

Tranent Parish Church

Contact



Photo: Laurie Brett

Autumn 2016

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 will be celebrated on the 27th November 2016 and 5th March, 4th June and 3rd September 2017.

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 2:30 pm 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 6.30 pm. They stopped for the summer and resumed on 7th August.

In Loch Square Complex

In the ground floor lounge at 2.30 pm on the third Thursday of May and first Thursday in December.

Communion is celebrated twice per year at each of the Care Homes. The next dates are: Crookston on Sunday 2nd October at 6.30 pm; Tranent Care Home on Sunday 16th October at 2.30 pm; and Loch Square on Thurs 1st December at 2.30 pm.

Prayer Group

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

From the Editors

Contributions for the Winter edition should be with us by Monday 6th December.

Robin and Sheila

Facebook

Have you visited our Facebook page recently?

You might be surprised!



www.facebook.com/tranentparishchurch/

From our Minister



Dear Friends,

It's such a joy to live in East Lothian at any time of year - I never get tired of the amazing views over the Forth and the many beautiful walks around this area - but harvest time is particularly special. This year it seems to have just suddenly crept up on us: we pass a field waving with golden wheat one day and the next day there are neat haystacks dotted around. We don't necessarily see all the labour that goes on to move from one state to the other: but we see the results.

In the same way, we have all been working very hard to build up God's kingdom here in Tranent and we do see results: new people attending church, some exciting new initiatives and a greater involvement in our schools and community.

Very soon (25th Sept) we'll celebrate harvest in our morning service and we'll be singing an old favourite, "Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves, We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves..." We can certainly rejoice in the growth we're experiencing! At the same time, we need to recognise our dependence on God for all good things. A more modern song we'll be learning goes "It takes an almighty hand to make your garden grow". If we place our hand in God's, He will lead us forward into new, greener pastures.

God bless,
Erica.

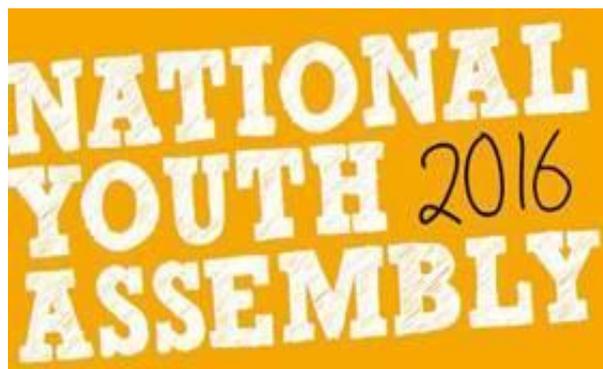
National Youth Assembly

Once again this year I attended the National Youth Assembly of the Church of Scotland. For those of you who do not know, the National Youth Assembly is the forum for which the 16 - 25 age group of the church carries out its aims and objectives many of which are set at the preceding assembly, very much along the lines of the General Assembly.

Last year's assembly was very much set about the idea of changing the attitude of the Church of Scotland as a whole and one body towards its young people and the need for that change. This year's assembly however was aimed at the individual and what makes up that individual and how do we dispense the myths about the youth of the church.

This was discussed and actioned through three discussion points. gender justice, mental health and the future of ministry.

This started on the Saturday with the gender justice discussions. As expected this was a very fraught discussion and mainly surrounded the issues of women (including the issue pertaining to female elders and ministers in the highlands) and non-binary individuals (those who do not identify as either male or female), the balance of delegates at the youth assembly (30% men,



69% women, 1% other) and how the attitudes towards these members of society need to change, not only within the CoS but within the country. What was evident was that even the delegates discussing these topics were very uneducated on such a hugely important topic that isn't actively taught in our education system, the point I made to the assembly therefore was the need to educate church members by using the networks such as the Guild and the Boys Brigade as well as creating learning materials that should be more advertised to the whole of the church rather than a select few.

On the Sunday after a fantastic service about the need for a revolution in the church from Rev Elaine MacRae at Gartmore parish church we all headed back with a renewed sense of purpose. We went on to discuss the topic which has already been projected from out moderator to the larger church; Mental Health. Mental health is a huge issue in our

society especially in the area of men's mental health which is an often overlooked margin of society. Scotland has the worst mental health statistics in the UK especially amongst young men and it has been proven to be that this is due to our "brush it under the carpet" mentality when it comes to emotions. This is going to be a topic that is very much at the centre of this year's youth representatives' agenda and to bring the findings to the general assembly this year.

Our final discussion topic which comes up every year, is the future of ministry in the CoS. When speaking to the other delegates it becomes obvious that it is a very clear and present danger in the minds of many of us that we fear for the future of the church. In our group discussions we had a very deep conversation where one person said that they were very much prepared to shut their church doors for the last time, in the not too distant future. What needs to be done is clear, we need to diversify all aspects of the church, all the societies and committees and departments or we will reach a point where we have disengaged so many young people that they won't come back.

It is fact that we lose the most of our young people as they go to university, but if we use them when we have them it means they will stay. This will mean the ministers we have and will have in the future will not be so run off their feet that they need time off, as their remits will inevitably expand as the numbers of ministers continue to drop.

The discussion topics this year were divisive and many, including church officials, didn't like it, but actually the majority of the delegates enjoyed it because we were discussing the topics that are too often "brushed under the carpet" and it has very much set the ball rolling in the youth representatives agenda this year. I will be very much taking part in this as each year 18 delegates are elected to the youth assembly and they go on to represent the youth on various boards and committees whilst working on other projects. I was luckily enough this year to be elected on to this body so I will be working very closely with the upper departments of the church to enact much needed change. So you haven't heard the last from me.

Connor MacFadyen

Tranent Parish Church Guild



The sad news is that one of our longest serving members, Margaret Cornwall, passed away. This has left a large gap in our ranks and indeed our hearts. Margaret has served the Guild faithfully for over fifty years. She was an example of a true Christian who did so much for others. This was often shown by her faith and the work she put into action and help for under privileged people. She usually lead from the front but could also be found in the background rallying people to help.



So we have a big task ahead of us to ensure that her commitment continues.



We really do hope that we will have new members join us.

This year our new session starts on the Fourth Tuesday of October in the Church Hall at 7.15 p.m. We decided to return to our previous pattern of meetings by having them in the Church hall in the evenings. The syllabus will be put on the church web site and on the notice board in the church.

Our first speaker is our Minister Rev Erica Wishart who will speak on the theme for this year "Go In Joy". We have a varied syllabus and hope that it will be enjoyed by all.

We have speakers from Gideon's International, Blythswood, Street Pastors and others that will share their experiences of travel, faith or indeed life itself.

We really do hope that we will have new members join us and share in the fellowship of our group.

We do plan to mark the commitment that some of members have given to the Guild as a whole and hope to do this in November during Guild Week.

Our usual entertainment for past members and also friends is planned for Tuesday 15th November in the Church hall in the afternoon so please come and join us.

I am looking forward to old and new members joining us ,so please come along.

Kathleen Gilmer, President, Tranent Guild.

J-CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

One of Erica's innovations since becoming our Minister is to give a "shout out" (I think that's what the young people call it those days) for people's Birthdays. A bit of a double-edged sword for those of who stopped counting years ago, or at the very least started using Base 15 arithmetic because it doesn't look so bad (e.g. 53 becomes 38.)

No cake, candles or party-poppers but the J-Club shot past its 14th birthday this year. If it were a person she/he would be starting S3 and worrying about National 4s and 5s. Pedants may point out it wasn't the J-Club for all this time, as this name was adopted during its journey. In response I say; if, for example, your parents land you with a name like Tallulah Does The Hula From Hawaii and as soon as you are old enough to change it to something sensible, like Gladys, you do so; your age is still 16.

As we start up again for our 15th year, having just come back from our Summer break, the momentum we built up over those years is still carrying us forward. We have only been back a few weeks and already we are delighted to have a candidate come forward to join the team as another leader - more on this next issue. We will then give you the "deets" (I think this is something else the young people are saying.) 14 years ago the J-Club was an only child; now of course it shares space with Messy Church, Awesome, Wednesday Church Club, YF, 4th Friday and the Holiday Clubs. We may have started as a team of around half a dozen working in isolation but, like the mustard seed in the parable, we have grown in to a strong plant with many branches. Branches that intertwined, most of us involved with one of those ventures are involved with at least one other. It has also been great to watch the progression of the children. Today's J-Clubbers are tomorrow's YF and the day after's 4th Friday and potential Church leaders of the future.

They are also the Holiday Club's youth helpers to be. This year especially the epic week in August, with such fun based round the S.U's "Guardians of Ancora" phone-app game, would not have happened without them. Their Reward? To get splatted with cream; in the interest of S.U. fundraising. Sorry, Kate. Ansgar and Stephen. It was also really lovely to welcome back an old friend of the J-Club, Angela Jack. She came to join us on a 2

day visit and had the red T-shirt back on like old times.

In Bible times at the age of 14 you would be considered already grown up. After all Jesus was teaching in the Temple and debating with the religious leaders aged 12.

The J-Club has grown a lot in that time, God willing may the next years see it do even more so.

Blessing to you all.
YOUR HUMBLE SCRIBE
(aged 110101 in binary)
on behalf of the J-CLUB.

The Church Barbeque

Erica is keen to emphasise that the church is not a building - it is the people who fill the building There was an excellent turn out of the church and other friends, young and old at the bbq held at the manse in the summer. Thanks to Erica, Bill and family all had a great time and were well fed!



News from Messy Church

We are just back after the summer break, but the families recently enjoyed the adventures of Paul from Acts. The Messy in Elphinstone is going from strength to strength with several families making it a date in their diaries!



Tranent Holiday Club - Guardians of Ancorra



What a club! Averaging 30 children each day, and a fantastic team who weren't afraid to come out of their comfort zone! (Thank you for joining in with the songs and actions!) During our family afternoon the majority of the families stayed for lunch (thank you to everyone who provided so well for us), games, arts and crafts. It was lovely to see relationships building and God's Word being shared.



School Lunch Time Clubs

Both Windygoul and Elphinstone lunch clubs are back after the summer break. We have welcomed several new P3's at Windygoul as well as P1 children at Elphinstone. The team are looking forward to sharing the stories of the New Testament with the children over the coming weeks.

Debbie Middlemass
Family & Youth Development Worker

Blythswood Care

Once again we are supporting the Christmas shoebox appeal. Last year the contribution was a small part of the total of 116,576 shoeboxes (approximately 10% more than 2014).



The shoeboxes received last year were distributed in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

This year one of the boxes will be the 2,000,000th gathered and distributed. Could it be one from TPC?

More details from

<http://www.blythswood.org/shoebox-appeal>

Puffins

On a photographic trip at the end of July, I visited the Isle of May - that elongated strip of land which is at the entrance to the Firth of Forth. The easiest way to get there is from Anstruther; a boat trip takes about 40 minutes. One of the joys of retirement is being able to choose the perfect day for such outings, and having checked the 'Countryfile' weather forecast on Sunday evening, I booked a boat trip on the Tuesday, which was looking like being perfect weather. And indeed so it transpired - thanks to the Met Office - a lovely hot sunny day, the sea 'flat calm', which suits my somewhat delicate stomach (I'm not a good sailor).

I was able to spend two and a half hours observing and photographing a number of bird species - Arctic Terns, Guillemots, Razorbills and that most iconic of seabirds - the Puffin. Late July is ideal for Puffins because



at this time their chicks have hatched and the parents are busy collecting Sand Eels (their staple diet) to feed to their young. Puffins have a fascinating adaptation to their bill, which enables it to open in a parallel fashion so that the fish nearest the bird's jaw is not squashed while holding those fish further towards the tip of the bill. You'll see that there is a small orange/yellow umm... device at the inner end of the bill, which stretches to facilitate this.

It got me into thinking about our ability - or lack of it - to deal with several issues (or 'fish') at once. At the risk of being labelled 'sexist', Men, as opposed to women are generally known to be less able to multi-task and I'm a prime example. But in multi-tasking are we at risk of lacking in focus on the things or thing that is most important? If you look at the majority of experts or geniuses in any field of life, you tend to find that such people are incredibly single minded and focussed on their chosen subject - often at the expense of other factors in their life - such as their own appearance and friends and family.

It's sometimes very difficult but we should be careful when attempting to deal with all the stresses and issues of life not to lose focus on the most important thing - our love for God and for our fellow man.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,
Please equip us - like the Puffin - to
deal with multiple issues when we
really must, but help us to keep
focussed on the most important
things in our life - You must always
come first and others around us next
- ourselves last. Keep us from the
'look after number one' mentality,
that we may show others Your love in the way that we deal with them.
Amen



Laurie Brett

You are Never Alone

Tripping over my own feet
Slurring a hello to folks that I
meet
Stinking of alcohol
That was my life, my all
So I thought

Destined to slowly decay
Crying the nights away
My mind like a pickled onion
My life was all but done

Alcoholism hurts all around
Nowhere is joy found
Hearts break down everywhere
It is all too much to bear

Crawling, fighting through the myre
Screaming, living in hell's fire
Not wanting to live a minute longer
As these feelings grow stronger

Then, at the last gasp, with nothing
left
God comes into the heart that's
bereft
Pulls us from that iniquity
Brings us back to dignity.

Catherine Findlay

Music and Magic

Tranent Parish Church
Presents, in aid of Crossreach:

**Music and Magic
with Bill Wishart
and Friends**

Featuring:

Bill's Ministry
of Magic

The Clark
Community Choir

And

Yo Stooshie

Friday 14th October 2016 at 7.00pm
(Doors open at 6.45pm)
Tranent Parish Church
Chrch Street, Tranent
Tickets £5 (kids go free)
All proceeds to **CROSS REACH**

For those of you who missed them in Longniddry - and those who want another chance to work out how the tricks are done and enjoy the music, we have another special night coming up in the church on the 14th October. It should be another fantastic night and all proceeds go to the Church of Scotland's Social Care Arm, Crossreach. Tickets are only £5 (including refreshments) and children go free. Tickets will be on sale Sunday mornings at church or (if there are any left) at the door on the night.

The Rev Alec Miller Stained Glass Window

Several years ago we included some articles about the windows at the front of the church and we have been asked to write about the one on the south side through which the light can stream on sunny mornings.

The Rev Miller was minister of Tranent from 1953 until 1985, overseeing the merger of Tranent Old with Tranent Wishart-St Andrews to form the Tranent Parish Church we have today.

From the Order of Service for the
Dedication of the Window on
Sunday 6th August 1989

The Theme:

The main theme is derived from the Biblical quotation "Suffer the little children to come unto Me" depicting the deceased's love of children and his popularity with all of them. The design incorporates the symbols Alpha and Omega meaning the beginning and the end, the Elements used in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and two doves, one ascending representing the Resurrection and the other the Holy Spirit coming down to the people. The many and varied interests of his active life are included, with a quotation from the works of Robert Burns, the Rotary motto "Service before Self", the Boys' Brigade crest, the cricketing reference to his love of the sport and as a reference to his mission work in Nigeria, a mosquito tells of the need for him to return to Scotland suffering from malaria.

The Designer:

The Window has been designed by Sax Shaw who was Head of the Stained Glass Department of the Edinburgh College of Art. He also taught Architecture and his service in the Edinburgh College extended over 35 years. He also holds distinctions from London and Paris for his work.



Colour?

Can you see the vibrant colours in the picture of the window and all the other photographs and pictures in Contact? Not if you are looking at the printed copy from your Elder!

This is a reminder that a full colour version of the magazine is available on the website.

www.tranentparishchurch.co.uk/contactmagazine.html



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Roll Keeper	Dr Linda Ingham	
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
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