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Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

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February 2023

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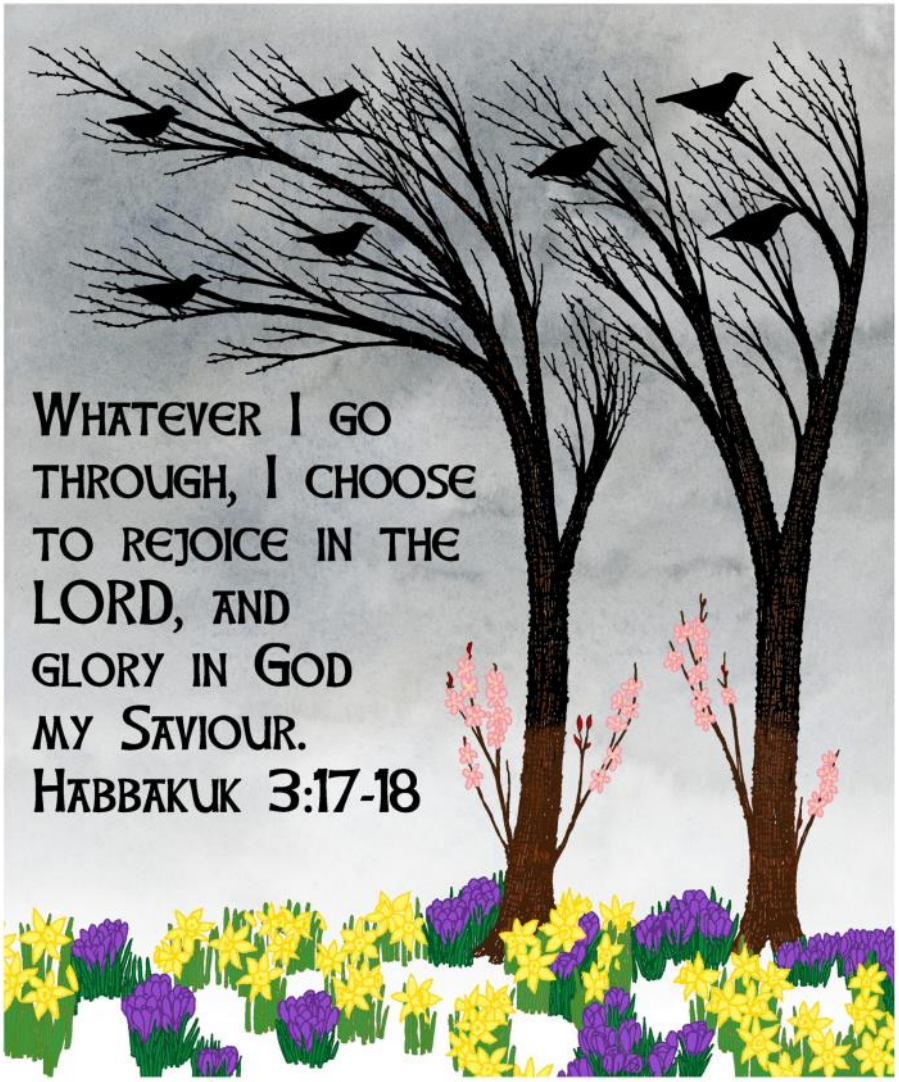

The Rector's Letter

Dear all,

We sometimes talk of 'being on the way' when referring to our Christian discipleship. This is not least, because 'the Way' seems to have been a term used by the very early Christians when talking about the Church (particularly in the Acts of the Apostles). I very much like this idea of Christian discipleship being 'the Way', because it means that we do not have to have arrived somewhere firm in order to be disciples. We do not have to be experts or a particular example of holiness: it is ok to journey, to be unsure about things, or even to feel that we really know very little about God and Christ in order to walk with God.

In the Greek of the New Testament, the word for 'the way' ('hae hodos') is a curious one: usually words in Greek ending in -os are masculine; but hodos is feminine as the article 'hae' tells us: so the word the early Christians chose for the Church is one that combines male and female imagery as well as being a word of journeying – and I don't think that is a coincidence. The Early Church seems to have had an inclusiveness we ought to learn from!

Whoever we are, we are invited to walk with God; to be on the Way. Being on the Way does not mean having all the answers, but learning to ask questions. Being on the Way means allowing for growth and encounter with God (and fellow pilgrims) as we walk together into a deeper understanding of God and life. HT is part of the Way: as we, together, walk (looking out for one another) more deeply into God's Kingdom.

I am indeed very grateful to be on the Way with you,

Christoph

Lent Groups and Confirmation

Lent Groups 2023

This year, we'll offer an Adult Confirmation Course for our Lent Groups, as we meet to discuss Christian basics and peculiarities of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Whether you've been confirmed or not, this will hopefully be a good opportunity to discuss and re-visit the foundations of our faith and share in fellowship with others at HT. Two groups will run in parallel:

Wednesday mornings at 10.30 a.m. (1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th March)

Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. (2nd, 9th, 16th , 23rd & 30th March)

Confirmation at HT

Bishop Ian will be with us at HT on Sunday 21st May for a service of Confirmation. Confirmation is, in a way, the second part of baptism, as, by the laying on of hands, the gift of the Holy Spirit is prayed upon us. Should you have not been confirmed yet and wish to be included, please speak to the Rector or a member of the ministry team.

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Annual Magazine Subscriptions

Postal Copy

The charge for a postal copy is £**10**. per annum. Please pay in February. Any of the following methods of payment are welcome:

Post a cheque made out to **Holy Trinity Church Magazine** to Libby Coats (address on Contacts page)

Deliver cash or cheque by hand to Libby Coats

Transfer money electronically to the magazine bank account. Details as follow:

Sort Code 80-05-28

Account No 00490556

Please state your identity on an electronic transfer.

Picking up a copy in church

There is no charge if you pick up a copy in church. A donation is welcome (suggested amount £5) If you want to ensure that you get a copy please let one of the editorial team know and you will receive a personal copy with your name on the front page. If you already receive a named copy, no further action is necessary.

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

A thank you from the Green Action Group

We would thank all those that responded to our Christmas Appeal in the weekly notice sheets to donate any pre-loved toys, children's clothes and unwanted Christmas gifts. We had a good response on Sunday 8th January, especially given the late notice of the appeal. We will repeat the appeal again in the future. A special thank you to Nikki Jorgensen for sorting and distributing the donations. The clothes were given to Forth Valley Welcome to support refugees and the toys to Babes in the Wood.

Start Up Stirling

Donations to Start Up Stirling given during the after service Coffee Time raised, with the Gift Aid, £144.50. Also, the retiring collection at the Epiphany Carol Service (with St Mary, Dunblane and St Saviour, Bridge of Allan) raised, with Gift Aid, £113.12. These have been combined and rounded up, and £260 has been donated to Start Up Stirling for its work.

Seeking a Job

You may have met Robin as he has been coming to HT since Christmas. He is studying for a Masters in Business at Stirling University. He'd like to earn some money and is looking for up to 20 hours a week minimum wage. He's happy to do anything bar healthcare. Can anyone help? Please contact Libby Coats (details on Contacts page)

From the Archives December 1922

Thanks to Sheila Brown for transcribing this article and for her helpful references

Touch House by Jane Anne Wright (1842-1922)

The Late Miss Wright: 1842 - 1922

By the death of Miss Jane Anne Wright, a link with past history of Holy Trinity Church has been severed. Not only was it that Miss Wright was a member of the Church for over sixty years, but that her forefolk, on several lines, for six generations, through all the time of the persecution, had been staunch adherents of Scottish Episcopacy.

She loved to think that under the pastorship of the Rev. Ninian Niving, and his son-in-law, Mr Cheyne, two hundred years ago, her Jacobite great-great-grandfather and his family had worshipped in the little chapel in the howe, by the Bog of Torbrex, but that there, also, had worshipped her kinsfolk, the famous "Jacobite Ladies of Murrayshall,"* immortalised by Bishop Gleig's son, the late Chaplain General of H.M. Forces.

Every spot of ground in the neighbourhood which could be connected with Jacobite traditions was dear to her, and amongst her numerous watercolour sketches, are to be found representations of many "auld biggins," now disappeared, or disappearing, around which clustered traditions of Jacobite story.

She was a modern edition of Scot[t]'s "Jonathan Oldbuck,"** and surrounded herself with relics of the past, many of them of great antiquarian interest, while others, such as Bishop Gleig's nightcap, were only sacred in her eyes! More or less an invalid from early youth, she had an indomitable spirit, and a contented disposition.

Many will remember her in pre-war times driving about in her little pony phaeton, along all the highways and bye-ways of our beautiful and beloved neighbourhood, and many were the visits she paid to the humble homes of "auld warld" country folks who had known her forefolk, and from whom she gathered stories of bye-gone times.

The late Mr. W. B. Cook, the Prince of local antiquarians, paid her many a welcome visit, and helped her to decipher her old charters, and interesting Jacobite papers taken from the little charter chest of the McGregors of Balhaldie left to her by her step-grandmother, the last of that historic family.

Full of patriotic sentiment, she loved to think that twelve of her ancestors, including James IV., had fallen on the field of Flodden.

At the last, Providence was kind in loosening gently her slackening hold on life, and on the 10th of November, she passed away, to join the host of those whose memories she cherished.

On one of those charmed days in this "Sweet Summer of St. Martin." She was laid to rest with the solemn rites of her beloved Church, in the Valley Cemetery.

"O stream of life whose swifter flow
Is of the end forewarning,
Methinks thy sundown afterglow
Seems less of night than morning.

* See https://angelacoulter.com/the-jacobites-of-lanrick/ for more information about the Jacobite ladies of Murrayshall.

**Jonathan Oldbuck is the leading character in *The Antiquary* by Sir Walter Scott.

See https://www.watercolourworld.org/artist/jane-anne-wright to see more of her beautiful water colours and the Smith Art Gallery website at - https://www.smithartgalleryandmuseum.co.uk/tag/jane-anne-wright/

Some background history can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gillies_Hill

Care For China

Scottish Churches China Group
苏格兰教会中国会

"The very small helps the very large at times"

I am writing on behalf of the Scottish Churches China Group (SCCG). We are an ecumenical charity, formed in 1983, which is engaged with partners and projects in China, specialising in education and public health. Our management group is made up of representatives from Scottish Christian denominations.

Scotland has a long connection with China, and many of you will be aware of our country's historical Christian connections through the pioneering medical and educational work of figures such as Eric Liddell in the early 20th century.

Today, the Scottish Churches China Group (SCCG) is an ecumenical charity that works with Chinese partners in public health and education. We are a small charity but proud to still be part of the long history of Scottish connection with China. Our purpose is still informed by a strong Christian desire to help people live life in all its fullness.

Modern China is a huge - and rich - country. But, because of its size, there is still an incredible amount of poverty. There are massive inequalities in health and education for hundreds of millions of people. We respond to requests from Chinese partners working on the front line in health and education, where there is most need.

Our Chinese partners include The Amity Foundation in Nanjing, a large NGO charity set up in 1985 by Chinese Protestant leaders for Chinese Christians to witness to their faith through good works; the Rende Foundation in Shanghai; the Caritas Social Service Centre in Liaoning Catholic Diocese, whose main focus is care for the elderly and HIV/Aids; and Spiritual and Palliative Care professionals at Shengjing Hospital.

Projects range from training for staff looking after children with additional support needs - including autism - to projects which are helping train medical staff involved in palliative and end of life care, neither of which are yet fully recognised specialisms in China.

The SCCG draws on expertise within Scotland and the UK and shares that expertise responding to specific needs that arise. We have partnered with Scottish Autism, Macmillan Cancer Care and Alzheimer Scotland to provide training and expertise for Chinese partners. The SCCG funded travel for partners to come to Scotland for this as well as enabling Scottish experts to travel to visit Chinese partners. It is hugely rewarding to be able to respond quickly to partner requests for support.

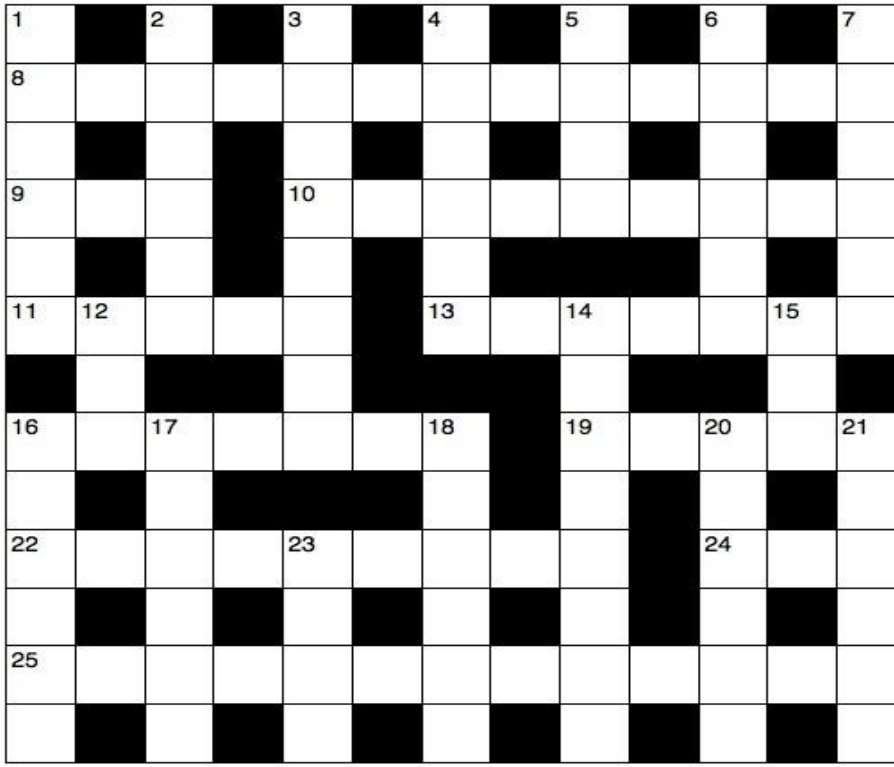
It is fair to say that the turmoil caused by the pandemic, plus the current political situation in China, has meant we have had to work very hard - and sensitively - to support our Chinese partners. But the work remains vital for ordinary Chinese people facing real difficulties, and we remain encouraged by the commitment and energy of all our partners. We're looking forward to seeing them again in person, hopefully quite soon.

The SCCG AGM and Spring Plenary will be held in Edinburgh at the Quaker meeting House (7 Victoria Terrace, above, Victoria St, Edinburgh EH1 2JL) on Thursday 9 March at 11am (includes lunch at 12.30).

If you would like more details about our work or would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Rev Patricia Johnston by email for more details at patricia.johnston@sccg.org.uk. If you would like a speaker from the SCCG to come to your church or group, please let us know!

The Scottish Churches China Group is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). Scottish Charity Number SC033740. Further information is on our website at www.sccg.org.uk

Rev. Patricia Johnston



Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)

25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

"He moved here after the PCC voted
to lower the church heating bill.
He says it is warmer out here."

Crossword Answers

ACROSS:

8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

DOWN:

1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

Living the Questions

an open-minded exploration of the Christian faith

Introductory Session
31st January, 7.30-8.30pm
St Mary's Hall

thereafter:
alternate Tuesdays
6.30-8.30pm
in St Mary's Hall
FK15 0HQ

Contact rector@stmarysdunblane.org for more information
St Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church Scottish Charity No. SC016932

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT
27 FEBRUARY - 12 MARCH

FAIRTRADE

Readings February 2023

Thursday 2nd	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 5th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
EPIPHANY 5	**Readings**	Isaiah 58.1-9*a*; 1 Corinthians 2.1-12; Matthew 5.13-20
Thursday 9th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 12th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
EPIPHANY 6	**Readings**	Deuteronomy 30.15-20; 1 Corinthians 3.1-9; Matthew 5.21-37
Thursday 16th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 19th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
Sunday before Lent	**Readings**	Exodus 24.12-18; 2 Peter 1.16-21; Matthew 17.1-9
Wednesday 22nd	**7.30pm**	Sung Eucharist with Ashing
ASH WEDNESDAY	**Readings**	Isaiah 58.1-12; 2 Corinthians 5.20*b*-6.10; Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21
Thursday 23rd	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 26th	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
LENT 1	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Genesis 2.15-17, 3.1-7; Romans 5.12-19; Matthew 4.1-11

Rotas February 2023

	Readings	Intercessions
5th February	**S Stirling Aird**	**D Brown**
12th February	**B Piper**	**M Kenyon**
19th February	**G Young**	**R Nellist**
26th February	**C Rogers**	**B Piper**

Sidesduty

5th February D & S Goss

12th February C Kendall & J Foster

19th February B & C Watson

26th February R & V Nellist

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

February 12th

The magazine will be available on

February 26th

In a sack

Seen in a church magazine: "Bring your old newspapers (and your neighbours), put them in a sack and tie them if possible."

Advantages of marriage

Marriage is a very good way to promote civilisation – according to Socrates, if you get a good partner, you will be happy; if you get a bad one, you will become a philosopher.

With Valentine's Day in mind…how do you define love?

A group of 4-to-8-year-olds was once asked: 'What does love mean?' The answers they gave were surprising for their depth of insight….

- "When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." Rebecca - age 8
- "When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - age 4
- "Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your chips, without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy - age 6
- "Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri - age 4
- "Love is when mum makes coffee for my dad and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." Danny - age 7

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Our Services

Sundays
10.30am Sung Eucharist

Thursdays
11.00am Holy Communion

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

Organisations Meeting in the Church Hall

Mondays
10-12noon HTTots Gen Pont: gandapont@yahoo.co.uk
4.00-5.30pm Destination Judo: info@destinationjudo.com
6.15-7.45pm Mindbodysoul Yoga: grant@mindbodysoulyoga.co.uk

Tuesdays
10-12noon Pilates: judithgraham090@gmail.com
6.30pm Lishi Self Defence: damien@lishi.org

Wednesdays
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. If you would like to rent the hall please contact Sarah Shaw on 07970466551 or shaws1@talktalk.net