

Auchterarder Parish Church Newsletter

14th November 2020

Registered Charities SC001688

Open and Shut

I'm writing this on the day that our region enters Tier 3 restrictions as we continue to wrestle with the COVID virus. This is inconvenient for all of us but "inconvenient" hardly describes it for the many businesses, especially our local hotels and restaurants,

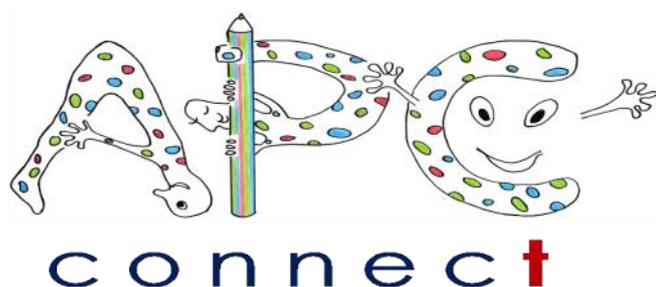
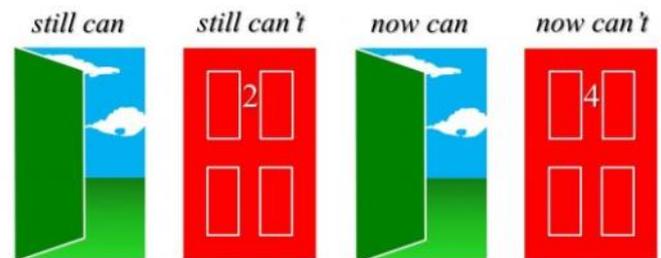
forced into closure again with the associated loss of necessary income (and jobs) in their most lucrative season. Regrettably, plans to re-open our own Church Centre are currently on hold pending further discussions with the Kirk Session in the light of these developments. It would be possible, but very challenging, to ensure that we comply with safety legislation. The sense of "closing down" in isolation as we approach the longest nights of the year is very real for many people.

Yet at the same time, new things continue to open up for APC. Our Food Bank is becoming established and we welcome new applicants – don't hesitate to reach out! Most importantly, we are moving forward with plans to appoint a new full-time Youth Worker and we hope to advertise that post very soon. It would be great to have someone in place early in the New Year to move forward our vision to show and tell God's love to young people in our community. And the church is still open – with about 100 people meeting across 3 services each Sunday. Don't forget to book! And we'll be open too on Christmas Eve, with 3 services at 6.30pm, 8pm and 11.30pm and one on Christmas Day at 10.30. Even though numbers will be smaller than usual, a closed and empty church would send the wrong message about our loving God's openness to us at this special time of year.

Please enjoy the newsletter and do find ways of staying open to each other and to God in these winter days.

Wishing you God's blessing

Lynn



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 McClery: 01764 662399

Rev Iain Paton: 01764 682234

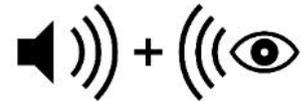


Sunday Worship Live Streaming

From this Sunday, 15 November 2020, we will be streaming the 9:30 am service of worship 'live' on our Auchterarder Parish Church YouTube channel!!!! This is a very exciting development, and we are very much looking forward to it. Thanks are due to all who have worked hard to get the equipment identified and set up, especially Jamie Donaldson and Roger Yearsley. The camera will be set at the back of the church, with the focus being on the chancel and the screens, and it is unlikely that any of the congregation will be seen, apart from the back of a few heads, perhaps! However, if anyone has any concerns, a discrete seating area will be available out of camera range. Audio versions on CD and recordings of the services will still be available but published a little later.

Sound and Vision Team

With reference to the development above, we are looking for a few new recruits for the team who run the sound and vision systems on a Sunday morning. Thanks are due to Alistair Elder who has been a stalwart on the team but is having to give up due to work commitments. It will mean roughly doing sound-desk duty once each month. If you are interested, please speak to Jamie or Stephen Miller. There will be training available, so don't panic if you don't happen to have a degree in sound engineering!



sound + vision



We are very excited to tell you that we are now at the stage of getting an application pack put together ready to advertise for our Youth Worker. We hope to get this out as soon as possible, so watch this space and make sure to share the information, once available, through any appropriate networks you may be a part of. Please keep this initiative in your prayers.

A Time to Remember

Memorial Service

Sunday 6th December 6:30pm



During this difficult year we have experienced a deep sense of loss and isolation as we grieve for those we have loved and lost at some point in our life. We have not been able to come together to say our goodbyes, share our feelings, our grief and may feel alone in our homes.

This memorial service offers an opportunity to come together in a safe way to remember those no longer with us. We will join together in lighting candles, listening to music, comforting words and share a time for reflection. We will also read out the names of those we are remembering and place a star on the memorial tree.

If you are unable to attend but would like to have someone's name read out during the time of remembrance and a star placed on the tree, please let us know by emailing us admin@auchterarderparish.org

To book a place at the service please contact on 01764 660152 or email us at the above address. This service is open to all in our community, please share this invite with friends, family, neighbours and those in our community who may be missing someone.



Angels and Stars coming to Auchterarder

Thank you to all those who have handed in stars and angels. But please keep them coming. We need them for the Street, the Care homes and St. Margaret’s hospital. The last date is 30th November as that gives us time to put the tags on. Please either hand your angels and stars in at the church or phone Marjorie Paton 01764 682234 or Margaret Dunster 01764 664842 if you need them collected. Looking forward to seeing Auchterarder with a throng of angels and a galaxy of stars.

FOR THE CHILDREN :

Thanksgiving: something to be thankful for!

Thanksgiving Day is an annual national holiday in the United States and Canada, celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year. Americans generally believe that their Thanksgiving is based on a 1621 harvest feast shared by the English colonists, known as Pilgrims, from Plymouth in England, and the Wampanoag people – a native American tribe. The American holiday is particularly rich in legend and symbolism, and the traditional food served at a Thanksgiving meal usually includes food a bit like our traditional Christmas dinner: turkey, bread sauce; stuffing, potatoes, cranberries, and pumpkin pie. It is usually celebrated on the last Thursday in November. Although we don’t celebrate this particular feast here in Scotland, it is a lovely idea to have a day especially for giving thanks for all the good things we have, and a time to remember those people here at home in Scotland and throughout the world that have very little to be thankful for. You could maybe make a Thanksgiving turkey for yourself and write on its feather all the things you and your family are thankful for.



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 660152



Back to Church Service Booking System

This is a reminder of how to book for the Services. Importantly, to ensure that we keep within the Church of Scotland and Scottish Government Covid-19 Guidelines, you must book for **every** service you wish to attend – **that means booking a place each week.**



There are various ways to book. You can use the online ‘Eventbrite’ booking system by copying this link into your browser to book a place for the day and time you want:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/auchterarder-parish-church-weekly-worship-tickets-119470516531>.

Alternatively, you can contact our Administrator, Mandy Blackadder, by email admin@auchterarderparish.org or by calling 01764 660152. Please do this by **12noon** on the **Saturday morning at the latest.**

CHURCH WELCOME ROTA

After twenty six years of service, Helen McNicol has decided that it is time to stand down from the duty of organising the 'welcome rota' – the list of the members of the congregation who turn up early to ensure that members and visitors alike receive a warm welcome when coming through the church front door to attend a service. That is a great piece of service by any standards, and we all owe Helen a great debt of gratitude for taking this on twenty six years ago and sticking with it ever since. Thank you, Helen; your work has been greatly appreciated. Two or three of the volunteers who have helped with this over the years are stepping down, and so our thanks go to them as well.



Heather Edment is Helen's successor. (Note the terms of the job, Heather; you can retire in 2046) And to everyone in the congregation - if you think that you could fill one of the gaps and bring the list up to full strength, Heather is the person to contact. Her phone number is 01764 663169 or mobile 07817 032 978.

Auchterarder Parish Church

Lighten the Darkness



Advent Course



25 November – 16 December 2020



Following the success of *The Prayer Course*, Auchterarder Parish Church is offering a new Advent Course. Developed and presented by church members themselves, the course will run over 4 Wednesday evenings from 7.30 – 8.30 pm, via *Zoom*.

This 4-week course explores some of the main Biblical narratives and themes associated with the Advent Season.

25 November	<i>Bridging the Distance: A Child is Born</i>
2 December	<i>Playing it Safe?: John the Baptist</i>
9 December	<i>Who to Trust?: Joseph</i>
16 December	<i>The New Normal: The Magnificat (Mary's Song of Praise)</i>

As we explore the promises of God through the Scriptural passages relating to Advent, and re-live the lives and experiences of the characters involved, it is hoped that we will find our own faith deepened and our calling to be 'lights' in a dark world re-focussed and energised.

Pre-registration for the course is essential.

To pre-register, please email apcaudiovisual@outlook.com

Life and Work Subscription Changes to your subscription for 2021

Dear Life and Work reader & fellow church family member

Firstly, I do hope that this correspondence finds you and your families well. I'm sure you'll agree that it's certainly been a most challenging year and unfortunately looking set to continue in the time ahead which brings me to the reason why I am writing to you today. Which is, to make sure that you know **what action you need to take** should you wish to continue to receive the Life and Work Magazine Subscription next year (January to December 2021).



As you are aware, up until March this year, I as APC's Life & Work co-ordinator, received the magazines to my home, I then labelled them up and distributed these to all via the church entrance table. I also organised collection of a cheque or cash from you directly and made sure that this was recorded and passed to our church finance for banking. The cost was £30 for this current year. However, when the pandemic struck and our church had to close it made my established process impossible to manage and so at that point in time the L & W administration team in Edinburgh helpfully agreed to made temporary arrangements to ensure magazines be posted directly to subscriber's home addresses. As we end the year they have been in contact with me to make plans for 2021 and have advised that posting directly to home addresses will only be possible where subscribers deal with them directly. The good news is that the cost of £30 will remain the same but the process for payment is to organise a single payment via a direct debit.

Therefore, the action you now need to take is to:

complete the 2 forms and **return both to the FREEPOST address set out on the forms.**

1. The Order Form
2. The Direct Debit Form

These forms can be found attached to the email which was sent with this newsletter. If you don't receive the forms then please contact Margaret Gilmour.

If you no longer wish to receive the Life & Work then you do not need to take any action. I do hope that this helps clarify the position and I trust you understand why this course of action is necessary for the coming year. However, if you need further clarification then please do feel free to contact me and I will try to help.

With kindest regards

Margaret Gilmour

Mobile: 07717 545 235

Home: 01764 664 279

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

From the editorIf you are reading this newsletter as a paper copy and would like me to send it to you by email please email me.



"Which is more important," asked Big Panda, "the journey or the destination?"

"The company." said Tiny Dragon.

If you have anything you would like me to include in the next edition of the newsletter (photos events, funnies) please email sylvia.elsmere@hotmail.co.uk.