

# Prestongrange Church Newsletter

Summer 2023

Dear friends,

As many of you know, my retirement is fast approaching! I plan to finish my ministry among you at the end of Oct. As I reflect on what will be 8 years and 10 months in partnership with you, Moira and I have much to thank God for. It has been our joy and privilege to be part of the fellowship of God's people at Prestongrange and to be well supported and encouraged in what God has been doing among us. I am indebted to our elders and office-bearers for their support over the years. It has been good to have Jane, our much respected session clerk providing wise counsel and the help of our wonderful team of children and youth workers eager to share the good news of the gospel and to see young lives being changed and shaped by Christ. In the past few years, it has been encouraging to have Chris Dixon serve alongside us in his role as ministry apprentice and to see his gifts being honed and sharpened in his ministry of the word and in his outreach to young people.

As we have journeyed together in prayer and service, we have known great blessing and joy in the service of our Master.

Regarding the future, we will obviously be praying that the next person called to be minister of the church will continue to take forward the mission of the church and will see even greater things in the years that lie ahead. Rev. Robin Hill of Longniddry Church has been appointed as the interim moderator of the church and we will work with Robin from September onwards as he guides and supports the church in the way forward. When we go, we will settle in our house in Dunfermline. It will then fall to Robin to be responsible for any pastoral needs that arise.

As we contemplate my retirement, I'm thinking of Paul's words to the church at Colossae: "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." (Col.2 v.6&7). May our lives rooted in Christ and built up by the word of God and the working of the Holy Spirit, produce the fruit that Jesus is looking for.

Yours in our wonderful Saviour,

Ken & Moira



**Joint service: Sunday 30th July 10.30am**

At the end of the holiday club week, we are holding a joint service at Lighthouse Hub, West Loan. We look forward to worshipping together as churches and hopefully having with us some of the families who have associated with the Holiday Club.

## Membership of the church

The kirk session has been reviewing our membership roll. Where there is evidence of lapsed membership, names have been removed from the roll and are now kept in a supplementary roll. We would obviously seek to encourage members in their vows of membership, particularly in meeting regularly in worship. Where there is evidence of renewed commitment to Christ and His church, the kirk session can restore any to full membership and is always open to chat to any who have a real desire to reconnect with us in a meaningful way.

We are eager to encourage those who are adherents and who would like to go further and consider membership of the church to have a word with us. For those who have been in membership of another church and who would like to transfer their membership and be more fully welcomed into full membership with us, again, do have a chat with us. Membership is more than a piece of paper of course! It speaks of our desire to be under the Lordship of Christ and in partnership in the gospel with the local church of Jesus— to be committed and meaningful parts of the church; to commit to Christ and his people and to play our part in the body of Christ here in Prestonpans. To commit to Christ and to one another are great privileges bringing great responsibilities. We are the church together and not separate from each other. Accountability and care go together.

## Bethany meal: Sun. 13<sup>th</sup> Aug. 5-7pm. Church hall.

£5.00 adult ticket. Children eat free. See Sandra or Jane re. tickets & see poster on hall and church gates and internal church notice board. The meal will be similar to the meals organised by the Bethany catering team who will share what their team partnership has meant to them in cooking meals to be taken over to the welcome centre for single homeless in Edinburgh.

## Ministry apprenticeship

We are very grateful for those who have prayerfully and financially supported this project. Chris has graduated from his biblical studies at Faith Mission College and will complete his apprenticeship with AT3 and our church at the end of August.

## Family and Youth Worker

We would like to appoint a part-time family and youth worker for our ongoing outreach work. To do this, we would need to raise £10,000 over and above what church funds can contribute. If you are interested in supporting this project, our treasurer would be glad to process any donations. Please state if you would like to Gift Aid your donation.

We are also looking for a few people who may like to form an interview panel and for someone who could line manage the successful applicant during the impending vacancy. If you are interested in being part of a team in progressing this, have a word with Chris or Ken.

## Prayer:

1. Praying for Colin & Pauline Forster in their leadership of the Holiday Club and for the team that they will work with. For clarity in the bible teaching and a good response from the children. For the youth work over 3 of the evenings that good contacts and conversations may take place.
2. Pray for guidance and God's provision for a part-time family and youth worker.

We have a Whatsapp page where prayer requests can be shared and where information can be found about our Saturday morning prayer meetings (on Zoom) at 8.30am. On the first Sat. of the month, we gather with others (in person) to pray for the renewal of the church and its witness to our nation – with particular reference to East & Mid Lothian. See Margo for fuller details of how to register.



Check out our Facebook page and post “likes” and comments.

[Prestongrange Parish Church](#) | [Prestonpans](#) | [Facebook](#)



Webpage:

[Prestongrange Church – Experiencing God in Prestonpans](#)

Going forward, would anyone like to host the webpage? It is not difficult to do once you have been shown how to. You can even re-design it or set up a new site. See Ken.

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## Thanksgiving

We give thanks to God for the life of Margaret Rankine who served as an elder for over 33 years and as a board member of Prestongrange church. Margaret also enjoyed the ministry of the Salvation Army and was a keen supporter of the work at Harlawhill Day Centre. Margaret was always eager to help at the coffee mornings and activities of the church. She loved being among children and her kindness was appreciated in the help she gave at the Summer Holiday Clubs over the years. She was much loved by many and will be greatly missed by her family and her friends.

Margaret's funeral will take place at Prestongrange church on Monday 24th July at 10am.

## Funerals:

Margaret Rodger	Ruth White
Mary Clark	George Darroch
Martha Cuthbertson	Christina Hastie
	Maria Wilkie

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## Farewell to Katie Johnson

I am heading out to the States for University in August on a track and field scholarship at Louisiana State University and to also study Mechanical Engineering. I am incredibly excited to start there and to be part of such an inclusive, welcoming team with a big emphasis on Christianity and family within the Track and Field team. Running has always been a big part of my life so I'm very excited to continue this through to my post-school life too and see the improvement I can make in such a different and exciting environment. It is a big change for me as I will be away for 9 months and not return until next summer but I can't wait to experience this completely different culture. If you could pray for everything to go smoothly and that hopefully the Christian community there is as prominent as it seems. Katie.