

Auchterarder Parish Church Newsletter

27th June 2026

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Musings from the Manse June 2026

Changes, endings and beginnings are part of life for us all, and very much so at APC. Especially for Michelle, our youth worker for the past 3 years. Michelle has brought strength and enormous energy to our children's and youth ministries as she shares her passion for Jesus. In school she has started school pastors in secondary and school groups in primary, taken part in assemblies and services, and generally become a well kent face to pupils and staff alike. In church she has grown Friday night youth club to around 40 young people, supported our Sunday work in Kidsteam and all-age services, supports the café with a welcoming smile and good chat, and taken over running the holiday club. In short, she has become an indispensable part of our ministry team and we can't imagine church life without her – it would certainly be quieter, with less fun and much less cardboard!

Until now, Michelle has juggled a complicated life between ministry and running the Wee Shop and Deli in Aberuthven. Last month she took the hard decision to close the shop. That sad ending has opened the possibility for a new beginning: to work full time with the church in an expanded role as Youth and Community Worker. The Kirk Session was unanimous in the desire to affirm and extend Michelle's existing ministry with youth, while exploring new opportunities to engage with the community action plans and promote the activities of the Church Centre. Michelle is ideally gifted for this work and she can't wait to get started!

We have funding for this role until the end of 2026. From January 2027, we need to raise around £35K/year for Michelle's post. We are exploring possible grant funding, and we would really appreciate help from anyone with gifts and contacts in this area. However, we expect that most of the funding will have to come from the congregation via additional giving. So, this is a plea: would you be able to donate to the Youth and Community Worker fund to support Michelle's post? Or perhaps even better, can you pledge a regular gift, perhaps monthly or annually? It is vital that we resource Michelle's ministry and show our support for her in tangible ways in this new role.

Information about how to give to APC is on paper at the back of the church or via a link on our website: <https://www.auchterarderparish.org/donate>. Whether you're increasing an existing donation or making a new one, **you must tell Kenny Mackay our Treasurer that the gift is for Michelle's fund** – email him at kennyauchterarder@gmail.com.

This is a great opportunity, and we look forward to praying for Michelle's ministry, working with her and giving to her support in the months and years to come. She is a real gift to us!

Love to you all and enjoy the newsletter!

Lynn



APC Hanging Baskets



Every year thanks to the hard work of a small team, we have a beautiful display of hanging baskets outside the church. A huge thanks to Rosemary Lennox who grows on the plants and fills the baskets with such artistry. This year she had welcome help from the Men's Shed. Thanks also to the team of volunteers who keep them watered, even in the warmest weather. We may not always say it but we do appreciate all of your work.

If anyone would like to sponsor a basket or join the watering rota please email Mandy Blackadder at admin@auchterarderparish.org or speak to Mandy, or Murdo Macmillan.



Auchterarder & District Men's Shed SCIO
Scottish Charity Incorporated Organisation No: 5CS1038

COMMUNITY HELP FROM MENS SHED

Once again, Auchterarder and District Mens Shed has come to the assistance of our community. This time Auchterarder Parish Church was looking for help to fill 16 hanging baskets which adorn the wall in front of the Church over the Summer.

The Mens Shed members, including ladies from the ukulele group, offered to help fill the baskets with around 160 plants. The baskets will be left for the plants to become established before being hung up on the wall in front of the Parish Church. Over the Summer we hope you enjoy the colourful display. Well done Mens Shed members.



Our Mens Shed meets every Tuesday and Thursday 2-4pm, including the ukulele group on Tuesdays at the Parish Church. Why don't you come along for fun and friendship. You will be made very welcome. Contact auchterardershed@gmail.com

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 a online Zoom meeting on Saturday mornings from 9:00-9:30am.
2. An in-person meeting on Sunday in the Lounge at 9:30am 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.





Messy Church

May's Messy Church saw us visit Pitmeadow Farm, thanks to Ewan and Fiona Foreman.



We spent a lot of time tending and caring for some of the animals with many of the children getting the chance to handle some very cute ducklings.

Our theme was Compassion this month. Whilst the kids were distracted, some very large monkeys, crabs and bananas hid throughout the farm; the kids were then sent on a treasure hunt to find them and be given clues, which they then had to rearrange into passage from the bible.

We also played some games in the field which involved a lot of running around, before sitting down to a well earned BBQ. Thanks to John and Peter for the food.

The final Messy Church before the summer holidays is a community event at the top park on **Sunday 28th June.**



Bring a picnic, join in the games or just come along to catch-up with friends. We will meet at 1pm weather allowing.

APC & MESSY CHURCH

PICNIC IN THE PARK

**SUNDAY 28 JUNE
TOWN PARK
1:00 PM**

(WEATHER PERMITTING!)

**BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC
FUN AND GAMES FOR ALL!**

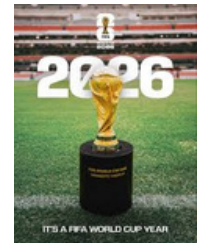
EVERYONE WELCOME

AUCHTERARDER PARISH CHURCH

PICNIC IN THE PARK: This is a joint Church family and MESSY CHURCH event. We plan to have a picnic up in the Town Park from 1:00 pm onwards on Sunday 28th June – weather permitting!. Please bring your own picnic and join in the fun.

WORLD CUP FINAL:

We will screen the final on Sunday 19 July Kick off: 8:00 pm



FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH CLUB (FNYC)

is on holiday now until Friday 07th August. For pupils S1-S6 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.



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.

APC Community Garden – June Update – Weeds go into Overdrive

Communal Area

With the wet weather at the beginning of the month and now the recent heatwave the weeds are having a field day! We like to think of them more as wild flowers and they are helpful for our wildlife but too many do get in the way 😞 Never the less, our onion crop is looking great and we have some cauliflower and sprouting broccoli, all planted last Nov and over-wintered. Our potatoes are looking good and the wet weather that's coming up will help them swell into a good crop, ready for harvesting from mid- Aug. We have herbs a plenty and the fruit patch is coming along so Fresh Fridays will have an increasing amount of produce to give away as the summer progresses. To keep things going into the autumn we have planted some cabbage, red and green, which will be ready Oct/Nov. We have even planted a squash and a marrow in the compost heap, they are hungry plants and the walls will give them support so they should do well. Watch this space 😊

Mini-allotments

The second round of judging for this year's Mini-allotment competition will take place next week with many of the beds really

looking good, although there are a few beds free for anyone that would like to try growing their own veg'. We will have our third 'Sunday Salad' drop in session after church tomorrow, **28 Jun, 1130 -1230** in the garden room, to chat about earthing up potatoes, pricking out and potting on seedlings and succession sowing lettuce, spinach/chard & beetroot. Everyone is welcome. For anyone interested in a mini-allotment just get in touch.

Derek Johnston

communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org

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

Squash&Marrow



Cauliflower



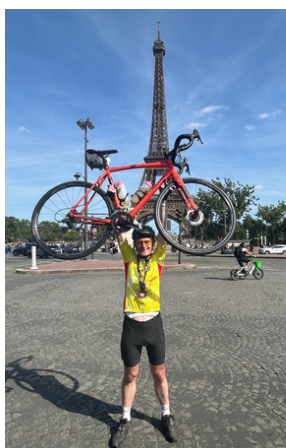
Cabbage



Onions



Spuds



FUNDRAISER FOR CURE LEUKAEMIA: Thank you very much for all who sponsored me on the big bike ride from London to Paris, my total raised is £3,500 as part of an overall total by the event so far of £430,000, This will go towards funding new clinical trials. These save lives, you have made a difference!

Thank you, Ian Gourlay.

APC Coffee Mornings
(the last Saturday of the month)
Date for next coffee mornings:
Saturday 27th June
10.00 until 12.00 noon



Usual stalls, baking etc.
Contactless payments
now available.
Why not bring a friend and share
our cosy place



AUCHTERARDER PARISH
HOLIDAY CLUB 2026

A Tale of Two Kings
 A Bible based holiday club

03-07 AUGUST 2026
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
BIBLE TEACHING, SONGS, CHALLENGES, CRAFTS AND FUN!

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO & FIND THE REGISTRATION FORMS OR CLICK ON THIS [APC WEBSITE LINK](#)

FOR YOUNG FOLK FROM P1 - S2 IN 2025-26



EXPLORE+MAKE THINGS THAT....
MOVE GROW MAKE FLY
NOISE

SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES @KIRK CAFE
4-6Y/O - TUE 11-11.45AM
7-10Y/O - WED 11-11.45AM

- Craft based activities for children in the summer holidays
- Children must be accompanied by an adult
- All weeks of summer holidays EXCEPT 4/5th Aug




Contact US
 ☎ 01764 660152
 📍 Auchterarder Parish Church, 24 High St
 ✉ cafe@auchterarderparish.org




Scan me to book



Craft Group



Although it has been lovely weather and it is holiday time, the craft group knit on!!! We would appreciate donations of wool or a donation to enable us to buy wool to use. We are beginning to knit angels and would also love it to have some extra help.




Patterns are available!!! Hats for seamen are also on the needles. We want to keep on with these projects but we need your support.

APC Kirk Café Development!

Our café is now offering filled rolls, in addition to the normal homemade soup, scones and cakes! So, why not pop in for lunch one day? Plenty of room for wee ones to play, buggies to park and changing facilities. Visitors to the town always welcome, too.

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>





APC Walking Group

The next walk in the 2026 programme will be held on 25 July led by Ian Gourlay - venue to be advised but look out for posts on social media and leaflets in the church nearer the time. Other dates for 2026 are 26 September and 28 November.

Hope to see you on a walk soon. If you are interested in the group and want more information please e-mail admin@auchterarderparish.org.

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



We are delighted to let you know that National Convener Elect, Renee Riddell of Central Guilds Together, has been elected to serve as National Convener.

We wish Renee God's richest blessing as she serves God and the Guild in this role.



GUILD NOTICES: The Guild Gathering will be held at Perth North Church on Saturday **12th September from 11am – 3:30 pm** Transport must be confirmed with Renee by **30th June**.

Guild Sunday is 13th September in church and Guild Week is from 14th to 18th September. The first Guild Meeting will be on 17th September at 2pm.



Cycling group

At the time of writing the June cycle to Loch Katrine looks ominous with thunderstorms expected throughout the cycle. Therefore I am assuming that the cycle will be cancelled and suggest we rerun it next month on July 25th. We will

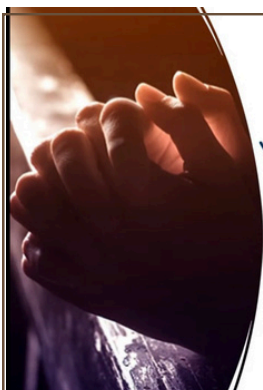
leave the car park behind the church at 9am and head for Aberfoyle. The plan is then to cycle via Lochard on a gentle meandering road which is relatively flat We will have lunch at the far end of Loch Katrine (Stronachloch) where there is an excellent coffee shop/restaurant. After this we have a choice to either head around loch Katrine which is slightly hillier or return the same route we came (we might even form two groups). If in fact the weather changes and we do manage out in June then we will still have a cycle on July 25th info will be provided on the group WhatsApp (or you can contact me by email).

Remember ebikes welcome. The attached website shows you the route:

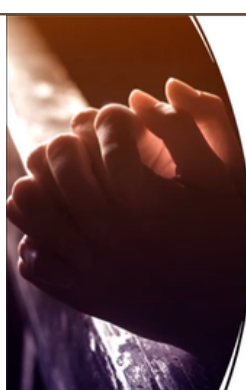
<https://www.scotlandcyclerroutes.org/routes/trossachs-loop-from-aberfoyle>

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



Our Father in Heaven,
hallowed be your name
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us today
our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who
sin against us



Save us from the
time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom,
the power and the glory
are yours,
now and forever
Amen

Margaret's Ugandan Adventures Continue

June 2026



Opening Medical Centre

Visit to Kabale (see <https://florence.muboneheme.morialhc.org/>)

Since my last visit, the Medical Centre has now been completed and was officially opened by the local Member of Parliament. They have received some funding from the Ugandan Government which helps to provide some basic health services. The Centre has been set up as a Social Enterprise—funds are being generated from a small campsite development beside the centre. Local tours are also offered, with a percentage being allocated to the centre. A washroom block has also been developed to support all activities. Julie and Karen, who visited in 2023 as volunteers helped with setting up and a Medical Camp held while they were there.

Bapty School

After much consideration, it was decided to put a good quality fence around the school boundary to improve security with the money I had sent for a cow project. There is still some development work needed and I will investigate what are the most urgent needs at this time.

Business as Mission

I have continued to support the projects I worked with in 2023 from a distance and am looking forward to catching up with the new staff at Palliative care Education & Research Consortium to help bring everything up to date and provide one to one training. This has all been made possible by a generous contribution to my travel costs from Cairdeas International Palliative Care Trust. (<https://cairdeas.org.uk/>). I am also looking forward to being involved in doing some follow up with the micro businesses which have developed after Jerry's MYOB teaching at Lake Bunyonyi. It is also hoped that Aikande from the MamaHive Project (Tanzania), I have been supporting from a distance, will be able to travel to Kampala receive some QBBooks training and share experiences of the bee project. <https://mamahive.org/>



Children at Bapty School 2025



Fred & tractor, Kodike

Special Needs Group at Lugogo Baptist Church

I hope to connect with the Special Needs Group at Lugogo Baptist Church when I am in Kampala. Personnel have changed but I do believe they have continued to develop and grow.

Kodike Expedition

Fred and his family fled from DRC and worked for MAF Uganda for around 14 years as a flight follower. He obtained UN refugee status and was accepted as refugee by the US before he could complete his mission to this community who have been affected by the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army. He has managed to raise funds in the US & UK to support his mission and brought a container with equipment (including a small tractor) with him last year. He will be returning to the US shortly after I arrive.

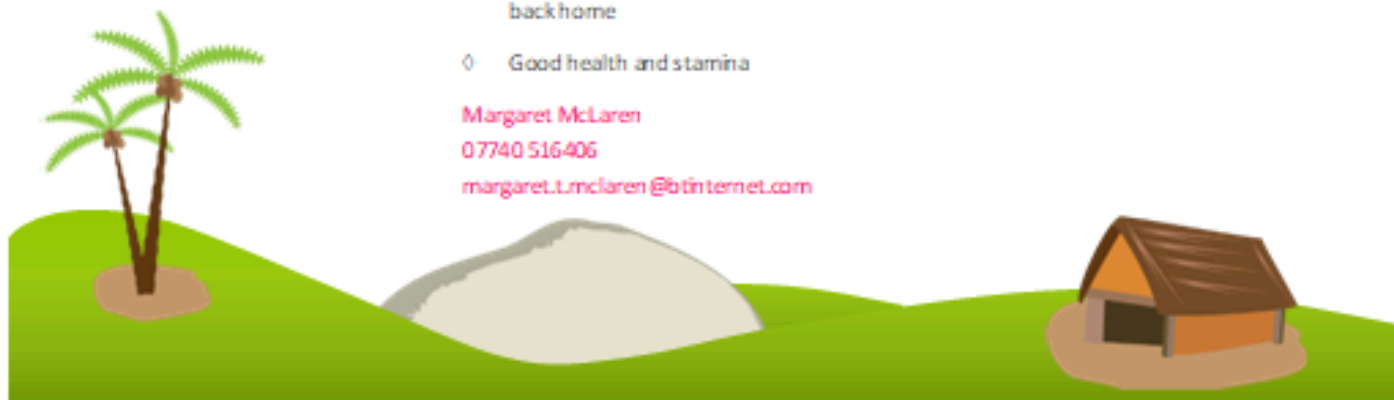
Prayer Points

- ◊ Safe travels, no unnecessary delays and that all baggage would accompany me both ways
- ◊ Connections made with everyone I need to connect with
- ◊ QuickBooks training will be a real blessing to PcERC & MamaHive
- ◊ 'Lugogo Special Needs Group'
- ◊ Travel arrangements within Uganda will fall into place easily
- ◊ Susan, James, William, Oliver & Rosie; Paul, Tasha, Alana & Thomas; my mother Cathie back home
- ◊ Good health and stamina

"Since Paul and Aquila were both tent makers by trade, Paul moved in with them and they became business partners"

(Act: 18:5)

Margaret McLaren
07740 516406
margaret.L.mclaren@btinternet.com





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 25th July 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.

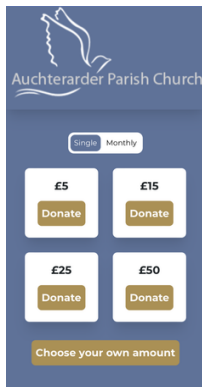
Auchterarder Parish Church

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 07368 122357

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!



Instagram link is : [auchterarderpc](https://www.instagram.com/auchterarderpc)



APC twitter link is: [@AuchterarderCoS](https://twitter.com/_@AuchterarderCoS)



Facebook link is: [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/auchterarderpc)

Auchterarder Parish Church

Church email: admin@auchterarderparish.org

Church website: www.auchterarderparish.org

Tel: 07467 793061 or 01764 660152

To speak to the Minister telephone:

Rev Dr Lynn McChlery: 01764 662399