

# Tranent Parish Church

# Contact



Welcome to Tranent Parish Church

Photo: Laurie Brett

## Autumn 2025

[www.tranentparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.tranentparishchurch.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/tranentparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/tranentparishchurch)

# Church Services

## In Tranent Parish Church

The Sunday Morning Service is in the Church at 11am. Children are very welcome. They join in at the start of the service before leaving for their own activities in the J-Club during term time.

Services are held regularly in Tranent Care Home and Crookston Care Home.

## Prayer Group

The weekly Saturday Prayer Group meets at 8am in the Church Gathering Area and all are welcome.

A monthly Prayer Sheet is available in the gathering area at the back of the church, on the church website and by email from Douglas Roberts.

## Church Family

### Deaths

Mrs Catherine Anderson	April 2025
Mr William (Bill) MacArthur	6 June 2025
Mrs Dorothy Armitage	21 July 2025

### New members

Mrs Wendy Waldie	30 March 2025
Mr Keith Waldie	30 March 2025
Mr John Rafferty	4 May 2025
Mrs Fiona Hook	15 June 2025

The next edition of Contact will be out in December.  
Notices about contributions will be in the church intimations and emailed to regular contributors, but anyone is welcome to send us articles at any time.

Robin and Sheila

## From our Minister

Dear Friends

You may have heard it said that "change is the only constant in life". These words have been around for a long time, being those of an ancient Greek philosopher who lived in Turkey around 500 BC. There is something in them for our times too. I write



to you during Creation Time, the time from 1 September to 4th October, the date of the feast of St Francis of Assisi. This time is set aside by many churches in the autumn to give thanks for the natural world around us, to pray particularly for the protection of Creation and for the promotion of sustainable lifestyles which reverse our contribution to climate change.

Here in Tranent, we have set aside time for Creation Time for the last two years and are doing so again. We hold an All-Age Creation Time Service on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September and the day before that, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>, we carry out a joint litter pick with the Tranent Wombles. This weekend is being followed up by three evenings of Bible study, specifically related to the Bible's guidance about our need to care for the world around us.

In practice, the work of Tranent Wombles in establishing pocket gardens and the Forest Garden in Tranent give us an example of how to do that. Although our summer congregational picnic to Vogrie Park was cancelled due to storm warnings, with thanks to the Wombles, we enjoyed a guided tour of the pocket gardens and to the Forest Park one Sunday in July. We found out about the best way to create a "dead hedge" which attracts birds, insects, hedgehogs and other creatures. We enjoyed walking through the bamboo tunnel and having a picnic on a beautifully hot summer's day.

This year of 2025, the theme for Creation Time is "Peace with Creation", This is linked to the need for justice to be restored, where there is none, in the world today. The premise is that there will be no peace without justice. What does this mean where we are, in our lives and for our community? This is something that we need to work out together, as we gather in Creation Time in worship, prayer and conversation.

We are not left alone to do that. We have the constant love and help of God, the Creator, Jesus our friend and companion and the Holy Spirit, who inspires us to keep on changing.

Every Blessing,  
Katherine

## **Events for the Autumn**

### **Joint Church and Wombles Litter Pick**

Saturday 20th September 10am to 11am Forest Garden, Foresters Park

### **Creation Celebration Service**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 11am

### **Creation Time Bible Study**

Wednesdays 24<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October 7pm to 8pm  
in the Church Hall

### **Harvest Thanksgiving**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October

### **Souper Sunday**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October

## **Regular events**

**Open House** - takes place on Tuesday mornings in the Church Hall between 10am and 12 noon. Free tea, coffee and biscuits are served. All are welcome.

**Pool Group & Table Tennis Group** Both meet on Wednesday mornings, Pool in the Upper Hall, Table Tennis in the main Church Hall from 10am to 12 noon. All are welcome to either / both.

**Fair Trade Stall** We have a Fair Trade stall on the last Sunday of every month. With supplies from the Fair Trade shop in Portobello, there is an opportunity to buy various goods - cash only.

# Tranent Parish Church Guild



Our opening meeting this year is on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> of October at 1.30 in the church hall. Our Minister, Katherine, is our first speaker and she will also celebrate communion with us.

We are still in the process of compiling our syllabus and one of the speakers we have asked to come is from the Scottish Bible Society which the Guild nationally is supporting.

We look forward to hearing about their work and I include information about their plans for the future.

## **Project details**

---

Fewer than half of 0-2-year-olds are read to every day. We want to help change that. Reading to young children helps them feel safe and loved. It builds self-esteem, grows their vocabulary, and fires their imagination. Reading the Bible can help bring a family together and closer to God. Our vision is to offer every baby born in Scotland a free Share a Story toddler Bible on their first birthday. Every birthday after that, until age five, we will send a Bible related gift. On their fifth birthday each child will receive an early reader Bible to take them through their primary school years. The Bible gifts are wrapped by volunteers each month and an individual birthday card is written to every child. Before each package is posted we pray over them, knowing that God cares for these children and their families. This program costs just £50 per family for the five years and means that from a child's earliest memories and through their school years, the greatest stories from the Bible will play a part in shaping their lives. Our aim is to register up to 1000 babies per year, with the cumulative cost per year reaching £50k.

---

I would encourage anyone who would like to come to our meetings to do so. We would be so happy to see new faces. Once completed our syllabus will be on the church notice board and also on the Church's web site.

Kathleen Gilmer  
Convenor, Tranent Parish Church Guild

## Debbie

Thought I'd give you a wee breakdown on what I've been up to since starting in January. I have attended some training, both online and in person, also attended the Youth Worker Conference back in January. I support our Minister with Youth Club on occasions. I regularly attend parent council meeting at both Elphinstone and Windygoul. Church Club has re-started in Elphinstone Primary School, where I go every week to share Bible stories with the children. Every month I visit both ABC



Nurseries and share Bible stories with the children there. I attend various community events such as the wee Green Festival which took place at the Fraser Centre earlier this year, Fa'side Area Partnership Community Day back in June and, just recently, Elphinstone Fair. At Easter I shared the Easter Story with the children at Elphinstone. Tranent Parish Church gifted the P7's at Elphinstone with the Scripture Union booklet "It's Your Move" when I supported them with transition to High School. Along with others from our church I attend the Blindwells Cluster meetings. Excitingly, we ran our first holiday club in a while. The 2-day club ran on 4th & 5th August and had 9 children. Which is a great start.

Going forward there are a couple of things I'd appreciate prayer for. Recently, we were successful in a funding bid from Fa'side Area Partnership Health & Well Being Fund to run a community drop-in at Elphinstone. So, watch this space and pray that God blesses this initiative. Also, our second holiday club takes place on 20th October, please pray that our families will trust us with their children so we can share with them the love He has for us all.

Blessings,  
Debbie



## What happened over the summer

There was no Summer issue of "Contact" this year so here are a few highlights from June-August.

Among the activities of the Gala Week, the fancy dress parade saw us dressed up as crayons. "We are like a box of crayons. Every one of us is unique but when we get together the picture is complete."



On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July in the afternoon we were the guests of "Tranent Wombles" at the Tranent Forest Garden. For those of you not familiar with this; it is a community garden created over a period of around 2 years in a former grassy space behind Lindores Drive, near Forester's Park. We had a talk from a "womble" about their work in creating and maintaining the garden with some help from other groups such as Recharge but mainly due to the dedication of a few of their volunteers.



On 23rd August Debbie and Katherine had a craft stall at Elphinstone Community Association Summer Fair. The weather was kind, bringing out a big crowd and our stall was continuously in demand with children and families.

On 30th August we had our second sports quiz in the Church Hall. Douglas Roberts was our host with the most, with 5 teams taking part. The Minister's team narrowly won. In the midst of the fun there was also a message from Christians in Sport about faith.



Sadly, the congregational outing to Vogrie Park was rained off. It had been intended to follow the end of term service lead by the J-club, telling the story of Noah (*irony-alert*). Vogrie apparently means "marshy-place" and unfortunately in really was.

John Greig.



# Your Contacts

Minister      Rev Katherine Taylor  
[KTaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:KTaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk)

880011 (manse)  
07467 129365

Session Clerk   Mr John Greig  
[john@tranentparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:john@tranentparishchurch.co.uk)

Treasurer      Pamela McGowan

Unitary Team Convenors

Worship & Education Team

Rev Katherine Taylor

Fabric and Finance Team

Chas Spencer

Outreach and Wider World Team

Douglas Roberts

Pastoral Team

Roll Keeper      Dr Linda Ingham

Freewill Offering and Gift Aid Convener Dr Linda Ingham  
[donations@tranentparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:donations@tranentparishchurch.co.uk)

Church officer team - contact John Greig

Family & Youth Development Worker   Debbie Middlemass  
[DMiddlemass@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:DMiddlemass@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Hall Lets Convenor -   Cath Brett  
[lets@tranentparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:lets@tranentparishchurch.co.uk)

Editors of Contact      Robin and Sheila Strain  
[robinstrain@gmail.com](mailto:robinstrain@gmail.com)

Your elder \_\_\_\_\_



**Tranent Parish Church**  
**Church of Scotland**

Scottish Charity Number SC017423