

Tranent Parish Church

Contact



Photo: Laurie Brett

Summer 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.

Services for limited numbers go ahead in Tranent Parish Church on Sunday mornings. You must book a place in advance by phoning Dorothy. This should normally be done on a Thursday

Unfortunately, the restricted capacity still applies and face coverings must be worn.

Nomination Committee

As everyone will know, the nomination committee has now been appointed and is carrying out its task of discerning the way forward for our church and its ministry.

A huge thank you to those who were nominated to serve on the committee. We received so many nominations that we had to take it to a vote, which does not happen very often. A huge thank you goes also to those that voted in that election; we received an incredibly high turnout.

Please remember the committee and its work in your prayers going forward. Updates will be issued as and when we are able.

Connor MacFadyen

Clerk to the Nominating Committee.

From the Editors

We have not produced a full Contact magazine for some time but we hope that the next one will be back on schedule in the early autumn. We will let regular contributors know what the next deadline will be nearer the time.

Robin and Sheila

From our Locum Minister

Dear Friends,

Welcome to June. As I write this from one of the most beautiful beaches on the Isle of Coll, all looks so much better in the world. The weather has bucked up a bit and the government has started to relax COVID restrictions, with more relaxing to come later this month. Our church here at Tranent has been open for regular Sunday Worship with a pre-recorded service also available. We are also to have a Baptism. We continue to share in a mid-week reflection so do keep an eye on our website and Facebook page.

Pentecost marks the end of the Easter season, and the Birth of the Church. It celebrates the time when the Disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, ready to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ across the world as it says in Acts 1 verse 8: "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." This is still true for us today, we are all called by God to be his witnesses, and we will be exploring God's call to us during this time.

This month of June will of course see in the Summer Solstice and the longest day of the year. At time of writing, there is also the hope that we will also be able to be a little freer with what we are able to do with so much sunlight too!

One major change (unless things have changed massively since I put pen to paper or at least finger tips to keyboard) hugging is no longer illegal. We have been living under so many restrictions that many of us do not even question it when we are told we cannot do something. My mind races when I realise that there are some toddlers who will have never been to the park or to a supermarket or walked around a town without seeing people wearing masks. I can't wait for some sort of normality to return to life, even if that is not the norm from our pre-Covid memory.

In my life before becoming a minister, I have always been a people person and on many a Sunday morning would love to give you ALL a hug. Hugging, cuddling, holding, embracing, snuggling, these are all words that are used to explain the act of throwing one's arms around another and pulling them close. There has been a great deal of scientific research done around the pros and cons of embracing a loved one, and all, with the exception of Covid transmission, have been positive.

Love has always been the driving factor behind my life and ministry and as such it is quite fitting that one passage from scripture that I read more than most is 1 Corinthians 13. Normally, I read the NLT or the NIV translation, as that is the one with which more people are familiar. However, when thinking about the last 12 months or so, I love the way 'The Message' re-imagines the text. It says; 'if I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, jump! And it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.'

The passage goes on to explain what love is and is not, but as we come to the end of this passage, we have a direct and to the point reminder of the infinite power and mystery of Love. The passage continues; 'Love never dies... We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the complete arrives, our incompletes will be cancelled... We don't yet see things clearly. We are squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears, and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us.'

As we slowly emerge from the fog caused by the anxiety around covid infections and the mist is cleared by the sun, we look forward. I look forward to sharing Communion with you on 13 June as we also admit a new member.

I look back to 'The Message' and indeed to 1 Corinthians 13. The passage finishes beautifully, saying; '...but for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.'

So as we have all been saying for some time now "stay safe" remember 'Hands; Face; Space and now Fresh Air'. And may the God of love and peace hold you and those you love, in the palm of his hand, bringing you health, safety and happiness. Equally, I hope that when you feel it is safe to do so, that you can re-experience the joy of holding someone you love close and squeezing tight. As you do, remember that God commands us all to Love EXTRAVAGANTLY!

Every blessing

Your minister and friend



Rev Malcolm T Muir

Prayer Walking.

It seems like a different world now however cast your minds back a mere year and a half. The first All Age Worship service in the early days of 2019 was used as a launch event for prayer walking venture we had hoped would carry on thorough the year. Many of you took a street (or two) and agreed to pray for all those living in the houses there as you walked along it. This was all blown off course with the social distancing (aka Lockdown) restrictions weeks later with us all confined to our homes and only to leave for necessary reasons. (There was one fitness walk a day allowed so some of us managed to fit this in (no pun intended) if we could somehow link "our" street to our daily exercise route). Prayer cannot be contained by walls. Even if it was a "virtual" walk, thinking of the homes in our minds as we entreated God for protection and deliverance, those of us involved were still able to keep on with this.

Even now as we move to a continuing improvement in defeating covid it is not over yet, so, please keep praying for the street you chose. Meantime a massive thank you to all who took time to faithfully ask God to help us through the worst crisis in a generation.

JBG

Tranent Parish Church Guild



We are still missing our regular meetings of the Guild, our fellowship and support. It is still a time of uncertainty and are still unable to guess when we can get back together in a group. There are still so many rules and guidelines to follow to ensure we keep safe.

However on the positive side, some of our ladies have been knitting away in the back ground.

Christine, one of our members knitted a rainbow which has been put on the church hall railings and also a cross for the Church gate.



Some members and friends knitted holding crosses, which were given out at Easter. These were warmly received by the congregation and helped us to focus when praying.

Earlier on we had also knitted some hearts which were given to nursing homes, care homes, hospitals and anyone who had a loved one whom they were unable to visit but each had a heart to hold.



I am hoping we can get a good spell of warm weather soon so that we can meet up somewhere and catch up with everyone who can manage and discuss what options we have and actually see how everyone is.

God Bless

Kathleen Gilmer

President, Tranent Guild.

Church Family

Baptism : "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus ... the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."

25th April 2021 Mr Ronald Green

Funerals... "Nothing can separate us from the Love of God"

11th Jan 2021 Elizabeth Smith at Seafield Crematorium
25th Jan 2021 Margaret McLaughlan at Seafield Crematorium
1st Feb 2021 Christopher Wiseman at Seafield Crematorium
3rd Feb 2021 Robert Thomson at Seafield Crematorium
11th Feb 2021 May Henderson at Church and Tranent Cemetery
20th Apr 2021 Catherine Turner at Seafield Crematorium
5th May 2021 Robert Baillie at Gladsmuir Church and Cemetery
20th May 2021 Gordon Scott at Church and Tranent Cemetery by
Rev Bill Wishart

Apologies to the family of Stewart Jamie whose name was wrong is the previous edition of Contact.

If you are lonely – come inside and find a friend:
if you are burdened by guilt – come find
forgiveness

If you are anxious – come find peace in Christ: if
you are happy – come share your joy: if you are
lost – come find the Way

For in the name of Jesus Christ – who is – the
Way, the Truth and the life and the only way to
salvation – we bid you welcome here.....

Hey!
WELCOME
We're **very**
GLAD
you're here!

There's Music in the Air

In March 1820 Frances Jane Crosby was born in New York State. When she was a few weeks old a severe illness



affected her eyes and her parents were advised to use hot poultices to relieve them. This damaged the cornea and throughout her life she was blind. Encouraged by her mother she developed her memory by learning tracts from the Bible. At the New York Institute for the Blind she had a good education, learned to play the piano, organ, harp and guitar and became a good soprano singer.

She was the most prolific of 19th century American Evangelical sacred song writers and, using scores of noms de plume, she wrote nearly 9,000 hymns, many still popular today - "Praise Him, Praise Him", "To God be the Glory".

She also wrote 1,000 secular poems and songs, including "There's Music in the Air". She had difficulty with writing, composing all her hymns and poems in her head before they were transcribed by friends and family. Some people thought her songs were too sentimental but they were very popular. Through an economic depression, Frances worked in New York in missions for the unemployed and poor, and her songs and hymns played a large part in a great Christian revival, on both sides of the Atlantic. It's said that recession is the seed-bed of revival. Are we sowing the seeds?

MTM

Fabric and Finance

A huge Thank You to everyone for your continued financial support. Church services were resumed in late March although only limited attendance is permitted. Many of you are contributing to the work of the church by direct payments or by filling freewill offering envelopes and getting them to the church when attending worship. We urge you to continue, as you are able, until we get back to a more normal worship pattern.

New sets of envelopes are being issued, to use from July. Please let your elder know if you would like to use these but don't currently do so. Many members now contribute by direct payment and for more information on how to do this please contact Linda Ingham (donations@tranentparishchurch.co.uk).

Chas Spencer is standing down as Treasurer and we thank him for all his work which has been difficult this past year, especially at the start of the pandemic, not knowing what income we would have or how long the church would be shut for worship services. We are pleased Pamela McGowan is taking over from Chas and trust we can make this vital role as easy as possible for her.

Below is a summary of part of our 2020 Accounts and a full copy can be viewed on the church web site in the section on the Vacancy.



What if today, we were just grateful for everything?

Tranent Parish Church
Receipts and Payments Account
Year ended 31 December 2020

		Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Endowment Funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<u>Receipts</u>	Note					
Donations		46,265.95	322.75		46,588.70	58,391.85
Legacies		1,100.00			1,100.00	260.00
Fund Raising Activities		4.05	133.53		137.58	2,184.95
Bank & Deposit interest		25.05	0.37		25.42	51.77
Investment income		3,085.22			3,085.22	3,990.02
		<u>50,480.27</u>	<u>456.65</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>50,936.92</u>	<u>64,878.59</u>
Hall user rents & donations		950.00			950.00	2,060.00
Capital from investments	10				0.00	23,060.18
Other Receipts		1,001.49	269.37		1,270.86	50.00
		<u>52,431.76</u>	<u>726.02</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>53,157.78</u>	<u>90,048.77</u>
<u>Total Receipts</u>						
<u>Payments</u>						
Costs of generating funds		136.77			136.77	144.11
Charitable activities		50,981.57	261.77		51,243.34	88,047.63
Other Payments			780.00		780.00	0.00
Collections for third parties			133.53		133.53	1,666.45
		<u>51,118.34</u>	<u>1,175.30</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>52,293.64</u>	<u>89,858.19</u>
<u>Total Payments</u>						
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers		1,313.42	-449.28	0.00	864.14	190.58
Transfers		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		<u>1,313.42</u>	<u>-449.28</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>864.14</u>	<u>190.58</u>

Tranent Parish Church
Statement of Balances
Year ended 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds 2020 Note £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Endowment Funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<u>Bank & Deposit Balances</u>					
Bank & deposit balances brought forward	26,827.19	2,070.18		28,897.37	28,706.54
Movement in year:					
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year	1,313.42	-449.65		863.77	190.83
Bank & deposit balances carried forward	28,140.61	1,620.53		29,761.14	28,897.37
<u>Investments at market value</u>					
	178,567.67			178,567.67	183,026.15

Assets

Tranent Parish Church Hall Valuation	80,000.00
Flower Fund Float	45.00
Pastoral Care Float	30.00
Tea Float	40.00

Liabilities

No significant liabilities

The accounts were approved by the Kirk Session on

For and on behalf of the Kirk Session

Session Clerk

Treasurer

The Pastoral Care Team

Despite the restrictions and the need for social distancing the Pastoral Care Team has been busy throughout the year. Like so many others we have had to adapt to the rules and instead of visits we have kept in touch with our church family members by phone. While we missed sharing hugs, cups of tea and biscuits with them all we have enjoyed sharing time, stories and laughs. If you have not had a phone call and would enjoy a chat with us, please call Jane Pow. She would be happy to arrange this.

However, at the time of writing this article, things have moved on and senior members of the population and those classified as 'vulnerable' have had both doses of the vaccine, allowing greater protection from the virus. Furthermore, today has seen most parts of Scotland moving into level 2, allowing us further easing of restrictions. We hope therefore in the not-too-distant future, to be able to visit once more. Meantime, keep safe and we look forward to seeing you all in person as soon as we can.

May God bless you

The Pastoral Care Team

Thanks

Jean Henderson and her daughter Heather would like to say a massive thank you to everyone in Tranent Parish Church who sponsored Heather to cycle the 202 miles/325km the distance between their two homes in support of Carers Leeds.

The cycle was completed during Dementia Action Week, a week where The Alzheimer's Society were highlighting issues and inequalities in Social Care provision. They are campaigning for "a system that means every person living with dementia, and every carer, can get the support they need to stay happy, healthy and independent for as long as possible. This means quality care that is right for them, free and easy to get, no matter where you live - like the NHS."

You can read more about the Alzheimer's society and Dementia Action Week here - www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-involved/dementia-action-week better still you can sign the petition to Cure the Care system.

Money raised from the cycle is going directly to the Dementia Hub at Carers Leeds to enable them to continue supporting people until such time as there is a care system that supports everyone in the UK equally.

You can read more about the challenge here
localgiving.org/fundraising/202Cycle

Bill Young (elder) would like to thank everyone for their prayers and kind messages during his hospital stay in May.

We've gone so long without fellowship
It's been tough and sometimes hard to bear
But God is with us wherever we are
Comforting us with His love and care.

So much has happened in all of our lives
In the time we have been apart
Times of happiness, sadness and deep despair
Through it all, God has ministered to our hearts.

Father God, in times of loneliness, be our companion
In times of sadness and despair, be our comfort
In times of happiness, fill our hearts with Your joy
And when this is over, we will come through triumphant!
Amen.

Catherine Findlay

Twinning update: Rimbick

We in Tranent have enjoyed being part of the twinning programme that Lothian Presbytery has with the Diocese of the Eastern Himalaya in North Eastern India. Our congregation is twinned with the church in Rimbick, which is located in a rural area in Darjeeling (famous for its tea plantations). We were privileged, a couple of years ago, to have visitors from the Diocese who joined us for our Saturday morning prayer meeting



Along with much of the rest of India, the area around Rimbick has been hit hard recently by the coronavirus pandemic. They have of course been facing these challenges without many of the benefits we have of a robust healthcare system and an effective vaccine roll-out. Many people, including Rev Miku Foning, one of those who visited us, have been hospitalised after contracting coronavirus, and many have sadly died.

These communities have been enduring quite severe lockdowns- which, in a situation where there is no social security system, and where many rely on daily wages, makes life very difficult. We have been asked by Pastor Phurba Rumba, who ministers to the church in Rimbick, to remember them in our prayers. They are also engaged in building a new church building in one of the communities they serve- please also pray for that aspect of the work that they are doing.

You can learn a bit more about the twinning, see some pictures of the church and surrounding area, and also see a short video of some of the children in the Rimbick church performing a song during their Easter service on the Twinning page on our church website :



Twinned Church - Rimbick, N.E. India | Tranent Parish Church Registered Scottish Charity no. SC017423

Tranent Parish Church - A Piece of History

Rev. Dr James Bulloch was Minister in Tranent at what was then called the Old Parish Church from 1942-1953. He was also a scholar and keen amateur historian. He had a number of articles of historical interest published in a range of periodicals including Life and Work.

He also was first (in all likelihood) to make a significant historical discovery.

The letter sent on behalf of King Robert I and the Scottish feudal leaders to the Pope to appeal for his support in ending the wars of independence with England written in April 1320 has since become famous as the Declaration of Arbroath.

The closing line "It is in truth not for glory nor riches nor honours that we are fighting for but freedom alone which no honest man gives up but with life itself" has become one of the most quoted texts in Scotland and appears on many posters, shirts and tea towels. It is not however original. Historic Scotland and other official websites will now tell you "for the last 70 years it has been known that it is a quotation".

In April 1947 an article appeared in the Scottish Historical Review Vol. 26 by the historian J. R Philip demonstrating it is taken from a work by 1st century B.C Roman historian Sallust called the Cataline Conspiracy an account of an attempted coup and civil war in the Roman Republic in 63 B.C.

Mr. Philip in this acknowledges "(I Have) since learned the discovery was previously made by the Rev. James Bulloch of Tranent. He credits him with pointing this out in a letter to the Times Educational Supplement of 23rd June 1943.

The letter was drafted, it is thought, by monks at Arbroath Abbey in Latin and contained several biblical passages so that it had classical quotations too is not surprising.

Incidentally the clerics were only acting under instruction. The meeting with Robert Bruce, his Earls and Barons that agreed this took place at Newbattle; so by rights it should be the Declaration of Newbattle.

General Assembly 2021 - Work, Hope and practicality.

The General Assembly is an odd event. At one point in the history of Scotland it was one of the society's highlights of the year. But now it is very different and even more so this year as the assembly was completely online. It was a difficult assembly. Many hard decisions were



made, one of the committee reports sparked three long days of fierce debate. A lot of work for the Parishes and Presbyteries has been produced. But it was also an assembly of hope, if we do this work now and work united in its processes, we will have a leaner and more fit for purpose church for the future.



This year's Moderator was Lord Jim Wallace of Tankerness, an elder at St Magnus Cathedral and former First Minister of Scotland (2000-2001). The Lord High Commissioner (The sovereign's representative) was Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and Earl of Strathearn, who opened the assembly with an incredibly passionate speech about his love for and connection with Scotland.

Pages could be written on analysis of the assembly, but I will stick to a more simple list of decisions made.

- the Assembly passed a new Presbytery Mission Plan Act which will see the number of ministry posts in the Church cut to 600, plus 60 vacancies, by 2025 . Our own presbytery did not see as large a cut as many areas. New presbytery plans are to be written by all. There will be a lot of big decisions for presbyteries.
- Presbytery reform continued with the General Assembly agreeing to three mergers, combining Edinburgh with West Lothian, Hamilton with Lanark, and six presbyteries in south west Scotland.
- After many years of fierce debate the GA finally divested completely from Fossil Fuel investments.

- Following almost 20 years of discussions, the solemnisation of same-sex marriages by Church of Scotland ministers is a step closer after the Assembly voted to send draft legislation brought by the Legal Questions Committee to Presbyteries for consideration. The legislation will now be considered by Presbyteries and, if a majority agree will be approved at the next General Assembly of 2022. The legislation will require ministers and deacons who wish to preside over same-sex weddings to apply for approval to do so, without compelling anyone who does not wish to. This is an enormous step towards a more well-balanced church when it comes to the different opinions in this matter. It was a proud moment to witness such history unfold. Connor punched the air when it passed - it's been a long long road.
- During the report of the Ecumenical Relations Committee, the Assembly agreed the Saint Andrew Declaration, in which the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church recognise each other as sharing the same faith and being 'true churches of the Gospel'.
- The Convener of the Social Care Council (CrossReach), the Rev Thom Riddle, paid tribute to the 'amazing' CrossReach staff who had worked throughout the Covid-19 pandemic to support some of the people most challenged by it.
- Following the Theological Forum's report into the place of the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Church's subordinate standard, Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions are to be asked to discuss the options presented by the end of the year. The Forum will bring firm proposals to the 2022 Assembly but has said its preferred option would be an approved book of confessions, to include the Westminster Confession alongside other confessions and creeds.

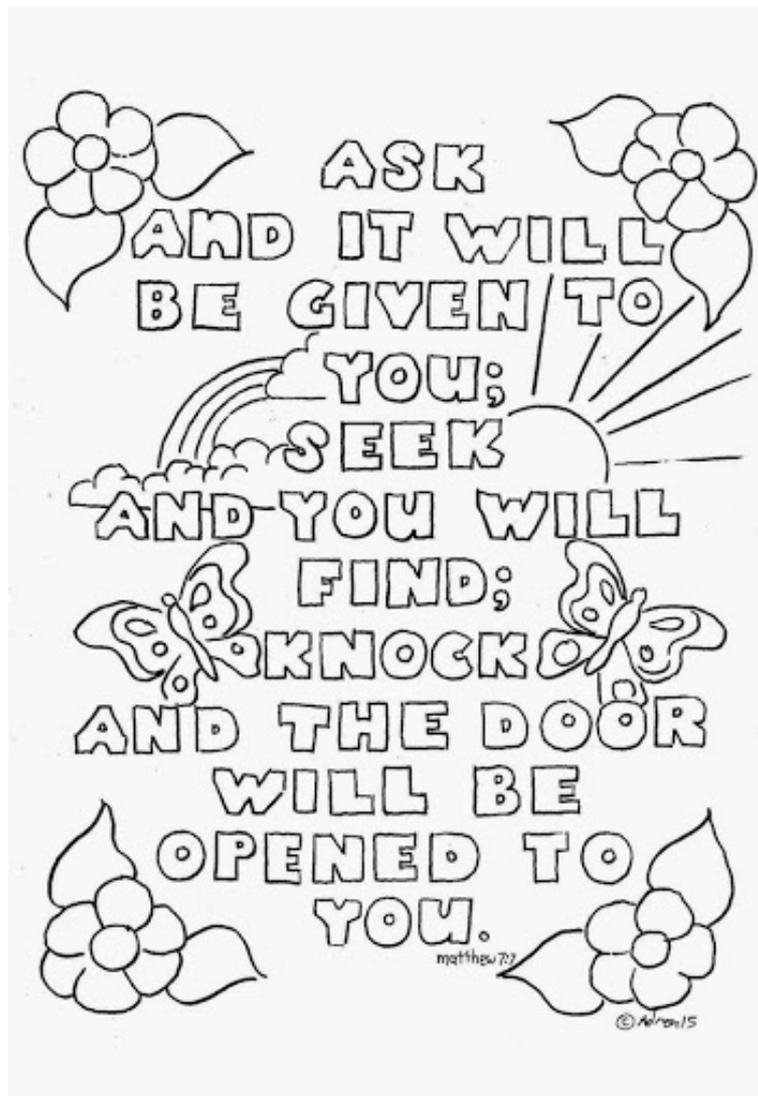
For me, the General Assembly is a reminder that the church and its witness in Scotland is much bigger than our own small corner of East Lothian and it is always a privilege to attend, hopefully next year, physically in the hall.

Every blessing

Kate MacFadyen

(Kate is a member of our congregation and was this year's Youth Representative to the General Assembly for Lothian Presbytery.)

Activities for the young and young at heart



This picture needs colouring in

! Window Pain !!!



Wife, by text, to husband at work:

"Windows at home frozen. What shall I do?"

Husband: "Spray some de-icer and then pour lukewarm water over them."

Wife, a few minutes later: "I've done that. Now computer won't work at all."



About Jesus

A Y L O R D O B M E W E N I V J K S W C
R B E L I E V E T D D U Q Z E F S U A M
I V J V R S I J G C M D W X O M F S Y W
A A M G Q B E J W P R Z P V M Y G E X X
S Z F F Q J V S N I S F R G T G P J K U
I S L W I F T M H A I S S E M L S L R K
R N E T W R E P L E H T M L O M W Y E C
F O A N G Y S L M S K Y S P C C I F V F
B I D W E J O T B S T L W A R S J S W K
W T E F X V T D N E I R F S V O R M U S
B C R K E N I C F N E C X T G I A D O N
J E S I E T A G P S O C K E N N O E N V
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A R P C S K Y M E O X Y T C O G M K R R
Q U H G R I K X S E F B Y H A G L J P E
P S G T T E H S L T B R D E A E Z K U B
Z E F H U I A A C H K C H R G U M O C T
Q R G Z G R O T Y G L E F I L M A B S I
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L P L W B O L O Y R X L T B H V L R L J

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|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| • JESUS | • MESSIAH | • KING |
| • SAVIOUR | • HEALER | • FORGIVENESS |
| • HELPER | • FRIEND | • LORD |
| • CROSS | • SINS | • TEACHER |
| • RESURRECTION | • LIGHT | • GATE |
| • VINE | • FIRST | • LAST |
| • WAY | • TRUTH | • LIFE |
| • LOVE | • BELIEVE | • LEADER |
| • CREATOR | • RIGHTEOUSNESS | |



Your Contacts

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sfletcher@churchofscotland.org.uk

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Session Clerk Mr John Greig
john@tranentparishchurch.co.uk

Treasurer Pamela McGowan

Unitary Team Convenors

Worship & Education Team

Fabric and Finance Team David Menzies

Outreach and Wider World Team Laurie Brett

Pastoral Team Jane Pow

Roll Keeper Dr Linda Ingham

Freewill Offering and Gift Aid Convener Dr Linda Ingham

Family & Youth Development Worker
vacant

Church officer team - contact Wilma Hannah

Hall Lets Convenor - Christine Young
lets@tranentparishchurch.co.uk

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