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Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Issue 3

November 2025

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Rector's Letter

Dear all,

On Sunday 23rd November we'll observe the Feast of Christ the King. A fairly recent addition to the church calendar (conceived during the 1920s and only moved to the last Sunday of the church year in 1970), the feast aims to remind us of who is in charge of the world and our lives; but it also reminds us of the way Christ uses the image of the kingdom to talk about deeper life in God and God's purpose and plans for us.

Kingdom language and imagery is very poetic and elusive, often expressed in parables as aides for spiritual growth. My favourite kingdom parable is this:

'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' (Matthew 13.31-32)

This parable is such a wonderful reminder that God is completely and utterly to be found in the smallest of things, that everything has the potential for growing into something deep and significant, and that God's care extends to all life in its richness and diversity.

An image which expresses that for me is 'Birds of Many Climes' by the architect and designer of the Arts and Crafts Movement C F A Voysey (1857-1941), (V and A Museum, South Kensington. London). This textile design sees birds from all over the world nesting in the same tree, just as different flowers blossom, making a joyful statement of growth and diversity, celebrating the richness of life even in the difficult times when the design was first drawn during WW1.
It is a rich and beautiful image indeed.

https://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/01068707/birds-of-many-climes-textile-design-c-f-a/

May we learn to grow more and more into the joy and richness of God's kingdom in the way we live our lives and care for one another, knowing that we all find a nesting space in the Tree of Life growing out of God's presence, care and love.

Yours in Christ,
Christoph

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HT Groups in November:

For all the Saints: Our monthly HT Groups will meet in the Choir Vestry on **Thursday 6th November** at the usual times of **11.30am** (after the 11am Service of Holy Communion) **and 8pm**. We'll be reflecting on the themes of sainthood and holiness in Bible & Christian spirituality.

Training session for all readers & intercessors:

We'll be holding a training session for all those on the reader and intercessor rotas, looking at how best to utilise the sound system when speaking and discussing resources for leading our community in prayer – and if you are not yet on the rota, but are wondering whether you'd like to be, do join us and find out more.
Sunday 16th November after the 10.30 Eucharist
If you can't do the 16th, please let us know as we can hold a back-up session on **Sunday 30th November.**

Wilton

In last month's magazine *Karen Ellis* wrote about her decision to become a puppy raiser for Guide Dogs for the Blind. She now has her puppy and here is a photo of Karen with Wilton: Karen writes "He is eight weeks old and full of fun and curiosity" We look forward to seeing him at church !

Forth Valley Welcome.

Thanks to *Joan Lyon* for highlighting the work of Forth Valley Welcome.

Here is an extract from their website:

Who are Forth Valley Welcome?

We formed in June 2015, originally as Stirling Citizens for Sanctuary, in response to the growing refugee crisis. Since then, our work has grown to support refugees from a number of countries, including Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Sudan and Ukraine.

Our focus is on welcoming asylum seekers and vulnerable refugees, as defined by the UNHCR, which includes people at risk due to conflict, health needs or trauma. This is distinct from the broader migration crisis as seen in areas like Calais.

The focus is on:

- Providing essential items like furniture, clothing and toys to help families feel at home.
- Offering home visitors to assist with day to day needs-whether it's booking appointments, learning how to use public transport or simply offering a friendly face
- Supporting English language development
- Organising community-building events such as *Conversation Cafes*, *Snack and Chats* and *Walk Talks*

See the website for further information:
https://forthvalleywelcome.org

A reflection on St Hildegard of Bingen

On the 17th September I attended the Sung Eucharist to reflect on the life of Hildegard of Bingen. (1098-1179). A Benedictine Abbess, theologian, writer, poet, musician, and much more.

A few years ago, I had never heard of her, but am now continually discovering and learning more about this amazing woman, whose aims, ambitions, achievements and self-determination can still bring a positive meaning to the world we live in today.

I firmly believe that the voice of God is best heard in music and the acoustics in Holy Trinity certainly do justice to any musical performance.

As I concentrated on following the words on the service sheet, whilst listening to the Chants, the troubles of the wider world and those of my own were for a short time put aside. The very recent loss of a close family member, and also one family friend, were for a few moments held in abeyance. St Hildegard's music, and Ulrike's singing resonated around the church encompassing us all. By the end of the service, I felt I was mentally and spiritually in a better place than when I arrived.

It was the end of a lovely early autumn day. All was well.

As I walked home that evening I reflected also on another piece of music, one I first heard a number of years ago sung by mezzo soprano Dame Janet Baker.

It is quite a short piece composed by Schubert, with the words written by his good friend Franz von Schober, as a thank you note for the healing and inspirational elements that music can bring to each of us. The following is my preferred English translation. .

An die Musik (To Music)

"Beloved Art, how many a bleak hour,
when I am enmeshed in life's tumultuous round,
have you kindled my heart to the warmth of love,
and borne me away to a better world.

Often a sigh, escaping from your harp,
a sweet celestial chord
has revealed to me a heaven of happier times.
Beloved Art, for this I thank you."

The Seer: Miniature from Scivias

Carol Kendall

Prayer Diary November 2025

Sat 1 All Saints

Sun 2 Pentecost 21

Mon 3 All Souls

Tue 4 Richard Hooker, Priest and Teacher of the Faith, 1660, that we grow though scripture, reason and tradition

Wed 5 for Dr Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury Elect

Thu 6 for the Scottish Episcopal Institute

Fri 7 Willibrord, Bishop and Missionary, 739, for our Rector Christoph

Sat 8 for refugees everywhere

Sun 9 Pentecost 22

Mon 10 Leo the Great, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, 461, for all working in scientific research

Tue 11 Martin of Tours, Bishop and Teacher, c397, for World Peace

Wed 12 Machar, Bishop, c600, for our Primus Mark

Thu 13 George Hay Forbes, Priest, 1875, for ecumenical unity

Fri 14 for Startup Stirling and its work

Sat 15 for Deacon Rebecca and her wife, as they face new challenges in their lives.

Sun 16 Pentecost 23

Mon 17 Margaret of Scotland, 1093, for all who wield power or have the ear of power

Tue 18 Fergus, Bishop, c750, for Bishop Ian

Wed 19 Hilda of Whitby, 680, for all who seek to mediate between peoples

Thu 20 Hugh of Lincoln, 1200, for the Episcopal Communion

Prayer Diary November 2025

Fri 21 Columbanus, Irish missionary, 615, for all who minister in our church

Sat 22 Cecila, Martyr, c230, for all who make our lives richer with music

Sun 23 Christ the King

Mon 24 Lucy Menzies, 1954, that we find peace in our lives

Tue 25 Clement of Rome, Bishop and Martyr, c100, that we hold to our justification by faith

Wed 26 for all who work in or are in education

Thu 27 for our choir and the music group

Fri 28 for all preparing for Christmas

Sat 29 for all who fear the hours of darkness

Sun 30 First Sunday in Advent

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.

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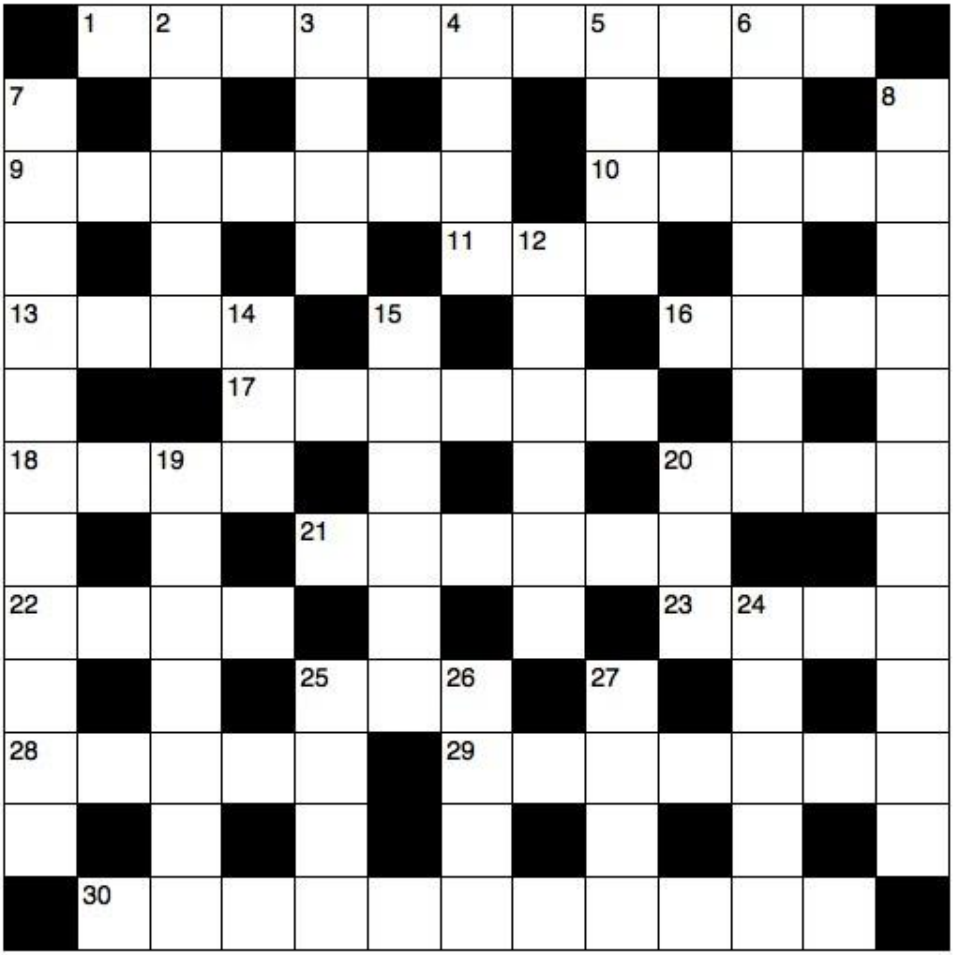
Crossword



Across **Answers on page 16**

1 The sixth disciple (Matthew 10:3) (11)

9 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the — — ' (Matthew 6:13) (4,3)

10 Love intensely (Song of Songs 1:4) (5)

11 From Mt Carmel to Jezreel, Elijah — all the way (1 Kings 18:46) (3)

13 One of the Midianite leaders who was captured and killed after Gideon's victory in the valley near Moreh (Judges 7:25) (4)

16 Metallic element (4)

17 At line (anag.) (6)

18 'Cursed is everyone who is — on a tree' (Galatians 3:13) (4)

20 Where Samson killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's jawbone (Judges 15:14) (4)

21 He succeeded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)

22 'When he saw him, he took — on him' (Luke 10:33) (4)

23 'For — is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction' (Matthew 7:13) (4)

25 'The god of this — has blinded the minds of unbelievers' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (3)

28 Fear or terror (Psalm 31:22) (5)

29 'We, who are many, are one body, for we all — of the one loaf' (1 Corinthians 10:17) (7)

30 Assyrian ruler assassinated by his sons while worshipping his god Nisroch (2 Kings 19:37) (11)

Down

2 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made — ' (1 Corinthians 15:22) (5)

3 'After supper he — the cup' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (4)

4 The request of a man of Macedonia in Paul's vision: 'Come — to Macedonia and help us' (Acts 16:9) (4)

5 He disobeyed his father Judah by refusing to impregnate his dead brother's wife (Genesis 38:9) (4)

6 I veto me (anag.) (7)

7 Fourth king of Judah (1 Kings 15:24) (11)

8 Priest of God Most High, who blessed Abram (Genesis 14:18) (11)

12 'I have made you — — for the Gentiles' (Acts 13:47) (1,5)

14 Implore (1 Samuel 15:25) (3)

15 'Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the — , something sweet' (Judges 14:14) (6)

19 'I am the most ignorant of men; I do — — a man's understanding' (Proverbs 30:2) (3,4)

20 'Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under — , but under grace' (Romans 6:14) (3)

24 Native of, say, Baghdad (5)

25 The last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21) (4)

26 Heroic tale (4)

27 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you — ' (John 8:32) (4)

Readings November 2025

Sunday 2nd	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
ALL SAINTS	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Daniel 7.1-3, 15-18; Ephesians 1.11-23; Luke 6.20-36
ALL SOULS	**6.30pm**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Wisdom 3.1-9; 1 Peter 1.3-9; John 6.37-40
Thursday 6th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 9th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY		
	Readings	Job 19.23-27*a*; 2 Thessalonians 2.1-5, 13-17; Luke 20.27-38
Thursday 13th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 16th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 23	**Readings**	Malachi 4.1-2*a*; 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13; Luke 21.5-19
Thursday 20th	**11am**	Holy Communion

Readings November 2025

Sunday 23rd	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
CHRIST THE KING	**Readings**	Jeremiah 23.1-6; Colossians 1.11-20; Luke 23.33-43
	5pm	Evensong
Thursday 27th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Saturday 29th	**6.30pm**	Advent Vigil
	Readings	tbc
Sunday 30th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
ADVENT 1	**Readings**	Isaiah 2.1-5; Romans 13.11-14; Matthew 24.36-44

Our Services

Sundays
10.30am Sung Eucharist

First Sunday in the Month
8.30am Holy Communion

Thursdays
11.00am Holy Communion

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

In Memoriam

Mr John Gill

The death of Mr. John Gill removes from our midst a most useful and devoted member of the congregation. From his first coming to the town, he closely identified himself with the life and work of our Church. Many will remember him as school manager. It was he who started the Free Will Offering method among us before it became popular and used it to assist various funds of the Church. In February 1915, Mr. Gill was appointed a member of the Vestry. It was mainly due to his efforts that we were able to have the electric light in the Church.

Perhaps his best service to the life of the Congregation was that he helped to bring together those who in outward circumstances were very differently situated. As the Rector said from the pulpit on the Sunday after his decease, he served as a bridge. Bridges of that kind are very much needed everywhere, bridges between class and class, and race and race.

Thanks to *Sheila Brown* for transcribing this article

Articles for the **December/January double edition**

are requested on or before

Sunday 16th November

The magazine will be available on

Sunday 30th November

Rotas November 2025

Readings	Intercessions
2nd Nov N Morris	C Johnston
9th Nov A Pont	R Piper
16th Nov tbc	R Nellist
23rd Nov A Tyler	T Mitchell
30th Nov D Brown	N Morris

Sidesduty

2nd Nov A Lees and S Goss

9th Nov L Coats and R Campbell

16th Nov C Kendall and R Nellist

23rd Nov J and N Morris

30th Nov R Campbell and S Goss

HTTots

3rd Nov A Lees and G Pont

10th Nov R Campbell and R Watson

17th Nov S Goss and H Kemp

24th Nov A Lees and R Watson

Exam

In the examination paper, the professor wanted us to sign a form stating that we had not received any outside assistance. Unsure of whether he should sign the form, a student admitted that he had prayed for the assistance of God.
The professor carefully studied the answer page and then replied, "You can sign it with a clear conscience. God did not assist you."

Morning

There are two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

Hear, hear

A very deaf elderly man was finally fitted out with a hearing aid that really worked. A month later his doctor called him in for a check-up. "Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."
The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1. Bartholomew. 9, Evil one. 10, Adore. 11, Ran. 13, Oreb. 16, Zinc. 17, Entail. 18, Hung. 20, Lehi. 21, Joshua. 22, Pity. 23, Wide. 25, Age. 28, Alarm. 29, Partake. 30, Sennacherib.

DOWN: 2, Alive. 3, Took. 4, Over. 5, Onan. 6, Emotive. 7, Jehoshaphat. 8, Melchizedek. 12, A light. 14, Beg. 15, Strong. 19, Not have. 20, Law. 24, Iraqi. 25, Amen. 26, Epic. 27, Free.

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Contacts

RECTOR: **Rev Canon Christoph Wutscher,** 4 Bracken Lane, Stirling FK9 5AB Tel: 01786 359821
Email: rector@holytrinitystirling.org

HON ASSISTANTS:
Rt Rev John Crook Tel: 01786 359881 *Email: johnmcrook99@gmail.com*
Rev Val Nellist Tel: 01383 824066 *Email: valnellist@btinternet.com*
Dr Rebekah Sims , Deacon *Email: rebekah.e.sims@gmail.com*
Rev Ian Boa Mob: 0786 085 1935 *Email: ianboa@me.com*

HON SECRETARY : **Rachel Campbell** Tel: 01786 451103 *Email: secretary@holytrinitystirling.org*

TREASURER: **Robert Nellist** Tel: 01383 824066 *Email: treasurer@holytrinitystirling.org*

LAY REPRESENTATIVE: **Bartholomew Koman** *Email: OUELBI@gmail.com*

ALTERNATE LAY REPRESENTATIVE: **Nick Morris** Mob:0741 460 3894 *Email: nick8morris@gmail.com*

ROTA SUPERVISOR: **Ann Lees** (see Magazine Production)

CONVENOR OF FABRIC & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE: **David Brown** Mob: 0736 004 1508
Email: dwbrown384@btinternet.com

VESTRY MEMBERS: **Rector, Rachel Campbell, Bartholomew Koman, Robert Nellist, David Brown, Cathy Johnston, Mary Kenyon, Ann Lees, Nick Morris, Bob Piper, Alistair Shaw, Andrew Tyler**

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: **Alistair Warwick** Tel: 01786 823000 Mob: 0779 256 6349
Email: music@holytrinitystirling.org

VERGER: **Brian Shanks** Tel: 01786 817191 Mob: 0787 044 4861

FLOWER CONVENOR: **Karen Ellis** Mob: 0798 036 7214 *Email: karenellishome@hotmail.co.uk*

GARDEN GROUP: Vacancy

HALL CONVENOR: **Sarah Shaw** Mob: 0797 046 6551 *Email: hallbooking@holytrinitystirling.org*

SAFEGUARDING PVG CO-ORDINATOR: **Helen Kemp** Mob: 0772 432 7363
Email: heleninstirling@gmail.com

MOTHERS UNION: **Helen Kemp (**see Safeguarding PVG Co-ordinator) **Mary Kenyon,**
Tel: 01786 870360 Email: *maryelizabethkenyon@gmail*.com

MAGAZINE PRODUCTION: **Libby Coats,** Tel: 01786 479785 *Email: lib.coats@gmail.com*
Ann Lees Tel 01786 472355 *Email: ann.lees@btinternet.com*
Jane Morris Mob: 0780 106 7545 *Email: jane59morris@gmail.com*

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