

February 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

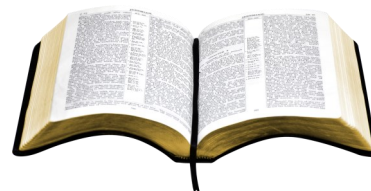
HOUSE GROUP

The Light of the World

December and it was appropriate to continue our theme of light and darkness. We looked at Luke 2:1-7, the familiar and loved passage of Christ's birth, and we considered John 1: 1-5 - the light shines in the darkness but the darkness has not understood it.

And so we discussed how to evangelise about Christmas and avoid the huge yawning pit of consumerism . Our own personal experience is the only proof we have of God. The oft quoted but unattributable words of St Francis of Assisi :
Preach the gospel but use words.

Christmas means so many different things to different people. Housegroup hopes that everyone took a little joy home with them . We met again in January to think some more on The Epiphany of our Lord.



January meeting:

This gives us all....you too.....a little exercise for these winter days. It's called:
Theological Reflection
and it goes like this:
take anything you are currently doing. Stop. Think about it. Reflect and tie it to a Bible story.

Today I walked along the beach.....loads of inspiration. Fishing boats? Sea.....rolling gently in.....fish being hauled in.....are you with it now???

The thought arose from the issues of modern life. We all rush about clutching ipads/ phones/ shopping lists/ to do lists .
Do we stop? And listen to, well what is around us.

Reflect, and be calm. 2022 will happen. How we cope with it is up to us, and faith.

Next meeting :

Wednesday 9th February, 7.30pm at 33 Beach Road or Zoom.

All are welcome, bring yourself and a Bible. Phone if you would like lift or more information.

Barbie Short 315784

Dates for your diary

6th February
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

13th February
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

20th February
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

27th February
Transfiguration Sunday

Communion
We will welcome Joshua Faulks to play the piano during Communion. He recently took up playing the piano and piano lessons and we welcome him to share his talent with us during worship.

6th March
1st Sunday in Lent

Hymn 502
(Updated version Sung at
Portland service on 30.1.22)

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing,
Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)

Frances Ridley Havergal was an English religious poet and hymn writer. She also wrote hymn melodies, religious tracts, and works for children. One of the most dedicated Christian women of the nineteenth century, Frances was the youngest child of a Church of England minister.

Though she was always in frail health, she led an active life, encouraging many people to turn to Jesus and others to seek a deeper spiritual walk. Frances had begun reading and memorising the Bible at the age of four (eventually memorising The Psalms, Isaiah and most of the New Testament). At seven she wrote her first poems. Several of her mature verses became hymns. In addition to "Take My Life," she wrote such favourites as "I Gave My Life for Thee," "Like a River Glorious," and "Who Is on the Lord's Side?"

Because her voice was lovely, Frances was in demand as a concert soloist. She was also a brilliant pianist and learned several modern languages as well as Greek and Hebrew. With all her education, however, Frances Havergal maintained a simple faith and confidence in her Lord. She never wrote a line of poetry without praying over it.

One of the lines of Frances Havergal's hymn says, "Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold." In 1878, four years after writing the hymn, Miss Havergal wrote a friend, The Lord has shown me another little step, and, of course, I have taken it with extreme delight. 'Take my silver and my gold' now means shipping off all my ornaments to the Church Missionary House, including a jewel cabinet that is really fit for a countess, where all will be accepted and disposed of for me...Nearly fifty articles are being packed up. I don't think I ever packed a box with such pleasure." (Interestingly this verse is no longer included in CH4.)



Frances R. Havergal

SERVICES ON THE WEBSITE

In the past the service page of the website contained links to the two previous services along with a larger shape holding the most recent one. This has been changed to look like this. (There will be two small windows for the older services and one large window for the new one.)



Clicking on one of the small windows will start the video playing in a small window.



If you want a bigger window then click or tap on the symbol to the right of the word "YouTube". This shows the video in full screen mode. On a Windows computer you need to press the esc key to get out of full screen mode. On an Apple device click or tap on the word "Done" near the top left.

John McDonald

Malawi Update

Recent messages from our partner congregation at Limphasa in northern Malawi have shared reports on the weather situation. With Limphasa being a rural community in which the cultivation of subsistence crops features strongly, the news that they had not received rains was a matter of considerable concern to everyone. Fortunately a subsequent message brought the joyous update that they had received good rains two days previously and that they had started cultivating the lands.

Here in Scotland rainy days are rarely associated with joy so it is quite enlightening to hear just how precious the right type of rain is and to appreciate it as a gift from God. Too much rain brings about the destruction of buildings and crops, as was the case six or seven years ago when a prayerhouse was all but destroyed. With help from our congregation it was rebuilt and has stood the test of time in the years since then.

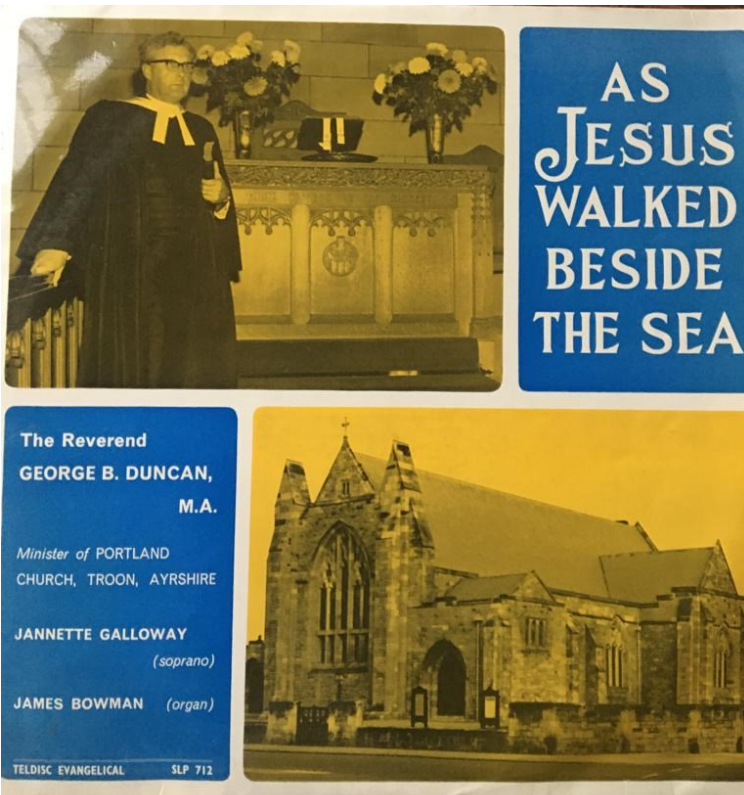
Substantial parts of Malawi have been experiencing drought conditions of late which will badly affect the next harvest of staple crops such as maize and rice. Already the price of a sack of rice has risen more than 60% and there is a very real prospect of food shortages being widespread and food being unaffordable. The occasional empty shelf in our supermarkets is a minor inconvenience in comparison, and we never go hungry. Please spare a thought and a prayer for those who go without and if you would like to make a contribution to assist our partner congregation through these difficult times please place your donation in an envelope marked 'Malawi Donation' and hand it in at the church on a Sunday.

Bill Weir

MAILING LIST

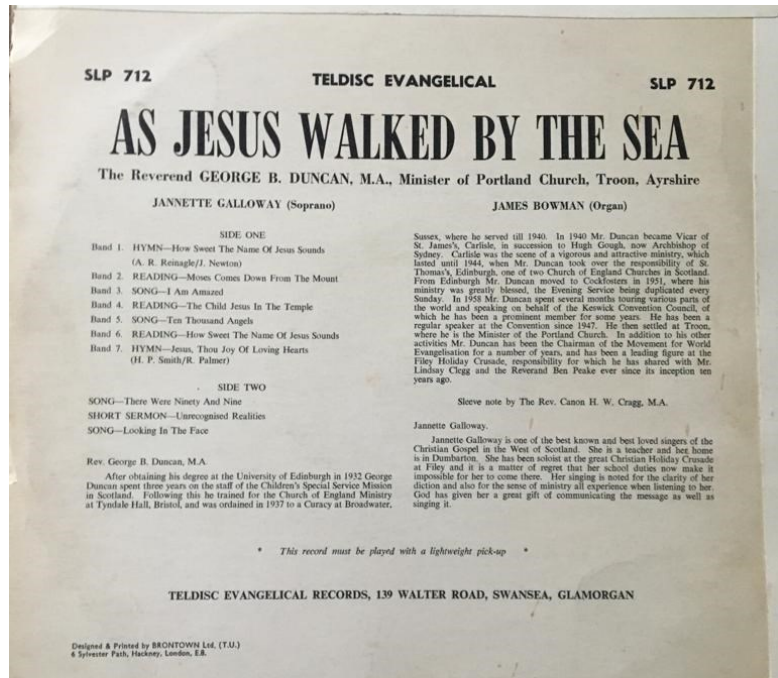
Portland Church has now moved its entire mailing list to a new system and all future emails will seem to be sent by mailinglist@troonportlandchurch.org.uk. Weekly emails are not being sent out yet; rather they are sent when needed. If you think you are not getting these please check your spam folder. If your email address is not on the list and you want it added please send an email to mcdonald@troonportlandchurch.org.uk.

A BIT OF HISTORY



These images are taken from the cover of a long playing record found in the home of Marion Brown.

If you have the means to play it and would like this record—please speak to Jane Potts, who is friends with Marion’s daughter Joy.



CHILDREN IN THE CHURCH

Over the last few Sundays it has been a pleasure to have the children with us in the church, playing away, and enjoying (along with the 'big people') Mel's children's address. So I would like to thank the team of helpers who are so ably keeping the children so happily occupied. Their pipe cleaner offerings to Mel always raise a smile.



FELLOWSHIP

Many thanks should also go to the team serving Coffee, Tea, Biscuits and Fellowship after the service, which after another short enforced break has returned. It is obvious that those who stay on very much appreciate the time to meet people in a safe environment and catch up with all the news. **Please stay and join us.**

RECENT DEATHS

Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Murray	12th December 2021
Mr. Richard Johnstone	14th December 2021
Mr. Watson Linton	December 2021
Mr. Kennedy Howden	16th January 2022
Mrs. Elizabeth Reid	21st January 2022



Elizabeth Reid



Kennedy Howden

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



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:

Contact Details

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