

THE BRIDGE



**The Hope of Easter
2022 Church Accounts
Lent for Me
Focus on Church Family**

Easter 2023



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From The Editor

Easter is a time of renewal. For the UK with its four seasons, Spring means so much particularly after all the hardships that Winter can bring. This year has been difficult for so many at home with the cost of living crisis and, as we have seen through David Attenborough's latest epic series, *Wild*



Isles, even nature is at crisis point. The challenges ahead for our country are great on many fronts. Against this background, it is perhaps sad that as individuals we seem to have become accustomed to comfortable living and are increasingly not prepared to put up with harder times even for the sake of the future of our country. The freedoms that we have fought for in the past have a more negative side with a rise in self-interest and emphasis on personal rights to the detriment of community. The expectation for many remains "everything now and

not later" and the economy, our lifestyles and clamour on social media all illustrate this trend. Despite experiencing the national trauma of Covid-19 lockdown in recent times and before that war in the case of the elderly generation, there is still a feeling amongst a significant part of our society that "I" and my lifestyle come before the common good and community cohesiveness is less important!

Against these trends I think our church has been a beacon of hope with its warm space project over the past winter and it will be good to see how this can be developed. The response of the village to the *Community Hub* project has also been encouraging so far and not forgetting the new *Blooming Shed* initiative with its selection of books, games and DVDs. There are for sure also many on-going unseen neighbourly acts which contribute to the village good. Such efforts all give encouragement to a sense of renewal and hope. As a church family approaching Easter with all the Hope that the Resurrection brings, it rightly should also bring with it an excitement of new birth and help us to re-consider what more we can do with our resources in serving the common good of our village and in spreading the Good News that Jesus is Alive.

Happy Easter!

Message From Our Interim Moderator

Dear Friends,

We have journeyed along that long and winding path to the foot of the cross. Lent is never an easy or pleasant journey to travel because it is a time that calls us to stop, take stock, and reflect on where Christ is in our own lives.



Easter is the season that gives meaning and hope to all seasons in our lives, because no matter how many other seasons we go through, without Easter there would simply be no hope, no gospel message, no church and no faith.

We could still learn about how Jesus was born, His wonderful ministry and His horrific death but if there was never to be an empty tomb and a risen Christ it would be pointless, simply a story of tragedy and not triumph.

How sad it would have been for mankind if it was always Lent and never Easter.

May God Bless you as you pause once again at the foot of the cross and experience that joyous moment of Easter Sunday morning.

Rev Mairi



A Reflection

A Reflection on The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:1-18)

Our Father in heaven, please help us.
We, your children, learn slowly.

So often we say nothing when your name is mis-used.
Often our lives do not reflect your ways,
Mostly we do what we want on earth,
And this can make heaven unimaginable.

We expect so much more than we actually need each day.
Sometimes we think we don't need forgiveness,
Sometimes we think we are unforgivable,
And we forget that other people make these same errors of
thinking.

When it comes to temptation, we find our own ways,
We are confused about what is and is not evil,
We are confused about deliverance,
We are confused...

And here is the wonder, the grace and the mystery,
That you know us completely,
Our failings, our secrets,
And still love us forever and ever,

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Expressing Our Gratitude

It's now over a year since Klaus retired.

We are so very grateful to **Rev Alex Mitchell** for taking so many of our services. His thoughtful services are very much appreciated. It makes such a difference to have this continuity. He has also organised others to take a few of the services. Thank you Alex as you continue to lead us in worship.

I'd like also to thank you all for the part you play in the life and work of our church. We are fortunate to have so many folk willing to share of their gifts and time. Thank you.

Charlie Bruce has reluctantly stepped down as an elder due health reason. Hewas ordained as an elder in April 1985 and so has given over thirty seven years of service! He has taken his responsibilities seriously, caring for those in his district, attending Kirk session meetings whenever possible, always doing his door duty, always a dependable elder. Charlie has also taken part in Presbytery, being our presbytery elder for a number of years and serving on Presbytery Committee.

Thank you Charlie for all you have done to support the life and the work of Muthill Church.

We wish you and Margaret well and thank you for your valuable contribution over many years.

Helen-May Bayne



A Changing of the Guard

In my time in our Church we have had a no. of people who have oversight of our finances; H.P.Lindsay, D.P.McLaren, D.M.Gardner, I.McLaren. To this list we have to add Alex.J.Birnie – Sandy to all of us!

Sandy Birnie took on the post late last century and is the first, fully qualified Chartered Accountant to do so. He has brought his expertise to our use over the last 20+years and has had oversight of all things financial in that time, aided by a no. of treasurers to help with the day-to-day running of our organisation. Elsewhere in the Bridge you will see the accounts that he has prepared for 2022. Sadly these are the last accounts that he has completed as he wishes to demit office. All of us on the Session, and others, have greatly appreciated the help that he has given.

Perhaps he will now have more time for his accomplished song-writing and his stamp-collecting. Also, some of you may know that he and Sheila celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 9th March – Congratulations!!

Thank you, Sandy.

Willie Bell

Soup Lunch

The soup lunch has been so popular every Wednesday, over the winter that we are going to continue running it every week at least till June. We will be open for coffee from 11am with lunch being served at 12.30. You are very welcome to come at 11, have coffee and stay for lunch, come for coffee go away and come back for lunch or just come when it suits for a chat before lunch. Volunteers are always needed to make the soup and or serve. If you would like to help on a given day, there is a sign up sheet in the Bruce hall or if you aren't in church but would like to help, then please phone me on 01764682415.

Helen-May Bayne

Focus on Church Family

Adrian Davidson – A bit about me



Hi, Myself, Becky, Thomas and Joseph have been coming along to services and other events at Muthill Church for about one year and we certainly feel we're now part of the 'Church Family' there.

Life certainly has its ups-and-downs and I first met Rev. Alex Mitchell about 15 years ago when, one evening when I was in a real 'down'. I came into St. Blanes Church, Dunblane, and listened to him preach on Job.

As the weeks went by, I knew that it was The Holy Spirit who'd brought me there as Job's story was meant for me - in order to encourage me. And, a few years on, I could see that The Lord had blessed me in a similar way to how he blessed Job.



On Sunday 19th February, as 5 of us were open to what God might have to say to us in our wee Sunday School – we specifically prayed that The Holy Spirit might guide our fingers. As 4 of us picked a 'devotional dipper' out of a tube, seemingly at random, we were excited at how He was with us and had answered our prayer, helping us understand the Trinity.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1st stick | God is Yahweh – I AM Exodus 3:14-15 |
| | Almighty, no one compares to him |
| 2 nd stick | God is unchanging James 1:17 |
| | We can rely on Him |

3rd stick

Jesus is servant

Philippians 2:5-11

Jesus was prepared to leave his Father and serve us

4th stick

The Spirit of truth

John 16:13-15

He reveals the truth about God. He takes what Jesus tells him and tells it to us



I was reminded how we are especially blessed and encouraged when we do things for The Lord, however small. Please join in praying that, in addition to all that our Church Family does to support those in our Church Family as well as others, we can help the young people around us learn more about faith in a Living God.

Adrian

Book Club?

From discussions at the weekly soup lunches there seems to be an interest in the idea of starting a new Book Club in the Church which will also be open to residents in the village.

Like most book clubs it would probably meet monthly. Members would choose books in turn and the chosen books would be reviewed by the members at their monthly meeting. One possibility is that the Club could meet before the weekly lunches on a Wednesday say at 11-12.30pm

If you are interested, let the Editor know. If we can find a viable number, it will be launched later in the Spring.

Lent for Me

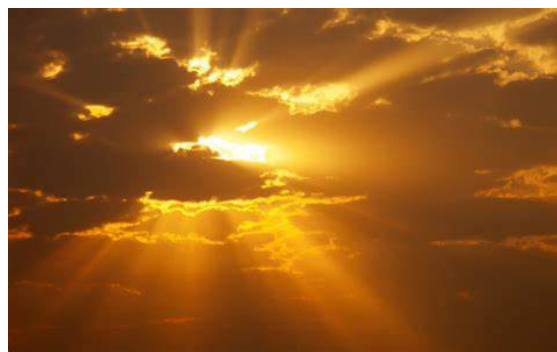
For a number of years during Lent I have undertaken study in different ways including as a member of a house group, by participating in a wider church study when overseas and also by personal study where nothing else was available. One year when I was living in London I even experienced a period of fasting when Lent more or less coincided with the period of Ramadan and I joined a Muslim work colleague in fasting. I must admit I found this heavy but it was an experience which certainly made me think about lifestyle and motivation.

This Lent, I have used two daily guides which have helped me focus on understanding how we can all have our wilderness experiences, how we can be tested in different ways, how Jesus can help us and how to understand the meaning of true discipleship. I very much wanted to do this, as without it, I feel it is easy to arrive at the celebration of Easter without proper preparation.

It is early days to be objective on what I have achieved but I already feel it has

been worthwhile. Certainly I am much clearer that God does present wilderness experiences by calling me out of my comfort zone and routines to experience the pain of conflict, loss of hope and despair, sometimes in a very personal way and sometimes experiencing it through others close to me. And for sure I can find in such situations solace and

guidance from God's constancy. I am also more aware there are many types of tests we experience in life and that they are there every day. Some I will fail at and will regret but I have the sure understanding of God's forgiveness when I truly repent and learn from Jesus' example of resistance. I am perhaps beginning to appreciate more that it is how we respond in our hearts and actions that count in God's eyes.



Just as clouds have their silver linings, indeed sometimes magnificent golden linings, my overall feeling as I approach the end of this particular period of contemplation is one of excitement and glorification of God in what he has done for us through Jesus, his life, death and resurrection. I, therefore, am both humbled and eager to rejoice at the arrival of Easter and want to work further on achieving a closer relationship with God.

Sandy Hutchison

Do you enjoy singing?

Our Church Singing Group continues to expand, thanks to the much-loved, warm leadership provided by Elizabeth Boyd. There are now more than 12 of us in the group, of all ages.

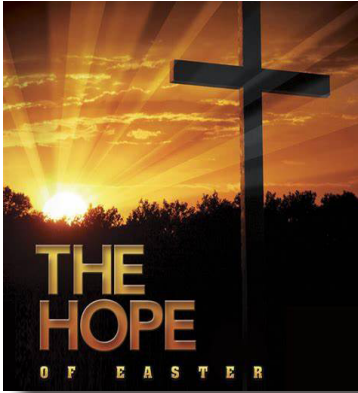


Meeting every Thursday evening from 7-8.30pm, the practices provide not only the opportunity to learn singing but it's also a great place to learn the latest jokes! It is indeed an indication of the fun and enjoyment derived from the practices that attendance is virtually 100%.

With the chance each week to learn modern worship songs and part-singing, new comers are very welcome whether they can read music or not.

So don't be shy. Come along and join this happy band of singers.

The Hope of Easter



Winston Churchill was due to speak at a graduation ceremony at a university, but his car broke down and he was late for the ceremony. When he arrived, the organisers said that he could still speak but it would have to be very brief. He stood at the podium and scanned the crowd of new graduates and their families and began to speak in his gravelly voice. He said, "never give up," he paused, and looked at the crowd and said, "never, never, give up", then another pause, a final stare and the end of his address, "never, never, never

give up." He then sat down, there was a few minutes of stunned silence, and then the audience stood and applauded him with rapturous claps and cheers.

It goes without saying that we are living through difficult times. Political unrest at home and war abroad, families struggling with cost of living soaring, the overstretched health service and strikes are causing many to have health anxiety. Old certainties have made way for modern innovations, banks, post offices, and churches are closing in record numbers. Technology is racing ahead leaving many in its wake. Where do we find hope and certainty in a fast-changing world?

For many the certainty that religious belief once brought has become a distant memory. Yet the message of Easter stands out as a beacon of light. Not fluffy bunnies or chocolate eggs, not even the rebirth that Spring brings but the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The Christian faith would have stopped dead in its tracks if the resurrection of Jesus had not been a reality to the disciples. No one wants to follow a dead leader! The disciples were devastated by the public trial and execution of Jesus. They fled for fear of their lives. Then on the first Easter Sunday he returned to be with them. He showed Thomas the wounds on his hands and side.

If the resurrection of Jesus from the dead were a mere myth, how do you explain the 2.2 billion believing Christians in our world today? Easter hope is not simply 'pie in the sky when you die,' it is also about a world which the Lord God loves and has not abandoned. It is about a living God ready and willing to draw near to us and to carry us through even our worst of days.

Easter hope enables us to go on living and working for the coming of the Kingdom of God. It assures us the Lord God has not condemned us to live in an abandoned and chaotic world. It enables us to never, never, never give up hope for this life or the next.

Alex Mitchell

Crieff Foodbank

A huge thank you to everyone in Muthill Parish Church for your generous and regular donations to the Crieff Foodbank through the big box in the vestibule.

Crieff often doesn't follow trends seen elsewhere, but over the last 3 months we have, like foodbanks throughout the country, as has been reported widely in the media, seen considerable increase in the numbers using this service.

It may be someone whose Benefits have been changed and they have to wait some weeks with virtually no income, or someone from abroad whose National Insurance number hasn't come through so they can't start work, or someone working in the care system who has found increased energy prices have meant their wage just isn't stretching to cover household bills.

Whatever peoples' reasons for coming to the foodbank, they are all very grateful for the food parcels.

On their behalf, may I say thank you and do keep on giving!

Vivian Donaldson

Unenviable But Not Unviable

With the retirement of our minister, Rev Klaus Buwert, at the end of March 2022, we found ourselves in an unenviable situation, but by God's grace, not an unviable one.

If you look at the extract from the Financial Statement for the past year on the opposite page, you will see that, in spite of this major setback, our financial viability has actually improved.

Total Ordinary Income, the contributions from the congregation, which keeps the Kirk door open, has only fallen from £41099 in 2021 to £40616 in 2022, a mere 1% or £483. Obviously, as you will see opposite, our ministerial costs have fallen dramatically, being a vacant charge, but heating and other costs continue to increase, as you are no doubt aware. In spite of a saving in manse Council Tax of nearly £2000, Total Ordinary General Expenditure amounted to £34994 compared with the 2021 figure of £38924. The result of all this is that we have a surplus this year of £5622 compared with the 2021 surplus of £2175.

In addition to this, we continued to put our house in order by installing a new drainage system costing £14694, added new equipment (organ, audio-visual, church-tower ladder) £13619, increased winter fuel distributions etc. from £5636 to £8094. Meanwhile donations to the Restoration and Refurbishment Fund amounted to £20000 in the year and the balance on that fund at 31st December 2022 was £96260.

On 17th March 2023, representatives from our church had their second consultation with the Glasgow architects who are looking at the feasibility of a new Community Hub for Muthill. The architects explained that their initial thoughts came down to two sites. A completely new facility on Coronation Park or re-ordering the Parish Church with an extension to enable extra activities that cannot be accommodated within its existing confines. These meetings were well attended and many opinions expressed and we expect a final opinion from Glasgow by the end of April.

Whilst we do not know what lies ahead we can face the future from a position of strength.

Sandy Birnie



Muthill Parish Church

Extract From Financial Statements For Year Ended 31st December 2022

	2021	2022
INCOME	£	£
Weekly Freewill Offerings	130	185
Gift-Aid Donations	23030	21444
Tax recovered on Gift-Aid	6742	6983
Open Plate Offerings	4871	6179
Other Donations	4031	2418
Other Income	2295	3407
TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME	41099	40616
EXPENDITURE		
Ministry and Mission Cost	25313	17956
Congregational Costs	13611	17038
TOTAL ORDINARY GENERAL	38924	34994
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	2175	5622

Celebrating the Wonder of the Creation

‘He gave us eyes to see them’: Sandro Botticelli’s ‘Primavera’



At this time of year, April, the world around us is moving from the cold and harshness of winter to new birth as the earth comes to life again in the season of spring. It is the theme of ‘Primavera’ by the 15th century Florentine artist, Sandro Botticelli. His work in the Sistine Chapel in Rome brought him to the attention of the Medici court, which commissioned this painting in 1482. The Medici dominated the political life of Florence, but Cosimo and his descendants were also great patrons of the arts. Humanism, which debated the place of reason in a world of faith, was the mood of the day in court life, and the work of artists at that time expressed the human form in all its beauty.

Scholars have never agreed on the exact meaning of ‘Primavera,’ but it is certainly a celebration of beauty and fertility. We can identify a host of classical figures: Mercury on the left of the canvas separating the clouds so that Spring may come; Zephyr, the west wind, on the right, who is pursuing

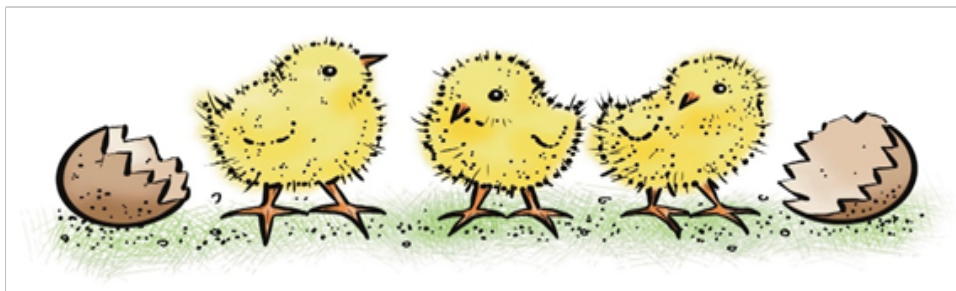
Chloris; Flora, the goddess of abundance robed in a colourful dress and adorned with flowers. In the centre we see Venus, the goddess of beauty, with a blindfolded Cupid above, preparing to shoot an arrow at the three Graces, whose arms are joined in a stately dance. The setting is a wooded garden where the trees are filled with oranges, myrtle surrounds Venus, and wondrous flowers spring up from the earth.

At first glance the sensuousness and fruitfulness seem almost profane. But we look again and think we see not Venus in the centre, but the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose own fruitfulness gave birth to the Saviour. The three figures by her side could be the Christian virtues of beauty, truth and goodness who dance in her honour, while all around God's creation blossoms forth to bring joy and new life. It is the world of the Song of Solomon, which the early Fathers could only accept as an allegory of Christian love, where the individual soul seeks the Saviour. But that book of the Old Testament was written in praise of the love that moves human life, as much as it moves the universe. And that can only be good because God the creator is good.

The writer invites the beloved to accompany her to the fields and vineyards and find fruits in blossom and plants in bloom: a wilderness transformed by growth and goodness. Just so, we enter the garden of this painting. The characters may be classical, some may be Christian, but as we look we see a creative Love that transforms the winter of death and darkness into light and Spring – the birthday of creation.

Michael Burgess

Courtesy Of Parish Pump



Presbytery of Perth



The new enlarged Presbytery of Perth consisting of the former presbyteries of Angus, Stirling, Dunkeld and Meigle, Perth and Dundee held its first meeting on 4th March at Bankfoot Church Centre. The presbytery was formed on 1st January 2023 and provides support and accountability to the Church of Scotland churches contained within its designated area. Each local congregation is represented by Parish ministers and an appointed elder who take part in decision making. Muthill Parish Church is currently represented by our Interim Moderator, Rev Mairi Perkins and our Elder, Graham Donaldson. The guest speaker at the first meeting was Rev Dr Doug Gay, Senior Lecturer in Theology and Religious Studies at Glasgow University. As many readers will know, he has written extensively on the present state of the Kirk and its future.



The Clerk of the new Presbytery is Rev Dr John Ferguson, who was formerly the minister of Peterculter Church and clerk to the Presbytery of Aberdeen and Shetland.

His mobile telephone contact is 07904 895850 or email at perth@churchofscotland.org.uk

Muthill Cemeteries Group

The Muthill Cemeteries Group which works under the auspices of Muthill in Bloom has a new Facebook page accessed through "Muthill in Bloom " webpage. This initiative has agreed a rolling programme of improvements with Perth and Kinross Council and has already achieved the repair of bent railings and the raising and resurfacing of 100 graves. The Group also assists with maintenance of the Old Kirkyard and would welcome more volunteers to join the Group. Contact and further information can be obtained through Susan Crawford of Muthill in Bloom on Facebook.



Perth and Kinross Council have also recently gifted a bench and tree to the cemetery in memory of the Strathallan Ward victims of the Covid pandemic.

Cinema Weekend

Thanks are due to Auchterarder Picture house Crew and Muthill Village Hall for the excellent Cinema Weekend on 25/26 February. By all reports from the great attendance and from feedback on social media it is to be hoped that this will be organised again in the not too distant future.



Community Hub

The Muthill Community Forum continues its work with a view to creating a new community Hub for the village. With two public consultation exercises in February and March including an online survey the community has been consulted on what it wants from a new community hub. The architects appointed by the Community Forum are now taking feedback from these consultations to produce a more definitive recommendation from the options of possible sites, namely as new build in Coronation Park, or a new hall development next to and involving space within the Parish Church or finally a refurbishment of the current village hall.

Blooming Shed



The new Blooming Shed replacing the small library facility previously in the telephone box during lockdown is now up and functioning in the Millenium Garden adjacent to the Parish Church. The Shed is open to everyone with books, jigsaws, DVDs CDs and a kid's shelf... all free of charge. Thanks to Muthill in Bloom for organising this village facility and to their A team for building the shed and repairing the seating around the beech tree.



Family Picnic in the Park

The village will be holding a Coronation Family Picnic in Highlandman Park of 7th May, 2023 between 2-4pm. The church will be participating in organising the tea refreshments for this event including the provision of tray bakes. Thanks to all who will be helping with this. It gives us the chance to be actively involved in another village event. Following the amazing success of the Jubilee event last year, it will not be an event to be missed.



A Bucket of Tadpoles (God in the Sciences)

A bucket of tadpoles: Springtime, curiosity, and the Theology of Science*

When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio.



Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.

I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' - which I suspect is a bit of an understatement.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old self. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding an answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning.

They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, we are made in Gods image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a Theology of Science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs – that is, until a two-year-old comes and knocks them over.

Dr Ruth M.Bancewicz

**Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith. It is printed courtesy of Parish Pump.*



Coronation Family Picnic in the Park

Sunday 7th May, 2-4 pm

Highlandman Park

The Church will be participating in this important village event by organising the refreshments and tray bakes. We will also be manning the stall for a couple of hours.

This is a further opportunity to give service to our village and we need as much help as possible. If you can provide tray bakes or assist with serving on the day, (we hope to organise half hour shifts) please let us know. Any contribution will be appreciated.

There is a sign-up sheet on the noticeboard in the Bruce Hall.

Sandy, Catherine, Elaine, Carolyn , Karen, Muthill House Group 2

Book Reviews

Bitter and Sweet, A Journey into Easter

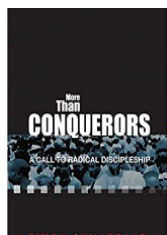


By **Tsh Oxenreider**, Harvest House/Kingsway CLC Trust £18.50

The theme of bitterness runs through the Bible as a sour reminder of sin's presence in our world—yet it's because of this bitterness that Jesus' grace is so sweet and satisfying. As we learn to turn from our vices and crave real beauty, goodness, and truth through the pursuit of virtues, we grow nearer to God and become more like who He made us to be.

This devotional may help you to meditate and rejoice in the transcendent miracle of Easter. It explains what it means to participate in the liturgical traditions of Lent, from fasting to almsgiving; to experience artwork and music that illuminate the impact—both personal and global—of Jesus' death and resurrection; and finally to contemplate the wonder of Christ's redemption of all humankind, especially as this time of introspection reveals your human limitations.

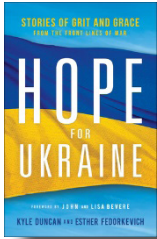
Bitter and Sweet is an invitation to better understand Jesus' sacrifice, as you delight in His ultimate love for you.



More Than Conquerors (new edition) – a call to radical discipleship

By **Simon Guillebaud**, Monarch, £9.99

To follow our Saviour is not about being nice. It's about taking risks. Simon writes: "There's a battle going on for our hearts. What I watch, what I listen to, what I spend my time and money on – all these erode my true sense of identity and worth as a child of God. Where is the vigilance, the discernment, the scrutiny? Our hearts are far too precious to treat with such lax indifference ... I want to play my part in turning the world upside down; I want to be fearless, bold, uncompromising and passionate in reaching out to the lost on behalf of the King of Kings; I never want to get over the grace of God."

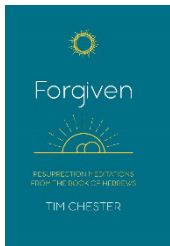


Hope for Ukraine – stories of grit and grace from the Front Lines of war

By Kyle Duncan and Esther Fedorkevich, Baker Publishing via Eden.co.uk, £14.99

Part narrative, part wartime dispatch, *Hope for Ukraine* transports you into the gritty reality of war-torn Ukraine--and the front lines of faith, survival, and miraculous intervention. From scrambling to escape the bombs levelling their neighbourhoods to fleeing sex traffickers in the chaos of border crossings to rescuing orphans trapped by Russian tanks, these stunning first-hand accounts tell the stories of real Ukrainians enduring terrible hardships with grit and grace.

Kyle Duncan and Esther Fedorkevich both have deep family ties to Ukraine, and they take the reader inside the conflict, with dramatic boots-on-the-ground stories and eyewitness accounts of Ukrainian refugees, aid workers, soldiers, and families affected by the conflict. These stories reveal the unbreakable spirit of a nation under siege. Even amid the chaos and tragedy of Europe's largest war since World War II, God is indeed at work in redemptive ways.

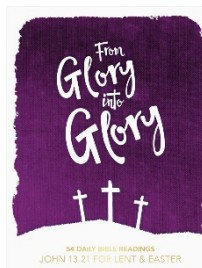


Forgiven – resurrection meditations from the Book of Hebrews for Lent

By Tim Chester, 10Publishing, £3.99

We live in uncertain times. Our society is changing rapidly and many of us feel left behind. How can we face the future with confidence?

In these resurrection meditations, which go from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, Tim Chester reassures our fearful hearts by pointing us to the Lord Jesus and His finished work. Guiding us through the later chapters of Hebrews, these devotions remind us that, when everything around us is turning and churning, we can rest secure in Jesus and His forgiveness, the only anchor for our weary souls.

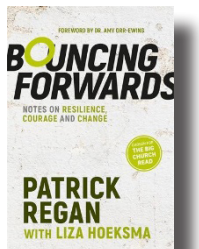


From Glory into Glory – 54 devotional readings for Easter and Lent

By Tom Parsons, 10Publishing, £4.99

The hour has come for Jesus to return to the Father's heavenly glory. He embarks on the journey ahead, even though it will lead Him through the depths of earthly shame. Crucifixion awaits Him, and what destiny could be considered more disgraceful than to die on a cross? Yet right there, in the indignities of His suffering and death, Jesus will reveal the glory of God.

From Glory Into Glory follows Jesus on this journey from the veiled glory of the cross into the blazing brightness of the resurrection. Our guide is Jesus' beloved disciple, John, and our longing is that the word of Christ will dwell richly within us.



Bouncing Forwards – notes on resilience, courage and change

By Patrick Regan OBE, SPCK, £9.99

"You'll bounce back." How many of us have heard these well-meaning words when faced with mental or physical health challenges, trauma or the loss of dreams? And yet, life's battles can leave us scarred and changed. Why would we want to go back when what we've been through has taught us so much? It's time to bounce *forwards* instead.

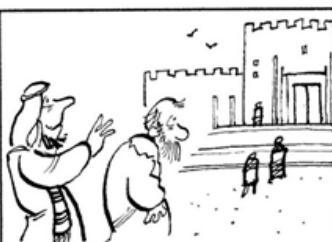
Nobody is immune from the storms of life. This practical book may help you to grow in resilience and become better equipped for the journey. Patrick Regan OBE is the CEO of Kintsugi Hope, and the founder and president of urban youth work charity XLP. He is the author of several books and a regular host on TBN.

**Thanks to Parish Pump for these reviews. Your feedback on their inclusion would be welcome*

Bible Parable

The Tale of the TWO MEN SAYING THEIR PRAYERS

JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO
WENT TO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY



ONE WAS A PHARISEE
(A MAN A BIT LIKE A PRIEST)

THE OTHER WAS A TAX
COLLECTOR. (NOT A POPULAR
MAN IN JESUS' DAY!)



THE PHARISEE BEGAN
TO PRAY

WHAT A GREAT CHAP I
AM! I NEVER DO
ANYTHING WRONG!!



I AM SO PLEASED WITH MYSELF,
ESPECIALLY AS I AM NOT A SCOUNDREL,
LIKE THIS TAX COLLECTOR!



BUT THE TAX
COLLECTOR COULDN'T
EVEN RAISE HIS HEAD

DEAR GOD... I AM VERY SORRY!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR
ALL THE WRONG THINGS
I HAVE DONE.

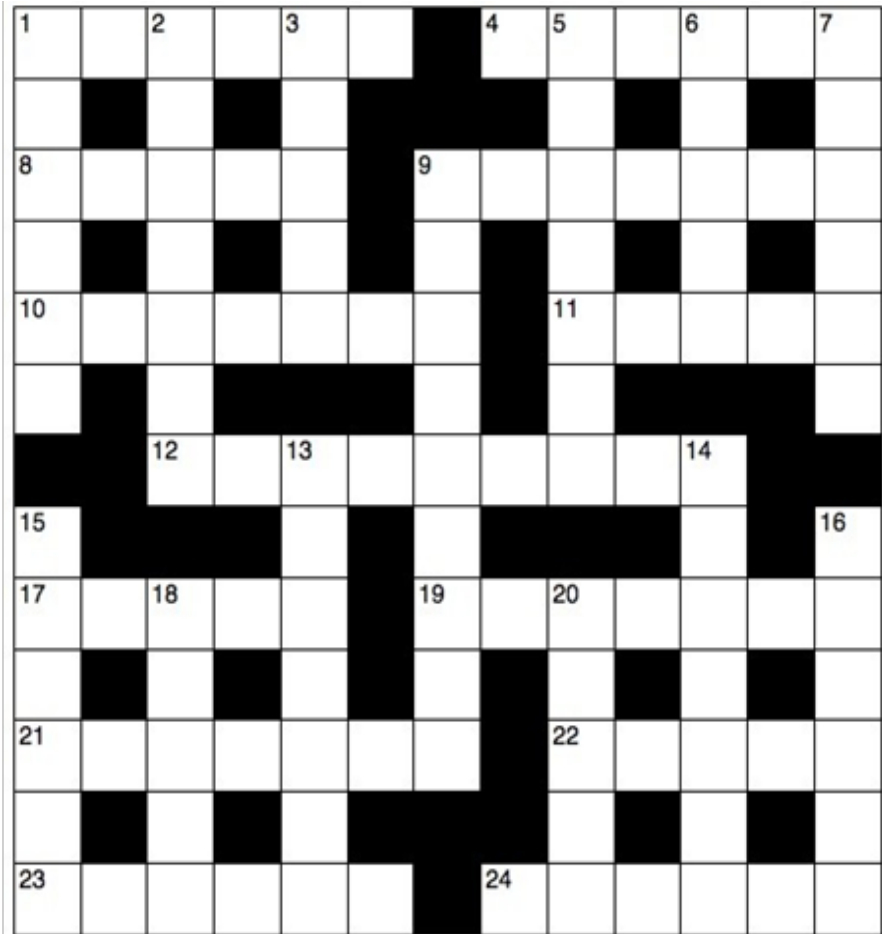


IT WAS THE TAX COLLECTOR,
NOT THE PHARISEE, WHOSE
PRAYERS WERE HEARD!



JESUS EXPLAINED -
'DON'T BE PROUD WHEN YOU
PRAY - INSTEAD BE HUMBLE'.

Crossword



Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's



message

- (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority,
Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with
the Lord'
(Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26)
(6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me'
(Matthew
25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her
treasury (Acts 8:27)
(7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1
Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their
bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

*Solution on page 26

Editor's Note

The next edition of the magazine will be our early Summer 2023 edition. The magazine will be published on Sunday 11th June, and so the deadline for submitting articles, intimations, letters etc. will be Friday 2nd June.

Please submit this to macahiph@gmail.com or send to Sandy Hutchison, GreenBrae West, Pitkellony Street, Muthill PH5 2AF.

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. All submissions will be acknowledged.

Crossword Solution:

ACROSS:

1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

DOWN:

1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.

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

Church Website: www.muthillparishchurch.co.uk

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

Email: muthillparish@outlook.com





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

Magazine Graphics & Cover Photo

Our cover picture theme this month is new beginnings with a photograph of spring blooms in front of the Dog Head Well at Highlandman Park and thinking ahead to the Coronation of King Charles 111. Thanks to Raffie for providing the graphics for the magazine and helping in the production.”.

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.

Registered Scottish Charities

Muthill Parish Church - SC004984

Trinity Gask & Kinkell - SC000004