

NEW CONNECTIONS

The congregational Magazine of
Strathaven: Trinity Parish Church

Hello
November 2024



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Dear Friends,

Autumn is upon us and we are well in step for the programme ahead of us. It is so good that Trinity is such a vibrant congregation and that there are so many people who attend to all the arrangements that have to be in place and there are those, who, at the drop of a hat, will be rescuers of a number of situations!

I am so grateful to all whose witness is unquestionable and who are so welcoming to those who attend for the first time and I am sure, these folk will have been encouraged to return and to be part of our fellowship through worship and in whatever way their talents may be utilised.

It is good too to have David back again and for Strathaven slowly to understand that I am not his father! Just watch his facial expression if that is suggested!

Knowing the congregation as he does from before, he easily has fitted in and has made a number of visits already pastorally and to organisations.

The date for his Ordination to the Holy Ministry is Monday 9 December at 7pm and will be held in Airdrie; Jackson Parish Church. That will be one of the most important and deeply spiritual days for David and I am sure there will be a goodly number who would want to attend.

Shaw will be preaching at the Service which is absolutely as we all would want it to be.

When David is ordained, he will return to Strathaven as an Assistant Minister and will use the title, "Reverend".

We then have much to which we look forward in a variety of ways together. I am sure in all that lies ahead, we will continue to be inspired in our faith and use the gifts God has given us to enhance all we can of mission in Trinity and beyond, wherever we may be.

As one of our hymns says, "Look forward in faith", so let that be our aim as we step out on the journey of life.

With Blessings,

Norman

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.



November

3 rd Nov	<i>Glassford Communion.</i> Norman at Glassford; David at Chapelton and Strathaven
10 th Nov	<i>Remembrance</i> Robbie at Chapelton and Strathaven; David at Glassford
17 th Nov	Norman at Glassford and Strathaven; David at Chapelton
24 th Nov	David at Chapelton and Strathaven; Robin at Glassford

December

1 st Dec	Norman at Chapelton and Strathaven; Valerie at Glassford
8 th Dec	<i>Chapelton and Strathaven Communion</i> - Norman at Chapelton and Strathaven; Robbie at Glassford
15 th Dec	David at Glassford and Strathaven; Valerie at Chapelton
22 nd Dec	David at Chapelton and Strathaven; Norman at Glassford
24 th Dec	<i>Watchnight Service</i> - Shaw at Strathaven; David at Chapelton
29 th Dec	<i>Joint service in Strathaven</i> - David

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.

FROM DAVID

Dear everyone,

It has been great to be back with you over the last couple of months or so, working with Norman and the team.

I remember fondly my time here as a student and it is an honour to be back. I have tried to remember as many names as possible and the organisations they are involved in – but I still have room to improve!

During November, we as a Church and nation are also called to remember, most especially on Remembrance Sunday. This annual, poignant day reminds us of the sacrifice of those who have gone before us. Like my fond memories of Strathaven Trinity, it is good to pause and reflect.

Yet it is also good to look forward to the opportunities we have in the Church and the joyful celebration of Christmas (sorry to mention it) soon to come. Yes, there is much change and upheaval, but we should always remember the good the Church does and its heart in supporting people.

As we do, we remember that Christ is with us always, as the words of the well-known hymn express:

O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come
Our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home

With all good wishes,
David



LECTIONARY READING



November

November 3, 2024	Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Psalm 119:1-8; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34
November 10, 2024	Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127; 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44
November 17, 2024	1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13:1-8
November 24, 2024	2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18); Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

December

December 1, 2024 (1 st)	Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36
December 8, 2024 (2 nd)	Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 27; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
December 15, 2024 (3 rd)	Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 45; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
December 22, 2024 (4 th)	Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80: 1-7; Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)
December 29, 2024	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

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).



STRATHAVEN FLOWER CALENDAR

November

3rd Mrs S. Newman
10th Mrs C. Murray and Mrs A. Arnott (*Remembrance*)
17th Mrs J. Bryce
24th Mrs C. Campbell and Mrs M. Foster



December

1st Mrs M. McAuley
8th Mrs N. Hinshalwood and Mrs C. Jack (*Communion*)
15th Mrs K. Field
22nd Mrs L. Wilson
29th The Forrest Family

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

CHAPELTON FLOWER CALENDAR

November

3rd Mrs L. Wallace
10th Mrs M. Muircoft (*Remembrance*)
17th Mrs M. Frew
24th Mrs J. Cairns

December

1st Mrs M. Crawford
8th Mrs V. Mclean (*Communion*)
15th Mrs M. McPherson
22nd Mrs E. Kennedy
29th Mrs P. Riddell



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



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

Bubblegum and Fluff has been arranged at our local schools for Monday 2nd December. If you can help please email Julie at jrobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk for additional details and times.

GLASSFORD FLOWER CALENDAR

November

3rd Mrs R. Millar (Communion)
10th Mrs J. Meikle
17th Mr W. Frame
24th Mrs F. Smith



December

1st Mrs L. Jamieson
8th Mrs S. Herd
15th Mrs R. Andrew
22nd Mrs S. Struthers
29th Joint service in Strathaven

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

As you are probably aware The Bank of Scotland in Strathaven is closing permanently at the beginning of December. This means I will have to travel out of town to bank the Sunday offerings. In order to reduce the amount, I have to carry I would be very grateful if you would consider paying your offering direct into the bank. We already have around 200 members doing this and it makes a huge difference to the amount I have to carry. The majority of people pay a monthly sum and this can be arranged by contacting your own bank and giving them the details below.

Bank of Scotland
Sort Code: 800975
Account Number: 00766031
Account Name: Strathaven: Trinity Parish Church.

Thank you
Sheila



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.



Children's Gift Service 2024

Sunday, 1st 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. Gifts across the whole range of ages is required, especially for teenagers as they often seem to be forgotten.

GUILD CONCERT

Please put this fantastic event down in your calendar!

The Stonehouse Male Voice Choir was formed in 1936, in a local builder's yard, when two or three joiners began singing during their lunch break. The choir mainly performs at fund raising events for charities, churches, Guilds and clubs etc. throughout the Central belt of Scotland and we normally give about five or six concerts per season. In addition, we hold our own Annual Concert and Winter Concert.

We look forward to seeing you at this fantastic event!

CONCERT

FEATURING...
THE STONEHOUSE MALE VOICE CHOIR
 with
THE JOLLY B'S
 and
NHS LANARKSHIRE CHOIR

FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER
 7pm in Strathaven
 Trinity Church,
 Lethame rd,
 Strathaven



Tickets are £10. Available from
 Craigs in the Common Green,
 Church office or Guild Committee members

Refreshments to be served in the hall following the concert

LIFE AND WORK, OCTOBER: BUILDING ON CHRIST'S FOUNDATIONS.

We must always remember.

This month we remember and give thanks.

Remembrance calls us to pay respect to the brave men, women and children – living and dead – who have fought to preserve the nation. But in doing so we are compelled to count the cost of our heritage in terms of the lives lost and forever changed. Every November, we say 'thank you' to all those who have placed their lives in jeopardy for us, and to acknowledge and say thank you to their families whose lives have also been forever changed.

The Rev. George McLeod, the Govan minister who organised the rebuilding of the abbey on Iona, gave an account of a regimental boxing match during the Second World War. Between rounds, a soldier who had been wounded and had lost his memory entered the ring holding a large piece of cardboard carrying the question, "Can anyone tell me who I am?" Having lost his memory he had no identity. He had no name, no past, no roots, no history and little sense of himself. To have found a memory would have been to recover a person – not only a past but a present as well and a future.

It is right and proper that we respond to the call to remember each year; if we didn't we would lose our past, our roots, our history. Without the memories of our past, part of who we are would be missing.

For many of my generation and younger, our minds are to a large extent educated on historical events by the movies. There are some old favourites like *The Great Escape*, *The Bridge over the River Kwai*, *The Dam-busters*, *Sink the Bismarck*, to name but a few... and there is an inherent problem. Many of the war films tells a tale with a bit of poetic licence and stretching of what actually happened. As the tale unfolds, the allies are victorious and in the main (admittedly with a few exceptions) they end with a sense of being victorious and they all lived happily ever after.

Yet, for those who experienced war and conflict there could be, and can be, no 'and they all lived happily ever after', such was the effect of their experiences.

We must always remember. We owe it to those who suffered and died, and to those who suffered and lived – lived a life with the physical and mental consequences of what they endured. As we remember and pray for a day when nation shall not lift up a swarm against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. This world of ours needs to learn from the past and it needs to learn to love one another.

They shall grow not old as they that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At their going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

The Right Reverend Dr Shaw J Paterson

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

The weather has turned chilly and as such we have some plans to keep you warm and toasty!

Can you believe we are (almost!!) in the countdown to Christmas. We will have an additional insert for all festive plans to be issued with your next issue of New Connections so please do ensure you get one or reach out and I will be sure to send you details.

We are now on Instagram as strathaventrinity.cfy as well as Facebook so many ways to connect if you want to know what is going on.

As I write this we are due to commence Rock solid – our new group for those P7+ in Strathaven. Please encourage your young people to come along. We will meet monthly on the last Friday of the month.

Messy Church has been really well attended the last couple of months in Chapelton and we look forward to seeing you there on the second Friday of each month. Light meal provided for all who attend!

Bubblegum and Fluff has been arranged at our local schools on Monday 2nd December. If you can help please email me for additional details and times.

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 17th October.

MESSY CHURCH:

Messy Church will now meet monthly in **CHAPELTON** on the second Friday of the month on a Friday evening.

We will next meet on Friday 8th November from 17:30-19:30. This will include a light meal if I have sufficient volunteers. If you would like to volunteer to join our Messy Church team, please let me know or pop along to our next planning meeting which will be held in Strathaven vestry on Wednesday 3rd October at 6pm.

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.

Rock Solid

Rock Solid is a new fellowship group for those P7-S6. We will run the last Friday of the month in Strathaven upstairs meeting room from 19:30-21:00. Our first meeting will be on Friday 25th October. We will then meet again on Friday 22nd November. If you would like to assist in the leading or preparation for Rock Solid please let me know.



October has seen us continuing our exploration of our chosen parables and miracles in the Bible. We also used Harvest as a time to reflect on all of the things we are thankful for.

In November we will celebrate Remembrance and then... Christmas!!! Preparations will get underway for our nativity!

Please keep an eye on your emails for information on our Christmas preparations and activities as we start to plan all the fun of the season!

Many thanks,

Sunday School Team

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



NAME THAT BOOK

Select the book of the Bible related to these questions.

1. The book of the Bible that tells the story of Paul's shipwreck.
 - a. Luke
 - b. Philippians
 - c. Acts
 - d. 2 Corinthians
2. The two books of the Old Testament that do not mention God.
 - a. Exodus
 - b. Ruth
 - c. Esther
 - d. Song of Songs
3. The book of the Bible that tells about the Israelites finally getting to cross the Jordan River and enter the Promised Land to live there.
 - a. Exodus
 - b. 1 Chronicles
 - c. 2 Chronicles
 - d. Joshua
4. The book of the Bible that tells about the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem.
 - a. Nehemiah
 - b. Ezra
 - c. Malachi
 - d. Jeremiah
5. This gospel is not like the others in stories and content, so it is not considered a "synoptic gospel."
 - a. Matthew
 - b. Mark
 - c. Luke
 - d. John

6. These books of the Bible were written by Jesus' brothers.
 - a. Colossians
 - b. Jude
 - c. Acts
 - d. James

7. This book of the Bible contains the following quote, "Meaningless, meaningless, . . . everything is meaningless."
 - a. Song of Songs
 - b. Ecclesiastes
 - c. Proverbs
 - d. Psalms

8. The book of the Bible that is noted for providing the people of that time a long list of laws and regulations plus instructions for worshiping God.
 - a. Deuteronomy
 - b. 2 Chronicles
 - c. Leviticus
 - d. Ecclesiastes

9. The book of the Bible that mentions the constellations the Bear, Pleiades, and Orion.
 - a. Genesis
 - b. Revelation
 - c. Job
 - d. Amos

10. The book of the Old Testament Jesus quotes from most often.
 - a. Psalms
 - b. Deuteronomy
 - c. Isaiah
 - d. Exodus

Answers can be found on page 21



HEALTH HELP INTERNATIONAL

Greetings from Zambia, I am on a 2 week visit to schools and projects supported by HHI.

Everywhere I go I can see the devastating effects of the drought that is gripping the country. There are dried up river beds and parched scrubland as far as the eye can see.



The day here starts with morning prayers attended by all staff. We then go around to the office to see the people who are queuing up to speak to Brenda, the manager of the base in Monze. Many are looking for bus fares to keep hospital appointments in Lusaka, some are in dire need of a wheelchair and some need food. The feeding programme instigated by HHI is helping so many families to survive.

Many times, over the past few days people have expressed their gratitude for the help they have received from HHI. Be assured that your donations are making a huge difference to the lives of so many.

Kathleen Russell

COMMUNION—2024

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 February, 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.

LIFE AND WORK, NOVEMBER: 'HOORAY! IT IS HARVEST TIME'

There we are, hurtling along the road in our car on some imagined mission of huge national importance, racing against the clock to get somewhere; muttering at cyclists and other drivers who are inconsiderate enough to want a bit of our road (and hoping they can't lipread as we pass by), rounding a bend and coming up against a tractor and trailer. It is silage time. Over the next few miles, with no opportunity to overtake, we notice there is another tractor in front of the one in front. But of course, after the silage is cut, the fields are often doused in slurry, which means our newly washed car is going to get covered with its own unique odour. And we are in a hurry.

Hooray. It is harvest time and that means more tractors. I am certain that most of us on such a car journey do not start singing songs of everlasting thanks and praise to our great God for the generous provision, or blessing the farmers for the work they do to put food on our plates.

So here is our challenge for harvest and beyond. If we get stuck on our travels behind a tractor or a combine or a trailer or any other mysteriously shaped implement that belongs in a field, take it as an opportunity for reflection, for thanksgiving and for praise.

Why should we bother? Firstly, because praising God for our blessings should become a matter of habit in all of us. Second, because we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the farmers who are taken for granted.

Most of us have become emotionally and practically detached from the source of our food. Our food comes from the fridge... but we know it doesn't really come from the fridge as we get it from the corner shop or supermarket. We cannot and must not take food provision as guaranteed. Speak to any farmer and we quickly learn of the issues of balancing production costs with sales figures. Climate change, population growth and world politics mean that it is becoming more difficult to ensure there is enough for the world's needs.

Hooray. It is harvest time but we need to appreciate the year-round activity that is required to produce a harvest. Then, when we are inconvenienced and find ourselves stuck behind a tractor, take a deep breath (as long as the slurry trailer is not attached) and smile, and ask for God's blessing on all those who work on the farm and who play a part in providing our food.

For those in rural or semi-rural parishes, if the worship leader arrives late for the service on a Sunday morning you now understand why!

While waiting for the service to begin, use the time to offer thanksgiving prayers to God (no matter what time of year) for the seed-time and the harvest and for our life, our health and our food (to paraphrase *We plough the Fields and Scatter*).

Happy harvest to you all.

The Right Reverend Dr Shaw J Paterson

GUILD

GUILD CONCERT

On Friday **8 November** we are looking forward to a concert at 7.00 pm in the church with tea, coffee and home baking in the hall afterwards. The Stonehouse Male Voice Choir (including The Jolly B's) and the NHS Lanarkshire Choir are our guests that evening. Donations of baking will be greatly appreciated and can be handed into the church hall that afternoon between 2.00 - 3.00 pm. Tickets are on sale, cost £10, and are available from members of the Guild committee, the church office or Craig's in the Common Green. Transport may be available – contact Marjorie Lamb for details.

GUILD

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 12 November at 2.00 pm in Strathaven** when we look forward to welcoming a speaker from The Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity.

On Tuesday **26 November** we have an accessible coach going to Livingston Designer Outlet 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 £12 (non-refundable to cover hire of coach) and if you have not yet booked a seat, please contact Morag McKay (tel 01357 520253). Money must be paid by Sunday 17 November.

We are looking forward to our annual Christmas lunch outing which this year is being held on Tuesday 17 December at 1.15 pm. Country Bake (Janet Foster) are providing the meal being held in Strathaven Bowling Club.

On 14 January we look forward to hearing from The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice and then on the 28th from Hame Brew. 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).

Ishbel Anderson

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU



Annabelle is available to provide Citizens Advice in the vestry on a Tuesday from 10am till 1 pm. If you have an issue you would like help with please call 07592995152, leave a message and she will get back to you.

Remembrance Day

There will be Remembrance Sunday Services in all three buildings on 10th November:

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

RUBY WILL GIVE ME SOMETHING TO SAY HERE

'We are ordinary people doing extraordinary things' A report from the annual Gathering of the Church of Scotland Guild. (Life and Work, October)

If one word could sum up this year's annual Gathering of the Church of Scotland Guild it would be 'joyful', writes Lynne McNeil.

Malawian guests from the Livingstonia Synod CCAP, members of the Women's and Men's Guilds enlivened the proceedings with their singing, dancing and sparkling white uniforms.

Rae Lind, the outgoing National Convener, described the journey towards a new constitution and 'new ways of doing Guild'. She also reflected on her year in office and thanked the Guild for its trust and enthusiasm.

Communion was led by Shaw in his role as Moderator and he went on to address the Gathering developing his theme for the year 'Building Together'. He praised the Guild members for their work supporting not only their local parishes but also the whole church across the country and around the world. He encouraged the Guild to continue this work despite the challenges it faces. He was presented with the new 'Friend of the Guild' badge and also with a scarf in the Guild tartan as a gift for King Charles as Shaw was heading to Balmoral to preach in Crathie Kirk.

The four projects for the next few years were announced:
Bibles for Bairns – Scottish Bible Society
Build my Church – Bear Necessities for Bulgaria
Operation Hope – Release International
Playful Beginnings – Crossreach

There was also an update on LIFT (Love In Fellowship and Trust) a branch of the Guild for young people.

After some lively singing from the Malawian guests and Finley Morse and friends, Christina Paterson was installed as the new National Convener. She acknowledged there were challenges for the Guild but added that her hope for the year and the future could be summed up in 3 words: enthusiasm, encouragement and unity.

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 £1300 and this has been a great help to LHM in terms of funding their work.

Soup and Chat



TUESDAYS 11:45 TO 1:45PM. IN THE LARGE HALL.
STARTS TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER THROUGHOUT
WINTER

LOAVES AND FISHES

A huge thanks to all who support Loaves and Fishes weekly by bringing food and toiletries to church each week. The charity is hugely grateful for all the donations which we make.

Some of the items needed are:



- Tinned meats/ tuna
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned soup
- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Rice
- Cereals
- Pot noodle

The list is endless and anything which is 'in date' will be acceptable.

LODGING HOUSE MISSION

Last month I spent a day at the Lodging House Mission which is a Glasgow based charity dedicated to providing care and support to homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded people.

I was amazed at the variety of services on offer which are resourced by a committed and caring team of staff and volunteers.

In the evening, I was invited to speak at their annual Homelessness Service and hear about the growing demand on their resources. June, the centre manager, commented:

"This year, our food bills have more than doubled, and in some areas, they have even trebled. In addition, we are seeing more people walk through our doors than ever before. As a result, our resources are being used to the maximum, and we are continuously striving to meet the growing demand for our services. To give you some context, in 2022 we served a minimum of 25,055 [meals] which rose to a minimum of 32,688 in 2023. For 2024 we are already at 27,000 with 3 months to go so it is clear that last year's figure will be exceeded."

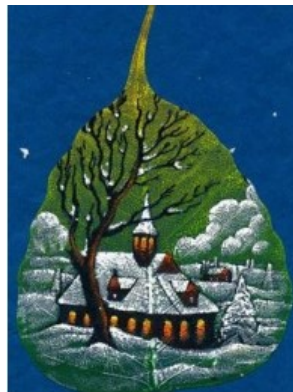
The LHM is grateful for all the support from churches - particularly at Harvest Time - as they care for others while sharing the love of Christ.

The Right Reverend Dr Shaw J Paterson

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 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.



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 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.

LADIES KEEP FIT

Trinity's Keep Fit class meets on Mondays in the small (East) hall of our Strathaven buildings, from 7-8pm.
Cillia McLeary

Service of Ordination of David McKee

David McKee, our probationer minister will be ordained on Monday 9 December in Jackson Parish Church, Airdrie.

The Moderator of the General Assembly, our Shaw, will be participating in the Service of Ordination.

If you would like to attend I have organised a bus leaving from the Common Green at 6.45pm and returning at approximately 9.45pm.

The cost will be at most £10. If you would like a seat on the bus please contact me on 07809128038.

Ruby Davidson
Session Clerk

Memory Club

- * The dates for the November meetings of the club are Wednesday 13th and 27th November at 1p.m -3.15p.m.
- * We hope to welcome back Eric and Jackie Rice to sing and play for us on the 9th and on 27th Loudoun Friends return with their Scottish fiddles and accordion for a Scottish afternoon.
- * If you or a loved one are experiencing issues with memory loss due to dementia why not come along and enjoy an activity, some musical entertainment and a chat over tea and coffee.
- * Often, a family member accompanies the person experiencing issues and can find some support from others in the same position.
- * We are also a Help Point for the Playlist for Life charity so if you are interested in setting up a personal playlist and need some advice please call in during one of our meetings.
- * We meet in the large hall of Trinity Church.
- * For more information please contact Lynda Horn on 07778579504

Name That Book	
1. c	7. b
2. c and d	8. c
3. d	9. c (also Amos mentions Pleiades and Orion)
4. a	
5. d	
6. b and d	10. a (twelve times)

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.

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:	The Right Reverend Dr. Shaw J Paterson	spaterson@churchofscotland.org.uk 01357 520019
Interim Moderator and Locum	Rev Norman McKee	normanmckee946@btinternet.com 01698 827358
Probationer Assistant	Mr. David McKee	DMcKee@churchofscotland.org.uk 07946 671733
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

It's November.... and as I write the weather is changing..... it has just become a lot warmer! I suppose we have always had cold and warm snaps but I certainly don't think with quite so much of a see-saw. For a while I was keeping several changes of clothes on my bedroom armchair (absolutely no point in putting them away): cold weather going about clothes; warm weather going about; cold weather gardening clothes; warm weather gardening! Weather was changing so rapidly I spent half my days in the bedroom switching clothes. At least now it has settled to a couple of days mini heatwave (well, warmish, sunny even); then cold snap – hard frosts and 0^o! Then yesterday 0^o- 16^o!!! However much I might be complaining – I'm certainly glad I don't live in Florida!



Although it is a bit of a trial when you start hanging the washing up in bright sunshine and peg the last sock up in the rain! A benefit from the less than sunny summer and autumn appears to be that my Peruvian lilies, which I love, are now blooming beautifully through this November, keeping my spirits up as I step outside into the rain/wind/frost/sunshine (please delete as appropriate at your time of reading).

It's November...time to start the Christmas shopping, bake the cake, order the turkey, plan the dinner – not the menu, too early for that, just the who is going where and when! That way, come Advent, there will be time to enjoy that lovely month of preparing for the celebration of Christ's birth and yes, the colour, music and razzmatazz which accompanies that glorious event!

Happy November, everyone.

*Take care
Maureen*

**Final date for inclusion in our
Christmas edition of New
Connections is :-
Monday 18th November 2024**