

Achterarder Parish Church Newsletter

Saturday 1st February 2025

Registered Charities SC001688

Musings from the Manse – in France.....

Dear Friends,

In almost 20 years in ministry I've written over 150 newsletter editorials. Most are about the current joys or challenges in church life, some are about God, a few reflect on current events. I've never written one about me. But then, I've never written one from a hostel near a French hospital where my husband is starting to recover from serious injury. There have been a few "firsts" in the past week!

For those who don't know, last Tuesday we were skiing in France when an uncontrolled snowboarder strongly collided with Stuart. Stuart was airlifted to hospital, and next day had surgery for massive trauma to the thorax – 10 broken ribs, a dislocated shoulder and 2 dislocated collarbones. Since then, he's been in a specialist ICU unit, having 5 star care from excellent staff. Every day has seen a small improvement, and everything that could have been a problem has turned out not to be. It's been traumatic, eventful, exhausting and full on for both of us.

What's it been like? Here are four snapshots of things that stand out...

- Care. As well as so many messages of support from friends and family, some we haven't seen for decades, random encounters have left their mark. I was sitting alone in the hostel dining room when a man came in and said something I didn't understand. When I explained that I only speak a little French, he touched my shoulder, said "Courage, Madam", and moved on.

And from our church family – texts, emails, mad selfie photos of the youth group and the Wednesday service, people just keeping us in the loop, Whatsapp chat, Ewan and Fiona making a long drive to bring us people's gifts of chocolate, cards, home baking and other essentials. Love in a bit of shortbread.

- Practical help. I arrived at the huge site of 7 hospitals on Wednesday morning only knowing that Stuart was in the trauma unit. I didn't even know which building that was. I was very anxious to find him before he went for surgery, but I didn't know where to start. First signs I followed took me to the coiffeuse (hairdresser) – maybe not it. Trying to quell the panic, I went through the first door in the first building I saw and found a window with a woman behind a desk. I gave her Stuart's name – had to write it out – and she nodded. She had no English at all. She entered his name in her computer and nodded again. I asked in French where he was. She stared at me, then she walked out. I was ready to despair when she emerged from a door further down the corridor with her jacket on. She took me out of the building and walked with me for about 5 minutes around the complex, hugging her jacket in the cold. She took me into the right building, showed me the elevator and which button to press, then she left. Angels come in all shapes and sizes.

- Food. Stuart's hospital dinner last night was salami and olives for starters, followed by chicken chasseur with saute potatoes and carrots, then chocolate mousse, rounded off with some Camembert and an apple. Not to make a point or anything, but I'm eating microwave meals from the Carrefour (supermarket). I pinched his apple.

Continued on next page

- God-incidences. Early on, I met a young Polish woman called Beata in the waiting room. Her husband was also in a ski accident and was severely brain damaged, in a coma, and not expected to live. She has 2 children and she was completely distraught. In the next few days I randomly bumped into her SIX times – I didn't meet anyone else more than once, and one day I was only in the waiting room for 20 minutes. Every time, she poured out her heart and I listened and felt like a fraud that my situation wasn't comparable to hers. Each time I said I was praying for her. The last time we met I told her I'm a minister in the Church of Scotland – she didn't know that – and said our prayer groups are praying for her and her family. She seemed astonished. Her husband had finally had brain surgery and she was cautiously optimistic that he might make it.

I have no idea what God was doing in all of that. I simply have an unshakable conviction that I was in the right place at the right time and that God, for whatever mysterious reason, wants me right here and now.

There's plenty more, but I'll stop there. Moving to another ward has been a marker in the journey. This one is less glamorous and the food is not so good. Last week was dramatic; this stage may be more difficult as boredom and frustration set in and the long slow work of recuperation begins. Best guess is another week, then he'll be transferred to a Perthshire hospital (by ambulance/train) and I'll be home.

God is good, and so are God's people! We are beyond grateful for all your love and prayers. Please keep them coming. I'm looking forward to reading the newsletter and to joining tomorrow morning's Zoom prayer group.

And our love to you all.

Lynn



We wish Stuart a speedy recovery and our thoughts and prayers are with you both and look forward to your return to Auchterarder.



The Kirk Café is open!! We have had an excellent few 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. .



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.

Worship at Auchterarder Parish Church in January and February. 2025

As we did last year, we are moving Sunday worship into the Community Church Centre during the months of January and February. This is to help reduce heating costs over the coldest two months of the year. So, Sunday 29 December, 2024 was our last service held in the sanctuary until Sunday 02 March 2025.





Messy Church

Our first **Messy Church** of 2025 was a **Messy Movie Night**. We had a good turn out of families and we enjoyed the movie 'IF' (Imaginary Friends!) Copious amounts of movie snacks were also eaten, as you might imagine.



Our themes for this year will be based on the **Parables of Jesus** from the New Testament using a resource published by Messy Church. We continue to meet on the **First Sunday** of each month at the new time of **4:00 – 5:30 pm**. We have a variety of different approaches planned, e.g. one where we will meet some animals and one with some gardening activities. Remember too, that Messy Church doesn't meet in July and August **BUT** we will be running our **Holiday Club** on the last week of the school holidays – **11-15 August, 2025**.



Messy Church Team



INSET ACTIVITY DAY

The **Children, Youth and Families Team** is running a day of activities in the Parish Church for Primary School children on the **P&K INSET Day Wednesday 12 February**.

This will include some Bible teaching, crafts, games, videos, snacks etc. Children **MUST be pre-registered** as there are a limited number of places.

Information and **Registration Forms** are available from the **Community Church Centre in Auchterarder** and the **Wee Shop and Deli in Aberuthven**. They are also available online by emailing: church@auchterarderparish.org.

Forms should be returned by **Friday 07 February**. There will be a small donation/charge to cover cost of materials etc. Children should bring their **own packed lunch**, but a snack will be provided mid-morning. Please ensure you let us know of any dietary issues on the Registration Form.

6 Nations
England v Scotland
Saturday 22nd February
4pm, for 4.45pm kick-off
Auchterarder Parish Church Centre
Big screen for all the family!
Soft drinks and half-time pie available.

To help with catering let us know if you are hoping to make it.
 Email michelle.livingstone@auchterarderparish.org
 Free event. Donation welcome for refreshments. No alcohol.

HOLY SPACE

A Sunday group for anyone in secondary school.

For more information email michelle.livingstone@auchterarderparish.org

Sunday 2nd February: No Holy Space but please join us at Messy Church, it starts at 4pm in the church centre.

Sunday 9th February: Escape Room fun. Let Michelle know if you can join us for an afternoon of team work and detective skills.

Sunday 16th February: It's half-term so we're having a wee holiday!

Sunday 23rd February: Clathymore for eats, drinks, games and some holy space. Meet at APC at 6pm.

Sunday 2nd March: It's Messy Church time again, join us at 4pm for some fun with Cool Creatures! We're in the Church centre.

Sunday 9th March: Blackford Hill with picnic. Weather dependent. Check in with Michelle for time and arrangements

Sunday 16th March: The Manse for eats, drinks, games and some holy space. Meet at APC at 6pm.



Guild Update



Our 2025 session had a good turnout of members for our first meeting which was a Scottish 'Hoolie' afternoon. We started with stovies thanks to Alison and Jackie. We were well entertained by Barbara playing Scottish music on her accordion, Elsie's readings of Pam Ayers poems, Lesley's 'I M Jolly's niece' sketch, and Alastair's humorous readings about pies. A bit of community singing and a dance rounded off an enjoyable time.

Our next meeting on 6th February is Musical Box when Ruth Box will take us on her Christian journey through music. This is at 2:30pm.

We are delighted to tell you that the Guild Annual Gathering on 13th September is being held in Perth North Church. This is always a day of worship, celebration, friendship and fun. We will be ordering tickets soon and hope that many of you will want to come.

Whose we are and whom we serve.



APC Walking Group

The first walk of the 2025 programme, led by Joyce Gavine, set out from Birnam Arts centre on Saturday 25 January in the wake of Storm Eowyn which had blown through the day before. Initial conditions were not ideal for the 10 participants, with ice underfoot and in the midst of heavy sleet shower we made our way up the Birnam hill path to Stair Bridge for our first coffee stop. Right on cue however the cloud dissipated and we found ourselves in



bright winter sunshine and blue skies. With a light covering of snow enhancing the Obney hills to the West, the views were superb. From the bridge we climbed briefly above the snow line on a land rover track before descending into Rohallion estate for lunch by the Loch. From there we climbed up and over the shoulder of Duncan's hill, passing '*The Buffalo Hut*' where Joyce explained how the land owner in the 1830's after a visit to the Wild

West arranged to have buffalos shipped across to Birnam along with two native Americans and a bicultural Butler to look after the buffalo. In the 1840's things didn't go as planned and the buffalos got out of hand which brought the scheme to an end. We then regained the Birnam Hill path back to Birnam where we visited the Café at the Birnam Art Centre for coffee and scones.



A good day out for all after such an inauspicious start weather wise.

Date for your Diaries - The next APC walk will be on Saturday 29th March led by Allan Nisbet - venue to be advised in the next newsletter.

Please feel free to contact admin@auchterarderparish.org if you would like to be added to the mailing list

**the story of "The Buffalo Hut" can be found at:

<https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/apex/f?p=1505:300:::::VIEWTYPE,VIEWREF:designation,LB50775>

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 Christmas 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.

APC Community Garden – January Update – Biodiversity Planning

Communal Garden Over the last month we have been working with the PKC Biodiversity staff to improve the garden for wildlife. We plan to add more fruit trees, fruit bushes, plants for pollinators and create a Potager garden, another take on how you can garden for the kitchen and nature. All of the materials will be provided by or funded by PKC along with bat/bird boxes, bug hotels and hedgehog houses. If anyone is particularly interested in this aspect of gardening please get in touch, its going to be a really rewarding time.



New wild flower strip



New 'minis'

Mini-allotments January is also the month when we let any unused mini-allotments and this year we have 3 beds looking for owners. So over the next couple of weeks we will be inviting the people on the waiting list to take possession of a bed for the year. Watch this space. Currently the 'minis' are busy clearing their beds for the coming growing season and mulching with cardboard and manure to restore goodness to the soil and keep the weeds down.

It's becoming clear that our vegetable growing enterprise could do with some more ground, more space means more veg' to share. If you have a space in your garden, no matter how big or small, please get in touch if you would be willing to allow us to grow some vegetables there. No need to worry, we will do all the work!

We will have a stall at the Community Fair on Saturday 8 Feb, 10-mid-day, in the Aytoun Hall. Come along and say hello.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Derek Johnston

communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org

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

APC Kidsteam



Kidsteam Since returning in January we have been meeting in the garden room or the old hall, which give us lots of space for activities. We have welcomed two new little girls to our creche and now have a lovely group every week. We have a third adult on our rota every Sunday to cover our crèche.

We continue to learn more about Jesus and the Bible and have fun playing games and making crafts. Pictionary is still our firm favourite.

Kidsteam meet every Sunday, after the children's hymn.

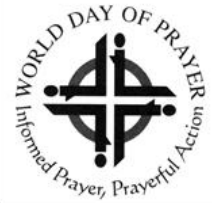
We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Lesley, Yvonne, Alison, Michele and all the crèche ladies xx



World Day of Prayer

“Kia Orana May you live a long and fulfilling life”



This year the World Day of Prayer service will be hosted by St Kessogs Church on Friday 7th March at 7.00pm in their church. Representatives from all the Auchterarder Churches will take part. During the day there will be services in the 3 care homes.

The service this year has been written by the women of the Cook Islands with the theme “I made you wonderful” based on Psalm 119;14. I was present at the World Meeting in Brazil in 2017 where the theme and writing country were decided for 2025. The joy of the Cook Islanders being chosen was wonderful. The delegates were vibrant, colourful, brim-full of enthusiasm and always wore fabulous head dresses!.

It is important to know that our value and self worth is in who we are not in what we do. We are all made in the image of God and our identity is as a child of God - valuable, precious, unique and special to him. To know that I am enough, you are enough, we are enough, and unconditionally loved by God, is priceless.

Marjorie Paton Scottish Secretary

Dwell in the peace of the God who created you,
Rest in the love of Christ who cares for you,
Go forth in the spirit of God who rejoices in you.

Marjorie Paton (Secretary)
World Day of Prayer, Scottish Committee
Scottish Charity No., 020446

Auchterarder and Aberuthven Connected are thrilled to share details of the groups attending the Connected Community event next weekend. There's something for everyone! Join us for a relaxed morning with plenty opportunity to find out about what's happening in our community.

Saturday 8th February. 10am – Noon. Everyone warmly welcome!

Please join us and celebrate our community at the Auchterarder and Aberuthven

Connected Community Fair

Saturday 8th February 2025
10am - Noon
Aytoun Hall

Come along and meet the community groups who make our community a welcoming, vibrant and fun place to live.

Lots happens locally and here's the chance to find out more!

Music from Mens Shed, get crafty with the Book Hub, "adopt a pot" give away, and a hedgehog workshop too - drop in, grab a cuppa and find out more.

www.aanda.connected.co.uk

Auchterarder and Aberuthven Community Action Plan

Connected Community Fair

Saturday 8th February
10am-Noon Aytoun Hall

Drop in and find out about...

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A&A connected Aberuthven Village Hall ACBUG ACSR - Green Spaces, Core Paths, Sport and Recreation Allotment Association Archway Auchterarder & District 50+ Group A&D Local History Association Auchterarder Adult Education Association Bloom Group Parish Church & Community Garden Auchterarder Walking Association Blue Door Camera Club Christmas in the Community Community Council Auchterarder Fire Service Friends of St Margarets Friends of Aytoun Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guides Horticultural Association Inner Wheel Logos Mens Shed Neurocentral Picture House Crew Picturehouse book hub Probus Rotary Scouts A&D Community Sports Hub Strathallan Community Rail Group SWI PKC Communities Social Prescriber Tayside Biodiversity Partnership GrowBiz The Heat Project
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Auchterarder and Aberuthven Community Action Plan



Thank you to Gillian and Michelle who helped us with the young (well young to me!) man we found collapsed and confused in the bus stop after the midweek service. Alastair and I sat with him while he warmed up and had something to eat courtesy of the Kirk Cafe (even though they would normally have been closed). After that he was able to go on his way.

Lesley Buchan Donald

APC Coffee Mornings (the last Saturday of the month)



Future Dates
Saturday 22nd February
10.00 until 12noon



DNA Groups at APC – starting late January

What’s a DNA group?

Churches changing and closing all around us makes us think: what is church, really? What are the essential ingredients without which we cannot be church? It’s a bit like human DNA, the basic template in every human cell. Pared down to essentials, church is **Discipleship – Nurture – Action**.

- Discipleship:** following Jesus, prayer and Bible reading to form a Christian lifestyle.
- Nurture:** doing that in caring relationships with other people on the journey
- Action:** focusing outwards, seeking opportunities to serve God in mission and social action.

We’ve run DNA groups 3 times before in APC. People meet in small cells of 3, once a week for a short time (about 45 minutes). Feedback has been really positive so we’re doing it again, starting late January.

What will the groups do?

- A simple leaflet outlines the shape of each group’s meeting.
- Nurture** (coffee and chat) - about 15 mins
- Discipleship** - Bible reading and discussion – 15 mins
- Action** – Supporting a mission or social action project, and praying together (10-15 mins)

The Bible readings will be the same as the sermons those weeks, but people who don’t come to church can easily take part.

How do they meet?

DNA groups are totally flexible. You can meet any time and any place – over breakfast, at a kitchen table, around another activity that you’re doing together anyway. It helps if it’s a place where you can pray together. You don’t even have to meet at the same time every week – but you should be committed to meet together weekly for 5 weeks. Short and easy for busy people!

How do groups form?

Stretch out your two arms to whoever is nearest you: friends or neighbours, Guild or choir members, elder’s districts, Messy Church, whoever – and ask if they’d like to be your DNA group? Single sex groups work best, and more than 3-4 people becomes a “meeting”. Alternatively, if you want to be in a group you can let us know and we will make or find one for you. Exact dates are still TBC but plan to take the plunge – and invite a friend! For more info contact Lynn, or Margaret Ross magsross1711@gmail.com



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 1st March 2025.



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