

The Mission Statements Of Our Linked Churches

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

Muthill Parish Church

aims to be

A place to find peace and welcome

A people growing in Christian faith and love

A presence at the heart and soul of the community

Trinity Gask and Kinkell Church

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



Registered Scottish Charities

Muthill Parish Church - SC004984

Trinity Gask & Kinkell - SC000004

THE BRIDGE



Klaus' Farewell Message

Thinking Of Lent

Church And Village News

Kirk Session Implements Change



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Church Register

Baptism

Oscar Robert Jack Brock - 23.1.22

Ava Jayne O'Sullivan - 6.2.22

Crossword Solution

Across:

2. Nicodemus
4. Philemon
6. Esau
8. Judas Iscariot
13. Mount Horeb
14. Uzziah
16. Nain
19. Ahab
20. Perfume
23. Levi
24. Rabbi
25. Tarsus
28. Lot
29. Stephen
30. Psalms
32. Naamon
33. Mark

Down:

1. Wilderness
3. Saul
5. Simeon
7. Sychar
9. Seth
10. Capernaum
11. Titus
12. Samaria
15. Zechariah
17. Antioch
18. Legion
21. Elijah
22. Jairus
26. Salome
27. Sheba
31. Ark

Next Edition:

Our next edition will include:

- There will be a report on the Presbytery meeting on the new Presbytery Plan and how this might affect Muthill Parish Church's impending vacancy.
- Men's Groups will also be highlighted and whether our church would benefit from one
- More on the development of House Groups
- Review of the Church Finances



Muthill Parish Church

Elders Sunday Welcome Duties

February-April 2022



February:

- Sunday 6th** G. Elliott, S. Plummer, J. Thomson
Sunday 13th A. Bayne, I. Robinson, G. Donaldson
Sunday 20th J. Cantlie, I. Foster, P. McIntosh
Sunday 27th W. Bell, D. Brown, C. Bruce, E. O'Brien

March:

- Sunday 6th** G. Elliott, S. Plummer, J. Thomson
Sunday 13th A. Bayne, I. Robinson, G. Donaldson
Sunday 20th J. Cantlie, I. Foster, P. McIntosh
Sunday 27th W. Bell, D. Brown, C. Bruce, E. O'Brien

April :

- Sunday 3rd** G. Elliott, S. Plummer, J. Thomson
Sunday 10th A. Bayne, I. Robinson, G. Donaldson
Sunday 17th **Easter Sunday**
J. Cantlie, I. Foster, G. Donaldson
Sunday 24th W. Bell, D. Brown, C. Bruce, E. O'Brien



Kirk Contacts

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

Message From The Manse

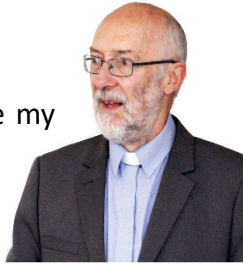
Dear friends,

This will be my last contribution to the Bridge before my retirement.

I think I may have written, in my first contribution, about the appropriateness of the name of our magazine, in a number of connections.

Bridges are important crossing points over rivers.

There are 7 between Crieff and where the Earn joins the Tay and flows into the sea. But between these bridges it would be very difficult and dangerous to cross the river, especially after rain. Without them, you might just be a few yards from the land on the other side of the river but have very little in common.



The picture in our logo is of the bridge at Kinkell. That bridge connects our congregations. The linkage has been in force since 1984. We are two very different parishes, on different sides of the Earn, but thanks to the bridge, the stone one, and the magazine which symbolises our togetherness, and

not forgetting other ways which have bridged the geographical distance, we have been very supportive of each other over these years. Our relationship is important to us.

The image of the Bridge also makes a powerful theological point. One of the evangelistic tracts which has been on the go for a long time depicts human beings and God on two different sides of a deep chasm. He is pure and holy and all loving. We are sinful and fallen and cut off from our maker because of that. Just like we would be drowned trying to cross the Earn when it is in full spate, there is no way we can cross over to God



Life and Work

As many will know Life and Work is the official magazine of the Church of Scotland. It is published monthly and in a history covering 140 years it has very much become the voice of the Church.

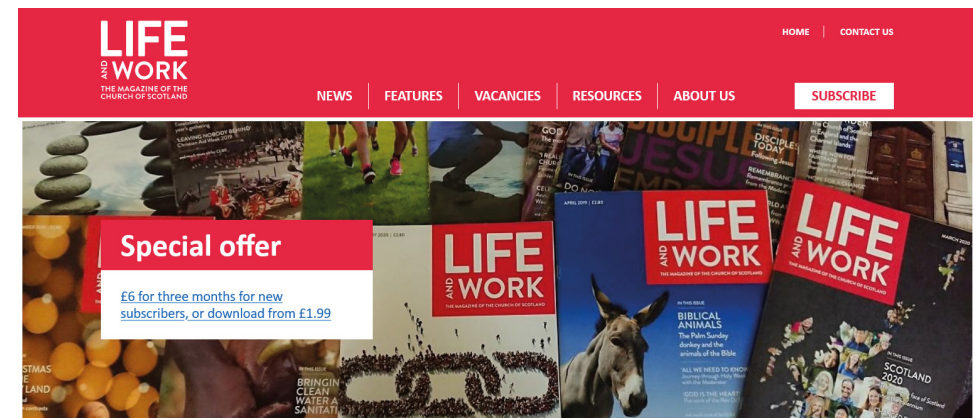
Though firmly rooted in the affairs of the Church, it also aims to cover a broad range of subjects to church-goers across the spectrum, from international affairs and British political and social issues to science, ethics and the arts.

Each monthly issue includes a forum for views on current social and moral issues, a monthly meditation and regular articles on spiritual matters; reviews of the latest books and Christian resources and regular features of the Church worldwide.

In the latest February issue there are articles on new purposes for old churches, a journey of faith by a one-time bouncer turned pastor and President of the BB.

Sheena Plummer can organise a subscription for you through Muthill Parish Church if you prefer to read a hard copy, or you can choose to receive it in digital form by visiting the Life and Work website (<https://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe>).

A one year subscription is currently £36 or you can test it on a 3 month trial for £6 or a single issue for £3



Muthill Church Online Community

Many churches now have online communities where members of the congregation can share information, photographs or their views on things happening in the church such as reactions to Sunday worship and how meaningful it has been. It is also a quick way of informing people of events or changes in advertised happenings and it can even include requests for help or advice on local services or give notice of items that might be available for collection or purchase. The village of Muthill already has an excellent Facebook site which has interesting comments, photographs and requests/comments are almost daily. There the community is very good at giving people support and sharing things of interest to villagers. The site has an administrator to ensure that only appropriate items are published.

With an church online community site, posts can be more focused on faith issues including questions as to where to find further guidance or prayers for the day or the season. If you check other churches in the Strathearn area, which already have such sites you will find there is a combination on all such things on their community pages.

We are keen to develop the Muthill Church Online Community and so from mid February, after the publication of this magazine, we will be posting prayers for the day and season, and other useful information for members in the hope that increasingly you will also add your comments and questions.

In this technological age it is good to use easily available facilities to keep in touch with each other and to be able to help each other wherever possible. This in turn supports the church family and makes it more meaningful to each of us in a practical way. It can only work well, however, if you check the site regularly and add your comments or requests.

So please give it and try and give us your reaction. The site can be found in **Facebook** and there, you just look for **Muthill Church Online Community**.

under our own steam. The gospel is good news because it tells us that God has built a bridge from his side to us. When Jesus said "I am the way the truth and the life, no-one comes to the Father except by me" he might have said "I am the bridge". By faith in what he has done for us on the cross we can be re-connected with God as our heavenly Father once again.

So, in this last article for the Bridge I want to thank you for calling me, and allowing me to share in ministry here for the last 8 years and a bit. I have really valued getting to know you. You really are great people, and two great congregations. I'm sure I also speak for Maureen in saying how enriching our time here has been for us, in the friendships we have made and the ways in which we have been able to share in your lives.

Please keep in touch with us, as we aim to keep in touch with you.

When I think of the beautiful Perthshire countryside I can think of no better blessing to leave you with than:

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

The rains fall soft upon your fields,

And until we meet again,

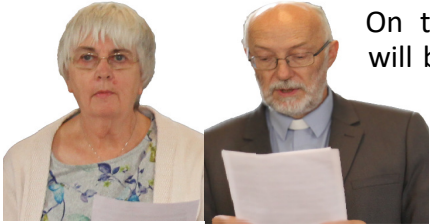
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Your minister,
Klaus



Klaus and Maureen

It was in October 2013 that Klaus and Maureen Buwert came to Muthill from Wishaw. In some respects, it doesn't seem that long ago and yet I feel I've known them for longer! The last service Klaus will conduct will be on 27th February before he retires on 14th March.



On the 27th February after the service we will be thanking Klaus and Maureen for their leadership, teaching and their friendship and wishing them well as they move to Letham.

Join us if you can for this service. There will be social distancing in the side aisles. There will be a mug of soup and filled roll afterwards.

Helen-May Bayne



*One Special Memory - Maureen and Klaus with some of Singing Group at Glen Artney Church

Village and Strathearn District News

Postal Service

It is good to note that the new Post Office service now based in the Village Hall has had a good early response from villagers. Whilst it is a reduced service compared with the previous one it is hoped that it will continue to be supported by sufficient villagers to make it worthwhile. It is currently operating once a week on a Thursday morning between 10am and noon.

TrAcS



The Trains Across Strathearn Memorial Project was inaugurated on 20th May 2020 with the aim of creating a lasting memorial to the local railways, their staff and the benefits that they brought to Strathearn. A small group of local people are progressing the project. The AGM will be held at Leven House Hotel, Comrie Road, Crieff at 2pm on Monday 14th February. The AGM will appoint new office bearers. It will be a face to face meeting with a zoom connection. Details again are available through the Muthill Past and Present website on Facebook. All interested are welcome.

Village and Strathearn District News

Strathearn Young Farmers

Strathearn Young Farmers will be holding a Bingo tea in the Village Hall on Thursday 24th February. Eyes down will be at 7.30pm. Usual COVID requirements of face masks when entering and moving around the Hall will be in force. All welcome.

Muthill in Bloom

Muthill in Bloom will be welcoming Crieff Rotarians on Thursday 10th in the Millenium Garden to plant a tree to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Anniversary. All are invited to join in some more village history being made.

Logos Youth Project

The After School Clubs are up and running again from 3.45-5pm in Auchterarder and Crieff and meeting on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Muthilltastic Family Group

Following publicity on the Muthill Past and Present site, there has been encouraging response to the idea of starting a Family Group and so it has been decided to proceed to the next step. The Muthilltastic Family Group will be meeting in the Village Hall of Friday 18th February at 7.30 pm to form an Organising Committee. Details of the Committee's remit and of the roles of the key officers to be appointed on that night are given on the Muthill Past and Present website of Facebook.

Your Help is Needed

With Inez Robinson retiring from the role of Worship Convener and Flower Convener, and Isobel Barratt stepping down from the role of Visiting Convener, the Church is needing one or two new conveners. There will also always be a need for further operatives of the new AV sound system at Sunday worship. Likewise, the Singing Group, which has restarted with the easing of COVID restrictions, will also welcome new voices.

If you feel you have an inclination to help with any of these important roles in the church, please contact Klaus or Helen-May who can give you information or guide you to who can tell you about the roles involve.

In the meantime, our thanks go to those who are stepping down. A vibrant church is one where people come forward and give of their time to help in the smooth running of all the church's services. We thank Inez, and Isobel for all their work and dedication to the roles that they have undertaken and, of course, we must not forget Maureen who has been such a Godsend to the Singing Group and will shortly be leaving us too when Klaus retires.

If Jesus Came To Your House

If Jesus came to your house to spend some time with you,
If He came unexpected, I wonder what you'd do.
Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honoured guest
And all the food you'd give to Him would be of the very best.
And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there –
That serving Him in your home is joy beyond compare.
But when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly visitor?
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been
Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?
And I wonder – if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing, the things you always do?
Would you go right on saying, the things you always say?
Or would life for you continue as it does from day to day?
Would you take Jesus everywhere you go?
Or would you maybe change your plans for just a day or so?
Would you be glad to have Him meet your closest friends?
Or would you hope they stay away, until His visit ends?
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?
It might be interesting to know, the things that you would do,
If Jesus came in person, to spend some time with you.

Unknown author

Submitted by Isobel Barratt

Muthill Parish Church- Bits and Pieces

Audio & Video System

The new AV system is now in use but will be further enhanced to improve sound recording with a new digital sound board. A small team of operators is getting used to the new system under the patient guidance of Joe Knowles.

Presbytery of Perth

There will be a meeting with Presbytery on 12th February to update representatives of the Church on the Presbytery Plan and how it will affect the forthcoming vacancy at Muthill Parish Church.

Muthill Parish Church- Bits and Pieces

Property Update

The Kirk Session has accepted a revised quotation from Ramsay Ladders to install a new ladder staircase in the tower. The seat outside will be repositioned and a sign will be erected, for the time being, giving notice to the public to beware of falling masonry. You may also have noted that the potholes on the church drive have been filled, thanks to the help of Peter McIntosh and his tractor.

Adopting a Highway

There has been no response as yet to Graham Donaldson's article in the last edition of the Bridge on Adopting a Highway. We are still interested to receive your views.

General Assembly 2022

Muthill Parish Church will be entitled to send a delegate to this year's General Assembly in May.

Church Finances



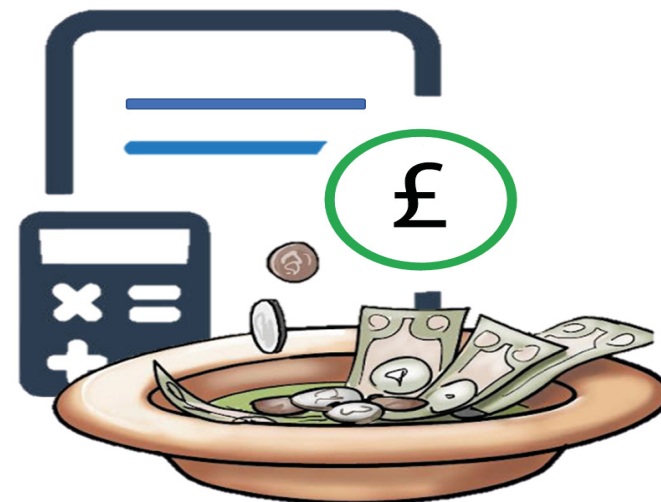
The annual accounts were submitted and approved by the Kirk Session at their meeting on 1st February.

Sandy Birnie, the Finance Convener gave an encouraging report indicating that the church was currently in a sound position. The accounts will now be transformed into the required OSCR format and a short explanation on the overall accounts and the status of the church

finances will be given in the next edition of the magazine. There will also be a report to the congregation.

As for the retiring collections conducted over recent months, the collection on Remembrance Sunday for Poppy Scotland raised £270 whilst the collection from the Watchnight Christmas Eve Service for SANDS raised £214.

The Christmas disbursements from the Burtinshaw legacy to assist with fuel support and the distribution of food to some 115 recipients this year went smoothly under the direction of James Thomson and his team. Sad to say, Charles Bruce who organises the Crieff part of the gift distribution has decided to stepdown. A much appreciated thanks to all involved for this importance outreach from the Church.



Thinking of Lent

Lent this year will start on March 4th and will run until 14th April with Good Friday on 15th and Easter on 17th April. Like all seasons in our religious calendar, this has significance as a period for personal reflection for those who like to approach this season by reviewing their faith and their closeness to God. I would like to recommend an excellent book by Paula Gooder to assist you. It is entitled “Let Me Go There - The Spirit of Lent” and is easily obtainable through Amazon or any religious bookseller. It is also a great book to study in a group setting.

Paula Gooder is a leading biblical scholar and one of today’s most popular writers on spirituality. This book on Lent is part of a series of engaging reflections which includes Advent and Easter. With all her writing, I find that it has helped me a lot in understanding the meaning of different religious seasons and how I should approach them. Indeed, as is stated in the book, learning the lessons of the seasons helps us to celebrate them better.



Lent is often characterised in common parlance as a period of resisting temptation by giving something up in order to hone our skills in the resistance of temptation that we may well need when a greater and more powerful temptation crosses our path. So chocolate or drinks often are chosen as items to give up for the period of Lent. This may be a good way to learn to be content with

who we are and what we have, But the much deeper question for all Christians is whether the account of Jesus’ own temptations set out in the Bible give us a model for this.

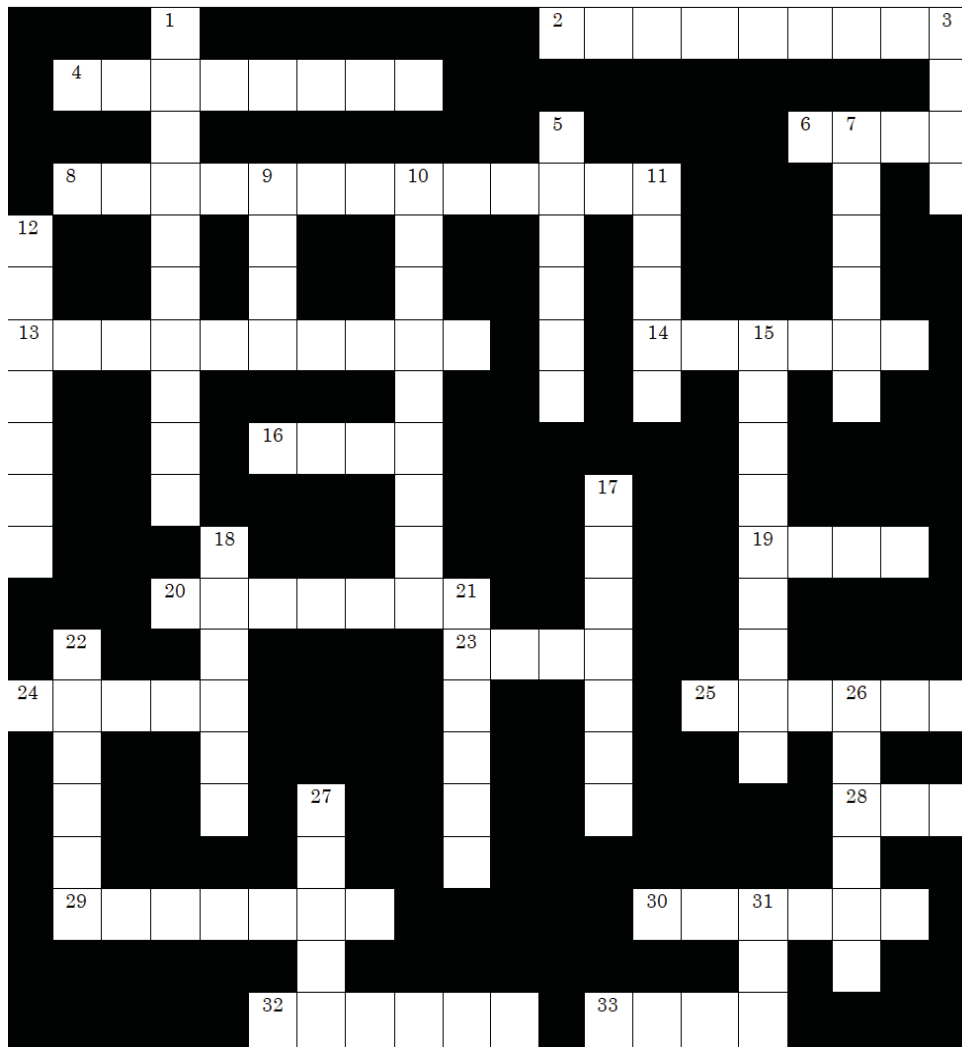
What I like about Paula Gooder’s writing is that in all her books she does not thrust learning at you and does not provide answers. In the book on Lent, she takes you on a journey of exploration into the wilderness of Lent

- 13 : This is the other name sometimes given to Mount Sinai where Moses was given the Ten Commandment
- 14 : This King reigned for 52 years was very successful but pride eventually overtook him. He desecrated the Temple of the Lord and suffered leprosy as a result
- 16 : This is the village name where Jesus raised the son from the dead and gave him back to his mother
- 19 : This man is considered the most evil King of Israel and his wife was called Jezebel
- 20 : What type of substance is Nard used by Mary?
- 21 : The most famous and dramatic of Israel’s prophets who fled in fear of Jezebel
- 23 : This is believed by many scholars to be the original name of the tax collector disciple
- 24 : The name that the disciples used when speaking with Jesus
- 25 : This city is famed amongst other things as the birth place of Paul
- 28 : This man was adopted by Abram on the death of his father. He was a successful businessman but when faced with decisions he tended to prevaricate and choose the easy option
- 29 : This man was chosen from the seven leaders of the early church to supervise food distribution to the needy and is known for his spiritual qualities
- 30 : This is the longest book in the Bible
- 32 : The commander of Aram’s army was a might warrior but also suffered from leprosy
- 33 : This man was not a disciple but went with Paul on his first missionary journey

Down:

- 1 : Jesus was first tempted here
- 3 : This man was the first God-appointed King of Israel, known for his appearance, courage and action
- 5 : Mary and Joseph met this man when they went with baby Jesus to the Temple as the law required
- 7 : The name of the village where Jesus met the woman at Jacob’s well
- 9 : The third son of Adam and Eve
- 10 : The place where Jesus began his ministry
- 11 : This man was a Greek convert whom Paul greatly loved and trusted
- 12 : After visiting Jerusalem for the Passover, Jesus travelled through this region on his way to Galilee
- 15 : This man was the father of John the Baptist
- 17 : This is the place where the church leaders chose Paul and Barnabas to take the gospel westward
- 18 : The name of the man possessed by demons which Jesus transferred into pigs
- 22 : The name of the leader of the synagogue at Capernaum whose daughter was brought back to life
- 26 : The name of the person who asked for John the Baptist’s head
- 27 : The Queen of which place visited Solomon to see the extent of his riches and wisdom for herself
- 31 : This symbolised God’s covenant with his people

Crossword



Crossword Clues of Places & Names in the Bible

Across:

- 2 : This religious leader met Jesus at night to avoid antagonizing the Pharisees
 4 : Paul wrote this wealthy member of the Colossian Church from prison in Rome
 6 : This man had a brother called Jacob and his mother was Rebekah
 8 : John described this man as "the one doomed to destruction"

and shows you that while the desert can be a place of fear and desolation you should try to experience it not as a season of restriction but one of open spaciousness in which to learn new lessons, grow in faith and one in which you should give God the chance to meet you in new ways. She does this by reflecting on some of the key events in the life of God's people that occurred in the wilderness as a way of preparing you to enter more fully into the experience of Jesus' forty days and nights at the very beginning of his ministry and to hear afresh again the call to his disciples that followed on. Through these stories we get a deeper understanding of God's nature and a picture of the character and cost of discipleship and importantly a pattern for living as followers of Jesus in today's world.

It is not a long book running to just over 120 pages and is available also as an E-book. Like all her reflections it is a helpful guide to what I have always found a difficult season to which to respond effectively.

Sandy Hutchison

Laughter is the best medicine

Wouldn't it be great if we
 could put ourselves in the
 dryer for a short time
 and come out
 wrinkle free
 and
 two
 sizes
 smaller



The Guild



Unfortunately, our January and February meetings were cancelled due to COVID restrictions. However we plan to get together on the 9th February to share fellowship.

Our next meeting will be in **Crieff on Wednesday, 2nd March at 2pm** when we will have a speaker from the Guild project, BEAT eating disorders.

World Day Of Prayer

This year the date is Friday, 4th March and the theme is "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)" The service has been prepared by the women of England, Northern Ireland and Wales and takes place around the world with us all sharing in the same service. We don't plan to have a service in Muthill but hope to join folk in Crieff. Details will be available nearer the time from Helen-May(Tel:681415).

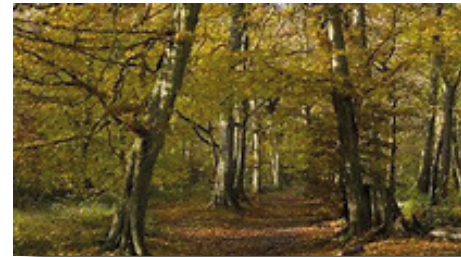


Two years ago, I attended the World Day of Prayer Service in Lusaka. The Cathedral was packed, with many Guild ladies all wearing their uniforms. This was a huge national event with the government being represented, with their minders! The service began with many of the groups singing culminating in the service.

It lasted 3.5 hours! Fortunately, one of our group had a few sweets to share around! This was an experience which helped me to appreciate this global movement and one which will always come to mind on World Day of Prayer Day.

Helen-May Bayne

Trees, however, are only part of the solution. Other changes have to be made to reduce global CO₂ emissions and an effective response lies in the hands of world politicians. But we do need to plant more trees, quickly.



To help reach the UK government's 2050 target to become carbon net zero – that's removing as much carbon as we're producing – we need more trees. The reality is we need to increase the UK's woodland cover from the current 13% to at least 19%.

Quite a task but not if cities, towns and villages across the land take the challenge seriously. Funding for projects is even available through The National Lottery.



If we are privileged to have a private garden then the responsibility falls on us to consider enhancing appropriately what is already there. The Woodland Trust and the Royal Horticultural Society give good online advice and both recommend that this should be done

preferably in the dormant season between October/November and March/April as this is less likely to cause damage to the root system. They also have excellent videos on how to prepare holes in different terrains and how they should be large enough to contain the roots and provide protection against frost and vermin.

Muthill Village, as a significant presence in the Strathearn valley and the Church likewise, within the village community, should be part of this important effort and who is against adding to the green beauty of our village as part of a national initiative.

Sandy Hutchison

Planting a Tree for the Platinum Jubilee

We are all being encouraged to green the planet and one of the main projects of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year, 2022, is to encourage everyone to get involved either individually or through local group initiative.

Many of us are already trying to live a more carbon neutral life. Goals for this can include:

- I day a week dairy free
- Lowering red meat intake
- Shopping local
- Cycling to work
- Planting a tree



Trees, as well as reducing carbon pollution in the atmosphere also provide habitats for wildlife and are, therefore, very important to greening the planet. If tree planting is undertaken on a larger scale they provide new forest and woodland

which can be enjoyed by future generations. They can also enhance our gardens and the local amenity.

To set these facts in the context of the climate emergency, trees are the ultimate carbon capture and storage machines. Like great carbon sinks, woods and forests absorb atmospheric carbon and lock it up for centuries. They do this through photosynthesis.

The entire woodland ecosystem plays a huge role in locking up carbon, including the living wood, roots, leaves, deadwood, surrounding soils and its associated vegetation.

COVID Measures At Muthill Parish Church

While rules have relaxed on social distancing, the Kirk Session has decided to keep social distancing in the side aisles with distancing measures being removed in the centre of the church. We hope that this will allow everyone to feel comfortable coming to church. Coffee will now be served again after the service allowing time for fellowship.



Editor's Note

As part of the church's effort to improve communication we will be increasing the publication of The Bridge to six editions in the year. The next one will be published for Easter.

Articles or other items for publication in that edition should be with the Editor not later than Friday 1st April.

Please submit any items to macahiph@gmail.com or send to Sandy Hutchison, GreenBrae West, Pitkellony Street, Muthill PH52AF. Please 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 following edition.

Kirk Session Implements Change



Many members of the congregation will know the Kirk Session has been grappling for some time with a shortage of Elders and has been concerned as to how this might be impacting on pastoral care as well as other functions of running the church. There are several reasons behind this, one being that we are a small congregation with limited resources and, with society changing, the view of the congregation towards the District Elder and home visiting has also undergone change.

To assist in tackling this issue, a consultation was held with the wider congregation at the end of October 2021 and then, at their December meeting, the Kirk Session considered the matter at length reviewing the results of the Congregational consultation and guidance available from the central Church of Scotland.

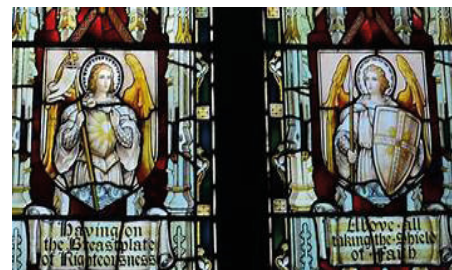
Taking into account the shortage of Elder numbers, the size of the congregation and the fact that remaining Elders are having increasingly to multi task, the Kirk Session approved a radical plan which will adjust the expectations placed on existing Elders, streamline the communication systems used by the church and hopefully have a resulting beneficial impact on the delivery of pastoral care and other matters relating to the running of the church.



Central to this approach the Kirk Session has accepted that it must concentrate on core membership and attempt to strengthen it rather than deploying our limited resources on the total number of

the congregation that appears on the Kirk Roll. This will involve approaching all members and adherents on the nature of association that they want with the church and it is hoped that by obtaining people's preferences, it will then be possible to clarify priorities for the Church and the Eldership. This in turn should enable communication and pastoral care to be streamlined. The Kirk Session also feels that the changes should be put in place before Klaus' retirement in the middle of March as the Church will be in interim arrangements for some time whilst the Presbytery Plan is finalised, approved and the vacancy at Muthill can then be considered.

This strategy, which has been unveiled, will involve a review of the Kirk Roll as a first step. In the meantime, Elders' districts will be discontinued whilst preserving arrangements for individual contact where this is valued and meaningful. It is also planned to use the role of Conveners to take more care of the day to day running of the church. Further, by reducing



Kirk Session meetings to a bi-monthly basis, it is hoped that this will increasingly enable the Kirk Session to concentrate on discipleship and mission. Communication with members and adherents will also be adjusted to take greater account of modern available technology whilst still ensuring that proper provision is made for the elderly and

housebound. One example of this which active members will know is that the Church now has a new Audio Visual system for church worship services and this will soon also be used to stream live services to the elderly and housebound.

The Kirk Session has also approved the introduction of House Groups and will shortly start one in Crieff and one in Muthill in the hope that this will expand. Host homes for such groups and their meetings have already been found and leaders will be appointed shortly. It is hoped by this introduction active members of the congregation will have the opportunity to increase their fellowship as well as being able to share and explore their faith in a more intimate setting.

Sandy Hutchison