

THE PARISHIONER

April 2024



*All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above;
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
For all his love.*

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,



Once a week I go to Marr College to spend time with some of the children who attend Faith, Film and Food sessions there. It is a simple format: when the children arrive, we all watch a short faith-related film and then I pose a ‘wondering’ question which we then discuss as everyone eats their lunch which is supplemented by some cakes and other items I’ve brought with me. We have been exploring various topics and the questions we have discussed have been very wide ranging. We’ve wondered what it is in our lives that make us happy. A favourite question was: ‘if you had 24 hours to do anything you wanted, what would you do?’ A really difficult question was ‘If it turned out that God existed after all and you could ask one question, what would it be?’

This week I went into the classroom and handed out some Easter cakes decorated with rabbits and multicoloured icing, however, I was entertained by a question posed to me. ‘Are there any bunnies in the Bible?’ The answer is, of course, that there are no mentions of rabbits in either the New or Old Testaments. Our fascination with the Easter Bunny is a very modern concept, but that does not make our Easter chocolate any less tasty.

Contd.

As we celebrate Easter this year, we are aware that significant change is just around the corner for the three congregations of the Church of Scotland in Troon. Easter is a time when we consider what the resurrection really means for us. Is it a one-off event in history or does it actually happen all the time, all around us? Many of us will have experienced the end of some aspect of life, and can recognise that new life has come out of that change. As the people of Troon face the end of their individual congregations, there will be new life, new opportunities and new possibilities as the community of faith is reshaped and remodelled through God. We will have to ask ourselves some deep and difficult questions about how that will happen and how we can create more openings for the church to grow. God is, of course, always part of those questions and chances.

This Easter, may we rejoice in the new life we can find in our shared futures, and may the joy and light of the risen Christ be with us all as we face the possibilities of new opportunities in our town.

Much love to you all,

Gillean xx

For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!
For blue of stream and blue of sky;
For pleasant shade of branches high;
For fragrant air and cooling breeze;
For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!



—Ralph Waldo Emerson (from “We Thank Thee”)

CHRISTIAN AID



Christian Aid Week will take place from 12th to 18th of May.

This year, Christian Aid Week will focus on the cost of living crisis faced by many around the world.

Pray this Christian Aid Week that people pushed to the brink by poverty find the strength and opportunity to push back harder and fulfil their hopes and ambitions.



Troon Church of Scotland (that's all 3 of us!) plus St Ninians are holding a coffee morning on Saturday, 11th May in Troon Old Parish Halls.

Please donate anything you have for the Tombola and Book stalls plus home baking, hand it to any of us .

Troon always rises to the challenge of helping others all over the world. But our little group is not what it was, Kenneth Welsh, Sheila Smith, Lesley McInnes, and I would invite others to join us. This is why the Lunch is not taking place.....unless some of you come forward to help. We are all of us throughout the churches busy and all struggling with work, home, everything. But at least we do not have to sow seeds without rain or tools.

Barbie Short

HOUSEGROUP

And breathe.

And take time off from the inevitable busyness of Life.

And think about God.

Breathing Space was the topic and generated a great deal of discussion. Because we all need to STOP sometimes and be more Mary than Martha. We read from Isaiah , followed by Genesis, Mark, Luke, Psalm 23 and Matthew.

‘But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.’

So often we are told, that Christ needed space and time. Which we all need. One suggestion was to take time at whenever we find it suits us, many of us felt first thing was good. And use a book or the internet to send us a short saying, giving us time to take 5 minutes and think away from the mental clutter.....

God is Love.

God I rest in this moment of your creating
I breathe in the essence of who you are
I breathe in your love of laughter and fun
I breathe in your delight at creativity and diversity
I breathe in your faithfulness to justice and freedom
I breathe in your grief at pain and suffering
I breathe in your joy at generosity and caring
God I rest in this moment of your creating and find
breathing room for my soul.

Next group will be on

Wednesday April 10th at 7.30pm

All welcome. More information from
news@troonchurch.org.uk or from me.

Barbie Short



Easter Sunday at Troon Beach

MAILING LIST

Many of you will be aware that Portland Church maintains a mailing list. This is used for the dissemination of church notes when services are in Portland and is a quick way of informing members of ongoing developments with the church union.

There are 134 email addresses on the list. Two are members of St Meddans Church, thirty four are members of Troon Old Church and the remainder are members of Portland Church. If you know of anyone who is unaware of this list and might want to be included on it please ask them to email mcdonald@troonchurch.org.uk.



Date for your diary

TROON CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

GARDEN DAY 2024

We are planning a plant sale in Troon Old Parish Church Halls on Saturday 25th 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.

GARDEN DAY

As you will see the Garden Day this year is a Troon Church of Scotland endeavour and will be held in Troon Old church halls. We look forward to support from all three churches.

The plant sale will be from 10 am to 12 noon and the Saturday Café will be running at the same time, so come along for your plants and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and something sweet at the same time.

Money raised from the sale of plants will go towards charity.



Brownies from the Troon Brownie Pack, led by Fiona Knight and held in Troon Old Parish Church halls, are hoping to keep their **Brownie Promise** to serve the community by completing the Wee Wander Kiltwalk on the 28th April 2024 in support of The Micah Project which does invaluable work within Troon and surroundings. If you would like to support them in their endeavours, and for more information, you can do so by going to the Just Giving page:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fionaknight-65d4b07542aca2e65e755b89



St John Scotland trainers are coming to Portland Church halls on Sunday the 7th of April between 1pm and 3pm to give us training in CPR and in using the defibrillator. This is an opportunity that is open to us all, and we would hope that a good number of you might be able to come.

Given that the session starts at 1pm, please feel free to bring a sandwich and eat it in the Church hall with your coffee after the service.

If you are intending to come, please let either John Reid or Catriona McKellar know, so that we have an idea of numbers.

APPEAL FOR SOUTH AYRSHIRE FOODBANK

The Foodbank are running low on the following this month: tinned mince, stew, chicken and other main meals.

As Fray Bentos pies take 30 minutes to cook, these are not suitable.

We also accept toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo, bars of soap and deodorant.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Lord's Prayer in British Sign Language

Pray with Rev Cathy Nightingale, as she signs the Lord's Prayer in BSL.

View her video on YouTube https://youtu.be/ttxZXv_bTOc

Taken from SCDAG News—Sandra McCallum

Church Union Update

The draft Basis of Union was accepted by the congregations of Portland, St Meddan's and Troon Old Parish Churches, and the result of the vote has been noted as:

Troon Old

Approving the Basis of Union	86
Not approving the Basis of Union	15
Abstention	1

Portland

Approving the Basis of Union	87
Not approving the Basis of Union	4

St Meddans

Approving the Basis of Union	101
Not approving the Basis of Union	5

Presbytery now need to approve the Basis of Union and send a signed extract of the decision to the Church of Scotland Law department and to the Stewardship and Finance Department.

To do this, the Presbytery Planning Committee will remit the decision to Presbytery's Business & Nomination Committee, who will meet on the 17th of April to approve the Basis of Union. The congregations will be cited to attend this meeting. This meeting is held using the video and audio-conferencing platform called "Zoom". Everybody is welcome to join the meeting and login details will be available nearer the time on the church website.

Please note that Presbytery must ensure that all unions and name changes are notified to the Law Department at least 49 days in advance of the union (Charity law requirement). Bearing this in mind, a realistic date for the union to take place, will be July 1st, 2024, with a "final" worship service at Portland Church taking place in Portland Church on Sunday 30th June 2024. Troon Old and St Meddan's will also have their own service in their own church on the same date.

In practical terms, this means that we will all be members of one united church called Troon Church of Scotland from July onwards. All three buildings will remain open and the new Kirk Session and united congregation will make the decisions regarding the future use of our buildings. We move forward in faith.

John Reid, Session Clerk
Portland Parish Church of Scotland

**OUR NEXT ISSUE OF THE
PARISHIONER WILL BE FOR
MAY
PLEASE SEND ANY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR
MAGAZINE TO —parishioner45@gmail.com
By TUESDAY 23RD APRIL
Distribution Sunday, 28TH APRIL**

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