

Forth St Paul's Parish Church newsletter

Issue No. 03

July - September 2023



Welcome back...

We hope everyone has had a good summer and all the Children have settled back into their new school year.

It's been great to welcome back our groups....

- ❖ KNACC (Knit, Natter, Craft & Chatter) meet on a Monday from 10am-12noon.
- ❖ Guild meet every second Monday from 7-9pm.
- ❖ Mainly Music (pre-school parent & toddlers) meet on a Tuesday from 10-11.30am.
- ❖ Planet Earth Afternoon Club for P3-P7 meet on a Tuesday from 3-4.30pm.
- ❖ Youth Rainforest Café for high school pupils meet on a Friday from 1pm onwards.
- ❖ Jigsaw meet on a Sundays at 10.50am.

These groups are open to everyone.



Thank you to everyone who added to our 'postcard board' at the back of the Church. It was great to hear and see what everyone had been up to over the summer.

What has been happening in our Church....

Planet Earth Holiday Club

A Summer Holiday Club ran over 4 days on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th, then Thursday 13th and Friday 14th July for primary aged children from 11am-1pm in the large church hall. We had 33 children join us.

The theme for our holiday club this year was the Exodus story from the beginning of the bible. Every day we would always start with a snack while listening to the story and also watching part of the film Prince of Egypt on the cinema screen as we sat around the campfire. The children all enjoyed hearing about Moses and how he grew up and led the Israelite people out of Egypt.



To set the scene the children built 12 tents with old bedsheets and brought cushions and cuddly toys to make their tent more comfortable inside. The 12 tents were to represent the 12 tribes who set up camp after Moses parted the water and lead the people through the red sea.

We had a variety of snacks, soup, sandwiches, hot dogs, crisps and hot chocolate. We danced, played games, had quizzes where they had to find the hidden answers and we also enjoyed art activities.



The favourite was a snowball fight with cotton wool snowballs which was like a workout for all us volunteers, but a fun time was had by all.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make this such a great time.

Here were some of the questions in our quiz...

What is the last book in the bible?

Who did God ask to write everything down?

What is the second half of the bible called?

What is the first half of the bible called?

How many books are in the bible?

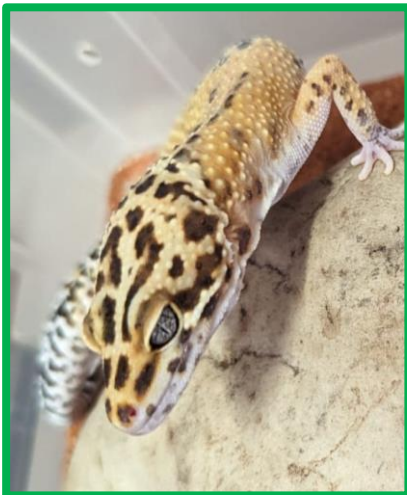
What is the first book of the bible?

What were the 10 plagues of Egypt?

Name the four Gospels

Cool Creatures joined us in Church.....

We were delighted to welcome Calum from Cool Creatures into Church on Sunday 21st August. Calum spoke about Creation and in particular he focused on God's animals. Calum introduced the congregation to Acorn who is a 15 month old tenrec and Star who is an 11 week old meerkat. They were absolutely gorgeous. The children continued the session down in the hall and got to handle Acorn, Star and some other cool animals. A great morning was had by all!



Calum is available for:

**Birthday parties
Educational visits
Care homes
Events
Animal experiences**

Tel: 07827 765 353

Or find on facebook.



An informal service in the Church hall

The service on 27th August took place in the large hall where the congregation enjoyed a cup of tea. The service was about talents and gifts which God has given us and which we are grateful for. Everyone coloured in a cross which the children stuck together to form one big cross.



Baptisms

We were delighted to welcome the families and friends of Eilidh Frame who was baptised on 30th July and Aaliyah Johnstone who was baptised on 13th August.



Eilidh



Aaliyah



Congratulations to Caitlyn

Congratulations to Caitlyn Alexander who started her career as a teacher at Forth Primary School in August. Caitlyn also recently got engaged and is planning to be married in our Church in two years time. Caitlyn has been a helper at Planet Earth Club and also a member of the Rainforest Group.



Catching up with Audrey...

- 1. How old were you when you started playing the piano?** I was 7 years old.
- 2. Who taught you to play the piano?** I had several teachers through the years. I can't remember the name of my first teacher but I remember having Mr McLennan followed by Mr Ralston and Mrs Neiderlie at High School. My final teacher was Mr Roy Henderson who I was with when I gained my diploma at the London College of Music.
- 3. Did you grow up in a musical household?** Yes, I did. My Gran Duns played the piano – she was a wonderful pianist and was able to play despite not being able to read music. My Papa Duns played the fiddle. My mum was a lovely singer. My dad played the mouth organ!!!!
- 4. When did you start playing the Church organ?** I started playing in September 1968 which is 55 years ago. I was very, very, very young when I started!!!
- 5. What is your favourite hymn?** This is a difficult question as there are so many that I like. The hymns that I had at my wedding are still a favourite. They were Be Thou My Vision and Love Divine All Loves Excelling. Be Thou My Vision was one of my dad's favourites.
- 6. What is your favourite service to play at?** I enjoy playing at all the services but if I had to choose I would say a normal Sunday service and particularly one when the children from Jigsaw participate.
- 7. Do you play any other instrument/can you sing?** I used to play the recorder and clarinet when I was at high school. My first choice was the flute but this was not available so I had to settle for the clarinet. My Gran and Papa greatly encouraged me to play. I sing with St Nicholas Parish Church Choir for both Easter and Christmas concerts which I enjoy.
- 8. Is there any other instrument you wish you had learned?** I would have loved to have played the flute but this was not available.
- 9. Have you taught Stewart and Andrew how to play piano?** Stewart enjoys playing the guitar. I didn't teach Andrew to play piano as such but I did help him with his practice when he had his own piano teacher.
- 10. What is your favourite kind of music and do you have a favourite singer?** A pipe organ is my favourite instrument and I love to hear it being played well. I follow an incredibly talented young lady called Anna Lapwood. She is an outstanding organist who can play anything. I like most types of music as long as they have lovely harmonies. I enjoy listening to Andre Rieu and have been to several of his concerts in Maastricht. Two of my favourite classical soloists are Kimmy Skota (from South Africa) and Mirusia Louwerse (from Australia). I loved the voice of Luciano Pavarotti. I also enjoy listening to Chris Martin from Coldplay and my favourite Scottish singer is Karen Matheson.





Happy Birthday Lorelei

A very special happy 1st birthday to the lovely Lorelei Bosch. It has been wonderful watching you grow and learn every Sunday. We enjoyed some birthday cake in the hall after the service on 24th September.

We hope you enjoyed your special day Lorelei.



Eckhardt, Rozelle and Lorelei would like to thank everyone for all the birthday wishes, cards and gifts received. They are very grateful.

Eckhardt's holidays

Thank you to Allan Grant and Robert Allan who led worship for 3 weeks while Eckhardt was back in South Africa visiting family.

The congregation and the children enjoyed hearing about and seeing some photographs of the wild animals he visited at Zanchieta Wildlife Rescue and Lodge. Lorelei was full of smiles at having her daddy back in Church.





Arran in Panto..... oh yes he was!!

Arran Sloan took to the Memorial Hall stage as Geppetto from 28th-30th September and was wonderful!

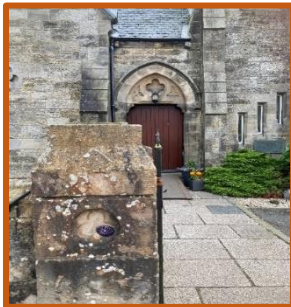
Blair Hannah played this part years ago and like Arran, was a faithful member of JIGSAW. Arran, like Blair before him, is a great credit to JIGSAW, being kind, caring, cheerful and friendly to all.



Scotland has produced many great actors, Sean Connery, James McAvooy, David Tennant, Ewan McGregor, to name a few, and now we can proudly add – Arran Sloan, member of JIGSAW at Forth St Paul's Parish Church.

Decorated stones

A big thank you to the person who left the painted stones in the Church wall. It was a lovely surprise and they made us smile.



Church Shop

Our Church shop will be open Monday 16th to 25th October from 10am to 1pm (excluding Saturday and Sunday).

All goods would be gratefully received. Please bring any items you have to the hall from 11th to 13th October 10am – 12noon.

Shoebox Appeal

We are once again supporting the Shoebox Appeal this year.

There are wrapped shoe boxes at the back of the Church for you to take away and fill if you wish. Please can all shoeboxes be brought back to Church by Sunday 22nd October.

Memories of the Glasgow Fair

Every Summer, the Glasgow Fair Fortnight starts around the second half of July. This year, the Glasgow Fair came and went with hardly anyone noticing. How different it was in the fifties. Then, almost 90% of the male population of Forth worked in the pits and the pits went on holiday at the Glasgow Fair. It seemed as if the whole of Forth was on holiday, everyone knew exactly when the Glasgow fair was and the children especially looked forward with excitement and anticipation, adding a special plea in their nightly prayers for good weather.

Some families were able to go on a caravan holiday to Troon or Leven or Arbroath. Caravans then were pretty basic, with drafty windows and calor gas lights and, yes, coal fires. There were the delights of the sea and sand, large swing parks with paddling pools, the fun fair and a bag of chips on the way back to the caravan at night.

Other families enjoyed "Jen MacCallum's" day trips to Burntisland, Portobello, Ayr, a whole day at the seaside. The children had paper streamers which flew from the windows and there was the great competition to see who would be first to see the sea and then the great chant would go up from all — I see the sea and the sea sees me—. It did not seem to matter what the weather was like or how cold the sea was, the children were there with their costumes paddling and splashing in the waves, waiting for the big waves to come and jump over them. Then making a sandcastle with a moat and running to get a pailful of water to fill the moat. If your castle was too far from the water, by the time you brought up your second pailful of water, the first had disappeared into the sand., but you kept trying. Then there was the delight of burying your father or a brother or sister in the sand and collecting shells to take home. Whatever happened to all those shells? Finally, there was singing on the way home, "She'll be coming round the mountain", "Old MacDonald had a farm", "10 green bottles" and of course that great favourite "ye canny shove your granny off the bus".

For others there was the pleasure of holidaying at home with trips to the Miller's burn with jam sandwiches and a bottle of ginger, a fishing net and a jam jar with a string handle incase you actually caught a fish. You paddled in the burn and some even went in wearing their swimsuit, but you never took a towel, the sun or maybe it was the wind, dried you. There was also the pleasure of cycling through the burn with your feet up off the pedals as you splashed through the water. Then on to walking over the Clough bridge and throwing stones and sticks into the burn and rolling down "Fanny's Bing". The weather always seemed to be good but that cannot be correct, perhaps the weather did not matter for such simple, happy pleasures.

Of course, the first week of the Glasgow Fair was also the BB camp week. Plans had been made well in advance, firstly camping ground in a seaside town had to be found (Arbroath being the favourite), tents had to be checked, provisions brought, the boys having saved up all year to pay for their holiday and spending money. The advance party, who were responsible for the hard work of putting up the tents and digging the latrines, left at 7.00 on Friday morning in back of one of Tennant's finest cattle floats. There was great competition among the older boys to be in the advanced party as they were the only ones who got a pass to go out on the Friday evening, so no one minded the cramped conditions and obviously health and safety had not been heard of in those days.

The rest of the boys left by bus at 1.00 along with a big dumpling and enough cakes and tray bakes to last for the week, baked by Nellie and Chrissie.

Wherever the camp went in Scotland, the boys on Sunday marched to the local church for the Sunday service, in the early days being led by their own flute band. However, then came the time when the camp ventured to England to South Shields. Then the church service was held in the marquee, but the boys really preferred this as the service was shorter and you had the added advantage of enjoying the smell of the mince and tatties cooking in the background.

All the boys bathed daily in the sea, regardless of the weather (it was the one way the officers knew they would be clean), then there were team games, football and competitions and of course tent inspection. All this went towards team points the best tent winning extra sweets at the end. There was also your turn tattie peeling and dish washing, some who stepped out of line doing these tasks more than once! In the afternoons the boys were allowed to go down into the town, in groups, on their own, how things have changed and do we realise how lucky we were to safely enjoy such freedom.

Tuesday was parents' day with 2 busloads of parents and siblings setting off for their day at camp. They enjoyed a camp lunch, then spent time with the boys followed by tea, a prayer and singing "The day thou gave us lord has ended" before setting of home.

The boys remaining to enjoy the rest of their week, many with a few extra coins in their pockets. By Friday, the boys had enjoyed a great time, spent all their money and were ready to come home, but of course the camp had to be dismantled before they could leave. On Thursday night, Willie and Zan were praying that the weather would be good on Friday so that the tents could come down dry. The parents were glad to see their sons home, many discovering that although that had packed 7 pairs of socks, only one pair had been used.

However, the hard work was not over for Willie and Zan who were left to tidy and clear everything away ready for next year.

Willie and Zan, gave up the first week of the Glasgow Fair for many, many years to take so many boys to the BB camp, teaching them to be good friends, to work and play together, to be respectful towards all and to enjoy good, simple fun. Although looking after so many young boys was challenging hard work and also used up half of their allocated holiday time, they loved every minute of it, their only regret coming when they became too old to participate any more. However, their dedication left lifelong happy memories in the minds of many boys and indeed happy memories for our whole village.



Glasgow fair trips "doon the watter".



Caravan holidays

Guild 2023 Session

Thank you to Allan Grant who led the Guild Dedication during the service on Sunday 10th September.

The Guild meet in the small hall every second Monday at 7pm. All are welcome.

11 th September	Marion Dick Musical entertainment	6 th November	Jenny MacKerr The Wee Farm
25 th September	Alec Bertram Spring bulb planter	20 th November	Rozelle Bosch & Christmas cards
9 th October	Gala Day Memories	2 nd December	Christmas Fayre
23 rd October	Alec Bertram Jewellery	4 th December	Fish and Chip night

Rainforest Café – Sunday & Wednesday

The Church café is open every Sunday from 12 noon. Come along and enjoy a tasty lunch of homemade soup, filled rolls, toasties and other goodies. Why not try a special coffee with our Rainforest blend coffee beans. Other hot or cold drinks available. You don't need to have been at church to come in so if you're passing by why not join us?

The cafe is also open every Wednesday from 10am till 3pm (last orders will be taken at 2.15pm). **All are welcome.**

A huge thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who work so hard to make this happen each week.

Prayer workshop

A Prayer Workshop will start on 11th October at 7pm and will run for approximately 6 weeks. Three parts will be focussed on – public prayer, personal prayer and family prayer. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please give your name to Margaret Hunter or put your details on the sheet at the back of the Church if you are interested in attending.

Church flowers

The Beauty of a Flower

The beauty of a flower can make me pause,
A vibrant hue to refresh my vision.
A burst of summer and its cause,
In every petal I see ambition.

The hue, the shape and its tenderness seen,
Providing inspiration for one's life.
God's love for beauty is pure and serene,
Giving hope to daily strife.

We'll each have our seasonal moments here,
Where we should take notice of heaven's bliss,
His kind heart gives us stunning things to cheer,
Blessings that we'll never want to miss.

By Catherine Pulsifer



How lucky we are in our church to have such dedicated and talented flower ladies, who every week provide for us floral displays of God's beautiful and serene flowers.

The floral displays we enjoy every week inspire us, give us hope, cheer us and show us God's love and blessings.

The ladies also generously share these floral displays with all the folk in our community, not just church members, they share God's blessing and beauty with all.

How lucky and blessed we are to have them.

Upcoming events – Dates for your diary

Harvest thanksgiving service – 8th October

Prayer workshop – 11th October

Holy Communion – 15th October

Church Shop – 16th to 25th October

Shoebboxes to be returned – 22nd October

Santa's Grotto and Christmas Lights switch on – 19th November

Guild Christmas Fayre – 2nd December

Gift Service – 10th December

Nativity Play – 17th December

Christmas Glow – 18th to 22nd December

Over the summer, Jane and John visited St Salvator's Chapel at St Andrews University. They received this beautiful prayer.

God,
In the peace of this holy place,
I say a prayer from my heart.

I thank you for creation:
this beautiful landscape, the rocks, the sea;
this ancient town, its stones, its stories;
this chapel, its colour, its echoes, its peace.
Thank you for protection on my path here.
Thank you for the blessings of my life.

I am sorry for what lessens me as a human being;
travel cannot remove this burden:
take it from me in this holy place.

Bless all who worship here,
who learn, teach and work together in this University.
Let students gain wisdom with their knowledge.
so that they serve the common good,
in our fragile planet.

As I turn to leave,
I ask for your companionship on the road ahead:
in every step
with family, friends, alone
let the peace of this holy place
be my friend and my hope.
Amen



Good luck to all the young people starting out on their further education journey.

Always pray for our Children and young people. It's one of the best things you can do for them.



Andrew and Katie visited the beautiful Belfast Cathedral on holiday



Church services

We would love you to join us in person on a Sunday morning at 11am but if this isn't possible our services are streamed live via our website www.forthstpauls.com or via YouTube (a link for this can be found on the website)