

Auchterarder Parish Church Newsletter

28th January 2023

Registered Charities SC001688

Musings from the Manse

Spring DNA Groups

At APC we've been really blessed over the past few months to welcome quite a number of new people, and on Sunday 5th February we will admit or formally welcome many of them. Of course we love having newcomers, but it can be a challenge to realise that there are lots of people in church that we don't know. It's a bit of a cliché to say that church is all about people, but it's true. Sunday worship is the core of our life as a Christian community, but it's just the start. Church is a family of people committed to supporting each other's lives as followers of Jesus, so that means getting to know each other – and that means smaller groups on a more personal level. Thankfully in Auchterarder Church we have plenty of opportunities to do that – in the choir, Guild, prayer groups, Archway, serving on church teams or the coffee rota, or the Church Centre, or loads more! We believe there's a place for everybody to be part of church in whatever way is best for you.

Last year we started a new initiative, DNA groups, and many people enjoyed it so much that we're going to do it again. DNA is the essential components of church: Discipleship (prayer and Gospel reading), Nurture (caring for each other), and Action (mission or service in our community). Our DNA groups are maximum 3 people who commit to meeting for just 45 minutes, every week for 6 weeks. They share news over coffee, read a bit of the Bible together (this time we'll be reading Matthew's Gospel), pray, and commit to support a project for mission or service. There are no leaders and no experts – anyone can do DNA, with anyone. Last time over 50 people took part, none of whom had done it before and some who rarely come to church. We found that we got to know each other in a deeper way than we had before, grew our faith, and got involved in some unexpected practical projects!



Our new DNA groups will start in the week beginning Sunday 26th February and will meet weekly during the 6 weeks of Lent. Plan to grab 2 friends and let us know – or if you prefer, you can sign up just yourself and we'll create some groups. Either way, Margaret Ross magsross1711@gmail.com would love to hear from you!

There are so many encouraging things to read about this month. Our monthly focus on a church team is on the Children, Youth and Families team and the community garden is going great! Enjoy the magazine, and see where you fit in.

Wishing you God's blessing

Lynn

CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES

CHURCH TEAMS – APC is run by 7 teams of volunteers, one of which is featured each month. This month we have....”

Youth and Families Team Overview

The remit of this team is to promote mission and discipleship for children (Primary school age) and youth (Secondary school age).



This includes:

- oversight and responsibility for Youth and Children's groups e.g., Kidsteam; creche; Youth Drop-In Sessions; Youth Courses, Clubs etc.
- evaluate and develop Holiday Club
- responsibility for Messy Church, developing and establishing it as a monthly event
- support Youth worker in re-establishing and developing links with TCSOA (The Community School of Auchterarder)
- oversight and development of work in TCSOA e.g. Services and Assemblies, taking classes, SU groups; P7-S1 Transition
- support the Youth worker in the development of activities/groups for teens, especially P7 – S3
- support the Youth worker in further developing appropriate links with LOGOS

The Team is made up of me, Sandra Miller, Elder and Team Coordinator and 5 other members: Ruth Knox - Elder; Andrew Kennedy – Youth Worker; Yvonne Elder – Kidsteam Coordinator; and Stuart McChlery – Youth work. As you'll see, not all members are elders and others with an interest in this work can be co-opted as team members. We meet every few months to review current work and to plan future events.

The pandemic interrupted some of our work, although we managed to stay connected with our families as best we could and much of last term was picking up our old relationships again and building new ones. Our focus now is further developing our links with our church and Messy Church families, working on our relationships with the school and with LOGOS. We are looking forward to this year, carrying on with our work month to month, planning a holiday club and supporting P7-S1 transition as we look towards summer.

If, after reading this, you have any questions or are looking for more information, do not hesitate any one of our members.

Sandra Miller
CYF Team Co-ordinator

Guild News—January 2023

It was good to meet again after the Christmas break. On a bitterly cold January afternoon a bowl of soup was most welcome, and we were delighted to see so many of our Guild members coming through the door. Thank you Sheila Wilson for giving us such a fun time whilst taking us through exercises to help us keep mobile and showing us how we can improve our balance.

There was something for all of us whether we were moving about the floor or exercising from our seats. Your excellent choice of music had us all feeling joyful!



On **Thursday 2nd February**, again at 1pm for a bowl of soup, we look forward to learning more about one of our Projects supported by the National Guild. Our speaker will be from Pioneers who have a partnership with Chocolate Heaven, South East Asia, a work to support the production of sustainable chocolate production. The aim is fair prices for farmers, regular employment, and giving parents the ability to provide a brighter future for their children.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Whose we are and Whom we serve

We are still collecting for tearfund.

tearfund

We have noticed that people are using cash again and are gathering small change. Any collection you have of 1p, 2p, 5pence etc can be deposited in the Sunday offerings plate. Thank you - your coins are much appreciated.



Messy Church

Already we are at the end of January and well into the swing of 2023. Our first Messy Church was a Movie Night, for a change, since the first Sunday on January actually fell on New Year's Day!



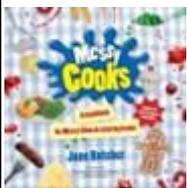
We met in the Old Hall – about 30 of us – and thoroughly enjoyed watching the movie 'Paddington 2'. It's hard to say who enjoyed it the most – the adults or the children! It is a really funny film and we can recommend it as a family watch. Of course, it was only right that we shared the whole 'movie' experience, so drinks, crisps and popcorn were slurped and munched accordingly. We even paid homage to Paddington himself and shared some little oranges!

Our programme from now until June is planned and our overall theme is 'Bible Superheroes'.

All Messy Church events are held in the Church from 3:30pm – 5:00pm on the first Sunday of each month and include a light fellowship meal for **all** to share – children, adults and helpers. Remember, Messy Church is for **all** ages. You will have a very warm welcome whoever you are and you can either enjoy watching what we get up to or, better yet, join in and make some of the crafts yourself, or help the younger children with theirs.

Dates for your diary:

- Sunday 05 February** Daring Daniel
- Sunday 05 March** 'Creative God' led by Gordon Roy and including lots of clowning activities!
- Sunday 02 April** Jesus is our superhero – Messy Easter
- Sunday 07 May** Envoy Elijah – God's messenger!
- Sunday 04 June** Strongman Samson - Messy Sports



Messy Church Cooks Appeal

Do you love food, love to cook, love seeing happy faces and being part of an amazing group of friendly people? Why not become involved in helping in Messy Church? We have lots of volunteers already who play in the band, lead crafts and aerobics, set up, do registration and all the other things that go to making Messy Church great. One of the parts we **all** enjoy is sharing the fellowship meal together and it's here we would benefit from help from others who love to cook. Training, support and a tour of the kitchen will be given. We would love to hear from you if you could help, even if only occasionally. If you are interested in finding out more, email sandra.miller@live.co.uk.

Sandra, Shirley and Andrew



CENTRE ADMINISTRATOR

Well, I've been the temporary, part-time, centre administrator for 5 months now. Yes, there have been some difficult moments: don't mention flooding and central heating breakdowns!

However, it's mostly about making sure the centre can be used and enjoyed by both the church family and the community. The halls are becoming increasingly busy, with bookings days, evenings and Saturdays. I have been greatly helped by Gordon Wilson, John Boyd and Allan Russell who volunteer some time every week so that I don't have to put up a hammock and move in to the centre! Mandy has come in regularly too and I usually have a list of questions for her. It won't be long before she is back in the hot seat. Gordon has decided to step down from his role and we are looking for several new volunteers. All that's required is opening and closing the centre, putting out chairs and tables and greeting centre users, perhaps just a morning every week or one evening. If you think you can offer a little bit of help please speak to Mandy or myself.

Lesley Buchan Donald

MEN'S SHED - BRAIN POWER TESTED



Despite the cold weather, the crafting group of Sheddars are busy in the workshop making various items. Meanwhile those who prefer the fellowship and warmth of our "Cosy Place" in the Garden Room, are busy testing their brain power playing Dominoes and Scrabble. It is wonderful to see the more senior Sheddars stretching their word skills and brain power. Bryan, a senior Shedder, who hadn't played Scrabble before, won today's game.



If all you want is good company and a chat over a cup of tea, there are plenty of Sheddars happy to try to put the world to rights. Please feel free to come along on Tuesdays or Thursdays at 2pm at Auchterarder Community Church Centre.

You will be made very welcome.

John Boyd (07767 876489)



The Church of Scotland
Presbytery of Perth

The Presbytery of Perth (Church of Scotland) is a clergy organization in Scotland. No. 02044128

Planning and Development Committee

Proposed Presbytery Plan

Letter from George Miller

Many of us will know about the plans for the closure of some churches, new linkages, and uniting of others, given the big fall in the number of active members in the Church of Scotland in recent years. Presbyteries were, I gather, instructed by a recent General Assembly to produce a report on how to reduce the number of active ministers in each presbytery and to plan for the consequences by the closure of some churches which support very small congregations and the uniting and linking of others.

Full details can be found about local plans (which may still change) in the Perth Presbytery Report, published in 2022. There is a copy on the website of Blackford Parish Church. I am not sure if it is on the Auchterarder website but I could not find it if it is. It proposes many new groupings of churches, closures and so on. Managing decline in other words. The effects of these proposed changes were brought home to me over the Christmas period when I learned of the planned closure of the church at Elie, in the East Neuk of Fife. I am sure many will know it, as Elie is an attractive, prosperous village, popular with visitors all the year round. The building sits in the centre of the village in a very prominent position and has done since it was built in 1639 as a very obvious sign of our Christian witness. As it happens, our Assistant Minister, Iain Paton, was minister there about fifteen years ago, and, at that time he tells me, it was well filled most Sundays. Question: Where have all the people gone? Its closure will be just one of many in small villages throughout Scotland, and will affect many people, not just formal church members, but those who, whilst not attending church regularly, still like the feeling that the church is there for the major events of life, births, marriages and deaths. For once, this report has a close analogy with the one about rearranging the deckchairs on the doomed Titanic.

Meanwhile, Auchterarder Parish Church appears to be doing well, appears to be financially sound, and has an active congregation with a significant number of young families as well as the usual number of the older generation (of which I am one!), so common in church congregations. But, and it is a big but, 'No Man is an Island' as John Donne once said. The running down of the national church (for it is no less) is bound to affect Auchterarder as well. I think it makes no sense for us all just to sit and watch this happening. The way the Church of Scotland is governed more or less ensures that congregations do not have much say in what goes on but congregations need to be actively told what is happening, and ideas sought for renewal, in terms of church attendance, the form of services, financial giving and even how we are led.

Fortunately, the Church of Scotland 'machine' grinds very slowly, more interested in process than action it would seem, so there is I feel still time to do something about this. I urge everyone, particularly the younger people, with any interest in the future of our church, to at least talk to their elder on this matter.

It goes without saying that these are only my views but I believe that these concerns will be shared by many.

George Miller
January 2023

APC Community Garden – January Update

Garden Planning

Although in the depths of winter our garden volunteers never stop! At this time of the year we are planning what to grow this coming season and ordering suitable seeds. We aim to extend the harvest this year through the autumn and into winter, hoping to have something to offer at Christmas 😊 Our plan includes peas, beans, onions, garlic, carrots, beetroot, leeks, cauliflower, broccoli, kale, pak choi, radish, lettuce, tomatoes and herbs. We will source our seeds from the Real Seed company (there are other seed producers available) who specialise in organic, non-hybrid seeds which we can share with the Perthshire Seed Library. If anyone can help grow on our seeds at home for planting in the garden, or raise them to maturity, then please get in touch.



Mini-allotments



Work is at last underway to improve the garden access from the road and facilitate our offer of mini-allotments to the community. We hope to have around 10 raised beds constructed by Mar, to offer individuals, families or groups, where they can grow their own produce. This mini-allotment strip is currently under a black membrane mulch to kill off the weeds ready for the beds to be laid. If you know of anyone who would be interested in having a raised bed (2.3m x 1.2m) then they should email us with their details.

communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org



Compost, Mulch & Manure

With the prospect of 10 new raised beds coming on stream we are looking out for sources of compost for the garden. If you have any old bags of compost, mulch or manure left over from last summer which you want to get rid of, get in touch. We can even come and collect. In fact if you are clearing anything out which can be used in the garden, let us know, it might be just what we need!

Volunteers

We are always looking for new volunteers to learn, share knowledge and help out, either doing the gardening, with maintenance or growing things for us at home. We would especially like a veg growing 'mentor' to give us advice throughout the year on when and what to plant to extend our harvest. If you know anyone that fits the bill, please get in touch. communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org

Composting

We also have reusable food waste kitchen caddy's to give away. If you could collect your food waste and deposit in our compost bins (or yours) even better. The caddy's are free, just come and pick one up 😊

Derek Johnston
07850 542107



The above 2 photographs I took on 30th October 2022 - Sylvia Elsmere

Youthwork Update

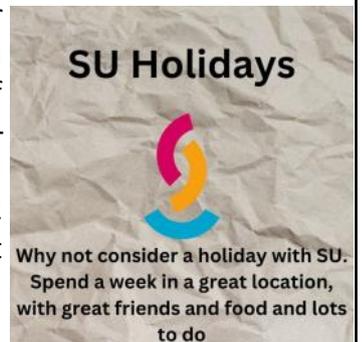
Friday Night Youth Club is up and running again in the new year after a short break off for the holidays. We always have lots of fun and games. Before the holidays we celebrated Christmas in true Scottish fashion with a ceilidh. We had 22 teenagers plus some adult helpers dancing the night away and having a blast. Looking forward we will be planning some outings to have some fun together outside of our regular meeting place.



Our Sunday programme has also started back and has been going well. With some good discussions on Sunday evenings looking through the book of Daniel and what we can learn from his life and experience living with God.

We also highly recommend having a look at SU Holiday's if you are in p5 or up or know someone then consider joining one of the amazing camps that are run during Easter and Summer holidays. They are weeks long residentials full of laughter, games, friends and good food. Have a look online for more information – or speak to Andrew Kennedy. There are two camps in particular that Andrew will be going to this year, so if you want to be sure of a friendly face have a look at EA2 (During easter holidays at Altnacriche near Aviemore) and GB2 (in the summer, at one of SU's newest centres Gowanbank in Ayrshire.)

Andrew Kennedy - Youth worker Auchterarder Parish Church



Archway is a drop in Café every Monday afternoon 1.00-3.00pm at Auchterarder Community Church Centre. Various activities, support and advice and a chance to enjoy a light lunch, coffee, tea refreshments and a chat. New faces are always welcome. Support and advice from Alzheimer Scotland, PKC Housing and Community Care, NHS Healthy Communities, signposting for Welfare Rights etc. Activities include music, singing and exercises too.

Archway offers more than just a chance for some coffee/tea and refreshments. It's a warm, friendly and supportive place to meet and chat.

Renee Riddellreneriddell@outlook.com



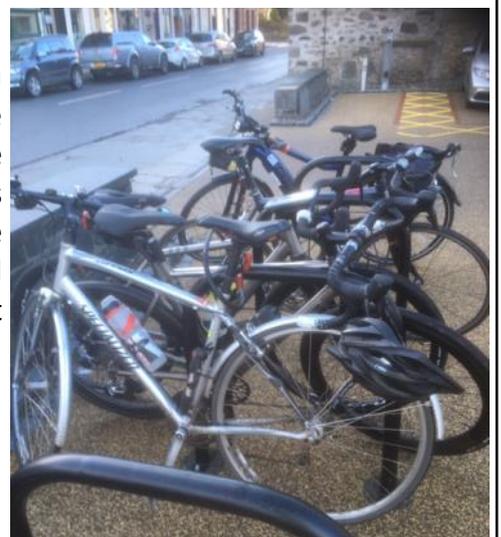
Cycling group

Our cycle this month was our belated cycle to Comrie which had to be rescheduled due to the icy conditions.

In February we are still undecided as to our cycle on the 18th and may well be Dunkeld to Aberfeldy (30 miles and nice and flat) or a bigger adventure which will be the bridges (Forth Road Bridge/Kincardine circular (42 miles but pretty flat). We will decide in the next week or so.

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

Stuart McChlery



Gone for Coffee !!

Friday 10th March

Keep this evening free and come along to the Church where THE HEART AND SOUL SWING BAND will be playing their joyful, foot tapping and stirring music for us. Entrance is free but they do ask for donations for the Church of Scotland's HIV/Aids Project.



Marjorie Paton on behalf of The Mission Team



Church Flower Calendar



The flower calendar for 2023 is now being displayed in the church porch. Please add your name and phone number if you would like to donate the flowers which beautify our sanctuary each Sunday.

The flowers which enhance our church for worship each Sunday, are much appreciated and bring comfort and cheer to those who receive them afterwards as a reminder of God's love and care.



Rosemary Lennox Tel: 01764 660359

APC Walking Group

Save the Date - Saturday 25th March 2023



The next Walking Group Outing of 2023 is provisionally planned for Saturday 25th March and thereafter every 2 months on the last Saturday of the month.

(May 27th, July 29th, September 30th & November 25th)

A walk leaflet will be circulated to the Walk 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.

First walk of 2023

Seven hardy souls came on our 28 January walk above Comrie and were rewarded with a most beautiful Winter's day. Sun shining, birds singing in the trees and the sound of running water by the burnside. Yes, taking in nature's beauty at walking pace is good for the mind. All rounded off with coffees and even bacon rolls for those that fancied them in a local cafe. Wishing you had joined us? You are most welcome to come next time, which will be Saturday 25 March.





OPPORTUNITIES

We are having a short catch up of the panto team at 7pm on 6th February in the garden room. It will be a chance for anyone new who would like to be involved to come along. This years script, parts and non acting roles will be discussed. Don't worry, we won't be starting rehearsal till August. Look forward to seeing you all.
Lesley Buchan Donald



The Big Guild Weekend Away

Would you like to spend more time with Guild members from other parts of Scotland sharing in fellowship, worship, activities, singing and chat?



Do you enjoy a weekend away?



Then this is for you!

When? 24-26 March 2023

Where? Gowanbank SU Centre, Darvel

How Much? £175, all inclusive (additional £25 for a single room)

For further information speak to Doreen Stewart.

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 25th February

Saturday 25th March

10.00 until 12.00 noon



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.

Update on the Church contactless payment method

Following a few hiccups at the start we have taken;

- Centre Sunday tea/coffee £147.00
- Coffee morning £155.50
- Sanctuary offerings £197.00



The system has also used to give the Church a £500 gift which the gift aid convenor has been able to claim gift aid on along with other offerings.

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

From the editor ...

I do hope you enjoy the newsletters which are currently being produced on the last Saturday of the month. Next issue will be 28 February 2023.



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