

# NEW CONNECTIONS

The congregational Magazine of  
Strathaven: Trinity Parish Church

*April 2026*



**Website: [www.strathaventrinity.co.uk](http://www.strathaventrinity.co.uk)  
Church office: [strathaventrinity@gmail.com](mailto:strathaventrinity@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 01357 520019**

# IN THIS ISSUE:

Ministers Letter.....	3
Preaching Rota.....	4
Lectionary Readings.....	5
Memory Tree.....	5
Flower Calendars.....	6 - 7
Thanksgiving Service at Glassford....	8
A Prayer for the Middle East.....	9
Youth and Sunday School.....	10
Activity pages.....	12-13
Guild.....	14 -15
Baby Hats.....	16
Christian Aid.....	17
Memory Club and Heart for Art.....	18
HHI.....	19
Bits and Bobs.....	20 - 23
Editorial.....	24





## Easter Message

No sooner have we packed away the Christmas decorations than the shops begin replacing mince pies with every conceivable type and shape of chocolate, all allegedly pointing to the next great celebration whether that be Val-

entine's Day, Mother's Day or Easter.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with chocolate eggs. However, behind the colourful foil and the supermarket displays lies the deeper and more astonishing truth at the heart of Easter: *Christ is risen.*

The first Easter morning began not with celebration but with confusion and grief. The women who went to the tomb were not expecting resurrection. They were simply trying to do the last kind thing they could for a friend they loved. Instead they were met with the words that would change the world: "*Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen.*"

That message still has the power to surprise us. Easter tells us that God is not finished with the world, even when things appear bleak or broken. It reminds us that life is stronger than death, hope stronger than despair, and love stronger than hatred.

In every generation there are moments when the world can seem overshadowed by uncertainty. As I write, the news carries troubling reports of the conflict involving Iran and growing tensions across the Middle East. Events like these remind us how fragile peace can be and how easily fear can take hold. Alongside these global concerns, many people carry their own personal anxieties—about family, health, work, or the future.

Yet Easter stands as God's great declaration that darkness never has the final word. The stone is rolled away and a new day begins.

Resurrection faith does not mean pretending that Good Friday never happened. The scars of the cross remain part of the story. Easter shows us that God can bring new life out of what seemed final. What looked like an ending becomes a new beginning.

So this Easter, whether in church, around the table with family, or simply in a quiet moment of reflection, may we hear again the words that first startled the disciples and still echo through the centuries:

*Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.*

And because he lives, the future is always secure with God.

I wish you all a joyful and meaningful Easter.

**Shaw**







### QR CODE

Please hover your camera over the QR code. This will take you directly to our website. The QR code will now appear on the intimations as well as the front cover of New Connections in subsequent editions.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026

The 2026 General Assembly will take place from 15- 18 May 2026 at the Assembly Hall on the Mound, Edinburgh. The proceedings will also be made available to watch online.

	<b><u>PIZZA &amp; PRAISE NIGHT!</u></b>	
	<b>Event Details: Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 18:30-20:00 Strathaven Church Hall</b>	

### PREACHING ROTA

As always, the rota may need to be altered but at least it gives an indication of who's scheduled for where. A special thank you to Valerie, Robin, Norman and Julie for assisting.

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

	Chapelton	Strathaven	Glassford
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Norman ( <i>Easter</i> )	Shaw ( <i>Easter</i> )	Shaw ( <i>Easter</i> )
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Shaw	Shaw	Robin
19 <sup>th</sup> April	Shaw	Norman	Shaw
26 <sup>th</sup> April	Robin	Shaw	Valerie
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Shaw	Shaw	Shaw
10 <sup>th</sup> May	Valerie	Norman	Shaw ( <i>Comm</i> )
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Robin	Robin	Norman
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Julie	Valerie	Robin
31 <sup>st</sup> May	Shaw	Shaw	Julie

## LECTIONARY READINGS

### April

April 5 – Easter Sunday	TBC
April 12, 2026	Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
April 19, 2026	Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
April 26, 2026	Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25 ; John 10:1-10

### May

May 3, 2026	Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
May 10, 2026	Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
May 17, 2026	Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
May 24, 2026	Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39
May 31, 2026	Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

## MEMORY TREE



A reminder regarding our Memory Tree. We have put in the order to purchase the tree.

Should you wish a leaf to appear at the same time as the tree is installed, please contact the secretary as soon as possible to place an order

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

nently to the tree. Order forms are available from the office or at the entrance of each church.



CURVED LEAF



## **STRATHAVEN FLOWER CALENDAR**

### **April**

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

### **May**

3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs B. Smith  
10<sup>th</sup> Mrs L. Mishra  
17<sup>th</sup> Mrs E. Morley  
24<sup>th</sup> Mrs M. Latimer  
31<sup>st</sup> Mrs L. Baird



### **June**

7<sup>th</sup> Mrs E. Brownlie  
14<sup>th</sup> Mrs B. Scott (*Communion*)  
21<sup>st</sup> Mrs M. Brown  
28<sup>th</sup> Mrs M. Neilson & Mrs M. Tait

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

## **GLASSFORD FLOWER CALENDAR**

### **April**

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

### **May**

3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs C. Frame  
10<sup>th</sup> Mrs S. Moore (*Communion*)  
17<sup>th</sup> Mrs R. Redpath  
24<sup>th</sup> Mrs R. Stewart  
31<sup>st</sup> Mrs M. Edwards



### **June**

7<sup>th</sup> Mrs C. Frame  
14<sup>th</sup> Mrs J. Marshall  
21<sup>st</sup> Mrs L. Fleming  
28<sup>th</sup> Mrs J. Meikle

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

## **CHAPELTON FLOWER CALENDAR**

### **April**

5<sup>th</sup> Miss P. Gilchrist (*Easter Sunday*)  
12<sup>th</sup> Mrs E. Somerville  
19<sup>th</sup> Mr J. Frew  
26<sup>th</sup> Mrs E. Steel (Strathaven)



### **May**

3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs A. Wallace  
10<sup>th</sup> Miss M. Thomson  
17<sup>th</sup> Mrs E. Kennedy  
24<sup>th</sup> Mrs V. Mclean  
31<sup>st</sup> Mrs V. Allan

### **June**

7<sup>th</sup> Mrs M. Simmonds (*Communion*)  
14<sup>th</sup> Mrs J. Goldie  
21<sup>st</sup> Mrs L. Menzies  
28<sup>th</sup> Mrs C. Leggate

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

## **OFFERINGS**

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

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

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



## **PASTORAL CARE**

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

### **A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AT GLASSFORD**

As many of you will know, an important moment lies ahead for our community. After many years of faithful worship and service, Glassford Church will close at the end of June. For generations it has been a place where people gathered to pray, celebrate baptisms and weddings, mourn losses, and share the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life before God.

While the closing of a church building is one of deep sadness, we must not let this moment pass without acknowledging and giving thanks for all that has been. The life of a congregation is measured not only in years but in the faith, fellowship, and service that have flowed from it into the wider community.

As plans begin to take shape for marking this moment, one date is already firmly in the diary. On **Sunday 7 June at 6.30pm**, there will be a Service of Thanksgiving for the life and witness of Glassford Church. This will be an opportunity for present members, former members, friends, and neighbours to gather together, remember shared stories, and give thanks for the generations who have worshipped there.

Please make a note of this date and, just as importantly, pass the information on to as many people as possible—especially those who may have moved away but still hold Glassford close to their hearts.

It promises to be a meaningful evening of gratitude, memory, and fellowship. All will be warmly welcome.



### **A SMALL CHANGE THAT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE**

Many of us enjoy receiving the church magazine and keeping up with all that is happening in the life of Strathaven Trinity. Increasingly, however, more members are choosing to receive the magazine electronically.

If you are able to do so, may we encourage you to consider making the switch to the electronic version? It arrives directly in your inbox, is easy to read on a phone, tablet, or computer, and ensures you never misplace your copy.

Making this small change also helps the church in very practical ways. It reduces printing costs and, just as importantly, helps us use less paper — a simple step in caring for God's creation.

## **A PRAYER FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Rt Rev Rosie Frew, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, has written a prayer for the Middle East.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

(Matthew 5:9)

Loving God

We come before you in sorrow

For once again we are a world affected by war

So many lives disrupted

So much destruction

So much needless loss

So much fear and uncertainty

So much grief and pain

Forgive our inability to live at peace

We pray for peace and unity

Not just the cessation of hostilities

And the laying down of the weapons of war

But the costly, just peace that transforms hearts, structures, and lives

We pray for those in power

For wisdom and courage for world leaders

A willingness to negotiate

For blessed are the peacemakers

We pray for one another

That we would be true to Christ

Who calls us to be peacemakers

Who calls us to pursue justice

Who calls us to love both neighbour and enemy

We pray for safety and security

For residents and visitors across the Middle East

For our church staff and students in the Holy Land

We pray for comfort and compassion

For all those who are grieving

For all those who are afraid

Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called children of God.

### **RECORDING THE CONTENTS OF GLASSFORD CHURCH**

Over the next couple of months we will be photographing and making notes of the contents of the church. Everything from stained glass windows, pictures, Bibles, pews, records etc will be recoded and uploaded via the Scottish Churches Trust Recording Project to an accessible archive for current and future generations to access. This will ensure a permanent record of the church will live on into the future.

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

I write this as we prepare to enter Holy Week. A time of reflection, of fellowship, of preparing to meet Jesus once again at the cross and I hope you all have a very blessed Easter and we can rejoice once again in our risen Lord.

We have a number of events that are due to come up before then including our family scavenger hunt on Palm Sunday which you will have hopefully enjoyed after the delicious toasties enjoyed after church!

Coming up post Easter I am still looking for assistance with an after school in Chapelton. I simply need some people to start off with being present – no planning or preparation required! Just let me know you can show up and I will arrange the rest! I would love to have this set up even on a trial basis in the final school term.

Summer plans continue and our holiday club will run again on Monday mornings through the summer holiday weeks. If you can help with this please let me know and I will have a planning meeting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7:00pm in the vestry.

I will be on annual leave from 12<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April but hope to see you before then

Till next time – Blessings!

*Julie*

**AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS:**

Thursday After School runs in Glassford from 15.00-16.00.

We will be off 9<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April inclusive due to annual leave and school holidays

**MESSY CHURCH:**

Messy Church meets monthly in **CHAPELTON** on the second Friday of the month on a Friday evening.

We will next meet on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April. We meet from 17:30-19:30 and includes a light meal

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

### TODDLER GROUPS:

Toddler groups run term time as follows:

Monday – Strathaven 10-11.30.  
Wednesday - Chapelton 10-11.30.

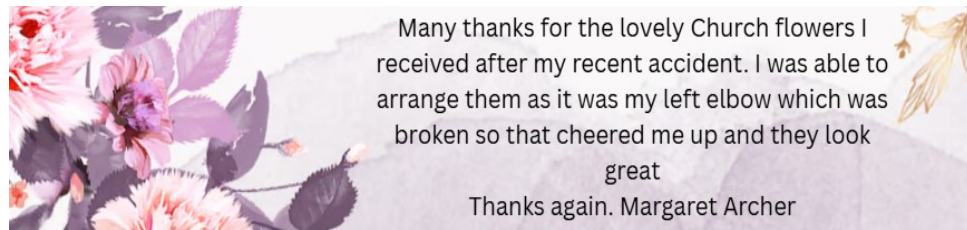
If you are able to make some toast and juice or help, put out some toys then please get in touch. If you have pre-school kids and you just want to come along and eat said toast and get a coffee, please feel free as I would love to see you.

### SUMMER PLANNING MEETING

Planning meeting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in the vestry.

### ALL AGE SERVICE

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



The Sunday School in the Strathaven building have continued to learn all about the books in the new testament and we are on track to have found out some information about all of the books in the Bible by the end of this session! Our bookshelves are filling up nicely!

We finished March off by reminding ourselves about the Easter Story and thinking about all of the important messages it tells us. On behalf of all three Sunday Schools may we wish you all a wonderful Easter weekend and a lovely spring break to follow

Thank you all for your continued support, as always,

Sunday School Team

# An Easter Wordsearch for you to enjoy

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

# y

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

ANGEL

CHOCOLATE

CHRIST

CROSS

CROWN

CRUCIFY

DAFFODIL

DISCIPLE

EASTER

EGG

EMMAUS

HALLELUJAH

JESUS

KING

LAMB

LENT

MARY

RESURRECTION

PASSION

RENEWAL

RISEN

SOLDIER

SPRING

STONE

TOMB

## GUILD

On 10 March we enjoyed a visit from Catherine Nelson who spoke to us about one of the current Guild projects – Operation Hope, Egypt. On 24 March we enjoyed a game of Musical Bingo before the annual business meeting was held. Office bearers for 2026/2027 are – President – Elizabeth McGowan: Treasurer - Morag McKay: Secretary - Ishbel Anderson and committee members are Alice White, Marjorie Lamb, Nancy Fleming, Helen McNeil and Lalita Mishra. The next Guild meeting will be held in September when a new Syllabus will be available.

The World Day of Prayer was held in Avendale Church on Friday 6 March at 2.00 pm – the service was drafted by the Christian women of Nigeria.

An outing has been arranged to Peebles on Tuesday 12 May – the accessible coach will leave Station Road, Strathaven at 10.30 am and then will leave Peebles at 4.00 pm. The cost will be £10 which is non-refundable and is available to Guild members and non-members – there are only a few seats left on the coach so if you would like to go to Peebles please speak to Morag McKay.

If you – men or women - would like to attend any of our meetings from September 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).



## GUILD PRESENTATION

At the meeting on 24 March a presentation was made to Elizabeth McGowan for her long service as Guild President which started in 1992 in the East Church when she served for 3 years.

In 2002 she served for one year and then took over again in 2007 for 3 years. She was the last President of the East Church Guild in 2017 and from 2018 she has served as President of Trinity Guild – total to date 16 years. Elizabeth has been a Guild member for approx 40 years.

The Very Rev Dr Shaw Paterson presented Elizabeth with a long service lapel badge and a flower arrangement.



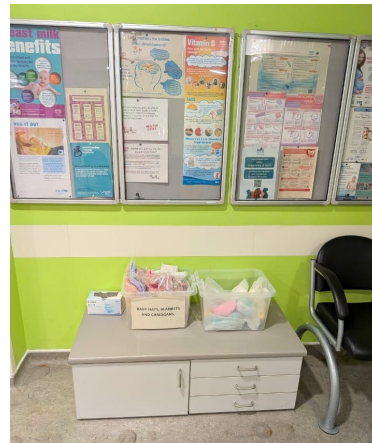
## **BABY HATS**

'To the lovely ladies that knit hats, blankets and cardigans for the Forth Valley babies (Larbert). Boxes are filled and situated in high risk antenatal clinics within Forth Valley hospital and with a help yourself policy. It means high risk patients from twin pregnancies, teen mothers and those mothers in a vulnerable position and everything in between enjoy picking out hats.

The smaller hats are donated to the neonatal unit. Boxes are often emptied and we've even received enquiries about 'ordering'! ...

This has worked so well that a community midwife team has adopted the same idea in Falkirk. Patients from Larbert, Stirling, Falkirk, Alloa and even our Oban patients have accepted your kind donations. A heartfelt thank you from us all! X'

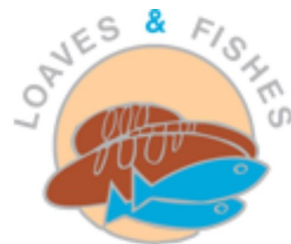
*Bianca Forbes – Head midwife – Larbert and District*



*Before:  
Freshly  
filled up  
boxes...*



*After:  
Emptied  
within half  
and hour*



We all know and support the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank, and each week many generously filled bags are donated by our parishioners. But did you know that the food bank offers far more than practical support through food parcels? It also provides a welcoming and compassionate space for all who come through its doors.

Rooted in a desire to serve the community, it seeks to uphold the dignity of each person, reminding them that they are valued and not alone.

Alongside its core work, the food bank hosts a range of weekly activities, including smoking cessation classes, pensioners' groups, Narcotics Anonymous meetings, cookery sessions, and free fitness classes, helping to support both physical and emotional wellbeing while fostering a sense of belonging. There are so many ways that you can help out in addition to donating food and other essential items.



## WHO WILL CHRISTIAN AID WEEK SUPPORT THIS YEAR?

This Christian Aid Week, your support could help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children.

By funding urban farming projects alongside specialist training from our partner Beacon of Hope, we can help parents fight food insecurity, grow fresh vegetables in small city spaces and earn an income to support their families.

This year Christian Aid Week is being held between 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May and there's a few ways in which Trinity is hoping to raise funds for the charity.

**CRYPTIC QUIZ 'Sports or Games'** – Copies are available during April from Ishbel in Strathaven, Margaret in Glassford and Caroline in Chapelton. There is no set charge for the Quiz – make a donation if you would like to try the Quiz for fun! When completed, or part completed, please return to the church before 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 if you would like to be included in the draw to win a small surprise gift! The draw will take place in Strathaven on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**PLANNED EVENTS** - If you would like to hold a fund-raising event there may be resources available from Christian Aid to promote it – please contact Ruth for more information.

All proceeds from these events go to Christian Aid. As other events are arranged these will be noted in the Weekly Intimation Sheet.

**ENVELOPES** – these will be distributed with the May magazine in Chapelton, Strathaven and Glassford and can be returned to the collection bucket any time during May. If you would like to donate but did not get an envelope, please let Ruth know. If you are a taxpayer, you can increase the value of your donation by completing the gift aid details.

**BANK TRANSFER** – donations to be included in the church fund raising can be sent to the Strathaven Christian Aid Account – sort code 80-22-60 and account number 17508760; reference your name.

You can contact us regarding any of the above – Ruth at the office, email [strathaventrinity@gmail.com](mailto:strathaventrinity@gmail.com); and Caroline Leggate, email [leg-gates1996@gmail.com](mailto:leg-gates1996@gmail.com); tel. no 07968256319.

Thank you for supporting our fund-raising for Christian Aid 2026.



# MEMORY CLUB

## HEART FOR ART GROUP

The group will meet on Wed 1<sup>st</sup> April and Wed 15<sup>th</sup> April, both meetings at 1 to 3pm.

At the moment we have availability to welcome one new member. The group is open to anyone with memory issues and you do not need to have any previous experience of painting.

A professional artist is there to offer advice and help and volunteers also help and encourage. The group allows carers to enjoy 2 hours of respite knowing their loved one is safe and enjoying some activity and social interaction. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Lynda Horn in the first instance.

## MEMORY CLUB

The club meets on Wed 8<sup>th</sup> April when the Home Street Band return to entertain us and on Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> April when we welcome back the Harpists. Both meetings at 1.30 to 3.15.

As usual new members are most welcome so if you are experiencing some memory issues but would like to have some fun, entertainment and social interaction over a cuppa and some home baking please join us.

For more information on either group please contact Lynda Horn on 07778579504.

*Lynda Horn*



## **CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

Just a reminder that Annabel from Citizens Advice Bureau is in the vestry every Tuesday from 10:00am – 1:00pm. Please book an appointment with Annabel on 07592 995152



**HEALTH HELP  
INTERNATIONAL**

**STRATHAVEN FRIENDS OF HEALTH  
HELP INTERNATIONAL**

In India the search is still on for new premises for Happy Valley School and is becoming more urgent as the lease is up for their current accommodation. Plans to purchase a piece of land and then build are not looking too promising and the focus now seems to be on finding a suitable building. The life changing work of feeding, educating and training 68 children with a variety of special needs is in need of a miracle. Please pray for one.



In Zambia, with the onset of the rains earlier in the year, the crops are flourishing and there are hopes for a good harvest in July/August.

These are the Mango trees planted at Mumba School they are growing well, though some way off producing fruit.

HHZ has been selected to partner with **Jacana foundation**-distributing solar pumps to small scale farmers and families with a water source. Each solar pump is portable so it can be moved

from one field to another and at the end of the day taken home where it will be secure and ready for use the next day. This will make a huge difference to the many subsistence farmers who rely on their crops to feed their families.



*Students at Happy Valley exercising*

*Kath Russell*

## Strathaven Fairtrade

The Fairtrade stall will be available after the service on the first Sunday of every month. We hope to offer a range of your favourite fairtrade sweets and groceries and thank you all once again for your support for the poorest and most vulnerable producers throughout the world.

Maureen and Nancy

### **REMINDER!** New Connections has now gone digital!

If you would like to receive the magazine via email rather than hard copy, please would you pop a message to Ruth at the office on **strathaventrinity@gmail.com** with your name, who your elder is and your preferred email address.

### **LIVE STREAMING**

Our Strathaven services are live-streamed (and available as a recording later).

It is only the chancel area and first two pews that are in sight of the camera. Parents, in particular, should be aware that if they do not wish their child to be visible 'on-line' then they should ensure that that they sit a couple of pews from the front.

It is particularly pleasing to note that our services are viewed online approximately 120 times (on average) each week.

However, we would value some additional volunteers to assist and then a rota can be established. Please get in touch if you wish any further information about what is involved or speak to one of the 'team' on a Sunday.



We would like to extend a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone involved in the wonderful Palm Sunday activities.

The cheese toasties flew out of the kitchen, thank you so much to all those who helped make them.

3 groups took part in the scavenger hunt on the day and a further 10 forms were handed out for completion.





# Congratulations

Congratulations to the Rev Robbie Hamilton who was recently Inducted as minister at Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigend Parish Church linked with Stepps Parish Church. Robbie was one of Shaw's chaplains and took a number of services for us at Trinity while serving as a full time Presbytery Clerk. We wish him every blessing on his return to parish ministry.

## TRINITY MEN'S COFFEE GROUP

There is a men's group that meets in the Rankin Room (upstairs in the hall) on Wednesday mornings between 10.30 am until 12 noon for coffee/tea, biscuits and a chat. Come and go for part or all of the time, as suits you.

## LADIES KEEP FIT

Class meets regularly on **Mondays** in the small downstairs hall of our Strathaven buildings, from **7-8pm**. Exercises are designed to maintain fitness, so not dynamic. We do a lot of laughing so the hour goes quickly. All to the beat of some great 60s music classics.

*Cillia McLeary*

## WHEELIE BINS

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

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

## **CAR PARKING**

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

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

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

## **KIDS KLUB**

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

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

*Claire Campbell (01357 520191)*



## **BIGGER PICTURE for Academy Learners ...**

Mondays and Fridays at Lunch Time



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



We still need volunteers to help make toasties and/or hot chocolate and simply 'be there'. For more information please speak to Cillia Mcleary.



# 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
<b>Treasurer:</b>	David Lipowski	<a href="mailto:david.lipowski@gmail.com">david.lipowski@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

Happy Easter!

It's strange writing ahead of events. As I write 'Happy Easter' I am in fact still a good two week away from Lent ending and in fact it is Mother's Day! (We celebrated yesterday, so I'm free to do some catching up or getting ahead). I'm hoping that by the time you are all reading this it will be warm and sunny Spring weather.



My grandson built a snowman last Friday before going to school and I'm hoping my magnolia isn't far enough into budding to shake its head and refuse to open any beautiful flowers! I'm also praying all the little lambs out in the fields manage to survive this cold snap and get some sunny days soon.



The joys of Spring in Scotland!

In days like these it helps to have a warm heart and indeed to have God in our hearts to keep us warm. I read a lovely story about a five-year old girl who was very positive and said she knew Jesus was in her heart because 'when I put my hand on it, I can feel Him walking around in there!' (Word for Today 19/2/26) I pray He walks about in my heart and yours' for many years to come!

Wishing you all peace and happiness this Easter!  
Take care  
Maureen

**Final date for inclusion in our  
May edition of New Connections is :-  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026**