

NEW CONNECTIONS

The congregational Magazine of
Strathaven: Trinity Parish Church

February 2025

For God 
SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS
ONLY
BEGOTTEN 
SON SO 
THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES
IN HIM SHALL
HAVE EVERLASTING
Life 

Website: www.strathaventrinity.co.uk
Church office: strathaventrinity@gmail.com
Telephone: 01357 520019



Hello everyone,

I can't quite believe that this is the pastoral letter for February 2025! It seems only yesterday that we were celebrating Christmas (less than 346 days to go until Christmas 2025!), enjoying lunches and welcoming the Christ Child. What a gift that is and one we are called to share not just at Christmas but throughout the year.

This is true in the early months of 2025, as we strive to spread the Good News in Chapelton, Glassford and Strathaven.

Our groups have restarted, worship planned and service continued. As many of you know, I was also in hospital with pneumonia over the New Year.

Further, as I write this, I am due to preach as sole nominee to be Minister of Carmunnock linked with Castlemilk Parish Church in Glasgow.

These varied events and emotions show the ups and downs of life, but one where we also support one another. Never underestimate how much this means to people, who know that the Church is there for them always, no matter what.

This is borne out in the story of a man whose New Year's resolution was to break his New Year's resolution...so at least he would succeed at something!

Well here at Strathaven Trinity, we succeed. You succeed. Take comfort from the words of the prophet Isaiah, who said about God:

*Do not be afraid—I am with you! I am your God—let nothing terrify you!
I will make you strong and help you; I will protect you and save you.*

Our family wish you health and happiness for 2025 and huge thanks for all each of you do in Christ's name.

With every good wish,
David



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 David, Valerie, Robin, Norman and Julie for assisting.

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 be at Glassford and Strathaven involving up to and including children's address) then please volunteer to the minister who will provide appropriate resources.



February

	Chapelton / Strath	Glassford
2 Feb.	Norman	David
9 Feb.	David	Robin
16 Feb.	Julie	Valerie
23 Feb.	David	Norman.

March

	Chapelton / Strath	Glassford
2 Mar.	Valerie	David and Norman (Comm)
9 Mar	Norman (Comm)	Julie
16 Mar	Norman	Julie
23 Mar.	Robin	Julie
30 Mar.	Valerie	Norman

April

	Chapelton / Strath	Glassford
6 Apr	Valerie	Robin
13 Apr (Palm)	Norman	Valerie
20 Apr (Easter)	Norman	Robin
27 Apr	Norman	Julie

FUNERALS

6 December
29 January

Harry Menzies
Marion Dickson



First of all, I would like to apologise for the lateness in writing this. Can I say thanks for the gifts of the beautiful arrangement of flowers, cards and phone calls after my hospital stay. Also thanks for Norman McKees visit.

Wishing you all a healthy 2025.

Catherine Reid

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



February

February 2, 2025	Jeremiah 1: 4-10; Psalm 71: 1-6; 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13; Luke 4:21-30
February 9, 2025	Isaiah 6: 1-8, (9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11; Luke 5: 1-11
February 16, 2025	Jeremiah 17: 5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20; Luke 6: 17-26
February 23, 2025	Genesis 45: 3-11, 15; Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50; Luke 6: 27-38

March

March 2, 2025	Exodus 34: 29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3: 12-4: 2; Luke 9: 28-36, (37-43)
March 9, 2025	Deuteronomy 26: 1-11; Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16; Romans 10: 8b-13; Luke 4: 1-13
March 16, 2025	Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3: 17-4: 1; Luke 13: 31-35
March 23, 2025	Isaiah 55: 1-9; Psalm 63: 1-8; 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13; Luke 13: 1-9
March 30, 2025	Joshua 5: 9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21; Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

April

April 6, 2025	Isaiah 43: 16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12: 1-8
April 13, 2025	<i>Entry into Jerusalem</i> Luke 19: 28-40; Psalm 118: 1-2; <i>Passion</i> ; Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Psalm 31: 9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22: 14-23: 56; Luke 23: 1-49
April 20, 2025	Acts 10: 34-43 / Isaiah 65: 17-25; Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15: 19-26 / Acts 10: 34-43; John 20: 1-18 / Luke 24: 1-12
April 27, 2025	Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20: 19-31
May 4, 2025	Acts 9: 1-6, 7-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5: 11-14; John 21: 1-19

STRATHAVEN FLOWER CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

2nd Mrs F. Beveridge
9th Mrs A. Lee
16th Miss M. McKay
23rd Mrs H. Strachan

MARCH

2nd Mrs R. Hastings
9th Mrs A. Grady (*Communion*)
16th Mrs M. Meers
29rd Mrs M. Geraghty
30th Mrs M. Gillies

APRIL

6th Mrs J. Robertson
13th Mrs M. Chandler (*Palm Sunday*)
20th Dr C. McPhail (*Easter Sunday*)
27th Mrs M. McAuley



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

GLASSFORD FLOWER CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

2nd Mrs E. Edwards (*Communion*)
9th Mrs J. Foster
16th Mrs J. Meikle
23rd Mrs C. Baillie

MARCH

2nd Mrs M. Lindsay
9th Mrs J. Ballantyne
16th Mr R. Scott
29rd Mrs M. Smith
30th Mrs J. Weir

APRIL

6th Mrs R. Andrew
13th Mrs H. Kerr
20th Mrs A. Milwain
27th Mrs M. McDonald



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

CHAPELTON FLOWER CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

2nd Mrs B. Beetham
9th Mrs J. Lambie
16th Mrs M. Hamilton
23rd Mrs H. Orr

MARCH

2nd Mr J. Paterson c/o Mary Frew (*Communion*)
9th Mrs L. Wallace
16th Mrs B. Williams
29rd Mrs J. Goldie
30th Mrs L. Menzies

APRIL

6th Mrs P. Gilchrist
13th Mrs E. Somerville
20th Mr J. Frew
27th Mrs V. Mclean



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

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Committee is 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.

COMMUNION—2025

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

- **Chapelton & Strathaven** - Second Sundays in March, June, September and December
- **Glassford** - First Sundays in March, September and November, and second Sunday in May

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.



GUILD

On 11 February we look forward to hearing from Anna Magnusson who will speak to us on 'Religious Broadcasting' – this is our joint meeting when we invite members from all the local churches to join us.

The next meeting is on 25 February when we look forward to welcoming a speaker from one of the new Guild projects – Bibles for Bairns.



Reminder that the World Day of Prayer is being held in Trinity this year on Friday 7 March at 2.00 pm and all are welcome to attend. See pg. 17 for a brief summary.

In March we meet on the 11th when the Clydeside Celties will entertain. On the 25th we look forward to hearing from a speaker from Christian Aid – this will be followed by the annual business meeting.

If you would like to attend any of our meetings please come along – we will be delighted to see you. We meet in the large hall in Strathaven at 2.00 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 on any of the Guild activities please speak to Elizabeth McGowan (President), Morag McKay (Treasurer) or Ishbel Anderson (Secretary).

LOAVES AND FISHES FUNDRAISER

Many of you will know or have spoken to Ruth Ward-Cox, our Church secretary. What you may not know is that Ruth is a very keen amateur runner who has already successfully run three marathons.

In April Ruth will be running her fourth marathon, in Manchester, and feels that this would be an opportunity to raise funds, through sponsorship, for Loaves and Fishes, a charity which the church has supported for over 30 years. Ruth has not set a target since we know that any amount raised will be very much appreciated by the charity.

Please consider sponsoring Ruth through her Just Giving page by scanning the QR code.



Ruby Davidson—Session Clerk

Children's Gift Service 2024

On Sunday, 1st December 2024 we held the Children's Gift Service. As always, we had an amazing response to our gift appeal.

The donations of both gifts and money were all donated to Loaves and Fishes and were both generous and thoughtful.

These gifts made many children, teenagers and adults who otherwise would not have received a gift very happy.

Thank you very much for all your donations.



Soup and Chat

TUESDAYS 11:45 TO 1:45PM

IN THE LARGE HALL.

FREE OF CHARGE. ANY

DONATIONS WILL GO TO
LOAVES AND FISHES.



Messy Church will be on Friday 14th Feb from 17:30-19:30 at Chapelton. Join us for crafts, songs, fun and fellowship including a light bite. All are most welcome!



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

I can't quite believe that we have entered another New Year. They seem to get quicker all the time – I'm sure that's not an age thing!

Our term time activities have started back with a bang with Toddlers in Strathaven and Chapelton and Thursday club in Glassford all being blessed with great attendance from our first week back. Messy church starts back on 14th Feb so if you fancy sharing your valentine's dinner with us, please do come along 17:30-19:30.

Thank you to all who came long to our family Christmas Eve service and participated in our Instant Nativity. It was fabulous to see you and share the birth of Jesus together.

As always, I am here to serve you, our families, our young people and our church as a whole.

Till next time – Blessings!

Julie

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

TODDLER GROUPS:

Toddler groups run as follows:

Monday – Strathaven
Wednesday - Chapelton both 10-11.30.

We will be off 17th and 19th February for the school mid term.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB:

Thursday After School Club runs in Glassford from 15.00-16.00.
We will be off on Thursday 20th and 27th February for the school mid-term and annual leave.

MESSY CHURCH:

Messy Church meets next on Friday 14th February from 17:30-19:30 in Chapelton.



It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to Sunday School after Christmas and New Year.

Thank you to everyone for their kind comments on our nativity show, all the children were absolute stars.

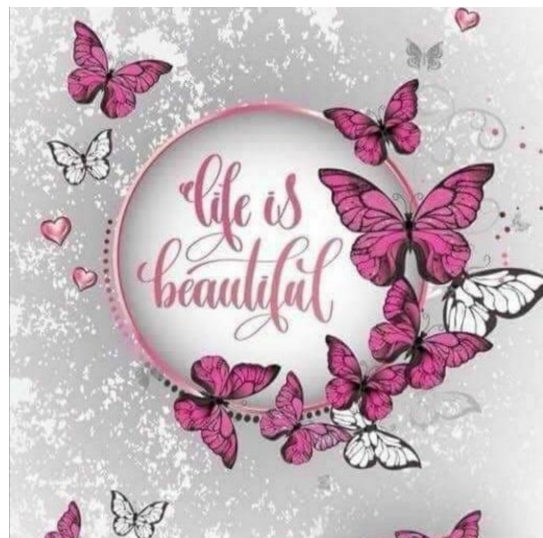
We have started a new block of lessons and activities on "The Books of the Bible". We have lots of fun things planned to help us learn the names of the books in the bible and wee bit about what each of the books is about.

We are planning on making a bookshelf on our display board and adding each book of the bible as we learn them.

Make sure to have a look and see how are progressing!

Many thanks,

Sunday School Team



"Life is a balance
of holding on and
letting go."

*Rumi,
13th century
Persian poet*

This month's wordsearch is a tribute to the parishioners who help out week after week in a single wordsearch unless it takes over the living room floor and several of the name

J	P	V	F	Y	V	F	A	L	I	C	E	U	Z	L	T	P	E	R	R	I	I
A	O	X	A	I	R	D	J	E	I	T	S	D	I	G	T	O	A	J	U	Y	C
Q	E	H	X	C	N	A	M	R	O	N	U	L	F	U	G	F	L	Y	B	L	
J	B	K	N	V	B	C	S	D	C	Y	L	Y	F	L	D	N	I	N	Y	P	C
P	A	M	E	L	A	Q	K	O	E	Y	H	F	A	A	V	Z	E	J	E	M	
H	T	J	R	Y	H	H	G	Q	A	N	N	E	I	V	H	Y	H	J	A	A	I
C	B	K	G	Q	G	X	T	J	X	B	W	E	C	U	U	L	S	G	I	N	C
S	I	A	P	H	M	O	S	U	M	A	A	H	D	T	E	X	J	O	W	I	C
E	N	I	T	S	I	R	H	C	R	J	H	B	N	B	Q	Y	R	A	M	R	I
Z	N	L	E	L	C	P	W	G	B	M	S	W	H	T	M	D	T	S	F	D	I
R	I	Z	C	E	Y	D	N	A	S	B	Z	S	G	K	K	B	L	V	M	N	I
U	B	K	I	Q	D	Q	V	Y	T	I	I	W	N	E	O	Y	P	E	F	A	I
H	O	I	N	T	A	S	V	A	L	E	R	I	E	D	T	K	K	L	B	N	I
A	R	I	A	R	Z	E	C	R	R	Z	L	P	S	O	P	T	O	R	A	C	I
L	W	Y	J	S	I	H	L	O	N	D	I	V	A	D	C	H	E	P	I	O	I
Q	J	K	H	L	Y	O	B	F	P	S	R	A	E	V	T	E	X	N	J	P	I
Z	C	V	U	X	U	E	X	N	W	U	C	K	W	N	Y	T	N	O	A	W	I
L	F	J	G	G	R	T	D	L	A	N	O	D	V	E	Q	M	O	C	O	J	I
I	U	Q	T	T	X	X	E	N	G	W	M	B	L	D	W	R	L	C	M	N	
D	R	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	S	S	L	Y	X	I	L	B	S	P	
R	T	S	U	R	B	Q	Z	M	J	V	E	O	W	A	R	T	F	V	Q	M	I
S	T	E	R	A	G	R	A	M	V	L	D	A	Z	M	K	A	E	A	X	N	I

week in Trinity Parish. This is merely the beginning! All the names cannot be included
 names should be included several times. So, watch this space – more to come next

I	U
Y	O
L	I
P	G
M	J
A	B
N	Z
I	Z
R	U
D	K
N	F
A	H
N	H
C	E
D	D
P	R
W	E
J	H
N	T
P	A
M	E
N	H

week. See how many of the jobs you can relate to the names! New
 Connections aims to publish a table of all the willing helpers – It may have to
 be a little (or not so little) booklet. Thank you all so much for all you do!

ALICE	MARGARET
ANDRINA	MARY
ANNE	NORMAN
CHRISTINE	PAMELA
DAVID	RITA
DONALD	ROBERT
ELIZABETH	ROBIN
HEATHER	RUBY
ISHBEL	RUTH
JANETTE	SANDY
JANICE	SCOTT
JOE	SHAW
JOHN	SHEILA
JULIE	VAL
LESLEY	VALERIE
LILLY	

OUR CHRISTIAN LABEL
SHAW'S ARTICLE IN JANUARY'S LIFE AND WORK.

I am sure we are all enjoying the presents we received at Christmas! By now what didn't fit has been exchanged; and what does fit, well, with all those extra chocolates and sweeties, we just hope it will still fit in the first few weeks of 2025.

Last year I was fortunate to receive a designer shirt. I wore it on New Year's Day for the annual gathering at my brother's home and was met with cries of 'you've still got the labels on'. I know, I replied, because I want you to know that I am wearing 'designer'.

We've celebrated the birth of Jesus, the visit of the shepherds and the Wise Men, our decorations are packed away for another year, and lo and behold, Jesus is 30 years old when we turn the page of our Bible. Jesus is being baptised, calling his disciples to follow him, performing miracles and teaching large (and small) crowds. People are assigning him labels. Some say he is John the Baptist, others thought Elijah, while others said Jeremiah or some other prophet. (See Matthew 16: 13-16).

At one of our lunch time sessions, when we open the church hall to pupils from the secondary school for hot chocolate and toasties, I was speaking to a teenager who mentioned something about science and what subjects she was going to pick. I suggested biology (my first academic discipline). 'But what do you know about biology?' was the response. She was quite surprised that I had done anything other than study the Bible and couldn't quite accept that I lived in the same world she did. Being a minister, she had assigned me a label. Rightly or wrongly, she had formed a view of who I was simply based on the job I do. Returning to Matthew 16, Jesus follows up his initial question about who do people say he is with a direct question to the disciples, 'Who do you say I am?' There was no hiding behind the responses of others. Simon Peter claimed him to be the Messiah, the Son of the living God, and is congratulated on his answer.

Jesus asks you and I the same question. It is one thing to respond in the same way, but the proof of what we say is evidenced not just by a label but by the way we live our life.

The labels we wear are important, and I'm not talking about our outward appearance.

We must always remember that as Christians we have a designer's mark on us – that mark was put there by Christ – it is the kind of designer's label that remains hidden unless people can recognise it through the way we live our faith in Christ, the Son of the loving God.

My plea to us all is that we have our Christian label (our faith) visible for all to see.

JOURNEYING WITH GOD
SHAW'S ARTICLE IN FEBRUARY'S LIFE AND WORK

In my sermons I occasionally reference films that have in some way resonated with me.

The special effects in *Jaws* (together with two bars of music from the opening sequence) had many of my generation scared of going swimming, even in the local chlorinated, fully contained and miles inland, pool. *Star Wars* had spaceships on a big screen flying in all directions. *Chariots of Fire* had an iconic soundtrack that instantly transports people back to the cinema and the story of Eric Liddell in 1924. I could write page after page of examples of films that, even with outdated special effects and iconic musical scores, have a special place in our memories as I am sure you could also. However, I want to share one more. In 1985 a teenager was transported back to the 1950s in a time-travelling DeLorean car (no, not me, I wasn't a teenager in 1985). *Back to the Future* was a fun film (now a musical) with an improbable title that's memorable.

With Christmas behind us and Easter fast approaching, our two major festivals take us back while pointing to the future.

Every year we revisit the Nativity and the Incarnation, then we journey through Holy Week to stand at the foot of the Cross on Good Friday before returning on the third day to celebrate the future we have in our risen Saviour, Jesus Christ. When we look back through the scriptures, we are not looking simply at a point in history that would convert into a memorable film plot. It is much more. As we read in Hebrews 4, the Word of God is alive and active and then in 1 Thes 2: 13, for God is at work in you who believe. As Christians we are journeying into our future with God.

The question I now ask is, how? Our role is not to observe and judge sequel after sequel of God at work in our world. Jesus calls us into action. To respond, to follow, to do, to go.

Being a Christian does not involve us sitting in a comfy chair with a bag of popcorn ready to pass judgement on what unfolds before us. We are on the stage and it is others who are watching. In our future, people will look back and view the evidence of God working in and through us by the way we have supported those in need by caring for the least of these: the poor, the prisoner, the homeless, the sick, the ill, the bereaved.

Like Christ, we do not do it for the recognition or the Oscar (for that would mean that it is not real, it would be acting). We play our part for we love God and all God's children.

Looking back, we know that God has been at work in our world. Looking to the future we know God will continue to be at work, through us.

HHI

The RAGBAG container in the car park at Strathaven Trinity is filling up so frequently that we can hardly keep up. Please bear with us if the box is full and if you have bags that won't go in feel free to leave them at 4 Crawford Street and they will be passed on at the next collection. If you are spring cleaning or house clearing do keep us in mind and if you would like bags uplifted phone Kath on 07916 171 830 or Iain on 0777 1720 388 and we will pick them up.

In 2024 we received £577 which went straight into HHI funds, thank you so much for your support and keep the bags coming.

Kathleen and Iain Russell

Health Help International Tidings



Health Help International (HHI) is a volunteer-run charity based in Newport, South Wales, with subgroups in North Wales, Strathaven (Scotland) and East Anglia. Our volunteers contribute more money than the running costs in the UK, which means that every penny that our wonderfully generous supporters give us is used to run our overseas projects. In Zambia these projects are:

- wheelchairs, crutches etc. for disabled people;
- training girls about adolescence and providing reusable sanitary products;
- support to access specialist medical help;
- training disabled people to sew, and providing sewing machines;
- start-up capital for small businesses for families with disabled family members;
- support for a special needs school (Nanga) and a special needs unit (Choongo) educating disabled children;
- funding disabled students into residential educational units;
- a school in a deprived area (Muumba); and
- food in times of famine, for malnourished children in hospital, for disabled children and for children at Muumba School.

In India, our projects comprise:

- two special needs schools (Asha Kiran Ashram and Happy Valley);
- a nursing assistant in Trivandrum Medical College Hospital who ensures that people who have no "bystander" (helper) receive medical care that they would be otherwise denied;
- help with the cost of medicines, operations and other medical procedures and treatments;
- training in sewing and help with the purchase of sewing machines;
- a home for destitute women and support for a home for destitute men;
- support for over 200 credit unions;
- tuition groups that supplement state education; and
- medical camps for people displaced by communal violence.

See our website hhi.org.uk for more details.



1ST STRATHAVEN BOYS' BRIGADE



We have had a successful first half of our session which started with our annual camp this year to a Girl Guiding Centre at Alloway in early September. We had 6 officers and 30 boys with us and for the first year we had both Company and Junior Sections. Company were outdoors in tents and Juniors in dormitories. We visited the Largs Viking festival on the Saturday and an outdoor centre near Kilmarnock on the Sunday.

Many thanks to all who helped feed and water the hungry boys with your kind donations.

We have maintained our numbers with around 45 boys attending each Thursday evening and have welcomed an additional 2 officers to aid our new Captain David Lipowski.

We entered 10 teams for the BB National competitions and have 3 teams left in the Scottish semi final rounds of the badminton, FIFA (computer game) and five a sides football competitions. One more victory and we head to England for the U.K. finals.

Look out next month for details of our quiz night where you have the opportunity to try and beat our National Masterteam boys who lost out in the second round of this year's competition.

Lt. Robert McAuley



World Day of Prayer

(Scottish Committee)

Informed Prayer; Prayerful Action

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SCOTTISH COMMITTEE

Press Release Friday 7th March 2025 "I Made You Wonderful"

The World Day of Prayer, a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women, invites everyone to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. Held annually near the first Friday in March, the 2025 service, written by women from the Cook Islands, focuses on peace, justice, and unity. It calls for prayers for marginalized groups, action on the climate crisis, and treating all with love and justice. All are welcome to participate. For details, visit the World Day of Prayer Scotland website:

www.wdpscotland.org.uk.

MEMORY CLUB

The February meetings are on 12th February and the 26th February, both meetings at the usual time of 1.30 till 3.15.

The meeting on the 12th will be a taster session to let you know about our new project which will be starting in March. We are delighted to have received funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to offer folk with dementia another 2 afternoons per month for a Heart for Art group. This initiative is run by Crossreach and the service offers people with dementia the opportunity to paint using canvas or silks.

People do not need to have any experience of painting and it is hoped through painting people can begin to experience a sense of achievement and greater self-worth. We shall run the Heart for Art meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month starting in mid-March hopefully, but the taster session is just to let our existing members learn what is being offered and decide if they might enjoy the experience. We will also have the usual club activities on the 12th so even if you do not fancy painting there will be plenty to do. The Memory Club will continue as it has been on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

On the 26th Feb we will have our AGM at 1.30 and thereafter the Singing Birdies are returning to entertain us. If any family member who does not usually accompany their loved one to the club would like to come and hear what we have done and plan to do at the AGM they will be made most welcome.

HEART FOR ART PROJECT

As mentioned above we are intending to set up an additional 2 afternoons per month to offer families with a member who has dementia further activities and support. The group, through the expertise of a Crossreach worker who is trained as an artist, will support and guide dementia sufferers to paint and create some works of art. Having seen paintings done by other groups I can say the work produced is beautiful. (Crossreach is part of the Church of Scotland and operates the Heart for Art projects across the country in various churches) The group will run from 1 till 3pm in the large hall. There will be 5 volunteers from our Church to support and encourage participants so there will be well known faces at the meetings. People's carers can stay with them or can take the opportunity to have some quiet time or a chat and some support from other carers over a coffee and biscuits in the small hall. It is hoped Annabelle Meikle from the CAB will call in from time to time to offer any advice about benefits etc.

The group can only accommodate 12 people and their carers in the art sessions so if anyone is interested, please contact Lynda Horn (07778579504) in the first instance. Look out for our starting date in the March magazine!

To learn more about the Heart for Art projects go onto www.crossreach.org.uk and put in Heart for Art.



CROSSREACH
Care you can put your faith in

Heart for Art

Dementia Friendly Art Group



Have fun, make new friends and learn new skills!

CrossReach Heart for Art and Strathaven Memory Club are working together to provide this community - based art group for people living with dementia. Our group provides respite for carers and enjoyment for participants. If you have dementia or know of someone who does, we would love to meet you. No art experience is needed, just your willingness to try.

Date: 19th March 2025 (fortnightly thereafter)
Time: 1pm - 3pm
Venue: 13 Lethame Rd, Strathaven ML10 6AD



The Church of Scotland
Social Care Council
Operating as CrossReach, Scottish Charity No: 9011353

For more information please contact:

E: heartfor.art@crossreach.org.uk
T: 07778579504 or 07553 365802

www.crossreach.org.uk



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

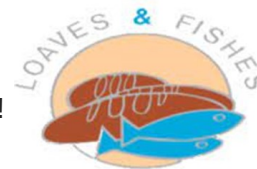
As you know we have been supporting Loaves and Fishes Foodbank for some time now and they are extremely thankful for all that they receive from us.

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.

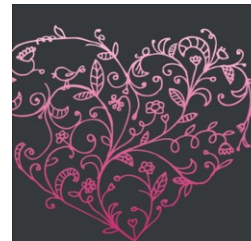
Together we can make a difference!



SNOW CLEARERS

Winter is still with us and with it the possibility of snow. That means we need to ensure the paths around the church are cleared of snow before the Sunday service.

We are looking for additional volunteers to be ready, in the event of a snow fall, to come down to the Lethame Road building at 9.00am and help make the approaches to church safer. Over the last few years we have not had many Sundays when the snow needed to be cleared, so it is not an overly onerous commitment. If you would be prepared to help out, please let Douglas Campbell know (tel. 520191).



GOD'S LOVE IS
UNCONDITIONAL
UNENDING &
UNMISTAKABLE.

WE ARE
BELOVED.



CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Just a reminder that Annabel from Citizens Advice Bureau is in the vestry every Tuesday from 10:00am – 1:00pm. Please book an appointment with Annabel on 07592 995152

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 for Academy Learners ...

Mondays and Fridays at Lunch Time

Academy learners 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.

We still need volunteers to help make toasties and/or hot chocolate and simply 'be there'. For more information please speak to Cillia Mcleary.

WHO?

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

CHURCH OFFICE

The church office hours are term time Monday to Thursday 09:15—11:45.

The email address is strathaventrinity@gmail.com



Lifts to Church

If anyone requires a lift to Church, please contact

Kath Russell

07916 171830

NEW CONNECTIONS

EDITORIAL

Happy New Year! As I'm writing this it is definitely not too late to be wishing you all a very happy and blessed 2025. Also as I write this a ceasefire has just started in Gaza. How I pray that this may be a lasting peace and that this day will be hailed as the new beginning for so many people caught up in that conflict.



In December Life and Work there was an article by Rev Dr Stewart Gillan, our Mission Partner in Jerusalem. He spoke of how by last year the approach to Advent had to be changed in Bethlehem and Jerusalem: 'We needed to acknowledge the darkness – the death and trauma of terror and war – before we could give thanks for the coming of light'. As words simply failed, he continues, strong images took their place focusing on both the anguish and the hope. I

share these with you – Christ born among the rubble; the Holy Family with helmets as halos, also in the rubble; Bethlehem's bombed out nativity sculpture. He concludes, 'May the Christ light that shines in darkness be with you and within you this Advent season'. Advent may be well past but the image of the Christ light shining in the darkness of all the ongoing conflicts around the world is one that resonated with me and will remain with me through the many seasons of 2025.



Finally on a completely different note – I was delighted to realise that there is indeed hope for me (and indeed possibly all of us) in 2025. I found this lovely little passage in the final day of my 'Walk with Me' Advent readings:

'We can become saints. Every saint has a past, every sinner has a future!'

Take care, Maureen

**Final date for inclusion in our
March edition of New Connections is :-
17th February 2025**