



THE BRIDGE

Assembly 25

Church Study Day

Making Worship Accessible

Collaborating With Our Friends



SUMMER EDITION 2025

Recording The Life And Times Of
Muthill Parish Church

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Kirk Roll

The Kirk Roll as notified to the Kirk Session at its last meeting in May has risen to 201

Removals from Kirk Roll not previously reported:

Alistair Lang 05/12/24 by death

Edie O'Brien 05/02/25 by request of lines

Additions to Kirk Roll:

Stewart Brewis 20/04/25 - Return to roll from supplementary

Denis Nicol 13/05/25 – Transference of certificate

Rowena Nicol 13/05/25 – Transference of certificate

James Wishart 13/05/25 – Transference of certificate

Gail Clark 23/03.25 – Profession of faith

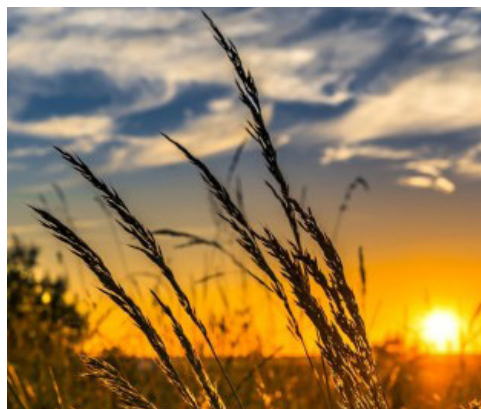
Karen McCulloch – Profession of faith

Editorial

Editorial – One Key Weekend In May!

There is no doubt that the glorious weather that we experienced from early April right through May changed people's moods! There was a

spring in many people's steps and it was such a delight to enjoy the prolonged hours of sunshine in our gardens, day after day, rather than the normal spasmodic experience of early summer in Scotland. This period of sunny delight also reminded of the idiom that every cloud has a silver lining reminding us that even in difficult times there can be hopeful signs. This seems appropriate to some of the content of this edition of the church magazine as, despite



the difficult times the Church of Scotland is going through financially and in terms of membership, this year's General Assembly was powerfully moving and inspiring and, only recently, our own church had a study day on its mission priorities which was an event of great healthy discussion and new ideas. There is more about this later in the magazine.

Even better, on the following day to our study day, we had an inspiring and thought-provoking Sunday service led by Ewen Gilchrist. With a very full congregation, it made me optimistic that although we are a small church family we CAN be one that is vibrant and on the move with exciting ideas if we give our community a place of hope, welcome and friendship.

It is always good to be uplifted from normal routine and to be encouraged and challenged, feeling God's presence and I hope that you too will find this present in some of the reports contained in this edition of The Bridge. There is much to do and exciting times ahead if each one of us contributes and plays their part!

Editor

Collaborating With Our Friends

With the soup and sandwich lunches, film nights, the Book Club, Exercise Class and the summer concert, we are enjoying increasing fellowship with our friends in St James Scottish Episcopal Church next door. It is a fine example of successful ecumenism and one simple illustration is seen in the picture opposite, where Joanna from St James and Val, who has no church affiliation, willingly helped improve our Bruce Hall noticeboards. Stuart Campbell also popped in to help complete the task.



We can also report a successful conclusion to the monthly series of film night events organised by St James and screened and shared with us in our sanctuary. For the last screening, the latest of Disney Pixar's film, the fast moving "Inside Out 2", had been chosen. There was a good attendance on May 10th, and as always, there was some excellent discussion afterwards led by Duncan Strathie, Rector, which helped us tee out some of themes explored in the film.

As Duncan comments in the latest of his first class write-ups for every film viewed: "It is rare for a sequel to live up to the original but in this case it surpasses it! The central premise of the film is that we spend most of the time inside the head of Riley – a girl who in the first film was 8 and who has now reached 13 and puberty. Riley is controlled by a number of emotions



who appear as avatars at the control of a console of her emotions. As the emotions tussle for influence and control so Riley undergoes changes in mood and behaviour. In the first film which was also screened on an earlier film night, Joy was the dominant emotion in childhood. Alongside Joy were sadness, anger, fear and disgust. With the onset of puberty a maintenance crew turn

up to upgrade the console and with this comes new emotions anxiety, envy, embarrassment and ennui. Can they succeed and integrate with the old emotions?" As Duncan further says it could be a great film for those working with youngsters promoting helpful discussion about emotions

and how we use them and maintain a healthy balance.

The monthly joint film nights will start again in the early autumn and the first date to note for your diary is **Monday September 15** at 7pm in MPC Sanctuary. Great refreshments are always provided with home-baking and sandwiches as a precursor to discussion after the film. And let's hope this willingness to share fellowship and learn together reaps further mutual benefits in the times ahead.

It's that Wimbledon time of the year

*The 'pop' of a ball on a racket
The voice of the Umpire so clear
here is nothing in quite the same bracket
As that Wimbledon time of the year!*

*'Fault!' cries the line judge, eyes beady,
The ball boys and girls on their toes;
For more of these matches we're greedy:
The bug for this game grows and grows!*

*The weather may shine, or be raining
The temperature warm, mild or chill;
Our appetites won't be restraining
For strawberries on Henman Hill.*

*The queues may be long, but endure them
You'll get to the court – have no fear
Just settle and watch, and be sure then –
It's that Wimbledon time of the year!*

By Nigel Beeton

Assembly 2025



The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland took place from 17-22 May, 2025, in the Assembly Hall on the Mound, Edinburgh, under the banner heading of Extravagant Love (Ephesians 3.18) with 500 ministers and elders attending either in person or online.

The new Moderator is the Rev. Rosie Frew of Bowden and Melrose Church and her installation took place on the first day as did the address of the Lord High Commissioner, the King's personal representative, who was Lady Eilish Angiolini, the country's first female Lord Advocate and first Roman Catholic to be Lord High Commissioner.

As always, the business side of the Assembly was taken up with debating the reports of the Church's forums and standing committees, as it continues to navigate key issues and initiatives and shape the future direction of the church and its ministry. Early on its proceedings, the Moderator reminded the Assembly of Jesus' words "*I am with you always - no matter where*



you are, no matter what you're doing, no matter how you're feeling, I am with you always" and reflecting on the Assembly itself, she said:" *Sometimes it can feel really hard. For most of us, our whole Christian life has been lived out against the backdrop of decline - it can feel so dispiriting. This past week has been challenging but it has also been inspiring. The involvement of our youth delegates, young adults involved and invested. The singing, the sharing of bread and*

wine, the conversations enjoyed, the friendships made. The contributions

of so many people – honest, raw, questioning, encouraging. I have always taken great encouragement from these words of Eddie Askew from his book A Silence and a Shouting. He's reflecting on our call to be faithful in planting seeds. Remember that God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." From the many committee reports and debates over the 5 days a flavour of the key debates and resolutions is provided below:

- The Assembly Trustees whose role is to balance the books and invest for growth, and who were charged by the General Assembly to achieve sustainability by 2027, reported that the church remains at a tipping point in terms of financial viability. The 2024 results show an operating deficit of £5.9m and the 2025 budget forecast suggests a deficit of £7.6m and whilst churches have closed and new initiatives have been implemented the church remains at a crucial point. The latter estimate for 2025 has not been accepted and the Senior Leadership Team has been instructed to come up with a further plan of action to produce an improved budget showing better movement towards a break-even position for 2027. Among areas that will be affected and reduced are the Seeds of Growth allocation. Membership statistics show membership still falls and is now less than 245,000 (35% drop over the last decade) and, with the consequent loss of income, the Chairman of the Trustees said that they acknowledged that it was a painful, grieving and very prayerful period in the church's life but the mission of the church is not suspended, as evangelism, social action, worship and ministry continued to be resourced and the intention in all the Trustees' proposals is that Presbyteries and congregations will work together in the hope of achieving financial sustainability by 2027 as well as an understanding by flagging congregations of the need for realism which is not present under the present system.
- Under the Faith Action Programme. the Leadership Team has conducted surveys of ministerial wellbeing and is working with Presbyteries on finding local opportunities for assistant ministers; it is also implementing pilot schemes for a new apprenticeship route into ministry and will be looking at a church planting strategy for next year's Assembly
- The Joint Report of the Theological Forum and the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team (FAPLT) has produced an important report on Assisted Dying. This report, which was acknowledged as a

well-researched report, affirms that every human being is made in the image of God with inherent dignity and worth. It calls on the Scottish Government to prioritise development of excellent palliative care services to ensure that they are universally available and to urgently review the current funding models in place. It also accepts that there is a diversity of theological views in the church on the issue of assisted dying and the integrity with which they are held. They agree that, if assisted dying is legalised, robust safeguards must be in place and acknowledge that further resources and training in pastoral care will be required. In the debate on the report there were many powerful contributions from the floor, some very moving on both sides of the main argument, but in the end, whilst approving the main thrust and deliverances of the report and its recommendations, Assembly accepted a counter motion reaffirming the binary traditional stance of the church which is that the Church of Scotland remains against Assisted Dying. So the church remains divided on this moral issue!

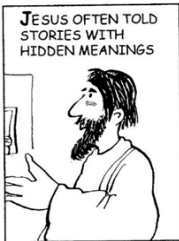
- On social Justice, there were also interesting debates on how can young Christians work together effectively with older ones on issues of social justice in creating disciples and transforming the world. They ranged widely from the issue of offering hospitality to Donald Trump, to praying for world leaders, climate crisis and the legacy of slavery as well as the “Call” and training of ministers and the newer apprenticeship scheme for ministers. The “Call” was also central to the address of the retiring Moderator in his opening address when he said that for too long we have sat back watching and waiting for signs of God’s spirit being at work in the world almost saying, okay God get on with it! But that is not how it works. He calls each and everyone one of us to respond. We all have a calling, but unless we respond to it, will anything ever change? That rang so true with the purpose behind our recent Muthill Parish Church Study Day looking at our priorities of mission and how each one of us must respond to realising them.

I have had the fortune to be an Assembly Commissioner which was a very inspiring and memorable experience and now that we have minute by minute televising of debates, it so easy to access and listen to the debates live and in retrospect. The church may be in financial difficulty and currently lacking ministers, but it is certainly alive and the passion

for mission remains very much there. Systems are changing. There are new initiatives and whilst the current time is worrying there is also clear hope of new times to come but it is up to us to give effect to that under the banner of extravagant love. END

Bible Parable

The
doctor and
the
ill person



Church Study-Day Stimulates

The scene was well set in that we were blessed with a fine day and a lovely bright and welcoming venue for our conference with great assistance on hand. Our keynote speaker, Ewen, was well known to us and also his quiet ability to challenge, spark mischief and really make you think. We started with great worship, including rousing musical accompaniment from Elaine on guitar and Gilbert on the electric keyboard and then there followed a day of intense analysis and discussion all aimed at coming forward with plans to take our church forward. Lorraine coordinated the plenary sessions in a relaxed encouraging manner, linking themes so well together and from the buzz at the break-out discussion tables, our facilitators, Helen-May, Graham, Lorraine and Sandy clearly found that people had plenty to say. Conferences of this nature, of course, have many desired outcomes, and it was obvious from the people present that there was good fellowship and great love for their church with excitement in trying to find new ways of cementing the progress currently being made, whilst further building-up our church family and our connections with the community we serve.

The missing element from any Church study day like this is what happens next. This is important, as without effective follow through, the wider congregation will not so easily perceive the benefit. Since Saturday 17th May, there has, therefore, been a lot of hard work studying the ideas and comments that were made on the day, trying to pull them together into a plan that can clarify our way forward in terms of our worship, our teaching of faith to both young and adults, how we promote the fellowship of our church family and finally how we enliven our connection and engagement with our community. This will be communicated to the congregation at a potluck lunch forum after morning service on Sunday 6th July, and hopefully from there some of the new ideas will start to be implemented. There is little doubt that our church, as a place of welcome, encouragement and hope is at an important stage in strengthening its presence in the village and we all hope that the message from this event will encourage everyone to review how they can help and feel part of the unique service we have to offer.



A Change Of Pope

It was with sadness that we witnessed the demise of Pope Francis on 21st April, 2025. He was passionate about people and mercy and his simple and more liberal approach to the supreme role within the Roman Catholic Church, with his focus on the poor and afflicted of the world, won him many friends and admirers beyond his own church. He was the first Jesuit Pope, the first Latin American and the first born and raised outside Europe since 8th Century. Without doubt he achieved much for the moral status of the wider Christian Church.



As fellow Christians, we welcome the election of Pope Leo XIV and we pray that he will be able to build on the legacy that Pope Francis has left the Roman Catholic Church. The new Pope is aged 69 years and was born in Chicago. He is a citizen of USA, Peru (2015) and Vatican City (2023). He was ordained as a priest in 1982 and his service includes extensive missionary work in Peru in 1980-90s as a parish pastor, seminary teacher and administrator. He was Prior General of the Order of St Augustine from 2001-2013 and Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru from 2015-2023.



God in the Sciences

Dr Ruth Bancewicz, who is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Wonder and Worship: Reflections in a Scottish Rainforest



It can be easier to notice things away from home, when we are relaxed and surrounded by unfamiliar sights in an exotic location. But sometimes the same wonders are there in our own back yard. GK Chesterton was a great advocate of intensive observation, and he invited his readers to take a fresh look at things that might be taken for granted. The

rewards for this mental adjustment are great, and can feed into our worship in new ways.

I first learned to appreciate old growth forests on the West coast of Canada: the centuries-old tangle of logs and underbrush, and thick layers of moss and lichen, that provide rich resources for countless organisms. Several years later, in Scotland, I stumbled over a few acres of birch and hazel, lush with moss and ferns, and humming with insect and bird life. Fallen logs lay everywhere, vegetation grew up the trees, creepers hung down, and sunlight slanted through clearings.

I later discovered that this patch of woodland is one of the few remaining areas of old growth Atlantic rainforest, so I visited one sunny morning when I had more time to linger. The wood is home to 140 species of lichen and 100 of moss, so I found myself looking very closely at tree trunks and boulders. Each lichen is a unique relationship between a fungus and a particular collection of single-celled algae – an example of the collaboration that is so essential to every ecosystem.

Places like this are worth preserving, respecting, and appreciating as much as a work of art or a historic city. I'm so grateful to the community that chose to preserve it, and the Creator who used such intricate and patient processes to create it. As the animals and plants around me did what comes to them naturally, I did what I was made for - thanking God for everything I saw. I found myself praising God alongside all those species of lichen, moss and trees. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" (Psalm 150).

There is a growing call to take both our personal devotions and our church services outside from time to time, and there are a growing number of resources to help us do this. As you go through your week, can you find one new way to appreciate your surroundings, and praise God alongside the rest of Creation?

Muthill Village Trust



MUTHILL
VILLAGE TRUST

Muthill Village Trust held a community coffee morning earlier this year. Some of the feedback we gathered at the event included requests for a bit more information about MVT – why is it here? what does it do? So, we're reaching out to as many community members as we can to answer these questions!

MVT was set up twelve years ago. The Trust is a registered Scottish charity and a company limited by guarantee and its aim is to work with other community groups to make Muthill an even better place to live and work for everyone.

The Trust was formed so the village had a legally recognised body that could apply for grant funding, own land, buildings and hold funds for other village groups. This was needed as the community had identified some ambitious projects such as new community facilities, a cycle path to Crieff and improved road safety as priorities. These were chosen through a series of consultations during the production of Muthill's Community Action Plans.

MVT is a members organization which is run by a voluntary board of local people. It's free to join and everyone is welcome. By becoming a member of MVT you can show your support for any of these village projects and share your own ideas too. We encourage our members to get involved as much as suits them.

We send out regular newsletters throughout the year, have our own website and Facebook/Instagram accounts (just search for Muthill Village Trust) so it's easy to stay in touch with what's happening. We are also looking forward to holding more community events too.

If you'd like to find out more about MVT or become a member then please visit our website www.muthillvillagetrust.org, you can also email us on admin@muthillvillagetrust.org. If the online world's not your thing we have paper copies of our membership form on the display board of the small hall in the village hall. Just fill one in and we'll do the rest, you can also choose to receive a paper copy of our newsletter.

Thanks for reading and best wishes from all at MVT.

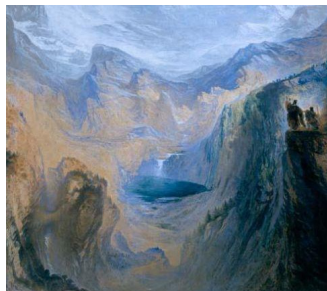
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God in the Arts

‘He gave us eyes to see them’: John Martin’s ‘Manfred on the Jungfrau’

In July we start looking with eager longing to holidays, a chance to get away from it all - to rest and recharge the batteries of life. Holidays are also a time to explore and visit new places. It might be the wild splendour of the Northumberland coast or the serenity of the Italian lakes, the vastness of the Grand Canyon or the magnificence of the Lake District.



This edition’s artist had a gift for creating paintings that expressed this epic quality of landscapes. John Martin was born in 1789, and as an artist was drawn to religious and historical scenes on the grand scale. He illustrated the Bible and Milton, and his final

works were on the theme of the Last Judgement. These are in the Tate Gallery in London, but for this July we visit the Art Gallery in Birmingham with its amazing collection of over half a million items, including many Pre-Raphaelite treasures. The entrance to this Victorian building is beneath the clock tower known as Old Brum.

The Art Gallery is home to John Martin’s watercolour of 1837, ‘Manfred on the Jungfrau.’ It is a large work, almost 5 feet by 3 feet, capturing the rugged, imposing glory of the Jungfrau. Now a railway takes tourists to the summit in the Bernese Alps in Switzerland. In the 19th century climbers had to navigate glaciers, high passes and steep precipices. John Martin captures the grandeur of all this in his painting of snow and sky, crags and torrents, mountains and pine trees. Against that immensity we see two characters: Manfred, tortured by guilt and about to throw himself off the edge, and the mysterious hunter who leads him to safety. Byron’s poem ‘Manfred’ inspired the music of Tchaikovsky and Schumann, as it inspired John Martin. They were each attracted by the romanticism of man and nature in the poem. Like Manfred and the hunter in the watercolour, we look at this grace and nobility and feel humble and insignificant. Byron wrote:

‘How beautiful is all this visible world!
How glorious in its action and itself!’

Manfred seeks redemption, but, sadly, finds only the solace of death. As we look at this painting, we see reflections of the landscapes we shall visit on our holidays. Such beauty, such glory, evoke for us those feelings of wonder and awe that

inspired John Martin.

Manfred sees life in its true perspective as he gazes on the majestic scenery of the Bernese Alps. Holidays help us to put life into perspective. Away from the pressure of responsibility and duty, we often realise what is essential in our lives and with those around. We behold the majesty and glory of creation; we see this world as the handiwork of God; and we ask ourselves how we might make our way through it and be always alert to its mystery and its beauty.

Rev. Michael Burgess

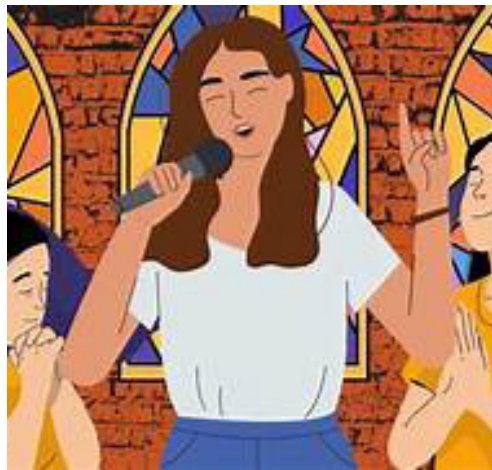
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Making Our Worship Accessible To All Ages

The family service held at the end of May was successful in many ways. It



seamlessly involved more worship leaders, modern praise and language, and greater involvement of the congregation. It was also lively and uplifting. It has, therefore, again made me reflect on the wider benefit of inter-generational services.

There is no doubt that making worship accessible to all ages is difficult to resolve as the needs and understanding of older and younger people these days can be very different. Science, technology and multiple choices of activity

increasingly influence modern life, and so we have to accept that younger families approach worship seeking informality, stimulus, joyfulness and that they question the relevance of traditional approaches. They rightly love their own style of music and are easily turned off by language and rituals they do not understand. Equally at the other end of the spectrum, older people find comfort in style and routines with which they are familiar. This includes the place of traditional hymns and lyrics, rituals and a format of worship they have experienced and grown to love over the years.

The problem with this divide is that it can make what is frequently now called “traditional” worship services unappealing and off-putting to younger families and this is potentially serious for the future church. We must recognise that for many people attending worship services they are their primary and sometimes only contact with a church. Many churches have resultingly started to provide separate worship services appealing to different age-groups as it has been found that arranging for children to leave part of a more traditional service for their own element of worship and teaching does not work successfully in the time available. Is inter-generational worship the solution? In theory, it should be but it is not easy

to organise and does require change both in attitude and expectation. Over the past few years, there has been much experimentation with café



churches, worship teams, different expressions of worship including digital ministry, dance, praise bands, musical interludes, special-themed services, modern songs and alternative forms of preaching to name some of the initiatives that have been explored. Such experiments have been successful in different congregations to varying extents depending on the composition of the church family.

So, for me, the overarching question remains as to whether a church is providing something tuned to its community whilst giving respect to the reasons behind the structure of worship developed over time by the Church. I remain unconvinced whether this can be achieved entirely through adopting one form of inter-generational worship and that a varied pattern of worship organised by a worship team approach may be the most acceptable way forward. I can certainly see that there is a need for more inclusiveness, a fusion of musical expression and more demystification in language and rituals. I am also more than ever convinced that in Muthill we have the talent to experiment and to involve more people in leading worship and that the time to experiment is now.



Inter-Church Golf Outing

Muthill Golf Club

Sunday 6th July, 2025

Meet at 1.30pm for a tee-off at 2pm

Meal and Prize-Giving at 5.30pm

Cost: budget £30.00

For further details and booking

contact Elaine Wallace

on 07753807843

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Several weeks ago I heard that an exercise class was being organised on a Tuesday afternoon from 2.15 - 3.00 in the Sanctuary of the Church. I



immediately thought 'not my scene'. but later, after speaking to Sandy Hutchison, I relented as he was trying very hard to recruit people. I like to try and support things going on in the village as it has been so good to me since I arrived here in 2019, I also felt it wouldn't do me any harm to go and having

had a hip transplant 6 or 7 weeks previously, it might even be good for me to go along and do some exercises as I wasn't having physio (other than the few things I made myself do).

It would also make me stretch and bend whether I liked it or not! Now 5 weeks later I'm still going! Do I enjoy it? No, not really, but I think it is good for me and has taught me a couple of things about myself.....such as, when riding horses many years ago I used to have excellent balance and co-ordination, now it seems I'm hopeless at both.....even with simple exercises, However we are all about as bad as each other and we do have a laugh and a coffee afterwards!!

When I first went I had a serious problem with my neck where the muscles seemed to be knotted together at the back and were really sore, I had one session of acupuncture which helped a bit, but the problem was still there, Now I have to grudgingly admit, after the second week of the exercises it has gone! The lovely young lady, Kirsty from Live Active Wellbeing, who takes the classes is encouraging but not in the least 'pushy' and is happy for you to go at your own pace, so over all I can highly recommend you should come along. Several of the church leaders do so much for the village that it seems only right to support them when possible, hence my also getting into driving the Community minibus or cooking soup for the "soup lunches " in the Bruce Hall which is held every Wednesday, except

for a summer break from mid-June till September, where all are welcome. Driving the village minibus is a challenge when you first think about it but actually not much bigger than a car it drives beautifully. This was the brain



child of the late Dougie Mitchell and various people in the Mens Club. It is for the use of everyone in the village, not just the elderly and people who are unwell. It goes on trips all over such as visiting gardens, taking people to the lunch time concerts in Perth, visiting the Antique centres and shopping sprees. One night I even took a

bunch of 7 enthusiasts to the evening meeting of Perth races where a good time was had by all! It is also fun meeting and getting to know people on the bus and you feel you are contributing something back to the village. Of course, I (and probably most of the drivers) are terrified we will be the first one to put a scratch or dent in the bus or forget to pick someone up or worse still leave someone behind, but that's life! I remember it being a bit daunting when after we had all been driving the bus for a few weeks, being told we had to take a test! Well at over 80, having not taken a test since I was in my teens, having someone sitting beside you while you are driving, watching your every move is a challenge! Anyway, the gentleman was very nice and we all passed nae bother.....although I did fail my written test the first time! I have been told that the bus is greatly appreciated by those who use it and we'd love more people to use it and we also need more volunteer drivers. One of the nice things, of course, about the mini bus is that it picks people up and drops them off at their door, so if you'd like to use it all you have to do is ring the number after becoming a member which costs £5. After that, you only have to make a donation to defray running costs if you can.

Another thing that has been on my mind for some time, started last summer when on a lovely sunny day, I was outside my house and a group of youngsters, aged I'd say between 10 and 14, went by laughing and joking, I asked them where they were going and they said down to The Beach or the Basin (as it is known) for a swim. I thought what a lovely idea and I have also taken my grandchildren down there on more than one occasion. Later I was thinking as these kids

were on their own without an adult, although the area is pretty safe it would be good to have a Life Buoy (Life ring) down there just in case someone got



into trouble. I mentioned it to a few people who thought it was a good idea but I didn't really do much more about it until I asked Sandy to bring it up with the Mens Group which he did. I believe it then went on to the Community Council and Drummond Estates and Sandy heard back that "no, they didn't really want swimming there and having a buoy might encourage swimming and probably get vandalised, Instead they would provide a safety

rope and some signs (which they have done saying something to the effect of "Dangerous Water" and "No Swimming"!) Well I have never heard of anyone in trouble having their life saved by a sign!! I must have mentioned it to my son who sent me a cutting last month from the Daily Record. I will now copy out what it said: "A man has tragically died in hospital after being rescued from a Midlothian reservoir around 5.15 on Tuesday. The 45 year old man was rushed to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh where he died. Emergency services were called to Glencourse Reservoir in Penicuik. Police had received reports of a man in difficulty in the water. Two other Individuals, a 53 year old man and a 50 year old woman were also hospitalised after attempting to rescue him from the water. One local resident who was at the reservoir shortly after the incident has called for a lifebuoy to be easily accessible at the beauty spot. Lee Simpson said: "I requested one two years ago. I heard that they were concerned about vandalism. I did point out that they have installed some at some of the other reservoirs including Bonally but to no avail."

One can't help wondering what the outcome might have been if there had been a lifebuoy on site.

I would be very interested to hear what other folks in the village think? Many locals have probably learnt to swim themselves at "the Beach or Basin!" and still do, I believe it is so much better and healthier in so many ways, to learn to swim in a loch or river rather than in an overheated, chlorine-filled swimming pool, especially when it is right on your doorstep. It is a healthy outdoor activity that in my opinion should be encouraged not denied. I heard on the

radio the other day the well-known swimmer, Tom Dean, saying that right now 1 in 4 kids leave school unable to swim and approximately 100 people a year die through drowning (probably because they can't swim. How good it would be if all our young could learn to swim in a largely safe environment provided with a life ring as well just in case anyone got into trouble. I'd love to know what others in the village think?

Lorna Clarke



2025 MUTHILL GALA

Muthill Gala runs from 23rd June - 29th June 2025

Itinerary.

Monday 23rd Bowling

Register for 6.30– 6.45pm Muthill Bowling Club £2 Adults,
Kids £1.

Tuesday 24th Badminton

6.30pm MVH

Wednesday 25th Zumba with DNCR

7.30pm MVH £4

Thursday 26th Bingo Tea Eyes Down 7.30pm

Friday 27th 9.30-10am

**Barre & Baby class (suitable 6 week– 18 months,
c -Section 12 weeks)**

10-10.30n Workout with Lisa under 5's

(Siblings welcome)

10.30-11am Work out with Lisa 5-12 years

(Siblings welcome)

Evening 7-8.30pm Whisky Tasting £8

Kirk And Community News

Easter Celebrations 2025

It is good to record that our Easter Celebrations 2025 went smoothly with increased attendances at church for both the Good Friday and Easter Sunday services. There was some anxiety earlier, because of the late date of Easter this year, that daffodils would not be available for the flowering of the cross on Easter Sunday, but as always God provided and once again we were able to create a brightly adorned cross in the church sanctuary. Thanks go to Rona Mitchell, Irene Foster, Iona Campbell, Helen-May Bayne and Sandy Hutchison who gave up their Saturday morning to collect daffodils



from wild areas outside the village to provide the skeleton outline on the cross. Then, as usual, the congregation added to it with blooms they brought themselves and as can be seen from the photo above, the end result was a glorious display pronouncing that Jesus is Alive. Earlier in the day on Easter Sunday, Christians gathered in the Macrosty Park, Crieff, for a service conducted by Rev. Alex Mitchell.



Whilst these events were memorable and special as always, there was also a new one on Easter Monday in the village when youngsters were invited by Eilidh MacEanuig (Ilona) to join her family in celebrating the Polish Easter Monday celebration of 'Smigus-Dyngus' or Wet Monday in Highlandman Park.



In Poland these Easter festivities date back to 1420 and were relatively harmless festivals of originally whacking people's legs with willows and throwing water. Today they have turned into a full-blown national water fight involving anyone. It was mainly young who participated in the Highlandman Park

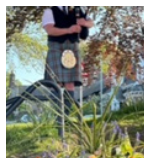
event but, as can be seen, it was fun and everyone got a great soaking! I think this is something that we should help make a Muthill Village tradition in future!

80th Anniversary Of VE Day

In the early evening of Thursday 8th May, a small number of the village residents gathered to celebrate the 80th anniversary of World War 2, Victory in Europe, at Muthill War Memorial at the corner of Highlandman Park. There was a short service led by Rev. Alex Mitchell and, as with the national commemoration at Westminster Abbey in London, Alex, in his short address, mentioned the longevity of those who had lived through the experience and the importance of the



stories they had to tell, the great endurance of so many during this harrowing period in the nation's life and our collective gratitude to all who had. There was then a two minutes silence in honour of those who had given the ultimate sacrifice of their lives for the nation with two wreaths being laid by Steven Coulter and Lily Crawford on behalf of the village as well as one or two lamentations played by on the bagpipes by



Muthill In Bloom

The dedicated team of volunteers from Muthill in Bloom headed by Susan Crawford organised a great coffee morning and plant sale in the Parish Church on Saturday 10th May. It was blessed with a sunny warm day and the multitude of plants on display for sale in the church grounds looked resplendent and were eagerly bought by many of those who attended the event. Inside the church, the coffee morning also attracted a large crowd who enjoyed excellently served coffee and home-made bakes. It was a fine example of the village working well together and good for Muthill in Bloom they raised over £4,000!

Whilst this was an event much enjoyed by all who attended, we must remember that Muthill in Bloom needs help at different times of the year including planting of tubs and floral containers around the village, decorating trees at Christmas and Easter and watering plants during the summer season. As a community we all benefit for the wonderful floral displays that adorn the village and it is to be hoped that this event will stimulate many to offer help in giving assistance to such a worthwhile action group in our village. You can follow and keep up to date with Muthill in Bloom's requests on Facebook/ Muthill in Bloom or contact Susan directly.

Kirk And Community News

Christian Aid Week 2025



This year our Church organised three events related to Christian Aid Week as well as distributing gift envelopes and displaying a collection tin at the refreshment table after church services. There was a Beetle Drive on Saturday 10th May in the evening which attracted a good crowd eager to compete in the race to complete beetles, their bodies, heads and antennae as quickly as possible. Thanks to Alison Hockly, our Christian Aid Convener, the event went smoothly with much fun and enjoyable refreshments and cakes. Then, a few days

later, there was a quiz night organised by Eleanor and Mike Dove. Finally, on Sunday 18th May, before morning service a breakfast with bacon butties



was served in the Bruce Hall and again thanks go to Alison and Christine for organising such a fine breakfast which was enjoyed by a goodly early morning attendance,

We are also pleased to record that this year's total contribution to Christian Aid from Muthill Parish Church is £733.77 of which £683 came from the above Christian Aid Week events. The other £50 was a donation made to the Myanmar Earthquake Appeal.

Gala 2025

This year's Muthill Gala will be held as usual during the last week of June, from 23rd-29th June, and running up to it we will have the display of scarecrows in the village. This year also marks the 20th Year of the Crow. Judging of the crows around the village will take place on Saturday 28th June at 10am. This year's Gala Princess is Ava Grace Horton. Muthill Parish Church, as always, will have a stall at this important village event



Well Done Gilbert!



We have exciting news to report on Gilbert Speirs who is known to many of the church family for his sterling work on the sound system at morning services, but not so many may know that he is also a keen Kayak racer. What is even more exciting is that he took part at the end of May in the European Canoe Association Marathon Masters Championships in Ponte de Lima, Portugal, and on 2nd June won the gold medal for K1 Men, aged 70-74, covering 15.4 km in 01.23:13.81, which was some 2 minutes ahead of his nearest rival in the competition. Gilbert and his wife Lorraine will now be going to Hungary later this summer to compete next in the World Championships.



MPC Book Club

The Book Club met on 16th May for its monthly review meeting and with the weather being so warm, it assembled over tea and cake in the church grounds. This time it was a review of Paul Theroux's book, *The Kingdom by the Sea*, which was based on a trip round the coastal villages and towns of Britain with one commentator describing it as less of travelogue more of chocolate box of cynical encounters. It was written after the Falkland War and it was fascinating to have an American view of Britain, its culture, mood and attitudes at that time. Our Group had mixed views but generally found it a stimulating and worthwhile read and, as always, there was much to learn from each other's comments and interpretations. Thanks go to Annie Allen for an excellent presentation and promotion of the discussion and for the cakes. The next book under discussion on Friday 20th June at 3pm will be *The Secrets of Blythwood Square* by Sara Sheridan which Amanda Muir has chosen for our read. New members are very welcome to come along and sample the group as we continue to expand. Details of the Book Club are screened at Sunday Services and there is a leaflet on the Welcome Desk.

Kirk And Community News

Kirk Session News

The Kirk Session has met twice since the last edition of the church magazine, namely on 29th April and again on 13th May. Of key note from these meetings are the following:

- The Financial accounts to the year ended 31st December 2024 have been presented, explained and approved by the Kirk Session and have now been forwarded to Presbytery and OSCR. There will be a summary presentation to the church congregation on Sunday 22nd June.
- Outline plans for the enlargement of the church kitchen, the provision of additional toilets and an enclosed storeroom have been approved in principle by the Kirk Session. They will now be subject to the preparation of working drawing followed by submission to Presbytery and Historic Scotland depending on costs.
- The Kirk Session has agreed to participate in a scheme of annual maintenance proposed by the Presbytery Building Officer which will cover gutter and drain cleaning, replacement of missing slates, cleaning of turret stairs, checking and repair of pigeon netting, examination of external stonework and report on essential repairs including the provision of photographs
- With regard to the bicentenary of the church building, the Kirk session has agreed that the church will celebrate the laying of the foundation stone on Sunday 15th March 2026 with a special service of worship. The church was opened for worship two years later and the Kirk Session has agreed that a committee will be set up to consider an appropriate celebration for this event.

New Exercise Class

We are pleased to report that the trial exercise class which meets in the church sanctuary on Tuesday afternoons from 2.15-3.00pm is attracting sufficient numbers so far to allow consideration of its continuing after the summer on a regular basis. The class which is run Kirsty Eadie, Live Active Wellbeing, Strathearn Coordinator, and is usually attracting between 10-12 persons. With a charge of £4 per session, regular attenders are reporting they are both enjoying and feeling the benefit of the class. Holding it in the church also has the benefit of use of a microphone



by the trainer, display of the exercises on the visual screens and carpet under your feet. We also provide refreshments afterwards. There is still room for one or two more regulars so please pass the message around! The class uses similar principles to other social exercise classes run by Live Active Wellbeing in the Strathearn catchment area and is ideal for those who like a slower pace and less impact. The class focuses on mobility, balance and strength. If you require more details, please contact Sandy Hutchison on 07825544225.

2025
MUTHILL GALA

Badminton

TUESDAY 24TH JUNE 2025

MUTHILL VILLAGE HALL

£2

6.30PM

2025
MUTHILL GALA

Saturday 28th
Crafts in MVH- 11am-1pm Free
Pet show Highlandman Park 2pm Free
Disco by Miracles 6pm-8pm MVH £2
pre-school FREE -Snacks Available
(All children under 8 must be supervised by an Adult.)

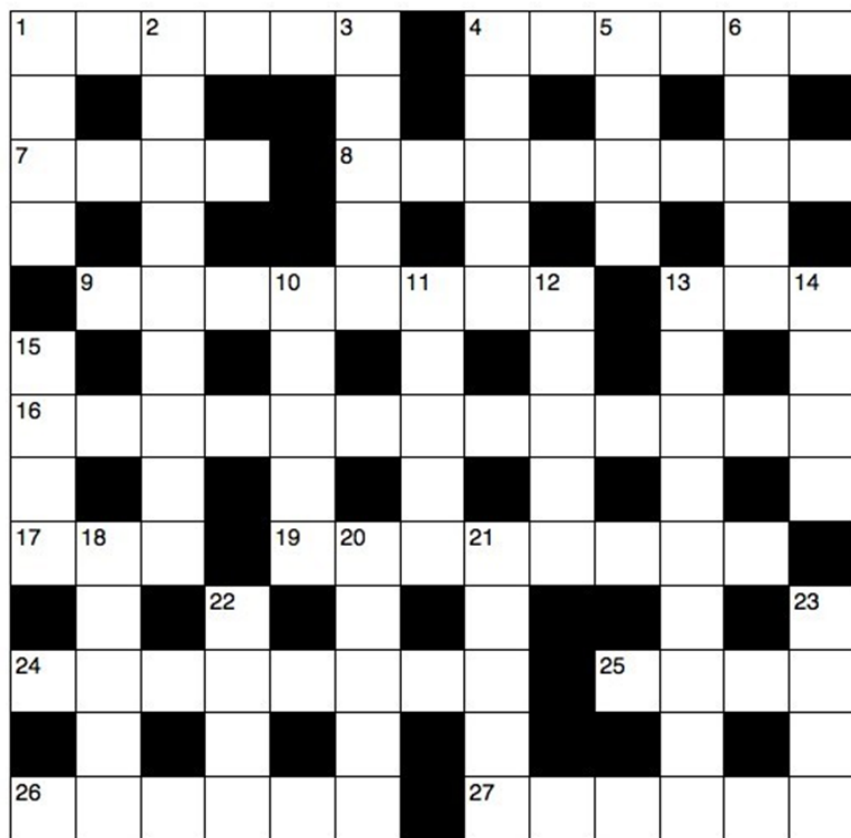
Sunday 29th GALA SUNDAY
Fancy dress parade 1pm leaving from Ancaster way

tombola *strawberries*
cake & candy *Burger Stall*

50/50 **Raffle**

Prize Winner
Announcements &
Much More.....

Crossword



Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
 8 See 5 Down
 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)



-
- 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)
19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)
25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)
26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)
27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

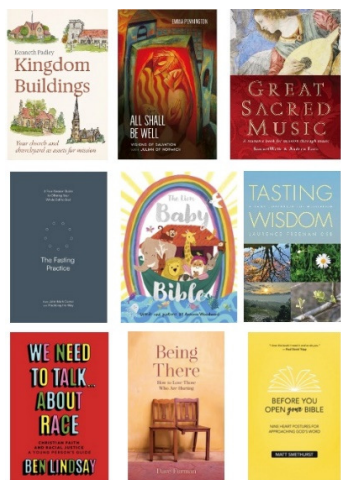
Down

- 11 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)
2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)
4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)
5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)
6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)
10 Trout (anag.) (5)
11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)
12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)
13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)
14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me" (Mark 14:20) (4)
15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)
18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)
20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)

****Crosswords reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon, originally published in Three Down, Nine Across, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF)**

*Solution on page 35

Book Reviews



Tasting Wisdom - A daily companion for meditation

By Laurence Freeman, Canterbury Press. £14.99

Every day for more than a decade, members of the World Community for Christian Meditation worldwide receive a brief reflection, Daily Wisdom, from Laurence Freeman, a Benedictine monk and leader of the community.

In just a few sentences, each day readers can orientate themselves to a more reflective and less reactive approach to the

challenges of the coming day and living wisely and well in a restless, noisy world.

This collection of daily meditations will last the whole year, and offers wisdom to begin, end or punctuate the day.

Great Sacred Music – a resource book for mission through music

By Samuel Wells & Andrew Earis, Canterbury Press, £18.99

Great Sacred Music, a free lunchtime event of spoken word and music for choirs and congregations, is a regular feature of the life and witness of St Martin-in-the-Fields.

Each week, a themed programme is offered which combines music with stories of how the pieces came to be written and some reflections on the theme. As well as a celebration of music, it has proved to be instrumental in the mission of St Martin's, attracting many people to the church.

Great Sacred Music offers 52 complete and ready-to-use choral music-themed programmes for occasional celebrations in local churches, or as an alternative to evensong. All the sheet music chosen is available from the RSCM, or recordings can be downloaded from YouTube for churches

Great Sacred Music could support the missional work of your church, by drawing in people who would not ordinarily attend a service, but who still enjoy its rich musical heritage.

All Shall Be Well: Visions of Salvation with Julian of Norwich

By Emma Pennington, BRF, £12.99

How can all be well in the world in which we live? What does 'All shall be well' mean when all is *not* well? Through revelations 10 to 16 of her *Revelations of Divine Love*, Julian of Norwich returns time and again to the idea that 'all is well'.

In her latest book Emma Pennington examines this popular mantra and explores what Julian really means by it, bringing depth and relevance to these words for the reader who lives in an age of pandemic, war and climate crisis which closely echoes Julian's own.

Through deep engagement with Julian's visions, we are encouraged to reflect in prayer and devotion on our own personal relationship with God.

Before You Open Your Bible - nine heart postures for approaching God's Word

By Matt Smethurst, 10Publishing, £3.99 (discounts on bulk orders)

We know the Bible is important, but many of us struggle with it. We're not biblical experts—though we may have started enough reading plans to be really familiar with Genesis. If we're honest, the Bible often intimidates us, confuses us, and reading it doesn't always thrill us.

And yet, the Bible is where God reveals His loving character and incredible plan of redemption. In a practical and engaging manner, Matt Smethurst—managing editor of The Gospel Coalition—presents nine heart postures that will prepare you to unpack all that's awaiting you in God's Word, for without the 'right heart postures', we're not yet ready to start reading.

There - how to love those who are hurting

By Dave Furman, 10Publishing, £7.99 (discounts for bulk orders)

Everyone has friends or family who suffer from sickness, disability, depression, or the death of a loved one. But often, while we want to help them, we are also struggling in our own various ways.

Writing from the perspective of one who needs extra help on a daily basis, Dave Furman offers insight into the support that people need when helping others. Furman draws on his own life experiences, examples from the Bible, and wisdom from Christians throughout history. Deeply pastoral, this book points you to the strength that only God can provide as you care for those who are hurting.

The Fasting Practice - a four-session guide to offering your whole self to God

By John Mark Comer, SPCK, £9.99

The powerful yet neglected spiritual discipline of fasting can awaken your entire being to a deep hunger for God. This guide from New York Times bestselling author John Mark Comer will show you how.

In our culture of constant consumption, the biblical practice of fasting is both countercultural and transformative. This Companion Guide to the Fasting Practice from Practicing the Way offers spiritual exercises, reflection questions, and guided readings. Featuring four engaging video sessions, the Fasting Practice is available online for free. The author believes that by incorporating fasting as a way of life, we can find a deeper connection with God, and a renewed sense of purpose in our lives.

**We Need to Talk... About Race Christian Faith & Racial Justice
- a young person's guide**

By Ben Lindsay, SPCK, £10.99

Based on the adult bestseller by Ben Lindsay, this book will help to steer teenagers through the relationship between Christianity and racial justice.

We need to talk... about race - in fact, following the murder of George Floyd and the global outcry since, it has almost become impossible not to.

This book is born from that place: a book that will give young adults the tools to better understand themselves, others and how they can understand the Church's past and pave the way towards a better future. Featuring interviews with young black Christians including Guvna B, Femi Koleoso of Ezra Collective and Premier League footballer Eberechi Eze, this book will introduce young people to the history of the Church,

help them explore the complexities of racial and ethnic identity today, and empower them to build toward a brighter future. The book is suitable for individual reading, small group or youth group study, and would be a relevant resource for schools during Black History Month.

Kingdom Buildings - your church and churchyard as assets for mission
By Kenneth Padley, Canterbury Press, £20

Kingdom Buildings sees the potential of church buildings and grounds as tools for mission and growth. Too often seen as burdens, this practical guide helps church communities rediscover them as gifts – as spaces that can enrich both congregational life and the wider community.

Blending theology, ecclesiology and hands-on advice, Kingdom Buildings offers practical steps with how to tackle even the most daunting challenges. Small, affordable changes can spark momentum and create lasting impact, while making wise, long-term decisions can be for the good of future generations.

It's all there in this book: planning permissions, welcome signs, unstaffed opening, accessibility, carbon reduction, ecological stewardship, heating, lighting, solar panels, EV charging, community spaces, toilets, kitchenettes, cafes, children's corners, church halls, and how to transform your churchyard from a jungle to a sacred space.

The Lion Baby Bible

By Antonia Woodward, SPCK, £11.99

This beautifully illustrated first children's Bible for the very young (0 to 2-year-olds) would make the ideal gift for a newborn baby as a Christening, Dedication, or Baptism present.

The Lion Baby Bible includes 45 stories from the Old and New Testaments. Each story is simply and beautifully retold in a very few words, with a biblical truth about God's love for the world and our special relationship as His children.

This book will help you to share precious moments with your young child, as you enjoy showing them the illustrations, and introducing key events, people, and Jesus' teaching from the Bible.

Editor's Note

The next edition of the magazine will be the early summer edition 2025 edition. The magazine will be published on **Sunday 17th August 2025**, and so the deadline for submitting articles, intimations, letters etc. will be **Friday 8th August, 2025**.

Please submit this to macahiph@gmail.com or send to Sandy Hutchison, Green Brae 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

Crossword Solution:

ACROSS:

11, Riches. 4, Abner's. 7, Soul. 8, Damascus. 9, Statutes. 13, Add. 16, Craftsmanship. 17, Old. 19, Redeemer. 24, Walls are. 25, Wise. 26, Target. 27, Thief.

DOWN :

1, Rest. 2, Courtyard. 3, Sadhu. 4, Arm he. 5, Nose. 6, Round. 10, Tutor. 11, Timid. 12, Sense. 13, Ashbelite. 14, Dips. 15, Echo. 18, Lhasa. 20, Exact. 21, Erect. 22, Flog. 23, Mede.

Useful Local Telephone Numbers

Emergencies:

NHS 24	111
NHS Emergency	999
Water Emergency	0800 0778 778
Floods	0345 988 1188
Environmental Emergency	01738 476476

Hospitals:

Crieff Community Hospital	01764653173
Perth Royal Infirmary	01738623311
Ninewells Hospital, Dundee	01382660111

Crieff Medical Centre:

Blue Practice	01764652283
Red Practice	01764657060

Police:

Emergency	999
Non-Emergency	101
Action Fraud Scotland	101

Perth and Kinross Council:

Customer Services	01738 475000
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Church of Scotland:

Perth Presbytery	01738451177
121 George Street	01312255722

Police:

Emergency	999
Non-Emergency	101
Action Fraud Scotland	101

Muthill:

Commercial Hotel	01764681263
Coorie Inn	01764681773
MacLean's {Pizza and Ice cream}	01764681749
Muthill Kiddy Club	07999598663
Muthill Primary School	01764661466
St James Scottish Episcopal Church	01964662525
Wardside House for Elderly	01764681275

Veterinary Practice:

Crieff Vets	01764652086
Broadley Vets	01786824400
Struthers & Scott Vets	01786841304
Tower Vet Centre	01738583083



Mission Statement

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

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/muthillchurch>

Email

muthillparish@yahoo.com

Magazine Graphics & Cover Photo

Our cover picture theme is "My ain wee Scottish home". Thanks to Raffie for sourcing the graphics for the magazine and helping in the production."

Registered Scottish Charity

Muthill Parish Church - SC004984