

Auchterarder Parish Church Newsletter

Saturday 1st November 2025

Registered Charities SC001688

WHAT IS STIR UP SUNDAY?



Musings from the Manse

We're into November, the month which contains "Stir Up Sunday". It's not part of the Presbyterian liturgical calendar (if we have one, I've never found it) but it's celebrated in the Church of England as the Sunday traditionally associated with making Christmas pudding. Faithful Anglicans stir up their puddings that day with the prayer: "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that we, bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded."

For me it always recalls an event early in my ministry. I was stuck for a children's talk and realised it was Stir up Sunday, so I collected some fairly random Christmas-pudding type ingredients, got the kids to stir them up in front of the congregation, and told them about being stirred up for God (feeble, I know, but I was desperate!) My plan was to ditch the mess they'd made, buy some Christmas puddings from the Co-op a couple of weeks later, and congratulate them on their success.

I had reckoned without one member, a woman of strong character and stronger views on puddings, who accosted me after the service: "You'll never make a pudding with that!" She was, it transpired, something of an authority on the subject and favoured me with more information than I ever wanted about producing pudding perfection. To prove it, she promised to give me one of hers. Later she did, and she was right – indisputably the best I've ever tasted. And that faithful lady has gifted me with a pudding every single year since, even though I left Eaglesham 10 years ago. Even the worst children's talks can have lasting benefits – thanks be to God!

"Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of Thy faithful people." It's quite a prayer. Maybe we need stirring up, especially if we're getting in a rut with faith or life, if we're feeling lethargic and losing the will to be bothered, or if we've lost any real expectation that things will change. I'm prone to those feelings as much as anyone. However, I've been stirred up recently – by the Prayer Course and the quality of conversations we've had there; by a new role working with ministry apprentices in our Presbytery; by people I've met in the church café. Maybe we need a good stirring – to "consider *how to stir up one another to love and good works*". (Hebrews 10:24-25) I hope something in the newsletter stirs you to act, to volunteer, to greater faith and deeper commitment. Enjoy!

With love to you all

Lynn



Festive Coffee and Cake



On Saturday 29th November from 10:00 to 12:00 we will be adding a festive twist to our usual coffee morning. As well as the usual tea, coffee and cakes we will have a stall or two offering craft items and goodies to buy (decorations and home baking).

Please come along to support our church community and why not invite your neighbours and family to come too.



On 29th November 2025 the Church of Scotland is calling all our congregations to a national day of prayer. We encourage all our members to take part individually, using resources on the church website: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/prayers/national-day-of-prayer>

We also warmly encourage you to join our regular Saturday prayer group on Zoom, from 9am-9.30 (perhaps a little longer that morning), when we will be praying for our nation and our Church. Why not join in if you've never been? Ask Sandra Miller sandra.miller@live.co.uk to send you a link.



Christmas Services 2025 Auchterarder Parish Church

7th December 6.30-7.15pm

Memorial Service. For those remembering the loss of a loved one.

21st December 10.30am - All Age Service.

With children's Nativity and the TCSOA Orchestra.

21st December 7pm

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

24th December 6.30pm.

Crib Service for children and families.

24th December 11.30pm

Watchnight Service. Carol singing from 11.15pm.

25th December 10.30-11.15am.

Christmas Day service.



Family Games Night



Join us in the Church Centre on Thursday 6th November from 6.30pm to play some board games.

This is a family event, anyone from 5 to 95 is welcome to come along and play dominoes, scrabble, snap, cranium etc.

Bring your own game or choose from what we have. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tea, coffee and juice will be served.



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.

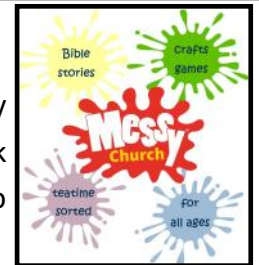
There will be singing, a time for prayer, Bible reading and a short reflection.

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



MESSY CHURCH

October saw us come together to look at the story from Matthew, "Ask, and it shall be given; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened unto you".



We discussed as a group how we pray, where we pray, who we pray for and if we had any experiences of prayers being listened to. Many of us prayed for



friends but we found we all prayed at different times and in different ways. All the kids were involved in telling a story of neighbours knocking on our door looking for help and after many attempts finally getting an answer. How many kids can you get into a pop-up tent? Lots!



We planted spring bulbs to brighten up the church next spring, made clay prayer candle bowls and lots of beautiful leaf art before sitting down together to share an amazing dinner prepared by John, Ann and Olive.



Messy Church

MESSY CIRCUS!

Sunday 02 November 2025

Join us for November's Messy Church and try out your circus skills! No clowns in attendance but plenty of equipment and skills to try - adults too! Bible teaching included and a light tea provided for all! 4:00 - 5:30 All ages are welcome and an adult/s should attend with the children. Why not invite another family along, too??

MESSY CHURCH is free but donations to help with costs are always welcome!

Email: church@auchterarderparish if you are coming!



November's Messy Church on Sunday 2nd November between 4-5.30pm will see the return of Messy Circus with lots of circus skills to learn. We hope to see you there.



AUCHTERARDER PARISH CHURCH

Join us for
an evening of
PRAISE & WORSHIP
with
IAN WHITE
Sunday 02 November
7:00 - 8:15 pm
Join us for
refreshments afterwards



Active disciples Praising God Caring for people

This is an evening not to be missed! The popular Perth Christian musician, Ian White, is coming to Auchterarder Parish for an evening of praise and worship.

Auchterarder Parish Church

Wednesday 12th November at 2.45pm



AUCHTERARDER UKES HIT NEW HEIGHTS

On Friday 3rd October Auchterarder Ukes, Auchterarder and District Mens Shed ukulele group, played at Perth City Chambers at the opening of the Scottish Mens Shed Association Annual Gathering. Over one hundred delegates sang along to the group who played several well known songs and they gave Auchterarder Ukes a terrific round of applause at the end.

This was a wonderful experience for the group to play for such a large audience and in such a prestigious venue. Onwards and upwards.

If you would be interested in joining this lively fun group, we meet every Tuesday 2-3pm in the Parish Church Community Centre. We will lend you a ukulele, so no excuse for not giving it a try.

Contact auchterardershed@gmail.com



'Kirk Café': The Café 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 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>

Guild News



The new Guild year started on Saturday 13th September with the Big Gathering held for the first time in Perth North Church where 650 members met to celebrate its success after the widespread changes the Guild has experienced during this last year. The next day, Sunday, was the start of Guild week and a memorable service led by Stephen Miller delighted members. The Guild ladies served bacon rolls afterwards which were thoroughly enjoyed especially by a group of teenagers from Sandyhills, Glasgow on a weekend retreat near Auchterarder.

We have now held three meetings the first was a most entertaining experience with Gordon Roy from Scripture Union sharing his work and experiences with the group.

I was a bit disappointed he didn't wear his clown costume but he did do a bit of dressing up.

The second was a guest speaker from Cross Reach who gave us a really insightful talk about Playful Beginnings one of the Guild Projects this year.



The next meeting promised to be really special and it was truly was a joyful evening, Stephen Miller played a selection of songs from The Sound of Music each song with appropriate Bible readings. The meeting was an Open evening which means many local Guilds and other Auchterarder Churches were invited to attend. The evening exceeded expectations with over seventy members and guests singing beloved songs from the film and there were two songs chosen as an encore! Everyone said it was the happiest and most enjoyable evening and there were many requests for a repeat meeting soon!!

Of course all our meetings are followed by a famous Guild tea supplied by members.

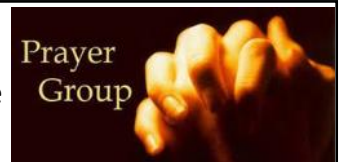
The Guild meets at 7.30pm on the second and fourth Thursdays until end of November. During December, January and February the meetings will be held in the afternoons at 2.30pm

All are welcome to join us at these meetings

Renee Riddell

Strategy: "Let us Build a House"
Theme: "living Stones"

Prayer Groups in APC



Praying together is a core part of our identity as a Christian church. In APC we have three opportunities for prayer each week:

1. We have a online **Zoom** meeting on **Saturday mornings from 9:00-9:30am.**
2. An in-person meeting on **Sunday in the Lounge at 9:30 before worship.**
3. There are always opportunities for more private prayer after Sunday worship in the side aisle.

If you would like the Zoom link for Saturday, please contact Lynn, our Minister, by email on: LMcChlery@churchofscotland.org.uk

Anybody can come at any time – you don't have to pray out loud and you don't have to come every week. There are no experts! We pray for problems in the world and for issues arising for our friends and neighbours. If there's something or someone you would like prayer for (with their permission), please just mention it to Lynn.

Or why not join us sometime, you'd be most welcome.

CHURCH



Auchterarder Parish Church Lunches

Offering hospitality to others is a very important part of our Christian outreach. Just think how many times Jesus and his friends ate together and shared meals with others. As a result, we are offering regular opportunities to eat together as a church family. It's a great way of getting to know people in a different setting and to share food with one another. Everyone is welcome at any or all of these! A list of the date is below and further information will be available nearer the dates. Please join us – and why not bring a neighbour or some friends?

Sunday 23rd November: Soup lunch @ church

Sunday 18th January: Golf Course lunch (set menu and pre-book)

Sunday 1st March: Hospitality Sunday

Sunday 17th May: Prestonpark bring and share lunch (church minibus) (TBC)

Sunday 28th June: Picnic in the Park with Messy Church.

Sunday 9th August: BBQ @ church

Auchterarder Parish Church

CHURCH LUNCHES



Prayer Walks

We have a series of **Prayer Walk** dates to share with anyone who would like to walk around the community and pray for specific buildings, groups, families, community concerns etc as we go. Anyone interested should meet at the front

of the Parish Church for 7pm on the **2nd Tuesday of every month** – dressed for the weather – and we'll walk for roughly one hour. The dates are below:

11 November; 09 December; 13 January; 10 February; 10 March; 14 April; 12 May; 09 June.

Worship Hour

Muthill Parish Church

7pm Sunday 23rd November

6.30 pm for coffee and cake

Lord Be My Vision
Because He Lives
Amazing Grace
I Will Worship
I Stand Amazed

and many more ...

free entry retiring offering

Led by Chris White

with
Ian - Djembe
Bryn - Bass
Lindsay - Harmonica
Gilbert - Keyboards
and invited guests

**Worship the Lord in the
splendour of his holiness**



APC Community Garden – Oct Update – Autumn Tidy

Communal Garden With the autumn equinox behind us and the temperature dropping, it's definitely time to think about tidying up and putting things 'to bed' for the winter. However, not before we had membrane and bark laid in the Potager garden and the Orchard to keep the weeds down and improve the appearance. We have also been preparing for an early crop next season and have planted onions and



Potager garden and the Orchard

brassicas which will over winter and hopefully grow quickly in the spring. The remaining beds are starting to look bare and apart from a few lettuce under cloches and some kale soldiering on, our veg' share is almost over. Our winter project is the red chip area which has become a bit of a



Minis - Put to Bed

dumping ground but like a butterfly will emerge in the spring as a wildlife friendly area with compost bins, step-over fruit trees, a dry stone wall and a wild flower strip. Keep a look out for progress and you would be very welcome to lend a hand. 😊

Mini-allotments Activity in the 'minis' is dropping off and a couple of beds have already been covered up for the winter. The rest will follow as the holders clear their space and contribute to the compost heap. We have had one bed relinquished recently but it was immediately re-allocated so all 10 remain active. If you know anyone who would value a 'mini' next year 'to grow their own', make sure they get in

touch, there are always beds coming available.

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! Or if you or friends or family would like to learn any aspects of fruit and vegetable growing then please get in touch and we can arrange some sessions.

Derek Johnston

communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org

Eat Local - Save Food Miles, Eat Organic - Stay Healthy

Archway

Archway continues on a Monday at 1pm for lunch followed by either a speaker or an activity for example seated exercises with Mandy.

At the beginning of October we celebrated International Older people's day with a joint activity of seated exercises and Sandra taking us through some breathing exercises and paper plate routines both leading to group singing of old beloved songs which was thoroughly enjoyed by the group.

Last Monday we had a trip to Cultibraggan Camp at Comrie and enjoyed hearing about the activity at the camp during World War 2 and then enjoyed a tour through the museum.

We have a few new members joined recently who are enjoying being part of the Group.

If you are lonely or would just like to come along to the Church centre on a Monday at 1pm, you will be very welcome.

Renee Riddell

Auchterarder
'Archway'

Every Monday
1pm - 3pm



APC Cycling group

The group had an excellent cycle in October around Loch Tay including wonderful autumnal tints. The next cycle that is planned is for Saturday 22nd November and is a shorter half day cycle on a circuit around Muthill, Balloch and Crieff (with coffee in the middle). We will leave the car park behind the church at 9.00am. Remember ebikes welcome.

Can I suggest that if you wish to come on the cycle you either use the WhatsApp group to tell us (please send on your phone number to my email address) or email me at s.mcchler@outlook.com Stuart

Are you looking for a special gift for someone who enjoys poetry? This 53 page book is the debut collection of poems from the founding members of Stanzalone. Half of them are members of APC! Retailing at just £10 all the profits from the sale of the books are going to the Auchterarder Picturehouse charity which supports many of the cultural events in the town.

Copies are available from Lesley Buchan Donald.



Mary & Elizabeth
An Advent Art & Prayer Workshop @ Pitmeadow Farm
Friday 28th November 2025
(9.30 onwards for coffee) 10am - 4pm



A quiet reflective day of Art & Prayer at the beginning of the Advent season. We will reflect the stories of Mary & Elizabeth through practical artwork, music, images and poetry. We will ask what the faith of these two amazing women have to say to us today.

All are welcome wherever you are on your own spiritual and artistic journeys. No artistic experience is needed. All materials provided.

The day will be led by Carol Marples of 'Soul Marks', which is dedicated to encouraging the visual arts as a tool for prayer, worship and community. www.soulmarks.co.uk.

Cost per person £45 Payable to Fiona (£20 deposit to book place)

Please note: Cost: £45

Arrival and coffee from 9.30/9.45 for 10am start
1pm- 2pm – lunch – a simple soup lunch will be provided
(please let Fiona know in advance of any dietary requirements)

For more info: fionaforeman@me.com or Text 07762 182 987

Pitmeadow Farm, PH2 0RA Dunning, Perth and Kinross, United Kingdom. <https://pitmeadowfarm.co.uk/en/>



The Christmas That Almost Wasn't

Are you looking for a fabulous fun-filled family night out in the run up to Christmas? Brought to you by Auchterarder Drama Group, "The Christmas That Almost Wasn't" is a feel-good festive adventure with singing, dancing, laughter and spectacular special effects. Many members of the church are involved in this community event. Tickets are selling fast so get yours now.

Auchterarder Drama Group - CREW Drama presents

THE Christmas That Almost Wasn't



FOR 12 SHOWS

in Auchterarder Picturehouse

NOVEMBER:	DECEMBER:
Thursday 20	Thursday 4
Friday 21	Friday 5
Saturday 22	Saturday 6
Thursday 27	Thursday 11
Friday 28	Friday 12
Sunday 30	Saturday 13

For inquiries, call 07342 883314 or the Box Office at Creative Hub, 20A & 20B Townhead, Auchterarder PH3 1AH, on Wed 1-3pm & Sat 10am-12pm

HD



APC Walking Group

Date for your Diaries - The walking group's final walk of 2025 will be on **Saturday 29th November** and will be led by Derek Johnston. The venue for this walk is likely to be in the Crieff area 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.

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

STAMPS Thank you so much for a great response to collecting used stamps. BUT please keep on bringing them in. The horrific killing in Gaza keeps going on and the Al Ahli Hospital, that the collection of stamps supports, suffered the loss of one of their surgeons about a week ago as he walked home from his work at the hospital. Your collection of stamps does make a difference.



Marjorie - on behalf of The Mission team

Strathallan Community Volunteer Drivers



Do you have a car?
Do you have some spare time?
Could you assist people without transport to attend health centre or hospital appointments?

If you would like more information, please contact us at Secretary.SCVD@gmail.com

Strathallan Community Volunteer Drivers

This new local charity is in the process of being registered with the Scottish Charities regulatory body. Its aim is to provide transport to help people in the Strathallan Community to attend hospital and/or health centre appointments.

For anyone who has a car and be willing to be considered as a volunteer driver please contact us at Secretary.SCVD@gmail.com



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 29th November 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