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Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

November 2026

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In This Issue

The Rector's Letter	2
100 years of the Scottish Poppy	3
Mothers Union 150th Anniversary	5
Time to Act	6
Church Opening	7
Remembrance, Anamnesis and Oblation	8
Saints of Holy Trinity	9
Prayer Diary	11
Rotas	12
Services & Readings	13
Life Changing... Changing Lives	14
The Altar	15
Smile Lines	17
Notices	17
Adverts	18
Contacts	19
Organisations	20

The Season

of Remembrance

Rector's Letter

Dear all,

On November 1st the Church celebrates the Feast of All Saints, mindful of people, who, in their Christian discipleship and witness, have made a difference to the lives of others.

The set Gospel reading for All Saints are the verses from Matthew's Gospel featuring the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are such a well-known text that we can easily overlook how radical and counter-cultural this bit of Jesus' teaching is: for typically, those who are poor (in spirit), hose who mourn, are meek, merciful, seek righteousness, make peace or are persecuted are not considered to be blessed. But it is exactly people of this kind of quality we remember at All Saints.

The Beatitudes invite us into deeper living: firstly, to remember that we are still loved and worthwhile human beings even when we grieve, are persecuted or show our vulnerability in some other way;

but also that a quiet way of responding to life in mercy, peace or meekness can make a lot of difference in seen and unseen ways.

The narrative of the world appears to be different, seemingly valuing those who shout the loudest, abuse power or show their strength at the expense of others; but the Beatitudes invite us to become a counter-cultural gathering, working on unlocking the kingdom in peace and vulnerability.

So, wherever we feel we are at this time of All Saints and remembrance, we are to be mindful that our vulnerabilities may be a strength – for it is, after all, through the cracks, that light can stream in.

Yours in Christ,

Christoph

the Beatitudes invite us to become a counter-cultural gathering, working on unlocking the kingdom in peace and vulnerability.

100 Years of the Scottish Poppy

Lady Haig's Poppy Factory has been producing the distinctive four petalled poppies in Scotland since 1926. What prompted its foundation, and what is its mission today?

Background

In 1921 Earl Haig noticed some French widows - inspired by Lt Col John McCrae's iconic poem "In Flanders Fields" - selling silk poppies to raise funds for disabled ex-Servicemen.
The poppy, which is central to the poem, was one of the few plants that survived in the churned up battlefields of Flanders, growing by the thousands amidst chaos and destruction.
Haig recognised the potential of these poppies to become both a symbol of Remembrance and also as a means to support the welfare of ex-Servicemen, so he ordered nine million poppies which were sold on 11th November 1921. The Poppy Appeal was born.

Poppy factories

Earl Haig's first poppy factory was opened in Richmond in1922, but demand for poppies was so high that few reached Scotland. In 1926, Countess Haig suggested that a factory to make poppies specifically for Scotland be established. Additionally, she suggested that it should employ men disabled by war. The idea was taken up and a factory established within the grounds of Whitefoord House*, on the Canongate in Edinburgh. She designed the distinctive poppy with four petals and no leaf, different to the two petals and a leaf produced in Richmond. This difference remains today.

In the beginning, the poppies were made by two ex-servicemen, a pair of scissors and some tissue paper, but this grew rapidly. During the 1930 the workforce reached 117 with a waiting list of 338 hoping to join them, producing poppies, toys, lampshades, woven goods and other crafts. They had shops in Edinburgh, and a mobile shop which drove all over Scotland.
Post WW2 saw rising costs and fewer applicants to work in the factory.

In 1982 it was designated a "Sheltered Workshop" which entitled it to grant aid. It subsequently became an Independent charity.

Today, the 34 strong team of disabled and vulnerable ex-service men and women produce millions of poppies and tens of thousands of wreaths, Remembrance symbols and long stem poppies each year. Between them they have seen service in every military campaign since the early 1970's.

The individual worker is given bespoke and holistic support alongside work which is dignified and meaningful.

**Whitefoord House had been leased in 1911 to house and support veterans. It was subsequently bought with a donation from Mrs W G McLaren of Hillpark, Bannockburn, in memory of her two sons, Captain James Marshall McLaren and Lieutenant William Victor St Clair McLaren, who both died in the service of their country.*

Article and pictures sourced from Poppy Scotland and used with permission.
More information and donate, shop & volunteer at poppyscotland.org.uk

Mothers' UNION 150 years

Walk in Faith, Honour the Past Engage in the present and Plan for the Future

One hundred and fifty years ago a meeting took place in Hampshire which brought together a group of like-minded people who had come to hear their rector's wife talk to them about some ideas she had about supporting families.

Those who came were unusual for the time, in that they were drawn from across the social spectrum, with ladies arriving in their carriages and the village women walking to the rectory where the meeting was held.

From this small meeting the vision that inspired Mary Sumner, who was the vicar's wife, to found the Mother's Union has had far reaching consequences. Certainly, the time was ripe for such a vision. It was an age when the church was involved with exploration of the Christian message through the social gospel both at home and abroad.

The vision was and still is to support family life through prayer, faith and practical care. It was beginning to expand into the world of education, publishing and social justice.
Branches began to be formed and plans were in hand to build a headquarters in Westminster known as Mary Sumner House.

Embodying Christ's love in practical and lasting ways.

Today The Mothers' Union membership is worldwide, spanning 80 countries, and now with the formation of zones reflecting that membership, the

Worldwide Trustees Board is representative.

Throughout these 150 years, Mothers' Union members have embodied Christ's love in practical and lasting ways. It has quietly and faithfully lived out the gospel through prayer groups, parenting support, hospitality, fundraising, care for prisoners and families, campaigns against injustice, and support for vulnerable women and children.

This year many projects have been ongoing within branches and Dioceses to support the 150th Celebrations, as well as in July this year A Celebration Service at St Paul's Cathedral.

In October there was a Global Gathering in South Africa where we shall be represented by our MU Chaplain The Revd Kim Lafferty.

For further information contact Mary Kenyon maryelizkenyon@gmail.com

Time to Act

The Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Most Reverend Mark Strange has joined church and charity partners in supporting the launch of the Just Peace Coalition's new Time to Act campaign. Bishop Mark took part in the campaign launch video, helping to highlight the coalition's call for a just and lasting peace for all who call the Holy Land home.

You can view the video in the September edition of Inspires - at: scotland.anglican.org
You can read more about the Just Peace Coalition at: justpeacecoalition.com/

From the Time to Act website:
"Across Palestine and Israel, communities are living through devastating violence, loss and injustice. Palestinian Christians have called on the global Church to respond not with silence or despair, but with courage, compassion, and action.
The Just Peace Coalition brings together churches and Christian organisations across the UK to respond to that call. Together, we are inviting individuals, churches, and communities to commit to working and praying for a just peace for all who call the Holy Land home.
This is not simply a moment of awareness. It is time to act."

Church Opening
17th June - 23rd September

This has been the third year of sharing our church with the public, and as ever has had a most individual feel. Last year's opening during Holy Week was not repeated as only 3 visitors had attended, and so we focused on the summer season.

We aimed to open Wednesdays and Saturdays between 11am and 3pm. Each was split into two 2 hour 'sessions' for our volunteers, not least because safeguarding continues to be a core consideration when planning the volunteers' rota. Each session we have had two welcomers together in the church. If this has not been possible the church has, unfortunately, remained closed. Each is identified by a lanyard badge and, hopefully a smile and a cheery greeting.

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. Without them we could not open our building, which would negatively impact upon applications to funding streams as well as severely restricting Holy Trinity's connection with the broader community, a major form of outreach. Thanks must also go to Nick Morris and Bob Piper as the advocates of Open Church on Vestry. (And also to Jane Morris for all her hard work co-ordinating, advocating and volunteering for many sessions, Editor).

In 2026 Holy Trinity had more than double the number of visitors than had visited in 2025 – 457 vs 226 and likewise with the countries from whence they came; 42 in 2026 vs 20 in 2025! So, hopefully we have plenty to look forward to for 2027 and remember we are always looking for more volunteers to join us and to increase our range of multi-lingual church guides!

Jane Morris

Remembrance, Anamnesis and Oblation

The National Service of Remembrance will take place at 11am on Sunday 8th November at the cenotaph in Whitehall, London. In city and town centres, village greens and highland hamlets, people will gather around war memorials to pay their respects to those who died in the armed forces, and others killed or scarred by war and conflicts.

Here, and in countless churches, we too will pay our respects, and at 11am fall silent for two minutes, each with our own thoughts. We will also call to mind ongoing conflicts and barbarities occurring around the world, their victims, perpetrators and enablers. I would like to think we would be sympathetic to those suffering in current conflicts. A glance at the newspapers or YouTube will show us that sympathy is far from universal.

The Cambridge Dictionary defines 'remembrance' as the act of remembering (and showing respect for) someone or something in the past. But if all we do is look back, or even think about today, we may miss something.

In the Eucharistic prayer, as we hear about Jesus' work, and last supper, it ends with his words "Do this in remembrance of me." We remember. But it is an active calling to mind because we immediately move to the *'anamnesis and oblation,'* liturgical shorthand, as that work of Christ is joined with our offering of ourselves. Remembrance is recalled here and now, "Made one with him, we offer you…ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice."

This Remembrance Sunday perhaps we might apply the insight of the Eucharist: that to remember is not a passive, but an active calling to mind and heart. And in our mind and hearts perhaps we will find there not sympathy, but the deepest empathy, and join in the work of justice, truth and peace, which is the work of Christ.

Ian Anderson

The Saints of

On the north aisle of the church you can find a stained glass window dedicated to St Martin of Tours. His feast day is 11th November, the same as Armistice Day, when many of us pause for a two minute silence in remembrance of the official end of the First World War, and the sacrifice of everyone involved.

It is somewhat apt, as St Martin is often portrayed as a cavalry soldier, cutting his robe in half to share it with a beggar clothed only in rags in the depths of winter. In a dream Christ appeared to him clothed in the half-cloak he had given the beggar.

Martin was born in Hungary, but when his father (a Tribune in the Army) was granted pension lands the family moved to Italy. Martin became a Christian as a child but was still obliged to join the Imperial cavalry, and was deployed to Gaul (France).

Leaving the army he became a disciple of Hilary of Poitiers. He established a hermitage at Ligugé, south of Poitiers, which later became a Benedictine abbey, claiming to be the oldest in western Christianity.

He became the third Bishop of Tours in 371 AD and is depicted as such in our window. He was known for passionately opposing Arianism and other heresies, and for smashing pagan temples.

It seems he had a real pastoral heart, however, founding a wide network of churches which he visited annually, a kind of proto-parish system. His shrine attracted huge numbers of pilgrims until its destruction in 1802.

Holy Trinity

St Elizabeth of Hungary's stunning window is in the south aisle, directly opposite St Martin's. Her feast day is the 18th of November.

Elizabeth was born in 1207 in Hungary (now Bratislava in Slovakia.) Aged 4 she was moved to the Thuringian court and betrothed to the future Landgrave, Louis IV. They married when she was 14, in 1221, and the marriage seems to have been a happy one. Elizabeth and Louis had 3 children together.

In 1223, Franciscan friars arrived at the court and deeply influenced Elizabeth. She began to live by Franciscan ideals, giving not just her own but some of her husband's wealth to the poor, including some state robes! Louis, himself a pious man, did not object, believing it would bring eternal reward. She was also very active in nursing the sick and injured.

Around that time Konrad von Marburg, priest and later inquisitor, became Elizabeth's confessor, gaining much influence over her.

In 1227 Louis died of fever, en route to join the 6th crusade. Elizabeth was devastated. She took vows of chastity and obedience to Konrad who now had an iron grip over her. He set her impossibly high spiritual aims, harsh diet and even ordered physical beatings. She continued to give away her wealth, founded a hospital at Marburg, and tended the sick.

All of this took its inevitable toll and Elizabeth died in 1231, aged just 24. She was canonized by Pope Gregory IX just four years later.

Ian Anderson

Prayer Diary November

Sun 1 All Saints
2 Mon All Souls, Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed
3 Tue Richard Hooker, Priest and Teacher of the Faith, 1660, that our faith be grounded in a harmony of faith and intellect
4 Wed for a just peace in the Middle East
5 Thu for all our Emergency Services
6 Fri for all those forced to leave their homes
7 Sat Willibrord, Bishop and Missionary, 739, that we have courage to speak truth to power

Sun 8 Remembrance Sunday
9 Mon George Hay Forbes, Priest, 1875, for the Scottish Episcopal Institute
10 Tue Leo the Great, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, 461, for those involved in the discernment of our new Bishop
11 Wed Martin of Tours, c397, for all who will go to bed cold and hungry this night
12 Thu Machar, Bishop, c600, for our Primus Mark
13 Fri for acceptance of the neurodivergent
14 Sat for refugees everywhere

Sun 15 Pentecost 25
16 Mon Margaret of Scotland, Queen of Scots, 1093, that our leaders temper their power with humility
17 Tue Hugh of Lincoln, 1200, for our Jewish friends
18 Wed Fergus, Bishop, c750, for all who fear the growing darkness
19 Thu Hilda of Whitby, Abbess, 680, for Christian Unity
20 Fri for a just peace in Ukraine
21 Sat Columbánus, Bishop, 615, for all who minister at Holy Trinity

Prayer Diary November

Sun 22 Christ the King
23 Mon Clement of Rome, Bishop and Martyr, c100, for all our Bishops in the Episcopal Church
24 Tue Lucy Menzies, Scholar and Mystic, 1954, that we value the spiritual worth of wild places
25 Wed Cecilia, Martyr, c230, for all who make music in our church
26 Thu for Startup Stirling and its work
27 Fri for all who work in our nighttime economy
28 Sat for all who have the care of children

Sun 29 Advent 1
30 Mon St Andrew, Apostle, Patron Saint of Scotland, that we bring light to others

Rotas for November 2026

READINGS	INTERCESSIONS	SIDESDUTY
Sunday 1st		
A Pont	R Nellist	S Goss & R Campbell
Sunday 8th		
C Johnston	A Shaw	C Watson & C Kendall
Sunday 15th		
N Jorgensen	A Pont	A Lees & R Nellist
Sunday 22nd		
W Wheeler	D Brown	L Coats & J Wheeler
Sunday 29th		
G Lamb	T Mitchell	J & N Morris

Services & Readings for November

Sunday 1st **ALL SAINTS**	8.30am 10.30am Readings	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist Revelation 7.9-17; 1 John 3.1-3; Matthew 5.1-12
Monday 2nd **ALL SOULS**	6.30 pm Readings	Sung Eucharist Wisdom 3.1-9; 1 Peter 1.3-9; John 6.37-40
Thursday 5th	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 8th **Remembrance Sunday**	10.30am Readings	Sung Eucharist Wisdom 6.12-16; 1 Thess 4.13-18 Matthew 25.1-13
Thursday 12th	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 15th **PENTECOST 25**	10.30am Readings	Sung Eucharist Zephaniah 1.7, 12-18; 1 Thess 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-30
Thursday 19th	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd **CHRIST THE KING**	10.30am Readings	Sung Eucharist Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1.15-23; Matthew 25.31-46
Thursday 26th	11am	Holy Communion
Saturday 28th	6.30pm	Advent Vigil
Sunday 29th **ADVENT 1**	10.30am Readings	Sung Eucharist Isaiah 64.1-9; 1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-37

"If you can't feed a hundred people, feed just one." Mother Teresa

Life Changing...Changing Lives

Hello! My name is Tom Vicente Fogden and I'm currently in S6 at Stirling High School. I'm an active member of Scouting and I also enjoy the outdoors.

Some of you may remember me as I attended Holy Trinity until Covid. I have been selected to participate in Project Trust, a charity (based in Coll) which provides education to underprivileged people in South America, Asia and Africa.

I'll be going to Peru for 12 months to teach English, and I'm really looking forward to giving back to communities while gaining new skills. As a charity, there is fundraising involved, and in order to get there I need to raise £7500.

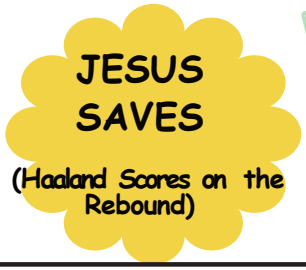
I've already made a great start with bake sales, fun days for Cubs and from charitable trusts, but I still have a long way to go. In order to reach my target I'll be hosting a Curry and Quiz night (13th November), a ceilidh (tbc) and attending various craft fairs.

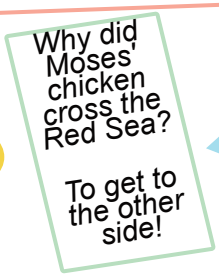
My amazing grandmother (Helen Piper) has generously offered to organize a mince pie and mulled wine event (13th Dec) at the church, where I'll also sell homemade crafts and baking.

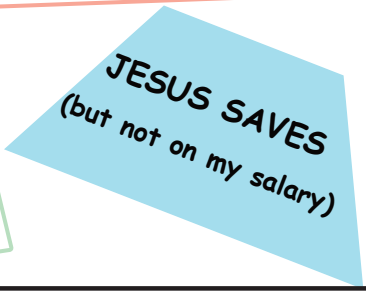
The event will be completely donation only, and I'd love for you all to come, even just to chat about what I hope to be doing in Peru or the valuable work Project Trust does.

"What is the difference between a religious fundamentalist and a kleptomaniac?
The fundamentalist takes things literally,
while the kleptomaniac takes things, literally"

Veni, Vidi, Vici
I came, I saw, I conquered (Julius Caesar)
Veni, Vidi, Sermonem Oblitus Sum
I came, I saw, I forgot the sermon (The Preacher)







Notices

HT Prayer Tree

The Prayer Tree situated at the back of the 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.

Fire Evacuation Procedure

The updated Fire Evacuation Procedure is available on the noticeboards in both the main church building and the hall. Please familiarise yourself with these. If you have any questions please speak to Mary Kenyon.

HT Groups

on the 5th November
at 11.30am & 7pm:
A Bible Study on the Beatitudes

Editorial Matters

would like to record a great big thank you to Libby for her tremendous help in handing over the editorship. Thanks also to the Magazine Team for their warm welcome and support.

Please give me your feedback and any suggestions either directly or via email at revian@hotmail.co.uk.

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"The time is always right, to do the right thing."
Dr Martin Luther King Jr

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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

10-12noon 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 hallbooking@holytrinitystirling.org

Our Services

Thursday

11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion
(First Sunday of the Month)

10.30am Sung Eucharist

We have toys, pens/paper and books in church to keep toddlers and children entertained (and those bringing them along).

HTKidZ for ages 4-16 meets according to demand. Contact Gen Pont for further information: gandapont@yahoo.co.uk

Additional Services in November

2nd November (All Souls)
6.30pm Sung Eucharist

28th November
6.30pm Advent Vigil

Open inclusive inspiring
friendly deep