

June 2024

The Parishioner

The magazine of the Portland Parish Church of
Scotland: Troon



This is the last edition of
the Parishioner - the
magazine of Portland
Parish Church. The new
Troon Church of Scotland
will come into existence on
1st July and we all look
forward to the new
magazine.

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,

This final edition of the Portland Parishioner Magazine is a poignant one. For so many years, the people of Portland Church have gathered to share their life as a congregation, drawn to share the love of God and the work of Jesus in their community and throughout the town of Troon. Whether through each of the gifted ministers who have cared for their flock, or each individual volunteer who has given of their time in service to the church, there are countless hours which have been given to look after and care for the fabric and congregation of your beautiful building. It could be very easy to see this end of an era as a negative thing, for there are few amongst us who find significant change easy to deal with.

Yet the people of Portland are some of the most resilient I have ever encountered. In the past six

years of vacancy, you have remained resolutely positive, and this has been brought to the many conversations about the future Troon Church of Scotland. It is clear from the way in which you have integrated with Troon: Old Church that the friendship which exists between you now will only grow and become more fruitful as you join with the people of St Meddans. For many of you, this step towards a new



worshipping community is already under way, and the renaming of the congregation must feel like a simple technicality as you confirm the great relationship which is developing.

It is in our faith that we find the support and comfort for those moments when we might be inclined to sorrow over the change that we face. God's presence is always steadfast, even in the worst of the storms of life. Whether in the songs and laments of the Psalms, to the stories of Jesus, scripture offers us

passages that support our life's journey. One of my favourite Wisdom passages is from Ecclesiastes in which the author talks of the transient nature of life and offers insight into the passage of time and our place in the world. I offer it to you now as a frame for the future: God has been with the people of Portland on every step of the journey up until this point. God will continue to be with the people of Troon as they step out in faith to become the new Troon Church of Scotland.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

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;

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

As you continue on this journey of faith and life, it is my prayer that you all experience the everlasting peace of God.

Much love to you all,

Gilleen xx

Message from the Session Clerk

Dear members and friends
of Portland

Faith in the Risen Christ transformed the disciples and the early church. We move forward in faith knowing that the Lord has plans for us as part of His church and we should be confident and continue to serve our Lord as best we can as His disciples.

As we move on from Pentecost, we read about the gift of the Holy Spirit and how the early believers were transformed. The early church grew in numbers because the early believers worshiped and prayed together:

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42).

We will soon be one united Troon Church of Scotland. This journey started in May 2018 for Portland, when our minister demitted his post

and we assumed we would be allowed to call a new minister. Little did we know that the Presbytery plan was hatching and the churches in Troon would be instructed to form a union and become one church. The journey to union will be complete when we become one congregation on the 1st of July 2024. Then a new journey begins as we move forward in faith together.

Once in union, we will be able to form a Kirk Session and start the vacancy process to call two ministers to join us on our journey. Worship decisions are usually left to the minister(s), and we are very grateful to be informed by Presbytery that the Rev Gillean Richmond will continue as our locum minister. We will hold a Sunday worship service using St Meddan’s building during July and then use Portland’s building in August. Troon Old’s building will be used

for special services as a festival church. This arrangement will continue until we have ministers in post.

To celebrate the witness and mission of Portland Church in Troon, we will hold a worship service on Sunday the 30th of June at the usual time of 10.30am. This will be the final service as Portland church before we join with Troon Old and St Meddan's to become one congregation, Troon Church of Scotland.

The origins of Portland Church are closely linked with the Disruption of the Scottish Church in 1843, the founding fathers initially following the creators of the Free Church movement. The Rev. Robert Ross, supported by two Elders and their followers, established his church in a two-storey building in Barassie Street in Troon. In 1846 the Rev. Robert Ross was succeeded by the Rev. Andrew Cowan. By 1856 the congregation had outgrown the original

building and moved to the 450-seat custom built Portland Street Free Church located in the town centre. Under the Rev. George Brander (1906-1922) the congregation quickly grew to almost 500 and in 1911 the decision was taken to build a new church building to accommodate this growing congregation. The present site on the corner of St. Meddans Street and South Beach was purchased and by April 1914 the new church was dedicated and available for worship. Now in 2024, we unite with the other churches of Scotland and open a new chapter in the history of the Portland building.

Change can be unsettling. If we support one another and pray for the church, we will emerge from this all the stronger.

Faith can move mountains.

John Reid

Session Clerk

Portland Memories



An early use of Portland was as a hospital for servicemen during the First World War. Here the vestry is being used as a treatment room.

(Contributed by
Catriona McKellar)

These ladies were in Mrs Paton's Guild Choir in the 1950s.

(Contributed by
Marion Drummond
whose mother is
seated on the front
right.)



Portland Church
Sunday School
at the Harvest
Thanksgiving
service in
September
1980.

Portland Memories

An outstanding memory I have is being present at the Easter Sunday service in 2014. It was also the Centenary service of the church. I was proud and humbled that my grandfather, George Wilson, was at the building of the magnificent church one hundred years ago as a joiner.



As I looked up to the beams of the church far above, I remember him telling me about climbing up the wooden scaffolding to do his work witnessing the whole of Troon and the Firth of Clyde layed out before him. What an office view that must

have been! Shortly afterwards he went to war in WW1 in the trenches at Ypres and beyond when he won the Military Medal. His brother, Thomas Wilson, was killed at the Somme and his name is on the brass plaque behind the font.

Dawna Oates



My wedding in October 1982

Avril McDonald

One of my memories of Portland Church was attending an Elders weekend at Millport Cathedral led by Bob Bardin. Jesus washed the disciples feet but we washed our neighbours hands. Raymond Howes was my neighbour so that's a good memory,

Marion Harvey

When my daughter was very young, the order of service asked the congregation to stand as the bible was carried in by the church officer - but the wording was "stand for the entry of the Bible". One day we saw the church officer in the supermarket. My daughter announced loudly "look there is the Bible".
Jacqui Webster

friendships you make, so it took time, but we were welcomed and felt it a better place in which to worship, after the trials which had pushed us into the move. The new church will be the same, it takes time but we are all working together. Thank you for your welcome, Portland.
Barbie Short

MY fondest memories are of taking part in the Portland Story as a member of the Church Choir.
From the opening narration to the background of seagulls squawking, children dancing down the aisle and the choir's final number "Locus Iste". The whole history of Portland Church in one evening – fantastic.
Margaret A. Robertson.

We have so many memories of good times at Portland Church.

For John and I the trip to Oberammergau in Bavaria in July 2000 where we witnessed a most moving performance of the Passion Play was memorable.

Traveling long distances by bus {some 3000 miles} returning with overnight stays in Budapest, Prague, Frankfurt and Paris was not easy! It was a long and tiring journey but the company was good with sing songs fortified by Sheona's shortbread.

Jean Hart

And I went over the road to Portland, after eight years at St Meddans. It was different; there were a few of us who came together, and we found the change hard at first. One of the great things about church is the community, the people with whom you worship, the



Flowers bring beauty and nature into our church service to remind us of God's creation. They give pleasure and joy, often bringing their own unique meaning.

The 100th anniversary theme was inspired by Glasgow hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2014. The flower arrangements represented some of the Commonwealth countries.

In the last 20 years, I have been privileged to be part of two flower festivals, celebrating the 90th and 100th anniversaries of Portland Church building.

Fun memories of these two challenges was gazing upon buckets and buckets of flowers! A friendship lunch full of goodies was greatly appreciated by all. All the buckets eventually became empty to blossom into amazing arrangements.

My choice of flowers was greatly challenged, but with grateful support from our church flower group along with some members of Troon Flower Club, we were able to achieve our objectives. The 90th anniversary theme showed flower arrangements portraying various church activities and sacraments.

All I could say was a big thank you to everyone who helped to make such memorable occasions.

Fiona Hay (Flower Convenor)

My special memory of Portland Church was my wedding on 8 June 1961 with the Rev. George Duncan leading the service, secondly being asked to be an Elder and ordained on Sunday 25 June 2006, June has a place in my heart.

Grace Kennedy



This picture was taken at the Dedication of Waverley's New Boiler service which was held in Portland church on Sunday 1st March 1981.

In the days when Portland had a Men's Association, very successful Burns Suppers were held annually. Girl Guides served the supper under the watchful eye of Guide Leader, Janette Wyllie.

There were many memorable guest speakers but a really memorable event was when the haggis

slipped off the silver platter between the kitchen and the hall. It was scooped up from the floor, reassembled on the platter and dutifully presented to the top table!

Jean Hart

Beautiful Portland Church has borne witness to the saddest and happiest times of my life from saying 'farewell' to loved ones forging life-long friendships and being married there to my beloved late husband, Scott.

I have countless treasured memories of sitting on a Sunday with my late mother and father, Morag and Bill Brown with my brother David and of being an angel in the Nativity perched on a stool in the pulpit bringing Glad Tidings!

I will be forever thankful for Portland Church and the Portland 'family'.

Fiona Trewern



I have been in Portland since I was 5 years old and have lots of happy memories. Here are a few.

We had lovely Sunday School trips by bus with streamers flowing. It never rained!

There was a thriving youth fellow with over 50 members. We went on weekend outings in the Lake District several times.

The Portland Story (1993) was a major effort with a wonderful look back at our Church History.

I would like to thank all those who produced "The Parishioner" over the years. I pray that our new Troon Church of Scotland continues to be a peaceful place for all to worship.

Margaret Mitchell



- We joined Portland in 1967 and, at the first morning communion service we attended, it was so busy that extra chairs were brought through from the halls and placed down the side isles. And there were afternoon and evening communions too!
- 25 years as a Sunday School teacher and making life long friends. Primary staff, after a meeting, going to Togs for a coffee and having the lights switched off by the owner to make us go home. Ten teachers and a superintendent enjoying evening meals at Highgrove
- Happy times at the Mens' Association.
- Fun Fours golf competitions.
- The pastoral support we received from Rev Ron Boyd during a difficult few years was excellent.
- Being treated to rounds of golf at Royal Troon by various church members



Audio Desk

The audio desk in the balcony is an excellent vantage point for church services. When the Reverend Gordon Grant returned to Portland for a service to celebrate his years in the ministry, the congregation included many older people from other churches. This caused a brief problem when one lady who used a hearing aid caused high pitched whining throughout the church every time she adjusted it.



Working on the audio desk in the 1990s was a very different task. The audio cassettes only lasted forty-five minutes each side so we had to find a suitable place in the church service to wind the cassette on and turn it over. Then in the afternoon we had to make multiple copies and take these to the team who visited the elderly and housebound to deliver them and collect last week's tapes to be erased and re-used. Watching on-line was not an option but some people retained the tape and listened to the service the following Sunday, so that they were sharing worship with those at church.

Sandra McCallum

Summer Holiday Club

The week-long event was held jointly with St Ninian's, with morning sessions in Portland and then a march along to South Beach. lead by children carrying the Holiday Club Banner. Packed lunches were eaten at St Ninian's, usually followed by a play based on that year's theme, masterminded by Raymond Howes.

Sandra McCallum



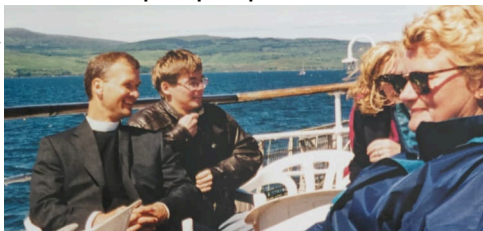
The following is an extract from an article written by the late John Hart after a Portland Church visit to Iona.



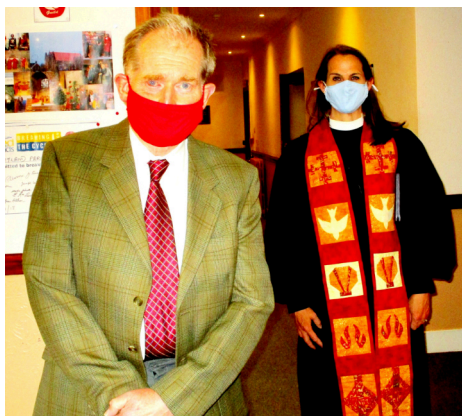
Ninety members and adherents of Portland and St Columba's, Ayr, set off at 7.00am on 20th June 1997 on two coaches for Oban to board the Waverley. The weather was benign, the visibility was extraordinary and we were privileged to celebrate a memorable communion in the unique precinct of Iona Cathedral. Each person approached the altar and dipped their bread in the wine cup. With 600 people present at the

service this was the only practical method in the allotted timescale..

Thanks are due to the late Captain David Neill the Waverley from whom came the original proposal for the visit.



I moved to Troon in 2016 and was immediately made most welcome by the Portland family. In 2021 I was privileged to be invited to join the Kirk Session and although Covid restrictions including masks, remember them, were in place Mel Prentice-Hyers found a new and moving way of conducting my ordination service. Mel's words that day still resonate with me and



she and they remain very important memories of my short time in Portland.

David Kerr

I can remember being in the Sunday school at about age 5 or 6 and baking, or what at least I remember as baking (it might just have been rolling out playdoh!) with Helen Towers and Betty Auld.

and happiness rather than the nerves I thought might have overtaken me. Both memories have happiness at their core and are remembered with fondness.

Shona Ling

I remember the 'baking' but I also remember feeling so cared for in this memory and I look back on that with joy.

Years later I enjoyed one of the most special days in my life, marrying my husband.

Alasdair and I were married in March 2012 and we were Reverend Jamie Milliken's first wedding at Portland. When the service began I remember my hand was passed from my father's to Jamie's hand who passed it to Alasdair's.

This was very symbolic for me. I remember feeling my cup was overflowing with joy



101 year old Irene Kyle with her family all have happy memories of Portland Sunday School and Church.

Summer Holiday Club



The visit of Rev John Chalmers in 2014 to help Portland celebrate its Centenary was a memorable day.



I have a lifetime of special Portland memories. These range from Sunday school parties and picnics, Youth Fellowship and joining the church, to being married and having my daughter Susan's christening in Portland. Also the funeral services of my husband and parents were held in the church.

Susan and I now have second generation memories of most of the above but my most precious memories are of singing in Portland choir and worshipping God through music.

Marion Drummond



Final Service in Portland Parish Church

30 June 2024

After 110 years of being Portland Church, firstly as Portland United Free Church, then as Portland Parish Church, our final service will take place on the 30th of June 2024.

This is a huge milestone for our church. With the union on the 1st of July, we will become Troon Church of Scotland and all three churches in Troon will draw a curtain down on their individual histories and heritage before creating a shared history. The 30th of June service will allow us to worship for the last time together as the Portland family and everyone is invited to come and remember our links with Portland, be that people no longer with us or events; we can come together and give thanks for the years gone past, and prayers for our future.

After the service, everyone is invited through to the halls, where we will share a sandwich lunch, some chat and fellowship. We do hope that you can join us.

Catriona McKellar

Treasurer



PUBLIC MEETING

**The Future of Troon Old
Parish Church Buildings**

A sustainable community purpose?

In Troon Old Parish Church

Sunday 9th June

7:30pm

www.troonchurch.org.uk/troon-old-future

Our next Messy Church is Friday 3/5 at 3.30pm in St Meddans church halls. The theme is Pentecost. On 7/6 it is Joseph and a beach party is scheduled for 15/8. Numbers attending continue to grow and we are making good connections with young families in Troon.



We have now put on two family movie afternoons in Portland Church Halls. Despite lovely weather we had a good number at both events. We are continuing this on a monthly basis. Next movie afternoons are 11/6 and 15/6. Doors open 3.30pm - film starts at 4pm - popcorn and ice cream provided. As always any and all offers of help gratefully received.

Garden Day



This was held in Portland Halls on 25th May with surplus plants being sold after the service in Troon Old on Sunday 26th. The total raised for Limphasa Church in Malawi was £1100..

The organisers would like to thank all those who helped by donating plants, helping to set up the hall or helping behind the tables on Saturday.



Troon Brownies (led by Gillian) took part in the Kiltwalk on Sunday 28th. The total raised was £4599.

Banking arrangements post union.

In practical terms, all three existing bank accounts will merge on the date of Union under the current Portland account, which will be renamed, Troon Church of Scotland.

All Direct Debits / Standing Orders will be transferred automatically. So, you don't have to tell your bank, it will all be done for you. You will see the change in your statement from your bank. It will change from Portland Church to Troon Church of Scotland.

Gift Aid. New Gift Aid contributors, post Troon Church of Scotland union, should have the new Troon Church of Scotland account details on the Gift Aid forms. All previous Gift Aid contributors will have their Gift Aid contributions automatically transferred to Troon Church of Scotland by the bank.

Your contributions help support the work of the church at home and across the world.

Keep the church and the work of the church in your prayers.

God Bless.

John Reid

Session Clerk

The thing about Housegroup is that its friendly.

We chat. We support each other. We welcome anybody who would like to come. We think about faith and the Bible teachings. We are a community.

So in May we thought about hymns, and singing, and what place this has in the church service and in our own lives. We read from Exodus, Colossians, and Revelations.

Hymns give us instant connections to events in our lives. Things that are sad or happy. Music reverberates in the bible from Moses on. And in a time when few could read, singing gave vent to story telling and community.

For everyone born a place at the table. We sang this on the first Sunday of May. We also talked about the incredible effect music and

singing has on people suffering with dementia. How they can come alive, remember words and even dance.

We all had our favourites. Hymns may be 'fillers' or important to the sermon, or merely a chance to get up off a hard pew. But they are important, they do fill a distinct role in the service and our lives. Without them it could be merely a listening hour. This is our part, this is us together.

Loving God, grant that the church on earth be filled with our singing and with the presence of Jesus and that he may remain with us always, to the end of our world. Amen

Next meeting Wednesday 5th June 7.30 pm

Barbie Short

Fairtrade Coffee Morning

There will be a Fairtrade coffee morning from 10am to 12 noon on Saturday 8 June in the Old Parish Church. Any help on the day or donations of baking would be very much appreciated.



Contact Details

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Hall's Convener: Catriona McKellar halls@troonportlandchurch.org.uk	01292 318602

The Last Word from the Interim Moderator

As we approach the 1 July I have mixed emotions of sadness and joy. In May 2018 I was asked to be Interim Moderator of Troon Portland Church, I had no idea what the future held. I was welcomed into the Portland Family and now truly believe I am a member of a really friendly group of folks.

We have not had an easy journey as I said at a meeting some time ago 'there have been many times I thought I saw light at the end of the tunnel only to discover it was a train coming towards us'. Now I believe I do see daylight, a light that will see the Church in Troon taking steps into a bright new future with all the opportunities God presents.

I am grateful that I was given the opportunity to share this journey with you and although I would hesitate to count the number of meetings this has involved it has been all worthwhile.

I thank you all for the friendship, patience, encouragement and cooperation you have given me and I wish God's blessing on you and the Troon Church of Scotland.

Bill Duncan