



Trinity Transforming Lives

Falkirk Trinity Church News

October 2020



WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

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.

Message from our Minister

Sunday morning worship has resumed and will continue as long as Government guidelines allow - details of how this operates are attached – please read through these notes carefully as you cannot attend Church without pre-booking for the reasons outlined. This worship will be substantially similar to our recorded online worship. We are presently looking into the possibility of a telephone service to provide some form of worship for those without internet access, details will be in the next Church News.

If you would like to speak with me about any matter then please phone 01324 625124 or e-mail RAAllan@churchofscotland.org.uk Follow me on Facebook or @RevRabRants on Twitter or my blog on website www.reformthechurchofscotland.org

I am attending a short two-day General Assembly in early October by zoom – no doubt updates on this can be found on the Church of Scotland website.

Since Comely Park Primary School cannot attend Church for their Harvest Service, I will be producing a recorded talk to share in the School service.

Falkirk Presbytery is holding a special meeting on 6th October to discuss the latest Presbytery Plan – we are cited as a congregation to attend which means we can have an extra few people attending by zoom to hear the debate.

I will be on holiday from Monday 12th - Monday 19th October during which time Laura will lead worship and provide funeral cover.

Online Worship

Online Worship can be found every week on Falkirk Trinity website: www.falkirktrinity.org.uk – links on our homepage will take you to the latest worship - click on "worship" then click on "watch live" and there you will find weekly worship plus you can view previous services. At the moment, our services will not be live streamed until we can establish best quality and safety practice.

You can get a daily reading, reflection and prayer online at Sanctuary First website www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk

Another website which you may find useful for daily prayer is <https://pray-as-you-go.org>

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, has been recording a series of conversations entitled "It's a Fair Question" – these are very interesting and can be accessed through the news section of the Church of Scotland website or on Facebook for the Church of Scotland or The Moderator of the Church of Scotland.

General Church Information

Our office remains closed, however volunteers will monitor phone calls and e-mails re-directed from the office: phone 01324-611017 or e-mail: office@falkirktrinity.org.uk

Employees update: Gillian has returned one day per week on Mondays working from home; Alastair, our Caretaker, retired at the end of June and we are not contemplating a replacement at this time; Bob has returned to play the organ on Sunday mornings; reluctantly and sadly our Café Assistant Fiona has been made redundant – we thank her for all her great work and friendship over recent years.

Prayer

Prayer is central to our faith, it is our conversation with God who loves to hear from us. Some helpful links are included in this news under "online worship". Contact Moira Simpson on email: moirasimpson@blueyonder.co.uk if you have specific items for prayer and this can be sent to our team of prayers.



Trinity Transforming Lives

This has been our focus for several years now and we have sought to transform lives in various ways, through worship, outreach, prayer, fundraising, and a host of activities through our Family Life Centre and events/groups at the Church. Our latest venture - School Uniform Bank - helps supply school clothing for families who are struggling at this time, including the supply of winter jackets, and has been very well received. If you would like to make a donation then please use this safe link to do so: <https://falkirktrinity.churchsuite.co.uk/donate/fund/1tjvchsa>



Trinity Transforming Lives

Finance and Offerings

The financial position of our Church continues to be a concern and will be monitored closely. If you presently use freewill offering envelopes then please seriously consider transferring your offering to monthly standing order – the form is available on our website at the foot of the front page under resources or you can request a form from our treasurer at falkirktrinitytreasurer@outlook.com It would be ideal to have all offerings gathered this way by the end of 2020. Alternatively, please send a cheque payable to “Falkirk Trinity Church” to Robert Allan at the manse, 9 Majors Loan, Falkirk FK1 5QF



Zoom Café

Our Probationary Minister Laura is inviting whoever is free to join her for two Zoom cafés on Tuesday 13th October at 7.30-8.30pm and Thursday 22nd October at 2-3pm. Laura says: “I’m keen to get to know you all better so I’m hoping some of you can join me for a wee blether!” Email Laura on LDigan@churchofscotland.org.uk to register your interest and receive the Zoom log in details.

Connect Group

Laura will also be running a Zoom Connect Bible Study on a Wednesday evening 7.30-8.30pm. Starting from Wednesday 21st October the Connect group will focus on the Sanctuary First monthly discussion material. Laura says: “The material makes for a lively discussion and allows us to go deeper into Scripture.” Email Laura on LDigan@churchofscotland.org.uk to register your interest and to receive the Zoom log in details.

Calendars for Kazunzu



The calendars for Kazunzu are now ready and available for sale. Featuring lockdown gardens of Trinity members, the calendars make an ideal Christmas present. You can purchase a calendar from Church or from Morag Jenkinson, Marianne Pattison, Jean MacSween or Bill Mitchell. We can arrange delivery. Please phone 628918 if you have any queries.

Calendars are priced at £10 for one, £18 for two, £25 for three and £30 for four.

Youth Station & S-Kidz



Youth Station continues to connect through their WhatsApp group and online meetings - for more information please contact Helen Smith on mobile 07757 041449. **S-Kidz** materials are being delivered to families until it is safe to return to our normal Sunday morning activities in Church.

Youth Station are also **Calling All Cooks!** Lockdown has changed the way we look at everything, and lots of us have had fun cooking, baking and trying out new recipes during this time. Youth station would appreciate help from everyone to create a recipe book of the congregation's favourite recipes (starters/meals/desserts or home baking!), to raise money for Falkirk Foodbank. Please could you send any favourite or memorable recipe(s) including ingredient list, instructions how to make and (if possible!) a picture of the finished article to youth station at: trinityyouthstation@gmail.com, or contact Helen Smith on 07757041449.

Calling all Gardeners

This is perhaps the time of year when folk are splitting plants and taking cuttings from their gardens – if you would like to donate or obtain any, then please contact Isabel Sarle for more information: isabelsarle@btinternet.com



Walking Group

We hope to re-start again in March 2021, subject to Scottish Government advice at the time. If anyone wishes more information in the meantime, please contact Elizabeth Brotchie on 01324 624273.



The next meeting of the **Kirk Session** is on Tuesday 3rd November at 7pm by Zoom.

Church Book Group

The Book Group continues to meet by Zoom - the next book is called "The Last House Guest" by Megan Miranda - next Zoom Book Group night is Thursday 5th November at 7.30pm. If you would like to join in or get more information, please send an email to Shona at sp011j4628@blueyonder.co.uk



In December we will be having a zoom quiz night in place of the usual Christmas meal...more details to follow.

Traidcraft

We usually have a Traidcraft Christmas sale at Church, however whilst this is not possible you can still order goods online at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk If you do not have internet access and would like a catalogue delivered then please contact Helen Smith on mobile 07757 041449 who will be able to assist with your order.



Some prayer suggestions and reflections for October:

- All involved in dealing with the ongoing effects of Coronavirus, and for our First Minister Nicola Sturgeon as she leads us through the crisis in Scotland
- For those who have to isolate and for those who feel isolated
- Our Elders as they contemplate the way forward for Trinity Church and for those working centrally in the Church as they plan for the future
- For those who are ill at home or in hospital or hospice, for the bereaved, for funeral directors, and for all who seek to offer comfort and support
- Have you listened to the latest words from David Attenborough about our planet and the immediate action required to stop extinction crisis?
- For Laura Digan as she settles into her 15-month full-time Probationary Placement with us here at Trinity
- For an end to military tension between Armenia and Azerbaijan
- For teachers and pupils as they enjoy their October holiday
- For the people of the USA as they contemplate who to elect as President in early November
- Harvest is a time to give thanks to God for...?
- Re-read our Church News and see where you are guided in prayer
- Can you find time each day just to be quiet before God and listen?
- Remember the Church is not a building but a people; how can you continue to show love and care as part of the body of Christ?
- At a crossroads, not sure which direction to take, speak to God, write down your options, see where He leads you
- Embrace the autumn colours and changes in the seasons; think of our God whose love never changes yet who leads us through change to new adventures
- Bring your family and friends to God in prayer and ask his blessing upon them

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



Resuming Worship at Trinity

1. Worship will be at the Church building on Sundays at 10.30am, lasting for approximately 30 minutes; please book a place by telephoning the office number 01324-611017 on Mondays between the hours of 10am and 3pm; numbers at each service will be restricted to 40 maximum; it might not be possible for people to attend every week, however we will seek to be fair in allocating places each week so that all wishing to attend Church may do so at some point. If booking a place as a couple or family then please make this known so that we can endeavour to allocate seats together, if possible. Please do not leave a message on the answering machine if your call isn't answered right away - just try again later.
2. No one with any Covid-19 symptoms or other contagious health conditions should attend. Please be aware of the latest Scottish Government guidelines and consider carefully whether or not you should attend, depending on your age and health.
3. All attending Church must wear a face covering; there will be no pew leaflets or other items to collect; there will be no singing; no access to the balcony/upstairs or any other part of the Church building; remember the 2m physical distancing at all times; please follow all directions and signs and guidance from welcome team members.
4. Church Officer will arrive 45 minutes before the services and open the main glass doors at both sides, open the main and inside vestibule doors at both sides, and open the three main sanctuary doors, and double check that all safety and hygiene measures are in place.
5. The person on computer/sound will arrive 45 minutes before the services to set up and remain in position as appropriate.
6. One toilet will be available, if necessary – the one in the vestibule situated next to the archway chapel – please follow all hygiene guidelines.
7. Worshippers should arrive no earlier than 20 minutes before the service starts. Enter by the single glass door, waiting outside 2m apart if a small queue forms, directed in by the Church Officer; two “welcome team” will be positioned in vestibule to check contact details (which will be retained for 21 days) and direct worshippers into the sanctuary; hand gel will be available and must be applied.
8. Worshippers should enter by the main vestibule door into the sanctuary and be directed to a seat by one of two “welcome team” positioned in the sanctuary, one at either side, filling seats from front to back; 2m physical distancing must be adhered to at all times.
9. The minister and anyone else involved in leading worship, will be positioned at the front, using the two lecterns with one standing microphone at each; should any worshipper require to leave during a service then please keep physical distancing and exit by one of the three main sanctuary doors.
10. At the close of worship please remain seated until it is your turn to leave; worshippers will be directed by “welcome team” to leave one at a time, those at the back exiting first, by the main sanctuary door and exit through the double glass doors.
11. There will be no tea/coffee after the service. Please do not gather together in the grounds outside after the services.
12. The “welcome team” plus Church Officer will be responsible for cleaning/disinfecting after the services.

