

Auchterarder Parish Church Newsletter

Saturday 31st January 2026

Registered Charities SC001688

Musings from the Manse January 2026

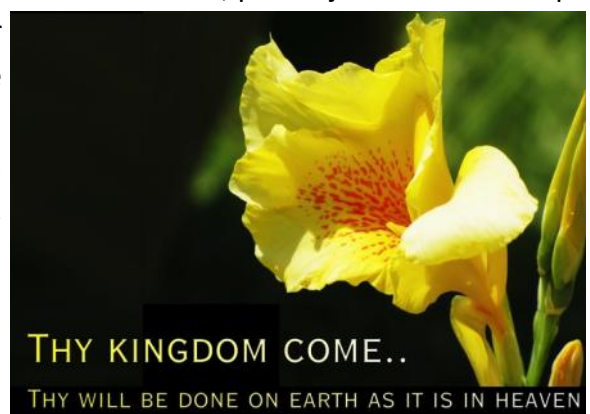
Christianity is much in the news recently, and not for good reasons. People caught up in a worldview known as Christian Nationalism believe that God is for their country, their kind of people, for traditional legalism around ethical issues like abortion and sexuality, and for the “othering” of anyone different from them. It justifies making and protecting borders and throwing out, even violently, anyone who doesn’t fit the mould. For me and I guess for others, one of the most distressing things is that Christian symbols (like the cross and the Bible) are prominently displayed to promote values that directly contradict those of Jesus in the Gospels. Jesus took direct criticism for crossing physical and cultural boundaries to include women, Gentiles, handicapped people and even the hated Romans in his message of God’s love and forgiveness available through him – to all. It’s hard to fathom how Christian Nationalists can justify harnessing him to their cause, though logical deduction may not be their greatest strength.

Where we see God’s name being misused and God’s message being misrepresented, what can we do? We can pray for truth to be clearly heard and for God’s kingdom values of justice and peace to be practised worldwide. We pray that each week in our prayer groups and our Sunday morning intercessions. But locally, we can push back by graciously and clearly asserting the Jesus we know, and living His Gospel as well as we can. That’s called evangelism and mission. Thankfully we have many church initiatives that seek to do just that, including our café and food bank and youth ministry and many more. At the heart of it all is weekly worship on Sundays and Wednesdays, Bible reading and prayer. Next week we start our Bereavement Journey course to offer support and comfort to all who mourn, to show love for them in Jesus’ name. At the start of Lent we’ll be reading a Gospel together as a congregation – John this time – and meeting to talk about it. Every year I find this a necessary and ongoing corrective to my picture of Jesus, the real and surprising one we encounter in Scripture and not a self-created version who serves my own interests. We try, imperfect as we are, to seek God’s kingdom first and not our nation or any other.

So if you want to be part of growing the Kingdom of God in Auchterarder, please join us for worship or prayer or volunteer to be part of one of our ministries. We’d love to have you and we need all the help we can get. And in the face of the news, we hold fast to pray, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” And believe that it will come, hopefully soon! *Maranatha* – even so come, Lord Jesus!

Enjoy the newsletter

Lynn





Bereavement Journey course

Have you lost a loved one, either recently or in the past? And would you like to be able to talk about that with others who share a similar experience? The Bereavement Journey is an accredited course offered by churches to anyone who wants to explore their experience of bereavement and learn a bit about it. The leaders are Christians who have done some training, but the course content is not faith-

based and there will be no questions or assumptions about people's beliefs. There will be videos, small group discussion, cups of tea, and everything is confidential.

The Bereavement Journey runs for 7 weeks from Sunday 8th February, from 4-6pm. To find out more or to register, contact Sandra Miller via admin@auchterarderparish.org or see the website for details.



Wednesday Worship @ Auchterarder Parish Church

Each week we have a mid-week worship service on Wednesdays from 2-2.30pm. These will be in the comfort of the Church Centre and there will be a chance to have a time of fellowship afterwards over a cup of tea.

There will be singing, a time for prayer, Bible reading and a short reflection.

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



HOLIDAY CLUB HELP!

Yes, we are thinking about **Holiday Club 2026** already, as you'll also read elsewhere.

To run a successful Holiday Club, you need families to sign up, you need children to attend and a team to plan and deliver the programme of teaching and activities. If the latter appeals to you, please get in touch with [Michelle](#) or [Sandra](#) for more information. HOWEVER, we also need lots of other folk to help in many ways:

- ♦ designing, building and painting scenery
- ♦ taking runs to the tip when the week has finished
- ♦ building and breaking up the set
- ♦ helping with games, quizzes etc
- ♦ photocopying resources
- ♦ being available for Registration – even if only on Days 1 and 2
- ♦ helping prepare crafts
- ♦ making costumes

.....

We have access to the Church Hall in the weeks before the Holiday Club begins, so if you are into painting, glueing, cutting out etc, please let us know

We have two date for planning meetings:

Set Planners and Builders: Tuesday 10 March 6:30 Garden Room

Full Team Meeting: Tuesday 10 March 7:30 Garden Room



STAMPS

Thank you so much for all the used stamps that you have handed in over the past 9 months. The collection is now finished. In February Iain and I will take them through to the



Presbytery Office in Glasgow. They will certainly be well used to support the Al Ahlia Hospital in Gaza. Marjorie Paton – on behalf of the Mission Team



Rev Bill Buchan

The family would like to thank everyone who sent cards or messages of condolence on the death of our dad. It was a great comfort to hear so many people thought well of him. We are very grateful to those who, despite the weather, attended the service of committal.

Lesley, Ruth, Iona and Bill



MESSY CHURCH

Sunday 25th January 2026

Through the story of Daniel and the Lions, January's messy church talked about courage and how Jesus had to face courage every day.



Daniel's story told us to be brave and believe in God. We looked at what courage might look like for us now in our everyday lives and children were encouraged to put their hands into boxes and guess what was inside (there were a lot of squishy and wet textures to cope with!). We made courage shields, lion headbands and courage



friendship bracelets. Adults and children were finally given to take home a Courage Bingo sheet, where they were challenged to a variety of tasks such as trying a new food, admitting to a mistake and saying sorry, going to bed without a light on, make a new friend and standing up to a bully.

We shared a lovely nutritious meal together thanks to John, Moira and Olive. Thanks also to all our helpers who gave up their Sunday afternoon to create so much fun for our families. It was lovely to see some new families join us too for 2026.

The next Messy Church will be on the **22nd February, 4-530pm**, when the theme will be...yes you guessed it... love! We look forward to seeing you at our new date and time.

Craft Group

Last week the ladies met with Laura Jane From the Salvation Army who is in charge of Skinnergate Lifehouse, Men's Homeless Hostel, in Perth. We were delighted to hand over Men's hats and scarves that we have been knitting over the past few months. Laura was delighted with them. She talked about her work and is obviously devoted to her job and helping these men in so many different ways. Skinnergate Lifehouse is for single males aged 18 and up. Who stay for a few weeks up to about 18 months. There are 30 ensuite rooms, a laundry and a kitchen. The staff provide resettlement support. Laura Invited us to visit the hostel and find out more. The thought is that we will go in the spring.

We will be discussing our next project in February. It will be a difficult choice as there are so many ideas for us to think about. This is a truly ecumenical group as we have ladies from all four churches in Auchterarder.

Marjorie Paton & Margaret Dunster



Guild News

Strategy: "Let us Build a House"
Theme: "living Stones"

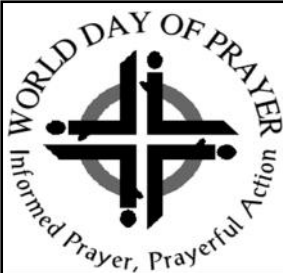


The Guild meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month in the Church Centre.

Our next meeting is **Thursday 12th February at 2.30pm** - Dr Murray Cook about Archaeology.

Followed by **Thursday 26th February at 7.30pm** - Jess Smith.

Whose we are and Whom we serve



World Day of Prayer

This will be held on Friday 6th March in St Andrews Church in Auchterarder. The service this year has been written by the women of Nigeria on the theme "I will give you rest, come".

In the run up to the service I invite you to go onto Facebook to the page of Friends of World Day of Prayer Scotland. Starting on Tuesday 24th February. Every morning there will be posted a reflection, Prayer, pictures from Nigeria all based on the theme and reflecting different aspects of Nigeria. The final reflection will be from Katie Reimer who is the Executive Director of World Day of Prayer International. Our own moderator, The Right Rev. Rosie Frew taking part. Marjorie Paton Scottish Secretary.



**Dwell in the peace of the God who created you,
Rest in the love of Christ who cares for you,
Go forth in the spirit of God who rejoices in you.**

Marjorie Paton (Secretary)
World Day of Prayer, Scottish Committee
Scottish Charity No., 020446



Prayer Walks

We have a series of **Prayer Walk** dates to share with anyone who would like to walk around the community and pray for specific buildings, groups, families, community concerns etc as we go. Anyone interested should meet at the front of the Parish Church for 7pm on the **2nd Tuesday of every month** – dressed for the weather – and we'll walk for roughly one hour. The dates are: **10 February; 10 March; 14 April; 12 May; 09 June.**

APC Community Garden – January Update – Taking Stock

Communal Area

As a reminder, our communal areas comprise five raised beds, a cut-flower strip, a fruit patch and our patio planters. We have completed five growing seasons since 2021 with 2026 our sixth. Fresh Fridays and our Veg' Share box at the library are well established with the community. We have a merry band of five volunteers who tend the garden and we are always happy to see new faces, even if you just want to come for a nosy and chat 😊



Mini-allotments

We have ten mini-allotments that we offer to people from the community on a year by year basis. Utilization is high close to 100% but we also have a waiting list and usually there is just enough 'churn' so that folks don't have to wait long, normally only a few months. Last season we introduced a mini-allotment prize to encourage our growers and will continue that in 2026.

Potager Garden

Last year's project, completed with the help of the PKC Biodiversity Fund and the Community Trust Fund, was three raised beds to grow perennial plants that are colourful, edible and good for wildlife, with a mini water feature included. The area will shortly be completed with a bench and a willow panel to encourage folks to sit and take stock. This area would lend itself to 'social prescribing' and we plan to speak with St Margarets Health Centre on how that might work. The largest of the three beds has been left with space for those who would benefit, to plant something and watch it mature over time with a place to sit, observe and reflect during their visits.

Future Plans

Our vision for the Community Garden from way back in 2021 will be complete by the start of this year's growing season. We are now reflecting on how to make the best use of the garden for the benefit of the Church and Community. We would welcome any suggestions you might have, just email or speak with one of the garden volunteers. Why don't you visit our stall at the Community Fair in the Aytoun Hall on 28 Feb, 10-12, for a chat.

Derek Johnston

communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org

"One is nearer God's heart in a garden, than anywhere else on earth" - Dorothy Frances Gurney





'Kirk Café': The Café is open on Tuesdays 10am - 3pm and Wednesdays 11am - 3pm. Please pop in for coffee and home baking, or better still, a great plate of home-made soup for lunch! Carry-outs are also available. We are short of helpers, so if you would like to volunteer as a member of the café staff, please speak to Michelle or speak to Gillian, our Café

Manager, when you are in! Training will be given. PS Check out our new Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61571459891333>

Prayer Groups in APC



Praying together is a core part of our identity as a Christian church. In APC we have three opportunities for prayer each week:

1. We have an online **Zoom** meeting on **Saturday mornings from 9:00-9:30am**.
2. An in-person meeting on **Sunday in the Lounge at 9:30 before worship**.
3. There are always opportunities for more private prayer after Sunday worship in the side aisle.

If you would like the Zoom link for Saturday, please contact Lynn, our Minister, by email on: LMcChlery@churchofscotland.org.uk

Anybody can come at any time – you don't have to pray out loud and you don't have to come every week. There are no experts! We pray for problems in the world and for issues arising for our friends and neighbours. If there's something or someone you would like prayer for (with their permission), please just mention it to Lynn.

Or why not join us sometime, you'd be most welcome.

Ten tips for better driving

(and for improving life generally)

- Do for others what you want them to do for you (Matthew 7:12)
- If someone has done you a wrong, do not repay him with a wrong (Romans 12:17)
- Each one should judge his own conduct (Galatians 6:4)
- Be always humble, gentle, and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another (Ephesians 4:2)
- If you become angry, do not let your anger lead you into sin, and do not stay angry all day (Ephesians 4:26)
- Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words (Ephesians 4:29)
- Look out for one another's interests, not just for your own (Philippians 2:4)
- Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against anyone else (Colossians 3:13)
- But you ... must not get tired of doing good (2 Thessalonians 3:13)
- You must keep control of yourself in all circumstances (2 Timothy 4:5)



APC Coffee Mornings

(the last Saturday of the month)

Dates for next 2 coffee mornings:

Saturday 28th February

Saturday 28th March

10.00 until 12.00 noon



Usual stalls, baking etc.

Contactless payments now available.

Why not bring a friend and share our cosy place

HOLIDAY CLUB 2026! GET THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY!!



This year's **APC Holiday Club** will be from **Monday 03 August till Friday 08 August** and will be called '**A Tale of Two Kings**'. This year's setting is a castle with a Captain of the Guard, some knights, princesses and everybody's friend, Squire Sausage!. The Holiday Club is for children who have been in P1 this year up to P7. The sessions are every morning from 10:00 – 12:30 in the Community Church Centre. We are also planning 2 games afternoons, a family quiz night, a BBQ and a family ceilidh! **TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS!!!!**



HOLIDAY CLUB TEAM



Cycling group

We are planning another half-day route for February as we had in December and January. It will again be weather dependent. The cycle will be on Saturday 28th February and will be the Bridge of Earn circuit (with coffee in the middle). We will leave the car park behind the church at 9.00am. Remember ebikes welcome.

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@outlook.com
Stuart



APC Walking Group

The next walk of 2026 will be held on 28 March led by Sylvia Elsmere - venue to be decided but look out for posts on social media and leaflets in the church nearer the time. Other dates for 2026 are 30 May, 25 July, 26 September and 28 November. Hope to see you on a walk soon.

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

Please feel free to contact admin@auchterarderparish.org if you would like to be added to the mailing list

Watch out for details on Facebook / newsletter and notices in the church. - All welcome.

Please note there is no need to be a Church member to part-take.



The first walk of 2026 was undertaken by 11 walkers in typical January weather although slightly better than was forecast.

Leaving from the Bannockburn Visitor Centre the route headed West to circumnavigate



the North Third Reservoir then up to the viewpoint on Lewis Hill for lunch in the forest. The return route was all downhill back to the visitor centre for coffee in the cafe.

A good day out despite the sometimes inclement conditions.



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

The Sound & Vision (SAV) Team is also looking for new volunteers. This includes operating the sound system or driving the visuals during worship services, weddings, etc. This is a very important part of our outreach. Training is given and help is always on hand on a Sunday. Contact Peter at the SAV desks after a service or via email: pmstokoe@gmail.com to discuss.



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

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 28th February 2026.



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.

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



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.

Auchterarder Parish Church

E: admin@auchterarderparish.org

Website - www.auchterarderparish.org

Tel: 07467 793061 or 01764 660152

To speak to the Minister telephone:

Rev Dr Lynn McChlery: 01764 662399

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