

THE BRIDGE

Priorities For Our Future Mission
Experience Of Short Pilgrim Walk
Insight Into A Very Special Person
Life And Work



LATE SUMMER EDITION 2025

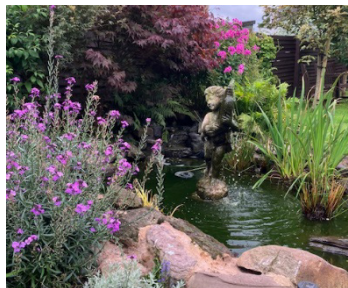
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Deep peace of the running
 wave to you.
 Deep peace of the flowing
 air to you. Deep peace of
 the quiet earth to you. Deep
 peace of the shining stars to
 you.
 Deep peace of the Son of
 Peace to you.
 And may the blessing of
 God Almighty Father, Son
 and Holy Spirit Be with us all
 Evermore
 Amen

Editorial

We have been blessed with a wonderful summer this year with some amazingly consistent warm weather, and it is so good to see the farm fields golden yellow and ready for cropping. The



house gardens too have been resplendent with colour and our village as always has been beautifully adorned by the Muthill in Bloom team. As for myself, it has also been a year like no other that I can remember as I have spent so much time in the garden enjoying a newly acquired garden table and chair set which I bought from another member of the church family. With the addition of a large umbrella this has given

me an extra room to sit reading or working on my laptop whilst enjoying the bird song and gentle sound of running water from the fountain and rill in the garden pond. There is no doubt that to be able to enjoy a quiet garden setting with its essence of tranquillity is a great privilege. These peaceful episodes have also made me more conscious and aggrieved by what is going on in Gaza and Ukraine and made me very aware of how lucky we are to live in a peaceful country. Modern media seldom spares us from the harshness of what is happening elsewhere in the world and what with images we have also had on our television screens this year with the important anniversaries of past world wars it does make one realise how fragile life can be. Our faith is an important aid to being able to gain a balanced view of life in what is a world full of conundrums. As we approach the autumn season, it is to be hoped that there will be much in the church to enable us to strengthen our faith and our fellowship enabling us to face whatever problems this world creates together as a church family. With this edition of the magazine we are providing an insert with all the activities that are currently planned and we hope that you will read through it and participate in some of the many groups aimed at strengthening our Christian fellowship. This magazine will continue to be published bi-monthly and we hope that there will be more to report on as we develop our mission, and as always, we will welcome your views and ideas.

Pastoral Letter From Our Interim Moderator

Dear Friends,

One of the highlights of recent months in Muthill Parish Church was the "Away Day" in which a good number of our members took time to join together to have a long hard look at the ministry and outreach which is being offered to our congregation and parish and how this might be enhanced. It was also a time to look to the future. The findings of this were then presented to the congregation at a pot luck lunch which was offered following one of our recent Sunday services. Of all the ideas which were presented, perhaps the two main ones were a greater emphasis on prayer, and a greater emphasis on Christian education, in its widest sense. All of the findings will now be presented to the Kirk session for further work and implementation. Personally, I praise God for the privilege of acting as Interim Moderator to such a forward looking and united congregation.

On another matter, the Perth Presbytery has recently raised concerns about the length of time that the congregation has been without a settled minister and has appointed the Rev. Derek Peat, who is a member of the Appraisal Committee to start negotiation with the Kirk Session on the way forward. The first meeting has recently been held and it is expected others will follow.

Finally, here is a little exercise to increase our knowledge of the Bible. Written by a Christian evangelist who I know well, It is entitled "where is God?" and gives the following answers. Look them up and see if you agree.

Around you (Psalm 125.2); Above you (Deuteronomy 4.39); Beneath you (Deuteronomy 33.27); Before you (Exodus 13.21); Behind you (Isaiah 52.12); With you (Isaiah 41.10); For you (Romans 8.31). On your right hand (Isaiah 41.13); Near you (Psalm 145.18); In you (Colossians 1.27); Living with you (Isaiah 57.15); His eye is upon you (Psalm 33.18).

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Iain F. Paton, Interim Moderator



Bible Parable

The tale of the RICH FOOL



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A MAN
WHO HAD LOTS OF LAND WHICH
GREW WONDERFUL WHEAT.

I HAVEN'T ANYWHERE TO
KEEP ALL THIS FOOD



I KNOW! I'LL PULL DOWN
MY BARN AND BUILD
BIGGER ONES



THE MAN DEMOLISHED HIS
OLD BARN...

...AND BEGAN TO BUILD
NEW ONES.



SOON I'LL BE THE RICHEST
MAN IN THE TOWN!



I'M SO LUCKY - I CAN
EAT, DRINK AND BE
MERRY!



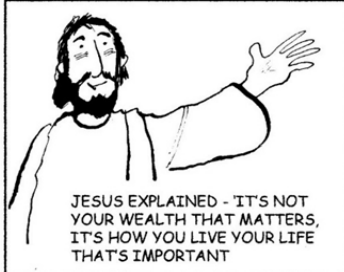
BUT THAT VERY NIGHT,
THE MAN DIED!



WHAT GOOD WERE HIS
RICHES NOW?



JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S NOT
YOUR WEALTH THAT MATTERS,
IT'S HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE
THAT'S IMPORTANT



Priorities For Our Future Mission

What with our Away Study Day in May and the Pot Luck lunch presentation discussion with the wider congregation in July, a number of possible priorities for developing our mission in the immediate years ahead are becoming clearer. The Kirk Session will be considering all the outcomes of these events in a report to be presented at a special meeting on 28th August and it is to be hoped that they will give a clear lead to implementation. It is always a good



exercise to review where we are as a Church and how successful we feel we are in telling our local community about the joys and challenges of the Christian Faith. There are positive signs in that we are currently a growing congregation with increased church attendance.

We are blessed with a modernised sanctuary which is now more flexible and we are seeing increased engagement with our local community through a wider range of social activities. We are still, however, largely an ageing church family and much prayer is needed for God's guidance on how to gain a stronger infusion of the younger generation. This is critically important for the future of our church in Muthill and the Study Day findings were right to highlight this as an important priority. The continuing discussions too with Presbytery on our future as part of cluster or linked congregation will also have impact. We have had and continue to be



fortunate in having an excellent range of visiting preachers who have aided stability in the several years that we have now been without an incumbent minister, but the lack of a minister and pastoral leader has inevitably had a detrimental effect on our youth and adult education programmes and has limited the impact of our community presence. It is, therefore, important that our leadership fills the gap as much as it is able and many of the outcomes from our Study seem to be positive steps in that direction.

So many churches, worn down by the national status of our church with falling membership and economic decline reflect pessimism and little vibrancy towards their mission. Muthill can be a beacon in showing what is possible with clarity on its mission and a united determined approach to succeed. It will need further hard work from everyone, but with true commitment through God's guidance, great things are possible. As a magazine we want to thank those who actively participated in this exercise and it is to be hoped that the ideas that came forward will be worked through and tested out with each one of the church family playing a positive and enthusiastic role. The top outcomes of the Study Day are summarised below.

Looking Up to God (Worship and Education)

There is an acceptance and desire to experiment more with our worship

- Develop a team responsible for worship
- Include more testimonies & theme services
- Make more use of people with ability to lead worship alongside visiting preachers
- Enlarge Prayer Team and make it more visible
- Use more of available talent in leading praise
- Arrange more teaching e.g. Alpha, Messy Church, House Groups

Looking after our Church Family (Pastoral Care and Fellowship)

Whilst a lot is happening there can be more tweaking in some areas

- The focus of pastoral care should be expanded to include families
- The Eldership needs to be more visible
- There should be succession planning for key roles in church
- Club/Group activities are good but we need evening events for working people

Looking out to the Community We Serve (Engagement and Support)

What is happening should be augmented as follows

- Church should always be represented at village events
- Church should take lead in organising some events
- Better links with schools and village organisations are needed
- There should be better publicity of church activities e.g. Banners, Bridge
- Church Mission Statement should be made more engaging

Financial Matters

For those of you who missed the Stated Annual Meeting in June, I will detail some of the figures from the 2024 Accounts. On 1st January, our general bank account stood at £13,518 and on 31st December, it was £14,320. This means that we had a surplus last year of £802. An excellent position in the eyes of Mr. Micawber! These figures do not tell the whole story of 2024, as we had the refurbishment of our Sanctuary and Vestry as an extra. The total cost of that was £60,846. This was financed by monies that were raised over the last 6 years and a raid on some of our reserves plus some very generous members who donated chairs!! Our upgraded building is much appreciated by worshippers and non-worshippers alike. It is now being used on many days of the week; not just Sundays and all financed by our own resources. Thank you to all.

A major reason why we have had a surplus, detailed above, is that we are not paying the salary of a full-time minister at present. How long this situation will last is not in our gift but we are very grateful to Alex, Ewen, Iain, Andrew and Stephen who come when they can to lead our Services. This situation puts a great deal of pressure on our Session Clerk and others who help but we await developments. At our Annual Meeting I was asked to explain the Restricted Trusts that the Kirk Session administers. I detail below these entities:-

Graves Trust Fund: Set up for maintenance of gravestones in the Parish

Christmas Trusts Fund: Combination of Phillips Trust and Comrie Trust set up in December 1937 to be applied for the benefit of the indigent persons on the congregational roll, whom failing, for any purposes of said congregation

Anderson Bursary Fund: Set up from the will of Mrs Ann Taylor or Anderson in 1871 in the following terms – “To be applied in assisting deserving young men of limited means , who are natives of, or who have resided for some years in the Parish of Muthill, in such branches of study as may be thought necessary to qualify them for the Office of Sacred Ministry. Declaring that the selection of young men and the management and distribution of this request shall exclusively lie in the power of the Minister and Kirk Session for the time being of the said Parish.”

James Hall/Red Cross Fund: Originated from the amalgamation of the James Hall Bequest and the Red Cross Fund in 1977. The terms of the James Hall fund were “To be applied for the benefit of residents in the Parish of Muthill in straitened circumstances by reason of long illness”. The terms of the Red Cross Fund: “To be applied to the sick and infirm members of the Church in Muthill”.

Burtinshaw Bequest Fund: Set up from the will of Annie Burtinshaw

"to provide coal for the Poor of Muthill Parish"

Fabric Fund: Funds set aside for the maintenance of the Church and Manse

Refurbishment Fund: Funds set aside for the refurbishment of the church buildings

Willie Bell

Finance Convener

SUDOKU

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A Little Insight Into A Very Special Person

I sometimes surmise that with today's fast-moving lifestyle it is not so common to come across people that you can readily describe as gracious but Isobel Barratt is one such lady who exudes both warmth and compassion as well as grace. What is great is that she is also a much loved member of our church family and, having reached the age of 90, she is still as radiant as ever. It was a privilege to spend an afternoon chatting with her about her life in her beautiful home. It happened on the day of Storm Floris when we had both had cancellations and so it was a joy to spend a relaxed time reflecting on times past and present.



Isobel grew up in Airlie near Kirriemuir where her parents were in farming. Times were different and, as some of us well remember when we were

younger, villages were more inwardly focused with their own shops and services. Isobel being a child of the farm helped with work on the farm alongside her two brothers and remembers well learning to milk the cows, then processing and bottling the milk through a machine installed at the farm and finally helping to deliver it around the village at first by a lorry then later by a special van. They also had prisoners of war stationed at the farm working in the fields and she even remembers when delivering porridge one morning to the prisoners in the bothy that one of the prisoners presented her with a small lipstick box. She took it away and opened it privately to find it contained a note asking her to marry him. Those were blissful days of youth.

After school, Isobel went on to study domestic science at college in Glasgow finishing her time of study with a secondment at Dundee University. There she settled well into her first career job and quickly became an assistant bursar and later, becoming Bursar of Belmont Hall, a new 300 room university hall for students which opened around 1957. These days hold many special memories for Isobel as first jobs do for most of us. Isobel spent many years in this role in Dundee learning much from her work experience there and also about the value of work in building character. Indeed she wishes that many more young people today appreciated the value of work in building a balanced approach to life.

Then in 1972 she married Barry Barratt who had lost his first wife to cancer. Barry was a successful businessman from Manchester who at that time was based down south and so she moved to join him in Hadley Wood, north London,

close to the border of Hertfordshire. She vividly recalls a wonderful honeymoon travelling across America. With Barry being successful in his chosen field of work and keen to give something back to Scotland, they moved back to live in a house they found on the banks of Loch Tay at Ardeonaig. This in turn led to developing contact with the Social Work Department in Perth and the establishment of a programme of summer holidays at their home on Loch Tay for children who were unable to have holidays and with that to experience the joys of living next to one of Scotland's beautiful lochs. This also led to Barry establishing a sailing school at Croft-na-caber at Kenmore. One of Isobel's anecdotes from this period recalls a journey to church in Killin accompanied by a small child who, on seeing two people at the side of the road. one in a red Kagool or anorak, exclaimed with great excitement – "Oh look! Santa Claus with a friend!"

With the importance of senior schooling coming along for their daughters, Shona and Fiona, the decision was then made to transfer their home to Lindores in Muthill with its ready access to Morrisons Academy. Hence began their long-standing involvement with Muthill Parish Church! Isobel confirms that in the forty or so years that she has lived in the village, Muthill has changed a bit in character like many Scottish villages. In particular, local shops have closed with expansion of supermarkets and retail outlets becoming more concentrated in larger towns. During their early years in Muthill they also became increasingly aware of the lack of local facilities for young people. This started initially by observing the number children who walked willy-nilly through their garden. As a result, Barry started a Crusaders youth organisation and The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in Muthill and later he was also to establish Logos which continues successfully in Crieff and Auchterarder. With the girls moving away from home to continue their own lives, they both decided to downsize a bit and so they built Isobel's current home in the former Orchard of Lindores. From this base to this day, she continues to be an active member of the church family. And it is not surprising that she has undertaken a few roles in the church including doing the flowers for Sunday services and coordinating pastoral visiting.



To honour her 90th birthday, some of the church family were invited to a memorable afternoon tea celebration organised by her daughters and their spouses on 4th July. As an occasion, it epitomised the warm welcoming hospitality that you always receive when visiting The Orchard. We are indeed privileged to have Isobel as one of the exceptional people that make up our church family and we wish her many more years of good health and continued sharing of her long experiences of life.

The Experience Of A Short Pilgrim Walk

Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life and a pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity in life. For this reason there are an increasing number of pilgrim walks across the United Kingdom and an ever growing number of people who want to do them. Hence the fact that the Camino de Santiago in Spain has become universally known and there are even now interesting TV series following some of our well-known personalities who undertake such walks and what they get out of the experience. In today's world with its fast pace of living, the opportunity to value



silence, coupled with effort and simplicity all have increasing attraction. It was for some of these reasons that Irene Foster, Sheena Plummer and I recently undertook a simple pilgrim walk organised by a team from Dunkeld Cathedral.



We choose 8th August to undertake the walk and we were blessed with perfect walking weather for our two hour walk. Led by two delightful welcoming ladies from the Cathedral congregation and joined by one other participant, our small group set out a 10.00am from the beautiful Cathedral grounds on the edge of the River Tay and followed a quiet reflective path along the river into the wooded surroundings of Birnam. There were immediate memories of Shakespeare

and Birnam woods moving to Dunsinane Hill and of Beatrice Potter and the time she spent in the area. Indeed, what would have been an enjoyable walk under any circumstances, when coupled with the addition of sections of our walk being undertaken in silence, prayer and reflective commentary at strategic points along the way the whole experience took on a very different spiritual dimension.



For me, as a person who enjoys the nature at any time, I was surprised how, with the addition of meaningful commentary linking what we were seeing with the use of relevant Bible passages, poems and quotes, it encouraged each one of us to let ourselves go and experience a deeper sense of the world around us and to reflect on our own place in it. It was certainly very refreshing and so different from a normal walk and chat along the way. It is so easy to lose sight of the value of silence and the joy of simple

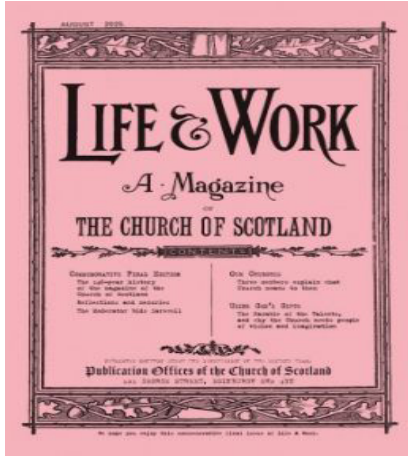
free things in life and when coupled with the effort of a longer physical exertion over varied terrain, it was undoubtedly a powerful reflective experience. It is certainly one that I will want to undertake again. I have often thought of going on a retreat and in some ways this was a chance to provide a little insight into the meaningfulness of the self-reflection that retreats must provide. Nature at any time is engaging and fascinating if you choose to absorb it but if you also add a spiritual dimension then it truly becomes wonderfully refreshing and stimulating. Thank you to the Pilgrim Walks team at Dunkeld Cathedral for their hospitality and for organising a very enriching different few hours.

Sandy Hutchison

Life And Work

The demise of the Church of Scotland magazine, Life and Work, marks the end of 146 years of publication which over that span of these many years

has brought the wide range of activities of the national church to the attention of the average church member. For many it will be a sad day and will be seen as another nail on the church's coffin. But "ends" can also mark new beginnings. There is little doubt that we live in a fast moving society where more and more people turn to social media for information and news. Even newspapers, radio and traditional TV channels are having to cope and adjust to rapid change. We will always experience such structural changes as time passes and it is to be hoped that the Church of Scotland Assembly Trustees and the Faith Action Plan Lead-



Cover of commemorative edition

ership Team will receive wisdom and guidance as they consider new beginnings. In an age where there is so much fake news, largely promoted over social media, it is so necessary for our national church and indeed local churches to have effective communication channels with their members and the community which they seek to serve. Admittedly subscriptions to Life and Work from church members have seen a steady drop over recent years with probably only 10 or so subscriptions being taken out by members of Muthill Parish Church. Whilst most magazines are suffering in this way, it can be seen as a potentially dangerous slippery slope as the more uninformed our membership is on what is happening elsewhere, the more likely our mission is to suffer. Why? Because it places more emphasis on the need to do more private research and when presented with this, there is always the response that I haven't got the time or I am comfortable with the present status.

It is, therefore, to be hoped that the national church will experiment and will act quickly on alternative and easily accessible sources of news and information to promote its mission and to inform us what is happening nationally. Time is certainly of the essence if we are to avoid further crumbling of our position in society. There is little doubt that we are living in a time of some confusion on the way forward for our church as we downsize to meet the challenges of what is often referred to as the post Christian age. Let us pray that God gives us the senior leadership in the church capable of responding to this latest challenge.

Advent in Austria

Iain and Marjorie Paton are leading a Group to 'Advent in Austria' from 1st-8th December, 2025, flying out from Edinburgh. We should be delighted if you would to join us. Experience all the different Austrian Advent customs, visit the beautiful town of Salzburg where we enjoy an organ recital in Salzburg Cathedral, join in services in local churches, visit some fascinating Christmas markets, sing "Silent Night" in the little church where it was first sung, look on as the Krampus/two horned devil parade passes our hotel with Saint Nicholas. Take a sleigh ride to a remote Hofalm; and above all, enjoy a very welcoming and comfortable hotel. There are brochures on the Welcome Desk at the back of the church.

God In The Arts

The Revd Michael Burgess surveys works of sacred art that can be found in various museums...you can see the image by googling the title of the painting and the artist.

‘He gave us eyes to see them’: William Holman Hunt’s Scapegoat
(Wikipedia, public domain)

14th September in the Jewish calendar is Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

It is a time of fasting and prayer, and its observance is regulated by Leviticus 16.

The Old Testament ritual involved cleansing the priesthood and the people when a scapegoat bearing the sins of the faithful was sent into the wilderness. Much of that ritual has lapsed, but the heart of Yom Kippur is prayer that the relationship

of love and service between God and His people would be renewed and restored. The goat that was sent by relays into the desert had a scarlet cord – a reminder that ‘though our sins be scarlet, yet they shall be as white as snow.’

It is the subject of William Holman Hunt’s famous painting that is in the Lady Lever Art Gallery at Port Sunlight. This village was founded by Lord Leverhulme in 1889 for the workers in his soap factory. It consists of gabled houses and Elizabethan style cottages which nestle side by side around the impressive domed art gallery containing a wealth of paintings and sculptures.

Work on ‘The Scapegoat’ began in 1854 and was completed two years later. Holman Hunt went to the Dead Sea to paint the goat in situ, following the Pre-Raphaelite principles of art embodying exact detail and accuracy in its subject matter. There is a photograph of the artist by his easel, a paintbrush in one hand and a rifle in the other. It was a time of political tension between Syria, Palestine and Turkey, which combined with the constant danger of hostile tribesmen in the area.



Undaunted, Holman Hunt sketched by the sea and then finished the details off in his rooms in Jerusalem. He described the scene as a 'beautifully arranged horrible wilderness.' In the distance are the hills of Edom against the sky, and in the foreground the solitary goat with the scarlet cord over its head. It is a bleak landscape, and on the frame surrounding the picture are the words from Leviticus: 'The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a barren region, and the goat shall be set free in the wilderness.'

At the time critics were not sure what to make of the painting, as there was no recognisable story or moral so beloved of the Victorians. Elegant ladies inquired if the artist was going to put in the rest of the flock, and one critic said it was an excellent portrait of Lord Stratford.

We look at the painting with the eyes of faith and realise that the scapegoat was sent over the river Kidron into the wilderness, the very same river our Lord and His disciples crossed to the Garden of Gethsemane which heralded the passion of Jesus. We can see this sad creature, isolated and alone, bearing the sins of God's ancient people, and think of Isaiah's words: 'He was despised and rejected by others.' A scapegoat in the Old Testament bearing the sins of the people: the Lamb of God in the new covenant who takes away the sin of the world.

House/Flat Wanted

**House/flat/annexe sought in Crieff or wider Strathearn area, preferably with private garden, for literary mum and lifeguard daughter.
CONTACT DETAILS: pews@rocketmail.com or phone 07732 475 955**

What Is Light?

The question of what is light has impacted on the minds of scientists from earliest known times until the present.



The properties of light are numerous: light possesses a dual nature either as a wave or as a particle. As a particle it is called a photon. Visible light is made up of different wavelengths ranging from red to violet. In terms of wavelength dimensions 380 to 750 nm. As humans we see across this colour range where the visible colours are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. At the red end of the visible spectrum, the energy is low as opposed to the violet

end with high energy. This is why warmth comes from the red end of the spectrum while at the violet end of higher energy it has the ability to burn (sunburn).

Now some history. One of Scotland's little known physicists and mathematician was James Clark Maxwell. It was Maxwell who proved that light, electricity and magnetism existed as waves. It was from this discovery that Einstein developed his theory of general relativity. So much so that Einstein claimed that he stood on Maxwell's pp Shoulder. Maxwell was a brilliant scientist with a strong belief in God of whom he believed that all scientific discoveries were associated with the help of the divine. Maxwell was also a Church of Scotland Elder. His discovery opened the door to many items of an electrical nature. Such items as electric lights for dispelling darkness, UV light for sterilisation and chemical analysis, microwaves, lasers, electric ovens, etc. The list is endless. However, one of the most important properties of light is its impact on nature. It is from light that the process of photosynthesis occurs. Light impacts on the chlorophyll of green plants producing oxygen, while absorbing carbon dioxide to produce sugars. Without oxygen and the food produced by plants, many forms of life, including humans, would not exist. Einstein's theory of relativity involved the now famous equation $E=mc^2$ where E is energy, m is mass and c squared is light. Rearranging this equation, $m = E/c^2$.

Thus matter, including humans are derived from energy and light. This leads us to the book of Genesis in the Bible. In the third verse of the first chapter of Genesis, God says, "let there be light". Light is mentioned more than sixty times in the Bible. In the New Testament, Jesus says: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

It was from the light of God that humanity was born. Light should illuminate our lives as we proceed through life's vicissitudes.

Denis A. Nicol



Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal 2026

We had a great response to the shoe box appeal last year and would like to support this worth cause again this year. The filled shoeboxes will be going to Ukraine again where there is a great need. You can either fill a shoebox or donate individual items or even make a cash donation. Shoeboxes will be at the Welcome Desk to the rear of the church sanctuary. Help yourself or leave item donations in the larger box sited there. The items most sought after are toothbrushes and toothpaste, hats and scarfs, gloves, soap, underwear, socks, tights, small toys e.g. cars, dolls, balls and sweets with best before date of March 2026, but NO chocolate.

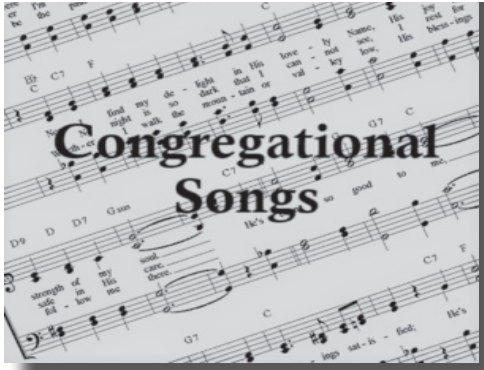


Dear Editor

Finding the right words

With predicted text on our mobile phones and home computers, it is so easy to make the mistake which happened a month or two ago with a typo in one of our hymn verses that appeared on our audio visual screens of “immorality”

instead of “immortality”. What surprised me more was the way many of the congregation apparently were comfortable in singing the wrong word. This made me ponder further on the words of many of our traditional hymns and how often we sing the words of hymns without fulling understanding their meaning. What is worse is that many of our traditional hymns contain ancient words and texts that mean little to today’s average church attender. I know that a lot of work goes on to update the wording of many of



our traditional hymns so that they are understandable in the context of our age but do we have to persist in the meantime in singing verses whose language is more suited to the Victorian era and which contain words and verses which are only understandable by people steeped in older Bible translations? I must admit that I feel so refreshed and encouraged when I get the opportunity to sing the verses of a hymn with wording throughout that I can understand and which gives me an inner feeling of being able to fully praise God. In saying all this, let me also be clear that I am in no way saying that I am against the traditional hymns that inspired our ancestors and helped them through the crises and dangers of the past. But, some do wallow a bit in the past. Rather we should seek to choose hymns that encourage a faith that builds on the experience of the past where relevant but which firmly addresses the confusing present in which we live and with language to suit.

I am very pleased to read some of the outcomes of our recent study day on the church’s mission with its suggestion to experiment with our worship and its structure. I see the need for this and also the dangers if we do not act. Congregational praise is an important element in worship and so, let me go one step further, this even extends to familiar tunes and the use of the pipe organ,

which increasingly I am finding is cumbersome in leading praise within a small church congregation. Gone are the days when full congregations filled sanctuaries and the volume of singing could balance the boom of a pipe organ. The more we can sing hymn verses which are inspiring in meaningful modern language and which have tunes that encourage hearty singing, the more our praise will be uplifting. And for me, being uplifted through congregational praise is an important element to making my worship meaningful.

Glen Artney Service



Muthill Parish Church will be responsible once again for conducting the Harvest festival service at Glen Artney Church. This year the date is **Sunday 12th October** with the service starting at 3pm. It will be good if our church family is well represented at this service which is always very special. There is a car park which accommodates around 10-20 cars and if there is sufficient interest we can apply for the Community Bus to take 8 persons there. There will be a sign up sheet for interest in going by the Community Bus at the Welcome desk during September.

Kirk And Community News

Innerpeffray Library



On 10th July, a glorious summer's evening what better than a picnic in the grounds of Innerpeffray Library and fun entertainment by The Three Fools Inch of A Midsummer Night's Dream This was a 10th anniversary visit and was much enjoyed by several who attended from Muthill. Innerpeffray Festival which takes place from Friday to Sunday, 5-7th September.

Muthill Primary Scripture Union

Muthill Primary Scripture Union Group restarts at the beginning of the school term in the North Lounge on Mondays from 3:00-4:00 with up to 6 children attending. It was established about 10 years ago. Currently Vivian, Liz, Adrian and Carolyn continue the leadership on a rota basis with Sheena as a reserve. Children can attend when in P4-7. SU Scotland's "One Big Story" is our teaching material for two years. It covers the major bible stories from Creation to Revelation with games, activities, craft, and quizzes. The following 2 years we use SU Australia JAFFA material. Each week we begin with a snack and chat, have our bible time and end with a prayer. This past session, we also had a ten pin bowling trip using the Muthill Community Bus. At the end of the summer term we enjoyed hotdogs and games in the community garden as we said a sad goodbye to our P7's.

We are grateful to Mrs Bell the school's head teacher and her helpers who advertise and support our club. Please remember to pray for our wee group especially that the older ones will return and the new P4's will want to come.

Liz Mitchell

Our Good Wishes To Our Local Hostelries

We wish the Commercial Inn the very best as it expands its business by opening a café, The Commercial Take Away Café, from 7am-2pm Monday to Saturday offering breakfast, coffees and lunch. On Sundays it opens at 9am. This is a valuable addition to the services of village and according to comments in Facebook with very reasonable prices. All the very best to John and his team!

At the same time, we congratulate the Coorie Inn team on the continued heaped praise they are receiving on social media for exquisite cuisine and awards. It is also good to hear that their bedrooms are being well utilised and that there are now plans to possibly convert the building at the rear, which they have more recently acquired, to provide more overnight accommodation.

Community Bus

The Muthill Community Transport Group is continuing to try and expand the use of its service. As well as the community bus there is now a hospital car



service available to members through the same booking number. It is important that we continue to see a steadily increasing use of the service in order to secure its future, and to assist in this, please remember that it is open to members to request and organise trips beyond the shopping trips and other outings suggested on the published notice of intended journeys on Muthill Past and Present page of Facebook .

MCTG is also always looking for new volunteer drivers and, with the expansion into a hospital car service, they are especially looking for drivers willing to undertake hospital runs with their own cars. There is mileage reimbursement arrangement for all participating in this part of the service and anyone interested in becoming a volunteer driver of the bus will be given MIDAS training. The AGM for the Group, as it completes its first year of service, will be held in the Village Small Hall on Wednesday 24th September, starting at 7pm. All members are cordially invited to attend and receive an update on the service and its progress. For further information, please contact Willie Bell, Chairman of Trustees or Joe Knowles, Treasurer.

Kirk And Community News

The Annual Muthill Gala & 20th Scarecrow Competition

The annual Gala, held between 23-29th June, was blessed with good weather this year especially for the outside weekend events. This was particularly good for the 30 or so entries to the 20th year of the Scarecrow competition, which was judged on the final Saturday with the Beekeeper by the Coorie Inn team coming first, the Renwick's Harry Potter coming second and Muthill Parish Church's "The Parable Sower" coming third. Well done to the group that devised and erected our contribution, which is



seen above. By all accounts the evening events all achieved the numbers desired and the gala day itself in the Coronation Park was blessed with hot weather and some great games and stalls. The tug of war was particularly popular and our church was present with a stall decorating sponge cakes and with a prayer tree.



Thanks go to all who attended to give help at our stall. There is also an excellent video on Facebook



Muthill Past and Present site compiled by Michelle Cathro that captures the fun of the whole week and which contains the following poem which sums up so well all the hard work done for the village:

A summer week in Muthill's glow,
 With joy and laughter on the go.
 From lawn bowls slow to Zumba fast,
 The Gala magic sure did last.
 Badminton birdies flying high,
 While little hands gave crafts a try.
 Kids laughed loud through every day,
 With games and fun in every way.
 Ava-Horton led the cheer -
 Our gala princess, bright and clear.
 A smile, a crown, a heart so kind,
 A star of Muthill, well- defined.
 The pet show brought a lively crew,
 With wagging tails and barks or two;
 A disco sparkled late at night,
 With dancing feet and pure delight.
 A car hunt sent us on our way
 Clues and riddles ruled the day.
 Tombola fun and raffle prize -
 Surprises came in every prize
 Then Bingo and Tea became
 a quiet place,
 With eyes down, all hopes for a prize
 on each face
 A hush, a murmur, numbers called -
 A thrill when "Full house!"
 was finally bawled.
 And Sunday came, the grand finale,
 Fancy dress lit up the valley.
 From pirates bold to fairy wings,
 Joy wrapped up in simple things.
 But none of this would be so dear
 Without two hearts we hold so near....
 To Maureen and Kathleen - with love we say,
 Thanks for guiding every gala Day.
 Forty years of joy you gave
 A legacy we'll always save.

Drummond Gardens Open Day 2025

Just occasionally in this life everything comes together at the one time, and so it was this last Sunday for the Drummond Gardens Charity Open day in aid of BLESMA and Scotland's Garden's Scheme. It was the most lovely, warm summers day with a gentle breeze, just perfect for bringing the haunting melodies of the Comrie Pipes and Drums drifting across the gardens and up to the castle as a great number of people lent over the balustrade to listen while at the same time taking in the exquisite view of the formal gardens laid out below them, with that panoramic view stretching up and across the park and



formal 'ride' to the distant hills.

Not only was the weather everything they could have asked for but so too the crowds, which judging by the carpark were very large indeed and who would not have been disappointed with all the many displays there were there to be enjoyed. I went with a friend and having been several times in the past, perhaps we didn't spend as long as we should have seeing everything that was there but even so, just wandering round the gardens we came across the dog agility area where many dogs and their owners were having great fun, the two beautiful Clydesdales resplendent in their 'Sunday Best' gleaming show harness (in which they had won several top awards at the Perth Agricultural Show the day before). Further up the slope were two of Drummond Estate Highland ponies that carry the stags down from the Glen Artney hills during the deer stalking season. Then a little further up were the vintage motor bikes with sidecars and a dozen beautifully restored vintage cars right beside the tea and cake marque!

Lorna Clarke

Two Important Summer Events in the village



There are two important village events on Saturday 30th August, which deserve your support.

Muthill Sportive starts from the Parish Church and provides the opportunity for all ages to participate. There are four entry classes starting with family (4 miles with start time of 11am) and progressing to easy (13 miles with start time of 10.00 am), challenge (31miles with start time of 9.30am) and finally Sportive (66 miles with a start time of 9.00am).

There are usually up to 200

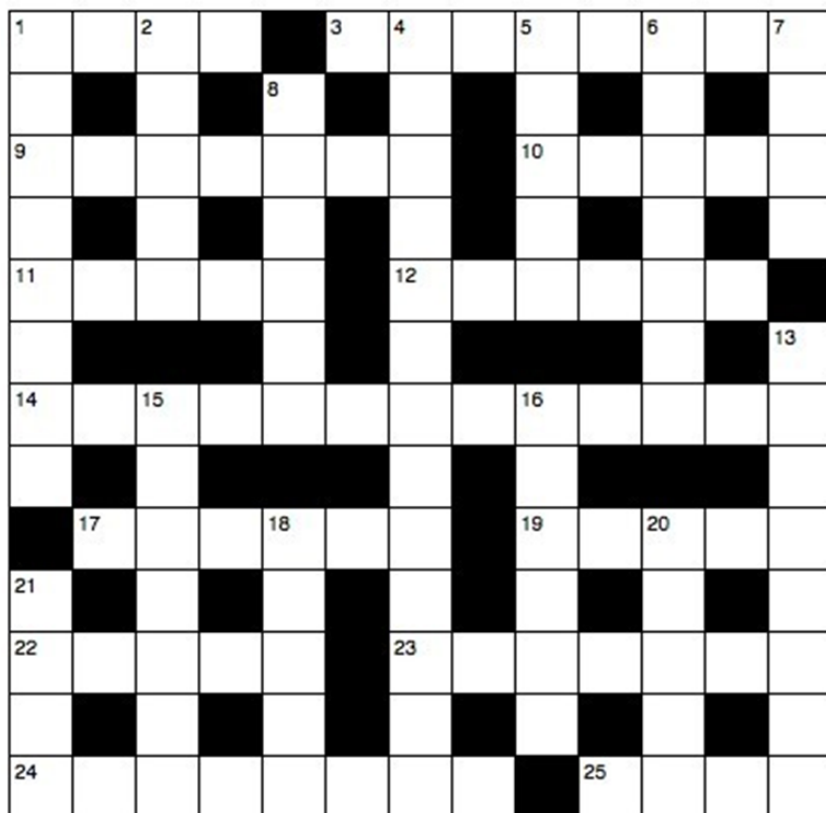
participants for the event and even if you do not intend to cycle it is good to give all the cyclists a great send off.

Then later on the same day we have the return of Music in the Park (Highlandman Park), which runs from 3.00-7.00pm, This is great occasion for families to take picnics to the beautiful Highlandman Park and relax there enjoying live music. This year the music will be provided by The Bald Eagles and the Deeks Jackson Duo.

Muthill Sportive is a fund raising event for Muthill Village Trust and Music in the Park is organised by Muthill Community Events.



Crossword



Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes



according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th- century Methodist, Donald — (5)
12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
20 Episcopal headwear (5)
21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

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Book Reviews



God, AI and the End of History God, AI and the End of History – *Understanding the Book of Revelation in an Age of Intelligent Machines*

By John C Lennox, SPCK, £29.99

“Revelation promises to do two things: fill our hearts with praise to God, and simultaneously prepare for God's inevitable cataclysmic intervention in this world to judge evil righteously at the return of Christ.” So writes John Lennox, as he explores the connections between John's

visions and the terrifying prospect of an Artificial Super Intelligence that emerges to deceive the world and oppose the rule of Christ. Countless books have been written on the meaning of Revelation. This one draws on the work of great interpreters of the past, but at the same time it breaks new ground by advancing reasons why we need to take very seriously the possibility that a supernatural power opposed to God is using technology - and in particular advanced AI - to drive a transhumanist vision of upgraded humans.

Already some scientists are envisioning the development of superintelligences that may become the gods of the future and rule over humans. Others raise the even more disturbing prospect that ASI (Artificial Super Intelligence) could eventually achieve world domination. These developments, argues Lennox, are likely to involve the deception of billions of people, inspired and engineered by the one whom the New Testament calls 'the Antichrist'.

To find out how John Lennox reaches that conclusion read this fresh, wide-ranging and amazingly thought-provoking commentary on Jesus' last message to His followers.

We Believe – Exploring the Nicene Creed

Various authors, Church House Publishing, £3.99

Here you can join with believers around the world in celebrating 1700 years of the Nicene Creed, one of the most enduring statements of Christian faith. *We Believe* offers 24 daily Bible readings and reflections to help you pray and reflect on the Nicene Creed's timeless truths. Taking each line of the Creed in turn, it provides a short Bible reading, a reflection, a question to help you grow in faith, and a prayer, drawing you deeper into the Creed's meaning and significance for your life. Whether you have been reciting the Creed for many years – or are exploring Christian faith for the very first time – this beautifully illustrated booklet will offer you new insight and inspiration.

Giver of Life – the Holy Spirit in the Creed and in Christian Life Today

By Jane Williams, SPCK, £15.99

Here is a clear, fresh and inspiring introduction to the vital role of the Holy Spirit in the Nicene Creed and in the lives of Christians throughout the world today.

Renowned theologian Jane Williams traces the rich theology behind the Spirit's titles and explores the deep connection between the Spirit and the life of Christ. At the same time, she invites you to consider the role of the Spirit as the one who brings you into the divine life of God, shaping your relationship with Jesus and guiding your faith.

This book may help anyone seeking to enhance their appreciation of the Holy Spirit's transformative work in the world and in the life of every Christian - past and present.

Faith Habits and How to Form Them – 21 seasonal practices

By Emma Timms, SPCK, £11.99

Here is a no-nonsense guide to building adaptable rhythms and practices to bring you closer to God. The pace of the modern world with its constant demands and digital connection can make it tough to form a rich spirituality, and though many of us long for a nourishing connection with God, we often struggle to form habits that cultivate and sustain it. Here, retreat guide and spiritual director Emma Timms shares 21 spiritual practices that will both feed your soul and fit with

the life you are actually living. Drawing from the Bible, the saints and mystics of old, as well as contemporary psychology, this book will help you uncover God's already-active presence inside you and help you form rhythms and practices to connect more deeply. The book will help you understand the importance of habits in forming a life-giving spirituality; how to apply spiritual practices that have been used throughout the ages; how to make a daily, weekly, monthly, yearly, and seasonal plan for your spiritual life; and how to adjust your spiritual practices to the season of life you're in.

God's Big Picture, a Bible Overview

By Vaughan Roberts, IVP/10Publishing, £6.49

66 books, 40 authors, written over nearly 2,000 years, in many different genres. A worldwide best-seller published in countless translations and languages. A book that has been sworn by in court, fought over, and quoted in arguments.

Clearly, the Bible is no ordinary book. So how can we begin to read and understand the Bible as a whole?

In this excellent overview, Vaughan Roberts paints the big picture, showing how the different parts of the Bible fit together. He points us to the Bible's supreme subject, Jesus Christ, and the salvation God offers through Him.

Learning to Lament – Our Heavenly Father's Embrace When We Grieve

By Paul Mallard, Union Publishing/10Publishing, £8.49

Lamenting in the face of grief and loss is therapeutic. It is also theologically sound. So why then don't we lament? Or at least, why don't we lament well?

The author guides us skilfully through the Bible's teaching, introducing us to key characters whom we can emulate. He shares from his own wealth of personal and pastoral experience, as we work through our tears to a place of confidence and trust.

This life-giving book will meet you where you are in an experience which is no less raw and painful for being universal. Here you find empathy and deep comfort. You are held securely in your Heavenly Father's warm embrace.

Would You Like to Know About God

By Tim Dowley, SPCK, pack of 10 for £25

This early learning book explains the importance of God to children, offering answers to some of the biggest questions a child can ask. It covers questions such as Who is God? What does God look like? What does God do? - and ends with a reminder that 'We can be safe in His love forever. God is for always'.

The book aims to help children to explore their spiritual understanding of who God is in an accessible way. Now available in a pack of 10, you could give it to a group of children to take home, or to use in a shared discussion time.

Good News Bible – The Youth Edition

Bible Society, £24.99

Winner of the Christian Resources Together Bible of the Year award 2019, this award-winning Bible produced by Bible Society and Youth for Christ is still helping young people to explore the Bible, regardless of where they are on their faith journey.

Key features include links to a dedicated YouTube playlist unpacking key themes

- hundreds of interactive elements to encourage a deeper engagement with the text
- space for writing, doodling and drawing
- a full-page introduction to each book of the Bible
- 32 colour pages of key things to know about the Bible, and help with tough topics

Like or Follow – What Every Teenager Needs to Decide About Jesus

By Dave Boden, 10Publishing, £4.99 (Pack of 10 for £3.49 each)

No one divides opinion like Jesus. Whatever your first impression of the most famous person in history, many young people claim He is still relevant to their lives today.

This simple introduction to Jesus for the curious teenager will help them to explore why so many people build their lives around His teaching. They will be introduced to the facts and evidence about Jesus, and discover how He can reframe their world with hope and purpose.

Editor's Note

The next edition of the magazine will be our autumn harvest edition. The magazine will be published on **Sunday 19th October 2025**, and so the deadline for submitting articles, intimations, letters etc. will be **Friday 10th October, 2025**. The Christmas edition will be published on **14th December**.

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

Crossword Solution:

ACROSS:

: 1, Also. 3, Offering. 9, The Magi. 10, Rules. 11, Soper. 12, Help me. 14, Isaac and Jacob. 17, Scorch. 19, In man. 22, Loads. 23, Inertia. 24, Vicinity. 25, Belt.

DOWN :

1, Artistic. 2, Sleep. 4, Faith in Christ. 5, Enrol. 6, Islamic. 7, Gasp. 8, Fabric. 13, Abundant. 15, Archaic. 16, Jailer. 18, Resin. 20, Mitre. 21, Slav.

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 "Serene and spiritual summer scene ".
Thanks to Raffie for sourcing the graphics for the magazine and helping
in the production."

Registered Scottish Charity

Muthill Parish Church - SC004984