

# THE BRIDGE



EARLY SUMMER EDITION 2024



**General Assembly - Future Shape Of Church  
Working Together  
Milestones**



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## In The Next Edition

- Towards An Exciting Winter Programme
- Refurbishment Stimulates
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## Editorial

This edition of the magazine is being produced whilst we are enjoying our worship in our neighbour's church, St James Scottish Episcopal Church. We are indeed fortunate to have another place of worship next door and thanks to the excellent collaboration we have with St James, it has meant that the disruption to our worship during the renovations

to our church sanctuary has been seamlessly overcome. We are very grateful to St James for their assistance and we hope that once our renovations are complete they will present new opportunities for us to reciprocate.

We live in a time where forms of worship are changing. Café churches are growing in many areas and there are examples such as in St Madoes, not that far away, where their new Madoch Centre is providing the opportunity for the church to be right at the heart of the local community providing a variety of services all through the week and with space for spiritual reflection and worship on Sundays.

With the prospect of a community

Hub in Muthill still being some way off, our transformed sanctuary should provide similar opportunities.

In this edition of the magazine we focus on the future shape of the church in Scotland. With the financial difficulties and staffing resource problems faced centrally by our Church it was good to see much positive talk coming out of the recent General Assembly and it is to be hoped that Muthill Parish Church, presented with a new flexible sanctuary area, can rise to the challenge that it presents.

**Sandy Hutchison**

## Message From Our Interim Moderator

Dear friends,

Perhaps it may seem rather a strange time to be writing about our Church building when, if you were to go into it just now, it is simply an empty space. All the pews have been removed the communion table, and other church furnishings have been put to one side. Probably the shape of the windows might be the greatest clue that the building is actually a church. The greatest item of all that's missing is, of course, the people. We all know that if we see something at its worst, then it can only get better; see an empty church, and it can only be restored when once again there is a congregation within it, singing praise and offering worship to the Lord, our Maker. Once the new carpet is down and the chairs are in place; the paintwork has been completed; the communion table and other key furnishings re-installed, then we shall be ready to begin the mission which awaits us. And indeed mission is the key word here, for without that purpose our efforts will have no real value. All that is being achieved at this time, as we take the empty building and upgrade and refurnish it, is ultimately for the glory of God As it is written 'let us not be weary in well-doing.'

Meantime, our warm thanks are due to the Rector and congregation of St. James's Church for lending their building so that we of the parish church can continue to hold our services in comfort.



It is a grand ecumenical gesture and an act of kindness that the folks of St. James's have been happy to do for us. It is yet another example of the good relations which exist between us. Thanks are also due to some of our office bearers who have key roles in planning the work and ensuring that the

right tradesmen turn up at the right times and that the work is completed well and timeously.

I feel sure that it will be the intention of the Kirk Session that, as soon

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as possible after the work on the church is finished, we should have a service of re-dedication. There are uncertainties as to just when we might be in a position to do that, and there is no point in setting a date too far in advance, for obvious reasons. Be assured, though, that plenty of notice will be given. And be assured too, that it is only the sanctuary that is out of commission; other parts of the building are functioning normally mainly between Monday and Saturday. May the Lord bless you and keep you,

**Iain F. Paton – Interim Moderator.**

### **Advent in Austria**

**Our Interim moderator and his wife (Iain and Marjorie Paton) are leading a Group Visit to Austria at the beginning of December this year. We shall be finding out different ways that the Austrian people celebrate Advent. We will visit Salzburg, journey to Oberndorf where we visit the chapel where Silent Night was written and sung for the first time, and also spend time in some beautiful Austrian villages with their wonderful Christmas markets. We take a horse drawn sleighride up a mountain. Outside our hotel one evening there will be the opportunity to meet St. Nicholas and the “Krampuslauf”. If you want to see him, just ask Marjorie to show you the picture of her meeting one! Dates are 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> December flying from Edinburgh. There are a few brochures at..... (place where they are displayed). If you might be interested, please take one.**

## General Assembly 2024 - Building Together

This year's General Assembly was held as usual in the Assembly Hall of New College, Edinburgh, between 18-23<sup>rd</sup> May with 500 commissioners (both ministers and elders) attending in person and with 100 commissioners online. As the supreme governing body of the Church of Scotland, it is a

very important body. The debates are always of a high standard and well worth watching live, but even if you missed them, they are still fully available on YouTube by



accessing through [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/generalassembly](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/generalassembly). The various reports are also available on the Church website.

You cannot but be impressed with the pomp, ceremony and organisation of the event and nowadays, with modern technology, debates are easy to follow even though you have not accessed the reports. I have had the privilege of attending as a commissioner in the past and must record that it is an impressive gathering and a great experience in which to see the strength, diversity and depth of the church in action.

It also attracts guest delegates from all over the world and this year this included the Archbishop of Canterbury, as well leaders of other Christian denominations. Rev. Justin Welby spoke of the growing friendship of the Churches of Scotland and England and said that “the national churches must be the mortar that holds together the diverse stones that so beautifully make up the United Kingdom”.

The Lord High Commissioner, the King's representative, this year was his brother, Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, who was in attendance with his wife Sophie. In the picture above, he is being introduced to the new Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Shaw J Paterson of Strathaven Trinity Church.

This year's Assembly met at a difficult time for the Church of Scotland as

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it struggles with shortages of money, ministers and falling membership. The Assembly Trustees have been asked to bring forward proposals to next year's Assembly which will achieve a balanced budget by the end of 2027, as on current trends the Church's available resources will be exhausted by 2032. Despite remarkable progress with new Presbyteries put in place and initial targets met in the National Office the fact remains that there is a long way to go with limited resources becoming ever



scarcer and the wider church not fully appreciating the urgency of a balanced budget. It is a stark fact that 71% of charges in the Church do not contribute enough to cover their ministry costs and are supported by the other 29%. In debating this issue, concern was expressed both for the 5% of churches in really poor areas as well as for the healthy 29% several of which were currently not being allowed to call ministers. The Assembly did, however, pass a motion limiting the national church's influence over presbytery mission plans reducing the inspection and approval of these plans from an annual basis to one of 5 years and allowing work in existing congregations to access the Seeds for Growth fund as well as new worshipping communities. There were also calls for reform of the General

Assembly itself in terms of costs. Budgets will be looked at accordingly. In response to lack of ministers, significant changes to the education of ministers were agreed which will allow new ministers to qualify equally through an Apprenticeship Route.

With regard to social care of which the Church's Crossreach work



accounts for half the total of the Church's budget there were calls to raise awareness about the crisis in social care with Government in regard to low recruitment and retention and the average pay in the sector being considerably lower than equivalent positions in the NHS. The Assembly also welcomed

and approved the Report on Transgender people confirming that they should be loved and respected and welcomed into congregations and allowed to serve. An interim report on Assisted Dying was also noted with one or two passionate speeches. The full report will come next year.

There were many other reports debated and although the whole proceedings may have been overshadowed by the worries on finance, ministries and membership, the new Moderator was positive in telling Commissioners not to be despondent in returning to their churches. "Keep moving forward. We don't know where God's spirit will lead us. But let's step out in faith, following the example of and commandment of our saviour Jesus Christ".



# Bible Parable

## The tale of the Lost Sheep



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



THE SHEPHERD WOULD ALWAYS MAKE SURE EACH SHEEP WAS SAFE.



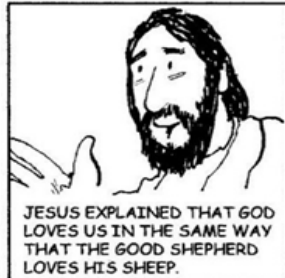
BUT ONE NIGHT HE REALIZED A SHEEP HAD GONE MISSING



HE SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW

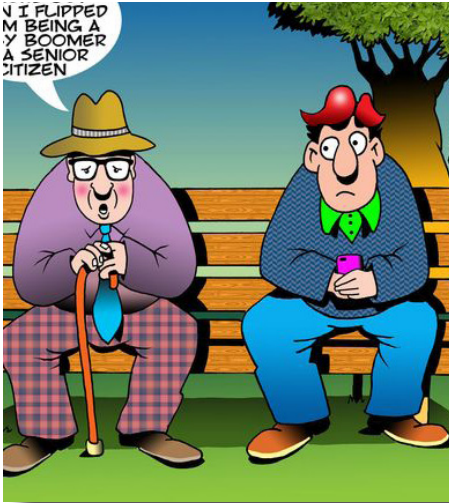


AT LAST THE LOST SHEEP WAS FOUND!



## Milestones

Life has many milestones! Birth and death, of course, are the most significant but many others are celebrated these days such as birthdays, anniversaries, Mother and Fathers days, marriage, retirement, and even smaller events such as special holidays, reaching voting age, sporting celebrations. The list goes on and on.



I have not been a person who has attached much importance to such celebrations hitherto, but reaching the advanced age of 80 has changed my perspective. I guess it just seemed to creep up surreptitiously and took me a bit aback but there was no way of avoiding it. The day started with a friend and a neighbour arriving with breakfast and balloons and the receipt of many more birthday cards than I have ever received. Then in the evening there was a surprise dinner party in my home, again with 6 friends and more fun and celebration. When I look back

I think there were several birthday cakes and “Happy Birthday” singing in all and, of course, it made me reflect on the joy and the reasons for such celebration.

I guess in life most of us enjoy such celebrations as they lift us out of the mundane routines that make up a lot of living and of course as well as the celebrant, it also provides an opportunity for friends and families also to escape normal routine and pause for a moment to enjoy each other’s company and have some fun. There is nothing better than laughter amongst friends to make such an escape powerful and emotionally meaningful.

Reaching 80 too teaches you that there is no doubt that life is always



better if you make a contribution and think of others before yourself. We have such a fine example in Jesus and I often feel that people who do not have him in their lives, miss a lot of the special joy that comes from following his example and being able to worship God our Father. It is always difficult to explain to people who do not have faith that if we see life just a human beings without any deity present in our lives, we miss out on that special dimension faith adds to life in terms of joy, comfort and peace with oneself. It is so easy to forget how imperfect we are as human beings and how restrictive it can be without that other dimension to our lives. Life loses its wonder and can quickly become mundane.

I am, therefore, thankful to my friends and to Muthill for helping me realise the value of celebrating such a milestone and how we all have something to contribute even if we do not recognise it.

## Editor

### Christian Aid

A thank you to all who donated to Christian Aid!

I would like to thank everyone who contributed towards Christian Aid this year. Although the turn out for the Beetle Drive was disappointing, those who came long enjoyed the evening and the following morning's breakfast was very well attended and was also most enjoyable.

A total of £467.10 was raised which, although less than in previous years, was a very healthy amount in view of the current financial situation.

**Alison Hockly**

*Editor: Well done, Alison, for all your work in coordination*

## Working Together

Having recently attended the successful Songs of Praise evening at Ardoch Church in Braco, which brought together worshippers from several of



the surrounding churches, including those within our proposed link arrangement, it is easy to appreciate how much we have in common and how much stronger we can be through more collaboration. Equally, having for sometime enjoyed the mixing of our own church family with the adherents of St James Scottish Episcopal Church at our weekly soup and

sandwich lunches, the idea of churches using their combined resources in expanding the potential for mission and service to our local communities is even more clear.

We also have our “Gathering for Praise” events which bring together the House Groups of the neighbouring parishes of Crieff and Muthill and not forgetting the combined work of our Guilds, which are further evidence of benefits of pooling resources.

Thinking specifically of our immediate neighbour across the road, it may not be widely known that the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church one year ago signed the St Andrew Declaration seeking to put historical differences behind and to work more strongly together for the Church of Jesus Christ in Scotland. There are similar declarations with the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church and encouragingly work is progressing on a new Scottish Christian Forum bringing all Christian churches into the one forum where doctrine and work on public and political issues can be shared to encourage movement towards a united Christian stance. Whilst such work must inevitably function in higher plains than our local churches, practical local cooperation can only support and

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encourage that structural work towards the future shape of the church in Scotland.

I hope, therefore, that the year ahead will see more and more collaboration, friendship and desire to work together. The opportunities are there in terms of community service and it would be good to have a structured working group with our immediate neighbour looking at such opportunities within the village of Muthill. It is also to be hoped that, whilst the knotty problems faced by Blackford and Ardoch in considering union continue to delay the prospect of linkage with Muthill and with it the acquisition of an incumbent minister, we can still in the interim find ways of greater collaboration and direct sharing of ideas and resources in regard to mission.

The Church of Scotland is going through a difficult period of adjustment with many hard decisions having to be taken but it is important to build positively for the future and as the Ecumenical Relations Report to this year's General Assembly put it "there is no future for the Church of Scotland that does not embed cooperative partnership as an integral element of its own identity".

### **Muthill Gala 2024**

This year's Village Gala week will take place from **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June**. Which of the village's parks will be used has yet to be confirmed as are some of the events. It has, however, already been confirmed that the Bowling Club event will take place on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup>**, the Bingo Tea on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>** and the Treasure Hunt on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup>**. The Parade will take place on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June** starting at 1pm.

Scarecrow Fortnight will take place before the Gala (**15-30th June**) with all crows to be judged to be in place by **Friday 28th June**.

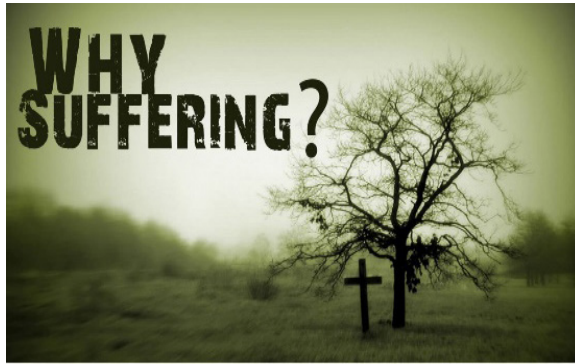
Judging will take place on **Saturday 29th June** at 10am

## God in the Sciences

*This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

### **Finding Expression – and God’s Response – in Lament**

The question of suffering comes up regularly in discussions about science and faith. I once visited a school to speak to some of the older teenagers.



One of the pupils had sadly passed away from cancer a few weeks before and his classmates asked, “How could God let this happen?” Of course, these young people’s questions about where God was in this situation were important. But the chaplain also gently reminded the class that their friend’s family were Christians, and that they were finding that their experience of loss had

brought them even closer to God than before.

One way that grief can bring us near to God is when we share it with Him, telling Him exactly how we feel. The biblical writers had no scruples about expressing themselves to God, giving vent to emotions we often hold back in a church context. As my colleague Roger Abbott has written in his book on *‘Unanswered’ Prayer*, “Let us not confuse reverence with spiritual prudishness. Perhaps honesty, the way it feels, is precisely what God is waiting to hear from us.”

About one third of the Psalms express some form of grief. The book of Job is a series of responses to one man’s suffering as he loses his children, property and health in quick succession. Lamentations is also one long



# LEARN TO LAMENT

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# DARE TO HOPE

outpouring of sadness at what happened to Israel under the Babylonians. Some of the prophets, especially Jeremiah, also express their pain at these sort of events – which reflect something of God’s own feelings at the suffering of His people.

Most of these biblical authors would have had access to Scriptures that encouraged them to turn to God whatever the circumstances. Emboldened by their knowledge of His character and promises, these divinely inspired writers even express their anger to God about the things He lets happen, or complain that He seems to act unfairly or ignore them in their plight. Not only do these people let out all their feelings without fear of reprisal, but they also clearly expect a helpful answer. Some record a resolution to their troubles – often simply because God speaks to and comforts them, enabling them to keep going.

The biblical writers demonstrated that God can handle pretty much anything – anger, blame, bitterness – if we are actively looking to Him for help. As Pete Greig of the 24-7 prayer movement has written, “pain that is not expressed can never be transformed”.

## Craft Group

I have been thinking of the possibility of starting a little craft group with perhaps a sale of work towards the end of the year. Would anyone be interested in joining me for this? Any type of craft could be done and we could decide on the venue depending on how many wanted to come along. Please let me know if you think this would be of interest to you.

**Alison Hockly**  
[hocklyalison78@gmail.com](mailto:hocklyalison78@gmail.com)

## God in the Arts

Michael Burgess continues his look at great works of Christian art. You can see the image described by googling 'Herdsman with Cows by a River' by Albert Cuyp or going to

<http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/aelbert-cuyp-a-herdsman-with-five-cows-by-a-river>.

*This low-res image is offered by the National Gallery under a Creative Commons Agreement, for use in non-profit publications.*

### **'He gave us eyes to see them': 'Herdsman with Cows by a River' by Albert Cuyp**

'What is this life, if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare?' Those words of W H Davies provide the theme for this critique. The painting



chosen celebrates creation in all its wonder and diversity, and we are encouraged to take time to look anew and so become aware of the author of that creation. But it is the other way around as we sense the animals looking at us in 'Herdsman with Cows by a River' painted in 1650 by the Dutch artist, Albert Cuyp.

It is a very ordinary scene of nature. Yet there is a radiance and a tranquillity that strike us as we see the herd of cows standing in the still waters. Around them there is a lot of movement: birds fly in the sky, boats are sailing off into the sunset and two fishermen are busy at their work to the left of the canvas. But the cows and their herdsman are quiet and contented, relishing this moment of the day closing, and contemplating the world going by. And

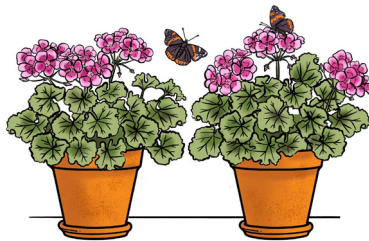


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two of those cows seem to be looking out into our own world. In many of Albert Cuypp's paintings the sun bathes each scene in a golden light. Here the clouds are gathering in the sky as the sun sinks down in the west, but there is still a glowing calmness brought by the light of the sky above.

In this month of July we are probably planning holidays. Some holidays can be a frenetic rush, others are those occasions when we simply sit back and relax, letting what we see around us bring refreshment and renewal. It is the way we are encouraged to savour the joy and delight of Scripture in what is called *lectio divina*. Monastic teachers compared it to cows grazing in the field. They pointed to four stages: *Lectio* – we take a bite of scripture; *Meditatio* – we chew on that word; *Oratio* – we savour its flavour and nourishment; and *Contemplatio* – we digest its goodness to feed body and soul.

The herd of cows in Albert Cuypp's painting have spent the day doing just that – grazing and ruminating in the fields nearby. The herdsman has brought them to the river to relax in the water. Soon they will take the journey home to the farm and the safety of the cowshed. Tomorrow will bring them the opportunity to graze anew in the gift of another day. Walt Whitman wrote in one of his poems, 'I think I could turn and live with animals, they are so placid and self-contain'd, I stand and look at them long and long.' As we stand and look at the cows in this painting, perhaps we may realise that whether at work or on holiday, in Sunday worship or Bible reading at home, God can feed us through His world around and in His word in Scripture. As long as we take the time and the care to savour the delights that He offers us.



### Kirk Session

The Kirk Session met on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2024 and the following can be reported:

- We are still awaiting news on a meeting with representatives of our neighbouring churches in Blackford and Braco with which Presbytery has proposed we enter into a linkage and share a minister
- Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April saw the last service of Holy Communion with our existing pews in place in the sanctuary. It was special after a period of several years due to Covid restrictions to see the traditional communion vessels being used again and to have beautifully starched white linen on the pews. Thanks must go to all involved in making the sanctuary look so special for this historic occasion.
- The war memorial plaque from the former Trinity Gask and Kinkell Church has been transferred to Muthill Parish Church and arrangements are underway to erect in the area of the church entrance
- Under Finance, Willie Bell was pleased to report that further members have decided to place standing orders with gift aid in their support of church finances. This will help considerably with the closure of our local bank. 65 new church chairs have also been sponsored.
- In terms of Property issues, Graham Donaldson, our Property Convener reported on the upgrading of the church sanctuary. Work will start on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May and it is likely to last for a period of 6-8 weeks. More information is given on page 23. There is also continuing work on some electrical heaters and finding a solution to the deteriorating surface of the road around the church.
- Under Worship and Communication, Elaine Wallace, Worship and Communication Convener reported that the monthly

## Kirk Session

Wardside services were going well with several new friendships developing. Members of the congregation who were coming along to support were also thanked for their support.

- The first new Messy Church went well with a good number attending. It is hoped that this will further expand when the second one is held over Gala Weekend towards the end of June
- The Kirk Roll continues to increase and now stands at 195.
- The Men's Group and the Book Club, our new outreaches are also growing in attendances. More details on the activities of the Men's Group
- There was discussion on a new church logo to reflect the changed status of the church as a single entity church and various ideas were considered and one will be further developed
- Four of the new Pastoral care team being developed have gone on a pastoral care taster course in Edinburgh, It is hoped that the new team will be functioning before the summer once the necessary safeguarding documentation is processed
- The Church has agreed to join the Scottish Churches Trust.



## Kirk And Community News

### Wardside House for the Elderly

Our monthly services for interested residents of Wardside House, as reported in the Kirk Session report, continue to develop our relationship with our local care home. It is also great to see two residents, Shirley Laver attending the soup and sandwich lunches and Jim Lawson attending Sunday worship. They are becoming well known figures to our church family and are enabling us to provide a developing outreach and service to our local care home. We also help in the twice weekly scrabble and domino sessions for residents. Thanks to all involved. The next service at Wardside House will be on Sunday 16th June at 2.30pm



### Church Family Outing

The response to the proposed outing to Dumfries House in Cumnock Ayrshire on Saturday 8th June has been so great that we have had to enlarge the size of the coach. We now have 25 persons going and could have had more. Several others will also be going by car. As the magazine is being published a day after the event there will be photographs and a write-up in the August edition of The Bridge.

## HG2 Lead Worship Service on 12th May

It was good to see House Group 2 leading the worship service on Sunday 12th May. Elaine Wallace led the service and gave an engaging children's talk with participation from the congregation, followed by a powerful address on the role of Prayer in our relationship with God. There were also some great hymn songs and a fine accompaniment by Gilbert Speirs on the organ supported by guitars played by Willie Bell and Elaine. It really gave a great lead to the congregation and many found the singing memorable! The House Group will be leading the worship service again on Sunday 9th June.

## MPC Book Club

The new Book Club continues and had a fascinating review of the book "James" by Percival Everett at its review meeting on Friday 17th May. There was a good attendance and as always some great discussion on reactions to the book and on attitudes to racialism at the time of James and Huckleberry Finn. Annie Allen, who had chosen the book, gave an excellent presentation.

The next book to be considered is "Caledonian Road" by Andrew O'Hagan. The review meeting over tea and cake will be on Friday 28th June.

### Mens Group



The Men's Group continues to meet on Wednesdays at 11am in the North Lounge for an hour before helping set up for the regular soup and sandwich lunch. Over recent weeks, they have welcomed two new men. They have also started work on redecorating the vestry with the plan to enable it to be used not only as a vestry/admin office but also as a small meeting venue. This will involve repainting and re-carpeting of the room with some new cupboards and seating. Stuart Campbell has done some repairs to the internal roof window and adjustments to the cupboard doors. Thanks are also due to Adrian for the use of his long ladder

and scaffolding which have been a great help. We have also used the long ladder to remove the curtains in the North Lounge which have been falling down for a very long period. As for the repair of the Ark, it is now refreshed and repainted, thanks mainly to the work of Joe Knowles, and has been repositioned in the garden area to the right of the church entrance. We must also not forget our painters, Messrs Willie Bell, Dougie Mitchell and Adrian Davidson who have ably applied the paint to the walls and ceiling including some acrobatic work in roof area and not forgetting Sandy Hutchison, the coffee boy cum painter apprentice.

## Refurbishment Of Church Sanctuary

Work on the major work in the church sanctuary is progressing smoothly and many thanks go to Graham Donaldson, our Property Manager, for the overall coordination of the on-going work. There also have been a goodly number of volunteers who have helped with removal of the pew



cushions, the transfer of hymn books to St James, the removal of the carpeting around the pulpit area, some of which will be re-used in the vestry and general tidying up to enable the workmen to have free access. The many talents of Gilbert Speirs and his wife have also been much appreciated. Gilbert has spent many hours with Joe Knowles on re-routing wiring in readiness for the move of the audio visual desk downstairs. It was also good to note the sale of the old pews has been

successful with almost £1000 being raised through local purchases in around the village.

### Summer Break

With the summer recess approaching, there will shortly be a break for most organisations and it is hoped that everyone will have a good rest and a period of refreshment. Thanks go particularly to the organisers of the different organisations and to the helpers who have given support throughout the year - the "Soup and Sandwich Lunch" helpers, the after service coffee helper brigade, the flower arrangers, the weekly preparation of the Order of Service sheets, the manning of the AV desk, Elders' door duties and visiting of members of our church family who are unable to participate in normal church activities, to mention some of the invisible duties, which are so essential to the smooth and welcoming functioning of our Church. Whoever you are, you know how you contribute to our church family and we thank you very much for everything you do. Have a great summer!

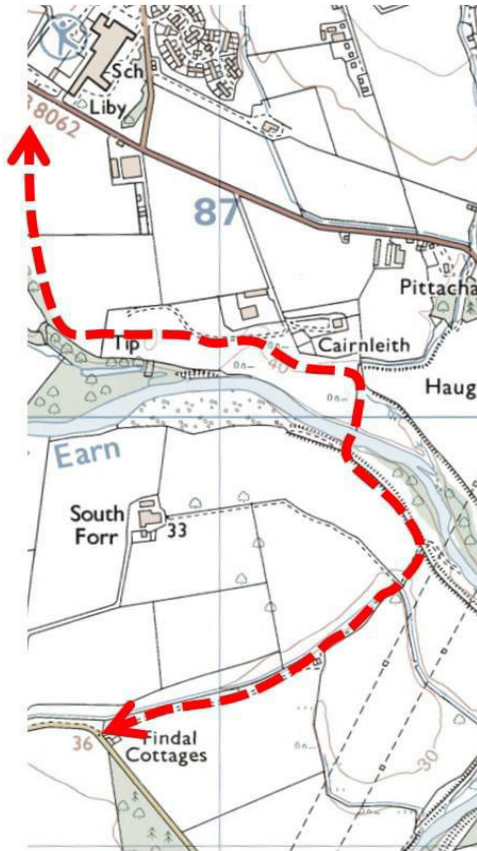
### Tractor parade



The Young Farmers annual Tractor parade came through the village on the night of Thursday 23rd May. As always it was an interesting display of how technology has changed farming and provided an exciting visual event for the many residents of the village who came out to watch.



## Cycle Path Update



Work has continued steadily on the Village Trust Cycle Path project which will connect Muthill and Crieff. The plan for the route running from Findal Cottages to Strathearn Community Campus, including tackling the crossing of the River Earn, has now been completed. This was a really complicated stage. PKC will take over ownership and maintenance of the bridge after its first year and this explains partly the time this part of the plan has taken.

Sustrans Scotland has funded the project so far and an application is in with Sustrans' Places for Everyone Fund for fund-

ing the final stage as the Trust goes to PKC for planning permission for the route. An outcome is expected by July.

In the meantime you can support the cycle path by coming along to Muthill Sportive which this year will take place on 31st August.

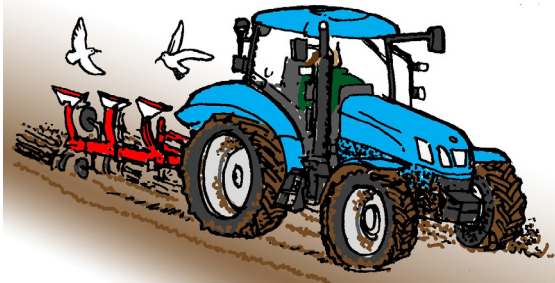
## Muthill Monday Club



The Monday Club had a Club Outing to Monzie Castle in May and we are sure you will recognise some of the church family and friends in this photograph.

## Muthill Community Council

Over 30,000 people suffer an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest every year in the UK and 9-10 are fatal. By learning how to use a defibrillator correctly you can help save a life. Muthill Community Council are organising Defibrillator First Aid Training. It will be undertaken by the Crieff Fire Station personnel in the village Hall on Thursday 13th June at 7pm. The defibrillator training will also include the initial instruction required to administer compressions while waiting for the defibrillator. Training is free and open to everyone over 12 years.



## Community Hub

Stage 3 of the project has now begun with thanks to very generous funding from Perth and Kinross led Local Development Programme. This stage focuses on finalising the design of the Hub and further technical surveys with the aim of submitting a planning application at the end of October.



Some of the project team have also met with the architects in an attempt to keep the cost of the project below £2.5 as this is a requirement of funders. An application has also been made for a grant to get support writing a funding strategy and applying for grants. A Pegging-Out Day is planned for June when people will be able to

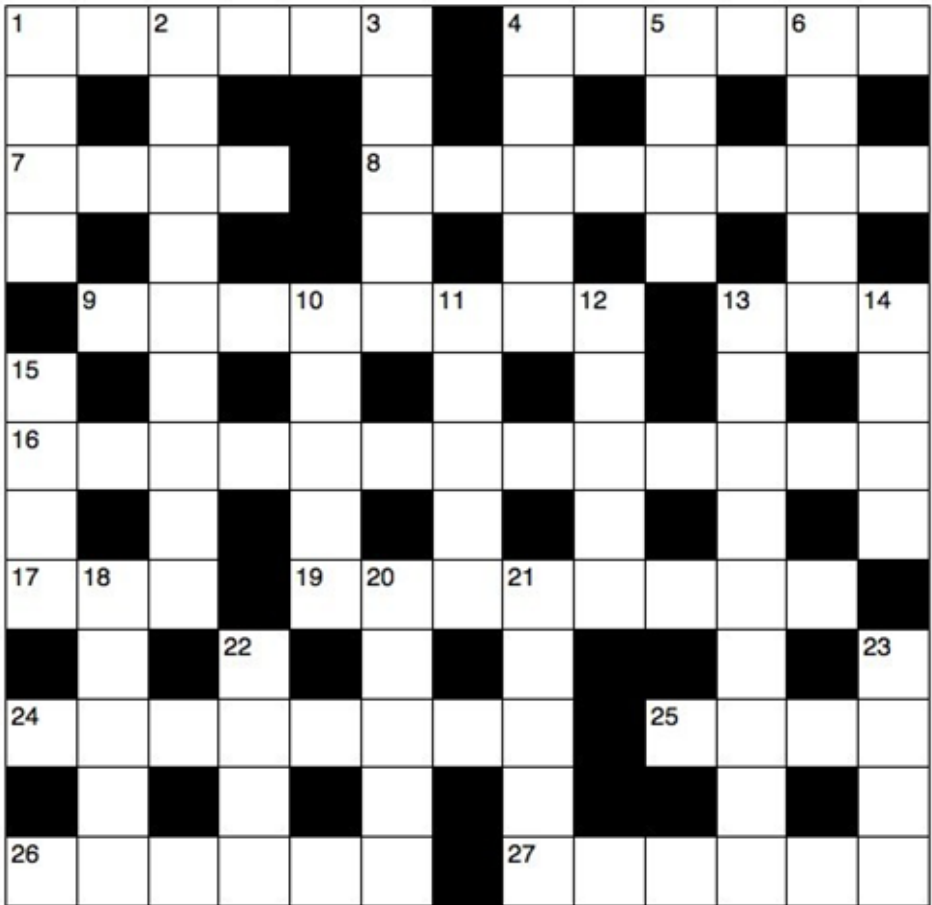
visit Coronation Park and see the building marked out.

## Rice Challenge

The joint project between Muthill Parish Church and Muthill Primary School to raise funds under the Rice Challenge for farmers in Malawi had started. Bags of rice are now on sale for £2 each after our Sunday worship services and at the Soup and Sandwich lunches. Between the School and Church we have 180 bags to sell so support is needed from as many people as possible. The sale will continue until all bags are sold.

Congratulations go to Keri and Elaine for this initiative.

# Crossword



## Across

- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
- 4 'A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
- 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
- 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
- 9 'But take heart! I have — the world' (John 16:33) (8)
- 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)



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16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)

17 Rap (anag.) (3)

19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)

24 'For where your — is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)

25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)

26 'We all, like sheep, have gone — ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)

27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

### Down

1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)

2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)

3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)

4 'Like a — of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)

5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)

6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)

10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)

11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)

12 'I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)

13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)

14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)

15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)

18 Cares (anag.) (5)

20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)

21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — — to all people"' (Genesis 6:13) (2,3)

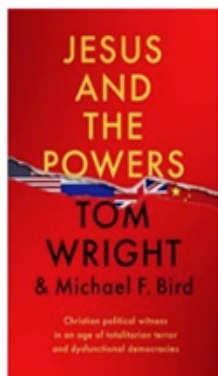
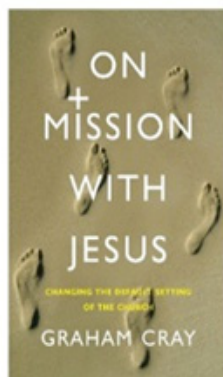
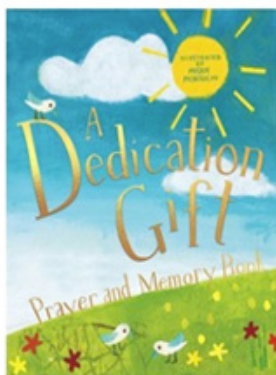
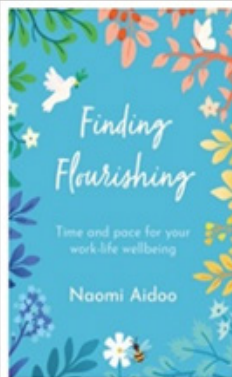
22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)

23 'The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)

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\*Solution on page 35

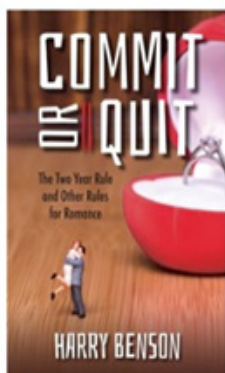
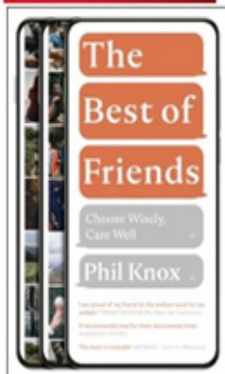
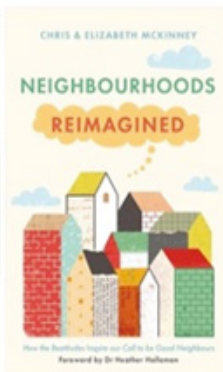
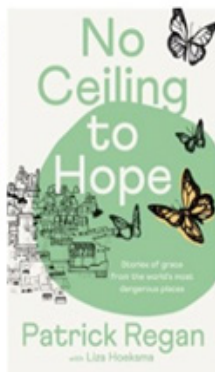
## Book Reviews



Spiritual Growth  
in a Time of Change

Following God in midlife

Tony Horsfall



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## **Jesus and the Powers: Christian Political Witness in an Age of Totalitarian Terror and Dysfunctional Democracies**

**By Tom Wright, SPCK, £12.99**

Tom Wright and Michael F. Bird join forces to ask: How can Christians engage with the turbulent politics of our times while remaining true to the teaching of Jesus?

They argue that Christians can embody a counter-cultural witness that upholds the biblical ideals of justice, mercy and truth, while opposing oppressive political schemes based on autocracy and nationalism. The book goes on to challenge believers to take their stand against tyrannical forces wherever they may appear, and to help to cultivate flourishing liberal democracies that promote the freedom, dignity and well-being of all people.

## **Grandparenting for Faith: Sharing God with the children you love the most**

**By Becky Sedgwick, BRF, £9.99**

Part of the joy of being a grandparent is to help your grandchildren learn to have confidence in God's love for them.

This book will encourage grandparents to be a unique voice, speaking into their grandchildren's lives, and helping to nurture them into the reality of a relationship with the God who loves them.

## **Spiritual Growth in a Time of Change: Following God in midlife**

**By Tony Horsfall, BRF, £9.99**

Our 40s and 50s are often times of personal change and emotional transition for our families, but they can also be important years for our spiritual lives.

Tony Horsfall addresses a number of 'midlife' issues – such as facing up to the past, to renegotiating relationships.

It also explores how to navigate a spiritual journey through the midlife period leading to deeper faith and a closer walk with God.



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## **Finding Flourishing: Time and pace for your work-life wellbeing**

**By Naomi Aidoo, BRF, £9.99**

In our fast-paced world, wellbeing should still be an accessible pursuit, even for the busiest among us. Naomi Aidoo presents a practical approach to helping you achieve wellbeing; one that doesn't require adding yet another technique to your busy schedule. Instead, it shows you how to enhance your day-to-day mental, emotional and spiritual well-being. Aidoo considers how wellbeing might look in our relationships, our work and the rest of our lives, and uses the T.I.M.E. framework to offer manageable steps towards achieving it.

## **Neighbourhoods Reimagined – How the Beatitudes Inspire our Call to be Good Neighbours**

**By Chris McKinney and Elizabeth McKinney, 10Publishing, £8.99**

Somewhere along the way many of us drifted away from our next-door neighbours, and now we're not sure we can get back again. We are unsure of how to befriend them and how to spot opportunities of sharing God's love with them. How can the countercultural values of Christianity affect them, and our neighbourhood?

Believing the beatitudes are Jesus' invitation into neighbourhood flourishing, *Neighbourhoods Reimagined* envisions how these upside-down values can turn our corners right-side-up.

## **The Best of Friends - Choose Wisely, Care Well**

**By Phil Knox, IVP, £10.99**

Friendship is unparalleled as a building block of society, a universal theme in great literature and film, and has a huge impact on our mental health, wellbeing and happiness. But many of us are lonely or feel suffocated by the pressures of life and quantity of relationships we have to maintain. Now, more than ever, we need better, deeper friendships. We need the best of friends.

Full of practical advice, humour and wisdom, Phil Knox shows us how to choose our friends wisely and maintain lasting and meaningful relationships.



## Sudoku Puzzle

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

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\*Sudoku Solution on page 34

## Editor's Note

The next edition of the magazine will be our late Summer 2024 edition. The magazine will be published on Sunday 18th August, 2024, and so the deadline for submitting articles, intimations, letters etc. will be Friday 2nd August, 2024.

Please submit this to [macahiph@gmail.com](mailto:macahiph@gmail.com) or send to Sandy Hutchison, GreenBrae West, Pitkellony Street, Muthill PH5 2AF.

Please also understand that all articles submitted have to be subject to possible adjustment to suit the balance of the magazine's content and its physical confines. If space does not permit, submissions will be considered for the next edition. All submissions will be acknowledged. It is our Publishing Policy to publish factual clarifications or corrections in the next edition of the magazine.

The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Kirk Session. Editorial comment and signed articles do not necessarily contain the official views of the Church of Scotland which can be laid down only by the General Assembly.

## Sudoku Solution:

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

## Useful Contacts

### Useful Local Telephone Numbers

NHS 24	111
NHS Emergency	999
<b>Hospitals:</b>	
Crieff Community Hospital	01764653173
Perth Royal Infirmary	01738623311
Ninewells Hospital, Dundee	01382660111
<b>Crieff Medical Centre:</b>	
Blue Practice	01764652283
Red Practice	01764657060
<b>Crieff Pharmacies:</b>	
Boots	01764652310
Davidsons	01764652177
Strathearn	01764654876
Torlum	01764652727
<b>Police:</b>	
Emergency	999
Non-Emergency	101
Action Fraud Scotland	101
<b>Schools:</b>	
Muthill Primary School	01764661466
Crieff High School	01764657600
Crieff Primary School	01764657888
Morrison's Academy:	
General and Secondary	01764653885
Primary	01764657196
Ardvreck School	01764653112
<b>Veterinary Practice:</b>	
Crieff Vets	01764652086
Broadley Vets	01786824400
Struthers & Scott Vets	01786841304
Tower Vet Centre	01738583083

### Crossword Solution:

ACROSS: 1, Debtor.  
4, Shaken. 7, Ache. 8,  
Leavened. 9, Overcome. 13, Etc. 16, Troublemaking. 17, Par. 19, Ignatius. 24, Treasure. 25, Mene.  
26, Astray. 27, Dinner.

DOWN: 1, Deaf. 2, Behaviour. 3, Relic. 4, Swarm. 5, Aged. 6, Elect. 10, Rabbi. 11, Ocean. 12, Exalt.  
13, Epicurean. 14, Cage. 15, Step. 18, Acres. 20, Gaudy. 21, An end. 22, Fair. 23, Fear.



# Muthill *Parish Church*

## Muthill Parish Church

aims to be  
A place to find peace and welcome  
A people growing in Christian faith and love  
A presence at the heart and soul of the community

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

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

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

### **Magazine Graphics & Cover Photo**

Our cover picture theme this month is The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland . Thanks to Raffie for sourcing the graphics for the magazine and helping in the production.”

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