

Tranent Parish Church

Contact

Winter 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.



CHRISTMAS @
TRANENT PARISH
CHURCH
ALL ARE VERY WELCOME

SUNDAY 28TH NOVEMBER: 1st Sunday in
Advent, 11am

SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER: Including the
Celebration of Communion, 11am

SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER: Including the
Celebration of Baptism, 11am

SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER: Family Nativity
Sunday Service, 11am

Christmas Eve

FRIDAY 24TH DECEMBER: Tranent Churches
Together Christmas Eve Service, 7pm

Christmas Day

SATURDAY 25TH DECEMBER: Christmas Day
Service, 10:30. feel free to dress up or wear
something Christmassy and bring a toy or gift to
show everyone!

Boxing Day

SUNDAY 26TH DECEMBER: Boxing Day Service
11am

The next edition of Contact will be out before Easter.
Contributions should be sent by Tuesday 8th March 2022.

Robin and Sheila

From our Minister



Dear Friends,

It is lovely to be writing to you for the first time as Minister of Tranent Parish Church. The time has flown since I was ordained and inducted on 28th October. I have special memories of that night. One highlight was going into the Church Hall after the service and seeing it full of folk enjoying something to eat and drink, having a chat, smiling, and laughing. I hadn't seen that sight for many months - it was heart-warming.

Tranent is my first charge. A long time ago, I used to work as a solicitor. I then stayed at home for a few years with my children, Andrew, David, and Rachel. They have now left home to study or work. My husband, Kenneth, works in a music school in Edinburgh. I felt called to ministry from Duddingston Kirk, my local parish church. I followed that call step by step over several years, spending time learning with different congregations in Edinburgh. After completing my training, I served as a locum minister with North Leith Parish Church for a year and a half before coming to join you here.

It has been good to be part of the Remembrance Day services held outside in Tranent and Elphinstone and in the Church and to be involved in all the Advent preparations. Christmas craft bags are available again this year for primary school children. Daily Advent messages are on the Church Facebook page and this year, we have a Christmas tree in the Church Hall garden. I invite you to add a message of thanks or hope to the tree, as we wait together as a community to celebrate the coming of Jesus.

Being a new minister/

Being a new minister, and having come to live in a new place, at this time I remember that God promises to make new ways for his people. He leads us to new life in ways that we cannot think of or find by ourselves. The prophets speak to us throughout the Christmas season. The following words of Isaiah are words to hold on to as we reflect on what needs to be made new in our own lives and our community.

I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19)

The poet Christina Rossetti shows trust in this promise in her poem "In the Bleak Midwinter." The circumstances around us may be harsh and unwelcoming but they can never constrain God. She writes in these familiar lines, "Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain." God is so much bigger than we can imagine. At Christmas though, we see him as fully human, as a small, vulnerable baby in need of love who comes to be with us. Although we may be all grown up, we still have that same need.

May you find love and peace in following Jesus this Christmas.

Every blessing,

Katherine

Church Family

New member

14 Sept 2021 Rev Malcolm Muir
14 Sept 2021 Mrs Pamela McGowan

Deaths "Nothing can separate us from the Love of God"

23 Oct 2021 Mrs Margaret Sked (Loch Square)
14 Nov 2021 Mrs Helen Greenlaw
30 Nov 2021 Mr Jack Cornwall

Tranent Parish Church Guild



Our new session has now started and to date changing the meeting time from evening to afternoon has been a success. We have had several new members join as well as some previous members returning.

We have decided this year, to do something entirely different for Christmas time and are going to go out for a Christmas lunch. The members are really looking forward to this as it is so long since members and friends have met up socially. So, all being well and no guidelines being changed, we hope to enjoy the friendship and fellowship which we enjoy.

In our meetings this term, the slides that Rev Malcolm Muir showed us about his favourite island, Coll, were enjoyed by all. Christine, one of our members, organised a showing of the film *The King's Speech* which was another successful meeting. We also enjoyed the popcorn and sweets she kindly provided to enhance the cinema experience.

At our meeting on the 11th of January, we have our Minister Katherine coming to be with us and on the 24th January once again Jim Dodds has agreed to come with his accordion for some Scottish music and songs. If anyone would like to join with us that afternoon we start at 1.15 in the Church hall.

I will leave you with the Guild Grace that we say at each meeting.

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 Joy and Go in Love.

Kathleen Gilmer
President, Tranent Guild.

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Thanks to everyone who donated shoe boxes of essential items to the Blythswood Care Trust for distribution in aid convoys to vulnerable people across Europe and beyond. We had 21 boxes donated as well as a number of generous cash donations.



From Ross High School

Thinking of You at Christmas Campaign

Over the last few years, we have built up our Christmas campaign which, each year, is instigated at the request of the pupils themselves.

The students were motivated by hearing of so many older people in our community who could not get out, and some who felt lonely. The pupils were particularly disturbed to hear of some older people who felt intimidated by teenagers. The core message of the Christmas campaign became its title, "Thinking of You at Christmas."



Christmas at Ross High School isn't Christmas without a chance to reach out and greet our neighbours, particularly those who struggle to get out themselves.

I am proud to say that our S1 pupils have time embedded in their Citizenship lessons around this time of year to discuss our place in the community at Christmas and how they would like to share some Christmas cheer with their elderly or housebound neighbours.

Whilst understandable caution and restrictions have prevented us from sharing physical gifts with the parishioners of Tranent Parish Church this year, the pupils and staff at Ross High School are still very keen that you know we are, more than ever before, **Thinking of You at Christmas.**

Paul Reynolds
Head Teacher

Christmas quiz

1. What is the meaning of the name Bethlehem?
 - a. House of Grain
 - b. House of Bread
 - c. House of Pancakes
2. Which Roman Emperor appears in the Christmas Story?
 - a. Augustus
 - b. Tiberius
 - c. Nero
 - d. Julius Caesar
3. Three other historical figures are named in the Nativity. Which of the following isn't?
 - a. Herod the Great
 - b. Herod Archelaus
 - c. Herod Agrippa
 - d. Sulpicius Quirinius
4. The Wise men were also called "Magi". What language is this from?
 - a. Greek
 - b. Persian
 - c. Hebrew
5. Which 2 gospels contain nativity narratives?
 - a. Matthew and Mark
 - b. John and Mark
 - c. Matthew and Luke
 - d. Luke and John.
6. In which year do most biblical historians believe Jesus was born?
 - a. 1BC
 - b. 1AD.
 - c. Year Zero
 - d. 6BC.

Have a go at colouring this Church Window picture



