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Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Issue 10

July and August
2025

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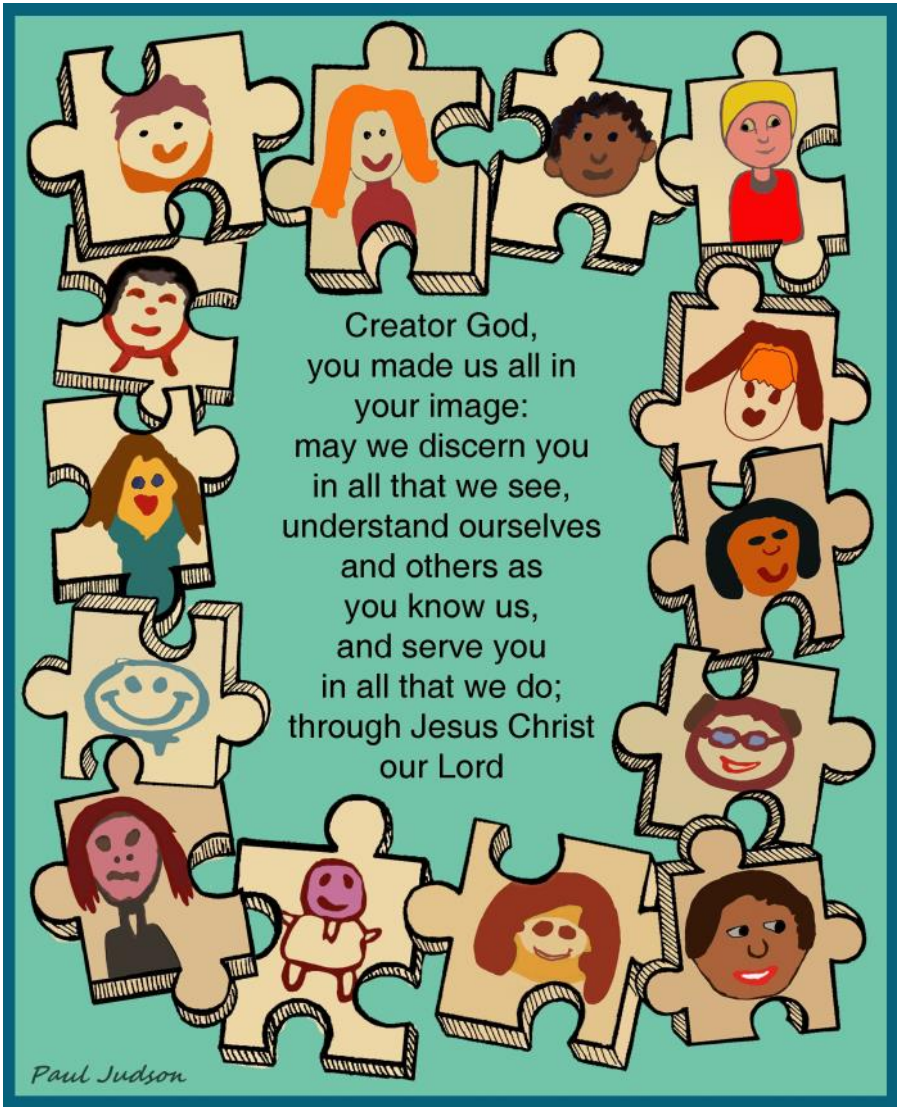

Rector's Letter

Dear all,

The Lord's Prayer is arguably the most important Christian prayer, as, according to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, it contains Jesus' own words as he teaches his disciples to pray.

We use a translation of Matthew's version in worship, but Luke's shorter prayer is worth noting as well (and we'll hear it as part of a Sunday Gospel reading later this summer):

Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.
And do not bring us to the time of trial.' (Luke 11.2-4)

The fact that Luke's version is different to Matthew's is not only a reminder that our four Gospels tell Christ's story differently; it is also a helpful tool for meditation as the shorter version makes us look afresh at what is a very familiar text. We can so easily pray 'on autopilot', that we may miss how much this prayer invites us into a deeper relationship with God (not least by addressing God as 'Our Father').

Different words and phrases might stand out for you at different times (one of my all-time favourites is meditating on the word 'hallowed'), but what are you drawn to noticing as you ponder Luke's version?

Is it God's giving and forgiving so that we can learn to forgive as well? Is it the prayer for being kept safe from trials or temptations (depending on translation)? Is it to meditate on the coming of God's kingdom and what that might mean for us as we go about our lives? Or is it simply to be fed by God's daily bread, in body, mind or soul?

Whatever it may be, we can be sure that our reflections won't exhaust the meaning of this fundamental prayer, just as our relationship with God will never be exhausted, but continues to grow now and in the world to come.

Yours in Christ,

Christoph

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General Synod 2025 – 5-7 June in Edinburgh

Christoph and I attended the General Synod in Edinburgh as representatives of our Diocese. It was a very full, but interesting agenda. This year there were the usual items of business that come to such Synods, but there were also sessions that provided opportunities for learning and discussion.

The General Synod offering was for the Christian Aid work in Sudan, and the Rev Sally Foster Fulton brought us up to date with the current crisis and the continuous work needed. It allowed us all to reflect on why we were focussing on this giving.

As we were meeting ,more atrocities were taking place in Gaza, and the Primus asked for our continued prayers and reflection for Archbishop Hosam Naoum of the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East and his colleagues.

The reports on all the proceedings from the Synod will be available on the Scottish Episcopal Church website, and their YouTube channel (and other social media) and so I will just draw your attention to some main things – please do ask me about any of them if you would like more details.

Strategic Planning for the future: The College of Bishops and Standing Committee have started a process of producing a Provincial Strategic Plan. This is envisaged as a multi-year plan (7-10 years) to realise the vision of a healthy, thriving church; to be brave in using the province's financial resources strategically to train and develop more confident clergy and lay readers, to offer Continuing Ministerial Development opportunities, to have a vibrant youth ministry which meets young people where they are, to simplify governance structures, and to align the General Synod Office to deliver strategic priorities. Discussions took place at tables in the General Synod, and all Vestries have been asked to participate. It will be interesting to see how this develops.

Provincial Youth Committee: There was a very insightful and thoughtful series of presentations, where the PYC were challenging the General Synod to hear their voice and incorporate their views in the provincial strategy. The current youth activities have been very well developed and many 'graduates' from the provincial youth week (YEEK) have become leaders. PYC are very concerned with justice and talked about gender-based violence; climate crisis; distribution of wealth and equalities for all people.

1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed: this was a fascinating session on the development and use of the Nicene Creed. It provoked good conversation, and I think that we will be hearing more on this at Holy Trinity.

Role and responsibilities of charity Trustees: A short, but thorough, presentation was given on the role of charity Trustees (the Vestry in a church setting) and the relationship with the Code of Canons. This is something that will be discussed within our own Vestry.

Legacy of slavery: The Primus has started a Working Group on this and some reflective research will be starting over this next year on the implications for the whole province.

Liturgies: various liturgies were agreed to go through, or complete their process of being used in the SEC. These can be found on the SEC website.

Provincial Environment Group and Net Zero: An update on the progress made on the Action Plan was given, which reminded Synod both the reason for action, and the measurable change that has been made. Updates can be found on the Net Zero Portal.

PTO

General Synod 2025 – 5-7 June in Edinburgh

St Ninian Declaration: This is the declaration of friendship with the Roman Catholic Church that has been worked on by our own Bishop Ian in the recent year. We heard about it at our own diocesan Synod and so it was good to see it affirmed by the whole church with Archbishop Leo Cushley present at Synod.

Assisted Dying: A very insightful presentation was made on the recent commentaries that have surrounded the parliamentary discussions on Assisted Dying. I hope that the slides will be made available for us all and I will be happy to follow up with more information so that we may be informed as a congregation.

Inclusive Church: the SEC debated and affirmed that it is an inclusive church and in particular welcomes all, and that includes those who are Transgender +.

Appointments: this year sees a few people completing their terms of office and several changes were affirmed. Our Deacon, Rev Dr Rebekah Sims was formally appointed to the Institute Council, which is the governing body of the Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI), and I was appointed as the convenor of the Standing Committee.

This is a very short report of a lot of complex discussion and debate, and it also included what one might call 'routine' matters that keep the organisation running. Please do let me know if you would like to hear more about any specific areas of interest and I can arrange to have more material available.

Cathy Johnston, Lay Rep.

Memories of HT Choir

You may recall an article in last month's magazine from the HT archives of 1925 describing the choir in those days. Readers were invited to send in their choir memories. Here are some of Jim Shanks's memories.

Jim's recollections

Jim joined HT choir some seventy plus years ago. He had to audition in front of other choir members and it was an intimidating experience. Needless to say, he was accepted into the choir. He recalls the choir master, John Kinnear, a strict man. There were many boys in the choir and they were expected to attend two rehearsals a week and three services on a Sunday, the main service, the 8am and one at 2pm. There was a serious hierarchy within the choir and the more senior members (I should have said that it was all boys) would exert their authority over the younger ones. Jim remembers the "top boys" could punish you for bad singing by sending you to the boiler house beneath the church.

Jim has some very happy memories, including one of John Kinnear taking the entire choir to Helensburgh for the day at his expense. He also took them to Hurst Grange school in Victoria Place to join forces with the Hurst Grange choir.

Thank you, Jim for these reminiscences. If you too have memories or anecdotes relating to HT choir, please send them to the editorial team.

Prayer Diary July 2025

Tue 1 Serf, Bishop, c500, for all who have the care of children

Wed 2 for all involved in Church opening and for our visitors

Thu 3 Thomas, Apostle, for all who question

Fri 4 for the Church in the USA

Sat 5 for the people of Gaza

Sun 6 Pentecost 4

Mon 7 Boisil, Prior of Melrose, c 642, for all who act as gatekeepers of faith

Tue 8 Palladius, Bishop, c450, for the Church in Ireland

Wed 9 for a just peace in Ukraine

Thu 10 for Startup Stirling

Fri 11 Benedict of Nursia, c550, for all who read in Holy Trinity

Sat 12 Droston of Deer, Abbot, c600, for our Primus Mark

Sun 13 Pentecost 5

Mon 14 for our care homes, their residents and staff

Tue 15 for the Scottish Episcopal Institute

Wed 16 for all who are neurodivergent

Thu 17 Jane Haining, Missionary and Martyr, 1944, for all who are persecuted

Fri 18 for all affected by addictions

Sat 19 for oppressed people everywhere

Sun 20 Pentecost 6

Prayer Diary July 2025

Mon 21 William Wilberforce, 1833, for the victims of modern slavery

Tue 22 Mary Magdalene, for those whose voices are unheard

Wed 23 for Stirling Street Pastors

Thu 24 for peace in Sudan

Fri 25 James, Apostle, for all who are pilgrims on the road

Sat 26 Anne and Joachim, parents of Mary, Mother of the Lord, for grandparents and their grandchildren

Sun 27 Pentecost 7

Mon 28 John Comper, Priest, 1903, that we continue to seek beauty in worship

Tue 29 Martha and Mary of Bethany, that we rejoice in women of faith

Wed 30 Silas, Companion of St Paul, for our church Deacons

Thu 31 Ignatius Loyola, Priest and Religious, 1556, for all who live the religious life

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

Friday 15th August

The magazine will be available on

31st August

Prayer Diary August 2025

Fri 1 for the Scout Movement

Sat 2 for a just peace in Ukraine

Sun 3 Pentecost 8

Mon 4 for all vacationing in Scotland

Tue 5 for all receiving the results of their Highers today

Wed 6 The Transfiguration of the Lord

Thu 7 for the people of Gaza

Fri 8 Dominic, Priest and Friar, 1221, for all who preach at Holy Trinity

Sat 9 John Mason Neale, Priest, 1866, for all who make music in our churches

Sun 10 Pentecost 9

Mon 11 Clare of Assisi, 1253, for all who seek to defend the defenceless

Tue 12 Blane, Missionary, c590, for our Area Council of the SEC

Wed 13 for all returning to school today

Thu 14 Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, 1941, for all victims of prejudice

Fri 15 Mary the Virgin, for all acting in the role of mother

Sat 16 Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr, 258, for saints known and unknown

Sun 17 Pentecost 10

Mon 18 for HTTOTS

Tue 19 for all who work on the land or at sea

Wed 20 for those involved in Open Church

Prayer Diary August 2025

Thu 21 for our local councillors

Fri 22 for all who are hurting from bereavement

Sat 23 for the people of the USA

Sun 24 Pentecost 11

Mon 25 Bartholomew, Apostle, for our Young Adults Group

Tue 26 Ebba of Coldingham, Abbess, 683, for our daughters

Wed 27 Monnica, Mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387, for all families experiencing division

Thu 28 Augustine of Hippo, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, 430, for our Bishop Ian

Fri 29 The Beheading of John the Baptist, for all who are affected by abuse of power

Sat 30 for all who fear the growing darkness

Sun 31 Pentecost 12

HT Prayer Tree

The Prayer Tree situated in 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.

Readings July 2025

Thursday 3rd	**11am**	Holy Communion
St Thomas, Apostle		
Sunday 6th	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
PENTECOST 4	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Isaiah 66.10-14; Galatians 6.7-16; Luke 10.1-11, 16-20
Thursday 10th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 13th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 5	**Readings**	Deuteronomy 30.9-14; Colossians 1.1-14; Luke 10.25-37
Thursday 17th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 20th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 6	**Readings**	Genesis 18.1-10*a*; Colossians 1.15-28; Luke 10.38-42
Thursday 24th	**11am**	Holy Communion

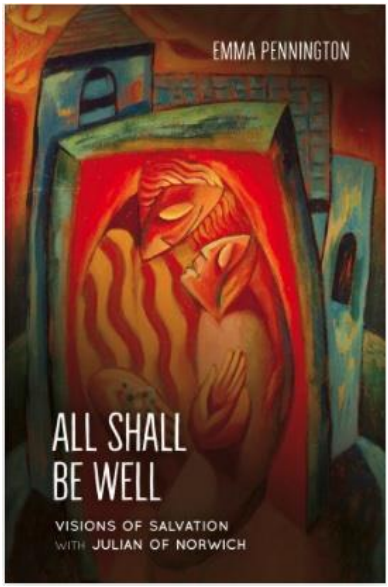
Readings July 2025

Sunday 27th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 7	**Readings**	Genesis 18.20-32; Colossians 2.6-15; Luke 11.1-13
Thursday 31st	**11am**	Holy Communion

A Book Recommendation

All Shall Be Well: Visions of Salvation with Julian of Norwich

By Emma Pennington, BRF, £12.99



How can all be well in the world in which we live? What does 'All shall be well' mean when all is *not* well? Through revelations 10 to 16 of her *Revelations of Divine Love*, Julian of Norwich returns time and again to the idea that 'all is well'.

In her latest book Emma Pennington examines this popular mantra and explores what Julian really means by it, bringing depth and relevance to these words for the reader who lives in an age of pandemic, war and climate crisis which closely echoes Julian's own.

Through deep engagement with Julian's visions, we are encouraged to reflect in prayer and devotion on our own personal relationship with God.

www.parishpump.cp.uk

Readings August 2025

Sunday 3rd	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
PENTECOST 8	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Ecclesiastes 1.2,12-14 & 2.18-23; Colossians 3.1-11; Luke 12.13-21
Thursday 7th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 10th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 9	**Readings**	Genesis 15.1-6; Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16; Luke 12.32-40
Thursday 14th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 17th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 10	**Readings**	Jeremiah 23.23-29; Hebrews 11.29-12.2; Luke 12.49-56
Thursday 21st	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 24th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 11	**Readings**	Isaiah 58.9*b*-14; Hebrews 12.18-29; Luke 13.10-17

Readings August 2025

Thursday 28th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 31st	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 12	**Readings**	Sirach 10.12-18; Hebrews 13.1-8, 15-16; Luke 14.1, 7-14

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

Rotas July 2025

Readings	Intercessions
6th July R Piper	A Pont
13th July T Mitchell	A Shaw
20th July W Wheeler	R Nellist
27th July tbc	M Kenyon

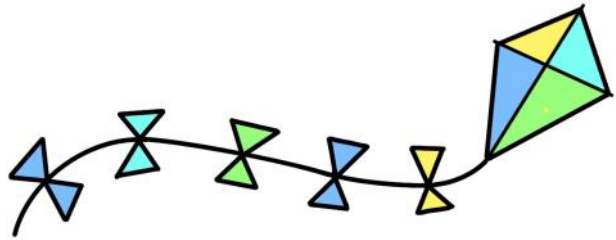
Sidesduty

6th July S Goss and R Nellist

13th July R Campbell and J Foster

20th July A Lees and L Coats

27th July C Kendall and S Goss



Rotas August 2025

Readings	Intercessions
3rd August A Pont	R Piper
10th August A Tyler	T Mitchell
17th August N Jorgensen	N Morris
24th August D Brown	A Pont
31st August M Kenyon	tbc

Sidesduty

3rd August R Nellist and J Foster

10th August R Campbell and S Goss

17th August L Coats and A Lees

24th August J and N Morris

31st August C Kendall and R Nellist

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.

HT News

Church Opening during the Summer

The church, we hope, will be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 11am and 3pm. For every day the doors are open four people are needed to welcome our visitors and answer any queries. As we did last year we are again working in pairs, for safeguarding reasons and also because on some days last summer we had up to 50 interested people walk in, ranging from locals who had never stepped in to people from many countries. We have written guides to the church and to our stained glass windows in a variety of languages and also resources for young people. These guides provide a support for the welcomers as well as information for the visitors.

It proved to be an enjoyable experience for last year's volunteers. Unfortunately, unlike last year we have already had to cancel some openings due to a lack of personnel.

Please help by donating two hours of your time. If you can help, please see *Jane Morris*

A Happy Summer

Wishing all our readers a happy summer and looking forward to resuming the magazine in September.

Libby. Jane and Ann

Nick Morris fitting the new Episcopal Church sign at HT

Murder on TV

Do you see a lot of murders? On TV, that is. According to the star of Gavin and Tracey, James Corden, television these days has become pretty much "wall-to-wall" murder.

Corden believes that audiences deserve more programmes that feature love and kindness, instead. He says: "If there was an alien species that came to Earth, they would assume that all of us know multiple murderers, and that we're involved or implicated in murder somewhere."

So, what is there about a murder mystery that still so attracts us?

www.parishpump.co.uk Answers please to lib.coats@gmail.com

Church Notices that didn't quite 'make it'…

The preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.

Churchyard maintenance is becoming increasingly difficult, so it will be appreciated if parishioners cut the grass around their own graves.

Baptism

The vicar announced that an additional font would soon be placed in the church, so that babies could be baptised at both ends.

Life choice

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his mother for the reason of his distress, he gulped: "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but I want to be an engine driver."

Open wide

A lady was very nervous about her appointment at the dentist. She sought courage from her Bible. The verse her finger landed on was Psalm 81:10: 'Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it.'

Preaching hazards

Showing your new parish that you are a forceful preacher may not always be a good idea, as the Revd Sydney Smith found out when he first arrived at All Saints Church in Foston in 1806. "When I began to thump the pulpit cushion on my first coming to Foston, the accumulated dust of 150 years made such a cloud that for some minutes I lost sight of the congregation."

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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:

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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