

# THE BRIDGE



**JULY - AUGUST 2021**

## **IN THIS EDITION :**

PEOPLE OF HOPE

VALUE OF DAILY DEVOTION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT



# CONTENTS

|                                         |         |
|-----------------------------------------|---------|
| Cover Page Information .....            | Page 13 |
| Church Register .....                   | Page 02 |
| Diary Dates .....                       | Page 15 |
| Elders' Sunday Duties.....              | Page 17 |
| General Assembly Report.....            | Page 08 |
| Helping Bees In Our Gardens.....        | Page 20 |
| Introducing Myself .....                | Page 06 |
| Kirk Contacts .....                     | Page 03 |
| Minister's Letter On Hope .....         | Page 04 |
| Mission Statements .....                | Page 24 |
| Muthill Session Clerk's Report.....     | Page 12 |
| Prayer For Summer .....                 | Page 22 |
| Recording Of Sunday Worship.....        | Page 14 |
| Retirement .....                        | Page 05 |
| Scarecrows Fill Streets Of Muthill..... | Page 23 |
| Value Of A Time Of Daily Devotion ..... | Page 10 |

## Church Register

### Wedding

Amy Maitland Gardner to Ian Reid - 5th June 2021

### Funerals

#### Muthill Parish

Captain Giles Plummer, Crieff - 30.3.21

Colin Donaldson, Muthill - 21.4.21

Violet Hood, Muthill - 21.4.21

Eric Birnie, Comrie - 2.7.21

#### Trinity Gask and Kinkell

Mary Brown, Methven - 1.7.21



## Kirk Contacts

### Minister:

Rev Dr Klaus Buwert, The Manse, Station Road, Muthill PH5 2AR  
Tel: 01764 681205 or 07519 756437

Email: [kbuwert@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:kbuwert@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### Muthill Session Clerk:

Mrs Helen-May Bayne, Tel: 01764 681415

Email: [helenmaybayne@googlemail.com](mailto:helenmaybayne@googlemail.com)

### Trinity Gask & Kinkell Session Clerk:

Mrs Jean Dawson Tel: 01764 662283 Email: [jeantdawson@yahoo.com](mailto:jeantdawson@yahoo.com)

### Muthill Conveners:

**Communication :** Ian Gilmour Tel: 01764 655856

Email: [oakwoodcreeff@aol.com](mailto:oakwoodcreeff@aol.com)

**Education:** Mrs Liz Mitchell, Tel: 01764 652241

Email: [eliz.mitchell6@btopenworld.com](mailto:eliz.mitchell6@btopenworld.com)

**Finance:** Mr Sandy Birnie, Tel: 01764 662902 Email: [ajbirnie31@aol.com](mailto:ajbirnie31@aol.com)

**Property:** Mr Graham Donaldson, Tel: 01764 681204

Email: [ggvmladyston@gmail.com](mailto:ggvmladyston@gmail.com)

**Worship:** Mrs Inez Robinson, Tel: 07833 625314

Email: [inez.luckarthow@gmail.com](mailto:inez.luckarthow@gmail.com)

**Pastoral:** Mrs Isobel Barratt, Tel: 01764 681253

Email: [barratt.orchard@gmail.com](mailto:barratt.orchard@gmail.com)

**Vision:** Mr Joe Knowles, Tel: 01764 681216

Email: [joseph.knowles@btinternet.com](mailto:joseph.knowles@btinternet.com)

### Other Useful Contacts :

**Organist:** Mrs Elizabeth Boyd, Email: [songboyd@hotmail.com](mailto:songboyd@hotmail.com)

**Church officer:** Miss Ann Taylor, Tel: 07742 441550

Email: [penguin1963@outlook.com](mailto:penguin1963@outlook.com)

**Life+ Work Distributor:** Mrs Sheena Plummer Tel: 01764 654197

Email: [giles.sheena@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:giles.sheena@tiscali.co.uk)

**Kiddy Club:** Mrs Jennifer McRae Tel: 01764 681781

Email: [jennifer.mcrae@hotmail.com](mailto:jennifer.mcrae@hotmail.com)

**Bridge Editor:** Mr Sandy Hutchison, Tel: 01764 681312

Email: [macahiph@gmail.com](mailto:macahiph@gmail.com)

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

**Facebook:** <https://en-gb.facebook.com/messychurchmuthill/>



## From The Manse....

Dear friends,

*"Hope springs eternal"* is an oft quoted line from the poet Alexander Pope. That is very true of the loyal supporters of Scotland's national football team. After every defeat the hope keeps bouncing back. But in the context of the pandemic and just getting through, many found that hope was hard to hold on to.

I looked back at the editions of the Bridge just as the pandemic hit to see what I said then.

The Easter Bridge had a lot of dates for events that had been planned. The Easter Egg hunt was cancelled but the others remained. There were joint services planned for the Summer and the dates were included "dependent on Government advice". We all hoped that the pandemic would be over by the Summer of 2020. That didn't happen.

A few months later the Summer edition of the Bridge was also hopeful. In my pastoral letter I was looking forward to moving "out of phase 1 of the exit plan into phase 2" when the church could re-open for private prayer. That never happened. Summer passed. The exit plan turned into a second lockdown. Winter came and went. Even now there is a third wave but the hope is that because of the vaccine we won't have to go into another lockdown.

We need hope. It gives us a reason to think tomorrow might be better than today. It makes us look forward and not back. A quick look in my concordance, a list of Bible words and where to find them, has a long list of verses talking about hope. Several times we read "Put your hope in God" ( Psalm 42:5, 130:7, 1 Timothy 6:17 ).

Politicians and scientists do their best, but only God can help us through the darkest days. Hope is like an anchor (Hebrews 6:19), and we have needed an anchor in these stormy times.

The heart of that hope is having Christ in your heart “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27).

The line from Alexander Pope is often taken as a hope against hope, holding on to hope when there is none. The Christian hope is of a love that will never let us go, a Saviour who has already conquered death for us, promises that will outlast the universe. Christians should be known as people of hope.



Your Minister,  
Klaus

## Retirement

Bittersweet is something that is both good and bad. Recently I announced to the Kirk Session and the congregation that I will be retiring next March. It was a bittersweet moment all around. I am looking forward to retiring but not to leaving here. Several of you told me you were sorry to hear that I was retiring but happy for us. In a future edition of the Bridge I will outline what happens next to our parishes.



## Introducing Myself



As I have newly been appointed as the new Editor for The Bridge, I have been asked to introduce myself and whilst it is not normally my style to do so in this manner, I agree that it is only fair as I seem to have appeared from nowhere. It has firstly been a pleasure to have been able to join in live worship at Muthill Parish Church since early May as the past year on zoom worship has certainly had its limitations and there is little doubt in my mind that being an active part of a church family and being able to participate face to face in worship is a special and meaningful experience.

I moved into the village of Muthill at the end of March. I guess in some ways there is a similarity to elephants returning to their former pastures in their latter days. The surroundings of Perthshire beckoned me because of an early association of being brought up in the Carse of Gowrie with primary schooling there and then in Crieff. I have also had a lifelong liking of nature and the countryside. My working life too was largely spent in cities and I missed the peace and refreshment that comes from living in the country.

My senior schooling and university years were spent in the city of Aberdeen. Having graduated in law, I changed direction and went into healthcare studying hospital management. My first posts after completion of my training were in Edinburgh and then I moved south to Lewisham in London where the bright lights of the large capital city and all it can offer attracted me. I fell in love with London and in all spent almost thirty years in several positions there as manager of different hospitals, before moving more into consultancy work and training on a freelance basis.

This led to a lot of travelling around England and finally, through gaining some international clients mainly in South East Asia, I moved to Malaysia where I spent a very happy and enriching time for many years in the city of Ipoh in Perak.

---

I returned home in retirement as my mother by that time was well into her 90s in Edinburgh and it was good to have been able to give some support in her final years.

My faith and church association have always been important to me though I cannot point to any God given moment of finding faith. Rather I think it was gradual exposure through my Christian family background and the privilege of growing in my faith with the help of some outstanding ministers that have enabled me to reach where I am now as a committed Christian. I guess like many there have been times in my life where I have questioned my faith and other times where I have found it amazingly comforting in getting through challenging times. I am sure that I will probably always be searching in my understanding but with the grace of the Holy Spirit I know my faith is very much at the heart of my life.

It is a pleasure to be starting a new episode in my life and meeting new people whom I hope will become good friends and I look forward to being able to contribute to church life in Muthill in whatever ways are acceptable and appropriate.

Sandy Hutchison

### **Editor's Deadline For Next Edition**

Material for the next edition of The Bridge should be in the Editor's hands not later than Friday 3rd September. The next edition covering the autumn period will be published on Sunday 12th September. Articles and information should be forwarded to email [macahiph@gmail.com](mailto:macahiph@gmail.com) or posted to the address below :-

Sandy Hutchison  
Greenbrae West  
Pitkellony Street  
Muthill, PH5 2AF  
Tel : 07825544225



## No Easy Or Painless Way Forward

*Spotlight on this year's General Assembly of the Church of Scotland*

**“We can choose our pain, the short sharp pain of surgery with real prospects of recovery or the long debilitating agony of chronic decline with no hope of things ever getting better”: Mrs Frew, Convener of the Faith Nurture Forum**



**T**he Church met for its first blended General Assembly in May with Commissioners speaking and voting remotely due to continuing COVID restrictions. It heard multiple stark warnings on the current state of the church both in terms of manpower (membership and ministers), finances and the

consequent need for reform. It was told that it would not be as easy “ask” and that there would need to be painful decisions at all levels of the organisation but comfort would be sought in trusting in the goodness and grace of God.

The debates and decisions which followed rightly focused on the worrying facts from the past year. Contributions from congregations to the national church were down 3% with many individual churches having to dip into their reserves. With added pressure resulting from the COVID lockdown, central funds of the Church had fallen overall by £11m to just under £469m. The number of ministers had also dropped with continuing failure to attract sufficient applicants for the ministry.

Assembly, therefore, had to take difficult decisions finally supporting a radical plan for the way forward. The moratorium on no increase in congregational contributions was removed. In the year ahead, churches which are able will have to contribute more whilst those which are struggling will receive support to meet the challenging months ahead. Ministry manpower will be reduced to 600 full-time equivalent ministers by 2025 with a maximum of 60 vacancies.



---

We are also a Church with too many buildings. This will mean that churches which fall vacant or which are currently being supported or in guardianship will face critical assessment of their contribution to the future mission of the church. The new Faith Nurture Forum will engage with Presbyteries in this assessment. The concept of team ministry seems, therefore, set to expand. Lay ministry training will also be expanded and further effort will be made in creating and deepening the discipleship culture in churches.

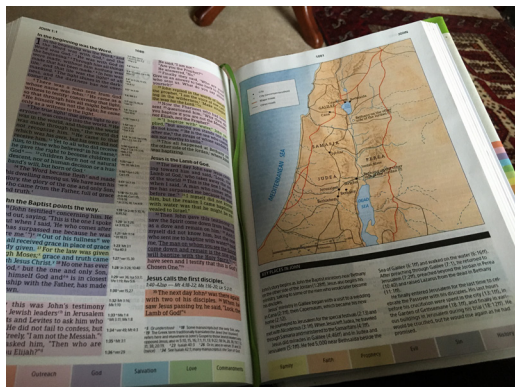
Against this tighter structure, Assembly also found time to approve some other important developments:

- Specific proposals on the role of The Westminster Confession of Faith, the Church's subordinate standard, will now be sent down with options for assessment by Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions with a preferred option for an approved book of confessions to include the Westminster Confession alongside other confessions and creeds
- A new declaration, the St Andrew Declaration, between the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church of Scotland was approved heralding greater cooperation in practical ways
- Same sex weddings in Church are a step closer with draft legislation now going to Presbyteries
- The Church's complete divestment of all investments in fossil fuel companies has been achieved
- The cost of the Church's headquarters at 121 George Street in Edinburgh has been reduced over the past year by 30% ahead of schedule whilst a delayed decision on its future is still awaited

Overall, it is fair to say that the General Assembly 2021 was testing for Commissioners but they faced up to the task of making radical decisions and in the words of the new Moderator, Baron Wallace of Tankerness: "The Assembly has demonstrated an awareness of flexibility, a 'can do' rather than a 'it's never been done this way before' attitude which must surely augur well".

## Why I Make A Daily Devotion Time?

I wonder if you are like me and have a chequered history of Bible reading. It is made clear in most commentaries and Christian books that I read that regular reading of the Bible is the best way of getting closer to God and growing in one's faith. Yet, it is not always easy to develop a disciplined approach to studying the Bible as it is large in content, not always in easily accessible language and dipping into the Bible in a random fashion has its weaknesses. Yet, if you can develop such a discipline, it can provide comfort and direction in one's daily life.



There is little doubt in my experience that a detailed knowledge of the Bible

strengthens one's faith. Indeed, some churches still promote learning key Bible verses as an old fashioned way of strengthening one's faith commitment. I have also found through the Church congregations with which I have been associated, where house groups exist, that the benefits of using commentaries, modern translations and sermon questions from the Minister, as a means of gaining insight into passages which are difficult to understand, has proved helpful and stimulating to my learning. Jesus' style of teaching and the Gospels, one must remember, are delivered in a manner appropriate to their time through storytelling and not all are easily translatable to the generally accepted views of today's 21<sup>st</sup> C world without deeper exploration. So, does a daily devotion help?

The idea of a daily devotion, I admit, is not an easy concept to follow as there are so many practical demands on one's time what with family commitments, work and the other personal interests that hold our attention.

---

In my own case, it was only more recently as a result of some powerful worship guidance reinforced by commitment from house group discussion that I began to want to try it and started to make it part of my daily routine.

In particular, I was introduced during the last year to **Lectio 365** which is a free downloadable App developed by 24-7 Prayer, an international inter-denominational movement of prayer, mission and justice. The daily devotions which the App provides use a method of meditation used by Christians for centuries. Each day, you read the same passage twice and come expectant that God will speak through it. It takes 10 minutes to hear or read it with pauses to PRAY:

**P:** PAUSE to be still

**R:** REJOICE with a Psalm and REFLECT on a Bible passage

**A:** ASK God to help us and others

**Y:** YIELD to His will in our lives

It is available both in text and audio and you can access it in a way that suits you with two short sessions available daily - a morning session to start the day and evening one for the close of day. I find the early morning time, before the buzz of each day takes over, is best for me and it has the value of always giving me something clear and inspirational to take into the day as it unfolds. I am also starting to enjoy the evening one as it provides an opportunity to reflect with God on how your day has gone. In both cases it is, however, essential to find a quiet place which is conducive for thought, reflection and prayer and devoid of distractions.

For me, it has definitely led to increased reading of the Bible and has not only opened my mind up to the benefits of a more disciplined approach but more importantly it has started to create an enthusiasm for it. Of course, developing any discipline has its challenges just as with any course of study or exercise regime but for me it seems to be working. So, if you are anything like me and want to find a new approach to developing your Bible knowledge, setting aside a daily devotional time is certainly worth trying.  
S.H.

## Thank You

£250 was donated at Christmas for Perth Street Pastors and £232.40 was donated through the church to Christian Aid in May. Many thanks to those who gave to support the important work being done by these two charities.



Thank you to all those who turned out on a Saturday morning to tidy up the church grounds. To see edges cut and greenery cut back not only makes the grounds tidier but also lets visitors see that we care.



**Guild**

Some of our Guild members hope to meet informally before the end of June to enjoy a cup of tea and a chat in a COVID safe environment. A Total of £551,434.70 has been raised over the last three years for the projects – a truly remarkable amount given the fact that Guilds have been unable to meet in person and have had to think of new ways to fundraise. Our new three year strategy is “Look forward in Faith”- a very apt theme for this time.



We are looking forward and considering how we might share meetings with the neighbouring Guilds of Crieff and Comrie.

## Relaxation Of COVID Rules

In church, as well as elsewhere, we are beginning to see some relaxation in COVID rules. Yes, we are still wearing masks and have to keep socially distanced within the building, **but** we can use our balcony allowing more people to be in the building, we can sing (with masks on), our singing group can now lead our singing (remaining socially distanced) and we can use hymnbooks again! Do come and experience the fellowship of worshipping together.

## Look Forward In Faith

You will have read of the retiral of Klaus in early spring next year. While we are delighted for Klaus and Maureen, I imagine you are thinking what happens to us now. We just don't know at the moment but Klaus will keep us informed. In the meantime whilst Klaus is still with us for another whole eight months, we have had in recent times a couple of people, become part of our congregation who have skills which they want to use to for the benefit of the congregation. We also have Miss A Taylor taking on the roll of church officer for weddings and funerals. I find this all very encouraging! It is up to us all to join together in worship, contributing where we can, and in the words of the Guild new theme, look forward in faith.

**Helen - May Bayne**

### Cover Page

The photo of Kinkell Bridge. It was built circa 1793 alongside a former toll house on the River Earn about 3 km north of Auchterarder. A United Presbyterian church built in 1782 survives as do the former ruins of the former parish church of Kinkell which dates from the 16th century. Dedicated to St Bean, the ancient parish church was abandoned when the parishes of Kinkell and Trinity Gask were united.

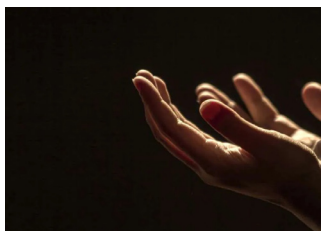


If you are wondering about the chequered square at the bottom right? This is called a **QR code** and can be used with a "Smart" phones to gain access to the church's website. For further description of process type following :- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VPH8SOUduM>

## Recording Of Church Worship



over the internet. Although actual church services have now restarted, both at Muthill and Trinity Gask, a short weekly service continues to be available on the internet. These can be linked to and watched from the church website, facebook or YouTube. The services are video, not just audio, and are about half an hour in length. Watching them is a simple process if you have internet access, and can even be done with more modern “smart” TV sets. Many of our church family now enjoy and benefit from watching these weekly services.



Recordings of Sunday services have been available since 2018 to those at home and unable to attend church.

For most of last year and the first part of this year while church services were not allowed due to coronavirus restrictions, the minister produced and broadcast a short Sunday service. Although actual church services have now restarted, both at Muthill and Trinity Gask, a short weekly service continues to be available on the internet. These can be linked to and watched from the church website, facebook or YouTube. The services are video, not just audio, and are about half an hour in length. Watching them is a simple process if you have internet access, and can even be done with more modern “smart” TV sets. Many of our church family now enjoy and benefit from watching these weekly services.

Some people may have internet access without even realising it. A computer isn’t needed. A modern “smart” TV set can be used as long as there is a suitable broadband phone line. If you are unsure whether or not you might have a suitable TV set etc, please get in touch and we can look at this for you.

There will always be some who are unable, or simply do not wish, to use the internet. So, we continue to provide audio (sound only) recordings of these short services on USB memory sticks. These can be played on a small machine that we provide on long term loan, absolutely free of charge! We still have players available for anyone that needs one. They are very simple to use. However, if you are more comfortable using your existing home CD player, we can provide audio recordings on a CD . If you have a DVD player then it is even possible to get a video copy of the YouTube service on DVD.

---

Please note that the recordings, audio and video, are of the internet version and not of the actual church service. This is different to the situation before the coronavirus pandemic when it was the actual church service at Muthill that was recorded.

So, if you are unable to join us in church, are unable to watch the weekly services on the internet and would like to receive a recording (audio or video) for use at home then please get in touch with me, Iain Gilmour, by telephone on 01764 655856 or email at [oakwoodcrieff@aol.com](mailto:oakwoodcrieff@aol.com) or contact your elder.

**Iain Gilmour**

### **Sunday Worship**

A Service is held at Trinity Gask Church every Sunday at 10am and Muthill Parish Church at 11:30am

Covid guidance at time of printing requires use of masks, social distancing and sanitizing

All are welcome

### **Diary Dates**

At the time of printing there are no firm plans as to which organisations may or may not resume after the Summer. This will depend on easing of COVID restrictions but the following are confirmed available dates:

#### **September 2021**

|              |                                                       |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 7th: | Muthill Kirk Session meeting (possibly in Bruce Hall) |
| Tuesday 14th | Presbytery Meeting                                    |

## Muthill Sportive

**F**or several years now Muthill Church has hosted the Muthill Sportive cycling event. This year it will take place on September 4th. There are 4 routes, from a family friendly one at 4 miles, to the sporty one of 70 miles. The event is held in order to raise funds for the Muthill cycle path extension to Crieff. To book a place on this event visit <https://www.entrycentral.com/MuthillSportive>.





## Muthill Elder Welcome Door Duty

### July

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> : **Mr A Bayne**, Mrs I Robinson, Mr G Donaldson

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> : **Mr J Cantlie**, Ms I Foster, Mr P McIntosh

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> : **Mr W Bell**, Mrs D Brown, Mr T Mills,  
Mrs E O'Brien

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> : **Mr G Elliott**, Mrs S Plummer, Mr J Thomson

### August

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> : **Mr A Bayne**, Mrs I Robinson, Mr G Donaldson

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> : **Mr J Cantlie**, Ms I Foster, Mr P McIntosh

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> : **Mr W Bell**, Mrs D Brown, Mr T Mills,  
Mrs E O'Brien

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> : **Mr G Elliott**, Mrs S Plummer, Mr J Thomson

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> : **Mr A Bayne**, Mrs I Robinson, Mr G Donaldson

### September

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> : **Mr J Cantlie**, Ms I Foster, Mr P McIntosh

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> : **Mr W Bell**, Mrs D Brown, Mr T Mills,  
Mrs E O'Brien

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> : **Mr G Elliott**, Mrs S Plummer, Mr J Thomson

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> : **Mr A Bayne**, Mrs I Robinson, Mr G Donaldson

It is hoped that other rosters will be included in the September edition for both Muthill and Trinity Gask and Kinkell.





## Bible Puzzle

Find the 30 books of the Bible hidden in the following paragraph.

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an aeroplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much that he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his johnboat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it that she mentioned it in her weekly column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names here that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam; especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalised. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, the Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, 'The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight'. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus: there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless

Submitted by Alison Hockly

---

## Muthill War Memorial Centenary

**O**n Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 11am in Highlandmans Park, Muthill, a service was held to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unveiling of the War Memorial in Muthill. The ceremony was conducted by the Reverend Klaus Buwert of Muthill Parish Church and the Reverend Tracy Dowling of St James's, Muthill. The unveiling was originally performed by the Earl



of Ancaster, who also gave an address. Thirty names appeared on the memorial, including Lord Ancaster's brother. Additional names have been added from the Second World War and the Korean War.

To mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary an address was given by Lieutenant Colonel Sebastian Miller, great grandson of the Earl of Ancaster, prior to the laying of wreaths. In attendance also were Lady Jane Willoughby, and Stephen Leckie, Lord-Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross and the Lord-Lieutenant's cadet, Lachlann Forsyth.

## Helping Bees In Our Gardens

According to the UK Wildlife Trusts, we have pollinators to thank for every third mouthful we eat. Not only do they pollinate our food crops but they are also vital for the survival of other wild plants that support so much wild life. Honey bees are mostly kept in hives and account for 5-15% of the UK's



insect pollinated crops. This leaves 85-95% of insect pollinated crops relying on wild pollinators such as other bees, moths, butterflies, flies and beetles. There are around 200 species of bees in the UK. However, the latest European surveys suggest that 1 in 10 species of wild bees face extinction. A lot of this is due to the changes we have made in farming.

The intensification of agriculture has led to the destruction of habitat. Further habitat loss has resulted from urbanisation, heavy use of pesticides, not forgetting climate change and disease. Wild flower meadows which are a prime pollinator habitat have also reduced by 97% since 1930s.

Whilst much pressure is now being made to influence Government and other powers that be to take more steps to stop and reverse these worrying trends, it should not be forgotten that each of us can help in our own way.

- Grow more plants for pollinators (i.e. nectar rich flowers, shrubs and trees). Bees love traditional cottage garden flowers like primrose, buddleia, honeysuckle, foxglove and marigold, but avoid plants with double or flowers with multi petals. Bumblebee species have different lengths of tongues that are adapted to feed from different shaped flowers
- If space allows, leave part of your garden to grow wild allowing wildflowers such as bluebells to grow. These make great nesting and feeding sites. Bees love drifts of the same flowers. Some trees and shrubs are also great as they provide masses of flowers in one place such as apple, wild cherry and hazel

- Do not use pesticides as these can harm pollinators and where possible try to use alternatives. Bees can easily pick up insecticides when they are pollinating and take them back to a hive. This causes decline in the bee population. As such pesticides are still commonly approved for home and garden use, please read the labels and try to avoid using them
- Cut your grass less often and remove cuttings to let plants flower. Many people want pristine lawns but if you can allow some lawn weeds even on part of the lawn such as dandelion or clover, bees love this.
- Build an insect/bee hotel using hollow stems like bamboo, twigs, deadwood and string. Just tie them together and place in a hedge or bush or hang somewhere sheltered to provide a home for bees and other insects allowing them to nest or hibernate. Find a south facing spot not in direct sunlight with the entrance pointing downward to stop the rain getting in.

Finally, a tired bee also likes a hit of sugar (never honey). Mix two teaspoons of white granulated sugar with one teaspoon of water and put it on a plate or drip it on a flower.

Best buy organic honey which means that bees are pollinating in pesticide free areas.



## Prayer for this Summer



### Colossians 2:6-7

*So then just as you receive Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

*We are rooted in Christ who brings the offer of renewal and change, the invitation to build our faith on a foundation that will not move.”*

*God we praise you. As faith is planted in our hearts and souls, so you have “planted” us in the world.*

*Not to be rooted, static, unmoved and unmoving, but rather actively transforming the world around us, using the gospel to challenge injustice, to bring compassion and love.*

*Co-workers with God, Christ, the Holy Spirit.*

*God, forgive us when we keep the gospel in pristine, unused condition, still in its box/book. You ask us to dare live the faith, even though we make mistakes, get things wrong, using the gospel to bring change, and transformation. Lord Jesus, as you did not remain distant from the challenges or from the darkness in which so many live, nor should we.*

*We are rooted in you, forgiven and renewed. Lord, strengthen us now as we turn WITH you to the world around us ,lead us to people and places that need to know you, into the world that is hurting, the world that needs your healing, your presence.*

*My our hearts overflow with thankfulness for all you give, for all you ask, for all we are invited to do, for all we will achieve through you, for you, and for your creation.*

**Amen**

**(prayer courtesy of Life+Work, June 2021)**



## Scarecrows fill the Streets of Muthill

Congratulations to all who participated in the Muthill Gala Scarecrow Competition which filled our streets and which were judged on 27th June. It was so good to see the community spirit flowering after the difficult days of lockdown! There are a selection of photos on the Muthill Past and Present website in Facebook but we include four here.

### **Muthill past and present facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/221101358679214/>



## **The Mission Statements Of Our Linked Churches**

There are various definitions of a Mission Statement but in essence a Church Mission Statement is a broad statement, set out in clear and simple terms, which seeks to explain why we exist as a Church and what we hold dear in driving us forward

### **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

### **Trinity Gask and Kinkell Church**

aims to maintain our warm worship, close community and an open door



Registered Scottish Charities

Muthill Parish Church - SC004984

Trinity Gask & Kinkell - SC000004