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Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Issue 10

July/August 2026

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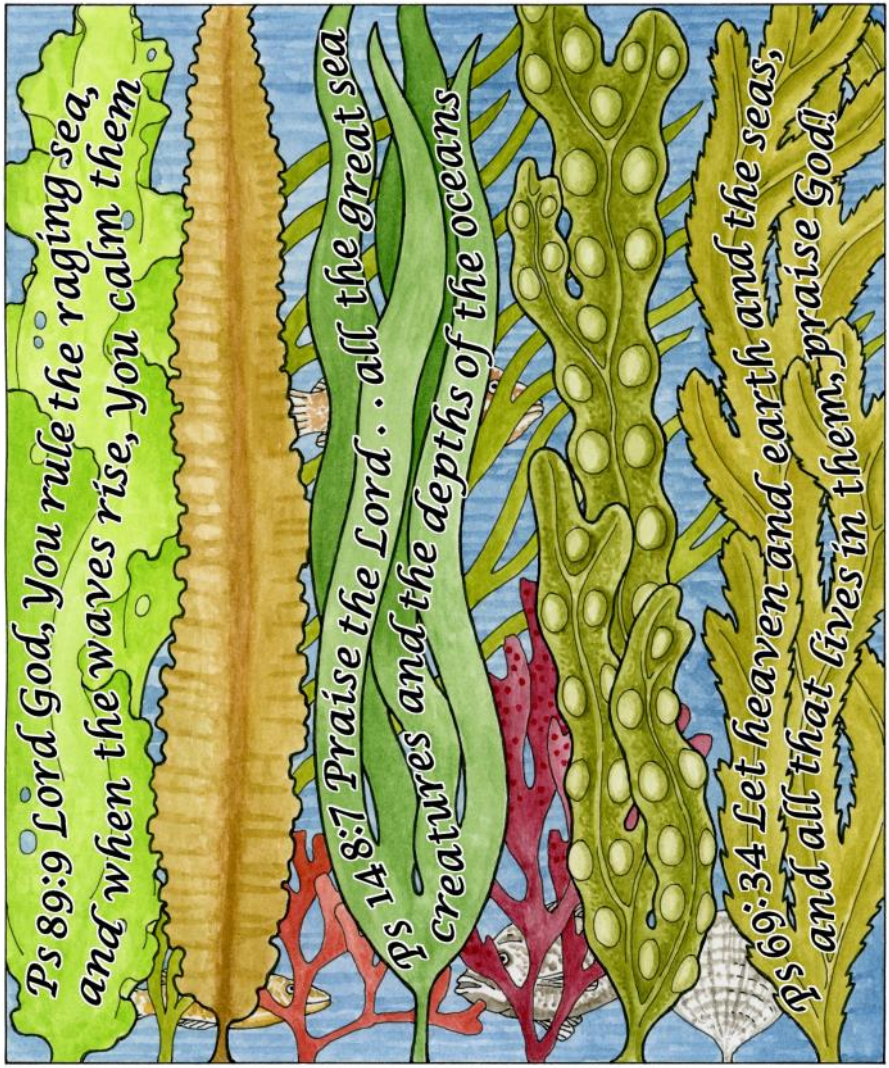


Rector's Letter

Dear all,

'In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught
from the beginning 2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after
giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had
chosen.' (Acts 1.1-2)

These are the opening verses of the Acts of the Apostles written by Luke the Evangelist, following on from his Gospel. The Acts tell the story of the early church.

As a church community, we are still telling that story in many different ways, sometimes using words to do so. One of the ways we communicate a bit of ourselves is through the pages of our church magazine: it gives lots of practical information about things going on at HT and connects us more closely together as a community.

Libby Coats, our present editor, has done a marvellous job in looking after the magazine these past 14 years and I cannot thank her enough for her dedication, diligence and a good dose of humour. As she is now preparing to stand down from the role, this is a good time to reflect on how the magazine could continue to flourish and aid us in telling the story of God in this place.

What would you like to see in the magazine? And how could you contribute, perhaps by considering whether you could be its next editor?

There are some ready-made resources which can be drawn upon and some standing items, so there is no need to invent everything from scratch, but the hand-over would also be an opportunity to think about different formats, content and timings. I am sure Libby would be very

happy to have informal chats with people considering the role. (See page 7) My prayers are with you as you do so!

What will the next chapter in our book be as we continue our way as a community of God after the example of Christ and inspired by the Holy Spirit?

Yours in Christ,

Christoph

From the Registers

Confirmation

David Peters 31st May

Funeral

Pauline Mason 25th June

May she rest in peace and rise in glory

In This Issue

Rector's Letter	2-3	Our Services	14
From the Registers	3	Rotas	14-15
St Moluag of Lismore	4-5	Smile Lines	16
Prayer Diaries	6-9	Ads	17-18
Readings	10-12	Contacts	19
A book review	13	Organisations	20

St Moluag of Lismore

On reading the recent HT Magazine (June 2026) I saw that his saint's day was 25th of June. I have visited Lismore and various places on the island related to St Moluag.

Lismore is long thin island. Its name in Gaelic means the great garden.

It can be reached by car ferry from Oban or from Port Appin in the north but this is only for foot passengers.

So, who was St Moluag? St Moluag, like St Columba, was an Irish saint. They both landed in Dalriada, Scotland in about 562. They each chose to set up a community of monks on a small island with strong pre-Christian religion. More is known about Columba of Iona than Moluag of Lismore because he belonged to the ruling Irish class and proved to be indispensable to the Kings of Dalriada.

Moluag left his seminary in Bangor (Co Down) and is reputed to have landed in Port Moluag on the east coast of Lismore near the broch by Tirfur. Folklore has it that both Moluag and Columba were competing for the island as a base for their missionary activities and they were actually racing in their coracles to get there first! Seeing that Columba was likely to win, Moluag cut off his little finger and threw it ashore so that his "blood and flesh" could claim the island first. Columba was displeased and said "may the rocks grow with edges uppermost and may you only have alder to burn." Moluag, fully aware of the rockiness of the island and the poor quality of alder wood, was content to rely on miracles: 'the rocks will not hurt to walk upon, and alder will burn like tinder." This island is where he built his principal centre of education and his cathedral.

On Lismore, Moluag was in a good position, near the mouth of the Great Glen, to evangelise northern Pictland, setting up centres of education and support at Rosemarkie in. Easter Ross and Mortlach in Moray. There are

churches dedicated to Moluag in Lewis, Skye, Rassay, Tiree, Mull, Morvern and Invernesshire.

He died of old age on 25 June 592 at the hermitage of Ardclach in Moray, where the monks kept a boat to ferry travellers across the treacherous River Findhorn. it is likely that his remains were returned for burial on Lismore.

Moluag's personal reputation has never been challenged. His name in Gaelic means "gleaming light". Although his life history is sketchy, there are at least three extant reminders of the saint in modern Lismore.

- Moluag's chair, a natural stone structure, whose arms were damaged by a modern roadman, is where he is said to have rested near the roadside Baligarve.
- Moluag's Well, is enclosed by a wooden fence to the east of the Church.
- Moulag's Crozier, known as the Bachuil. Part of the crozier still survives and is in the care of the Barons of Bachil who hold a charter for this responsibility since the 16th century but maintain that there is a continuous line back to the first guardian who served Moluag himself. It is a curved piece of blackthorn wood, around 85 cms long and studded with bronze nails which fixed the original copper gilded covering , now lost. The bachuil has been used over the centuries in the blessing of man, beast and boat. The current keeper lives on the island and has the crozier on display in his house. It can be viewed on appointment at Bachil House which is near the Church.

The Parish Church of Lismore formerly site of St Moluag's Cathedral

Bachuil House

Wed 1 Serf, Bishop, c500, that we may ever be ready to welcome the stranger

Thu 2 for the peoples of Gaza, Lebanon and Israel

Fri 3 Thomas, Apostle, for all who struggle with faith

Sat 4 for the Order of Lazarus and its work

Sun 5 Pentecost 6

Mon 6 Palladius, Bishop, c450, that we are mindful of the foundations laid by those who went before us

Tue 7 Boisil, Prior of Melrose, c642, that we give thanks for our religious vocation

Wed 8 for Startup Stirling and its work

Thu 9 for all who work for the end of conflict in our world

Fri 10 for SSAFA and its work

Sat 11 Benedict of Nursia, Abbot, c550, that we receive all guests as Christ

Sun 12 Pentecost 7

Mon 13 Drostan of Deer, Abbot, c600, that tears of frustration may lead to renewal

Tue 14 for all suffering because of climate change

Wed 15 for peace within families

Thu 16 for the Episcopal church in the USA

Fri 17 Jane Haining, missionary and martyr, 1944, that we are witnesses to the Light even in the shadow of death

Sat 18 for all who work in the night-time economy

Prayer Diary July 2026

Sun 19 Pentecost 8

Mon 20 for those displaced from home and forced to travel

Tue 21 William Wilberforce, politician and philanthropist,1833, for all victims of modern slavery

Wed 22 Mary Magdalene, disciple of Jesus and witness of the crucifixion, that we have courage in our witness

Thu 23 for peace in the Ukraine

Fri 24 for our Jewish friends

Sat 25 James, Apostle, for all who are pilgrims

Sun 26 Pentecost 9

Mon 27 John Comper, priest, 1903, that we remember our ministry to the poor

Tue 28 Anne and Joachim, parents of Mary, Mother of the Lord, for parents and grandparents everywhere

Wed 29 Martha and Mary of Bethany, friends of Jesus, that we balance working and listening to the Lord

Thu 30 Silas, companion of Saint Paul, for the servers at Holy Trinity

Fri 31 Ignatius Loyola, priest and religious, that we find God in all things

Time for a New Editor

In his letter, the rector suggests that I'd be happy to chat to anyone who wants to know more about the role of editor. He is right. Please email or speak to me after church.

Libby Coats email:lib.coats@gmail.com

Prayer Diary August 2026

Sat 1 for the Samaritans and their work

Sun 2 Pentecost 10

Mon 3 for all who are homeless or are threatened with homelessnessness

Tue 4 for all refugees and asylum seekers

Wed 5 Oswald of Northumbria, 642, that we share from our abundance

Thu 6 The Transfiguration of the Lord

Fri 7 for Startup Stirling and its work

Sat 8 Dominic, Priest and Friar, 1221, for all who have a ministry at Holy Trinity

Sun 9 Pentecost 11

Mon 10 Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr, 258, that we find our true riches in the service of the Kingdom

Tue 11 Clare of Assisi, Religious, 1253, for all who work in the media

Wed 12 Blane, Missionary, c590, that we may shine as a light in the world

Thu 13 Jeremy Taylor, Bishop, 1667, that we see the beauty of holiness

Fri 14 Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, 1941, for all imprisoned for their faith

Sat 15 Mary the Virgin, Mother of the Lord, that we may treasure the Word and ponder it in our hearts

Sun 16 Pentecost 12

Mon 17 for HTTOTS

Tue 18 for all embarking on a new school year

Wed 19 for acceptance of the Other in our communities

Thu 20 Bernard of Clairvaux, Abbot and Teacher of the Faith, 1153, for all who preach at Holy Trinity

Fri 21 for peace between Russia and Ukraine

Sat 22 for all who are neurodivergent

Sun 23 Pentecost 13

Mon 24 Bartholomew, Apostle, that we may simply believe

Tue 25 Ebba of Coldingham, Abbess, 683, that we are not seduced by temporal things

Wed 26 for all who work on the land or at sea

Thu 27 Monnica, Mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387, for an end to the evil of racism

Fri 28 Augustine of Hippo, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, 430, that we may fully love and serve the Lord

Sat 29 The Beheading of John the Baptist

Sun 30 Pentecost 14

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.

Readings July 2026

July 2026

Thursday 2nd	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 5th (Methodist)	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
PENTECOST 6	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Zechariah 9.9-12; Romans 7.15-25*a*; Matthew 11.16-19,25-30
Thursday 9th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 12th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 7	**Readings**	Isaiah 55.10-13; Romans 8.1-11; Matthew 13.1-9,18-23
Thursday 16th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 19th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 8	**Readings**	Isaiah 44.6-8; Romans 8.12-25; Matthew 13.24-30,36-43

Readings July 2026

Thursday 23rd	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 26th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 9	**Readings**	1 Kings 3.5-12; Romans 8.26-39; Matthew 13.31-33,44-52
Thursday 30th	**11am**	Holy Communion

Readings August 2026

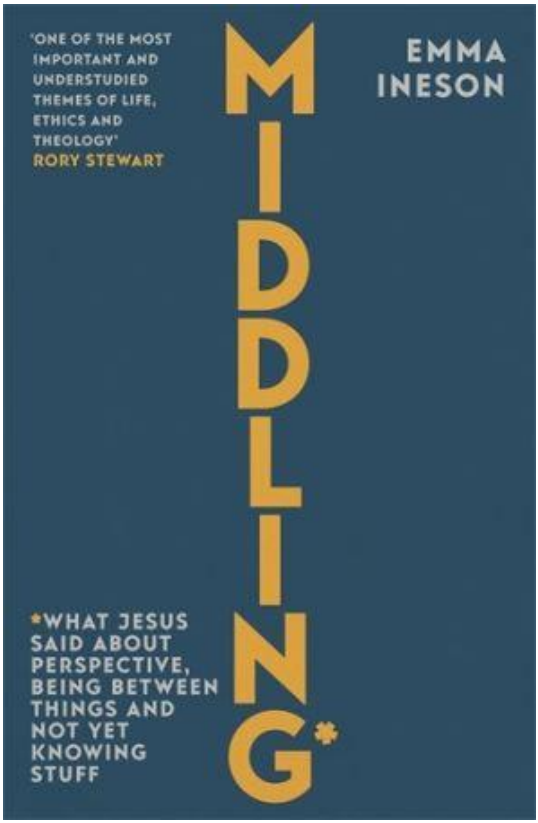
Sunday 2nd	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
PENTECOST 10	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Isaiah 55.1-5; Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.13-21
Thursday 6th	**11am**	Holy Communion
The Transfiguration of the Lord		
Sunday 9th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 11	**Readings**	1 Kings 19.9-18; Romans 10.5-15; Matthew 14.22-33
Thursday 13th	**11am**	Holy Communion

Readings August 2026

Sunday 16th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 12	**Readings**	Isaiah 56.1, 6-8; Romans 11.1-2*a*, 29-32; Matthew 15.21-28
Thursday 20th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 13	**Readings**	Isaiah 51.1-6; Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20
Thursday 27th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 30th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 14	**Readings**	Jeremiah 15.15-21; Romans 12.9-21; Matthew 16.21-28

Middling – what Jesus Said About Perspective, Being Between Things and Not Yet Knowing Stuff

By Emma Ineson, SPCK, £12.99



From St Augustine to Shakespeare, and from the wisdom of Scripture to the example of Jesus Himself, many of our greatest voices have praised the virtue of moderation. In Middling, Emma invites readers to rediscover the creative, faithful power of living in the middle.

The middle is where most of us spend much of our lives - between certainty and doubt, conviction and compassion, what has been lost and what is yet to be found. Yet we are often taught to apologise for this space, to rush toward extremes or easy answers. Middling challenges that assumption, revealing the middle as a place of integrity, nuance, and deep humanity.

Drawing on her experience as a bishop, Emma reflects on the difficult questions faced by leaders and disciples alike: when to speak, when to remain silent, and how to hold tension without losing hope. At the heart of the book is Christ as the ultimate "middle" figure, holding all things together. In choosing to dwell intentionally in this space, Middling shows that the middle is not only fruitful - but quietly, profoundly joyful.

Rotas July 2026

	Readings	Intercessions
5th July	R Campbell	A Pont
12th July	C Johnston	T Mitchell
19th July	B Wheeler	A Shaw
26th July	S Shaw	D Brown

Sidesduty

5th July R Piper and C Kendall

12th July R Campbell and S Goss

19th July A Lees and R Nellist

26th July C Watson and L Coats

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.

Rotas August 2026

Readings	Intercessions
2nd August A Tyler	**R Nellist**
9th August N Jorgensen	**A Shaw**
16th August T Mitchell	**A Pont**
23rd August D Brown	**T Mitchell**
30th August G Lamb	**D Brown**

Sidesduty

2nd August R Piper and S Goss

9th August C Kendall and R Campbell

16th August L Coats and A Lees

23rd August R Nellist and C Watson

30th August R Piper and S Goss

Articles for the **September** edition

are requested on or before

Sunday 16th August

The magazine will be available on

Sunday 30th August

Hymns for professionals

Dentist: Crown Him with many crowns.

Contractor: The church's one foundation

Obstetrician: Come, labour on.

Golfer: There is a green hill far away.

Politician: Standing on the promises.

Librarian: Let all mortal flesh keep silence.

Barrister: In the hour of trial.

Dry Cleaner: O for a faith that will not shrink.

Census taker: All people that on earth do dwell.

Tax officer: We give thee but thine own.

Traffic patrol: Where cross the crowded ways of life.

Credit card user: A charge to keep have I.

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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 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