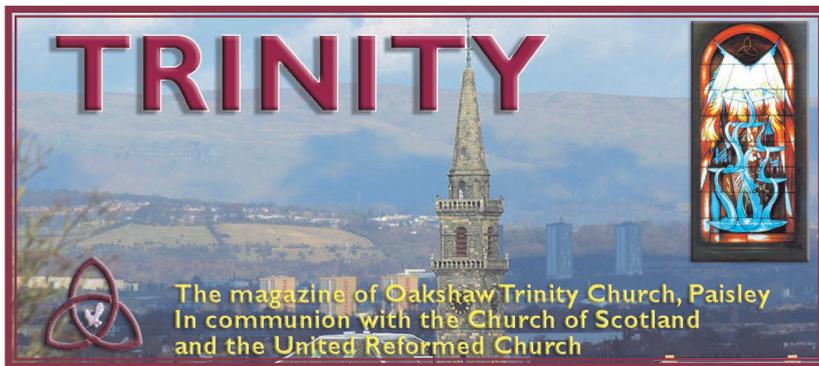




**Autumn
2016**

Church Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/oakshawtrinity
Website: www.oakshawtrinity.org.uk

Scottish Charity
Number
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TRINITY

The magazine of Oakshaw Trinity Church, Paisley
In communion with the Church of Scotland
and the United Reformed Church

Diary Dates



August
Sun 21 Sunday School resumes

September
Sun 4 10.15 Office Bearers' Service
11.00 Sacrament of Holy Communion
14.30 Pastoral Afternoon Communion

October
Sun 2 11.00 Harvest Thanksgiving
Monthly Communion after service
Sun 9 11.00 Morning Worship includes
Organisations Dedication, Church 25th
Anniversary and Presentation of Boys'
Brigade Queen's Badge
12.30 Congregational Half-Yearly Meeting

November
Sun 6 Monthly Communion after service
14:30 Service of Memorial & Thanksgiving
Sun 13 10:50 Remembrance Service
Sun 27 11:00 Sunday School Gift Service

December
Sun 4 10.15 Office Bearers' Service
11.00 Sacrament of Holy Communion
12.30 Bread & Soup Lunch
Sun 11 11.00 Lessons & Carols
Sun 18 11.00 Sunday School Nativity
Sat 24 22.00 Coffee & Christmas Pies
23.00 Carol Singing in the Church
23.30 Watchnight Service

On other Sundays, worship is at 11:00

From the Minister



When Jesus burst onto the scene in Palestine some 2000 years ago, he fulfilled all the Old Testament expectations, but was infinitely more than any man or woman could conceive. God had arrived in human form, and from that point on, life could hold so much more for all of us.

*See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland (Isaiah 43:19)*

The achievements of our athletes at the Olympic Games never cease to amaze me, yet I often say this about our family at Oakshaw Trinity. We have recently welcomed into our Church family the Friendly Hour, Girls' Brigade, St James's Bell Ringers and many new others by Transference of Membership from the former St. James's and other churches. This ties in nicely with God "doing a new thing!" It is also reassuring to know that God is making ways and streams of refreshment for all of our organisations as we begin this new session renewed and refreshed after our summer break.

Just over a year ago, we said farewell to Rev. Janet MacMahon and welcomed the Rev. Lilly Easton as our Pastoral Assistant. This year we have reversed the roles and say farewell to Lilly and welcome Janet on her return (not sure if this is renewal or recycling).

This year also marks the 25th Anniversary of the formation of Oakshaw Trinity Church. To celebrate this we will be holding a Service of Rededication of the Church and all related organisations on Sunday 9th October.

It is reassuring to know that no matter what successes and failures, or highs and lows we have and will experience, these are nothing compared to what we can access and know through Jesus, who can bring us into a sustaining, deeply satisfying and eternal relationship with God. In his lifetime Jesus talked of knowing God intimately, he called God 'Abba' in Aramaic, which roughly translates to 'Father' in English, and he encouraged us to do the same. He spoke of himself being one with His Father, and then invited us into the family. At Oakshaw Trinity, we've been slowly learning to enter into a relationship of trust with our Heavenly Father and we want to welcome our all our friends and members to join us as we try to assist God in "doing a new thing!"

Gordon (Rev. Gordon B. Armstrong)

Wynd Centre - Graeme W. McGowan (Chairman)



On 2 June 2016, Buckingham Palace announced that The Wynd Centre has been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

The Award was created in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee and is described as the MBE for voluntary groups. It is awarded each year to recognise outstanding works carried out by voluntary groups in their communities.

This is a tremendous achievement for The

Wynd Centre and is testament to the invaluable work which we have been carrying out in our community for over thirty years. At the time of writing we await word as to when the presentation is to take place but we expect this to be in late August or September. The Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire will present us with a certificate signed by The Queen and a commemorative domed glass crystal. We plan to invite as many volunteers, both past and present, as numbers will allow to the presentation.

There could not be a more appropriate time to pay tribute to the hundreds of volunteers who have devoted so much time over the last thirty years to the work of The Wynd Centre. It is their unstinting dedication and commitment which has led to the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service being awarded to The Wynd Centre and, on behalf of the thousands of members of our community who have benefited from the work of The Wynd Centre, I sincerely thank each and every one for their contribution.

Church Roll



Deaths:

March

26 Mrs. Jean Cochrane

June

6 Mrs. Ruby Bright
20 Mr. John McGregor

July

7 Mrs. Mary McLaughlan
20 Mrs. Lillias Mason

Madge Borland would like to say thank you for the chocolates and cards received on the occasion of her '21+69th' birthday.



Isabel and Margaret Pearson would like to say a huge thank you for the warm welcome that the people of St James's have received in coming to Oakshaw Trinity. *"Isabel and I have fully appreciated the friendship, fellowship and inclusion we have experienced since joining our new Church. We have enjoyed the Services, which have meant so much to us, the Tea and Crafts and the friendship of meeting new people. We look forward to participating in other events/activities in the future and thank you so much for helping us to settle into our new Church."*

Legion d'Honneur

Robert Faulds recently received the Legion d'Honneur, France's highest decoration of honour, in recognition of the part he played in France during the Second World War.



EMEC oversees our work on mission, Sunday School, adult education, Christian Aid, Food bank and EcoCongregation. If you are interested in getting involved or have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact Jim McDougall (jdmcdougall007@gmail.com) or 0141 571 8809.

Practical Action - Jim McDougall (E.M.E.C.)

As a church we always try to share our mission funds between good causes in the local area and those further afield. The Education, Mission and EcoCongregation Committee, EMEC, regularly considers which organisations to help. Two groups which we are always happy to work with are the Renfrewshire Food bank, which we looked at in the last issue, and Practical Action. Practical Action is an international charity that uses technology to challenge poverty in developing countries. Their approach is to find out "what people are doing and help them to do it better". They enable poor communities to build on their skills and knowledge to produce sustainable, practical forms of technology to improve their lifestyles. This concept of "technology justice" includes innovative ways of using the sun's energy to drive water pumps, designing more efficient wood burning stoves and using animal dung as a biofuel. One example among many can help show what a difference Practical Action can make:

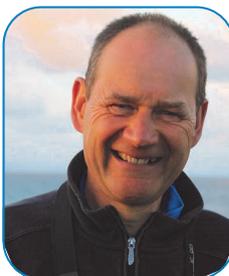


Jack Owino is the Head teacher of a school in Nakuru, Kenya. He has taught there since 2012 and has worked with Practical Action to improve access to clean water, toilets and hygiene training for his 765 students, who come from the nearby slums. Most have little or no access to clean water and decent sanitation at home so it is important to Jack and his staff that the children do not have to worry about going to the toilet and can drink clean, safe water when they're at school. Having no access to water and sanitation at school affects attendance and he was determined to change this. As he says,

"We used to have one block of boys' toilets and one block for girls. They were in a bad state. We now have two blocks each. Before, children had to run back home to go to the toilet, in the bush. They would run home and never come back. Bad sanitation at home meant that children were sick a lot. We now monitor their cleanliness. Water at home is contaminated but they are safe here. They are encouraged to go back to their communities and pass on their knowledge. My students are agents of change."

Working across the entire Developing World, Practical Action focuses on four priorities- Energy, Food, Water and Disaster Relief. We are happy to continue using part of our mission fund to help this excellent organisation continue with its valuable and life enhancing work among the poorest people in the world. More information is posted on the EMEC notice board or see <http://practicalaction.org/who-we-are>

The New Moderator of the United Reformed Church, Synod of Scotland



Rev. Dr. David Pickering was appointed by Mission Council and took up his responsibilities on 1st July, 2016.

David was ordained as a minister in 1990 and served until 1999 with the United Reformed Church North Teesside Group. Between 1999 and 2004 he was seconded to serve with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland's Eco-Congregation Aware Project. In 2004 he was appointed Minister at St. Andrew's Roundhay United Reformed Church in Leeds. David was formally inducted as Moderator on 16th July, 2016 at Giffnock United Reformed Church.

A Golden Occasion

A special session of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was held on 24th May to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the ordination of women to the Eldership.

Our church was represented by Isabel Craig, Jessie Cross, Elsie Scoular and Sheena Young.

Up until 1966 there were only male Elders. However, after debate and consultation, forty five out of sixty two Presbyteries approved extending the Eldership to women. Now the Eldership comprises over 50% women though a few male only Kirk Sessions still exist.

At the meeting there was loud applause for Gladys Ramsay from Dundee. She was one of the first women Elders to be ordained in 1966 and today is still active as a Session Clerk. A few women shared their experiences of being Elders and of its importance in their faith journeys. It is significant that two years after the ordination of women as Elders, history was again made when Mary Lusk was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Sheena Young



Treasurer's Report

Although income is in line with expectations, our costs continue to give some concern. We have incurred costs for the new sound system, the repair to the boundary and church walls, the roof repairs, costing around £40,000. We now face the cost of the church redecoration of around £48,000. Even though these costs are covered by the General Fabric Fund, specific legacies and donations, the church will still have a deficit in 2016.

There are indications that some of the congregation have reviewed their level of giving. This is a trend to be encouraged as we welcome a number of new members, mainly from the former St. James's Church.

Fabric Report - Jonathan Sweeney and Ian Young

In our Summer Fabric Report we stated that certain works would be completed by the end of July. Sadly the work and repairs to the headstones and the windows is still outstanding. This is mainly due to poor weather and holidays.

The damaged expanding gates have now been replaced, and we are expecting a contractor to discuss repairs to our main gate.

On Monday 10th July we handed our church over to the contractors to prepare and re-decorate our church. The first two weeks were taken up with the scaffolding being erected. The painters and plasterers are now concentrating on the ceiling, cutting and raking the cracks, then filling them in, before applying the paint. Once the ceiling is completed the scaffolding will be removed, walls and stairways will then be painted, and the painters will move downstairs. Hopefully the congregation will be pleased with the final result.

You can see from this photo why we have had to move to the hall for our services!



Financial Support for the work of Oakshaw Trinity and its outreach arm, The Wynd Centre

We wish to acknowledge the financial support given by the Cargill Trust for the pointing of the exterior stonework of the Sanctuary and the support from Renfrewshire Council, The Bank of Scotland Foundation Trust and Greenock and Paisley Presbytery for the work of The Wynd Centre. You can also help maintain the work of the church in the future by considering a legacy now. Graeme McGowan has kindly agreed to prepare the legal paperwork and further information can be had from either Derek Osborne (FWO Convenor) or Ian Catterson (Church Treasurer).

The Friendly Hour - Isabel Gray (Convener)

*"To start off as a stranger and turn into a friend,
Is rather like a story that has a happy end!
But this is just the beginning - a friendship bright and new,
Which is happy in the present and holds future promise too!"*

Elizabeth Gozney

All the members of the Friendly Hour (formerly St James's Church), look forward to our new home in Oakshaw Trinity Church, and to share time with new friends when our session begins on Tuesday 4th October in the Lang Hall at 2pm.

The Friendly Hour is open to anyone age 60 years and over. At present our membership includes men and women from the surrounding community, the local housing complexes, Paisley and Renfrew as well as St James's Church and Oakshaw Trinity Church. We have a team of volunteer car drivers and a mini bus driver and assistant, who will transport any members who are not so able.

Tuesday afternoons are always welcoming and you can be sure of a chat, a catch up with friends and a good cup of tea! Our weekly programme includes short devotions, time for tea and then some form of entertainment. Entertainment is varied e.g. music, talks, demonstrations, games, bring and buy sale and visits from local schools and nurseries. Music is the favourite and this includes a selection of singers, groups, choirs and instrumentalists. We have a Christmas lunch and on the first Tuesday in May we have an outing.

As a group we support two charities: Guide Dogs for the Blind and CHAS.

Later in September a notice in the Oakshaw Oracle will inform you of our programme for the first few weeks.

We look forward to welcoming you.



Trip to Helensburgh in May

Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong

We're not starting back as such, as we have continued to meet through the summer; however, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our ladies (still no men) for their continued and enthusiastic support of our creative and talkative group.

We meet in the Lang Hall at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month and we will be focussing our skills on nice things for Christmas.

Please do come along and join us for a natter or better still, learn or show us some of your craft ideas.



Knee blankets knitted for the benefit of our less mobile Church members



Choir - Catriona Muirhead (Secretary)

Where does the time go? It seems no time since we finished our practices on a Thursday evening and here we are looking forward to a new session again.

We are hoping that with some members of St. James's Church having now joined our family here at Oakshaw Trinity, we will also be able to increase our numbers in the Choir.



With this in mind, the Choir is holding an Open Evening in the Church on Thursday 25th August, 2016 at 8.00 p.m. when we hope to welcome anyone in our congregation who likes singing. Please come along and enjoy an evening of music and a light supper with us before we resume our usual weekly practices on Thursday 1st September, 2016 at 8.00 p.m.

We do hope everyone will think seriously about coming along, not only for the music but also for the fellowship. We can guarantee a very warm welcome and also a lot of fun!

Eight o'clock Club - Sheena Miller (Secretary)

Our 2016/17 session is the 50th anniversary of the start of the club and this occasion will be marked on Saturday 12th November with a celebratory afternoon tea including entertainment by the Renfrew Ladies Choir. We hope that many of the current and past members of the club will be able to attend. It will start at 2 p. m. and cost £5. More details will be in Oracle nearer the time. We will be trying to contact previous members. Please let the committee know of anyone, who no longer attends, who might be interested.



The syllabus is currently being prepared and will be available at our first meeting on Monday 26th September where we will be dipping our toes into Tai Chi. The other 2016 dates are:

31st October - Tannahill - the 'Weaver Poet'

28th November - 'All that Glitters Cakes'

5th December - Christmas dinner

The meetings are normally held in the Lang Hall, on the last Monday of the month starting at 8 pm. You are most welcome to come along to any of the meetings.

At the close of last session, in addition to the £759 donation to the R. A. H. Baby Care Unit, we were also able to make the following donations – Church £250, Flower Fund £150 and Wynd Centre £100.



Trinity Lunch Club - Sheena Miller

The Lunch Club meets in The Wynd Centre from September to April on a monthly basis, usually on the second Wednesday of these months. A light lunch is served at 12.30 in the Main Hall for a donation of £3. Thereafter the speaker gives a talk for about 30 minutes followed by a short time for questions and comments. The meeting normally finishes about 2 p.m. On average about 30 to 40 people attend.

Our session starts on Wednesday 14th September with Stephen Allan talking about a visit to Malaysia with the Scouts. The other dates for this year are 5th October, 9th November and 7th December.

A syllabus will be available in September giving more details and a warm welcome awaits both "regulars" and "new faces".

Please come and join us, either on a regular basis or occasionally - whenever you can manage.



St. James's Handbells have a new home - Iain Wilcox



Following the closure of St. James's Church there was a need for a new home to be found for the Handbells within the Church of Scotland. Oakshaw Trinity have been so kind in taking over the Trusteeship of this unique set of Handbells and this ensures they are kept as a part of Paisley's heritage.

The set of 51 bells date back to 1884 and were manufactured by the famous Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London. They were first played at the Half Timers' School Soiree in Paisley Town Hall in 1886.



We have a team of 12 ringers and play throughout the central belt of Scotland. Past concerts took place at the Ardgowan Hospice Christmas Gala in Greenock, Largs and Helensburgh and the Scottish Handbell Ringers Gala in Callander.

We have a wide repertoire of interesting music, ranging from Classical to Modern to Religious, thoroughly enjoyed by all our audiences who also are encouraged to play the bells with us.

At this time of change for the team and with Oakshaw Trinity giving us a new home, it is the perfect time to invite any budding ringers to come along and have a go, you will be made most welcome- you don't need to read music although this is an advantage- but you do need to be able to count!!!! The handbell ringers operate truly as a team as it takes everyone ringing a piece of music to complete the whole tune, so dedication to rehearsals and concerts is very important.

We have a weekly practice every Wednesday evening between 8.00 and 10.00pm, beginning the first Wednesday of September. Please do come along.

For further information please call Elaine Colquhoun.

Oakshaw Explorers - David A. Barr

We look forward to our remaining outings for 2016 and invite you to participate, if you have not done so already.

Sunday afternoon (leaving from church at 1 p.m.)

21st August : Scotland Street Museum

9th October : Glasgow Central Station

Saturday (normally leaving church at 9 a.m.)

27th August : Arran

17th Sept. : Pitlochry



Details for each outing will be published in Oracle. Towards the end of October we hope to have our 'annual review' where we reminisce and look at photos of our trips for the year. We also look forward to 2017 by putting forward suggestions of where we might go. Come along and find out more and put forward your ideas.



Sunday School - Janice McCallum

By the time you read this the Sunday school will be up and running. We hope to see you all back after your summer break although I did see some of you at Summer Sunday School. I would like to say to the children that they have made me so proud again and I thought you were GREAT at the promotion service. We have had some lovely comments back from the congregation. Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday 21st August. Please meet in the Lang hall before going over to church. We have a full calendar of events for you which I'm sure you will enjoy. You are always welcome at Sunday school.

Tots and Toddlers - Janice McCallum

Tots and Toddlers continue to run smoothly thanks to the efforts of Gail, Jacqueline and Fiona. For anyone new reading about Tots and Toddlers for the first time, this is a service that is provided for very young children during church service time. There are toys, books and games available and all volunteers are PVG checked. Don't hesitate to use the service if you need it. The children are always safe, happy and well cared for while you are worshipping in Church.

Boys' Brigade (14th Paisley) - Craig McFie

The Boys' Brigade will be starting back for their 117th Session on Friday 19th August at 6.30pm in The Wynd Centre. Please spread the word for old and new members! While we have been off for the School Holidays, Jason Muirhead and Grant McDermid attended their KGV1 week long course at the BB Headquarters at Carronvale House, and both are looking forward to putting into practice the new Leadership Skills they have learned.



Rainbows and Brownies

Elizabeth Halliday

There is now no waiting list for Rainbows or Brownies. We start again on Friday 26th August in the church halls. Rainbows (age 5 and up) and Brownies (age 7 and up) meet from 6.30 to 7.45. Girls, current and new, are welcome.



Guides - Linda Kelly

The Guides are starting back in the church halls on the 25th August. We are looking forward to the new session. Any girl aged 10-14 will be made welcome.



to have a rest and indeed for them to be able to join in our Sunday worship.

Thank you to all who volunteered to make this successful and interesting for our young folk. It is important that we can offer this facility to allow Janice and her team

Margaret Armstrong

Youth Committee - Neil Armstrong

Firstly, on behalf of the Youth Committee, I would like to thank everyone who supported our trip to Blair Drummond. This was yet another well attended and successful trip and we cannot do it without your support. I am sure some of the kids were hoping that their leaders would have been locked up in an enclosure rather than being back on the bus.



In the next few weeks the Youth Committee will be releasing information about our future events. These include some fun filled trips as well as some afternoons in the church. The names of the Youth Committee members will be displayed in the large hall, so feel free to give us your suggestions and feedback.



The Saturday Club has taken an extended summer break due to the maintenance of the church so keep an eye out for information in Oracle about when the club is due to return.

Girls' Brigade (2nd Paisley) - Karen Peacock

2nd Paisley Girls' Brigade was formed in 2008 and was linked to St James's Church in Underwood Road. We originally started off with just 10 girls and over the past 8 years our numbers have grown to just over 40.

Our end of year display in May was tinged with sadness as it would be our last one in St James's due to the pending closure. I am however a firm believer that God will always look after us and of course I was right. As one door closes another one opens and that has definitely been the case as we have had so much support and made so welcome at Oakshaw Trinity Church.

Whilst our session has not yet started myself, a few of the leaders and some of the children have been attending the Sunday services and have had such a warm welcome. We have also been busy getting everything set up for the new session down in The Wynd Centre where we will meet on a Thursday evening. Since joining I have attended the Youth Committee meeting and helped out with the Summer Sunday School which has been most enjoyable.

I cannot thank everyone enough for making us so welcome and special thanks must go to Anne Hosie and Rev. Gordon Armstrong for allowing us to be part of your Church family and all the support over the transition period.



This is a picture from our final display at St James's and I hope to share some more pictures over coming months.

We start the 2016/2017 session on Thursday 25th August, in The Wynd Centre from 6.45-7.45pm.

All girls in P1 through to S6 would be made most welcome.

Dunoon Holiday - Sandra Hamilton

This year the holiday to the Esplanade Hotel in Dunoon was from 30th April till 7th May. The weather was not too bad.....just a bit windy!! For our trip this year, Jimmy, our faithful bus driver, took us to Tighnabruach with stops for photo shoots looking right down the Kyles of Bute. Our best day was the Friday and, as you can see by the photograph, it was a beautiful day, hence all the happy, smiling faces!

This is really a great week for the more senior members of our Congregation and if anyone is thinking about going, please speak to any member in the photograph or if you would like more details speak to Sandra or Gordon Hamilton. We are already looking forward to next year.



Pride of Paisley

Anyone visiting Paisley Town Centre this summer can't fail to have missed the stunning lions placed at key locations around the town. Oakshaw Trinity and The Wynd Centre are two of these locations, with "Wild Paisley" on the cobbles outside the church and "Chewy The Lion Wookiee" in The Wynd Centre grounds. Plaques on the plinths provide information about the church and Wynd. We also have a mini-lion, painted by children from Paisley Grammar, within The Wynd Centre.



There are twenty five lions, designed and painted by local artists, together with forty mini-lions painted by schools throughout Renfrewshire, and the lions will be on display till 25th September Paper trails, and an app for mobile phones and tablets are available.

The aim is to bring visitors to the town, raise awareness of our cultural and heritage assets and boost footfall for local businesses. We have enjoyed this benefit in the Wynd Coffee Shop, with some lion hunters staying for a bite to eat. The project has been a huge hit throughout the town with an almost continuous flow of people posing for photographs with each of the lions.

At the end of September, the mini-lions will return to the schools and the full-sized lions will be auctioned with proceeds being divided between Accord Hospice and St.Vincent's Hospice.

Until then, enjoy the Pride of Paisley!

Let Us Pray

Lord bless us ,
Make us thankful, always ready to praise you as long as we live. May we actively use all the good gifts and talents that you give us to foster your work of creation.

Lord bless us,
And send us out to help, to heal, to encourage, to reconcile and to share our lives with all, as you share your body and blood, your all, for all.
Amen.



Food bank Rota

If you wish to join the rota to help deliver items from the Church to the Food Bank warehouse, please speak to Jim McDougall or Jessie Cross.

Doors Open Day

Once again Oakshaw Trinity are participating in Doors Open Day on Saturday 3rd September and once again we are looking for volunteers to act as guides and stewards to show people round our church, between 11.00 am and 4.00pm

If you are able to help, please speak to Ian Farquhar or John McKenzie who would be delighted to give you further information.



Wynd Worship - John Stewart

The morning worship starts again on Monday 15 August in the Wynd Chapel at 09:45. We continue to look for volunteers from the lay men and women of the congregation to undertake this important part of Oakshaw Trinity Church's work. It is only 15 mins and dates are flexible. You will be made most welcome to the team. If you can assist please pass your name to me or contact Catriona in The Church Office. Material is available.



Editor's note: We have a slightly bigger magazine this time to give the new groups some space to introduce themselves.

Future Magazine Dates

Edition	Articles due by	Magazine available
Winter	30/10/16	13/11/16
Spring	29/01/17	12/02/17

Church Directory

Minister	Rev, Gordon Armstrong BD FIAB BRC Cert. CS	0141 887 4647 Press 3
Pastoral Minister	Rev. Janet P.H. MacMahon MSc BD	0141 887 4647 Press 3
Session Clark	Robert B. Copleton	
Treasurer	Ian Catterson	
Fabric Convenor	Ian Young	
Church Office	Catriona Muirhead	0141 887 4647 Press 3