

June 2022

# The Parishioner

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



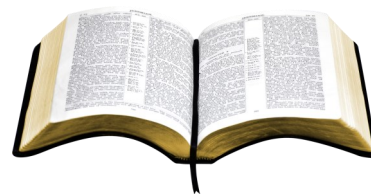
*There is a time for everything, and a season for every  
activity under heaven:*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1*

## **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



Christian Aid Week dawned and so we discussed charities, charitable giving, how we work out the how's and why's of giving, from the fact that we can't give to everything.

Christian Aid being particularly a churches charity, we talked about what it does and why. From Christian Aid :

*'We exist to help those who need it most. Our love and care for all our neighbours means that we stand together with those seeking dignity, equality and justice'*

We read from Acts 16, again from Lydia and her hospitality - who would you invite to your home? And Revelations 22 with its view of what God's world should be like.

And one of our prayers :

In the name of God who plants the seed of justice : Be Hungry  
In the name of Christ who hangs on the tree of love : Be Fruitful  
And in the name of the spirit who inspires God's will in our hearts and our lives :  
Be celebrated  
You are Christ's people,  
here and throughout the world now and forever.

Amen

Please do support Christian Aid in whatever way you feel is good for you, and Jane and I are doing our 300,000 steps for sponsorship!

Next meeting :

**Wednesday 15th June at 7.30pm at 33 Beach Rd**  
**All are welcome**

*Barbie Short 315784*

## RECENT DEATHS

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

*Jean Clark*                      *14th May 2022*

*Iain Wylie*                      *14th May 2022*

*Molly Lambie*                *14th May 2022*

*Joyce Cooper*                *16th May 2022*

# FOODBANK

The Foodbank unfortunately remains necessary, and operates in Troon on Tuesdays and Fridays .

They have asked that if you wish to donate items, they are short of:

Toilet rolls  
Shower gel  
Shampoo  
Toothpaste  
Toothbrushes  
all other toiletries

Please supply small bottles or jars.

Also small packets of washing powder.

Items can be handed in to the Morrison's container or to the churches.

Many thanks.

*Barbie Short*

**For your information**, through the Troon Churches Together network (Tom McCulloch, Elder at Seagate):

There is a move to create a '*Christians in Sport Network*' in Ayrshire giving an opportunity to connect with fellow Christian Sports people in our area to encourage one another as we live our faith in the world of Sport. There was a meeting with Dave Hampton, who works with CIS) at the end of May to share the vision and to get things moving. It will be informal with no big commitments - just to get together and think about how to reach the sporting world of Ayrshire for Jesus! The Ayrshire network would allow us to connect with one another and meet up once a term (roughly) with the opportunity to set up one or two events a year – Sports Quiz etc.-to invite people to. If you are interested in this project contact Tom McCulloch on 07876 652704

**The Garden Day** this year was a great success. The total raised was a remarkable £860 which will be shared between Crossreach, the Church of Scotland social care charity, Christian Aid and our own fabric fund - towards chancel lighting. Windy conditions meant that we met indoors, rather than in the grounds, but it was a happy, noisy, busy morning.

Many thanks to everyone who supplied plants, helped behind the scenes and to those who came and bought plants and gave so generously.

*Jane Potts*





Scenes from Rev. David Prentice-Hyers last service at Troon Old Parish at the end of May. It was lovely to see and hear the combined choirs of Troon Old and Portland



## Troon Churches Together—The Micah Project

This project was first mooted at TCT by Helen Hogg, but the covid pandemic has meant that it has been carried forward by the valiant efforts of a team mostly drawn from St Meddans church and housed and run from there.

The work has gone from strength to strength, with additional efforts targeted at helping the Ukrainian crisis. With the relaxation of restrictions, we are now looking for all kinds of help from individuals and churches. Space is needed to house specific parts of the project, people are needed to join the rota of helpers, your prayers are needed as we seek to fulfil the three aims of the project. Whether your talents are helping at pop up events, social media or ironing, they can be put to good use to help the people of Troon and beyond.

If anyone is interested in coming along informally to see the work in action or discussing ways you could help, please let me know

*Sandra McCallum*

01292 312260  
07484 276992  
[s.mccallum@lycos.com](mailto:s.mccallum@lycos.com)





# Thank you!



## HERE ARE SOME OF THINGS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE AND CONTINUE TO DO WITH THE MONEY YOU GAVE...



**BOUGHT & DONATED A CAR**

**PROVIDED**

**SPORTS EQUIPMENT**

**FOR WOMEN & CHILDRENS HOME IN POLAND**

**PROVIDED BOTTLED WATER, BANANAS AND CEREAL BARS TO 16,000 REFUGEES AT THE XPO CENTRE IN WARSAW**

**PROVIDED BOTTLED WATER, BANANAS AND CEREAL BARS TO WARSAW STATION WHERE 100S OF UKRAINIANS ARRIVE EVERY DAY**

**PROVIDED FIRST AID SUPPLIES WHICH WERE TAKEN INTO UKRAINE USED BY PARAMEDICS**

**PERSONALLY SHOPPED FOR BRAS AND PANTS TO FIT EACH LADY IN THE REFUGE**

**CLOTHES FOR CHILDREN IN THE REFUGE**

**WE CONTINUE TO BUY MEAT, FRUIT FOR THE FAMILIES IN THE REFUGE AND WE ARE SUPPORTING ANOTHER GROUP OF UKRAINIANS (AROUND 50-90) WITH TEMPORARY HOUSING AND FOOD, PARTICULARLY HEATING COSTS**



**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOU HAVE GIVEN FROM THE LITTLEST TO THE BIGGEST DONATION. FROM THE MANY FUNDRAISERS WHO HELPED IN SOME REALLY CREATIVE WAYS - YOU ARE AWESOME - AND WE NEED YOU TO KEEP GOING SO WE CAN KEEP SUPPORTING THESE INCREDIBLE FAMILIES.**



**[WWW.MICAHPROJECT.CO.UK/MICAH-TO-UKRAINE](http://WWW.MICAHPROJECT.CO.UK/MICAH-TO-UKRAINE)**



**Could we offer space within Portland church to house part of the project?**

**Craft skills needed**



**Baby Bags of high quality clothes are made up and distributed to families by the crisis midwives. Soft toys go into every baby bag.**

**Bags are also made up for children of school age**



**We could use your social media skills**



**Have you keyboard and computing skills?**



**Could you help with pickups and drop offs?**

**Micah Project - ways to help**

**I**t was a long time coming, first booked in 2018, obviously cancelled in 2020 but this year I was in **Oberammergau** to see The Passion Play and it was well worth the wait, so I thought I would share some of its background and my experience.

During the 30 years war from 1618-1648, Europe was ravaged by destruction, famine, and plague. For quite some time Oberammergau managed to keep the plague at bay with strictly enforced quarantine (sound familiar), but one night an inhabitant of Oberammergau who had been working away from home, evaded the guards returned to visit his family and brought the plague to the village resulting in 84 deaths. The people believed that this was the hand of God and sent as a punishment and looked for some form of penitence. They made a solemn vow to perform every tenth year a play of the Saviour's suffering and death if God would deliver them from the disease. From that day, it is recorded, no one else in the village died from the disease. First performed in 1634, repeated every 10 years until 1674 when the date was changed to the start of the decade. Only twice has the play not taken place, in 1770 when passion plays were banned and 1940 due to the Second World War. Such is the ongoing determination to honour the original Vow.

Over the years the format and script has changed with its roots in the medieval mystery play, moving towards the story of Christ's Passion. It has also moved on from the one time emphasis on the Devil as the inspirer and instigator of the treatment of Jesus. In 1770 the Bavarian government banned all passion plays due to criticism that it had moved away too far from the New Testament narrative. Persistent protests paid off and the Play was reinstated in 1780 with revised texts. Gradual change only sanctioned by the Oberammergau Passion Play organising body is ongoing to this day. The director, Christian Stuckl says "If the Play is to survive, it must evolve".

My overwhelming memory is the vastness and quality of the production, staging, acting, choir and music which is outstanding. As well as the main roles of Jesus, Mary, Peter, Judas, Pontius Pilate and Caiaphas there will be 120 major and minor speaking roles – in the Palm Sunday scheme there can be as many as 500 people on stage. In other scenes there were goats, doves, sheep, horses and even camels and of course a donkey.

All in Oberammergau are committed to taking part – a person must have been born in the village or have lived there for 20 years, but if someone from outside marries into it, then that period is reduced by half. During the second world war there was an influx of refugees from Eastern Europe who were assimilated and became eligible to take part in 1970. The cast is made up of Catholics, Protestants, some with no church affiliation and in 2000 some actors came from Muslims – for the 2022 production the Second Director of the Play is a Muslim. And of course, the various restrictions on women taking part due to age and marital status have been done away with. But prior to that it was not unknown for women to put off marriage for many years in the hope of playing Mary or Mary Magdalene. Men (other than the clean-shaven Roman soldiers) must grow their beards and hair because traditionally on Ash Wednesday the year before the play, the 'Hair Decree' comes into operation. Good business for the barbers when immediately after the final performance a large number of men want their beards shaved off and hair cut. Recently the hair has been saved and is used in various art forms (see photos).

Profits from the Play are ploughed back into the community and those taking part including the children are remunerated. It is a huge commitment to those who take part, taking up a large proportion of their lives over the time of preparation and staging.

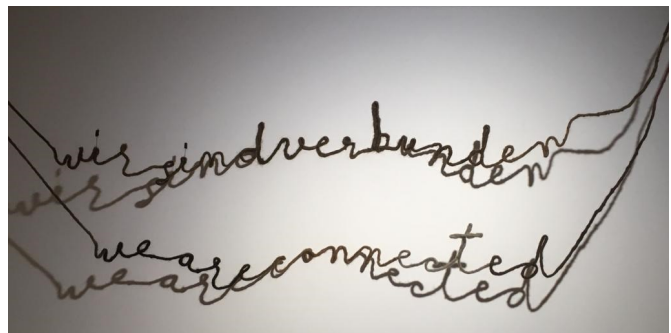
The audiences are as vast as the production and come from all round the world to have this experience – representing many faiths. For the people of Oberammergau, the Play has never just been about theatre, it has been an expression of communal faith, an act of worship, a mission undertaken by the village in response to the Vow, and a mission on behalf of the world-wide community. Long may it continue.

*Margaret Short*





The Crucifixion

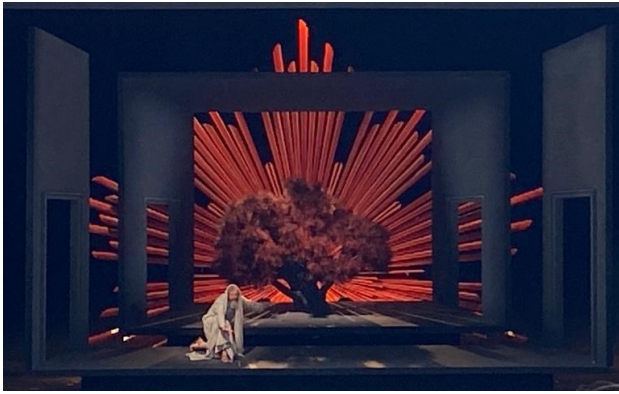


Human Hair Art installation in Oberammergau Museum



Frescoed Houses—Depicting the vow, Little Red Riding Hood and Hansel and Gretel House—there are many more!





The action on the stage is interspersed by Tableaux Vivants of stories taken from the Old Testament linking to Jesus' life



The Last Supper



Jesus carrying the cross

## **Support for Ukraine - Ayrshire Scotland Aid for Ukraine Refugees**

There is a unit in Ayr where Ukrainian Refugees arriving in Scotland can make a private appointment to browse with dignity and respect, they can select anything that they need, like clothing, shoes, stationery, baby items, toiletries and much more for free.

The unit was opened by two ladies Rachel and Anne who met whilst sorting donations to go to the Ukraine. Anne and Rachel took items that were unsuitable or missed the shipment and bartered them for toiletries which they then donated to a shop in Ayr which in turn transported all donations to Poland.

Anne and Rachel had a concern about what help, and assistance, was being offered to incoming Refugees and made a plea for donations after a local businessman offered free storage. Although based in Ayr they found that the main source of donations came from Troon.

They have set up the unit like a shop with departments for women, children, babies, and men. The unit is full to bursting with donated items and they would like to publicise its existence so that Ukrainian Refugees can book an appointment to browse.

Recently, they were pleased to assist a Ukrainian student living in Paisley to gain items for her home as she is welcoming a fellow Ukrainian who is arriving shortly to stay. They were also humbled to assist a family of six who arrived in Prestwick with just hand luggage after being given only an hour to gather their belongings and flee their beloved homeland.

We have also the very valued assistance of our own Morag Hamil who has been taking in donations, sorting them, and washing clothes and shoes to make them more presentable. It is very humbling to note that of the many items donated many are new and bought for the purpose of donating. Anne and Rachel would also like to thank the people and businesses of Ayrshire, Paisley and in particular Troon for all their generous donations and support.

The group is called Ayrshire Scotland Aid for Ukraine Refugees and Anne and Rachel can be contacted through the Facebook group, via messenger or email. [asafurfree@gmail.com](mailto:asafurfree@gmail.com).

The Facebook group will also be used to call out for items needed or are running short of, as well as updates on what is going on, so please feel free to join and encourage others.

Presently, we are also asking for medication or any medical items that can be used in a hospital to be sent to Ukraine.

Donations can be handed directly to Morag or left in Portland Church (clearly labelled please).

Thank you so much

*Morag Hamil*

**OUR NEXT ISSUE OF THE  
PARISHIONER WILL BE FOR  
JULY/AUGUST 2022 POSTED AT THE  
BEGINNING OF JULY  
PLEASE SEND ANY  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR  
MAGAZINE TO –parishioner45@gmail.com**

## **CREATIVE COMMUNITY GROUP**

(This is the group which so successfully created the Community Wall Hanging to be found in St. Ninian’s Church halls and subsequently met up to work on a varied range of craft skills—all at whatever level of ability are made very welcome—Margaret)

Now that the situation with Covid appears more stable we would like to restart the group. In the intervening time the availability of some of the organisers has altered and so we are looking to set up a new group of people to help plan, set up/clear away and organise sessions. We aim to meet once a month on a Saturday morning in the church hall. To allow the group to restart we will need people who would be able to put their names on a rota to assist in the running of the group.

A meeting will be held on Saturday 18th June from 10-12 in the church hall to discuss the way forward. Please join us if you feel you can help with the running of this very worthwhile group. The more people who join us the easier it will be to allow the group to recommence.

*Shona Wilson  
St. Ninian’s Church*

### **Contact Details**

<b>Locum Minister:</b> Rev. M. E. Prentice-Hyers	minister@troonportlandchurch.org.uk
<b>Interim Moderator:</b> Bill Duncan	interimmoderator@troonportlandchurch.org.uk
<b>Session Clerk:</b> John Reid	session@troonportlandchurch.org.uk
<b>Treasurer:</b> Catriona McKellar	treasurer@troonportlandchurch.org.uk
<b>Church Officer:</b> Ruairidh McKellar	churchofficer@troonportlandchurch.org.uk
<b>Church Office:</b> 01292 317929	office@troonportlandchurch.org.uk
<b>Organist/Music Convener:</b>	
<b>Hall’s Convener:</b> Catriona McKellar	halls@troonportlandchurch.org.uk
<b>The Parishioner:</b> Margaret Short	parishioner@troonportlandchurch.org.uk Articles to parishioner45@gmail.com
<b>Website:</b>	www.troonportlandchurch.org.uk