



THE PARISHIONER

February 2023



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

Dear Friends,



We find ourselves hurtling at quite a rapid rate through the New Year already!

December and all its attendant activities in the Church went well, with many people engaging with our services across in Troon: Old Church. After all the

excitement of the Christmas services, it was very good to host the ecumenical

service for Troon Churches Together on the 1st of January, with contributions from the other church communities in the town.

As we look forward to the coming year, I do hope we shall be able to engage in more of these kind of activities with our

neighbours, as it is always the case that we have much more in common with our friends in Christ than we have differences which set us apart. As we look to activities such as Messy Church in the community and sharing in Holy Week services, it will be a real delight to share the love of God widely, engaging in

conversations about how we understand our Christian communities can be relevant in a world that faces rapid and sometimes quite confusing changes.

We now start the difficult work of imagining what our Church of Scotland congregation will look like in Troon and putting that vision into place: for many of us, change is incredibly difficult,

My hope is that through sharing our experiences, hopes, fears and dreams as we face the challenge that our future brings, we will strengthen each other with our loving and supportive community, just as those first Followers of the Way did as they took the teachings of Jesus to heart.

With much love to you all,

Are you interested?

Gillean is trying to organise a Prayer Group and a Book Group. Interested? Send an email to GRichmond@churchofscotland.org.uk to note interest.



Candlemas is traditionally the 40th day of (and the conclusion of) the Christmas - Epiphany season. Candlemas 2023 falls on Thursday, February 2nd.

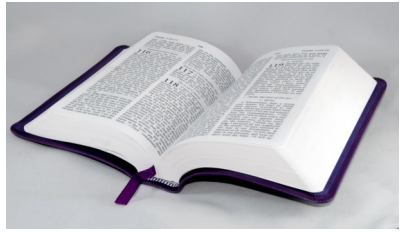
RECENT DEATHS

I am the resurrection and the life

Mrs. Irene Hervey Monday, 23rd January 2023

HOUSEGROUP

It was lovely to gather together again, after the Christmas/ New Year break. And this month we discussed Epiphany.



An interesting discussion ensued on the meaning of Epiphany as an appearance or manifestation. The Church regards it as four fold - Jesus' birth, the visit of the Magi , his baptism, and the wedding at Cana. This gives us the importance of these events and in particular that the visit of the Magi demonstrated the importance of Christ not only to the Jews but also the Gentiles.

Herod was, of course, very afraid of an uprising by the Jews; he owed his position to the Romans , and feared for himself.

We read both Isiah 42, v 1-4 on the prophecy surrounding Christ's birth, and Matthew 2, 1-11 on the visit by the Magi. We also touched on epiphanies that we might experience and talked of Paul on the road to Damascus.

It's a new year and a time for reflection, so we will look forward to spending time with the Lord, through prayer and bible reading and realising when we need to turn back and reflect on where we are going.

Next meeting : **Wednesday 15th February, 7.30pm**

Everyone is very welcome.

Barbie Short

CHRISTIAN AID



Christian Aid would like to thank all of you who donated in 2022; and remind you there is still time to add to their Christmas Appeal.

This went to helping those who are struggling to grow food, as is Fyness in Malawi, with seed and ways of coping with drought and making tools to use.

Christian Aid Week concentrated on Zimbabwe, where hunger is an ever present problem .

Jessica says :'I want to thank BRAC for the support that came to my village because we have benefitted a lot in terms of knowledge and skills. It helped me harvest more on a small piece of land and it was a really helpful learning curve for me and my family.

My gratitude towards the BRAC project is unexplainable as they assisted me with cowpeas for my family that I managed to grow at the beginning of this season. Though I could not harvest much as most were scorched by the harsh weather conditions, we survived on the little we had.'

The BRAC project's aim is to increase resilience to harsh climatic conditions and unpredictable weather patterns. It has supported 27,178 people in two districts of Mutoko and Mudzi in Zimbabwe.

We are all struggling to greater or lesser extent with food prices. But not yet suffering famine. Any help for Christian Aid helps all of us to be a family across the world.

Barbie Short

FOODBANK

The foodbank is helping ever larger numbers of people in Troon. Many are in work but not earning enough. Any food donations can be handed in to Portland, the library or Morrisons, or to me.

There is a shortage of small toiletries, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap in small quantities please. Nothing worse, well its an added awfulness, than not being able to brush your teeth or having no toilet paper.

Thanks,

Barbie Short

May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
that you may flourish in faith, hope and love,
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

May the peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
shelter your hearts and
minds
through Christ Jesus.



Statement for Congregations - read on Sunday Jan-22 during the morning worship service.

The Presbytery Mission Plan for the former Presbytery of Ayr, which includes Troon, has now been approved and we now move forward and start to implement the Mission Plan for Troon.

As we enter the initial phase in the implementation of the Plan, a small delegation, consisting of the Interim Moderators, the Session Clerks and representatives from each of the congregations of Troon Old, Troon Portland and Troon St Meddan's will engage in discussions moving towards one united Church of Scotland congregation in Troon as set out in the Mission Plan. The deliberations of the meetings will be reported back and shared with each of their relevant Kirk Sessions by the delegates involved in the talks. All decisions will have to have to be agreed on by all Kirk Sessions and ultimately by you as the congregation.

The first of these regular meetings will be held this evening, the 22nd January 2023 in St Meddan's and your ongoing prayers, as we move forward with the talks, would be greatly valued as we look for God's guidance and His plan for the furtherance of His Kingdom here in our town.

Prepared by the Session Clerks of Troon Old, Troon Portland and Troon St Meddan's Churches.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me via email: office@troonportlandchurch.org.uk.



We are excited to announce that Messy Church will start the 2023 session on Sunday 19 February. As this will be only three days

before Shrove Tuesday

we are planning a Pancake Party It will be held in St Ninians Church from 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

Please give this your support. All children are welcome, accompanied by a responsible adult. So bring your children or grandchildren. Let friends and neighbours with children know too and encourage them to come along. The team also welcomes new volunteers for the many roles for which we need people, from welcoming, helping with registration or mentioning us on social media.

Messy Church carried on through the lockdown and after two years of on-line and carry-out events we had our first

in-person event of 2022 at Wintertainment. These large scale events are popular, but it is a challenge to get the message across. This year, therefore, we are not running an

Eastertainment day, although it is very possible that we shall take part in the town's Wintertainment later in the year.

The retail industry started selling chocolate eggs just after Christmas. Good Friday is now being marketed as a day to go out and grab a bargain.

Sandra McCallum

NEW FACES FOR OUR MALAWI PARTNERSHIP

Shortly before Christmas, and in the briefest of messages, we learned that **Rev. Asayiwe Mwenitete** has been posted by the Synod to Rumphu Station, with **Rev Elton Sibande** replacing him at Limphasa.

It will be immediately apparent that the procedures of the *Church of Central Africa Presbyterian* are rather different from those of the *Church of Scotland* in that when the synod executive committee meets and makes new posting allocations then that is final. Those concerned have no choice or say on their posting, and the Synod there and then provides a vehicle to collect and deliver the newly allocated ministers.

Rev. Asayiwe is now stationed at Rumphu, the third largest city in Malawi, in the northern part of the country. His new congregation is at its centre and is larger than Limphasa, so he expects that there will be many challenges. He remains in touch with us and is keen to hear news of Troon's churches.

Rev. Elton Sibande was ordained as a minister of word and sacrament in 2012. Since then he has served his Lord in various Congregations/Parishes namely: Ipenza and Ilanga in Chitipa Presbytery. In 2017 he was transferred to head Njuyu Mission in Mzimba District where he served for 5 years before now being transferred to be head of Station at Mpamba in Limphasa

Congregation, Limphasa Presbytery. Rev. Elton says that since 2012 he has had many responsibilities being privileged to serve as Presbytery Moderator, Deputy Presbytery Clerk and as Presbytery Clerk in Njuyu Presbytery.

On learning of his appointment I sent Rev. Elton warm greetings from Scotland on behalf of Portland Church and provided him with a brief overview of the history of our partnership with his new congregation, and of the partnership of our two presbyteries. In reply I was thanked for our warm welcome and best wishes, and also for the good background information on our partnerships.

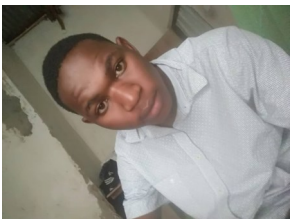
“It's our prayer that God should continue performing miracles in His vineyard (Portland Church) gospeling the word of God even to the heathen. Finally, I wish you and the Rev Gillean Richmond God's blessings for the noble task God has given you”.

Elton's family story

‘My wife's name is **Silveria**. Our two daughters, **Alliet** and **Diana**, have MSCE Certificates. **Brian**, our first son, is to pursue a Bachelors in Accountancy degree through upgrading. He is already employed in the government. **King**, our second son, finished his Bachelor's degree last year, while his younger brother, **Blessings**, also finished last year and is expected to graduate in February, Our last born, **Chimwemwe**, is still at Secondary School (form 4)'

Bill Weir

Rev Elton Sibande, his wife Silveria and five of their family



Portland Parish Church

Contacting and Caring for Members

Dear member,

Your membership of the Portland Church family is greatly appreciated; you are valued, and we seek to maintain contact with you and effectively support you pastorally in ways that respect you as an individual.

Data Protection

Please refer to the Summary of the Privacy Policy attached to this letter.

Communication

As your church, we try to communicate with all members using a variety of ways.

- a) The church website, www.troonportlandchurch.org.uk, which is updated regularly.
- b) The church magazine called “The Parishioner”, which is published monthly (the exception of the summer edition which covers two months, and the January edition) This is available on our website.
- c) The church Mailing List. Information is sent out to your email address, usually weekly.
- d) Articles are sent to Troon’s “Going Out” for everyone to read.
- e) Intimations are read out during Sunday Worship in church.

Keeping Contact

As a valued member of Portland Church, we endeavour to support one another as best we can. We are Christian by belief and by action.

John 13:34-35: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

We can maintain contact in a variety of ways:

- a) A visit from an Elder.
- b) A telephone call from an Elder.
- c) An email from an Elder.
- d) A visit from the Minister.

We appreciate that everyone will have a preference and that may change over time. We would like to maintain contact with you using your preferred way.

John Reid

Portland Parish Church, Troon

Privacy Policy - Summary

(The complete Policy can be found on the church website, www.troonportlandchurch.org.uk)

This Privacy Policy covers the way in which the congregation of Portland Parish Church will use and disclose personal information that members, employees, volunteers, donors and other associates may provide us with.

Personal information includes any information that identifies you personally, such as your name, address, email address or telephone number. We are registered with the Information Commissioner through the umbrella registration of the Presbytery of the South West and strive to comply fully with data protection law.

We may use the information we collect:

- In connection with membership records, for pastoral care purposes or in relation to your participation in our activities.
- In order to fulfil individual employment contracts with our employees (e.g., personnel administration) or for agreements with volunteers.
- In order to communicate with you (e.g., by letter, email or telephone) for example to provide information relating to our work or new developments.
- In order to further our charitable aims, e.g., such as for fundraising activities.

For internal administration, such as for accounting purposes, or for analysing how we may better advance the Kingdom of God.

Your Consent

By providing us with your personal data, including sensitive personal data such as on your health, you consent to the collection and use of any information you

provide in accordance with the above purposes and this privacy statement.

Storage and Security of Personal Information

The congregation via its office bearers and employees will use all reasonable

endeavours to ensure that personal information is held in a secure and confidential environment and when the information is no longer needed it will be destroyed or permanently rendered anonymous.

You may request details of personal information which we hold about you under the General Data Protection Regulation. A small fee may be payable. If you would like a copy of the information held on you, please contact the Session Clerk.

session@troonportlandchurch.org.uk

If you believe that any information we are holding on you is incorrect or

incomplete, please write to or email as soon as possible to the address

below. Any information found to be incorrect will be corrected as quickly as possible.

Portland Parish Church,

Church Office, 2 St. Meddan's Street, Troon, KA10 6JU

Email: office@troonportlandchurch.org.uk

**OUR NEXT ISSUE OF THE
PARISHIONER WILL BE FOR
MARCH POSTED ON-LINE AT THE
BEGINNING OF MARCH
PLEASE SEND ANY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR**

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Locum Minister: Rev. Gillean Richmond

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Session Clerk: John Reid

session@troonportlandchurch.org.uk

Treasurer: Catriona McKellar

treasurer@troonportlandchurch.org.uk

Church Officer: Ruaridh McKellar

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