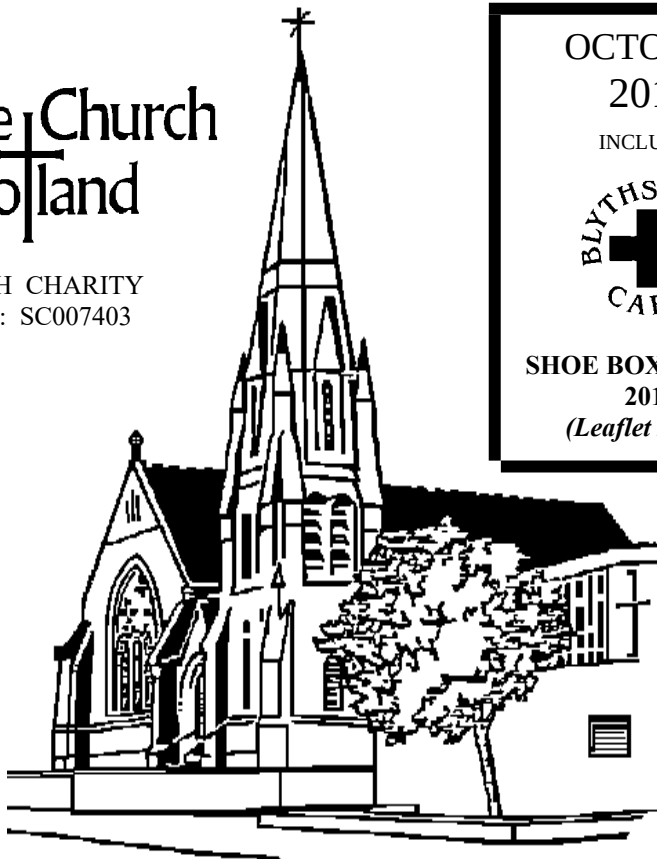


PRESTWICK SOUTH PARISH CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

The Church
of Scotland

SCOTTISH CHARITY
NUMBER: SC007403



OCTOBER
2018
INCLUDES



SHOE BOX APPEAL
2018
(Leaflet Inside)

KEEPING YOUR FAITH ALIVE

Two nuns were driving through the countryside when they ran out of petrol. They walked to a nearby farmhouse for help. The farmhouse was very rundown looking, indeed it appeared to belong to the 19th century with very little sign of modern improvements. However, there was a

tractor. The rather elderly farmer was kind enough to agree that the nuns could siphon some of the petrol from his tractor.

It was then a problem arose. They couldn't find anything in which to carry the petrol, until the farmer produced a battered old chamber pot. The nuns then filled the pot with petrol and started to walk back to their car, whereupon they started to pour the petrol from the chamber pot into the car. A passing motorist hardly believing what he saw stopped and said, ***“I don't necessarily agree with your religion, but I certainly admire your faith.”***

Faith as I have said on many occasions is a wonderful asset in anybody's live. For faith can conquer all fears, it can overcome all obstacles and can provide hope when only despair and sorrow appear apparent. But faith is not something we hang up in the wardrobe, it has to be used.

Recently in Prestwick South we celebrated Harvest Thanksgiving and the theme of the Service revolved around those wonderful words from James:

***“Faith by itself,
if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”***

Those surely are some of the most powerful and influential words found in the Bible.

As we now embark on the Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal for 2018 may we truly take these words to heart. Remembering also that Jesus may have spoken many great words, but He also in a very practical way helped those in need.

Kenneth

WORK OF BLYTHSWOOD CARE

It's that time of year again. The hot days have slipped into mellow autumn days and our thoughts turn to highlights in our church calendar. Let us give a thought to some of those who were helped by the appeal last year. This is a really special year for the Blythswood Trust as they celebrate 25 years of the Shoebox Appeal, so let us celebrate with them by exceeding any of our previous totals of boxes.

Luiza from Romania was delighted with her box, especially the toys. Her older siblings were pleased to receive colourful scarves and stationery supplies for school. The family of eleven live in an old house with a broken roof that leaks badly in the rain. In these damp conditions, some of the children have developed health problems. Their parents have no stable income so have to live off the animals they raise.

Sergey and his sister Victoria suffer from cerebral palsy. They are too heavy for their mother to carry from their home in Ukraine and being self conscious of their appearance, they suffer from social isolation. Sergey was thrilled with the t-shirt in his box while Victoria was delighted to receive jewellery for the first time.

Christina is better off than the other children in her class. She has nice clothes and food to eat. But she doesn't have her mum and dad at home. Like many other young adults in Moldova they are working in faraway Italy, leaving grandparents to look after their daughter. When she received her shoebox, what grabbed her attention was the book "Jesus the Promised Child". She seldom has access to any books.

Last year Blythswood sent 115,932 boxes being sent to eight countries in Eastern Europe and Pakistan. Many of these countries are plagued by poverty and political instability. Many parents have to seek employment many miles from home, on extremely low wages.

All gifts in the boxes, even the most basic, will make a difference to someone. Just think what it would mean to be given warm socks or a bar of soap if you had no money to buy these for yourself. As a distributor commented: ***"What is important about the Blythswood boxes is that they are given with love"***

**PRESTWICK SOUTH
CHRISTMAS APPEAL
2018**



PLEASE HELP WITH 2018

**Shoe Box Appeal.
Fill a box**

Since 1966, Blythswood Care has combined the Christian message with practical help for those in need. Whether through filled shoeboxes at Christmas, relief and development aid or social projects for young and old, Blythswood brings hope to thousands in Europe, Africa and Asia. Blythswood is committed to long-term care projects in Romania, enabling disadvantaged children and young people fulfil their potential. With the support of people like you, Blythswood provides loving care for body and soul.

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 4TH NOVEMBER**

Please note that any financial donations should be kept separate.

A plate will be positioned on top of the Baptismal Font and all donations should be placed there.

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

Find out more by visiting
www.showboxappeal.org.



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**PRESTWICK SOUTH
GUILD NEWS**



The Church of Scotland Guild is a movement within the Church of Scotland which invites and encourages both women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action. With around 20,000 members, the Guild is one of Scotland's largest voluntary organisation.

Although women make up the bulk of our membership, increasingly men are becoming members and taking active roles at local and national levels. The Guild's motto which is taken from Acts 27, verse 23: 'Whom we are and Whom we serve.'



We are now back to our weekly meetings every Thursday afternoon at 2.00pm in the church hall.

Our programme for October is as follows:

11th Entertainment from Prestwick Old Friends.

- 18th Mr Graeme Last will inform us about Mission Aviation Fellowship.
- 25th Guild Project, Crossreach will give us information about their work.
- 1st November Theme:
One Journey, Many Roads - Rev David Gemmell.

Everyone is very welcome to attend any or all of these meetings and as the church is also supporting Crossreach this year through the Watchnight service collection and the sale of Christmas items it may prove to be very popular.

Advance notice



The Guild Coffee Morning is on Saturday 10th November from 10.30am-12.30. Put the date in your diary NOW so you are not disappointed if you forget!

Further details will follow and tickets will be available from Guild members.

We hope to see you at some of the meetings and don't forget there is always a time for fellowship and a cuppa.

Mhairi McAlinden

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ELDERS VISITS TO ORGANISATIONS

Guides

Susan Johnson and Ann Green paid their first visit to the Girl Guides in the current session on Monday 17th September.

It was very encouraging to meet the new leaders, after the concerns over leadership that had plagued us over the last few years. This is a strong and committed leadership team, consisting of Trainee leaders Karen and Louise, helpers Karen and Lesley and youth leaders Molly and Emma. We were delighted to learn that Karen, the trainee leader, is the niece of Lynn Semple, who was our Guide leader for many years.

Karen and Louise took time to explain to us how the Guide syllabus had drastically changed since last year. The whole structure is different, with lots of topics demanding a good deal more input, some of them involving work to be done at home. The premier Guiding award has changed from the Baden Powell Award to the Gold Award, and the girls have to achieve badges in all topics to qualify for this. The leaders felt that it was too soon to make judgement on the new syllabus.

The leaders have a trip to the district pantomime in the SECC planned and hope to go camping next year. We were pleased to hear that they are also very keen that the Guides participate in the Remembrance Day Service and Youth Services in the Church.

Numbers are slightly down, with only twenty girls on the roll. There were fourteen present on the evening of our visit. The girls in the pack are younger this year, most of them being aged 12 or 13 years old. However our Guides now will include those who have progressed from the Brownies at St. Nicholas Church and Karen was expecting seven new Guides from this source. Hopefully the Guides at our church will go from strength to strength under the new leadership.

There were no problems reported and we concluded our visit by passing on the good wishes of the Kirk Session.

Ann Green

Sunday School

Ann McPike and Linda McCall visited the Sunday School and Creche on Sunday 16th September, 2018.

It was very peaceful in the back hall, where the creche was taking place. There was only one little boy, who was surrounded by toys and being looked after by two ladies. Numbers in the creche have been very low for some time now, and it is not unusual for there to be no children at all in the creche.

There were 7 children in the Sunday School, with their ages ranging from 3 up to 12 years. The children were busy making Harvest cards, ably assisted by the two Sunday School teachers. Meanwhile, preparations for the Soup lunch were also underway, and the children enjoyed helping to serve this.

There is a team of Sunday School teachers working to a monthly rota. This allows all the teachers the opportunity to attend church when they are not on duty. No issues were identified, and the Elders passed on the grateful thanks of the Kirk Session.

YOUR MEMORIES

We know you are all interested in the above reports on what our Sunday School and Youth Organisations are doing today. But what are your memories of Sunday School or other church organisations of which you were a member.

We'd like to include them in future Newsletters, (anonymously if you wish). I've sure they'd be of interest to others and may even jog some memories. It can be just a few lines or a longer item if you wish.

We look forward to seeing your contributions in the Newsletter Editors box outside the Session House.



KIRK SESSION

Monday 10th September



The Kirk Session met on a very damp September evening for the first meeting of the new session. The meeting began with a reading from the book of Hebrews. The minutes of three previous meetings were then approved, and the following matters discussed:

Correspondence

Elders Districts

Kirk Session Resolution – a new member was admitted

Church Office – remains closed due to illness

Presbytery Reports

Finance – Frank McQuade gave a report

Reaffirmation Campaign 2019

Property Report – Bobby McPike gave a report

First Report from Organisations

– Elders are asked to make their first visit and report back prior to the November meeting

Future of the Church of Scotland in Prestwick

Afternoon Communion

– as is the custom, there will be both a morning and afternoon communion on Sunday 7th October

Prestwick Lighting Up – takes place on 18th November

Forthcoming Dates were noted:

- 1) 16th September Harvest Lunch
- 2) 30th September Harvest
- 3) 7th October Communion and Afternoon Communion
- 4) 11th November Remembrance
- 5) 12th November - Next meeting of the Kirk Session

There being no further business, the Kirk Session was closed with the Benediction.

Linda McCall

SHINING STARS

A group meeting in Ayr especially for Young People and Adults aged 16 and over with Additional Support Needs, their families and carers.



We share together the love of God through music, stories, Bible readings, drama, craft and fun.

We meet together on the third Sunday of every month at Riverside Church, John Street, Ayr. Starting with lunch at 1.30pm and finishing at 3.00pm.

We would love to have you join us.

Meeting dates:

16th September **2018**
21st October
18th November
16th December

20th January **2019**
17th February
17th March
21st April
19th May
16th June



For more information phone 01292 262686

OPPORTUNITIES IN RETIREMENT

We can't escape the reality that most of our congregation are now either embracing, or approaching, retirement. Fortunately for most of us this is a period in our lives to savour. With the pressure of the workplace behind us, we can spend more time with family and friends, and devote time to our hobbies. For a minority, however, the days stretch long in front of them and the thought of a winter of daytime television fills them with dread. Or perhaps you are reaching the end of your working life, but simply don't know how you will fill the time once devoted to your job. If you fall into either of these categories, help is at hand.

Have you heard about the organisation OiRAyr, "Opportunities in Retirement"? It is exactly what it says on the tin, and many of the congregation already are members and actively participate in several groups. One of our congregation, *Arnie Green*, now sits on the executive committee so we have taken the opportunity to ask Arnie to give us some information about the group.

1. What exactly is OIR?

Opportunities in Retirement (Ayr) is an umbrella group set up with the aim of improving the lives of over 50s in the area. It comprises of over 1200 members spread over 60 different groups, including bridge, music, cycling, walking and art. It's aim is to enhance the lifestyle and personal wellbeing of its members.

2. When was it founded?

Approximately 30 years ago. The late David Rowan was instrumental in forming the group, along with several others who had the vision to take the idea forward.

3. How is it organised?

Opportunities in Retirement is a registered charity, run by a committee of between 10-15 members, all of whom are volunteers. The committee is responsible for the organisation of the various groups, including hall lets and ensuring that every group is compliant with all the relevant legislation. There is only one person employed by the committee.

4. Who is eligible to join OIR?

Anyone who is aged 50 or over and who is retired or semi-retired, working less than 20 hours a week.

5. How much does it cost to join and how would I go about it?

The joining fee is £18 pounds per calendar year, normally payable in January, but you can enrol anytime during the year. This payment allows you to enrol in any number of groups. There is often a small payment taken at each group to cover the cost of refreshments and the fee for the instructor where appropriate. An enrolment form can be downloaded from the front page of the OiR website www.oirayr.org.uk, or you can join in person at the office at 61 Main Street, Ayr. The office, manned mostly by volunteers, is open from 10am to 2pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The contact number for the office is 01292 260086.

6. What are the advantages of joining OIR.?

The main benefit is the opportunity to share fellowship with other members with similar interests and also the chance to learn new skills.

7. How do I find out about the classes?

The easiest way is to log on to the website, www.oirayr.org.uk, which has all the information, required, including contact numbers for the groups. Alternatively, you can call into the office.

8. Where are the classes held?

In a variety of locations, but usually close to the town centre and easy to access by public transport. Many are held in our own Community Centre in Caerlaverock Road. Outdoor activity groups like cycling and walking usually meet at a central location.



FOODBANK

Those involved in running the Foodbank are delighted with the support we at Prestwick South continue to give with our donations both in groceries and monetary contributions. These gifts are taken from the trolley at the back of the church every week and delivered to the Foodbank on a Tuesday

In order to highlight the need for certain necessary items they give us a list of things they are running low on. This month's shortages are:-

Coffee

Small Bottles of Diluting Juice

Tinned Fruit

Tinned Potatoes, Mince/Stew/Cold Meat/Tomatoes

UHT Milk



Sugar is only included in a Food Parcel if it is specifically requested.

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A ROAD HOME

Most of us reading this article will have known at least the warmth and comfort of a properly built house. For the majority of children in our world, home is a makeshift shelter, a temporary building that could be swept away at any moment. While people live and grow up in these circumstances, we who have plenty have a responsibility to reach out and try to change the life chances of children born into these conditions.

It was a hot June afternoon, just a few weeks back, when I led a group of weary Scots on a journey to Kazunzu. This is a remote community on the edge of Lake Victoria, where Vine Trust, in partnership with the African Inland Mission Church and the local government, plan to build a new community to welcome orphaned children and create a village of hope. The vision is to create a community around ten small homes, with a garden, a cow and some chickens to sustain each family. Each home will house six children and a Mama. Then there will be a school, a medical centre, a water purification plant, a farm and a special holiday camp for children living with the AIDS virus.

The building of the village has come about through the generosity of Mid Calder Church of Scotland. This congregation wanted to mark the positive aspects of the Reformation, as they approached the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Thesis back in 2017. The Rev John Povey, minister of Mid Calder, was part of our group of pilgrims. John had the honour of marking the commencement of the building works by gifting a picture of Mid Calder Church to the community at Kazunzu.

So now we start a new journey. Over the next three years, hundreds of people unknown to me will find themselves being called on a journey of compassion and mercy. They will no doubt carry the red clay of the African soil on their shoes as they return home, but something deeper will have happened to them. The journey will have changed their world view and for some that change of view will have involved a crossroads and a change of direction.

By the Very Rev. Albert Bogle from Life and Work

Who mentioned Christmas??

At the last Church Session Meeting it was decided that the Watchnight Service Offering would this year go to *CrossReach*, the charity run by the Social Care Council of The Church of Scotland.

As one of the largest providers of social care in Scotland CrossReach's impact is extensive. They reach out to thousands every year, offering support to people in challenging circumstances whatever their age.

Here are some of the services they have:-

Residential Homes for Older People and People living with dementia

Children's Care and Education Services

Confidential Conversations

Perinatal Counselling Service

Substance misuse Service

A Homeless hostel

A Housing Support service

These are just headings and don't truly explain the services properly so over the next months we will, through our Church Newsletters, highlight some of them and the people who use them.

Daisy Chain

Govanhill is a densely-populated, vibrant neighbourhood located just one mile south of Glasgow city centre. It is home to around 18,000 people, of whom 40% are from ethnic minorities. A recent survey of 13 tenement blocks found 52 nationalities represented and 32 languages spoken.

Housing is often poor, owned by landlords who do not maintain the flats or who will evict at short notice. With a focus on surviving, it is difficult for families to thrive in this environment, let alone feel part of a community.

CrossReach Daisy Chain Early Project works with families from a variety of different cultures to strengthen family ties and to forge a community spirit. In 2017, Daisy Chain brought together 240 children and 225 parents in a variety of play and other social activities.

Of the parents who attended the sessions at Daisy Chain Early Years Project:

91% agreed that they were more able to spend time with their child

86% said they had made friends with other parents at Daisy Chain

How can you help?

Simple!

Buy your Christmas Cards from CrossReach this year. All profits received from the sale of items in their Catalogue go towards the caring work of CrossReach in Scotland.

Ordering is easy!

- 1. Firstly, get a catalogue from one of the people named below.**
- 2. On a separate sheet of paper write out your order.**
- 3. Put your name and telephone no. on the back of the sheet.**
- 4. Return your order as soon as possible but no later than 18 November.**
- 5. Please return the complete catalogue with your order so that we can pass it to someone else.**

A CASH payment is NOT required until your order is received.

(As the **total** order will hopefully be over £110.00 no postage will be charged.)

Mhari McAlinden

Helen Inglis

Wilma Goodwin

PRESTWICK GROUP

Meetings are held in 65 Club Hall, Main Street, Prestwick at 7.30pm.

Open to anyone interested – no membership – come and tell your tale.

Meetings last approximately one hour with a break around 8.30 for tea or coffee followed by discussion on topic of the night or any other matter raised. We will endeavour to answer your questions. If unable to answer we will try to find out and advise you at a later date.

A donation at the end of the meeting is appreciated to cover costs of providing refreshments along with running expenses of the Group. We meet on the first Thursday of the following months:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 4 th October | The History of Weaving
Pat Kane |
| 1 st November | Presentation by Filippo
(King Cone) Mancini |
| 6 th December | Stained Glass
John Rattenbury |
| 7 th February | Dundonald Castle
Dr Kirsteen Croll |
| 7 th March | Wagonways and Tramways of Ayr
Jim Irving |
| 4 th April | Ayrshire Smugglers
Denis Rattenbury |
| 2 nd May | "Blether of 2019".
Slides and discussion presented by
Prestwick History Group. |

Convener: Alisdair W.R. Cochrane Tel: 470234

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Organised by Prestwick History Group.

DEATHS

2nd August - **Margaret Begg**, Annfield Terrace Prestwick

20th September - **Florence McKay**, Mansewell Road. (*Non-member*)

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT CONGRATULATIONS



SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT CONGRATULATIONS



David Elliott and Allison Craig recently got engaged to be married. David proposed to Allison when they were on holiday in Gran Canaria in the Summer

Special congratulations to David and Allison
from everyone at Prestwick South.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS



SPECIAL BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS



On the 30th August, **Mirrenne Thomson**
celebrated a special Birthday.

Special congratulations to Mirrienne
from everyone at Prestwick South.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS



SPECIAL BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS



On the 18th September Mrs **Jean McCormack**
celebrated her **90th** Birthday.

Special congratulations to Jean
from everyone at Prestwick South.

CHURCH CONTACTS

MINISTER:	Rev. Kenneth C. Elliott 68 St. Quivox Road.	TEL: 478788
CHURCH SECRETARY:	Dorothy McPherson Church Vestry.	TEL: 678556
VESTRY E-mail: CHURCH WEBSITE:	office@pwksouth.plus.com www.south-church.org.uk	
SESSION CLERK:	Alan C. Moir 1 Bruce Avenue.	TEL: 476883
TREASURER:	Frank McQuade 5 Hunter Street.	TEL: 475632
GIFT AID CONVENER:	Arnie Green 25 Marina Road.	TEL: 478393
ROLL KEEPER:	Allan Kerr 3 Cochrane Place.	TEL: 479960
PROPERTY CONVENER:	Bobby McPike 8 Ashgrove, Maybole.	TEL: 01655 882467
ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER:	David Ferguson 199 Hillfoot Road, Ayr.	TEL: 268992
SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR:	Katie McKail 49 Caerlaverock Road.	TEL: 475239
SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT:	Ann MacKay 15 Briarhill Street.	TEL: 477738
CHURCH OFFICER:	Willie Main 22 Bellesleyhill Road.	TEL: 286224

All items for our **NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER** should be submitted by the conclusion of the Morning Service on Sunday the 21st October.