

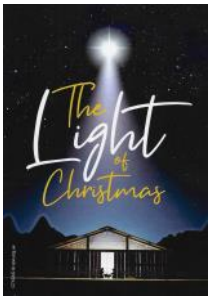
Achterarder Parish Church Newsletter

January 2024

Musings from the Manse

The way church is supposed to do Christmas has very little to do with how we actually do it. Theoretically December is Advent, when we wait with subdued anticipation for Christ's coming. Then Christmas Day until Epiphany (6th Jan) is Christmas season, when we sing carols, exchange presents and celebrate! Only then do we pack away the tree.

So much for the theory. In reality, December builds towards Christmas with increasing parties, nativities, carols and food! Christmas Day is the culmination, and on Boxing Day it's over. We're exhausted, never wanting to sing another carol or eat more turkey ever again. Already the tree feels obsolete and secretly, some of us may wonder what really happened and whether it was worth the effort. What does it leave us with?



So, what happened in APC this Christmas? Lots of outreach to our community! It started with the panto, fast becoming an annual favourite event. Later at our stand at the Christmas Fayre we were busy distributing freebies, making crafts, chatting with strangers, and advertising our Christmas services on postcards. One new family came to Christmas Messy Church because they'd met us at the Fayre. We had evening carols at Garries Corner with Chris White and a magically-timed snowfall. One woman there was enraptured by it all. New to the town, she pitched up at

Wednesday Worship the following week – but she was shy to come alone so she brought a friend. Both have since come back! Another new couple turned up at the Memorial Service because a neighbour had popped a postcard with the Christmas services through her door. Several people who were strangers to us came to that service, and many more to Nine Lessons and Carols. We hosted the whole Primary school for their nativity, and later a performance for parents – a church full of people who never come. We were privileged also to host the whole secondary school (in two sittings) for their Christmas service – some pupils took over the whole Church Centre for a day and made themselves thoroughly at home! A particular highlight for me was a team of us taking 50 P6 pupils for a half-day interactive experience called Christmas Journey (see photo). Okay, so the nativity participants are a bit on the mature side but we certainly acted like kids and enjoyed it as much as they did!

It all culminated in four services in 24 hours on Christmas Eve/Day, with about 500 people attending in total. Watching the crowds entering, I found myself wondering where they all came from – and where they go, since they don't seem to come back.



Was it worth the effort? Undoubtedly. Many of us worked really hard on these services and events, and we have tangible evidence that people came and enjoyed it. What does it leave us with? That's harder to answer, but at the very least we've been a visible, vocal and fun presence in the community. I hope and pray for much more: that something of the presence of God and the birth of His son has become more real and credible for many people – maybe a seed that will bring fruit for them in God's time. We pack up the stable, but the Christ Child can't be contained there – He lives with us into the New Year and beyond.

Love to you all
Lynn

Update from the APC Mission Team

Christmas Fayre

APC Mission Team took a stand at the Auchterarder Christmas Fayre on a Sunday afternoon in the run up to Christmas. The action was non-stop with many people of all ages from the community stopping for a chat and we were kept very busy. Wooden Christmas tree decorations – stars, hearts and trees - were given to all, along with bags of chocolate coins – to help with the Christmas expenses! The children all had the opportunity of making bead bracelets to take home and the interaction between them and the adults was heartwarming. Several of them went home with ‘tattoos’ of Christmas reminders on their hands too! It was a very positive afternoon with lots of new faces from the town present and no money changing hands at all!



A Community Christmas Nativity Quiz was launched that day and the winner was announced at church the Sunday before Christmas. The eventual winner drawn from the correct entries was Graham Jackson from Auchterarder. He was delighted to win a tasteful cane star to top the Jackson family Christmas tree for years to come!

Christmas Carols



With Bryn Rees, Chris White led the singing of Christmas carols at Garries Corner on the Sunday before Christmas and around 60 members of the community gathered to enjoy the singing, hot chocolate and mince pies which were very warming especially as some seasonal snow started to fall as we sang! It was really encouraging that this activity was much appreciated by those present and several introductions were made.



The Christmas Journey

The Christmas Journey is an opportunity for pupils to visit their local church and be guided through the Christmas narrative by church members in character and costume. From an angel and a soldier arriving in Mary's house in Bethlehem to a soldier sent by Herod arriving at a house in Nazareth just after Joseph and Mary have taken Jesus to safety in Egypt.

In December we welcomed the two P6 classes from Auchterarder Community School who took part in the Christmas Journey and everyone had a great time learning about the real Christmas story! There was a lot to get through during the 90 minutes together. En route, they sang and signed in BSL with the angels, created a tile decoration to take home and reflected on this event which shapes our whole calendar.

A big thank you to all who participated and to Gordon Roy from SU/Blackford Church for leading and we look forward to an Easter Journey in March.

Favourite Christmas present!



DNA Groups at APC – starting January

What's a DNA group?

During lockdown, church as we know it was closed. That made us think: what is church, really? In these odd circumstances, what are the essential ingredients without which we cannot be church? Perhaps we can think of it like human DNA, the basic template in every human cell. Pared down to essentials, church is
Discipleship – Nurture – Action.



Discipleship: following Jesus, prayer and Bible reading to form a Christian lifestyle.

Nurture: doing that in caring relationships with other people on the journey

Action: focusing outwards, seeking opportunities to serve God in mission and social action.

We've run DNA groups twice in APC and last time over 50 people met in small cells of 3, once a week for a short time (about 45 minutes). Feedback has been really positive so we're doing it again, this time for 5 weeks starting week beginning 14th January.

What will the groups do?

A simple leaflet outlines the shape of each group's meeting.

Nurture (coffee and chat) - about 15 mins

Discipleship - Bible reading and discussion – 15 mins

Action – Supporting a mission or social action project, and praying together (10-15 mins)

The Bible readings will be in the book of Philippians and the groups will read the same passages as the sermons on those weeks – but people who don't come to church can easily take part.

How do they meet?

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

How do groups form?

Why not take the opportunity to stretch out your two arms to whoever is nearest you: friends or neighbours, Guild or choir members, elder's districts, Messy Church, whoever – and ask if they'd like to be your DNA group? Single sex groups work best, and more than 4 people becomes a "meeting". Alternatively, if you want to be in a group just let us know and we will make or find one for you. Either way, sign up at the back of the church or contact Margaret Ross magsross1711@gmail.com and she'll sort you out!

Please take the plunge – and invite a friend!

Christingle Messy Church

On the first Sunday in December, we had our Christingle Messy Church. This has become somewhat of a tradition now - if three years in a row counts! - and it is certainly one of our favourites in the year. Because it happens before the 'busyness' of December really starts, the children – and the adults! - are perhaps not quite as 'high' as later in the month and lets us be a bit calmer when explaining the Christingle and telling again the nativity story. We used a brilliant Lego version of the story, narrated in a Scottish voice, which was a really nice change. We also had a Christmas Quiz, with chocolate coins as prizes for correct answers, so lots of hands went up, as you can imagine. Of course, we also made lots of Christmas crafts!



AUCHTERARDER PARISH CHURCH

MESSY CHURCH
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
SUNDAY 07 JANUARY

3:30 PM

SNACKS AND JUICE

FREE EVENT



EMAIL: CHURCH@AUCHTERARDERPARISH.ORG FOR MORE INFO

Our next Messy Church, the first of 2024, will be a movie night on 07 January at the usual time of 3:30. Plenty of snacks but no meal this time. After that we will be back to meeting on the first Sunday of each month from 3:30 – 5:00 pm.

We would like to thank all those who regularly give of their time to help with Messy Church - the planners, the prayers, the crafters, the cooks and tidy-uppers, the keep-fitters, the register keepers and musicians, the setter-uppers and anyone involved in any way. We don't take you for granted and couldn't do it without you! Happy 2024 all Messy Churchers!!!



PRAYER DAY

Sunday 21st January

Everyone is welcome as we give thanks and pray for the children, young people, schools, youth organisations and families in our community.

Please join us at any time throughout the day.

8.30am: Prayer breakfast, in the garden room, breakfast rolls will be served .

9.30am: Prayer meeting, in the comfy room. Children and youth focus..

10.30am: Morning worship service.

11.30am: Coffee and prayer stations.

12.00pm: Picnic and prayer stations, in the old hall

Please bring your own picnic and join us for a simple lunch together.

1.30pm: Prayer stations, in and around the church centre rooms

Prayer stations are set-up for you to walk around and spend time at, thinking and praying for our children, young people, teachers, parents and church events.

2.30pm: Prayer walk around town

Follow a simple map of some local Auchterarder spots, with a few wee prayers to say on the way. This can be done at anytime but a few will gather and go together.

3.30pm: Messy prayers

A special invite to all families. Come along for some messy prayers as we use art and crafts to help us pray for our families, homes, church and schools. Everyone welcome.

4.30pm: Prayer stations, pop in and take some time to visit our prayer stations.

5.30pm: Prayer stations, sit in a tent, build a bridge, look in a mirror, listen .

6.30pm: Service of Praise and Prayer

We would love to see families, teachers, youth partners, church members of all ages join us for a special service of worship and prayer. As we kick-off into 2024 let's worship God together and ask Him for His help and guidance.



Message from Centre Management Team

We are delighted to say that we have some lovely new neighbours who have moved into the old manse behind the church centre hall. If you see them, please give them a warm welcome. We are sure that we will all do what we can to ensure we don't park or obstruct the driveway or the front door of their property, and be mindful when leaving late at night for the noise etc - its just the neighbourly thing to do.

Many thanks in advance.

Centre Management Team



SUNDAY LUNCHES

Sunday 21st January...

As part of the Prayer Day for children and youth in our church and community please join us and **bring your own picnic** between 12noon and 1.30pm to the church centre hall.

After refreshments following the morning service we will follow Jesus' example and eat together: children, young people, families...a small crowd gathered together! Bring a simple picnic, come and eat, chat and encourage one another. There will also be time to walk around the prayer stations, giving thanks for the younger members of our church family and praying for the youth in our community.

Sunday 11th...or any Sunday in February!!

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY let's as a church family show hospitality to one another.

Can you:

- Host a lunch in your home.
- Invite a couple of friends or someone who's new to church.
- Soup and sandwich would be lovely.
- If a meal is too much, make it afternoon tea and cake!
- Organise a wee Sunday lunch out at one of our local restaurants with a few people.
- Host a mini bring and share meal with some (Messy) church families.
- Or go out for coffee and cake, or a drink.
- Visit someone who is housebound and take a wee picnic.
- Invite someone for a dog walk and take a flask.

Thanks, Michelle

Auchterarder Parish Church

CHURCH LUNCHES



Cycling group

The December cycle was sadly deferred a week awaiting better weather and then cancelled the next week (yes, you guessed it...the weather.

Hopefully 2024 will be full of some of the old favourites (Loch



Tay, Loch Katrine, 5 ferry challenge, the bridges) and hopefully some new ones. For January the suggestion is that we attempt to do the cycle cancelled in December. This is a shorter cycle leaving the church at 9.30 on the 20th January and cycle to Bridge of Earn for coffee and then return, aiming to be back at 12.30 (weather permitting).

If you wish to come on the cycle 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@gcu.ac.uk

Stuart

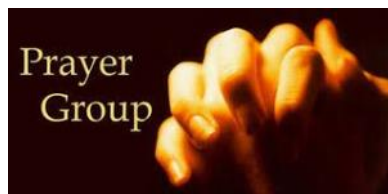
Prayer Groups in APC

Praying together is a core part of our identity as a Christian church. In APC we have 2 prayer groups every week:

- online on a Saturday morning 9am-9.30 (ask Lynn for the link).
- before the Sunday service 9.30-10am in the Lounge.

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.



Worship January and February 2024



Please note Worship in January and February will be at the usual time 10:30am but in the Church Centre Hall



APC Kidsteam



Happy New Year everyone!

We're thrilled to share a few photos from December - it was a very busy month! Everyone had a blast at the panto and we're grateful for all your fundraising support. We also hope you loved our nativity play as much as we did.

Exciting plans for next year's Kidsteam are underway and we'll share some dates for you soon.



Kidsteam meets during Sunday morning church services, after the children's hymn. Children of all ages are warmly welcomed in our creche, primary and secondary groups.

Yvonne x

Yvonneelder@outlook.com



Walking Group - Save the Date(s) - Saturday 27 January 2024.

The first Walking Group Outing of 2024 is planned for Saturday 27th January

The full Saturday Walk schedule dates 2024 are

27 January / 30 March / 25 May / 27 July / 28 September / 30 November

A walk leaflet will be circulated to the Walk Group distribution list closer to the event.

Please feel free to contact admin@auchterarderparish.org if you would like to be added to the list or look out for a leaflet at the back of the Church, on Facebook, on the Auchterarder Community Action Group electronic notice board and on the town notice boards.

This Group is open to all - there is no requirement to be a member of Auchterarder Parish Church to take part.

Hope to welcome you on a walk soon.



Youth News

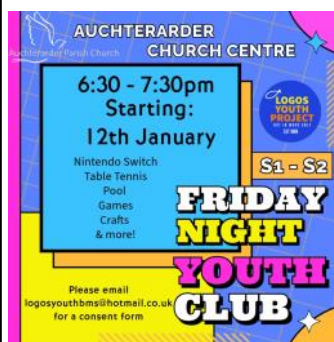
FEBRUARY WEEKEND...

Weekend Away, for anyone in primary 5 to secondary 6, from Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th February.

An exciting opportunity for our young people to go away for a fun-filled weekend to Lendrick Muir near Kinross. It's a great outdoor centre with lots of fun activities.

<https://www.suholidays.org.uk/holidays/events/2024-02-02-perth-kinross-fife-weekend/>

This link gives more information. We hope to be able to reduce the cost significantly, so please don't let that put you off. Please let Michelle or Sandra know if you are interested. Email michelle.livingstone@auchterarderarish.org



FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH CLUB...

Friday Night Youth Club restarts on Friday 12th January. First and second year pupils are welcome to join us from 6.30pm - 7.30pm in the church centre hall and anyone from s3 upwards from 7.30pm - 9pm.

Please invite friends too. We look forward to seeing you.

NEW: LEGO CLUB @ TCSOA

We are starting a new club on a Wednesday lunchtime for s1-s2.

Come along and build some lego, create some stories, eat your lunch and have a chat.

Starts Wednesday 17th January in room 108.

Michelle



APC Coffee Mornings (the last Saturday of the month)



Usual stalls, baking etc.

Contactless payments now available.

Suggested £4 donation

Why not bring a friend and share our cosy place

Future Dates

Saturday 27th January

Saturday 24th February

Saturday 30th March

10.00 until 12.00 noon



Bank of Scotland Mobile Bank is at Community Church Centre car park



The Bank of Scotland van is parked at the Community Church Centre car park from 10am to 1pm, every fortnight

For the next few weeks, the dates are

Thursday 11th January

Thursday 25th January

Thursday 8th February

Thursday 22nd February

The following link (below) takes you to the customer online timetable – which shows dates and times the mobile branch will be at the Church.

<https://www.bankofscotland.co.uk/contactus/mobile-branch/perth.html#auchterarder>



Blue Door Foodbank
info@bluedoorfoodbank.org

4th January 2024

Happy New Year, welcome 2024

Where to start, well January is usually all about looking ahead and the next round of planning with the best of intentions by most of us. So firstly, a big shout out to the many of you who quietly and faithfully support the foodbank week in week out all year round. Without you it would not be possible to sustain the support we are able to give our neighbours in need. It is not said often enough and a lot of the time because we don't know who you are but a huge heartfelt thank you for sticking with us.

It would not be right if we didn't have a wee look over our shoulder concerning December. This is generally where we come across co-ordinated efforts with other groups who work with us as we all add a bit more to share. St Kessogs and Ardoch Parishes again provided thankful and generous support so we could expand the support over this period. Thank you on its own is never enough but quite literally all we can say. You are amazing.

Then "Our Ladies" Chapel, provided over 125 Christmas presents which we shared with children known to us. These were brand-new, specifically bought gifts for the Children in our neighbourhoods. It was very clear the care that went into what was provided. Most children got the new socks, underwear, pyjamas (their parents appreciated) plus a game / toy appropriate to their age group. Even gift tokens for teenagers! Absolutely astounding.

So how did we do it? Before the schools broke up, we contacted parents known to us and gave them an option to come and see if we had anything that would assist their Christmas. To protect identities there is a limit to what we can say here other than there were quite a few tears, to quote one mum "we had cancelled Christmas as we had nothing" to "it's made my Christmas less worrying". Ask Ruth and see if she can describe how, it was without getting emotional – I can't. With the help of Our Ladies all this was achieved **before** the 24th and as far as the children are concerned isn't Santa just amazing.....

The 24th was pick up Christmas Lunches morning! We successfully delivered (despite weather efforts) 50 Christmas meals. We got them from Giraffe – Roasted apple and parsnip soup, followed by turkey and the trimmings, chocolate log, to which we then added a cheese board and crackers and a box of chocolates. If you bump into me, I can share a voicemail which will let you know how some felt over their Christmas dinner.

To those who have supported, helped and donated a huge thank you.

As they say, and we move on. We are trying to lessen our carbon footprint in our approach going forward, shop smarter and oh another Duke of Edinburgh volunteer request just popped in, and on we go have a good and healthy 2024!

Jackie Mahoney

On behalf of **The Blue Door Volunteers**

Update from the Guild



I hope that everyone has had a lovely Christmas season.

At our meeting on 7th December we were treated to a floral art display by the multitalented Lesley Buchan Donald. Like all experts she made her art seem effortless but those of us who've tried, and been largely unsuccessful know that is the mark of a true expert. We were very grateful to Lesley both for her demonstration and her tips. Another welcome visitor that evening was Santa who distributed gifts to all. Thanks are due to Santa as well as to all those who contributed to the refreshments and the work that goes on behind the scenes in the kitchen, setting up the tables and Ewan for the technical "stuff" and those who generally make sure the Hall is a welcoming place to meet.

Please remember that our meetings starting on 18th January through to 29th February will begin at **2.30 p.m.** The first meeting will be a power point presentation by Marjorie Paton featuring her latest trip to Israel. On 1st February our meeting will take the form of a Musical Afternoon lead by Helen Haynes and Lesley Buchan Donald. Finally a date for your diary - 1st March, World Day of Prayer. More details in the next Church Magazine.

Whose we are and whom we serve.

APC Pantomime - Pirates of the East Neuk



Thanks again to everyone who was involved in this year's panto and for the generous donations from the audience. We were delighted to be able to give £1100 to the local Red Cross shop.

Lesley Buchan Donald



*Please come
and join us!*

*Auchterarder
Cosy Spaces*



- Monday: APC Community Centre - 10am - 3pm
Archway (Parish Church Centre-APC) 1pm-3pm
- Tuesday: Library 10am-1pm & 2pm-7pm
Mens Shed (APC) 2pm-4pm
- Wednesday: Aytoun Hall - Soup and a Cuppa 12.00-1.30
Library 10am-1pm & 2pm-7pm
- Thursday: Mens Shed (APC) 2pm-4pm
Library 10am-1pm & 2pm-5.30pm
- Friday: Aytoun Hall Soup and a Cuppa 12.00-1.30pm
Bowling Club Carpet Bowls 6.30pm
Library 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm
- Saturday: Library 10am-1pm
- Sunday: Church services

Why not travel by the Town Bus? Available Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri

Cosy Spaces are places you can drop into, no cost, and know you'll get a warm welcome & free light refreshments.

Free warm packs available too - to help you stay cosy at home.

Look out for details of extra Cosy Spaces on noticeboards in Town

Auchterarder and Aberuthven
Community Action Plan



Church Flowers

The Flower Calendar for 2024 is now in the church porch.

If you would like to donate flowers to commemorate a special person or celebration, please add your name at the appropriate date.

The ladies in the flower team are happy to help with arranging or delivering the flowers if required.

Church flowers bring joy and a reminder of God's love and care to those who receive them.

Rosemary



Auchterarder & District Men's Shed SCIO
Scottish Charity Incorporated Organisation No: SC51028

AUCHTERARDER and DISTRICT MENS SHED

Why not make a New Year's resolution to go to the Mens Shed, to see what it is all about? We meet every Tuesday and Thursday 2-4pm in Auchterarder Parish Church Community Centre. There is no membership fee, just a contribution for your tea and biscuits and to pay for the rent of the rooms.

You will find a group of like-minded men who simply want to have fun and fellowship and, if you wish, use your skills to make things in our workshop. Periodically we have guest speakers, music days and group lunches at Easter and Christmas.

In October 2023 we started a Ukulele group with 14 enthusiastic members, who were beginners, and are now making a melodious sound together. See the happy faces in the photo. Why not think about that?

Our Mens Shed's mission is to help support men's mental health and well-being by providing a welcoming place for those who are lonely or feel socially isolated. Over the Winter we are a PKC nominated "Cosy Place". If you have time on your hands, this is the place to be. No need to phone, just come along and see the action for yourself. You will be made very welcome.

Contact auchterardershed@gmail.com or Secretary John Boyd 07767876489



Ukulele group



Waiting for Santa 2023

Margaret's Ugandan Adventures Sept 2023

Dec 2023



Bapty School, Kabale



Suubi Group Celebration



Praying at Rhino Camp

"Since Paul and Aquila were both tent makers by trade, Paul moved in with them and they became business partners"

(Acts 18:3)

Return to Kampala

My first Saturday was spent at Lugogo Baptist for the Suubi Group Celebration (formerly Special Needs). Suubi means Hope and it was so good to see the hope in everyone's faces and to receive such a wonderful welcome. Catching up was really special. One girl (aged 19), who is blind and has 2 blind children at school has trained as a baker and is looking for funding to buy equipment to enable her to sell more and provide family support. Another blind child met Princess Anne when she visited his school in Mukono in 2022. The school has since burnt down. The little girl sitting on the table makes jewellery to sell. She visits other children who live near her and enjoys spending time and praying with them. There were many more stories, some heartbreaking and some which show so much hope. Since I visited, one of the mum's, whose son has cerebral palsy, lost everything when her workshop was destroyed by the local authority as it did not have proper permission. This is quite common. Thankfully she has been helped by Lugogo Baptist. The Ugandan buffet and cake were wonderful—I didn't realise how much I have missed matoke (steamed green bananas) and other Ugandan food!

Most of my first two weeks were spent training Grace from the Palliative Care Consortium and Paula from Lugogo. We managed to achieve lots and I believe both ladies are now much more confident in using the software. I was thankful to Jonathan (MAF) who lent me a sim card which I was able to use for data and also to Hannah who joined us—her QBooks experience was so helpful. They all came to the compound where I was staying, making life much easier and Paula was presented with an old laptop from a friend in Scotland as she did not have one.

I visited Kajjansi one afternoon and caught up with my former MAF colleagues. The welcome I received blew me away—I miss you all. I rejoined Makindye Country Club for two weeks and so enjoyed swimming most days before dark. I also met former friends and colleagues for meals both there and at a new hotel in the area called Latitude 0. There was certainly plenty to do and having the use of Mhoira's car made life very easy. I was also wonderfully welcomed at Lugogo Baptist on the two Sundays I was in Kampala which was really special.

Visit to Kabale and Lake Bunyonyi (see <https://www.goodshepherdnetwork.org.uk/>)

I was taken to Bapty School to meet some of the children who were still on holiday. We had a fantastic time playing, singling and dancing. We investigated how to use the funds raised for the cow and felt they really needed a perimeter fence to make compound secure—money raised will make a good start on this.

The visit to Lake Bunyoni and the Medical Camp was an experience never to be forgotten. We thought 50 –60 villagers would come but over 500 turned up. It was a joy to see the newly qualified Dr Derrick, who had travelled from Kampala overnight, looking after the children. There is an excellent video of the day on YouTube which I would encourage you to watch. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxChB6kp9Ic>. A most amazing day and Alice is now raising funds to complete the medical centre and purchase a mini-bus in UK to use as an ambulance and for volunteers transport. A few retired nursing friends are keen to visit and share their knowledge and skills. Another medical camp is planned for early 2024 and Alice will be returning in July when it is hoped the Medical Centre will be complete.

Flame International, Arua (see <https://www.flameinternational.org/>)

My last two weeks were a complete contrast to the first two weeks when I joined the Flame International Team at Entebbe to prepare for our visit to YWAM, Arua and Rhino Refugee Camp. We flew to Arua with MAF and were delayed due to torrential rain, then hit a bird taking off and had to return to Kajjansi! We made it to YWAM for lunch and then straight into teaching the students at their Discipleship Training School for the first week. It was a most amazing week and we saw much healing, deliverance and transformation amongst the students.

We continued to be based at YWAM for the final week and travelled to Rhino Camp each day by road. We were blown away by the welcome we received especially when told that nobody comes to see us here. There were many heartbreaking stories throughout the week and we were amazed at the testimonies heard at the end. There were times when all we could do was cry with our students. The common theme was how much coming to a place of forgiveness had changed their lives. I am still in touch with one of the refugees who is in the process of setting up income generation projects to provide food. The UN have made substantial cuts in food aid causing much hunger in the camp. They are also preparing to return to South Sudan. Damalie from MAF spent a whole day with us at the camp and wrote an article which is an excellent representation of what is happening there - see <https://www.maf-uk.org/news/as-100s-more-drc-refugees-enter-uganda-maf-continues-to-fly-in-partners-of-hope/>.

Prayer Points

- ◇ Praise God that I was able to achieve all I set out to do in Uganda & all International Flights were on time
- ◇ Pray the Suubi Group at Lugogo will continue to develop & they will receive the support they need
- ◇ Pray Bapty School will find funds to build a perimeter fence & complete other outstanding projects
- ◇ Pray Medical Centre at Lake Bunyonyi will be completed early next year & a mini bus will be found in UK to send out
- ◇ Pray the income generation projects will make a real difference at Rhino Camp and save the refugees from starvation

Margaret McLaren
margaret.t.mclaren@btinternet.com

Sound and Vision team need your help

The SAV team are looking for new members. If you have a heart for worship and would like to serve in this vital ministry, we encourage you to pray about getting involved and then come and speak to us. Any prior sound or computer experience would be an advantage but is not essential as we offer training as required.

Please speak to Peter Stokoe at the sound desk after any Sunday service or email: pmstokoe@gmail.com.



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.

From the editor ...

I do hope you enjoy the newsletters which are currently being produced on the last Saturday of the month. The next version will be Saturday 27th January 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 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

Rev Iain Paton: 01764 682234

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