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# Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

**Issue 1**

**September 2026**

Scottish Charity: SC016471

## Rector's Letter

Dear all,

September is Season of Creation time at Holy Trinity and in the wider Scottish Episcopal Church. This season is not only helpful in bringing to mind the causes and effects of climate change and our response to them but also gives us an opportunity to reflect on our dependence on the created world of which we are a part (and give thanks for the good things we receive).

Jesus, aware of our nature in creation, interestingly likens us to trees and tells us that good fruit comes from good trees (see Matthew 7.17), so we would do well to learn to look after that tree of ours. Are we built close to the water of life? Where does our fertiliser and nourishment come from? And how are we connected with other trees and living things in the ecosystems of life?

For it is when we learn to be gardeners of our lives and look after ourselves and our habitats, that we'll grow into bearing good fruit and become nourishment for others.

Wishing you all a good season of creating and a rich and sustainable harvest!

Yours in Christ,

Christoph

**HOLY TRINTY STIRLING ACM 27th September 2026**

**The ACM will be held in the church hall after the 10.30 Eucharist. Please put the date in your diary and if you are unable to attend could you let the Rector or Rachel Campbell know.**

**From the Registers**

**Wedding**

**Elizabeth Wheeler and Nicholas Carter**

**27th July 2026**

## In This Issue


| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rector's Letter | 2 | Services | 11 |
| ACM | 3 | HT Prayer Tree | 12 |
| From the Registers | 3 | A Request | 12 |
| St Moluag @ Church | 4-5 | Smile Lines | 13 |
| We are not all... | 6-7 | Ads | 14 |
| Babes in the Wood | 7 | Contacts | 15 |
| Prayer Diary | 8-9 | Organisations | 16 |
| Rotas | 10 | | |

# St. Moluag's Church, Isle of Lewis

I read with interest Bill Wheeler's article about St. Moluag in the July/ August magazine. David and I visit St. Moluag's Church at Europie, each year while visiting relatives in Lewis. A service is held here on the first Sunday afternoon of each month and is at present taken by the Rev. Jody Szoke, the Priest in Charge of St. Peter's in Stornoway. We were fortunate again this year that our holiday coincided with this service. On the third Thursday of the month a service of Compline and Healing is held here at 7 pm.

St Moluag's Church is thought to have been built between the 12th and 16th centuries but small-scale excavations in the 1970s were unable to cast light on the exact date. By the mid-19th century, it had become roofless and was a shelter for sheep. The Scottish Episcopal Church launched an appeal for its restoration in 1910. The funds were raised and the work was completed by 1912. The restoration work was supervised by the Edinburgh architect, James Smith Richardson, and, for its time, is of high quality. Stone and slate were brought from Orkney and the result is a church with a very special atmosphere.

The church is T-shaped, with a small chapel on each side. It is only possible to access the south chapel from the outside. A war memorial in the form of a Celtic cross faces visitors before they enter through the little doorway. The pulpit, altar and font date from 1911.

The church has long been associated with its power as a place of healing, especially for those suffering mental problems. Even those who could not reach the church sent wooden effigies of their afflicted parts. Captain John Dymes who visited Lewis in 1630 recorded that people who were unable to come to church "were wont to cut out the portion of their lame arms or legs in wood with the form of their sores and wounds thereof and send them to the saint where I have seen them lying on the altar of the chapel."

*by Sheila Brown*

The Reformation in 1560 brought traditional Christian worship at the church to a temporary halt. Martin Martin, who visited the church in 1695, reported that, within living memory of those he met, the church had hosted a pagan fertility festival each year on All Saints' Day.

This was dedicated to the sea god, Shony. He goes on to say that by the time of his visit, more Presbyterian elements in Lewis society had stopped this annual festival. In spite of this, the church's traditional role as a centre for healing and pilgrimage continued into the 1600s, and possibly well beyond.

St Moluag's does not have electricity or water. The only lighting is by oil lamp and candle. The compacted grass access path was fenced in 2002, keeping it clear of sheep, and the eventual aim is to give it an all-weather surface.

**The interior of St. Moluag's. The phone's camera makes the interior look a lot lighter than it is in real life!**

## We are not all in...

In my sermon on the 9th of August, I referred to the saying, "we are all in the same boat." But, in arguing against that I quoted these words, which I thought might be helpful to have in the magazine.

We are not all in the same boat.

We are in the same storm.

Some have yachts,

some have canoes,

and some are drowning.

Just be kind and

help whoever you can.

*Damien Barr 2020*

This is a slightly longer version of a post Damien made in 2020, about inequality, and became especially relevant because of the Covid pandemic. It was picked up by the Wall Street Journal, went 'viral' on social media and has featured in hundreds of newspapers, magazines and memes. Even Oprah Winfrey discussed it on her podcast!

People have changed it slightly here and there, and to Damien's amusement have quoted it to him without knowing he is the source.

He says he doesn't mind at all, he's heartened that so many people around the world recognise and care about inequality.

## ...the same boat

In the context of my sermon, (the Gospel reading was Matthew 14.22-33) I was linking the fierce storm the disciples faced on the lake to the storms we face in life. It is a reminder that we may face the same storm collectively (like Covid) or individually (bereavement, redundancy etc.) but people's individual resources and privileges vary wildly.

Hopefully this challenges our assumptions and prompts a loving and kind response to all. And if we are drowning? Let's not wait, pray hard and shout loud for help!

*Rev Ian Anderson*

Babes in the Wood

Many of you will be familiar with the shop Babes in the Wood located in the John Player building at Stirling Enterprise Park. You may not be aware that it is a not-for-profit social enterprise and community baby bank supporting children and families from birth to 16 years across East Dunbartonshire & Stirling.

They welcome donations and are requesting that we all check our wardrobes and cupboards to see if we have any clothing, baby equipment or toys that we could donate. They are particularly keen to receive **clothing for older children and any vintage toys and games i.e. from the twentieth century.**

For more information, visit their website or pop into the shop. www.babesinthewood.org

## Prayer Diary September 2026

Tue 1 for all victims of domestic violence

Wed 2 The Martyrs of New Guinea, 1942, for all who face religious persecution

Thu 3 Gregory the Great, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, 604, that we appreciate the Angels we meet in our everyday lives

Fri 4 for Startup Stirling and its work

Sat 5 for the people of Ukraine and Russia, that there may be peace

**Sun 6 Pentecost 15**

Mon 7 for the neurodivergent

Tue 8 The Birth of Mary, Mother of the Lord, for mothers and others in that role everywhere

Wed 9 for teachers and their students

Thu 10 for all who are forced to leave their homes and become refugees

Fri 11 for those threatened with homelessness

Sat 12 for peace in Israel

**Sun 13 Pentecost 16**

Mon 14 Holy Cross Day, that we each take up our own Cross

Tue 15 Cyprian of Carthage, Bishop and Martyr, 258, for an end to divisions between faiths

Wed 16 Ninian of Whithorn, Bishop, sixth century, for churches across Scotland but especially here in Stirling

Thu 17 Hildegard of Bingen, Abbess, that we all have courage to do the right things in our lives

Fri 18 for World Leaders to seek for justice and peace

Sat 19 for all who express themselves in the arts

**Sun 20 Pentecost 17**

Mon 21 Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, for our lives to give a witness to truth

Tue 22 John Coleridge Patteson, Bishop and Martyr, 1871, for all victims of modern slavery

Wed 23 Adamnan of Iona, Abbot, 704, for all victims of war, especially women and children

Thu 24 for prisoners and all in the criminal justice system

Fri 25 Finnbar of Caithness, Bishop, c610, for our Primus Mark

Sat 26 for all who work in the retail industry

**Sun 27 Pentecost 18**

Mon 28 Vincent de Paul, Priest, 1660, for all facing poverty

Tue 29 Michael and All Angels, that we celebrate fellowship

Wed 30 Jerome, Priest and Teacher of the Faith, 420, for the Scottish Episcopal Institute

## Rotas September 2026

| Readings | Intercessions |
|---|---|
| 6th September R Campbell | R Nellist |
| 13th September tbc | A Pont |
| 20th September J Morris | A Shaw |
| 27th September C Johnston | D Brown |

Sidesduty

6th September L Coats and C Kendall

13th September R Campbell and R Nellist

20th September A Lees and S Goss

27th September L Coats and R Nellist

### 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**

## Readings September 2026

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Thursday 3rd** | **11am** | Holy Communion |
| **Sunday 6th** | **8.30am** | Holy Communion |
| **CREATION 1** | **10.30am** | Sung Eucharist |
| | **Readings** | Ezekiel 33.7-11; Romans 13.8-14; Matthew 18.15-20 |
| **Thursday 10th** | **11am** | Holy Communion |
| **Sunday 13th** | **10.30am** | Sung Eucharist |
| **Festival of Dedication** | **Readings** | 1 Kings 8.22-30; Hebrews 12.18-24; Matthew 21.12-16 |
| **Thursday 17th** | **6.30pm** | Sung Eucharist (no 11am service) |
| **Hildegard of Bingen** | | |
| **Sunday 20th** | **10.30am** | Sung Eucharist |
| **CREATION 3** | **Readings** | Jonah 3.10-4.11; Philippians 1.21-30; Matthew 20.1-16 |
| **Thursday 24th** | **11am** | Holy Communion |
| **Sunday 27th** | **10.30am** | Sung Eucharist ***ACM*** |
| **CREATION 4** | **Readings** | Ezekiel 18.11-4,25-32; Philippians 2.1-13; Matthew 21.23-32 |

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.

**A Request from Libby Coats**

**The October edition will be my final edition as editor. The magazine has been in the same format for a long time. It could be presented differently eg a newssheet, fewer editions per annum. Please don't feel daunted by the task. If you feel you could help in any way please see Christoph or me**

*Libby Coats email:lib.coats@gmail.com*

Articles for the **October** edition

are requested on or before

**Sunday 13th September**

The magazine will be available on

**Sunday 27th September**

**Wedding guest**

A little boy at Sunday School learned about the time Jesus went to a wedding and changed the water into wine. "And what did you learn from that story?" asked his father afterward.

The boy thought for a moment and answered, "If you're having a wedding, make sure Jesus is there."

**Shops**

Grandfather talked often about the 'good old days', when the cost of living was much lower. "When I was a lad," he exclaimed, "my mother could send me to the local shop and I'd get some mince, two pints of milk, some bread, some tinned rice and a magazine – all for less than a pound!"

Hs young grandson protested: "You couldn't do that now. They got those video cameras everywhere you look."

**Signs found in modern kitchens….**

1. If a messy kitchen is a happy kitchen, this kitchen is delirious.
5. A balanced diet is a biscuit in each hand.
6. Thou shalt not weigh more than thy refrigerator.
7. A clean house is a sign of a misspent life.
9. Help keep the kitchen clean -- eat out.
10. Many people have eaten in this kitchen and gone on to lead normal lives.

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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 Canon Val Nellist** Tel: 01383 824066 *Email: valnellist@btinternet.com*
**Rev Ian Boa** Mob: 0786 085 1935 *Email: ianboa@me.com*
**Rev Ian Anderson (Methodist)** Mob: 074 217 11183 *Email: revian@hotmail.co.uk*

HON SECRETARY : **Rachel Campbell** Tel: 0777 289 3331 *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: 0781 301 6023 *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 Stirling4Community 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**

**9-12.30 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 or hallbookings@holytrinitystirling.org**