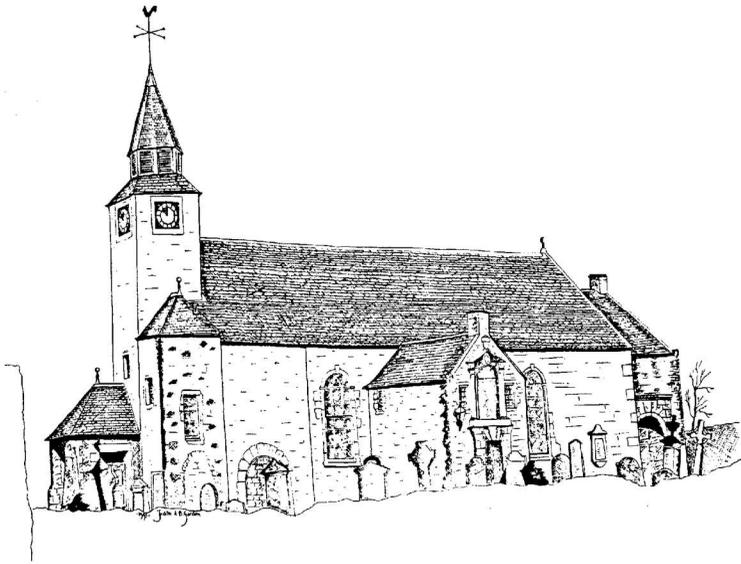


PANS POST

MAY/JUNE 2016



*Newsletter of
Prestongrange Parish Church*

Prestonpans: Prestongrange Parish Church (Church of Scotland)
Scottish Charity SC 031191

www.prestongrange-church.org.uk

Dear friends,

It's been good on Sunday mornings to work our way through part of Paul's letter to the church at Rome. What a glorious truth we arrived at recently:

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8.1&2).

We have seen that without Christ, we have no hope or peace and that even through our good living and our good works, we can never escape the fact that man stands under the judgment of God because of our sin and rebellion. However, as we saw, the good news outweighs the bad news:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (6.23).

How can we begin to thank God for the gift of his Son, given to die on the cross for us, taking the condemnation that we deserve, in order that in love, he may deal with our sin that separates us from Him and that results in eternal loss. The good news that we have to tell is that we have a Saviour who has our own best interests at heart and wants the very best for us in life and in death that we might know His pardon and a promise of reconciliation with Him by grace through faith that secures life in all its fullness for eternity.

As we were saying recently, truth is under attack not only in our godless and broken society but within our church. One has only has to read the desperate closing article in this month's Life and Work to discover the undermining of biblical teaching within our church which leads to confusion, false hope and a complete distortion of biblical truth- and this from a man of learning and letters! To maintain that man is basically good and righteous discounts the whole need for a Saviour. We are simply our own saviours and the work of Christ on the cross was unnecessary and irrelevant, we are led to believe. Not in my bible!! And this is where the real issue lies. The authority of the Scriptures is being brought into question by those who claim to be the proclaimers of truth! No, it's not just a question of interpretation or opinion. It is teaching that flies in the face of what God has so clearly stated in the Scriptures:

“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5.8).

To proclaim anything else is simply to preach a lie and to say what people want to hear (that we are simply fine and all we need to do is to live a bit better and try a bit harder to guarantee our rightness with God and to gain heaven). We have no hesitation and we make no apology for standing on the word of God. We think we are in good company! Paul himself said:

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” (Romans 1.16).

The word “power” derives from the Greek word: dunamis- from which we get the English word “dynamite”. Preaching and teaching (and hearing) the explosive word of God is dangerous and can destroy our arguments and defences quite easily! The good news of Christ demolishes our man- centred teaching and shatters our presuppositions and our cherished beliefs (if they run contrary to the word of God) and exposes and blows indifference and apathy out of the water. Is there any reason why we should handle the word of God carelessly and with no regard to its instruction, or do we dangerously and foolishly disregard the seriousness of what we are handling

It would be easy to “jump ship” in our compromised church and seek a “purer church”. Much harder to stand together and to stand for truth against compromise and “revisionism” which seeks to hijack the church of Christ (of which our denomination is part) - Do we expect God to own and to bless the mess that is being created where biblical truth is discounted and denied?! As for me, I will seek to stand my ground against the rising tide of nominalism and liberal theology which threatens the very fabric of our church life in Scotland and will continue to preach the word- which builds up the people of God and grows the church. That stand, is taken with many others within our church, who believe that the bible is true, God is our protector and judge and Christ is King and Lord of his church against which the gates of hell shall not prevail. The church is the bride of Christ and the bridegroom, our glorious Lord, calls us to be ready for his return. Let us not be found to be wanting. Come, Lord Jesus!

Yours in the joy and the adventure of faith,

Kenneth Donald

Membership audit

I express my apologies for any confusion or annoyance caused by a few things that were stated in the form and letter. Although the spiritual health and well- being of the church and its members lay at the heart of the letter, the wording could have been stated in a better way. Our thanks to those who have returned the form and for the warm response that many have indicated (and for quite a few generous gifts for the roof fund for which we are grateful). In time, our elders and newsletter distributors will hopefully manage to call and collect any unreturned forms so that no wrong assumptions may be made about people’s preferences or desires.

The kirk session have the duty to attest the membership roll each year and the audit will be helpful to us in this task. Our desire is to continue see the Lord work within us by His Spirit to the glory of God as we attend to his word and worship Him with our lives.

Prayer Spot

Almighty, gracious, glorious God, we thank You for your love, mercy and forgiveness. We are humbled by your constant, faithful love.

Thank You that Your extravagant love means that there is no one so broken they can't be healed. No one is so lost they can't be found.

Lord, Your love pursues us. You came to seek and save the lost. And when You find them all heaven rejoices.

We thank You, Lord, that Your love is not found in empty clichés' Your love is shown in the giving of Your life for us. Your life, death and resurrection have opened a way for us to become the children of God.

We know that the good news of Jesus is the power of God to change lives. We ask that Your Church may have a new boldness in sharing that news. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Give us compassion for the lost. Give us confidence in the good news. Help us to pray with passion, live with love and speak with boldness.

Make us a people of faith. We pray that lives will be changed and heaven will celebrate as sinful, broken people find a forgiving, loving God.

Lord have mercy,
Amen



The Prayer Shield started its 40 day journey around Scotland in Edinburgh on Easter Sunday; the Prayer Shield arrived in East Lothian from Edinburgh on the 28th March, Easter Monday. It began its journey around East Lothian in Musselburgh, then on to Prestonpans, Tranent, Ormiston, Pencaitland, Haddington, North Berwick finishing in Dunbar. Each town wrote a prayer of blessing for the previous town and for the next town acting as a river of blessing throughout the county and in turn throughout the nation as the prayer shield travels around the whole of Scotland. We want to see God's Kingdom come and His redeeming work carried out in our community with people will putting their trust in Christ and be transformed by the grace of God.

In the evening praying people from around East Lothian came together for a time of Praise, Prayer and Proclamation. It was such a blessing to come together with praying people who have a desire to see their communities transformed by the saving grace of Jesus. We focused on three key scriptures; 2 Chronicles 7:14, John 17:20-23, Psalm 133. Over the course of the day around 120 people came together around the word of God and in prayer for our county.

The Prayer Shield will return to Edinburgh on the 4th May in time for the Scottish election on the 5th May. There will be an opportunity to come together for a final evening celebration on Wednesday 4th May at Madeira Street Baptist Church, Edinburgh from 7.00 p.m. If you would like more information about the Prayer

On Sunday 17 April we held an evening of Music and Songs of Praise in celebration of the life of organist Robert Hooker and former choir members. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated. Special thanks go to William Watt, Sandra Marshall, Edith Johnstone, Bill Bailey, David Manderson, Chris Dyter and the Harbour Lights choir for their hard work in making the evening such a success. Robert was organist here at Prestongrange for 45 years and this evening was a fitting tribute to remember him.

Janice Sless



SMARTIES

We've done it! We have now passed the £1000 mark with our collection of 20p's towards the organ fund. The total now stands at £1027.

The roof fund is also growing, it now stands at £11,068. Thank you to everyone who continues to donate.



Gift Aid and Funding Applications

We are very grateful for Ann Milne volunteering to take over the admin. of Gift Aid for the church and we are very appreciative for Joyce Gordon's work in administrating Gift Aid for many years. We have submitted a fresh application for the second round of government funding for listed places of worship in need of roof repairs. The expected bill to repair the roof has now risen to an estimated cost of £190,000. Linda Watters has kindly agreed to collate and submit other applications to funders. We would value prayer for this project.

The **Bruce Davies Concert** held in the church on 10th March raised over £800 which goes to Harlawhill Day Centre Minibus Fund. Thanks to all who helped to organise and to those who attended.

Johnny Moat Place monthly service

For this half hour service on the last Sunday of each month to be more effective, we could do with a few folks being with us (even on an occasional basis)

Facebook and church webpage.

See our Facebook page (open page) and our website for Prestongrange Church for up to date articles and information.

Fabric convener

We are greatly indebted to Rhona for her dedicated and much appreciated service as fabric convener over her years of service and as she relinquishes the role, we express our indebtedness to her for all the work she has effected in the church, hall and manse.

We may now seek to divide up oversight of the 3 buildings and try and get 2- 3 people who may be the “first port of call” for overseeing work done or at least who may organise things. Anyone interested in such a responsibility?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 2nd May - Congregational Board meeting. Side room at 7pm

ConneXions: Starting Sunday 8th May 6.30pm Prestongrange Church Hall

Connecting with God, the bible and each other.

Evening worship, learning and fellowship every Sunday evening.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Free to help out with welcoming, refreshments, home bakes?

Communion - Sunday 15th May at 11am - Team 2 on duty.

Souper Sunday

Sunday 5th June, after the church service. Church hall. Soups, sandwich, cake & bakes.

Raising funds for the HIV project through World Mission Council. See **Jane Hepburn**

Monday 6th June - Kirk session meeting. Side room at 7pm

This year you are invited to the Sunday Club/Church picnic on **Sunday 19th June** leaving from Kirk Street at approx. **12 noon** and heading to Garvald. Everyone is invited and tickets will be on sale in June. Prices and times will be confirmed closer to the event. Any further questions, please see the Sunday Club team. Thank you.

Summer Holiday Club

Scripture Union and the local churches in Prestonpans are joining together again to bring you...

MEGAQUEST!

Find out what God's BIG plan for the world is.

8th-12th August 10-3pm

Salvation Army hall. Registration forms available soon



PRESTONPANS GUIDE UNIT

SOUP 'n' SANDWICH

on

Sunday 8th May

at 12.30pm

Prestongrange Church Hall

Please help us to raise funds for our unit



Tickets - Adults £3

Children £2

One of our young church goers, Lucy Carbray-Johnson has been given an amazing opportunity to travel with a group of 7 other Guides from around Scotland to Cologne in Germany. She attended two selection camps last year and has been invited to take part in this adventure in August of this year. The group will leave Edinburgh on 31st July and travel to Cologne by 10am on 6th August. While there they will take part in a wide game with other Guides doing a similar adventure. The aim is to travel, within a budget, through as many countries as possible during the 7 days before returning home on Monday 8th Aug. So far, the route involves a lot of train journeys and will take them to Denmark, Hungary, Austria, Italy, Czech Republic, Germany and The Netherlands, not necessarily in that order. The above Soup 'n' Sandwich will also help towards the costs of this fantastic trip.

Fiona Carbray-Johnson

Thank you to everyone who donated to East Lothian Foodbank prior to the Easter holiday. Over the last financial year Prestongrange Church has donated over 500 kilos providing 842 meals for those in need.

The number of referrals to the Foodbank has dropped since the same time last year which is great news. Let's hope this continues.

PRESTONGRANGE CHURCH

Minister: Kenneth Donald - 01875 813643

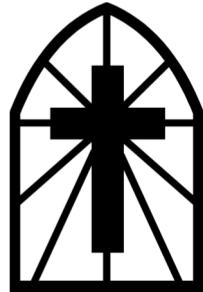
Session Clerk: Mrs Jane Hepburn - 07599 193544

Youth Elder: Heather Antonelli - 01620 842646

Sunday notices: email to kwdonald@hotmail.co.uk by 6.00pm on Wednesday

May God's blessing be upon those who have lost loved ones - the family and friends of the late:

Mary Robertson
John Watters
Bill Thomson
John Duffy
Ina Peden
John Yorkston
Billy Clark
Jean Grandison
Joe Wallace
Sonny Rowley
Willie Buchanan
Harry Robertson
Archie McDonald



We rejoice with David Norris & Sheila Wilson in God's goodness to them and pray that His love may enrich their lives together as husband and wife.



**Any material for the next Pans Post
please copy to Fiona Carbray-Johnson
Email: facarbray@aol.com
Mobile: 07836 691649**