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Editor's note

I am delighted, no relieved, to say that Helen Jeffrey has kindly agreed to help me produce the newsletter. Valerie had faithfully produced it for many years and I now realise the work involved!!!

A very big, big thankyou Valerie for all your hard work and hopefully you can now sit back and relax with a cup of tea as you read this issue.

Please Note: although Helen and I will do everything possible to include items sent for the newsletter in full, there may be times when we have to edit material.

Irene Smith

Monkton and Prestwick North Church Magazine

Autumn 2016



Monkton and Prestwick North Parish
Church of Scotland.
Scottish Charity No. SC004271

10 Monkton Road, Prestwick
Scotland, KA9 1AR
01292678810

From David...

What does it mean to be a member of the church? This is actually a difficult question that has very complex answers, and, provokes more questions. Members are people who have been accepted into membership. But where does that leave people who attend regularly but have never officially 'signed up'? What of people who join but then never attend even although they are able to? As a congregation our membership has fallen over the past 20 years but the number attending each Sunday has been fairly steady. This is mainly because we have regularly updated the church roll.

Each congregation in Presbytery has been asked to contact every person on the roll and ask for their current name, address etc. This is to comply with Data Protection legislation and we have no choice but to participate. This means that each member will receive a form which contains the details we currently hold about them and we are asking that any changes or additional information be added and the forms returned. It would be very helpful if you would give us an email address as we occasionally pass on details of funerals etc. NONE of this information will be given to other organisations except those to whom we are obliged to pass information e.g. HMRC require information for Gift Aid claims. All of the information will only be available to the church Secretary and the Treasurer, everybody else, including me, will have limited access as we do not require full access.

We are required to try and obtain this information for anyone whose details we keep on our church roll and there is a strong likelihood that failure to give the requested information will result in names being removed from the roll. Elders will be delivering forms with October Communion cards and can answer any other questions you have. Please check your details and return the form. It is important that we comply with the law and we need your help to do that.



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If you are interested in advertising in the Grapevine, email Irene at magazine@mpchurch.org.uk for details.



Would you and your children like to join us for a light meal? Would you like to take part in crafts and games based on a bible theme? Would you like to listen to stories and sing songs? Then come along to Messy Church at Monkton Church Hall on the 4th Sunday of each month from 4pm – 6pm. You can be sure of a warm welcome and lots of fun.



Young Church

All babies, children and young people welcome every Sunday at Young Church.

For details contact: Lesley McCarrell on
01292 477779

Elaine's Childminding Services

Registered Childminder / 26yrs in Early Year Education

Open Days available on request

Contact: Elaine Wardrop 155 Adamton Road South,
Prestwick.

01292 857153 / 07526128194wardrop.elaine@gmail.com

Please remember to pray for the BB and GB, Young Church, the Guild and all the other organisations that are working in the congregation and community. We are very blessed to have a great number of volunteers who serve the congregation and I want to express my thanks for all their efforts. Wishing you God's blessing

David

PROPOSED CAR POOL

One of the targets from the ongoing Local Church Review is to establish a pool of drivers to bring members with mobility problems to church on Sunday mornings. We are aware that informal arrangements already exist but believe that there is scope for more volunteer drivers. If you are able to support this venture or know the names of any members who would be happy to use this service, please contact Lesley Keenan or myself.

Jim Riach (Pastoral Care Committee)

Recipe – Peanut Cookies

Ingredients: *1 x cup peanut butter*

1 x cup white sugar

1 x egg

Method: *Preheat oven to 350F / 175C. Combine all ingredients together. Drop spoonfuls of dough onto lined baking tray. Bake for approx. 10/12 mins. Do not overbake. Leave to cool and set.*

Evelyn McHarg

World Horizons - Zoe's Gap Year Mission

From September 2016 to July 2017, I am joining the World Horizons Charity on an overseas placement.

I am fundraising

To make this gap year placement possible, I need to raise around £2000.

Would you like to donate? Your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

To find out more / donate please get in touch:

Text 07534431840 or email zloach16@ gmail.com

Join me in my journey

I will be writing a newsletter throughout my gap year. You can join my mailing list by e-mailing me.



What I will be doing:

Training – Sept. to Dec. 2016 in Wales where I will be taught about working in a cross-cultural context, team building and biblical principles as I work alongside a local church.

Placement: Jan – July 2017.

Locations include North Africa, India, Turkey or France where activities include prayer ministries, teaching English, sports groups, church planting and more.



Do you, or anyone you know need prayer? The church has a prayer chain where requests for prayer are sent to a prayer team by email or text and prayer begins immediately. This is a great opportunity to serve others and see the power of God working. Prayer requests will be handled with confidentiality.

For requests or if you wish to be part of the prayer team please contact: Tricia Harkness 07974690489 or Maureen McCreadie on 07561300585

Power of prayer

*Exceedingly great is the power of prayer.
Strength it supplies to banish care.
Courage to face the darkest night.
Faith that shines like a holy light.
When the heart is sad and filled with fear
there is a friend who is always near.
So ask Him to help you, the burden to share.
Then you will know the power of prayer.*

A Little Note...

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support over the past few weeks. I felt very blessed.

Margaret Thompson

Thank you to everyone who has been praying for my daughter Debbie. Knowing so many people have been praying for her has been wonderful.

Emily Kerr

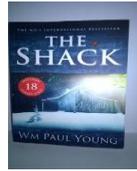
'World Horizons exists on behalf of places and people not yet prayed for, churches not yet planted and cross-cultural workers not yet sent. We are a praying, prophetic, pioneering, pastoral mission movement'

Book Review

'The Shack'

by

Wm. P. Young



I was loaned this book by a dear friend who worships at the Salvation Army. I was, according to her, a 'must read' book and she was certain I would love it. I wasn't so sure. You see, I'm more a Stephen King kind of a gal. You know the sort of thing - murder, mystery and a whole host of characters displaying every human flaw imaginable. *The Shack* however, is Christian fiction (not my normal choice of genre) so I wasn't sure what to expect. It didn't take long to discover though, that it also contained murder, mystery and characters with a host of human flaws! The story is centred round the protagonist, Mack, who experiences every parents' worst nightmare when his child is abducted and murdered. I must point out that it didn't go into any macabre or blood-soaked detail, although I did find it slightly uncomfortable and almost put the book down. I am so glad I didn't. This is where the real story begins with Mack returning to the shack and in doing so encounters God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The author attempts to answer age old questions regarding the part played by God in human suffering as well as clarifying the trinity in a way which will have you experiencing a myriad of emotion. I have to warn you - this book will make you laugh and cry. However, writing Christian fiction has the difficulty of making decisions between theological accuracy (as well as personal belief and interpretation) and what works for the story. For example, think how you would describe God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit? This is fiction, not theology. Yet this book made me think about and view others differently and it made me want to lift my bible and read it anew. Did it really matter that it wasn't written perfectly? Did it matter that it may not be theologically accurate? No to both of these questions. This book was about Mack's journey with God, and his personal relationship with Him. It made me question my own relationship with God also and made me attempt to get my head round the Trinity. In conclusion I think it made me a better person reading it and I felt closer to God through Jesus. What more can you ask of a book? I certainly never felt like that from reading any of Mr King's novels.

Helen Jeffrey

Young, W. (2007) *The Shack*, Hodder & Stoughton Ltd, London, ISBN. 978 0 340 97949 5.

WHY FAIRTRADE?

"It's not fair." How often do we hear children saying this? How often have we said or thought it ourselves? Our supermarkets are not very 'Fair' to producers - especially our dairy farmers. Twelve years ago I decided to investigate how we, as a congregation, could do something about it.



Life is unfair for people living in remote regions. They have no access to education or knowledge of improving their yield. They are unable to afford fertilisers, have no access to markets, squeezed by middlemen and have no help when crops fail.



I discovered that Traidcraft were working to help such groups with all these problems. Traidcraft paid them a fair and guaranteed price for produce - the 'Fairtrade Premium' (money paid to a village / co-operative to use for their greatest need e.g. water supply, build schools/clinic or supply machinery to help their productivity). It is Traidcraft Exchange that does most of this development work. I fully support their aim - **TO HELP PEOPLE WORK THEIR WAY OUT OF POVERTY**. So what did I do? I became a 'Fairtrader'. I joined a large and growing group of people mainly Christians who buy goods from Traidcraft and sell them at stalls in their churches and at events. This is how most of Traidcraft's products are sold. Their large range of products is displayed in their colourful brochures. **What do I do with the profit I make?** Over the years I have donated to Malawi projects, Traidcraft Exchange, 'Gifts for Life' (details in the brochure), Guild projects and, nearer home, the tea and instant coffee used in the church kitchen. Sadly we are limited locally to where we can buy Fairtrade goods. That's where I come in. You can buy from me! There is also a large variety of Christmas Cards in the Autumn brochure so please put them on your shopping list. Thank you to all who have supported me and Fairtrade over the years.

Margaret Goodlad.



The 1st Monkton and Prestwick Girls Brigade meets on Monday evenings at 6.30pm, and we warmly welcome back all our girls both old and new.

We are committed to offering our girls a safe, secure environment supervised by adult officers who work within a Christian framework where each leader has undertaken an Enhanced Disclosure Check. Our girls are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of age appropriate activities with a view to enhancing their personal and social development at their own pace.

Girls Brigade works within local communities to offer a four sided programme of informal education which mirrors the Curriculum for Excellence as offered in Scottish schools.

We are committed to offering older members the opportunity to undertake leadership training and service to others is key to what we do in all age groups. It is our intention to help girls of today to become capable, confident citizens of the 21st century. Susan Christie (Capt.)

Explorers P1-P3 6.30pm to 7.45pm

Juniors P4-P7 6.30pm to 8.15pm

Brigaders (Secondary) 6.30pm to 8.15pm

Celebration Box

Congratulations to **Peggy White** who celebrated her 90th Birthday in August.

Lorraine and Graham would like to thank everyone for the gifts and best wishes they received on the birth of their son **David**

Samantha and Martin 's son **Aaron Lamont** was baptised on Sun 4th Sept.

New Session Clerk

My name is Lesley Keenan and I've been at MPN since August 2014 having taken early retirement from the Isle of Man Government where I was Deputy Chief Executive of the Department of Health and Social Care. My husband Tom and I returned to Prestwick after an 18- year absence and are delighted to be 'home'.



I was ordained as an Elder on 15 May 1994 at Kingcase Parish Church and have continued in this role in the various churches I have been a member of over the years.

It was a privilege to be asked by the Minister to consider the role of Session Clerk, but to be honest I felt a bit like Moses (I couldn't do this) so a lot of praying went on before I finally accepted. Thank you to my fellow Elders in the Kirk Session for giving me their final approval.

I know that Jim Riach will be a hard act to follow and I'm obliged to Jim for showing me the ropes over the past few months. To serve as Session Clerk for 25 years is quite an achievement and one that I won't achieve as my term is for 5 years and as a great supporter of succession planning I will be looking for my successor over the next few years!

I would welcome prayer and support from the congregation as I settle into this new role as I'm sure that I will make mistakes or I may do things differently.

This is not just a new beginning for me. The church has its own great adventure with the Path of Renewal and we all need to pray and support this. I know it's a bit scary, however we can be confident in the knowledge that God already knows what He wants from us as a church and all we have to do is pray, be patient and serve Him the way He has called us.

An Interview with...

This is going to be a regular feature and will be a great way to get to know people. I think it is only appropriate that we begin with **Jim Riach** our retiring session clerk, but - it could be you next time!

Q. You have been session clerk for 25 years, what has been the biggest change that you have seen?

A. This church has always been evolving so change is part of the process of “church.” However, one of the conditions that I made before taking the role was that the minutes would be done on the computer. Minutes were, and still are in some churches, written by hand on manuscripts. So probably the use of technology is a biggest change.

Q. What is the strangest thing that has ever happened whilst being in this role?

A. Well, very recently we had a most unusual visitor to the church who thought joining the Zumba class seemed like a good idea. It was a very frightened squirrel got into the hall and caused a bit of chaos.

Q. Do you have a favourite hymn?

A. I don't actually have a favourite hymn but my favourite tune is Highland Cathedral so any hymn sung to that I would enjoy.

Q. Do you have any advice for Lesley our new session clerk?

A. Lesley is more than capable and I wouldn't offer her advice. Change is important and people have to do things in their own way but it is important that the session and the congregation support her all the way.

It was so kind of you Jim to agree to doing this interview. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all you've done over the years.

*Don't rest on your laurels though for a wee birdie tells me that Pat already has a 'to do' list for you. **Irene***



Sponsor a Space

We are delighted to tell you that we have come to the end of a successful Summer Programme. We were amazed and encouraged by everyone's support and we secured enough funding through “Sponsor a Space” to run our whole Summer Programme. All of your generous donations allowed us to take our young people to the Safari Park, a high-ropes course, a shopping day, an outdoor activity centre and a day of swimming and go-karting. We were able to pay admission for 18 people each week, for young people who would otherwise be unable to afford days out like this, and were also able to provide packed lunches and snacks for the trips as well.



“I really enjoyed the summer programme! I made some new friends and it filled my days. Thanks so much for taking us out on the amazing trips, it made my summer a 10! Thanks so much for it! The go-karting was the best

“Eric” is one of our regular young people. We have seen a significant change in him and his behaviour over the last 3 years, and we know that opportunities like this have played a part in that change. He was also amazed when he found out that people were so willing to support the programme and our young people. He asked us to pass on his thanks.



The theme for the Guild this year is “Go in Joy”, what a wonderful theme. We hope to reflect that JOY in all we do at the Guild.

We resumes on **Thursday 29th September** and have a full and vibrant syllabus. Everyone, male, female, young and those a wee bit older are all very welcome to join us. We meet every second Thursday afternoon at 2pm in the small hall. This really is a wonderful time of fun, fellowship and worship. Margaret Goodlad, our convener, and the rest of the committee would love to see you there.

On **Thursday 20th October** we have the Rev John Campbell as our speaker. He plays instruments and sings and is also a member of the magic circle. All this and a Gospel message too - not an afternoon to be missed!

Irene Smith (Guild Secretary)

1st PRESTWICK BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY

The 1st Prestwick Company meet on Friday evenings at the following times:



Anchor Boys (Primary 1 - 3) 6.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. – Boys must have reached their 5th birthday.

Junior Section (Primary 4 - 7) 6.30 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

Company Section (S1 – S6) 7.15 p.m. – 9.45 p.m.

A warm welcome awaits all boys old and new.

Please contact Captain Sam Gilmour on 01292 470614 or Pat Simpson on 01292 477289 if you require further information.



The Gathering meets in Monkton on the second **Sunday of the month at 4pm**. It's a time of food, fellowship and worship all in a relaxed, informal way, suitable for all ages. Currently we are looking at the story of Moses leading God's people out of Egypt and what a story it is!!! The Gathering is usually lead by volunteers, well people who have been gently persuaded to 'step out of the boat.' It really is a relaxed time together and would be a great opportunity to introduce family & friends to worship.

Pioneer Café ???

Life at the pioneer cafe has been one of uncertainty; "what is the way forward?" "How can we continue and develop this Christian outreach?" These are difficult questions but if we put our trust in God He will give us the resources we need to fulfil this very worthwhile cause. The cafe not only provides a food outlet but a wonderful opportunity for us to support people who perhaps need some experience of work. We have had a number of volunteers who moved onto employment. We wish them all the best in their future.



The café also provides work experience for people who have a learning disability. They are an essential part of our team and is a great opportunity for them to develop both social and catering skills. The cafe is supported by many people who bake and make soup and we are extremely grateful for the way they use their gifts. Our customers certainly appreciate all that's on offer. Providing good food as well as a friendly welcome is what the cafe is all about! A recent Environmental inspection gave us a glowing report and a big thank you goes to Sandi and all the volunteers for their hard work. The cafe is open **Mon, Tues, Wed and Friday 10am-3pm**. If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer even for an hour over our busy lunchtime please contact Sandi Monro or Mary Yuille .



So many of our Church Family follow with interest, where and what Scott is performing, which I know he values and appreciates. As many of you will be aware, he is currently working in Spain with a production company called Live Business, providing production shows to two Thomson Gold hotels. He will return home at the end of October for four weeks before heading off to rehearsals for Panto.

This year, he is delighted once again to return to the Maltings Theatre in Berwick, where he will play the role of the Prince in their production of Sleeping Beauty. Many of you suggested to me last year about the possibility of running a bus from Ayrshire, but for a number of reasons, this wasn't possible. However, because of the number of people who suggested it last year, I am more than happy to try to organise this at Christmas this year, if there is enough interest.

The plan would be to arrange an outing to Berwick to see a matinee performance on the afternoon of **Wednesday 28th December**. Tickets for the show are priced at £15, with the cost of the bus to be added on. I would suggest we would leave Prestwick at **10.00am**, travel to Berwick, leaving time to have a bite of lunch or a coffee before the show at 2.00pm. We would then travel home after the show, returning to Ayrshire around **7.30pm**.

Should this be of interest, I would be grateful if you could contact me on 01292 314867 or e-mail me at david.watson6@sky.com by Sunday 16th October. Many thanks,

David Watson



At MPN, we currently sponsor 4 children in total. Young Church sponsors one child and 3 individuals/ families sponsor 3 children between them. Recently, Peter from Adopt A Child came to share with us the need for this organisation and the work that they do. Sponsoring a child allows them to access a feeding programme and provides support for the children and their families. Sponsoring costs £18 per month.

I am the church contact person for Adopt A Child at MPN, if you think you might be interested in sponsoring or if you would like more information, please contact me on 07526128194 or see me in church. Thank you,

Elaine Wardrop



We enjoyed our summer break but are now back up and running. We meet every **Wednesday, 2.30pm-4pm** in the Session Room. We are made up of mixed ages and mixed abilities. We enjoy a cuppa and friendship as we share our skills. We continue to knit squares to make blankets and we provide baby hats to the Maternity Unit at Crosshouse Hospital. We have quite a large stock of beautifully knitted items. If you would be interested in buying anything, we can arrange this. Likewise, if you know of anyone in need of knitted garments or if you would like more information please contact: Catherine McCormick or Elaine Wardrop 07526128194.

The Lunch Club

The lunch club meets twice a month, once in Prestwick and once in Monkton. This is a great opportunity to have a two course meal, tea or coffee for £3.50 and fellowship comes free! Everybody of all ages welcome. Look forward to seeing you all on **12th October** at Prestwick or **20th October** in Monkton.



Janette Munro.

Prestwick Prom



MPN Church, once again this year, had a stall at Prestwick Prom. As usual we were giving out free hugs. We also played fruits of the spirit Jenga and Reverse Jenga for the adults (they write on a brick and build up a tower with their ideas about church). We also had Messy Church at the stall, where we provided Olympic themed activities for the children.

Prom Day is a fantastic community event that attracts many people from both Prestwick and elsewhere. We had the privilege of meeting lots of people and had many opportunities to chat about church and share our faith – what's more, we had lots of fun too!

Discovery

Walking Group: We feel very blessed to work together with our friends from Sutherland House. It is a wonderful facility run by a fabulous team of volunteers providing support for adults with learning difficulties. We



continue to have fun together, building friendships and sharing skills through a variety of activities. During the Summer months we met to enjoy a bowl of soup together followed by a leisurely walk. Our last walk was rounded off with a delicious ice cream

and we hope to start up again in the Spring. Thanks to everyone who helped with making soup and for joining us on our walks.

Healthy Eating Cookery Group: The group recently completed their Food Hygiene training. We would like to express our grateful thanks to Susie Dunlop from East Ayrshire Council for giving her time and resources to provide the training. Susie will be presenting the certificates during morning worship in the near future. We would like to thank you all for your continued prayers and support, they are greatly appreciated.

Coffee Buddies: Coffee Buddies meet every 2nd Thursday in Sainsbury's Café (who always make us very welcome and go out of their way to accommodate our large group). We meet from 1.30pm-2.30pm. We enjoy a cuppa, and more importantly, friendship. A very warm welcome to anyone who wishes to join us through the Winter months. Buddies Dates: **Thursday 6th October / Thursday 20th October**



If anyone would like more information on any of the above activities or if you think you may like to become more involved, please contact **Elaine Wardrop on 07526128194.**

CONTACT LIST

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<u>KIRK SESSION</u>		
Discipleship	Sam Gilmour	01292 470614
Fabric & Finance	Allan MacBain	01292 479092
Outreach	Mrgt. MacBain	01292 479092
Pastoral Care	Jim Riach	01292 476458
Worship	Scott Wardrop	01292 857153

FLOWER LIST

		Donated	Delivered
Oct.	2nd	Vicky Parker	Ann Leckie
	9 th	Valerie Gregg	Lorna Frazer
	16 th	Mary Yuille	Margaret Goodlad
	23 rd	Elsbeth Manson	Linda Welsh
	30 th	Liz Ewing	Margaret Ferguson
Nov.	6 th	Mr & Mrs Yates	Lesley McCarrell
	13 th	Pat Simpson	Elaine Wardrop
	20 th	Marie Cuthbert	Jim McLachlan
	27 th	Mr & Mrs Clayton	Jan Armour
Dec.	4 th	Liz Ewing	Carrie Lamont
(11 th / 8 th Jan Christmas Decorations)			

If you hear of a situation where flowers would be appropriate, please contact me on 01292 479472.

Margaret Ferguson (Flower Convener).

