

CONTACT

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PARISH OF
TRAPRAIN

Church Magazine of The Parish of Traprain



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“Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.”

Sunrise at the top of Traprain Law on Easter Sunday morning is a special place to be. For years, many people have chosen to get up early, walk to the top of the Law and gather around a wooden cross to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The cross isn't there all the time but is taken up especially for this event, and is a reminder that the joy and hope of Easter Sunday was preceded by the pain and despair of Good Friday.



We are so familiar with the symbol of the cross that we sometimes forget that it was a tool of torture and capital punishment. The build up to Easter Sunday is not a happy story. It starts with religious and political leaders who feel their power and influence is being threatened by Jesus, and they plot for ways to have him killed. Jesus is betrayed by one of his closest friends, arrested and sentenced to death on spurious charges. He is beaten and humiliated. His followers desert him, and the crowds turn on him. At that stage, the cross is a symbol of defeat and loss. Jesus cried out, 'It is finished'.

The story of Easter is framed by extremes of sadness, violence and death. The bible doesn't ignore or minimise the pain and suffering that was faced by Jesus, but the story doesn't end there. If the story had ended there, I doubt very much that we would even be marking this event at all. The reason that we have the symbol of the cross is not to commemorate his death but to celebrate his life.

The cross has become such a powerful and positive symbol because it now speaks to us of resurrection and new life. Jesus rose from the dead, so we look at a cross and see it as a symbol of victory over death, a triumph of hope over fear.

Easter is not a time to pretend that everything is OK or to ignore our pain. We go into the Easter season fully aware of the hurt and suffering that is going on in our lives and in the wider world. However, this is not the end of the story. The story continues with a sunrise, a new dawn, a different perspective and the assurance that Jesus is alive and with us for ever more. There is a light shining in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it (John 1:5).

Over the coming weeks I pray that you will experience the joy and hope of the Easter message and discover something of the new life that Jesus' resurrection has opened up to us all.

Rev Douglas Hamilton

OUR NEW ADMINISTRATOR

We would like to extend our warm welcome our new Parish Administrator, Wendy Brock. Wendy will be providing administrative support for all aspects of our church operations, including general enquiries, communications, finance, property, record keeping and volunteer co-ordination.

Wendy can be contacted via email at:
admin@parishoftraprain.org.uk

A WORD FROM THE SESSION CLERK

The Annual Stated Meeting of the Congregation will be held on **Tuesday 16th April in Prestonkirk at 7.30pm**. We are trying a slightly different format this year so please do come along to hear more about the life of Traprain and our plans for the future. Cheese and wine will be served.

Do you know the Church of Scotland has its own special magazine. Life & Work is always a good read and a super way to find out more about what is happening in the national church. Paper and online versions are available, and you can have a look or order a copy at <https://www.lifeandwork.org/>

Bill Stevenson

THE GUILD OF TRAPRAIN

The Parish of Traprain Guild continues to meet in the Stables on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Our focus in January was on our discussion topic of 'Looking after God's World' and we had a very interesting meeting on how we care for the environment as individuals and making suggestions about what our church community could do to care for the environment. This discussion topic was followed by Jo Gibb giving us an update from Climate Action East Linton about the steps our local community is taking to protect our environment. Our first meeting in February was taken by Mr. Ian Stephen, a member of our congregation, who told us about his hobby of wood turning and fascinated us by showing some of the items he has made. These items are truly amazing, and we thank Ian for his ongoing support of the Guild. In March, Helen Hamilton will be speaking to us about "A Montessori Education" and Bill Stevenson, our Session Clerk, will be telling us about "Further Adventures Overseas." Our AGM is in April, after which we have a short break before starting a new session with a new strategy for 2024 - 27 'Let Us Build a House.'

Elizabeth Cowan

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Wednesdays 10:00-11:30 at the Lynton Day Centre.

For all older people in the area - a chance to meet new people, learn new skills and connect with others in our community. People with dementia and their carers are particularly welcome. There's tea, coffee, home baking and all are welcome to stay for lunch afterwards. This group is run in partnership with the Lynton Centre and Dementia Friendly East Lothian with support from the Parish of Traprain.

Gill Watson

EASTER AT TRAPRAIN

- Thursday 28th March (Maundy Thursday)** Athelstaneford at 7pm, with Holy Communion
- Friday 29th March (Good Friday)** Stenton at 7pm
- Sunday 31st March (Easter Sunday)** Easter Sunday Family Service at Prestonkirk at 11am

In addition, we will have the following events on Easter Sunday (31st March):

- ◇ Easter Sunday pilgrimage at Traprain Law — meet in the Law car park at 6am. Followed by breakfast at Allison Cargill House.
- ◇ Egg rolling in Athelstaneford—meet at Athelstaneford primary school at 8.30am. Followed by breakfast in the village hall.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

Our churches were all beautifully decorated for Christmas and our school services around the parish were all wonderful and well attended as usual, with Stenton featuring an extempore Nativity play. Our special Christmas family services around the parish were also well attended, attracting families and friends from all over the parish and beyond. The Stenton Singers performed their usual Christmas concert to a full house and was enjoyed by all. New year started with a bang in Stenton when we all enjoyed bacon rolls together on our first Sunday of the year.

In Athelstaneford, the plans for the park are now being finalised, and are expected to include a new combined play park, paths, and more welcoming and accessible entrances. A huge thank you for all the generous donations made so far which have enabled this preparatory work to be done.

We are all now looking ahead to spring and an early Easter and hopefully some sunny weather to come!

Angie, Gill and Helen

SUNDAY SERVICES

The last few weeks we have been exploring Jesus' parables, including *Forgiving Others* and *Learning to Pray*. If you missed this or would like to know more, please remember that you can access the sermons via our website at <https://www.parishoftraprain.org.uk/sermons-2/> or on Spotify.

Just to remind you that we have weekly worship services at Prestonkirk at 11am and in addition:

1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, 9:30am at **Athelstaneford**.
2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, 9:30am at **Stenton**.

Gill Watson

COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND ADVICE CAFÉ

East Linton Community Wellbeing and Advice Café launched at the end of February and will run **every Thursday from 10am until 12pm** in the **Stables at Prestonkirk**.

This is a partnership between the church, The Ridge, Dunbar Debt Advice Service and East Lothian Foodbank and includes support and advice including: Benefit Support, Foodbank, Befriending, Budgeting and Housing Support, Recovery support and access to volunteering and wellbeing activities.

Come along for a tea or coffee and a chat and find out more about the range of services and support that are available.

Douglas Hamilton

YOUTH CLUB!

Our Youth Club runs every **Wednesday evening from 5:30pm until 7:30pm** in the stables. This is open to all young people from P7 upwards. Come along and join in the fun, we have pizza, chocolate, board games, computer games, music and of course lots of fun and chat. Would be great to see you there!



Gill Watson

MESSY CHURCH



Our Messy Church at Prestonkirk on Sunday 3rd March was a fantastic event, buzzing with excitement and activity. It was great to see so many children there having so much fun! Don't worry if you missed it, our next one will be on Sunday **26th May in Athelstaneford** which will be just as much fun! Can't wait to see you there!

Traprain Messy Church Team

GROWING YOUNG



We have now completed our first year of our "Growing Young" programme and are excited as we venture into our second. Our intention now is to look at how we can grow and develop what we have been doing with our involvement with young people in our Youth Club, Messy Church, Holiday Club and our local schools. If you have any ideas in how we include young people in our activities or would like to get involved, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Gill Watson

HOLIDAY CLUB

Save the date! Our Holiday Club will be running in the **week commencing 5th August** for another fun packed week of sports, crafts, games, songs, bible stories and much more!



Aimee Watson

FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

"I am the resurrection and the life"

Jane Brewis, Athelstaneford, 11th December
David MacFarlane, Prestonkirk, 19th December
Chrissie Runciman, Athelstaneford, 3rd January
Carol Headley, Athelstaneford, 5th January
Martyn Camburn, Athelstaneford, 16th January
Jennifer Zochowska, Prestonkirk, 17th January
Margaret Tocher, Warriston, 18th January
Anne Stewart, Prestonkirk, 24th January
John Reid, Mortonhall, 21st February

STABLES BOOKING—Please contact Pat on 01620 861161.