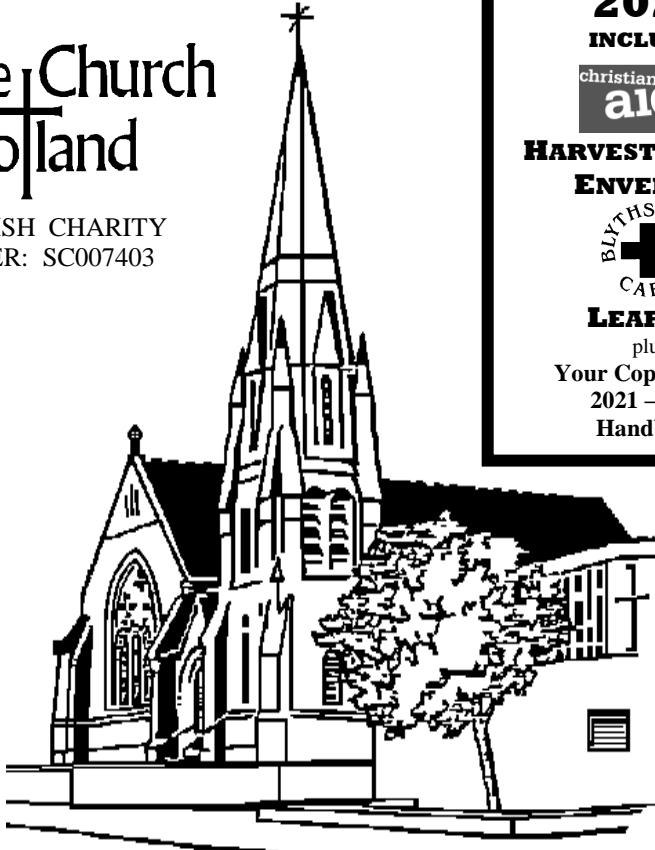


PRESTWICK SOUTH PARISH CHURCH

The Church
of Scotland

SCOTTISH CHARITY
NUMBER: SC007403



SEPTEMBER

2021

INCLUDES



**HARVEST APPEAL
ENVELOPE**



LEAFLET

plus

**Your Copy Of The
2021 – 2022
Handbook**

NEWSLETTER

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

RADICAL CHANGE WITHIN THE CHURCH

When I sat down to write this Minister's letter, the first in about nine months I initially thought an upbeat message was in order. In addition with both Craigie Symington and Prestwick South reopening for Sunday Worship on the 22nd August this was surely a time for highlighting a sense of joy and positivity. However that would be to ignore the present ecclesiastical climate.

Indeed as a Minister through the years I've sought to periodically inform people, often through my preaching and through publications, of the changes and challenges inflicted on our faith and our Church. And while we may all crave a sense of stability and growth within our Church, we are currently faced with uncertainty and decline.

At the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland back in May 2021 it became obvious that the status quo was unsustainable. Sadly there is no longer the required amount of people accepting a call to ministry. In addition over 35% of all current Parish Ministers will retire in the next few years. There are also too many Church buildings that due to their age and shape are underused and very expensive to maintain.

Therefore the General Assembly acknowledged that over the next few years there will be a drastic reduction in the number of Parish Ministers available. Hence Churches will require to link, to unite or in some cases close.

If for example we take the Presbytery of Ayr, which covers all the Churches in this area as far north as Troon, as far south as Ballantrae and as far east as Muirkirk. Currently we have a requirement for 32 Parish Ministers, although about a third of our Churches are presently vacant. In fairness the Presbytery in recognition of the current problems was already addressing the need to reduce that number. However following the recent General Assembly we have now been left in no doubt about the need for more rapid changes with an allocated figure of 19 ministry posts.

It should be mentioned and not to complicate matters that there will also be the availability of having this figure of 19 complemented by a small number of additional church workers, such as youth workers and family workers, if available. But the crux of the matter is that we now have to reduce from the current figure of 32 Parish Ministers to 19. That's not speculation that is now a reality. That is the impact of change.

The Church of Scotland has therefore decreed that every Presbytery should have produced an approved plan by 31st December 2022. In response, although discussions and decisions have still to take place, the Mission Committee of the Presbytery of Ayr have already produced a draft plan.

This has included the following proposal affecting Prestwick South:

Plan A Monkton & Prestwick North and Prestwick South unite.

Plan A Prestwick St Nicholas and Prestwick Kingcase unite.

Plan B Monkton & Prestwick North, Prestwick South, Prestwick St Nicholas and Prestwick Kingcase unite to form a Prestwick Church.

On the 10th August the Presbytery of Ayr held a special meeting to address the challenge and to start the process. It was agreed to use the draft plan as the foundation to work towards a target date of the 1st March 2022. In addition it was agreed that areas can decide to vary the suggested Plans but in the event of failure to reach an agreement the Presbytery at its discretion can apply Plan A by default.

I'm aware as we hopefully head towards a time of normality after Covid-19 this is not what Church members want to face. However as I have tried to highlight in this brief article the status quo is not an option, the Church of Scotland has no choice but to make radical changes.

At the moment there is still a great deal to be discussed and decided, but I would like to believe that Covid-19 has reminded us all that ultimately it is God that we worship, not a Church building. In addition changes will not take place overnight; a transitional period will be required. Therefore for the immediate future we continue to remain the Congregation of Prestwick South Parish Church uniting in our weekly worship, maintaining our buildings and serving God accordingly.

I am truly sorry to be the bearer of such challenging information as we emerge from a global pandemic. I will endeavour to be as transparent as possible over the coming months offering updates regarding this difficult situation within the Church. I would also hope that such clarity will avoid the circulation of rumours.

May we also never forget that we belong to an enduring and adaptable Church which continues to follow Christ after 2,000 years. Let us hope and pray that as change impacts on the Church we will emerge with our faith intact and our worship still prioritised.

Kenneth

HARVEST APPEAL

The past 18th months have naturally been very difficult for so many people. The impact of Covid-19 has affected just about every aspect of life imaginable creating a great sense of suffering and sorrow.

While this has been so apparent in all our lives it has also affected many people who are unknown to us. This has been reflected in the number of charities that have endured a financial drought over the past 18 months where contributions have literally dried up.

As the Church begins to emerge from Covid-19 the work of supporting others is perhaps more important than ever. Indeed it has been gratifying in recent months that we have been able to make regular donations to the local Foodbank. Thank you to everyone that came along to the Church when it was open for private prayer armed with bags of groceries.

Now we look ahead to celebrating Harvest Thanksgiving and continuing to support those less fortunate than ourselves. This year our chosen charity is Christian Aid where recently a Harvest Appeal was launched entitled:

SISTERS STRONGER TOGETHER. UNITED WE CAN SAVE LIVES.

The seasons change, but love and community remain, strong and constant. Could you help more communities around the world build a new life, full of hope? In Malawi, women are struggling in the face of the climate crisis. Extreme weather is affecting crops; cyclones have destroyed homes, floods have washed away livestock.

The climate crisis is pushing them deeper into poverty. In the aftermath of floods, they have lost nearly everything. Food is scarce and there is no money to educate their children. But people are uniting and changing their lives together.

With your support, women are joining forces to change their lives and overcome poverty.

Contained in this Newsletter is a Harvest Thanksgiving envelope. This should be brought to Church on the 26th September where we will remember how fortunate we are, while seeking to contribute to Christian Aid Harvest Appeal.

Thank you for your support.

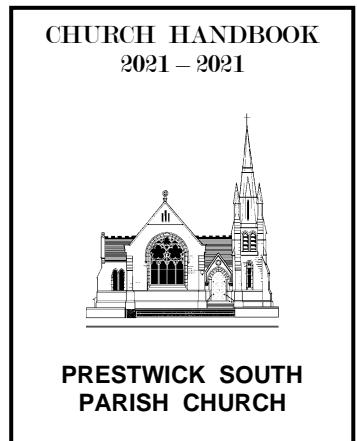
Kenneth



CHURCH HANDBOOK

After an absence of a year a brand new Church Handbook is hopefully now in your possession. The Handbook aims to provide each member with an easy reference to what is happening at Prestwick South and how to contact the individuals who are involved in the running of the Church and our Organisations.

In addition the Handbook contains a provisional guide to forthcoming events within the life of our Church. As we emerge from Covid-19 we will seek to cautiously return to ensure that Prestwick South remains a Church that is alive and vibrant.



Please ensure that the Handbook is readily available for use.



Shoe Box Appeal. Fill a box

Please fill a shoe box with some of the items listed on the Leaflet. You can be sure that it will reach someone who will really appreciate it.



**BRING YOUR SHOE BOX
(OR EVEN INDIVIDUAL ITEMS)
TO PRESTWICK SOUTH
NO LATER THAN
SUNDAY 7TH NOVEMBER**

**Please note that any financial donations
should be kept separate.
A plate will be positioned in the
Welcome Area
and all donations should be placed there.**

**Blythswold value your donation of £2 or more per
box towards the cost of carriage.**

Find out more by visiting
www.showbox.appeal.org.

Fraser Hutchison
c/o Fullarton Parish Church, Irvine
August 2021

Dear Prestwick South,

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL
2021

You are receiving this invitation as a previous supporter of the Appeal in the hope that once again your church will participate in these especially difficult times. Please consider just how much more difficult it must be for those in countries with much less access to the health and social services we enjoy here. PLEASE, therefore, join this year's work in spreading God's love in practical ways.

This year our gifts are again destined for Moldova. As in recent years, we will gather, sort, pack and despatch filled shoeboxes in the same spaces as last year in Irvine Fullarton ConneXions. This work is again scheduled for three weeks in November, between 10am and 5pm each day.

This year there is no target number of gifts to be generated. We are simply being tasked with sending as many gifts abroad as possible. To that end, we ask for your prayers of support and any practical help during the three weeks mentioned above to ensure our gifts are all within the guidelines. We welcome women, men and young people to join the fun and fellowship amongst the hard work.

Please will you spread the news within your church or group and friends.

Sincere Christian greetings.

Fraser Hutchison

ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER'S LETTER

I can't believe it has been almost 18 months since we went into lockdown on 23 March 2020. I don't know about you but there were times when I felt very isolated and invisible. Not venturing out and not being seen by family or friends other than on some form of electronic device.

As I reflect on that now I think about the term invisible. I conducted the funeral of a friend recently and as part of the celebration of her life I recalled the story of her meeting Rod Stewart and his wife on the QE2. It led to some discussion afterwards with others around which celebrities we had all met. My one and only encounter with a celebrity was when I met Elton John in a lift in a hotel in London. We said hello but no more than that.

Today we live in a society obsessed with celebrities. Fans will wait outside hotels or other buildings hoping to catch a glimpse of their favourite star. Some parents even name their children after the rich and famous. As part of our growing up we invariably want to make a 'name for ourselves' we want to leave our mark on the world so that everybody knows who we are.

Sadly, that doesn't often happen and we can be left with what I call invisibility syndrome. That feeling of I'm nobody special; I've never done anything exciting or noteworthy; I've never achieved anything in my life – nobody knows my name.

If you feel like that or have felt like that in the past then be aware you are not alone. There are many people in the bible whose lives have had a deep impact on us. Many of whom are well known to us but there are a great many whose names we don't even know. But God does and their stories teach us many things like:

- Social standing or celebrity status doesn't impress God.
- Intelligence and intellect doesn't make us better than others.
- Fame carries no favour with God.

No matter whether the rest of the world is unaware of our existence God knows that we are here and he knows each and everyone of our names. And he never forgets it, we are never invisible to him who really matters.

As we meet again as a Church family may you never feel invisible and may you know that you are all part of our community and of God's family.

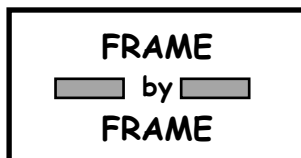
God sees you; God knows you and God loves you.

Every Blessing.

Tom McLeod

Ordained Local Minister

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Or come and visit us at 10 Clune Drive, Prestwick KA9 1BP
www.framers.biz

LAUNCH OF AUDIO VISUAL UPDATE FUND

In the last Newsletter printed in December 2020 I wrote an article launching an 'Audio Visual Update Fund'.

Just a reminder that it was back in 2010 that Prestwick South entered the age of PowerPoint and Audio Visual technology. Through the years with the Congregation's generosity various additions have been made to the system.

However approximately 2 years ago it became apparent that a major overhaul was now required to the system. The arrival of High definition in particular has greatly enhanced the visual quality that can now be produced.

The Kirk Session therefore discussed this very matter back in January 2020 and decided to launch an 'Audio Visual Update Fund', with the knowledge that approximately £11,000 would be required to upgrade the Audio Visual System.

In fairness perhaps not everyone was initially totally supportive of spending this large amount of money on new technology. However the arrival of Covid-19 ironically endorsed the importance of Churches embracing modern technology.

I'm therefore now delighted to report that the 'Audio Visual' system has now been updated with two new HD cameras and a new screen which in all probability is the largest TV in Prestwick. The difference in the images now presented are immense and will greatly enhance our worship.

In addition after 18 months of online Services on the 'PrestwickSouth CraigieSymington YouTube Channel' we have now made the bold decision to live stream. This actually commenced on Sunday 22nd August as the Church reopened.

This now means that at 10.55am on a Sunday morning anyone unable to attend Church in person, with the appropriate technology, can go to the 'PrestwickSouth CraigieSymington YouTube Channel' and watch the Service live. Following the completion of the Service a recording will be available shortly thereafter.

To help cover the costs the Church has sought financial assistance and this has included a grant from the 'All Churches Trust' of £1,500. In addition we have also received many wonderful donations from Church Members and Organisations. Indeed we now intend to keep the 'Audio Visual Fund' open and if anyone would like to donate to the Fund then the opportunity is there. May I also make it clear that this Fund is not in any way to pressurise members into giving.

Through the years Prestwick South has never had the luxury of large reserves. This has resulted in working very hard to maintain our buildings and keep pace with modern technology. Yet in recent years we have achieved a great deal, a reflection of the commitment and devotion of the Congregation. If at all possible let's keep the momentum going.

Kenneth

LYN SAUNDERS

There is an old saying that states 'things come in threes'. Unfortunately that appears true. Following the fairly recent retirements of Willie Main and Frank McQuade our highly thought of Church Cleaner Lyn Saunders has also decided to step down.

Lyn looked after our Church premises with such care and commitment over the past number of years. The Members and Organisations that attended the premises were so fortunate that both the Church and the Hall were always so clean and tidy.

A huge thank you from everyone at Prestwick South to Lyn, who will be greatly missed. We all wish Lyn a very happy retirement, hoping that in the days ahead she will be blessed with good health and happiness.



GUILD NEWS



After all the disruptions to our lives we are pleased to let everyone know that the Guild will resume on Thursday 7th October at 2pm. It will be nice to see everyone and we would be delighted to welcome new members as well as kent faces, both male and female.

Many of us have had special occasions which we were unable to celebrate as we would have liked. Our first meeting will be a small afternoon tea in the Church Hall to remember these events. We will have meetings on the first Thursday of the month to start with, namely 4th November and 2nd December. Entertainment has been booked for December so don't miss it! From 2022 we will hopefully meet twice monthly.

The Guild Office has set the annual capitation fee at £13 payable by 31st December. Good value for wonderful fellowship.

Please remember ALL are welcome and we hope to see you on Thursday 7th October at 2pm in the Church Hall

The Guild Committee

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RIVER TERRACE, AYR**



CROSSREACH

providing a caring future

A reminder that it's that time of year when the CrossReach Christmas Catalogue becomes available. It is also found online but please place any orders through the Church to save yourself postage. Last year we raised £450 to help CrossReach with their wonderful work. Can we please try again this year as like all Charities, donations have been affected by the pandemic.

Orders have to be in by 31st October and can be given to myself by phoning 475489 or simply write down your order and pass it to me.

CrossReach help so many people from children to the elderly with in a variety of different situations, all in Christ's name. Please help by having a look at the catalogue and placing your order.

Thank you

Mhairi McAllinden

GARDEN BENCH



Prestwick South is indebted to Alison Currie who recently donated a Garden Bench to the Church Garden. In addition the Bench has a little plaque with the appropriate words:

Jesus said

Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place
and rest a while.

Mark 6: 31

Thank you to Alison for that very kind and appropriate gift. It has already proved to be a great asset in the Garden providing a place or rest and contemplation.

GIFT AID SCHEME – CAN YOU HELP?

As many of you are aware, a government scheme exists to allow charitable organisations to claim tax back on donations made. The current rate of refund allows the church to claim an **extra 25p for every £1** we receive.

I am a taxpayer – what do I need to do?

Gift Aid can be claimed for **all donations made by a UK taxpayer**. This can be for regular givings through bank standing order, freewill offering envelopes or any other one-off donations.

For the church to make a Gift Aid claim, we need to have:

- a signed declaration from each person confirming that they pay tax.

These declarations are usually reviewed as part of our regular reaffirmation campaigns but can be amended at any time if your personal circumstances change. Please don't wait until the next campaign to do this.

What if I don't pay tax?

Since 2017 we have been able to make a claim on other donations made by non-taxpayers through the **Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS)**. This allows us to claim a refund, at the same rate of 25p for every £1, for donations made through open plate giving and/or weekly envelope contributions.

There are restrictions to the amount we can claim through this scheme:

- Only donations of £30 or less given at any one time can be included
- Only cash payments can be included (no cheques)

What do I need to do?

If your circumstances change regarding payment of tax, please let us know so that we can amend our records.

If you are not sure whether you have signed a declaration form, please contact Anne Connor who can check for you and provide a form for signature if required.

If you have any questions about this or any other financial matter, please speak to any of the finance committee or your elder.

Thanks to those members who continue to give by standing order – this has been very helpful during recent times of church closures. If you wish to consider this in future please contact us.

The new finance team is:

<i>Karen Mathers</i>	- Treasurer
<i>Linda McCall</i>	- Deputy Treasurer
<i>Anne Connor</i>	- Gift Aid Convener
<i>Margaret Bingham</i>	- FWO Convener



BEQUEST FROM JEAN JENKINS

Sadly, on the 28th March Jean Jenkins passed away. Through the years Jean was a very loyal and supportive member of both Prestwick South Parish Church and the Guild.

Just recently the Church received a bequest from Jean for £1.000. We therefore record our appreciation to Jean for this very kind donation.



Life and Work is the monthly magazine of the Church of Scotland. Though first and foremost its' purpose is to keep Christian communities connected by providing information on the affairs of the Kirk, it also covers other topics of interest, both in the UK and worldwide.

For further information, visit the Life and Work website, www.lifeandwork.org or you can also find it on Facebook at [facebook.com/lifeandwork](https://www.facebook.com/lifeandwork), and on Twitter @cofslifeandwork.

Life and Work is available in printed format delivered to your door each month, or digitally via your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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Promotions valid until 30 September 2021

If you would like to order a copy contact our Life & Work Convener Mhairi McAlinden, Tel: 475489

A PRAYER FOR AFGHANISTAN

Rev Dr Marjory MacLean, the Church of Scotland's Convener of the Committee on Chaplains to Her Majesty's Forces, has written a prayer for Afghanistan as we remember the sufferings of the people of that land and the sacrifices of our military personnel.



All-loving God,

Your hands have fashioned every lovely corner of this treasured planet, and the beautiful land of Afghanistan is as precious as every other place Your children call 'home'. By its rivers and mountains, its fields and gardens, its busy towns and ancient villages, it is the heart's desire of its people and the place where their lives and loves are nurtured.

We grieve today with those who grieve over Afghanistan, the people who call it home indeed, the people exiled or suddenly having to leave, and the men and women from other countries who have made sacrifices in recent years in the cause of that country's future.

We remember with renewed sadness the loss of lives of military personnel during the years of this country's involvement in Afghanistan, conscious of the questions that must today be troubling the minds of those in our community who were bereaved, those who were wounded on operations, and those who were forever changed by experiences suffered there.

We pray for peace, dignity, freedom and confidence for the men, women and children of Afghanistan; for courage, vision and generosity within the international community responding to such need; and for tranquillity of mind amongst our own Service community and its wider family. In the name of Jesus Christ, the peace-giver, we pray,

AMEN.

PARISH REGISTER

CONGREGATIONAL DEATHS

- 6th January - **Isobel McKee**, Prestwick
- 20th January - **Elizabeth Andrew**, Belhaven Care Home Troon.
- 7th February - **Ella Byrd**, Prestwick
- 12th March - **Bell Boyd**, Prestwick
- 28th March - **Jean Jenkins**, Prestwick
- 16th May - **Sam Milliken**, Prestwick
- 17th May - **Margaret Halliday**, Berelands Care Home Prestwick
- 24th June - **Gordon Murray**, Prestwick
- 28th July - **Julia Coulter**, Prestwick
- 25th August - **Bill Wallace**, Prestwick

NON MEMBER DEATHS

- 2nd January - **Beryl Mackay**, Greenock
- 4th April - **Dorothy Dickson**, Prestwick
- 19th April - **Ian Stewart**, Ayr
- 10th May - **Graham Hunter**, Kilmarnock
- 1st June - **Ruby Bryan**, Ayr

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ailsa Wilson, Prestwick to Berelands House Care Home Prestwick.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS



**SPECIAL BIRTHDAY
CONGRATULATIONS**

On the 18th March, Mary Danskin,
celebrated her 80th Birthday.

**Special congratulations to Mary
from everyone at Prestwick South.**



SPECIAL BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS



**SPECIAL BIRTHDAY
CONGRATULATIONS**

On the 19th May, Shona McGill
celebrated a very special Birthday.

**Special congratulations to Shona
from everyone at Prestwick South.**



SPECIAL GOLDEN WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS



*Happy 50th
Anniversary*



**On the 2nd July
Mhairi and Frank McAlinden
celebrated their
Golden Wedding Anniversary!**

Special congratulations to Mhairi and Frank
from everyone at Prestwick South.

CHURCH CONTACTS

MINISTER:	Rev. Kenneth C. Elliott 68 St. Quivox Road.	TEL: 478788
CHURCH SECRETARY:	Sharon Caldwell Church Vestry.	TEL: 678556
VESTRY E-mail:	office.pwksouth@gmail.com	
CHURCH WEBSITE:	www.prestwicksouth.org.uk	
SESSION CLERK:	Alan C. Moir 1 Bruce Avenue.	
TREASURER:	Karen Mathers 10 Southpark Avenue.	
GIFT AID CONVENER:	Anne Connor 7 Powmill Road.	
ROLL KEEPER:	Allan Kerr 3 Cochrane Place.	
PROPERTY CONVENER:	Bobby McPike 8 Ashgrove, Maybole.	
ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER:	David Ferguson 199 Hillfoot Road, Ayr.	
SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR:	Katie McKail 49 Caerlaverock Road.	
SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT:	Ann MacKay 15 Briarhill Street.	

It is anticipated that there will be a **Christmas Newsletter**. All articles should be submitted by Sunday the 21st November

