

# Tranent Parish Church

# Contact



Photo: Laurie Brett

## Winter 2017

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

# 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 service 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 service accessible to deaf people and sign language users.

Holy Communion will be celebrated on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

## **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.

There is also Elphinstone Messy Church on the third Wednesday of the month during term time from 6 to 7.30pm at the community centre.

## **In Loch Square Complex**

In the ground floor lounge at 2.30 pm on the third Thursday of May and first Thursday in December.

## **In Crookston Care Home & Day Centre**

Sanderson's Wynd. Services usually take place on the first Sunday of the month at 3pm.

## **In Tranent Care Home**

Off Coal Neuk at 2:30 pm on the third Sunday of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

**Communion** is celebrated twice per year at each of the Care Homes. The next dates are: Loch Square on Thursday 17th May at 2.30 pm; Crookston on Sunday 4th March at 3pm; Tranent Care Home on Sunday 15th April 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.

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## **Special Christmas Services**

Thurs 14 Dec, 2.30pm: Christmas Communion Service at Loch Square Sheltered Housing Complex

Sunday 17 Dec, 11am: Nativity Service at TPC

Sunday 24 Dec, 11am: Christmas Eve morning service at TPC

Sunday 24 Dec, 7pm: Tranent Churches Together Joint Christmas Eve Service at TPC

Monday 25 Dec, 10am-10.40am: Christmas Day Onesie/Pyjama/ Seasonal fancy dress Service at TPC BRING A TOY!!!!

Sunday 31 Dec, 11am: Christmas Songs of Praise Service at TPC

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US AT ANY OF THESE SERVICES

### **From the Editors**

Contributions for the spring edition should be with us by Tuesday 6th March.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Robin and Sheila

## From our Minister



Dear Friends,

As I write this, we have just celebrated St Andrew's day in Scotland and it was lovely to see the wee tots going up to their Jo-Jingles music class in the church halls, all decked out in tartan!

There was some controversy this year, however, going around the internet, about the fact that so many of the secular events marking our Patron Saint's day obscure the original identity of Andrew: that he was one of Christ's apostles. That part is often ignored, which is a pity. Especially since Andrew is a positive role model in two ways: he showed hospitality (a good Scottish trait!) and he was alert to God's miracle-working power. In John Chapter 6, we read that while Philip was stressing about how much it would cost to feed this vast crowd of 5000+ people, Andrew was paying attention to the people in the crowd: he noticed a small boy holding 5 loaves and 2 fish. Andrew spoke up - and God showed up!



How do we respond to Christ's call to "keep watch"? As we open a window of our Advent calendar each day, could we ask God to open our eyes to the people in the crowd - who knows - God might use you or me to work a Christmas miracle in somebody's life this year!

On behalf of Bill and myself, along with all of our family, I wish every one of our Contact readers a Christmas that is full of love, joy and the peace of Emmanuel. May the New Year bring you hope for the future and many blessings.

God bless,

Erica

## Tranent Parish Church Guild



Our first session of the year has been very interesting and successful.

It has been very varied from considering what love can mean, a thought provoking talk from our Minister Erica who used this passage from Corinthians

1 Corinthians 13: 4-8

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." to "Tales of a Pest Controller" which made us all shudder then back to more information about the ills of this world from a member of the World Mission team at Head office, Rebecca McGonigle who talked about "Out of Africa into Malta".

Our Guild week meeting was, as usual in the afternoon. This is when we meet up with old members and friends, and some folks from the nursing home we visit came along as well. Bill Wishart provided the entertainment for us and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Bill is excellent at taking an audience through tales and song with humour and all comments afterwards were so positive. We wish Bill well in his new Parish, and hope to be meeting some of his congregation throughout the coming year.

We have a craft demonstration arranged for the 5th of December and then finish this year with a meeting in the Church on the 19th December at 2.00pm with our pastoral Assistant Mary Millan .If you would like to come to this please let us know as it is always lovely to have visitors.

I would like to Wish everyone a Very Blessed and Holy Christmas and to leave you with the Grace we always end our meetings with

*May God's Blessings surround you each day,  
As you trust and walk in His way,  
May His presence within, Guard and keep you from sin,  
Go in Peace, Go in Love and Go in Joy.*

Kathleen Gilmer, President, Tranent Guild.

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## WHAT IS PATH OF RENEWAL?

After a period of discernment and prayer by the Kirk Session, the elders have decided to accept the opportunity for Tranent Parish Church to participate in a movement called PATH OF RENEWAL. Lothian Presbytery have voted to support us in this and we are grateful for their financial and prayer support as we journey along over the next 3 years.

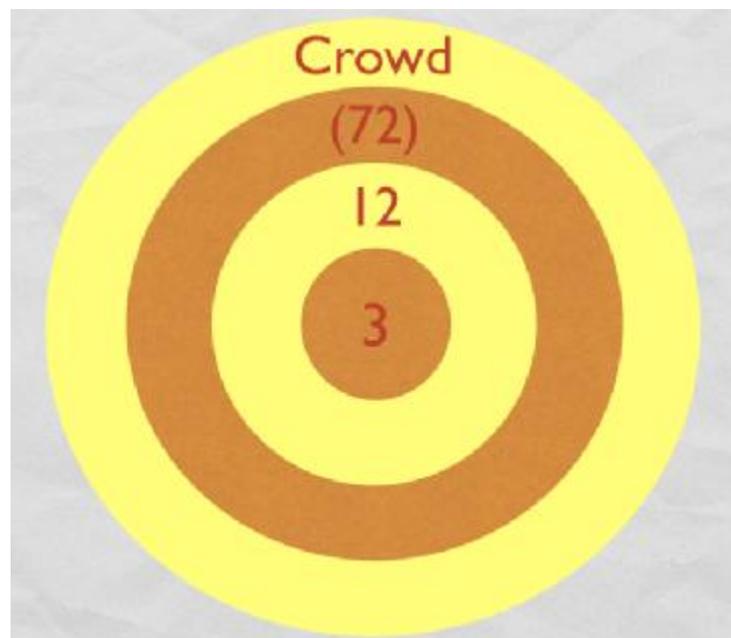
### **So what is Path of Renewal?**

It's about being renewed in our faith and being led by the Spirit into new ways of thinking and perceiving: it's not about doing more.

It starts with the renewal of the Minister through conferences, mentoring and reading: the Minister then goes to disciple a small group, who will in turn disciple others. The first Ministers' conference is in January 2018.

Path of Renewal seeks to find out what God's mission is in our community and join in with that.

Its focus is on making disciples for Christ. It follows his model of ministry (*see the image of the concentric circles: this is a visual representation of Jesus' own model of ministry: he worked most closely with a small group of 3 disciples - Peter, James and John - spent time teaching about / discussing the kingdom of God and practising mission with the 12, sent out the 72 and interacted with the crowd.*)





*Another image used to describe Path of Renewal is that of a building site, showing just the foundations.*

Nothing much seems to be happening and those who are already on Path of Renewal say this is how it often appears to the congregation or Session, especially in the first year. It is a slow movement, seeking God's spirit along the way and asking Him what the next step is. It's about digging deep into our faith lives and asking God to give us the building blocks to become effective disciples ourselves so that we can go into the world and "make disciples of all nations".

If at any time along the way you have any questions about Path of Renewal, please feel free to ask the Minister or your Elder.

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## Church Finances

Due to an expected shortfall in income, we asked if members would consider making a financial gift to the church at Harvest and we had a marvellous response and received around £2,500 which was the shortfall we had. The following two Sundays also had an increased giving which should allow us to complete the year without a deficit. We thank you all for this response to our appeal, which exceeded all expectations.



Going forward, our contribution to the Maintenance of Ministry next year is increasing by £1,319 which pays part of ministry costs and other work by the Church of Scotland throughout the world. We are really grateful to all who contribute weekly through envelopes, open plate or by Standing Order and while all our personal budgets are suffering, we would ask everyone to consider whether their weekly giving could possibly be increased, so that we do not have to resort to special appeals.

With Best Wishes for a Peaceful Joyous Christmas and a Healthy 2018.

Fabric & Finance Team

## J-CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

It's somebody's Birthday. No that's not a hint; nor is it the winning entry in Contact's "statement of the obvious" contest. It is the theme of 2017's Nativity Play due to be performed in the Church by our young people on the morning of Sunday 17th December. It is a gentle reminder that, while so much has been added on the celebrations over the years (tinsel/reindeer/mince pies/penguins(eh?) et. al.), for those of us of faith it is not just a time to get together with family, have fun and enjoy the decorations lighting up the darkest days of the year. At the core of it we are celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Yes, we will be having food, cake and presents like everyone. There is nothing wrong with that. We are not a cross between Scrooge and the Grinch (The Scrinch?). What makes Christmas different for the Church family is remembering whose birthday the party is for. No one, it should be said, knows the actual day Jesus was born. It is not in the Gospels or any church histories. The 25th December was chosen as the symbolic day to celebrate God's incarnation by the early church sometime between 273 and 336 AD. Just think all of us have a 1 in 365 chance of sharing our birthday with him. (Unless it is the leap day on 29th February which sadly wasn't around then. Sorry.) Suppose for a minute you had been on a committee making the choice as to which day to mark the Advent of the King of the World which one would you have preferred? Some of the early candidates were; 18th April, 20th May, 28th May, 20th November and 2nd January.

One of the advantages of the December date means we finish a year with four weeks of reflection over Advent and a chance to look to the future. If the past year has been a difficult one the message of hope in the darkness is a blessing and encouragement.

70 years ago Europe was still shattered and struggling to recover after the horrors of WW2; which had ended 2 years earlier. Despite this millions were still displaced for various reasons, living in refugee camps all over countries in central Europe and unable to return home, if they had a home left at all.

Groups of Christian were working in those camps bringing what little relief they could to the unfortunate people who had little or nothing. That Winter, in one such camp, some Christian volunteers (from the Quakers) organised a Nativity Play. Those taking part were a mix of nationalities, religions (including Jewish Holocaust survivors) and had been on different sides in the conflict. None the less this brought them together. Nearly 2,000 years after the actual one, the story of the Nativity still had the power to unite and heal.

After a 2017 which has had some terrible moments and as we enter a new year with the world still divided and facing the same big challenges, this Christmas lets as pray the healing message of the nativity enters the lives of all those who need it.

May God go with us in to 2018.

HAVE A JOYOUS AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS from the J-CLUB team.

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## Christmas Season

Folks getting stressed this time of year  
Need to spend and spend as Christmas is here  
What should be a time to celebrate The King  
To raise our voices and carols sing  
To celebrate our Saviour's birth  
To be happy and filled with mirth  
Is polluted with commercialism and greed  
Buying stuff that folks don't really need  
No matter if it is the right date or not  
He was born and died as our sins He bought  
So remember amongst the frivolity  
Who was born to give us a place in Eternity

Catherine Findlay

## **News from Messy Church**

We have continued with the Old Testament this last term. Learning about Moses, Gideon and Samuel. We were very happy to have Jane and Wullie join our team of helpers at Tranent, however if you could spare anytime that would be much appreciated as this team is still very small and would much benefit from input from the wider church community, even if it's ideas of what stories, crafts or food we should be providing. Please come and speak to me if you would like more information on what we do at Messy Church.

## **Tranent Holiday Club**

We had 31 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. As were your Christmas cards, and a thank you to folks at Open House who helped tear these up for our team challenge. We were very much blessed again by our youth leaders this year, with 2 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, especially for set up as this can be time consuming with only a couple of folks to help put the club together.

## **School Lunchtime Groups**

These are well attended at both Elphinstone and Windygoul. At Elphinstone, we regularly have between 10 and 15 children listening to the stories we share of Jesus. At Windygoul our P3-6 group has been growing and we know have around 25-30 children attending. The primary 7 group is smaller but has grown in number since last year and they are very focused on reading their Bible and talking about what we have been reading. 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 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

YF continues to meet regularly. It is a small, but dedicated group who have grown in faith over the last months; 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 and chatting to get to know each other better.

Debbie Middlemass  
Family & Youth Development Worker

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## Open House

**When?** Every Thursday from 10am to 12

**Where?** Tranent Parish Church Halls (half way down Church Street, next to the bus stop)



This is just a chance for folks to have a cuppa and some company: pop in for 10 minutes or stay for the whole 2 hours

# Our Lord Jesus-Master Artist

Matthew Ch 6 verses 28-34

And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Lord, sometimes we get worried and uptight, our lives seem blurred and ragged at the edges, the definition poor and unfocused, we feel uncomfortable and unsure, nothing ever seems clear-cut and decisive. We look at the road ahead and it's cluttered with problems-health and financial worries, stress and anxiety, if it's not my own worries then it's worrying about someone else's.

No white lines along the middle of the road to lead us through the bend, and when I'm around the corner there's another ahead, it never seems to be straight or straightforward. I can barely see in front of me because of all the mist and fog in my life

And then I see a figure on the side of the road and as I approach I realise it's an artist sitting on his stool in front of his easel and I know it's you Lord - who else is it going to be. I take a closer look at your painting and it's breath-taking, full of light and atmosphere and colour - blues and greens, soft reds and various yellows running together to form a kaleidoscope of colour.

But then I see one colour in your canvas - the one colour that you use to form contrast, to create the shadows that give your painting its vibrancy, in fact, I'm convinced that you name it yourself - you know what colour I'm talking about - it's PAYNES GREY.

I know what you're getting at Lord, in order to appreciate your light and atmosphere we have to experience the Paynes Grey-the difficult times in our lives because it's then while were stuck in that colour that we truly see your light and atmosphere.

And when the time is right, your time not mine, I step out of the shadows and I realise that Paynes grey is just is just as much a part of your harmonies as is all the other bright colours and it's then that I feel a change taking place in me. Fear is replaced with hope; stress and anxiety are replaced with peace and tranquillity. And as I look up I see that the mist and fog is replaced with a clear blue sky.

The road ahead, it's still got bends in it but I can see path that leads to tiny cross on a distant horizon and I see you sitting at your easel, creative and creating, tracing out in lines of love, compassion and understanding the purposes you had in mind for me from the very beginning.

Amen

Adapted from "No Strange land " By Eddie Askew

# Day of Prayer

Prayer is absolutely fundamental to all that we seek to do as a church- as Samuel Chadwick summed it up, "The one concern of the Devil is to keep us from praying. He fears nothing from prayer-less studies, prayer-less work, prayer-less religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom- but trembles when we pray."



Many of us therefore rejoiced that the Church of Scotland called for a day of prayer on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Praying is something that everyone in the church, from the youngest to the oldest, whether housebound or active, can be involved in.

And so, on the morning of Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup>, we took great joy in meeting together in the church. It was also encouraging that we were joined by people from other local churches. Some people stayed for much of the morning, others joined for a few minutes. Some prayed aloud, others prayed silently. Some met with us at the church, others prayed in their own homes or at work. But we know that God heard and answered all of our prayers.

We hope that this national day of prayer will become an annual event. Of course, we don't need to wait till next November to come together to pray- Edith Roberts hosts our weekly prayer group in her home on Edinburgh Road every Saturday morning, 8am- 9am. Why don't you come along and join - you will be made very welcome!





The Church of Scotland

# YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE 2018

**Engage/Participate/Celebrate** Children and Young People in your church and community during 2018.

**We invite you to join this national initiative.**



'Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these' Matthew 19:14



SUPPORTING  
year of young people  
bliadhna na h-òigridh  
2018



# Your Contacts

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Session Clerk              Mr John Greig                      612867  
19A Duries Park, Elphinstone

Treasurer                      Mr Chas Spencer

## Unitary Team Convenors

|                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Worship & Education Team      | Rev Erica Wishart |
| 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  
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