

# NEW CONNECTIONS

The congregational Magazine of  
Strathaven: Trinity Parish Church

*February 2024*

let us  
**LOVE**  
One another  
for love  
is from  
**GOD**

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Its hard to believe its February already and yet, on the other hand, its hard to believe its only February!

This month I thought I would use my letter to let you know about some dates for this year.

All being well, Christine and I are heading to Australia for a long planned for holiday. We are scheduled to leave on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February and return on the 1<sup>st</sup> March. The significance of the 1<sup>st</sup> March is that its usually the date the Moderator Designate begins full time preparation for the forthcoming General Assembly and subsequent year of visits. I am delaying this and will gradually switch from parish duties to Edinburgh ones once I return from holiday.

During my time as Moderator, various people will be providing cover. Norman will be appointed Interim Moderator (which means he will have the hand on the tiller, so to speak) and will be the first point of contact for people. The period up until the 1<sup>st</sup> September has, due to unforeseen circumstances, still to be fully agreed. However, the Rev Robbie Hamilton (former minister at Airdrie New Wellwynd, now clerk to the Presbytery of Clyde and one of my Moderator's Chaplains) will be assisting with pulpit supply. At the time of writing other assistance is being negotiated.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, David McKee will be returning full time at the end of his probationary period. He will complete his final three months being remotely supervised and, when his training is completed, he will be ordained as an assistant minister at Trinity until I am back as parish minister. I am sure you will be delighted to see David back after his successful time with us as a student.

In relation to the General Assembly, the proceedings are live streamed via the Church of Scotland website. I will be installed as Moderator at the opening ceremony on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May (beginning at 10.00am). There is a public gallery at the Assembly so anyone can come along and watch, not just the opening ceremony but throughout the week. On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May I will (as is tradition) be preaching at St Giles in Edinburgh. This service is open to the public, so anyone who wishes can attend. Our plan is that the sermon will be live-streamed into our Strathaven building during morning worship so that everyone can, in a sense, be part of it.

The diary for the rest of the year is still being completed. Each month the diary will be posted online (see <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/our-structure/moderator/diary> for an indication of the duties the current Moderator is carrying out). I will give more information as we move through into spring.

Take care.

With every good wish,

*Shaw*

## **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 and Norman for agreeing to take at least one service per month.

If anyone would like to assist by concluding a service (announcing offering, leading offering prayer and intimating closing hymn followed by blessing) or opening a service (this will be at Glassford and Strathaven involving up to and including children's address) then please volunteer to the minister who will provide appropriate resources.



### **FEBRUARY**

4th Feb *COMMUNION AT GLASSFORD* - Shaw at Glassford and Strathaven; Norman at Chapelton  
11<sup>th</sup> Feb Robin at Chapelton and Strathaven; Valerie at Glassford  
18<sup>th</sup> Feb Norman at Chapelton and Strathaven; Robin at Glassford  
25<sup>th</sup> Feb Robin at Chapelton and Strathaven; Valerie at Glassford

### **MARCH**

3<sup>rd</sup> March Shaw at Glassford and Strathaven; Norman at Chapelton

Christine and Shaw would like to thank you all for your kind words, cards, flowers and, especially, prayers following the news that her dad had died suddenly on the 21st January. It was quite a shock and we are so grateful for support from Trinity and the wider community.  
Thank you.



### **Thank You!**

A big "Thank You" to the Trinity Church family for the lovely flowers received on the occasion of our ruby Wedding Anniversary. The gift of the church flowers was a big surprise and we are humbled to be the recipients.

Ian and Catherine Ballantyne

## FUNERALS

6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Margaret Wilson
8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Gilbert Gray
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	William Frame
22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Margaret McRoberts
24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Phyllis Brierly
31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Mary Bias
1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Nancy Burgess
7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Elspeth Smith



24th December -- Alexandra Elizabeth ORR

31st December -- Charlie Douglas CAMPBELL

## **OFFERINGS**

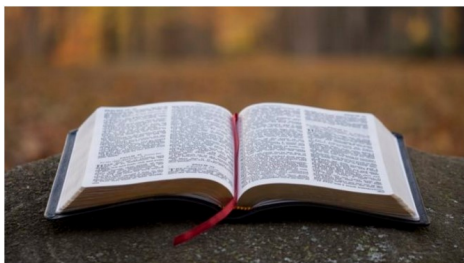
The Sunday offering (collection) is now being taken during the service in all three buildings.

We are conscious that many have switched to direct giving which has proved to be invaluable particularly over the last few years. Therefore, simply let the offering bag pass you by on a Sunday. Thank you to everyone for your continuing support.

Offering: In addition to bank transfer, electronic offerings can be made using the link <https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate/?cong=171167> or via the QR code



## **LECTIONARY READINGS**



### **February**

4 Feb 2024	Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
11 Feb 2024	2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
18 Feb 2024	Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
25 Feb 2024	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38; Mark 9:2-9

### **March**

3 Mar 2024	Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
10 Mar 2024	Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
17 Mar 2024	Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33
24 Mar 2024	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-16; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47; Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)
31 Mar 2024 (Easter Sunday)	Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18; Mark 16:1-8

### **April**

7 Apr 2024	Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31
14 Apr 2024	Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
21 Apr 2024	Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
28 Apr 2024	Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8

## **STRATHAVEN FLOWER CALENDAR**

### **FEBRUARY**

4<sup>th</sup> Mrs. F Beveridge  
11<sup>th</sup> Mrs. A Lee  
18<sup>th</sup> Miss. M McKay  
25<sup>th</sup> Mrs. H Strachan



### **MARCH**

3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs. R Hastings  
10<sup>th</sup> Mrs. A Grady (*Communion*)  
17<sup>th</sup> Mrs. M Mears  
24<sup>th</sup> Mrs. M Geraghty & Mrs I Donaldson (*Palm Sunday*)  
31<sup>st</sup> Mrs. J Robertson (*Easter Sunday*)

### **APRIL**

7<sup>th</sup> Mrs. M Chandler  
14<sup>th</sup> Mrs. M Gillies  
21<sup>st</sup> Miss. R Laird  
28<sup>th</sup> Mrs. M McAuley

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

## **GLASSFORD FLOWER CALENDAR**

### **FEBRUARY**

4<sup>th</sup> Mrs. M Edwards (Communion)  
11<sup>th</sup> Mrs. J Foster  
18<sup>th</sup> Mrs. P Masterman  
25<sup>th</sup> Mrs. C Baillie

### **MARCH**

3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs. M Lindsay  
10<sup>th</sup> Ms. J Ballantyne  
17<sup>th</sup> Mr. R Scott  
24<sup>th</sup> Mrs. M Smith  
31<sup>st</sup> Mrs. A Milwain (Easter )



### **APRIL**

7<sup>th</sup> Mrs. J Weir  
14<sup>th</sup> Mrs. H Kerr  
21<sup>st</sup> Mrs. R Andrew  
28<sup>th</sup> Mrs. M McDonald

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

## CHAPELTON FLOWER CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

4<sup>th</sup> Mrs. B. Beetham  
11<sup>th</sup> Mrs. J Lambie  
18<sup>th</sup> Mrs. M Hamilton  
25<sup>th</sup> Mrs. H Orr

### MARCH

3<sup>rd</sup> Mr. J Paterson (c/o Mary Frew)  
10<sup>th</sup> Mrs. L Wallace (*Communion*)  
17<sup>th</sup> Mrs. B Williams  
24<sup>th</sup> Mrs. J Goldie  
31<sup>st</sup> TBC (*Easter Sunday*)

### APRIL

7<sup>th</sup> Mrs. P Gilchrist  
14<sup>th</sup> Mrs E. Somerville  
21<sup>st</sup> Mr. J Frew  
28<sup>th</sup> Mrs. V Mclean

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



## PASTORAL CARE

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

## 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.**



## **GUIDE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The General Assembly is the supreme court of the Church of Scotland. The Assembly meets annually to hear reports from the councils and committees, make laws and set the agenda for the national Church. The Assembly was first held in 1560, the year of the Scottish Reformation which marked the beginning of the Protestant Church of Scotland.

Around 500 ministers, deacons and elders are commissioned to attend the Assembly each year. Delegates and visitors are also invited from partner churches around the world. Those attending the Assembly can choose to do so in Edinburgh or online.

The Moderator—who moderates, or chairs, the annual General Assembly—is nominated by a committee which consists of 15 representatives elected by the General Assembly. The Moderator must also be formally elected by commissioners at the start of the Assembly. The honorary office is held for one year only. Following the week of the General Assembly, the Moderator acts as an ambassador for the Church of Scotland, frequently being invited to represent the Church at official events at home and abroad.

If he or she is a minister, they are addressed as the Right Rev (and in Shaw's case, Right Rev Dr) until his or her moderatorial year ends with the election of a successor. A former Moderator, who is a minister, is referred to as the Very Rev [Dr]. The Moderator can also be an elder or a deacon, and can be male or female.

Shaw will be installed as Moderator on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May at the General Assembly Hall in Edinburgh (this is an 'open' event which can also be watched online). His Chaplains for the year are the Rev Robert Allan (Falkirk Trinity) and the Rev Robbie Hamilton (Clerk to the Presbytery of Clyde and until recently minister at Airdrie New Wellwynd).



After falling and breaking my femur in 3 places and spending 15 days in hospital, I would like to thank everyone for their kind words, cards and flowers.

It was very much appreciated. Thanks to Shaw for his visit. I am truly blessed to belong to a caring Church. Hopefully I will be back soon.

Thanks again.  
Ellen Meikle





## **GUILD**

During January we met twice – the first was when we welcomed Liz Allan who told us about Isobel Hutchison, Female Explorer. At the second meeting, despite the weather, we were entertained by 2 groups of young people – highland dancers from The Morag Fraser School of Dance and gymnasts from Strathaven Gym Club. The dancers were kitted out in kilts, etc and all showed their skill – a couple even did the dance with swords. All dancers performed a few dances each which were greatly enjoyed by those present. Following the dancers were the gymnasts and they energetically performed several routines involving amazing skill – they even finished with all taking part in a ‘pyramid’ – absolutely awe inspiring! Members enjoyed both displays tremendously and appreciated the skill and energy of the young people. All were a credit to their teachers/coaches.

On 13 February at 2.00 pm we look forward to our joint meeting when we are joined by ladies from other local churches to join us for the afternoon. This year the guest speaker is Deedee Cuddihy, journalist and author. All welcome.

In March we have the 2 final meetings of the session – on the 12<sup>th</sup> we have a speaker from Sepsis Research and Eric and Jackie Rice on the 26<sup>th</sup> which is also the business meeting.

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.

The World Day of Prayer is being held on Friday 1 March at 2.00 pm in St Pat’s church – open to everyone.

## **STUDIO 32 – CONCERT**

On Tuesday 27 February at 7.00 pm we look forward to a musical evening – Songs from the Musicals - provided by Studio 32 Theatre Company Concert Party. The Concert Party consists of several members including our own choir leader, Iain Sinclair. Studio 32 was established in 1985 and today has over 100 members. They are equally at home staging challenging, provoking drama or cheesy musical entertainment.

We are really looking forward to hearing them on 27 February and hope as many people as possible come along to enjoy the entertainment. The concert is being held in the church and tea/coffee/home baking will be served in the large hall following the performance. All of this and it will only cost you £10 per ticket – a real bargain I am sure you will agree. Tickets are on sale now from committee members, the church office and are also available from Craig’s Newsagents in the Common Green. Tickets are also on sale in all 3 church buildings on a Sunday. Proceeds from the sale of tickets will be donated to charities which includes The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice which Studio 32 support.

*A sealed envelope was recently discovered in a children’s bible on the shelves in Glassford building hall. We’re not sure how long it has been there. It was addressed to “The Sunday School”. A substantial monetary gift was inside. Thank you to the kind donor for this. It is greatly appreciated.*

*The Glassford Sunday school team.*

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

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a blessed and Merry Christmas. All our term time activities have resumed with toddlers, after school club and Messy Church back in action! If you would like to volunteer to help with any of our activities, please do let us know! Messy Church runs the second Sunday of every month – keep your eye for details on Facebook, intimation sheets and New connections.

We had lots of fun over Christmas with family nights and we propose to hold something monthly for families to spend some fun time together in church.

I am looking to arrange some training over the coming months for parents and grandparents to support and grow faith at home as well as some training for those who work with our children and young people. Details will be issued nearer the time.

*Till next time - Blessings!*

*Julie*

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Term time:

Toddler groups run Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 10-11.30. Monday in Strathaven, Tuesday in Glassford and Wednesday in Chapelton. All will be made most welcome.

Thursday After School:

Thursday club runs in Glassford on a Thursday from 3-4pm.

Messy Church:

Our next Messy Church will run on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 3-5pm



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

*Lamentations 3:22*



It is lovely to see everyone back at Sunday School now that we are back to reality! We hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas and New Year. The children were all fantastic in our Nativity - such superstars. A huge thank you to all of the parents and carers who helped get the children organised and everyone in the congregation for their support, as always. We have got some lovely activities planned for February and look forward to having lots of fun together. We are also hoping to plan an outing for all three Sunday Schools before Easter, so any ideas welcome!

Many thanks,

Sunday School Team

**Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8)**



# A Winter Wordsearch for you all

Antifreeze	Precipitation
Christmas	Salt
Cold	Scarf
December	Shiver
Fire	Skating
Freeze	Ski
Gale	Sledging
Gloves	Sleigh
Hat	Snow
Icicle	Snowman
Igloo	Soup
January	Windy
Mistletoe	

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

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

## **UPDATE ON PRESBYTERY PLANNING**

As you may recall the last set of proposals for parish planning were received by Presbytery but discussion was halted to allow for more time in order that Kirk Sessions might provide more detail and also for discussion. We are now in receipt of an amended proposal following visits to the area.

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### ***Strathaven and Villages***

*Missional Statement – The delivery of Mission is well served in Strathaven and the surrounding villages by the Churches in this Cluster. This has allowed for two different and complementary ministries to have developed over time and this serves God's people well.*

- *Both Congregations engage with the Strathaven community effectively. "Our strength and success lie in the diversity of our styles of worship."*
- *Continue to work with external groups including; the Bethany Group for the bereaved and widows; the Craft Club which operates for companionship; toasties/hot chocolate for academy pupils over two lunchtimes; Memory Club – for individuals (and their families) with memory issues.*
- *Develop of "Haven" as a multi-faceted Centre -Homework Club/cafe/prayer/young people.*
- *Employment of a children/youth worker reaching out into the community in new ways*
- *Provide worship in a diverse way to proclaim the Good News,*
- *Continue to support Christian youth organisations and continue to support many local and international charities.*

***The allocation for the whole grouping is 1.5 FTE [fulltime equivalent], in the first instance this is recommended as 2 x 0.75 MWS [minister of word and sacrament] in order that each congregation has a minister, however, should at any point in the future the area wish to review how the 1.5 is achieved this can be considered under the annual evaluation as the plan develops working with the Implementation Group.***  
***Commentary***

*MPAG considered the request by the Cluster for additional staffing resources given the nature and situation of missional activities being undertaken in Strathaven and the surrounding villages. It was noted that the Cluster recognised the need for local funding to maintain 2 x MWS at the end of the reviewable tenure of the Avendale Old and Drumclog Memorial ministry. The Cluster also proposed that local funding could support the increase in current MDS post of 0.5 to 1 in order to support the missional aims of the Cluster. Having considered the representations made, MPAG could see no persuasive reason to divert from the methodology applied in allocating ministries contained within the plan. The issue of additional funding can be developed with the Implementation Group. Initial considerations for this Cluster were that the main buildings within Strathaven should be retained and those located within the villages would close. However following inspection and review of the condition of the buildings and the activities being undertaken within those villages, it was noted that there is a firm connection to the communities served and there is potential for further growth. MPAG are content to designate Chapelton and Drumclog as B\* to allow the missional work requested to be developed. This should be reviewed by the Implementation Group with a report to Presbytery before June 2027.*

*Following inspection and review, it is recommended that the Glassford building should close due to the extent of internal and external works required, alongside the limited activities supported by the building and small congregation. Accordingly, the recommendation is that it should close by June 2025.*

**Summary**

*It is clear that mission is thriving in Strathaven and is being delivered from the main centre of the town from both Churches. However, challenges exist for the delivery of mission from the villages and whilst there is good interface with the local communities, MPAG are encouraging the congregations to develop a detailed plan to ensure that the missional activities undertaken in the town are similarly and realistically developed in the villages.*

Our Kirk Session has now met and will be submitting a further response. Acknowledging that it is unlikely (due to number of ministers available) that we will be given an increase in ministry allocation, it is still of the view that all of the buildings should be allowed to remain open and be subject to a further review in 2027. Retaining all of our buildings has been a central argument in all our submissions thus far. Therefore, be assured we will be pursuing this as our preferred option.

**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).



**CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

Just a reminder that Annabel from Citizens Advice Bureau is in the vestry every Tuesday from 10:00am – 1:00pm. This is a first come-first served basis so make sure that you are here nice and early.

## **NEWS FROM HHI**

This year it will be 25 years since HHI was first set up. Since then it has gone from strength to strength supporting poor and disadvantaged groups in India and Zambia. To mark this anniversary the charity is planning to build a new dormitory for Choongo school.

There are currently 60 physically disabled children resident at the school but only 48 beds!! which is obviously not enough and children have to share a bed. The charity is planning to raise £25,000 in its 25th year to enable this to happen. More on this later.



<https://hhi.org.uk/help-story/choongo-school-is-improving/>

Over the past two years, a film company has been recording the work of HHI and a number of short, 3-4 minute films are now available on the website. They provide a very striking description of the work that is being done.

Please take a look. [hhi.org.uk](http://hhi.org.uk).

*Kathleen Russell*



### **IS GOD CALLING YOU?**

Any list of most successful female singers of all time will include the name of the late Whitney Houston. Amongst her best-known songs is *How will I know?* which was released in 1985 and went on to be a number one song. The lyrics revolve around the question *How will I know if he really loves me?* Perhaps Whitney should have referred to Cher's *Shoop Shoop Song* which also asks *How can I tell if he loves me so?* and answers by saying that you'll know by his kiss!

Most of those who consider a call to ministry find themselves asking, at one point or another, *How will I know if it's really God calling me?* Indeed, Church of Scotland minister, Lynn McChlery, wrote a PhD dealing with that very question, which she titled *How do you know it's God?*

The Towards Ministry Team is here to help those who have that question in mind and equally so, to walk alongside those who have arrived at the point of greater certainty. If you, or just as importantly, someone you know is at that place in the journey of faith then the team would love to hear from you.

We have several of our Celebrating Calling events scheduled for this year and they serve as the starting line in the process of enquiring and exploring. These will include in-person events in both the Glasgow and Edinburgh areas – following the Hamilton and Aberdeen events held last year – but the first one is taking place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21 February and will be online. This may well suit those who are based in remoter areas or who live outwith Scotland but regardless, if you want to come you'll be welcome. Anyone can attend one of these events which are informal and relaxed and come with a no strings attached guarantee. In other words, you can come and then walk away if you sense that it's not for you. And you can come if the sense of call is strong or not much more than a barely discernible, faint inkling. You can come if this, for you, is brand new or if you've been sensing something for years but haven't as yet done anything about it.

The sessions, whether in-person or online, include personal accounts from people who are now in one of the various ministries of the Church (whether as Readers, Deacons, Ordained Local Ministers, or Ministers of Word and Sacrament). Those who attend come looking for 'big picture' clarification and seeking information on all kinds of practical matters. No question is too 'daft' to be addressed. And it's worth mentioning that some attend and discover that they're already in ministry in the broadest sense and opt to continue doing what they're doing in their congregation.

Is this for you? Send an email to [ministry@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:ministry@churchofscotland.org.uk) and we'll send you a link for the online event on February 21st - or ask to be updated when the next onsite events go live.

How will you know if He is calling you? Maybe it's time to find out.

*Taken from the Church of Scotland website (Jan 2024)*

## 1ST STRATHAVEN BOYS' BRIGADE



We have had a very busy four months since the start of the session in September. We have 41 boys regularly attending, 12 in the Anchor Boys (P1 to P3), 13 in the Juniors (P4 to P6) and 16 in the Company Section (P7 upwards). This an increase on last year making us the strongest Company in terms of numbers in the Hamilton & District Battalion. The really pleasing aspect about our numbers is that we didn't lose any boys and gained new boys in all sections.

The Junior Section won the Battalion Table Games competition and we had boys at the 140th sleepover in the Glasgow Science Centre where special thanks should go to the officers and parent who spent a cold November night on the floor.

The Company Section retained the Battalion Ten Pin Bowling Competition, where we won the team event along with two out of three of the individual events. So far, in National Competitions we progressed to round two of the Mastermind Competition, we had hosted six companies in round one but lost out in round two to Companies from Dunblane and Kilmarnock. One of our FIFA (computer game) teams progressed to round two beating 79th Glasgow before losing to 2nd East Kilbride. The other lost out to 2nd Hamilton. One of our badminton teams lost to 128th Glasgow but our second team have beaten 79th Glasgow and 7th Wishaw so are now into the third round in January. Our '5 a sides' football team lost out in their competition to 1st Renfrew and 1st Overtown but did well considering it was the first time competing in this event for a number of years.

We had a good number of boys from all three sections at the 140th anniversary church parade at Bothwell Parish Church in October, just a pity that the weather and the church heating didn't match the occasion. For the first time the Remembrance Parade to the war memorial and church service was opened up to all three sections rather than just the Company Section boys.

In our last meeting of 2023 we had a visit from Toby's Exotic Pets where we got to see and handle some snakes, spiders and Lizards.

We look forward to more adventures in 2024.

Captain Robert McAuley



### **FAITH AND CONSTITUTION PROJECT**

The research programme studying the role of faith in Scotland's constitutional future, led by Professor Heather Walton, an elder in the Church of Scotland, Rev Dr Doug Gay and researcher Rev Matthew Ross, both of the Church of Scotland, was launched back in October 2023. Rev Dr Doug Gay says, 'There is a lot of interest in the place of faith in public life in Scotland'. The aim of the project is to bring together those on all sides of the independence debate, including those who are undecided, to listen to and respond to a range of arguments and perspectives. Rev Matthew Ross says, 'It is vitally important that churches engage constructively with debates on constitutional change both within Scotland and internationally – not out of self-interest but by promoting human dignity through justice, peace and reconciliation globally. The theological implications and questions that might not be asked in other forums must be raised and explored'

12 regional consultations are being held around Scotland and are open to those of all religions and none. There may be some closer to home but for anyone interested there is one in Greyfriars Parish Church in Lanark on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 7.00 - 9.30pm. More information can be found at [www.faithinscotlandsconstitutionalfuture.wordpress.com](http://www.faithinscotlandsconstitutionalfuture.wordpress.com) or by searching 'Faith in Scotland's Constitutional Future' on Facebook



## 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](mailto:strathaventrinity@gmail.com)** with your name, who your elder is and your preferred email address.

#### **LIVE STREAMING**

Our Strathaven services are live-streamed (and available as a recording later). It is only the chancel area and first two pews that are in sight of the camera. Parents, in particular, should be aware that if they do not wish their child to be visible 'on-line' then they should ensure that they sit a couple of pews from the front.

We are now well established with live-streaming services from the Strathaven building on Sundays and for funerals and weddings (when requested). However, we would value some additional volunteers to assist and then a rota can be established. You do not need to understand how live-streaming works. It's straightforward if you are used to working a computer. Please get in touch if you wish any further information about what is involved or speak to one of the 'team' on a Sunday.

#### **LOAVES AND FISHES**

As you know we have been supporting Loaves and Fishes Foodbank for some time now and they are extremely thankful for all that they receive from us. When I take the food to them I am extremely humbled by what they are achieving. As times are getting harder for many people Loaves and Fishes are facing a crisis with not enough food to support the needs of many.

If you can, please bring an item of food to church on a Sunday morning or drop off at office when it is open.

Any dried or tinned foods and toiletries would be suitable and would make a huge difference to the work of the charity.

Together we can make a difference!

Ruby Davidson



# Memory Club

\* The February meetings of the Memory Club will be on Wed 14/2/24  
 \* when the Singing Birdies will entertain us and Wed 28/2/24 when  
 \* Luckenbooth return to entertain us and a brief AGM will be held.  
 \* Both meetings are at 1.30 till 3.15 in the large hall.

\* As usual new members are always welcome, so if you or someone in  
 \* the family has dementia or memory loss and would like to have the  
 \* opportunity of some social interaction and support from others who  
 \* are experiencing similar issues why not think about joining us?

\* If you would like further information please do not hesitate to con-  
 \* tact Lynda Horn on 07778579504.

*'The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to  
 anger and abounding in steadfast love.'  
 Psalm 103:8*

## 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?

<b>Minister:</b>	Rev Dr Shaw Paterson	<a href="mailto:spaterson@churchofscotland.org.uk">spaterson@churchofscotland.org.uk</a> 01357 520019
<b>Pastoral Assistant</b>	Rev Norman McKee	<a href="mailto:normanmckee946@btinternet.com">normanmckee946@btinternet.com</a> 01698 827358
<b>Session Clerk:</b>	Ruby Davidson	<a href="mailto:rubydavidson96@yahoo.com">rubydavidson96@yahoo.com</a> 07809 128038
<b>Church Secretary:</b>	Ruth Ward-Cox Mon-Thurs 9:15-11:45	<a href="mailto:strathaventrinity@gmail.com">strathaventrinity@gmail.com</a> 01357 529316
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Pamela Walker	TSundaySchool@outlook.com
<b>Youth Worker:</b>	Julie Robertson	<a href="mailto:jrobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk">jrobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk</a> 07544 249324
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<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 seems ridiculous to be saying Happy New Year in February but I'll say it anyway – Happy New Year to all New Connection readers and your families!

It's been a stormy end to one year and beginning of another with a wee cold snap in between. However the temperature is rising and blue sky can be seen between the showers as I write this and by the time you are reading it we'll be into February, days lengthening and (hopefully) weather improving.

For this year of 2024 I think my motto is going to be '**oddly political!**'

Let me explain: I'm back with my Life and Work again – November's issue – where Ruth Harvey quotes a former Deputy leader of the Iona Community who found that views then expressed thought that the Restoration of Iona Abbey by a Presbyterian church seemed 'novel' and 'open to suspicion'; such views seemed 'dangerous' and 'oddly political'. She also quotes a Swiss theologian Karl Barth who exhorted preachers to "take your bible and your newspaper and read both."

Ruth continues 'If being '**oddly political**' means following Jesus into the crowded temple and overturning the social and political norms that allow for exploitation and greed (Matthew 21:12-13) then sign me up. If being '**oddly political**' means speaking truth to power in the face of persecution, (Matthew 23:13) then I'm in. If being '**oddly political**' means standing alongside the most marginalised and adding my voice to those whose voices have been silenced (Luke 5: 18–25) then show me the way. Because I don't believe there is a way to follow Jesus other than to be **oddly political**. His life modelled getting knee deep and heart deep in the guddle of the life of the body politic'. (Emphases my own)

Continuing with my motto '**oddly political**', I think of and pray for the peoples of Ukraine, of Gaza, of the West Bank and Israel, and all other countries where war is still the norm – pray that an end to the fighting and long-term peaceful solutions can at least be started in 2024.

I have also included an article in this magazine on a Faith and Constitution project which is being led by members of the Church of Scotland.

Take care

Maureen

**Final date for inclusion in our  
March edition of New Connections is :-  
19th February 2024**