

THE PARISHIONER

March 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 service

Dear Friends,

The year is already fast advancing towards Spring, and we see the joyous signs of growth reappearing in our gardens and parks. It is always a delight to see the buds appearing on the trees, and to spot the first snowdrops and then the first daffodils of 2023.

I was in the fortunate position to visit Israel and Palestine in February this year and to witness Spring there. Whilst those of my group were delighting in the warm temperatures of 20 degrees Centigrade, the locals of Jerusalem and Tiberias were wrapped in their winter coats and woolly jumpers. On our visit to Capernaum, my sandalled feet became rather dusty and dirty: when I returned to our hotel and washed them, it took quite a lot of effort to remove all the dust which had built up in just one day. It led me to thinking of the common activity of foot washing which happens on Maundy Thursday in many churches around the world.

It is an intimate and personal act that we, as modern people of the 21st Century often baulk at: the idea of becoming too close to another's dirty feet does not sit well with us. Yet, there is an intriguing dualism in such an act. Water was a precious commodity at the time of Jesus, and domestic life would revolve around its collection and distribution. To have one's feet washed by a precious and labour-intensive resource would be significant for Jesus' followers. We remember or can imagine, however, how wonderfully soothing it is to put our feet in a bowl of fragrant water after being out in an unforgiving environment all day. There cannot be many activities in life where we feel simultaneously both privileged and comforted by the humbling actions of another person. Such acts of love can bring us great joy.

As we enter the season of Easter with the prospect of warmer days and the promise of Spring and Summer, I hope that, in the stories of resurrection and regeneration that will be shared in our church communities, you find yourselves comforted and privileged to be part of the never-ending story of humanity. For God is always present with us, in the good and the difficult times, and joy, when found, should be shared with those we love.

Much love to you all,

Gilleen xx

Its interesting. And appeals to the interested.....

What is it?

It's Housegroup? You guessed that anyway. And a welcome to anyone who wants to see if it is for them. You can always just attend one evening and see what you feel.

In February we discussed the Holy Spirit, starting with references in Acts ch4:v31 and continuing through to Titus, by way of Thessalonians.

The Trinity is always a hard one to crack but we thought about the Gifts of the Spirit: Corinthians ch12: 1-11 learning that God works through us and gives us differing gifts. But, there is always a but, isn't there; we have to work at our gift and develop it. There is no magic wand.

We moved on to the Fruits of the Spirit in Galatians ch5: 19-24, a fascinating rundown of the acts of sinful nature, and the fruits which like a fruitful tree, have to be nourished and led by the Spirit. Then we can work and influence those about us.

Some of this is not easy, but anything that makes us think about our faith and how in day to day life we use it, is worth a think.

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the spirit. V25

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

Barbie Short: office@troonportland church.org.uk



MESSY CHURCH

Three years and three days after we last met, we restarted Messy Church by meeting at St Ninian's on Sunday 19 February for a Pancake Party. The focus of the afternoon was the story of the flight of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt, which Anna-Claar brought to life vividly, in the guise of the biblical character, Puah.



Thirteen children, aged from three to ten, attended from nine families. Though numbers were small, there was a great atmosphere and the buzz in the church and the hall clearly showed that those who attended were enjoying all the activities.

Families were met by a welcoming team from St Ninian's and, while we waited until everyone had assembled, there were various "soft start" activities. By correctly colouring in a quiz sheet from posters around the church, children found out the main events of Israelites' days in the desert. They could also help by making paper chains, used later to show the change from slavery to freedom. Children and adults alike enjoyed the service, with singing led by Keith and enthusiastic instrumental musical accompaniment from the children.

After the service, craft activities on the theme included making "Egyptian" necklaces, paintings, sheep, and also jars to take away to record "acts of kindness." Pancakes decorated with toppings tended to be eaten straight away though. Our lending library and a building corner with colouring sheets and Amazing Maize were set up. A pancake race also proved popular. Tea, coffee, soft drinks, pancakes and biscuits were provided by the St Ninian's catering team and we finished with the Messy Church grace.

Children, mums, dads, grandparents and Messy Church helpers mixed well. It was useful to get their views on different aspects of the afternoon programme, which we will look at in our future planning. Many expressed their thanks to the team and the leadership of the clergy was much appreciated.

Overall it was an encouraging and successful start to the new Messy Church season.

Sandra McCallum



ORGAN RECITAL

On Sunday, 29th January, our Sanctuary resounded to the joyful sounds of our splendid organ in recital.

Due to Pandemic restrictions and other worldly cares, we have endured a long period bereft of such luxuries, but human spirit prevailed and once again, we indulged in “musical food for the soul”.

Our guest artiste on this occasion was Tiffany Vong, a highly talented musician, equally at home performing in solo recitals, accompanying, playing harpsichord and choral conducting. Currently, she is Organist and Musical Director at Jordanhill Parish Church. Miss Vong was more than fit for the challenge, treating us to an eclectic mix of both familiar and less well known music to please all palates.

Most gratifyingly, the event was very well attended and tongues were fairly buzzing with appreciation when our audience socialised with a welcome cuppa.

Our next recital in the current series, “Music at Portland” will be held on Sunday, 28th May at 3 pm, when our soloist is to be Andrew Forbes, Director of Music at Glasgow Cathedral.

Dorothy Howden



ETHIOPLAID

This is the story of a Christian doctor and her husband.

Catherine Hamlin , an Australian obstetrician, co -founded with her husband, the Addis Abada Fistula Hospital. The concept of a fistula was totally unknown to them; they had both trained in USA, where it was never an issue. But she found that many women who gave birth in the villages of Ethiopia, often with minimal care, developed a hole between their birth canal and that leading from their kidneys and thus became incontinent. This was tragedy for them, for the baby, for the family; and she was usually cast out of the home, and left to fend for herself.

Catherine formed a non profit organisation , and provided surgical care to mend the 'hole'. She gave the girls two dresses and enabled them to go back home to their babies. Some had to stay and they would work in the hospital.

Now the charity has enlarged to help educate Ethiopian women as peripatetic birth helpers, and indeed also to help women in all walks of life there.

Catherine herself stayed in a bungalow beside the hospital for the rest of her life; she died in 2020, at the age of 96, her husband having predeceased her.

She is, I think, an awe-inspiring example of practical Christianity, who has made an incredible change for good in our world. She also loved her work and gained great fulfilment from it.

[www.https://ethiopiaid.org.uk/](https://ethiopiaid.org.uk/) for any further information

With Two Souls ; by Indie McDowell & Atsede Kidane tells the story of two midwives; one British, one Ethiopian, who give their recollections of birth and death, joy and tragedy that reveal the reality of maternity care in a remote setting. They both stayed throughout their lives near the Hospital, running clinics and educating the Ethiopian women.

Barbie Short

*Some of the newly
trained Mother Support
Workers looking very
happy.*





Date for your diary

GARDEN DAY 2023

We are planning a plant sale and café in the Church Halls on Saturday 27th May.

If you are dividing perennials or bringing on seeds, bring on a few extra. We will be very pleased if you would like to help on the day.

If you need pots or need further details, contact Jane Potts on 07711943257.

RECENT DEATHS

I am the resurrection and the life

Mrs. Jean Mathieson *4th February, 2023*

Mr. Michael Holm *5th February, 2023*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have been pleased that the combined services have seen bigger numbers of children at church on a Sunday. Having the children in church through the service worked when the services were shorter but we have decided to revert to going out to the halls after the second hymn to allow space to have a lesson and activities with more freedom.

Some of our faithful leaders have decided to step down over the past year. We are grateful for the cheerful, imaginative leadership they have given to Portland Sunday School over many years. Although the combined services have enabled us to join forces with the Old Parish leaders, we would be very grateful to hear from anyone who would like to join our happy band. You would be assured of great satisfaction and joy.

If you would like more information, contact Jane Potts on 07711943257

AYRSHIRE INTERFAITH GROUP

Ayrshire Interfaith Group is hosting a special event for International Women's Day on the 8th March at 7pm in Troon Old.

Three women from different faith backgrounds will speak about their place within their religion and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided afterwards. All are welcome.

TROON CHURCHES TOGETHER

Troon Churches Together met on 8 February 2023 in the Millennium Room, with representatives of almost all the Troon Churches attending. After introductions, the meeting opened with prayer.

The Holy week services were discussed and a start was made to planning the host churches and preachers for evening services and the beach dawn service.

Information about the services at care homes and sheltered housing was shared, including the pleasing news that there are people available who are happy to help.

The Messy Church planning meeting had decided that the first post pandemic event would be a Pancake Party to be held in St Ninian's on the afternoon of Sunday 19 February, but that any decisions about further events would be made after this had taken place. At present there were no plans for an Eastertainment event, but that a presence at Wintertainment was likely.

It was decided that the remaining HPIT funds would be given to Micah to use to assist children be equipped for school. It was also decided to compile a list of activities and events run by churches and the possibility of 'cosy' or 'connection' spaces under the umbrella of TCT.

Since the departure of Dave Prentice-Hyers, the position of convener is vacant. In the interim, Yvonne Hall agreed to chair the next meeting on Wednesday 17 May 2023, which will be the AGM.

Avril McDonald
Sandra McCallum

TROON OLD PARISH CHURCH WOMAN'S GUILD

BEETLE DRIVE

TUESDAY, 7TH MARCH AT 7.30 PM
TROON OLD PARISH CHURCH HALL
TICKETS £2.50 INCLUDING SUPPER

TROON OLD PARISH CHURCH WOMAN'S GUILD

SPRING FAYRE

TEA AND COFFEE
HOME BAKING
BOTTLE STALL

SATURDAY, 11TH MARCH 10AM TO 12 NOON
TROON OLD PARISH CHURCH HALL

£2.50





Heart for Art

The 'Heart for Art' project, run by Crossreach, the Church of Scotland Social Care Council, is a creative arts group which offers opportunities for people living with dementia and their carers to learn new or re-awaken existing artistic skills, build confidence, and develop social relationships through creative arts.

Due to stigma associated with dementia, many people with this condition withdraw from activities which they once enjoyed, but this is bad for their mental health. Heart for Art challenges this belief and offers a dementia friendly environment in which people can express themselves and connect with others.

As well as running art workshops around Scotland, there is an [online art gallery](https://www.crossreach.org.uk/our-locations/heart-for-art) showcasing the superb work produced by Heart for Art artists with art packs supplied by the charity. To find a centre near you, check the Heart for Art website at <https://www.crossreach.org.uk/our-locations/heart-for-art>.

Made in God's Image

Katrona Templeton, Mission Pioneer for Reachout Together, a Church of Scotland disability inclusion project, is launching a new kind of worship service. **Made in God's Image** is an inclusive church, aiming to provide a place of worship for all including those who find traditional church difficult to access. We will begin with a prayer and a hymn, then a short 15 minute talk, before breaking into special interest groups. You can choose between noisy worship - a time for singing, music and noise; quiet time - for reflection and peace; Bible chat –to discuss what you have just heard; and Bible craft – time to get creative. Afterwards we gather for a song and a prayer before a time of fellowship with refreshments. The first service is on Sunday 26 February at 3 p.m. at the Howard Centre, Portland Road, Kilmarnock KA1 2BT. For further information contact Katrona at

KTempleton@churchofscotland.org.uk
Tel. 077890-38025



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

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

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