

Tranent Parish Church

Contact



Photo: Laurie Brett

Autumn 2015

www.tranentparishchurch.co.uk

Church Services

In Tranent Parish Church

Sunday Morning Service is in the Church at 11 am. Children are welcome to join in at the beginning of the service before leaving for their own activities in the J-Club. However, on the second Sunday of each month there is an all-age services which is very interactive to encourage children to stay in for the whole hour, and the minister uses British Sign Language as well as English to make the services accessible to Deaf people and Sign Language users.

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday in February, May and September and the first Sunday of Advent (29th November, this year)

In Elphinstone

The children's Church Club meets at lunchtime every Wednesday during term time in the school.

In Windygoul PS

The 'Awesome' Church Club meets every Thursday lunchtime during term time.

Messy Church

There is a 'Messy Church' on the last Sunday of the month from 4.30pm to 6pm in the Church Hall during term time. It's open to all ages and includes crafts, songs, games, food and celebration for children and adults together.

In Tranent Care Home

Off Coal Neuk at 2:30pm on the third Sunday of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

In Crookston Care Home & Day Centre

Sanderson's Wynd. Services usually take place on the first Sunday of the month at 6.30pm. Check the website for dates.

In Loch Square Complex

In the ground floor lounge at 2.30 pm on the third Thursdays of May and September. Other Tranent churches take services in other months.

Communion is celebrated twice per year at each of the Care Homes. The next dates are: Crookston on Sunday 4th Oct at 6.30pm; Tranent Care Home on Sunday 18th Oct at 2.30pm; and Loch Square on Thurs 19 Nov at 2.30pm

Prayer Group

There is a prayer group meeting at 7 Edinburgh Road, Tranent, (Edith Roberts' house) at 8.00 am every Saturday.

Other dates

Harvest Thanksgiving Service- 11th October

Remembrance Sunday - 8th November - Service in the church at 11:30 following a commemoration at the war memorial

Sermon Recordings

Unable to get to church? Want to listen to the sermon? Now you can.

We have started making recordings available on the website; look on the "services" page.

If you don't have access to the internet it might be possible to give you a CD and in the future recording the whole service and even including video might happen.

Speak to Laurie if you are interested.

From the Editors

The next edition will come out before Christmas and contributions should be with us by Tuesday 1st December.

Robin and Sheila

From our Minister



Dear Friends,

As I write this, the scenes from this morning's news are still very much in my mind. Desperate men, women and children of all ages huddled together at borders, hoping for the chance to reach a place of safety, away from war and danger. It's clear that this global crisis is very much on the hearts and minds of our congregation here in Tranent Parish too: at the first of our all-age services after the summer, we asked everyone to write a prayer and the overwhelming majority of those prayers were for Syria and refugees.

At the same service, we reflected on how Jesus brought a child into the centre of his group of disciples, put his arms around that child and spoke about welcoming children in His name. A child (especially in those days) represented someone who was without power or status or wealth: someone helpless and in need of protection. Jesus' compassion surely challenges all of us to ask: how can we welcome those who are powerless? When our familiar, comfortable lives are threatened, do we put up barriers to keep people out, like the countries that are closing their borders to refugees? While that reaction might be understandable, our Bible, from the first days of the tribes of Israel to the times of the early church, calls us to show hospitality to others: read *Leviticus 19:34* and *Hebrews 12:2* for example.

East Lothian is apparently gearing up to help (did you see the article "County opens its arms to refugees" in the *Courier* on 11th September?) and while the level of support each of us can offer will vary, we can all ask ourselves what we are doing to welcome *anyone* in our community who may feel like an outsider. Even a friendly smile or a "hello" can make such a difference to someone's day, as I know myself, having moved to Tranent just nine months ago and been so impressed by the friendliness of the people here.

As the mornings get chillier and weather forecasters give us their usual dire predictions of freezing conditions to come, how will we radiate the warmth of God's love in our community?

God bless,

Erica

Church Family

You may have noticed that these announcements have been missing from the previous couple of Contacts. We have now caught up and will try to keep you up to date in future magazines.

Baptisms:

Marion McCrudden (adult baptism) 15 Feb 2015

Douglas Findlay (adult baptism) 8 March 2015

Reuben Marc Jolly (child baptism) 19 April 2015

John James McVay (child baptism) 31 May 2015

Ruby Jean McVay (child baptism) 31 May 2015

Marriages:

John and Nicola Frew, Saturday 12 Sept 2015 in Tranent Parish Church

Deaths of church members:

Mrs Isabella Scott, c/o Tranent Care Home - passed away on Sat 25 April 2015

Mrs Margaret Aitchison, 10 Gateside Ave, Haddington - passed away on Thurs 4 June 2015

Mrs Edith Wilkie, 9 Muirpark Court, Tranent - passed away on 28 June 2015, age 101 (she was our oldest member at that time)

Mr James Ross, 85 Blawearie Rd, Tranent - passed away on Tues 7 July 2015

Mr Adam Robertson, c/o Crookston Care Home - passed away on Mon 14 Sept 2015

Oldest church member: Edith Wilkie

Having just reached the grand age of one hundred and one in June this year, Edith was probably our oldest member at the time. She passed away on June 28th and leaves her daughter Linda and a grand daughter Arlene both of whom she was extremely proud of.



As her Elder I knew Edith for around 20 years, during which time I became increasingly in awe of her incredibly sharp mind and amazing memory. I was frequently astonished that she remembered things I had told her on previous visits, many of which I had completely forgotten myself - and this in a lady of great age.

Edith was a genuinely kind and interesting person to talk to, able to give valuable opinions on all kinds of issues, but always self-deprecating and humble. She seldom complained and never had a bad word to say of anyone. She was always very appreciative of my visits and those of members of the church care team.

Edith will be sadly missed but admirably remembered by all who knew her.

Laurie Brett

Beadle

On the back page there is still a gap where the Beadle's details should be. We are still looking for a replacement for the irreplaceable Billy. Could it be you? Baking cakes isn't actually part of the remit.

Speak to one of the elders if you want to know more.



This appeared in Contact 6 months ago, but we have been asked to repeat the appeal. It would be great if you were able to step up and help.

Sign Language: Poetry in Motion

Hands flying,
Fingers whistling intricate melodies in the vibrant air.
Faces animated by myriad emotions,
Bodies expressive,
Flowing,
And yet controlled in a space,
Like dancers in an invisible Tardis,
Where hands can move through time:
Long ago, in the future, growing up, going on, forever ...

Every depth, height, breadth of human experience
Is here,
Woven into poetry,
Painted in the air
For all to see:
Such a wonderful,
Beautiful language.

By Erica Wishart - Written on 20.9.03 and published in the book 'Images in Time'.

Reproduced here in celebration of the passing of the British Sign Language (Scotland) Bill on 17th September 2015. This Bill protects BSL as a language in its own right in Scotland, like Gaelic, and will hopefully lead to a more inclusive society for Deaf people and those for whom BSL is their first or only language. BSL is used at home by more than 12,500 people in Scotland, a full and expressive language with regional variations and dialects.

T.P.C. GARDENING TEAM



Following on from the success of our Gardening Party on 1st August at the Church Halls, we now have a list of people who are keen to meet up in the church hall garden from time to time and keep it tidy - a great result! So do have a look at the garden if you're passing to see how much neater it looks. Some new plants, flowers and trees are taking shape too.

Windygoul Primary School have asked if anyone at our church would like to help them occasionally in their garden, which would be a brilliant opportunity to strengthen the links between the church and the school, so hopefully some of our Gardening Team can help with that too.

Ann Harris has kindly agreed to co-ordinate the Gardening Team so if you haven't signed up yet but would like to (or know someone who might enjoy it - they don't need to ever come to church!) then please contact Ann by telephone or by email ([annharris12 .at. hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annharris12.at.hotmail.co.uk)).

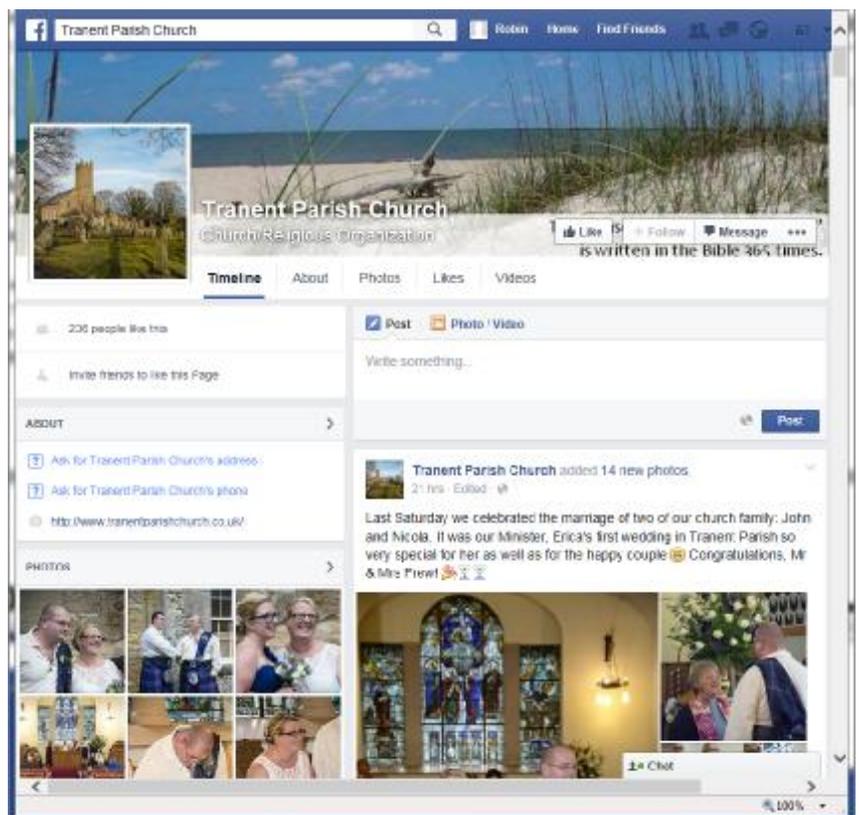
Facebook

When the church's Facebook page was launched in the spring we hoped that we might get to 100 "likes" but we are now delighted that we have got almost two and a half times that number of people liking our pages and some of the pages have been seen by over 800 .

Erica knows of people turning up at Sunday services purely because they had seen a post on Facebook about what we would be doing on the Sunday morning and decided it sounded like fun so they came.

Contact is published four times a year and is printed in black and white to keep costs down (although the version on the web site does have colour). The Facebook pages are updated much more often and include many photographs of recent activities. There have been features on, for example, the Garden(ing) party, the Holiday Club, APOGI, the Church BBQ, Nicola and John's wedding as well as trailers for forthcoming services.

I know that some people are frightened of Facebook and have no wish to get involved or to share any personal information but you don't have to worry. The Church's page is open for anyone to view; there is no need to sign in.



Just go to www.facebook.com/tranentparishchurch and see what has been happening.



Roofbreakers:

Opening up church to disabled people

Do you think church should be more inclusive? Do you want services that support everyone and worship that values those with disabilities?

Then please come along to our Roofbreaker Network meetings.

Tea/coffee and cakes are provided!



Next meeting:

**Saturday 3 October 2015, 2.30 pm – 5.00pm
Buccleuch & Greyfriars Free Church of Scotland,**

10 West Crosscauseway, Edinburgh EH8 8JP

Presentation Topics:

Including people with profound and multiple disabilities - Stephen Price

Life and faith with Spina Bifida - Mairi Gordon and Craig Millward

Updates on what's happening in our local churches

Contact: Claire Wilson the@wislons.fastmail.co.uk

Square Wholes is part of Central: Jesus at the Heart - SC005871;

Roofbreakers is affiliated to Through the Roof Charitable Trust Ltd, a UK



Through the roof

J-CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

If you have the misfortune to be a football addict you will know that the summer break is the time when clubs rebuild their squad for the new season with fresh signings. (If you are not enthralled by this "sport" then this won't mean much to you but bear with it...).

The J-Club has been also been rearranging itself over the summer. With Debbie stepping up to the Manager's dugout and Kathleen retiring, we need two new leaders to join John, our veteran journeyman returning for another season, in the squad. (*That's enough football metaphors - Ed.*) We are pleased to report two of our Church family have stepped up to the plate. (*No baseball metaphors either - Ed.*)

They are Melanie McVay, mother of John and Ruby, and Karen Johnston, mother of Kate and Jack, as parents of regular J-Clubbers, and previously helpers, they are already very familiar with the work of J-Club. Both are already learning on the job with the invaluable support of Debbie. There is of course a formal procedure to be followed; but we hope that this will be completed smoothly and we will be able to officially confirm them in their new roles soon. Melanie has also very kindly offered to take on the key task of doing the photocopying of the teaching materials in advance of Sunday and organizing the Rota. These are two big jobs so we are really grateful for this. We have also had expression of interest from members thinking about becoming helpers.

One point to make here the terms, "leaders" and "helpers" are purely for administrative purposes. This is so that everyone knows what their tasks are, but we are a team and there is no hierarchy. We are servants of the Lord and all have valuable jobs to do.

In the world at large, service is looked down on a bit. The big summer hit at the cinema, and a favourite of many the children in J-Club/Holiday Club (and a cult classic at YF), was the "Minions" film. Despite the massive popularity of the cartoon characters, the term itself is considered a bit

of a put down. While the cute yellow guys are loveable no one would want to have "minion" on their CV.

For those of you unfamiliar with them, the little dudes spent their lives working, not always successfully, at the bidding of a super-villain. The irony in this is that originally villain meant a serf who did his master's bidding i.e. a minion. It later became a term for a wrongdoer. Other terms for servants such as blackguards are now also insults.

Those are the world's values not the Church's.

In serving Jesus we put aside pride and humble ourselves. No job is beneath us. No-one is greater than another. None of us should think I do job X which is better than job Y. Forgive the cliché, but, there is no "I "in team.

To return to football for a minute; yes, fans dream that their club may one day afford to sign Lionel Messi when in truth they can barely afford someone on a "free" from Brechin- disappointment is all part of the "fun". When you sign up to play for the Lord's team though you will always be on the winning side.

THE J-CLUB TEAM

Tranent Parish Church Guild



The strategy for the coming year is "Be Bold Be Strong"
and the theme "Go in Peace".

Our new session starts on Tuesday 6th October at 2.00 in the Church.

The Rev Erica Wishart, will be our first speaker. As before we are trying to include members who are unable to access the upper hall in the Church hall by having some of the meetings in the Church. As well as trying to encourage new members to join us, we do want to include those who have served the guild well in the past.

The syllabus for the coming year is varied and I hope will interest many people. We have local authors coming to speak to us, entertainment at the Christmas meeting from ladies from Port Seton, information on the talking newspaper and other speakers on many different topics.

Once the syllabus has been finished I shall put it on the notice boards in the church and hall.

This year it is Tranent Guild's turn to host the MacMillan coffee morning which we are having on the 17th October in the Church Hall from 10.00-12.00. Please come and support it.

As I said the first meeting is on the 6th of October in the church, the second is on the 20th October in the hall at 7.15pm. I am unable to be at the first meeting but the ladies of the Guild will be so happy to meet any new people that would like to join or indeed just come for a visit.

For Guild week on the 17th of November in the Church hall at 2.00pm we invite past members and visitors to an afternoon of entertainment. This year Bill Wishart has agreed to come entertain and we are looking forward to this very much as Bill is well known for his sense of fun and humour and he also can sing.

Although originally just for women, the Guild is open to men as well. Will you be the first man to step through the doors? Please have a think about it and as I have said, come for a visit especially if there is anything on the syllabus that may interest you. We do not bite, we really enjoy having visitors, and are renowned for being very welcoming and who knows it may encourage the start of a men's guild or group.

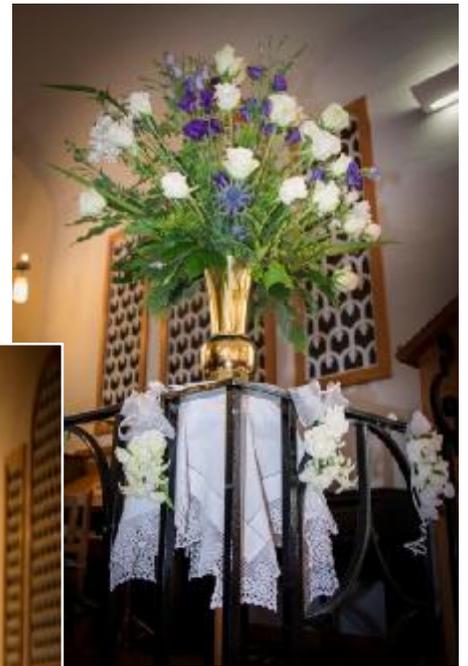
So looking forward to seeing new faces as well as our regular members.

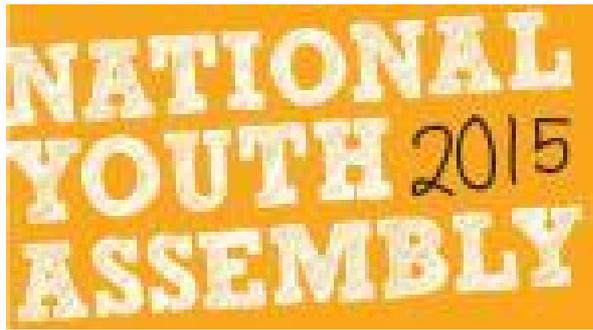
Kathleen Gilmer, President.

John and Nicola Frew's Wedding

On 12th September Erica officiated at her first wedding at Tranent, and indeed the first here for a while.

We should like to thank John and Nicola for allowing us to include some of their photographs and we wish them all best in their life together.





As some of you will be aware, this year Connor represented our church at the National Youth Assembly held on the weekend of the 14th - 17th of August at Gartmore House in the beautiful surrounding of Lock Lomond and the Trossachs national park.

Before this year I had never heard of the Youth Assembly so as you can imagine I was elated to have the opportunity to attend a forum where the voices of the younger members of the Church can be voiced and heard.

This year's assembly was based around four main topics: the Westminster confession of faith, Climate change, the General Assembly and child exploitation, all of which had exciting debates and discussions.

Our discussions around the Westminster confession centred on its contents, its modernity and whether or not we should change it. After a brief talk about what the confession was, what it contained and how it was created we broke off into our smaller groups and discussed various things including what we would do to change it to make it work in a more modern and religiously diverse society. After writing down our thoughts the moderator and the clerk collated the best

ones and we started the debate. The debate was fantastic; here we analysed, discussed and changed the statements from whether we should use the word father or creator with regards to the trinity also the two statements I put forward. *"we believe that the holy bible is the inspired word of the living god and is the fundamental source of our beliefs"* and *"we believe the word of god as it appears in the bible is open to interpretation and that a diversity of faithful interpretations can exist together"* were voted in to the document without issue, which I am pretty proud of. After hours of discussion the document was passed and the aim is to take the document to the main Assembly in May to highlight the beliefs of the Youth Assembly.

Our discussions regarding climate change were based around our own thoughts about what the church on a local and national level could do to tackle climate change. Many

good points were raised including whether we as a church should withdraw money from our investments in nuclear energy (and it was passed that we wish to urge the church to gradually disinvest). The point I raised was that all churches should conduct a climate change report for all its property in order to document how each church will help tackle climate change no matter its limitations for example listed building status. This was unanimously passed and the minister in charge of the eco - congregations' initiative was very impressed with this idea and the NYA aim to take this idea to the main assembly also. Again a very proud moment.

Our discussions surrounding the General Assembly (the main moderator was present for this as it was one of his aims of his tenure) were focused on how it could be modernised, perhaps moved around the country and made more eco-friendly and save money. It was decided that NYA would move to get rid of the "blue book" in favour of an app or charge for a printed copy, a good idea which the moderator of the main assembly was very pleased with and is hoping to take forward. It was also decided that in order to save money and to make it more open to the public

the GA should be made smaller and therefore moved around the country either to other major cities such as Inverness or Glasgow or on a presbytery rotation, another idea the moderator was very interested to hear more about and he and I had a great discussion about it as it was I who brought it up in the main discussion.

Our final main discussion was on the very hard topic of child exploitation. This was a very difficult topic and it was focused around two areas: modern slavery and education for those who can't access it. It was then that former Prime Minister Gordon Brown came to talk to us about the charity he works for which aims to get education to all children in the world's poorest of areas. He gave a fantastic speech and encouraged us all to get involved which I hope to do.

This was an absolutely fantastic opportunity for me and I would like to thank the congregational board, the Kirk session and Erica for allowing me to go and I hope that they will allow me to do so again in the future.

The next step for me is to try and gain the nomination for Lothian Presbytery youth representative at the General Assembly next May in order to sit on the panel that

will ensure that the thoughts, ideas and messages from the Youth Assembly are passed on to the wider church and assembly.

Thank you once again
Connor MacFadyen

It wiznae me

Hall users are reminded of the importance of looking after the facilities; keeping everything clean and tidy, switching off lights, securing external doors, etc. If do you find anything amiss when you arrive, make sure it is entered in the book or you may find yourselves being held responsible.

School Links

Links with all of the schools in the parish (Ross High, Sanderson's Wynd Mainstream and The Hub, Windygoul and Elphinstone) are being strengthened and Debbie and Erica are excited to have so many school assemblies and school visits to our church coming up between now and Easter.

Christmas will be a particularly busy time!

Blythswood Care 2015 Shoe Box Appeal



This year we are once more supporting the appeal and will be collecting shoeboxes in the church. There are details in the gathering area and at the website www.blythswood.org where you can watch this year's video "What a Box Can Mean".

3rd Tranent Rainbows

Rainbows started back at the end of August with two new girls joining us.

So far, we have enjoyed making pancakes, playing bingo and playing lots of games.

We had a very exciting weekend in the middle of September when a lot of our girls and Leaders were invited to attend the 40th birthday celebrations of Allison Cargill House in Whittingehame. Two of our Rainbows attended a sleepover on the Friday night, our Young Leader camped on the Saturday night and five girls and two Leaders attended one of the festival events on the Sunday.

They all had a fantastic time taking part in different activities and they met lots of other girls from around the county.

We are starting a new Rainbow Roundabout this term and will be working towards the Roundabout Seasons badge.



Wendy Waldie
Rainbow Leader

We are sorry that there are no reports from the other youth organisations. They and we have been too busy to write or collect them but hope to have full reports in the next "Contact". - Ed

Jo Jingles are one of the regular users of our church hall and we are very grateful for the contribution they make. We asked them to tell us about what goes on...



Jo Jingles Music & Movement classes have been running in East Lothian for 8 years now. We pride ourselves on our quality sessions, introducing structure, routine and learning through fun. We currently run around 30 classes per week in the East Lothian & Borders area with weekly sessions in private nurseries too. We have 5 classes a week in Tranent on Monday, Thursday & Friday mornings, these are enjoyed by all our under 5's, we have babies to pre-schoolers all jingling, the grown ups love it too! Babies under 6 months and baby siblings under 18 months don't even pay for our weekly classes (just a £3 insurance fee per term).

We have weekly themes to enhance learning, numbers, colours, animals etc and also run the same format with familiar songs to start and end each week to build confidence in the little ones. Our classes enhance speech, memory & listening skills all through fun activities with our great selection of props, bubbles, parachutes, pompoms, scarves etc which are different each week. We also have 2 instruments per week (all children have the same so no squabbling, thought the pink maracas often cause a problem!!!) These include drums, cymbals, bells, tambourines, maracas etc. The children love guessing what's in the box each week!

We always welcome new faces and it's a great place for children and adults to make new friends. We offer a free taster session at all our classes so visit our website www.jojingles.com/elothianandborders for more details or to book a place.

Your Contacts



Minister Rev Erica Wishart 704071
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erica@tranentparishchurch.co.uk

Session Clerk Mrs Wilma Hannah
8 Polson Gardens, Tranent 612897
wilma@tranentparishchurch.co.uk

Treasurer Mrs Kathleen Gilmer

Roll Keeper Dr Linda Ingham

Clerk to the Congregational Board & Deputy Session Clerk Mr John Greig

Freewill Offering and Gift Aid Convener Dr Linda Ingham

Beadle Position Vacant - Interested?

Organist Mrs Doreen Mack

Family & Youth Development Worker
Debbie Middlemass

Editors of Contact Robin and Sheila Strain

For contact details see the Contacts page of the website

Your elder _____



Tranent Parish Church
Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity Number SCO17423