

KIN-NECTIONS

KINROSS PARISH CHURCH | SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2021

FREE: Please take a copy



**CARING FOR CREATION
REFLECTIVE PRAYERS**

**NEW INTRODUCTIONS
OUR CHURCH UPDATES**



Following Christ | Spreading the Word | Serving the Community

*Following Christ
Spreading the Word
Serving the Community*

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Contact church office to receive weekly email of events

Kirk Session meetings are open to all: please contact Church Office for details
Minutes of Kirk Session meetings are available from the Church Office

Pre-Kirk Session Council: **31 August**
Kirk Session: **6 September**
Kirk Session Council: **5 October**
Pre-Kirk Session Council: **2 November**
Kirk Session: **8 November**
Kin-nections December–February Deadline: **26 October**



The Church of Scotland

SUNDAY SERVICES

September to November 2021

- Like all churches we are following Scottish Government and Church of Scotland guidance. Please check our website, Facebook page or contact the Church Office for the latest guidance
- If you would like to attend our 10.30am Sunday service it is helpful if you pre-book a place by contacting the Church Office but you are welcome to turn up; contact details taken for NHS Test & Protect
- Sunday service live on our [website](#), [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#) or on Zoom (details in Sunday email)
- Sunday service recordings: Sunday after 1pm on our website, YouTube, Facebook or dial 01577 528270
- CD recordings of the service or a printed copy of the sermon are available from the Church Office

During September we will focus on the Stewardship of Creation. In October and November we will look at the life of David, shepherd, poet and king.

On the first Sunday of each month Communion is celebrated at the service in the church and online.

See page 13 for details of our September communion and Harvest special offering for Tearfund - Recover Together.

5 Sept:	Communion Sunday - Leviticus 25 - Stewardship of Creation
12 Sept:	Romans 8:18-27 - Redemption of Creation
19 Sept:	Revelation 22:1-9 - The Redeemed Creation
26 Sept:	Harvest Thanksgiving - Psalm 104
3 Oct:	1 Samuel 16:1-13 - David and Samuel
10 Oct:	1 Samuel 17:31-51 - David and Goliath
17 Oct:	1 Samuel 18:1-30 - David and Saul (i)
24 Oct:	1 Samuel 24:1-22 - David and Saul (ii)
31 Oct:	1 Samuel 20:42 - David and Jonathan
07 Nov:	2 Samuel 5:1-10 - David and Israel
14 Nov:	Remembrance Sunday
21 Nov:	2 Samuel 7:1-29 - David and God
28 Nov:	Isaiah 11:1-10 - Son of David

Keeping in Contact: Every household connected to the Church usually receives a visit before each quarterly Communion. Regrettably, Covid-19 has disrupted this pattern but all households have an allocated pastoral elder. If you wish to contact your elder but don't have their details, please phone the Church Office on 01577 862570.

Your Pastoral Elder is: _____



Find us on Facebook
[Kinross Parish Church of Scotland](#)



Find us on Instagram
[kpcscotland](#)



Find us on YouTube
[Kinross Parish Worship](#)

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CONNECTING WITH GOD & BOOK REVIEW

I am delighted to welcome you to our autumn edition of Kin-nections.



This edition has a focus on Caring for Creation, the focus of our church's stewardship season, and as the world approaches the COP26 conference in Glasgow. You'll find a double page spread dedicated to the Eco-congregation in the centre of the magazine.

Kin-nections welcomes contributions. Perhaps you would like to compose a prayer or write an article. We would love to hear from you!

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Kin-nections.

- Graeme Shaw, Kin-nections Creative Editor

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Weddings

04 June	Iona Lusty and Christopher Fraser
16 July	Laura Porter and Scott McIlroy

Funerals

28 May	Hamish Galbraith
06 June	Audrey Murray
24 June	Robin Meiklem
02 July	Bill Robbie

Baptism

Theo Nichol McGuire, son of Emily McGuire

Kin-nections is looking for a new Creative Editor.

If you're interested get in touch.

Email:

kinnectionseditor@gmail.com

TALKING WITH GOD

Dear Heavenly Father,

All creation is your handiwork and we thank you for the beauty that is all around us.

We are surrounded here by your gifts of nature with its amazing diversity of wildlife, a beautiful loch, hills, forests and fields of plenty.

We must understand that the earth, and all life in it, is a gift from God, given for us to share, not to exploit or destroy.

In the silence of the beauty around us may we hear your voice, to exercise wise stewardship of this earth, to tread lightly upon it and cherish its resources.

We pray for help to enable us to be filled with a spirit of concern for the future of our environment, challenging us to act as responsible custodians and trustees of your creation.

You entrusted us to take care of the earth with love and we pray for your help to subdue mankind's greedy, short-sighted, selfish nature.

We give thanks to all in our communities who have been faithful and hardworking, encouraging us to be more responsible in small and big ways.

God help us to live compassionately and enthuse us to make a difference.

- Gill Boardman

REFLECTIONS

The Beauty of the Cross

Wow! Weren't those beautiful decorations on the crosses for Easter? Although now in autumn, we remember the daffodils on the tall cross in front of the church, that glorious flower of springtime which we see in gardens, in woods, on roadsides and which fills the heart with the promise of summer, of better days to come. And the colourful explosion of flowers on the cross on the new banner inside the church, made by the careful, skilful hands of members of our Craft Group. Things of beauty indeed.

I'm sure you will have heard people say to someone who has done a kindness for another person or given, sacrificially, of their time or talents to help someone in need, "That was a beautiful thing you did there." And so the cross itself is a thing of beauty. In sacrificing himself for our sins, Jesus did the ultimate thing of beauty for us.

As Isaiah says in verse 11 of Chapter 53:

*"After a life of suffering, he will again have joy;
he will know that he did not suffer in vain.
My devoted servant, in whom I am well pleased,
will bear the punishment of many,
and for his sake, I will forgive them."*

It is impossible to imagine a more beautiful thing than the Grace of God with which he reconciles the world to himself.

Here is the chorus of a song by Jonny Diaz where he, too, reflects on "The Beauty of the Cross":

The beauty of the cross is that there's One who has redeemed my soul.
Beauty of the cross is that I'm finally free and letting go.
Beauty of the cross is that your grace has found me just as I am.

-Irene McFarlane



FROM THE MANSE...



Dear Friends,

Our annual focus on stewardship this year moves away from the familiar three themes of Time, Talents and Money (although this is also a good opportunity to ask you to review how you use these things

in your service of God). This year we will be considering our stewardship of God's Creation.

Climate change has a disproportionately bad effect on the world's poorest people and, just as we are quick to offer financial support where there is need, so we should also be leading the way in active care for creation.

Over the last couple of years we have been getting involved in the Eco-Congregation movement and quite a number of steps have been taken to improve our use of energy in the Church and Church Centre - these have produced financial savings as well as reducing our carbon footprint. As a church we are also engaged in the community allotment and community orchard projects and church members have been at the forefront of organising litter-picking activities around the town. These activities have helped to improve our local environment as well as being a good witness to our neighbours.

As some of you know, I myself started leasing a new car in May - it is a fully electric model and I have really enjoyed getting used to a new way of driving. It just feels cleaner, and as well as being much cheaper to run, charging the car overnight is one way of storing electricity that can be generated at that time of day through renewables but is not otherwise being used.

We will be hearing a great deal about green issues in the run-up to the COP26 conference in Glasgow in November, and the Queen's Green Canopy tree-planting initiative is an imaginative way to celebrate Her Majesty's exceptional Platinum Jubilee in the coming year. There are lots of ways in which you can get involved as an individual or as part of the church. Plans are being made to hold an energy fair in the Church Centre where you will be able to get advice about steps you could take to improve your own environmental footprint.

In all things let us seek to honour God's purpose in making this beautiful planet and let us seek to reverse the worst excesses of the consumerist society of which we are all part.

With all prayerful good wishes,

Alan

Rev.A.D. Reid

TIME FOR PRAYER

At this time it is ever more important that we take time to pray both as individuals and in fellowship with others, to seek God's blessing on our world, our nation, our community and our own lives.

- The **Monthly Prayer Diary** is published on our website and available via a link in the Sunday mailer. We hope it will soon be possible to make this available again in printed form.
- **Prayer for the Day** offers a reflection and prayer on the dial-up telephone service (01577 528270)
- Each **Sunday evening at 6pm** there is an opportunity to gather with others to pray via Zoom (online or by telephone)
- Each **Wednesday at midday** there is a time for prayer in the church when our special focus is on our local community
- There is a time of **guided meditation on the first Monday of the month at 8am** in the church (6 September, 4 October, 1 November)
- On the third Thursday of the month you are invited to pause before bed for the late evening monastic prayer service of **Compline at 9pm (16 September, 21 October & 18 November)**. This takes place in the church and may also be available online via Facebook.

STEWARDS OF CREATION - AN ASSEMBLY THEME

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was held online in May with Jim Wallace, an elder and former Deputy First Minister in the Scottish Executive, serving as Moderator. Among the major decisions was to reduce the number of minister positions from 800 to 600. At present there are 300 vacancies and this is to be reduced to no more than 60 at any one time by 2026.

Other decisions made include supporting the campaign to help countries ravaged by Covid-19 and the approval of a vision for a 'just and green future'. This was echoed by the message from Her Majesty The Queen, represented this year by Prince William, Earl of Strathearn: "Knowing that the Church has long had a concern for the care of God's earth we are heartened to know that she is engaging in many ways with the discussions and events which will be brought to Glasgow for COP26. As stewards of Creation, Christians have much to offer to the shared task of ensuring that we bequeath to our children a planet which will continue to be a good place to live."

TRAINING FOR THE MINISTRY

ANNE'S UPDATE



Maintaining focus for studying during the pandemic has been quite a challenge over this last year, and I am grateful that I already had experience

of online learning, otherwise it would have been even more challenging. The lack of the usual interaction with others was the hardest part and I really missed the opportunity to get to know the other students in training for ministry as well as I would have done had we not been restricted. I was, however, really blessed to have been in a church placement that made the most of every permissible opportunity and loved my time at St Madoes and Kinfauns.

My biggest learning curve was adapting to being in front of a camera instead of a congregation, and yet discovering that God's presence is just as real whether we gather to worship online or in person, and that there is no end to the ways we can creatively serve God in our community even in the most constraining of times.

I am really looking forward to starting my probationary year at Perth North Church, and to be able to give my full attention to ministry now that my studies are completed! It is hard to believe that from 1st August next year, all being well, I can begin the process of applying for the church or position to which God calls me.

Prayers would be appreciated as I adjust to full-time work and travelling again and that I am open to all I need to learn in this next year in order to be equipped for ministry in these uncertain times. My thanks again to everyone for their encouragement, support and prayers that have sustained me through these last few years!

- Anne Redpath

ANDREA'S UPDATE



COVID has had a massive effect on our family life. (I know it has a massive effect on everyone's lives too). As a family we decided to "look for gold" in that first lockdown. Each night we reported our gold findings like a treasure hunt, and we enjoyed searching for hope in that. We took walks at dusk, baked cakes at midnight, taught the kids how to hang up washing and more. We all tried to be as present as we could with each other. I loved not being the "mum taxi" and how we all were so much more relaxed. Our time as expats meant we were used to living as a unit.

Ministry training changed dramatically, from online 24 hours exams, (give me 2 hours in an exam hall any day) to learning how to pre-record for Sunday services, (a 2 min bible reading could take up to an hour to record). I had amazing supervisors who adapted how ministry could be done. Ministry never stopped and new ways were found.

I also returned to work to help during COVID, supporting those who experience problematic alcohol and drug use. I have been so impressed and in awe of all my colleagues on the front line and working with folk that sometimes society would rather forget. The biggest lesson I have learnt is that God does provide all that is needed and that when we doubt, we need to turn that into trust. (I think I might be speaking to myself here!)

I am about to start my probation, in the Parish of Dalgety - another push of a door and see what is behind it. I look forward to all that it might bring. I am completely open to whatever the next 19 months have in store for me. My probation is a bit slower-paced than Anne's, as I have decided to undertake a Masters in Theology in Ministry from the University of Aberdeen. My dissertation was in trauma theology and I would like the opportunity to explore that more. So I am not quite putting down my pen and notepad just yet! That means I will be on probation until March 2023 and I'm looking forward to having a longer and slower-paced probation.

I am so grateful to those who have prayed for me and my family for the last 3 years and I would ask that your prayers continue, and that my family find their feet in the midst of all the fun of ministry.

- Andrea Fraser

INTRODUCTIONS

As we send Anne Redpath and Andrea Fraser off from this congregation to begin their time as probationary ministers, we have the privilege and responsibility of welcoming two individuals among us for a time as part of the journey Anne and Andrea began four years ago. Rob Pettifer is here as part of the discernment process which may or may not lead him to become a candidate for ministry. Ian Morrison has been accepted as a candidate for training as an Ordained Local Minister and is with us for a six-month training placement. We look forward to their time among us as they introduce themselves to us in their own words:

Rob Pettifer

I live in Perth and worship at Perth North Church. I am married to Elaine and I work part time in Perth for the Church as a community worker and part time for a Christian charity in Dundee that works with the homeless and those who struggle with addictions. For a while I have felt a call to ministry and specifically ministry in the Church of Scotland. So, I am delighted to be beginning a period of discernment with you all at Kinross Parish Church. The discernment period is an opportunity to partner with a local church to explore, reflect and listen to God. I am looking forward to meeting you, and be journeying along this path together with you all. Please hold me in your prayers as I take this next step.

Ian Morrison

I hope I can meet you all in person soon but until then, I thought this would be a good opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Ian Morrison and I'm a first year candidate in training for Ordained Local Ministry. Alan has very kindly agreed to supervise my first placement and I'll be spending the next few months with you. I live in Perth with my wife, Susan, and my two daughters, Rebecca and Elizabeth. We also have a very lazy Labrador called Austin.

I'm from Larbert originally but moved to Glasgow for university. I'm a doctor at Ninewells Hospital but previously worked both in Glasgow and also in the USA. Our home church is Perth North, where my wife is an elder.

Our girls keep us really busy and always have lots of good ideas for our weekends. We really enjoy doing charity work, particularly with St John Scotland and St Andrews First Aid, and also going for walks all over Perthshire. I enjoy clay pigeon shooting but the clays usually survive unharmed when it's my turn.

I'm looking forward to spending time with you all and sharing in your church life.

GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL HOUSE, DEBRECEN, HUNGARY

Readers may remember that Zsafia and Edit visited Kinross Parish Church in 2018, and the congregation raised funds for Immanuel House's new building project in a special offering in 2020. Supported by the congregation of the Great Church Debrecen, Immanuel House looks after children with special needs and has formed links with our All Friends Together Group.

Dear Kinross Church members,

Greetings from Debrecen. We are glad to hear you can now meet at the church. We hope that we can improve our situation with the vaccines. Thanks to God, we have had no seriously ill students. Fortunately, our school is open. It only closed down for four weeks at Easter, but now everyone can come.

Thankfully, the work on the new school was not slowed down by the virus. The walls and windows are already in place, the roof is ready, the heating has been installed and the interior work has begun. The wiring is being fixed and they have started painting the walls. The building will be completed by the end of June, so we'll be able to move in the summer. Everyone is excited about the new school year.

We hope that God will bless us and stop this pandemic, and we can start school in normal circumstances.

*God bless the congregation,
Zsafia & Edit*



ECO-CONGREGATION

IN CONVERSATION WITH REV DAVID COLEMAN

Our Kinross Parish Church is an active member of Eco-Congregation Scotland. Kin-nections caught up with the organisation's Environmental Chaplain to discuss the climate crisis.



There is so much poetry in scripture that connects with the world in which we live - and I am sure that we each have a favourite verse or verses. David quotes from Psalm 19, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." This imagery encapsulates the beauty and majesty of creation: God created heaven and earth in

unity. We have become too human focused so we need to find our proper place and purpose, accepting that the world belongs to God and we must realign our place in the world in relationship with nature.

As Glasgow prepares to host COP26, with world leaders coming together as once Old Testament tribes gathered together, David is hopeful that meaningful decisions will be reached through a process of dialogue and collaboration. With the existential threat of climate change there is urgency to the decision-making but "there is opportunity for us all".

The sudden, devastating emergence of Covid-19 has shown that we can react to abrupt change and be resourceful. David does not promise that our journey to a greener, fairer planet will be easy but "this is where our faith equips us for difficult times - we can offer what we do in prayer and each small action that we take is a prayer lifted up to God".

There must be climate fairness, both at home and for our neighbours across the world, and faith communities continue to have an important role in calling out poverty, pollution and injustice.

David encourages us as individuals and as a congregation: in our own Eco-Congregation

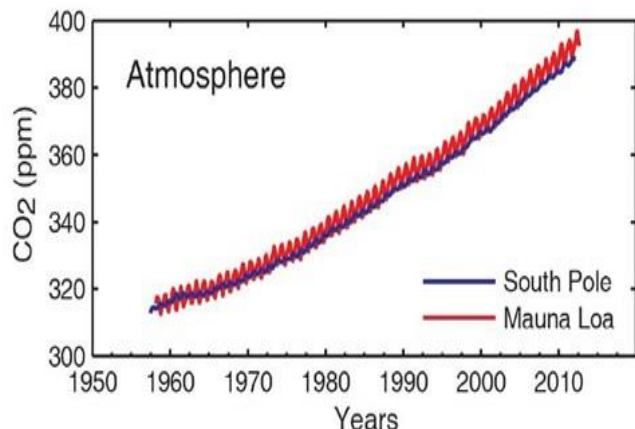
here at Kinross Parish Church we can play our part in responding to climate change by embracing and enjoying the positive actions taken, deepening our faith and building a sense of community.



Rev David Coleman

WHY CONGREGATIONS MUST BE CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

Care for creation is at the heart of the Eco-Congregation movement. 'The earth is the Lord's', declares the psalmist (Psalm 24:1). It is God's creation, not ours to do with as we please.



Measuring the carbon footprint of our church buildings

Over the last few years we have been monitoring the energy and CO₂ usage at the Church Centre. The Eco-Team is currently working with Energy Efficient Scotland to look at how, as a congregation, we can reduce our CO₂ and energy usage in the future. We will then look at the CO₂ and energy usage in the church.

"You are in the beauty of creation and in the colours You paint on the canvas of Your earth" See Connecting with God page 15

ECO-CONGREGATION

KLEO SUMMER MARKETS

In June Kinross Parish Church Eco-Group had a stand at the KLEO summer market.

The Eco-Group provided the community with information on the following environment ideas in action:

- Litter pick events
- Kinross Parish Church allotment at Milnathort and Kinross Allotment Association
- Advice for home energy savings from Home Energy Scotland
- Advice on waste recycling from Perth & Kinross Waste Recycling
- Eco-Congregation Scotland general information on climate change
- Kinross Parish Church Kin-nections magazine



ECO-TEAM LITTER PICK SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

The Eco-Team has arranged another litter pick for **Saturday 11 September 2021**.

At this litter pick we are joining with Tearfund to support the environment; details are on their website: a prayer pick in your neighbourhood
<https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2021/07/a-prayer-pick-in-your-neighbourhood>.

The Tearfund team in Pakistan recently gathered together at the beach in Karachi for a community litter pick. As they were cleaning up, they talked to others about the importance of protecting people and the environment. And they invite us to do something similar...

Contact the Eco-Team direct or via the Church Office to register for the litter pick.



CHURCHYARD FOOD MAP

“In order to feel at home, all animals need four things: food, water, shelter and a suitable place to breed. Those things look different for each creature, and we will investigate different aspects of those needs throughout the year. This season we are thinking about food. The more sources of food there are within your church grounds, the more wildlife you can expect to find. Take some time to investigate what foods are available already, and which animals and birds benefit from what’s growing. Then think about what you might be able to add, so that you can welcome more wildlife into your space in the years to come. You can do this mapping exercise on your own, but it will be more rewarding with a team of mixed ages, experience, and knowledge of wildlife and plants.”

Let’s do the mapping exercise during the summer.

For more information visit:

www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/ideas-for-action

- *Eco-Congregation Faith Action Nature*

A PRAYER FOR CHANGING TIMES

'The Lord's compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.'

Changeless God, we give you our thanks and praise that you are the same yesterday, today and forever. You are compassionate and faithful and we can trust you wholeheartedly with every detail of our lives. You know us through and through and love us unconditionally, so we have confidence that you go with us into each new day.

*'Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?'*

Creator God, we give thanks that while changeless in your nature and your character, you are constantly doing new things, always leading us to new places in the adventure of faith as we respond to Jesus' invitation 'Come with me'. Stretch us and exhilarate us as we grow our relationship with you. May we encourage one another as we share experiences of your Spirit at work in our lives. Open our hearts to hear your voice, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it'.

'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'

Loving God, sometimes we find it hard to deal with changes and we are thankful that you strengthen us by your grace. We pray for young people embarking on a new stage of learning and for all who pick up their studies again after a difficult year. Inspire all who teach and all who learn. May they reach out to you and find you alongside. Grow our trust in you we pray as we all face new situations whether in church, at work, in retirement and in other aspects of daily living. May we be whole-life followers of Jesus, bringing praise to his name every day of the week.

We bring you our worship and our love in the Name of Jesus. Amen

- *Myra Cathcart*

PASTORAL CARE - KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH YOU

Friends, just before the lockdown in March 2020, we reorganised how elders keep in touch with members. The old system of one elder visiting a specific district was not working well, and in some districts there had been no elder for some time. **If you are one of those members who have had no contact from an elder for some time, I apologise.**

The new pastoral team system is meant to overcome these problems. The town and surrounding areas has been split into areas, and a team of at least one elder and one magazine distributor has been established for each. They decide who will distribute magazines and how they will keep in touch with members (by visits or phone). Magazine delivery and visits/ contact with members may not therefore happen at the same time. Covid-19 restrictions, however, stopped these new arrangements, but we are now returning to the area team approach.

You can find out who is to keep in touch with you by phoning the office on 01577 862570, leaving a message for Heather, our Office Coordinator. During lockdown some members volunteered to phone others to let them know there was a friendly voice from the Church available to speak to them. That helped some members feel less isolated through lockdown and I hope these volunteers will become part of the area pastoral teams, continuing this valuable pastoral work.

Our current aim is that all members who want a visit or contact from an elder or other church visitor will get one at whatever frequency suits both, and in a way that both feel is safe. If you do not want or need a visit, perhaps because you are regularly in church, please let the office know. That will allow elders just to deliver a magazine to you without worrying about how they can visit you. The magazine is available on the Church website so if you do not want a magazine delivered, let the office know about that too. Thank you.

- *Robert Mitchell, Pastoral Group Convener*

Did you know? If you click on an event listed on the church website calendar, you can see more details



Traidcraft - please support the producers!

As you know we are not yet able to have our stall in the church, but we can still sell the varied excellent Fairtrade items that Traidcraft has on offer. If you would like to look at the catalogue online at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk please contact any member of the Traidcraft Team or the Church Office and we can order anything and deliver it to you with no P&P charges.

Another exciting way you can buy from our stall is at the Farmers' Markets on **25 September, 23 October and 27 November**. Please come along and say hello and stock up on coffee, tea, chocolate and socks and many other Fairtrade products. When you buy Fairtrade goods you are making a positive difference in the world.

The Guild - Looking Forward in Faith

The Guild is all ready for the new session, or as ready as can be with uncertainty about what we can and cannot do. The theme for the next three years is 'Look forward in Faith'. We hope to be able to gather together in person at our Church Centre (first meeting **31 August**). Last session was so successful on Zoom that we have decided to hold some meetings on this platform in the winter months to avoid the risk of meetings being cancelled because of the weather. Most of our members have managed well on Zoom. It is hoped that the idea that the Guild is for women AND men comes over in the new programme.



The projects that the Guilds support change every three years. The recent ones have raised just over £550,000, of which £759 was raised by Kinross Guild. We have heard of the positive way in which many lives have already been enriched here in Scotland and overseas as a result of these projects. Despite having no opportunity to fundraise, our members have been very generous and, as well as supporting these projects, our Guild has been able to give £1,500 to our church over the past three years.

The six new projects for the next years are all very worthwhile.

For more information about the Guild please visit the church website.

- *Helena Cant*



News from the Craft Group

Our Zoom meetings started in March 2020 and continued until June 2021. Throughout that time most of the 15 members met online, week in week out, supporting each other more than they'll ever realise!

It was very exciting to be meeting face to face in the church from the end of June, even with lots of restrictions. As I write this we are having a three-week break but meetings will resume in person from 11 August in the church, with new guidelines.

Although it has been quite difficult for us all to find a project to work on, we have encouraged each other in lots of ways by sharing ideas, patterns and yarns. Nearly all the charities have more donations than they can use at present as everyone has been knitting! Please let me know if you hear of a charity, preferably a local one, which we could support.

We are usually preparing for a craft sale at this time of year but it's difficult to say when our next one will be. We have lots of crafts to sell, so at the earliest opportunity we'll try to organise an event.

- *Margaret Clark*

Junior Church - back soon!

Junior Church – we are all missing our weekly catch up but wanted to let you know that Junior Church will be back soon. Keep an eye out for more information. In the meantime, check in with our Facebook page for links and ideas. Take care.

- *Lynn Caldwell*

Blythwood Care Christmas Shoe Box Appeal: boxes will be collected on 4 November. Look out for details nearer the time

All Friends Together



All Friends Together (AFT) welcomes adults with special needs to a monthly celebration of Jesus.

We are still managing to meet at our (virtual) gatherings each month and having a lot of fun together. In March, we said a fond farewell to Rev Kathy Dain (as the April Gathering was too close to her move). The leaders and members read a Celtic Blessing to Kathy after thanking her for her support over the past year.

As well as the AFT Gatherings, our members have been attending many of the events being run by Prospects across Scotland, including Bible studies, prayer meetings, drama, music and exercise - to name a few. One of the highlights in the last few months has been the Prospects Easter Celebration, which featured making a one-cut cross, our own

Brenda and Owen leading one of the songs, and a telling of the Easter story - complete with shouting! If that has whet your appetite, the celebration is available to see on YouTube. If you want to see it and are struggling to find it just get in touch with me.

We would really appreciate prayers for wisdom in knowing when to make the move back to meeting face-to-face, rather than virtually. I know we are all struggling with this type of decision.

Helena Cant decided that, from May 2021, she would take a well-earned back seat (not a retirement!) as far as the leadership of AFT goes. Thankfully, Helena will still be very much part of the set-up but we all want to say a huge Thank You to her for all that she has done to get the group up and running and all of the work she does (mainly in the background). I will be taking over, but we are very much a team and I know the team will continue to help me with this new role.

-Anne Sutherland

Choir and Let's Sing

With 'two hats' on I thought I would give you a wee update about what both groups have been doing during lockdown.

The choir has been having Zoom calls to catch up with each other and we also keep in touch with news via email and, of course, over the past few weeks it has been lovely to have a small group from the choir singing and leading the hymns from the front without masks!

We are hoping to be able to do more as a choir soon.

The dementia-friendly Let's Sing has been singing every second Sunday of the month at 3pm, which is when we would normally have met, and a group of us join with some members to sing along with them. Brenda and I call everyone each month just for a catch-up and it's been lovely keeping in touch through this time, which has proved especially difficult for those with dementia.

Like the choir, we are hoping at some point to be able to meet face to face with folks and get singing again.

- Isobel Watt



The Church of Scotland

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERY

Perth Presbytery and its committees have been meeting electronically to conduct business over the past year. Much of what we do is routine or only affects individual congregations. One of the exciting projects is the outreach to the new Bertha Park district of Perth based in a shop unit near the new high school (see March Kinnections for the interview with its Minister, Rev Anne Stott).

The move to big new presbyteries across Scotland means that we have been in negotiations with Dundee, Angus, Dunkeld & Meigle and Stirling Presbyteries. The new presbytery will have 164 congregations compared with the current 35. It will come into being in 2023. The idea is that it will be possible to have more salaried staff to look after the functions of presbytery. The presbytery would meet less often at perhaps twice a year.

The details of exactly how the functions of the current presbyteries will pass to the new one is still to be determined. The advantage, we have been told, is that it should free up congregations to concentrate on mission and outreach. This constitutional talk may seem very remote but it is important for us all that the new system works well.

It has been agreed that the new organisation will be called The Presbytery of Perth because Perth is in the centre and it will hopefully be possible to use the current bank account and charity number.

- George Hayton, Presbytery Elder

SEPTEMBER & HARVEST SPECIAL OFFERINGS: TEARFUND - RECOVER TOGETHER



Tearfund is a Christian charity determined to see an end to extreme poverty and injustice. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic it has established an appeal called Tearfund – Recover Together to carry out Covid-19 related work in countries across the globe. Recognising the vital nature of this appeal, Tearfund – Recover Together is to be the recipient of our September and Harvest Special offerings.

Millions of people the UK have now received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine. We are thankful for the rapid rollout of a vaccination programme that has brought us hope for the end of this pandemic. But for billions around the world, this hope is still a long way off. The only way out of the pandemic is to recover together – no country is safe until all are safe.

Throughout the pandemic Tearfund has been working with local churches and organisations in more than 50 countries to identify and support the most vulnerable. It has also been preparing communities for the rollout of the vaccine, including equipping faith leaders to dispel myths and share accurate information about Covid-19 vaccines. In addition, it has been working to prevent the spread of coronavirus among those living in poverty as they await a vaccine.

We are so privileged to live in the UK where we have relatively easy access to a Covid-19 vaccine. Many of you will have already received your vaccine or are soon to do so. These Special Offerings provide the opportunity to support Tearfund in this life-saving work to help our global neighbours before, during and after vaccines become available.

Your contribution can be made:

1. At Sunday services - please mark your envelope Tearfund – Recover Together
2. See details on the Giving page on our church website www.kinrossparishchurch.org/giving

Thank you for your support.

Further information at www.tearfund.org/campaigns/recover-together | Scottish Charity No. SC037624

- Brian Timms, Finance Convener

SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBOURS AROUND THE WORLD

Our September Communion Offering for Tearfund Recover Together ties in with the decision of this year's General Assembly to support poorer countries hit hard by Covid 19. But it is not the only way we have managed as a congregation to help support our neighbours around the world at this difficult time of Covid and climate change.

This is despite many of the traditional fund-raising routes being closed.

Our Traidcraft team managed to sell £13,000 of Traidcraft goods despite these problems and in April the team and supporters each walked 100km to raise over £2,000 for the Regenerators Appeal of Traidcraft Exchange. This was doubled by the Scottish Government and will help small farmers adapt to the challenges of climate change.

The local Christian Aid team, faced with the loss of the usual door-to-door collections during Christian Aid Week in May, appealed directly for contributions and also organised the successful Water Bucket Challenge. This involved many young folk and families and, overall, the target of £5,000 for the local



Traidcraft April Challenge Walkers

Christian Aid Week was met - an amazing achievement. The focus this year was in supporting the construction of earth dams to improve agriculture's resilience in the face of climate change.

Beware email scams: please continue to be vigilant. Never follow anything that insists you take urgent action. Always check. Be a healthy sceptic!

ACROSS GENERATIONS

The last 18 months have been very challenging for the young people of our church and our local community. Please pray for our young people that as they grow, learn and journey, that they will see Jesus as the Light that shines in the darkness and that the darkness has not overcome the Light of the World.

Some of the youth from our church have been taking part in church-led activities and working as equals alongside others from different age groups. This is what some of our wonderful young people have to say about their intergenerational experiences, a key aim of Growing Young.

Jack has been helping and supporting others while out and about in Kinross-shire during 'Mobile KYTHE': "I really enjoyed working with people of all ages because it gives me a chance to hear and see different opinions and perspectives."

Isla is involved in Family Week and this year is attending as a young leader: "When at school I'm usually only spending time with my own year group and friends my age. So, when I come to church events such as Family Week, Crossfire, Junior Church etc the connections I make with so many different people are much more exciting and influential. Having people to talk to who have been where you are now and can both relate to you and advise is amazing and then being able to do the same for younger years is always nice. I feel like when I'm at Crossfire, for example, I'm having good conversations with both adults and

other teens who might be four or five years younger than me and it's just as good a time as when I'm around people of my age. The things I've learnt from such a range of incredible people is off the scale and always makes me feel more connected to the church community as a whole when working on projects with different age inputs and points of view. For example, when filming the Family Week drama this year, I was

truly inspired by suggestions from the younger members of the team, and it made the process so much like a family event, which is what Family Week is all about."

Andy, who has been involved in planning for and presenting Wake Up,

Warm Up, Worship, says: "I felt confident working with older members of our church family and enjoyed being in charge of the technical side of the presentation on one of the occasions. I really liked the songs we used. They were a lot more lively and I think that was because younger people were choosing them. The whole experience was 'decent'. In the future it would be great if we could have intergenerational group outings – maybe bowling or going to the Willowgate Activity Centre and going on the big paddle boards where teamwork is really important."

If you would like more information about KPC youth groups or if you are interested in being in the team helping to encourage our fantastic young people in their journey of faith, please connect me direct or via the Church Office.

- *Jenny Masson*
Crossfire



ROOFBREAKERS

In June a group of Church members joined a training session run by Through the Roof - an organisation whose aim is to bring disabled people to Jesus and help break down barriers between the Church and disabled people. Those who try to put this into practice are known as Roofbreakers. The name comes from the story in Luke 5 of a group trying to get their friend to meet Jesus but, when they couldn't get him inside in the usual way, they lowered him through the roof. The overall aim of the meeting was to help us equip our Church to become a welcome and safe place for all. Everyone found it a valuable experience and the start of a process, rather than an end in itself.

Whilst our Church is doing a number of things well, we were also able to identify areas where we could improve. We all felt we could benefit from a new perspective - as not all barriers to disabled people are visible. We could all learn from the best teacher, Jesus. We are all made in the image of God. Jesus always saw the person and not any disability and he always treated everyone with dignity and respect. The recurring theme was don't assume, always ask!

This is just a short piece to introduce you to the name and aims of Roofbreakers - there will be plenty more in future issues. Watch this space....

- *Anne Sutherland*

We believe in the God who hears and answers prayer. You can make a prayer request via our website www.kinrossparishchurch.org

CONNECTING WITH GOD

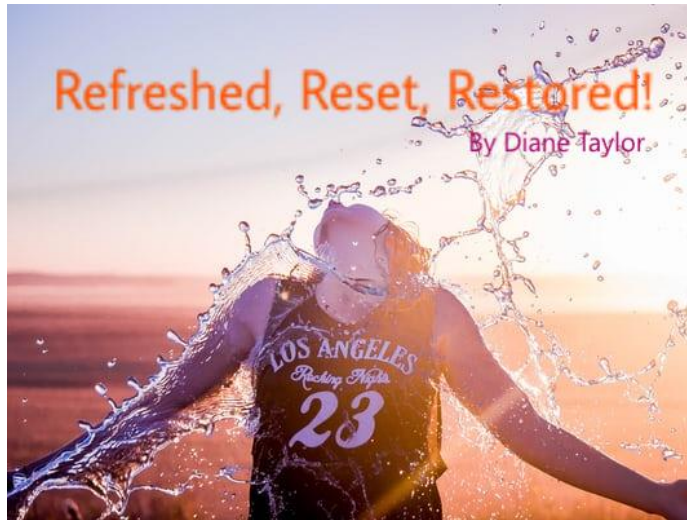
JOY IN THE MIDST

“I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint.” Jeremiah 31:25 NIV

Dear Lord,

We come before Your throne of grace and ask for Your mercy to rain down on us. Wash away all our worries, oh Lord, as we cast our cares on You. Holy Spirit, we take this moment to pause and take a breath. We invite You to give us refreshment and renewal of our thoughts, our emotions, our circumstances and our lives. We are in need of deep cleansing and deep healing of all the things in our hearts that separate us from You. From fear and stagnation to joy and revival, from grief and loss to love and comfort, from stress and frustration to Your holy peace. Fill us with a sense of Your presence, oh Lord, and forgive us for all of our doubt and unbelief. This long period of lockdown rules and restrictions has left us afraid for our future and we need Your help to transition to a new way of being. We ask for a deeper sense of Your presence and a greater level of trust in You.

Our Lord, our Provider, we ask for holy wisdom to guide our path ahead. Lead us step by step, not with fear and trepidation but with comfort, joy and expectancy. We lift Your name in reverent praise and adoration, oh Lord, for all the gifts of inspiration we have around us, reminding us of Your presence.



You are in the beauty of creation and the colours You paint on the canvas of Your earth. You are in the new opportunities, the new beginnings, the new ways of being.

We praise You, Lord, for all the marvellous gifts and talents that You have given each and every one of us. Help us not to compare ourselves to one other, but to celebrate each other's God-given gifts, used for Your glory.

You, Oh Lord, are the author of creation and we thank You for creating our own unique personalities, our own stories and our own identities. Thank You, Lord, that we do not have to worry about falling short and not being worthy to call on Your name, for none of us is worthy. We are made worthy by the blood of the lamb, made in Your image, made to reflect Your Glory. Whilst we are waiting and watching Your plans unfold, may we have the strength and grace to serve. Fill us up to overflowing, oh Lord, for we thirst for You. May all of our lives be refreshed, reset and restored by Your spirit. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen

“but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint”. Isaiah 40:31 NIV

BOOK REVIEW: PRAYER COURSE 2 – GOD ON MUTE (UNANSWERED PRAYER)

Our house group recently completed this course, following on from the original Prayer Course. The course consists of five sessions, with videos online (around 25-30 minutes long) and chapters from the accompanying book, again written by Pete Greig. If you are looking for an easy read and listen this is not the course for you! The most used words from the house group were 'very challenging' but also 'very worthwhile'.

The course uses as its base four days in our Saviour's life on earth - from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday. The first part looks at the big questions we all ask about suffering and how we engage with the silence when we feel God is 'on mute' - a term we have all got used to using through the pandemic. The other videos and chapters are no less challenging - How am I going to get through this? Why aren't my prayers working? Where is God when heaven is silent? When will my prayers be answered? This course will not give you all the answers to everything to do with faith and suffering, but it does help you look at the issue of unanswered prayers from a new perspective. Pete Greig shares personal stories and those of other Christians who have suffered and how they got through their sufferings. Some of this is not easy to hear/ read, but it is definitely worth working through the whole course.

I now have a very different view on suffering than I did at the start of the course. It may be difficult to share some of the questions that are asked but I hope that, if you choose to work through this, you will find it worthwhile and uplifting. You can find more about the course [here](#).

- Anne Sutherland



1st Kinross Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association Are you ready for adventure?

Where?

Friday evenings at Kinross Church Centre on the High Street

When?

Anchors	Primary 1 – 3	6pm - 7.15pm
Juniors	Primary 4 - 6	7pm - 9pm
Company & Senior Section	Primary 7+	7pm - 10pm

Why join?

Why not?!

Arts & crafts | Games | Bible stories | Company, Brigade & National Competitions | Duke of Edinburgh Awards | Annual Camps!

Contact

Contact us through our Facebook page
([Facebook.com/KinrossBBGA](https://www.facebook.com/KinrossBBGA)) or email the Church Office