

Auchterarder Parish Church Newsletter

9th January 2021

Registered Charities SC001688

Musings from the Manse

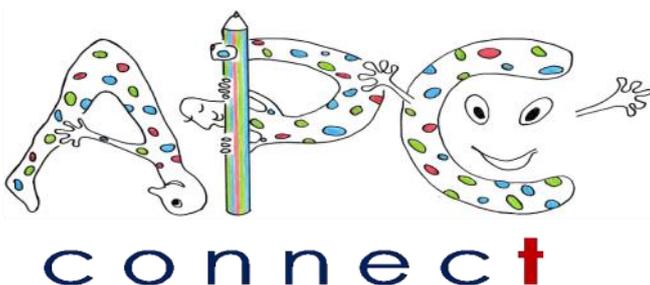
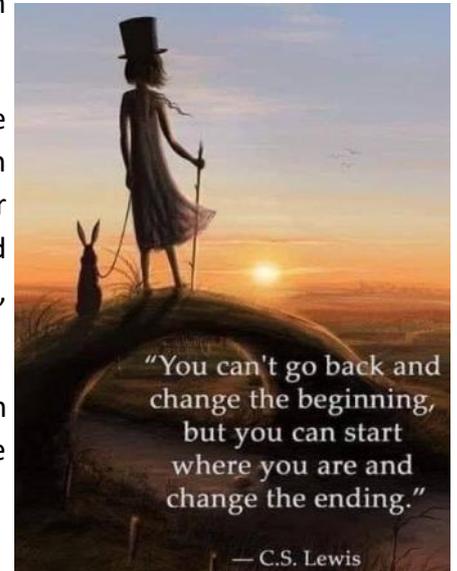
Happy New Year seems an odd thing to say when, so far, it's been anything but. Someone summed it up: "I don't care if there's light at the end of the tunnel, I'm just sick of the tunnel." News of a new lockdown, for at least a month and probably longer, plunges many of us into greater darkness and isolation. The progress we thought we were making seems halted, and the lockdown we thought was behind us stretches again in front. We've learned some coping strategies, but it's harder to raise our energy and motivation. We can glimpse the light – the vaccine seems pretty certain to win in the end. It's just that the tunnel is longer than we thought. Maybe much longer.

So, I could reassure you of the hope of the Christian faith, that God has got all this under control and will even work it out for good in the end – and that's true. But I've been thinking of an image used by C.S. Lewis in his book "A Grief Observed", written after his wife's death. He describes a man who finds himself in total darkness and completely alone. Then, unexpectedly, he hears a tiny sound close at hand – a chuckle of laughter. He realises that there's a friend just beside him in the dark. "It's a good, good sound. It shows that I or anyone may be utterly mistaken as to situation I'm really in."

I love that image of God, not only as the light at the end but as the friend beside us in the dark. The solitude is an illusion, and maybe even the darkness itself. We don't have to muster the last remains of our strength and soldier on alone. We can find, each day, tangible signs and sounds of God's companionship in Creation, Prayer, and Scripture. And, without a doubt, in the friends God brings alongside us.

I hope the newsletter brings some of those signs of God's presence with us as a church, in and through each other. And I do summon the courage and faith to wish you a happy and blessed New Year!

Love to you all
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

The **Blue Door** Foodbank wishes to thank everyone for their support. We had a busy Christmas, but the sad news is our numbers have increased. We issued 76 parcels (including Christmas hampers), which equates to providing food for 175 clients. Overall we distributed over 1½ tonnes of produce plus £550 in vouchers - all for local shops in the High Street.

We had the privilege of delivering 60 mini hampers on behalf of the town from Gleneagles and a variety of other groups (e.g. Archway, 50/50, the Pastoral Care Team....etc). The motive behind these mini hampers was to give people who would have met up traditionally for a pre-Christmas lunch the opportunity to share this 'light bite' knowing they were being thought of and to ask them to think of their friends. All this whilst we all look forward to the next time we are able to meet and have a good natter, socially distant or not!



COVID Emergency Volunteering in general

In the meantime, please note our Team of volunteers are **not exclusively** assisting with Foodbank Parcels. If you need anything collected / delivered, shopping assistance because you are in lockdown we can and will assist.

For convenience and because the process is in place and working contact Jackie via the number below or a Church Minister and we will co-ordinate the appropriate volunteer response. The volunteers – in the main – are the same group from COVID lockdown round one. None of us expected to be where we are now so this is just a way of not reinventing and duplicating effort that was already in place to keep us all as safe as possible. We also have Government and Council support to do this as a recognised volunteer team for Auchterarder to minimise risk to us all.

Blue Door Foodbank Tel: 01764 660965

Email: info@bluedoorfoodbank.org

Stay Connected With Nature – Winter

Many of us discovered more of nature back in the spring during lockdown as we spent time exploring our paths and trails, maybe for the first time. With the latest lockdown now sadly upon us it's as important as ever to keep that connection going for our physical and mental wellbeing, even if that's in our own gardens. With winter in full swing, nature may seem distant and dormant but even at this time of the year there are sights and sounds you can look and listen for. Rooks and jackdaws form large flocks and are an impressive sight and very noisy, as they forage for worms and beetles in the



fields around the town. At dawn or dusk 100s can be seen moving between their roosts in the forests the other side of the A9 and the fields to the north. Geese are also on the move at these times of the day so keep an ear open for their



honking calls and look up to see the great V formations sweep across the sky. Don't forget the birds in your garden. A feeder of any sort will pay huge dividends in attracting birds into the garden and give hours of pleasure as you watch their antics. Feeders can be homemade, a simple saucer will do, placed somewhere safe, where you can put suitable scraps saved



from the compost bin. There are plenty of bird feeding hints and tips on-line. Winter is also a good time to plant a tree, something that children can enjoy as they watch the tree grow as they do and come to life in the spring. Why not join BBC Countryfile's 'Plant Britain' challenge (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/14KG5D14vHxHGvch64YngNc/take-part-in-plant-britain>) and get involved. If you need help with feeding birds in your garden or planting a tree then call the Church support line on 07467 793061 for assistance.

Derek Johnston

Discover – Connect – Protect

Funerals

With regret, we record the following deaths

Sheena Bayne of Glencairn Lodge. Her funeral is on Monday 11th January at Perth Crematorium. Please remember her family in your prayers.

Mr George Leslie of Wardside Care Home. He was an elder in the former St. Andrews and West Church here in Auchterarder and he and his late wife used to live at Cloan Drive. His funeral is on Wednesday 13th January at Perth Crematorium. Please remember his family in your prayers.

Donald Henderson. His funeral is on Monday 18th January at Perth Crematorium. Please remember his wife Maureen and family in your prayers.

CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Update on our Search for a Youth Worker

In the run up to Christmas the Youth Worker post was advertised and a healthy number of applications were received. Applications closed on 24 December and the search team met shortly after New Year to go through the applications received. We now have a short list and the interview process is underway. This is slightly more complicated because of the enhanced Level 4 measures now in place however, we are nothing if not creative! We hope to interview in mid-January and will keep you updated with any outcomes. Please keep this in your prayers, as appointing a Youth Worker it is a vital part of our 'Future Focus'.

Sandra, CYF Coordinator

Kidsteam

Even though we were in a virtual lockdown during the few weeks leading to Christmas, this didn't stop us from getting on with Nativity activities! Kidsteam managed to do the usual things – we had an advent wreath made especially for us by Alison, which was lit every week. We did our usual teaching around the Christmas story and appropriate crafts – each family making their own nativity scene (toilet roll insides were involved, it has to be said!!) and, of course, we had a Nativity Video Production, worthy of George Lucas, thanks to Jamie and Yvonne and all the families.

If you missed it, I assure you it is most definitely worth a look. Such talented actors you just can't imagine. The link to the video is [APC Nativity 2020.mp4 \(dropbox.com\)](#) and, just to wet your appetite, here are some of the production 'stills'. (Keith is very scary, be warned!)



*Nativity Narrator
Harry Knox*



And now we are back in virtual lockdown again, sadly, but we want to keep in touch with our families....., so we have a cunning plan! For Kidsteam, we plan on meeting at 11.00 am on a Sunday via ZOOM to do some teaching, some crafts and just some blethering. If you would like the links to the Zoom meetings please contact Sandra on sandra.miller@live.co.uk so you can get the link and be sent any resources. Best wishes for a happy, healthy and 'getting back together' 2021!

GRID

Our young people of GRID have been meeting on a Sunday morning up until Christmas. The COVID-19 restrictions have curtailed the normal youth activities including the coffee and chat. However, with careful social distancing and appropriate COVID-19 limiting activities we continue to meet. Before church started back in September we had a number of on-line zoom quizzes where the youngsters consistently showed up the leaders in terms of knowledge (and just about everything else.....good for their humility). Once church started back we met during the middle service and worked our way through some of the parables. At Christmas we had a number of nativity related sessions the highlight being where GRID members led the discussion (again enhancing the humbling experience for the leaders). Into the New Year and for the next wee while we will have to go back to an online format and we are presently looking at materials that are being designed for this. If anyone would like more information please get in touch either with Helen Lynn (six.lynns@gmail.com) or Stuart McClery.

grid

My memories of being a Temporary Christmas Postman

When I was a teenager in the 1950's I, for three years, would miss the last week at college of the Christmas term, and like many other students, worked for the Post Office to help deliver the Christmas mail.

In the 1950's there was no automation process, so there was a need for a temporary staff to sort and deliver the huge amount of Christmas mail. We were employed for 10 days or so before Christmas to do three rounds each day and one on Christmas morning and of course there was no email or mobile phones.

I cycled the two miles to the Harrow Sorting Office every morning and had to be there by 6.00am. I had to sort and put my round in order and be out of the office by 8:00am, to catch a bus to the start of my round. Not easy boarding a bus with a large heavy bag of mail and the bus conductor saying, 'upstairs only'!

My round consisted of some 80-100 houses, terraced and semi-detached but was always in my home area so I was able to get home for a quick late breakfast.



Back by bus to the sorting office to get ready for round two which was packets, registered mail and signed-for letters. A round which meant you had to knock at the door and get a signature. Undelivered signed-for mail had to be handed back and recorded. Then back by bus for round three which was usually a light round but it

was wise to carry a torch just in case you were held up. Back to the office, sign off, find my bicycle, and cycle home.



Christmas morning started with my usual cycle ride but on entering the sorting office there was a different atmosphere! The overnight postmen had had a party and were asleep under the empty mail bags – they were happy as the office was now empty of mail! To get us to our delivery rounds, they played a game of seeing how many of us students, with our bags, they could get into the small Post Office Morris-Minor van, it was cosy!

Once I had finished, and cycled back home, I would join my father, my brother and friends at our local for a glass or two of Watneys Red Barrel or Flowers. But we must not miss mum's deadline for Christmas dinner!

How much were we paid? At that time, you could buy four gallons (18 litres) of petrol for a pound! If I remember correctly, we were paid two shilling an hour i.e. 10 pence an hour!

It was great fun and as we approached Christmas the office got noisier with the singing of carols and the students having fun.

Oh, how times have changed!



Graham Elsmere

Robert and Heather would like to thank our Church family for prayers, kind words, cards, and flowers on the passing of Robert's mum, Mary Anderson, and for Lynn's lovely comforting service at the Cemetery.

Kind Regards Robert and Heather Anderson.



Guild Update

Happy New Year to all our members

Thank you to all who have paid their membership and donated to our two chosen charities this year. You are not too late if you would still like to be a member or donate. You

can pay by bank transfer:

Sort code 80-22-60, Account Number 16651660

or by cheque to 'APC Guild', and send to c/o Alison Reynolds, Dalryburn Cottage, Auchterarder, PH3 1DR.

Membership is £10 for this year.

Thanks

Alison Reynolds (Treasurer)

Christingle Service - December 2020



Take The "OLDER THAN THE HILLS" Quiz.

Do You Remember?

1. Fish & chips wrapped in newspaper.
2. Glass bottles with a refundable deposit.
3. 78rpm records.
4. Party telephone lines.
5. Milk delivered in glass bottles.
6. Television in black & white only.
7. Beat bobbies both day & night.
8. The coal man delivering.
9. Shilling-in-the-slot utility meters.
10. Your G.P. making house calls.
11. Television rental services.
12. Scouts & Guides bob-a-job week.
13. Two films shown per sitting.
14. Conductors on the buses.
15. Usherettes at the cinemas.

If you remember up to 5 - You're a whippersnapper.

If you remember up to 10 - You're gettin' there.

If you remember all 15 you're;
"Older Than The Hills".

CALLAGAN, E. CALLAGAN, E. CALLAGAN, E. CALLAGAN, E.

shared by silversurfers.com

During this current lockdown you can still watch the Weekly Sermons

There is an audio version or you can watch the sermon through YouTube. The link for YouTube can be found on the church website if you scroll to the bottom, the link is on the right hand side.

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.



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.

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



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