

Lindores Litanies

1st Sept 2022

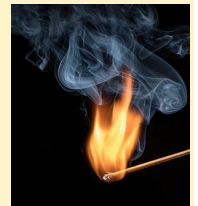


The Newsletter of
Lindores Parish Churches
of
Newburgh and Abdie and Dunbog



Let it shine!

It seems like several new flames have been lit in our parish recently. The welcome we extend to other denominations has led to the exciting possibility of our becoming a Local Ecumenical Parish, as described by Catherine Wilson (pages 2-3).



Twelve of our congregation are taking part in a 6 week discipleship course run by Hannah Sanderson, a Church of Scotland development worker. The first session, last Wednesday, was a wonderful experience; Kirsty McLellan gives a flavour of this on p 4.

The drama group have started rehearsals for a Murder Mystery dinner on October 7th (page 6) and have many fun ideas for a great evening of entertainment. Early booking is recommended!

Recognising that the weather is getting colder we're offering an opportunity to keep warm and have fun together playing games in Abdie & Dunbog Church Hall (p 4)

Five of our newest members (see below) raised our spirits at Sunday morning worship last month when they sang praise songs with Clare Doig. Some of them were slightly apprehensive but they made a truly lovely sound. Happily they've agreed to do this again!

Singing praises, Left to right: Clare, Kirsty, Stacie, Angela, Kirsten, Paul



A LETTER FROM CATHERINE WILSON,

our Interim Moderator:

To me, one of the most pleasing aspects of the General Assembly 2022, was the increased emphasis on ecumenism – **‘the aim of promoting unity among the world’s Christian Churches; the forging of formal ‘agreements’ and ‘understandings’ between denominations at national level.’** As ever, many denominations were represented among the special guests but this time, speakers included representatives of the Methodist church and the Roman Catholic Church—both espousing the need to work together.

This caused me to reflect on my childhood—being born and brought up in a city made me aware of the various denominations within the Christian community. My family was Anglican, but I was a Methodist Brownie, and my brother was a member of the youth group of the local Presbyterian church. My sister’s best friend was member of the local Christian Scientist community, and among my classmates at school were Baptists, Congregationalists and one member of the Plymouth Brethren. It was only later in life that I began to recognise the many disadvantages of divisions within the church, and the ways in which they weaken the Christian message, both to those within and those outwith the church.

Here in the Lindores Parish we are very fortunate that our minister, Valerie, has been working hard at local level to reduce such divisions by strengthening links with the United Reformed Church, and offering alternative forms of worship. These include the monthly Celtic Communion and Taizé style services, which are attractive to members of other denominations, and people with little or no attachment to any church.

These developments, strongly supported by the Kirk Session, have been noted by those who have developed the Presbytery Mission



Development Plan (currently in draft form). In this Plan, Lindores Parish is charged very specifically with continuing ‘to develop missional outreach and to further engage in the setting up of a pioneering ecumenical community across the parish’ – and, in time, across the cluster of parishes, of which Lindores is one of four.

What has been achieved so far is just the start and much more needs to be done. However, in looking at all the possibilities for a formal Newburgh Ecumenical Partnership, we have been offered the support of the Fife Presbytery and the Ecumenical Relations Officer. **With this goal in mind, senior representatives of the Presbytery and the local diocese of the Episcopal Church will be joining us for lunch after morning service at Newburgh Church on 30th October. Lunch will be followed by a short presentation by our visitors and the chance for questions about how the initiative might be progressed and what additional support might be made available. All readers of this article are invited to take part.**Continued P3

There are several immediate benefits accruing from being charged with this new initiative:

- We will be allowed to remain in Guardianship for the next three years, and while we must be involved in the setting up of a single parish across the Eden-Tay Cluster, we will retain a good degree of independence in the short term.
- The position of our minister, officially termed as a Pastoral Assistant, will be secured for the next three years and her status should be enhanced as a result. Also, as a **Pioneer Ecumenical Community Chaplain**, she could potentially be allowed to celebrate the sacraments with different denominations within the partnership.

We have secured a better future for both of our church buildings. I believe that we will discover other benefits as the initiative develops. This should be an exciting and challenging time for Lindores - the **only** parish in the Fife Presbytery which has been charged with a pioneering ecumenical role*. I look forward to your support in the months and years ahead, not least in taking part in the meeting on 30th October.

** Pioneer Ministry has been defined by the Church of Scotland in its Ministries Council Report, of 2015 as: "A ministry whose focus is primarily on establishing new church communities (rather than ministry in the context of already established ones); that is recognised and set apart by the Church for this specific role." It could be described as a ministry whose focus is on mission to establish a new way of being church within a specific community or context.*

Catherine Wilson
Interim Moderator

Galatians 3: 26-28

"For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."



Above: We were delighted to welcome the Nicol family at Abdie Church on 14th August for the baptism of their youngest child—Yarra Ivy Lupin. Janet Foggie conducted the service and it was a really lovely occasion.

Wishing all blessings to Yarra and her parents, brothers and sister.

According to Collins' English Dictionary, PIONEER means:

(noun) an innovator or developer of something new

(verb) to initiate, prepare, open up

From 16th Century French word *paonier*—infantryman

When Clare and I headed off to Cupar to find out about the Exploring Discipleship course that was being offered I certainly had the feeling of what on earth have I let myself in for this time?! This was back in February, just after Lockdown; it was something to do on a winter's day and beat sitting at home looking at the same four walls.

We had a very enjoyable morning in Cupar and on the way home wondered how it would go down in Newburgh. We talked it over with Valerie and decided to sound people out. By the end of April, we had enough interest to go ahead and invite Hannah to come along to facilitate a course for us. We opted for early autumn to accommodate the busy gardening season and summer holidays.

The 24th of August was decided on. We booked Abdie kirk hall for the duration; remembered the important things like milk for our cups of tea and set off wondering if anyone would show.

The evening was way beyond our expectations. Right from the get-go the room was buzzing. There was a palpable energy in the atmosphere. The discussions were lively, and everyone was so willing to share their thoughts, experiences and ideas. We had four very welcome visitors from other churches in the cluster who fitted right in; there seemed to be no barriers as there so often are between strangers. Some of our new members were with us and we were able to get to know each other so much better.

Hannah who developed the course and is our facilitator is a very positive person. No one is left feeling that what they say is invalid. The word *course* maybe makes the evening sound a bit daunting, bringing to mind thoughts of pens and paper; never fear, Hannah makes it a fun evening and I'm sure we all learned a lot and hardly wrote a thing!

As I sit here the following day writing this, I can still feel that positive energy. So, to the other eighteen participants who made up the group, I give you my heartfelt thanks and look forward to seeing you over the next few weeks. And to anyone who is hesitant about joining the

Exploring Discipleship course – it is worth going along just to be in such positive energising company.

Kirsty McLellan

GAMES AFTERNOON:

Is anyone interested, or know of anyone who would be interested, in attending a social afternoon on Tuesdays, starting the 13th September in Abdie church hall? It will take the form of games- playing cards, dominoes, Rummikub, scrabble etc. If anyone is happy to teach card games or would like to learn new games, please come along. We aim to have a social afternoon and fun.

Tea/coffee and biscuits provided on a help yourself basis, entry fee of £3.00

If anyone needs transport from Newburgh, Jill Hayward/ Bernie Duncan/Marian Thomas will assist with lifts. If this proves a success and if there is a demand we could look at setting up an evening session also (possibly in Newburgh) so that we are not excluding anyone who works during the day.





Angie Toppan is an ESOL teacher – teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages – with 35 years’ experience. From 1982 to 2017 she worked variously in the US and UK; in a slum in Thailand; a monastery in Nepal; with children with special needs and their teachers in India; in a Quaker school in Lebanon; and in an international school in Norway. Then she decided to study for a Diploma in Therapy. She moved to Newburgh a year ago while still studying and undertook a placement in a therapeutic garden in Edinburgh.

Like everyone else she had to contend with the fallout from Brexit, and then the pandemic. Settling down for the first time ever in what might be considered a ‘normal’ home life in a ‘normal’ community, she discovered the joys of gardening, and was gently adjusting to new and contented rhythms of life.

Then in February this year, as we know, Putin invaded the Ukraine, forcing Ukrainian citizens to flee for refuge. A number of them arrived in Newburgh. Valerie got in touch with Angie, who could immediately see how her skills would be useful. Now she spends two sessions a week in Newburgh Church Hall, helping four Ukrainians, hosted nearby, to learn English.

If you have lived abroad, you know how vulnerable and lonely you feel when you can’t understand the local language. Even if your material needs are met, you can’t listen and laugh, speak and share with others. Some of us may remember French lessons at school, and grappling with such abstract concepts as tense and mood and how to decline a verb.

And then, there wasn’t always the opportunity to practice your *je suis/tu es* etc on others. Does living here, surrounded by the language, make it easier to learn? Not necessarily.

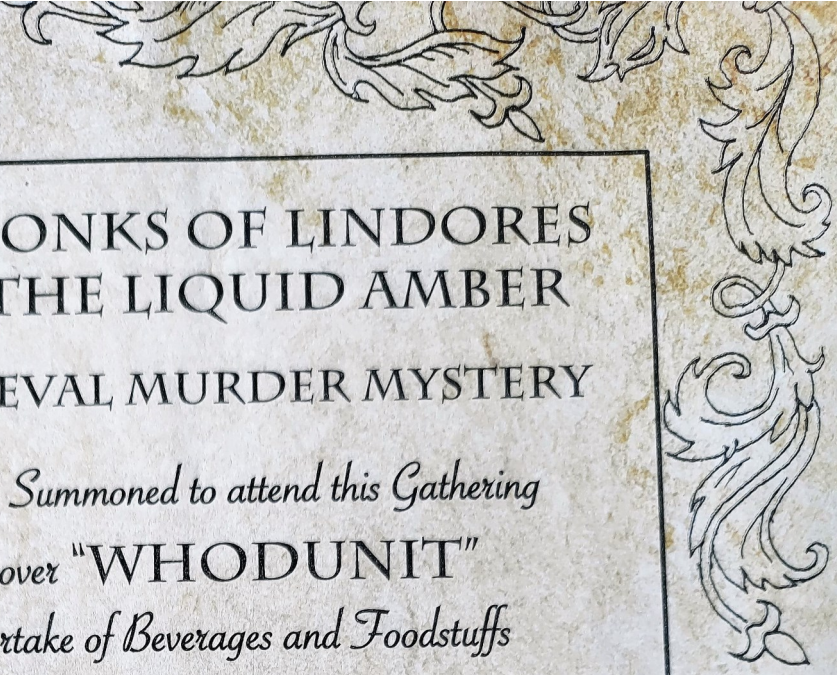
Immersion in another culture is a daunting task. How, for instance, to tell the difference between a joke and an insult? How do you describe the thing you need to buy in a busy shop? Consider however all the other issues facing refugees: the trauma of seeing their home cities destroyed; the loss of loved ones; the imperative to learn the dangerous and doubtful skills of war; the uncertainty of welcome in a foreign land; homesickness; the desire to just go home; the challenges of keeping in touch with family and friends elsewhere – and every night the endless terrifying news on the television of further destruction in your homeland. All of this challenges one’s concentration for learning new things. For teachers like Angie, the task demands tact, skill, insight, and endless patience.

So how does she do it? The Church Hall is a great space, she says, and a useful whiteboard was kindly donated. Otherwise she improvises. She works with two adults and their children, aged 11 and 12. Although most of the talking in class is in English, she finds that her past knowledge of the Russian language has been helpful.

There is a lot of activity-based learning. For instance with animal games – asking questions to try and guess the answer, like ‘do you have a tail? Are you vegetarian?’ This involves a bit of drama and a lot of laughs as new vocabulary is introduced and absorbed. As the children settle into school and the adults find work, they will hopefully be able to make some friends and feel more secure and able to concentrate on the learning of the language. But it’s a marathon rather than a sprint; and meantime, nobody knows how long they will be here.

If this story seems depressing, you wouldn’t know it, as Angie glows with hope and positivity. Let’s all offer her, and her pupils, all the help she can possibly need as we go about learning how to ‘do church’ in these strange times.





THE MONKS OF LINDORES
AND THE LIQUID AMBER
A MEDIEVAL MURDER MYSTERY

*Thou art Summoned to attend this Gathering
Discover "WHODUNIT"
and partake of Beverages and Foodstuffs*

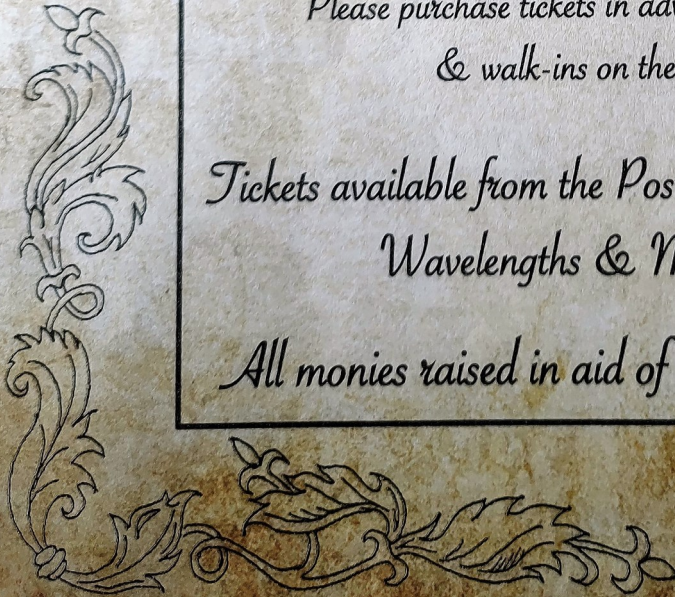
*Friday 7 October 2022 at
Newburgh Church*

*Doors open at 6pm for dinner and drinks
Performance begins at 7pm*

*Tickets £10 – including food and wine
Please purchase tickets in advance as seating is limited
& walk-ins on the night restricted*

*Tickets available from the Post Office, the Charity Shop,
Wavelengths & Newburgh Church*

All monies raised in aid of Lindores Parish Church





FOR SALE!

At the time of our renovations we carefully removed and stored the above pews in matched pairs—the originals were 20ft wide, very solid, and made of pitch pine.

The Kirk Session has agreed that the pews may now be sold, and we are offering these, initially for church family and friends before we invite general purchase:

£120 for a 10 ft 'end'

£220 for a 20 ft matched pair.
Delivery extra.

Please phone or text Kylie for further info:

07590 688468

Or email
kylie.barton347@gmail.com

Anyone who wishes a closer look, please inspect those pews still in place at the church, which are identical.

HELP NEEDED

For church coffee morning in TICC on October 1st.

Please contact Margaret Stark:

email: msgstark@hotmail.com

Tel: 01337 841180

or text to her mobile: 07762609787

WANTED!

Unused iPad, OS 9.3 or later

To control the new sound system for Newburgh Church. Many people have commented that they can't hear the service properly so we are investing.

We also plan to buy more chairs with arms for Newburgh Church, for our greater comfort.

The above is estimated to cost £8,500.

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

[Lindores Parish Church | Facebook](#)

and:

[Home | Lindores Parish | Church of Scotland](#)



SERVICES AND EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

September:

Thursday 1st	Celtic Communion	Newburgh Church 10.30am
Sunday 4th	Sunday Service	Newburgh Church 10.30am
Sunday 11th	Sunday Service	Abdie & Dunbog Church 10.30am
	Family Forest Fun	(Bonfire at the Glebe) 2pm
Sunday 18th	Joint Sunday Service	URC Church Newburgh 11am
	Taize Service	Newburgh Church 6pm
Sunday 25th	Sunday Service	Abdie & Dunbog Church 10.30am

October:

Sunday 2nd	Sunday Service	Newburgh Church 10.30am
Thursday 6th	Celtic Communion	Abdie & Dunbog 10.30am
Sunday 9th	Harvest Festival at the barn, Grange of Lindores, followed by soup lunch at Abdie Hall	
Sunday 16th	Sunday Service	Newburgh 10.30am
	Taizé Service	Newburgh 6pm
Sunday 23rd	Parish Communion	Abdie and Dunbog 10.30am
Sunday 30th	Parish Communion	Newburgh—followed by lunch and discussion with Presbytery Clerk David Coulter, and Bishop Ian Paton

If you wish to join by Zoom, please contact Valerie for the link:

lindoreschurch@gmail.com or tel 01337 842799 or mob 07720 327766

Below: Crazy Church picnic in the Abdie & Dunbog church garden on 28th August. Parachute provided by Susan Thorburn; greatly enjoyed by adults as well as children!

