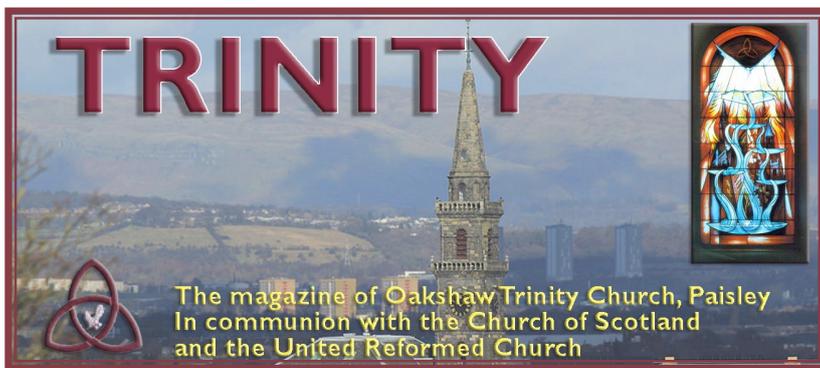




**Summer
2020**

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

During the lockdown material for worship is available on the church website oakshawtrinity.org.uk and the church Facebook page facebook.com/oakshawtrinity

On the website Oracle and the Order of Service is under Menu option 'News/Oracle' and the hymns and other music are under the menu 'Music'

The Holy Week and Easter services done in this way were very well received and as well as all the positive comments on the Facebook posts several people sent items for this magazine to express their thanks for this and those who worked to set it up. Unfortunately we do not have space to include these so the thanks in Gordon's letter and other items will have to do.

From the Minister



Dear friends,

What strange time we are living in. As I write, it is now five weeks since we last met for public worship and Margaret and I have been shut away for three of these weeks with the symptoms of Covid-19. During this time I was reminded of the text from Joshua 3:5.

Joshua was Moses' chief assistant. When it came time for a new leader to take over following the death of Moses, Joshua was the man charged with that responsibility. In his first message to the people, he made a statement to which every person could listen with great profit. As his people faced the difficulties of the future, as we do now, he challenged them by saying, "Consecrate yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you" (Josh. 3:5).

As I began to recover, and much to Margaret's relief, I still had little breath to talk, I began to think about how much I was missing our time together of worship. It was then that I thought that we could still plan our services and continue to write the Sermon Notes for Oracle. Little did I know how well this would take off and I have been amazed at the number of views recorded on the social media platforms. Our weekly Oracle has been greatly enhanced by David Murray who has been playing the hymns and music. Thanks also to his son Calum for singing some of the pieces. Thanks must also go to Sheena Miller who has been adding the words of the hymns to our Facebook page and to Linda McDougall for ensuring that these have been going onto our Website.

This sense of working together is something we should share. Just as some of our members and indeed many others work in the NHS, Care Homes and other essential services too numerous to mention, we should thank them for their dedication and perseverance during this time of lockdown. My gratitude has made me more acutely aware of just how fragile and vulnerable our world can be. Joshua believed that God wanted to accomplish wonderful things through the people with whom he lived and worked.

My hope and prayer is that we can make the same assumption. God is a wonder worker. He will do wonders in your life tomorrow if you dedicate yourself to him today honestly and sincerely. Dedicate yourself to doing your best today, and with God's help, wonderful things will happen in your life and through your life tomorrow.

Gordon (Rev. Gordon B. Armstrong)

Easter Egg Decoration_competition Winners
Pictures of the other entries on the back page.



Under the Sea
Katie Higgins

Gnomegg
Sophie Walker

M&Ms
Rory Armstrong

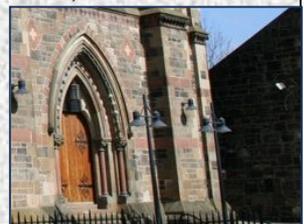
Key Worker
Murray Family

CONTACT NUMBERS:

Please note that you can still contact the Church Office and the Wynd Centre Office at the usual numbers as the telephone lines have been temporarily transferred.



Wynd Centre - Rev. Gordon Armstrong (Chairman)



There is not a lot to say about the Centre as we are closed due to the on-going Coronavirus lockdown. However, we are still operating a limited telephone counselling service and on the fundraising side of things, John Stewart has been using his time at home to continue to secure funding for our various operations and improvements. The premises are being regularly checked by some of our caretakers and remain safe and secure.

Like many others, the Directors ask you to keep safe and we look forward to welcoming you back when we eventually reopen.



Church Roll

Deaths:

29/02/20 James Williamson
 11/03/20 Catherine Edgar
 15/03/20 Margaret Smith
 29/03/20 William Stuart
 07/04/20 Alexander Black



Wynd Centre Volunteers' Social Event

At the end of February, our Minister kindly organised a lovely Afternoon Tea, with entertainment for the the Wynd Centre Volunteer staff. There must have been a good 30/40 people there enjoying food, fellowship and entertainment. We just made it before lock-down for little did we know at the time that soon after, we would have to "close up shop" thanks to the current crisis. The photo shows our guest soloist Anne McKinnon receiving flowers from Catriona Muirhead (Office Administrator). Now friends, don't be mistaken about Rev. Gordon Armstrong's musical pose. He wasn't singing "Pavarotti-style" - that's just the corner of the tablecloth at his left hand, not the famous tenor's white handkerchief! It was a great afternoon. We were all very grateful and are looking forward to re-opening for business as soon as it is safe to do so.



Education, Mission, EcoCongregation Committee

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

Grasping the Nettle- Science and Religion

"Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind... whoever undertakes to set himself up as a judge of Truth and Knowledge is shipwrecked by the laughter of the gods." (Albert Einstein)

"There are more things in Heaven and Earth, Horatio, / Than are dreamt of in your philosophy" ("Hamlet")

Are science and religion incompatible? Has evolution, Big Bang, space travel and Artificial Intelligence made belief in God an anachronistic throwback to a less enlightened time? There is an inescapable tension between the two, with the fault line clearly demarcated and the growth in a very public atheism, led by Professor Richard Dawkins, scientist and author of "The God Delusion". Even many Christians struggle to reconcile their beliefs with their own knowledge and understanding of science. The debate was brought into sharp focus recently when Rev George Lind gave an interesting presentation on a movement called "Grasping the Nettle". He summarised the conviction that been growing amongst church leaders in Scotland of the need for an informed and respectful dialogue on 'the Science/God issue', in which we learn respectfully about scientific questions from scientific experts but also recognise that many aspects of life of great importance to humans lie outside of science. To that end he gave a "taster summary" of a 6-week programme entitled "Exploring the God Question". This programme comprises a DVD and a learning pack and brings together atheists and theists to examine where the scientific evidence points in three broad areas: the cosmos, life on earth and human mind and consciousness. There was lively debate after the presentation, which shows there is genuine interest in this topic and differences of opinion among Christians about the place of science. This is an issue which will take more than six weeks to reconcile, but one that is important to address in a proper facilitated manner. In the months ahead, EMEC will be looking at how best to follow up on the topic, but for the meanwhile, during the lockdown, the series can be downloaded free at <https://www.graspingthenettle.org/watch> . If you would like more information, please contact George at gkling@talktalk.net

Perhaps the last word should go to Francis Collins. He is Director of the US National Institutes of Health and led the Human Genome Project. A highly respected scientist he is also a committed Christian, who sees no conflict between the two: "The God of the Bible is also the God of the genome, God can be found in the Cathedral or the Laboratory".

EMEC-follow us online!

Until we have more clarity about the easing of restrictions and social distancing, we are not in a position to arrange any events, but please see the website for items of interest on Education, Mission and EcoCongregation matters.

ECO Wordsearch - Fiona Catterson

When you find all the words underlined in the passage below the remaining letters will lead you to a relevant bible reading.

C	G	E	D	A	R	G	E	D	O	I	B
T	O	E	N	E	E	A	C	H	S	I	S
C	S	N	A	E	C	O	Z	-	T	A	D
E	H	E	S	B	E	E	E	G	V	I	O
T	N	U	N	E	A	I	R	E	P	N	G
O	E	T	G	L	R	V	O	-	L	S	O
R	T	S	P	C	T	V	W	N	A	E	E
P	E	O	E	Y	H	W	A	T	S	L	G
W	N	P	R	C	H	O	S	T	T	T	R
O	A	M	S	E	O	R	T	A	I	T	E
N	L	O	O	R	U	L	E	D	C	O	E
T	P	C	N	H	R	D	R	E	E	B	N

To help us protect God's World we all need to alter aspects of our daily lives. We need to be more green and think about conservation of our beautiful planet.

By being more Eco aware each person will be working towards a Zero Waste society where we reduce waste, recycle and reuse more.

By saying "no" to plastic bottles we will help save the oceans and marine life.

By using items that can biodegrade and by making our own compost heaps from food and garden waste we are all working together to become part of the Earth Hour community helping to preserve God's amazing world for future generations.



From the Session Clerk - John McKenzie

As we continue living in these unprecedented and strange times, life has changed for us all in such a short space of time and there have been some concerns for family, friends and our own personal situation. This reflects clearly on our Church life which is now on hold for the foreseeable future until the restriction on gatherings is lifted; let us hope sooner than later.

Over the Easter period, we have been fortunate to have been able to enjoy services covering Holy Week and Easter Sunday on Oakshaw Trinity web pages and Facebook.

Our thanks must go to all those who made this possible with their hard work and commitment and I'm sure many of us enjoyed singing along with David's playing even if in virtual mode.

I'm sure you'll agree that this helped raise the spirits even if we could not be there in person. With that thought in mind, once the restrictions have been lifted we can once again be together in Fellowship, be able to greet one another in our usual manner, be able to share laughter, enjoy coffee together and return to continuing our work in being "the light on the hill" in Paisley. In the meantime, until we can join together, have faith, be strong, stay safe and stay well.

Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong

Firstly, I hope that everyone is managing to stay safe. It is strange not meeting on our monthly Mondays for our chat and fellowship. It's always good to see what everyone is doing, or if they are trying out something new. On a personal note, I have gained back some time and the knitting pins are out again! I had forgotten how relaxing it can be just to click clack with the pins. Over this period of time, why not show off your efforts and share your talent and enthusiasm with others by sending in a photograph; as some have already done.

Don't forget every second Monday of the month to treat yourself to a cuppa and a cake while we think about each other.



Some pictures of items made
Owl tea cosy/ Baby bag/
hat/ baby jacket

Trinity Lunch Club - Sheena Miller

The best laid plans - we had only just got everything organised for our April outing when everything had to be cancelled!

We did however manage to have interesting meetings in February when we heard about all the welcome and activities that are organised for people from the cruise boats that dock at Greenock and in March we heard more about the Highland Theological College which operates from the Wynd Centre.

SENIORS' HOLIDAY 2020. Sandra & Gordon Hamilton
For obvious reasons this year's holiday has been postponed.
All being well we hope to have our trip to Kelso next year.

Choir - Catriona Muirhead

Like all our Organisations we have stopped and miss our practices and worshipping with you all.

Two of our members suffered bereavement during lockdown: Colin Smith lost his mum and Sandra Stuart her husband. This is a very traumatic time for them but I am sure we will be able to join with them soon to give thanks for these lives.

We were helped through Lent and Easter by technology - Facebook and the church website. Thanks to Gordon, David and Sheena with sincere thanks to David's son, Calum, who sang beautiful and moving solos. What a talent.

During this time choir members are managing to use our time on activities we do not always fit in; baking, walking, gardening, crafts etc. Not many mentioned singing! I think at our first practice David will be starting with scales and exercising our vocal chords! That will be a time when new members would be especially welcome, starting at the very beginning, a very good place to start.



We hope some of you will think about it - 'The Choir Needs You'.

Keep safe all of you.

Trinity Theatre Group - Jean Bett

Most of our group, including a new member, Heather Dewer (a member of Oakshaw Trinity Church) started rehearsals, with members of other congregations in the Paisley area, for 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat' at Inchinnan Parish Church, hoping to raise money for The Scottish Bible Society. As with all theatre productions, both professional and amateur, we had to stop rehearsals and cancel the show for April. When the situation improves we plan to present the show at a later date.



The group plan to put their November production on at the Wynd Center and have started tentative enquiries.

I pray that everyone is taking care and keeping safe.

Oakshaw Explorers - Jessie Cross

Interested members met after Church on 16th February to plan a programme for Sunday afternoons, Saturday day trips and the Pitlochry weekend in September.

However, as the Bard said, "The best laid schemes of mice and men..." and our efforts have been in vain - so far. Pitlochry Theatre has cancelled its season but we hope that maybe later in the summer we can fulfil some of our other plans even if we have to walk six feet apart. It will be a blow though, if the coffee shops are still closed but we can improvise with flasks and homemade cake! Meantime we have moved indoors with thoughts of visiting places via the internet. With various webcams getting us out into the countryside or to the zoo to watch ospreys, pandas or penguins and many other interesting places and scenery can be visited without going outside - at least that's not dependent on the weather! Till we can all meet again enjoy your "me" time catching up on all the work or leisure pursuits that you have always intended to do when you "had time". There's no excuse now.

The Renfrewshire Foodbank asking people to hand in donations to their Renfrew Warehouse on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-12.

The address is:
Westway
Porterfield Road
Renfrew
PA4 8DJ

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



Friendly Hour - Isabel Gray (Convener)

OUR FRIENDS FROM FERGUSLIE

(Ages three and four)

The things children say –

CHILD: Will you zip up my coat?

PLAYLEADER: Of course, but what's the magic word?

CHILD: Oh, there isn't one. You just have to fiddle till it works!!!

Sadly because of the coronavirus the Friendly Hour had to finish the session on the 10th March. Although this was earlier than expected, it was a very happy get together as we were entertained by our friends from Ferguslie Community Nursery.



Sometimes they didn't sing in tune, but they knew all the words and actions and sang with great enthusiasm. When you're aged 3 or 4 it is just great to hear everyone applaud, and when you're asked for an encore it is just WONDERFUL.

**Here is another story from a nursery –
The "Wellie Boots"**

A nursery teacher was helping one of the children put on his "wellie boots".

He asked for help and she could see why. Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little wellies still didn't want to go on.

By the time they got the second wellie on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost cried when the little boy said "Miss, they're on the wrong feet."

She looked, and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the wellies off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked go get the wellies back on, this time on the right feet.

Youth Committee - Neil Armstrong

At this moment in time the Youth Committee has postponed all up and coming events. We should have all been to see all the animals at Blair Drummond Safari Park by now, oh and said hello to the few we left behind a few years back. You will all be glad to hear that when all restrictions are lifted we will certainly be jumping on a bus towards Stirling all going well. The Youth committee are communicating with each other through email at this time so that we are able to have some exciting afternoons planned for the session beginning 2020/2021.

I hope you are all managing to stay safe during these hard times. For those who are key workers like myself and a few members of the Youth Committee, keep up the good work.

Eight o'clock Club - Joan Wilson

The committee send their best wishes to all their members and friends, during this difficult time.

We hope you have remained safe and well.

On February 24th, we enjoyed a visit from a representative from 'Smalls for All', our chosen charity.

Bobbie Lundy gave an interesting insight into how our fundraising money would be used to help women in Africa and UK. We were also able to donate many items to the charity on that evening.

As you know the Daffodil Tea had to be postponed. Please keep any tickets already bought as we hope to hold an Afternoon Tea sometime in the Autumn. Refunds are available if you prefer.

We look forward to meeting up with all our members soon and enjoying friendship, fellowship and fun again.

We know how much you enjoy the quiz sheets so I have made up a quiz to keep your brain occupied.

G QUIZ

All answers start with the letter G

- 1 A sharp, sudden head butt to the nose.
- 2 1936 novel by Margaret Mitchell.
- 3 Monaco's ruling family name.
- 4 Italian General's biscuit.
5. Paisley born actor, starred in '300'.
- 6 Southeast Asian ape.
- 7 Islands visited by Charles Darwin in 1835.
- 8 Formula 1 World Champion in 1962 + 1968.
- 9 Elvis Presley's home.
- 10 Beaufort Scale no. 3
- 11 Teenage environmental activist.
- 12 'Our Man in Havana' author.
- 13 What is the 'Old Faithful'?
- 14 38th US President.
- 15 Chocolate Star System.
- 16 Olga Korbut's sport.
- 17 Home of the great Sphinx.
- 18 Starred in 'Oklahoma' and 'Carousel'.
- 19 First book ever printed in type.
- 20 A number one, followed by 100 zeros.
- 21 Peter Sellers + Sophia Loren's song.
- 22 Emperor of Mongol Empire.
- 23 Rab C Nesbitt actor.
- 24 Sacred river in India.
- 25 Wallace's animated pet dog.

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.

Rainbows and Brownies -



Elizabeth Halliday

The Rainbows, Brownies and leaders hope that you are all well and keeping safe at this troubled time. Never could we have imagined living through a lockdown and a virus, taking the lives of family members and friends. We should learn from this awful experience just how little we need, how much we have and the value of human connection. The children miss family, friends, school and activities but enjoy quality time with parents and siblings. We should be grateful for technology which allows us to talk face to face - not available previously.

Rainbows have appeared in windows across the world as a sign of hope and a reminder that storms don't last, Our Rainbows and Brownies have been filling their windows with rainbows, hoping to put a smile on everyone's face.

There are positive aspects in this situation. Pollution has dropped dramatically and the people of Delhi are seeing blue skies and can see the Himalayas. In Venice, fish and dolphins can easily be seen in the canals. Before we stopped we learned about the World Badge, every part of which has a meaning. We ended the night by decorating biscuits turning them into the World badge

Every part of the World Badge has a meaning.

- The golden Trefoil on a bright blue background represents the sun shining all over the children in the world.
- The three leaves represent our three-fold Promise as originally laid down by the Founder.
- The base of the stalk represents the flame of the love of humanity.
- The vein pointing upwards through the centre of the Trefoil represents the compass needle pointing the way.
- The two stars represent the Promise and Law.
- Around the edge is the encircling ring of friendship symbolising the World Association – an open ring because the Association is still growing.

The impact of working together and how a little by many goes a long way has been visible daily. Our leaders and many of our girls' parents have contributed to the RAH Covid appeal. With the community using Amazon to send essential items to the RAH the impact of a little from a lot has made an impact so great that other hospitals and care homes will now also benefit. This lesson could make a significant impact to all of our youth organisations, Sunday School, Wynd Centre and other groups. By helping one day a month, session or year you could be allowing a leader/volunteer a night off to let them see their own child play their first sports match, play in a concert or celebrate their own birthday. You may feel that you have nothing to offer but you have the power to change lives.

As we recover from this time of uncertainty lets remember 'It is our attitude at the beginning of a difficult task which, more than anything else, will affect its successful outcome.' Stay Positive.



Editor's Note: We understand there are other groups doing similar Amazon collections for other Paisley Care Homes and Hospitals.

Girls' Brigade (2nd Paisley) - Karen Peacock

Like everyone else, our 2019/2020 session came to an abrupt end mid March due to the Covid-19 outbreak. This means that our Fundraising Bingo Night, camp trip and end of year display could not go ahead. However where would we be without technology.... especially Social Media!

Most of our girls also took part in the activity event which followed the Youth Service in February and as you can see from the pictures had a great afternoon. Before we finished up however we did have two teams take part in our annual Superleague competition, sadly we were not winners this year however the girls enjoyed taking part.

During lockdown we have been keeping in touch with the girls' parents via our Facebook page. Girls' Brigade Scotland organised an Easter Challenge for all sections – Explorers colouring in crosses, Juniors doing hands and the Brigaders writing a prayer. A few of the girls from each section have taken part. We have also had colouring pages on the site for parents to print off and Lesley recently shared a Time Capsule Activity too. The girls' were also invited to take part in the Easter Egg painting competition and a we had a couple of entries.

We are missing all the girls. We hope everyone is staying safe and hope to see them all again soon.



