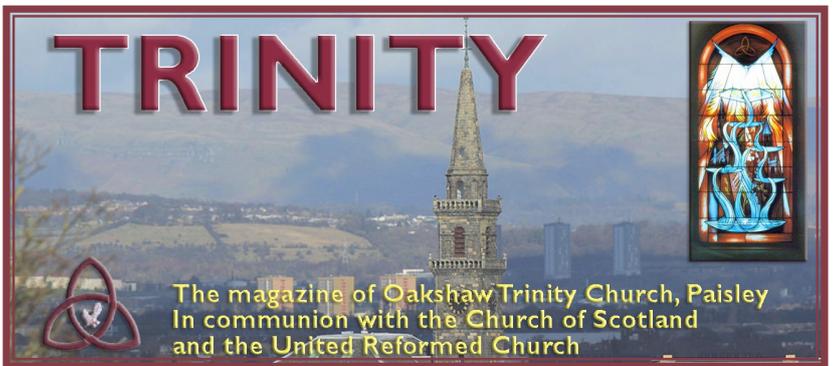




**Winter
2021**

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

SUNDAY SERVICE 11 a.m. in church

Advent services
28/11/21 Christmas Gift Service
05/12/21 Sacrament of Communion
12/12/21 Lessons & Carols with the Choir
19/12/21 Christmas with the Children
24/12/21 Christmas Eve
22:00 Christmas Pies in the Hall
23:00 Christmas Carols
23:25 Christmas Eve Service (till 24:00)

Short 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'

STILLNESS SERVICE:
Tuesday mornings from 11 a.m. until Noon.
Rev. Gordon Armstrong and Rev. George Lind will be available during this time.

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

From the Minister

Dear friends,

Let me begin by saying how pleased I am that we are able to gather for our regular diet of Sunday worship and praise as a live congregation and choir. As our numbers continue to grow, let me assure you that we are all working diligently to ensure that we can do so in a safe and healthy way. Please be assured of a warm welcome back to Church.

Christmas decorations seem to go up earlier than ever before this year. Perhaps many folk are thinking that they need the uplift of the Christmas lights and decorations now more than ever because of the prolonged period of COVID-19 restrictions that we have lived under for the past eighteen plus months! I have always enjoyed looking at Christmas lights and vividly remember my parents taking us to George Square to see the yearly extravaganza. This year, I believe that the lights will mean much more to us as we begin to see the 'light' at the end of the pandemic tunnel.

This time of year is also a reminder that the people of Israel were living in deep spiritual darkness back in the time of Isaiah. Isaiah, however, had good news to announce when he wrote: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned" (Isaiah 9:2). That great light that came to shine on them and us is Jesus, the Light of the world. As you display your lights this Christmas, share the news with others about how Jesus is the Light and join us in our Advent Services.

May Christ's Light and God's blessing be with you and your loved ones this Christmastime.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Gordon (Rev. Gordon B. Armstrong)



The Wynd Centre

From the Chairman - Rev Gordon Armstrong

This has been quite a challenging time at the Centre with some changes to the lets and our on-going programme of repairs and improvements under the supervision of the Manager and his staff.

As the outreach of Oakshaw Trinity Church, the Directors would ask for your continued support of the events that are now taking place as the COVID-19 restrictions begin to ease. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Directors, Managers, Staff and especially the Volunteers for their continued dedication and time given to the Wynd Centre.



From the Manager - Thomas Blane

The Wynd Centre continues to emerge from the pandemic with more and more groups either returning to the centre or starting with us for the first time. The selection of new groups range from a kids sports club to a knitting class so the variation of organisations in the Wynd continues to grow.

The Paisley Film Festival was hosted at the Wynd for the second time in the middle of October and that gave us the opportunity to open the cafe for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. I want to thank all of those who volunteered to help and gave up their weekend for the benefit of the centre. It was the first major event that has been held in the Wynd in over 20 months and it was beneficial for me personally to see that for the first time and learn lessons for the future.

We have had significant work completed to the roof throughout the whole centre as there were multiple issues with leaks and parts of the roof disintegrating. I am sure most of you remember the 'monsoon' we suffered over two months ago that flooded half of Paisley and forced the Paisley Centre, Morrisons and Asda to close due to their rooves leaking but I am pleased to announce that the Wynd roof had no such issues!

As we approach Christmas, it is hoped that the Wynd will have a successful end to the year as we continue to rebuild after a difficult 20 months.



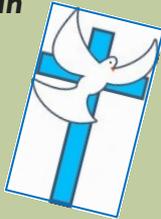
Church Roll

Deaths:

27/08/21 Vic Coombes

03/09/21 Sam Muirhead

19/10/21 Edna Backman



A Prayer from Christian Aid

Loving and almighty God,
We pray for all who are working to combat
the growing food crisis:
For international aid agencies and local
community organisations.
And in particular we pray for those in
positions of power.
May the leaders of the nations act with
wisdom and compassion
Bringing relief to those who suffer now
And moving us towards a world without
hunger.

We pray for our sisters and brothers caught
up in a cycle of drought and hunger:
for parents struggling to find food and seeing
their children go hungry,
for farmers seeing their crops fail and
livestock die.

We pray for ourselves:
May we share generously from the
abundance that you have given us
and join our voices with those who call for an
end to poverty,
that lives may be saved and rebuilt with hope
for the future.
May we act in your name Lord and be an
instrument of your grace.
Amen.

Eco Congregation

The Eco Committee were delighted to hear that Oakshaw Trinity has been awarded Eco Congregation Scotland's Silver Award. The congregation celebrated this achievement during the Climate Service held in the church in October.

We are encouraging members of the congregation to again use the Reverse Advent Calendar to support Renfrewshire Foodbank. The items stated on it are ones which they will need in particular over Advent but, as always, they are grateful for all contributions. They also welcome online donations of money.

Education, Mission, EcoCongregation Committee

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

Focus on Mission

Christian Aid Christmas Appeal

With Christmas fast approaching, our thoughts turn to this year's Christian Aid appeal, which focuses on mums with impossible choices. We all have choices, but one hallmark of poverty is that these choices are very restricted and often challenging. Christian Aid takes one example - South Sudan - to illustrate the dilemma. Largely Christian, it became a country only in 2011, gaining independence from Sudan, a mostly Islamic country. South Sudan is very young - half its population is under 18 - and is one of the world's poorest nations, scoring very badly on just about every measurement, such as income and maternal mortality. People face tough decisions to make ends meet. There is limited fresh water, and so the choice becomes between drinking dirty, infected water, or not drinking at all. Or, mums have to decide whether to give each family member a tiny ration of food, or a bigger portion for the ones who work in the fields. And it is the mums who usually have to make these decisions. The climate emergency disproportionately affects the poor but, within that, it is the women and children who particularly suffer. South Sudan exists in a dark cycle of flood to drought and back again - with some one million people impacted. These floods and droughts have disrupted access to food, drinking water, livestock and livelihoods. People have lost tools, seeds, cattle, and any hope of a harvest taken away in the floods. Working with local partners, Christian Aid can replace the things that are lost and provide training to help people get up and running again. They have now helped some 1,900 households learn how to grow new crops and are now better equipped to bounce back quicker when the rains come again.

Christian Aid asks us to remember Mary as she gave birth to Jesus, in poverty - a stable, and remember the many young girls in Sudan who likewise give birth in difficult and challenging circumstances. As we do so, we are asked to pray for the people of South Sudan and elsewhere, abroad, and on our own doorstep who will be faced with impossible choices this Christmas.

There will be a chance to help Christian Aid during the Christmas period or you can donate at any time online - just go to the Christian Aid website for details.

Local Mission

Mindful of "our ain folk" too, we continue to support the Renfrewshire Food Bank, who thank us for our recent donation and remind us that this winter is going to be a tough one for many in Paisley. We also donated a further £150 from Mission boxes to assist the work of Bruce Court with vulnerable and hard to reach young adults.

Reverse Advent Calendar 2021

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

Particular items required are: long life milk, diluting juice, jam, household cleaning items, small packs of laundry detergent, cleaning sprays, bleach and treats such as sweets and chocolate



The Renfrewshire Foodbank is asking people to hand in donations to their Renfrew Warehouse on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 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



Property Report - John McKenzie

We continue with both the planned and unfortunately unplanned work; no sooner do we complete one job than another crops up.

The current situation is that we have completed the rewiring and repairs to the halls and an electrical safety certificate has been issued.

The repairs to the rising damp in the church at the east staircase, Heritage Room and toilet have been done and a new damp course installed.

We have also completed a similar repair at the disabled toilet adjacent to the Lang Hall and both of these areas will require redecoration in due course.

A survey has been completed on the roof and guttering on the Oakshaw halls. This was recommended from the Quinquennial report. The survey has revealed that areas of the roof and guttering are in a poor condition and require renewal / repair. To that end we have arranged for estimates to be obtained.

For sometime now we have had an ingress of water at and around the choir room and west gable so we are obtaining estimates for this work as soon as possible.

If these works are not actioned we could be faced with serious problems and expense at a later date.

On a lighter note we have been advised that Renfrewshire Council conducted a survey of work in the tower and we are hopeful this will lead to the necessary repairs, including our organ loft and vestry roof in due course.

A word of thanks is due to many people who continue to do a lot of unseen work. This saves a lot of expense in the long term.

Finance Report - Isabel Pearson - Treasurer

National Gift Day

On Sunday 17th October we held our National Gift Day. I am very pleased to announce that to date we have raised the sum of £5,226. Once we claim gift aid, this will bring our total to over £6,200. This is a fantastic amount to raise. If you haven't contributed as yet, and would still like to do so, please place your donation in an envelope and mark it **Gift Day** and put it in the offering plate, or you can post it into the Church Office marking your envelope F.A.O. Isabel Pearson.

Freewill Offering Envelopes

If you are one of the congregation who give by Freewill Offering envelopes, can I ask you to please consider moving from being a Freewill Offering contributor to being a Standing Order contributor, for example on a monthly basis. Contributing this way means that Oakshaw Trinity Church can continue to be adequately financed.

If you would like to change to Standing Order, please contact the Church Office and ask them to let me know and I will send you a Standing Order form.

I would like to thank everyone most sincerely for your kind support to the National Gift Day and to those who contribute through Freewill Offering, Standing Order or by placing your donation in the Offering plate. All your contributions are very much appreciated.



The Celebration of Life Service took place on Sunday afternoon 31st October; led by Revs. Gordon Armstrong and George Lind, assisted by local Funeral Directors. We were able as a congregation to commemorate with thanksgiving the lives of loved ones whose Funeral Services during lockdown had been attended by a only few people, due to COVID-19 regulations. This gave the opportunity to worship together and light candles as the names of our departed friends were read out. Most of the congregation came over to the hall afterwards for the very fine afternoon tea provided by the church.



Choir - Catriona Muirhead

Like all other organisations the choir members are enjoying being back together for our Thursday evening practices although with keeping to the one metre restriction it can be quite challenging.



Our Director of Music, David Murray, has been an inspiration leading us with the hymn singing - even when wearing masks - and his choice of music for meditation.

Our thoughts now turn to Christmas and the choir are rehearsing for our Lessons and Carols service in December.

On another note we would like to mention Calum Murray who has been involved in our online services over the past year, sharing his talent in musical instruments and solo singing which we have all enjoyed. However, we would like to share with you all, that Calum will be leaving home and moving down south to prepare his future in training as a pilot at Skyborne Airline Academy in Gloucester on 8th November. Our thoughts are with Calum, David and Elaine and we wish him every success in his chosen career.

As always we are keen to welcome new members; if you are interested please speak to David Murray.

Thank You from Calum Murray

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the members of the choir for their very generous gifts and card to mark the start of my pilot studies. Everyone at Oakshaw Trinity has supported and encouraged me, and I have enjoyed singing and playing as part of worship, both in person and online over the last few years. I look forward to being with you all again, whenever I can.



Comment from George Lind:

We're delighted to have the Choir back on the Chancel leading us in praise after a long absence due to COVID-19 restrictions. Things aren't quite back to normal as they require to meet, robe up and rehearse in the hall before Morning Worship and the photo shows them "in full flight". We're grateful to them and to David, our organist, for their willing flexibility to adapt.



Friendly Hour - Isabel Gray (Convener)

What a lovely surprise!

The outlook is looking more positive for the Friendly Hour to restart, and as promised in the last edition of the Trinity magazine – “we’ve kept in touch”.

At a meeting of the Friendly Hour Committee in October, we agreed to send all the members a card and a small gift, just to let you all know that we are still thinking about you.

Since then we have received many messages of thanks all beginning with “What a lovely surprise”.

We are still making plans for our future Tuesdays and your safe return and, who knows, we might come up with more surprises.

Stay safe and take care. From the Friendly Hour Committee.

Two o'clock Club - Joan Wilson

Our new session began on Monday, 27th September and we all enjoyed meeting up again with our members.

On 28th October, we had an interesting talk from Natalie McShane from Paisley First.

- We are looking forward to a demonstration of Christmas Craft making on Monday, 29th November.
- Our Christmas Lunch is on Monday, 13th December, at 2pm, in the Pendulum Restaurant.
- At the first meeting of 2022, we have Thomas Blane, Wynd Manager, as our speaker, on Monday 31st January.
- On Monday, 28th February, Miriam Adcock, Project Manager from Consumer Waste Prevention will be visiting us.

We meet in the Lang Hall at 2pm and all are welcome. Some restrictions are still in place.

Any items of new or gently worn underwear can still be donated for our 'Smalls for All' Charity.

We wish all our members and friends a very happy festive season and a healthy, safe 2022.

Oakshaw Explorers - Jessie Cross

With COVID-19 restrictions easing and most of us on our way to our booster and flu jags, meeting up for walks/outings may be a more realistic expectation for next year. Hopefully come the spring we will be able to get together and plan a programme for late spring/summer 2022. Meantime I hope you are all managing some fresh air and enjoying the beautiful autumn colours. May God guide those attending COP26 and all of us as we try to be more ECO-friendly to nurture our beautiful planet for the enjoyment of all.

A Christmas Quiz

1. Christmas Island is located in which ocean?
2. Which organisation launched the 1st charity Christmas card?
3. How many sides do all snowflakes have?
4. In which year was the Queen's Christmas message first televised?
5. Which carol is sung outside Scrooge's office in 'A Christmas Carol'?
6. The character 'Dandini' appears in which traditional pantomime?
7. Who wrote the music for 1954 film 'White Christmas'?
8. What is Christmas 'Lebkuchen'?
9. In which country does Santa have a female counterpart called 'Befana'?
10. Which famous playwright was frightened of Christmas?

Thanks to Joan Wilson. (Answers on Page 6)

Handbells - Elizabeth Clark

After 18 months we are delighted to report that we have restarted one of our Handbell teams.

Our very grateful thanks go to our leader, Elaine Duncan, who completed all the risk assessment paperwork and worked out procedures to allow us to return safely to Oakshaw Trinity.

We are using extra tables to allow us to be socially distant and we wear gloves and masks at all times. It is positive to note that despite this long enforced absence we have not forgotten how to ring the bells and we are all thoroughly enjoying the fellowship and music making once again.

We are delighted to welcome two new members to our team - Joyce Wilcox and Gillian Langston - and hope they will enjoy being part of our group. It is also with great pleasure that we welcome back a former member and talented ringer, Lesley Smith. Onwards and upwards !!

However, we have also said goodbye to one of our most loved and loyal team members, Margaret Moffat.

Margaret has played in the team for nearly 20 years and has been a good friend to us all. Not only has she supplied us with tea, coffee and biscuits but she has been a good listener and was always keen to play well. Margaret will be missed by us all and we send her our very best wishes.

We have no concerts in the near future and are just enjoying playing together without the stresses of preparing for audiences.

Keep Safe Everyone !

Trinity Theatre Group - Jean Bett



It was disappointing not to be able to start the club on the 6th October as planned but, as yet, I have been unable to secure a venue for our performance. It is also difficult to be sure we can meet all the requirements and practicalities to ensure the safety of club members at rehearsals. I have been given copies of risk assessment policies submitted by other church groups and hope to adapt these to suit the dramatic club's requirements. If anyone is aware of a theatrical venue that is available at present, at a reasonable cost and has an entertainment licence, I would be grateful if you could get in touch with me via the church office. Hopefully by the next magazine, I will be able to confirm that we are up and running.

Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong



I am delighted to say that we are back up and running again! Everyone is just as enthusiastic as they were before lockdown and we would welcome any new members to come along and enjoy our creative fellowship on the second Monday each month at 7 p.m. in the Lang Hall.



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.

Boys' Brigade - Janice Mc Callum

It is great to be back with the boys face to face. Some of the boys have decided not to come back to BB. Some of these boys stayed with us all through the Zoom calls and we are extremely sad at losing them. However, on a more positive note, we have a few new recruits which we are excited about. It always makes everyone happy when the numbers grow. We have had a very busy time as we have already visited the Men's Club. We took some cakes this time which I'm sure the gentlemen enjoyed. The boys certainly enjoyed their time on their visit and the cakes. We had our Halloween party on Friday 29th October. We had some great fun as can be seen in the photos. Fun, Games and Food. What more could you ask for? We have a Fireworks evening on 5th November. The boys went outside for a spectacular Fireworks display all well wrapped up. Then back inside for Hot Chocolate with marshmallows and cream and hot dogs. Yum Yum!

During our normal Company evenings, the Company section has Bible class as part of their badge work; followed by sports activities which they love. We have also been polishing up some of their marching skills. The Juniors and Anchors have a story from the Bible, make a craft, play games and sports and do badge work. They will all be learning the Christmas story. This year we hope to enter the Battalion Christmas card competition. We had some great success with this last time and the boys enjoy being creative.

The boys will have a Christmas party, the night we finish up for Christmas and New Year. Hopefully a Special visitor "complete with mask" (Rudolph and friends are exempt) will come along to hand out some presents.

We will be off on 24th and 31st December and will resume our session on 7th January 2022.

We hope that you and your Families have a wonderful Christmas and that 2022 is a better year for everyone. So from the 14th. Paisley Boys and Officers 'A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'.



Girls' Brigade (2nd Paisley) - Karen Peacock

Well at long last we are back meeting face to face. We took the decision to leave it until after the October school week so started back on 21st October. It was so good to see all the girls again....a number of them are now taller than me and some of the leaders!!

We were delighted to welcome two new Explorers on the first week then another two Explorers plus a Junior last week. We had a number of girls move up from Juniors to Brigaders this year so now have our biggest Brigader section since starting the company with fourteen girls.

We have chosen to do a theme across all three sections this year - Celebrations and Christian Festivals. We started off with our Halloween themed activities then will move on to Bonfire night, Remembrance Day, St Andrew's day working our way up to Christmas.

Whilst things are quite different for us with some restrictions still in place, it is great to be back and to see all the girls again.

We are also looking forward to our first Dedication Service in two years on 7th November.

All girls of school age are welcome to come along on a Thursday evening or you can contact me for more information.



Guides (11th Paisley) - Linda Kelly

It's great being back face to face after months of doing meetings over Zoom. We did lose a few girls over the last year but fortunately we gained ten girls from the Brownies so that has kept our numbers above twenty. Since starting in September, the girls have been working on the 50 years of South Newton challenge badge which they have enjoyed. We are now looking forward to Christmas when we get to do lots of crafts.



Rainbows and Brownies - Elizabeth Halliday (on behalf of Oakshaw Trinity Rainbows & Brownies)

The Rainbows and Brownies are now enjoying face to face meetings in the church halls.



We have included a few photos from our Halloween party where the girls enjoyed all of the usual activities; playing games, looking for apples, making monster jars and some party food.



Carol Deveney had a surprise visit from the District Commissioner to present her 10year service to Girl Guiding award. Well done Carol and thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the girls.



We have an exciting lead up to Christmas planned with some traditional activities and crafts. We are looking forward to sharing these with you and, when the time comes, wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of the Rainbows, Brownies and Leaders.

St Andrew's Day Afternoon Tea

The Wynd Centre are hosting a St Andrew's Day Afternoon Tea on Tuesday 30th November from 1.30-3.30pm. Please visit the Wynd Centre reception or speak with Thomas Blane or Karen Peacock for tickets which are priced at £5.00.



Sunday School - Edith Muir

Since starting back in August we have been learning about the lives of Joseph and King David. One Sunday a month we have a 'God's Wonderful World' theme, so we are doing our bit for the Eco church commitment. One lesson was finding out amazing facts about camels and where they came into the Joseph's story and the another was an Autumn /harvest lesson where we made Autumn wreaths to help decorate the church for Harvest Sunday and we also gave a £20 donation to the Foodbank.



As part of the King David lessons, the children drew their own version of Goliath on to cardboard, then practiced their 'sling shot' skills to hit Goliath with five paper 'stones' each.

Going forward, on the 21st of November we have a 'Children in Need' Day where we will be raising money for Children In Need.

A collection plate will be outside church that week so the congregation can donate if they wish and the children will be doing a 'sponsored' target day (bean bags in buckets for example).

Throughout December, we will be learning the Christmas story, with stories and Christmas crafts and practising for a Christmas story service on the 19th December. If this sounds like fun to you, please encourage your children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews to come along and join us on a Sunday morning. All children will be made welcome.

The Wynd - John Stewart

What's happening in 2024?



The Olympics, of course, and athletes are already training for their various events. But there is another event that year which we must plan for. The 40th Anniversary of the opening of the Wynd Centre in 1984. The Wynd board have started to plan events to mark the occasion and want as many members of the congregation as possible to be part of the planning of that celebration. Initially we want you to search out for any photographs of events, or of the many volunteers who have helped over the years. You may also have stories you would like to share with others, with dates and a short description, or ideas for the celebration. Please send these to info@thewynd.org.uk or hand them into the office for my attention.



Last shift in the original Coffee Shop



Answers to Christmas Quiz:
 1. Indian Ocean 2. UNICEF 3. Six 4. 1957
 5. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen 6. Cinderella 7. Irving Berlin
 8. Gingerbread biscuit 9. Italy 10. Noel Coward

Church Directory

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Session Clerk	John McKenzie	Church Office
Treasurer	Isabel Pearson	Church Office
Fabric Convenor		Church Office
Church Office	Catriona Muirhead	0141 887 4647 Press 3