

Forth St Paul's Parish Church

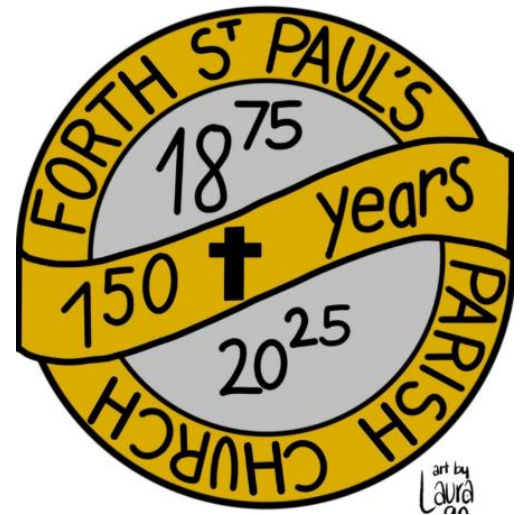
Newsletter

April to June 2025 / Issue 10



Welcome

This year our church is celebrating its 150th anniversary. Although many things have changed in the 150 years, one thing that has remained the same is the church which continues to welcome everyone, to provide a place to worship God and to preach the good news of Jesus.



Celebrating 150 years
of Forth St Pauls

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Forth St Paul's – What's been happening?

Sunday 30th March - Mother's Day

Mother's Day was joyful, with the JIGSAW children telling us about their Mother's Day gifts and then doing a drama of the story of the boy who gave Jesus 5 loaves and 2 fishes. It was great when the congregation joined in, with everyone eating salmon paste sandwiches, what a treat! It was great to remember the love freely given to us by our mothers and by God, who loves us like a father. Having eaten their salmon paste sandwich, the congregation enjoyed a chocolate at the end of the service.

Easter

Sunday 13th April – Palm Sunday and Friday 18th April - Good Friday Service.

Robert conducted the Palm Sunday and Good Friday Services. Both services were very good and thought provoking. On Palm Sunday, Robert gave a new perspective on Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem and how many of the folk there would have no idea who he was or much about his life.

Robert also chose very appropriate readings from the Bible about Jesus' last week in Jerusalem and the lead up to Jesus' crucifixion at the Good Friday service.

Wednesday 16th April – Easter Movie

Harrison, the minister from Carstairs and Carnwath churches joined us to watch the movie 'God's Not Dead'.

Sunday 20th April – Easter Sunday

Christine led the Easter Sunday service where we celebrated the gladness and joy experience of the very first Easter. The JIGSAW children told the Easter story, then enjoyed finding the Easter eggs which were hidden round the church. They happily shared their eggs with all the congregation. Everyone joined in to show the same Easter gladness and joy that was shown by the women that first Easter. Thank you to all who decorated the Church and the garden. It was beautiful as the photos show.





More photos of our beautifully decorated Church and the children wishing the Congregation a happy Easter as they left the service.



Thank you to Campbell and Linda who donated "Real Easter Eggs" to the JIGSAW children and also gave eggs to the children at Forth Primary School.

11th to 18th May - Christian Aid Week

In 2025 Christian Aid is celebrating 80 years of fighting poverty and injustice. The charity was formed just after the second world war to help refugees. Today they still remain united in love and hope with churches and Christians around the world, supporting millions of people of all faiths and none, because they believe in the unstoppable power of hope. Christian Aid supports people in order for them to build better futures.

This year the Christian Aid Week's Campaign centred on Guatemala and the effect that climate change and Industrial Developers are having on the indigenous tribes and their way of life. Christian Aid, through a partner agency, is supporting them to find ways of growing crops and earning money through the making of chocolate etc. in order for their way of life to be sustained and their futures better.

This year's fundraising at Forth St Paul's was amazing. We had a quiz, filled envelopes, walked to cover 70k in May, baked and sold cakes and ate our lunch at the Rainforest Café. With the help of sponsors and all those who donated we managed to raise £1317.05 - (not counting Gift Aided donations) - this is a fantastic amount and will go a long way to help with Christian Aid's work.



Over the years our church has always worked hard to raise money for Christian Aid and hopefully we will continue to do so into the future. A big thank you to everyone who worked, walked, baked and donated.

Sunday 8th June – Pentecost

Robert led us in worship on Pentecost Sunday. This is when the Church throughout the world celebrates the Holy spirit, the third person of the trinity.

Red is the colour associated with Pentecost. Red symbolises the Holy Spirit and the fiery tongues that descended upon the apostles.

You can see the fiery tongues represented in the pulpit fall and runner for the communion table that Rev Elspeth McLean kindly gifted us. They came all the way from Zambia and are absolutely beautiful.



Friday 13th June – Primary 7 visit to the Rainforest Café

We had an introductory session for the Primary 7 children to experience the Rainforest Café. They got to eat toasties, wraps, hot dogs and enjoyed ice lollies and juice. They played games like pool, air hockey, board games, and even used the PlayStation. Everyone had a really good time!



We would like to send a special message to all the children starting secondary school.

Although this is a big step, remember you are ready for it. Don't forget, everyone feels a little nervous at first, but this is the beginning of a brand new adventure. You will make new friends, learn amazing things and discover what makes you, you. Be kind but curious and don't forget to ask for help. You've got this!

Sunday 15th June – JIGSAW Appreciation Sunday

We had a joyous morning with a service led by Christine and JIGSAW. The children led the congregation in action songs, performed a drama about Peter and encouraged everyone to join in with special movements to the song 'I will follow him'. The children were all given a token of our appreciation for faithfully attending Jigsaw each week and happily joining in with all our activities. Arran, Ewan and Millie were presented with a bible and a photo album of their time with us throughout the years as today marked their last day at JIGSAW. We thanked them all for their enthusiasm and company through the years. We will miss them all greatly and encourage them to visit us and keep in touch.



Remembering Ian Conn

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that we acknowledge the passing of Ian Conn, a much respected member of the community and a valued elder of our church. Ian's knowledge of church law was invaluable and he always sought what was best for Forth St Paul's.

Please keep Elma in your prayers at this sad time. Ian will be greatly missed and there will be a further tribute, acknowledging Ian's life, faith and commitment to our Church in the next newsletter.

Saturday 21st June - Forth Gala Day

What a wonderful Gala Day we had!

Gala Day week was greatly enjoyed by all, especially by the children. There was 5-a-side football, a disco, a treasure hunt, wellie throwing, sports evening, it's a knockout event and tug o war.

As the week went on the weather got better and better, being very hot on the Friday which was a great opportunity for the court houses, streets and shops to be decorated. All were spectacular and congratulations to Maid Millie, who won best decorated house and Herald Arran who won the best decorated street.

Saturday arrived warm and sunny with a small, but wonderful, parade of fancy dress, pageants and floats. Well done to all, especially the school and nursery circus item which involved so many of the village children.

Then came the main event, the crowning of Gala Day Queen Cerys. The page boys and escorts looked so smart in their kilts. The flower girls and maids all looked beautiful in their white dresses. Arran was a very confident herald as he led a regal Cerys to be crowned Queen of the Heather.

Crowning lady, Margaret Hunter, looking splendid and beautiful in a striking blue dress and matching hat, performed the crowning ceremony with grace and poise.

Herald Arran read the royal proclamation in a clear and loud voice. The ceremony was finished by the laying of the queen's bouquet at the war memorial.

There was then the fun of the shows to finish off the day. There was a small shower of rain at 2 o'clock, but it was still warm, and it did not stop the fun.

It was great to celebrate the Gala Day with our Session Clerk, Crowning Lady Margaret Hunter, Maid Millie and Herald Arran who are faithful attenders at JIGSAW and Andrew Storrar a member of our church family.

The Gala Day would not happen if it was not for the tireless work of the Gala Day committee. For us, Gala Day may be over, but for the Gala Day committee the extreme hard work continues the day after the Gala Day right up to the next Gala Day Saturday 20th 2026. Thank you so much for your dedication, commitment and hard work.

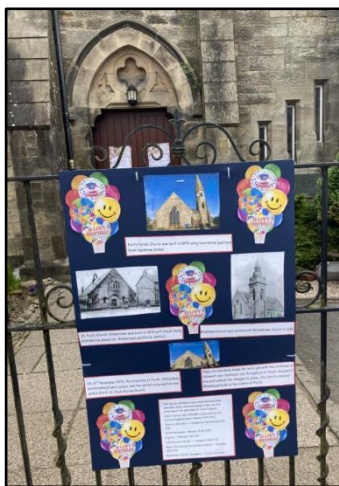




Margaret with Bobby,
Alan and Gus.



Christine and friends
beautifully decorated our
Church garden - Celebrating
150 years of Forth St Paul's.



JIGSAW

As a church, we are incredibly lucky to still have children joining us in worship at our Sunday service. So many churches no longer have any children joining them at their Sunday service. In the past, the children who came to church went to Sunday School, now our children go to JIGSAW (Jesus Is Good Super And Wonderful), and this year we have had 7 children attending regularly. JIGSAW is our church for the children where they hear stories from the Bible, learn about God's love and the teaching of Jesus. The activities at JIGSAW are very active with the children involved in games and craft work connected to the JIGSAW lesson. Although few in number, the children who come are cheerful, enthusiastic, friendly and caring. They are a joy for the leaders to work with, they never complain and enjoy contributing to church services with dramas and puppet shows. We are truly blessed.



We would like to thank Arran, Ewan and Millie for their time at JIGSAW, they have been a joy! We would like to wish you all the best of luck and we will pray for you as you continue your faith journey. Please do keep in touch and visit us. We are going to miss you all.

Getting to know our Jigsaw children....



Arran

Age 12

What are your hobbies? Theatre.

What do you like about Jigsaw? The food, the games and acting out bible stories.

What is your favourite memory of Jigsaw? The puppets.

What is your favourite bible story? The story of Samson.

What do you want to thank God for? The world.

What would you like to pray for in the world today? World peace.

Ewan

Age 11

What are your hobbies? Football.

What do you like about Jigsaw? Decorating cakes and biscuits.

What is your favourite memory of Jigsaw? Calum and the animals and the Easter egg hunts in Church.

What is your favourite bible story? 10 lepers.

What do you want to thank God for? Food and football.

What would you like to pray for in the world today? Homeless people.



Millie

Age 11

What are your hobbies? Dancing and gymnastics.

What do you like about Jigsaw? The food and painting.

What is your favourite memory of Jigsaw? Making the top hats and the Nativity plays.

What is your favourite bible story? Noah's Ark.

What do you want to thank God for? Nutella and sausage dogs.

What would you like to pray for in the world today? Sausage dogs and the ocean to keep clean.



Katie

Age 9

What are your hobbies? Dancing.

What do you like about Jigsaw? Making cakes and the puppets.

What is your favourite bible story? 10 lepers.

What do you want to thank God for? Family and friends.

What would you like to pray for in the world today?
For everyone to have clean water.





Jennifer

Age 9

What are your hobbies? Gymnastics, dancing and horse riding.

What do you like about Jigsaw? The puppets

What is your favourite bible story? Noah's Ark.

What do you want to thank God for? Family and friends.

What would you like to pray for in the world today?
More sun

Caroline

Age 9

What are your hobbies? Horse riding.

What do you like about Jigsaw? Games including team games.

What is your favourite bible story? Jesus healing sick people.

What do you want to thank God for? Everything.

What would you like to pray for in the world today?
Stop climate change.



Jacob

Age 6

What are your hobbies? Football.

What do you like about Jigsaw? The stories, games and playing with the bubbles.

What is your favourite bible story? The lepers.

What do you want to thank God for? Rain and my family,

What would you like to pray for in the world today? The animals.



The Guild

Our church was built in 1885 and in 1887 the Rev Archibald Charters founded the Woman's Guild to involve women in church life and ministry. In 1997, men were invited to join and the Women Guild became The Guild. The guild's motto was and still is **whose we are and whom we serve**.

Our guild meets on Monday evening once a fortnight from September to April at 7.00 and finishes around 8.30. We start our meeting with a hymn, prayer and a reading. Then we have a speaker or an activity or some entertainment. Our meeting finishes with a prayer and a cup of tea and biscuit.

Whose we are and whom we serve. Our motto calls on us to recognise Jesus as our saviour and to help others. We fundraise for different people and projects and we organise an Easter and Christmas fayre to fundraise for our church. The Guild has a great reputation for baking, knitting, sewing, craft making and even more importantly showing a welcome to everyone.

The Guild has evolved over the years and became less formal. Now we sit round tables and although we still have speakers giving us very informative and interesting talks about their lives, their charities, their faith journeys, their special interests, we also have entertainment evenings, craft evenings, activity evenings, film evenings and this year, even an animal evening.

One of our entertainers said that he enjoyed coming to the Guild, he enjoyed the welcome he received and the variety of folk who went to the Guild. Folk of different ages and views but all coming together as a Guild movement and worshipping God in a less formal way.

Over the years, the Guild members have had many favourite evenings. Among the favourite ones were the plays performed by the guild committee, with Mary and Isa often taking the lead and many times the best parts were when they forgot the lines and had to ad-lib. There was dressing up as can-can girls, Americans, hikers and many more. Another great favourite was the sari night, with some of the ladies modelling a sari.

There have also been many most enjoyable trips and mystery tours. These have not been repeated since COVID, but perhaps they could be revived in a different format. Keep an eye out!

New firm favourites are the fish and chip night and the variety within the syllabus.

All the members enjoy the friendship, the informal worship, the care and consideration they receive at the Guild. They look forward to the Guild starting and enjoy working together to help others and the church.

Over the years, the Guild has had many characters, who have entertained us, made us laugh, shared their wisdom, their talents, their ideas with us as we all strive to follow our motto of whose we are and whom we serve.

The Guild is continually evolving by now encouraging all members to be involved in the syllabus of activities, so please think of joining us, you can help us to keep evolving and have an influence on the Guild meetings by joining us. We hope to see you in September.



Celebrating 150 years of Forth St Pauls.

The month of September will be our celebration concluding with a special week from Tuesday 30th September- Sunday 5th October.

For that week there will be displays in the church and in the Small Hall with teas in the café.

The displays in the church will feature events in the church's life and history –in the form of a timeline highlighting important world events as well as church events along the way.

The displays in the Small Hall would feature work that Karen is doing with Forth Primary school and will involve the community of Forth for events that the church has been involved in some way.

Throughout September we are planning a weekly event which might be a film/picture show event, a family supper night, an afternoon tea and perhaps some entertainment evenings – these have all to be decided,

All the celebrations will conclude with a special celebration service on Sunday 5th October.

When available, we will be selling a colouring book, a photobook, pens and mugs to commemorate our 150 years.

Although our church is not closing it will have a new name and will be part of a new union with Carstairs and Carnwath. We want to keep a church presence for all the villages around our parish so although we are celebrating all that has passed, we are looking forward to a new future.

Dates and times to be confirmed through Facebook, the website and notices will be displayed in Church and the café.



Please get in touch if you have any photos or stories about our church in Forth, Wilsontown, Braehead. We would love to hear from you.



Café News

The Rainforest Café is open on a Sunday from 12noon and every Wednesday from 10am till 3pm (last orders are taken at 2.15pm).

The café is open to everyone to sit in or takeaway lunches/snacks.



We would like to thank our customers/friends new and old for coming to our café and providing us with lots of chat and laughter. Recently we welcomed visitors to the Café who later posted a lovely comment on our Facebook *"Visited miners' statue with friends today and called into Rainforest Café. What a wonderful place, food superb and service first class. Thanks to all concerned. Well done"*. Thank you for your compliment, Hugh!



Remembering Joy

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of one of our cherished customers and friends, Joy Easton, in April.

Joy was a regular visitor to the café, joining us every Wednesday with her sister-in-law Janet. Their visits were always filled with warmth, laughter and lots of chat. We will always remember Joy's bright smile and sparkly clothes.



On 30th April, some of Joy's friends from the Charity Shop gathered in the café for lunch to remember Joy and celebrate her life.

Gentle Giant Music Festival – Thank You!

We were delighted to open for the Gentle Giant Music Festival on Saturday 10th May. It was a fantastic day full of food, community spirit and wonderful customers.

A big thank you to Hazel for her kind words on Facebook:
"Well done to the lovely people who were serving us today... delicious!"

We really appreciate the support and look forward to welcoming you all again soon!

New t-shirts

Thank you to Blair for kindly giving the café volunteers new t-shirts.

We think they look great!



Ina

We were saddened to hear about the passing of Ina Govan. Ina was a loyal customer at our café and often came in with Jinty and Jean. She will be missed.



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).

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for more information on upcoming events.

Church Groups (open to everyone) — All groups will be off over summer.

- ❖ **KNACC (Knit, Natter, Craft & Chatter)** meet on a Monday from 10am-12noon.
- ❖ **Guild** meet every second Monday from 7-9pm. They will return in September.
- ❖ **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 Sunday at 10.50am.



KNACC Group
All welcome

Intimations

Gift Aid — If you give regularly to the Church and are a Tax payer, please consider signing up for Gift Aid. This will not cost you anything and will allow the Church to claim back 25% of any amount you give. Also, if you have previously signed up for Gift Aid and are no longer a Tax payer then please let us know so that we do not make a false claim. If you are unsure or would like any further information then please speak to either Catherine McGurk or Jane Savage and they will be able to help you.

Old Spectacles - If anyone has any old spectacles they no longer use and are happy to donate them to a charity in Ukraine, please bring them along to Church or the Cafe and Audrey will coordinate.

Used stamps — Please leave in the box at the back of the Church to support the work of the Al Ahli Hospital in Northern Gaza.

Co-op Community Grant – Please support the Planet Earth Club

The Planet Earth Club has been selected as one of the charities so, if you are able, please select them. Information on how vote annually is below...

**Do this by pressing the community button on your Co-op app or
call 0800 068 6727**

Doing this costs you nothing and means your favourite local cause gets more money in the autumn payout.

Volunteers:

All the following wee jobs need covered if you'd be interested please get in touch. Remember you'd be on a rota not covering all the time.

- Church Door Duty
- Readers in church
- Sound desk/ Powerpoint preparation
- Flowers in church and flower delivery
- Anyone willing to write and read the 'Prayer for Others' during weekly worship
- People willing to help with our Property Group to maintain our buildings
- **Cleaner - As we no longer have a church cleaner, we are trying to form a rota of folk who can give up 30 minutes once a month to clean the church. If you can help, please give your name to Margaret.**

Prayer Box

A prayer box is at the back of the Church for anyone who would appreciate prayer for themselves, a friend, a family member or a situation.

Please pop a note in the box and the prayer group will offer a prayer.

We would like to encourage more people to use this box

When your heart starts to worry,
and your mind just can't rest,
put your prayers down on paper
and let God do the rest

All requests are confidential.