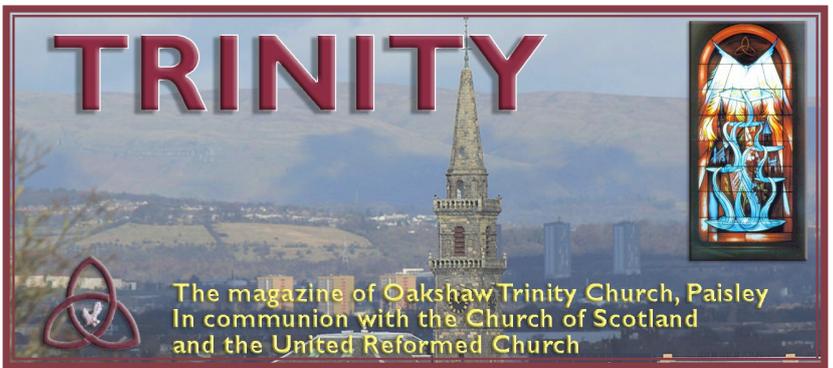




Autumn 2019

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



August

Sun 18 Sunday School resumes
 Fri 23 Boys' Brigade resume
 Thu 29 Guides resumes
 Girls' Brigade resume
 Fri 30 Rainbows and Brownies resumes
 Sat 31 Outing to Dunkeld (organised by EMEC)

September

Sun 1 10.15 Office Bearers' Service
 11.00 Sacrament of Holy Communion
 14.30 Afternoon Communion
 Sat 7 Doors Open Day

October

Sun 6 11.00 Family Service & Organisation
 Dedication Service
 Monthly Communion after the service
 Sun 13 Congregational Half Yearly Meeting
 after the Service.
 Sun 20 11.00 Harvest Thanksgiving Service
 19.00 Fellowship Group

November

Sun 3 Monthly Communion after the service
 Sun 10 10.50 a.m. Remembrance Service
 Sun 17 19.00 Fellowship Group
 Sat 23 Christmas Coffee Morning 10.00-12 noon

On other Sundays, morning worship is at 11.00



From the Minister



Dear friends,

Welcome and my sincere thanks to all who have continued to work and support our congregation over the summer months. While Summer Sunday School was on, I asked the congregation to remember some of their favourite choruses, songs and hymns from their Sunday School days. As a child, I was taught that our choruses were often like Jesus telling a parable to us as an "Earthly story with a heavenly meaning." Parables are life-stories Jesus told to teach us deep spiritual truths that words alone cannot express. If we were asked to describe an autumn sunset; could you do it? I can't. All the words in the dictionary still fall short of fully expressing the magnificence of the setting sun... but I can show you a picture of one that will take your breath away.

In the same way, Jesus used stories and word-pictures to paint, in the hearer's mind, the deep truths about life, the Kingdom of God, forgiveness, faith, money, priorities and more. Stories teach lessons that are enough for a child to understand, yet profound enough to guide even the wisest person and hopefully our nation's politicians as they finalise our plans to leave the European Union. Change has always been a part of life and as Oakshaw Trinity wakes up to a new session with all our organisations starting back, let me ask, "What lesson does your life story teach?"

As your minister, I have the privilege of being let into people's lives and get to hear about challenges they have had to overcome. I get to listen to the stories about folk in their younger days having to make cut-backs just to make ends meet and now the joy of being able to share their resources with others in need. I get to listen in as families talk about a loved one who recently died and hear the stories about how they always felt loved when with them. I also hear stories that do not have happy endings—stories that are painful to hear and even more so to tell.

Churches also have stories. OTC's story began in the early 80's with a vision to serve Christ in the centre of Paisley. Bold steps of faith were needed by several churches to get this started and my hope for this new season is that our story of vision, courage, sacrifice and faith will continue to guide OTC in Christ's name.

"Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." (Matthew 7:24)

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

Wynd Worship - John Stewart

The new rota for period June until November has been updated and there are still vacant days. If you would like to join the worship team 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 in preparation.



The Wynd worship is on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 9.45 and lasts for 15 minutes.

Wynd Centre - Rev. Gordon Armstrong (Chairman)

These again are challenging times for all churches and charities; however, let me assure you that the Board members, staff and many volunteers continue to work to maintain our church's outreach centre.

In the forthcoming editions, I would like to pick out a few who work behind the scenes to ensure that we can keep up with today's changing times. John Stewart has for a number of years been one of our main seekers of funding. There is hardly a week that passes where John is not ploughing through paperwork and application forms to apply for something that will help the centre to retain its reputation for community care and service.

If you have some free time, and think that you might be able to help in some way, please do speak to me or telephone Georgette in the Wynd Office.




Church Roll

Baptisms:

06/06/19 Gabriella Catriona
Louise Patrick



Deaths:

26/04/19 Douglas Morrison
28/04/19 Anne Alexander
03/06/19 Barbara McLean

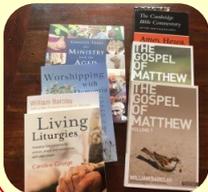


Message from Dorothy Wallace

A big thank you for the Amazon voucher. As you can see, the learning never ends. I look forward to using these in the years to come and will put the church name in each one. Many thanks,



Dorothy



Many thanks to everyone who has been donating their used stamps. Please keep bringing your used stamps to me. Remember that each stamp must have a border of at least $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch all around.

The money realised from the sale of these stamps goes to help women in Malawi. THANKS. Barbara Copleton

A Message from Isabel Gray

"I would like to thank the many friends in the church for the beautiful flowers, cards, gifts, prayers and words of support sent during my illness. I appreciate everyone's thoughtfulness at this time. The journey continues....."



Let us pray

This summer there has not been much sunshine in our part of the world. But no matter, since as Christians we believe that Jesus Christ is the sunshine of our lives.

Lord Jesus Christ, You who are the true sun, who through Your coming to us and shining among us enliven and bring joy to all creation, we ask You now: shine benignly in our hearts so that our sense of Your justice can inspire our thoughts and shape our lives. And may we always walk in the light of Your bright day. Amen.

(from Douglas Scott, presbytery prayer coordinator)

Education, Mission, EcoCongregation Committee - Jim

McDougall (E.M.E.C.)

"Why dost thou persecute me?"

This century has already reached terrible depths of human suffering and persecution. We think of the migrants fleeing across the Mediterranean, the Rohingya community driven from their homes in Myanmar, or the Yazidis in Iraq, taken into slavery-and worse- by ISIS. Likewise, the alarming stories coming out from China about the alleged internment and re-education of Muslim minorities should concern us.

Yet, we may be less aware of the sustained attacks on Christianity and Christians in many parts of the world. There is strong evidence that Christianity is the world's most persecuted religion. According to Pew Research, Christians were persecuted in over 140 countries last year; with approximately 245 million Christians suffering "high levels of persecution". This includes violence, murder, the desecration of churches and enforced movement of peoples, at times tantamount to genocide. North Korea comes out top as the worst place for a Christian to live. Citizens must worship the Kim family and any dissent is crushed. Christians need to hide their faith, and the penalties are harsh. Owning a bible can be grounds for execution or deportment to a labour camp, where conditions are horrendous. In some hardline Islamic states, converting to Christianity is punishable by death. In Afghanistan, Christians never meet publicly, and those who convert from Islam to Christianity are often murdered. In Pakistan, Christians are regarded as second-class citizens, and women and children suffer considerable abuse. Girls are often forced to marry Muslim men. Christians often get the lowest paid, most menial jobs. Churches that engage in mission and outreach or youth work are at greater risk. The country's blasphemy laws are severe and encourage a culture of hostility and intolerance. This is especially true in rural areas. To give one, well known example, Asia Bibi, a young Christian woman, got into a heated argument with her Muslim fellow workers, after a hot day working in the fields. She had taken a sip of water from a jug intended for the Muslim workers and this caused great offence. Asia was beaten up, arrested and charged with blasphemy, spending eight years on death row, before finally being released following a decision by Pakistan's supreme court. That decision created an uproar with many people taking to the streets to protest against the government. The case is a powerful reminder that for many people, being a Christian carries a level of risk outwith our experience or imagination.

Indeed, evidence from various watch groups suggests that the spread and severity of anti-Christian persecution are both on the rise. Some extremist groups in countries like Syria, Iraq, Egypt, north-east Nigeria and the Philippines have vowed to destroy Christianity "by the sword". Churches are destroyed, congregations slaughtered and clergy abducted or killed. In one grim statistic, a US group, the Centre for the study of Christianity estimate that 100,000 people are killed each year because of their Christian faith.

It seems so remote from our experience, where we can worship in safety and peace. One must admire the faith that sustains fellow Christians in such challenging and frightening times. But we remember that persecution has been with the church since earliest times, as witness the well-known story in Acts that tells of Saul on the road to Damascus.

"Now as (Saul) was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

The question we must ask is what are we to do? What is our response to the knowledge that fellow Christians, people like us, suffer for their faith, live in fear and worship in secret? For as William Wilberforce, the great campaigner against slavery said,

'You may choose to look the other way, but you can never again say you did not know.'

Let us remember in our prayers our fellow Christians in all parts of the world who suffer for their faith, and give thanks that we can worship in peace here at Oakshaw Trinity.

ECO Congregation - Fiona Catterson



Over the summer we are continuing to work with our Eco Congregation Action Plan to steer us on our way to becoming an Eco Congregation.

To be an Eco Congregation, we all need to work together to ensure that not only in our church building and grounds but also in our own homes we constantly think about using ethically sourced products (e.g. buying Fairtrade items when possible); buying and using environmentally friendly cleaning products; working towards having Zero Waste (by using the correct recycling bin) and also reducing our carbon footprint either through energy management or by not using the car when alternatives are available.



Together we can make a difference and be "A Scotland that cares for God's creation, now and forever".

Fabric Committee - Sandra Wilson

Work in the car park is now finished; all levelled, compacted and 100 tons of gravel added. It is really important that people drive slowly to ensure no gravel is thrown up by wheel spin. The gates have



now been refurbished and installed which should stop lorries turning into driveway.

Repairs to church and halls are ongoing and the roof of the halls has had minor repairs over the last few months.



Grant Funding - John Stewart

Scotland's Churches Trust has granted £2,000 towards the cost of the mastic repairs to the Church Windows and Renfrewshire Council, through Paisley East and Paisley North Local community Partnerships, has given a total of £5,500 towards the work of the Wynd.

The cost of the pilot scheme for the introduction of the Child Play Therapy Scheme (5yrs to 15 yrs) was assisted by funding of £5,000 from the Church of Scotland "Go for It" funding scheme. A report has now been submitted on the success of the Pilot Scheme and funding routes are now being sought to make this a permanent feature of the Wynd Counselling service.

Seniors' Holiday 2019 - Sandra and Gordon Hamilton

This year we headed north, via Inveraray, to spend 5 days in Oban. We stayed in the Columba Hotel which is situated right in the middle of the town with views over the bustling harbour and the Island of Kerrera with Mull in the distance.

During our stay we had a trip to the Glenfinnan viaduct and monument and then on to Fort William where it actually was dry!

The highlight of the week, however, was a sail to Mull where our coach took us to Fionnphort where we got the ferry to Iona. The day itself could not have been better weather wise, with glorious sunshine, blue skies and silver sands. A joy to behold!!

On Thursday we had a free day to enjoy the delights of Oban, and indeed beyond, by some of us!

After a leisurely breakfast on Friday, we left for Paisley, via the Green Welly at Tyndrum.



Choir - Catriona Muirhead

As the Thursday practices ended for the summer we held our annual dinner at Canal Station. It was great to have time to relax and enjoy a lovely meal with great conversation and much laughter so it was just as well we had the restaurant to ourselves!

We are delighted that one of our former members, Dorothy MacLeod, received an elder's service certificate (See back page).



The summer break feels shorter every year. Our practices resume on Thursday 5th September at 8pm in the church and we would love to welcome new members in all sections. We are looking forward to the new session and working on some new anthems as well as some old favourites.



Social Events Committee - Lorna Gibson

A big Thank You to all who supported the Fish Supper and Quiz night in May. This was a huge success despite ongoing debate - is Dunblane a city or a town?



Unfortunately the family cycle to Lochwinnoch and BBQ had to be cancelled due to rain!

We plan to reschedule for later in the summer and the date will be circulated as soon as it is arranged.

Details of all future events will appear in the Oracle and on the Events Committee notice board in the hall.

Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong

We meet in the Lang Hall on the second Monday of each month for evenings of conversation and creative fellowship. Throughout our time, we invite some other very talented individuals to come along to share their creative work with us. At our August meeting, we held a very interesting 'Button Workshop'. If you have any hobbies or pass-times that you would like to share, or even if you just want to have some conversation, then do come along and join us. You will be made most welcome.



Handbells Team - Iain Wilcox

DING DONG - DING DONG - ALL LISTEN OUT !!

St. James's Handbell Ringers will be starting their 2019-20 season from the first week in September, Wednesday evenings 7.00pm.

We always want new members for our 'A' and 'B' teams.

The A team are more experienced and can assist new members who can read music and keep good time. The B team is more a beginners group for those wanting to try. Open to all ages; the ability to read music and keep time is an advantage.

Please contact Elaine Duncan for more details.

(See back page for more news from the Handbells)

Friendly Hour - Margaret Pearson

We finished the session in May with a lovely day out to Troon where we enjoyed afternoon tea, retail therapy and high tea. Some members continued throughout the summer with indoor curling which was open to everyone in the church and community and proved very friendly.



We start our new session on Tuesday 1st October at 2.00 p.m. in the large hall. The Friendly Hour is open to all people over 60 in the church and community. All are welcome and you can be assured of a friendly chat, tea or coffee and weekly excellent entertainment.

*“There’s a miracle of Friendship that dwells within the heart,
And don’t know how it happens, or when it gets its start.
But the happiness it brings you always gives a special lift
And you realise that Friendship is life’s most precious gift.”*
(Author unknown).

Our programme is well underway and for **October** we have:
1st John Orr: **8th** Caroline Kyle & Margaret Whyte
15th Dans Scene: **22nd** Hi-Lites drivers: **29th** Bring & Buy Sale

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.

We are still in the process of confirming the syllabus but our session starts on Wednesday 11th September when Valerie Reilly will be talking about Ice Cream.

Other dates for this year are 9th October, 13th November and 11th 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.

Trinity Theatre Group - Jean Bett

We restart on 15th August when we start rehearsals for our annual show which is 'Cinderella' at Paisley Arts Centre from Wednesday 6th to Saturday 9th November 2019. Wednesday to Friday performances start at 7.30 pm and the Saturday matinee is at 2.30 pm. Thanks to all who supported last year's production of 'Beauty and The Beast'.



We are looking for new members from the church. Children from Primary 7 upwards are welcome with their parent's permission. Interested adults can also be sure of a warm welcome.

Oakshaw Explorers - Jessie Cross

There are only a few walks left as I write this. We have been lucky with the weather and have had interesting Saturdays out to Dumfries House and Hill House (in place of the Livingstone Centre which is being refurbished) and been entertained and informed following the Greenock Town Trail. Our visit to Arran is imminent with the Pitlochry outing at the end of September.



Sunday afternoons saw us walk Greenock Esplanade and visit the Historic Quarter of Greenock and we are looking forward to visits to Lunderston Bay and Pollok Park.

Details will be in Oracle or see Jessie Cross or Sheena Miller.

Eight o'clock Club - Joan Wilson

The committee are looking forward to welcoming back our members to the new session. Dates for the next few months are :

Mon. 30th September- Paisley Quiz

Mon. 28th October- Christmas Crafts

Mon. 25th November- Indoor Curling

We meet in the Lang Hall at 8pm. Anyone wishing to join us would be made most welcome.



Enjoying the Dinner at Bowfield Hotel and County Club in June

Men's Club - John Hamilton

We are approaching the end of summer and the start of the church's autumn/winter programme. Summer evenings spent on the bowling green, golf course etc. are nearing a close so it is time to plan for winter evenings

The Men's Club resumes on the Friday 6th September at 8pm in the church halls. We play table tennis, darts and snooker; we generally just have a laugh and enjoy the fellowship. I keep hearing the very weak excuse, "I am too old for table tennis", "it's too energetic", "rubbish"! If you think like that then you soon will be too old, one of our members is over 90 and still plays regularly. Table tennis is one of the fastest growing sports being taken up by retired people, either returning to play or learning for the first time. We have a ¾ size snooker table in constant use though out the evening, members are happy to coach any one new to the game and a good dart board but could do with a few more players.

The club is open to any males over the age of 18. Parking is available in the church grounds or on the street and If you do decide to come along, don't surprised if you are met by the Brownies, they are just leaving.

I will look forward to meeting you in fellowship.

Girls' Brigade (2nd Paisley) - Karen Peacock

Year 11 ended with our display in May where all the girls received their badges and awards. We were delighted that Amy Chivers and Heather Mc Intyre were presented with their leadership training award and will join us as young leaders when we start back after the summer break. Lesley Dewar, Karrie Reilly and I received 10 year service badges as commissioned leaders.

Some of our girls took part in Spring Watch helping get the eco garden in shape for the summer and enjoyed this as shown in the photo



Victoria Torrance, one of our Brigaders, successfully completed her Duke of Edinburgh Expedition on a very wet weekend down in Largs - well done. A number of our girls and their families joined us for the Youth Trip to Millport in June and, despite a few heavy rain showers, a great day was had by all. Some of us cycled, some played in the park and few even



paddled in the water....

We start our 12th year on Thursday 29th August in the Wynd Centre and look forward to welcoming all the girls back.



All girls from P1 up to S6 are welcome. We meet in every Thursday evening during term time with timings as below:
 Explorers – P1-P3 – 6.45-7.45pm
 Juniors – P4-P7 – 6.45-7.45pm
 Brigaders – S1-S6 – 6.45-8.15pm

Boys' Brigade (14th Paisley) - Craig McFie

The Boys' Brigade resumes on Friday 23rd August. For those who use Twitter, you can follow us at @14thPaisleyBB for more news and events happening within the company.



Rainbows and Brownies - Elizabeth Halliday

We begin our new session on Friday 30th August at 6.30pm – 7.45pm in the Lang Hall. Any new girls wanting to join should contact Fiona Walker on to be added to the waiting list.



Guides (11th Paisley) - Linda Kelly

Before we finished in May some of the Guides stayed overnight at South Newton and were lucky with the weather. We managed a few outdoor activities, with zorbing very popular.

The Guides finished their badge work and were presented with their badges on the last night which was a uniform free 'fun night'. We played various games and enjoyed a good supper.

A couple of our guides reached leaving age during the last year, so we'd like to take this opportunity to wish both Rachael and Jennifer the very best of luck with everything they do in the future.

We are expecting another six to eight guides to join us this year which is excellent and we look forward to seeing everyone when we start again on Thursday 29th August.



Saturday Club - Graeme Dewar

The Saturday Club has been running over the summer and the numbers have been great. The club is open to all children Primary 7 and above for fun and games between 1pm and 4pm. Younger children are welcome but require to be accompanied by a parent. This gives parents a chance to join in the fun and is much cheaper than a gym membership (with unlimited tea and coffee). My continued thanks to the great volunteers who turn every week to run the activities.



Youth Committee - Neil Armstrong (Convener)

It is the time of year again when all the Youth organisations are starting back which only means one thing, plenty of fun. We hope you all had a good summer break and are now well rested for the new session ahead.

The Youth Committee are going to be working very hard over the next few months planning fun activities and trips for the year ahead. If you have any suggestions we will be more than willing to listen to them.

Have you been interested in finding out what happens behind the scenes of the Youth Committee? If you are young at heart, energetic and interested in joining the Committee please speak to myself. Please note that we are looking for one or two members not involved with any of the Youth organisations.

Sunday School - Edith Muir

With the resignation of Janice, I will be taking over as the Sunday School co-ordinator. I am looking forward to this new challenge. The Sunday School team will continue to give your children and grandchildren age-appropriate religious education through stories, songs, games and craft work. We will be having some Superhero themed days so if anyone has any superhero comics, stickers, toys etc. they don't want, pass them on to us, or anything we could use for art work you have stuck in a cupboard. I am especially looking for left over bubble wrap. We are in need of new teachers so if you would like to get involved, even if it is only for one or two Sundays a month, please do not hesitate to see me either before or after church.



Trinity Tots - Edith Muir

Our crèche is available for children age 0-3 so parents can enjoy worship in peace. It also doubles up as a parent and toddler session if working parents feel they are missing out on doing this with their children through the week.



All staff are Disclosure checked. Plenty of toys, stories and songs are available. Remember all children are welcome.

From Janice and George

I would like to say a big Thank You to Sunday School staff, friends and congregation for the lovely gifts George and I received at the promotion service. We were both overwhelmed by the generosity, kind words, cards and flowers - we felt really special.

A special thanks to the children for their part in the service and to Dorothy for presenting books and certificates. A very special thanks to Holly Forward for singing that beautiful song so well; it really touched our hearts and is something we will always remember.

As I said on the day, it wasn't a decision we took lightly, stepping away from the Sunday School after over 40 years. We wish Edith and the other staff all the best and may the Sunday School flourish with success.

Thank you all. **Janice and George McCallum**



Spring Watch



ECO Congregation

Congratulations

Dorothy MacLeod Elder Service Certificate

Dorothy MacLeod, received a certificate recognising over 30 years as an elder. Dorothy was thrilled to have this presented by Gordon and enjoyed a nice afternoon tea to celebrate.



Services to Handbell Ringing

At our customary end-of-session dinner we had a very special presentation. Two long serving members have decided to give way allowing time for new interests.

Jeanette MacKay and Falkner Houston are those fantastic dedicated members.

We must thank Falkner in particular for 50 years of bell ringing, a massive achievement.



Thank you both for your dedication. **The Handbell Ringers.**

Doors Open Day

Saturday 7/9/2019 10.00-15.00

Once again we are looking for people to give us some time to help showing visitors around our fine building.



Anyone who would be able to offer an hour or so of their time would be most welcome, and for further info, speak to either Bob Copleton or John McKenzie.

Future Magazine Dates

Edition	Articles due by	Magazine available
Winter	27/10/19	10/11/19
Spring	26/01/20	09/02/20

Church Directory

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