

Achterarder Parish Church Newsletter

Saturday 31st May 2025

Musings from the Manse May 2025

Dear friends,

Writing Musings gives me an excuse to chew over the flavour of church life in the past wee while. Two big things are coming to mind.

One is the opportunities before us. So many things are going well. When I did my first stint as a school pastor last week, I was feeling nervous and also a bit self-conscious in the daft jacket with STREET PASTOR on the back. There were hardly any pupils around – was this really a good idea? The very first person we met asked what we were doing. Then she said quite seriously: “Would you like to take over my life?” She was under pressure and having a bad day. We had a good chat and we will see her again. I walked away from that first encounter utterly convinced that we’re doing the right thing here. Many people are keen to engage with us. Teachers, pupils and other staff think it’s a great idea and if some pupils’ heads go down when they see us coming, that’s okay – we’ll become a familiar presence very soon.

The cafe is doing well particularly with young mums – 17 babies and prams one Tuesday! – and about 6 teenage volunteers from the school to serve. We’re doing services in the local nursing homes and I visited another home outside our town where they would love us to go. The elders have just done their Communion visits and I have several requests to visit people – some of whom haven’t been to church in years. And there are events in the community where the Mission team would love us to have a presence – but.....

You probably know what the second big thing is – not enough people. Across church life, we can’t take up our opportunities because we need more folk. People to visit the elderly and help with nursing home services. People for the sound and vision rota – and the tea rota – and to help with coffee mornings – and with Sunday morning Kidsteam. One or two more for the Mission team and a convenor for the pastoral care team. A few more cafe volunteers and school pastors. A big need is someone to take on fostering our support for the third world in mission and aid, through TEAR Fund or similar – we badly need to do more of that.



From those thoughts, we’re pursuing the possibility of having an SU Gap Year volunteer – see the article on next page. Also, we’re starting a Sunday morning series on spiritual gifts and the Church. I don’t think it’s productive for us to twist people’s arms into roles they don’t really want because they feel guilty or compelled. Rather, I’m asking: what’s your gift? What are you passionate about in church life, and how can we foster that? Maybe we have to let go of things we can no longer resource – and maybe take up new things that God is energising us for. That’s what we’ll be pondering and bringing to God in the coming weeks.

Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest, that He will send out workers into His harvest field.” If Jesus had that problem, I don’t feel so bad – and pray that He will lead the right people to the right roles to equip His church!

Love to you all

Lynn

A Scripture Union Volunteer for a Year? New possibility for APC!

Sustaining all our varied activities at APC requires the dedicated service of many volunteers. We are delighted that we're being considered as a placement church for a young person who is volunteering to do a gap year with Scripture Union Scotland, starting in September. This is a new possible venture for us and we're keen to take it forward.



What's it about?

SU Scotland has worked in mission and discipleship to Scotland's young people in schools, camps and holiday clubs for over 100 years. To help their ministry, they encourage committed Christian young people to take a year out to work with SU. The gap year is a well-established programme where the young people have placements, as well as training and development opportunities. Usually, the placement is in an SU residential centre or with a Regional Worker. However, occasionally a young person requests a placement in a church which has an active youth ministry. SU is looking for a church placement for one volunteer for a year from this September onwards, and they would like to place her with us.

This feels particularly appropriate since Michelle (our Youth Worker) got started in this ministry many years ago when she did an SU gap year. When I worked for SU, organising gap years was part of my role and that's when I first encountered Michelle. So, anything can happen...!

Who is our possible gap year volunteer?

A 19-year-old girl, currently working as a nursery nurse, has been accepted by SU on to their Gap Year Programme. She will come to visit us for a few days very soon, so that (we can get a feeling for whether this would be a good fit for all of us.) she can meet the APC team and see some of the work we do. This will give all of us chance to see if this might be a good fit.

What would our gap year volunteer do? Three things!

First, to help Michelle and Sandra with our youth and children's work. That means Sunday mornings, school groups, Messy Church, Holiday Club, Sunday evening Holy Space, Friday night youth club, maybe School Pastors, and anything else that comes up. We might even be able to take up new opportunities, depending on her gifts and skills.

Secondly, she would work with Gillian and the others in the Kirk Cafe (church café). The café has six young volunteers from the secondary school, so that counts as youth work, as well as reaching out to the wider community and church family.

Thirdly, she would be part of the worshipping life of our church, participating in worship on Wednesday and Sundays, again according to her gifts – maybe music, reading, children's talks, whatever.

What's required from us?

There is no significant cost. Gap year volunteers raise £4400 for their own support before the start of their year and we're not allowed to pay a salary, though small gifts may be appropriate.

However, we are asked to provide accommodation. Ideally this would be with a host family who can provide board and lodging with a small contribution to offset costs. Alternatively, it may be possible to offer accommodation free of charge and allow her to self-cater.

In Auchterarder, since accommodation may not be within walking distance, we may also have to help with transport.

So, what's next??

After the visit, if we still want the placement to go forward, the biggest need is to find accommodation in the area. Please carefully consider whether you can help with that. If you have any ideas, please contact Lynn.

We hope and pray we can use of this opportunity to help develop a young person's gifts in ministry and (also) enhance the ministry of our own church.

Lynn

WALK 100 MILES IN MAY FOR PARKINSON'S

A huge thank you to everyone who sponsored me to walk 100 miles in May for Parkinson's UK. I'm delighted to say I will actually have walked about 150 miles (including Craigrossie and some Ceilidh dancing) by the end of the month. An unexpected bonus has been that I have regained some strength in my voice, perhaps related to breath support.

So, thanks to all you kind people, Parkinson's research is better off by over £1000, and I am a little fitter!

Lesley Buchan Donald



**I'm taking part in
Walk for Parkinson's
100 Mile Challenge!**



Messy Church families gathered at Pitmeadow Farm on a gloriously sunny afternoon in May. The theme was the Parable of the Good Shepherd, and it was fitting we were at the farm seeing the new lambs. Of course the pony and ducks also kept us entertained.



We had a treasure hunt and team games on the lawn,

such as egg and spoon race. Michelle led the Good Shepherd story, the highlight being a Guess Who quiz, where we had to guess who she was speaking about from 6 chosen people, based on some tricky clues. The last clue was Jesus which of course we all got correct!

It's wonderful to continue seeing new families joining our Messy Church community, with again over 80 people of all ages coming along.

Thanks to Ewan and Fiona for hosting us and to Peter and John for rustling up an amazing BBQ.

Alfresco church with songs at its best.

The next Messy Church is back in the church community hall at 4pm on Sunday 1st June. We are hoping the weather stays kind for us as we have lots of garden activities planned (but will be indoors if not!). June will be our last Messy Church before the summer so be sure and not missing it (although don't forget about the Holiday Club in August to keep you going!)



Auchterarder Parish Church Stated Annual Meeting

15th June 2025, 11.45am (after church) in the Sanctuary.

Financial report and other information about how the church is doing, and time for questions.

If you would like to see a copy of the church accounts, please email admin@auchterarderparish.org and we will send one. Hard copies will also be available at the back of the church.



Holiday Club 2025! Monday 11 August – Friday 15th August

It's getting closer every day. This year's **Holiday Club** is called '**Seaside Rock**' and is based around the character of **Peter**, one of Jesus' disciples. As usual, there will be teaching, singing, quizzes, aerobics, drama, challenges and lot's more fun and games. We will meet every morning in the **Church and Centre** from **10:00 am – 12:30 pm** and on two afternoons – **Tuesday and Thursday** – for **games** from **2:00 – 3:00 pm**. These will be at the park if dry and in the Centre if wet. We hope to have a **Family Quiz Night** too, so get your thinking caps on!

The whole week finishes with a **Family Service and BBQ** on the **Sunday** at **10:30 am** in the church, to which **EVERYONE** is invited! **NB:** children have to have been at **Primary School this year** and can attend up to **£1/2**. Children must be registered to attend and pre-registering help us a lot with our preparations, so **Registration Forms** are available in the **Church Centre**, in the **Wee Shop and Deli** in **Aberuthven** and online: <https://www.auchterarderparish.org/holiday-club>. Don't worry if you forget though, as you can register your child/children on the first morning they attend, however this must be done by a parent or guardian.

You may remember, too, how brilliantly the church was decorated last year..... so this year, we are going for broke! We will be looking for volunteers to paint, model - make, draw and come up with ideas for our set and décor, so, if you have any of these talents, or can even take direction and wield paintbrush, however wildly, then let Michelle or Sandra know and they will be in touch when we are ready!

If you want to get in touch, email us at: church@auchterarderparish.org
Sandra and Michelle

The poster is for the 'Seaside Rock' Holiday Club. At the top, a blue banner reads 'Auchterarder Parish Church Holiday Club' with a seagull icon. Below this, a yellow box contains the schedule: 'Monday - Friday 11-15 August 10:00 - 12:30', 'Tuesday 12 & Thursday 14 Games 2:00 - 3:00', 'Wednesday - Family Quiz Night 7:00 - 8:00', and 'Sunday Family Service and BBQ 10:30'. The central graphic features the text 'Seaside Rock' in a large, stylized font, with a circular logo below it that says 'HOLIDAY CLUB PROGRAMME' and includes a seagull. Below the graphic, it says 'Based on the story of Peter, a follower of Jesus.' At the bottom, a green box contains registration information: 'For children who were at school this year P1-S2', 'Pre-register by getting a form from : from Wee Shop and Deli or Auchterarder Community Church Centre or online at: https://www.auchterarderparish.org/holiday-club'. The poster is decorated with pink starfish and seagull icons.

Archway

Archway will be on holiday on 9th June instead of the Bank holiday Monday last week, due to absence of three of the team who will be on holiday.



On the 16th June we are going on a little trip and will leave the church Centre at 1pm sharp

Archway is held on Mondays at 1pm when lunch is served. We have various speakers and activities and is a place where friends are made.

If you feel lonely and isolated or have health issues or you just want company you are most welcome to join us at Archway on Mondays and you can be assured of a warm welcome.

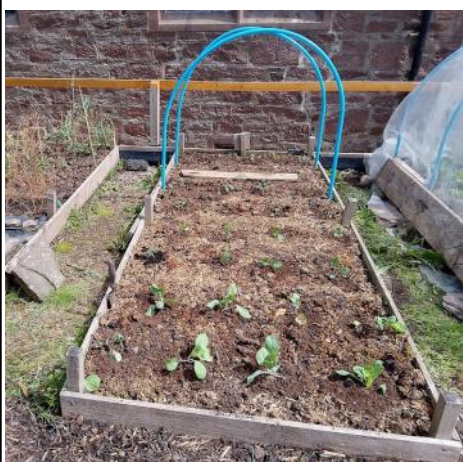
Renee Riddell

APC Community Garden – May Update – Start of Summer

Communal Garden Fresh Friday and our Veg' Share at the library started at the beginning of the month as our over-winter produce and early season crops matured and we have distributed, leeks, onions, spring green cabbage, lettuce, radish, baby turnips and rhubarb. We were able to start planting our tattie crop in mid-May, but have held off from anything else due to the unseasonal dry and hot weather. However, the recent rain has allowed us to get on and plant out our legumes and brassicas. Thanks to the Auchterarder Horticultural Society for the donation of spare plants from their sale. With all the activity now going on in the garden we have



Fruit bushes



Brassica bed

also increased our composting capacity and have constructed 4 more long awaited storage butts. Our project for the summer is to construct a potager garden (good for people, good for wildlife) in the last remaining space at the far end of the mini-allotments, with the materials and plants donated by the PKC Biodiversity Programme. If you would like to be involved please get in touch.



4 Butts

Mini-allotments The exciting news is that we are running a competition for the mini-allotments this summer with a small prize for the best bed. We are keen to encourage our 'minis' and they are all looking really promising with some interesting things being grown. The demonstration bed, Bed A is filling up with radish, lettuce, broad beans, potatoes, chard and runner beans all planted and leeks and French beans in the wings ready for next month.



Minis May

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.

The Community Garden Team enjoyed a pleasant outing to Crieff on 2 May.

We were shown around Crieff Community Garden by the lovely Athol, a local Green Space Ranger who is also one of their volunteers. The garden is arranged along a pathway at the side of the school playing fields. They have created several areas for community events and classes, with a background of well established planting. A willow garden is coppiced by a local artist. There is a heather garden, a sensory garden, and a lovely relaxing Japanese garden. We have brought home lots of ideas on how we would like to see our garden evolve. But don't worry, we have no plans to stop our vegetable growing!

We ate lunch at Delivino in Crieff, bought some compost for the potatoes as we had room in the minibus, then back to Auchterarder via Blackford Community Garden - a small but very productive enjoyable garden.

If anyone would like to help us out a little, please do get in touch. The garden is a lovely place to enjoy some fresh air and company. We would love to show you around.

Derek, Yvonne, Janet, Gilly and Jan x



Guild News

It is open garden weekend at Cloan upper Auchterarder on 7th and 8th June

And for the third year the Guild is serving teas and coffees with an array of lovely baking. Donations are made to support the Guild Projects and at the last open day in May, people donated generously when they heard about the four new projects. If you have free time on either of the days please come and support this venture.

Apart from anything else you will be enthralled by the amazing views of the whole area and well worth a visit

Hope to see you there



Whose we are and Whom we serve



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..

APC Kidsteam



Kidsteam have been busy putting our gifts from God to good use, creating things and helping others.

We reorganised the Community Garden Pallet Planter, out on the back patio. We found all the plastic pots that fitted into the pallet, put broken crocks in them, filled them with compost, and sprinkled wild flower seeds. We then discovered the pots fell through the pallet, as they were too heavy, so we removed the compost and crocks, added new compost, and had a celebratory picnic. The flowers are now healthy seedlings, thanks to everyone who has helped us with the watering. We learned that gardening is all about hard work, working together, problem solving and having fun laughing at our pots falling right through the pallet like a game of Connect 4!



We were also sculpting with clay, creating things that make us happy. The Creche were drawing sheep and tractors, and not noticing that a certain baby isn't enjoying their walk around the hall...

Kidsteam and Creche meet after the children's hymn in the church centre every Sunday morning. We look forward to seeing you all!

Yvonne and Michelle xx



APC Cycling group

The May cycle was an excellent one to Aberfeldy leaving from Dunkeld. The June cycle is planned as a half day cycle to Bridge of Earn. The suggested date is the 28th of June. We will meet behind the church in the car park at 9.00am. The idea is to have one month with a half day cycle from the church and the next a longer day travelling to some great cycle routes such as Loch Tay and Loch Katrine.

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. Plans for next month's cycle will be provided on the app. Also please remember that ebikers are most welcome (now up to 5 ebikers).

Stuart



Hanging Baskets

It will soon be time to hang up the baskets outside our church. If you'd like to sponsor one, donations would be very welcome.

There will be a weekly watering rota at the back of the church. Please add your name if you can help. Thank you. Rosemary



SAVING STAMPS

Please keep on saving your stamps for the hospital in Gaza. These pictures are of their new operating theatre after the latest bombing.

There is a basket for stamps in the church vestibule.



APC Coffee Mornings (the last Saturday of the month)



Next Coffee morning
Saturday 28th June
10.00 until 12noon

Share your Ideas

Shape our Library

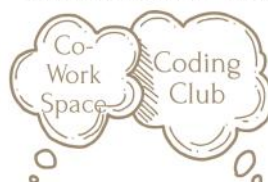
Monday 9th June 7.30pm Aytoun Hall

We were all delighted to hear about Auchterarder Library's future being secured for two more years, offering a fantastic chance to enhance this vital community space. During this 2-year period, we have the opportunity to work with CPK and PKC to shape the future of this valued space.

We want to make the library sustainable and "more" for everyone – current users, new visitors, and those yet to discover its valuable services. From books and computers to Fresh Fridays and Cosy Spaces, it's already a hub.

What "more" would you like to see? Share your ideas, like guest authors, skill sessions, or new clubs, at our informal A&A Connected session in the Aytoun Hall. Your positive input is important for shaping our library's exciting future!

Save our Rural Libraries - Auchterarder



Share your Ideas Shape our Library

Monday 9th of June. 7.30pm Aytoun Hall



Imagine the library, vibrant and brimming with possibilities. Now is your chance to shape its future!

Culture Perth and Kinross are developing plans for Rural Library Provision, and your vision is invaluable for ensuring that our Community voice is heard.

This is your invitation to come along to a relaxed and informal community led session of sharing ideas and being inspired by others - All you need bring is your enthusiasm and a positive mind!

Let's ensure our library thrives in our community for generations to come.





Walking Group - Save the Date(s) - Saturday 9th August 2025

Please note the walking group's next walk will be on **Saturday 9th August** and will be led by Ian Gourlay. Venue and will be advised in the next newsletter.

The other 2025 walk programme dates for your diary are 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. A walk leaflet will be circulated to the Walking Group distribution list closer to the event.

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

Hope to see some new members on a walk soon. There is no need to be a Church member to part-take.

On **Saturday 31 May** the planned walk up Auchnafree hill was cancelled due to a very poor weather forecast so a lower level walk was organised at short notice. 8 walkers took part in the rearranged walk which was from Abernethy, up and around Castle Law. Although the day started wet and cloudy, by the time we set off the rain



had subsided, and we completed the

walk in dry but cloudy conditions. Views over the lower Tay Valley and out to the estuary were excellent.



An enjoyable day out was finished off with a visit to 'The Nook' in Abernethy for coffee and scones and right on cue the rain returned by the time we were back in Auchterarder



'Kirk Café': The Cafe is open on Tuesdays 10am - 3pm and Wednesdays 11am - 3pm. Please pop in for coffee and home baking, or better still, a great plate of home-made soup for lunch! Carry-outs are also available. We are short of helpers, so if you would like to volunteer as a member of the café staff, please speak to Michelle or Alan or speak to Gillian,

our Café Manager, when you are in! Training will be given. PS Check out our new Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61571459891333>



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

The Sound & Vision (SAV) Team is also looking for new volunteers. This includes operating the sound system or driving the visuals during worship services, weddings, etc. This is a very important part of our outreach. Training is given and help is always on hand on a Sunday. Contact Peter at the SAV desks after a service or via email: pmstokoe@gmail.com to discuss.



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 June 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