

# HOLY TRINITY, ST ANDREWS

## LINKED WITH BOARHILLS AND DUNINO

Newsletter  
Sept 2023

### MISSION STATEMENT

*"The Parish Church of the Holy Trinity lives to worship  
God and to encourage Faith in, and Service to Jesus  
Christ, among all people of today and tomorrow"*

Charity number SC017173

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear All,

Here we are, three quarters of the way through 2023, the nights are drawing in. AND WE'RE STILL NOT MUCH FURTHER FORWARD! It is frustrating. All of the work that has gone on, meetings held, money spent and letters written and we are still waiting... waiting.... waiting...



I was reminded of this when we took part in a walk over a very small part of the Fife Pilgrim Way recently, hosted by Rev Duncan Weaver, the Pilgrim Way pastor. As we walked in the fields above Letham, we passed the Clydesdales pictured on the front cover of this edition.

Duncan talked of the different aspects of pilgrimage, because we are all on some sort of a pilgrimage, but true Pilgrims have the privilege of being quiet in the presence of God's creation, of walking at their own pace, uninfluenced by the world, of making new friendships along the way and of re-connecting, perhaps with ourselves. Our world is increasingly frenetic, as we are assailed with 'news' (Usually bad) on the media. Some of us long for a simpler lifestyle, such as the more elderly of us knew as children. When I was young, fields were still being ploughed by horses such as these, but then the Ferguson tractor came along and it all changed. (Our soon-to-be fellow parishioners from Boarhills and Dunino are closer to understanding this than us 'townies')

These horses are no longer required to work long hours; they can take life at a more leisurely pace. but they still sought friendship and love, and came to see us in our sodden anoraks.

Perhaps it's time to step back, to leave the frustrations behind, to spend time on a pilgrimage towards...our heavenly Father and trust HIM to bring us through the next few months and years, for **"He knows the plans he has for us"** (Jer 29:11) and they are good.

2 Blessings, *Mike*

# MARION'S PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends,

'From Greenland's icy mountains, from India's coral strands.' That was one of my favourite hymns when I was at primary school. And although I wouldn't have thought of it like that at the time, Greenland seemed to be a country full of mystery and intrigue. It was a far-away place and not a bit like the industrial town in England where I was growing up. What is more, as a child, I knew God lived where I lived, but it was puzzling to think that God could also live in these places too, as it says in the hymn.

Somehow, although I have never felt the need to explore India, Greenland has always remained a land of mystery in my mind, full of snow and ice, fish, animals and birds that we wouldn't see here. And I always imagined it to be full of strange people who lived in igloos, So, when I had the opportunity to go, I was keen to take it.

And what a wonderful trip it was. The birds, the animals and the fish were much as I had imagined, and there was certainly plenty of ice, for the glaciers were incredible. And sailing amongst the icebergs was an awe-inspiring experience I will never forget.



Photo by Marion





However, being summer, there was not very much snow around, except at the tops of the mountains, and there were flowers blooming in the tundra. And the people certainly didn't live in igloos, although they found the weather very hot at 9 degrees and they did live off whale and seal meat.

But most importantly, it was very clear that God was in Greenland too. Indeed, the people there are very religious. Life for most of them is pretty challenging, with very long, cold, dark winters, during which communities are often cut off from each other by snow and ice. But what was very noticeable was that there was a church in every community, a church that was loved and cherished and cared for, and the older ones were always painted red, to stand out. Indeed, in some places, where the community was growing, a new church had to be built to accommodate all the people who wished to worship there. Would that we had a similar problem! And it could be so as our communities continue to expand, if we showed real enthusiasm for the missionary challenge which is ours.

It is great to see our congregations at Boarhills and Dunino and Holy Trinity growing, and not only growing, but growing together. We have much to celebrate, much for which to give thanks. And not least are the opportunities to share the gospel in word and action in our growing communities. Even our gardens say something about the importance of our faith.

However, sharing the gospel of love is not just a job for the minister, it is a calling for all who would be disciples of Jesus Christ. So let us try not to miss any of the opportunities that are given to us. After all, if we share the good news of the gospel in loving word and action it will be as the Apostle Paul says, the Lord will add to our number day by day, those who are being saved.

With Love and Blessings, *Marion*



## FROM OUR INTERIM MODERATOR

Dear Friends,

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Such are the first words of one of the old hymns in our hymn book. It's a wonderful expression and made real for us as we worship God in the special and beautiful surroundings which are ours in Holy Trinity. And the sense is all the more enhanced as we have welcomed back our choristers - such a talented group who add so greatly to the beauty of our week by week worship. Our type of Scottish Presbyterianism can often elevate the cerebral in worship with words and preaching being so important. They are - but more than that is the loveliness of being in God's house and in sensing that beauty of holiness of which we sing. Come and experience this in our worship. It really makes a difference.



Yours sincerely

***Alastair H Symington*** (Interim Moderator)

## THE CHURCH GARDEN



Thanks again to our wonderful gardening team.

They won the Meiklejohn Trophy again this year, but more important was the effect that the flowers have on our many visitors.

## TOM DUNCAN

It is always difficult to sum up a long life in a few words. And it is even more difficult when that person has been a close and valued friend for many years. I had already heard of Tom Duncan before I arrived in St Andrews 36 years ago, as I had met a student of his who had just graduated and couldn't stop talking about this wonderful lecturer and musician. I first met Tom at a choir practice, and quickly realised that here was someone after my own heart



who was absolutely passionate about the music he was rehearsing. And not just the music, but also the message of the words, for we were rehearsing 'Messiah' and I soon came to understand that Tom was equally passionate about the faith in Jesus Christ that was being conveyed through the music. At the time I was a very new student of divinity, and sometimes felt I had wandered into a foreign land of theology-speak which I found difficult. I happened to mention this to Tom one day and he said, 'don't worry, I'll help you.' And he did, every week until exam time – and so I passed that part of the course and will always be grateful for what he taught me. This was the beginning of a great friendship that spanned many years, and during that time we collaborated on many concerts and services, both in this church and the others in which I have been involved. Tom was the very accomplished and much-loved Organist and Choirmaster of this church for fifty years and was responsible for designing and building our wonderful organ. He was also responsible for building up our choir which is so much a part of our worship and so much

appreciated. Much of his conversation in these last few months of his life has been about this church, about the choir and the organ, and how they enhance our worship Sunday by Sunday. But then this church and all that it stands for, had such a special place in his heart. When I became Locum here, he was a constant encourager, as he has been all through my ministry. And he was so pleased to see the growing congregation in Holy Trinity. He made huge efforts to be in his place Sunday by Sunday whenever he could. In the study at Milford Lodge we spent many an hour discussing God, the universe and everything, and he was so anxious that the work and worship here should continue, both with the choir and the congregation for as long as possible.

Tom was an elder in Holy Trinity and he quietly and faithfully cared for the people in his district for as long as he could. Even when he could no longer drive he would ask me to take him to visit members of the congregation. In addition, his contributions to Kirk Session meetings were always relevant and helpful and quietly stated. Even when he could no longer come, he still wanted to know what had happened and what decisions had been made. His faith too, was quietly but firmly held, even though like most of us he had many questions. He loved to sit in his place here, both on a Sunday and during the week, and simply contemplate and pray. Tom was a very good friend to Holy Trinity in so many ways, and he will be sadly missed. *Marion*

A memorial service will be held in the church on 4th November at 2 pm

## THE MINISTRY OF FLOWERS

Flowers are donated each week and distributed after the Sunday service to folk who are sick or housebound. If you would like to become part of the group please contact Rachel Raynor.

Thanks to all who have responded with  
thank-you cards





### **Prayer:**

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:

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

### **Opportunities:**

**Church of Scotland Learning:** There are a number of initiatives including "Weaving worship", a 6 week course for folk who would like to learn and be registered to lead worship services where there is no minister.

Some of the resources can be accessed individually, many of them are ideal for participating in with a group of others.

The Presbytery hope to bring training especially for the role of Session Clerk to the platform in January! Please keep checking the Presbytery website:

**[fife@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:fife@churchofscotland.org.uk)**

## **NOTES FROM PRESBYTERY 17TH JUNE MEETING**

- Presbytery amended the delegated powers of the Board of Mission to include: **"To approve small grant Seeds for Growth applications"**.
- Agreed to the union of St Andrews Holy Trinity and Boarhills and Dunino Parish Churches proceeding and **instructed the Business Committee to arrange a service of union as soon as is possible.**
- Retrospectively **to appoint Rev Alistair Symington as Interim Moderator at St Andrews: Holy Trinity** from 10th April 2023.
- Created a new committee, the Historic Churches Support Group with the following remit: **"To support churches in realising the potential of their historic buildings as assets for mission"**.
- The **new moderator is Rev Jim Reid.**
- The **new mission director is Lorraine Orr** (email [LOrr@churchofscotland.org](mailto:LOrr@churchofscotland.org))

# CONGREGATIONAL MATTERS

## STATED ANNUAL MEETING 2023

The stated annual meeting was held on 30th July 2023 at 12:30 pm in the Hunter Memorial aisle, this meeting having been intimated to the congregation on three Sundays in advance.

The Moderator was Rev Alastair Symington

### The agenda consisted of two items:

- Presentation of the Trustees report and Annual accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022. Mr Russell Cockburn, our treasurer took us through the accounts and assured us that the congregational finances were in good order.
- Rev Alastair Symington then gave a progress report on the proposed Union of the three St Andrews churches. Sadly, there was little more to report. and we await more information from the Presbytery.

Alastair assured all present that **no decision had been made and that, when the final details were presented they would be put to a congregational vote.**

## OUR NEW PRAYER CIRCLE LEADER

We are delighted that Jennifer Wylie has taken over this role from Jan Fairlie.

Requests for prayer, which are kept confidential among those who have committed to pray for those who are sick or otherwise in trouble, should be sent to her either by phone or email.



The **Holy Trinity Prayer group** (Not to be confused with the Prayer circle) ceased to operate some time before COVID.

Is it time to start up again?



## THE FAIRLIES

We received a letter of thanks for their leaving gift from George and Jan, our previous prayer circle leader, who are now safely ensconced in their new home in Inch in Aberdeenshire.



Dear Mike,

On behalf of Janet and myself, I would be grateful if you would pass on to the Kirk Session our sincere thanks for the gift which we received at the service on Sunday ninth July. This came as something of a surprise to both of us, for any service either of us gave over the years was simply in response, as thanks to Christ, our Lord, for the blessings we have received at so many levels. We also have a debt of gratitude to the many kind and sincere friends we have met here over the years and hoped our actions might have contributed to what we both see as the "Holy Trinity family circle".... an attachment which we both find difficult to leave. Others here have also given much during our time in HT so we feel specially honoured. We pray that the Lord will bless this congregation, its faithful ministers and leadership that this congregation may be inspired to be a beacon of hope, love and spiritual blessing in St Andrews, and beyond, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Yours sincerely,



# THOUGHTS 1

A short time ago a friend gave me a small book of quotations and extracts called “The Swallow, the Owl and the Sandpiper” published by the Sandpiper Trust and I have been dipping into it ever since. I thought these two pieces were particularly relevant to us at Boarhills, Dunino & Holy Trinity and hope the Trust will not mind my copying them here.

## TEAMWORK

This is the reason migrating geese fly in a V-formation. Each goose flapping its wings creates an upward lift for the goose that follows. When all the geese do their part, the whole flock has a 71% greater flying range than if each bird were to fly alone. Also, when a goose begins to lag behind, the others ‘honk’ it into position.

The teamwork applications here are tremendous. I am sure it is at least 71% easier to work the teamwork way of flying in the flock than trying it alone, and it is good to have the advantage of being moved back into position if we stray from our goals. That’s what teamwork is all about! Just stop and reflect how this could and does reflect our work together as God’s people and when later in the year you see the skeins of geese flying high above you, say a quiet prayer for our teamwork.

*Bunny Slack*

*Congratulations to Bunny, who  
had a special birthday this  
month (Ed)*



# CHOIR AND MUSIC NEWS



## Back row L-R

Caroline Waters, Ella Ho, Oscar Cooper, James Forshaw, Thomas Rowlands, Charles Macbeth, John Rankin, Daniel Wale.

## Front row L-R

Marjorie Morgan, Elizabeth Lucas, Freya Johnston, Jennifer Niven, Saskia Meir, Sophie Longhurst, Josie Sequeira-Shuker, Katherine Hogg, Alex Daventry, Nicola Forgues-Puccio, Marion Paton.

Missing: Olivia Howdle and Caleb Stewart (off sick)



The choir join us for tea after the service, before their practice.

Please sit with them and get to know them

## HOLY TRINITY GUILD

The Guild is looking forward to the new session which begins with the dedication on 8th October and a first meeting on Monday 9th October. Our meetings as usual will be on Mondays at 2:30pm in the Small Hall and notices will be in the intimations about our varied programme.

We look forward to welcoming two outside speakers David Coulter, Presbytery Clerk and former Chaplain General to the armed forces who will speak on 'Guns and God' on 23rd October and Louise Rodger from Historic Environment Scotland who will speak on the 'History of Boarhills and Dunino Churches' on 20th November.

During July and August, the Guild provided refreshments for the Scottish dancers and by giving them a service that was much appreciated we raised over a thousand pounds. As a result of this and our other fundraising activities we shall be able to give a donation to Holy Trinity and to the Guild projects we support. This year the charities are 'Home Alone' for children who are fostered and Unida, a Brazilian charity.

As always, visitors to our meetings will be given a warm welcome

*Alison Wynd*



# THE GUILD SYLLABUS 2023/24

| OCTOBER            |   | JANUARY            |  |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|--|
| Sun 8th            | Guild dedication service  | Mon 8th            | <b>Journeying to Greenland</b><br>(Marion Paton)               |
| Mon 9th            | <b>St Andrews in Bloom</b><br>(Barbara Boyd)                    | Mon 22nd           | <b>Guide Dogs for the Blind</b><br>(Danny Rooney with his dog) |
| Thur 19th          | <b>Unida Guild project</b> in St Leonards Church                | <b>FEBRUARY</b>    |  |
| Mon 23rd           | <b>God and the Gun</b><br>(Rev David Coulter, Presbytery Clerk) | Mon 5th            | <b>The Memory Café</b><br>(Catherine Mathieson)                |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>    |   | Mon 19th           | <b>TBA</b>   |
| Mon 6th            | <b>Craft</b> with Emma Watson                                   | <b>MARCH</b>       |  |
| Mon 20th           | <b>The Story of Boarhills and Dunino</b><br>(Louise Rodger)     | Mon 4th            | <b>The Kate Kennedy Procession</b>                             |
| Sat 25th<br>(10am) | <b>Christmas Fair</b> in the church                             | Mon 18th           | <b>Home Alone</b> (Guild project)                              |
| <b>DECEMBER</b>    |   | <b>APRIL</b>       |  |
| Mon 11th           | <b>Celebration</b> for Christmas                                | Mon 22nd           | <b>Guild AGM</b>   |
|                    |   | Sat 27th<br>(10am) | <b>Summer Fair</b> in the church                               |

**DO COME!**

## OUR PARISH

This summer, the doors of Holy Trinity were once again open to visitors. Bob and Joan Archer, having been in charge of this activity over a number of years, decided to stand down and responsibility was passed to Calum Stewart, supported by Alison Wynd.

The first experimental change was to open the West doors (rather than the John Knox door) and this gave direct access to the ever-present footfall on Church Square. The astounding view of the sanctuary, leading to the Great East window, undoubtedly attracted many to come in and the word 'beautiful' could often be heard as people crossed the threshold. Each week, when we were open for three days, there would be over a thousand visitors.

Some visitors wanted only a peek; many were interested in the history of Holy Trinity and the Church building; a good number wished to pray and reflect, valuing the atmosphere created by centuries of devotions. Visitors came from across the world; from China, Japan, the USA and many from Europe, especially Spain and Germany – and, of course, from the UK.

Some had returned to Holy Trinity with memories of being married in the Church or having attended as a child. For some, who had lived locally for many years, it was their first time inside the building!

Although not our primary purpose, visitor donations were around £450 a week. Towards the end of the season, we managed to introduce a card reader, so enabling donations to be made by credit card.

Another change was to invite non-Church members to be Guardians. We owe them a debt of gratitude. They were keen to welcome visitors, to learn about the Church and to understand the unique spirit of Holy Trinity. This made it possible to open on more days.

Visitors had many questions, and we hope we encouraged people to come to Church services too. One enquiry was unexpected. 'Might it be possible for my son to be baptised here?' from an American who had

been greatly impressed by St Andrews when she had visited as a teenager. The wish was granted by Alastair Symington a few days later when he included the christening as part of the Friday afternoon service. Welcoming visitors to our church has been interesting, rewarding and very enjoyable. There is much to reflect on as we review this year's opening. We hope we can continue to provide a warm welcome and a spiritual experience and renewal for those who seek it.

*Alison Wynd*



# HOLY TRINITY TRUST, ST ANDREWS

Photo by Callum Macleod



Our concerts continue to attract large numbers of music lovers. The Scottish Chamber Orchestra have now adopted us as their St Andrews Venue.

The Sunday concerts are also popular.



The Bruadar Duo at a Sunday Concert  
Photo by Callum Macleod

Callum Macleod is events manager and should be approached with any suggestions.

**Helen manages the bookings.**



## ANOTHER THOUGHT

### **WE DON'T NEED THE BEST CHINA OR THE SPECIAL SILVER**

A short time ago I was watching the programme 'Bargain Hunt' and we were being shown the items one of the teams had selected for the auction. It was a communion tray with individual glasses and curved carrying handle such as many churches use. 'These don't come up at auction very often', said the auctioneer when he was asked how much it might go for, and it was obvious that the team which had selected it had no idea what it was.

I was a bit shocked to see such a thing put up for sale, but I had to smile when one of them said the little glasses would be fine as shot glasses for a party! I couldn't help wondering what our grandparents in the Presbyterian and Free Churches would have thought of that! And then I started to wonder what Jesus would have thought. With our dedicated communion small glasses or silver goblets all shining and polished for the service we sometimes forget that at that first communion service in the Upper Room Jesus used the ordinary pottery cups that were on the table for an everyday meal. Beside them would be the ordinary bread that had been served, and in the cup Jesus would have poured the wine that had been provided. Someone I knew once said: 'If Jesus had come to our town today he would have used tea and sliced bread'.

That first communion service used ordinary everyday things, but they were made special as Jesus shared His last moments as one of us in the flesh, with his disciples and friends, reminding them, as St Paul tells us, to 'Do this in remembrance of me'. It must have been a bewildering and surprising moment for those round that table, particularly as, unlike us, they did not know what would happen next.

It is of course right and proper that all down the ages as His people celebrate communion as Jesus asked them to, they did their best to make it a special time and gave what they had to make it worthy of God's sacrifice of His Son for us. That's why so many congregations

have silver plates and chalices for serving communion. Loving gifts in His memory from those who have preceded us. Let us understand what these gifts represent in love and thanks but always remember to rejoice and give thanks that Jesus shared His great gift of new life to each of us in the ordinary everyday things of our ordinary everyday meals, feeding us as loving parents feed their children with what they need.

Next time you pour the tea and pass the sandwiches round to those gathered at your table, pause for a moment to give thanks for God's love shown in Jesus and wonder who else you need to share His blessings with, not just food and physical things, but love and understanding and acceptance.

I wonder how many of you know the origin of the three beautiful hangings behind the communion table. They were made by Alison McLeod, who used to live at Mount Melville and is now in Crail.



Do you have a skill that could make something to add to the beauty of the church?

# BOARHILLS AND DUNINO

## AS WE HEAD TOWARDS UNION

A meeting of the Kirk Sessions of Holy Trinity and Boarhills and Dunino, along with others from the congregations, was held recently in the small hall.

There was a lively and friendly discussion which Alastair Symington led with great skill.

All left feeling that this particular union would be a very happy one.

**The union was agreed at the Presbytery meeting on the 16th September.** *We think that the service of union will take place on the 19th November in the afternoon. (TBC)*

## A REMINISCENCE BY OENONE BAILLIE

"I first entered Dunino kirk about 16 years ago - newly engaged and about to leave London. I was immediately struck by the calm beauty of its stone interior, devoid of unnecessary adornment but a living testament to all those who have worshipped there for generations.

I still feel a strong bond and a sense of peace whenever I enter, now with the added connection of Bruce, my late husband, having had his funeral at Dunino and being buried in the churchyard".



“The fabric of our churches and their link with the past is something to cherish and, while worship is more than a question of mere attendance at a particular physical place, the sense of continuity with those who have gone before and the link to those who will follow is an important part of the ultimate pilgrimage of church life.

Holy Trinity has powerful historic links (not to mention the many personal connections for members of its current congregation) and is an important part of the story of St Andrews' past and of its life at present.

The Union of the two churches is something to celebrate and surely something which will enable our strengthened linkage to exist long into the future. Places do matter and the closure of any church is about more than bricks and mortar and saving money - I do hope that by entering this Union the long period of uncertainty that has been hanging over both churches since I first came to Fife will be resolved and that Dunino and Holy Trinity will go forward together into a calmer and mutually supportive future as much loved places of worship”.

**What a Team! A big thank you to you and the others who graciously encourage fellowship after the service.**





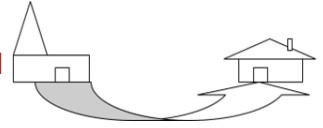
# HOLY TRINITY CARE GROUP + BEFRIENDERS

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

**SHORT AFTERNOON SERVICES 2023**

**FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH 3PM**

**HUNTER & MEMORIAL AISLE**



**We look forward to welcoming you to these services, at some of which communion is celebrated. Please come with a member of your family, a carer or a neighbour.**

**6th OCTOBER Short Harvest Thanksgiving Service**

**3rd NOVEMBER Short Afternoon Service**

**1st DECEMBER Short Carol Service**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

Continued thanks to Marion and Alastair for taking these Services, and to our happy band of helpers.

All good wishes,

*Janie*

Convenor, HT Care Group+ Befriender

# HOLY TRINITY KID'S CLUB

## SUN FUN

Here at Holy Trinity we have just started a Club for Kids aged approx. 6 to 12 years!



Three leaders and a small group of children got together during the 11.15 Church Service on Trinity Sunday, 4 June to hear the Minister's Address to them. After the children's hymn, we all headed off across the pavement to Pizza Express with a full rucksack of books and materials to enjoy a juice and a discussion circle on what we'd heard in church. This was followed by a quiz or two, some puzzles and drawing, and finished with a reading from our Kids' Bible and a prayer. After 30 minutes the kids returned to their parent/guardian in church.

We aim to explore more of the amazing stories in The Bible... The plan is to hold this new KIDS' CLUB on the First Sunday of every month during the Morning Service.

This will start up again after the Summer Holidays on **Sunday 3 September**. Tell your friends!

*Janie*

**Janie Brash, Kids' Club Leader. Interested parents or guardians please ring Janie.**

**The Co-Leaders are Joan Archer and Granger Brash.**

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Hello again, girls and boys,

Do you know the radio programme called 'Desert Island Discs'? Each week, a well-known person is asked to imagine being marooned alone on an island, and has to choose only eight pieces of music for company. Each 'castaway' is also told that the Bible will be on the island. But if the Bible wasn't there, we could invent a game called 'Desert Island Bible Stories'! Suppose you were allowed, out of all the wonderful bible stories, to have just eight after your shipwreck: I expect you'd soon have



a long list of those you couldn't possibly leave out. There's Noah's Ark, saving his family and the animals from the great flood; or Moses, parting the Red Sea to let the Israelites escape the Egyptians; or young David, beating the 'unbeatable' Goliath. In the New Testament we couldn't omit the most famous childbirth in history – in a stable! And how Jesus made a child's loaves and fishes feed 5,000 people; and the Samaritan who saved the

traveller who'd been mugged – what a 'good neighbour'! It would be fun, but very hard to list just eight. Of course, we couldn't leave out that wonderful day, when Mary went to the tomb of Jesus, after his crucifixion, and didn't find his body – because he had risen from the grave.

Bye for now,

*Granger Brash*



The Glow party, which is held at the end of October, offers an alternative to Halloween, which is marketed so hard these days.

Yes! there is the opportunity to dress up, to play silly games and to receive a bag of goodies, all provided by a team from many of the St Andrews churches.

Before the party, the team pray together that the children are able to have lots of fun with none of the frightening images which are 'out there' at this time of the year.

It is always a sell-out, so, if you have children, don't miss it by forgetting to book.

(Parents or carers can dress up too, but no witches, skulls or anything scary!)



# THE KIRK AROUND SCOTLAND

In Peterhead this month for a wedding in the Baptist Church, our eyes were drawn to this poster outside St Andrews Church of Scotland.

We were so impressed with this visual representation of John 10:10b (Jesus said) "*I have come they may have life and that they may*

*have it more abundantly*" that we decided to go there on Sunday morning. We were not disappointed!

The organist was playing 'a selection of her favourite hymns' as the introit and a number of folk were quietly singing or mouthing the words, including the Locum Minister -as he sat behind the communion table waiting for the service to start. Hearts were worshipping before the service even started.

An animated presentation of Peter and John praying for healing for the man sitting outside the Temple was followed by the children going out and before the Bible reading there was a great rustling of pages as people engaged with the selected passage.

Like us, they've been in guardianship for years but they are looking forward. A group meets monthly on a Sunday afternoon to learn new hymns and they have a weekly prayer meeting.

We discovered at coffee that Pastor Abi of St Andrews Baptist church was previously their minister!



*Moira Stewart*

*If you've visited another church over the summer and been inspired, or seen new ideas for worship, why not write an article for the magazine?*

# OVERSEAS OUTREACH

**Mission International** is a Scottish charity which was established in 2006 when Hugh Henderson, already experienced in Mission set the charity up with a group of friends.

The purpose of the mission is three-fold;

- ☼ to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- ☼ to train leaders and make disciples, and to
- ☼ support those in great need.

The mission has developed partnerships with churches and Christian organisations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and sent mission teams to work alongside them.

We now have partnerships in 18 different countries around the world. Our



newest partner is in South Sudan, where the current situation is really tough. Political unrest and military conflicts have caused many to flee into neighbouring countries. Returnees are the responsibility of their own government, which is currently unable to provide the help that they need. Mission International partners are striving to bring the Good News even during the challenges of armed conflict within their country.

Myanmar is a very good example of the church in action during a military coup. The church sustained many casualties, but was back in operation taking food to the needy and sharing with them eternal bread for their souls as well as practical help.

Cyclone Freddy, the deepest cyclone ever recorded, struck Malawi and Mozambique in early February 2023. Its effects were catastrophic, sweeping away whole communities and infrastructure. Many lost their lives, their animals, their homes, and their crops. Cholera also took lives too and the ill-equipped hospitals were full to overflowing, leaving many with no access to medical care. Mission International are helping local charities to rebuild the lives of those affected, with the provision of farm tools, seeds and fertilisers, as well as help until the next harvest.

Recently a team visited Ouanaminthe in Haiti to continue the work of a School Project there. Further teams are planned to Africa in 2024.

The teams sent to help train church leaders needed to stop during COVID, however Zoom training was quickly put in place and since then many have received training in this way.

We value your prayers for the work of Mission International. But we also are asking for donations of old technology that you no longer need (Mobile phones, laptops, printers, cameras). Marion has agreed to collect and deliver.

*Hugh Henderson* (MBE CEO Mission International)

***If you have any old technology that you no longer need (Mobile phones, laptops, printers, cameras) and would like to support this work, please let me know and I will collect these items and take them to Dundee where they will be refurbished and taken out to schools in all these countries. Marion***

## MORE THOUGHTS

Little foxes are sins of the heart – often hidden from everyone but God, and even hidden from ourselves. They are sins like pride, jealousy, self-seeking, criticism, wanting my rights, gossip, judging others, harshness, impatience, ingratitude, self-pity, irritability, hypocrisy, mistrust, superiority, inferiority, worry and a thousand more. There are wrong things we think, wrong things we say and wrong things we do.



How these 'little foxes' spoil the vines! They rob our lives of the fruit that the Holy Spirit is longing to produce in us and through us.

*Margaret Sylvester*

## GOD LOVES IMPERFECT PEOPLE



I am far from perfect. I sometimes find it hard to believe that God really loves me – especially when I mess up, fail or make bad decisions. Actually, no one is perfect – apart from Jesus. But God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son to die for us (John 3:16). Therefore, God must love imperfect people. In fact, 'While

we were still sinners, Christ died for us' (Romans 5:8). God knows that perfect people do not exist. We all fail. God's love for you is bigger than your mistakes. God loves imperfect people. Everyone knows that their marriage partner is not perfect, their children are not perfect, their parents are not perfect, and their friends are not perfect. But we love imperfect people. If we love imperfect people perhaps it shouldn't surprise us that God loves imperfect people even more.



# CHANGES TO THE PARISH REGISTER

## BAPTISMS

|         |                         |              |
|---------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 4th Aug | Benjamin Nicholas Eades | Holy Trinity |
|---------|-------------------------|--------------|

## NEW MEMBERS BY RESOLUTION OF THE KIRK

## WEDDINGS

|           |  |              |
|-----------|--|--------------|
| 15th July | Hannah Cruickshanks to Clayton Mills       | Holy Trinity |
| 16th July | Lyndsay Barras to Christopher Jack         | Holy Trinity |
| 20th July | Molly Hall to Fin Jackson                  | Holy Trinity |
| 28th July | Maria Mullane to Kenny Riley               | Holy Trinity |
| 19th Aug  | Lynsey Underwood to James Wilson           | Holy Trinity |
| 19th Aug  | Aisling Stack to Tristan Aitken (Blessing) | Holy Trinity |

## FUNERALS

|           |                                 |               |
|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 23rd Aug  | Helen Douglas (burial of ashes) | Dunino        |
| 25th Aug  | Margaret McLean                 | Brewsterwells |
| 11th Sept | Thomas (Tom) Duncan             | Holy Trinity  |
| 12th Sept | Ann Grey                        | Balgay        |

Sadly, we have again lost several well loved members

**Our prayers go out to those who are left behind.**



# CHURCH HOLIDAYS

In 1981 Moira and I went on a church holiday week in Newtonmore. I'd never been to a 'Christian' event before and was a bit nervous, but it was so much fun and also deepened my faith.

Since then Moira and I have often taken a week to be with folk from all manner of different denominations, worshipping together (sometimes in the rain) listening to inspirational teaching and attending seminars, all mixed up with a lot of ice-cream and creative opportunities - painting, creative writing and, of course, prayer.



Over the years we have made literally hundreds of friends, many of whom keep in touch.

Since Clan Gathering in St Andrews stopped, there has been nothing north of the border, but now there is 'Refuel' which runs in July on the Duke of Gordon's estate in Fochabers. (The Duchess of Gordon used to host an event every year in the 1880s at Gordon Castle in Huntly, with thousands of folk attending)

The interesting thing this year was that a large number of the folk were from the Church of Scotland, including some who wo-manned the Highland fellowship of Healing tent.

The weather was kind, the fellowship great and there was a full programme for children of all ages. and apart from the fee for a tent site, it was all free!

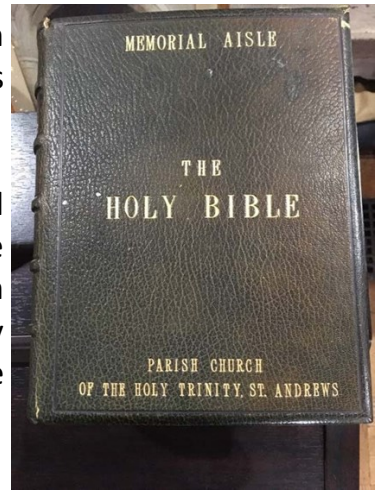
It's good to get 'Out of the Box!'

Why not consider going next year?

## COMING OUT OF THE WOODWORK

Our intrepid Property convener (also known as Bob Archer) unearthed this Bible in his rummaging around.

Our church is full of history and associated artefacts. Have the older members of the congregation anything in their possession which could be added to these as we possibly move together to re-archive our past before moving into the future?



### STOP PRESS

**It has been announced that Rev Allan McCafferty will be leaving St Marks on 5th November to take up a new post at Church of Scotland HQ in Edinburgh.**

He will be dealing, along with a Clinical Manager, ministers who need Pastoral Care etc.

This is an important role and we wish him success as he strives to assist colleagues who are in difficulties.