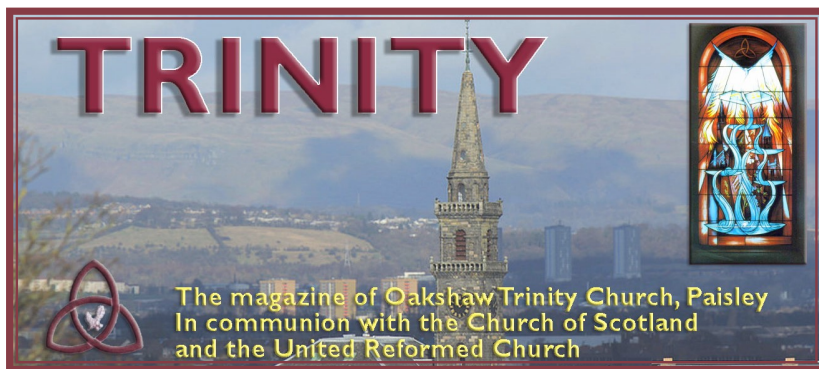




**Summer 2023**

Church Facebook Page  
[www.facebook.com/oakshawtrinity](https://www.facebook.com/oakshawtrinity)  
 Website: [www.oakshawtrinity.org.uk](http://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



## SUNDAY SERVICE

11 a.m. in church  
**Special Sunday dates**

**June**  
 Sun 4 11:00 Sacrament of Holy Communion  
 14:30 Afternoon Communion  
 Sun 25 11:00 Sunday School Service

**September**  
 Sat 2 Organisation Day at the Wynd Centre  
 Doors Open Day  
 Sun 3 11:00 Sacrament of Holy Communion  
 14:30 Afternoon Communion  
 Sun 17 11:00 Harvest

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**ONLINE:** Short worship videos are available each Sunday on the church website  
[oakshawtrinity.org.uk/music](http://oakshawtrinity.org.uk/music)  
 and the church Facebook page  
[facebook.com/oakshawtrinity](https://facebook.com/oakshawtrinity)

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

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**Other Dates**


**May**  
 Thu 18 - Girls' Brigade Display  
 Fri 19 - Boys' Brigade Inspection  
 Fri 26 - Fish Supper and Quiz night

**August**  
 Thu 31 - Guides start new session

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

## From the Minister



*Dear friends,*

These have certainly been difficult and strange times for our congregation and indeed for the wider church community in Scotland. Yet we should never forget that Christ died and rose again for us that his Church might rise in our time. Paul was always eager to remind and empower his fellow Christians that we should always, "...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

We have faced many challenges to get things back to what they were prior to April 2020. Numbers are slowly getting back, but we still have a long way to go. We have been encouraged to see new people joining us at both our Mid-Week and Sunday services and look forward to seeing many more.

When each of us joined the Church, we all made vows to give a fitting proportion of our time, our talents and our money. Jesus praised the widow for giving her mite; little as it was, it was given in love for the on-going work of the Lord. With regards to time, our Holy Week services were poorly attended; but were very meaningful for those who attended and served at them. A number of our organisations including our Sunday School are desperately needing some willing hands to assist them. If you can give some of your time, please do let this be known. As you will no doubt already know, our heating in the church has now passed its sell-by date and needs to be renewed in time for this winter.

My earnest desire is for our church to be characterized by humility and love. We will still need to make practical decisions. We will continue to take precautions as a congregation. But our calling is to take each step in humility and love. Please pray for me, for our session, for all of our leadership and for our congregation that we can walk forward with faith in God and love for one another.

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

## The Wynd Centre

**From the Chairman - Rev. Gordon Armstrong**

The Directors and Manager continue to uphold the ethos of what was established all these past years.

Our Counselling Service continued well under the leadership of Lloyd and Dawn. I would also like to thank the many who continue to support the many events that are being held at the Wynd Centre and I hope that this will continue. I would also like to thank my fellow Directors for their continued help and dedication.




**From the Manager - Thomas Blane**

The Wynd Centre continues to move in the right direction with the usage of the centre increasing and the number of enquiries from different types of groups improving. The Auditorium continues to receive more bookings from theatre productions and we have two groups who have confirmed since visiting for a viewing two weeks ago.

The Royal National Mod have confirmed they will be booking six full days with the Wynd in October just after the Paisley Film Festival so it will be a busy few weeks for us! We will also have the cafe open on all of these days so it will be a highly profitable fortnight for us in general.

The counselling service continues to maintain its improved attendance since the turn of the year and we have calculated that since fully re-opening the service in May 2021 we have seen 376 clients so it shows the great work that is being done in the community.

The Wynd's financial situation continues to improve with various events coming up over the coming months so we are hopeful of a positive summer.






## Church Roll

### Deaths:

04/04/23 Cicely Clayton

10/04/23 Leslie Holland

01/05/23 Shirley Baird

### Former Member Death:

28/03/23 Jean Scott



### Rev. Sandy Geddes, a former Minister of St.

John's Church Paisley died aged 86 at home in Mauchline in the early hours of Easter Day, 9th April. His three children were all by his bedside. His funeral took place on Tuesday 2nd May in St Columba's Church Stewarton - his final charge before he retired in 1989. Rev. George Lind, himself a former minister of St Columba's Church conducted the service as previously requested by Sandy. The attached photo of Sandy and Elizabeth was taken in 2011 when they were among guests of honour celebrating the Jubilee of St Columba's Church. Sandy was Ordained by the Presbytery of Aberdeen in June 1960, then inducted to Peebles St Andrew's in May 1961. He later translated to Paisley St John's in November 1966 where he stayed until he translated to Aberdeen Langstane Kirk in December 1979. Sandy then moved with his family to Stewarton St Columba's in May 1989. On retirement in 1989, Sandy and Elizabeth moved to Dumfries where he became pastoral assistant in Maxwelltown West Church. They later re-located to Mauchline to be nearer their family. They became members of Mauchline Parish Church. Sadly, Elizabeth died in October 2017. Sandy will be missed by his family and his many friends. We give thanks for his ministry and the way his life honoured the Lord.



## Education, Mission, EcoCongregation Committee

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

### A weel-kent name-Professor Willie Barclay (1907-1978) remembered.

One of the names we heard most frequently quoted at school assemblies in the 1970s was that of Willie Barclay, late Professor of Divinity and Biblical Criticism at Glasgow University, minister, author, and public broadcaster. It is perhaps hard to appreciate how weel-kent and popular a theologian he was, not only for what he said, but for how he said it- using his erudition and skill with words to bring the gospel to everyday folk. A real "lad o' pairts", born in Wick, he attended Dalziel High School, was sports champion and school captain, going on to read Classics at Glasgow, then Divinity, becoming an ordained minister in 1933 and for many years minister at Trinity Renfrew. As professor, Willie Barclay sought to make the New Testament come alive through his detailed, but highly readable commentaries, his aim being to "make the best biblical scholarship available to the average reader". He described his theology as "liberal and evangelical", which never endeared him to more conservative minded critics, who take a more literal interpretation of the bible, but he felt it important to get to the essence of Jesus and His message, rather than engage in disputes about the veracity of certain bible stories. This has continued to open him to criticism that he was too willing to dispense with core beliefs, such as the Virgin Birth and many of the miracles, but even his critics respect his sincerity and intellect which drove him to make scripture accessible and meaningful. In his 1960 book *The Mind of Jesus* he stated that his aim was "to make the figure of Jesus more vividly alive, so that we may know him better and love him more". Underlying his ministry, both in the parish and the lecture hall, was a desire to speak to the spirit rather than the letter of the law. As he said, "more people have been brought into the church by the kindness of Christian love than all the theological arguments in the world". The Gospel is to be lived not debated, and we are judged by how we treat each other; "If we are to accept the teaching of Jesus at all, then the only test of the reality of a man's religion is his attitude to his fellow men. The only possible proof that a man loves God is the demonstrated fact that he loves his fellow men."

Barclay's skill lay in setting out in simple but effective phrases the reality of the Christian experience and, in doing so, making us reflect more deeply; thus, for example, "Christianity is unquestionably a personal experience. It is also unquestionably not a private experience". In contrasting the words personal and private, he is reminding us not to keep our faith to ourselves, and to focus exclusively on personal salvation, but to share the good news with others. He was able to interpret and present the message of the Bible in layman's terms, not through a word-by-word translation, but by getting the heart of the matter. This exceptionally well-read man, well versed in classical literature and biblical criticism, a professor and author of many books and papers had the insight and humanity to distil the entirety of the gospel into one simple, memorable phrase: "there are two great days in a person's life; the day they are born and the day they discover why".

**O God, our Father, help us through this day so to live that we may bring help to others, credit to ourselves and to the name we bear, and joy to those that love us, and to You.**

Cheerful when things go wrong;  
Persevering when things are difficult;  
Serene when things are irritating.

Enable us to be:  
Helpful to those in difficulties;  
Kind to those in need;  
Sympathetic to those whose hearts are sore and sad.

Grant that:  
Nothing may make us lose our tempers;  
Nothing may take away our joy;  
Nothing may ruffle our peace;  
Nothing may make us bitter towards anyone.

So grant that through all this day all those with whom we work, and all those whom we meet, may see in us a reflection of the Master, whose we are, and whom we seek to serve. This we ask for Your love's sake. **Amen**

**A Prayer by Willie Barclay**



**Thank You - Fiona Catterson**  
Douglas and Fiona would like to thank everyone for the flowers, support and kind messages they received on the death of their Mum, Cicely Clayton.



John and Janet Stewart would like to thank those who sent cards

and expressed best wishes on the occasion of their Diamond wedding on 30 March 2023.



## **Fabric Report** - Sandra Wilson (Convener)

Quotes have been obtained from Richard Irvin and James Ramsay for the refurbishment/upgrading of the heating system. The quotes are an average of £70,000.

The refurbishment would include the replacement of the boilers and the pipework in the halls. We have asked for updated quotes for these works.

If, as anticipated, we achieve 80% grants, the additional money would have to be raised by the congregation.

It was proposed that we have another Gift Day in order to raise some money towards the shortfall in the payment.

**Painting** - The window frames on the church halls require painting. We have a quote for doing this, but there is an additional cost of £1500.00 to remove the grills from the windows, so to save this money, we are looking for volunteers to help remove and re-install the grills. Please let me know if you can help and we can set up a working party.



**Steeple and Tower** - Work is ongoing by the council to remove the weathervane and start the repairs to cap and slates.

The gardeners have started their Spring / Summer work both around the Church, Eco Garden and the Wynd Centre.

## **Finance Report** - Isabel Pearson (Treasurer)

### **Management Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

The total income for this period is £43,943 which is an increase of £6,266.

The total expenditure for this period is £37,707 which is a reduction of £5,869.

This results in a net profit of £6,236.

Although we have a small profit at the end of the quarter we cannot become complacent. Going forward we need to look at the heating system within the church and halls and this is going to cost a considerable amount of money to renew.

As agreed at the Church Annual Meeting it was agreed to hold a Gift Day to raise the monies required to allow this renewal to be completed. You will have received a letter with this magazine and I would like to encourage you to participate in this. I am sure you will all benefit from coming into a warm and welcoming church on a Sunday morning.

Can I please take this opportunity to thank those who support the church.

## **Presbytery Report** - Jessie Cross

A large part of the recent Presbytery business has involved discussions and meetings on the Presbytery Plan. This plan is now with the General Trustees in Edinburgh and their response is awaited.

Under the more usual business the Rev David Burt has been appointed Moderator of Clyde Presbytery from September 2023 and a Presbytery Mission Conference will be held on 13th May 2023 on the subject of "Schools Ministry".

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland takes place from 20th to 25th May 2023. I will be attending and I thank the Kirk Session for this opportunity

## **Events Committee** - Isabel Pearson (Secretary)

### **Annual Fish Supper and Quiz Evening**

Our annual Fish Supper and Quiz evening is being held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in the large hall.

If you would like to enter a team of six can you please speak to me and I will ensure you receive the menu. If you are not part of a team but would like to participate you are still very welcome and you can join a team on the evening.

Cost of the evening is £9.00 per head which includes your fish or sausage supper and tea or coffee or soft drink.

## **Wynd 40th Anniversary in 2024**

- John Stewart (Chairperson)

The committee of twelve have been working hard and it's time to get your diaries out as the celebrations start in September 2023 and are as follows:



**Sat 2nd September 2023:** Doors Open day at which the church organisations have been invited to show their activities to members of the public to encourage them to join them next session. Organisation leaders please confirm with Lynn Ferguson your participation.

**Fri 15th /Sat 16th September 2023:** Paisley Musical and Operatic Society are holding musical entertainment in the Wynd Centre.

**Sat 28th October 2023:** Businesses will be invited to see the Wynd Centre facilities.

**Sat 25th November 2023:** St Andrew's Night Ceilidh

Further information on the 2024 celebrations leading up to Dinner and Church Service will be given in due course.

I have already addressed the Two O'Clock Club about the celebrations and given a slide presentation. If you know of any organisation, either within the church or elsewhere, that is looking for a speaker please contact me.

There is much to celebrate so join in!

## **Tea & Crafts** - Margaret Armstrong

Although many of the church organisations are ending for the summer season, we continue to meet through the summer months. If you are looking for something to do, the please do pop in and see us. Even if it is just once or twice you can still join us on the second Monday every month for a cup of tea or coffee and a natter at 7 p.m. in the Lang Hall.

## **Seniors' Holiday 2023** **Gordon & Sandra Hamilton.**



Arrangements have been made for our forthcoming holiday at Fisher's Hotel Pitlochry, from 4th - 8th September. Various excursions are planned, which we trust will be blessed with good weather.

### **Flowers** - Flower Team

The Flower ladies would like to thank you for the cards and the verbal thank you comments for the arrangements that have been done during this year. Many thanks for the donations that have been made towards the cost of the flowers, this really helps. If you have a special occasion or anniversary that you would like the flowers done for, just let any of the flower ladies know and we will be only too happy to help.





## **Friendly Hour** - Margaret Pearson (Secretary/Convener)

The Friendly Hour has had another enjoyable and successful session. It is heart-warming to see the reactions of the members joining in the singing or even just tapping the table to the music. We welcomed a few new entertainers during the year and I am sure they will come back to entertain us in our new session which resumes in October.

Our sincere thanks are expressed to everyone who supported our Daffodil Tea in April when we were entertained by Stewart Munro and Friends with their musical instruments. During Easter we enjoyed an Easter Quiz and also played Holy Beetle.

We closed for the summer on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May with a lovely lunch at the Gleniffer Hotel which was enjoyed by everyone. In addition to the lunch we thoroughly enjoyed great entertainment by our friends John Orr and Anne McMillan.

Our new Session will start on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 2.00 p.m. in the Lang Hall. If you would like to join the Friendly Hour please do not hesitate to speak to me over the summer months. You can be assured of a warm welcome.

I thought I would share a verse from a poem that was written by Betty, a member of the Friendly Hour a number of years ago.

I love a Tuesday  
It's the best day for me  
I've made friends in this church  
I don't feel alone - it's easy to be  
You all make a difference for people like me!



## **Choir** - Catriona Muirhead (Secretary)



In January the choir resumed after the festive season to start practicing for their concert with the Handbell Ringers at the end of March. Unfortunately, due to illness, the Handbell Ringers had to withdraw at the last minute.

We were very lucky that David Murray managed to put together a very varied program with soloists and some special guest artists:

- his son Calum (home for the weekend) playing a very talented two piano duet with his father.
- George Howat (who participated in the T.V. Program "The Piano") played the full piece he had arranged for the TV programme.

The whole evening was enjoyed by participants and audience alike.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> May we finished with our annual dinner at the Pendulum where we were delighted to present gifts to two of our members, Mary Law and Robert Miller, who have decided to retire. Both have given many years of dedication to the choir and both will be sorely missed.

We all now look forward to enjoying our summer break.

When we resume in September we hope to be in the position of welcoming new members.



## **Two O'clock Club** - Joan Wilson

The Club has continued to meet in the Lang Hall on the last Monday of the month.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Jean Scott, a long-time, loyal member of the club. Jean acted as treasurer for 20 years.

We have only just learned of the death of another long-time loyal member - Shirley Baird. Shirley served as president and a member of the committee for many years.

On February 27<sup>th</sup> Margaret Linnie spoke of her experiences growing up in Quarriers Village and how she was inspired to become a nurse.

At the following meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> March, Paula Reynolds told us about the Renfrewshire Tapestry and showed us samples of the detailed work completed so far.

Our session finished at the AGM on April, 24<sup>th</sup>, followed by an interesting and informative talk by John Stewart on the history of the Wynd Centre and the events planned for its 40<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary. On Doors Open Day we'll be 'showcasing' our club as part of those events.

We are looking forward to our Summer Lunch in Pendulum on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

Look out for our team taking part in the Church Quiz on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> May. We are the 'ones to beat' after their success last year.

Thanks to the committee for their hard work this session.

Thanks also to our members for their commitment and loyalty. We look forward to welcoming them all back in September. Until then best wishes for a happy, safe summer.





## Boys' Brigade - Janice McCallum

Our parent's evening is on May 19th. at 7.00 pm and all are welcome to come along and join us; we really value your support. The boys have had a busy time completing all the disciplines to achieve their badges etc.

We have been to a few Battalion led events:-

Anchors had a fun day at Paisley South Church in March - see pictures. They played lots of games and a Magician entertained.



Company boys are heading to 'Battalion Cumbrae Camp' for a long weekend at the end of May. The boys are very excited about this trip and can't wait for the date to come round. We'll be praying for some good weather for them. At Easter the boys had an Easter egg hunt and made Easter cards. They had a fun evening with lots of games and tried Archery. I think we might have a few budding Robin Hoods in the company.

Anchors and Juniors have enjoyed a wide variety of Bible stories and learning new skills making biscuits, planting flowers and making fruit kebabs which they loved to eat. The Company boys did a historical walk in Paisley. After taking in the beautiful

buildings and churches they finished with a bag of chips. The boys had a construction evening where they had to construct a bridge spanning two long tables using spaghetti



and marshmallows. As you will see by the pictures they were very proud of their efforts. The boys, as usual, have given 100% in all they do and we thank them for that.

The 14th. Paisley boys and staff wish you a wonderful summer. The new session starts in August. Every blessing to Oakshaw Trinity Church and thanks for your support.

## Rainbows and Brownies -

Elizabeth Halliday



The Rainbows and Brownies have been working on their Water Challenge Badge. This has involved learning about water and making some boats. One out of paper and another out of other materials including felt, plastic, wood and other recycled materials. The girls enjoyed Easter fun with crafts and an egg hunt within the church hall. We have been baking some treats including empire biscuits and learning some new games. We look forward to joining the other organisations on the youth trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park.

## Girls' Brigade (2nd Paisley) - Karen Peacock



We are busy preparing for our end of 2022/2023 session display which will take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May in the Wynd Auditorium. This will be our first full display in four years.

Our Bingo evening at the end of March raised £400 and we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came along and supported us.



Another first in four years was our camping trip to Lapwing. Fifteen of our juniors and brigaders joined up with nineteen girls from Johnstone and Erskine GB for a fun-packed weekend during the Easter holidays. The sun shone all day on the Saturday which made it even better. The girls were doing archery, canoeing, high ropes, climbing wall, escape rooms and raft building. A great time was had by all. On the Saturday evening we joined up with some Scouts for a camp fire. There were a few tired girls by the end of the weekend but I'm sure it was worth it!

All sections are now finishing up their badge work and display preparation is well underway.

A number of the girls and some families will be joining us on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May for the Youth Trip to Blair Drummond.



It's been great to get back to some normality after a few disrupted years!

I would like to thank all my leaders who come along on a Thursday night helping the girls to Seek, Serve and Follow Christ. Thank you also to Oakshaw Trinity Church for their continued support.

Session 2023/2024 will start back at the beginning of September.



### 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.



## Guides (11th Paisley) - Linda Kelly



We are nearly at the end of another session. Before we stop the girls are looking forward to getting out more in the lighter nights and doing lots of different activities.

In June we are going to South Newton for the day to do Archery and Tomahawk throwing, which is a new activity for the girls to try. This is our last event of the session.

I would like to thank the leaders who are there every Thursday (Zoe, Gillian, Lorraine) to give the girls the best Guiding programme.

We start back on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2023. Any girl aged 10 and above is welcome to come along and join in the fun.

## Sunday School - Edith Muir

This session we had a fundraiser for Red Nose Day by selling "packets of smiles". Many thanks to the congregation for buying these packets which consisted of a drawing by the children, a joke and sunflower seeds. This endeavour raised £82.50.

We planted pansies for Spring Watch day.

For Mother's Day we made bookmarks and cards and we watched a Lego movie showing the Easter story on Palm Sunday.

On Easter Sunday we had a party to celebrate that Jesus is alive where we had an egg hunt, an egg and spoon race, pass the parce and an Easter themed game of twister.

Going forward we are still working on learning the Lord's Prayer and doing the classic Bible stories. We finish on the 25th of June with the promotion service.

The number of children coming to Sunday School is slowly growing and as you know all children are welcome to join us in the fun with Bible stories, crafts, singing and fundraising.



## Trinity Theatre Group - Jean Bett



At this time of year Trinity Theatre Group would appear to be inactive and in terms of performing or rehearsing we are but I am busy make preparations for our next production. This will be in November 2023 and we hope it will be in the Wynd Centre where we performed last year. This year's production will be 'Beauty and the Beast'. Rehearsals will start at the beginning of September and anyone interested in joining the club in any capacity will be made most welcome. There is no cost to being a member of the club and no audition fees. At the moment September seems a long way off but it is amazing how quickly time flies and we are all looking forward to getting started again.

Next session talks are underway about a joint production with 'RATS', based in St Ninian's Church, probably in March 2024. Nothing has yet been finalised but Joyce Maxwell, whose family, 'the Scotts', were well known in the old St John's Church has written a play which needs more players than her own club has. In the distant past Joyce and I, who have been friends for over forty five years, have done joint productions with school groups, so we thought this might be worth looking at. Any developments will be in the next edition of Trinity Magazine.

## Oakshaw Explorers - Jessie Cross

The Oakshaw Explorers are looking forward to starting their visits again for the summer. Outings will be held monthly with Wednesdays being full day and Sundays afternoon outings.

Weather permitting it is intended to visit Balloch, Mugdock Country Park, Largs and Rouken Glen on Wednesdays with Bowling Harbour, Braehead Park, Pollok Park, Greenbank Gardens and Kilbirnie Loch on Sunday afternoons.

Details will be given in Oracle nearer each date but for further information meantime please contact Jessie Cross or Sheena Miller.



### 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	Sandra Wilson	Church Office
Church Office		0141 887 4647 Press 3