



THE BRIDGE

The Comforting Hand of God

Grandpa Wallace

Going Forward – One Viewpoint

Does God Exist?

EARLY SUMMER EDITION 2023



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Kirk Register

Muthill Parish Church

Baptism:

Innes May Campbell-Faith was baptised at the worship service on Sunday 4th June 2023

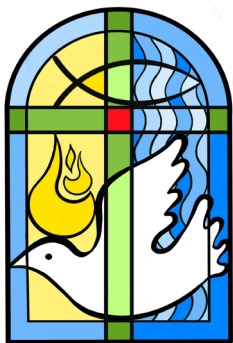
Deaths:

Linda Baird on 07/04/2023

Janet Dewar on 09/04/2023

James McGregor on 12/04/2023

Happy Holidays



As we move into warmer days our thoughts turn to holidays, a break from our normal routines, a time of refreshment and recharging our batteries. Holiday or 'Holy Days' come from the Bible. God rested on the seventh day and made it holy (different). In the Old Testament, Holy Days followed the rhythm of the natural order coming at the end of early and late harvest seasons. A time for communities to rest from their labours and come together and celebrate. A time to travel to Jerusalem for the great feast days celebrating their faith.

There have been many attempts over the years to change this pattern. The French revolution introduced a 10-day week, 9 days' work and 1-day rest. This was soon scrapped because it did not work for people and in particular rural communities. At the height of the Battle of Britain, spitfire production went onto a seven-day working week, but they very quickly discovered that people working seven days did not produce as much as people working 6 days. When I was in Russia staying in a town called *Asbest* the local industry was extracting asbestos from and ground and manufacturing products like car brake shoes. The locals told us that they regularly worked 24-hour shifts which gave them several free days a week, but they freely admitted that they often slept at work.

God's plan for our living involves work, rest and refreshment. We as a family have always been enriched when we have met up with and shared worship with other Christians when we have been away from home on holiday. May God bless you over the coming summer in whatever way you seek rest and refreshment.

Alex Mitchell



The Comforting Hand of God



My name is Ian, and I am an alcoholic.

If there was ever a conversation stopper for an article in a Church Magazine this might be it!! But don't be put off – please read on!

For as much as that statement is true, I prefer to temper it by adding after the word 'alcoholic' - '7½ years in recovery'. And this so relevant to my personal journey of faith.

It was on 3rd December 2015, that my life of real faith began - in *Abbeycare* an Alcohol Rehabilitation Unit in the wee village of Bonkle, near Wishaw; where I was Born Again, a bit like Nicodemus!

Oh yes I had 'done' church all my days - brought up in a Christian family, baptised in St Michael's Church Crieff 60 years ago, did Sunday School, and Youth Church; joined the church by profession of faith in June 1978; became an elder in 1996 and a Worship Leader in 2010. And beyond this I'd been Church Treasurer, Session Clerk, Presbytery Treasurer, as well as Presbytery Elder.

So, yes, I'd had it all going for me in Church life and yet as one Christian told me in my early recovery I was a fraud. Maybe so. Probably yes!

But what I do know is that everything my 'religious' (and I choose that word carefully) as opposed to my spiritual life of faith was going swimmingly well on the surface; yet my legs were paddling frantically, below the water level; and I was sinking fast.

And much to the chagrin and heartache of my wife, family and friends the only real solace or escape for me was in bottles of *Grouse*, *Gordons* or *Harvey's Bristol Cream* - but never *Smirnoff*, the taste of which I despised!

I was ill, badly ill and on Sunday 22 November 2015 I hit rock bottom. Hazel went off to Church and in a muddled haze I telephoned *Abbeycare*. This

was to become my life saver and within hours they had collected me and I had signed up to spend the next month in their care.

Initially I hated every minute of my incarceration in this boot camp, but I was receiving the treatment and counselling I needed, as I came to terms with the fact that booze and I were never going to be a match made in heaven!

During the second week Peter, a fellow Christian, came in with the same problem as I. We became mates and that helped a lot. Peter was coping with the loss of his son, a problem way, way higher than any of my problems could ever have been.

But problems we all had. I remember the picture on the treatment room wall – a picture of a boat – on which was written ‘we all arrived here in different boats but we’re in the same boat now.’ How true; how so very true.

Each Wednesday afternoon in *Abbeycare* we had free time and on Wednesday 3rd December 2015, my second Wednesday there, feeling tired I lay on top of my bed. Dosing, quietly but still discombobulated by where I was, I heard a voice in my head. Someone spoke. Was I dreaming? I just don’t know, but the words are as clear today as they ever were. And suddenly an amazing peace washed over me.

‘Ian, it’s gonna to be okay; you’re gonna be fine; trust me; and I’ll always be there for you’.

The next day I received an email from the Rev Bill Buchan who was then locum at *Mid Strathearn Church* asking me if I would be free to conduct the Christmas Eve service there that year. Two days later Rev Graham McWilliams, then minister in Comrie, emailed and asked if I could cover for him for 3 weeks the following February whilst he was on study leave.

No one will ever convince me otherwise that on Wednesday 3rd December 2015 it was God who spoke to me and I asked Him to re-enter my life. Of course He had never left me – I had left Him - but on that day I rejoice that was I Born Again.

And since then, in a new relationship, God has used me and helped me in so many ways and I'm eternally thankful to Him for that. Of course there have been times of difficulty and trauma - loss of parents, me suffering a stroke, Hazel with breast cancer - but even in those darkest moments I have felt the comforting hand of God reaching out and clinging on to us - and offering us His love.

Looking back, my Christian life it has been the proverbial life of two halves – two rather uneven halves! The first, one of religious observance for 53 years – a bit like Nicodemus, trying to do good and failing spiritually. And then for the last 7½ years in a born again life times of freedom, faith, and new life also just like Nicodemus.

And just for the record not a drop of booze has touched my lips since: I'm still an alcoholic, 7½ years in recovery.

And all I can really do is repeat the words of Thomas when he saw the risen Jesus 'My Lord and my God' – and say - thank you, Lord, for giving Nicodemus and me a second chance.

Ian A Roy

Trinity Gask and Kinkell Church

We can now sadly announce that our sister church of Trinity Gask and Kinkell has been given approval by Perth Presbytery to close following the Kirk Session decision to petition for closure. The last worship service will take place on Sunday 3rd of September. Trinity Gask and Kinkell Church was linked with Muthill Parish Church in 1984.

Whilst this will be a difficult time for those in the remaining congregation, we pray that they will be comforted in their loss and that the church will continue to be held fondly in many memories. We also hope that some of the congregation will consider transferring to Muthill Parish Church where they can be assured of a warm welcome.

Grandpa Wallace



Noah's ark has been part of my family as long as I can recall. It is thought my mother and her older sister were given it by an Aunt. It was made about 1920 in the War Relief Toy Factory in Stoke Newington, London - a charity established to employ and help rehabilitate men returning injured from WW1. Individual animals

were made from one long piece of wood. An elephant for example was drawn on the short end of wood and chiselled the length of the wood producing a very fat elephant. Each elephant was cut like slicing bread from a loaf.

Archibald Wardrop Wallace (AWW) is my hero – my maternal Grandpa. His mother died when he was 6 years old. As a trained coal pit joiner, he joined the Royal Navy at the outbreak of WW1 as a Ship's Carpenter. In December 1915 he was transferred to work on HMS Natal which was sheltering in the Cromarty Firth over the festive period. On the 30th December HMS Natal exploded causing the loss of 400 lives. AWW was rescued as one of the few survivors after spending 45min in the freezing water. The newspaper said it was because he was a good swimmer.

AWW was a God-fearing man like Noah whose life had been saved for a purpose. This particular ark was always fun to play with growing up and has travelled with me all my life for the pleasure of our children and grandchildren. The ark has been a visual aid used to retell how God saved a God-fearing man in a very sinful world to children in 3 different parishes. Since Alex and I joined Muthill Parish Church it has retold the story to both Sunday School and Scripture Union groups and is available in a larger scale to all who walk round our Kirk.

Liz Mitchell

The Great Glen Green Welly Garden Show

3rd—7th July 2023

10:00—12:30pm

Crieff Parish Church, St.Andrews Hall
Ferntower Road



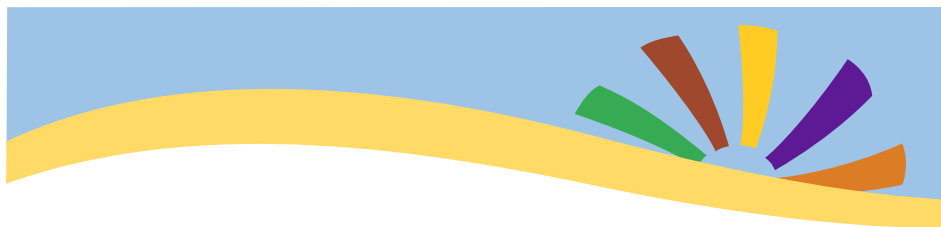
Games, fun and loads of challenges. Come and explore the Bible and discover who Jesus is and how we can best care for his world

BOOK NOW

BOOK ONLINE: <https://tinyurl.com/4cfu87th>

Or Email bruce.lockhart@suscotland.org.uk





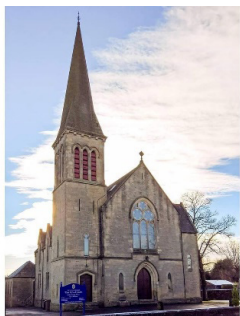
Muthill Gala

17th-25th June 2023

Saturday 17th:	* Cinema in Village Hall
Sunday 18th:	Cinema in Village Hall
Monday 19th.:	Bowling
Tuesday 20th:	Whisky Tasting Line Dancing
Wednesday 21st:	Pudding Night & Entertainment
Thursday 22nd:	Bingo Tea
Friday 23rd:	Car Treasure Hunt
Saturday 24th:	Family Beetle Drive
Sunday 25th:	Gala Day Fancy Dress Parade, Stall, Games

Further details will appear on the *Muthill Past and Present* website in Facebook

Insights into my journey with God



At the heart of the village of West Calder, was a large grey building with a tall spire and impressive stained glass windows. To this Church, my parents, who were committed Church members, (and I am sure, 'true believers') took me every Sunday throughout my childhood. Although I continued to attend throughout my teenage years, sadly, nothing I heard or experienced there seemed to connect with where I was at. Though I did have 'issues' and questions related to God, which I

hardly knew how to frame.

There were, however, 'two people in my orbit' at that time, one a teacher at West Calder Primary School who led the Scripture Union Group, the other an elderly gentleman who taught the Church Bible Class (not very effectively unfortunately). Both of these individuals, though very different from each other, 'had something.' I somehow felt they both 'knew God' as distinct from simply 'believing things about Him.' I also clearly knew that 'I wanted what they had'. The only problem was that I didn't know how to get it, whatever 'it' was.

So my journey begins. Without knowing anyone there, I went to my first Scripture Union Camp (at Comrie actually). Most of the teenagers there seemed to put up with 'the evening prayers' for the sake of the sports and the fun on offer. For me it was the other way round, at least as far as the sports were concerned! But there, I gradually understood that what I was looking for was a 'relationship' with God. Apparently, the way to finding that was through 'accepting that Jesus died so that my sins could be forgiven, and asking Him to come into my life to take charge' i.e. 'owning Him as Lord of my life. So I prayed in these terms, several times actually, but nothing seemed to happen. I felt no different, so I concluded, with great grief, that although this 'faith life' worked for some, it wasn't going to work for me! I didn't blame God. I blamed myself. But I went on - wistfully seeking ---and hoping.

Through continued contact with Scripture Union over the years, gradually I began to understand, that 'having invited Christ into my life,' I had to trust that He had come in fulfilment of His promise. (Rev. 3 v. 20: John 1 v. 12.) It wasn't apparently, a matter of 'feeling' but of faith. I was encouraged to believe that the feelings would follow.

I felt that the next step in becoming a real disciple of Jesus was learning how to serve Him. So at age eighteen; I volunteered to serve on a Church of Scotland Seaside Mission Team. It was in the context of sharing and witnessing with these astonishingly diverse, but incredibly committed people, that I discovered the reality of fellowship' - 'a strong bond with, and love for, people with whom I had nothing whatsoever in common, except that we all 'belonged to Christ.' It was also in the context of serving with this group that I at last, experienced a wave of assurance that 'I belonged with these people because I too was a Christian'.



Over the next years, my spiritual life was greatly enriched through serving as a Leader in Scripture Union Camps and as a Team Member in several Seaside Mission Teams.

Another important strand in my spiritual growth came during my student years at Edinburgh University. There I found the Christian Union; a non-denominational body of Christian young people affiliated with The Intervarsity Fellowship (now the Universities and Colleges Christian Union). Each week, over two hundred of us gathered to receive outstanding Bible Teaching and instruction in the fundamental doctrines of the faith from many eminent speakers. I loved these sessions, and the occasional conferences organised by IVF, and it was during these years that my love of The Bible, and habit of daily bible reading became an integral part of my Christian life.

To all of these Para-Church groups, I owe an incredible debt of gratitude, and I have no doubt that these years were also hugely influential in what became, after five years of teaching English, 'my call to the Ministry.' But that is another story!

Ann Ballentine

Going Forward- One Viewpoint



The on-going discussions on a possible new village Community Hub have made me ponder on the way forward for our church in Muthill.

I was impressed with the ideas and thinking behind the proposition prepared on behalf of our church by the Vision Committee and indeed I think there is much merit in continuing with such plans whether we are part of a new village hub or not. This, of course, will depend on the Presbytery view of things and, without a minister at present, whilst we have been given assurance on Muthill continuing as a place of worship,

development of the church building in the present financial climate will need convincing argument.

Increasingly, the Church of Scotland is faced with making difficult decisions on the future of its churches not only for obvious financial reasons of upkeep but more importantly such decisions are also rightly involving assessment of the nature, strength and composition of the congregation. Is a congregation actively investing time and talents in its future? Is it worth deploying one of our scarce ministers in situations where there is not sufficient evidence of active mission? We live in undoubtedly challenging times and it is not surprising that churches are now going to be assessed more rigorously by the Church of Scotland!

This leads me to think that one strong argument for strengthening our overall position in Muthill is that we must do everything to be seen as a small vibrant congregation with a solid and, if possible, growing number of younger families and children. This sadly is not currently the case even though the advent of family services and the Scripture Union meetings undoubtedly play an important role in holding the present status quo.

In a village that has some 80 children attending the primary school and no doubt also possessing a good number of teens at High School, Muthill is certainly not devoid of youth. Recent participation in the Coronation Picnic demonstrated this. The Scouts and Brownies are full and there is active interest amongst youth in the Golf Club and the Bowling Club. Churches

with engaging youth programmes usually bring in family support!

So, the question remains are we doing enough with our current resources to plan for our future? When you ask such a question the development of our building remains sensible, but should we not also be using more of our resources to fund innovative Christian youth work and inter-generational worship in Muthill. Especially when we are likely to be without an incumbent minister for some time, a paid youth worker could be one valuable investment. I believe we have the talent and ability if we choose to innovate and take such a bold step to invest in our future.

What we are doing with seniors through the soup and sandwich lunches and Guild are solid achievements in that sphere, but it has to go further. It would be sad reflection if in a few years we have a fine renovated building but no congregation.

Sandy Hutchison

Editor's Note

The next edition of the magazine will be our late Summer 2023 edition. The magazine will be published on Sunday 20th August, and so the deadline for submitting articles, intimations, letters etc. will be Friday 11th August. 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.

Publishing policy

It is our 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 Sessions. 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.

Prayer for Summer

*Creator God
who breathed this
world into being,
who is discernible
within
the harmony of
nature,
the perfection of a
butterfly's wing,
the grandeur of a
mountain range,
the soaring eagle
and humming
bird,
thank you for this
world
which you have
created.
Thank you for
summer sun,
which reminds us
that your creative breath
is still alive and active.
Thank you for the warmth of your love,
sustaining this world,
your garden*



Bible Parable



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



WHEN PEOPLE GO FISHING
THEY THROW THEIR NETS
INTO THE LAKE...



...WHEN THE NETS ARE FULL,
THEY PULL THEM TO SHORE

ONCE ON SHORE THE FISH
HAVE TO BE SORTED OUT.

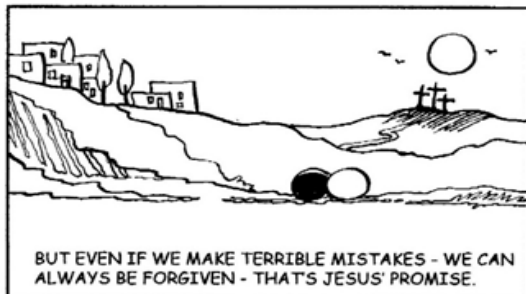


THE GOOD FISH GO INTO BUCKETS



THE BAD FISH GET THROWN AWAY!

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT WE TOO WILL
BE SORTED LIKE THE FISH. WE CAN
CHOOSE TO DO GOOD OR BAD THINGS
WITH OUR LIVES.



Can Science Prove God exists?

Continuing the series of articles on the positive relationship between Science and the Christian Faith

To risk sounding like a smart aleck seven-year-old, technically speaking you can only prove things mathematically. If you need to know that one plus one equals two, don't go to a chemistry lab. The natural sciences only deal with things

that can be observed and measured. Science has been so successful that it's tempting to get carried away, valuing science above any other kind of knowledge, but there are other ways of knowing that are equally important. For example, art conveys ideas, experiences or emotions that provoke us to think or do something in response.



In fact, to find answers to any of the really important questions about meaning and purpose that affect us throughout our lives, we always have to go beyond science. Some

scientific data might help define the question, for example a farmer facing a drought would probably like to know some details about the current weather patterns and the availability of seeds for more hardy crops before she can start asking “What is the point of trying to grow anything at all?” But in the end, she is asking a deeper question – and so are the rest of us when we go through any significant experience in life.

So rather than asking “Can science prove God exists?”, what about: “Are the findings of science compatible with the existence of a purposeful Creator?” For many scientists today, the answer to the second question is yes. They have investigated the Bible’s descriptions of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and found that they make sense. They have discovered that they can interact with God – especially in prayer – and that this faith has changed their lives.

Professor Christine Done, an Astrophysicist at Durham University, writes, “for me the more we know about the vast, yet intricate and beautiful Universe we live in, the bigger and more awe-inspiring is the God who made it all.” (*Thinking About: The Big Bang*, <https://www.cis.org.uk/resources/thinking/>)

Some go even further, making statements like this: “the way the universe exhibits an ordered structure, which is open to science to investigate, points to a mind behind it.” (Rev'd Dr Rodney Holder, Astrophysicist, in *Longing, Waiting, Believing* (BRF, 2014))

The question “Can Science Prove God Exists?” turns out to be a category error – trying to use science to answer a non-scientific question. On the other hand, many scientists think there is enough evidence from a wide range of sources to warrant belief in God.

Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz

Church Engagement Director, Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge

Golf Event

**ANNUAL INTER-CHURCH GOLF EVENT WITH PARTICIPATION
FROM**

ARDOCH, BLACKFORD, DUNBLANE AND MUTHILL

AT MUTHILL GOLF COURSE

SUNDAY 9TH JULY 2023 WITH TEE OFF AT 2PM

COST : £25

£15 FOR MEAL AFTERWARDS IN CLUBHOUSE
&
£10(IF GUEST) FOR PLAY OF COURSE

**BOOKING THROUGH
ALEX MITCHELL**



'The Madonna of the Meadow' by Giovanni Bellini

Michael Burgess continues his examination of great works of Christian Art. "The Madonna of the Meadow" hangs in the National Gallery, London. We continue this series thanks to Parish Pump.

Each year as we look at Creation we see the cycle of the seasons. The earth comes alive in spring, blossoms and bears fruit in summer, gives up



its goodness and glory in autumn, and seems to die in the sleep of cold winter. Each of those seasons has its moods and feelings, which we find mirrored in the turn of human life.

The joy of spring and summer go hand in hand with the sadness and resignation of autumn and winter in all that life brings us. When we look at our Lady in the Gospels, and this month of May is Mary's

month, we see that mixture of joy and sadness.

In the Annunciation and at Christmas we share in the wonder and happiness of motherhood and new birth. A Son is born, but that birth brings anxiety and strain. Those strange words of Simeon in the Temple, losing the child in Jerusalem, watching her son grow, only to be rejected and crucified – these experiences brought Mary heartache and sorrow. But her maternal love sustains her through it all, and Mary is with the disciples at the glorious moment of Pentecost.

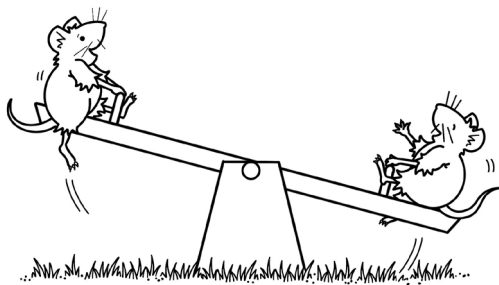
This range of moods in creation and in the life of Mary is caught up in the painting, 'The Madonna of the Meadow' by Giovanni Bellini. He came from a family of Renaissance painters, and this work was created around 1500. It now hangs in the National Gallery in London. The background is full of the details of the world of nature and everyday life. We see some cows grazing and others resting. A farmer tends the livestock on one side of the painting, while a herdsman relaxes on the other. Mary in the centre is part of that

creation with the blue of her robe like the sky above, while the russet shades beneath that blue mirror the earth on which she rests.

As we look more closely, we can see some disturbing signs of ‘nature red in tooth and claw.’ There is a bird to our left – perhaps a crane or egret – that is fighting with a snake. Above, on the top of a tall, thin, leafless tree there is another bird as black as death. We look at the babe sleeping in His mother’s arms and sense His vulnerability for all her protective love. Some 30 years later Mary will cradle her Son in that same pose as His body is taken down from the cross: that heart-rending moment we know as the Pietà.

The Venetian landscape is like a peaceful May afternoon where spring is dissolving into high summer amid those contented signs of a clear sky and cows grazing. The serpent and the raven tell us that struggle and death can easily invade that scene. But they somehow pale into insignificance as we ponder that luminous affirmation of new life in the mother and child that dominate the canvas. They proclaim life; they proclaim life after death. The babe sleeping in Mary’s arms will wake and grow through the seasons of life. Too soon we know His body will hang on a barren tree like the one where that bird of death perches. But that cycle of birth and spring leading to death and winter will be transformed as His risen body will walk into another landscape – the garden of Easter where the leaves never wither and the sky never darkens, for in that resurrection joy, all is life and light and life eternal.

Michael Burgess



Kirk and Community News

Picnic in the Park

The Village Coronation Picnic in the Park held on Sunday 7th May to celebrate King Charles' coronation was a great success being blessed with fine weather and a good attendance from village residents. The church's contribution was organising the tea, coffee and cake stall and as can be seen



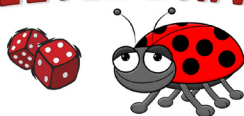
from the photo below fun was had by all participating. We not only thank the serving team from Muthill House Group 2 but also the great number of ladies in the church who generously provided tray bakes.

Interim Moderator

We have sadly lost our Interim Moderator, Mairi Perkins, who kindly also wrote regular messages for The Bridge. Mairi resigned from this post on 28th May to concentrate on her own congregations of Ardoch and Blackford, one of which is proposed for closure under the new Presbytery Plan. We thank her for all her support and for chairing the Kirk Session meetings since Klaus retired. The new Interim Moderator will be Rev. Iain Paton whom we know well.

Beetle Drive

BEETLE DRIVE



Congratulations to Alison Hockly, our Christian Aid Convener, for organising the Beetle Drive on Saturday 20th May. The event raised some £270 towards our annual collection for Christian Aid and was attended by a goodly number of participants of all ages. There was much fun, some serious competitive spirit and great cakes!

Muthill in Bloom

It is once again a busy time for Susan Crawford and the *Muthill in Bloom* volunteers as they prepare tubs around the village for the summer display. We are very privileged to have such a dedicated team interested in beautifying our village and as always they produce such fine results. If you can help contribute in even the smallest way such as regular watering, we know that Susan would be most grateful to hear from you. It is also worth visiting the Blooming Shed in the Millenium Garden next to the church entrance where you will find a changing supply of reading books and games available to village residents. There are even sometimes surprises such as cakes and other goodies. To keep up to date it is best to follow *Muthill in Bloom* on their Facebook page where you will find regularly posted photos.



This fine display opposite is at the entrance to the village from Crieff across the road from Coronation Park and outside the Bowling Club. But don't miss other eye-catching displays in the centre of the village and along the boundaries of Highlandman Park.

Well done Susan and the Team! Also good to hear that their coffee morning raised an excellent amount to support the work done around the village.

General Assembly

The agenda for this year's General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was unsurprisingly sombre with the Church's reducing membership and finances, an ageing availability of ordained Ministers of the Sacrament and church closures. The church has inevitably had to cut its cloth according to available resources which is not easy for a church with national responsibilities. However, major changes are underway including the combination of Presbyteries, leasing of part of the Church's headquarters in George Street, Edinburgh, a reduction in central staffing and an amalgamation of forums under the General Assembly. The theme for this year's General Assembly was "Remember who we are" and some of the key features are reported below:



- The head of Christian Aid, Rev. Sally Foster-Fulton takes over as Moderator for the ensuing year 2023-2024 taking a year's sabbatical from Christian Aid to become the Kirk's ambassador at home and abroad, succeeding Right Rev. Iain Greenshields.
- The General Trustees reported that current church membership decreased by 4.6% in 2021 to 283,000 with the same amount expected in 2022. Around 60,000 worship in person on a Sunday and the Church still has over 1000 churches.
- The General Trustees have also reported that if congregational incomes continue to decline as projected, the Church's General Funds will be exhausted by 2026-27. A new *Giving to Grow* scheme for congregational contributions has started replacing the Mission and Ministries payments and a new *Seeds for Growth Fund* will be launched in June 2023 supporting the development of new worshipping communities and fresh expressions.
- The Faith Impact and Faith Nurture Forums will be merged to become the Faith Action Programme. This year's Faith Impact Forum report focused substantially on the Church's connection with slavery, acknowledging such connections in the past and seeking to achieve an acceptance of that state and a formal apology at a future Assembly whilst the Faith Nurture Report dealt with the new Presbyteries and implementation of their new plans
- The 2024 Assembly will be asked to approve subordinate standards for the Church alongside the Westminster Confession, which will include the Apostle's and Nicene creeds, the Scots Confession and the 1992 Statement of Faith if approved first by Presbyteries.

The reports of all committees and videos of each presentation on the floor of the Assembly and the subsequent debates are all available on the Church of Scotland website (www.churchofscotland.org.uk).



St James Episcopal Church

A lovely aerial pic of our sister church of St James with Muthill Parish Church in the background. It has been great getting to know some of the members of St James through our Wednesday Soup and Sandwich lunches including the new Rector, Duncan Strathie. St James will be organising a very special concert event on *Saturday 24th June* with three singers from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London. The event will start with drinks in the Millenium Gardens opposite and everyone is invited.



Bowling Club Open Day

It was good to see a great attendance at the Bowling Club open day on 20th May and it is to be hoped that it leads to an increase in membership. We are very fortunate to have both a fine golf course and bowling club in the village and it is important that such assets are well supported as they can be easily lost.

Betty Graham Presentation

Members of the Guild met recently to present Elizabeth (Betty) Graham with a certificate and badge to mark her long and dedicated service to Muthill Guild. Betty told us that at the age of 14, she moved to Muthill from Callendar when her father became a shepherd on Ancaster Estate. She and her mother cycled the three miles to Muthill Church from the farm. At the age of 18, Betty joined the Guild and she has been a faithful member ever since, serving many times on the committee as secretary and treasurer. She is a great baker and was always willing to bake for Guild events, sales of work and other church activities. In recent times she has always produced a Banoffee pie much to everyone's enjoyment and delight!

Betty, for your outstanding service to the Guild for 75 years, we thank you!



MIDSUMMER EVENING CONCERT

St James Church Muthill

When

**SATURDAY 24TH JUNE
6-8.30PM**

THE GUILDHALL SINGERS LONDON



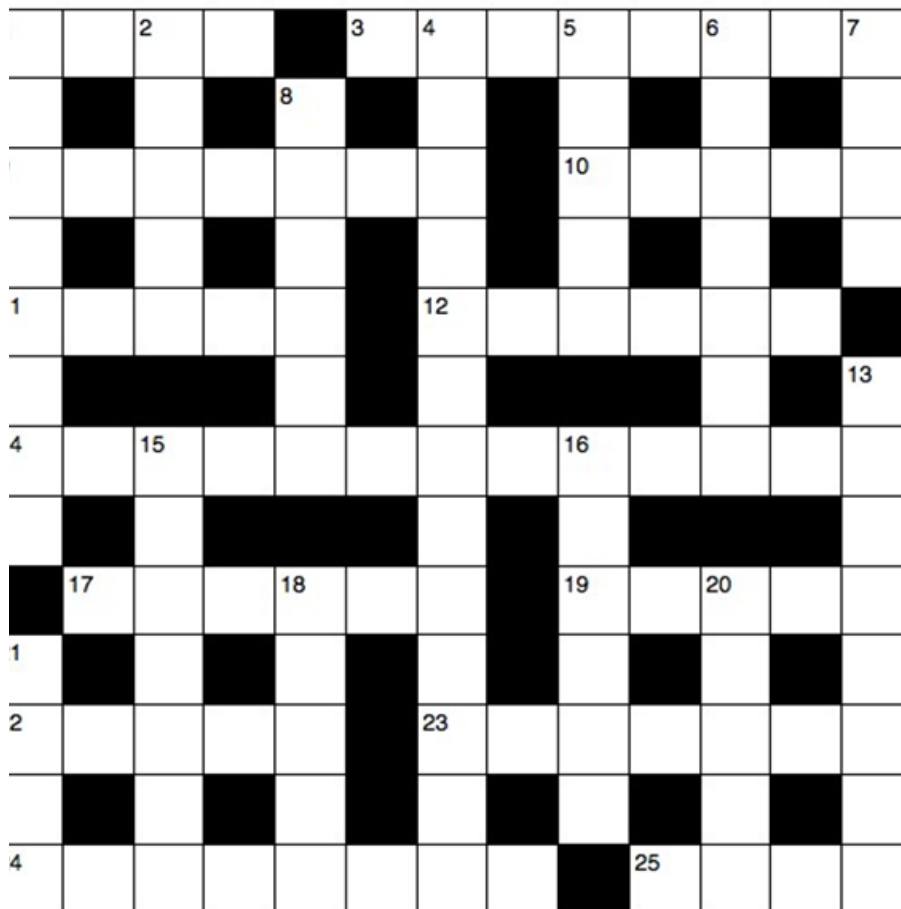
You are cordially invited to attend

Admission Free

Contact: Anne Carver on

rosamunde@usa.net

Crossword



Across

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13)
(4)
3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
10 Group of eight (5)
11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)

-
- 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)
17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
19 Attend to (3,2)
22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
24 Rule of sovereign (8)
25 Test (anag.) (4)

Down

- 11 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
8 Minister of religion (6)
13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
20 Establish by law (5)
21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)



New Book Reviews



Flipped - Life in the upside down Kingdom

By Malcolm Duncan, SPCK, £7.99

Flipped is the official theme book for Spring Harvest 2023.

Christians are called to model a way of life that challenges the status quo and infuses the world with hope and possibility. We are to be people who see possibility where others see failure, beauty where others see ugliness and freedom where others see chains. This is the Upside Down Kingdom, where the forgotten are noticed, the silenced are given back their voice and love is stronger than hate. By exploring the teaching of Jesus, as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, Malcolm Duncan in *Flipped* traces the key components of this new community, this life-giving way of living. He explores the five key discourses in Matthew and invites us to a radical new way of living and being centred around the reign and the rule of King Jesus. The message is one that our churches need to hear - that God's Kingdom is



unshakeable, local churches are its vanguard and Christians are its citizens.

The Best of Friends - Choose Wisely, Care Well

By Phil Knox, IVP, £10.99

Friendship is one of the best things ever created. It is unparalleled as a building block of society, a universal theme in great literature and film, and has a huge impact on our mental health, wellbeing, and happiness. But many of us are lonely or feel suffocated by the pressures of life and quantity of relationships we have to maintain. Now, more than ever, we need better, deeper friendships. We need the best of friends. Full of practical advice, humour and wisdom, Phil Knox shows us how to choose our friends wisely and maintain lasting and meaningful relationships.

Sarah Eberle's Psalm 23 Garden: Design tips for a calm green space

By Various authors, Bible Society, £6.50

In September 2021, Bible Society entered a garden based on Psalm 23 into the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The garden was designed by Sarah Eberle, who has previously won 17 gold medals at Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows.

If that wasn't enough, the Psalm 23 Garden won another gold medal as well as awards for Best Sanctuary Garden and Best Construction Award!

Therefore, the garden contains vibrant greenery and a peaceful water feature. This book contains full-colour photographs of features of the garden, and tips and advice on creating your own beautiful garden.

The You God Planned - Don't Let Anything or Anyone Hold You Back

By Steve Goss, SPCK, £7.99 (Second Edition)

Once we have become Christians, how do we become the people God is calling us to be? How do we know what God is calling us to be anyway? Are the goals we have for our lives in line with His goals? How on earth do we stop other people getting in the way of our growth to fruitfulness? And how do we avoid getting in their way? *The You God Planned* answers these questions and shows how we can play our part in the Church, the Bride of Christ, as she prepares herself for His return.

God is Everywhere

By Patricia J Murphy, Lion Books, £7.99

This heart-warming picture book introduces young children to the reassuring messages found in Bible verses. Each of three Bible verses are woven into a lyrical narrative, with key repetitive phrases, and then applied to young children's daily lives. The Bible verses are based on: You are a Child of God Memory verse: "See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!" (1 John 3 verse 1) Never Fear, God is Near! Memory verse: Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1 verse 9) Love God, Love All. Memory verse: Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind... Love your neighbour as yourself." (Matthew 22 verses 37, 39)

Beautiful story-telling illustrations showing activities of young children's everyday lives at home, at school, and out and about.

This Crown of Comfort: God's seven calls to women in distress

By Eva Leaf, BRF, £9.99

God loves women. He deeply cares for those of us who are broken and hurt. And just as He helped His beloved Jerusalem find healing in her brokenness, He does the same for us. For He cried out seven double imperatives to her in the book of Isaiah, seven steps to restore her to wholeness, and He cries out the same to us. But He doesn't begin by scolding us; instead, He comforts. His first double imperative is, 'Comfort, comfort,' despite what has happened in our lives.

Eva Leaf shares stories from her own life and from the lives of other women of how God met them in their brokenness.



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
Church Of Scotland:	
Perth Presbytery	01738451177
121 George Street	01312255722
Police:	
Emergency	999
Non-Emergency	101
Action Fraud Scotland	101
Schools:	
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

Crossword Solution:

ACROSS: 1, Stop. 3, Call upon. 9, Regular. 10, Octet. 11, Inner. 12, Hudson. 14, Holy Communion. 17, Myself. 19, See to. 22, About. 23, Iterate. 24, Monarchy. 25, Stet.

DOWN: 1, Straight. 2, Organ. 4, Abraham's faith. 5, Lloyd. 6, Puteoli. 7, Note. 8, Cleric. 13, Innocent. 15, Lay down. 16, Ussher. 18, Enter. 20, Enact. 21, Balm.



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

Church Website: www.muthillparishchurch.co.uk

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

Email: muthillparish@outlook.com

Magazine Graphics & Cover Photo

Our cover picture theme this month is the Bluebell Walk at Strowan Woodland Cemetery. Thanks to Raffie for providing the graphics for the magazine and helping in the production.”.

Registered Scottish Charities

Muthill Parish Church - SC004984

Trinity Gask & Kinkell - SC000004