

FOCUS

Portsoy Church Magazine



June 2022—July 2022

A Message from the Manse

It was only quite recently that I cut my last remaining tie with my old life back in Central Scotland. Well, I haven't cut off completely as my sisters and my brother are still there so I guess I'll still have to visit them every so often and as my niece recently gave birth to Colin John (CJ, to his friends...) that's all the more reason for the occasional visit. No, what I'm talking about is my house in Polmont, which I finally got around to selling a few weeks ago. It's only taken me over a year; can you tell I'm not the kind of person who likes to rush into things?

I wasn't holding onto it for any particular reason, as I'm here for good and I've no plans to go back - I suppose I just became so wrapped up in life here in Portsoy that taking care of selling it was low on my list of priorities. But I'm glad I have now, it's one less thing to worry about. It did mean I had to go back to clear out the things that I decided wouldn't come with me when I moved to Portsoy. Now I'm no hoarder, but I was quite surprised by all the items I'd collected over the years that I'd just squirreled away in the loft, rather than disposing of them when I didn't need them anymore. I got rid of old hi-fi's (three!), shelving units (two), duvets (one and a half, I think moths must have got to one of them) and assorted items of crockery and cutlery, none of which matched with each other.

Something that I did find, and decided to keep rather than throw away, was a box full of minidisks. (You might not remember, but minidisks were briefly popular about 20 years ago - they're like a miniature version of CDs). The trouble was,

I'd long ago lost my minidisc player, so I browsed around a popular online second-hand store (you'll know the one I mean), found one and bought it. And now I'm playing minidisks again, and I'm loving it.

So what am I telling you this for? Well, I think we're sometimes too quick to jettison the things that used to give us pleasure, thinking that there's something better around the corner. And maybe it's like that with the church too. There's such a lot of history behind the church here in Portsoy, in Fordyce and in Sandend too, and while there are changes on the horizon I think it's best that we don't move too quickly, don't make rash decisions about which traditions and which practices to keep and which to consign to history. We don't want to look back in years to come and say, 'I wish we hadn't done that.' We won't be able to just go online and get it back, after all. Which is not to say we can't say 'sayonara' to the moth-eaten duvets in our cupboards, if you know what I mean!

Every blessing

John

If you need me for anything or if you just want to call for a chat, you can reach me at the manse on 01261 838 506.

Funerals

1 April	David Sutherland
13 April	Betty Wood
24 May	Pat Gardner

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Christian Aid Week

Thank you all so much for your generous support for Christian Aid. The total raised from envelopes and the quiz was £620. This year the appeal focused on families in Zimbabwe where drought is making every day a struggle for survival. Let's pray that our offering, when added to the overall total raised by Christian Aid Week, may help them to grow food to feed their families, and enable them to live full and happy lives.

Boat Festival Teas in the Church Centre Saturday 18th June

As many of you will know, before Covid brought so many activities to a standstill, the Church Guild organized the sale of teas, coffees, home bakes and freshly-made sandwiches in the Church Centre on the Saturday of the Boat Festival. This has always been a very successful event, raising money for the Guild's charity projects and for the church. We would like to do this again this year, but as in past years we rely on many people supporting us by providing delicious home bakes and also volunteers who would be willing to help on the day.

There will be sign up sheets at the back of the Church at Coffee and Company and on Sunday mornings.

If you could help make this year's effort a success please sign up or get in touch with our Minister, John Gow or any Guild member.

*Thank
you*

WELCOME TEAMS

10.30am Portsoy Church Centre

5 June	Edith Stuart & Eileen Brown
12 June	Helen D'Arcy & Yvonne McKay
19 June	Moira McKenzie & Joan Morrison
26 June	Margaret Whewell & Olwen Christie
3 July	Edith Stuart & Eileen Brown
10 July	Helen D'Arcy & Yvonne McKay
17 July	Moira McKenzie & Joan Morrison
24 July	Margaret Whewell & Olwen Christie
31 July	Edith Stuart & Eileen Brown
7 August	Helen D'Arcy & Yvonne McKay
14 August	Moira McKenzie & Joan Morrison
21 August	Margaret Whewell & Olwen Christie
28 August	Edith Stuart & Eileen Brown

FLOWER LIST

June	July	August
5 Sheila McKay	3 Edith Stuart	7 Flower Fund
12 Flower Fund	10 Flower Fund	14 Anne McArthur
19 Owen Christie	17 Eileen Brown	21 Yvonne McKay
26 Margaret Whewell	24 Helenor Henderson	28 Sheila McKay
	31 Helen D' Arcy	

Many thanks to all who donate to the Flower Fund. This allows us to have beautiful flowers in church each Sunday, which we gift to members of the community after the service.

*If you would like to join the flower rota, please let Margaret know.
(01261 843 125)*

Cross

This evocative cross, which is on display in the Church Centre, was presented to the church recently by a gentleman who wishes to remain anonymous. He isn't a member of Portsoy Church, nor has he ever attended worship with us, but the church helped him when he was in need. Along with his gift, he included the following message:

Psalm 122:1

"I rejoice with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the House of the Lord.'"

'As work was taking place regarding the refurbishment and extension of Portsoy Church, I had purchased a wooden garage in need of its own renovation.

Some would say by luck, I would say by Divine providence, I required a washer for a replacement thermostat on my hot water tank and the only place to get said washer was in Portsoy. As I went to collect the washer I had to pass the church and there to my amazement and excitement was a skip full of wood off cuts and some larger pieces to the side of the church.

I took the opportunity to stop and have a conversation with the builder, an understanding and helpful person. I informed him of my requirements and he informed me that the wood was due for destruction as it could not be used in the church project, and that I was welcome to take what I required. Having repaired my garage and converted it into a workshop with the wood provided, I utilised some of the church wood remnants and items of my own to make this mark of gratitude for the

provision of materials
and in praise of the
Lord's intervention in
my time of need.'



Thank you so much for the lovely
flowers I received today from the
Church Easter Service
"Bright start" to a dull Monday
morning.

OLWEN
Thanks to Owen for her delivery
and kind words.

Grace Smith

Another
thank you!



Prayer Focus

"Then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil." Deuteronomy 11:14

Spring....the most wonderful time of the year. We are experiencing the beautiful panorama of God's creation, especially the many colourful flowers and the green of the trees which have come in to bloom. The birds can be heard singing their heads off from very early in the mornings and we can see them being very busy preparing to build their nests. It is wonderful to watch so many different species, especially the gold finches and woodpeckers coming to eat the seeds and nuts on my bird feeders. How can we experience all that and not give thanks and praise to God?

The delights of springtime and the regular changing seasons remind us of God's faithfulness. When Noah and his family and the animals came out of the ark after the flood waters receded, God gave them this promise:- "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, day and night will not cease". (Genesis 8:22). He has been faithful to keep His promise ever since.

It is God who reminds the sun to rise at its appointed time in the morning. It is God who keeps the earth turning around. It is God who feeds the birds and dresses the flowers in their splendour. It is God who guides the flocks south in the autumn and then brings them back in the spring. As we see the wonders of creation all around us, let's thank and worship the One who

designed them and for His faithfulness.

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.
Gracious God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

Father God, inspire us so that we may see the beauty of Your creation. Eyes to see and ears to appreciate the loveliness of earth and sky and stars, the song of the birds, the colour of flowers, the movement of animals, and a mind to understand something of the laws of nature and all that You have made in this vast universe. Each day as we look around we see Your hand in all that we survey. Thank You, Lord, for such blessings and for Your never failing faithfulness.

Trust Him

Trust Him when dark doubts attack you.
Trust Him when your strength is small.
Trust Him when to simply trust Him is the hardest thing of all.
Trust Him, He is ever faithful.
Trust Him, for His will is best.
Trust Him, for the heart of Jesus is the only place to rest.
Trust Him, then, through clouds and sunshine.
All your cares upon Him cast,
Till the storm of life is over
And your trusting days are past.

Anon.



John presented Church of Scotland long service certificates to Edith Stuart, Anne McArthur and Joan Morrison on Easter Sunday. A combined 96 years of service as Elders at Portsoy Church between them!



It's been so good to see the children and parents back for the Well Café. Every Friday during school terms times the Church Centre is now full of fun, food and frolics!

Who Am I?

So do you know your Bible? Here are the answers from the quiz in the last Focus.

I am the first king of Israel. Who am I?

Saul (1 Samuel 10:24-26)

My brothers are Shem and Ham. Who am I?

Japheth (Genesis 6:10)

I am the Jacob's first wife. Who am I?

Leah (Genesis 29:21-23)

I asked God for wisdom. Who am I?

Solomon (1 Kings 3:9)

Until Jesus changed my name, I was known as Simon. Who am I?

Peter (Matthew 16:18)

I am the first farmer ever. Who am I?

Cain (Genesis 4:2)

John the Baptist is my son. Who am I?

Elizabeth (Luke 1:6)

Jesus called me a fox. Who am I?

Herod (Luke 13:32)

I'm Joshua's father. Who am I?

Nun (Joshua 1:1)

I came to the world to 'seek and save the lost.' Who am I?

Jesus Christ (John 2:15)

FOCUS DEADLINE

The next edition of Focus will cover August to September 2022. Please let Johanna Sturrock have articles and any photographs for inclusion no later than Sunday 17 July. unicornathome@gmail.com.

Portsoy Guild

Update on meeting held Tuesday 10th May 2022

Thank you to all those who attended this meeting and helped us to make some decisions about the way forward for our Guild, post Covid.

Thank you also to John for his entertaining (and frank) talk about his "Path to Portsoy". How grateful we all are that God directed his feet along that path, and for all he's doing here. Following our short time of worship, and John's talk, we had a time of discussion about the future of the Guild, and several decisions were made:

The new Session will run from September 2022 through to the AGM in March 2023.

Meetings will begin at 2pm, and finish at approximately 3.30pm, so we should still be heading home before it is dark.

Ian Whewell to be Treasurer, Sheila Mackay having now resigned after long service in that position. Thank you Sheila for all your work keeping our accounts in apple-pie order. You have always been so efficient and up to date with it all. Ian has a hard act to follow!

Margaret Whewell to continue as Contact Person/Secretary for the time being.

Those at the meeting expressed a willingness to run the Boat Festival teas on 18th June. However we always need help from many friends (not just Guild members) to make this event successful so please put the word out to any you know who might be willing to bake for us and/or lend a hand.

The Thrift Shop is also to go ahead in July, and the same applies - many helpers needed. (Date for this to be confirmed soon).

It was felt that whilst we may not be able to raise a formal committee, we do need a group of members willing and able to meet occasionally to discuss the organizing of such events. Janet Hamilton, Allana MacKay, Yvonne Mackay, Ian Whewell, John Gow and Margaret Whewell volunteered to be part of such a group, and we will be holding a meeting soon. If anyone else would like to join us we'd love to have you on board. Please get in touch with Margaret.

It was decided that as there is money left in the Guild account from before Covid, membership should be free for the 2022 - 23 Session.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a Guild meeting in the Church Centre at 2pm on 7th June in preparation for the resumption of regular Guild meetings in September. This will be an opportunity for us to find out a little about the projects, and to share ideas and suggestions for the new session. All welcome, members, potential members and friends. Please join us.

Margaret Whewell 01261 843 125, or email margaret.whewell@btopenworld.com





Please contact Olwen Christie (Pastoral Care Convener) on 01261 843 680 if you know of anyone who is ill at home or in hospital (especially Dr Gray's in Elgin as we are not notified).

Community Diary:

A diary of local events has been placed in the Portsoy Ice Cream Shop for use by everyone. This will enable event organisers to check that the date and time of their event will not clash with another already planned.

Please pass this on to any other local groups. To work effectively everyone will need to check the diary and ensure their own event is entered in it.

A Christian book lending library is available in the meeting room in the Church Centre

If you see something you fancy reading, just put your name in the register, borrow the book and sign it back in when you're finished.



PRAYER CIRCLE

Name:
(Not necessary)

Please pray for:
.....
.....

Please place completed slip in box at church door or hand to the minister or Edith Stuart.

Directory

Minister

Rev. John Gow
Tel: 01261 838 506
E-mail: jgow@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk

Mrs Yvonne McKay, 11 The Steadings,
Findochty, AB56 Tel: 07592 395 581
E-mail: Yvonne@therealmckay.co.uk

Treasurer

Mr Raymond Wilson 5 St Tarquin's Place,
Fordyce, AB45 2SH Tel: 01261 842204
E-mail: raymondwilsonpfp@btinternet.com

Gift Aid Convener

Mr Ian Whewell, Eynhallow, 14 South High
Street, Portsoy. Tel:01261 843 125
E-mail: ian.whewell@btinternet.com

Church Website

Mr Ian Whewell - as above

Church Centre Convener Mr Ian Whewell - as above
(For bookings)

Centre Caretaker

Mrs Sarah Willis, 40, Gordon Crescent,
Portsoy Tel:01261 843 928 or
07756 53 5731
E-mail: sarahsfamily@btinternet.com

Focus

Mrs Johanna Sturrock
21 Hill Street, Portsoy. Tel: 07766 390 318
E-mail: unicornathome@gmail.com

DIRECTORY (CONTINUED)

<i>Pastoral Care Group Convener</i>	Olwen Christie	01261 843680
<i>Outreach Group Convener</i>	Paul Williams	01261 842338
<i>Finance & Property Group Convener</i>	Ian Whewell	01261 843125
<i>Social Group Convener</i>	Helen D'Arcy	01261 842340
<i>Administration Group Convener</i>	Anne McArthur	01261 842474

Service Times

10.30am at the Church Centre every Sunday

(refreshments served after Sunday services)

Please join us for all are welcome

Website—<http://www.portsoychurch.org>

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Scottish Charity No: SC 000522