

Achterarder Parish Church Newsletter

Saturday 29th March 2025

Musings from the Manse – March 2025

One of my life's highlights (so far) was a trek in Peru that Stuart and I did for a special anniversary. We walked the scenic Inca Trail, following the ancient route the Inca pilgrims took over several days, marked by temples and some pretty steep hills. I vividly remember the ascend through Dead Woman's Pass, over 4000 ft high, where I was definitely auditioning for the dead woman! The point of this lengthy, beautiful but sometimes gruelling exercise was to reach the Inca city of Machu Picchu, still one of the wonders of the world, arriving in the early morning through the Sun Gate to see the perfectly poised city capturing the splendour of the sunrise, as it was designed to do.

At least, that's the theory. I was more than a little discomforted on getting there to find our group arriving at the gate for our special moment and having to elbow our way through a bunch of (mostly Japanese) tourists coming through the other way. Nobody had told me before then that it's possible to get to Machu Picchu another way. There's a cable car that takes day trippers on a 20-minute ride



from the nearest city and drops them right there. From there, they can head for the sun gate and take a few snaps before a quick gander through the ruins and back down for coffee. We had to (politely) battle for our spot, secure in our claim to have got there the "right" way, and definitely entitled to a few photographic privileges! And I'm certain we much more appreciated the architecture and planning of the beautiful city as a meaningful destination for the long pilgrimage – what made it all worthwhile.

I sometimes remember that during Lent as we're working through the challenge to read a Gospel in preparation for Easter. It's a long discipline, beautiful and meaningful in some places, pretty hard work in others. Thankfully we have others with us along the journey, and I'm loving the stimulating discussions on Thursday and Saturday mornings as we share our thoughts and questions. More importantly, we journey with Jesus and the disciples on the road to the Cross, gathering as we go the clues and events that build up to what it all means. I think we experience Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday most deeply when we position ourselves towards them along the path of the Gospel readings. Then, of course, the huge celebration of Easter Sunday!

Of course you can just drop in to Easter, sing the songs, eat the chocolate and enjoy what you find. God is still there, and the beauty and meaning are easily sampled. But the longer, deeper Lenten preparation makes it so much richer. There's still time to get started and come and join us if you haven't yet – I'm encouraged that so many people are! And very much looking forward to the Passover meal on Maundy Thursday and the special services on Easter Day, all of which are in the newsletter. I hope you enjoy!

Love to you all

Lynn





A word from the probationary minister

These are well-known words for many of us; from the third chapter of Ecclesiastes. A portion of scripture we may have heard countless times, well-loved for its wisdom and timelessness. As we trust in God's word and tell ourselves that there's time for everything. Then there is the chance we can very easily persuade ourselves that no present action is required; that there will be time for that later. That is, however, not the intention of the passage set before us.

Everything has its proper place but while in our full and busy lives there may be a time for everything. The fact remains for every one of us that there isn't [the time](#) for everything. We can't do it all, therefore, we make choices. There are so many things that we could be doing with our lives and so much of that which would, undoubtedly, be worthwhile. The multitude of choices that face us every day means it is often very difficult to home in on what we really should be doing. The things of highest importance and eternal significance are sometimes lost. We must accept that as we can't do it all, that means some things need doing now.

How might I serve God? is surely one of the biggest questions of highest importance and eternal significance. It might just be that you need to consider it now. In Psalm 39 the psalmist David asks the Lord to 'let me know how fleeting my life is.' He asks this so he will know how to focus better on the things that matter. For the most important things in our lives, the time is now. Putting things off until we 'have the time' means many of these things may never be done.

As we look forward to the coming months in our church community, which will be as busy as ever. I ask you to consider might God be calling you to serve - to give your time, talent and energy in service of Him. There are countless opportunities to become more involved in the working life of the church. Please take a moment in prayer to reflect on your life, your strengths and abilities; then ask God where you can exercise them within the kingdom building work of the church. Many of our organization's groups need new members, many of the activities of the church need volunteers. One thing that is important in our walk with God; is how we give our lives in service of Him. What can you give? Is it time to serve?



Praise & Worship Evening - 27 April

Come and join us on Sunday evening 27 April from 18:30 - 19:30 for a time of Praise & Worship as we set aside the worries and pressures of life and focus our attention on our loving Father and on Jesus our precious Saviour.

Led by Peter Stokoe and others, with various music videos.



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!



Huge thanks to you all

I write on behalf of myself and Dora's wider family to thank you all for the love and support you shared with my lovely Mum, Dora MacDonald over the recent months and years leading up to her passing in February. I have been overwhelmed by the love, care and compassion you showed to Dora through your visits, cards, offers of transport and most importantly your prayers. All of this along with the outpouring of love for Mum at her funeral service has been a huge support to us and I have been humbled by your kindness both to Mum and to me when I have visited. I have been made so welcome by your church community and I will keep you all in my prayers as I return home to London. Thank you seems inadequate given what you have all offered to us but be assured of deep gratitude to you all. With love Jan (Dora's daughter)

Passover meal followed by Communion

Maundy Thursday event 17th April 6:30 – 8:00pm.

Join us as we take a quick tour through a traditional Passover seder and highlight those points that are especially meaningful to believers in Jesus. We will spend some time looking at the elements present at the last supper and their significance; then share a simple fellowship meal together. A communion service will be celebrated after the meal from 7:30 - 8:00pm.

Please contact admin@auchterarderparish.org to book a spot for the meal. All are welcome for the communion afterwards.



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.



Skis for sale?

I wanted to write to acknowledge my appreciation for the support that Lynn and I received after my recent ski accident in France. We were both bowled over by the love, prayers and concern from our church family here at APC. This was shown in numerous ways with texts, emails, WhatsApp messages, cards, cakes, biscuits, fruit, books, audio books, jigsaws, dogwalks and visits. All of this helped us through what was a very difficult time and we are so grateful to you all for your help and to God for answering our prayers. My recuperation is going well and the medics are happy as are we with my progress. One last comment though regarding the do's and don'ts of pastoral care. Two anonymous individuals (one who owns a local shop) kept on updating me with the fall and fall of Motherwell Fc regarding their results resulting in anti-depressants being added to my daily pill consumption.

As to whether we will ski again.....well we will wait and see.

Stuart McChlery



Volunteers needed in the Kirk Café

The Kirk Café has been a great success. As it gets busier and busier we need more help. It is a great place to be and there are roles suited to lots of skills. This could be anything you feel comfortable with; washing dishes, serving coffees (other drinks are available), wiping tables or simply spending some time chatting to the people who come in.

Please consider coming down for an hour or two on a Tuesday or a Wednesday and try out spending some time volunteering with us. All help is very much needed and appreciated (and if you don't like it, you don't have to do it again).

The atmosphere is relaxed and friendly, all it is missing is you!

For more information, please contact Gillian at; café@auchterarderparish.org

APC Cycling group



The April cycle is planned as a return to the Auchterarder to Comrie route that we have cycled before. It is a relatively flat cycle and should be about 30 miles with coffee midpoint. We will meet behind the church in the car park at 9am on the 19th April. If some need to be back sharpish we will split into two groups after coffee with one being a more leisurely group.

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 if not yet on the group) or email me at s.mcchlery@outlook.com Also please remember that ebikers are most welcome.

Stuart



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. .

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.

EASTER 2025
@ AUCHTERARDER PARISH

PAIM SUNDAY 13 APRIL
 10.30 am Sunday Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY 17 APRIL
 6:30-7:30 pm Passover Meal
 Contact: admin@auchterarderparish.org
 if you would like to attend
 7.30-8:00 pm Communion

GOOD FRIDAY 18 APRIL
 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross
 Our Lady of Perpetual Succour RC Church

EASTER SUNDAY 20 APRIL
 8 am Dawn Service at
 Pitmeadow Farm, Dunning
 10.30 am Morning Service
 6.30 pm-7:00 pm Evening Reflections

Guild Spring Tea

Thursday 24th April 2025 7:30pm

Auchterarder Parish Church Community Centre
 24 High St, Auchterarder

Please come and join us at our Famous Spring Tea.

As one of our major fundraisers for the Guild projects, our suggested donation is £10.00.

This year our entertainment will be provided by **Choras**



Charity No: SCO11353

Choras are three Scottish wives, Aileen Carr, Barbara Dymock and Janice Reavell.

They have a wide musical portfolio and performing experience, solo and collaborative. Bringing together their considerable collective repertoire, adding harmony arrangements and a bit of panache, they will present a wide-ranging variety of songs that they've taken a fancy to over the years.



March Messy Church

We had some really cool "Cool Creatures" in church on Sunday 2nd March for Messy Church.

So cool...that we had 92 people attending of all ages to see them!



Whilst we learned about the Parable of the Lost Sheep and how God loves us all, we got to handle some exotic animals. A very friendly and chatty meerkat, an armadillo and a relaxed but inquisitive python. It was amazing to see so many children wanting to touch the snake (not so many adults!).

This was an unprecedented number of people for Messy Church. Special thanks to the kitchen crew (John, Mairi and Moira) for truly feeding the 5000 and making sure everyone had dinner. It certainly was a miracle! The hall was very lively with a lovely communal feeling.



Thanks to all our volunteers who help make these events seamless and so much fun.

The next Messy Church is the Easter theme on **Sunday 6th April** at the new time of **4:00 – 5:30 pm**.

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**.



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..

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

Recently the creche were counting the stars in the sky. And Kidsteam were building lego creations well into coffee time - so we got to have some teacakes

We look forward to seeing you all soon. Lesley, Yvonne, Alison, Michele and all the crèche ladies xx



APC Kidsteam



PLANT SALE

We are planning to hold another PLANT SALE on Saturday 26th April 2025 between 10 and 12 during the regular coffee morning.

If the weather is fine we will be outside the church or if it is wet we will be in the church hall.

If you have been growing plants and can spare us some for sale or if you have any pots you could donate please contact Jean Cairns or Monika Cochran before 23rd April.

Please come and support us and invite your friends and neighbours along.

All profits to go to Church Funds.



World Day of Prayer

Noreen led the World Day of Prayer service in Parkdale Care Home which was written by the women of the Cook Islands this year. She wore a hat she'd made to give a flavour of how the ladies of the Cook Islands dress.



APC Coffee Mornings (the last Saturday of the month)

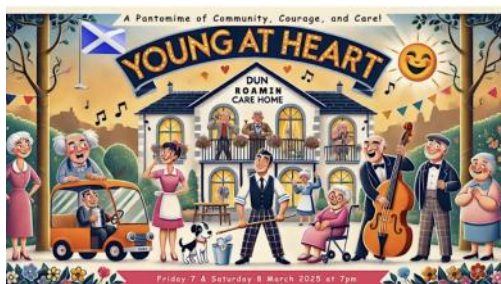
Future Dates

Saturday 26th April
10.00 until 12noon



Auchterarder Pantomime - Young at Heart

The cast and production team





Walking Group - Save the Date(s) - Saturday 31st May 2025

The walking group's next walk is on Saturday 31 May led by Elsie Carnegie.

The other 2025 walk programme dates for your diary are on 26th July, 27th September and 29th November. Venues and leaders 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 29 March nine APC walkers returned to the Dunkeld area and walked a 10 mile circuit up to Loch Ordie and back in typical March weather. The route passed by 3 other lochs, Mill Dam, Rotmell,



and Dowally, before reaching the ultimate objective of Loch Ordie, where we enjoyed some lunch in the shelter of the trees around Queen Victoria's Cairn.

In steadily worsening weather, we returned to Mill dam via a higher track on the East side of the valley to join the outbound track at Mill Dam.

An enjoyable day out was finished off with a visit to 'A taste of Perthshire' in Bankfoot for coffee and scones.



Fundraiser for Malawi Trip

We had a brilliant night at a quiz held in the Community Church Centre in Auchterarder, to help raise funds for 7 pupils from the Community School of Auchterarder's trip to Malawi in June. Over 20 teams took part, including staff, pupils, parents, church members, community choir and LOGOS.



Anyone in S1 - S6 is welcome to join us on a Friday night from 7pm - 8.30pm in the Church Centre.

Each week we have the lounge available with board games or just space to chat, the centre has a variety of activities including Nintendo, table tennis, snooker, fusbball table, carpet bowls, crafts, lego etc. And in the small hall we can play football, unihoc, dodgeball etc. There's something for everyone.

STRUMMING and SONG bring Joy to SHED MEMBERS

At a recent Shed meeting, a record attendance enjoyed a singalong with our ukulele band. Playing Scottish and past pop songs, the singalong had to be heard to be believed with everyone entering the happy spirit of the occasion. If you would like to find out more about our Mens Shed, pop in for a cuppa and a chat. We meet every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon 2-4pm or contact us at auchterardershed@gmail.com We may well have an activity which you would enjoy.



Church Minibus service

Our minibus is available on Sunday mornings for transport to church. If you would like to use this service, please contact us on 01764 660152, leaving your name and contact details.

We would also benefit from a few extra drivers for the bus rota. If you have a driving license with a D1 on it we would welcome you to the team.



Many thanks with kindest regards

Daryl and Mandy

From the editor ...

I do hope you enjoy the newsletters which are currently being produced on the last Saturday of the month. The next edition of the newsletter will be Saturday 26th April 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