www.holytrinitystirling.org

Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Issue 5

February 2025

Scottish Charity: SC016471

Rector's Letter

Dear all,

The Feast of the Presentation of Christ (commonly known as Candlemas) is observed on the 2nd February every year, 40 days after Christmas. It recalls the story of Jesus' presentation in the Temple as told in Luke's Gospel as part of the childhood narrative (see Luke 2.22-40 if you'd like to read up on the story).

One of the characters featured in the story is the prophet Anna, described to be 84 years of age and spending night and day in the Temple. What is so extraordinary about Anna is not her ripe age and not even her dedication to religious observance, but the fact that she is called a prophet. While there are many prophets mentioned in the Bible, there are only four women mentioned in the OT to whom this title and function is given: Miriam (who is Moses' sister), Deborah, Huldah and Isaiah' wife. Anna, in a way, is the fifth character on this rather short list.

Prophets are absolutely key in Scripture and they are key for us today. A prophet, in the biblical sense, is not someone who predicts the future as such, but rather reads the present in a way that points to God. A prophet tells us who we could be in God; a prophet is someone who sees potential in us and in a situation; a prophet reminds us of the deeper meaning and value of life in God.

Anna is such a prophet, who sees the potential in a small child brought to the Temple and tells of God's love, mercy and grace.

We could do with more prophets like Anna in the world: people who see potential for love, mercy and grace in seemingly small and insignificant situations. People who can speak of hope when it's not visible. People who can remind us who we could be in God.

Rector's Letter

In this sense, we all can be prophets by reminding each other of hope, of faith, of love – and by learning to read the present in a way that points to deeper life in God.

Yours in Christ,

Christoph

From the Registers

Funerals

Clive Denton 17th January

Cecelia Archibald 22nd January

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

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Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Bridget McCreadie** on celebrating her 80th birthday. Here she is at her birthday party with some familiar friends.

Both Bridget and Robert attended HT for many years and remain very involved in HT life and worship from home.

And Congratulations to **Robert Wood** for achieving the **Fallin Local Hero Award** in recognition of all the litter picking he does in the area. Here he is receiving his £100 prize cheque.

Scottish Churches China Group
苏格兰教会中国会

The SCCG (Scottish Churches China Group) AGM and Spring Plenary will be held in Edinburgh at the Church of Scotland offices at 121 George Street, EH2 4YN and will be on **Thursday 13 March** at 11am (arrivals from 10.30am and includes lunch at 1pm). All are most welcome!

National Nest Box Week – 14th to 21st February

Where can family-minded birds raise their young these days? As our gardens and parklands become smaller and tidier, too many natural nest sites – such as holes in trees, old buildings and unkempt hedgerows – are rapidly disappearing

No wonder that our sparrows, greenfinches and swifts are in precipitous decline, and that one in four of our UK bird species are now under serious threat.

This makes it more important than ever to care for our remaining birds. By feeding, providing water and putting up nest boxes we can give them a safe space to raise their chicks.

The National Nest Box Week initiative encourages bird conservation across the UK, and it's easy to get involved, whether you're a teacher, part of a local wildlife group, or just wanting to boost the bird numbers in your own garden.

Visit: **https://www.countryfile.com/wildlife/birds/national-nest-box-week-how-to-help-birds-in-your-garden**

www.parisspump.co.uk

Getting to Know...

Tell us something about your family background and childhood. Wheredid you grow up? What are the choices you've made along the way that have shaped you?

I grew up in a small picturesque town in eastern Poland. As a kid, I was always curious about the natural world which quickly developed into an academic interest. I also liked foreign languages and wanted to go to a university abroad from a young age. Spending my summers doing science internships as a teenager helped me become more independent – and watching mice get dissected made me realise a career in biology wasn't for me! After finishing high school, I moved to Aberdeen to study philosophy & psychology – that's where I met my partner. We then moved to Glasgow where I completed my postgrad training in psychological therapy.

When did you come to Holy Trinity? What keeps you here?

I first came to Holy Trinity after our move to Stirling two years ago. I stayed for the liturgy, the sermons, and the music! (And proper pews – I don't like chairs in churches!)

A recent film/book you would recommend?

As a politics nerd who likes following elections across the globe, I really enjoyed the papal drama *Conclave.* Is there a better setting for a thriller than the Vatican?!

Jürgen Moltmann was one of my favourite theologians and all of his major works are worth recommending. I've recently been reading his excellent book *The Spirit of Life* – I find his writings on the Holy Spirit both fascinating from an academic perspective and very relevant to everyday life.

Bartholomew Koman

When are you happiest?

On a long walk in nature, discovering new parts of Scotland. I try to find time for a mini adventure outside every weekend – it helps me feel more grounded and I enjoy taking photos of beautiful landscapes.

Thanks to ***Bartholomew*** for featuring in this article. Please speak to one of the editorial team if you too would like to feature in Getting to Know...

Prayer Diary February 2025

Sat 1 Bride of Kildare, Abbess, c.525, for all exploring their vocation

Sun 2 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Mon 3 John Chrysostom, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, 407, for all in education

Tues 4 for our Emergency Services

Wed 5 for all impacted by the conflict in Ukraine

Thu 6 Paul Miki, Priest, and the Martyrs of Japan, 1597, that we find the courage to forgive

Fri 7 for all experiencing or threatened with homelessness

Sat 8 for Stirling Street Pastors

Sun 9 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Mon 10 Scholastica, Religious, 543, for all suffering epilepsy

Tue 11 for Startup Stirling and its work

Wed 12 for greater appreciation of the neuro-diverse

Thu 13 for all who live and work in care homes

Fri 14 Cyril, Monk, 869, and Methodius, Bishop, 885, 'Apostles of the Slavs,' for the Scottish Episcopal Institute

Sat 15 Thomas Bray, Priest and Missionary, 1730, for librarians and all keepers of knowledge

Sun 16 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Mon 17 Finan of Lindisfarne, Bishop, 661, that we have flexibility in changes in worship

Tues 18 Colman of Lindisfarne, Bishop, 676, that we do not fear the changes God brings in our lives

Wed 19 Martin Luther, 1546, for all those unafraid to question

Thu 20 for all health workers

Fri 21 for all places of worship in the Stirling area

Sat 22 for all who have a ministry at Holy Trinity

Sun 23 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Mon 24 Polycarp of Smyrna, Bishop and Martyr, c.156, for Christoph our Rector

Tue 25 for the Leaders in Youth Organisations

Wed 26 for farmers and fishers

Thu 27 for peace in the Middle East

Fri 28 for our Bishop Ian

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.

Readings February 2025

Sunday 2nd	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
CANDLEMAS	**Readings**	Malachi 3.1-4; Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40
	5pm	Choral Evensong
Thursday 6th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 9th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
EPIPHANY 5	**Readings**	Isaiah 6.1-13; Corinthians 15.1-11; Luke 5.1-11
Thursday 13th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 16th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
EPIPHANY 6	**Readings**	Jeremiah 17.5-10; 1 Corinthians 15.12-20; Luke 6.17-26
Thursday 20th	**11am**	Holy Communion

Readings February 2025

Sunday 23rd	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
EPIPHANY 7	**Readings**	Genesis 45.3-11,15;
		1 Corinthians 15.35-38,42-50;
		Luke 6.27-38
Thursday 27th	**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

Please note that the 8.30am Holy Communion service is discontinued in autumn and winter

Rotas February 2025

	Readings	Intercessions
2nd Feb	**N Jorgensen**	**S Shaw**
9th Feb	**S Stirling Aird**	**N Morris**
16th Feb	**B Wheeler**	**C Johnston**
23rd Feb	**N Morris**	**N Okeke**

Sidesduty

2nd Feb C Kendall and J Foster

9th Feb J Morris and N Morris

16th Feb S Goss and R Nellist

23rd Feb A Lees/C Wallis and L Coats

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

February 9th

The magazine will be available on

February 23rd

Holy Trinity Building Conservation Repair Work

One update-a photo of our treasurer at work!

In praise of the humble egg

We love eggs. On average, we eat at least two of them each week, which makes eggs one of Britain's most popular foods. Eggs are exceptionally good for you – high in protein, containing all the essential amino acids, rich in the B vitamins, vitamin D and A, and choline, and a source of healthy fats.

Eggs are also filling, and with 7.5g of protein in less than 80 calories per egg, there are few other foods that can match them for so much protein per gram. They are also inexpensive and easy to cook.

Experts recommend eating one or two eggs a day, and choosing a low-fat way of cooking them, by boiling or poaching. Cooking them in butter is a bit lower in fat than frying them in olive oil. Free-range eggs generally contain more vitamin D.

www.parishpump.co.uk

Your magazine needs you!

The magazine team consists of Ann Lees, Libby Coats and Liza Green. Liza has been an integral part of the team for many years. She has decided that it is time to take a well earned rest. We are looking for a volunteer to undertake her role.

There are ten editions a year. We need someone to collate the pages, fold them into a magazine , staple them together and then distribute them, both by post and at the back of church. If you think you could help us, please get in touch with Ann or Libby (contact details on page 19) and don't hesitate to ask for further information if you'd like it.

Libby Coats

Article from the Archives: Church Magazine February 1925

A new "fair linen cloth" for use on the High Altar was presented to the Church at Christmas by a friend, in memory of the late Miss Neil Campbell. The gift is very welcome, both as a memorial to a very devout Communicant, and also because it has been beautifully made and embroidered by a disabled British soldier.

Thanks to *Sheila Brown* for sending this in.

Holy Trinity Stirling is not responsible for the content of external sites whose links are included in the magazine. The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editorial team.

Lighting a Candle

Thanks to **Bob and Helen Piper** for sending in this poem

Lighting a candle is a prayer.

When we have gone, it stays alight;

Kindling in the hearts and minds

Of others, the prayers we have already

Offered; for them and for others,

For the sad, the sick and the suffering-

And prayers of thankfulness too.

Lighting a candle is a parable.

Burning itself out,

It gives light to others.

Christ gave himself for others.

He calls us to give ourselves.

Lighting a candle is a symbol

Of love and hope

Of light and warmth

Our world needs them all

https://worshipwords.co.uk/

True Love

A lovely heart-shaped box of chocolates was received on Valentine's Day by a young student from her new boyfriend. On the enclosed card was the inscription: 'To Helen, with all my allowance."

Those notices which didn't come out quite right…

- Spotted in a safari park: Elephants, please stay in your car.
- In a Laundromat: Automatic Washing Machines. Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.
- This coming Sunday our special service will be gin at 11:00am.
- This evening at 7:00pm there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Experience

"Dad," asked little Ted, "what does a man's better half mean?"

"Usually," his father said, "she means exactly what she says."

Wedding dress

When my sister Andrea got married, she asked to wear my mother's wedding dress. The day she tried it on, Mother's eyes welled with tears. "You're not losing a daughter," I reminded her in time-honoured fashion. "You're gaining a son." "Oh, forget about that!" she said with a sob. "I used to fit into that dress!"

PAPERSORTERS

Are your paper documents in a muddle? Would you like them sorted, listed and made available? Then PAPERSORTERS have the answer. We can help with:

- **ADVICE ON DATA PROTECTION & PRESERVATION**
- **DISPOSAL**
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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