




**Spring
2026**

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TRINITY



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

Welcome to Our Church

SUNDAY SERVICE
 11 a.m. in church
Special Sunday dates

March
 Sun 1 10.15 Elders' Service
 11:00 Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sun 29 11:00 Palm Sunday
 after church - lunch at golf club

Mon 30 19.00 Holy Week Service

Tue 31 19.00 Holy Week Service

April

Wed 1 19.00 Holy Week Service

Thu 2 19.00 Maundy Thursday Communion

Fri 3 19.00 Good Friday Service

Sun 5 11.00 Easter Sunday service

May
 Sun 3 Monthly Communion after the service

Other Event Dates

March
 Mon 30 14:00 Two O'Clock Club Fundraiser

May
 Wed 13 Lunch Club Outing - River Inn Crosslee
 Fri 29 Annual Fish Supper and Quiz Night

The online version of Oracle / Order of Service is available on Facebook and on the website under Menu option 'News/Oracle'

CHURCH TAXIS
 If you would like to use a taxi to come to church, please speak to Gordon Hamilton.

From the Minister

Dear friends,


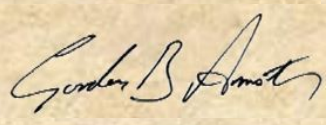
I have been holding back this letter still waiting confirmation about the changes for Oakshaw Trinity in the Presbytery Plan. It was then that I remembered the story of Nicodemus in John 3:1-3.

Of all the heart-to-heart talks, the best of those by far are those that see the fire die down among the embers in the small hours, or hear the wind rise before the dawn. It's then that we feel our way along to the heart of a friend and lifelong foundations are laid down. Nicodemus came by night - and why not? He may have been trying to think things out with himself without coming to a solution. He was a leader and master in Israel, yet eagerly, not waiting for the morning he turned down his lamp and went to seek counsel from Jesus.

The Church universal is going through a time of change, from the first woman appointed as Archbishop of Canterbury, to many churches throughout Scotland going through unions, changes and closures. These are times when we all come to Jesus for comfort and counsel. It always seems easy to blame others when things don't go our way - or the way we would have wanted. However, I know that all of those involved in making these difficult decisions have seen many embers die down during this process. But we must never lose sight of the wonderful and global promises given to Nicodemus at the end of his conversation with Jesus

“ For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.” (John 3:16-17).

Yours sincerely in Christ,
 Rev. Gordon B. Armstrong

OAKSHAW TRINITY CHURCH
MID-WEEK WORSHIP
Service
 11.15 am EVERY THURSDAY
 IN THE WYND APSE
Tea, Coffee and Biscuits

Tea & Toast
 Every Tuesday from 9.30-11.30am

Free

Why not come along and join us
 it's free and it's warm
THE WYND CENTRE
 6 School Wynd, Paisley
 Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/oakshawtrinity>
 Web: www.oakshawtrinity.org.uk

The Outreach of Oakshaw Trinity Church



The Wynd Centre

From the Chairman - Rev. Gordon Armstrong

The task does not get any easier with the on-going changes and challenges in what are most certainly difficult times for all charities and small businesses.

Sadly, we will be saying farewell to Highland Theological College in the Summer. This is mainly due to the changes to the way that Church of Scotland ministers will be trained. Over their years, with us, we have made many good friendships with the staff and students alike, and we wish HTC every blessing in their continuing work. On a positive side, we have welcomed some new users into the centre, which includes the Love Church, which was previously based at the Tannahill Centre. I would also hope that by the time you read this letter, that we will have moved quite a way to securing the employment of a Development and Administration Officer.

Once again, thanks go to all who continue to help and support the Wynd and especially to our staff and counsellors.

Church Roll



Deaths

04/11/25 - Sadie Fyfe

Flowers - Janice McCallum

Once again can we give a special thanks to everyone who has given donations to the Flower Fund. It really does make a big difference, not just to the flowers in the church but to the presentation of flowers to members of the congregation who might need a lift after an illness or sadness.

If you have a special occasion you would like the flowers arranged for please see any of the Flower Team and we would be only too happy to help.



A prayer for the homeless

Almighty God of refuge and strength, in whose image we are all made, and who is a home to any who are in need or trouble; inspire us with your spirit of love, empower us to work for change, direct our actions towards any who need food, comfort, shelter and sanctuary and help us to live as one with one another. We especially pray for the work of Blue Triangle, and hold their staff, volunteers and young people in our thoughts.

Amen



Pastoral Minister: Rev. George Lind has a recording of the Lord's Prayer sung at the Lessons and Carols service in December. He plays this item on his pastoral visits to housebound and Care Home members. This helps them feel re-connected with public worship and is always well received.

Used Stamps Project

- Seonaid Prentice

This project ended in February after 56 years.

It has been a pivotal part of the Church of Scotland's World Mission, collecting much needed money for projects from Partner Churches around the world.

From 1995 to 2024 an amazing total of £96,459.67 has been raised for these projects.



Sunday Coffee Thank you for continuing to move away from the serving table once you collect your coffee.



Use of photographs:

Photos of those involved in activities related to the church and the Wynd Centre can appear in Trinity magazine, on the Oakshaw Trinity website and on the Oakshaw Trinity Facebook page.

It is assumed, unless specifically requested otherwise, that individuals are happy to be included in any of these photographs that appear in Trinity magazine, on the Oakshaw Trinity website or on the Oakshaw Trinity Facebook page.

To opt out please 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.



Education, Mission, EcoCongregation Committee

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

EMEC: Spotlight on Blue Triangle

For the past few years we have allocated mission funds to the charity Blue Triangle who run a number of supported accommodation centres across central Scotland, including Bruce Court in Gallowhill. In December we delivered over thirty starter packs of essential toiletries, all thanks to donations from members of Oakshaw Trinity. We were delighted when we heard that Blue Triangle was announced Scottish Charity of the Year at the SCVO annual awards in June of last year, a recognition of the great work they do in helping vulnerable young people find their feet. Nothing could have been more appropriate as 2025 was also the year the charity celebrated its 50th anniversary, having started out from a single centre in Glasgow providing refuge for women who had been made homeless. That original centre remains open, now offering supported accommodation for young people aged 16–26. Many of these young people have grown up in care or faced significant challenges and staff provide 24/7 support to help them build confidence, independence and a sense of community. As well as supported accommodation, Blue Triangle provides outreach, recovery housing, and other services tailored to prevent homelessness before it starts. Centres like Bruce Court offer safe, secure environments that recognise the impact of difficult past experiences, while empowering people to move forward. As Gary Meek, CEO of Blue Triangle said, "Homelessness isn't just about housing, it's about people. If we want to tackle this crisis, we need more than bricks and mortar. We need services that recognise the complexity of peoples' lives, and we need to keep listening to those who've been through it. That's the only way we build lasting change".

Blue Triangle's work is more urgent than ever. With a housing emergency impacting communities across Scotland, the charity aims to expand its services and accommodation provision to where the need is greatest. Not least is Renfrewshire, where the council has recorded over 1000 homeless applications and behind each application is a human story of relationship breakdowns, domestic violence, substance abuse or family trauma. A telling recent statistic is that the second highest level of admission to Blue Triangle's services was from Renfrewshire.

We hold the work of Blue Triangle in our prayers, recalling that Jesus Himself was born homeless, in a stable; and in his own words, "the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head". Our responsibility as Christians must be to do all we can to help the homeless folk of our own community, through our continuing support of Blue Triangle.

But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish. (Psalm 9.18)

ECO - Fiona Catterson

The Eco Group met recently to plan our Next Steps. We had a really productive meeting so watch this space for some of our exciting ideas!

We are looking to have a rota of helpers to tend to the garden. Please see Jim or Fiona if you would be able to offer your help to keep on top of this beautiful hidden gem of a church resource.

We are also hoping to hold an Eco Event during Creation Time in September again this year. This will take place at coffee time and will be fun for all. If anyone would like to join our group they will be made very welcome.

Presbytery - Jessie Cross

The Presbytery Clerk, Rev Robbie Hamilton, is returning to Parish Ministry and will be leaving the Presbytery on 12th March 2026. The Rev Steven Henderson has been appointed Acting Clerk until the appointment of a new Presbytery Clerk.

Tea & Toast - Margaret Pearson

Tea and Toast continues every Tuesday morning in the Wynd Centre. Numbers vary each week but we offer a warm cup tea or coffee and toast and chocolate biscuits. But most of all we reach out with fellowship and friendship to those in need.

Long Service Awards to Elders

This is now a full list of elders who received awards at the September and December Communion Services.

For over 30 years service to:

William Allison, Ian Catterson, Maureen Coats, David Fraser, Richard Geddes, Sandra Hamilton, Gordon Hamilton, Lillian Hogg, Ann Lightbody, George McCallum, Catriona Muirhead, Sheila Simpson, Margaret Tannahill, Joan Tomlinson, Maureen Turner, Joyce Walker, Joan Wilson.

For over 50 years service to:

Ian Farquhar, David Osborne, John Stewart.



Presentation to Ian Catterson

Fabric Report - Thomas Blane

The Fabric Committee have been working to improve the heating system with the heating contractor over the last few months. A temporary solution has been installed and has improved the situation over the winter. We are now working towards a permanent solution which will mean that both the church and halls can be heated on two separate systems. The committee is hopeful that this will resolve the long-term issue and will result in a fully operational heating system. There have been several issues with leaking on the church roof and the church hall during the winter and our roofing contractor is going to begin work to deal with this. There have also been similar issues with the roof at the Wynd Centre due to storm damage and the roofing contractor is going to begin fixing this as well.

Renfrewshire Council have informed us that work to the church tower should begin in the spring with the eventual return of the weathervane. The council are working towards further funding to complete the project.

Oakshaw Explorers - Jessie Cross

After hibernating for the winter the Explorers are venturing to the cafe in Barshaw Park on Sunday 15th February to look at dates and places for this year's adventures. Anyone new to the Explorers and interested in coming along please contact Sheena Miller or Jessie Cross.



New Elders

At the communion on 7th December, four new elders were ordained.

Thomas Blane, Fiona Catterson, Gail McGregor, Gordon Macdonald

Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong

This is a chatty and friendly group who meet throughout the year in the Lang Hall on the second Monday of each month. We share our skills and crafts and usually some home-baking and a cup of tea. If you feel at a loose end some Monday, do come along and join us.



Fund Raising and Events - Isabel Pearson

Christmas Fayre: A very successful Christmas Fayre was held back in November with our organisations taking a stall. All the usual stalls were there for everyone to enjoy and even a visit from Santa for the children. Our thanks go to all the stall holders and the congregation for all their donations and for coming along and supporting the day. The magnificent sum of £3,500 was raised for Church funds.

Dates for your Diary - Future Events for your Diary

T.B.A. 2026 - Concert with Choir and Handbells

29th March 2026 - Palm Sunday Lunch

29th May 2026 - Annual Fish Supper and Quiz Night

Tickets for the concert will be on sale soon. Please watch Oracle and Facebook for further updates.

Men's Club - John Hamilton

The Men's Club at Oakshaw Trinity Church is open to all males aged 18 and over. We meet on a Friday evening between 7:30 p.m and 10.15 p.m. Although member numbers are not as healthy as in the past, we still have a hard core of regular members keeping the club viable. In recent seasons we have been encouraged by some new faces.

Our members participate in snooker, table-tennis and darts with an inclination to adopt Pickleball as an additional pastime. We have a regular tea break for additional humorous chat. Every member is encouraged to engage in both activity and tea-time chat.

Handbells - Elizabeth Clark (Secretary)

In January, our Annual Dinner at the Piccolo Mondo was well attended. We celebrated a very fulfilling and successful one hundred and forty years of the handbells which were originally gifted by Sir Peter Coats of Paisley.

We were delighted to welcome another new member to our team and now have a full complement of twelve players. This enables Elaine to introduce new and old music into our repertoire which challenges us and helps to build confidence, especially amongst new members. We are working to build a programme for a concert in Bishopton at the beginning of March and practice will be starting in earnest for a proposed concert with the choir. As always we thank and appreciate our leader Elaine Duncan. Without her there would be no handbells.



Spring Cleaning - Edith Muir (ECO)

Spring is here - If you are thinking of doing a spring clean/clear out, here are some ideas where you can re-home various items, rather than put them in the bin and landfill.

- ◊ Old glasses and glass cases - Optical Express give them to charity.
- ◊ Toys - charity shops or

Renfrewshire Toy Bank pass toys out to disadvantaged children for birthdays and Christmas.

- ◊ Adult clothes and shoes - remember the homeless shelters would take donations for the people they work with.
- ◊ Old or broken bikes :- Kustom Kruizers Renfrew is a community organisation who refurbish bikes and teach young adults how to fix them and then resell.
- ◊ Small broken electricals - anything with a plug, battery or cable can be recycled. There is a drop off point for these at your local Renfrewshire Library or your local dump has an area for small electrical items.
- ◊ Old towels - if past the stage of the charity shops, you can use them for cleaning cloths or most animal shelters would love to have them.

If you do have old towels the ECO team will take them on Sunday the 8th March and we will arrange them to be handed out to local dog homes and animal shelters. Please note this is a one day event only.

Happy Spring Cleaning.



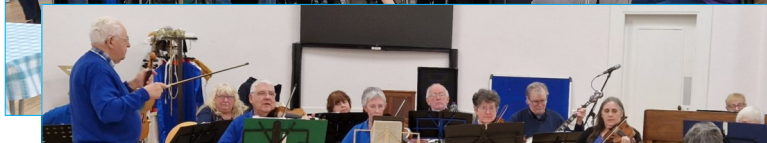
Friendly Hour - Margaret Pearson (Convener)

The Friendly Hour ended the last session with a lovely Christmas Lunch at Caulders Garden Centre and some even enjoyed looking round and purchasing some gifts. We were also pleased to have Gordon, our Minister and our two elders, Pauline and Lynn, joining us.

We returned after the Festive Break and enjoyed welcoming The Neilston Strings for our opening afternoon. We are extremely grateful for all the entertainers who have been supporting us over the years and we will continue to be using them in the coming weeks and months ahead. We also appreciate the support of some of our own Choir Members who come along and provide an afternoon of entertainment for us. I am grateful for our members who cover the Devotions and also the input from Gordon, George and Sandy.

And we may even manage to fit in a game of bingo or curling too. But most important of all we provide an afternoon of friendship and fellowship with the everyone enjoying their tea and chocolate biscuits and catching up with friendly chatter among their friends.

We are open to all ladies and gentlemen and if you would like to come and join us why not come along any Tuesday afternoon at 2.00 pm. We meet in the Church Hall. You will be assured of a warm welcome.



Trinity Lunch Club - Sheena Miller



At our lunch in December, the West Primary School choir entertained us with Christmas songs. In January, we heard about the various services provided by 'Care and Repair' the organisation that provides free advice and practical assistance to elderly and disabled people with small repairs and adaptations. In February, Rev. Robbie Hamilton talked about Scotch Pies and other subjects.

On 11th March we will be hearing about the Paisley Thread Mill Museum and on 8th April, Graeme Clark will be talking about Paisley – its past, people, patrons.....

On 13th May we will be having our Summer Lunch outing to the River Inn in Crosslee.

The Lunch Club meets in the Wynd Centre from October 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. Thereafter a speaker gives a talk for about 45 minutes followed by a short time for questions and comments. The meeting normally finishes about 2 p.m.

Please come and join us, either on a regular basis or from time to time - whenever you can manage. A warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to come along. The price for the lunch and speaker is £5.



Two O'Clock Club - Joan Wilson

We were sorry to hear of the death of Sadie Fyfe, a loyal member for many years.

In December, we enjoyed a festive lunch at the Pendulum restaurant where the annual quiz answers were drawn. (answers below)

Congratulations to 1st - Sandra Hamilton, 2nd - Isabel McLure, 3rd - Sheila Ramsay. Many thanks to all who helped raise £276. from the quiz.

On 26th January we had an excellent presentation of Robert Burns by George and Janice McCallum.

The speaker on 23rd February will be giving us an insight on the work of the CID.

Our 'Brew for the Crew' Fundraiser is on Monday, 30th March at 2pm.

Entertainment is by the Langbank Ladies Choir.

Tickets, priced £6, which includes tea and biscuits,

are available from any committee member. Please come along and help raise funds for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance.

The AGM is on Monday, 27th April and the session ends with a Summer Lunch on Monday, 1st June.

Meetings take place in the Lang Hall at 2pm. All welcome.



Two O'Clock Club Quiz answers

1. Frankly my dear. I don't give a damn : Gone With the Wind 2. You're gonna need a bigger boat : Jaws 3. Get busy living or get busy dying : Shawshank Redemption 4. Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore : Wizard of Oz 5. Are you not entertained? : Gladiator 6. I feel the need-the need for speed : Top Gun 7. Even miracles take a little time : Cinderella 8. I love the smell of napalm in the morning : Apocalypse Now 9. Houston, we have a problem. : Apollo 13 10. A boy's best friend is his mother : Psycho 11. A martini, shaken not stirred : Goldfinger 12. Nobody puts Baby in the corner : Dirty Dancing 13. Seize the day boys. Make your lives extraordinary : Dead Poets Society 14. Go ahead, make my day : Sudden Impact 15. Is it safe? : Marathon Man 16. Just keep swimming! : Finding Nemo 17. Greed, for the lack of a better word is good : Wall Street 18. Gentlemen you can't fight in here. This is the War Room : Dr Strangelove 19. Second star to the right and straight on till morning : Peter Pan 20. The true spirit of Christmas lies in your heart : Polar Express

Boys' Brigade - Janice McCallum (Acting Captain) 14th Paisley



Our Session restarted on the 9th January and it was lovely to see all of the boys back. We wish them and their families a fabulous 2026. We talked about new beginnings and the boys made calendars. They were given books with tasks for them to complete towards their badge work.

Recap on 2025 - It was great year for the 14th Paisley BB. We had our Halloween party and you can see by the photos the boys had a great time. Like most companies we try to be ECO friendly so this year we still had our hot dogs and hot chocolate but we decided against fireworks. The boys still had a fun night with lots of games adding to the fun. The boys had a visit to Trinity Theatre Panto and they really enjoyed it, especially booing the villain. We managed to get a photo with the cast. We were very proud of the two Company boys and the two Junior section boys who laid the wreath at the Cenotaph. Their pictures ended up in the Paisley Daily Express. The Christmas party was well received and we had a "Lets Go Construct" during the party and ended with our traditional "Snowball Fight". Santa paid us a visit and the parents were there to see their child receive a gift from him.

We have a varied programme lined up for the boys and our Company and Senior boys are on their journey to their President's and King's badges. This year we are looking at "Our World"

starting with Under the Sea and how we can help. We will be having a Burns evening on the 23rd January with shortbread and a toast to Rabbie with some Irn Bru. The boys love all kinds of sport so we make sure we give them plenty of exercise. Crafts, marching, singing and coming up with something different for parents night is the quest. We look forward to another successful year and can we take this opportunity to wish the congregation a Happy New Year and thank the church, the Adams Trust and the parents and staff for their continued support.



Girls' Brigade (2nd Paisley) - Karen Peacock



Our Christmas coffee evening at the beginning of December raised a fantastic sum of £528. Our thanks go to all the parents and congregation of Oakshaw Trinity Church for their continued support. We finished off the year with a very enjoyable time at the Trinity Theatre Group Pantomime – it was fab and the girls all enjoyed it. We then had our Christmas Party on 11th December with a very special visitor before stopping for our Christmas break,

Our numbers are continuing to rise with a further four girls joining us (all Explorers) so as you can imagine we are kept very busy on a Thursday night. All sections are continuing with their badgework – Explorers on their theme of Arts, Juniors with Animals and Brigaders are working on seven Christian Symbols at the moment. We are looking forward to our Bingo evening on 26th February – more info to follow in Oracle.

Excitement is mounting within our Junior and Brigader Sections as our annual camp letters have just gone out. We will once again be joining up with 4th Johnstone GB up at Lapwing during the Easter holidays – this is always a highlight of our GB year!

As always, anyone wishing to join us will be made very welcome – details below.

Explorers – P1-P3 – 6.45pm-7.45pm

Juniors – P4-P7 – 6.45pm-8.00pm

Brigaders – S1-S6 – 7.00pm-8.30pm

For further information please contact Karen Peacock.



Rainbows, Brownies and Guides -

Zoe Kelly

Since starting back in January our attendance has been very steady through all sections with a total of thirty two girls. All sections have been working towards their badges and we have a few Brownies working towards their gold badge.

The Brownies had a great weekend at South Newton in January. For most of the girls it was the first time away with the unit. They were very excited about going. The theme for the weekend was Disney and the girls enjoyed doing lots of crafts, games and challenges all on the Disney theme and getting outside in the countryside.

Looking forward, we have another big event coming in February when we celebrate 100 years of Thinking Day.



Sunday School - Gail McGregor – Secretary

The Sunday School children had a very busy end to 2025. On Remembrance Sunday, the children took time to remember those who fought for us; talking about what it means, observing a 2-minute silence and made remembrance lanterns. The children made posters to show people the way to the ECO Garden.



In December, we had our annual Christmas party, complete with pizza and games. We also had a special guest visit and a great time was had by all! Our highly anticipated Nativity, called "A Christmas Tale", finished our year. We were very lucky to have Christine Badger help us with our music, teaching us to sing and accompanying us on the piano. All children took part and were absolutely fabulous, singing their songs and telling the story of the birth of Jesus. The children received wonderful feedback from members of the congregation. We would like to express our sincerest

thanks to everyone that helped at Sunday School, as well as at our party and Nativity.

Now as we enter 2026, we at OTC Sunday School are looking forward to an exciting year, further exploring our theme for the session - the Kings and Queens of the Bible.



Trinity Theatre Group - Jean Bett

The Dramatic Club is not on at the moment but the good news is that for the first time in three years we have made a profit on our November show, 'Babes in the Wood'. I haven't worked out bank charges yet but we have been able to make our usual £500 donation to Church fund without touching our diminishing capital. Thank you to a fantastic cast and fantastic support from Oakshaw Church organisations. Thank you too to our volunteers who help back stage and operate lighting etc.. We appreciate what you do for the club. Will give clearer financial details in the next magazine.



Choir - Catriona Muirhead

On the 8th January, David welcomed the choir back after the festive break and said that he had received many lovely comments from the members of the congregation how much they enjoyed the music chosen for the Lessons and Carols Service held on 14th December.

We were also pleased to hear from David that the choir has been invited to join with the Handbells to hold a concert early this year. Rehearsals for the concert have started and we look forward to sharing, what promises to be, an evening of musical talent that will not disappoint.

Thursday evenings is when we practise our anthems and hymns for Sunday Services, we are a happy bunch who would love to welcome new members, so why not come along and give it a try.



Church Directory

Minister	Rev, Gordon Armstrong BD FIAB BRC Cert. CS	0141 887 4647 Press 3	Treasurer	Isabel Pearson	Church Office
Session Clerk	Anne Hosie	Church Office	Fabric Convenor	Sandra Wilson	Church Office
			Church Office		0141 887 4647 Press 3