

Tranent Parish Church

Contact



Welcome to Tranent Parish Church

Photo: Laurie Brett

Spring 2025

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.

Church Family

Deaths

Mrs Davina McGimpsey	20 February 2025
Mrs Ruth Hall	25 February 2025

New member

Mr Michael Bobby	23 March 2025
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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

As a child, I grew up in a house at the end of a cul-de-sac. There was only one way in and one way out. It was great for learning to ride a bike as there was no passing traffic. I knew everyone on the street. Folk coming up the road tended to be neighbours or their visitors. It was pretty quiet and peaceful. Many years later it was a pleasure to teach my nephew to ride a bike in exactly the same street. I thought that cul-de-sacs were a modern design but it seems as though the ancients got there first. They go right back to Greek and Roman times and were developed because they were good for defence - there is only one way in and one way out. Since the widespread ownership of cars, they have helped in protecting children who are more likely to be able to play outside on the street. New developments have ensured that folk can get in and out more easily. An open cul-de-sac has paths for pedestrians and cyclists to be able to come in one way and go out another.



Our church community is, I believe and hope, a safe place to grow up - at any age. For the Christian life following Jesus, is one of character growth- even if it doesn't always seem like that at difficult times. The invitation to follow Him, is never a static invitation to come and remain the same. It is to come to belong to a group of people in a particular place and to know the freedom and encouragement to change and to grow in ways which make all the difference to life. For Jesus came to bring us love and full lives, not death. The words of a new hymn we have been singing recently express a prayer that this may be so well. "Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul". At Easter we celebrate together the great mystery of Jesus' crucifixion, death and resurrection. His promise to us is that the gift of new life, eternal life, is for us too. We may not understand this yet we don't need to. Faith, as small as a seed, is enough. We search for greater understanding together. On Sunday 20th April, the church community will celebrate Easter Day. We will rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus and in God's gift of hope, light and love to our world today. Do join us.

Every Blessing,
Katherine

Events for Lent and Easter

Tranent Churches Together Stations of the Cross Service

Friday 4th April 7pm, St Martin of Tours

Palm Sunday Service

Sunday 13th April 11am in the Church

Easter Egg-xtravaganza for children and families

Sunday 13th April from 3pm to 5pm

Church Hall Garden

Good Friday Walk

Friday 18th April meeting at 12 noon at the Church with light lunch afterwards in the Church Hall

Good Friday Service

Friday 18th April 7pm in the Church

Easter Day Service

Sunday 20th April 11am in the Church

Regular events

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



Our new year session has been busy. In January we hosted a Scottish themed afternoon with older friends from the guild and congregation as our guests. Some older members have not been so able to get to meetings and church services so it was an afternoon of singing, catching up and enjoying the company. The musical entertainment was once again provided by Jim Dodds and Ron McPherson, and Malcolm Henderson sang for us. We were grateful to receive a grant from Age Scotland to fund the afternoon's entertainment.



In February we had speakers from The Haven, a young person's support group funded by Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity. It was based in the Fraser Centre but has now moved to larger premises in Haddington.

Connor Macfadyen then came and spoke to us about the Youth Guild in which he has had an active role since it was first formed.

On March 7th we joined with the other churches in Tranent at St Martins to celebrate World Day of Prayer.

Two members of the Scottish Charity Air Ambulance came to our next meeting and Neil showed us a video about the work they did and told us about some of the scenarios they had been involved in. The Air Ambulance is not government funded and does rely so much on charity donations. Since October the ladies of the Guild have been saving their change and decided to share the donation, totalling £437.00, between the RNLI and the Scottish Charity Air Ambulance.

The cheque was presented to Neil Malcolm, a paramedic and a volunteer with the Scottish Charity Air Ambulance, by our Guild ladies.



In April we have Andrew Crummy, an artist and designer who has been involved in several tapestries including the great tapestry of Scotland.

On the 22nd of April we are having our meeting in the church as Laurie Brett is coming to entertain us that afternoon. Please feel free to join us at 1.30 pm for the last meeting of this session.

Kathleen Gilmer
Convenor, Tranent Parish Church Guild

Creator God

O Lord, Creator of Heaven and earth,
Who gave us freedom, happiness and mirth,
Come down amongst us once again we pray,
As Your people turn their backs and go astray

We need Your hand upon us now,
So many heartaches trouble our fevered brow,
Come, Lord Jesus come,
Come again and take us Home.

Lord God Almighty, Heavenly Father,
Come meet us where we gather,
Comfort us where we stand,
With one hug from Your mighty hand.

Lord, we thank You for Your blessings,
For Your promise Your Word brings,
Give us patience to see us through,
To the time You've set for us to be with You

Catherine Findlay

Accounts

On the next two pages you will find an extract of the church's accounts which will be presented to the congregation at the Annual General Meeting following the service on 4th of May.

Tranent Parish Church**Receipts and Payments Account**

For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Prior year total funds 2023 £
Receipts				
Donations	63,623	6,484	70,107	61,324
Legacies	100	0	100	350
Activities for generating funds	488	0	488	138
Bank & Deposit income	1,180	0	1,180	644
Investment Income	4,140	0	4,140	3,462
	69,531	6,484	76,015	65,918
Rental of premises	2,701	0	2,701	4,065
Fundraising	0	0	0	363
Sale of assets	0	0	0	65
Sale of investments	0	0	0	0
Receipts from General Trustees	0	0	0	0
Grants	0	300	300	2,000
Guild Receipts	0	1,800	1,800	2,269
Other receipts	1,458	0	1,458	2,659
	4,158	2,100	6,258	11,421
Total Receipts	73,689	8,584	82,273	77,339
Payments				
Costs of generating funds	69	0	69	79
Charitable activities	66,017	3,784	69,801	64,359
Governance costs	0	0	0	0
Guild Payments	0	1,926	1,926	1,287
Total Payments	66,086	5,710	71,795	65,726
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	7,603	2,874	10,478	11,614
Transfers:	(221)	221	0	0
Excess of receipts over payments for the year	7,382	3,095	10,478	11,614

**Tranent Parish Church
Statement of Balances
Year Ended 31 December 2024**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Bank and Deposit Balances				
Bank and Deposit Balances Brought Forward	45,633	7,664	53,297	41,682
Movement in Year				
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year	7,382	3,095	10,478	11,614
Bank and Deposit Balances carried forward	53,015	10,759	63,775	53,296
Investments at Market Value			218,302	201,754
Assets				
Tranent Parish Church Hall	80,000			
Minister's Float	18			
Liabilities				
No significant liabilities				

Debbie

Hi there! Thought I'd take this opportunity to (re) introduce myself. I say "re" because I was in post as your Youth and Family Worker about six years ago before I left to work in a local school. I am still working in a local school part time and part time with you. So, some details, I am Debbie Middlemass, married to Brian and have a son Ross, 3 cats and a dog. I have attended Tranent Parish Church as a member of the congregation for just over 20 years and think that we have a beautiful church building.



I have been taking the time to re-introduce myself to the local community as well, in Elphinstone particularly. I have been to (or will be attending) parent council meetings at two of the local schools and been in communication with the headteachers or teaching staff to see what I can do to support them. Church Club is taking place in Elphinstone Primary School on a Monday lunchtime, and we already have a wee core of attendees - which is fabulous! I have also been along to 2 of our local private nurseries and will be popping along again nearer Easter. If you aren't already aware, Friends of Polson Park are having a Picnic in the Park event on Saturday 12th April between 10 and 12. I'll be there, providing free arts and crafts. Do come and say "Hi" if you are there.

I am hoping to provide more events/support in our community. If you have any ideas or, indeed, if you would like to come along and help at any of the clubs or events already mentioned please get in touch; my details are on the Contacts page.

Blessings,
Debbie

TOILET TWINNING

In 1889 French explorers navigated up the Ubangu River until stopped by rapids. They built a fort at the spot. This grew into a city of 900,000 people, called Bangui. In 1960 it became the capital of the newly created Central African Republic as the region became independent from France. Sadly coups, civil wars and despotism have left it one of Africa's poorest nations. The settlement of Bekate is in the greater Bagui district.

The Bhil or Bheel's are a low-caste tribe from the Indus valley who settled in many states in the Indian subcontinent including Sind. Following partition in 1947 they became part of Pakistan's Hindi minority. They were often held in bonded labour, which was only banned in 1992, and mostly live in poverty. Their presence is reflected in place names such as the village of Punho Mal Bheel.

Carazo province in Nicaragua is a semi-tropical plain sloping down to the pacific coast, with spectacular scenery, important nature reserves and stunning beaches. Its economy however is mainly agricultural and heavily reliant on tourist revenue. La Conquista is one of its municipalities.

What these places have in common is that our church has twinned one of our 3 toilets with a toilet there. Toilet Twinning is a fundraising scheme to fund sanitation, water and hygiene programmes across the world. It is estimated that 23% of the world's population, or 1.5 billion people, do not have access to even basic sanitation. Started in 2010, the charity now has an income of £14 million, which goes to this vital work. All due to supporters like ourselves.

John Greig

Ed.

Find out more, including how to twin your own toilet - toilettwinning.org.

Tranent Church Eco Action Group

As we continue to care for our environment we have once again been involved with the Wee Green Festival at the Fraser Centre with our prayer tree etc. In addition, as part of Green Week at the Fraser Centre, our Womble group did a litter pick on Lindores Drive, from the Fraser Centre to the Wombles Forest Garden, followed by a blether and a 'litter bit of lunch' back at the Centre.



Recycling continues with blister packs which, if you are unable to take them to any branch of the Links Vet Group can be brought to church. Also, Boots in Musselburgh and at Fort Kinnaird now recycle them.

Advertising has conditioned us to consider a variety of products which will ensure that our bathrooms smell sweet and odour free. The majority of these contain either virgin or recycled plastic from air fresheners to rim blocks. Why not try things like pot pourri with glass bottled scent enhancer and/or reed diffusers. While a bit more expensive to begin with, they last so much longer. If you do need a rim block, choose one which is cage free or is refillable. It all helps to reduce our dependence on plastic.



If you have any tips or ideas which we can use, please contact me on revann@sky.com. I look forward to receiving your suggestions.

Ann Allison



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Your elder _____



Tranent Parish Church
Church of Scotland

Scottish Charity Number SC017423