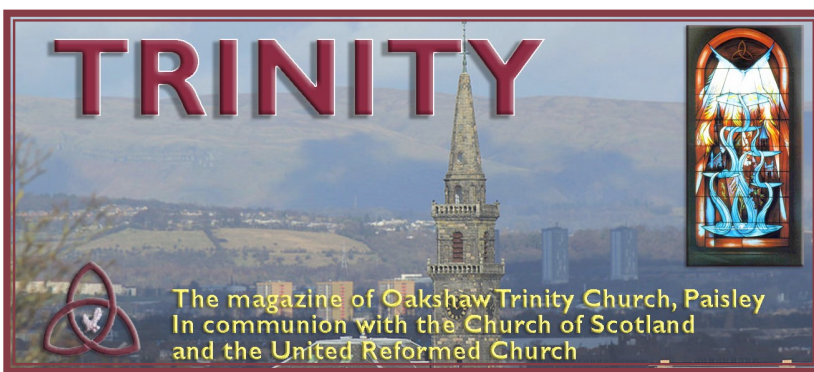




Winter 2020


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



SUNDAY SERVICE 11 a.m.

Due to Government restrictions on Public Gatherings, Sunday Services have been restricted to a maximum of 50 persons. You will require to book each week in advance by emailing to
booking.oakshawtrinity@thewynd.org.uk
before noon on the Wednesday. If you have access to email please phone the church office 0141 887 4647 opt. 3

Please do not turn up without booking in advance.

Material for worship at home is available online 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'

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. [See back page for more details.](#)

From the Minister

Dear friends,

Reflecting back over the years, this has always been a busy, bustling and interesting time as we move towards Advent and Christmas. Yet this has been a year like no other...

Life under lockdown has taken its toll on many aspects of life from birth to death and from worship to politics. Yet the resilience that God has given to all of us has come to the fore time and time again. Taking a break from watching the political debacle in the USA, we watched the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall. It was quite strange to see the almost empty building, yet as we watched on; we began to realise just how moving and apt this was in these strange times. Life always has, and indeed must, go on.

In many ways, we have been doing this in our church and through our organisations who have found many and interesting ways of adapting and keeping in touch with each other. In October, we were able to restart our Sunday services; albeit in a very different style than before. Added to this; we have been joined by Mr Steven Henderson, a student for the Ordained Local Ministry. Steven has fitted in well with us and together with Rev. George Lind, we are finding new ways of making ourselves available to the congregation by opening the church on Tuesdays from 11am until 3pm for people to drop in and if they wish, they can share a moment of reflection on the hour.

The Prophet Jeremiah gives us hope and encouragement as we face a very different celebration of our Lord's birth and hopefully a brighter and better year:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (29:11).

Let me wish you and your loved ones God's every blessing for the remainder of this year and for his continued presence in 2021.

Gordon (Rev. Gordon B. Armstrong)



The Wynd Centre—At the heart of the community - John Stewart

The Wynd Centre has been serving the needs of the Paisley community for over 30 years and is well known and popular with those who use the facility.

The Board have been looking at ways to optimise the use of the facility by local organisations and commissioned Kevin Leburn to produce a marketing document which focused on the potential of the Wynd and how it might be promoted. His document was approved by the Board and work is now underway to turn the proposals into concrete results.

Phase 1 - With the support of a grant of £30000 from the William Adams Trust is an upgrading of the facility to provide a flexible, modern well equipped, events venue which meets emerging market needs whilst retaining its role as a community hub. This phase is now underway with the halls and reception due to be completed by January 2021.

Further stages in the process include refurbishment of the auditorium and a redesign and revamp of the front of the building with better signage.

A strategic plan is in place which will streamline systems and processes including IT and the website. When the initial refurbishment is complete the marketing plan will commence with the possibility of recruiting a marketing person to promote and develop the Wynd Services.

In addition to the above, our counselling service has been growing and developing and the introduction of child play therapy has strengthened our offering. John Stewart has been instrumental in obtaining many grants to support the counselling service.

We hope everyone will like what we are doing and will find ways of supporting and promoting the Wynd in this exciting project. If you shop on Amazon, at Amazon Smile, please identify The Wynd Centre as your charity to support and we will receive 0.5% of eligible purchases.



Church Roll

Deaths:

23/08/20 William (Billy) Taylor Skelly

03/09/20 Jane Campbell

24/09/20 Margaret Boyd

Oct 2020 Margaret Graham

21/10/20 Agnes Craig

28/10/20 Jean Boyd

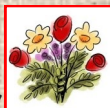
08/11/20 Nessie Thomson

08/11/20 Christina McKaig



FLOWER FUND - Seonaid Prentice

At the end of the year I will be retiring from the Flower Fund after 22 years including three and a half years as Convener. My sincere thanks are due to Barbara, Catriona, Douglas and the flower arrangers for their valuable assistance. Thanks also to those who donated to the Fund and those who delivered the flowers after the service.



Thanks from Isabel Murry



Isabel would like to thank everyone who sent cards and Good Wishes to her after her accident earlier this year.

Thank You

Christian Aid Christmas Appeal



This year's Appeal focuses on communities in the poorest countries, hardest hit by coronavirus. If you want to donate, simply go the Christian Aid website where you can donate online

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christmas-appeal>

Education, Mission, EcoCongregation Committee

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

Dragon's Den – Fairy tales do not tell children the dragons exist. Children already know that dragons exist. Fairy tales tell children the dragons can be killed.

The larger than life novelist G K Chesterton, author of the Father Brown detective series, was also a noted Christian thinker, and in the quote above he was talking about the power of fairy stories. It is a typical Chesterton comment- witty and not of course to be taken literally. But a great deal of things need not be taken literally for them to be true. That, for Chesterton, was the whole point of fairy stories. It is common to say that so and so "has their demons"- usually a reference to a serious weakness or affliction affecting somebody. However, the use of the word "demon" is somehow more powerful, suggesting an external malevolent force acting upon a person, that they are almost too helpless to fight. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by events. No more so than now, when the Covid crisis seems never-ending, impacting upon every aspect of our lives- family visits, our jobs, our social activities, even our attendance at church. We live in an age of anxiety, and many people of all ages are struggling in the battle against the dragon that is coronavirus.

There are several references to dragons in the Bible, perhaps no more so than in the final and arguably most terrifying book, Revelation. Verse 12.7 says, which depicts the conflict between good and evil; "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven". Later, verse 12.9 describes how the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan...he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."

Here the message is that evil can be defeated, dragons can be overcome. Chesterton, too, was reminding us of a fundamental truth; if we hold on to faith, the dragons that come to us in the night or when we are worried or upset can also be killed, maybe not by the sword or spear, but by courage, fortitude, hope and love.

trypraying.

there is hope

A reminder that the Try Praying booklet can be collected from the church, or from the plastic box on the church railings, on the right of the banner. "Try Praying" is a seven-day prayer guide and it is aimed at people who don't tend to go to church but is also a great way of looking at our own approach to prayer. If you'd like more information, have a look at the Try Praying website www.trypraying.co.uk

Mission Fund - Fill the Boxes!

Full boxes can be handed in to the Church on Tuesdays between 11 and 3 pm, or on Sunday morning. You can uplift spare boxes too.

One message at just the right moment can change someone's entire day, outlook or life. - Edith Muir

The EMEC team are working on creating a kindness rock garden in the church grounds.

We need everyone to help in this endeavour. This will give us all a common project to get our teeth into over the winter months. It will be a point of interest in the church grounds which everyone can get pleasure from, but more importantly it is to help people, give them a little hope, or give someone motivation and inspiration at a difficult time.

The plan is to paint a rock, with an inspirational message on it and leave it in the garden for someone to find.

Leave one, share one, keep one

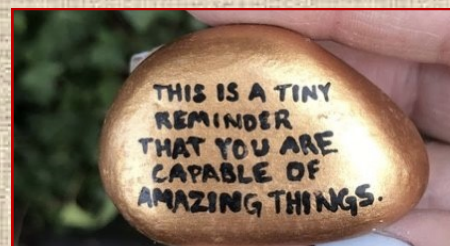
People can find one to give to someone they know is needing a little pick me up, or keep one for themselves if it gives them some comfort, or to help them meditate.

This is a ongoing, growing, garden which we hope will run for the foreseeable future.

Over the coming weeks ideas for quotes, how to go about painting your rocks, and writing on your rock will be left at the front of the church and posted on the Facebook page and website.

We are hoping the whole congregation can get involved children, Mums, Dads, grandparents, youth organisations and friends.

Please just give it a go.



Steven Henderson

I'm Steven Henderson, your new Student Assistant, and I'm delighted to have this opportunity to introduce myself to the congregation.

I'm married to Emma, we have 2 girls, Eilidh (nearly 13) and Mairi (10) and live in Bishopton.



I work as a research nurse at the QEUB and before that the majority of my nursing was in intensive care at the Western Infirmary.

I'm now in my first year of training for the Ordained Local Ministry of the Church of Scotland, studying at Aberdeen University and on placement at Oakshaw Trinity. I've met some of you in person at church; others have met me on Facebook. Still others know me through the Boys' Brigade. I'm looking forward to getting to know as many of the congregation as restrictions allow between now and Easter 2021, when my placement at Oakshaw Trinity ends.

Property Report - John McKenzie

We have been busy over recent months with the completion of repairs to the heating system which should resolve any heating problem in the Church.

Sadly we have to report that once again we have water damage from the tower, on this occasion, water has penetrated into the organ as well as the vestry and this is now in the hands of our insurers and we await the outcome.

On a brighter note the refurbishment of the kitchen is now complete. We have taken advantage of this time and arranged for the redecoration of the main hall, entrance hall and Session House and these works are ongoing. We have also received, via Ian Wilcox and Chivas, furniture and fittings for the Oakshaw Suite which will enhance all areas.

We should record our thanks to everyone involved over this period for all their help.

Our thanks should also be recorded to Douglas Gray for his work during this period.

Fabric Convenor, Sandra Wilson, has intimated that, due to work commitments, she will relinquish her post as Convenor but will remain with us until the year end. We thank Sandra for her work over the years and wish her well.



From the Session Clerk - John McKenzie

It hardly seems a year since I took over from Bob Copleton as Session Clerk.

As the year began I looked forward to being able to meet many of you over a coffee after the service on a Sunday morning.

Alas how wrong was I, in a matter of weeks we were being advised to close due to Coronavirus.

Little did we know that we would be kept from our normal Sunday Worship for such a long period and even on our return in October, we would still be under restrictions as to how we could worship, based on the maximum numbers allowed and restrictions on singing and praying.

In the interim period of closure and our reopening, thanks to some very talented and innovative people we were introduced to new ways of worship on both our website and Facebook page. This proved to be a lifeline over the restricted period.

We finally received permission from both Presbytery and URC Synod to reopen on 18th October.

To enable control of the maximum number allowed to attend we have had to install a booking system: (booking.oakshawtrinity@thewynd.org.uk). This is open until 12 noon on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday service.

If you do not have access to email, please phone the church office on 0141 887 4647 press option 3, again before noon on the Wednesday prior to the service.

It has been extremely encouraging to note the numbers wishing to attend even though restrictions are still in place as to where we can go and what we can do.

In the interim, can I pass on the best wishes of the Kirk Session and myself to you all.

Please continue to stay safe and well.

God's blessing to you all.

John.

Finance Report - Isabel Pearson - Treasurer

During these unprecedented times I have been keeping a watchful eye on our finances. I would like to thank everyone who changed to direct debit as this has helped our income. While I cannot be too complacent, I am reasonably happy with the accounts as they stand at present.

As we are approaching the year end, if you have any Freewill Offering Envelopes and you are not attending the Church on a Sunday, you can either post them into the Church Office, marked for my attention, or you can hand them into the Church between 11.00 and 3.00 on a Tuesday. It would be very much appreciated and assist our year end figures if we could please get as much of our income in as possible.

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



Reverse Advent Calendar 2020

Each day of advent add an item to your box for donation to Renfrewshire Foodbank or go online at

<https://renfrewshire.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

to help a family in Renfrewshire that is in need this Christmas time

Friendly Hour - Isabel Gray (Convener)

Many people have had a difficult time these last few months and as Christmas approaches, our thoughts and prayers go out to the members of the Friendly Hour. I came across the words of this modern hymn from the 1960s and thought they may be of comfort to many of you.

No man is an island,

No man stands alone,
Each man's joy is joy to me;
Each man's grief is my own
We need one another, so I will defend
Each man as my brother, each man as my friend
I saw the people gather
I heard the music start
The song that they were singing, is ringing in my heart.
No man is an island,
Way out in the blue
We all look to the one above for our faith to renew
When I help my brother then I know that I
Plant the seed of friendship, that will never die
Stay safe and take care

Trinity Theatre Group - Jean Bett



Like almost all clubs and groups, we are missing seeing each other and so sorry we had to abandon our production of 'Joseph and the Amazing etc.' for the Scottish Bible Society in April. Our own November production has also had to be cancelled due to the current circumstances. At the moment we can not plan any productions until we are sure we will have an audience. This is the first year since World War 2 that Trinity Theatre Group has not put on a show but appreciate that taking care and keeping safe is the most important path to follow at the moment. We hope and pray that we can all get back to normality in the not too distant future. My love to all my friends at Oakshaw Trinity.

Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong



Though we are not meeting just now, I hope that you are all keeping busy and looking out for new things that we can do when we are allowed to meet face to face.

Just for a bit of fun, can I ask that we all make a Christmas Tree decoration and take a picture of it. This can be sent in to the Church Booking address

(booking.oakshawtrinity@thewynd.org.uk) or WhatsApped to me. The winner will receive a much-needed box of chocolates.

Keep safe and look out for each other.

A message of Hope

At this time of restrictions due to the Corona 19 pandemic it is good to be reminded of positive life experiences which continue. (from Sheena Young)

- Conversations will not be cancelled
- Relationships will not be cancelled
- Love will not be cancelled
- Songs will not be cancelled
- Reading will not be cancelled
- Self-care will not be cancelled
- Hope will not be cancelled.

Eight o'clock Club - Joan Wilson

The committee send their good wishes to all our members and hope you have remained safe and well.

We were saddened to hear of the deaths of two former members, Margaret Graham and Jean Boyd.

Margaret, who died in Arran, aged 94 was a founder member of our club in 1966 and Jean was a loyal member for many years.

Due to current restrictions we are still unable to organise any meetings, but we look forward to getting together for friendship and fellowship sometime in 2021.

Although Christmas is bound to be very different this year, we wish you a happy festive season and a safe, healthy New Year.

Choir - Catriona Muirhead

Due to these challenging times the choir finds they are unable to meet and look ahead at music, not only for weekly Services but for our Lesson and Carols for Christmas. This is not only disappointing to us but I am sure it is with you; music lightens our load and brings brightness into our hearts.



We in the Choir certainly miss our Thursday evenings not only for coming together for music but for our chat at coffee time. I should also say that we miss David's jokes. David certainly plays a big part in keeping us together; this makes us all leave with a spring in our step.

With technology now as it is we have been so appreciative of David playing the hymns; it allows us to sing along and also listen to the music he has chosen for meditation and I know you are enjoying these.

With Christmas fast approaching it will be a different Christmas, however what we must remember is that Christ was born for us and He travels with us on this journey. Let's celebrate with Joy and Happiness in our hearts.

David Murray (Director of Music) would like to offer his sincere thanks to all those, both within and outwith the congregation, who have expressed in many different ways their appreciation of the music which he and the choir have provided over the past few months. It has been greatly encouraging to know that it has proved a source of comfort during these difficult times.

And some humour about the situation

I still can't believe people's survival instincts told them to grab toilet paper.

I'm going to stay up on New Year's Eve this year. Not to see the New Year in, but to make sure this one leaves.

If only I had known in March it would be my last time in a restaurant, I would have ordered desert.

At the store there was a Big X by the register for me to stand on... I've seen too many Road Runner cartoons to fall for that one.

Until further notice, the days of the week are now called thisday, thatday, otherday, someday, yesterday, today and nextday

They said a mask and gloves were enough to go to the grocery store. They lied everybody else had clothes on.

The dumbest thing I've ever purchased was a 2020 planner.

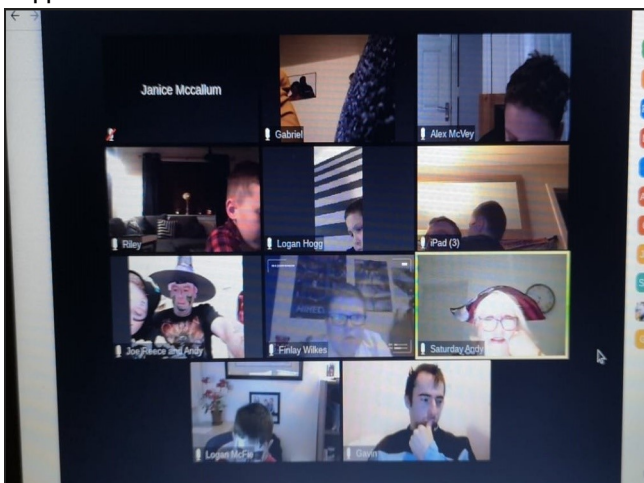
When does Season TWO of 2020 start? I do not like Season One.

Boys' Brigade - Janice Mc Callum

It's strange times for all of us and that includes the Boys' Brigade. We have been trying our best, like all the other organisations, to keep in touch with our boys in the 14th Paisley. Letters, goodie bags and Zoom meetings. We had a couple of quiz nights with the boys and our last one was a Hallowe'en themed evening. The boys received a Hallowe'en goodie bag in the lead-up to our night. We dressed up, had a Hallowe'en quiz and dooked for apples. We took it in turns and it was full face in the water, including myself. We told jokes to finish our night. Good fun was had by all. (The picture is a screenshot of the Zoom meeting) We hope we may be able to manage face to face meetings in the new year. In preparation for this the Battalion has given us a pop up banner outlining conditions for entering our meeting, and a bag of cleaning products and full PPE. We only ask that everyone sticks to the rules and of course keep safe.

Battalion Christmas card competition - we are hoping most of the boys will enter this. It is open to all ages, and in the past one of our boys got a place. Good luck to any of the boys that participate.

Thanks to the staff and the boys for sticking with us during this time. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and, let's hope, a happier New Year.

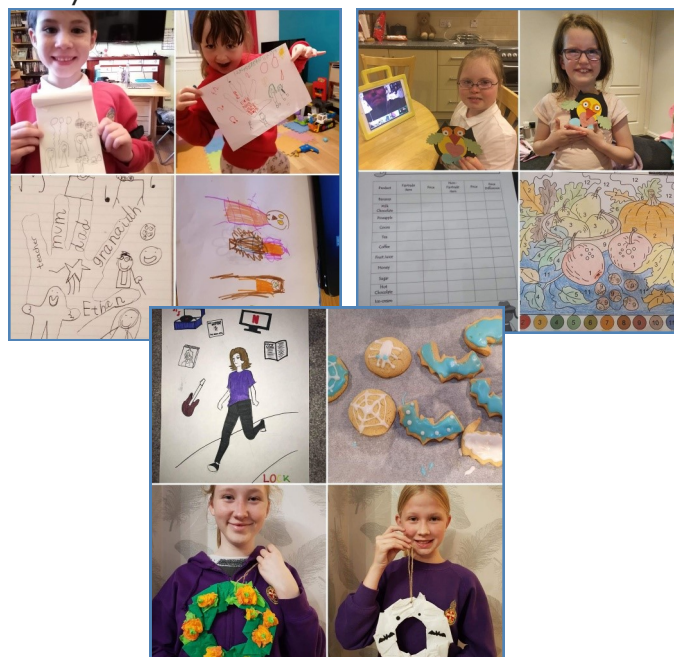


Girls' Brigade (2nd Paisley) - Karen Peacock

What a strange year it has been.... like everyone else, we are still unable to meet face to face due to the ongoing Covid restrictions. We are, however, continuing to meet via Zoom on a Thursday evening. Each section is meeting for 30 minutes starting with the Explorers at 7pm, Juniors at 7.40pm and finally the Brigaders at 8.20pm. We have about twenty girls joining each week over the three sections and we are doing a variety of different topics/activities. The Explorers have been learning about Famous Women, the Juniors worked through a Harvest Pack which we delivered to them and the Brigaders have been baking a cake in a mug and chocolate chip cookies. We also had a Hallowe'en Party with all sections coming together. The girls dressed up, we did a quiz and played some games. We have also been keeping in touch via our Facebook page and the parents are encouraged to post pictures of any work the girls have done, some of which are included below. I have been busy dropping off remembrance packs for the girls which includes a poppy to colour and a word search relating to remembrance. On Thursday 5th November we will again all come together and will be doing the Remembrance Story.

We will continue working on Zoom until such times we are able to meet face to face again and we will very soon be starting to work on some Christmas Crafts.

We are missing seeing the girls every week but it has been good to see so many joining us online. We are hopeful that most of the girls will return once we are able to meet up again.... whenever that may be!



OAKSHAW TRINITY COOKBOOK:



We are looking for you to share some of the recipes that you have been using during lockdown, new ones or old favourites. Please submit these by either email or post to Isabel Pearson.
oakshwchurch@gmail.com.

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.

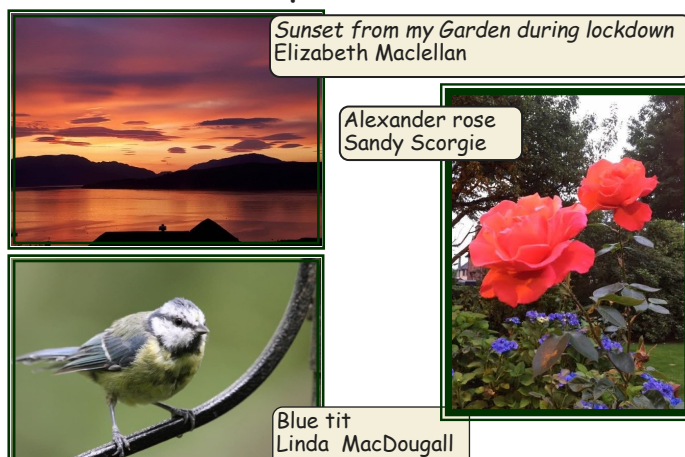
It is assumed, unless anyone specifically requests otherwise, that individuals are happy to be included in any church or Wynd Centre related photographs that appear in Trinity magazine, on the Oakshaw Trinity website, or on the Oakshaw Trinity Facebook page.

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.



Summer Event Competition - Adult Winners



We are still unable to meet on a Thursday night but we are keeping up with most of the girls on Zoom. Looking forward to seeing all the girls face to face soon.

Rainbows and Brownies - Elizabeth Halliday

On Remembrance Sunday the rainbows in our windows turned into poppies. 'We will remember them'. 2020 has been the year that we have been forced to stop the rollercoaster of life and have had time for reflection.

Since the end of WW2, the world has developed and consumed resources at an unsustainable rate. Last year we enjoyed making poppies out of plastic bottles and creating a remembrance display we hope many of you enjoyed. Now we must take a different approach and see recycling as the last resort. I would recommend watching David Attenborough's recent documentary, 'A life on our planet - my witness statement', to see why we must all change. What we throw away is not waste, it is resource and cost and there is no away. This has never been clearer as you see rubbish washing up on our shorelines and beaches.



We would like to challenge each one of you to make a few changes to your lives to make a difference to our planet and the people around us.

By lifting people out of poverty, we can make a massive difference and changing our mindset is key to this. Next time you think about taking old or broken furniture to the recycling centre, try advertising it for free. You will be amazed at the difference this can make to someone's life, it will save you money or time disposing of the item and there are massive environmental benefits.

As we head towards Christmas swapping gift wrap for re-usable options, avoiding single use items and reducing food waste are some things to consider. Making your own gifts and buying local or from small enterprises help local people support their families and have environmental benefits. Shopping on Amazon has been far too easy throughout lockdown but as things improve building our local economy will be key to supporting our families and friends.

The Rainbows, Brownies and leaders would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. It may be slightly different for many of us, but life is about challenges and we don't grow when things are easy, we grow when we face challenges.

Sunday School - Edith Muir

Throughout the summer months the children had a bug hunt, photo and rock painting competitions and various Bible puzzles and quizzes available to do in the Sunday Oracle.

The winners of the competitions were Mikiala Andrews, Finley Wilkie and Abbie Muirhead.



At the time of writing this we are contemplating the pros and cons of starting Sunday School back up, but we will keep the parents informed of any thoughts going forward.

The Sunday School Christmas celebrations might be different this year but are in no way cancelled.

The first Christmas activity is 'Design a Christmas card'; a competition which is well underway.

Please keep at eye out on Facebook and on the church webpage for the Christmas activities throughout November / December.

I am also hoping the Sunday School children will get well involved in the Kindness Rock Garden that the EMEC team are managing.

ONE OF OUR BEST KEPT SECRETS is the Sanctuary is open on Tuesday of each week 11-3 pm. for private prayer. Either Rev. Gordon or Rev. George conducts a short act of worship on the hour (11, 12, 1, 2 & 3) for those who are in Church at these times. The atmosphere of calm and stillness makes the Church a trusted refuge for folk to drop by and sit in quietness, offering their silent prayers in these days of uncertainty. Some have found their way there while others have still to do so. All are welcome - members and non members alike. Please spread the word.



PRAYER TIME from Douglas Scott (Presbytery prayer coordinator)

Eternal, loving God, amid the shrill cacophony of competing and often enticing ideologies that tempt and sometimes beguile us, help us to keep calm and hold on to the message of hope based on love as illustrated in the gospel of the words and deeds of Jesus.

In confusing and contradictory times, show us Your way, and encourage us to follow it over all the obstacles.

Amen.

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	Catriona Muirhead	0141 887 4647 Press 3