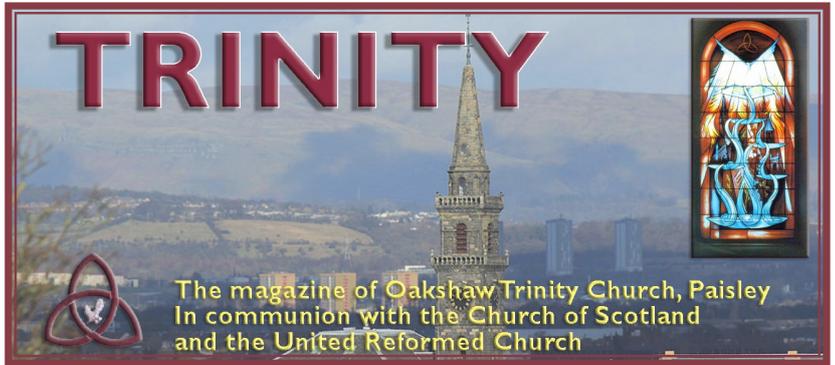




Spring 2022

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



SUNDAY SERVICE
11 a.m. in church

Special dates

March

Sun 6 11.00 Sacrament of Holy Communion

April

Sun 10 11.00 Palm Sunday

Mon 11 to Fri 15

19.00 Holy Week Services

Sun 17 11.00 Easter Sunday service

June

Sun 6 11.00 Sacrament of Holy Communion
14:30 Afternoon Communion



ONLINE: Short worship videos are available each Sunday on the church website

oakshawtrinity.org.uk/music

and the church Facebook page

facebook.com/oakshawtrinity

The online version of Oracle / Order of Service is available on Facebook and the website under Menu option 'News/Oracle'

STILLNESS SERVICE:

Tuesday mornings from 11 a.m. until Noon. Rev. Gordon Armstrong and Rev. George Lind will be available during this time.

CHURCH TAXIS

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

From the Minister

Dear friends,

Thankfully, we are now beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel with the latest easing of restrictions. The last battle will be won when we can finally get around to removing our masks to sing our hymns of worship and praise.

I recently came across a story about a minister who addressed his congregation by saying, "Now, let's be serious... do you have any habits?" At this point the congregation looked everywhere but in the direction of the minister. That was until one woman reluctantly said; "I'm not telling you any of my bad habits, you already know them." "Hold on," said the minister, "who said anything about 'bad' habits."

We are all creatures of habit and some of them are good like brushing your teeth regularly. As children, we would often complain when our parents asked us to brush our teeth. Often we would add that when we grow up, we will never brush our teeth again. Yet when we do grow up, we realise that brushing our teeth regularly is a good habit that maintains healthy teeth. As adults, we can all be quite fickle. Often we hear people say that when they were children, their parents made them go to church and then they would add that they had determined not to go back and act as if going to church was a terrible thing to do. It's not; among the many reasons given in the Bible for going to church is Psalm 150, which begins: "Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens."

Going to church every week is a good habit and now that the effects of COVID19 and its various mutations are becoming less harmful, it is time to remind ourselves that good habits have good reasons to be continued and coming back to church will allow that good habit to continue for you.

May Christ's love and God's blessing be with you and your loved ones. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." (Psalm 150:6).

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Gordon (Rev. Gordon B. Armstrong)



The Wynd Centre

From the Chairman - Rev Gordon Armstrong

The Centre is slowly beginning to pick up once again. However, the prolonged months of restrictions and lack of footfall have taken their toll on the finances of the Centre. The Directors and the Centre staff are working hard to realise the potential of our place of outreach into the community and beyond.

As the outreach arm of Oakshaw Trinity Church, the Directors and Manager would ask for your continued support at any of the events that are being held and extend a welcome to you if you would like to call in to

see around our constantly improving facilities.



From the Manager - Thomas Blane

The end of 2021 was quiet in the Wynd Centre because most of the groups who use the facility finished early due to the rise in Omicron cases. This quiet continued at the beginning of the year with most groups delaying their return until restrictions were eased. This has unfortunately resulted in the loss of much needed revenue due to all the cancellations. Thankfully, most of our groups returned by the end of January and some new groups have joined us.

The refurbishment to the Wynd auditorium has been completed. This included holes in the walls being repaired, the walls being repainted and floorboards being fixed. We have already had multiple bookings for the auditorium this year including conferences and concerts so we are hopeful that the situation with COVID-19 continues to improve and all these events can go ahead.

Our counselling service has been the one constant throughout the pandemic as we have been holding one-on-one sessions consistently since April of last year. COVID-19 has affected the attendance of many of our clients and counsellors which again has affected the finances, but we are hopeful that as cases fall, the impact on the service reduces.

It is fair to say that the last two years have been an extremely challenging time for the Wynd but with the recent message from the Scottish Government saying that 'we need to learn to live with COVID-19', we are hoping to increase activity in the Wynd and improve our financial situation.



Church Roll

Baptism:

28/11/21 Harper Ellen Miller



Deaths:

2/12/21 Moira Farquhar

13/12/21 Margot Rennie

14/12/21 Helen Donaldson

25/12/21 James Russell



My friends and colleagues at the Church's Wynd Centre (where I'm partly based on Tuesdays) very kindly produced this surprise cake and also gifts on my first day back after the New Year break.

Their (cheeky) card welcomed me to the "wonder years", letting me know I'll now be asking "I wonder where I've left my car keys.

....my specs ... and my mobile phone?" (they forgot to add hearing aids, spec case and even car) No "wonder" I refer to the place as the "Wynd-UP(!) Centre" - it is a place of great fun and fellowship as well as a centre where much good work is done. Thanks all! - much appreciated.
Rev. George Lind



Seniors' Holiday

It is extremely unlikely that the holiday will take place in May, our usual time. However, should circumstances change, we may consider arranging the holiday in the Autumn.

Before the pandemic we had been looking at a break in Kelso and the Borders. Should matters permit, we would be pleased if you could advise if you are interested in participating in such a trip. Please speak to Sandra or Gordon Hamilton at Church.

The Renfrewshire Foodbank is asking people to hand in donations to their Renfrew Warehouse on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 09:30-11:45.



The address is:

Westway,
Porterfield Road, Renfrew, PA4 8DJ

The contact numbers is: 0300 102 2500

email: info@renfrewshire.foodbank.org.uk

Education, Mission, EcoCongregation Committee

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

Journeys End?

Perhaps you have watched the Father Brown stories on TV, starring Mark Williams, or maybe you recall the earlier 1974 series featuring Kenneth More, as the bespectacled, wise priest who solves crimes. The author of these stories was GK Chesterton, arguably one of the greatest writers of his time, but perhaps little read now. And that is not surprising, as his views were often rooted in the early 20th Century-a time and place, very alien to our own. There is much in Chesterton's views that we may find dated or uncomfortable, but he also had a unique way with words, and a strong faith. His Father Brown stories were just one strand of a prodigious output, and much of his writing explored the nature of Christianity. He had a knack for the arresting image that makes you stop and think, and in his book "The Everlasting Man", he attempted to explain why he thought that humankind was not just the next step in an evolutionary path, or that Jesus was not just a charismatic preacher, one among many, but that He was on a journey that led to a new beginning for humanity:

"The story of Christ is the story of a journey, almost in the manner of a military march; certainly, in the manner of the quest of a hero moving to his achievement or his doom. It is a story that begins in the paradise of Galilee, and gradually climbs the rising country into the mountains that are nearer to the storm-clouds and the stars, as to a Mountain of Purgatory. His face is set towards the mountain city. That is the meaning of that great culmination when he crested the ridge and stood at the turning of the road and suddenly cried aloud, lamenting over Jerusalem. It was not only a romance of travel but a romance of return.

When Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, he did not vanish. It was the crisis and the goal; it was the hour and the power of darkness. It was the supremely supernatural act, of all His miraculous life, that He did not vanish."

Christ indeed does not vanish, but returns, the Everlasting Man, and we and the world are changed too, as he goes on to tell us:

"On the third day the friends of Christ coming at daybreak to the place found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways, they realised the new wonder; but even they hardly realised that the world had died in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of the gardener, God walked again in the garden, in the cool not of the evening but the dawn."

And what of this new creation? We read in Corinthians, that *"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."* We live now in the Shadowlands, as CS Lewis calls this world of everyday worries and concerns, but it is but a pale reflection of the real thing. Chesterton also hints that there is another world if we could but see it:

"Shall I tell you the secret of the whole world? It is that we have only known the back of the world. We see everything from behind, and it looks brutal. That is not a tree, but the back of a tree. That is not a cloud, but the back of a cloud. Cannot you see that everything is stooping and hiding a face? If we could only get round in front"

The poet TS Eliot, reflects on this idea of returning home after a journey, and seeing the world anew, when he says,

"We shall not cease from exploration and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we began and to know the place for the first time."

The Christian journey has many twists and turns, it is a journey of exploration and discovery, with the object of returning home, of "getting round in front of the world", to journey's end. This point is beautifully made in the final verse of Charles Wesley's glorious hymn, "Love Divine".

*Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory
Till with Thee we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.*

Mission Audit: The Presbytery is carrying out an audit of the mission work done by each church. This is part of a broader review of churches across Scotland. Our report was submitted in January and it was pleasing to see how much we do, in different ways, as part of our mission to the local community as well as further afield. More will be said about mission in future editions of Trinity but meanwhile thanks must go to Margaret Pearson for representing us on the local Mission Group.

Fabric Report - Sandra Wilson

There has been a lot of work carried out in the church and halls but there is a lot more to do over the next year.

Thank you to those who helped with the Christmas decorations; it was good to work together to decorate the church and halls as well as have some fun.

The halls are all looking fresh with their new coat of paint and the ladies, gents and accessible toilets are in the process of being painted.

The gutters have been replaced around the halls, so this will prevent damage to the ceilings in the halls and stop any future dampness.

Repairs to the west wall of the church were carried out, as water was seeping through into the choir room. Discussions are still ongoing with Renfrewshire Council after the water damage to the organ and the vestry. Hopefully this will be resolved soon.

With the removal of the pew cushions during the pandemic, it gave us an opportunity to dispose of any that were in poor condition.

The major work being carried out in 2021 was the rewiring of the halls. The wiring system was outdated and had become a fire hazard.

In the last month, the church gates were damaged when a fire engine reversed into the open entrance, hitting the gates and damaging the wall on the left hand side. This has been handed on to the insurers.

The Fabric Committee continue to review the building surveys carried out by the Church of Scotland and are scheduling essential works throughout the rest of the year.

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the charity ALLCHURCHESTRUST for the sum of £2,000 towards the planned refurbishment of the church gutters and painting of windows.

Soup and Bread Lunch, Communion Sunday

We hope very much to return to our tradition of holding a simple lunch of soup and bread, with the first lunch planned for Sunday 6th March.



Eco Congregation - Fiona Catterson

Act one of the Bible's story takes place in the garden of Eden. It's where humans take their first steps and encounter God in creation. It's easily overlooked in the drama that swiftly unfolds, but Genesis 2:9 notes that "the Lord God had planted a garden." The poetic creation account in Genesis chapter 1 describes God calling plants and animals into being, but chapter 2 suggests something more careful and intentional. The garden, home to the creatures that will carry the divine image, has been created with special attention. It has been designed and planted.

Right from the start, God is a gardener.

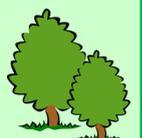
As the Middle East is a dry region, trees are a sign of water, fertility and blessing. Reflecting these conditions, the Bible often uses trees to illustrate peace and provision. Righteous people are like trees planted by streams. A time of prosperity is imagined where people sit in the shade of their own fruit trees. And often, God is the one planting them. "I will plant trees in the barren desert" God tells Isaiah in a promise of restoration. To be precise, they will be "cedar, acacia, myrtle, olive, cypress, fir and pine," God says, showing once again the divine abundance and diversity of nature. (Isaiah 41:19)

Trees provide shade and shelter. They provide a perch for birds, roots for burrowing animals. They host mosses and climbers, and are home to countless insects. Trees are a source of food and materials, and they cast their many benefits widely. We never know quite who is going to be blessed by a tree, especially one that lives for hundreds of years and well beyond the lifetime of the planter. It's no surprise then that Jesus compared his kingdom to a spreading tree, in which the birds find a home. Or that Jesus invited us to see ourselves as branches in a vine. Or that Revelation describes the tree of life that stands in the city of heaven, another place planted and prepared for the people God loves.

God is a tree planter.

When we plant trees, we are doing God's work. As we are approaching Spring time please give careful consideration to planting as this will help our who ecosystem.

(With thanks to Faith Action for Nature)



Finance Report - Isabel Pearson - Treasurer

The management accounts for the year end have been completed and are with the Independent Examiner.

Income is down by £6,062. Income from offerings and the gift day was up; 'Donations', 'Investments', 'Hall Lets' and other income down.

Expenditure is down by £15,741. 'Ministry and Wider Work', 'Property and Other Local costs' are down but 'Local Staffing Costs' were up. This gives us a net profit of £7,305.

The saving grace for the church was that our 'Freewill Offerings' increased by £3,497. I would like to thank those members who kindly changed from Freewill Offering Envelopes to Standing Order. This has helped our income tremendously as did the Gift Day. We also received £14,304 from the Government Furlough Scheme. The Church was able to claim furlough for our Administrator and Hall Cleaner.

Wynd 40th Anniversary in 2024

John Stewart (Chairperson)



Spring is when the ground is prepared and seeded for the months ahead. Seeds have also been planted so the congregation can celebrate this magnificent Anniversary. The Wynd Board and the Kirk session have given their approval to the following although actual dates will be given in due course:

unveiling a plaque to commemorate the occasion, Anniversary Dinner, Church Service, Open Day for organisations, an evening of entertainment with surprise guests, completion of the refurbishment of the Wynd.

In addition to supporting these events, which will help raise funds for the excellent work undertaken by our outreach centre, members of the congregation can also help volunteering with the events when they take place. We also want you to search out any photographs of Café teams, events, or stories from the many volunteers or anyone who has used the services provided by the Wynd over the 40 years so they can be displayed. Please send these to info@thewynd.org.uk or hand them into the office for my attention.

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

Choir - Catriona Muirhead

It seems no time since our last magazine and here we are again; time flies.

The choir resumed on 21st October and it was great to be back singing and seeing one another. David welcomed us all with great encouragement and enthusiasm and with the plan ahead to Christmas for our Lessons and Carol Service in December.

In January 2021 David celebrated 50 years as a church organist but due to restrictions we were unable to commemorate his achievement. However, just before Christmas it was clearly the right time to present his gift: engraved glasses and, of course, something to put in them.



The week after the Lessons & Carols Service practices were cancelled and we, again, could no longer take part in Sunday Services as a choir.

Christmas Eve was made even more special because Calum Murray managed to return home to have Christmas with his family and also to participate in our service. I am sure you will agree how lucky we are to have such a talented young man who willingly steps in to help us.

Our choir practices have now resumed. Like others, we hope the Government will allow us all to sing without masks before very long and we can return to some kind of normality.

The choir, like all Christians, look forward to Easter when we can rejoice in the good news. We all keep our light burning with hope for the year ahead.

Friendly Hour - Margaret Pearson—Secretary

The Christmas Surprise

We cannot believe that it is almost two years since we met as a Friendly Hour on a weekly basis. We have kept in touch with members by telephone and have sent them a few wee surprises along the way. These have been very much appreciated with several letters of thanks being received. However, we thought that everyone needed a bigger surprise for Christmas so we booked a Christmas Lunch for everyone at the Glennifer Hotel. What a wonderful time we had! The food was lovely and the chatter tremendous as many of them hadn't seen each other since March 2020. This truly is what 'Friendship' is all about. The committee is keeping an eye on the guidelines and as we see restrictions easing in a way that will keep everyone safe, we will contact the members to say we are able to return. We enjoyed seeing you in December and hopefully it will not be too long until we are able to see you all again. Take care everyone and stay safe.



Two o'clock Club - Joan Wilson

We were sad to hear of the passing of two of our former members; Edna Blackman and Moira Farquhar.

Our members had a successful festive lunch at the Pendulum Restaurant in December and enjoyed a talk and presentation by Thomas Blane, Wynd Centre Manager, at the end of January. On February 28th we will be learning about Consumer Waste Prevention with Miriam Adcock from Zero Waste, Scotland. We hope to hold our Fundraiser on March 28th but this will depend on Government restrictions. More details will follow in Oracle and on Facebook. Donations of new or gently worn underwear can still be collected for our chosen charity, 'Smalls for All'.

Our session will finish on April, 25th with the AGM and a quiz. We meet in the Lang Hall at 2pm and all are welcome. Some restrictions may still apply.



Making Christmas Cards at our November meeting

Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong

Hopefully when you are reading this, we will be enjoying a bit more freedom with the easing of the COVID-19 restrictions. Our group are still being creative on various fronts including knitting blankets for the housebound which will be a welcome addition to some with the rising heating costs. If you are free we would welcome any new members to come along and enjoy our creative fellowship on the second Monday each month at 7 p.m. in the Lang Hall.



Men's Club - John Hamilton

The Men's Club continues to meet as usual on Fridays at 8pm. We have a regular attendance and always enjoy the Table Tennis and Snooker. We welcome males aged 18 and over to enjoy our light-hearted evenings. Our current oldest member is over 90 and still playing, so no excuses that you are 'past it'.

Church Flowers - The Flower Ladies

The Church flowers brighten our spiritual surroundings on a Sunday and I am sure there may be some of you out there who would love to join our happy band of flower ladies and maybe try your hand at arranging. We will give you all the help we can to facilitate this and maybe fulfil a long held ambition. Please feel free to ask Christine McGregor or Janice McCallum or any of the flower ladies.



We would also like to give you the opportunity to donate to the flower fund. If you have a special date or anniversary we can arrange that. There is also the flower fund box in the vestibule of the church any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Boys' Brigade - Janice Mc Callum



The 14th Paisley Boys' Brigade would like to wish you a Happy New Year. By the time you read this we will hopefully be in a better position with restrictions lifted. On the 21st of January we came back face to face. We started back a bit later this year "by choice" to keep our boys and staff safe.

It was lovely to see all the boys again. On our first evening back we recapped on the Christmas and New Year festivities and as you can see by the picture we had a really good Christmas Party. New Year and new beginnings. The Anchors and Juniors made a calendar and spoke about all the things we could do to be better and make our world a better place. The Company section boys had an experiments night we called it "Tricks and Tacos". The tricks were experiments with an egg and vinegar, an egg and coke and a kitchen roll and water without getting the kitchen roll wet. It was great fun. Our Company section boys love anything to do with food. So making up their own tacos went down a treat. They always seem to be hungry??? as you will see in the pictures. We have lots for the boys to do over the next few



months and any of the Battalion competitions we can enter I'm sure the boys will try their best. The boys entered the Battalion Christmas card competition. We did not anything this time but hopefully this coming year we will. Well done to Fraser Mcelroy of the 15th Paisley who won "Best Christmas card". We hope this will be a successful year for the 14th. Paisley and we go from strength to strength.

We were delighted to receive a picture of Cameron Corrigan, one of our 14th. Paisley boys; I say boy he is now a young man. Able Seaman Cameron was given the honour of laying a wreath at St. Paul's cathedral in London on 5th. November. This was a remembrance service for Submariners. Well done Cameron, we are so proud of you. Keep up the good work.



Girls' Brigade (2nd Paisley) - Karen Peacock



We managed to get back face-to-face meetings for a couple of months and whilst things are quite different from before, it was really good to be back.

Our numbers are gradually increasing and we finished at the beginning of December with thirty girls - eight Explorers, eight Juniors and fourteen Brigaders

All sections are working through the theme of Celebrations and Christian Festivals. We started off with our Halloween themed night and whilst we could not have a party, the girls dressed up and did themed activities. The explorers did some colouring, Juniors made Halloween decorations and Brigaders decorated some cakes.

We moved on to Thanksgiving, St Andrew's Day and finished up, at the beginning of December, with all sections going round the Paisley Christmas lights.



Unfortunately we were unable to start back at the beginning of January due to guidance from GBHQ in relation to the COVID-19 situation. I am pleased to say we can now return to face-to-face from the end of January. We are looking forward to getting back and hopefully we can complete this session without any further interruptions. Our themes for this session will include Chinese New Year, Valentines Day and Easter.

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

Stamp Appeal - Barbara Copelton

During December 2021 and January 2022 the response for used stamps was outstanding, so much so that the stamps collected weighed over 2 kilograms. These stamps have now been delivered to the World Mission Project at Wishaw.

My sincere thanks to all who have, over the years, participated in this excellent project. However the time has come for me to step back and hand on to someone else.

If you are interested, please let the Minister or Session Clerk Team know.



Guides (11th Paisley) - Linda Kelly



We have been back to face-to-face meetings since September and it now seems as though we were never off. At this moment we have nineteen girls enjoying our programme. In November eleven of our new girls made their promise and are now working towards their first badge. Over the next few weeks the girls will be completing activities and learning about Chinese New Year. They will be making a craft for Valentine's Day, Thinking Day and Easter. We are looking forward to the nicer weather so that we can go outside and have some fun.



Rainbows and Brownies - Elizabeth Halliday (on behalf of Oakshaw Trinity Rainbows & Brownies)



We all enjoyed a socially distanced movie night on the big screen in the church hall for our Christmas celebrations. The girls enjoyed watching the Grinch while munching on popcorn and party food. In the run up to Christmas they all enjoyed decorating biscuits and Christmas crafts.

Since we returned from the Christmas holidays, we have been making bird feeders to support the Big Garden Birdwatch 2022 and carrying out STEM activities as well as playing games and singing songs.



Bubble experiments.



Bird feeders



Hopefully this year we will be able to get outdoors and possibly enjoy some trips. We look forward to the better weather as spring and Easter crafts are always a favourite for the girls.

Note: STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Sunday School - Edith Muir

The Sunday School had a successful Christmas season, with some Christmas crafts, the Christmas Movie and McDonalds, with sweets and half time ice lollies and a visit from Santa, then the Nativity Service.



The teachers and parents even managed to squeeze in a dinner at Trattoria Genova before the lockdown rules changed.

We resumed after Christmas on the 9th of January, on a theme of New

beginnings where we had a lesson on the Baptism of Jesus and the first Miracle, a 'God's Wonderful World Day' talking about doves and a 'Superhero Day' talking about the power of kindness.

In February we have a theme of love for the month and in March we will be fitting in Mothers' Day activities and a Comic Relief fundraising day.

We have had a couple of new children in the last few weeks, which has been encouraging.

We also have a new teacher joining us - Heather Dewar. Heather was a Sunday School pupil and now she is 16, she wishes to continue by helping out with the children. A warm welcome to the team Heather.

I also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate ex-Sunday School pupil, Holly Forward. Holly has recently started studying with the MGA Academy of Performing Arts in Edinburgh. Congratulations Holly and best wishes for the future from all of us at the Sunday School. Holly still 'volunteers' to help us out if we do a dance-a-thon on some of our fundraising days.



Holly off to Edinburgh

As usual we welcome all children from 0-16 to join us on a Sunday Morning.

A letter was received from Barnardo's, Scotland thanking the children and congregation for the very generous donations of Christmas toys again this year.



Use of photographs:



Pictures of people involved in activities related to the church and the Wynd Centre are now appearing in Trinity magazine, on the Oakshaw Trinity website and on the Oakshaw Trinity Facebook page.

It is assumed, unless anyone specifically requests otherwise, that individuals are happy to be included in any church or Wynd Centre related photographs that appear in Trinity magazine, on the Oakshaw Trinity website or on the Oakshaw Trinity Facebook page.

Anyone wishing to opt out of their picture appearing in any or all of the above mentioned locations should contact the Church office.

The Sunday School and Youth organisations' photographs are covered by separate arrangements the organisations have with the parents or guardians of the children.

Church Directory

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