

# Tranent Parish Church

# Contact



Photo: Laurie Brett

## Spring 2016

[www.tranentparishchurch.co.uk](http://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.

## **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. 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 November. 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 1<sup>st</sup> May at 6.30 pm; Tranent Care Home on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30 pm; and Loch Square on Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> May 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. (Not in December)

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## **Church Open Day.**

**Date** 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016. (Saturday).

**Time** 11 am - 3 pm

**Place** The Church.

### **What's on ?**

It is your chance to see the riches of historical records and artefacts held by Tranent Parish Church. Four tables themed accordingly; Baptism, Communion, Marriage and Remembrance. Each will be filled with books, photos and items of interest. Come and see Baptismal records, Communion Rolls, Wedding Banns records. Are there names you know? See also for example 18th Century Communion tokens and other "treasure in the attic" recently discovered. There will also be an exhibition on our current activities.

Free entry. Teas will be served through the day and members of the Church will be there to answer your questions. Drop in any time during opening hours.

## From our Minister



Dear Friends,

As we've been journeying together through Lent, we seem to have been thinking and talking a lot about growth: apt for now, as we smile at the sight of Spring flowers popping up everywhere!

With the congregation having voted to move to a Unitary Constitution, we hope and pray to see growth in our church and in our witness to the community as our Congregational Board gives way to a team structure: more about that in the next issue.

Last Sunday we reflected on the challenging parable of the fig tree (Luke 13: 1-9) and asked: will we allow Jesus to 'dig around' in our lives and shower us with care so that we grow into all that we are destined to be? Change and growth can be uncomfortable! Yet there's a warning within this parable: none of us know what's around the next corner, so wouldn't it be wise to make or deepen a relationship with Christ now? During Lent, will we pledge to make the most of every minute and live "life in all its fullness"?

How will we know if we are growing spiritually? One way is to ask God to show us which 'fruits of the Spirit' we have or lack (see Galatians 5). We've had some laughs in church learning them by using actual fruits which start with the same letter: lemon of love; juniper berry of joy; peach of peace; pineapple of patience; kiwi of kindness; grapes of goodness (not wrath!); fig of faithfulness; honeydew melon of humility; strawberry of self-control. Which fruits would you like to have more of this Lent?

God bless,  
Erica.



# Lent and Holy Week Events and Services

**Lenten Bible Study:** Every Tuesday evening until 22 March from 7 pm to 9 pm in the Salvation Army, Tranent. This year our Bible studies are based on a book called 'Fit for Purpose', which is helping us to look at our spiritual health. N.B. YOU DON'T NEED TO COME EVERY WEEK TO ATTEND! They are usually led by Erica & James and will include worship, discussion, fellowship, home-baking and lots of fun!

**Good Friday services with Tranent Churches Together:** on 25<sup>th</sup> March there will be a quiet, meditative service at Cockenzie Methodist Church at 10 am to which all are welcome. **Silent Witness:** at 11.30 am we will gather at Tranent Parish Church, ready to walk up the hill to the town centre, carrying a large wooden cross, and we will stand around the cross in silent witness from 12 noon until 1 pm. Anyone is welcome to join us at any point on the journey but please remember, we will walk and stand in complete silence. Once in a circle beside the 'Massacre of Tranent' statue, we will take turns holding the cross. If you wish to hold the cross you simply tap the person holding it on the shoulder and then swap places with them. At 1pm we will walk back down the hill and there will be sandwiches & hot cross buns, tea & coffee served at Tranent Parish Church. **At 2 pm we will hold our Good Friday service,** finishing around 3pm.



## From the Editors

The next edition will come out before the summer and contributions should be with us by Tuesday 7th June.

Robin and Sheila

# General Assembly 2016 - Youth Representative

Connor MacFadyen, the face behind Tranent Parish Church's Facebook page, will become the face of the Presbytery of Lothian in May as its Youth Representative to the General Assembly 2016. A member of our Church for several years, Connor (21) is also a Scout Leader and in August 2015 he attended the Church of Scotland Youth Assembly at Gartmore House, Stirlingshire, as a delegate. His day job is in an insurance company in Edinburgh.

At the General Assembly, which runs from 21 to 27 May this year at the Assembly Hall on The Mound, Connor will take part in debates and vote on amendments and motions.

We asked Connor what he felt were the important issues facing the Church today.....

*"I think that in today's society, where religion (no matter what country you're in) is oppressed and is becoming a taboo subject, ecumenical work should be a major focus, not only within Christian denominations but with all religions, to show unity and strength against those who want to oppress people of faith. I also believe that the church should fight a bit more to keep religious education in schools and to make sure that channels are available for children and young people to explore the Christian faith."*

.....and what he was most looking forward to.....

*"I'm looking forward greatly to the debates, especially that on the Columba Declaration (ecumenical agreement with the Church of England) but the opportunity to be vocal about a whole range of issue at the national level sounds like great fun. I enjoyed it a lot at the Youth Assembly last year."*



Connor in front of the  
Assembly Hall

Watch this space for news of how things went!

# Tranent Parish Church Guild



At the start of the year, we have had as was mentioned in the last Contact, a speaker from the Talking Newspaper, Leslie Hannaford, one of the original members. He was detailed in his presentation and outlined how beneficial this service had been to those who are housebound, either on a short term basis or have a long term disability.

On the 19th of January we had the Clark community choir entertain us in the church. Some members of the guild are members and it was good to see them in a different setting. The enthusiasm with which the choir performed was a delight to see and hear. Members of the audience participated enthusiastically as well. We were treated to a preview of a couple of songs that they intend to sing on their visit to France in April. We hope they all enjoy this visit and come back with lots of lovely memories.

To date we had had one of the Countryside Rangers, Richard English, and this gave us a rare insight to the variety of his job.

The next few meetings we will have Sandra Marshall, who mans the Fairtrade stall in the church, to tell us more about what this involves. Then another night of entertainment from a group called Serenade. We have had these four ladies come to our meeting before and we are looking forward to this very much. Again if anyone would like to join us please come. Church Hall 7.15 pm on 1st March.

Another interesting meeting scheduled for the 15th of March, in the Church hall at 7.15pm is the East Lothian Storyteller, Tim Porteous. Tim writes weekly in the Courier and I am sure he will be very interesting.

Again I would like to repeat that if there is any of our meetings that may interest you please come and join us.

Kathleen Gilmer, President.

# The Unitary Constitution

## Background Information

For some months now the Kirk Session have been discussing and debating the issue of our constitution and considering whether Tranent Parish Church should change from the current Model form of Constitution to the Unitary form. Many churches have moved to a Unitary structure over the past few years because it is more streamlined and is similar to the team-based approach now used in many workplaces. It is also the structure used for Presbytery and General Assembly.

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016, Tranent Parish Church Kirk Session decided to propose to the congregation that we adopt the Unitary Constitution. At the special Congregational Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016, the congregation voted unanimously (60-0) to support this proposal. This result will now be sent to Presbytery and as long as they agree with this decision, Tranent Parish Church will change to a Unitary structure sometime this year, hopefully after the summer.

Under the Unitary Constitution, the Session would exist as before but the Board would be replaced by four teams: Worship & Education (including Safeguarding); Outreach & Communication; Pastoral; and Fabric and Finance. Current Board members have nearly all chosen (provisionally) to join one of these proposed teams, along with Elders.

Under this system, people choose a team in which their gifts and talents will be best used and they can focus on the subject which most interests them, rather than having to spend time in a large meeting discussing a whole range of topics. Teams meet every two months, on the same night, in the church: the reason for this is to allow networking; one team can check or consult with another before they come to an agreement. Teams discuss their particular remit, make plans and proposals and submit these to Session for approval. As is already the case, anyone can attend a Session meeting and someone who has knowledge or experience in a particular area may be asked to contribute. Session needs to approve major decisions but each team has its own budget and is able to get on with the work outlined in their specific remit.

Each team is led by a Convener, an Elder, who, in consultation with all the team members, prepares a report for Session and responds to any questions or comments at Session meetings. Since reports must be submitted in advance and elders come to Session with questions and comments already prepared, this system has been proven to result in shorter Session meetings. Team meetings are usually shorter than Board meetings since there are 4 or 5 people rather than 25 and the topics being discussed are focused on one area.

Teams plan, manage and make decisions but they do not have to carry out all the work: they can approach members of the congregation to help them as required. Members of the congregation who have relevant skills may be asked (with Session's approval) if they would like to join a team ... but please note, people do not have to be on a team in order to help out: for example, some people might be asked by the Outreach Team to help with teas or coffees for one specific event. This would not require them to actually join the team and go to meetings! This is already the case under our current Constitution (e.g. people who help with catering or Bible readings or Messy Church do not have to be on the Board).

We realize that the transition from Model to Unitary is a significant change and it will be important to keep reviewing and adapting. The Elders & Board members will need time to settle in before considering any new team members but over time, teams/ Conveners/ the schedule of meetings may well change. Members of teams would only be expected to serve for 2 years and then they may serve for a further 2 years if they wish. In this way, we hope to keep things fresh. Watch this space!

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## Church accounts

On the next two pages there is a version of the accounts which may be clearer than the full version which will be presented at the General Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March. If there is anything you would like more information about please contact me.

Kathleen Gilmer, Treasurer

**Tranent Parish Church - Church of Scotland**

**Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st December 2015**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2015 £	Restricted Funds 2015 £	Endowment Funds 2015 £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
<b>Receipts</b>						
Gifts and Donations	3	51,328	1,536	0	52,864	55,652
Legacies/other	4	0	0	0	0	4,603
Fund Raising activities	5	0	1,592	0	1,592	1,779
Bank & Deposit Interest	6	7	2	30	39	39
Investment Income	7	3,799		0	3,799	3,743
Rents/donations for premises	8	6,300		0	6,300	4,365
Other receipts	9	279	280	0	559	1,723
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>61,713</b>	<b>3,410</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>65,153</b>	<b>71,904</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Cost of generating funds		91	0		91	129
Charitable Activities		58,962	5,732	0	64,694	80,389
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>59,053</b>	<b>5,732</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>64,785</b>	<b>80,518</b>

**Excess or Shortfall of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers**

	2,660	-2,322.00	30	368	-8,164
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**Excess or Reduction of Receipts over Payments for the year**

	2,660	-2,322.00	30	368	-8,164
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Tranent Parish Church	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2015	Total
<b>Bank &amp; Deposit Balances</b>	<b>01/01/2015</b>	14,232	1,804	29,581	45,618	54,231
movement in year		2,660	-2,322	30	368	-8,614
Bank and deposit bals. c/ fwd		<b>16,892</b>	<b>-518</b>	<b>29,611</b>	<b>45,985</b>	<b>45,618</b>

Tranent Parish Church	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2015 £	Restricted Funds 2015 £	Endowment Funds 2015 £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
<b>Statement of Balances</b>						
At 31st December 2015						
<b>Bank &amp; Deposit Balances</b>						
Congregational Account						
R.B.S, Tranent No 2 Cheque account		0				
R.B.S. Tranent High interest dep. acc.		17,085			17,085	16,213
					-	
Church of Scotland Guild			507		507	686
Hastie Fund				29,610	29,610	29,581
<b>Bank Deposit &amp; Balances</b>		<b>17,085</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>29,610</b>	<b>47,202</b>	<b>46,480</b>

<b>Liabilities</b>						
Less unpaid cheques Congregational account		-1,217			-1,217	-862
		<b>15,868</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>29,610</b>	<b>45,985</b>	<b>45,618</b>

There are no other significant liabilities at year end.

**Total**

<b>Investments</b>	11	market value	2015	2014
C of S. General Investment Growth Fund				
22,152 units @ £ 4.34 each			96,140	95,032
C.of S. Consolidated Fabric Fund Capital 4758 units @ £1.35			6,423	6,328
Deposit Fund			39,761	48,864
Deposit Fund. General Congregationl Purposes			14,600	14,600
Revenue			6,660	6,060
			<b>163,584</b>	<b>170,884</b>

**Assets**

Tranent Parish Church Hall.  
 Float held by Flower Fund convenor and Pastoral  
 Care Team £75.00

The accounts were approved by the Kirk Session and Financial Board  
 For and on behalf of the Kirk Session And Financial Board at ASM on Sunday 20th March 2016.

Session Clerk

Treasurer

**1 Trustee Remuneration and Related Transactions**

During the year 2 Trustees received reimbursement for services provided.

**2 Movement of Funds**

	At 31 Dec. 2014 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	At 31 Dec. 2015 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Congregational Account	14,232	61,713	-53,753	-7,030	15,161
A Fabric Fund	0		-5,298	5,298	0
	<b>14,232</b>	<b>61,713</b>	<b>-59,051</b>	<b>-1,732</b>	<b>15,161</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
D Flower Fund	608	155	-358	0	404
E Minister's Fund	302	125	-125	0	302
F Charity Fund	0	1,491	-1,491	0	0
C C of S Guild Account (inc. Cash)	686	651	-830	0	507
B Elphinstone Church club	0			0	0
I holiday club/youth worker work	210	988	-2,929	1,732	0
	<b>1,805</b>	<b>3,409</b>	<b>-5,733</b>	<b>1,732</b>	<b>1,213</b>
<b>Endowment funds</b>					
G Hastie Fund	29,580	30			29,610
	<b>29,581</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29,610</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>45,618</b>	<b>65,151</b>	<b>-64,784</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45,985</b>

**The General Nature of the Congregation's various Funds.**

The Congregational Account is used for handling the finances of the general ongoing work of the congregation and is used both to receive and expend money that is not otherwise appropriate for the designated funds listed below.

**Purposes of the Designated Funds**

- A Fabric Fund: The Trustees have set aside funds for the maintenance of Church Property. Income for this fund derives mainly from the Congregational Account and from monies held in the Central Fabric Fund.
- B Elphinstone: This was for the purpose of maintaining a Sunday school in the village of Elphinstone. This has now changed see note B above. It was moved to Congregational account then to investments and is contributing to work done by Youth workers to run lunch club and Holiday club in village.
- C C of S Guild Account: This is the official record of the money transactions of the organisation

**Purposes of Restricted Funds**

- D Flower Fund: This is a fund to provide flowers for display during the church service. Income for this fund derives from specified donations, and from the Congregational Account if required. This fund is now shared with the Pastoral care team who visit housebound members
- E Minister's Fund: This is a fund financed by designated gifts only to be used at the sole discretion of the minister to give practical assistance in situations of pastoral need. Income for this fund derives purely from specified donations.
- F Charity Fund: This is an account designed to handle moneys gather on behalf of and passed on to third parties.
- I Holiday Club/Youth Worker work  
These funds have been amalgamated due to the work done by Youth Worker. This is to support families and young people in Tranent area by developing a children's holiday programme through a partnership with local churches and Scripture Union Scotland. To provide a place for children, families and young people to explore God through Christian led Bible based activities.

**Purposes of Endowment Funds**

- G The Hastie Fund: This is a fund, started in the 1830s, intended to give enterprising people in the (then somewhat extended) Parish of Tranent loans at advantageous rates to start up in businesses. The Kirk Session are the legal trustees.

## J-CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

Everything has to start somewhere; including years. This year, I can exclusively reveal, started with January (Oh, you already knew that). As month it doesn't get a good press. Who was it, rather unfairly, suggested that the Yuletide season without the festivities would be like being stuck in January? (*Reader's Voice: "That was you in the last issue of Contact"*). On the upside it is associated with chances to start afresh. Many people use it to make resolutions, which are usually, like a local bridge, broken by the Forth. (Yes, I know it's been fixed - artistic licence.)

For the J-Club it was definitely a case of beginning a new venture rather than Winter gloom. The way the Calendar fell meant that after we had the excitement of the Nativity Play (weren't the children brilliant, by the way - stars all of them) we were in to the holiday-period break which ended in time for the All-age Service. It was, therefore, the 17<sup>th</sup> before we were open for business. This extended time off had given us ample opportunity to prepare; so it was up and away right away. In the schedule for the first 3 months is following the path away from Christmas to Easter through the key points of Jesus life and teaching.

At time of writing we are 60 days in to 2016, it is the last day of February. In our time so far this year we have learned about Jesus' baptism and the revelation of his destiny, the (angry) reaction of his own people when he preached this to them while reading Isaiah's prophecy, Then the further revelation of his divine nature through the Transfiguration.

We have also studied teaching on growth as a follower of Jesus and being given a second chance via the parable of the fig tree. In between was Souper Sunday where a pot-plant illustrated the parable of the sower. The Children were taught why, in order to grow in faith, his word has to take root in you. Furthermore, why everybody matters to God and why we help people we have never met. Saving the best for last was the use of pancakes as a teaching aid on the first Sunday after Shrove Tuesday. Here we explored forgiveness, why we need it, and why Easter means we can receive it.

Sacrifice, Growth and Forgiveness are three of the main themes of Lent which we are now well in to. The modern world is increasingly adopting the idea of giving things up in the early months for non-religious reasons. Knowing that many people have made resolutions; we are bombarded by ads for gym memberships, slimming plans, anti-nicotine patches and charity "Dryathlons". Knowing also that most folk will have faltered come February; the internet is awash with suggestions of a 101 different stuff to give up and tips on restraining yourself over the next 40 days. These are not aimed at people of faith following a pilgrimage; but the general populace purely in the name of self-improvement. Then in March the BHF wants us to give up chocolate (No way Jose-my choccy bar will only be prised from my cold dead hand!)

In a sense this is good. It is a sign that the world recognizes that self-control and discipline are part of the development of physical and psychological well-being. It also makes for better efficiency. For example; if I had more discipline I wouldn't be writing this on the day before the deadline-as you may have worked out from the earlier reference to it being Leap Day (Hence 60 not 59 days.)

In the Church through making sacrifices or ridding ourselves of unhelpful aspects of our lives as an imitation of and a response to Christ's sacrifice we are growing spiritually and in faith too.

Have a good Easter may God Bless you richly.

THE J-CLUB TEAM

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## Facebook

Have you visited our Facebook page recently?

You might be surprised!

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



## Community Organisations

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Tranent Rainbows

We have 14 Rainbows at the moment with one leaving to go to Brownies after the Easter holidays.



The girls have had a busy time over the last few weeks with crafts, baking, making mini pizzas and playing lots of games.

We have started work on a Mexico badge which is good fun. We have had a Promise party for 3 Rainbows and we're looking forward to an end of term trip to the Caprice in Musselburgh.

Wendy Waldie  
Rainbow Leader

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### 1<sup>st</sup> Tranent Scout Group



Once again this year our Group are collecting Sainsbury's Active School vouchers so if you are shopping or filling up the car please pass your vouchers on to Connor so that we can get ourselves some new games equipment. Thank you



This term we have started off with Liz Wilson our DC presenting 8 of our Beavers with their Bronze awards which is the highest award in Beavers. The Beavers have worked very hard to gain all badges that qualify for the Bronze award and is a fantastic achievement for them all.

Beavers celebrated Burns night with some haggis, neeps and tatties along with some Scottish songs, tartan designing and some saltire biscuits - very busy Beavers!

We have also started our global challenge badge and have had a visit from the Fair Trade Team so we could learn more about fair trade and how we can help now and for the future.

In a few weeks we are heading to Bonaly for a sleepover with a Harry Potter theme and Beavers are very much looking forward to it!

Elaine Thomson  
Beaver Leader



This term is a short one but we've packed plenty in. The Cubs welcomed one of our parents to take them through the Emergency Aid Stage Two Badge. We have also enjoyed eating a bit too much this term. Making soup and learning about food groups for our Chefs Badge and of course pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. Swimming at the Loch Centre gave swimming stage badges to all which is a fantastic achievement, well done. We are completing various experiments for our Scientist Badge, some worked out, and some did not (the orange clock!). To complete the term we are going to be looking at our Book Reader's Badge which will involve searching the atlas, encyclopaedias and a dictionary along with reading and writing about 5 books we have read. We will be visiting the fire station also and will be having a joint Cub/Scout Easter egg hunt at Butterdean Woods

Julie and Connor  
Cub Leaders



Scouts have been really busy this year we now stand with 19 Scouts and 3 Explorers (the older ones 14-18 year olds) Scouts have made pancakes, learnt about Chinese New Year and all about Robert Burns. We have also made camp gadgets and shelters using basic scouting skills. Looking forward to the lighter nights where we can get back up to our allotments we might even get some fruit planted this year. We are looking forward to our camp over the bridge at the end of April as well as our joint Cub/Scout Easter egg hunt at Butterdean Woods at the end of the term. We have secured a pitch on the gala field, if anyone has anything they would be happy to donate to our tombola on the field to try help fund our new tents any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Michelle Martin  
Scout Leader

# Your Contacts



Minister Rev Erica Wishart 704071  
1 Toll House Gardens, Tranent 07503 170173  
[EWishart@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:EWishart@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Session Clerk Mrs Wilma Hannah  
8 Polson Gardens, Tranent 612897  
[wilma@tranentparishchurch.co.uk](mailto: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