
February 2025

Keep up to date with what's happening in Falkirk Trinity by visiting our website at www.falkirktrinity.org.uk or our social media pages on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

Minister (Tel 07895 388 644)

What has the minister been doing through the month of January?

Sadly, from during the festive period and into the new year, there have been a number of funerals, and this naturally takes precedence in terms of my time. Please pray for those who have been bereaved as they adjust to life without their loved one.

I like to plan ahead if possible and so I draft outline services for Sundays until the end of February, this year following Mark's Gospel as our focus. This gives me good time to think about and plan sermons and worship in general from week to week.

I have continued to assist the Presbytery as we remain without a full-time Clerk, however as I write we are about to interview for the post, so I remain hopeful that we will appoint soon. I have prepared for and led a Business Committee meeting at our Presbytery Hamilton office as we prepare for our next full Presbytery meeting in Motherwell at the start of February. I am also the Interim Moderator for Airth Church for the purposes of any meeting in connection with their forthcoming union with several of the Larbert Churches. I preached and clerked at the service of union for the newly united Grangemouth Parkview Church.

We are now without Charlene Condeco as our assistant minister as she has moved to be a Locum – we thank Charlene for her time with us and all that she has shared in worship and care and wish her every blessing for her future ministry.

Wednesday Worship has resumed and I aim to do at least two per month and I am pleased to say that Catherine Smith and Norah Summers will lead Wednesday Worship approximately once per month.

I have led our monthly worship service at Burnbrae Nursing Home and it is great to have the support of several members attending with me to boost the singing and make friendships with the residents. I am a Trustee of the Dawson Trust – which only means one annual meeting – that took place in January and at that meeting we agree on funding to various charities from the Trust, amounting to nearly £50,000.

I share these just to give you a flavour of what my ministry involves. We live in challenging times for the Kirk through great change and ministry itself is evolving and changing too. I remain thankful that here at Falkirk Trinity we are committed to the ministry of all God's people and that we work together in partnership to engage in outreach, share worship, and to care for one another. As the apostle Paul would say, together we are the body of Christ, each with gifts to play our part. We give thanks to God for his Spirit which strengthens and enables us to build his Church.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Church let me know or if I can help you in any way or you would like a chat, please get in touch: RAllan@churchofscotland.org.uk Telephone 07895 388644

If you are not a member but would like to be kept in touch with our Church News, then please send an email to Nina at the office email address above and she will put you on our circulation list.

My reform website, including latest blogs, can be viewed at: <https://www.reformthechurchofscotland.org>

Worship

Every Sunday in 2025 we have a reading from Mark's Gospel – there will be other readings, but our focus will be on Mark's Gospel and hopefully we can discover fresh things God is saying to us for our lives today. All the readings will be taken from the NRSVue version of the Bible which seeks to have more inclusive language.

Sunday morning worship at Church at 10.30am. S-Kidz and Youth Station meet as usual in the halls after the first part of our Sunday service. Our Sunday morning services are live-streamed every Sunday at 10.30am: www.falkirktrinity.org.uk Recorded services are available to view through our website if you cannot watch live.

If you need a lift to Church, please contact the office with your details and we will endeavour to make arrangements.

Sun 2 Feb: 10.30am Service

Theme: Thinking past the stereotypes

Mark 3: 20-35 (Jesus and Beelzebul/True kindred of Jesus)

Sun 9 Feb: 10.30am Service

Theme: Obstacles to discipleship

Mark 4: 1-20 (Parable of the sower)

Sun 16 Feb: 10.30am Service

Theme: Wealth redistribution

Mark 10: 17-31 (The rich man)

Sun 23 Feb: 10.30am Service

Theme: Will you come and follow me?

Mark 3: 7-19 (Multitude at seaside/Jesus appoints 12)

Wednesday Worship: 11.30am midweek 25-30 mins service at Church.

Daily reading, reflection and prayer are available online at Sanctuary First website

www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk or you may wish to try <https://pray-as-you-go.org> or <https://taketime.org.uk>



Our monthly collection for Falkirk Foodbank on the first Sunday of the month
February 2nd, 2025.



Volunteer driver(s) needed.

Are you available to help once a month? The Snowdrop Café is needing at least one more driver to help with transporting people to and from the Snowdrop Café. It will require picking up a maximum of three people and taking them to the church hall for 1pm then returning around 3pm to take them home (though it would be possible to stay if you prefer).

If you would like more details or are willing to help, please speak to Isabel Sarle at the computer desk on a Sunday or Nina in the office.

General information

Church Office: To contact Nina at the office please phone 01324-611017 or email office@falkirktrinity.org.uk

Items for January Church News should be sent to the office by **10am on Tuesday 25th February.**

Dates for your Diary

Tue 4 Feb Kirk Session meeting
7.30pm

Sun 2 March Communion

Members who have died

Since our last edition of Church News, sadly we intimate that Helen Hislop, Nancy McPherson, Marion Thomson, and Peter Kinloch, have passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.



Labelled with Love

Update and huge thanks to all who helped in every way to our Christmas Meal in a Bag Project.

This time we have given 258 Adults and Children a Christmas Meal, numbers have risen since we started in 2021 when we supplied 94 Adults and Children and we would like to share some of the feedback given:

“As I prepare to finish for the Christmas break, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone involved with Labelled with Love. Once again, together, we have brought much joy to families at this magical, but often challenging, time of year. On Monday I have the pleasure of collecting and delivering food for almost 30 people. What a lovely festive treat for our families. In addition to the food parcels, uniform items, clothing and toys have been gifted for us to redistribute.

Your service is an absolute blessing, and from the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your hard work, commitment and most importantly, your kindness.”

"I cannot begin to fully express my gratitude to you and everyone who helps support some of the GHS most vulnerable pupils and their families.

Please accept our donation - my friends and family all wanted to contribute when they heard about your generosity and the amazing gift / lifeline you are providing at Christmas, again this year.

I will be forever grateful that there are amazing humans like you in the world, making it a better place everyday."

This is all due to the amazing support from Congregation Family and Friends and this year from The Quakers who worship in our Archway room.

Snowdrop Cafe

Why not come along to the Snowdrop Café? We are open every Monday from 1pm till 3pm and everyone is welcome. It's a right friendly atmosphere with time to chat over a cuppa and enjoy a fresh made scone. Some weeks there are activities or entertainment. See below for what's happening in February.

3rd February

Time to chat, play dominoes, colouring in etc

10th February

Hand massage

17th February

Staying safer online/spotting scams

24th February

Screen Memories quiz – Patron Saints!

If you find it difficult to get to the Snowdrop Cafe, speak to Isabel Sarle to arrange a lift.

The objective of the Snowdrop Café is simply to provide a space to make friendships, enjoy each other's company, help with isolation and form a sense of belonging. The aim is to bring people of all age groups together in an inclusive and friendly environment where all will be respected and accepted.



Trinity Guild meets again on Wednesday 5 February at 2 o'clock, and thereafter every Wednesday in February and March. We have four new Projects to hear about, some interesting guests to hear from, and some little surprises of our own!

Everyone is welcome - just come along.
Details from Norah 625284 and Fiona 632387



Bookchat

Thursday 6th February 7:15pm, Archway Room. All welcome. Come and chat about books you have read recently, we'd love to see you!



WIDER WORLD TEAM

FUNDRAISING

Thanks to all who contributed to the offerings at the Christmas Eve service. A total of **£1007.49** has been sent to **Shelter**.

The Jewellery sale in November raised **£451.86 for Water Aid** – thanks again to all who purchased jewellery.
And the **Moderator's Challenge** also raised **£245**.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

We are now looking forward to Christian Aid Week 2025 which will take place from **May 11th to May 17th**. This year, the focus will be on poverty in the communities of Burundi, where over 70% of people face hunger and poverty every day.

We are thinking about new ways to fundraise to raise money for Christian Aid's projects. Any ideas welcome!



FAIR TRADE

At the start of December I visited Bangladesh with my son.

The weekend I arrived, in the park beside our apartment, there were craft stalls and I was able to buy directly from a group of women who were part of a cooperative in their village making and embroidering small items such as book marks and make-up bags. There is also a fairtrade shop in the centre of Daka selling a wide range of fair trade goods which we visited and bought gifts to take home.

I missed Traidcraft at Christmas! I always enjoyed buying their Christmas cards and finding small gifts for friends in their catalogue. There is, however, an organisation called Transform Trade based in Newcastle. They work for trade and climate justice.

In South Asia and East Africa, they partner with farmers, workers and artisans to help them benefit from more sustainable and equitable trade. From supporting tea growers in Asia and East Africa, to standing with smallholder farmers, garment makers and continuing to invest directly in producer businesses fighting for a fairer deal, Transform Trade hope their work will continue to grow and expand this year.

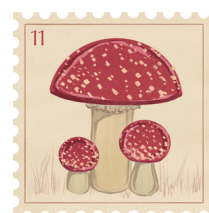
In the UK Transform Trade advocate and campaign for changes to business practices and government policy. And here's the good news for some members of our congregation . . . you can buy Traidcraft loo roll from them now at store-transform-trade.org

You can also buy greetings cards and Christmas cards.

An alternative is the One World Shop and café in the church at the foot of Lothian Road in Edinburgh.

Helen Smith

Advance notice - **World Day of Prayer 2025**,
prepared by Christian women of the Cook Islands.
Service on Friday 7 March, time and place to be
confirmed but probably at 2 o'clock at St Francis
Xavier's Church. All welcome!



Stamp appeal

Thanks to all who have saved stamps - especially to those who have trimmed them nicely as requested - it saves us hours! Not half the envelope please, just 1/4 inch margin, and not cut too close - if they are damaged they have to be discarded, such a waste.

Please take a leaflet form beside the Post Box and read about the latest appeal - nearly £19,000 raised for an environmental project in Malawi.

Rosemary and Norah



Old Glasses

Do you have any old glasses at home? Old glasses are being collected by the Lion's Club in Dumbarton where they are being used to help countries in the Third World.

If you would like to donate then please speak to Janette Cant or Nina in the office.



**AN EVENING WITH
GRAHAM
KENDRICK**

ACCOMPANIED BY JASON CARTER, HARP GUITARIST

DATE 7pm 28th March, 2025

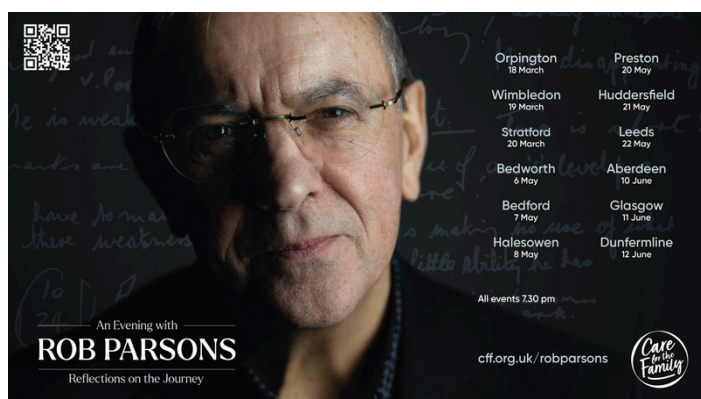
VENUE Falkirk Trinity Church

DETAILS
Tickets £18
Available from the office or
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/falkirk-trinity-church/t-norklxx>




Book tickets here:

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/toureve-nts/an-evening-with-rob-parsons/>




**An Evening with
ROB PARSONS**
Reflections on the Journey

Orpington 18 March	Preston 20 May
Wimbledon 19 March	Huddersfield 21 May
Stratford 20 March	Leeds 22 May
Bedworth 6 May	Aberdeen 10 June
Bedford 7 May	Glasgow 11 June
Halesowen 8 May	Dunfermline 12 June

All events 7.30 pm

cfc.org.uk/robparsons



Classic Music Live! Falkirk Concerts in Falkirk Trinity

21st Feb 2:00pm - Nikita Lukinov (piano) with
String Quartet

14th Mar 7:30pm - The Tenement Jazz Band

2nd May 7:30pm - Robin Bell (organ)

Some prayer suggestions and reflections for the month of February...

1. Pray for our Family Life Centre.
2. Lord, you search me and you know me.
3. Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding.
4. Pray for the Elders who lead our Church forward.
5. Listen for God in the soft whispers or the sheer silence.
6. Pray for peace throughout the world #PfP
7. Do to others as you would have them do to you.
8. Planned your funeral? It could be a final gift to your family.
9. Count your blessings.
10. What derails us from following Jesus? And how can we get back on track?
11. Pray for your Church family.
12. Turn your eyes upon Jesus.
13. Loving God, comfort those who are bereaved.
14. Faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.
15. When I'm feeling down and sad, nothing much to make me glad, help me to remember, you are there for me.
16. Pray that those who have will share with those who have not.
17. There is a wideness in God's mercy. Be forgiving.
18. Ask, seek, knock.
19. Entry to God's kingdom depends on accepting it like a child.
20. Love God and love your neighbour. Sounds simple?
21. Think of three friends and pray for them today.
22. May you know the peace of God which passes all understanding.
23. Hear Jesus speak your name. He is calling you to follow him.
24. Pray for peace and justice for the people of Ukraine.
25. Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?
26. Pray for refugees and asylum seekers.
27. How is it with your soul?
28. Unless the Lord build the house, those who build it labour in vain.

Contact Moira Simpson on e-mail: moirasimpson@blueyonder.co.uk if you have specific items for prayer and this can be sent confidentially to our team of prayers.

“May God's blessing surround you each day as you trust him and walk in his way.”



Church Contact

Lost touch with the Church? Feeling lonely at times? If you do not have a Church Contact person and would like one to keep in regular touch and occasionally visit, then contact the office and arrangements can be made.