

Holy Trinity Glencraig

EASTER SERVICES

Holy Week

All Services at 7.00 pm

Monday 21st: Evening Prayer

Tuesday 22nd: Evening Prayer

Wednesday 23rd: Compline

*Thursday 24th: Eucharist of
Maundy Thursday*

Good Friday

*An hour at the Cross 2.00 pm
led by Rev. Alan Parkhill*

Tenebrae Service 7.00 pm

Easter Day

Sunrise Service -Helen's Bay

Holy Communion 9.00 am

Holy Communion 11.00 am

with Easter Egg Hunt



From The Vicar

How strange time is! One moment it feels as though we will be in perpetual winter, and the next it is almost Easter, and how long ago Christmas seems! Much the same could be said about newsletters. The Parish newsletter was always compiled so excellently by our beloved Peter Johnston; and the intention was, of course, to pick up where he had left off, but it didn't quite happen like that. My thanks must go to those who have taken up the reins temporarily.

Time, is always of the essence. In our Anglican tradition, the year circles round again and again. Each year, we remember the same stories, sing the same songs, and do the same things. But each year, we also see things changing. Different people doing the various roles in the church, new ideas coming up, some of which are welcome, some less so. But whatever else may be the case, time does keep marching on.

But behind this time that seems to both repeat and constantly present changes and challenges is the eternity of God. He is the beginning and the end, and particularly in Jesus Christ, all that we need is given to us, so that no matter what may change, our lives are hidden with him in God, as St Paul says. As we move through Lent, into Easter, through

Pentecost and then beyond, I pray that you will know the eternal love of God that never changes; and that from that place of absolute security and certainty, will be able to rejoice in the change of the seasons, the changes in the world around

us, and in the inevitable changes that need to occur in our life together as a church, as we face the reality of generations that do not know the message of the Gospel, nor know that they belong in the

community of God's love. How will we, from our place within the certainty of God's love and perpetual purpose, be prepared to change to welcome in his people?

Every blessing through Jesus Christ be with you, as we move through spring, into the expectation of summer!

Yours Simon



Counting on you

Hopefully by the time you are reading this you will have received a copy of the 2015 accounts, if not they should be with you shortly. Perusal of the accounts will show where we derive our income and how it was spent.

One pleasing aspect of the accounts is that the deficit in the General account reduced by just over £3300. Donations received in the year contributed greatly to this.

The Church Maintenance Reserve which is largely the balance of the debt owing following the restoration work carried out on the Church and the extension to the Church Hall, all carried out some years ago, continues to reduce thanks mainly to Lenten Challenge.



Lenten Challenge is our annual appeal to Parishioners to contribute at least £40 during the Lenten period. This "fundraising" is vital to the Church's finances and without it we could not make ends meet! Naturally we will still be very pleased to accept contributions after Easter has passed. Over the last year there has

been an increase in the number of Parishioners making their Freewill Offering to the Church by standing order through their bank account instead of giving through Freewill Offering envelopes. I would encourage this means of giving as it is simple to set up and it gives a regular income from the Church's point of view. If you would be interested in contributing by standing order please speak to me or to a Churchwarden.

The Church has no guaranteed income and is dependent on giving by Parishioners. The Church is not exempt from rising costs and I ask all Parishioners to review their giving with a view to increasing it to help us meet our ever increasing costs.

The accounts will be discussed more fully at the Annual Easter Vestry meeting which will take place on Sunday 10 April in the Church Hall after morning service and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

One not to miss

Easter Vestry at a new time and on a new day....

Annual Easter Vestry is a great opportunity for the Church community to gather and reflect on the year



past and plan the year ahead. This year we hope to have lots more of you along and we have moved from the usual weekday night event to following Sunday morning service. We'll be hearing reports from our Treasurer and

Wardens and selecting a new Vestry for what we expect to be an exciting year in Glenraig's story. The prospects of seeing the old Vicarage site developed and clearing Church debt are all possibilities. Time will tell so come and join us for a very informal and interesting hour after 11.00am service on;

Sunday 10th April (*creche for little ones*)

- see you there!

Rota

Church flowers rota

March	6th	LENT (no flowers)
	13th	" "
	20th	" "
	27th	EASTER FLOWERS
APRIL	3rd	EASTER FLOWERS
	10th	Vacant
	17th	Colette Roberts
	24th	" "
MAY	1st	Philippa Hastings
	8th	Eva Sythes
	15th	" "
	22nd	George Rowan
	29th	" "
JUNE	5th	Ann Kitson
	12th	" "
	19th	Patricia Liesching
	26th	Heather Dowds



Protecting Our Young People

Parish Panel

At Glencraig we have a Parish Panel, consisting of Mary Gregg, Wendy McBrien and the vicar, who have the responsibility of ensuring that all of the regulations surrounding the protection of young people are followed. This is not some paper exercise, but a rigorous system to ensure that we have done all in our power to ensure that, while engaged in church based activities, our young people only come into contact with suitably vetted and trained adults. At times, the paper-work may seem cumbersome, but we all must recognise that the wellbeing and safety of the young person comes first. Hence, when Laurian asked for a registration form to be completed at Sunday Club or the Youth Fellowship members have to fill in a form to go on an outing, we are actually asking the Youth Leaders to follow the protocols required by the Church of Ireland, but much more importantly we are also putting in place important safeguards for the young people.



Vetting

Recently, the system for vetting adults who help us with any Youth activities has changed slightly and, in keeping with the pace of modern life, has become an online system. This is to be welcomed as it should speed up the whole vetting process. We, of course, have vetted all adults who work with young people. This includes all of the Sunday Club leaders, the Mums and Toddlers leader and the Youth Fellowship Leaders. Any new additions to the crèche rota will also require an ACCESS NI check which is the online vetting process. It is an easy online application and should not be of concern to anyone wishing to volunteer to be added to the crèche rota. Any member of the panel will be happy to help.

Church of Ireland Response

The acclaimed film 'Spotlight' was chilling not, as one might expect, because it dealt with the abuse of young people but because it dealt with the systematic cover-up of this abuse by people in positions of power

within the establishment of the Roman Catholic Church in the Boston area of America. Sadly, we are all too familiar with similar stories and many of them, closer to home. Safeguarding Trust is the Church of Ireland's response. Its aim is to ensure that children are safe and that there are people in place to contact if anyone has any concerns about the health and safety of a young person. That is one of the reasons why the Parish Panel members' phone numbers are published in the magazine and are on the notice boards in the church and in the church hall.

The Parish Panel is regularly inspected and this should be another source of reassurance for parents or guardians. Our youth are important to the church and we want them to be safe and happy when under our care. Thus, despite all of the bureaucracy, we will fulfil all of our safeguarding requirements to the best of our ability.

Switching to Direct Debit: Phil Houston

Fed up searching for the chequebook or those £5/£10/£20 notes every week?

Sign up now to contribute by monthly standing order...

You can place one of our cards on the plate every Sunday in place of your envelope.

We will have less envelope opening and counting to do, so it really will be a win-win situation for everyone!

Sign up now by sending your completed standing order form (enclosed in the magazine) to Tony Gregg - you will find his details on the front page. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the finance team, that is Tony Gregg, Phil Houston or Ken Craig, and we will be happy to help.

Ladies Guild: Valerie Kinnen

Ladies Guild

Grand designs

This year our guest speakers have included the very talented interior designer Adrian Bailey with his fabulous themed designs which inspired some of us to make some changes with our home decor. This was an open meeting so non-members were encouraged to join us. Heather Williams, one of our own gifted members demonstrated some very clever ideas to be used at Christmas especially. Mr. Stephen Connolly former Headmaster of Bangor Grammar School, talented actor in The Helen's Bay Players, spoke to us in January with such enthusiasm showing us the ongoing supportive work of boys from his school given to the African group receiving their sponsorship.

Still to come

As well as welcoming other guest speakers the charity we are supporting this year is the Asra Hawariat School Fund when our speaker is the Rev Tim Kinnan. While our superb Table Quiz excellently hosted by Ken and Patricia Craig raised almost £500.00 * for the Asra Hawariat School Fund. (*at time of printing)

Girls nights out.....

We had a highly enjoyable dinner before Christmas in RNI Yacht Club and another still to come in May in Helen's Bay Golf Club.

Join us

If you have taken the time to read this, please do make the time to join us. You will be most welcome. Our guest speakers frequently mention the warmth of greeting given from the Ladies Guild members, why not come and experience it for yourself.

The View from the Door: Frank Williams

Church wardens view?

It was a great pleasure and delight to me to be appointed as Vicar's Warden, especially as my family and I had joined the congregation relatively recently. I was asked by a friend how I had got the job and I replied that I was the one who was absent at the selection meeting! That's not true either. In fact Billy Mercer asked me if I was willing to take an office and I gladly said yes. I have not regretted it for a moment. At the start of my term I was given a list of duties which seemed daunting at first, however a lot of it is quite routine and the job is not terribly difficult. I don't want to understate the importance of the job. I think a welcome at the door is very important. I hope I provide a little assistance as and when required. However, when compared to other positions within the parish, I am a very small cog.



It has been a wonderful experience meeting you each Sunday and getting to know you. Remembering who just needs a prayer book, who just needs an order of service, who needs the big print hymnal (my wife). I particularly enjoy the youngsters coming in and finding their attendance cards.

I would like to thank a few people. My fellow Warden, Hazel Johnston, is the font of all knowledge and common-sense. If I have learned anything as Warden, it is only because of Hazel. She has a great knack of organising the collectors every Sunday and of "volunteering" people to stand in during absences. Thanks also to those who have stood in and assisted at some of the services. My two boys, Matthew and Simon, do more than just clutter up the porch on Sunday mornings. I'm grateful for their help with the hymn and psalm boards, lighting candles, counting parishioners (yes, you are all counted every week) and other bits and pieces as required, even if I do have to act as referee sometimes. I should especially like to thank Ann Millar who prepares many of the books we use every Sunday and does a number of other jobs well out of sight of many parishioners. Her contribution is vital to the running of the services, especially the communion services, and she was greatly missed when she was absent for a couple of months last summer.

I don't regret accepting this office for a moment, and I shall happily serve a second year if required. I can thoroughly recommend it to anyone, especially if you have never done it before.

I don't regret accepting this office for a moment, and I shall happily serve a second year if required. I can thoroughly recommend it to anyone, especially if you have never done it before.

Major charity of the year: Richard Holmes

Needs of others

"Do you have luggage? "What is happening today? "Today you leave!"

This is what a youngster in Care was told when leaving an Orphanage in Brasov, Romania

At 18 years of age, they are pushed out into life without any support or thought. For them, entering the usual life means plunging head first into the abyss of the threatening unknown without any safety net. The safe ground is behind them, but the future is nowhere in sight.

There is only fear, abandonment, emptiness, depression. „Then I understood for the first time what emptiness means. Then I understood that something was slipping away from my life... Where is my life? Where are my memories?"

And they have to stand alone and manage in a virtually unknown world, easy prey to anybody who would want to take advantage of them, at high risk of becoming homeless, victims of human trafficking, prostitution or falling into crime.



For many, it is a short and very unhappy life.

SCUT is a voluntary organisation in Brasov, Romania supported by Glenraig Parish Church and by individuals within the Congregation. It works with young people before they leave an Orphanage and supports them when they leave.

SCUT is saving lives.

This is Vasilica's story

Vasilica is now 21. She has been abandoned at birth, she hasn't met her parents. She has only been told that her mother died. Since she was born, she has been to 2 orphanages, 1 foster care, then again to 2 other orphanages. For her, as a child, all these moves made life even more difficult, as she was put through the same trauma of abandonment again and again, just because the system could not find a stable long term solution to support her. It is hard for a child to feel valuable or to trust others when this happens. SCUT started working with Vasilica almost 3 years ago, one year before she left care. She was involved in life skill training (healthy life style, cooking, budgeting, cleaning), but also in specific training

in finding a job. In 2014, Vasilica left care and she immediately found a job. The start had been rough – because she was shy and lacked confidence, her colleagues and boss took advantage of her, she worked a lot more covering for others, she was asked to do all the work others wouldn't do. Step by step she learned to stand up for herself. She continues to be shy, big hearted, hard-working, but knows how to set limits and people around her learned to respect her. All along SCUT stood by her, and also supported her emotionally through

Crèche Rota

Sunday April 3rd

Family service

Sunday April 10th

Pamela Smyth

Sunday April 17th

Patricia Craig

Sunday April 24th

Debbie Park

Sunday May 1st

Family Service

Sunday May 8th

Sarah Stout

Sunday May 15th

Helen Houston

Sunday May 22th

Linda Aitcheson

Sunday May 29th

Carolyne Duncan

Can you hear me?



The Vestry at the March meeting took action to address the issues of microphone and loop system sound with a decision to undertake repair or replacement of the faulty parts of the present system. For those people using hearing aids there has been no service for some time and for everyone else we have heard the squeaks and moments of silence from the speakers many times. So hopefully soon we will have a sound system restored.

Church Bell silent again.

Its sad but we regret that the tolling of the Church bell will not be heard around Seahill for a little while. At least not until a further inspection has been carried out and what work as required is completed. This comes from our Quinquennial Inspection and the report recently received by the Vestry.

Every five years the Church of Ireland undertakes an inspection of the buildings of each Parish; church, halls and vicar's residence. This Quinquennial Inspection Report that was prepared last Autumn for The Parish of Glenraig, a small committee was formed to review and commence work on the recommendations. At this stage the members of the committee are Richard Holmes, David McIlhagger and me. It is intended that formal meetings of the committee will be chaired by The Vicar.

The report splits the work required into three sections, Urgent, medium term and longer term for completion within five years, subject to funding being available.

We are at the stage of assessing the recommendations and at this date all but one of the urgent items have been completed.

It was recommended that the condition of the Bell Tower and the structures supporting the bell should be checked and currently we are taking advice on the services of a suitable firm to handle this work. As a temporary precaution it was decided that the bell should not be used until the experts have examined the tower. The examination should take place very soon.

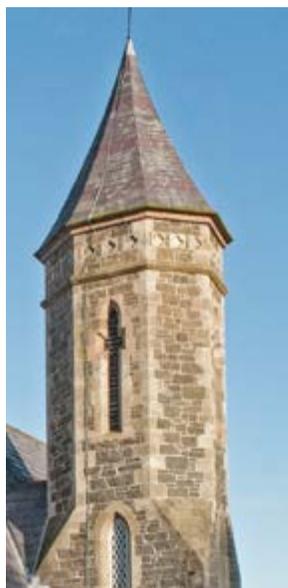
In total, twenty one areas of work have been recommended by the Building Conservation Surveyor and we intend to complete the majority of them this year.

Prayer Line: Sandra Robb

Hello from the PrayerLine

We are all children of God. We have a father in heaven, who loves His children and whose very joy and delight it is to help them at all times. The best thing you can give someone is prayer. Prayer is both conversation and encounter with God. God understands our prayers even when we can't find the words to say them. When we pray, God hears more than we say, answers more than we ask, gives more than we imagine, in His own time and in His own way. God is eagerly waiting for the chance to answer your prayers and fulfil your dreams, but He can't if you don't pray and He can't if you don't dream. He can't if you don't believe.

God's love is always with you. God's promises are true. And when you give God all your cares, you know God will see you through. He will always be there to guide you through the toughest of times. Never lose faith, hold on to hope and trust in God always.



Church Officers

Who's who

Vicar's Church Warden

FRANK WILLIAMS

People's Church Warden

HAZEL JOHNSTON

Hon. Secretary

BILLY MERCER

Hon. Treasurer

TONY GREG

Organist

EVE PARKHILL

Safe Guarding Trust

WENDY MCBRIEN

Envelope Recorded

PHIL HOUSTON

Gift Aid Secretary

KEN CRAIG

Prayer Line

SANDRA ROBB

A NEW VESTRY AND CHURCH OFFICERS WILL BE ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL VESTRY MEETING ON SUNDAY 10TH APRIL



Also on Facebook
holytrinityglenraig
and the Internet
www.holytrinityglenraig.org