

# CONTACT

## Church Magazine of The Parish of Traprain



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PARISH OF  
TRAPRAIN

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Contact Series 2: No. 11

### TRY PRAYING

*“More things are wrought by prayer  
Than this world dreams of. Wherefore let thy voice  
Rise like a foundation for me night and day”*  
*Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Idylls of the King*

trypraying.

A couple of years ago, a poll found that nearly half of adults in the UK say that they have prayed at some point in their lives, and over a quarter said they had prayed in the last month. The stats also show that younger people (under age of 34) are more likely to pray than older people.

These numbers are surprising because they are way higher than the numbers who go to church, and also higher than the number of people who believe in a God. It suggests to me that praying is something that many people try and connect to, more so than other forms of religious practice. It also resonates with my own experience of speaking to people who are not sure about their beliefs but have faced situations in their life where they have prayed anyway, reaching out in the hope that there is someone, beyond themselves, that can help. Prayer has been a part of human activity across time and across cultures, but there are also many in our own communities who struggle with the idea of prayer and are not too sure where to start.

The ‘trypraying’ booklet is a short guide to prayer written primarily for people who aren’t religious. It contains stories of people who pray, ideas of things to do, and discusses themes about honest prayers and how to connect with God. Copies of the booklet are available from our churches and we hope that they will be widely circulated across the parish. If you’re interested and haven’t seen one to pick up then ask someone at the church to get you one, send me a message, or check out their website at [www.trypraying.org](http://www.trypraying.org)

*“With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply”* (Matthew 6:9)

*Rev Douglas Hamilton*

### TRAPRAIN PILGRIMAGE

The next Traprain Pilgrimage will take place on **Saturday 21 September**, starting at 10am. We will walk from Stenton Church to Prestonkirk. The walk is approximately 6 miles so we encourage you to wear comfortable shoes, bring a packed lunch and arrange

transport home at the end. To help give us an idea of numbers, please sign up on our website form.

### HARVEST SERVICES

**Sunday 15 Sept** at Athelstaneford (9.30).  
**Sunday 22 Sept** at Stenton (9.30) & Prestonkirk (11.00)

**Harvest Messy Church** is on **22 Sept** at Prestonkirk from 2-4pm.

We will be collecting items and/or cash for **East Lothian Foodbank**, so please bring your donation along to these services.



### THE GUILD OF TRAPRAIN

Our next syllabus begins on **Tuesday 8 October** and we continue to meet in the Stables on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The Guild is open to men and women. Why not join us to find out more? Come and be a part of the Guild family and join us in worship, prayer, action and fellowship.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the **Bruce Davies concert** which was scheduled to take place in February 2024 had to be postponed and has now been rescheduled to take place on **Tuesday 22nd October** at 2pm in Prestonkirk. Tickets purchased for the earlier date will be honoured for this upcoming event. If you didn’t buy a ticket previously then there are still some available from [ecowan@me.com](mailto:ecowan@me.com)

*Elizabeth Cowan*

### NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

#### Stenton

At the end of April, the **Stenton Singers** performed their Spring Concert in the church. Proceeds of £1,000 was donated to Dunbar Dementia Carers Network. On 14 June, **Gus Shaw-Stewart married Imogen Riddick**. The ceremony was unusual as it was conducted jointly by our minister, Douglas, and Father Jock Dalrymple – truly ecumenical. In August a group from the **Berwickshire Antiquarian Society** visited Stenton Church and village. David Wyllie gave a talk. Feedback was very favourable! The **Stenton Flower Show** in August was enjoyed by many in the village with some strong entries from the school children.

*Angie Simpson*

#### Prestonkirk

The Church and Stables have been busier than ever, with music filling the church! Recently we have had a local pupil performing on the piano for his school mates from Innerwick Primary School. **Trinity Music College**

held their end of year music exams in the church making good use of our piano. We held the end of term assembly for East Linton Primary. Next up are the Lammermuir Festival concerts. Concerts are between 9 –14 Sept. More info: lammermuirfestival.co.uk

### **Athelstaneford**

In August we had a visit to the church of residents from **Florabank Care Home**. One of them used to play the organ in our church many years ago. Irene Hogg, our organist, played some favourite hymns of theirs and some well-known pieces. They enjoyed singing the hymns and listening to the music. If you would like to help decorate the church for **Harvest Festival** come along on Sat 14 Sept at 10am.  
*Helen Napier*

### **CHRISTIAN AID**

A huge thank you to all of our organisers and all who donated to Christian Aid week back in May, raising a magnificent sum of **£1,517.95**.

### **THE STABLES**

If you would like to book the Stables please contact Pat on 01620 861161

### **FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

We meet every Wednesday between 10:30-12:30 at the Lynton Centre. This group is aimed at older people in the area - a chance to meet new people, learn new skills and connect with others in our community.

### **A WORD FROM THE SESSION CLERK**

The **Annual Accounts** for the year ended 31 December 2023 were presented at the Annual Stated Meeting. It was also an excellent opportunity to



say thank you to several elders who had recently stood down from the Kirk Session. (picture shows some of the elders who received a thank you gift).

We held our first **Elders' Assembly** on Saturday 17 August, it was a really useful morning when we were able to reflect on what had happened over the last year, there has been so much progress. There was also an opportunity to help form some ideas for plans for the future. As you may know we are now part of the new **Presbytery of Lothian and the Borders**. As well as attending presbytery meetings I also serve on the Mission Committee; it is encouraging to be able to hear what other churches are up to and to be able to share what we are up to in Traprain. The Presbytery now has its own Facebook Page and YouTube channel if you want to learn more.

*Bill Stevenson*

### **YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE PARISH**

Summer has been absolutely buzzing with young people in the parish. **Youth Club** has been as busy as ever with between 20 and 30 attending every week. As well as our usual pizza and snacks, we have enjoyed being outside when the weather has been nice with activities such as table tennis and football/rugby on the Glebe. Our minister had a special 'big' birthday, which the young people helped celebrate by throwing a mini party – the stables were beautifully decorated, and they baked delicious cakes. Lucky



Douglas! We are now running a follow-on session after youth club for those that are interested and have introduced aspects of the church such as prayer. This has been a special time and those that are coming along have enjoyed this reflective space – come along and see for yourself. We would also like to extend our huge thanks to the Guild for their very generous donation of £400, with which we plan to purchase some additional outdoor games for our young people to enjoy. As well as Youth Club, our lovely Suzanne Hamilton ran a **'Toastie Tuesday'** during the summer holidays which has proved very popular and has given our young people another chance to get together, enjoy some yummy toasties, chat and play games.

Aimee Watson ran another fantastic **Holiday Club** in the first week of August. We were at capacity with 24 children coming along each day enjoying the range of fun activities such as painting, baking, treasure hunts, outdoor fun, bible stories and songs. We were very glad to have had the help of some of our youth club members too, who added to all the fun. A truly wonderful week.



We continue to run our **Messy Church** sessions aimed at primary school age children and their families. So, if you missed Holiday Club, join us on **Sunday 22 September at Prestonkirk between 2-4pm** for our Harvest Festival themed fun!



*Gill Watson*

### **BAPTISMS AND BLESSINGS**

*'Suffer little children to come unto me'*

Pippa Clark, Prestonkirk, 21 April

Aria Lindsay, Prestonkirk, 5 May

Robbie Kay, Prestonkirk, 3 August

### **WEDDINGS**

*'And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love'*

Molly Gilbey & Tom Woodward, Athelstaneford, 25 May

Rachel Laird & Jack Taylor, Athelstaneford, 15 June

Eliot Martinson & Andrew Hunter, Prestonkirk, 15 June

Imogen Riddick & Gus Shaw-Stewart, Stenton, 15 June

Abby Johnson & Ben Anderson, Athelstaneford, 29 June

Natasha Bell & Jack McNally, Athelstaneford, 9 August

Naomi Hogg & David Vongyer, Tynningame, 10 August

### **FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES**

*'I am the resurrection and the life'*

Flora Ross-Russell, Prestonkirk, 1 March

George Cockburn, Mortonhall, 27 March

Paula Lunam, Prestonkirk, 19 May

Jim Forson, Prestonkirk, 5 July

Alistair Murdoch, Houndwood, 7 August

Ian Falconer, Prestonkirk, 19 August

You can find more information about services, ongoing clubs and activities on our website:

**[www.parishoftraprain.org.uk](http://www.parishoftraprain.org.uk)**

Why not sign up to receive our monthly email update?

Email Wendy at **[admin@parishoftraprain.org.uk](mailto:admin@parishoftraprain.org.uk)**

Many **thanks** to those who contributed content and to all the parish volunteers who help to deliver *Contact*.