

June 2018

The Net

The Magazine of Priestfield Parish Church, Edinburgh
Living in the Way of Jesus



Web: <http://priestfield.org.uk>

Locum Minister: Mrs Helen Tew



*The congregation and friends of
Priestfield Church warmly invite you to
the Induction of our new Minister -*

***Rev Donald Scott**
on Tuesday 12 June at 7pm.*

*The Induction will be followed by
an informal gathering
with refreshments.*

R.S.V.P. *Barry Cross, Session Clerk*
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WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S ON?

JUNE

Sunday	3	1030	All-age Service
Wednesday	6	1900 - 2100	'Knitting Together!' (<i>every Wednesday</i>)
Thursday	7	1230 - 1400	Soup Lunch (<i>every Thursday</i>)
Thursday	7	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	10	1030	All-age Service

Tuesday 12 1900 **Induction of Rev Donald Scott
to Priestfield**
followed by refreshments

Sunday	17	1030	All-age Service
Thursday	21	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	24	1030	All-age Service

JULY

Sunday	1	1030	All-age Communion Service
Thursday	5	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	8	1030	All-age Service
Sunday	15	1030	All-age Service
Thursday	19	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	22	1030	All-age Service
Sunday	29	1030	All-age Service

AUGUST

Thursday	2	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	5	1030	All-age Communion Service
Sunday	12	1030	All-age Service
Thursday	16	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	19	1030	All-age Service
Sunday	26	1030	All-age Service
Thursday	30	1930	Praise and Prayer

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 2 1030 All-age Communion Service

WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S ON?

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~ SNIPPETS from the KIRK SESSION ~

19 March 2018

Cameron Toll Chaplaincy (CTC)

Norman Henderson reported that Janet Sidaway had resigned as chair person of CTC with immediate effect and the Chaplaincy will now be seeking a new chair.

Nominating Committee

Barry Cross, Convener, reported that the Nominating Committee was pleased to report that it now has a sole nominee; Rev Donald Scott. The Nominating Committee would be reporting this to the congregation the following Sunday, 25 March.

Donald was ordained and inducted to his first charge in Kilmallie near Fort William in 1983. He moved to the Presbyterian Church in Canada for a period before returning to serve with the Iona Community. This was followed by periods as a Director with, first the YMCA, then the British Red Cross. Since 2002 Donald has been the Co-ordinating Chaplain at Polmont Young Offenders Institution. Arrangements have been made for Donald to conduct morning worship at Priestfield on Sunday 29 April 2018 and immediately afterwards there will be a meeting for the congregation to vote on whether to elect our sole nominee, Rev Donald Scott, as our minister.

Mission

Fiona Ferguson reported that;

- A third of the Kilombero rice had already been sold.
- A speaker from 'Crisis', James Gilfillan, had met with the Mission Group and had explained the range of support available for single homeless people and how it could be accessed. This had already proved of practical help.

Student Link

June Henderson reported that;

- The CAMEO team had asked again about whether it should be paying for the use of accommodation at Priestfield. The Kirk Session, noting the synergy between the work of the group and congregational objectives, confirmed the earlier view that no fee should be charged. The Kirk Session appreciated the work of the Group in reaching out to wives of international students.
- The 'Souper Sunday' lunch on 25 February had gone well and over £200 had been raised for the Church of Scotland's HIV Project.
- The next Edinburgh Revelation Rock Gospel Choir concerts would be on Saturday and Sunday 7 and 8 April 2018. The students had asked Priestfield to name a charity to which proceeds could be given. Student Link proposed 'Mary's Meals' and the Kirk Session agreed. Fiona pointed out that the Café Time on 7 April would be for 'Mary's Meals' also; a happy coincidence.
- Rev Dr Liam Fraser, EUCAM's Campus Minister, had introduced a new initiative to the congregation on Sunday 11 March. This Fresh Expression of Church will involve a weekly meals and worship time at the Charteris Centre on Wednesday evenings to create a new mixed congregation comprising locals and students. A number of volunteers from Priestfield and St Catherine's Argyle had already come forward.

Finance

David Douglas, Fiona Ferguson and Andrew Steven, the Finance Group reported.

- The Trustees Annual Report 2017 and summary information had been circulated to elders prior to the meeting. The supplementary information would be circulated widely and the full report would be available on request.

The Kirk Session, the Trustees, approved the final Trustees Annual Report 2017 and the summary information.

Manse

Barry Cross reported that work was progressing well. The central heating work was virtually complete and much preparation work for redecorating had been done.

Safeguarding

June Henderson, Safeguarding Coordinator, and the Clerk gave a report. Following recent national concern about safeguarding issues

OSCR had issued advice to all charities. This had been quickly followed up by advice from the Church of Scotland's Safeguarding Office confirming that the Church's procedures were robust and that they should continue to be followed without change.

Lettings

Kenny Ferguson, Lettings Manager had produced two papers setting out the broad range of groups using the church facilities. These had been circulated to elders. The Kirk Session appreciated the work involved in running this significant business.

Property

Diane Cross, Property Convener, reported on a number of issues;

- Consideration was being given to carrying out church roof checks. The anchor points would also be checked.
- It was intended to decorate 'Whithorn' in the autumn. The walls, ceiling and paintwork would be cleaned over the summer. The lighting was being explored as the current suspended strip light units are held together with temporary straps. Consideration is being given to using ceiling mounted LED units.
- One of the church boundary walls has a large crack. Liability would be checked with the deeds held by the General Trustees.
- The Lounge carpet would be cleaned professionally later in March.

29 April 2018

Election of a New Minister

A secret ballot took place to elect a new minister. Sixty two ballot papers were issued. Following the ballot the Interim Moderator, Rev John Young, and the Kirk Session moved to 'St Andrews' where John counted the papers. Following the count John declared the result.

Declaration of the Election Result

I hereby declare the results of the voting for the election and appointment of a minister to the vacant charge of Priestfield to be as follows.

FOR Electing Rev Donald Scott: 62 votes

AGAINST Electing Rev Donald Scott: 0 votes

Therefore, Rev Donald Scott has accordingly been elected and appointed as the new minister subject to the approval of Presbytery.

*Rev John Young, Interim Moderator
29 April 2018*

Nominating Committee

The Committee's work was now at an end and in accordance with the Vacancy Procedure Act the committee was discharged. The Kirk Session thanked the committee for its diligence and hard work on behalf of the congregation.

Response from Rev Donald Scott

Donald and his wife Roslyn were then invited back into the sanctuary and advised of the result. He thanked the congregation for its vote.

28 May 2018

The next meeting of the Kirk Session.

*Barry Cross
Session Clerk*

All meetings of the Kirk Session are 'open' meetings. Only in exceptional circumstances are items heard in private. If you'd like to come along to a Session meeting either have a word, or just pop along on the night. The Session meetings take place in the Lounge and begin at 7:30pm.

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THE MANSE

This brief note is by way of an update on progress at the manse. Things are looking pretty good with the small team of workers having done a brilliant job on our behalf.

The new central heating boiler has been installed in the rear upstairs 'maid's room' and new/replacement radiators have been fitted in a number of rooms. The old central heating boiler and integral gas fire have been removed. Re-plastering of the old hot water cylinder cupboard space has taken place and the walls made good.

Windows in the former study have been refurbished and replacement French doors installed. All the windows in the study and maid's room are now double glazed.

The ex-study, ex-dining room, maid's room and one of the upstairs bedrooms have all been redecorated.

Much minor tidying and upgrade work has also been carried out.

Window, carpet and general cleaning will be carried out over the next few weeks.

Many hours of work has been carried out in the front and rear gardens. We're hoping that growth between now and occupation isn't too rampant!

All this work is in accordance with a schedule of works approved by Presbytery's Property Committee earlier in the vacancy.

Finally, following discussion with Donald and his wife Roslyn, a multi-fuel stove will be installed in the fireplace void formerly occupied by the old central heating boiler in the ex-dining room. This should provide a cosy family space next to the kitchen.

All the costs aren't yet to hand but all the indications are that the project costs will be very close to our budget figure of £18,000.

Many thanks to you all for supporting this important part of the welcome to our new minister and his family.

Barry Cross
Session Clerk

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Prayer and Meditation ~



The conclusion of the matter

“HERE IS THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13 NIV

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon talks about all the things in life he tried and found to be disappointing: the intellectual pursuit of

knowledge, the physical pursuit of pleasure, and the material pursuit of wealth.

In the last chapter of Ecclesiastes he bottom-lines it:

'Everything is meaningless'

v. 8 NIV 2011 Edition.

In other words:

'Been there, done that – and it's just the "same ol', same ol'".'

Now, penning his last divinely-inspired thoughts, he wraps up his life's message with these words:

'Here is the conclusion of the matter.'

This is big stuff! Solomon is about to give us his bottom-line evaluation of a life well-lived. What is it?

'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment'

vv. 13-14 NIV 2011 Edition.

The words 'fear God' simply mean to reverence, love, and serve Him, and live your life according to the precepts laid down in His Word. The songwriter put it this way: 'Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.'

Author John Mason writes:

'Is more money, a higher position, or more influence your goal? These are not goals; they are the by-product of true goals...Seek not success, but truth, and you will find both. Work to become, not acquire. Measure wealth by the things you have which you would not exchange for money.'

When you wake each morning, pray this simple prayer:

'Lord, above all else help me to spend this day loving You and carrying out Your will. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.'

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35th Braid Cub Scout Pack



The Cubs are continuing to enjoy a varied programme. At present we have 24 Cubs, with a group having moved up to

Scouts and we await a number starting from Beavers after the Summer.



Our Winter Weekend was particularly wintry this year, despite taking place in March. We enjoyed building snowmen on the field at Bonaly as well as a hike round the reservoir. Cubs also practised their skills putting up tents and

with mini-pioneering. Our theme for the weekend was Ice Age and we watched one of the films from this series too. We had two indoor campfires, together with the Scouts, and completed part of the orienteering course on the edge of the Pentlands. The older Cubs completed their Navigator Stage 3 badge, while the younger ones did most of the work for their Outdoor Challenge.



As part of our World Challenge, we looked at how we could reuse different materials and had an evening junk modelling. We also had an evening together with Beavers to find out the background to the Kilombero Rice project.



A group of 8 Cubs took part in the first Braid District Swimming Competition and we came 2nd out of the 8 Packs who took part. We also took part in Jamboree on the Trail with the Beavers and walked a section of the Water of Leith.

We are looking forward to a night away in the teepees at Bonaly at the beginning of June.

Andrew, Laura, Dave and Ryan

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The Guild
**"Be Bold, Be Strong!
Go in LOVE"**



Our evening meetings have finished but some of us are attending The Big Sing at the General Assembly. In June we are going on a boat trip to Inchcolm. We shall have a short service while we are on the island.

In October we embark on a **new strategy** -- "**One Journey, Many Roads**" and for the first year we are "**Seeking the Way**". The syllabus for next year is being prepared and our **first meeting** is on **Tuesday October 9th at 7.30pm in the Lounge. NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US.**

Helen Douglas

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Prayer and Meditation ~



Separating the sheep from the goats

"HE WILL SEPARATE THE PEOPLE AS A SHEPHERD SEPARATES THE SHEEP FROM THE GOATS."

Matthew 25:32 NLT

Jesus describes the judgment day in these words:

'All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at his right hand and the

goats at his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.”

vv. 32-36 NLT

**How will Jesus separate the sheep from the goats?
And how will you know which one you are?**

Jesus says those on the right – the sheep – will be those who fed Him when He was hungry, brought Him water when He was thirsty, gave Him lodging when He was lonely, clothing when He was naked, and comfort when He was sick or imprisoned.

The sign of the saved is their concern for those in need.

Compassion doesn't save them – or us.

Salvation is the work of Christ.

But compassion is the consequence of salvation.

The sheep will react with a sincere question: when?

When did we feed, visit, clothe, or comfort you?

Then Jesus will answer,

‘Every time you showed compassion – you did it to me!’

Try to keep that in mind as you go through this day.

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~ MISSION PARTNER: JOHN McCULLOCH ~



Priestfield's **new Mission Partner** is **Rev Dr John McCulloch** who, in April, succeeded Rev Páraic Réamonn as **Minister at St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church in Jerusalem.**

John is married to Annette, who is a GP with considerable experience in the field of refugee medicine and emergency care, and she hopes to be able to use some of her skills in the context of Israel /Palestine and the wider region. The couple have four children: Esther, Anna, Joseph and David. The three younger children have moved with their parents to Jerusalem, while their eldest daughter is finishing her studies in the UK during term-time and travelling to Jerusalem in the holidays.

A former Head of Hispanic Studies at Glasgow University, where he lectured on Hispanic literature, history, politics and Continental Philosophy, Rev Dr John McCulloch was ordained and introduced to St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church just outside the Old City walls of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. St Andrew's Jerusalem is Dr McCulloch's first charge, following ministry placements in Govan & Linthouse, Bearsden, St Andrews Jerusalem, and a probationary period in the parishes of Lochgoilhead & Kilmorlich I/w Strachur & Strathlachlan in rural Argyll.

Rev Iain Cunningham, convener of the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland, said: "It was a great privilege to be in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday morning to participate in a truly special and unique occasion when John McCulloch was ordained as the new minister at St Andrews, Jerusalem with St Andrews, Tiberias.

"The new ministry began appropriately with John and his family, together with representatives of the World Mission Council and the Council of Assembly, joining the joyous Palm Sunday Procession from the Mount of Olives into the Old City in which Christians from all around the world join with local Palestinian Christians to mark the start of Holy Week."

Born in Farnborough, John was brought up in Paris, Madrid, Barcelona, and Lanarkshire, then lived in Bolivia for a year, where he worked for a project that helped street children. He also spent some time in Central America during his ministry training, studying contextual theology with The Global Institute of Theology (World Communion of Reformed Churches). It was here that John came into direct contact with Latin American Liberation Theology, which has subsequently shaped his theological outlook. He was drawn to Liberation Theology because of the focus on the poor, the politically oppressed and the marginalised and is interested to explore its role in the context of Israel/ Palestine.

Speaking about the new appointment, John described it as "a huge honour" and said he is "looking forward to serving the church and the wider community." He added: "To live out this call in the very place where Christ walked, is both humbling and a real privilege.

Christianity is primarily a way of being in the world, and the church here is called to be a community of compassion that reaches out to those across the social and political divides, to build God's reign of peace, justice and love...The Church offers a space where people from different backgrounds can come together and listen to each other's stories, where there are so many walls that divide...The church has a very important role in The Holy Land, not just in terms of supporting those working towards a just peace, but because our Christian faith invites us to always hear the human stories behind from across the socio-political and religious divides."

One of the reasons John was drawn to work in Jerusalem is the diversity of the congregation, which includes Palestinians, Messianic Jews, expat Scots, international staff from NGOs and pilgrims; and the wide-ranging partners that the Church of Scotland is working with across Israel & The Palestinian Territories, many of whom are engaged in issues of social justice, across the divides of this conflicted land.

"History shows us that real societal change seldom comes from the top down, but usually from grassroots communities, which is where the church belongs. In the 20th century it was the suffragettes, Gandhi and Martin Luther King who effected the most positive changes through their unrelenting fight for justice."

Wishing to live among the Palestinian Christian community, he and his family have decided to live in Beir Jala, Bethlehem rather than in Jerusalem.

John says: 'I am looking forward to encouraging people to engage with the issues and stories of people in the West Bank as well as Jerusalem, and being supported by prayer from the Presbyteries and their congregations.'

The following is excerpted from Rev Dr John McCulloch's first Partner Plan letter, dated April 2018:

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Jerusalem during Eastertide, when so many pilgrims and people from different walks of life converge on the narrow streets of the Old City, reflecting on and re-imagining Christ's entry into Jerusalem, his journey to the cross and his glorious resurrection.

We have been here for just over a month now and so much has happened since we arrived, but I want to start by thanking each and every one of you for your prayerful support for us.

The children have settled well into school and have begun to make friends, and Annette has already put her medical skills to good use, helping out in the local school with both students and staff who have needed medical care. She is also heading to Ramallah next week to meet with Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), who are delivering Primary Care services across the West Bank and Gaza. Given Annette's experience, she hopes to be able to use her expertise in support of the work which MAP is doing in training doctors and providing primary and emergency care across the Palestinian Territories.

...

But this letter is primarily to give you a brief conspectus of our first month here and I will write more detailed letters about each of our partners separately, with specific ways in which we can all support and encourage them in their work.

There are many strands to our work out here: building the churches, supporting the work of Tabeetha School in Jaffa, looking after our staff and institutions (The Guest House in Jerusalem and Scots Hotel in Tiberias), accompanying the pilgrims who visit the Holy Land and engaging with advocacy for the circa 30 partners the Church of Scotland works with here, across Israel and the Palestinian Territory.

Our work and mission is to be alongside Palestinians and Israelis, Jews, Arabs, Druze and many others who live in this beautiful and yet conflicted land. And I will say one thing at the very start of my ministry here. What I am about to write are not my words but have been expressed by many others before, but they do sum up for me how we should move through this land.

'Any solution to the Palestinian and Israeli situation has to do four things. It has to be pro-Israeli, pro-Palestinian, pro-justice and pro-peace. There are ways of being pro-Palestinian that make you anti-

Israeli, and ways of being pro-Israeli that make you anti-Palestinian. These have to be avoided.'

One of the challenges here is to see everyone through the eyes of compassion, and to not to dehumanise the other, even those who are part of the structures of violence and injustice. It is not just the occupied who need liberating, but the occupiers.

Desmond Tutu once said:

'When we see others as the enemy, we risk becoming what we hate. When we oppress others, we end up oppressing ourselves. All of our humanity is dependent upon recognising the humanity in others.'

Seeing the humanity of those across the social-religious and political divides, and standing with those who are wanting to bring about a more just, compassionate and caring world is central to our mission here.

We greatly appreciate your continued prayers and support.

John, Annette and family

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Prayer and Meditation ~



Barabbas - and you

"AWAY WITH THIS MAN! RELEASE BARABBAS TO US!"

Luke 23:18 NIV

The Bible says:

'With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder).'

vv. 18-19 NIV 1984 Edition

And just like Barabbas, we deserve to die for our sins. Four prison walls, thickened with fear, hurt, and hate, surround us. We're incarcerated by our past, our low-road choices, and our high-minded pride. We've been found guilty. We sit on the floor of a dusty cell awaiting the final moment. Our executioner's footsteps echo against stone walls. Head between knees, we don't look up as he opens the door; we don't lift our eyes as he begins to speak. We know what he's going to say: 'Time to pay for your sins.'

But then you hear something else:

'You're free to go. They took Jesus instead of you.'

The door swings open, the guard barks, 'Get out!' and we find ourselves in the light of the morning sun, shackles gone, crimes pardoned, wondering,

'What just happened?' Grace happened!

Christ took away your sins. All of them.

Where did He take them? To the top of a hill called Calvary.

'God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty...through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins. For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us.

We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed His blood, sacrificing His life for us.'

Romans 3:24-25 NLT 1996 Edition

Jesus loves and forgives you, and He has a wonderful plan for your life. So come to Him today.

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