

# ***PANS POST***

***Easter 2016***



*Newsletter of  
Prestongrange Parish Church*

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

[www.prestongrange-church.org.uk](http://www.prestongrange-church.org.uk)

## Easter Joy

“I need to emphasize, friends, that our natural, earthy lives don’t in themselves lead us by their very nature into the kingdom of God. Their very “nature” is to die, so how could they “naturally” end up in the Life kingdom? But let me tell you something wonderful, a mystery I’ll probably never fully understand. We’re not all going to die—*but* we are all going to be changed. You hear a blast to end all blasts from a trumpet, and in the time that you look up and blink your eyes—it’s over. On signal from that trumpet from heaven, the dead will be up and out of their graves, beyond the reach of death, never to die again. At the same moment and in the same way, we’ll all be changed. In the resurrection scheme of things, this has to happen: everything perishable taken off the shelves and replaced by the imperishable, this mortal replaced by the immortal. Then the saying will come true:

Death swallowed by triumphant Life!

Who got the last word, oh, Death?

Oh, Death, who’s afraid of you now?

It was sin that made death so frightening and law-code guilt that gave sin its leverage, its destructive power. But now in a single victorious stroke of Life, all three—sin, guilt, death—are gone, the gift of our Master, Jesus Christ. Thank God! Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.” (1 Cor. 15.50-57: The Message, Eugene Peterson)

In this punchy, paraphrased passage from Paul’s letter concerning the implications of Christ’s resurrection from the dead, following his death on the cross for our sin and salvation, we stand amazed and humbled by meaning for the person who is trusting in Jesus. In the NIV translation of the bible, we read: “Where O death is your victory? Where, O death is your sting?” v.55 It is not death that is in itself the harmful thing but it is death that is “the wages of sin” (Romans 6.23) that is the problem and the issue. Jesus has taken the sting of death for us. Death’s sting has been drawn for those who trust the Saviour as Christ had dealt with the cause of death and death itself by taking the rap for us in dying the death that we deserve for our sin and rebellion. The believer has nothing to fear from death, for it is simply a passing from this life into the immediate presence of the Lord which is a gain & not a loss (as Paul says: “For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” Phil. 1.21).

So, the Easter message that we have to rejoice in is that Christ who died on the cross, died there for us, “carrying the can for every man” that by faith in Him who died and rose again, we might rejoice in His victory over life and death. We have a victory song to sing that resonates from our hearts, “Christ has died, Christ has risen- Hallelujah.” Nothing to fear in life or death as we trust in the one who said: “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” (John 11.25 &26). Hallelujah- what a Saviour!

Yours in glorious faith,

### **Focus Camp**

Focus are off on camp to Pitlochry 4th-6th March.  
Please join with us in prayer for...



- \* the leaders as they plan and prepare.
- \* that young people would come and enjoy sharing in activities and learning about God.
- \* Matt as he leads the teaching.
- \* Rhona as she plans and cooks.
- \* Safety in our travel and activities.
- \* For God to be expected and to work powerfully in the lives of those who are there.

### **One Day Holiday Club**

Saturday 30th April

10-3pm

Salvation Army

P1-7

Cost - £2

Registration forms available soon



### **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



Prestongrange hosted a Shelter on Hogmanay, when 40+ rough sleepers were fed and given a copious breakfast for New Year's Day. Thanks to generous members and a very generous donation from our Guild, we gave £100 in cash also.

Our next shelter is on April 14th. We probably have enough volunteers but if you would like to be considered to help, please see Sandra Marshall for details as soon as possible.

We also passed on very generous donations of warm clothes, fruit, tissues and toiletries: further donations would be much appreciated. Your prayers for the volunteers, service users and Bethany staff would be a great support.

**Sandra Marshall**

As you know we continue to collect 20p/£1 in Smarties tubes. To date, a grand total of £923 has been donated. Thank you to all those who continue to collect and donate.

# trypraying.

Why don't you try praying?" – a simple, profound question which has impacted many since trypraying launched in Scotland six years ago. trypraying banners now hang outside many churches, and over 200,000 of the trypraying booklets for people who 'don't do church and are not religious' have been given away. In March last year buses in several cities carried the Trypraying advert to coincide with the annual 'Use it and lose it campaign'. This year the trypraying are making the evangelistic re-source accessible to the **whole nation** – for everyone to have access to the message of Jesus!



## **Roll on... trypraying buses.**

An incredible £45,000 was raised by churches and individuals in Scotland and beyond. It allows trypraying to be displayed on the back panels of buses across the whole of Scotland from the 29<sup>th</sup> February for 2 weeks, and in Edinburgh there will be the strongest trypraying bus campaign the city has ever seen.

**What can we do at Prestongrange?** Individually we can all take ownership for the street in which we live by praying for our neighbours before popping a trypraying postcard through their letterbox believing they will respond and request a free copy of the trypraying booklet. Postcards are available from Margo Cunningham, 01875 813295.



# Pray for Scotland

## Prayer Call - “As One” Prayer Shield

### **Every great move of God is preceded by a great move of prayer!**

Pray for Scotland are encouraging us to get involved in a Prayer Shield over our nation. For an effective shield, praying people in each area need to take ownership of the call, linking up and working together “As One”. As each local shield is raised, we believe God will lock them together to form the covering over the nation. Over 40 days (27<sup>th</sup> March – 5<sup>th</sup> May) a shield with the legend ‘As One!’ will travel around the nation to connect each County.

The Prayer Shield will arrive in East Lothian from Edinburgh on the 28<sup>th</sup> March, Easter Monday. It will be brought to Prestonpans with prayers of blessings from Musselburgh. A prayer gathering will be held in Prestonpans from 10.00 - 10.45 a.m. The Prayer Shield will then be taken to Tranent with a prayer of blessing from the people of Prestonpans, and then it will continue its journey around the county. In the evening there will be an opportunity for praying people from all around East Lothian to come together “As One” in a time of Praise, Prayer and Proclamation at Prestongrange from 7.30 – 9.00 p.m. If you would like more information about the Prayer Shield contact Margo Cunningham

### **Prayer Spot**

Heavenly Father we come before you acknowledging You are an awesome creator. You are the God who created heaven and earth. You created us from dust and formed us in Your image.

You blessed us with everything we needed to be fruitful and we were disobedient and broke Your commandment. Father forgive us for our sins. Forgive us that we are often more concerned with ourselves and our business than with Yours.

Thank You for sending Jesus who taught us the importance of being about “the Father’s business”. Help us to be like Jesus and to develop a relationship with You that seeks to put You first and brings You the glory and honour that is due to You name. Amen

### **Good News Stories**

Here are a couple of stories from Light & Life a Christian group of volunteers who are super-excited about the most incredible things that are happening as God continues to pour out His Spirit. “Last night, our Glasgow Leadership Team were worshipping and praying at our central offices. The Presence of God fell heavily, and a lady who was simply passing on the street felt drawn to join us. As we continued to worship, the Holy Spirit started to mend her broken soul, and after a few minutes she asked if she too could receive Jesus! She then picked up a pen and wrote ‘Thank you Jesus for loving me, I felt you in my heart’ on our flip chart!



Fresh Expressions vision events are dynamic ways to explore new ways of being church and how to form them. Over 6,000 people in over 80 places in the UK and worldwide have discovered more about fresh expressions of church and have come away with a real desire to work with God and develop their dreams. In a fun and interactive way, vision events give you the chance to: share your story; think about what it is to be church; ask questions; find out about fresh expressions; discover resources; build networks and relationships. Vision events are ideal for complete beginners, those with real questions about fresh expressions and mission-shaped church, people who have started something new and need some practical help, and Christians from all churches and traditions. Pete Atkins, convener of the Fresh Expressions training hub, says, 'Each vision event is carefully planned in partnership with local churches to ensure that it is relevant in that particular area and context.' A £10.00 charge will be levied for any cancellations received after the booking deadline, or for no shows on the day, to cover the cost of the unused catering.

Following on from our Going for Growth event held in October last year we would like to invite you to a vision day that we are holding on April 23rd 2016 at Cross House, Linlithgow, EH49 7AL.

If you would like to come along to this event, you can register by going to the following link

<https://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/events/vision-day-linlithgow>

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Jane Hepburn**

Online booking is now open for the 2016

## **Office Bearers and Elders Conference**

to be held at Tulliallan Police College on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April.

This is an excellent opportunity to connect with people serving in churches across the Church of Scotland, and to be resourced and inspired in your work going forward. This exciting 24 hour event will feature keynote speakers, worship, workshops and time to meet and share best practice with one another. Topics covered will include:

- Leadership
- The local congregation and the law
- Working with children and young people
- Stewardship and finance
- Media and communications
- Engaging with Local Church Review
- Church buildings
- Effective elders' visits
- ... and many more!

The cost for this conference will be £65 per delegate, including accommodation, all meals and refreshments. Doors will open at 5pm on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup>, and departure will be at 5pm on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to welcoming you!

To book your place, visit <https://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/events/office-bearers-and-elders-conference-april-2016>

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The Session agreed that the Board should pass some funding for this course for at least 3-4 people, but this will be considered again when the total number of people indicate that they want to go. I have booked a place and will have 4 more places in the car if anyone wants transport. Please let me know asap if you can attend.

There is also a non-residential option at a cost of £25 which includes

## **A Week in Prestongrange**

### **Sunday**

9.30am - Early Communion 1st Sunday each month (*6th March*)  
10.15am-10.45am - Prayer Meeting in the Vestry in the Church  
11.00am - Sunday Worship  
- Sunday Club for children aged 3 years old and upwards.  
3.00pm - Johnny Moat Place - Easter Sunday 27th March  
**The Cross/ My Hope – featuring a Billy Graham DVD presentation**

**Tuesday** 7.00pm for 7.30pm-9.00pm - Ladies Book Study,  
25 Harlawhill Gardens.  
**Contact Rosemary Renton for details - 01875 810304**

**Wednesday** 7.30pm - Alternate weeks (2nd and 16th March)  
Guild meets in Harlawhill Day Centre  
  
All new and former members welcome

**Thursday** 2.00pm-4.00pm -Afternoon Teas in the Church Hall,  
Kirk St. (*24th March*)  
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 apart from 4th March when there will be no Focus  
  
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 and Friday**

10.00am-12noon and  
2.00pm-4.00pm

**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**

**\*\*New volunteers required. Any help is very much appreciated\*\***

### **Foodbank Feedback**

We have decided to arrange another collection of donations of food for the East Lothian Foodbank. This will coincide with the Easter break when children will be away from school and therefore unable to benefit from free school meals and adding to the pressure on their parents to provide food. The Foodbank is in particular need of UHT milk, fruit juice, sponge puddings, mashed potato powder, tinned veg and rice pudding.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Wed 2nd March** - The Guild meets in Harlawhill Day Centre at 7.30pm  
*"How Does Recycling Work?"*

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**Friday 4th March**  
St. Gabriel's Church  
**3pm**



### **Bruce Davies Concert**

in aid of Harlawhill Day Centre Minibus Fund

in

Prestongrange Church

**Thursday 10th March 7.30pm**

**Tickets £5**

### PRESTONGRANGE GUILD

AFTERNOON TEA

on

**Saturday 12th March**

in

Prestongrange Church Hall, Kirk Street

from

**Tickets £3**

**2-4pm**



**Wed 16th March** - The Guild meets in Harlawhill day Centre at 7.30pm

AGM/Fun Night

This will be the final night of The Guild until after the Summer.

## ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION

on



Friday 18th March 6-9pm  
Saturday 19th March 10am-5pm

Lighthouse Central, West loan.

**Sunday 20th March** - Stated Annual Meeting will be held immediately after morning worship

## **EASTER AT PRESTONGRANGE**

### **Fri. 25<sup>th</sup> March:**

**10am:** Joint church prayer walk starting from St Gabriel's church & walking round part of the town with stop- off for prayer at churches and school en route.

**7pm:** The Cross/ My Hope – featuring a Billy Graham DVD presentation in the church hall. Followed by refreshments. Invite a friend or neighbour.

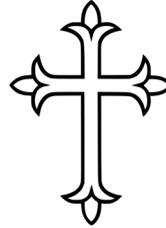
### **Sun. 27th March - Easter Sunday**

A Songs of Praise in memory of Robert Hooker and choir members will be held in church at **6 pm on Sun April 17th.**



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

Jerry Dobson  
Billy Maxwell  
Hughie Storr  
Mary Robertson  
John Watters  
Bill Thomson  
John Duffy  
Ina Peden  
John Yorkston



George Berrick- our esteemed elder and friend, whom we give God thanks for.

We sadly lost George Berrick at the end of last year following illness. He served Prestongrange for over 40 years as an Elder, recently being presented with his long service certificate. He will be sadly missed.

### **Contacts**

**Minister:** Rev Kenneth Donald 01875 813643  
**Session Clerk:** Mrs Jane Hepburn 01875 610758  
**Youth Elder:** Heather Antonelli 01620 842646  
**Order of Service:** Calum Wilson 07773 085378

**Please copy any material for future Pans Posts to  
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