

Auchterarder Parish Church Newsletter

Saturday 1st March 2025

Registered Charities SC001688

Musings from the Manse – February 2025.

Yesterday I attended a gathering in Edinburgh of over 200 Church of Scotland ministers, almost half the ministers in Scotland. It was an afternoon and evening conference with dinner, the first of its kind. Coming the same week as news of more cuts to our central support services and staff, it aimed to give an opportunity for sharing, encouragement, inspiration and listening to God's Word. There were also seminar slots where we could meet those in "management" to ask questions, or explore good practice in different areas of church life. We were helped to remember what church is really all about – making disciples of Jesus, and with them, taking his good news to our communities.

I thought it did pretty well what it tried to do. Church meetings nowadays are nearly always online so it was good to discover that new colleagues exist below the neck, and to reconnect with some others I've known for years but not seen since COVID. I realised again how blessed we are in Auchterarder to still have our own church and minister with no linkages or unions – that's quite a rare privilege, and not guaranteed to last forever.

But I didn't need the conference to tell me what church is really all about. Stuart and I have seen that in APC so strongly since his illness – so many cards, messages, flowers, dog walks, visits and other kind gestures. And home baking and dinners – we've never eaten so well! And over and above all of that, all the reminders that we are prayed for. It's strange but true that you can know when you're being prayed for, and we both sense that strongly. Stuart is improving steadily and able to do most everyday tasks, though he tires very easily. Proper healing will take many months and lots of physio, and golf is out for this year! The love and support of all our friends but particularly our church family has been deeply moving and reminds us of the best bits about being a church. We want to try to convey our deepest thanks to you all. We feel very loved.

We also do discipleship at APC. I'm disappointed not to have been in a DNA group but so pleased that over 30 people have done it and looking forward to hearing how it went next Sunday afternoon over tea. If you missed out, all of us will be reading Luke's Gospel for Lent from next week, so join in with that! And we do mission. One aspect of that, our church café, has been going really well with relationship being built with regular customers who aren't church people but enjoy our welcome. Such a success that we do need more volunteers – anyone out there thinking about that?



So with church nationally presenting huge challenges, we still do family, discipleship and mission locally as best we can. I think it's a fantastic blessing to be part of a church and I hope you agree. Especially ours, though I probably shouldn't say that!

Love to you all

Lynn

Luke for Lent

During Lent we'll be reading Luke's Gospel together with the chance to meet and talk about what we're reading! Discussion groups will meet

- every **Thursday at 10.30am** for coffee and cake in the Church Centre, starting Thursday 13th March
- every **Saturday morning at 9am** for breakfast in Café Kisa, starting Saturday 15th March

Please come with your questions, wisdom, frustrations and insights – we love to talk and eat!



As in previous years I'm planning to have a social get-together at the end of the DNA course for everyone who has taken part. It's just an opportunity to feedback on how it's gone, share our experiences, maybe suggest improvements, and enjoy a blether together!

So, everyone who has been involved in DNA is invited to **afternoon tea at the Manse** on **Sunday 9th March at 3.30pm** – tea and scones will be served! Please pass the word along to others in your group!



World Day of Prayer

“Kia Orana” “ May you live long and May you live well. May you shine like the sun. May you dance like the waves”.

This service of celebration has been written by the women of the Cook Islands. It invites us to recognise that God created each one of us with great attention and loving care.. God knows us intimately and we are special to God in our uniqueness.

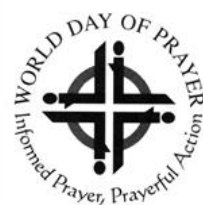
A wonderful message in this world today.

Come and join us at St Kessogs Church on Friday March 7th at 7pm.

Services will also be held in the 3 care homes during the day led by the women of the 3 Auchterarder Churches.

The hope of the ladies of the Cook Islands is that the world will come to treat all people as “Fearfully and wonderfully made”

Marjorie Paton Scottish Secretary

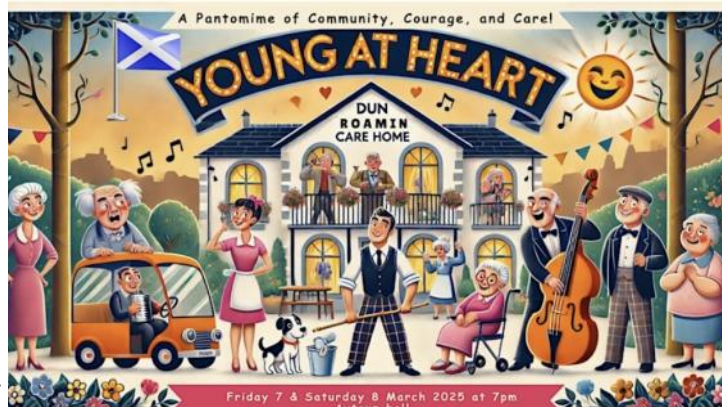


AUCHTERARDER PANTOMIME

YOUNG AT HEART

7pm on 7th and 8th March
in the Aytoun Hall Auchterarder

Yes, it's back! Come and see if the lively residents and staff of Dun Roamin care home can foil the evil Miss Lynn Lithgow's plans. All you could want from a pantomime -humour, music, dance and a mix of heartfelt and slapstick moments, culminating in a joyful resolution. Suitable for all ages. Come along dressed as a mod or a hippie if you want!



Tickets now available on Eventbrite—donations on the night.

**CHILDREN
YOUTH AND
FAMILIES**

Children Youth and Families Team

I am writing first to give a long-overdue thanks to **ALL the volunteers** who give so freely and enthusiastically of their time to the events we run for our children youth and families. We couldn't run any of these things without them/you – **you know who you are!!!** This work is so important and offers, not only teaching about Jesus' love for them, but friendship and support in many other ways.

As part of this work, I thought I would give an update on upcoming/ongoing events:

Messy Church first Sunday of every month (except June and July) **4:00 - 5:30** (new time) Our next **Messy Church** on **Sunday 02 March** is the one with **Cool Creatures from Edinburgh** - Calum will be bringing a mix of small animals to see etc. and the teaching will be the **Parable of the Lost Sheep**.

Holiday Club 11-15 August 10:00 - 12:30 every morning with 2 afternoon events 2:00 - 3:00 **'Seaside Rock'** will be the teaching programme

In addition, and after the success of the first **INSET DAY of Activities**, we are proposing 2 days of Holiday Club-type activities in the **November INSET Days - Thursday and Friday 13-14 November**. This is a big ask and we are not expecting folks to give up 2 days, but any time you can give will be gratefully received!

Thanks again for your time and enthusiasm!

Sandra Miller

Team Coordinator

Children Youth and Families Team



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.



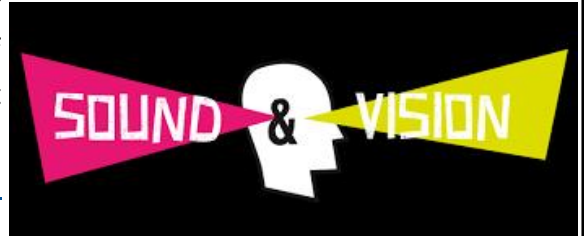
Grateful Thanks to a caring Church Family

I cannot thank you enough for all the kindness, prayers, caring and love received when I was in hospital and when I eventually came home to recover from the emergency surgery for a burst peptic ulcer. I received so many cards and flowers and good wishes for my speedy recovery I truly felt overwhelmed and humbled by all of the kindness shown, I just had to get well 😊 I truly felt supported and lifted by your prayers. Please accept my heartfelt thanks
Renee Riddell



APPEALS FOR HELP: THE FINANCE COMMITTEE is looking to recruit new members and in particular would love to talk to anyone with Book-keeping or Finance experience. Anyone interested should contact Kenny MacKay on: kennyauchterarder@gmail.com

SOUND AND VISION (SAV): The SAV Team is also looking for new volunteers to help with the live stream and recording of worship services, weddings and funerals – very important parts of our outreach. Training is given and help is always on hand on a Sunday. Contact Peter on: pmstokoe@gmail.com to discuss.



February Messy Church

Messy Church will be looking at some of the bible parables this year. In February, we started with the parable of the lost coin.

Needless to say we gathered a large tub of coins to play with. This included a treasure hunt in the main church, with teams sent on a quest to find as many coins as they could.

We made shapes with our collection of coins and realised we had some missing from our cups.

There were the usual craft tables too, including decorating purses. The kids were very creative with a good deal of glitter glue used!

We are really excited about our March Messy Church as we are having something really different for everyone. Cool Creatures will be joining us with a variety of real life animals on display that the kids will be shown how to handle. Although the parable we will be looking at is The Lost Sheep, Cool Creatures will be bringing along a lot more big and small friends to show. It's one not to be missed!

As always thanks to all our volunteers who help set up all the crafts ready for people arriving and the marvellous kitchen crew.

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 @ AUCHTERARDER PARISH

Come along and meet some

 **Cool Creatures**

Sunday 02 March 4:00 – 5:30

Community Church Centre

Hear the parable of the
'Lost Sheep' and meet
Calum with his animal pals!

Light meal for everyone.

If you plan to come along, please email:
church@auchterarderparish.org

There is no charge for this event but donations to offset costs are welcome.

Children should be accompanied by an adult

Active disciples Praising God Caring for people

Guild News

How quickly we seem to have arrived in March and only have two more Guild meetings left in the current session!



In February we enjoyed welcoming Ruth Box, who is Mobiliser and Mission Mentor for Pioneer UK Ministries, to tell us about her Christian musical journey. This began as a six year old in Maranatha Children's Choir, and when older she sang with New Horizons. She shared that Jim Docherty had kindly provided buses to transport them to their engagements all over Scotland. Currently she sings with the Praise Gathering. Ruth's passion is to spread the Gospel message both by speaking and using the beautiful singing voice God gave her.

At our next meeting, Jackie gave a presentation on our projects from 2021-24 and the donations given to them, thanks to the generosity of Guild members throughout the country and those who support our fundraising efforts. The total money raised was £545,230. This was shared with Beat, Pioneers, Starchild, Vine Trust, Home for Good and UNIDA.

The current projects for The Guild are:

- Scottish Bible Society - Bibles for Bairns
- Bear Necessities-Build my Church, Bulgaria
- Crossreach - Playful Beginnings
- Release International - Operation Hope, Egypt

Our next meeting is on March 6th: An Afternoon with Peter Vardy.

Please note that this is in the afternoon at 2:30pm.

Our Spring Tea is on Thursday 24th April and guests are harmony singing trio Choras. Tickets will be available at our AGM on 20th March.

Whose we are and Whom we serve

QUIZ NIGHT

In aid of TCSOA MALAWI trip

THURSDAY 27th MARCH

7-9pm (doors open 6.45pm)

Auchterarder Parish Church Centre

24 High Street (opposite Police Station)

Tickets £3 per person

Maximum team size: 6

What's your team name?

Tuck Shop refreshments available

Please turn up on the night, but if you can let Saoirse sfharding2@icloud.com or Michelle.livingstone@auchterarderparish.org know your team name in advance we'll have your table ready.

HOLY SPACE

A Sunday group for anyone in secondary school.

For more information email

michelle.livingstone@auchterarderparish.org

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

Sunday 23rd March: Games, food, drinks and some holy space at The Manse. Meet at APC church centre at 6pm.

Sunday 30th March: First Sunday in summer!! Walk and park fun. Meet at APC at 6pm, bring a coat!

Sunday 6th April: It's Messy Church time again, join us at 4pm for an Easter hunt, plus games and activities. We're in the church centre.

Sunday 13th April: Women's 6 nations: Scotland v Italy, The Hive, Murrayfield. Leaving APC at 12.30pm. See Michelle for more information and to book a ticket.



Auchterarder Parish Church

Craft Group



The group meets on Tuesday 4th and Tuesday 18th March at 10.30.

Some of the ladies will be working on the exhibition being put together by PKC and will be knitting butterflies and other creatures! An exciting project.

The other project also being worked on is knitting hats, blankets, booties etc for the prem baby unit at Ninewells Hospital. If anyone would like to join us, use some of the patterns or donate baby wool, we would all be delighted. Quite a change from angels!

Marjorie, Margaret and Janet.

APC Community Garden – Feb Update – Preparing for Spring

Communal Garden The materials promised by PKC are all on order so we are poised for an exciting project to create a Potager garden. A Potager garden is one where the planting is designed to be both ornamental (nice to look at) and productive (veg to eat and flowers to cut), like the example in the photo. Ours will also be wildlife friendly with planting chosen for their value to pollinators. We will be creating the garden through the spring and summer so if you are interested in 'potagering' please get in touch and share in its creation. A key aspect of this project is to provide a seat where people can sit, relax and take it all in. In the back ground the routine of preparing the rest of the garden for the coming growing season has continued so mulching with well-rotted manure, covering with sheeting to keep the weeds down and warm the beds ready for planting.



Potager garden

Mini-allotments All 10 of our mini-allotments are now let and so we now have a waiting list and can offer opportunities in the Communal garden whilst folk wait for a 'mini' to come available. Our mini's are poised for the growing season with beds cleared and covered just waiting for the time to plant. This year there will be a 'demo' bed which they can copy if they wish with hints and tips on our Facebook page. One of the minis is planted up for cut flowers and the spring bulbs are just about to reward the time and effort of planting. Not to be outdone the Communal garden also has a cut flower strip where the daffodils and tulips are about to put on a wonderful display.



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!

Look forward to hearing from you.

Derek Johnston

communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org

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



APC Walking Group

The walking group's next walk will be on the 29th March with a circular 10.5 mile route from the Calley Sawmill car park North of Dunkeld up to Loch Ordie. The walk will be led by Allan Nisbet.

The other 2025 walk programme dates for your diary are on 31st May, 26th July, 27th September and 29th November. Venues for these walks have still to be decided but look out for details nearer the time on social media and notices in the church. No need to be a Church member to part-take - hope to see you on a walk soon.

APC Kidsteam



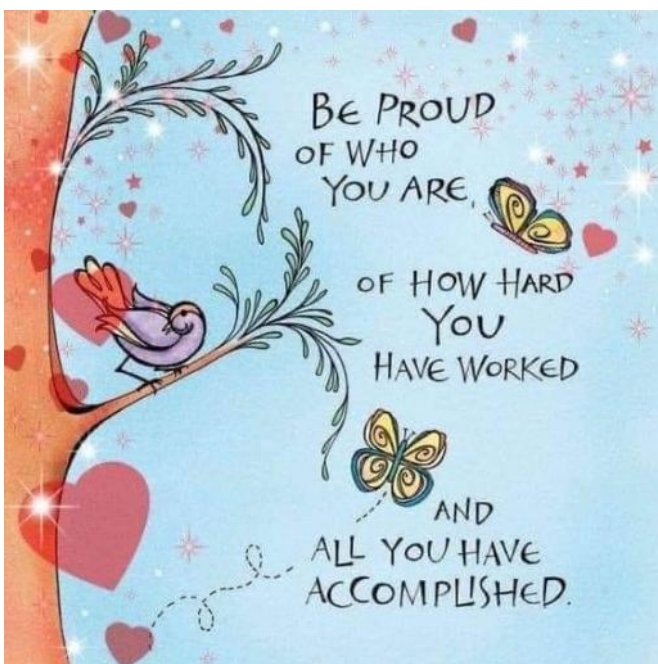
Kidsteam meet after the children's hymn in the Church Centre every Sunday morning. Lots of games, craft, drama and fun.

A few weeks ago you may have heard us catching fish, swimming and avoiding sharks in the Sea of Galilee. Then decorating some little boats, and playing Fiona's wonderful fishing game.



We look forward to seeing you all soon.

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



APC Coffee Mornings (the last Saturday of the month)

Future Dates

Saturday 29th March
10.00 until 12noon



Worship With Us

We are continuing with the Live Stream Service and the link giving you access is always posted on Facebook and on Auchterarder Parish Church website.



MEN'S SHED

If all you want is good company and a chat over a cup of tea, there are plenty of Sheddies happy to try to put the world to rights. New Shed members are always welcome. We meet every Tuesday and Thursday 2-4pm at the APC Community Centre. Come along for a look and have a cup of tea and a chat.

Contact auchterardershed@gmail.com



Secretary John Boyd

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 29th 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