

THE PARISHIONER

March 2024



Alleluia
He is
Risen

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 February, during a holiday in Bath, I took the chance to visit Bath Abbey on Ash Wednesday to join in their service.

Described as ‘Sung Eucharist with the imposition of Ashes’, the service itself sounded rather different to anything we normally experience in the Church of Scotland at large. It was, however, a wonderfully spiritual and God-filled experience in which the gathered people shared the start to Lent with some beautiful music, community and communion.



Traditionally, the Church of Scotland, being a reformed church, does not observe Ash Wednesday. This is because the reformers focussed on *sola scriptura*, or scripture alone, to frame worship, the idea being that the preaching of the word was more important than any other aspect of church services. Reformers such as Martin Luther and John Calvin took a dim view of anything that could detract from a Christian’s focus on the Bible.

That said, there are many aspects of the religious life of other denominations which can bring us increased understanding of our own traditions and enable us to question what can enhance our journey with God. Whilst sitting in Bath Abbey, enveloped in the glorious rendition of Allegri’s *Miserere mei Deus* as worshippers filed out to receive ashes upon their foreheads, I was struck by how our lives in faith can be enriched by experiencing that which challenges us. In being ‘ashed’ I was welcomed into a temporary community of like-minded people which only existed for that hour’s service. Together we met, we shared experiences unique to that day and moment: we smiled at each other in greeting, filed past each other to be ashed, shared the peace of communion, took the eucharist, sang and spoke in unison, prayed as one cohesive group, and left the space in silence.

That Wednesday evening, I certainly felt that I was living out the quote of Anselm of Canterbury: 'I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe, but rather, I believe in order that I may understand.' Sharing in patterns of worship that were unfamiliar reminded me that the journey of faith is always to deepen our understanding of God, for there is always something new for us to learn and experience.

As we continue to look to the union and formation of Troon Church of Scotland, I trust that it will continue to be in the new, unexpected and unknown that you all meet God and are enriched by your experiences.

Much love to you all, and I share here the final prayer of the service which really spoke to me:

This is love: not that we loved God,
but that God loved us and shared Jesus,
that we might live through him.
If God loves us so much we ought to love one another.
If we love one another, God lives in us.

Amen

Gillean



Lord of life
We pray for all who bring your word of life
As a light to those in darkness
For those who bring your word of peace
To those enslaved by fear
For those who bring your word of love
To those in need of comfort
Lord of love and Lord of peace
Lord of resurrection life
Be known
Through our lives
and through your power
Christ the Lord is risen to-day
ALL: Alleluia!

HOUSEGROUP: for Troon Church of Scotland

January we discussed War. February we discussed Love.

Roaming over the Bible, from 1st John (not a book we often visit) through Exodus and on to Matthew.

We know there was a priest called Valentine who was beheaded on the orders of Claudius II (Claudius Gothicus), in 269AD. He had attracted the Emperor's attention by preaching the Christian message and conducting marriages between young men and women against the Emperor's express orders. At the time married men were not expected to serve as soldiers, and if they did, were considered poor recruits because it was believed they were too concerned for the well-being of their wives to commit whole-heartedly to warfare.

We touched briefly on the five Greek words for love - we could only remember 'agape' so here are the rest :

- Eros, or sexual passion. ...
- Philia, or deep friendship. ...
- Ludus, or playful love. ...
- Agape, or love for everyone. ...
- Pragma, or longstanding love. ...
- Philautia, or love of the self.

The discussion centred on how important Love is: love of self, love of God, love of everyone around us. And how going to Church means a chance to speak to all, especially in our attempt to arrive at one church out of three; so that even more, coffee becomes part of that getting to know others. Chatting to people we have not met before, creates a significance possibly out of proportion to the act itself. At times we have all been slighted, yes even at church coffee, so can we all remember to love each other? And that God loves us?

Love the Lord your God with all your heart. Love your neighbour as yourself.

Next meeting : **Wednesday 13th March 7.30 pm**. All from whatever church are very welcome.

Barbie

Church Union Update

We are in the liturgical period of Lent commemorating the forty days of fasting and praying that Jesus endured before beginning his mission work to save us all. This is a time for giving things up to remind ourselves that Jesus gave himself up for us.

This is also a time when we will be asked to accept change. Change is always difficult but necessary if we are to move forward. Jesus preached for change, died, and rose again for change. The early church accepted change as it evolved through the centuries. Now the 21st Century Church must change so we can continue our mission work as disciples to bring the good news to all in our community.

As a church, we have been in vacancy for a long time. We have experienced a lot of change and we have been very patient. The time has come for a positive change.

The Presbytery of the South West has given us a date for the congregational vote of the Basis of Union. On Sunday the 10th of March 2024, all three Church of Scotland congregations will be asked to vote to accept (or reject) the Basis of Union. Once accepted, the Presbytery will set the legal stuff in motion. This will take time, so we can expect the date of the union to be somewhere between June and September this year.

The Basis of Union sets out the details that are required to allow all three congregations to become one – Troon Church of Scotland. It is the beginning of a process which will see congregations unite and form the church for the future. This union will allow us to call our Ministers to form a Ministry Team and lead our church into a new future.

We have a lot of work still to do. The details, for example, where we will worship and what form will worship take? This will all be discussed with our new Ministry Team in due course. Change can be positive and good. Change is knocking at our door. Let's be brave and open the door knowing that Jesus is with us.

We move forward in faith.

John Reid
Session Clerk



Messy Church in February was on a Lent theme. Everyone enjoyed a time of stories, crafts, food and fellowship. The next event is Easter Messy Church on Friday, 1st March—usual place—St. Meddans Church Halls 3.30—5.30 pm. All families welcome—no need to book.

This is an Ecumenical endeavour supported by different denominations in Troon, and Troon Churches Together. As always any, and all help gratefully received!

Please contact troonmessychurch@gmail.com

Jennifer Lawrie

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sunday Services for the church families of Portland and Troon Old during March will be in Troon Old Church starting at 10.30am.

The **Troon Church of Scotland** Service will also be held in Troon Old Church on Sunday the 10th of March starting at 10.30am. This service will be led by Presbytery and a congregational vote on the Basis of Union will be taken.

Book Club – Monday the 4th and 11th of March in Portland's Millennium Room starting at 7pm. Everyone welcome.

Bereavement Group – every Tuesday at 10am in the Millenium Room, Portland Church.

Story and Song - Free weekly sessions of songs, stories and a snack every Thursday morning, at St Ninian's Church halls on Bentinck Drive, 10am till 11:15am for children from birth to school age. For more information, please contact Gillean.

EASTER SERVICES

Maunday Thursday 29th -Communion in Troon Old at 7.30pm.

Good Friday 30th – Drop in between 12-3 at the Lighthouse Church (Ailsa Road) with a more structured reflection between 2-3pm.

Good Friday 30th- Evening Service at 7.30pm in St Meddan's.

Saturday 30th at 7.30pm Easter Vigil in St Ninians

Easter Sunday Dawn service on the beach at 7 am (hosted by Our Lady of the Assumption and St Meddands) followed by breakfast in Seagate.

10.30am Service in Troon Old

PORTLAND CHURCH MAILING LIST

The mailing list exists to communicate church information quickly to those who are happy with this form of communication. After the mailing on Saturday 17th February, the system reported that eight email addresses had refused to accept it. Seven of these were gmail.com addresses. This may be a temporary fault but if you think you should be receiving church emails and are not then please email john.mcdonald@troonchurch.org.uk.

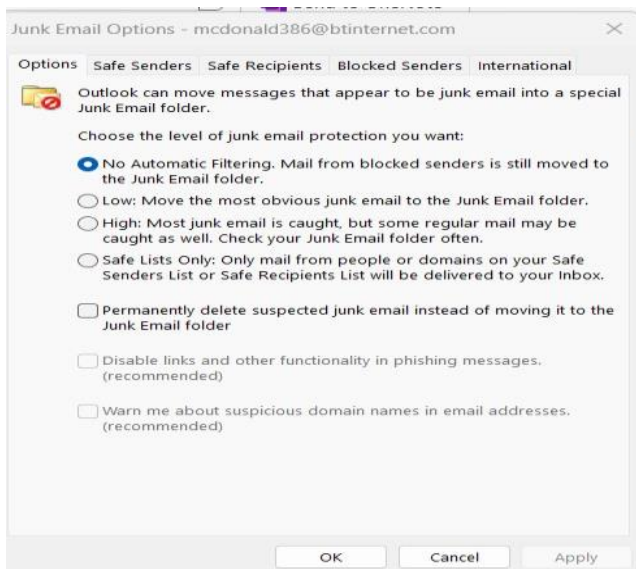
It is possible to make it easier for your email program to accept an email from the mailing list by adding mailinglist@troonportlandchurch.org.uk to its list of trusted addresses. Every email program is different so a uniform set of instructions is not possible. The trusted emails are collected in the program's "whitelist" or "safe sender list" and for Outlook on a Windows computer this is the method.

1. Click on Home and then on the Junk Mail icon which is the bottom one in this image.



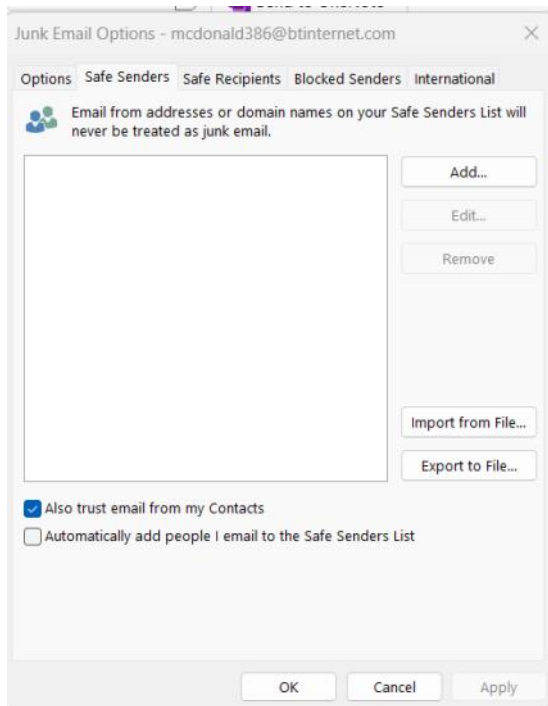
2. Click on "Junk Mail Options".

3. Click on "Safe Senders"



Cont'd

4. Click on “Safe Senders”



5. Click on “Add” and then type mailinglist@troonportlandchurch.org.uk into the box.

6. Click on “OK” and then on “OK” again.

Emails from the mailing list should then be accepted by Outlook.

The mailing list was originally established for Portland Church members but was recently expanded with the addition of about 30 Troon Old members and 2 St Meddans members. **If you know of anyone from any of the three churches who might want their address to be added to the list please encourage them to email john.mcdonald@troonchurch.org.uk**



South Ayrshire foodbank
New Life Centre
62 Monkton Road
Prestwick KA9 2PA

T 07871 689392 / 07599 071114
E info@southayrshire.foodbank.org.uk
www.southayrshire.foodbank.org.uk

The Session Clerk
Portland Parish Church
2 St Meddans Street
Troon
KA10 6JU

31 January 2024

Dear Friend

We would like to say thank you to you and your congregation at Portland Parish Church for continuing to support the work of South Ayrshire Foodbank.

Without this we would be unable to provide much needed assistance to those who find themselves in crisis at these difficult times. Over the past twelve months we have provided 3 days emergency food, plus toiletries and pet food, to 8735 people which is a slight increase from the 8184 we helped in 2023.

As part of the Trussell Trust Network we are looking to support their aim of seeing a reduction in the need for foodbanks in our communities. To do this, we have now secured funding through the Trussell Trust to employ a Financial Inclusion Officer through South Ayrshire Council over the next 24 months. This officer will work with people coming to our Hubs to help them maximise their income and reduce their reliance on the Foodbank.

Thank you again for all that you do to support our efforts. It is very much appreciated and we look forward to continuing to work together to make a difference to those who need us in the coming year.

Yours

pp Cathy Smith
pp Cathy Smith
Project Manager

Registered Scottish Charity Number SCO44413



APPEAL FOR SOUTH AYRSHIRE FOODBANK

The Foodbank would be grateful for additional supplies of the following foodstuffs—tinned fruits—tinned/packet custard—tinned rice pudding. Of course all other donations welcome.

“Bags for life” are also very much needed.



Children's Hospices Across Scotland

11 January 2024
Your CHAS number is 36861

Fundraising 2nd Floor, Buchanan Tower,
Buchanan Park, Cumbernauld Road, Stepps, Glasgow G33 6HZ
Tel: 0141 779 6180 Email: support@chas.org.uk Web: www.chas.org.uk

Elaine Douglas
Portland Parish Church
2 St Meddans Street
TROON
KA10 6JU

Dear Elaine and everyone at Portland Parish Church

Thank you so much for your gift

Your generous support will help families to spend precious time together, having fun and making the wonderful memories that you know will be treasured forever. Your kind gift of £142, as well as the kind Christmas gifts, helps families to keep the joy alive each and every day. Thank you. I would also like to thank you for inviting me along to your service it was lovely and everyone was so welcoming.

Thanks to your loving care, families at CHAS had a very special Christmas. There were lots of fun Christmas festivities taking place, where families could meet and spend time with other families who are on a similar journey to their own. The unique support families can give each other is so valuable to them.

There were fun-filled Christmas parties for families in Inverness and Aberdeen, with lots of festive games, music, face painting and of course a special visit from Santa Claus himself, which brought smiles all round.

Your support has made a huge difference to families in the North. Thanks to you, we have been able to recruit new specialist social workers and family support workers to the team in those areas, providing the best care to families at CHAS.

Once again, thank you so much for everything you do for the families that CHAS cares for and for helping them to create beautiful memories together, we are so grateful.

With best wishes



Cara Bowden
Community Fundraiser Team

Keep the joy alive

To find out the location of your nearest fundraising office, please visit www.chas.org.uk

Head Office and Registered Office: Canal Court, 42 Craiglockhart Avenue, Edinburgh EH14 1LT



Children's Hospices Across Scotland (known as CHAS) is a Scottish charity, SC0219724, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).
CHAS is a company limited by guarantee and is registered in Scotland, SC136410. VAT Registration number 214 8303 34

**OUR NEXT ISSUE OF THE
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APRIL
PLEASE SEND ANY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR
MAGAZINE TO —parishioner45@gmail.com
By TUESDAY 26TH MARCH
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