

THE PARISHIONER

July/August 2023



*Let us build a house where love can dwell and
all can safely live, a place where saints and
children tell how hearts learn to forgive
Hymn 198*

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

Dear friends,

The summer months are finally with us, and it feels good to be out and about in the sunshine which has been blessing Troon. Our beach is a popular draw for tourists each year, and the town feels different when there are more people here! Our church family has celebrated many things in the last couple of months. We've shared with the BB all their



successes as they've marked the end of a year, and we have given thanks for our community through various coffee mornings, shared lunches with St Meddans, Christian Aid week, Garden Day and a service to celebrate the young people of our congregation. As we can, perhaps, take a rest over the coming months, it will be good to see all of our organisations start up again, and I'm sure there will be some significant planning for various activities during the summer break.

Sometimes it is when we have some time on our hands that we are able to reconnect with God and assess what it is we are doing. Our book group during June has been reading 'Walking the Edges: Living in the Presence of God', by David Adam, a former priest who lived and worked in Lindisfarne. The book is about the lives and faith practices of some familiar saints, how their faith and wisdom can make meaning for our time. Adam writes:

'We must learn to walk the edges of our experience if we are to journey into God. As we are living and moving beings we cannot stand still for long: we will either reach forward and grow, or stultify and start losing what we have had. This applies to individuals and their talents as well as to communities and churches. To live life to the full we have to reach out to the beyond, we have to seek to extend ourselves.'

Adam's words were written in 2003, but they are just as pertinent now. As the three churches of Troon unite as *Troon Parish Church* at some point in the hopefully not-too-distant future, I am sure that the people of the joint congregation will be turning their thoughts and perspectives outwards, to see what else can be achieved in Troon. Adam introduced many of the book group to the concept of a 'Caim' from the tradition of St Ninian who of course lived at Whithorn, in the *Candida Casa*. A suggestion from David Adam for practising the Caim:

“Visualise yourself encircled by the love, the light, the peace of God. Make a circle by using the index finger of your right hand, extending your arm and slowly turning clockwise until you have made a circle in which you are enclosed. Then say:

Circle me, O God,
Keep peace within
Trouble without.

Circle me, O God,
Keep love within
Hatred out.

Circle me, O God,
Keep light within,
And darkness out.

Learn to trust in that love, that light, that peace. Know that God is with you, before you and behind you. God will protect you from your past and in the future. Let his presence give you light, love and peace.

Then, radiate the love and light and peace. Visualize other people surrounded by God and immersed in his presence. The people you pray for, see them surrounded by light, by the love of God, by his peace and know that this is a reality if we only have eyes to see.

See the light, love and peace that God gives to you rippling out in waves in the way a stone makes waves when it is thrown into a pond. Reach out in prayer to others. Pray that they may know the reality that God is life and joy and peace.”

It is my hope that we can all share, as David Adam does, in the knowledge that God is life and joy and peace.

Much love to you all, *Gillian*

HOUSEGROUP

What do you know about Angels??

Did you know that there are 300 mentions of them in the Bible?

That Cherubim and Seraphim have FOUR faces - their task to sit at God's feet and praise him.

That we have Michael, Gabriel and Lucifer and Abadan - none of us knew about him. Or her perhaps????

We read from nine different areas of the Bible, and thought about Guardian Angels. Do you have one/Do you feel you need one? Do you ever say "oh you are an angel to do this for me".

Always remembering the context in which the Bible was written and read. But fascinating to ponder on these aspects which normally, let's face it, the Church of Scotland does not address. Angels come out at Christmas, but not usually at other times. And where do we put Lucifer/Satan and/or Abadan, the fallen, the Destroyer.

How do we cope with evil, and are we culturally programmed to think morally? Okay - questions questions, but the value of Housegroup is that we try to think these issues through, and in a way that we don't and can't do in a church service.

New members always welcome. We meet again in September, but will join in our usual Summer Event in August to chat and discuss our lives.

Any questions ask Barbie
office@troonportlandchurch.org.uk



MALAWI PARTNERSHIIP LIMPHASA PRESBYTERY

We have received greetings from Limphasa and the entire Christian Community, and were sent the following news from Portland's Partnership congregation in Limphasa, Northern Malawi.

'I write to inform you that the Presbytery Moderator is Rev Elton Sibande, and the Presbytery Clerk is Kenneth Myira. This has happened through the elections held at the recent Presbytery meeting.'

Having then sent congratulations to Rev Elton Sibande, who is the minister of our partnership congregation, on his appointment, together with an update on the Troon situation, Rev Elton responded by noting the good news about the coming together of the three churches in Troon and wishing us all the best, despite having a lot of work to be tackled.

Bill Weir

*Blessed and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide
let there be light*



Hymn 112

TROON CHURCHES TOGETHER

With the help of a very generous donation from Troon Churches Together, the Micah Project has been able to provide every incoming P1 pupil in two of our local primary schools with two complete school uniforms, plus gym shorts, a gym bag and a voucher for two uniform badges.



MICAH PROJECT

The Portland team continues to meet on Tuesday afternoons. Our speciality is organising the clothes donations for distribution to children between 12 and 24 months . Bags that go out include body and sleep suits, tops, trousers or skirts, at least one smart outfit and jacket, as well as seasonal items, so in this weather, the winter clothes are in storage in favour of summer wear. The project prides itself on the pristine quality of everything that is given out and we benefit from the high standard of clothing that is donated.



MESSY CHURCH

This issue of the Parishioner will reach you before we can report on how the latest Messy Church has gone. We are trying out the new time of after school on a Friday, which is the model running now at Dreghorn Church.

Sandra McCallum

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The formal Sunday School will stop from the first week in July until the schools go back in August but during that time the children will, as always, be very welcome to meet in the halls where there will be summer activities and fun.

All are welcome.

Jane Potts



DIARY OF SERVICES

July Services in Troon Old except for Sunday, 9th July

Sunday, 2nd	Baptismal Service
Sunday, 9th	Joint service of all three congregations in St. Meddan's Church led by Rev Andrew McGurk
Sunday, 16th	Joint service of all three congregations in Troon Old led by Rev Andrew McGurk
Sunday, 30th	Baptismal Service

August Services in Portland Parish Church

PLANT SALE

On Saturday 27th May the hall in Portland was alive with the happy buzz of people choosing and buying plants for summer colour in their gardens. Many people shared their time between Portland and the Christian Aid coffee morning in the Old Parish. The plant sale was a big success as it brought people together and raised the remarkable sum of £1100. This will be shared between our partner congregation in Limphasa, Malawi and Ayrshire Cancer Support “Make it Happen” appeal.

A huge thanks to all who helped with planning, donated plants, gave greenhouse space, helped at the stalls and, most importantly, those who gave so generously on the day.

Jane Potts



All ready for action!

ORGAN RECITAL

On Sunday, 28th May, a good number of music lovers ignored the lure of the sunny weather and came inside to support the second in a series of organ recitals on the fine Portland organ.

Our organist was Andrew Forbes of Glasgow Cathedral, a very fine musician who gave a masterful performance of music from across the centuries: a particular feature was the inclusion of two contemporary female composers.

Our next recital in the “Music at Portland” series is on Sunday, 24th September, given by Chris Nickol of New Kilpatrick Church, Bearsden. Chris is well known for his attractive and wide ranging programmes, and even became an Internet hit on the day of David Bowie’s death when his performance of “Life on Mars” on the Kelvingrove organ went viral.

Andrew McConnell



TROON COMMUNITY AT ITS SUMMER BEST



On Barassie Beach—Angel reads:
'Guardian angels up above please
protect the ones we love'

Fair Pay for Social Care

The Church of Scotland has initiated a campaign for Fair Pay for Social Care. This is supported by CrossReach and Justice and Peace Scotland. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the need to pay care workers more fairly and to put pressure on the Scottish Government on this issue. The campaign's organisers are asking faith leaders and those who hold a position of responsibility in their church, to sign a declaration initiated by the Moderator of the Church of Scotland and the Archbishop of Glasgow. This will show that there is good support for the campaign.

The declaration calls on the Scottish Government to do everything within its power to ensure all frontline social care workers are paid a minimum of £12 per hour immediately, and for funding to allow all social care staff to be recognised for their skills, experience and contributions, in whichever role they serve. Faith leaders and all those who lead congregation-based services and activities which support vulnerable people are invited to sign the [declaration](#) on the CrossReach website. If this is you please sign up as the more signatures we gather the louder our voices will be when we meet MSPs to discuss this issue.

For further information please contact Clare Flenley, whose contact details are given below.

Clare Flenley | She/Her | Public Life and Social Justice Programme Officer | Faith Action Programme | The Church of Scotland

121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN | Switchboard Tel: 0131 225 5722 | Direct Tel: 0131 376 1644 | Email: cflenley@churchofscotland.org.uk

Working Pattern: part time Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, working a combination of in the office and remotely. I work flexibly and may occasionally send emails outside normal working hours. Please do not feel under any obligation to respond outside your own working hours.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE OF THE
PARISHIONER WILL BE FOR
SEPTEMBER
PLEASE SEND ANY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR
MAGAZINE TO —parishioner45@gmail.com**

By TUESDAY 22ND AUGUST

Contact Details

Locum Minister: Rev. Gillean Richmond
GRichmond@churchofscotland.org.uk

Interim Moderator: Bill Duncan
interimmoderator@troonportlandchurch.org.uk

Session Clerk: John Reid
session@troonportlandchurch.org.uk

Treasurer: Catriona McKellar
treasurer@troonportlandchurch.org.uk

Church Officer: Ruaridh McKellar
churchofficer@troonportlandchurch.org.uk

Church Office:
office@troonportlandchurch.org.uk

Organist/Music Convener:

Hall's Convener: Catriona McKellar
halls@troonportlandchurch.org.uk

The Parishioner: Margaret Short
parishioner@troonportlandchurch.org.uk
Articles to parishioner45@gmail.com

Website: www.troonportlandchurch.org.uk

The Parishioner is the magazine of the Portland Parish Church of Scotland: Troon

(Charity Number SC003477 CCLI Number 309449)