

Falkirk Trinity Church News March 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 or our social media pages on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Minister (Tel 07895 388644)

I am delighted to say that we are ordaining eight new Elders here at Trinity on 24 March at our morning service. It is over a decade since we ordained new Elders and it is great to have people willing to serve the Church in this way: Alastair Jeffrey, Catherine Smith, David Foggo, Lynn Harris, Phil Harris, Jamie MacSween, Margaret Ann Williamson, and Nina Hodgson. We pray God's blessing upon them all as they make this commitment.

The Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale, of which we are part, is now nearing completion of its new Presbytery Plan – we will keep you informed of the decisions of Presbytery in the next Church News. The Presbytery is also reforming some of its structures and I have been invited to become the new Business Convener which will take effect in the summer, if Presbytery approves the appointment. More meetings, but hopefully more reform and change for the better!

On a personal note, Jane and I are delighted to announce the arrival of our new granddaughter, Ruby!

I will be on annual leave from Monday 11 to Monday 18 March - during that week Charlene will provide ministerial cover: tel 07368 852152

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 Mobile 07895 388644 (The manse landline has been discontinued so please use the mobile number to contact me)

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 can be viewed at: <https://www.reformthechurchofscotland.org>



General information

Church Office: To contact Nina at the office please phone 01324-611017 or email office@falkirktrinity.org.uk Items for April Church News should be sent to the office by 10am on Tuesday 26 March.

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.



The café is open **Wednesdays** from 11:30am until 1:30pm. Join us for home-made soup, sandwiches and scones.

Worship

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. 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 (except for 24 and 31 March when the young people will meet directly in the halls and join us for the last part of the morning 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.

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 3 March: 10.30am Service (Friends and enemies)
Matthew 26: 1-16
Sacrament of Communion

Sun 10 March: 10.30am Service (The clouds gather)
Matthew 26: 36-68
(Mother's Day)

Sun 17 March: 10.30am Service (Hand washing not enough)
(Charlene)
Matthew 27: 1-2, 11-26

Sun 24 March: 10.30am Service (Who is this?) (Palm Sunday)
Matthew 21: 1-11
Ordination of new Elders

Sun 31 March: 8.30am Early service at Princes Park (Easter Day)
10.30am Service (Alive)
Matthew 28: 1-15
Sacrament of Communion
(clocks forward)

Holy Week services/activities with other local Churches:

Monday 25 March 7pm - St Francis Xavier Catholic Church
(Stations of the Cross)

Tuesday 26 March 7pm – Quaker worship at Christ Church

Wednesday 27 March 7pm - Grahamston United Church

Thursday 28 March 7pm – Informal communion in main hall at Trinity – alternatively, Christ Church Episcopal Church (Institution of the Lord's Supper and Washing of Feet)

Good Friday 29 March 12noon - Walk of Witness from St Francis' Church to Bandstand; 2.30pm Service at Trinity; 7pm at Bainsford Parish Church

Easter Sunday 8.30am - Princes Park Early Service; 10.30am Service at Trinity

Wednesday Worship: 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 or you may wish to try <https://pray-as-you-go.org> or <https://>

Trinity Guild

Trinity Guild continues to the end of March, Wednesdays at 2 o'clock.

World Day of Prayer Friday 1 March - service in Trinity Church at 2 o'clock. Written this time by Christian women of Palestine.



Wider World

Ukraine



Please remember and pray for the people of Ukraine on the second anniversary of the outbreak of war on 24 February.

Olena Stiazhkina, a historian and writer from Kyiv says

“The world is talking of a second anniversary but the war has not been two years but ten years from when Russian forces annexed Crimea and invaded the Donbas. Among the things that have changed perhaps is the desire to tell the world what the Russians have done and are doing to Ukrainians, in the past and today. We are not just fighting for ourselves. We are fighting for a world in which it is safe to live.

Christian Aid Week 2024

Christian Aid week this year takes place between 12th and 18th May.

We are planning three events to raise funds – a soup and sandwich lunch after church on **Sunday 12th May**, a Movie Sing along on Friday **10th May** and an Auction of Talents on Friday **31 May**. We know that there are many skills and talents among our congregation and we would encourage you to think about whether you could offer something for the auction.

More details will follow but please put these dates in your diary.



Minitreats

It is hoped that we can run an occasional Minitreat bus between March and October. Minitreats is a mini bus ride with mini treat cuppa stop. Cost is £10. Within Falkirk we can pick up from your door or a couple of central stops. Fill in a Registration form (for office storage) if you would like to be considered. Forms available on table outside Trinity Church office or the office can post to you. If you would like to know more please speak with Catherine, Henrietta or David or give the church office a phone on 611017.



Snowdrop Café

The Snowdrop Café meets every Monday from 1pm till 3pm. Everyone is welcome so why not come along?

Would you be interested in volunteering at the Snowdrop Café? The rota is compiled on an availability basis. Speak to Isabel Sarle if you would like more information.

Activities planned for March:

4th - Storytelling from Tom Gordon entitled:

“Issues and Incidents: Did that actually happen?”

Funny (and sometimes poignant) things that have happened in ministry over the years

11th – Hand Massage (details below) also time to chat, play dominoes etc

18th – Time to chat, play dominoes etc

25th – Opportunity to make Decoupage Easter cards

Hand Massage - along with a member of staff from Strathcarron Hospice, one or two volunteers provide hand massage. This is worked on a rota basis so that everyone has a turn.

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.



Christmas Meal in a Bag

We would like to share a couple of comments received from a teacher of personal support in Graeme High School.

The word that I heard most when



reaching out to families to ask them if they would like to receive this gift was RELIEF .everyone expressed how much of a weight had been lifted off them and their families.

For one family in particular it made it the most special day they had had in years, due to unfortunate circumstances the family have never been able to have Christmas dinner together before. Mum was ecstatic because this was the first time her children would be together but also knowing that she was unable to afford a Christmas dinner. When I explained what Labelled with Love was able to offer, she couldn't believe it and felt like she had won the lottery.....It is a phone call I will never forget.

Labelled with Love



Thank you to all who came along to our **Movie afternoon**. It was such a lovely atmosphere and we made a profit of £340 which will help with our School Uniform Project .



Many thanks for your continuing support from all the team at Labelled with Love



Happy Faces

Happy Faces helpers Lillan, Margaret, Helen, Moira, Henrietta, Heidi and Shona have completed the Daisy First Aid basic course. A very informative session and a great resource to have.



Bereavement Support

The next adult bereavement support group is planned to start sometime in March.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in joining the group please call the office or email:

bereavementsupport@falkirktrinity.org.uk

Falkirk Foodbank

Our monthly collection for Falkirk Foodbank will be on the first Sunday of the month – 3rd March.

Help Needed

Do you drive? Do you have a full clean driving license? Can you spare a couple of hours between 7:30am and 3pm?

Falkirk Foodbank are in need of drivers. Uplifts from supermarkets start at around 7:30am with deliveries to clients starting at 9am and continuing until 3pm. The boxes range from 14kg upwards which are being delivered.

If you think you could help in any way please contact Marianne— 07306 134 528

Or

Morag—07840 819 563



Dates for your diary

Mon 26 Feb, 4, 11, 18, 25 March Lent Bible studies 7-8pm with Prof Helen Bond

Sun 3 March Communion

Sun 24 March Palm Sunday (Ordination of new Elders)

Thu 28 March 11am Comely Park Primary School Easter Service at Church

Thu 28 March 7pm Informal communion in main hall

Fri 29 March 2.30pm Good Friday afternoon service in Church

Sun 31 March Easter Day (Communion)

Tue 16 April 7.30pm Kirk Session meeting

Sun 12 May Start of Christian Aid Week

Sat 18 – Thu 23 May General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

Strathcarron Singers

Two dates for your diaries – **Sunday 12 May** afternoon annual concert in Stirling Albert Halls – **Wednesday 18 December** evening Christmas concert here at Trinity.



Thank You!

Dear congregation of Falkirk Trinity,

On behalf of our whole family, I want to say a massive thank you to everyone for being so welcoming and lovely for my daughter's christening on Sunday 18th February. It was a special day for our family, and it was wonderful to share it all with you.

Falkirk Trinity, and the people within the congregation, hold a place very close to my heart, and I am thankful that my husband Duncan and I have the opportunity to bring up our daughters Sophie and Skye, within the church. Given Skye's antics at the christening, perhaps her future is working on the sound desk with the microphones...

Thank you again,

Leigh Herd



Boys Brigade

The 4th Falkirk Boys Brigade which meets at the Etrick Dochart Centre in Hallglen from 6.15 - 8pm on a Wednesday evening require a helper to join them assisting the present officer staff in supervising the activities of the boys as they learn through games, crafts, stories, songs and outings at their weekly meetings and competitions. Please consider joining our happy group.

If interested, please contact Henrietta McRae 07836

Bells Recital

On **Wednesday 1st May** Dr. Ian Cassells, Carillonneur from St John's Kirk of Perth will be playing the bells at Falkirk Trinity.

Classic Music Live! Falkirk Concerts in Falkirk Trinity

- 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 March...

1. St David's Day - Enjoy the daffodils and pray for the church throughout the world on this World Day of Prayer.
2. Pray that all those in power have both wisdom and compassion.
3. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
4. Pray for students and teachers who are struggling in our local schools.
5. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.
6. Remember, God's mercy is new every morning.
7. Pray for all those work for or support Strathcarron Hospice.
8. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.
9. I will go Lord, if you lead me.
10. Pray for Mothers everywhere and the "Mother church" to which you belong.
11. As Muslims start their Ramadan fast, let us pray for understanding between Muslims and those of other religions.
12. Give thanks, with a grateful heart.
13. Pray for those who enjoy the fellowship of the church café.
14. Look forward in faith.
15. Remember all who go hungry in your prayers.
16. Where there is charity, and love, God is there.
17. St Patrick's Day – enjoy the fresh green buds of spring.
18. Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength.
19. Thank God for your family and friends.
20. As Spring officially starts, thank God for the new life in creation around us.
21. Pray for peace in Gaza and across the Middle East.
22. Give thanks for the lives of those who have died and remember those who mourn.
23. In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.
24. Pray for the new elders at Trinity that are being ordained today.
25. On this, the Hindu feast of Holi, let us celebrate the wonder of colour in our lives.
26. For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord.
27. Pray for the furtherance of medical research.
28. Maundy Thursday - Watch and pray.
29. Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.
30. Take time out today to listen for the still, small voice of God.
31. Jesus Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah!

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."

