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From the Manse

Dear friends,

Recently we celebrated Harvest in the church. That was an annual opportunity to be grateful for our food, remember where it comes from, and thank all those involved in enabling us to eat.

Research has proven just how important a thankful attitude is.

The 21st September was World Gratitude Day. As an annual event it has been going since 1966. Its purpose is to encourage us to reflect on and be grateful for all the gifts we enjoy.

Thankfulness has many benefits. It improves our relationships. When our boys were small they were always encouraged to write thank you letters for Christmas or birthday presents. We know these letters were appreciated. And it meant another present next Christmas or birthday

too! During Covid the country let the Health Service know how much they were appreciated. What about your postman, dustman, street cleaner?

Gratitude helps us physically, psychologically, spiritually.

It can even help you sleep better. You go to bed thinking about the good things that happened

that day instead of fizzing about something trivial.

Anyone reading the Bible doesn't need to be told to be grateful by some international organisation on the 21st September.

Thousands of years ago, Moses instructed the people to offer Thank Offerings at the temple as a central part of their regular worship.

One of the most loved Psalms is Psalm 100 which says "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

When Jesus sat down with the 5000 in a remote place, he took the 2 loaves and 5 fish "and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves." (Matthew 14:19). Whenever we say grace at the table we are giving thanks to God for our food.





Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." There are no circumstances so bad that we can't find something to thank God for. At times when we feel we are in a pit and there is no way out, giving thanks might be the first step to freedom.

There are hundreds of other verses that all encourage thanksgiving.

When we teach children about prayer we sometimes use the formula TSP; thanks, sorry, please. Thanks, is the first word and reminds us that we come to a loving heavenly father who has blessed us in so many ways.

So be thankful.

Your minister Klaus

Clocks Go Back

Marking the end of British Summer time, clocks go back in the United Kingdom at 02.00 on **Sunday 31**st **October** giving us one extra hour in bed. Whilst clocks on smart phones update automatically please remember older analogue clocks need changing manually.

An easy way to remember which way the clock changes is to think of the seasons: in Spring the clocks "spring forward", and in autumn they "fall back".

Pastoral Care



1 Peter 5:2,5: "...: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them – not because you must, but because you are willing as God wants you to be: not pursuing personal dishonest gain but eager to serve: not lording it over those entrusted to you but being examples to the flock..."

One of the important features in any church family is delivering pastoral support to its membership. Traditionally, within the Church of Scotland, the role of the Elder has been key in delivering such care but, as social norms have altered family life, so that role has had to change and adjust. Indeed,



many parishioners today do not wish home visits. Yet, pastoral care remains a significant element that the church should give to all its parishioners in some form or other and especially where age, loneliness or ill health result in some being housebound.

Whilst some churches have supplemented Elders visiting with a house/cell group structure, others have introduced pastoral care teams who are charged with visiting those parishioners designated as being in need of such care along with others who have chosen to receive such regular visits. Muthill Parish Church is one such church that has promoted this practice to supplement the role of the Elder and there are probably around 10-20 persons at any one time who are in receipt of this service. As such, it provides regular visiting which demonstrates that the church family cares. It also enables the visitor to offer prayer and, of course, it provides a useful vehicle for keeping people in touch with church family matters. Such visits are also helpful in ensuring that church leaders are kept updated on the housebound and those who may not be seen at Sunday worship or who are



not in regular attendance at other meetings organised for the church family. Pastoral visits by nature require empathy on the part of the visitor and, if the service is well organised, it can provide particularly the housebound and isolated with a feeling of inclusion and reassurance that should come from being part of a church family. In the case of Muthill Parish Church, however, with a number of Elders districts being vacant with others covering and with the Pastoral Care Team also experiencing varying shortages, the question remains how can we be a more caring congregation? Are the traditional ways of delivering pastoral care right for today? Are there non Elders who may be good visitors? Are there better and more modern ways of communicating with our members and keeping them in touch? These are some of the things we want to explore at a special meeting on Saturday 30th October from 10am-1pm in the Bruce Hall. We hope to have Rob Rawson with us, who is a Church of Scotland Development Officer to lead the discussion. This consultation exercise is not just for Elders and members of the Pastoral Care Team but for all who have an interest in how we can better deliver pastoral care to our members. We hope the exercise will then enable the Kirk Session to take decisions on how to update the structure of delivering such care in a effective manner. Please see the poster on page 21 for further detail on this important event and remember All are welcome.

The Guild



We recently enjoyed another cup of tea sharing news and planning for our first meeting. We are looking forward to sharing meetings with Crieff Guild. Anyone who is interested is very welcome to join us at any of our meetings. Please speak to Helen-May (681415) who can give more information.

- Wednesday, 20th October 2pm in the Bruce Hall, Muthill Rev. Dr Klaus Buwert: The Guild Theme - Look forward in Faith
- Wednesday, 3rd November 2pm in St Andrews Hall, Crieff
 A Guild Project The Vine Trust
- Wednesday, 1st December 2pm in St Andrews Hall, Crieff Moira Rodd and Friends - Flowers for Christmas



Young Peoples Work

Muthill Parish Church has always been very supportive of our young people. Prior to Lockdown this was becoming unsustainable due in infrequent attendances and overload on staff. Sadly, we lost one family over the summer but gained another giving us 7 families with 14 young people – 6 preschool, 7 primary school and 1 at secondary school. Currently we only have 2 registered members available to work with Young People.

Lockdown gave birth to a different approach – learning together as families. Following a survey, the families voted for an informal, interactive Family Service at 10:00–10:45 once per month in the Bruce Hall and All age services at 11:30 for the main celebrations e.g. Easter, Christmas, Harvest etc. The Kirk Session has approved this. The first Family Service will be Sunday 7th November.

Many of the parents mentioned they would still like to attend the main service. The Education Committee will continue to pursue ways of providing Christian education/creche during the 11:30 service. However this requires more volunteers. If you feel called to help, please get in touch with Liz Mitchell or Klaus.

Our Scripture Union Group will start back on 1st November. Please pray for all our work with young folk. Thank you.

Liz Mitchell

Education Convener





Muthill Primary SU Group

Starts Monday 1st Nov 2021 3-4:00 In Muthill Parish Church

What is a Scripture Union Group?

A free after school club meeting each Monday during term time, in Muthill Parish Church, North Lounge. It includes:

... Games & Puzzles,

... Music & Crafts,

... Stories from the Bible,

... Juice & Biscuits

... Special events & Parties

Who can come?





Covid
Risks &
Rules
will be
followed

Scripture Union Scotland is registered in Scotland as a charity (no.SC011222) and as a company limited by guarantee (no.SC54297) https://www.suscotland.org.uik

Tom Mills

On Wednesday 6th October, 2021,

Muthill Church lost one of its longest servants in the death of Tom Mills. He was a man of great practicality and skill and our property benefited from both of these attributes. On leaving school he joined the Aitken family of Tullibardine as an apprentice agricultural engineer, little knowing that many years later he would be part of the management team. His skill in fixing broken bits of machines was legendary. Where other firms would throw away the bits and recommend the purchase of a new part, Tom would rebuild the original at much lesser expense for his customer. He really was brilliant at sticking bits of metal together! But he did enjoy doing wrought iron work and many examples of this love can be seen around this area and beyond. Next time that you're in Church look up at the lights in the Gallery; a perfect example of his skill. Tom's loyalty to his Church was recognised when he was asked to join the Kirk Session. After his ordination he soon became involved in the property side and was convener for many years, not just delegating the required work but attending to the various requirements in his own time; not always easy as an employee, in his younger day.

community but particularly to his wife Lesley, his mother Beenie, daughter Lesley-Ann, son Fraser, grandchildren Sophia and Thomas and his siblings, Fiona, James and Douglas to whom we send our condolences and prayers.

His death has come as a great shock to us and to the wider

(Thanks to Willie Bell for this tribute).

Harvest in the Glen

Those of us who managed to attend the beautiful harvest service at **Glen Artney Church** on Sunday 10th October will have happy memories of the beauty of the location and our thankfulness to God for nature and all that it gives us. The occasion was made all the more special as the sun came out and the Glen was displaying fine autumn colours. Maureen Buwert gave us a great address focusing on the importance of our gratitude to God for his faithfulness. Muthill Parish Church Worship Group also performed while prayers and readings were given by Willie Bell, Inez Robinson and Helen-May Bayne. As always, the church was thoughtfully decorated with harvest flowers and fruit provided by the Drummond Estate.

The Church is located on a small hillock about 5 miles west of Cultybragan with the Water of Ruchill flowingbelow. It was built by the Willoughby de Eresby family around 1905. The Glen itself finds fame originally as a Royal Deer Forest and it was involved in both Jacobite uprisings in 1713 and the tragedy that was the '45. The Glen was in the possession of the Drummonds of Drummond Castle and its occupants were mainly tenant farmers who worked on the farms. It was immortalised by Sir Walter Scott in his poem "The Lady of the Lake":



A Leaner More Effective Church

In the last edition of the magazine, I said I would update readers on the process which will affect the future of our linked churches of Muthill and

Trinity Gask, in the light of the General Assembly's decisions on creating a leaner, more effective Church including finding and supporting new ways of being Church.

Part of this process is led by the Church of Scotland's new Faith Nurture Forum which replaced the former Ministries and Mission and Discipleship Councils and, following debate at General Assembly, a new Presbytery Mission Plan Act was

approved which requires Presbyteries (i.e. new merged Presbyteries) to plan Mission within their bounds encompassing the following:

- Mission Plan (5 year rolling plan) structuring and resourcing church life
- Use of ministry posts only as approved by General Assembly
- Decisions be made on the future of church buildings
- Engaging with the Faith Nurture Forum and General Trustees in such planning

Each Presbytery Mission Plan will require to ensure that the life of the Church reflects the outcomes of Local Church Reviews and ideas for local mission. Further, whilst sustaining territorial ministry, the plan will only make use of the number of post holders prescribed for each Presbytery by General Assembly and must additionally ensure that new ways of church are reflected in the Mission Plan. Once approved centrally, the Mission Plan will be evaluated, developed and updated annually. In the case of the Perth Presbytery (which will be merged with Angus, Dundee, Dunkeld and Meigle, Perth and Stirling in 2022), the local Church Review process is already underway and our submission to its Strategy and Planning Committee has already been made.

All this means that in the case of any church losing a minister from now on, Presbytery and the central powers of the Church will require to approve placement of any new ministry in line with the prescribed number for each Presbytery and decide on adjustment to a congregation's status in line with

the approved Presbytery Mission Plan. This could involve union, linkage, team ministry and other forms of being Church, including consideration of appropriate joint ecumenical approach. Decisions on the use of all church



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buildings will also be undertaken as part of this process. This implies that decisions on vacancies will be delayed until final Mission Plans are approved. From work being done elsewhere, the new framework does seem to allow scope for local congregations to influence final decisions by preparing themselves through local initiative and

consultation, and, where this is happening, it seems likely to be seriously considered provided local action is supportive of the central Church's radical action plan. In other words, at a time where the national church is slimming down for greater efficiency and to give opportunity for new forms of mission and discipleship, it may not be possible to sustain the form of church family as we know it, unless collaborative and workable ideas are developed and experimented with at congregational level...ones which are likely to persuade higher powers to engage with rather than to impose solutions entirely from above. It is likely to be a brave new world but we must recognise that at heart we are all part of one church engaged in God's mission to our communities and we, therefore, need to be willing to make sacrifices for each other in order to enable this to continue.

Muthill in Bloom

Thanks to the appeal for Spring bulbs in the *Muthill Past and Present* website on Facebook, the Muthill in Bloom Team are pleased to report that it produced a phenomenal response and will keep the Team busy during the whole month of October.

They also intimate that their successful Halloween Trail followed by their Christmas Light Trail will go ahead this year with a Quiz Night on 26th November. As they say in their latest post, "It's up to us all as a Village to make both these events EVEN BETTER than last year. Thinking caps on please and share your ideas on the *Muthill Past and Present* site."

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Prisoners Week Scotland 21-27 November, 2021



Did you know that there are around 7,300 prisoners in Scotland; there are 27,000 children with a member of their family in prison and there are 275 women in prison? As Barbara Dickson OBE, Patron of the Prisoners Week Scotland Trust says, "It is our duty to be aware of and support prisoners, their families and friends, the community and victims of crime."

The Prisoners Week Trust (SCO43431) was set up in 2012, formalising Prisoners Week activities which have been running since the 1990s.

Its vision is for a just and peaceful society where all people are cared for and supported be they prisoners, the families or prisoners, those released from prison or the victims of crime. Through Prisoners Week the Trust wants to encourage action and support, particularly among faith communities, for all affected by imprisonment including families and the victims of crime.

This year the organisations involved include:

Sanctus Media, Prison Alpha, Families Outside, Cutting Edge Theatre, Prison Fellowship in addition to several Prison Chaplains and Prison Week Trustees.

During and around Prisoners Week Chaplaincy Teams and their colleagues will be busy organising events in both prison and the community, liaising with the media, preaching from pulpits, providing material for magazines, meeting community groups, visiting schools, hosting invited tours and generally doing what can be done to highlight Prisoners Week. Prisoners Week events also engage with prisoners, on the basis that not only is it good to remember those in prison, it is especially good, if you are in custody, to know that you are being remembered.

Some prisons will have services to which families of prisoners are invited, offering support also to children and partners of those in custody. Activities in prison include creating a Prisoners Week Garden, quizzes, music events, and various meetings with invited speakers and guests from the community. Prisoners Week is also not only one week – those involved in prison ministry are happy to meet with community groups throughout the year. Further information can be found through the Church of Scotland website.



Prayer for Prisoners Week

Whilst the following prayer is drawn from resource material for Prisoners week, it has relevance for us all at any time.



God, who goes before how us. many times have we looked for you and not found you? How often have we felt alone and lamented your distance from us? Yet, Lord, you have always been there, and you are here now. Help us to

recognise you when you show yourself. Give us the confidence to believe that at turning points, beginnings and endings, you watch over us.

Merciful God, before we can know your renewing grace, we seek your forgiveness. We are sorry for the times someone stretched out a hand and we pretended not to notice; for the times someone wasn't beautiful to us and we looked away; for the times truth was on our tongues and we swallowed it instead of speaking it; for the times love was in our hearts and we were too embarrassed to express it; for the times we were prey to fears and we didn't trust you with them; for the times a stranger asked us for something and we pretended not to realise what was needed; for the times we haven't loved enough and for the times we have loved with only part of ourselves; have mercy upon us, O Lord.

And Father we know that if we confess our sins to you, in your love, you freely forgive us and absolve us of all sin and offer us the grace and strength of your Holy Spirit. We ask this in Jesus name.

Amen

Step By Step -The Story To Date Of The Muthill Cycle Path Project

The cycle path which starts down Ward Road and which will eventually connect with Crieff near the High School on Broich Road is one of the Muthill Village Trust's main projects. Like many other projects across the country of a similar nature this will undoubtedly be a valuable asset to the local community once complete. It will also link in with a network of other cycle paths under planning for places like Auchterarder and Comrie.

As most will know, the path will not run straight along the main connecting Crieff-Muthill road as was originally hoped but this proved impossible for a variety of reasons, and so an alternative plan was worked out with the Drummond Estates on the south



side of the River Earn and substantially with Perth & Kinross Council on the north side. Once completed, Perth & Kinross Council will be responsible for its upkeep and so they are heavily involved in conversations at each stage of the project.

The first phase on the south side at Muthill is already complete and is being enjoyed by cyclists, wheelers and walkers alike and is attractively landscaped with mosaics of local birdlife. The remaining stage connecting by bridge into Crieff will enable the path to attract daily cycle traffic including school pupils and adults commuting for education or work, as well as tourists visiting the Strathearn area.

The substantial cost element to date has been met by non-governmental agencies (around 70%) including the charity, Sustrans Scotland, which seeks to empower community groups to improve their local section

of the National Cycle Network. There will be a continuing need to seek further major financial support from similar sources in order to complete the project. Local events such as the ceilidh and film night so far held and the annual Sportive event are seen by the Project Team and Muthill Village Trust as ways of raising funds for current maintenance of the landscape on the part so far developed. Such events too seek to maintain engagement with the local community and support from other local bodies such as the Church, Primary School and Community Council.

The next stage will involve the building of a bridge and the final path works particularly on the north side of the river. This will require detailed design, seeking necessary planning approvals and then pricing and funding the cost. Spokesmen for the project say that it is currently difficult to provide a clear timescale but they hope that design and approvals will be completed around summer of 2022 so that funding can then be sought and the work completed.

Whilst the project's completion remains uncertain in terms of timescale it is hoped that the prospect of ultimate village benefit will retain interest and support. The Church is a key player in creating a better life for the village and so there will be regular progress reports in future editions of the magazine as and when news of the development becomes available.

(Thanks to David Lennie and Nick James of the Muthill Cycle Path Project for their input to this report)



The Train – A Helpful Analogy On Life's Journey

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe that they will always travel by our side. As time goes by, other people will board the train; they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, strangers and even the love of our life. However, at some station our partners will step down leaving from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. Others will step down over time and leave a permanent vacuum. Some, however, will go unnoticed that we don't realise that they have vacated their seats. This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes and farewells. Success consists of having good relationships will all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves. The mystery for everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So we must live in the best way, love, forgive and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.



I wish you a joyful journey for the coming years on your train of life. Reap success, give lots of love and be happy. More importantly thank God for the journey.

(from a friend's posting on Facebook)



Update from Kirk Session

The MPC Kirk Session met for its monthly meeting on 5th October and amongst the business considered were the following:

- A report was received and discussed on the Education Programme for our Young People. The decisions taken are reflected in the article and advert provided in this edition of the magazine by Liz Mitchell
- Approval has been given for Ardveck School to hold their annual carol service in the Church and for Muthill Community Choir to restart its meetings in the Bruce Hall
- The new Audio Visual Equipment for Muthill Parish Church has been approved by Presbytery and should be installed during November
- The necessary repair work on the church roof of MPC was approved by Presbytery and has now been completed
- A special meeting of the Eldership and the wider congregation will be held on Saturday 31st October on the theme of "How can we be a more caring congregation". This consultative exercise will then be reported back to the Kirk Session for decisions to be taken on the role of the Elder
- Presbytery is looking for a church representative to sit on the Education Committee of Perth and Kinross Council
- The Kirk Session has approved that following the retirement of the Minister in March 2022, if Presbytery approves, that the manse may be let on a short assured tenancy until decisions are taken on the church vacancy
- Perth Presbytery will be merged with Angus, Dundee, Dunkeld and Meigle and Stirling as of 2022 to form a new Presbytery still to be known as Perth Presbytery following on decision s taken by General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

 The Next Communion Service will be held on Sunday 28th November, 2021



Food Hygiene Training by E-Learning

It is a legal requirement that anyone who handles or prepares food and drink are appropriately trained and/or supervised. The Church of Scotland General Trustees are now welcoming applications from members of congregations

who wish to undertake the REHIS Introduction to Food Hygiene course by e-learning. Members can apply directly themselves or a congregation may register multiple participants through one simple registration process.

The course is an accredited and accepted introductory food hygiene course that will give participants the knowledge and skills that will enable them to handle and prepare

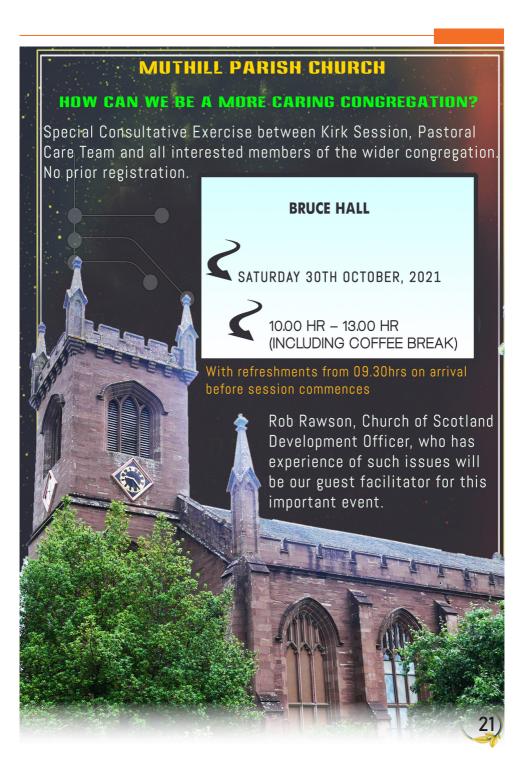
Importance of Food Hygiene Training

low risks food safely. The course is especially useful for anyone who bakes



at home on behalf of a congregation. It will take approximately 2 hours to complete. There are no tests or exams during or after the course. It is interactive and is entirely online. Participants will need a computer or tablet with a suitable internet connection and on completion will receive approved **REHIS** the Introduction tο Food Hygiene certificate. If you have already completed

the course there is no need to re-apply. Please notify Helen-May Bayne in the first instance as multiple registration can be done if suitable. The online registration is found at https://forms.office.com/r/SQncvKdWus



Muthill Parish Church

Elders Sunday Welcome Duties



October:

Sunday 17th: **Mr G Elliott**, Mrs S Plummer, Mr J Thomson Sunday 24th: **Mr A Bayne**, Mrs I Robinson, Mr G Donaldson Sunday 31st: **Mr J Cantlie**, Ms I Foster, Mr P McIntosh

November:

Sunday 7th: Mr W Bell, Mrs D Brown, Mr T Mills, Mrs E O'Brien

Sunday 14th: **Mr G Elliott**, Mrs S Plummer, Mr J Thomson Sunday 21st: **Mr A Bayne**, Mrs I Robinson, Mr G Donaldson Sunday 28th: **Mr J Cantlie**, Ms I Foster, Mr P McIntosh

December:

Sunday 5th: **Mr W Bell**, Mrs D Brown, Mr T Mills, Mrs E O'Brien

Sunday 12th: **Mr G Elliott**, Mrs S Plummer, Mr J Thomson Sunday 19th: **Mr A Bayne**, Mrs I Robinson, Mr G Donaldson Sunday 26th: **Mr J Cantlie**, Ms I Foster, Mr P McIntosh





Lay Training Research

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The Faith Nurture Forum within the Church of Scotland is trying to find out what resources would help people in local congregations develop their faith. We highlighted a course offered by the Highlands and Island University in the last edition of The Bridge.

In the case of the Church of Scotland Faith Nurture Forum they are at an earlier stage and first want to survey members of the Church of Scotland for their views. The information gleaned from the survey will then be used to help plan and develop training resources within the Kirk. IF you interested in partaking in the survey which is confidential as no personal details are asked,

Please use the link https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CofSFaith

Editor's Note

The next edition of the magazine will be our Christmas edition. This year's celebration should be special after almost two years of lockdown. The magazine will be published on Sunday 5th December, a couple of weeks in advance of Christmas, and so the deadline for submitting articles, intimations, letters etc. will be Friday 26th November.

Please submit this to macahiph@gmail.com 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 next edition.

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