Holy Trinity
Scottish Episcopal Church
Stirling

ACM Booklet
2026

Rector's Report

We are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

1 Corinthians 3.9

At our ACM we typically look back over the past year of church life here at HT and look ahead to the year to come. Many things have taken place this year as we remain committed to being a Christian presence in worship & prayer, spiritual growth, service to one another and mission & discipleship.

Discipleship is a term we often use for our Christian life: a disciple is a student, a pupil; someone who is committed to learning and growth. Holy Trinity, in this sense, is a centre of learning, of exploration; a research lab for love and resurrection life.

As the poet T.S. Eliot says in his poem Little Gidding:

> *With the drawing of this Love and the voice of this Calling*
> *We shall not cease from exploration*
> *And the end of all our exploring*
> *Will be to arrive where we started*
> *And know the place for the first time*

All our exploring leads us back to the same place (over and over again): God's love which calls us into life and into exploration, calls us back into that same love as the end of our exploring.

At HT, our Christian discipleship is flavoured by our key words 'open – inclusive – inspiring - friendly – deep' as we discern ways of how we may live our calling of exploration and how we may contribute to being Church in this place at this time. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians (I paraphrase): We are God's servants working together – we are a field for God to plough and to cultivate; we are a building for God to inhabit.

Lots is happening at HT in seen & unseen ways to make this field arable and this building habitable. Many people contribute in small and bigger ways and you can see a snapshot of these contributions in this booklet. I would like to invite you to pause for a moment and think how you contribute (which can be anything from regular giving to volunteering to being present and to offering prayer & blessing). What are the ways you may grow in your contributions? Those could be raised giving, a more regular presence at things going on and going deeper in your own discipleship journey. To answer these questions, we need to look inward and look outward: where are we called to be and grow in God's love? And how could we express these callings in the way we are Church in this place at this time?

We aim to look at these inward & outward dimensions of our community presence under the heading of Flourishing Future which isn't only about our buildings, grounds, finances and net zero implications, but also on how we may enlarge our spiritual footprint to grow in love and wisdom as we then cycle back to where we started and see God with fresh eyes.

Our HT discipleship lab is powered by the Church Year and its round of seasons and services. Two additions to this round are now in their second year: a Pentecost Vigil and a service featuring music by Hildegard of Bingen. I hope that both will remain a fixture in our spiritual exploring. It has also been wonderful to welcome the Revd Ian Anderson as a licensed member of our ministry team, sharing with us his wisdom and takes on discipleship.

God's field and building we till and inhabit are, of course, bigger than HT: we are part of a diocese and the province in the wider Scottish Episcopal Church. We also inhabit the world with all creatures and the whole human family.

Bishop Ian's final service in the diocese will be on 1st November, and we wish him well for his retirement. Please keep all those involved in the process of electing a new bishop (and those who might feel called to offer themselves as candidates) in your prayers. We will be collecting for a retirement gift for Bishop Ian soon whose wise and pastoral ministry has been very much appreciated.

Concerning the wider Scottish Episcopal Church, I sadly do not feel that we are in a good place at this present time. We are part of a small denomination, and a few people can make a huge difference and not always for the good. In the light of recent developments in the province, I've made the decisions to step down from some roles I'd held in the wider church. I continue as an associate tutor at the Scottish Episcopal Institute (a role which gives me great joy) and I remain a member of the diocesan cathedral chapter.

It also feels more and more costly to live up to our core values of 'open – inclusive – inspiring - friendly – deep' in a world where voices of hate, fear, greed, violence and exclusion seem to be drowning out voices of love. Even more so it is important to till our fields and to furnish our buildings in love as we focus our discipleship lab on exploring in an open, inclusive, inspiring, friendly and deep manner: returning in our cycles to the place where we started and arrive to know God's love as for the first time, even though we've changed, grown, and travelled as disciples of Christ through the cycles of the Church Year and of life.

In the words of the apostle Paul, 'we are God's servants, working together' reminded that we 'are God's field, God's building.' May we remain so this coming cycle of exploration.

HT Fellowship & Study Groups

This past year we met for a rich mixture of different groups and study series: we discussed the Eucharistic Prayer and Sainthood & Holiness in Fellowship Groups in the autumn and focussed on Gospel Endings in a Bible study during Advent. In Lent we met to reflect on the Rule of St Benedict and short series on Julian of Norwich in the spring and Teresa of Avila in the late summer concluded our round of study and reflection.

Revd Canon Christoph Wutscher

Finance Report (2025-26)

With the completion of the conservation works on the church building, Holy Trinity's income and expenditure has declined this year from the peak of 2024-25. This has made it possible to revert to the "Receipts and Payments" presentation of accounts which are more readily understandable. The income and expenditure in the table below is split into separate "Unrestricted" and "Restricted" elements. This is primarily required by accounting and charities law. This separation also helps to show our general "living costs" separately from other, usually exceptional costs. It also helps the wider church to determine the contributions requested for Diocesan and Provincial support.

Holy Trinity's general "living costs" are made up of the regular and occasional offerings given, other income and the money spent on our everyday "charitable activities" – putting on services and other parts of church life, which inspire and renew our lives, running and looking after our buildings, costing this year £2,180 per week.

Money for other particular specified purposes appears in the "Restricted" parts of the accounts. This year it includes the recent grants and donations for the conservation building works and hall floor renewal. In earlier years it has included funds raised for expenditure on other specific items such as expensive church furnishings, the new altar frontal etc.

Year	Unrestricted Receipts	Unrestricted Payments	Restricted Receipts	Restricted Payments
2025-26	£103,322	£113,334	£65,450	£43,133
2024-25 *	£109,358 *	£105,427 *	£145,619 *	£169,836 *
2023-24	£102,614	£110,745	£21,839	£8,273

Table: Receipts and Payments 2023-2026 — * 2024-25 figures shown as Receipts and Payments, although the Approved 2024-25 Accounts differ slightly in Accruals form.

The Unrestricted payments this year were higher than the income, partly from unavoidable expenditure on routine recurring building expenditure. It was the same in 2023-24. If this continues in 2026-27 and the years after, it would be a major concern. The regular and occasional weekly and monthly donations come to £43,480 and form the bedrock, of our Unrestricted receipts. This year, they were very slightly more than in 2024-25. Gift aid received, car park rental and net hall income provide the other significant elements.

The Restricted income for the conservation works, hall floor renewal and some other smaller items have covered all that expenditure. There is one final payment to the Contractor for having guaranteed the works. Sufficient has been raised to cover this. During 2026-27, the grants awarded and expenditure on the architectural and heating studies of our building needs and priorities will come within the Restricted area.

The full set of accounts is available for anyone wishing to see them.

The upkeep of our buildings and garden, with prompt maintenance of any faults, is a necessity now that the conservation work has been completed. Attention also needs to be given to the items identified for attention in the recent five-yearly building survey during the next four years. Some minor jobs done by volunteers save costs, for example by the garden group, the "holy dusters" and other management work. Any possible savings help in enabling the two to three thousand pounds needed annually to be used for upkeep work.

The continuing life and work of Holy Trinity – the Ministry and Mission of each and upkeep of the buildings in support – is sustained through our prayer and stewardship of the resources given to each. For anyone who would like to contribute regularly by bank standing orders or weekly giving envelopes, please speak to me or email *treasurer@holytrinitystirling.org*.

Gift Aid, claimed by Holy Trinity from the Government, can be added for anyone paying tax. Other possible ways of helping Holy Trinity are by a personal Legacy in a Will, and a Lifetime Gift. Both can reduce inheritance tax liability.

Summary

This snapshot of our finances, its sources and commitments, and, with the other reports at this Annual Congregational Meeting, shows how everyone can play a part in its support. I would like to thank everyone who helped in whatever way with our offerings to sustain Holy Trinity in 2025-26.

Robert Nellist

Vestry Secretary's Report

The Vestry has met on the usual five occasions during the past year, with the first meeting in November 2025 being preceded by the Eucharist. Three new members joined the Vestry, Alistair Shaw, who took on the role of minute taker, David Brown who took on the role of Fabric Convenor and Bartholomew Koman who was elected Lay Representative following Cathy Johnston standing down from the post.

The Vestry has, as usual, spent time discussing matters of fabric and finance. The Quinquennial Report highlighted areas in the fabric of the church, the hall and the Rectory which needed to be prioritised for attention and repair.

As can be seen from the Treasurer's report, expenditure has exceeded income again this year, obviously a matter of concern for the Vestry. Holy Trinity's vision towards the 150th anniversary in 2028 and Flourishing Future are standard items at Vestry meetings and details will be available at the ACM. Health and Safety and Safeguarding are also standard items on the agenda. Vestry agendas are, of necessity, lengthy and comprehensive and the Vestry works hard to oversee all aspects of church life.

Rachel Campbell

Lay Representative Report

It was my first year in the Lay Representative role. In March, Christoph and I attended the Diocesan Synod which was held in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth. You will find my report from the day in the April edition of the HT Magazine. I will also attend an extraordinary Diocesan Synod on 7th October which was organised to approve the Strathearn Charges'

request to become a Joint Incumbency with a single vestry. At present, they are a Linked Charge with three separate vestries.

In June, I attended the SEC General Synod for the first time. Stepping into this role felt like quite a challenge due to my own lack of experience but also given the complex backdrop of everything happening in the wider world and across our own Church right now.

We met at the University of Stirling campus, which was wonderfully convenient. Delegates from across the province even got a small taste of HT life, with music led by Alistair and worship overseen by Christoph! The agenda was busy with presentations from different speakers and many motions to vote on – a few key discussions particularly stand out:

The Synod held an important debate regarding our Church's historical involvement in the transatlantic slave trade. It was a sobering discussion, though it was a shame we were not given more time to fully reflect on such a complex topic.

We heard presentations from the Provincial Environment Group, who highlighted inspiring examples of how various charges are working to reduce their carbon emissions. Notably, the group signalled a shift in strategy for the coming years: while net zero targets remain important, they plan to broaden their scope to encompass wider environmental issues, particularly protecting and boosting biodiversity.

One of the most animated debates of the week centred on a proposal to introduce designated youth representatives to Synod. Following a very passionate exchange of views, the motion ultimately passed in a very narrow vote in favour.

Bartholomew Koman

Music Report

…with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

Colossians 3:16

As in previous years, music contributes hugely to our services at Holy Trinity. We're fortunate to have a willing congregation who will try new things whilst still having their favourites. We're blessed with individuals who help lead the music in our worship, including cantors and soloists, music group, and organ students.

We continue to host concerts and other musical events contributing to the church's outreach, ranging from harp to vocal, strings and pipes, Stirling University Choir, the SSAFA Christmas Cracker and others. This year we resumed the concert series that we'd been forced to abandon due to the Covid lockdown. Many thanks to Tony Mitchell for all his work co-ordinating these, and to Helen, Sandy and others for laying on refreshments.

Thank you all for your contribution.

Alistair Warwick

Fabric Report

2025-26 has proved to be a significant year in terms of Fabric work. This was due largely to this being the year of our latest Quinquennial (5-yearly) Report on the fabric of our church, hall and rectory. Three items in particular were labelled as 'urgent'. These were quickly addressed. Improved external drainage was installed at the south-east corner of the hall, the attic windows were reglazed and a moisture issue in the hall was investigated and attributed to condensation. As part of these works, we took the opportunity to address some other issues, namely resurfacing of the Rector's parking space, which also forms part of the escape route from the east end of the hall, and replacement of two broken panes of glass. We also installed additional alarms on the north aisle roof, following a security concern, carried out some remedial work on the church roof and addressed some issues in the rectory. All of this naturally comes at a cost and can be a considerable drain on our finances. However, money spent on building maintenance now can often save much larger sums being spent later on if problems are allowed to develop unchecked.

David W. Brown

Church Hall Report

Our church hall is one of our biggest assets. It is a place where we socialise and build relationships as a congregation; a place that hosts and supports numerous community groups, classes and events; and an important source of income.

There are currently 16 groups meeting regularly in the hall including HT Tots, various dance and ballet classes, yoga, zumba, pilates, tai chi, musical theatre, a lunch club, choirs and educational programmes. We also have relationships with other groups such as Stirling Pride and the Central Scotland Regional Equality Council who book the hall for events on less frequent basis. In addition to our regular users, we have had about 46 one-off events over the course of the year, including children's parties, charity fundraisers, ceilidhs, and acting as a polling station during the Holyrood elections. This amounts to an enormous number of people passing through our doors during the course of the year, raising Holy Trinity's profile in the community.

Users have benefited from our new floor which was installed last year and is now well bedded in. Some redecoration of the lower walls and skirtings also helped improve the appearance of the hall. Removing the cabinets has been welcomed by regular users, although this means the small room is fully committed as a storage space. New tables have been purchased and cleaning of the chairs is planned.

The position on hall bookings and income remains strong, although hall running costs and contributions to paying off the cost of the new floor reduce the surplus available for general church expenditure. A review of hall charges is being undertaken, which will balance increased costs with keeping the venue affordable for all sections of the community.

Thanks are due to David and Sheila Brown, and Bob and Helen Piper for assisting with opening and closing up for events; Julie our cleaner; Rachel for keeping us stocked up with cleaning materials; David and Brian for help and advice with fabric issues; and Robert on finances.

Alistair Shaw

Gardening Group Report

The Gardening Group now consists of only two members – Peter Cheasley and myself – carrying out care and maintenance work on one afternoon per week, normally a Tuesday. This largely consists of physical removal of weeds by non-chemical means. A row of lavender plants was put in position last year along our outer wall and this will gradually grow into a beautiful and bee-friendly hedge. Other bee-friendly plants were installed last year, although bee-friendly turned out to be also rabbit-friendly in some cases. Our Flourishing Future Group has ambitious plans for sustainable development of our grounds, so our role is simply to keep things ticking over until these plans come to fruition. However, there is only a limited amount that two people can achieve meeting once weekly, so, if you would like to join us, please speak to Peter or myself. Working times can be flexible to fit volunteers' needs.

David W. Brown

Open Church Report

Growing out of an experience during the 2023 World Cycling Championships, 2026 has been the third season of sharing our church with the public and as ever has had a most individual feel.

We have not repeated last year's suggestion from Vestry of having the church open for Holy Week. It proved not to be viable with three visitors attending outside our calendar of services. Instead, we reverted to our previous model and focused on the summer season with opening between June 17th and September 23rd, on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 11am and 3pm as in previous years. This will be followed by Stirling Open Doors Weekend on 26-27th September by David and Sheila Brown. Our thanks must go to them whilst recognising that Open Church has a different focus. It is one of our main Outreach initiatives.

People visit out of curiosity, not having entered a church before, historical or artistic interest, to interact with the volunteers, to participate in the children's activities or listen to the organ, (thanks to Grant again!) or for a quiet, contemplative space but our focus is welcoming all our visitors into Holy Trinity, talking to them and making a connection. All these people have visited because our doors are seen to be open wide, something that still causes comment amongst both our European and local guests, that the Scottish churches always appear closed. However, it is the first time we have been visited as part of what was described as a 'Coolcation'! [A Spanish family seeking to escape the searing heat at home].

During the rationalisation of the Choir Vestry a large number of bookmarks featuring a variety of our stained – glass windows were found. During the summer our visitors have taken a bookmark as a memento of their visit. A small gesture which has pleased many guests.

As always it is important to say a huge 'thank you' to the twenty four members of the congregation who have volunteered to welcome visitors into our church on Wednesdays and Saturdays. We are lucky to have had these people welcoming our visitors since without them we could not open our building which we are all aware would negatively impact upon applications to funding streams as well as severely restricting Holy Trinity's connection with

the broader community. Some people have been able to volunteer once and others more regularly but everyone's efforts are truly valued.

Safeguarding has continued to be an important consideration when planning the volunteers' rota. We have been able to always have two welcomers in the church, identified by a lanyard badge and hopefully a smile and cheery greeting. If this has not been possible the church has remained closed.

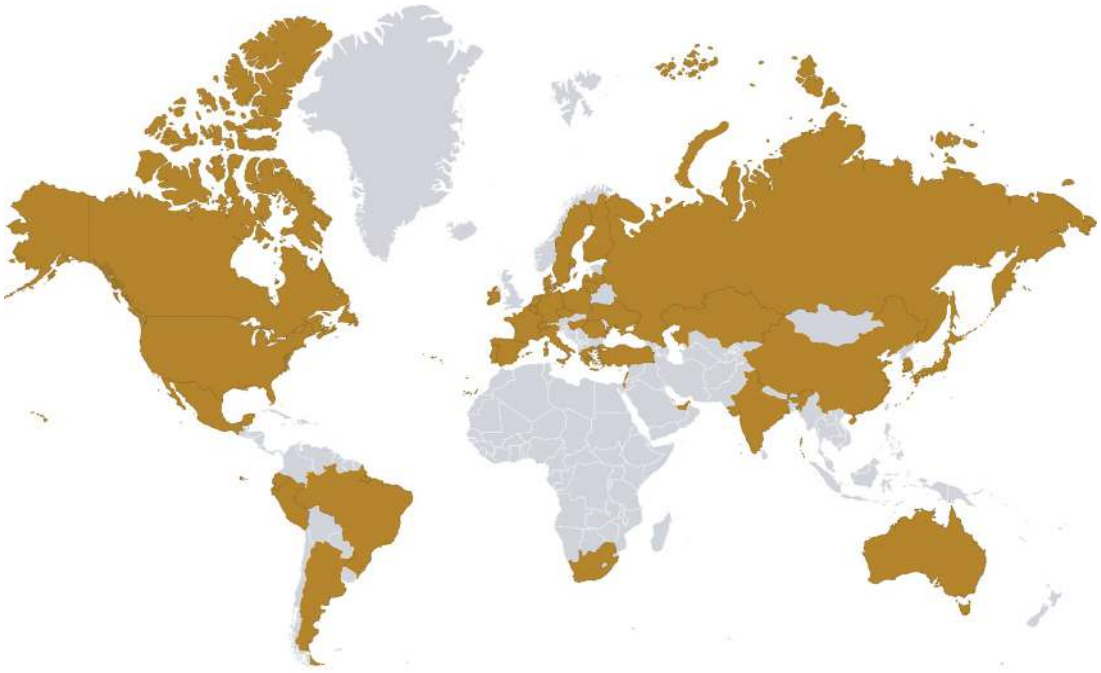
Also, thanks go to Nick Morris and Bob Piper as the advocates of Open Church on Vestry.

Data 17th June - 31st August 2026:

- **24** volunteers covering 49 out of 58 possible sessions, **9** closures due to a lack of volunteers
- **August** was again the month with the most visitors

	2025	**2026**
Number of UK visitors	68	113
Total number of visitors	226	404
Average number of visitors per session	5	9
Total number of countries represented	20	40

In **2025**, we had overseas visitors from: Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine, and the USA



In **2026**, we had overseas visitors from: Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the UAE, and the USA.

Jane Morris

Christian Aid Report

Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. In 2024-25, 4.1 million people were reached directly by Christian Aid and a further 12.4 million indirectly, 463 projects were implemented globally and £71.1 million was raised throughout the year. At Holy Trinity, for the sixth year running, we've had an 'e-envelope', which raised the excellent sum of £1,279.30, including Gift Aid. Thank you for your generous support, which will help to make an enormous difference to the lives of people living in poverty around the world. Our next effort will be to support the Christian Aid Coffee Morning on Saturday 24 October at St Ninians Old Parish Church, Stirling.

David W. Brown

Start-up Stirling Report

Start up Stirling continues to support individuals and families in need of a helping hand to get back on their feet. On a positive note a new hub at the top of the town has been set up expanding the network of crisis food banks and community hubs in and around the city. On a less positive note, however, Start up Stirling is currently in something of a crisis itself. While need continues to rise, donations are significantly down (this is also true of Holy Trinity) and visitors to the warehouse will notice many empty shelves. As a result of this, the amount of food we give out has had to be cut.

With the busiest time of year approaching it is vital to start stockpiling essential items. The items most in need at the moment are: tinned tomatoes, coffee, cook-in sauces, cereal bars, tinned vegetables and tinned spaghetti, ravioli and macaroni cheese. Holy Trinity has been a long time supporter of SuS.

Please, let us do all we can to support this vital work.

Cate Watson

During the Summer we held 5 short Sunday afternoon concerts. One of these was a Charity concert by "The Glenbervie Duo". These friends based in Falkirk presented an hour of delightful traditional Scottish tunes and songs using a variety of acoustic instruments. The proceeds, donations, from the concert amounted to £418 and these were all passed to Start Up Stirling. We are grateful to the Glenbervie Duo that they gave of their time free of charge. It was rather disappointing that such a high quality performance was less well attended than our other concerts. Nevertheless, Start Up were very appreciative of our contribution to their funds.

Tony Mitchell

Flower Convenor Report

Flowers in Holy Trinity have been a bit sparse this year, mainly due to personal reasons, but we have covered the major festivals. Thank you to those who have provided flowers and donations throughout the year. Also thank you for the continued support from the congregation at Easter for decorating baskets with flowers. Harvest is celebrated on 4th October and helpers to decorate the church are more than welcome.

If anyone would like to make a donation for flowers, please use the jar at the back of church or pass it to me. If you would like flowers on a particular Sunday or put flowers in church then please let me know. Many thanks.

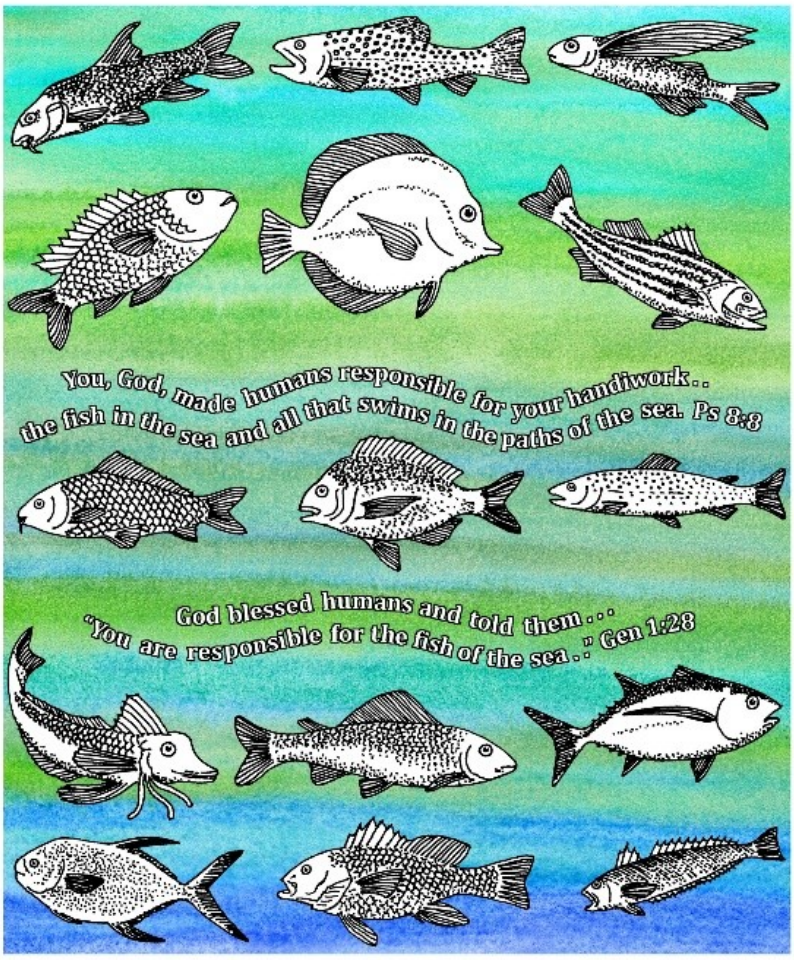
Karen Ellis

HT Magazine Report

The magazine is produced by a small team, all of whom are vital contributors to the final product. Currently, they are Ann Lees, Jane Morris, and Libby Coats. Thank you to Rev Val Nellist for photocopying every edition. Regular articles are the Rector's Letter, the Prayer Diary and the Rotas. Otherwise, content is a mixture of articles of general interest with an emphasis on HT news and views.

We subscribe to an online resource specifically for church magazines and this is the source of the front covers.I am retiring from the team after 15 years and I am delighted that Revd Ian Anderson is taking on the role of editor. I wish him and the team well.

Libby Coats



Pastoral Group

The pastoral group is made up of a few individuals who are authorised by the Bishop to give pastoral support. This support is given to those who are unable to attend church but who wish to keep in touch with HT. Contact is made in person or by telephone. It is one way of showing Holy Trinity's care and concern. The pastoral group meets occasionally and keeps in touch by email. This has enabled us to share concerns and to offer support to those who are visited and to one another.

In April some of the pastoral team attended a diocesan training day entitled Death Matters. This was helpful in highlighting care for the bereaved and the dying and it encouraged conversations about death. The Prayer Tree at the back of the church provides an opportunity to share prayers.

Please contact Libby Coats or the Rector about any pastoral matters.

Libby Coats

Children and Young People

HTKidz is our young people & children's work – we welcome and support our young people who range from 4-16 years old. A WhatsApp group enables us to find out when families will be around during the regular Sunday service and plan accordingly. This term we are looking at major stories in the Old Testament and are planning a pizza and film night and will hopefully have Advent/Christmas events. There is still the kids corner in church to support families during services too.

HTTots is a toddler group we run on Monday mornings during termtime, providing a fun safe space for preschoolers and their parents/grandparents etc. It is well attended and appreciated.

We are always looking for extra volunteers to ensure that this offering to the community can continue. Speak to me or one of the brilliant current volunteers if you would like more info.

Genevieve Pont

Young Adults' Group

Over the past year, our Young Adults Group has continued to meet on a monthly basis on Monday evenings, offering a relaxed and welcoming space to connect and spend quality time together. Here are a few highlights of what we've been up to.

During the warmer months, we were able to make great use of the lovely church garden in Bridge of Allan. We've shared plenty of potluck suppers together, alongside friendly competition during our regular games nights. We are very grateful that the church hall floor renovations are now fully complete, just in time as we head into the cooler months.

Most recently, we marked the Season of Creation with an arts and crafts evening: we made and decorated wooden bird feeders, which are now on display in the St Saviour's church hall.

Bartholomew Koman

Kieran with his bird feeder

Safeguarding Report

On Wednesday 29th October 2025 there was a Conference held at St Matthew's Church, Perth to discuss safeguarding. I attended along with the Clergy team and Vestry Secretary from Holy Trinity Church. We had discussions about safeguarding fundamentals, PVG practice, safeguarding agreements, and personal safety advice for Clergy. It was very informative, lots of advice, very encouraging, and also enjoyable. This year seven members of the congregation have applied for PVG and all were successful. PVG is a legal requirement and is important that we continue to do this in Holy Trinity. At the moment there are no concerns at Holy Trinity. If anyone is worried or has concerns please contact me or the Rector.

Helen Kemp

Health & Safety Report

The general policy of the Vestry is to provide adequate control of the health and safety risks arising from all church and church hall activities. The risk assessments and the resulting actions are included in HT's Health and Safety Management systems. These assessments continue to be undertaken to ensure (as far as possible) the safety of everyone using both the church and the church hall. A good deal of time has been involved in making sure we approach this work to the benefit of all church and hall users and it is being constantly reviewed including the outcome of risk assessments undertaken by The Fabric committee. The Recommendations following a Fire Risk assessment are being implemented. Health and Safety continues to be a standing agenda item at every Vestry meeting where any matter arising, which cannot be addressed immediately, is discussed and appropriate action taken for example access issues where corrective action is being managed in terms of short-, medium- and long-term goals. An immediate goal is to prepare the congregation for emergency evacuation of the premises both church and hall. Life Support training is being offered to congregation this November.

Mary E Kenyon

Sunday Rotas Report

Members of the congregation continue to offer readings and lead communal prayers at regular Sunday services. As the full three year cycle of set readings has now been completed, providing a recording for the Holy Trinity website is not usually required. A short training session on best practice was offered this year, and may be repeated. Numbers on the sides duty rota, who welcome attendees at services and help with advice on proceedings, are still very tight. Many thanks and apologies to those who find themselves scheduled for multiple sessions in a month, or who step in at short notice when necessary.

Ann Lees

Holy Trinity Buildings Project

As part of our Flourishing Futures vision, Holy Trinity is looking at how it can adapt and improve its buildings and spaces to enrich and support our worship and mission. Following the establishment of the Flourishing Futures group, workshops were held to explore issues and opportunities, particular around our response to the climate and nature crises.

On the buildings front, this led to the preparation of a scoping document in 2025 which summarised the current usage and issues with our various built assets, and identified a range of broad opportunities for improvement. The next stage, which we have been progressing in 2026, has been to seek professional advice on these opportunities and commission a Stage 1 feasibility study to explore the potential of the buildings. A brief has been drawn up which focuses on developing solutions to the following priority issues:

►The accessibility of the main church building, including consideration of both external inclusive access and the alteration/removal of the internal plinths within the main worship space to facilitate inclusive access and greater flexibility of use of the space.

►The heating of the main church building, including consideration of measures to minimise heat loss and options for the installation of new sustainable heating systems, with the aim of addressing issues of comfort, cost, building fabric maintenance and net zero aspirations.

►The lighting of the main worship space, including consideration of energy efficiency, appreciation of internal architectural features and the general atmosphere of the space.

►Access to toilet facilities in the main church building, including consideration of potential new toilets within the main building and/or improving access to the existing facilities in the adjacent church hall.

►The future provision of office, meeting and small worship space, including consideration of potential of the vestry suite (vestry/sacristy/Rector's office) to meet these needs.

Essentially there are two parts to the brief: architectural issues associated with adaptation of the church building; and heating and lighting issues associated with our net zero aspirations. Our architects, Tod & Taylor have been commissioned to undertake the architectural side, whilst specialist consultants, Keenan Consultancy, will undertake the heating and lighting work. Tod & Taylor will oversee the project to make sure that the two components are fully integrated.

Grant awards have been secured to offset the cost of the studies, including full funding of the heating and lighting work through an SEC Net Zero Grant Award, and an SEC Buildings Grant which will part fund the architectural work.

Holy Trinity Grounds Project

At the 2025 ACM, we consulted on the proposed plans for the Church Grounds, and the feedback received was passed to the Flourishing Future Group for consideration. Importantly, we also applied to the Diocese for a Canon 35, which grants Holy Trinity permission to proceed with the proposed developments. We are pleased to report that full approval was granted by the Diocesan Committee.

Since then, we have met with garden designer Tracey Rich on two occasions to explore design options and develop detailed costings for the plans previously presented. We have now received estimated costs for the various elements of the project, including labour and site preparation:

Planting:	• Trees (including crab apple and rowan) • Shrubs (including hawthorn, hazel, spindle and cherry) • Wildflowers (jumbo wildflower plugs) • Bulbs • Associated planting materials	£6,500
Structures:	• Bee posts • Planters • Seating • Interpretative signage	£8,500
Gabions (Behind the Hall):	• Square mesh cages • Foundations • Geotextile materials • Fill materials	£8,500

These plans and associated costings are essential in enabling us to apply for external grant funding. We have identified a number of potential funding opportunities, including the National Lottery Awards for All scheme and the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust. Holy Trinity meets the eligibility criteria for both programmes, and funding from these sources could potentially cover the planting and structures elements of the project in the first instance. We will be applying for these funding programmes in November 2026.

Andrew Tyler & Alistair Shaw