

Auchterarder Parish Church Newsletter

25th September 2021

Registered Charities SC001688

Musings from the Manse

Times and Seasons

It's rare in church for the whole congregation to break out into a spontaneous round of applause, but it happened last Sunday. For the first time in 18 months we were able to worship all together for one Sunday service, and when I asked, "How good is this?" the congregation's response said it all! Despite the annoyance of masks and many of our number still hesitant to come back, it marked a milestone in the journey out of the COVID season and towards whatever the future holds – not "back to normal" (time never moves backwards) but forwards into a new season, whatever that might look like. Exciting times!



The Kirk Session decided that the service will be at 10am, having observed over the past 18 months what the congregation looks like at 9.30. and 11.30 services – surprisingly similar. We felt that this time gives the best opportunity to come to church for people who have work or other commitments in the day – an increasing number. More importantly, however, that slightly earlier time affords an opportunity in the 11am-12 noon time slot for other important aspects of church family life to take place. Already the youth group, the prayer group and a special Session meeting have happened in that time slot, and it's an ideal time for other discussion-type groups like the Bible Series (of which, more later!) We envisage a busy Sunday morning as a church family when, after our core worship service, people can continue to meet for a natter over coffee or can break out into smaller group expressions of church life like these – and perhaps other creative possibilities that we can't yet envisage.

We are realising that the earlier time will not suit everyone and some may struggle to make it (for example, those who use the bus when it resumes). For some time even before lockdown we were considering the possibility of providing another service in the week for those who find early mornings difficult, and that is now a matter of immediate concern. An alternative service could happen at 11.30 on Sundays, perhaps monthly; or weekly during the week followed by coffee, or there may be other possibilities. If 10am doesn't suit you, please speak to your elder or myself or Iain. We would like to know what alternative service would work best, and plans for that will be discussed at our next Kirk Session meeting on 5th October.

Who knows what the next season will hold? We're moving forward one step at a time and we don't see the whole picture but we do know that all the times and seasons of our lives are held in God's hands. Enjoy the newsletter, and keep in touch!

Wishing you God's blessing

Lynn

Please note the video link giving you access to the Live Stream service is always posted on Facebook and on Auchterarder Parish Church website.





The Bible Series – starting soon!

Confused about the Bible? Feel you know some things but there are big gaps? Lots of people feel the Bible is like a jigsaw where they have a lot of pieces but don't have a frame or a picture to fit them into. The Bible Series takes the 7 big chunks of the Bible and shows how they fit together to tell God's big story. Over 7 weeks we'll look at one part at a time, in Sunday sermons and in our children's and youth groups. Each week there will also be discussion groups – on Zoom and in person – where we can share our thoughts, questions and confusions – everybody has things to learn!

The Bible Series starts in APC on 10th October. Every Wednesday after that for 7 weeks there will be discussion groups on Zoom, and every Sunday we will have a group meeting in person after the morning service about 11.15am. If you'd like to join either of these, please contact Margaret Ross magsross1@hotmail.co.uk. If neither of these times suits you, please let Margaret know – we will happily arrange another group if we can. We look forward to seeing you!

Hello everyone, here we are again, with another newsletter. I know I look forward to hearing about everything else that is going on in the community, so hopefully you don't find my youth updates too boring.

This past weekend I was on a weekend course, the first of many which make up part of a year long course that I will be on this coming year. It is the Forge Course, if you've heard of it. If not it is a course designed to help those in ministry have tools to evaluate their ministry, understand their communities, and unlock their passion and God given gifts and potential to further God's work in Scotland. This weekend was enlightening and it was good to have chats with the other folks on the course as to how they see God moving in Scotland in their communities.



The past few weeks, I have been working to get some groups up and running, we have a regular Friday night drop in which is good fun, and full of energy. We have also started a Sunday evening group, looking at exploring faith through videos which have been produced by Scripture Union Northern Ireland. In the coming weeks we will also be starting up some Sunday morning groups for our Grid young folk, and others who have grown out of Kidsteam, but are still floating around church.

The partnership with LOGOS is still going strong. Together, myself and one of the LOGOS staff members, we are going through a training course that will enable us to deliver a resilience/improving your mindset course in the school to help young people develop their goal setting skills, and plan for the future.

Alongside all of this, Lynn and I have made contact with the High School about beginning a couple of groups there, Samba drumming and American football, and restarting the SU group. At the time of writing no meeting has happened, but there is one in the diary, likely to happen before this newsletter comes out. So real positive steps there, it will be great to be able to be in the school and have a presence there getting to know young people in the town.

The other thing I have to tell you about, is an upcoming prayer room. As you may know, as a church we are going through a **Try Praying** initiative at the moment. So, it was felt that this was a good time to gather together in prayer, for ourselves, our community and the wider world. This is why we are organising a prayer room, in the church on 9th October through till the following morning. You will be able to book a slot, or just come along and spend time in prayer with God. There will be organised activities to guide your prayer or you can just take a seat and pray however you like. Sign up for slots will be available at the back of the church after/before the service on the 3rd October, or you will likely be able to sign up online, once I get the system up and running. Keep an eye out on our facebook page and our website.

andrew.kennedy@auchterarderparish.org

Andrew Kennedy - Youth Worker

CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Update from the CYF Team

Isn't it good to get back together in church, Kidsteam and Grid! We have missed doing all the normal things – whatever 'normal' is! Anyway, we have some cunning plans, as Baldrick would say.

First of all, we are hoping to hold our first **Messy Church** in a while. Since Hallowe'en is actually on a Sunday, we are planning on holding a 'Light Party' type of Messy Church, focussing on light rather than darkness. And I have a feeling pumpkins will feature somewhere in the plans.....!

The other piece of news we must share is the plan to re-introduce **TNL**! What is **TNL**, I hear you ask? It stands for **'The Next Level'** and will be for P7-S2/3 age group. This is a group that falls between Kidsteam activities and who are not quite ready for more senior Grid discussions etc. The plan is to contact young folk of this age group over the next week or two and invite them along to church. The group will meet in church for the first part of worship but will leave at the same time as Kidsteam and go to the Centre for their own programme. Look out for more details as our plans progress – check out Twitter, Facebook and the website.....!

CYF Team



APC Sound and Vision Team (SAV)

This team is looking for new recruits. We have a small team that works on the sound desk on a Sunday morning to control the amplification, run the presentation and record and 'live stream' the Service. The team works in pairs and on a rota basis. In addition, we are occasionally asked to contribute to other Services, such as funerals and weddings. The SAV Team has a key role in delivering Sunday worship and it would help to have a larger group of volunteers to reduce the number of times we are required on the rota. Training is available, and previous experience is unnecessary. If you are interested, please contact Stephen Miller by email on: stephenmiller60@outlook.com.

AUCHTERARDER MACMILLAN FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Auchterarder Macmillan Cancer Support Fundraising Group were out on the High Street on Saturday 21 August and raised £571.53.

Chairman, Christine Steele said *"it was an incredible day being back out in the community for the first time since January 2019. The local community is always very generous and it was incredibly heart-warming to receive such amazing support in these difficult times. The money raised will help provide physical, financial and emotional support to those who have received a cancer diagnosis live life as fully as they can"*.

Guild News - 22nd September 2021

It's hard to believe that our next meeting of the Guild on Thursday 7th October, will be our third of the Autumn season. Liz Patterson, whom some of you know, will share her experience with Seema's Project in India. This was one of our previous projects, and we look forward to an update of the work there to help the children who are cast out on the street at a very young age from the brothels where their mothers work.



A few of us attended the Autumn Gathering of Guilds Together in St Matthew's Church in Perth last week. The speaker was Rev Anne Stott who is building relationships with the residents of the new community at Bertha Park - a challenge during the Pandemic lockdown! Recently she held a pop-up picnic in a piece of grass in the heart of the development. Folks were able to chat with neighbours whom they had never met before. Anne's role is to nurture a new way of doing church and sharing God's love and care in this expanding community.

On Thursday 21st October we will be hearing from BEAT the UK's eating disorder charity which is one of the Projects we are supporting. Their mission is to help people (about 1.25 million in the UK) who are suffering from eating disorders. Anyone who is interested in hearing about their work is most welcome to come along at 7:30pm.

God, Whose we are and Whom we serve, tells us to let our light shine in the darkness



Kidsteam News

We are back to worshipping as a group – without the mums and dads! (altho’ they are always welcome, of course!) We meet at 10.00 am in church as part of the church family and then go into the Centre as usual for some teaching, fun and craft. We are continuing to use Energize as our main teaching resource but will be joining in with the whole church Bible Society ‘Bible Series’ project that is coming soon. The children also got out ‘Just Praying’ booklets to read and fill in, so we have had a busy start! We welcome Bonnie Kennedy who has joined us as our newest team member.



In preparation for harvest, the children have been thinking about creation and the good things God has provided for us all – they have visited the Community Garden to check out the veggies, coloured in a lovely frieze and even painted stone markers for the ‘green-fingered folk’ to use! Never a dull moment in Kidsteam!



APC Community Garden - News

Now that Autumn is here, we thought it would be good to give an update on the community garden. First of all, thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success of the garden so far. It continues to flourish and we should have produce to donate to the Foodbank and our popular Fresh Fridays till early winter.

We have secured funding to have the next phase of the garden developed. This will extend the retaining wall, terrace the area above and add steps to give access to the upper level. This work should be complete by the end of October and will give us an area to develop a fruit garden. We already have trees and bushes to plant and some others pledged from elsewhere. Derek intends to devise a comprehensive plan to develop the rest of the available ground, including vehicle access through the double gates to the main road, a storage area for manure, compost and materials with suitable containers, providing 'mini-allotment' raised beds along the upper level and putting an access path right along from the double gates to the current section of garden.

To weather proof the current area, we are expecting a delivery of wood chips to be put down between the beds with membrane underneath to control the weeds. We have the odd crop that will stay in the ground till spring, some cabbages and brussels spring to mind, but the rest will have been picked and cleared by the end of autumn. We plan to mulch then cover most of the beds, but try a green manure crop on one as a trial. We have also completed the planters on the patio ready for our youth groups to use. Sorry it's taken all summer!

We will be distributing our harvest in the church hall after the Harvest Thanksgiving service on 3 October, and will also have some simple bee hotels for your garden. Please join us in celebrating God’s harvest.

If you would like more information you can get in touch at communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org or check out our Facebook page @apccommunitygarden

The Community Garden Team

Look forward to seeing you in the garden 🍷





We are excited to have launched **Try Praying** and were privileged recently to have David Hill, the founder of the initiative, giving us a powerful presentation at church on 12 September. He gave us so many good reasons how and why we can all appreciate the power of prayer. Apparently 27 million people in the UK pray and, of those who are not religious, one in 5 admit to praying! Apparently through the Covid pandemic, record numbers have been Googling 'how to pray'! Now is the opportunity to bring this to those who have little or no faith in God.

You will see the banner outside the church beside a display box with copies of the **Try Praying** booklet in it. The banner will be up for three weeks during which we pray that people will notice the message and, those who are passing, will pick up a booklet. Please encourage your family, friends and neighbours to take a booklet which are also available at the door of the Church Centre.

Very simply, the idea of the booklet is that it is yours for 7 days then you hand it on to anyone you feel might appreciate it! Use it then lose it!

Prayers, of course, are often not answered in such a short time but hopefully those who participate will begin to feel the benefits and learn to appreciate the help and support which prayer can give us all!

Please help to make this the 'talk of the town'!

Susie Robertson - Mission Committee Convener

APC PANTOMIME

Following on from the fun we had at the summer club, we will be putting on a pantomime in the Community Church Centre at the end of November. (**Oh no we won't. OH YES WE WILL!**) While the script is pretty much done and the actors chosen, this is just the tip of the iceberg. We



need lots of other talented people to get this production done. First and foremost, we need a good sound and vision team, since much of the scenery is going to be projected on the back screen. In addition, we need folk with artistic talent to design and produce posters, costumes and makeup. If the men's shed feel they could help with a small amount of moveable scenery that would be brilliant. Then of course we need people to move scenery, a prompt, and a photographer to produce some of the images of Auchterarder needed for the scenery. We will also need people on the night to act as ushers/usherettes so that we can make this feel like a night at the theatre. Our hope is to attract all ages to the production including those that we may not normally see in APC. If you would like to be involved, please email me at lae62@btinternet.com or text me/ring 07806 874239.

Lesley Buchan

A true story about my brother David by Alastair Donald

In the sixties my brother David lived in at the Hotel where he worked, rooming with an Italian who loved to sing. On the bedside cabinet sat David's trusty Dansette record player, and Luigis' favourite was Roger Whitakers "Durham Town". It had a little crack in it but David would gently nudge it with his elbow when it got to the crack and on it played. Imagine his amusement, when slaving away in the kitchen Luigi breezed through the door, tray held high aloft singing, "An the leavings gonna get me, go get me, go get me, go get me down!!!"



HARVEST THANKSGIVING

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Our annual Harvest service will be on **Sunday 3rd October at 10am** and we will hear from Derek about the Community Garden. One practical way of giving thanks to God is to donate to our Food Bank so please bring along food items on the day as an offering. Jackie our Food Bank manager would particularly like the items below, but anything is welcome!

pasta, rice, tinned soup, beans, lentils, stock cubes, pasta sauce, jam, tinned fruit, longlife milk, and pet food.



Other special services for your diary:

Sunday 7th November – Communion

Sunday 14th November – Remembrance



Guild Rededication Service

Auchterarder Guild were delighted to welcome Margaret Muir, the new National Convener on Sunday 12th September. Margaret took part in the church service and then joined members for a salad and sweet lunch. The Guild wish Margaret every blessing for her year as National Convener.

With regret, we record the death of Mrs May Lowry, a long term resident of Auchterarder, who has been resident in Glencairn Care Home in recent years. She was in her hundred and first year!

We also record the death of Mrs Sheila Long and Mrs Kay Goodman.

Auchterarder & District Leisure Classes

Are you wondering what to do with yourself now the nights are drawing in? Try the Auchterarder Leisure classes which start from the 12th October.

Auchterarder & District Leisure Classes



Classes start 12th October

our

Autumn 2021 Prospectus is out NOW

for daytime and evening classes

Creative Writing NEW!

Chair Yoga

Tai Chi

Fishing and Fly Tying

Scottish Country Dancing

Making the most of your iPhone

Drawing & Painting & Clay Modelling

For more information pick up a brochure in the library or local shops, look us up on Facebook  or you can find a copy of the prospectus and an application form on our website at:

www.AAEA.org.uk

Telephone 07597 600163

Auchterarder Adult Education Association is a charity registered in Scotland. No. SC020304

Look out for the:



TOWN BUS TREASURE HUNT

Quiz Forms will be available locally from the end of September 2021

All you have to do is travel on the Town Bus to solve all the clues and give yourself a chance to win a prize....

The main prize of a voucher has been kindly donated by Café Kisa.

£1 donation per sheet, with all funds raised going to support the Town Bus. The closing date for entries will be Saturday, 23rd October 2021.

APC Walking Group

On Saturday 18th September on a atmospheric warm and sunny day with some low cloud the APC walking group were venturing up a great wee Corbett in the heart of the Trossachs, Ben Ledi. It's not quite a munro but at 879 metres it is high enough to give some lovely views, and is tougher than some munros to climb.

Derek was our leader and 8 folk met at the Ben Ledi car park at 8.30am. We walked up to the top of Ben Ledi on good paths and then along the ridge and came back down Stank Glen to the complete the walk along Loch Lubnaig and back to the cars by 2.30pm. A great day with great company.



Our way up Ben Ledi



At the top of Ben Ledi



Stank Glen



Save the date - More information will be published nearer the time.

Saturday 16th October there will be a slide show of photos taken on the Ben Ledi walk in the Church Hall.

Saturday 27th November will be the next APC walk.

This group is open to all - there is no need to be a member of Auchterarder Parish Church.



Blue Door Foodbank

Opening Hours

Tuesday 10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Friday 10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Auchterarder Parish Church

24 High Street, Auchterarder

For any further information, please contact us on:
info@bluedoorfoodbank.org or 01764 660965

Blue Door Foodbank is always very grateful for food donations which can be dropped off at the local Co-op.

Photo taken from FaceBook

I rescued you from a pet shelter,
and by your love and beautiful company, you
ended up rescuing me.



**Auchterarder Parish Church's
Musical Director - Stephen Millar**

Sunday 3rd October will be Stephen's last day with us in Auchterarder Parish Church. He is training to become an Ordained Local Minister and we all wish him well in his new venture.

If anyone would like to contribute to a gift for Stephen - please can you give to Helen Haynes, myself or put in the collection plate in an envelope marked Stephen.

Thank you
Ruth Buchan - Session Clerk

**Auchterarder
'Archway'**

Every Monday
1pm - 3pm



The Archway Well-being Cafe is now open. If you want to chat, meet old and new friends or want information please come and join us. Previously we invited speakers and enjoyed other activities but that is not allowed at the moment due to restrictions but will start as soon as possible. We work with NHS and your health and well being is important to us.

Renee Riddell

Archway Monday's 1pm till 3pm



At the time of writing this newsletter, Graham, who was admitted to Ninewells on 3rd September is still in hospital.

Graham and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes.

Sylvia Elsmere

I would like to say a very big "thank you" to APC for the cards, visits, flowers and telephone calls following my recent knee injury. I am gradually making slow progress, with the emphasis on "slow" but hope to get back to normal in due course. What a blessing it is to be part of such a caring fellowship.



Olive Small

Fundraising for

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

I did it!

Thank you to all who have supported me in the challenge of walking the 26 mile hike from Callander to Killin along the Rob Roy Way through the Trossachs National Park, which I set myself to raise money for Macmillan Cancer.

On the day the weather was lovely, probably too hot, and I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and the experience of the day.

I sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to my JustGiving. The link below will show you how much I raised.

Sylvia: [Sylvia Elsmere is fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Support \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/Sylvia-Elsmere)



From the editor ...

The newsletter is currently being produced on the last Saturday of the month and the next issue will be Saturday 30th October.

If you have any interesting stories, celebrations, photos etc you would like me to publish then please send to me, whenever you have them, and I will keep for the next edition.

If you are reading this newsletter as a paper copy and would like me to send it to you by email please email me at sylvia.elsmere@hotmail.co.uk

**Auchterarder Parish Church
Covid-19 Community Support**

A chat on the phone

Tel: 07467 793061 or 01764 660152

E: admin@auchterarderparish.org

To speak to a Minister telephone:

Rev Dr Lynn McChlery: 01764 662399

Rev Iain Paton: 01764 682234

Social Media Reminders

Remember, you can always keep in touch online with APC and all its goings-on in a variety of ways!



The website address is: auchterarderparish.org



APC twitter link is: @apcchat

Messy Church twitter link is: @ApcMessy



Our Facebook pages is: @auchterarderparish