



**Autumn
2018**

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TRINITY



The magazine of Oakshaw Trinity Church, Paisley
In communion with the Church of Scotland
and the United Reformed Church

Diary Dates

2018

August

- 
- Sun 19 11.00 Morning Worship
Sunday School resumes
 - Wed 22 Trinity Theatre Group resumes
 - Thu 23 Girls' Brigade resumes
 - Fri 24 Rainbows & Brownies resume
Boys' Brigade resumes

September

- Sat 1 Auction
- Sun 2 10.15 Office Bearers' Service
11.00 Sacrament of Holy Communion
14:30 Afternoon Communion
- Fri 7 Men's Club resumes
- Sat 8 Doors Open Day
- Wed 12 Lunch Club resumes
- Mon 24 Eight o'clock Club resumes
- Sat 29 Day Trip to St. Andrews

October

- Tue 2 Friendly Hour resumes
- Sat 6 Hand Bell and Choir Concert
- Sun 7 11.00 Dedication & Family Service
Monthly Communion after the service
- Sun 28 11.00 Harvest Thanksgiving

November

- Sun 4 11.00 Morning Worship
Monthly Communion after the service
- Sun 11 10:50 Remembrance Service
- Sat 24 Christmas Fayre

On other Sundays, morning worship is at 11.00



From the Minister

Dear friends,



As we begin our new session, I would like to thank you for your renewed commitment and also thank those who have ensured that our fellowship continued through the summer months. We have continued with Summer Sunday School, a Holiday Club, groups that have met continuously and events like our cycle run and quiz - "Thanks to all."

Central to the ministry of Jesus was the importance of communicating the message of God's love and life, freely given for all people. Wherever Jesus went, crowds followed. The reason was that he spoke of life and hope, healing and restoration, forgiveness and peace, purpose and power.

As Christians today, we are asked to pass on the message of the gospel. If Jesus arrived at Oakshaw Trinity today, how would he communicate the message to the people of Paisley with the many options that are available to us through the media advances we take for granted? I am sure Jesus would use all available resources because of the importance of the message he has come to proclaim.

Over the summer months we have written to all our members and friends to ensure that we, as the body of Christ are able to communicate with you and to comply with the laws of our land. We have also asked for an update of your skills and talents. This has already come to fruition with quite a number of changes in the committees of the church. I would like to add my thanks to those who have moved on after many years of dedicated work. To those who have joined, thank you for continuing their good work. Paul said, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run..., everyone who competes in the race, does it to get a crown that will last for ever" (1 Corinthians 9:24,25 para.)

Finally, I would like to say a special word to you if you are housebound, in care or attending hospital for whatever reason, please know that you are remembered in our thoughts and prayers:

Almighty God, You are the everlasting health of those who believe in You. Hear us for those who are missing from our weekly worship and in Your tender mercy, assure them of our love and the love of Your Church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Gordon (Rev. Gordon B. Armstrong)

Wynd Centre

- Rev. Gordon Armstrong



The Wynd Centre continues to be a gem in the centre of Paisley and this is due to the dedication of the many who help to support and run this vital part of our church's outreach into the community.

The Board members continue to work productively to maintain the good works begun over thirty years ago. With Ian Young stepping down as Centre Manager, Alex Smith has once again picked up the reigns in fulfilling this role.

We have just come through a period of change especially with the arrival of the Highland Theological College. As reported in the Summer issue of Trinity, the work has been

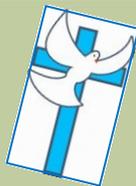
completed and at the time of writing, plans are afoot for the official opening of their West of Scotland Campus. If you do get an opportunity to see teaching centre; you will be amazed at the changes. Also with the new academic year beginning, I am sure the Coffee Shop will once again be buzzing with young (and older) theologians!

The Coffee Shop seems quite popular in the main centre, although we still need some more volunteers to help. Please do give some thought to joining us, if only for a couple of hours. Please phone either Catriona or Georgette at the office (0141 887 4647) if you would like any more information, or would like to help.

Morning Worship continues in the Apse room on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9.45 and is open to anyone wishes to attend this short act of worship - and afterwards why not enjoy a coffee in the Coffee Shop!

This worship is taken by members of the congregation, supported by the Ministerial Team. We are looking for others to share the load and join the worship team (one morning in a month). Please contact John Stewart or Catriona (Church Office) for more information if you are interested.

Church Roll



Deaths:

09/06/18 Louise Swankie
 20/06/18 John Hunter
 Margaret Houston
 14/07/18 Archibald (Archie) Woodrow
 23/07/18 Joseph (Joe) Leitch

Joan and Maureen would like to thank everyone for the many cards they received on the death of Louise. 'It has helped a great deal to know we are in so many people's prayers.'

Thank you for cards, telephone calls and flowers which I have received on the death of John. My thanks also to Gordon and George for pastoral care, comfort and prayers.
 Catherine Hunter



Amnesty International Prayer for Peace

Lord Jesus,
 you experienced in person torture and death as a prisoner of conscience. You were beaten and flogged and sentenced to an agonizing death though you had done no wrong.
 Be now with prisoners of conscience throughout the world.
 Be with them in their fear and loneliness, in the agony of physical and mental torture, and in the face of execution and death.
 Stretch out your hands in power to break their chains.
 Be merciful to the oppressor and the torturer, and place a new heart within them.
 Forgive all injustice in our lives, and transform us to be instruments of your peace, for by your wounds we are healed.
Amen

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

In the Red Cross Museum in Geneva is an astonishing exhibition of objects made by prisoners. Fabricated from basic materials, these items are remarkable for their creativity, imagination and attention to detail. In conditions of hopelessness, beautiful sculptures, paintings, carvings and art work have been lovingly fashioned, then often gifted to Red Cross visitors in gratitude for food parcels and letters from home. The items cover all conflicts in the last 100 years and include an engraved fountain pen from 1916, made from an ammunition cartridge, and a swan created from coffee packets by a detainee from the Columbian civil war. A delicate sculpture from 2009, constructed from drinking straws and magazines, depicts a flower in a jail cell. It was assembled by an Iraqi prisoner in Baghdad. There is a wooden eagle, its wings outstretched, made by Soviet POWs in a German jail in 1944, and traded to a guard for bread.

One particularly intricate piece was a miniature diorama of humanitarian action, made from paper, bark, straw and cardboard by a prisoner in a Rwandan jail. This piece of work depicts different features of an aid camp, showing the reception area, a first aid unit, a maternity clinic, a school, a helicopter arriving to bring aid, each feature neatly labelled to explain its purpose. It is detailed, and clearly took a lot of time to construct. One can only imagine the privations under which it was made, a crude, overcrowded jail in a hot and impoverished country. Then the shock. This item was made by a man sentenced for his part in the notorious genocide that took place in Rwanda. It was chilling to be confronted with an object of considerable charm that had been created by a man who had blood on his hands, perhaps much blood. The genocide in Rwanda in 1994 was horrendous and led to the systematic, gruesome massacre of over one million men, women and children in a little over 100 days, because they were in the wrong tribe. How could someone participate in such crimes and yet be capable of such simple and touching beauty.

It is glib to suggest an answer; we don't know the full story, nor what became of the prisoner. Perhaps he was released as part of Rwanda's truth and reconciliation process, or maybe he died in jail. One can only hope that this item was the way he tried to atone for, or at least recognise, the enormity of his crimes. The simple act of creating unleashed an awareness of kindness and compassion that contrasted with the barbarity that he had witnessed and unleashed.

"Prison works", as one former Home Secretary said. Yet many people around the world today are imprisoned for their beliefs, for being in the wrong party or a different religion. We think of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, the British mother in jail in Iran, and the countless, anonymous people languishing in jails on spurious or non-existent charges. We think of the thousands of soldiers and civilians who perished in the gulags and labour camps of the 20th Century. Even in extremis, the human spirit survived, as witnessed by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who said, from his cell in Flossenburg concentration camp in 1945:

"A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes - and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent"

It is too easy to forget people in jail. They make us uncomfortable, but we should remember the work of Amnesty International, in raising awareness about prisoners of conscience across the world, and invoke once more Bonhoeffer who said we cannot stand by, "not to speak is to speak; not to act is to act".

Pioneers in Ministry (Sheena Young)



In May 2018 the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland celebrated 50 years of the Ordination of Women. After attending, I reflected on my own church background and the ordaining of Vera Kenmure some 40 years earlier. This led to Vera becoming the first woman minister in Scotland. From 1928 - 1968 she served in 3 Congregational Churches in the Glasgow area. 90 years on, the contribution of women as ministers, in addition to men, is rightly remembered and appreciated within Scottish church life.

Ayr Seniors' Holiday - Sandra and Gordon Hamilton



After 23 years of wonderful Dunoon holidays with pleasant memories it was time to venture to pastures new, so this year's holiday week was spent in a gloriously sunny Ayr.

We all enjoyed superb hospitality at the Horizon Hotel and the extraordinary good weather made our trips to Port Patrick, Kirkcudbright, Castle Douglas, Troon and Prestwick all the more enjoyable.

Gift Day – Pew Cushion Appeal

- Isabel Pearson (Acting Treasurer)

I am pleased to report that the sum collected so far for the Pew Cushion Appeal is £7,390.00. Once gift aid has been reclaimed this will increase to approximately £8,700. This is an excellent response from the Congregation and I would like to thank everyone who kindly supported this project.

The total cost of the project is £14,078 and therefore we are still looking to raise £5,378. If you would still like to contribute please do speak to me and I will be more than happy to give you a pew cushion donation envelope.

C of S Nominations Committee

This year's first meeting of the Committee is on 16th August when we meet the new members appointed at the General Assembly in May. It is also preparation for the working meeting in January when the applications for the vacancies, caused by retirements and term completions, in the twenty six Church Committees are considered. Every effort is made to ensure a balance of gender, of Church Members, Elders and Ministers and of locations across Scotland. **Applications are sought from Church Members, Elders and Ministers to fill these vacancies each year. Please consider and let me know if you want any further information.** John Stewart

Choir - Catriona Muirhead

Our choir starts back early this year so we can prepare for the joint concert with the Handbell Ringers. This concert is on Saturday 6th October and we hope you will all come and support it. We also look forward to learning the Anthems and Christmas Music that David, our Director of Music, has been planning for us to sing. We are indebted and privileged to have David with his ability to play meaningful and beautiful music especially during our 'Music for Meditation'. You can also hear him play at Organ Recitals in Kelvingrove. Why not go along; it is free and dates are always intimated in Oracle.

As always we are looking for new members so please if you can spare a couple of hours on a Thursday why not come along and join us.



Choir Dinner



Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong

Welcome to year six! As I look back, I have been amazed at the enthusiasm and friendship of our group. Please do pop in to see us of a night, and if you have any skills or talents; we are always keen to learn new skills.



We meet in the Lang Hall on the second Monday of each month and we will be focussing our skills on the church Christmas Fayre. So don't be shy, come along and join us for a natter or better still, to show us your craft ideas.

Fabric Committee

- Sandra Wilson

It has been a busy time for the group, making sure the building and grounds are kept in good order. After the severe winter weather, a piece of stonework at the front of the church split and fell into the car park area. This has been repaired along with the damage caused by a delivery vehicle to the pillar at the entrance.

There is damage to the ceiling in the vestry, due to water getting in through the tower. This may also be a result of the winter weather. We are currently trying to get Renfrewshire Council to come and assess the damage so that the ceiling can be repaired.

We have appointed a new landscaping contractor, and they are doing a good job keeping the grass tidy and maintaining the remembrance garden.

At the start of July, a cleaning contractor was hired, and they brought a team in to carry out a deep clean in the church building and the halls. This has freshened the buildings up.

Our thanks to the Saturday Club for painting the McLaughlin Hall over the summer.

We are currently waiting for a date for the contractor to start work to install the new pathway and access ramp to the halls.

Trinity Theatre Group - Jean Bett



The Club starts again on Wednesday 22nd August 2018 at 7.30pm in the Lang Hall. Our production this year will be, 'Beauty and the Beast' (Yes! We finally got the performing rights.) which we will perform in the Paisley Arts Centre from Wednesday 7th to Saturday 10th November 2018. A number of people have indicated that they, or their children would like to be involved with the club. Children from Primary 6 upwards are most welcome as are any adults who would like to be involved in any capacity. Please contact Jean Bett via the church office.

Social Events Committee - Lorna Gibson

In June we held a well attended Fish Supper and Quiz night. We hope everyone enjoyed the night and thank them for their support. We hope to make this an annual event.

In July we held a family cycle to Lochwinnoch. Unfortunately the weather was a wee bit wet and we had our burgers in the Church Hall instead of a BBQ at the loch side. It was a fun afternoon although there were some tired legs after the 20 mile round trip! Well done everyone who took part.



Future Event dates are shown in blue on the Diary Dates on front page. Details in Oracle and on notice board nearer the time.

Friendly Hour - Isabel Gray

Something to think about..... "When the coffee is hot, and the talk is good, and the feeling is easy, and the laughter is light, and the entertainment most pleasant, but the time is too short...then you know you're with friends"

Apt words for the Friendly Hour - a special group of friends from different parts of the community, varying ages, different likes and dislikes, but one thing in common - to come together on a Tuesday afternoon and enjoy one another's company. Our 2018/19 session begins on Tuesday 2nd October at 2pm in the large hall when we look forward to seeing everyone again. Any new members who would like to come along and join us will receive a warm welcome. The Friendly Hour is open to anyone over 60 years. Our membership includes men and women from the church and surrounding community.

October's Entertainment	16th	Dans-scene
2nd John Orr and Anne McMillan	23rd	The Zigourners
9th Renfrewshire Carers Choir	30th	Bring and Buy Sale

Summer Curlers - Isabel Pearson

During the summer some members of the Friendly Hour have been enjoying curling. Every second Tuesday between 8 and 18 ladies and gentlemen have hopefully improved their curling skills.

The hilarity and banter has been thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and the classic shot has to be when someone decided to roll the curling stone like a 'wheel'! We curled, then we enjoyed refreshments, a good blether and then finished off the afternoon with a few more games.



Trinity Lunch Club - Sheena Miller

The Lunch Club meets in the Wynd Centre monthly from September to April usually on the second Wednesday of these months. The format is a light lunch served at 12.30 in the Main Hall followed by a short talk from a guest speaker normally finishing about 2 p.m.

The syllabus is still to be confirmed but our session starts on Wednesday 12th September and the other dates for this year are 10th October, 14th November and 12th 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 whenever you can manage.

Men's Club - John Hamilton

A great opportunity is coming up in on the first Friday in September, for all the male members of the church who are 18 years of age or over. This is a chance to share fellowship, improve your fitness, speed up your reaction times, and help ward off dementia in the company of other men who are like minded, and all done at minimal cost. Come along to the church hall around 19.30 to 20.00 and take part in the Men's Club. Table tennis, snooker and darts, tea or coffee, a laugh and time to chat with friends old and new. Don't be put off because you don't know anyone, you will soon know everyone. If you want any further info you can speak to John Hamilton the club secretary via the church office or speak to John Durnan at the church any Sunday.

Oakshaw Explorers - Sheena Miller

Sunday afternoon outings remaining for 2018.

19th August - House for an Art Lover at Bellahouston Park

9th September - still to be decided



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

Oakshaw Explorers at New Lanark

Eight o'clock Club - Sheena Miller

The syllabus is currently being prepared and will be available at our first meeting on Monday 24th September at 8 p.m.

The rest of the dates for 2018 are 30th October, 27th November and our Christmas dinner on 4th December. Details of all the meetings will appear in Oracle. The meetings are



Presentation of £700 cheque from fundraiser concert to SFRS Family Support Trust

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.

Handbells - Elizabeth Clark

We now have two handbell teams. The first is a mixture of beginners and experienced players who are working well together and building up their repertoire. The second is mainly "old timers" who have been playing together for many years.

Our highlight this year has to be taking part in the "Paisley Opera" - PAGLIACCI! Initially we felt quite daunted at the thought of playing alongside professional musicians. Had it not been for the enthusiasm of our leader, Elaine, we could well have thrown

away what has turned out to be a fantastic experience. We appeared on the BBC and STV news with Elaine being a great ambassador for handbell ringing in Paisley. It was



nerve wracking but very rewarding and we cannot thank Scottish Opera enough for this unique opportunity.

Hopefully 2018/19 will be successful for us as a group and if anyone is interested in trying handbell ringing and has a little musical background, please speak to Elaine Duncan about joining us for one of our Wednesday evening practices.

Youth Committee - Neil Armstrong

Back in May 148 people enjoyed our outing to Edinburgh Zoo. Events for the current session include a film showing in October, Messy Church in December and a trip to the ski centre in February. The summer family outing is still up for discussion, so please pass on any suggestions for a fantastic day out to one of the committee.

With growing numbers attending our youth organisations, please consider volunteering to assist or share your talents and skill sets with our young people.

With Autumn approaching, please keep the Saturday Club in mind, where young and not so young can enjoy a variety of activities. More details in Oracle or from Neil Armstrong.

Girls' Brigade (2nd Paisley) - Karen Peacock

Year 10 finished with our display and presentation of badges and awards. Special mention of the presentation of Duke of Edinburgh Awards to Amy (Silver) and Michelle (Bronze). Amy also received the Brigader Brooch, the highest award in Girls' Brigade. These two girls have now completed their expeditions for the next level of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.



We restart on Thursday 23rd August in The Wynd Centre. We meet every Thursday during term time at the times shown

- Explorers – P1-P3 – 6.45-7.45pm
- Juniors – P4-P7 – 6.45-7.45pm
- Brigaders – S1-S6 – 6.45-8.15pm

Plans for the session include a Pyjama Party/Bring a Friend on 6th September and our Fundraising Coffee Evening on 29th November.

As part of The Year of Young People, we hope a number of the girls will take part in the Art Competition, for which the entries will be on display at Doors Open Day 8th / 9th September.

Best Wishes to a Brigader leader Melissa as she prepares to welcome her second baby.



Enjoying the Youth Committee trip to Edinburgh Zoo and working in the ECO garden.

Boys' Brigade - Craig McFie



We start back on Friday 24th August at 6.30pm in the Wynd Centre for the Company's 119th Session. Please spread the word for old and new members!

Planning for this year's session has been taking place during the summer break and we are looking forward to welcoming Graeme Muirhead on board to assist with the Juniors and Company Section. We are keen for new members to join us, including any adults who wish to volunteer as helpers. Anyone looking for more information should contact Craig McFie or any of the other leaders.

For those of you on Twitter, you can follow us at @14thPaisleyBB where we plan to share more news and events happening within the company.

Rainbows and Brownies Elizabeth Halliday

Last session ended with Parents' Night including songs, a play and presentation of badges.



Rainbows and Brownies start back on Friday 24th August.

This is a very special year for the 1st Oakshaw Rainbows as it celebrates 30 years! I was one of the first to join the Rainbows on 24th October 1988 and could not, aged 6, have dreamed I would ever be one of the leaders. We are planning a big 30th Birthday Party around 24th October and would like all who have been connected in any way with Rainbows to join us.

Memorabilia/photographs for display at the Party (we will return items) would be much appreciated. Please speak to Fiona Walker or myself or email 1stOakshawRainbows@gmail.com.

Rainbow Interest Badges and associated badge book are introduced this year. Girls will be able to work on their chosen badges, at home, similar to Brownies and Guides. Across Girl Guiding there are 800 new badges and activities and although some badges are disappearing others will replace them and some additions will help break gender barriers. Having worked within the construction industry for almost 15 years the doors are at last fully open to girls choosing their own career path and the new badges will help the girls explore new ideas.

Please note that Fridays 21st Sept. 19th Oct. are holidays.

Enjoying the Youth Committee trip to Edinburgh Zoo



Guides (11th Paisley) - Linda Kelly

The end of the last session was very busy with some "fun nights" to finish off our year. We had a games night in the Church hall and made "sweet trees" where the girls used a mixture of skills & materials including cement, chocolate and marshmallows to create their



masterpieces. We all enjoyed a night out at Barshaw Park where we were blessed with some lovely evening sunshine. Everyone took part in some "old school" games as well as some more up to date activities and we finished the night with a picnic.



Our last meeting was a "come as you please" night and everyone got stuck into some Domino's pizzas for supper. Our new 2018-2019 session will see us incorporate some of the new Girl Guiding Programme in to our activities. We will be trialling different areas of the new Programme ahead of its full introduction in 2019-2020. The new Programme is based around 6 themes:- Be Well, Express Yourself, Have Adventures, Know Myself, Skills For My Future & Take Action and we're really keen to see how this new Programme is received. Finally, on behalf of all the Guide Leaders, I'd like to give a warm welcome to all the girls who have joined us this year. We look forward to getting to know you as you start your journey with us at 11th Paisley Guides.

Sunday School - Janice McCallum

Well done to all the children at the Promotion Service and thanks to congregation members for lovely comments.



Singing in the hall after the Promotion Service

Sunday School starts back on Sunday 19th. August. We will be putting together our usual varied and fun filled programme which we hope you will enjoy. We are here to make it fun to learn about our Christian faith.

After 'Springwatch' our eco garden continues to flourish: take a look, it is beautiful.

Tots and Toddlers - Janice McCallum

This great service, available every Sunday, is staffed by PVG checked helpers. It has a variety of toys and games to entertain your babies and toddlers while you worship.

Oberammergau 2020

If you are interested in joining a trip to Oberammergau to see the Passion Play in July 2020 could you please contact the Church Office.



Summer Holiday Club Day 1- Margaret Pearson

After lots of planning day 1 arrived for the Summer Holiday Club. And what a day it was! Following prayers led by George, the children arrived - some a little shy - but soon they were mixing, enjoying the games, making large fish and also salt dough. The day finished with quiet time watching the film of Jonah and the Whale and an action song. We looked forward to welcoming all the children back for the rest of the week.



Let us pray.

Let us always remember in prayer the communities of which we are part. Here is a short prayer of intercession, expressed in very general terms, useful for all.

God of life, we thank you for our families, our neighbours and friends, for communities where we feel at home. We commend to you people who are close to us, precious parts of our community, who are having a hard time; people who seek assurance, seek purposeful employment, seek healing, seek acceptance and love.

Be with us all during our ups and downs, in our good times and bad times, and guide us to do good, to follow your will. Amen.

(from Douglas Scott, Presbytery Prayer Coordinator)

Future Magazine Dates

Edition	Articles due by	Magazine available
Winter	28/10/18	11/11/18
Spring	27/01/19	10/02/19

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	Isabel Pearson	Church Office
Fabric Convenor	Sandra Wilson	Church Office
Church Office	Catriona Muirhead	0141 887 4647 Press 3