

# Tranent Parish Church

# Contact



Welcome to Tranent Parish Church

Photo: Laurie Brett

## Spring 2024

[www.tranentparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.tranentparishchurch.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/tranentparishchurch](https://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. We also have a crèche for younger children.

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

## **Prayer Group**

There is a weekly prayer group meeting in the Gathering Area of the church at 8.00 am on Saturday mornings. We share a cup of tea or coffee, and it is a great way to start the weekend. All are welcome.

A monthly Prayer Sheet is available in the gathering area at the back of the church.

## **Important dates for your diary**

Good Friday - 29th March · 12 Noon - Tranent Churches

Good Friday Procession - meeting at Tranent Parish Church

Evening service - 7pm at Tranent Parish Church

Easter Sunday, 31st March · 11am, Tranent Parish Church

## **Church Finances**

Later in this magazine you can see an extract from the accounts of Tranent Parish Church which will be presented to the congregation at the Annual General Meeting

The next edition of Contact will be out in June.

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,

Easter Sunday is sooner rather than later this year, falling on the last day of March. Elsewhere in this magazine, Bill Young tells us how the actual date of Easter is calculated. This Easter Sunday too however is the Sunday that the clocks change. There are different ways to remember whether they go forward or back an hour. Maybe you know the words "Spring Forward - Fall Back". That is the reminder I tend to use, despite it being rather American with the use of "fall" instead of autumn. A new one I discovered recently is "March Forward". I think these two words are ideal for this Easter Sunday when the clocks will go forward one hour at 1am. The point of changing the clocks is to give us all more daylight in the evenings so that we can make full use of our time after work. Especially when so many folk get up in the dark and get home in the dark in the winter. So, Easter brings springtime and more light, and, this year in particular, I am conscious of the need to look forward in our lives and our congregation rather than back.



Jesus modeled this looking forward. Just before Easter he knew that it was time for him to go forward to what lay ahead for him in the city of Jerusalem. This was not the time for him to turn back home to Galilee again. Or even to divert to somewhere less risky. He had to go forward. So that meant riding into the city on a donkey, living through the days of Holy Week, sharing a last meal of bread and wine with his friends, being taken prisoner in the Garden of Gethsemane, appearing before Pontius Pilate, being deserted by the crowds and then dying on the cross.

By going forward, by not wavering or turning aside, his decision led to lasting light for all of us. I mean the light of new life that we read that his followers felt from that first Easter Sunday onwards when they walked and talked and shared food with him before he returned to heaven. They experienced the wonderful news of Easter first. This news is for all of us too. May you know the love and peace of Jesus in all that you look forward to or face this spring.

Happy Easter and every blessing,

Katherine

# Easter



As we approach the season of Resurrection, we remember it is a Christian festival and cultural holiday commemorating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead.

Not about chocolate eggs and treats.



## *A wee bit history first: The date of Easter and its controversies*

Fixing the date on which the Resurrection of Jesus was to be observed and celebrated triggered a major controversy in early Christianity in which an Eastern and a Western position can be distinguished. The dispute, known as the Paschal controversies, was not definitively resolved until the 8th century. In Asia Minor, Christians observed the day of the Crucifixion on the same day that Jews celebrated the Passover offering—that is, on the 14th day of the first full moon of spring, 14 Nisan (Jewish calendar). The Resurrection, then, was observed two days later, on 16 Nisan, regardless of the day of the week. In the West the Resurrection of Jesus was celebrated on the first day of the week, Sunday, when Jesus had risen from the dead. Consequently, Easter was always celebrated on the first Sunday after the 14th day of the month of Nisan. Increasingly, the churches opted for the Sunday celebration, and the Quartodecimans (“14th day” proponents) remained a minority.

The Council of Nicaea in 325 AD decreed that Easter should be observed on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox (March 21). Easter, therefore, can fall on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25.

Thanks to Bill Young for this article  
and for the following Prayer for Easter

## **A Prayer for Easter 2024.**

Loving God, we recognise our responsibility to encourage and uphold one another and to live together in peace and love. We also recognise our needs and our human weaknesses and come to you now with our prayers and petitions.

Everlasting God, we thank you for our church leaders; locally here in Tranent and throughout your Church. We pray too to further our relationship with other Christian denominations and give thanks for living in Britain and being free to worship. We pray for all who preach your word, inspire, lead and grow us as disciples as we reach out to those in need in our communities and in our world.

Lord, we particularly pray for our homes, our church here in Tranent, our minister Katherine all elders and congregation in these troubled times, our King and our country ...we pray also for young and old alike, that you give comfort to the bereaved, we pray for healing for the sick, and peace of mind for the troubled.

Lord, Bless our congregation, some of whom are housebound, but all are united in our worship of you.

We are reminded of the sacrifice our Lord made for us and are thankful that his spirit is still here with us.

We pray for a peaceful resolution to the troubles in The Middle East also Ukraine and all other conflicts in the world and let your spirit comfort all the bereaved.

Dear Lord we offer our prayers for the Church, all those in need, and all of creation. We pray for all those who preach.

We pray for your creation in all its beauty, for the sea and freshwater and land, plants and that all creatures enjoy their life in it, and we pray also for those who advocate the just use of the earth and its resources. Although we have authority from you over all living creatures, this authority also comes with a responsibility to look after them.

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

We ask all this In Christ's name when we pray. Amen.



# Tranent Parish Church Guild



Since January we have had a busy syllabus for us to enjoy.

In January Laurie Brett came and showed us many of his slides from different parts of the world and Jim Dodds and Ron McPherson once again entertained us with an afternoon of Scottish music.

In February we had a very unusual outing, in that we had afternoon tea aboard the Orient express experience in Edinburgh. This was really enjoyed by all and as you can see by our pictures it was a very pleasant afternoon.



Richard and Agnes Russell came to our next meeting and shared with us their journey of faith and the road that they embarked on, from having their services in the old cinema in Tranent to the modern day Fraser Centre.



In March, Tranent Parish Church Guild hosted the World Day of Prayer and this was very well attended and was delivered by members from St. Martins, Ormiston Parish Church, Rivers of Fire Fellowship, Redeemed Christian Church of God, Good News for everyone and our members from Tranent Parish Church.

Next, we had a film show which was provided by one of our members, Christine Young who also kindly provided popcorn and sweets. This was truly an afternoon at the movies.

On the 26th we have a speaker from one of the Guild projects, MELD, which is a service for adults affected by a loved one's drug and alcohol use.

In April our meeting on the 9th is about our youth organisations and on 23rd is about another project partner of the Guild, Homes for Good.

So again can I invite anyone to any of our meetings that may be of interest to you. The Guild is open to men as well as women and it would be good to see new faces.

Kathleen Gilmer  
Convenor, Tranent Parish Church Guild

## Finance

We finished 2023 with a small surplus because you all gave regularly, thoughtfully and willingly and this was helped by the Gift Aid Tax recovered and the contributions from the youth groups who use the hall. So first and foremost, a very big thank you to everybody who gave, and to God on whom we ultimately rely. If you are a taxpayer and have not registered for Gift Aid, please see Linda Ingham or contact her on [donations@tranentparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:donations@tranentparishchurch.co.uk) Last year we also received approximately £125 in respect of shopping via [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) so if anyone has not registered, it's worth considering and Pamela on [tpchurch2021@gmail.com](mailto:tpchurch2021@gmail.com) or Linda would be happy to help if needed.

The estimated income/expenditure for this year currently indicates a few hundred pounds surplus however like everyone we are finding costs increasing year on year. In addition, our fixed price gas and electricity contracts, as part of the Church of Scotland fixed price energy scheme has ended and our fuel costs have now doubled as has everyone's domestic gas and electricity.

Everyone's circumstances are different and we are all aware of increasing costs for all aspects of daily living but we do ask for you continued support in giving generously for the mission and ministry of Tranent Parish Church in Tranent and Elphinstone.

The Fabric & Finance Team

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## East Lothian Foodbank

A big thank you to all who contribute to the foodbank. |It is very much appreciated. Just a few facts you might be interested in



In February, 450 households were supported, a slight reduction as the final cost of living payment was given to those eligible.

We still need your help as this issue is not going to go away overnight. If you want to keep up to date with what is needed, then the best way is to download the Bank the Food App on your smartphone.

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**Tranent Parish Church**  
**Receipts and Payments Accounts**  
**Year ended 31 December 2023**

**The Church has no Endowment Funds**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>					
Donations	3	59,721.11	1,603.30	61,324.41	63,797.15
Legacies		350.00	0.00	350.00	100.00
Activities for Generating Funds		138.34	0.00	138.34	0.00
Bank & Deposit Interest		644.20	0.00	644.20	80.50
Investment Income		3,461.68	0.00	3,461.68	2,558.90
		<b>64,315.33</b>	<b>1,603.30</b>	<b>65,918.63</b>	<b>66,536.55</b>
Commercial Rent Received		4,065.00	0.00	4,065.00	3,175.00
Fundraising		0.00	363.00	363.00	3,401.10
Sale of Assets		65.00	0.00	65.00	0.00
Sale of Investments		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants		0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,000.00
Receipts from General Trustees		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Guild Receipts		0.00	2,268.51	2,268.51	1,471.85
Other Receipts		2,659.00	0.00	2,659.00	1,068.38
		<b>6,789.00</b>	<b>4,631.51</b>	<b>11,420.51</b>	<b>10,116.33</b>
<b><u>Total Receipts</u></b>		<b>71,104.33</b>	<b>6,234.81</b>	<b>77,339.14</b>	<b>76,652.88</b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>					
Cost of Generating Funds		79.12	0.00	79.12	107.40
Charitable Activities		62,028.67	2,330.78	64,359.45	66,028.20
Other Payments		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Guild Payments		0.00	1,286.79	1,286.79	1,250.90
Governance Costs		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b><u>Total Payments</u></b>		<b>62,107.79</b>	<b>3,617.57</b>	<b>65,725.36</b>	<b>67,386.50</b>
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers		8,996.54	2,617.24	11,613.78	9,266.38
Transfers		(100.00)	100.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year</b>		<b>8,896.54</b>	<b>2,717.24</b>	<b>11,613.78</b>	<b>9,266.38</b>



**Tranent Parish Church**  
**Statement of Balances**  
**Year ended 31 December 2023**

Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023	Total 2022
<b><u>Bank &amp; Deposit Balances</u></b>				
Bank & Deposit Balances brought forward	36,736.02	4,946.47	41,682.49	32,416.11
<b><u>Movement in year</u></b>				
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year	8,896.54	2,717.24	11,613.78	9,266.38
<b>Bank &amp; Deposit balances carried forward</b>	<b>45,632.56</b>	<b>7,663.71</b>	<b>53,296.27</b>	<b>41,682.49</b>
<b><u>Investments at Market Value</u></b>				
	<b>201,754.24</b>		<b>201,754.24</b>	<b>194,008.18</b>

**Assets**

Tranent Parish Church Hall Valuation	80,000.00
Minister's Float	55.00
Tea and Flower floats	26.08

**Liabilities**

No significant liabilities

## **Growing Young**

We have been working on activities to encourage younger people to come to events and activities.

At our recent games evening it was great to see young and old participating together, from bingo to board games, to quiz and also we are extremely grateful to have been given a table tennis table which everyone is enjoying.

It was a delight to see the pool competition between the teenagers and the new pool group which meets on a Wednesday which I understand is going to become a regular event and potentially extending this to include a table tennis competition also.

The date for our congregational outing is Sunday 23rd June.

We are also planning to hold a Ceilidh, take part in the Gala Parade, Praise evening and also another games evening which has been requested and the aim is to encourage and support our youngsters to participate and build ownership in the planning of these activities and events going forward.

As we strive to bridge the gap in the age of our congregation it was clear from the games evening, that we are not only growing young but also keeping young.

We would also like to say a big thank you to all that have supported the team and would be grateful for any ideas, input or suggestions for future events.

Your Growing Young Team  
(Diane Marshall, Cheryl Punton, Joan Ramsay,  
Charles Spencer, Lesley Spencer and Katherine Taylor)

## Tranent Church Eco Action Group

Well, what a lovely service on Sunday 14th January when we were presented with our Bronze Eco award by Fintan Hurley. We were also able to show everyone



**eco**  
congregation Scotland

one of the bivvi bags made from recycled crisp bags. There are now over 10 completed and these will go to rough sleepers. Well done everyone involved in helping the church attain the award. We will be making plans to attain the silver so watch this space.

Recycling carries on with milk bottle tops but sadly, most efforts to recycle blister packs remain unfulfilled as Aldis tentative scheme was short lived. The good news is that Boots UK are running a trial in London and the South East and I have spoken to the Assistant Manager at Boots at Fort Kinnaird expressing the desire of many people all over Scotland to engage in this activity and could they please extend the trial to Scotland. She is passing the message on!!!

Also connected with recycling is this campaign of Tearfund. Thank you Murdo and Rachel for bringing it to our attention. It addresses the plastics treaty and suggests sending a lemon to politicians who seem to have lost their voices to clear their throats. More info about the campaign from [campaigns@tearfund.org](mailto:campaigns@tearfund.org) or simply go on their website.

As with last year, it is hoped to participate in the Tranent Gala. By the time you have read this we will have had a presence at the Fraser Centre's Wee Green Festival which had a multitude of like-minded groups participating. Ours was a prayer tree.

If you want to get rid of something which still has use, you can take it to the Re Use container at Kinwegar Recycling point near Strawberry Corner. Many items go to the shops in Dunbar and North Berwick.

Please remember that while you may think your efforts are simply a drop in the ocean, the ocean is made up of many drops.

Ann Allison,  
([revann@sky.com](mailto:revann@sky.com))

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# Your Contacts

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[john@tranentparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:john@tranentparishchurch.co.uk)

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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