

Tranent Parish Church

Contact



Welcome to Tranent Parish Church

Photo: Laurie Brett

Winter 2015

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 2:30pm 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 6.30pm. 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 1st May at 6.30pm; Tranent Care Home on Sunday 15th May at 2.30pm; and Loch Square on Thurs 19th May at 2.30pm

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)

Christmas Activities

Saturday 12 Dec at 7pm: Tranent Parish Church will be hosting the famous Christmas Extravaganza featuring Robin Hill & Alec Shuttleworth, with some input from our Minister and her husband. There will be music, magic and much hilarity! And it's FREE to get in! Bring your friends.

Wednesday 17 Dec, 7pm: The Clark Community Choir is doing a concert in the Congregational Church, behind the Brunton Hall in Musselburgh. Only £3 per ticket. Tickets from members or pay at door.

Sunday 20 Dec is our J-Club Nativity service - usual time of 11am.

Thursday 24 Dec (**CHRISTMAS EVE!**) 7pm: Lessons & Carols with the other churches, held in Tranent Parish Church.

Friday 25 Dec (**CHRISTMAS DAY!**) 10-10.30am: informal service here, led by Erica & Bill Wishart. Bring a, Christmas present for 'show and tell'!!

From our Minister



Dear Friends,

Now that I've been here almost a year and am getting settled in, there have been opportunities to build on our school links and increase the youth activities happening in the church this Christmas. As usual, we will host The Hub's Nativity and a couple of school services. We have already had a visit from the Cubs to reflect on Advent (see our Facebook page or website for photos!). However, we are also putting on a special Christmas activity for P6 pupils, over two days, called 'Bubblegum & Fluff'. It centres around the story of a wee boy who finds a blob of gum under his bed that's been there for years. It's covered in fluff and yukky stuff (I know - disgusting! Kids love it though!) but when he bites into it, there's still flavour underneath.

The 'fluff' around Christmas can be great fun - I'm wearing my flashing Rudolph earrings as I write this! - and it's good to enjoy that, especially with children. However, for many people at this time, it can feel difficult or even impossible to enter into the joy because they are overwhelmed with sorrow for different reasons: perhaps the loss of a loved one, feelings of loneliness, or despair at the state of our world.



Yet, there can be comfort in knowing that underneath the 'fluff', there remains a kernel of living hope. It's our hope in the God who came to us as the Christ child, who will come again to restore the earth, and who promises us that "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" [John 1:5].

With every blessing for Christmas and 2016,
Erica.

A year on

It is about a year since our Minister, Erica Wishart, began her Ministry here at Tranent Parish Church. Since then we have encountered changes, challenges and commitments, all of which are producing positive results. We are very pleased to say that there have been lots of new as well as returning faces at church services.

She has worked well with Tranent Churches Together leading to greater unity which is also very encouraging. Erica is very involved within the community and is proactive in many events.

The Lord has richly blessed us Erica as our new Minister and we are very thankful. She has achieved so much and more over the past year.

On behalf of the Kirk Session & congregation we pray the Lord will bless you, Erica, with good health and a prosperous new year.

Every Blessing, Erica and Bill.

Wilma Hannah (session clerk)



From the Editors

The next edition will come out before Easter and contributions should be with us by Tuesday 1st March.

Robin and Sheila

J-CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

Did you “celebrate” Black Friday? As I write this; it is much in the public consciousness. An ancient yuletide tradition dating back at least...er, three years; it marks the day after a holiday in a land hundreds of miles away which is not celebrated here. Close to home; it was the day before Holiday Club, the day of the daunting task of setting it all up. Thanks to our wonderful helpers; especially the youth helpers in was a bright day, as the colourful gazebos and décor went up efficiently.

You cannot be surprised at shops inventing schemes to get people through the doors - they need the business. Churches are quite keen to get people in at Christmas too. In 2015 various enterprises included the C of E's now notorious Ad. -not coming to a cinema near you- and the Church in Grantham who turned their building in to a Winter Wonderland; complete with ice rink. Wonder if we could try....oops, the Fabric Committee have just fainted.

In the J-Club as we move through the advent season we are looking at the core message of the Christian festival which is the nucleus of all the wider festivities.

Before you think this article is going to be a Cromwell- type fulminate against the excess attached to Christmas can I just say; the commercial side is mostly good fun. The Christmas lights brighten up the dark winter nights (which is why a large crowd stood in the heaviest rain for months to watch the official Tranent switch-on). What would December be like without the tinsel, reindeers, robins and fake (we hope) snowflakes? January.

Yes, the children who come to the J-Club are looking forward to parties and presents as much as any other children. Your humble scribe has done a stint as Santa at a kid's party so knows the smiles and laughter this brings even when it is a totally unconvincing “Pere Noel” in a burst 2nd hand suit with the cushion sticking out and a clearly cotton wool beard.

Over December J-Club, as well as Holiday Club, Messy Church and Schools' outreach are bringing the message that fun and festive frolics, fine in themselves, are just the wrapping. The real present is the Nativity story at the heart of it all and its place in the wider Gospel timeline from the creation, original covenant and the prophets foretelling that led up to it. Then after it Jesus' life, death, resurrection and eventual return. The Children will be re-enacting this wonderful Nativity story at the Service on the 20th December.

The closing weeks of 2015 have brought us uncertain and worrying times. No one knows what will be happening by the time you read this; far less what the coming year holds. The promise of the first Christmas seems so distant at times. That it is why we strive to bring people in under our roof.

While shops try to get crowds through the doors with offers of good deals on chocolate Santas and bath salts we are offering a message of hope in dark, literally and metaphorically, months.

This Christmas pray that it does really become the season of goodwill to all people.

"Oh Hush your noise you men of strife and hear the Angels sing."

Christmas blessings to all of you from:

THE J-CLUB TEAM

Facebook

Have you visited our
Facebook page recently?

You might be surprised!



www.facebook.com/tranentparishchurch/

Tranent Parish Church Guild



Well - this session of the Guild has started well. We have some new members and are looking forward to the coming sessions.

To date the meetings have been well attended. The speakers have been varied and each in their own way has very informative.

The MacMillan coffee morning hosted by our Guild raised £660.00, an excellent amount which is being used locally to further the work of this most admirable organisation.

During Guild week, when we have old members and visitors to tea, we were entertained by Bill Wishart. This was enjoyed by one and all. Bill, who was our locum during the vacancy we had, showed that Worship, as well as being meaningful, could be fun. He is an accomplished magician as well as a very good singer and shared many of the songs that had meaning throughout his life with us. We really appreciated him taking time from his studies to be with us.

By the time you read this we will also have had two new members of our congregation, Helen and Morna Mulgray to tell us about their writing and they are donating an amount from any book sales they may have to the church. So an opportunity to get some Christmas presents then.

On the 15th December, in the church at 2.00pm we have our Christmas entertainment, by Elizabeth and Moira. They have come at this time of the year for some time now and keep us entertained with verse and song. So please try and come if you can and join us. We really would like your company.

January 5th is our first date in the New Year and we are having speakers from the talking newspaper. Who knows, you may know someone who would appreciate this service and it would be good to spread the word of its availability

Historically our Guild has had a Bring and Buy sale each year at a meeting to help us support the projects that the Guild Nationally fundraise for.

This time we are going to try something different by having a concert on the 19th January 2016 at 7.00pm in the church. The Clark community choir have agreed to come and entertain by singing for us. We even will offer tea and biscuits in the interval. There is no set cost for this and we will be happy for any donation that you may care to give.

The projects for the next three years that the Guild is supporting nationally are Christian Aid, Prospects Access to Life, Mission International, Feed the Minds, Care for the Family, and Street Pastors.

We shall in due course be finding out more about each of these projects and look forward to sharing this with you.

Kathleen Gilmer, President.



Youth and Family Work Update

Messy Church Our Messy Church family continues to grow in faith as we regularly welcome our families who come to praise God for providing what we need. We have been thinking about where our food comes from and how there is enough for everyone.



We have a willing team to help with the party tea; however if you could spare anytime to help set up Messy Church or to help with the activities that would be much appreciated as this team is still very small and would much benefit from input from the wider church community. Please come and speak to Debbie if you would like more information about Messy Church.

Holiday Club We had 39 children at the last club! The children enjoyed the story of the Nativity, some of them perhaps for the first time. The



newspapers you donated were put good use in a 'snowball' fight; the children love this messy, active game.

We were very much blessed again by our youth leaders this year, with 4 new young people helping for the first time. So a HUGE 'Thank You' to them; as well as to everyone else who was so generous with their time and skills in so many ways.

Please give prayerful thought to helping at the next one, as the Holiday Club needs people of all abilities and ages to give of their talents to make sure this resource, so relied upon by the community, can continue to grow



and flourish. If you don't feel that God is calling you to work directly with the children there are still so many ways that you can be part of the wider team.

School Lunchtime groups - these are very well attended at both Elphinstone and Windygoul.

At Elphinstone we regularly have between 15 and 20 children listening to the stories we share of Jesus. At Windygoul our P3 group has been slowly growing and we now have around 5 children attending. The primary 4, 5, 6 group is our largest group where we can average over 30 children, sometimes more! We have been learning about Moses' travels and Joshua and Samson over the last few weeks. A HUGE 'Thank You' to the ladies who make these groups possible. It is such a privilege to be allowed into the schools to share the Good News about Jesus with them, and a real blessing when you see them beginning to understand and also to ask questions. If you think you would have time to join either of these groups (Elphinstone Church Club is on a Wednesday and Awesome at Windygoul on a Thursday) please either speak to the minister about Church club or myself about Awesome.

Youth Fellowship - continues to meet regularly; however I would encourage you to share with any young people you may know of high school age, about this group. We are a friendly, informal bunch who enjoy discussing the bible, chatting to get to know each other better and eating cake!

Debbie Middlemass

That is what has been happening - read on for Debbie and Erica's busy December

This is just to give you a flavour of the work we are doing in conjunction with our local schools and youth organisations this Christmas: as you can see from the list below, Erica & Debbie will be kept busy! A lot of preparation goes into these activities...and all the other things they do still need to be fitted in too...but it's great fun. Isn't it fantastic that we have these opportunities to interact with the wonderful young people in our parish?

Tues 1 Dec: Cubs come to church to learn about Advent & Christmas.

Wed 2 Dec: Elphinstone Primary School - Elphinstone Interactive Nativities (Led by Debbie & Erica in classrooms). This is the first time we have done this at EPS but it went well.

- Tues 8 Dec: Sandersons' Wynd P6s to do Bubblegum & Fluff Christmas Activity. Two sessions, morning & afternoon. Led by Bill Wishart, Erica Wishart & Debbie Middlemass, with helpers from congregation.
- Tues 8 Dec: Windygoul P1 Nativity, early evening - Erica & Debbie invited to attend.
- Wed 9 Dec: Elphinstone Primary School Show - Debbie & Erica invited to attend in the afternoon.
- Wed 9 Dec: Ross High School Christmas Concert - Erica & Debbie invited to attend in the evening.
- Thurs 10 Dec: Windygoul P6s to do Bubblegum & Fluff Christmas Activity. Two sessions, morning & afternoon. As Tuesday
- Friday 11 Dec, in the morning: Religious Observance Assemblies for 4 different year groups at Ross High School, led by the chaplaincy team.
- Tues 15 Dec: Windygoul Christmas Services, led by school with message from Erica & Debbie. P7s with parents, service held at church in the morning. P4/5/6, service held in school after lunch.
- Wed 16 Dec: Elphinstone Primary Lessons & Carols Service, in the school, afternoon. Led by school with input from Erica & Debbie.
- Thurs 17 Dec: The Hub Nativity at the church in the afternoon. Links with all of the schools in the parish (Ross High, Sanderson's Wynd Mainstream and The Hub, Windygoul and Elphinstone) are being strengthened and Debbie and Erica are excited to have so many school assemblies and school visits to our church coming up between now and Easter.

Christmas will be a particularly busy time!!

Community Organisations

3rd Tranent Rainbows

We have 15 Rainbows at the moment with one leaving to go to Brownies after the Christmas holidays.



The girls have had a busy time over the last few weeks with Christmas crafts and lots of games. We are looking forward to the Centre Stage pantomime and our Christmas party on the last night.

Wendy Waldie
Rainbow Leader



1st Tranent Brownies

In our unit we have thirteen girls. Three girls have recently joined us and are now working towards making their promise at the end of this term.

We have been busy doing many autumn activities. We have enjoyed making hedgehog cakes and making pictures from leaves that we collected. The girls were all very creative and made beautiful pictures.

The girls have enjoyed cooking this term and have earned their Healthy Living badge. In order to do this they took part in making smoothies. They enjoyed slicing up bananas and strawberries and they all got a chance to help put all the ingredients together in the blender. The best part was tasting the smoothies because they were delicious. They also took part in many activities that taught them about healthy eating.

The unit love playing new games so we have had a few games nights. On Halloween we played games and designed Halloween masks.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas party that we are having on the fourteenth of December.

Katrina Rae
Brownie Leader

1st Tranent Scout Group



It has been a very busy term for us with welcoming new Beavers to the colony again and lots of trips out!



We took part in the Remembrance Day parade and service for Tranent and proudly wore our poppies for the parade. We have also been to visit Pets at Home to meet some friendly animals and make a start on some more badges.

Ian Phillipson came to the hall to teach us about photography and even gave us homework!

Gang Show at the Kings Theatre was brilliant and it was great seeing some of our scouts taking part - maybe when the beavers are old enough they will want to join the cast!

Beavers are also going to visit the Foodbank in civic square to learn more about it and we are also taking part in a winter sleepover with another colony of beavers at a new site we have never been to before!

We look forward to our Auzzie themed beach party at the end of term - something a bit different!

Elaine Thomson
Beaver Leader



This term the Cubs have been as busy as usual! We have been working on the Global Awareness badge. They have been understanding what it would be like to live under different political systems. Learning about International charities, with the Cubs going on to choose one - The World Wide Fund For Nature - for whom they raised £70 for from holding a quiz and bake sale for their families (the Cubs own cooking!). Some of us attending the Scout and Guide Gang Show for the first time as a pack with the Beavers - at least half of them want to perform in it next year so I think we'll be back. The pack have completed their Naturalists badge, identifying differences in the seasons and species of trees and flowers.

Our very own Shere Khan (Connor) had a milestone birthday which we celebrated with a surprise party for him. We are ending the term with Christmas crafts, Emergency Aid, a visit to the Church on December 1st to learn about Advent and the true meaning of Christmas and finish the term with a Christmas party. Next Year we celebrate Cub Scouting's 100th Birthday so it's going to be a big busy year for us.

Wishing you all a Happy and peaceful Christmas.

Julie and Connor
Cub Leaders



This term has been very busy for Scouts as we welcomed a new leader. Colin Docherty, formally Assistant Beaver Leader, has made the transition to Assistant Scout Leader. As well as a new leader we have also welcomed four new Scouts who are brand new to scouting into our troop.

We have been busy maintaining our Allotment, doing lots of team building challenges and gaining our Photography badge after a visit from Phill Thornton, a local Photographer, who spent the time to show the Scouts all the ins and outs of using very old fashioned cameras as well as the modern ones. We also supplied an article into the APOGI scheme which was a rare occasion to get a photo of all Scouts smartly in full uniform. We have also been to support two of our Scouts, David Coventry and Logan Keen, in this year's Gang Show which was a fantastic show as always. The Scouts have also been very busy making lots of crafts to sell at our recent stalls which we are doing in order to purchase new tents and a new troop flag. In addition, we took part in the Poppy Scotland street collection and helped raise £172.09

Merry Christmas.

Michelle Martin
Scout Leader

Your Contacts



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Session Clerk Mrs Wilma Hannah
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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
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