

# Falkirk Trinity Church News

## January 2024



### WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

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

Minister (Tel 07895 388644)

A Happy New Year to everyone! I hope 2024 holds good times for you and your family. Thank you from Jane and I for all the lovely cards and Christmas wishes sent to us.

I will be on Study Leave from Monday 8 to Monday 15 January - during that week Charlene will provide ministerial cover: tel 07368 852152. This is the second of three single weeks of study leave. I am studying three books by the late Rev Leith Fisher, former minister here. The books study the three Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. I am reading through and exploring the Gospels afresh under Leith's guidance in the books and formulating a worship plan for the next three years, basing each year on one of the Gospels, starting in 2024 with Matthew.

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Christmas Music Quiz, we raised £620 which was distributed equally between Prostate Cancer UK and Strathcarron Hospice.

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:

[RAIlan@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:RAIlan@churchofscotland.org.uk) Mobile 07895 388644 (The manse landline has been discontinued so please use the mobile number to contact me)

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

### Message from Charlene

Hi everyone,

I can't believe that as I type this update that I will have been here in Trinity for a whole year by January 2024. It has gone so quickly, in a blink of an eye as they say!

I have learned so much from you all, I have been shown kindness, graciousness, a listening ear, an open door, a place of belonging. I hope that the coming year will be as enjoyable, and that current friendships will deepen and new friendships will be made.

What will 2024 bring for us here in Trinity Church, let's use this prayer for the church at the beginning of a new year...asking for Christ to be born afresh in our hearts

May Christ be born afresh into our hearts.

May doors be flung open to welcome, bless and inspire.

May new gifts be discovered cherished and expressed.

May love be nurtured, gently given and received.

May courage continue in dark nights.

May joy flash at dawn.

May bread and wine be always a sign of grace, forgiveness and redemption.

And may each prayer, each day, of this New Year

draw us closer together

as we rejoice in our diversity

and seek to serve the world in all its need.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Happy New Year, Every Blessing for 2024, Charlene x

## 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.

## Falkirk Foodbank

Our monthly collection for Falkirk Foodbank will be on the first Sunday of the month – 7th January 2024.



## Dates for your diary

Tue 6 Feb 7.30pm Kirk Session meeting

## Members who have died

Since our last edition of Church News, sadly we intimate that Ronnie McDowall and Edith Robbie have passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.



## General information

Church Office: To contact Nina at the office please phone 01324-611017 or email [office@falkirktrinity.org.uk](mailto:office@falkirktrinity.org.uk) Items for February Church News should be sent to the office by 10am on Tuesday 23 January. Please note the office will be closed until the 8th January 2024.

## Café in the Kirk

The café will re-open on Wednesday 10th January from 11:30am until 1:30pm. Join us for home-made soup, sandwiches and scones.



## The Guild

The Guild will re-start on Wednesday 7th February, all welcome!

## Worship

As outlined in my notes, my study leave has enabled me to produce a new worship plan for the year ahead – every Sunday in 2024 we will have a reading from Matthew's Gospel – there will be other readings, but our focus will be on Matthew'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. I hope you will enjoy hearing from this new version, perhaps it is something you might want to buy for yourself to read.

Sunday morning worship at Church at 10.30am. S-Kidz and Youth Station - no meeting on 7 Jan – meet directly in halls on 14 Jan for “party time” – and then meeting as usual in the halls after the first part of our Sunday service from 21 Jan onwards. Our Sunday morning services are live-streamed every Sunday at 10.30am: [www.falkirktrinity.org.uk](http://www.falkirktrinity.org.uk) Recorded services are available to view through our website if you cannot watch live.

Needing a lift to Church? No problem, just contact the office with your details and we will endeavour to arrange a lift for you.

- Sun 7 Jan: 10.30am Service (Stargazers/World without walls)
- Sun 14 Jan: 10.30am Service (Charlene) (The cost and the reward)
- Sun 21 Jan: 10.30am Service (The threat to the Church)
- Sun 28 Jan: 10.30am Service (Judging)(Baptism)

Wednesday Worship begins again on 10 January: 11.30am midweek 20-25 mins service at Church.

Daily reading, reflection and prayer are available online at Sanctuary First website [www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk](http://www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk) or you may wish to try <https://pray-as-you-go.org> or <https://taketime.org.uk>

## Thank you!

Our Family Life Centre couldn't operate without the help of volunteers, so we would like to take this opportunity to thank every single person who has given up their time to help us help others. It is very much appreciated.



## “GREAT NEWS” AT FALKIRK TRINITY CHURCH

Further to Charlene’s question to the Congregation one Sunday, asking does anyone have any good news in the current worrying times, we are pleased to report “Great News” due to the extreme generosity of a wonderful local company, Logical Insulation Solutions Ltd., with the support of their supplier Knauf Insulation.

It all started after discussions at our Tuesday Men’s Shed Group when we heard we may be able to get some grant funding if we were enhancing our “Green Credentials” by installing loft insulation and any other potential energy use improvement works. So, we started obtaining quotations from companies accordingly, and imagine our surprise when we had a chat with Justin Harvey, the Managing Director at Logical Insulation Solutions Ltd., and he said that he would like to do what he could for the local community and kindly offered to supply and install loft insulation, not just in a small area, but the **ENTIRE** Church for free. Justin had previously been married in the Church and knows it well, so was pleased to do what he could.



We have upgraded insulation to the Lower Hall and installed insulation to both the Sanctuary and the Upper Hall to fully comply with current legislation within new buildings, thereby doing our very best for the environment, which we should all be trying to do.

The guys from Logical Insulation Solutions Ltd. were absolutely great to work with and have left a very professional and well finished job, ably assisted by our Men’s Shed guys and a couple of well appreciated volunteers, who transferred all the materials up through the Church into each loft space.

Grateful thanks to all those involved.



3 Wood Street, Grangemouth FK3 8LH  
Tel. No. 01324 477090  
Freephone 0800 849 1235 E-mail enquiries@logicalinsulations.co.uk Web  
www.logicalinsulations.co.uk



## Wider World



### Fundraising

As part of the work of the Wider World Group, we hold events to raise money to support charities which do work worldwide and also in the UK.



Recently we raised £592.02 for Water Aid from our jewellery stall.

The Christmas Craft sale raised £106.74. £50 of this went to Water Aid and £56.74 went to Shelter.

Members also contributed donations to the Middle East Crisis Appeal to help Christian Aid support people in Gaza.



Thanks to all those members of the congregation and friends who contributed in any way to these . . . making goods for sale, manning stalls and of course buying items from the stalls or donating money.

### Praying for Peace

On 21 December we held a Vigil for Peace in the Church. We are grateful to everyone who took part and came along to spend some quiet time in reflection and prayer.

The following is an excerpt from the prayer which was written for the Vigil by Norah Summers.



**A prayer for peace. I don't even know where to start. Perhaps by acknowledging that peace is not just the absence of conflict, and not just a nice idea, to be brought about by wishful thinking, but an active force, for which we need to summon our courage, and take responsibility.**

**For myself, I freely admit I am cowardly these days, for actual war is everywhere, in every corner of our world. I can't bear to watch the television news. The newspapers are full of heartrending stories, of violence and hatred, of pain and grief, of terror and trauma. Each new atrocity pushes the last further from our consciousness – Gaza dominates. Ukraine still suffers. Sudan, Afghanistan, Myanmar – to name but a few – have no peace either, but we can hardly take in the extent of suffering caused by war.**

O hush the noise and still the strife, to hear the angels sing - how shall people hear the angels through the noise of sirens wailing, bombs exploding, buildings collapsing? How shall people ever understand why they must live in terror and pain and grief to satisfy the greed for power of a few individuals who visit death and destruction, not only upon those they call their enemies, but upon their own people whom they should be leading, nurturing and caring for? And how do these individuals come to power? How have we let them? God forgive us.

And even where there is no actual war, there are situations as in our own land, where many people are not able to live in peace – they are anxious, cold, hungry, homeless, rejected, vilified, looked down upon. How have we let this be? God forgive us.

It is not just humans at war, the planet itself in suffering. The same greed and ruthlessness are destroying our earth - habitats and livelihoods are sacrificed to the gods of money and power. How have we let this be? God forgive us.

Peace will come, not only from our earnest prayer, but from our actions. So as we pray for peace, we pray also for courage – courage for those foolish enough to think and say that prayer might actually be an effective start; courage for those reporting on war so that the horrors are known; courage for those who might influence fatal decisions; courage for those who would speak up for humane and care-ful solutions to situations of conflict; courage for

**those who need to stand up and say 'not in my name'; courage for those who are actively working for peace; courage for those who have had to flee their homes and face further danger and misery; courage for those who are tempted to revenge, that they may break the cycle; courage for those who believe – have to believe – that their prayers for peace will find answers in love, down-to-earth, practical love, love that is able to stand up and speak truth to power.**

God of peace, God of love, God of hope, hear our prayer.

## Snowdrop Café

The Snowdrop Café normally meets every Monday from 1pm till 3pm. *Obviously*, we are not open on 1<sup>st</sup> January so will be open on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> instead and then resume our normal Monday routine.

Here are a few quotes from some of our regulars:

*Before I came here, days were long*

*Always made to feel welcome*

*Enjoy the company*

*Love Mondays now*

Everyone is welcome so why not come along in 2024?

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January, Ian Scott, a local historian, will talk about Burns and his links to Falkirk and the church.

The simple Christmas meal on 11<sup>th</sup> December turned out to be an amazing feast and a fun afternoon. A big thank you to the folks in the kitchen and to Stuart for the music.

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.



## Sponsored Abseil in aid of Strathcarron Hospice

Many of you will know Malcolm Strang, a much loved member of our congregation. Malcolm has made the brave decision to undertake a sponsored abseil at the Falkirk Wheel in aid of Strathcarron Hospice. If you are able to support him in any way please visit this link:

<https://www.strathcarronhospice.net/donate/malcolms-falkirk-wheel-abseil-2024>



## Other Events



Event: Origin Big Band

Venues: Carrubers Christian Centre, 65 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1SR

Date: Sat 27 January 7.30pm

Admission: Pay what you want— suggested donation when you book. For free tickets call 0131 541 0117.

## Classic Music Live! Falkirk Concerts in Falkirk Trinity

- 12th January 12pm - Arras Duo, piano and flute.
- 2nd February 2:00pm - Elena Fischer-Dieskau, piano.
- 23rd February 7:30pm - Resol String Quartet.
- 15th March 7:30pm - Laura Margaret Smith, soprano and Liivi Arder, piano.
- 29th March 7:30pm - Lews Banks Duo, saxophone and piano.



## Some prayer suggestions and reflections for the month of January...

1. O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.
2. Give thanks for God's forgiveness and the fresh start he gives us.
3. Wise men brought gifts. What can we give to Jesus?
4. #PfP Pray for Peace
5. Today I awake and God is before me.
6. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer.
7. Take time to look around you for the signs of God at work in the world.
8. Watch the news and pray.
9. Do not worry about tomorrow.
10. Give thanks every day for the breath of life.
11. The light still shines and the darkness will not overtake it.
12. Pray for the ongoing work of Christian Aid <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>
13. Focus my eyes on you, O Lord.
14. Count the cost of discipleship.
15. Spirit of the living God, move amongst us all.
16. Pray for your family.
17. Give thanks for the love and inspiration of loved ones who have died.
18. God did not send Jesus to judge, neither should we.
19. Pray for your friends.
20. Help me to remember, Lord, that you are there for me.
21. Pray that the Church may be a foretaste of the Kingdom of God.
22. Holy God, early in the morning our song shall rise to you.
23. Pray for the ongoing work of Mary's Meals <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk>
24. Lord, my life is in your hands.
25. Stormy days? Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the waters.
26. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
27. Pray for our Church <https://falkirktrinity.org.uk/>
28. Holocaust Memorial Day...take time to remember and pray.
29. When I'm troubled, Lord, walk with me.
30. Forgiving God, help us to forgive.
31. Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you.



Contact Moira Simpson on e-mail: [moirasimpson@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto: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.”**