

April 2022

# The Parishioner

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



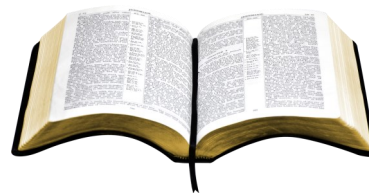
## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**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**

# HOUSEGROUP.....

met again at the beginning of Lent.

And discussed The Wilderness, the Desert, and the meaning of FORTY - 40.



40 Years in the wilderness with Moses, and 40 days that Christ spent in the wilderness.

Is the wilderness a :

- breathing space giving us perspective on life
- a time of austerity and loneliness
- formation of time and space

The discussion ranged over the role of the hermit, and convents /monasteries who do not speak. Some also carry out fasting. Whether a lack of all distraction is good for us, our soul and our faith. Do we concentrate enough ? Are our prayers helpful to us?

‘There is ample evidence from clinical psychology that excessive self-focus can have negative effects’

*New Scientist , 5.3.22 p45*

The readings covered from Deuteronomy to psalm 63 and both Mark and Luke. 2000 years later these were felt to be relevant to us today. Something to think about.

Many of us experience wilderness in ourselves through depression or bereavement or loneliness . The discussion wandered over this and how to combat it. Faith - is it our go-to rescue remedy ? And how best do we utilise it - how do we reach out to others in a black hole?

It is hard to give a flavour of our discussion but all felt it a useful evening. Biscuits and tea rounded it off , so definitely no fasting for us that evening!

**Wednesday April 13th, 7.30pm ,**

when we will be concentrating on Holy Week and what it means for us.

*Barbie Short*

## RECENT DEATHS

***I am the resurrection and the life***

*Margaret Tedford*

*Wednesday, 23rd March*



## **CHRISTIAN AID**

### **After-church Lunch on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April in St Meddan's Halls to raise funds for Christian Aid**

The Troon Christian Aid committee are holding a soup, sandwich and baking lunch. It will be served in the halls of St Meddan's church after 12noon on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. The cost is £5 for adults and a donation for children. Everyone will be made most welcome.

### **Coffee morning Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May in Troon Old halls**

All money raised on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May will be donated to Christian Aid. The regular Saturday café team will serve coffees. Baking will only be accepted from donors who have a RHEIS certificate. Cost is £3.50 for adults and £1 for children. Donations for a Tombola will be welcomed.

### **Christian Aid Week 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Envelopes will be available in all churches for donations. No door-to-door collection. This year the main fundraiser in Troon will be to Challenge ourselves to walk 300,000 steps in the month of May. One JustGiving page will be set up for all participants across the churches. All friends and families are welcome to participate and to donate.

*Margaret Weir*



### **Challenge yourself**

Take on our 300,000 steps challenge this May - get fit while raising vital funds.

# MALAWI PARTNERSHIP

2021 marked the tenth year of Portland's partnership with the rural congregation of CCAP, Limphasa in Northern Malawi. In each of these years we have witnessed a deepening of our relationship with our Christian brethren through worship and in their daily lives which are often faced with very challenging situations and 2021 was no exception.

The immediate economic effect of government imposed restrictions on the numbers attending church impacted on the welfare of the minister and his family. This situation was alleviated with funds gifted by Portland members together with additional funding to boost the Covid prevention measures being undertaken by the youths engaged in the congregation's 'Back to School' project. Our timely response to these situations was particularly welcomed.

The completion of the internal fitting out of the newly constructed church in Limphasa was finally achieved in 2021. This included the connection of the electricity supply to the church, the construction of a podium and the flooring of both transepts. Portland's assistance with the funding of their new pulpit, communion table and three chairs was greatly appreciated. All of these incorporate much thought and display superb craftsmanship and are most fitting in their setting. A special Service of Dedication was held in July to mark this achievement.

Members and friends of the congregation have again been active in knitting a great many tops, hats and blankets for shipment to Malawi via the Bananabox Trust. While dispatches have been disrupted for much of 2021 one shipment is currently in transit and includes items for new born infants at the Ekwendeni Mission Hospital, some sewing machines and other craft materials for the ReJoin Art Project at Limphasa. All of these are eagerly awaited.

We were delighted to learn that the Rev Asayiwe Mwenitete had been awarded a Bachelor of Divinity degree with Credit by the University of Livingstonia and had been selected to be 'capped' by the President of Malawi. To achieve this success while serving as a full time minister and presbytery clerk is testament to the dedication he gave to his studies.

Our partnership continues to have a positive impact both on individuals and in the wider community. Unfortunately the planned visitation to Malawi by representatives of Ayr Presbytery, including two elders from Portland, has had to be cancelled. However we continue to deepen the bond between the congregations, already linked through prayer, and brought closer together with the sharing of the many challenges faced throughout each year.

Our activities continue to fulfil our objectives to help safeguard the future for the community, and for our fellow Christians in Malawi, both in spirit and body, bringing joy in giving and receiving in Christ's name.

*Bill Weir*

# Coming Services

**3rd April - MEPH away in USA for wedding** (family wedding from 28 March - 13 April)  
**Service to be led by the Reverend David Harper**

**10th April - MEPH away in USA for wedding** (family wedding from 28 March - 13 April)

Holy Week Services

14 April - Maundy Thursday, communion and service at Troon Old at 7pm

15 April - Good Friday, Service of Darkness at Portland Parish Church at 7 pm

16 April - Holy Saturday, Vigil at St. Ninians at 8.30 pm. A Troon Churches Together Choir will provide the music

17 April – Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service at 6 am hosted by Portland at the Beach for the town, followed by breakfast at Troon Old

17 April – Easter Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Easter morning worship at Portland.

24 April—The first Sunday after Easter

Lord God,

We ask you to hold the people of Ukraine deep in your heart.  
Protect them, we pray;  
From violence,  
From political gamesmanship,  
from being used and abused.

Give, we pray,  
the nations of the world the courage  
and the wisdom  
to stand up for justice  
and the courage too,  
to dare to care - generously.

Lord in your mercy,  
Take from us all,  
The tendencies in us  
That seek to lord it over others:  
Take from us those traits  
that see us pursuing our own needs and wants  
before those of others.

Teach us how to live in love  
And dignity  
And respect - following your example.  
In your name and for your sake,

Amen.







18<sup>th</sup> March 2022

We recognise not everyone within congregations is a Life and Work reader. Therefore, to encourage new subscribers and keep people connected through the pages of the Church of Scotland magazine, we share details of our latest subscription offer.

### **EASTER OFFER**

- **Print:** 12 issues for the price of 10 offer price £30 - enter promotion code EAST22 to receive £6 discount. *UK delivery address and new subscribers only.*
- **Digital:** 12 issues for £14.99 (normally £20.99) no code required – simply select the introductory offer option.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of the savings should visit the Life and Work website [www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe](http://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe). The offer is valid until 30.04.22.

Subscribers to Life and Work support the vital and vibrant work of our Church while keeping connected with the Christian community in Scotland, and further afield.

We hope there is an opportunity for you to share news of this promotion with others and we thank you in advance for your support.

Best wishes

The Life and Work Team



Beautiful display of crocuses in front of Kirkcudbright Parish Church



## **PLANT SALE**

After the great success of last year's event—despite Covid— a plant sale day is in the planning stages—date for your diary **SATURDAY, 21ST MAY.**

So if you are sowing seeds, please sow a few extra for the sale. Or perhaps split a few of your herbaceous plants and pot them up for sale.

And of course please come along and buy.

More details to come.

## **TRADCRAFT**

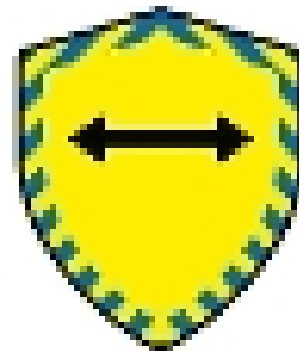
New Traidcraft Spring brochures are now available, including real Easter eggs. Please contact Val Gwynne on 313239 or Carol Pritchard on 220548.



**OUR NEXT ISSUE OF THE  
PARISHIONER WILL BE IN  
MAY 2022 POSTED AT THE  
BEGINNING OF THAT MONTH  
PLEASE SEND ANY  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR  
MAGAZINE TO —parishioner45@gmail.com**

The First Minister has announced that from Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> of April, it will no longer be a legal requirement to wear a face covering in places of worship or while attending a marriage ceremony, a civil partnership registration, or a funeral.

In the vestibule at Portland there are available Distance Aware Symbols.



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

**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

**Website:**

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