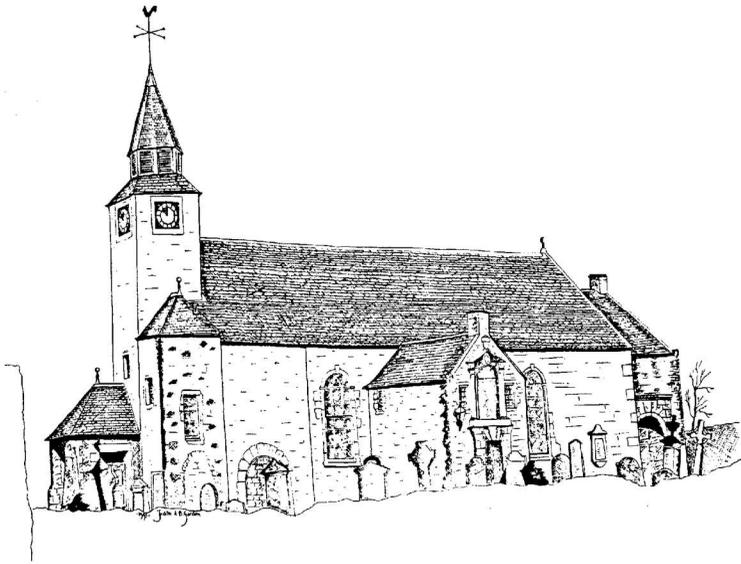


PANS POST

OCT-NOV 2016



*Newsletter of
Prestongrange Parish Church*

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

www.prestongrange-church.org.uk

Dear friends,

May I first of all say how much I have appreciated the kind words, cards and prayerful concern that has been shown to myself and Moira over the past few months since my diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer. We have been blessed and encouraged by your love and kindness.

Like so many things in life, we take much for granted, and when we face challenges or upsets that we never expected, it is good for us to turn again to the Lord, believing that He is sovereign and He is able to help and sustain us through all of life's challenges and changes- and to make something of us in the process when we lean upon Him.

I have found our studies in Joshua at our Sunday evening gatherings to be particularly helpful and apposite. It is always good when the preacher is spoken to by the word of God before he speaks it to others! As Joshua takes up the reigns of leadership from Moses, he is keenly aware of his own human failings and frailty and is a little daunted by the prospect of leading God's people. However, with the calling of God goes the equipping of God. The real key to Joshua's enabling lies in the previous book of Deuteronomy where we read: "Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid His hands on him." (Deut. 34.9) The spirit of God would be his enabling and as we discover later on, it would be the counsel of the word of God that would bring the promise of God's help, guidance and strength to him: "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Joshua 1.5). "Be strong and courageous." (v.6). "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go." (v.7).

If we have the promise of the Lord's presence with us and the promises of his word to embrace, what do we have to fear in life or in death? It's all about putting God first and honouring Him that blessing comes and peace and assurance are given. In 3.4, Joshua is told that in trusting the Lord God and following His directives: "You will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before." In 3.5: "Joshua told the people, 'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.'" The only thing that can incapacitate us from being of service to God- is our sin and disobedience! If we are to see the Lord do amazing things among us, it requires a fresh consecration. A surrendering of our will to His will and an engagement with God and His people that we may give of ourselves in a complete and unreserved way for the purposes of God for such a time as this. Joshua and the people of God had to be willing to move forward in faith if they were to prove the Lord's faithfulness. They had to live their lives in the presence of God, knowing the promises of God if they were to enjoy the power of God that would bring about progress and victory. They had to be willing to enter the place where God wanted them to be (the Promised Land) to know God's blessing and provision and to enjoy His protection and peace.

Now here's a question for us. Am I in the place where God wants me to be? Or am I sticking with the place of my own choosing- which can be a place of doubt or resentment or disobedience? I may resent the place that God has brought me to or I may resist his purposes of grace that will bring me to a better place altogether. However the choice is always ours- but sometimes we need to realise that we can easily blame our circumstances or others for our present misery or disaffection. We may seek to justify our reasons for drawing back or not moving forward, but we can never blame God for our own intransigence or fickleness!

As I look at our own church at this time, there are real challenges to be faced and real needs to be met but if God is with us and we seek to move forward with Him, who can tell what may yet be? Each of us has our part to play within the body of Christ (His church) and if we are hungry for God and His glory, the future is bright- indeed glorious.

Yours in the love of God,

Kenneth Donald.

Prayer Spot

Almighty God, Father of creation we give You praise and thanks for Your creation. Thank You for the changing of the seasons, for the warmth of the summer sun which enables the crops to ripen ready for harvest. Thank You Jesus for how You teach us more of You and of the Father through the bible. For the stories You tell of the land, the harvest, the vines.

Forgive us Jesus when we neglect Your word which promises "Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

Forgive us for trying to be self sufficient rather than trusting You. We ask that You would prune us just as a vine dresser prunes the vine in order to bear more fruit.

We ask that you would make us aware of the things that distract, and keep us from allowing them to crowd in and prevent us from remaining in Your presence.

Amen

EU Referendum

Please keep praying!

EU Referendum

Please keep praying!

Not only was the result a surprise, but every day since the surprises keep on coming! Harold Wilson, a Labour Prime Minister in the 1960's once said: "A week is a long time in politics." Vladimir Lenin, Communist leader at the time of the Russian Revolution in 1917 said: "There are decades when nothing happens, and there are weeks where decades happen."

We are in one of those times! As the 'shaking' of what was once established and certain continues, all parts of the UK need our prayers at this crucial time.

Please pray:

- for a 'spirit of reconciliation' to be released bringing back together those divided by the campaign and result – and that the church everywhere would take a lead in bringing peace and reconciliation to communities.
-
- for a swift resolution to the crisis in the Labour Party, as we need a strong opposition for a healthy democracy.
-
- for wisdom for our leaders as they consider the first steps in the negotiation process, and for the provision of men and women with the right skills and experience to conduct the negotiations positively.
-
- for wisdom for Government and party leaders in Scotland as they seek to deal with the implications of the Scottish vote.
-
- for wisdom for Mark Carney and his team at the Bank of England as they seek to deal with the economic issues, and for calm to be restored to the financial markets.

Prayer breakfast

We come together for prayer on Saturday mornings in the side room of the church between 7.30- 9.00am. This gathering has been a source of great encouragement and inspiration for all who come and we would invite you to join us. On the first Saturday of each month (8.00- 9.00am), we now get together with other churches in East Lothian to pray for our region. Transport is made available.

“The Catch up Café” was opened on 14th September. It is open to all who are involved in the school run and preschool children are very welcome. Free tea/coffee is available and cakes and biscuits will be provided. Parents/guardians can have some time to catch-up with friends or get to know new people. The children will be provided with games, crafts, sing along songs and juice and biscuits and more. Come along and have some fun. **Prestongrange Church Hall, Wednesdays 2-4pm.**

FUNDS

The total from the Smarties tubes is now at **£1230**, which, in addition to other donations towards the upkeep of the organ, makes a total of **£5,916** currently in the organ fund.

The roof fund is also growing, it now stands at **£14,898** This includes **£812** made from coffee morning on 24th September.

Thank you to everyone who continues to donate.



ROOF REPAIR

We are very grateful for Linda Watters exploring possibilities for funding towards the replacement of the roof, the cost of which stands at approximately £190,000. We are also very thankful for the advice given us so far by Gareth Jones of Pollock Hammond, architects. We have been informed that the restoration work on the gable end of the organ loft, including roof repairs/replacement could also be an additional £50,000. As we seek the way forward re. funding, do pray that the Lord will guide and provide.

A WEEK IN PRESTONGRANGE

Sunday

- 9.30am - Early Communion 1st Sunday each month (*2nd Oct/6th Nov*)
11.00am - Sunday Worship
- Sunday Club for children aged 3 years old and upwards.
- Creche available for under 3 yr olds
3.00pm - Service at Johnny Moat Place - all welcome.
(*30th Oct/27th Nov*)
6.30pm - "Connexions" in the Church Hall. Evening praise, prayer and fellowship.

Wednesday

2-4pm - Catch up Café. Prestongrange Church Hall

- see page 5



Wednesday 7.30pm-Alternate weeks (*12th & 26th Oct/9th & 23rd Nov*)
Guild meets in Harlawhill Day Centre

All new and old members welcome

Thursday 2.00pm-4.00pm -Afternoon Teas in the Church Hall,
Kirk St. (*27th Oct*)

Pat Kinross will have a table selling goods in aid of Cancer Research on
Thursday 24th November

There will be no Afternoon Teas during December

All welcome.

Contact Rosemary Renton-01875 810304

Friday 7.00pm-9.00pm - FOCUS. P7-S6 age group. Fun, chat, games and Bible time. Cost £1.00
Salvation Army Hall. Kirk Street
Term time only

You don't need to go to Church to be welcome at FOCUS.

Contact Lindsay Stewart 07515 516217

Saturday 7.30am-9.15am - Early Morning Prayer Breakfast held in the choir room in the Church.

Contact Margo Cunningham - 07864 041135

SMALL WORLD SHOP



Tuesday & Thursday

10.00am-12noon and
2.00pm-4.00pm

Friday & Saturday

10.00am-12noon.

Small World Shop (Fair-trade Goods).
Orchard Crescent, Off West Loan opposite
St. Andrews Church. Volunteers Welcome.

Contact Rosemary Renton 01875 810304

Please call in for a browse and enjoy a free tea or coffee.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 3rd Oct - Kirk Session meeting. Side room at 7pm

Sunday 23rd Oct at 11am - Communion - Team 5 on duty.

Friday 4th November - Last day for Blythswood Shoe boxes to Church
See page 9

Sunday 6th November - French Café. Prestongrange Church Hall 12.30pm

Monday 7th November - Congregational Board meeting. Side room at 7pm

Saturday 19th November - Christmas Coffee Afternoon. 2-4pm in
Prestongrange Church Hall. See page 9

Sunday 27th November at 11am - Communion - Team 1 on duty

Bethany

Prestongrange Bethany team fed rough sleepers at two shelters last session, and we gave over £200 cash to Bethany Christian Trust to support their work. Since they have an even longer season this winter, I have offered us to feed their service users on three nights, probably including Hogmanay. We did that evening last year, and had a really enjoyable time, though it was really disconcerting to drive away at 11.15 pm, seeing windows where families were preparing to celebrate New Year and those we had fed were bedding down on mattresses on the floor of a church hall.

It would be wonderful if yet again we could better last year's effort in providing meals, breakfast, warm clothing and toiletries for those less fortunate than ourselves. Please support us by offering to cook at a Shelter, provide money to buy breakfast or sweets, donations for Bethany or prayer that rough sleepers will be safe and know that God cares for them, through us.

If you have any queries I'll be happy to provide information.

Sandra Marshall, Bethany co-ordinator.

Crèche

The new crèche was opened by Rebecca Dalglish on 4th September. It is open to all children 3 years of age and under between 11 - 12 on a Sunday morning. The children will be read stories, join in with songs, play games and do some craftwork. All crèche helpers have been PVG checked.
All are welcome



BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

We are collecting shoeboxes again this year, to be filled with presents for someone less fortunate than ourselves. You can choose whether to donate for a man, woman, teenager or child. Details of acceptable and suggested contents are available at “shooboxappeal.org” or speak to Janice McLeish at church. All shoeboxes are to be at the church by Sunday 30th Oct or Friday 4th November at the latest. Thank you.



French Café

Sunday 6th November
in
Church Hall
at 12.30pm

Come and enjoy a French themed lunch and some fellowship after church

Tickets £3.-00

All funds go to the new Church Roof Fund & Sunday Club

CHRISTMAS COFFEE AFTERNOON

on

SATURDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

at

PRESTONGRANGE CHURCH HALL

2-4PM

Come and enjoy a coffee, mince pie and a chat

All funds raised will go towards the new church roof.

Tickets £3.00

Donations for mystery boxes or baking would be appreciated.



shutterstock - 215217667

GUILD MEETINGS

Wed 12th Oct - All Friends Together (Project)

Wed 26th Oct - The Life in a Day at Harlawhill Day Centre

Wed 9th Nov - Street Pastors (Project)

Wed 23rd Nov - John & Margo Cunningham—"A Trip to Cuba"

Guild Week is 13th-20th November

New and old members welcome

Thank you all again for your generous contributions to East Lothian Foodbank donated at our Harvest Service on Sunday 25th September.

They continue to do great work in East Lothian. August this year saw an increase on the same time last year in the amount of referrals made to the Foodbank. 2015 = 116 referrals and 2016 = 161. This could be that the introduction of Universal Credits has had an effect on families but the reasons are still being analysed. Feel free to donate at any time by bringing your gift to church. Thank you again

Fiona Carbray-Johnson

Commemorative Roses

Some years ago, some members of the congregation donated roses to be planted in the Church garden (to the left of the main door) in memory of loved ones.

Over the years, many of the roses have died and have not flowered in some time. It would be nice if we could plant something in their place which would brighten up this area.



If you are one of those people and are happy for your rose to be removed, perhaps you would like to donate an alternative (roses cannot be replanted in this space) which could be planted in its place.

We are hoping this can be done before Winter, so please speak to **Eileen Carbray** by the end of October if you wish to donate. Thank you.

In August one of our young church goers, Lucy Carbray-Johnson was 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 was invited to take part in this amazing adventure. The group left Edinburgh on 31st July and arrived in Cologne on 6th August. While they were there they took part in a wide game with other Guides doing a similar adventure. The aim was to travel, within a budget, through as many countries as possible during the 7 days before returning home on Monday 8th Aug. The route involved a lot of train journeys and took them to Denmark, Sweden, Hungary, Austria, Italy, Poland, Germany and The Netherlands, not necessarily in that order.

There will be another “Soup ‘n’ Sandwich” on **January 8th 2017** for which tickets will go on sale in December. During this there will be some photos to view of her time in Europe.

Fiona Carbray-Johnson

PRESTONGRANGE CHURCH

Minister: Kenneth Donald - 01875 813643

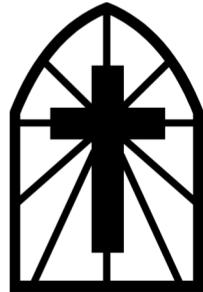
Session Clerk: Mrs Jane Hepburn - 07599 193544

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:

John Rogan, John Kay, John Mackay
Samuel Frost, Bill Arnot, Nicol Bird
James Neil, Susan Clancy and
Chris Taylor.



We rejoice with James Conen & Emma Finnigan 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
no later than Sunday 20th Nov.
Email: facarbray@aol.com
Mobile: 07836 691649**