

Tranent Parish Church

Contact



Welcome to Tranent Parish Church

Photo: Laurie Brett

Autumn 2021

www.tranentparishchurch.co.uk
www.facebook.com/tranentparishchurch

Church Services

This page of *Contact* usually has a list of all the services in the Care Homes in Tranent. We hope that these will be able to restart soon.

Sunday morning services at 11am are returning towards a version of "normal". Booking is not required but face coverings should be worn



From the Editors

The next edition of *Contact* will be out before Christmas We will let regular contributors know what the next deadline will be nearer the time.

Robin and Sheila

From the Kirk Session

Tranent Parish Church are delighted to announce that Mrs. Katherine Taylor will be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and then inducted as our new Minister on Thursday 28th October at a service in our church at 7.00 p.m. This will be presided over by Rev Dr Robin Hill, the Moderator of Lothian Presbytery.



Katherine has been a member of the Church of Scotland since 1999 at her home church of Duddingston Kirk. She was ordained as an elder in 2005 and also was a Sunday School leader there. In 2011 she was accepted by the Church of Scotland to train as an Ordained Local Minister. In 2016, after completing her training for this; she applied to train as a full-time Minister and studied for a Masters in Divinity at Edinburgh University. After graduating Katherine was a Probationary Minister for a year at Canongate Church then Locum Minister at North Leith Church from where she joins us.

On 28th August the congregation, after hearing her preach, voted overwhelmingly to call her to be our Minister. In the weeks after this 147 people on our roll signed a call to invite her to come to Tranent Parish. She has accepted the call. On 30th September Lothian Presbytery agreed unanimously to uphold our call. A big thank you to all who came to take part in the vote on the 28th August and to all who signed the call. A special thank you to all the Elders who made such a big effort taking the call round their districts to be signed.

We look forward to Katherine joining us and getting to know her. Next issue of Contact she will be telling us more about herself.

We are sure you will give her a warm welcome.

From our Locum Minister

My dear friends at Tranent Parish Church

As your Locum, it is with immense gratitude I write **my** last message to our Contact Magazine.

It has been a privilege to be called to serve as Locum of this congregation. God alone knows how to judge such arrangements, whether they are successful or not, and whether I did my duties in a way which pleased and honoured him. Nevertheless, I hope that we can all see the blessing of God on the Church over this past year. In his grace, Jesus Christ continued to build his Church.

It's deeply humbling to think about the responsibility I had during my time with you. I'm thankful for having been able to play a small part in what God was doing at Tranent during this year. Whatever good has been accomplished is owing to God's kindness and the work of his Spirit. Jesus Christ is still building his church!

As we enter into these final days in our ministry together, we prepare to move forward. I am excited and hopeful for the ministry that Mrs Katherine Taylor will be sharing with you as she begins serving as your Minister from 28th October.

On a personal level, thank you for your friendship, encouragement, and prayers. Thank you for your love. We worked together and navigated through some good times and through some challenges. God will continue to guide the church according to his plan, come what may. I will, however, be holding you and Katherine in my prayers as you step into the future that lies before you. And I ask you to continue to pray for me, for my family.

As I consider what words I want to leave with you, my mind turns to the words of the Prophet Jeremiah, who wrote to the exiles in Babylon as they faced the anxiety of an unknown future, promising that they would one day return to the land of Judah. Jeremiah writes, "I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope." While I don't know what lies ahead, I trust that you will continue to live into the kingdom of God on earth, here in the beautiful East Lothian.

May God bless our Parish and keep you all safe in His Mighty Hands

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

the rains fall soft upon your fields

and until we meet again,

may God hold you in the palm of His hand;

and the blessing the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

Take care, stay safe and Shalom.



Rev Malcolm T Muir

Thought for the Day -

A New Start. "The time has come," he said.

"The kingdom of God is near,

Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1 : 15 NIV

Each day at dawning we have but to pray that all of the mistakes that we made yesterday, will be blotted out and forgiven by grace, for God, in his mercy, will completely efface all that is past, and he'll grant a new start to all who are truly repentant at heart

Greetings from our Interim Moderator

The nights are fair drawing in, as the saying goes. And as I look back on my time as Interim Moderator, I am reminded of how I loved the longer days of summer when we came to Scotland in 2001, but was shocked come October when the time changed and the darkness grew to become equally as long. Everyone had told us about the rain, which I have always said *isnae* that bad when you grew up with tornadoes and hurricanes. But, no one had warned us of the onslaught of the long nights.

Now, this may have seemed like a long year for you, and a long six months for me, but I knew at the end of June when interviews were being conducted, that you'd have much to be thankful for this Harvest time and much to celebrate come Christmas. And, here we are counting the days until your minister-elect is ordained and inducted to the charge of Tranent on 28 October.

The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven, and then goes on to share that wonderfully poetic list of the

many facets of life, which includes many of the experiences some or all of us have been through over the past eighteen months. But we often forget to consider the verses that follow in Ecclesiastes 3:

⁹ What do workers gain from their toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet^[a] no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. ¹² I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. ¹³ That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

For, it is in these few verses we learn about how God responds to the people, and encourages them to find satisfaction in their toil and to mark these beautiful occasions, from which nothing can be added or taken away. And, perhaps, that a good way for us to

think about what's gone on in the World and in the Church in recent months, as we have dwelt in the shadows of death, as well as thrived and even flourished when we thought we would fail or wither away. As I've said many times to the Nominating Committee and the office bearers, yours is a congregation with many committed people who are gifted in serving in different ways, and my hope and prayer is that this supportive congregation will grow from strength to strength despite the strange times we are living in as you share in worship and sacrament, fellowship and service with your new Minister and with one another, that you may be blessed and do good, finding much satisfaction as you look forward

in faith to all that God has in store for Tranent.

In closing, may I say that has been an immense privilege and wonderful pleasure walking alongside you through this journey toward the end of the vacancy and I am very grateful to you all for your support and encouragement. May the Lord bless you and keep you, make his face to shine upon you, and give you peace, through these changing times, and always,

Blessings on you all as you prepare for this new season in the life of Tranent Parish Church, as you remember and give thanks for those you have lost over the past year, and celebrate the new life which is yours in Christ Jesus as you look forward to a new ministry.

Rev Dr Suzie Fletcher
Interim Moderator

Douglas Findlay (1958-2021)

We were saddened to lose one of our most faithful members, Douglas Findlay, aged 63, on 22nd July.

Douglas, loving husband to Catherine, dad to Laura and Euan, and loved by their respective partners Gavin and Erin, was born and brought up in Musselburgh. On leaving school, he completed his apprenticeship as a fitter, but his heart was set on becoming a fireman. He served for almost 30 years, before having to retire due to his hearing impairment. He then set up his own window cleaning business, which he ran until his final illness.



He and Catherine were married by her father at his church in Saltcoats in 1991. Their only home was in Fa'side Ave in Tranent, where he became proud dad to Laura and Euan. Douglas was never showy or pushy, but had a quiet determination and competitiveness. He went to night classes aged 28, gaining Highers in history and English. He played rugby, loved hillwalking, and ran the Edinburgh marathon. He was also a talented artist, becoming treasurer of Musselburgh Art Club: he was determined to attend the club the night before his passing.

Douglas and Catherine were very involved in the church in Tranent for over 20 years: Douglas served in various roles- on the fabric and finance committee, the gardening team, on Bible reading rota, and as one of the beadle team.

He was also a faithful attender at the Saturday morning prayer meeting: to hear him pray was always an encouragement. When the pandemic meant the prayer meeting moved online, Douglas was always one of the first to dial in to the Wednesday Zoom meeting.

Douglas faced his final illness with characteristic courage, honesty and fortitude. His treatment and operations often knocked him back- but each time he got back up. He was immensely proud to support his family

as they completed the Kiltwalk in order to raise funds and awareness for the GUTS charity.

We give God thanks that Douglas has faithfully run his race, and has now entered into his eternal rest at the side of the saviour he loved and served.

MM

A thank you from the Findlays

Catherine, Laura and Euan would like to give a heartfelt thanks to everyone for the kindness and prayers for us and Douglas throughout his illness and on his passing. We are on a new journey with its seesaw of emotions but know your prayers help. Thanks again and God bless.

I've Learned

I've learned ... that everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I've learned ... that no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

I've learned ... that life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've learned ... that opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

I've learned ... that when you harbour bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've learned ... that I wish I could have told my mum that I love her one more time before she passed away.

I've learned ... that I should keep my words both soft and tender, because tomorrow I may have to eat them.

I've learned ... that a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've learned ... that when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.

I've learned ... that everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

I've learned ... that the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

Andy Rooney

Tranent Parish Church Guild



We are looking forward to our meetings starting up on the 12th of October at 1.15 pm in the church hall. This is a new venture having the meetings in the afternoon so we hope this will encourage more people to come.

We have planned a varied syllabus and have speakers from two of the projects that the Guilds are sponsoring this year, one from the Vine Trust, telling us about their project, Kazungu village of Hope and another from the Pioneers who provide employment for chocolate makers, fair prices for local growers, producing and selling delicious chocolate in all the flavours we love.

We also have the Rev Malcolm Muir coming to tell us all about Coll, an island dear to his heart. Margaret Muir, the new convener of the guild nationally will speak at one meeting and Laurie Brett also has agreed to come and show us some of the fantastic pictures that he loves taking.

Along with this we have fun times as well. a film night and games night. Your impression of some of our Guild members may change when you observe the competitiveness apparent in a game of Beetle.

I hope you will consider joining us and enjoy our friendship and fellowship.

Whose we are and Whom we serve.

God Bless

Kathleen Gilmer

President, Tranent Guild.

Church Family

New member

13 Jun 2021 Ronald Green, by profession of faith

Deaths "Nothing can separate us from the Love of God"

Jun 2021 Thomas McNeill

22 July 2021 Douglas Findlay

9 Aug 2021 Anne Melvin

Fabric and Finance

We want to acknowledge thanks to everyone who has continued to support the church financially by continuing with Free Will Offerings and those who have decided to donate by Standing Order. THANK YOU to everyone who has given money over the past year. Money donated through monthly Standing Order assists greatly in planning the finances of the church.

Our income has met the forecast; however, we are assisted this year by the exceptional reduction in Ministry & Mission contribution to Headquarters given to all congregations due to the Covid 19 pandemic which has had a great effect in reducing income to churches.

We expect to have a deficit this year due to some exceptional expenditure associated with the vacancy, necessary decoration to the manse and updating the smoke alarms as required for all homes in Scotland.

We acknowledge that we are blessed with capital reserves and therefore will be able to meet all our commitments this year. Along with everyone else, we are likely to experience rising costs next year and this may present a greater challenge to us, however we are sure you will respond to any challenge this presents.

Church Chuckles : Church-Related Diseases

Frontophobia - A morbid fear of the front few rows in church. The patient is struck by an attack at the church door and collapses into the nearest back seat.

Sermonic throat - A dreaded choking caused by the start of a sermon. The patient unwraps a sweet slowly and noisily which often results in a complete cure.

Double auricular clearance -A condition due to the simultaneous opening of both ear ducts, which allows sound to enter one ear and exit the other without any intermediate absorption. The condition is particularly acute during the preaching of a sermon.

Response paralysis - An infliction which causes a person to remain completely silent when it is announced that a key position in the church needs to be filled.



Your Contacts

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Locum Minister Rev Malcolm T Muir

Session Clerk Mr John Greig
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Treasurer Pamela McGowan

Unitary Team Convenors

Worship & Education Team

Fabric and Finance Team David Menzies

Outreach and Wider World Team

Pastoral Team Jane Pow

Roll Keeper Dr Linda Ingham
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Freewill Offering and Gift Aid Convener Dr Linda Ingham

Family & Youth Development Worker
vacant

Church officer team - contact Wilma Hannah

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Editors of Contact Robin and Sheila Strain

There are more contact details on the website

Your elder _____



Tranent Parish Church
Church of Scotland

Scottish Charity Number SCO17423