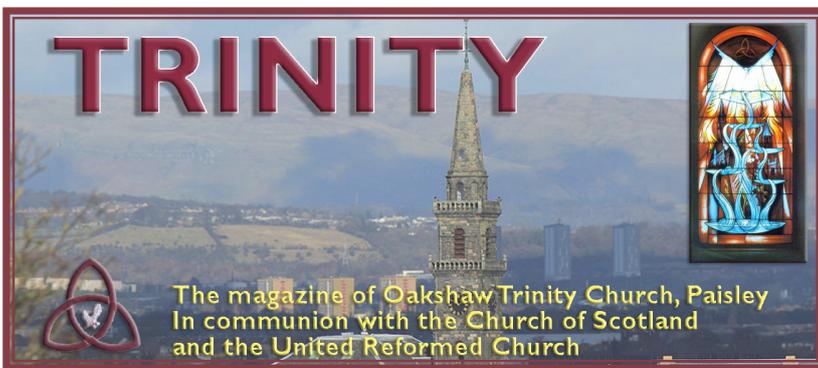




**Summer  
2017**

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

## Diary Dates



**June**

Sun 4 10.15 Office Bearers' Service  
11.00 Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sun 18 11.00 Sunday School promotion service.  
Lunch in the hall after the service.

Sun 25 11.00 Sunday Service  
Summer Sunday School starts

**July**

Sun 2 Monthly Communion after the service

**August**

Sun 6 Monthly Communion after the service

On other Sundays, worship is at 11.00

## From the Minister



The Apostles' Creed is divided into three articles. The first speaks of God as Father and creator of heaven and earth. The second article is about Jesus, his birth, death, resurrection and return. The third article seems to be a catch all for the rest of the things Christians are to believe. The Holy Spirit is part of this list that includes all believers in Christ, the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

The Holy Spirit doesn't even get its own article like the other two parts of the Trinity. We preach and sing about God and about Jesus throughout the year, but how often do we hear sermons about the Holy Spirit? In some ways it's as if the church doesn't know what to do with the Holy Spirit. Yet, the Spirit does have its day called Pentecost. It is a story where the Spirit is at the very heart of the Church making things happen on that day when the church was born. But the excitement calms down quickly as we move into what the church calls "Ordinary Time."

I would suggest that because of the Holy Spirit, there is no 'ordinary time' in the Church, and particularly at Oakshaw Trinity. Isaac Newton's First Law of Motion says: "Everything continues in a state of rest unless it is compelled to change by forces impressed upon it."

For me that motivation is the Holy Spirit.

Over the past twelve months, we have seen many changes in our membership, our organisations and in our Ministry Team, with Lilly, Janet and Thomas, in which we have been blessed. Even Thomas has been moved by the Spirit to take time out from his training to rekindle his career in media and journalism. More recently, we have entered a time of change at the Wynd Centre with the imminent arrival of the University of the Highlands and Islands West of Scotland Theological College. This has also brought about a period of reflection and change in what we do in outreach.

My friends, changes are rarely welcomed, yet history shows that growth rarely comes without change – perhaps that's why we talk about 'growing pains.'

May God's blessing and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you,

*Gordon* (Rev. Gordon B. Armstrong)

## Wynd Centre -

Graeme W. McGowan (Chairman)



The passing of Margaret Rew has created a deep sense of loss and sadness for everyone connected with the Wynd Centre. For so many years, Margaret served as a Director and managed the Coffee Shop with great pride and care. She was respected by all of our volunteers and customers and worked with them in a way that embodied the compassion and outreach that the Centre strives to achieve with its work in the community.

There is a poignancy that, at Margaret's last Board meeting before she fell ill, the Board unanimously agreed that the Coffee Shop could no longer continue in its current format. The struggle to find a sufficient numbers of suitable volunteers was becoming near impossible and the drop in sales meant that the Coffee Shop was no longer making any meaningful contribution to the work of the Centre.

There is, however, an important element of fellowship in the Coffee Shop, both among volunteers and customers. The decision was therefore made to relocate the Coffee Shop to the ready-made tea-bar area adjacent to the Centre reception. This will allow friends to continue to meet and share time over a cup of coffee.

Although the response to this news has been overwhelmingly positive, there has, of course, also been disappointment. The Coffee Shop was central to the creation of the Wynd Centre and ultimately the union to form Oakshaw Trinity Church. However, like any organisation, we need to recognise and accept

the challenges that present themselves as circumstances change and then adapt to overcome these. In doing so, we are ensuring that the Wynd Centre can continue to serve our community for many years to come.

The Coffee Shop will not be vacant for long. The Highland Theological College, which is based in Dingwall, also offers courses to students in their "Glasgow Classrooms". From Autumn 2017, this will become their "Paisley Classrooms" as they will be taking a lease of the Coffee Shop. This is an exciting partnership for the Wynd Centre which is likely to produce a number of significant benefits and opportunities.

During a period of new beginnings, we were also delighted to welcome a new Counselling Manager, Rebecca Black, in April and I will tell you some more about Rebecca in the next issue.



The end of an era. The last shift in the 'old' Wynd Cafe. In many ways a sad occasion for staff and customers alike but hope the new location will prove just as popular.

## Church Roll

### Baptisms:

26/02/17 *Ava Diane Vrouvidis*  
12/03/17 *Grace Elizabeth Reilly*



### Weddings:

04/03/17 *Melissa Colquhoun & Mark Higgen*



### Deaths:

31/01/17 *Mrs. Vera Peacock*  
18/02/17 *Mr. Leslie Brown*  
23/02/17 *Mrs. Eleanor Carchrie*  
24/02/17 *Mrs. Duncan Martin*  
13/03/17 *Mrs. Irene Jackson*  
17/03/17 *Mrs. Margaret Rew*  
03/04/17 *Mrs. Jean Paterson*



## From Thomas Blane our Pastoral Assistant



"Well, since my last article, I think it's fair to say that a lot has changed! Can I first of all thank everyone for their words of support after my decision to leave the process for Full-time Ministry which, I think as everyone who saw my reaction when it was announced to you all, was not an easy decision to make. I was delighted to be offered the role of Pastoral Assistant whilst I am going through the long application process of a job in London, so I'm afraid you will all be stuck with me for a wee while yet. I will also be continuing to attend Oakshaw on a Sunday along with my pastoral role so I am looking forward to my next few months at Oakshaw Trinity in a slightly different capacity."

### From Lawrence S Rew

Alan and I wish to record our thanks and appreciation for the love shown to us by members of the Church after the untimely death of Margaret. Judging by the support shown at the service on 28th March, she will be sadly missed by all those with whom she came in contact. Thanks are due to Rev Lily Easton and Rev George Prentice for conducting such a beautiful service...of which even she would have approved!



### From Joan Tomlinson and Maureen Turner

We would like to thank our friends in Oakshaw Trinity for the lovely cards and expressions of sympathy which we received on the death of our father John Dunlop. It was very comforting to know so many people were thinking of us.

## The EMEC News - Jim McDougall ( E.M.E.C. )

### A Mission Fund update.

Each year the congregation gives generously to the Mission Fund. But what happens to the money? EMEC is responsible for allocating the Fund to worthy causes, in consultation with Session. Here are some organisations we have supported recently:

**Practical Action: £300:** this is to support ongoing work in rural areas of Africa. PA looks at finding simple, effective solutions to everyday problems like water supply and sanitation. At heart is their concept of "technology justice"- this means making sure the poorest people in our world have access to technology to help improve their lives- technology like water pumps, irrigation systems and toilets. Our aim is to continue supporting Practical Action as part of our long-term commitment to helping communities in the Developing World

**Barnardo's: £250** Barnardo's Scotland provides more than 130 community-based services throughout the country working with over 26,500 vulnerable children, young people and their families. The mission of Barnardo's is to "realise Thomas Barnardo's dream of a world where no child is turned away from the help that they need. We believe in the abused, the vulnerable, the forgotten and the neglected. We will stand up for them and bring out the best in each child"

**Bruce Court: £500 (over two years)** - Bruce Court is in Dundonald Road, Paisley. It is part of the Blue Triangle network of safe, secure hostel type accommodation for vulnerable people who are "looked after", homeless, or at risk of homelessness. Staff are present on site and they help these young people gain the right skills to move on to more independent living and achieve a better quality of life. The work the staff do here is not easy and they cope with challenging issues, so we are delighted to be able to support them in this valuable service.

**Food Bank:** The Foodbank year ended on 31st March and for the year 2016/2017 we provided **978.37kgs** of items which equates to **82** parcels each providing **3** days of food. Elizabeth Alexander, Manager of Renfrewshire Food Bank states that this "is wonderful. You are all wonderful." Their appreciation is always given when we send items to them.



### How can I help?

Interested in joining EMEC to help decide on our plans for mission and education? Please speak to Jim McDougall over coffee any Sunday after the Service, or e-mail Jim (contact Church Office for email address)

## URC Prayer for the General Election

More elections! While issues can get heated we should always be grateful to live in a democracy where we settle our differences through the ballot box, and not through violence and intimidation. Here is part of the URC call to prayer following the announcement of the General Election.

*Loving God, as your children, we know that political uncertainty can lead to disquiet within families, communities and churches. We pray for wisdom and generosity of spirit over the coming weeks and months, that Christians will act as arbiters of calm and peacefulness. Lastly, we pray for our politicians and their families, and for all who stand for election. This time will surely be challenging for those called to public service: we pray for them, and for all who share with them the strain of these weeks. Amen*

## Daily Devotions from the U.R.C.

Each day of the year, early in the morning, the URC sends out by email a Daily Devotion consisting of a reading, reflection and short prayer. You can read them on your computer, mobile phone or tablet.

The devotions are compiled by a team of people from a wide range of perspectives and places within the URC. If you would like to receive them sign up by going to [www.urcotland.org.uk/prayer-worship/](http://www.urcotland.org.uk/prayer-worship/) and fill in the form.

## Fabric Report - Jonathan Sweeney

A new alarm system has been fitted and is working well. The church bell is again being rung on Sundays. Four tonnes of stones have been laid at the church entrance. A risk assessment will be carried out in the church and the Wynd Centre. The committee will consider a plan to look at work to be carried out in the church.

## Church Flowers - Seonaid Prentice

I would like to thank sincerely all members and friends who have contributed gifts of money, whether anonymously or otherwise, to the Flower Fund for certain Anniversaries etc. I would also thank the ladies who arrange the flowers, those ladies and gents who deliver them and also Catriona and Barbara for their continuous help. If anyone is interested in joining the team of Flower Arrangers, please contact me.

## Presbytery Elder - Jessie Cross

I am enjoying the privilege of being OTC's representative at Greenock and Paisley Presbytery. In addition to attending Presbytery meetings I am a member of their Mission & Discipleship Committee. I am looking forward to being a Commissioner at the General Assembly in May and also appreciate being given this opportunity. I will give a report on my experience at the General Assembly in the next edition of Trinity.

## Congratulations to Tom Nixon and Sandra Wilson on their Scouting awards

Tom Nixon, Honorary President and past District Commissioner has been awarded the Scout Association's top award, the Silver Wolf, and Sandra Wilson, Assistant Group Scout Leader-15th P&D (Lylesland) and past District Commissioner, has been awarded the Silver Acorn at the St George's Day Parade.

Tom and Sandra attended the parade in Windsor Castle, which also recognised all of the UK Queen's Scouts receiving their award. The parade was attended by The Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, and the Duke of Kent, President of the Scout Association. Tom and his wife Moira attended Matins Service in St George's Chapel before attending the Queen's Scout march past in Castle Courtyard along with Sandra.



The Silver Wolf is awarded in recognition of services to Scouting of the most exceptional nature. The Silver Wolf Award was introduced by Lord Baden-Powell and remains the Scout Association's highest award for service to Scouting. The Silver Wolf is the unrestricted gift of the Chief Scout and is only awarded 'for service of an exceptional nature'.



The Silver Acorn is awarded in recognition of especially distinguished service.



The Church Lunch on Palm Sunday



Easter Egg Competition

## Choir - Catriona Muirhead

The Choir will soon be stopping for the summer and we are looking forward to our dinner on 18th May, at Canal Station in Paisley.

A few new members have joined us and we are all enjoying the singing and fellowship on a Thursday evening. We would still love to have some new members in our Bass and Alto Section so please if you like to sing come along and join us you will be made most welcome.



## Eight o'clock Club - Sheena Miller (Secretary)

Our Christmas dinner charity money, mentioned in the spring edition of Trinity, was sent to 'Scottish Care & Information on Miscarriage' and they have sent their thanks.

A cheque for £830 was sent to Macmillan Cancer Support after the March fundraising concert by Fable Theatre. Macmillan has



sent their thanks to everyone who helped to raise this sum.

After our AGM, the Handbell Ringers entertained us and a few of us were encouraged to have a go at a simple tune. I don't think we were too bad as everyone in the picture is still smiling.

The session will end with our outing on 5th June to Highgrove House in Troon. The bus will leave Paisley at 16:45.

Our new session will start on the last Monday in September.

## Oakshaw Explorers - David A. Barr

The Outings for 2017.

### Saturday.

- 20th May Visit to Edinburgh
- 17th June Lake of Menteith
- 15th July Branklyn Gardens Perth
- 5th August Arran
- 2nd September Pitlochry



### Sunday.

- 7th May People's Palace
- 11th June Lamont Farm
- 9th July Glasgow Cathedral
- 20th August Victoria Park
- ??? September tba

The Sunday outing for September has yet to be finalised since it is proving problematical in achieving a date for the Glasgow Central Station tour.

In respect of all outings, please check the Oakshaw Oracle on the two Sundays prior to the outing for details and further information.



## Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong

This is a time when most groups have a break and enter a time of rest; we don't!

In our quest for new ideas and talents we continue to meet through the summer months. If your organisation or group have stopped, then please do come along at 7:30pm on the 2nd Monday evening of each month and share your ideas with our enthusiastic group or even drop in for a cup of tea or coffee. Have a great Summer Holiday, and if you are away, please look out for different things that we can do.

## The Friendly Hour - Isabel Gray (Convener)

The entertainment during the last few weeks of the Friendly Hour was quite a mixture!! As well as the popular musical groups, we celebrated Easter with a few surprises; a fun quiz and decorated eggs complete with tasty prizes. Thanks must go to Thomas our Student Assistant for helping with this special event.



One of the most enjoyable singing groups was the children from Ferguslie Park Community Nursery – very enthusiastic and all naturals at using a microphone!!



Members of the Friendly Hour don't just sit – they exercise too. The favourite is indoor curling provided by our friend Pat Lister from Dumbarton - very competitive afternoon and full of fun.



As I write this article we are looking forward to our trip to Troon at the beginning of May. Let's hope the sun shines!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped, supported and shared in the life of the Friendly Hour since we took up residence in Oakshaw Trinity Church Hall. We all love it and look forward to next session.

## Trinity Lunch Club - Sheena Miller

Our session ended with the trip to Largs. There were lovely views on both the outward and return journeys via the coast road, an enjoyable lunch at the Willowbank Hotel and some free time in Largs. A good time was had by all.

We will start back in September and look forward to welcoming anyone who wishes to come along.



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

We are fast approaching the end of year nine of 2nd Paisley and have almost completed our first year as part of the OTC family.



It's been another busy few months as all sections work towards completing their badgework. As well as this the girls all had a fantastic trip to the Science Centre along with the other Youth Organisations and have taken part in Renfrew Division Annual Superleague Competition – we had 2 teams take part and,

although we did not win, the girls had great fun taking part.



On 4th March some of the girls provided a Guard of Honour and sang at Melissa, our Brigader Leader's wedding in OTC and as you can see from the pictures, they all looked very smart!



During the first weekend in April, the Junior and Brigader Section joined up with 4th



Johnstone and 1st Neilston companies for our annual camp up at Lapwing Lodge. For once the weather was kind to us and all 50 girls had an action-packed weekend with instructor led activities, Easter Egg hunt, crafts and much more.

We also have four of our brigaders working on their Duke of Edinburgh Awards, three working on Bronze and one on Silver and they are busy getting ready for their expeditions which will take place in May and June.

Our annual display will take place on Thursday 18th May from 7.00pm until 9.00pm in The Wynd Centre. A warm welcome is extended to anyone who wishes to come along and join us. This is a very special night for the girls as they show off some of the work they have been doing throughout the year and receive their badges.

## Rainbows and Brownies



Elizabeth Halliday

The Rainbows and Brownies always enjoy the spring session with Mother's Day and Easter crafts a favourite with all the girls. This year we had green fingers planting pots of daffodils, making



bird feeders and baking Easter cakes.

The girls have been working towards their 'Entertainers' badge planning a talent show. Within small groups they have practised their act, planned costumes, music and accessories. We are now looking forward to seeing the final performance.

Since our last update we have attended the Youth Committee trip to the Glasgow Science Centre. We had a great attendance



and the girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves as you can see from the photograph. We have also had a pyjama movie night where we watched 'Trolls' on the big screen with popcorn and our Rainbows joined other Rainbows from all over Renfrewshire at Gambado soft play to celebrate Rainbows 30th Birthday.



Our session will end with a trip to Rouken Glen pottery painting on 19th May. We would like to take this time to thank all our helpers and leaders for their time and effort and wish them a happy holiday.

We start back on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August.

## Sunday School - Janice McCallum

We had a great time at our Easter service and crafts day, of course the highlight being the release of the balloons and shouting 'Jesus has risen'. Unfortunately, this year, the weather wasn't great.- Ah well, hey-ho typical Scottish weather. The whole of the Sunday School enjoyed it.



Over the month of May we hope to get some work done on our ECO garden - some planting out and painting the benches. Remember that the garden is there if you feel you would like some thought time, to sit in the quiet of the garden. Maybe you could pull a few weeds out while you're there!

We will be using Scripture Union material during May and June and this will bring us up to our promotion service on the 18th. June. It's hard to believe that another session will be coming to an end. On the 18th there is lunch after the church service so please make sure you stay on for that.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their dedication and commitment to the Christian education of our young church. A thank you also to those who take care of the children in the Tots n Toddlers. Without your time and effort this service could not run.

"Tots n Toddlers" will be off during Sunday School break. But remember that the summer Sunday School starts when we finish. That will give you something to look forward to.

The Sunday School staff would like to wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer break. See you back at Sunday school in August.

Like our church, the United Nations is an organisation which aims and strives to promote peace and harmony all over our world. Here is its prayer.

*Lord, our earth is only one small star in the great universe. It is for all of us to make of it a planet whose creatures are not plagued by wars, or suffer hunger and fear, or torn apart in senseless division over race or skin colour or outlook.*

*Give us the courage and vision to undertake this task today: here and now, so that in times to come all our children and children's children will be proud to bear the name of humanity.*

**Amen.**

(Presbytery Prayer Coordinator)



## Guides (11th Paisley) - Linda Kelly

The Guides have had a good session. We have fifteen girls who attend regularly.

This term the girls have been working on Girlguiding Scotland 's challenge 'Rise to the challenge' which involves them doing five activities from Nature, Creating, survival skills, Construction/ Engineering and Baking.

Our weekend away is at South Newton on 19-21st May where our theme is 'Around the World'.

The session finishes on the 25th May.

## Boys' Brigade (14th Paisley) - Craig McFie

The Boys' Brigade have had another successful session which culminated in their Annual Parents' Night on 6th May. During the session, numbers continued to rise with new boys joining throughout the year, which is pleasing to see.

There have been a number of highlights during the year including the Halloween and Christmas parties, Fireworks display and a movie night. We have also had a few of the boys participating in Battalion events, and we will be looking to attend more next session.

The company will be starting back in August after the school summer holidays, and one of the first priorities for the boys will be to start some fundraising as they have been in need of some new gym equipment for a number of years now.

As always, we continue to look to increase the membership, including any adults who would like to help out, so please spread the word!

## Youth Committee - Neil Armstrong

I would like to start off by thanking the Youth Committee and all the organisations for their participation in the family service. It was nice to see all of our organisations working together and a big thank you for the hard work and dedication learning your song.

The Saturday Club will be taking a summer break this year. The dates will be published in Oracle or speak to any of the members of the Saturday Club to keep you informed. If you are free on a Saturday afternoon come along and join us even if it is just for a cup of tea and a chin wag.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer break.



### Future Magazine Dates

Edition	Articles due by	Magazine available
Autumn	30/07/17	13/08/17
Winter	29/10/17	12/11/17

### Church Directory

Minister	Rev, Gordon Armstrong BD FIAB BRC Cert. CS	0141 887 4647 Press 3
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Session Clark	Robert B. Copleton	Church Office
Acting Treasurer	Robert B. Copleton	Church Office
Fabric Convenor	Ian Young	Church Office
Church Office	Catriona Muirhead	0141 887 4647 Press 3