

Auchterarder Parish Church Newsletter

Saturday 26th April 2025

Registered Charities SC001688

Easter thoughts

It's Springtime, a time of year that is always special. [The springing](#) back to life of creation after Winter always fills me with joy. All the sights, sounds and smells of Spring; flowers, crops, bugs, and birds are making themselves known. Even the sun has made an occasional appearance here in Auchterarder in recent weeks.

We as a church community have had a busy month with lots happening in the lead up to Easter and on Easter Sunday itself. The Lenten study groups met weekly all month as we worked our way through the Gospel of Luke. I know many of you engage in daily devotionals and scripture time already but I'm sure you will agree there is a particular thing about reading one of the Gospel accounts beginning to end. Over Lent we were able to meet on Thursdays and Saturdays to talk and think about so much (even Christmas!). Walking with Jesus through the journey to the cross meant when Holy Week came, we were able to fully engage in its meaning. This yearly tradition of reading a Gospel during Lent at Auchterarder is something I will take forward onto where God calls me next; as it was a deeply meaningful experience. Placing Holy Week and Easter in its proper context having read, discussed and prayed through all that had gone before; meant we could be fully present in those tumultuous and troubling final days of Christ's life during Holy Week.



This year, Maundy Thursday was a highlight for me as there was a meal at the church before our traditional communion. The meal itself was amazing 😊 cooked by our very own MasterChef's; John Morris and his friend Mark. It was preceded by a short hop through a Passover plate and supper; the meal that Jesus and his disciples shared together that night and was followed by a special communion. Over 50 people came and enjoyed the food and fellowship; as we so often see Jesus and his followers doing in the Bible and it felt great to gather as a church community. I have included a short article later in the newsletter about the elements and their significance for those interested.

The services to celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday were varied and beautiful. The 8am service at Pitmeadow Farm was an incredible event with again over 50 people making their way there early in the morning to celebrate the empty tomb and praise the Risen Lord. Our regular 10:30am service was action packed; full of life and happiness and I even got to set off a giant party popper at the end! The reflective evening service where we considered a painting by Sieger Koder was a fitting end to a busy day; a quiet space to unpack some deeper meaning from the picture we prayerfully studied.



The fire that Easter time can kindle in our hearts is one that we should carefully tend. Although it is right to commemorate the events on a special day, the resurrection changed the world forever and we live, now and always, in the light of what Jesus has done for us. Jesus rose from the grave and He is alive today; Jesus saves today, that is the Gospel. It is the heart of our faith; the Gospel message that we share with the world every day of the year. He is Risen!!

Blessings to you all

Alan

Passover plate

On Maundy Thursday we gathered to share a meal and look at the Passover traditions that Jesus would have followed at the last supper. Passover is the Jewish festival that commemorates the story of the Exodus, in which the ancient Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt. I thought I might just remind those who were there, and show those who weren't, of the plate and its elements.



The first element we encountered was Karpas (Parsley). The greens symbolized hyssop, the plant used to brush the blood of the lamb upon the doorposts. It was dipped in salt water and eaten, to remind us of the tears of the Israelites held in slavery in Egypt. Next was Maror (bitter herbs) ground horseradish for us, enough eaten to bring a tear to the eyes. It symbolizes that we cannot appreciate the sweetness of redemption unless we first experience for ourselves the bitterness of slavery. Bitter herbs were on the plate twice with Chazeret (Romaine lettuce) as well. This is a herb that starts out sweet and becomes bitter over time and was to remind us of the bitterness of Egyptian slavery which gradually intensified over time. We ate this

with Charoset (a mixture of finely chopped apples, nuts, honey, and cinnamon), which symbolizes the mortar with which the children of Israel fashioned the bricks for Pharaoh's building projects. Its sweetness was to teach us that even the bitterest of labor can be sweet when our redemption draws nigh. There was also a Bone (meant to be lamb) to symbolize the sacrificed lamb whose blood was applied to the doorpost of the homes that first Passover night. Lastly was the Beitzah (egg) to recall sacrifice that no longer can be offered because the temple no longer stands.

Praise & Worship Evening - 27 April

Auchterarder Parish Church



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.



The Kirk Café is open!! We have had an excellent few months 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. .



April Messy Church

We started Easter early with Easter Messy Church. Another tremendous turnout and so we spilled out into the garden and enjoyed the glorious afternoon.

To herald in spring, we planted pansies into colourful hanging pots

to decorate the church garden and they look fantastic. Make

sure you take a look!

We also made cards with the cross sketched into them, coloured and wrote on eggs for an Easter Prayer Tree and made up easter bags of goodies that told us

the Easter story through a selection of snacks! And of course we felt we had to complete the fun with an Easter egg treasure hunt around the garden! Each chocolate egg had a name on it, so the challenge was to find your own one! Thank goodness there was one for everyone!



Thanks to John, Anne and Moira, we had a delicious tea of baked potatoes with a choice of fillings - YUM - followed by ice lollies.

Thanks to all who came and helped make it a great afternoon!

Our next Messy Church will be at Pitmeadow Farm, Dunning, to see some of the animals and share dinner together. This will be on **Sunday 4th May** starting at 4pm. There are indoor facilities if the weather is damp. Please let someone know if you would like a lift in the mini bus.



If you want to get in touch, email us at: church@auchterarderparish.org
Sandra and Michelle

Every donation counts

Auchterarder Parish Church

7 days
miles walked

Target

£

Rather than have house to house collections this year, we would be very grateful if you could make a donation for this important, deserving cause usin...

Visit my envelope page:
<https://fundraising.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2023/auchterarder-parish-church>

Push back against the inhumanity of poverty. Scan this QR code to donate and make a difference today.

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There is no need to let anyone know you are coming. Just come along and you will be made most welcome..



Guild News

The Guild held their annual Spring Tea fundraiser for our Projects last week. We were entertained by three talented ladies



who form the group CHORAS. They sang acapella, with excellent harmonies, a selection of Scottish Bothy Ballads. This was, as always, followed by an excellent light supper.



On Friday 9th May is our Guilds Together Shared Visions Day. This is hosted in our Church Centre and is from 11am - 3pm. Lunch will be provided. Please let Doreen Stewart know if you plan to attend.

Whose we are and Whom we serve

APC Community Garden – Apr Update – Getting Ready for Summer

Communal Garden With no update in the Mar Newsletter, lots has happened since Feb. After a slow start due to the cold o'night weather our brassica's and onions are coming away and we should be able to start giving out the winter greens soon. The onions will take a bit longer but by early summer they will be ready for harvest to be replaced by beetroot and leeks. The fruit bushes and apple trees donated by the PKC Biodiversity programme are ready for planting and our apple & pear espaliers are coming into flower. They look lovely so please go and admire. With produce maturing and almost ready we will start our Fresh Fridays and library Veg Share soon. Keep a look out for announcements. You can follow us on Facebook to get regular updates of what's happening and what's growing: APC Community Garden or why not come and join the volunteers and learn how to grow your own fruit, veg' and flowers.



Mini-allotments

Mini-allotments Our mini-allotments are coming alive as the gardeners get stuck in and prepare for the growing season. It's amazing what you can produce from a 2.5m x 1m raised bed. Fresh, healthy, nutritious, cheap and delicious food. The demonstration bed will soon take shape with radish, lettuce, broad beans and potatoes all in the ground. We plan an exciting initiative this year with a prize for the best mini-allotment of the season. More details next month.

It's becoming clear that our vegetable growing enterprise could do with some more ground, more space means more veg' to share. If you have a space in your garden, no matter how big or small, please get in touch if you would be willing to allow us to grow some vegetables there. No need to worry, we will do all the work!



Onions



Brassicas



Fruit bushes

Look forward to hearing from you. Derek Johnston

communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org

Eat local, save food miles. Eat fresh, improve your health.

Inspiration Orchestra Festival - Saturday 24th May 2025

All APC friends are warmly invited again this year to what is always a fun family day out.

Volunteers are also needed on the day, especially to help with car parking. Volunteers need to arrive an hour before the start for an informal coffee briefing. Please contact Ewan on 07763 287706 for more details.



Craft Group

The group meets on Tuesday 6th May and Tuesday 20th May in the garden room at 10.30. The project for PKC is still ongoing – making butterflies, birds and animals to be displayed throughout Perth and Kinross as part of an eco project. Knitting blankets, hats and booties for the prem baby unit is also ongoing. So do come along and join us for either of these or simply come along with your own project and enjoy the friendship, coffee and chat.



SAVE YOUR USED STAMPS

Please save your used stamps, encourage your friends and neighbours to do the same and place in a box in the church vestibule. It does not seem much but it is like a drop of rain which gradually increases and soon makes a puddle....

Why?



In Gaza City there is the Al Ahli Hospital which has stood and remained a constant presence throughout the Gaza conflict despite being bombed numerous times. It is now probably the only hospital in Gaza and certainly the only one which looks after cancer sufferers. It is funded and looked after by St Georges Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem. Our congregation has a special link to St Georges. When working as the minister of St Andrews Scots Memorial Church in Jerusalem Iain Paton, our former Assistant Minister, was appointed a Canon of the Cathedral for life in recognition of the partnership between the Church of Scotland and the Anglican Church. We still maintain a close connection with the Cathedral.



The World Mission Committee of the Church of Scotland have set up a collection of used stamps to help this hospital which is in such a bad state at the moment. Iain and I visited the hospital a few times when we worked in Jerusalem Its caring work among some of the worlds most disenfranchised people is surely worthy of our support. APC Mission team has agreed to support this used stamp collection.

Marjorie Paton



APC Cycling group

The April cycle was an excellent one to Comrie with the Earn valley looking magnificent. The May cycle is planned as a return to the Dunkeld to Aberfeldy route that we have cycled before. It is a relatively flat cycle and is about 36 miles. The suggested date is 31 May. The cycle is stunning and with an excellent break for a snack in Aberfeldy. We will meet behind the church in the car park at 8.30am.

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) or email me at s.mcchlery@outlook.com. Plans for next month's cycle will be provided on the app. Please remember ebikers are most welcome. Stuart





Community Action Plan Spring Update: As always, lots has been happening in our lovely community including a wonderful Biodiversity project linking many of the community groups, school and individuals together. Many new trees plants and flowers are brightening the town and making it a greener more welcoming place for everyone, including our pollinator friends. Thank you to everyone who has been involved!

As we move into the warmer weather, the Cosy Spaces Project wraps up for another year and what a success it has been! Thank you to Archway, Blue Door, Mens Shed, FOAH, Inner Wheel, Our Ladies, The Town Bus, the Library, Sports Hub and Logos for providing a warm welcome to so many over the winter months. It's wonderful to see the benefit of collaboration over the winter but obviously the warm welcome continues all year round.

Library: Fantastic news that funding for the library has been secured for the next two years but what's next?? We have an opportunity to influence the future of our valued space so please do come along to the meetings – Culture Perth and Kinross are hosting a meeting in the Library on the 7th of May at 6pm. Also, our wonderful Librarian Jane retires on Wednesday 21st after 20 year's service. If you'd like to sign her card, it's in the Library.

Date for the Diary: The CAP trustees are delighted to share that we've formalised into a charity – A&A Connected. Our AGM will be held on the 4th of June at 7pm in the Pavillion. Everyone is welcome.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to link into the projects happening, drop me a note aanda.cap@gmail.com, Ang Community Connector.

Strathallan Community Volunteer Drivers

!!!! PUBLIC MEETING !!!!
Wednesday 30th April at 6.30pm

Do you have a car?
 Do you have some spare time?
 Could you assist people without transport to attend health centre or hospital appointments?

OR

Is this a service you require?
 Do you need transport to attend health centre or hospital appointments?

If you would like more information, please contact us at strathallanddrivers@hotmail.com



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

The walking group's next walk will be on Saturday 31 May from the Glen Turret Dam car park and will take in the summit of Auchnafree Hill at 2588 feet. The walk is around 11.5 miles and will be led by Elsie Carnegie. The Church Minibus will be available for this walk.

The other 2025 walk programme dates for your diary are on 26th July, 27th September and 29th November. Venues for these walks have still to be decided but look out for details nearer the time on social media and notices in the church. No need to be a Church member to part-take - hope to see you on a walk soon.



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.



APC Kidsteam



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

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

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

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

Alan McKay - alan.mckay@churchofscotland.org.uk

APC Coffee Mornings

(the last Saturday of the month)



Next Coffee morning

Saturday 31st May
10.00 until 12noon

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 31st May 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.

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