www.holytrinitystirling.org

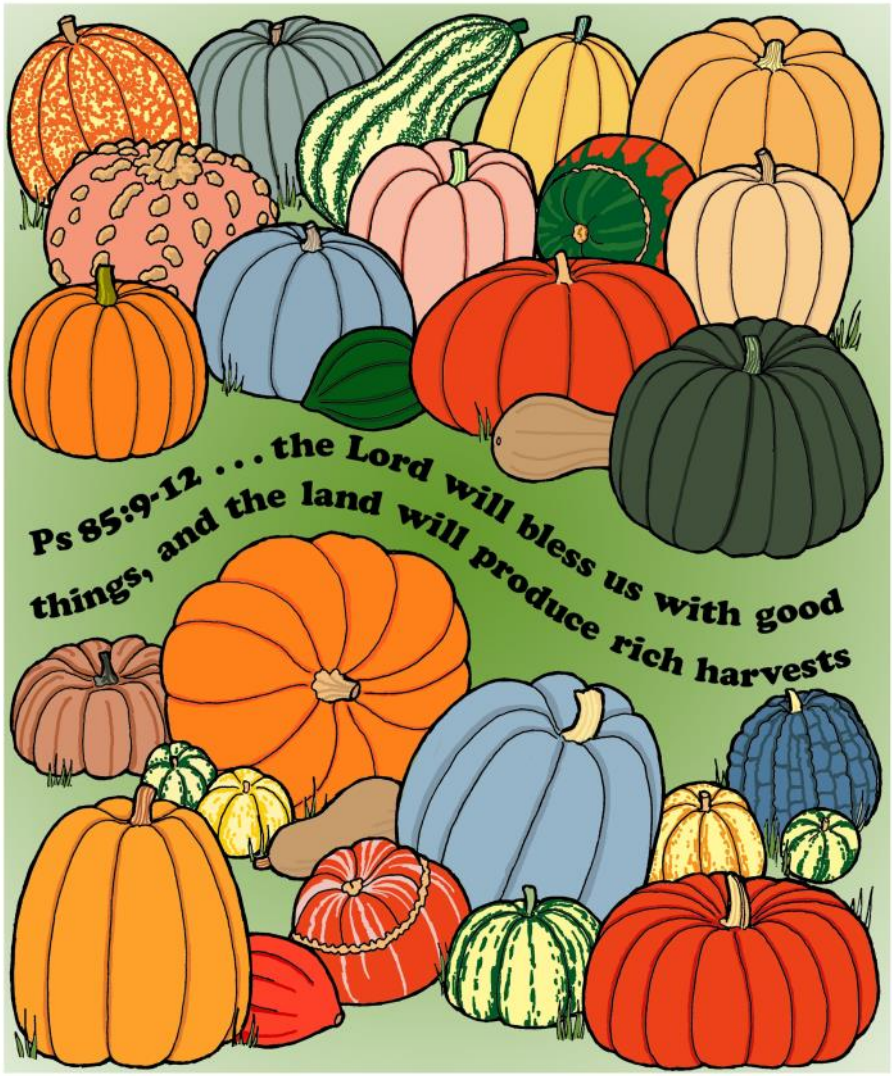
Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Issue 2

October 2025

Scottish Charity: SC016471



Rector's Letter

Dear all,

On 5th October we are celebrating Harvest Thanksgiving at HT, which also marks the end of the Season of Creation. These occasions are good opportunities to think about our place within the created world and our impact on it, but also how we interact with God the Creator, the world and one another – and how we treat both the people we meet and the objects we handle in our lives.

In the Rule of St Benedict, a 6th century text aimed at regulating the life and work of monastic communities and still in use today, we find a sentence which might help us to ponder our relationship with objects in our lives. In the Rule (31), it states that, 'all utensils and goods of the monastery are to be treated as sacred vessels of the altar.'

At HT, we do treat the silverware used for Holy Communion reverently (just as we take the receiving of Communion seriously): precious vessels for a precious moment of encounter with Christ. But what if we learnt to treat all the things in our lives with a similar reverence? And what if we treated every encounter we had as potentially an encounter with Christ?

Maybe we would learn to care more deeply for that with which we have been entrusted, live in a more sustainable way and meet others on a deeper level – with love and care expressed, as we learn to care for ourselves, those around us and the world of which we are a part.

Yours in Christ,

Christoph

HT Groups in October

Our monthly **HT Groups** will meet in the Choir Vestry on **Thursday 2nd October** at the usual times of **11.30am** (after the 11am Service of Holy Communion) **and 8pm**. We'll be studying the Eucharistic Prayer used in many of our services, reflect on its meaning and purpose in the liturgy and take a closer look at the vessels and other items used in worship.

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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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 two or three 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

The Holy Dusters Team

Here is the team who make HT look so bright, clean and welcoming. It's good to see them taking a break. Thank you to David, Bill, Ann, Rachel, Anne, Helen and Sheila (left to right)

Puppy Raising

Some time ago I decided that I wanted to become a puppy raiser for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Decades earlier, I had met two sisters who lived in the Scottish Borders. They raised Guide Dog pups for many years and I met a few of the dogs at various events when my parents were volunteer fundraisers.

It wasn't until the last couple of years that I thought about puppy raising and I finally applied. All being well, I should have a puppy in October and I'm very excited about this.

The pup will be a cross labrador/golden retriever male. The golden retriever loves to please and the labrador loves food so it's a perfect match for training.

The pup will be around 6 to 8 weeks old, and I will keep it until about 12 to 16 months.

As a Puppy Raiser, I will give the puppy the foundation for its future role as a guide dog. This will be through training, socialisation and I'll introduce him to new environments and experiences whilst looking after him.

This will involve taking the pup to different places - shops, cafes, parks, church - the usual everyday places I visit; teaching the pup to be comfortable by itself by building up slowly from a few minutes to 4 hours, going out in the car and the bus and the all important toilet training.

The usual question I get asked when I tell someone this is what I will be doing is "Won't you be upset when you have to give it back?" Well, yes, I probably will but then the dog will hopefully go on to support someone with sight loss to live actively, independently and well. pto

Puppy Raising

Not all pups make it through the training for various reasons. They may have health issues or may not be a suitable dog as they have issues such as travelling in vehicles. One dog refused to walk unless it could go the way it wanted to! If they don't meet the high standard of becoming a guide dog, then the dog may go on to be a buddy dog or be offered back to the puppy raiser as a pet. The current success rate in the UK is around 70% which is thankfully back to the pre-covid levels.

There is a very supportive puppy raising community and an appointed person who deals with any concerns or questions. Regular training sessions are available and of course, fund raising opportunities once the pup is ready.

So, in November, you may find a wee pup occasionally in church, wearing his harness to let people know that he's a guide dog in training.

Karen Ellis

We'd love to see a photo once you have the pup. *Ed.*

Crossword Answers

A**CROSS:** 1, Jehoiachin. 7, Endured. 8, Eased. 10, Rash. 11, Startled. 13, Easier. 15, Rubric. 17, Impurity. 18, Feet. 21, Eye at. 22, Ready to. 23, Holy Spirit.

DOWN: 1, Judas. 2, Harm. 3, Is duty. 4, Cheerful. 5, Insular. 6, Jezreelite. 9, Dedication. 12, Secretly. 14, Supremo. 16, Stir up. 19. Egypt. 20, Hair.

Podcast Recommendation

Mid-Faith Crisis is a podcast for every Christian who has ever asked 'Is that it? 'If you feel that you have more questions than answers, if you feel as though your faith is changing, if you feel that if the worship leader sings that chorus one more time you will strangle him with his own guitar strap, then this is the podcast for you. Challenging, refreshing and thought-provoking, the Mid-faith Crisis explores the big questions of the Christian faith with honesty and humour." *http://midfaithcrisis.org*

I came across this podcast a couple of years ago. It was started in 2016 so it has stood the test of time. The two presenters, Nick Page and Joe Davis explore a plethora of topics in a relaxed, informal yet sincere manner. Here are a few episode titles :

Baffled in a Christ like Direction

Father, Son and Floaty Thing,

I belong. Help thou my unbelonging.

What is church actually for?

The two presenters exchange banter and along with the chat there are some profound discussions. I recommend it to you. Please let us know what you think of the podcast. *Libby Coats*
lib.coats@gmail.com

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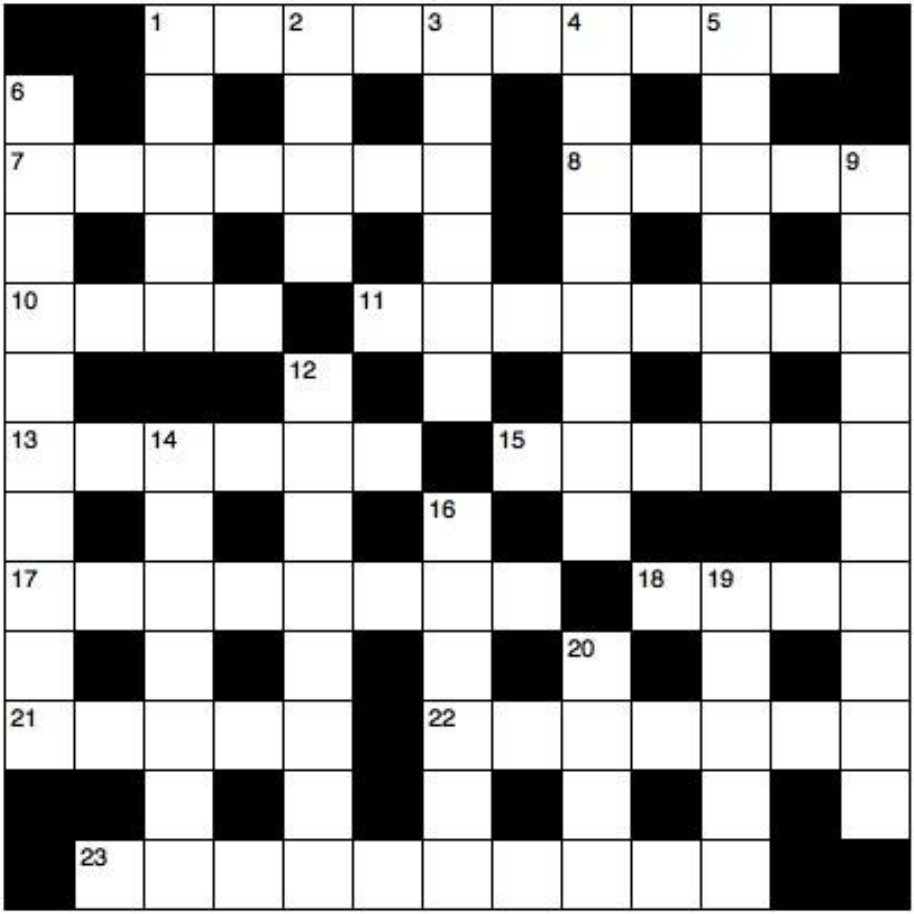
Crossword



Across

1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)

7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)

8 Relieved (5)

10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)

11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)

13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)

15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)

17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)

18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her — ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)

21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an — , — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)

22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)

23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)

2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)

3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)

4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)

5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)

6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)

9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)

12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)

14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)

16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)

19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)

20 See 18 Across Answers on page 6

Prayer Diary October 2025

Wed 1 Gregory the Enlightener, Bishop, Apostle of Armenia, c332, for all victims of torture

Thu 2 for Stirling Street Pastors

Fri 3 for peace in Ukraine and Gaza

Sat 4 Francis of Assisi, Deacon and Friar, 1226, for all who work to address environmental concerns

Sun 5 Harvest Festival

Mon 6 for HTTOTS

Tue 7 for refugees everywhere

Wed 8 Alexander Penrose Forbes, Bishop, 1875, for the Scottish Episcopal Institute

Thu 9 for an end to global inequality

Fri 10 for Scouts and Guides everywhere, and for their adult volunteers

Sat 11 Kenneth, Abbot, 600, for the Mission to Seafarers

Sun 12 Pentecost 18

Mon 13 Elizabeth Fry, 1845, for prisoners and all who work in our prisons

Tue 14 for our Global Community to accept and really address Climate Change

Wed 15 Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith, 1582, that we all seek to be God's hands in our world

Thu 16 for Startup Stirling and its work

Fri 17 Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr, c115, for peace across the Middle East

Sat 18 Luke, Evangelist, for all who work in medical care and their patients

Sun 19 Pentecost 19

Mon 20 Henry Martyn, Priest and Missionary, 1812, for all who facilitate understanding

Tue 21 for the Scottish Episcopal Chapter of Deacons

Wed 22 for a harvest of truth and justice in the USA

Thu 23 James of Jerusalem, Martyr, c62, that we all bear witness to the resurrection of Jesus

Fri 24 for Peace in our world

Sat 25 for the Samaritans and their work

Sun 26 Pentecost 20

Mon 27 for all living with or in fear of homelessness

Tue 28 Simon and Jude, Apostles, for all of us to live in God's grace

Wed 29 James Hannington, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs, 1885, for all people of faith across Africa

Thu 30 for those who fear the increasing hours of darkness

Fri 31 for all those who have gone before

Readings October 2025

Sunday 5th	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
Harvest Thanksgiving	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Deuteronomy 8.7-18;
		1 Timothy 2.1-7;
		Matthew 6.25-33
Thursday 9th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 12th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 18	**Readings**	2 Kings 5.1-3, 7-15c;
		2 Timothy 2.8-15; Luke 17.11-19
Thursday 16th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 19th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 19	**Readings**	Genesis 32.22-31;
		2 Timothy 3.14-4.5; Luke 18.1-8
Thursday 23rd	**11am**	Holy Communion

Readings October 2025

Sunday 26th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 20	**Readings**	Jeremiah 14.7-10,19-22;
		2 Timothy 4.6-8, 16-18;
		Luke 18.9-14
Thursday 30th	**11am**	Holy Communion

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

Congratulations

Bishop John celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of his ordination on September 19th. He was ordained in Lichfield Cathedral in 1965. He then had curacies in Horninglow and Bloxwich before moving to Scotland in 1970 where he was rector in Inverness, Aberfoyle and Bridge of Allan. In 1999 he was made Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness. What a career! Here is a recent photo taken on his and Judith's Diamond Wedding. Judith is holding up a card from the King and Queen and the painting on the wall is of Lichfield Cathedral.

Rotas October 2025

Readings	Intercessions
5th Oct B Wheeler	**A Shaw**
12th Oct T Mitchell	**A Pont**
19th Oct S Shaw	**D Brown**
26th Oct N Jorgensen	**M Kenyon**

Sidesduty

5th Oct L Coats and S Goss

12th Oct C Kendall and A Lees

29th Oct R Campbell and R Nellist

26th Oct J and N Morris

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

Sunday 12th October

The magazine will be available on

Sunday 26th October

Choice

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for president, and 50 for Miss America?

Wear out

Three little boys were bragging about how tough they were. "I'm so tough," said the first boy, "that I can wear out a pair of shoes in a week."

"Well," said the second little boy, "I'm so tough, I can wear out a pair of jeans in a day."

"That's nothing," said the third boy. "When my parents take me to see my grandma and grandpa, I can wear them out in just one hour."

Where two or three are gathered…

A lady was describing the small attendance at her local church. "We were so few last Sunday that when the vicar began 'Dearly beloved,' I blushed."

Cheap at the price

A little boy was pestering his parents for a baby brother or sister. They kept telling him 'maybe one day, but we can't afford one yet.' Then one Sunday the little boy dragged his parents over to the noticeboard at the back of church. It was advertising a coming sale at the church and announced: 'Children: free'.

Dear Lord,

So far today, I am doing all right. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, or cursed. I have not charged on my credit card or eaten any chocolate. However, I am going to get out of bed in a few minutes, and I will need a lot more help after that! Amen.

www.parishpump.co.uk

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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