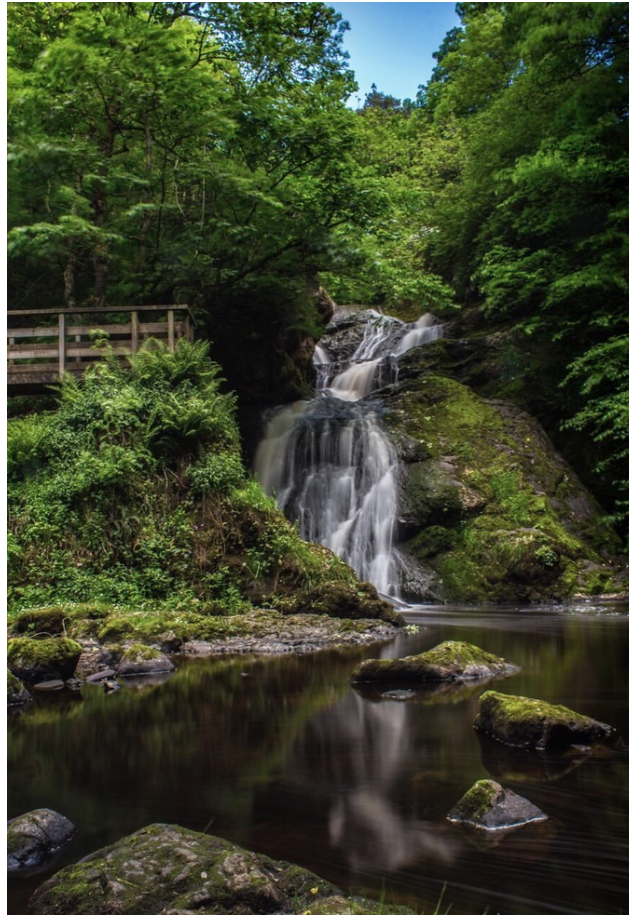


# NEW CONNECTIONS

The congregational Magazine of  
Strathaven: Trinity Parish Church

***November 2023***



Spectacle e falls - Strathaven

**Website: [www.strathaventrinity.co.uk](http://www.strathaventrinity.co.uk)**  
**Church office: [strathaventrinity@gmail.com](mailto:strathaventrinity@gmail.com)**  
**Telephone: 01357 520019**

*From the  
Minister's  
Desk*



To say I am in a state of shock would be an understatement! Even though I knew my name was under consideration, I never thought for a moment that I would be invited to become the next Moderator of the General Assembly. I have

known for several weeks (and been sworn to secrecy) and the news still hasn't sunk in. In fact, I fear that I will wake up and think 'that was some dream'. It has only been as the number of briefings increased, having professional photographs taken and being interviewed by the communications people at the church offices that I am beginning to realise that this is real.

Throughout my ministry I have sought to serve the church in whatever role I have been asked. I have been a prison chaplain, presbytery clerk and presbytery moderator (twice). I have convened committees at local and national level. However, my heart lies very much in parish ministry. For the last 32 years I have tried to be the best minister I could be. I have learned so much and am still learning. My home, my life, my family are rooted here and so the thought of being Moderator was never one that I ever imagined would become a reality. Therefore, to receive a phone call while driving on the M80 (hands free, of course) during rush hour which, in essence, said 'congratulations Moderator' was a complete shock.

Five weeks later, I still cannot quite grasp the reality but more than that, I cannot express the sense of honour that I feel deep down inside. To the congregation and parish spread over three communities you have my heartfelt thanks for supporting me in my ministry, and so the honour of Moderator is as much yours as mine. Thank you for your continued support.

The preparation for the year that follows my installation has already begun and the diary is already filling up with commitments. The chairing of the Assembly is only the beginning as a year of representing the church and taking the greetings of the national church around Scotland and to different parts of the world follows. However, please be assured that I will be back during my year and once my term in office is complete!

A date for your diary: 18th May 2024. This is the opening session of the General Assembly. There is a public gallery for those who may wish to travel through to watch the proceedings, which will also be available online.

To everyone associated with Trinity 'thank you' for you have made this possible.

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.

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.



### **November**

5 <sup>th</sup> November	<i>Glassford Communion</i> Shaw at Glassford; Norman at Chapelton and Strathaven
12th November	<i>Remembrance</i> Shaw at Chapelton and Strathaven; Robin at Glassford
19th November	Shaw at Glassford and Strathaven; Valerie at Chapelton
26th November	Robin at Chapelton and Strathaven; Valerie at Glassford (Shaw off)

### **December**

3rd December	Shaw at Glassford and S; Norman at Chapelton
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### **MEMORY TREE**

Throughout advent, a bare, scrawny tree will be placed in the church for people to put their memories (or wishes) on. By the time Christmas Day arrives, it is hoped that the tree will be decorated and transformed, with memories or wishes, in preparation for the birth of the Christ Child. Tags to hang on the tree are available, or you can bring your own (gift tags are ideal).



## FUNERALS

2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Mia Barclay (Elder)
7 <sup>th</sup> October	Emily Butler
16 <sup>th</sup> October	Christine Sinclair
31 <sup>st</sup> October	Matthew Burns
1 <sup>st</sup> November	Iain Greenock (Elder)
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Marion Hamilton



THANK YOU to everyone!

I have been overwhelmed by the good wishes and messages of congratulations since my appointment as Moderator Designate for the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Please accept my sincere thanks. I would also like to say 'thank you' for the standing ovation at the Kirk Session meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> and at the church service on the 29<sup>th</sup> October.

I really felt a warmth that cannot be put into words and sensed the care you have for me. I found it very emotional. Thank you! I am fortunate to have you as my congregation.

Shaw

## OFFERINGS

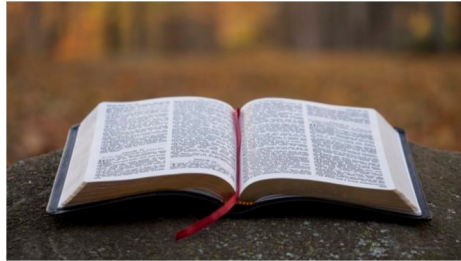
The Sunday offering (collection) is now being taken during the service in all three buildings.

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



### 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 <sup>st</sup> )	Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37
10 Dec 2023 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
17 Dec 2023 (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	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 <sup>th</sup> )	TBC
31 Dec 2023	Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40



### BUBBLEGUM & FLUFF (B&F)

Our Advent/Christmas activity for Primary 6/7 pupils. This is a fun activity that helps to share the real message of Christmas with pupils from all the feeder schools to the Academy. We are looking for volun-

teers to help out - extra pairs of hands to set out materials, aid the children in the activities and clear up afterwards.

**Dates have been arranged for the mornings of Monday November 27th at Wester Overton and Tuesday November 28th at Kirklandpark.** Please speak to the minister for more information. (You do not need to help at both sessions). Thank you.



## **STRATHAVEN FLOWER CALENDAR**

### **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

### **January**

7th Mrs M Taylor  
14th Mrs J Graham & Mrs B Park  
21th Mrs L Fleming  
28th Mrs A Park

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

## **GLASSFORD FLOWER CALENDAR**

### **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



### **JANUARY**

7th Mrs A Brisbane  
14th Mrs M Steel  
21st Mrs J Meikle  
28th Mrs E Moore

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

## **CHAPELTON FLOWER CALENDAR**

### **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

### **JANUARY**

7th Mrs J Callan c/o Ellen Callan  
14th Mrs M Hamilton  
21st Mrs J Young  
28th Mrs M Gilmour



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

## **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](mailto:strathaventrinity@gmail.com) and they will be put on the list.

## **COMMUNION—2023**

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

- **Chapelton & Strathaven** - Sunday 1st December
- **Glassford** - Sunday 5th 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.**



## We need to 'build together' says next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

Published on 26 October 2023

A minister who was discouraged from going to university and told that his Lanarkshire accent would hamper his life prospects has been announced as the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Rev Dr Shaw James Paterson will take up the role on Saturday 18 May 2024 and spend a year as the Kirk's ambassador.



*Rev Dr Shaw James Paterson in Strathaven Trinity Parish Church.*

Serving since 1991, as minister at Strathaven Trinity Parish Church in Lanarkshire, he was expected to become a bricklayer like other family members before him, but took a different path and he went on to complete four degrees at Glasgow University, including a doctorate.

The father of three, who is originally from Holytown, was told by teachers that there was no point continuing his studies, but was encouraged to do so at home.

"My father recognised something in me and I got in to study biology at Glasgow University," he explains.

"He pushed me in a gentle and encouraging way.

"That moment when they shout Moderator – it will be for my Dad."

During his time at Glasgow University, he supported himself by working various jobs, including as a tiler.

"I still do some tiling for folk and I'm hands on with property in my church," he says.

### **A calling**

Straight after finishing his undergraduate degree, Dr Paterson married Christine at the University of Glasgow Memorial Chapel. She is now a senior member of the community nursing team.

Immediately thereafter he began a degree in divinity.

"They talk about a calling – it was this sense that God was chipping away and chipping away.

"I did not want to be a minister and I felt a bit like Jonah – I thought go away, I want to do my career in science.

"Eventually I had a tortuous night and I thought of Isaiah 6: 'whom shall I send... send me'.

"I basically woke up and said 'OK God you win, send me I'll do it'.

"Having made the decision, I then knew it was the right one."

Dr Paterson's placement as a probationer was with Very Rev Dr Hugh Wyllie, who he says "showed me how to be a minister".

Reflecting on more than 30 years in a parish, including 10 years also working as a Presbytery Clerk, he says he "thrives" on pastoral work, albeit there have been some very tough moments.



"Undoubtedly the most challenging point of my ministry has been supporting people around child death," he says.

"How do you deal with it and stay above your own tears?"

The wish to support people as best he can eventually lead to his doctorate in practical theology, which looks at ministering to those who have experienced early miscarriage.

#### **God cares**

Dr Paterson believes listening to people is at the heart of supporting people who are going through a difficult time for any reason.

"It means you can try and begin to understand what people have got going on, and convey that their story is important."

He plans to spend next year "listening to as many people as possible".

"If you asked me for three words to describe what's important to me as a minister – and indeed as a Moderator – it would be people, people, people," he says.

"People in the pews, in the parish.

"People of all ages from pupils to pensioners and every stage in between.

"I love connecting with people, hearing their stories and reminding them that I care, the Church cares, God cares."

#### **Building together**

Acknowledging that "there is a lot of upset" currently across the Church of Scotland, particularly due to the planned closure of Kirk buildings in order to safeguard the future of the organisation, Dr Paterson says that "one of the themes I'd like to have for my year as Moderator is building together – it goes back to my roots".

"As a Church we have strong foundations and it might not be my building or your building that's kept, but our foundations are in Christ.

"We need to build together and we need to come together – we need to realise almost everyone is losing something.

"We have to try and get over any sense of animosity.

"We're a Church together and we need to go forward together to build on the foundations of all our forebears."

Other hopes that Dr Paterson has for his time representing the Church include highlighting the work of NHS staff, particularly due to family connections and his regular visits to hospitals.

He also looks forward to "hopefully bringing a bit of levity to proceedings", although he describes his style as traditional, as well as preaching in different parts of the country.

Over 30 years Dr Paterson's interests have included supporting Loaves and Fishes a charity in East Kilbride, which distributes food, toiletries and clothing to people in need locally.

Seventeen years ago he opened up the church halls to secondary school children at lunchtime two days each week providing a warm space, hot chocolate and toasties.

"It's not doing church – it's being church," Dr Paterson says.

He also set up Strathaven Memory Group for those with memory issues and their carers, is involved with youth musical theatre and is currently a lay advisor within the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (Glasgow).

#### **A tremendous privilege**

Despite all of these achievements, most of all he says he has aimed to serve the church.

"I have served the wider Church through committees, convenorships, supervising the next generation for the ministries of the Church, and as co-moderator of a newly formed presbytery.

"I also have experience of union negotiations – successfully bringing together four Kirk Sessions and congregations, while sharing in the hurt of a lost building.

"I have sought to be a faithful and loyal parish minister, which has been a tremendous privilege and honour."

**CHILDREN, FAMILY AND YOUTH WORKER -  
JULIE ROBERTSON**

I am writing this finding it hard to believe that November is next week. I always feel once the September weekend has been and gone, we are on a very quick rundown to Christmas!

As is the way in churches we are always looking ahead to whichever season we are in and so now our focus is on Christmas – only 9 Fridays left until Christmas as I write this (so even less now you are reading it!). Over the past few months, we have had lots of fun at our toddler groups, after school clubs and Messy Churches. We also had our Light Party where we heard about how our relationship with God is not passive and he calls us to action by changing our hearts to let his glory shine out from us. In September we had our Beetle Drive which was lots of fun and fellowship. How wonderful to serve a God who calls us to share time and fellowship with each other as His family!

So as we rely on our earthly families I've been considering how we as a church family can share in each others lives and faith journeys, practically and spiritually. I have put together a few dates between now and Christmas (and beyond!) and would love for you to take notes of the dates, sign up for ticketed events and participate and come along whenever you are able.

If you are able to volunteer to help – especially at my Nov and Dec events, please let me know as I will require much assistance!

I hope you all have a wonderful November.

*Till next time – Blessings!*

*Julie*

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Toddler groups—Term Time Only

Monday 10-11.30 Strathaven,

Tuesday 10-11.30 Glassford,

Wednesday 10-11.30 Chapelton

Thursday After School—Term Time Only

Thursday club Thursdays in Glassford 3-4pm



## **NOVEMBER**

### **Messy Church**

Messy Church will be Sunday 19th November 2023 3-5pm.

### **Stay and Play event**

Fancy a catch up with friends, a date night with your significant other, need to clean the kids rooms and don't want them under your feet? On Saturday 18th November bring your kids to church between 17:30 and 19:30 where we will have games, crafts and activities and you can catch up with whoever or whatever you need to!

## **DECEMBER**

### **Family Ceilidh**

9th December from 2pm till 6pm will be our family ceilidh! Tickets are £10 each for those 13 and over, 12 and under will require a ticket but are free. Tickets include a small fish/sausage supper at the break. All funds raised will be split between our festive donations to Save the Children and the Sick Kids hospital in Glasgow.

### **Santa's helper Saturday**

16th December from 10-12 will be Santa's helper Saturday – need to post your presents to the North Pole, clean the oven, wrap or shop or whatever you need a couple of hours to catch up on the week before Christmas? Drop the kids – or stay with them – for a morning of hot chocolate and Christmas Crafts.

### **Nativity**

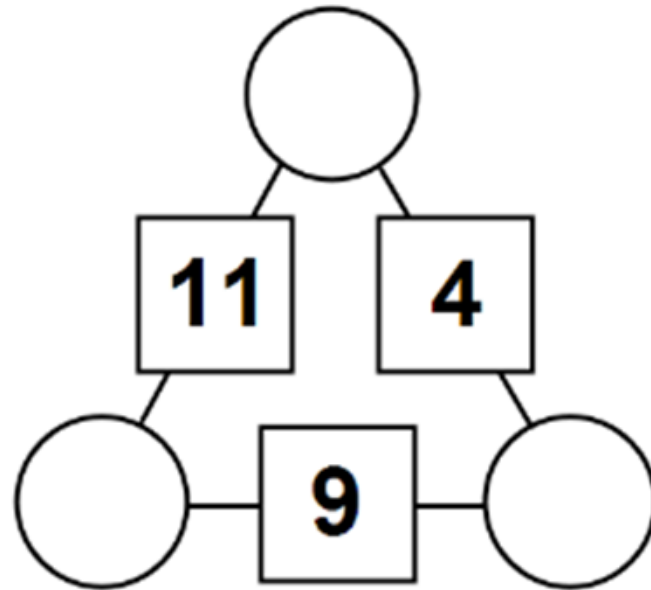
24th December – Nativity will be held in each of the churches during Sunday worship but there will also be an all age Christmas Service in Strathaven at 6pm. Service will last around 30-40 minutes.

## **MIA BARCLAY (Elder)**

Mia was a person of strong faith... she served the Guild for many years and was Coordinator/President. This was a role that she was dedicated to and did everything possible to make sure things were just right. Turning the clock back to the building of the large hall, Mia ran whist drives and fashion shows as fundraisers.

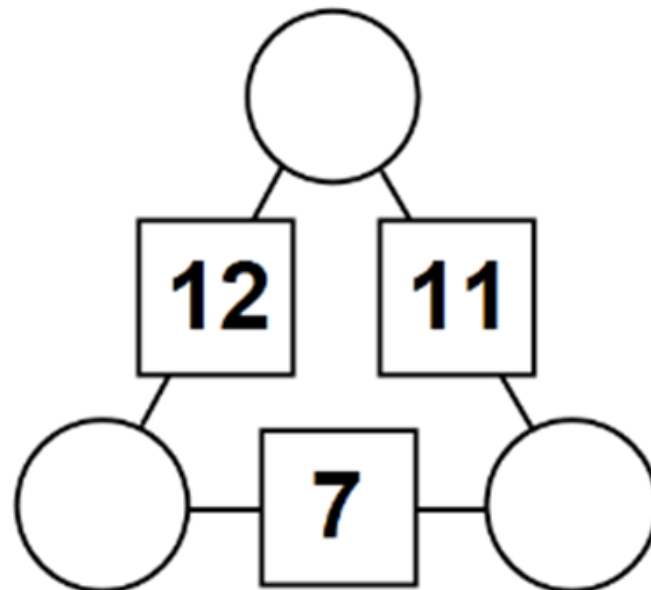
Mia was ordained an elder at Rankin in 2006. This was a role she took seriously and was very faithful in carrying out her duties. In terms of her district she visited regularly even when she wasn't so able. Rankin/Trinity was very much her religious and spiritual home and now we think of her in her eternal home, in heaven itself. We thank God for her life and for sharing in her life.

Our thoughts and prayers are very much with the three boys and their families.



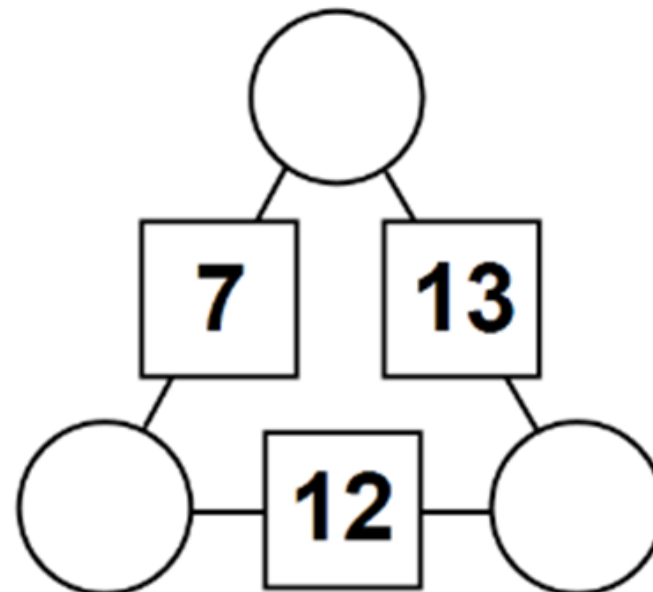
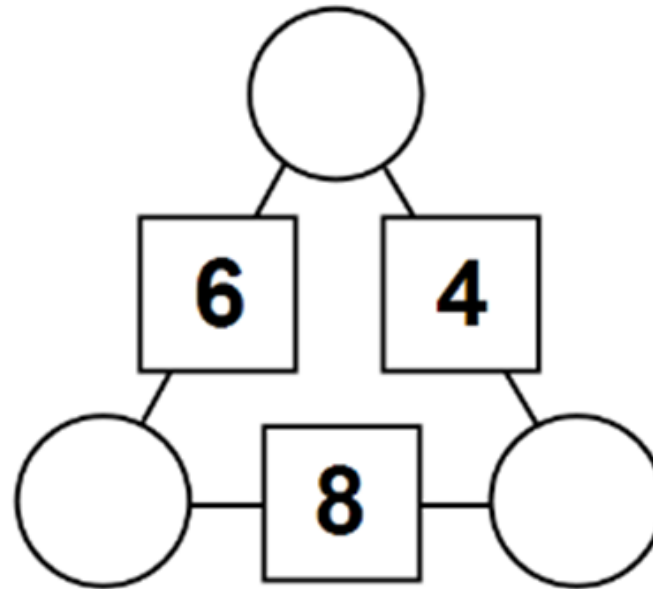
**See if you can**  
**four arithr**

The aim of an a  
to work out wh  
go in the empty  
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are made by ad  
the numbers in  
either :



**Can solve these  
Arithmagons.**

An arithmagon is a triangle in which numbers are placed in the square boxes. The numbers in the circles are found by adding together the numbers in the square boxes on either side.





We had a fantastic afternoon on Sunday 26th October raising money for Loaves and Fishes. The children were fantastic and involved in every stage of the planning and execution of the event. The whole congregation were involved in playing curling, darts, golf, quoits.... To name but a few.... We are delighted to have raised the amazing amount of £342.20 and are so excited to take this with us when we visit Loaves and Fishes on Sunday 19th November to find out more about the great work they do. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this such a successful event. Everyone in the congregation was so generous and, of course, a special mention to the children from all three churches who were absolute stars during the event.

Many thanks as always —The Sunday School Team





### **STRATHAVEN TRINITY GUILD**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 November at 2.00 pm in Strathaven when we look forward to welcoming 'The Clydeside Celties'. They are a group of ladies who play harp and guitar.

On Tuesday 28 November we have an accessible coach going to MacArthur Glen shopping centre in Livingston and this is open to anyone who would like a shopping outing! The coach leaves Station Road at 10.00 am and will then leave Livingston at 4.00 pm for the return to Strathaven. The cost is £10 (non-refundable) and if you have not yet booked a seat, please contact Morag McKay (tel 01357 520253). Money must be paid by 14 November.

We are looking forward to our annual Christmas lunch outing which this year is being held on Tuesday 12 December. Country Bake (Janet Foster) are providing the meal being held in Strathaven Bowling Club.

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).

In January we look forward to hearing from Liz Allan, Deedee Cuddihy, Sepsis Research and Eric and Jackie Rice. We also look forward to a demonstration by local gymnasts and highland dancers. On February 27 Studio 32 are in concert in the church and tickets will be on sale soon.

*Ishbel Anderson*

### **IAIN GREENOCK (ELDER)**

Iain's connection with the congregation started at Chapelton. He was involved with the Boys' Brigade which meant a great deal to him. Indeed, he insisted that at his funeral all the verses of Will Your Anchor Hold should be sung, such was the role the BB had played in his life. On moving into Strathaven, Iain was to be Ordained an Elder in 1994 and was active on the Kirk Session until a couple of years ago. He was a great supporter of the church, not only through his District but by ensuring that donations of Irn Bru etc were provided for many activities or functions - Iain being in a senior position with Barr's. Iain was a great encourager of others and his wisdom was also valued by many. He will be sorely missed. We remember his wife Kate and the family in our thoughts and prayers.

## **STRATHAVEN FRIENDS OF HEALTH HELP INTERNATIONAL**

The Christmas leaf cards will be on sale in all of the church halls over the next few weeks after the service. As usual they are also available to order, on line at [sfhhi.org.uk](http://sfhhi.org.uk) or directly from Kath at 521059.

The artists in India who provide for their families with these leaf paintings benefit directly from the sale of the cards and greatly appreciate your support.

Thanks, Kath



### *Children's Gift Service*

Sunday, 3rd December is the Children's Gift Service. As in previous years we have given the toys we receive to the Salvation Army for distribution in the East Kilbride and Strathaven area. This may well be the only present a child receives at Christmas.

Please remember that the gifts must be unwrapped and this year we have been asked specifically for gifts suitable for very young children and teenagers. We thank you for your generosity.



## 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.

### **Stories from our parishioners:**

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

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

To answer this question I have used a very broad interpretation of 'singing in worship'! And three memorable experiences immediately came to mind as I read the original question in the Life and Work magazine.

I remember the unforgettable experience of singing in worship at a family funeral, many years ago. We were singing 'Thine be the Glory' with its rousing acclamation of faith and I have never been so aware of the support of others as with that uplifting glorious sound carrying all of us through a very difficult and moving occasion.

Then in a completely different setting – a monastery on top of a hill in Marseilles! We had been told by friends that the nuns attached to the beautiful ancient monastery served lovely lunches, which indeed they did. Unexpectedly, in the middle of the lunch, there was a sudden silence as the young African girls who had been serving walked down between the tables carrying candles and started singing 'Ave Maria'. The whole restaurant joined in the chorus – the words were given at our tables. These young girls were refugees from Africa cared for by the nuns. Singing with them was a most incredibly moving experience which I have never forgotten.

Finally - an annual event – Strathaven Choral Society's Christmas Concert! The experience of singing wonderful and joyful carols in a packed hall with the accompaniment of both the Choral Society and the Coalburn Brass Band is just superb. I get lost completely in that glorious sound celebrating the Advent of Our Lord.

*Maureen Geraghty*



### DAILY MESSAGES

Anyone willing to record a short advent reading, message and prayer (which we will provide for you) which can go out via social media is invited to volunteer. Please let Ruth in the office know.

### PRESBYTERY PLAN UPDATE

At the first of three meetings to discuss the draft plan, Presbytery voted to defer the plan until further discussions were had with Kirk Sessions in order to explain the rationale behind the proposals. The committee convener resigned following the first meeting. The remainder of Presbytery's planning committee is now working on what happens next.

We will continue to update you on developments as and when they arise.



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. Doors 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.

### HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Harvest appeal. Several car loads of Harvest donations have been donated to Glasgow Lodging House Mission (LHM), which prepares more than 45,000 hot meals every year for those who are homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded.

Our monetary donations this year amounted to £650.60 and this has been a great help to LHM in terms of funding their work.



# Girls Brigade Pancake night

1st Chapelton Girls' Brigade are holding their Pancake night on Thursday 16th November at 7pm in The Church hall in Chapelton. Entrance is £2.00 which includes tea and pancakes with a choice of delicious fillings. There will be baking stall. A £1.00 stall and other attractions.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Sally Clark  
- Captain -



## *Remembrance Day*

There will be Remembrance Sunday Services in all three buildings on 12th November:

Worships will be at:  
9:30am in Chapelton  
10:00am in Glassford  
11:00am in Strathaven

The Royal British Legion Scotland invites all organisations and members of the public to take part in the two-minute silence and brief ceremony at 11am on Saturday 11th November in the Common Green to honour the Fallen at two World Wars and conflicts since and current.

## 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 November meetings of the Memory Club are on:

- Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 1.30-3.15 when we welcome a fiddler group called Loudoun Friends to entertain us.
- Wednesday 22nd November Bill and Linda Menzies make a welcome return on our St Andrew's afternoon meeting.

As usual new members are welcome. The meetings are in the large hall of Trinity Church, Lethame Road.

If you or a loved one is suffering from memory loss and would like to meet others in the same situation why not think of joining us for some social interaction and tea, coffee and cake!

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 music!  
*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 garden. 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**

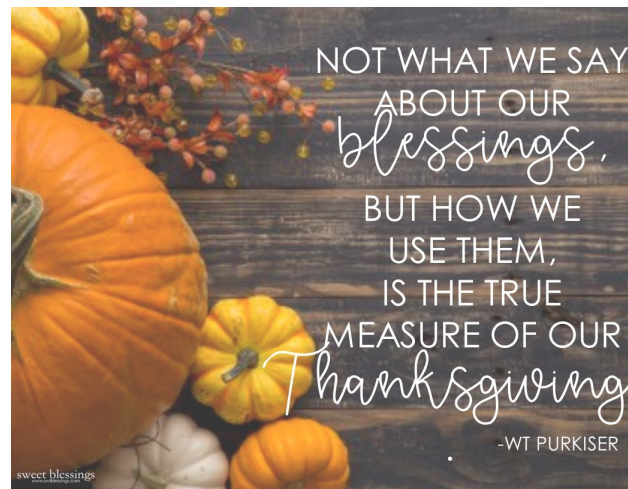
The Friday version of Bigger Picture is up and running although volunteers are still needed to make toasties and/or hot chocolate and simply 'be there'. For more information please speak to Cillia Mcleary.

# WHO?

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

**CHURCH OFFICE**

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



# NEW CONNECTIONS

## EDITORIAL

I always see November as the 'in-between' season. It's not yet really cold but certainly not warm; it's not quite Christmas but it is time to think about Christmas – who's going where for Christmas Day; what cards do I need; prepare a shopping list. There are 'in-between' activities – Halloween and Guy Fawkes night and then there is Remembrance Sunday.

My mother dreaded Remembrance Sunday. She was 17 when the war broke out and by the end of it her friends were largely gone. She was in Glasgow on the night of the Clydebank Blitz. She did not want to remember.

I will find this year's Remembrance Sunday particularly difficult. With modern technology nothing is hidden from us – the current devastating wars are on our doorstep and in our living rooms yet we sit comfortably largely unscathed, watching the slaughter of people – men, women and children – who just like us were living their lives the best way they could . . . . until the bombs came. And I cannot imagine the hell they are living –and dying- through.

All we are left with is prayer.

In the Word for Today leaflets, which Lalita Mishra kindly distributes, Saturday's challenge was headed, 'Don't just pray, believe!'  
(Mark 11 v24)  
Apologies for the sombre tone –

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  
December edition of New Connections is :-  
Monday 20th November 2023**