

THE BRIDGE



**General Assembly Report
Muthill In Bloom
Crieff Food Bank
Festival City**



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Church Register

During the last period there have been no marriage ceremonies or baptisms. However, we are sorry to report the following have passed away:

Kathrin (Kate) Buchanan 27th June, 2022

Ann Taylor 20th July, 2022

Barbara Hutchison 28th July, 2022 (The funeral service will be at Muthill Parish Church on Tuesday 16th August at noon)

From Ardoch And Blackford Manse

Dear Friends,

We often read in the Bible that Jesus took time out to be alone. He would find a quiet spot on the water or perhaps go up a hill often leaving the disciples behind.

Summer is traditionally our time of retreat and getting away from it all, a time to relax, replenish and restore. Today we find ourselves in the midst of the holiday season and I hope you are all taking at least some time for yourselves to stop and refresh.

I want to thank everyone and especially our Session clerk, Elders and helpers throughout the church that have given so much extra over these last few years. It has been really hard but you have brought your churches through stronger than ever.

The Kirk Sessions in Ardoch and Blackford have now risen to the challenge set by Presbytery working through the Presbytery plan and to that end we have no further details to share at present. Muthill has already agreed to a linkage.

May I ask God's blessing to be upon each and every one of you as we move forward together into the changing but exciting times that lie ahead

Have a great summer!

God Bless,

Mairi
Interim Moderator

Ministry to Young People in Muthill Church

FAMILY SERVICE

After the school holidays the Education Committee plan to restart the FAMILY SERVICE on 4th SEPTEMBER at 10:00 in the Bruce Hall and thereafter 1st Sunday of Oct, Nov & Dec. All are welcome. The Service starts with a snack & chat followed by prayer, worship, Bible story, age related activities such as crafts, experiments, discussion or games finishing at 10:45 with worship and prayer. If you would like to come or bring someone please contact Liz at Eliz.mitchell6@btopenworld.com. This is important to ensure there is enough food, and resources for everyone. It is not viable running the Service for less than 3 families. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE MAIN 11:30 SERVICE

Adrian & Liz will provide for children P4 and above at the 11:30 service in the North Lounge the weeks between family services. **At present we do not have any leaders to run a creche or junior Sunday school.**

FAMILY HARVEST SERVICE

A special Family Harvest Service will take place on Sunday 25 September at 11:30 which will include harvest gifts, activities, worship, prayer and Bible lessons for all. It would be good to know in advance if our young families are available.

SCRIPTURE UNION

Our SU team of Vivian, Liz, Carolyn & Steve are looking forward to resuming the Monday after school group in September. We have food, games, crafts as we learn about the Bible's relevance to our lives today. SU have produced a wonderful programme called One Big Story which covers from Genesis to Revelation. We are grateful to Mrs Bell and the staff at Muthill Primary for their help.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. Our young families and the challenges they face in these days.
2. Leaders to help with the younger children at the main service
3. Our Primary Schools and Secondary Schools as they return after the holidays
4. Young folk who have found coping with life difficult in these days.
5. Our young folk starting school, nursery and secondary school.
6. Young folk considering their journey in life.

THANK YOU:

To the Kiddy Club for repainting the animals for the Ark in the church garden.



Muthill
Parish Church

SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH DATES

AUTUMN 2022

7TH SEPTEMBER 21ST SEPTEMBER	5TH OCTOBER 19TH OCTOBER	2ND NOVEMBER 16TH NOVEMBER 30TH NOVEMBER
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SERVED IN THE BRUCE HALL AT 12.30 PM

JOIN US FOR HOMEMADE SOUP AND SANDWICHES
AND GOOD COMPANY.

BRING A FRIEND - EVERYONE
WELCOME

COST
£3

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL HELEN-MAY ON 681415

General Assembly Report

Every four or five years each Church of Scotland congregation is invited to send their minister and an elder to the General Assembly. This year I represented Muthill and I could either attend in person or online. I chose to attend in person where there were the appropriate covid measures in place.

I imagine the only thing you heard on the news or read about the Assembly this year was the decision to allow Church of Scotland ministers to officiate same sex marriages if they wish. However, there was so much more to the Assembly than this!



On the first day, the Rt Rev Iain Greenshields was installed as Moderator and each morning the day began with worship, led by the Moderator - thought provoking insights and wonderful singing!

The work of Presbytery reorganisation is ongoing throughout the country with

current presbyteries merging to form larger presbyteries which will be serviced more locally rather than by staff in Edinburgh. The new Perth Presbytery will be formed by merging the presbyteries of Angus, Dundee, Dunkeld & Meigle, Perth and Stirling and this was approved.

Professor Jason Leitch, the Scottish Government's National Clinical Director, thanked the Church for everything it had done during the pandemic: "Whether you run the tiniest church in Scotland or one of the largest fellowships, the work you've done for those you serve has been absolutely without precedent".

The General Assembly condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine, calling for an immediate ceasefire and 'just and peaceful solution'. Sunflower seeds, were distributed to commissioners, the sunflower being the Ukrainian national flower. The work of CrossReach, the social care arm of the church, was recognised particularly in dealing with the challenges of the ongoing pandemic. The tireless dedication of the staff working in Christ's name, made the places where they work very special. Gratitude was expressed to those who had supported Crossreach financially.

In recognising chaplaincy work, The Rev Dr Marjory MacLean, convener of the committee, spoke very moving of 'an unforgettable day' when she was serving as a chaplain on a naval vessel in the Mediterranean and they rescued 700 migrants. Rescuing the migrants who were two deep in the inflatables they found that two women had died. The accompanying relatives were distraught but seeing a cross round the neck of one of the relatives, Marjory told us, "I extemporised a prayer, with my young colleague at my shoulder translating as best he could. And then, suddenly, the sorrowing figure took a breath and began to pray; desolate, lamenting prayer, desperate, fast prayer, too fast for the young lieutenant beside me to keep up with the translation. He looked at me in panic, and I waved him away. It didn't matter to me what she was saying; she was praying now her own sorrow and need, and I only needed to keep holding her hands." This is all part of

a day's work for the chaplains of HM Forces.

There were many good news stories of how church members had adapted and served their community during the last two years. Church had organised the delivery of food to those who were vulnerable and in other places the vulnerable received phone calls and Guild members had distributed 'goodie bags'.

In closing, the Lord High Commissioner, Lord Hodge, said that

the week had given him 'a strong sense of the energy and vibrancy of initiatives being taken at a local level' across Scotland.

While we all face change within the church, let's not forget that there's much good work being done in the name of the church and let us continue to do it.

Helen-May Bayne

Smile Lines

*The sermon this morning is entitled 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. The sermon next Sunday will be: 'Searching for Jesus'.

* Announcement in the church magazine for a National PRAYER & FASTING Conference: The cost for attending the Prayer & Fasting conference includes meals



The Father Heart of God

In this summer edition of the magazine, I am recommending another good book, which for many years has escaped my reading despite being an international best seller. It was written by Floyd McClung who was a well-known pastor until his death in 2021. With his wife Sally he undertook important Christian missionary outreach work in Europe, Afghanistan, USA and South Africa and in his service on several continents Floyd met many people who suffer from emotional scars and fears and this books attests to how over and over again the discovery of God as Father - perfectly reliable - brought them freedom and healing. *The Father Heart of God* came to my notice as I am a follower of Pete Greig and his 24-7 Prayer Movement and continue to gain much from the daily devotions provided on line through *Lectio 365*.

I find it a good read firstly because I think it has an appeal for many different audiences such as younger searching adults as well as church families in that various parts have a handbook approach with very practical thoughts and advice. It also highlights the dangers implicit in relationships and how important it is to focus on our relationship with God as the *perfect* Father and not to be led astray by placing our understanding of that on human relationships. God's love must be seen only through Jesus and not in human terms as we live in a fallen world and without God we have no compass. His love is only made understandable and comprehensible though Jesus his life, teachings and example. It is also important to understand that God's heart is broken and this understanding is needed to find answers to hurt, injustice, dishonesty, pride and greed all of which we will encounter at some time in our lives.

In another particularly helpful chapter, Floyd talks about what he calls the "Saul Syndrome" and how one problem in life can lead onto another. "If we do not deal with our emotional hurts in God's way it will lead us to independence, which in turn produces pride. Pride is much more concerned about what people think of us, than what God thinks of us, which results in the fear of man. The fear of man inevitably leads to disobedience". In this sort of scenario, he says, we may still do a lot for God but it is a religion of dead works!

I also like this book as it is what I would call an easy read of about 150 pages which relates us comfortably to scripture whilst focusing largely on our emotional life and the challenges that that can present for us as individuals, Christians and as a Church family and how our attitudes, reactions and life can be transformed if we seek to develop that deep understanding of God's perfect love.

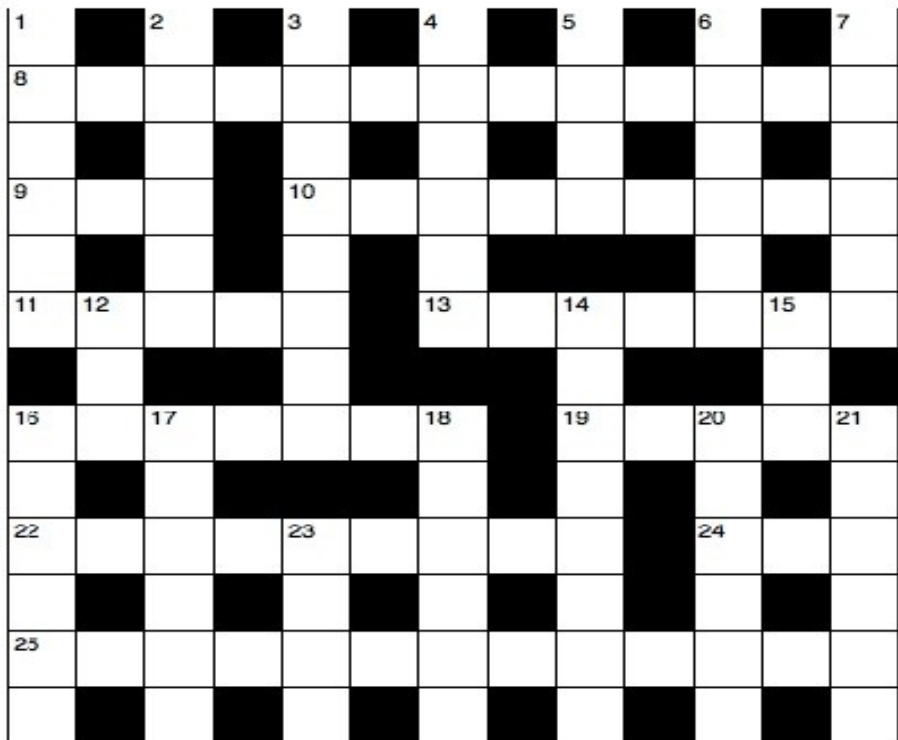
The Slide

As I watch
She climbs the steps steadily,
Holding the handrail,
Her two-year-old feet following each other
Rhythmically, unhesitatingly
To the platform at the top
Where she sits down
And freezes.
Holding tight to the sides,
Knees up, feet flat
She judders down a little way
Then looks up.
Her eyes meet my smile, my outstretched arms –
And she takes her hands off the edge of the slide,
Shooting forward with a squeal of delight,
Trusting the love she knows.

Lord, I have climbed so steadily,
I have come so far, in my own strength,
Holding on, holding back,
Sometimes freezing.
But I am Your child,
Today I will lift my eyes
And meet Your smile, Your outstretched arms,
I will lift my juddering feet –
And take my hands off the edge of the slide
Released to ride, by Your Spirit,
Into the freedom of Your will,
Trusting the Love I know.

Daphne Kitching

Crossword



Crossword Clues

Across

- 8 One of the titles given to the Messiah in Isaiah's prediction (Isaiah 9:6) (6,2,5)
- 9 International Nepal Fellowship (1,1,1)
- 10 Single(1Corinthians7:27)(9)
- 11 Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's seminal book about Soviet prison camps, The — Archipelago (5)
- 13 Treachery(2Kings11:14)(7)
- 16 Of India(anag.)(2,3,2)
- 19 'God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession,like men

condemned to die in the — ' (1 Corinthians 4:9) (5)

22 Follower of a theological system characterized by a strong belief in predestination (9)

24 'Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to— the ropes' (Jeremiah 38:12) (3)

25 They brought together all the elders of the Israelites in Egypt (Exodus 4:29) (5,3,5)

Down

1 The season when kings 'go off to war' (2 Samuel 11:1) (6)

2 Simon Peter's response to Jesus by the Sea of Galilee: 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a — man' (Luke 5:8) (6)

3 Beaten with whips (1 Kings 12:11) (8)

4 'You shall not — adultery' (Exodus 20:14) (6)

5 Encourage (Hebrews 10:24) (4)

6 Service of morning prayer in the Church of England (6)

7 'Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and — — him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving' (4,2)

12 Run(anag.)(3)

14 Member of 17th-century party that denied the right of autonomy to the Church (8)

15 'We will triumph with our tongues; we—our lips'(Psalm 12:4) (3)

16 Earnings(1Corinthians 16:2)(6)

17 'I rejoice greatly in the Lord that— —you have renewed your concern for me' (Philippians 4:10) (2,4)

18 How Paul described Philemon (Philemon 1)(6)

20 Multiple territories under the rule of a single state(Daniel 11:4)(6)

21 'You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women,—to Israel's guilt' (Ezra 10:10) (6)

23 This month(abbrev.)(4)

Muthill in Bloom - Sterling Community Service

Much is written about the decline of community spirit these days. Throughout history people have lived in small tight-knit communities but today we have moved to a much more isolated way of life. Public surveys confirm that the majority of people in the UK are concerned that we are turning into an urbanised, work obsessed nation of out of town supermarket shoppers. Reports shows that many are concerned about loss of countryside and green spaces and the loss of amenities including post offices. There is also a growing concern about old people losing their dignity and parents spending too little time with families. Undoubtedly, more travelling



away from home to work, and the ever increasing focus on and promotion of personal interests has added to these trends. In smaller communities this decline can be further aggravated by the transient nature of a significant percentage of the population.

In fighting such trends, any smaller community, I would suggest, needs to be able to develop a sense of unity of purpose using all available talent and skills by preserving and enhancing what is good and worthwhile whilst looking to and planning positively for the future. Whatever is done, where success can be seen, there is usually evidence of enthusiastic resident participation and community groups working closely together.

Muthill village inevitably is vulnerable to some of these trends of modern community life and yet there are also examples of good work going on to enhance the community. One such action group, *Muthill in Bloom*, deserves praise for beautifying the public areas of our village, particularly at this time of the year. It provides an example that needs to be recognised and lauded!

Established in the 1990s through a nationwide initiative to beautify Scotland, *Muthill in Bloom* was formed alongside some 52 other local action groups aimed at “taking pride in Perthshire”. Its leaders have included Lily Crawford, Margaret Melville and now Susan Crawford, each of whom by all

accounts has given great service. Over the years there have been awards in competitions such as a silver gilt award in *Britain in Bloom* and repeated *Best Village* awards in Perthshire. Such awards give pride and recognition to the village but sadly I have learned that the number of volunteers that do all the work has declined over the years despite requests for more help

I am sure that we have all admired the work done by Susan and her helpers as they have planted, nurtured and weeded a multitude of tubs and floral



containers around the village resulting in an amazing colourful display in all sections of the village. Yet it is probably not well known that this has been achieved with inadequate resources and equipment for the task. We live in a time of increasingly tight Council budgets and it may not be known that during this time that *Muthill in Bloom* along with its local contractors has extended its role to take on some care of our two cemeteries in Muthill tidying them up of self-seeding shrubs and bushes and planting spring flowers. This is all in addition to the year round maintenance of the many tubs, hanging baskets and the floral cart which greets you on entering the village from Crieff.

How can we as residents come together and help? Firstly supporting the annual fund raising sale and the Christmas mail delivery service is a good start as these are the group's primary sources of income. Giving a little time to watering or weeding, if you are able, would also be greatly appreciated. Just contact Susan to enquire how this is best done, and if you are able to give a gift, the group needs a new buggy to transport water around the village and some of the other more major works during the growing season. It is easy to contact the group and keep up to date with its plans and needs through the *Muthill in Bloom* website on Facebook.



Let's give the maximum support as our village looks so beautiful thanks to the work of only 5 helpers at present!

Sandy Hutchison.

Guild



Members of the Guild plan to have a Summer outing to Letham, to visit Klaus and Maureen, visit the craft shop and enjoy some lunch!

The Guild Annual Gathering is on Saturday, 10th September when members gather in Edinburgh from all over Scotland to worship, to be inspired by the Moderator and other speakers, to have updates on the projects and to share fellowship. This marks the beginning of Guild Week, when members will have an on line opportunity to hear about former and current projects, are encouraged to do something with food and do a random act of kindness. A busy week which culminates in a Guild Dedication Service on Sunday, 18th September. This service will be led by Guild members of both Muthill and Crieff Guilds.

Our first meeting will be in Muthill on Wednesday, 12th October at 2.30pm

Helen-May Bayne

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt. 13: 3-8, Mk 4: 1-9, Lk 8: 4-8

crowds of people now came to hear Jesus, so he used stories to teach them; those who really wanted to learn would work out the meaning.

A farmer went out to sow a field of corn.



Some seed fell on the path

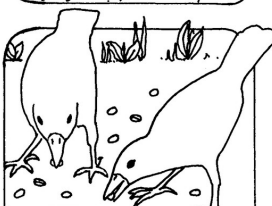


and some on to rocks.

Some fell among thorn plants and



some fell on good soil.



The seed on the path was eaten by birds

The seed that fell on the rocks sprouted...

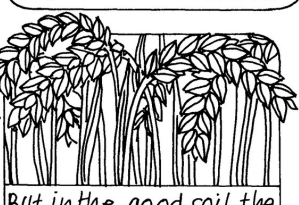


...but it had no water so it dried out and died.

The seed that fell among the thorns grew well to start with,



then it was outgrown by the thorn plants.



But in the good soil the seed grew well and gave a fantastic harvest!

Jesus explained to his disciples what it meant.



Some people don't even listen to what he says.

For some it is the best thing ever!



But soon they move on to another 'best thing'.

Some listen gladly...



but then worries and busyness take over.

But some hear what Jesus says and learn from it,



and that makes all the difference!

Church And Community News

Golf Outing

The Golf Outing with Ardoch and Blackford churches held at the Muthill Golf Course was blessed with sun and it proved a great outing for all who participated. Muthill Parish Church was represented by Alex Mitchell and Elaine Wallace and congratulations go to Alex who secured top prize.

Grass Cutting

Thanks go to those who have come forward to assist with the grass cutting of the church grounds. We now have a roster which should cover the growing season into October.

Crieff Highland Games

The Crieff Platinum Jubilee Highland Gathering will take place on Sunday 21st August. This year the Directors promise it will be bigger and better than ever after a two year absence due to Covi-19. The music line-up will include the famous Red Hot Chilli Peppers. Tickets are available through Eventbrite by searching Crieff Highland Gathering.

Bennibeg now has Ptarmicabin

Good news for coffee buffs in that Ptarmigan Coffee has moved from its Ptarmivagon horsebox into Ptarmicabin, the former pottery, at the Bennibeg Garden Centre. It is open Wednesday thru Sunday 11.00-16.30 hours.

Church Day Out

We are planning a ***fun away day*** for whole church family on Saturday 24th September. It will be open to all the families who attend the family services, members of House Groups and indeed anyone who normally attends church of a Sunday.

The more the merrier and a great opportunity to get to know each other better as a church family! Adrian Williamson will be organising this so please put the date in your diary and await further details via church notices.

Muthill House Group 2

After including a listing of our network of House Groups in the last edition of The Bridge, I am pleased to report that a further new group is being set up in Muthill village. This one will be held on a Tuesday evening twice a month and it is planned to start later in August. Because of excellent material available from the Bible Society aimed at understanding the books of the Bible as part of one big story, we will start by using their latest Bible Course compiled by Dr Andrew Ollerton (Author, Lecturer and Pastor). It aims to show participants how events, books and characters fit together and uses video and handbook accompaniment to promote discussion and learning.

We will be starting the House Group with 6-8 sessions from this course. There are one or two spaces available for this new group (or indeed simply initially for the Bible Course). Anyone interested should speak to one of the following - Sandy Hutchison, Joe Knowles or Elaine Wallace for further details.

Harvest Thanksgiving

This year's Harvest Thanksgiving will take place on **Sunday 25th September** in the church at 11.30am. Please put this in your diary.

Streamlining National Kirk Structure

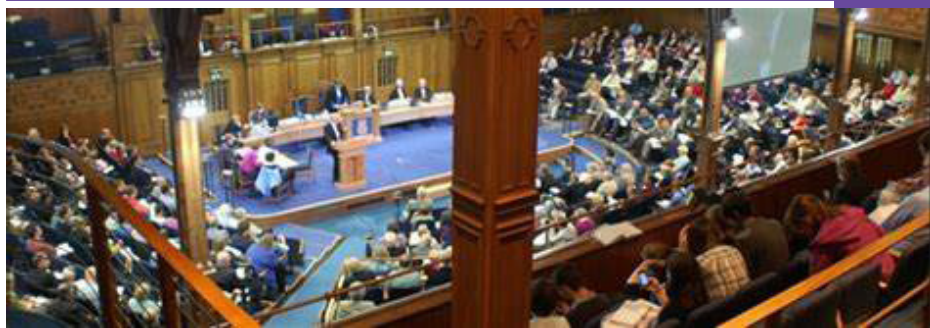
As the Church continues to go through radical reform in response to falling membership and falling income and continues to reassess the best way to shape its presence in the 2020s with all that means for mission and outreach, it is helpful to have a background understanding of the form of Government under which we work in order to understand how things are developing at parish level such as in Muthill.

The Church of Scotland is firstly the national church. This was recognised by Parliament in 1690 when Parliament restored Presbyterianism in Scotland and this is guaranteed under the 1707 Act of Union between Scotland and England. In matters of doctrine, government, discipline and worship the Church in Scotland is, however, free of State interference. One of the results of this is that the Queen is not the supreme governor of the Church of Scotland as she is in the Church of England. She has a right to attend the General Assembly but not to take part in its deliberations. Hence the Lord High Commissioner who personally represents her in her absence.

The Presbyterian system of government means that no one person or group has more influence or say in the Church. The Church does not have one person who acts as head of faith as that role is the Lord's or God's. Its supreme role of faith and life is through the teachings of the Bible. The day to day government is organised on the basis of a series of Courts which derive from the period 1560-1690. Each of these courts has committees which may include other members of the church and at national level full time employees.

At local level, namely at parish or congregational level, the court is the *Kirk Session*. The Kirk Session oversees the work of the congregation and parish and consists of appointed elders presided over by the Minister.

At District level the court is a *Presbytery*. Presbyteries consist of all the ministers of the district together with an equal number of elders along with members of the diaconate (a form of ordained ministry usually working in a complimentary role at parish level or in industry). There are currently over 40 Presbyteries covering Scotland, England and internationally.



At national level, the *General Assembly* is the highest court of the Church, which currently has around 400 ministers, 400 elders and members of the diaconate representing Presbyteries.

The day to day policy making and practical decision making of the Church at all levels is conducted through forums, committees, councils and departments. Two more recent forums are the *Faith Impact Forum* and the *Faith Nurture Forum*. The former Impact Forum seeks to support and enable the Church, congregations and Presbyteries to engage with local, national and international issues whilst the Nurture Forum supports recruitment, education and on-going training of ministers, deacons and many others. This latter forum is also involved in Presbytery planning and new ways of delivering church across Scotland.

Below these there are numerous advisory committees including audit, architecture and ecumenical relations, service-giving councils such as Social Care (Crossreach) and finally departments such as General Trustees, Human Resources, Law, Pensions not forgetting The Guild which is on its own.

The above sets out the structure in which the church operates. The number of Presbyteries is in the process of being reduced through the merging of Presbyteries and includes our own one of Perth which will soon include Angus, Dundee, Dunkeld and Meikle, Perth and Stirling. The 2022 General Assembly also approved that the work of the Faith Nurture and Faith Impact Forums be brought together under a single Active Faith Leadership Team with four main programmes, namely Mission, People and Training, Public Life and Global Justice & Resource & Presence.

It is undoubtedly a time of difficult painful decision making and restructuring for the Church but, as Lord Hodge, the Queen's representative, said at the

end of this year's General Assembly seeing the Kirk in action had reassured him that along with challenges there were new opportunities ahead.

Editor

Supporting Our Local Foodbank - The Crieff Foodbank

The foodbank in Crieff was founded several years ago by two ladies from Crieff Baptist church with the aim of 'sharing God's love by providing free food supplies to those in the community who are struggling to make ends meet'. Initially the foodbank was housed in part of the Logos Youth Centre but over time they required more room to extend their services so the foodbank moved to the King's Centre (formerly the treatment room in the 'old health centre') in King's Street, Crieff in 2019.



Initially part of the Trussell Trust, the foodbank is now an independent foodbank but runs on lines similar to other local foodbanks. People may be referred by various groups or individuals, social workers, the housing department, GPs, and other charitable organisations such as CATH and CAP.

Often however, people simply self-refer, either by phoning the foodbank number or turning up at the door. The foodbank is open Monday and Friday mornings from 10 till 12 and on Wednesday afternoons from 1.30 till 3.30. Anyone who is in need is welcomed and valued. If someone needs to use the foodbank regularly, the volunteers seek to point them to other agencies which can provide longer term support.

Volunteers come from most of the local churches or from those happy to accept the Christian ethos of the foodbank and serve once or twice a month.

The foodbank receives donations from collection points at the COOP in

Crieff, Methven PO, and St Fillan's village store as well as from individuals and churches.

Our grateful thanks to the folks in Muthill church for the resumption of donations into the box in the foyer and to Joe for highlighting on the notice board items particularly needed each month. These are always gladly received.

Vivian Donaldson



NEEDED THIS MONTH

We highlight products that the FoodBank are short of. If you can, please add some to your weekly shop and place in the Church basket on Sunday.



For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.

Matthew 25: v 35

Cost of Living

With the unprecedented rise in cost of living especially in energy prices, Churches and all community organisations are being asked to review if they can give further support to the more vulnerable in our community. If you, as part of the Church family, have any ideas on how Muthill Parish Church can do more to assist our village during this difficult time we would love to hear from you!

Festival City

If you haven't been yet, there is still time to experience this culture feast and have a great day away!

I guess that many readers have experienced parts of the Edinburgh Festivals over the years, and this year, its 75th anniversary, promises an amazing galaxy of cultural talent and experience. Formed in the shadow of World War 2, the first festivals sought to use culture as a healing balm to bring peoples and nations together in celebration of our common humanity and help “the flowering of the human spirit”.



This year continues this founding aim but is brought up to date with the publication of a new Vision 2030 aimed at future proofing Edinburgh as a world-leading festival city so that it can be at the forefront of leading positive change. Vision 2030 is rooted in both the festivals' own sense of their role and purpose as well as taking account of common ground with public policy and the plans and interest of stakeholders at all levels of the festivals' work. Amongst the festivals running throughout August are the following:

The **Edinburgh International Festival** returns to its regular theatres and concert halls this summer, with 14 venues due to host 87 events and 160 performances of opera, theatre, dance and classical and contemporary music. It is Fergus Linehan's final year as Festival Director, before Nicola Benedetti takes the reins in 2023, and it is proving to be one of strong content.

(Dates: 5-28th Aug./Brochure and details, visit www.eif.co.uk)

The 2022 **Edinburgh Festival Fringe** is as always unique with something for everyone. After two years away, there is a bottleneck of performers bursting to perform, ranging from newbies trying to break through stardom and actual stars roadtesting their new tours. This year will have 3,171 shows from 58 countries. There is literally a plethora of performances for all types of audiences from children to adults and the key themes this year will include Gender and Gender identity, LGBTQ+, Mental Health, Neurodiversity, Disability, Feminism. Lockdown, Migration, Politics and Works for children. As ever there is a strong presence of comedy promising to have you howling with laughter but also there are also many different types of shows including dance, theatre, music and art.

(Dates: 5-29th Aug./Brochure and details visit www.edfringe.com).

The **Edinburgh Art Festival** is the platform for the visual arts at the heart of Edinburgh's August festivals, bringing together the capital's leading galleries, museums and artist-run spaces in a city-wide celebration of the very best in visual art. Each year, the festival features leading international and UK artists alongside the best emerging talent, major survey exhibitions of historic figures, and a special programme of newly commissioned artworks that respond to public and historic sites in the city. The vast majority of the festival is free to attend with over 40 exhibitions.

(Dates: 28th Jul.-28th Aug./Programme: www.edinburghartfestival.com)

The 2022 **Edinburgh International Book Festival** features 600 events for adults, children and teens. Over 550 authors are being presented from across the world sharing their stories, ideas and perspectives. Events take place at the Book Festival's charming, leafy village at Edinburgh College of Art in the heart of the city's Old Town. Around 200 of our events are being livestreamed for you to watch from home, with a Pay What You Can ticket price, and most are available to watch on-demand afterwards.

(Dates: 13-29th Aug./Programme: www.edbookfest.co.uk)



The **Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo** takes place at the Castle Esplanade and is one of the most iconic events in the Edinburgh yearly calendar. Bringing together audiences from across the globe, the Tattoo celebrates the skills and talents of military bands and display teams from throughout the world. It is attended each year by almost 250,000 people and viewed by a further 100 million through television. International performers from Mexico, The United States, Switzerland, and New Zealand have been confirmed for the 2022 production “Voices”.

(Dates: 5-27th Aug./Programme : www.edintattoo.co.uk)

The **Edinburgh International Film Festival** is renowned around the world for discovering and promoting the very best in international cinema - and for heralding and debating changes in global filmmaking. Intimate in its scale, ambitious in its scope, and fuelled by pure passion for cinema in all its manifestations, Focusing on artistic quality and excellence, the festival explores new ideas in cinema, inviting local and international audiences to engage with a dynamic programme of features, documentaries, shorts and experimental cinema. EIFF seeks to spotlight the most exciting and innovative new film talent, in a setting steeped in history.

(Dates: 12-20th Aug./Programme: www.edfilmfest.org.uk)

If you are wondering as to whether Religion and the Church are represented in this year's line-up you will find it mainly in the **Just Festival (formerly the Festival of Spirituality and Peace)**. This is based at St John's Church on Princes Street supported by Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together. This year's programme focuses on themes of reparation and regeneration in the context of Covid-19, the pandemic's effect on the arts against the background of the war in Ukraine.

Editor

Communications Team Work At Updating Our Image

The new Communications Team continues to review our online presence as this increasingly is an important method of linking with many audiences.

To assist this, we are currently progressing the installation of a broadband connection in the church. This should be achieved over the summer and it will enable us to then transmit live worship services. We are also reviewing the kirk website and hope to expand it and make it more current and informative covering categories like Church Life, Community Work, Worship and Prayer, Education, Communication and Calendar. This will mean that you may find certain pages under reconstruction if you choose to visit the site during this ongoing work.

We are also continuing to expand the use of our Facebook page and hope that this will gradually build engagement of our online community. If you have anything you would like to post there, our Administrator is Elaine Wallace and you should send it for approval and posting to elainejywallace@gmail.com

The Kirk Session has also approved new external noticeboards and the internal Bruce Hall noticeboard is gradually being renovated.

Finally, as was intimated in the last magazine, the Bridge is now available by email.

Editor's Note

Harvest Edition

The next edition of Bridge will be our Harvest edition. It will be available for Sunday 9th October. The deadline for submission of articles, letters or other information is Friday 30th September. Please submit any items to macahiph@gmail.com or send to Sandy Hutchison, GreenBrae West, Pitkellony Street, Muthill PH52AF. Please understand that all articles submitted have to be subject to possible adjustment to suit the balance of the magazine's content and its physical confines. If space does not permit, submissions will be considered for the next edition.

Muthill Elders Sunday Welcome Duties

August

14th August: Willie Bell, Davina Brown, Charlie Bruce, Edith O'Brien
21st August: Gregor Elliott, Sheena Plummer, James Thomson
28th August: Sandy Bayne, Graham Donaldson

September

Sunday 4th : J. Cantlie, I. Foster, P. McIntosh
Sunday 11th: W. Bell, D. Brown, C. Bruce, E. O'Brien
Sunday 18th: G. Elliott, S. Plummer, J Thomson
Sunday 25th: A. Bayne, G. Donaldson

October

Sunday 2nd : J. Cantlie, I. Foster, P. McIntosh
Sunday 9th : W. Bell, D. Brown, C. Bruce, E. O'Brien
Sunday 16th: G. Elliott, S. Plummer, J Thomson
Sunday 23rd: A. Bayne, G. Donaldson
Sunday 30th: J. Cantlie, I. Foster, P. McIntosh



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Facebook: Muthill with Trinity Gask and Kinkell Parish Church

Crossword Solution:

S	S	S	C	S	M	F
P	R	I	N	C	E	O
R	N	O	M	U	T	E
I	N	F	U	N	M	A
N	U	R	I	A	R	R
G	U	L	A	G	T	R
R	E					W
I	N	A	I	D	O	F
N	T					S
C	A	L	V	I	N	I
O	A	N	E	I	I	I
M	O	S	E	S	A	N
E	T	T	D	N	E	G



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 page reflects some of the colour of this summer's Muthill in Bloom displays around our village. The cover has been produced by Raffie who is also responsible for the graphic design of the magazine. Many thanks go to him for his skill and time given to our magazine.

Registered Scottish Charities

Muthill Parish Church - SC004984

Trinity Gask & Kinkell - SC000004