

Boarhills, Dunino and St Andrews: Holy Trinity

Newsletter
September 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**

Charity No SCO17173

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear All,

CHANGE! Is a word which can be very frightening, especially if we have lived in the same environment for many years. And yet it is inevitable, and we need to embrace it.

In this edition we celebrate the passing of three of our oldest well-known members. We thank God for their faithful witness.

We are also in the three-year period of opportunity for the congregation. Within this time, we have to call a part time minister, grow our numbers (our congregational roll is now down to 310) and increase our missional activities so as to satisfy the requirements of the church of Scotland for viability (as judged by the five 'Markers for Mission' delineated by Mike Carslaw below). This also means altering our age distribution MASSIVELY towards younger people. ... and all this means CHANGE!

In Acts 2:47 it is recorded that the church grew, from about 120 to three thousand in one day and then to hundreds of thousands throughout the Roman Empire, despite the attempts of many emperors and society in general, to extinguish it, often by stamping out the flames of new life.

How did this happen? It happened because the Christians obeyed Jesus's instructions to "Go and make disciples" (Matt 28:19) - AND THEY DID.

"Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit the church increased in numbers" (Acts 9:31).

So how do we do this? The answer is on page 15.

And now I come to what some of you will have thought was a confusing cover picture. I didn't plant these wonderful sunflowers, which both gladden the eye and provide pollen for the bees.

They were scattered from the feeder above by the coal tits and just GREW!

Our 'seeds' are the words that come out of our mouths and the loving acts we do for others. We may not be aware of it, but these 'seeds' all grow (A few editions ago I showed the wheat and oats which grew below the feeders).

Conversely some of our unkind or unthinking words may produce weeds in others' lives (I was guilty of this just last week).

How about counting the 'seeds' you are aware of sowing this month. They may lie dormant as the winter approaches, but you never know how much your witness can draw others closer to Jesus.

Blessings,

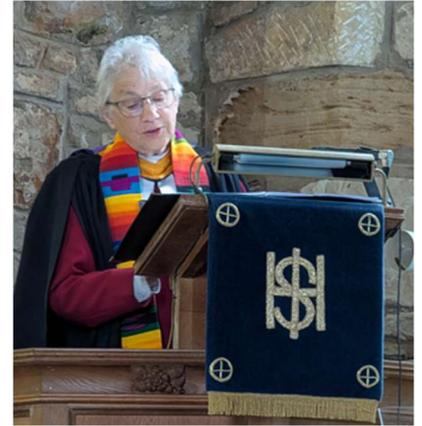
Mike (S)



MARION'S PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends,

The other day I was handed a bag containing many back numbers of the Holy Trinity Magazine. Some of these dated back a good many years and although I haven't yet had time to read them in detail I have looked through several of them. Of course there are some familiar names, as well as some unfamiliar ones. And there have been some interesting and encouraging activities that no longer happen, as well as new activities which have taken their place. And whilst we might regret what is gone, new things are happening, and that is as it should be, for congregations should be forever evolving as new people come and other people go for whatever reason.



But it has been the highs and lows of congregational life that have really caught my eye. And whilst there have been some interesting and encouraging highs, there have also been some terrible lows. Of course, every congregation has its ups and downs, but our calling as the body of Christ is always to bring hope and encouragement in his name.

Whilst it is interesting to look back, and to see where we have come from, and to acknowledge that we are to a large extent a product of our past, it is so much more important to look forward, and to look forward in faith. And at the moment, I hope and trust that we are all looking forward with eager anticipation to the next step in the journey of faith of our united congregation of Boarhills, Dunino and St Andrews: Holy Trinity.

As a 'Signature' church within the Church of Scotland we have been given not only great responsibility but also a great opportunity to make a significant and positive mark of Christian witness both within our fellowship and within our communities in the days to come. This of course, depends on all of us doing our bit to share the love of Christ in practical terms.

As we contemplate a new season of Christian activity what more could we be doing? And what could we be doing better? We know that God holds our future in his hands, and it is as we cooperate with him that we shall succeed in the work he has for us to do. As the hymn says

'God is working hi purpose out as year succeeds to year.
All that we do can have no worth unless God blesses the deed.
Vainly we hope for the harvest-tide, till God gives life to the seed.
Yet nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be.
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God, as the waters cover the sea.

(Arthur Campbell Ainger 1841-1919)

With every blessing, **Marion**

FROM THE SESSION CLERK

What went well.....even better if

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer despite (never thought I would say this) the heat.



What went well? This has been a hugely busy summer and congratulations to the Holiday Club team on a very successful week; congratulations too to the Outreach team on the continuing success of the Family Film Nights and also for the Young Fellowship opportunities during Sunday worship at Holy Trinity. I know there is a lot more in the pipeline.

The open church programme has also been a great success and we have welcomed hundreds of visitors into Holy Trinity.

The events programme for the coming year is shaping up well and we look forward to welcoming back the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the University Symphony Orchestra and many other groups to perform at Holy Trinity.

So.....even better if I can encourage you to join in, where possible, and pray for the many activities that involve members of our Church and our community, whether in worship, outreach, events, being a church welcomer, the Guild or helping with pastoral support. We are always on the lookout for volunteers! Do keep in touch via htsessionclerk@gmail.com.

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

The church accounts for 2023-24 have been completed. This is the first set of accounts which cover the joint congregation. Anyone wishing to see the Draft should contact the treasurer.

BOARHILLS, DUNINO AND ST ANDREWS: HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Congregation Number: 241484
Scottish Charity Number: SC017173

Report and Unaudited Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Henderson Black & Co
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, ST ANDREWS

Dr Michael Carslaw, (Session Clerk)

CHURCH GARDEN



It's been a hot, dry summer, so no beautiful pictures this edition, just a huge 'THANK YOU' to all of those who have faithfully watered (and weeded) over these months. The garden is bit of a wreck just now due to the installation (at last!) of the sloping walkway, but all should be back to normal soon.

FROM BOB ARCHER

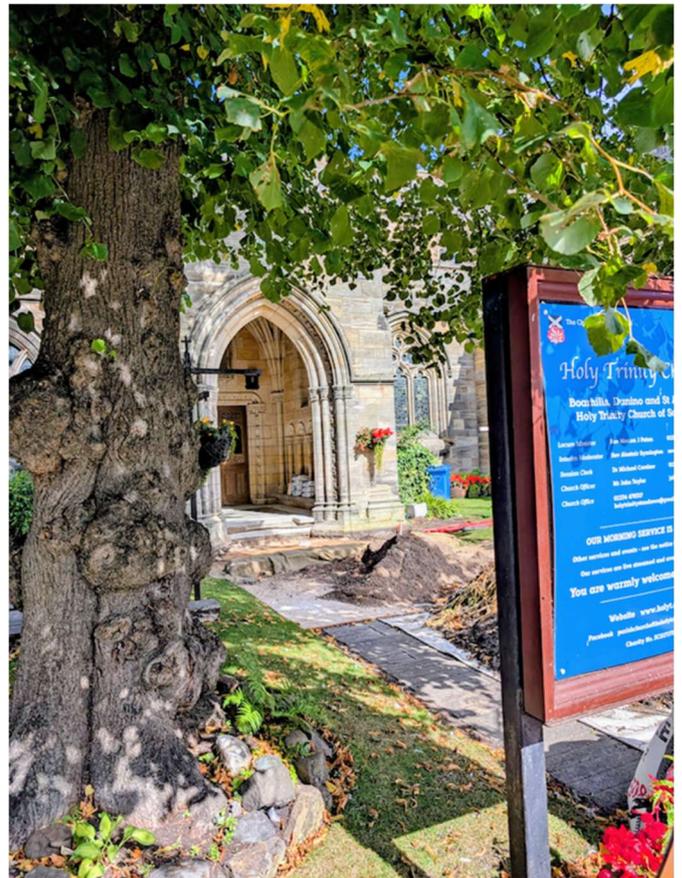


The access to the John Knox entrance is currently being upgraded and sloped so that all can access. During the excavations some bones were uncovered which have been referred

to the appropriate authorities.

The work should be completed by the second week in October if not before.

Bob



JOHN RANKIN TRIBUTES

Reading - Song of Solomon 2:8-13 – Marcus Liberman

Reading - John 20:11-16 – Samuel Liberman

Reflection by Marion Paton

As I left this church one day last month, a lady stood at the gate waiting for me. She had come, hoping to catch me, because she wanted me to know just how much the music and worship of this church had meant to John, and how cheered she was by recent developments and plans for the future. In fact, she and I and John had shared lunch together at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club just a few months ago, when so much of the conversation had been about the future of this church. In addition, I had an email from another of John's friends, wanting me to know just how important he was in his work for the British Legion, and how much he will be missed. John's friend wanted to be sure I would mention that.

The Church, Golf, the British Legion, Fishing, the Natural World, and to that list I should add Quinnie, who left us just a few months ago, and most importantly of all, Emma and all the family to whom John was devoted. John's great loves. It was so important to him that all of these should be in good order, and he gave much time and effort to making sure that it was so.

In our conversations it was clear that John understood his life to be a journey, seeking after truth, the truth of the gospel, truth in love, truth and honesty in every aspect of life. It was a journey that he relished. John was a man of faith, but he wasn't afraid to ask questions. Of course, in a long life there were ups and downs along the way, but always he looked forward with positivity and loving concern. As many of you will know, he really struggled with modern technology, but he left behind him some notes on two passages of scripture which were important to him; and both concerned love.

The Song of Solomon concerns the quality of love shared between a man and a woman, and John wrote of how blessed he was to find the love of his life, his wife Jane. The reading from the New Testament speaks of the devotion of Mary to her Lord. Love and devotion, devotion to duty, devotion to Jesus Christ and the work of the church, love for all those who were important to him. These were the hallmarks of John's life amongst us.

In the Song of Solomon we read these words, **'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.'** When God called John to himself, of course we were sad, for John had given so much in friendship and love to so many and we did not want to lose him. But:

he was quite ready to arise and go.

he looked forward to being reunited with his beloved Jane.



For him there was no fear for the future, for he knew that he would be enfolded in God's kingdom of love, for as we shall shortly hear **'the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away'**.

As we listened to Irene singing 'Ombre mai fu' by Handel, which speaks of the tenderness and beauty of nature that were so important to John, let us think about the nature of the love of God in Christ for all his people, and the nature of true and honest love that is God's gift to all people. These things mattered to John. So, as we remember and give thanks for his life, let us think on these things.

Marion

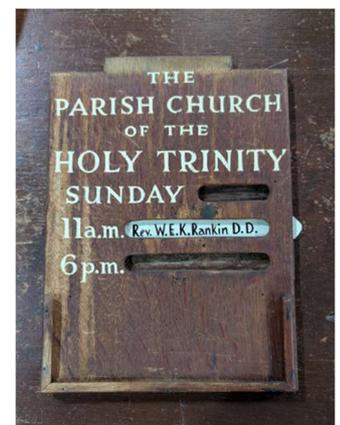
Tribute by Emma Liberman (John's daughter)

It is fitting that we are celebrating John's 90 years doing so here at Holy Trinity, coming full circle in the very church where he grew up with his father, Dr Eric Rankin, who was Minister here. All the more so for being without his father for 5 and a half years as a POW, before returning to St Andrews on VE Day. To me it seemed the town continued to feel an ownership of my father, instantly recognised by always wearing a jacket and tie and tethered to Quinnie until last Autumn. The Care Home where he spent his last (almost) three weeks, were astonished at the number of visitors flocking to see a desperately frail gentleman who could barely speak. Thank you to everyone who cared for him in a myriad of ways in recent times.

Throughout his life he made the most of his situation and pursued what mattered to him. Golf and ice-cream sodas were his passion. Some things don't change: in his last days, when he struggled to swallow anything at all, he lapped up a Luvian's ice cream at the Botanical Gardens, care of a dear neighbour.

The pinnacle of his achievements was winning the heart of Jane Small. My parents were married here in this church in 1963 and they returned to St Andrews in their retirement. She was taken from us too soon by cancer 18 years ago. 'Only ever one bride for me', he would say, as he reread a sample from their exchange of letters each night thereafter.

He collected and kept friends at every stage of life and across the many interests he pursued within it. From Kindergarten at St Katherine's, a carefree time at New Park and then a more brutal one at Fettes, to St Andrews and Edinburgh Universities; through fishing trips and walking holidays, weekly squash games, Scottish Country dancing, choirs, church; through serving in the Army in the Black Watch, as a National Serviceman and afterwards in the TA, the Highland Brigade Golfing Society. He clocked up over 70 years as a member of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club, where he was latterly a Trustee, and played golf until late last year. All those attending or tuning in today demonstrate that broad spread and source of friendship. On the work front my father always maintained that my mother was by far the better lawyer between them, and I can quite believe it. In London in the last 18 years had to include



retracing happy haunts in St James, Piccadilly and Jermyn Street, and staying at The Rag, the Army & Navy Club on Pall Mall. At the end of his career, Pa was at The Scottish Land Court and wished he'd discovered it many years previously, not least as it entailed regular circuits to visit and inspect matters raised to the Court across the Highlands and Islands. If the weather was just right and the evening long, the Chair of the Hearing would announce that maybe it was best to reconvene in the morning, then head down to the loch or river with the 4-piece fishing rod he'd discovered would fit in his suitcase.

Another lifelong passion involved music and song. He was forever grateful for the strong foundations learnt from Michael Lester-Cribb at Fettes. He kept up his singing lessons until January this year. He committed many years to the Edinburgh Bach Choir, and then The Edinburgh Festival Chorus, which he relished for 20 years, including a European tour in his first year. Irene nudged him into taking his Grade 8 Singing Had MND not snatched away his voice and life, he'd have been with them in July in the Lake District. His latter loss of breath control was soul-deep for him. But his 90 years were liberally seasoned with wit and humour, joy and passion. His enjoyment and zest for life kept him booking ever more river cruises and other travel adventures, needing very little excuse for a glass of champagne, content with the same routines and chatting to his dog, taking time to stop and absorb the moment, watching the world pass by, captivated by nature, birdsong and other simple delights in life. He was especially proud of his grandson, also a keen sportsman He gave him his first putter and golf tuition, nurtured a rivalry putting on the Himalayas and then basked in the joy of graduating to play the courses here together each Summer.

My own relationship with my father became closer and more intense after the loss of my mother. We had many adventures together: in Vienna for concerts and Christmas markets for his birthday, I finally saw the inside of the R&A, after all those countless childhood hours sat waiting outside! We shared a love of many things in life and a comical sense of the ridiculous. Memories of him are full of energy and laughter.

Finally, my father's faith was perhaps the webbing connecting all the threads of his life. Religion might have been thrust upon him by his father as a boy, but he found his own faith as he grew up. He was an Elder in the Church of Scotland for over 50 years, he served as Session Clerk here and in Saline. He loved being in the choir here – many thanks to the impromptu choir gathered today in your off-season. My father and I didn't always agree on religious interpretations or practices but he knew his Maker and the debt he (and we all) owe Jesus Christ, even if there remained much mystery in the 'how's and 'why's of the Bible and life observed.

Perhaps sensing his days were short, I'll never forget the passion with which he declared to every person he met on Easter Sunday, both here in church and later at the R&A for lunch, 'Christ is risen!' It might have taken some folk aback, but it is with this faith that he and I were able to agree that this life, his full well-lived life, was not the end. While we might have had to grit our teeth of late, he is now welcomed into the sparkling sequel that our Lord promises, hearing 'Well done, good and faithful servant'.

He's home.

Praise the Lord



Report from the Guild 20 June 2024

The first meeting of the Guild this autumn is on Monday October 6th at 2.30pm in the Church Hall, when Marion Paton will speak of her experiences walking the pilgrim way to Santiago de Compostela.

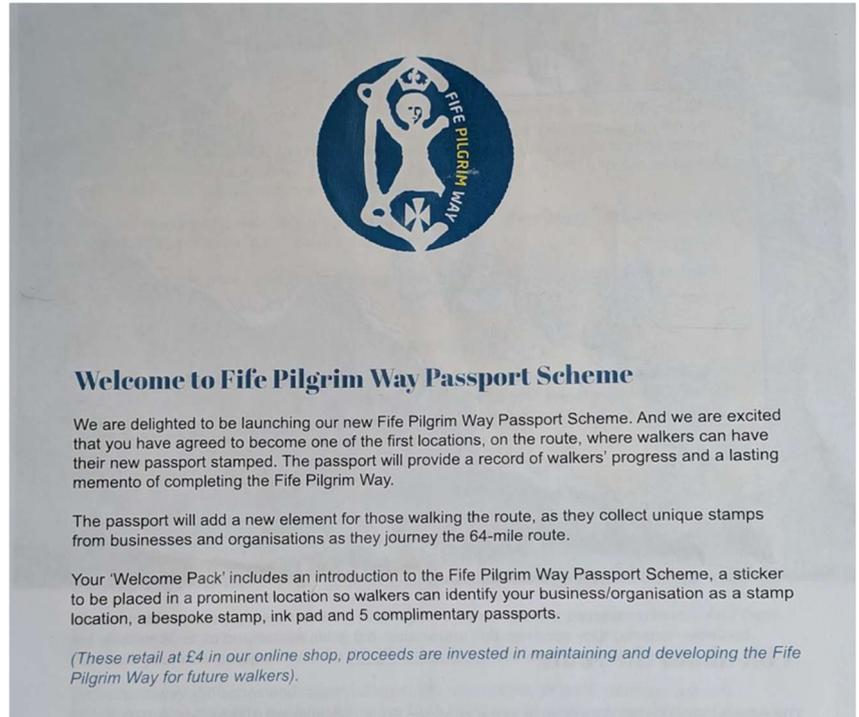
During the winter, we hope to welcome the recently appointed pastor for the Fife Pilgrim Way, Rev. Simon Hessett. As Holy Trinity has the good fortune to have been made the final destination of the Fife Pilgrim Way, we want to learn more about the gifts and benefits of pilgrimage and how we may welcome pilgrims at the end of their journey

The Guild is supporting two projects this session. Firstly 'Bibles for Bairns' that supplies bibles for children across Scotland, appropriate for different ages. Secondly Release International, a charity that supports Christians who are being discriminated against or persecuted. As tensions rise in the Middle East, more Christians are finding themselves in a hostile environment. We shall be learning about and supporting one such group of Coptic Christians in Egypt.

We are especially pleased that we shall be holding joint meetings with St Leonard's and St Mark's to hear presentations by the projects. Holy Trinity Guild will be hosting the talk by Release International in February.

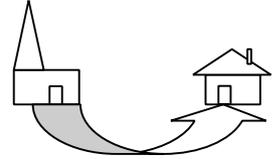
Details of our programme will be on the notice board and in the pew sheets. All are welcome to come to our meetings. We should be delighted if more Church members would like to join us and belong to the Guild".

With best wishes,
Alison Wynd



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?**

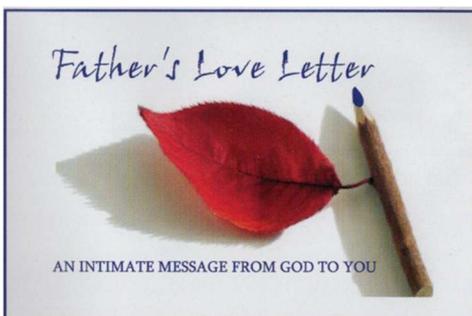


Janie Brash

"THANK YOU"

Dear Holy Trinity friends,
Thank you for your wonderful hospitality again this year.
We enjoyed worshipping with you during our holiday in Saint Andrews.
The Friday afternoon service was nice and we learned about having a '99'.
We hope you can use the enclosed donation for future refreshments as you continue to minister to seniors in the local community as well as to visitors.
With love and blessings,

Ken and Sue Abbey



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!

God has written you this love letter
A message of hope and healing penned from the hand of the One who created you. He is not distant and angry but closer than you could possibly imagine
Wherever you are on your journey, we hope that this love letter will encourage, comfort and guide you.
For a free audio or video download of this message, visit www.FathersLoveLetter.com

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

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>

- **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.



Lord God, I pray for my church. Fill us once again with awe at how glorious you are. Make us alert to the dangers of complacency and arrogance, so that we may avoid them and remain faithful to you. Amen.

Lectio 365, 09/08/2025

NE FIFE PRAISE AND PRAYER GROUP

The group met together on the 13 August to worship and pray on the West Sands.

It is of interest that this day is the anniversary of the founding of the Herrnhut community in 1722 which started a 24 hour prayer meeting which lasted for 100 years!

This group, from many churches and none, gather for praise and prayer about every 5 weeks or so.



The next gathering will be in Cupar Old Parish church centre on 5 September.

WHY NOT JOIN THEM?

YOUNG PEOPLE

Report by Julie Torrance YOUTH WORKER

LITTLE CHERUBS

Little Cherubs began again on the 28th August. In June, we farewelled 6 families, some of whom were moving away or moving up to nursery or school. It was sad to say goodbye to them. We gave each child a copy of the 'Stories Jesus told' book, and a card. 28 families signed up for this term (60 attendees). I am very thankful for Beth McLean, Moira Stewart, Pearl Harrison and Anne Barron for volunteering their time to help with Little Cherubs.



KINGDOM 2000 (K2)

It's an exciting time for K2. Chris Cameron began his work in time to join the team for the Holiday club. Please do pray for him as he settles into this new role. **The K2 AGM will take place at 7pm on the 25th September in the Baptist church, South Street.** It would be wonderful to have members of the KS come along.

Excitingly, we have almost reached capacity with our SU group in Canongate, with 19 children signed up to attend. This means we will likely be looking to split the group into two, but we will need more volunteers before we can do that. Please pray that we will find the right people to help with this.

HOLIDAY CLUB



Our annual holiday club was held from the 12-15th August, and it was a wonderful week.

We had 25 adult volunteers from different denominations and 15 teen volunteers from:

Boarhills, Dunino and St Andrews: Holy Trinity Church, Cornerstone St Andrews, Kingdom Vineyard, St Andrews Baptist Church, St Andrews Free Church, St Marks and St Andrews St Andrew Episcopal church

We began with 110 children and by the end of the week 123 children were registered.

This year our theme was 'Everest!'. Our co-hosts Marco and Polo had decided they wanted to climb mount Everest, but they were very inexperienced climbers. So, they had come to Scotland for a training camp, so that they could practice on some of the Munros. At base camp of Ben Nevis, they meet Beth Grylls, a wise, mature mountaineer. who can instantly tell they are very novice climbers. Over the course of the week, Beth Grylls not only offered

Marco and Polo advice on mountaineering and equips them for different tasks, but also shared with them all about Jesus, the best guide/ helper/ friend one could ever have.

The messages were based around some of

the 'I am' statements of Jesus-

I am the way, the truth and the life

I am the good shepherd

I am the bread of Life

I am the Light of the world

And throughout the week the children heard the difference that Jesus had made in Beth Grylls Life, and the difference he could make in theirs. We also had testimonies from different leaders throughout the week, who shared the ways in which Jesus has helped them in their lives.

We had some really lovely feedback from the children and the parents, who were really enthusiastic about the week. Please pray that these truths that were shared with the children will be like the seeds that fall on good soil. **To see more pictures of the week, find them on 'St Andrew Church Holiday club' Facebook page.**



HOLY TRINITY YOUNG FELLOWSHIP

FAITH FRIENDSHIP & FUN

**The first Sunday of each month!
We meet in Pizza Express - come into the
service and we'll all go together!**

**All welcome, but particularly suitable for preschool &
primary aged children**



**Normal Sunday school provision every other Sunday
The service begins at 11:15am**

www.holyt.co.uk
SC017173

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Hello again, girls and boys, I hope you had wonderful summer holidays. St Andrews was so windy! It made me think of Bible stories involving the wind; perhaps you can think of some yourselves.

When Noah and his family and the animals had been in the ark for forty days, God sent a great wind to blow, which made the flood waters go down.

And when the Israelites were fleeing from Egypt, Moses and his followers were caught, seemingly helpless, between Pharaoh's army on one side, and the sea on the other. However, the bible tells us that 'the Lord drove the sea back with a strong wind', so the Israelites escaped across the dry land to freedom, saved by what we call the Parting of the Red Sea. I'm sure you've heard of it!

Have you heard of the time when Jesus was asleep in a boat, crossing the Sea of Galilee with his disciples? When a huge wind and storm blew up, they thought the boat would sink, and they'd drown. So, they woke Jesus, who said to the wind: 'Be still!' and there was an immediate calm. Jesus told his disciples to have more faith in him; and they said to each other: 'Even the wind and the waves obey this man!' It's a good lesson for us, to put our trust in Jesus.

Finally, perhaps the greatest wind story of them all: how the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit by a 'mighty rushing wind' on the day of Pentecost. Read about it yourselves in Acts, chapter 2!

Bye for now! *Granger Brash*

A MEDITATION

My Name is I AM

I was regretting the past and fearing the future.

Suddenly My Lord was speaking.

My Name is I AM

He paused. I waited. He continued.

When you live in the past with its mistakes and regrets, it is hard. I am not there.

My Name is not I WAS.

When you live in the future, with its problems and fears, it is hard. I am not there.

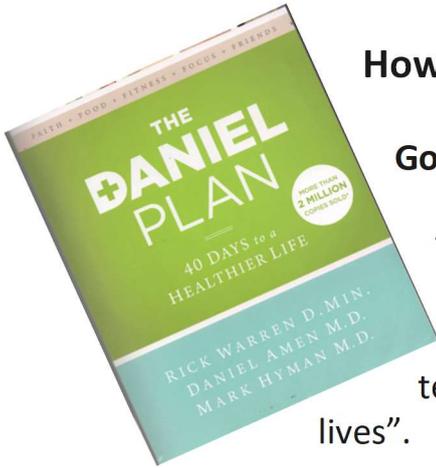
My Name is not I WILL BE.

When you I've in this moment it is not hard. I am here.

My Name is I AM.

© **HELEN MALLICOAT**

BOOKS



How God's power works (an excerpt from 'the Daniel plan')

God uses his word to change us.

The first tool that God uses is the Bible. Through scripture he teaches us how to live and how to change. Second Timothy 3:16-17 tells us "all scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives".

It corrects us when we're wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work. Another way of saying this is that God's work shows us:

1. the path to walk on
2. When we've got off the path
3. How to get back on the path and
4. How to stay in the right path.

If you're serious about changing your life in any significant way you're having to go to have to get into the Bible.

You need to:

read it, study it, memorise it, meditate on it and apply it!

Jesus said *"Abide in My word and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free"*
(John 8:33)

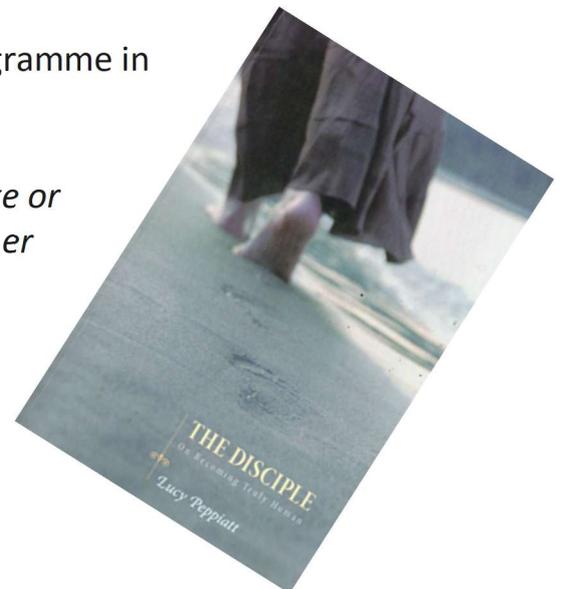


The other book I read recently was about discipleship (one of the CofS's five marks of mission.

We don't have a discipleship training programme in BD&HT, but we should.

If anyone is interested, please contact Mike or Moira, who have been teaching this in other places.

A window from the CofS in Tarbert Loch Fyne, which pictures a disciple



Both books are available to borrow from the editor.

MEDITATION ON RELIGION

World religions invariably focus on the following of rules in order to please whoever is the relevant deity, but not so with Christianity. What a blessing! The God of the Bible knows the extent of human weakness and our inability to meet the requirements that would truly put us right with Him.

When Peter the disciple had messed up through his denial of knowing Jesus, he was not given a rulebook to follow in order to make amends. Instead, Jesus gets straight to the heart of the issue.

The restoration of Peter, to being reconciled with God, is dependent simply on whether Peter is in a humble and loving relationship with the One who is always right with God.

Jesus asks Peter the foundational question: "Do you love me?" When Peter says that he does, Jesus requires nothing more in order secure Peter's restoration and his commissioning.

Just trying to follow divine rules in order to satisfy a deity is worthless religion. Choosing to follow and love Jesus, who has fully satisfied God on our behalf, leads to a life-saving divine relationship.

A PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You know that striving to meet religious rules can be life-destroying. Thank You so much for inviting us into a covenant bond with You, through Your Son, into a relationship which is truly life-enhancing. Amen.



The Bible will keep you from sin OR sin will keep you from the Bible

A THOUGHT

“I try not to listen to the news these days, it’s so depressing”, someone said to me the other day, and she was right. Wars, bombing, starvation, persecution, climate change, earthquakes, floods, landslides: imagine something terrifying or wrong and it seems to be happening somewhere in our world and is reported in our news bulletins.

In church on a recent Sunday the first hymn seemed particularly relevant. It was the hymn based on Psalm 9 from the 1929 Scottish Psalter which many readers will know. It begins: “God will endure for aye; he has to judgement set his throne to rule the nations equally, justice to give each one”. What an amazing and comforting statement! Perhaps it should appear on page one of our newspapers and be read before or after every news bulletin.

The hymn continues on a more personal note. It tells us God will be “a refuge be to those who are oppressed, a refuge he will be in times of trouble to distressed”. Well, you may say, I don’t even believe there IS a God, so that’s not much use. Indeed, it isn’t as the writer knows only too well, for he continues in the next verse “And those who know your name, in you their confidence will place”. So not much help for the atheist or agnostic, those who do not believe God exists or are uncertain if he does. But the Psalmist doesn’t leave it there for, in the next lines, he tells us that “you have not forsaken them who truly seek your face”. Even if you are still unsure if God exists and find it hard to believe he does, keep seeking, keep looking, keep praying, God is still there for you.

If you do believe in God and know the psalmist’s words are true, the hymn still has a message for you. “Sing then”, he writes, “sing praises to the Lord” and “let all the earth be made aware of God’s work and God’s will”. Don’t just sit tight and keep what you know to yourself, share it with others in words and deeds and in your attitude to life and living, joy and sorrow. You’ve got a piece of amazing news, surely you want to share it with others. Too shy, not clever enough, can’t see an opportunity?— that’s when you truly test what God can do – Ask for his help, it’s called prayer and it’s as easy as asking a friend for advice. And don’t forget to look out for your opportunity – it may well come quite unexpectedly. Our God IS a God of surprises.

BUNNY SLACK

NEWS FROM NEIGHBOURING CONGREGATIONS



St Margaret’s, where John McLean was once the minister, are now part of the ‘Heart of Fife’ Church a union of SIX former congregations.

Irene Ure, one of the elders, co-ordinates the Presbytery Prayer Zoom at 9 am on a Tuesday morning. You would be welcome to join

IUre@churchofscotland.org.uk

A short history of Dunino Church.

The first reference to a church in Dunino occurs in the accounts of the papal tax collector in Scotland in the mid 1270's. It continued as an independent parish into the 15th century, with occasional rectors being named in papal records from the mid-14th century. In 1450, both the Parsonage and the Vicarage of Dunino were annexed by Bishop James Kennedy of St Andrews to his new Collegiate Church of Saint Salvator in St Andrews. In the Statistical Account of 1793, William West, schoolmaster in Session Clark, describes the Kirk of his day as follows. The church is one of the smallest country churches, perhaps with an aisle and a small porch by one of its front doors. It's uncertain when it was

built, but some persons are perfectly sure of it, having been very lately and very materially repaired. It was so small, in fact, that in order to celebrate communion, tents had to be erected outside the church building to house the large number of communicants. The precentor from Cameron was paid to lead the singing for those outside the church. West also gives a description of the manse at this time. "The manse almost thrown down from the foundation and rebuilt on a durable construction about the year 1741 is a tolerably decent house, 2 stories high, and contains 6 moderately good rooms with a kitchen and some other appointments since its last erection. It is undergoing very many repairs. It said that a manse has stood on the site of the present building since 1564".

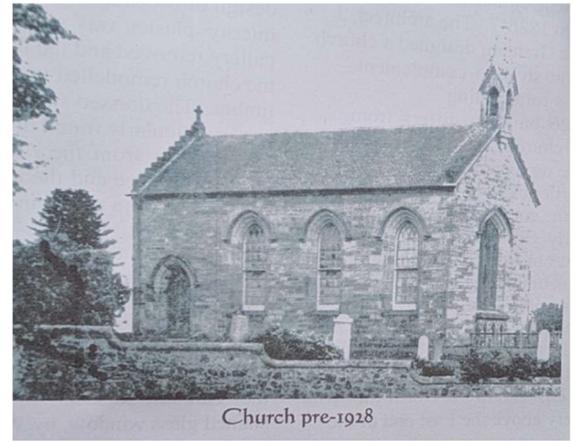
The manse mentioned by West was refurbished in 1780. The present Manse was built in 1819 of greystone and lies between the church and Dunino Law. Opposite the manse lies a katabatic garden in whose walls can be found bee-boles with shelves for skeps.

The present church building was erected in 1826-27. The architect, James Gillespie Graham, designed a church in Gothic style to complement Dunino's rural setting. The 1826 building differs from today's church in that it faced West. We have no records to indicate which way earlier churches at Dunino faced; it was the convention in the days of the early Christian Church for churches to face East. During the Reformation it became popular to de-Romanized churches by facing them West in order to defy the earlier Catholic tradition. The building of 1826 faced West and had its entrance at the East End of the North wall with a gallery above the East End of the church where the Sunday school was held. The pulpit was situated in the middle of the West wall, with the organ centrally placed in front of it. Beyond this was a choir stall facing into the aisle opposite the heritor's Pew.

The Gillespie Graham building was remodelled in 1928 during the ministry of the Reverend MacDonald. He was unhappy with the church facing West and took the opportunity during the restoration to reverse the internal layout to East facing. Consequently, the pews were turned round and the whole building orientated to face East. Waddle and Young were responsible for the restoration work and the addition of a chancel and porch, based on the 1908 design of McGregor Chalmers. The interior plaster was stripped, the gallery removed and the interior of the church remodelled in stone and timber. The dressed stone which was used, particularly around the windows, was brought from the ruins of Hamilton Palace and the roof was constructed from pitch pine by a local Carpenter. The entrance to the 1826 church was blocked off, with the new entrance being situated further along the North wall at its West End, where the porch was added. Ancient stones were incorporated into its walls, where they can still be seen.

In 1952, a stained-glass window by W Wilson was installed in the porch, dedicated to the memory of the Reverend MacDonald. The window depicts St. Andrew looking out to sea and in the bottom left-hand corner bears the colourful arms of Salvator's College. A small vestry and toilet facilities were added from the West wall in 1998. The four stained-glass windows which enhance the chancel were gifted by the seven daughters of Sir Alexander and Lady Sprot. The two windows in the East

Produced by Joe Fairbairn



Church pre-1928

wall represent St Michael and St George defeating their adversaries. They're dedicated to Sir Alexander Sprot. Bart, CMG, DL of the 6th Dragoon guards (The carabineers). They were installed in 1931. The windows in the North and South walls of the chancel depict stories of Esther and Ruth and are dedicated to Ethel Florence, Lady Sprot of Garnkirk and Strathvithie; they were installed in 1932. All four windows are by J Jennings of Fleet, London.

Also seen in the Chancel is a chair which was presented by a company of Girl Guides who had camped at Dunino for many years.

Wooden panels installed to the interior of the original entrance door, now blocked off, were presented by Ethel Grace Sprot in memory of her husband Colonel Hereward Sadler Sprot and her four sons. To the West of these panels can be seen an olive wood cross, presented by a Russian officer to the memory of Sir Alexander Sprot.

The carved wooden pulpit was gifted by the Purvis family in memory of Brigadier-General Purvis of Kinaldy, an ordained Elder in this parish, on 7th of July 1912, who died on 4th April 1928. Also gifted by the Purvis family is an attractive stone font by Sir Robert Lorimer. The font was erected to the memory of Lieutenant JC Purvis, who died in 1926 in a flying accident. The monument features a number of birds, which the young Lieutenant was very interested in, and more particularly an owl, which he kept as a pet when he was a boy.

A set of bells is also carved into the stone, which remind us of the story that tells us how, as a young boy, he'd been found lost and wandering in the area of Dunino. When asked where he was going, he explained that he'd heard the church bells and had set off to visit the church.



Lorimer font

REMEMBRANCE - VJ DAY

On 15 August 2025, the UK marked 80 years since VJ Day - a time to remember those who gave their lives in the Second World War.

Among the many stories of faith in WWII is that of Margaret Dryburgh - a missionary captured in Singapore and held in a prisoner of war camp. Though she never saw the end of the conflict, dying of dysentery in April 1945, she left behind a legacy of courage and faith.

During her captivity, Margaret wrote **The Captive's Hymn** - a prayer for peace that still speaks to us today:

*"May the day of freedom dawn, Peace and justice be reborn,
Grant that nations loving thee, O'er the world may brothers be,
Cleansed by suffering, know rebirth, See Thy Kingdom come on earth."*

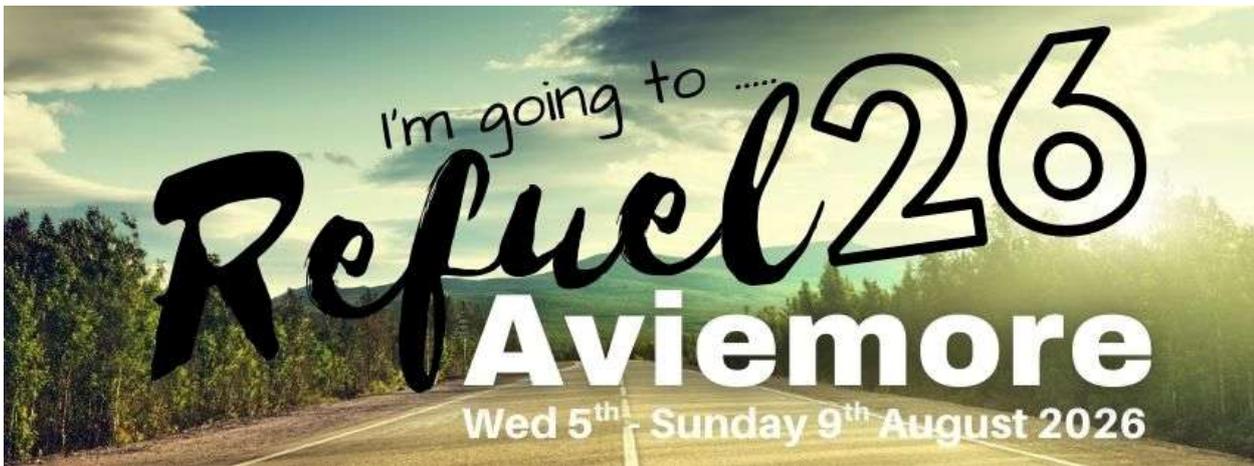


As we commemorate this anniversary, may we join in her prayer - that our nations and communities may come to know Jesus' peace.

As we await the outcomes of the current conflicts in many parts of the world may we echo these words.

(Thanks to Ron, who reminds us of these important anniversaries)

YOUR NEXT SUMMER HOLIDAY?



This Summer's refuel camp, held on the Duke of Gordon's estate in Moray, was packed with Music, teaching and prayer. There were also some unusual activities. Here is Cathy, our parish nurse, learning the art of blacksmithing
(How God forges our lives to fit his purposes- but sometimes he has to heat us up first)



Next year Refuel is in Aviemore. Why not give it a try- it's great for kids and teens as well.

OR IF YOU'RE STAYING AT HOME

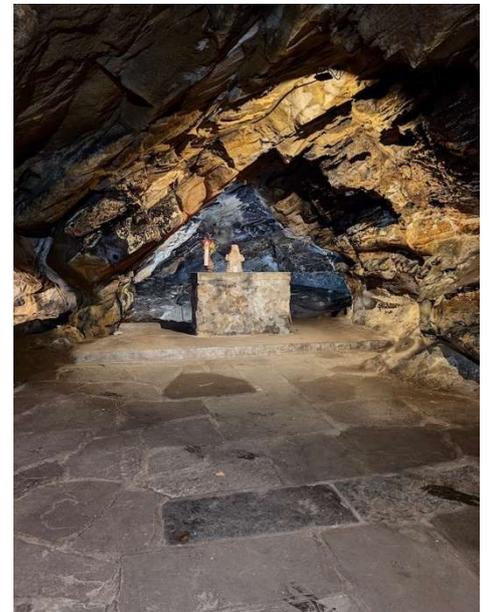
There's always more to discover in Fife!

St Fillan's cave, where early Christians worshipped is below the garden of a house in Pittenweem.



Occasionally, as during the Arts Festival, Services are held there under the guidance of the Episcopal Parish Priest.

A very Holy experience, but better to enter from the lower entrance...



Health and Safety were not prevalent in those days!

CHANGES TO THE PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

3 August	Tom Jefferey Malcolm Burn	Holy Trinity
24 August	Isaac Michael Dow	Dunino



WEDDINGS

30 June	Alberto to Eleanora (Blessing)	Bowbridge Alpaca Farm
16 August	James Dryburgh to Erin Wiebe	Holy Trinity

FUNERALS

8 July	Margaret Carswell	Kirkcaldy
15 July	Allan Cowan	Holy Trinity
24 July	John Rankin	Holy Trinity
25 July	Elinor Stanley-Whyte (Memorial Service)	Holy Trinity
1 August	Gavin Cobb	St Leonards
		(Service conducted by Rev Dr. Janet Foggie)
4 August	David Lawrie	Holy Trinity

ASSOCIATED FUNERAL

8 July	Rev George Fairlie	Insch Parish Church, Aberdeenshire
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Dr Elinor Stanley-Whyte



Dr Elinor Stanley Whyte, a child psychiatrist, retired to St Andrews with her husband Rev John Stanley Whyte, a Church of Scotland minister, about 30 years ago. His first parish was Ardrishaig where Elinor remembered Rev David Scott as a wee laddie, the son of the excellent property manager. Sadly widowed soon after retiral, Elinor was very active in Hope Park Church for many years but moved to Holy Trinity when the service time there became earlier. Continuing as an elder, admitted at the same time as Janie Brash, Elinor was very involved in the work of the church, on Kirk Session, regularly attending the Home Group/Bible Study, supporting the work of Little Cherubs by funding an

appropriate Bible story book for each Little Cherubs family at both Christmas and Easter for many years and even was a faithful member of the parish visitation the whole length of Lamond Drive despite her arthritis and being over 80!

Moving to Helensburgh 7 years ago to be near her son, Elinor really missed going to church and receiving communion as she was soon immobile but her spirit and memory remained intact to the end and it was a pleasure to be able to visit her in the west. She was definitely ready to go home to her Heavenly Father.

Moira Stewart.

Rev George Fairlie.

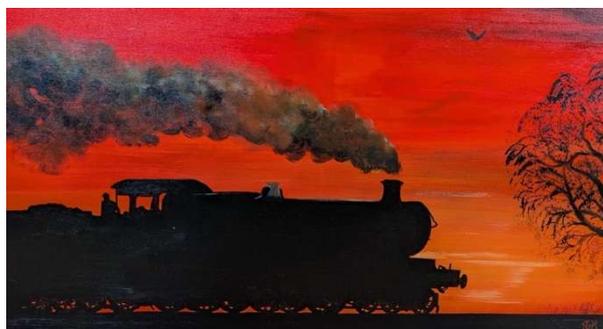
George, formerly a vet before being called into the ministry, retired from Crail and Kingsbarns and sometimes took services in Holy Trinity church. He was a greatly loved minister (One of the old school) who really loved the Lord Jesus.

He and Jan moved to Inch in 2023 as the years took their toll, to be near family.

Sadly, George died very suddenly in July. A lifelong enthusiast for railways, the history of which he was a polymath, he had a layout in his loft and would use his engineering skills to craft models in metal.



Our thoughts and prayers are with Jan, his wife, who is recovering from a hip operation.



Memories of George give focus to our friendship, engineered late in life for both.

*Sitting in the study, hands clasped firmly together
“Let’s pray” he would whisper.*

*And the world would dissolve, as into the haar as
Jesus came and sat and listened.*

Mike Stewart

The latest report from the outreach group

The Church welcome pack is now complete. The pack includes a letter from Marion, a Prayer card, The Fife Pilgrim Way information leaflet, Student outreach flyer and also 'Give church a go' & Sunday school info flyers. An initial 50 packs have been made up and are at the back of the church

Give church a go Sunday is on the 21st September this year. Flyers to go to the Chaplaincy & University.

Quiz Evening in aid of Tear fund: This upcoming event seems to be gaining momentum which is great! It is on Saturday 27th September in the Hunter & Memorial Aisle 6:30pm start but individuals or teams should try and arrive by 6.15pm. Refreshments and prizes.



Children's Afternoon Harvest Festival: Sunday 28th September 3pm. We are very much looking forward to this especially as Ron has purchased the biggest scarecrow he could find! Everyone is welcome, all ages, an ecumenical harvest celebration for the town. Children to find items hidden around the church which scarecrow has somehow mislaid!

Family Movie nights in the church hall

42 parents and children attended the May Movie night. It feels like it is going really well with many returning families each month. Emma to

approach local supermarkets for food donations each month. Ron still waiting to hear if we are successful with a grant for a new projector screen.



Could Movie night also host monthly Christian movies for adults in the church and for the community? This idea carried forward to next meeting for more discussion.

Outreach dates for 2026!

- **Easter Afternoon Kids Service:** 3pm Sunday 12th April 2026 (the Sunday after Easter Sunday)
- **(End of term) Church picnic at the Doocot, Boarhills:** Saturday 27th June 2026
- **(Start back again) Church Barbecue at Holy Trinity Church Halls:** Saturday 22nd August 2026.
- **Himalayas Putting Competition:** Sunday 6th September 2026, 1pm (organised by the Brash's).
- **Give Church a go Sunday:** Sunday 20th September 2026.
- **Charity Quiz Evening:** 6:30pm Saturday 26th September 2026.
- **Kids Afternoon Harvest Service:** 3pm Sunday 27th September 2026.
- **Christmas Eve 3pm Afternoon Family Service:** Thursday 24th December 2026.

Steve, Alison and the team

EVENTS CALENDAR AND SERVICES (SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2025)

Sunday 14 September	The Golf service (HT)
Sunday 21 September	'Give church a go' Sunday
Saturday 27 September	Quiz night (HT) 6pm start
Sunday 28 September	Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday 5 October	University Chamber Orchestra concert (HT, 4:30pm)
Wednesday 22 October	Scottish Chamber Orchestra (HT, 7:30pm)
Sunday 26 October	Glow Party (HT, 3-6pm)
Friday 7 November	Service of Communion and Remembrance (HT, 3pm)
Friday 21 November:	MUSSOC 'A night with the bands' (HT, 7:30pm)
Saturday 22 November	Scottish Chamber Orchestra (HT, 3pm)
Wednesday 26 November	StAFCO Concert (HT, 7pm)
Saturday 29 November	MUSSOC Symphony Orchestra (HT, 7:30pm)
Tuesday 2 December	Christian Union Carol Service (HT)
Friday 5 December	StA University Madrigal Group Concert (HT, 7:30pm)
Saturday 6 December	StA University Carol Service (HT, 7:30pm)
Sunday 7 December	Millfield School Choir (HT, including evensong)
Wednesday 10 December	St Leonards Senior School Carol Service (HT, 1pm)
Friday 12 December	St Leonards Junior School Carol Service (HT, 9am)
Saturday 13 December	Guild Christmas Fair (HT, 10am)
Saturday 13 December	StAFCO Community Christmas event (HT, 7pm - TBC)
Wednesday 17 December	Scottish Chamber Orchestra Concert (HT, 2pm)
Wednesday 24 December	All-age carol service (HT, 3pm) Watchnight service (HT, 11pm)
Thursday 25 December	Communion service (HT, 10:30am)

No apologies for copying this devotional from the new Pope.

Quote from Pope Leo XIV.

" Brothers, sisters...

I speak to you, especially to those who no longer believe, no longer hope, no longer pray, because they think God has left.

To those who are fed up with scandals, with misused power, with the silence of a Church that sometimes seems more like a palace than a home.

I, too, was angry with God.

I, too, saw good people die, children suffer, grandparents cry without medicine.

And yes... there were days when I prayed and only felt an echo.

But then I discovered something:

God doesn't shout. God whispers.

And sometimes He whispers from the mud, from pain, from a grandmother who feeds you without having anything.

I don't come to offer you perfect faith.

I come to tell you that faith is a walk with stones, puddles, and unexpected hugs.

I'm not asking you to believe in everything.

I'm asking you not to close the door. Give a chance to the God who waits for you without judgment.

I'm just a priest who saw God in the smile of a woman who lost her son... and yet she cooked for others.

That changed me.

So if you're broken, if you don't believe, if you're tired of the lies...

come anyway. With your anger, your doubt, your dirty backpack.

No one here will ask you for a VIP card.

Because this Church, as long as I breathe, will be a home for the homeless, and a rest for the weary.

God doesn't need soldiers.

He needs brothers.

And you, yes, you...

are one of them."

Robert Prevost (Leo XIV)

Why men stop going to sporting events:

“The coach never comes to visit me.

Every time I go to a match they ask me for money.

The people sitting in my row never seem very friendly.

The seats are very hard.

The referee once made a decision I didn't agree with.

Some games went into overtime and I was late home for supper.

The band played tunes I'd never heard of.

The games were scheduled on my only day off.

My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up.

I once read a book on sports and I reckon I know more than the coaches anyway.

I don't take my children because I want them to make up their own minds as to what sports to support.”

Any of these sound familiar?



Copy for the December Magazine by 14 November 2025 please.

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

South Street, St Andrews KY16 9NL

Charity No SCO17173

Things for MEN to do

The St Andrews men's shed is now up and running in their new self-built Shed at Craigtoun Park. (At the top behind the toilet block)

This organisation provides a safe place for men to get together and share joys and sorrows while applying their skills to making and mending all manner of items, either for themselves or for the community (There is also a community garden)



No skills are necessary, some come just for the company or to share in the delicious meals and Barbecues which are a regular feature.



You are invited to visit.

Willie Rennie MSP and Wendy Chamberlain MP are regular visitors since they realise that, apart from working at projects, this is a place which provides support for men who have all

manner of physical and mental and spiritual challenges, or are perhaps just lonely.

Certainly, I have made many new friends since joining a couple of years ago.

Why not give it a try at 9.30am on Tuesday or Thursday?

No man is turned away.



Stop Press: The St Andrews Men's Shed is in the final three for the Scottish National "Shed of the Year"