

# Tranent Parish Church

# Contact



Welcome to Tranent Parish Church

Photo: Laurie Brett

## Spring 2023

[www.tranentparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.tranentparishchurch.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/tranentparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/tranentparishchurch)

## Church Services

In Tranent Parish Church

The Sunday Morning Service is in the Church at 11am. Children are very welcome. They join in at the start of the service before leaving for their own activities in the J- Club. We also have a crèche for younger children.

Good Friday Service at 7pm on 7<sup>th</sup> April

Easter Service at 11am on Easter Day

Services are held regularly in Tranent Care Home and Crookston Care Home.

## Prayer Groups

There is a weekly prayer group meeting in the Gathering Area of the church at 8.00 am on Saturday mornings. We share a cup of tea or coffee, and it is a great way to start the weekend. All are welcome.

Our monthly online prayer group meets on the last Wednesday evening of each month.

The next edition of Contact will be out in May/June.  
Notices about contributions will be in the church intimations and emailed to regular contributors, but anyone is welcome to send us articles.

Robin and Sheila

## From our Minister

Dear Friends,

As I write, I am looking forward to spending more of our church life together outside. During the cold of December, it was a pleasure to welcome folk into the warm and bright Church Hall on Saturdays for homemade soup and a chat at the Winter Hub. Now, however, we are looking forward to getting new garden benches for folk to spend time in the Church Hall garden which has been revitalised over the last few months. Outdoor Church took place in early February, around the time of Candlemas day. This day used to mark the midpoint of winter and was a festival of lights. Now, it reminds us that Simeon and Anna, in the Temple in Jerusalem in their old age, recognised that the baby Jesus was the light of the world as soon as he was brought to them. In Outdoor



Church, we spent time outside together and visited Polson Park to look for any snowdrops appearing above the ground and all the other signs of the coming Spring.

Looking for signs of new growth in nature is one thing. Can we recognise new light and growth in ourselves, and as a congregation too? I hope that we can, whatever age we are. Over the next two years, we have decided to take part in an initiative called *Growing Young*. We are not doing this alone but with eleven other congregations in the new, larger, grouping of the Presbytery of Lothian and Borders. Our hope is to better include all generations and ages in the life of the congregation. We will make a commitment to putting young people and families first and to encouraging friendship between the generations.

However, the starting point and the most important part of the preparation in all this is not talking or doing but listening. The *Growing Young* team will start off by listening to as many people as possible to hear your views about what is needed for all to feel welcome and included in our congregation. Only after listening, will we make plans which will focus on welcome, friendship, and on Jesus' way of life being at the centre of everything we do.

This is something to look forward to over the coming months. Now, we are getting ready in Lent, to celebrate the gift of new life and light we receive through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We will celebrate together on Easter Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April at the 11 o'clock service in the Church building.

Everyone is welcome.

Every blessing

Katherine



The group at TPC taking this forward are Diane Marshall, Joan Ramsay, Chas Spencer, Lesley Spencer, and Katherine Taylor. Ask them about it.

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## Church Family

### **New members**

Mrs Wilma Raitt

Mr Alexander Smith

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

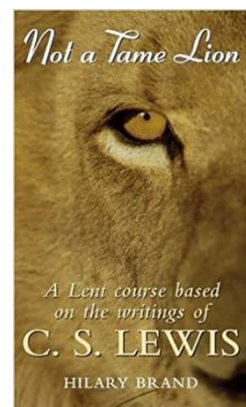
Miss Kathleen (Nita) Fraser     5 January 2023

## Tranent Churches Together at Lent

### "Not a Tame Lion" by Hilary Brand

The course is based on the work of C. S. Lewis and the films *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *Shadowlands*

The course aims to bring ideas from Lewis's writing to a wider contemporary audience. In doing so it looks at issues of suffering, God's absence, the gift of the present moment, as well as a few ideas less well explored in present day Christianity: heaven, judgement, and the force of evil.



It is on six Thursday evenings from 2nd March to 6th April from 7pm until 8.30pm in the Fraser Centre, Tranent.

All are welcome to any of the evenings.

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## Tranent Parish Church Guild



The photograph is a picture from our Christmas lunch we had at the Longniddry Inn on the 20th of December. A most enjoyable afternoon was had by all those present.



For our first meeting in January we had James Elliot who took us through the process of C.P.R [cardiopulmonary resuscitation]. It was very interesting and James had brought a dummy for us to try out the correct way to perform it. He also showed us how a defibrillator could help if needed and one of the ladies tried it out.

Once again we are indebted to Jim Dodds and Ron McPherson for providing music for our next meeting. We all love a singsong and it cheered everyone up.

Our film show in February was once again hosted by Christine Young who treated us to popcorn and sweets whilst we watched Paddington 2. It was a light hearted film that we all really enjoyed and took our minds off all day to day issues

We will be having our first beetle drive for some time at our next meeting after our AGM. If I was to tell you it will be a quiet afternoon calmly throwing a dice and trying to beat your opponents to be the first to build up a picture of a beetle, I am afraid that would not be true. I will let you imagine the volume of sound from the genteel ladies that you know, may, change your mind.

As a part of the Tranent Churches together we will be attending the World Day of Prayer in the Fraser Centre on the 3rd of March at 7.00pm. It is hosted by the Rivers of Fire congregation and the invitation is open to all.

We are having a musical evening in the church on the 25th of April at 7.30 pm and hope as many people as possible will come. The band is one our organist Alan plays in, so we hope that anyone who can manage will come. It is to raise money for our funds with which we can then support the projects that the Guild Nationally supports or any other appeals that may be made to us.

Kathleen Gilmer  
Convenor, Tranent Parish Church Guild

## **Meet the Team**

*This issue the spotlight falls on the Pastoral Care Team, we cannot speak to the Convenor as they have a collective leadership, a sort of workers co-op, so we are speaking the group's administrator who acts as their point of contact and minute secretary.*

**You are part of the Pastoral Care team. Could you introduce them, including yourself to our readership?**

My name is Cath Brett and the rest of the team are Jane Pow, Sandra McIntyre and Dorothy Menzies. More than 15 years ago I joined what was then the "Care Team" which then consisted of its 2 founder members, Jane Pow and Ellen Scott.

**We know what pastoral care means but how does the team put this in to practice?**

We aim to visit members of our congregation who are in need of a visit each week. We normally visit in pairs and try to visit house bound members or those who for various reasons can no longer attend church services.

**Give us an idea of what a typical month for the team may involve.**  
In a typical 4-week month we would likely visit 8 members.

**Do you all find this rewarding?**

What we do has a two-way reward. The feedback we receive from our visits has always been positive. We have been welcomed into the homes of our members and been told how much our visits have been appreciated and enjoyed but we also enjoy our visits and feel humbled and privileged to spend quality time chatting and laughing together sharing memories and experiences.

**Do you need any more volunteers?**

Being part of the team is extremely rewarding and we would welcome anyone wishing to join us to express their interest to Katherine, our minister, or to any team member.

**We understand you rely on referrals from Elders and others. If anyone reading this knows someone in the congregation who may appreciate the team's service or perhaps may wish this themselves how do they get in touch?**

If anyone reading this knows of someone who might benefit from a visit, for whatever reason, then please pass their contact details to any member of our team.

**How does your team contribute to the church's mission and why is this important?**

We pride ourselves in Tranent Parish Church as being one big family caring for each other and the needs of each one of us, and strive to make everyone feel welcome and loved.



## A Personal Reflection

Being a believer in God and reaping the benefits when He saved me from alcoholism and helps me now to help others on their journey to recovery, does not mean I have a rosy life. Anything but. We as Christians go through troubles just as non believers, however we have Comfort in knowing we can ask God for help. Even as a Christian we don't always find that easy as after all we are only human. I've come across folk wondering why I struggle in my grief when I call myself a believer. In truth I'm just a normal person who hurts, laughs, has fun just as others do, and just as others do we have to push away the negative thoughts and find our way out of it, and mine is comfort in my Heavenly Father. I suffer anxiety and depression more so since losing my husband and my mum and so have dips in mood regularly. I am lifted up out of it by many prayers of others and the worship songs I love and hear from Christian friends and their songs come from their own experiences. I've not managed to write any poetry but it will come I'm sure.

Please, my friends who are struggling at the moment, take heart from seeing other folks' journeys and hold on to God's perfect love. He will let you go so far but will pull you back to Him. I know, as I have been there many times and these last few years have been the worst. I cannot retain Scripture verses to recall to help someone as my drinking has cost me that but I can pray and that is to me the most important Gift God gives us.

Catherine Findlay

# Tranent Church Eco Action Group



Since our first article we have had a very successful engagement with Windygoul Primary School who participated in a litter pick around the school area with some people from the church. It is hoped that this will become a monthly event.

Too busy to look  
at the camera!



By the time you read this, there will have been a litter pick around the church environs which, it is hoped, will be as equally successful.



Yes, it happened.  
What a lot of  
rubbish!

Linda Ingham (lindaingham@outlook.com) shared what she is doing with "Morsbags". These are bags made from fabric such as old curtains, duvet covers, tablecloths etc. The aim here is two fold. Firstly to reduce the impact of the massive number of plastic bags, 1 million of which are consumed per minute globally, with hundreds of thousands ending up in the oceans, and also, by using fabrics like this, the amount which ends up in landfill is much reduced. If you would like to help her with fabric, or indeed to make morsbags, please email her. More information on Morsbags is also available at <http://www.morsbags.com>

As I write this, it is still very much winter. however, when it is published, you may well be thinking of what you can plant in your garden. Murdo McDonald shared this with us.

Wildflower Oddballs (300 balls) A bulk bag of wildflower oddballs!! Each 300g bag (approx 300 balls) contains a random selection of all of our wildflower Seedball varieties in all manner of shapes and sizes, and rarely a perfect ball - but they will work just as perfectly! Great for creating larger wildflower patches, each bag will cover an area of approximately 15-18 m<sup>2</sup>.

These are ideal for rewilding your garden and are RHS approved for pollinators, ie. bee friendly amongst others. To find out more, just go to <https://seedball.co.uk/product/oddballs-300g/> We used something similar last year and it was well worth it. While on the subject of gardening, please remember that dandelions are usually the first pollen rich flowers of the season, please don't destroy, the bees need them.

Last, but by no means least, we are now collecting your used blister packs and milk bottle tops. Blister packs are difficult to separate and generally go into general waste, however, Superdrug pharmacies in Stirling and Glenrothes take them for recycling. We will add ours to those of another church who has someone who goes regularly to Stirling. Milk bottle tops go to raise funds for Borders General Hospital.

Please remember to send me (revann@sky.com 07857525439) any eco hints, tips or items of interest please. I have really appreciated Linda and Murdo sharing.

Ann Allison



# Your Contacts

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Your elder \_\_\_\_\_



**Tranent Parish Church**  
**Church of Scotland**

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