

**AUTUMN  
2017**



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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



## Diary Dates



### August

Sun 20 11.00 Sunday School resumes

### September

Sun 3 10.15 Office Bearers' Service  
11.00 Sacrament of Holy Communion  
14.30 Sacrament of Holy Communion

### October

Sun 1 11.00 Harvest Thanksgiving  
Monthly Communion after the service  
Sun 8 11.00 Dedication and Family Service

### November

Sun 5 Monthly Communion after the service  
15.00 Service of Memorial & Thanksgiving  
Sun 12 10.50 Remembrance Service  
Sun 26 11.00 Sunday School Gift Service

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On other Sundays, worship is at 11.00

## From the Minister

As I write to you, once again we are in the midst of preparation and change. Thomas has moved to his new career. We have rejoiced that our town of Paisley is in the running for the City of Culture 2021, and we are beginning a new session with our organisations and groups. In addition to this, we welcome the staff and students of the Highland Theological College into the Wynd Centre.



A class of nine year old children were asked to bring something special in for the next "Bring and Tell Time". As it was a non denominational school they were asked to bring something that represented their faith. Joseph showed a star to the class, "I am Jewish so I have brought in the Star of David." Mary came to the front of the class with some beads. "I am Catholic and this is my rosary." Then Andrew came out to the front. "I'm in Oakshaw Trinity and this is a cake."

You may well have heard that joke before now but it still makes me smile! However, it is always good to have the excuse for a celebration, no matter how great or small the reason might be.

When we are in hospital, ill at home or are feeling overwhelmed with life, all we long for is to do the simple, ordinary things like going for a walk or sitting in the garden or park and listening to the birds. Such things can become a real celebration of everyday life if we do them with awareness. Sometimes it is important to pause and actually see the things around us, to look in detail at the beauty of a flower or the pattern of the clouds, and allow ourselves to celebrate and thank God for the beauty of everyday life.

Bigger celebrations and cakes are also great because they help us re-evaluate what has happened in the past and take time to be thankful. As we prepare for our Season of Communion we remember that we will soon celebrate harvest, a time for thanking God that all is safely gathered in, and a time for celebrating the great bounty of creation.

It is also a time for celebrating all the gifts He has given us, the talents and abilities of ourselves and others giving thanks for how we share them. Please remember those who facilitate our Afternoon Communion Service and our pastoral visitors who share their time and care with those who cannot easily attend Church. We thank them for all that they have done and continue to do and we promise to hold them in our prayers.

May God's blessing be with you.

*Gordon* (Rev. Gordon B. Armstrong)

## Wynd Centre -



Graeme W. McGowan (Chairman)

In the last issue of Trinity, I advised that we had appointed a new Counselling Manager, Rebecca Black.

Rebecca comes from a background in nursing and adult career guidance. She has extensive counselling experience, having worked with a private healthcare provider, as a fertility counsellor at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and most recently at Positive Life Therapy in Glasgow. Rebecca also has her own private counselling practice.

Rebecca has an impressive range of qualifications and has just completed an MSc in Play Therapy. Play therapy is a form of counselling that uses play to communicate with and help people, especially children, to prevent or resolve various issues.

While we are grateful to Roddy MacFarlane for maintaining the work of the Counselling Service following the departure of Karen Millar, the Board were keen to recruit someone who could develop and grow the Service. With the energy and enthusiasm shown by Rebecca in her first few months, we are confident that we have found the right person to make that

progress.

In addition to her normal day-to-day duties, Rebecca has taken on the huge task of completely overhauling all of our policy documents to ensure that our Counselling Service meets all professional regulations and the requirements of the institutions which provide us with student counsellors.

It is an exciting time for our counselling service and we look forward to working with Rebecca.



The Coffee Shop is settling well into its new home in the Centre and, if you haven't already done so, please pay a visit.

## Church Roll

### Deaths:

04/05/17 Mrs. Irene Paul  
14/05/17 Mr. John Lindsay  
25/05/17 Mrs. Margaret Smith  
06/06/17 Mr. Neil McNeil  
08/06/17 Miss Cath Miller



## Presentation to Elders of Service Certificates

Congratulations to three elders who were presented with long service certificates on Sunday 18th June 2017. George Paul for 39 years and Bob Copleton and Tom Nixon for 50 years.



Thomas Blane, Tom Nixon, George Paul, Bob Copleton and Rev. Gordon Armstrong.

## Farewell to Thomas

During the service on Sunday 16th July a presentation was made to Thomas Blane our Pastoral Assistant as he left to move on to pastures new. To celebrate his time with us we shared a cake at the coffee after the service.



Thomas holding the celebration cake.

### From Evelyn & Douglas Dow

Thank you to all our Trinity Friends for Douglas's 90th Birthday Card in May and also for our Blue Sapphire (65th) Anniversary Card on 19th July 2017.  
Many, many thanks to all our friends.



## Education, Mission, EcoCongregation Committee - Jim McDougall ( E.M.E.C. )



### Going for Gold...or Green: Focus on the EcoCongregation Award Programme

We are one of a growing number of churches registered with EcoCongregation Scotland. This is a charity that helps congregations to celebrate the creation that is all around them, from the majesty of lochs and mountains to the modesty of the window-sill plant pots or the bird table in the church grounds. The Eco Congregation programme is designed to enthuse and equip churches to weave environmental issues into their life and mission in an enjoyable and stimulating way. The start of a new church year is a valuable time to reflect on our aspirations as an Eco Congregation. A new system for awards begins in August, and comprises three stages- Bronze, Silver and Gold. What could be more appropriate than we set ourselves the long-term goal of going for Gold? The award is focused around three areas- Spiritual Living, Practical Living and Global Living. One of the goals of EMEC for 2017-18 will be to achieve stage one, the Bronze Award. Here is part of the Bronze programme:

- ◇ We use praise, prayer and worship to celebrate creation and stewardship
- ◇ We're aware of our personal responsibility for the environment
- ◇ We actively recycle waste and save energy wherever possible
- ◇ We try to make the church grounds friendly for wildlife
- ◇ We're aware of local and global issues affecting our stewardship of the Earth

### Interested?

We already do some of these things but there's a lot involved in getting these awards, so we hope that members of the congregation will get involved to help make this happen and ultimately help Oakshaw Trinity go for Gold. After all, what could be greener?

### Creation Time 2017

Each September churches across the world are invited to use worship to celebrate the wonders of Creation and reflect on our responsibility to this planet. This year's theme is "Pilgrimage; Journeying with God" and the suggested readings are all taken from Matthew.

### A Prayer from the Creation Time website

*God of love, show us our place in this world as the channels of your love for all creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money, that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom Of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you!*

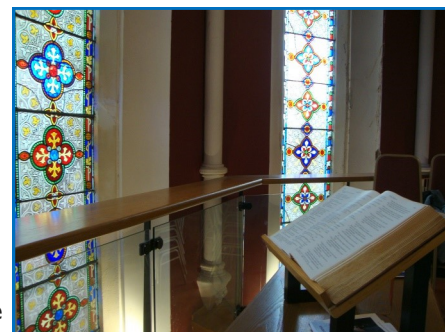
Amen.

For details on helping with our EcoCongregation Award, or to find out more about Creation Time, please speak to Jim McDougall, Chair of EMEC.

logo courtesy of EcoCongregation

## Wynd Worship - John Stewart

The Oakshaw Trinity morning Wynd Worship during the week has now moved to the new Chapel created in the Apse Room of the main Wynd Centre Building. It starts at 9:45 and lasts for 15 minutes. It is taken by members of the congregation, Catriona Muirhead, Jessie Cross, Sheena Miller, Sandy Scorgie, David Barr, Rita Barr, Rev Gordon Smith and John Stewart, supported by the Ministerial Team. Come along and join us and you can have a tea/ coffee in the new Tea Bar before starting your shopping. Also, if you would like to join the worship team (no age restrictions) and can help one morning in a month that would be much appreciated. Please pass your name to me or contact Catriona in the Church Office. Material is available to assist preparation.





## **Fabric Report** - Jonathan Sweeney

- The committee commissioned a report on Health and Safety in the Church and Wynd Centre. Further details will follow.
- The committee continues to pursue grants available for repairs and maintenance to the church and Wynd Centre.
- The Eco Garden is being assessed to see what work is required.
- The committee is considering a 3 Year Plan for work to be carried out.

## **Finance Report** - Bob Copleton (Acting Treasurer)

David Osborne and I have reviewed the Management Accounts of the Church for the six months to 30th June, 2017. The Income from Offerings, Plate and Gift Aid, £71707, is in line with expectations, as is the other Income (Donations, Investment Income and Hall Lets) £11072 – a grand total of £82779.

Expenditure continues relentlessly with contributions to the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Synod of the United Reformed Church of £39667; Staff Costs £17926; Property Repairs £4449; Heat, Light & Insurance for Church and Manse £8539; and General Administration and Expenses £7783 – a total of £78364.

The surplus is £4415 less accounts paid in July for the period to 30th June of £4091. Oakshaw Trinity is just balancing its books. The Church finances were improved by two legacies totalling £10500. Overall the finances are reasonable and just “in the black”, but it is always necessary, because of deaths in the congregation and unexpected costs in a property that is over 260 years old, that we all regularly review our contribution to Oakshaw Trinity. When did you last do it? Do it now please so that Oakshaw Trinity Church can continue to be a Beacon of Christian Witness.

## **Presbytery Elder** - Jessie Cross

As promised/threatened in the last edition of Trinity I would like to give a note of my experience as a representative at the General Assembly.

Although I was unable to attend the opening ceremony on Saturday 20th May 2017, I was present in St Giles Cathedral and at the Heart and Soul event in Princes Street Gardens on the Sunday and at all the business sessions from Monday to Friday of the following week.

The Lord High Commissioner this year was HRH The Princess Royal who, as well as giving an opening and closing address, attended the events on Sunday, the morning services and hosted a Beating Retreat and Reception for new Commissioners at the Palace of Holyrood House on the Thursday evening.

I found the whole experience very interesting and exhausting! The number of subjects covered over the week, showing the amount of work done by committees during the year, was an eye-opener and the level of involvement in and to the debates was of a very high standard. I would particularly mention that seeing and hearing the enthusiasm of the members of the Youth Assembly gives more hope for the future of our Church than we might sometimes think from press reports.

I enjoyed the Reception on the Thursday night but with the final vote on the day's business being at 6.20pm it was not possible to see Beating Retreat at 6.30pm! However I did make it in time for the wine at 7.00pm and this revived me after the mad rush down the hill.

I regard it as a privilege to have been able to attend and thank Oakshaw Trinity and Presbytery for the opportunity and I would urge anyone who has the chance to be involved in the future to go.

## **Church of Scotland Nominations Committee** - John Stewart

I am about to start on a new adventure as a member of the Nominations Committee of the Church of Scotland with my first meeting on 15 August in the Church of Scotland offices. The Committee consider making appointments to the various Committees including potential Moderators so hard work lies ahead. For obvious reasons there is not much I am able to report but I am looking forward to this appointment which is for a period of 5 years and pleased that Oakshaw Trinity has a foot inside the door of 121!

## **Dunoon Holiday - Sandra and Gordon Hamilton.**

A thoroughly enjoyable holiday was spent by this happy group, including Brodie the dog! Everyone managed to get out and about with the local coffee shops enjoying a measurable increase in business whilst the entire supply of P.D.E. in Dunoon was sold out daily. After-dinner activities included Scrabble, quizzes, Who am I? (stickers on foreheads), as well as enjoying the evening entertainment in the hotel. On an unusually wet afternoon everyone participated in playing indoor curling! We also managed an afternoon trip to Inveraray. We hope that next year's holiday will prove to be just as good!



Lunch in hall after Sunday School closing service



## Choir - Catriona Muirhead

The choir this year was saddened with the death of one of our retired members, Irene Paul. Irene gave over 60 years to the Choir and enjoyed coming back amongst us at Christmas and our Annual Dinner, She will be sadly missed.

A new session is about to begin on Thursday 7th September, 2017 at 8.00 p.m. However, before then we would like to welcome anyone who likes singing to come along to a 'TASTER OPEN NIGHT' on Thursday 31st August, 2017 at 8.00 p.m. in the Lang Hall. There will be



singing, a light supper along with time for chat. This promises to be a good evening – so put the date in your diary; you will be made very welcome. David Murray, our Director of Music, will be looking out for you.

Choir Dinner at Canal Station



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

The syllabus is currently being prepared and will be available at our first meeting on Monday 25th September.

The rest of the dates for 2017 are 30th October, 27th November and our Christmas dinner on 4th December.

Details of all the meetings will appear in Oracle. The meetings are normally held in the Lang Hall, on the last Monday of the month starting at 8 pm. You are most welcome to come along to any of the meetings.

At the close of last session, in addition to the donations to 'Scottish Care & Information on Miscarriage' and Macmillan mentioned in previous magazines we were also able to make the following donations – Church £250, Flower Fund £150 and Wynd Centre £100.



Dinner at Highgrove House Hotel



## Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong

We are an enthusiastic group of ladies of all ages who meet monthly on the second Monday evening. You don't need to be good at anything to join us., and for that matter, you don't have to be a lady! Everyone is made welcome and you are always be given a cup of tea or coffee.



## The Friendly Hour - Isabel Gray (Convener)

The Friendly Hour starts again on Tuesday 3rd October in the Large Hall at 2pm.

The Friendly Hour is open to anyone age 60 years and over. Our membership includes men and women from the surrounding community, local housing complexes and the church. We have access to a mini bus as well as a team of volunteer drivers who will transport any members who are not so able.

Our weekly programme includes short devotions, a cup of tea and some form of entertainment. As a group we support two charities i.e. CHAS and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

This autumn we celebrate our 60th Anniversary and a special treat is being organised for everyone.

Look for details of our winter programme in the Oakshaw Oracle.

Tuesday afternoons are always welcoming and you can be sure of a chat with friends old and new.

### A Friendly Thought

"Life is about the people we meet and the things we create with them,

So let us go out and start creating  
Life is too short to be spent alone"

## Trinity Lunch Club - Sheena Miller

The Lunch Club meets in the Wynd Centre from September to April on a monthly basis, usually on the second Wednesday of these months. A light lunch is served at 12.30 in the Main Hall. Thereafter the speaker gives a talk for about 30 minutes followed by a short time for questions and comments. The meeting normally finishes about 2 p.m. On average about 30 to 40 people attend.

We are still in the process of confirming the syllabus but our session starts on Wednesday 13th September.

The other dates for this year are 11th October, 8th November and 13th December.

A syllabus will be available in September giving more details and a warm welcome awaits both "regulars" and "new faces".

Please come and join us, either on a regular basis or from time to time - whenever you can manage.

## Oakshaw Explorers - David A. Barr

By the time you read this article, there will only be two outings remaining on our program for 2017.

- A Sunday afternoon outing to Victoria Park in Glasgow, on the 20th August 2017.
- A Sunday afternoon outing in September - location and date still to be agreed.

Further information regarding these outings will be included in the Oakshaw Oracle prior to their dates.

It is with regret that I have been unable to organise a September date for the outing to Glasgow Central Station for which I apologise.

An alternative outing for September will be advised in the Oakshaw Oracle.

## Men's Club - John Hamilton

The men's club restarts on the first Friday in September at 20:00.



At Glasgow Green



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

We have now completed our first full year as part of OTC. It's been very busy, sometimes challenging but in the main a very enjoyable year.

May was a very busy month leading up to our display. All four of our Brigaders successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh expeditions – the Bronze girls are continuing to work through their award on their skill, physical and volunteering elements. I am however delighted to say that Amy Chivers was presented with the company's first ever Duke of Edinburgh Award, gaining her Bronze Award which she received at the display and also at our Commissioning Service which was held in June at Erskine Parish Church. Amy is now working towards her Silver Award. Also at this service I was commissioned into the role of Commissioner for Renfrew Division of Girls Brigade and Lesley Dewar has taken up the role as one of my deputies.

We had 37 girls receive their end of term badges at the display where they also showed off some of the work that they had been doing throughout the year. The display was very well attended and thank you to everyone for coming along.

Just a few days after the display, we had 28 girls come along to the Youth outing at Finlaystone Country Park and as you can see from the picture they all had a great time - even though the weather wasn't great!

We are now about to embark on planning for year 10 and we will restart on Thursday 24th August at 6.45pm. We would welcome any girls along who wish to join us, full details below:

**Explorers P1-P3 – 6.45-7.45pm**

**Juniors P4-P7 – 6.45-7.45pm**

**Brigaders S1-S6 – 6.45-8.15pm**

All sections meet on a Thursday night in The Wynd Centre during term time. If anyone requires any further information, please contact me via the Church Office.

On a different note, we are sorry to be losing one of our Junior Leaders, Marianne McLeod, who is relocating to Inverness. Marianne joined us 3 years ago and has been a real asset to the company. She will be sorely missed by the girls and fellow leaders but we wish her well in her new venture.



## Rainbows and Brownies Elizabeth Halliday

The Rainbows and Brownies start back after our summer break on Friday 18th August at 6.30pm in the main church hall. We welcome girls aged 5-7 for Rainbows and ages 7-10 for Brownies. With a large number of girls moving up to Guides we have spaces available for any new girls wanting to join. Just come along on a Friday for an evening of crafts, games, songs, badge work and lots of fun!

Our last session ended with a trip to Rouken Glen pottery painting. We have included a few photographs. The girls love crafts and all thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 18th August – New session commences

Friday 22nd September – Holiday (September weekend)

Friday 13th and Friday 20th October – Holiday (October school holidays)

Friday 27th October – Hallowe'en party (fancy dress)



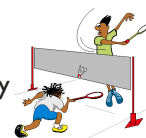
## Boys' Brigade (14th Paisley) - Craig McFie

All sections of the Boys Brigade start back on Friday 25th August 6.30pm in the Wynd centre. New members welcome. We ask boys who are in the company to please bring a friend along - they will be made more than welcome.



## Youth Committee - Neil Armstrong

I hope that everyone has enjoyed their summer break. The Youth Committee has started back early due to planning our up and coming events. Keep your eye out for our notice board within the main hall for further information and also in Oracle. If anyone has any suggestions for the Youth Committee please pass them on to any of the Committee, there will be a list of Committee members and maybe some funny photos on the Youth Committee notice board.



The Saturday Club will be back after our summer break; dates will be entered into 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 chinwag. You will notice that the badminton lines have now been repainted just in time for the Saturday Club starting back.



## Sunday School - Janice McCallum

Once again it's the start of a new session. By the time you read this the staff will have had a meeting and we will have a full calendar ready for the Sunday School's return. We start back on August 20th. I'm sure any of you who went along to Summer Sunday school had great fun. This year we will again be using Scripture Union materials which we find bright and colourful, just as the children are used to at school. We will be having our usual fundraiser in November. The presents from the Gift Service, also in November, will be distributed to local charities. Our Nativity is one that we have done before. A few of the children had asked if we could perform this one again. After all we are an Eco Church, so how could I refuse a bit of recycling. We look forward to seeing you all on the 20th August. If you haven't been for a while, come back and see us soon. Any questions regarding the Sunday school or Tots and Toddlers please speak to me or a member of staff. New Session, New Beginnings.



In hall after closing service

## Tots and Toddlers - Janice McCallum

Tots and Toddlers runs during church service, it is well equipped with all toys for all ages. The children always have great fun. They will be made most welcome.

## Trinity Theatre Group - Jean Bett



Trinity Theatre Group has not been able to feature in worship at the Church as we had hoped but we hope to rectify this in the autumn. We have finally managed to secure performing rights for, 'Sleeping Beauty' which will be our November production. Having been turned down for 'Beauty and the Beast' yet again and 'Annie', it was with some relief we finally got permission for a show that suited the club. Rehearsals start on Wednesday 16th August at 7.30pm and new members will be made most welcome.

**Our faith in God requires commitment and dedication. Here is a prayer expressing commitment, adapted from St. Augustine.**



**Eternal, loving Father, from now on, it is you alone I love, you alone I follow, you alone I'm ready to serve, because you alone are the source of all that is good. I rely only on you.**

**Support and sustain me; open my ears to hear your words; support and sustain me; open my eyes to see what you want.**

**Chase away my idle thoughts, so that I focus on your way, and follow your path and direction.**

**Kindest father of all, lead me, your errant child, to your presence. Amen.**

**(from Douglas Scott, presbytery prayer coordinator)**

## Guides (11th Paisley) - Linda Kelly

The Guides start for the new session on Thursday 24th August at 7.30pm. Any girl aged 10 or over is welcome to come and join us.

The Guides were at South Newton on 19-21 May where they completed Scotland's Girlguiding 'Rise to the Challenge' by cooking outdoors in a cardboard box.



## Doors Open Day

Doors Open Day this year is Saturday 2nd September and once again we are appealing for volunteers to assist as guides and helpers in showing visitors round our wonderful building.

Anyone who is interested in helping out, please speak to either Ian Farquhar or John McKenzie who would be delighted to let you have further information.

The Church is normally opened to visitors from 10.30 until 3.00pm.

### Future Magazine Dates

Edition	Articles due by	Magazine available
Winter	29/10/17	12/11/17
Spring	28/01/18	11/02/18

### Church Directory

Minister	Rev, Gordon Armstrong BD FIAB BRC Cert. CS	0141 887 4647 Press 3
Session Clerk	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