www.holytrinitystirling.org

Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Issue 2

October 2026

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Rector's Letter

Dear all,

At our Study Groups last month, we discussed the life, writings and legacy of the Spanish nun Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) whom we remember as a mystic and spiritual teacher. Teresa was on a life-long quest to a deeper relationship with God via prayer and contemplation, but she was also an immensely practical person who founded quite a few monasteries and dealt with the – often adverse – circumstances life and the Church threw at her.

I just love how Teresa ends her work *The Interior Castle* (her opus magnum on contemplative prayer and union with God) on a very practical and down-to-earth note. She writes:

'In sum: we shouldn't build castles in the air. The Lord doesn't look so much at the greatness of one's works as at the love with which they are done.'

We might be led to think that a mystic of her calibre would have left concerns for the world behind, but it is actually to the contrary: here is someone who understands that we all have something practical to contribute to life and God's work in creation. In a profound way, she states that it is not the magnitude or reach of our works which matter, but that we do the perhaps little things we can do in love. For love has quite a reach if we share it in things great and small.

So, let's not build castles in the air: but do the things we can do in love. For in that, we'll truly make a real difference.

Yours in Christ,

Christoph

From the Registers

Baptism

Athena Jenny Jones-Shutts

20th September 2026

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.

In This Issue

Rector's Letter	2	Prayer Diary	8-9
From the Registers	3	Rotas	10
HT Prayer Tree	3	Services	11
New Editor	4	Smile Lines	13
Congratulations	4	Ads	14
Fair Trade Ceilidh	5	Contacts	15
A Strawberry Tea	6	Organisations	16
Breaking the Law	7		

New Editor

Wonderful News!

Revd Ian Anderson is taking over as editor. Please support him. The magazine fulfils several functions but I regard a vital one as the purveyor of HT news and such news is provided by you. Thank you for all your contributions. It feels good to hand over to such a great team as I know Ian, Ann Lees and Jane Morris will make.. And a special thank you to Rev Val Nellist for printing .

Please email Ian with any contributions:
revian@hotmail.co.uk

CONGRATULATIONS

Many Congratulations to Mary Kenyon. She has been awarded the Sir James Gilead Global Award for the exceptional contribution she has made to SSAFA, (Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Family Association) the armed forces charity, over the past three decades.

Named after the Armed Forces charity's founder and presented just once a year at the Victory Services Club in London during SSAFA's Annual Members' Meeting, the award recognises exceptional contributions to SSAFA's activities and values. The Daily Record describes her as "beloved". The Holy Trinity Church Magazine endordes the description. Well done, Mary.

Fair Trade

Ceilidh

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Saturday 24th October 2026

7:30 PM

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Adults - £15 Students - £7
Concessions-£7 Under 16's -£5
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A Strawberry Tea

Very often a small idea develops into something much bigger than one could have imagined. That is what happened at coffee after church about two months ago. Musing over how to move tables safely from the store room to the hall someone suggested that they had seen a trolley system that would work and make life a lot easier for hall users. As we know money is always tight and the thought of approaching our very careful Treasurer who works so hard to balance the books and fund the notion seemed unfair.

Then someone said "What about a Strawberry Tea – we should be doing something like that for the Mothers Union who are celebrating their 150th Anniversary?". And so those in the conversation thought they could do it. The very successful Strawberry tea took place on 1st August. Delicious strawberries, cream, meringues and cake were served with tea and coffee and it was much enjoyed. A huge thanks to all who supported it and for their generosity. This included some very interesting visitors who were looking round our church on a summer opening day. The result was donations of £400 which covers the cost of the trolley system and leaves some money left over to donate to The Mothers Union. Everyone enjoyed themselves so much that they forgot to take a photograph!!! ***Mary Kenyon***

For more information about the work of The Mothers' Union please catch **Helen Kemp or Mary Kenyon**

Why it is easy to break the law in your own garden?

…

You would be forgiven for thinking that tidying up your own garden is about the most harmless thing you can do. But – beware – there are a few things which may bite back!

Pruning trees is a necessary job. But any tree with a TPO (Tree Preservation Order) on it can be a problem: legally, you need permission from your local council to carry out *any* work on one.

Then there is the tree that grows in your neighbour's garden, but which has branches jutting into your garden. What do you do with it? What *can* you do it? The law says you are not allowed to cross into their garden to take any action. But if their overhanging branches are causing an issue in your garden, you are allowed to cut them back to the point at which they cross your boundary line. But – wait for it – the branches that you have cut off *are not yours* – they must be given to the neighbour, if they want them. Otherwise, it is your responsibility to dispose of them.

As for your hedge? Be careful of it between March and August, as the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) warns that "It is an offence under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built, or to intentionally kill, injure or take chicks or adults, or intentionally take or destroy any eggs."

After all that, you may decide it is safest to sit in the shade with a drink and a good book… *www.parishpump.org*

Prayer Diary October 2026

Thu 1 Gregory the Enlightener, Bishop, "Apostle of Armenia", c332, that we might find the strength to endure

Fri 2 for all who fear the growing darkness, that they may see the Light

Sat 3 for all who work in the retail industry

Sun 4 Harvest Thanksgiving

Mon 5 Francis of Assisi, deacon and friar, 1226, that we have care for our world

Tue 6 for Startup Stirling and its work

Wed 7 for wider acceptance of the neurodivergent

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

Fri 9 for all who work in the night-time economy

Sat 10 for The Samaritans and their work

Sun 11 Trinity 20

Mon 12 Elizabeth Fry, social reformer and philanthropist, 1845, that we have courage to speak up for the marginalised

Tue 13 Kenneth, Abbot, 600, for Mark our Primus

Wed 14 for all who are, or are threatened with homelessness

Thu 15 Teresa of Avila, teacher of the faith, 1582, that we live our lives in prayerfulness

Fri 16 for all who have a ministry at Holy Trinity

Sat 17 Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr, c115, for peace in the Middle East

Prayer Diary October 2026

Sun 18 Trinity 21

Mon 19 Luke, Evangelist, for all in the caring professions

Tue 20 Henry Martyn, Priest and Missionary, 1812, that we value the written word

Wed 21 for peace in Ukraine

Thu 22 for all those involved in the selection of our new Diocesan Bishop

Fri 23 James of Jerusalem, Martyr, c62, for the unity of faiths

Sat 24 for the safety of refugees and all asylum seekers

Sun 25 Trinity 22

Mon 26 for HTTOTS and its volunteers

Tue 27 for SSAFA and its work

Wed 28 Simon and Jude, Apostles, for all who feel lost and fearful

Thu 29 James Hannington, Bishop and Companions, Martyrs, 1885, that we have courage in our faith

Fri 30 for our Servers at Holy Trinity

Sat 31 for those who have gone before, that we have loved

- *"We may ignore, but we cannot evade, the presence of God. The world is crowded with Him." – C S Lewis*
- *"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for."- **Barack Obama,** former US President.*
- *"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." **James Baldwin,** American writer, civil rights activist,*

Rotas October 2026

Readings	Intercessions
4th October A Tyler	A Pont
11th October D Brown	A Shaw
18th October R Campbell	T Mitchell
25th October T Mitchell	D Brown

Sidesduty

4th October R Campbell and S Goss

11th October C Kendall and A Lees

18th October J and N Morris

25th October 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 October 2026

Thursday 1st	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 4th	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
Harvest Thanksgiving	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Isaiah 5.1-7; Philippians 3.4*b*-14; Matthew 21.33-46
Thursday 8th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 11th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 20	**Readings**	Isaiah 25.1-9; Philippians 4.1-9; Matthew 22.1-14
Thursday 15th	**11am**	Holy Communion
St Teresa of Avila		
Sunday 18th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 21	**Readings**	Isaiah 45.1-7; 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10; Matthew 22.15-22
Thursday 22nd	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST 22	**Readings**	Leviticus 19.1-2,15-18; 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8; Matthew 34-46
Thursday 29th	**11am**	Holy Communion

"Wait a moment, dear, this isn't a tourists'-attraction ratings guide, it's a Health and Safety warning!"

Articles for the **November** edition

are requested on or before

Sunday 11th October

Please email them to Rev Ian Anderson:

revian@hotmail.co.uk

The magazine will be available on

Sunday 25th October

Genesis for Cats

On the first day of Creation, God created the cat.

On the second day, God created man to serve the cat.

On the third day, God created all the animals of the earth to serve as food for the cat.

On the fourth day, God created honest toil so that man could labour for the good of the cat.

On the fifth day, God created expensive furniture so that the cat would have objects whereon to sharpen its claws.

On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the cat healthy and the man broke.

On the seventh day, God tried to rest, but the litterbox needed changing.

Miscellaneous observations on daily life

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

Blessed are the flexible people, for they don't mind when the demands of family and work tie them in knots.

If God had wanted us to fly, He would have given us tickets. (*Mel Brooks*)

My favourite childhood memory is having energy.

My mind is like an internet browser. At least 19 open tabs, three of them are frozen and I have no clue where the music is coming from.

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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