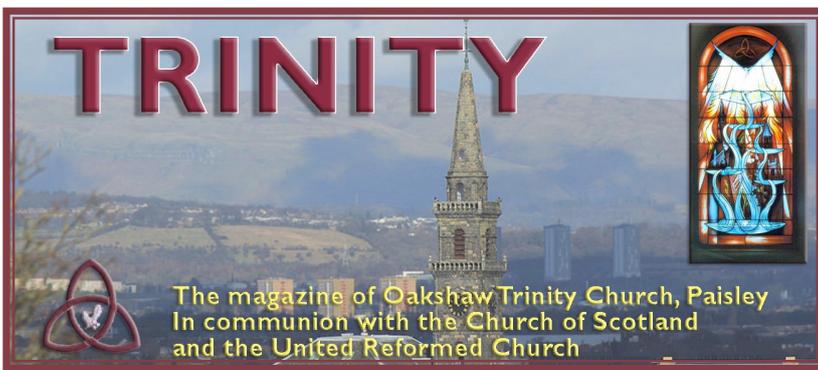




**Autumn
2021**

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

Scottish Charity
 Number
 SC005362



TRINITY

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



WELCOME

SUNDAY SERVICE is at 11 a.m. both in church and online.

The services in church are subject to any current Government restrictions.

Worship videos are available online each Sunday at 11 am on the church website oakshawtrinity.org.uk/music and the church Facebook page facebook.com/oakshawtrinity

The online version of Oracle and the Order of Service are also available on the Facebook page and on the website under Menu option 'News/Oracle' .

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION: Please check on Facebook, the church website and in Oracle for the latest information on what is happening as organisations start up again when restrictions ease.

Weekly Church Opening
 Rev. Gordon Armstrong and Rev. George Lind will be available in the Church on **Tuesdays from 11.00 am until 3.00 pm**. Prayers will be said on the hour by the Ministers.

From the Minister

Dear friends,

COVID-19 restrictions have changed dramatically since our last edition of Trinity and we have been able to sing at Sunday Services, albeit behind masks! Thanks also go to EMEC and their Eco sub-group, and to the many others who by their efforts, we have been awarded the prestigious Eco-Congregation Silver Award which we will celebrate at a special service.

Yet, these have also been lonely times for many of you and the recent easing of restrictions can also feel quite daunting. The theologian, George Buttrick once told the story of Rupert Brooke setting sail on a journey from Liverpool to New York. As he approached the ship, he watched the other passengers being waved off by family and friends. This made him feel quite alone in the crowd. Just then, he saw a small boy up to no good on the dock - he went over to the boy and asked him his name. "Bill," was his reply. Brooke offered the boy sixpence to wave him off, and Bill gladly accepted his offer and waved his grubby handkerchief towards Brooke as the ship set sail. Our human voyage can still be a lonely affair as it lunges by and large into a journey with no apparent port of departure, for no one knows where our journey on board the ship of life begins, or into which port it sails. Buttrick concluded that we are all on a lonely voyage, and when we confess that fact, biblical faith begins.

I do hope that as we slowly get back to our more familiar forms of worship and meeting up in our groups and organisations, that you will once again join us on the 'ship of faith' at Oakshaw Trinity Church.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

Welcome back and I look forward to worshipping God with you.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Gordon (Rev. Gordon B. Armstrong)



The Wynd Centre

From the Chairman - Rev Gordon Armstrong

The Centre has now been opened throughout the summer with some of our regular groups up and running. We have also said farewell to some others during lockdown.

The directors continue to look at ways of improving the Centre as the outreach of Oakshaw Trinity Church and

continue to meet regularly with our Centre Manager, Thomas Blane and our Counselling Manager, Lloyd Whyman.



From the Manager - Thomas Blane

The Wynd Centre has followed the rest of the country in recently easing restrictions with the main difference to us being the removal of social distancing. This has resulted in the capacity of halls increasing and expands the opportunity of the scale of events the centre can hold. We have three new groups looking to start after the school summer holidays. They are a knitting club, yoga club and art class which is a sign that as restrictions ease the opportunity of new business is coming back.

We have a new website which can be found at www.thewyndcentre.com and we are looking to build the content of the website. I have also created a new brochure for the centre advertising the commercial facilities we have. Increasing our presence in the community is crucial and having our own website which we control and also a new brochure are great ways to advertise at very little cost. I have been focusing on finding funding for the centre over the last couple of months and so far we have received £5000 from the Renfrewshire Council Community Fund and the Arnold Clark Community Fund. I am currently in contact with the Robertson Trust and the National Lottery as we look to gain larger scale funding.

I am looking forward to the Wynd Centre being able to grow once more with restrictions easing but we will continue to follow the Track and Trace scheme as advised and will remain vigilant by following the regulations.



Church Roll

Baptism:

20/06/21 James Alexander Reilly



Marriage

20/05/21

Colin Smith and Lauren Mulherron



Deaths:

July 2020 Tom Hamilton

08/02/21 Morag Millar

19/03/21 Agnes Campbell

22/03/21 Catherine Carmyllie



UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



A prayer for Climate Justice

The impacts of climate change are happening right now. We pray for those affected by the recent extreme weather. From flash floods in northern Europe to deadly temperatures in the US, from wildfires in the Mediterranean, to landslides in India. Together we pray for those affected. Extreme weather events are hitting the news more regularly and we hold in our prayers all those affected by these events. We also hold in our hearts, all those whose suffering is less visible or prevalent in the news. We pray and act in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world who struggle every day to mitigate and prevent the climate crisis as it impacts their lives. We endeavour to uphold their voices, stories and experiences.

AMEN

[Christian Aid website]



Lots more about the Christian response to Climate Change are at the following links

[Kirk marks 100 days until COP26 | The Church of Scotland](#)

[COP26: Rise to the moment \(urc.org.uk\)](#)

[Preparing for COP26 - Christian Aid](#)

Education, Mission, EcoCongregation Committee

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

The Fire Next Time

God gave Noah the rainbow sign, no more water, the fire next time

The lines from the 19th Century spiritual carried a clear warning, that there will be no second chance for sinful people. The next time there will be no Ark to save us from the floods, but rather, humanity and the world will be engulfed in flames. It was used as the title of a book by the American activist James Baldwin as a warning about the civil rights crisis in 1960s USA, which saw its fair share of racial violence, riots, and fire.

And now, as we read of wildfires out of control across much of southern Europe and California, and last year, Australia, we realise that fire is not just a metaphor but a grim reality for more and more people. The images from Greece and Turkey are truly horrifying; people losing their homes, their farms, their livelihoods.

Beautiful pine forests gone up in smoke, countless animals will have perished, and people forced to evacuate, with graphic images of orange-red skies above once pristine beaches and resorts, taken from the comparative safety of a boat. These people have lost everything, and their despair is heart-rending. No man is an island, for many of us know these beaches or ones like it, and we can only imagine the sense of loss that many of our fellow humans are suffering.

Against this backdrop of infernos, and - elsewhere, terrible flooding - we anticipate the COP26 summit this November in Glasgow. This "Conference of the Parties", with delegates and world leaders meeting to discuss, one hopes, with urgency and determination, the growing emergency that is climate change. Only last month our church achieved the Silver award for the EcoCongregation programme, for which we are justly proud. However, as events show, this is no time to stand back. It is easy to dismiss these large scale events as so much talking and little action, but it is up to each of us to do what we can, "you in your small corner and I in mine". The Church of Scotland, in a statement issued on 23rd July, "100 days to COP26", urges congregations to act and offers many ideas. At a personal level, we can get involved through prayer, something Gordon preached on last month. EMEC commends the work of Christian Aid in focusing our attention on COP26, through its prayer diary and suggestions for individual and congregational activities. Likewise, the URC has highlighted the Young Christian Climate Network who have embarked on an ambitious relay across the UK to raise the message of climate justice. They will carry the sail of a unique boat they have constructed, inscribed with the message "Rise to the Moment", from Cornwall to Glasgow. Reuben Watt, URC Youth Moderator, says: "As we get closer to COP26, there is no better time for us, as Christians, to stand up for the climate and the world that we live in".

As we mark our Silver Award, let us each pledge to do something for this beautiful planet of ours, as stewards of creation. Let us remember too, that while Fire can be destructive, it can also bring about change and renewal, as we know from Malachi- "for he is like a refiner's fire".

Thank you

As mentioned above, we recently gained the silver level of the Eco-Congregation Scotland scheme. The award recognises that our congregation has met or exceeded Eco-Congregation's silver award standards in spiritual living, practical living and global living, while also addressing some more general aspects or environmental care. As chair of EMEC, I would like to thank members of EMEC's EcoCongregation steering group, under Fiona Catterson, for their leadership and hard work. In this we have been given much encouragement by our minister, Gordon and by the interest and participation of many members of the Congregation over the last three years. We look forward to celebrating this achievement with you and building on this award, as we look to fresh challenges and opportunities. As COP26 approaches, there is much work yet to be done in the vineyard.



Finance Report - Isabel Pearson - Treasurer

Bob Copleton and myself have reviewed the Church Accounts for the six months ended 30th June 2021. The income, other than Hall Lets and Fund Raising, is reasonable. This is due to the number of FWO Givers who very kindly changed their method of giving and moved from FWO envelopes to Standing Order at the beginning of lockdown. That welcome change, along with the Government Furlough Scheme helped towards the staff costs.

I would like to encourage those still using FWO envelopes to consider moving to Standing Order. If you would like to do this please do not hesitate to contact Bob or myself and we will be happy to provide you with the information you require.

Property Report - John McKenzie

The care and maintenance of the Church and halls seems to be a "revolving door" at the present time; no sooner do we complete one area than we have to move on with another. For that to happen we are very grateful to a lot of people for their time and assistance over the last months.

We were subject to Church of Scotland Quinquennial inspection and their report highlighted some essential work that requires attention.

This is a list of some of the works that will be necessary.

Sanctuary

We are still in discussions with Renfrewshire Council regarding the repairs/maintenance of the tower. The main concern is the lack of progress shown by the council as we head towards autumn/winter and we await their response.

There is an area of damp on the east staircase and on a wall in the Heritage Room and this is under investigation at the present time.

We have also instigated a survey on the pointing and guttering on the building and we await the resulting comments and costs.

It is hoped that, weather permitting, we can have the sanctuary windows along with main and side doors repainted as soon as possible.

Halls

During an inspection on the electrical system it was discovered that much of the wiring needed to be replaced to meet current safety requirements and this has been actioned. Work will commence during August and hopefully allow use of the halls by early September.

As we stated, the Quinquennial report highlighted areas that require essential maintenance and the exterior walls, windows, guttering, at the Oakshaw Suite require repair and we await costs for this work alongside the works for the church.

As with buildings of this age, this will always be the case and we need to be aware that matters will require attention.



The Session House
Find out more information and see other pictures of the upgraded and redecorated Oakshaw Suite on the back page.

From the Session Clerk - John McKenzie

Dear friends

As I write this, the news is that all the majority of the restrictions that we have lived with for so long are to be lifted and we can begin to look forward to meeting together.

Sadly there are still some rules to be followed, like still having to wear a mask as we sing but hopefully that will not deter us getting back together and I look forward to seeing some of you back Oakshaw Trinity.



While we've been under the restrictions for COVID-19, it has allowed us to review what repairs/re-decoration have been necessary and alongside the Quinquennial report advising essential repairs, we have had the opportunity to carry out some of the work i.e. refitting of the kitchen, redecorating of the Oakshaw Suite of halls including the Session House. I hope that many of you will take time to look over the work that has been completed.

If I may, I would like to take this moment to thank everyone who has supported us, both financially and in person over what has been a long and difficult period. We appreciate your commitment very much.

Recently, Rev George Lind provided us with a quote about lighthouses, that they don't go chasing around after boats/ships to save, they just stand there and do the job they are meant to do, so I make no apology for likening Oakshaw Trinity to George's lighthouse in that we are here doing the job we have always done, by being God's light at the top of the hill.

Every Blessing

John

EMEC Eco-Congregation steering group -

Fiona Catterson

Oakshaw Trinity Church is now a Silver Award Eco Congregation!

The Eco Committee recently had an intense session with the Assessors from Eco Congregation Scotland when we were asked about all of the work the committee and congregation have done over the last (nearly) three years. The outcome of which is us being awarded the Silver Award.



This is a huge achievement for everyone in Oakshaw Trinity and the Assessors particularly liked our Autumnwatch and Springwatch Activities, our stalls at coffee time, our intergenerational working, our close links with the Fabric Committee and Ministerial Team plus our reporting systems.

Although we are absolutely delighted to have achieved this status, our tasks are not finished. Being an Eco-Congregation is an ongoing process which involves everyone continuing to change habits, question, and reflect.

COVID-19 has given us all the opportunity to reflect on the fragility of our world and the forthcoming COP26 event in November in Glasgow will give us opportunities to consider how we can contribute to a 'Just and Green Recovery', not just for Scotland but for the rest of the world.

Friendly Hour - Isabel Gray (Convener)

When does it start back?

As we travel through August and approach September, we wait for further updates and guidance regarding safe changes to our daily lifestyle. The Friendly Hour Committee will then have a few decisions to make regarding our Autumn programme.

We want all our members to feel safe and welcome when we return after such a long absence, so therefore any changes we have to make must still provide an enjoyable and friendly afternoon. We'll keep in touch.

In the meantime here is a story to make you think. I've called it
Out of the Blue.

What we say and how we say it can make a difference to people's day. Two instances happened recently during a stressful week in our household. I called British Gas regarding a leak in our central heating and spoke to a very helpful lady, who arranged for an engineer to call within a few days. Out of the blue she commented, "I see it's your birthday today – Happy Birthday. Are you having a nice day?". "Not really" I replied "but thank you for asking"!

The second instance happened in Morrisons Supermarket two days later when Douglas was doing the weekly shop. At the checkout he loaded the conveyor belt. Then stood and waited to catch the bread, yogurts and tea biscuits etc come flying along the belt at high speed. Out of the blue, the lady at the check out said "just take your time, I'll wait for you to pack". After paying for the messages, Douglas thanked her very much. It makes a difference what we say and how we say it!!

Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong

What a strange time we have just come through! Like me, I hope that you have been trying out some new patterns and coming up with some different ideas for our group. If things keep moving forward, I hope that we will soon be able to meet up again on Monday nights. Please keep a look out for the changes and I look forward to seeing you all once again.



Eight o'clock Club - Joan Wilson

The committee hope our members and friends are all well and have enjoyed seeing many more friendly faces during the warm summer.

As restrictions ease, we can now plan for our new session in 2021-2022.

In consultation, with all our members, we have agreed to change the time from 8 o'clock in the evening to 2 o'clock in the afternoon, still meeting on the last Monday of the month, from September to April,

The Club has, therefore, been re-named (imaginatively) the **Two O'Clock Club.**

An interesting syllabus is now being finalised and further details will be in Oracle and on Facebook.

Donations of 'Smalls for All' garments can still be handed to any member of the committee.

We are very much looking forward to meeting up with our members, former members and welcoming new members on Monday, 27th September 2021, at 2pm, in the Lang Hall, for fellowship, friendship and fun.

Until then, keep safe and well.

Choir - Catriona Muirhead

Since the last issue of Trinity one or two of members have celebrated special occasions. Colin Smith got married and Jim and Linda McDougall became grandparents for the first time, both happy occasions which we were not able to celebrate at our practice. However I am sure we will be having one big celebration when we all get back together, especially now with certain restrictions uplifted.

With those restrictions changing frequently the choir continue to look at options that may be possible for us to resume and hopefully by the next issue of Trinity we will have made some progress.

During the summer we had solos from Jim McDougall and Calum Murray. Calum also shared his talents by playing the organ at a Sunday Service.

We continue to stay positive and hope you all keep safe.



VIC COOMBES - 100 YEARS YOUNG

Vic celebrated his 100th birthday on 27th May with a surprise garden party with friends and family who visited him in the garden of his Paisley home.

He was born in Sussex, at 18 joined the Royal Navy in 1939 and served in Malta during the Second World War where he sustained serious injuries to his arms, legs and face during the Siege of Malta.

He worked as a plumber and latterly as a sanitary inspector for local authorities in Glasgow and Paisley.

He married Queenie, a Paisley girl, in 1949. Sadly Queenie died in 2002, however, Vic found love again with Helen who he married in 2004.

Unfortunately, Helen passed away a few years ago and now Vic lives on his own. Although a centenarian, Vic looks after himself with no outside assistance and tends his own garden.

Vic enjoyed having friends and family over the course of his birthday and was delighted to show off his special birthday card from the Queen.

The photograph shows Vic in the company of our Minister with various other Church members.

Sandra Hamilton



Men's Club - John Hamilton

The Men's Club are delighted to be returning on the second Friday in September that's the 10th. Sadly two of our members have died during lock down (not due to COVID-19). All the existing members are looking forward to re-starting and will be happy to welcome new members into our fellowship. Main games are table tennis, snooker and darts. Meet in the McLauchlan Hall any time after 19:30 on a Friday.

Trinity Theatre Group - Jean Bett

Like all church organisations, we are waiting with bated breath for any news on the lessening of the COVID-19 restrictions so that we can start up again but I was encouraged this week to receive an email about halls letting. We appreciate it will still take time for things to get back to anything like normal. In our case, until we know we can access a theatre, it is difficult to plan ahead. Our first commitment has to be to the Renfrewshire Bible Society as our performance of, "Joseph and the Amazing etc., etc.," for them was cancelled with two weeks to go. I have been looking at a selection of shows that would suit the club but it is possible we could end up doing a pantomime in February!!! I know all our members, especially the young ones who constantly text or phone to see what is happening, are desperate to get started but at this late stage in the pandemic we do not want to put anyone at risk. Keep safe and look out for each other.



Girls' Brigade (2nd Paisley) - Karen Peacock

It's hard to believe that it is almost seventeen months since we all met up together face to face. I am delighted to say that at last we have been given the go ahead to start back face to face meetings and we are hoping this will be at the beginning of September. We cannot wait to see all the girls again.

Renfrew Division Girls' Brigade secured some funding from the 'Summer of Play' grant scheme and we have organised an activity day up at Lapwing Lodge for the Junior and Brigader sections on Saturday 14th August. We are one of five companies from the division taking part where the girls will be able to participate in various instructor led activities such as Archery, Canoeing, Climbing Wall and High Ropes. Having missed camp for the past two years, the girls are all really looking forward to it and I'm delighted that we have twenty two girls coming along.

We have quite a number of girls moving from the Junior section up to Brigaders this year; the last time we saw them they were in P6 which is scary!

We would like to wish all the girls good luck starting back at school and hope this year is much less disruptive for them all. For now, stay safe everyone!



Use of photographs:

Pictures of people involved in activities related to the church and the Wynd Centre are now appearing in Trinity magazine, on the Oakshaw Trinity website and on the Oakshaw Trinity Facebook page.

It is assumed, unless anyone specifically requests otherwise, that individuals are happy to be included in any church or Wynd Centre related photographs that appear in Trinity magazine, on the Oakshaw Trinity website, or on the Oakshaw Trinity Facebook page.

Anyone wishing to opt out of their picture appearing in any or all of the above mentioned locations should contact the Church office.

The Sunday School and Youth organisations' photographs are covered by separate arrangements the organisations have with the parents or guardians of the children.

Boys' Brigade - Janice Mc Callum (Acting Captain)

Once again, I can't believe the time that has passed Before too long and when you read this, school will be back and fingers crossed, Boys' Brigade will be back in the Wynd centre with face to face evenings resuming - we can't wait.

The Company Section have been meeting on a Friday evening outdoors and spending some time in the Eco garden. We hope this will be an ongoing activity for the boys. It's kept them busy during the summer holidays and will contribute towards their badge work. You will see we have a couple of pictures of the boys in the garden.

Also, when we did Daniel in the Lion's den the boys made masks. You can see their colourful artwork in the photos.

We hope all the boys will return on Friday 20th August, when we will have a full and busy programme for them. They will be welcomed by all the staff and there will be lots of chat no doubt about what they have done during the summer break.

We will of course abide by all requirements to ensure the safety and well being of the boys and staff.

Thank you for your support for the 14th. Paisley Boys' Brigade.



In the ECO garden
and
In the Lion's Den masks

Food donations can be handed into the Renfrewshire Foodbank at their Renfrew Warehouse on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 09:30-11:45.

The address is:
Westway, Porterfield Road, Renfrew, PA4 8DJ

The contact numbers is: 0300 102 2500
email: info@renfrewshire.foodbank.org.uk



Guides (11th Paisley) - Linda Kelly

We are really looking forward to starting back Guides on the 9th September in the Church hall. It will be great to see everyone back and enjoying the fun games and activities we have missed.

Looking forward to seeing the girls back and hopefully some new faces.

Any girls aged 10-14 are welcome to come and join us on a Thursday night from 7.30pm

Rainbows and Brownies - Elizabeth Halliday

Girlguiding is all about fun, friendships and new experiences

All of the Rainbow and Brownie leaders are looking forward to welcoming all of the girls old and new back to the church halls on Friday 10th September 6.30pm – 7.45pm. Our first night will be a fun packed introduction and welcome session for Rainbows aged 5 – 7 and Brownies aged 7 – 10. Come along on the night to get an introductory taster to Girl Guiding or find out more about Rainbows and Brownies at

www.girlguiding.org.uk



Sunday School - Edith Muir

I hope all the children and parents of the Sunday School had a enjoyable summer and were able to make the best of the sunshine.

The Spring Earth Day pack had an experiment in it “to find out how long you could keep herbs bought from a supermarket .”

This proved successful: here are Callum’s and Jack’s healthy herbs from the Earth Day project pack proving how easy it can be to save money and cut down on food waste.



Upgrading and Redecoration of Church Halls - Iain Wilcox

Since the arrival of COVID-19 and the enforcement of lockdown the church halls have been left unused. This presented us with the opportunity to do some major renovations to the buildings.

The first area to be tackled was the kitchen, which was taken back to the walls. A new kitchen design was installed along with all new fittings and decoration. I’m sure you will find it a different picture if you have not seen it already.

The next on the list was the Session House, which received full electrical and decorative upgrade along with a new carpet. A large TV has been mounted above the fireplace and other IT equipment has been installed, providing fully up-to-date communication and training facilities. A lovely big meeting table and chairs, along with corner tables and unit have been installed. These were also gifted by Chivas Brothers Ltd.

All three halls, corridors and toilets have been redecorated giving them a very fresh, bright look for the coming years. Along with the fresh colours in the Main Hall and Lang Hall we have received 100 chairs, again courtesy of Chivas. New LED lighting has also been installed throughout the building, reducing the electricity demand.

The Facilities Group hope to have a final deep clean-up done before the end of August. ready for the groups and organisations getting back into the halls and back to normal routine.



Session House



McLauchlan Hall



Kitchen



Lang Hall



Main Hall

The Wynd can benefit from the charity awards from Amazon Go. To participate at no cost, go to smile.amazon.co.uk select your purchase and choose the Wynd Centre as your chosen charity.



Church Directory

Minister	Rev, Gordon Armstrong BD FIAB BRC Cert. CS	0141 887 4647 Press 3
Session Clerk	John McKenzie	Church Office
Treasurer	Isabel Pearson	Church Office
Fabric Convenor		Church Office
Church Office	Catriona Muirhead	0141 887 4647 Press 3