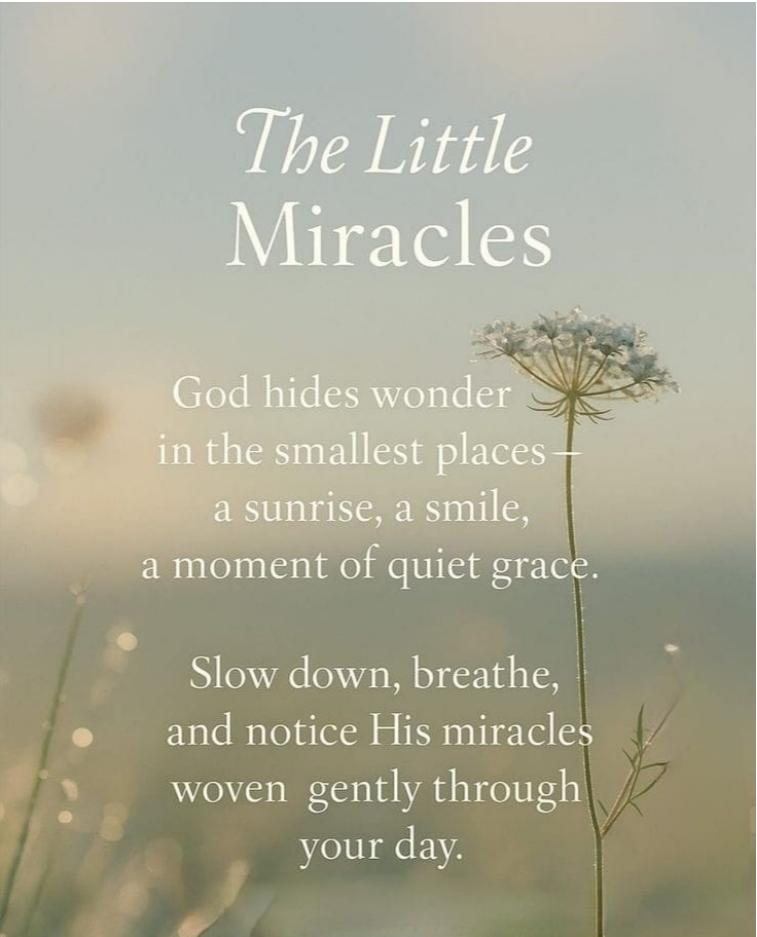


NEW CONNECTIONS

The congregational Magazine of
Strathaven: Trinity Parish Church

February 2026

The Little Miracles



God hides wonder
in the smallest places—
a sunrise, a smile,
a moment of quiet grace.

Slow down, breathe,
and notice His miracles
woven gently through
your day.

Website: www.strathaventrinity.co.uk
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COMMUNION—2026

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

All elders are asked to meet before the service.





February often feels like a month caught between seasons. Christmas is firmly packed away, the nights are still long, and spring seems more like a promise than a reality.

And yet, if we pay attention, there are signs of change all around us: lighter evenings, the first shoots breaking through cold ground, and the quiet assurance that winter does not have the final word.

In the life of the church, this time of year carries us through Epiphany and towards Lent. Epiphany is about light – recognising where God is revealed in everyday lives and ordinary places. That feels especially relevant as we begin a new initiative in our worship life: Minute for Mission.

Each week, we will hear briefly from one of our church groups or organisations about what they do and why it matters. This is mission. Not always dramatic or distant, but faithful, practical, and rooted in service, care, hospitality, and witness. It is about telling the story of what already happens among us, and celebrating how God is at work through willing hands and open hearts.

Early this month, a few of us will also be attending a mission conference. We go not because Trinity lacks activity (far from it) but because we want to reflect prayerfully on the huge range of work already resourced and supported here. The question before us is not, "What more must we do?" but "How do we build wisely and faithfully on the strong foundations already laid?"

As Lent approaches, it may be a good time for each of us to consider how we take part in God's mission, in ways large or small. Sometimes it is about joining something new; sometimes it is about offering fresh energy to what already exists; and sometimes it is simply about noticing and giving thanks.

Thank you for your faithfulness, encouragement, and commitment to one another. May God's light continue to guide us through these winter weeks, and may we recognise the signs of new life as they begin to appear.

With every blessing,

Shaw



FUNERALS

David Fleming	9 December
Janet Gillan	29 December
Tommy Warnock	12 January
Alison Kirkland	19 January
Jim Clark	29 January



INTERMENT OF ASHES

Sheila Dodds	27 November
Moireach Graham	3 December

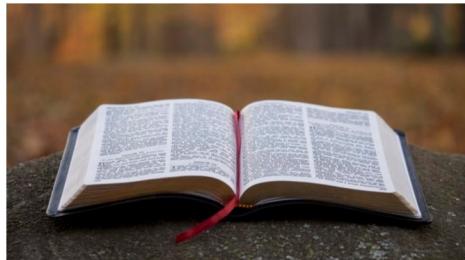
PREACHING ROTA

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, 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.

	Chapelton	Strathaven	Glassford
1 st February	Shaw	Shaw	Norman (<i>Comm</i>)
8 th February	Robin	Robin	Shaw
15 th February	Shaw	Shaw	Valerie
22 nd February	Julie	Shaw	Shaw
1 st March	Norman	Valerie	Shaw
8 th March	Shaw (<i>Comm</i>)	Shaw (<i>Comm</i>)	Norman
15 th March	Julie	Julie	Valerie
22 nd March	Shaw	Norman	Shaw
29 th March	Shaw (<i>Palm</i>)	Shaw (<i>Palm</i>)	Julie (<i>Palm</i>)
5 th April	Norman (<i>Easter</i>)	Shaw (<i>Easter</i>)	Shaw (<i>Easter</i>)
12 th April	Shaw	Shaw	Robin
19 th April	Shaw	Norman	Shaw
26 th April	Robin	Shaw	Valerie

LECTIONARY READINGS



January 2026

January 4, 2026	Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1: (1-9)10-18
January 11, 2026	Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17
January 18, 2026	Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
January 25, 2026	Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

February

February 1, 2026	Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12
February 8, 2026	Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20
February 15, 2026	Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9
February 22, 2026	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

March

March 1, 2026	Genesis 12:1-4a ; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17 Or Matthew 17:1-9
March 8, 2026	Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
March 15, 2026	1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41
March 22, 2026	Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45
March 29, 2026	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66; Or Matthew 27:11-54

STRATHAVEN FLOWER CALENDAR

February

1st Mrs F. Beveridge
8th Mrs A. Lee
15th Miss M. McKay
22nd Mrs H. Strachan

March

1st Mrs R. Hastings
8th Mrs A. Grady (*Communion*)
15th Mrs M. Mears
22nd Mrs M. Geraghty
29th Mrs M. Gillies (*Palm Sunday*)



April

5th Mrs J. Robertson (*Easter Sunday*)
12th Mrs M. Chandler
19th Dr C. McPhail
26th Mrs M. McAuley

Anne Grady (tel. 07799638380 / 523285 & Lilly McConnell (tel. 520989)

GLASSFORD FLOWER CALENDAR

February

1st Mrs M. Edwards (*Communion*)
8th Mrs J. Foster
15th Mrs M. Struthers
22nd Mrs C. Baillie

March

1st Mrs M. Lindsay
8th Mrs J. Ballantyne
15th Mr R. Scott
22nd Mrs M. Smith
29th Mrs J. Wait



April

5th Mrs A. Milwain (*Easter Sunday*)
12th Mrs H. Kerr
19th Mrs R. Andrew
26th Mrs M. McDonald

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

CHAPELTON FLOWER CALENDAR

February

- 1st Mrs B. Beetham
8th Mrs J. Lambie
15th Mrs M. Hamilton
22nd Mrs H. Orr



March

- 1st Mr J. Paterson
8th Mrs L. Wallace (*Communion*)
15th Mrs B. Williams
22nd Mrs J. Goldie
29th Mrs L. Menzies

April

- 5th Miss P. Gilchrist (*Easter Sunday*)
12th Mrs E. Somerville
19th Mr J. Frew
26th Mrs V. Mclean

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

OFFERINGS

The Sunday offering (collection) is 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



The kindness shown to me after my recent accident has been overwhelming, with many cards, phone calls and visits. Thanks also for the lovely church flowers. I am told it will be a slow recovery but hope to be back at church in the not too distant future.

With my best wishes for the new year,
Georgie Mills

Soup and Chat



Our final meeting of soup and chat was on 16th December. The kitchen team would like to say thank you to all those who faithfully turned up each week to support us and who contributed hugely with their good humour and chat. They didn't even complain about the soup!

Thanks to their generosity we have £110 to donate to Loaves and Fishes.

Thank you

The kitchen team (Maureen, Gary, Donald and Margaret)

ELDERS

The Kirk Session has agreed to seek additional active elders to serve the congregation. Members of the congregation are encouraged to give prayerful thought as to who might serve in this way. If you would

like to suggest anyone for this role please pass their name to the Session Clerk, in strict confidence. Please note that due to numbers, it may not be possible to invite everyone suggested to consider eldership at this time. The Kirk Session will review all the names at its next meeting on 8th December (also ensuring a geographical spread throughout our three communities), following which the minister will be invited to speak with individuals. Thereafter, some training will be provided before anyone is asked to formally accept or decline the invitation.



*"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end..."*

Lamentations 3:22



A MEMORY TREE FOR OUR CHURCH

The Kirk Session has agreed to install a **Memory Tree** inside our Strathaven church building, offering a new and meaningful way for us to remember loved ones.

By way of explanation, a Memory Tree allows families to add a plaque in memory of a loved one and can often be seen in places such as hospices or neonatal units, where reflection, remembrance, and hope are especially important. The tree provides a gentle, dignified focus for remembrance, enabling us to honour lives lived while remaining rooted in our shared faith.

The Memory Tree, will be approximately **1.6 metres tall** and will be installed

on the **back wall inside the sanctuary**. Crafted from metal, with **copper leaves**, the tree has been designed to be both beautiful and discreet, blending sensitively with the church interior while offering a lasting tribute.

Families and individuals will be able to commemorate a loved one by adding a **copper leaf**, engraved with a short inscription. Each leaf costs **£50.00**, which includes the engraving, and will then be added permanently to the tree

The Memory Tree is intended to be a focus of quiet reflection—somewhere to pause, remember, give thanks, and commend those we love into God's care. It also reflects our church's desire to offer pastoral support and a sense of continuity between past, present, and future generations of our congregation.

Should you wish to order a leaf, **please complete the order form enclosed with this magazine and return it to the office. Engraving guidelines are attached to the order form.**

We hope this addition will become a valued and comforting part of our church life in the years to come.



CURVED LEAF

CHILDREN, FAMILY AND YOUTH WORKER -
JULIE ROBERTSON

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a very happy new year!

It all feels like a distant memory as we are all back into the swing of things and will be thinking about Valentine's soon – though you can buy your Easter Eggs in the shops now!

All our term time activities have started back and numbers remain strong. We have already had our first meeting of Messy Church of the year.

For messy church I am looking for some helpers who can assist in a practical sense with a couple of things – I need assistance with transporting items on a Friday from Strathaven to Chapelton. If this is something you can assist with, could you please reach out to let me know.

I know the year has only started but I have a couple of things in mind for Summer Holiday clubs and also for a dedicated all age service for the return to school.

I am looking for the children of each Sunday School or any other church organisations, to assist with this service on August 23rd. So, if you are around and able to assist could you please let me know. Ideally, I would like to meet with the kids a couple of times for them to participate in the organisation and preparation as well as on the day. We can arrange this for whenever there is availability if I know who would like to be involved.

For the summer holiday club, I am looking to have the first planning meeting on Monday 16th Feb at 7pm. If you are in a position to assist either on the days we hope to run (hopefully this will be decided at our first meeting) or you can come along to offer ideas and suggestions or assistance in the preparations we would love to see you there!

Till next time – Blessings!

Julie

Dates for your diary:

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS:

Thursday After School runs in Glassford from 15.00-16.00.

We will be off 2nd till 23rd April inclusive due to annual leave and school holidays

MESSY CHURCH:

Messy Church meets monthly in CHAPELTON on the second Friday of the month on a Friday evening.
We will next meet on Friday 13th February. We meet from 17:30-19:30 and includes a light meal

If you would like to volunteer to join our Messy Church team, please let me know.

TODDLER GROUPS:

Toddler groups run term time as follows:

Monday – Strathaven 10-11.30.

Wednesday - Chapelton 10-11.30.

If you are able to make some toast and juice or help, put out some toys then please get in touch. If you have pre-school kids and you just want to come along and eat said toast and get a coffee, please feel free as I would love to see you.

SUMMER PLANNING MEETING

First planning meeting on Monday 16th February at 7pm in the vestry.

ALL AGE SERVICE

If any of the Sunday Schools or organisations have young people who would like to be involved please let me know by end of Feb and I will arrange our first meetings.



Happy New Year!

We hope that 2026 has started happy and healthy for everyone. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to Sunday School in all three church buildings.

In the Strathaven building we are continuing our work on learning about the books of the Bible. Before Christmas we finished learning about the Old Testament and we are now embarking on finding out lots of interesting, new information about the New Testament. We have lots of great activities planned to help us with this.

Thank you for your continued support as always,

Sunday School Team

A picture to colour and a crossword to complete for the youngsters among us!



1 2

5

7

11

15 16



3 4

6



8 9

10

13



ACROSS

1. soft, white pieces of frozen water that falls to the ground
4. opposite of hot
5. to move on snow with long narrow strips attached to the feet
6. footwear in the winter
7. Dress warm so you don't ____.
12. children like to throw one of these
13. "The snow is 2 feet ____."
14. the coldest season of the year
15. frozen water
16. "We like to go ____ on the pond in the winter."

- #### DOWN
2. the color of fresh snow
 3. a piece of clothing worn to keep warm
 6. "The temperature fell ____ zero last night."
 8. a covering to keep the head warm
 9. an outdoor winter toy for kids to slide down snowy hills
 10. Be careful not to ____ and fall on the ice.
 11. special shoes for ice
 12. a model of a person made with snow
 15. In the winter, the roads can be ____.

Tree Valley Academy

WINTER



GUILD

On 10 February we look forward to hearing from The Very Rev Dr Shaw Paterson who will speak to us on 'A Year Like No Other' – this is our joint meeting when we invite members from local churches to join us. The next meeting is on 24 February and is a 'Murder Mystery' – materials kindly supplied by Strathaven Library.

Reminder that the World Day of Prayer is being held in Avendale Church this year on Friday 6 March at 2.00 pm and all are welcome to attend.

In March we meet on the 10th when we look forward to hearing from one of the Guild projects – Operation Hope Egypt. On the 24th we will have some activities and 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).



JOINT CHURCHES EVENT

Phillipa Hanna and Band. Saturday 7th February 2026 at Avendale Church. Doors open at 7pm for 7:30pm start. For tickets please scan the QR code.

Joint churches event.
Tickets on sale now!

Phillipa Hanna and band,
Saturday Feb 7th 2026,
Strathaven. To book: search
Ticketsource, Phillipa Hanna

Scan the QR code





MINUTE FOR MISSION – WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Over the course of January, you may have noticed something new at the very beginning of our Sunday services: a short reflection known as **Minute for Mission**. These brief presentations, lasting no more than one minute, are designed to help us learn more about the many groups, organisations, and ministries connected to our church.

Each week, a representative from a different organisation shares a short, positive insight into their work—whether that's a recent activity, an encouraging story, or the impact their group is having within the church or the wider community. These reflections will also be read in our other church buildings, allowing each message to reach a wider audience.

Minute for Mission gives us the opportunity to celebrate the richness and diversity of church life, to recognise the dedication of volunteers, and to become more aware of the many ways God's work is being carried out in and through our church family. As the year continues, we hope these moments will inspire understanding, involvement, and prayerful support for one another's mission.

SMARTIE TUBES FOR MULTAN

For many years now we have supported the work of the nurses in The Women's Christian Hospital in Multan by filling Smartie tubes with 20 pences. We send £30 monthly to the hospital via Interserve and we always have extra left over at the end of the year which we send as a lump sum. Last year they used some of our donation to buy new maroon sweaters for all the nurses which you will see in the photo.

This year we were able to send an extra £410 which is just wonderful. WCH is always so appreciative and thanks us for our support and prayers.

It is now increasingly difficult to get smartie tubes, and indeed 20 pences, as we are all using less cash. Please feel free to just hand a donation to David Lipowski at Strathaven or to myself in Chapelton.



Thank you for your continuing support.

Lesley Toms

CHURCH HALL AT GLASSFORD

At the Kirk Session meeting on the 19th January 2026, it was announced that the Presbytery Planning and Implementation Committee had given permission for the church hall at Glassford to remain open for a period of time, after the church closes for worship, to enable activities to continue while the village hall is being refurbished (or at least for part of that time). Details are still to be received but normally such permission is for a period of months but can be reviewed on a regular basis.

TWINNING

The Kirk Session received a proposal that Trinity explored the possibility of entering into a twinning arrangement with a congregation in Malawi (the Church of Scotland is a partner of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian or CCAP). Permission in principle was granted and the next steps would be the formation of a small Twinning Group to have further discussion, consult with the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland and report back.

A twinning would be founded on mutual prayer, shared learning, friendship, and practical support, recognising that it is not about charity alone, but about walking together as equals in Christ.

The minister already has ties with Malawi as he had visited there while being Moderator and the solar light appeal was to benefit communities in that country. He was also in conversation with the recently retired Church of Scotland partnership secretary (who had travelled to Malawi with him) who was aware of a congregation wishing to form a twinning relationship.

CONGREGATIONAL REVIEW

The Church of Scotland no longer conducts formal Local Church Reviews (formerly Quinquennial Visitations); instead, congregations engage in ongoing self-evaluation through the Kirk Session Review, parish profiling, and discussions within the Presbytery Mission Plan. This process focuses on assessing spiritual health, mission activity, governance, and sustainability, while identifying opportunities for growth and community engagement. The emphasis is on reflective, supportive review rather than inspection, helping congregations discern their strengths, address challenges, and plan for effective ministry in their local context. At Trinity, a Mission Group has been established to develop a Mission Statement and Vision for the congregation, and is currently working on a five-year strategic review which we hope will be presented in the spring.

Very Rev Dr Shaw J Paterson

BOYS BRIGADE



Since our last update the following has been or is happening (in addition to our usual activities):

All: We attended the Parade at the end of October, with a great turnout from our Boys.

Anchors: Strathaven are hosting a Battalion Anchor Boy Fun Night on Thursday 19th February.

Juniors: We were joint 1st in the Board Game Competition with Hamilton.

We have teams attending the Junior Section Quiz at the end of January.

Company: Our adventure day was a great success.

We were unsuccessful in the Badminton competition but have teams still in the Fifa and Chess competitions at the point of writing this letter at least!

We also have an upcoming Battalion Quiz for all Company Boys and Kings Badges skills course for our 3 boys working towards the Kings Badge.

As always, we welcome new members to all sections, we have plenty of spaces in Anchors in particular so if you know any P1-P3 Boys please encourage them to come along and try!

David Lipowski

CHRISTIAN AID

I would like to thank Ishbel Anderson for all that she has done, and does, regarding our link with Christian Aid. Having been involved in the wider town's collection for many years, Ishbel took on the role of Trinity's correspondent at the union in 2018. It has been great to read in the magazine about the work of the organisation in countries throughout the world and put real life stories to the forefront of our mind when we see the red envelopes or collecting bags during Christian Aid Week in May.

Ishbel is now stepping down from that role and, as a result, we are looking for someone to take on that responsibility. If anyone would like to give it some thought and find out more information, please speak to Ishbel or the minister.

CHURCH GARDEN AT STRATHAVEN

After more years than I can remember Douglas Campbell is retiring from tending the church garden at Strathaven. We have been truly blessed with a neat lawn and colourful flowers throughout spring, summer and autumn. Douglas always makes sure everything is neat and tidy and looking beautiful for a Sunday and for every wedding in the church. On behalf of the congregation (and many throughout the town) who have appreciated his time and effort, 'Thank You!' This means we are looking for someone to take over the maintenance of the garden. Please give it some thought and don't be afraid to ask questions about what's involved (direct from Douglas or via the minister).



MEMORY CLUB

HEART FOR ART GROUP

The February meetings are on Wednesday 4th at 1 to 3pm.

Wednesday 18th 1 to 3 pm.

Hope to see you all there. At the moment the Art Group is running at its maximum number but if you are interested in putting your name down on our short waiting list please contact Lynda Horn on 07778579504

STRATHAVEN MEMORY CLUB

The February meetings of the Memory Club are on Wednesday 11th 1.30 to 3.15pm when we welcome along the Singing Birdies. We look forward to hearing them again.

Wednesday 25th at 1.30 to 3.15pm when we shall hold a brief Annual General Meeting at the start of the afternoon followed by a quiz and afternoon tea.

Looking forward to seeing you all and as usual new members are welcome to the Memory Club.

Lynda Horn

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Committee is updating the list of members who would value additional visits (to those made by the Ministers) by 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.





**HEALTH HELP
INTERNATIONAL**

**STRATHAVEN FRIENDS OF HEALTH
HELP INTERNATIONAL**

In the first 2 weeks of January Edmund, one of the trustees from Newport, went to India to visit the schools and establishments that are supported by HHI. You can read about his trip on the HHI website.



Thanal House is a home for destitute women with mental health issues. Currently there are 22 female residents who are cared for by an amazing Christian family. The picture shows the "kitchen" where meals are prepared!

At **Happy Valley** school for Special Needs children teaching, physiotherapy, healthy food and vocational training are making a huge difference to many young lives. The photo shows the some of the pupils and staff exercising in front of the school.



The lease for this school is about to end and new premises are urgently required. The plan is to buy a piece of land and provide a purpose built new school. £35,000 of the £50,000 needed to buy the land for this project has already been raised or promised. Watch this space! hhi.org.uk

Kath Russell



Strathaven Fairtrade

The Fairtrade stall will be available after the service on the first Sunday of every month. We hope to offer a 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

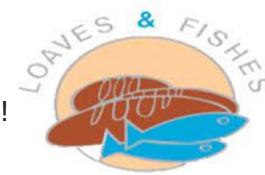
As you know we have been supporting Loaves and Fishes Foodbank for some time now and they are extremely thankful for all that they receive from us.

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).



is the defining
characteristic
Of a Disciple of
CHRIST



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

Class meets regularly on **Mondays** in the small downstairs 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. All to the beat of some great 60s music classics.

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 students 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.



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
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

Welcome back after the longer than usual Christmas and New Year break.

New Year is the time for resolutions and new starts – all requiring a strong focus on what you would like to achieve in 2026. Word for the Day (January 3rd) had a little story about that...

'A farmer sent his son to prepare a field, reminding him to till straight lines. "Select an object on the far side of the field and plough straight at it." Later, when the father checked on the boy's progress, there wasn't a straight furrow to be found. "I thought I told you to select an object and plough straight towards it," the dad said.

"I did," the boy answered, "but the rabbit kept hopping about!"

I feel my focus is often more like the rabbit than a fixed point, or rather several rabbits!! Why is it that at New Year it's so easy to see all that I need to change and improve; focussing on them all is proving very tricky....be more punctual; go to bed earlier; get up earlier; read more; use my phone less; be more organized; keep fit, pray more... I'm not sure if I have a butterfly mind or a rabbit focus but I refuse to say I have failed in any of my New Year Resolutions yet – but I do confess that my focus has definitely hopped about a bit.

One thing I am definitely focussing on as the days begin to lengthen – God's creation beginning to waken up! The signs of new growth are all around. If snowdrops are not actually blooming by the time New Connections is printed and distributed, they won't be long and then will come the crocuses and daffodils and all the glorious colours of Spring.

As 2026 progresses, may we all delight in God's world and enjoy His every blessing.

Take care
Maureen

**Final date for inclusion in our
March edition of New Connections is :-
Monday 16th February 2026**