

Achterarder Parish Church Newsletter

Saturday 30th November 2024

Registered Charities SC001688

Musings from the Manse – November 2024

I remember reading about a visit of the late Queen Elizabeth II to America, some years ago. The Americans, with their love-hate relationship with our monarchy, delighted in spelling out the logistics involved. She took 4000lbs of luggage, including 2 outfits for every occasion, a mourning outfit in case someone died, 40 pints of plasma (in case of accidents), and white, kid-leather toilet seat-covers (in case of what, we wonder?) With her also went her own hairdresser, 2 valets, and many other attendants. Even a brief visit of royalty to a foreign country easily costs a six-figure sum. I wonder how that compares with other kinds of “royalty” in the popular media – Donald Trump or Beyonce might easily make our royals look meagre in what is deemed essential for a visit!

Maybe if Jesus had come with that kind of fanfare, He’d have been more believable, or been taken more seriously. Instead, He came with no witnesses, minimum fuss and even no safeguards against risk. As Philip Yancey points out, “a mule could have stepped on him”.

It strikes me that much of our Christmas celebration is an attempt to foist the “celebrity” trappings of our culture on a God who finds them worthless and perhaps even offensive. Our Christmas can be the opposite of what His coming was about: noise and crowds instead of the quiet solitude of the manger; superfluous giving to people who already have enough instead of receiving God’s gift to a needy world; manic busyness that drives us away from worship instead of the heartfelt adoration of Jesus; a weary sense that we’ve seen it and done it all before instead of freshness and wonder. Ironically, Christmas today can push the real Jesus out of sight.

But not quite. It can still be the most special of times: five minutes each evening to pray beside an Advent candle, a gift or gesture to show our appreciation for someone, an excuse to contact an old friend, re-reading the ancient Gospel Nativity narratives, sharing a meal with the whole family, kids with tea towels on their heads singing Away in a Manger. For me, the heart of it is the Watchnight service, perhaps my favourite service in the whole year. It has a hush and wonder about it that all the hype can’t quite destroy.

So whether we’re coming to Advent with excitement or dismay or just plain exhaustion, may we plan our own ways to know again, in the midst of it all, the silent and very real coming of Christ again into our lives. May we look, and look, and look again at the familiar until it becomes unfamiliar again, enough to surprise us afresh.

Wishing you all a very happy Advent!

Lynn





Messy Church

It's almost Advent as I write, and we are about to celebrate Jesus' birthday with a **Messy Church Birthday Party on 1st December!**



In November we celebrated the change that being a friend of Jesus made to Zacchaeus, a little man who turned out to have a big heart when he realised he had been cheating and stealing from people, instead of being fair and honest. We did lots of activities, games and songs and, as usual, had great grub! In fact, we were all so busy doing stuff, we have no photos to show! You can see a brilliant drawing of Zaccheus on the Centre window with all the height of the folk who attended, though!

We have **two important pieces of info** to pass on. Our first Messy Church of 2025 will be on **12 January**, not the first Sunday in the month this time, and it will be a **Messy Church Movie Night**, as has become usual for our first meeting of a New Year. There will be movie snacks available, but no light meal as such. After that, we revert to the first **Sunday each month a usual**.

And **from January**, we are changing the time that we meet. After discussions with our families it was decided that meeting 30mins later might enable them to do other things on a Sunday afternoon before coming to Messy Church. So, from 12 January onwards we will meet from **4:00 – 5:30 pm**.

Thank you to all who have helped in any way to run our Messy Church afternoons, and a special 'thank you' to all those who come along and join in!

Messy Church Team

An advertisement for Kirk Café. On the left, a photograph shows a white coffee cup on a saucer next to a small vase with greenery and red flowers on a wooden table. On the right, a wooden-textured background contains the text: 'Kirk Café' in a large, bold, black serif font; 'The New Café space in the Auchterarder Parish Church centre. Open every Tuesday and Wednesday' in a smaller, black, sans-serif font; and 'Come and Enjoy a coffee and a cake in our fantastic new Café.' in a black, sans-serif font.

The Kirk Café is open!! We have had an excellent couple of weeks since the opening and many of you have come to the centre to enjoy some coffee and cake. The menu changes weekly, so there will always be new soups, scones and cakes for you all to try. Please tell your friends and keep coming. Gillian, Michelle and the volunteers would love to see you and have a chat.



Angels Saturday 14th December

A huge thank you to all who have made angels and a gentle reminder to put them in the box at the back of the Church no later than Sunday 8th December. We have 600 tagged and ready to go out plus a huge bag of ones still to be tagged..... Thanks to Mandy for printing and laminating all the labels.



Angels - December 2020

But we would really appreciate **YOUR HELP** to hang them round Auchterarder. We are meeting on **SATURDAY 14th DECEMBER at 8 A.M. OUTSIDE CAFÉ KISA**.so that Auchterarder will be a true symbol of Christmas when folks arrive to do their shopping. All you need is yourself , string and scissors. All the bags of angels will be labelled with where they are to go. All the shop keepers have been very supportive of this . After you have hung the angels, The room on the right hand side of Café Kisa has been booked for us till 10.00 a.m. so that we can meet up together after a busy hour and enjoy, breakfast, coffee, tea etc.

Marjorie P and Margaret D

Prayer shawls

Knitting of prayer shawls goes on slowly but surely throughout the year as it is an important part of ministry for the churches in Auchterarder. We often receive messages of thanks and, with permission from the lady who wrote it, I quote it

“ Dear Margaret and all the ladies of the Auchterarder Churches Prayer Shawl Ministry,

I’m unwell at the moment and I’m finding my prayer shawl such a comfort and it’s cosy too. Thank you so much for my shawl, which truly helps me to know that Jesus’ love and reassurance are closely wrapping me round. That means so much!

May you know His blessing and joy as you serve Him in this lovely way and know too, of my appreciation and warmest greetings to each one of you. Elaine”

Marjorie P and Margaret D



Prayer Shawl Ministry



Chrismon Tree

Please enjoy the Chrismon Tree which, once again, will be standing in the church during the Christmas Services. It will be under the pulpit. It is a very special tree and the decorations were made 6 years ago. It is a very symbolic tree. All the decorations tell something of the life and nature of Jesus. E.g. a star, a cross, a crown. They are made in gold or white – gold to symbolize the majesty of Jesus and white to symbolize his purity. The first two trees which we used were then left till just before Easter when John Boyd and his group cut off the extra branches and made it into a cross. One of these is often used at Easter and is decorated with flowers and the other one is used as the cross covered in poppies for Remembrance Day.



Marjorie P and Margaret D

ROSEMARY LENNOX

Pastoral care of people is one of the principal duties of any church. In APC this has, for many years, been handled by a good number of volunteers who have each had responsibility for two or three elderly or infirm members of the congregation who have been housebound or in some special need which has prevented them getting to church; and have received friendly visits from time to time. Outreach like this does not happen by itself and needs co-ordination. In our case, that has been provided by Rosemary Lennox. This is one of many roles which Rosemary has fulfilled over the years, others including Flower Convener and, until recently, President of the Guild. Rosemary has decided to retire as the Convener of Pastoral Care – and she sure will be missed. If you have never heard of the Pastoral Care Committee, that is probably because their work goes on quietly and in the background; but it needs someone to bring it all together and to make sure that skills are matched to needs. And that person has been Rosemary Lennox. Always caring and compassionate, and willing to go the extra mile, Rosemary will be hugely missed in this role. Fortunately, she is still continuing her work with the Church in other ways, but we could not let her retire from Pastoral Care without expressing the thanks of the whole congregation for a job very well done over the last twenty years or so. A huge piece of work by any stretch of the imagination. So, well done Rosemary, and a very sincere ‘thank you’ from all your friends in the church.



Iain Paton



Wednesday Worship @ Auchterarder Parish Church

Each week we have a mid-week worship service on Wednesdays from 2-2.30pm. These will be in the comfort of the Church Centre and there will be a chance to have a time of fellowship afterwards over a cup of tea.

There will be singing, a time for prayer, Bible reading and a short reflection.

There is no need to let anyone know you are coming. Just come along and you will be made most welcome.

Lego club on a Wednesday lunchtime in room 108 - everyone in s1 and s2 is very welcome to come along.

Bring your lunch and then get busy building your own creation or following the instruction booklet out of a lego box. We also have lego games and lego jigsaws so there's something for everyone. Each week is different but always fun.



If anyone has any lego they can donate to our group we would be very grateful. The more the merrier!



Friday Night Youth Club has started back after the tattie holidays

Anyone in S1 - S6 is welcome to join us on a Friday night from 7pm - 8.30pm in the Church Centre.

Each week we have the lounge available with board games or just space to chat, the centre has a variety of activities including Nintendo, table tennis, snooker, fuseball table, carpet bowls, crafts, lego etc. And in the small hall we can play football, unihoc, dodgeball etc. There's something for everyone.



CHRISTMAS 2024

AUCHTERARDER PARISH

Sunday 01 December Messy Church 3:30–5:00 pm
 Community Carols @ Garrie's Corner 5:00 pm
 (A decision will be taken dependent on the forecast!)

Sunday 08 December Memorial Service 6:30 pm

Sunday 15 December 9 Lessons and Carols 7:00 pm

Sunday 22 December Nativity Service 10:30 am

Tuesday 24 December Crib Service 6:30 pm
 Carols 11.15 pm
 Watchnight Service 11:30 pm

Wednesday 25 December Christmas Worship 10:30 am

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Active disciples Praising God Caring for people

JOIN US FOR

Christmas Carols

SUNDAY 01 DECEMBER
 STARTING 5:00 PM
 GARRIE'S CORNER
 (OPP. THE CO-OP)
 HOT CHOCOLATE
 AND MINCE PIES!

LED BY
 CHRIS WHITE

WEATHER DEPENDENT!

My to-do List!

DECEMBER

Count my blessings,
 Practice kindness..
 Let go of what I
 can't control..
 Listen to my heart..
 Be productive yet calm..
 Just Breathe..
 And don't be a

Grinch

Community Christmas Memorial Service

A time to remember those we miss at Christmas and throughout the year.



Auchterarder Parish Church
 8th December 6:30pm

Please join us for a short service of remembrance and reflection with music and poetry.
 You are invited to place names and stars on the Christmas Memorial Tree.

A community Christmas Memorial Service will be held in our church on Sunday 8th December at 6:30pm.

The service is a time to remember those we miss at Christmas and throughout the year. The service will include music, poetry and a time of reflection. There will be an opportunity to light candles and to place a message on our Christmas memorial tree in memory of those who died recently or perhaps some time ago.

Our Book of Remembrance is always available in the side aisle. Please let us know if you would like to make an entry to the book ahead of the service .

APC Reaches Out at Auchterarder's Community Fayre!

What an amazing and inspiring afternoon we had with a Church stand at the Auchterarder Community Fayre last Sunday. We had a wonderful position next to the very active Men's Shed stand and we enjoyed meeting a terrific cross section of the community in the Aytoun Hall. From the minute the doors opened until the closing moments, the Fayre and our stand were very busy. Unfortunately, we were so busy that we didn't manage to capture the moment with any photos! We had positive encounters with so many people and a standout moment was when one said, "Every time I come to a community thing, the church is there. Your presence is very much appreciated and it's noticed – and it travels further than you think." This was the most welcome endorsement of why we set up this extra special outreach to the community.



In advance, we had made up 300 'Bags of Blessings' which held the components of a Christingle, information about Messy Church and activities in the Church over Christmas, a voucher for the new Kirk Café, chocolates within the most beautifully handcrafted Christmas envelopes and festive sweets. A Christmas quiz sheet was handed out and we

took the opportunity of telling people about events such as the Festive Coffee Morning, Carols at Garries Corner on Sunday 1 December and the Nine Lessons and Carols service. We had several complete Christingles on display and they gave us a terrific opportunity to chat with visitors about God's love reaching around this troubled world of so many nations and sharing that Jesus is the light of the world.

We handed out all the bags and declined any payment for anything! We took kindly provided home baking round the other stall holders giving us another unexpected chance to interact with them!

To create this sort of event takes an amazing bunch of willing volunteers and we are privileged to have these in APC! The sharing of a wide range of requirements made it a real pleasure and everything came together for the benefit of getting the Message to our community in abundance! Thank you all so much for everything – we can't thank you enough.

All suggestions of initiatives to reach out to our community with God's love will be welcome at any time.

Susie Robertson on behalf of the whole Mission Team and friends



Church Flowers

The new Flower Calendar is displayed in the church porch.

If you'd like to donate the flowers which beautify our church each Sunday, please add your name to a date of your choice.

The flowers bring joy to those who receive them, as a reminder of Gods love and care.



FESTIVE COFFEE MORNING - A BIG THANK YOU

We want to give a huge thank you to everybody who made this happen – from the makers, bakers, crafters, kitchen team, kids activity team, support team (the printers, media team, setters up and clearers away), everyone who has donated, everyone who came to talk to us, everyone who enjoyed tea/coffee and cakes, and who bought our items.

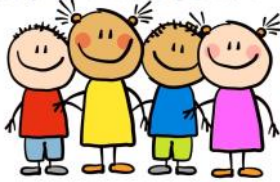


We hope we have not missed anyone out but if we have – thank you too.

We hope everyone enjoyed the day even if at the end of it we were a bit tired!



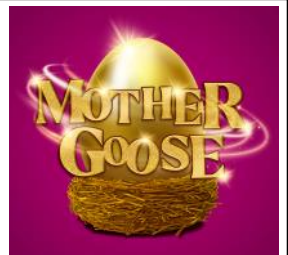
APC Kidsteam



Kidsteam

Thank you so much everyone for your fantastic support last Sunday - our Soup and Cake lunch was a huge success. And a special thank you to Alison and Jackie for all their hard work in the kitchen.

We are all looking forward to watching Mother Goose on



Friday 20 December at 2pm, a perfect start to the school holidays. We are also looking forward to lots of Christmas crafts and treats.

Kidsteam meets every Sunday morning in the Church Centre, after the children's hymn.

Praying for joy and peace this Christmas,

Yvonne, Alison, Lesley, and Michelle x

Yvonneelder@outlook.com

Update from the Guild - dates for your diary

Thursday 5th December at 2:30pm is our Christmas Party and we are looking forward to being entertained by the Ukulele Band from the Men's Shed. Santa has let us know that he is planning to visit us again so could we all please remember to bring along a wrapped Christmas Present costing between £5-£10 marked either male or female for Santa's sack
We were low on numbers at our previous meeting so hoping to spread the message.



Monday 9th December at 2.30pm - Guilds Together: Advent of Light Service. Perth North Church.

Thursday 12th December 12.30pm, we will be leaving from outside Police Station for outing to Pitlochry Theatre to see Sound of Music.

Whose we are and whom we serve.

APC Community Garden – November Update – Planning For Christmas & Garden Improvements

Communal Garden Although our veg' share has almost finished (kale & chard still available, just ask 😊) and Fresh Fridays are over for this year, November has still seen activity in the garden. Clearing and mulching the empty beds, planting onions, garlic, cabbage and broccoli for early crops next year and doing some garden improvements. We are planning to finish the garden design we started four years ago by levelling the unloading area, putting down bark and building four more storage/compost butts as well as completing the bark path the length of the garden. We have also been tending our brussels sprouts and leeks which we plan to give away after the church service on 22 Dec, so keep space in your basket for a home grown leek or some sprouts. Go local, go organic, save food miles. 😊

PKC Biodiversity Open Day We took part in the PKC Biodiversity survey held in the Church Hall recently and will play our part in making Auchterarder a biodiversity town. The council will provide us with fruit trees, fruit bushes, pollinator friendly flowers and other products to encourage all types of wildlife. This is an exciting town wide initiative so if you are a wildlife lover please get in touch.

A Mullein! Go and have a look at the giant mullein flower in Bed 4, its really impressive. From the Verbascum family, we hope to collect seed to grow more, so get in touch if you would like some.

Mini-allotments We filled with soil and our own home made compost two new beds which will be available in the New Year. That takes our total to 10 mini-allotments. Would you like a small raised bed (2.5m v 1m) to grow produce for yourself, your family and friends? Then apply for a mini-allotment and get growing.

Care Homes Do you enjoy pottering in the garden and have some time to spend at one of the care homes in the town, sharing your interest with a resident? PKC are looking for volunteers to help some keen gardening residents enjoy their gardens.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Derek Johnston

communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org

Eat local, save food miles. Eat fresh, improve your health.

ADVERT: Do you have a garden shredder that is no longer wanted and needs a new home. We are looking for one to help improve our composting.





Retiral Presentation - Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Lynn and the congregation of Auchterarder Parish Church for the lovely kind words Lynn spoke and for the lovely flowers, cards and generous gift that were given to me on the occasion of my retirement.

I feel so blessed to be part of a Auchterarder parish church, I started work August 2009, 15 years ago when our dear friend Allan Russell asked me if I would be interested in the cleaning job at the church. It was only the church and church hall as the centre was not finished but I got the job and have enjoyed my time working for Auchterarder parish church. I will miss my work but the time has come for me to retire and I won't miss getting up at 5am in the morning .

I also want to say a big thank you to Robert for getting up and taking me down to work for all these years. So to end just to say thank you all and God bless.

Heather Anderson.



APC Walking Group

St Andrew's Day outing took us around the vast acreage of the former open cast coal mine by Blairadam forest, Loch Fitty area near Keltly in Fife. We were led and educated by Elsie Carnegie on Scotland's recent industrial heritage from on top of the Bing! Swans and herons accompanied the group and we polished off coffee and scones at the end to finish off our 2024 programme in style. Our first walk of 2025 will be on the Saturday of Burns Night, 25 January when we'll be heading out again in the APC Minibus to Birnam. Come along!



The 2025 programme will commence on 25th January, followed by walks on 29th March, 31st May, 26th July, 27th September and 29th

November.

All welcome. Venues and leaders for these walks have still to be decided but look out for details nearer the time on social media and notices in the church.



Sound and Vision team need your help

The SAV team are looking for new members. If you have a heart for worship and would like to serve in this vital ministry, we encourage you to pray about getting involved and then come and speak to us. Any prior sound or computer experience would be an advantage but is not essential as we offer training as required.



Please speak to Peter Stokoe at the sound desk after any Sunday service or email: pmstokoe@gmail.com.

Church Minibus service

Our minibus is available on Sunday mornings for transport to church. If you would like to use this service, please contact us on 01764 660152, leaving your name and contact details.

We would also benefit from a few extra drivers for the bus rota. If you have a driving license with a D1 on it we would welcome you to the team.



Many thanks with kindest regards

Daryl and Mandy

From the editor ...

I do hope you enjoy the newsletters which are currently being produced on the last Saturday of the month. The next edition of the newsletter will be Saturday 28th December 2024.



If you have any interesting stories, celebrations, photos, up and coming events 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 to help save the planet and keep the costs down in printing the newsletter then please send me your email address to sylvia.elsmere@hotmail.co.uk and the next edition will be emailed to you.

Auchterarder Parish Church

The easy way to make a donation

If you scan the QR code with your mobile phone it will take you to the following page where you can make a donation



Blue Door Foodbank



Opening Hours

Tuesday 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Friday 10.00 am - 1.00 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.

Auchterarder Parish Church

E: admin@auchterarderparish.org

Website - www.auchterarderparish.org

Tel: 07467 793061 or 01764 660152

To speak to a Minister telephone:

Rev Dr Lynn McChlery: 01764 662399

Alan McKay - alan.mckay@churchofscotland.org.uk

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