

# Auchterarder Parish Church Newsletter

**Saturday 30th August 2025**

Registered Charities SC001688

## **Musings from the Manse August 2025**

Summer gives time for more musings than usual, and I've been thinking about our church.

All churches have strengths and weaknesses, APC included. One strength is our children's and youth ministry, seen this summer in the Holiday Club. While we would have loved more children to attend, it was a brilliant success for those who came. A highlight was the family events – quiz night and ceilidh – both attended by a few families who are new to us. And it will be a special joy to welcome the Smith family to church tomorrow morning, for the baptisms of baby Robbie and mum Samantha, and to formally welcome Neil and Samantha to membership of our church. A real celebration for all of us – God is at work!

Another strength is prayer. Prayer is perhaps the most basic way that human beings connect with God, so it's something that anyone can explore no matter where they are in their faith journey. That's part of the Worship and Discipleship team's thinking behind offering the Prayer Course again (we did it 4 years ago during lockdown, if you remember!) It's also core to Christian discipleship, and all of us can be enriched by learning to pray in new and deeper ways. Along with the prayer course in October and November, our Sunday morning sermons will explore the Lord's Prayer, a bit at a time. Our weekly prayer groups are an invaluable part of our congregation's life, on Saturday mornings via Zoom at 9am and Sunday mornings in person before church at 9.30am. Anyone can join – please do!

Of course we pray for world situations as well as ourselves. A real weakness in APC has been our lack of an active commitment to issues of justice, mission and tackling world poverty. Recently we've begun to address that, with Muriel Pearson's visit to tell us about her work in Israel and provide insight into the Middle East conflict.

Muriel is back tomorrow evening (Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>) at 7pm for a smaller and more informal opportunity to talk and pray. We embraced the opportunity to give to famine relief in Gaza via Christian Aid, raising almost £2K from the congregation. To keep the momentum going and make these concerns an ongoing focus of church life, we plan to resume our partnership with TEAR Fund. A TEAR Fund speaker is coming to tell us more on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. So hopefully we'll get better!



Another weakness (or area of need) is our lack of volunteers across the church. Currently we need someone to convene the Pastoral Care team, we have an urgent shortage of people to teach the children on Sunday mornings in Kidsteam, and we need help with finance – among other things. Can I urge you to reflect on where you might serve in APC, and get in touch with me or a Team convenor? We are strongest when everyone plays their part and we're not leaning heavily on too few people.

So, much to ponder, and pray God's strength for all that you read about in the newsletter!

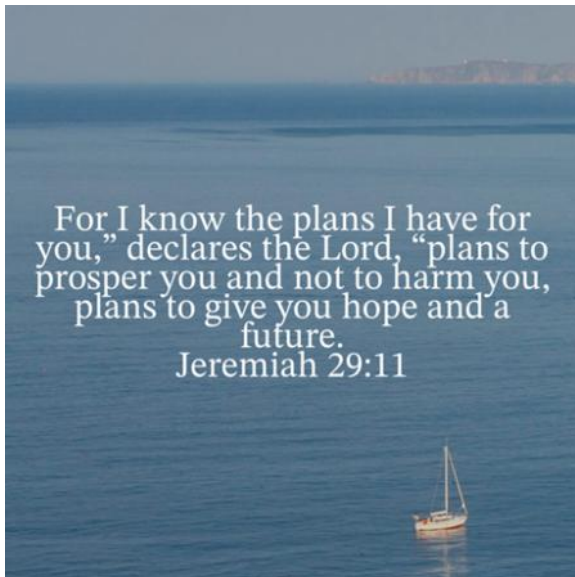
Love to you all

Lynn

## New horizons for the McKays

As many of you know my time here in Auchterarder Parish Church will be coming to an end soon. I will be going to Baljaffray Parish Church in Bearsden to be their minister in early October (the 5<sup>th</sup> October will be my last Sunday here). It has been an amazing 15 months here with you all and I can't thank you enough. Right from the start you've been warm and welcoming to me and my family, helping us to feel at home here in the church family. We will be so sad to leave but will try not to be strangers and to keep up to date with what is happening here.

When I try to think of a biblical passage that sums up the journey that has brought me to this point, my mind often returns to the book of Jeremiah.



The knowledge that God has always had a plan for me, for each of us, is an ever-present source of comfort to me. Now that a little part of God's plan has been revealed in my life; I feel amazed at his love, care and goodness. Yet it is only human to doubt; to question the plan or the timing. To think how can your plan involve this? or that? Our lives are often confusing, seeming to us like a tapestry viewed from the back; a jumble of random threads and knots of different lengths and colors. Yet God sees the picture on the front, the wonderful picture he is creating through all your life's varied moments. As each of you personally and this church community looks to the future, I pray that you can live into these words, trust the plan of God.

God has a plan!! for the future of you and the future of this place. A plan to prosper you that is full of hope. The history of this church is a long one and the future will also be a long road of many twists and turns. Prayerfully keep your eyes on God and your hearts full of hope for the plan that is unfolding here.

Blessings

Alan

We will be running the prayer course in the Autumn ☺. This [8 week](#) course is designed to help you and your community grow and deepen your prayer life. Based around the Lord's prayer it looks at different types of prayer; adoration, petition, intercession, as well as issues like unanswered prayer and spiritual warfare. It is an excellent opportunity to share fellowship and explore faith together.

the  
**prayer**  
course

[prayercourse.org](http://prayercourse.org)  
#prayercourse

**In the Church Centre on Wednesday nights 7pm – 8:30pm.**

**From October the 1<sup>st</sup> for 8 weeks.**

We will watch a short video and have a friendly chat over a cup of coffee.

Please join us if you are able.

## HOLDING THE SPACE

**This Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August - APC 7:00 - 8:30 pm**

Rev Muriel Pearson speaks on her life in Israel and Palestine 2021-2025 and answers questions. Muriel is a minister, chaplain to the Scots Hotel in Tiberias and Tabeetha School in Jaffa, Tel Aviv and works for peace and justice with Christian, Jewish and Muslim partners. She'll speak on the current situation, the work our partners on the ground are doing and how we can help. Sunday 31 August, APC 7:00 - 8:30 pm.

All welcome

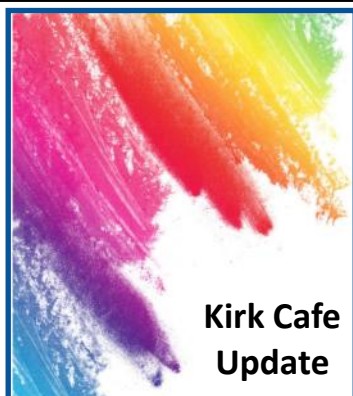


## Praise Worship Evening

Save the date – enjoy an evening of contemporary praise and worship led by Chris White, with refreshments after, in APC sanctuary.



**Sunday the 28th of September @ 6:30pm -7:30pm.**



### Kirk Cafe update

We've got a lovely team of café volunteers but are aware that they work very hard, and we'd love to be able to make up a Rota so people can have weeks off! With that in mind, we're looking to recruit more volunteers to help out with the roles below. If you think you could help out, even if you could commit to a couple of hours once a month or be on stand-by if someone is on holiday, we'd love to have you as part of the team.

### Café roles

**Front of house** – You will be welcoming people to the café, taking their order at the counter and delivering it to them. When people leave, you'll be clearing their table ready for the next guests and making sure the café space is clean and possibly help doing some dishes if we're quiet. Using the till is part of this role but we promise it's very easy and we'll show you how it's done!

**Barista** – An important part of the barista role is using the coffee machine (we'll show you how!) But you'll also welcome people to the café, take orders and deliver them to people at their tables. You'll help with clearing tables, using the till and generally keeping the café space clean and tidy.

**Kitchen** – We're delighted with the amount of people coming to the café, but it means there are always cups to be washed and this is where you would come in. The dishwasher is very quick and easy to use and being in the kitchen means you get to quality control the baking before it goes out to customers – just as important as washing dishes!

Blessings from the Café team

[cafe@auchterarderparish.org](mailto:cafe@auchterarderparish.org)



## **Behind the scenes of Seaside Rock**

Preparations for this year's holiday club started in June and I'm proud to say that I attended most of the sessions over a period of seven weeks. My first reaction when I walked into the hall was "what is Michelle planning to do with all that cardboard?" Well, we soon found out! We had some very talented people in the team who made templates, which enabled others to either make more "seaside things" or, in my case, to pick up a paint brush. Some days there was just about as much paint on me as there was on the items I was painting! After many hours of drawing, cutting and painting, things were really coming together and I'm delighted to say that we all worked in a very happy atmosphere.

It was such a joy and privilege to have been part of this project and I thank God for His inspiration and encouragement in fulfilling

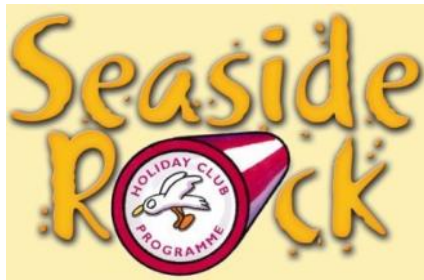
***Margaret Gallacher***



Sharks, a boat, dolphins, palm trees, beach towels, octopus, a lifeguard station, turtles, beach huts, a lighthouse, jelly fish and many other sea creatures were made out of cardboard heading to the skip. We are grateful to George at the recycle centre, Synergy Cycles and Root EV electric bikes for passing on lots of large cardboard boxes to allow us to decorate the church sanctuary. And a big shout out to the many volunteers who joined us for craft and painting sessions – you are a creative and hardworking bunch. To those who donated to our paint fund, it's always fun to see what pots people have left over and we are grateful to you all for making our seaside very colourful!

***Michelle***





Seaside Rock (ON THE BEACH!!!) was a really fun week for the community of Auchterarder, made all the more special by the children and families represented but also by the amazing team who came together to make it happen. Five mornings of activities, two afternoons in the park, a family quiz night, a youth evening followed up by a brilliant community ceilidh a fortnight later! Thank you to the Blackford Fiddlers.

We met Peter each morning on the beach, he was one of Jesus' friends, and we heard how he learnt to trust Jesus and live his life following him. We sang some great songs, built some amazing junk creations and each day had games and crafts to do. A great week spent with friends on the 'beach' on Auchterarder!

Here's a few comments from team...

Why did you choose to be part of the holiday club team?

***I wanted to be able to support the church to offer this awesome week to the families in our community. I felt it would be a great chance to get to know some more people in the community and develop my team-working skills.***

***I joined the group last year having recently moved to the area to get more involved with the community. I enjoyed it so much I came back !***

***Although I think I am past my sell by date I still think it is important to reach out to our community and young people with the good news about Jesus.***

What do you enjoy most about the family week?

***Getting to know the youngsters—now if I meet them in town we wave/smile. Or exchange a “Seaside Rock” “On the Beach” moment***

***Seeing the children getting involved, being curious, creative and having lots of fun*** 🌟😊

***Peter was brilliant as his story is very dramatic (walking on water, denying Jesus etc). The children really took to the character of Peter and listened pretty intently to the drama.***

***I liked the introduction of the quiz and ceilidh where the parents also came along....lets do these again next year.***





## ***Seaside Rock continued***

What was it like being part of the team?

***Tiring 😊 ... but in a good way!!***

***Being involved was a lot of fun and a great opportunity to be part of a supportive and inspirational team.***



***Preparing the fruit salad for 40 or 50 felt closer to feeding the 5,000 at times but it was lovely to be part of such an exciting week of learning and fun.***

What was most memorable part about the week?

***The junk challenge - the children let their creative imaginations go wild!***

***The sight of the children completely fixed on Peter as he told the story of Jesus' arrest and the denials.***

***Singing the Seaside Rock theme song twice a day, it was a really enjoyable moment as everyone was singing and dancing together...and smiling.***



**Messy Church**

**SEASIDE ROCKS AGAIN!**

**Sunday 07 September**  
**4:00 – 5:30 pm**

Come and meet some of the characters we met at **Seaside Rock** this year's Holiday Club! Hear one of Peter's stories and enjoy your tea along with us! There will be singing, drama, aerobics and other activities.

**Seaside Rock**

Why not invite another family or two along?

Email: [church@auchterarderparish.org](mailto:church@auchterarderparish.org) if you're coming!

## MESSY CHURCH IS BACK!

We will be back after our summer break on Sunday, 07 September at the usual time of 4:00 - 5:30 pm. We will meet some of our friends from Seaside Rock, this year's APC Holiday Club, with all the usual activities - singing, stories, crafts, aerobics, drama etc.

All ages welcome - and to finish there will be a light meal we can share. This event is free but donations are always welcome!

Why not bring a friend, or two, or even three, along with their families??? They will be welcome too!

Email: [church@auchterarderparish.org](mailto:church@auchterarderparish.org) to let us know you are coming, but if you forget, please come along anyway!!



**PRAYER WALK**

A few people are gathering on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept at 7pm to walk and pray around Auchterarder. We'll meet at the front door of APC, please join us if you can.

Sorry for the short notice, we'll do it again soon.

Michelle.livingstone@auchterarderparish.org

**INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER**

As part of a Global Focus week of Prayer from 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> September we are opening The Lounge in APC Church Centre on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September as a quiet place to pray.

The Lounge will be open from 3pm – 9pm. Please pop in and use the resources to pray for our world, community and church.

## 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 9:30 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](mailto: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.







### APC Cycling group

The group had an excellent cycle in August around Loch Katrine including the wonderful start over the Dukes pass. This is the only cycle when we started with 7 and finished with 8!! The next cycle that is planned is for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September and is a shorter half day cycle on the Comrie circuit. We will leave the car park behind the church at 9.00am. In October the plan is for a longer cycle around Loch Tay. 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](mailto:s.mcchlery@outlook.com)

Stuart



### The Guild News

#### The Gathering

The Gathering will be held this year in the North Church Perth.

It starts at 11am till 4 pm on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

The members who are going on the bus will leave the Centre at 10am. This will allow time to get to Perth, get off the bus and go into church and find seats.

The bus will return to collect ladies at 4pm.

Some of the members will go by car and meet up at the church.

Remember a packed lunch is required.



On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September Guild week starts with the Sunday Service which will be led by Stephen as the Minister is on holiday.

The opening night of the Guild is on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm.

The leadership team look forward to welcoming all including new members.

### Whose we are and Whom we serve



**Friday Night Youth Club** continues from 7pm - 8.30pm each Friday.

Anyone in S1-S6 is welcome to join us in the APC centre.

Sport and games in the sports hall, board games and crafts in the lounge and snooker, table tennis and Nintendo switch in the centre.

Come and join us, and bring a friend or two.

There's something for everyone.



## Bereavement

We are sad to note the passing of Jenny Murray at the age of 99. Jenny and her husband Jim spent most of their lives in Auchterarder before Jenny moved south three years ago. Jenny is warmly remembered by her church family at APC, and our condolences have been sent to her family.

## APC Community Garden – August Update – Last of the Summer Wine



**Communal Garden** Despite the historically dry conditions, our beds continue to provide baskets of produce for the Community on Fresh Fridays and for our Veg' Share at the library. We have also found time to tidy up the patio garden, weeding the border and planting sunflowers which will make this area even



more appealing to sit in. The potager garden is really taking shape with beds now filled and planted. Next step is to lay bark between the beds, erect a willow screen and install a garden bench. We plan to make this corner of the garden a place to sit and relax, with one of the beds reserved for therapeutic gardening for those that would benefit from this type of activity. More to follow on that thread.



**Mini-allotments** The mini's continue to thrill with some giant sunflowers catching the eye. The demo' bed A has had a tidy up and carrots, radish and mini broccoli all sown for a late autumn crop. The best bed competition continues with the final round of judging on 1 September. The winner will be announced shortly after and presented with a £50 gardening voucher.



It's becoming clear that our vegetable growing enterprise could do with some more ground, more space means more veg' to share. If you have a space in your garden, no matter how big or small, please get in touch if you would be willing to allow us to grow some vegetables there. No need to worry, we will do all the work! Or if you or friends or family would like to learn any aspects of fruit and vegetable growing then please get in touch and we can arrange some sessions to suit your programme.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Derek Johnston

[communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org](mailto:communitygarden@auchterarderparish.org)

**Eat Local - Save Food Miles, Eat Organic - Stay Healthy**

Fresh Produce Fridays



## Auchterarder 'Archway'

Every Monday  
1pm - 3pm



**Archway** continues to meet on Mondays at 1pm for lunch.

We had an outing to Taste of Scotland in June and had a lovely afternoon.

Archway has been invited by our contact at NHS to take part in International Older Peoples Day in October. The definition of older person is age 50 and over!!!!

All older people are welcome to join us at Archway on a Monday.

The aim of the club is to support social isolation, early dementia and other health issues but some folks come for the fun we share.

*Renee Riddell*

## TCSOA Lego Club for \$1/2



Every Wednesday @1.15pm in Room 108.  
Bring your lunch along.

Lego group restarts this  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September  
in room 108

## STAMPS

Thank you so much for a great response to collecting used stamps. BUT please keep on bringing them in. The horrific killing in Gaza keeps going on and the Al Ahli Hospital, that the collection of stamps supports, suffered the loss of one of their surgeons about a week ago as he walked home from his work at the hospital. Your collection of stamps does make a difference.

Marjorie - on behalf of The Mission team



**'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 Alan 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>



## 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..

## Advent in Austria

Iain and Marjorie are once again leading a McCabe Group to Advent in Austria from 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> December flying from Edinburgh. We would be delighted if you would like to join us. Experience all the different Austrian Advent customs, visit the beautiful town of Salzburg where we enjoy an organ recital in Salzburg Cathedral, join in services in local churches, visit some fascinating Christmas markets, sing "Silent Night" in the little church it was first sung in, look on as The Krampus/ two horned devil parade passes our hotel, take a sleigh ride to a remote Hofalm and above all enjoy a very welcoming and comfortable hotel. Speak to Iain or Marjorie for a brochure and more details.

Iain and Marjorie Paton





### Strathallan Community Volunteer Drivers



Do you have a car?

Do you have some spare time?

Could you assist people without transport to attend health centre or hospital appointments?

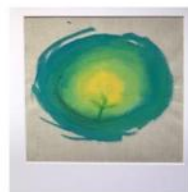
If you would like more information,  
please contact us at

[Secretary.SCVD@gmail.com](mailto:Secretary.SCVD@gmail.com)

This new local charity is in the process of being registered with the Scottish Charities regulatory body. Its aim is to provide transport to help people in the Strathallan Community to attend hospital and/or health centre appointments.

For anyone who has a car and be willing to be considered as a volunteer driver please contact us at [Secretary.SCVD@gmail.com](mailto:Secretary.SCVD@gmail.com)

**For the Beauty of the Earth.**  
**An Art & Prayer Workshop @ Pitmeadow Farm**  
**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025**  
**9.30am - 4pm**



A quiet reflective day of Art & Prayer reflecting on the glorious gift of creation through practical artwork, music, images and poetry in the wonderful surroundings of Pitmeadow Farm itself will also act as our inspiration.

All are welcome wherever you are on your own spiritual and artistic journeys. No artistic experience is needed. All materials provided.

The day will be led by Carol Marples of 'Soul Marks', which is dedicated to encouraging the visual arts as a tool for prayer, worship and community. [www.soulmarks.co.uk](http://www.soulmarks.co.uk)

**Cost: £45**

**Arrival and coffee from 9.30/9.45 for 10am start**  
**1pm- 2pm – lunch – a simple lunch will be provided**

Contact Fiona for more info, tel:  
07762 182 987

Or by email: [fionaforeman@me.com](mailto:fionaforeman@me.com)



Pitmeadow Farm, PH2 0RA  
Dunning, Perth and Kinross,  
<https://pitmeadowfarm.co.uk/en/>

### **Walking Group - Save the Date - Saturday 27th September 2025**



The walking group's next walk will be on Saturday 27th September and will be led by Sylvia Elsmere / Allan Nisbet. Venue to be decided.

The one other 2025 walk programme date for your diary is on 29th November led by Derek Johnston. Venue for this walk has still to be decided but look out for details nearer the time on social media and notices in the church. No need to be a Church member to part-take - hope to see you on a walk soon.

Please feel free to contact [admin@auchterarderparish.org](mailto:admin@auchterarderparish.org) if you wish to be added to the mailing list

### **Christian Aid**

Lynn has received a lovely letter of thanks to Auchterarder Churches Together for our joint donation during Christian Aid Week of £680. Thank you to everyone who helped and donated to this worthy cause.



**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 27th September 2025.



If you have any interesting stories, celebrations, photos, up and coming events etc you would like me to publish then please send to me, whenever you have them, and I will keep for the next edition.

**If you are reading this newsletter as a paper copy and would like to help save the planet and keep the costs down in printing the newsletter then please send me your email address to [sylvia.elsmere@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@auchterarderparish.org)

Website - [www.auchterarderparish.org](http://www.auchterarderparish.org)

Tel: 07467 793061 or 01764 660152

To speak to a Minister telephone:

Rev Dr Lynn McChlery: 01764 662399

Alan McKay - [alan.mckay@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:alan.mckay@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### 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](http://auchterarderparish.org)



APC twitter link is: @apcchat

Messy Church twitter link is: @ApcMessy



Our Facebook pages is: @auchterarderparish