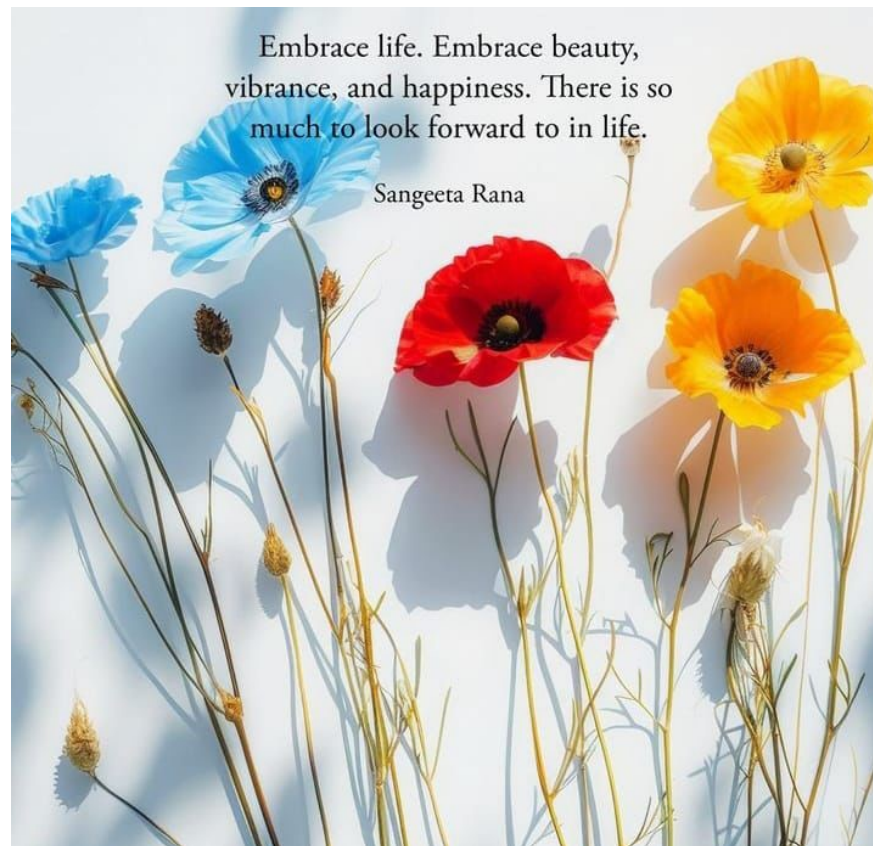


NEW CONNECTIONS

The congregational Magazine of
Strathaven: Trinity Parish Church

May 2026



Embrace life. Embrace beauty,
vibrance, and happiness. There is so
much to look forward to in life.

Sangeeta Rana

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FUNERALS

10th April Mary Craig
24th April Helen Orr

INTERMENT OF ASHES

15th April Bill & Betty McDowall





As we look ahead to the month of May, there is always at this time of year a sense of anticipation in the life of the Church of Scotland because the General Assembly will meet from the 15th to the 19th. By the time you are reading this, the papers may just be appearing, but as I write, they are

not yet available. Therefore, like many of you, I wait with a mixture of curiosity and hope to see what lies before us.

What we do know is that there will be some significant moments. A new Principal Clerk will be appointed in the person of the Rev. Alastair May, who many will remember from his time as a parish minister in Motherwell. It is always encouraging to see someone with parish experience stepping into such a key national role, and we hold him in our prayers as he prepares for the responsibilities that lie ahead.

We will also see the installation of a new Moderator. The Rev Gordon Kennedy, who serves as parish minister at Craiglockhart Parish Church in Edinburgh will take up this important and high-profile role. We give thanks for his ministry and pray that he will know God's guidance and strength in the year ahead as he represents the Church at home and abroad.

As always, the proceedings of the General Assembly are open to all. They can be watched in person from the public gallery in the Assembly Hall, or followed online via the Church of Scotland website - an opportunity to see something of the wider Church in action.

The General Assembly is always a reminder that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. While we serve faithfully in our own congregations and communities, we are also bound together with others across the country in a shared calling to witness to Christ's love in today's world. The discussions and decisions made during those few days in May will help shape that shared life for the year ahead.

Of course, beyond the Assembly, the life of the Church continues throughout the country in local settings: in worship, in pastoral care, in acts of service, and in the simple yet profound ministry of presence with one another. As we move into the late spring and approach the season of Pentecost, we are reminded again of the Spirit's renewing work among us: often gentle, sometimes surprising, always faithful.

May this month be one in which we remain open to that Spirit by being ready to listen, ready to serve, and ready to be led into whatever God has in store for us next.

With every blessing,

Shaw

5 YEAR STRATEGIC REVIEW

Over the autumn and winter, the Kirk Session has been developing a five-year Strategic Review of the life and witness of our church. This sets out goals and priorities for the next five years, which is a requirement of the national church for every congregation to have an action plan. Our plan has now been sent to Presbytery and will be made available to the congregation via the church website. A one-page summary has also been produced which we hope to include in the next issue of the magazine.

STRATHAVEN CHANCEL AREA

In order to improve access to the chancel area in our Strathaven building, the Session is looking at removing the inward facing pews (ie. the ones where the choir sits and on the opposite side) and making the whole area flat. This would significantly improve access for those using wheelchairs and would create what Presbytery refers to as 'flexible space' with individual seats for worship, which can be removed to enable other activities during the week. This is only at the discussion stage at this point and our property team have been asked to look at how this might be possible and report back before proceeding.

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 all three churches involving up to and including children's address) then please volunteer to the minister who will provide appropriate resources.

	Chapelton	Strathaven	Glassford
3 rd May	Shaw	Shaw	Shaw
10 th May	Valerie	Norman	Shaw (<i>Comm</i>)
17 th May	Robin	Robin	Valerie
24 th May	Julie	Valerie	Robin
31 st May	Shaw	Shaw	Julie
7 th June	Julie	Julie	Shaw
14 th June	Shaw	Shaw	Robin
21 st June	Robin	Valerie	Norman
28 th June	Valerie	Robin	Shaw and Norman

LECTIONARY READINGS

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

June

June 7, 2026	Genesis 12:1-9 Psalm 33:1-12; Hosea 5:15-6:6; Psalm 50:7-15; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
June 14, 2026	Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7); Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
June 21, 2026	Genesis 21:8-21 ; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39
June 28, 2026	Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

MEMORY TREE

We are delighted to share that the Memory Tree has arrived at our Strathaven church, and it will be a beautiful addition to our worship space. It was originally intended to be located on the rear wall. However the balcony detracts from it and as a consequence the Kirk Session agreed that it should be sited on the side wall behind the choir. Thoughtfully designed and crafted, it provides a striking yet peaceful focal point, offering a place for quiet reflection and remembrance. The tree represents a deeply meaningful way to honour and give thanks for the lives of our loved ones, creating a lasting tribute within the heart of our church.

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 permanently to the tree. Please email the office for the engraving guidelines.



CURVED LEAF

STRATHAVEN FLOWER CALENDAR

May

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



June

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

July

5th Mrs M. Hamilton
12th Mrs A. Dalziel & Mrs A Callan
19th Mrs J. McKay
26th Mrs E. Milne

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

GLASSFORD FLOWER CALENDAR

May

3rd Mrs P. Masterman
10th Mrs S. Moore (*Communion*)
17th Mrs R. Redpath
24th Mrs R. Stewart
31st Mrs M. Edwards



June

7th Mrs C. Frame
14th Mrs J. Marshall
21st Miss L. Fleming
28th Mrs J. Meikle

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

Thank you very much for the lovely flowers
which came from the Church while I was ill.

They really cheered me up
Kind regards
Jean McKay

CHAPELTON FLOWER CALENDAR

May

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



June

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

July

5th Mrs B. Catani
12th Mrs J. Cairns
19th Mrs M. Hamilton
26th Mrs E. Kennedy

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



PLEASE VOLUNTEER!

We are looking for a volunteer to tend the grass and small garden at the front of our Strathaven building. Please speak to the Minister for more information.

We are also looking for an additional Church Officer to join the team. The more volunteers the better. Please speak to any of the Church Officers or Shaw for more details about what's involved.

TWO SPECIAL SERVICES IN GLASSFORD

As we move towards the closing chapter in the life of our church building in Glassford, two special services have been arranged to mark this significant and emotional time in our shared story.

At 6.30pm on **Sunday 7th June**, we will gather for a Service of Thanksgiving. This will be an opportunity to pause, reflect, and give thanks for all that this place has meant—not only to those who worship there week by week, but to generations who have passed through its doors. It will be a service shaped by gratitude, memory, and faith, as we prepare our hearts for the final service at the end of June. We will be joined by the local primary school and invitations have been sent to those who have led worship over the years. All members and friends of Trinity Church and the Glassford community are invited to attend this Service of Thanksgiving.

The final service of Sunday morning worship on the **28th June** will, of course, be a sad occasion. Saying goodbye to a building that has stood at the heart of village life for over 200 years is no small thing. Within the walls, countless lives have been marked in moments both joyful and sorrowful: baptisms celebrating new beginnings, weddings filled with hope and promise, and funerals where comfort and peace were found in the midst of grief. For more than two centuries, this church has been a place of worship and witness, faithfully serving the village of Glassford and the surrounding community. It has been a constant presence through changing times and has been an integral part of life stories through the generations.

As we gather in June, we do so not only with a sense of loss, but with deep thanksgiving for all that has been.

Questions People Are Asking

As the closure of Glassford Church approaches at the end of June, many people in the village and surrounding area have been asking what this will mean in practical terms. The following answers, while not exhaustive, reflect the current arrangements/plans.

Where can those who attend Glassford go to worship?

Strathaven Trinity is already one congregation worshipping in more than one place. Weekly worship will continue in our Chapelton and Strathaven buildings, and everyone who has attended Glassford will be warmly welcomed there.

When is Communion celebrated?

Holy Communion will be celebrated within our Chapelton and Strathaven buildings on the second Sundays of March, June, September and December. As always, home communion can be arranged - contact Shaw or Norman.

What happens to the furnishings in the church?

The furnishings of the church will be carefully considered by the Kirk Session. Where appropriate, items such as communion vessels or furniture may be used in other places of worship within the congregation or elsewhere so that they can continue to serve the life of the Church.

As previously intimated, photographs and detailed notes of all furnishings, together with the stained glass windows, pews, pulpit and other features, have been carefully recorded. These will be uploaded to the Scottish Churches Trust so that an online archive is created, ensuring that a permanent record of the church and its contents is preserved.

What about the stained glass windows?

The windows will remain in place as part of a listed building.

What about baptisms, weddings and funerals?

These important services will continue to be conducted by our ministers. Baptisms, weddings and funerals will normally take place in the Strathaven or Chapelton buildings, and pastoral support for families will otherwise remain exactly the same.

Does everything cease on the last Sunday in June?

No. The final Sunday service marks the end of regular worship in the church building, but it does not mean that all activity stops immediately. The church halls will remain open on a three-monthly reviewable basis, and groups currently using the halls will be able to continue to do so.

What about the Craft Class and Afterschool Club?

Our hope is that these groups will continue as normal - in the church hall while it remains open or in the community hall or as a school let. They are an important part of the life of the village and we are pleased that this work can carry on.

Will there still be involvement with the local primary school?

Yes. The congregation very much hopes to maintain the positive relationship that has long existed with Glassford Primary School, and involvement with the school community will continue. The minister will continue to serve as school chaplain.

What if someone in the village needs a minister?

Pastoral care will continue to be provided by Shaw and Norman, and anyone in the village who would value a visit, support or prayer should feel free to make contact. The care of the church for the community remains unchanged.

What will happen to the carved names of those who died during the World Wars?

Arrangements are being made for the memorials bearing the carved names of those from the village who died in the World Wars to be carefully relocated within Glassford Primary School. In this way they will remain very much at the heart of the community, where future generations can continue to see them and remember the sacrifice that was made.

What about the Time Capsule?

For those who may have forgotten, there is a time capsule created in 1993 with the instruction that it is not to be opened for 100 Years. The capsule will be relocated beside a time capsule in our Strathaven building, and so will remain safe and secure until it is time for it to be opened.

Shaw

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

Well, as I write this I am sitting in sunny Alicante after having visited Florence, Pisa and Italy whilst spending quality time with my family. I hope your Easter holidays were as fun and blessed as ours.

It's hard to believe we're moving into the last term of this season and looking towards summer. Feels like I was only recently mentioning Christmas!

Term time activities will have started back by the time of printing and we will finish up week commencing 8th June for summer holidays.

Letters were issued to all parents at Thursday After School club to advise of our commitment to sustaining this group after the summer.

As always if you are interested in hearing more about our children and youth programme please do come and speak to me.

Till next time – Blessings!

Julie

PLANNING FOR THE SUMMER:

Summer holiday club meeting Monday 27th April

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 8th May and then again on the 12th June. We meet from 17:30-19:30 and include a light meal. If you would like to volunteer to join our Messy Church team, please let me know.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS:

Thursday After School runs in Glassford from 15.00-16.00 during Term Time.

TODDLER GROUPS:

Toddler groups run term time as follows:

Monday – Strathaven 10-11.30.

Wednesday - Chapelton 10-11.30.

TODDLERS SUMMER HOLIDAY PLAY SESSIONS:

Chapelton toddlers play session Wednesday 3rd June

Strathaven toddlers play session Monday 8th June

PIZZA & PRAISE NIGHT!



Join us for an uplifting evening of **fellowship, flavour, and faith** at our upcoming **Pizza & Praise** event!



We'll gather around delicious slices of pizza, share meaningful conversation, and lift our voices together as we learn inspiring new worship hymns. Whether you come for the food, the friendship, or the music, you'll leave encouraged and refreshed.



Bring your appetite, bring a friend, and bring your heart ready to praise. We can't wait to sing, smile, and grow together!



Event Details:
Sunday 3rd May
18:30-20:00
Strathaven Church Hall

All are welcome — we'd love to see you there!



We hope everyone had a wonderful Easter and Spring break - let's hope we are now heading for some more sunny, warm weather as we head into summer!

The Sunday School are hoping to organise an event to help raise money for Christian Aid in May and also a summer outing or trip. We will send out information as soon as we make plans - all ideas welcome!

In the Strathaven building we will continue our work on the books of the Bible and are on target to learn about them all before the end of this session!

Many thanks for all your support, as always,
Sunday School team xx

How many 4 letter words can you make from th

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SAFEGUARDING

I am very aware that there are some volunteers registered for PVG but no longer volunteering in church.

It is illegal to be registered with Disclosure Scotland for PVG if you are no longer undertaking a regulated role in the Church.

If you are no longer working with children or protected adults it is your responsibility to inform Disclosure Scotland. Contact details can be found on your PVG certificate. You must also complete an SG22 form, provided by me, which should be sent to Safeguarding at Church of Scotland.

Ruby Davidson

MAUNDY MONEY

Our congregation has particular cause for celebration and thanksgiving following this year's Maundy Thursday service.

We are delighted to share that our Session Clerk was among the recipients of Maundy Money, presented on behalf of His Majesty King Charles III in recognition of outstanding Christian service. This is a rare and deeply significant honour, and we are especially proud that she was one of only three individuals from Scotland to receive this distinction. The Maundy service itself took place in St Asaph Cathedral in Wales, continuing a centuries-old tradition in which the Monarch expresses gratitude for faithful service within the life of the Church and wider community.



In addition, we were pleased to learn that another of our own members, Mr Willie Park, had also been nominated for this honour. As is customary, such nominations are treated with great confidentiality, and news of Willie's nomination only became known after the service had taken place. Due to health reasons, Willie was unable to attend the ceremony in person. However, in a moment that was both moving and memorable, Shaw had been invited to present the Maundy gift to Willie at home, on behalf of His Majesty The King. The presentation, made in the comfort of Willie's own living room, was a deeply personal and fitting recognition of his faithful service over many years.

We give thanks for both Ruby and Willie, whose quiet dedication, commitment, and Christian witness have enriched the life of our congregation and community. Their recognition is not only a personal honour, but a reminder of the strength and faithfulness found within our shared life together.

THANK YOU!

Like our Session Clerk, Ruby, I was surprised and honoured to be nominated as a Maundy Recipient, but unfortunately, I had to decline the invitation to attend the Royal Maundy Service which was held on 2nd April in St Asaph Cathedral, Wales.

I learned what an experience I had missed when, towards the end of our Easter Day Morning Service in Strathaven Ruby gave a vivid report on her attendance and enabled the congregation to view the Maundy Coins and Order of Service.

I had expected that my place and Maundy Gifts would be made available to someone else, but to my surprise I learned from Shaw that he was to receive delivery of the coins with instructions to make a presentation to me on behalf of His Majesty. I was very honoured therefore when, immediately the special delivery reached him, Shaw visited me and Anne at home on 7th April and, following the strict protocol for the occasion, with Scripture reading and prayer made the presentation to me of the Maundy Gifts.

Since I was unable to receive these from the King Charles himself I was pleased that Shaw was deputised to be such a fine substitute and I thank him sincerely for all he has done in this matter.

Willie Park.



Name the Scottish town or place

1st Strathaven Boys' Brigade quiz for
Christian Aid

**Entry sheets costing £1 available from
any Boys' Brigade Officer**

Completed entries to be returned by Sunday June 7th
2026.





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.

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, and your preferred email address.

MAY: A SEASON OF DISCERNMENT AND RENEWAL

For the Church of Scotland, the month of May holds a distinctive place in the life of the Church. It is a time marked not only by the beauty of late spring but also by deep spiritual reflection, communal discernment, and renewed commitment to God's calling.

A Season Reflecting God's Renewal

The rhythms of the natural world echo strongly in the Church's worship during May. As spring gives way to early summer, themes of renewal, growth, and new life come to the fore. Congregations are encouraged to reflect on the work of the Holy Spirit, guiding and sustaining the Church in its witness to Christ.

Depending on the year, this season may also include the celebrations of Ascension Day (14th May) and Pentecost (24th May). These significant moments in the Christian calendar invite us to reflect on Christ's ascension and the empowering gift of the Holy Spirit to the early Church—reminders of both Christ's continued reign and the Spirit's active presence among us.

Looking Ahead in Faith

In all these ways, May stands as a month of both reflection and anticipation. It is a time to listen carefully for God's voice, to engage faithfully with the challenges of our world, and to move forward together in hope. As the Church gathers, worships, and remembers, we are reminded that God is continually at work—renewing, guiding, and calling us onward.



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 10th – 16th May and there are 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 14th 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 17th.

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 are included with this month's 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 – If you would like to make a direct donation, please use the church account: Strathaven: Trinity Parish Church, Bank of Scotland, 800975, 00766031 and put Christian Aid as reference.

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



MEMORY CLUB

HEART FOR ART

The May meetings are on:
Wednesday 6th and 20th, both at 1pm to 3pm in the large hall.

MEMORY CLUB

Wednesday 13th May 1.30pm to 3.15pm when Christine and Alex Knox return to entertain with well-known songs.

Wednesday 27th May when we have another opportunity to enjoy Musical Bingo. Again 1.30pm to 3.15pm.

As usual if anyone is interested in either group, please contact Lynda Horn on 07778579504 for more information.

Lynda Horn

Messy Church takes place on the second Friday of every month in Chapelton from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for crafts, songs, fun and fellowship and a bit to eat is included.



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

SFHHI are busy planning fundraising activities for the coming months. On June 10th **Café Bridge** we are running our fourth Café Bridge event in Strathaven. Café Bridge attracts Bridge players from across the country who play bridge in several cafes in the town. It is a fun day of competitive bridge. If you would like to play in our Café Bridge event please get in touch you will be made most welcome. No partner, no problem we will find you one. If you know of anyone who plays do ask them to consider joining us on Wednesday 10th June for a most enjoyable day out.



On 25th and 26th July we are running our second **Open Gardens Days** event. This was very popular last year and this year we are running it over two days to give everyone opportunity to visit all of the gardens. There are currently 12 gardens signed up and their owners are currently busy planning and planting. Programmes will be available at the end of June. For more information on both events contact Iain 07771 720 388 or Kath 07916 171 830.

Kath Russell

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Avondale Young Farmers Committee Members for the wonderful job you did for the congregation of Strathaven Trinity Chapelton. To come in on Sunday morning to see the newly painted hall was a joy to behold. It was a super surprise for everyone and much appreciated by all.

Thank you so much!



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

Create in me a clean heart,
O God, and renew a
steadfast spirit within me.

—Psalm 51:10

LIVE STREAMING

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

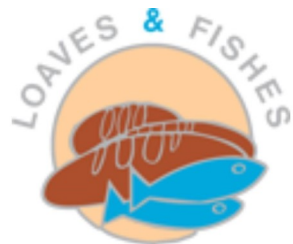
It is only the chancel area and first two pews that are in sight of the camera. Parents, in particular, should be aware that if they do not wish their child to be visible 'on-line' then they should ensure that they sit a couple of pews from the front.

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.

Prayer for spiritual renewal

Oh loving Lord,
Even though I know you
And accept you as Lord and Savior,
I don't want to fall into a routine.
So I come to you seeking
A fresh, new perspective.
Not to throw away past lessons,
But for your Spirit to rebuild and
Breathe new life into my faith.
Show me how to do this.
Let me open myself completely
To your voice;
The voice that tells me
God is love,
And in Christ all things are new.
Renew me, restore me,
Break me down if needed, then,
Let me fall in love again, oh Lord,
Trusting in your promises.
Now a bit more mature and solid
In the ways of the Master
But still with so much to learn.
Let my joy be a deeper joy,
One that celebrates and gives thanks.
Let my love be a deeper love,
One that receives and gives life.
May it all start and end
With my Lord, my God,
My Savior Jesus Christ,
In his holy name,
Amen.



We all know and support the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank, and each week many generously filled bags are donated by our parishioners. But the food bank offers far more than practical support through food parcels—it 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, supporting both physical and emotional wellbeing while fostering a sense of belonging.

As you know, we have been supporting Loaves and Fishes Food Bank for some time, and they are extremely grateful for all they receive from us. However, as times are becoming harder for many, the food bank is now facing a crisis, with not enough supplies to meet the growing need. There are many ways you can help beyond regular donations—if you are able, please bring an item of food to church on a Sunday morning or drop it off at the office when it is open. Any dried or tinned foods, as well as toiletries, would be greatly appreciated and would make a real difference to the work of this charity.

Together, we can make a difference!

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?

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
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

My magnolia tree has survived!! A little frosted around the edges but covered in lovely blossom!



This tree has survived Spring frost after Spring frost this year. Every morning I woke up to white grass and had to scrape the car I looked fearfully at my lovely tree, teeming with budding blossom and saw the brown burnt petals. Every time I thought 'That's it, no lovely flowers (again) this year.'



But look! – it has survived!

I hope you, too, are surviving this cold and rather damp Spring. Although however fed up we might be with the seemingly unending winter just how on earth are all the hundreds and thousands of war refugees in Ukraine, Gaza, Lebanon, Iran, Sudan, Nigeria and many, many other war-torn countries surviving through their long hard winters. It's an uncomfortable feeling, sitting with the heating on in a warm comfortable church, listening to Jesus telling everyone 'who has ears to hear' that the greatest commandment is to love your God with all your might and to love your neighbour as yourself.

So today I am thinking about survival.....and thanking God for all the charities like Christian Aid out there working their hearts out to help those survivors to survive.

Let's give generously every chance we get this May and always.
Take care
Maureen

**Final date for inclusion in our
Summer edition of New Connections is :-
Monday 25th May 2026**