

# THE BRIDGE

LATE SUMMER EDITION | AUGUST 2026

A memorable  
*August*  
with congratulations to:



Muthill in Bloom



Rachel  
at St James



The Team who have  
completed the upgrade  
to our building



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## Our Autumn Regular Timetable In the Church Building



### SUNDAY

Morning Worship 10.30am

### MONDAY

Kiddy Club 3.30pm  
Village Choir 7pm

### TUESDAYS

Bible Class 10.30am  
Seniors Exercise Class 2.15pm  
Kiddy Club 3.30pm

### THURSDAYS

Tai Chi Class 10.30am  
Kiddy Club 3.30pm

### WEDNESDAYS

Mens Club 11am | Coffee Chat 11am  
Soup and Sandwich Lunches 12.30pm | Kiddy Club 3.30pm

### FRIDAYS

Monthly Meeting 3pm

## Editorial

I wonder if you were in church on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, when the Rev. Alex, Elaine and Thomas led a beautiful and very uplifting service. Not only was there a great message on God as CREATOR of the wondrous world in which we live but we were also reminded that he is also a Saviour God through his giving us Jesus. It made me think what a powerful message we have to give this world! It was also very uplifting to have Elaine and Thomas leading the praise as they did such a good job with the congregation which responded joyously throughout. Gail Clark



further gave a short but encouraging report on the continuing work of our new Vision Group and, for me, I was left encouraged about the whole potential for our church. We have great talent, great possibilities for our services, a genuine family feeling and this should give us all encouragement to seriously look out to the community we serve and as to how we make meaningful bridges with families and younger folk. Then, on leaving after the service, I had a proper chance to see the upgrades now complete in the church building and felt further encouraged. Graham, our Property Convener, has done another splendid job in coordinating these developments and we should all feel charged up as a church family by these initiatives and inspired to do whatever part each of us can play in further developing our mission.

I wonder how many of us have seriously reflected on our mission statement which is displayed in each edition of this magazine at the top of the back page and have we thought what it means for us as an individual member of our church family. Whatever our age or status we all have an important part to play in building our church for the future. With inspiration and enthusiasm for our faith we can play a key part at the centre of our village life!

## PASTORAL LETTER FROM INTERIM MODERATOR

Dear friends,

I hope that you have been enjoying the good summer weather that we have been experiencing this year. Like it or loathe it (as some do), these bright and warm summer days can lift the spirits of most of us. Throughout my ministry, I have always tried to have the congregation sing the hymn 'Summer suns are glowing' at least once over the summer months. I seldom print the hymn on the order of service sheet beforehand, though, because that is written earlier in the week and the weather can change. Sun shining on Wednesday; rain by Sunday!



I invite you to have a good look at this hymn. You'll find it in CH4 at No.225. In the first two verses, it speaks in positive and enthusiastic terms about God's love glowing everywhere. In verse three, it acknowledges our human condition where all is not well all of the time; and then in the final verse it gives a statement of faith and a prayer that God's Guiding Hand will continue on us until the end of time.

I particularly like our life being referred to as a 'pilgrim way'. Pilgrim is a term which refers to any traveller, perhaps you, especially one who is on the way to a holy place. A pilgrim may travel far and often a pilgrim travels with very few luxuries. Often a pilgrim seeks a very special person or a very special place. A pilgrim often travels in search of knowledge. Along the journey, a pilgrim may be helped by people who show the way or who offer encouragement. If a pilgrim is lost, someone may come and point out the trail. If a pilgrim is thirsty, someone may offer water. A pilgrim may travel alone, but a pilgrim may make many new friends on the way.

Have you ever thought of your life as being a pilgrimage and you as a pilgrim on it? Perhaps our journey to church Sunday by Sunday may be seen as a pilgrimage, and when we arrive we find many people to encourage us. Pilgrims that we all are in the congregation, please think of it as part of an exciting journey in search of God who offers glory to us all in His Nearer Presence. If you already have a hymnbook beside you, can I invite you to

have another look at John Bunyan's great hymn 'Who would true valour see?' (CH4 No.535) It's a hymn of its time (c.1670) but what a statement of determination to be a fearless pilgrim.

Enjoy the privilege of life as we all journey through it, and my prayer is that when dark clouds are drifting in our lives, God is still with us and before us. May we always, in the words of hymn 225, be part of earth's thousand voices that swell the psalm of praise.

With every blessing and good wish,

**Iain F. Paton- Interim Moderator.**

### **Kirk Roll**

There are no changes to report in our church roll as of August 2026. Total membership currently remains at 198 members. If anyone who attends our church and is not a member but wants to become a member please speak to Rev. Iain Paton, our Interim Moderator, or Gregor Elliott, our rollkeeper.

# Smile Lines



A little boy at Sunday School learned about the time  
Jesus went to a wedding and changed the **water into wine**.

'And what did you learn from that story?' asked his father afterward.

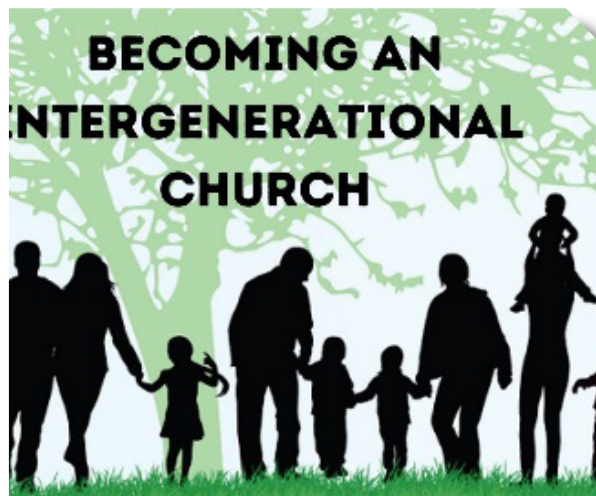
The boy thought for a moment and answered.



**"If you're having a wedding, make sure Jesus is there."**

## What is an Intergenerational Church?

One of the key aspects which our Vision Group is looking at is how Muthill Parish Church can move to becoming more of an intergenerational church.



Firstly, many thanks to all who took time to complete the first survey on this subject which was introduced to the congregation in July. The response rate was disappointing in terms of the number of returns received which is an indication of the interest that is so far being generated about this subject. However, setting that aside, research tells us it remains important for us all to realise that the future of our church depends on attracting families and younger folk.

Everything you read from the central Church of Scotland, Presbyteries and from wider research confirms the importance of attracting families and youths if a church is to plan realistically for its future existence. On the positive side, there is now a lot of evidence that many churches are seriously looking at this challenge and from the research that our Vision Group has already done, there are interesting examples both locally and across the country where progress is being made with some exciting initiatives being undertaken.

So what is an intergenerational church? It is where each generation is represented in worship, mission activities and church government, ensuring as far as possible equality of access to such activities, including roles in the church, considering ability without setting age boundaries. Too long has the Church of Scotland seen separation between adults and youth as the way to run churches with the whole church family only coming

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together on special occasions. We also have to recognise that society has changed dramatically over our lifetime and that we now have to fight more for our place in society and accept that this means change. However, today research tells us that more is to be gained by an intergenerational approach in all matters, welcoming younger people in our church family to take a lead in all sorts of missional activities, church roles and church leadership. Where this is achieved research also confirms that this leads to a new vibrancy and growth which can be powerful for any church and its message. Of course, this is not easy to achieve where churches are faced with a major imbalance in age composition and sadly we now find ourselves in this position in Muthill because of lack of youth over recent years. When this happens, and nothing is actively done about it, this can spell danger for the future of any church. It is the purpose of our Vision Group to address and research this age imbalance and it is great credit to our Kirk Session that they have recognised this potentially serious problem now.

Research also tells us that to achieve an intergenerational church with an active presence of young families and youth is not easy, nor quick and involves managing cultural change. To go through this process, leadership must be behind any changes and promote them actively and confidently. It is also a journey which will take time to see results and there will be setbacks and rejections but the more the church family is committed to the longer term envisioned purpose and is open to experimentation, the more success is likely.

With all the experimentation now happening within the wider church we know that God is on the move. He will guide us and, as always, prayer is an important part in seeking such guidance. Along with accepting that, it is to be hoped that all in our church family will engage with the work of our Vision Group and its purpose. We all want a vibrant church which is devoted to our declared mission. Hopefully, the journey we have started upon will bring excitement, clarity of purpose and an overall determination to see it through.

## Getting to Know our Church Family - Meet Gail

You will probably recognise Gail Clark from the Bible readings she has done at Sunday services or her progress reports on the work of the Vision Group which she is currently chairing. She is also one of



the few members of the church family who has braved sitting in the front row of the sanctuary where she is normally to be found next to her mum, Isobel, and her father, Peter, or her sister Jen. Gail has two further siblings Megan and Stephen both of whom live in Crieff.

Gail was born in Edinburgh but grew up in West Calder before her father Peter took the family to Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. He was working as an engineer in the oil industry which he continued to do up until his retirement. After this sojourn overseas, the family returned to Nairn on the Moray coast and Gail completed her schooling staying with her grandmother in West Calder.

She then went on to study law at University College London. Her career since then has been in the world of commerce with her first job being in London and after that she has worked in Edinburgh, Manchester, Aberdeen and Irvine. These jobs have included work in the international division of a Chamber of Commerce, then dealing with exports for a toy company, handling logistics for a company within the oil industry and finally working in the pharmaceutical industry. In her current role, she is a Supply Network Planner for a German international pharmaceutical company and is responsible for planning the places in the world where the company will make materials for research and final drug manufacture. She loves her job and is happy that it can be done mostly from home as it enables her to provide practical family support to her parents in Crieff and to be close to her siblings. Gail herself now resides in Muthill.

Outside her work her first three passions are her family, football (especially Manchester United) and dogs. She has a much loved labrador, named Ross. In terms of her faith, although she was brought up in a strongly Christian family, Gail admits that for much of her adult life she was not interested in exploring faith and never attended church. This continued until she

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reached 50 years of age when she went on a trip to the Maldives. There, unexpectedly, she experienced a God given conversion moment when, on landing in seaplane, her eyes were opened by the amazing beauty of the



world that God had created and from this her belief in God became real. On returning home she told her family that she had a compelling desire to start going to church. She looked at various churches and eventually chose Muthill Parish Church because of the warmth of its welcome from the congregation. She then invited her parents to join her as they were still travelling on Sundays to their old church in West Calder and so they too and her sister, Jen, started coming along to join us for worship in Muthill. From then on, she says it was the introductory ministerial briefing she received before joining the church and the Alpha course which has truly

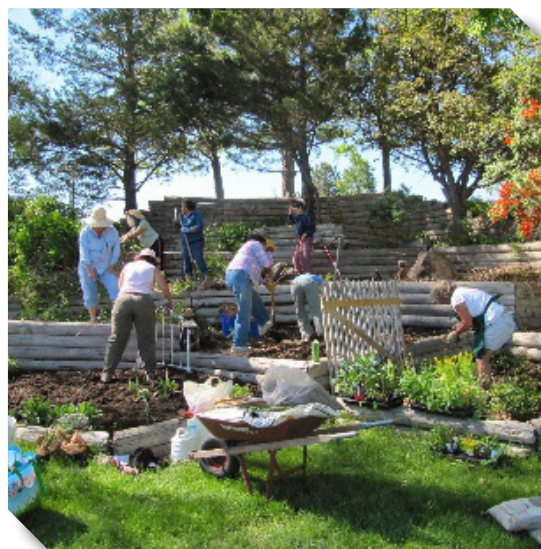
cemented her belief. As she herself states, faith is a lifetime journey and today she feels comforted and guided by God as she goes forward in her personal journey of faith. She sees chairing the Vision Group as part of that step forward in understanding the nature of discipleship and deepening her faith.

We very much welcome Gail and her parents into our church and thank her for what she is already contributing. On the Vision Group we also have Fiona, Jennifer and Adrian and hope to include something on their backgrounds in the October edition of the magazine around which time the Vision Group's report should be presented to the Kirk Session.

## What do you think?

Churches, as organisations, are increasingly partnering with like-minded organisations when setting up things like youth clubs and other community services. Two churches with which I have only recently had contact in Kinross and Dundee have told me of their joint projects, one with their Council and another with an organisation similar to Logos which is based on Christian principles. Such initiatives could be of interest to smaller churches like Muthill where our resources are more limited in developing bridges into the community we are seeking to serve. To some extent we are

already benefiting from such an arrangement in regard to our soup and sandwich lunches which now receives a warm space grant from Perth and Kinross Council. As churches, the more we can create comfortable community links the more we have platforms for engagement and welcoming people into the Christian faith. I have certainly experienced in my last church an example of a church café being established firstly on a one day a week basis but now it has extended to 5 days through many non-church



volunteers coming forward from the local community because they want to volunteer for something they see of value to the community. This has not only resulted in a flow of income coming into the church which can support other mission activities but it has also led to an infusion of non-church volunteers, several of whom are now active in the church in other ways.

As readers will be aware we already have a Vision Group looking at how we can seek to attract new families and younger folk into our church. Current accredited research clearly tells us that in many cases belonging

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comes before believing. Such initiatives that I have mentioned have value in helping us consider how we might usefully expand our community links and create a pathway of belonging.

One such concept in which I have become interested and which would need a group to act as broker and instigator, like our Mens Group were so effective in regard to establishing our community bus service, is a the concept of a time-bank. There are already time-banking projects working across the UK but only a few in Scotland. Where they are operated well, they are said



to increase a community's sense of well-being by fostering togetherness and reducing isolation.

Time-banking is a way of exchanging skills without any money changing hands. With time-banking, you do what you love, when you want to... and get a little help when you need it. For every hour you spend helping someone, you earn an hour back from your time bank. For example, you can earn an hour by helping a time bank member with their shopping, and when you need it, you

can spend your hour deposited in the time-bank on skills that you might need offered by other time bank members. Each bank, of course, needs an approved range of skills on which depositors can call and dependent on the range of skills the bank acquires, time-banking brings people together to share their time and skills. Further, the magical thing about time-banking is this: everyone's time is treated equally, whether you're an ex teacher or a knitter!

There is a national charity, Time-banking UK, which exists to give guidance and support in running such projects including what are appropriate skills for banking and how things like safeguarding issues can be resolved. The UK charity was inspired by the growth of time-banking in the USA. By March 2021, six million hours had been exchanged across the UK by time-bank members.

A typical time bank reported the following statistics for people who had been members for six months:

- **85%** said they were meeting more people

- **80%** felt more part of the community
- **74%** has made new friends
- **74%** experienced a lift in mood or reduced depression
- **69%** felt they could ask for or receive more help
- **66%** experienced reduced loneliness
- **60%** said their quality of life, health and wellbeing had improved



Timebanking enables people to realise that they are useful and valued members of society. It makes us feel better, more connected – and just happier! Technically speaking, timebanking is reciprocal informal volunteering, where each member can offer skills and time, and request skills and time from other people in return. Timebanking is flexible and enables people to dip in and out as much as they like, donating their time as they wish. It works around your own lifestyle and existing commitments, and

there are no obligations.

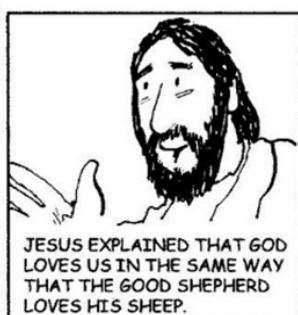
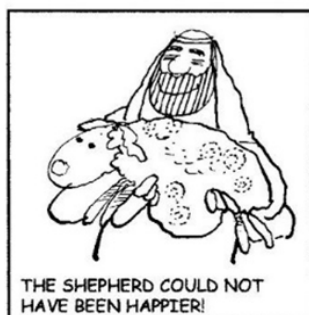
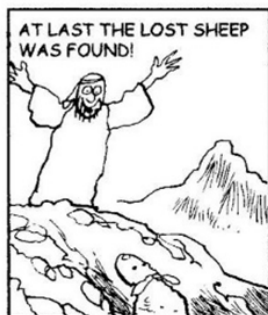
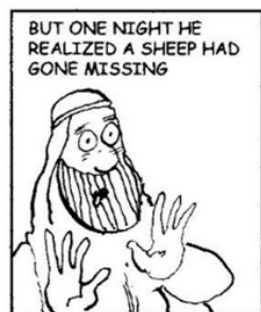
The whole point of this article and illustration is to highlight prospects that may help make solid bridges into our community. In today's world such bridges seem increasingly necessary if we are to achieve our role as a missional church. I would love to hear your views?

Sandy Hutchison

# The tale of the Lost Sheep



Baa!  
Baa!



# Senior Exercise Class

• Mobility • Balance • Well-being •

for men and women

Our adult exercise class for men and women aimed at senior well-being, mobility and balance has restarted on a weekly basis and is run as part of the **Live Active Wellbeing** service to the Strathearn valley.



**PLACE**  
Muthill Parish  
Church



**DAY**  
Every Tuesday



**TIME**  
2:15 – 3:00 pm



Contact Sandy on

**07825 544225**

for full details and  
to join the class.

MOVE WELL • FEEL WELL • LIVE WELL





# Are you interested in joining a Tai Chi class on Thursdays in Muthill?

*A new weekly class is starting on  
Thursday 3rd September with  
Iain Naylor, Principal Instructor,  
Hands of Light School of Taiji*



LOCATION

Muthill Parish Church



TIME

10.30-11.30am

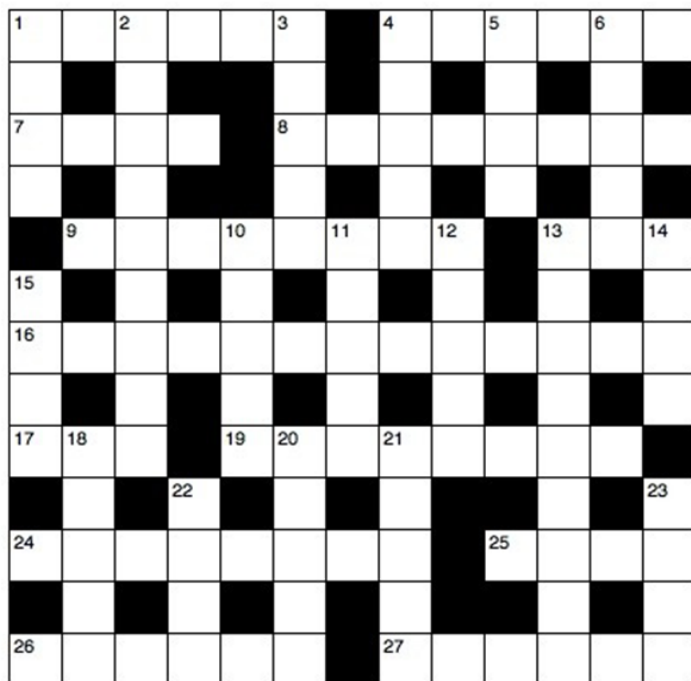


CONTACT SANDY  
FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON

**07825544225**

Only a few spaces in class remain!

## Crossword And Sudoku



### Across

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)  
 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)  
 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)  
 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)  
 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)  
 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)  
 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)  
 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)  
 19 Mock(Luke14:29)(8)  
 24 Disgrace(Psalm44:13)(8)  
 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus13:4)(4)  
 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome(6)  
 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23)(6)

## Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
- 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
- 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
- 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
- 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
- 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
- 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
- 11 Do ten(anag.) (5)
- 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
- 13 Capable of being used (1 Kings 7:36) (9)
- 14 'Each one should — his own actions' (Galatians 6:4) (4)
- 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
- 18 'But I am afraid that just — — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
- 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts (5)
- 21 One of the four sons of Asher (Genesis 46:17) (5)
- 22 Be distressed (Proverbs 24:19) (4)
- 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 3 |   |   | 2 |   | 6 |
| 7 | 9 |   |   | 8 | 2 |   |
| 8 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 5 |   |   |   | 2 |
|   |   | 8 | 2 | 3 | 9 |   |
|   | 6 |   |   |   | 7 |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | 9 |
|   |   | 1 | 4 |   | 6 | 8 |
| 6 |   |   | 1 |   | 5 |   |

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## Kirk And Community News

### Muthill In Bloom Competition

It is so good to see our wee village looking resplendent with beautiful displays of flowers on all the main streets! This is due to much hard work by the Muthill in Bloom team, all volunteers, who have given of their time enthusiastically and often with a lot of personal effort. Such commitment is admirable in any community group and the team under Susan Crawford give a great example to the village as to what can be achieved when we pull together. As the writer of this note, I regret that ageing now makes it less likely I can help in such activities as it takes most of my time and energy to keep my own



garden as a much loved sanctuary of peace and for enjoying nature at close quarters. However, I think we should all take encouragement from the example of the dedication of the Muthill in Bloom volunteers who all year round seek to make our village environment more pleasing for us all. Their participation in this year's Beautiful Scotland competition will surely receive some praise, if not an award, when the results of the judging on 3rd August are known in September. In the meantime they certainly deserve a big thank you from us all.

## Summer Rambling Group

The experimentation of running a summer rambling group



this year for interested members of our church family and friends has been a worthwhile venture. Not every outing has proved successful and a couple had to be cancelled for lack of interest. It has also to be said that one or two walks were too long, but all achieved good fellowship.

What we have also learned is that providing a variety of days for such walks has limited some participation. We will therefore be adjusting the programme for the remainder of the season which finishes at the end of September. There will now be only three remaining walks, all of a shorter nature and two will be held on Sundays when more people seem to be available to join in starting at 2pm from the church.

There is a new updated notice sheet available from the Welcome Desk at church services. It will still be necessary to sign up for any walk to ensure that we have enough people to make such walks viable.

## Kirk And Community News

### Book Club

Our Book Club continues with a membership now over ten and our review sessions which are held usually at between 4-6 weeks over tea and cake continue to be lively and informative. All members find that the club introduces them to books they might not have read if reading on their own and the regular review discussions held after each reading provide greater insight and stimulus. We are currently reading our first autobiography on the Scottish poet and writer Edwin Muir. It traces his life journey from a childhood in Orkney to industrial Glasgow and explores how a poet's sensibility develops amidst 20C turmoil. If any reader is interested in joining our group, please phone 078 25544225 for further information.



### Welcome Information Desk

Our welcome desk at the rear of the church sanctuary has now been operating for around a year. It is there for attenders at church services to pick up information on the church's weekly activities, to access sign-up sheets to assist with our refreshment and flower services at our Sunday services. There is also a prayer box where requests for prayers for others can be deposited. Requests for personal private prayer from the minister or a member of the prayer team after services can also be arranged there. We further stock a range of current charity and church magazines and are trying to develop leaflets to assist with personal daily devotions and other related faith issues.

If you would like to help with this or man the desk occasionally or regularly this would be much appreciated. With the refurbishment of the Bruce Hall and the removal of the wall noticeboard, important information will be placed for the time being on a mobile board so that it can be accessed also during week days. A longer term method for displaying important information remains under consideration.

## Soup and Sandwich lunches



These resume in our upgraded hall facilities on Wednesday 9th September at 12.30pm with coffee, tea and chat available from 11am onwards. As previously, this is a weekly event for anyone from our church families, residents of the village and friends beyond. It is a significant social gathering in the village and newcomers are always welcome. Participants are invited to make a donation of £2 for the lunch. If they want.

## Muthill Village Choir



The Village Choir which normally meets in the Church's Bruce Hall will be restarting a new session sometime in September with practices twice a month on a Monday night. After a successful free concert in the village hall at Gala time, this is the chance for new comers to come along and enjoy good fellowship and a variety of great songs covering classical, modern and popular. No experience is required and there is the chance to learn part singing if you are up to it, but no pressure! The choir is led by Ashley Holland, If you are interested you can always contact him for further information by email [a1holland@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:a1holland@hotmail.co.uk).

The session fee for each term is £10 which covers cost of using the hall and printing of music. We are also informed that the choir will be taking part in the concert planned for Friday 25th September in the church. So if you enjoy singing and want to support a worthwhile village initiative, come along and join us. One or two of the church family already are members of the village choir.

## Kirk And Community News

### Pastoral Care Team

Our Pastoral Care Team currently has 7 members and they currently provide a visiting service to the housebound and elderly in the congregation as well as our prayer service. We are very keen to expand the service as pastoral care should be one of the hallmarks of our church as it continues to grow and serve. We feel sure that are further members in our church family who would be able to assist with this service and who would enjoy being part of this team. If they can be found we want to expand our role to cover younger families, expand



our prayer service and to re-introduce welcome packs for newcomers to our village. We currently meet as a team half yearly for training and for reviewing our service. We also organise our annual memorial service for the bereaved around Christmas time. Being a team member is not an onerous task as it is carried out very much according to you own time table but it remain at the core of our mission as caring church family . Please think about joining! A leaflet on the service with greater details and who to contact is available from the Church Welcome Desk at the rear of the church sanctuary.

## St James Scottish Episcopal Church

It was an honour to be invited to attend St. James Scottish Episcopal Church, our close neighbour, for the licensing of their new Priest-in-

Charge, Rev'd Rachel Wright on Saturday 8th August. It was a memorable service with St. James packed to the rafters not only with members of St Kessog's and St James but also a lot of church dignitaries, friends and representatives of St Mary's, Dunblane, from where Rachel is coming. It was also good that our Church was able to make available our new splendidly upgraded facilities for the congregation to come across afterwards and take a festive lunch. Rachel is now in charge of the linked churches of St Kessog Church, Auchterarder and St James Church Muthill.



We wish Rachel every success in her appointment and we hope that both she and the two churches have a happy and fruitful association. We also look forward to continuing our close collaboration particularly with St James which we have enjoyed and developed under the former Rector, Duncan Strathie who has now retired to St. Madoes.

## Kirk And Community News

### Mens Group



Our Mens Group is just finishing another summer of fortnightly gatherings in members' gardens. These have been great occasions for bringing the group closer together as they have given us more insight into each other's home lives. Thanks go to Willie, Dennis, Sandy, Bill, Graham, Adrian and Stuart who all agreed to host this year's roster of summer coffee gathering with special thanks for some great food and home baking.

The Group will be starting a new session on Wednesday 9th September at 11am the same day as the soup and sandwich

lunches resume. As well as the normal weekly hour of coffee and chat about life, we will also be continuing our monthly quizzes, indoor bowls and opportunities for giving practical help according to our resources with the occasional excursion or meal out. Whilst we already have a healthy nucleus we always welcome new members.

## Communication Survey

The Church of Scotland is currently undertaking a survey on how it communicates with members, congregations and the wider church community following the closure of Life & Work. They are interested in learning about how as members we engage with Church communications, our preferences for receiving information, and our views on what a future publication or communication platform could offer. Any responses will be treated in confidence and analysed anonymously. If you would like to take part, the easiest way is to go through the Perth Presbytery website, [perth@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:perth@churchofscotland.org.uk) and in their menu find Friday Round Up. If you open this and start scrolling down through the content you find a heading Life & Work Survey and there is a direct link contained there which will enable you to complete the survey. You may also find this weekly round of interest as to what is happening around the Presbytery area.



## Refurbishment Completed

It is very pleasing for us all to see the fine refurbishment of the Bruce Hall, with its new enlarged kitchen, the upgrading of our toilet facilities providing three new toilets, including one disabled off the Bruce Hall, and not forgetting the upgrading of the rear toilet adjacent to the vestry. Our

Property Convener, Graham Donaldson, and the contractors involved have to be congratulated not only on the finished achievement, but also the smooth execution of the project from start to finish. When one thinks of the overall transformation in our building that has taken place over the past few years, we have so much to be thankful for. Let us now pray that these flexible and smart facilities that we now possess

will be increasingly used in promoting the mission of our church and will be seen as a valuable community hub. Well done to all who have masterminded and conducted this important project.



# Chat *and* Tunes for **CANCER**



FRIDAY

25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER



7.30PM

⋈ Entertainment by ⋈

**LOCAL TALENT OF ALL AGES**



**MUTHILL PARISH CHURCH**

with opportunity to see our  
**new Kitchen, toilet accommodation**  
and refurbished **Bruce Hall**



**ADMISSION FREE**

Seeking generous donations  
towards **CANCER RESEARCH UK**

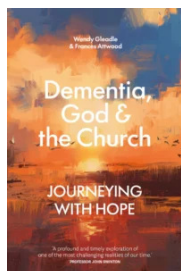


**CANCER  
RESEARCH  
UK**

*Let's come together for a great cause! ♥*

## New Book Reviews

### Christian Book Reviews

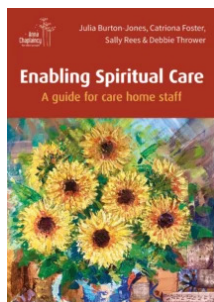


**Dementia, God and the Church: Journeying with hope**  
**By Wendy Gleadle and Frances Attwood, BRF, £12.99**

Dementia is one of today's most feared health conditions, and Christians with the condition may also worry about losing their faith and their connection to God. However, there is still hope: those living with dementia can still find meaning in their life and their faith.

Written by two practitioners in this field, *Dementia, God and the Church* aims to show how person-centred approaches to dementia can provide hope. Wendy Gleadle first examines the difficulties of maintaining religious beliefs as cognition declines, and the implications of this if faith is equally emotional as cognitive. She explores other forms of spiritual awareness, such as relationships, the arts and creativity.

Frances Attwood asks how churches can better support those living with dementia, through examining what they and their families and carers find helpful and want most. Throughout, space is given to first-hand stories of those with dementia, those working with them and those caring for them.



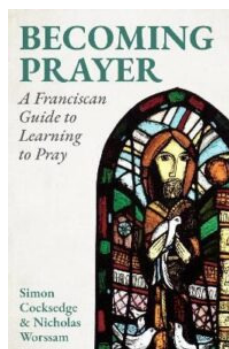
**Enabling Spiritual Care: A guide for care home staff**  
**By Debbie Thower, Sally Rees, Catriona Foster, & Julia Burton-Jones, BRF, £9.99**

Drawing from expertise developed through Anna Chaplaincy, this book enables members of care home staff teams to understand and facilitate the provision of spiritual care for residents. It explains the need for religious care, focusing on older people who are Christians, and provides examples

of prayers, hymns, and services that can be used.

There are chapters on facilitating worship with groups and individuals, offering end-of-life spiritual care and supporting those who are unable to attend a funeral. There are also sections on self-care and attending

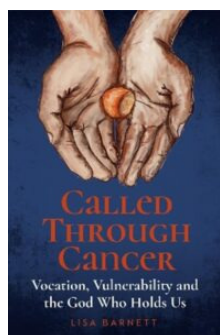
to your own spiritual needs. This book focuses on spiritual care from a Christian perspective, but all faiths and belief systems are respected.



**Becoming Prayer – a Franciscan Guide By Simon Cocksedge, Nicholas Alan Worssam, ssf, Canterbury Press, £13.99**

Inspired by a vivid account of St Francis – where he didn't merely pray but became prayer – *Becoming Prayer* introduces readers to the heart of Franciscan spirituality. Drawing on the enduring wisdom of Francis, Clare and generations of Franciscans, including voices like Richard Rohr and Ilia Delio, it offers a rich and accessible introduction to prayer as a way of life. From moments of thanksgiving and praise to silent contemplation, readers will learn how Franciscans aim to pray not just in church, but in every moment.

Simon Cocksedge and Nicholas Alan Worssam explore communal practices such as the Daily Office and Eucharist, and delve into prayer rooted in Scripture – through the Passion, the Stations of the Cross, and the Rosary. They also embrace the stillness of solitude: night time reflection, silence and the Jesus Prayer. Rooted in a tradition that speaks powerfully to today's world, and published in a milestone year for Franciscans globally, this is an invitation to an ancient yet ever-renewing journey of prayer.



**Called Through Cancer - Vocation, Vulnerability and the God Who Holds Us By Lisa Barnett, Canterbury Press, £11.99**

What if cancer isn't a detour from your calling – but part of it? In this deeply personal and spiritually grounded account, Anglican priest Lisa Barnett reflects on her own journey through cancer treatment and discovers a profound truth: that even in suffering, we are called. Drawing on the wisdom of St Ignatius of Loyola and her extensive experience

in vocational ministry, Barnett explores how illness can become a sacred space – where God is found, faith is deepened and vocation is reimaged.

With honesty, theological insight and pastoral sensitivity, she invites readers to see each stage of illness – from diagnosis to treatment, vulnerability to recovery – not as a disruption, but as a vocation in its own right. *Called Through Cancer* is for anyone navigating serious illness, for clergy and ministers facing suffering in the midst of active ministry and for all who seek to understand calling in the shadow of pain.



### **Bible Stories Activity Pad - 60 Activities for 5 years and under**

**By Deborah Lock, Candy Books, £9.99**

Fun and engaging activity books with tear-off sheets covering all the favourite Bible stories and more for young children.

Packed with a wonderfully varied mix of early-learning activities inspired by favourite Bible stories from both the Old and New Testaments, this vibrant activity pad gives children aged 5 years and under a playful, engaging way to explore the greatest story ever told - one page at a time.

It includes colouring pages featuring familiar Bible characters, dot-to-dot, puzzles, mazes, matching games, drawing and creative activities, bright illustrations, and tear-off sheets for easy use or for sharing. Makes a brilliant gift for birthdays, baptisms, Easter, Christmas, or as a Sunday school prize.

### **Crossword Solution:**

#### **ACROSS:**

: 1, Labour. 4, Autumn. 7, Stay. 8, Darkness. 9, Reasoned. 13, Act. 16, Presbyterians. 17, Sat. 19, Ridicule. 24, Reproach. 25, Abib. 26, Celtic. 27, Intend.

#### **Down:**

1, Lose. 2, Blame rest. 3, Radio. 4, Agree. 5, Tend. 6, Music. 10, Sober. 11, Noted. 12, Doric. 13, Available. 14, Test. 15, Apes. 18, As Eve. 20, Isaac. 21, Ishvi. 22, Fret. 23, Ebed.

# Smile Lines



A young clergyman, fresh out of theological training, thought it would help him better understand the world if he served as a policeman for a while before taking on a congregation.



He studied hard and passed the exams; passed the physical; and then came the all-important final interview.

One question was:

**‘What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?’**

He promptly responded, ‘I would pass an offering plate.’

**He got the job.**

## Sudoku Solutions

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 6 |
| 7 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 8 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 1 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 9 |
| 9 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| 6 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 2 |



**Our Mission** in Muthill Parish Church is to achieve a closer relationship with God and, as an ever welcoming church family, to tell all we meet about the joys and challenges of following Jesus.

Registered Charity  
Number  
SC004984

### Church Contacts:

Address: Station Road, Muthill, Crieff PH5 2AR

Church website: [www.muthillparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.muthillparishchurch.co.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/muthillchurch](https://www.facebook.com/muthillchurch)

Email: [muthillparish@yahoo.com](mailto:muthillparish@yahoo.com)

Bridge Submissions: [macahiph@gmail.com](mailto:macahiph@gmail.com)

### Useful Telephone Numbers

#### Emergencies:

NHS 24 111

Emergency 999

Water 0800 0778 778

Floods 0345 988 1188

Environment 01738 476476

#### Hospitals:

Crieff Comm. 01764653173

PRI 01738623311

Ninewells 01382660111

#### Crieff Medical Centre:

Blue Practice 01764652283

Red Practice 01764652456

PKC: 01738 475000

#### Church of Scotland:

Perth Pres. 07596868064

Central HQ. 01312255722

#### Police:

Emergency 999

Non-Emergency 101

Action Fraud 101



Our Cover theme for this edition is “Muthill in Bloom”

Thanks go to Raffie for sourcing the graphics and helping in the production

### Our Aim

The Bridge seeks to give updates on church activities and to be thought provoking on issues affecting delivery of our mission

Submission Deadline for Next Edition  
Friday 9 October, 2026