www.holytrinitystirling.org

Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Issue 6

April 2025

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Rector's Letter

Dear all,

This month, we mark the high point of our Church Year with the celebration of Holy Week and Easter, as we commemorate the central story of the Christian faith, from Jesus's entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to the Washing of the Disciples' Feet and the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday; and from the Passion and Death on the Cross on Good Friday to the journey from death to new life as, via the Easter Vigil, we will arrive at the exuberant joy of Easter Day.

I do hope that many of you will consider taking part in our services, either in person or via our online resources, to trace some of that journeying for yourself. As John Henry Newman wrote in his poem *The Dream of Gerontius*, which we sing it as part of the hymn *Praise to the Holiest in the height*:

And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.

The happenings of Holy Week and Easter are not an empty re-enactment of some happening in the past, but a reality we are to enter, an inspiration for our lives.

We need to take care not to get stuck in our hymn verse, though: for it is not only the suffering and death of Christ we are to trace in our own way, but we are to journey through the empty tomb into the Spirit-filled life of Easter joy.

But what our hymn verse brilliantly expresses is that we need to enter the story ourselves and be inspired and taught by what we observe –

with Christ at our side, guiding us once more through to Easter. I pray that we will be deeply touched by that presence so that we'll know in our hearts, minds and souls that Christ is risen.

Blessings,

Christoph

Lent Groups 2025: Voice of the Living Light

This Lent, we will look at the work and legacy of the nun, visionary and theologian Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) by reflecting on her life, excerpts of her writing, images accompanying her visions and music she composed. Two groups will meet in parallel on **Thursday mornings (after the 11am service) and in the evenings at 8 p.m. on 3rd & 10th April.**

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Diocesan Synod

Christoph, Rebekah and I travelled to the Cathedral in Perth to attend the Diocesan Synod. It was an early start for us, but an even earlier one for Ian Boa, who was already there in his capacity as Diocesan Administrator and who had been working very hard behind the scenes to make the day a reality. Robert joined the afternoon sessions, and so Holy Trinity was well represented in different capacities.

The proceedings of the day will be formally reported, and if you follow the Diocese on Facebook you can see photos and recordings of the day. I shall pick out a couple of points in particular:

The Bishop's Charge – this was in two parts, but both were focussed on stories of new abundance coming from scarcity. The first was illustrated by the story of the five loaves and two fishes, provided by a small boy, and which not only fed the huge crowds gathered but filled many baskets afterwards. We were asked to think differently about what we thought of as a scarce resource in our charges, whether that was money, gifts and skills, or time. The second was the story of being creative with a few resources and making something new – it was the story of the creation of the Caesar Salad. Just a few ingredients, mixed differently not only creates a splendid dish, but it has become world renowned. Bishop Ian asked us to reflect on these things as we continued our thinking about 5–10-year planning, not only for our charge, but also for our area, and for our Diocese. He asked us "What needs to change so that there is a church here tomorrow?" and put it to us that thinking differently will allow us to pool resources and to create opportunities.

Festival of Lay Ministries – 15th May 2025 at 6.30pm all those involved in lay ministry are being invited to attend a special service to acknowledge and celebrate the work that is done in this capacity, whether as pastoral visitors, Eucharistic Assistants, or any other lay role. In particular, those who may be licenced in some capacity, such as distributing sacraments at home, are invited to attend.

2025 Lent Appeal – supporting Gaza. The USPG (uspg.org.uk) is working with the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East to support the work of reconstruction and to give medical aid. Bishop Ian has asked that we support as generously and as sacrificially as we can. There are flyers at the back of church that give details, or you can make your donation through our Treasurer, Robert Nellist, or the Diocese. More information here: https://standrews.anglican.org/bishops-lent-appeal-2025/

Please let me know if you would like any further information about the work in the Diocese.

Cathy Johnston Lay Rep.

From the Archives March 1925

Episcopal Training College
(Dalry House, Orwell Place, Edinburgh)

The Leslie Bursaries are for Junior Students and other Secondary School Pupils who are preparing to be teachers. These bursaries are of the annual value of £4, are allocated in February, and payable in May. They can be held for one, two, or three years, and are given to those who undertake to complete their training at the above College. The bursaries are open to all, though Church girls have the preference. They are meant to be in addition to any bursary granted by the County or Local Committee, in order to bring up, if possible, the candidate's income to something approaching the old pupil-teacher's salary.

Forms of application (which should be filled up and sent to me as soon as possible) may be obtained from the Rector at 6 Gladstone Place, Stirling.- ALEXANDER BOYD, Principal.

Thanks to *Sheila Brown* for transcribing this article.

HT News

Holy Week Church Opening

A big thank you to everyone who has volunteered to welcome visitors into our church during Holy Week. We have filled all the volunteering slots available during our opening.
Jane Morris

Easter Flowers

The church will be decorated for Easter on **Saturday 19th April between 10.30am and 12 noon.** All are welcome to help with the decorations.

The congregation are invited to collect a basket to decorate. Baskets will be available from **Sunday 6th April** for collection from the back of the church.

If you have any questions please contact *Karen Ellis* (07980367214)

Easter Bunny Drive

There will be an **Easter Bunny Drive**, (a variation on a Beetle Drive), during coffee in the hall on **Sunday 27th April 2025**. The sheets will cost £1 each. This inclusive, family friendly activity is intended to raise money towards the cost of the new hall floor.
If you can't stay to take part feel free to buy a sheet to play at home.
Any queries please see *Jane Morris*.

HT Ceilidh

Come and enjoy a ceilidh on 11th May from 6pm to 10pm.

We want to give the old floor a good battering before it is refurbished!

Raffle prizes can be donated to *Sandy Goss.*

Tickets will be available from *Jane and Nick Morris*.

Drinks and snacks will be available for purchase.

Funds in aid of the new hall floor.

Pastoral Resource Pack

There is a useful resource pack at the back of church on the shelf beside the north door. (on the same shelf as the named magazines are placed) It's entitled Pastoral and includes information about many local and national resources.

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.

See Libby Coats if you have any questions.

The Colour of Flowers

There was an article in the March magazine in which the colour of flowers was discussed and according to Pantone's "colour of 2025" we should plant flowers that are "mocha mousse" in colour. One expert Jake Croft disagreed stating that brown "is not a happy colour." Readers were invited to respond:

I do agree with Karl Harrison (see reference above) I have always found Scottish taste in fashionable items, anyway, to be depressing. Even my Stirling-born boss (who leads as the pinnacle of beauty and glamourous presentation) , who has a say in the shop front grants in Go Forth prefers the greys for the shop fronts, and she has a degree in interior design !

Also, over the last few years , sunlight has seemed to me to be so reduced, throughout the year . . . . . my eyes and heart are lifted by yellows, oranges and bright uplifting colours of pinks and bright blue hues.

Brown hues remind me of burial, the end of seasons, winter hibernation - even morbid thoughts ! In a time when tv has so much depressing rubbish and gothic mysteries, at least it makes me go out to do something other than watch a screen . . . . only to see your mocha mousses, browns and purples. Even Lent has a rich purple for its most severe spiritual season !

Gail Lamb

I've never heard of that colour before so I looked it up and it's a soft brown. Not for me as I like bright flowers, daffodils ,tulips, freesia and pink roses, not red.

Helen Kemp

Yes. I am a fan. I've got a rose, Wollerton Old Hall, which is a bit mocha moussey on a grey Scottish day although my good friend says it's more French knickers.

I love it when God chooses a colour I haven't got a name for, for instance, Helleborus Croaticus: although Rosas Mitchell would be able to paint it!

Annie Pittock

Helleborus Croaticus

Since I have always thought that flowers go brown when they are dead, I don't think mocha mousse would be a choice for me. Give me the colours of spring flowers over that choice, any day. The white of snowdrops, the yellows of daffodils and narcissi, the oranges and purples of crocuses, the blue-purples of hyacinths and bluebells all bring a smile to my face and a skip to my steps. They tell me that we've won through another drear, dark, winter and lighter days are coming.

Sandy Goss

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.

Prayer Diary April 2025

Tue 1 Gilbert of Caithness, for God's wisdom in all our dealings

Wed 2 for the Samaritans and their work

Thu 3 for a just peace in Ukraine

Fri 4 for Scouts and Guides worldwide

Sat 5 for all who are neurodivergent

Sun 6 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Mon 7 for HTTOTS and our volunteers

Tue 8 for all who face discrimination because of who they are

Wed 9 Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Theologian and Martyr, 1945, that we leave a better world to our children

Thu 10 William Law, Priest, 1761, for the Scottish Episcopal Institute

Fri 11 George Augustus Selwyn, Bishop and Missionary, 1878, for the Episcopal Church in New Zealand

Sat 12 William Forbes, Bishop, 1634, for our Primus Mark

Sun 13 Sixth Sunday of Lent

Mon 14 for all volunteers welcoming people into Holy Trinity this week

Tue 15 Tuesday in Holy Week

Wed 16 Wednesday in Holy Week

Thu 17 Maundy Thursday

Fri 18 Good Friday

Sat 19 Holy Saturday

Sun 20 Easter Sunday

Prayer Diary April 2025

Mon 21 for Startup Stirling

Tue 22 for carers and all who live in care homes

Wed 23 for parents with young children

Thu 24 for peace in the Middle East

Fri 25 for our Flourishing Future Group

Sat 26 for Christoph and all who minister at Holy Trinity

Sun 27 Second Sunday of Easter

Mon 28 Mark, Evangelist, that we seek to live the Gospel

Tue 29 Catherine of Siena, Mystic and Teacher of the Faith, 1380, for Christian unity

Wed 30 for all who work on the land or on the sea

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 April 2025

Thursday 3rd	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 6th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
LENT 5	**Readings**	Isaiah 43.16-21; Philippians 3.4*b*-14;
(Passion Sunday)		John 12.1-8
Thursday 10th	**11am**	Holy Communion

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK:

Sunday 13th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist with Procession of Palms
PALM SUNDAY	**Readings**	Isaiah 50.4-9a; Philippians 2.5-11; Luke 22.14-end of 23
Monday 14th	**7.30pm**	Address for Holy Week & Compline
Tuesday 15th	**7.30pm**	Stations of the Cross
Thursday 17th	**7.30pm**	Liturgy of Maundy Thursday
MAUNDY THURSDAY	**Readings**	Exodus 12.1-14; 1 Corinthians 11.23-26; John 13.1-17,31*b*-35

Readings April 2025

Friday 18th	**2pm**	Liturgy of Good Friday
GOOD FRIDAY	**Readings**	Isaiah 52.13-end of 53; Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9
		John 18.1-end of 19
Saturday 19th	**9.00pm**	Easter Vigil
HOLY SATURDAY	**Readings**	see separate service order
Sunday 20th	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
EASTER DAY	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Acts 10.34-43;
		1 Corinthians 15.19-26
		John 20.1-18
Thursday 24th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 27th		
EASTER 2	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Acts 5.27-32; Revelation 1.4-8;
		John 20.19-31

Rotas April 2025

Readings	Intercessions
April 6th R Campbell	**T Mitchell**
April 13th S Stirling Aird	**D Brown**
April 17th tbc	
April 20th R Piper	**M Kenyon**
April 27th J Morris	**N Okeke**

Sidesduty

April 6th J Foster and S Goss

April 13th J and N Morris

April 17th tbc

April 20th A Lees and C Kendall

April 27th L Coats and H Kemp

HTTots

Monday April 28th S Goss and H Kemp

Articles for the **May** magazine are requested on or before

April 13th

The magazine will be available on

April 27th

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Thank you very much to those who have paid their subscription. If you have not yet paid, it is not too late.

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Please let one of the editorial team know if you want to cancel your subscription.

Easter chocolate dilemma

364 days of the year we tell our kids: “Do NOT eat anything you find on the ground, or anything from strangers!”

On Easter morning we tell them: “Why don’t you go outside and search in the dirt for chocolates that a strange giant bunny has left for you?”

Why Easter

A Sunday School teacher had been explaining why Easter should matter to us, and wanted to make sure her group understood. So she asked, “Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?”

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin?"

10 Easter one-liners

What do you need if your chocolate eggs mysteriously disappear? *An eggsplanation*

What kind of jewellery does the Easter Bunny wear? *14-carrot gold*

What is the Easter Bunny's favourite kind of music? *Hip hop*

What do you call an Easter Bunny wearing a kilt? *Hopscotch*

What do you call a bunny with fleas? *Bugs Bunny*

What do you call a line of rabbits jumping backwards? *A receding hare-line*

How can you tell which rabbits are oldest in a group? *Just look for the gray hares.*

Why do people paint eggs for Easter? *It’s easier than trying to wallpaper them!*

What do rabbits say before they eat? *“Lettuce pray.”*

www.parishpump.co.uk

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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 Stirling4 Community 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

9-10am 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