

THE BRIDGE



Keswick 24

The Cowboys

Assisted Dying

Autumn Programme (Insert)

Re-dedication Service Makes History



Contents

Editorial.....	Page 03 & 04
Blythswood Shoebox Appeal.....	Page 04
Message From Our Interim Moderator.....	Page 05 & 09
A Big Thank You	Page 07
A Memorable Rededication Service.....	Page 08 & 09
Music in St James.....	Page 10
Bible Parable.....	Page 11
Our time at the 2024 Keswick Convention.....	Page 12 & 13
Assisted Dying.....	Page 14 & 15
Church Of Scotland In Israel And Palestine.....	Page 16 & 17
God in the Sciences.....	Page 18 & 19
Advent In Austria.....	Page 19
Did You Know the Cowboys Were In Town?.....	Page 20
Cleaner Wanted Urgently	Page 21
Kirk And Community News.....	Page 22-27
Strathearn Arts.....	Page 28 & 29
Crossword Grid And questions.....	Page 30 & 31
New Book Reviews.....	Page 32 - 36
Sudoku Puzzle.....	Page 37
Editor's Note.....	Page 38
Sudoku Solution.....	Page 38
Useful Telephone Contacts.....	Page 39
Crossword Solution	Page 39
Mission Statement.....	Page 40

Extra

With this edition of the magazine there is a special insert which details our autumn 2024 programme of activities as a church beyond Sunday worship. We hope you will take time to browse through it and see where you might join in, as this will not only enable you to integrate more fully with our church family but it will also help you see where you can best use your talents.

The Kirk Roll is now published quarterly and will appear in our next edition, in October

Editorial

The recent riots in some English cities have worried many of us across the United Kingdom. They have displayed thuggery, racism, action against the Police as well as resulting in injuries to people, damage to buildings, vehicles and even graves. It would be surprising in such circumstances if unlawfulness of this nature did not make us all anxious! It also came just a few weeks into a new Government and, as for its reasons, most informed commentators say that there are many underlying factors including our failure to date to solve the issue of immigration.

Living in a quiet rural village should these developments concern us? Certainly, however, imperfect our democracy is, most citizens would support the rule of law and it is right that punishments have been swift and severe. There can be no place in a democracy for any section of our national community to act in the ways as we have witnessed on our TV screens. The cohesion of many communities have been shattered by these events and, as we know, it takes a long time for suspicion and division to subside and heal. How should we react as Christians?

Our common humanity should be a unifying factor standing out against



hatred and violence. It was, therefore, good to see our different faith leaders coming together in solidarity in Glasgow. In the words of Rev Jan Mathieson, Glasgow Presbytery Moderator: "The Presbytery of Glasgow, part of the worldwide Christian Church, shares with all people of faith a belief that our common humanity, a gift of God, unites us and does not divide us.

"We affirm our God given

responsibility to care for others with compassion, kindness, respect and dignity and the particular duty to extend welcome to the stranger and the refugee, provide safe haven for those facing danger and persecution and meet the needs of those who are most vulnerable in society.

“We call on all people to reject conflict, violence, racism and prejudice which do so much harm to human beings and grieve the very heart of God.”

Whilst we, thankfully, have been spared such episodes in our small community, as Christians in our community, we must fight against any undercurrents of division as displayed only very recently by the removal of posters for an up and coming music event to bring the village together. The more we can work together for the common good, the more secure and happy our community will be.

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

This year's filled shoeboxes will be going to Ukraine.

You can either fill the shoebox or donate individual items or make a cash donation.

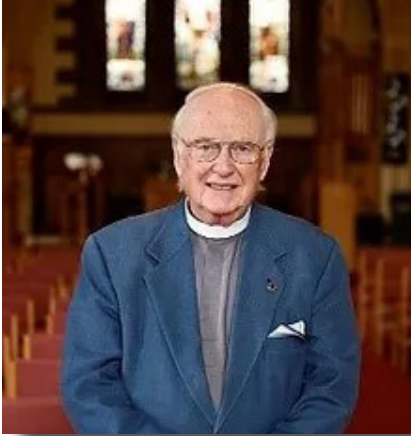
Shoeboxes are available in the Bruce Hall along with leaflets. Please help yourself or leave item donations in the larger box. The items most sought after are –toothbrushes and toothpaste, hat, scarf, gloves, soap, underwear, sock, tights, small toys e.g. car, doll, ball and sweets with best before date of March 2025, but no chocolate.

Thank You

Message From Our Interim Moderator

Dear Friends,

What an uplifting and forward-looking service of re-dedication we had on Sunday 7th July. Considering that it was the beginning of the holiday period, we had an excellent turnout of members and friends for both the service and the lunch which followed. Everyone to whom I have spoken agrees that the church sanctuary is vastly improved, is much lighter and airier, and generally looking warm and welcoming. Fears that the addition of a carpet might dull the singing have proved unfounded, and the sound and vision desk seems (to me at least) to be a wonder of modern technology.



From my perspective as the temporary minister, I have been particularly struck by the way in which the general upgrading has brought out the best in so many people and the enthusiasm by which tasks were addressed has been outstanding. It would be invidious to pick out individuals to thank, as there are so many. So may I just say a sincere 'thank-you for a job well done' to one and all, whether your contribution was large or small?



Our thanks, also, are surely due to the congregation at St. James' Episcopal Church for so willingly lending their building for our morning services during the renovations. The very encouraging note from the Rector, Rev. Duncan Strathie, was read in full at the re-dedication service, and demonstrated the excellent relationship which exists between the congregations.

Who pays for it all is an obvious question.

Fortunately, the congregation has sufficient funds lodged with the Central Fabric Fund of the Church nationally to meet the bills, and it is hoped that once the disposal of the former church building at Trinity Gask has been completed, funding will be released from there to help with the overall cost also.

Chairs in the Church instead of pews certainly make for greater flexibility and will enable the space to be used imaginatively for events other than services. If this extends to use of the space by other clubs and organisations within the village, then the church will be fulfilling its' call to mission and outreach. To that extent, the more that the parish church is seen as a centre of outreach, the better! All in all, we have much to give God thanks for.

Perhaps the main outstanding matter now is whether it proves possible to move our electric organ from its elevated position up in the rear gallery and bring it down to ground level. The lesser instrument which Elizabeth and others have been playing for services has good flexibility of sound, but it is unrealistic to ask anyone playing for a service to run up to the gallery when an item of praise would sound better on the main organ. A proven ability in athletics should not be a requirement for the job!

There are many quotations which could be given from the psalms about our attitudes to worship which are, of course, the main reason that our church with its congregation is here in the first place.

Here is the closing psalm in the Bible – Psalm 150

“Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty firmament. Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His surpassing greatness.

Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp. Praise Him with tambourine and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe! Praise Him with clanging cymbals. Praise Him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!’

Encouraging words for us to take to ourselves- in our new sanctuary!

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

Iain F. Paton- Interim Moderator.

A Big Thank you

I realise that this may be a recurring theme in this Bridge but I would like to add my personal thanks to all who have helped in the refurbishment of our Church Sanctuary and Vestry. It does not matter if you have swept a floor, bought a pew, wielded a paintbrush, used a hammer and chisel, emptied cupboards, sponsored chairs, pulled through cables, set up microphones, helped in the organising, checked and set up the new chairs or made coffee for the workers, all of you have played your part and have to be congratulated on a job well done.

The result has been much admired by all who have seen it and if you haven't, please come soon. Apart from our standard Service at 10.00am on Sundays, we have had our first wedding and sadly, our first funeral. The new adaptability of the Sanctuary has passed all tests in these situations. In the past, we have had problems with the sound system, but these have been resolved with grateful thanks from our members with hearing issues.

To do all of this has cost £26,011.53 for the pew removal, painting, joiner work, carpet, replacement heaters and upgrade to the AV system. To this we have to add the cost of the chairs, £21604.51, but the sponsorship mentioned above will reduce this figure. In all these sums, there is a VAT total of £6355.18 and I will try and reclaim as much of this as legally possible.

Willie Bell, Finance Convener

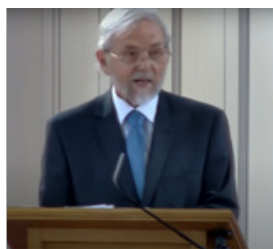


A Memorable Rededication Service

Worship on Sunday 7th July, 2024, not only marked the return from St James to our refurbished sanctuary but the special service of Re-dedication also provided an opportunity to give thanks and to look forward. It was undoubtedly a historical day in the life of Muthill Parish Church as it marked not simply the celebration of a refurbishment, successfully completed, but it also gave realisation to one of the church's dreams to become a multi-purpose venue, presenting new opportunities for welcoming-in the wider village community to use the Kirk's facilities. It also heralded the possibilities for new forms of mission more suited to modern society.



This focus on gratitude and vision was expressed in different, meaningful ways by the leading contributors to the service, namely Rev. Iain Paton, our Interim Moderator, Ian Roy, the guest preacher of the day and Rev. Alex Mitchell, a much loved member of the congregation and one of the original Vision Committee. Rightly, Iain Paton concentrated initially on the importance of recognising the seen as well as the unseen people who had worked hard on the transformation of the sanctuary. This was then added to by Alex Mitchell contributing a historical perspective before conducting the solemn Act of Re-dedication. Finally, Ian Roy, gave his two talks firstly praising the unsung heroes of the church and how much they are needed for Christ's Kingdom, reminding the congregation how much Jesus was an expert in that role in being the true "servant" for God. Then, using readings from the Gospel of John and the letter to the Ephesians given by Willie Bell and Graham Donaldson, he further developed his twin theme by focusing the church family's minds on the meaning of the Household of God, it being not only the *building* but equally important the *people* who follow the Gospel and all that that means - radical, challenging



people, ever fighting against injustice in this world and how re-dedication is not only for the place of worship but also for each one of us giving Christian service in fellowship, ministry and mission. It is a privilege to be part of God's household and therein, as Christians, we must work towards a community of kindness, gentleness and love of God. Then, finally, building on and rooting all that had been said throughout the service, Helen-May Bayne, in her Prayer of Intercession, empathetically and beautifully focused on the wider community remembering all who serve in church and in community, at all levels, and asking God's blessing on all who work in our communities and on the opportunities that our rededication presented.

It was indeed a memorable, uplifting service and one also aptly summed up in the words of the final song after the benediction, "You shall go out with joy!", which Elizabeth Boyd, our organist, played so engagingly.



Our gratitude for this day, however, did not end there. Thanks go to Joe Knowles and Gilbert Speirs for their work on the transfer of the AV desk which is not only greatly enhanced by its new position within the body of the congregation but it now possesses a valuable added visual feature and much improved professional sound quality. As if that was not enough to take



in, finally, the service was followed by another more relaxed celebration - a church family luncheon in the Bruce Hall where the ladies of the congregation excelled in providing a selection of great home-made soups and a myriad of sumptuous desserts. And we should not forget that the grounds had also been made resplendent for the occasion during the previous day by a small working party.

What a great memory and such fine examples of a church working in unison and with exciting Hope for the future!

Music in St James

I cannot claim to be in any way a knowledgeable music critic. Indeed, I would describe my musical taste as fairly broad-based but what I can confidently state is that my enjoyment of classical music has grown considerably over the years. For me, it now provides untold depths of feeling and enjoyment



which can be emotional, exciting, inspiring and so good for one's soul. The midsummer concert at St James Episcopal Church on 15th June brought many of these feelings to the fore as we were entertained to a delightful, relaxed, professional performance from the Guildhall Singers. Having lived for many years next door to the Guildhall School of Music in the Barbican, City of London, and having shared my flat with another scholar from that School, I had had many

occasions to experience their talents and the high standard of the teaching. I, therefore, knew of the privilege it would be to have such a concert in our wee village and, on the evening, this was added to by the packed church and wonderful pre-concert reception in the Parish Church's Bruce Hall. The acoustics and comfort are not that great for a performance of this kind, as I am sure that St James would accept, but the aesthetics of the beautiful sanctuary, the balanced composition of the programme and the delivery were of such a high standard that the programme just flew by as the audience was entranced by the performance. Unlike the previous year's concert, this year's was further enhanced by live piano accompaniment by another scholar from the Guildhall School of Music, James Housego, and certainly we were treated to very fine rendition of the music. It is not often that you have the opportunity to enjoy Massenet, Rossini and Bizet alongside John Denver and Frank Sinatra but with the superb baritone voices of Cuan Durkin and Ambrose Chiu and the tenor voice of Harun Takin, it was effected superbly. Congratulations to the four performers and to Duncan, Annie and the St James team for providing a most memorable evening and grateful thanks for extending the invitation beyond the St James church family.

Bible Parable

The tale of the Tower Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



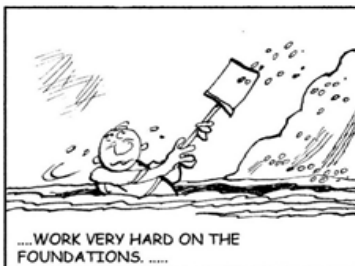
JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START,

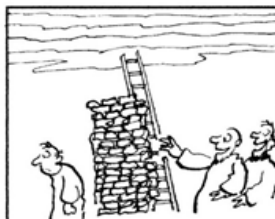


....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS.

...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS,...



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.

Our time at the 2024 Keswick Convention



I sometimes worry that heaven will be boring – constantly having to worship...(?) I felt reassurance and joy from the teaching, especially Isaiah 25 where the Lord prepares a banquet for his people.

I came away more confident - after all, if the bible wasn't true, why would people have spent so long writing it.

In the new life (heaven) we'll always have Jesus in our heart and there will be no sin.

I felt both seriously challenged and encouraged - that I should be walking with Christ in my heart now.

Mountains, lakes, sunrises, sunsets, jumping off the pier, swimming in the very cold Lake, boat trips, fighter jets, some amazing clouds, delicious ice creams, scrumptious cakes, crepes, toy shops, book shops, pitch-and-put, cycle rides, BBQ's, bacon sandwiches, catching up with old friends, worshiping with thousands of others, fantastic teaching, fun and games, frisbee, football, trying to stay awake with lots of coffees....

As you might expect, you can find videos of what went on – morning services, seminars, bible readings, evening celebrations on YouTube – search Keswick Convention 2024

If you'd like to experience some of this in person then join thousands of Christians, drawn to the Keswick Convention and filling the beautiful town of Keswick set in the Lake District. The Convention theme for 2025 is

“Transformed “ .It starts on Saturday 12th July and runs for 3 weeks. The Convention is free – relying on donations. As well as being a wonderful holiday, many find refreshment and a new challenge in their walk with the Lord.

The 2025 Convention dates:

Week 1: Saturday 12th – Friday 18th July 2025

Week 2: Saturday 19th – Friday 25th July 2025

Week 3: Saturday 26th July – Friday 1st August 2025



Crosthwait Campsite where we were – but there are plenty of other accommodation options around Keswick!

Adrian, Becky, Thomas, Joseph Davidson

Assisted Dying

Why the Church of Scotland is against the proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Patients (Scotland) Bill.

In the last edition of the magazine, we reported on the General Assembly's consideration of an interim report on assisted dying. In this issue we set



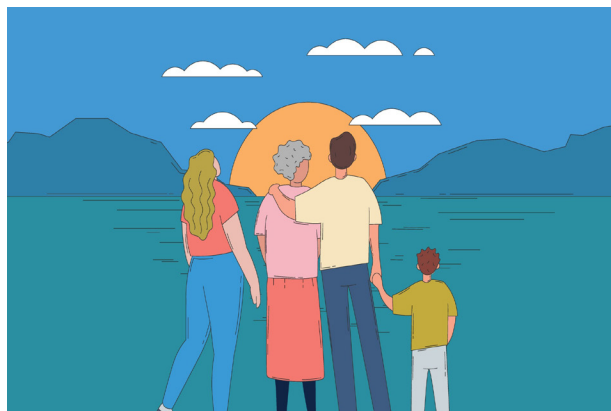
out, in summary for your information, the Church's official stance on this issue which has been submitted by the Faith Impact Forum on behalf of the Church to the Scottish Government. The full detailed response can be found on the Church's website www.churchofscotland.org.uk.

Were assisted dying to be introduced in Scotland, the Church's view is that the relationship between those cared for and those who have the duty to care (including family, health and social care professionals, but also society in general) would be irredeemably altered. The end of a person's life involves not simply the moment of their death, but also the way in which they experience their final days and weeks.

While many who advocate assisted dying point to the principle of autonomy and argue that one should have freedom to choose the timing and manner of one's own death, it must be remembered that all of our decisions and actions have effects on others. Life is lived and death experienced as part of community and society. What is actually being proposed is assisted **suicide** - a change in the law to make it legal, in certain situations, to provide assistance to actively end the life of another person.

The current societal prohibition on killing is clear; to move away from this would involve more than a simple modification of the law, but would represent a significant shift from which there would be no return. This would have profound effects on how society regards those in our communities who are vulnerable. This is not just the elderly and infirm, but also those with disabilities, and those who are unable to speak up to protect themselves.

In other jurisdictions where assisted dying has been allowed, the experience of framing and maintaining safeguards has been fraught with difficulties and frequently subject to removal or relaxation of restrictions to eligibility.



The acceptance by a society of legally assisted dying profoundly changes relationships not only between health professionals and patients, but also within families. As the former First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has put it: “I am ... concerned about the difficulty that will, I think, always and inevitably be present in

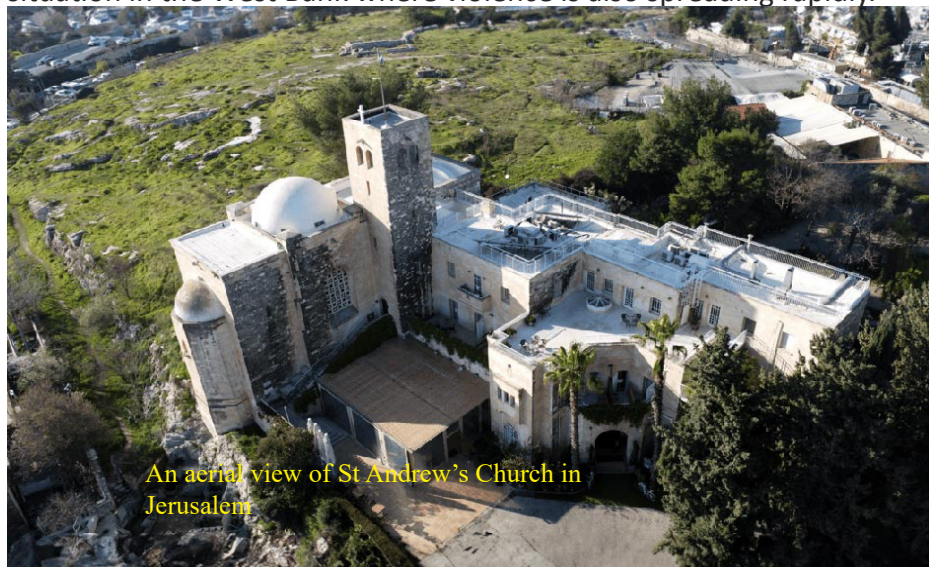
determining that someone who has chosen to end their life has not been subjected to undue influence.”

The Church of Scotland seeks to show the love of Christ in supporting all including those in our society who are most the vulnerable. While respecting the sincerity of those promoting change, the Church remains opposed to any proposals to amend the law around assisted suicide.

Church Of Scotland In Israel And Palestine

As we have watched the news coming from Israel and Palestine over recent weeks and months, we have been devastated by the impact that the events have had on Israelis and Palestinians alike.

The events of 7 October 2023, and the subsequent crisis in Gaza, are clearly major news, but we have also become increasingly concerned about the situation in the West Bank where violence is also spreading rapidly.



An aerial view of St Andrew's Church in Jerusalem

The Church of Scotland has a connection spanning more than 150-years with Israel and Palestine, both through a physical presence with the Scots Hotel, the St Andrew's House Hotel, St Andrew's Jerusalem & Tiberias, and Tabeetha School, and through partnerships with churches and development organisations which are working in political and religious arenas for justice with peace in the region. Around 160 local staff are employed by the Church in Jerusalem, Tiberias, and Jaffa.

To help people respond to the crisis, the Church of Scotland website, www.churchofscotland.org.uk, provides further resources and updates.

The Moderator has also signed a Christian Aid statement, alongside

other church leaders and Christian organisations, calling for a ceasefire, and asking all governments with influence to bring an immediate end to violence in both Israel and Palestine.

At the 2024 General Assembly held in May, there were several Deliverances relating to Israel and Palestine :

- Instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to share the voices of Palestinian Christians, and to continue to support the Church's contribution to interfaith dialogue
- Encourage church members to take note of the requests from the Palestinian Christian communities for help in their non-violent struggle to bring peace with justice, including consideration of previous General Assembly statements to refrain from buying goods from illegal settlements
- Call on the whole Church of Scotland to pray for peace in the conflict in Gaza between Israel and Hamas and in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah, and restate the 2015 General Assembly call urging the UK Government to recognise without delay the State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel, as a contribution to securing lasting peace and justice for all.
- Express our gratitude to Britain Yearly Meeting for its liberality in funding the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) UK and Ireland, and instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to give prayerful consideration to reinstating the annual Church of Scotland grant to support the work of EAPPI UK and Ireland, at least to its previous level, and to report back to the General Assembly of 2025.
- Call on the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to publicly and explicitly call on the UK Government to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, to cease granting export licences for the sale of armaments to Israel, and to reinstate UNRWA funding immediately.

God in the Sciences

This article 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.

Physicist and Priest: John Polkinghorne (1930-2021)



At the age of 48 the Cambridge Professor John Polkinghorne decided he'd done his bit for physics and that it was time for a different sort of adventure. Resigning his academic position, he trained for ordination in the Church of England. In an interview 40 years later he said, *"It's one thing to go to church on Sundays but to give up a professorship and train for something else – that was a bit more than a gesture...I think a lot of people realised I was a religious person but they didn't expect me to take it quite that seriously...People were saying to me, 'Oh John what are you up to?' They mostly weren't thinking so much about my becoming a clergyman but just the fact that I was a Christian."* (From *Test*

of Faith, Paternoster, 2009)

John saw his work in science as a Christian vocation, and he felt a responsibility to use his talents in that area. Once ordained he found himself thoroughly engaged in the conversation about science and religion. One of his main messages was that *"I'm not a vegetarian butcher"*. There is a cousinly relationship between thinking about theology and thinking about science."

When asked for a Bible passage to appear at the end of his 2009 interview John chose Colossians 1:15–20: 'He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the first-born from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.'

John's explanation for his choice speaks volumes to anyone interested in the science-faith dialogue. *"I value this passage because it speaks of the cosmic significance of Christ, the One in whom all things hold together and who redeems all things (notice, not just all people) by the blood of His cross. Here meet my deepest religious beliefs and my strongest scientific concerns."*

END

ADVENT IN AUSTRIA



Iain and Marjorie Paton are leading a tour to Austria from 1st to 8th December, entitled 'Advent in Austria'. It will be based in a family run hotel at the village of St. Johann im Pongau, which is near Salzburg and includes visits to places like Salzburg Cathedral, Mozart's birthplace museum, the village of Oberndorf where the carol *Silent Night* originated, St. Gilgen and Lake Wolfgang. There will also be a horse drawn sleigh ride to a remote alpine hut for lunch one day. Full details are in the brochure, of which copies are on the magazine and leaflet rack in the Church vestibule. Please take one away if this might interest you.

Did You Know the Cowboys Were In Town?

Were you aware of the invasion of Cowboys and their wives in Crieff, Muthill or Auchterarder in July this year? They landed in Scotland from a church in Erath County, Texas. Their mission was to take the Good News of Jesus to the young and not so young in our community.



The first stop was visiting all the primary schools in our area, telling them why they were here and inviting them to attend the Whackiest Wild West Children's holiday club based in St Andrew's Hall Crieff. I had the enormous privilege of being part of the team and what an incredible week we had.

Over 60 children attended the morning holiday club and learned about Moses, how he met God and how Jesus died for us so we too can know God. Oh boy! There was cowboy worship like never before, story telling through puppets, drama, crafts and games.



On a dismal Thursday evening an enormous crowd sheltered under canvas or umbrellas at the bandstand in Crieff's Macrosty Park where the cowboys sang and encouraged everyone to try to lasso a wooden cow and to try the amazing chilli made by the park café.

While in our area they took the Good News to Logos and Wardside Care Home. Muthill Hall was a pack out for their final event - a Ceilidh, like no other, interspersed with American Line Dancing. What a week, what amazing people and a wonderful God who made it all possible!

Liz Mitchell

Cleaner Wanted Urgently

With the refurbishment of our sanctuary and plans to expand the use of our church building, Muthill Parish Church is looking for a new church cleaner. This role would suit someone who self employed and is looking to work a few hours each week. It could even be a shared job so long as reliability is ensured.



The normal week would consist of two hours work on a Friday but ideally we are looking for someone with some flexibility who may be able to give extra hours when needed.

The areas involved vary in size from large to small and are largely carpeted. It includes cleaning toilets and a kitchen.

Further details can be obtained from **Helen-May Bayne, Session Clerk, 07974646872 or through email : helenmaybayne@gmail.com.**

Church Service Dates to Note for your Diary

Wardside House Service	: Sunday 22 nd September
Messy Church	: Sunday 29 th September
Glen Artney Service	: Sunday 13 th October
Harvest Thanksgiving	: Sunday 20 th October

2024 Gala And Scarecrow Fortnight

This year's Gala held from 21st-30th June, unlike recent years, was blessed with generally good weather. This was especially important



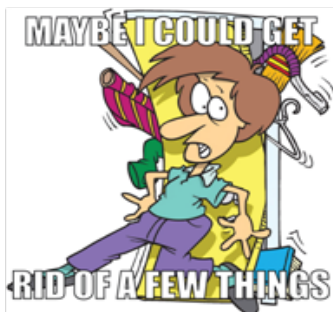
for the Gala Sunday which returned to the Coronation Park after a couple of years up in Highlandman Park. The week itself was full of different attractions, including a bowling event, a pudding night, a kids disco, a treasure hunt, a beetle drive and bingo culminating in Gala Sunday.

As usual Gala Sunday started with the fancy dress parade, which assembled in Ancaster Way car Park before making its way to the park. This year's princess, looking resplendent, was Madelyn Hamilton. She also found time to visit the residents of Wardside House for the Elderly. The Gala also couples with Scarecrow fortnight run by Muthill in Bloom and this year there were some fine designs as is seen in the pictures accompanying this report.

It is always a time of year for the village and one again thanks are due to Maureen MacGregor and her hard working team of volunteers who made it all possible. So much effort goes into the organisation of this event and a lot of that is behind the scenes, such as transporting chairs and tables, organising prizes, making publicity adverts, organising stall holders. The list is endless and as a village we are grateful for such fine community spirit.

Upstairs Clean Out

We are hoping to complete the vestry/south lounge before the end of this month and to do a major clean up in the upstairs lounge and adjoining entrance room. We would love to get a team to help with this final task. If you can give us help this would be much appreciated. There will be many tasks which do not involve everyone in climbing stairs. It will involve a lot of black bagging and joining forces to take stuff to the recycling site



**MUTHILL
SPORTIVE**

31 AUGUST 2024

family 4 miles
easy 13 miles
challenge 31 miles
sportive 66 miles



Chip timing on the 13, 31 and 66 mile routes

Information and enrolment at:
www.entrycentral.com/MuthillSportive

f X @
@muthillsportive



Raising funds for the Muthill to Crieff Cyclepath

Muthill Community Events



**MUSIC
IN THE PARK**

**BRIAN CATTIGAN
SCOOGZ
LISA WINKLE
KATRINA GRIEVE**

**Saturday 31st August
12.30pm-6pm
Highlandman Park Muthill
Bring your own Food
and Drink**

Children to be supervised by an adult at all times

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Trusteeship Course For Elders

All Kirk Sessions Elders have had to attend courses organised by Presbytery on the role of trusteeship in the Church of Scotland. In our case, Elders from Muthill Parish Church attended either in Perth or Dunblane during the month of June. Both events covered the role and responsibilities of trustees in running the Church at national, regional and local level and they were conducted by Presbytery Clerk, Dr. John Ferguson.

The sessions were illuminating in explaining the legislation governing the day to day work of the Church such as the Barrier Act which stipulates the procedure required for any major change in church law e.g. same-sex marriage. It also covered “unitary” constitutions which now exist in most congregations where the one authority is the Kirk Session with no separate Board of Management.

A major part of the presentation concerned the Church of Scotland’s designated charitable status as a religious charity and how it is now interesting to note that congregations do not have a separate legal identity. There are some 25,000 charities in Scotland but surprisingly the average charity only has 8 trustees. This provided an interesting comparison with our new Presbytery of Perth which currently has over 400 trustees. 69% of charities also have no paid staff and 19% exist for the advancement of religion.

As for the specific duties of trustees, we were reminded that these include, acting always in the interests of the charity, exercising care and diligence, ensuring that duties imposed are duly carried out, ensuring that the principles of our faith are adhered to and ensuring that all assets are used for the Church’s charitable purposes. Finally, all Elders as trustees, must remain active in the life and work of the Kirk Session. If not, they should be removed from Eldership after one year of inactivity.

Inter-Church Golf Outing

A picture that tells it all! This was the group that made up the Inter-Church Texas Scramble held at Muthill Golf Club on the afternoon of Sunday 7th July. Despite several heavy rain showers they say it never rains on a golf course and, true to form, this group had a great time finishing with a meal in the clubhouse at the end of their time on the course. Muthill was represented by four in the picture.



Church Outing And The Last Strawberry Tart

On Saturday 8th June, some 35 of the church family and their friends set out on an away-day to Dumfries House, Cumnock, Ayrshire. It started at the church with an overcast sky as we boarded the coach and our journey south encountered some rain but, on arrival, the sun came out and shone for the rest of the day.



It was a wonderful visit with beautiful gardens to enjoy, a fascinating house with its fine Chippendale furniture to explore and great food to enjoy in the restaurant and its outside seating areas. Okay, the writer is not trying to promote himself by the photo opposite but this is his only personal photo from the outing and you must admit it looks a great strawberry tart! It certainly

provoked some envy at his table and of course it tasted delicious!

It was also good to meet up with some of the church family who had made their way there independently by car. Time for most participants passed all too quickly and soon we were back on the bus making our way home. On the journey back there were reminiscences of old-time Sunday School picnics when we experienced some not too harmonious singing from the back of the bus on the way home led by the Worship Convener. Definitely room for improvement in the harmonies achieved but her skills thankfully came to the fore when the driver went off his route missing the entry to the motorway (maybe due to the singing?). However, we did arrive safely back home only 15 minutes later than anticipated, having had a great fun day out.



Kirk Session Report

Since the last edition of the magazine, the Kirk Session has met twice for a normal full meeting on 18th June and then for a special meeting to decide on the usage and charging for the Church facilities following refurbishment of the sanctuary. At the meeting there are no developments to report on our request to have an early meeting of representatives of the three Kirk Sessions in regard to the proposed linkage with Ardoch, Blackford and Muthill.

In our own church, new heaters have been installed in the Bruce Hall where necessary in the sanctuary. The Sanctuary refurbishment project was undertaken on time and within budget with grateful thanks to key officers involved and many who came forward from the congregation to help in some of the additional work emanating from the main project. On finances, the Kirk Session was pleased to note that church funds continue to remain positive despite substantial increases in electricity costs over the past year. There remain problems with regard to the stone masonry of the building which will be further considered once more information is available.

The Kirk Session also received reports on the restart of Messy Church, the updating of the church website, the outreaches of the Men's Group, the Book Club and finally suggestions on an updated logo for the church. The latter will be further considered at the September meeting.

A sub-committee was established to consider and make recommendations on the use and charging for the refurbished areas of the church. This reported to a special meeting of the Kirk Session on 30th July. At this meeting the Kirk Session agreed to allow lets of the sanctuary with the Bruce Hall subject to specific constraints and also agreed to a list of new charges to ensure that our costs are adequately covered. These will be implemented from 1st September 2024 and reviewed annually. Mike Dove has also been appointed as our Facilities Letting Convener to handle and process all enquiries with final decisions being taken by the Session Clerk and Treasurer.

Finally another sub committee reported back to a special meeting of Kirk Session held on 11st July recommending that the gallery electric organ be moved down adjacent to electric piano. This was approved .

Strathearn Arts

Upcoming Events in August



As always Strathearns Arts are providing some interesting Arts events over the coming weeks and months covering film, music and drama. You may be interested in popping along to one of the following but don't delay in obtaining tickets for fear of sell-out. Box Office 01764 655556



Music

Louise Bichon, Orkney fiddler and photographer, carving a great career on the music scene of New England is appearing in concert on Friday 23rd August, at 7.30pm



Music

Providing a combination of traditional and contemporary folk music, the Eilidh Grant Trio will be performing on Thursday 29th August at 7.30pm



Theatre

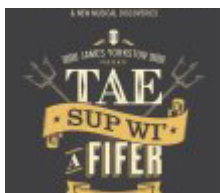
The Handlebards will be presenting environmentally sustainable theatre, namely Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors, in the Macrosty Park on Friday 30th August at 7.30pm



Tea Dance

Enjoy live music and refreshments and some dancing at a new series of tea dances on Sunday 3rd September between 2-4pm





Music, Poetry and Spoken Word

A relaxed multi-act travelling road show is welcomed back for another fun evening on Sunday 15th September 7.30-10.00pm



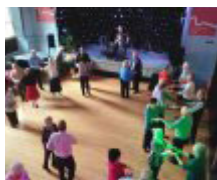
Comedy

Up Town Comedy is back with barrels of fun and laughter on Friday 20th September from 8.00-10.30pm



Music

Plying between Denmark and UK, Crieff welcomes the Lucie Hendry Trio on Thursday 26th September, 7.30-10.00pm. Originally from NE Scotland, Lucie is a lever harpist and the trio plays a lot of original music drawn and built on her Scottish folk music roots.



Tea Dance

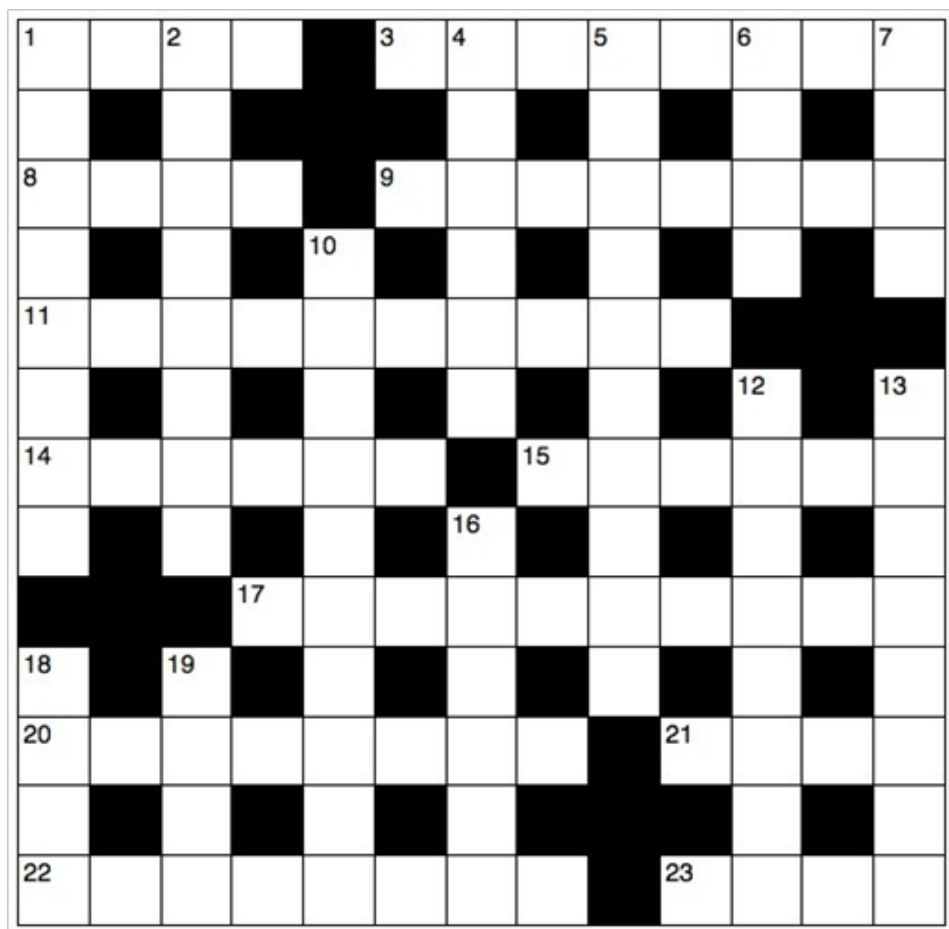
Enjoy live music and refreshments and some dancing at a new series of tea dances on Sunday 6th October at 2-4pm



Music

Barbara Dickson, Nick Holland and Anthony Toner combine in a special acoustic performance on Sunday 13th October 7.30-10.00pm

Crossword



Across

1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)

3 See 1 Across

8 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)

9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)

11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)

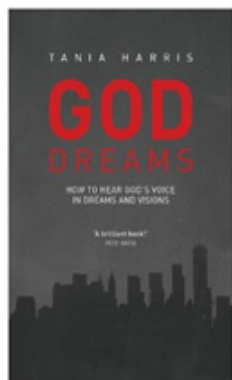
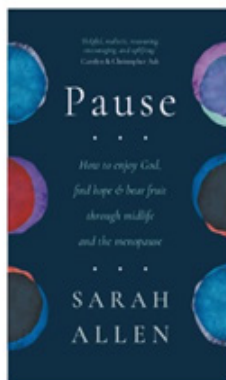
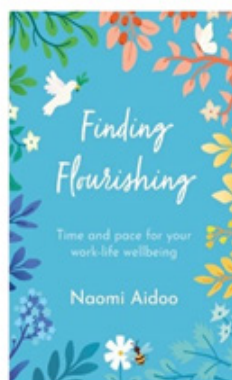
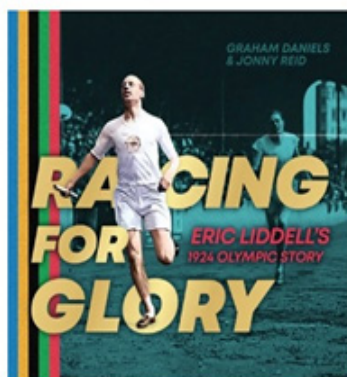
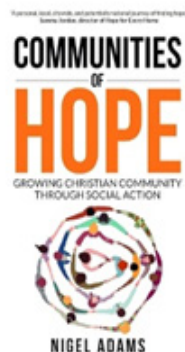
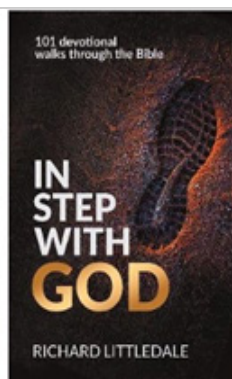
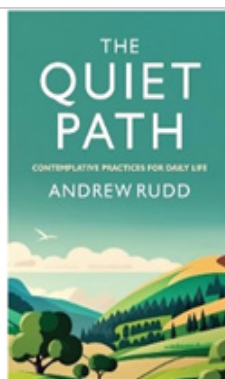
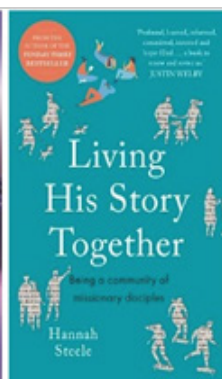
- 14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
- 15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)
- 17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
- 20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
- 21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
- 22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
- 23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

Down

- 1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
- 2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his — kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
- 4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
- 5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
- 6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
- 7 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
- 10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
- 12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
- 13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
- 16 'You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)
- 18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
- 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

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Book Reviews



Communities of Hope

By Nigel Adams, Authentic, £14.99

This is the story of how a Nottingham foodbank became more than just a resource. It became a community.

Tracing the story of his experience working with a foodbank that expanded in many directions, author Nigel Adams shares how Hope House in Nottingham offers such an inclusive welcome to all that over ten years, it has grown into a community of hope.

The story combines theological insights with practical application, as Nigel discovered that when God's people unite to show compassion to those in need, a new kind of community is born that follows Jesus and blesses everyone. Nigel Adams also coordinates Christian Action Nottingham, a network of social action ministries across the city.

In Step with God

By Richard Littledale, Authentic, £14.99

From Noah to Elijah through to the Magi and the disciples, the Bible is full of stories of people who have made long or short walks that have had an impact on themselves and others.

Richard Littledale, a pastor and BBC broadcaster, unpacks these often overlooked 'walking' stories and encourages you to take your own physical walk as you ponder their deep truths and apply them to your day.

These 101 thought-provoking biblical reflections and prayers can encourage you on your own spiritual and physical journey.

God Dreams

By Tania Harris, Authentic, £10.99

God's most common way of speaking in biblical history is through dreams and visions. But today many of us are more likely to dismiss our visionary experiences as the product of a spicy meal rather than a potential message from God. But could we be missing out on the voice we so long to hear?

Global director of *God Conversations*, the Rev. Dr Tania Harris unpacks the mysterious world of dreams and visions. Drawing on her ministry experience, theological research and the Revelation experiences of the early church, she explores the nature of dream-visions, where they come from and how to interpret their symbolic and sometimes confusing language.

Living His Story Together - Being a Community of Missionary Disciples

By Hannah Steele, SPCK, £10.99

Following her *Sunday Times* bestselling volume on evangelism as a way of life for individuals, Hannah Steele seeks to inspire the local church to understand itself as a community of missionary disciples in this riveting new book.

Offering an inspiring mandate for the church to see itself as a missionary community, Hannah considers the practical outworkings of that identity, through engaging with scripture and current theological thinking, and sharing real-life stories from churches on the front line. *The book* covers contemporary missional themes, such as hospitality, cultural engagement, presence, diversity and spoken witness, as well as offering practical principles.

Tis Mercy All- The power of mercy in a polarised world

By Natalie Williams, SPCK, £11.99

A book to help you rediscover the overlooked spiritual discipline of mercy, learning how a proper understanding of God's mercy towards ourselves and others is the antidote to the conflict and anger that's so widespread in our increasingly divided world.

In a world of polarising politics, cancel culture and social media virtue signalling, we risk losing any sense of what it means to have mercy. And yet Jesus calls us to 'be merciful, just as your Father is merciful' (Luke 6.36). In this thoughtful and practical book, Natalie Williams explores what it means to be a true mercy-bringer. First, we need to develop a deep appreciation of the mercy of God, which is more astonishing than we dare to believe. As the old hymn says, 'tis mercy all' when it comes to God's dealings with His children. Once we have understood that, it will transform the way we see God, ourselves and the world around us. We will be drawn closer to Jesus and, as a result, we will reflect His mercy to a world that desperately needs it.

The Quiet Path – Contemplative practices for daily life

By Andrew Rudd, Canterbury Press, £11.69

The Quiet Path is a book for the walker, or the armchair traveller, the clear-sighted tourist, or the bewildered wanderer. Blending reflection and poetry, it shows how the simple practice of walking can become a quiet path of wonder, and how a brief pause in a busy day can turn into contemplation.

It explores how the ordinary practices of walking and noticing, recognising and writing can help us discover depth and spirituality in everything we encounter and find a deeper awareness of a Presence in all things.

This book is not about the big idea, the motorway, the A-road, the bypass. It's about snickets, byways, bridleways and gentle lines across the map. Every page is a signpost pointing down a quiet path, ready for you to take a walk through the landscape of the heart.

But Is It Real? - Answering 10 Common Objections to The Christian Faith
By Amy Orr-Ewing, IVP, £9.99

Amy Orr-Ewing gives thoughtful and credible answers to common objections to the Christian faith. Objections such as: *Your relationship with God is just a psychological crutch. Belief in God is dangerous. I used to believe, but I've given it all up.* And also: *Is God real? Is it possible to know anything, let alone know Him? Why do bad things happen to people who worship this God? What about the spiritual experiences of other faiths?*

Amy Orr-Ewing writes, 'I hope that the thoughts offered here will help you see what the Christian faith has to say amid all the pain, confusion and complexity of life.'

This book defends the truths of Christianity with grace and intelligence, boldness and gentleness. If you're a Christian, this book will help you do the same.

Finding Flourishing: Time and pace for your work-life wellbeing
By Naomi Aidoo, BRF, £8.99

This book offers a practical and tangible approach to achieving everyday wellbeing, one that doesn't require adding yet another technique to your busy schedule. Instead, it can enhance your day-to-day life mentally, emotionally and spiritually. 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.

Pause - How to enjoy God, find hope and bear fruit through midlife and the menopause

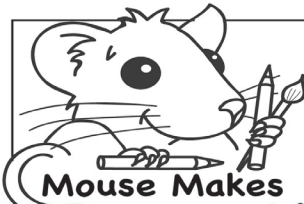
By Sarah Allen, 10Publishing, £6.99

There are some things we'd rather not face – and midlife is definitely one of them. Who wants to look in the mirror and see their mother? But when our minds feel foggy and pressures mount, we need to pause, rather than panic.

Dealing candidly with the struggles of midlife and menopause, Sarah Allen offers a refreshing biblical perspective to changing emotions, bodies and lives.

Racing for Glory - Eric Liddell's 1924 Olympic story
By Graham Daniels and Jonny Reid, 10Publishing, £3.99

One hundred years ago this summer, all eyes were on Paris for the 1924 Olympic Games. Among the world's finest athletes stood sprinter Eric Liddell of Great Britain. But holding true to his convictions, he chose not to enter his best race – the 100 metres – and instead changed the 400 metres discipline forever. This brief biography explores Liddell's extraordinary life and how his faith in Jesus motivated everything he did.



Mouse Makes

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

"May the peoples
_____ you, O God!
May all the peoples praise you!
The land yields its harvest;
God, our God blesses us."
Psalm 67:5-6 NIV

"God ... has shown kindness by
giving you rain from heaven
and crops in their seasons.
He provides you with
plenty of _____. He fills
your hearts with joy."
Acts 14:16-17 NIV

"Let us fear and respect
the Lord our God.
He gives us autumn and
spring _____
at the right time.
He makes sure that we
have the harvest at
just the right time."
Jeremiah 5:24 ERV

"Honour the Lord with your wealth
and the first part of your harvest."
Proverbs 3:9 ERV

O	A	G	A	T	H	E	R	A	I	N	S
S	V	O	G	M	A	U	T	U	M	N	P
O	G	D	O	P	R	O	D	U	C	E	R
I	H	J	O	Y	V	S	H	A	R	E	I
L	A	N	D	H	E	P	R	A	Y	D	N
T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G
Y	P	F	E	R	T	I	L	E	E	P	S
B	L	E	S	S	E	D	D	E	L	R	W
S	E	A	S	O	N	F	O	O	D	A	A
U	N	R	E	W	K	I	F	R	U	I	T
N	T	T	E	N	S	C	R	O	P	S	E
N	Y	H	D	P	R	O	V	I	D	E	R

HARVEST • THANKSGIVING • LAND • EARTH • FERTILE • SOIL • SEED • SOWN
NEED • WATER • SUN • SEASON • AUTUMN • SPRING • YIELD • PRODUCE
FRUIT • GATHER • CROPS • PLENTY • PRAY • GOD • PROVIDE • JOY
BLESSED • GOODNESS • SHARE

Find the words from the questions too!

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Sudoku Puzzle

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

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Editor's Note

The next edition of the magazine will be our Lent and Christmas 2023 edition. The magazine will be published on **Sunday 20th October 2024**, and so the deadline for submitting articles, intimations, letters etc. will be **Friday 11th October 2024**.

Please submit this to 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:

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

Useful Contacts

Useful Local Telephone Numbers

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

Crossword Solution:

ACROSS:

1, John. 3, And James. 8, Near. 9, Omission. 11, Theocratic. 14, Asleep. 15, By-path. 17, Stalingrad. 20, Backbone. 21, Baca. 22, Whose eye. 23, Seth

DOWN: 1, Jonathan. 2, Heavenly. 4, No meat. 5, Justifying. 6, Maid. 7, Sins. 10, Acceptable. 12, Marriage. 13, Shadrach. 16, Plenty. 18, A bow. 19, ECHO



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 this month is one of the summer faces of Muthill. Thanks to Raffie for sourcing the graphics for the magazine and helping in the production.”.

Registered Scottish Charity

Muthill Parish Church - SC004984