

Auchterarder Parish Church Newsletter

Saturday 25th May 2024

Registered Charities SC001688

Musings from the Manse – May 2024

Changes and transitions

The Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes isn't the most uplifting read in the Bible. When I teach it, I often mention Eeyore the grumpy donkey in Winnie the Pooh - the author of Ecclesiastes had a similarly woeful outlook on life! He wrote a lot about



the passing of time and thought he didn't write the line "Change

and decay in all around I see", I'm sure he would have if he'd thought of it. He did, however, write "There is a time for everything under heaven: a time to be born, a time to die" and a right time for many other life events.



I'm similarly woeful this month - the past few weeks have seen changes and transitions as people are finding this is the time to move on. No doubt it's the right time, but it's still a little sad. This Sunday we mark the end of Iain Paton's formal role with us as Assistant Minister. Iain's time at APC of course predates mine by some years. He has been an invaluable help to me and no doubt also to my predecessor Rob, as well as having his own ministry during the vacancy. Iain and Marjorie will continue to be very much part of our congregation, but Iain will be greatly missed in his pastoral role. However, at 82 we can't argue that it's time to retire!

Two weeks ago we also unexpectedly lost our friend, long-time elder and keen finance team member Allan Russell – a real blow to our congregation. And just this week Chris and Helen Haynes, our organist and choir mistress, have decided to step back from active duties. Chris and Helen have brought a rarely found level of professionalism and dedication to their tasks, as well as their deep love for God and sense of worship which inform everything they do. We can ask no more of them. Allan, Chris and Helen will have longer and more adequate tributes in other places, but I wanted to mention them here, with my personal thanks.

So far the change is pretty much all about decay, and we could be excused for being grumpy! But there's also a time for new life, and we look forward next week to welcoming Alan McKay, our new probationer minister, and his family. Things won't be the same, but they'll be different in good ways as well as bad. And Ecclesiastes reminds us that "God has set eternity in the heart of humankind", giving a perspective that transcends all time's changes with the hope that "He makes everything beautiful in its time". Let's see the life of God in all our changes and transitions, knowing that God, in eternity, holds them all and makes them beautiful.



Alan, Emily, Lewis and Cameron

Enjoy the newsletter!

Lynn

Alpha - coming to Auchterarder!!

The Alpha course is a well-renowned way of helping people to explore Christian faith. Enquirers and believers alike – it's for anyone who asks questions about faith and God! Our Worship and Discipleship team is excited to be running Alpha this autumn on **Wednesday evenings in**

October and November - get the dates in your diary early! We'll eat together, watch videos and share our thoughts - no question is off the table. Please plan to come, and also start thinking of friends you can invite. Don't miss the opportunity! Questions and any offers of help to Lynn or Peter Stokoe.

Worship and Discipleship Team



APC Summer Holiday Club

Monday 5th - Friday 9th August 2024

We are going to Go Bananas for God and use material which is based on banana island, characters from the bible visit us each day. Drama, singing, activities, games and crafts for everyone and a few optional extras for p6-s2 including woodwork, Lego challenge, music workshop and some sport sessions.



Do you know anyone in primary school and/or S1-S2?

Posters and registration forms are available at the back of church or in the church office, please **personally** invite your neighbours, grandchildren or any children you know to come along.

Holiday Club team...it could be you?

We are still looking for a few people to help, can you join us for a morning or two? Can you help with the drama, play a bible character, help with games or crafts, play in the band, help us build a 'banana island' set, help prepare crafts, help transport children in the minibus, help setup and tidy up each day???



Our next meeting Monday 17th June @ 7.30pm

Holy Space continues on a Sunday evening for anyone in secondary school and we would like to invite any primary 7 young people to join us through June.

This Sunday, 26th we are going for some grub, but **now meeting at the later time of 6.15pm** at the church...but still come hungry!

Sunday 2nd is Messy Church so there's no Holy Space but we are back again Sunday 9th June and going up to Pitmeadow Farm in Dunning for a BBQ so invite your pals. Leaving church at 5.45pm for 6pm.

We had good fun last week eating cake and ice cream while we helped to weed a garden and fought with a holly and rose bush! Thank you and well done to all who came - I'll take more pictures from now on.





APC Messy Church

Messy Church @ Pitmeadow Farm



What a brilliant time we had at our May **Messy Church**. As the title suggests, we were up at Pitmeadow Farm – thanks to Ewan and Fiona's kind invitation (although, I have a feeling we invited ourselves!) The weather was kind right up until the end of the afternoon, which had us scurrying back to the cars, picking up our bits and bobs on the way – yes, you've guessed it, RAIN! We had lots of families and friends and had a lovely afternoon just enjoying God's creation - chatting and getting to know one another, playing on the trampoline, meeting the animals and, of course, the BRILLIANT tractor rides through the 'enchanted forest' – or so I heard Ewan call it! I'm not even sure many of us had time to eat our picnics, as we were all so busy! The evidence is below!



PS June's **Messy Church** is on 2nd June from 3.30-5pm and is all about Jesus Healing a Blind Man. We'll be thinking about health and wellbeing and there will be lots of games and activities to keep us fit! **DON'T MISS IT!**

CHURCH LUNCHES



APC Church Lunches

Croquet, pickleball, badminton and table tennis were all enjoyed at our last church lunch. A big thanks to everyone who contributed to our bring and share lunch at Prestonpark, there was plenty to go round. And a big thank you to Susie and Stewart for your generous hospitality.



Our next church lunch is a Picnic in the Park on **Sunday 23rd June at 12.30pm.**

Please bring your own picnic and join us for games in the upper park...you may want to bring a picnic rug too. If it's wet then we'll eat lunch together in the church hall.

Messy Church families and our Friday Night and Sunday Night young people are also warmly invited.

Street Pastors: Caring, Listening, Helping

We would like to see Street Pastors established in Auchterarder during the school lunch break. Street Pastors are trained volunteers who give an hour of their week to wander up and down the High Street chatting to young people. There is no agenda with street pastoring, it's ordinary people engaging with young people through non-judgemental friendship. Listening, caring and helping our secondary school community.



- Are you available over lunchtime? Just one lunchtime a week or even just one a month?
- Do you have a heart for young people?
- Do you have a big smile?
- Do you have a 12 month connection with a church?

We are hoping to start Street Pastors in Auchterarder in September but we need a good number of volunteers to get us started. Initially we will just commit to one lunchtime a week but would hope to grow to two or maybe three depending on the number of volunteers who get involved. We will set-up a rota, you can choose to volunteer every week or just once a month.

There will be a minimum of 2 street pastors at one time but 4 on each session would be preferred. All volunteers will receive training from the charity Street Pastors and will be given a uniform so they are recognisable. Training is likely to be arranged for August/early September.

Volunteers must be 18+ with no upper limit. Gordon Loudon who is the Perth Street Pastor lead says, '*Some of our best street (school) pastors are in their 80's*'. Volunteers must have a 12-month connection with a church. No financial support needed but if folks wanted to buy their own uniform or make a donation towards it if they want.

Please prayerfully consider if this is for you.

Speak to Michelle or email michelle.livingstone@auchterarderparish.org to chat it over, or sign up for the training.

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.

Advent in Austria

Marjorie and Iain Paton are leading a tour entitled 'Advent in Austria' commencing at the beginning of December. It is being advertised throughout the U.K., but it would be just great to have a number of APC members on it. There are copies of the brochure on the table at the back of the church. If you think you might be interested in coming, please take a brochure away with you, and if you have any questions, please just ask us.



Our phone number is 01764 682234. Marjorie and Iain



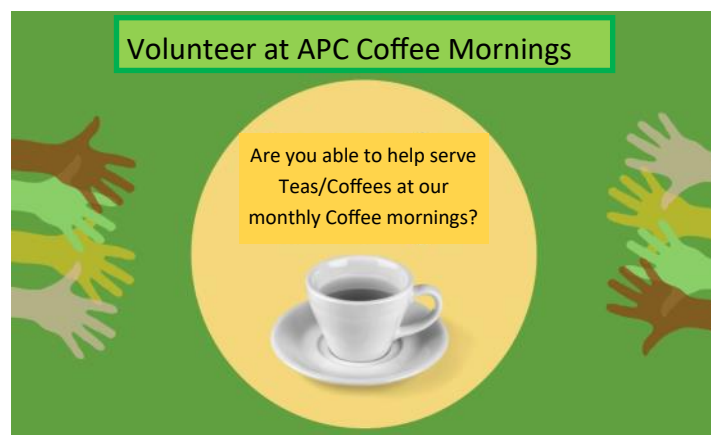
Guild Big Sing at the Assembly

We had a good evening at the Guild Big Sing at the Assembly. The representatives of the six Projects which we have supported over the last three years shared what the Guild support has enabled them to do.



Whose we are and whom we serve.

Church Volunteers Our church relies on volunteers who willingly give their time and talents to its work. Right now, for example, we need extra help from volunteers to staff the Church Centre. If you feel you have a gift or talent, or even a willingness to 'give something a go', then please come forward and let us know. Speak to Lynn, Ruth Buchan, our Session Clerk, or your Elder when they next visit or call to find out more.



If you can't be there
then this is the next best thing!!!

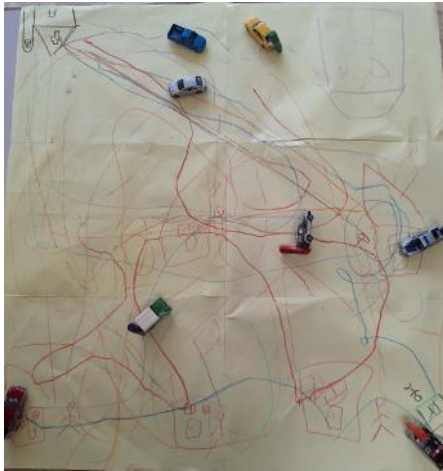


APC Kidsteam



There has been terrific teamwork on show at Kidsteam recently - seventeen minutes to do a 70 piece jigsaw without seeing the picture on the box! No shouting, no fighting, no falling out. Just four friends communicating brilliantly, helping each other, sharing ideas, and working together to achieve their task. It was lovely to watch. Each individual jigsaw piece was different, but each was needed. Just as we as individuals are all different, but are all needed to achieve God's plans.

APC Kidsteam



Our creche were also a terrific team, using crayons taped to cars to help their friends journey to church. They were there for ages, great fun 😊

Kidsteam meet every Sunday morning in the Church Centre, after the children's hymn. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Your Kidsteam Team x

Yvonneelder@outlook.com

APC Walking Group - Date for the diaries!

The next Walking Group event is planned for Saturday 27 July and will be led by Allan Nisbet.

Watch out for details on Facebook / newsletter and notices in the church.

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

Dates for future walks in 2024 are 27 July, 28 Sep, 30 Nov.

All welcome and hope to see some new members on a walk soon.



"Allo "Allo. Listen very carefully, we will say zis only once.

We have just received Top Secret information relating to an enjoyable murder mystery evening in ze church centre wiz dancing, singing and a quiz. Sadly poor Fanny la Fan was murdered but wiz ze 'elp of ze customers at Cafe Rene and ze bravery of Rene 'imself ze culprit was apprehended. We are delighted to report zat we 'ave been able to 'and over more zan £1000 to ze church centre. We are very grateful for



ze support of ze people of Nouvian in raising zis money. Zank you also to ze church for 'elp during "Operation Night'awk". Finally, ze British airmen 'ave made it safely 'ome and so far we 'ave managed to keep Madame Edith from singing again.

Tom Langlands and Lesley Buchan Donald

APC Walking Group

Our walk in May was led by Derek and he had chosen Ben Vrackie, a lovely wee mountain behind Pitlochry.

Eight walkers boarded the church mini bus at 9am for a scenic drive north to the Moulin Car park.



The day started dry and overcast and improved throughout the day. The group climbed to the reservoir Loch a' Choire where coffee was had. After coffee we split into two groups. Derek led 4 walkers to the top of Ben Vrackie and despite the warm spring weather there



was a chilly wind on the summit which meant they did not hang around. In the meantime Sylvia led the other 2 walkers round the back



of Loch a' Choire where we heard the cuckoo.

The group then met again at the Moulin hotel and had a well earned coffee, sitting in the sun as we discussed today's walk and thought where we could go in July.

A very successful day with great company and great views.

We would love to see you on our next walk which is on 27th July.

For those who haven't heard about it, CHAS (Children's Hospices Across Scotland) are launching a Highland Coo sculpture trail around Perth and Kinross in late June.

30 Cows scattered across the region, inviting Coo spotters to check them off the list.

A group of kind-hearted high street businesses have united to sponsor the big Coo as a Coo-Operative.

Our Coo has been picked and painted and is ready to make her way to Auchterarder at the end of June – We're sworn to secrecy about the design at this stage but can share that she's super cute! Keep your ears perked

for more updates! 🐮 🍌 We're planning a local Coo Spotting trail and there's also plans for a CAP (Community Action Plan) Green Spaces picnic in the park on the 23rd of June.



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



Thank you from Liz Penman

I would like to express heartfelt thanks to the church and individuals within the church family for your help and support with my house move.

Some were able to help with paperwork, others helped to pack, move and unpack.

And a special shout out to the Sunday night youth group for helping tidy up the front garden, you did a great job especially with the rose and holly bushes!

AUCHTERARDER and DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

PRESENTS

GWEN MAIRI, PROFESSIONAL HARPIST

TUESDAY 11TH JUNE 2024, AT 2PM

AUCHTERARDER PARISH CHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE



Gwen is a graduate of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now Royal Conservatoire of Scotland). She has worked with Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Bangkok Symphony Orchestra, the orchestra and education department of Scottish Opera as well as teaching, publishing music and performing the music of Wales and Scotland in a traditionally informed contemporary style. She has performed at the Edinburgh International Festival and at the National Eisteddfod.

Gwen will talk about the history of the harp, explain the workings of a pedal harp and will play several pieces of music.

Your chance to get up close and personal with this fantastic musical instrument.

Anyone interested in music is cordially invited to this presentation.

Admission is by donation

AUCHTERARDER CHURCH CENTRE

6:30 - 7:30pm

Nintendo Switch
Table Tennis
Pool
Games
Crafts
& more!

FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH CLUB

Please email
logosyouthbms@hotmail.co.uk
for a consent form

LOGOS YOUTH PROJECT
10.10.2013 - 10.11.2013

S1 - S2

Friday Night Youth Club
continues through June

S1-S2 from 6.30pm and
S3+ from 7.30pm

Those in primary 7 are welcome to join us on Friday 14th and 21st June - come along at 6.30pm, it'll be great to see you.

Instagram Facebook Twitter

Friday night Youth Club

Auchterarder Parish Church Centre

7:30-8:45pm

S3+

Auchterarder Parish Church

LOGOS YOUTH PROJECT
10.10.2013 - 10.11.2013

Prayer is at the heart of our church life at APC and we have two prayer groups every week. You don't have to be a confident pray-er, you don't have to pray out loud, and you don't have to commit to every week – anyone can come, any time. We pray for our church, our community and our world, and also for individual people with their permission. If you would like us to pray for you, please just tell Lynn or a prayer group member.

We meet:

Saturday mornings 9-9.30am online – ask Lynn for a Zoom link

Sunday mornings 9.30-10am in the Church Centre Lounge.

Worship and Discipleship Team



APC Cycling group

In May we had an enjoyable cycle around the Auchterarder area culminating in a visit to the Inspiration Orchestra event at Pitmeadow Farm which was inspirational.

Next month we will have a longer cycle and we are suggesting a return to Loch Katrine on June 29th. We will leave the car park behind the church at 9am and head for Aberfoyle. The plan is then to cycle via Lochard on a gentle meandering road which is relatively flat. We will have lunch at the far end of Loch Katrine (Stronachlochar) where there is an excellent coffee shop/restaurant. After this we have a choice to either head around loch Katrine which is slightly hillier or return the same route we came (we might even form two groups). This will be about 30 miles. The attached website shows you the route:

<https://www.scotlandcyclerroutes.org/routes/trossachs-loop-from-aberfoyle>

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.mcchlery@gcu.ac.uk. Remember ebikers most welcome.

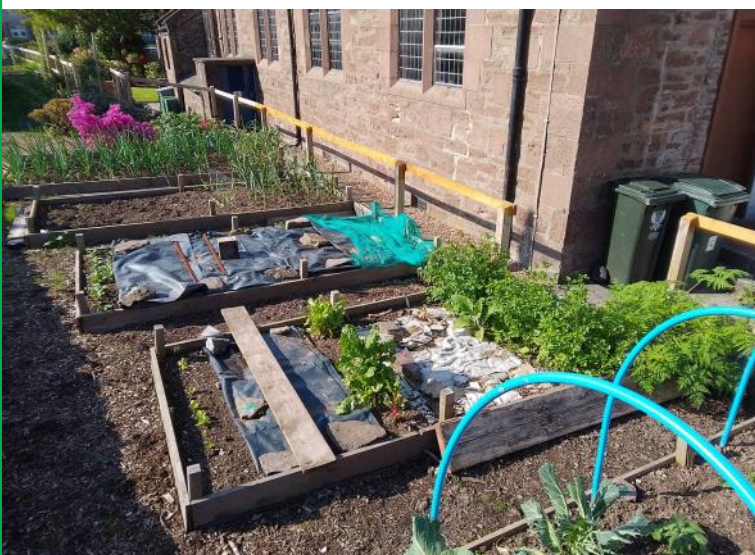
Stuart

APC Community Garden - May Update



May 2024 is the Community Garden's 3rd birthday as we continue to go from strength to strength. This year we started our 'Fresh Fridays', two months earlier than last year, giving fresh produce to the community on Friday mornings from the garden and providing a veggie share box to the library for Friday afternoons.

We also have 8 mini allotment owners growing flowers and vegetables for family and friends and have increased our mini allotment capacity



creating 2 more beds. If you know anyone who would benefit from having a vegetable plot please get in touch.

Thanks to Monica for providing a plant stall at the APC Saturday coffee morning where we were able to provide vegetable plants to the community to grow at home.



communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org

or check out our Facebook page
[@apccommunitygarden](#)

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.



It is with great regret that we record the death of Mr Allan Russell. His funeral service will be held in Auchterarder Parish Church on Friday 31st May at 10.30am followed by Stirling Crematorium at 12 noon, to which everyone is invited.



APC Coffee Mornings
(the last Saturday of the month)

Saturday 29th June
10.00 until 12.00 noon

Usual stalls, brick-a-back, baking etc.

Contactless payments available.

Suggested £4 donation

Why not bring a friend and share our cosy place

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 June 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

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