

Auchterarder Parish Church Newsletter

27th January 2024

Registered Charities SC001688

Musings from the Manse

January 2024

Often in my monthly Musings I ponder where we are as a congregation, summarise what we've been doing and anticipate what's coming next. That's easy this time round! Christmas was very busy with many successful activities, and I was particularly inspired to see about 500 people attend our services on Christmas Eve/Day. Most were strangers to me, and I wonder what brings them – and why they don't come at other times! New Year has brought a return to the Church Centre for our Sunday services which feels less formal, loved by some and not by others. We're a diverse congregation and we try to serve everyone, just not all at the same time! It's lovely in church life that – as in a family – different people's needs and preferences take priority at different times and we learn to tolerate – and even celebrate – the bits we like less for the sake of the others. A practical example of what we're studying in Philippians at the moment - humility and considering others above ourselves.



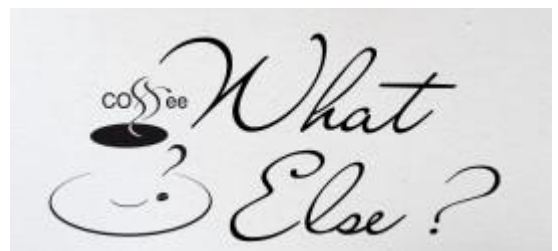
New Year has brought the return of DNA groups who are digging deeper into Christian discipleship in their trios. And we're loving being back to Wednesday Worship which has nearly outgrown the comfortable lounge area! We enjoyed a day of prayer – a new idea to be developed in future. And we're looking forward to reading Matthew's Gospel together during Lent, with opportunities for food and discussion thrown in.



Worship January and February 2024

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

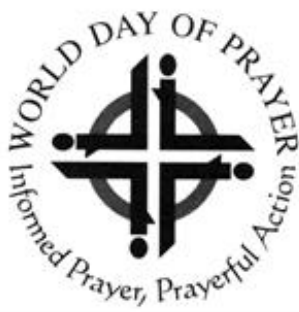
So what else? It would be easy to be complacent but we must always be seeing what we're not yet doing that we might be – seeking the new things God may be opening up for us. In early 2020 the Kirk Session had a refreshed sense of vision for how we might use our Church Centre. Much of that has since been achieved with the Food Bank, youth worker and community garden, alongside Archway, multiple hall lets and other existing Centre activities. We give thanks for all of those! However, one aspect we haven't yet fulfilled is a pilot project (2 days/week) to establish the viability of opening a community café. Having done the research, in 2021 we advertised for someone to run the café and received no response. The Kirk Session would like to give this another try if both the finance and the right person can be found, and plans are under way for that. More definite news will come your way as we have it.



Meanwhile, let's enjoy all God's many blessings to us as a congregation and enjoy the newsletter!

Love to you all

Lynn

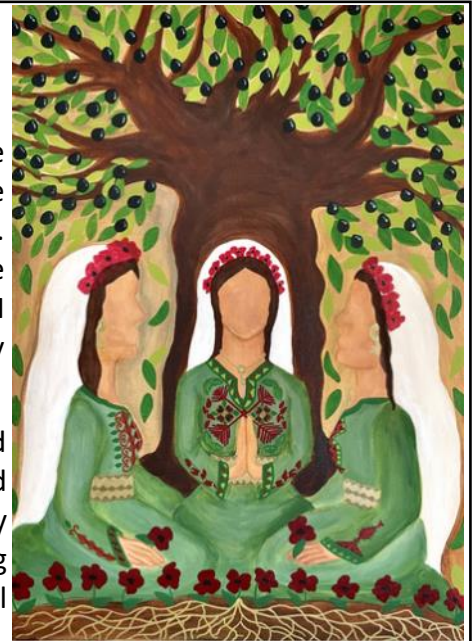


World Day of Prayer - Friday 1st March at 7pm

On Friday 1st March at 7.00p.m. the Parish Church will be hosting the Ecumenical World Day of Prayer service. The service has been written by the women of Palestine with the theme "I beg you Bear with one another in Love". It will be led by representatives of the 4 churches in Auchterarder.

The Palestinian women who have written this service have invited the world to pray for peace, justice and freedom of religion and freedom of movement. Their prayers specifically call us to pray with and for women, refugees, persons experiencing homelessness, and all who are sick, dying and grieving. They call us to be united in treating all with justice and love.

After the service there will be tea/coffee and baking using Palestinian recipes and a time to chat, reflect on the service, enjoy each other's company. Marjorie Paton



Messy Church

For our first Messy Church of 2024 we had a 'Movie Afternoon'. We watched 'Sing 2' together - about 30 adults and children in all. It was very relaxing and set everyone up for a first week back at school, nursery or

work! Much popcorn, chocolate and crisps were consumed, although not so many of the healthy oranges!

We will be back to 'normal service' from February onwards. – 3:30-5:00, with a light meal together for everyone who comes along. Our themes will be Bible based as usual, around Caring for the Word; Friendship; Health; Giving and Jesus' love for everyone, with some other bits and bobs thrown in, no doubt!!

Remember, we meet every first Sunday of the month, except July and August - get the dates on the diary now, so you don't double book! We miss you when you are not there 😞. And, of course, August is Holiday Week month – more than likely the week before the new school term begins!!!! Dates until the summer: 04 February; 03 March; 07 April; 05 May; 02 June.



Walking Group - Save the Date(s) - Saturday 30 March 2024.

The full Saturday Walk schedule dates 2024 are

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



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 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.



Craft Group

Recognise these pictures from a few years ago? The happiness and joy they brought to many. The group would appreciate YOUR HELP over the next few months to do this again, with perhaps even more angels. Starting now.... We hope to produce at least 1,000 angels to flood the streets of Auchterarder and enable us to give angels to the hospital and care



homes in the town just before Christmas 2024. Don't worry we have patterns and wool available any time you want. The patterns will be at the back of the church or available from Janet McDonald, Joanna Menzies, Margaret Dunster or Marjorie Paton.



It would be a real act of Mission to be able to have 1,000 angels or more for people to take away.



The poppy hangings are also needing a bit of attention, so if you are free to help, speak to any of the ladies mentioned above or come along for the day on Tuesday 2nd April to the Church Centre.

The group took part in a happy occasion on Tuesday 23rd January when, during the week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Rev Duncan Strathie, Rector of St Kessogs Church, dedicated about 35 prayer shawls so that they go out with love and prayers.

It would be great to have more people to help us. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month in the Garden Room for coffee/ tea, a chat and also time to knit or crochet or whatever craft you enjoy creating.

Marjorie Paton

Update from the Guild



At our meeting on 18th January our speaker was Marjorie Paton who entertained us with the power point of the most recent visit to Israel. The power point was compiled from photographs taken on the trip. An appropriate musical soundtrack had been added to accompany the stunning and interesting photos. We do have some very talented people in our congregation. In her vote of thanks Gene Finlayson commented how much the music added to our appreciation of the scenery whereas a running commentary could easily have detracted from it. It was a moving experience given the sad and disturbing situation in Israel and the West Bank at present. I am sure that we are all remembering those caught up in this conflict in our prayers. After the screening, thanks to Marjorie, we were all able to sample some typical food of the area, including Baklava, along with our teas and coffees.

Our meeting on 1st February is another not to be missed. Two of our members, Helen Haynes and Lesley Buchan Donald, will be providing some musical entertainment to cheer us all up in these trying times. Please remember that we meet at 2.30 pm. for this and for the following two meetings.

Whose we are and whom we serve.

On 5th January 2024 the members of Nova Band - Eva, Dan, Finlay, Shane and Thomas had their very first gig in the Church Centre and would like to thank the congregation very much for their support and generosity. The fantastic sum of £650 was raised for The Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Thank you

Finlay Yearsley



Getting To The Bottom Of A Murder

APC Community Church Centre
Saturday 2 March 2024 at 7.00pm
(over 16 yrs of age only)

Café RENÉ

'Getting To The Bottom Of A Murder'

An 'Allo 'Allo themed Murder Mystery evening
written by Lesley Buchan Donald and Tom Langlands

APC Community Church Centre
Saturday 2 March 2024 at 7.00 p.m.
(over 16 yrs of age only)

dressing as a French café customer is encouraged
wine, soft drinks and nibbles provided

Tickets £15 from any cast member



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 24th Feb
Saturday 30th March

10.00 until 12.00 noon



With the cold weather recently, we have dropped Cosy Packs into various places around town – they're



Auchterarder and Aberuthven Community Action Plan

available from within APC, on the Town Bus and in the Outpatients at St Margaret's Hospital as well as the Wednesday and Friday soup and a cuppa sessions. The soup and a cuppa sessions are a lovely drop in event that welcomes everyone – people are sure of a delicious bowl of homemade soup and some friendly chat, there's a lovely group attends every week, with new people popping in all the time.

♥
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

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

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.

Auchterarder and Aberuthven Community Action Plan



This an urgent need to help a vital Christian charity with its essential work.
Please contact them directly for more information.



Harbour Counselling Service

A Christian ministry to offer free counselling
in Perth and the surrounding area

Seeks volunteer trustees

Interested?

Please contact

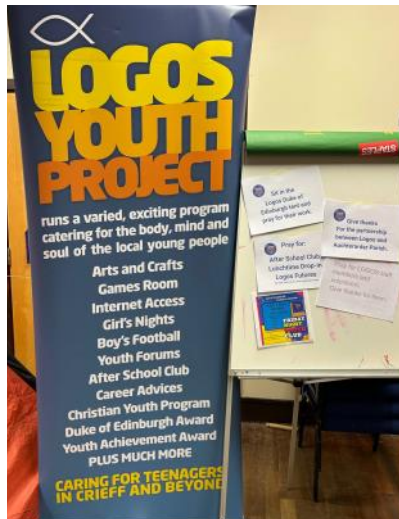
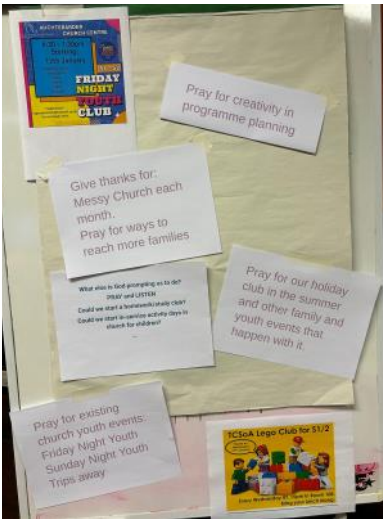
Julie Gardner – Julie@harbourperth.org.uk

Lisa Christmas – Lisac@harbourperth.org.uk

Jamie Fry – Jamie@harbourperth.org.uk

APC DAY OF PRAYER

On Sunday 21st January we started the New Year with a day of prayer at APC, especially for children and youth. A new idea for many of us, but people came along during the afternoon to use the inspiring prayer stations for all ages. Mid-afternoon some of us braved the pouring rain to walk the High Street, stopping to pray in key places – the care homes, businesses, Medical Centre and school. And we ended with an evening celebration of prayer and praise, led by our brilliant Praise Orchestra! We'll definitely have another prayer day sometime so keep your ears open!



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.

Please help as we don't currently have many names. Rosemary



Auchterarder Parish Church

CHURCH LUNCHES



SUNDAY LUNCHES

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.

APC Walking Group

On Saturday 27 January the 2024 programme of APC walks commenced with a 7.5 mile circular walk in Pitmedden Forest, South of Abernethy, 9 walkers took part, led by Elsie Carnegie in dry and breezy conditions.



The walk took approximately 3 1/2 hours including a coffee and lunch stop to enjoy some views over Fife to the Lomonds



and later over the Tay valley. A convivial outing enjoyed by all.

The next Walking Group event is planned for Saturday 30 March 2024. (Route TBA) and will be led by Sylvia Elsmere. Watch out for details on Facebook and notices in the church and town notice boards. - All welcome



Cycling group

The January cycle was sadly deferred again due to the weather. For February the suggestion is that we attempt to do the cycle cancelled in December and January. This is a shorter cycle leaving the church at 9.30 on the 17th February 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

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 24th February 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