

# NEW CONNECTIONS

The congregational Magazine of  
Strathaven: Trinity Parish Church



*Christmas 2024*

by  
Sophie

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Dear Friends,

Here we are again on the cusp of Advent as we look towards and prepare for Christmas. I was in Hamilton today, 14 November and the Town Christmas Tree is in place at the Top Cross. I also have seen some of the earliest Christmas lights in and on houses, so we know where we are. It is a fact that, across the age spectrum, it hardly seems a year from one event or date to another and Christmas is in that category. It is one of the busiest times in the Kirk, although, believe it or not, Easter has its own busy presentation and, if we think the way we do, that won't be long.

Indeed, I had a member in my Church in Hamilton, who had a card shop here in Strathaven and it was in the month of November that the travelers were asking her to place her order for Easter eggs, cards and all the rest.

Joy at Christmas is unparalleled and many people express that joy through their outward demonstration in lights and parties and the like and I think that, if it is good for them, so be it.

We know how looking into a baby's face, even the dourest of folk can manage a smile. Imagine the lighting up and the joy of Bethlehem when the very face of God was portrayed in the Christ Child.

Of course, we should be excited and we will celebrate because everything we do is based on the Natal scene.

In a word, it is the launch pad that will propel us ever onwards and upwards, to do the will of the One who came as we are, was laid in a manger and from then, showed joy, peace and love to, for and in all.

Have a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

With Blessings,  
*Norman*

**MINISTER’S NOTES**

★ **Sunday 1st December** *1st Sunday in Advent* ★

★ Sunday School Gift Service in all three churches. ★

★ **Sunday 8th December** *2nd Sunday in Advent* ★

★ Holy Communion will be celebrated at 9:30am (Chapelton) and 11:00am (Strathaven) ★

★ **Sunday 15th December** *3rd Sunday in Advent* ★

★ Carol Service in Glassford at 6:30pm ★

★ **Sunday 22nd December** *4th Sunday in Advent* ★

★ Chapelton - Family Service Nativity at 9:30am  
★ Glassford - Family Service Nativity at 10:00am  
★ Strathaven - Family Service Nativity at 11:00am  
★ Tea, coffee and mince pies served after the services

★ **Christmas Eve Family Service** ★

★ Takes place in Strathaven at 6:30pm ★

★ **Christmas Eve Watchnight Services at 11:30pm** ★

★ There will be a Watchnight Service in both Chapelton and Strathaven again this year. Please come along to this special service as we meet in the darkness of the midnight hour to welcome Jesus — The Light of the World — into our lives. ★

★ **Christmas Day Service at 11:00** Joint service in our Strathaven building. ★

★ **Sunday 29th December** Joint service in our Strathaven building at 11:00am ★

★ **Christmas Day and the Sunday before New Year: These will be joint services at Strathaven.** Anyone requiring transport to Strathaven on the 25th and 29th December should contact any office bearer. ★



FROM

DAVID

Hello everyone,  
As I write this message, it is hard to imagine that it is for the Christmas edition of New Connections. It is an old saying, but the years really do seem to be passing more quickly as I get older. Time has also passed quickly in my training for Ministry, as I will be ordained on Monday 9th December.

This also seems hard to imagine! I have sensed a call to the Ministry, probably for the last 20 years or so. In fact, my wife maintains that this was the first thing I told her! I am not sure of that, but I have thoroughly enjoyed my training and formation years. I have been blessed with wonderful placements in Cairnlea/Calderbank, London: St Columba's, with you in Strathaven Trinity, Airdrie: Jackson, before coming back to Trinity.

I have said it before and will continue to say it, but people really do make the Church. Had it not been for the support of the fantastic congregations and supervisors I have worked with, I would not have made it to Ordination. So take that message to heart and know that you all serve God in various ways. You may not recognise it yourself, but each of you has a gift to share. No-one is more important than the other.

That is why I am so looking forward to sharing the Ordination service as one Church family. A privilege and true blessing to serve God and his people.

With all good wishes,  
David



## FUNERALS

Arthur Russell  
Margaret McDougall  
Graeme Smith

1 November  
18 November  
3 December

### Parish Christmas Cards

Would you be willing to help deliver a Christmas Card round the homes in our parish?

As we have done over the last few years we are planning on dropping a Christmas Card through the letterbox of every home in our parish. If you would be willing to help please let Ruth (our secretary) know. Once the cards are printed we will make arrangements to have them bundled into 'street' areas for folks to collect and deliver.

### **LECTIONARY READING**



#### **December**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| December 1, 2024<br>(1 <sup>st</sup> )  | Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36            |
| December 8, 2024<br>(2 <sup>nd</sup> )  | Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 27; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6              |
| December 15, 2024<br>(3 <sup>rd</sup> ) | Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 45; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18         |
| December 22, 2024<br>(4 <sup>th</sup> ) | 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                  |



### **CHRISTMAS DAY AND SUNDAY 29th DECEMBER**

The Kirk Session has agreed to hold joint services on Christmas Day and Sunday between Christmas and New Year. Due to live-streaming, we will host these services in our Strathaven building at 11:00am. Anyone requiring transport from the villages into Strathaven (and home again) should contact local office-bearers or the church secretary tel. no 01357 529 316) as soon as possible.

### **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**

### **December**

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

### **January**

5<sup>th</sup> Mrs M. Taylor  
12<sup>th</sup> Mrs J. Graham and Mrs B. Park  
19<sup>th</sup> Mrs L. Fleming  
26<sup>th</sup> Mrs A. Park



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

## **CHAPELTON FLOWER CALENDAR**

### **December**

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



### **January**

5<sup>th</sup> Mrs J. Callan c/o Ellen Callan  
12<sup>th</sup> Mrs M. Hamilton (Strathaven)  
19<sup>th</sup> Mrs V. Allan  
26<sup>th</sup> Mrs M. Gilmour

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

## **GLASSFORD FLOWER CALENDAR**

### **December**

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

### **January**

5<sup>th</sup> Mrs R. Andrew  
12<sup>th</sup> Mrs M. Steel  
19<sup>th</sup> Mrs J. Meikle  
26<sup>th</sup> Mrs E. Moore



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

## **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.

### **December**

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

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

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

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

Thanks, Kath



## CHRISTMAS APPEAL



### GIFTS

- Hats
- Scarves
- Gloves
- Fluffy Socks
- Hot Water Bottles
- Toys
- Games
- Books
- Arts & Crafts
- Selection Boxes
- Fragrance Sets
- Toiletry Gift Sets
- Make-Up Gifts
- Earphones
- Tongs/Hairdryers
- Charger Packs
- Speakers
- Cosy Oodles
- Vouchers (Greggs, Amazon, Primark)


34 Singer Road, East Kilbride,  
G75 0XS. Tel: 01355 223657



Please join us for our

## CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Sunday, 15th December  
at 6:30pm in Glassford



### **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



## CHRISTMAS APPEAL

### FOOD

- Mince Pies
- Christmas Pudding
- Boxes of Chocolates
- Shortbread
- Hot Chocolate
- Coffee/Tea/Juice
- Meringues
- Cake Mix
- UHT Cream & Milk
- Other Sweet Treats
- Tins of meat and tuna
- Red Box Pasta
- Tins of Hot Meals
- Fray Bentos Pies
- Cooking Oil
- UHT Milk
- Tins of Fruit
- Custard
- Curry Sauce
- Razors & Shaving Foam
- Deodorant
- Bubblebath
- Shower Gel
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Tin Foil
- Bin Bags
- Cleaning Sprayy

34 Singer Road, East Kilbride,  
G75 0XS. Tel: 01355 223657



### NEW CONNECTIONS FRONT COVER

All the young ones who attend Sunday School (in our three buildings) were asked to design the front cover of our magazine. We have so many fantastic designs, I'm sure you will agree! If any parent, family member or friend wishes a copy of a particular child's design, please contact the secretary.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* Thank you to everyone who has donated flowers over the past year and also to the volunteers who help arrange and distribute the flowers each week. We wish you all a Merry Christmas. \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

## CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Each Christmas the Royal Mail issues religious stamps (in addition to Christmas stamps) but these are not offered routinely at Post Offices. They have to be requested! In order to keep the religious significance of Christmas at the fore front please ask for religious stamps.

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

**WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US AT ANY OF THE CHURCH, FAMILY AND YOUTH EVENTS**

**Advent Activities**

**We meet in our three church buildings each advent Sunday. Chapelton service is 09.30AM, Glassford at 10Am and Strathaven at 11Am. A warm welcome will be extended to all!**

**ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE**

**Sunday school**

Sunday school runs during each of our church services as detailed above. Nativities will take place on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December during each of the services.



**Take time Meditations**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec, 11<sup>th</sup> Dec,  
18<sup>th</sup> Dec S3+  
19:00-20:30**

Join us for an advent course of scripture based mediations. Take some time out to relax in God's presence during this busy season.

**Messy Church**

Join us for a Christmas messy church Messy Church with fun activities, songs and fellowship!

When: Friday 13th December 17:30-19:30 in Chapelton church hall.



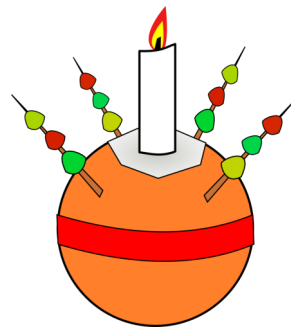
## Godly play

Join us at Chapelton church on Sunday 15th December for the advent wreath story. All ages welcome.



## Christmas Services

Watchnight services will be held in Chapelton and Strathaven on Christmas Eve from 23:30. A carol service will be held in Glassford on Sunday 15th December at 19:00.



### Family Christmas Eve Service

Our family Christmas Eve service will be held in Strathaven, Lethame Road on 24th December at 18.30. All would be made most welcome.

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

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**Enjoy this Christmas Wordsearch in your quiet moments!**

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| ADVENT       | INFANT    |
| ANGEL        | INNKEEPER |
| CAMELS       | JESUS     |
| CANDLE       | JOSEPH    |
| CARDS        | MAGI      |
| CAROL        | MARY      |
| CHRISTMAS    | MYRRH     |
| DECORATIONS  | NATIVITY  |
| DONKEY       | SANTA     |
| FRANKINCENSE | STABLE    |
| GIFTS        | STAR      |
| GOLD         | TREE      |



**'Pause for a moment'** – Shaw's article in December's Life and Work

We have had a nativity scene outside the church for a number of years. I think it is wonderful to see young children bringing adults of all ages up the path to look at the traditional figures set out within a stable. Our stable differs from the one in Bethlehem all those years ago as it has a perspex window and LED lighting to allow as many people as possible to see Jesus inside.

Why do we want as many as possible to see Jesus? It is a simple answer. Think for a moment. How many of us hurry past nativity scenes in a whole myriad of places because we are too busy, we are in a rush, we've seen it before.... yes, yes, yes, Mary and Joseph, and a baby with a sheep or two and a cow for special effect, and of course the donkey... but isn't that indicative of how the world treats the message of Christmas?

There is an attitude we adopt of knowing the story. God sent Jesus into our world and there were angels and wise men but we are busy and we are in a rush. We have seen it so many times before that the reality is we forget (or at least, put it to the back of our minds) why Jesus came into the world and so, in a sense, he is forgotten.

A number of years ago, someone broke into our nativity scene late on Christmas Day or in the early hours of Boxing Day. Not much by way of damage but interestingly Mary was found in someone's garden. Joseph was in the park and one of the wise men was standing in the middle of the road. The animals were in the main safe and well, but what struck me was that no-one had touched Jesus. Every year I think back and wonder why? Why was Jesus left alone? Was it respect? Was it 'we can mess about but maybe better not mess with God's Son?' Or maybe, it's a reflection of society, many of whom have forgotten all about Jesus and leave him alone. They see no need for a saviour to have been born, or for a light of the world, or for God to be with them.

A few years ago, I was visiting a Primary 1 class to conduct a mock baptism – they had been talking about babies as part of their lessons and were looking at traditions. A real baby had been organised for the occasion but had taken ill. So, there I was with what seemed like hundreds of wee tots looking for something to use in place of a baby. Would a doll do? Yes, of course; perfect. They couldn't find one. That was until somebody had the bright idea of going to the school's nativity scene and taking the doll out of the manger. I talked them through what happens and assigned them parts, and out of the corner of my eye I noticed a young girl giving the baby a kiss. What struck me was that it took a five-year-old to acknowledge that the doll represented a real child. The baby Jesus was real. He was born, just as the Old Testament prophecies predicted.

*....continued on page 15*

The story, like our manger scene, is very familiar: Luke Chapter 1: The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus." And then in Chapter 2: "...and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger – there was no room for them to stay in the inn."

This Christmas, as you dash from one thing to another, please pause for a moment to look in the manger within a nativity scene and reflect on Christ coming into our world.

Wishing you a super Christmas and all you hope for in the New Year

*The Right Reverend Dr Shaw J Paterson*

### **GUILD**

The concert held on Friday 8 November was a great success – everyone thoroughly enjoyed the music selections by The Stonehouse Male Voice Choir and the NHS Lanarkshire Choir – and of course The Jolly B's! The total raised was £1,700 – a magnificent amount. After the concert everyone was invited through to the hall for a cup of tea/coffee and a magnificent spread of home baking. We would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the evening – we really appreciated your support.

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 28<sup>th</sup> from Hame Brew (Marshall Harkness and Friends). 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.

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).

*Ishbel Anderson*



We are fast approaching one of the most exciting times in the Sunday School calendar! December will be all about the Christmas story and all the special messages that go along with it. We are looking forward to some of our families taking part in the advent candle readings, we have a Christmas party planned for all three churches and we are very excited to be presenting our Christmas Nativity. We hope that everyone enjoys the lead up and festivities and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and peaceful, healthy New Year!

**Dates for the diary:**

Sunday 8th December - Communion: Sunday school in hall for practice

Sunday 15th December - Sunday school party for all 3 churches: in Strathaven building 3 - 5pm

Sunday 22nd December - Nativity service

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



*Merry Christmas*

## **MODERATOR'S CHALLENGE: LET YOUR LITTLE LIGHT SHINE**

**Lighting up homes to allow children to do homework by funding a simple light library at their school can make a difference to their whole future.**

Inspired from his recent visit to Malawi, Shaw was very impressed with the determination of the people of Malawi, particularly within the church, to ensure that education at all levels becomes available and accessible. As a result, he has challenged people to support an initiative that has the potential to transform students' lives in Malawi.

**As part of its strategic plan to advance and extend quality theological education, Zomba Theological University (ZTU) is embarking upon an ambitious renovation project to provide accommodation for new and expanding postgraduate programmes.**

The vision is that the new Centre will become a hub of collegiality, creativity and collaboration that can generate transforming ideas and transformative leaders. The proposed development includes solar power provision and improved IT infrastructure throughout the renovated buildings to provide a variety of flexible working locations.

Energy supplies in Malawi are often erratic, are vulnerable to disruption during extreme weather and are subject to increasing prices. ZTU has existing solar power infrastructure to cover classes, administration buildings and the chapel, but not these expanded facilities. ZTU proposes adding to the existing solar infrastructure to be able to generate, store and distribute sufficient electricity for the expanded facilities.

**SolarAid is an International UK based charity which works in many African countries. It works in Malawi through its social enterprise 'Sunnymoney'. Lights for the Light Library are sourced through them. They will provide help with any lights which have problems.**

A school will get a number of small solar lights that a child may borrow - in the same way as a library book is. And in the same way as books not returned incur a fine, a light which is not returned is expected to be paid for by parents. This has meant that few lights are lost to the library.

The library allows children who want to learn in the dark evenings in Malawi to do so safely. Sometimes children use firelight, kerosene lamps and candles to do homework, all which are dangerous or expensive and many children just cannot do homework at all.

For students, access to light at night enables them to study for their exams and continue their education, creating a brighter future for all. Sunnymoney is able to provide solar panels for training institutions and schools also. This allows teachers to set and mark papers and prepare lessons. It also can support learning of boarding students.

The project has now been launched online and Trinity Church will also support Shaw's challenge. Further details will be issued in the New Year – so watch this space!

## **COMMUNION—2024**

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

- **Chapelton & Strathaven** - Second Sundays December

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.**



## **STAMPS FOR WORLD MISSION**

Please remember to save your Christmas stamps for this very worthwhile cause. If possible, leave a good border around the stamp so that it does not get damaged. Thanks to everyone who has supported this ongoing appeal. Several boxes have already been sent on to the main collector. There is a collection box at the door of the Strathaven building; stamps can also be handed in to the office.

*Maureen Geraghty*

## *A wee Christmas Picture to Colour*







## HEALTH HELP INTERNATIONAL

I have recently returned from a trip to Zambia to visit the projects supported by HHI and what an overwhelming and humbling experience this was. The whole country is struggling to survive the drought that has gripped the nation since the rains failed last year. Many people would normally survive by subsistence farming but that is no longer an option as the rivers have dried up. HHI is distributing food to schools, the local hospital and some individual families on a monthly basis. Every day during my visit families were queuing up to ask for help for special needs children. Often, they needed the bus fare to go to Lusaka to keep hospital appointments, sometimes they needed a wheelchair for a disabled child, always they were hungry.



During my visit, it was my very great honour to open the new dormitory at Choongo School. The Choongo Brick Appeal was very successful and the building is now complete. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously. This will make life so much easier for the special needs residents at the school.

There is lots of information about my trip on the HHI website, Health Help [International.org.uk](http://International.org.uk) go to News and then Travelogue. Also, on the website are a number of short films produced last year which give a real flavour of the work that is being done. (go to Films) They are well worth watching and convey a real sense of the work that HHI is able to undertake with your generous donations.

Thanks, Kath Russell



### 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.

## Strathaven Fairtrade

The Fairtrade stall will not be open for the 1st Sunday in January but will resume again in February when we will be back with your favourite snacks, jams, biscuits and other groceries. Thanks s ever for your amazing support and within you all a very peaceful and joyful Christmas and New Year.

*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.

**Keep Fit will close for Christmas on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and will resume on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January.**

*Cillia McLeary*

#### **SNOW CLEARERS**

Winter is coming 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).

# Memory Club

In December we have only one meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30 till 3.15pm. This will be our Christmas afternoon and we are looking forward to hearing pupils from Kirklandpark Primary School sing some Christmas songs. There will also be Christmas crafts and activities and some home baking with our tea and coffee.

We meet again in Jan on Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 when we are going to have a quiz and activity afternoon and on Wed 22<sup>n</sup> Jan we will have a Burns afternoon with entertainment from Christine and Alex Knox. We are also going to have a Burns lunch ; for those who wish to have lunch it is Haggis, neeps and tatties followed by apple pie and custard. Please come at the slightly earlier time of 12.45 for lunch and could you let Lynda Horn know who wishes lunch in advance. If you do not wish to join us for lunch please come at the usual time of 1.30.

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

## 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?

|                                    |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Minister:</b>                   | The Right Reverend Dr. Shaw J Paterson | <a href="mailto:spaterson@churchofscotland.org.uk">spaterson@churchofscotland.org.uk</a><br>01357 520019   |
| <b>Interim Moderator and Locum</b> | Rev Norman McKee                       | <a href="mailto:normanmckee946@btinternet.com">normanmckee946@btinternet.com</a><br>01698 827358           |
| <b>Probationer Assistant</b>       | Mr. David McKee                        | <a href="mailto:DMcKee@churchofscotland.org.uk">DMcKee@churchofscotland.org.uk</a><br>07946 671733         |
| <b>Session Clerk:</b>              | Ruby Davidson                          | <a href="mailto:rubydavidson96@yahoo.com">rubydavidson96@yahoo.com</a><br>07809 128038                     |
| <b>Church Secretary:</b>           | Ruth Ward-Cox<br>Mon-Thurs 9:15-11:45  | <a href="mailto:strathaventrinity@gmail.com">strathaventrinity@gmail.com</a><br>01357 529316               |
| <b>Sunday School:</b>              | Pamela Walker                          | <a href="mailto:TSundaySchool@outlook.com">TSundaySchool@outlook.com</a>                                   |
| <b>Youth Worker:</b>               | Julie Robertson                        | <a href="mailto:jrobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk">jrobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk</a><br>07544 249324 |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>                  | David Lipowski                         | <a href="mailto:david.lipowski@gmail.com">david.lipowski@gmail.com</a>                                     |
| <b>Ass. Treasurer:</b>             | Sheila Dodds                           | <a href="mailto:sheiladodds24@gmail.com">sheiladodds24@gmail.com</a>                                       |
| <b>Presbytery Elder:</b>           | Scott Bennie                           | 01357 521 661  |

## **CHURCH OFFICE**

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



## Lifts to Church

If anyone requires a lift to Church, please contact  
Kath Russell  
07916 171830



# NEW CONNECTIONS

## EDITORIAL

It's Advent!

When does your tree go up and get decorated? It's almost as big a discussion as what goes at the top of your tree?!

In years gone by, with everyone at school – someone declared my children were deprived as both parents were teachers! – the buying and decorating of the tree was on the day the schools broke up. As this could be Christmas Eve we had some weird and wonderful trees – the ones that no-one else had bought and regardless of how scrappy, it was adorned with all the favourite and familiar decorations. And Christmas had really started.

Christmas preparations were, of course, in full swing by then. The Nativity play had long been written and rehearsed till word and song perfect; parties had been enjoyed; Santa had multiplied himself many times over in every corner of the country; presents had been bought, wrapped and delivered; cards written and posted; cake baked; Santa lists written. But somehow, the tree going up and the lights twinkling just made it all very real and imminent.

When I read over that list of preparations, I am left wondering – when is the time for reflection? There's a saying – it's not 'I'm so busy I don't have time to pray', but rather, 'I'm so busy, I *need* time to pray!' One of the excellent outcomes of the digital age has been the daily Advent Readings and the online Advent Calendar on the webpage. It's lovely just to take the 5 minutes of calm to hear the Christmas story unfold and remind us just what all the fuss and busyness is about.

Happy Advent, everybody.

Wishing you peace, joy and happiness this Christmas.

*Take care  
Maureen*

**Final date for inclusion in our  
February edition of New  
Connections is :-  
Monday 20th January 2025**