

CHURCH NEWS

News from
Kingshill Parish Church of Scotland
Aberdeenshire

March 2024

Dear Friends.....

Recently we were given the opportunity to host a Prayer Space in Westhill Academy. Over the week we encouraged the young people to think about themselves, about their hopes and dreams, about grief, about how they could support one another, about forgiveness and about human trafficking, as well as their views on world leaders. It was a hugely rewarding and eye-opening experience.

It was interesting to observe the dynamics in each class and how our young people are seeking to forge their own identity. Our teenage years tend to be full of questions about who we are and who we want to be. There were lots of messages on our 'Be a light' board about the importance of being your best self (and 'slaying the day' – which is apparently a good thing).

From even before Jesus was born, to the very first moment of his public ministry, to his death on the cross, to his resurrection – the issue of his identity was pivotal. People are drawn to him at the incarnation because they are told that he is their saviour, a king, the one they've been waiting for. God declares at his baptism that Jesus is his son and more than that, he is beloved. When Jesus teaches, the crowd are continuously asking where his authority comes. When he heals or performs miracles, his disciples wonder who he is. When he casts out demons, some wonder if he is in league with the devil. Occasionally he is dismissed as merely being Joseph's boy, from Nazareth. But as he gets closer and closer to the cross, more and more people grasp his true identity.

Except, not everyone does. And that's why he is crucified. The religious authorities cannot accept all that Jesus has said about himself and neither Herod nor Pilate are sufficiently convinced to free him. The Pharisees and scribes become increasingly angry with each of his 'I AM' pronouncements. In their eyes, he is nothing but a troublemaker – a blasphemer – an enemy

of Caesar – a glutton and a drunkard.

And if Jesus had remained in the tomb following his death, they would have been proven right. Jesus would have simply been another charismatic teacher, who got carried away with delusions of grandeur.

But Jesus doesn't stay dead. The tomb is empty on Easter Sunday.

And Jesus is vindicated in all that he has said about himself because God raises him from the dead.

He is the resurrection and the life. He is the good shepherd and the door. He is the light of the world. He is bread of life and the true vine.

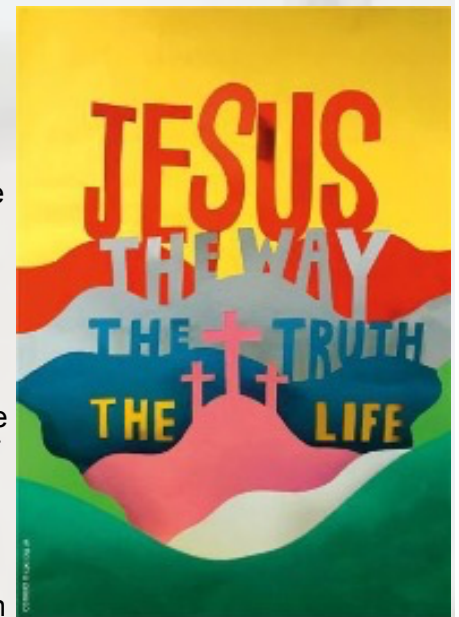
He is the way, the truth and the life.

As we explore the 'I AM' sayings during Lent and through Easter, it is my hope that we would remind ourselves once more of the richness of who Jesus is. Because it is only when we truly know him, that we can ever truly know ourselves. Our identity, as Christians, is wrapped up in his. And we can only ever be our best selves, when our faith is in Jesus.

Check out the details of our Holy Week and Easter Services, including our special songs evening on 17th March. We would like you to join us in worship – onsite or online.

Blessings,

Rev Stella



Sunday Service Details

Worship 10.30am Trinity Church

Worship 11.15am Skene Kirk

The service will be livestreamed to our YouTube Channel at 10.30am.
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ-wWCO2QUvEU8BhPTq_xfA

Messages



Holy Week and Easter Celebrations

This year we will be experiencing the story of Holy Week through the gospel of Matthew, together with the 'I AM' sayings in John's gospel. Check out the details below for our services of worship.

Each day there will be a matching reflection on our website, YouTube Channel and Facebook page. We would love you to like and share them, so that others can join in the journey.

| Date/Time | Time | Location | Details |
|-------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---|
| Sunday 24 th March | 10.30am | Trinity Church | Palm Sunday service <i>'I am the good shepherd'</i> |
| | 11.15am | Skene Kirk | Palm Sunday service <i>'I am the good shepherd'</i> |
| Mon 25 th March | 7pm | Skene Kirk | A short reflection <i>Experience the tension</i> |
| Tues 26 th March | 7pm | Skene Kirk | A short reflection <i>Experience the teaching</i> |
| Wed 27 th March | 7pm | Online (Youtube channel) | A short reflection followed by the final episode of the Difference Course <i>Experience the warnings</i> |
| Maundy Thursday | 7pm | Skene Kirk | Communion service <i>Experience the anguish</i> |
| Good Friday | 12.30pm | Trinity Church | Joint service with our friends in the Roman Catholic Congregation and Westhill Community Church |
| Good Friday | 3-5pm | Trinity Church | Family Craft Event |
| Easter Sunday | 10.30am | Trinity Church | A joint all-age service to celebrate Easter <i>'I am the way, the truth and the life'</i> |

Christian Aid 2024



Our plans are already underway for this year's Christian Aid week, which starts on 12th May. As in recent years, we will be popping **DELIVERY ONLY** envelopes through the letter boxes of homes in our community. There will be collection points in various locations, including both church buildings. In addition, we will set up our e-envelope once again,

which will enable you to give online.

If you would like to help with delivering envelopes, please can you let the church office know. Hopefully it'll be a sunny week for tramping the streets of the parish.

Messages

Lenten Lunches

@ 12.30pm

Every Friday during Lent we will gather from across Westhill to worship and enjoy a soup lunch together.

16.02.24 - Trinity Church

23.02.24 - WCC

1.03.24 - Trinity Church

8.03.24 - Trinity Church

15.03.24 - WCC

22.03.24 - Trinity Church



SAINTS AND SONGS

**A SOCIAL EVENING OF SINGING SONGS AND
STORYTELLING
SUNDAY MARCH 17TH
7.30PM @ TRINITY CHURCH**

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED



In recent weeks we have been introducing some new worship songs at both services. We would love an opportunity to come together and get to know them a little bit better, as well as sing some of our favourite hymns. On Sunday 17th March we will gather at Trinity Church at 7.30pm to do exactly that.

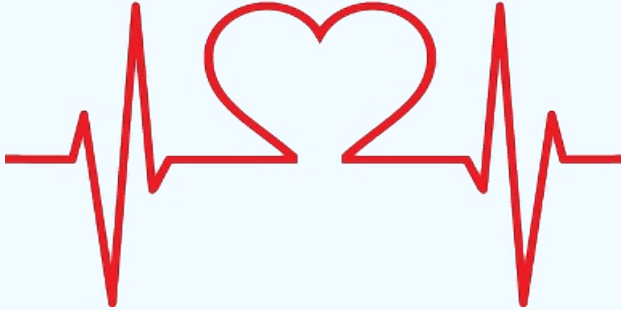
Given that it is St Patrick's Day, it seems fitting that our singing will be interspersed with some stories of saints.

This is intended to be an all-age, fun evening, with an opportunity to share fellowship with one another. We look forward to seeing you there!

Messages

Hospital Visiting, Pastoral Care and Hope Cafe

The Ministry Team is available to visit those who find themselves in hospital. But we need your help – whether it's you in hospital or a member of your family. If you are in hospital for a pre-arranged stay, you can put on the forms that you want your minister to be informed. We then get a call from the NHS chaplaincy team to tell us where you are. You can also say that you want a visit from one of the chaplaincy team – and they come highly recommended.



If you are in hospital unexpectedly, it can be difficult for us to find out which ward you are in. We can no longer phone medical records and ask for that information. Whilst it can be obtained via the chaplaincy team (your consent needs to be given), if you would like a visit when you're in hospital, it would be helpful if you could make sure whoever is passing on the message to us, includes the ward number.

It is not always possible to get to see people before they are discharged. But if we know about a situation, we will do our best to provide pastoral care.

Fiona Blair, our deacon, is currently working on renewing our pastoral care team and more information will be shared about that in due course.

But one of the ways in which we provide pastoral care in our community is through Hope Café. It meets on the first Saturday of each month in the lounge at Trinity Church (entrance via back door). It runs for an hour from 11.30am and is an informal gathering of those impacted by loss of any kind. There is an opportunity to chat, to listen and to have a cup of tea. If you would like to know more – please get in touch with Rev Stella.

Visit from the Moderator of the General Assembly

We were delighted to welcome the Moderator and her husband on Friday 9th February to Trinity Church to celebrate long service awards for elders from across the Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles. Well done to our elders who received certificates for 30, 40 or 50 years of service. The Rt Rev Sally Foster Fulton spoke of the importance of remembering who we are.



Amongst those recognised: Joyce Carter, Dr Alan Crane, David Duguid, David Lawson, James Lorimer, Robert Mann, Heather Murchie, Charles Skene, Margaret Smith and Donald Struthers.



Welcome

We are pleased to welcome Aref, Navid, Madhi and Milad who were baptised into the church recently.

This box is a surprise

What do the editors do when they have a little space available - we fatten things up or thin them down if we can, but if we can't we put in a little message like this.....

new contributions always welcome!

Messages



More from the Long Service Awards presentation



Messages

Callum's Corner

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES NEWS

It's hard to believe that we are two months through the year already! I'll take this opportunity to share with you some things that have come to pass in the last while and highlight some things to come!



The year kicked off with our Mental Health event for parents and those that care for young people. We were very fortunate to have Louise from the North East Suicide Prevention Team from SAMH lead a workshop on Youth Suicide Prevention. This event was really well attended by parents from our community along with members of our congregation. Thank you to those that helped make it possible. I am looking into running another event in the future, if you have a topic that you feel would be helpful please do let me know and I can reach out to try and get someone in to help.

Care for the Family are running an event aimed at helping to build emotional wellbeing in children, which is coming to Aberdeen in June. Early bird tickets are available until 14th March. Head to cff.org.uk/moto for more details.

We are, at the time I'm writing this, running a prayer space in the Academy for the first time. We are so grateful to have the opportunity to work with the young folk of

our school community. A massive thank you to all those that gave up their time to make it possible and we hope that you got as much out of it as the young people did. We ask that you continue to hold our schools, their staff, and families in your prayers.

Messy Church continues to meet on the last Sunday of the month at 4pm in Trinity Church. Please do watch out for announcements about upcoming events and encourage families that you know to come along and give it a try!

As always If you want to know anything about what we are doing for children and families in the parish please do get in touch with me!



CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate and note that our Session Clerk Chris Pinnell attended the National Scouting Service of Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey in February.

Chris had previously been awarded the Silver Acorn, the second highest honour bestowed on Scout Leaders for "Exemplary Service" This meant he was in the nave of the Abbey with Joyce his wife amongst other invited recipients of awards.

The pomp, pageantry and spiritual service was a fitting thanksgiving for time, effort and passion of many dedicated Scouters giving young people skills for life



Other News

KINGSHILL PARISH GUILD



Well, the Guild year is flying by, we have only three meetings left till we finish for this session. Since my last report we enjoyed fellowship and a lovely Christmas lunch at the Fourmile Inn at Kingswell together. Also, at our December meeting we had fun playing Nativity Bingo, a Christmas quiz and singing Christmas carols.

We look forward at our next three meetings to hearing from

- Monday 11th March - Sam about his Antarctic Trip
- Monday 8th April - Rhona about her time in China
- Monday 13th May - Finlay Morse a musical afternoon.

If any of these meetings interests you, please do come along, you will be made most welcome.

Blessings, Pauline.



A few photographs of our Christmas meal - everyone having a great time!



Other News

Towards our Annex Building Project

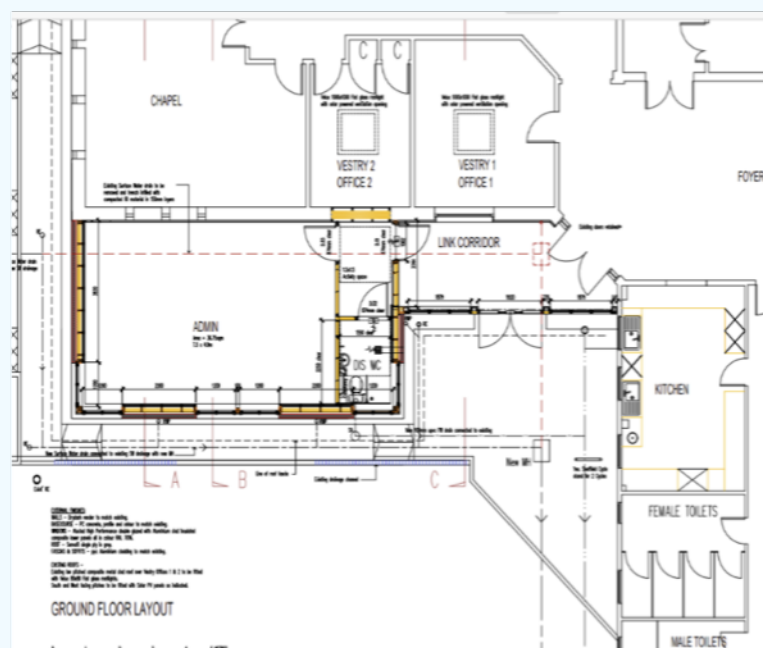
We are pleased to announce that our long-planned project to build an office annex at Trinity Church is approaching a major milestone. We have just received permission from the Church of Scotland General Trustees that we can go to tender for the building project.

Our brief was to provide office space for our expanding Ministry team, so they could be co-located. We need to have office space for Fiona, our Deacon, Callum, our Children's and Families worker, and our hopefully soon to be appointed "0.5 FTE" Parish Assistant. In time, the temporary office accommodation will be used to renew the accessible toilet. Not everyone can squeeze into the secretary's office!!

The extension - plans shown below - will be located along the wall at the back door. This will in effect be over the car parking spaces at the south face of Trinity. Because of the loss of parking spaces, the plans have included an expansion of car park spaces, and some small traffic flow improvements.



The tender preparation has been based on business requirements agreed by the Kirk Session and prepared by local Architect *Squire Associates*. We now have Building Warrant and Planning approvals.



The project also includes the provision of 72 Solar PV panels that on a bright day will produce 22 kwh of energy, that will off-set our electrical demand from the grid (and on the best days will give us export income.) Furthermore, we have received a £20,000 grant from Aberdeenshire Council **through support from the Scottish Government's Rural Community Led Local Development Fund 2023/24** for a large industrial battery storage system. This will greatly improve our carbon footprint.

The Kirk Session has considered the likely cost of the project £237,200 for the building and £97,000 for the Solar PV system, and has made an allocation from the Elsie Duguid legacy, and monies held for us in the General Trustees "*Consolidated Fabric Fund*" to pay for this work.

The next stage will be a tender being sent to five local building companies, and we will hope that on receipt of a good offer back that work may be under way come the summer.

Other News

HOT NEWS *Trinity will be warmer!*

During a week at the end of January the Trinity Church Sanctuary windows were replaced with modern (well insulated) double glazing. The work was expertly done by Bon Accord Glazing, when they installed five 2.9m (9 ft 6 in) tall window frames and four smaller 2.25m (7 ft 4 in) frames over four days of work.



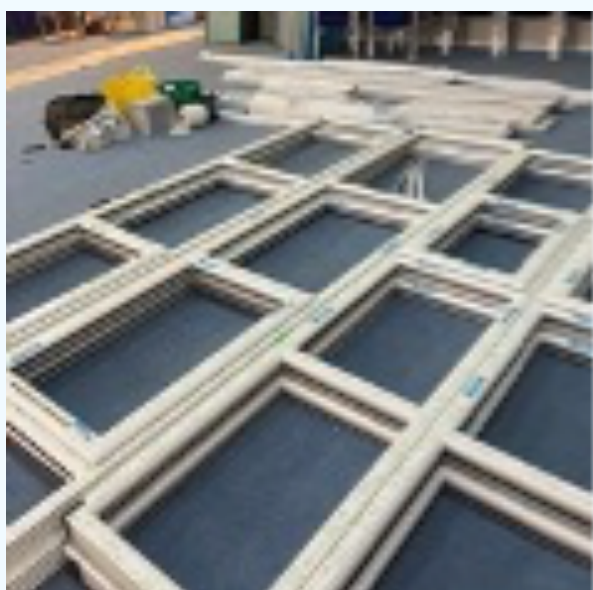
The sanctuary with our sacred furniture shrouded



The contractors at work

The work was supported with an £18,000 grant from Aberdeenshire Council – through a Scottish Government “Aberdeenshire Rural Communities Challenge Fund” grant. The basis of this money is to assist Community buildings to be more energy efficient, as part of the drive towards “Net Zero”

In our application we were able to reference a buildings survey carried out in 2023 showing the considerable heat losses equivalent to 11% of heat losses or up to 320 KWh of gas heating!!



During preparation work all the frames were laid out and checked before installation



The north wall with new windows in place

Session Clerk Chris Pinnell said, “This was an excellent first step within our sustainability plans, and came with a very welcome Aberdeenshire Council grant. With the Solar Panels that will go on our roof when the Extension is being built, we will be greatly reducing our Carbon Footprint.”

This Project was supported by the Scottish Government’s Rural Community Led Local Development Fund 2023/24”

Other News



ECO CONGREGATION

Our Church has been an Eco Congregation for many years now. Much hard work went into achieving three awards which are displayed in both buildings. The work undertaken by members of the congregation fell into three broad categories, Spiritual Living, Practical Living and Global Living. We have tried over the years to consider these elements in as much of our church life as possible. However, it is felt that perhaps it is time to renew our environmental commitment across all aspects of the life of Kingshill Parish. We now have a newly formed Eco Committee. Our aims are to enable action towards sustainability and our task will be to advise the Kirk Session on Eco matters. The new committee is seeking others keen to champion Environmental action. If you are interested please do get in touch.

Reduce, reuse and recycle is only a very small part of what we can do under Practical Living but we CAN all do it. This is just a wee reminder that we try very hard to recycle as much as we can at both Kingshill Church buildings. All user groups are actively encouraged to recycle whatever they can. At Trinity we have separate recycling bins outside the office for ink cartridges, aluminium foil, card and paper, rigid plastic and soft plastic. Using these reduces the waste going into the general bin and in turn reduces what enters landfill sites. Larger items can be placed in the blue and orange bins – just like at home – at the back fire exit, next to the Haven. Food waste bins, just like home, operate in the kitchen at Trinity.

There are also drawers outside the Back Hall in Trinity where used postage stamps, old spectacles, mobile phones and milk bottle tops – red, blue, green, purple and white – can be deposited. Odd balls of wool can be handed in to be used by the Knit and Natter Groups. There are similar receptacles for all these items at Skene Kirk.

The ink cartridges collected raise money for Christian Aid. The aluminium is sold to raise money which is used to enhance the grounds with plants and bulbs and extra compost etc. The stamps go to local charities. Mobile phones are accepted at the Oxfam Shop in Chapel Street, the spectacles go to our local optometrists and the milk bottle tops go all the way to Elgin for a special project there.

This is just a small start in which we can ALL be involved. Let's go for it! Let us all get on board as we look to the future of our world and the people who dwell there. Watch out for more news on our Eco efforts at Kingshill Parish Church in the next Newsletter.

'The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it'.
Psalm 24:1

Sheila Gray



1st SKENE GIRLS' BRIGADE

Since starting back in January 2024 we have entered two Divisional Competitions, our Explorers (P1-P3) came third in their Physical Competition and our Juniors weren't placed in theirs but all girls enjoyed the experience.

We have also attended the Aberdeen Division Beach Ballroom Display where the Competition winners were awarded their trophies including our Explorers who won a Turn Up Potted Sports Competition at the end of last year. All physical competition items were displayed and also some Divisional items. There was a chance for all girls from all companies in Aberdeen Division to rehearse together 3 weeks prior to the event and take part in divisional items on the day, a great way to meet new girls from other companies.

Our own Open Night is being held in Trinity Church on Monday 25th March at 7pm, everyone is welcome to come along and see what the girls have been practising and what awards and trophies they have earned this session.

We will then be having a break and will return once the schools go back in August.

Any questions please do not hesitate to contact myself:

Fiona Cumming (Captain) ON 07792471199 or email fionacumming26@icloud.com

Other News

1st SKENE BOYS' BRIGADE



The year got off to an exciting start with a visit from the Critter Keeper who enthralled the Anchors and Juniors with a selection of creepy crawlies as well as some cuter animals.

On Friday 23rd Feb we held a Family quiz night. This was a great success raising £150 towards BB funds. Our next event is the Spring Fayre at Trinity church on Saturday 16th March. Entry is by ticket (£5 adults/£2 children and concessions) and includes refreshments - please come along and join us.

Over the May holiday weekend we have a group of Juniors going up to Abernethy Outdoor centre for an activity weekend - this is always a popular event and usually we get lucky with the weather - fingers crossed.

BBs is open to boys between P1 and S6 if you are interested please get in touch - The Adventure Begins here!

Niall MacBeath - Company Captain

Contact: niall.macbeath@btinternet.com

or via our Facebook page: 1st Skene-Westhill Boys' Brigade



Skene Fundraising Committee -Macmillan Cancer Support

We take this opportunity to thank all who have donated so generously to Skene Fundraising Macmillan Cancer Support.

Last October we held a Bingo Night at the Ashvale in Inverurie and raised £585. The Macmillan Burns Supper was held in January at Echt Hall, please check our facebook page for pictures. The total raised will be announced later. More recently in February the Skene Fundraising Macmillan Cancer Support Quiz was held in Dunecht Hall.

We will be supporting Modelfest on Sunday 17th March.

Please follow us on facebook - Skene Fundraising Committee-Macmillan Cancer Support - to read about these events and future events. In addition we do place posters around Westhill with the coming events. To donate to Macmillan Skene Fundraising Committee go to macmillan-org.enthuse.com

The funds raised by the committee remains within this area.If you would like to be a volunteer or join our committee please contact me at the number below.

Fundraising for

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Charity No SCO039907

Alison Troup - 07974790765



Notices

MUSICAL CONCERTS

The Aberdeen Orpheus Choir will be performing at Skene Kirk on Friday 17th May. Tickets priced £10 will be on sale at the beginning of April. Money will go to Christian Aid.



On Friday 29th November, The Northern Lights Singers will be performing at Skene Kirk with a mixture of Christmas and Scottish Music. Their conductor is Harry Williamson who is well known to many of us. An evening not to be missed!

Please note these dates in your diary. Any further information can be gained from Margaret Mearns, tel. 01224 740176

FLITTING NEWS

We are delighted to announce that Fiona Blair, our Deacon, has moved into Kirk Cottage. She is looking forward to living in the parish. We want to wish her all the very best as she settles in to her new home. Hopefully the neighbour won't prove too challenging!



BADMINTON

We have a few new faces at our badminton sessions at 7.30pm on Monday evenings, but always space for more!

barbaraemmerson@hotmail.com for details.



We remember with thanksgiving those who have died recently, and we offer their relatives our prayerful sympathy:

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Gertrude Beaton | The Grove |
| Catherine Brooks | Badenscoth Care Home |
| Sandra Buchan | Durno Park |
| Charles Davidson | Stonehaven |
| Matthew Dickson | Kirkton Gardens |
| Frances Fleming | Aberdeen |
| Susan Hudson | Harvest Hill |
| Hector MacDonald | Pitcairn Lodge |
| John Moir | Anderson Drive |
| Ronald Murdoch | Beech Road |
| Edith Pirie | Inverurie |

CHURCH OFFICE

Eva Will is available from 9.00am to noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please get in touch by phone or email.



tel: 01224 742512

email: secretary.kingshillparish@gmail.com

SAFEGUARDING

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults in our community is of vital importance. If you see or hear something that concerns you, please do something.

For anything connected to the Church, contact Sheena McIntosh or Ann Paterson, or Audrey Walker, Safeguarding Coordinators through Safeguarding.kingshillparish@gmail.com

For non-church concerns, contact either the local social work service or the police. Contact details can be found on the Safeguarding page of Kingshill Parish Church website.

NEWSLETTER

Currently we are planning four issues of the newsletter this year but the dates have yet to be finalised.

The next Newsletter will be issued in June.

Please send articles to

barbaraemmerson@hotmail.com

by Friday 24th May at the latest.

