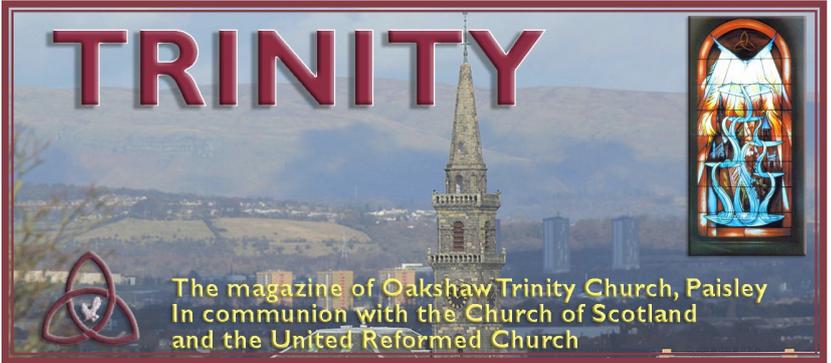




Summer 2022

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

June

Sun 5 11:00 Sacrament of Holy Communion
14:30 Afternoon Communion
Sun 19 11:00 Sunday School Service

September

Sun 4 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,

I am sure that we are all now looking forward to our summer holidays and a slightly lighter church calendar as many of our organisations and groups will be stopping for a few weeks.

However, I want to thank all of you for being faithful in serving the Lord with us during these past two years of lockdown and restriction. The Lord will never forget what you have done for His people or His Church and I am sure He will rejoice that the numbers attending our services are now growing. According to New Testament scholar and theologian Marcus Borg, the book of Hebrews is an eloquently crafted scripture by an author who was familiar with the Old Testament. Hebrews also contains some of our favourite verses that will help those who are still feeling a bit apprehensive about returning to Sunday Worship: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us" (12:1). In many ways we have been doing this with the Mission Audits that have taken place and necessary changes that are happening within our Presbyteries Synods to ensure the survival of a national Church and the call to mission that Christ has commanded his people to do.

Sadly, even in the midst of all this change, we cannot ignore what has been happening in Ukraine and the growing fear about what might happen next. Once again the Book of Hebrews comes to our rescue; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me..." (13:5-6).

May God give you the strength you need for your own personal "race" and bless you and your loved ones.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Gordon (Rev. Gordon B. Armstrong)



The Wynd Centre

From the Chairman - Rev Gordon Armstrong

Like many other businesses and charities, we are facing some difficult and challenging times with many of our regular clients either still working from home or adopting different models of working. This has resulted in a worrying drop in both footfall and income to the extent that it will have an impact on how the centre operates with such a reduction in income.

The Directors and Manager would ask for your continued support of our Outreach Centre during these difficult times and for your support at any of the events that are being

held, especially as we approach the fortieth anniversary of the Wynd.



From the Manager - Thomas Blane

As we approach the end of the first quarter of the year, the Wynd continues to rebuild after a difficult two years. We have followed the Scottish Government relaxation of face masks which all members of staff and volunteers are comfortable with as we slowly get back to normality.

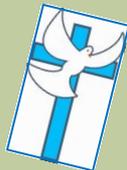
The Scottish Courts have renewed their contract with us for another two years which is massively beneficial to the centre. The Renfrewshire Council child psychology team have extended their trial with us until the summer and Invest in Renfrewshire continue to have their training days with us. Stirling University have also extended their let to the summer as they look to complete their 'Game of Stones' scheme.

As some of you may have seen in the Paisley Daily Express, we received a grant from the Benefact Trust which resulted in us being able to complete some much needed work to the centre. The refurbishment of the auditorium was included in the newspaper article which included a large picture of its return to the old set-up. Unfortunately there was also a picture of yours truly which ruined it! We are holding an afternoon tea for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Wednesday, June 1st from 1pm-3pm. Tickets can be bought at the Wynd for £5 adult / £3 children.

As we approach the summer and with more events being booked for the auditorium, I am hopeful that with all restrictions now eased, it will result in more people coming through the doors of the Wynd once again.



Church Roll



Deaths:

15/03/22 Jean Barclay
18/03/22 Angus Ashwood
25/03/22 Caroline Bowie
26/03/22 Margareta June Smith
25/04/22 Margaret Tolmie

Card received from Senga Fleming

I would like to thank the Minister for his kindness and support he has given me also to everyone for the lovely cards and flowers received on the death of my son Graham Fleming. It is much appreciated. Thank you. Senga



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 or contact the office.

United Reformed Church Jubilee Year

In 1972, it took an Act of Parliament to join together the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church in England and Wales to form the United Reformed Church. The URC subsequently united with the Re-formed Association of Churches of Christ in 1981 and the Congregational Union of Scotland in 2000.

This is Jubilee Year, 50 years of union, something to celebrate.

We have plans for this special year. As we are an all inclusive church, we are all involved.

Enjoy the celebrations. Joyce Walker



Education, Mission, EcoCongregation Committee

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

The Social (Media) gospel.

The term "social gospel" has been around since the 1870s, and refers to a movement among Protestant church leaders in America who were increasingly concerned by the high levels of poverty they saw in many slum areas. This concept has spread across the world and lies at the heart of ideas such as EcoCongregation, Fair Trade, Justice and Peace and support for Food Banks, as well as Christian Aid and Tear Fund, all examples of the social gospel in action.

In our present times, the Christian perspective on social issues has been given additional force and prominence by the role of social media. Rightly criticized for their many faults, such as transmission of fake news, cybercrimes, online bullying, platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram can be a force for good, too. After all, the word *gospel* means "good news", something we should be happy to spread. The Oakshaw Trinity Facebook page became a vital lifeline during the pandemic. It was the gateway to our online worship and helped to create a community of faithful followers. Videos of each service, going back to April 2020, can be viewed, providing a valuable archive of music, meditation, and prayer across the seasons.

More recently, we have set up an Oakshaw Trinity Instagram page. An increasing number of churches are on Instagram, including our neighbours in Paisley, of all denominations. Our hope is to provide a brief weekly snapshot of our church, and the activities we do. By adding hashtags to significant words, we can begin to make useful connections. Please do follow us- just go to Instagram and type in "Oakshaw Trinity". Send photos for inclusion, too!

There is plenty of Christian witness on Instagram- here are some good sites to follow, each having its own perspective, and which in turn will take you to other interesting sites:

- Church of Scotland
- URC
- Christian Aid Scotland
- Iona Community
- Justice and Peace Scotland- an ecumenical movement focusing on reconciliation, mutual understanding, and tolerance
- Practical Action- one of our regular good causes, helping to alleviate poverty through simple technology
- Social Gospel, a social platform to share the gospel. One of its quotes reminds us of our duty to other people and is from James: "Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless"

As we explore ideas of mission and worship, let us continue to embrace new opportunities to learn and grow. Yes, cyberspace can be unpleasant, inappropriate or a waste of time, but there is also much that is interesting and well worth exploring, to enrich our Christian understanding in this challenging world. Photos for inclusion in Oakshaw's Instagram site can be sent to mcdougallj@hutchesons.org at any time

Prayer of hope

God of resurrection

We turn from the cross of death towards the tree of life
And dare to imagine another possible world
Where violent conflict becomes peaceful reconciliation
Where hunger and thirst are filled and quenched
Where barriers of exclusion become bridges of opportunity
Where pain and tears are healed and tenderly wiped away
Where world weary hearts are strengthened and reenergised
Where the leaves of the tree heal all the nations
In a time of inequality and division we are united by hope,
anticipating the flourishing of creation and fullness of life for everyone
To the glory and praise of your Almighty name.

Amen

(from Christian Aid)



Afternoon Tea

Wed. 1st June
1pm-3pm

Adults £5.00
Children £3.00

Tickets from the Wynd Centre reception.

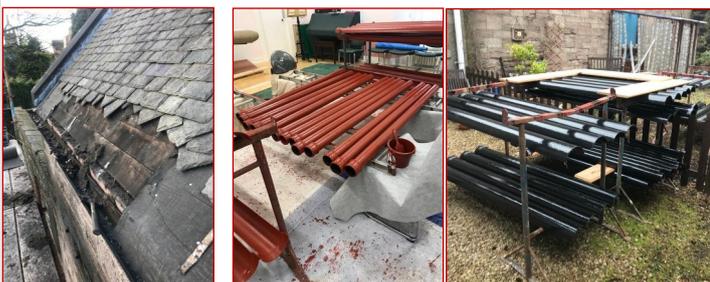


Fabric Report - Sandra Wilson

There is a huge amount of work going on in the church now, and I thank the committee, and especially Anne Hosie, for all the work they are doing to keep up with it.

It is good to be back in the church, after Renfrewshire Council closing it for a period. This happened due to issues being raised regarding the condition of the steeple and the weathervane when the lightning conductor from the steeple was being inspected. This showed that the conductor was not complete, and that the weathervane required some attention. The stonework is also in need of repair to stop water seeping through. Discussions and work schedules are now being discussed with the council, to ensure the repairs are completed. Electrical works are still ongoing in the halls.

The replacement of the gutters and roof works is almost complete over at the halls, and the remaining painting projects can be completed.



The damage to the entrance pillar and gates, by the fire brigade, has been repaired. Signage will be installed on the railings, designating this area as disabled parking.

Plans for the next period are to have the heating surveyed and changes made to the boilers and piping to make this more efficient.

A timber decay survey will be carried out for the church, halls and the Wynd as requested in the CoS audit.

The railings around the Church are in need of repainting. This will be a big task, as they need to have the old paint removed and brushed down, before repainting.

Presbytery Report - Jessie Cross

Clyde Presbytery, like most organisations, met on Zoom during lockdown so it was a pleasant change to meet face to face for the first time at a Presbytery Conference in Greenock on Saturday 5th March 2022. The conference was on the Presbytery Mission Plan mentioned in the last edition of Trinity. As well as the Minister and myself we were represented by Margaret Pearson, our representative on the local Mission Group.

The Conference was followed by the Clyde Presbytery meeting. At this meeting four members were appointed to the Commission of Assembly 2022:- Rev Jonathan Fleming, Rev Ann Knox, Mr Robert Kinloch and Ms Sheena McFarlane. The new Presbytery Moderator from September 2022 will be Rev Christine Murdoch.

Clyde Presbytery issue a regular newsletter which is available on their website www.clydepresbytery.org.

I thank the Kirk Session for the privilege of being able to attend this work of the Church.

Events Committee - Isabel Pearson

Palm Sunday Lunch

On Sunday 10th April 2022, we were able to hold our Palm Sunday Lunch – the first for three years. Forty-seven congregation members met at Paisley Golf Club and enjoyed a lovely lunch and fellowship. Everyone went away with a small creme egg, The children had their own special treats. It was lovely to get together again and enjoy the company of others along with the good food provided by the Golf Club.



Quiz Night

We are planning on holding a *Fish Supper & Quiz Night* within the Church Hall on Friday 27th May 2022.

We would like to encourage team entries (mixed age teams will be an advantage), although there will also be the option to join a team on the night. Teams should consist of 6 members.

It is hoped that all organisations will be able to enter a team.

Further details and menus will be sent out to organisation Leaders as soon as possible.

Wynd 40th Anniversary in 2024

John Stewart (Chairperson)

Although summer is holiday time, the seven members of the team organising the celebration activities will continue to work to ensure the celebrations will start in September 2023 and finish with a dinner in Sept 2024. Following a request in Trinity, photographs have been received together with early minutes of the Committee meeting which was formed to set up our Centre. If you have any photographs or stories, please forward them to the Wynd office marked for my attention. The picture shows the Visit of the Moderator of the General assembly Very Rev John Chalmers visiting the Wynd café in March 2015 meeting some of the cafe volunteers.



Members of the congregation can also help in volunteering with the events when they take place.

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



Here we are again, seasons come and go so quickly. Since the Spring edition of Trinity, we have continued to support David Murray at regular practices and Gordon and yourselves on a Sunday morning with our anthems.

Currently the choir are looking forward to their Annual Dinner on 5th May in Pendulum and I am sure this will be an evening of laughter, chat and a chance to catch up with choir members who have not yet been able to return.

We will also be making a belated wedding presentation to Colin Smith. Colin married Lauren on 20th May, 2021 which was a difficult time due to the COVID19 restrictions.

The Choir look forward to the summer break and in September to come back refreshed to start a new season.

Handbells - Elizabeth Clark

Since returning to ringing the bells in September 2021, we have managed to practise most Wednesday evenings despite COVID19 numbers rising throughout the winter months.

We quickly adapted to the necessary changes required to keep us all as safe as possible and have enjoyed playing "long forgotten" pieces of music as well as old favourites.

With no performances on the horizon, we have been able to use our rehearsals to extend our repertoire for the future.

Oakshaw Trinity has always provided us with a warm welcome and given us the space and encouragement to carry on ringing bells within Paisley. We would like to give a special thanks to Eslyn, the caretaker, who greets us on arrival, a willingness to help and has always sought to accommodate to our needs throughout the restrictions.

As we continue to hear the phrase 'the new normal', let's hope that in the not too distant future we will be out there ringing again to audiences across the West of Scotland.

Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong



Summer is rapidly approaching and we will be looking at some different crafts and activities that might brighten up our gardens and window boxes with the much anticipated arrival of some good weather. If you are free we would welcome any new members to come along and enjoy our creative fellowship on the second Monday every month at 7 p.m. in the Lang Hall.

Men's Club - John Hamilton

The men's club is now back and running as normal on Fridays from 8pm to 10pm. As predicted there has been a fall in the numbers due to health issues and unfortunately the passing of two members; William Hamilton who has been a member since Methuselah was a boy and Frank Burns, a relatively new member, who died suddenly.

At our AGM in April we elected a new President, Malcolm McCallum, and Vice President, Matthew McCallum. Both have been long standing members but have never held office.



Malcolm McCallum

We have decided this year to break with tradition and run the club for an additional four weeks. As always, the invitation remains open to any male over 18 who can use a table tennis bat or snooker cue to come and join us. At the club you can always be assured of a warm welcome and chat over tea or coffee.



Mathew McCallum

Two O'clock Club - Joan Wilson

The Two O'clock Club has continued to meet on the last Monday in the month, in the Lang Hall.

On Feb 28th, the speaker from Zero Waste, Scotland was unable to attend. Anne Hosie stepped in at the last minute with a very interesting talk and slideshow on Oberammergau. COVID19 restrictions meant we were unable to have our March fundraiser. Melissa Higgins stepped in to show and demonstrate Body Shop products. Our AGM in April was followed by a Fun Quiz, thanks to Edith Muir.

To finish this session, we are looking forward to a Summer Lunch at Uplawmoor Hotel on Monday 13th June.

'Smalls for All' were very grateful for the many donations and sent their thanks to our Club members.

Thanks to the committee for their hard work during a very difficult session, dealing with changes to the Syllabus and many illnesses. Thanks also to our members for their commitment and loyalty. We look forward to welcoming you all back in September but until then, best wishes for a happy, safe summer.

Friendly Hour - Margaret Pearson (Secretary)

Following the easing of restrictions, we returned to meet on the first Tuesday in March, April and May. In March we enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship and entertainment by our friend John Orr with his wonderful selection of songs.

In April, Pauline Thomson and Helen McShane with pianist Christine Badger, all from our own choir, entertained us. The members really enjoyed the songs chosen for us.

It was so good to have everyone back together again and listen to the chatter over their tea, coffee, pancakes and cakes.

Our end of session outing was a return to the Gleniffer Hotel for a lovely lunch. Every member received a small surprise gift.

It is hoped that after the summer break, we will be able to return to our weekly meetings.



Isabel Gray retires as Convener of the Friendly Hour

After serving as Convener for the Friendly Hour for a period of some fourteen years, Isabel decided it was time to step aside and enjoy sitting back and relaxing at the Friendly Hour. During her time as Convener, Isabel had a gift of bringing in new members and lots of new ideas to the Friendly Hour. It is worthy of note that Isabel was only the fifth Convener in the 65 year history of the Friendly Hour. Gordon presented Isabel with flowers and a gift in appreciation of her service to the Friendly Hour.



Boys' Brigade - Janice Mc Callum

We cannot believe it's the end of another session. It's been lovely being back face to face with the boys. The Zoom calls were good but there's nothing like being back together.

We gave the boys a task of making our anchor out of stuff from the BB cupboard. They made an excellent job.

Most weeks we have craft, Bible study, games and singing. However we have some special evenings and one of them was a "Virtual reality" evening. Andy, an officer, has all the equipment and the boys absolutely loved it. I nearly brought the house down screaming - it was a virtual Roller coaster. I'm surprised no one called the police with the racket I was making. One of our boys loves the history of the "Titanic" so Andy included the "Titanic underwater experience". The boy was mesmerised.

The Battalion treated us to a "Let's go construct" (Lego) special evening. The boys had a great time and were given a small Lego kit and a goodie bag. The kind Battalion also gave us a small set of goals, various sizes of softballs and a cheque for £68 for our funds. Thank you to Paisley and District Battalion.

We had our Parents' night on Friday 20th May; something we have not had for a couple of years. The boys put together a taster of what we do on a Friday evening and some other entertainment. Our Annual awards were also presented.

I wish to thank the Officers and helpers for their dedication and commitment. The 14th Paisley could not run without you.

The staff and boys wish you all an enjoyable summer. Keep safe and well. See you in August.



Girls' Brigade (2nd Paisley) - Karen Peacock

With restrictions easing we are starting to return to normality.

We gained two new girls recently - one Explorer and one Junior.

Our theme of Celebrations and Christian Festivals continued with work on Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day, Mothers' Day, Pancake Day, Easter (one of the biggest of the Christian Festivals), St David's Day, St George's Day and Earth Day.

All sections had a variety of crafts, bible stories and decorating biscuits and cakes. The Brigaders made Valentine cards and decorated biscuits while Explorers and Juniors made tissue paper flowers and cards. All sections had fun decorating pancakes, Explorers and Juniors made daffodils for St David's Day; Explorers learned about dragons for St George's Day and made rainbows with pots of gold and shamrocks at the end. Brigaders decorated vases for Mothers' Day and made shamrock bookmarks for St Patrick's Day. Easter saw us looking at the Easter story and making Easter nest crispy cakes.

During the Easter holidays, four of our senior girls – Victoria, Chianna, Heather and Tiana successfully completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition.... A huge well done girls!

As part of Earth Day the Juniors were asked to design an Earth Day poster and these were entered into a local voluntary group's competition by Angela, one of our Junior leaders. We were delighted that Hannah, a P5 Junior, won a prize – well done Hannah! The Brigaders did some planting and learned some interesting facts about Eco when doing a quiz.

Our last night will be Thursday 19th May where we hope to have a small prize giving evening; our first in almost three years.



Trinity Theatre Group - Jean Bett

This has been a disappointing session for us at Trinity Theatre Group. I had hopes that by now some form of production would be in rehearsal but lack of a venue and restrictions that were in place for COVID19 made me reluctant to embark on any new enterprise. In the meantime, I have made enquiries about hiring lighting for the Wynd Centre and having been quoted over £2000 for the minimum required, I thought I would get prices for a council venue. The quote I received was over

£4000 which of course, we cannot afford and so the Wynd Centre becomes a more inviting and affordable prospect. Wherever we perform, the Dramatic Club **will** start in the new session 2022 - 2023 and I can't wait for us all to get together again.

Anyone in Oakshaw Trinity who wishes to join will receive a warm welcome.

Guides (11th Paisley) - Linda Kelly

The end of our session is nearly here. We are still finishing off badge work and trying to get outdoors more while the weather is nice before we finish for the session.

During the school holidays we took the girls to Lapwing Lodge and they did canoeing and outdoor cooking which they seemed to enjoy.

I would like to thank all the leaders Zoe, Gillian and Lorraine and not forgetting Georgette who has stepped in to help when needed, for all they do every week. A big **Thank You** to everyone.

The last night of the year is the 2nd June when we are celebrating with a Platinum Jubilee tea party.



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

The girls have been enjoying working on some exciting badges this term. The lovely weather allowed the girls to get outside and learn about fire safety and fire lighting for their camp badge. Once the fires got going they loved toasting marshmallows and making smores.

They have also been enjoying painting and crafts for the 'Express Yourself' badge. Cooking and baking have also been enjoyable with making pizzas and decorating biscuits like 'The World Badge'.

Our new Rainbows and Brownies were delighted to make their promise and are enjoying working towards badges, crafting, playing games and singing songs.



Sunday School - Edith Muir

In March, we had a lesson on Lent and Pancake day, the "God's wonderful world" lesson was on 'Spring' and on Mothering Sunday we made paper flowers and cards.

April was the Easter story which finished with a party theme on Easter Sunday to celebrate that 'Jesus is Alive'. For this the children participated in the church's egg decorating competition and then went through to the Sunday School for an egg hunt. Using the 'hunted' eggs we had an egg and spoon race and then filled them with chocolate and decorated the eggs with feathers and eyes and beaks. We had glue and feathers everywhere!

Sadly in March, we had to cancel the sponsored weeding and barbecue day which was to raise money for Comic Relief but, as they are happy to get money at any time, the day will be rescheduled once the Eco Garden is safe and free of workmen. It is difficult to believe we are in the last session of the Sunday School year already. We will finish on the 19th of June with a special service where each child will be given a small gift.

Although there is no formal Sunday School in July and part of August, provision will be made for the children. We will be looking for volunteers to help run our project on the 'Seasons'.



Palm Sunday Crafts



Church Flowers - The Flower Ladies

Once again thank you to all who have made donations to the Flower Fund - this helped greatly. We had a number of people donating the flowers for a loved one, in their memory or for a specific occasion. We can do this for you, just ask any of the ladies. Thank you from the flower ladies and remember if flower arranging is something you would like to try, we are here to help. We will leave you with this small poem.



Flowers in the garden their bright faces shine
They're far too nice to pick, they just look so divine
A gift from God!

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