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Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Issue 8

May 2022

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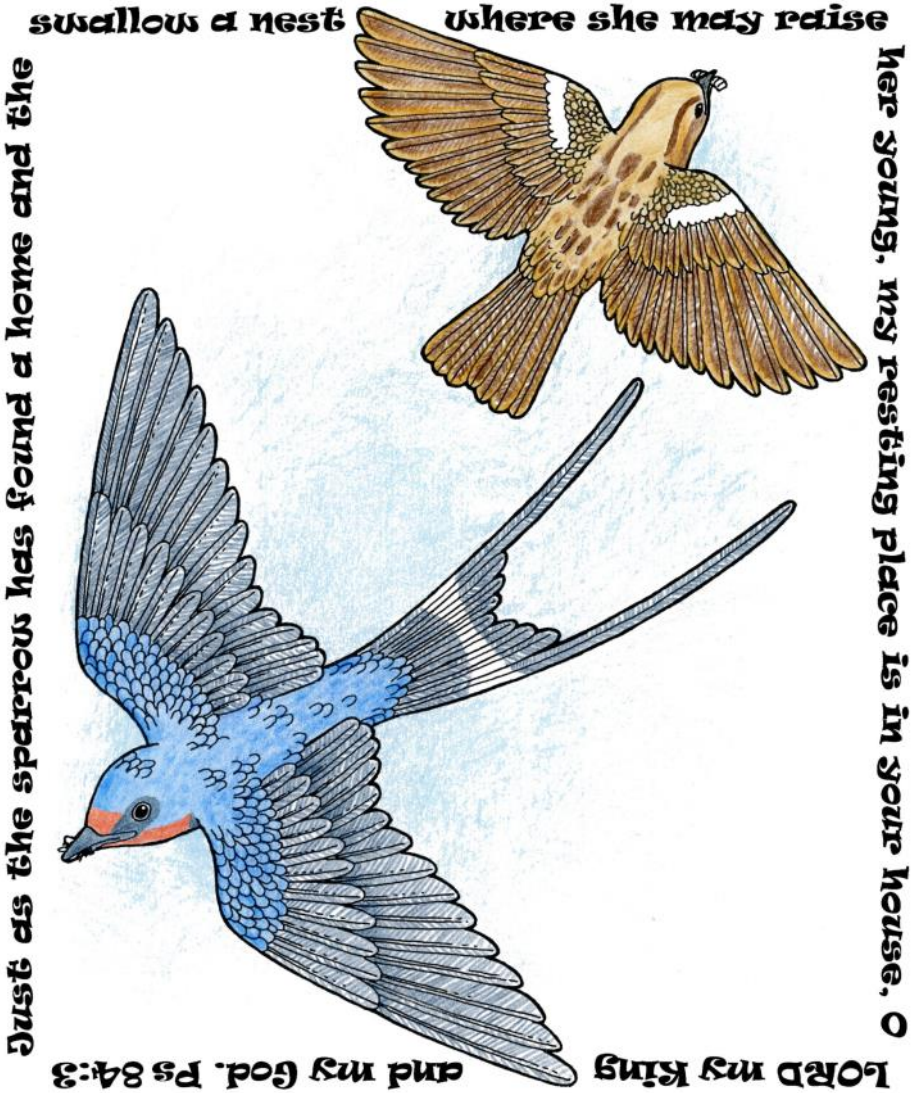

The Rector's Letter

Dear all,

Towards the end of this month, on Thursday 26th May, we'll observe the Feast of the Ascension which is celebrated 40 days after Easter. The Ascension of Christ, as described in the Gospel of Luke and in Acts, is very much seen as the end-point of the immediate post-Resurrection period where Christ appears to his disciples, continues to teach them and even shares in meals with them. The Ascension brings this to a close, as Luke's Gospel ends like this:

'Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; 53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.' (Luke 24.50-53)

The Ascension brings Easter to yet a different level: it is a point instigating spiritual growth and maturity. The Master has to leave in order for his disciples to grow up! I often think of hatching birds when pondering the Ascension: the moment when the little ones are ready to fly, they receive a nudge from their parents, forcing them to leave the nest and fly. They can't stay in the nest forever, they need to trust in their own skills and become fully grown birds.

Likewise, we have spiritual need of the Ascension and need to risk leaving...our nests to become Christian disciples pledged to growth. That might sound risky and it might be tempting to hide in structures well-known to us. But the Ascension teaches us that we are created to fly and grow, as we find a renewed relationship with God and God's wonderful creation.

Wishing you a good Eastertide and a deep & bold Ascension Day,

Christoph

From the Registers

Funeral William (Bill) Shanks 26th April 2022

May he rest in peace and rise in glory

Picking up a Copy of HT Magazine in Church

Please let me know if you would like your name added to the list of those who want to pick up their magazine in church. There are spare copies but to guarantee one, you need to give me your name.

Libby Coats

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Wellsprings – at last!

After various unforeseen events and cancellations, Wellsprings, the *lectio divina* prayer group has a new start date!

We will meet on **six consecutive Tuesday mornings beginning on 17 May** from 10am-11am followed by refreshments at my home in St Ninian's (joanblyon@gmail.com). It may, of course, not be possible for you to come every week but it will be helpful if you can come to the introductory first meeting. If you would like to find out more, there is a fuller introduction in the Wellsprings leaflet at the back of the church along with a sign-up sheet and you can talk to either myself or Christoph. Numbers limited to a maximum of 10.

So here is a brief explanation…... To pray is to draw closer to the heart of God. In our Sunday service, we offer prayers each week for the church, the world, for the needs of others and ourselves. But prayer is as much about listening quietly to hear what God might be saying to each one of us.

Lectio Divina which means "holy reading" - is an ancient spiritual practice from the Christian monastic tradition that allows us to experience the presence of God through reading a passage from Scripture and listening, periods of silence, prayer and contemplation. It is not a Bible study nor a discussion group although people can certainly share their experience if they would like to.

It is a way of praying that energises us and leaves us feeling more peaceful within ourselves and therefore more ready to engage with the reality of the life we live on a day to day basis.

It helps us to take time to discover the rich truths of the Word of God.

Reverend Joan Lyon

Christian Aid Week 2022: 15-21 May

We're raising money for Christian Aid Week because it's unjust that drought is driving people into hunger.

Jessica fears her children won't eat tonight. Drought robs her of the power to provide for her family. But with your help we could make sure families like hers can grow drought-tolerant crops that flourish in the changing climate.

Please join us this Christian Aid Week by donating to our e-envelope, which is at https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/holy-trinity-stirling?channel=copy

You can type in the link above, or e-mail me on dwbrown384@sky.com for a link that you can simply click onto. Please feel free to pass this link on to your family and friends or circulate it on social media. The site makes it easy to do this.

Last year, we raised £760 + Gift Aid and it would be good if we could at least equal that amount.

Please make all donations to the e-envelope by Saturday 21 May.

Thank you

David Brown

From the Archives….

Most folk in the congregation will be aware of the existence of the Music Group, which is trying to find its feet again following the enforced lay-off of the pandemic, aided by a welcome influx of new musicians (thank you Sally, Laura and Tony!).

What many people may not realise is just how long the Music Group has been going, and how many people have been involved along the way. Ken Ravey, our first keyboard player, recently shared with me an annual report of the group from 2000/2001, back in our early days. I thought this might be of wider interest, in the context of the current challenges and opportunities facing us as we look to renew our worship post pandemic. *Alistair Shaw*

"The past year has been one of consolidation for the Music Group, during which we have had to balance the demands of family and work commitments with trying to maintain our contribution to the worship life of the church.

"The monthly evening service remains a central part of that contribution. We continue to attract between 20 and 30 folk to each service and are grateful to those who continue to support us. The theme for our services in 2001 was meeting God through different artistic and creative media – we have looked at nature, music, storytelling, our Celtic Christian heritage and poetry so far. This links to our wider desire to expand the boundaries of how we experience God through prayer and worship.

"A highlight of the year was undoubtedly the storytelling evening, when we abandoned our keyboards, violins and guitars and amplifiers and relied instead on that most elemental, versatile and universal of instruments – the human voice. The service was a reminder to us of the importance of simplicity in worship.

"Membership of the group has stayed stable through the year. We thank God for all the skills we have at our disposal, and for the balance of

instruments, which has allowed the quality of our music to improve immeasurably from when we started out four years ago.

"So much for the successes. We are aware of some areas in which we want to make more progress. The ecumenical aspect of our work which marked our formative period has fallen away during the past year. We hope to start addressing this by joining with the Methodists for an Advent service in December. We are also conscious that we have not been able to meet as regularly for prayer and fellowship as a group as we would have liked. To this end we have arranged a weekend retreat at William and Juliet Clerk-Maxwells' beautiful house near Dumfries in October.

"We also realise that we are perhaps not as experimental and challenging in our approach to the evening services as we originally set out to be. We tread a fine line between following a formula that we know works and is enjoyed by those who come along, and trying to expand horizons, take risks and reap unforeseen rewards.

"We continue to pray that we can take a fuller part in the worship of Holy Trinity, particularly during the Sunday morning service. The family service may present opportunities in this regard. We also look with anticipation to the setting up of the Worship and Welcome group which should allow a more in depth and longer term look at the direction and shape which worship is taking within Holy Trinity.

"Finally, we are grateful to Alan Gray [Rachael Campbell's father] *for reminding us in a recent sermon of the healing power of music. Our prayer is that music in Holy Trinity may be an agent of God's blessing to the congregation and to all those who pass through our doors."*

Prayer Diary for May

1 Sun, EASTER 3, for Rt. Revd. Kevin Pearson Bishop of Argyll & the Isles.

2 Mon, **Philip & James**, Apostles, for Most Revd, Mark Strange our Primus.

3 Tues, **Athanasius**, Bishop, 373, for Rt. Revd, Bishop John Crook.

4 Wed, for those who clean our church.

5 Thu, for HTKidZ and Sarah and Alistair Shaw.

6 Fri, for Rachel Campbell, our Vestry Secretary & Vestry members.

7 Sat, for our sides-people who welcome us all & our visitors.

8 Sun, EASTER 4, that we may for ever follow Christ.

9 Mon, **Julian of Norwich**, c1413 for Revd. Val Nellist our Asst. Priest.

10 Tues, for all who use the church hall and for Sarah Shaw the convenor.

11 Wed, for our parliaments in Westminster and Edinburgh.

12 Thu, **Thomas Rattray**, Bishop, 1743, for our college of Bishops.

13 Fri, for Alistair Warwick, Director of Music, the Choir & Music Group.

14 Sat, **Matthias,** Apostle, for Revd. Christoph Wutscher our Rector.

15 Sun, EASTER 5, that the love of the Father will heal Christ's Church.

16 Mon, for those who prepare our Rotas.

17 Tues, for foster parents, children's homes & social workers.

18 Wed, **John I**, Pope & martyr, 526, for all those who read for us.

19 Thu, for the members of our local councils.

20 Fri, **Bernadine of Siena**, priest, 1444, for Pope Francis.

21 Sat, **Helena,** c330, for Mary Kenyon our flower convenor.

22 Sun, EASTER 6, that we may always keep Christ's word.

23 Mon, **William of Perth,** 1201, for Robert Nellist our Treasurer.

24 Tues, for our church magazine group, Libby, Liza and Ann.

25 Wed, **Bede,** The Venerable, 735, for our Altar Servers.

26 Thu, ASCENSION DAY, let us pray for the unity of Christendom.

27 Fri, **Augustine**, bishop, 604, for Rt. Revd. Ian Paton our Diocesan Bishop.

28 Sat, that we may be aware of Christ's power within us.

29 Sun, EASTER 7, that we all may be found worthy to enter the gate.

30 Mon, **Joan of Arc**, 1431, for Cathy Johnson our Lay Representative.

31 Tues, **Visit of Mary to Elizabeth**, for Helen Kemp our PVG Convenor.

Saints and Heroes to inspire our Prayers in May

3rd St. Athanasius, born at Alexandria in 295. He attended the Council of Nicaea in 325 which had been called to rebut the heresy of Arius, which denied the divinity of Christ. Arius was also Alexandrian. Athanasius became bishop of Alexandria in 328, and was tireless in combatting the heresy. He was exiled five times for his persistence. He wrote brilliantly, both in defence of doctrine, and on spiritual matters. He died in 373.

20th St. Bernadine of Siena, priest, born in 1380 near Siena A Franciscan reformer, Bernadine entered the Friars Minor at the age of 22, and was ordained. He journeyed throughout Italy, preaching with great eloquence of God's mercy. He was responsible for many reforms, and he encouraged devotion to the holy name of Jesus.

23rd St. William of Perth, known more generally as William of Rochester was a native of Perth and a fisherman by trade. He experienced a conversion and devoted himself to the care of orphans and the poor. In accordance with a vow he set off on pilgrimage to the Holy land in 1201. He took one companion, who when they reached Rochester killed him. After his body was found, miracles were attributed to him, and he is buried in Rochester Cathedral. King Edward I made offerings at his shrine.

27th St. Augustine, missionary to Kent, prior of St. Andrew's monastery in Rome. He was sent by St. Gregory the Great, then Pope, to refound the Church in England. He landed in Kent in the summer of 597. He was well received and given every opportunity for his work. Very soon the faith was adopted by Ethelbert, King of Kent whose wife Bertha was a Christian before her marriage. He travelled to Arles to be consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury. His last acts were to make Justus Bishop of Rochester and Mellitus Bishop of London.

Readings

Sunday 1st	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
EASTER 3	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Acts 9.1-6; Revelation 5.11-14; John 21.1-19
Sunday 8th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
EASTER 4	**Readings**	Acts 9.36-43; Revelation 7.9-17; John 10.22-30
Sunday 15th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
EASTER 5	**Readings**	Acts 11.1-18; Revelation 21.1-6; John 13.31-35
Sunday 22nd	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
EASTER 6	**Readings**	Acts 16.9-15; Revelation 21.10,22-22.5; John 14.23-29
Thursday 26th	**7.30 p.m.**	Sung Eucharist
ASCENSION DAY	**Readings**	Acts 1.1-11; Ephesians 1.15-23; Luke 24.44-53
Sunday 29th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
EASTER	**Readings**	Acts 16.16-34 Revelation 22.12-14,16-17,20-21; John 17.20-26

Rotas

May

	Readings	Intercessions
May 1	**J Morris**	**A Pont**
May 8	**G Young**	**N Morris**
May 15	**N Morris**	**I Boa**
May 22	**A Pont**	**C Johnston**
May 26	**C Watson**	**tbc**
May 29	**C Johnston**	**A Shaw**

Sidesduty

May I	**B & C Watson**
May 8	**H Kemp & C Kendall**
May 15	**J Foster & F MacLeod**
May 22	**J & N Morris**
May 26	**A Lees & R Campbell**
May 29	**R & V Nellist**

Articles for the **June** edition are requested on or before

Sunday 15th May

The magazine will be available on

Sunday 29th May

New dog breeds

With all the new crossbreeds appearing, would you fancy one of the following?

Collie + Lhasa Apso = Collapso: a dog that folds up for easy transport

Spitz + Chow Chow = Spitz-Chow: a dog that throws up a lot

Pointer + Setter = Poinsetter: a traditional Christmas pet

Pekingnese + Lhasa Apso = Peekasso: an abstract dog

Terrier + Bulldog = Terribull: a dog that makes awful mistakes

Bloodhound + Labrador = Blabador: a dog that barks incessantly

Malamute + Pointer = Moot Point: owned by...oh, well, it doesn't matter anyway

www.parishpump.org

Next Month

We are encouraged to eat less meat and, with this in mind, we'd like to include some vegetarian recipes in the **June** magazine. Please send in your favourite veggie dish, with a picture if possible. Submit by 29th May.

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editorial team.

PAPERSORTERS

Are your paper documents in a muddle?
Would you like them sorted, listed and made available?
Then PAPERSORTERS have the answer.
Advice on:-
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Ann Lees Tel 01786 472355 *Email: leesa@postmaster.co.uk*

Our Services

Sundays

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

At present Sunday school (HTKidZ) for primary age children is not meeting regularly but if you would like information on planned activities (Government guidelines permitting) please contact Sarah or Alistair Shaw at shaws1@talktalk.net

Organisations Meeting in the Church Hall

Mondays
10-12 HT Tots Gen Pont gandapont@yahoo.co.uk
3.30-5.30pm Destination Judo: info@destinationjudo.com
6pm Mindbodysoul Yoga: grant@mindbodysoulyoga.co.uk

Tuesdays
10-11am Pilates: judithgraham090@gmail.com
6.30pm Lishi Self Defence: grant@lishi.org

Wednesdays
11-12 Action in Mind Fitness: Mariclaire15@hotmail.com
7pm SABOS: sabosmusicaltheatre@gmail.com

Thursdays
11am Stirling Community Lunch: stirling4community@gmail.com
4-7pm Dance: kimmybruce@hotmail.com
7pm Stirling4 Community Choir

Saturdays
9-10am Babyballet: lpattison@hotmail.co.uk

The church hall is available for further lettings in line with Government guidance. If you would like to rent the hall please contact Sarah Shaw on 07970466551 or shaws1@talktalk.net to discuss our risk assessment and terms of letting during COVID19.