

May 2022

The Parishioner

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



Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you"

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

On 24 April during worship, I made the announcement that my husband, Dave, has been named the sole nominee for Head of Staff/Lead Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Many of you all were present as I struggled to get through his letter to his congregation which is below:



Dear Friends,

In this strange and hopeful season, I was moved by the congregation's unexpected celebration of my big Birthday last week. I am most grateful for the lovely card, fantastic cake, and the most generous gift. Easter Sunday was just one more reason my family has been most blessed to be here in ministry with you.

Sometimes the spirit moves in odd ways. In 2021 the shifting dynamic of my parent's health opened us up to the possibility of a return to the USA should the right call emerge. Our decision was confirmed by the necessity of my parents to move to assisted living in March.

I was named the sole nominee for Lead Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan. After much prayerful discussion, Mary Elizabeth and I made the exciting and challenging decision to return to the USA to explore this joyful new chapter in our family's life. FPC is a loving and dynamic congregation engaged in creative worship meaningful mission, embracing members and neighbours alike with the radical hospitality of the risen Christ. They have the same warmth of spirit and open arms that we love so much about TOPC (and I'll add Portland Parish Church). We are delighted to join them in ministry.

Sunday, May 1st, I will preach as Sole Nominee at FPC. My final Sunday at TOPC will be May 29th. I will take the field in early June. Mel and the Boys will follow along after the school finishes for the year. We have loved our life in Troon and have been so fortunate to call Scotland home. In many ways, it always will be a home for us. Thank you for the gift of these 9 years and for making such a warm home for our family.

Grace and Peace,

Dave

We arrived in Troon three years into our marriage without bairns, we now depart with a family and many more friends. Troon as a town welcomed us with open arms, embraced us as our family grew and provided us with many opportunities. We have loved our time and our home in Troon, and we will miss you all.

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is the importance of family and friends and the importance of community. As Dave said in his letter, we need to be closer to his parents and this move and this call allows us the opportunity to make that possible. We will miss our village that we have established here in Scotland and Troon will always remain 'home' to us.

When I agreed to become your Locum, I had no idea what a joy and privilege it would be in my life. You have lovingly and openly welcomed me into your homes and lives. You have given me the honour to walk alongside you during vulnerable moments and together we have grieved the loss of so many great saints in our midst.

During these last 2 years ministry in a pandemic has been challenging, odd, creative, and yet still life giving.

I cannot thank you enough for the privilege of being your Locum. My final Sunday with Portland will be 3 July. I am sure there will be tears shed, but please think of those tears as all the unexpressed love I have for you all.

Yours in Christ-

Rev. Mary Elizabeth Prentice-Hyers (Mel)



Christian Aid Week 15-21 May 2022



Step by step, we can change lives.

Put your best foot forward with Christian Aid’s 300,000 steps in May challenge and help raise vital funds for people like Jessica in Zimbabwe.

Jessica Mwedzi relies on her farm to grow food and earn a living. But it hasn't rained in her village for so long. Now drought is pushing her family into hunger.

‘My children crave a decent meal, but I can’t provide. It pains me to send them to bed hungry,’ she says. No mum should have to face this heartbreak. But Jessica won’t give up. ‘My children give me the power to go ahead. I pray they have a better future.’

Love never gives up, and neither will we. We'll keep walking and praying for a world where everyone can live free from hunger.

By giving and walking this Christian Aid week, you could help Jessica gain access to drought-resistant seeds to enable her to grow fresh food on her farm – even during the dry times. With your help, Jessica can see her children grow up healthy and happy. And she’ll know she’s not alone, because she’ll have the support of neighbours like you, right by her side.

This May, Christians across Britain and Ireland will come together for Christian Aid Week and stand with mums like Jessica. **You can be part of this life-changing week by taking on the 300,000 steps in May challenge.**

Find out more at caweek.org/300Ksteps

This sponsored challenge clocks in at just under 10,000 steps a day and is a great way to get fit and do good all at the same time. You can go it alone or take part in a team, supporting each other to reach your goal. You can adapt the challenge in a way that suits you and invite little ones – and even your pets – along.

Take 300,000 steps in May to turn hunger into hope.

Let’s move one step closer to a world free from poverty this May.

Sign up to the 300,000 steps in May challenge at caweek.org/300Ksteps

Join the Troon Churches Team

or DONATE TO THE TROON CHURCHES TEAM:

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/TroonchurchesOR311908>



The Troon Committee for Christian Aid thank all members who donated money and who attended the soup lunch in St Meddan's hall. The sum of £725 has been raised, thanks to your generosity.

It was so good to meet friends from many congregations face-to-face once again. Friendship is priceless.

We look forward to the next events to raise funds for Christian Aid.

Coffee morning Saturday 14th May in Troon Old halls

All money raised on Saturday 14th 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 15th – 21st 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

Refreshments following Sunday Morning Worship

I am delighted to let you know that Teas and Coffees after Sunday morning Worship are returning to something like the pre pandemic format.

Tea and coffee will be dispensed in Mugs from serving tables in the main hall by 3 willing volunteers. Individual milks and wrapped biscuits will be provided at individual tables. The number seated at each table will also increase from 4 to 6 or 8.

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help over the coming months but I am always looking for extra volunteers. It is not an onerous commitment, only 3 or 4 times a year. If you feel able to help, please let me know by phone 01292 311597 or email: canairn15@gmail.com.



Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings,

Best Wishes,

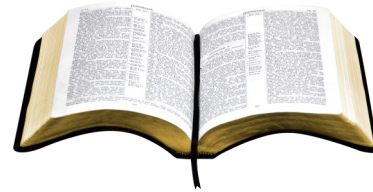
Christine Nairn

Housegroup

A Zoomed communion was held on 13th April, due of course to the ever present complication of the virus. Nevertheless it was enjoyed by all as a means of celebrating Holy week and preparing for Easter.

Happy Easter to All.

Next Housegroup is:



Wednesday 18th May 7.30pm at 33 Beach Road

All are welcome, bring yourselves and a Bible.

This will be the middle of Christian Aid week, so we will be thinking of those not as fortunate as we who live in Troon, with all our own pressures financially.

Christian Aid concentrates very much on helping people to help themselves , by providing advice or equipment.

With every gift, every action, every prayer, we celebrate and share hope with our sisters and brothers facing crisis around the world, from Ukraine to Zimbabwe, and beyond .

Barbie Short

by.short@icloud.com

RECENT DEATHS

I am the resurrection and the life

Tom Graham 18th April 2022

We will celebrate Tom's life and give thanks to God for all that Tom was on Friday 6 May at 11:00 at Portland Parish Church. All are welcome to attend.

PORTLAND PARISH CHURCH
St. Meddans Street, Troon



PLANT SALE

Saturday 21st May 2022

10am -12 noon

In Church Grounds

Bedding Perennials
Hanging basket plants House plants Vegetable seedlings
and much more for sale at reasonable prices



All Welcome

Charity Number SC003477

This year we are planning our plant sale on Saturday, 21st May. We hope to have it outdoors but at least we now have the option to move indoors if the weather is unfavourable.

We would be delighted to have any offers of plants and, of course, any help on the day would be gratefully received. Get in touch with Jane Potts 01292 318789 if you can help with greenhouse space beforehand, with bringing on plants to sell or by helping on the day.

Please come along and support this venture, the proceeds of which will go to Crossreach and some to our own fabric fund. The main benefit is the chat and fellowship on the day.

Jane Potts

17th Century Nun's Prayer

Lord thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say some thing on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody: helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom; it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details: give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains: they are increasing, and rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure with patience. I dare not ask for informed memory but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksuredness when my memories seem to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet: I do not want to be a saint-some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people, and give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.



Amen

Contributed by Jane Potts—Jane found this in her mother's house, written in her grandmother's writing.



Avril's photos from Easter Sunday's sun-rise service



Messy Church Report April 2021 – April 2022

Some of the following report may already have appeared in *The Parishioner*. This article sums up the year's activities.

Portland Church continues its participation in the Messy Church initiative which involves many churches of different denominations in Troon.

Planning this year was difficult, as the general restrictions on meeting in person continued. The Messy Church organisation issued guidelines on holding traditional meetings, which was endorsed by the Church of Scotland, but the difficulties proved insuperable. We did however hold one very successful event. Messy Church held its first and, in the event, only, in-person meeting in 2021 centred on the Troon Wintertainment Day on 21 November. It was lovely to see families come through the door to take part in the crafts, have juice and biscuits and listen to the Christmas message presented in a puppet show. During the two hours, more than 80 families visited and more than 100 children went home with their family bag containing a book with the Christmas Story and the craft items they had made, all on the Christmas theme of Joy. As a lead up to this, during Advent, on our website we encouraged the decoration of house windows on this theme, so that families could not only display theirs on the website, but go out and about to spot others.

As always, the Messy Church craft team produced an impressive variety of items, like cards, crowns, table mats and tree decorations. Since there were so many other events in the town, we had thought some people might drop in, do a few crafts then go, but the lure of getting a full card stamped with all items completed kept children engrossed till the end. Before leaving there was the chance to buy Traidcraft products, take away free items from the high quality Micah clothing bank for children and to support the project by purchasing craft items.

Messy Church is very much a team effort and, with the death of Raymond Howes, the Messy Church team lost an invaluable helper and supporter, who was not only happy to come when it was Portland's turn to host, but responded to the call for people to come along to all events and help generally, just by welcoming and talking to the children and adults. Raymond also helped with worship and reflection and threw himself enthusiastically into the task of presenting the Christian message in a memorable way - on one occasion, in full fisherman kit. He was someone who remained young at heart and fully committed to passing on his faith to the next generation.

It is hard, to the point of impossible, to quantify the effectiveness of Messy Church and goes far beyond tallying numbers. We have to remember that first and foremost it is CHURCH, albeit in a different format to traditional services. So much of Christmas and Easter has been taken over by commerce and the Christian message can become buried at the bottom of the shopping bag, if it is there at all. This is why the Messy Church presence at these times is so important.

The team still have to meet to decide on our strategy for the way forward and we welcome suggestions and support.

Sandra McCallum

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



A different perspective.

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:

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