

March 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**

I was given a tulip kit and a hyacinth kit around Christmas. The hyacinth kit, I kept in a dark place for 8-12 weeks and the tulip kit, I was to keep in a warm place. The hyacinth was placed under the kitchen sink in order to begin to grow and grow it did. Through December and into January, the bulb emerged and by the beginning of February the plant began to flower, but because it was under the sink and no sunlight reached it, it was white. I finally decided to take it out from underneath the sink and within 24 hours the white plant had turned a beautiful shade of purple and pink.



Likewise, the tulip plant sat in my utility room. It is a room with some light, but mainly supports the on-going, never-ending, laundry process and our boiler. While these have not bloomed yet, the tulip stems are well over 18 inches long right now. I think I might have done something wrong with these.

I actually don't know if I did the hyacinths correctly either. I feel like they shouldn't be blooming just yet. These are meant to be spring flowers and we are not quite at spring yet. I always associate these bright spring flowers with Easter, and we are not yet to Easter morning. The daffodils, the tulips, the hyacinths, they do bring us such colour and life after such a dark, cold, stormy winter.

But we only start our Lenten journey this week. And, like growing flowers, Lent takes time. We need the forty days (plus weekends) to prepare for the Easter Event. We need time to pause at the transfiguration, knowing that we are forever changed when the thin veil, the liminality, between holy and mundane is exposed. We need to wander out into the wilderness with Jesus and be confronted with images of God as a mothering hen. We need to come face to face with the prodigal son and journey towards the cross. And that is what we will do this Lenten season.

I hope you know that you are always welcome to journey with Portland Church through all walks of life. But this Lenten season, know that you are particularly welcome.

Yours in Christ-  
Rev. Mary Elizabeth Prentice-Hyers (Mel)



Yes it is that time of year! Margaret

## ***Blessed are the poor in Spirit.....Matthew ch5, v1-16***

Yes, Housegroup looked at the Beatitudes. And as we have commented on before.....taking a well known passage and examining it often benefits all of our understanding. Have a think as to what you feel the 'poor in spirit' means. Definitely not lacking whisky.

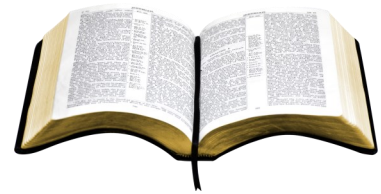
And that does lead us to the fact that Jesus' words have been translated, often several times from different languages, and reported by men ( in this case no gender fluidity require) many years afterwards.

These verses do seem to sing of reassurance and comfort. Of following the path of Christ and realising his attributes, and that God is everything.

The final verse too, speaks of us as the salt of the earth. Have we lost our saltiness? Are we letting our light shine through?

v16 Let your light shine before people, so that they may see your good deeds and *praise God in heaven*. We are indeed coming to the understanding that God is all in all.

We also commented on the chattiness in church which seems to be a result of covid! How good it is to greet our neighbours, and talk before the service; how super it is to have the children wiggling away. Things have changed but not totally for the worse. Maybe moving to sit nearer the front and become a true community of souls will be next, before we move onto combining with our friends in the other two churches.



Next meetings :

**Wednesday 9th March 7.30pm**  
**Wednesday 13th April 7.30pm for Holy Week**

33 Beach Rd. All are welcome, to come along and listen or to join in , whatever feels right for you.

Barbie Short 315784      [by.short@icloud.com](mailto:by.short@icloud.com)



On the edge of war, one foot already in,  
I no longer pray for peace:  
I pray for miracles.

I pray that stone hearts will turn  
To tender-heartedness,  
And evil intentions will turn  
To mercifulness,  
And all the soldiers already deployed  
Will be snatched out of harm's way,  
And the whole world will be  
Astounded onto its knees.

I pray that the whole world might  
Sit down together and share  
Its bread and wine.



Some say there is no hope,  
But then I've always applauded the holy fools  
Who never seem to give up on  
The scandalousness of our faith:  
That we are loved by God. . . .  
That we can truly love one another.

I no longer pray for peace:  
I pray for miracles.

Ann Weems

## RECENT DEATHS

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

**Richard Cole-Hamilton**

18th February 2022

We will gather to give thanks for his life on Friday 4 March 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at Portland Parish Church. A reception will follow at Lochgreen House Hotel.

Please keep Richard's wife and family in your thoughts and prayers over the coming days and weeks.



# Portland Church Worship Plan 2022

6th March - 1st Sunday in Lent (BB's in Portland)

13th March - 2nd Sunday in Lent

20th March - 3rd Sunday in Lent

27th March - 4th Sunday in Lent (Mothering Sunday)

3rd April - MEPH away in USA for wedding (family wedding from 28 March - 13 April)

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

Holy Week - Troon Churches Together met and it was decided that each church would be doing its own thing this year given the on-going COVID situation.

14 April - Maundy Thursday, communion and service at Troon Old, time TBD

15 April - Good Friday, Service of Darkness at Portland Parish Church, time TBD

16 April - Holy Saturday, Vigil at St. Ninians.

17 April – Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service hosted by Portland at the Beach for the town,  
6 a.m. begin service, sunrises at 6:10 a.m.

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



## **An Invitation to join a Troon Church Together Choir for Easter Vigil at St Ninian's**

I, Keith Thomasson, Rector of St Ninian's Troon, wish to create a **Troon Churches Together Choir** to lead the 20.30 Easter Vigil service on Holy Saturday 16 April, at St Ninian's.

At this service we will light an Easter fire, renew our shared baptism calling, and hear the Easter Gospel. The Revd Dr Anne-Claar will preside. All will be invited to share in bread and wine, if they so wish and feel able to do so, gathering at the Lord's table.

I want to invite all who wish to sing and/or play an instrument at this event to get in touch. The willingness to participate is the only requirement alongside gathering to rehearse together. You might understand this as a Lenten discipline, an opportunity to grow spiritually, to invest in wellbeing, and to nurture relationships in community.

I will shape the music in accordance with the gifting present. I hope that we will sing a selection of the following: hymns, global chants, Taizé, plainchant, a Latin motet. People will do what they can and do it as well as possible. Groups and individuals will contribute in different ways (hopefully as a community choir, solo voices, and a small consort of experienced singers).

It would also be wonderful to have melody instruments, percussion, and keyboard players contributing both separately, and with the singers.

Our organist Anne Kennedy will accompany the hymns.

Naturally this will require some communal and individual preparation. I invite all those who wish to participate/enquire to do so by **Friday 11 March** if possible. Do invite friends to get involved with you. I can then plan repertoire and rehearsal content.

Would you please indicate your interest, experience, and availability? Please hand this information to me, put it through my letter box (70 Bentinck Drive), ring me on 01292 313731, or email [troonrector@myphone.coop](mailto:troonrector@myphone.coop)

Name:

Contact details (email and phone):

Voice:

Instrument:

Proficiency level:

Availability for the Service:  
Holy Saturday 20.30

Availability for rehearsals during Lent (please indicate which and rest assured you will not be required at every rehearsal!):

Sunday afternoons 14.30-16.00 (Hall) March 6, 13, 20, and 27.

On the day preparation:  
Holy Saturday Vigil April 16 10.00-11.30

Following Easter, I hope that we shall have a Taizé workshop. In time, it would be fun to have a Community Gospel Choir event. You would all be welcome to share in this and please indicate if you are interested. I look forward to hearing from you.

## Live Online Service

Portland Church has purchased the equipment to enable the service to be broadcast live on a Sunday morning. It is a basic system with one video camera mounted on the balcony. Once sufficient expertise is obtained it would be possible to expand the system with more cameras.

The website has been changed slightly to give access to the new livestream.



Clicking or tapping in the top left hand box will take you to the website page where access to the livestream can be obtained. If this is clicked on before 10.25 am a timer will be seen counting down the time till the start of the broadcast which will be a few minutes before the start of the service. This allows the pre-service activity to be seen and music to be heard. The broadcast will stop soon after the end of the benediction hymn. YouTube also records the service so it will be available from this same link for one week.

The second box on the top row allows access to a page where the current service and the previous two services can be viewed.

**Portland is looking for some volunteers to operate the system as part of a rota. A period of training and supervised operation would be given before anyone would be asked to operate it on their own.**

*John McDonald*

## Troon Churches Together

The meeting of TCT scheduled for 22 February was postponed, as no Holy Week Joint Services are to be held this year. However, all churches have been asked to forward details of their own church services so that they can be jointly advertised to encourage a wide participation.

*Avril McDonald  
Sandra McCallum*

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

As the world fights to figure everything out,  
I'll be holding doors open for strangers.  
letting folk cut in front of me in traffic,  
(even cross bossy men in big cars).  
saying Good Morning  
Keeping kids entertained in the queue at the checkout  
stopping to talk to anyone who is lonely  
being patient with sales people (even on the cold call)  
smiling at passersby.

WHY?

Because I don't want to live in a world  
where love is invisible.  
Join me - show kindness, judge less  
Listen to a friend who is having a bad day  
( even if you don't actually like them all that much)  
Forgive yourself.....

Start and never stop

*Barbie Short*

(With apologies to the Soul Sisters)

**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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