

NEW CONNECTIONS

The congregational Magazine of
Strathaven: Trinity Parish Church

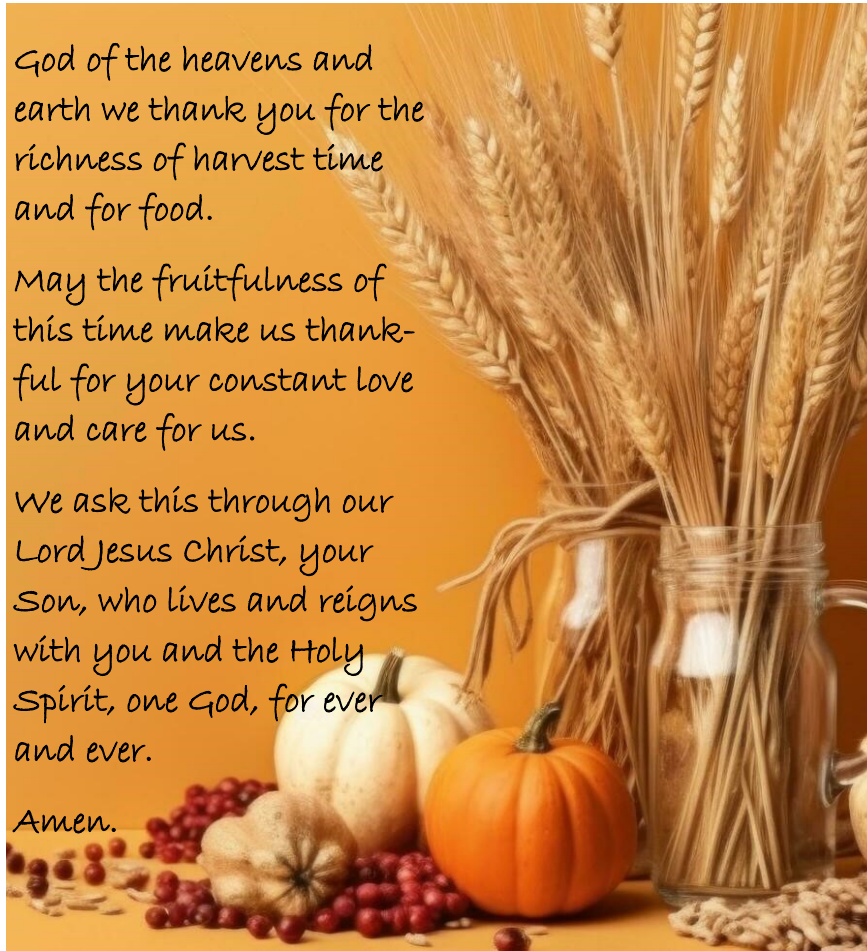
October 2023

God of the heavens and
earth we thank you for the
richness of harvest time
and for food.

May the fruitfulness of
this time make us thank-
ful for your constant love
and care for us.

We ask this through our
Lord Jesus Christ, your
Son, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever
and ever.

Amen.



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I never cease to be amazed at food waste. Every time I take the bag out of the small burgundy food waste bin in the kitchen I wonder 'why?' Left-overs, out of date, perhaps food that we didn't fancy eating but at least its not going to landfill.

At the other end of the spectrum, I am involved (with my brother taking the lead, I confess) in helping to distribute around local foodbanks some of the excess that supermarkets would otherwise send to landfill. Some have a very short 'best before date'. Others can have over a year before the product must be used. However, it is being disposed of by the supermarkets and it can be by the van load. Such a waste. However, I am thankful that good can come of this. The food is not wasted but is distributed and used to help others who are struggling. Each time I fill my car from floor to roof liner I am mindful of what I have in the cupboards at home and all that I have to be thankful for.

Each October we celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving. We give our thanks to God for the traditional harvest foods and express that thanks by giving of what we have to benefit others less fortunate. We bring our harvest gifts for a specific cause: for the Lodging House Mission in Glasgow. We must always remember that we do so in a spirit of thanksgiving. Even as we manage, and struggle to manage, our own household budgets we must never forget those in need. Yes, it can be overwhelming to think of the need that exists and it can be tempting to think 'what good can I do?' Together - Individuals, households, supermarkets – we can make a difference to people's lives.

As we journey through the cost of living crisis, and as we heard from the Loaves and Fishes representative who visited to thank us for our weekly support, poverty and hunger is not something confined to far off places but is real and on our door step.

As we celebrate Harvest this year, may we be filled with hope for the future that one day our world will be one without hunger.

With every good wish,

Shaw

PREACHING ROTA

As always, the rota may need to be altered but at least it gives an indication of who's scheduled for where.

A special thank you to Valerie, Robin and Norman for agreeing to take at least one service per month. Going forward the plan is that Norman will be on duty on the first Sunday of the month, Robin on the second and Valerie on the third. On the fourth Sunday of the month the minister will preach in all three buildings - with assistance! If anyone would like to assist by concluding a service (announcing offering, leading offering prayer and intimating closing hymn followed by blessing) or opening a service (this will at Glassford and Strathaven involve up to and including children's address) then please volunteer to the minister who will provide appropriate resources.



October

1 st October	<i>Harvest:</i> Shaw @ C & S; Norman @ G
8 th October	Shaw @ C & S; Valerie @ G
15 th October	Shaw @ G & C; Valerie @ S
22 nd October	Shaw @ C & G & S
29 th October	Shaw @ G & S; Norman @ C

November

5 th November	<i>G Communion</i> Shaw @ G; Norman @ C & S
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"Life is a challenge, meet it!

Life is a dream, realize it!

Life is a game, play it!

Life is love, enjoy it!"

– Sri Sathya Sai Baba

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Committee are updating the list of members who would value additional visits (to your own and those made by the Minister) or a pastoral care visitor from the church. If you know of anyone in your district, of whatever age, who would appreciate such a visit, please email the office at strathaventrinity@gmail.com and they will be put on the list.

FUNERALS

4th September Jean Bingham
7th September Gavin Lennox
28th September Marion Ferguson



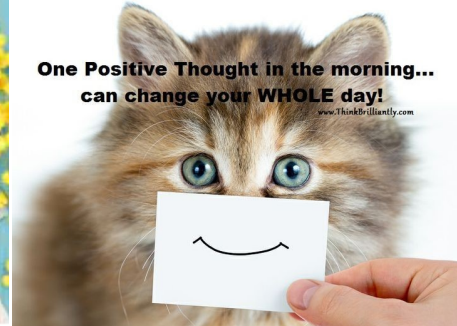
BAPTISM

10th September
Will Joseph Baird



One Positive Thought in the morning...
can change your **WHOLE** day!

www.thinkbrilliantly.com



Hold on to these wonderful promises! God promises to work out things for good and bless those who walk uprightly. God is for you! He is your sun and shield. He lavishes His grace and glory upon you and He will not withhold any good thing from you.

OFFERINGS

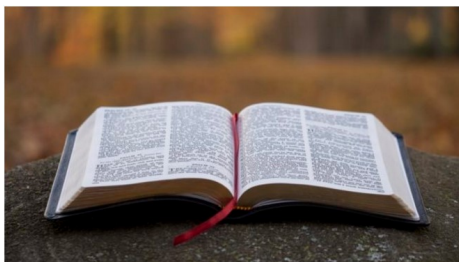
The Sunday offering (collection) is now being taken during the service in all three buildings.

We are conscious that many have switched to direct giving which has proved to be invaluable particularly over the last few years. Therefore, simply let the offering bag pass you by on a Sunday. Thank you to everyone for your continuing support.

Offering: In addition to bank transfer, electronic offerings can be made using the link <https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate/?cong=171167> or via the QR code



LECTIONARY READINGS



October

1 Oct 2023	Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32
8 Oct 2023	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
15 Oct 2023	Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
22 Oct 2023	Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13); 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
29 Oct 2023	Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46;

November

5 Nov 2023	Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12
12 Nov 2023	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16; Amos 5:18-24; Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
19 Nov 2023	Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
26 Nov 2023	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

December

3 Dec 2023 (1 st)	Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37
10 Dec 2023 (2 nd)	Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
17 Dec 2023 (3 rd)	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
24 Dec 2023 (4 th)	TBC
31 Dec 2023	Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

STRATHAVEN FLOWER CALENDAR

OCTOBER

1st Miss I Anderson (HARVEST)
 8th Mrs P Izatt
 15th Mrs M Law
 22nd Mrs K Greenock
 29th Mrs N Nixon



NOVEMBER

5th Mrs S Newman
 12th Mrs C Murray & Mrs A Arnott (REMEMBRANCE)
 19th Mrs J Bryce
 26th Mrs C Campbell & Mrs M Foster

DECEMBER

3rd Mrs M McAuley
 10th Mrs C Jack & Mrs N Hinshalwood (*Communion*)
 17th Mrs K Field
 24th Mrs L Wilson
 31st The Forrest Family

Anne Grady (tel. 523285) & Lilly McConnell (tel. 520989)

GLASSFORD FLOWER CALENDAR

OCTOBER

1st Mrs S Ballantyne
 8th Mrs F Meikle
 15th Mrs J Ballantyne
 22nd Mrs M Struthers
 29th Miss I Marshall



NOVEMBER

5th Mrs R Millar (COMMUNION)
 12th Mrs J Meikle (REMEMBRANCE)
 19th Mr W Frame
 26th Mrs F Smith

DECEMBER

3rd Mrs L Jamieson
 10th Mrs S Herd
 17th Mrs R Andrew
 24th Mrs J Meikle
 31st Mrs S Struthers

J Meikle (tel. 520941) & R Andrew (tel. 521662)

CHAPELTON FLOWER CALENDAR

October

1st Mrs C Anderson (HARVEST)
8th Mrs S McKinlay
15th Miss N Brownlie c/o Mrs B Beetham
22nd Mrs M Frew
29th Mrs B Williams



NOVEMBER

5th Mrs L Wallace
12th Mrs M Muircroft (REMEMBRANCE)
19th Mrs M Frew
26th Mrs J Cairns

DECEMBER

3rd Mrs Crawford
10th Mrs V McLean (*Communion*)
17th Mrs M McPherson
24th Mrs E Kennedy
31st Mrs P Riddell

Mary Frew (tel. 300268) & Val Allen (075 785 06102)



COMMUNION—2023

Communion Sundays will now fall on the customary Sundays for each location:

- **Chapelton & Strathaven** - second Sunday in December.
- **Glassford** - first Sunday November.

It would be appreciated if you could use the hand gel which is available on entry to the church. If anyone is uncomfortable with receiving communion from the elders you may of course refrain or indeed bring your own.

All elders are asked to meet before the service.



SHORT COURSES

Trinity College Glasgow with the University of Glasgow are offering four short courses in the new year 2024 in church worship and leadership.

These 8-10 week online courses offer learning and equipping for church leaders and members interested in growing faith and practical ministry.

The courses are:

- **Liturgy & Prayer** (in person and online), starts 17th January
- **History and Theology of Worship** (online), starts 22nd January
- **Elders & Local Leaders in the midst of Changing Contexts** (online), starts 1st February
- **Leading in Church Change** (Master's Level, online), starts 25th April

Visit **trinitycollegglasgow.co.uk** for more information.

Email **trinitycollegglasgow@gmail.com** to notify interest.

Applications close on **Friday 15th Dec.**



**TRINITY
COLLEGE**



**University
of Glasgow**

**Moderator Rt Revd Sally Foster-Fulton makes a rallying call for justice for the poorest in society
In October Life and Work**

'For you always have the poor with you,' These words from the mouth of Jesus have so often been used to normalise poverty. Taken as an absolute and without context, it is tempting to use them as a shield against responsibility or a 'get out of guilt free' card. But these are words better seen as a rallying call and an indictment against the systems that keep some people poor. In this iconic text, Jesus is quoting Deuteronomy, and the focus there is specific. 'Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you to open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land.' There will always be emergencies, moments of crisis, natural disaster; but we should not equate that with systemic poverty - politics, policies and mechanisms that are set up to benefit the few at the expense of the many. That poverty is a political choice, totally avoidable, and Jesus railed against it. If we look at the Bible, we see that Jesus talked a lot about money. In fact, 16 of the 38 parables were concerned with how we handle our money, one in ten verses in the gospels (288 in all) deal directly with the subject, and overall, in our sacred texts, there are 500 verses on prayer; fewer than that on faith, but more than 2000 verses on money and possessions and how we do or do not share. There will always be times when people need our help and generosity; but charity is not a sustainable, long-term solution - for that, we need justice. The cost of living crisis is crippling our most vulnerable. The intersectionality of spiralling costs causing devastation and misery. Consider the implications of rising energy costs on a single mother with a disabled child who needs specialised care and mechanisms that require electricity? Consider the implications for those seeking refuge in this country who have minimal access to funds? Consider that 50% of the clients currently coming to Christians Against Poverty advice centres have unsustainable budgets. That means that once they work with people to find a debt solution and even get them debt free, because they do not have enough money for the basic essentials that we all need (food, fuel, clothes) they are highly likely to go back in to debt again. Communities of faith across Scotland are stepping up to help their neighbours - food banks, community fridges and cafes, warm hubs, school uniform and clothing swaps - these are all vital because we cannot sit by and let our neighbours suffer. And these compassion initiatives compel both individuals of faith and local churches to seek justice to overturn the unfair structures pushing and trapping people in poverty. Do not underestimate the power of your voice. Give to and support these projects, but also write and lobby your MPs and MSPs, sign petitions, go to protests, and join campaigns. We need both compassion and justice. This month, we mark Challenge Poverty Week <https://www.povertyalliance.org/cpw/>. The Church of Scotland and others join the Poverty Alliance to call on the Scottish government and our communities to actively support those living in poverty in this country. The calls to action are specific and are based on the findings of a short-life working group, including the Church of Scotland. It complements our joint campaign with the Catholic Church and CrossReach, calling for fair pay for social care. Basic solutions to alleviate suffering include action across fair funding for the third sector; adequate incomes; food; housing and transport. I encourage us all to join the call of Christ, to listen and learn more, and to actively seek solutions. When Jesus said 'Blessed are the poor', he nailed his colours to the mast - 'this is what my vision is. It is a world where everyone has enough and can live a dignified life.' There will always be times when people need our help and generosity; but charity is not a sustainable, long-term solution - for that, we need justice.

CHILDREN, FAMILY AND YOUTH WORKER -
JULIE ROBERTSON

Autumn is here and the exceptionally warm days we had recently feel like a distant memory!

We have some exciting events coming up over the next few months – so please keep your eyes peeled as information is shared on social media, intimations and within New Connections.

I've added some of the upcoming dates for your diary below. As always, everyone will be made most welcome!

Till next time – Blessings!

Julie

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Toddler groups

Monday 10-11.30 Strathaven,
Tuesday 10-11.30 Glassford,
Wednesday 10-11.30 Chapelton

Thursday After School

Thursday club Thursdays in Glassford 3-4pm

Messy Church

Planning meeting will be Monday 25th September 7-8pm – all are Welcome.

Messy Church runs on the second Sunday of the month and the next one will be Sunday 8th October 2023 3-5pm.

Beetle Drive

Our Beetle Drive will be held in Lethame Road on Saturday 30th September 18.30-20.30. Tickets cost £3.00 and can be paid on the door. 12 and under go free. Catering included!

Light Party

Our light party this year will be slightly earlier due to annual leave and will be held in Lethame Road church hall on Sunday 22nd October 18.00-19.30

SUNDAY SCHOOL!



We enjoyed kicking off October with our Harvest Service. It was lovely to see the children telling us all about the words and things they associate with Harvest. We will continue to work through our programme for October and are enjoying all of the chat and discussion that this generates with all of our young people. As we are now able to collect an offering in the church, we will introduce this back into the Sunday School so if any of the children would like to bring through some change for a collection they are more than welcome to.

Many thanks as always,
The Sunday School Team

STRATHAVEN TRINITY GUILD

The first meeting of the new session was held on Tuesday 12 September in Strathaven when members enjoyed a musical evening provided by 'Simply Shed' from The Men's Shed in Stonehouse.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26 September at 2.00 pm in Strathaven when we look forward to hearing from Tamsyn Radmall from Home for Good (one of the Guild projects). We have received an invitation from Drumclog Guild to join them at their meeting on Tuesday 10 October – if you are interested, please contact Ishbel.

If you have wondered before what is involved in coming to a Guild meeting then please come along to 'try before you buy' although there is no capitation fee due for new members – we are a friendly group and you will be made welcome. We have either a speaker or musical entertainment and then tea or coffee with home baking or biscuits. We normally meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month with some meetings starting at 2.00 pm and others at 7.30 pm. The Avondale Community Bus is available to transport anyone who requires it – Marjorie Lamb organises this and you can call her on 07872 050305 to book a seat. If you would like further details please speak to Elizabeth McGowan (President) or Ishbel Anderson (Secretary).

For the new session we have various speakers and groups booked to entertain with full details included on the new syllabus which is now available. This includes - an outing to Livingston shopping centre on Tuesday 28 November; Christmas Lunch on Tuesday 12 December and a concert by Studio 32 on Tuesday 27 February.

Ishbel Anderson

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		1		2		8		
	8	7				1		
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A Sudoku Puzzle

Choose from Easy
Intermediate or

.....or do all 3!

Have fun!

Easy

			7				
		7					5
				3	1		
		9		7		2	
4					9		
		3		5			6
3	2						7
8			4		2		
				8			

zzle page to help you relax!

Easy,
e and Hard

!
n!

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				1		9		8
				5	4	6		
3	6					4		

Intermediate

Hard

LOAVES AND FISHES

On Sunday 17 September Strathaven Trinity welcomed Lesley from Loaves and Fishes to our service in Strathaven. Alice White presented her with a cheque for £450, the result of donations for tea and coffee after our services in August and September. Additional donations were made following the service and plans made for Lesley to visit our village churches. Lesley's talk was inspiring and made an impact on the young people in our Sunday School who plan to visit Loaves and Fishes Foodbank in the near future.



Lesley responded with:

I had the loveliest visit to Trinity Church Strathaven today. They have supported Loaves and Fishes for almost thirty years!! It was absolutely my pleasure to thank the congregation personally for their weekly donations, financial support and the love and generosity they show us. A cup of tea afterwards with old friends and new was, as always, most welcome! Leaving with this extraordinary cheque, a car full of food and the knowledge that we don't face the challenges of helping those that need us most alone. I couldn't have spent my time any better. Thank you to Ruby Davidson and her right hand man Norrie for being such amazing friends and facilitating all of this. See you again soon everyone.

MALCOLM GOLDSMITH LECTURE 2023 - Tues 24 October 2023 -
4.30pm - by ZOOM

**The Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Moderator of the General
Assembly of the Church of Scotland**

The title of the Moderator's talk is **"A 'with, not to' community:
Valuing our older people"**; an outline of the talk is given here –

- Contribution of older people to communities of faith
- How we can be community with older people when their community changes and they feel isolated.
- We talk about a 'cloud of witnesses.' When we lose connection with our older generation, we risk fracturing connection with so much wisdom and history; more than that, we assign them to that narrow space of 'what was' and forget that they are as much part of our 'now' as any other member of our family.
- I remember a wee film, starring Susan Sarandon and Richard Gere – it was called 'Shall We Dance.' It was an ok film, but there was a line in it that has stuck with me. It resonated – speaks of a gift we offer each other. The two main characters were discussing their marriage and she said this: "We need a witness to our lives. There's a billion people on the planet... I mean, what does any one life really mean? But in a marriage, you're promising to care about everything. The good things, the bad things, the terrible things, the mundane things... all of it, all of the time, every day. You're saying 'Your life will not go unnoticed because I will notice it. Your life will not go un-witnessed because I will be your witness'."
- A community of faith gives that 'care in the everyday' and it is a vital part of all our lives. Too often, life-long relationships are challenged or severed when a person goes into care, or becomes frail. There can be a multiple bereavement – of their independence, of their sense of contribution, of self; as well as increasing isolation, loneliness and loss of control over the changes sweeping around them. A significant contribution our faith communities can make is to value, protect and nurture those relationships throughout the changes and evolutions ageing brings.
- A 'with, not to' model ... It is imperative that we respect the whole person - the opinions, wishes, concerns and questions that are important to each individual. The 'loss of independence' can be exacerbated by the 'infantilization' of older members. Our faith communities can be a space of intentional inclusion – how might we work with our older members to create programmes and services that work for them rather than falling into the temptation of doing things 'to and for' them.

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE search the Internet for **Malcolm Goldsmith lecture 2023 (Eventbrite)**

DRAFT PRESBYTERY PLAN

Dear all,

We are now in receipt of the **draft** plan for Presbytery, including the Strathaven area. Please see attached for the page referring to ourselves and Avendale Old & Drumclog.

In short, we should enter a parish grouping (which is a formal agreement to work together on mission & outreach while maintaining our independence). Ministry will be allocated as (whole time equivalent):

0.75 for Trinity and 0.75 for Avendale Old & Drumclog

Regarding buildings:

Our Strathaven building and Avendale will be classified as **A** meaning they will both be retained as main places of worship. Chapelton, Glassford and Drumclog will be classified as **B** meaning they are to be closed.

Closure date being the end of June 2024

I am deeply saddened at the proposal with regards buildings and the extremely short timescale.

What happens now?

The draft plan will be discussed at three Presbytery meetings, with our area being on the 2nd October. We are invited to send three representatives to that meeting (but only our Presbytery Elder and minister have a vote). However, it will be live-streamed (www.fvandc.org.uk).

If the draft plan is agreed it goes to an Edinburgh Committee for approval. If approved, appeals can be made at that point (not before). There are only limited grounds for appeal.

The document is almost 150 pages long which is a lot of information to take on board. That said, initial observations have raised a few issues that we would like addressed.

Error: Strathaven Trinity moves from 1MWS + 0.5 MDS

MWS = minister of word and sacrament

MDS = youth/children's worker

Cluster Mission Reason: we had provided reasons but none printed. These were:

Trinity Glassford building TBC - Village worship, local community hub. Used by school for services and parent events.

Trinity Chapelton building TBC - Village worship, vibrant Girls Brigade company, and local community hub utilised for outreach. Used for school activities (as school not big enough and no village hall).

We had presented a five-year plan for buildings. Never-the-less there is no rationale behind closing buildings on 30th June 2024. Other buildings in Presbytery are given a longer timeframe.

This is particularly pertinent when considering three of the deliverances approved at this year's General Assembly:

In relation to the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021) and taking decisions as to categorisation of buildings in Mission Plans, whether on first agreement of a Mission Plan or on annual evaluation and development of the Mission Plan, affirm that these decisions are to be taken on the basis of section 2.1.1 of the Act, i.e. primarily on the basis of Mission as defined; and also affirm that once decisions as to the categorisation of buildings in terms of section 2.1.2 of the Act have been taken, the categorisation may thereafter change at annual evaluation and development of the Mission Plan.

Affirm that, as a national Church, the Church of Scotland seeks to have adequate spaces in as many places as are properly affordable, and instruct the General Trustees to report to the 2024 General Assembly on the application of this principle in relation to the Trustees' approach to the annual evaluation and development of Presbytery Mission Plans in terms of section 2.3.2 of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021).

Commend the thorough analyses used by the General Trustees in Presbytery Mission Planning, and instruct the General Trustees to continue their theological reflection on buildings classification, in particular with respect to geographical presence and liturgical diversity.

I think a letter to Presbytery, in the first instance, seeking clarity on the above should be our initial course of action. Then it will be questions etc on the floor of Presbytery.

I hope the above gives you some useful information.

Shaw

STRATHAVEN FRIENDS OF HEALTH HELP INTERNATIONAL

Leaf Cards Just a reminder that I have lots of leaf cards available all year round. They are suitable for all occasions, birthdays, condolences, thank you, and short notes. There are also plenty of Christmas cards for those who like to get organised well ahead. Every card purchased supports a poor family in India.

They can be ordered online at sfhhi.org.uk
or, I am happy to take orders over the phone 07916 171 830

or, just speak to me any time. 😊

I would love to hear from you.

Thanks,
Kath 521059 and Iain 520204



Rankin File at Trinity's rehearsals are underway for this years Panto "Cinderella" which will take place on Wednesday 29th November to Saturday 2nd December 2023 in the Large Hall at 19:30. Door open at 19:00.

Block bookings are open now and ticket order by phoning Nancy on 01357 521933.

Ticket prices are £6 and £5 concession.



CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Just a reminder that Annabel from Citizens Advice Bureau is in the vestry every Tuesday from 10:00am – 1:00pm. This is a first come-first served basis so make sure that you are here nice and early.

The Church of Scotland Guild Annual Gathering 2023

This year for the first time in many years I attended the Guild Annual Gathering again - and it did not disappoint! The friendliness, talks, singing and entertainment were just as I think they always are – refreshing, fun and so encouraging. Due to family circumstances – we babysit our grandchildren in Edinburgh on a Tuesday – I cannot regularly attend the Trinity Guild. This day reminded me just what a wonderful, inspiring organisation the Guild is, how dedicated Guildswomen are – and I include our local team here in that heartfelt praise – and what a friendly group the Guild is.



I can just be seen top left hand corner!

My reasons for choosing to go this year were threefold: I had never been inside the Assembly rooms despite seeing them many times on television during the Church General Assembly; I was interested to hear the new moderator speak – admiring her work with Christian Aid; I have also a great admiration for Jason Leitch, having read an article by him previously in Life and Work and also from his work during covid as Scotland's clinical director when he became a part of our daily lives



with his guidance on covid issues.



The Assembly Halls are lovely – a bit of a rabbit warren, but I really liked the auditorium – and the loop system was a great joy, working perfectly to allow the hard of hearing (me) to hear every word clearly.

The Moderator spoke to the new theme – New Wine, New Wineskins, praising the Guild for taking on such a brave theme and exhorting us to 'Remember who we are!' – a constant parting shot

from her grandmother as she was growing up. Jason Leitch spoke both about the covid pandemic and the work he and his wife support in a charity in India. He spoke for almost an hour without a note – and he was very entertaining! He dropped witty one-liners into his talk constantly keeping us both interested and laughing throughout! I felt my admiration for both these speakers was definitely not misplaced.

A final lovely little twist to my day out was in the installation of the incoming Guild convener – Rae Lind. Had I been a better Guildswoman and attender at meetings I might have known beforehand that Rae Lind was going to be the convener, but I'm not and I didn't! Rae was installed as convener by her husband George Lind. And here's the twist: Prior to his retirement, the Revd George Lind was minister in St Columba's Church, Stewarton, where I was brought up. I knew him well through weekend visits home and he very kindly came back to my mother's outdoor, socially distanced funeral tea and gave a private eulogy of his time as mum's minister. A further twist was that Rae Lind's mother and my mother were at school together about 80 years before they met up again in Stewarton and enjoyed a few right good blethers. To chat briefly to both George and Rae at the Gathering was a lovely unexpected treat.



A thoroughly enjoyable day indeed!

Maureen Geraghty

Strathaven Fairtrade

The Fairtrade stall will be available after the service on the first Sunday of every month. We hope to offer a limited range of your favourite fairtrade sweets and groceries and thank you all once again for your support for the poorest and most vulnerable producers throughout the world.

Maureen and Nancy

REMINDER! New Connections has now gone digital!

If you would like to receive the magazine via email rather than hard copy, please would you pop a message to Ruth at the office on **strathaventrinity@gmail.com** with your name, who your elder is and your preferred email address.

LIVE STREAMING

Our Strathaven services are live-streamed (and available as a recording later). It is only the chancel area and first two pews that are in sight of the camera. Parents, in particular, should be aware that if they do not wish their child to be visible 'on-line' then they should ensure that they sit a couple of pews from the front.

We are now well established with live-streaming services from the Strathaven building on Sundays and for funerals and weddings (when requested). However, we would value some additional volunteers to assist and then a rota can be established. You do not need to understand how live-streaming works. It's straightforward if you are used to working a computer. Please get in touch if you wish any further information about what is involved or speak to one of the 'team' on a Sunday.

LOAVES AND FISHES

As you know we have been supporting Loaves and Fishes Foodbank for some time now and they are extremely thankful for all that they receive from us. When I take the food to them I am extremely humbled by what they are achieving. As times are getting harder for many people Loaves and Fishes are facing a crisis with not enough food to support the needs of many.

If you can, please bring an item of food to church on a Sunday morning or drop off at office when it is open.

Any dried or tinned foods and toiletries would be suitable and would make a huge difference to the work of the charity.

Together we
can make a
difference!

Ruby
Davidson



Memory Club

* The dates of the October meetings of the club are Wednesday 11th
 * October when Hame Brew returns to entertain us and Wed 25th Oc-
 * tober when we shall enjoy an afternoon of quizzes and games,
 * rounded off with an afternoon tea. So, do not eat a big lunch on 25
 * th!! Both meetings at the usual time of 1.30 – 3.15 in the large hall
 * of Trinity Church, Lethame Road.
 * If you or a loved one are experiencing issues with memory loss due
 * to dementia why not come along and enjoy an activity, some musical
 * entertainment and a chat over tea and coffee. Often, a family mem-
 * ber accompanies the person experiencing issues and can find some
 * support from others in the same position.
 * We are also a Help Point for the Playlist for Life charity so if you are
 * interested in setting up a personal playlist and need some advice
 * please call in during one of our meetings. June's Life and Work mag-
 * azine featured an article on Playlist for Life which may be interesting
 * for you to read.
 * For more information, please contact Lynda Horn on 07778579504
 *

TRINITY MEN'S COFFEE GROUP

There is a men's group that meets
 in the Rankin Room (upstairs in
 the hall) on Wednesday mornings
 between 10.30 am until 12 noon
 for coffee/tea, biscuits and a chat.
 Come and go for part or all of the
 time, as suits you.

LADIES KEEP FIT

Trinity's Keep Fit class meets on
 Mondays in the small (East) hall of our
 Strathaven buildings, from 7-8pm.
 Exercises are designed to maintain
 fitness, so not dynamic. We do a lot of
 laughing so the hour goes quickly. Oh,
 and the exercise is usually to 60's mu-
 sic!

Cillia McLeary

WHEELIE BINS

We have been advised that the bin lorries will no longer empty our wheelie bins
 unless the lid is able to close.

In Strathaven - the church wheelie bin is the black bin located in the manse gar-
 den. This bin is of sufficient size for normal activities. However, if you are having
 a function/party/event that generates more rubbish than usual please arrange to
 take it to the amenity site for disposal. Please do not stack the bin with the lid
 open or leave on the ground adjacent as birds and foxes make quite a mess.

CAR PARKING

Please be considerate of our neighbours when parking for church events! Please ensure you park responsibly and be careful not to block anyone's access.

This applies for Sunday services, funerals, weddings and weekday activities in the halls.

At busy times parking is a premium and so please only use the car park off Crawford Street when attending the church or halls - there have been several instances lately when the car park has been full prior to anyone arriving for a church/hall event! Therefore, do not be afraid to ask if others who are parking in the car park are attending something in our premises and, if not, encourage them to park elsewhere.

KIDS KLUB

Kids Klub meets on those Sundays when the Sunday School is "on holiday". Children wishing to participate should go into Church as normal for the children's address then make their way to the large hall where there will be board games for them to enjoy during the remainder of the service.

It would be great if we could have a few more helpers (we need two per session) – the role is supervisory and there is no requirement to plan activities. Now is a good time to contact me so that PVG forms can be completed. There is no regular commitment for Kids Klub – just operating on a "now and again" basis. I will put together a rota, depending on who is available.

Claire Campbell (01357 520191)

BIGGER PICTURE ...Mondays at Lunch Time

Academy pupils are welcome to come along to the large hall for a hot chocolate and biscuits (and a Toastie, if they wish) while eating their lunch, or watching cartoons on the big screen. Please let as many as possible know about the hall being open – it's a dry and warm place to have lunch.

BIGGER PICTURE +1... Fridays at Lunch Time

The Friday version of Bigger Picture is up and running although volunteers are still needed to make toasties and/or hot chocolate and simply 'be there'. For more information please speak to Cillia Mcleary.



Minister:	Rev Dr Shaw Paterson	spaterson@churchofscotland.org.uk 01357 520019
Pastoral Assistant	Rev Norman McKee	normanmckee946@btinternet.com 01698 827358
Session Clerk:	Ruby Davidson	rubydavidson96@yahoo.com 07809 128038
Church Secretary:	Ruth Ward-Cox Mon-Thurs 9:15-11:45	strathaventrinity@gmail.com 01357 529316
Sunday School:	Pamela Walker	TSundaySchool@outlook.com
Youth Worker:	Julie Robertson	jrobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk 07544 249324
Treasurer:	David Lipowski	david.lipowski@gmail.com
Ass. Treasurer:	Sheila Dodds	sheiladodds24@gmail.com
Presbytery Elder:	Scott Bennie	01357 521 661

Choosing to be positive
and having a grateful attitude
is going to determine
how you're going to live
your life.

CHURCH OFFICE

The church office hours are term time Monday to Thursday
09:15—11:45.
The email address is strathaventrinity@gmail.com

NEW CONNECTIONS

EDITORIAL

Well....that was an exciting end to the summer. I hope you all managed to enjoy our Indian summer!

It was certainly very welcome after the rather dreich July and August. The combine harvesters have been out in force in the fields of barley and it looks like it should have been a great harvest all round. It's very sad that the hot weather we can enjoy seems to be part of this tragedy we know as Global Climate Change. As we enjoyed our unseasonably warm September the most horrific floods elsewhere have taken thousands of lives. And unfortunately those are only the dramatic, reported disasters. There is ongoing and continuous drought, flooding and searing high temperatures in some countries which never make the headlines but which nevertheless cost lives and livelihoods amongst our much more vulnerable neighbours. That we contribute considerably to these disasters is very hard to swallow. We can only do what we can to help change this situation.

Meantime I've been reading my Life and Work again! This time what I loved and think would be a great idea for New Connections was in September's issue when Thomas Baldwin asked the question, 'What have been your most memorable experiences of singing in worship?' He relates these experiences to the 'confidence, enthusiasm and the sheer intoxicating joy of singing together.'

I think this would be a great question to put to our choir, in the 1st instance; then all other members of the congregation – get your thinking caps on now and bring out all those memories!

Keep singing and take care!
Maureen

Stories from our parishioners:

'What have been your most memorable experiences of singing in worship?'

Submit your contributions and some of them will be published in next month's magazine.

**Final date for inclusion in our
October edition of New Connections is :-
Monday 18th September 2023**