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# TRINITY

The magazine of Oakshaw Trinity Church, Paisley

In communion with the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church



## Diary Dates



### June

- Sun 5 10.15 Office Bearers' Service
- 11.00 Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 14.30 Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sun 19 Sunday School Promotion Service  
 Lunch after the Service.

### July

Sun 3 Monthly Communion

### August

Sun 7 Monthly Communion

Sun 21 Sunday School Resumes

## Renfrewshire Foodbank Update

- In 9 months up to December, almost 600 kg of food donated. (1400 meals)
- Provided a 3-day supply of food to 3000 adults and 1100 children
- Toiletries, toilet rolls, kitchen rolls and washing up liquid are always welcome
- Sturdy carrier bags/bags for life are also urgently needed

Many thanks to all who donate.

## Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees

A new joint faith initiative has been set up in response to the refugee crisis. Called Scottish Faith Action for Refugees, it is an ecumenical group comprising representatives of Christian, Muslim, Jewish and interfaith groups. David Bradwell, the coordinator is happy to provide congregations with information about asylum seekers and refugees, as well as suggestions on practical help that congregations and church organisations can give to families arriving in Scotland. He asks that we hold in our prayers the victims of violence, terror and persecution. For more information, have a look at their website [www.sfar.org.uk](http://www.sfar.org.uk)

## Photos Needed

The new church website needs photos. Why not take some photos of the church grounds that pick out an aspect of nature or just a familiar scene? All images will be gratefully received and a sample of them will be displayed online.

## Wynd Centre - Graeme W. McGowan (Chairman)



It has been an encouraging start to 2016 in the Wynd Centre.

The re-organisation of the Coffee Shop is now complete, with the changes coming into effect after the Easter weekend. Customers will have noticed some minor alterations to the menu and the opening hours, which are now 10am – 2pm. The biggest differences, however, are behind the scenes with a variation of responsibilities and volunteers' shifts being staggered so that we have more volunteers working at our busiest times. The sourcing of stock has also changed.

We are extremely grateful to our large team of volunteers who have embraced these changes and are working hard to ensure that the Coffee Shop carries on as a viable operation for many years to come.

The Counselling Service continues to grow following last year's "reset". The number of counsellors in our counselling team is increasing and, for the first time, we are welcoming a student from Edinburgh University.

Letting still forms a major source of income for the Centre, with a wide range of organisations, old and new, keen to use accommodation within the Centre.

All the above, coupled with improving finances, provide a strong source of optimism that we can not only maintain, but enhance, our outreach in the community.

## Scottish Afternoon

On Wednesday 27th April an audience of 70 were greatly entertained to a Scottish Afternoon by Pauline Vallance and Alastair McDonald.

Pauline played the Clarsach and sang lovely Scottish songs, and Alastair had the audience tapping their feet and singing along.. It was a very enjoyable afternoon. Our thanks to Tom Nixon for arranging the entertainment and being our compere for the afternoon.

## A Space for Nature - Jim McDougall (E.M.E.C.)

"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" Psalms 24.1. Green theology is perhaps a new term, but the idea of taking care of our planet and the sense of stewardship of the Earth has many references in the Bible. Many people tend to view environmental issues as wholly negative, focusing inevitably on things like climate change, pollution and extinction of species. However, EcoCongregation Scotland are very keen to promote a more positive, practical approach, where we look at what we can do to make things better. Exploring 'green Christianity' can be a positive, enjoyable and fulfilling part of Christian discipleship. As with all theology, Christian care for the environment needs to be rooted in a consideration of the Biblical heritage, and EcoCongregation Scotland has brought out some study guides to help direct our thinking about the changing relationship between Christians and the environment. Copies of these guides are in the vestibule or can be accessed online.

The theme of this year's EcoCongregation Gathering in Perth was "A Space for Nature", and all through summer we are being asked to consider ways in which we as an EcoCongregation can encourage and celebrate the natural environment within our own church grounds. The Gathering set out to ask what it means to practise creation care locally. How can we explore God's world, marvelling at creation and working practically to find a place for nature in our congregation? A very practical way is to start in our own back yard, literally, and consider how our grounds can be a real extension of the church, and a further means to worship, prayer and contemplation. Here are some tips for encouraging a space for nature in our church grounds. We can't do them all, but a couple of ideas might be worth exploring for starters.

*Install a bird box; Set up a bird feeder; Build a bug hotel; Set aside some ground as a wild patch-let nature thrive; Set up a compost heap; Identify an area for outside worship or quiet time.*

See Jim for more details

## Church Roll

### Baptisms:

February

21 Blair Ian Currie



### Deaths:

February

23 Mrs. Lillian Lacey  
Mrs. Evelyn Hogg



March

4 Mrs. Barbara Coubrrough  
Mrs. Jean Smith  
8 Mrs. Agnes Russell  
Miss Margaret McGregor  
11 Mrs. Jean Cochrane

## Rose Planted

The Clark family recently planted a rose in the church grounds in memory of Tom Clark



  
Shirley Baird would like to thank everyone who sent her cards, gifts and best wishes on her turning 21 again!

## Wynd Worship - John Stewart

As each rota is created it is a concern that this religious activity in The Wynd is being carried on fewer shoulders each time. At present we have eight people who manfully try to maintain a short service at the beginning of each working day in the Wynd Chapel, that is about two hundred and forty services. This means there are days when there is no service. As there are no age limits, please give consideration to how you could assist, even if it is only once a month, and pass your name to me or Catriona. Material is available to assist preparation.

## From the Minister

As the saying goes, 'Life is never plain sailing.' How real this must be for our friends from St James's Church. Yet, out of adversity, so often there comes a new determination, and from what I have seen over the past weeks and months from the people of St James's, a new zeal for the Gospel.



To those who have joined us over the past months and indeed to the groups and people who may or may not join us, please be assured that others do care. Over the many years that I have been involved with the congregation at Oakshaw Trinity we have worked together at being a caring fellowship of God's people.

To all our members and readers, please be assured that love is not a scarce commodity which has to be hoarded. I know that there many who act as if it were! Actually, like happiness and the other good things of life, love grows as it is shared. The more we love and give to others, the more we have to give. We have all experienced this in small ways. Parents don't run out of love when another child is born. Love for a new friend does not diminish the love for the old. Love is like a muscle – it grows stronger when exercised.

Do you remember the question that was asked of Jesus by the Pharisee? "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.' (Matthew 22:35-40).

May sincerity and love be found by all who have and who may join us at Oakshaw Trinity; which is not our Church, but Christ's home.

*Gordon* (Rev. Gordon B. Armstrong)

## Our man at the Presbytery - John Stewart

The following were covered at the April Presbytery meeting:- permission given for Inchinnan Parish Church to call a minister; dates advised for the disposal of items from St James's Church; concern expressed at the rise of religious persecution in the world, particularly of Christians; a tribute paid to the late Very Rev. Dr. Sandy McDonald.

The list of Commissioners to this year's General Assembly starting on 21st May includes our Minister, the Rev Gordon Armstrong.

This is my last report in Trinity as I will be retiring as Presbytery Elder at the end of this current session of Presbytery. I thank the Kirk Session for giving me the opportunity take part in the democratic processes of the Church which also gave me the opportunity to attend two meetings of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and share with congregations their joy when appointing new ministers and their concerns with unions and closures. Jessie Cross has agreed to be our new Presbytery Elder and I hope she will find the work as interesting and satisfying as I have done and enjoy the home baking and cups of tea provided by members of congregations throughout the Presbytery!

## Malawi Trip

Many thanks to all who have supported Jaclyn Smith and Fraser Scott, who are going on a trip Dzenza Primary School in Malawi. We have made a donation from the Mission Fund, but I am sure further offers of help are always welcome, to help our two young people take part in this project.

Jaclyn Smith, a S6 pupil at Gleniffer High School, writes about the forthcoming trip

"Every two years Gleniffer High sends a group of pupils to Dzenza Primary School in Malawi. The pupils had to write an essay and undergo a selection process before being accepted so I am one of the lucky ones chosen to go. It is expensive but I have done a lot of fund raising such as race nights, sponsored cycles and tombolo stalls. Our goal in Malawi is to refurbish classrooms in Gleniffer's link school, Dzenza Primary. At our school we have smart boards, projectors, canteen, proper toilets, and over 100 teachers. But in Dzenza, the classrooms are completely empty, the blackboards are just black painted walls and until recently they didn't even have a girls' toilet. There can be anything from 80 to 135 pupils to a teacher. These pupils deserve to have a proper education in a safe clean environment and that is why I am very proud to be going to Dzenza to help in whatever way I can."

## **From the Treasurer** - Ian Catterson

Our offerings to the end of March 2016 were more or less on a par with those for the same period last year. This is also close to our budget for this period.

For the first quarter of the year our income was approximately £39,000 and our expenditure was over £64,000. About £30,000 of this is associated with property costs, mainly repairs. While some of this may be offset to the Fabric Fund we still have a very difficult situation which is why we must look at measures to deal with this.

To try to address these issues we must, once again, ask our members to review their givings. Many people have already done this and their generosity is very much appreciated, particularly in such difficult times. I would ask that we all review our givings and increase them if we possibly can.

One area which you might think about that would not adversely affect your current needs, would be to consider leaving a legacy to the church. Graeme McGowan has very kindly agreed to prepare the legal paperwork for any members who feel this is an area which they could consider. If you would like to look into this further, please contact either Derek Osborne, our FWO convenor, or myself in the first instance.

## **Fabric Report** - Jonathan Sweeney and Ian Young

A B.B.C. film crew recently used an Emergency Exit from our halls to film part of a drama to be shown later in the year. For this we received a donation of £1200.

A meeting took place with a representative of the General Trustees, the structural engineer, Renfrewshire Works Dept. and ourselves to discuss the loft area and water ingress within the tower and all seemed pleased with progress.

During May, June and July the following work will be carried out:

- make safe displaced headstones in the graveyard. Eleven are presently at risk.
- mastic point windows in both church and halls and, once completed, have them painted.
- replace both expanding gates at the Emergency Exits of our halls. Both gates were seriously damaged, one beyond repair. This damage was reported to the local police.
- repair the left hand pillar and gate at the entrance to our grounds. The damage was caused by a large vehicle making delivery to the church. This incident is being dealt with by the local police office.

Discussions are now taking place to arrange possible dates to re-decorate the church this year. During this eight week period our Morning Worship will possibly take place in the Main Hall. Unfortunately all of this work will cause inconvenience at some point. Information will be published in Oracle when available.

### **Anyway (by Mother Teresa)**

People are often unreasonable and self-centred....Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives....Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you.... Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous....Be happy anyway. The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow....Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough....Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God....It was never between you and them anyway.

### **Let Us Pray**

## **Choir** - Catriona Muirhead (Secretary)

The choir is now at the end of another enjoyable session and we finished with our evening meal at Canal Station. We took this opportunity to thank David Murray, our Director of Music, who encourages us on Thursdays to explore new music.

Unfortunately we are like most choirs, numbers are dropping and this makes it a little difficult to sing some pieces.

Our Thursday night practices resume in September but during the summer we continue to meet on a Sunday morning at 10:30 to go over the hymns for that day's worship. Come and join us then if you interested in singing. We extend a warm welcome.

## **Eight o'clock Club** - Sheena Miller (Secretary)

 The fundraising concert by the Da Capo Singers was very successful and raised over £750 for the RAH Special Baby Care Unit.

At the AGM it was agreed that the current committee should remain in place for a further year so that preparations for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the club can be better kept on track.

We are planning to hold an Afternoon Tea for all past and present members of the club on Saturday 12th November so please keep the date free.

We are now looking forward to our evening outing for dinner at Lochside House Hotel in New Cumnock, This takes place on Monday 6th June.



## **Tea & Crafts** - Margaret Armstrong

We continue to meet in the Lang Hall on the third Monday of each month and a warm invitation is extended to anyone whether they come along just once or throughout the year. Because we only meet once a month, we do not have a summer break (the knitting needles do not cool down), so why not come along and join us?

## **Trinity Lunch Club** - Sheena Miller



We had a very enjoyable session which ended with a 'Wynd Up' in April. We are now in the process of planning for the next session which will meet once a month on Wednesdays from September to April. More detail in next edition.

## **Oakshaw Explorers** - David A. Barr

The explorers have an interesting program for 2016 and invite anyone interested to come along and join any or all 'explores'.

### Sunday afternoon (leaving from church at 1 p.m.)

15th May : Geilston garden, Cardross

19th June : Castle Semple Country Park

17th July : Weaver's Cottage, Kilbarchan

21st August : Scotland Street Museum

9th October : Glasgow Central Station



### Saturday (normally leaving church at 9 a.m.)

28th May : Burns cottage /Tam O' Shanter experience

11th June : Scone Palace

23rd July : The Kelpies, Falkirk

27th August : Arran

17th Sept. : Pitlochry

Details for each outing will be published in Oracle.

## **Don't forget** the church trip to the Borders Saturday 10th Sept.

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

## **Sunday School** - Janice McCallum

We are almost at the end of our session; time goes so quickly!

The banner the children have made for Christian Aid will be in the church at the family service on 8th May. On Communion Sunday we will be making Fathers' Day gifts and these will be given out on 19th June. This will be our end of session promotion service. During this the children will receive their Bibles and books and sing. Afterwards, at our lunch, they will sing again. They enjoy performing on the stage!! We also hope to work on our eco garden.

Sunday School resumes on 21st August but we will have summer Sunday School as usual. Have a safe summer break.



## **Tots and Toddlers** - Janice McCallum

Tots and Toddlers runs like a well-oiled machine. The children are well looked after and cared for during their stay while you are in church. A wide variety of toys games and singing are used to keep the children entertained. A big thank you to those who look after the children and keep the service going.

## **Boys' Brigade** (14th Paisley) - Jennifer McDermid

Our 116th session ends on 6th May but we will not have an Annual Review this year due to a sometimes difficult transition period. Instead we will have a Parents' Night for Anchor Boys and Juniors when we present badges gained this session. We hope to present Queen's Badges to Jason Muirhead and Nathan Crawford. A great achievement.

Our trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park is on 7th May and on the Sunday 8th we have our End of Session church service.

I wish to thank Craig McFie, Janice McCallum, Janet Stewart, Gavin Jardine and Yvette Kelly for all their work in keeping the Company running; also the Seniors; Nathan Crawford, Cameron Corrigan, Grant McDermid and Jason Muirhead have been of great help.

Our 117th session will begin in September (date to be confirmed). Anchor Boys (P1 - P3) and Junior Section (P4 - P6) meet from 6.30 to 8.30. Company Section (P7 and up) meet from 7.30 to 9.45. All sections meet in the Wynd Centre on Fridays. All boys made welcome.

Staffing is an ongoing challenge so if you can help speak to me or any member of the Kirk Session.



**Easter Sunday and the Glasgow Ski Centre**



## **Rainbows and Brownies** Elizabeth Halliday

The summer season had a healthy focus with the girls completing the 'Healthy Hearts' badge and working on 'Friends to Animals' badge the last of which we hope to complete on the Youth Committee trip to Blair Drummond. Our session finishes on 20th May and has included trips to Gambado Soft Play and Glasgow Ski Centre. We have also enjoyed crafts; beaded bracelets, stained glass window decorations and hand painted Mothers' Day mugs.



Eleven of our Brownies will be moving up to Guides but our loss is their gain and we wish them well.

There is now no waiting list for Rainbows or Brownies. We start again on Friday 26th August in the church halls. Rainbows (age 5 and up) and Brownies (age 7 and up) meet from 6.30 to 7.45. Old and new girls welcome.

## **Guides** - Linda Kelly



Our session finishes on the 19th May. We have had a good session and the girls have worked on many badges and activities. We also had a visit to the RSPB at Lochwinnoch and canoeing at Castle Semple during the school holidays.

I would like to thank my leaders and helpers Gayle, Aimee and Zoe for their support over the session. We restart in August.

## **Youth Committee** - Neil Armstrong

The Youth Committee held a lunch with all the organisation leaders to thank them for their support over the year. A lot of new ideas have also been suggested. Hopefully next session will have a lot more exciting outings and events.

The Youth Committee received a generous donation and this will be spent on some new technology to assist our teaching.

The Saturday Club is purchasing new equipment with a lottery grant we have received. It would be nice to see some new faces even if only for a coffee and a chat. All ages are welcome (primary 7 and under must be accompanied by an adult).

Our trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park is on 21st May.

On behalf of the Youth Committee I would like to thank you for all your support.



## **Church Directory**

Minister	Rev. Gordon Armstrong BD FIAB BRC Cert. CS	Church Office
Pastoral Minister	Rev. Lille Easton BD	Church Office
Session Clerk	Robert B. Copleton	Church Office
Treasurer	Ian Catterson	Church Office
Fabric Convenor	Ian Young	Church Office
Church Office	Catriona Muirhead 0141 887 4647 Press 3	