

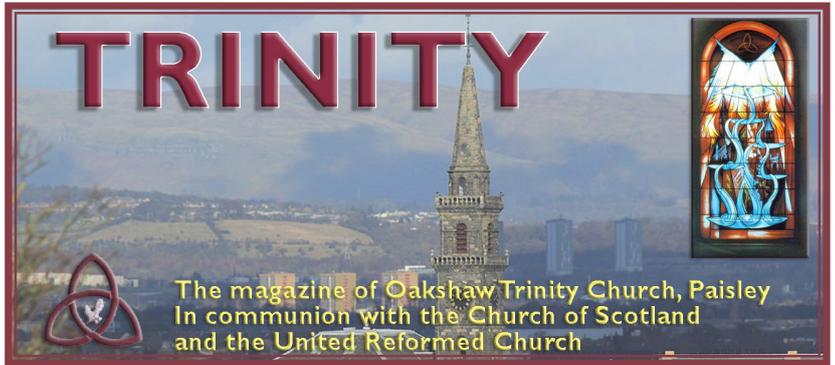


Summer
2021

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



NO MORE BOOKING

SUNDAY SERVICE 11 a.m.

From Sunday 6th June (Communion Sunday) you will be able to take part in Sunday Worship without booking. As part of the move by the Scottish Government to take us in to Tier 3, congregations are able to admit the number of individuals they can safely accommodate in the building. We have worked out that currently we will be able to accommodate up to 200 on a Sunday for worship.

On arrival there will still be 2 metre distancing and details for Track and Trace will be taken but you will be able to come to church and sit at a numbered place of your choice.

Worship videos are available online each Sunday at 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 is also available on the website under Menu option 'News/Oracle'

From the Minister

Dear friends,

As I write, we are beginning to see changes in the tiering of lockdown and how this impacts upon the Church. COVID-19 has brought about many changes in the way that we worship and many of these have been good.

However, I have also heard another church leader say: "I don't think God really cares whether you belong to a church or not." This idea is often expressed outside the Christian community but, when we hear it from within the Church, it is time for us to ask if we know the real message of the Christian community that we call the Church.

There most certainly are many good people in the world who have no affiliation to any religion but, when it comes to the Christian community, the New Testament knows nothing of solitary Christians unattached to a Christian fellowship. The New Testament in several places speaks about the fellowship of people who are the Church as the Body of Christ. The Church has also been called the "Guardian of the Faith." The most significant happening in any community during the week is the Church's act of public worship. It is this meeting with God that gives us the opportunity to see ourselves and our day and our deeds in the light of Christ's presence and God's purpose. Here we find forgiveness, renewal of life and assurance.

Another well worn saying we hear, is that "the roof of the Church will fall down if I come back." Let me assure you that, if it does, then it's our fault and not yours. The only way that the roof could fall down is that our building is not big enough or that it has not been maintained - and that lies with the Property Committee.

Welcome back to worship!

Yours sincerely in Christ, *Gordon* (Rev. Gordon B. Armstrong)



The Wynd Centre



From Rev. Gordon B. Armstrong (Chairman)

I am pleased to say that Thomas Blane is now in place and also that the Centre is beginning to open up as the restrictions begin to ease.

The directors are well aware that things might have to change in order that the Wynd can continue to move forwards as the outreach of Oakshaw Trinity Church. To this end, we have been able to resume our monthly meetings with Thomas and Lloyd Whyman (Counselling Manager) being invited along to keep us up to date with the running of the Wynd and the Counselling Service.



From Thomas Blane - (Wynd Centre Manager)

With COVID-19 restrictions easing we are delighted to have a large number of clubs and organisations return to the Wynd Centre. We are continuing to follow all necessary procedures which were introduced at the end of the first lockdown last year and will continue to do so until advised otherwise by the Government.

Most of our regular lets such as Victim Support and the Scottish Courts Service have returned but unfortunately SSAFA, the armed forces charity, are closing their branch after 17 years in the Wynd so we are looking for an organisation to move into that space permanently. Highland Theological College will not be returning before the summer and it is likely they will return at the beginning of the new term in September.

The counselling service is continuing to build on its number of clients as we are receiving new enquiries daily. It is expected that with restrictions easing, members of the public will feel more comfortable with face-to-face counselling sessions.

We are currently in the process of having some maintenance work carried out, particularly on the roof. I've also been in discussion with Renfrewshire Council's Community Service department and they will be painting the Wynd's and Oakshaw Trinity Church's railings.

It is great to have the Centre busy again and we are hoping that restrictions continue to ease into the summer so we can continue our road to normality.



Church Roll

Deaths:

19/03/21 Agnes Campbell

22/03/21 Catherine Carmyllie

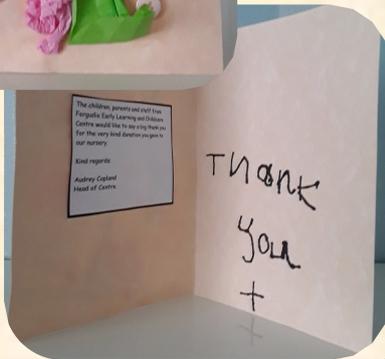


Ferguslie Early Learning and Childcare Centre

A lovely thank you card made by the Nursery children thanking us for the donation they received from our EMEC Mission Fund.



THANK YOU



Congratulations to Vic Coombs who is celebrating his 100th birthday on 27th May.



Education, Mission, EcoCongregation Committee

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

Give thanks- 'pay it forward'

We have begun to emerge from lockdown and are slowly getting back to some sort of normal. This has been due to lots of factors- hand sanitizers, social distancing, wearing masks and staying apart from loved ones, a painful experience for many. A key change now driving the more encouraging news has been the vaccination programme. Getting a vaccine developed, manufactured, and put into our arms has had a major impact on the spread of the virus in this country. By the end of April, 65% of the UK's adult population, some 34 million, had received their first dose, and 28% their second, in the biggest vaccination programme ever. It is a cause for hope, and for this we give thanks for the skill and energy of so many people involved at every stage in helping to protect us.

Contrast the situation in UK with that in India. Any hope that this massive country would escape the worst has been dashed by the images we have seen in recent days. Desperately short of oxygen, begging for help, queuing for hospitals and dying an undignified death in the streets, the people of India, of all classes and castes face an apocalyptic moment as the virus rages out of control, and makeshift funeral pyres light the sultry hot skies across the subcontinent. Or take Brazil-Latin America's largest country has passed 400,000 deaths and faces widespread unrest. So many countries in the world have no vaccines, no ventilators and inadequate sanitation. The global death toll is over 2.3 million. All caused by a virus so unbelievably small that, according to one mathematician, all the COVID-19 virus particles in the entire world would fit into a can of coke.

As we give thanks and offer prayers for those who have made the vaccine and provided other vital medical help, what can we do to show our appreciation? There is a phrase 'Pay it Forward' that comes to mind. If someone helps you, the correct response might be to pass your gratitude on to someone else, who may benefit. I lend you £5 - I don't want it back, so why not pay it forward by getting a friend a welcome cup of coffee or putting it in a charity box? We can do the same. The United Reformed Church has initiated a fund-raising campaign for Christian Aid to provide people with the opportunity to show gratitude for their COVID-19 vaccines and help protect our global neighbours for whom the vaccine remains out of reach. Christian Aid is on the ground, helping keep people safe from coronavirus with practical support but, with further donations, the charity can do more. This is not about buying vaccinations- but for basics like better hand sanitation, face masks and disinfectant. A little money goes a long way:

£20 will provide a family with clean water for a week, £40 will buy a family hygiene kit and £50 will fund a community toilet and handwashing facilities. The URC has already raised £22,000, beyond its initial target but, with only 2% of the world's population vaccinated, there is much still to do. As we approach Christian Aid week, and think of our global neighbours, please consider giving tangible thanks for the vaccine and 'pay it forward' to this worthy initiative.

Donations can be made online at this website; [United Reformed Church Giving Thanks for Our Vaccine \(tapsimple.org\)](https://www.unitedreformedchurch.org.uk/giving) You can also donate to Christian Aid by envelope enclosed with this magazine. Envelopes can be returned to the church on Sunday morning or Tuesdays, 11 am - 3 pm.

A Prayer for those across the world affected by Coronavirus

Father God, we pray that You would protect those in our world who are most vulnerable to COVID-19. We lift up the elderly, those with pre-existing health conditions and those without access to good medical care. We pray they would know Your peace, comfort, and protection. Father, would You bring healing to those who are sick and hospitalised by COVID-19.

Lord, would You also greatly bless and protect the vaccination roll-out programmes happening across our globe. May You multiply their effectiveness in protecting and saving lives. We pray against vaccine inequality and ask that countries would collaborate and serve each other, working together to fight the virus. Lord, help all of us to understand what it means to love our global neighbour as ourselves.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Steven Henderson

Dear Friends

My time at Oakshaw Trinity will end on Sunday 30th May. This has been a strange first placement which meant I wasn't able to meet as many of you as I could or invade everyone's space in the way that student ministers do!



It has been a privilege to share in worship with you, either in person or online, and the opportunity to lead the online Watchnight was a personal highlight.

It has been a memorable placement for other reasons too. From that first Sunday when I nearly fell off the chancel when my gown got caught up as I sat down, to the laughs shared with Rev. Armstrong and Rev. Lind on Tuesdays when the Sanctuary was open for prayer (though some of their jokes are better forgotten!).

As things start to return to a degree of normality and we accustom ourselves to meeting in groups again, I wish God's blessing on you all.

Steven

From the Session Clerk - John McKenzie

Dear Friends

At last we are beginning to move out of the very restrictive level that we seem to have been in for such a long time but during this period we have continued to worship together both at church and our online services.

As we move forward, restrictions are lessening with regard to the numbers allowed to attend and we hope it won't be long until we can return to worship in a normal manner.

Sadly in the meantime some practices will remain with us including 2 metre distancing, wearing of masks and, unfortunately, no singing.

In the midst of all these changes, in what has been a difficult time, be assured that many people are working to ensure that when we can return to what will be a new situation, Oakshaw Trinity will still be a focal point for worship in the centre of Paisley.

On a final note can I make a plea to all members of the congregation both young and more senior members to consider a return to worship if possible on a Sunday morning.

Every Blessing

John

Property Report - John McKenzie

Currently work is still ongoing with redecorating in the Oakshaw suite with the completion of the Lang Hall and continuing with the McLaughlin hall, the access corridor, and the vestibule.

We are having to consider some of the work that has been recommended as essential repairs from the Quinquennial report and therefore we will need to consider some painting of the Church windows and repairs to the West door over the "summer months".

We have arranged to have the grounds grass cutting to continue with no change to costs and the quality of the work will be monitored.

As we have said on previous occasions we are indebted to many people for their time and we should express our thanks to them for their assistance.

Clyde Presbytery Report - Jessie Cross

Clyde Presbytery issue a regular newsletter which is available on their website www.clydepresbytery.org.

The April newsletter contained, among other things:-

- A message from the Moderator.
- A note that a post of Presbytery Mission worker will be advertised soon.
- Information on Resources available on various subjects.
- Details of the Olive Tree Pop up Shop which sells goods to help ease the pain of poverty and unemployment in the Holy Land (Occupied Palestinian Territories) and Gaza. A local phone and e-mail link is given.
- An article from the Presbytery Clerk.
- An article from Renfrewshire Macmillan service.

If anyone wishes a copy of this newsletter and cannot access the website please let me know and I'll get a copy to you.

Eco Congregation - Fiona Catterson

As COVID-19 restrictions are lifting, the vaccination programme being well in hand and with the nights getting lighter and the days longer, we look to God's wonderful creation for the enjoyment of reconnecting with family, friends and nature.

It is also time to take stock of our work to protect this fragile earth. One thing the pandemic has shown is that our earth and all the people on it are fragile. We need to ensure that the recovery is just and green.

- We need to consider our use of single-use plastics: are there alternatives you could use?
- We need to consider energy use: is yours from a sustainable source?
- We need to consider the plants and seeds we buy and sow: will they encourage endangered wildlife?
- We need to consider the recovery of other countries as well: can we do more to help them?

These are only four small, yet crucial questions we each should be asking of ourselves at this turning point.

This is also a turning point for the Eco Committee. Over the last two and a half years we have worked towards Oakshaw Trinity becoming an Eco Congregation. This has not and, indeed, cannot be done by a committee alone. It has needed the support of the whole congregation and all of those who use our facilities and organisations. On 4th May 2021 we were due to be assessed by Eco Congregation Scotland for their Silver Award but due to one of the assessors taking unwell this was postponed. At the time of this submission we do not have the new date.

Our work does not stop here. We now need to ensure that all Eco work is embedded into the life of the Church and that it isn't seen as a "group" or by "events" but as a way of life that touches all members of our wider church community.

More to follow about this when we meet in actuality again, hopefully shortly.

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.



Friendly Hour - Isabel Gray (Convener)

A light hearted poem relating to Spring and COVID-19!

Wordsworth in Lockdown

I wandered lonely as a cloud,
Two metres from the madding crowd,
When all at once my name was called
To enter Waitrose hallowed hall.
This was pensioners' special hour
I'd gone to get a bag of flour,
But I forgot - when through the door.
What had I gone to Waitrose for?
The Waitrose staff are extra kind
I told them it had slipped my mind,
They asked what else I had forgot.
They clearly though I'd lost the plot.
I phoned my wife again to ask
'Remind me of my special task'
"I need some flour to bake a cake.
An angel sponge for me to make!"
"Yes I recall I had to lie,
I dared not ask what flower to buy
But then I saw them at the tills
A bunch of golden daffodils.



Trinity Theatre Group - Jean Bett

Like all the organizations we are missing seeing each other and being together in the church building. As I said in my last letter in 2020 this is the first time the Dramatic Club has not put on a show for many, many years. Having checked records, to the best of my ability, it seems the last time the Club missed a year was during World War II. During the war they formed an Entertainment Group to raise money for the church and the war effort. In 1947 the Club won a One Act Competition and went to London and performed the play, 'Wind Along The Waste' on BBC radio. We have no national aspirations but do hope the Club and contact with the church can get started again soon.

Best wishes to everyone at Oakshaw Trinity.

Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong

Since I last wrote, we are now looking forward to an easing of the lockdown restrictions thanks to the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines. We still have no dates, as yet, for meeting face to face and teapot to cup, but this might not be too far away. In the meantime, I hope that you and your loved ones are keeping safe and well.



Eight o'clock Club - Joan Wilson

The committee hope our members and friends are all well, vaccinated and enjoying seeing friends and family again.

Our chosen charity last year was 'Smalls for All' and, unfortunately, we were unable to have the fundraiser last March. We are now planning to have an Afternoon Tea, early in the new session, as well as still collecting new and gently worn underwear for women in Africa and the UK. Donations are welcome and can be given to any committee member on a Sunday.

The committee are still meeting by Zoom and would be delighted to have any member join us on Monday, 31st May, at 7.30pm, for a 'catch up' chat and to discuss the way forward.

If interested please email your details to oakshawchurch@gmail.com or speak to any committee member.

Congratulations to Liz McPherson and Janet Mitchell, winners of the Zoom quizzes.

As restrictions ease we are looking forward to meeting up on a Sunday and also to enjoying fellowship in our new session.

Until then, best wishes for a happy, safe summer.

Choir - Catriona Muirhead

Until restrictions are lifted the Choir are unable to meet.

Like many we enjoy the online services where we can test our vocal chords in our home singing of the hymns.

We keep our enthusiasm going by looking forward to being back together where we can raise the roof with our singing, but most of all, meeting up with you all.

Keep safe.



Don't forget about the EMEC Kindness Rock Garden

It's aim is to help people, give them a little hope, or give someone motivation and inspiration at a difficult time.

Paint a rock with an inspirational message on it and leave it in the garden in the church grounds for someone to find.



Leave one, share one, keep one.

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.



The Renfrewshire Foodbank is asking people to hand in donations to their Renfrew Warehouse on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 09:30-11:45.

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

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

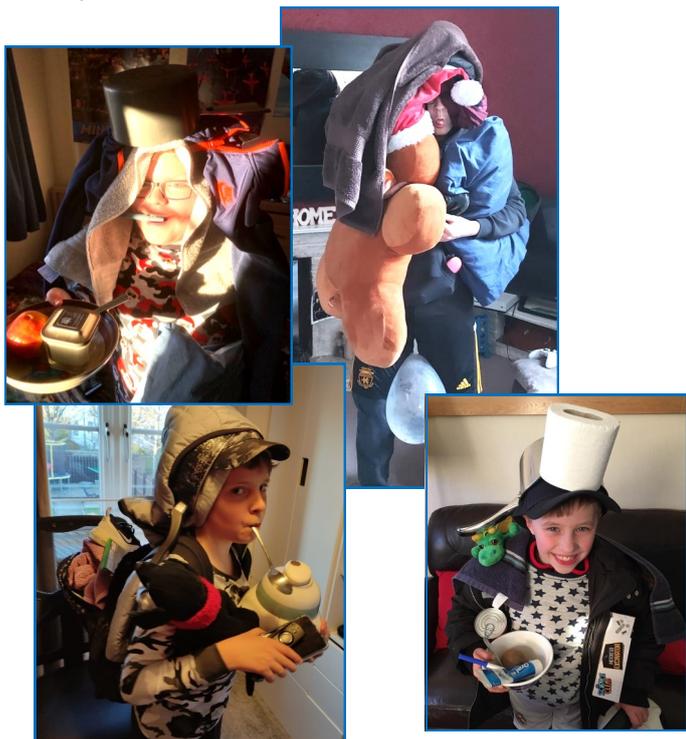


Boys' Brigade - Janice Mc Callum

Hello again from the 14th. Paisley Boys' Brigade. It seems no time since we last told you we were holding Zoom calls each Friday evening. This continued till the 14th May which would have been our official end of session date.

We had a lot of very good fun during these Zoom calls and the main thing was to keep the boys in contact with us during these strange times when we couldn't meet face to face. The Boys' Brigade have now said that we can meet face to face outdoors and we plan to do that with the Company section, to help complete some tasks, even though our session has now ended.

We have had lots of variety during our Zoom calls and at our last couple of meetings we had a scavenger hunt where the boys had to wear all of the items at the end "Pictures tell the story" and a Quiz.



We also did the "Story of the lost sheep" that was relayed to us and very well read by Joseph, one of our Junior section boys. The boys then made a sheep.



The last two nights of our session were "Daniel in the Lion's den" where the boys made a lion face mask. The last night of the session was a party night where we had some treats and a Bingo evening. The boys enjoyed this so much when we had this previously that we felt we had to repeat the fun since the boys had requested it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their continued dedication to the 14th. Paisley and giving of their time and talents. There have also been others who have helped, you know who you are, thanks again. To the boys and their families and to all in the Church keep safe and well and have a wonderful Summer break.

Hopefully when we return in August we are back in the Wynd and face to face.

God's richest Blessing.

Girls' Brigade (2nd Paisley) - Karen Peacock

It's difficult to contemplate the strange year it has been and the fact we have not been able to meet face to face since March 2020!

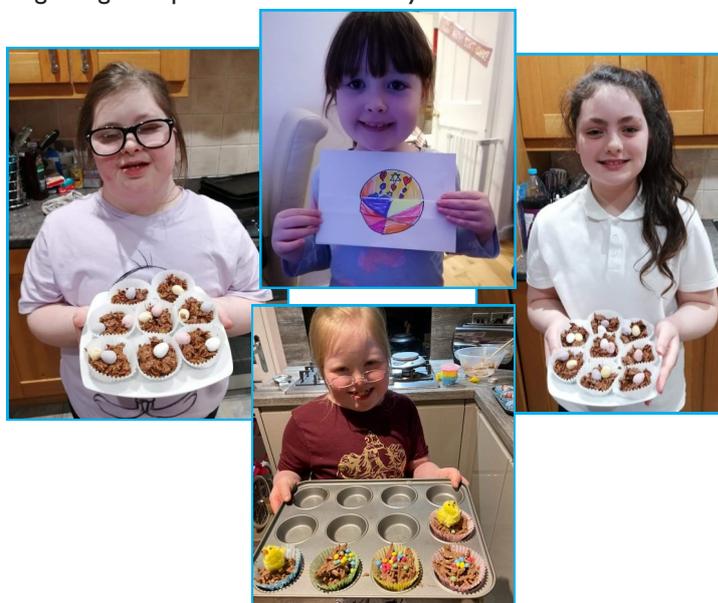
We have however continued to meet on Zoom until 1st April which was our last night for the 2020/2021 session.

For the last few weeks we were mainly doing Easter crafts and this included the Explorers designing their own egg and Juniors and Brigaders making chocolate Easter nests. Sadly for the second year running we were unable to have our annual camp up at Lapwing Lodge.... here's hoping we can get back in 2022!

On 1st April, our last night, we had a party and quiz night with both girls and parents joining in.

Attached are some pictures of the crafts and Easter nests the girls enjoyed making.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my leaders, girls and their parents for the continued support during this difficult year. We are missing all the girls and, like the other organisations, are hoping we will be able to meet up in person for session 2021/2022 which will start at end of August / beginning of September. For now stay safe!



Rainbows and Brownies - Elizabeth Halliday

We are looking forward to starting back face to face meetings in August. There was the option to meet outside but as the virus is still with us and work risks were resulting in spells of self-isolation we have decided to postpone until restrictions have been lifted. Hopefully by August we will all be able to enjoy our normal Friday nights of games and crafts. We have attached some photos of the girls and the crafts they have enjoyed making from the craft packs delivered to their homes.



On Tuesday 4th May we had our first face to face meeting since March 2020. Although it was outdoors at Lapwing Lodge in the cold it was a great night. The girls enjoyed being together again and they are looking forward to being back again soon. The girls enjoyed having a campfire and eating marshmallows and also playing games.



The Guides finish for summer at the end of May and will be back in September, hopefully we will be back to normal.

PRAYER TIME from Douglas Scott (Presbytery prayer coordinator) [Adapted from Mother Theresa of Calcuta]

O Lord,
 You told us that our father in heaven will tend to us as he tends to the lilies in the field and the birds in the sky.
 We ask you to be our teacher, yes you who had nowhere to lay down and rest your tired head.
 Teach us to trust in God's good care, and help us to overcome our worldly greed.
 Greed has never brought satisfaction.
 Give us strength to dedicate ourselves to you and to become a tool to fulfil your wishes.
 Bless the good use of money in the world, so that the hungry may be fed, the naked clothed, the poor given shelter, and the sick be treated.
 And Lord, share with us your holy spirit, so that through the faith that you grant us, we may clearly understand that to you every one of us is worth more than all those beautiful lilies and those singing birds in the air.
 Amen.

The children and teachers of the Sunday School had fun decorating their Easter Eggs for Easter Sunday. Many thanks to the Church Team for running this traditional competition. A sum of £15 was raised for Comic Relief this year on behalf of the Sunday School. This was raised by the children sending in jokes to the church Facebook page.

To celebrate Earth Day, which was the 22nd of April, a project pack filled with bee facts, drawing pages, colouring pages and recipes to try, was delivered to the children. Also an experiment on how not to waste food when it can be prevented, where each child received a living herb in the pack to see how long they could keep their herb alive for.

I wonder if there are any still growing?

Remember if you or the children are bored during the coming months, you can always try your hand at creating a kindness rock for the church garden.

If the lockdown recovery keeps up, we may be able to get together during the summer months.

As soon as it is feasible we will inform the parents of what the plans are going forward. If we don't manage to get together, I wish the parents and children of the Sunday School a lovely relaxing summer.

2021 Easter Egg decoration competition winners



Peppa learns to drive George Higgins

6-10 - Cute Bunnies Sophie Walker



11-16

Joshua the vampire Matthew McDonald



17 plus

DEgg coupage Edith Muir

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