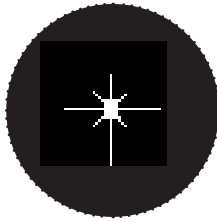


DECEMBER 2010 / JANUARY 2011

# PANS POST

NEWSLETTER OF PRESTONGRANGE  
PARISH CHURCH



Prestonpans: Prestongrange Parish Church (Church of Scotland) - Scottish Charity SC 031191

[www.prestongrange-church.org.uk](http://www.prestongrange-church.org.uk)

It was with great pleasure that on Thursday past I sat at presbytery and heard the good news that Prestongrange church would be allowed to call a minister, albeit with the caveat of a five year reviewable tenure. This is good news, as good as we can get at this time in the Church of Scotland, you have been given lead to call a minister and that means we can begin the journey of finding the successor to Robert and his successful time of ministry with you.

My privilege is helping to guide you through this process and being the one you get to ask all the tough questions when things occur that you are unsure of.

My name is Keith Mack, I'm minister at St John's and King's Park Church in Dalkeith, I'm married to Donna and we have two lovely kids, Sophie and Christopher who are 4 and 2 years. I'm passionate about what God is doing in the Church of Scotland, and although we have many tough decisions ahead, God promises that he will build his Church, and I firmly believe he will continue to do so in Scotland in the 21st century.

I look forward to getting to know you in the months ahead as we search together for your new minister. If you want to get on my good side tell me you are an Aberdeen football fan, and we can commiserate together!

My job is to make sure that things run smoothly for you and

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your church during this time of vacancy, and my prayer is that you will seek God and his will for you and your church in this time which can feel so uncertain without the guidance of your minister. I'd like to sign off with a wee story about the resources we can rely upon!

A wee boy was playing in his sandpit, in the process of building castles, he discovered a big boulder, he wanted it out of the way, so he dug around it, he tried to nudge it across the sand using his feet, eventually he got the rock to the edge of the sandpit (he was small, the rock large), but he couldn't roll it up over the wall.

He pushed, he shoved, but every time he thought he had done it, the rock tipped and then fell back into the sandpit, finally he burst into tears in frustration. Now all this time, the little boy's dad had been watching, as the tears fell, Dad came and said to his son 'Son why didn't you use all the strength available?' Defeated he sobbed back, 'but Daddy I did, I used all the strength I had'

'No son,' corrected his father kindly 'you didn't use all the strength you had, you didn't ask me.'

With that the Father reached down, picked up the rock and removed it from the sandpit.

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble (Ps 46 v1), call upon him, use his strength, do not rely upon your own!

**Keith Mack, Interim Moderator**



## KEEPING YOU UPDATED

GOOD NEWS..... at the Presbytery meeting on 25 November we were given permission to seek a Minister under a '5 year reviewable tenure'. This means that if we find a Minister his position will be reviewed when the Presbytery Plan is completed and agreed or within 5 years which ever is soonest...

We have been allocated the **Rev Keith Mack** of Dalkeith St John's and Kings Park Church as our interim-moderator who will preach on **Sunday 12th December**. (come along and say hello) In the new year we will have a locum, **Rev John Wier Cook** who will preach each Sunday and thanks to a little pressure on Presbytery will be available for pastoral work two days a week. (more on this in a later Pan's Post)

I would ask that you give them both a good Prestongrange welcome.

One of the first jobs I have to do is to create a Parish Roll which will be sent to Presbytery and attested. This is then the basis of any voting or elections we have...if you are not on the roll you cannot take an active part...please check with Yvonne Ballie (roll keeper). If you are not a member of Prestongrange (never joined the church) and want to be involved then have your name added as an adherent. We will then hold a congregational meeting and as instructed by Presbytery, pick 11 people to form a Vacancy Committee who will take on the task of looking for our new Minister.

These are exciting times and although the pace will initially pick up if I am honest I would still expect the vacancy to take some time. It will put a strain on the office bearers and on you as a congregational member. There is a lot of hard work to be done and you may be asked to do things out with your comfort zone. Please think prayerfully before answering as I'm sure you will not be asked to do anything that is not within your ability. If we all work together we will get through this hopefully without anyone falling out.

**Ian Wallace, Session Clerk**

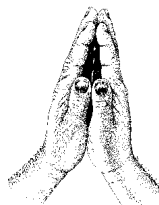
## COMMUNICATION

Please make use of Pans Post, web page, weekly church notices and church notice boards to keep people informed. Contact Editor Pans Post: Kerry Henderson - **07773519971**. Email: **kwbh559@yahoo.com**.

Contact for church notices and web page Ian Wallace: **610684**, or **ian.wallace6@btinternet.com**.

## SUNRISE AT CHRISTMAS TIME

There will be a **Christmas Celebration** at the **Tranmare Hotel, Tranent** on **Tuesday 21 December**. Tea served from **7.00pm** and celebration will begin at **7.30pm**.



24/3

## PRAYER

Following support for 24/7 prayer in July we've decided to do a 24/3 prayer for the vacancy from **00.00 hours** on **Fri 7 Jan** to **24.00 hours** on **Sun 9 Jan**.

The prayer can take place on your own in your own home or you could join with others at church, home or anywhere you feel lead to pray. This is a great opportunity for anyone unable to get to church to be involved. Prayer points given nearer the time, to sign up call **Margo Cunningham** on **813295** or email **MHCng-ham@aol.com**

## CARING CHRISTMAS TREES 2010

Around 1,000 homeless people came to Bethany's Care Shelter for support last winter.

This vital overnight shelter for rough sleepers provides a hot meal, bed for the night and advice and encouragement to help people overcome their homelessness problems. The Care Shelter service costs £110,000 to run for 5 months over the winter and to help raise some of these funds, Bethany is selling Caring Christmas Trees.

One Christmas tree Bethany provides hot food, a bed for the night and support for a rough sleeper.

Show you care this winter, support Bethany's Caring Christmas Trees project.

Order your Christmas Tree – [www.caringchristmastrees.com](http://www.caringchristmastrees.com)

or call **0845 111 8733**. At time of ordering you select your preferred tree size, collection date and location. All Caring Christmas Trees are high quality, freshly-cut Nordman firs from sustainable tree farms handed out by friendly volunteers.

**ORDER DEADLINES :**  
**06 DECEMBER FOR PICK-UP**  
**ON 10/11 DECEMBER**  
**13 DECEMBER FOR PICK-UP**  
**ON 17/18 DECEMBER**

## HELPING HANDS AT THE CRÈCHE

I'm trying to re-start the crèche in the church hall along with the Sunday Club. If you are interested in helping with this, whether you were on the rota before or for the first time, please get in touch with me on **815287** or **e-mail weedianabr@hotmail.co.uk** with your details. Thank you.

**Diana Bryden-Reid**



## CAROL SINGING IN AID OF MISSION 4 BURUNDI

There will be carol singing at The Gyle on **Friday 10 December** between **10.30am** and **5.30pm** in aid of Mission 4 Burundi. If anyone is interested in coming along they can get more details from **Helen Maclachlan** on **811657** or **Diana Bryden-Reid**, or just come along.

## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING @ SMALL WORLD SHOP

Last minute cards and gifts can be purchased here at 9A Orchard Crescent, **10am-12noon** and **2pm-4pm, tues, thurs, fri** and **sat 10-12noon**

Shop Closes **thurs 24 Dec at 4pm**. Open **11 Jan 10am**.

Volunteers always welcome  
**Rosemary Renton 810304**

## CAN YOU HELP TO HAND OUT TREES?

**BETHANY NEEDS LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS** Handing out Christmas trees at Bethany's temporary tree sites around town is a great way to get festive and make a difference at the same time. You can sign up via the website [www.caring-christmas-trees.com](http://www.caring-christmas-trees.com) or call **Margaret Johnson** on **0131 625 5419**.





## I AM THE TRUE VINE - ARTWORK

You may have noticed in church our lovely "I am the true vine" artwork. This masterpiece was created by the kids and adults who were at Messy Church on the 21st November. Using paint and crayons we started with a rather bare vine but by the end of the morning it was bursting with leaves, branches and grapes. Great fun was had by all. With our theme for the day being Jesus said 'I am the true vine', Nicola gave a fabulous talk which included lots of different types of branches which all the kids got involved with. With croissants and fresh fruit juice for breakfast, lots more craft activities, singing and a little prayer it was another great morning. (The lighthouse was on the go again too). Everyone who will be at church for the Sunday School Nativity on the **19 December** will get a little taste of Messy Church, as we will have our first

**'Messy Nativity'.**  
Look forward to seeing you there.

**Carol Quinn**



## HAIRY HOGMANAY CEILIDH COME TO THE CHURCH HALL

31 December at 8pm  
BRING YOUR OWN REFRESHMENTS & NIBBLES  
SOUP and STOVIES ON SALE  
James, Reece and Marwan  
are **HAVING THEIR LEGS WAXED** at 7pm  
Come along and witness this event  
**IT'S NOT TO BE MISSED!**  
Tickets available for ceilidh  
see James, Reece and Marwan  
Tickets: adults £5 children £3

## COVERING THE CARE SHELTER

Any spare blankets stored away somewhere in the house no longer needed? Would you be prepared to donate to Bethany for the use of the rough sleepers spending the night in the Care Shelter?

They are already experiencing a higher than anticipated attendance and extra blankets are now urgently required.

It would be an enormous help, and it would be greatly appreciated if donated blankets could be delivered to either:

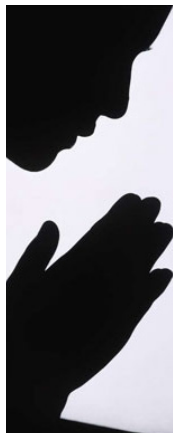
**The Bethany Hub, 24 Jane Street (near the foot of Leith Walk) Or any of the Bethany Shops in Edinburgh.**

## PRESTONGRANGE CHURCH REMEMBERING LOVED ONES

The annual Service of Remembrance for Loved Ones will be held **Sunday afternoon, 12 December, 3pm** in the church. We invite all those known to us who have lost a loved one in the last year, however the service is open to anyone who would find a service of remembrance, remembering loved ones, helpful in the run up to Christmas.

If you would like a name/s read out during the service, please contact **Mary Yorkston 811231** or a note can be handed to **Ian Ness** at the church.

**Lynda Ness**



## PRAYER SPOT

Father God we come before You and praise Your holy name. As we begin this season of Advent and celebrate the coming of Jesus our saviour we thank that Your word became flesh through Jesus Christ Your son. We thank You for the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord and praise You that death has lost its sting.

Forgive us for our sins Lord and cleanse us from all our unrighteousness. May Jesus be our focus this Christmas, may we have our hearts filled with His love and His compassion for anyone who is vulnerable or marginalised. Holy Spirit would You lead us to those in need that we may be able to demonstrate Jesus's love through our actions and truly show that love came down at Christmas.

## HEALING ROOMS SCOTLAND

Opened at the **Fraser Centre, 3A Winton Place, Tranent**, just off High Street. **Every Tues** evening from **7.30-8.45pm**. A Healing Room is simply a private place where people can come to receive healing prayer for any condition, physical, emotional or spiritual. **Tel 01875 611758** or **07854 444221**, [www.healingrooms-scotland.com](http://www.healingrooms-scotland.com)

## PRAYING THROUGH THE VACANCY

It has often been said that there is power in prayer, that power comes from Jesus who intercedes at the Father's right hand with our prayers. There are various ways you can be involved in praying for our church as we work through the vacancy to the point of calling a minister.

**Every Sunday** straight **after church service** under **West Gallery** for a time of prayer. On **second Sunday of every month, 6.30pm in the church.**



## HUGE THANK YOU FOR YOUR WHOPPING SUPPORT

James Reece and Marwan would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that helped at the Music Night in November, both behind the scenes and on stage. Also to the audience for their support helping them to raise a whopping **£529.31**.

## CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING A GREAT SUCCESS

Thank you to **everyone** who donated goods for the Christmas Coffee Morning. Also a big thank you to those who came and supported us.

The sum raised was **£914**.

A big thank you to Santa Claus and his happy helper!



## GUILD SYLLABUS

DECEMBER 2010

- WED 8 Christmas Music & Readings  
Preston Brass Band
- WED 15 Video Evening  
- John Greenwood

JANUARY 2011

- WED 2 The Small World
- WED 5 New Year Meal
- WED 16 The Vine Trust



## DECEMBER/JANUARY CALENDAR

### DECEMBER 2010

SUN 5	9.30	<b>COMMUNION</b> - led by Angus Bayne
	11.00	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b> - led by Angus Bayne
MON 6	7.30 PM	Joint Carol Service at Chalmers Memorial Church, Port Seton
SUN 12	11.00	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b> - led by Keith Mack
	3.00	<b>REMEMBERING LOVED ONES</b> - led by Keith Mack
SUN 19	11.00	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b> - Sunday School Nativity Led by Sunday School
FRI 24	7.30 PM	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE</b> - Led by Youth Group
	11.30 PM	<b>WATCH NIGHT SERVICE</b> - Led by Nicola Bruce
SAT 25	11.00	<b>CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE</b> - Led by Hazel Jamieson
SUN 26	11.00	<b>BOXING DAY SERVICE</b> - led by Angus Bayne

### JAN 2011

SUN 2	11.00	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b> (ecumenical) - Led by group in Salvation Army Hall (to be confirmed)
SUN 9	11.00	<b>MORNING SERVICE</b> - Keith Mack
SUN 16	11.00	<b>MORNING SERVICE</b> - Rev John Weir Cook (locum starts) The locum will then take over Sunday services
WED 19		Scripture Union - Hazel Jamieson
SUN 23	11.00	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b>
SUN 30	11.00	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b>

If you are interested in any of these events, or the events advertised in the pages of Pans Post, call the person named in the particular item in this edition, or call the minister, whose number is on the back page.

PRESTONGRANGE CHURCH

<i>Interim Moderator:</i>	Keith Mack	0131 454 0206
<i>Session Clerk:</i>	Ian Wallace	610684
<i>Youth Elder:</i>	Heather Antonelli	01620-842646

WEEKLY PROGRAMME

All these events are open to anyone who wishes to come (subject to obvious age groups for Sunday Club etc.) NB: Dates may vary at times. Do ask if you're not sure!

**Morning Worship:** every Sunday, 11am.

Sunday Club, Bible Class and crèche during morning worship every Sunday.

**Holy Communion:** card Communion on the last Sundays of February, October and at Pentecost. Also on Advent Sunday, the 2nd Sunday of January, Palm Sunday and the first Sunday of September at 11am.

Brief and informal Communion on the first Sunday of every month at 9.30am.

**Evening Worship:** Pans Praise – last Sunday of every month, 6.30pm in the Church. Often visiting speakers and a wide variety of forms of praise. All welcome.

**Worship:** last Sunday of each month, 2pm in the Residents Lounge at Preston Tower and 3pm at Johnny Moat Place. Everyone welcome, including non-residents.

**Meeting for Prayer:** second Sunday of every month at 6.30pm in the church.

**Out of Focus:** meets Sunday evenings 7.30pm. A varied programme for young adults. See Calendar for further details or contact Lindsey Stewart (07515516217).

**Bible Study Group:** Bible Study is closing.

**Life Study:** alternate Sundays, 2pm at 3 North Crescent, from 5th September.

**Women's Home Book Group:** weekly on Tuesdays from 7th September.

**Guild Meetings:** fortnightly, 7.30pm, Harlaw Hill Day Centre from 29th September.

**Boys' Brigade:** every Friday from 5-6pm Anchor Boys; 6-7pm Junior Section and 7-8pm Company Sections.

**Friday night Focus:** every Friday during term time, 7.30pm-9pm, St Andrews Church, West Loan. Focus is for young folk from P7-S6 with games, discussions, food, music and plenty of fun.

**Choir Practice:** usually on a Friday, 8pm at the Church. New members welcome.

**Prayer & Breakfast:** Saturdays, 7.30-8.30am in the Church Choir Room.

**X-Mark Youth Café:** Monday nights during term time, 7-9pm, St Andrews Church.

**Combined Churches Badminton Group:** will resume in Autumn. Contact David Bryden Reid 815287.

**NB:** Copy for the December Edition of Pans Post to Kerry Henderson  
email [kwbh559@yahoo.com](mailto:kwbh559@yahoo.com) or call 07773519971, by **Sunday 30 January**