

THE PARISHIONER

May 2024



***Bind us together, Lord, bind us
together***

With cords that cannot be broken

***Bind us together, Lord, bind us
together***

Bind us together with love.

Bob Gillman

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,

During our recent meetings for people who are considering joining the church, we were talking about the vows that individuals make when they make a public confession of faith. When I joined the church I was 18 years old, and I still remember the service very clearly.

It was, somewhat unbelievably over 30 years ago now, and it was the first time that I recognised that I was called to ministry. It was not the right time for me to explore that particular avenue of vocation, however, as I was off to Glasgow University just a couple of months later to study something not at all related to theology! When reviewing the vows I made all those years ago, I was reminded by just how challenging it can be to fulfil them all.



The service in which new members are confirmed, welcomes new members after their profession of faith before asking them to make promises. The vows are given as a question and answer. Individuals are asked if they promise:

- to be faithful in reading the Bible and in prayer.
- to give a fitting proportion of your time, talents, and money for the Church's work in the world.
- depending on the grace of God, to profess publicly your loyalty to Jesus Christ, to serve him in your daily work, and to walk in his ways all the days of your life.

As an 18 year-old I remember finding these quite profound, and like most of the world's Christians, I have failed at keeping every one of these promises. Each of us who have joined the Church will have had our own challenges in upholding such vows: it would be naive of us to think we can succeed when our lives are never free from difficulties.

Too often, as we look around us, we can see stories of doom and gloom: the world is a worrying place and our part in the trials and difficulties of those who suffer can weigh heavily upon us. The promise of God and Jesus, however, is that we are never alone, even in the worst of times. Just as for Elijah, God is often the sheer silence after the wind, earthquake and fire. We were simply not able to perceive God amongst the tumult. Jesus is often portrayed as being troubled and seeking silence and solitude in the company of God to reset in his ministry. These are reminders that even though we find ourselves in the storms of life and we often cannot find our way out, God is with us, soothing our hearts and minds, offering us comfort now. When we rest in God we can truly find peace and hope.

As we turn towards the new challenges that we face with the birth of the new Troon Church of Scotland, I invite you all to consider the vows above and to take strength and comfort for the future. For it is in your collective strength and through the company of Jesus that you will succeed in living out these promises, creating a community which is able to achieve great things.

I leave you with the words of blessing from Romans 15:13 which are said to new members during the confirmation service, and which can speak to those of us who have stumbled a few times since we last made our public promise to be people of God:

May God who is the ground of hope,
fill you with all the joy and peace
as you lead the life of faith
until, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
you overflow with hope. Amen

Much love to you all,

Gillean xx



**Khanda is the symbol
of the Sikhs,**

and a small group of us gathered beside the church to take ourselves off, with the help of a Dodds bus, and church goes from Ayr, on a sunny day to visit a temple.

Whatever we knew about Sikhs previously, we learnt a great deal more, as we trooped into the temple, took off our shoes - yes we all had our best socks, well second best anyway in my case, some were in the wash..... and draped our hair with scarves. Even the men wore elegant little headsquares.

One of the Sikh volunteers - they are all volunteers, apart from the priests who rotate 2 yearly from Amritsar, explained very clearly what they did and, how they managed the temple, and the provision of food to anyone who wanted it on a least 3 days. We sat on the floor, not a usual way for us, but we managed. It was fascinating to see their altar, beautifully decorated, and be told the way they prayed, and about their holy book; the Guru Granth Sahib Ji, treated with huge deference, but also available for the home in a smaller version.

There is one God, one world and community is all important. We were privileged to see both a wedding and a prayer for a family who had moved to a new house. Along with a very active small boy.

Lunch was served , cooked by volunteers, given by donations, as all their food is. Yummy dahl, chapatis, pakoras, a lovely but unidentified sweet, tea in an urn with milk and sugar.

Made us all think about our own faith , the cohesion of the Sikhs, not having fifteen different sects; and to be allowed into their world to understand their goodness and, and how much they add to our communities.

Barbie Short





Gathering together on Easter morning



Irene Kyle on her 101st Birthday on the 6th April

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING

**SATURDAY 11TH MAY
10AM-12 NOON
TROON OLD PARISH CHURCH**

Please support this by coming and enjoying coffee and home baking

Tombola stall, books, baking to buy

Please also contribute to any of the above.

Christian Aid is run by a small committee from St Ninians, Troon Old, St Meddans and Portland working together. There is desperate need to support families living in dire poverty with help, advice, seeds and tools, to enable children to be educated and for health care. Helping families help themselves carve away forward for the future.

Barbie Short



Story and Song

Free weekly sessions of songs, stories and a snack every Thursday morning, at St Ninian's Church halls on Bentick Drive, 10am till 11:15am for children from birth to school age. For more information please contact Gillean (GRichmond@churchofscotland.org.uk | 07811 835197) or Keith Thomasson (troonrector@myphone.coop | 07529 221404).



Date for your diary
TROON CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
GARDEN DAY 2024
Portland Church Halls

on Saturday 25th May 10 am to 12 noon

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

Please note, after consideration, it has been decided that the Garden Day will be held in PORTLAND Church Halls as has been in the past.

Portland church halls will be open from 1-4pm and 6-7pm on Friday, 24th May to receive any plants.

Tea, coffee and cake will of course be available at the Saturday Café at Troon Old halls from 10 am to 12 noon.

HOUSE GROUP

Is Easter more significant than Christmas to each of us or to the population in general?

So this is what Housegroup thought about in April. And it was a very interesting discussion.

We read from Luke, Matthew and Mark, to refresh our feelings for the birth and death of Christ.

And ranged from discussing what death means to children, what resurrection means to all of us, and where science, more particularly physics, comes into the equation.

You, of course, will recognise quantum theory and its relationship to Christianity. If not, come to Housegroup next time.....can't, of course, promise anything.....

For many of us Christmas is important as the start of all, but also as very much a family time, and when many non church goers come to church. But also Easter is all important and the resurrection. The apostles went on working for faith, without thought of power or money, those twin motivations for many people. No, they continued to work and to succeed although often with dire consequences personally.

God be in my head, and in my understanding. God be in my eyes, and in my looking. God be in my mouth, and in my speaking. God be in my heart, and in my thinking. God be at my end, and at my departing. Amen

Next meeting : Wednesday 8th May at 7.30

More information from news@troonchurch.org.uk or from Barbie Short

MARR CAPPELLA

SPRING CONCERT

‘MARR CAPPELLA IN COLOUR’

WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY 7.30 PM
(doors open at 7 pm)

Proceeds to 28th Ayrshire (Troon) Scout Group for their Save the Scout Hall Appeal. Suggested donation at the door of £10.

Please come along—all welcome



Next Messy Church Friday, 3rd May

3.30-5.30pm

St Meddans Church Halls.

And then on Friday, 7th June



The Parishioner

With the birth of Troon Church of Scotland, the June edition of Portland's Parishioner magazine in this format will be the last. This will be produced by Avril and John McDonald so all contributions should be sent



to mcdonald@troonportlandchurch.org.uk

John has particularly asked you to share a memory of Portland - a few lines is all that is necessary—just indicate if you are happy for your name to be included or not.

Thank you

Margaret Short

Appeal for South Ayrshire Foodbank

There is an ongoing need for this service so when you are next in the supermarket or local shop remember those who find themselves in need of the Foodbank.

The Foodbank are running very 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)

Remember that the Foodbank also accept toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo, bars of soap, and deodorant, as well as basic foodstuffs.

Thank you for your continued support.

**OUR LAST ISSUE OF THE
PARISHIONER WILL BE FOR JUNE
PLEASE SEND ANY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR
MAGAZINE TO —
mcdonald@troonportlandchurch.org.uk
By TUESDAY 21ST MAY
Distribution Sunday, 26TH MAY**

Contact Details

Locum Minister: Rev. Gillean Richmond 07811835197
GRichmond@churchofscotland.org.uk

Interim Moderator: Bill Duncan 01292 440560
interimmoderator@troonportlandchurch.org.uk

Session Clerk: John Reid 01292 314475
session@troonportlandchurch.org.uk

Treasurer: Catriona McKellar 01292 318602
treasurer@troonportlandchurch.org.uk

Church Officer: Ruaridh McKellar 07444 432827
churchofficer@troonportlandchurch.org.uk

Church Office: 01292 317929
office@troonportlandchurch.org.uk

Organist/Music Convener:

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

The Parishioner: Margaret Short 01292 314791
parishioner@troonportlandchurch.org.uk
Articles to parishioner45@gmail.com

Website: www.troonportlandchurch.org.uk
www.troonchurch.org.uk

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