

Lindores Litanies

Sat 13th Jan 2024



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



On Wednesday 20th December Valerie was commissioned as Pioneer Ecumenical Community Chaplain (PECC) at a special service in Newburgh Church. The Very Rev'd Graham Taylor (Dean of the diocese of St Andrew's, Dunkeld & Dunblane) presented the *Permission to Officiate* certificate, finally authorising Valerie to conduct services of Holy Communion, Marriage and Baptism within Lindores Parish. The Moderator of Fife Presbytery, the Rev'd Jim Reid, delivered a well-received sermon to a packed church.

Bishop Ian Paton, who was sadly unable to attend because of illness, sent the following message; *"This is such an important day for our two Churches, for the Diocese and Presbytery and for the Church in Lindores. After the St Andrew Declaration committed us to work more closely together in service to the Gospel in our communities, Valerie's Commissioning this evening, as Pioneer Ecumenical Community Chaplain, is sponsored by both the Presbytery and the Diocese."*

For me, it was an evening to remember forever. The warmth and energy in the church was palpable and the singing nearly raised the roof! It was incredibly moving to see such an enthusiastic congregation of church members, local people,

representatives of different churches, family from abroad and friends from so many different parts of my life. The party afterwards ended with Dorissia from Dunfermline singing *Auld Lang Syne* in French. May past times bring future hope for us all.

Wishing you a blessed New Year

Valerie



HARK THE GLAD SOUND!

Way back in summer 2022, with our ears firmly to the ground in search of a new organ for Newburgh Church, we heard that Strathkinness Parish Church was looking to sell. Sadly they were having to close down, but were very keen that their organ be used in a worship setting. Our interest came at a good time for them – we agreed on a fair price, and were able to wait for delivery until after their final service together.

The organ is a Viscount Prestige 50, with computer programming as well as all the usual pedals, weighs 180 kg, and comes in three parts. Strathkinness closed in the autumn but we needed specialist piano removers to install it, and they weren't available until December. Finally, we took delivery on 14th December. Clare Doig, who had previously been to try out the organ at Strathkinness church, could hardly wait to get her hands and feet on it. Having assisted with the installation she spent several happy hours putting it through its paces.

The sound it makes is absolutely lovely and is already making a huge difference to our worship experience. We hope you enjoy it too and if you haven't been to Newburgh Church for a while, do come and join in with our dulcet tones!



I've Heard an Organ Talk, Sometimes

by Emily Dickinson

I've heard an Organ talk, sometimes
In a Cathedral Aisle,
And understood no word it said
Yet held my breath, the while

And risen up and gone away,
A more Berdardine* girl
Yet know not what was done to me
In that old Chapel Aisle.

**[Berdardines—an order of Cistercian nuns]*



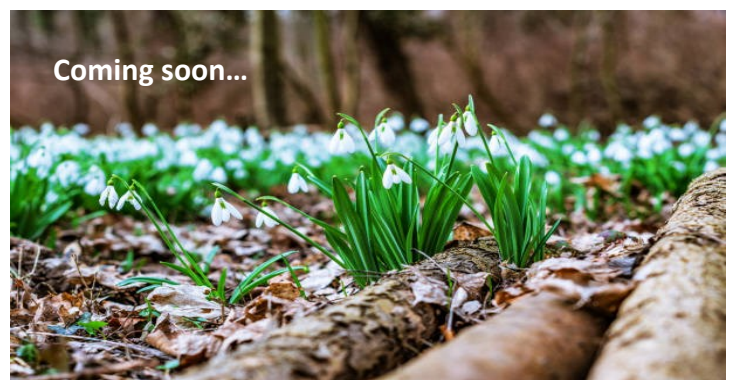
We had a wonderful Monday lunchtime 'Bach and Brownies' event at Abdie on 4th December. Soup and home baking were provided and the lucky listeners enjoyed a delightful programme of cello/violin/viola music. It is hoped this will become a monthly event, filling an otherwise mainly empty building with fabulous music.

THE SKYLIGHT

by Seamus Heaney

You were the one for skylights. I opposed
Cutting into the seasoned tongue-and-groove
Of pitch pine. I liked it low and closed,
Its claustrophobic, nest-up-in-the-roof
Effect. I liked the snuff-dry feeling,
The perfect, trunk-lid fit of the old ceiling.
Under there, it was all hutch and hatch.
The blue slates kept the heat like midnight
thatch.

But when the slates came off, extravagant
Sky entered and held surprise wide open.
For days I felt like an inhabitant
Of that house where the man sick of the palsy
Was lowered through the roof, had his sins
forgiven,
Was healed, took up his bed and walked away.



SOWING SEEDS

25th November dawned cold and clear and we had a magnificent day planting seedlings and saplings in the Glebe. Twelve adults took part and had a wonderful time, enjoying the heat from our 'safe fire', which doubles as an oven.

Colin Andrews, artist and creator of Akin Oaks, joined us with a vanload of saplings and seedlings. These were grown from acorns he planted 10 years ago. 'Oaks once formed a third of all tree cover in Britain and are the most iconic of Britain's native trees,' he says. 'A symbol of longevity, strength and dignity, the oak also plays a unique role in the biodiversity of our forest ecosystems providing vital food and shelter for a staggering 2,300 other species.' Further info



about Colin's project can be found at akin | colinandrews.org

We also cut willow branches and pushed these into the ground in the hope of creating a future archway.

Interestingly, no children turned up for this event and we're not sure why not. This wasn't a problem, just noticeable.

ANDREW ARBUCKLE, MBE



We were happy to hear in the New Year's Honours List of the recognition of one of our own local activists.

His contribution to farming and community issues in Fife has long been appreciated and we wish him all joy in celebrating this achievement. From the Courier:

Andrew chaired Newburgh Community Trust (NCT) during a period when over £250,000 was raised to convert a former factory brown field site into Riverside Park, now much enjoyed by the local community.

During his term as Chairman of the Trust, Andrew also led the Trust to successfully raise £60k to buy, and now run, the former town reservoir as an informal recreational park. This was the first community-owned reservoir in Scotland.

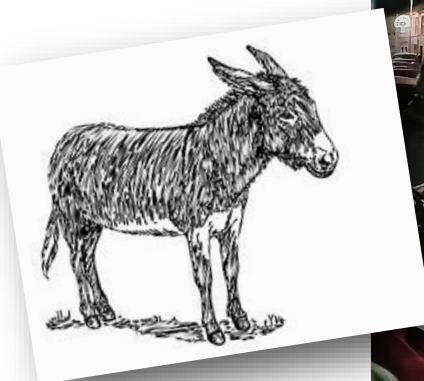




Above: 8th December— the RVS, who come every Friday and work with our own volunteers to provide lunch and games, hosted a special Christmas lunch for our own volunteers and guests. Afterwards— dancing broke out!

Bottom left: On 10th December we held our annual service of seasonal remembrance, remembering those whom we loved and miss at Christmas.

Right and below right: Photos show us carol singing on the High Street, featuring Little Donkey outside Heather Vets



CRAZY CHURCH! On 9th December the children met as usual and among other activities, played a game in pairs. Each pair was given a sheet of newspaper and had to stand on it when the music stopped. Then the music started again, and each time it stopped, the newspaper had to be folded in half. Eventually they had to manage with only one foot on the paper between them... Great fun had by all, and won't it be marvellous for them to look back in future years and remember the fun they had in church.





TOP LEFT: The Wellbeing Choir goes from strength to strength, meeting each Wednesday in the TICC.

On 15th November we held a fundraising night and here are Angela Rees and Bernie Duncan, balancing eggs on sticks, accompanied by the ever-sensible Dave Watt. Why eggs on sticks? Don't ask...

This was a knock-out competition, and suffice it to say—Bernie won hands down (maybe that was her secret). Bernie often surprises us with her hidden skills—but where on earth did she learn this one?

MIDDLE LEFT: King Compo serenades Norah Batty.

This year's Alternativity, held on Sunday 24th November, was put together by Russell Ferguson, and cannily incorporated the spirit of Fawlty Towers along with that of the Last of the Summer Wine. With a Christmas twist, naturally.

The costumes ordered for kings Russell, Robert and Matt caused some surprise when they arrived (see below left) Of course for many people Elvis was the one and only king. The camel rose to the occasion as always.

Below, tea is taken and the world is set to rights.



Services and events for next two months:

January 2024

- Saturday 20th 2-4pm Newburgh Church Hall,
intergenerational seed planting for glebe.
- Sunday 21st Joint 11am service at URC
- Friday 26th 11.30am-2pm RVS Burns Lunch Newburgh Church
Hall
- Sunday 28th 10.30am service at Abdie & Dunbog church



February 2024

- Sunday 4th 10.30am joint service with Falkland and Freuchie at
Newburgh church
- Sunday 11th 10.30am service at Abdie & Dunbog church
- Thursday 15th 10.30am Celtic Communion
- Sunday 18th 10.30am Joint service with URC at Newburgh
church
- Sunday 25th 10.30am service at Abdie & Dunbog church
- Tbc 6pm Ecumenical Taize service at Newburgh
church (might be 3rd March)

The Community Payback Team came at the end of November and decorated our front and back vestibules as well as the vestry. They did a wonderful job. A big thank you to them.

March 2024

- Sunday 3rd 10.30 service at Newburgh church or Cluster service
at Auchtermuchty church
- Sunday 10th 10.30am service at Abdie & Dunbog church
- Thursday 14th 10.30am Celtic Communion Abdie & Dunbog
church

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



Image by [Manfred Antranias Zimmer](#) from [Pixabay](#)

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