www.holytrinitystirling.org

Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Issue 9

June 2024

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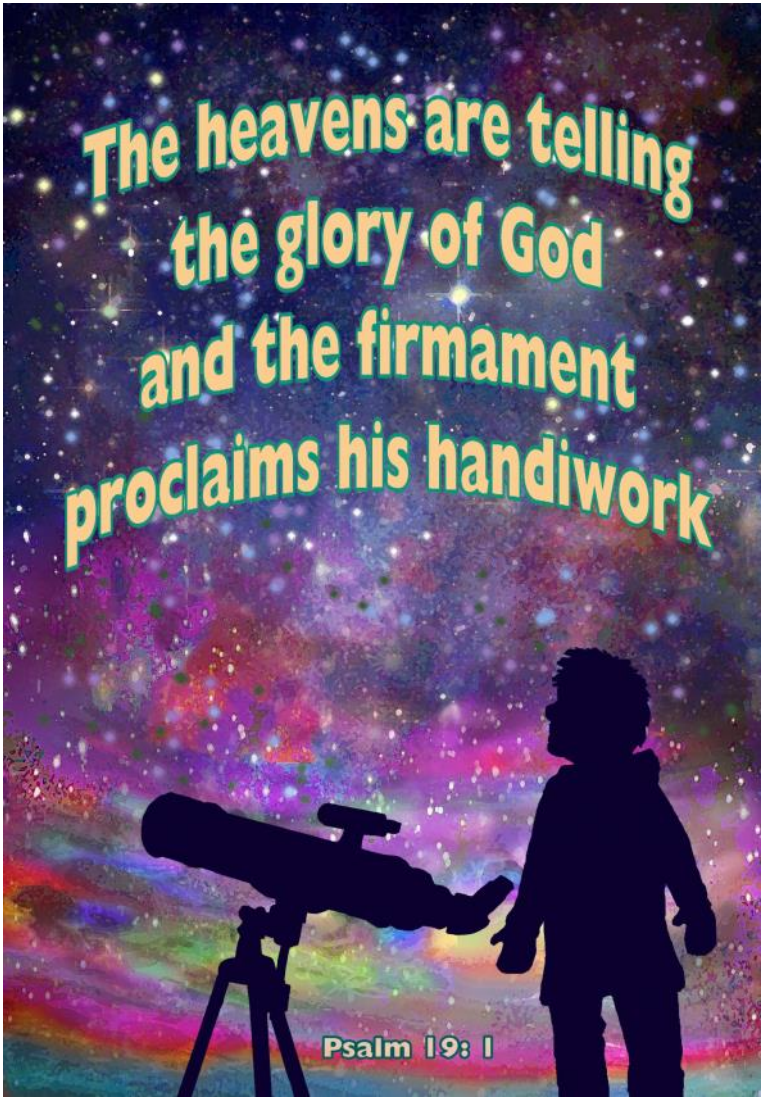

The Rector's Letter

Dear all,

In the Book of Numbers (the 4th Book in the Bible) we find a beautiful and profound benediction sometimes used in worship at the time of blessing. I remember once using it when leading a service of Holy Communion in the lounge of a nursing home. One resident and her visitor (who happened to be there at the time) did not partake in communion, but looked up with faces lit as I said those words. When I spoke to them after the service, they said they recognised those words from attending their local synagogue. It turned out, I even knew their Rabbi! It is wonderful to know that these words of blessing transcend even religious boundaries as true blessings probably always do. May those words bless you this summer and may you find ways of blessing others, be that with words or without. In Numbers we read:

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 23 Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

The Lord bless you and keep you;
25 the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
26 the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.
(Numbers 6.22-26)

Yours in Christ,

Christoph

Holy Trinity Church Building Work Conservation Appeal

Renewal of decayed lime pointing with repairs and painting of the guttering and downspouts of Holy Trinity are essential to help restore the sustainability of the building. These will provide a sound basis for any future plans to be agreed for our 'Flourishing Future' and the 150th anniversary of Holy Trinity in 2028. (see page 4)

An Appeal letter has been sent out asking for help in raising money for the work. It also includes an update on progress with grant awards, other applications and the likely programme for starting work.

If you have not received a copy and would like to help, please contact me, or tell a Vestry member, so that I can provide you with information.

Many Thanks

Robert Nellist Treasurer (Contact details on page 19)

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Towards 2028 and a Flourishing Future….

The Vestry meeting in May heard about the development of thinking as we start to refresh our strategic plan, which you might remember was focussed on 2028; our 150th anniversary.

It is our intention to progress thinking and discussion around three main areas over the summer, with a view to bringing ideas and feedback to the Annual Congregational Meeting in September. This can weave together many things that have been developing and growing so that we can think about our 'Flourishing Future 'as a church.

The three areas are:

- Our Mission
- Our Buildings and land
- Open Church

A major input to our thinking has been the Provincial Net-Zero Plan. Contact has been made with Dr Bethany Nelson (Net Zero Empowerment Coordinator) who has recommended a series of 3 seminars looking at our Energy Usage, Buildings (both fabric and usage) and Community involvement. The aim is to inform the group on potential ways forward and keys steps that will need to be addressed.

Some activities are being kicked off right now, so, if you start to hear things being talked about, please do participate – or of you have any ideas, or thoughts please do let a member of the Vestry know and they will be pleased to talk it through with you.

Cathy Johnston and Ian Boa

HT Garden Group Update

Progress

- Front bed near front wall now planted with Lavender Hidcote plants
- Bed for Bees prepared for planting by end of May
- Walking path marked out through the grass which will be kept mown
- All current flower beds near both entrance roadways weeded and pruned
- Garden shed cleared out to provide good storage space and back area at entrance to former boiler room tidied up
- Pebbled area at foot of church wall kept free of the odd stray weed
- Marking of boundary of garden at right hand entrance roadway with low wooden fence

Free Wood Chip Mulch

There is a large quantity of wood chip mulch available next to the Garden Shed (on the right hand side of the church building). If you would like to have some for your own garden, please feel free to bring your own bags (maximum of 3) and give a donation to our Garden Fund directly to David Brown. This should be kept for at least a year before spreading to allow the sap to die off. Otherwise your plants will burn!

Joan Lyon

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Trees are fascinating, unique and inspiring.
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Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky." — Kahlil Gibran

CLOSING DATE	EXHIBITION
31ST AUGUST 2023	26TH OCTOBER 2023

TreeLink STIRLING

TREELINKSTIRLING.ORG
/ARTCOMPETITION

Can you help Coco?

Would anybody be willing and able to adopt a one year old Greek cat with special needs?

Coco is deaf and blind and has a broken tail, likely a birth injury, that does not cause her any trouble. She navigates her surroundings using her senses of smell and touch and her whiskers. Coco is sweet natured, affectionate, gutsy and clever but she would need to be an "only cat" as other cats have attacked her.

Currently living on the island of Poros, she is one of many cats taken in by Trisha, who is a personal friend of my sister. Trisha has worked for many years both alone and with the support of charities to feed, neuter and rehome the stray cats of Poros. The cats are given medical attention when needed and the most vulnerable, of which Coco is one, stay in Trisha's own home. Due to her husband's illness and increasing care needs, Trisha is actively trying to rehome some of the cats who live with her. Given Coco has to live apart from the others, she is a priority. My sister would have taken Coco herself, had she not already adopted another of Trisha's rescue cats.

Coco has had the necessary vaccinations for travel and her paperwork is up to date. Some help with the cost of transport may be available.

Coco is small and white with lemony-yellow eyes. More pictures and videos are available. I think she would be a delightful companion for someone able to provide her with a loving forever home and an appropriate environment for her needs. *Claire Brims*

Scotland's Churches Trust Member Church Newsletter,

Here is an extract from the April edition of this newsletter. Please go to the website for further information: *www.scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk*

A cheery story to begin this month about public opinions on church heritage. A new opinion poll shows that 81% of European citizens agree that the preservation of Europe's historic places of worship is key for their community's present and future. The opinion poll was commissioned by Future for Religious Heritage (FRH), the European network for the protection and promotion of historic places of worship that has been advocating for the appreciation of the cultural, historical and artistic value of religious sites for over a decade.

Indeed, we continue to advocate that churches are an integral part of the community and this was the purpose they were always intended for. We have certainly seen a resurgence of this in the last few years with churches opening and being accessible on many more days of the year in addition to Sunday worship. Communities have benefitted greatly from regular activities such as Bible study, prayer groups, Scouts and Guides, ceilidhs, bingo, concerts, jumble sales, afternoon teas and much, much more.

As summer approaches, churches are also opening their gardens as a peaceful place to sit and contemplate. Indeed, this may be a community benefit to think about when applying for a grant.

What could be more idyllic than biding a while in the garden of your local church, like this charming wee church at St Fillans, Loch Earn?

Contacting an old friend can be nerve-wracking

Have you been wondering about an old friend with whom you have lost contact? Do you feel a bit hesitant about contacting them again?

You are not alone.

It seems that rekindling an old friendship can be as nerve-racking as speaking to a stranger, according to the findings of a recent study by the University of Sussex.

The study found that although nine in ten of us have lost touch with an old friend, and although we would greatly welcome a message from them, we personally feel nervous about making the first move.

The most common reasons are fear that the old friend might not want to hear from us, that it would be 'too awkward after all this time', and that we feel guilty that we had not been in touch before.

But Dr Gillian Sandstrom, a psychologist and Director of the Sussex Centre for Research on Kindness, said that the people who pushed past their hesitation and did reach out to an old friend reported feeling happier.

She said that past research suggests that old friends appreciate you reaching out, even more than you expect.

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Prayer Diary June

Sat 01 Justin of Rome, Martyr c165, for all who face persecution

Sun 02 Pentecost 2

Mon 03 Charles Lwanga and his companions, 1886, Janani Luwum, Bishop, 1977, Martyrs of Uganda, that we hold the truth in our hearts

Tue 04 John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, Reformer, 1963, that we do not feel threatened by change

Wed 05 Boniface of Mainz, Bishop, Missionary and Martyr, 754, for churches across Europe

Thu 06 For the work of Startup Stirling

Fri 07 For Stirling Street Pastors

Sat 08 Ephrem the Syrian, Deacon and Teacher of the Faith, 373, for healing in Syria

Sun 09 Pentecost 3

Mon 10 Columba of Iona, Abbot, 597, that we seek renewal of the Holy Spirit

Tue 11 Barnabas, Apostle, that we proclaim Christ risen and ascended

Wed 12 John Skinner, Priest, 1807, and John Skinner, Bishop, 1816, for the Scottish Episcopal Institute

Thu 13 For peace in Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan

Fri 14 Basil of Caesarea, 379; Gregory of Nazianzus, c 390; Gregory of Nyssa, 394, Bishops and Teachers of the Faith, for all in education

Sat 15 For all visitors to Scotland this summer

Sun 16 Pentecost 4

Mon 17 For our emergency services

Prayer Diary June

Tue18 Bernard Mizeki, Martyr, 1896, that the fire of truth burns within us

Wed 19 For all who feel lost or loss

Thu 20 Fillan, Abbot, c750, for churches in rural areas

Fri 21 For Christian Aid and its work

Sat 22 Alban, Martyr, c209, for the Church in England

Sun 23 Pentecost 5

Mon 24 The Birth of John the Baptist, for all who seek salvation

Tue 25 Moluag of Lismore, Bishop, c592, for a healing of the land

Wed 26 Robert Leighton, Bishop, 1684, for ecumenical unity

Thu 27 Alexander Jolly, Bishop, 1838, for our Primus Mark

Fri 28 Irenaeus of Lyons, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, 202, for all moving on in education

Sat 29 Peter, Apostle (or Peter and Paul, Apostles), that we seek that which builds the church

Sun 30 Pentecost 6

Articles for the **July/August** magazine are requested on or before

June 16th

The magazine will be available on

June 30th

Readings June

Sunday 2nd	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
PENTECOST 2	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Deuteronomy 5.12-15; 2 Corinthians 4.5-12; Mark 2.23-3.6
Thursday 6th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 9th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 3	**Readings**	Genesis 3.8-15; 2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1; Mark 3.20-35
Thursday 13th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 16th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 4	**Readings**	Ezekiel 17.22-24; 2 Corinthians 5.6-17; Mark 4.26-34
Thursday 20th	**11am**	Holy Communion

Readings June

Sunday 23rd	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 5	**Readings**	Job 38.1-11; 2 Corinthians 6.1- Mark 4.35-41
Thursday 27th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 30th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 6	**Readings**	Wisdom 1.13-15,2.23-24; 2 Corinthians 8.7-15 Mark 5.21-43

Christian Aid Week

Thank you for supporting our Christian Aid E-envelope appeal. This year we achieved the magnificent sum of **£1,322.50,** including Gift Aid. We didn't quite reach last year's figure of £1,383, but came very close to it.

Thank you again for what you've done to push back against the inhumanity of poverty. Please note that we can't thank people individually, as the site doesn't give donors' names unless the donor leaves a message.

David & Sheila Brown

Rotas June

	Readings	**Intercessions**
2nd June	**S Shaw**	**I Boa**
9th June	**N Morris**	**M Kenyon**
16th June	**C Johnston**	**R Piper**
23rd June	**A Pont**	**I Boa**
30th June	**A Tyler**	**S Shaw**

Sidesduty

2nd June	**J and N Morris**
9th June	**A Lees and R Nellist**
16th June	**R Campbell and L Coats**
23rd June	**H Kemp and C Kendall**
30th June	**J Foster and C Watson**

Our Services

Sundays
8.30am Holy Communion on the first Sunday in the month
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

...well you cannot fault the efficacy of the new 'Planned Giving' scheme...

Techie trouble

The vicar at our local church experienced some technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with 'The Lord be with you', he said: "There's something wrong with the microphone."
Not hearing this, the congregation responded: "And also with you."

Descriptions

Dust: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

Inflation: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

Raisin: Grape with a sunburn.

Mosquito: An insect that makes you like flies better.

Beauty salon: Where women curl up and dye.

Cannibal: One who is fed up with people

Committee: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

With June weddings in mind

"If we did become engaged, would you give me a ring?" she said.

"Yes, of course!" he replied. "What is your number again?"

Miscellaneous observations on life

I had a ploughman's lunch the other day. He wasn't very happy about it. - *Tommy Cooper*

Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it. - *Mark Twain*

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Organisations Meeting in the Church Hall

Mondays

10-12noon HTTots Gen Pont: gandapont@yahoo.co.uk

4.00-6.15pm 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

12-1pm Latin and Ballroom Dance Class: stirling4community@gmail.com

5-7pm Dance: francescahamill@icloud.com

7-9pm SABOS: sabosmusicaltheatre@gmail.com

Thursdays

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

7pm Stirling4 Community Choir

Fridays

9.10-9.55 Pilates: judithgraham090@gmail.com

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

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

5-6pm Capoeira class: dendemaruouk@outlook.com

Saturdays

9-10am Babyballet: livingstonandfalkirk@babyballet.co.uk

The church hall is available for further lettings. If you would like to rent the hall please contact Sarah Shaw on 07970466551