

Boarhills, Dunino and Holy Trinity:St Andrews

Newsletter December 2025

In Him was life....

John 1.5

And the light was the light of men

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

Dear All,

What a lot has happened in the last few months!

First of all, as you will see from Mike Carslaw and Alistair's contributions, the church has hosted many, many excellent performances and we are now established as a centre of excellence for music in the town.

Second, many more of you are contributing to providing HT as a venue. Thank You.

Third, we are moving towards a new identity as a signature church, which should help to preserve the future.



HOWEVER, all of this is secondary to what should be our vision as defined on the cover page.

We have become expert at inviting people to come in the door, especially now that we have a smooth, step-free entry for the disabled and infirm, ...But what then? In the book by Myles Munro, featured below, he mourns the fact that folk will peek in the door of a church, maybe take a photograph, maybe even light a candle or make a contribution...but never encounter the Person for whom the building was erected, sometimes at great cost.

Imagine if the Shepherds had stopped at the door of the stable: *"Oh look, it's a baby' we'd better slip away quietly"*

Praise God, they didn't. They encountered the presence of God, newly incarnate. They rushed out to tell everyone that, after all these years, foretold by the prophets, Immanuel, the Saviour had come! And they had the privilege of being the first witnesses.

Both the shepherds, and the Magi, who came later, had been forewarned - the shepherds by the angel and the wise men by the star. When they entered the door they EXPECTED to encounter the 'Saviour, who is Christ the Lord'.

And they did!

We're not like the innkeeper, saying "No room". We've opened the doors to the building and have learned to welcome folk through those doors. But what do we do to help them to encounter Jesus...and to stay and find out more?

The Hymn on page below (a new one) challenges us to do just that. Welcome folk, sit them down, tell them of your experience with the risen Lord and listen and pray to and for those who have need.

Challenged? I am.

Blessings from Moira and me this Christmas time

Mike (S)

MARION'S PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this letter we shall be partway through the season of Advent. We shall have shared in our Advent Carol Service on the first of four Sundays leading up to Christmas, and in our worship, we shall be thinking about the traditional themes of this penitential season, which are Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. During our worship we will be lighting our Advent Candles that symbolise the coming of Jesus who is 'The Light of the World.' And we shall have sung our hymns that speak of the Incarnation and the Second Coming. But I guess most of us will also be very focused on the great Festival of Christmas and what we plan to do on the big day.



Most families have traditions that they observe on Christmas Eve and Day. Certainly, when I was growing up, that was the case in our house. For us, these traditions inevitably, centred around the church and its worship, the service at the local hospital that my father always conducted, and the Queen's Speech, considered so important that no presents were opened until after we had heard it. But we had one more tradition which most people considered rather strange. On Christmas afternoon we opened and shared an Easter Egg that had been put away for the occasion the previous Easter. But why on earth would we do that?

James Sidlow Baxter was twentieth century pastor and theologian who served as an evangelist both in England and in Scotland. He had this to say about Christmas and Easter. 'Bethlehem and Golgotha, the Manger and the Cross, the Birth and the Death must always be seen together.' And I would want to add to that list the Resurrection and the Second Coming. If you think about it, any one of these events on its own would not seem especially important. But all of these events belong together because they define the life and work of Jesus Christ, the Word made Flesh, whose coming into the world we celebrate at Christmas. Hence an Easter Egg at Christmas, and a Christmas present at Easter. This tradition was a reminder that Christmas would not be important without Easter, and without the glorious events of Easter Day there would be no need for Christmas.

The whole message of Christmas is one that we all need to share more than ever in our present day. It is a message that says that there is hope, hope of pardon for sin, hope of peace with God, hope of Glory to come. And all this because at the Father's will, Jesus Christ became a poor human being and was born in a stable, so that thirty years later he could hang on a cross and pay the price for our sinful humanity. So come and share with us in worship and thanksgiving. Bring your family and your friends. All are always welcome. And whilst we think about what this time of year is really all about, let us also enjoy our Christmas traditions, whatever they are and however strange they may seem to other people. A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Marion

FROM THE SESSION CLERK

Now we are in Advent, preparation becomes a theme for us all. Thanks to all involved in the life of our wonderful church community as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. I hope you will be able to join in our worship over this inspiring period one way or another, whether in person or online. It has been super to see the numbers attending our services and we often welcome worshippers from all over the world.



Our mission is different from many other churches, given the number of visitors to St Andrews, some staying for a few days, some for a few weeks, others for longer, students, golfers and tourists alike. It is important that we are able to welcome as many as possible, while not losing sight of Holy Trinity's role as the 'Toun Kirk' and needs of the town's residents.

A good way to do this is keeping Holy Trinity open as much as possible. Our Outreach group, Befrienders, Church Welcomers and Events Team are bringing awareness of our churches and opportunities for worship to our communities. There is still a lot to do and we need more people. So, if you haven't done so already, I encourage you to get involved in an aspect of church life (and there are many) that interests you and could help bring in others.

Let me know if you can help in any way or you want more information. Email me at htsessionclerk@gmail.com

Dr Michael Carslaw, Session Clerk

WINTER EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED

Lindores Abbey
Distillery,
Newburgh,
Fife,
KY14 6HH

Fife Nativity Play 2025

7pm	FRI	DEC 19TH
4pm	SAT	DEC 20TH
7pm	SAT	DEC 20TH
4pm	SUN	DEC 21ST
7pm	SUN	DEC 21ST

Ten Winter Walks

on the Fife Pilgrim Way

See Facebook for the schedule and booking details or
send a WhatsApp message to 07846 171723

FIFE PILGRIM WAY PASTOR

DRROSS · TORRYBURN
NORTH QUEENSFERRY · UPPERLEITHING
DUNFERMLINE · KINCROSS · WESTY
LUCHESE HEADS · AUCHTERDEWAN · LESLIE
GLENROTHES · FARRINGTON · BISHOPLAND
ST ANDREWS

FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

Dear Friends

Many foundations have been laid for the successful future of our much-loved church here in the middle of St Andrews. One of the most significant of these is our acceptance, along with 11 other similar churches, as one of the historically central places in the story of the Church of Scotland. We have a story to tell and a history to share which we do in the summer season with many visitors who come to visit and learn. But our place now as a Signature Church, recognised as such by our own National Church, needs a wee bit more from us. Last summer I took one or two stints of duty as a welcomer and was amazed at the numbers and the world-wide spread of those who came to visit us. And not only that, many of them returned to share worship with us on the Sunday following their visit.

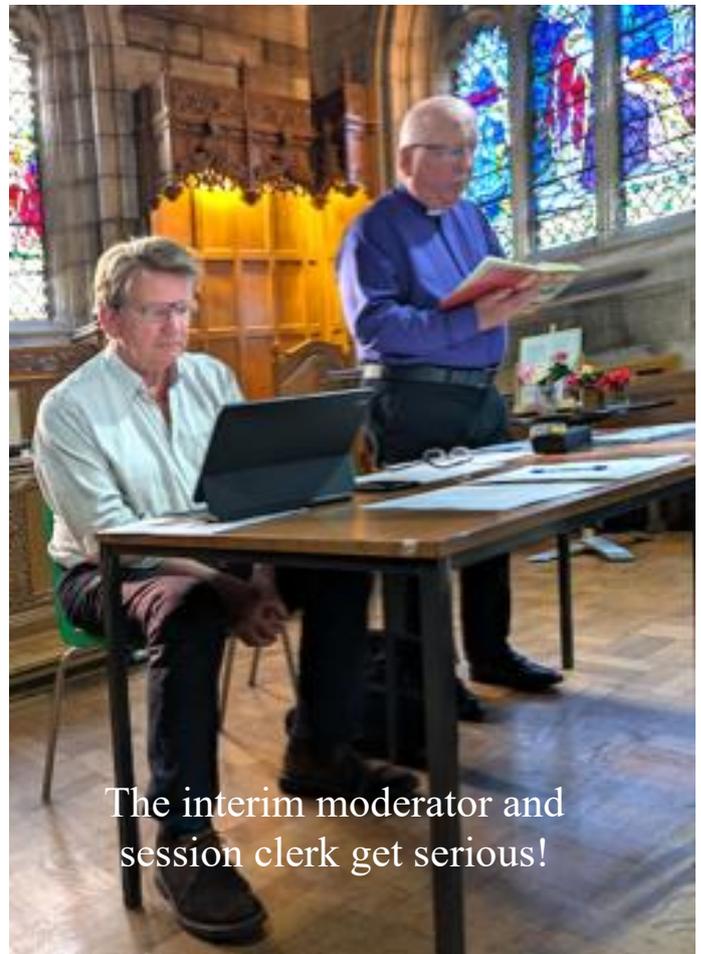
When the New Year comes I shall be asking for as many of us as possible to offer perhaps two hours a week, or a fortnight or a month to help keep our church open for such visitors on a regular basis. Being a welcomer does not mean that you need to have a degree in the history of Holy Trinity. It simply means that you are there, seated if you wish, to welcome folk as they enter through the West Door.

We have willing helpers who open up and lock up and so such responsibilities are not yours as a welcomer. We need a real shift in emphasis so that the church which is seen nationally as vital in the story of the Church of Scotland is as open and as available to as many people as possible as often as we can make it. I hope that we can respond to this. I think we could make a real difference if we could have a group of about 36 people willing to give this small number of hours as part of our overall giving to the church.

I offer this advance notice because when Christmas and New Year are past, we shall need to plan for as early an opening of the church as we can. I hope you might be able to respond positively.

Yours in Christ,

Alastair H Symington
(Interim Moderator)



The interim moderator and session clerk get serious!

FROM BOB ARCHER



Dear all,
It's a busy time for us all and I would like to thank those of you who are working so hard. Joan and I, as two of the oldest members of the congregation (see below), have had the opportunity to meet and greet many of the visitors over the summer.

And most recently we were able to welcome back Pauline Hill for a visit, attended by her

carer. She is not able to worship with us any longer, being in care in Dundee, but was delighted to be in her beloved sanctuary, even for a short time.



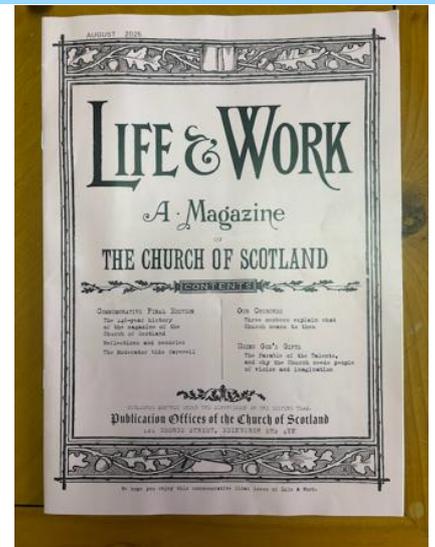
(Pauline's husband, Roy Hill was the interim minister during the Vacancy between, Charles Armour and Rory MacLeod (Ed)

LIFE AND WORK

Sadly, the General Assembly this year agreed last May to discontinue Life and Work **after 146 years**. This was, as ever, due to the fact that it was losing money due to lack of subscriptions. It seems that folk now follow on Presbytery newsletters or Facebook.

A commemorative final issue was printed earlier in the year and should be available from the Church of Scotland.

Bob



THE GUILD



Report from the Guild 11 Nov 2025

We were very happy to start the new season for the Guild. The Dedication Service means a lot

to us, because serving Christ is the purpose of the Guild. We have enjoyed our meetings and we have had speakers telling us about the work to rebuild the harbour, the work of the Outreach Group and Marion's pilgrimage to Santiago.

We look forward to the rest of our meetings which look very interesting.

We are thrilled to have welcomed several new members to our fellowship this year and will be glad to welcome anyone else who would be interested to join. Speak to Marion or any member of the Guild for more information, or to learn more about our programme.

Alison Johnson



CONGRATULATIONS



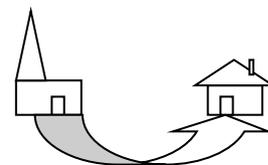
Lennox Dunley will be 100 years old on the 30 November (St Andrews day)

We wish Him and Margaret a very happy day. They still manage to walk from Argyll court every Sunday.

Please wish him a happy birthday (Ed)

PASTORAL CARE

BOARHILLS, DUNINO AND HOLY TRINITY CARE GROUP



Hello everyone,

SUMMER seems a long way off. We enjoyed two Summer Services during July and August and were pleased to be able to welcome visitors to St Andrews. The **“SUMMER HOLIDAY” SERVICE** was taken by our Locum Minister, Marion and included a certain song by Cliff Richard rounded off with a 99 cone for everyone! Grateful thanks are due to Ron Cruickshanks and Marion!! In July, our Interim Moderator, Rev Alistair Symington took the **“SUMMER SUNS ARE GLOWING” SERVICE**. Thank you. Strawberries were served afterwards.

At the **Crysanthemum Service**, the Hunter Aisle was full of these very flowers and bunches were delivered to those who were unwell and unable to come.

Those at the **Service of Harvest Thanksgiving** were treated to mini fudge donuts with their tea and coffee. Rachel Raynor, as always did us proud in decorating the Communion Table for the Short Service, and afterwards set it all up again in the main church. Richard McFarlane again assisted the Minister at our **Short Communion Service**. Thank you, Richard.

This was combined with a **Service of Remembrance** and was very moving. A German couple joined us and were warmly welcomed.

Do get in touch, in confidence, if you can't join us for whatever reason, and you would like a visit.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas, Janie, Convenor, BDHT CARE GROUP+ BEFRIENDERS
As you can see from the above, this is just a small part of what goes on within our busy church family. Thank you, Marion and our Director of Music, Marjorie. These could not happen without those of who join us in worship and fellowship and we look forward to seeing you at our

CANDLE-LIT CAROL SERVICE on 5 DECEMBER



OUR 2026 MONTHLY SHORT SERVICES, HUNTER AISLE at 3PM FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 2 JANUARY | A WEE NEW-YEAR CELEBRATION |
| 6 FEBRUARY | DAFFODIL SERVICE |
| 6 MARCH | COMMUNION SERVICE |
| 3 APRIL | GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE |
| 1 MAY | SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING +REMEMBERING |
| 5 JUNE | PENTECOST SERVICE |

These Services have been taking place for over 8 years now. They are followed by coffee, tea or juice, cake and chat – join us whatever your age! If you would like to join our happy band of helpers at any of these services, do get in touch – all are welcome.

As January 2 is during the holidays, families are also very welcome.

Our Pastoral Team aim to keep people in touch with our church, and this includes:

PUTTING ON THE HIMALAYAS



After church on 7 September, Ten Teams of Two gathered for the BDHT Putting Competition. These comprised adult couples, fathers and sons, mothers and daughters and grandparents and grandchildren. There was a TEAM RAMS – a Derbyshire connection with Lizzie and family and Pat was discovered! There were three generations of The Wood Family present - Isabel, her son, James and grandson, Robbie! There was even a TEAM BANANA!

We suspect the Watsons were influenced by Joan’s jacket!?

The weather conditions were favourable, and Team M&M aka Mike a Moira Stewart won!

Thanks are due to Isabel Wood who kindly donated the first prizes.

Here's **THE FINAL LEADERBOARD:**

First - **TEAM M&MS** (Mike and Moira)

Joint Second – **TEAM EVEREST** (Marion and Alison) and **THE HAPPY HIMALAYANS** (Ellie and Isobel)

Third – **THE PEW-MOVERS** (Callum and Sue)

Three players gained **HOLES- IN -ONE** - Heidi, Ellie and Marion. **WELL DONE!**

Congratulations and **THANK YOU** all for taking part in **A FUN CHURCH-FAMILY OUTING**



SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR

PRAYER

- **The Presbytery prayer group**

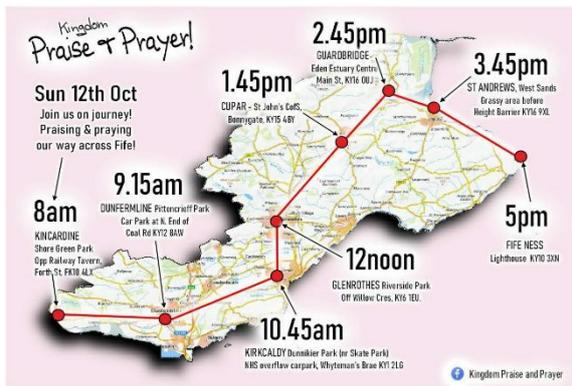
Irene Ure, one of the elders in Heart of Fife Parish church (including St Margarets. Glenrothes) co-ordinates the Presbytery Prayer Zoom at 9 am on a Tuesday morning. You would be welcome to join us.

The Zoom site is

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

- **Prayer in the Community**

Lord, grant that in all things,
great and small,
today and all the days of
my life,
I may do whatever you
require of me.
Help me respond to the
slightest prompting of your
grace,
so that I may be your
trustworthy instrument for
your honour.
May your will be done in
time and in eternity by me,
in me, and through me.
Amen. *****



You missed this event in October, but folk from many churches in Fife will be walking and praying in the New Year.

By the time this is printed you will probably have missed also the Church of Scotland day of prayer, held in churches all over Fife. Our local venue is/was St Leonards church on 29 November

PRAY FOR SCOTLAND

Led By Alistair Barton (admin@prayforScotland.org.uk)

There will be a month of prayer for Fife from 16 January to 13 February 2026.

All churches in Fife, of all denominations, are called to pray for each of our existing congregations for an hour a day (Rota coming soon).

There will also be **four half-nights of prayer and worship** in Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline and **Holy Trinity St Andrews**. These will last from 5pm to midnight.

Please come and support our team at the church on either the 23 January or the 13 February (Date to be confirmed)

Music will be provided by Chris White, a wonderful prayerful worship leader.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Report by Julie Torrance

LITTLE CHERUBS

Little Cherubs began again on the 28 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.

GLOW PARTY 2025

All the tickets for this year's Glow Party were snatched up within 36 hours of being released, which was in record time. It demonstrates how popular this event has become within the St Andrew community. Over 140 children, accompanied by their adults, arrived for a fun afternoon of face and nail painting, crafts, games, and activities, leaving with their goodie bag full of prizes and the things they had made. A special thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who made this event possible, for those who stayed to help with the clean up, and to Holy Trinity for the use of the fabulous space. What a wonderful thing it is to have so many people from our community fill the building for an afternoon full of things that bring joy, hope and light. Inside the goodie bag each child was given a little postcard, I have attached what was on the postcard below.





CHILDREN'S CORNER

written by Granger

Hello again, girls and boys, I'm sure I don't need to remind you what time of year it is! But amid all the Christmas trees, decorations, fairy lights, parties, reindeer, mince pies and presents, we should try to remember what Christmas is really about: the wonderful birth of Jesus, who loves you and me!

Over the years I've set some tricky puzzles for you. I think this is one of the most difficult, but I feel sure you can solve it. Do you like singing favourite Christmas carols? I'm wondering how well you know them, so I'm giving you six anagrams to work out. Each one, when unscrambled, will give you the first line of a well-known carol.

To help you, the number after each anagram tells you the number of words in the first line you're looking for. Here we go:-

- A NEW ARMY AGAIN (4)
- THIN LIGHTING HONESTLY (4)
- TOUCH LEAFY ALOE FILM (5)
- AN EGG HANDSHAKES THRILLER (5)
- RING HIM IN GOLD HYDROGEN (5)
- THIRTEEN FOREIGNERS AWOKE (6)

Merry Christmas!

Granger Brash

GIVING AT CHRISTMAS

It's that time of year when all charities ask us to reconsider our giving to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Why not ask yourself "Do I really need to spend as much on friends and family?"

Could I not spare a little more to the unfortunates.

There is a whean of charities which appeal to those of different mindsets. At Breakfast at Trinity we used to give to Tearfund and before that to the persecuted church. And it's so easy to give now, with internet banking- you don't even have to buy a stamp! Here is a picture of a Sunday school in Asia, in a country where it can be dangerous to talk of Jesus. Could you spare a little this year, just a *little* more?



EVENTS

CALLUM MCLEOD PRESENTATION

Callum McLeod stepped down as events manager, for the HT Trust in the Summer.

Working with Graham Wynd and a small team, his enthusiasm, expertise and hard work laid the foundation for the current ability of the congregation to host concerts, book launches and all manner of other events. He drove the reorganisation of the front of the nave and the chancel (even putting the preaching stools on wheels), fronted the purchase and location of out wonderful grand piano, paid for by the Ethel Joy bequest, and spent an enormous amount of energy in actually shifting pews and other items so as to provide the space for visiting musicians.



In addition, he provided solo recitals on the same piano and conducted the community choir; a polymath indeed.



A difficult act to follow, but Mike Carlaw has stepped in, temporarily we hope, as events manager and Callum is still to be seen assisting with ushering and other acts of mercy and with advice.

Callum was given a formal 'Thank you' by Graham Wynd, followed by appreciative applause from the congregation.

He and Sue, who also put in much time and effort, were given a cheque to cover a well-deserved holiday and then, the climax was the presentation of a pew, which he had always wanted, paraded down the side aisle by John Taylor, who worked closely with Callum in organising the church for events.

Well done, Callum. You helped bring us into a new season in which we, as a signature church, will be able to continue to offer musical, and other events for the community



CONCERTS



The Events team, now ably led by Mike Carslaw (as if he didn't have enough to do!) have managed a stunning variety of concerts and other events this autumn.

Ably assisted by John Taylor, Bob Archer and Steven Donaldson, they have moved pews, arranged seating, fixed lighting and the large screens....and a whole lot more. And not forgetting Helen who organises publicity and flyers.

There is now a team of ushers to assist before and after the concerts. They borrow the choir robes.

(I have been banned since I inadvertently chose Catherine's special cassock!).

Attendances have been excellent. There are too many to illustrate here, but the highlight for me was the clarinettist from the Laidlaw centre.



WE look forward to a continuation of these events, enhanced by the improved sound system which is ON THE WAY

PS. Thanks to Alex Daventry for photos of the concerts.

A NEW HYMN, WITH A STRONG MESSAGE. (SEE EDITOR'S NOTE)

WILL YOU COME AND SEE THE LIGHT

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed.
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope, alight in a young girl's eyes,
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
In the cradle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Words by Brian Wren
Can be played and sung to Kelvin Grove (Arr Ruddle)

A REFLECTION

What's the point of music?

I was watching Laura Kuenssberg's tv programme on Sunday morning, 14 September, and finding the matters raised and the discussion of them by the panel and visiting speakers both riveting and worrying. So much seems to be going wrong with our world and in our country and so many people in high places seem to have lost any moral sense. When it was nearly time for the programme to end, Laura announced that a young family of musicians, one of whose members had played some time ago for King Charles, were in the building and the programme switched to a small group of young people playing a soft sweet melody. This was like a cool breeze, blowing away all the worrying things we had just listened to. It's no wonder music has a big part to play in our worship services even though some people feel that it has no place there.

I was particularly happy that morning as our church choir was back after the summer break and we would have their singing to help us as we listened to the anthem at the beginning of the service and sang with them the carefully chosen hymns. Just as I felt transported in some way by the words and music of the hymns, I found worship and praise and thanksgiving were deepening for me and I am sure for those around me.

Some people in the past, and even nowadays, do not feel music is appropriate in a worship service. Certainly, times of quiet meditation can also be really helpful, but there are so many references to music and singing in scripture that I am sure music is important in worship and there will be music in heaven where even those who find it hard to sing in tune or are tone deaf, like one of my friends, will find themselves sharing in heavenly praise.

Like so many others, our choir and our organist use their God-given talents gladly to help us in praise and worship and we are grateful to them. It's only a tiny ASK, but we have recently lost a dear bass singer who I am sure is already singing in the heavenly choir. Perhaps there is a good bass singer out there who would like to take his place here in Holy Trinity Church. If that is you or someone you know just speak to Marion or a member of the choir.

Bunny Slack

“The Bible will keep you from sin
Or sin will keep you from the Bible.”

A MEDITATION

The Story of The Praying Hands

Back in the fifteenth century, in a village near Nuremberg, lived a family with eighteen children. The father, a goldsmith, worked almost eighteen hours a day at his trade



Two of the elder children, Albrecht and Albert, had a dream. They both wanted to pursue their talent for art, but knew that their father would never be able to send either of them to study at the Academy. The two boys finally worked out a pact. They would toss a coin. The loser would go down the nearby mines and support his brother while he attended the academy. Then, when he completed his studies in four years, he would support the other brother at the academy.

Albrecht Durer won the toss and Albert went down into the mines and for the next four years, financed his brother.

Albrecht's etchings, his woodcuts, and his oils were far better than those of most of his professors, and by the time he graduated, he was earning considerable fees for his works.

When Albrecht returned to his village, the family held a festive dinner. After a long and memorable meal, Albrecht rose from his position at the head of the table to drink a toast to his beloved brother for the years of sacrifice that had enabled him to fulfill his ambition. His closing words were, "And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, now it is your turn. Now you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream, and I will take care of you".

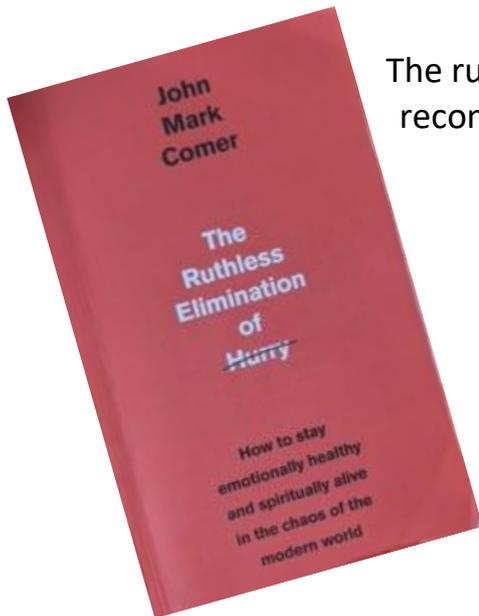
All heads turned in eager expectation to the far end of the table where Albert sat, tears streaming down his pale face, shaking his lowered head from side to side he sobbed and repeated, over and over, "No... no... no... no".

Finally, Albert rose, glanced down the long table at the faces he loved, and then, holding his hands close to his right cheek, he said softly, "No, brother. I cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look... Look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every finger have been smashed at least once, and lately I have been suffering from arthritis so badly in my right hand that I cannot even hold a glass to return your toast, much less make delicate lines on parchment or canvas with a pen or a brush. No, brother... for me it is too late".

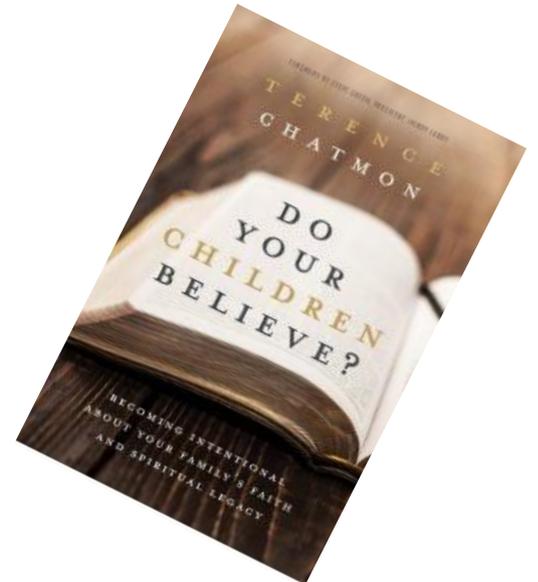
One day, to pay homage to Albert for all that he had sacrificed, Albrecht Durer painstakingly drew his brother's abused hands with palms together and thin fingers stretched skyward. He called his powerful drawing simply "Hands", but the entire world almost immediately opened their hearts to his great masterpiece and renamed his tribute of love "The Praying Hands". The next time you see a copy of that touching creation, take a second look. Let it be your reminder, that no one – no one – ever makes it alone!

BOOKS

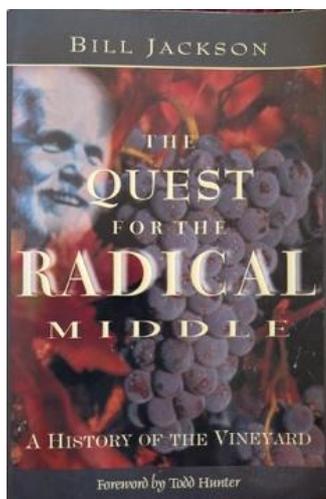
Here is a great selection of books which you might wish to dip into.



The ruthless elimination of hurry is a best seller and recommended reading for those whose lives are just TOO busy.

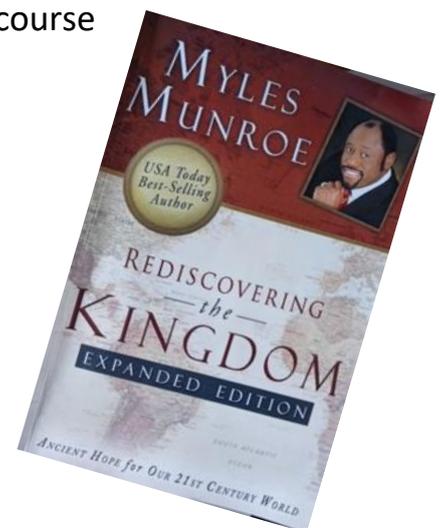


Do Your children believe? explores the contribution that parents and grandparents can have on the Christian development of their little one (and Teenagers)



The Quest for the Radical Middle is a sensitive, but very true, history of the Vineyard movement which doesn't hold back on any of the triumphs, but also the difficulties faced by those who led a Holy Spirit based new expression of worship, from which many new songs and also the inspiration for the Alpha course emerged.

And 'Rediscovering the Kingdom puts a very fresh slant on Jesus's gospel. The author, Myles Munro, shocked a South African Mixed congregation by stating that the way that Christianity is designed to spread is by colonization!



All of these are excellent reads and are available to borrow from the editor

HISTORY

Pictures from 1982 from the Guild archives.



how many can you recognize?(No-one under 60 need try!)



NEWS FROM NEIGHBORING PRESBYTERIES

PERTH PRESBYTERY

At a meeting of Perth Presbytery in October they invited **Rev Kaye Gardiner** to speak to them. Kaye was assigned to Wallacewell and Kenmure church in NE Glasgow as an assistant at a time when both buildings were due to be closed. After only 18 months the congregation had grown to over 150! Kaye was never inducted to the charge and was then assigned to Toryglen, on the South side of Glasgow, which was also under threat of closure. Kaye, who had been a beautician and was a late 'comer to faith', trusted the Lord for this congregation also.



When she left a few years later there were 350 people praising God on Sundays in community at the "Revelation Room"

Kaye felt that Parish ministry is not her calling and is now a roving evangelist, speaking in churches, para-church meetings (She spoke at the Fife Filling Station in November) and now to a presbytery.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit she is a beacon for the church. If you would like to hear Kaye speak please use the link below, which is freely available

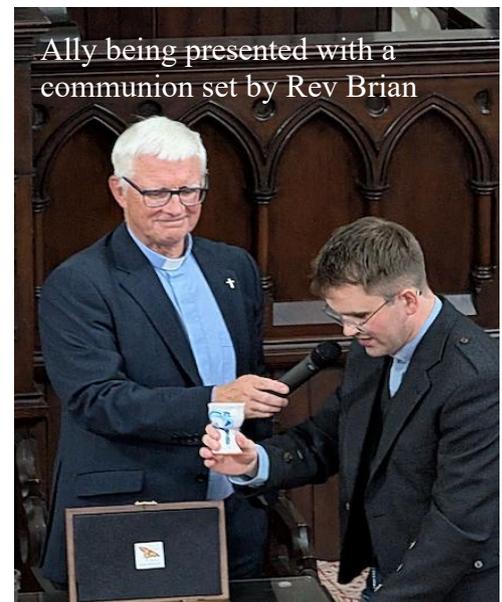
<https://youtu.be/WhUxj-9bqeQ?t=8180>

LOTHIANS AND BORDERS PRESBYTERY

On 2 October, Rev Alistair Stark (Ally) was ordained to the church of Scotland Ministry and inducted into the congregation of Belhaven and Spott, in Dunbar.

Ally attended 'Breakfast at Trinity' for a number of years, playing Keyboard in the band. He and his wife Jenny were faithful members, as was Ruaridh, his son.

Ally was called into the ministry at this time and then spent 4 years at St Mary's and several parishes in Fife on placements etc.



Moira and I had the privilege of attending his induction. He has around him an enthusiastic congregation, who are looking forward to having a minister at last after a three year vacancy. He was inducted by the Interim moderator, Rev Brian C Hilsley, minister of Aberlady with Gullane, who is the brother of Beth McLean, who helps with Little Cherubs. It was a very happy occasion and we wish him well (Ed)

THE CHOIR



Jennifer Niven receives her medal

On Sunday 23 November Marion presented some of the choir members with medals for outstanding service. Trent Francis, the Walter Blair scholar, Jennifer Niven, the Robert Morris scholar and Denali Poerville, the Greta Arnott scholar were applauded by the congregation

Caleb Stewart, the Tom Duncan Scholar was unable to be present.



Denali Poerville being thanked



Seen in the Sharp aisle.

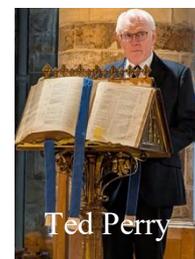
Was this a previous choral scholar? (Ed)

SPECIAL SERVICES

GOLF SERVICE



The Annual Golf Service was held in September. The preacher was Rev Alistair Bennett and the lessons were led by Jack Perry, the Captain of the Royal & Ancient golf club and the Captain of the New club.



Ted Perry

ARMISTICE SERVICE



The Armistice service on 8 November, was well attended. The bugler this year was provided by the University Laidlaw Music Department.

Alistair Symington preached a thoughtful and challenging sermon, focused on “God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come”.



AFTERNOON HARVEST SERVICE



A special harvest service, designed for young people was held in the afternoon in October. It had been announced that 'Worzel Gummidge' the

scarecrow, would be present, but in the end he couldn't make it.

A tiny congregation watched as Marion explained the joy of giving at Harvest and presented Eve with a gift



SUMMER CAMP AT FOCHABERS

Last 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.

(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.



WHERE ARE YOUR HOLIDAY STORIES?

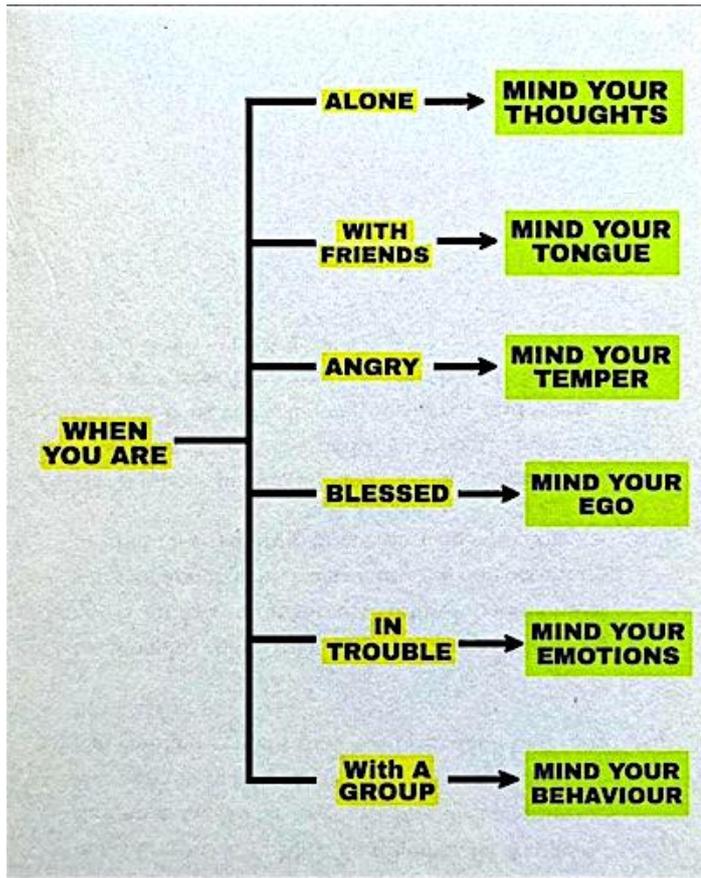
It's great to hear what folk have been up to; some of you are very adventurous.

As a starter for ten, Moira and I recently went on the Orient Express from Venice to Vienna, via the Simplon tunnel. A wonderful time, with afternoon tea, as the countryside hurtled past... And we never left Leith!

(The Orient express experience is well worth an afternoon in Edinburgh. It really felt as if we were on the train. Only £22 each.)



SOMETHING TO PONDER



Relationships are precious!



Wilma Sweeney made this beautiful cake for us one Sunday recently.

OUTREACH

The latest report from the outreach group

The Church welcome pack is now complete. The pack includes a letter from Marion, a Prayer card, and the Fife Pilgrim Way passport

The Outreach Group continues to meet regularly and we are buzzing with ideas. Sunday School continues weekly and we have been surprised and delighted with the number of children who have attended over the year.

We enjoyed our children's Harvest Festival and look forward to the children's Christmas Service. We are also working on the best ways to publicise these services and events.

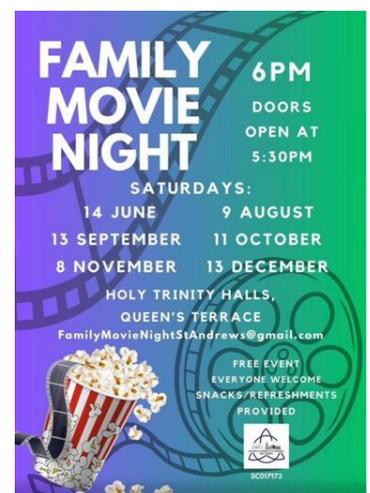
We are also working to be a more sustainable church and we are looking into various ways of achieving this - watch this space!

Family Film Night goes from strength to strength - thanks to the vision of Steve Watson and the hard work of his family, along with John Taylor.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS IN THE CHURCH HALL

Could Movie night also host monthly Christian movies for adults in the church and for the community?

What about showing "THE CHOSEN", a powerful depiction of the gospels in 20 episodes? (Ed)



Outreach dates for 2026!

- Easter Afternoon Kids Service: 3pm **Sunday 12 April** 2026 (the Sunday after Easter Sunday)
- (End of term) Church picnic at the Doocot, Boarhills: **Saturday 27 June** 2026
- (Start back again) Church Barbecue at Holy Trinity Church Halls: **Saturday 22 August** 2026.
- Himalayas Putting Competition **Sunday 6 September** 2026 1pm (organised by the Brash's).
- Give Church a go Sunday: **Sunday 20 September** 2026.
- Charity Quiz Evening: 6:30pm **Saturday 26 September** 2026.
- Kids Afternoon Harvest Service: 3:00pm **Sunday 27 September** 2026.
- Christmas Eve 3:00pm Afternoon Family Service **Thursday 24 December** 2026

Steve, Alison and the team

CHANGES TO THE PARISH REGISTER

WEDDINGS

13 September	George Burke to Ann-Margaret Whyte	Holy Trinity
20 September	Francis Clark to Rosie Anderson	Holy Trinity
8 October	Rhys Clark to Samarra Hanna	Holy Trinity

FUNERALS

28 August	Duncan Smith	Dundee
15 September	Margaret Cuthbert	Holy Trinity
15 October	Ian C. Moore	Holy Trinity

NEW MEMBERS

Moyra Drake Everjoy Ndabq Heather MacMillan

NEW ELDER TO BE ADMITTED TO THE KIRK SESSION

Mark Hamilton

EVENTS CALENDAR AND SERVICES (SEPT- DEC 2025)

Saturday 29 November	MUSSOC Symphony Orchestra (19:30)
Wednesday 3 December	StAFCO (Not yet finalised)
Friday 5 December	St Andrews University Madrigal Group (17:00-22:00)
Saturday 6 December	St Andrews University Carol Service (15:30-22:00)
Sunday 7 December	Millfield School Choir (including evensong)
Wednesday 10 December	St Leonards Senior School Carol Service (13:00)
Friday 12 December	St Leonards Junior School Carol Service (8:45-11:30)
Saturday 13 December	Guild Fair (10:00-15:00)
Saturday 13 December	StAFCO Community Christmas event (19:00)
Wednesday 17 December	Scottish Chamber Orchestra: (14:00, matinee)
Wednesday 24 December	All-age carol service (Afternoon) Watchnight service (15:00)
Thursday 25 December	Communion service in Holy Trinity (10:30)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

30 November	Advent Carol Service	11:15am	Holy Trinity
21 December	Family Carol Service	9:45am	Dunino
21 December	Family Carol Service	11:15am	Holy Trinity

CHRISTMAS EVE

24 December	Children’s Christmas Service	3:00pm	Holy Trinity
24 December	Watchnight Service	7:00pm	Dunino
24 December	Bethlehem at Midnight	9:30pm	St Leonards
24 December	Watchnight Service	11:30pm	Holy Trinity

CHRISTMAS DAY

25 December	Communion Service	10:30am	Holy Trinity
28 December	Morning Worship	9:45am	Dunino

NEW YEAR

4 January	Morning Worship	9:45am	Dunino
4 January	Morning Worship	11:15am	Holy Trinity

There will be a collection plate at all our Christmas services for the Lochranza Oncology Ward at the Edinburgh Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

In addition, on Christmas Eve there will be a Christingle Service at St Marks and a Pyjama Christmas Eve Service at Cameron. There will be a Blue Sunday/Bereavement Service at St Marks or St Leonards. Please see local notices for timings. Everyone will be warmly welcomed at any of these services



Just to remind ourselves that Jesus was born a Jew.



His Hebrew name was Jeshua and Mary’s was Miriam

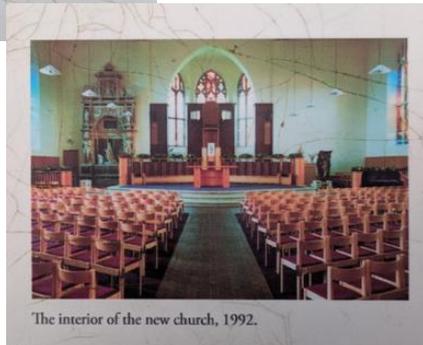
OTHER CHURCHES WITH BUILDING PROBLEMS (SOLVED)

Dunbar Parish Church
Destroyed by fire in 1987



The fire, 3rd January 1987. Courtesy of R. Blair.

*Rebuilt and
refurbished by 1992*



The interior of the new church, 1992.

Tarbert Loch Fyne parish church
*Required major rebuilding including a
new roof*



*The barrel-arch roof, which had
stencilled pictures, was repainted
by local artists*

MENS WORK

The Men's shed are always looking for good wood.
Holy Trinity needed to get rid of four redundant pews.
The answer was to do a deal.

Wood to Craigtoun and a promise of some new notice boards and a table-top lectern for Marion.

And so last week the team arrived, led by Andy in the SUV and trailer.



Two Mikes supervised the removal of the pews from below the East window. The pews were too long for the trailer (16 ft), so a chainsaw was required



All DONE in
an hour. And
DUSTED.



A MEDITATION

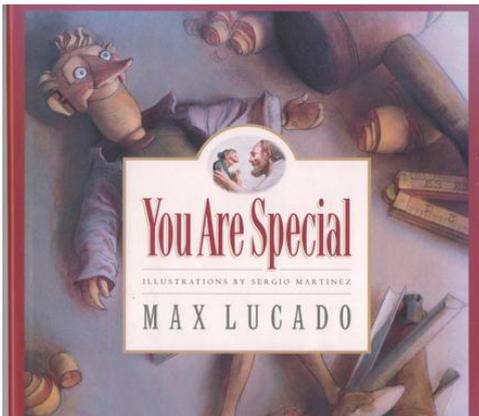
I looked in the spirit and saw a man standing holding a large bunch of balloons, all of them were different colours and patterns. I could hear them talking and as I listened I heard them comparing themselves to one another. They were saying they would rather be red like the red balloon, patterned like the balloons with patterns or shaped differently to the form they had been given. They were so focused on the other balloons shapes, sizes, colours and



patterns that they were unable to recognise their own uniqueness and beauty.

I heard the Spirit of the Lord call to a balloon and take it from amongst the bunch. He held it and He said "You are made uniquely in My image and you are perfect in My sight. You are not the blue one with the patterns because you were made to be the green one with stars on and I made you this way on purpose. I love you and I love the shape you are, the colour you bring, the unique patterns of my DNA that you carry. I handcrafted you purposefully and uniquely to be you. I do not want you to carry

the shape or sound of others but I want you to represent me in the way I have made you to".



The Lord says to you today, I am the one who sings over you with delight day by day as you come and seek me out to spend time with me. I adore your sweet perfume, your voice and the gifts you carry everywhere you go. I enjoy laughing with you and the way you dance and sing before Me. There is no-one else who brings me the things that you do. Only you, my love. Only you! I delight in the way you abandon yourself to praising Me and worship. You dance like David, as though there is no one else watching although you know that there is. You are lost in enjoying Me and I am arrested by the

gifts that you bring and release as you dance. Please do not compare yourself to the others, I love you because you are made uniquely in my image and you belong to me!

Lion Bites; Global Prophetic Alliance 10.10.25

Alternatively/reading and mediating on Psalm 139 can confirm God's love for you and acceptance of you- no matter what.

"Lord You have searched me and know me.... And YET He loves me

Copy for the April Magazine by **14 February** please.

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