

# Auchterarder Parish Church Newsletter

28th May 2022

Registered Charities SC001688

## Musings from the Manse – what are we doing here?

I found myself asking this question at last week's General Assembly, which presented the Church of Scotland in a difficult state. Along with other denominations in Scotland, we're declining alarmingly fast. Only about a third of our members ever come to church. Our average congregation size is 40, with 3-4 children and no teenagers, very few baptisms and no new members by profession of faith. It's well known that we're planning a 40% reduction in the number of ministers, due to financial shortages but even more to fewer people coming forward for ministry. Church as we've known it is already no more, and will change even further in the near future.

Against that background, what are we doing in APC? We're studying the New Testament book of James, which tells us to "be doers for the word, not hearers only" – in other words, get out and do something! We've had a great response to the suggestion that we form DNA groups, with about 17 small cells of 3 people meeting each week to deepen our Christian discipleship, read the Bible and pray together, and look for opportunities to act missionally in whatever small ways we can. Over 50 people are taking part, from our congregation and beyond – which must make a difference! I'm really looking forward to getting feedback on what went well and what can be improved so that we can do this better next time.

And there are other opportunities to do something here. We have a wonderful vision for our Community Church Centre to be open all week as a place where people can find welcome, support and a way to the fulness of life that God wants for them in Jesus. We need people to play a practical part – in supporting Archway (our café for vulnerable people) and in driving the minibus so the people can come to that and to Sunday services. There is always space to service in a variety of other roles – so if you think you can do something, talk to me or someone else you know and let's get into action!

There are things in the world and in the wider landscape of church which we have no power to change. All we can do is to look for ways to be active and intentional about putting into practice what God is asking us to do in His word, in Auchterarder where we find ourselves. Maybe that way we'll see what God is doing, and be better able to do it with Him.

Blessings to you all

Lynn



WELCOME  
New Members

### NEW MEMBERS AT APC

New people are always welcome at APC and we've been privileged to welcome quite a few in the past 2 years since COVID. Whether you're new or have been around for a while, you may want to consider making the promises to become a member of our church. If you want to find out what's involved in that without any commitment, please speak to the minister or email Lynn at [LMcChlery@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:LMcChlery@churchofscotland.org.uk)



## Messy Church



Our April Messy Church theme was 'Jesus is the Good Shepherd' and boy, did we have two interesting visitors? I was asked a question after the morning service I don't believe I had ever been asked before, especially in church: 'Sandra, would you like two lambs?' Of course, our answer was YES!!! Could there have been a better visual for teaching and learning around this story???? The children – and the adults – all loved seeing and petting the lambs and it brought the story to life more than we could have imagined! We learned a new song, did an American-style line dance, led by Mandy and learned through the parable of the Lost Sheep about how there is 'great rejoicing in heaven over one lost sinner who is found!' The fellowship meal afterwards was great and was enjoyed by both adults and children alike. Our next Messy Church is on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June from 3.30 - 5.00 and the theme is 'Jesus is the King' perhaps quite fitting for a Jubilee weekend! Why not come along and join us for some singing, some crafts, aerobics, to hear stories from the Bible and enjoy our fellowship meal, no matter what age you are, and join in?? You will be very welcome.

If you can, please let us know you are coming, as it makes catering much easier!. Everything is free but donations will be welcome. Pre-register by emailing [church@auchterarderparish.org](mailto:church@auchterarderparish.org)—but if you forget, come along anyway.



## Guild News - May 2022

A number of our members enjoyed an evening at the Guild Big Sing in the Assembly Halls.

We have a number of events happening in the summer.

**Wednesday 8th June.** Summer Outing to Dunfermline Abbey. We will leave the church by car at 11am. Lunch will be provided in a hotel near the Abbey at 12pm. Mary Welsh, who gave a very interesting talk to The Guild a few weeks ago, will take us on a guided tour of the Abbey. It is planned to leave Dunfermline about 3:30pm to return home. If you would like to join us on this outing please speak to Rosemary, or any committee member.

**Thursday 23rd June 7pm.** Guilds Together Summer Meeting in Kinross.

**Thursday 4th August 2pm.** Strawberry Tea in the Church Centre. As always, your friends are most welcome to come along to this enjoyable afternoon.

**Our 22/23 Session starts on September 15<sup>th</sup> 2022.**

We continue to Look Forward in Faith and the theme for next year is "Wee Seeds, Big Trees". We look forward to an uninterrupted year with interesting and enjoyable meetings, and opportunity to spread wee seeds in our community.

May you know God's blessing in the summer months and be able to enjoy His wonderful creation.

**Whose we are and Whom we Serve**





## APC Community Garden – News

The Community Garden is back in production after the winter break, bigger and better than ever. Our veg offer this year is peas, beans, salad, courgettes, onions, garlic, carrots, beetroot, potatoes, kale, cauliflower and broccoli. Wow! On the patio, the Sunday School are growing



*Wild Flowers*

tomatoes & chillies and have planted up a strawberry wall, it looks great. We are about to install some water butts with the help of the Men's Shed and are continuing work on our orchard and soft fruit patch, so if anyone has skills in growing fruit we would love to hear from you. The uncultivated area above the memorial garden has some lovely bulbs and wild flowers blooming at the moment.



*Strawberry Wall*

Please dig up what you would like from there as this area will be turned into raised beds at some point but please keep clear of the potatoes, blackcurrants and courgettes that have been planted there! Finally our small herb garden has taken off and the herbs need



to be pruned to keep them fresh and tender, so please take a pair of scissors and snip what you need for your next soup, stew, casserole or roast. We have oregano, thyme, rosemary and a few others. We are always looking for new volunteers to learn, share, help out and enjoy the garden so please get in touch; [communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org](mailto:communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org) or check out our Facebook page @apccommunitygarden

*The Community Garden Team*



### Digital Drop-In Sessions

Terrified of technology? Frustrated with your phone? Locked out of your laptop? Troubled by your iPad or tablet? Don't know where to start or who to ask? Then, why not try one of our new.....

Digital Drop-In sessions

Auchterarder Parish Church Centre

Wednesdays 2:00-3:00 pm

There will be free and friendly advice for all ages - remember, there are no stupid questions!

You will be made most welcome

### Opportunities to serve at APC Church Centre

"A dynamic community hub where people of all ages are shown God's love by being welcomed, respected, and supported towards the fullness of life that God intends."

Can you play your part in fulfilling our vision?

**Archway** is our Monday lunchtime café for vulnerable adults in our community.

We need more helpers to care for and befriend those who attend!

We also have requests for transport to Archway, we need minibus drivers and helpers.

**Church centre Administrator** – the wonderful Mandy goes off on maternity leave in September – we need someone to cover her post, a paid role 10-15 hours/week.

Please contact the office [admin@auchterarderparish.org](mailto:admin@auchterarderparish.org) or speak to Murdo McMillan who chairs the Centre Management Team.

## CHURCH BUS

Arriving in the church car park shortly after 10am one recent Sunday, I could not help noticing that the church bus was sitting there at the very time that it should have been out collecting members of the congregation and bringing them in to worship. A couple of weeks later, I noticed the bus again, although this time with a healthy growth of grass and weeds underneath it. Clearly, it had not gone very far.



When the bus was generously donated to the church some years ago, it was well used to collect members of the congregation who had transport difficulties, bring them to the service and then deliver them back home at the end. And then, of course, came covid and all of that stopped. Like many other activities it has been difficult to get this service up and running again, although in this case the reason is mainly shortage of staff - drivers and conductors. It had always been the custom to have two able-bodied people on the bus, as some of our passengers need help with the steps.

In order to re-instate this service, we need some additional staff, as several of the former volunteers are no longer available for a number of reasons. If you have read as far as this, then you'll know what's coming next – an appeal for help! We really do want to get the service going again so that those who used it before, and probably some other folk, can get back to church. Almost all of us have wanted to be a bus driver or conductor at one time or other in our childhood. Here is your chance to live the dream!

Could you offer to help? Unfortunately, we are not fishing in a very large pool. Certainly for driving, it is necessary to have a clean licence and be over 25 and under 70. Conductors are exempt from that. We are also aware that of those eligible, some will have other duties either before or after church, such as choir practice or coffee or door duty. But if you are in the choir, perhaps you could help with the run after the service, and if you help with the coffee, then maybe the run before the service might be a possibility?



It is intended to have an appeal for helpers on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. If you think you can offer any help at all, please hand your name in that day. If you are not at church that day, please email your interest to me at [iain.f.paton@btinternet.com](mailto:iain.f.paton@btinternet.com). Hitherto, we have operated a rota, so you can decide yourself how much help you can give. But if you can even manage the occasional Sunday here and there, it would be good to hear from you! The longer the list, the fewer times you'll be asked.

Iain F. Paton

## Look who comes to my garden!

Like many people we feed the birds that come into our garden including sparrows, robins, blue-tit, blackbird, and other visitors. During the last two or so months a bigger bird has arrived – a pheasant. It lives in the surrounding gardens but visits our garden every day. It has become quite tame and enjoys sunflower seeds. It has become so tame that it will almost take the seed from my hand. If I am in my greenhouse, it comes in and pecks my shoes until I feed it on the doorstep. I have not seen a female pheasant, but some of our neighbours have.

Graham Elsmere







## APC Cycling Group

Meet the members of the new APC cycling group on its maiden voyage! The inaugural cycle group trip was a huge success. The six elite athletes (in their dreams) cycled from Dunkeld to Aberfeldy and had an excellent lunch before returning. Grand chat, cycle, scenery, grub and chat about future events.



On our return others have noted an interest and so we plan to vary our ideas to see what is best in terms of length/speed etc. Suggestions for the next two months would be:

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June** – Shorter cycle up to Clathy for a coffee and cake at the “Defender Blender” and then back. This will be a gentler cycle of about 18 miles (total). Meet at church at 10am. Let us know if you are planning on coming ([s.mcchlery@gcu.ac.uk](mailto:s.mcchlery@gcu.ac.uk))

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July** – A longer cycle around Loch Katrine of about 30 miles. More details in the next newsletter.

## SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

The coffee morning in May was another success with fellowship and £330 was raised for the Church funds.

Thanks to all the helpers and grateful thanks to those who brought donations of baking and bric-a-brac.

Next coffee morning is Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> June @ 10 - 12 noon.

Looking forward to meeting you all again.

Allan Russell



## Archway

Are you feeling lonely or isolated or are you a Carer?

Need some company or need to talk to someone?

Come along and be part of Archway.

You can come without referral or can be referred by Social Care or the medical practice. Archway is host to different people with different needs where we have some fun and enjoy time together and return home feeling happier. Archway meets Mondays at 1pm

till 3pm at the Community Church Centre. We now serve lunch.

**50/50  
CLUB**

## 50/50 Lunch - Announcement

Archway is hosting a Jubilee lunch party to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee birthday anniversary on Monday 6th June at 1pm and a special lunch will be served and there will be some entertainment and fun.

This event will also herald the relaunch of 50/50 lunch club and that will be by invitation to previous members We are really excited by this event and encourage you to join us on 6th June at 1pm.

Look forward to welcoming you.

Further information about Archway or 50/50 lunch club please speak to Renee Riddell







## LOOKING FOR LUKE!



This year's **APC Holiday Club** is based on the book of Luke and is open to all children who were at school Session 2021-2022. It runs for 5 days from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August until Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August, between 10:00 – 12:30 each morning. It's free of charge, but, of course, donations will be welcome to help offset any costs.

Pre-registering helps us a lot and saves time each morning, so if you can manage that, it would be great – however, you will not be turned away if you don't manage to do it! Forms will be available from the Church Centre and can be handed back in there. They are also available by emailing: [church@auchterarderparish.org](mailto:church@auchterarderparish.org) to request the appropriate form – electronic or paper.

For more information, check out article on the website:

<https://www.auchterarderparish.org/>



## APC HOLIDAY CLUB 2022

### 'LOOKING FOR LUKE!'

10:00 – 12:30

08-12 August 2022

**Auchterarder Parish Church**

For children P1 - P7 last session

Email: [church@auchterarderparish.org](mailto:church@auchterarderparish.org)

for a registration form

songs messy challenges games

drama stories crafts



For more information check the website: [auchterarderparish.org](http://auchterarderparish.org)



**APC Walking Group** - On Saturday 28th May, 11 walkers, led by Elsie Carnegie, started from the Dalreoch Bridge over the River Earn and had a walk of just over 8 miles around the Findo Gask and Clathy areas. The walk was on a mixture of minor roads (some Roman!), forest and farm tracks and footpaths in initially breezy but steadily improving conditions.

The walk took 4 hours in total including two coffee stops. Some time was spent viewing the Roman Signal Station at Muir 'o Fauld and on the return to Dalreoch along the river bank, some walkers spotted 2 Kingfishers on the opposite bank.

A convivial outing enjoyed by all.

**The next Walking Group event is planned for Saturday 30 July. (Route TBA) Watch out for details on Facebook and notices in the church and village notice boards. - All welcome**





# Auchterarder and Aberuthven Community Action Plan



## Community Action Plan Update

Our Community Action Plan (CAP) launched at the end of April with a great turnout in the Aytoun Hall. This plan summarises the aspirations, needs and priorities of Auchterarder and Aberuthven into one document. There's a great buzz around town about the CAP – Lots of positivity with many projects underway already! There are 76 projects in total, something for everyone to get involved with, meet new people and

enjoy helping make the vision for our community come to life.

I am Angela Laurie and I'm the Community Connector – I will share what's happening and answer any questions which people might have. Here's a few words about how you might find out more about the CAP;

**CAP Digital Noticeboards:** New notice boards have been installed in the Coop and outside the Picture house with others going up shortly in Aytoun Hall and School, look out for information about local services, groups and events.

**Website:** We have a new community website – [www.aandaconnected.co.uk](http://www.aandaconnected.co.uk) – information about our amazing community groups, our local businesses and also events can be found on here.

**Email Groups:** Drop me a note if you'd like to be included in periodic email information.

**Newsletters:** I'm planning to issue a regular CAP paper newsletter – first one will be available at the start of June.

**Community Events:** We'll be holding several community events throughout the year enabling people to be together with friends and find out more about CAP. The first event is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June at the Pavilion in the Public Park. PKC have a Beacon Lighting Ceremony for the Jubilee and we're opening the Pavilion from 7pm for a children's treasure hunt around the park followed by refreshments. We'll have a small display of Jubilee memorabilia and pictures to whisk you back to 1953 too! All welcome. Feel free to bring a mug and a seat if the weather is fine for sitting out in the park.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their views to the consultation and of course to the amazing groups who make our community the wonderful place it is. If you'd like to get in touch, my email is [aanda.cap@gmail.com](mailto:aanda.cap@gmail.com)

Please note –as from 30th May 2022 service 49 will operate daily  
Monday to Saturday



Public Notice



**Auchterarder Town Bus  
Service**

### Service 49 - Timetable Enhancement

With effect from Monday, 30 May 2022, Service 49 will operate daily - Monday to Saturday - with the same route operating each day.

Whilst Sycamore Avenue will no longer be served (due to low usage), Tullibardine Road and Glenorchil Crescent are added to the Service 49 timetable.

The fully updated Service 49 timetable leaflet should be available from Monday, 23 May 2022.

*'Up and doon the Lang Toon ... use your Town Bus'*

Notice Published on 17 May 2022  
For further information:  
E-mail [acbug2018@gmail.com](mailto:acbug2018@gmail.com) Telephone 07510 303862  
Twitter @acbug2018

ACBUG is a SCIO, charity number SC048669



## Auchterarder & District

Another busy day at Auchterarder and District Men's Shed. As well as two teams of Domino Dudes, we had 2 of our more senior shedders making a Hedgehog House, so that the hedgehogs

can feed and overwinter in a safe and dry place.

Next week the hedgehog house will have felt applied to the roof to provide a dry environment for the prickly garden visitors. Well done Syd and Robert for constructing an outstanding hedgehog residence.



If you are interested in visiting our Men's Shed, please just come along on Tuesdays 2-4pm. We would love to see you.



## WEDDING

Alastair Donald and Lesley Buchan are getting married in APC on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June at 3pm. They would warmly welcome any members of their church family to the service. Please just tell the ushers you are congregation.



## Communion

Our next bi-annual Communion service will take place Sunday 29th May at 10.30am & 2.30pm led by Rev. Dr. Lynn McChlery.



Communion will be served in accordance with COVID safety.

## 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](mailto: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.

## From the editor ...



I do hope you enjoy the newsletters which are currently being produced on the last Saturday of the month. The next issue will be Saturday 25th June.

If you have any interesting stories, celebrations, photos 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 me to send it to you by email please email me at [sylvia.elsmere@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sylvia.elsmere@hotmail.co.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](http://auchterarderparish.org)



APC twitter link is: @apcchat



Messy Church twitter link is: @ApcMessy

Our Facebook pages is: @auchterarderparish