

Auchterarder Parish Church Newsletter

29th April 2023

Registered Charities SC001688

Musings from the Manse

Dear friends,

I'm not usually accused of being a backward-looking person but there is some pleasure in looking back over the past few months at APC.

A pre- Easter initiative to read Mark's Gospel together in DNA groups led to about 60 people meeting together for Bible reading, prayer and new action ideas. Some actions were unplanned, like someone leaving a group meeting ending with a broken hip (the group were considerate enough to meet at her home the following week!) Other actions were more productive, including the idea of a praise evening with Chris White at APC being organised by a DNA group – see elsewhere for details! All of that culminated in a lovely Easter celebration, with Maundy Thursday Communion in a circle together and 3 services on Easter Sunday. My personal favourite was our new “dawn” (well 8am – be reasonable) service at Pitmeadow Farm – a perfect bit of God's creation for celebrating Resurrection, as you'll see from the photos!



I'm also looking back on two memorable services where we admitted 12 new members, and acknowledged the addition by transfer of about a dozen more over the last couple of years. We are so blessed to have new life and energy about our church, and grateful for all that these new people are already bringing.

As we gain people we also lose, and we're sorry that Andrew and Bonnie Kennedy are moving on from APC on 21st May. Andrew became our youth worker 2 years ago and he and Bonnie have become part of our fellowship. Andrew has established a Sunday evening youth group and a successful Friday night youth club, both bringing unchurched young people into our church. He has also made himself useful in many other ways, especially on the sound desk! He and Bonnie have both been involved in the LOGOS youth project and have consolidated our links with them. We wish Andrew and Bonnie God's blessing as they move back to Edinburgh and other work opportunities. We plan to give them a leaving gift and if you want to contribute to that, please do so via a marked envelope in the collection plate or an online donation marked Andrew.

There will also be lots to look forward to as you peruse this month's magazine – but looking back, we give thanks to God!

Wishing you God's blessing,

Lynn

Stated Annual Meeting



Stated Annual Meeting

A short Stated Annual meeting will take place on Sunday 7th May at approx.. 11.45 after the morning service. Our Treasurer will present the congregational accounts and there will be an opportunity for questions. All are welcome to attend.

CHURCH TEAMS

APC is run by 7 teams of volunteers - this month we have the.....

Pastoral Care Team

As the warmer days approach and the lambs appear in the fields around us, my thoughts turn to one of the most well known and loved of the Psalms, 23. "The Lord is my Shepherd". Often known as the pastoral psalm, it sums up all that we mean by pastoral care which is a vital part of our church's ministry. This largely goes unnoticed, but is quietly and lovingly carried out by members of the Pastoral Care Group, who regularly visit lonely, elderly, sick, bereaved, mentally or physically disabled people, either in their own homes or the local Care Homes, and also deliver newsletters, and church flowers each week, and various other caring tasks.

The aims of the Pastoral Care Group are therefore to assist the Ministers by supporting members of the congregation who require regular visitation to provide empathy, compassion, a listening ear, and prayer, while always exercising strict confidentiality.

The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Policy says, "The love of Christ compels us to care and protect those who are vulnerable in the Church and society".



As Convener of the Pastoral Care Group in our church, my role is to coordinate our team of visitors, ensure all members have the necessary training and support, and report any urgent or specialised pastoral issues to the Minister or district Elder.

At present there are 14 members in the Group, but we could always use more. If you feel called to help with this work, you will be made very welcome.

"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever".
Rosemary Lennox

APC Holiday Club - Are you able to help?

We are now in the planning stages for this year's APC Holiday Club, and it promises to be a great one! It's called '**Restoration Station**' - a bit like APC's equivalent of TV's The Repair Shop! - and is about what Jesus did for many of the people he met. The stories are all taken from John's gospel and teach us how we can be broken both outside **and** inside - but Jesus has the power to heal and restore us all - even Peter!

We are gathering a team together to fill the many roles we need - teachers to restore our minds; juice and snack people to restore our tummies; games people to restore our wellbeing and fitness; registration people to make sure we are safe etc. etc.

The dates are 5 days in August - 07th to 11th and the club runs from 10:00-12:30. If you can be there every day, that's great, but even if you can only give a day or two, please come along anyway. If you are interested to find out more, just ask Lynn, our Minister or Sandra, Children Youth and Families Team Coordinator.



AUCHTERARDER PARISH CHURCH
FREE 5-DAY HOLIDAY CLUB
7-11 AUGUST 2023
FOR CHILDREN P1 - P7
LAST SCHOOL SESSION
!! SAVE THE DATE !!
BOOKING DETAILS SOON.....



For more information check the website: auchterarderparish.org



Are you able to help Lesley

Do you have a hard hat that Lesley can borrow for the summer club?

Thank You
Lesley Buchan Donald



APC Community Garden - We are delighted to announce we have a few new volunteers - all very welcome and making a huge difference already. The topsoil and compost have arrived and they are getting our mini allotments filled for their new keepers. Somebody has weeded around the vegetable beds, and a lovely lady has been tackling the back garden - it is looking fantastic .



Our brassica seedlings are thriving, apart from our cauliflower for some reason - any cauliflower experts out there please get in touch!



Our early potatoes are in - thank you Janet and Gilly - and my onions and garlic are still growing well. I am attempting to grow three tomato plants on my window sill - the seeds are now seedlings and I am chuffed!

Thank you for all your support, and if anyone wants to join us for an hour, now the better weather is on its way, you will be made most welcome. Just get in touch to find out when we will be around.

Happy gardening!

Yvonne, Rebecca, Derek, Janet and Gilly x

Please get in touch; communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org or check out our Facebook page @apccommunitygarden

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The picture shows new prayer shawls being dedicated in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church.

Looking back over the past few months, the group have fulfilled a need in the community of Auchterarder and wider. It started last October when The Guild had a talk about Prayer Shawls from Linda Young who founded the Buckhaven and Wemyss Prayer Shawl Group. Linda left the ladies of the Guild about 50 prayer shawls which, by the end of the evening had all been taken.

In January about 30 prayer shawls, from our own group, were dedicated in church with an invitation to those who wished one to take one. Most of them went. Since then about 10 more have been given away – A grand total of 90 prayer shawls, including those donated to the Guild, since October bringing comfort to those who received them. The group have also given 8 beautifully knitted blankets to the Inner Wheel to be sent to Ukraine. We would welcome more donations of wool and also more knitters.

We meet on Tues 2nd May at 10.30 in the Garden Room. Thereafter we will have a break until Tues 5th Sept.

On Tues 20th June one of our members has invited us to her garden for afternoon tea. Further details of this will be given on Tues 2nd May.

Marjorie Paton



Church Lunches

We've had a few church lunches now in different locations, it's been really nice to eat together and get to know one another a little better.

In March we had a bring and share lunch at Pitmeadow Farm. There was a real variety of delicious food to share, the sun was shining and the garden room was full of people sharing stories and deepening relationships. The children were able to play on the trampoline and Ewan even offered a tractor ride to go feed the pigs which some of us really enjoyed.

Everyone is very welcome to join us at Church lunches, the next one we have actually changed to a tea before the Praise Night on Sunday 14th May. This will be a light buffet at 6pm, please join us if you can. In June we are going to have a picnic in Auchterarder Park, please bring your own lunch (and seat) and meet us in the park at 12.30pm. If it's a wet day we will meet in the church hall instead.

We also hope to have a BBQ together at the church centre on Sunday 13th August, if you can help with this please get in touch. Looking especially for help with a BBQ if anyone has one that is easily transportable.

Please put these dates in your diary and join us if you can, it would be great to see you. If you have any questions or need some help with transport to and from any lunch please get in touch with Michelle at michelle@weeshopanddeli.co.uk

Sunday 14th May: now a church tea at 6pm (before Praise Night)

Sunday 25th June: Picnic in the park

Sunday 13th August: BBQ at church (end of holiday club)

Thanks Michelle



Kidsteam

Easter was all about the eggs this year - why we have them at Easter and what they represent. We painted and decorated them. We rolled and threw them until they were all in tiny pieces. We ate chocolate

mini eggs Alison had put into chocolate crispy nests for us all - perfect!



Our visit to Fiona and Ewan's farm will be on Sunday 21st or Sunday 28th May - please let us know which date is best for you all and if you will be needing transport. They have 18 beautiful little lambs and 3 more are expected in the next couple of weeks. 🐑 🐑 😊

We will be talking about Moses for the next few Sundays as a few of you (you know who you are) don't know any of the ten commandments!

Kidsteam meet in the church centre after the children's hymn - please join us, you will be made very welcome. Yvonne





Easter Messy Church

We had a great time at our Easter Messy Church. We held it on Palm Sunday, which gave us an excuse to make palm leaves and have a parade round the church! We learned all about the story of Holy Week – the week leading up to Easter and the



Resurrection and watched a brilliant Lego video that told us the whole story – even in a Scottish accent! We all decorated a paper egg and hung it on branches that went on display in the church and, of course, we just managed to squeeze in an Easter egg hunt – imagine that??



Our next Messy Church will be on Sunday 7th May, the day after the Coronation and the theme will be 'Jesus – the King!' We'll meet at the usual time of 3:30-5:00 with all the usual activities, songs and teaching. Why not give it a try – it's for all ages!



April Guild News



The annual Spring Tea which was held last week, is the main fund raising event of the Guild calendar in aid of Guild Projects. After all expenses were deducted, we are delighted to announce the fantastic amount of £1000 was raised.

As the Centre filled with over a hundred people, gathering round the tables decorated with bright Spring flowers, in anticipation of an exciting evening of entertainment to be provided by professional singer, Kirsty Duncan, she did not disappoint!

With her bubbly personality and amazing voice Kirsty burst into song with old favourites like Catch a falling star, Puppet on a string, and Lulu's, Boom, bang a bang, followed by a variety of popular songs from the 60's, 70's and 80's, with her backing singer and friend, Clare, beautifully harmonising many of the numbers.

After the delicious tea provided by the Guild committee and members, giving time for Kirsty to rest her voice, she opened the second half of the concert with two well known Scottish songs. These were followed by several songs from musical theatre, and the grand finale was an operatic aria sang in Italian, with Kirsty's powerful voice filling the Centre without the use of a microphone!

What a wonderful evening! Everyone went home smiling, and two of our Guild projects will greatly benefit.

Many thanks to all who came along, donated, baked or supported this event in any way.

"Whose we are, and Whom we serve".

Elsie Aitken sadly died on 12th April, a beautiful lady, modest very talented in so many ways. Elsie has been a member of APC for over 65 years, supporting the Church all her days. She was in our Choir, was one of the Sunday School Teachers, a member of the Guild and the Craft Group as you will see by the photo, Elsie knitted everything from squares for Blankets to beautiful shawls, lots of Baby Clothes for so many Charities, the list is endless, and up until this year was responsible for our lovely Flower Calendar which is in the Vestibule. She was a member of the Strathallan Rural, Flower Club, Inner Wheel and supported all Community Events and Coffee Mornings. I would like to express our condolences to Ian, her husband and all the family, Elsie will be sorely missed by all. Tricia Russell



Personal Youth Worker Update

Due to a number of circumstances that have arisen Bonnie and I have made the decision to leave Auchterarder and move back to Edinburgh. Our last Sunday at church will be Sunday 21 May. This decision making process has been long and difficult as we both have loved our time here in Auchterarder. We have really appreciated the warm welcome we received from both the church and the wider community. It has been a valuable and rewarding 2 years here working with the church to grow the work with young people. We would appreciate your continued prayers for us both as we seek God's guidance for our future.

It is important to note that this work will continue after Bonnie and I leave. So please do continue to pray for LOGOS and for the church volunteers who will seek to continue to work with the groups that have been set up.

Andrew Kennedy



Cycling group

April's cycle was a small group who managed the great adventure that is the "bridges" (Forth Road Bridge/Kincardine circular), 42 miles but pretty flat. Loads of highlights and really interesting areas you don't usually come across (e.g. Blackness Castle). The author's personal highlight was the superb plate of chips for lunch.



Suggestion for May is an earlier start of 9.30 am on the 27th and then to head for Bridge of Earn. This would mean we would only be out for a half day and back by 12.30.

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

Community Action Plan News:

As we mark a year since our Community Action Plan launched, we would like to invite you all to what's shaping up to be a great day celebrating our community! On **Saturday 3rd of June, from 10am-Noon**, as part of national Volunteers week, we will hold our "Connected Communities"



event in the Aytoun Hall. Local groups and organisations (such as our much-loved Mens Shed!) will be there to share information, welcoming you to come along and find out more about them. We'll also have a display about the first 12 months of the Community Action plan and PKC will be there encouraging people to share views with them too as part of their "Big Conversation". Please do come along and show your support and appreciation for the amazing people in our community.

Later that day, **from 1pm until 4pm**, why not come along to the main park and be a part of the celebrations as the new play facilities are officially opened at 1.30 – the excitement levels of the little people are rising, they can't wait to enjoy the new swings, slides, zip line and tunnel.

There will be a "bear hunt" in the high street shop windows so bring your teddies to help spot the clues, a picnic and make a day of celebrating our community!

PRAISE NIGHT  Auchterarder Parish Church
WITH CHRIS WHITE AND BAND

**SUNDAY 14TH MAY @ 7PM IN
AUCHTERARDER PARISH CHURCH,
HIGH STREET PH3 1DF**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A LIGHT
BUFFET BEFOREHAND,
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED
FROM 6PM.**

**WORSHIP THE LORD WITH GLADNESS: COME BEFORE HIM
WITH JOYFUL SONGS. PSLAM 100:2**



Youth Work Update

The past month has been exciting for the youthwork in Auchterarder. In the run up to Easter our Sunday night group was exploring who Jesus is and looking at what he said and did here on Earth. We are now going on to explore some of his miracles that he performed and what we can learn about him through the records that have been kept of his life.

Friday Night Youth Club continues to be a place where young people can come after a busy week at school and can relax in a safe environment with friends and play some silly games and have a laugh

with each other. The numbers attending this group have continued to grow and we are encouraged by some P7s already starting to ask when they can join in on the fun.

We are planning a party night on the 19 May for teenagers to come along and have some fun at a special FNYC. There will be ceilidh dancing, party games and more. Andrew Kennedy

Easter Day Dawn service at Pitmeadow Farm



Have a fun day out on Saturday 13th May and support local disability

Some of us who have been around Church for a while may remember buying CD's by singer/songwriter Ian White who put all of the Psalms to music back in the 1980's!

Today, Ian and his wife Carol run a small charity from their home in Perth called "The Inspiration Orchestra" which enables disabled people to play and enjoy music together.

On Saturday 13th May (11am - 4pm) the orchestra are holding their first ever Music Festival at Pitmeadow Farm just outside Dunning. More than 200 people are expected at the event which will feature music concerts, a pop up tearoom, food tents, classic car display, and lots of other fun activities for families and children.

There will be 4 short concerts performed during the day with every orchestra member taking part. Entry is free with an opportunity to pay for food, and make a donation (instead of an entry fee) to help the charity.

If you would like more information about the event, or maybe even be able to do a bit of stewarding on the day, please speak to Fiona or Ewan McLean-Foreman.

www.theinspirationorchestra.com

Ewan McLean-Foreman 07763 287706 or contact ewanforeman@googlemail.com



My trip to the Holy Land with APC by Sandra Miller

So, two-and-a-bit years later than planned, our Israel trip eventually – and I mean EVENTUALLY! – left Edinburgh for Tel Aviv! There were 33 of us from around Scotland – with 11 members from APC included. Sadly Iain Paton, our Assistant Minister, was unable to lead along with Marjorie, his wife, so Stephen Miller stepped up to the mark as much as he could – but thanks must go to Marjorie, who did a brilliant job though all the ups and downs of travel delays and cancellations, lost luggage issues and even a broken wrist – not hers, I hasten to add, but another member of our party! Unfortunately, we lost a day of the trip due to a flight cancellation from Edinburgh to Heathrow; however, with the help of both Marjorie and our guide, Isam, we managed to fit in as much as we could – and boy, did we fit in a lot! So, in this one article you will see a few of my personal highlights, otherwise it would be a book! You'll have to ask others for theirs!



We began in Tiberias on the shores of Lake Galilee and, for me, it was the best bit of the trip – so peaceful and picturesque and, on this occasion, we certainly knew without a shadow of a doubt it was



EXACTLY where Jesus and his disciples had lived, travelled and ministered. Many of the other sites of course are open to speculation as to their absolute authenticity, although that does not lessen the impact of being close to the places and areas where the main events around Jesus' life took place right on the shore with the Rev Muriel, Pearson, the Assistant Minister from St Andrews Church of Scotland, Jerusalem. We then went for a sail on the lake itself and as you can see, the captain raised a Scottish flag for us whilst playing 'Scotland the Brave', which he seemed to think was our national anthem – we could do worse!

Surviving a journey up the road to Mt Tabor with about a million hairpin bends (!) we then visited Nazareth and had an excellent visit to a 'village' similar to how one might look in Jesus' time – not with the apartment blocks behind, of course! And you'll see, Rosemary even had a go on a wine press! There was also an example of a rock tomb.



When we stopped at many of the sites, we either sang an appropriate hymn and/or had an appropriate Bible passage read by someone in the group, ably accompanied by Sheila Ferguson-Smith and Stephen on their recorders!! It felt a bit odd at first, but we all got used to it; the inhabitants see pilgrims doing the same all the time and seem just to take it in their stride!

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

We left Tiberias after 3 days and headed down the Jordan Valley after visiting the Mount of the Beatitudes, going to see the Jordan baptismal site, through Jericho, the Mount of Temptation and on to Jerusalem, where we had our first sight of this melting-pot of a city.



Our hotel was right beside the Old City Wall and a short walk from the Damascus Gate, which took us straight into the Old Town. We were within walking distance of many of the major sites: in fact our own hotel overlooked one of the possible sites of Golgotha – that is now a bus park!



We had many walks through the various quarters of the old Town, including walking the Via Dolorosa, which was SO BUSY with shoppers, sightseers and pilgrims you almost could imagine that it may have been exactly like that as Jesus walked there on his last journey.



One of the most difficult places for me was our visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre – again a possible site of Jesus' crucifixion and the tomb. It is in the Christian Quarter and under the jurisdiction of 6 denominations: Catholic Armenians; Orthodox Greeks; Orthodox Ethiopian; Orthodox Syriac; Orthodox Coptic and Orthodox. It was SO BUSY again and I found it to be more a worship of places and idols than a place of real 'worship'. I couldn't wait to leave. We actually got up at 5 am on the Sunday morning before going to St Andrew C of S to see it when it was less frantic and although we were able to see more, there were 3 or 4 different services taking place all at the same time!



In total contrast was the visit that same afternoon to the Garden Tomb. The garden itself was beautifully tended and so peaceful in contrast to so many other sites – whether authentic or not. Again, just being in the places where Jesus and his followers had been was enough.



What a different experience when we went to morning worship at St. Andrews' Church - no idols, peace and quiet and all one faith! Afterwards, and in the rain!, we visited the Mount of Olives and the beautiful Garden of Gethsemane.



There are so many other places we visited: Grotto of the Nativity, Emmaus, the Israel model of Jerusalem and, of course, the photos are not welcome!



Bethlehem and the Basilica and Museum with an amazing famous Western Wall, where



Other favourite visits were The Al Shurooq School for the Blind – an amazing school providing full care and education for Palestinian blind children ages 3 through 12 years old, and then supporting them through secondary and higher education by providing staff training and resources. We happened to visit on Mothers' Day and were all given a flower by the children, as well as an amazing welcome speech in perfect English by a little boy!



And the last day when we visited Qumran (the site of the Dead Sea Scrolls) and Masada was amazing – and, of course, we had a float in the Dead Sea itself – a sight you wouldn't want to see! So, an amazing trip full of contrasts: different faiths, peoples, attitudes, dress, food and in company with a great group. Shalom!

It is with great regret that we record the death, after a long stay in hospital, of Mr Richard (Dick) Chalmers, one of our church members. Dick did not live in Auchterarder and travelled some distance to be with us each Sunday. He also undertook a number of painting and fabric jobs around the church when he was fit. His funeral service will be held in Auchterarder Parish Church on Tuesday 16th May at 12 noon, followed by hospitality in the Church Centre.

All are welcome.



Walking Group

Save the Date

Saturday 27 May 2023.

The next Walking Group Outing of 2023 is planned for Saturday 27th May and will be in the Lomond Hills area, led by Sylvia Elsmere.

Walks are held every 2 months on the last Saturday of the month. July 29th, Sept 30th & Nov 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.

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 27th May 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



Church Hanging Baskets

At this time of the year we look forward to putting up the 16 flowering hanging baskets which gives a colourful display at the front of the Church.



If you wish to sponsor a basket or make a donation towards the cost, then please contact Allan Russell (Tel. 01764 664805 or 07778 963282.)

Most Sundays I am at the back of the Church.

Sunday Beadle

Are you able to help on some Sunday mornings taking a turn as the Beadle (Church officer)?

During the past few years the number of volunteers have fallen from 13 to 5, so please, we would be grateful if you could consider joining the team. Allan Russell will explain the duties, from opening doors, putting on lights, putting the praise numbers on the boards, ringing the bell, bringing in the Bible etc.

It all helps to make our Sunday Worship. Thank You

APC Monthly Coffee Morning

Our next monthly Coffee Morning will be Saturday 27th May - 10:00 - 12:00.



Doors open from 9:45 am. tea, coffee and home baking with the usual stalls.

Come along for a blether, meet friends old and new!



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