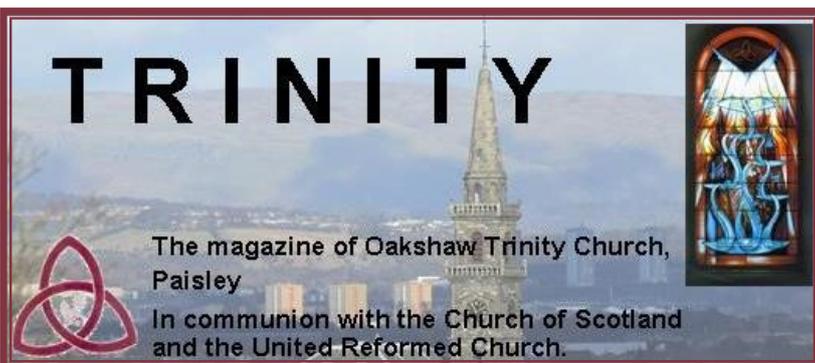




Spring
2016

Church Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/oakshawtrinity
Note: Website not currently available

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	
March	
Sun 6	10:15 Office Bearers Service 11 am Sacrament of Holy Communion Lunch in hall after service
Sun 20	Palm Sunday - AGM after service then Carvery Lunch at Experience, Hillington
Mon 21	7 pm Holy Week Service
Tue 22	7 pm Holy Week Service
Wed 23	7 pm Holy Week Service
Thu 24	7 pm Maundy Thursday Service
Fri 25	7 pm Good Friday Service
Sun 27	9 am Early Morning Service. Breakfast after the service 11 am Easter Sunday Morning
April	
Sun 3	Monthly Communion after service
May	
Sun 1	Monthly Communion after service
22	Heart & Soul, Edinburgh

Wynd Centre - Graeme W. McGowan (Chairman)



If I had a pound for every time someone has asked me what is happening with the Wynd Coffee Shop over the last few months, we would certainly be able to put the Centre's financial issues behind us. However, I take that as a sure sign of the concern and affection which the congregation has for the Coffee Shop.

The Board are finalising a plan which will make some significant changes to the Coffee Shop but which we hope will allow it to continue to serve our community for many years to come. It has taken some time to formulate this plan but it is essential that we get this right as this is likely to be our last chance to return the Coffee Shop to being a viable operation.

At the time of writing, we are arranging a meeting with volunteers, to be held in February, to discuss our plans, and we will, of course, also keep the congregation updated. In the meantime, please feel free to ask me what's happening with the Coffee Shop.

The Centre continues to be busy with a wide variety of groups and organisations using our halls. A new activity which we are organising ourselves is carpet bowling each Friday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm and I would invite anyone who may be interested to come along.

Update and Thank You - Jim McDougall



Many people in our congregation have been supporting the Renfrewshire Food bank, either by regular donations of packets and tins, or through generous gifts of money. A huge thank you for your continued support!

The Renfrewshire Food Bank is one of nearly 50 run by the Trussel Trust in Scotland alone, and is part of a growing, UK wide network of foodbanks.

Oakshaw Trinity: making a difference from April to August

- ◆ 595 kg -weight of our donations = 1417 people fed
- Overall in the same period, the Food bank has provided:
 - ◆ 3-day supply of food to over 3000 adults and 1000 children
 - Every month
 - ◆ emergency food to roughly 340 adults and 130 children.

What do we need most? It's not actually food! (but check Oracle for updates, please)

Also, the distribution centre is desperately short of **strong carrier bags**, so spare 'bags for life' most welcome!

A special thanks to members of our congregation who have been in contact with the Food bank and who provide us with regular updates: Ann and John Mitchell, Janice McCallum and Jessie Cross

- ◆ Toiletries
- ◆ Toilet rolls
- ◆ Kitchen rolls
- ◆ Washing up liquid

Proposed Congregational Outing to the Borders, Land of Scott and Buchan on 10th September (tbc).

New Elders

The Church was delighted and honoured to ordain six new Elders at the Service on 6th December 2015. The new Elders are (from the left) Sandra Wilson, Lynn Ferguson, Elaine Collins, Linda McDougall, Lorna Rae, and Alison Ashwood.



Oh we do like to be beside the seaside!

This year's Dunoon holiday will take place the week commencing 30th April. The Esplanade Hotel is ready to welcome our party. Please note it is not too late to put your name forward.

This holiday represents value for money as it is subsidised! Without a doubt it is a thoroughly enjoyable experience. **Contact Sandra and Gordon Hamilton**



Church Roll

Deaths

2015

Nov 10 Barbara Govan
 Nov 23 Sarah (Beattie) Steel
 Dec 4 John Houston
 Dec 12 Anna McSkimming
 Dec 14 May Lamington
 Dec 15 Catherine Lawrie
 Dec 29 Jane Matthews



2016

Jan 2 Thomas Gilliespie
 Jan 5 Jim Porter
 Jan 16 George Gibson

Karen Anderson

Members will be sad to hear that Karen Anderson, our Missionary Partner for many years, died on 2nd January this year.

Karen taught in the multi-national, multi-faith Tabeetha School, in Jaffa, Israel and visited us while on leave.

Wynd Worship - John Stewart

We continue to look for support to undertake the daily Wynd worship. At present we have 10 persons who manfully try to maintain a short service at the beginning of each day in The Wynd Chapel. That is approximately 250 services. Please give consideration how you can assist, even if it is for once a month, and pass your name to myself or Catriona.

Beith URC - Sheena Young

This small congregation meets for Sunday worship in the local Community Hall. They have not had a minister for several years and our minister is their Interim Moderator. In addition, Bob Copleton and myself give practical help and support. They recently made known their need for a lectern for their bible.

Our Guild (recently disbanded) donated their lectern to Beith URC and it was dedicated by Rev John Humphreys, Moderator of the URC Synod of Scotland, in December. The Beith congregation are very grateful for this gift.



From the Minister



We cannot help but be moved by the images we see in the news on an almost daily basis resulting from numerous acts of hatred and terrorism throughout the world usually caused by an intolerance of others.

In Acts 6, verse 8, we read that Stephen was accused of blasphemy against Moses and God. He was given an opportunity to defend his beliefs in the Jewish council - the Sanhedrin. In his speech he reminded them of Jewish history but this so inflamed his accusers that they had him dragged outside and stoned to death. He was the first of many Christian Martyrs executed for their beliefs. Their deaths did not stop the spread of the gospel but somehow encouraged it.

God is not bothered by blasphemy. It is the people who say that they act in his name, who use blasphemy as an excuse to destroy those who do not conform to a particular set of beliefs. The history of this country is full of instances where religious factions accused each other of blasphemy when they were in power doing all they could to stamp out the beliefs of their rivals.

The God we preach at Oakshaw Trinity is the God of Love. God knows that the world is in the grip of evil and yet He has not battled against the evil to destroy it through His power. God sent His only Son into the world to show us how to live full lives. Jesus did not condemn the sinners that He met during His ministry in Galilee. Rather, He forgave them and told them to go and sin no more. He told them of God's love.

As we set out into this year, my prayer is that the people of Paisley will think of God's love and the welcome they will receive, when they think of us.

Gordon (Rev. Gordon B. Armstrong)

Giving for Growth

Those of you who contribute through the FWO system should have received a thank you letter for your financial support. To those who give by the "open plate" we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank you for your giving in response to the Stewardship programme started in 2012 and concluded in 2015. Your giving is gratefully received and continues to support the work of our Congregation and the wider Church.

A review of the giving through the FWO system in the year 2015 shows the range of giving is as follows:

It has been agreed by the Kirk Session that there will be a "Season for Stewardship" in 2016 where we are all asked to review the amount we give as the total income will require to increase by 2.5% each year for the next three years, if the

Congregation is to meet its Budget Targets. Please give this request to increase your giving serious consideration. Those giving through the FWO system are asked to advise any changes by 30th April 2016 to Derek Osborne

Annual Giving	No of Donors	Total
Less than £200	67	£7,446.90
£200-399.99	85	£24,356.50
£400-£599.99	50	£24,212.24
£600-£799.99	24	£15,538.00
£800-£999.99	8	£7,120.00
Greater than £1,000	17	£23,342.00
Total	251	£102,015.64

Thank you again for your continued support.

John Stewart, Ian Catterson, Derek Osborne

Ecumenical Journeying - Rita Barr & Sheena Young

Recently a seminar on the above subject was held in the Wynd Centre. It was attended by a number of United Reformed Churches (URC) in Scotland who are engaged in formal (united) or informal arrangements with churches of other denominations. In Scotland about 25% of churches are active ecumenically, mostly with the Church of Scotland. We heard from churches in Annan, East Kilbride and Edinburgh of their experiences, both challenging and encouraging. Lent/Easter, Pentecost and Christmas were often the focus for joint worship and fellowship activities. Shared weekday Lunch and Dementia care facilities also featured. There was encouragement to celebrate our journeys so far and make plans for our direction of travel on the Ecumenical road in the future.

From the Treasurer - Ian Catterson

We are currently well into the process of the overall review of our accounts to 31st December 2015. These are currently being processed for the external examiner and when they have completed this process the formal accounts will be presented to the Kirk Session and at the Church Annual Business Meeting on Sunday 20th March 2016.

One aspect of this review has been to establish that our total givings for 2015 were approximately £400 higher than those for 2014 and significantly higher than our budget. This is an excellent result and is thanks to the generous increases which many of our congregation have made to their givings. I would like once again to thank every member for their contributions during 2015 and emphasise that we are extremely grateful for the increases that some members have recently made. This allows Oakshaw Trinity to continue to undertake its good works and witness in the centre of Paisley.

Choir - Catriona Muirhead (Secretary)

Irene Paul retired after a considerable number of years (60) of commitment and dedication to the choir. We all knew that this was not an easy decision. After our Service of Lessons and Carols David Murray our Director of Music presented Irene with a brooch and for once our dear friend was speechless.



We have now started back after the festive season and are looking forward to challenging ourselves with some new pieces of music. If anyone is interested in joining us please come along on a Thursday evening at 8.00 p.m.. You will be made most welcome.

Eight o'clock Club - Sheena Miller (Secretary)

A cheque for £150 has been sent to 'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People'. Thanks to all those who gave donations at our Christmas dinner, instead of a secret Santa. Thanks also to those who bought the 2015 Quiz sheets. The sum of £302 was raised. The answers are available on the church Facebook page. Winners: Hampers:- Martin McCormick, Carole Britton and Margaret McGuire. Wine:- Bertha Barbour, Gillian Mair, Ann Brown and Grace Aikman.

Our remaining meetings for the session are:-

Feb 29 - Ronnie Scott - Suffragettes in Glasgow

Apr 4 - Fundraiser Concert - Da Capa Singers
In aid of RAH Special Baby Care Unit

Apr 25 - AGM followed by 'George Entertains'

Jun 6 - Outing

We hope that as many of you as possible will support this fundraising event. Tickets are available from members.

The next session will mark 50 years since the club started for the young mothers of St John's Church. More of this nearer the time, but we are planning to have an Afternoon Tea for all old and current members on Saturday 22nd October (date to be confirmed) so please keep the date free.

Anyone who wishes to join in any of the above which, apart from the fundraising concert (7:30 p.m.), are held in the Lang hall at 8 p.m., would be made most welcome.



Fabric Report - Jonathan Sweeney and Ian Young

On the 28th October 2015 we gave a roofing company permission to carry out major repairs to the roof area of our halls. Due to the consistent rain, the work was not eventually started till the 11th January 2016.

I am pleased to say that work is now complete. The cost was £12,000. During the time that the repairs were being carried out, it was discovered that the roof area above the main hall is showing signs for concern. The committee will seek costs and arrange for those repairs to be carried out.

Listen! Can you hear? Hopefully yes, as our new sound system is now completed. This work was carried out during the second week of January. The cost was £8,000.

And finally, a big thank you, to all who came on Monday 7th December 2015 and assisted in decorating the trees.

Trinity Lunch Club - Sheena Miller



Our remaining meetings for this session are

Wed 9th Mar - Colin MacLeod - Spirit of the Mountains

Wed 20th Apr - To be advised

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

These meetings are open to everyone. If you are interested in attending any of the meetings, 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. This is necessary for catering purposes.

Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong



Let me begin by thanking all the ladies, who through our chatting and creativity, helped to raise over £275 at our Christmas Table in the Wynd Centre. We continue to meet in the Lang Hall on the second Monday of each month. Why not come along and join us?

Men's Club - John Hamilton (Secretary)

The season is now well under way, but we are only now beginning the competitions.

The Men's Club will meet, in the McLauchlan Hall, every Friday except 4th and 25th March through until our last night on the 29th of April. We then break for the summer. All the men of the church and their friends are welcome to come along



and join in the fellowship provided they are over 14 years of age. The main activities are table tennis and snooker. There is also pool if our numbers permit.

Oakshaw Explorers - David A. Barr

Have you a new location or even an old favourite location you would love to visit either on a full day Saturday outing or on a Sunday afternoon outing? If yes, why not join us at our program planning meeting on Sunday 28th February 2016 at 1.00 p.m. in the Session House, and bring your suggestion/s along. You will be made most welcome.



Sunday School - Janice McCallum

Firstly, Thank You for the lovely comments about the Nativity. The children again gave 100%. We will need to think of something different for this year.



At the start of the year we made calendars and bird feeders. We put fat-ball feeders into the garden after the snow. In our new session our lessons will be using Scripture Union material - colourful and a fun way to deliver the Christian message.

We will have 2 card-making days; Valentine's day and Mother's day. On Palm Sunday we will come in waving palm fronds and hope to sing to you.

On Communion Sunday we will have Bake-a-thon and other fundraising for Sport Relief.

Easter Sunday is going to be full; balloon tree and banners, Easter egg competition (start designing) and lots more.

Children always welcome at Sunday School: if you haven't been for a while - come back and be welcomed.

Tots and Toddlers - Janice McCallum

The regular children who attend always have good fun (with Jacqueline and Gail in charge) playing, colouring in, singing and tidying up. Spread the word about this service. You can leave your child(ren) and collect them after the service.

Boy's Brigade - Jennifer McDermid



We meet in the Wynd on a Friday, Anchor Boys (P1 - P3) and Junior Section (P4 - P6) meet 6.30 - 8pm, Company Section, (P7 upwards) also meet on a Friday in the Wynd, 7.30 - 9.45pm.

Youth Committee - Neil Armstrong (Youth Convener)

The Youth Committee is starting the New Year with a bang. Our first outing is on 21st February after our youth service and we are heading back to Glasgow Ski Centre for another afternoon skiing and tubing. Remember numbers are limited so be quick to book.

There are also big plans for our summer outing on the 21st May. More information to follow.

The Saturday club is still continuing to run with new and exciting equipment so why not come along and have a fun filled afternoon?

Let Us Pray

The great thing about walking with God in life is that there is always the opportunity to start anew - God always offers us a new day and a new dawn, no matter what has gone before. At the start of the New Year, why not take a moment to thank Him for last year, ask His forgiveness for where you have failed, and dedicate this new year to Him - to serve Him and love Him afresh

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.

Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame

So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name. **Amen**

Rainbows and Brownies Elizabeth Halliday

We had a healthy start this year working on their Healthy Heart badge with play, exercise and our fruit kebabs night (photos taken before they vanished). We also made bird feeders and a chart to monitor which species visit our gardens.



Paisley Division have outings and our Rainbows had 2 hours of fun on 26th January. The Brownies will have their trip on 23rd February. Thanks to the church members we can subsidise these trips and thanks also for helping us raise £314 at our Christmas craft stall.

Last year ended with a very enjoyable trip to the pantomime and now we are moving on to badge work and we will tell more about this later.



We are collecting Sainsbury Active Kids vouchers. Please pass to any leader or put them in our collection box in the main hall.



Church Directory	Minister	Rev. Gordon Armstrong BD FIAB BRC Cert.CS	Church Office
	Pastoral Minister	Rev. Lilly Easton BD	Church Office
	Church Officer	John Durnan	Church Office
	Session Clerk	Robert B. Copleton	
	Treasurer	Ian Catterson	
	Fabric Convener	Ian Young	
Church Office	Catriona Muirhead	0141 887 4647 Press 3	

Future Magazine Dates	Edition	Articles due by	Magazine available
	Summer	01/05/16	15/05/16
	Autumn	31/07/16	14/08/16
	Winter	30/10/16	13/11/16