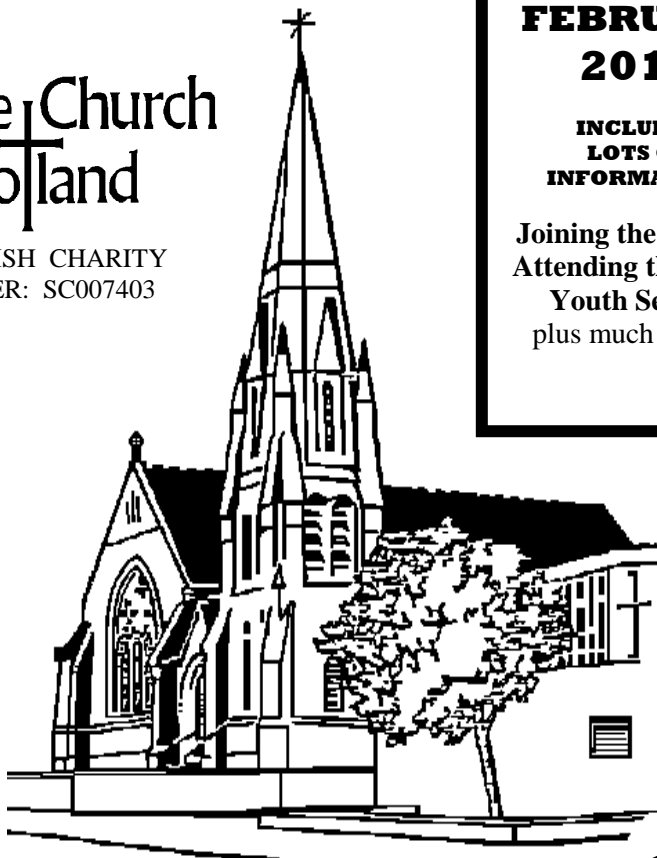


PRESTWICK SOUTH PARISH CHURCH

The Church
of Scotland

SCOTTISH CHARITY
NUMBER: SC007403



**FEBRUARY
2012**

**INCLUDES
LOTS OF
INFORMATION**

Joining the Church
Attending the AGM
Youth Service
plus much more...

NEWSLETTER

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

REVERSING THE TREND

We live in a world of statistics! You only have to watch the News on television for confirmation of my initial statement. Whether its unemployment figures, monthly rainfall figures, exam pass rates, car sales, football attendances, divorce rates etc.... The lists are endless and generally they are accompanied by statistics in the form of percentages and numbers.

Often we can become so familiar with the endless statistics that are produced, that they can lose their impact and we don't really take any proper notice of the information conveyed. However, every now and again a statistic can emerge that makes you take notice. For example, in 2011 while we were finalising our Redevelopment Plans it emerged that the Church of Scotland loses 120 members per week. I must confess I found such a statistic hard to digest.

Yet perhaps I should not have been too taken aback, for sadly in Prestwick South we continue to haemorrhage members as our annual statistics highlight. As you will see in the Newsletter our Congregational Roll as of 31st December 2011 now stands at 303 members, in comparison to 321 as of 31st December 2010. As a Church such facts surely create anxiety and even fear as we look to the future.

To lessen the blow we are informed that Prestwick South is naturally not alone in this trend of decline. Which in a sense possibly creates two options? Firstly, we accept that our position is generally the norm and do nothing about it. Or secondly, we face the trend of continuous decline as a challenge that needs to be addressed. I personally opt for the latter.

In 2011 the Office Bearers, after a great deal of discussion and consultation, took the decision to redevelop Prestwick South to meet the demands of the 21st century. As members will be aware this includes plans to make minor alterations to the Sanctuary; to landscape the forecourt of the Church; and to build a Christian Cafe and Bookshop onto the front of the Hall.

Those plans are brave, bold and ambitious which will ensure that Prestwick South remains viable and accommodating in promoting the Christian faith to an ever increasing secular society. However, while we strive to redevelop we also have to continually be prepared for unscheduled repairs and maintenance to our Church premises. For example, the recent 'dry rot' in the Church came completely out of the blue. This means that while we are determined to redevelop our Church premises in accordance with our plans we don't know how long it will take, especially when we may periodically be sidetracked by other work.

That is why we must take seriously Christian Outreach and all play our part in attracting new members to Prestwick South. We cannot just sit back and place the responsibility for growth on the shoulders of those involved with the redevelopment plans. We are after all a ministry of all believers and we must surely all play our part.

Let us therefore attempt in 2012 to reverse the trend of decline by making our Church more vibrant, welcoming and accommodating. For example:

- Ensure visitors are made to feel welcome in Church.
- Don't sit in the same pew each Sunday; engage in Christian fellowship amongst other members.
- Tea or Coffee after the Service in the Hall - make sure no one is left sitting at a table on their own.
- Encourage children to regularly attend Sunday School and Bible Class each Sunday.
- Invite your family, friends or neighbours to attend Church with you.
- Prioritise Sunday Worship and don't be sidetracked by other options. Ensure that those that don't attend Church are aware of your commitment and devotion to Sunday worship.
- Pray daily for our Church and the membership.

Those are just a few suggestions for 2012. You may have other ideas and suggestions. Let us therefore do our best in the forthcoming year to prove that if we are truly committed and devoted to the Church then we can reverse the trend of decline.

Kenneth C. Elliott

INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT THE CHURCH ?



Very shortly, if there is sufficient interest, I hope to commence a New Communicants Class within Prestwick South Parish Church. This will be the opportunity for anyone interested to come along and find out more about the Church.

This Class is simply a very informal gathering in which I will attempt to explain a little bit more about the Christian Faith and the Church. There will be ample opportunity for open discussion.

I normally conduct four Classes prior to the admission of New Communicant Members. Please also remember that there is absolutely no obligation to join the Church after attending the Classes. The final decision must always rest with the individual.

If you are already a Communicant Member of the Church then perhaps you can also help. For example, maybe you have a husband, wife, son, daughter or a friend who has shown some interest in the Church, but never actually seriously considered becoming more involved. If that is the case, then let them know about the forthcoming New Communicants Class.

If you are interested in attending the Class or you know of someone that is, then please contact me as soon as possible. It is my intention, depending on the response, to begin the New Communicants Class towards the end of March.

Kenneth C. Elliott

SUNDAY 26th FEBRUARY

YOUTH SERVICE



Anchor Boys

Brownies

Sunday School

2nd / 4th Prestwick B.B.

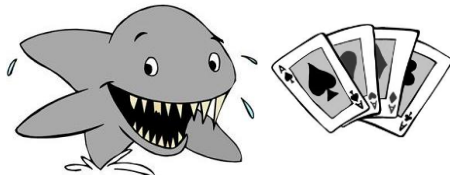
Guides

Bible Class

SUPPORT THE YOUTH OF OUR CHURCH

Bring your thinking caps!

What is this?



GOLF CRONIES / WORKING PARTY

2011 Christmas Lunch

The 'Golf Widow's' had their lunch the previous week on the 5th of December.

Well we, the other half of the Widow's and the Working Party members, all turned up again at the 'Carrick Lodge' for our Christmas Lunch which had been arranged as usual by, who else but, 'Bob Bell'. We are all very much indebted to *Bob* who continually goes to the bother of arranging this event. There were fourteen gentlemen, I use the term loosely, and one young lady. *Willie Main*, our church officer, being the type of person that he is dutifully took over the mantle of looking after the young lady – in conversation anyway.



This year due to the inclement weather conditions, similar to last year, there had not been a golf competition. It was, however, brought to the notice by *Bob*, to those of the golfing fraternity that one of the trophies was missing. This is a boxed golfer on a plinth within a polystyrene wrapper. I had it a couple of years ago but, who has it in their possession now? Will the recipient please own up to 'Bob' – he is most concerned!!!

I am sure that everyone enjoyed their choice of food and the banter that took place during the meal. It was surprising how the afternoon passed.

Alec Miller, on behalf of everyone present, gave a vote of thanks and appreciation to *Bob* for his professional approach to the organisation of the Christmas Lunch.

It is at this point that we should show our appreciation to *Alec*. Where would we be if it was not for *Alec*, who takes charge of the financial break down. Whether we had two or three courses, a glass of wine or a pint of Guinness. It was all methodically noted and all 'lunchees' advised of their amount owed plus the suitable tip!!

In conclusion, it should also be noted that *Bob* has a very helpful '*other half*'. Thanks again *Helen*, we all appreciate the nice touch, of the sweet packages.

And so, another Christmas Lunch has come and gone, all very enjoyable. We will all be there next year – 2012, forget the Olympics.

Bob and Helen, start planning!!

One of the 'Loose Gentlemen'.

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& A.G.M.

KIRK SESSION REPORT

At the most recent formal meeting of the Kirk Session which was held on Monday 7th November 2011 Mr Elliott advised Elders that the Blythswood Shoe Box appeal had generated an amazing response from the congregation with over two hundred boxes being handed in and subsequently uplifted for distribution. He and the organisers really appreciated the support of everyone in this initiative.

At the meeting elders also received a report from Mrs McKail our church Safeguarding Co-ordinator in which she updated the Session on current safeguarding developments. In addition to this Elders also reported on the visits they had made to church organisations and happily no major issues had emerged from these while reports were also provided on the work of Presbytery and Prestwick Churches Council.

As part of the business laid out in the agenda it was agreed that the church would be open from 22nd to 24th December and volunteers were sought to welcome visitors to the church and to have a presence at the six opening times.

Important forthcoming events in the life of the congregation were also highlighted and the date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 6th February 2012.

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Above, for those of you who have access to the internet, is the web address of our church's web site.

I wonder how many of you use the site or are even aware of its existence?

As church web sites go, it contains much more information than most sites.

Under the heading "History and evolution" for example, there is a page on the church's history and includes pictures of the former ministers dating back to the church's beginning in 1879. These pictures currently hang in the vestry wall so not everyone gets the chance or even the time to view them. On the web site there is some info on each of the former ministers.

On the "Committees" page there is a list of the committees and members who organise and silently run the church organisations. Of course all this information is contained in the church yearbook, but if you misplace your yearbook you can find a copy on the "Home Page".

On the "Home Page" there, you will also find a copy of the current newsletter should you misplace your own. There are also a few archived newsletters dating back a few months.

If you are not sure if **you** should be on door duty or tea duty, then this can also be found on the web site under, guess what "Church Rotas".

There is also a "General Info" tab which takes you to legal things like the protection of children, unfortunately a legal requirement in these times.

In this section there is a profile of our current minister, Kenneth, a riveting read complete with photo.

The "Gallery & Social Activities" displays photos and text of various outings which the church has been involved in, which reminds me, I must update the site with the latest photos of the Iona/Mull outing last summer. I only got them last week.

There is also a page dedicated to the Church Praise Band, which I take great delight in being a member (when I can). The band is run by Brian McGhee whose enthusiasm for the band is totally infectious for those involved, and who makes performing and rehearsing a very pleasurable experience.

There is more information on the site than I can cover in this short memorandum, but please take time to surf the site if you can and give it your support.

Arnie Green



CHRISTIAN AID



This year Christian Aid week takes place from 13th to 19th May and February your committee will be meeting to formulate their fundraising plans for this year.

Many of you will have carried your penny jars forward from last year, but if you have not you will have the chance to start again when the penny jar appeal is relaunched in February. If you have not used a penny jar before, the system is very straightforward. Simply put an item of small change into your jar for every member of your family each time you have a meal. Christian Aid labels will be distributed but are not necessary. Use any jar you have to hand.

Your representatives will be looking for your support again this year asking you to give of your time, talents and donations. Remember, this is your charity, an example of Christianity in action, so please offer your help where you possibly can.

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REPORT FROM CLERK TO CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

As you all probably know, the Board consists of 12 Session members(elders) and 12 others from the congregation- each serving 3 years. We meet 6 times a year with the odd extra meeting after a Sunday service. One Sunday, a member not on the Board appeared at the meeting after the service. The minister said to him *“Mr. Smith you’re not on the Board.”* Mr. Smith replied *“You asked all Board members to meet after the service- well I was bored.”* (Our minister was on holiday that day.) So now allow me to bore you with some facts and figures about the Board.

What does the Board do?

They control the Church financial income from freewill offerings, ordinary offerings, standing orders, gift aid, hall lets and several not so regular sources.

They control financial expenditure in line with the annual budget on very many costs.

They examine and undertake property repairs and maintenance. This is why our working party is so valuable.

They control hall lets.

As if this was not enough there are usually some miscellaneous items on the agenda. Below are a few items of interest that have taken place since the AGM. of 2011.

Re-affirmation Campaign Results show a 2.3% financial increase on the 2007 campaign, but our roll numbers are down 11% in the same period. An excellent campaign evening was held in Belmont Academy.

Property Reported cracks on inside walls of Church, and front steps need attention. Rust in places in the hall, bulging walls in Church back kitchen and several other smaller items.

Redevelopment Architects’ plans returned for alterations. Priority is to install disabled toilets in Church and hall.

Roof Who is stealing lead from our roof? Vandal proof netting (£800) to be fitted.

Back Hall Carpet fitted and folding door removed.

September 2011 Church south vestibule found to be leaking, investigation carried out. Zumba classes to meet in hall on Thursdays at 8.15pm.. This claims to reduce ladies dress sizes from 16 to 12 after 500 lessons.

October 2011 Hall kitchen floor fitted with boards and linoleum. Security lights to be fitted outside Church- called Noah lights because they are floodlights.

December 2011 Staff wages for cleaner, Church officer, organist and secretary are reviewed. Those of session clerk, clerk to the Board, treasurer, property convener, work party convener, roll keeper, I.T. consultant and sound controller all remain the same as last year- nil.

Ministry and Mission (Amount we pay annually to 121, George St. for missionary work, support for poorer charities, ministers' salaries etc.) for 2012 is £53,000. This 9% increase on 2011 was explained by Rev. K.C.Elliott, who is clerk to Ayr Presbytery.

Budget In 2011 our approximate income of £88,444 will be slightly down on budget. Expenditure will exceed budget due to extra property costs (the vestibule costs have soared to £7,000).

Are you still reading? - bet there's a rush to join the Board this year. We will have 3 vacancies so get your applications in quickly to the minister or myself. Your church needs you.

Ps. Good luck to our new magazine girls, Wilma and Ann.

Pps. World's oldest joke- Eve to Adam "***Do you still love me?***"
Adam "***Who else.***"

Have a good year,

Malcolm Foggo, Clerk to the Board.

WORKING PARTY REPORT

Following my retirement last September from working for over 45 years in the Building Industry, I noted in an advert in the church magazine



stating that further assistance was urgently required by the working party, which meets every Wednesday from around 09.00 till circa 11.00. I noted that the party had recently been led by Bob Bell, who I know from the choir and Ron Highcock who I have had many chats with after services and the like and asked them about the group and their works. Following these discussions, I volunteered my services to our minister.

The Working Party consists of a group of enthusiastic volunteers with different working experience and expertise which are very useful tools in tackling various minor items of a maintenance and repair nature. The Working Party is therefore a very important integral part of the church and contributes substantially to the reduction of the annual maintenance expenditure. This is particularly important in the current difficult economic climate.

Initially I was welcomed into the working party by Neil Inglis and the two of us attempted to deal with a bit of a backlog of tasks. These included getting the church hall ready for new floor finishes in the lesser hall & kitchen areas and in the Vestry which required both a new floor covering and to be decorated. The floor finishes and decoration were carried out by specialist contractors.

At an early stage the working party, including Hugh Stevenson and Tom Mercer were involved with the renewal of the spot light bulbs at each side of the chancel. I'm sure you may have noticed that improvement when attending church.

As a group we have endeavoured to prioritise those items which will keep the church wind and watertight; those which affect the safety of church users, such as the plumbing and electrical systems; security matters such as lock repairs & renewals and those visual etc aids which are required by all.

Future works will include elements of cleaning high level areas in the hall which cannot be easily tackled by our cleaning staff; decoration of the Hall Cloakroom following a plaster repair to a wall; decoration of the South Vestibule and rear of church following the dry rot treatment works which have been carried out; and when warmer weather comes in, external decoration of parts of the church and hall.

To date, I have found that the working party's remit is fairly similar to what used to be that of the painting of the Forth Rail Bridge!! i.e. the work ahead of them appears to extend, more or less in line with the completed works, consequently any assistance which **you** can offer will be greatly appreciated. Please don't hesitate to contact me in church, by phone on either 01292 475239 or 07531531825 or by coming along on any Wednesday a.m. you find you have time available.

Hugh McKail

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GUILD



Guild programme for February

February 9th Wheels in motion - Suzanne Holden

February 16th Calmac Ferries – Ian McCrorie (Company historian)

February 23rd Laughter lines again – Mr Ronnie Russell

Date for your diary – Guild coffee morning and baking stall on Saturday 18th February from 10am to 12 noon. Tickets £1.50 for adults and 50p for children.

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TEDDY TODDLERS

From Teddy Toddlers January Newsletter

Happy New Year to everyone....wishing you all a healthy and happy 2012.

Thanks to everyone for attending the Christmas party on the 23 December. The donations for the snack table were very welcome. We hope that all the children enjoyed meeting Santa and receiving their gifts



What have we got to tell you this month???

Welcome to all our new mums and children – the group continues to grow on a weekly basis which is great...the more the merrier!! Even if the weather is cold and driech, you can always be assured of a warm welcome on a Friday morning and only a small charge of £1.00 per family lets you have a couple of hours of chat and play for the kids with snack for them, tea and coffee and biscuits for yourself!!

Open for play every Friday 9.30 – 11.30 – Term Time

Dates for Your Diary –

****Advance Notice****

NO TEDDY TODDLERS FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY
(Half Term School Holiday)

Christmas Night Out 2012 – Saturday 8 December

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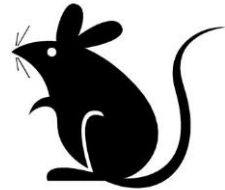
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I SAW A MOUSE! WHERE?

Unfortunately in recent weeks mice have been using the Church premises for food and shelter, especially around the kitchen area. Hopefully this problem has now been eradicated; however it would be appreciated if all individuals and organisations could ensure that all items of food are kept in airtight containers.



Property Committee.

BACK AND FORWARD

Looking back.....

Who among us who attended some or all of the Christmas Season Services can have failed to find at least one service that moved us?

On the 11th December we had our choir who with music, bible readings and verse retold the Christmas story in such a special way.

The week before Christmas it was the turn of the Sunday School and Bible Class to act out the Nativity in a traditional way, with shepherds, kings, angels, a donkey and of course Mary, Joseph and most importantly the baby Jesus. When the children sang “Away in a Manger” their sweet little voices portrayed the true meaning of Christmas. It was very encouraging to see so many children in church.

Our Christmas Eve Service was well attended

The Christmas Day Service was a joyful occasion with a Christmas quiz and the singing of the traditional carols. It was a lovely family service and indeed the congregation was made up mainly of families. It was good to see the young people attending, home from working in different parts or from university. Perhaps we should be more hopeful about the future of the church – it may only happen at Christmas but after all that was the start of a new beginning.

Looking forward.....

Forthcoming articles in the Newsletter –

Look out for –

An Elder Profile – get to know your Elders better

A Blast from the Past – find out the decisions our Office Bearers made in the past to ensure that our church is still open for you today.

News from local churches – find out what special events are taking place at other churches in Prestwick.

Situations Vacant – a facility for leaders of organisations and those in charge of rotas to circulate to members of the congregation what is required and an opportunity for **you** to become more involved in the running of the church.

News from the Pews – any event that you have taken part in or anything that is still to happen in which you think the congregation would be interested.

ELDERS DUTIES FOR COMMUNION **SUNDAY 4th MARCH 2012**

COMMUNION TABLE

A. Moir & M Foggo



South 1	C. Laverie	North 1	A. Armour
South 2	A. McPike	North 2	A. Connor
South 3	J. Yee	North 3	K. McKail
South 4	I. Ross	North 4	K. Mathers
South 5	H. Inglis	North 5	N. Inglis
South 6	W. Irvine	North 6	W. Elphinstone

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Cost £6.00 for 2 hours (refreshments provided)

Come along, have fun and make new friends.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2012

DAY

Sunday 1st
Monday 2nd
Tuesday 3rd
Wednesday 4th
Thursday 5th
Friday 6th

JOB

22:1 — 24:25
25:1 — 29:25
30:1 — 32:22
33:1 — 35:16
36:1 — 38:41
39:1 — 42:17



Saturday 7th

EXODUS

1:1 — 2:25

Sunday 8th
Monday 9th
Tuesday 10th
Wednesday 11th
Thursday 12th
Friday 13th
Saturday 14th

3:1 — 4:31
5:1 — 6:27
6:28 — 8:32
9:1 — 10:29
11:1 — 12:51
13:1 — 14:31
15:1 — 16:36



Sunday 15th
Monday 16th
Tuesday 17th
Wednesday 18th
Thursday 19th
Friday 20th
Saturday 21st

17:1 — 18:27
19:1 — 20:26
21:1 — 22:31
23:1 — 24:18
25:1 — 26:37
27:1 — 28:43
29:1 — 30:38

Sunday 22nd
Monday 23rd
Tuesday 24th
Wednesday 25th
Thursday 26th

31:1 — 33:6
33:7 — 34:35
35:1 — 36:38
37:1 — 38:31
39:1 — 40:38



Friday 27th
Saturday 28th

LEVITICUS

1:1 — 2:16
3:1 — 4:35

Sunday 29th

5:1 — 7:10

PARISH REGISTER

DEATHS

28th November - **Mrs Elizabeth Robb**, 50 Midton Road.
(*Parish Funeral*)

28th November - **Mrs Rene Murray**, 7 Culzean Avenue.
(*Non Member*)

12th December - **Mr Don Cameron**, 7D Monkton Court.

NEW MEMBER BY KIRK SESSION RESOLUTION

Mrs Patricia Law, 33a St. Ninians Road. (*Dist 9 – Shona McGill*)

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS



DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS



Just recently Kay and Sam Milliken celebrated their
Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

**Special congratulations to Kay and Sam from
everyone at Prestwick South.**

CHURCH CONTACTS

MINISTER:	Rev. Kenneth C. Elliott 68 St. Quivox Road.	TEL: 478788
SESSION CLERK:	Alan C. Moir 98 Ayr Road.	TEL: 476883
CLERK TO THE BOARD:	Malcolm Foggo 1 Woodland Street.	TEL: 470026
TREASURER:	Frank McQuade 5 Hunter Street.	TEL: 475632
GIFT AID CONVENER:	Aileen Telfer 79 Marchburn Avenue.	TEL: 678429
CHURCH SECRETARY & HALL LETTING CONVENER:	Dorothy McPherson Church Vestry.	TEL: 678556
ROLL KEEPER:	Allan Kerr 3 Cochrane Place.	TEL: 479960
PROPERTY CONVENER:	James Yee 20 Marina Road.	TEL: 477163
ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER:	David Ferguson 199 Hillfoot Road, Ayr.	TEL: 268992
SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS:	Katie McKail 49 Caerlaverock Road.	TEL: 475239
	Ann MacKay 15 Briarhill Street.	TEL: 477738
CHURCH OFFICER:	Willie Main 22 Bellesleyhill Road.	TEL: 286224

All items for our **MARCH NEWSLETTER** should be submitted by the conclusion of the Morning Service on Sunday the 19th February 2012.