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Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Issue 7

April 2024

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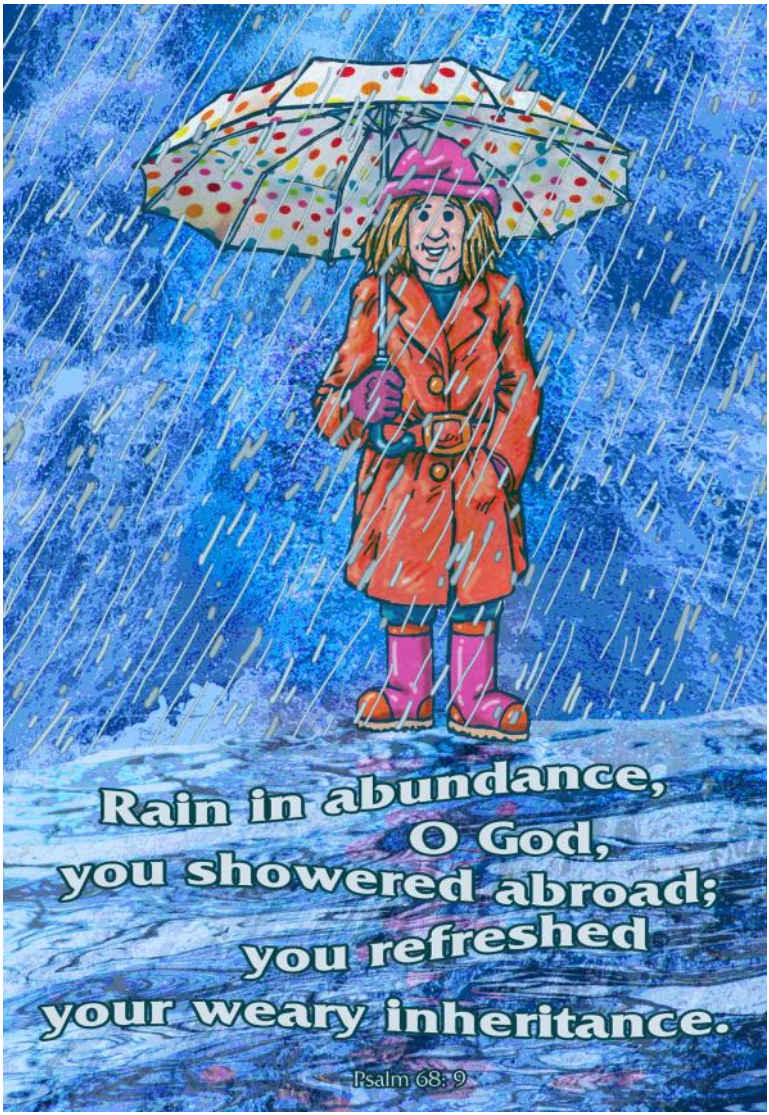


The Rector's Letter

Dear all,

On Sunday 21st of April at 3 p.m., Bishop Ian will be at HT to ordain Ian Boa to the priesthood and our prayers are with Ian and his family as he prepares for ordination and for priestly ministry among us.

To be a priest in the Church means to be called to specific tasks, to 'serve and sustain the community of the faithful' as it says in the ordination service. A priest is called to preside at the Eucharist, to lead people to repentance and voice absolution in God's name; to pray and care; to proclaim God's blessing and the coming of the Kingdom. As is also hinted at in the ordination service: this is 'great a task' and cannot be carried by anyone unless in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sadly, clergy burn-out and stress-related illness is not uncommon and probably not surprising, given that list! It is important for us to understand that priestly ministry is not 'sourced out' to professional clergy, who then do Kingdom work on our behalf. As a Christian community, we are all called to take our part in this Kingdom work and many at HT truly do so in very different ways. It is good to remember this important insight from the 1st Letter of Peter:

'But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.' (1 Peter 2.9)

For as it also says in the ordination service: 'The ministerial priesthood and the priesthood of all believers are related. Each in its proper way partakes of the one priesthood of Christ.'

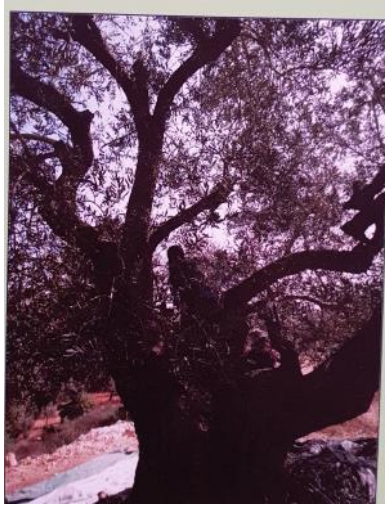
May Ian's ordination serve as a reminder that we are all called to form the Body of Christ, to be tools of the Holy Spirit and to proclaim and live the amazing love of God expressed in all creation.

Yours in Christ,

Christoph

Beyond the Olive Groves

As some of you know, Anne Murray, a member of our congregation, spent a few weeks helping with the olive harvest in the West Bank of the Palestinian Territories in 2019 This was part of an international group organised by the Quakers. The presence of foreign nationals makes it safer for the local farmers to carry out their work. Anne will be giving a presentation on her experience over there, on **Friday 19th April at 12 noon in the Smith Art Gallery, Dumbarton Road.** The event will last for one hour and take the form of a presentation and a poetry reading with musical accompaniment. Entry is by donation, no need to book. There will be an opportunity to purchase a copy of Anne's poetry pamphlet "Beyond the Olive Groves", the profits from which are being donated to Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP). For any further information, please contact Anne Murray on 07464 602207.



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St Andrew's Dunkeld and Dunblane Diocesan Synod 9th March 2024

The annual Diocesan Synod took place at St Ninian's Cathedral in Perth on 9th March. Christoph, as our Rector, and I, as your Lay Rep, attended on behalf of Holy Trinity. A full report and the papers for the Synod will be available on the Diocesan website, but if you want any details do let me know.

The day opened with Eucharist, and the 'Bishop's Charge'. Bishop Ian reflected upon his recent dialogue as the Scottish Episcopal representative in the joint Anglican and Roman Catholic Summit held in Rome and in Canterbury. This has been a process that has been going on for many years. The main thrust of Bishop Ian's charge was that we can do things in 'Synodality'– i.e. discussing, listening, walking, and working together. You can find a full recording of the address on the Diocesan Facebook page. There are a lot of things to ponder as you listen. I took from Bishop Ian that he was encouraging us to listen, and be active, rather than treat Synods as 'business' meetings with necessary votes. We need to be able to listen to the quiet voices, and to silences, as well as the loud and confident voices, and to think of the whole Diocese as a collective, so we can all support each other. We should be thinking, of our service and our 'Synodality' as we pray, reflect, and discern our service to God in all that we do.

These themes were reflected in some of the discussion of the day on the evolution of forward plans, the need to address the Environmental Crisis, and the need to change some Canons (the rules of the church) to reflect Ecumenical working and Safeguarding priorities.

Two projects were particularly brought to our attention. Firstly, the Mother's Union project Rise Up against Domestic Abuse (www.mothersunion.org/riseup) and secondly the introduction of a Diocesan Curacy at St Columba's Stanley in 2024-27. This is a new initiative that has been conceived to address the changing needs of Stanley as it

expands, and as Community resources are developed in the area. Whilst there will be direct links with St Ninian's Cathedral we are urged to see this as part of the whole Diocesan Ministry and are encouraged to support this new venture.

I must mention that the other person from Holy Trinity who was there and was playing a very active role, was Ian Boa, whom many of you might know is now the Office Administrator for the Diocese. He has the unenviable task of writing up the full reports! Thank you, Ian, for all that you do in this role.

Cathy Johnston

Quotes of the Month

April brings the beauties of spring, a time when we especially admire Creation…

The probability of life originating by accident is comparable to the probability of the complete Oxford dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing factory. - *Edwin Conklin*

To create requires infinite power. All the world cannot make a fly. - *Thomas Watson* *www.parishpump.co.uk*

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From the HT Church Magazine Archives April 1924

THE LATE MAJOR MURRAY OF POLMAISE

On Friday, 29th February, Major Alastair Bruce Murray passed away at Polmaise after a brief illness. The body was brought to the Church the following Tuesday evening, and the Funeral Service on Ash Wednesday afternoon was attended by a large number of people. The 23rd Psalm and the Hymns, "For Ever with the Lord" and "Peace, Perfect Peace," were sung by Choir and Congregation. The Service was conducted by the Rector. Afterwards the body was carried home again to the Polmaise grounds, and buried in a beautiful spot chosen as a family burial place by the receased [sic]. When the procession reached the grave, the Rector first consecrated the ground, and then the coffin was lowered while the words of the Prayer Book Committal were spoken. The Rev. E. Jones, Parish Minister of St. Ninians Parish, then read a few verses of scripture, after which the Rector pronounced the Blessing. Then came the Pipers' Lament and three volleys from a firing party of the A. and S.H., and the Last Post from the bugler.

The late Major Murray was a most regular worshipper at Holy Trinity Church, and a generous contributor to the Funds. He was genuinely interested in all that concerned the welfare of the Church, and in spite of deafness depriving him in recent years of hearing what was said, he was able, thanks to the use of the Prayer Book, to follow much of the Services with devotion and intelligence.

On the Sunday following his death the Rector, at the morning service in Church, made a reference to the death of one who had so long and so regularly worshipped with them. It was the family of the Murrays and a few other local families who, 45 years ago, made it possible to build the beautiful Church in which they now worshipped, and many of the windows were memorials to members of the same line. The late laird had enriched the Church by the beautiful marble floor which he had given as a memorial to his only son, Alastair, who fell in the Great War. This and

many other trials which came upon him in his closing years he bore with Christian patience and courage. The Rector said he did not wish to suggest that Major Murray or other past benefactors of the Church had done more than was their due, but he thought we ought to remember our debt to others. We all know that death is the great leveller, and it is a solemn and sobering and unifying thought that every one of us will be called sooner or later to lay aside all earthly distinctions of wealth and poverty and rank and culture, and stand in our naked manhood before the Son of Man. There is something very unsatisfying in all human praise and blame, all human judgements, but there is something really satisfying and comforting when we can commit our departed friends to that Perfect Divine Love "which rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth with the truth, beareth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." It was of that Divine Love the Church reminded them in the Epistle for the Day, Quinquagesima Sunday.

Many thanks to *Sheila Brown* for finding and transcribing this article

HT Prayer Tree

The Prayer Tree situated at the back of church is an aid to prayer. Feel free to take a label and write your prayer/ message on it and hang it on the tree. **Please add the current date.** The label will be removed one month after this date but if you would like to leave the label on the tree please just alter the date or write another label.

See Libby Coats if you have any questions.

Young Adults Group

It has been a busy term for the Young Adults group. Recently, we have welcomed two further new Young Adults into the group. We have a core group of four who meet each week, with 13 young Adults who are connected to the group on the group's WhatsApp. The value of the group though has proved to be a lot more than just weekly numbers. We have had a couple of situations which have led to a positive outcome by initial contact with the group and the group members responding quickly and offering advice and guidance.

My thanks to Bartholomew from Holy Trinity Stirling for his support with the running of the group with me most weeks, and to Rev Rachel Wright and Rev Rebekah Sims for their support in the background organising guests to come along, and supporting the group when work commitments allow once or twice a month. This allows Bartholomew or me to have a week off, or in my case to look at some of the administrative & promotional tasks and plan.

Programme

This term (January – April) we have been focussing on social and wellbeing as our main theme for the group. This has been in response to feedback evaluations from group members and also from what has been discussed by the group. The need to have a space to chat openly about things happening in their lives and the prayerful and sometimes direct support of each other has also proved an important aspect of the group. Up until April we have plans to make Easter Gardens, have a Quiz night, and we will be encouraging members of the group to attend the Stations of the Cross Service on the Tuesday of Holy Week.

Since January we have enjoyed a Chinese Takeaway together whilst learning about the traditions of Chinese New Year form one of the group. We have also had a Pancake party (thanks to a small portable stove and pan from the Community Learning and Development store in Crieff) and an Arts and

Young Adults Group

Craft night when we made Lenten Eggs. Each egg represents a Station of the Cross.

Pancake Night

Chinese Meal

Lenten Eggs

Finance

In December the leaders met in St Mary's Rectory over lunch to look at our budget for the coming year, based on the costs of the pilot April – June 2023. Our Refreshment expenditure so far has been less than forecast due to an Amazon catering order of individual packs of biscuits that are often purchased by hotels and conference venues, and the purchase of long-life milk sticks, which has reduced the requirement for weekly purchases of refreshments. We are also very grateful for any leftover gifts from the St Saviours Winter Drop-in, which we have been able to share.

The Diocesan Mission Board and Diocesan Synod approved the Diocesan Children & Youth Officer 2024 Workplan. The development of the Young Adults Group and a wider Provincial Network are key objectives in the Workplan for 2024, therefore access to Diocesan Support for the group has also now been achieved.

James Gardner

Young Adults Group

Prayer Diary April 2024

Mon 01 Gilbert of Caithness, Bishop, 1245, that we slay the dragons afflicting those around us

Tue 02, for increased acceptance of those who are neurodivergent

Wed 03, for quietude in our lives

Thu 04, for those who advocate for mental health

Fri 05, for the relief of depression in people's lives

Sat 06, for understanding of those whose lives are different

Sun 07 2 Easter

Mon 08 The Annunciation of the Lord, for mothers and mothers -to -be everywhere

Tue 09 Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Theologian and Martyr, 1945, that we live within the reality of Christ

Wed 10 William Law, Priest, 1761, that we do everything in the name of God

Thu 11 George Augustus Selwyn, Bishop and Missionary, 1878, for churches in New Zealand and the Pacific region

Fri 12 William Forbes, Bishop, 1634, for Bishop Ian

Sat 13, for the Stirling Street Pastors and those who work in Stirling's night -time economy

Sun 14 3 Easter

Mon 15, for HTTOTS and for all who care for young children

Tues 16 Magnus of Orkney, Martyr, c1116, for a just peace in Ukraine

Wed 17 Donnan, Abbot, and Companions, Martyrs, c617, for our Primus Mark

Prayer Diary April 2024

Thu 18, for Startup Stirling and its work

Fri 19, for all who work in education and for those who learn

Sat 20 Maelrubha of Applecross, Abbot, 722, for all who minister to us at Holy Trinity

Sun 21 4 Easter

Mon 22, for all in our Armed Services

Tue 23 George, Patron of England and of Scouting, Martyr, c303, for Scouts and Guides, and their leaders

Wed 24, for an awakening to new life in our lives

Thu 25 Mark, Evangelist, that we all become voices crying in the wilderness

Fri 26 Albert Ernest Laurie, Priest, 1937, that we find the courage to care for the wounded

Sat 27, for farmers and gardeners

Sun 28 5 Easter

Mon 29 Catherine of Siena, Mystic and Teacher of the Faith, 1380, that we speak up for the poor and oppressed

Tue 30, for a healing of the Earth

Articles for the **May** magazine are requested on or before

April 14th

The magazine will be available on

April 28th

Readings April 2024

Thursday 4th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 7th	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
EASTER 2	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Acts 4.32-35; 1 John 1.1-2.2;
		John 20.19-31
Thursday 11th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 14th	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
EASTER 3	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Acts 3.12-19; 1 John 3.1-7;
		Luke 24.36*b*-48
Thursday 18th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 21st	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
EASTER 4	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Acts 4.5-12; 1 John 3.16-24;
		John 10.11-18
	3 pm	Ordination to the Priesthood

Readings April 2024

Thursday 25th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 28th	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
EASTER 5	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Acts 8.26-40; 1 John 4.7-21; John 15.1-8

Ordination to the Priesthood

Sunday 21st April

3pm

Bishop Ian will be at HT to ordain Ian Boa. All are welcome at this service. and at an Afternoon Tea of scones and cakes after the service. Please let Helen Piper know if you can contribute any baking.

Rotas April 2024

	Readings	Intercessions
7th April	**A Tyler**	**M Kenyon**
14th April	**D Brown/ J Foster**	**I Boa**
21st April	**L Green**	**T Mitchell**
28th April	**S Stirling-Aird**	**N Morris**

	Sidesduty
7th April	**R Nellist and L Coats**
14th April	**R Campbell and C Watson**
21st April	**H Kemp and A Lees**
28th April	**J Foster and C Kendall**

Our Services

Sundays
8.30am Holy Communion
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

Pin Numbers

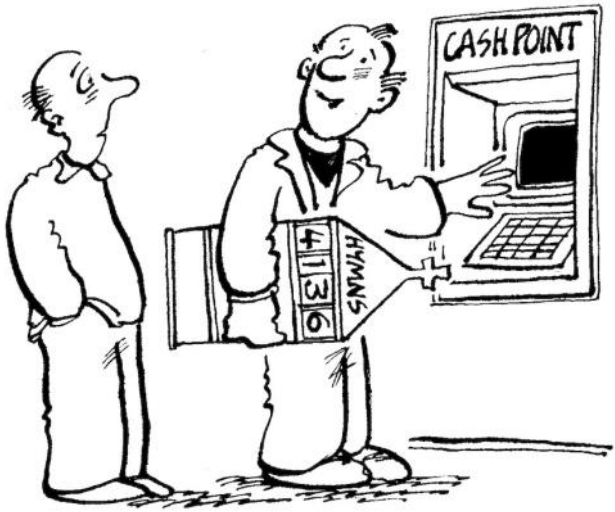
Do you remember your own PIN number?

Nearly one in five of us can't. We are so used to paying by contactless that when we have to withdraw cash or type our PIN into a card reader, our minds go blank.

'Contactless' payments hit a record high last year. A staggering 93.4 per cent of all in-store card transactions up to £100 was made using contactless, rather than cash or PIN and card reader.

According to Barclays, we now depend on contactless payments and smartphone technology so much that more than a fifth of young people now leave their wallets at home when they go shopping.

Contactless technology was first introduced by Barclaycard 17 years ago. It had a spending limit of £10. The limit was increased during the pandemic, to reduce physical contact in shops, rising to its current £100 limit. *www.parishpump.co.uk*



...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!

Heaven

Seen in a parish magazine: "We shall be meeting on Wednesday, when the subject will be 'Heaven - how do we get there?' Transport by bus is available at 6.45pm opposite the King's Arms.

What am I?

I'm not old. I woke up, I lifted my arms, I moved my knees, I turned my neck. Everything made the same noise: Crrrrrraaaaaaccccckkkk! So I've come to the conclusion that I'm not old, I'm crispy!

Those typos in the church newssheet…

The church's AGM will be hell on 22nd April.

While the pastor is on holiday, massages can be given to the church secretary.

More sinners wanted for the choir.

And some miscellaneous observations on life….

Do you believe in love at first sight, or should I drive by again? - *Anon*

Every day is a gift; that's why they call it the present. - *Anon*

Everyone else my age is an adult, whereas I am merely in disguise. - *Anon*

The two hardest things to handle in life are failure and success. - *Anon*

What we see in others often reveals something about us. - *Anon*

It's easy to be an angel when no one ruffles your feathers. - *Anon*

PAPERSORTERS

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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