




Winter 2022

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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

November
 Sun 27 11:00 Gift Service

December
 Sun 4 11:00 Sacrament of Holy Communion
 Sun 11 11:00 Lessons and Carols
 Sun 18 11:00 Nativity Service
 Tue 20 19:00 Christmas Crackers #2
 Sat 24 22:00 Christmas Pies
 23:00 Christmas Carols
 23:30 Watchnight Service
 Sun 25 11:00 Christmas Day Service

January
 Sun 1 11:00 New Year Worship


ONLINE: Short worship videos are available each Sunday on the church website oakshawtrinity.org.uk/music and the church Facebook page facebook.com/oakshawtrinity
 The online version of Oracle / Order of Service is available on Facebook and the website under Menu option 'News/Oracle'

Other Dates
December
 Fri 9 Young Lives v Cancer concert

February
 Tue 28 Chitty Chitty Bang Bang PMOS

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

From the Minister



Dear friends,

Since the last edition of Trinity we have seen a change in our Monarchy, several changes of Prime Minister and the uncertainties that we are facing with the Ukrainian conflict to the cost of living. It is therefore no surprise that the Church is also facing a time of uncertainty and although the most recent census results have not been published, the prediction is that those saying that they are Christian is predicted to be below 50%. This has resulted in all denominations having to look at the numbers of congregations that can sustain this decline. As most of you will already have heard, Clyde Presbytery are in the process of doing this although, at the time of writing, we are still working from a draft with no firm outcomes to report on as yet.

A wise woman, when it came to religion, once suggested that "most of us need to be reconverted about once in every three years." Perhaps she saw and understood the changing pressures and needs of society long before many church leaders did. However, like the gift of a child, and especially as we look forward to Advent - and, dare I say in October, Christmas; God's gifts continue to come to us bit by bit - just like the coming of his Son and all the events of his life which a number of us were reminded of during our visit to the Passion Play in Oberammergau.

As we slowly recover after the changes of the Covid-19 lockdowns, we need to live, work and grow together once again in faith. Lockdown forced the world to look at how we could work differently; and we did so using the internet in all its machinations. We have also introduced a Tea & Toast drop-in and, when restrictions allowed, we met at our Stillness Services which have now been incorporated into our midweek services at the Wynd Centre.

May I take this opportunity to thank each of you for your continued support and encouragement and to wish you and your loved ones God's every blessing for the remainder of this year, and for the promise of his hope in 2023.


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

The Wynd Centre

From the Chairman - Rev. Gordon Armstrong

Like many other businesses and charities, the Wynd is not exempt from the impact of rising costs and falling numbers and donations. As we begin to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Wynd, it comes with the warning that we must support it and use it - or lose it! With the recent staffing changes and the arrival of Karen Reid and David Kerr, we have made significant reductions to our overheads. Please tell your friends and families about the Wynd and of its multiple uses from Funeral Teas and Party bookings for adults and children to the newly refurbished and reinstated Auditorium.

The Directors and Manager appreciate your continued support of our Outreach as we work towards the fortieth anniversary of the Wynd.



From the Manager - Thomas Blane



As we approach the Christmas period and with 2023 on the horizon, the Wynd continues to recover after a difficult couple of years. We have had several large events since the last edition including Paisley Film Festival, the Unboxed Festival and the BBC's 'Debate Night'. We also had the pleasure of hosting the wedding of Michael Gilchrist and Gillian Langston which was the first wedding held in the Centre for a number of years. We wish them many years of happiness for the future.



We have also had Karen Reid and David Kerr join us in the office and they have settled in well. Many of you will have already either met or spoken with them both but if you haven't then feel free to pop into the office and introduce yourself. There are many new faces for them to remember and they have embraced the ethos of both the Wynd Centre and Oakshaw Trinity.

As this is the final edition of Trinity this year, I want to thank everyone who has supported the Wynd in any way during 2022 and we are hopeful of a busy 2023!



Church Roll

Baptism.

28/08/22 Sophia Rose Higgins



Wedding :

24/09/22 Gillian Langston
and Michael Gilchrist



Deaths:

15/09/22 John Durnan

10/10/22 Gretta Dickie

15/10/22 Anne Crawford



From the family of May Coats

Maureen, Alison, Andrew and Colin would like to thank all friends from Oakshaw Trinity Church for their cards, flowers, stories shared about Mum/Gran, and their attendance at her funeral service. Your support and kindness was very much appreciated.



From Joyce Walker

Thanks to all who have taken part in the celebrations for URC 50th Anniversary. The congregation shared this lovely cake on Sunday 16th October.



From Catriona Muirhead



I would like to thank those in the congregation who contributed to the Gift Voucher which I received on retiring in August. To the Organisations who visited me on my last day with beautiful gifts, flowers and cards, the day was certainly very emotional. To all members I thank you for your continued support in all the years I was employed in the Church Office.

Education, Mission, EcoCongregation Committee

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

Basic Needs - Sanitation and Food

Meeting a global need-improved sanitation in the Developing World.

When it comes to helping the Developing World, we often find it easier to talk about malaria nets, or irrigation systems, or vaccines, whereas talking about toilets is a bit too personal, a bit embarrassing. Yet, one in three people in our world lives without adequate sanitation. Many people have no access whatsoever to toilets; think of the lack of hygiene, but also, equally important, the lack of privacy and basic human dignity. While all ages are affected, we can easily see how some groups are more vulnerable than others- children, girls, the elderly, for example. And there are serious health risks- it is estimated that some 2 billion people drink from water contaminated by human waste, which works its way into the rivers and groundwater. As many as 280,000 children die because of preventable disease linked to poor hygiene and sanitation. Say that figure again, slowly, and think of the young lives needlessly lost. All for the lack of something we take so much for granted.

Each year, November 19th is officially recognised by the UN as World Toilet Day, and exists to inform, engage, and inspire people about the Sustainable Development Goal Number 6. This goal focuses on water provision and sanitation and aims to help make people much more aware of good hygiene. The aim is to have "sanitation for all" by 2030 - a tall order.

To find out more, please go to the World Toilet Day website and learn more about how we can help. www.worldtoiletday.info

Meeting a growing local need-The Renfrewshire Foodbank

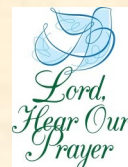
Recently, we received a letter from the Renfrew Foodbank thanking the congregation for its continued support. The foodbank is part of a UK wide network of over 1,300 centres coordinated by the Trussell Trust. The services provided at each centre vary depending on the needs of their community, but the basic idea is that they provide three days of emergency food to people in need who have been issued a food bank voucher by a health visitor, social worker or perhaps school staff.

The non-perishable, in-date food which our congregation donates is sorted into emergency food parcels. People who are referred to the Food Bank are welcomed on arrival at the Centre with a warm drink and trained volunteers will discuss each person's situation, including dietary needs. They will exchange the foodbank voucher for a parcel of three days of emergency food. The food bank strives to provide non-judgemental support to people at the point of crisis, and this could include advice about other agencies and organisations who can offer support.

The aim is to help people break free from poverty by providing additional support so that they don't need to use a food bank again. This could include things like debt advice, mental health support or benefits guidance. With the approach of winter, and the threat of further worries about the cost of living, and fuel and food especially, we ask for your continued support, in donations and prayers, at this time

Prayer for Pakistan

It is easy to forget the many disasters happening in the world, as Ukraine and the current economic crisis dominate the news and our thoughts. Yet, many people in Pakistan have been very badly affected by severe flooding. Here is a prayer by Revd Memona Shahbaz, a URC Minister from Pakistan:



*Our loving, merciful, and compassionate father,
we acknowledge that you are creator of this universe, and everything is in your control.
You are our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
At this time of trouble in Pakistan, we pray for all Pakistani people who are victims of the devastating flood. Especially we pray for those who have lost their loved ones, livelihood, livestock and homes, also the Pakistani government, local charities, churches, and individuals who are trying to help, as well as all who are standing in solidarity and helping Pakistan at this challenging time. Help everyone and send your peace and comfort in this chaotic situation.
We ask this in Jesus' precious name.
Amen.*

Fabric Report - Sandra Wilson

Tower: The architect has done two extensive site visits and tenders are out for the steeplejacks and are due in on the 24th October so things seem to be moving.

It is planned to take down the weathervane and cap the top of the tower. The pointing at the top of the tower seems to have gone and they think they will need to bring it back to the top of the first window, but this is still up for debate. They hope to start the work soon, but we will wait and see. There is certainly more activity going on at present.

Halls: We appear to still have a few leaks in the main hall where the windows are on the roof. The roofer has been up and had a look and will go back to check the lead at the bottom of the windows as he thinks this is the problem.

Painting of the church windows is an ongoing project, and we are chasing the painters for an updated start date.

Railings: John Stewart has been trying hard to get some grant funding for this but, so far, has not been successful. We may have to fund this ourselves but it would be a great enhancement to the appearance of the church properties.

Kirk Session - The Kirk Session Team



Dear Members and Friends,

Along with the Minister and Elders, we want to thank you for your continued support and commitment as we slowly begin to see our numbers starting to rise.

The one thing that is foremost in our minds is the uncertainty of what will happen to the churches in Paisley. Please be assured that we are not keeping you in the dark or hiding anything from you. The truth of the matter is that Clyde Presbytery, and many others, are still trying to work out what the future of the Church might look like and are still meeting with various congregational representatives.

To this end, Session recently agreed that we should postpone the Congregational Half Yearly meeting until the Presbytery met on the 22nd November.

In the meantime please bear with us, continue to support our church and all its activities, and have a blessed Christmas.

Wynd 40th Anniversary in 2024

John Stewart (Chairperson)



As reported in the previous issue of Trinity the organising committee produced a programme of events for 2023/24 and now the task is to see those events conclude. There is less than two years to go now and we are encouraged by the photographs being sent in and interest shown. These include pictures of the original Wynd when it was being transformed from the old McDougalls bookshop store, pictures of teams who staffed the cafe and a USB containing photographs of the opening of the upgraded Centre by HRH Princess Anne. Please continue to submit any pictures, stories and other memorabilia to the Church Office marked for my attention.

The draft Mission Plan for Oakshaw Trinity Church has been prepared and the role of the Outreach Centre has an important part to play in this beyond 2024.

The EMEC team, who are undertaking the Mission Plan, have already started with the free Tea and Toast on Tuesdays and worship had started again in the Apse room in the Wynd on Thursday mornings.

Events Committee - Isabel Pearson, Secretary

Now that we are able to have social and fundraising events, we have had a Fiddlers concert in September and we are also attending the Young Lives v Cancer concert on Friday 9th December. Our first fund raising event is our Christmas Fayre on 19th November.

Future events planned are a Ceilidh in January, a visit to the Kings' Theatre to see the production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang by P.M.O.S. on 28th February. Our Palm Sunday lunch will take place at Paisley Golf Club on Sunday 2nd April.

Watch the notice board for further details.

Choir - Catriona Muirhead

The choir meet on a Thursday evening at 8.00 pm in the Church and as always we would like to welcome new members in all sections.



We made a presentation to one of our members, Gillian Langston, on the occasion of her marriage to Michael Gilchrist. We wish them all the best for the future.

David Murray, our Director of Music, has been looking ahead towards Christmas and the choir are now working on new pieces for the Readings and Carol Service.



We have multiple sized halls from £16 per hour and food & drink packages from £1 per child for large parties of 60 to smaller parties of 10.



The Wynd Centre, 6 School Wynd, Paisley Tel: 0141 8877

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.

Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong

During our Autumn season, we have been chatting and working away at our crafts, which many of you will have seen and purchased at the Church Christmas Fayre. While what we make and create changes regularly, our friendship and fellowship remains the same. Why not come along and join us on the second Monday every month at 7 p.m. in the Lang Hall.



Oakshaw Explorers - Jessie Cross

Oakshaw Explorers altered their day outings to a Wednesday from a Saturday this year as it was felt venues would be quieter. Although the weather was not the best at times, particularly when it was hoped to have a sail on Loch Lomond, a walk and a visit to Lomond Shores and its Café was very pleasant. In contrast the weather was beautiful for the trip to Largs with lunch and High Tea being enjoyed with good walking before lunch and in between times.

Sunday afternoon visits included Barshaw Park's walled garden, Bowling Harbour and canal side and Braehead Park and riverfront. The season started and ended with lunch in the café in Barshaw Park followed by a walk and ice cream.



While the programme has come to an end for this year we are looking forward to the spring and fine weather in 2023.

Trinity Theatre Group - Jean Bett

The Theatre group started rehearsing in September for our November show which is, 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'. We have been unable to perform due to lockdown and restrictions since 2019 and are very happy to be back enjoying the company and friendship and hard work that putting on a show requires. This year we are performing for the first time at the Wynd Centre.



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat at the Wynd Centre

Wednesday 23rd to Friday 25th Nov 2022 at 7.30pm

Saturday 26th November 2022 at 2.30pm

Tickets £10.00 Conc. £8.00

Any Church Organisation with a block booking £5.00 per ticket.

For tickets contact any club member or Jean Bett via the church office.

In the past we have been so grateful for the support from church members and organisations and hope you will continue to support us at the Wynd Centre, our new venue.

Anyone who would like to be involved with the Theatre Group either on stage, back stage or in any other way will be made most welcome.

Two O'clock Club - Joan Wilson

Our new session began on Monday, 26th September when we enjoyed meeting up again with our members.

Christine McGregor demonstrated her Flower Arranging skills by making varied displays. Four of our members were lucky



enough to take home and enjoy the arrangements.

On Monday, 31st October Ben Bailey, from Bailey's Antiques, showed us interesting items and held a Fun Auction. The 'Urban Historian', Stephen Clancy, will be visiting us on Monday, 28th November.

Christmas Lunch is on Monday, 5th December at the Gleniffer Hotel. (NB change of date).

A 'Famous Charlies' Quiz sheet is available for £1 and the winner will be drawn on 5th December. So get your answers in by 28th November to be in for a chance of winning a Christmas Hamper.

The first two meetings for 2023 are

January 30th, : Bras by Jane Neal

February 27th: Nursing by Margaret Linnie.

We meet in the Lang Hall at 2pm and all are welcome.

We wish all our members and friends a very happy festive season and a healthy, safe 2023.

Friendly Hour - Moira Ferguson (Committee Member)

We began our new session on 4th October with an Open afternoon, welcoming back our members and some potential new ones. Rev Gordon Armstrong opened the meeting with Devotions. We then had tea and coffee and some lovely home baking before being entertained by the Zigourners singing group.

We are now back to our weekly meetings and must thank Margaret Pearson for arranging our syllabus.

On the 11th October Pauline Vallance came along and played the clarsach as well as singing. Stuart Munro & Friends were our entertainers on the 18th and played some beautiful music on a variety of instruments.



The Members are looking forward to their end of session Christmas Lunch at the Gleniffer Hotel on Tuesday 13th December. I'm sure we will all have a lovely time.

Boys' Brigade - Janice McCallum

We've had a busy few months and the boys have been putting in a lot of work towards badges. We had one evening all about growing: we planted green beans to take home and we talked about growing in faith in the Boys Brigade. We also measured the boys and recorded their heights and we'll check it again at the end of session to see how much they've grown. The Company boys had a "make your own Pizza" evening. The boys love anything to do with food. They had super fun at Ten Pin Bowling and really enjoyed the fancy coach that we had. Thank you Neil and the Youth committee for organising the event. The Anchors and Juniors had a Halloween craft night. Mini Pumpkins were made from Tangerines and the stalk was made from cucumber. They made horrible eyes from grapes, blueberries and red icing and they made Loot bags for all their goodies from the Halloween party. We look forward to our Halloween party on 28th. October: dooking for apples and games, best costume competition and lots of fun. Our Christmas Party is on Friday 16th. December when we hope Santa will drop in for a visit. In the New Year we hope to take the Company section boys "Rock climbing". "Camping" is high on the agenda as well.

The 14th. Paisley BB would like to thank you for your support and we wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Guides (11th Paisley) - Linda Kelly

We have had a good start to our session with 17 girls attending regularly. So far, the girls have completed many challenges and a couple of badges.



Our camp in October was enjoyed by everyone who attended. Although the weather was wet on Friday and the Sunday, we still managed to have a dry day on the Saturday. On the Saturday girls managed to get outdoors most of the day, creating fires to cook their lunch and having a campfire. The girls also completed crafts, and all had a shot in the Zorb balls. They all seemed to have a great weekend and they enjoyed it.

After the October break it's our Halloween party and then we are having a pamper night. After this we will be on our Christmas countdown doing Christmas crafts for the church fayre and then in December, we have our Christmas party before we stop for holidays. We start back on 13th January 2023.



Girls' Brigade (2nd Paisley) - Karen Peacock



We started session 2022/2023 on 1st September and we are all enjoying being back to a bit more normality.

On our first night back we had registration and games: we were delighted to have some new girls join us. Our numbers have continued to grow and we now have seven Explorers, seventeen Juniors and ten Brigaders.

We were able to have our pyjama party/bring a friend night and the girls all had great fun playing games, doing crafts, having their nails painted and some food was had too.

Twenty eight girls joined us for our Dedication Service on 2nd October and we were delighted that Rev Gordon

Armstrong was able to present four of our girls with awards. Victoria Torrance was presented with her Brigader Brooch and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, Chianna Marandola

and Heather Dewar with their Brigader Brooch and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh, and Tiana Andrews with her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh. The girls and six leaders joined the other Youth Organisations for an afternoon of Ten Pin Bowling and all had a great time.



We are now busy preparing for our Christmas activities including Christmas Coffee Evening, making some Christmas crafts and hopefully a trip to the pantomime.

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

Rainbows and Brownies - Elizabeth Halliday



The Rainbows and Brownies have been enjoying crafts, games and songs.

They really loved our slime making. The photos are of the slime activity and of their own guiding light that they made after learning the new promise.



Sunday School - Edith Muir

The Sunday School are currently making some crafts to sell at the Christmas Fayre - this is wrapped round Bible lessons on helping others and having good work ethics.

We will be raising money for Children In Need and hoping the congregation can donate to this good cause, so buns and biscuits will be on sale on the 13th of November for you to take home or have with your after-church cuppa.

We are starting to practice for this year's Nativity play, this year the cast is made up of the Sunday School and the other youth organisations. If any children you know in our Young Church would like to take part please talk to their Youth Leader, Janice McCallum or myself.

This year's Nativity Play will be on the 18th of December.

Anyone in the Nativity cast will be invited to our Xmas Party on the 11th of December and get a present from Santa.

Looking forward to a fun packed winter term.



Congratulations

On Monday 26th September, Rev Gordon Armstrong, Margaret Pearson and Sandra Hamilton visited Mrs Annie Burnside on the occasion of her 100th birthday. As you will see by her photograph she is remarkable for her age.

Annie grew up in Paisley and married in 1941. She has three children, two girls and a boy. The girls are now living abroad, one in Oklahoma and one in Toronto. Her son Tommy lives with his wife and family in Paisley.

Annie lived in Gallowhill Road for most of her life before moving to Speirsfield Gardens in February of this year.

Needless to say, there was a party in her honour at Speirsfield and Annie had a ball!



Seniors' Holiday to Kelso - Report compiled by Janet Mitchell

On a grey morning on 24th October we, seventeen intrepid travellers, mustered at 12 noon at Abercorn Street when - right on time - our Caledonian Travel Coach arrived with Andy at the wheel. Over the next five days he was to become an honorary member of the Trinity Travellers as he had dubbed us.

Our journey down to Kelso was smooth, picturesque in parts and more importantly blessed with lovely weather. We arrived at our "headquarters" for the week - the Cross Keys Hotel - by early afternoon and after settling into our rooms, met up again for a welcoming drink before sitting down to our first evening meal of the week. As to be expected we were all in fine fettle for the days ahead.

The hotel staff were welcoming and helpful and there were very few complaints about either the food or service throughout our stay. The general consensus was one of enjoyment and excellent camaraderie.

Our first outing on Tuesday, under the expert hands of our Andy, was a tour around many of the border towns including stops at Melrose, Abbotsford, Peebles and Jedburgh for shopping, tea breaks and general sightseeing. Once more our weather was excellent which needless to say added greatly to our enjoyment.

Wednesday saw us driving along to nearby Floors Castle but we were not quite so lucky with the weather, which rather dimmed our enthusiasm for the group photograph taken at the splendid gates to the Castle. However, it did not dampen our enthusiasm in any way as is evidenced by the photograph itself.

Thursday was our "cross border" trip to Alnwick and a visit to the local market and that speaks for itself for those of us who enjoy bargain hunting and looking for that "something different".

Friday came round much too soon when we had to bid fond farewells to all who had shared in our adventures throughout the week and who had all been such good company. From all accounts a good time was had by all but as you will have noted no personal details have been disclosed on the principle of what happens in Kelso stays in Kelso. Finally, our thanks to Sandra and Gordon for all their efforts to make this such a successful and happy holiday.



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