



NEWS

JUNE 2021

Dear Friends,

We live in a world which seems to have so many changes happening - Brexit, the pandemic and its consequences, and the passing of many older people in many families including the Duke of Edinburgh. Many are stressed or hurting. A group of young people in P+K said that they were a bit bewildered “in a scary confused world”.

The vaccines have offered hope of getting on top of the virus. But people wonder what the future holds in a world of increasing numbers of refugee and the problems stemming from climate change. People long for a positive note of hope.



This is what Easter was all about! It is not only a date evidenced in history, but also a new dimension of a “sure and certain hope”. While the injection of the vaccine counters the virus, God’s injection in Jesus into this world then, was so that now we might experience His love and find our real identity - we are not just a biochemical mix, but in the earthly container we are people who matter to God. It is not a religious system, but a relationship with God that is offered to us. That relationship then transforms all our other relationships, local and global, personal and as part of society.



Christians are called to celebrate the risen Jesus, by growing in our relationship with the living God, sharing the good news of Jesus and showing His caring in P+K and specifically in our communities. It is a great privilege to try to be of some help at this strange time.



**LOCKDOWN
DIDN'T WORK
THAT EASTER
EITHER**

With warm prayerful good wishes

Sandy

(Rev. Sandy Gunn, sandygunn@btinternet.com)

Parish Office—Dunning Church Vestry—01764 684732
(Answering Machine—Please leave a message)

Office Bearers

Session Clerk	Hazel Scott	684578
Depute Clerks	Susan Gray (Aberuthven)	664565
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Website	www.aberdun.org.uk	

We were delighted to open the church for a Sunday service for the first time in over a year on Easter Sunday. We loved having the knitted Easter eggs in the church garden for the village to take home.

Also good news Aberuthven Church will be open on the first Sunday of the month at 11am it would be lovely to say hello, even if it is behind a mask.

Despite the church being closed in the summer months of 2020 when the restrictions were lifted it was heartening that the garden was tended by members of the community without request. Equally the lovely show of flowers, the majority of which were donated, cheered the village up especially the amazing sun flowers. Additionally we also were provided with a lovely piece of art entitled "Hope" for the notice board, thank you everyone. It has been great to be part of the Aberuthven community.

We have also become referees and contributors to the Blue Door Foodbank which provides a local service to the community where required.



Blue Door Foodbank

Opening Hours
Tuesday 10.00 am - 2.00 pm
Friday 10.00 am - 2.00 pm
Auchterarder Parish Church
24 High Street, Auchterarder

For any further information, please contact us on:
info@bluedoorfoodbank.org or 01764 660965

ALERT - the Blue Door Foodbank is always very grateful for food donations which can be dropped off at the local Co-op. In particular soup, rice, custard etc. Thank you

As a congregation we are sending our best wishes to our Minister James and hope he will be back amongst us soon. On behalf of our members we would like to thank Sandy Gunn for his Sunday services and his oversight of the Parish at this time.

In normal times many people are involved in running our Church but times are not normal at present—Church services were cancelled and are now held less frequently, but maintenance of the buildings and general information has to continue. The mainstays of those duties are the Fabric Convenor, the Beadle, the Health & Safety Officer, the Session Clerk, the Treasurer, Elders and Ministers. We thank them all.

For various reasons people don't come to Church, but the Church is always present and open to all. Aberuthven & Dunning Parish Church welcomes everyone and would be delighted to see you on a Sunday morning. Current arrangements are as follows:

- 1st Sunday of the month—Aberuthven—Elder led service
- 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month—Dunning—Minister led service

Due to Covid restrictions numbers are limited so you are asked to book by phoning Susan Gray on 07764 149651 between 7 and 9pm the previous week and do note that masks should be worn and there will be no singing.

Gillian Walker—Communication Group

Update !

We know that Rev James Aitchison has been on sick leave for some months. He has indicated that he is very appreciative of people's prayers and expressions of concern, but has decided to demit his charge as from 14th June. We extend to James and Louise our prayers and good wishes for their future and a full recovery for James. The congregation will be kept fully in the picture as things develop.

To handle administration in the meantime Rev Lis Stenhouse (estenhous@churchofscotland.org.uk) has been appointed interim moderator. Services and pastoral matters will be attended to by Rev Sandy Gunn (sandygunn@btinternet.com 0173844316 which failing 07703469020). Currently services are held in Aberuthven at 11am on the first Sunday of the month and in Dunning at 11am on the second and fourth Sunday. We are looking forward to resuming regular worship as restrictions ease.

One example of the easing is that from 13th June it is likely to be possible for a group of the choir to sing at the services in Dunning. It will be done in accordance with the Covid protocol, but while they sing at appropriate distances, it may be a while yet before congregations are allowed to sing!

Whilst we all seem to have been “on hold” for over a year, work has continued with the Church of Scotland in terms of the Radical Action Plan approved by the General Assembly in 2019. Drivers for this change include declining numbers attending Church, ageing congregations, the number of Ministers due to retire in the coming years and the financial pressure being experienced by the Church, which has, of course, been exacerbated by the reduction in income due to the Covid pandemic.

Part of the RAP involves a restructuring of Presbyteries, a review of the number and use of Church buildings and a reduction in the number of Ministries. Presbytery reform is seeking to reduce the number of Presbyteries from over 40 to approximately 12 and for us in Aberuthven & Sunning Parish, work is continuing to bring together the current Presbyteries of Angus, Dundee, Perth, Dunkeld & Meigle and Stirling as one Presbytery. How this work affects local parishes and congregations is currently being considered and we are party to discussions about the potential impact on local parishes as every parish will undoubtedly be affected by the changes.

For those who would like more information on the RAP and the reasoning behind the proposed changes, the Church of Scotland website contains a section on the topic in the “About Us” area of the website, entitled Radical Action Plan within which you will also find a link to Presbytery Reform. Alternatively, please feel free to contact me and I shall do my best to answer any queries.

Hazel Scott—Session Clerk

I’ve been asked to jot down a few words for our newsletter. It was suggested that I write about young folk in the church and how young people’s attitudes have changed towards attending church-based activities.

My question is this—have they *really* changed....?

It’s probably certain that most people who take the time to read this letter will have attended some sort of ‘Sunday School’ based activity when younger, and it was probably just ‘the done thing.’ Our parents went to church (as did most of the village) and therefore we did too—like it or not.

I can remember lining up on the steps of the church, waiting for the adults to finish so we could all go in—heaven forbid that we could all go in at the same time...! I can also remember our Sunday School picnics, all on the Black Isle’s Rosemarkie beach—I can still taste the warm orange squash.

It would appear that our A&D Youth Team got it right all those years ago. If young folk don’t want to attend on a Sunday because of the gymnastic/rugby/football/bed etc. then why don’t we change the day and time? Attitudes to music and fashion change like the wind so why shouldn’t we? The Tuesday Club was an enormous success and was the envy of a huge number of churches throughout the Presbytery and beyond. So many of our young folk benefitted from attending—some of them going on to become leaders themselves due to the inspiring, dedicated, small team of dedicated leaders—of this there is little doubt.

Attitudes to attending church have changed throughout our country, and not simply within our young folk. What can/should we do to address this? Different times to suit younger families? (Messy Church has been **SO** successful) Different worship styles? (Café style etc) Informal worship? The list is endless...

The question therefore still stands: have young people’s attitudes really changed or is it us as a Church that hasn’t really been bothered to keep up? The Youth Team can’t do it all on their own! Do we do enough to help out here—what else could we **ALL** be doing?

Probably lots...!

Let’s not always blame the young people.

A notice has been received from the Presbytery which appears below. What does it mean ? The church is transparent in what it does, involving congregations or their representatives in all that happens. To speed things up in between presbytery meetings some aspects are handled by committees. People are kept in the picture if that is happening and if a number of people want it handled instead by the full presbytery, then they contact the presbytery clerk to let him know. This notice lets the congregations know a. that it is the vacancy will be considered on 8th June at the full presbytery meeting which will be held by zoom, details of which can be found nearer the time via the Presbytery of Perth's website which failing the presbytery elder (Ron Harrison for Aberdalgie and Forteviot and Susan Xray for Aberuthven and Dunning) ; and b. that in the meantime the intention is that Rev E Stenhouse be appointed interim moderator to handle the administrative matters connected with the vacancy. People are welcome to contact me about any pastoral matters or concerns on sandygunn@btinternet.com or 01738443216 which failing 07703469020

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
PRESBYTERY OF PERTH
Registered Scottish Charity No SC014528

20th May 2021

INTIMATION OF ACTION OR DECISION
OF VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

ABERDALGIE AND FORTEVIOT linked with ABERUTHVEN AND DUNNING

Alerted to the intention of the Revd James Aitchison - currently on sick leave - to demit from Aberdalgie and Forteviot linked with Aberuthven and Dunning on 14th June 2021, the Vacancy Procedure Committee proposes with immediate effect to appoint the Revd Elisabeth Stenhouse as Interim Moderator; and further to cite formally the congregations on Sundays 30th May and 6th June to attend for their interests the meeting online of the presbytery on Tuesday 8th June, when the upcoming vacancy will be considered further.

Any communicant member of the congregations at Aberdalgie and Forteviot linked with Aberuthven and Dunning may submit to the Presbytery Clerk a request for this proposal to be considered at the next meeting of the Presbytery. Where such requests are received from four individuals being communicant members of the congregations or full members of the Presbytery, the request shall be met. Such request should be submitted in writing to the Presbytery Clerk at perth@churchofscotland.org.uk by 31st May 2021.

Rev Alex M Millar Clerk to the Presbytery of Perth Edicts and Intimations:

Edicts and Intimations

The above edict to be read before the congregations on Sunday 23rd May 2021.

Further, in line with the principles agreed by the Commission, the (Vacancy) Protocol states: Any Intimations and Edicts to the congregation shall take place at online worship, by placing on the website and social media if used, and by email or letter and/or by phone so as to ensure that all members of the congregation receive intimation in some form or other, declaring for the avoidance of doubt that a mixture of intimation methods may be agreed by the Kirk Session(s).

The Church is open again and we are slowly getting back to normal for all of us in the Parishes of Aberuthven and Dunning.

The year to 31st December 2020 was an exceedingly difficult period for the Church and for us all. The Church **Expenditure** exceeded Income by the sum of £7879. Regular outgoings such as Ministry and Maintenance, honorariums, Insurances, Scottish Power, Manse Council Tax, buildings maintenance, etc. had still to be met from a much reduced income. This shortfall was covered from our reserve funds.

We were truly fortunate that contributions received via direct debits, standing orders and annual payments continued and I thank most sincerely all those who did so. Unfortunately, there were contributions which ceased throughout the year due to various reasons.

As a result of the closure of the Church for long periods, any contributions made through the Plate and Free Will Offering envelopes dropped significantly. There are some members who have been able to forward their Envelopes and contributions to me. I am very hopeful that any outstanding envelopes will be received now that the Churches have reopened.

Both Churches were closed for the first three months of 2021 therefore a shortfall of funds of £1810 up to 22nd April has resulted. This significant loss will only increase until we get back to some form of normality and again will have to be funded from our reserve funds. Obviously, we can only do this for so long so here's hoping this virus can be eliminated and we can get back a new normality very soon.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to organise fundraising events to make up the shortfall. If the powers to be allow we hope to organise fund raising events throughout the summer.

Should any member wish to make any further donations to the Church please feel free to forward them to me via the Church Office in Dunning. If you wish to make donations by Bank transfer, please contact me or your Elder and full details for Bank transfers can be advised to you.

Thank you all for supporting Aberuthven and Dunning Parish Church and I look forward to your continued support in the months and years to come.

Bill Kettles—Treasurer (01764 6843993)