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Torbain Parish Church of Scotland

e-mail: torbain.church@gmail.com

website: www.torbainchurch.org

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EASTER ISSUE



Torbain Parish Church, Carron Place, Kirkcaldy. KY2 6PS (Scottish Charity No. SC015807)

Email: torbain.church@gmail.com Website: www.torbainchurch.org

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Emergency

We have a Church Emergency Contact Number if anyone finds themselves in difficulty due to the present situation. It is 07913 611018. We also have an additional email address which is torbainkirkcaldy@gmail.com or message us on our Torbain Parish Church Facebook page.

Please note that ALL worship services, meetings and activities which would normally take place within the Church have had to be suspended until further notice due to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Emergency. Please follow us on our website at www.torbainchurch.org or on the Torbain Parish Church Facebook Page for details of our online services and Bible Studies.

TORBAIN CHURCH - CONTACT LIST

**Ordained Local Minister - Rev. Brian Porteous (*), 'Kildene', Westfield Road, Cupar KY15 5DS
Telephone - 01334 653561(House) 0779 669 4413(Mobile)**

**Session Clerk/Organist/Presbytery Elder-Gordon Thomson (*) 28 Craigearn Avenue, Kirkcaldy, KY2 6YS
Telephone - 0798 512 2242**

Interim Moderator	Rev Catriona Morrison	265536
Depute Session Clerk	Ken Gilbert (*)	268970
Congregational Treasurer	John Bulloch (*)	0747 602 3707
Gift Aid Convenor & Printing	Graeme O'Malley	261905
Free Will Offering Convenor	Fiona Cunningham (*)	269297
Prayer Promoter	Liz Bradley	269520
Life & Work Promoter	Wendy Sinclair	202246
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Joyce Leggate (*)	264789
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Andy Leggate	264789
Community Outreach Worker (Part Time)	Lauren Jones	0791 361 1018
Property Convenor	Bill McMurray (*)	202173
Pastoral Care	Elizabeth Pringle	266080
Hall Letting	Ken Gilbert (*)	268970
Church Flowers	Joyce Leggate (*)	264789

(*) - Member of Co-ordinating Group

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS - CONTACTS

Friendship Group	-	Graeme O'Malley	261905
Over 60s Club	-	Rose Stewart	261230
Bairns, a Blether and a Brew	-	Details from Gordon Thomson	0798 512 2242
Friday Morning Pre-School Fun	-	Lauren Jones	0791 361 1018
Girlguiding Rangers	-	Marjory Aird	0776 444 7610
Girlguiding Guides	-	Sharon Thomson	0753 349 3472
Girlguiding Brownies	-	Irene Fairgrieve	268787
Girlguiding Rainbows	-	Susan Morton	205397
The Scouts/ Cubs / Beavers	-	Andy Leggate	264789

(meeting in Scout Hall)

Elders' Districts

District No. & Location	Elder	District No. & Location	Elder
1. Lindores	L Bradley 269520	10. Glens	G O'Malley 261905
2. Otterston / Birnam	M Knight 266915	11. Dunnikier (1)	A Stalker 206053
3. Lindores / Davaar	M Forrester 571920	12. Dunnikier (2)	E Pringle 266080
4. Torbain	G Thomson (see above)	13. Kirkcaldy (Central)	J Gallo 267561
5. Greenloanings	J Leggate 264789	14. Kirkcaldy (West)	B Currie 641704
6. Craigmount	W Sinclair 202246	15. Chapel Level	F Cunningham 269297
7. Blackcraigs/Redcraigs	B&C McMurray 202173	16. Oriel Rd/Newliston	K Gilbert 268970
8. Glamis	B MacGregor 200002	17. Sauchenbush	G Blair 262479
9. Chapelhill	M Rowan 200345		

Ministers Message



It is impossible to start these few words without reflecting on the sadness we all are feeling at this time for the passing of the Rev. Peter Macdonald and our thoughts and prayers are with Lesley and the family. The shock of Peter's death has left many in Torbain Church bereft with a deep sense of loss because Peter's ministry meant so much to us and he did so much to build our fellowship and reach out into our community. He will be greatly missed by the church nationally, by all his past congregations and especially his most recent congregation at Broughton St. Marys in Edinburgh and by all who knew him. Our lives are touched often by great joy and happiness but then also by pain and deep sadness. In our Sunday services during Lent we have been focusing on Paul's second letter to the Church in Corinth in which he tries to explain the nature of suffering in the lives of Christians. His motivation for writing the letter was to tackle false teachers in that church who were, amongst other false prophecies, suggesting that the sufferings experienced by individual church members were because they were not good enough followers of Christ.

Paul was very direct in challenging these views. He was clear from his personal experience that suffering had nothing to do with how good or bad we were as Christians. He also pointed directly to the sufferings Christ himself endured so that we could have a renewed relationship with God and life everlasting, life in all its fullness.

As we journey through Lent together once more to the foot of the cross on which Jesus was nailed for all our failings, Paul's threefold message is as relevant now as it was in the first century to the Church in Corinth.

He said firstly that the sufferings, pain and challenges we face in our lives have nothing to do with how 'good' we are as Christians. He said secondly that when we are suffering from illness, bereavement or any other of life's challenges, God, in the form of His Holy Spirit is always with us to comfort and support. And thirdly, the sufferings and disappointments we face contribute to building our own character and should help and empower us to reach out with empathy in the love of Christ to those who are also in any form of need.

I pray that whatever your personal circumstances are at this Lent and Easter season, Paul's insight will help you to find God in the times of trouble in your life. I pray also that you will be empowered, in the name of Christ, to be a help and support to others when the opportunity arises.

As Paul writes in his letter to the Romans (5:1-5 NIV) *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.* At this Easter time, in the name of the risen Christ, may I wish you all His peace, love and hope.

Brian

PS from Brian....

How things have changed in all our lives in just under two weeks since I wrote my original input into the Easter Edition of the Torbain Times. We are now all coming to terms with the almost complete dislocation of life as we know it and yet, as I reread the words above, I sensed that Paul's words from Romans 5 are even more appropriate than they were when I first used them. As I said in one of the daily reflections, I am now posting on our Facebook page, we are an Easter people and through our faith we know that after the darkness of Good Friday came the glorious light of Easter Day. We travel in these difficult times in that hope.

I pray therefore that you will all keep the hope which Jesus gives us in your hearts as you face up to the impact of COVID-19 and, if you can, that you will share His love by whatever means you have with neighbours, family and friends.

I have now had to stop all face to face visiting but I am working my way through a long phone list to try to keep in touch with everyone I can. If you want a chat at any point, then please give me a ring on 07796694413. I am doing daily reflections on the Church Facebook page and will try to do a short act of worship on our (new) YouTube Channel on Sundays. Lauren Jones our Community Outreach Worker is acting as our Support Coordinator linking up those in the parish with needs to those who can assist. Lauren can best be reached at the following email

torbainkirkcaldy@gmail.com I am also starting up an online Bible Study for Lent on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm using ZOOM meeting software – if you want to join in then please send me an email to BPorteous@churchofscotland.org.uk

Please stay safe, follow government guidance and if you need help then please ask for it. Finally, as we feel increasingly helpless in this crisis, let us remember the power of prayer and pray regularly for all those in the NHS and other services who are doing their best to keep us safe, for those in shops and delivery drivers continuing to serve us and finally for all those directly affected by the virus in terms of their health and their financial circumstances.

Safeguarding us all

When we think of Safeguarding within the church our minds usually think of children. Safeguarding in the Church of Scotland also includes Adults at Risk. This causes a lot of confusion. Who is an adult at risk?

You are an adult at risk if you need full time care either in a care home or in hospital.

You can be an adult at risk due to mental ill health or learning disability

You can be an adult at risk if your life is being controlled by others be it financial control, physical control or coercion.

You are **NOT** an adult at risk because you are elderly

You are **NOT** an adult at risk because you have a physical disability

We are, however, facing challenging times and many of us will be in need of safeguarding as the country faces the escalation of Coronavirus. We need to look out for our elderly neighbours who may be isolated at home. They still need someone to talk to, someone to fetch groceries and someone to ensure they are well.

If you know of anyone in the congregation who is either unwell or is self-isolating, please notify either Brian or Gordon or Joyce or Andy as safeguarding coordinators

Let us all stay safe at all times.

Joyce Leggate: 01592 264789

Andy Leggate : 01592 264789

Money Matters



Christmas Gift to God 2019

A big THANK YOU to all who made a donation to the 2019 Christmas Appeal. Over £1,500 was raised and as we can claim Gift Aid from HMRC on some donations, the final total will be around £1,750

Giving

- As reported at the ASM our Weekly Free Will Offering decreased by 5% on 2018 and Maintenance Fund income was similar to the previous year. Members are asked to give prayerful consideration to increasing FWO and Maintenance Fund giving by 10% if you are able to do so. This will ensure that the congregation's finances remain robust. If you give by Standing Order please remember to increase this also.
- The Maintenance Fund** is used to keep the Church buildings in good order. Over the last few years donations have fallen and there have been insufficient funds to pay for repairs and ongoing maintenance. If you do not already contribute to this fund, please consider doing so. If you already donate, please consider increasing your donation if you can afford to.
- Gift Aid** is an important income source for the Church. HMRC give an extra 25% on top of donations given by taxpayers. The only requirement is that a "Gift Aid Declaration" is signed. If you pay tax and have not already signed up for this scheme, please do so. There is no cost to you and no personal details are



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Making donations go further

disclosed.

Ministry & Mission Costs

It should be noted that our congregation continues to be financially supported by other churches in respect of Ministries. In 2019 our Ministry & Mission contribution was approximately half of the average income base.

2020 Vision

During 2020 we do not intend to embark on any major project, however following our successful £1,000 award from the "NL25" scheme, we are working towards providing a weekly drop-in lunch and advice facility for those in need in our community. The timing of its introduction will depend on the course of the current Coronavirus crisis but to prepare for it we have installed a commercial standard dishwasher and we will also procure a freezer.

We will also install projector/screens in the sanctuary to enhance worship and this will incorporate and enhance the sound system.

John Bulloch, Treasurer

**Extracts From Letter From Missionary Partner Jenny Featherstone – February 2020
Chodort Training Centre, Choma PO Box 630451, Kitwe, Zambia**



Dear Church friends,

Wishing you all every happiness in 2020. This last 12 months have been momentous for us all. The UK has seen many political and policy changes; globally there is more uncertainty, both politically and with new health and climate threats. Here in Zambia we are feeling the effects of climate change. A severe drought has seen the price of mealie meal rise from 62 to 190 a bag and we in Southern province feared for the harvest. This last 2 weeks though, has seen more rain than we have ever had in the last 4 months, and farmers are hopeful

again that they can salvage something from their fields. The rainy season ends in March, so it is a very timely change in the weather.

Inflation and a rise in the price of fuel made the prices of imported goods and transported goods soar, and small businesses (including Chodort) are struggling. Many have gone to the wall, and 10 or more people from large farms in the area have sold up and returned to their countries of origin. Foot and mouth continues to restrict the incomes of those farmers who remain.

I am winding down my term as mission partner, and as a result of that I have given up the job of principal at Chodort. I was succeeded by Rev Bwalya, who despite a lot of energy and effort to take Chodort in a new direction, gave up and left at the end of 2019. A new principal was appointed and arrived last week. Please pray for him in this challenging job. His name is Dr Edward Nondo, just recently graduated with a PhD, he has experience of setting up commercial businesses and marketing as well as working with charitable organisations at a very high level. We have had some good conversations and I think his capabilities to move Chodort forward are much greater than mine.

I am now able to concentrate on 2 “pet” projects I have been thinking of for many years, but have not been able to do because of time. One is to start a Citizens advice style movement within the local churches called “Churches ADD” (Churches Advice and Development), where professionals from congregations can offer advice or expertise in certain areas to help improve the local communities.

My second project has been on my heart for a long time. One common way for temporary escape from poverty/failing business/family problems etc. is alcohol, which is very cheap in Zambia. Despite being a huge social problem there is little awareness of the effects of alcohol addiction. A discussion group has been formed about alcohol prevention and the setting up of support groups.

Finally, on a lighter note, after having moved out of the Principals Manse I have been one-year living on the Chodort housing estate and my emerging garden is becoming home to several animals. As well as the 2 dogs and a cat, I have acquired several Chaleleons. If I am cheeky I may call it Nondo, the same as the new principal’s name, as it means tortoise in Bemba!

Items for prayer

- That our small-scale farmers who depend on their crops to feed their families, will have enough to do so this year
- That Chodort will be able to recover financially and thrive despite the poor economic climate
- That the alcohol recovery groups will be successful
- That churches will take up of giving back to the community through Churches ADD
- That Choma water supply will be sustainable in 2020

Jenny

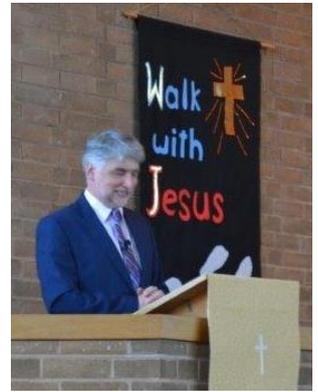
Email [jenny.featherstone@gmail](mailto:jenny.featherstone@gmail.com)

Skype Jenny Featherstone 1

OBITUARY **Rev. Peter Macdonald.**

Born 28th March 1958
Died 12th February 2020

The news of our former Minister, Rev. Peter Macdonald's sudden and untimely death was received with enormous shock and sadness, by his many friends here in Torbain.



Peter was one of a generation of radical ministers and theologians, in the Church of Scotland in the 1980's. who were determined to make the Gospel relevant to the common man and woman, predominantly with a sense of justice, at its heart. Peter managed to do this in his own inimitable way, with passion which was infectious and with optimism, good humour and his inclusive nature.

Peter was born in Dumbarton to Donald and Jessie Macdonald. Together with his younger Sister Shiona, the Family lived in Alexandria, Vale of Leven, where they were members of Bonhill Parish Church. At Bonhill, Peter became involved with the Youth Fellowship and as a teenager he had a growing awareness and interest in politics (his sense of justice stemmed from an early age). Peter attended Vale of Leven Academy, where he achieved the position of Head Boy. He played football for his School team, along with playing for the Boys Brigade and Drumchapel Amateurs.

He later became a coach for Spartan Football Club Youth Development.

On leaving School Peter spent two years as a Bank Clerk, before studying as a Church of Scotland ministry candidate, at the University of Glasgow's Trinity College and then going on to the University of Edinburgh's New College. While he was in Glasgow, he met John Bell, who had become University Rector, while still a student. At that time John was influential in the ecumenical re-imagining of worship, for the Iona Community. This had quite a profound effect on Peter.

Peter went to Iona in 1982 at Easter time, where he met Lesley Orr, who was there at the same time, as she was there in her capacity as Leader of the Ruchill Youth Project in Glasgow. This meeting was to prove a life-changing experience for both of them. Peter was enthusiastic about the ethos and progressive workings of the Iona Community, but he was also enthralled by Lesley. They married in 1983 and travelled the same road together, thereafter. Callum was born in 1989 followed by Lorn in 1992.



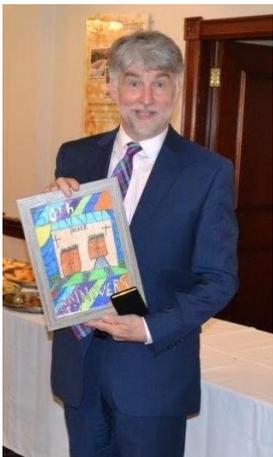
Peter was called to be Minister of Torbain Parish Church from 1990 to 1998. During those eight years he made a very positive and everlasting impact in Kirkcaldy, within the congregation and in the wider community. He was instrumental in setting up the Youth Homelessness Initiative (Oasis Project), which led to the founding of the Lomonds Trust and the building of Craig House, an accommodation unit for young people. Also, during this time Torbain

gained full status. Also during this time, Peter as a staunch supporter, was delighted when Raith Rovers won the Coca Cola Cup.

In 1998 Peter took over as Minister in St. George's West Church in Edinburgh, where he oversaw a major refurbishment programme, because his vision, was that the Church should be at the centre of the community. During Peter's time there he saw St. George's West become a venue during the Edinburgh Festival and in 2003, he was awarded a Herald Angel for his efforts in shifting the landscape of both the Fringe and the Kirk. An achievement, of which, he was justly very proud.

In 2009, Peter was elected as Leader of the Iona Community, an almighty task, which saw him steer the organisation in 2013, through the 75th Anniversary of George MacLeod setting up the Iona Community and the 1450years celebration of Columba arriving on the island of Iona. He also played a key role in setting up the on-going Capital Appeal Fund to refurbish the Iona Abbey.

After his eight years as Leader, Peter moved to Broughton St. Mary's in Edinburgh in 2017 as a locum for ten months and was then inducted as Minister in 2018. The congregation there is both eclectic and diverse and Peter had already begun planning long-term developments, which, as with most of Peter's previous achievements would undoubtedly, have left their mark on his new congregation.



He was a dynamic, inspirational man, with a deep-seated sense of social justice. His brilliance as a preacher, inspired many over the years. He was politically driven, outwith the Church, as Commitment to Palestine was a particular passion of his. But, at the heart of his life, Family mattered the most.

He was an enthusiastic, passionate, caring, man and a good friend to many. He had the rare ability to reach out, and to touch the hearts and minds of so many people. He made a difference. His loss will be greatly felt by all who knew him, however, Peter will live on in all our memories.

He is survived by his wife Lesley, their two Sons, Callum and Lorn, his Mother Jessie and his Sister Shiona.

Fiona Cunningham

Parish Register

It is with great sadness that we have heard of the deaths of

Mike Davie, Methven House died 20 March 2020

and

Brock White, former Minister of Templehall Parish Church from 1971 to 2001.



Welcome to Lauren Jones - Community Outreach Worker

Hello everyone! I've been in post for over 3 months now, and in this time I've been slowly getting to know the congregation and people living and working in the local community.

My first big project was to start a Messy Play class which I think has gone pretty well - we had to expand to two classes! and furthered our links with Torbain Primary School who were bringing a small

number of children up to the messy play class every week from the nursery, and we're in talks to do more projects together, so watch this space. Unfortunately, we've had to put our weekly seniors lunch plans on hold until after the coronavirus outbreak runs its course.

I've also been working with Joyce Leggate to get a number of members through their food hygiene certificates - if you want to volunteer in the future at our seniors lunches then I would really recommend doing this - get in touch with me and I can put your name forward for the next course once things get back to normal.

In the background I've been steadily putting in a number of grant applications so we can get more groups and initiatives up and running, I'm expecting to hear back over the next few months so, again, keep an eye out for (hopefully!) some good news. Finally, I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who I've met so far. You've all been fantastically welcoming and kind, and especially generous with your time and advice, so thank you - I appreciate it!

Lauren Jones - Community Outreach Worker

With the onset of the current Coronavirus (Covid-19) emergency Lauren is Co-ordinating our responses to calls on our Church Emergency Telephone Number which is 0791 361 1018 and our additional e-mail address which is

torbainkirkcaldy@gmail.com



EASTER QUIZ!

An Easter Quiz (with clues to where you will find the answers)

1.) **When Jesus died, which of the following things did NOT happen?**

- the dead came to life
- there was a flood that covered the earth
- there was an earthquake
- the veil of the temple was torn

(Matthew 27: 51-53)

2.) Who asked Pilate for Jesus' corpse and put it in his own tomb?

- Zebedee
- Joseph of Arimathaea
- Paul
- Mary Magdalene

(Matthew 27: 57-58)

3.) What was placed in front of the door of the tomb to close it?

- a stone
- a wall
- a blanket
- a fence

(Matthew 27: 60)

4.) On what day was Jesus' resurrection?

- the same day as his crucifixion
- the third day
- the fourteenth day
- the tenth day

(Matthew 27: 63)

5.) What moved the object in front of the tomb door?

- the 12 Apostles
- the earthquake
- an angel
- the object moved itself

(Matthew 28:2)

6.) Who did not see the empty tomb?

- Peter
- Mary Magdalene
- John the Beloved
- Joseph

(John 20: 1-3)

7.) What was found in the tomb?

- Jesus' burial clothes
- a sparrow
- a vase full of water
- a growing lily

(John 20: 6-7)

8.) Who did Mary Magdalene think Jesus was when she first saw Him after He had risen?

- one of the Twelve Apostles
- Pontius Pilate
- the gardener
- a shepherd

(John 20: 15)

9.) Which of these things did Jesus NOT say to Mary?

- "Go to my brethren"
- "Touch me not"
- "Mary"
- "Blessed art thou among women"

(John 20: 16-17)



Happy Easter from all at Torbain Church.

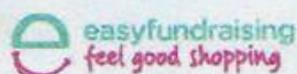
Raise funds for Torbain Church every time you shop online

Find us on easyfundraising to start:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/torbainpc/>



Shop with over **3,300** online stores



£27 Million raised

1.6 Million users

130,000 causes