

Tranent Parish Church

Contact



Photo: Laurie Brett

Summer 2015

www.tranentparishchurch.co.uk

Church Services

In Tranent Parish Church

Sunday Morning Service is in the Church at 11 am. One Sunday of each month is an all-age family worship in the church.

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday in February, September and November and the second Sunday in May and there is an informal celebration of communion at evening services in the upper room of the Church at 6:30 pm on the same days.

In Elphinstone

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

Messy Church

There is a 'Messy Church' on the last Sunday of the month from 4.30pm to 6pm in the Church Hall.

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. 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.

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

The next edition will come out in the autumn and contributions should be with us by Tuesday 8th September.

Robin and Sheila

From our Minister



Dear Friends,

After a wet and windy May and a less than promising start to June, finally we seem to be having Summer-like weather! Walking or cycling around the Tranent and Elphinstone area, I've been struck by how quickly everything has burst into bloom. One of the wee shortcuts across the fields on my bike, which I'd used a month ago, turned out this week to be unusable as the rough track is now completely covered with undergrowth and the farmer's crops have sprouted. "How did I not notice that happening?" I thought, amazed.

As I 'peched' my way up the hill the long way, I began to see in a new light the Bible text which I'll be preaching on this Sunday. It's from Mark's Gospel and it compares the kingdom of God to a person sowing seed and then getting on with their daily business, while the seed "sprouts and grows, though he does not know how".

Sometimes in the church we get anxious about how to bring about growth and we forget that it's God who gives the growth: our job is just to plant the seeds! Any of us can plant seeds of God's kingdom in simple ways: smile, say or do something kind or encouraging; listen to someone's troubles; offer to pray for them.

The people that Jesus gathered around Him weren't holy or perfect: they were just a motley crew of imperfect people (sound familiar?!) - yet that small group grew in an amazing way and spread across the whole globe. Why? Because when they were "all together in one place", God sent His Spirit to empower them and soon they were all telling people the Good News in words they could understand. In other words, they were united, they focused on planting seeds... and God made His kingdom grow.

Already our local Churches of all denominations are seeing God's Spirit moving as we support each other: we've shared Easter events, a praise night, Bible studies, school chaplaincy and involvement in Tranent Gala Week and there's more in the pipeline! Let's keep looking for ways to get out into the wider community and plant those seeds of faith. And if you can't physically get out, please do the most vital thing - pray!

Let's pray that the light and warmth of God's love will be felt by everyone in our parish, just like the rays of sunshine which we hope will continue in the days and weeks ahead.

Have a great summer!

God bless,

Erica

The Love of a Father

*Your light shines in the darkness
Bringing hope and love
Shining for all the world to see
A hope from above*

*The love of a Father
So precious and true
All people in trouble
See that light and turn to You*

*It may come from another
You helped through a dark time
Who shows Your love to others
And helps them that hill to climb*

*Loving Heavenly Father
Your Light to me did show
And I hope like in me
Your Light in them will grow.*

Catherine Findlay

The Church Elder who was the Father of Modern Physics

The Church of Scotland Society, Religion and Technology (SRT) project, with which I work, has recently highlighted the importance of prayer in the work of the SRT. The work the SRT has done over the years to help the church to engage in difficult ethical issues in relation to science and technology has also helped to highlight the contribution that Christians have made to science.

Legendary scientist and Kirk elder James Clerk Maxwell was born in Edinburgh in June 1831, and was one of Scotland's greatest scientists. His discoveries helped usher in the era of modern physics, laying the foundation for such fields as special relativity and quantum mechanics. His research led to the discovery of radio waves, and he is also credited with creating the world's first colour photograph using a piece of tartan.

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} &= \rho \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} &= 0 \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{E} &= -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{H} &= \mathbf{J} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t}\end{aligned}$$

Maxwell's Equations

(I used to understand this.
Not now. Ed)

An elder of the Church of Scotland, Maxwell was as bold in his approach to his faith as he was to his science. Founding director of the world famous Cavendish Laboratories in Cambridge, Maxwell was also a humorous and warm-hearted man who loved writing poetry.

In a world where it is often thought that science and faith are natural enemies, it's good to be reminded that many of those who were the founders of modern science were committed Christians- people like Isaac Newton, Michael Faraday, Lord Kelvin, Gregor Mendel and Robert Boyle. All saw the hand of God in the world round about them, and sought to use the skills and abilities God gave them in his service.

Similarly, as Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12, we have all been given different gifts and abilities- our responsibility is to use them to glorify God and to serve others.

Murdo Macdonald

J-CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

Now for something slightly different, this page usually features a look back at the last few months; what was good and was not specifically good, what went well and what went not so well (we don't use the word wr**g, that never happens in the J-Club (ahem).) This issue features a look ahead.

At time of writing (the so called "Glorious" First of June - more like the 'sae cauld') the J-Club term 2014-15 is nearly over. It finishes officially at the Family Service the last Sunday in June. Here we will be showing our appreciation to the growing numbers of young people who have made the past year a great success.

The big plus point of the past term has been the expanding cast of helpers. How far we have come over the last decade or so; from the days when the Sunday School team could have met in a phone box. (For the benefit of younger readers a phone box is what we oldies had before mobile phones, they weren't very big - unless it was TARDIS.) Speaking of meetings we are going to take the chance to use the summer break productively by getting together - in plusher surroundings than a phone box - to think ahead for the next season 2015-16. Not only the J-Club but our partner groups: Messy Church and YF - not forgetting Holiday Club.

We have already had our first gathering on May 30th with Erica and Debbie. They took the chance to sit down with as many of the volunteers from all the above groups, as were able to attend, to map out how they envisage us proceeding in the coming months. It was also an opportunity for everyone to chip in ideas for doing things even better and to sort out some of the logistics involved.

One significant change has emerged already for the J-Club. When we come back, we will be following a pre-set plan worked out over the Summer. All involved will, thus, know what is happening each week; well in advance. Furthermore, the theme for each week will be synchronized with the Service so that the young people will be thinking about what was already explored in the "Sharing Together" part.

(Digression-I can remember a Minster writing in "Life and Work" deploring the confusion inflicted on children who may be one minute in Church hearing the Parable of the Good Samaritan, for example, then going out to Sunday School and getting (say) the story of Jonah - meaning they had to take in 2 concepts; so often forgot both. That was at least 20 years ago.)

We will be following the Lectionary as a result. For the uninitiated this is a very useful tool at our disposal - not just because it is a big score at Scrabble, but because it gives a ready-made selection of Bible passages for each Sunday. Of course this will be a bit of a departure for the J-Club as it means we will sometimes be learning ideas and values, not necessarily a Bible story some weeks.

The Bible has mixed things to say about forward planning. On one hand Joseph was given a tip-off in a dream so he could look ahead over 7 years, but there is also the parable of the rich but foolish farmer who forgot that only God knows the future for sure. A reminder to keep in mind the need to discern God's will in any scheme. Let's pray we do this.

Have a great Summer-see you soon.

The Children and Youth Church Team

The Guild

The Guild is on its summer break. Look out for details of next session's activities which start in October.



1st Tranent Scout Group



As a Group we took part in this year's gala with two Scouts being the colour party for the crowning ceremony and the group as a whole took part in the parade after. We have also held our yearly AGM on Tuesday the 9th of June, this was a success with many turning out to support the Group, this has also managed to raise some funds for us. We are also planning on having our end of year group BBQ at Vogrie Park on the 30th of June.



This term Beavers have been working hard planting seeds and growing veg at Ormiston Grows for our gardeners badge. We have been on a very interesting trip to the recycling centre and have been working hard on our musicians badge finishing this with singing 2 new songs at the AGM to entertain the crowd. We are enrolling 4 new Beavers into the colony and we are also looking forward to our cycling evening at Polson Park. New term in August also means new day and time for Beavers as we change to a Friday 6pm till 7pm.

Elaine Thomson Beaver Leader tranentbeavers@icloud.com

Cubs have explored the local history of Tranent going on a History walk, learned how to understand maps, reading symbols and making 3D contours, looked at how to orientate map to compass, made their own map of local area and tried to identify local points on a map with road names blanked out. Who knew how many different places the Church would be put! The last few weeks see us welcome a couple of new faces, complete the collectors badge and attend the Group barbeque, before enjoying a well-earned rest over the summer. Hope it's a great one for all.



Julie Henderson Cub Leader tranentcubs@aol.com



This term Scouts have welcomed two new faces, brand new into Scouting, into the Troop, and also said goodbye to one of our Scouts who is making the transition to Haddington Explorers. This term we have been up at the Muirpark and Steading to view allotments, teaching the Scouts the value of hard work and determination as they have transformed what was basically a field into two working beds to begin planting their tatties. We have also went on a hike to explore the history of the battle of Prestonpans as well as looking at their fitness challenge after which four Scouts achieved their Chief Scout Gold Award (highest award in Scouts) presented by Liz Wilson our District Commissioner. One Scout absent on the night, and from the photo, will be presented with his at our summer camp at Lochgoilhead in August which ten of our Scouts are attending.



Michelle Martin Scout Leader michellehmartin_93@hotmail.co.uk

3rd Tranent Rainbows

We have 16 Rainbows in our unit at the moment with four leaving to join Brownies after the summer holidays.

The girls have enjoyed baking, doing crafts, making cards and gifts for Mother's Day and playing lots of games. We even managed to play in the garden one night when it was warm and sunny!

We are looking forward to going to the Centre Stage Summer Show and to our annual outing to East Links Family Park.



Wendy Waldie Rainbow Leader



The Summer term is always so short due to the holidays, but we still seem to cram so much in.

The girls have enjoyed a trip to Dunbar Leisure pool, completed their Road Safety Badge, a trip to Polson Park as well as craft and activities.

Some of the girls enjoyed a sleepover at Deep Sea World where they had a tour and also slept overnight in the shark tunnel. Not scary like you might think it is actually quite relaxing.



Some of the girls also enjoyed a pack holiday at Netherurd near Peebles, where they shared rooms with other Brownies from the County and participated in lots of indoor and outdoor activities including baking, crafts, a visit from lots of different types of owls, with demonstrations, a talk, and having their pictures taken with them.

We finish off the term next week with a trip to the Caprice in Musselburgh, which the girls all thoroughly enjoy and it's such a pleasant way to finish off the term.

Sadly after 15 years of doing Brownies in Tranent I am finishing this term due to being unable to get to Brownies in time after work.

I have enjoyed my time with the Brownies in Tranent as well as being fortunate to be selected to take Scottish groups to Germany and Australia.

It was also great to have the opportunity to be the lead volunteer organising residential events for over 4000 little Brownies during the centenary and subsequently being appointed the UK residential advisor, despite the long hours, meetings, travelling up and down to London it was well worth it

I have so many wonderful memories and it has been a pleasure to look after the girls, who will be left in the good hands of Beth who is transferring from Macmerry.



Joan Ramsay



The Guides have also been busy. Here are some photographs of their activities.



We have done a range of things in our unit including working towards various badges, cooking meals for parents, walking to Musselburgh and raising some money for the gala.



Three of our girls also obtained their Baden Powell Award



Rebekah Stirton

Your Contacts



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Your elder	_____
	

Tranent Parish Church
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