

THE BRIDGE



Seeds of Growth

House Groups

A Good Meal

Mens Group Update



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Kirk Roll

There were no births or marriages recorded during this period.

Deaths:

Mary Mitchell	21st August 2024
Rose Schot	24th August 2024

Editorial - Autumn Colours

None of us can have missed the beauty of our changing Perthshire landscape. There is something so magical about the changing seasons

and autumn is hard to beat in terms of colours. We tried to set out the autumn colours of our church programme in the last edition of the magazine with its insert on all the activities that we do currently as a church family during three seasons of the year starting with autumn. For a wee rural church they are not bad in terms of scope but the challenge for a healthy church always lies in whether they are providing an effective mission to the community that we serve. The difficulty with any church programme and particularly with a small church congregation is always the fine balance between capability and

overload, and it is certainly important that all available talents are used effectively without producing burn out. This is important for displaying the vitality of a church family and essential for our Presbytery reviews as a centre of worship and mission.



As we approach the end of another year in which much has happened including the launching of new outreaches, the upgrading of our sanctuary and vestry, Messy Church and Wardside services, it is right that we assess what we are doing and whether we have got our priorities right in terms of mission. Many organisations and some churches do this by having a review meeting in which they assess how the past year has gone in terms of mission and setting objectives or a new vision for the year ahead. In Muthill Parish Church, a set of broad objectives were prepared for 2024 and these are largely being fulfilled. However, with the Church now being within a couple year's of its 200 year anniversary, it seems worth promoting the idea of holding a congregational review event with representatives of all our activities present to update our vision and set some objectives. As we are now officially a growing the congregation, it would be good to enlist the help of the growing church family in setting new targets for 2025.

Editor

Sunday Services

Important Dates for Your Diary



Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 20th October at 10.30hr.

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 10th November at 11.30hr.

War Memorial Service at 11.00hr.

Coffee in Village Hall

Minister's Tea

Friday 15th November at 15.00 hr.

(This is special service for those on the pastoral care visiting list. It will include Holy Communion)

Holy Communion

Sunday 24th November at 10.30hr.

Bereavement Service

Sunday 15th December at 15.00 hr.

(This is a special service for church members and friends - anyone who have suffered from bereavement)

Visit of Presbytery Clerk

Sunday 1st December at 10:30 hr.

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday 24th December at 23.30hr.

(This watchnight service will as usual welcome many visitors as well as our church family. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served from 23.00hr.)

Christmas Day

Wednesday 25th December at St James at 11.00 hr

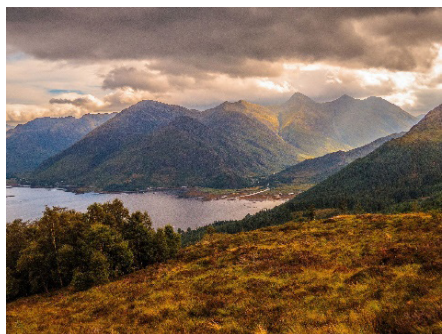
(This combined service is conducted at St James Episcopal Church, next door, and all are welcome to attend)

As from the end of British Summer time, when the clocks go back by one hour from Sunday 28th October, normal Sunday services will be held at 10.30hr.

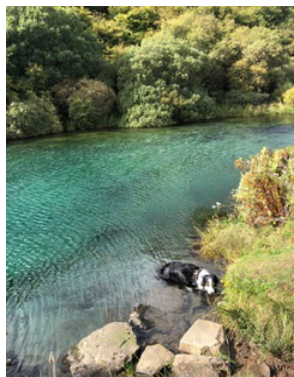
A Sojourn in Kintail

I am getting to like out-of-season holidays more and more, not only because of the lower volume of tourists around but also, if you choose to travel during autumn in Scotland, you have the joy of seeing a myriad of autumn shades covering the landscape. This is only intensified with the changing weather of the season, as the sun will often appear suddenly out from behind dark clouds and you find yourself exclaiming at the beauty of the different colours and images which dazzle you.

This September, it was a journey to the loch side village of Letterfearn, settled below the Five Sisters in Kintail, with trips to Skye, Plockton, Applecross and Torridon. We were based in holiday cottage right at the side of Loch Duich with views across to Eilean Donan Castle. The island and its castle is a magical sight at any time of day, but in the evening especially, we were treated to this building being floodlit in various colours producing striking images against the darkening sky.



Being on the doorstep of Skye, it was a must to make at least a couple of trips and for us the first was to travel to Staffin in the north and the second to enjoy the peace of Raasay. Both of these day trips were full of interest. Staffin has its Dinosaur Museum owned and run by Catherine Wilson's brother and it was not to be missed. Very different but also memorable, was a visit to Columba 1400 a striking new building in Staffin set up by Professor Norman Drummond to help young people achieve their full potential. It had an excellent restaurant and panoramic views over the village of Staffin. Nearby, we



were also told of and had to visit the gem of Loch Sheanti, a small sacred wild swimming loch with supposed healing properties lying in a hidden quiet copse off the road between Staffin and Flodigarry. Raasay was equally peaceful being a short ferry trip from the Sconser. Well known for its distillery it proved a delightful place to ramble, just gazing at the surrounding waters or watching rabbits lazing in the sun. Returning from this excursion we ventured to use the last turntable ferry in the world at Kylerhea. Memorable for my bad driving off the ferry but also for the border collie who supervised and positioned cars on and off the ferry.



As for our trips on the Scottish mainland, the crazy road zig-zagging up the mountainside to Applecross will long be remembered. A stressfull drive with all the motorhomes around these days but gratefully relieved by fresh seafood at the Inn, once you got down. Less of an arduous drive was the discovery of Plockton, which certainly lived up to its title of pearl of the Highlands.

After such interesting journeys around the region, it was so good to relax in front of an open fire each evening and between 9-10pm to spy on pine martins, deer, bats and a badger enjoying our gifts of fruit and jammy buns in the cottage garden.

The whole experience certainly confirms the glory of God's creation on our doorstep and how privileged we are to live in a country with such marvellous wild and breathtaking scenery which is only further enhanced by the wild life inhabiting it.

Sandy Hutchison



OFFICIAL LAUNCH COFFEE MORNING

Muthill Community Transport Group
are pleased to invite you to their
Official Launch and Coffee Morning
on Saturday, 26th October, 10-12 in the
Bruce Hall, Muthill Parish Church



Seeds For Growth

On 3rd October, Helen-May and I attended an excellent session organised for all congregations within Perth Presbytery. It was led by the Faith Action



SEEDS FOR GROWTH

Plan Leadership Team (FAPLT) and was a very stimulating and positive event. With the Church of Scotland going through a challenging period of shortage of ordained ministers, falling kirk rolls and having to push through tough Presbytery Plans effecting church closures, introducing new church networks with unions, linkages and more team ministries, the General Trustees have rightly had to take radical action

to protect our status as a charity and to start putting in place a revised structure aimed at renewal.

At congregational level, some of the changes inevitably are not immediately welcome but, if we believe in a national church, in which the stronger support the weaker in ensuring that the country as a whole has access to a church and teaching of the gospel, this is essential. What also is essential is that we remain positive that things will happen for the good, with God's grace, but we must collaborate effectively and use our resources wisely.

To this end, the Church of Scotland is supporting projects aimed at church growth and is prepared to make grants of money to help support projects which are supported by Presbytery. These grants are on four levels and can be of £1000 for small scale projects such as laying the foundation for a larger project, £10,000 for projects testing the viability of a project idea of putting something in place for 6 months to a year, with the final two levels of grants offering up to a maximum of £40,000-£100,000 for core funding of projects that have undertaken some research and tested out their ideas.

At Muthill whilst we have commenced several promising initiatives over the past year, we still have gaps in our engagement with the local community and in particular in relation to winning new families to

our church family, and in growing our youth programme. The general movement in the Church of Scotland is towards networks and team ministries and this suggests that it might be in our interest to explore links through our outreaches with neighbouring villages and even seeking to take joint initiatives, if we can find a suitable vehicle. There can be dangers in waiting for things to happen for then direction from above often intervenes. The more we can build on the initiatives so far taken and collaborate, the more new ideas are likely to come forward. We can already see the value of this approach in the links so far developed with Crieff and our neighbouring church St James, and there is evidence around Presbytery of other successful collaborations. If such initiatives can be found the possibility of Seeds for Growth support then becomes all the more possible. There is certainly strong encouragement to do this from the central church.

Sandy Hutchison



Special Service

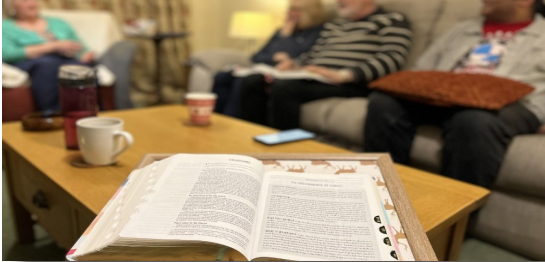
On **Sunday 1st December, 2024 at 10.30am** we will be welcoming Rev. **Dr John Ferguson, Presbytery Clerk of Perth Presbytery**, to conduct our service. As members will know, Presbytery is playing a significant role in the future of our church as a worship centre through the Presbytery Plan. It is hoped that as many members as possible will be present to welcome Dr John Ferguson.

The Place of House Groups

I wonder if you are a member of a House Group?

Over the past few years various house groups have been set up in Muthill and Crieff and, from these, twice a year there are now combined uplifting praise gatherings. For me, affiliation with a church would not be complete without being a member of a house group as it is there that I have the opportunity to discuss, explore and deepen my faith in an intimate small group setting which is private and confidential. House Groups were the way of meeting as a church back in Jesus' time. Today as we struggle to make our worship services welcoming and relevant to the modern generation I believe that they have become even more important in terms of attracting newcomers and providing fellowship and Christian education.

Sunday morning worship aims to bring the church family together to praise and pray to God as well as to receive inspiration and guidance on what we believe as a church. It is important for Christians to come together to share worship and to feel part of something bigger. However such

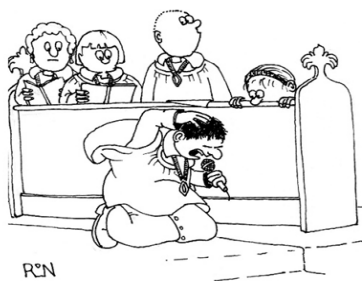


events, in my experience, can fail in their purpose when the singing of many traditional hymns is difficult to relate to the modern world because of its language or ancient tune; when the preacher sometimes talks in

language which doesn't engage with today's life experience, and further, when the present format of worship services do not allow opportunity to easily follow up and question in order to understand better. With increasing numbers of people now having no background of Christian education and youth work faltering in getting through to those outside Christian families, newcomers that come to church not surprisingly often find it difficult to relate to the hymn-prayer sandwich structure and the liturgy used. This, in many ways, is a serious state of affairs as the future of our church lies with families and the young being educated in the faith and seeing the importance of discipleship. That is why I firmly support

experimentation of a more inter-generational approach to planning our worship services, and certainly the stronger promotion of the role of house groups. I accept that none of this is easy in small congregations with limited resources but we need to find more engaging ways of communicating our faith with vibrancy and relevance. Our current format of worship which is primarily for those who are already believers is not a structure well suited for education. Joint praise gatherings may have the value of being door openers for newcomers and perhaps should be more frequent, but it is finding comfortable channels of education that seem to me to be critically important. Because of an increasing lack of knowledge of the Bible, its stories and what the Christian faith is all about, the use of the house group model in my opinion could be strengthened as a key approach to education. The use of a home setting with fellowship and teaching affords a greater opportunity to share questions of faith and learn from each other which is not currently available in the more formal church meetings, including worship. Reframing your faith and making it relevant to your experience of living needs to be taken seriously or it doesn't become meaningful- at least that it my experience. I would therefore like to see an expansion of house groups including exploratory groups along the lines of Alpha as a normal part of our church youth and adult education programme. And, as one final thought, I would add that house groups where they exist are even more effective if they include "service" as part of their structure as this introduces the element of practice/discipleship. We must continually remind ourselves that following Jesus is also about doing.

Editor



Gary sang a solo

A Good Meal

A good meal speaks louder than words

When I taught Sunday school I sometimes asked the children to see how many words they could make out of a key word in the lesson. It kept their brains busy and helped them to concentrate on my teaching.



As it's October and most crops are in, churches all around us have been holding harvest thanksgiving services which made me wonder again how many words can be made out of the word HARVEST.

I expect my older Sunday School children would have tried to shock me a little by shouting VEST, HATE, RAVE, when I was hoping for SHARE, STARVE, HEART, TREAT, and, perhaps from a bright spark, TARE, or even EAR. I had forgotten how many words related to harvest can be made out of those 7 letters.

Harvest thanksgiving services have changed quite a bit in my lifetime. Country churches still display examples of the crops grown by their farmers but, as in most urban or semi-urban communities, people get their food from supermarkets, the close link between producers and consumers is broken and the displays of produce in church are smaller or non-existent. But that does not mean we should stop thanking God that most of us have enough to eat and that it is good quality and easily obtained. What we also need to remember is that even here in Scotland there are people who go to bed hungry and get up to very little. We need to be really thankful to all of every religion or none who organise food banks or cook meals for anyone who walks in off the street, or make a meal for a family in need or someone living alone. If you are lucky enough to sit down to two good meals a day, why not consider how you can help anyone near you or far way to eat healthily and well. And remember too as you tuck in to all kinds of food which has been produced by farmers and workers in countries far

round the world, how you can help to make sure that they are able to feed, house and educate themselves and their families. If you don't already, consider giving your support to charities such as Christian Aid, Tearfund, Mary's Meals, Fair trade, Oxfam, Water Aid, to name but a few. And see, it as a way of giving thanks for all the good things you enjoy, 'Eating one's words' is a figure of speech, it fills no bellies here or overseas.



Remember Jesus' parable in Matthew 25.v.40: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

We thank Holy Trinity Church St. Andrew's, for the above short article on Harvest Thanksgiving. Remember that we support both Christian Aid and Tearfund in Muthill Parish Church.



...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas at the moment!

Christian Aid's Gaza Appeal Relaunched

As the Middle East approaches the grim milestone of a year since the start of the most recent conflict, Christian Aid is re-launching its emergency Gaza Appeal to help those affected.

Generous supporters of the international development agency have already raised more than two million pounds to help people trapped by the situation across Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory.



But more is needed, to keep bringing hope and support to the millions of people struggling to survive and praying for peace. Christian Aid is asking supporters to give, act and pray – with the relaunch of its emergency appeal, an online vigil and monthly prayer meeting.

Head of Christian Aid Scotland Val Brown said: “Our supporters have already raised an enormously generous £2.2 million, which has helped us reach more than 800,000 people in Gaza. Our partners are providing psychological support, medical relief and community-led initiatives such as food, shelter, sanitation and cash. They have also helped Palestinians from Gaza who were receiving medical care or working in the West Bank and have been denied entry back. We recognise that Israelis are suffering trauma too and are working with partners to provide appropriate support.

“But the need is vast and there is more we can do which is why we are relaunching our [Gaza Appeal](#). With the support and prayers of our supporters, Christian Aid can and will reach more people with the assistance they need.”

Head of Middle East Policy & Advocacy at Christian Aid, William Bell,

explained while aid is getting to people, a permanent ceasefire is the only way to work towards a sustainable peace and help people rebuild their lives.



He added: “Christian Aid is urging the UK Government to do all it can to advocate for the end of the occupation of Gaza, and the West Bank.

“All world leaders with influence should press for a full and permanent ceasefire to come into effect immediately. It remains the only serious option to avert further loss of civilian life and the deepening of this humanitarian catastrophe.”

Christian Aid is calling on supporters to give, act and pray in solidarity with their global neighbours.

People can give via the [Gaza Appeal](#) where £5 can provide a displaced family with warm blankets and £20 can feed a family for a week by providing a food parcel of essentials such as oil and cheese.

They can act by contacting their MPs,

urging them to take action: [calls to action](#).

And they can pray at the monthly Prayers for Peace in the Middle East online events. The next event is on 24 October. To sign up, please visit: [Prayers for Peace in the Middle East - Christian Aid](#).



Men's Group Update

With the Men's Group having successfully launched Muthill Community Transport Group and it now being rightly an independent charity with its



own trustees, and the Group having used their fellowship and skills to re-decorate and re-furnish the South Lounge/Vestry, the Group has in mind to explore the longer term possibility of there being a Men's Shed in Muthill, open to all men in Muthill and the surrounding district. There were initial enquiries about this idea as a possible longer term project when the Men's Group was first established a year ago but the timing was not right nor was there any suitable space immediately available within the village to make the idea attractive. There is no intention of changing the purpose of the

Men's Group as a comfortable place for men in the church family to meet with others outside the church to enjoy coffee /chat and to give service. The completion of the MCTG project and the re-decoration of the South



Lounge/Vestry has shown that the group, even if small, has the skills and determination to make a significant contribution both to the church and the wider village. With the arrival of Mike Dove, as an active member of the group, who has had solid experience of such a group in Edinburgh, it has been decided to obtain further details as a possible longer term project for the village

As an initial step, we will be joined at our meeting on **Wednesday 27th November** by Tim Green, a Development Officer from the Scottish Men's Sheds Association (SMSA), who will explain the steps necessary for the creation of a Men's Shed and the way forward.

What is a Men's Shed?

Men's Sheds are community-based organisations typically ran by local volunteers. They are spaces where men with 'time on their hands' come

to meet and take part in fun, practical and social activities in a friendly environment.

Sheds typically have three core features:

- A practical space where members can take part in activities, such as woodwork or gardening
- A social space where members can relax, play games, grab a cuppa and chat to others
- An inclusive and friendly atmosphere where everyone is welcome and supported.



Men's Sheds come in all shapes and sizes, and men attend Sheds from all different backgrounds and ages. They also attend Sheds for many different reasons; to use their skills and share their knowledge, for relaxation and escape, for fun and banter, to meet new friends, or simply to be in a different place that's not the pub. Some bring along their own projects, some take part in group projects and some just come along for a cup of tea and a chat. Outings for the Men's Shed members are also organised from time to time.

As a grassroots organisation, set up 'by men for men', a Shed can be whatever its members want it to be. The Scottish Men's Shed Association was launched in November 2015 with the aim of helping new and existing groups to set up and run a Men's Shed in their local town or community. There are currently 138 Scottish Sheds open and 65 Sheds in development with over 10,000 Shedders (members) across the 32 local Authorities.

Please come and join us on the 27th November to hear more about this exciting venture.

Mike Dove and Sandy Hutchison

God in the Sciences

God in the Sciences-Should we have faith in Science?

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.

How do you feel about science after all the grief of the recent pandemic? Are you tired or interested, impressed or cynical – or a bit of everything? The response to COVID-19 over the past few years has demonstrated how ideology or worldview are hugely influential in our interpretation and use of scientific data – and at times in the process of experimentation itself. Should we trial a vaccine in Spain or South Africa? Is this treatment safe enough to administer to the general public? Should vaccination be made compulsory? The data doesn't tell us what to do.



So, when we are encouraged to 'trust the science' in our ongoing response to the pandemic, or in our response to climate change, how can the Church respond? The whole biblical story affirms that God is the only one in whom we can have complete faith. On the other hand, I do put a certain amount of trust in other things. I can have faith in a plane, a body of knowledge, or a person. This trust is within limits because I know that air travel involves hazards, a body of knowledge will contain some mistakes, and every ordinary human is fallible.

I trust science to some extent because it involves careful observation and measurement, collecting different kinds of evidence. Data is interpreted, and competing interpretations are tried out. We summarise our findings in general principles or mathematical equations. Scientists keep each other accountable by looking critically at each other's work. Our knowledge is always provisional. You can't prove anything scientifically because we only deal in evidence, not proof.

On the other hand, there must always be the potential to disprove a theory or it's not science. Our aim is to keep getting nearer to the truth about the way the world is. Overall, I believe this method is reliable and worth supporting, but that only God is completely trustworthy.

Psalm 8 reminds us both of the splendour of God’s creation, and that He has placed us in a position of responsibility over it. Scientific knowledge can be part of what helps us to rule well. The process of doing science can be a bit like a blurry image coming into focus. The more we learn, the better we can usually see what’s going on, and hopefully the easier it is to decide on a course of action. So, in answer to the question ‘Should we have faith in science?’ I would say yes, when used wisely and within its proper limits.

END

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*Solution on page 34

Kirk And Community News

Youth Education



Liz Mitchell attended the Kirk Session to report on the work of the Youth Education Committee. The future programme is under review, mainly due to changes in worship times and the loss of the family service. Messy Church has restarted and a joint reunion meeting with the Crieff holiday club took place at the September meeting. A survey of parents was also conducted at Messy Church to shed some light on how to proceed in future and from this, it is hoped that the Education Committee will be able to develop ideas for a new programme. In the meantime, the SU group, with Liz, Vivian, Adrian and Caroline leading, continues to meet on Mondays during term time.

Church Premises Letting

Mike Dove has been appointed as Lettings Convener. With the refurbishment of the sanctuary and vestry and, with plans to upgrade the kitchen and toilet areas in the future, the letting of our facilities will become more important as a potential hub within the village suitable for all sorts of meetings, as well as an additional source of church income. Leaflets have been prepared in line with Church of Scotland guidance for enquirers and the availability for letting is to be published online and in the local press.

Gallery Electric Organ

The Kirk Session has approved the transfer of the gallery electric organ to the chancel so that a dual facility can be provided for worship. Thanks to the work of Gilbert Speirs a firm has been found to undertake this delicate work which should be complete by early October at a cost of around £3k. With two different types of organ then being available in an easily accessible position. it is hoped that this will provide increased versatility for playing traditional and modern hymn songs.

Property

Various lamp shades have been replaced in the church sanctuary and 6 up lighters fitted in the gallery to improve general lighting and a new heat detector has also been installed in the kitchen. It has been agreed that the vestry toilet will be upgraded once acceptable quotes have been obtained. The Kirk Session will also consider a quote for removal of loose flakes and pointing any missing mortar joints on the external stonework of the church building at its next meeting. The Church has some surplus furniture which will be disposed of shortly by skip. There is a student desk available if anyone wants it.

Worship and Communication

There is a full list of services elsewhere in the magazine including Remembrance and Holy Communion. New, this year, will be a Bereavement Service for any of the congregation and friends who have suffered bereavement. This will be held on Sunday 15th December at 3pm, with tea afterwards. St James will be joining us for this event. There will also be a Minister's tea with a special Holy Communion for members on the Pastoral Care Visiting List. This will be held on Friday 15th November at 3pm. Special transport will be arranged by the Pastoral Care Team.

It is also good to see that special arrangements are now in place for offering private prayer after morning services. A new team have been enlisted to provide this additional support for any of those attending morning worship.

Film Nights

A new initiative in conjunction with St James Episcopal Church started on Monday 14th, October with monthly film nights followed by discussion and refreshments. The films selected are full length cinema films. The film for each film night will only be announced at the actual screening. Rev. Duncan Strathie, Rector of St James, will lead these new events which will be held in the sanctuary area of Muthill Parish Church.

The dates of film nights to the end of this year are Monday 18th November, and Monday 9th December. Screenings begin at 7pm and the evening closes around 9.30pm



Ardoch and Blackford Churches

A statement from the Session Clerk of Ardoch Parish Church was reported to the Kirk Session intimating that Ardoch and Blackford Churches had reached agreement on a draft basis of union and that meetings with both Kirk Sessions and Presbytery would be held in October to consider the draft. Thereafter, if approved by all parties, Presbytery will then organise votes in both congregations, probably the sanctuary gallery, the former meeting room and ancillary accommodation. There remains some minor work still to be done and a skip will be hired to complete this work. Thanks are due to all involved sometime in November. This is in line with the Presbytery Plan to achieve union of these churches and linkage with Muthill Parish Church.

Book Club

Our wee Book Club continues apace with several new enquiries regarding membership (which by the way is free). It met for its monthly review at the beginning of October and the book was *Border* by Kapka Kassabova. The author now lives in the north of Scotland where she and her husband run an art gallery. Kapka has been receiving great acclaim for her writing and *Border* was much enjoyed by the Group. It recounts the story of a journey to the borderland of Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey as she explores her roots. It is a riveting account of what has been an area full of conflict and tragedy throughout history on the edge of Europe and contains fascinating stories from the people who live there. It is not, as the title might imply a travel book, but more of a personal encounter with the area from which she was uprooted, full of memories and storytelling.

The group continues to have enlightening discussions about each book from which you learn so much about the joy of reading. The new book is *Wifedom*, the story of Mrs Orwell's invisible life. We will be reviewing it on Friday 15th November at 3.30pm in the North Lounge. If you might be tempted to join us come and along and sample it on that day.

Kirk And Community News

Clean-Up Of Upstairs Church Premises

There was an excellent turnout of almost 20 of the congregation to help with a cleaning up of the upstairs of the church building on Saturday 24th September. This included lovely coffee break eats provided by the Davidsons. A second day is still to be arranged to complete cleaning of the upstairs gallery and dismantle remaining furniture for disposal.

New Church Logo



The Kirk Session has approved a new logo for the church, which, as can be seen opposite, focuses on the parish church building with open doors to the community. Thanks are due to Catherine Wilson for preparing samples.

Finance

Church finances continue in good shape and the Kirk Session were pleased to note that the recent work undertaken in the sanctuary came within budget. It was also approved that the Christmas Burtinshaw bequest this year would be £75 to those of the village on the bequest list.

Trinity Gask Church

The former Trinity Gask Church is now for sale on the Church of Scotland website at £99,999. Offers are to be made through a solicitor to the Legal department of the Church of Scotland at 121 George Street, Edinburgh

Glen Artney Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 13th October, this year, was a gloriously sunny day and the autumn colours were magnificent on the drive to Glen Artney. It was also nice to be greeted by an enlarged carpark. After the usual tiring walk up what seemed like hundreds of steps, we all joined a gathered congregation from the churches in the area with Muthill Parish Church being well represented. There was a full church which led to great singing as well as adding a little warmth in what is an unheated church building. The congregation was also greeted by splendid harvest displays prepared by the Drummond Estate beautifully adorning the chancel and the rear of the church.



The service which was a harvest thanksgiving was introduced by Willie Bell. Graham Donaldson did the Bible readings and Alex Mitchell and Sandy Hutchison the prayers. The hymns were led by Elizabeth Boyd on the organ. Helen-May Bayne gave an excellent address focusing on God's blessings and related this so well to harvest time. Altogether, as all services are at Glen Artney, this was a memorable service with powerful messages in a beautiful place of worship.

Muthill Community Transport Group

The official launch of the village's new community transport service will take place on Saturday 26th October in Muthill Parish Church, starting with coffee from 10.00 hrs. Thanks are due to the ladies of the church who have rallied round as usual to provide tray bakes and to serve the refreshments. Anyone in the village and indeed, within the radius of the service, is welcome to attend. Perth and Kinross Council, which provides the vehicle and which finances its running, will be represented by Councillors and senior staff. See the poster on page 07.

Kirk And Community News

Dougie and Mary Mitchell

We are all sad to note the demise of Dougie Mitchell on 9th October and his wife Mary who died 21st August. Dougie was the original instigator for the community transport service and also a founder member of the Church Men's Group. He was an ever willing member contributing each Wednesday by coming down early to help set up the tables for the Soup and Sandwich lunches whilst his wife, Mary, helped with the lunches by providing regular soup on the roster and contributed on many other occasions with her renowned bakes. Dougie too was one of the Mens Group who helped redecorate the South Lounge/Vestry. Both were warm generous people who were always ready to give of their time to help out in their own unassuming way. They will both be very sadly missed. May they both rest in peace!



A beautiful view of Mulhill Parish Church tower amidst autumn colours by Alister Sinclair - printed from Mulhill Past and Present website

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 9:9-13, Mk 2:13-15, Lk 5:27-32

The Roman invaders had given the job of collecting their taxes to local Jews who also overcharged, so they were doubly hated.



Matthew had his tax office by Lake Galilee.

Jesus walked past, and said



Follow me

Matthew left everything and went with Jesus.

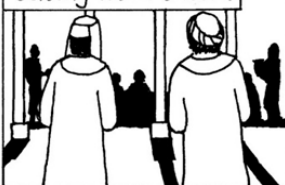


Matthew held a big feast and invited his friends so they could meet Jesus.



They were other tax collectors and bad people

The Pharisees saw Jesus eating with them.



They grumbled to Jesus' disciples.



Why is your teacher eating with all those bad people?

Jesus heard them and said



Who needs a doctor, healthy people or the sick?

Try reading 'keeping rules doesn't make up for not having kindness.' *



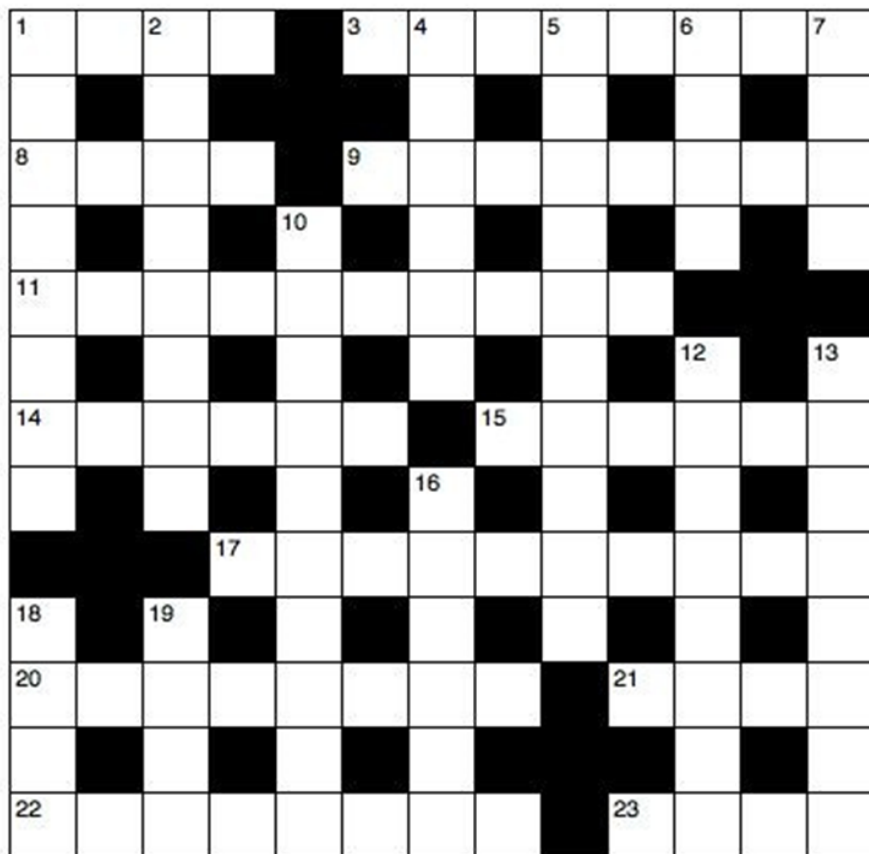
*Hosea 6:6

Hosea was talking about people who looked like they were following God's rules but were bad inside.



I have come for the people who need my help.

Crossword



Across

1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)

9 'No — , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)

10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)

11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)

13 Taverns (4)



-
- 16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)
 17 'He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)
 18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1–2) (4,4)
 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

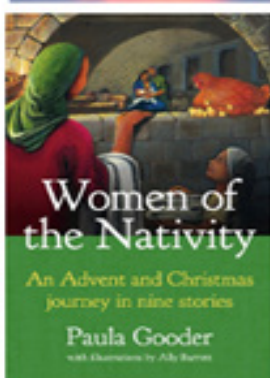
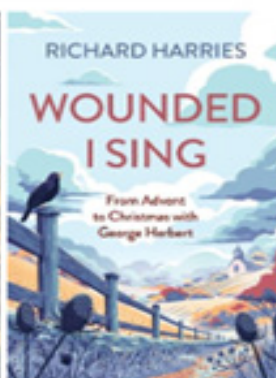
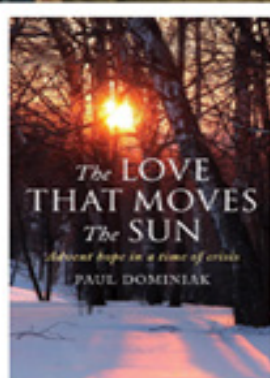
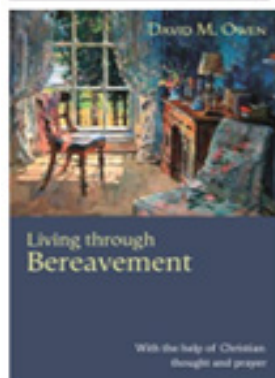
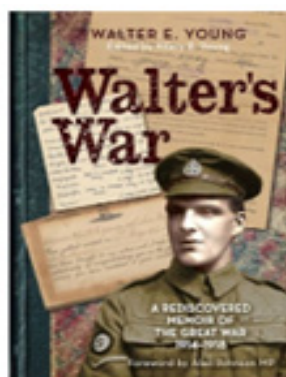
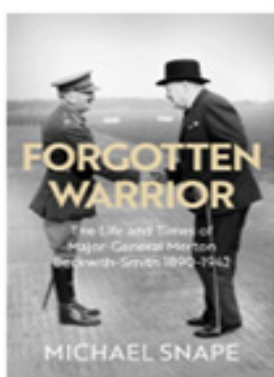
Down

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
 5 — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)
 7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)
 8 'This is a day you are to — ' (Exodus 12:14) (11)
 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)
 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)
 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
 19 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)
 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)
 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
 27 See 18 Across

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

*Solution on page 35

Book Reviews



War Cries

by Mark Davidson SPCK £10.99

This collection of military prayers, produced for a wide Christian readership, may be useful for anyone wanting to join in prayer on Remembrance Sunday.

The book reflects the faith experiences of Christians within a military context, and offers 225 formal and informal prayers (from the Army, Navy and RAF, from civilian sources and other nations).

The prayers mirror the military experience, in that they begin with the act of 'joining-up' and end with post-conflict reflection. They cover the frustration of training, the boredom of life at sea, the formality of the parade ground, the horrors of battle, the traumatic aftermath of war, and ultimately the desire for a meaningful peace.

Walter's War - a rediscovered memoir of the Great War 1914-18

by Walter Young, SPCK, £10.99

The voices of those who actually lived through the hell of blood and pain during the Great War have fallen silent. But this memoir, written without his family's knowledge and not discovered till after his death, is the gripping account of an ordinary soldier, Walter Young, who battled through Ypres, Loos, and many of the key engagements, and was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry at Bullecourt. Although he never talked about the war, his writings vividly capture the mixture of boredom and terror that were so familiar to the soldiers on both sides. This book gives a moving insight into what life in the trenches was really like.

Forgotten Warrior – The Life and Times of Major-General Merton Beckwith-Smith 1890-1942, by Michael Snape, SPCK £19.99

This is a biography of the most senior English soldier to die in a prisoner of war camp during the Second World War, revealing the courage, faith and fortitude of an unjustly forgotten hero of the British army.

Major-General Merton Beckwith-Smith DSO, MC commanded the British 18th Division during the catastrophic Fall of Singapore in February 1942. A much decorated veteran of the First World War, he was captured along with tens of thousands of other soldiers - British, Indian, Australian, and Malay - who were then held prisoner on Singapore Island.

Amidst hunger, disease and widespread despair in Changi, over the next six months he rallied the spirits of his soldiers, created a make-shift university and theatre, and helped to inspire a remarkable renewal of collective church life. At the same time, he improved conditions for hospital patients and encouraged sports and other recreations.

While the fate of many of the men he led was to die on the infamous Burma

Railway, Beckwith-Smith was exiled to Karenko Camp, Formosa (present-day Taiwan), where, mistreated and malnourished, he died of diphtheria and heart failure on 11 November 1942.

Living Through Bereavement - With the Help of Christian Thought And Prayer, by David M. Owen, SPCK 10.99

All of us are confronted by death at various times in our lives. Some bereavements are particularly devastating - we may have been very close to the one who has died, or death has come suddenly, unnaturally or even violently.

This anthology of quotations is divided into two sections. The first contains material on the Bible's teaching on life after death; the concept of the soul; the need to face the truth of our own mortality; living to the full; untimely death; suicide; death as the result of disaster and of war. The second focuses on solace in grief; the comfort of Christ; our hope of life in heaven; being reunited with those we love, and the great communion of saints.

Wounded I Sing - From Advent to Christmas with George Herbert by Richard Harries, SPCK £10.99

Prepare your heart for the joy of Christmas in the company of one of the best-loved poets in the English language. George Herbert is widely regarded as one of the greatest devotional poets the world has known. Here Richard Harries reflects on 24 of his greatest poems, six for each of the four weeks of Advent, including 'Redemption', 'The Country Parson' and 'The Temple'.

The result is a book that readers may want to return to over and over again, whether during Advent or in any other season of the year.

Women of the Nativity - An Advent and Christmas Journey in Nine Stories, by Paula Gooder, CHP, £8.79

The author uses her extensive biblical expertise and storytelling skills to recreate the events of the nativity, from the promise of a future people to Sarah, to the presentation in the temple and the encounter with Anna, the prophet.

The story is told from the perspective of nine women in all including Mary, Elizabeth, Rachel, and others whom scripture records or tradition has imagined, such as the innkeeper's wife. Each story is accompanied by a painting by the priest-artist, Ally Barrett.

This book will provide fresh inspiration for seasonal services from Advent to Candlemas.

The Love That Moves the Sun - Advent hope in a time of crisis

by Paul Dominiak, Canterbury Press, £12.99

The season of Advent traditionally involved meditation upon the Four Last Things: heaven, hell, death, and judgement. This ancient but nearly lost sacred art of contemplation encouraged Christians to evaluate who they were, what they treasured and how they ought to live in view of the world to come. The Love That Moves the Sun revives this ancient practice and marries it with contemporary concerns.

Each chapter considers one of the Last Things in relation to a modern crisis, from the climate emergency, rise of populism and racial injustice to the economic inequalities of class. In a time of compound crises, retrieving the sacred art of contemplating the Last Things gives a vision of hope and direction in a chaotic world of uncertainty.

Embracing Humanity: a journey towards becoming flesh

BRF Advent Book 2024, by Isabelle Hamley, BRF, £9.99

God became flesh at Christmas. But how does God, who created all things, live within the limitations of humanity – limitations that humanity itself often resents and tries to transcend? And what does it truly mean to be human?

As contemporary society grapples with questions of identity, justice and medical ethics, this book deftly explores how different aspects of being human are both inhabited and transformed in the incarnation.

Through the lens of Advent and Christmas, Isabelle Hamley guides us through daily reflections and prayers, encouraging us to meditate on being human in the light of God's choice to reach out to us in Jesus.

My Big Story Bible: the First Christmas

by Tom Wright, SPCK £9.99

The world-changing events of the nativity are accompanied by stunning and richly detailed illustrations. This book is a beautiful gift to share with children and to introduce them to the miracle of the first Christmas.

Tom Wright writes for younger children, aged 4-6 years, for the first time. The book is part of Tom Wright's bestselling My Big Story Bible series.

Editor's Note

The next edition of the magazine will be our Lent and Christmas 2023 edition. The magazine will be published on **Sunday 15th December 2024**, and so the deadline for submitting articles, intimations, letters etc. will be **Friday 29thth November 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	5	6	3	1	9	8	4	2
8	4	1	5	6	2	9	3	7
2	3	9	7	8	4	5	6	1
9	8	3	2	4	7	1	5	6
1	6	2	9	5	8	4	7	3
5	7	4	6	3	1	2	8	9
4	9	8	1	7	3	6	2	5
3	1	5	8	2	6	7	9	4
6	2	7	4	9	5	3	1	8

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, Charioteers. 9, Immoral. 10, Cairo. 11, SAE. 13, Inns. 16, Firm. 17, Accuse. 18, East. 20, Ogam.
21, Judith. 22, Seba. 23, Msgr. 25, Den. 28, Inane. 29, Entreat. 30, Chrysoprase

: 2, Human. 3, Rare. 4, Oils. 5, Ecce. 6, Raising. 7, Citizenship. 8, Commemorate. 12, Assail. 14, Sat.
15, Scouse. 19, Sabbath. 20, Ohm. 24, Seeds. 25, Deny. 26, Nero. 27, Star.



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 Harvest still life. Thanks to Raffle for sourcing the graphics for the magazine and helping in the production.”.

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