

# Boarhills, Dunino and St Andrews: Holy Trinity Church of Scotland

NEWSLETTER:  
DECEMBER 2024

**Mission Statement:**

Boarhills, Dunino and St Andrews: Holy Trinity Church of Scotland lives to worship God and to encourage faith in and service to, Jesus Christ among the people of today and tomorrow

Charity number SC017173

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Everyone,

First of all, a Huge Thank You to all of you who contributed to the presentations to Moira and myself on demitting office as session clerk and "Mrs Session Clerk". It came as a complete surprise to me at the service on 13 October. Your generosity went well above and beyond.



I shall treasure the Celtic cross, and am looking forward to spending the book token (I may now indulge in some with shiny covers).

I was also bowled over by the beautiful oak box (made from one of our redundant pews) which Cameron, despite his current difficulties, crafted for me. The engraving of the triquetra (The trinity Logo) means much to us both.

I missed the Armistice service this year for the first time, but while up North earlier in the year I took the picture of the poppies, shown on our cover, in Glass village (near Huntly), where the church also has stained glass windows by Douglas Strachan. It was closed by the Church of Scotland 10 years ago and was bought by a man who said "I think that one day this village will need its church again". He was its guardian for all this time and it is now owned by the village trust. The village, almost deserted apart from a few farms, has now burst into life again and speaks to me of regeneration.

I heard recently that poppy seeds, spread in profusion each autumn, only germinate if they are exposed to light. Most of the seeds in Flanders were buried, perhaps for centuries, as the ground lay neglected and it was only when the ground was blasted and ploughed by the shells in the First World War, that they sprang to life again.

Is there a message for us here? Are we ready, after a period of battle and guardianship, to trust the Lord to break up the fallow ground, allow His light to shine into our congregation and lead us on into a new and greater future?

Blessings to you all, *Mike (S)*

Also a very big thank you from Moira for the beautiful necklace and gorgeous basket of flowers - see page 7.

## MARION'S PASTORAL LETTER

I remember saying to myself at the beginning of 2024 that I thought that this year would be a very challenging one! And as we draw towards the end of it, so it has proved to be. What is more, the challenges we all face will certainly not stop with the dawning of a new year. However, challenge can be a good thing, for it makes us think about the best way to meet it, and if we have the mental, physical and spiritual stamina to face up to the challenges of the future, that too can be very rewarding.



During the next few weeks, we shall celebrate the birth of Christ in our churches and in our homes. Christmas can be a challenging time both in the church, for families and for those who are alone. With the rising cost of living many will run into debt in order keep up with the demands of our ever more secular and expensive world. And for those facing their first Christmas alone, just surviving will be much more difficult. And then there are those who are homeless.

It is true that we can't help everyone, but maybe if we all help someone to feel less pressurised and less alone this Christmas, we can make a difference. There are many charities whose sole aim is to do just that, and they need our support. But we who are the church can also offer the warmth of our welcome and the sincerity of our friendship as we invite people to the many events planned for the season.

Elsewhere in this magazine there is a list of the dates and times of our Christmas services and events. It would be encouraging to see more people sharing in them and enjoying the fellowship we can offer. But we do have to make them known, and also make it known that they are open to everyone. They will of course be on Facebook and on the noticeboard, but it is up to each and every one of us to talk about them with enthusiasm and to lead by our example if we want others to join us.



I'm sharing  
with you two  
pictures  
from my  
recent cruise  
to the Arctic.



Even in the Arctic wilderness where you would think nothing delicate could survive, still the flowers bloom.

*'The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose'. Isaiah 35:7*

A conversation was once heard in a charity shop that went something like this. 'My husband likes those Nativity cards, but I prefer something more Christmassy!' What could be more Christmassy than the celebration of the birth of the Saviour of the world? That is our challenge then, to encourage more people to celebrate the birth of the Saviour, and by the warmth of our hospitality and the sincerity of our love, to welcome them into the circle of our Christian fellowship.

A very Happy Christmas and a Good New Year to you all.

With every blessing, Marion

A Prayer

*Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child  
Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled  
Within my heart, that it may be  
A quiet chamber, kept for thee.*

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

The Fife Presbytery Mission Plan (PMP) discussions are continuing. I updated you in the last magazine on where we had got to. My thanks go to Jayne Scrymgeour (our Deputy Session Clerk), Katherine Matheson, Steve Watson, Richard McFarlane (our Presbytery Liaison Elder) and Moira Stewart for how well they have done representing Session and the church community in what have been somewhat difficult discussions. My thanks also go to the PMP facilitators, Alan and Margaret Kimmitt, who have been ably leading the discussions and providing helpful advice. I pray that we are coming to a good resolution in the not-too-distant future - there are some interesting initiatives in the pipeline. The next meeting of the 'G15' group is on 4 December and you will be updated further.

We are also looking at the District system and I would welcome any observations you may have. How do you, as members, feel you are supported and engaged with the church? What further involvement with the church and our activities would you like to have? What should be changed or done differently? The purpose of this item is as a first step in the review process. Are you happy with the size of your District and your duties as an elder? Any other observations on how to arrange things?

All positive suggestions and comments are welcome and please let me know by emailing me at [htsessionclerk@gmail.com](mailto:htsessionclerk@gmail.com) or writing to me c/o Holy Trinity, St Andrews.

Happy Christmas! *Mike Carslaw*

## THE OUTREACH GROUP

The church has a small Outreach Group that meets regularly. We are brimming full of ideas to further the knowledge of and love for Jesus Christ and his church here in St Andrews, Boarhills and Dunino.

Amongst other things we have restarted the Family Film Nights which are proving to be a great success, with more and more families attending. We're well into our plans to relaunch Sunday School - the JAM Club - and we're looking for more ways to support Family Services at Easter, Christmas and in the autumn and the church's very successful Little Cherubs.

We are starting a free Christian book stall at the hall and have ideas for other events and projects.

If you have any ideas and especially if you would like to volunteer, or contribute to the bookstall, please contact **Steve** or **Alison**.

## FROM OUR INTERIM MODERATOR

Dear friends,

I hope that the coming season of Christmas will be richly blessed for you all.

It will be great to see the life, activity and energy in our churches at Holy Trinity and at Dunino which will, I am sure, reflect the growing confidence which we rightly have as we look to the future.



I have enjoyed another year as your Interim Moderator and would like every member of the congregation to be aware of the commitment which your elders and office-bearers show to the continuing ministry which we offer in these two places. I wish you all well and trust that 2025 will treat you well as we anticipate our journey forward hand in hand with our beloved Saviour.

Yours in Christ, *Alastair Symington* (Interim Moderator)

ALASTAIR SYMINGTON  
IN CONVERSATION WITH  
RIKKI FULTON



*For God's sake, ask!*

*You may be interested in Alistair's small book on his conversations with Rikki Fulton. Available from Amazon (Ed)*

## THE SESSION CLERK



Dear All

At the time of writing, Advent is almost on us and I would like to thank everyone involved for all that has gone on in what has been a momentous year. The visit in October of the Principal Clerk to the General Assembly, Rev Fiona Smith, was a particular highlight, coinciding with the baptism and profession of faith of our newest members, Lesley Moffat and Eve Crawford and with a celebration of the service of some of our longest-serving Elders, including Keith Nielson (ordained an elder in 1962) and Charlie Braid (ordained in 1966) with an extraordinary 120 years' service between them. An additional pleasure was taken in welcoming our newest elders, Tricia Caithness, Stephen Donaldson and Russell Cockburn. Finally, it was a delight to be able to recognise the service of Dr Mike Stewart, my predecessor as Session Clerk, for everything he has done helping, with care, faith and inspiration, the church community and Session through a difficult period - maybe not to be expected at times in a church with our extraordinary history!

# MINISTRY OF FLOWERS



Flowers are donated each week and distributed after the Sunday service to folk who are sick or housebound. (These are greatly appreciated by the recipients) Please contact Rachel Raynor if you would like to be part of the group.

Very, many thanks.  
Best good wishes to  
all in Holy Trinity  
Very many thanks  
Anna G. Ross.

At the back door of  
St Andrew's Heritage  
Museum  
By Walter S Watson

10<sup>th</sup> August '24.  
I write to say a very  
'Thank you' to the warden  
of Holy Trinity who  
very kindly sent  
a beautiful bunch  
red roses and kin  
thoughts.  
they are just beaut

For Holy Trinity  
St. Andrew's.

I wish to thank you for the lovely  
church flowers you gave me a few  
weeks ago. I am very fond of flowers  
and I was very pleased to receive  
them.  
I appreciate my connection with Holy  
Trinity Church, and like attending the  
Friday afternoon services.  
With many thanks and all good  
wishes from Pat (Harvey).



## AND MORE THANKS...

"Can I please say a huge thank-you to all of you who deliver the newsletters I drop through your letterboxes.

You are all so reliable and what you do is very much appreciated as it helps to keep people connected to what is happening in the church".

Thank you all. Anne Barron

## CHOIR AND MUSIC NEWS

Our choir have been excelling themselves recently, but this does not come without a great deal of hard work. Thank you all!



And Caleb Stewart is getting to grips with the new small organ in the Hunter and Memorial aisle. He also played a wonderful composition on the piano during the offering on 22nd November.

Did you know that the Church of Scotland have produced a new supplement to CH4. Perhaps we can investigate some of the new music in the not-too-distant future.



### ***A thought for the choir:***

'I have on my table a violin string', wrote Rabindranath Tagore. 'It is free to move in any direction I like. If I twist one end it responds; it is free.

But it is not free to sing. So, I take it and fix it into my violin. I bind it and when it is bound, it is free for the first time to sing.

'True freedom comes when we bind ourselves to Jesus and fix our eyes on him. As the violin string comes alive when bound into the violin, so we come alive in Christ. Jesus is the great liberator. He sets us free. At the heart of Christianity is a relationship with Jesus. Jesus died for you. He was raised for YOU'.





# HOLY TRINITY GUILD



## Programme for the year



| Date              | Event                     | Speaker              | Venue    |
|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Monday 9th Dec    | Christmas Celebration     |                      | Hall     |
| 2025              |                           |                      |          |
| Monday 13th Jan   | Role of the Session Clerk | Mike Carslaw         | Hall     |
| Saturday 25th Jan | Visit to Guardbridge      |                      | Out      |
| Monday 27th Jan   | Burns night celebration   |                      | Hall     |
| Monday 10th Feb   | Wildlife in St Andrews    | Eve                  | Hall     |
| Monday 24th Feb   | Journeys                  | Marion Paton         | Hall     |
| Thursday 6th Mar  | Bare necessities project  | Joint with St Mark's | St Marks |
| Monday 24th Mar   | Youth work and AGM        | Fiona Ramsay         | Hall     |
| Saturday 3rd May  | Spring Fair 10am          |                      | Church   |

## FINANCE GROUP

The butterfly does not look back at the caterpillar in shame, just as you should not look back at your past in shame. Your past was part of your own transformation.



The revenue account for the period ending 30th October 2024 shows that we have a surplus of £21,188.00.

This is a far cry from the depressing days of a few years ago. Perhaps these cartoons should encourage us to continue to look forward – in Faith!



*(Thanks so much to Russell and Victoria, our finance team, who have helped us into a calm area.)*

## SPECIAL SERVICES

There have been a number of special services in the last three months. Here is a small selection.

### HARVEST

Our thanks again to Dave, Rachel and John for the wonderful display of gifts in the HT Building.

Fruit, flowers and groceries were promptly dispatched to those in need, under the guidance of Ron Cruickshanks (now walking again!)



### ARMISTICE DAY at HT

Thanks to all those who helped with the arrangements for the service on Remembrance Sunday, with particular thanks to Rev Alastair Symington for preaching and conducting the first part of the service.

I think it was the largest congregation I can remember and the service was much appreciated.

Marion



You may not know, but Marion conducts a short service of Remembrance in the church garden on the 11th November at 11 am, no matter what day the Sunday Armistice service takes place.

This is attended by veterans, and this year a picture was taken. Thank you, gentlemen! (Ed)

## ARMISTICE DAY at BOARHILLS AND DUNINO.

Thanks to Ann Turnbull for decorating Boarhills and Dunino so sympathetically for the Remembrance Service.

We welcomed Rev Jamie Walker to lead us in worship. Several visitors joined us for this special service



## COMMUNION

Our autumn communion this year was joint with Boarhills and Dunino.

Richard McFarlane was tasked with organizing a more formal service than we have had since COVID and rehearsed us well.



Elders learning the rules for a formal Communion



The 'common cup' in use for the first time in some years

A different communion service was held at the Torrance Retreat on Loch Tay, where your editor and Moira were present.



In Afghanistan, the finding of bread and wine in houses by the Taliban can lead to imprisonment or death. Accordingly, communion is celebrated using grapes. Rev Walker led us in a simple and moving celebration of communion, Afghan style.

## SERVICE OF BAPTISM, ADMISSION OF NEW ELDERNS AND AWARD OF LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES.

On Sunday 13 October 2024 the congregation of Boarhills, Dunino and St Andrews Holy Trinity Church of Scotland met for worship, praise, celebration and thanksgiving. Marion Paton and Alastair Symington were joined by Rev Fiona Smith (Principal Clerk to the General Assembly).



The Organist was Marjorie Bruce. The opening Introit was "Let thy merciful ears, O Lord" (Thomas Mudd). The scriptures were read by Michael Stewart.

Fiona Smith had spent part of her training at Holy Trinity and the final part with Marion in Dundee. She preached powerfully on The Integrity of Faith and Life, reminding us of Benjamin Franklin's saying, "In this world, nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes". We find it hard to accept death and fear it, unlike St Paul who trusted God knowing that Jesus had shared death with us already. This gives us a new perspective, our strengthened faith and belief enabling us to face all difficulties and giving us the vision of a new and better Kingdom where we long to be.



There were 4 special events during the service: The Baptism and Profession of Faith of Lesley Wilson Moffat and Eve Margaret Crawford, and the profession of Faith of Irene Donaldson.

Lesley and Eve, Baptism

The Ordination and Admission to the Kirk Session of Patricia Caithness and Stephen Donaldson and the Admission of Russell Cockburn, after which all elders present were invited to come forward to offer the right hand of welcome and fellowship to the new members and elders.



Russell, Tricia and Stephen

This was followed by the anthem 'O Thou, the Central Orb' by Charles Wood. There followed the presentation of Long service certificates to a number of elders.



**Charles Braid  
Ordained 1966**



**Keith Neilson, our  
longest serving  
elder Ordained  
1962**

Michael Stewart, who was Session Clerk (Holy Trinity) for ten years, and his wife Moira, were thanked and presented with gifts and flowers for their sterling work over the years.

Alastair Symington led the congregation in prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.

The final hymn was 'Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord' and Fiona Smith closed the service with a rousing benediction.



**New members, elders and recipients of long service  
certificates**

The service is available on YouTube.

*(Copies of any of these pictures and some others are available from the editor).*

## UPCOMING SERVICES

- 8th December: Holy Trinity 11:15am Advent Carol Service (joint with Dunino)
- 22nd December: Holy Trinity and Dunino: Lessons and Carols at the usual times
- 24th December: 3pm Holy Trinity - Ecumenical Children's Service  
7pm Dunino - Watchnight Service  
11:30pm Holy Trinity - Watchnight Service
- 25th December: 10:30am Holy Trinity - Communion
- 29th December: 9:45am Dunino
- 5th January: 10:30am United C of S Service in St Mark's



### *And services at St Marks:*

22nd December 10am, Messy Church Nativity Play

24th December 5pm, Family Christingle

25th December Joint service with C&STA:StL at St Leonards building



### **SONGS OF PRAISE:**

Watchnight service to be screened on BBC Scotland on 24th December.

The service was recorded in Holy Trinity on the 22nd November, conducted by Susan Hamilton of TernTV.

(Don't miss it on Christmas Eve, or if you can't watch then pick it up later on BBC Scotland i-Player)

Rehearsal for the Christmas Eve watchnight service for "Songs of Praise"



# GLEANINGS

## Great garden advice - Planting Your Spring Garden - For The Garden of Your Daily Living



Plant Three Rows of peas

Peace of Mind  
Peace of Heart  
Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash  
Squash Gossip  
Squash Indifference  
Squash Grumbling  
Squash Selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce  
Lettuce Be Faithful  
Lettuce Be Kind  
Lettuce Be Patient  
Lettuce Really Love One Another

Turnip For Meetings  
Turnip For Service  
Turnip To Help One Another

No Garden is Complete Without Turnips

Turnip For Meetings  
Turnip For Service  
Turnip To Help One Another

To Conclude Our Garden We Must Have Thyme

Thyme For Each Other  
Thyme For Family  
Thyme For Friends

Water freely with Patience and cultivate With Love.

There will be much fruit In Your garden Because You will Reap What You Sow.

### A THOUGHT FROM D PATERSON:

The Holy Spirit ensures that the tradition of the Church won't be consumed and left as ashes.

"The Church may change, traditions may change, styles of worship may change but just as our motto which surrounds a burning bush says, "Faith will continue to be passed from one generation to the next," "That's something we need to hold on to.

"We would all like to see our own particular church buildings stay open. We would all like to see 3,000 people added to our numbers after the sermon as happened on the day of Pentecost but we have to be realistic about the size of the Church and the number of buildings we have and believe that through the gift of the Holy Spirit "with God all things are possible".

"For too long we have sat back watching and waiting for signs of God's Spirit being at work in our world. God calls "each and every one of us. We've all got a calling but unless we respond to God's Call, unless we allow God to use us, will anything ever change?"

"There can hardly be a minister or an elder or a church member that hasn't got a little bit down thinking about past glories, where we are at present and what the future will be. In response to this I have adopted as my catch phrase– 'Building Together'. Building the church of Jesus Christ together with the Holy Spirit and with each other.

"When we think of the church of tomorrow, we need to remember not bricks and stone laid by human hands. Yes, these have been laid to glorify God, but our faith is built on Jesus Christ



# HOLY TRINITY TRUST

## EVENTS

The most prominent musical event this quarter was the Tom Duncan memorial concert, on 3rd November, which was much appreciated by the audience of about 250 people.

The concert, led by the Heisenberg Ensemble, included the Celebration chorus and the Holy Trinity church choir.

Soloists were Ben Macateer, a former choral scholar, and Brian Bannatyne-Scott, both of whom provided superb bass solos.



Tom's lifelong friend, Carla, as part of the choir, also sang a solo part.



The music, by Bach, Haydn, Palestrina, Purcell and Gibbons, provided a fitting celebration of Tom's more than 50 years as organist and choirmaster.



The Events Programme for the seven weeks to the end of 2024 includes 9 fee-paying events, mostly concerts, also some rehearsals. Topping's are returning with an author's talk by Sir Ian Rankin on 14 December – over 300 tickets were sold by mid-November, with a further 150 or so expected.

The Christmas tree festival in the Church, which had not taken place for some years, is planned to run from 14 to 22 December, along with ancillary events.

## TRUST REVIEW

Most of the Trust's initial objectives have been achieved. Further progress depends on making alterations to the Church in line with the architects' feasibility study' carried out about three years ago, e.g. new toilets, an enclosed visitor area at the West Door, screening off the H&M and Sharp Aisles, a new kitchen and a café, etc

The first improvement, disabled access to the John Knox Porch is now under way, using Church funds; others will depend on significant fund-raising which cannot take place until the future of the Church is settled. Meanwhile, the Trust will probably go into abeyance.

The Trust's residual activities, Events and Opening the Church to Visitors, will, if feasible, be handed over to the Church. Because of its scale, events are by far the more challenging, and it may take some time to establish how, and if, this can be achieved.

Callum Macleod, is retiring as Events Director at the end of July 2025, and it is not yet clear how his several roles will be replaced. The current programme extends as far as 31 July 2025, but the SCO has asked if the five concerts in its 2025-26 season can be accommodated in the Church. Church members will need to make special efforts to support these five concerts.

A tea party for all those who volunteered for opening the Church this summer is being planned. It is hoped to fit it in before Christmas, if possible.

Graham Wynd  
November 2024

*Graham has indicated that he will be standing down as chairman of the Trust at the end of this year. This, plus the impending loss of Callum will put considerable strain on our ability to do all that we wish to do in the year ahead. We are immensely grateful to them both, and to the other trustees. (Ed)*

I arise today, through  
God's strength to pilot me,  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eye to look before  
me,  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to speak for me  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's host to save me  
From snares of devils,  
From temptation of vices,  
From everyone who shall  
wish me ill,  
afar and near. \*\*

The Church of Scotland

## GIFT AID IS GOOD NEWS

Gift Aid is a government scheme which allows congregations to reclaim the tax you have already paid on the money you give in your offering.

- Gift Aid is good stewardship. Giving through Gift Aid increases the value of your offering by 25% at no extra cost to you.
- Tax recovered on Gift Aid offerings increases the annual income of Church of Scotland congregations by more than £9 million.
- Increased income means congregations can do more to share the gospel and support their communities.

**Who can give through Gift Aid?**  
Anyone who pays UK Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax. If this applies to you, please ask your Congregational Treasurer or Gift Aid Convener for a Gift Aid Declaration Form.

Facebook: @churchofscotland  
Twitter: @churchofscotland  
www.churchofscotland.org.uk

giftaid.it

*Why not think of Gift Aiding all your givings so as to contribute to the improvements we all know we need.*

**SEE RON!**

## OUR PRAYER TEAM

The Presbytery prayer group continues to meet every Tuesday morning at 9 am on Zoom.

It is led by Irene Ure from St Margaret's, Glenrothes. Please feel free to join for half an hour any Tuesday- and meet some new friends from the whole of Fife.

The Zoom site is:

<https://zoom.us/j/3175228773?pwd=SjJpWmlqWGVQSGlleUFleTd6TXEyZz09>

### Our own Prayer team

Please remember to let me know of those known or dear to you who are in need of prayer.

Answers to prayer are also a great encouragement, so let me know.

Everything is confidential



No apologies for including this in every edition.

There is an opportunity for you to join with a few others in the H&M aisle on a Monday morning to pray for our congregation, the country and individual needs.

Please contact Bunny who co-ordinates this

### **Quotes from Nicky Gumbel (Bible in one year)**

**“The Gospel is only good news if it gets there in time!”**

**“Knowledge is Horizontal, Wisdom is vertical (It comes down from above)”**

## ANOTHER THOUGHT

Kintsugi is a Japanese form of ceramic art – it means ‘Golden joinery’.

The pieces of a broken pot are fixed together with resin and then powdered with gold. By this process broken pots which are regarded as worthless are transformed to become more beautiful and valuable than before they were broken. This isn't a quick fix, but a process of a skilled craftsman at work – a picture of what God does in our lives when we yield to the potter's hands.

Broken pots, broken hearts, broken lives – Jesus came to redeem, restore, and re-make, us. He did this when His body was broken on the cross for us. He doesn't simply do a repair job. He makes broken people new, and transforms them into His image by the power of His Spirit.

This is the life to the full which He promised to those who follow Him (John 10:10).



## FABRIC - CHURCH AND MANSE

Report by Bob Archer



**Church Manse:** I am pleased to report that the tenants we have in our Manse are absolutely brilliant.

The property is being maintained to a very high standard.

**Holy Trinity Church:** The main item on the property agenda is the application to Presbytery and Fife Council/Historic Scotland to allow us to provide a long awaited disabled access to the church. The architects submitted the Fife Council/Historic Scotland application in September and we now sit and wait...

With session and Presbytery permission we have advertised excess pews for sale but no sales...yet!

I am delighted to report that after a life of an estimated 60 years the carpet leading up to the communion table has been renewed, along with the carpet leading to the pulpit and this was fitted on Thursday 14 November.

As always our extensive roof requires attention in the respect that a couple of slates are loose/fallen down and a total clean of weeds etc is planned before Christmas...so Santa does not get his feet dirty!!!

# HISTORY of HOLY TRINITY

The origin of our 1611 bible commissioned in Burntisland!

We're gradually collecting more information on our wonderful building.



*Robert Douglas Strachan  
self portrait, c 1900  
(Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museums)*

This absolutely stunning piece hangs in Burntisland Parish Church and was made to celebrate the 400 year anniversary of the hosting the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland held in Burntisland Church 1601, and which eventually lead to the inception of the King James Bible (or Authorised Version) in 1611.



This portrait of Douglas Strachan was brought to our attention recently.

## Christmas cards not so "false" after all!

How often have you heard it said that the nativity scenes of the wise men travelling to Bethlehem did not fit with the snowy pictures of holly and robins?



Well, this winter, for the first time in living memory, there was snow in the desert at Al-Jawi in Saudi Arabia. (Times- Nov 24)

### Someone you may not yet know!



Hi,  
I'm Laura and I am the Organist for Dunino Church. My musical journey started at the age of four when I began to learn piano through the Suzuki method. This method focuses on playing by ear, listening and imitation.



This meant that I did not learn to read music properly until I was nine years old, at which point I began to receive instruction from a traditional teacher. From there, I sat my piano exams, picking up violin and saxophone along the way. I still enjoy performing on both, and recently put on a recital of Scottish music for the Pittenweem Art Festival.

I graduated from Aberdeen University with a Bachelor of Music and Education and a Diploma in Piano Performance. I spent five years as a secondary school music teacher before deciding that the change in the education system and delivery of the music curriculum was not one that I wanted to be part of.

I spent the next few years teaching piano privately, playing the organ and working at the local university. Once both my children were at primary school I went back to work in education - this time within the pupil support sector in a primary school. It is a job that is challenging and rewarding and I love working with young learners again.

I have played at Dunino Church for 16 years and secured my first Organist job through Chris Fraser at Martyrs Church. Chris showed me the ropes and gave me a huge bundle of music to get me started.

I was delighted when the organ at Martyrs Church moved up to Dunino as it is a great instrument to play with a vast range of sounds. As the congregation of Dunino will know I enjoy playing a variety of music, especially music that fits in with the theme of the service or the weather.

Music is a huge part of my life and I feel very lucky to be able to perform and teach it every day. I spend the rest of my time ferrying my children to the driving range and golf course, and helping my husband with our big home renovation project.

## HOLY TRINITY KID'S CLUB

Hello again, girls and boys,

When I was about your age, I sometimes wondered if the church was only meant for grown-ups. They all seemed to know where to sit, when to stand up, and what the prayers were about. If you've ever felt the way I did, don't worry! I'll tell you about two wonderful moments in the life of Jesus.

One day, Jesus was talking to a number of people. Some parents tried to bring their children forward, hoping Jesus would bless them. The disciples said Jesus was far too busy for this, but Jesus said: "Let the children come to me, and don't try to stop them, because it's children such as these who belong in God's kingdom".

And on another occasion, the disciples asked Jesus who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus stood with a small child and said: "I promise you that unless people change and become just like little children, they'll never enter the kingdom of heaven. And anyone who welcomes a child will be welcoming me."

So, it's great to know that even if you sometimes feel a bit awkward or just confused about life, Jesus has promised that God dearly loves every single one of you. Now that's brilliant good news!

Bye for now, *Granger Brash*



## REPORT FROM JULIE TORRANCE (YOUTH WORKER)

**Little Cherubs:** Little Cherubs continues to thrive, and this month we will be hosting a Christmas Craft evening for the adults. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know people better and build upon the relationships that are being formed through Little Cherub sessions.

**Kingdom 2000 (K2)(Scripture Union):** K2's AGM was held at the end of September, and this was a great opportunity to share the vision for the future of this ministry.



We currently have a vacancy for a K2 worker, which we will look to advertise in the new year. Please do join us in praying that the right person could be found to fill this role.

Additionally, please pray for the Scripture Union group in Canongate primary school (Thursday lunchtimes), and for our upcoming Christmas programme where we will be going into 7 primary schools with our Christmas Journey programme.

**Church of Scotland Mission Support Programme Group (MSPG):** On the 2nd of October our MSPG meeting was held in 121 George Street, where I had the opportunity to meet the 121 staff and hear from them directly about the work that is being done, and the part the MSPG can play in it. The next meeting of the MSPG will be held on the 26th November.

**Glow Party:** The Glow Party was held on the 27th October. This event continues to grow with 168 children attending this year, with their accompanying adults- so over 300 attendees. This is such a wonderful outreach to the community, and feedback was extremely positive.

The team will begin planning for the 2025 summer holiday club at our next meeting in January. As both the Glow Party and Holiday club soar in popularity, so does the cost of running them, and so we are exploring ways to increase funds to ensure we can cover our costs. In the past few years, we have asked our sponsor churches for an annual donation of £150, however, with the increase in numbers attending, and the increase in the costs of materials and resources due to higher prices, we may need to ask for higher donation next year. We are also considering a 'sponsor a child to attend' appeal- where individuals could contribute to cover the expense of a child attending the Holiday club and/or the Glow Party. It costs approximately £2.50 per child for the Glow party, and approximately £5 per child for the Holiday club.

*Much of what Julie does is not obvious to those members of the congregation who are not involved.*

*Please pray for her, for Beth, Moira, Pearl, Ann Barron and the other colleagues in other churches, who are working tirelessly to help our children get to know Jesus (Ed)*



# BOARHILLS, DUNINO & HOLY TRINITY CARE GROUP & BEFRIENDERS

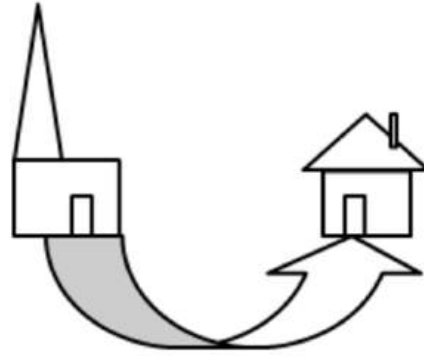
## KEEPING IN TOUCH

As Christmas approaches we look forward to the Short Friday Carol Service on **6th December**. Please tell your friends about these Short Services at Holy Trinity, which take place on the **FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH**.

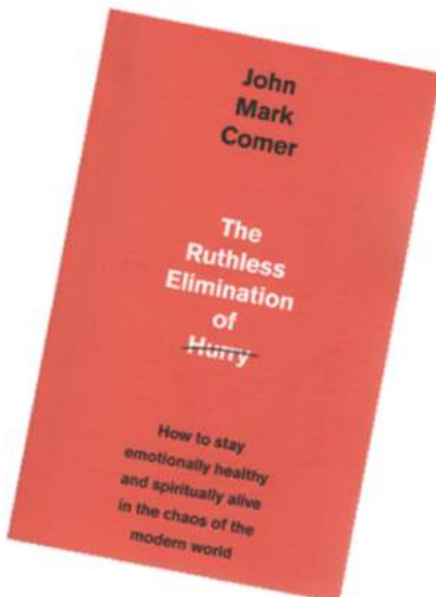
You are assured of a **WARM WELCOME**.

We look forward to seeing you at 3 pm in the H & M Aisle. Bring a friend, family member or carer. After the service there's an opportunity to have a tea or coffee and a blether.

**SEE YOU ALL SOON:** We aim to keep people in touch with the church. If you, or you know of anyone, who would like us to contact them, please ring me in confidence: Janie Brash



## BOOKS



Finding it hard to keep the wheels on a busy life? John Mark Comer's book is a best seller and packed with advice.

Worried, in the light of the problems in the Anglican Church? (and ours!)

Be encouraged and inspired by Jill Duff's wonderful faith-building testimony of her life as Bishop of Blackburn

I couldn't put it down! (Ed)



## A THOUGHT FROM BUNNY

### I was surprised by the fishman, but was it really a nudge from God?

Have you ever thought what it would be like to work as an agony aunt on a newspaper, trying to help people with big problems they don't know how to solve? I guess it is a difficult and often upsetting task, never meeting the people who seek your help, only hearing one side of the problem and probably never knowing how things turned out for them in the end.



When our Session was faced with a difficult problem about the future of the three Church of Scotland congregations in the town, I don't expect anyone thought about contacting an agony aunt, but I am sure most of us felt powerless and knew we needed help.

That was the moment when I knew we needed prayer. And prayer there was and still is I am sure. Praying together formally in Church is important as are the prayers we offer quietly in our personal prayer time, but as the days passed I began to think that perhaps we should consider something a little different, that is: quiet prayer in a group, something I had learnt in the church I attended in Gloucester. I remembered too morning prayers in our H&M aisle every weekday where some of us met for 30 or 40 minutes for quiet prayers together for many years. This kind of prayer can be really helpful and allows us to share quietly and reverently our worries and concerns and ask for God's help. It brings another dimension into prayer, draws us closer to one another and I believe helps us to feel that God really is with us. As you will have seen from the church notices we have started a time of prayer for anyone who can come on alternate Monday mornings from 10:30am till 11:30am in the H&M Aisle.

We have met twice, just a very few of us, only 4 yesterday as I write this, but as we prayed, short prayers aloud and quiet unspoken prayer too, I think we all felt God was very close, I know not everyone can make this particular time, but perhaps we could and should set apart a time or times when we try to share in prayer together to ask God for his help and to thank him for his blessings to our church.....

As I was typing this, there was a bang on my door, it was the fishman, who comes on a Tuesday – and I smiled as I bought something for supper – was it by chance or one of God's co-incidences, for fish have important connections both with our town and with the gospel. Who knows?

Do please think seriously about joining the prayer group, if you can or consider starting another, or ask if Session could plan ways in which can pray together informally and perhaps share with members of the other churches too.

BUNNY SLACK

## SPECIAL THANKS



Do we ever give a thought to that man who, every Sunday, quietly ensures that our building is in order, that the heating is working and even that there are toilet rolls available?

In addition, he records the services for livestreaming so that our housebound members can share in our worship and then uploads them on to YouTube for later viewing.

AND he has to be available for funerals and weddings.  
AND THIS IS almost every WEEK IN THE YEAR.

We are looking for someone to help John with the Audiovisual facilities, of the building. It's actually quite fun and can add to your CV, no matter how old you are. Meanwhile please support John and his family in your prayers.

*(John received a special mention from Susan Hamilton for his expertise at helping set up the church for the recording of the watchnight service).*

## A THOUGHT FROM THE GLASGOW PROPHETIC CENTRE

### Heavenly Treasure

My child,

In this season, it's crucial to regularly examine your heart, for where your heart is, there lies your treasure—those things you prioritise and are willing to sacrifice for.

Consider where you invest your time, energy, focus and money.

What treasures are you genuinely seeking? Are you chasing likes on social media, a platform for recognition, earthly pleasures and material wealth? Or are you pursuing the eternal rewards I have promised to those who overcome?

These are challenging times and so you must remain vigilant; your enemy is after your heart. His tactics can be subtle and easily overlooked, often disguised as something they are not. Allow Me to examine your motives, and avoid the temptation of earthly treasures.

Matthew 13:44 (NLT) *The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.*

# THE WIDER CHURCH IN SCOTLAND

The next moderator of the General Assembly (From May 2025) will be Rev Rosie Frew. She has huge experience both in Parish ministry and in the Assembly committee, especially the late "Faith Mission Committee".

A full article is available of the CofS website, but I liked her final sentence:



"We maybe have to do things in a very different way and the future will be very different from the past, but I love the hymn 'Lord, For the Years' and its message: 'Past put behind us, for the future take us.'

"We do not know what the future is, but it is about being open to possibilities and trusting God will stand by his Church".



The next moderator of Fife Presbytery, from February 2025, will be Rev Arthur Christie, who served as interim moderator for us some years ago at a difficult time. He is a good friend of Holy Trinity church years

For an Idea of what can be done when a congregation is inspired by the Holy Spirit and led by praying leadership can be found at the website of Martins memorial church in Stornoway.

Their services are livestreamed.



## OVERSEAS OUTREACH



(From Ron)

The Stamp Appeal is an easy way for our congregation to get involved in the world mission work of the church.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."  
Galatians 6:9

Firmly Planted is a community-based agroforestry initiative with the ambition of making a sustainable impact across Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It is spearheaded by our partners in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), and built around the church's community structures. The initiative will resource individual groups to respond to the various challenges affecting Malawi today.

Agroforestry presents an opportunity to address challenges of food insecurity, deforestation, climate change and youth unemployment. Tree nurseries create employment opportunities, fruit trees improve nutrition and wider tree planting helps mitigate the impact of the climate crisis, in turn improving agricultural productivity.



Firmly Planted will provide community-based training tailored to the community's needs, ensuring woodlots are well maintained to have the greatest chance to thrive. The programme, through effective distribution, looks to attain large-scale tree planting of locally relevant woodlots, linked to schools, churches, clinics and community groups. Having already established a pilot tree nursery, CCAP is looking to replicate this across the Synods by implementing Central Tree Nursery Hubs allowing each nursery to grow tree seedlings based on the needs of their communities.

Our mission partner, Gary Brough, is one of the project coordinators and is looking for opportunities to grow the project. The Guild is also involved in supporting this programme.

This year's stamp appeal proceeds will go towards establishing the tree nurseries

# CHANGES TO THE PARISH REGISTER

## WEDDINGS

|           |                               |              |
|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 2 October | Jiazhi-Ye to Qiushi Xu<br>徐秋实 | Holy Trinity |
|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------|

## FUNERALS

|             |                        |                  |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 17 October  | Isabella Logan Lorimer | Brewsterwells    |
| 28 October  | Colin Balsillie        | Holy Trinity     |
| 5 November  | Isabella Bruce         | Holy Trinity     |
| 12 November | Stephen Smart          | Western Cemetery |

## NEW MEMBERS BY PROFESSION OF FAITH

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 13 October | Irene Donaldson<br>Lesley Wilson Moffat<br>Eve Margaret Crawford |
|------------|--|

## BAPTISMS

|            |   |                              |
|------------|---|------------------------------|
| 13 October | Lesley Wilson Moffat<br>Eve Margaret Crawford | Holy Trinity<br>Holy Trinity |
|------------|---|------------------------------|

## ELDERS (13 October 2024)

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <u>ELDERS ORDAINED</u> | Patricia Caithness<br>Stephen Donaldson |
|------------------------|---|

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| <u>ELDERS ADMITTED</u> | Russell Cockburn |
|------------------------|------------------|

## LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Alison Johnson (1990)                      | John Rankin (1974)      |
| Richard McFarlane (1990)                   | Ron Cruickshanks (1974) |
| Katherine Matheson (1984)                  | Graeme Simmers (1972)   |
| Elizabeth Laing (1983)                     | Charles Braid (1966)    |
| George Donaldson (1979)                    | Keith Neilson (1962)    |
| Mike Stewart (1979 - former Session Clerk) |                         |

# THE IMPORTANCE OF LIGHT



The wonderful lighting set up by the film crew this week helped us to realise the importance of light in changing our perspective on things.

The coloured lights transformed our pillars into something joyous and the outside lighting allowed for the stained-glass windows to be seen in all their glory.



Even the West door was transformed!



*In Him was life, and the life was the light of men  
The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.*

**Copy for the March Magazine by middle of February please!**

Boarhills, Dunino and St Andrews: Holy Trinity Church of Scotland  
South Street, St Andrews KY16 9NL  
Charity No: SC017173