

Sunday Services and Activities

Sunday Morning Service

Meeting at 11am with 150-200 people attending. Members participate in the prayers and reading. The use of multi-media format and paying for copyright license releases us from the restrictions of having to stick to certain hymnbooks. In this way we can maintain a diet of worship of old and new songs recognising the work of the Holy Spirit in worship through all generations. On occasions we have visiting speakers who take part in services – Joel Sengoga from Rwanda and the Gideons both visited this year.

Storehouse

Members are encouraged to prayerfully consider buying an extra item in their groceries each week and brought to church on Sunday. These are then prayerfully distributed throughout the community. This has often proved to be an unexpected blessing to people just at the right time.

Crèche

The Sunday morning crèche is available during the 11am morning service to allow parents to stay in the church and worship. It caters for babies/children under the age of 3 years. With fewer babies and very young children attending regularly the crèche only operates on an ad hoc basis.

Powerhouse (Sunday School)

The Powerhouse caters for Nursery to Primary 6 children and aims to provide a fun way to learn and experience following Jesus today. Older young people are part of the Sunday morning Youth Fellowship which meets at the same time. After joining in the 11am service the Powerhouse meets in the church centre. We use the Scripture Union Light material in 3 groups Nursery-P2; P3-4; P5-6 with currently 4 teachers and 2 helpers, the helpers are on a rota. The children support a sponsored child, Patrick in Uganda. In the school holidays activities are provided for the children and young people by a rota of parents and other adults.

10am Family Services

On two occasions in the year, usually in February and May, a half-hour service takes place before the 11am service aimed primarily at families with younger children. The service is planned and delivered by an 'experienced' family with the aim of encouraging the assistance of a family for whom worship leading may be less familiar. The service content comprises singing, bible reading and prayer and can include congregation participation, craft activities, games and drama.

Presbytery Sunday

Across the Presbytery of Dumfries and Kirkcudbright ministers 'swap pulpits' on the third Sunday of September to allow congregations to be led in worship by other local ministers and also to encourage fellowship beyond their own parish. This year the Minister conducted services of worship at Caerlaverock and St. Mary's Greyfriars. Rev. Norman Hutcheson conducted the service at Troqueer, with an evening Presbytery Songs of Praise in Kirkcudbright Parish Church, the church of this year Moderator.

Sunday Evening Service

This is an informal service with 30-50 people attending often including children. A band leads worship and the preaching/leading works on a rota basis. This allows people to discover and develop their gifts. There is opportunity for everyone to contribute in the service. Communion is held twice during the summer months in the evening service. This year the Youth Fellowship led one service and there was also a visit from some Ugandan children who took part in the service. Occasionally the service is held in the Church Centre instead of the church.

Band

A group of people with varying musical abilities who want to serve the congregation with contemporary worship music, research and introduction of new material while developing their own gifts. Those involved rehearse weekly to play at the evening service and monthly morning services as well as other occasional services and events. Membership changes from time to time, recently there is regular involvement of a number of Youth Fellowship members. There are a number of members giving support on the technical side on a weekly basis.

Cargenholm/Goldielea

Members of the congregation visit two local Nursing Homes on the second Sunday of each month to lead a short service. The service comprises hymn singing, prayer, bible reading and a brief 'sermon' on the passage read. The service in December is a Christmas service to which we take some members of the Powerhouse/Youth Fellowship.

Weekly Activities

House Groups

Three House Groups meet weekly for Bible study, worship and prayer to include, encourage and support members by sharing in small group fellowship. There are varied studies using different formats with social events from time to time. Numbers are steady at the moment.

Keep Fit

The keep fit group started on 17 January 2003. We have fourteen people on our list, but they are not all there at the same time. We meet Tuesday evenings during school term time. Everyone pays £1 towards costs. All money collected goes towards new equipment if needed, and the remainder for the next 3 or 4 years will go to repair the ceiling in the main hall.

Boys Brigade

1st Troqueer Boys Brigade meets on a Friday between 6 and 9pm. There is a regular attendance of around 18-24 boys in the P1 to S3 age range. Currently we have 5 officers and 1 helper. We pursue a range of activities, football and athletics are always popular; and incorporate Christian teaching through small group discussions and involving the boys in prayers. The highlight of our activities this year has been the celebration of the 125-year anniversary of the Boys Brigade. We have had our anniversary service and fun day, and are looking forward to the 125-anniversary tattoo in Glasgow in April and a family ceilidh in March. The older Juniors and the Company section are looking forward to a weeklong summer camp in July.

Youth Fellowship

The Youth Fellowship meets on a Friday night and there can be up to 25 young people on any one evening. We want to provide the place to be on a Friday night. A place that's fun, a place where young people can find relationships and are challenged to make good decisions and have positive impact on their world. Most of all we want to see young people make Jesus number one in their lives.

Praise Group

The purpose is to gather people together who enjoy singing and are keen to develop skills in group singing, maintaining a varied repertoire to be used to encourage people both in and out with the congregation. We meet weekly for short rehearsals and perform in services and elsewhere by invitation. This year we visited Lochrutton Guild, many members participated in the Christmas Production – Dreaming of a Holy Night – and we also sang at various other church services throughout the year.

Other Regular Services and Activities

Early Morning Prayer Breakfast

Meeting at 7.30am on the first Saturday of each month. Numbers are small: between 8 and 12, coming together for intercessory prayer for our church, other churches, our town, our nation and the world; to pray for our renewing and to listen for the voice of God. Prayer is followed by informal fellowship over porridge!

Healing Service

There is a monthly healing service on the last Tuesday of the month. We moved from the church into the Church Centre to avoid the restriction of pews. This service usually lasts about a half hour led on a rota basis by one of three women who lead and sing with guitar. There is the opportunity for private prayer inviting people to the back of the hall or for people to pray for each other during the service. We are always aware of God's presence with us. A few people meet for a light meal before the healing service for a time of fellowship.

Guild

Troqueer Church Guild presently numbers twenty-nine members who meet monthly from September to April. Most months we have a guest speaker or a demonstrator. Fund raising for Guild projects, such as Rwanda and other causes takes place throughout the session. The November meeting held jointly with St Mary's Greyfriars raised £222 for the Preshal Trust Paisley. Also, £300 was raised towards Borderline and the Lydia Project. Twenty-five shoeboxes were sent to the Blythswood Care Christmas Project. Four office bearers attended the National AGM and Conference in Dundee in September. Our AGM takes place at the April meeting followed by Holy Communion.

Troqueer Church Newsletter

This is a 16–20-page magazine which is produced four times a year and delivered to members of the congregation and local schools and which is also available for visitors to church. It features a

number of regular notices and features such as the Diary Dates, Sunday Morning Readings, Flower Roster and Announcements (of births, deaths, marriages, admissions by profession of faith and transfers in and out). We also receive reports from various church organisations such as the Guild and youth groups as well as from our representatives of international Christian organisations, including Christian Aid and Tearfund. Members of the congregation and other worshippers are encouraged to submit reports, articles, prayers and poems. A regular feature has been the centre-spread, 'My Favourite Hymns', which is an opportunity for the sharing of testimonies. This mix of notices, articles and prayers is a source not only of information but of blessing for parishioners and visitors to Troqueer Church.

General Social Events

At Troqueer we are willing to provide fellowship meals and suppers for many occasions e.g. quiz nights, Christmas family lunches, people leaving, visiting or joining the church and also funeral teas. We enjoy the fun and friendship responding to circumstances and requests as they arise.

One Off Events

Holy Week Services

Due to the uncertainty with plans of the Dumfries Christian Council we conducted services in Troqueer each evening of Holy Week which were well attended and very much appreciated. Future plans dependent on DCC arrangements.

Annual Retreat

A number of members attend the main CLAN gathering in St Andrew during the summer and have been very blessed. This year for our annual church retreat we decided to attend a 'mini CLAN' gathering in Ayr – CLAN stands for Christians Linked Across the Nation. 32 people including 4 children travelled on the bus with others opting to travel by car. We were blessed with a day of teaching, fellowship and worship, stopping on the way home for high tea at Dobies Garden Centre on the outskirts of Ayr.

50th Anniversary of Ordination Celebration

The Rev. William M McKenzie, member and previous minister of Troqueer Church, celebrated his 50th anniversary of Ordination to the Ministry on 11 June. The church members organised a social evening in our Church Centre where several people provided entertainment. Bill shared memories of his long service in the ministry and provided a booklet of his ministry in Zambia. The evening was a great success.

Rwanda Partnership

Our link with Divine Destiny Church in Rwanda is a partnership which brings two-way blessings to both fellowships. We are sponsoring children to go to school and our lives have been enriched in the process. We are supporting the church financially and have helped set up small businesses for a number of the women. We are enjoying seeing how the church in Rwanda is growing and healing is taking place for many damaged lives. It is a very exciting time to see what God is doing in both countries through this.

In March, while over in the UK, Joel Sengoga, pastor of the Divine Destiny Church, visited Troqueer Church and spoke at a Sunday morning service. The congregation were delighted to hear first hand of the work in Rwanda which they are supporting through prayer and sponsorship as well as financially. A Garden Party and Silent Auction were held in August to raise further funds. In September the Minister, Dr. James Lawrence our church treasurer, and Pat and Sheena Murphy visited the church in Kigali. We were very encouraged by the way the church is growing in every way. The opportunity to visit their new church plant in the north-east province proved to be a great blessing. It was a joy to meet many of the children whose education we sponsor, the children were always eager to have their photographs taken. We are hoping to develop and deepen relationships through further exchange visits and ongoing support for each other. We hope to be able to take some of our young people across to Rwanda since we believe this will benefit them spiritually and socially.

Moffat

A link has been formed with a small independent fellowship in Moffat – Sunday Night Live – who meet monthly for teaching, worship and fellowship. The Minister and members from Troqueer have been asked to help with these meetings on occasions.

Children in Need Fundraiser

This event is held to give the congregation and friends the opportunity to support the charity 'Children in Need' while enjoying a light lunch (soup, roll and a tray-bake) and fellowship together in a social setting. A sales table with baking, crafts and other donations boosts funds which this year reached £365. It is organised to coincide with the national appeal in November.

Mandate Gathering Belfast

A number of the men from our church and some from other churches make an annual visit to the Mandate in Belfast which is a large worship gathering which attracts men from many different countries. Apart from the main event it is a great opportunity for fellowship and for the men to get to know one another at a deeper level of fun and relaxation.

Carol Singing

Members of the congregation along with family and friends sing carols in the streets of the parish on the evenings of 23/24 December while conducting a door-to-door collection for Cancer Research Scotland and our chosen charity this year was Sightsavers International. This allows us to share the Christmas message in the parish and also to take greetings from the church to local people. Together with the collections from the Watchnight and Christmas Day services and the Christmas Production we raised £2024 – giving £1012 to each charity.

Christmas Production – Dreaming of a Holy Night

Dreaming of a Holy Night is a set of thirteen new songs written by Graham Kendrick. The Praise Group spent 3 months preparing for this Christmas Musical Production which was a great success, involving people of all ages in music, drama, artwork and essential backstage roles. An invitation was extended to various other churches to get involved and a big blessing of the production was having six local churches of different denominations represented.

Christmas

We have a Christmas Watchnight service where we try to strike a balance of recognition of those who will attend through nostalgia and sentimentality while at the same time offering a service of worship for those who are regular attenders. Our Christmas Day service is informal, encouraging families to come together and share the joy of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Church Roll

At the start of the year our Roll numbered 382 church members. This figure was increased by ten - seven by profession and three by certificate. The losses were as follows, four by death, three by certificate and twenty removed to the Supplementary Roll - a total of twenty-seven. The closing total is 365.

Ecumenical Events

World Mission Conference

Presbytery arranges an annual one-day conference in January to inform churches about world mission and to encourage local fellowships to become involved in world mission through links with churches across the world. This year's conference included information from speakers on HIV/Aids Project, Mercy Ships, Kenya, Malawi and Scottish Love in Action. The afternoon session allowed local churches to speak about their links with churches in Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Rwanda and Bulgaria and Romania.

Prayers For Christian Unity

On the third Sunday of January each year the Dumfries Christian Council arrange for a local church to host a service of Prayers for Christian Unity. Members from Troqueer Church attend this service each year to join with others in prayer for our communities and world.

Lent Lunches

Every year the Dumfries and District Christian Aid committee organise soup lunches for the 6 Fridays in Lent, with the local churches sharing the work load. This year it was our turn to provide the homemade soup and organise the catering for one week. A total of £3718 was raised over the 6 weeks.

World Day of Prayer

Churches of all denominations from across Dumfries have joined together on the first Friday of March to bring both an afternoon and evening service of prayer, meditation and worship from around the world. These services have been held in many of the churches in Dumfries over the years but due to falling numbers they will no longer be organized unilaterally.

Easter – Walk of Witness and Sunrise Service

A number of Christians from various local churches walk with a cross from Troqueer Church along the river and through the town finishing at the fountain in the High Street. On the way we share prayer, bible reading and praise. This is always well supported and a good witness to the town.

March on Conference

Presbytery arranged a gathering "March On" in Easterbrook Hall to encourage congregations to share, learn and fellowship together. The event was well attended with members from other denominations also being invited. The two main speakers for the day were Rev. Kenny Borthwick and Dr. Elaine Storkey. There was small group discussion on a number of topics and times of worship with a band mainly from Troqueer.

Christian Aid – Collection and Coffee Morning

Troqueer has supported Christian Aid week for many years. A small group of volunteers collect in the streets around the church covering up to Pleasance Ave. The collection and donations from the congregation came to £1187 this year.

The Dumfries and District Christian Aid committee organise the annual coffee morning in the Minerva Hall. Troqueer people helped with baking, donation goods and on the day. A total of £1301 was raised.