



Trinity Transforming Lives

Falkirk Trinity Church News

November 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 had resumed at Church but stopped again whilst tighter restrictions were introduced over the central belt of Scotland including Forth Valley. This seemed like the safest and most sensible course of action. Since the First Minister has announced the continuation of the restrictions at least until 2nd November, there will be no Sunday service at the Church on 1st November. Telephone bookings will commence again (on Monday 2nd November) for Sunday 8th November (Remembrance Sunday) and will continue thereafter as long as Government guidelines allow and as long as the Kirk Session decides it is appropriate to do so. The Kirk Session is meeting again on 3rd November and will discuss the situation – we will keep you informed of any changes to these arrangements. Details of how the booking system 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.

If you do not have access to the internet then you can now listen to a short time of worship via telephone – dial 01324 463882 – this should be available from Sunday each week – this is a local phone number so local rates should apply – 20 pence per minute – less if you have a calling plan – costs from mobiles may vary so please check your own provider.

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

I will be on holiday from Monday 9th to Monday 23rd November, both dates inclusive, during which time Laura will lead worship and provide funeral cover. Laura's contact phone number is 07842 984052 and her email is LDigan@churchofscotland.org.uk

Our Probationer Minister

Our Probationer Minister Laura's Online Connect Bible Study meets on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm until 8.30pm and focuses on the Sanctuary First monthly discussion material. Laura says: "The material makes for a lively discussion and allows us to go deeper into Scripture." If you are interested in joining this lively discussion group, email Laura on LDigan@churchofscotland.org.uk for the Zoom link and the weekly material.

Check out the Falkirk Trinity Facebook page for Laura's new '**Delve into the Word.**' Each Wednesday and Friday, Laura will post a short message and prayer. Wednesday's will feature a Psalm while we will journey through Acts on the Friday.

Calling all keen photographers! Laura is needing help with an Advent social media project. Participants would take a photo guided by a word associated with the Advent season. Photos will be posted daily on the Falkirk Trinity Facebook page throughout Advent as a way of visually praying. Email Laura on LDigan@churchofscotland.org.uk or phone her on 07842 984052 for more details, to register your interest and be allocated your advent word.

Laura will host another '**Get to know you**' Zoom Café on Thursday 12th November at 2pm. Email Laura on LDigan@churchofscotland.org.uk or phone her on 07842 984052 to register your interest and get the Zoom link. Laura says: "I'll be honest and admit I am struggling with the lockdown restrictions and the lack of physical contact I can have with people. Usually at this point into a new placement, I have a good idea of who most of the congregation are and would be starting to build strong relationships. It would be wonderful if people can come onto my Zoom café for a blether, as it will really help me get to know you all better."

If you can't attend please do reach out and message Laura or give her a phone to introduce yourself and have a light-hearted chat.

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.

Remembrance Sunday online worship will commence with the Act of Remembrance including time of silence if you wish to view this at the traditional time of 11am.

You can get a daily reading, reflection and prayer online at Sanctuary First website www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk You can also support the invaluable work of Sanctuary First by agreeing to support it financially, either by a one-off donation or regular monthly giving (details are on their website).

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.

Stated Annual Meeting

We have been unable to hold our usual SAM this year for obvious reasons – however in lieu of this the 2019 Accounts (already approved by the Kirk Session) are available to view on our Church website under “useful downloads” at the foot of our home page – if you have any question about these then please contact Alastair, our treasurer, by email on falkirktrinitytreasurer@outlook.com

If you have any questions in general about our Church life then please contact the Minister by phone or e-mail.

General Information

Our office remains closed, however as Gillian returns to work part-time she will monitor phone calls and emails: 01324-611017 office@falkirktrinity.org.uk

Prayer

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



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.

Finance and Offerings

THANK YOU to all who have sent cheques and handed in FWO envelopes in recent weeks, this is greatly appreciated. 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

Congratulations!

One of our members, Peggy Martin, reaches the grand age of 100 this month! She is our third member to reach 100 this year. Happy Birthday Peggy from all your friends at Falkirk Trinity!



Trinity Transforming Lives



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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>

Requests are now being received for general clothing for specific children. In order to meet these needs, the group aim to provide good quality second hand clothing and new socks and pants if available.

If you have access to children's clothes - from your children, grandchildren or nieces and nephews - would you be willing for someone to get in touch when requests come in? You would be contacted when a need arises to ask if you can help. This would hopefully reduce the need to store mountains of surplus clothing that may not be needed.

If you think you can help, contact Heidi on 07715462206 or email heidiandtony@blueyonder.co.uk

Church Book Group

Our book group continues to meet by Zoom - the next book for review is called "The Last House Guest" by Megan Miranda and will be discussed on 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 quiz night in place of the usual Christmas meal – this will be on Thursday 10th December at 7.30pm via Zoom. We will be using the Tearfund Big Quiz. Laura, our probationer minister, will be joining us. We would ask everyone attending to give a donation instead of what you might have paid for your meal out. This will be divided between Tearfund, Trinity Outreach clothing initiative and Home Start Falkirk.

Remember your mince pie or Christmas cake and nibbles and a drink. Should be a fun night whilst raising money!

Kalenda for Kazunzu

The calendars for Kazunzu are still 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 Marianne Pattison, Jean MacSween or Bill Mitchell. We can also 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.

The latest Vine Trust edition of Connections is available to view at: www.vinetrust.org/media/connections-newsletter



Christmas Greetings!

It would be great for us to share some Christmas greetings as a congregation online, so if you have access to a smart phone, simply record a short (20 seconds max) video clip - just a few sentences or one-liner – perhaps with a splash of tinsel or wearing your Christmas jumper - if possible shoot the video with the camera sideways - that is, in landscape mode - attach your creation and send it to greetings@falkirktrinity.org.uk



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

Members who have died

Sadly we intimate that during October, Jessie (Bunty) Harrison passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Trinity Guild



A wee update from Norah Summers...**Guild Week** was in September, following the Annual Gathering, and we should have been meeting from 7 October, but alas . . . Instead, we sent out a card to all the members, with a friendly greeting, news of the Annual Gathering, and an update on the Projects. Several members have written back, glad to be remembered and saying how they miss our happy Wednesday afternoons.

Saturday 5th September was the (virtual) **Annual Gathering**, when Guild folk from all over the country would usually get together in the Caird Hall in Dundee. It had to be a recorded programme this time, very well done too. There was a message from the retiring Convener Marian Macintyre, who ended up putting the Convener's badge in a (padded!) envelope addressed to the new Convener, Mabel Wallace. whose 'installation' was conducted by her own Minister in her church in Fort William, and she then had her turn to speak. There was an address by the Moderator, the Rt Rev Martin Fair; a message from the new Chief Officer of the Church of Scotland, Dave Kendall; updates from the General Secretary of the Guild, Iain Whyte, and the Associate Secretary, Karen Gillon; messages of thanks from all the Projects (see below); and of course lots of singing, recorded at previous Annual Gatherings and reminding us of the atmosphere we were missing! We had been warned to be prepared to participate in a service of Communion, conducted by the Rev Tom Macintyre, Marian's husband – a moving and fitting climax to a splendid celebration of our amazing Guild in these strange times.

2018-2021 Projects – total raised so far £300,000. Last year we gave to Crossreach and World Mission, this year to Sailors' Society and Malawi Fruits. Some of us have used lockdown time to knit warm hats for sailors, and these will be distributed at Grangemouth and/or Leith. Thanks to all!



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.



Christian Aid Autumn Appeal prayer...

Loving God,
come now and make us into a global neighbourhood,
looking out for each other through struggle and crisis,
reaching out to strangers who become sisters and brothers,
shape us into a caring community,
strengthening each other through every challenge,
standing together until justice comes for all.

We pray that the world will build back better from the coronavirus pandemic,
and that we can enable all to flourish with the support and opportunities they need.

We pray that our community spirit will continue beyond the pandemic and will include reaching out to our local neighbours and our global neighbours.

We pray that the love of God would so infuse our hearts, minds, soul and strength, that we will love our neighbours as ourselves. In your name we pray. Amen.

For more information about Christian Aid and how to donate please visit:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved-locally/scotland>

Autumn reflection

Autumn is a beautiful season with the wonderful variety of colours in the trees, all shades of greens and browns and yellows. We thank God for his marvellous hand-painted beauty all around us. This is, of course, tinged with a measure of sadness, because the beauty won't last for long when winter sinks in and all around seems lifeless. But in our hearts hope remains because God has taught us year after year that this is not the end but the time when we prepare for new life that will emerge again come Spring. The autumn views are a great source of reflection...

Maybe we feel as if we are in the autumn years of our lives. If so, by all means look back and view the seasons past, but also remember that God still has plans for us and ultimately he will bring new life to us, here and hereafter.

Maybe we feel that all around us seems to be decaying – the way of life we were used to – the hugs, the gatherings, the socialising, the praising – and it seems as if they will never return, especially as we continue through troubled and uncertain days – take heart, winter may be coming, but new life will appear again one day, shoots of green normality will push through again – the day will come when we can rejoice together and spend time again in the company of our friends and families and enjoy the warmth of embrace once again – we need to have patience – we need to trust in our God who brings new life.

Maybe we feel as if the Church will not be the same again – what we had was good at Church – our work, our witness, our worship – not perfect but it was good – and it seems that it has all come to a rather abrupt end – the leaves have been falling and we wonder what will be left and what the future will hold. We know that in the life of the Church we cannot turn the clock back. We have to give thanks for the past and now we wait and plan with God. What will emerge in our Church life will not be the same – we should be looking for new shoots, new leaves, new growth, new shapes.

Take a closer look at the autumn scenes when you are out and about and take a moment to think about where God has been in our lives, where he is in our lives just now, and where he is leading us.



Prayer

Great is your faithfulness, O God our Father – summer and winter, springtime and harvest, you remain constant in your presence and in your love. As we thank you for the beauty of autumn, we ask that you come to us, abide with us through these uncertain days to bring us the certainty of new life to come. All our hopes for ourselves, our families and friends, our Church, and our world, lie with you, we are in your hands, safely held now and always. Let us look upon your autumn pictures and smile as we trust our future to you.

This we pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray together saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen.





Thanks to your commitment and generosity, the **Iona Abbey Capital Appeal** has reached the £3.7million final target! We are overwhelmed, immensely grateful and slightly lost for words!

Firstly we want to thank you for investing in this journey of transformation. We are so deeply grateful for your generosity!

Secondly, while we have reached our target, we are still reeling from the impact of Covid. You can be reassured that any donations that are in transition for the Appeal will be added to the pot.



Some prayer suggestions and reflections for November...

- Give thanks for those who have inspired you in the Christian faith... what was it about them that influenced you?
- Pray for peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan and in all places of conflict throughout the world.
- Pray for Falkirk Trinity Kirk Session as it meets on the 3rd of November and the Elders turn their thoughts to planning for the future.
- Through prayer we awaken ourselves to God within us...
- “Like fireworks in the night the Holy Spirit came.” Pray for the Spirit to guide you, inspire you, comfort you, and ignite your heart.
- Pray for doctors and nurses who continue to care on the front line.
- Vine Trust – Kazunzu Village of Hope – Connections...
- When things look down, look up!
- Pray for our housebound and elderly members.
- Give thanks for our team of prayers at Trinity and remember them too in prayer.
- “They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.”
- In what way could you make a positive difference to this day?
- Take time to bring your family before God in prayer...
- God is ready to listen also to our grumps...
- Pray for Laura our Probationer Minister as she prepares and leads worship.
- Asking forgiveness from someone... from God?
- Time to give someone a phone call?
- What questions about your faith are on your heart at this time? Live the questions with God.
- Pray for all our young people and their families in the Church.
- Take time to bring friends or neighbours in particular need before God in prayer...
- Pray for those in prison... break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist... and for their families and friends and prison staff... heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ.
- A line from a hymn that you can recall and take with you through the day?
- Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me... living Spirit of God.
- Time to drop someone a text or a card?
- Starting to think about Christmas? Remember it starts with Christ!
- Thank you, Lord, for this fine day, and for... ?
- Is there someone you could invite to watch our worship online?
- Christian Aid... <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved-locally/scotland>
- The first Sunday in Advent... why did Jesus come to earth?
- It is by being awake to God in us that we can increasingly see God in the world around us...

“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.

