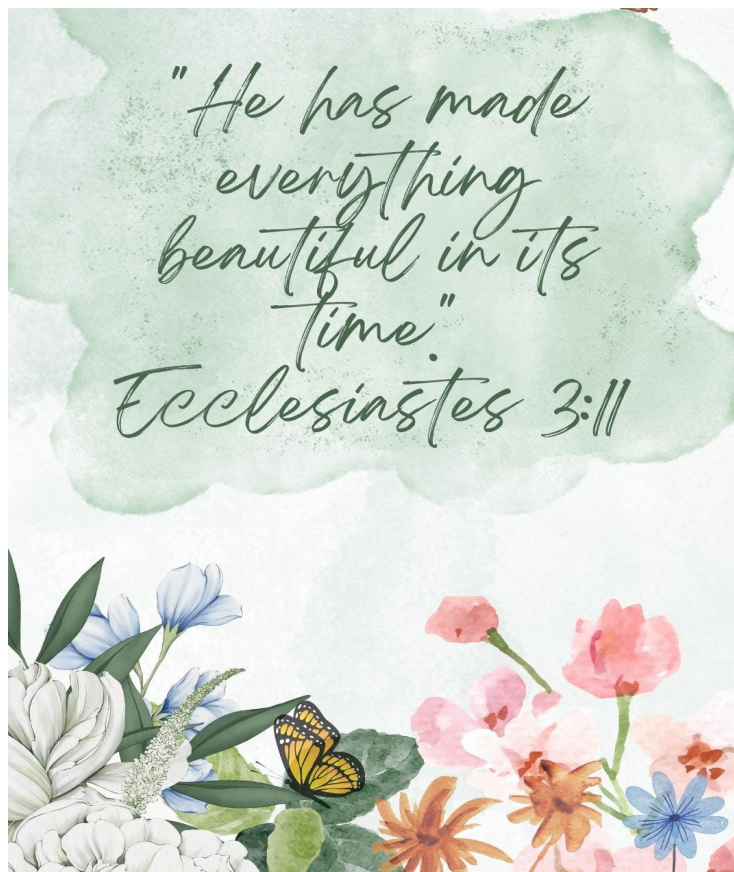


# NEW CONNECTIONS

The congregational Magazine of  
Strathaven: Trinity Parish Church

*Summer 2026*



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

George Sommerville 13<sup>th</sup> May  
 May Beveridge 15<sup>th</sup> May

**INTERMENT OF ASHES**

Janet Gillan 5<sup>th</sup> May



*From the  
Minister's  
Desk*



As we move into the summer months, we do so with mixed emotions across our church family. At the end of June, Glassford Church will close its doors for the final time as a place of worship. For many, this marks the end of a

deeply cherished chapter filled with memories of baptisms, weddings, funerals, Sunday worship, and quiet moments of prayer over many generations.

Our thoughts and prayers are very much with the congregation and community of Glassford at this time of change and transition. Change in the life of the Church is never easy, especially when it touches places that hold such deep personal and spiritual significance. We give thanks for the faithful witness that Glassford Church has offered over the years and for all who have sustained its mission and ministry with love and dedication.

As members and friends of Glassford begin to worship more regularly in Chapelton and Strathaven, may I offer a gentle reminder to us all of the importance of welcome. What feels familiar and comfortable to many of us may feel very new to others. A warm greeting, an invitation to sit together, a conversation over tea and coffee, or simply taking time to introduce ourselves can make all the difference.

In the months ahead, may we continue to build that sense of belonging and fellowship together, ensuring that everyone finds not only a seat, but a home among us.

As summer begins, I hope there will also be opportunities for rest, refreshment, and enjoying God's creation in all its beauty.

May this season bring peace and blessing to you and those you love.

With every blessing,

**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, 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
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Julie	Julie	Shaw
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Shaw	Shaw	Robin
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Robin	Valerie	Norman
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Valerie	Robin	Shaw and Norman

## **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE GLASSFORD CHURCH BUILDING CLOSES?**

When a Church of Scotland building closes, responsibility for the process is shared between the congregation, Presbytery, and the General Trustees.

The congregation remains responsible for the upkeep and insurance of the property until responsibility formally transfers or the property is sold. The General Trustees oversee the legal and property process once closure has been agreed - although the church halls are to remain open for a period. The General Trustees, working with the Law Department and Presbytery, arrange surveys of the building, assess possible future uses, and manage any eventual sale or transfer of the property.

Normally, fixed items are kept in situ but, where possible, moveable items are re-used elsewhere - in our case within the Chapelton or Strathaven buildings. A similar process took place following the closure of the East Church. Records, such as minutes books and baptismal registers, are preserved securely and will eventually be transferred to the National Records of Scotland archive.

The process is governed by Church of Scotland regulations and is intended to ensure that both the property and the congregation's heritage are treated responsibly and respectfully.



Thank  
You

Thank You so much for the beautiful flowers I received for my birthday. They cheered me up no end!

Helen Thomson

# LECTIONARY

## READINGS



### 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

### July

July 5, 2026	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
July 12, 2026	Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 19, 2026	Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19; Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
July 26, 2026	Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Psalm 128; 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

### August

August 2, 2026	Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21
August 9, 2026	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33
August 16, 2026	Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28
August 23, 2026	Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20
August 30, 2026	Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

## **STRATHAVEN FLOWER CALENDAR**

### **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



### **July**

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

### **August**

2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs H. Bennie & Mrs E. Primrose  
9<sup>th</sup> Mrs C. McCleary & Mrs I. Beveridge  
16<sup>th</sup> Mrs F. McKay  
23<sup>rd</sup> Mrs A. White  
30<sup>th</sup> Mrs M. Davidson

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

## **CHAPELTON FLOWER CALENDAR**

### **June**

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

### **July**

5<sup>th</sup> Mrs B. Catani  
12<sup>th</sup> Mrs J. Cairns  
19<sup>th</sup> Mrs M. Hamilton  
26<sup>th</sup> Mrs E. Kennedy

### **August**

2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs L. Toms  
9<sup>th</sup> Mr J. Murdoch  
16<sup>th</sup> Mrs J. Bruce  
23<sup>rd</sup> Mrs J. Smith  
30<sup>th</sup> Mrs L. Taylor



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

## **GLASSFORD FLOWER CALENDAR**

### **June**

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



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



## **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.

## **OFFERINGS**

The Sunday offering (collection) is being taken during the service

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.

**SOME SNIPPETS FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY – more information on the four days of debate can be found on the Church of Scotland website.**

**CrossReach: The Church at its Best**

The General Assembly heard an inspiring report on the work of CrossReach, the social care arm of the Church of Scotland, described by convener Dr Mike Cantlay as the Church at its “very best”. With an annual budget of £61 million, 1,700 staff and 300 volunteers, CrossReach provides care and support across Scotland, from maternity and mental health services to addiction recovery, elderly care, prison visitor support, and homelessness services. At the heart of the report was the Christian calling “to love”. Dr Cantlay said this commandment shapes the organisation’s new five-year strategy, *Love From CrossReach*, which seeks to demonstrate Christ’s love through compassionate, high-quality care.

Assembly members heard how service users most often described CrossReach as “safe”, “happy”, “supported”, and “listened to”, reflecting the dedication of staff and volunteers. More than 90 staff gained additional qualifications during the year as CrossReach continued investing in training and support. The report also highlighted CrossReach’s commitment to sustainability, including the installation of 500 solar panels across seven sites in partnership with Eco-Congregation Scotland. Despite financial pressures, CrossReach raised more than £1 million through support from trusts, donors, and the Guild, while continuing to campaign publicly for reform and fair funding in the care sector. Dr Cantlay pledged that CrossReach would continue “to speak up for those who don’t have a voice — as Christ would have us do.”

**The Guild: Faith, Fellowship and Service**

National Convener Kay Coull told commissioners the Guild remains “a Christian movement rooted in worship, prayer and action”, with members continuing to show remarkable generosity and commitment. The General Assembly heard that the Church of Scotland Guild raised more than £224,000 over the past year for its four project partners, supporting Christian mission and care both in Scotland and overseas. The funds raised supported projects including church planting in Bulgaria, persecuted Christians in Egypt, the Scottish Bible Society’s *Bibles for Bairns* initiative, and CrossReach’s *Playful Beginnings* programme supporting families and children with additional needs. Mrs Coull said the Guild’s current strategy, *Let us Build a House*, encourages members to deepen faith, strengthen discipleship, and engage actively in their communities.

The report acknowledged significant challenges facing the Guild, including declining membership, an ageing demographic, and the impact of church unions and closures. Some branches have also chosen to continue informally as friendship groups rather than remain part of the national movement. Despite this, Mrs Coull stressed that the Guild is looking to the future with confidence and openness to change rather than becoming inward-looking or defensive.

The Assembly also heard about continued support for younger adults through LIFT (Love in Fellowship and Trust), which encourages faith development among people aged 18–40.

**Reform of Ministerial Training**

The General Assembly agreed a major reform of ministerial education by appointing Trinity College at the University of Glasgow as the Church of Scotland’s lead academic partner for the training of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Deacons.

*...from page 8*

A new Initial Ministerial Education programme will begin in September 2027, combining in-person teaching with online learning. The hybrid approach is intended to allow candidates from across Scotland to train without needing to relocate. The revised programme will include a shared core curriculum with a stronger focus on transformational learning and better integration of academic study, practical placements, and theological reflection.

The Assembly was assured that this does not create a single-provider model. Other institutions — New College in Edinburgh, Christ College in Aberdeen, and Highland Theological College — will continue to train Ordained Local Ministers, Readers, and apprentices, as well as offering wider learning opportunities for the Church. The decision marks an important step in the Church's efforts to create a more unified and sustainable system of ministerial training for the future.

### **A Vision of Growth for the Church**

The General Assembly heard a strong call for the Church of Scotland to move beyond managing decline and instead embrace a vision of growth in faith, service, and mission. In his final report as convener of the Assembly Trustees, Rev David Cameron warned that the Church "cannot continue to cut our way to sustainability". While recent difficult decisions had stabilised finances, he said the future depended on renewal rather than further reductions.

The Assembly Trustees reported an operating surplus of £1.2 million for 2025, compared with an expected deficit of more than £6 million. However, much of this improvement came from one-off income such as legacies and investment returns, meaning long-term challenges remain. Mr Cameron said the Church must simplify structures and reduce bureaucracy so that more energy can be focused on worship, witness, and service. He stressed that simplification was "essential" if congregations were to flourish. A key proposal in the report was a new Financing Ministry model, replacing the current Giving for Growth approach. The plan would give congregations greater flexibility and responsibility in funding ministry while creating a central Solidarity Fund to support areas facing hardship, ensuring the Church remains a national and connected body.

### **Apology for Historical Links to Slavery**

The General Assembly formally apologised for the Church of Scotland's historical links to chattel slavery, acknowledging both actions and failures that contributed to "extraordinary suffering". The apology stated that the Church is "grieved beyond telling" and pledged repentance and a commitment to "bearing fruit worthy of repentance". Presenting the report, the Very Rev Dr Sally Foster-Fulton described the moment as "humbling" and an opportunity for the Church to speak truthfully about its past. She said the legacy of slavery still shapes modern experiences of racism and inequality and that healing can only begin when truth is acknowledged. The apology recognised that some members and office-bearers of the Church benefitted directly or indirectly from slavery and that, before emancipation, some also offered theological justification for the practice.

The Assembly agreed to establish a new working group, alongside communities still affected by the legacy of slavery, to recommend future action and deepen relationships built on justice and equality.

Overseas delegates from Jamaica, Ghana and Nigeria welcomed the apology while urging the Church to ensure that words are followed by meaningful action and renewed partnership.

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

I hope this week of lovely weather we are having is not all the summer we shall have! It's hard to believe how quickly this year has gone in that I am now sharing our summer plans with you all!

I have included with this edition a list of volunteers I need in order to be able to safely deliver our summer programme and would ask you to please review this and let me know of any ways you can assist. I also do require some young adults to boost our numbers so if you have or know of any children S1 or above that would be able to assist at our holiday club please do let me know!

So firstly, we have our summer holiday club. This year we are Guardians of Ancora! We will meet in Strathaven on Monday 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July and in Chapelton on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Times are 10:30am to 12noon. This 5-day holiday club will follow the same theme for the full time across both venues. You only need to register once and this can be registered via Eventbrite, the registration forms on the back of the summer leaflet or in person by coming along on the days we are running.

We continue our bible study (every Wednesday night from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 7pm to 9pm) following along with the series the Chosen. Whether you joined us last year for season 1 or this is a new venture for you – you will be most welcome. We pick up series 2 right after Jesus has spoken to the woman at the well so it's only just beginning!

Our family evening this year shall be Trinity traitors on 8<sup>th</sup> August. Numbers for this may be limited so keep an eye out on Facebook and church screens to see how to register closer to the time.

And finally for 3 Monday afternoons (13<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> July) we will have some summer crafts in Strathaven from 13:00-14:00. If you are bringing along under 5's please note you will need to stay with them. Again, if anyone can assist with set up, clear up and for the hour this runs please let me know.

Messy Church is changing! Messy Church has now concluded for this term and will re-start on our **NEW DAY AND TIME** from September. Messy Church will now meet on the first Saturday of the month from 10:30-12:30 in Chapelton and we will next meet on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

I am also looking for assistance from any young people who would like to be involved in our All-Age services on 23<sup>rd</sup> August in Chapelton and Strathaven. I am looking for our young people to be involved in the organising and delivery of these services so please do let me know.

And finally, Thursday club will continue to run in Glassford post holidays, and more info will follow but we are looking to replicate this on a Monday afternoon in Chapelton. If you can give a couple of hours to help set up, clear up and attend the after-school club we will be looking to commence n Monday 24th August.

Hope you all have a wonderful summer!  
Till next time – Blessings!

*Julie*

**Dates for your diary:**

**AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS:**

Thursday After School runs in Glassford from 15.00-16.00.

We will finish on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June with a view to restarting on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August

**MESSY CHURCH:** Messy Church meets monthly in **CHAPELTON** on the first Saturday of the month from 10:30-12:30. Next meeting is Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September. 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 and Wednesday - Chapelton 10-11.30.

We have our summer play sessions arranged for Strathaven on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June and for Chapelton on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

If you can 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 8<sup>th</sup> June 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 ASAP and I will arrange our first meetings.



We can't quite believe we are writing our blurb for the summer magazine already! The year has gone in fast! As always, we appreciate all of the support from the children, parents and congregation throughout the year. We had a lot of fun learning about the books of the Bible this year and it was great to do so many different tasks and activities around this theme. We have now completed our

bookshelves and they are full of all of the books of the old and new testament!

Our annual summer trip will have been done by the time of reading. Children from all three Sunday Schools are off to Valley View on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May. We always have great fun.

Our end of year Sunday School party will be on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June and is open to children from all three Sunday Schools. We will give more information out nearer the time.

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer holiday and look forward to welcoming lots of children, old and new, to the Sunday School when it starts back on 16<sup>th</sup> August.

Love and best wishes from the Sunday School team.

## Relaxing Wordsearch for Summer!

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

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

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| BEACH      | SANDCASTLE   |
| CARAVAN    | SEASIDE      |
| CONE       | SHORTS       |
| FLOWERS    | SPRINKLER    |
| HOLIDAY    | SPRITZER     |
| ICECREAM   | STRAWBERRIES |
| LEMONADE   | SUNHATS      |
| MIDGES     | SUNSET       |
| PADDLING   | SUNSHADE     |
| PICNIC     | SUNSHINE     |
| RECREATION | TRAVEL       |
| SALADS     | WARMTH       |
| SANDALS    |              |

## **GUILD**

To finish the season 2025-2026 a coach outing took place recently with Peebles as the destination. The weather was kind and everyone enjoyed the outing.

The committee met recently to make a start on planning the new syllabus. For 2026-2027 we will again hold all the meetings in the large hall in Strathaven at 2.00 pm.

The first meeting will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September when Loudoun Friends will provide musical entertainment. The next meeting will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Full details of all meetings, etc will be noted in the Syllabus which will be available at the first meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September. The Guild is open to all men and women and if you would like to come along and 'try before you buy' we will be delighted to see you. We have either a speaker, musical entertainment or activities which are followed by tea/coffee and home baking.

The Avondale Community Bus is available to transport anyone who requires it - contact Marjorie on 07872050305 if you would like to book a seat on the bus.



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



## Name the Scottish town /place in aid of Christian Aid

### Answers for 1<sup>st</sup> Strathaven Boys' Brigade Quiz

1. Part of a candle .....Wick
2. Indian or Chinese .....Currie
3. Beating mountain .....Harthill
4. One hundred cents .....Dollar
5. A handsome carriage .....Bonnyrigg
6. Outer garment over a river .....Coatbridge
7. Face features .....Eyemouth
8. A town devoted to shellfish .....Musselburgh
9. Comes from a gun .....Shotts
10. Bird of prey likes pig .....Eaglesham
11. No drink in this village .....Drymen
12. Event recorder .....Callander
13. Green or crown .....Bowling
14. Musical instrument in church .....Drumchapel
15. House for animals .....Bearsden
16. Fruit is angry .....Applecross
17. Why river .....Whitburn
18. Sea water garment .....Saltcoates
19. Finished river .....Dundee
20. Sometimes tied .....Tongue
21. Happy ending for mother and baby .....Bothwell
22. Shark's upper body .....Loanhead
23. Place of reverence .....Holytown
24. Robin Hood's friend is heavy .....Friarton or Johnstone
25. Sounds like a Hawaiian greeting .....Alloa
26. Metal music instrument .....Tyndrum
27. Storage for an insect .....Lockerbie

Thanks for all the entries and we hoped you enjoyed taxing your brains.

Total passed onto Christian Aid is in the region of £150 (still counting).

### PIZZA & PRAISE NIGHT!

**Event Details:**  
**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July**  
**18:30-20:00**

**Strathaven Church Hall**

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





Thank you for supporting our fund-raising for This year Christian Aid Week was 10 – 16 May.

**CHRISTIAN AID CRYPTIC QUIZ 'Sport or Game'** – a total number of 29 entries were received with 12 being totally correct. They went into the draw on Sunday 17 May and the winners were –

- First - Linda Menzies (prize was Charades, Snap and Skittles)
- Second - Carine Smith (prize was Draughts, Snap and Skittles)
- Third - Margery Menzies (prize was Noughts and Crosses, Snap and Skittles)

This year just over £366 was raised from quiz donations – thanks to everyone for your support.

The solution is on the opposite page. Thank you to everyone who took part and if you were not a winner – better luck next year! (See photograph of Elizabeth McGowan receiving the second prize on behalf of her sister, Carine Smith)



**EVENTS** – money is still being counted for the various events which have taken place, but so far:

- Strathaven SS games: £255.50
- Chapelton breakfast: £141.20
- Glassford Soup Brunch: £203
- BB quiz: £131

**ENVELOPES / CASH DONATION** – the collection buckets are still available in Chapelton and Strathaven with last date of submission for return being Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**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.

When all monies are received and counted the total raised will be included in the next New Connections magazine.

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

# CAW26 QUIZ ANSWERS

Find the answers below:

1. 12-inch dance (8)

Answer: *Football*

2. Aligned pubs (8,4)

Answer: *Parallel bars*

3. Wet mint (5,4)

Answer: *Water polo*

4. Annie is one who heads meeting (7,6)

Answer: *Musical chairs*

5. Long chocolate bar (8)

Answer: *Marathon*

6. Currents of air on board (8)

Answer: *Draughts*

7. Sounds like white wine can open doors (6)

Answer: *Hockey*

8. What you might see on a poor test paper (7,3,7)

Answer: *Noughts and crosses*

9. Conceal before search (4,3,4)

Answer: *Hide and seek*

10. Looks like arguing (6)

Answer: *Rowing*

11. I play in Latin (4)

Answer: *Ludo*

12. Tucks with flights (5)

Answer: *Darts*

13. Brake coach (4,3,3)

Answer: *Stop the bus*

14. Break pans (4)

Answer: *Snap*

15. Robin Hood has letter (7)

Answer: *Archery*

16. Boas take steps (6,3,7)

Answer: *Snakes and ladders*

17. Native of Warsaw has strongroom (4,5)

Answer: *Pole vault*

18. Modern shipping centre for horses (9)

Answer: *Newmarket*

19. Packing cartons (6)

Answer: *Boxing*

20. Dealing in stolen blades (7)

Answer: *Fencing*

21. Try frantically to find words (8)

Answer: *Scrabble*

22. Support ham (10)

Answer: *Backgammon*

23. Can be knocked down like smarties (8)

Answer: *Skittles*

24. Sounds like you take time before picking up (13)

Answer: *Weightlifting*

25. Transfer package (4,3,6)

Answer: *Pass the parcel*

26. Display starting (4,7)

Answer: *Show jumping*

27. Cars head round for parlour game (8)

Answer: *Charades*

28. Evil herb takes on court game (9)

Answer: *Badminton*

29. Crush vegetable (6)

Answer: *Squash*

30. You need patience for this (9)

Answer: *Solitaire*



# MEMORY CLUB

## **June Meetings:**

### Heart For Art:

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> June and Wed 17<sup>th</sup> June. Both meetings at 1 - 3 pm

### Memory Club:

- Wed 10<sup>th</sup> June when we are having a gala themed activity afternoon and an afternoon tea, so have a light lunch that day!
- Wed 24<sup>th</sup> June when we welcome back Anne Allan to sing for us. Both meetings at 1.30 - 3.15.

## **July Meetings:**

### Heart for Art:

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> July and Wed 15<sup>th</sup> July again at 1 - 3.

### Memory Club:

- Wed 8<sup>th</sup> July when we welcome Jonathon Forbes Kennedy to entertain us.
- Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> July we are having an activity and Quiz afternoon. Both meetings are at 1.30 - 3.15.
- PLEASE REMEMBER THERE ARE NO MEETINGS ON 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY.

## **August Meetings:**

### Heart for Art:

Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Aug and Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Aug both at 1 - 3.

### Memory Club:

- Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Aug when we hope to welcome back some of the highland dancers from the Morag Fraser dance school.
- Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Aug when we welcome back the Strathaven Strummers. Both meetings 1.30 - 3.15.

Both groups meet in the large hall. The Memory Club welcomes new members any time. The Heart for Art operates a small waiting list. If you want to find out more about either group, please do not hesitate to contact Lynda Horn on 07778579504.



**HEALTH HELP  
INTERNATIONAL**

**STRATHAVEN FRIENDS OF  
HEALTH HELP INTERNATIONAL**

A few weeks ago SFHHI sent out money to Nanga School to enable them to purchase a micro jet irrigation system.

Nanga school in the past had made good use of their limited watering system but it was very wasteful of water and it required a lot of personal attention.

The micro jet system is much more efficient and water is delivered directly to the crops without wasting any of their precious water.

It is easier to control the amount of water used and the crops are flourishing. The crops are used to provide a meal for the pupils and any surplus is sold to supplement school funds.

At Happy Valley School hopes were raised recently when an empty school building was identified as a possible replacement for Happy Valley. Unfortunately hopes were quickly dashed as the building was in a very poor state of repair and would have required too much investment to bring it up to a safe and reasonable standard. The search continues.



*Kath Russell*



**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

## Strathaven Fairtrade

The Fairtrade stall will be available after the Strathaven 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

### **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.

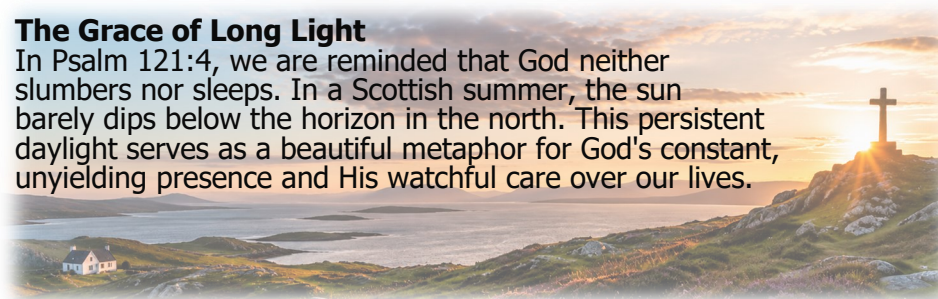
However, we would value some additional volunteers to assist and then a rota can be established. Please get in touch if you wish any further information about what is involved or speak to one of the 'team' on a Sunday.

In Scotland, the brief summer represents a profound spiritual season of renewal and light. The long, glowing days—the "simmer dim"—evoke the Creator's abundant goodness, offering believers a sacred invitation to step back, slow down, and witness the enduring warmth and grace of God's creation across the Highlands and Islands.

Here is a short reflection for the season:

### **The Grace of Long Light**

In Psalm 121:4, we are reminded that God neither slumbers nor sleeps. In a Scottish summer, the sun barely dips below the horizon in the north. This persistent daylight serves as a beautiful metaphor for God's constant, unyielding presence and His watchful care over our lives.





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 over 30 years, 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**



Trinity's Keep Fit class has now finished for the summer. This will restart on the first Monday in September in the small hall.

*Cillia McCleary*

### **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>	The Very 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>	Robin Jack	01698 888758



## **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

Part of the chorus of a lovely hymn we recently sang in church ran:  
'Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;'

It led me to thinking about grace and mercy, both words which appear many, many times in the Bible but I never really thought about what the words actually mean until I came across these very simple definitions which resonated with me:  
'Mercy is not getting what you deserve and grace is getting what you don't deserve.'

I certainly see both manifested in my life over and over again, not just from God but also from family and friends. Thank you all!!

Graham McKendrick is right - nations most certainly need to be flooded with grace and mercy if we are ever to heal the massive rifts developing world wide.

The media is reporting that people across the UK are being urged to share their vision for a 'National Conversation' project. Perhaps the words grace and mercy should be included in any vision of the future of the UK!

Which leads me to another little snippet from 'Word for Today'!  
'I was hungry and you formed a humanities club to discuss it. I was imprisoned and you stayed home to pray for my release. I was naked and you debated the morality of my appearance. I was sick and you thanked God for your health. I was homeless and you preached to me about the shelter of God's love. You seem so holy and close to God but I'm still hungry, lonely, cold and in pain!'

From all the really interesting and informative 'Minutes for Mission' we have heard every week since the beginning of the year it is very clear that our congregation is very practical and certainly not a talking shop.

I hope everyone can enjoy some rest and re-creation over the (warm) summer months!

See you all again in September.  
Take care,  
Maureen

**Final date for inclusion in our  
Summer edition of New Connections is :-  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2026**