

# Lindores Litanies

17th Sept 2023



The Newsletter of  
Lindores Parish Churches  
of  
Newburgh and Abdie and Dunbog



may you live in  
interesting times

## Catherine Wilson, our Interim Moderator, writes:

This ancient Chinese expression is sometimes referred to as a curse.

The Church of Scotland is certainly living in 'interesting times'. To survive and thrive, we must undergo major change. This will mean fewer parishes, fewer buildings and with full-time parish ministers working across wider areas. Regrettably, maintaining the status quo is not an option.

For the past three years the Presbytery of Fife, in collaboration with various groupings and clusters within its bounds, has been developing a radical Mission Plan, to make the best possible use of reducing financial and ministerial resources.

The Mission Plan for the **Eden Tay Cluster**, of which we are a part, along with Edenshead Parish (a union of Auchtermuchty & Dunshalt, Strathmiglo & Gateside parishes), the Howe of Fife Parish (covering Collessie, Ladybank, Kingskettle and Cults) and the linked charges of Falkland and Freuchie, is

that the churches will unite to form one large parish. This will be served by a ministerial team comprising one full-time Minister of Word and Sacrament, one Mission Development worker (full-time) and one Pioneer Ecumenical Community Chaplain based with Lindores Parish (0.25 of full-time equivalent.) The latter position is being established to build on Rev Valerie Walker's good work, to bring together local churches of different denominations. Together we should be stronger – and offer a wider variety of worship styles.

For the past year, a Planning Group comprising representatives of each parish, facilitated by Rev John Duncan, has been working out the practicalities of these changes. The standard Church of Scotland document, *The Basis of Union*, covers such matters as the name of the united church, the area in which it will operate, what buildings it will use for services, and the extent of the ministerial team. Our united parish will be called the **Eden Tay Parish**. (A copy of the latest draft of the Basis of Union – an unexciting but vitally important document - can be seen on the Lindores

website.) This document has to be agreed by all the Kirk Sessions in the cluster, then by the Presbytery of Fife and then the relevant national committee. It will then be made known to all the congregations to which it relates. At this point, a ballot will be held. All those on the Electoral Roll will be invited to vote on whether they wish the union to go ahead. This ballot will take place late this year or early in 2024, with all parishes voting on the same day. Watch this space!

Assuming the vote is in favour of the union, a new (governing) Kirk Session will be set up, and the existing Elders of each congregation will come together to form the new, rather large, Session. Over time it is envisaged that the Session will be slimmed down while retaining an appropriate representation of each parish. New committees looking after such matters as Property, Finance, Pastoral Care, Worship, Safeguarding, and Communications will also be formed.

In recent years the parishes have already been working together, with joint services of worship, and joint social activities. Last month, all the Elders came together at a Cluster breakfast, hosted by Edenshead Parish and enjoyed by all. Next month the Lindores Drama Group will be presenting a Variety Show, with 'home' acts and acts contributed by the other parishes in the Cluster. Across the area, notably in Lindores Parish, new initiatives are being piloted and new ways of reaching out into the community are being explored.

Structural changes such as those which are being introduced under the Presbytery Mission Plan, are needed. But we must not neglect our work in spreading the Christian message of love and caring for our neighbours, including the most vulnerable in our communities, and acting as good stewards of our environment.

I hope this clarifies the church's plans,

Kind regards

Catherine Wilson



One of our most enjoyable and nurturing ecumenical excursions is the relationship we have built up with Hunter Farquharson, late Provost of St. Ninian's Episcopal Cathedral in Perth. For the last five years he has been coming to Newburgh and Abdie & Dunbog churches, month about, to celebrate a Celtic communion. Here he is, pictured left, at his retirement lunch in Perth. We are delighted that he plans to continue coming to us monthly—indeed his service last Thursday was his first in retirement—he described it as 'special'. We wish you joy, Hunter.

**BUGGY BUDDIES**



**BABY AND TODDLER GROUP**

Newburgh Parish Church Hall,  
KY14 6AW  
**Thursday Mornings**  
09:45-11:15

Come along for play-time, songs, stories and snack. Everyone welcome.  
Refreshments are also provided for carers.  
Suggested donation: £2 per family.

For more info contact:  
kjtodd006@gmail.com




Buggy Buddies is a new parent and baby group, started by Kirsten Todd on 7th September. And above is Kirsten's baby Lucas, waiting for the fun to begin...

Centre left and middle show the Bear Hunt on 2nd Sept, led by Janet Foggie. The children were divided into teams, each named after a type of bear, and had to find hidden clues prompted by quiz questions. They were rewarded by cupcakes!

Why not a teddy bears' picnic? Too tame! Why a *bear* hunt? See below...



Caitlin Burdis of Blythswood Care visited us on 23rd July and gave us an inspirational talk on what happens to the shoe boxes after they leave

our parish. Read more about their work on [Shoe Box Appeal | Blythswood Care](#). Pictured with Caitlin are a trio of prolific knitters—Elizabeth Pearson, Sally Smith and Kathleen Black. Sally Smith is now asking for shoe boxes for this huge annual effort—please either bring your empty shoeboxes to the church or to Sally's home at 218 High Street. Sally says 'standard size shoe boxes please—not boot boxes.'



## CHILL, ZACCHEUS!

Three churches in the south of Fife are working together on a programme which they call 'Chilled Church'. Valerie went along to see what it was all about and found a great welcome. Tables were set out with crafts and quizzes and she was taken to a table to share the event with others. There were refreshments throughout, and children ran up and down between the tables in obvious enjoyment.

Burntisland Parish, Kinghorn, and Erskine United Free Churches do a 'Chilled Church' service every three weeks, alternating the event between them. See their website for further information, and especially take a look at their photos which show people really enjoying themselves in church. The photo below is borrowed, with thanks, from their FB page: [Chilled Church | Facebook](#)



On 13<sup>th</sup> August, a team of twelve from Lindores Parish put on our own Chilled Church. There were welcomers, the Praise band, coffee and ice cream servers, a prayer at the end – and a load of activities themed around the story of Zaccheus. A tax collector in the time of Jesus, Zaccheus was despised as the lowest of the low. With no known evidence, people thought he was lining his own pockets from the money he took on behalf of the government.

We can further understand Zaccheus' experience by relating it to more recent outcasts, or even our own experiences of being shunned and rejected. Here's an example from WW2:

In 1939-45, women in France who were suspected of having relationships with occupying German soldiers were subjected to aggressive and humiliating punishments – such as having their heads shaved. Sometimes there was no evidence for the suspicions of their accusers and in many cases, the relationships between French women and German soldiers were based purely on everyday transactions – an unavoidable event when your country has been occupied by an enemy. See [Horizontal collaboration - Wikipedia](#) for further information.

In some ways these women were in the same situation as Zaccheus – derided and rejected on the basis of the fears, jealousies and vindictiveness of the wider, so-called righteous population. Jesus, however, invited him to come out of hiding and share a meal. As Christians we are invited to open our hearts and our homes to the outcasts. Valerie hopes we can do Chilled Church again.

The photos below show a response to the prompt 'make something you would find up a tree'. Plus, of course ... ice cream and sprinkles!

We are grateful to Catherine Wilson who led a regular service at Abdie on 13th August, to give church members a choice of worship style.





## **GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT RETRIEVER**

We are delighted to have been able to get out into the fresh air this summer.

On 2nd July we held our annual open air service in the Old Church at Abdie. By popular request we incorporated a pet blessing into this service, and were delighted to welcome Bob with River, and Poppy with Onion. Sadly Mark and Anvil were unable to join us on the occasion. As can be seen

from the heading for this piece, we had a lot of fun making up new names ('...He's got the howl world in his hands...'). Still we were glad to draw on the great traditions of St Francis, who said

*"If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men."* (Or women for that matter).

On 16th July we welcomed back

Chris Childe, who led a Wildcraft session in the Glebe—helping our children find adventure outside rather than on a computer screen.

And last week, P1/2 came to visit and by great good fortune, Duncan of Jordanstone had gifted us a whale... an entire wooden structure. So the children were able to enter fully into the experience of being swallowed up by the whale! Thank you to Newburgh Primary School for the photo.

*Lantern Labyrinth Walk*  
at Lindores Abbey, Fife

Walk the labyrinth at Lindores Abbey in the light of 100s of lanterns

Cost £5 per person  
Newburgh, Fife

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>  
September  
7–8.30pm

Proceeds other than set-up costs will go to **act:onaid** to aid the plight of women and girls in Afghanistan

More info: [labyrinthmagic.com](http://labyrinthmagic.com)  
✉ [thorn@labyrinthmagic.com](mailto:thorn@labyrinthmagic.com)

LINDORES PARISH CHURCH

**HARVEST  
THANKSGIVING  
SERVICE**

SUNDAY  
8TH OCTOBER  
10:30AM

THE MAITLAND'S BARN,  
GRANGE OF LINDORES

DONATIONS OF TINNED AND  
DRIED FOOD WILL BE  
WELCOME FOR DONATION  
TO THE FOOD BANK

LINDORES PARISH CHURCH

**CRAZY  
CHURCH!**

SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER 3-5PM  
SONGS, CRAFTS AND GAMES  
WITH CHILDREN'S TEA AT 4.30PM  
IN NEWBURGH CHURCH AND HALL

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING - THIS HELPS WITH CATERING & PLANNING. DONATIONS TOWARDS CATERING APPRECIATED

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

CONTACT VALERIE WALKER BY EMAIL: [LINDORESCHURCH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LINDORESCHURCH@GMAIL.COM)  
OR BY TEXT/PHONE: 07120 327 766

NOAH'S ARK THEME!

*Acts of God - Part II*

Please Come And Join Us for a  
Light-Hearted Drama & Music Evening  
With The Eden Tay Churches

At Newburgh Church  
(opposite the School)

7pm Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of October  
Doors Open at 6.45pm

*Ticket - £10*  
*Cheese and Wine included*

*Profits to the Unicef Ukraine Appeal*

Tickets available from [lindoreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:lindoreschurch@gmail.com)  
or from Newburgh Post Office or Charity Shop

## HOLIDAY CLUB: 'NAVIGATE'

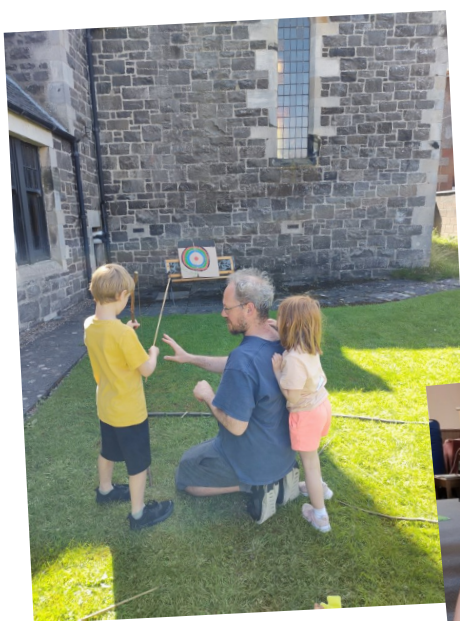
Our holiday club ran from 7<sup>th</sup> till 11<sup>th</sup> August, led by Phil and Kirsten Todd, Catherine Collins, and Valerie. Great fun was had by all, as can be seen in these photos. On the Friday afternoon, all the families were invited to a picnic lunch then an archery session in the garden, using home-made bows and arrows.

We all know that these things don't happen without funding. This year started off no differently. However, a generous donation by a previously unknown friend changed all that—halfway through the week.

Alastair Guild, who lives in Edinburgh, had been browsing on the TICC website and happened to see the advertisement for the holiday club. He got in touch with Valerie, who in turn put him in touch with the local Ancestry and History Society, and he came to visit. Alastair's grandfather was chairman of the linoleum factory, which financed the construction of the TICC for the leisure and recreation of the workforce. The NAAHS volunteers helped him explore his family tree, and Valerie called in at the Laing to meet him after the holiday club.

**In the name of his grandfather, Mr James Harrower Guild, Alastair has gifted £10,000 to be used for the holiday club and after school activities, with a request that these be co-ordinated with other similar work being undertaken at the TICC. We are now exploring options on how best to work with the TICC and their staff.**

This unexpected gift, in support of families and children in Newburgh, is extra welcome in light of the recent demise of the Dino club. Thank you, Alastair.



## Services and events in September and October

### SEPTEMBER:

Sunday 17th 10.30am Newburgh Church, Joint Service with URC

Sunday 24th 10.30am Service, Abdie Church

Saturday 30th 7.00-8.30pm, Candlelit labyrinth walk, Lindores Abbey grounds

### OCTOBER:

Sunday 1st 10.30am Service, Newburgh  
3-5pm, Crazy Church Newburgh

Saturday 7th 10-11am Church coffee morning, TICC

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Harvest thanksgiving Service, Maitland barn,  
Grange of Lindores—followed by soup lunch at Abdie Hall

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 6pm Taizé Service, Newburgh church

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm Cluster variety show, Newburgh Church

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 10.30am, Parish Communion, Newburgh Church

Sunday 22nd 10.30am, Parish Communion, Abdie church

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 11am, Joint Service at URC



*If you would like to join the Sunday service by Zoom, please ask Valerie for the link*

**Please visit our website and Facebook pages and give them lots of Likes and Shares**

Valerie Walker's contact details are: [lindoreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:lindoreschurch@gmail.com)

Phone: 01337 842799 Mob: 07720 327766