

Tranent Parish Church

Contact



Welcome to Tranent Parish Church

Photo: Laurie Brett

Autumn 2024

www.tranentparishchurch.co.uk
www.facebook.com/tranentparishchurch

Church Services

In Tranent Parish Church

The Sunday Morning Service is in the Church at 11am. Children are very welcome. They join in at the start of the service before leaving for their own activities in the J-Club during term time.

Services are held regularly in Tranent Care Home and Crookston Care Home.

Prayer Group

The weekly Saturday Prayer Group meets at 8am in the Church Gathering Area and all are welcome.

A monthly Prayer Sheet is available in the gathering area at the back of the church, on the church website and by email from Douglas Roberts.

Important dates for your diary

Sunday 6th October

Harvest Thanksgiving with donations to East Lothian Food Bank

Sunday 20th October

Souper Sunday - a simple lunch in the church hall after the service

Sunday 10th November

Remembrance Service

Note: **Souper Sunday** may have to change date. Check the website or Facebook.

The next edition of Contact will be out in December. Notices about contributions will be in the church intimations and emailed to regular contributors, but anyone is welcome to send us articles at any time.

Robin and Sheila

From our Minister

Dear Friends,

On the Sunday evening of 1st September we held a Praise Night. The Praise Band was expanded with the addition of two teenagers, singing and drumming. The music was a mixture of contemporary worship songs and well known songs and hymns. Our new Tranent Parish Church singers joined in too and members of the congregation shared their own poetry and led worship. It was a very uplifting evening, made more so by the support from other congregations and churches. At the end, the sanctuary and the gathering area were full of folk chatting, catching up or getting to know each other. We were able to welcome new music and new people. What a blessing.



There is a blessing in being part of something bigger. We are in a Parish Grouping with Ormiston and Pencaitland Parish churches. This means that we look to find informal ways of doing things together. To start with, we hope to develop links with the music we play and the Youth Clubs we have on Sunday evenings.

We are also part of the much bigger Presbytery of Lothian and Borders which stretches south from us to include Berwick upon Tweed to Hawick and Peebles. During the year, there are two in person meetings on a Saturday and two online. They are now not only about business. Workshops take place in the morning, most recently covering subjects such as Christian Aid, Safe Families, a charity which matches volunteer befrienders with families who would welcome some support and the current Assisted Dying Bill. What I appreciate is the chance to talk about things in a small group, to learn from others and then to have the opportunity to bring these conversations back to our congregation too.

We are of course also part of the whole Church of Scotland and the world-wide family of the church. Sometimes it is easy to forget this but it helps us to remember when we meet together with those from different congregations and other denominations to join in worshipping God.

As Autumn /

As Autumn nights draw in, and the days become shorter and darker, I hope that you will know the blessing of conversation and companionship with other followers of Jesus. Matthew's Gospel chapter 18 verse 20 says 'For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

Our Souper Sunday service and lunch take place on 27th October* this year. You are warmly welcomed to come and join in worship, praise and a bowl of soup in the church hall afterwards as we share life together.

Every Blessing,
Katherine

(*Possibly not on 27th. Ed)

Church Family

New members

Mrs Robyn Knight	23 June 2024
Mrs Agnes Jack	11 August 2024
Miss Fiona Scott	8 September 2024

Deaths

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

Mrs Dorothy Jamie	July 2024
Mrs Margaret Buchanan	17 July 2024

Regular events

Youth Club - Sunday 6th and 20th October and 3rd and 17th November, from 7.30pm to 9pm in the Upper Room in the Church Hall. All young people of secondary school age are welcome. For information about what we do, contact the minister.

Open House - takes place on Tuesday mornings in the Church Hall between 10am and 12 noon. Free tea, coffee and biscuits are served. All are welcome.

Pool Group & Table Tennis Group Both meet on Wednesday mornings, Pool in the Upper Hall, Table Tennis in the main Church Hall from 10am to 12 noon. All are welcome to either / both.

Fair Trade Stall We have a Fair Trade stall on the last Sunday of every month. With supplies from the Fair Trade shop in Portobello, there is an opportunity to buy various goods - cash only.

Tranent Parish Church Guild



It is that time of year again and we are ready to start our new session of the Guild. We have been busy organising and planning speakers for our meetings.

We start on the 8th October at 1.30pm in the church hall and for our first meeting we have our Minister, Katherine, who will celebrate communion with us.

The planning so far has resulted in us looking forward to input from Youth Guild, Foodbank, Age Scotland, RNLI, The Haven, Scottish Air Ambulance, Information on the Great tapestry of Scotland and a representative from Crossreach, one of the projects that the guild nationally is supporting over the next three years.

We will also have a film show organised by one of our members and Laurie Brett is once again coming to entertain us and as a special occasion we have also planned to have a lunch and musical afternoon in January for the older members in our congregation.

A busy programme for our members you will agree. As I have mentioned before, we are always happy to have new members join us, or if you wish just to visit when there is something that may interest you please feel free to come. There will be a syllabus on the noticeboard in the church detailing meetings and in the Church notices on a Sunday prior to each meeting.

I hope that if you are not already a member of the Guild you may consider coming to our meetings and share in the friendliness and fellowship of our group.

Kathleen Gilmer
Convenor, Tranent Parish Church Guild

Blythswood Care Trust Shoebox Appeal.

We have supported for a number of years the Blythswood Care Trust's appeal for basic necessities (toiletries, gloves, hats and other vital items) which they deliver by aid convoys across Europe. They request we fill shoeboxes of gifts for older people, children, teenagers and adults with these essentials as gifts. On their website you will see a list of the type of things needed. <https://blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal/>

If you can support this, be aware, we will be collecting filled boxes in the church up to and including Sunday 27th October. If you are not able to hand in a box in person; then contact your Elder and they will arrange to collect this from you.

If you are not able to fill a box yourself; you could share one with others by agreeing between you who contributes what.

John Greig

From The Outreach & Wider World Team

In July we held an Olympic themed sports quiz in the Church Hall. This was on a Saturday evening on the 24th July.

Our Paddy MacGuinness stand-in Douglas Roberts compered for the night with the questions provided by the group "Christians in Sport" in a pre-recorded video; including an observation round, emoji round and photo round. 3 teams took part with a win for a team led by Joan Ramsay 6 points ahead of the joint runners up. The video also included powerful testimony from top athletes about their Christian faith.

The event was run as a trial and its success means we hope to have more events along these lines in future. Check press (i.e. Contact) for details

John Greig

Malawi

Earlier the year the Rev Dr Reuben Msowoya from the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) -the Church of Scotland's affiliated church in that region- was our guest here at Tranent Parish Church. Reuben is the Moderator of one of the 5 Synods that form this church, the Synod of Livingstonia.

2024 is a big year for the CCAP, the one in which it celebrates its centenary. This milestone was passed on the 17th September; the date 100 years earlier when Livingstonia merged with neighbouring Blantyre Synod, the culmination of plans dating from 1911; when it was first proposed.

In August Rev Dr Shaw Paterson, Moderator of the Church of Scotland's General Assembly officially visited Malawi to join with them in their celebrations in which the Rev Msowoya was also involved with his fellow ministers. He met Rev Bizwick Nkhoma, Moderator of the CCAP General Assembly to pass on the C of S congratulations, support and blessing. Dr Paterson attended a groundbreaking service to bless a new church complex under construction. He then spoke to the Assembly and called on them to work towards growth and unity, adding that the construction project is proof of collective effort.



Dr Paterson also was a guest at a massive celebration attended by thousands which took place at a football stadium in the capital Lilongwe attended by Malawi's head of state President Lazarus Chakwera and several other senior government officials.

The first Church of Scotland missionaries arrived in what is now Malawi in 1875 which began the growth of the Gospel there.

John Greig

Bill Young

In memory of Bill Young who died on 10th June 2024

Bill's Christian faith was very important to him. He joined the Church of Scotland at age 14 at St Mary's Church in Haddington. He joined the Navy at age 15 and although Bill always had his faith throughout his naval service, he was brought back to church by his wife Christine.

Bill and Christine were part of the congregation at Ormiston Parish Church. They took part in a Christianity Explored Course and Bill was then invited by Rev. Mark Malcolm, their minister, to be an elder. In time, Bill and Christine joined Tranent Parish Church in 2015 where they were warmly welcomed into the church family here.

A special time for them was when they went on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Revs Bill and Erica Wishart. Bill spent his 70th birthday sailing on the Sea of Galilee.

Bill was invited to become an elder in TPC too. He was faithful in visiting and remembering the important details of folks' lives. He visited nursing homes and led services at Crookston Care Home. He was involved in leading worship in the church too.

Bill's voice was powerful. He spoke with authority. His belief and faith shone through everything that he said. When Bill spoke, folk listened and he inspired and encouraged others in their faith.

The last reflection he led was a particularly powerful one about the stars he saw in the night sky while out on the seas and how they spoke to him about God.

Bill shared his magical skills with the congregation too, much to our enjoyment.

He served faithfully as an elder until he was no longer able to do so. He continued to attend worship as long as he could, with the help of Christine. He was still contributing to Contact with his prayers and his reflections



as recently as this Easter. His prayer for Easter 2024 included the words:-

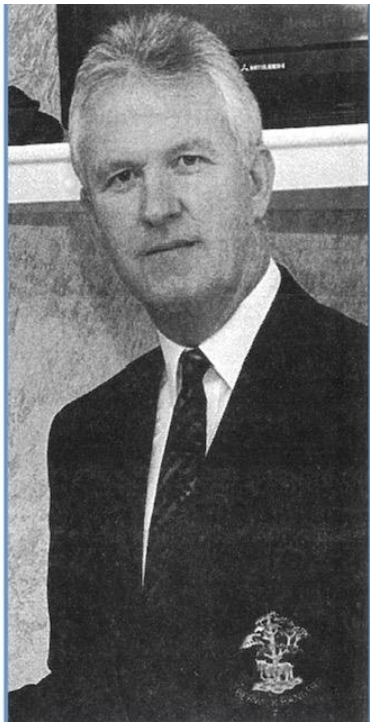
May we, like your son Jesus, be found dwelling in your presence and love when others come looking for us.

That prayer was answered in Bill. He lived in the presence of God. Visiting Bill meant receiving back from him, more than you gave. We remember Christine and their family in our prayers.

Katherine Taylor

Tom Davidson

In memory of Tom Davidson who died on 28th May 2024



Tom and his wife Agnes became members of the congregation over two years ago and in two years, Tom contributed a lot to church life. He helped wherever he was needed. He was a keen supporter of the Eco Action group. He took part in the church litter pick and volunteered to clear the rubbish around the big roundabout leading on to the A1, at the entrance to Tranent with not a high viz jacket in sight. He helped to start up the monthly Fair Trade stall, collecting goods from the shop in Portobello to take to and from the church. He washed dishes to support tea and coffee after the service, and he quietly took people to hospital appointments. Tom often

preferred to help in the background. He had a good eye for what was needed and then simply did it.

In joining us at Tranent, Tom actually came full circle. He joined the Church of Scotland first of all in his mid twenties in 1974, with his brother, at Tranent Parish Church. The much loved Alec Miller was the minister at the time. The story goes that when asked about what was covered in the preparation classes for becoming a church member, Tom's memory was that they were all about football.

Tom and Agnes were later married in St Mary's Church in Haddington. They became members at Chalmers Memorial in Prestonpans and then part of Cockenzie Old Parish Church where Tom served for over 20 years an elder, playing a very full part in life there.

Tom was a gentle gentleman. It says so much about his character, that he was a driver for young people with additional support needs, taking them to and from school and college . He made a real difference to their lives. He has been described as making them feel safe and happy, as being kind and gentle and one in a million. He loved them in turn.

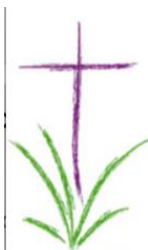
Tom lived out his faith. The congregation in Tranent are very grateful for the blessing of his time with us and we remember Agnes and their family in our prayers.

Katherine Taylor

Tranent Church Eco Action Group

Creation Time

On Sunday 8th September, we had a very successful congregational lunch which raised the sum of £482.33 to



eco
congregation Scotland

twin our church garden with one in rural Migori in Kenya. A massive thank you to all who contributed in any way, be it setting up, working in the kitchen, baking, preparing sandwiches etc. Everyone enjoyed the time of fellowship and the surplus food was taken to a local homeless shelter.

Recycling

Blister packs continue to be collected at Links Vets and there is a basket in the gathering area for those who are unable to take them personally. There is also a box for your redundant mobile phones which are being collected for distribution onwards to be reused.

Fair Trade

We continue to have a Fair Trade stall in the gathering area on the last Sunday of the month. This is proving very popular. There's a variety of foodstuffs and gifts, with Christmas coming up, time to take a look. Also, Fair Trade products are available at supermarkets eg M&S, Asda, Aldi, Coop, Sainsbury's

Apple Pressing

Saturday 14th September saw people bringing their apples to be pressed into apple juice. Another very successful event.

As always, if you have any eco tips, which we shall share on the weekly powerpoint in church, or indeed, if you have any eco ideas at all, please don't hesitate to be in touch.

Ann
(revann@sky.com)

Allison,

Supporting the foodbank is something at TPC that we have engaged with for some time. Last year, Tranent Parish Church donated 368.7kg - the equivalent of 878 meals - it is so appreciated!



The autumn equinox indicates the end of summer and a change in the seasons, it also marks the celebration of the Harvest festival period. It brings with it a time of reflection and gratitude for all the food we are fortunate enough to have.

The foodbank are so grateful for our support but as we enter this season of plenty, we are reminded of the ongoing challenges many people in our community face. This year, your ongoing support is vital in helping them continue their work to support those in need.

A huge thank you to you all

Connor MacFadyen
TPC / Foodbank liaison

A message from the Foodbank

Our Current Need

We are experiencing a significant increase in demand alongside a decrease in food donations. This challenging situation means we urgently need your help to support people in crisis across East Lothian.

How You Can Help

We have included our current most needed items list, and it highlights our most essential items. Any donations you can make would be greatly appreciated, and would make such a difference to local communities and families in need.

Working With Citizens Advice Bureau.

This service allows us to offer more than food support. We are continuing to see great outcomes from our money advice service, with Citizens Advice Bureau Musselburgh.

This service gives one on one support and advice with the aim to get more money in people's pockets and help people move towards long-term stability.

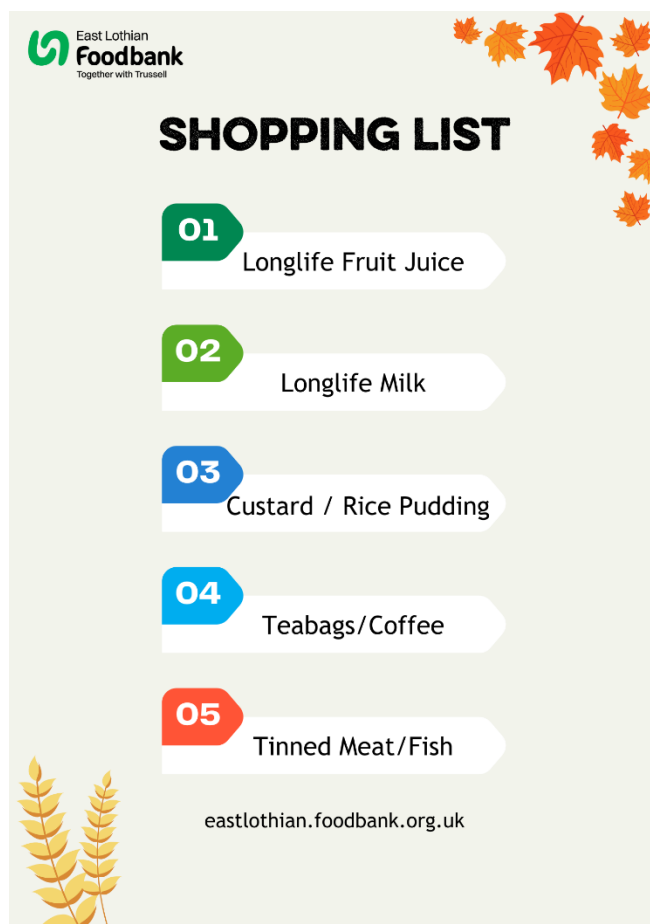
A great example of this support is from one of our clients, who was originally quite reluctant to accept support. However, through ongoing discussions and rapport building they ended up accepting our help. They are now managing all debts, starting paid work and no longer need the support of the food bank.

Volunteers Needed

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with a variety of roles, we are open Monday-Friday from 10-2 and we would love to hear from you if you would like to get involved.

If you would like to volunteer, please visit our website, where all available opportunities are listed

www.eastlothian.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/volunteer/



As I hit my 15th year of sobriety on 3rd September, I share a poem I wrote of how my mind was when in the depths of despair.

On The Edge

Standing at the edge of the abyss
Wanting to jump, there must be more than this?
I don't understand
I need Your help, Lord
Catch me before I leap and leave this land.

The mess I've made
The lying games I played
Stealing, lying, just to get
The next drink to oblivion.

Crying myself to sleep
Hating, feeling only disgust for myself
Supposed to be a model daughter
Minister Dad, No, I just bad
Bad, sad, great life I had,
Till ugly drink made it stink.

Lord, from the brink
You caught me
No longer I think
Of that person I was
I'm new, refined
Oh God Divine
Your child returns

Catherine Findlay

The church hall is used regularly by a number of groups in the community. Here is a report from one of them.

3rd Tranent Rainbows

This Rainbow unit began in September 2004 and still meets in the Parish Church hall on a Thursday evening.



Rainbows are part of Girlguiding and the girls we have are aged 4½ to 7 - they come to Rainbows to have lots of fun while taking part in different activities.

The girls love to earn badges as part of the Girlguiding Programme and they also enjoy playing games, singing songs and making new friends.

Earlier this year we had a sleepover at our local Girlguiding house and we had a summer outing to East Links Family Park.

It's wonderful to see the girls grow in confidence and have fun with the other girls and leaders.

As we celebrate our 20th birthday, I would like to thank Ann Harris for helping to set up the unit and for still offering her help and support after all this time.

We have been very lucky to have the use of the upper hall and I would like to thank Tranent Parish Church for allowing us to use this space. In particular, I would like to thank David Menzies and Cath Brett for their support and their very prompt responses to any questions and issues I've had over the years.

Wendy Waldie
Rainbow Leader



Your Contacts

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Session Clerk Mr John Greig
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Treasurer Pamela McGowan

Unitary Team Convenors

Worship & Education Team

Rev Katherine Taylor

Fabric and Finance Team

David Menzies

Outreach and Wider World Team

Douglas Roberts

Pastoral Team

Roll Keeper Dr Linda Ingham

Freewill Offering and Gift Aid Convener Dr Linda Ingham

Church officer team - contact John Greig

Hall Lets Convenor - Cath Brett

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Your elder _____



Tranent Parish Church
Church of Scotland

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