

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

NEWSLETTER:  
MARCH 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,

Another year has begun, though the spring has yet to arrive.

And I am beginning to relax into the situation of just being an 'ordinary' elder.

Our united congregation continues its battle for the future, but the bible reminds us that "The battle belongs to the Lord".

There is some meaty stuff for you to read, and I am very conscious that we have a team of dedicated folk, all working hard to keep the ship on course, although, as usual, the course is not very clear.

This edition is bang up to date, including a report on the meeting to see the proposed improvements to the building. Thanks to all who attended.

It's still a bit of an effort trying to persuade you all to contribute.; there must be SOMETHING in a three month period which gets your juices flowing and would be of interest to other folk. However Bunny, as usual, had contributed, and Moira and I are a bit humbled by her kind comments on our 10 years as 'M&M'.

This edition's cover is of the Dawn Easter service at St Mary's on the Rock. Again, why not come along; it is attended by 300 or more folk from all of the St Andrews churches and is a wonderful time to realise that Christians are not just a tiny minority in this land.... It's just that we don't talk about our faith!

Imagine a car salesman who walked you round the showroom and never even mentioned the brand of car he was selling; and yet that's what we do! (or don't)

There's also another gentle reminder that the popular media don't mention the 'C' word, the 'G' word or the 'J' word unless they have to. But those of you who look at YouTube might be astounded to realise how much wonderful teaching, testimony and downright encouragement there is available. It's not all 'tele-evangelists' anymore.

I sense a sea-change recently, even in the media. A quote I heard recently was that atheists and agnostics, as well as 'Joe Public' have tried just about everything to make them happy ' AND IT HASN'T WORKED and now many, including young folk are actively looking for leadership and Truth. The Free church, meeting in our church hall are now asking for time to hold a THIRD SERVICE on a Sunday. We have much of the truth; after all Jesus said "I am the Truth", but we in the churches are crying out for leadership. Why not find a forum in which you can pray for our leaders, The Presbytery prayer meeting might be a way to start and it's on Zoom (See below). I'm off for a time of relaxation in our caravan on Loch Fyne, but will be back to celebrate the Resurrection on Easter day.

Blessings to you all



*Mike (S)*



From the caravan when not at HT

## MARION'S PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends

As I write March, Holy Week and Easter are beckoning. So yesterday I spent some time with my colleagues, planning and preparing for the events we will share in Holy Week and Easter. In addition, as I take Zoomy for her walks it is clear that the environment around us is also looking forward, waiting and preparing for spring and the new life that comes with it. Snowdrops, aconites, tulips, daffodils and crocuses are all showing their colours. Gardeners are getting busy, and the world around us is waking up from its winter slumber. In every respect then, it is so important for us to look forward in faith, and to be prepared.



In our church community too, plans are being made, and you can see elsewhere in this magazine our plans for services in in our own churches during Holy Week and Easter, as well as those ecumenical events that we will share with other denominations.

As individuals it is important to remember that looking forward in faith should be a characteristic of every Christian life, for what is past is behind and cannot be changed and what is to come will always be a new adventure in faith, an adventure that we can and should be ready to place in the hands of God. At this time of year, we look towards the Cross, just as Jesus himself was doing before Good Friday. But we should also be looking beyond the Cross towards the glory and the triumph of the Resurrection.

Jesus spent the last three years of his life preaching, teaching and healing, and standing against the evils and excesses of the world. By doing so he made many people uncomfortable, not least the religious authorities of the day. As a result, they wanted to do away with him. However, it has been rightly said that in the Cross of Christ the excesses of humanity are met by the excess of God and the excesses of evil are met and mastered by the excess of divine love. In other words, Jesus went to the Cross to pay the price of the sins of the world because he loved the world so much.

But if the story were to end at the Cross it would be a complete irrelevance in our modern world. the fact is that all that happens only makes sense in the light of the miracle of the Resurrection and that should be at the heart of our Christian faith. When Jesus went to the Cross, and through the Cross, he transformed evil into good, despair into hope and death into life. He made it possible for his people to look forward in faith and with eager anticipation to the new life he promises for us both in this world and the next.

As we come to some understanding of what the glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ means, we see that all that has gone before in his life makes better sense. That is something that is really worth celebrating. So do come and join us as we walk the way of the Cross with Jesus and then celebrate with us the joy and glory of his Resurrection on Easter Day.

With very best wishes for Easter, and every blessing

*Marion*

## FROM OUR INTERIM MODERATOR

Dear Friends

As March moves towards April so the Christian Year moves inexorably on to the great Festival of Easter. I remember while a Divinity student being guided to the truth that there would have been no Resurrection had there not been firstly the Incarnation. Each depends on the other for its strength.



The birth of our Lord which happened in the miracle of a Virgin Birth was perfected, and can only make sense, in the miracle of the Christ rising from the dead. It was told us that as Christ overcame the process of life in His birth so too He overcame the process of death in His Resurrection. These may sound altogether the musings of the classroom rather than of a living faith for the present times. But I think not. We need to hold all our faith together in times when it is all too easy to discard what we can't be bothered to believe and reassess what we might find too difficult to accept.

Christmas and Easter - two inextricably linked festivals Love came down at Christmas - yes! And Thine be the glory, Risen conquering Son - yes, and yes again.

A Happy Easter when it comes.

Yours in Christ

*Alastair Symington (Interim Moderator)*



## FROM OUR SESSION CLERK

Dear all,

As we move from Lent to Easter, I am sure many of your thoughts are thinking of what the future will bring. Clearly a message of hope and certainty in uncertain times is welcome and as the newly united congregation of Boarhills, Dunino and St Andrews: Holy Trinity (what a mouthful!), we have a lot to look forward to.



I would like to pay tribute to my predecessors, Mike Stewart of Holy Trinity and Mike Foote of Boarhills and Dunino. Both have been in post in times of considerable flux, but all to good purpose. Bringing together two churches is not always straightforward and I would like to thank everyone involved in making things as smooth as possible, in particular our Locum Minister, Marion Paton and our Interim Moderator, Alastair Symington. My thanks also to the two Mikes for their continuing contributions to the life of the united church, not least Mike Stewart for editing this magazine. You may say 'not another one'.....but I hope my Christian name is not too off putting.

To keep you up to date on various events: The 'G12' group met again on 19 February for the first time following a lengthy hiatus (the last meeting was in June 2023) and following the sad death of Richard Lloyd, who was facilitating the discussions. The new facilitators are Alan and Margaret Kimmitt.

You may recall that the Group of 12 (abbreviated to G12) was formed to advise on the implementation of the Fife Presbytery Mission Plan as it applies to the churches of St Andrews, St Leonard's, St Mark's and Holy Trinity. You can see the plan here:

<https://padlet.com/fifepresbytery/fife-presbytery-mission-plan-rmc38rizfba2b8g9/wish/2284877005>

- the relevant pages are 76-78 (alternatively search for 'Fife Presbytery Mission Plan' in Google).

The plan is subject to review and this may be one of the outcomes following the G12 meetings.

As you would expect, this has been the subject of lengthy discussion at Session and we await further developments.

The activities of the Holy Trinity Trust are bringing hundreds of people into the church building for various events, such as concerts by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the St Andrews Community Choir. The Trust is developing plans concerning improvements of the toilet facilities and disabled access to the Church building and which have been identified as priorities by Session. There is still a long way to go but a number of important steps have been taken.

The context of our newly united church is one of growth and reinvigoration. I am sure the road will be bumpy but the prospects are good. The breadth and vigour of our worship, outreach, the Guild and pastoral care are indicators of a church with the potential to grow and develop - as long as we listen.

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)*

*Michael Carslaw*

## SPECIAL SERVICES



The Joint service on 31st December service at Dunino, led by Marion, was very moving and the communion table beautifully decorated.

Needless to say, the cakes and scones afterwards added to the occasion. It is a joy to feel that we are now one congregation and can share in the wonderful feasts of our faith.

On the first Sunday of the year Holy Trinity was the venue for the traditional Cluster service involving all three St Andrews Congregations and the linked charge of Cameron.



Marion led the service and the Sermon was preached by Rev Janet Foggie, the locum minister at St Marks.

Rev Graeme Beebee also took part and as usual there was great joy at the coming together, filling the church.

# HOLY TRINITY TRUST - UPDATE

## FEASIBILITY STUDY (Toilets & Disabled Access)

A presentation of the results from the Feasibility Study took place in the Church on Thursday, 14 March at 6.30 pm.

Scott Turpie, the lead architect, and Jim McArthur, who acted on behalf of the Church during the Study, took part. The presentation was illustrated by architects' drawings and visualisations. All members of the Congregation were invited.

The quantity surveyor's cost estimates are to be further explained and discussed at a meeting between Mike Carslaw, Bob Archer, Russell Cockburn, Jim McArthur and Graham Wynd. It is hoped that this meeting can be arranged as soon as possible.



Harrison & Harrison, the company responsible for building and maintaining the organ, have reported that they expect the proposed works would have a negligible effect on the organ's acoustics.

Other actions stemming from the Feasibility Study are: the determination of an implementation strategy; a plan for fund-raising; and a conversation with Edward Playfair regarding the relocation of the Playfair memorial plaques in the Playfair Aisle.

(Meanwhile we have installed new safety handrails at the ramp at the H&M door, which is already greatly appreciated.

Thanks to Bob Archer (Ed)

## CHURCH / TRUST FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The financial arrangements agreed by the Church and the Trust in November last year were homologated by Session on 1 February. They appear to be working satisfactorily.

## NON-FINANCIAL MATTERS

Of the four non-financial matters, raised as issues, and previously discussed at Session and F and F a review of the booking process, including the booking form, is regarded as the highest priority. This activity, led by Granger Brash, has now started.

## EVENTS:

More event bookings continue to flow in steadily.

Recent concerts given by the SCO, the University Chamber Orchestra and the Madrigal Group have brought in audiences totalling 800



These two pictures show some of the pupils from the choir and orchestra of St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh who amazed us with their skill and versatility.

## OPENING THE CHURCH TO VISITORS:

A tea party (postponed from October) to thank those who acted as guardians in 2023, took place on 6 March. Some useful views on opening the Church to visitors in 2024 were recorded and will be acted upon. **More volunteers are always welcome.** A single 2- hour slot in a morning or afternoon can make a huge difference to our ability to keep the church open. Training is available and a new guide pamphlet is being produced.



Graham Wynd  
25 February 2024



(Our thanks to Graham and Alison Wynd who provided the refreshments and Sandra Givan for serving and washing up. Ed)



## ***Not Data Protection Again!***

Members of the 'Holy Trinity' congregation may remember, but members of what was 'Boarhills and Dunino' might not know, that Granger Brash was deputised to oversee data protection matters. It's a subject we take seriously – but we try not to go overboard!



### **Two brief matters to mention:**

**First**, you'll probably guess that the two separate congregational rolls are, following on from the union, in the process of being merged. The Church of Scotland's Law Department have confirmed that there's no need for the congregation to be troubled with having to give written consent to merging the rolls. That's a relief!

**Secondly**, you might recall from past discussions that, in general, the church no longer needs to pester the congregation for written consent to their data being held; the legislation says that the church has a 'legitimate interest' in holding and using the data. However, if a person's personal data appears on a website or a Facebook page, that will be open to the whole world. So if the church wishes to include substantial personal data of yours on the congregation's website or its Facebook page, you should first be asked for your prior consent.

And when the Newsletter is put on the website, it too becomes public; so before a Newsletter containing substantial personal data can go on the website, you should be asked whether you're happy to consent. (There's also a consent form for an adult to sign on a child's behalf.)

If any query arises with this, or if you have any qualms about data protection, please don't hesitate to speak to Granger (01334 476191).

*Granger Brash  
Data Protection Officer*

## **HOLY TRINITY GUILD**



Our last event of the year is our Summer Fair on Saturday 27th April in Holy Trinity. Come and join us!

*Alison Wynd*

## 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

## PRESBYTERY 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>

## OUR PRAYER TEAM

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

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

**Everything is confidential**



# IHISTORY of HOLY TRINITY

At the Guardians' "tea party" we were treated to a formidable run through of the history of the Holy Trinity building by Dr Ian Bradley, who along with Alison Wynd, the organiser of the Guardians' group, gave a good illustration of Earl Haig -



**“Your church needs YOU!”**

There was a general consensus that we need a simple, illustrated pamphlet for both guardians and visitors to take away.



**Is anyone willing to take on the job of producing this?**

## Did you know?



Earlier last year your editor was in Galashiels, admiring the GREAT TAPESTRY OF SCOTLAND (worth a day out) and found to his surprise that the University of St Andrews was founded by Archbishop Wardlaw (He of the statue in St Mary's Quad) in order to train clerics to refute the earlier signs of reformation, regarded at that time as 'heresy' .

How strange that we regard Holy Trinity as one of the birthplaces of the (later) Reformation, while the archbishop stands across the road, with his own ideas about it!

# CHOIR AND MUSIC NEWS

## Get to know our Choral Scholars

Daniel Wale is the first recipient of the Thomas G Duncan Choral Scholarship. This scholarship has been given in memory of Tom and was awarded to Daniel because of his exceptional commitment to the choir. Daniel writes:

Despite singing in some form or another for most of my life, it was only a few years ago when I really started to consider myself a 'singer'. Since starting lessons towards the end of my school career, my enjoyment of choirs had grown to an even greater degree, so when it was time to start afresh in St Andrews this September, I knew I wanted to find a way to keep it going. One chance encounter at the fresher's music fayre later and here I am! From the very first rehearsal, I felt so welcomed and I take much pride in singing with the choir every week.



I am honoured to have been named the first Thomas G Duncan scholar this year after such a short amount of time singing with the choir and I hope I can reflect this privilege in my love for this music and the community I share it with. I sadly came to St Andrews too late to know Tom, but I know from how often his name is mentioned that he made a tremendous impact on this church. I'm sure the choir will continue his hard work for many years to come.

Outside Holy Trinity, I am a first-year student at the University of St Andrews, studying English Literature (although elective modules this year have seen me try my hand at Spanish, Medieval History and Music). I can often be seen getting involved in the University's own music scene, recently becoming a scholar at St Leonard's chapel choir, as well as continuing to pursue my first musical love, the violin, in the chamber, symphony and string orchestras. However, for all my involvement in the 'gown' side of St Andrews, contributing to music in the town community has been a pleasant, if unexpected, twist in my university experience so far. Personal highlights have included a choir lunch at Milford Lodge, as well as performing some of the truly monumental anthems in this tradition, including pieces by Wood, Stanford and Ireland. I'm sure there'll be many more great moments to come in the new semester.

*Daniel Wale*

## THOUGHTS 1

A Quote from JRR Tolkien

"If you do not believe in a personal God. The question "What is the meaning of life" is unaskable and unanswerable.

To whom or what would you ask the question?

## THOUGHTS 2

**A snippet from 'Mending the Nets' by Patrick Chambron based on Matthew 4:18-22.**

When Jesus called Peter and Andrew, they were casting their nets into the sea to catch fish and were called to be fishers of men, i.e. to evangelise.

James and John however were called when mending their nets. All of us need healing from the googlies that life throws at us.

One way of representing these is to see each of our lives as a house with four doors.

The front door is our own sin which needs to be confessed, repented of and then receive the forgiveness that Jesus offers (1 John 1:7)

The back door represents generational sin, see Exodus 20:5-6, Leviticus 26:40, Deuteronomy 23:2 and Deuteronomy 7:9.

The side doors represent firstly other people's sins against us and secondly accident and trauma. These three doors can be dealt with by forgiving all those involved, including ourselves and by releasing our pain to Jesus. All that is not easy but so very worthwhile as we are then free to live in the Fullness of life Jesus has for us(John 10:10)

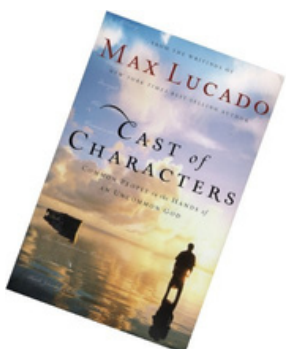
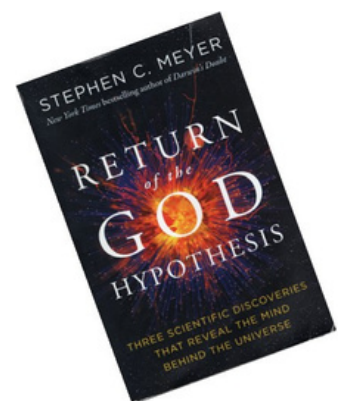
To return to the fish metaphor, fish need cleaning - ask the spouse of any fisher - and so do we. Jesus wants to wash us with His perfect love.

Are we asking? Or are we like the Pharisees who thought they knew it all?

## BOOKS

If you struggle to argue with atheists and agnostics, discussing matters such as “How did the Universe originate?”, “How did life appear from inorganic molecules?” or “Is the theory of evolution valid?” You may be interested, not to say enthralled by a new book by Simon Meyer entitled “Return of the God Hypothesis’.

Citing almost all of the well-known philosophers, cosmologists, physicists and molecular biologists, he makes a compelling case that the much-disparaged “Intelligent design’ is worth reconsidering. Try it and see. It may lead to some interesting discussions



And for those of you who want to make Bible stories relevant, Max Lucado’s book “Cast of Characters “ brings the characters into modern settings, with surprisingly dramatic results.

## THOUGHT FROM BUNNY

When Mike Stewart and his wife Moira walked through the Knox Porch doors of Holy Trinity Church for the first time as members, they probably expected to be able to ease off from their hard and fulfilling work in parishes in South Africa and elsewhere and just enjoy being part of a friendly congregation with a young minister and excellent music. Looking back it's obvious that God had other ideas.



Joining the Kirk Session as elders they soon made their mark and it was not long until Mike was asked to become Session Clerk, a difficult, wide-ranging and important role in a congregation's life. Mike is not a man who loves power so probably did not accept this role with particular joy but, after prayer and thought, he agreed to take it on and has served our congregation well over the past ten years. It has not been an easy task. Working with a young enthusiastic minister can be a joy but it can also add to the Session Clerk's workload as Mike worked to help minister and congregation to understand each other and as he also shouldered the administrative burden of making the church's life run smoothly. Administration was not a task that came easily to him but he accepted it and did his best to allow his strong Faith and vision to shine through even the soulless administrative tasks which are a Session's Clerk's lot, never allowing them to eclipse his vision of God's promised Kingdom.

Most of you who are reading this will remember the difficult times we have shared over the years, times when we were in vacancy, working with a number of interim moderators and threatened with closure and the sale of our building. Through all this Mike never lost his vision and his support not only for those who shared in formal worship on Sunday morning but also for those who came together for Breakfast at Trinity. Mike took a full part in the work of both services and in Session Meetings and in the Breakfast at Trinity Steering Group, and did his best to help each group to understand the value of the other. When it was decided to form the Holy Trinity Trust and use the building to the full, he was an active participant, always making sure that worship was to the fore in its use.

When difficulties arose, as they did, he and Moira reminded Session and members not only to pray but to believe that God has a plan and will carry it out with our help. He was active not only within the congregation but also within the whole church, working closely with Presbytery, attending the General Assembly on at least two occasions, a visitor at Parliamentary Prayers, bringing together the three St Andrews Churches and working on the linkage with Boarhills and Dunino, preparing both congregations for our very happy Union. He liaised closely with our interim moderators and locum minister, was an active member of the Fabric and Finance team, a source of inspiration and knowledge at Session meetings and at times a calming influence there. He instigated work on updating the congregational record, organised communion matters and similar events and, as he is still doing, edited the church newsletters. He took part in town activities such as Probus and the Men's Shed, undertook, with Moira, elders' duties and made sure he knew and cared for his neighbours and kept open-house hospitality for members, attenders and visitors, students and those

new to the town or visiting. He and Moira were frequently welcoming presences at the Church door and at coffee time.

However busy Mike must have been, he always gave the impression of having time to listen and to help, to rejoice with the happy and to share with the grieving. With Moira by his side, Mike, as Session Clerk, did more than we shall ever know in God's service in town and congregation. We thank them both and pray for God's blessing on them.

Bunny

## LOCAL OUTREACH



SU Scotland is doing a splendid job, after having been very constrained during COVID.



They are running lots of camps this summer. Do you have a young relative or friend that you could sponsor to go to one of these? Or could you get in touch with Jill our local SU worker (See below) and see if there is any way you can help with local work HERE IN ST ANDREWS.

### K2 PRAYER FEBRUARY 2024

**Jill writes:** It is surprising how much God does when we rest. I am just returning from having taken a month away from my K2 role. It has been good to have something of a short sabbatical to pray and recover from a challenging year. Although not going into schools in January, I have been very much in prayer and held a 24- hour prayer meeting for Cupar and area in early January. I was astonished that 45 people took part, including some young people and we were able to pray for the schools' work in a very focussed way. Progress is being made in the Cupar area and I am meeting with a group of young people each month as the churches in Cupar host a monthly outreach event. With drama and puppets. Please continue to pray for Castlehill School (we are due to be going in there later this month) and for Bell Baxter High School – most of the young people I am in touch with are pupils there and it would be good to see a SU group emerging there soon.

**Vanessa writes:** January was a month of planting seeds. We are excited to announce we will be starting an SU group this month in Canongate. We are very much looking forward to this. There are two other opportunities in the works that we are excited about. Estahar has done a great job leading the SU group at Madras but we need to split that group so the S4-S6 have a group of their own. It looks like that may happen this month. 'Bible alive' at Newport has been so well received that we are eager to start a SU group for them. Please pray for all the moving parts that need to go together to make this work happen. We are so thankful for what God is doing in Fife, the school, and our hearts.

A reminder of possibilities to join us in prayer:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/G2oWImRa56ZCU8iQWLTW5s>

## OVERSEAS OUTREACH



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 countries in Africa.

*Marion*

### **And from Jules in Oruro**

#### **Life as it is...(221)**

On Thursday 15th I took a minibus to the Young Offender Centre and hanging inside was a sign saying that bus fares had gone up with immediate effect (adult fare by 33%, student fare by 50% and child fare by 100%).

However, On Tuesday night, talks about the price rise between the drivers, students and neighbourhood representatives having failed, news came through of an indefinite strike and blockade by the minibus drivers from Wednesday morning. Transport strikes happen fairly frequently but normally only affect the town centre and start about 7am. The minibuses were in place at strategic points very early in the morning and parked so close together that you could not even pass between them.

I walked to the young offender centre at 8am for my classes with boys sentenced for drug trafficking and then tried to take a taxi to the airport. There was nothing except blockades! I rang one of the Angel Tree staff to ask what they were thinking of doing about collecting the children and reported that the blockades extended well beyond the ring road. I did manage to get a motorbike taxi to the airport where a Latin Link colleague had arrived from Santa Cruz. We managed to get a taxi across to the road to Potosi, and from there we walked towards town. A few blocks above the ring road we found a motorbike taxi and a quadbike which took us to my flat.

During the morning, there had been confrontations between university students and the minibus drivers. Many vehicles had been damaged with windows broken and tyres slashed as neighbourhood committees tried to unblock the streets. The University buildings round the corner from my house had been attacked and the windows smashed and the students had retaliated by attacking the headquarters of the San Cristobal Drivers' Union. Very few children made it to Angel Tree because of the lack of transport.

In the evening, I went for a meal with our visitor but while we were eating a mob armed with poles ran up the main street causing shutters to be lowered quickly on shops. The mob was driven back with tear-gas which filtered into the restaurant.

A little later they returned and tear-gas was again used to disperse them. It started to rain very heavily and we headed home crossing streets like rivers. The area around the Angel Tree Centre had been tear-gassed too. The local education authority gave schools the option of having online classes while the unrest continued and many city centre schools took it.



On Thursday the strike and confrontations continued. The Strider and I were able to submit his papers at Immigration and after over six hours there his visa was issued. I had left him there over lunchtime to go and take J. lunch. It was very muddy around her house after all the rain. During the day there were marches by the students and the drivers with dynamite thrown. Although there were some minibuses working in the morning these quickly withdrew for fear of the vehicles being damaged. There were only seven children at Angel Tree with no minibuses working and so it was decided to shut on Friday and get someone in to do maintenance on the building over the weekend. The drivers have taken the decision to continue the indefinite strike until they achieve the price rise.

*Jules*

Ron has sent donations of £ £196.70 and £110.91 to help this lady in her work. (Ed)

## THOUGHTS 3

### **Are you a Victor Meldrew? I can't believe it!**

We sang the paraphrase 'O God of Bethel' in church recently. It's many people's favourite and I found myself remembering that it was one of the hymns we had at my wedding. As most of you will know, It looks back at God's care for his people in the past and asks him to guide and provide for us in the future. My mother suggested it and it was a good choice. As we reached verse 3, which runs:

"O spread Thy covering wings around till all our wanderings cease,  
And at our Father's loved abode our souls arrive in peace"

I found myself thinking that it would also be a good hymn to sing at a funeral and that perhaps I should consider it for mine. It's not that I am ill or thinking morbidly about death, but that the words in that verse state simply and clearly what I believe and pray God has planned for us when our hearts stop beating and our bodies finally break down. I remember what it felt like at the end of the boarding school terms when my parents came to fetch me and took me home – bliss! And with God in charge, it will surely be better than any of us can imagine.

As we look back on so many of those dear to us who have died, and still miss them, what a mercy It is to know that they are safe and in God's keeping. Of course, like Thomas, we still have doubts and fears and worries, and that is normal. After all, Jesus did not condemn Thomas for asking for proof. Re-read John's Gospel chapter 20 where Jesus says to Thomas "Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." And Thomas says to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus says to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." We can be those people, who have not seen, but believe. Make it your everyday prayer to ask God to wipe away your doubts and show you how to trust him. Imagine that, like Thomas, he is standing beside you and look out for his response. It may not come in a way you expect, but if you ask with hope and trust I am sure that it will come.

*Bunny*

# CHANGES TO THE PARISH REGISTER

## FUNERALS

12 March

Christine Forbes

Holy Trinity



## BOARHILLS AND DUNINO

A lady called Janet Sutherland who lives in Lundin Links gave me this bell after the service at Largo last Sunday. (I'm the Youth Outreach Worker at Largo Church so I take part in services down there once a month). She told me the history of the bell and how it came to be in her possession.

She moved into Bell Rock View in 1951 with her parents, they then moved to the ground floor flat of Stravithie House, then to one of the cottages at Stravithie Mill where she lived until she married and left home.

Her Dad, Willie Greig, was the Beadle for Dunino Church as well as working as a joiner for the Sprots. In 1965, when the Rev Logan left, her Dad was asked to clear out Dunino Manse and stables and give things a spruce up for the new minister arriving (that 'new minister' would be the Rev Peter Douglas). Her Dad, while clearing out the stables attached to the manse was disposing of a big pile of rubbish, when he found the bell buried within it! He took it home, not really knowing what to do with it. The years flew by, and he eventually passed it on to Janet, who has kept it safely under her bed for decades.



When she heard I was an Elder at Dunino Church, she brought the bell to the service last Sunday and gave it to me, to return it to the Church. We do not know how it came to end up in a pile of rubbish waiting to be disposed of, but thank goodness Willie found it, cleaned it up and kept it safe. It is now back in Dunino Church, 59 years after being rescued from the rubbish in the manse stables. Willie and his wife Elizabeth are buried in the lower part of the churchyard, so after all these years, the bell and Willie are together in the same place again! The Latin around the bell translates to "Who touches me hears my voice"

*Fiona Ramsay*

**God-centred?**

**People-centred?**

**Self-centred?**

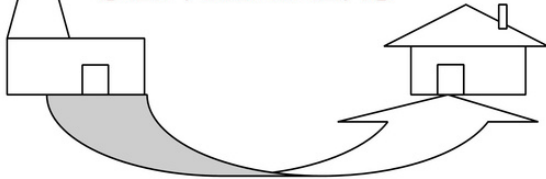
**or even Church-centered?**

Jesus in Matthew 22:37&30 tells us to Love the Lord our God with all our heart and mind and soul and our neighbour as ourself.

Only one of the above options is correct

## **HOLY TRINITY CARE GROUP & BEFRIENDERS**

HOLY TRINITY CARE GROUP  
+BEFRIENDERS



We are always trying to keep in touch those of you who are in Hospital, Care Homes and at home. Please contact us in confidence if you know of anyone who might appreciate hearing from us. Our pastoral team works closely with our Minister and our elders.

The monthly Short Afternoon Services continue to be well attended and we all appreciate the friendly chat afterwards over a tea or coffee



This month's Daffodil Service encompassed World Day of Prayer and it was a pleasure to work with members of our Guild on this. Members from all three Church of Scotland Churches in St Andrews joined us for an uplifting Service led by our Minister, followed by warm fellowship with refreshments.

The Hunter & Memorial Aisle was decorated with daffodils, which were given out to those who had lost loved ones, had been ill or were unable to come due to illness.

Our final three SHORT AFTERNOON SERVICES,  
on the FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
at 3PM in the HUNTER & MEMORIAL AISLE are on

5 APRIL - A SHORT EASTER SERVICE  
3 MAY - A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING + REMEMBERING  
7 JUNE - A SHORT COMMUNION SERVICE

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

Our thanks go to Marion for taking these Services and to all those of you have agreed to join our group of helpers.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next Service in April.

All good wishes,

*Janie, Convenor, HT Care Group + Befrienders*

## HOLY TRINITY KID'S CLUB - SUN FUN

A wee reminder:

At Holy Trinity we have a Club for Kids aged approx. 6 to 12 years!

On the FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 3 leaders and a small group of children meet during the 11.15 Church Service to hear the Minister's Talk to them. After the children's hymn, we all head off across the pavement to Pizza Express with a full rucksack of books and materials

to enjoy a carton of juice and a discussion circle on what we've heard in church. Then we have a quiz or two, some puzzles and drawing, and a reading from our Kids' Bible and a prayer. Usually, we finish with a fun game! After 30 minutes the kids return to their parent/guardian in church.

This year we continue to explore more amazing stories in The Bible...

So far, we have looked into the following:



### NOAH'S ARK AND GOD'S PROMISE



JESUS SAYS, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"



### THE LIFE OF MOSES UNDER GOD'S PROTECTION



THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP\*



There are so many more stories to discovering the Bible ...

TELL YOUR FRIENDS, JOIN US AND CHECK IT OUT !

*Janie*

interested parents or guardians please ring me. Janie Brash, Kids' Club Leader. \*Other Co-Leaders are Joan Archer and Granger Brash.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER



Hello again, girls and boys, Do you like “True or False” quizzes? This one will test your bible knowledge – but I’m hoping to trick you! Six of the seven statements below are slightly wrong. Your mission is to find the true statement for each of them. If you get stuck, the bible verses will help you. Here we go:-

1. A dove with an olive leaf in its beak was God's sign to Noah that never again would a flood destroy the earth. (Genesis chapter 9, verse 14)
2. God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Ararat. (Exodus ch 19, v 1)
3. Jacob was given the ‘Coat of Many Colours’ by Joseph. (Genesis ch 37, v 3)
4. The young David struck the giant Goliath with the first attempt from his bow and arrow. (1 Samuel ch 17, v 49)
5. Jesus spent his childhood in the town of Bethlehem. (Luke ch 2, v39)
6. When Jesus called Peter and Andrew to be his first disciples, they’d been working as farmers. (Matthew ch 4, v 18)
7. According to scholars, the New Testament has been translated into more than 2,000 languages.

Number 7 is really amazing – and it’s true! Did you manage to correct the other six?

*Bye for now*

*Granger Brash*



THIS STUNNING PICTURE WAS TAKEN BY PAT ANTHONY FROM HER FLAT

## THOUGHTS 4

Pate de foi grasse was made from the livers of poultry (mainly geese) who had been force fed on corn. The farmers knew that what you put into these fowls would be incorporated into their over-swollen livers.

Someone once reminded me that what goes into my mind (and spirit) is what I feed it on.

During Lent I often try to reduce the amount of media input and spend more time in God's word. The Bible exhorts us "not to listen to mediums" and, if you think about it 'media' is just the plural of this.

This Easter especially we are being bombarded with bad news: "wars and rumours of wars" and it is easy to become disheartened. However, if we look upwards we find that God has a much more positive message.



How about doing an experiment; make a deliberate effort to spend less time in the news of the world and more on the promises of God. You may, like me, be surprised at how your heart lightens and the world seems a better place. After all, it is HIS world.



## A POEM (Author unknown)

It is just you from here on in,  
the real you,  
without the protections of masks, and degrees,  
and CV's. Just you.

Lay down here, your bag  
filled with charts and certificates,  
of expertise and institutional wisdom. Lay it down.

This is just you.

Go into the world  
as yourself.

Rely on the core of faith you have; the seed of love;  
the kernel of hope.

Lay down the false securities the world brings; hide no longer behind  
authorised versions  
and agreed statements,  
creeds that have grown from centuries of history.

Go into the world  
as yourself.

Just you,  
and your relationship with me, and what you have learned there.

Go as yourself: who you really are: raw and vulnerable, but real.

Really you.

And in that honesty, fragility,  
humility,

trust,

preach the gospel.

Use words if necessary.

Live the Good News as you are.

Really are.

# OUT AND ABOUT IN FIFE AND TAYSIDE

Did you know that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of Ninewells Hospital. It is also 75 yrs since the start of the National Health service.

Many of us in this congregation have cause to be profoundly grateful For both of these events.

The NHS is commemorated, again in the Great Tapestry of Scotland.



And there was an exhibition in the Foyer of Ninewells last month celebrating the golden jubilee.

THANKS TO ALL WHO STRIVE TO KEEP US WELL



## AND OTHER LOCAL CHURCHES?

As the good weather arrives (hopefully) and we start to travel again, there is the opportunity to visit other churches, even (dare I say it?) other denominations.

Here are a couple of pictures, showing what can be done:

This is “The 4” at St John’s Cupar. They have a second contemporary service in their church hall, which attracts all ages and is led by the minister, sometimes, and some of the elders.



And here is the St Andrews “Cornerstone” who are currently meeting in the bowling club.

And a couple of pictures of the congregation of the St Andrews Free Church who meet in our hall for two services on a Sunday.



## **SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2024**

### **PALM SUNDAY: 24TH MARCH**

**9:45AM**, MORNING WORSHIP, DUNINO

**11:15AM**, MORNING WORSHIP, HOLY TRINITY

### **27TH MARCH**

**7PM**, SERVICE OF MEDITATION, DUNINO

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY: 28TH MARCH**

**7PM**, HOLY COMMUNION, HOLY TRINITY

### **GOOD FRIDAY: 29TH MARCH**

**4PM**, ECUMENICAL PILGRIMAGE BEGINNING AT ST MARY'S COLLEGE

**7PM**, SERVICE OF MEDITATION, HOLY TRINITY

### **EASTER DAY: 31ST MARCH**

**7AM**, ECUMENICAL RESURRECTION SERVICE AT ST MARY'S ON THE ROCK

**9:45AM**, MORNING WORSHIP, DUNINO

**11:15AM**, MORNING WORSHIP, HOLY TRINITY, FOLLOWED BY HOLY COMMUNION

**3PM**, CHILDREN'S RESURRECTION SERVICE & EASTER EGG HUNT, HOLY TRINITY



## AND FINALLY...Is the Old Testament relevant today?

(A modern parable – from 2023)

A young man, attending a prayer weekend, heard a teaching on Moses and the Burning bush, where God said to Moses

“Take off your shoes from off your feet, for the place where you are standing is Holy Ground”

He realised that he had been walking for much of his life on unholy ground, in a number of places, and wished to repent and be forgiven.

After prayer, in which he poured out his heart to God, he wanted to do something tangible to seal in his commitment, so he asked if he could burn his shoes, in which he had trodden these places.

The shoes took a long, long time to burn, but after they were reduced to ashes, he danced in his new freedom.



Perhaps God is speaking to you, or me, today, from his word.



Could I encourage you to send in your experiences Of God's goodness over the spring and summer.