www.holytrinitystirling.org

Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Issue 1

September 2025

Scottish Charity: SC016471

Rector's Letter

Dear all,

September is HT prime time as we meet for our Annual Congregational Meeting towards the end of the month. The ACM is a good time to look back on the church life of the past year and all the things which have been going on and it is also a good time to look ahead: to plan and envision what the next steps for HT might be.

Lots of building work has happened this past year (in both church and hall) and we are very grateful to those who have worked to make it happen. We are also looking ahead, envisioning what church buildings and grounds might need from us as we continue to be an active and open Christian presence in Stirling.

It is an interesting time to be involved in HT's visioning process and in the care of our buildings for worship, spiritual growth, community and outreach – and many people are already involved in one way or another, contributing their time, expertise and insights.

One focus for us at this coming ACM will be to encourage a new Fabric Convener (or, ideally, a team of people sharing the role) to help with this next phase of fabric ministry. Are you interested in our buildings? Do you know of someone who might be (even in the wider community)? The commitment could be to contribute for a fixed term (3-4 years) and share with others in helping with maintenance and visioning – so that we can continue to be an open, inclusive, friendly, inspiring and deep presence, built on the presence of Christ here in Stirling.

I am very much looking forward to our ACM and to continue in discerning what God may have in store for us at HT.

Yours in Christ,

Christoph

From the Registers

Funeral

Judith Crook 23rd July

May she rest in peace and rise in glory

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2025

Immediately after 10.30 service

If you are unable to attend please let the Rector or the vestry secretary (Rachel Campbell) know

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Fellowship Groups

HT Groups are re-starting after the summer break on the first Thursday of the month.

On Thursday 4th September the Revd Joan Lyon has offered to talk about her personal experience of Alzheimer's Disease. Joan says: This is something which affects many families and each experience is different but there are many similarities. Questions and discussion welcome.

Two groups meet in the Choir Vestry: in the morning at 11.30am (after the 11am Service of Holy Communion) and in the evening at 8pm.

HTTots

HTTots are looking for more volunteers to help support our toddler group, running on termtime Monday mornings from 10.00 till 11.30.No childcare experience necessary, just willingness to be there from 9.30 to help set up, make tea and coffee and wash up after. With a few more helpers you can expect to be on the rota 2 or 3 times a term. Please get in touch with Genevieve Pont or Karen Ellis if interested.

Karen Ellis: karenellishome@hotmail.co.uk
Genevieve Pont : gandapont@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you

On behalf of Holy Trinity Stirling, *Jane Morris* would like to acknowledge and thank the charity Period Dignity, based in Wrexham for their donation of sanitary products for installation in the Church Hall toilets. In keeping with the church policy the products are sustainable in nature.

HT Choir Memories

You may recall an article in the June magazine from the HT archives of 1925 describing the choir in those days. Readers were invited to send in their choir memories. Jim Shanks sent in his memories in July and here are some more, starting with Rita Ramsay:

Rita Ramsay

Rita recalls the 1950s when her three brothers Alec, Kenny and Robert were in the choir. Rita has attended HT since the 1930s. Recently she has maintained her interest in and care for Holy Trinity from her home. She notes that her father, James Elliott, was a server in the 1950s and she was a Sunday school teacher at HT in the church hut in the Raploch.

Alec, Kenny and Robert Elliott

HT Choir Memories (continued)

And here are Jan Foster's memories:

Yes, I remember when it was a male voice choir. My future husband to be was in it, but I didn't know that at the time. ha ha. When it was suggested that maybe girls/ladies would be able to join, I decided to try for it. Being only a teenager though I still went along but my early memory of it was that I got home late . Bear in mind that at that time the parents were strict about girls being out in the evening. When I got home at about 8.30/9.30 pm, my father was at the door waiting and I told him where I had been, and that Lesley had walked home with me. Even though I explained that Lesley was a girl he said "Not at this time of night, get to your bed"

I did join the choir but it was a few years later.

Have you noticed?

Gail Lamb sent in this photo of the fence around HT and drew attention to the little hearts within it.

The editor, for one, hadn't consciously noticed them. Thank you, Gail.

Is there anything you would like to draw attention to at HT that might have gone unnoticed? Please send in a photo with a brief explanation to lib.coats@gmail.com

Embracing Community: My Journey to Stirling

On October 6, 2023, I arrived in Stirling as an international student from St. Paul's Cathedral, Ezeoke Nsu in Imo State, Nigeria. Initially, I felt isolated, so I sought out the Scottish Episcopal Church. An online search led me to HTC Stirling, and I contacted the Rector, who responded promptly and kindly, confirming the church's activities as outlined on its website.

Despite my unfamiliar surroundings, I gradually found my place within the HTC Stirling community through the kindness and support of its members. Each smile I received provided comfort during my initial challenges.

One of the most gratifying aspects of my experience was the willingness of church members to participate in my dissertation research. Gathering the required number of participants for my survey was effortless, thanks to their enthusiastic engagement.

As a devout Christian and a priest, I aspire to attend every Sunday service. However, my academic and work commitments occasionally prevent me from doing so, resulting in my irregular attendance at church.

On July 4, I received permission to officiate in the Diocese from Bishop Ian Paton. Since then, I have had the privilege of learning to minister in the Scottish Episcopal Church under the guidance of the Rev. Aaron Moffat-Jackman at Bridge of Allan and Doune.

Holy Trinity Stirling has consistently demonstrated unwavering love and support. Recently, I received your warm wishes conveyed in a card delivered by Nick Morris. The message deeply touched my heart, and I express my sincere gratitude for it.

Today, my community has expanded to include friends in Bridge of Allan and Doune. My wife and I both cherish these connections.

There is something profoundly beautiful about the way the love of God draws us all into deeper relationships with one another and with Him. I am grateful to be part of this loving community, and I look forward to what lies ahead.

Nelson Okeke

Dean Graham Taylor (left), Nelson (centre) receiving his licence and Rev Aaron Moffat Jackman (right)

Pray as you go

How do you pray and when? Apart from Sunday services, we pray in very different ways, for different reasons and at different times. A very powerful memory often comes to my mind. In the '70s, I spent a number of years working as a volunteer hospital secretary in an Anglican Mission Station in Papua New Guinea. A service of Holy Communion took place every morning - very early! I thought I was doing quite well attending on Sundays. One day I asked the redoubtable Australian matron (a force to be reckoned with!) how she managed to go to the communion service every morning. She looked at me in astonishment, put her hands together, looked at the cup made by her palms and said "because this is my daily bread and I couldn't get through the day without it". This made a profound impression on me which has stayed with me ever since.

We don't always have access to or feel a need for a daily service of Holy Communion but when we pray by ourselves regularly, we discover that it slows us down, sustains us, sets us up for the day or allows us to sift the day which has just finished in preparation perhaps for a more peaceful sleep. There are times when we're not sure what we want to say to God or, more frequently perhaps, how to listen to God. Some structure can help us.

Pray As You Go is a very helpful resource. It's an app so needs to be downloaded onto a phone, iPad or PC. (If you're not sure how to do this, ask a younger person!!). It's a daily personal time of prayer of around 10-13 minutes offering an introductory song or hymn, a short Bible reading, some questions for us to think and pray about, a repeat of the reading and some final music. The voices are varied and very clear (one can usually recognise the beautiful speaking voice of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams). You can listen to this at any time, when you are sitting on a bus or train or having that morning cup of coffee to wake you up. God is waiting for us....just tune in.....it can help us get through the day. *Revd Joan Lyon*

Prayer Diary September 2025

Mon 1 Aidan of Lindisfarne, Bishop, 651, for our light to shine to all we meet

Tue 2 The Martyrs of New Guinea, 1942, for all who are persecuted for their faith

Wed 3 Gregory the Great, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, for our Primus Mark

Thu 4 for a just peace in Gaza, Israel and Ukraine

Fri 5 for our young people in uniformed organisations

Sat 6 for an equitable distribution of wealth

Sun 7 Creation 1

Mon 8 The Birth of Mary, Mother of the Lord, for all who have the care of children

Tue 9 for Startup Stirling and its work

Wed 10 for refugees from persecution, conflict or poverty

Thu 11 for Stirling Street Pastors

Fri 12 for Christian Aid

Sat 13 Cyprian of Carthage, Bishop and Martyr, 258, that all may find love in the Church

Sun 14 Creation 2

Mon 15 Holy Cross Day

Tue 16 Ninian of Whithorn, Bishop, Fourth century, for our community here in Stirling

Wed 17 Hildegard of Bingen, Abbess, 1179, for all who challenge the abuse of power

Thu 18 for all facing the threat of homelessness

Fri 19 for all involved in education

Sat 20 John Coleridge Patteson, Bishop and Martyr, 1871, for all working to stamp out modern slavery

Sun 21 Creation 3

Mon 22 Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, for the Scottish Episcopal Institute

Tue 23 Adamnan of Iona, Abbot, 704, for the innocent victims of conflict

Wed 24 for all who have visited our church this summer

Thu 25 Finnbar of Caithness, Bishop, c610, for Christian unity

Fri 26 for all involved in Open Doors

Sat 27 Vincent de Paul, Priest, 1660, for all in fear of poverty

Sun 28 Creation 4

Mon 29 St Michael (Michaelmas) and All Angels that the message may ring true and clear

Tue 30 Jerome, Priest and Teacher of the Faith, 420, for all students at Stirling University

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

Sunday 14th September

The magazine will be available on

Sunday 28th September

Readings September 2025

Thursday 4th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 7th	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
CREATION 1	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
(Sea Sunday)	Re**adings**	Deuteronomy 30.15-20; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14.25-33
Thursday 11th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 14th	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
Festival of Dedication	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	1 Chronicles 29.6-19; Ephesians 2.19-22; John 2.13-22
Tuesday 17th	**6.30pm**	Sung Eucharist
Hildegard of Bingen	**Readings**	Song of Songs 8.6-7**;** Revelation 19.1,5-9; Matthew 25.1-13
Thursday 18th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 21st	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
CREATION 3	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Amos 8.4-7; 1 Timothy 2.1-7; Luke 16.1-13

Readings September 2025

Thursday 25th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 28th	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
CREATION 4	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
(ACM)	**Readings**	Amos 6.1*a*,4-7; 1 Timothy 6.6-19
		Luke 16.19-31

On Wednesday 17th September at 6.30pm, we'll meet for a Eucharist to mark the Feast Day of St Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179). St Hildegard was a nun, theologian and musician, who continues to fascinate and inspire people today. The service will solely feature music written by Hildegard, as we reflect on her legacy and pray inspired by her music and example. Many thanks to Ulrike for agreeing to sing some of Hildegard's chants for us!

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 September 2025

Readings	Intercessions
7th Sept R Campbell	D Brown
14th Sept S Stirling Aird	A Pont
21st Sept R Piper	M Kenyon
28th Sept J Morris	R Piper

Sidesduty

7th Sept S Goss and J Foster

14th Sept L Coats and A Lees

21st Sept R Campbell and C Kendall

28th Sept J and N Morris

HTTots

1st Sept K Ellis and S Goss

8th Sept R Campbell and A Lees

15th Sept K Ellis and H Kemp

22nd Sept R Campbell and S Goss

29th Sept K Ellis and H Kemp

From the Archives September 1925

From the Holy Trinity Church Magazine of September 1925

Dedication Festival (Sunday 13 September 2025)

The church we now worship in is the third Episcopal Church in Stirling since the repeal of the Penal Laws. Photographs of the former buildings may be seen in the Church Porch. The present building was consecrated on the 12th September, 1878, so that on Sunday, 13th September, we shall be keeping the forty-seventh anniversary. Special interest attaches to this anniversary, because since our last Dedication Festival we have added the beautiful Choir Vestry to the fabric, and furnished a Clergy Vestry and a Sacristy. These were dedicated and used for the first time last February. All who value our Church and what God has given us in our Church, both spiritual and material, will make this Festival a time of glad thanksgiving. They will pray earnestly for all who minister and worship there, and they will remember before God all who have worshipped there in past years, and have now (we trust) passed to a clearer knowledge of those things that we still see as in a glass darkly.

Especially we shall humbly *dedicate ourselves* to serve God more faithfully and whole-heartedly, not only in Church, but in whatsoever we do.

At the Festival there will be a Sung Celebration of Holy Communion, following shortened Matins. Merbecke's music is to be sung, and in the evening the Choir will sing an anthem.

This article was kindly transcribed by *Sheila Brown*

Knock knock

What do you get when you cross an atheist with a Jehovah's Witness?

Someone who knocks at your door for no apparent reason.

Quotes that biblical characters might have said:-

Adam: "You are what you eat."

~ Eve: "At least he doesn't compare me to his mother."

~ Moses: "From a basket case to the promised land."

~ Prodigal Son: "All roads lead to home."

~ At the Sinai desert: "Winding road for next 40 years."

~ At the Red Sea: "Caution! Subject to sudden flooding."

Using the English language…

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that. . .electricians could be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, and dry cleaners depressed?

Likewise, bedmakers might be debunked, bulldozer operators degraded, organ donors delivered, software engineers detested, and underwear manufacturers debriefed?

And won't all composers one day decompose? On a more positive note, perhaps we can hope politicians will someday be devoted…

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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: **Cathy Johnston** Mob. 0771 892 1181 *Email: cathymjohnston@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: **Rev Ian Boa** Mob: 0786 085 1935
Email: ianboa@me.com 12 Millar Place Stirling FK8 1XD

VESTRY MEMBERS: **Rector, Rebekah Sims, Ian Boa, Rachel Campbell, Cathy Johnston, Robert Nellist, Hannah Gray, Mary Kenyon, Ann Lees, Nick Morris, Bob Piper, Annie Pittock , 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: **Revd Joan Lyon** Mob: 0780 778 3168 *Email: joanblyon@gmail.com*

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

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

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