www.holytrinitystirling.org

Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Issue 5

February 2024

Scottish Charity: SC016471

Now these three continue . . .

Of these, the greatest is . . . 1 Cor 13:13

The Rector's Letter

Dear all,

Every year on the last Sunday before Lent, we hear the story of the Transfiguration (this year in the version from Mark's Gospel): how Jesus goes up a mountain accompanied by his disciples Peter, James and John and how they get a glimpse of who Jesus really is in the greater scheme of things (with God's voice overheard saying, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!').

These mountaintop experiences are important for our spiritual journeying because they help us to put things, life, and ourselves into perspective: we sometimes need to see situations from a higher place before we set about solving them.

Next time a difficult situation arises, perhaps we could first imagine going up that mountain with Christ and get a feel for how the situation looks from up there – and where help might be coming from as we discern God's voice from competing voices.

As we carry our lives, our options, our questions up the mountain, what is it we see and hear? And does that change how we perceive things down on the plain?

Evelyn Underhill (quoted in *The Little Book of Lent*, our Lent resource this year) puts it like this:

'Making our everyday actions harmonise with a spiritual outlook is not always easy. It means trying to see things, persons and choices from the angle of eternity: and dealing with them as part of the material in which the Spirit works.'

May we learn to see everything in our lives from 'the angle of eternity' as we, once more, pledge to grow as we enter another Season of Lent.

Yours in Christ, **Christoph**

From the Registers

Funerals

Edna Ravey 8th December

John Campbell 11th December

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Lent Groups

This year during Lent, we'll use a book of daily reflections to accompany us during the season: **The Little Book of Lent** (with contributions from a wide range of Christian spiritual writers). Copies of the book will be available at HT and you are invited to join in Lent Groups, discussing and reflecting on a selection of reflection. Two groups will run in parallel: **Wednesday mornings at 10.30 a.m. (21st & 28th February and 6th, 13th & 20th March) and Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. (22nd & 29th February and 7th, 14th & 21st March).**

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Flourishing Future Update

We start 2024 with a number of initiatives that support the future plans for the church, including the building, heating and the church grounds. Joan Lyon provides an update from the HT Gardening Group below and we would draw your attention to the support required to drive these activities forward. Joan also provides some initial feedback on the consultation exercise we undertook following the ACM.

The HT Flourishing Future team also met with Eco Congregations Scotland in January to discuss our application for the Bronze Award. The outcome of this should be known shortly.

Regifting Stall

Christmas is a time for giving and often we end up with gifts that are either duplicates or possibly 'appreciated' more by others. If you have any such presents that you would like to 'regift', we plan to run a **Regifting Stall on Sunday the 3rd March**.

A Santa Box/Sack will appear at the back of the Church towards the end of January and remain there for the duration of February. Please place any items that you would like to regift into this box. These items will be available in the Regifting Stall.

Donations by cash or credit card will be gratefully received. All proceeds will support the work of the Gardening Group. ***Andrew Tyler***

HT Garden Group Progress Report

This is not the season for much growth in our gardens but plans for the front garden of Holy Trinity are growing apace. First of all, a huge thank you for your suggestions for our future garden some of which can easily be put into practice and some for future planning.

Flourishing Future Update

Progress and plans so far……

1) Pebble border at base of front wall – pebbles to be delivered soon to cover the black matting. Some matting still to be laid at north east corner. **Date for pebble shifting to be planned – please come with your shovels** – many hands and all that!

2) A grant request is to go to the charity "Repollinate" for wildflower plug plants through "Beds for Bees". These will available soon and need to be stored in someone's greenhouse/potting shed and cared for until planting time in late May/early June.

3) Plans are with a local contractor for the felling of dead and/or dangerously high fir trees to the left of the building (as you enter the church) with the hope of replanting this area with native trees. We will be planting more trees in due course but work on the front facing of the building needs to be completed before that can happen. We have good links with the local Stirling Treelink charity https://www.treelinkstirling.org/

4) Benches/seating areas perhaps with some shade and refreshments served over the summer months

5) We plan to contact the local residents to invite them to join us and/ or give a donation.

What might not work so well from your suggestions….

1) In reality fruit trees are likely to be stripped/damaged well before we can make any apple pies. This has happened both in Beechwood Park and King's Park. Suggest a lavender and rosemary low hedge along inside of front wall.

PTO

HT Garden Group Progress Report (Continued)

2) A Remembrance Garden as such does need a fair amount of space and people have very varied ideas of what might be placed within it. My personal suggestion would be to have some kind of service of dedication of the garden space in due course (first tree planting?) so that it can be a quiet space for anyone to use as they remember loved ones. A donation could perhaps be offered for specific trees or plants with appropriate plaques.

This is a long term and hopefully ongoing project but progress does depend on YOU. Several skills will be needed so you don't necessarily need to be able to wield a heavy shovel. If you can offer plant storage space, record keeping, sending out information emails, gentle gardening, heavier work, keeping the place generally tidy, producing cake for hungry gardeners, I will be in touch about getting dates into the diary. Please contact Joan Lyon joanblyon@gmail.com.

If you would like to make a financial contribution towards any aspect of these plans, please send this directly to our Treasurer Robert Nellist or have a chat with Joan Lyon first. ***Revd Joan Lyon***

Support Holy Trinity

Don't forget one easy way to support Holy Trinity - sign up for FREE on #easyfundraising, and raise donations whenever you shop online with over 7,000 brands including John Lewis & Partners, Argos, M&S, Supermarkets and more. Plus, once you've raised your first £5, easyfundraising will double it!. Sign up through this QR Code or https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/search/cause/?q=holy%20trinity%20stirling&cat=cause

Robert Nellist, Treasurer

Psalms Redux

What was your best Christmas present?
Mine was a small book by Carla A. Grosch-Miller (United Reform Minister in Oxford) called **Psalms Redux.** This is a rewriting of some of our best known psalms along with some beautiful poems for particular occasions A flavour is written below – a reworking of the well known Psalm 23 for you to compare with the original.

This I know:
My life is in your hands,
I have nothing to fear.

I stop,
breathe,
listen.

Beneath the whirl of what is
is a deep down quiet place.
You beckon me to tarry there.

This is the place
Where unnamed hungers
are fed, the place
of clear water,
refreshment.

My senses stilled,
I drink deeply
at home
In timeless territory.

In peril, I remember:
Death's dark vale holds no
menace.
I lean into you;
Your eternal presence comforts me,
I am held tenderly.

Carla Grosch-Miller, Psalms redux: poems and prayers

Publisher: Canterbury press Norwich,2014 ISBN; 9781848256392

Perhaps you'd like to share your best Christmas present. I will certainly treasure mine. ***Revd Joan Lyon***

Getting to Know...

We are Jean and Bill Wheeler. I was born in Glasgow and Bill was born in Larne, Co Antrim Northern Ireland.

We met 46 years ago at Garnet College London where we had been sent to study for a Certificate in Education by the London Hospital and Army respectively.

The next 14 years we moved every two years on postings in the UK and West Germany. We have two children, both born in Scotland while based in Penicuik.

Since leaving the Army in 1992, we have lived in Inverness and Stirling.

Bill's greatest love is hill walking and the Scottish hills. A week without a rucksack on his back is a week wasted. I love history, especially European and when I retired, I did a BA in History at Stirling using my bus pass for transport.

Bill and Jean Wheeler

In our 60's we started walking various paths and ways in France and UK. The south coast path from Minehead to Poole is 630 miles in total. We eventually graduated to the Camino starting at Geneva and walking to the Spanish border. Doing this historic pilgrims' walk was very different in that the reasons people walked it were intriguing. Some came out of thankfulness from recovery from illness of themselves or family, some searching for a deeper meaning in life and others to tick off a to do list.

On our last section to the Spanish border in 2017, we took our palm crosses from Palm Sunday and left them in a little church at St Jean Pied de Port.

Walking has been very important to us. It slows downlife, makes us aware of the countryside and nature; it questions our purpose. This is beautifully summed up in the words in Micah:

To do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God. *Micah 6:8*

Many thanks to Bill and Jean for contributing to this article. If you would like to feature in Getting to Know please contact one of the editorial team for more information.

Don't forget those nestboxes!

On 14th February our annual **National Nestbox Week** begins.

Now an established part of the ornithological calendar, it aims to encourage people to help out the birds in their gardens each Spring. Everyone is invited to put up more nestboxes in their local area, and a very helpful website gives full instructions on how to do this. More details at: https://www.nestboxweek.com

Prayer Diary February 2024

Thu 01 Bride of Kildare, Abbess, c525, that we can make worship one of our daily tasks

Fri 02 The Presentation of the Lord, that we may see His glory

Sat 03 Saints and Martyrs of Europe, for the Episcopal Church in Europe

Sun 04 Epiphany 5

Mon 05 For all who work in the Caring Professions

Tue 06 Paul Miki, Priest, and the martyrs of Japan, 1597, that we seek to extend God's Kingdom

Wed 07 For all working in our Emergency Services

Thu 08 For hostages and all held unjustly

Fri 09 For the people of Gaza

Sat 10 Scholastica, Religious, 543, for all who have epilepsy

Sun 11 Epiphany 6

Mon 12 For the victims of floods

Tue 13 For all who hunger

Wed 14 Ash Wednesday

Thu 15 Thomas Bray, Priest and Missionary, 1730, for all who work in the Prison Service

Fri 16 For all our friends in the Jewish faith

Sat 17 Finan of Lindisfarne, Bishop, 661, that we live the truth in our faith

Sun 18 1 Lent

Prayer Diary February2024

Mon 19 Martin Luther, 1545, that we seek honesty in worship

Tue 20 For all the Churches in Stirling

Wed 21 For those who watch with the dying

Thu 22 For peace in Ukraine

Fri 23 Polycarp of Smyrna, Bishop and Martyr, 156, that we have courage in our faith

Sat 24 For the work of Startup Stirling

Sun 25 2 Lent

Mon 26 For the work of SSAFA

Tue 27 For our Church family

Wed 28 For the homeless

HT Prayer Tree

Please read and contribute to entries on the Prayer Tree at the back of church. First names only and please write the current date somewhere on the label. This enables us to remove labels after a month. Of course, it's fine to replace the label or alter the date if you want it to remain on the tree for a further month.

Libby Coats

Readings February 2024

Thursday 1st	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 4th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
CANDLEMAS	**Readings**	Malachi 3.1-5; Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40
	6.30pm	**Evensong**
Thursday 8th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 11th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	**Readings**	2 Kings 2.1-12; 2 Corinthians 4.3-6; Mark 9.2-9
Wednesday 14th	**6.30pm**	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 15th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 18th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
LENT 1	**Readings**	Genesis 9.8-17; 1 Peter 3.18-22; Mark 1.9-15

Readings February 2024

Thursday 22nd	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
LENT 2	**Readings**	Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16; Romans 4.13-25; Mark 8.31-38
Thursday 29th	**11am**	Holy Communion

Our Services

Sundays

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Thursdays
11.00am Holy Communion

At present Sunday School (HTKidZ) meets according to demand. Contact Gen Pont for further information: gandapont@yahoo.co.uk

HT Youth Fellowship meets monthly on Saturday evenings. Contact Sarah and Alistair Shaw for information: shaws1@talktalk.net

Rotas February 2024

	Readings	Intercessions
4th February	B Piper	A Pont
4th February 6.30pm	W Wheeler	
11th February	T Mitchell	
14th February	TBC	
18th February	M Kenyon	A Shaw
25th February	N Jorgensen	D Brown

Sidesduty

4th February B and C Watson

4th February 6.30pm C Kendall

11th February A Lees and L Coats

14th February Volunteers

18th February J Foster and H Kemp

25th February C Kendall and F MacLeod

Belated Congratulations

To **Ian Boa** who has been appointed Office Administrator and PVG Co-Ordinator at the Diocesan Office.

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:

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Picking up a copy in church

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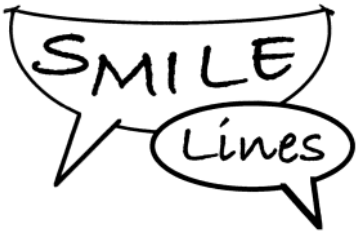
Recycling The Spectator

Would you like to read The Spectator ? Admittedly, the copies might be a week or so out of date but we are happy to hand them on if anyone is interested? Contact Libby Coats (contact details on page 19)

Off to the vet



In his younger days our golden retriever Catcher often ran away when he had the chance. The vet's surgery was about a mile down the road, and Catcher would usually go there. The nursing staff knew him and would call me to come pick him up. One day I called the vet to make an appointment for Catcher's yearly vaccine. "Will you bring him," asked the receptionist, "or will he come down on his own?"

And if love should die....

While we were working at a men's clothing store, a customer asked my colleague to help her pick out a tie that would make her husband's blue eyes stand out. "Ma'am," he explained, "any tie will make blue eyes stand out, if you tie it tight enough."

Unhappy in love

I think my girlfriend's hallucinating. She keeps telling me she's seeing other people.

Muddy woof

What do you get if you cross a jeep with a dog? A *Land Rover.*

Family

Last night our wifi stopped working, so I had to spend a few hours with my family. They seem like good people.

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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

6.30-8pm Lishi Self Defence: damien@lishi.org

Wednesdays

9.15-10.15 Pilates Mini Ball Class: Jackie.govan@live.com

11.30-3pm Tea Dance (last Wednesday in the month): stirling4community@gmail.com

5-7pm Dance: francescahamill@icloud.com

7-9pm SABOS: sabosmusicaltheatre@gmail.com

Thursdays

11-2pm Stirling Community Lunch: stirling4community@gmail.com

4-7pm Dance: kimmybruce@hotmail.com

7pm Stirling4 Community Choir

Fridays

10-12 noon Art Group: stirling4community@gmail.com

2-5pm University of the Third Age (monthly): membership@fvu3a.org.uk

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