

# Auchterarder Parish Church Newsletter

Saturday 28th September 2024

## Musings from the Manse

### Times and Seasons - September 2024

Someone has calculated that, over a lifetime, the average adult will spend: 6 months sitting in traffic; 8 months opening junk mail; a year looking for misplaced objects; 2 years unsuccessfully returning phone calls (which is a good reason to use email – wonder if anyone has counted time lost in reading unwanted emails....!!); 4 years doing housework; and 5 years waiting in queues. Or, as Annie Dillard (one of my favourite writers) more succinctly puts it, “How you spend your day is how you spend your life”.

It's worth a thought. If we spend approx 8 hours per day asleep and another 8 working, where does the rest go? And why do we seldom have time for things we claim to think are important for Christians (church, prayer, personal time with God)? The rhythm of the days and seasons reminds us that, in God's design, there is a right time for everything: work, rest, play, people – and that God himself is the centre of all of it. The trick is getting the rhythm right!

As I write, summer is nearly over – the season of rest for most of us – and autumn looms. This Sunday is our Harvest Thanksgiving service, and things are restarting: committees and clubs, kids back to school, and so on. Attendance at church drops a bit in summer – someone quite seriously said to me when I came here, “Churchgoing is a winter sport!” I'm encouraged by the growing number for whom it isn't!

Looking to autumn in APC, there's a sense of God's timing around the proposed opening of our Community Café, and a sense of life in the small but steady number of new people coming through our doors.

The Lord is my pace-maker, I shall not rush – the Lord who makes everything beautiful in its time (Ecclesiastes 3). Take a deep breath, relish the last of the sunny weather, give thanks for autumn, and enjoy the newsletter!

Wishing God's blessing to you all

Lynn



**Stay Curious  
Try Alpha**

**Course Dates:**  
Wednesday Evenings from  
September 25<sup>th</sup> – November 27<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 18:30 – 20:30.  
To register, please email:  
[alpha@auchterarderparish.org](mailto:alpha@auchterarderparish.org)

**Alpha - is here in Auchterarder!!**  
Are you seeking answers to life's big questions, or longing for a sense of community and purpose? Join us this autumn for the Alpha course at Auchterarder Parish Church!  
Alpha offers an open, informal, and honest space to explore the Christian faith, whether you're just curious or looking to deepen your understanding. Come, enjoy a meal with us, connect with others on a journey of discovery, engage in meaningful discussions, and find a place where you truly belong.

### A word from the probationer minister

Hello all,

This month has been a busy one with many groups starting up again after their summer recess. Our Alpha course had its first evening on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, and it was a great night. It is not too late to join us so please have a chat with me if you are curious about it. Food, fellowship and faith-based chat are an excellent way to spend your Wednesday evenings so please do come along and join us. To deepen your faith and build better relationships with others in the community.

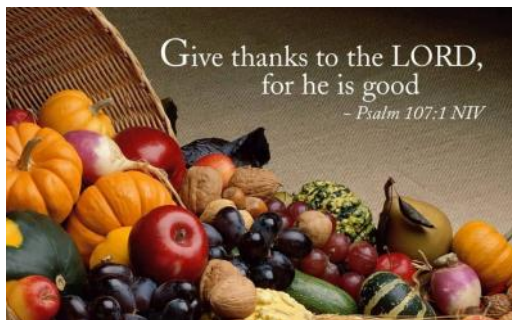
As we move into a month which will have our Harvest and remembrance services. I want us all to pray and think about the rhythms of the season and life. As the nights draw in and the days get shorter (and colder!). We should pray for the earth and the climate challenges many of our brothers and sisters across the globe face. It is likely autumn rains will bring flooding and misery for many. It is a time for each of us to reflect on the small changes we could make in our lives to ease the pain our world is in. We will also take time to remember all the countless people who have sacrificed so much for our freedom. However, there are many wars still being fought across the world and we pray that the peace of God can settle into the most difficult situations.

Blessings to you all

Alan

### **This Sunday - Auchterarder Parish Church celebrates Harvest Thanksgiving!**

Our Harvest service is all-age, so families are welcome to come along and enjoy a child-friendly service, thanking God for his goodness. Gifts of non-perishable food are welcome, and will be donated to the Food Bank.



### **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.



### **Magnitude Worship Night**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Perth Baptist Church

For anyone in secondary school

Speak to Michelle,  
if you'd like to come





**From Gillian Burns, APC Café manager**

Hello!

I'm delighted to be joining the team at Auchterarder Parish Church as we work to get the new cafe up and running.

A bit about me. I've very recently moved to the area as my husband has become the pastor at Crieff Baptist Church. We've moved from Barrhead with our two cats, five chickens and far too many boxes, mostly still unopened! I've been working for a Scripture Union associate trust in Glasgow called the Wheel Trust, based in a secondary school, supporting young people's mental and emotional wellbeing and helped them to explore big questions of life and faith. Prior to that I worked for a church doing youth and schools' work.

My experience might sound unusual for taking on this role, but it brings together two of my passions, church and hospitality. Since becoming a Christian in my late teens I've been passionate about seeing the church reach out to people, share the love and welcome of Christ with them and be a witness to the life changing grace that

God offers. I've worked in hotel catering and I'm a keen cook for SU camps. I've found that a warm welcome and food can provide so much more than physical sustenance; it extends care and compassion and can offer a welcome and resting place for those who need it. I look forward to seeing how God can use this new venture!



**Date for your diary – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 10.00 – 2.00pm.**  
**Christmas Coffee Morning**

Instead of the usual coffee morning in December, we are holding a Festive coffee morning to launch the Christmas festivities. A group have been set up to prepare this and has already met and various plans are afoot. Last month there was a bit in the newsletter . We would now like to share more about it.

As we are a church family there will be activities for all, Christmas goodies to eat, Christmas presents to buy, and for children there will be a Christmas film to watch plus popcorn and hot chocolate etc. with hopefully other activities for them. There will also be a Flower master class demonstration. There are lots of other ideas floating around which you will find out in the next newsletter.

We need lots of different items and they can be left in a box at the back of the church.

Loved Christmas decorations of any kind – to decorate the tables and to sell; pre loved and good condition toys to sell; things which people might buy for presents; jam jars; coloured pebbles; Christmas ribbon; Christmas wrapping paper; glass pebbles; knitted and sewn goods to sell; any Christmas crafts; unwanted new Christmas cards.

In December – jams, chutneys, tablet, Christmas baking to sell, Greenery for Christmas decorations;

But please **no** bric a brac!

In November we hope to have a “Come and Make afternoon or evening” to help make goods to sell!!!  
Details in next newsletter.

If you need any more information please ask.

Jean C, Marjorie P, Monika C, Moira M, Trisha R.

### Update from Centre Management Team - New APC Cafe

A team of people whom you would be very familiar with in Church on a Sunday is working through a structured plan to develop and implement the new Cafe for its planned pilot. That includes current expertise in food safety and related processes in commercial kitchens, finance, customer engagement and yes, expertise in managing cafes! We are liaising with other APC Groups, Centre Users and with Perth & Kinross Council. It's an exciting project with a number of moving parts and we will bring an update on progress to the next edition of the Magazine. While we have a new Cafe Manager (a warm welcome to Gillian Burns!) and the excellent support of Michelle Livingstone, we will also need and highly welcome volunteers with a passion to help, so if you are interested in volunteering, do get in touch with Michelle or Gillian

Ian Gourlay, Centre Management Team

## **COMING SOON** **A NEW CAFÉ IN THE** **COMMUNITY CHURCH CENTRE** **Provided by APC for our Community**



**Opening two days a week**  
**Managed by Gillian Burns, ably**  
**supported by Michelle Livingstone**

**If you are interested in volunteering to help in the café,**  
**please contact Michelle Livingstone**

**More details in the October APC Magazine**



## APC Messy Church



Messy Church started back in August after our short break for the summer holidays. It was lovely to see everyone back chatting and having fun and we welcomed through the church doors around 50 people.

August saw Gordon Roy our resident clown join us once again. The hall was fastooned with circus tricks and balancing balls such as stilts, uni cycles, mini bikes, juggling plates and pogo sticks. Everyone always loves the circus themed Messy Church with the kids and parents alike testing their skills (some parents were very determined!). Time flew by and everyone could easily have stayed another hour to beat their records.

We all finished by making a balloon dog together to take home.



**MESSY CHURCH**  
**GOES BANANAS!**

activities  
games

dinner  
sorted

Bible  
stories

for  
all ages

**Sunday 06 October 2024**  
**3:30 - 5:00**

Children should be accompanied  
by an adult

AUCHTERARDER PARISH CHURCH

Messy Church logo and a cartoon banana character are also present on the poster.



Many thanks to Gordon Roy, our volunteer helpers, all who attended and of course the chefs and kitchen helpers who conjured up another delicious meal.

And exciting news about our **October Messy Church**. It will be '**Messy Church goes Bananas**' when some of the characters from **Holiday Club** might just be around! **SO - get the date in your diary NOW - 06 October 2024!!!**

Messy Church is always the first Sunday of every month, 3.30pm -5pm. Help us spread the word or next time bring a friend.

**Messy Church Team**

## Holiday club feedback and news...



It's been great to hear from different people over the past few weeks about our time on Banana Island. On reflection it was a special week for our children, church and community, and we are looking forward to next year...keep reading to find out more!

Favourite bits from the children include the junk challenge every day...apologies to Robert who had to Hoover the polystyrene up that we didn't realise was in one of the boxes! Meeting Ripe and Rotten especially Rotten who seemed to get himself into trouble most days! Some of the photos show all the young ones and team doing our keep-fit everyday - lots



of fun. Lots of activities kept us busy with planting seeds and making bonfire biscuits being some of the younger ones favourites while the older ones had a visit from a football coach and the Men's Shed woodwork team!



A mum shared with us that her daughter was upset because she missed the last day of Go Bananas as they already had plans to go away but she wouldn't make the same mistake next year. One parent who doesn't come to church had been told all about Elijah trusting in God, while another asked if their kids could go back to Banana Island for a week in the October holidays!

Some of the team's highlights were working with others from the church and getting to know people in our community better. Others expressed joy in seeing the children have so much fun, but really most of the team (who are big kids themselves) enjoyed the action songs, challenges and activities just as much! They weren't competitive at all, yeah right!

We are having a Go Bananas reunion at Messy Church on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October and inviting everyone to meet another bible character who went bananas for God as well as enjoy more singing, challenges and keep-fit!

And hot off the press, our **Holiday Club 2025** will run from **11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> August**. Please put these dates in your diary if you have children in P1 to secondary school or if you can come and help. Think beaches, wind-breaks, seaside, sand, beach huts, Scottish weather, rock pools, lifeguards...



Auchterarder Parish Church

## CHURCH LUNCHES



## APC Church Lunches

**Bring and Share lunch at Pitmeadow Farm, Dunning this Sun, 29<sup>th</sup> Sept**

Do join us from 12.30pm if you can and bring some food to share...there's an oven available to heat food and a fridge for anyone making a meringue for pudding (Michelle's wishful thinking!)

If you need directions or a lift please speak to Fiona and Ewan McLean Foreman or Michelle.

The next Church lunch will be on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November @ 1pm** in the **Smiddy Haugh, Aberuthven.**

If you would like to join us please let [Michelle.livingstone@auchterarderparish.org](mailto:Michelle.livingstone@auchterarderparish.org) know (by email, text or WhatsApp) as soon as possible but no later than 4<sup>th</sup> November, including your menu choices. Seats are limited so it's a first come basis but lots of them! Thanks.

### Starters...

Ham & Lentil Soup with Bread & Butter  
Prawn Cocktail  
Garlic Mushrooms on Toast



### Main Course...

Roast Rump of Beef with Roast Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding, Tenderstem Broccoli, Oven Roast Carrots and Proper Gravy  
Homemade Fish Chowder with Baby Potatoes and Crusty Bread  
Vegetable & Coconut Curry (Vegan) with Cucumber Raita and Flatbread

### Pudding...

Vanilla Panna Cotta with Shortbread  
Sticky Toffee Pudding and Vanilla Ice Cream

2 Course: £29

3 Course: £35

(Cost includes a 10% service charge as we are a group booking)

Church lunches are a great way to get to know our church family better and also a safe place to invite friends and neighbours who don't come to church.



The Guild National Gathering  
7th September 2024

## Update from the Guild

The speaker at our opening meeting was our minister Lynn and she got us off to a great start on our theme Sure Foundations.

The next Guild meeting will be held on 3rd October at which Jackie Mahoney will speak on UNIDA.

New members are always welcome so please consider joining us.

**On 12th December members have the opportunity to go to Pitlochry Theatre for 2pm, Sound of Music. Cost is £50 which covers theatre ticket, travel and meal at Taste of Perthshire on the return journey. Please speak to Alison Reynolds as soon as possible. Tickets are limited.**



**Whose we are and whom we serve.**

## Street Pastors: Caring, Listening, Helping



We are having a meeting for anyone interested in hearing more about being a Street Pastor on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September** at **3pm** in the Church Centre. The purpose of this meeting is to find out a little more from Gordon Loudon who heads up Street Pastors in Perthshire area, and to arrange best options for training.

Remember, the key to being a street pastor is a friendly smile and a willingness to say hi to teenagers...no theology degree needed! It's a great opportunity to serve our young people by being available with a listening ear.

The hope is to have a team of volunteers during the school lunch break to walk up and down the high street being available to chat and listen to young people. To have another team going out in an evening over the weekend may happen too, if we have the volunteers.

Do you have a heart for young people?

Do you have a 12 month connection with a church?

Speak to or email [michelle.livingstone@auchterarderparish.org](mailto:michelle.livingstone@auchterarderparish.org) if you are hoping to come to the meeting or if you are interested but can't make Monday's meeting.

Please note that there is no commitment to become a street pastor by coming to this meeting, or even in coming to the training...you can decide after the initial training module/s if this is for you.



## Praise Evenings

Our first praise evening with Phillip Mellstrom was a great success. We learnt new songs from the God welcomes all CH4 supplement and also sang some old favourites. The second evening is on the 27th of October @ 6:30pm.

We will welcome Chris White to lead us in worship. Come spend the evening worshipping God in good voice and good company

## "THE TWO ANGELS"

A man and a woman had been married for more than 60 years. They had shared everything.



They had talked about everything. They had kept no secrets from each other, except that the woman had a shoe box in the top of her wardrobe that she had cautioned her husband never to open or ask her about.

For all these years, he had never thought about the box, but one day, the woman got very sick and the doctor said she would not recover. In trying to sort out their affairs, the man took down the shoe box and took it to his wife's bedside.

She agreed that it was time that he should know what was in the box. When he opened it, he found two knitted Angels and a stack of money totalling £60,000 pounds.

He asked her about the contents. "When we were to be married," she said, "my grandmother told me the secret of a happy marriage was to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should keep quiet and knit an Angel."

The man was so moved; he had to fight back tears. Only two precious Angels in the box. She had only been angry with him on two occasions in all those years of marriage. He was bursting with happiness.

"Darling," he said, "that explains the Angels, but what about all the money? Where did it come from?"

"Oh," she said. "That's the money I made from selling all the other Angels."

*John Macdonald 3 September 2024*



## APC Community Garden – September Update – Harvest Thanksgiving

The end of summer marked the Horticultural Society annual growing competitions and although our individual vegetable entries could not quite compare with the elite of Auchterarder, we did get third place in the best vegetable and flower garden category. Congratulations to everyone who contributes to the Community Garden, a big thank you and well done.



The last few weeks have seen the peak of our production in the garden this year, a bit later than normal due to the poor growing conditions over the summer. Our veg' share at the library last week was the biggest ever. So its fitting that we celebrate harvest thanksgiving this weekend and give thanks for what we have managed to produce. Fingers crossed that we can keep the harvest going as the weather cools (brussel sprouts at Christmas anyone!) and continue to encourage eating local, saving food miles, eating better, improving health.

**Communal Garden** Why not get involved with the volunteers growing flowers & veg' to give away free to our community. No experience necessary, learn as you go and have fun in the raised beds 😊

**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.

**Seed Growing** Do you have spare space in your greenhouse, shed, conservatory or on a window ledge for a small seed tray or pot? Then why not help us by germinating some seeds for us and getting them started for planting in the garden later?

**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](mailto:communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org)



## THE COMPUTER

### DO YOU KNOW:

The Oldest Computer can be traced back to **ADAM & EVE**.

Surprise! Surprise! It was an **APPLE**.

But with extremely limited memory.

Just **1 BYTE**.

**Then everything crashed.**





### The Craft Group and Christmas Angels



As you know the Craft Group are hoping to festoon Auchterarder with angels and also give all the residents and carers in the 3 care homes and the hospital. It is hoped to bring happiness and love to all who take one. They will be hung through Auchterarder on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> of December. At the moment we have about 450 but we would ideally like double that number. We did this in December 2020 and again in 2021 (that year with angels and stars.) They were all away by lunchtime. We would appreciate your help. There are patterns and samples at the back of the Church. Why not ask your friends to help!

We are meeting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of October at 10.30 in the church centre for tea/ coffee, fellowship , knitting and also getting the angels ready with a message round their neck and a loop to hang. A huge thank you to Mandy for printing, the laminating the messages.

Please, please help us to surround Auchterarder with angels and help spread the Christian message.

Marjorie Paton and Margaret Dunster



### APC Walking Group

A Happy Bunch!



We had a lovely walk on Saturday along the River Earn to Crieff. Sometimes up hills, this time along the meandering riverside, finished off with coffee, cakes and even bacon rolls at the Steading in Crieff. The camera tells its story of a very enjoyable few hours. Watch out for details of our final walk of 2024 on St Andrew’s Day, 30th November led by Elsie Carnegie. Come and join us

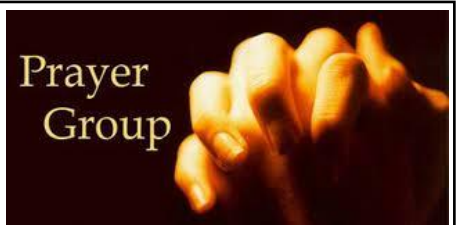
Watch out for details on Facebook / newsletter and notices in the church. - All welcome

Hope to see some new members on a walk soon.

Please feel free to contact [admin@auchterarderparish.org](mailto:admin@auchterarderparish.org) if you would like to be added to mailing list.



Prayer is at the heart of our church life at APC and we have two prayer groups every week. You don’t have to be a confident pray-er, you don’t have to pray out loud, and you don’t have to commit to every week – anyone can come, any time. We pray for our church, our community and our world, and also for individual people with their permission. If you would like us to pray for you, please just tell Lynn or a prayer group member.



#### We meet:

Saturday mornings 9-9.30am online – ask Lynn for a Zoom link  
Sunday mornings 9.30-10am in the Church Centre Lounge.

*Worship and Discipleship Team*

**Kidsteam** meets every Sunday in the Church Centre after the children's hymn. All children are welcome to come along and learn about Jesus. We are looking for help looking after our under 5's. Please contact Yvonne or Sandra if you would like to join us.

We are all going to the panto again this year - it's Mother Goose this time on Friday 20 December at 2pm. Make sure Yvonne has you on her list 😊

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Yvonne, Alison, Lesley, Michelle and Joanna x  
Yvonneelder@outlook.com



**Lego club** has started 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!



**APC Coffee Mornings**  
(the last Saturday of the month)

**Future Dates**

Saturday 26th October  
**10.00 until 12.00 noon**

Saturday 30th November  
**10.00 until 2pm.**



**APC Cycling group**

The group had an excellent cycle in September with a half day cycle around the local area stopping for coffee at Bridge of Earn. The October cycle will be on the 26th with another half day venture but this time heading over by Glensalmond with coffee stop midway. We will leave the church at 9am. After coffee the option is there to split into two groups with a quicker group allowing those with commitments to get back slightly earlier. I would expect we will back in Auchterarder by 12.30 latest.

If you wish to come with the cycle group you can either use the WhatsApp group to tell us (please send on your phone number to my email address) or email me at [s.mcchlery@outlook.com](mailto:s.mcchlery@outlook.com). Plans for next month's cycle will be provided on the app. Also please remember that ebikers most welcome.  
Stuart



## 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](mailto: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 26th October 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@auchterarderparish.org)

Website - [www.auchterarderparish.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://auchterarderparish.org)



APC twitter link is: @apcchat



Messy Church twitter link is: @ApcMessy

Our Facebook pages is: @auchterarderparish