www.holytrinitystirling.org

Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Issue 7

May 2026

Scottish Charity: SC016471

Rector's Letter

Dear all,

Bishop Ian will be with us at HT on Trinity Sunday later this month for his final (planned) visit before his retirement on All Saints Day at the beginning of November. There will be the chance to express our thanks and gratitude for Bishop Ian's ministry later in the year, but for now do make sure to attend our 10.30am Sung Eucharist on Sunday 31st May for the bishop's visit.

The Holy Trinity is important for us here in Stirling, not least because our community is dedicated to its name. I have always found it interesting, however, that the Trinity has become such a hallmark of the Christian faith, given that the Bible doesn't really say very much on the subject! But it is not surprising that the Trinity should have become such a cornerstone of Christian thought, for as we ponder one God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we ponder ourselves as woven into the mix: created, redeemed and sustained in life in all its aspects by a God who loves us into being, cares for us and inspires us into deeper life.

It is difficult to reason the Trinity – we can often only express what it is not – but it is possible to pray it, to live it, to be woven into it, as we enter the mystery of God as three and God as one. As we often say, in a sentence from Scripture (2 Corinthians 13.13) expressing rare Trinitarian prayer:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

and the love of God

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

be with us all, evermore. Amen.

May this prayer aid us in entering more deeply into the presence of God - this Trinity Sunday and always, Christoph

From the Registers

Funeral

Robert Robbie 2nd April

May he rest in peace and rise in glory

Confirmation

Kieran Young 4th April

Service of Thanksgiving

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for the life and achievements of Patrick Stirling-Aird at Holy Trinity on **26th May** at **2.30pm**. Susan and her family will be delighted if you would like to come.

In This Issue

Rector's Letter	2	Rotas	12
From the Registers	3	National Biscuit Day	13
HT News	4-5	Getting to Know	14-15
Pilgrimage & Pilgrim Places	6-7	Smile Lines	16
Prayer Diary	8-9	Ads	17-18
Readings	10-11	Contacts	19
Our Services	11	Organisations	20

Flourishing Future Group – Update

It has been a few months since our last update on the work of the Flourishing Future Group, and we are pleased to share the following progress.

Since the ACM, when we consulted on the proposed plans for the Church Grounds, we submitted a Canon 35 application to the Diocese to allow us to proceed. We are delighted that the Diocesan committee fully supported the application. This approval enables us to move forward, and we are now seeking quotes to establish the costs for the next stages of the development for the Church grounds.

Alongside this, we are working with Tod & Taylor, HT's architects, to explore how the church buildings might be adapted to better support worship, congregational needs, and wider community use. The brief includes improvements to accessibility, heating, lighting, toilet provision, and small office or meeting spaces. We recognise the need for specialist expertise in sustainable heating and lighting solutions that align with net zero ambitions and we are exploring these options with Tod & Taylor.

We have also installed a series of environmental sensors throughout the church to monitor conditions, analyse heat loss, optimise the existing heating system, and inform the evaluation of future heating and lighting options. We hope to meet with Tod & Taylor in the coming weeks to obtain an approximate cost for the exploratory work. This will form the basis of a grant application to the SEC Net Zero team to fund this initial phase.

In parallel, Christoph has met with the Dementia Services Development Centre at the University of Stirling to explore how the church might become more dementia friendly.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Regifting Stall, which ran over two Sundays in February. The stall raised £287.90 this year, bringing the total raised over the past three years to more than £1,000. We would like to thank all who have supported this initiative, one way or another.

Andrew Tyler, on behalf of the Flourishing Future Group

From the Archives May Magazine 1926

Notice

Owing to the General Strike the May number of the magazine could not be published at the usual time. This abbreviated issue will be printed as soon as conditions permit.

During the national trouble intercessions have been offered daily in our Church, and when our prayers are answered in God's own way and time, we trust that many will come on the Sunday following the good news to thank God for all His mercies and to pray that we may be brought out of strife into national goodwill and unity.

Footnote: The General Strike was quite short – 4 to 12 May 1926. My late mother, Mary Cooper, remembered gathering firewood in the woods of Bridge of Allan when she was 8 years old.

Thanks to Sheila Brown for this article.

Pilgrimage: Reflections by Nick Morris

I am a pilgrim. That statement needs to be unpacked - since I was a teenager I have been a walker, Wainwrights, Munros and Corbetts but that does not make me a pilgrim. My chosen pilgrim path is the Fife Pilgrim Way which has two starting points and one ending. The choices of start are either Culross or South Queensferry. The destination is St Andrews.

I tried to do this Pilgrimage as part of an organised group in 2024. The timing could not have been worse - we had just moved house and had builders in doing windows, bathroom and kitchen. I travelled by bus to Dunfermline and met up with the group - the previous pilgrim pastor and ten other pilgrims. We were transported by minibus back to Culross where we started from Culross Abbey. This is a lovely medieval building and, at the time, was a Church of Scotland church. We walked to the beautiful church at Cairneyhill where we had lunch, and then on to Holy Trinity in Dunfermline where we slept for the night (in my case immediately by the High Altar). The next day we visited St Margaret's RC church where we viewed the scapula of St Margaret of Scotland which had been given to that church by the King of Spain.

We then walked to Auchterderran via a landscape that had formerly been mining land - this was much harder ground and I discovered that the boots I had picked up in haste had impossibly thin soles and I developed major blisters. The two doctors who were with the party bound up my feet and persuaded me to head home the following day. So I became a failed pilgrim and caught the bus home.

Last year I linked up with the new pilgrim pastor, Simon, and joined with him on his series of winter walks. Things had changed on the Fife Pilgrimage Way - there was better signage, pilgrim passports on which to collect stamps and the walks were gentle half day walks. I have not, this winter, covered any new paths but have seen changes.

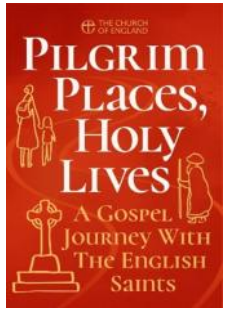
Pilgrim Places

At Culross Abbey I heard the sadness of the small congregation that it was being closed as a place of worship. In St Andrews we visited St Andrews Church, which had been an Episcopal Cathedral but was cut down and reconfigured as a Church of Scotland church. I found this fascinating. On these half day walks we talked about faith and how it impacts our lives.

Pilgrimage is a journey. I would ideally want to complete it sequentially but in practical terms I will continue to do sections, maybe even those I have not walked. Understanding pilgrimage is a process. I have seen the start and the end. I need to further explore the journey. *Nick Morris*

Here is a book recommendation from parishpump.co.uk

Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives - A Gospel Journey with the English Saints



Through eight places of spiritual awakening and the saints associated with them, this full-colour devotional booklet offers 24 days of Bible readings, reflections, questions and prayers on the ancient practice of pilgrimage. From Durham to Canterbury, Lindisfarne to Lastingham, it will help you reflect on what it means to live as a pilgrim on a purposeful journey through life.

Each week focuses on two saints who dedicated their lives to God and shared the gospel with others: the Venerable Bede of Durham; Bertha of Canterbury; Cuthbert of Lindisfarne; Cedd of Lastingham; Frideswide of Oxford; Etheldreda of Ely; Alcuin of York; and Hilda of Whitby. Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives will help you to see the saints not merely as remarkable people from the past but as fellow travellers on the pilgrim journey who can shape our identity, our worship, and our witness to the world today.

Contributors include Sarah Mullally, Stephen Cottrell, and Dee Dyas.

Prayer Diary May 2026

Fri 1 Philip and James, Apostles, that we find God's love in our hearts.

Sat 2 Athanasius, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, that those who are lost may be found.

Sun 3 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Mon 4 for our Servers and their ministry

Tue 5 for the work of Christian Aid

Wed 6 for all who are neurodivergent

Thu 7 for the elections today

Fri 8 Julian of Norwich, Theologian, Anchoress and Mystic, for the ministry of women in the church

Sat 9 for the peace of Israel

Sun 10 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mon 11 for all who make music in our Church

Tue 12 Thomas Rattray, Bishop, 1743, for the Scottish Episcopal Institute

Wed 13 for Startup Stirling and its work

Thu 14 Ascension Day

Fri 15 Matthias, Apostle, for Ian our Bishop

Sat 16 for the Middle East

Sun 17 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mon 18 for our Building Convener Team and all who work on our building

Tue 19 for all who have examinations at this time

Wed 20 for all who have been forced to flee their homes

Thu 21 Helena, Mother of Constantine the Great, c330, for families with young children

Fri 22 for all youth organisations and their leaders

Sat 23 William of Perth, Martyr, 120, for fosterers, adopters and those wanting children

Sun 24 The Day of Pentecost

Mon 25 Bede the Venerable of Jarrow, Teacher of the Faith, 735, for all who minister at Holy Trinity

Tue 26 Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop, c604, for Archbishop Sarah Mulally

Wed 27 for all who feel the pain of bereavement

Thu 28 for a just peace in the Ukraine

Fri 29 for all who are threatened with homelessness

Sat 30 for all victims of violence

Sun 31 Trinity Sunday

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 May 2026

Sunday 3rd	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
EASTER 5	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Acts 7.55-60; 1 Peter 2.2-10;
		John 14.1-14
Thursday 7th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 10th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
EASTER 6	**Readings**	Acts 17.22-31; 1 Peter 3.13-22;
		John 14.15-21
Thursday 14th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Ascension Day	**7.30pm**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Acts 1.1-11; Ephesians 1.15-23;
		Luke 24.44-53
Sunday 17th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
EASTER 7	**Readings**	Acts 1.6-14; 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11
		John 17.1-11
Thursday 21st	**11am**	Sung Eucharist

Readings May 2026

Saturday 23rd	**8pm**	Pentecost Vigil
Sunday 24th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
PENTECOST	**Readings**	Acts 2.1-21; 1 Corinthians 12.3*b*-13; John 20.19-23
Thursday 28th	**11am**	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 31st	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
TRINITY SUNDAY	**Readings**	Genesis 1.1-2.4*a*; 2 Corinthians 13.11-13; Matthew 28.16-20

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 April 2026

	Readings	Intercessions
3rd May	A Tyler	A Pont
10th May	T Mitchell	C Johnston
14th May	TBC	TBC
17th May	D Brown	R Nellist
24th May	S Shaw	D Brown
31st May	N Jorgensen	T Mitchell

Sidesduty

3rd May R Nellist and S Goss

10th May C Kendall and L Coats

14th May Volunteers

17th May R Campbell and C Watson

24th May S Goss and L Coats

31st May A Lees and R Piper

Articles for the June **edition**

are requested on or before

Sunday 17th May

The magazine will be available on

Sunday 31st May

National Biscuit Day 29th May

Did you know that Britain is the country with the highest biscuit consumption in the world?

According to research, we each eat about 500 biscuits a year. And the great biscuit dunking debate - over which biscuit holds up best when dipped in tea – can spark surprisingly passionate discussion. Biscuits have been part of our daily lives for centuries.

And so National Biscuit Day is held each year to honour this beloved snack. Our national favourite seems to be the chocolate digestive, followed by shortbread and chocolate fingers. But don't underestimate the appeal of custard creams, hobnobs, chocolate chip and oatmeal cookies!

The word 'biscuit' comes from the Latin *panis biscotus*, meaning 'twice-cooked bread'. In Roman times, flour-based provisions were baked twice, to remove moisture, making them durable enough for long journeys. Ancient Egyptian sailors and Roman soldiers relied on these early biscuits as a portable, long-lasting food source.

The transformation from practical sustenance to sweet treat began around the seventh century, when Persian bakers added eggs, butter, cream, and eventually sugar and honey to their recipes, creating some of the earliest cookies in history. By the Middle Ages, biscuits had spread across Europe, with each region developing its own favourite.

The Industrial Revolution brought mass production to the biscuit world. British firms like McVitie's, Huntley and Palmers, and Carr's produced biscuits on an unprecedented scale. In 1831, Huntley and Palmers even invented the decorative biscuit tin, which not only kept biscuits fresh but also made them an attractive gift item. www.parishpump.co.uk

Readers-please let us know your favourite biscuit. Send in a recipe. Are you pro or anti dunking? Biscuit related anecdotes welcome! Looking forward to hearing from you.

lib.coats@gmail.com

My name is Fiona Owino, I grew up in a small indigenous community in Kenya, a place rich in culture but one that is slowly fading with time. Being part of a community that is close to extinction has shaped my sense of identity and responsibility; I carry not just my own story, but a piece of my heritage with me. I am one of five girls, with four sisters, and growing up in a lively, all-girls household taught me resilience, cooperation, and the importance of supporting one another.

One of the most significant choices I have made was moving abroad to Scotland to pursue higher education. Coming from a low-income background, this transition has been both challenging and transformative. It has opened my eyes to new perspectives, stretched me beyond my comfort zone, and deepened my appreciation for perseverance and faith. Living in a different country has taught me

independence but also reminded me of the value of community something I am grateful to have found at Holy Trinity.

A book that resonates deeply with me is Sidney Sheldon's Master of the Game that I read as a very young girl. I connect with two characters in the book, one is Jamie an immigrant striving for a better life, facing hardship and uncertainty in a new environment. At the same time, I see aspects of myself in Kate, a woman determined to succeed in a world that often places limits on women. Their stories reflect both struggle and strength, and remind me that our circumstances can shape us, but do not have to define our limits.

My thanks go to my mother. She has been my greatest source of inspiration, always teaching me the value of hard work and believing that anything is possible with determination. Her strength and encouragement have guided me through every stage of my journey, and I carry her lessons with me wherever I go.

Many thanks to Fiona for agreeing to take part in this section. Please speak to Libby Coats if you too would like to feature.

.

Holy Trinity Stirling is not responsible for the content of external sites whose links are included in the magazine. The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editorial team.

Notices found in church newsletters - that didn't quite come out right!

- Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of the vicar's sermons.
- The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing: 'Break Forth Into Joy.'
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married last weekend in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays.
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.©
- Ladies are requested not to have children in the church kitchen.
- The organist invites any members of the congregation who enjoy sinning to volunteer for the choir.

Nine!

I was meeting a friend in a restaurant and as I went in, I noticed two pretty girls looking at me. "Nine," I heard one whisper as I passed. Feeling pleased with myself, I swaggered over to my buddy and told him a girl had just rated me a nine out of ten. "I don't want to ruin it for you," he said, "but when I walked in, they were speaking German."

www.parishpump.co.uk

Old Plean Roofing

"Saving you the Worry"

OLD PLEAN ROOFING

Call us today to arrange a site visit and get a free quotation

Services

- Gutter Cleans
- Moss Removal
- Chimney and Vent Assessments
- Roof Health Report
- Flat Roofs
- Slates
- Tiles
- Full Reroof's

More Information :

01786 811033 | 07703 640229

admin@oldpleanroofing.co.uk

Unit 4B, Block 4 Manor Farm
Business Park, Manor Loan
Stirling FK9 5QD

NFRC LEADING ROOFING EXCELLENCE

Approved Trader
approvedtrader.scot
SCOTSS

Somers & Currid

Est. 1924

Independent Funeral Directors

Stirling
01786 473 348
22 Viewfield Street
Stirling, FK8 1UA

Callander
01877 360 015
Unit 6 Geisher Road
Callander, FK17 8LX

Formerly William Somers Ltd
www.somersandcurrid.co.uk

SAIF INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Golden Charter

Thomas Ross

Monumental Sculptors

Established 1897

73/75 Barnton Street, Stirling FK8 1HJ

Additional Lettering, Renovation &
Repair Work carried out all over Scotland

A Large Range of New Memorials

A FAMILY RUN BUSINESS

Tel: 01786 473978

thomasrossmemorials@btconnect.com

www.jgmossman.co.uk

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) *Email: revian@hotmail.co.uk*

HON SECRETARY : **Rachel Campbell** Tel: 01786 451103 *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