

Holy Trinity Annual General Meeting 2022

Group Reports

Book Group

The Book Group met six times this year, once on Zoom, thereafter at each others' houses. We discussed six books, all being novels this year.

- The Offing by Benjamin Myers
- Pachinko by Min Jin Lee
- A Meal in Winter by Hubert Mingarelli
- Light Perpetual by Francis Spufford
- The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams
- Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro

Our next discussion, later in November, will be on "Madhouse at the End of the Earth" by Julian Sancton.

Alasdair Johnston
13 October 2022

EcoCongregation

The EcoCongregation Team met twice in May and early November this year, otherwise communicating by email or personally. The Wildlife Garden is flourishing with some new trees donated by the Woodland Trust and the wiggly path being maintained. The Garden featured in Greener Melrose's Jubilee photographic display.

We participated in the SEC Energy Footprint Analyser scheme which compared our average carbon emissions for Church, Trinity Centre and Rectory over three years; our average over three years from 2018 was about 10.5 tons but not surprisingly down to 6.5 in 2021.

EcoCongregation Scotland has prepared a series of monthly discussion papers on a variety of topics which form the basis for chat sessions over coffee in the Trinity Centre on the last Sunday of each month. Anyone is very welcome to join in.

The Borders Network co-ordination is now in the capable hands of Anne Bethune of Selkirk Parish Church. Meetings are still generally by zoom.

Many thanks to everyone making use of the recycling facilities in the porch – batteries, ink cartridges, blister packs and postage stamps.

The EcoCongregation Team would welcome new members; the only qualification is an interest in the well-being of the planet and its inhabitants.

Ian Skinner
October 2022

Fellowship

The Fellowship restarted at the end of February with a Coffee Afternoon in the Trinity Centre. It was lovely to be back together.

We continued to meet once a month in an informal gathering. In March, we were enthralled by Margaret Jackson's memories of her childhood home and with the pamphlet she had written.

Our Daffodil Tea in aid of Marie Cure was held at the end of April and was well supported.

Our short season was rounded up with a soup and sandwich lunch at the Kingsknowes Hotel.

We have just restarted for the coming season with a full programme. Hope to see many of you there!

Murielle Johnston
October 2022

Church Cleaning

Regular church cleaning re-started in August 2021 taking account of the appropriate guidance with regards to covid safe cleaning regimes and the teams have continued the maintenance of the church to their usual high standard.

The only change to the regular tasks involved is that we have agreed to launder some of the altar linen in addition to our normal cleaning.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank retiring volunteers for their service over the years and while we have had 2 new volunteers a few more would be very welcome.

Please contact me if you would like any more information.

Agnes Stott
November 2022

Monday Club

The Monday Club restarted in February with a smaller group of ladies attending than before lockdown.

There are about 12 ladies on the roll now. Scrabble has been the game of choice in the recent past, but there are other games on offer such as cards and dominoes.

We continue to invite both Church members and outsiders to join the club.

I am hoping to arrange our annual outing for lunch (or afternoon tea) at a later date – we miss Hergès!

The success of the Club is dependent on the willing support of our volunteers. I am once again very grateful to all those who have helped and continue to do so. New volunteers would be most welcome.

Murielle Johnston
October 2022

Social and Catering Committee

The committee has had less to do than in previous years, but is up and running once again.

We organised a very successful “Nibbles and Drinks” in early October for Claire’s Ordination. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event so memorable.

Murielle Johnston
October 2022

Sidespersons’ Report

The sidespersons’ group has continued to cover reduced duties during 2022. Covid considerations have meant that hymn books have not been used and no formal collection taken.

The group is much reduced in numbers from pre-covid levels so only one person has been available for each service where previously there would have been two people. Hopefully as things return to normal during 2023 we will see our numbers increase again. We would welcome any new volunteers interested in joining our group.

Linda Rainey
October 2022

Readers, Leading Intercessions and Setting up for Worship

Earlier in the year within our worship we as a congregation concentrated on our own vocation and what it meant for each of us as someone who we trusted professed a faith. Your response was wonderful as many came forward to help with reading lessons in our Sunday services; with leading the prayers in those services and for setting up the altar for the clergy to celebrate the Eucharist. We now have people to ‘fill’ those tasks in all those areas. However, we could always find space for more. Seriously if you, on reflection, feel you are called to such a ministry as these, we can

assure you of help, 'training', guidance and of course support as you engage with such tasks. Do contact me if you would like to offer, or even to have a talk about what this might mean for you.

Liz Williams
November 2022

Ministry Team

One major change following Covid and lock down has been the way in which we all join to celebrate the Eucharist each week. The previous Altar Guild members have either moved away from Melrose or sadly have moved on from this congregation. An additional change more recently has been Claire's ordination to the priesthood, (what an amazing day that was); this means Claire and Pip can share the priestly celebrating of the Eucharist, and then with Ed and Liz can share the preaching each week. One other change since lock down ended is that we are now back to having two chalices each Sunday and as highlighted above, those who previously administered a chalice are no longer available to fulfil that ministry. There are four in licensed ministry but there are other calls on their time; so, we now encourage you to consider this vocation in addition to the others above. Those taking the chalice would not be asked to robe, nor would they be in the chancel during the service: rather you would come up to administer from your place within the congregation. Some people have indeed acted in this way on recent Sundays when Pip or others have been away. This is a wonderful part of lay ministry within the church alongside the ordained clergy. Do reflect and pray as to whether this is a ministry you may be called to. As ever you would be supported and encouraged as you grew into such ministry; as before please speak in confidence with me.

Liz Williams
November 2022

Galashiels and Area Food Bank (GAF)

Many in our congregation, both on line and in the church building each week, are supporters of GAF: some as drivers; as packers; as shoppers: others as 'Buddies' of people on a Low and Slow cooking course; as cake baker for that course; as Trustees of the charity: then even more people support GAF financially; by donating goods; by helping advertising and by prayer. Some two months, ago when we as a congregation were considering how we acted as disciples of our Lord, who gave all he had to help the poor and those in need, we were encouraged to consider how we might respond to those in our own communities who were now in need, some of them in desperate need as the cost-of-living increase hits people. Your response was stunning! A number of people came forward that very Sunday, others in the week following and even more since then. The press reports that many Food Banks are struggling to meet the needs of those desperate to cope with rises in the cost of living. There are sadly many such people, and the number is growing as people in work are finding they do not have sufficient income to properly provide for themselves and their families. However, with financial and other donations coming in, and with an amazing and willing band of volunteers, some active in the field and some supporting with administrative tasks undertaken from home electronically, we feel confident that the often-despairing need of others in our community can be helped and hope can thrive and again grow.

Liz Williams, David Blackledge, and many others
November 2022