

A man with a long white beard, wearing a dark, heavy robe, is shown in profile from the chest up, looking upwards towards a vast, starry night sky. The sky is filled with numerous bright stars and some wispy clouds. In the background, dark silhouettes of mountains are visible against the lighter part of the sky. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

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

*Look up at the sky and count the stars...
Gen 15:6*

Newsletter
July 2025

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Everyone,

The cover this edition may surprise you, but it fits in with the themes of Hope, Prayer Pilgrimage and Youth work.

Abraham thought his day was over; 90 years old and with no heir. BUT he had been promised that he would have a son and would inherit a promised land. And so, God told him to go outside and look at the stars.

And so, I've taken this month's offerings from each of you, and from my own experience round and about Fife and Scotland, and 'Looked at the stars'.

And what have I seen? The doom and gloom is lifting. In the spiritual as well as the secular, folk are deciding to roll up their sleeves and "Make our communities work again".

COVID really rocked us all, but as you read this edition, be surprised at the positivity that exists all around. Thanks to Zoom there is much more prayer taking place; at both national level and local level, accompanied by praise and worship events, (See the Tayport one this month) which can really raise our spirits.

Scripture Union has a much higher profile in North-east Fife and our Little Cherubs is at the bottom of the 'Feed' which can touch young folk. The SEND event in Glasgow resulted in an explosion of commitment by teenagers and young adults. The SU 'Magnify camp' already has 1500 young folk and 138 helpers signed up. Many young people have decided that they have had enough of the 'screen' and are looking for opportunities to explore the Christian faith. THEY NEED ADULTS to **listen** to them. A new tranche of students will be arriving soon. Could you, or I do something to provide safe places for them to discover who they are in Christ?

For those who care about our environment, this month we put the spotlight on our own Steve Watson; please read what is going on between the churches in St Andrews.

It was dark in Abraham's tent, but when he went outside, he saw that there was much more that he could aspire to. There are limitless opportunities in our town to get involved in sharing our faith with those who may never have given Christianity a second thought. Bunny does her bit with her FOCUS articles in the Citizen- we could all do more to share the love of Jesus in the marketplace. There are some ideas below.

And lastly, what about 'Pilgrimage'? Marion has set an example, but we can't all emulate her. However, the Fife Pilgrim way is on our doorstep. Could we do something as a congregation to welcome folk who have walked the way.

Lots to think about!

Blessings,

Mike (S)



MARION'S PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends,

The Camino de Santiago, or Way of St James, is an ancient pilgrimage route, beginning in France, crossing the Pyrenees, and ending up at Santiago de Compostela. To walk the most popular route from start to finish takes about thirty-five days and is roughly five hundred miles. This means that my walk of just over sixty miles was not enough to give me a certificate when I reached Santiago. But it was enough to give me a flavour of what it must have been like for the pilgrims of old who walked the whole way. But why go on a pilgrimage at all?



A pilgrimage is a usually a physical journey towards a place of spiritual significance, a destination that is often a site with religious or historical importance, like a shrine, a church, or other holy place. The purpose of making the journey can often include the desire to find oneself, or to find God, or to find forgiveness and healing for past sins. This means that pilgrimages are often undertaken with a specific spiritual intention or goal in mind. The journey itself can be transformative, with challenges and new experiences leading to personal growth, as well as opportunities to meet new friends.

I walked with a group of twenty-one, none of whom knew each other at the start, but all of whom were firm friends by the end. Along the way we discovered much about each other and had many opportunities to talk about faith and life. By the end of the week, I think everyone knew that they had been changed by the experience. It was fascinating to see how the conversations changed as the days went on, from superficial small talk to deeper thoughts about faith and life. In terms of subject many seeds were planted, and it remains to be seen how many will germinate and grow.

This pilgrimage was a wonderful experience, but none of us need to do anything quite so adventurous in order to plant seeds of faith in others. The fact is that everyone is changed by the people with whom they interact on a daily basis. So it is, that as members of the body of Christ which is the church, we all have endless opportunities to sow seeds of faith, to watch them germinate, and to nurture them as they grow.

With every blessing,

Marion

FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

Dear Friends,

It is important to keep you up to date on what is happening in the story of our church. I suspect that you may have heard that at the 2025 General Assembly we were accorded the status of Signature Church. It is a status accorded to only 12 churches in Scotland - churches which for a variety of reasons are deemed to be of particular importance and churches which the National Church wants to encourage to flourish. It is therefore important that each one of us accepts that such a choice places a real responsibility on us. The future of Holy Trinity and of Boarhills and Dunino depends on each of us and our contribution to the future. We need more people attending our worship: we need more financial commitment: we need more guardians to keep our building open to the public as much as possible. The National Church is looking to us to respond and I know that many will do so. We are in elevated company with churches like St Giles in Edinburgh, the Holy Rude in Stirling, Dunfermline Abbey, Dunkeld Cathedral and Paisley Abbey together with the rest. I am persuaded we can and we will rise to the challenge and I wish us God's richest blessings as we turn set about our tasks.



Yours sincerely,

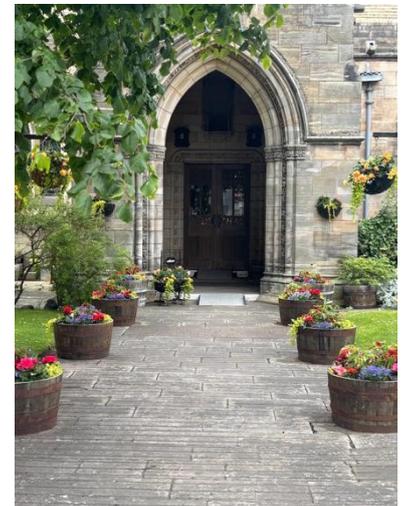
Alastair Symington (Interim Moderator)

THE GARDENING TEAM



A special thanks to Alan Barron, Russell Cockburn, Bob Archer and Richard Woolston, for their work with the new wooden barrels for the flowers outside the Church Leading to the John Knox Porch; hard work but worth it for Rachel and her famous award-winning gardening team, to make the outside of the Church a joy for everyone to admire.

Here is a photo of new tubs, kept watered, on this occasion, by Dave.



The indomitable Ron Cruickshanks made sure that we remembered VE day, by posting a special Union flag on the railings.

Sadly, persons unknown removed it the next day!



AN UPDATE FROM FIFE PRESBYTERY

Fife Presbytery Year of Prayer



The map shows the Fife Presbytery area with various regions outlined in red. Black footprints are placed along the routes to indicate prayer dates. The regions and their corresponding dates are:

- Glenrothes - 24th June
- Central Fife - 9th July
- Levenmouth - 19th Aug
- East Neuk - Sept tbc
- Cupar - 14th Oct
- St Andrews - Nov tbc
- Tayport - 2nd Dec

Dates for your diary

Glenrothes - 24th June
Central Fife - 9th July
Levenmouth - 19th Aug
East Neuk - Sept tbc
Cupar - 14th Oct
St Andrews - Nov tbc
Tayport - 2nd Dec

FIFE PRESBYTERY



Rev Simon Hessel
Pilgrim way pastor

New Fife Pilgrim Way Pastor

Rev Simon Hessel has been appointed as the new Fife Pilgrim Way Pastor. He will take up this part-time post on 21st July 2025.

Simon brings professional experience in the field of information technology prior to entering ministry training in 2023 and becoming Assistant Minister at Holy Rude Viewfield Parish Church in Stirling.

A keen walker, he organised weekly walks with an ecclesiastical theme while at university, and since then has completed six of Scotland's long-distance routes, including several now recognised as

Scottish Pilgrim Ways.

Simon says: *"This job offers an excellent opportunity to bring together my faith and my love of walking with my organisational, planning and IT capabilities, to further raise the profile of the Fife Pilgrim Way and to develop partnerships to improve the accessibility of the route to all who may wish to walk it"*.



STOP PRESS!!

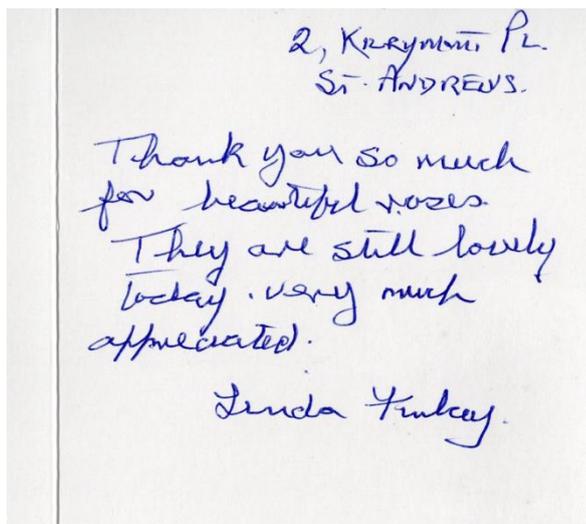
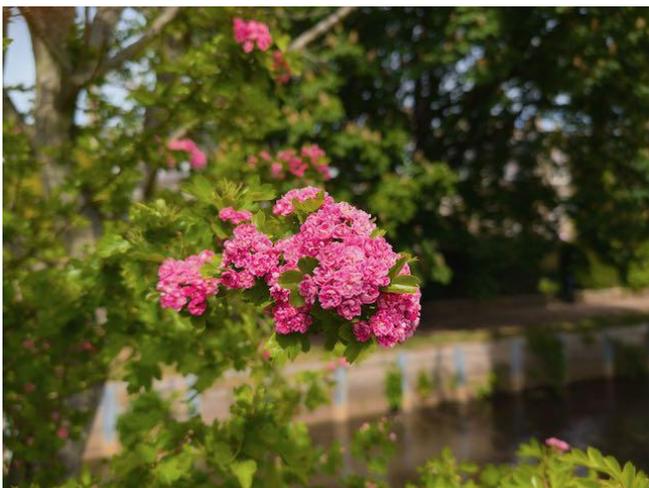
As we go to press, we have heard that Alastair Stark (Ali), who was a member of the band at 'Trinity,' and was called into the ministry some years ago, has completed his long, long training and is now able to accept a call from a congregation.

We are delighted that after many, many years, a member of this congregation is about to enter into his calling.

Ali, we wish you and Jenny much joy as you pursue your calling and look forward to following your progress

(I do not have an up to date photograph, but will post one once we are able to report the name of the fortunate congregation Ed)

THE MINISTRY OF FLOWERS CONTINUES



BOARHILLS AND DUNINO



No copy from the farmers this month.

But Be assured You are not forgotten (Ed)

FROM THE SESSION CLERK

So much has been going on, it is difficult to know where to start, so...here goes. **Huge thanks to all involved.**



The recurring theme is 'can you help'?

Welcomers: Holy Trinity has been open to visitors from 12 June (11am to 5pm; Thursday to Saturday). Volunteers are keenly encouraged. Could you be a welcomer for visitors to our beautiful church?

Outreach: Family Movie night at the Church Hall has been a great success - over 40 attended the May event. The next 'Give church a go/bring a friend to church' Sunday will be on 21 September. Volunteers always welcome.

Befrienders: New Befrienders are welcome. Get in touch if you can help.

Holiday Club: 12-15 August: **Would you be able to help with some baking?**

Events: Helpers for events for 2025/26 always welcome - ranging from pew-shifters to event stewards, front of house to stage management; AV support to publicity.

Disabled access: Work on the welcome improvements to disabled access via the John Knox porch will take place in August

Signature Church: Did you know that Holy Trinity has been designated a 'signature church' along with Dornoch Cathedral, Dunfermline Abbey, Dunkeld Cathedral, Greyfriars Edinburgh, Holy Rude Stirling, Paisley Abbey, St Giles Edinburgh, St John's Perth, St Michael's Linlithgow, St Machars Aberdeen, St Mary's Haddington?

Annual Stated Meeting: This will take place in the Hunter and Memorial Aisle at 1pm on Sunday 13 July 2025. The next Session meeting will be on Thursday, 4 September 2025.

Thanks in particular to our Treasurer, Russell Cockburn, and book-keeper, Victoria White, for so diligently preparing the accounts. Our financial situation is improving- but there is still some way to go. Huge thanks for everyone's help in this regard.

Finally: if you can help in any way - whether in mission and worship; outreach and pastoral care; events and 'open church', do get in touch **via the Church Office** holytrinitystandrews@gmail.com or the **Session Clerk** via htsessionclerk@gmail.com .

Dr Michael Carslaw (Session Clerk)

MUSIC AND THE CHOIR

The Choir has been on leave since the end of term. We are looking forward to welcoming them back, and also some new students.

PRESENTATION TO JOHN RANKIN



For as long as many people could remember, John Rankin has been a stalwart of the bass section of Holy Trinity Choir. His wonderful voice in the bass section each Sunday and his singing at the Good Friday service has for long been the high point of that act of worship.

It was with great sadness that he recognised that the time had come for him to stop singing. To mark that milestone and to mark their gratitude, earlier this year, the choir presented him with a framed photograph and certificate of thanks for his many years of faithful service.

Marion

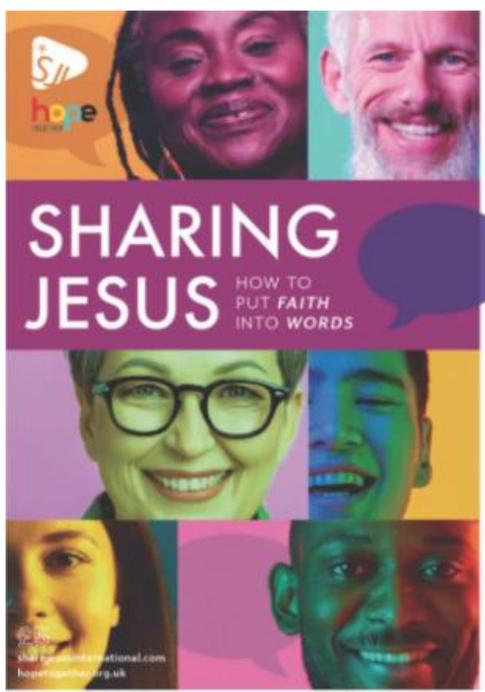
STOP PRESS!

John passed away peacefully in St Andrews Care home on 29 June 2025.

A full tribute and appreciation will appear in the next Magazine.

This Certificate was by his bed





How to Share Jesus outside the church
This article appears in Sharing Jesus, a resource to take the fear out of evangelism and help Christians put their faith into words. Find out more and purchase here.

Sharing our faith can feel incredibly daunting; however, here's the good news: you're probably doing more than you think. It's often the small, everyday ways we share our faith with co-workers, rather than big, confrontational moments, that can make a difference

"Honestly, I'd rather go to the dentist than start a conversation about my faith at work!" We know we're meant to open our mouths, but we're pretty sure that when we do, something painful is going to happen.

Discussing our beliefs can feel daunting, almost painful. But the gospel is transformative news for those we work and play alongside - right now. We can share the gospel in so many practical ways that may lead to deeper conversations over time. Embracing the opportunities God gives us starts with confidence.

Here are three confidence boosters to help you recognise the gospel opportunities you may already have.

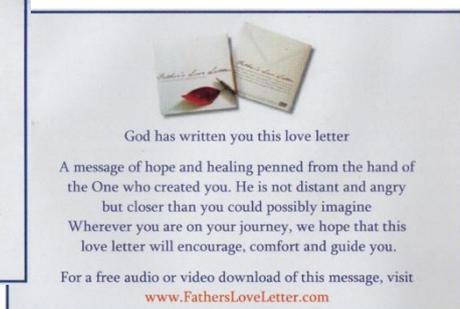
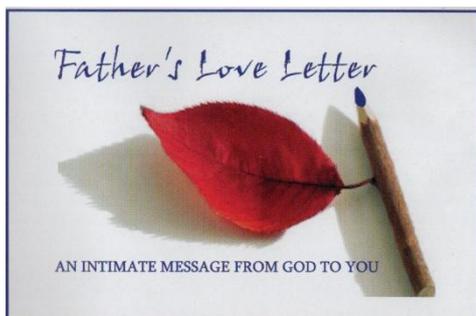
You're Already Doing It: Before we even open our mouths, our colleagues are watching how our faith impacts the way we do things. It's in patience we show, kindness we extend, or the self-control we exhibit.

It's About Jigsaws, Not Judo: Sometimes I think we share our faith like a judo match. We try to win the argument. But in reality, sharing faith is more like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. One person starts the puzzle and others come along and make a contribution, each playing a part in adding to the bigger picture.

Your Story Matters: You are where you are for a reason, and your experiences with faith can resonate with others. The Gospel of Mark encourages us to be ready to share our story of faith with those around us. "... 'Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you'". (Mark 5:19).

Our stories can be the very thing that helps someone else find hope.

I was at the dentist the other day, and she said, "Open wide!" And do you know what? It wasn't as painful as I thought it would be. In fact, I feel a lot better for it. *Modified with thanks to Steve Rouse, Church Team Director with London Institute for Contemporary Christianity* 18/06/2025



These cards contain inspiring scriptures and are readily accepted by many. Why not carry a couple with you to hand out to those in need Try it - IT WORKS!

Moira and I have copies of these if you'd like some Ed

THE GUILD

Report from the Guild 20 June 2025



The Guild was delighted by the success of the Spring Fair. The Coffee morning was well attended with a friendly atmosphere. We were able to raise a good sum to give to the Church and to the Guild projects. We should like to thank all those who gave donations and those who came and supported us on the day.

Before undertaking the organizing of the Fair, 25 Guild members enjoyed a lunch out together at Tail End. These events are becoming increasingly valued. We enjoy each other's company within the fellowship of the Guild.

We are continuing to maintain and to foster good relationships with the other two Church of Scotland Guild's in St Andrews, St Leonard's and St Mark's. We shall be holding two joint meetings with them in the coming Session. We always support each other's events and the World Day of Prayer is organized in rotation by the three Guilds.

Alison Wynd



At The General Assembly, 'Extraordinary' Guild members were applauded for raising £553,318 for life-changing projects.

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK



You may have noticed that there is a new café in South Street “MACTATTIES”. There used to be a baked potato café in St Andrews, which sadly closed when Annie Wishart retired.

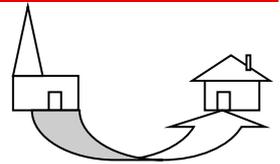
Now her children, Samantha Winder and Philip Wishart have decided to re-open and last time I passed there was much activity and laughter.

When I poked my nose in during the renovations, Annie offered the crockery from the former cafe, which Steve gladly accepted, so the church hall now has a lot of sparkling white crockery. Hence this ‘thank you’ in the newsletter.

Why not give them a try?

PASTORAL CARE

**BOARHILLS, DUNINO AND HOLY TRINITY CARE
GROUP + BEFRIENDERS
KEEPING IN TOUCH**



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

**We’re still looking for more Befrienders.
Could You be being called to this?**



Janie Brash

PRAYER

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

It is led by Irene Ure from 'Heart of Fife' CofS in 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 church prayer co-ordinator** is Jennifer Wylie. If you, or anyone you know, needs prayer, contact Jennifer and the person's initial and minimal details will be circulated to the prayer circle.



Prayer.

Keep it honest

Keep it simple

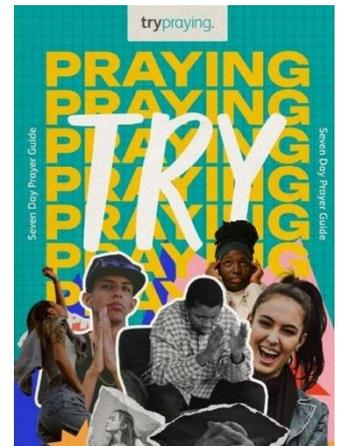
Keep it up!

No need for a long-winded dissertation. How you do it: where, when, alone or with others isn't important, Just do it, do it with God and don't forget to listen.

The brand new youth trypraying booklet. It's here! It's for teens who are curious, struggling, or just wondering what prayer is really about. The *trypraying* youth booklet is a fresh and creative 7-day journey designed just for teenagers. ***This is more than a booklet—it's an invitation.***

This can be used in youth groups and/or camps or festivals during the summer. This updated resource is for those vital God conversations.

do.trypraying.org



Prayer labyrinth

The labyrinth is in the grounds of the Kinmont Museum. It provides a place where you can walk around and quietly pray. It was an initiative of the local Quakers. A small group use it to pray for St Andrews on a monthly basis.

- **Prayer in the church**

There is an opportunity for you to join with a few others in the H&M aisle to pray on alternate Mondays at 10.30. Please contact Bunny who co-ordinates this.

- **Report from Prayer for Scotland -Fife**

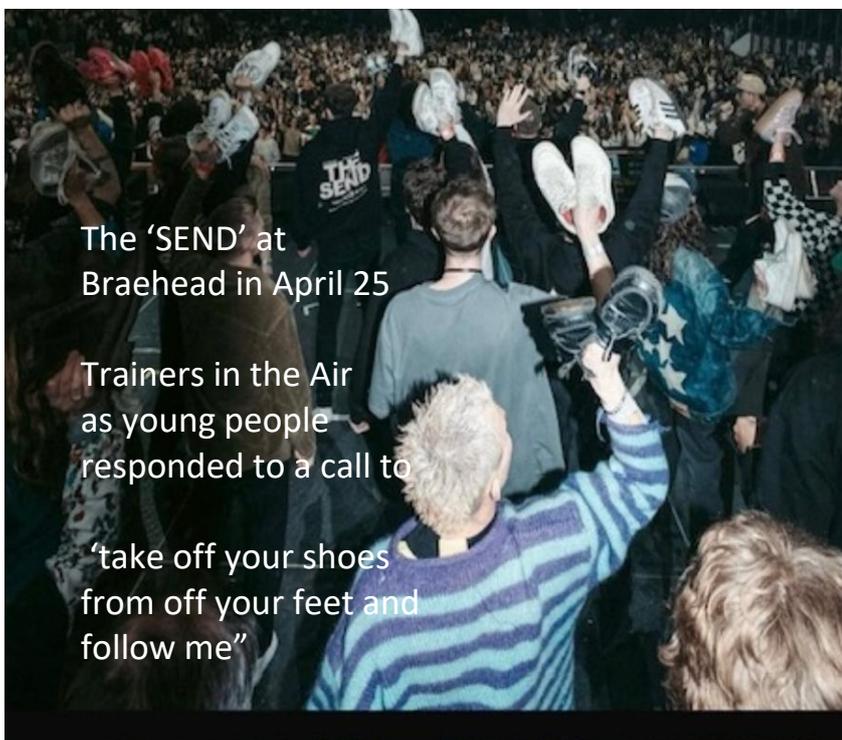
God is Working in Scotland

Alistair Barton, Chairman of Pray for Scotland, summarised some of the key events in past years and currently to highlight what God has done and is doing in Scotland:

2014 Connecting Scotland: 50-day tour with a Cross (Remember this?)

2016 the Shield tour: 40 days of blessing prayer around the 32 local authorities

2018 The Turning: Churches Working Together on local mission



The 'SEND' at Braehead in April 25

Trainers in the Air as young people responded to a call to

“take off your shoes from off your feet and follow me”

2025 The Send: 3,800 Young People gather at Braehead, Glasgow from all over Scotland!

Church Leaders in the Lothians and Fife, and in the Greater Glasgow area, meeting weekly online and in person for prayer.

Annual prayer gathering of over 240 ministers/pastors/leaders.

Bible sales in UK according to Neilson Book Scan Data grew from 2.69 million in 2019 to 5.02 million in 2024 an increase of 2.33 million. This is driven by the younger generation once considered distant from traditional religion.

We are also seeing a resurgence of catholic faith particularly among the younger generation and the popularity of Catholic schools with high standards.

The Free church is growing in Scotland because they are teaching the word of God, and they have a vision for planting 30 new churches by 2030.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Report by Julie Torrance YOUTH WORKER (May 2025)

Little Cherubs, co-ordinated by Julie

Numbers continue to rise with several new families joining this term, we had 4 new families try out our last session. **We currently have over 70 children and adults registered for this current term.**

Toddler Groups Offer the Church one of it's Biggest Mission Opportunities



In 2015 it was discovered through research that a **BIG**  percentage of practising Christians came to faith before the age of five - **40% in fact!** This age group represents one of the church's greatest opportunities for long-term growth and impact. *Talking Toddlers* research in 2020, revealed that churches across the UK were in contact with 74% of all parents with a child under five, and that **55% of those parents said**

this contact led them to explore faith for themselves.

Julie needs more help with Little Cherubs; PLEASE consider giving up even one morning a month to release Pearl, Moira, Ann and Beth

HOLIDAY CLUB, 2025

co-ordinated by Julie with lots of other churches involved.

The dates for this year's holiday club are the **12th-15th August** (team training held on the Monday).

Would anyone from Holy Trinity be willing to provide some baking (i.e. some traybakes/savoury scones etc) for the daily morning planning and prayer time? This is a wonderful way to bless all the volunteers who give up time and put a huge amount of effort into running the programme.

The baking is always hugely appreciated. Any contribution gratefully received. Please let Julie know. Furthermore, the Holiday Club have produced a flier so that people could use them to invite people to the holiday club, for example, neighbours or school friends etc.

Please let Julie know if there are people who would like some flyers to share.



Kingdom 2000 (K2): The Scripture Union outreach in our area

Easter code workshops went really well. We had a wonderful team of volunteers from a few different churches who make up the team who delivered it.

Meet Carrie
One of our volunteers who helps lead SU Groups

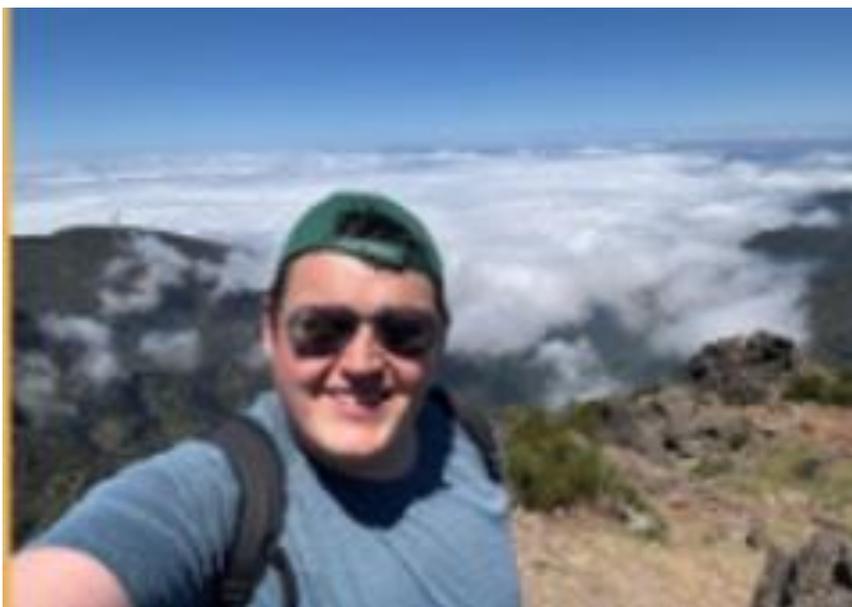


Hi! I'm Carrie - I've had the joy of running the SU groups in Canongate and Lawhead primary schools this year. We've had a brilliant year at both schools - the Canongate group continues to grow and thrive, with more and more children wanting to join, and the Lawhead group which we launched at Easter has blossomed into a lovely group with 6 children regularly attending. It's been a joy to spend time unpacking some of the "big questions" of faith, exploring Jesus's parables, playing games, eating biscuits, and getting to know all of the children - many of whom are exploring the Bible for the first time. We're so appreciative of your ongoing prayers!

Fancy lending a hand with one of our SU groups & curious to learn more? Just shoot us an email!

We now have Scripture union groups in both Canongate and Lawhead primary schools, which is a wonderful answer to prayer.

STOP PRESS!! New K2 Youth worker appointed



Hi!, I'm Chris, the new schools Ministry co-ordinator for Scripture Union in North East Fife.

I became a Christian at an SU camp in Lendrick Muir when I was 15 and have had several roles in SU since. My wife, Katie, and I met at another SU camp 10 years ago.

I have been the youth worker for Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland for the last 6 years and have been involved in helping with SU groups in Madras college.

I can't wait to be involved in the Holiday club in August and to follow God's call over the next few years.

Childrens' corner (Written by Granger)

Hello again, girls and boys, Are you good at deciphering codes? Here's a lovely hidden message – see if you can discover it! From each of the three lines below, you'll find a word by deleting some letters, to see what you're left with.

M J A E R S I U O S N

From that first line, score out the letters of the Christian name of our minister, the Reverend Paton. (Clue: if you don't know her name, you'll find it in the first few pages of this Newsletter.)

T L R I O N V I E T S Y

Now, from that second line, score out the letters of the last word of the name of our church congregation. (Clue: you'll find the name on the front cover of this Newsletter and it's before the word St Andrews!)

N E A V Z E A R R Y E O T N H E !

And finally, a slightly tricky one. From the line above, score out the letters of the name of the town where young Jesus was brought up and learned to be a carpenter. (Clue: it's not the town where Jesus was born).

Did you find the message? It's a good one, isn't it? (By the way, it includes YOU!)

Bye for now!

Granger Brash

PILGRIMAGE



Pictures from Marion's pilgrimage to the church of Santiago de Compostela. One of the three most important pilgrim routes in Europe.



The shell is the symbol of the pilgrim route



Culross, one of the starting points for our own Fife Pilgrim way.

Try Pilgrimage

Have you ever felt drawn to slow down, reflect and reconnect - with yourself, your community and God?

That's exactly what *Try Pilgrimage* is all about.

Launched by Hope Together and The Methodist Church, *Try Pilgrimage* offers free resources to help those who have never experienced pilgrimage before and are looking for a gentle introduction. Whether you're trying it for yourself or guiding others in your church.

<https://trypilgrimage.org.uk>

Looking UP not DOWN



At a recent visit to Springfield parish church for the monthly Fife Prayer and Praise gathering (Have you been to one yet?) I noticed this stained-glass window.

What a sad picture- it seems to reflect the current doom and gloom which has been pervading the C of S.

*“Our lamps have gone out”
But have they?*

It's not all doom and gloom in the C of S. I received this recently from a friend with whom I prayed in 1982! (Ed)

“Here in Torrance, just outside Glasgow, we have a very healthy all age Church of Scotland. We used to meet in a quaint little building which held 120 folk.

Then one evening while we were singing,

'Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on me',

I heard this racket behind me and saw a dove trying to break in through the window. During the sermon, on the Holy Spirit, it did it again and it was perched above the door as we left.

Sometime later, at a morning service, new people just kept on coming.

Next week we put out extra chairs, packed the vestry and the porch and eventually managed to shut the doors. The only, 'problem', was that my fellow elder and I were now outside the church with no room to get in!

So, a new church was required so we asked the whole village if they would pledge money towards the project. They pledged exactly the right amount plus £100 which covered the cost of posting the begging letters.

That was 25 years ago, and we are still going strong. Perhaps that is the key, 'We stick to the Book'.

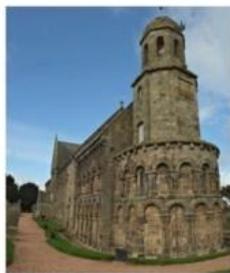
Be Encourged!

NEWS FROM NEIGHBORING CONGREGATIONS

While we, naturally concentrate on Holy Trinity, and Boarhills and Dunino (who have the church open next Sunday) other neighboring congregations are also open and have much to offer; Culross, Leuchars, Aberdour, Markinsh and Burntisland in particular are full of history.

Historic Church Open Days

St Athernase Leuchars



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC

Open June 24th - August 24th 2025
On
Tuesday 10.00am -12.00pm
Coach House Cafe open on Tuesdays

Thursday, Friday & Sunday 2.00-
4.00pm

Anyone interested in a guided tour should email
leucharsandtayportchurch@gmail.com



The first editions of the 1611 Bible were printed on 100% rag cotton linen sheet, not wood pulp paper like books today, so they remain in excellent condition – even after 400 years. Each leaf is a unique piece of work, carefully produced one at a time by the King's printers using a movable-type press and later bound into whole Bibles.

Burntisland Parish Church (also known as **St Columba's, Burntisland**) is a church building in the Fife burgh of Burntisland, constructed for the Church of Scotland in 1592. It is historically important as one of the first churches built in Scotland after the Reformation, with a highly distinctive and apparently original square plan. It is Category A listed for its architectural and historical importance.

In 1601 the church was the location of a meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland which proposed to King James VI of Scotland that they work on a new Bible translation. When James became King James I of England he was able to devote resources to the production of what would ultimately become the King James Version.

Dating from 1592, St. Columba's is the oldest pre-Reformation kirk still in use. In 1601, it was the venue of the General Assembly, held in the presence of King James VI, at which the need for a new translation of the Bible was suggested. The idea materialised a decade later with the appearance of the Authorised Version, known as the 'King James Bible', printed in England in 1611

Did you know that the parish church in Culross, like us, houses a copy of the 'She' version of the 1611 bible?

Fife is full of historical churches and some of them face closure. Why not visit a few while you can.

But looking back is all very well, but we should be looking forward. A number of local Fife churches have been holding 'Praise and Prayer' events. So far at Cupar, Springfield, Glenrothes and Tayport.

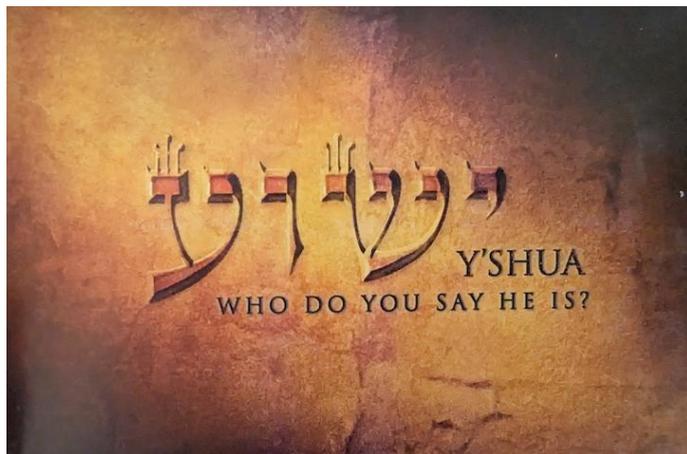
Next month there will be a Prayer and Praise service in Newport.

It has been suggested that in September we should host such an event in Holy Trinity. A music group is available, drawn from many different churches. Are we up for it?



(Having attended all of these I can assure you that they are hugely uplifting. Ed)

A MEDITATION ON JESUS' SACRIFICE AND WHAT IT MEANS



Through the Blood of Jesus
All my sins are forgiven.
1 John 1:9

I am continually being cleansed from my sin.
1 John 1:7

I am justified, made righteous just as if I'd
never sinned. Rom. 5:9

I am sanctified, made holy, set apart to God.
Heb. 13:12

I have boldness to enter into the presence of
God. Heb. 10:19

The Blood of Jesus cries out continually to
God in heaven on my behalf.

Thank You Jesus ++++++

Moira

ECO MATTERS

Steve and his grand-daughter Bella



In the Church of Scotland one of the ‘Marks of Mission’ is to **Safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth:** so how has our congregation responded?

In the last few years some good progress has been made at our church halls. We stopped buying paper towels and installed air hand dryers. We also fitted 5 bike stands in the front courtyard to promote cycling. The halls flower garden is full of drought tolerant perennials and absolutely no annuals which cuts down on watering, and provides a better environment for pollinators and wildlife (the garden won a commendation in the community garden competition last year). Last Autumn, the halls installed a number of inexpensive items and managed to reduce gas usage by 20%.

Both the church and church halls regularly take part in plantlife’s No-Mow-May which allows wildflowers to grow and increases nectar and pollen sources for insects.

The church is a member of The St Andrews Churches Eco Network (STACEN) which meets regularly and involves itself with many activities like beach cleans and tree planting.

In March 2024, the group planted 270 saplings at the St Andrews Western Cemetery to make a hedge border and this year the group has developed a nature trail tree quiz activity for the popular Kinburn park for primary school age children with a focus on parent involvement.

walk2cop27 in 2022 had teams from 68 counties walking 102,566 kilometres and planting over 200,000 trees. The STACEN team contributed 10% of the overall total, The team was visited by Rev. David Coleman from Eco Congregation Scotland.



Caring for God’s Creation is an important item on Holy Trinity’s Outreach agenda at every monthly meeting and we continue to be an active member of



The ECO hub store in Kinrossburn road

STACEN and to build on relationships with ‘Transition’ and also the Eco Hub in the town. The Eco hub fitted the church halls office with a recycled carpet free of charge.



The community garden behind the ECO hub shop

In our own congregation the introduction of a green ticket scheme has been discussed; a green paper ticket or leaf would be handed over on a Sunday and put in a special collection plate or pinned to an eco-tree made by our young people. Each ticket would symbolise and recognise the savings or changes that we have made that week to help care for God's Creation - information and ideas for those small changes we can make will be made available to make it easier for everyone to participate.

Other ideas we have are to build a bug hotel and a hedgehog hideaway in the church halls rear garden, as we already know hedgehogs visit the garden every year. There is also the thought of installing a rainwater collection tank in the church grounds to help to water the church hanging baskets. We also plan to incorporate caring for creation into our Sunday school lessons and at other times when we are with our young people.

We will revisit Eco Congregation Scotland's Self-assessment checklist for churches and may apply for a bronze award and if successful maybe even make progress towards a Silver award over the coming years.

Steve Watson (Hall convener)



FRI, 18 JULY | 2.30PM - 4.30PM

THE ECO HUB COMMUNITY GARDEN
40 Kinnessburn Road, St Andrews, KY16 8AD

(Steve has been quietly getting on with involving Holy Trinity in all of these aspects; we are most grateful. If you have not already done so, please visit the shop in Kinnessburn road; You may be surprised Ed)

You're invited: Summer Networking at the Eco Hub Community Garden
Friday 18 July, from 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Join us for an afternoon in the sunshine at the Eco Hub Community Garden for our next BID networking session.

Meet the team from StAndEn and have a chat with the Clean and Green crew to discover more about their work across the area and the projects happening across our town. This is also a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow local businesses, as well as members of the BID team and board.

Pope Francis wrote this in Hospital just before he died:



“The walls of hospitals have heard more honest prayers than churches...

They have witnessed far more sincere kisses than those in airports...

It is in hospitals that you see a homophobe being saved by a gay doctor.

A privileged doctor saving the life of a beggar...

In intensive care, you see a Jew taking care of a racist...

A police officer and a prisoner in the same room receiving the same care...

A wealthy patient waiting for a liver transplant, ready to receive the organ from a poor donor...

It is in these moments, when the hospital touches the wounds of people, that different worlds intersect according to a divine design. And in this communion of destinies, we realize that alone, we are nothing.

The absolute truth of people, most of the time, only reveals itself in moments of pain or in the real threat of an irreversible loss.

A hospital is a place where human beings remove their masks and show themselves as they truly are, in their purest essence.

This life will pass quickly, so do not waste it fighting with people.

Do not criticize your body too much.

Do not complain excessively.

Do not lose sleep over bills.

Make sure to hug your loved ones.

Do not worry too much about keeping the house spotless.

Material goods must be earned by each person—do not dedicate yourself to accumulating an inheritance.

You are waiting for too much: Christmas, Friday, next year, when you have money, when love arrives, when everything is perfect...

Listen, perfection does not exist.

A human being cannot attain it because we are simply not made to be fulfilled here.

Here, we are given an opportunity to learn.

So, make the most of this trial of life—and do it now.

Respect yourself, respect others. Walk your own path, and let go of the path others have chosen for you.

Respect: do not comment, do not judge, do not interfere.

Love more, forgive more, embrace more, live more intensely!

And leave the rest in the hands of the Creator”.

Pope Francis

Contributed by Marion

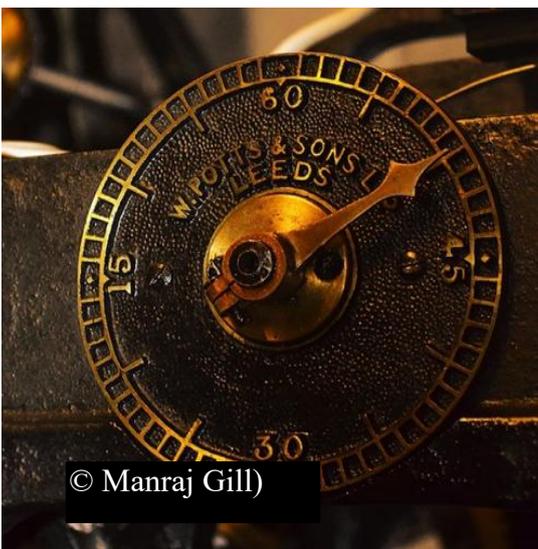
It seemed appropriate to include these wise words for two reasons. Firstly, that we have a number of our parishioners in Hospital and also because at the Assembly much was made of the coming together of the Church of Scotland and the Catholic church.



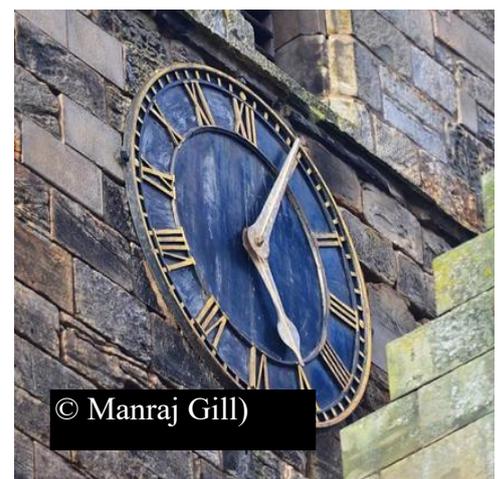
It is with a sad note I let you know that **Life and Work**, the 146-year-old magazine of the Church of Scotland, is to cease publication later this year.

The General Assembly accepted a recommendation, made with heavy hearts, that the church could no longer afford to publish *Life and Work* in its current form. The magazine, **which contributed significant surpluses to the church prior to 2020**, had struggled with falling reader numbers and a growing financial deficit in recent years. Its core audience, worshippers in the Church of Scotland pews on a Sunday, has shrunk to an average of 68,160 each week. Lynne McNeil, who has edited the magazine for nearly 23 years, told the assembly that ‘for the sake of the team and the history books’ a significant part of the deficit was due to internal recharges, most imposed for the first time this year. She said that if *Life and Work* was reprieved this year, ‘the reality is we would be facing the same situation in 6 to 12 months’. The Rev Jim Stewart, convener of *Life and Work* advisory committee, said that it was ‘a seminal moment, a moment of loss’, and a tangible mark of the changes facing the Church. Proposals will be brought to next year’s Assembly for a new publication as part of a full communications strategy.

A visit to the clock tower by the staff of “The Saint” the University of St Andrews student magazine



On 29 March at 16:30 BST, 'the switch' was flipped in Church Square, setting the hands on Holy Trinity Church's clock tower forward one hour. A century-old tradition.



I hosted the editor of ‘The Saint’, Aiden Arnold, who wrote an article for “The Saint”

A full article is published in “The Saint”, the University students’ magazine

Bob

EVENTS RUN BY THE TRUST

There has been a full programme of events over the spring.

It has been great to host the St Andrews Chorus for the Messiah and to see the church packed to capacity.



ST ANDREWS CHORUS Spring Concert
Handel
Messiah

Holy Trinity Church, St Andrews
Saturday 5th April 2025, 7pm
Tickets: £15 adult £5 student

SC025432

The large screens have proved very successful in allowing those at the back to see the choirs.



HOWEVER, we now lack an events manager and a co-ordinator, since Graham has now stepped down. The load has fallen on the Session Clerk.

PLEASE CONSIDER whether you have the time and the talent to help keep these events going.

CHANGES TO THE PARISH REGISTER

WEDDINGS

26th April	Robert Weddle to Jade Knowles	Holy Trinity
26th June	Dymont Dewberry to Amy Cruickshanks (Blessing)	Holy Trinity

FUNERALS

7th April	Nancy Low	Dunino
8th May	Chris Kerr	Dundee
20th May	Peter Black	Holy Trinity
21st May	Catherine Carswell	Kirkcaldy
9th June	Roy Irvine	Brewsterwells
19th June	Frances Grant	Holy Trinity
30th June	Alice McKenzie	Dundee

NEW MEMBERS BY CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFER

Mr Mark Hamilton
Mrs Susan Hamilton
Mr Ian Sandison
Mrs Isobel Sandison
Mr Colin Campbell-Brown
Dr Mary Campbell Brown

NEW MEMBERS BY RESOLUTION OF THE KIRK SESSION

Mr Harry Bunting
Mrs Geraldine Bunting
Ms Wilma Sweeney
Ms Rymbidza Chinurune

Build it and he will come.



These words come originally from the 1989 film “Field of Dreams”, where the main character hears a voice telling him "If you build it, he will come", referring to a single person who turns out to be one Shoeless Joe Jackson who comes to play baseball on the newly set up Baseball pitch.

Well, those words don't exactly fit our circumstances in either Dunino or Holy Trinity where we already have two very different, but also old and very suitable, buildings. Bricks and mortar are not involved. But under our new circumstances, as a happily united congregation with one of our buildings now a Signature Church we need to make sure that the Holy Trinity building fulfils its purpose not just as the place where the Holy Trinity congregation meets but also in its wider role as the ‘Toon Kirk’, ministering to the whole population of our town and its surrounding areas. Standing where it does, our building is a reminder that God is still involved in its life and people, and that they are welcome in it whether they believe in God or not and with whatever needs they have. We, its congregation and members, are there to serve and to provide whatever love, care and help are needed. This is not work for the dedicated few, for we are all dedicated, being members of its congregation where God has called us to serve his people whether they believe in him or not and to show by what we do, say, and are, what sort of people Christians are. It doesn't all happen by accident. It takes effort and time and sometimes real hardship, but be assured that when we share in the work and ask for God's help it really does become easier and gives us real joy. Just spend a little time asking yourself what God wants our church to be like, look at what is being done already and think what **you** could do, perhaps sharing in work already started or starting something else. For example, we are building up our work with young people, could you help here? We are trying to keep the church open and provide a quiet space for people to sit or talk or pray, with friendly people to welcome them. We need to visit all those who live in our parish and to help with other town-led initiatives, giving to the food bank, providing tea and coffee after the service, perhaps even offering to drive people to hospital appointments under Continuing Care or visiting those who are ill at home or in hospital. Just ask God what he wants you to do. Think out of the box. God is not old-fashioned, so if you're good with computers or electrics or have artistic talent, or something quite different, he may well have a use for you no one has thought of before. But we won't know till you ask him. We don't need to build a baseball pitch to attract new people or open another building. Our job is to make Holy Trinity and Dunino Churches into places where everyone is welcome and where love and care and help are available for all, where Jesus' love shines out to everyone who crosses their thresholds. Let's open its doors and our hearts and all will come - and, I pray, find God waiting to welcome them home.

Bunny Slack

REPORT FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Much of what went on at the Assembly has been reported elsewhere. Basically the church is still in a period of retrenchment, but there are bright lights beginning to shine as congregations, who had resisted unions and readjustments for years, finally accepted the situation and are 'making a go of it'.

Sadly, there are some items which have been cut, in some cases drastically, such as axing *Life and Work* (See Bob Archer's comments) and reducing

the grants available to Seeds for Growth. **The financial allocation for awards for the remainder of 2025 has been reduced from £2.2m to £500,000!**

There were good reports on the numbers of candidates for the ministry, which, after many years of decline, are now increasing and are being supplemented by ordained ministers from other denominations and countries who feel called to Scotland at this time. The assembly heard that **"the time has come to address the significant need for congregations in the Church of Scotland to engage positively with significant numbers of students and recent graduates"**.

On the subject of 'Assisted Dying', although the Theological forum was advising commissioners to agree with the votes in both the Scottish and UK parliaments, commissioners voted against support for this. **The position of the Kirk is thus that we oppose legalising Assisted dying.**

There are important and far-reaching **decisions on the future of congregations:**

*With effect from 1 January 2026 **Presbyteries will have power to sever the pastoral tie and effect readjustment.** All charges becoming vacant and/or where Adjustment is effected from and after 1 June 2025 shall be designated as Reviewable Charges. The revised Presbytery Mission Plan Act sets out that **a charge is only vacant if Presbytery has given permission to call.** There will be a closer focus on congregational financial sustainability and **mandatory Adjustment in cases where congregations cannot meet their debts as they arise. This means that if a congregation, cannot pay its bills it may be closed down or united with another congregation. However, a charge that is able to meet the full cost, including indirect costs, of having a full time Minister of Word and Sacrament will be able to call a minister with the permission of Presbytery.***

Authorisation to celebrate the Sacraments is extended to: *"a person who has the status of **an ordained minister in the Church of England, in virtue of the Columba Declaration (2016), or of the Scottish Episcopal Church, in virtue of the Saint Andrew Declaration (2021), and who***

has been duly authorised to administer the Sacraments by the Presbytery of the bounds It was confirmed that the subordinate standards of the Church of Scotland are contained in its Book of Confessions. Which contains the Apostles' Creed, **the Nicene Creed**, The Scots Confession, The Westminster Confession of Faith and the 1992 Statement of Faith. Shared statements of faith that have emerged from ecumenical councils remind us that **we have more in common than what separates us, and that though we may disagree over secondary issues, we are a single Church with a common faith.**



All Christians are united in the one, single, and indivisible Body of Jesus Christ.

This includes Arab Christians and Messianic Jewish believers The assembly was exhorted to pray for peace and reconciliation in the Middle East.

CrossReach is the second biggest social care provider in Scotland and were highly commended for this. Full details of CrossReach activities are available at www.crossreach.org.uk/ but of particular note was **the partnership between CrossReach and Mens' Sheds in ministering to needy men.**

But I'd like to focus on the afternoon conference of the Faith Action Programme Leadership team (FAFPLT)

(The Faith action Team have developed a video "Vivid `Vision", which is available of the CofS web-site and is well worth a viewing)

Rev Tommy McNeill, convenor of the FAFPLT, led an interactive discussion with the delegates in the hall. He talked of the shrinkage in the church membership and asked the question:

WHAT CAUSED THIS AND WHAT CAN WE DO?

The Questions put were:

What are you doing well?

What needs to change?

How can FAFPLT help?

What can I do to help?

The commissioners were divided into groups and given a short time to write their ideas on 'post-its' You may not be surprised to know that most of the comments were sensible and have been rehearsed for years BUT NOT ACTED ON. About 1200 'post-its' were then 'posted' and will be analysed and reported on soon.

Here are a few examples:

Focus on
Discipleship

Train the
Larty to lead
Worship

Be less
Cynical
SMILE MORE
😊

use gifts
of others

people need a
change. They
need to be
more open, less
pre-occupied about
what has always
been.

Talking openly
about Jesus

But we don't need to wait for the final report.

Let's get on with using all the talents of our united congregation and "Make it work".



If we don't grasp the nettle we'll be left behind.

Mike (Stewart) was a commissioner to the General Assembly 2025



For the first time in the History of the Kirk, the King's High Commissioner was from the Roman Catholic Church, Lady Elish Angiolini.

UPCOMING SERVICES

14 September	The Golf service
21 September	'Give church a go' sunday
5 October.	Harvest thanksgiving
5 December	Candle-lit carol service



The dates for the popular Friday afternoon services for the rest of the year are:

Friday 4 July	"Summer holiday" service
Friday 1 August	"Summer suns are glowing" service
Friday 5 September	Chrysanthemum service
Friday 3 October	Harvest thanksgiving and a warm welcome to students
Friday 7 November	Service of communion and remembrance

Copy for the September Magazine by 14 August please.

Boarhills, Dunino and St Andrews: Holy Trinity Church of Scotland
South Street, St Andrews KY16 9NL
Charity No SCO17173

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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All codes (01334)			
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Facebook		https://www.facebook.com/groups/5970986578	