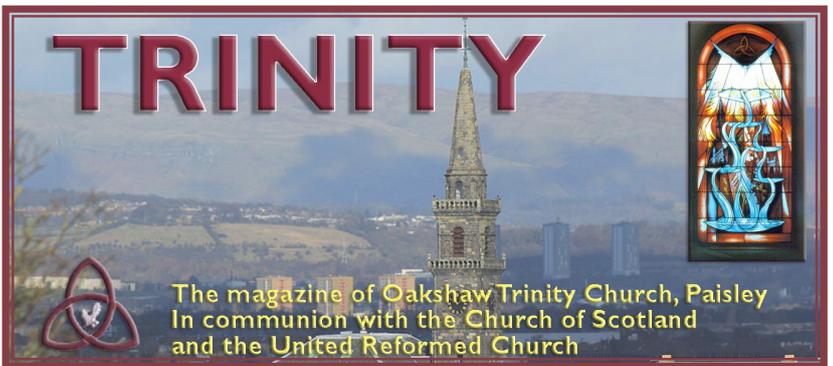




Summer
2019

Church Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/oakshawtrinity
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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



May

- Fri 17 Boys' Brigade Annual Display
- Sun 19 11:00 Family Service
- Thu 23 Girls' Brigade Display
- Sat 25 19:30 Quiz Night
- Tue 28 14:00 Summer Indoor Curling starts

June

- Sun 2 10.15 Office Bearers' Service
11.00 Sacrament of Holy Communion
14.30 Afternoon Communion
- Mon 3 Eight o'clock Club outing to Bowfield
- Sun 23 11.00 Sunday School Promotion Service
Lunch with the children after the service

July

- Sun 7 Monthly Communion after the service
- Sun 21 Summer Bike ride to Lochwinnoch

August

- Sun 4 Monthly Communion after the service
- Sun 18 Sunday School resumes
- Thu 29 Guides resume
- Fri 30 Rainbows and Brownies resume
- Sat 31 Outing to Dunkeld (organised by EMEC)

On other Sundays, morning worship is at 11.00



Let us pray-

Eternal loving Father,
in our bustling, teeming, jostling world
there are people who are lost and astray.
As we try to follow your example, guide us
as we strive in our way to be good
shepherds. Amen.
(from Douglas Scott, Presbytery Prayer
Coordinator)

Wynd Worship - John Stewart

The new rota for period June until November is currently being prepared. 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.



From the Minister

Dear friends,

As we move into the summer months and our organisations make plans to celebrate the past session, I think that it important to remind ourselves that we need to keep in touch with each other and with our Lord. Thanks to mobile phones, instant messaging, voice mail and satellite hook-ups, the whole world seems to know each other's business within minutes of any event. Most people now seem to have wireless umbilical cords.

In the 19th century, when letter writing was a cultural directive and an art-form, separated family members, business associates, or soldiers might have written faithfully every day. But it could be weeks and even months before the intended actually received their messages. Yet whatever the distance or however primitive the communications technology, there has always been one historical constant: the comfort of prayer, the solace of frequent and lengthy contact with God on behalf of those so far away. Before instant messaging and email, people of faith kept in touch with the whole world by keeping in touch with God. It was in knowing that God was hearing the prayers of loved ones far away that made them feel much closer, and in communication with those at home.

When Jesus was the most stressed, pressurised by the crowds and frustrated by his disciples' ignorance; that's when he found the most time for prayer. He knew that it was only in prayer, only in that intimate communication with the Creator, that he could find the strength and peace his soul yearned for. Why is it then that we tend to see prayer not as a first course of action, but as the last straw when all our fix-it plans have fallen apart? How many times have you heard, 'All I can do is pray'?

Prayer isn't a last resort. Prayer is a first resort. Prayer isn't the least you can do. It's the most you can do. Prayer is the most powerful thing you can do. Somebody once said that leadership determines the direction of the church; structure determines the size of the church; relationships determine the morale of the church; the clergy determine the potential of the church; but prayer determines the effectiveness of the church. Then why don't we pray? The highest privilege ever afforded to humans is the power of prayer. The greatest longing in the heart of God is to talk to his children. Nothing is impossible to those who pray. Over the summer months and hopefully beyond, why don't you give it a try?

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



Wynd Centre - Rev. Gordon Armstrong (Chairman)

I am pleased to inform you that the Official Opening and Dedication of the Highland Theological College took place on Friday 22nd March and was gratefully supported by many of our members. We do wish them a long and fruitful association with us.



The Board members continue to work to maintain the high standards of this aspect of our church's outreach. This does require and includes the many who volunteer and work within the centre and, at the time of writing, we have just enjoyed our annual social evening with our volunteers and staff. 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.

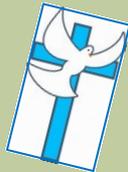


1984 - 2014 Thirty Years of Care

Church Roll

Deaths:

07/02/19 Christina Stewart
 15/02/19 Jim Simpson
 09/03/19 Robert Maxwell
 Janet Hall
 10/04/19 Jean Colville



Sheila, Carole and Fiona Simpson would like to thank all friends from Oakshaw Trinity Church and the Wynd Centre for their cards and thoughtful messages following the loss of Jim. Thanks also to George Lind for his hospital visit and Dorothy and Gordon for their continued support which has brought comfort to them all. The M S Society (Research) were delighted to receive almost £1,000 in Jim's name due to the generosity of those who attended his funeral.



The Paisley Child Contact Centre, which has met in the Wynd Centre since 1996, is ceasing to operate from June this year.

The new Child Play Therapy Scheme (5yrs to 15 yrs), currently being piloted as part of the Wynd counselling service, will benefit by using surplus toys. Also any monies remaining in the Charity's bank balance will be transferred to the Wynd Centre to support the new scheme. Thanks to all those in OTC who have in any way contributed through time, effort and money from which children have benefited over the years. **John Stewart**

Walter and Shirley Baird would like to thank their many Trinity friends for the kindness shown them on reaching their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.



Education, Mission, EcoCongregation Committee - Jim

McDougall (E.M.E.C.)

Our Mission Fund - Focus on Blue Triangle

"If...one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be." (Deuteronomy 15, 7-8)

About a mile from our church is a block of flats in Gallowhill called Bruce Court. This is a residential complex managed by Blue Triangle Housing, one of the charities we support. Blue Triangle works in partnership with Renfrewshire Council to support homeless people, aged 16-25, and enable them to gain the skills and confidence necessary to prepare them for independent living. Bruce Court comprises 12 self-contained fully furnished flats, with staff who offer advice on skills such as budgeting, cooking, health care and leisure activities. The work is challenging as the young people come from marginalized and troubled, often chaotic, backgrounds, but Blue Triangle rarely turns anyone away. They are part of the solution to a major issue facing communities across Scotland. Last year nearly 29,000 households (including 14,000 children) were assessed as homeless; one family made homeless every 18 minutes. In Renfrewshire alone, 700 people facing homelessness were supported by the Council last year, who worked with groups such as Bruce Court and many to match people to suitable accommodation. The facts cover the human stories- the breakdown of relationships, drug abuse, violence and harassment, mental health, and the vicious cycle of poverty and helplessness that people find themselves in.

Our church commends the work of Bruce Court, and we ask all members to remember the staff and residents in their prayers. We shall continue to support the work of Bruce Court in our mission fund, but if you are interested in finding out more, please have a look at their website. www.btha.org.uk, or speak to Jim McDougall,

Food Bank Update

The Renfrewshire Foodbank provided 10,221 three-day emergency food parcels to local people between April 2018 to March 2019. Of this number, 2,824 went to children. This is an 18% increase on the same period last year. In that timeframe we donated 969 kgs = 2307 meals. Sincere thanks to everyone; our church is one of the most loyal supporters.

The charity believes the local increase is due to people struggling with continued issues with benefit payments; issues with Universal Credit such as the five-week wait and insecure work. Elizabeth Alexander, food bank manager of Renfrewshire Foodbank said:

"Until we reach a future where food banks are no longer needed, we'll continue to provide vital support when it matters most. We're dedicated to ensuring that people in our community without enough money for food are able to access emergency support. Our vital work in the community has only been possible in the last year because of the incredible generosity shown by local people in donating food (94 tonnes), time and funds."

Thanks to everyone at Oakshaw Trinity who continue to bring in donations. If you can help deliver items to the Foodbank, please contact Jim McDougall.

EMEC Outing to Dunkeld

This year's EMEC outing is planned for Saturday 31st August. We shall be visiting Dunkeld, and the surrounding area. Details will be announced in church.



"The secret's out!"

(George Lind lets the cat out of the bag or should it be 'mint' out of the bag)

A guest organist at our Holy Week Services sent me this photo from the organ console, captioned "I notice David Murray comes prepared". I explained that if during the sermon David manages to finish his stash of polo mints, he fires the pandrops at the preacher with his catapult.

Now the secret's out why sermons are succinct in Oakshaw Trinity Church!



ECO Congregation - Fiona Catterson

By the time you are reading this Oakshaw Trinity's Springwatch Event will have taken place. At this event there were opportunities to participate in all three strands of Eco Congregation Scotland: Global Living, Spiritual Living and Practical Living.

By participating in this event, and hopefully committing to making one change in your Eco habits or practice, you are helping to look after God's creation now and forever, preserving it for future generations in a more sustainable way.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise and who took part in this event.

Our Eco Action Plan is up and running now with a full copy displayed on the Eco Noticeboard in the Main Hall and a copy will soon be on the church's website. Please take time to read this and see if you can help with any of the actions. The Eco Committee are using this Plan to steer our way to becoming an Eco Congregation.

New, upgraded recycling bins are now in place in the Halls. Please dispose of any rubbish responsibly by placing waste in the correct bin. This prevents the whole bin being labelled "contaminated waste" and having to go to landfill instead of being recycled. By using the correct bin we are helping move towards having Zero Waste.

We hope to hold an Autumn Watch later this year and there will be more details about this closer to the time.



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

From Dorothy Wallace - Student Minister

I am writing this article on Maundy Thursday, the day we remember not only the Last Supper but Christ's anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane. I am also in the midst of completing essays and my project, all due in three weeks' time. Hopefully, this will mean I will graduate in July and then go on to probation in October.



It also means I am coming to the end of my time with you at Oakshaw Trinity. It seems like no time at all since I arrived in October. I have very much enjoyed my time here and have learned so much from Gordon as well as from time spent with some of the members also.

I just want to pay a small tribute to your minister. He is very generous with his time and knowledge and has been a fantastic supervisor. I know some students who sit in the pews three weeks out of four, whereas I am involved in every service. I have had the opportunity to take funerals, both supervised and been entrusted to solo. Not all my colleagues are so blessed.

I won't mention anyone else because I would take up the whole magazine but there are some wonderful, dedicated people in this church and I wish you all every success for a continuing fruitful mission.

I take my leave of you on June 9th, Pentecost, the birthday of the Church and take up my probation placement on the first of October, in Kilbarchan. Probation is full time and with it will mean a house move for Alex and me. My youngest child Ally, will be off to university just before us so it will be a new chapter in many ways.

Is it daunting? Yes it is but when you are part of 'Team Jesus', you have Him to look to for courage. The Lord is not just an example to us all when it comes to good living; kindness, love, charity, truthfulness and so on. He is the greatest example of courage and duty we have. The anguish described at Gethsemane shows us a Jesus who, while frightened about upcoming events, also shows a man completely committed to do his duty. We can all take strength from that.

The Lord calls us and equips us for our various ministry duties but he won't write essays for us. Better get back to the books.

With fondest regards and every blessing,

Dorothy

Fabric Committee - Sandra Wilson

Works to rehang the gates is ongoing. They are being refurbished and shortened to accommodate the pathway.

The mastic has been replaced on all the windows of the church building.

Work will be carried out to level, drain and re-stone the car park. Parking has become a problem due to neighbours driveways being blocked, and haphazard parking around the building. The area to the left of the church door will have disabled signs installed for members with Blue badges.

Work has started to clean the gravestones within the church grounds and catalogue the names and families.

The gardeners have started and are keeping the grounds both at the church and the Wynd Centre tidy.

In order to help the Eco Credentials of the church, we are getting quotes to replace all of the lamps with LED lamps. This will be done in a phased replacement.

Thank you all for all your support over the last year.



It wasn't just the Sunday School and Boys' Brigade that took part in Red Nose Day. Look what was happening in the Wynd Centre.

Choir - Catriona Muirhead

Again this year seems to have gone so quickly and I am sure like most of us in the choir you all feel the same.

We were very privileged to have Margaret Armstrong, Pamela Atkins and Colin Crawford, join us at Christmas and we hope that this might encourage others. Be like Margaret, Pamela and Colin; take the plunge and come along on a Thursday evening in the church at 8.00 p.m. and you will be made most welcome.



Thoughts now are on our Annual Dinner in Canal Station, a favourite place of ours, to finish off our Session. This is a time for us to bring our fellowship together in a completely different way through laughter, chatting, eating and to give our sincere thanks to David our Choir Master, not only for his continued support or his humour, but most of all his musical skills, which I am sure you will agree is something we are thankful to have.

On behalf of the choir we hope you all have an enjoyable summer.

Social Events Committee - Lorna Gibson

The family Ceilidh in February was well attended and was a great success with the Elderberries ceilidh band providing the music. A big thank you to everyone who came along on the night with their dancing shoes!



The Race Night in March was also well attended and was a fun night. Thanks to all who came along to offer support, all those who took part in the races and those who helped out on the night. We returned to Paisley Golf club for our Palm Sunday lunch which was well attended and enjoyed by all.



The Events Committee continue to be busy planning future social events within the Church. Following the success of the Fish Supper and Quiz night last year, we are having another one on Saturday 25th May and another summer bike ride on Sunday 21st July. Details of all future events will be in the Oracle and on the Events Committee notice board. Your continued support is appreciated.

Summer Indoor Curling

Are you looking for something to do over the summer months?

Why not come along and enjoy some fun and try indoor curling. We also enjoy tea, coffee, goodies and lots of friendly fellowship.

We will be meeting in the large hall from 2.00 p.m. until 3.30 p.m. every second Tuesday commencing on the 28th May. A warm welcome is extended. More information from Margaret Pearson.



Friendly Hour - Isabel Gray

We have had a varied programme during the last few months with a number of new topics. In January two Occupational Therapists highlighted Safety in the Home with a talk and demonstration of home aids. In February we enjoyed watching "Paisley on Film" introduced by Falconer Houston. The views around Paisley certainly brought back many memories!

We welcomed many musical groups including the children from local schools and Ferguslie Park Community Nursery. The Hi-lites, the Renfrewshire Carers Choir, the Rev Bill Wishart and Stuart Munro also paid us a return visit - quite a variety and something for everyone.

We tried a new venture this year by organising a Coffee Afternoon and Open Day in February. This proved to be a successful fundraising event and we would like to thank everyone who supported us.

To complete a good Session, we are praying for a lovely day on the 7th May when we will visit Troon for our annual outing.

The last few months however have also been tinged with sadness following the death of four of our faithful members – Bob Robertson, May McGurn, Bobby Maxwell and Jean Colville. All will be sincerely missed.

"Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart" Eleanor Roosevelt

The success of the Friendly Hour is largely due to many dedicated helpers, including an excellent hard working committee who faithfully give of their time and talents every week, and to our team of drivers.

Trinity Lunch Club - Sheena Miller

We ended our session with a very enjoyable outing with lunch at the Balthar Pines in Ayr followed by some free time in Prestwick. We had some lovely sunshine and everyone enjoyed the day.

Over the summer we will be planning the programme for the next session and our first meeting will be in early September



Handbells Team - Ian Wilcox

Our season is coming to an end. This year has seen similar activity as last year, with two outings to join musical events; one in Glenburn Parish Church to mark their 100th anniversary and the other in Kilmacolm for a celebration of music, song and dance. The handbells' performances were taken with great pleasure and a lot of interest.

The team now have a strong beginners group, in particular with two very strong Primary school age members. A full team of 10 at school age would be fantastic.

We are saying farewell to Falconer Houston from the team, after 50 years as a member. We all thank Falky for his great support and continuous enthusiasm as part of the team.

Oakshaw Explorers - Jessie Cross

Each month over the summer, we have one Saturday all day and one Sunday afternoon outing and anyone is welcome to join us. These outings are to places of interest that allow those coming along to be as active or otherwise as they wish. i.e. you can walk around grounds, visit buildings or just relax in a tearoom - or all three if you are so minded! Everyone is welcome. We leave from the church car park (9am/9:30am on Saturdays and 1pm on Sundays) and take as few cars as possible with spaces being available for those who don't drive.

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

Sat	08/06/2019	Greenock Town Trail
Sat	06/07/2019	Blantyre, Livingstone Centre
Sat	03/08/2019	Arran and tea at Willowbank, Largs
Sun	19/05/2019	Greenock - A Walk Along the Esplanade
Sun	23/06/2019	Greenock - a trail visiting the Historic Quarter
Sun	21/07/2019	Ross Hall Park and riverside walk
Sun	25/08/2019	Greenock - Churches and Statues

Trinity Theatre Group - Jean Bett

At this time of year, before the Dramatic Club starts again in August, most of our young members are in the throes of exams. Others are involved in shows with other clubs and schools while some are taking a break from all dramatic activities!



We will shortly be planning our November show which is probably going to be 'Cinderella', once performing rights are confirmed. We hope the club will start on Wednesday 14th or 21st August. We would really love to have new members from the church. Anyone who is interested in whatever capacity will be made very welcome. Children from Primary 7 upwards, with parent's permission, are also welcome.

Eight o'clock Club - Sheena Miller

In March we had our fundraising Taylor Fashions shopping night. This was very successful and raised £820 for the RAH PANDA Centre. We thank everyone who supported this event.



The session will end with our outing on 3rd June which this year is to Bowfield Hotel and Country Club.

The next session will start on Monday 30th September.

Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong

We continue to meet in the Lang Hall on the second Monday of each month including the summer months and have been enjoying our evenings of creative fellowship. A date for your diary is our August meeting, when we will be having a 'Button Workshop'. If that whets your appetite, then do come along and join us. You will be made most welcome.



Men's Club - John Hamilton

The Men's Club has finished for the summer and will reopen on the first Friday in September. We hope to see some new members then.

Girls' Brigade (2nd Paisley) - Karen Peacock

Our 11th year has been busy. All sections continued with their badge work and as part of this the Junior Section held a Sponsored Walk in aid of the Dogs' Trust where we raised the fantastic sum of £152.



We joined the other Youth Organisations on the ski trip to Bellahouston Ski Centre – all our girls had a great time Skiing and Tubing with many looking to take up skiing lessons now!

One of our two teams of Explorers, Juniors and Brigaders won the Renfrew Division Trophy in our Diamond Superleague Competition – our first win!. This was closely followed by another first; one of our teams of Brigaders won the Divisional Bible Competition which was hosted at Oakshaw Trinity.



Superleague



Bible Competition

Our fundraising Bingo night raised almost £300 to be split between Foodbank and Dogs' Trust.

The big event of the year is our annual camping trip which this year was to Lapwing Lodge. The Juniors and Brigaders enjoyed activities such as canoeing, archery, high ropes and climbing wall as well as Camp Fire and an Easter Egg Hunt.



Annual Camp

Our Annual Display and Badge Presentation will be on Thursday 23rd May and all are welcome to come along and join us.

Boys' Brigade (14th Paisley) - Craig McPhee

The boys are coming to the end of the Company's 119th Session, and are looking forward to their Annual Display being held on Friday 17th May at 7pm.

We have had a consistent number of boys attending each week; however due to various other commitments we are starting to struggle for leaders to keep the Company going. Anyone who would be interested in helping out can contact Craig McFie or any of the other leaders.

For those who use Twitter, you can follow us at @14thPaisleyBB for more news and events happening within the company.



Red Nose Day

Rainbows and Brownies Elizabeth Halliday

The photos below capture some of the memories our girls have of our District Camp to the Sea Life Centre at Lomond Shores.



Sea Life Centre

Our spring session has been full of Easter crafts, canvas painting and skill builder challenges which focused on First Aid. The Rainbows learned how to clean and dress wounds and the Brownies learned CPR and the recovery position with our very own Nurse Nancy. The highlight of the night was creating their own fake wounds with an excess of Vaseline, tissues and red food colouring.

On Thinking Day (22nd February) our new girls made their promise and we celebrated with a small party - after all it was Brown Owl's birthday.



We will be ending this session with Pottery Painting at Rouken Glen on 17th May.

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 to be added to the waiting list.

Saturday Club - Graeme Dewar

The Saturday Club is flourishing and everyone is enjoying fun and games on Saturday 1pm to 4pm. It is intended to run through the summer holidays and everyone is welcome, please check the Oracle for further information. My thanks to all the kids young and not so young who make every week fun and to the helpers without whom the club could not run.



Tots and Toddlers - Janice McCallum

Once again, please tell your friends about this service and how they can have peace of mind while they worship in church. Their child(ren) will be looked after in a caring environment by staff who are all disclosure checked and have empathy with children. There is a variety of toys and there is a baby-changing area.



Guides (11th Paisley) - Linda Kelly

The Guides enjoyed the Youth Service and the trip to Bellahouston Park to take part in the Skiing and Tubing.



The Guides have worked very hard to complete their Skillsbuilders and Interest Badges, as well as taking part in some fun craft nights,

including making their own jewellery holders.

In early May older Brownies visited to get to know some Guides and what to expect at an average Guide night – we look forward to welcoming them in August.



The Guides are heading to South Newton for an overnight camp on 23rd May and are hoping for dry weather for outdoor activities.

We close our Session on 30th May and look forward to seeing everyone again on Thursday 29th August.

Barbara McLean's 100th Birthday

On 30th January, Joan Wilson (elder), together with Sandra and Gordon Hamilton, travelled to the Burlington Court Care Home on the occasion of Barbara's 100th birthday.

Her son and daughter were there along with 20 or so friends, closely associated with Barbara. After cutting her birthday cake, Barbara enjoyed a small glass of sherry! Barbara, who has an MBE, for services to the WRVS (28 years) spent 43 years in Brazil, from the age of 4! Her father was from Paisley and worked for J & P Coats.

Barbara, who now is hard of hearing and nearly blind, indicates the secret of a long life was keeping busy, which she certainly was during her very interesting life.

Barbara's father-in-law was Archie McLean, also with J & P Coats, who became the football player that taught the Brazilians how to play! He was regularly referred to as the forgotten father of Brazilian football.

Articles about Barbara appeared in local papers.



Sunday School - Janice McCallum

The photo shows the children's excitement of handing out



pansies on Mothers' Day – thanks for the lovely comments recipients made. Easter was busy with the Easter Egg competition, Easter Egg hunts and crafts, Easter Bunny leaving goodie bags – a good follow on to the previous weeks learning the Easter story. The bright, colourful Scripture Union material is liked by the children and is easy to use.



Fathers are not forgotten; there will be gifts for the gentlemen on Fathers' Day. Springwatch will follow our Family ECO Service again this year and we hope for another successful event.

Our promotion service will follow its usual format; presentation of Bibles, books and certificates to the children to mark their year in Sunday School.

Thanks to the staff in both Sunday School and Tots and Toddlers for your continued dedication and commitment.

Future Magazine Dates

Edition	Articles due by	Magazine available
Autumn	28/07/19	11/08/19
Winter	27/10/19	10/11/19

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