worship, you are invited to join us for fellowship in the greater and lesser halls.

So, mark your diaries 3 October 2021, Portland Parish Church, 10:30 a.m.

Yours in Christ-

Rev. Mary Elizabeth Prentice-Hyers (Mel)

Sharing the Lord's Supper

All who love the Lord Jesus Christ are invited by Him to share Communion together on **Sunday 3rd October 2021** at 10.30am



'Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends'

HOUSEGROUP

FAITH

FLEXIBILITY

FRIENDSHIP

This is Housegroup in three words. We met in a hybrid meeting with three of us online and the rest in the room together . This worked well, and we had an interesting meeting, focussing on Psalm 23. This is such a well known, and well loved psalm, yet we found discussing it in detail, plus some helpful questions, made us all think far more widely than before. Sometimes something is so well known that you cease to appreciate the points within it. This was the case for us.

It meant a great deal that we could meet, for most of us, in reality, and share a cup of tea and a biscuit. This made us reflect on the need to draw together through food, and the suggestion was that the first step forward when we unite as three churches, should be to eat a meal together. Food is such an important ice breaker and conversation encourager. But also the important issue centres on mixing and not keeping our own little church group. This applies to coffee or any social event. We agreed how much meeting as Housegroup had enabled us to know each other so much better, and had kept us in friendship and faith through the trying times of lockdowns.

All are very welcome to our next meeting.
Wednesday 13th October , 7.30pm at 33 Beach Rd

Barbie Short

EDITORIAL FROM OCTOBER 2021

LIFE AND WORK

Next month Glasgow is set to host the delayed UN-sponsored COP26 (originally due to take place in 2020)

The hosting of this prestigious event places climate change and the stewardship of the earth's resources firmly on the agenda, not just for our churches but as a personal responsibility for all.

As we grapple with internal change and consider the future of our church buildings, it is essential that sustainability is entrenched firmly within these plans. This is not just about sustainability of numbers and worship, but should also be looking at futureproofing the fabric of our buildings.

The summer of 2021 was exceptionally warm in Scotland. There were warnings of potential water shortages with tankers used to bring additional supplies to areas experiencing exceptional demand. Consumers were asked to try and be sensible with their consumption and usage to try and reduce the risk of restrictions.

In considering the sustainability of our churches, there is a pressing need to consider the long-term viability of buildings. As the Church seeks to take a moral stand on its investments there needs to be a long-term strategy incorporating a move towards renewable energy for heat, light and power in all church buildings. This should be part of a long-term plan to rely on resources which are not damaging to the earth and create changes which are felt not by those of us living a life of comfort but rather by the poorest people of the world, relying on consistent weather patterns and crops to sustain their lives.

Equally such moves present issues in particular for rural Scotland. The usage of electric cars or public transport may be viable with an urban context but move out into the more remote parts of Scotland and there are major challenges both in frequency and in charging points—and in weather and daylight patterns. Solar panels may be of huge benefit in southern Scotland but in the northern isles may be problematic over dark winter months. Wind and wave power may be helpful in a coastal and island context but may not be sufficient for busy urban inland buildings.

There are no easy answers, but these are some of the big issues which are important for long-term sustainability.

As many (but not all) celebrate the season of harvest, the stewardship of the earth and the diverse use of natural resources to minimise the impact on the poorest people inhabiting our earth should be at the forefront of all debate on long-term planning.

Lynne McNeil
Editor of Life and Work

Troon Churches Together

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 28th September at 7.30 in SEAGATE Church.

Items on the agenda will include:

- Finances, (subscriptions, distribution of HPIT funds and Messy Church funds)
- Joint Christmas Services
- Possible Leaflet distribution with Going Out.
- Wintertainment
- Organisation and Office Bearers
- Mission and Outreach opportunities of TCT in the future

Sandra McCallum

We thank thee Lord for all thy gifts
Of sunshine warm, and showers of rain
That ripened all the lovely fruits
And fields of golden grain.

We thank thee for the joy that comes
To us, when harvest gifts we bring -
That others, too, may know thy love,
Which speaks through everything.

O give us loving, thankful hearts,
For all thy goodness, love and care;
And help us always to be glad
To give away and share.



Hymn 631 Third Edition Church Hymnary

Remember to bring your gifts for the Food Bank on Sunday,
3rd October

Recent Deaths

Raymond Howes

On Friday, 24th September 2021

His funeral will be on Thursday, 7th October at 2.30 pm at Holmsford Bridge followed by a celebration of his life at 3.15 pm at Portland Parish Church

HARVEST BOUNTY



Harvest Fun from Sandra McCallum



Mel's boys with unexpected potato crop!





The Prentice-Hyers' pumpkins

Gathered while walking the dog—Lotte likes brambles too



Beautiful berries—Avril

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



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Interim Moderator: Bill Duncan

Session Clerk: John Reid

Treasurer: Catriona McKellar

Church Officer: Ruaridh McKellar

Church Office:

Organist/Music Convener:

Hall's Convener: Catriona McKellar

The Parishioner: Margaret Short

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