

NEW CONNECTIONS

The congregational Magazine of
Strathaven: Trinity Parish Church

May 2024



**Website: www.strathaventrinity.co.uk
Church office: strathaventrinity@gmail.com
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*From the
Minister's
Desk*



In this, my first letter to you folk, I have to say it is a privilege to be able to enhance the pastoral work I have been doing and as Interim

Moderator, take on the duties, on Shaw's behalf.

It is so good and an honour for him and for the Church, that he will soon be appointed as Moderator of the General Assembly and I am sure he will bring his own stamp to bear on all he does.

He has the great capacity of meeting and easily associating with a great breadth of people and that will be so vital in the Office he will hold. I feel that I am always very much at home in Strathaven and in particular, I feel that the atmosphere and the friendliness and support are as once they were for me in my own parishes and that has to be good.

Be sure to feel free to make contact with me if you have any questions and, if I don't have the answer, probably I will know someone who has. I look forward to sharing the worship with Robin, Valerie and Julie and the other visitors who are to be with us in the months ahead.

I am reminded always of the verse, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me" and I am sure, with that mantle around us, we all will go forward confidently in faith, hope and love.

With every good wish,

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 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.



MAY

5 th May	Norman at Chapelton and Strathaven; Robin at Glassford
12 th May	COMMUNION AT Glassford – Rev Robbie Hamilton at Glassford and Strathaven; Valerie at Chapelton
19 th May	ASSEMBLY SUNDAY Joint Service (Sermon from St Giles) Norman to conduct
26 th May	Rev Charlene Condeco (OLM Falkirk Trinity) at Chapelton and Strathaven; Valerie at Glassford

JUNE

2 nd June	Joint Service In Strathaven (<i>Shaw as Moderator</i>)
9 th June	(COMMUNION CHAPELTON AND STRATHAVEN) Norman at Chapelton and Strathaven; Rev Robbie Hamilton at Glassford
16 th June	Robin at Chapelton and Strathaven; Julie at Glassford
23 rd June	Valerie at Chapelton and Strathaven; Rev. Robert Allan at Glassford
30 th June	Norman at Chapelton and Strathaven; Valerie at Glassford

JULY

7 th July	Robin at Chapelton and Strathaven; Norman at Glassford
14 th July	Norman at Chapelton and Strathaven; Valerie at Glassford
21 st July	Norman at Chapelton and Strathaven; Robin at Glassford
28 th July	Robbie at Chapelton and Strathaven; Valerie at Glassford

FUNERALS

Sheila Begg 22 April
Ruby Laird 10 April



THE MODERATOR'S DIARY

19 th May	St Giles' Cathedral (Assembly Sunday)
26 th May	Skipness Parish Church (Argyll)
2 nd June	Strathaven Trinity
9 th June	Southend Parish Church (Argyll)
16 th June	Diaconate Conference
23 rd June	Holytown Parish Church
30 th June	TBC
7 th July	Scot's Kirk Paris (100 th anniversary of Eric Liddell preaching there at Paris Olympics 1924)
14 th July	United Reformed Church General Assembly (England)

TUESDAY SOUP AND A ROLL



Thank you to all those who supported this venture on Tuesdays. Your donations amounting to around £250 are going to Loaves and Fishes.

Maureen and I hope that you enjoyed the soup as much as we enjoyed your chat.

Thanks
Margaret Cunningham



LECTIONARY READING



May

5 May 2024	Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
12 May 2024	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19
19 May 2024	Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
26 May 2024	Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

June

2 Jun 2024	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6
9 Jun 2024	1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15); Psalm 138; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35
16 Jun 2024	1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13; Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 4:26-34
23 Jun 2024	1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49; Psalm 9:9-20; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41
30 Jun 2024	2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

July

July 7, 2024	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13
July 14, 2024	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24; Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13 Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29
July 21, 2024	2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23 Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
July 28, 2024	2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; 2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18 Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

STRATHAVEN FLOWER CALENDAR

May

5th Mrs. B Smith
12th Mrs. I Donaldson
19th Mrs. E Morley
26th Mrs. M Sinclair & Mrs M Latimer



June

2nd Mrs. E Brownlie
9th Mrs. B Scott (Communion)
16th Mrs. M Brown
23rd Mrs. M Tait
30th Mrs. M Neilson

July

7th Mrs. M Hamilton
14th Mrs. A Dalziel and Mrs. A Callan
21st Mrs. J McKay
28th Mrs. E Milne

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

GLASSFORD FLOWER CALENDAR

May

5th Mrs. C Frame
12th Mrs. S Moore (Communion)
19th Mrs. R Redpath
26th Mrs. R Stewart

June

2nd Mrs. M Edwards
9th Mrs. Foster Snr
16th Mrs. J Marshall
23rd Mrs. R Millar
30th Miss. L Fleming

July

7th Mrs. J Meikle
14th Mrs. R Fleming
21st Miss. S Foster
28th Mrs. M McDonald



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

CHAPELTON FLOWER CALENDAR

May

5th Mrs. A Wallace (Anderson)
12th Mrs. M Thomson
19th Mrs. E Kennedy
26th Mrs. V Mclean

June

2nd Mrs. V Allan (Trinity Sunday)
9th Mrs. J Goldie (Communion)
16th Mrs. M Simmonds
23rd Mrs. L Menzies
30th Mrs. C Leggate

July

7th Mrs. B Catani c/o Joyce Catani
14th Mrs. C Leggate
21st Mrs. M Hamilton
28th Mrs. E Kennedy



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

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Committee is updating the list of members who would value additional visits (to your own and those made by the Minister) or a pastoral care visitor from the church. If you know of anyone in your district, of whatever age, who would appreciate such a visit, please email the office at strathaventrinity@gmail.com and they will be put on the list.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

As you all know our minister, Shaw, has left us for a year to take up his role as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. We are indebted to our Interim Moderator, Rev Norman McKee who will oversee the business of the church and who along with our Worship Leaders and Shaw's two Moderator chaplains, Rev Robbie Hamilton and Rev Robert Allan will ensure that worship will continue in all three of our church buildings.

His installation as Moderator will be on Saturday 18 May 2024 at the General Assembly which takes place at the Assembly Hall on the Mound, and he will preach in St Giles Cathedral on Sunday 19 May. There will be a joint service in Strathaven on that day when Rev Norman McKee will lead us in worship. The sermon will be a recording of Shaw preaching in St Giles.

Following is a summarised Agenda for Saturday 18th May for the benefit of those travelling through to Edinburgh. The proceedings can be watched online via the Church of Scotland Website.

SATURDAY 18 MAY 2024 - OPENING DAY

Session 1: 10.00 am

1. Constitution of Assembly.
2. Submission of Roll of Commissioners.
3. Election of Moderator and Prayer of Consecration.
4. Commission to the Lord High Commissioner to be read and order given for recording it.
5. His Majesty's Most Gracious Letter to be read and order given for recording it.
6. Address by the Lord High Commissioner and reply by the Moderator.
7. Address by Retiring Moderator.
8. Appointment of the Committee to Prepare Answer to His Majesty's Most Gracious Letter.
9. Report of the Standing Committee on Commissions.
10. Submission of the Standing Orders.
11. Appointment of the Procedure Committee.
12. Appointment of Panel of Tellers.
13. Appointment of Committee to prepare a minute on Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons.
14. Intimation of arrangements for a celebration of Holy Communion on Monday 20 May, at 9.15 am in the Assembly Hall and online.

Moderators Visit 2nd June 2024

Shaw has been given permission to return to lead us in worship on Sunday 2nd June. This will be a joint service in Strathaven at 11am. We are delighted that he will preach as Moderator. During the service he will present long service certificates to a number of Elders and there will be a presentation to him on behalf of the Strathaven Trinity congregation. Julie will be running a Godly Play session in the small hall for all children who would like to join her

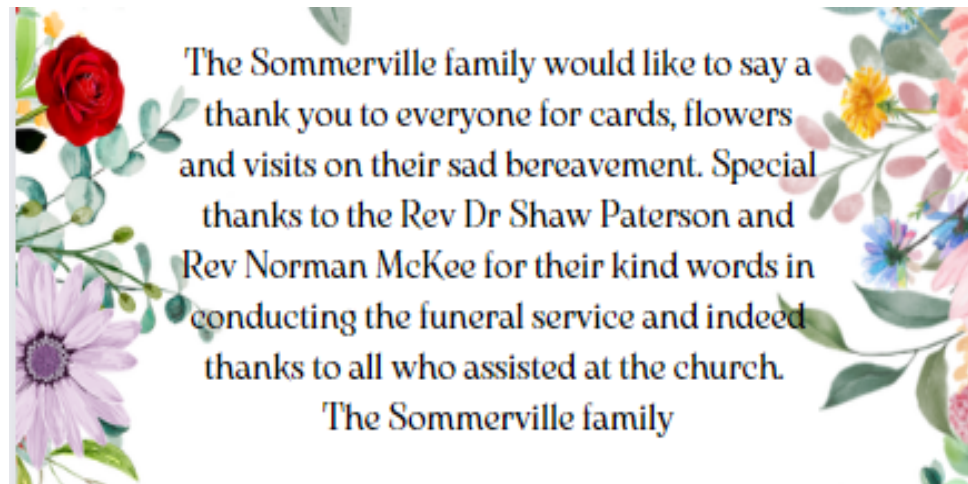
Following the service there will be what Shaw calls a "Bun Feast" and we are grateful to The Guild who are organising this. As we anticipate a large attendance, we would appreciate donations of home baking. If you are able to help, we would ask that any donations are brought to the Hall on Saturday 1st June between 2pm and 4pm or at 10am on Sunday before the Service.

Lord High Commissioner

Prince Edward, the Duke of Edinburgh, has been appointed as the Lord High Commissioner to the 2024 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, a decade after he last took on the role of royal representative at the annual gathering.

The Lord High Commissioner is the Sovereign's personal representative to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and is appointed by His Majesty The King to attend proceedings on his behalf.

The Duke, who was granted the title previously held by his father on his 59th birthday last year, will make the opening and closing addresses to the Assembly and carry out a number of official functions throughout the week.



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

Well, we are in the final term of school and it feels like lots is changing! My son is in his last term of primary school as he is off to high school in August. Shaw is preparing to take up the mantle of moderator. I am still waiting to hear the outcome of my Worship Leaders course. Lots of new and exciting things God has in store for us over the coming months!

On 19th May, 2-4pm, our football team will take to the pitch to defend our title won last year. This is always a great day and lots of fun for the kids and adults alike. If you have a child in primary school who would like to take part please let Robert McAulay or myself know.

As we head through this final term, we will begin to look forward to our summer activities and beyond. As is always my cry for volunteers and also just a little footnote in relation to the Youth Scape training, I am looking to provide. This would be free for all who wanted to attend and if this would be of interest to any of our groups that are established or any one who has an interest in working with young people, I'm looking for ideas for suitable days and times so do let me know if this may be of interest.

Till next time - Blessings!

Julie

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

TODDLER GROUPS RUN AS FOLLOWS:

Monday – Strathaven
Wednesday - Chapelton both 10-11.30.

We will be off for the bank holiday Mondays in May.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB:

Thursday After School runs in Glassford from 15.00-16.00.
We will be off 2nd May for school in-service.

MESSY CHURCH:

Messy Church meets next on Sunday 12th May 2024

GODLY PLAY:

2nd June during Moderators visit in the small hall.



We are all looking forward to the summer term ahead and are hopeful for some sunny weather for us all to enjoy. In amongst the holidays in May we have some nice activities planned and an outing to enjoy! Emails will be sent out as soon as details are confirmed.

Many thanks for your continued support as always,

Sunday School Team xxx

CHURCH HYMNARY

The Church of Scotland is launching a new hymnary supplement called *God Welcomes All* during this year's General Assembly. The launch event will take place at St Cuthbert's Church in Edinburgh on Sunday May 19 from 7-9pm, and will feature special guests who have songs included in the collection. Tickets are free but expected to go quickly.

God Welcomes All is the first addition to the Church Hymnary since the fourth edition (CH4) was launched in 2005. It is a collection of over 200 hymns and songs in a wide range of styles by writers from Scotland and around the world. The majority have been written in the last 20 years, including songs by well-known writers such as John Bell, Getty Music, Phil Wickham, Fischy Music, Shirley Erena Murray, Sinach and Rend Collective.

With a focus on hospitality and welcome, the collection includes songs based on scripture, for different parts of worship, and the Church year, and covering contemporary themes such as creation and the climate crisis, lament, healing, pilgrimage, ageing and dementia, migration, and reconciliation.

We are also forming a choir to help lead singing on the night. There will be a rehearsal on the afternoon of the event and online rehearsals on the evenings of 1st and 14th May. Singers should be able to read music. We will be in touch with all those who sign up for the choir with further details.

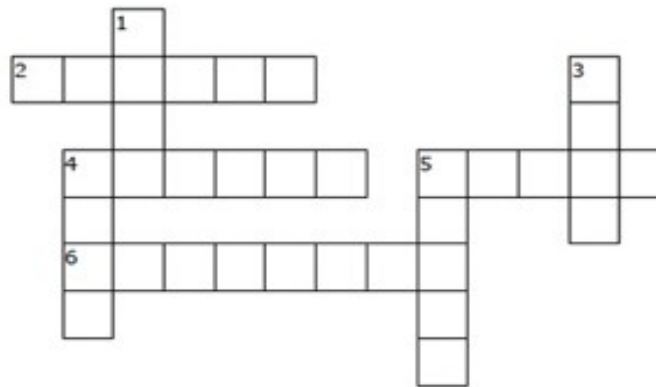
More information on the Church of Scotland Website.

Pentecost puzzles for the young and young at heart!

The Day of Pentecost

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Based on Acts 2:1-21



ACROSS

2. A being that cannot be seen, like a ghost
4. The place where God lives
5. Something that can be heard
6. Means of communication used by the people of a particular country

DOWN

1. A destructive burning
3. Blowing air, especially that which would move the leaves on a tree
4. Something that is pure and good, such as God's Word
5. To say words, to use the voice

LANGUAGE	FIRE	HOLY	WIND
SPIRIT	HEAVEN	SOUND	SPEAK

PENTECOST WORD SEARCH

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

AMAZED**HOLY SPIRIT****SITTING****APOSTLES****HOUSE****SPEAKING IN
TONGUES****DAY OF PENTECOST****LANGUAGES****TONGUES OF FIRE****HEAVEN****MULTITUDE****WIND**



CHRISTIAN AID

This year Christian Aid Week is being held between **12 – 18 May** and there a few ways in which we are hoping to raise funds for the charity.

Christian Aid Animal or Creature Quiz – copies have been available in all church buildings during the month of April and for a donation you can try this Quiz (for fun!). It is not too late to try the Quiz as the deadline for handing it in is 16 May 2024. Completed, or part completed, entries need to be submitted to reach the church office by 16 May to be included in the draw to win a small surprise gift! The solution to the Quiz will be included in the June New Connections magazine.

Envelopes – these will be distributed with the New Connections magazine at the beginning of May with spare envelopes available in each church building. These can be returned any Sunday during May or put in the post-box at the Manse in Strathaven. If you are unable to get to church to hand in your envelope, please ask someone to deliver it for you. If you are a tax payer you can increase the value of your contribution by completing the gift aid details.

Bank transfer – if it is easier for you to make a donation by bank transfer to the church account the details are – sort code - 80 09 75: account code - 00766031: reference - Christian Aid. This will keep it separate from contributions to general church funds.

For more than 75 years Christian Aid has provided practical support to our global neighbours and has campaigned for justice. Money raised goes directly to local partners – the people working on the ground – and not to governments. This year Christian Aid is one of the charities supporting, among others, people in Sudan. Gaza, Israel as well as the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Thank you for supporting our fundraising for Christian Aid 2024.

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





THY KINGDOM COME

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is an online global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost (9th to 19th May) for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions- so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Every person, household and church are encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way. On each day of the movement there will be a different online speaker. Our minister is scheduled to speak on Pentecost, which is on the 19th May.

It is our hope & prayer, that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him.

Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the globe to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, we invite you to take part & join in.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." Archbishop Justin Welby



4 April 2024

Trinity Parish Church
13 Lethame Road
Strathaven
ML10 6AD

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for another incredible donation. I cannot begin to tell what your ongoing support means to us and how far your donations go to helping our customers. The amount of food and snacks Kath delivered was quite unbelievable and we are so lucky to have your support.

Now the year is fully underway, we are seeing an increased number of new customers coming forward looking for our help. Our warehouse has evolved, and we no longer only offer food, we offer household item, electrical goods and on occasion furniture, not to mention we also run, special appeals, Christmas, Easter, School Uniforms, Baby Events etc. With your continued support we can welcome everyone old and new with open arms and help in several ways.

I truly value our ongoing partnership and I am proud that you are part of our Loaves and Fishes Family.

Kind regards

Lesley Davidson
Chair and Charity Co-Ordinator

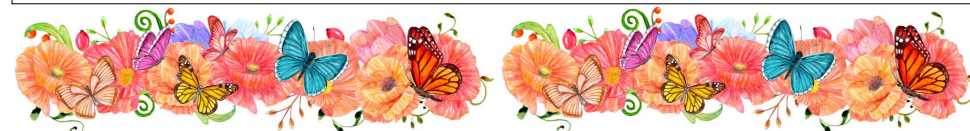
**34-36, Singer Road, Kelvin Industrial Estate,
East Kilbride G75 0XS**

Phone: 01355 223 657

Website: loavesandfishesek.com

Email: loavesandfishesek@gmail.com

Registered Scottish Charity Number SC00941



A JOURNEY
THE STORY OF AVONDALE CHURCHES



OPENING SATURDAY 20TH APRIL 2024

OPENING HOURS
FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS 10-4
SUNDAYS 1.30-4
FREE ENTRY

THE STRATHAVEN JOHN HASTIE MUSEUM TRUST,
10 TODSHILL STREET, STRATHAVEN ML10 6DD
SCOTTISH CHARITY SGO43189

John Hastie Museum Trust


This exhibition is now open and there is an amazing amount of information gathered with a large collection of articles and photographs.

Please go along and see it and allow quite a bit of time for your visit or indeed visits as there is so much to absorb when you get there!

The address is:
The Strathaven John Hastie Museum Trust
10 Todshill Street
Strathaven
ML10 6DD

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
- Mug shots

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



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 CHORAL SOCIETY: HAYDN'S CREATION

On Saturday 27th April I spent a truly inspiring evening watching and listening to the performance of Haydn's Creation by Strathaven Choral Society along with the Bridge of Weir Choral Society, both choirs sharing Christopher Barr as Musical Director. The setting was Sherbrooke Mossspark Parish Church. Four members of our Trinity Parish were singing that night –



Barbara Smith, Christine Leitch, Linda and Bill Menzies – and I have to say I felt very proud to see and hear them be part of such an amazing evening. I can only say that the whole performance completely bowled me over. I could have sat

there all night listening to the soaring voices and was quite disappointed when it came to an end. The soloists, Agostina Pombo, Seumas Begg and Colin Murray, were outstanding with notes so high you felt them floating way up to the roof and beyond. Margaret Gilmour from the parish was also in the audience and says 'It was out of this world – the whole performance was wonderful and the setting, with the high stained glass windows behind the choir, was just amazing and fitting'. I certainly couldn't agree more with that - it was the ideal setting for the Creation!

None of this happened by without considerable effort. Our own chorister, Christine Leitch told me that Christopher Barr 'trained them very hard and is quite the perfectionist'. They went over the music time and time and time again! What makes it all the more remarkable was that they only had one day of joint practice with the Bridge of Weir Choral Society. Christine said it was the most wonderful experience and fantastic to be singing with the orchestra – Strathgryffe Sinfonia. The Choral Society do 2 performances a year and I can't wait to hear what they will be tackling next Spring. Their other performance is the Christmas concert. I have mentioned in previous New Connections that I love that concert, this year to be held in the Scout and Guide Hall on December 8th. Tickets go fast - it is always a sell-out and no wonder. It's always my favourite Advent outing!



Maureen Geraghty

'TITANIC: THE LAST HERO AND THE LAST COWARD'

On Friday I attended the play 'Titanic: The Last Hero and The Last Coward' performed by the Searchlight Theatre Group in the Epicentre, brought there by Strathaven Churches Together. The play tells the story of John Harper, a church minister, and Joseph Ismay an executive of the White Star Line who were both passengers on the Titanic; one deemed a hero, the other a coward on the night it sank. The **Rev. John Harper** gave up his place on a lifeboat so that others might be saved. His daughter and niece who were travelling with him survived.

The play alternates between interactions with the two men on board the Titanic and an enquiry in America where Joseph Ismay faces tough questions about the speed the ship was travelling at, the shortage of lifeboats and about the avoidance of iceberg warnings as well as the fact that he survived by taking a place on one of the lifeboats.

At times moving but also funny the play certainly highlights the heroic actions and demeanour of the Rev Harper and also the effect of his actions on the people around him including Joseph Ismay. The play was exceptionally well acted with only two actors - Michael Taylor as John Harper and Senator Smith; David Robinson as Joseph Ismay - in the whole performance. They were given a very well deserved round of applause and there were some interesting questions in the session which followed. Of local interest is the fact that Pastor Roddy Gillies' grandfather met the Rev Harper and was instrumental in bringing him to Paisley Road Baptist Church in Govan as their first pastor. The church was subsequently rebuilt and re-named Harper Memorial Baptist Church.

Searchlight Theatre Group, founded by Michael Taylor and David Robinson try to create theatre that can share life-changing stories with audiences, making them laugh and cry, experiencing what it is to be human as well as experiencing God. On this occasion they formed a partnership with Mercy Ships performing the Titanic play at the Edinburgh Fringe and on tour. A short video of the work of the Mercy Ships was shown before the performance.

Searchlight will be back at the Edinburgh Fringe this year, all shows at Palmerston Place Church.

Week 2: 'Eric Liddell: the Chariot of Fire'
'The Screwtape Letters by CS Lewis'

Week 3 'Titanic: The Last Hero and the Last Coward'
Chamberlain: Peace in Our Time'

Altogether it was a very entertaining evening and deservedly played to a full house. Many thanks to the OCC for hosting the event and providing a lovely spread for the tea which followed!

Maureen Geraghty

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.



Memory Club

Firstly, we need to give a huge thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee Afternoon. We managed to raise the magnificent sum of over £1500!

The dates for the May meetings of the club are Wednesday 8th and 22nd May at 1.30p.m -3.15p.m. On the 8th we Simply Shed along for the first time to entertain us and on the 22nd we are going to have an activity, quiz and games 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. New members are always welcome, so why not come along and join us?

We are also a Help Point for the Playlist for Life charity which promotes the power of musical memories as a positive way of enhancing conversation and feelings of well -being for people with dementia, 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.

LADIES KEEP FIT

Trinity's Keep Fit class meets on Mondays in the small (East) hall of our Strathaven buildings, from 7-8pm. Exercises are designed to maintain fitness, so not dynamic. We do a lot of laughing so the hour goes quickly. Oh, and the exercise is usually to 60's music!
Cillia McLeary

WHEELIE BINS

We have been advised that the bin lorries will no longer empty our wheelie bins unless the lid is able to close.

In Strathaven - the church wheelie bin is the black bin located in the manse garden. This bin is of sufficient size for normal activities. However, if you are having a function/party/event that generates more rubbish than usual please arrange to take it to the amenity site for disposal. Please do not stack the bin with the lid open or leave on the ground adjacent as birds and foxes make quite a mess.

CAR PARKING

Please be considerate of our neighbours when parking for church events! Please ensure you park responsibly and be careful not to block anyone's access.

This applies for Sunday services, funerals, weddings and weekday activities in the halls.

At busy times parking is a premium and so please only use the car park off Crawford Street when attending the church or halls - there have been several instances lately when the car park has been full prior to anyone arriving for a church/hall event! Therefore, do not be afraid to ask if others who are parking in the car park are attending something in our premises and, if not, encourage them to park elsewhere.

KIDS KLUB

Kids Klub meets on those Sundays when the Sunday School is "on holiday". Children wishing to participate should go into Church as normal for the children's address then make their way to the large hall where there will be board games for them to enjoy during the remainder of the service.

It would be great if we could have a few more helpers (we need two per session) – the role is supervisory and there is no requirement to plan activities. Now is a good time to contact me so that PVG forms can be completed. There is no regular commitment for Kids Klub – just operating on a "now and again" basis. I will put together a rota, depending on who is available.

Claire Campbell (01357 520191)



BIGGER PICTURE ...Mondays at Lunch Time

Academy pupils are welcome to come along to the large hall for a hot chocolate and biscuits (and a Toastie, if they wish) while eating their lunch, or watching cartoons on the big screen. Please let as many as possible know about the hall being open – it's a dry and warm place to have lunch.

BIGGER PICTURE +1... Fridays at Lunch Time

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

WHO?

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

CHURCH OFFICE

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



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

NEW CONNECTIONS

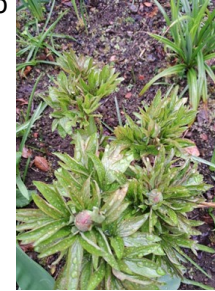
EDITORIAL

Brrrr.... It's mid-April as I write this and I'm waiting for that lovely Spring warmth to creep in! It has been a bit of a damp, windy, cool – some might say, cold – Spring so far. However, as ever God has understood my disappointment in the not-quite-expected -Spring weather and has sent me some lovely



*Thanks be to God,
the creator!*

reminders that things are not so bad after all! Below is a picture of my magnolia tree. For once the beautiful buds have NOT been frosted off in a late cold snap (yet); the birdsong is back, loud and clear wherever I walk round Strathaven; my peony rose has a promising bud, it was a transplant from my mother's garden a few years ago and I really didn't expect it to flourish; cherry blossom flourishes overhead and bright colour is everywhere as I walk around the gardens of Strathaven.



*Hope through
the rain!*

Those are a few of my God-given delights for a not-so-bright Spring this year.

What are yours?

I hope they are as many and as varied as mine.

*Take care
Maureen*

PS Didn't you just love the action hymn on Sunday 21st April!! A lot of fun with a very important message ...

The church is not a building;
the church is not a steeple;
the church is not a resting place;
the church is a people.

I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus,
all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!

**Final date for inclusion in our
June edition of New Connections is :-
Monday 20 May 2024**