Ruchterarder Parish Church Newsletter

Easter Sunday 31st March 2024

Registered Charities SC001688

Musings from the Manse – Easter Sunday 2024

The Lord is Risen - He is Risen indeed!

This is how Christians traditionally greet each other on Easter morning, and we've done that in Auchterarder Church twice so far – first at 8am at Pitmeadow Farm for the dawn service (my body was telling me it was 7am!), then at 10.30 in the church. I love Easter Sunday!











The best thing about Lent for me has been meeting weekly with two groups of other people who have been reading Matthew's

Gospel, to share our thoughts and insights – very rich discussions, with a few laughs thrown in! This week, someone perceptively noted that Easter (more than Christmas) really gets to the heart of our faith, particularly Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Those are the days when we peer into the murky well of our own selfish hearts and own up to the truth: that we needed Jesus to die for us. And the Resurrection, as Paul said, is the solid basis of Christians faith: "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith!" (1 Cor 15:14)

Two other great things about Easter this year were preparing for Holy Week with the musical the Easter Story, and marking Good Friday with the People's Passion. You can read more about both on next page, different ways of using music and drama to access and experience the well-known story in fresh ways. I particularly loved seeing people we don't usually see in church and I'm always praying for new access points for our community to hear the Christian story. A lovely example of that was our engagement with our Primary school children in their Easter service in church, and more deeply in half a day of Easter Journey with 56 P6 pupils. Their funny and searching observations were written on their own crosses, which are part of our Easter Sunday worship.

C.S.Lewis once wrote: "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see

it, but because by it I see everything else." The same can be said about the Resurrection. What if we saw everything, our own sin and other people's and the evil and everyday problems in the world, through the lens of the promise of renewal that Easter morning brings? I can go for that.

The Lord is risen – He is risen indeed! Easter blessings Lynn



The Easter Story

With a choir of around 50 singers, soloists and a narrator, we told the story of Holy Week from Palm Sunday to Easter Day in music written by Stephen and Sandra Miller, on words by Ernie Dick, a friend from Fife, sadly no longer with us. It was the first time we had sung together since the



pandemic and what a joy it was to get the chance to sing again and to such a huge and appreciative audience. We asked for donations to UNICEF, and raised over £1200 which was a magnificent sum. You can click the link above, or copy www.unicef.org.uk into your browser to see the work the organisation does towards 'building a better world for every child'. Our thanks to everyone involved who sang, played, attended and donated. Sandra and Stephen

The People's Passion

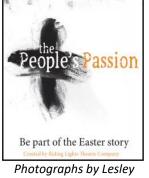
The People's Passion, an interactive telling of the Easter story, took place at APC on Good Friday. Local people and members of the other churches were invited. Participants became the characters of the story including cheering crowds on Palm Sunday; the Pharisees; a reluctant Pilate; the angry mob demanding crucifixion and the joyful women finding the empty tomb. This fresh way of portraying the familiar story was

















APC Coffee Mornings and Plant Sale - 27th April 2024

(the last Saturday of the month)

Next month at the coffee morning there will be a sale of outdoor garden plants by Alistair Cochran and his wife Monika, to raise funds for the church.





Alistair and Monika will be bring a selection of outdoor garden plants and weather permitting may have the table outside to attract passers-by as well. Before coming to England Monika worked for 20 odd years for a Dutch Company J Van Vliet in one of the flower auctions in Holland, and when we married she worked for several years in their cash and carry in Northampton. She has spoken with the company and they have agreed to let her purchase plants from the cash and carry near Perth so we can be sure of a selection of healthy plants. We did a

similar sale in the church in Northampton and made quite a bit of money for church funds. If it successful she may well ask to repeat it in May and again in the Autumn.

The coffee morning will have the usual stalls, brick-a-back, baking etc.

Contactless payments available.

Suggested £4 donation

Why not bring a friend and share our cosy place

Next Coffee Morning

Saturday 25th May

10.00 until 12.00 noon

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, and we meet characters from the old and new testament. It'll be a fun week with drama, singing, activities, crafts and group work. Children and young people from P1-S2's are welcome to join us every morning with games in the park some afternoons and a few youth evenings for secondary school young people too.



Holiday Club team...

We need a big team of people to help us. Can you help with the drama, play a bible character, help prepare snacks, lead a group, help with games or crafts, play in the band, help us build a 'banana island' set, prepare crafts etc.

If you have some time during holiday club week and think you could help in some way, please speak to Michelle or Sandra.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14th May, 7.30pm - 8.30pm

Things we need for Go Bananas...do you have any of these or can you collect them for us please? A very large deck-chair (anyone got any contacts, can we borrow one for a week?)

Bucket and spades

Yellow paint - we need to paint a lot of bananas

Lego - daily Lego challenge

Hawaiian shirts

Material for making bunting and other crafts

Buttons

1p and 2p coins and other foreign coins - for crafts

Corks

Monkeys - to decorate monkey island

Very large cardboard boxes (to make a boat)





APC Kidsteam

Happy Easter everyone!

We hope you all had great fun and lots of chocolate





Here are two photographs taken on Thinking Day,

with the boys really concentrating and the girls practicing first aid. Notice how only Asher's nose and feet escaped their efforts!

We thought about some of the badges Jesus would have earned including his First Aid badge but also ones for helping and caring for our world and the people in it.

Looking forward to seeing you all in the church centre after children's hymn every Sunday morning.

Yvonneelder@outlook.com



The Kidsteam Team x

APC Messy March

Our March Messy Church was held on Sunday 3rd March when our characters were David and Jonathan and the theme was friendship. We started off a bit differently this time and did a 'Find a new friend' activity! Everyone was given a sheet with some questions on it, and we had to find a different person who could answer each one e.g. 'Can you swim?' 'Do you have a dog?' 'Do you like pizza?' This meant we both

learned a lot more about people and spoke to lots of new friends.

We heard the story told as a drama, about how Jonathan and David became friends, we played a memory verse jigsaw game and then made lots of different crafts friendship bracelets; wooden pictures of our friends and families made with buttons

and pennies.



We had a great times as usual and can't wait until April when our character brave

Queen Esther, who learned that God was always with her

to help her be brave and stand up for her people.

We meet again on

Sunday 7th April @ 3:30 pm when our theme will be Queen Esther.

Why not pop along whatever your age and see what we get up to?









Messy Church Team

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WOMAN'S GUILD Card of Allembership

Update from the Guild

On 29th February we had a good turnout of Guild Members and visitors from other Guilds for our Wee Big Sing at which Long Service Certificates and badges were handed out by our minister Lynn. Hymns were chosen from a list of old and new favourites garnered from members. Thanks are due to Stephen Miller for his help and for his piano accompaniment which was much appreciated.





On 14th March we learned more about one of the projects, Project Starchild, currently being supported when the very talented Michaela Foster Marsh came to speak about how and why she came to start up this charity in memory of her much

loved adopted brother whose birth mother was Ugandan. After his untimely death she sought out his family, discovered more about conditions in Uganda and the lack of education and proper care for children with additional needs. This project aims to "find the light in every child"

After our AGM on 21st March was completed we played a game of Build a Church which was then followed by a Scottish Quiz both of which seemed to cause much hilarity.

Date for your Diary - see page 9

Guild Spring Tea, 24th April at 7.30pm, Entertainment by Gargunnock Songsters Tickets available from Committee members, Donation suggested £10

Whose we are and whom we serve.

Auchterarder Parish Church

CHURCH LUNCHES



CHURCH LUNCHES

Sunday 24th March:

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Palm Sunday party food lunch, it was a lovely spread and lots to go round - we even gave out some

doggie bags to save some cooking dinner! It was lovely to sit, chat and share fellowship with different people that we might not see very often. It was also a great way to start Holy Week.

Sunday 21st April:

A table has been booked at Auchterarder Golf Club, 12.30pm. Please email michelle.livingstone@auchterarderparish.org to reserve a seat/s, there are still some seats available.

Sunday 19th May:

Bring and Share Meal @ Preston Park, from 12.30pm

We are hoping for a sunny day to have lunch together at the lovely home of Susie and Stewart.

More details to follow next month but please put it in your diaries.

Sunday 23rd June: Picnic lunch in the park

Along with Messy Church families we hope to gather a big crowd in the park for a picnic and games.

Everyone welcome, please join us for some rounders and relay races.

Menu for Sunday 21st April

2-course Menu: £25 (including service charge)

Scottish salmon fillet served with parsley mash, wilted spinach and hollandaise sauce

Beef Sunday roast

with all the trimmings and vegetables

Butter chicken with rice,

poppadoms and paratha

Mixed veg curry with rice

Sticky toffee pudding with vanilla ice cream

Strawberry cheesecake

with whipped cream and berries

Dark chocolate mousse

with honeycomb ice cream

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.

Cycling group

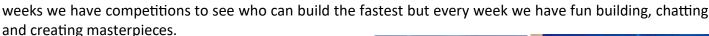
We managed a cycle to Bridge of Earn in March. The wind on the way back was a bit of a test but it was good to get cycling as a group again. For April the suggestion is that we attempt to do a loop from the church to Comrie and back. We will leave the church at 9.00 on the 20th aiming to be back at 12.30pm. If some folk need to be back earlier then there may be a split in the group after coffee to allow this who need to get back earlier to do so. The cycle is all obviously 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

Lego Club

Our s1/s2 Lego club meets on a Wednesday lunchtime in Rm 108. We will start back on Wednesday 17th.April.

Each week is a bit different, sometimes we have a theme and we work individually or in pairs to create something. We have been gifted Lego boxes so we've had fun building some sets from scratch including James Bond's car. Other





TCSoA Lego Club for \$1/2









Thank you to everyone who has donated Lego, if anyone has any lying about that we can add to our collection, it will be well used and enjoyed. Here's a few of our creations from last week...Happy Easter from the Lego club.

AUCHTERARDER CHURCH CENTRE 6:30 - 7:30pm Nintendo Switch Table Tennis Pool Games Crafts & more! Please email logosyouthbms@hotmail.co.uk for a consent form

Youth Club

Our Friday night youth club is taking a break over the Easter holidays but we will be back on Friday 19th April.

All s1 and s2 young people are welcome from 6.30pm and anyone in s3 above from 7.30pm.

Snooker, Nintendo Switch, table tennis, dodge ball, card games, chat and refreshments.



We've got a couple of trips arranged for the summer term too, hoping we get some sunny evenings.

Thank you to Logos staff and APC volunteers who make this event happen, enjoy your Easter break.



An update from Archway

Archway was originally set up with Social Care Perth and Kinross and has now been running for 14 years.

It is held on Mondays at 1-3pm in the Church Community Centre and is aimed at those experiencing social isolation and for those who are older and infirm and sometimes with carers.

Lunch is served and usually comprises of soup and rolls/bread and a pudding or cake to follow. After lunch there is an activity e.g. a speaker, seated zumba quizzes, occasional bingo, various singers including the nursery children, and last week we sang with the Men's Shed ukulele band all great fun.

We have been working on a Recipe book but unfortunately the lady who was very much involved in the compilation has died. The progress of the book has been delayed but will be finished soon.

We have had a lovely visit from a Costa Rican family who brought an old granny who was on holiday and were keen to meet some older Scots! The three granddaughters all under 10-year treated us to a concert of songs and we all ended up singing," Away in a Manger".

We recently celebrated two 95 years old ladies birthdays both of whom are members of this church for many years.

We enjoyed an enjoyable trip to Pitmeadow farm where we were joined for lunch with a baby lamb, named by the group as Larry. The group had a wander through the farm and fortunately on one of the few lovely days in March. We had a lovely time.

Last week I was invited to the HQ of Perth and Kinross Council and received an award for work done at Archway.

Archway is not a one-woman operation, but I am assisted by Heather, Margaret and Sheila who set up and clear up after lunch. Margaret is from St Kessogs and Sheila from Our Ladies. Jackie is in charge of the cooking and ensures adherence to kitchen criteria of Health and Safety. Helping Jackie with the cooking is Keith a retired cook. Thank you.

And guess what? I do the talking early and the organising.

If you are lonely come along and join us. You can be assured of a warm welcome.

Renee Riddell

Walking Group - Save the Date(s) - Saturday 25th May 2024.

The full Saturday Walk schedule dates 2024 are 25 May / 27 July / 28 September / 30 November



The next Walking Group event is planned for Saturday 25th May (Route TBA) and will be led by Derek Johnston.

A walk leaflet giving more information will be circulated to the Walking Group distribution list closer to the event.

Please feel free to contact <u>admin@auchterarderparish.org</u> 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.



i am the vicar, I am

(Kevin Lewis, 2009 with alterations)

i am the vicar, i am.

I am the pastor, the carer, the listener the one with time to drop everything and I also understand global politics and immigration and I am the one who knows about Ukraine and cares about "our boys" and I care about speed-bumps grafitti

litter

and the posting of zebra crossings near schools.

I am passionate about school assemblies council meetings

mums and toddlers and also

I am good at one-to-one and small groups and I listen and empathise and at the same time I am the one who plans and strategises and

I am the one who understands budgets and decides if we can buy any staples

or replace the heating system.

I am the vicar, I am.

I am the quiet reflective pray-er and

I am the speaker, the enthuser, the motivator, the learned teacher and

I can engage a room of 10, 50, 300 people no problem because

I am the one who relates particularly well to children Older people

The middle-aged

The jobless

The employed

The doctors

Teenagers and

I am the one who is always one step ahead and I am the one who is endearingly disorganised.

I am the vicar, I am.

I care passionately about church politics

I care passionately about domestic abuse

I care passionately about the plight of the rural church ethnic minorities

gay clergy

evangelicals and

I listen to the Pope

the Moderator and

Sanctuary First.

Continued next column

I am up to date with the Five Marks of Mission.

I understand the history of the Reformation

The armed forces

The Middle East war

The government

Presbytery and

I care about the excluded and

I manage my admin and

I know how to access children's services.

I am the vicar, I am.

I am the one in whom trust is placed

I am the one in whom grumbles are placed

I am the one who is always talking to everyone else.

I am the one who models worship

Marriage

Family

Gardening

Conversation

Baking

Prayer

Listening

Talking.

I often get it wrong.

I am the one who has to keep my doubts under wraps and I am also the one who is vulnerable and dependable stable

trustworthy.

I am the one who chairs meetings

I am the one who manages group discussions

I am the manager of an organisation that employs only me

I am the volunteer co-ordinator

The opinion co-ordinator

The trespasser on the territory of people who have been here a lot longer than me

And will be here after me.

I understand the heating system

The financial system

The rota system.

I know where all the keys are.

I love committees.

I drink tea with older people

And coffee with younger people

I listen to stories of bus routes and hospital visits and I believe in transforming our community through the power of Jesus.

I am the one who is very tired.

I am the one who only works one day a week.

I am the one who loves this job.

I am the one who is making it up as I go along.

I am the one who would not swap this for anything.

I am the vicar, I am.



Guild Spring Tea

24th April at 7.30pm
Entertainment by
Gargunnock Songsters
Tickets available from
Committee members
Donation suggested £10



Photo taken from Gargunnock Songsters website



Auchterarder and Aberuthven Community Action Plan

Easter Trail:

Parent council have created a fun Easter Trail for young people with letters scattered in the windows of the high street. Can you crack the code and tell us what the mystery phrase is? And can you find the location of the Golden Egg? The trail will run until the 14th of April and there are some treats to be won for 6 lucky entrants. Please drop off completed forms to the library or email them to tcsoaoc@gmail.com.

Community Action Plan:

Its been a quick month!
Lots of things happening and some planning for the 2nd anniversary of Auchterarder and Aberuthven having the Community Action Plan.

We're celebrating the fantastic progress made by so many community groups by having a family fun day in the Aytoun Hall on the 28th of April. Come along and find out what's been happening, what's happening next and what you might want to



get involved with, there's something for everyone. We're thrilled to be hosting Adventure Circus, a social enterprise group who will entertain us with two circus shows and some workshops. If you've never tried juggling or have fond memories of hula, come along!

CLIMATECAFÉ®

Climate Café.

This month we hosted the first Climate Café. It was a really great start to

something which will become a regular feature. Talking about things really brought home how the little things that we can all do, add up to making significant impact — The Community Garden is a fantastic example — growing locally, reducing food miles etc. The topic for the next meeting will be around heating our homes efficiently and how to keep the heat in. Date to be confirmed once we've arranged the speaker but we're aiming for 30th of April. Keep an eye on the local noticeboards and website (aandaconntacted.co.uk) for more information.

Best wishes for a lovely Easter!



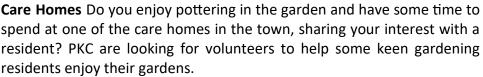
APC Community Garden - Mar Update - How to Get Involved?

Mini-allotments Would you like a small raised bed (2.5m v 1m) to grow produce for yourself, your family and friends? Then apply for a mini-allotment and get growing.



Seed Growing Do you have spare space in your greenhouse, shed, conservatory or on a window ledge for a small seed tray or pot? Then why not help us by germinating some



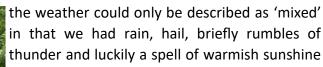


Look forward to hearing from you.

Derek Johnston

communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org

APC Walking Group - On Saturday 30th March 2024, 8 walkers, led by Sylvia Elsmere completed a 8 mile circular walk starting at Lecropt Church outside Bridge of Allan following paths and farm tracks, some of which were extremely muddy, through the Keir Estate, past the David Stirling memorial and the very grand Estate House itself. The walk took approximately 4 hours and



which coincided with a stop for lunch at the memorial.

A superb outing capped off with a visit to the Braco

Coffee shop on the way home.











Blue Door Foodbank info@bluedoorfoodbank.org

28th March 2024

Happy Easter from the Blue Door Foodbank!

Unfortunately, the news is we are busier than ever, primarily due to the cost-of-living impact and the recent sad news affecting the local building companies. This however has not dampened our ability to cope. Canny buying, local discounts and FareShare from the COOP and Tesco are enabling us to stay afloat. We had our first contribution from the COOP — as one of their local charities — which gave us a boost of just over £1600. Very nicely timed when the grants are being swallowed up. So please if you shop at the COOP would you consider us as your local cause — every penny counts! We still use all monies and food donated purely for food parcels. The grants see to the Breakfast clubs / Hubs / Cosy places. Still no money is spent on administration costs or any salaries.

Now I am delighted to share what I think is the most positive news this year and that is to tell you we have a few new YOUNG and STRONG volunteers making up a team on Mondays from Ochil Towers School. They have been with us a few weeks now and I am delighted with how this team sets up the foodbank for me for the rest of the week's activities. This is saving me a LOT of time and effort. They are loading the shelves (and I am talking a couple of hundred items), checking dates, sorting out the compost and all the recycling – jobs we all do. But they now set us up for the week. They are delivering the school weekly breakfast parcels (paid for by grants) on a Monday to Auchterarder and Aberuthven school which also eases the strain. So, it is a huge welcome and thank you to them all.

We were lucky to be invited to a Civic reception by Xander McDade the Provost of Perth the purpose to thank groups who were involved in supporting or running the Cosy place schemes around Perth and Kinross. The Blue Door was recognised for their role in this Winter scheme.

Jackie Mahoney, On behalf of The Blue Door Volunteers

Men's Shed

THE WORLD PREMIER!

March 8th was the first ever public performance by the Auchterarder and District Men's Shed Ukulele Band. Well, it was not quite totally public and not the whole band. But for those taking part in our first ever "gig", it was a big moment for the performers. Because of space restrictions, five of the fifteen strong band performed for the patients in St Margaret's Hospital in Auchterarder. With song





sheets provided by the band, the elderly patients made a great audience and heartily sang along to several old time musical hall songs. We enjoyed playing for them and from the smiles on the faces of the patients, they seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed the singalong too.

Next stop Perth concert hall? Well, you might have to wait a little for that! But we are working on it. Watch this space.

 \blacksquare If all you want is good company and a chat over a cup of tea,

there are plenty of Shedders happy to try to put the world to rights. New Shed members are always welcome. We meet every Tuesday and Thursday 2-4pm at the APC Community Centre. Come along for a look and have a cup of tea and a chat.

Contact auchterardershed@gmail.com

Secretary John Boyd

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 George Miller, one of our most regular attenders. George was an elder and a member of the Kirk Session in two of the churches which he attended previously.

His funeral service will be held in Perth Crematorium on Wednesday 10th April at 12.30pm, to which all his friends are sincerely invited.

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.

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





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 lain Paton: 01764 682234

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 27th April 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.



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.

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