

THE PARISHIONER

September 2023



Be still, and know that I am God

Psalm 46 Verse 10

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,

It seems like no time at all since I joined you all last August as your locum. Somehow we've passed the 1 year mark! It has been a year full of immense change and development for the three Churches of Scotland in the town, and hopefully you are all feeling that things are moving in the right direction.



From my own perspective, it does now feel that the congregations of Portland and Troon Old are becoming much more difficult to identify on their own. The way everyone has adapted to moving church each month and dealing with changes to things such as service format, content and worship styles shows just how determined you all are to embracing being part of the 'Troon Church of Scotland' when the time comes.

Of course, navigating our way through change is never easy. Neuroscientists tells us that the human brain is programmed to avoid this: we naturally resist change because it represents uncertainty which is of course threatening and painful for a brain that is trying to keep us safe. It is, of course, how we approach these developments that result in them being positive or negative.

At times when we are feeling vulnerable or out of our depth, the Bible often has passages that can help. In Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 we read the author's experience of living through times of challenge and change and who has some very useful advice to pass on to us.

Everything Hs Its Time ...

Everything Has Its Time

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

Within this passage is the comfort that we who are alive now experience life just as people have always done, and we can take strength in knowing that the many things we encounter in our lives are part of the tapestry of human existence. I hope that as the church community of Troon continues to make progress towards their new future there will indeed be a time to dance once everything is settled. I very much look forward to joining in with you all when that time comes!!

Much love to you all,

Gillean xx



ORGAN RECITAL

Our next recital in the “Music at Portland” series is on Sunday 24th September at 3 pm. It will be given by Chris Nickol of New Kilpatrick Church, Bearsden. Chris is known for his attractive and wide ranging programmes. He visited us recently to try out the organ and is very much looking forward to playing it for us.

Admission is £5 (children free) with refreshments afterwards.

Andrew McConnell

FORMING A CHURCH UNION – UPDATE

Your representatives have been very busy – no rest over the summer! Troon Church of Scotland has been accepted as the new name for the union of the churches of Troon old, Troon St Meddan's and Troon Portland.

The next step is to write a Basis of Union – a document which has to be approved by Presbytery, then the Law Department of the Church of Scotland and then the Principal Clerk of the Church of Scotland. This Basis of Union will then be sent back to us, the Kirk Sessions and congregations for final approval. This has proved complicated as the guidelines and advice keep changing but I am confident we have produced a comprehensive Basis of Union which now needs approval from Presbytery.

You may ask, how long will this take? Our hope is that Presbytery approve this document at their meeting on the 10th of September and then pass it up the chain for approval.

We will make this Basis of Union available as soon as it has been approved. We will keep you updated.

Meanwhile we continue to move closer together as one congregation by sharing worship together. These joint services have been very well received and we will continue to worship together as one congregation on the second Sunday of each month for the rest of this year. We will then review this and decide how we worship together next year.

We are moving slowly forward in faith.

John Reid

Session Clerk
Portland Church

Watch this Space:

Troon Church of Scotland Website—www.troonchurch.org.uk



And if you are wondering who this exceptionally bright and handsome group is?

Housegroup had a summer party. (One or two couldn't make it)

It was incredibly good to see our former Leader Ann and her husband Ken, who have moved too far away to come regularly. Ann encouraged and supported us in the beginning and it's safe to say we wouldn't have got anywhere without her.

The food was fantastic, from those who contributed, and from our host Jane who supplied us with a constant stream of goodies.

I am perfectly certain we covered every topic both relating to Church, angels, and our own lives with all their ups and downs. How much does Christian friendship help us through the exigencies of life. And then the upsides we can celebrate together. Prayer and togetherness; can't go wrong.

If you would like to join us, next meeting is :

Wednesday 13th September 7.30 pm at 33 Beach Rd

Discussion for an hour, followed by tea and chat till 9 pm

Barbie Short

office@portland church.org.uk

AT A GLANCE EVENTS DIARY

Sunday Services for Portland Church during September are in **Troon Old:**

3rd September at 10.30am – joint service with Troon Old

10th September at 10.30am – joint service with Troon Old and
St. Meddan's

17th September at 10.30am – joint service with Troon Old

24th September at 10.30am – joint service with Troon Old

Friday 1st September Messy Church in St. Meddans
3.30pm

9th/10th September Portland, Troon Old and
St. Meddan's open under Doors Open
Scheme

Wed. 13th September Messy Vintage Suncourt Nursing
Home 2.30 pm

Thurs. 14th September Coffee, Cake and Chat in Sandhill
Gardens 1 pm

Wed. 20th September Short Service in Sanderling View at
4 pm

Sunday, 24th September Portland Organ Recital 3 pm

Book Group – Every Monday in September in Portland Church
Millennium Room at 7pm.

Wednesday afternoon Walking Group—details in Intimations

We had a very successful Messy Church at the beach just before the schools returned. There were a good number of families with children from babies to teenagers.



The next Messy Church events are all at St. Meddan's Church on the first Fridays of September, October and November—straight from school 3.30 to 5.30 pm. Games, songs, bible stories, crafts.

We are always happy to welcome new volunteers in many different roles. Admin, food preparation, crafts and more! You wouldn't have to commit to every event but we are looking to expand our pool of people. Please contact us to put your name forward or ask for information on troonmessychurch@gmail.com

Jennifer Laurie

Next Messy Church
The Good Samaritan
Friday 1 September
St Meddan's Church
3.30pm to 5.30pm



Come along and enjoy a Bible story, crafts, games, food and

DOORS OPEN DAYS

Portland, along with Troon Old and St Meddan's, will be opening their doors to visitors on the 9th and 10th September. Portland will be open on Saturday 9th from 10am to 4pm and on Sunday 10th from 1pm to 4pm.

Assistance is needed: welcoming visitors, showing them round the church and, before leaving, enjoying refreshments and a chat. If you can help please contact Sheona Cameron 01292 311476.

Christian Aid week 2023

A terrific total of **£3231.66** was raised by everyone who gave, volunteered or filled up an envelope. A further £340 was gift aided which makes a difference.

'My heart longs to see our children finish school', says Jen Bishop, pictured above, with her son, Chimwemwe. 'Then I'll be sure I am creating a good future for the children'.



Sadly Jen was one of the many whose home and livelihood were directly impacted by the deadly Cyclone Freddy, which swept through Malawi in March. Flooding and strong winds severely damaged her crops, planted with such love and care, which she was going to use to pay for her son's education this year.

Few of us can imagine what heartrending disaster, the cyclone left in its wake. Christian Aid will help many by providing seed and implements, and helping people such as Jen to re-establish some of what they have lost.

Barbie Short



Recently the Elders from all three churches came together for a light supper followed by a fun, but challenging quiz—this was a most enjoyable coming together evening.



On Sunday, 13th August we warmly welcomed back Mel Prentice Hyers as a guest preacher.



This was also the first of our joint services of all three churches—an encouraging sign of things to come.

SUNDAE SUNDAY

The children were welcomed to the service on Sunday 20th and received a blessing on their return to school. They produced crafts linked to the bible story of the burning bush. Everyone enjoyed an ice cream in the halls afterwards. Unfortunately the weather did not permit games outside but some games were played in the Millenium room while the adults had tea (some 'big people' enjoyed ice-cream too!).

Normal Sunday school restarts on Sunday 3rd September.

Jane Potts





Autumn is a season for Thanksgiving. It is appropriate, therefore, that SCDG's Autumn Gathering will begin with a service of praise, followed by lunch together and an afternoon programme consisting of our Annual General Meeting and an inclusive music workshop. Both the morning service and the music workshop will show how we should like to see disability inclusion at work in churches' activities. We hope that many people will join us in person, but if that is not possible, you can join us via Zoom. Unfortunately, the Zoom option doesn't come with lunch!
Sandra McCallum

**SCOTTISH CHURCHES DISABILITY GROUP
WORSHIP AND ANNUAL GATHERING**

**Saturday 7 October 2023
Dalziel St Andrew's Church,
47 Merry St, Motherwell ML1 1JJ**

PROGRAMME

- 10.30 Doors open
- 11.00 Worship service
- 11.45 Break
- 12.00 Lunch
- 1.15 Annual General Meeting
 - 1. Minutes of the 2022 AGM
 - 2. Matters arising from the minutes
 - 3. Chairman's report
 - 4. Treasurer's report
 - 5. Election of Committee members for 2023 - 24
 - 6. Disability Commissioner for Scotland update
 - 7. Disability Inclusion Working Group update
 - 8. Any other business
- 2.15 Inclusive Music Workshop - Led by Graeme MacDonald,
Richmond Craigmillar Church, Edinburgh
- 2.50 Concluding thoughts and blessing
- 3.00 Departure



**OUR NEXT ISSUE OF THE
PARISHIONER WILL BE FOR
OCTOBER
PLEASE SEND ANY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR
MAGAZINE TO —parishioner45@gmail.com
By TUESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER
Distribution Sunday, 1st October**

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