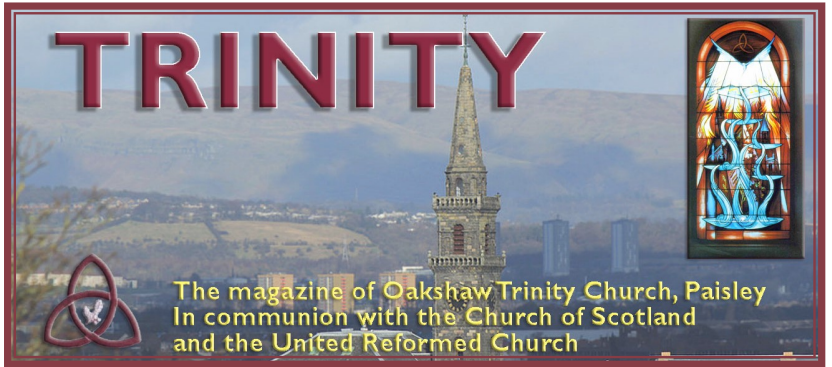




Spring
2024

Church Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/oakshawtrinity
Website: www.oakshawtrinity.org.uk

Scottish Charity
Number
SC005362



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 Sunday dates

March

Sun 3 10.15 Office Bearers' Service
11:00 Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sun 24 11:00 Palm Sunday
after service - church lunch

Mon 25 to Wed 27

19.00 Holy Week Services

Thu 28 19.00 Maundy Thursday

Fri 29 19.00 Good Friday Service

Sun 31 11.00 Easter Sunday service



April

Sun 7 Monthly Communion after the service

May

Sun 5 Monthly Communion after the service

Other Event Dates

Sun 24 Mar - Palm Sunday Lunch

Mon 25 Mar - 14:00 Two O'Clock Club Fundraiser

Sun 28 Apr - Kilt Walk

Wed 22 May - Wynd Anniversary Afternoon Tea

Fri 31 May - Fish Supper Quiz Night

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

CHURCH TAXIS

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

From the Minister

Dear friends,

As I was praying about our focus for 2024, I felt pulled towards the idea of belonging. With the changing landscape of churches and ministries in Paisley and the fortieth anniversary celebrations of the Wynd Centre, I think a good focus for this year would be to explore what it means to "belong".

Last year and up to the time of writing, we have lost a significant number of members through changes of circumstance and death. For a people of faith, we believe that these are only transitions that we all must face and that to belong to something that is authentic to who we are, is one of our deepest desires. In this year, we have also been blessed with a number of new people joining us in our weekly worship and in our organisations. It is always good to welcome others into our fellowship and, hopefully, together we can explore and share what it means to belong to God, and what it means to belong to each other.

My hope and prayer for us this year is that we might continue to move towards being a place where all people can find ways to belong and to deepen their faith. For those coming from other places of worship or who want to profess their faith, please do speak to me about making this truly a place where you belong.

Finally, my friends, I would be remiss if I didn't end this note with a thank you to our Kirk Session and the Rev. George Lind for your love and support of my ministry. May God continue to keep us and bless us and the ministry we are all doing together.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Gordon

(Rev. Gordon B. Armstrong)



The Wynd Centre

From the Chairman - Rev. Gordon Armstrong

Since last writing, there have been some significant changes at the Centre beginning with the resignation of Thomas Blane, our manager of almost three years. Thomas has now left to take up a position with the Scottish Labour Party and we wish him well in his new role. His work is mainly based in Paisley and he remains a member of OTC allowing him to help out whenever possible - including the Kilt Walk.

The good news is that, through the assistance of John Stewart, our Counselling team of Lloyd Whyman and Dawn Baird, and the Wynd Board, we have been successful in obtaining a grant from the National Lottery for the on-going work of our Counselling Service. We have also welcomed 'Buddie Salsa' into the Centre. This is a venture by Paul Baird, who is no stranger to the folks at church and the Tea & Toast group. Hopefully we will all be dancing up the aisles of the church.

With our fortieth anniversary events now well under way by John and his committee; on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the Wynd.



Congratulations to Rev. George Prentice

George celebrated the 60th
Anniversary of his Ordination in
January this year.



Church Roll

Deaths:

02/12/23 Lily Gallaway
05/12/23 Marie Hose
07/12/23 James Macallum
21/12/23 David Barr
24/12/23 Lesley Mushet
29/12/23 Falconer Houston

New Communicants:

03/12/23 Pablo de Figueiredo
03/12/23 Peter-Ann Hutchison



From the Barr Family

Rita and family would like to thank all their friends for the many kind expressions of sympathy they have received since David's death. The sum of £400, collected at his funeral, has been sent to the FoodBank on his behalf. It was one of the charities he liked to support.



Prayer for our Creation

Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation, how majestic is Your name in all the earth; You dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish;

In Your hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being;
As Your Son made the multitude to sit down on the green grass and fed them with the bread of life,
make us to lie down in green pastures and lead us beside still waters;
so that, like a tree planted by water, which does not fear the heat but whose leaves shall stay green, we may be refreshed and sustained in You,
and honour the everlasting covenant You have established with Your creation, for You have seen that it is very good.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God forever. **Amen**



Seonaid Prentice would like to thank all those who sent cards and good wishes on her 90th Birthday.



Used Stamps



Thank you for all the used stamps received which support the work of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian.

Seonaid Prentice

Education, Mission, EcoCongregation Committee -

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

Eco Congregation Update

"Just Transition"

This term refers to how the world should respond to the impact of climate change on the environment, wildlife, food supplies and the future of fragile communities, such as islands and low-lying lands. Increasingly, the effect of climate change is felt disproportionately by poorer, more vulnerable people, hence the idea of linking transition and justice, so that we begin to consider how our actions affect other people and our planet, locally or at a distance. The focus of a Just Transition is moving away from fossil fuels which are widely regarded as being one of the main causes of global warming. In so doing, the hope is to create the conditions for a fairer society, that becomes less dependent on oil and gas.

The Scottish Government is involved in a consultation process to devise a framework for a Just Transition, based around three main areas - transport, buildings and land use. As part of this consultation, EcoCongregation Scotland has been taking views, through a series of questionnaires, from congregations and individual church members about ways of bringing about a transition from fossil fuels to more sustainable forms of energy. Recently a group of Oakshaw Church members met to discuss this. While there was general agreement about the nature - and scale - of the problem, the group felt that some of the issues were beyond the scope of individuals or churches. We recognised that in an ideal world, we would use public transport instead of cars, but the reality is one of reduced or non-existent bus services, notably on Sundays, difficulties of accessibility for people with mobility issues and the impracticality of using bikes owing to a combination of age, weather, terrain, and road conditions! Sadly we felt that we are not geared up yet to the kind of ideal transport model that would support a Just Transition.

However, we agreed there are ways to enjoy walking and other "low carbon" pursuits, not least our own Oakshaw Explorers, but also the many walking opportunities available in parks and paths across Renfrewshire. There is, of course, also, the Kilt Walk, on 28th April, which is open to all ages and levels, with the bonus of raising valuable funds for the Wynd Centre.

The group also considered the ongoing issue of fuel poverty and the expense of heating our homes, as well as preparing for extreme weather events. We recognised the value of our Tuesday morning Tea and Toast as an opportunity not only for fellowship, but providing a warm space, and we noted that the church has now upgraded the heating system, together with taking other steps to manage our energy bills. Yet, many people in our community are struggling, and we acknowledge that the church has a role to play in providing pastoral support and advice.

While it is important to look at the big picture, we can best think globally by acting locally. So, let us help our environment through recycling and the responsible use of food, fuel and resources. Let us also look out for our neighbour, practise small acts of kindness, and make sure that the good intentions of EcoCongregation are rooted in practical action.

Helpful links

Walks in Renfrewshire <https://www.pathsforall.org.uk/walk-project/renfrewshire-walking-network>

Advice Works <https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3525/Advice-Works>
[0300 300 1238]

ECO Congregation - Fiona Catterson

Spring Cleaning your home? Think about going "au naturelle". Certain cleaning products are more harmful to the environment (including water supplies) and produce more carbon emissions than others. Basic cleaning supplies can be made from household ingredients e.g. vinegar, lemon juice and baking soda. These can be combined to make easy eco-friendly cleaning supplies for glass, vinyl and even for polishing furniture. There are also ranges of commercially made products which enable you to go "au naturelle". Happy Spring Cleaning!



Wynd 40th Anniversary in 2024

- John Stewart (Chairperson)



Since the last issue the events of 2023 have been completed ending with the Ceilidh which raised circa £520 for Wynd funds. The Committee continues to work hard to ensure our programme to celebrate meets our aims as we approach the Wynd's 40th Anniversary in Sept 2024. The first event for 2024 was the Beetle Drive in January which was an enjoyable evening and raised £220 for Wynd funds. Other events coming up include:

Sun Feb 24 "Let's go Construct" for the young folk of the congregation after the youth service.

Sun April 28 The Kilt Walk. We have already several volunteers taking part. If you are unable to take part, please sponsor those taking part as money raised will be for the Wynd. Details will come out in due course.

May 22 Anniversary Afternoon Tea.

June 23 Town Centre Walk and Barbecue at the Wynd.

July; It is hoped to organise a sail on Loch Lomond,

September: organisations exhibition in halls on 8th and 28th. Anniversary Dinner (max attendance 100) and special church service on Sunday 29 at 2.30 pm.

In the meantime, a commemorative brochure is being prepared for the Anniversary weekend.

Pens. Thanks to all those who purchased our pens which have gone down a treat; there are still some left so contact me if you want to purchase one.

My thanks again to the Anniversary Committee for their work and the Board for its support. You can appreciate their work by supporting the various events as monies raised will be for the benefit of ongoing work of the Wynd.

Flowers - Flower Team

We appreciate all the lovely comments about the flowers on a Sunday and the cards we have received.

If you have a special date you would like to remember someone, or a special occasion, please just ask and we will help to arrange that for you. We are always looking for people to join our Team. If you would like to join just ask. If you would like to come and try your hand at arranging the flowers we can arrange that too.

Thank you for your donations.



Events Committee - Isabel Pearson (Secretary)

Christmas Fayre 2023

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Fayre on 18th November 2023. The total sum raised was £3098 which was a tremendous effort.

Young Lives v Cancer Concert

This concert was held on 8th December when thirty of us attended. It was a super concert which lived up everyone's expectations. If you would like to come to this year's concert it is on Friday 6th December 2024.

Palm Sunday Lunch

The Palm Sunday Lunch will be held on Sunday 24th March 2024 in Paisley Golf Club. Further details and menus will be available in the next few weeks. Look out for details in Oracle. Why not save the date in your diary?

Fish Supper Quiz Night

The annual Quiz Night will be held on Friday 31st May 2024. Save the date and watch out for details in Oracle.

Choir - Catriona Muirhead



In January we returned to start the session after the festive season, unfortunately knowing that one of our longest-serving choir members, David Barr, had died on the 21st December. David sang with the Bass Section. He was a choir member in the Congregational Church and continued on when our churches joined together. David always had a kind word and a warm smile that made you feel welcome. He will be sadly missed, a true and loyal friend to all.

On our first evening we were visited by our dear friend Frank Okater which was a lovely surprise. We took time out from practice to have a cup of tea, chat to Frank and have some photographs taken. David Murray presented Frank with a Church Hymnary along with one of our tape recordings. We hope Frank will visit us again soon.



We were pleased to hear that Calum Murray has now completed his training and will join EasyJet as Second Officer Pilot at the beginning of March. After a few weeks initial deployment at Gatwick, Calum will then be posted to Bristol Airport. We wish him well in the year ahead.

Seasons creep up on us so quickly and we will soon be looking at music for Easter.

If anyone would like to join us please come along on a Thursday evening at 8.00 p.m. where a warm welcome awaits you.

URC News

Mrs Joyce Walker will attend URC Synod at Tulliallin Police College from 8th to 10th March. She is looking forward to seeing former friends and getting some business done.

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.

Friendly Hour - Margaret Pearson (Secretary/Convener)

Towards the end of 2023, the Friendly Hour welcomed back some of our original entertainers as well as a new one to us. In December we were pleased to have pupils from Castlehead High School who entertained us with Christmas songs and carols. It was lovely having the youngsters with us again. To end our session we enjoyed a lovely Christmas Lunch at Caulders Garden Centre. A big thank you to the staff for a lovely lunch and great service.

We have a varied programme arranged until the end of April when we will have some new entertainers coming along. Again we will close the session on the 7th May with a nice lunch at a venue to be announced later.

*"When happiness uplifts your heart
And helps your spirit climb
Then keep it safe and seize the day
And cherish precious time."*

If you would like to come along to the Friendly Hour please do not hesitate to speak to me on a Sunday morning or contact me via the Church. I'm sure the verse above reflects how you will feel if you come along.



Tea & Toast - Margaret Pearson

The tea and toast continues to be held in the Wynd Centre every Tuesday Morning from 9.30 until 11.30. If you are in Paisley on a Tuesday morning, please do come in for a cuppa and toast and some fellowship. We will be pleased to welcome you.



Men's Club - John Hamilton

The Men's Club continues to meet on a Friday night in the church hall. Over the last few years our numbers have dropped considerably due to death and health conditions. Our oldest member has resigned due to age-related conditions and our youngest member is currently serving with the armed services in Cyprus. However those of us who attend always enjoy the night. Any males over 18 years who wish to come along will be made welcome or, if you know of anyone who would like to come along, please tell them about us. If someone does not want to play snooker or table tennis come along and join in the conversation and have tea at the break; or try flying our quadcopter.

Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong

We continue to enjoy our fellowship on the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Lang Hall. This is open to all. Carole Allan has introduced some of us to making Latch Hook Cushions. Latch Hook involves pulling pre-cut pieces of yarn through a canvas using a special hook. Do come along and 'hook up' with us to learn something new along with our regular activities goodies.



Trinity Lunch Club - Sheena Miller



We were sorry to learn of the death of David Barr, one of our long term members. Our sympathy goes to Rita and the family.

In December, we were well entertained by four young people from the Diane Mitchell Music School and had a few Christmas treats. In January, Fiona Lindsay told us about the 'The Write Angle' and ended with a short play by Fiona and her mother Margaret McMillan. In February Rev. George Lind talked about Oberammergau.

On 13th March Riana Hutchison will be talking about South Africa and on 10th April we will be hearing more about the Wynd Centre. We are looking to organising a restaurant lunch on 8th May.

We meet in the main hall of the Wynd Centre from 12.30pm to 2pm and start with a light lunch.

Everyone is welcome. If you are interested in attending on any of these dates, please ensure that your name is on the sheet in the vestibule of the church. This sheet is available on the two Sundays prior to the meeting which is necessary for catering purposes. A donation of £5 is requested for the lunch and speaker.

Two O'clock Club - Joan Wilson

We were sad to hear of the death of Marie Hose, a loyal member for many years.

In December we enjoyed a festive lunch at Dalmeny Park Hotel.



The January speaker from the Foodbank was unable to attend, so thanks to Liz McPherson for stepping in and entertaining us with stories of her 'Travelling Christmas Tree'.

On 27th February we shall be hearing from 'Restoration and Creation'.

Please come along and support the 'Finding Your Feet' charity at our fundraising concert on 25th March at 2pm.

Oakshaw Trinity Two O'clock Club

Neilston Strings Ukulele

In aid of Finding Your Feet

Mon 25th March 2024 2 pm
Oakshaw Trinity Church Hall, Paisley
Ticket price - £4
Inc Tea/Coffee and biscuits

The AGM on 29th April will be followed by Jim McDougall sharing his enthusiasm for 'Gilbert and Sullivan'. The session ends with a summer lunch on 20th May. All welcome.

Oakshaw Explorers - Jessie Cross

The Oakshaw Explorers were saddened to learn of David Barr's death in December. David led the Oakshaw Explorers so ably over so many years with his quiet sense of humour, his patience (try organising drivers and passengers at 9am on a Saturday morning with no notice of who is coming) and his attention to detail, very suitable coffee shops near by, as he led the group to very many interesting and varied places over a wide section of Scotland. In addition he also dealt with all the arrangements for the much anticipated annual trips to Pitlochry - involving B&Bs, theatre visit and dinner at the theatre - and to Arran with the High Tea at the Willowbank Hotel in Largs to follow, all very much enjoyed by all. This however was not the start of David's walking leadership as Oakshaw Explorers was only the continuation of David's walking adventures which started in the days of the Congregational Church and continued until very recently when ill health forced him to leave his boots in the cupboard. The fact that the group continues, albeit at a less ambitious level, is due to the joy and enthusiasm which David imparted to all who walked with him.



Handbells Team - Elizabeth Clark

January 2024

This year will mark a big anniversary for our bells - they will be 140 years old !

The bells were gifted to St James's Church in Paisley by Sir Peter Coats in 1884. Their purpose was to help the tower bell players practise their ringing skills and learn the various patterns involved in 'Change Ringing'. They were not intended to be used for performances but over time skilled players began to play music rather than just ringing the 'bell methods' for the tower bells.

As a team, we feel that a performance to celebrate our vintage bells is due! So listen out for word of a celebratory ring sometime this year. We cannot let a true heirloom of Paisley go unrecognised.

Since COVID our concerts have been few and far between but it has not dampened our enthusiasm to continue ringing. We were delighted to be asked to join our organist David Murray and his friend John Bell for a 'Peal of Carols' in the Lyle Kirk in Greenock at the beginning of December. It was a warm and welcoming atmosphere and 'The 12 Days of Christmas' (with actions) surely left everyone with the festive spirit! Late December 2023 brought the very sad news of the passing of a cherished team member, Falconer Houston.

Falky retired from the Handbells Team after more than 50 years of not only playing bells but also presenting the history of handbell ringing to many of our audiences. His knowledge was vast and helped people understand the origins of bell ringing as well as the significance of our historical bells.

Our sincere thoughts are with Colin, Susan, Shona and family.

Trinity Theatre Group - Jean Bett



The Dramatic Club performed, 'Aladdin Trouble' at the Wynd Centre at the end of November. We were delighted to welcome three church organisations to the show; the Girls' Brigade, Rainbows and Brownies and Anchor and Junior members of the Boys' Brigade. We were also pleased to welcome support from the congregation and, of course, our always-encouraging elders, Catriona and Sheila.

Wednesday night was sold out and Thursday and Friday were equally busy but our matinee performance on the Saturday was poorly attended, having been sold out last year. As a result the show has run at a small loss but we still have enough funds to make our usual donation to the Church and to put on a show next year.

One benefit that came from this performance was that a number of young folk and not so young, expressed interest in joining the Club. We will be performing again at the Wynd Centre in November 2024 and I will post details later in the year.

Boys' Brigade - Janice McCallum (Acting Captain)

We started back on the 12th January so we have been back a few weeks now. It was lovely to welcome the boys back to a new session. We had a very busy time at the end of 2023. The Halloween party, fireworks with hot dogs and hot chocolate and a Christmas party with Santa attending. The boys went to Trinity Theatre panto as their Christmas treat and Santa gave the boys a selection box at the party. We had a snowball fight at the party; I think Ian was the target. The boys also learned the Nativity story.



We have a full programme for the boys. We have indoor Curling which I hope will in turn lead to the Company boys paying a visit to Bowfield to try out the real thing. Company section boys are looking forward to going back to Cumbrae camp in May. We have fun items running alongside their badge work and Bible study. Anchors and Juniors are also completing badge work and enjoy doing crafts. The boys are learning about the meaning behind the Boys' Brigade badge. We will be talking about our National Bard Robert Burns, toasting him with Irn Bru and shortbread and colouring a picture of Rabbie. We hope to have a fundraiser on Friday 1st March. "Bingo, Burgers and Bangers". Look out for further details and put the date in your diary. It should be a fun evening and help towards the cost of the boys going to camp.

We hope it will be a successful year for the 14th Paisley. We thank the Adams trust, the congregation of Oakshaw Trinity and the parents for their continued support.



Guides (11th Paisley) - Linda Kelly

Since starting back after the holidays our numbers have been very poor which makes it difficult to do our programme but we do keep trying.

Meanwhile we are looking forward to going to South Newton at the end of March where I hope at least some of the girls attend and enjoy the experience.

Rainbows and Brownies - Zoe Kelly

We finished off 2023 with a visit to the cinema to see Wish and a Christmas party.

Since starting back we have been working towards gaining badges and thinking about Thinking Day.

We look forward to summer trips and our first camp as a unit together.



Girls' Brigade (2nd Paisley) - Karen Peacock

Our Christmas Coffee Evening on 7th December raised £470.30. A big thank you to all who came along and supported us or gave donations.



We finished off 2023 seeing Aladdin performed by Trinity Theatre Group in the Wynd Centre and we all had a great night. Instead of our usual Christmas Party, we took a walk around the Christmas lights then enjoyed some hot chocolate and snacks... oh and of course a visit from Santa

All sections are continuing with their badgework too with the Explorers learning about countries such as Spain, Germany, Poland and of course our very own Scotland. The Juniors have been making smoothies and celebrating Burns night learning Scottish Country Dancing and enjoying some shortbread and Irn Bru. The Brigaders have been working on their Spiritual badgework and also had a Scottish Quiz to celebrate Burns Night.

Excitement is starting to mount for our camp trip which will be up at Lapwing Lodge from 5th -7th April. This is open to Junior and Brigader sections.



Sunday School - Sunday school staff.

The Sunday school ended 2023 on a high; the children practised throughout November and December and were all superstars at the Christmas Nativity. A special thanks to Janice and George McCallum for helping to create another epic performance; we could not do it without you.



The children also had great fun at our Christmas party and even had a visit from Santa.

We have started our New Year and new term learning stories of New Beginnings from the Old Testament, along with arts, crafts and games relating to the stories they have been learning; a particular favourite was Noah's Ark.

Looking forward to Spring, the children will be learning about Jesus, our friend, with stories from the New Testament leading up to Easter Sunday.

The children should be dropped off in the church halls at 10.40am. Your child is always welcome.



Seniors' Holiday 2024

Gordon & Sandra Hamilton

In all probability this year's holiday will take place in September. Further updates will be advised, in due course.

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		0141 887 4647 Press 3