THE BRIDGE

HARVEST EDITION | OCTOBER 2026

Serving our Schools

The Praise Dilemma

Chat and Tunes

Vision for our Grounds



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Kirk Roll

Since the last edition of our last magazine there have been two marriages of which further details are given on page 26.

Welcome

We are also pleased to have welcomed **John and Elspeth Wright** who joined our church family in September 2026.

There have been no deaths to record.

Marriages:

Freya Carmichael to Macaulay Wittman	Saturday 12th September 2026
Karen McCulloch to Moray Finlay	Saturday 19th September 2026

Editorial

Recent national debates on subjects like Artificial Intelligence, End of Life proposals, Methanol Poisoning and even the issue of unprecedented donations to political parties have all made me acutely aware of the dangers that lurk in our democracy and our modern world. There seems little doubt that while many developments do make life easier for more and more people, there are equally increasingly unseen dangers especially for the more vulnerable in our society. This has implications for us as a Christian Church both nationally and locally. My own eyes have recently been very much opened, through a host of church visits, meetings with ministers and a conference I attended, to the importance it should be for us as Christians to be aware of such trends (positive and negative) and to ensure that the Christian standpoint is always present.

Beyond one's personal stance as an individual I think this implies that it is important that we, as a church, regularly re-assess the way we use our resources (our message, our people and our buildings) to ensure that our priorities are in line with the needs of the community we are trying to serve. What would Jesus do in this situation should always be our first consideration! As Christians, we have a wonderfully powerful message on how to navigate life. We also have a responsibility to stand up and be counted in demonstrating that our message works. However, to be effective we need to deliver it with enthusiasm, energy and genuineness. There is much undoubtably to be learned from visiting other churches and studying how these elements are very much present in churches which are successful in delivering their mission.



Editor

Letter From Our Interim Moderator

Dear friends,

As you will have probably heard by now, the Presbytery has decided, with the agreement of our Kirk Session, that Muthill Parish Church should enter into a period of Guardianship. This is the name given by The Church of Scotland to a congregation which is in some kind of holding position, where the immediate future is unclear. Effectively, for our church and congregation, nothing very much changes from how we have been operating since the present vacancy occurred over three years ago. The main difference, from our point of view, is that once we enter this status, we will receive a 'vacancy allowance' which will enable us to pay preaching fees and any expenses related to that. Up until now, these expenses have been met by the congregation's own resources. The Presbytery requires that guardianship is entered following a vote to this effect from both the Kirk Session and the congregation. It is therefore proposed that we hold a meeting of the Kirk Session before worship on **Sunday 25th October**, and then a meeting of the congregation for the same purpose immediately following morning worship that day. Two members of the Presbytery of Perth will be present to oversee voting procedures. It is therefore important that as many of the congregation as possible are present that morning to ask any questions and to vote on whether we enter this period of guardianship. Just for the avoidance of any doubt, there is no proposal of any sort which would lead to the closure of our Church. Indeed, as we all know, Muthill is very much alive and thriving, and slowly increasing in numbers. However, given the shortage of ministers within The Church of Scotland, we are not large enough to sustain a minister on our own and await a vacancy in a nearby congregation with whom we could link in the future. If you have any questions about this, to which you might like answers before the congregational meeting please feel free to speak with Mrs. Helen-May Bayne or me, and we will do our best to answer them.



Looking to the future, we are not standing still! We have our Vision Group who have been busy over the summer considering the ways in which we

can encourage our congregation to grow and to develop its ministry more widely. Once that Group reports its findings to the Kirk Session, steps will be taken towards implementing its recommendations.

On another topic altogether, what a huge amount of good work has been done by our Property Team, headed by Graham Donaldson, to upgrade the Bruce Hall, the kitchen, the toilet provision and repainting in that general area of the building. I am sure that we all wish to say, 'thank you for a job very well done'.

And finally, Marjorie and I have been thinking about organizing a short holiday of three or four days on Iona for members and friends of the congregation who might want to go. Once we can find a suitable time next year that suits the hotel, we'll call a meeting of those who might be interested.

We have so much to give God thanks for. His Guiding Hand is behind all that we do as a congregation, so let us give Him thanks for all that we are achieving in His Name.

With every blessing and good wish,

Iain F. Paton, Interim Moderator



Chats And Tunes For Cancer

On the evening of Friday 25th September, people streamed into Muthill Parish Church in eager anticipation of the Chats and Tunes for Cancer concert, and they were certainly not disappointed! The capacity audience were in for a treat!



Willie Bell, with typical dry humour, opened the evening singing several songs, accompanying himself on guitar, and encouraging generous giving for Cancer Research – several people with large red buckets, we are assured would be delighted to receive our donations.

Willie was followed by nine-year-old Nevis Robertson who delighted the audience with her accordion playing – (her feet not quite touching the floor). Nevis began learning to play the accordion when seven-years-old and had only recently moved to the bigger instrument she played at the concert. She certainly won the hearts of the audience.

Next Muthill Community Choir, conducted by Ashley Holland and accompanied by Gilbert Speirs, sang a medley of well-loved songs ranging from Irving Berlin's "There is no Business like Show Business" to Les Misérables' "Do you Hear the People Sing?". With among others, Dolly Parton's "Jolene" and the traditional "Shenandoah". The choir's enthusiasm was infectious.



There were more treats in store: Elaine Wallace whose fine voice was accompanied by her equally fine guitar playing: sisters Alice and Lauren Hargrave, violin and cello, with "Give me Sunshine" and the theme from "Frozen".

And then came a chance for the audience to participate. Led by Gilbert Speirs, helped by Elaine, Alice and Willie, we sang a selection of songs from "Hope", A Time for Community Singing, compiled by Gilbert. The songs

ranged from “This little Light of Mine” to “The World is not my Home” and “The Old Rugged Cross” all sang enthusiastically.



This brought the concert to a close, but not the evening as there were refreshments, provided by members of the congregation in the Bruce Hall, now back in use following the refurbishment of the church’s kitchen. And of course those with the red buckets for donations were on hand – at the time of writing, donations totalling £1951.67 have been banked.

So, many thanks to the organisers including Willie Bell and on the sound desk – Mike Dove, to all the local artists and, of course, the audience for both their participation and generous donations.

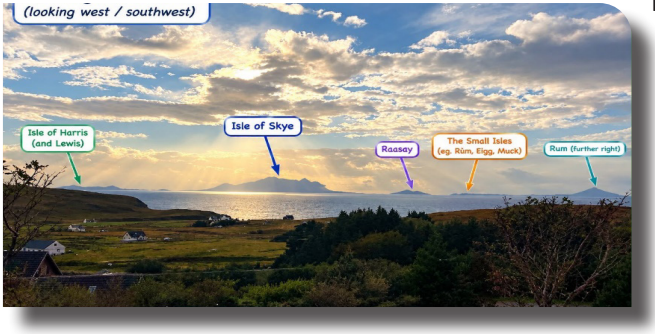
Mollie McCallum

We would also like to thank Fiona Macmichael who was asked to submit a text on this event and who kindly agreed that Mollie's account should be used and to Susan Crawford for the pics. What a Night!



The Refreshment Of A Break

People go on holiday for different adventures - a change of scenery, to explore new things, to get away from everyday routines, to enjoy eating out, to expand the mind and encounter new experiences. For me, as I am now amongst the check-out generation, it is also a time for reflection. I find it so lovely to get away from the routines which occupy most of my normal day-time hours to find calm to consider some of the joys of life and that special feeling of peace that comes from being in a comfortable yet unfamiliar setting where all your time is your own.



This year for our break we chose Aultgrishan, Melvaig, a few miles beyond Gairloch in Wester Ross with its rugged scenery, its ever present winds and the dominance of the sea, mountains and lochs. Once again, we were blessed with largely bright sunny weather which was good for the end of September. Even when it was overcast we still marvelled at the momentary changes between showery skies to bright dazzling autumn sunshine.



Going on holiday with a much-loved pooch also dictates many of the activities that you do and dog walks inevitably bring you close to nature. In our case it was the wonder of quiet beaches and dramatic cliffs, the changing colours of the wild moorland scenery and not forgetting the daily



encounters with sheep grazing on the single track roads. I loved their varied reaction as they munched away on the road verges, sometimes perturbed by passing cars but more often, not at all. This made me think of how we, as human beings, in many ways are similar as we adjust to modern developments encroaching on our lives such as AI. Some of us react with nervousness and others with a sense of oblivion.



One other distinct memory of this trip is the warm hospitality of the local folk with their enthusiasm to tell us about life in these wilder parts of our country. Life can be different yet remains reassuringly welcoming!



With any good holiday there can also be a reluctance to return to your chosen home-base and to pick up the routines which dictate your normal life. Over the years I have found that such reluctance wains somewhat for as one gets older home represents security, friendships, and the reassurance of familiarity which are also important in life. I, therefore, always hope that I will return to the normal pillars of my life feeling refreshed and able to value them more.

This year, for sure, I have returned inwardly refreshed, and hope that I can infuse my life with more self-realisation whilst contributing meaningfully to life around me. It is undoubtedly a privilege to have life with all its experiences and to be thankful to God!

Sandy Hutchison

From St James

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the warm welcome to the village. It has been wonderful to be able to meet a folks at the Soup Lunches and I am looking forward meeting more people and getting to know everyone better.



I thought it might be helpful to introduce myself so you know who I am if you see me out and about.

I am delighted to be the Priest-in-charge at St James Muthill and St Kessog's Auchterarder. We are living in Auchterarder – myself, my wife Charlotte, our three year old daughter and our border collie. Charlotte and I have lived in Strathearn for almost ten years, first coming here for Charlotte's GP training.

I am originally from Aberdeen where I grew up in the Church of Scotland. I moved to Edinburgh for University and it was there, after a few years in a Baptist church, that I found my way to the Episcopal Church. I worked as a support worker for Bethany Christian Trust for a time before we moved here and I joined the team at Corbenic Camphill Community supporting adults with learning disabilities. I left there to begin training for ministry and as a student worked with the Highland Perthshire Linked Charge. Most recently I was the assistant curate at St Mary's Dunblane.

I love being outdoors, growing veg, walking. I like reading and needle-felting. I listen to everything from Taylor Swift to Scottish folk music. I believe that God's story is a story of love and that the church's job is to share that love with the world.

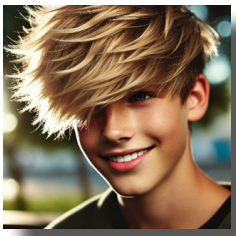
Please do come and say hi if you see me around, I hope to meet you soon.

Every blessing
Rachael

Smile Line

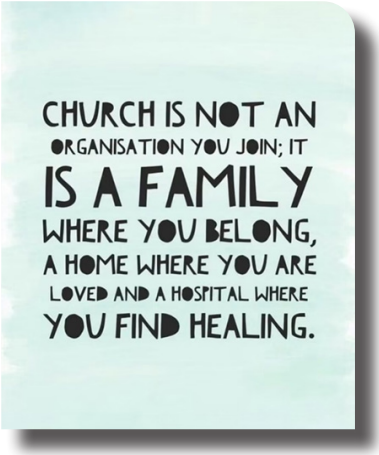
The Haircut

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.



His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut. Then, we'll talk about the car." The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it. After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut." The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

(Dad's reply!)"Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?"



Serving Our Schools

Some of the church family will know that the Vision Group set up by the Kirk Session to look into ways and means of strengthening our contact with families and younger folk continues its study and is due to report this autumn with recommendations. As part of its work it has recently been visiting a number of churches which appear to be making progress in building effective links. One such church was the relatively new Craigowl Parish Church in Dundee, from which the Group learnt of the importance to working with local schools and visiting. This subject has also been the further focus on a recent conference on chaplaincy organised by Perth Presbytery's Ministry Committee.



Stephen Miller, who is one of our visiting preachers at Muthill Parish Church, was one of the key note speakers at this event. Stephen has had 39 years' experience of teaching and was latterly Headteacher in Denny. Into retirement he has just completed two years' service as Schools and Education Coordinator for the Church of Scotland at 121 George Street and now more recently has persuaded Perth Presbytery to do similar local work in supporting schools. He will now be working with Presbytery for the year ahead on this important link in serving our communities.



Stephen says that there is a great need amongst pupils 11-18 years as they face a technology driven society which has many exciting opportunities by also is full of dangers and fake information. He feels strongly that

churches have an important role to play in assisting schools in this area of need. Such engagement can also be valuable in bringing kids of that age into contact with Christianity and a personal faith as they seek to tackle the big questions in life.

Such initiatives that are happening go beyond the traditionally ways of understanding chaplaincy such as ministers being involved in religious education, talking at assemblies, important though they continue to be. However, there are today so many other needs in schools which current resources do not cover and where churches can give assistance. These include simple support like praying for the local school, providing a church presence at school events, helping with paired reading, manning water stations at school sponsored walking or running events, running lunchtime cafes that provide safe space for vulnerable children to the more complex support such as funding a school worker. Ministers, of course, continue to play a key role in such contact but they are frequently very busy and the congregation can also support by marshalling its resources and seeing where it can provide help that matches a school's needs.



There is a now a dedicated website which seeks to inspire and equip Scottish churches to serve their local schools (*www.syls.org.uk*). This site provides practical help in how to run assemblies, and contains stories from across Scotland from churches which have been successful in providing meaningful support in simple ways using the church resources of people and buildings. As Stephen so well emphasised at the conference, the time has come for churches to GO WIDE in assessing both the needs of schools and how their congregation can help in meeting such needs. The website mentioned also now provides an audit tool to help churches make that assessment. It is good to see our Church of Scotland and Perth Presbytery responding to such needs and highlighting ways that we can serve our local community and perhaps there are new lessons that can be learned for our own church.

A Vision For Our Church Grounds

As those who come to church by car will know, parking and the state of the church grounds are becoming an increasing challenge with more cars encroaching on the grass areas and other areas of the grounds in need of improvement and better maintenance. We are pleased to inform the wider congregation that John Souter, one of our newer members, has kindly taken up this challenge and will be consulting widely with some exciting ideas. On Wednesday 6th October, he presented his initial ideas to a full meeting of the Mens Group seeking to engage their interest and help in starting a project which, it is hoped, will gradually cover the whole grounds and including ideas already discussed in the Kirk Session on how to improve car parking spaces in the grounds.





John*, with his vast experience of designing, building and maintenance of grass sports surfaces from Shetland to Southhampton, has already undertaken initial research and will be discussing the project with the Muthill in Bloom team. The Noah's Ark section to the right of the Church main entrance will be the first part to be "cleaned up". He will be enlisting the help of the able bodied members of the Mens Group to help undertake this clearance. Then, others in the congregation (both men and women) will be encouraged to join in with plant research, planting and maintenance ideas under the overall theme of renovating our church grounds with biblical themes which can be easily maintained and hopefully will provide a new area of floral interest within the village. Once the first area seen in the pictures opposite is made ready, it will be reinstated to

depict the story of Noah and his ark using researched plants mentioned in the Bible. Muthill in Bloom will be consulted and hopefully they will play a key advisory role in the longer term project. It is hoped that this will also engender enthusiasm from all gardeners within the church family to help in possible research of possible Bible themes and Bible plants for other parts of our grounds whilst maintaining car parking space appropriate for our needs.

We have a fine historic building and with enhanced grounds, if enthusiastically developed, such a project could enable us to provide yet another floral area of interest within our award winning village. We hope that many within the church family will consider coming forward to take part in this exciting vision. You can contact John with ideas and offers of help in any part of this project through his email jsouterconsult@aol.com or his mobile phone 07767380010.

**John attended West of Scotland College, Auchincruive, Ayr - a long time ago- where he studied Horticulture and gained his National Diploma in Horticulture. During the 1970-1980s, he was a lecturer in Agronomy and Soil Science at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh- for 22 years*

A Prayer for November

Dear Lord,
At this dark and dismal time, when the year is closing down and our lives get busier and the world more confusing, we can sometimes become discouraged and low in spirits.

Help us to adjust our perspective, to turn and look up, to focus afresh on You, to remember that Your name is above all names, above discouragement, above despair, above confusion.

Help us to be thankful for each day that You have made, recognising each one as a gift from You, to be treasured and lived fruitfully.

May we welcome Your powerful, healing light into our hearts and lives - Your light, which no darkness can dim. Help us to remember your words,
'I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

Help us to follow you and walk in the light, this November and always.
In your name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

The Praise Dilemma

One the opportunities that comes with visiting different churches is the chance to experience different forms of delivering worship praise. It seems to be a growing fact that more and more churches are dropping choirs and organs in favour of praise bands and lead singers. Why? I guess because organs are expensive to maintain, organists are difficult to find and it is more difficult to produce music in a modern tempo on a church organ. Where church choirs do exist they too seem to increasingly be populated by the older generation and have a preference for more traditional church music which is apparently not so attractive to the majority of younger folk. Some churches even go further and give honorariums to choir members which makes them even more elite. The result of a recent youth survey is also interesting in showing that 40% of those surveyed said they were attracted to worship services by churches which had clear messages on the big issues of life whilst 60% were simply attracted by lively music.



Most younger folk also confirm that many of the hymn songs used in traditional worship have outdated language which makes the songs less accessible and this adds to a feeling that traditional worship praise is out of touch with modern society. It can also be said that many traditional hymns often contain Bible images, which are not known by today's modern generation. Of course, many amongst the older generation will argue that some of modern worship songs are very repetitive, simplistic and the music is often noisy compared with the older familiar hymn songs and that this

can dictate against the reflective nature of praise. This presents a genuine dilemma for churches seeking to provide more inter-generational worship praise.

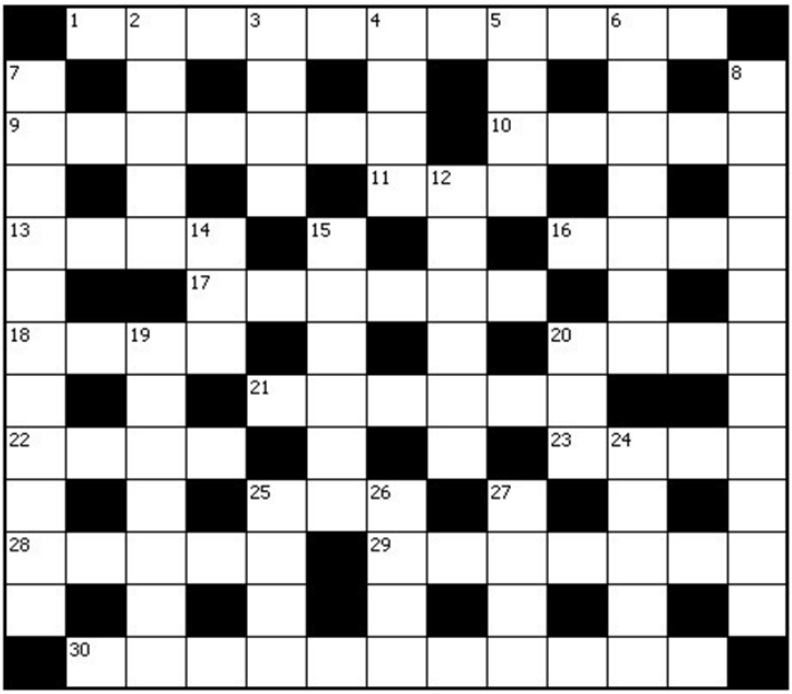
Whilst visiting a variety of urban and rural churches of late I took the liberty of asking people in the congregations visited what their feelings were on worship praise. In all those churches with a healthy balance of all ages in the congregations, the general response I received was that the music provided by praise bands is easier to relate to and more modern, welcoming and especially to newcomers. Whilst there can be repetitive element to some modern songs, it was also felt, this allowed people to put more emotion into their praise and that this was an important part of modern worshipping. It was also said that a praise band usually gives a better lead to the worship praise as the singer(s)all use microphones which give a strong lead and, even if the tune is new, it was usually easy to join in when being well led. A choir can of course give the same, but increasingly church choirs seems passé to the average worshipper.



As the writer of this piece I have to admit that my knowledge of many new modern hymn songs and their music has hitherto been limited. I found this on my trips around churches yet I also marvelled at how one can quickly join in if a good lead is provided.

There remains the dilemma of deciding on the way forward for today's church praise especially in congregations which do not currently possess a good balance of all ages. The trend, however, in the average congregation within the Church of Scotland clearly now favours the praise band which enables volunteer musicians and singers from the congregation to come forward and lead the worship. My own feeling is that such an approach does provide more easily accessible and joyful hymn singing whilst still enabling the ability to incorporate traditional hymn songs in a more modern tempo.

Crossword And Sudoku



Across

1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all _, Lord of all _, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy'(11,3)
9 Mosesí question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you _ your fellow Hebrew?" (Exodus 2:13) (7)
10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline _ (2,3)
11 'At even _ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay'(3)
13 A descendant of Gad (xNumbers 26:16) (4)
16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but _ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must _God rather than men!'(Acts 5:29) (4)
20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, _ Eareckson Tada (4)
21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat _ _ '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)

23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
25 Tree (3)
28 'No fear of me should _ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you'(Job 33:7) (5)
29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

2 'O Jerusalem _ how _I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
3 Way out (4)
4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
5 Done (anag.) (4)
6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
7 Concerning the study of God (11)
8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
14 Frozen (3)
15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
20 See 1 Across
24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
25 Time (anag.) (4)
26 Lists choice of meals (4)
27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'(Romans 6:23) (4)

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

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*Solutions on page 31

Kirk And Community News

New Church Facilities



It is so good to enjoy our upgraded facilities with the new toilets off the Bruce Hall and the greatly expanded kitchen which will enable us to cater more comfortably for the soup and sandwich lunches and any bigger events held on our premises. General reaction to these improved facilities has been very positive and it represents one further step forward in the overall upgrading of our church building. The remaining areas to be completed include the inner lobby and the north lounge. There is also a valuable space upstairs off the church gallery which comprises a lounge area with an adjoining side room formerly used by the youth of the church and with the on-going valuable work being done by the Vision Group, who knows when this might become active again.

Muthill Sportive







Another wonderful Muthill Sportive event (now in its 12th Year) took place on Saturday 29th August, and this year it was blessed by a beautifully warm sunny day. With a sell-out number of participants, comprising over 187 cyclists from the community and beyond, around 70 families participating and even 8 tandems, the event proved a resounding success!

Many congratulations and thanks go to volunteers from the village and the surrounding community who helped in its organisation, including route signers, marshalls, bike repairers, cake bakers, kitchen helpers, a photographer en route and many others. It is great to see the community coming together for what is now a very important annual event.

It also proved another good test for our new church kitchen.

Muthill Golf Club



In the photo opposite, we have the 2026 Club champions of Muthill Golf Club. Katy Scott won the Ladies scratch competition whilst Raffie Bakar won the Gents scratch. The cups were presented by the Gents and Ladies captains John Lees and Hazel Dean. Raffie will be also known to many in the church as he kindly does the design and graphics for the church magazine, The Bridge. The Muthill Golf Club has also won the Bell Trophy this year. This is an annual inter-club golf knockout competition managed by Perth and Kinross County Golf Union. They beat Bishopshire Golf Club 3-2.

Muthill Cemetries Group

Safety checks on the headstones of the graves in the Old Kirkyard and Muthill Cemetry started in late August. This is undertaken by Perth and Kinross Council and the team from Perth and Kinross Bereavement Services visited the local Cemetries Group to explain the different types of headstones used and the foundations on which they sit.

Where the headstones do not pass the safety inspection they are laid flat. Some have also been marked with orange or red flags and the owners of these stones will be notified by the Council and advised of their situations. Graves are the responsibility of the family descendants, but many records are out of date. If anyone is concerned about a family gravestone they should contact Perth and Kinross Bereavement Service.

For information and volunteering on the Muthill Cemetries Group please contact Susan Crawford of Muthill in Bloom. There is also a separate web page on the Cemetries Group in Facebook.

New Tai Chi Class



Our new tai chi class was launched during the first week of September and it was so good to find that 25 had subscribed to attend, both men and women. It got off to a great start and it was pleasing to note that at least half of those attending were from outside the church family and this enabled several old acquaintances to be renewed.

Our instructor, Iain, gave a very helpful introduction and the first class ran smoothly with participants being introduced to well-known Qi Gong movements such as the Tiger, holding the Cauldron and the Crane. At the close of the session, there was encouraging feedback on how much it had been enjoyed as well as noticeable enthusiasm for advancing in the classes and deeper into the hidden world of Tai Chi movements. As one class member commented, whilst all the movements are slow and graceful, only at the end of the session do you fully realise how much and how constantly you have worked all parts of your body. Many also saw there were definite values in linking breathing to movement with great potential for relieving aches and pains with added potential of keeping the different organs of the body healthy through exercise. After the class, it was also good to see the whole group stay on for coffee and chat in the Bruce Hall.

With a consistent attendance also being experienced in our afternoon Live Active exercise class, these healthy activities hopefully also provide additional fellowship within our church family as well a pleasant opportunity to befriend people in our surrounding community.

Kirk Session News



The Kirk Session met on 8th September, 2026 from which the following should be noted:

- The details of the Guardianship arrangement approved by Perth Presbytery for Muthill Parish Church will be put to the congregation on Sunday 25 October
- The former Trinity Gask and Kinkell Church building has been sold for £60K by the Church of Scotland
- Our contribution to the central funds of the Church of Scotland will be £26k for 2026-2027
- The total cost of the Kitchen and Toilets project came in at £96,168 which is within the original estimate of £105K approved by Perth Presbytery
- In relation to the church building repair work is necessary on the Clock and also in regard to the stone masonry of the tower. The Kirk Session will be giving further consideration to both these issues at its next meeting
- Quotes have been received for the painting of the inner entrance lobby of the church and the Property Convener has been given approval to proceed with this work provided the total remains within £14K (for painting and scaffolding)
- It is required to conduct a fire drill during a morning service and this will be organised
- Reports on Worship, Mission outreaches and Membership of the congregation were received and noted. Our Kirk Roll now stands at 200
- There will be a retiring collection on remembrance Sunday which will go to Erskine House
- The Kirk Session has approved dates for various special worship services before Christmas, which are listed elsewhere in the magazine
- The Vision Group work continues with visiting other churches. Its report is scheduled for October 2026
- It has been approved that the Church will make a donation of £600 towards the work of the Scripture Union, whose materials are use by our Monday SU Group.

Book Club

Our Book Club which continues to grow in strength with some marvellous review discussions met at its new time of 7.30pm on Wednesday evening, 6th October, to review Muriel Spark's "Ballad of Peckham Rye". This short book was much enjoyed by the Club especially for Spark's wonderful observational skills, humour and for the so fascinating insight it provided into life in 1950s. The next book chosen is "The finest hotel in Kabul" by the leading TV journalist Lyse Doucet. This will be reviewed again on a Wednesday night, namely Wednesday 25th November, at 7.30pm in the North Lounge of the Church. We hope that our change of meeting to an evening time will encourage further people to consider joining us. It is fun!

Film Nights with St James

Now that Rachael has taken up the reigns at St James we are delighted to announce that the film evenings bringing members of our Church family together with members at St James will recommence this month with one or two minor changes. We have decided to run 6 film evenings over the remainder of the autumn (3) and winter season (3) but will be moving from a Monday to a Wednesday evening. The venue will remain Muthill Parish Church and the format will be much the same as last year with screening starting at 7.00pm followed by refreshments, and a short review discussion with the evening finishing usually around 9-9.30pm. There is a poster in this edition of the magazine which states the dates chosen for the autumn session and additionally it is planned that there will be a weekend family film event with the date yet to be decided. As inevitably there are some costs involved in obtaining and screening the films we are also going to ask those attending to contribute to a kitty with a donation of £2 per time. This donation will cover the whole seasons of 6 films. There will continue to be no charge for the refreshments which have always been delicious and we are grateful to St James for contributing to the cost of heating. We will also be attempting to screen more popular films in an effort to entice a wider audience, and will be retaining our much loved review sessions afterwards as people have found them so stimulating. Please think of joining us as we would love to welcome you.

Future Adult Courses



After last year's successful Alpha Course, our next Alpha Course is planned to start in January 2027. The Organising Team will meet during the autumn to plan the details and we are hoping it will attract enquirers from outside our congregation as well as members of the church family who want to refresh the key elements of their faith. It was hoped that a an updated version of Bible Course would also be run this autumn but, after further consideration, we have decided that this can more profitably be run following on from the Alpha Course in the Spring. There was a demand last year at the end of Alpha by many of the group to continue meeting and we are hoping that the new Bible Course, which is also of a similar format and equally engaging, will prove worthwhile running as a follow-on. It will also be open to anyone interested beyond those attending Alpha. Look out for further details on Alpha later this autumn.

Harvest Thanksgiving

What an inspiring service of worship for our festival of Harvest Thanksgiving on October 4th! The service led by Rev. Stephen Miller contained a powerfully relevant message drawn from Psalms 8 and 65 and was accompanied by beautifully meaningful prayers and some great hymn singing including the modern hymn lyrics of "Touch the earth lightly"- so appropriate for harvest! The theme of Stephen's sermon focused around the number of 2-6 letter words that can be found in the word "harvest" of which there are around 190. Stephen, however, focused on key words such as Art and Vast, displaying the might and majesty of God's powers, Tears and Starve displaying how our world has strayed from God's expectations with our weak stewardship of today's world and concluding with Share signifying our duty to follow Christian principles, showing compassion, standing up for justice and our potential to act when need is recognised. The services also contained a video on Fairtrade and a modern day parable on farming which illustrated the power of sharing, caring and acting. The service remains available on You Tube under MuthillChurch@8293, 4th October.

Special September Weddings



There were two very special wedding ceremonies in the church during the month of September as they involved people closely associated with our church family. The first took place on 12th September when Freya Carmichael was married to Macaulay Wittmann. If you do not know Freya, you will know her mother Carolyn who helps with our SU Group on a Monday afternoon as well as organising the Sunday refreshment rota. This photo is taken from Facebook and was taken by Wilde Robyne Photography of Auchterarder.



Then on 19th September we had the wedding of Karen McCulloch to Moray Finlay. Karen and Moray are both well known in the church from their regular attendance but Karen was also active in the church singing group, the Muthill House Group as well as doing Bible readings at Sunday services. She was also a Scout leader in the village. We thank Becky Davidson for taking this photo of the couple about to sign the wedding register.

Glen Artney Service

Our annual visit to Glen Artney Church to lead Harvest Worship took place this year on Sunday 11th October, a week after our own harvest thanksgiving service. We were blessed with a beautifully sunny autumn afternoon to journey up the glen and it was good to be joined by Lady Jane and others for our short service of worship. Elaine Wallace led the service and was aided by Helen-May Bayne, Fiona Macmichael and Gail Clark along with a small number of singers from the church. Elizabeth Boyd, our organist, providing the musical accompaniment. Elaine's theme for this year's service was "Give us our Daily Bread" and as always she gave the congregation a lively and well delivered message. For some of us who attended it was also nice to be driven there in the Muthill Community Bus as this gave us the best opportunity to enjoy the changing colours of Glen Artney en route.








Craft Table
EVENT
with supply of crafts, cards, paintings and other items for purchase
Bruce Hall, Muthill Parish Church
Sunday 29th November
(starts around Midday after Morning Worship)
Organised by Alison Hockly and Sue Clifford Webb
Others are welcome to submit materials
for purchase
A percentage of proceeds will go to Christian Aid and other charities


WHEN: SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER
LOCATION: OLD POST OFFICE, DRUMMOND STREET
FOR SALE: PUMPKINS
HOME BAKING, RAFFLE
FOR: OLDER FOLKS CHRISTMAS LUNCH
PUMPKINS KINDLY DONATED BY CRIEFF CO-OP & MUTHILL IN BLOOM
POP UP
PUMPKIN
SALE


Film Nights with St James
A new season of 6 film nights will start in October bringing members of the church families of St James and Muthill Parish Church together.
Autumn Dates:
• Wednesday 28th October
• Wednesday 18th November
• Wednesday 9th December
Note the new week night!
Venue: Muthill Parish Church
Screening time: 7pm
Doors open: 6.30pm
Normal finish time: 9-9.30pm
Refreshments and review discussion after screening of film
Suggested donation to film kitty:
£2 per event


MUTHILL
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
BRIAN CATTIGAN
TICKET ONLY EVENT
PRICE: £5 TICKET



Muthill Community Choir

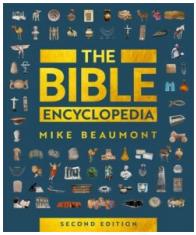


- Resumes on Wednesday 21st October then on Monday from 26th October
- 7pm in Bruce Hall of Muthill Parish Church
- New comers very welcome. Just turn up, no experience required
- Next productions- Muthill Christmas Lights and Christmas concert





New Christian Book Reviews



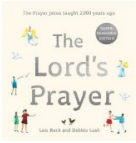
The Bible Encyclopaedia by Mike Beaumont, Lion Books, £24.99

This fully revised second edition of the Lion Bible Encyclopaedia is packed with accessible explanations, full-colour illustrations, maps, timelines, charts, diagrams, and more than 100 new images. It brings the world of Scripture vividly to life. The book covers how the Bible was written and preserved, the lands and nations of the ancient world, what everyday life looked like for biblical people, and tells more about the beliefs, customs, and traditions that shaped their lives. A dedicated section on Jesus explains who he is, why he came, and his place within the wider biblical story.



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. Christians may worry about losing their connection to God. However, those living with dementia can still find meaning in their faith. Although there are difficulties of expressing one's faith as cognition declines, the spirit remains intact, and spiritually aware. And churches can support those living with dementia through giving what support they, their families and carers most need.



The Lord's Prayer – the Prayer Jesus taught 2,000 years ago by Lois Rock, Lion Cub Books, £8.99

Specially commissioned to provide a brief, lucid and reflective commentary on the prayer for children aged 5 to 11 years, this colourful book helps them understand and bring the words to life. There is a one line of reflection to each line of prayer, to help explain how the prayer is applicable for their everyday experiences.

Crossword Solution:

ACROSS:
1, Hopefulness. 9, Hitting. 10, du Pre. 11, Ere. 13, Ozni.16. Wait. 17, Climbs. 18, Obey. 20, Joni. 21, Cuckoo. 22, In it. 23,Yaws. 25, Elm. 28, Alarm. 29, Epistle. 30, Whitsuntide.

Down:
2, Often. 3, Exit. 4, Urge. 5, Node. 6, Soprano. 7,Theological. 8, Westminster. 12, Rebuke. 14, Icy. 15, Ritual. 19,Epitaph. 20, Joy. 24, Acted. 25, Emit. 26, Menu. 27, Gift

Sudoku Solution:

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

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:

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/muthillchurch
Email: muthillparish@yahoo.com
Bridge Submissions: 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.	O7596868064
Central HQ.	01312255722
Police:	
Emergency	**999**
Non-Emergency	**101**
Action Fraud	**101**



Our Cover theme for this edition is "Harvest season"
Thanks go to Raffie for sourcing the graphics and helping in the production
The Christmas edition will be published on **Sunday 13th December**

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 Christmas Edition
Friday 27 November, 2026