

Lindores Litanies

1st Nov 2022



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



Dear All,

Our morning service on Sunday 31st October was an important day in the story of Lindores Parish Church –not least because we were sharing Communion with our friends from Newburgh URC. Sadly, both Janet and I were unable to participate due to positive Covid tests! In the light of this, one of our invited visitors, David Coulter (Clerk to the Presbytery of Fife), stepped in at the eleventh hour to preside at this landmark, ecumenical service.

I watched the service on Zoom and enjoyed it immensely. Bishop Ian's sermon about saintliness and beatitudes resonated with many hearts and minds in the congregation. The music group sang wonderfully well, lending their own positive vibe to the day. Seeing people from different denomination sharing bread and wine in our church felt very special.

The photo shows Rev Linda Rice at the communion table with Rev Dr David Coulter and Right Rev Ian Paton (Scottish Episcopal Bishop of St Andrew's, Dunkeld and Dunblane) Another welcome guest that day was Neil Campbell (Mission Director, Fife Presbytery).

The service was followed by a soup and sandwich lunch, and discussion on mission and ecumenism. There were a lot of comment on the many things we've achieved in Lindores over recent years, including our inclusive attitude and welcoming hospitality to people of other denominations, as well as to the local community.

David Coulter and Bishop Ian expressed a view

of ecumenism which celebrated the best of both traditions rather than watering down either; and Bishop Ian, recognising me as priest within the SEC, hoped that our parish mission for ecumenism would extend beyond the bounds of the local community. All of this is very interesting and challenging; and I'm sure there will be a lot more discussion.

May I say I was delighted to be waved at via Zoom by those in the meeting (and for the beautiful soup left on my doorstep afterwards!) Thank you all for including me. It was very strange having to remain muted and not join in the conversation, though you did an exceptionally good job without me!

With best wishes from Valerie—your Pioneer Ecumenical Community Chaplain!



Paul Duncan writes:

Newburgh always has a surprise in store!

Several months ago by chance I met a proud and concerned mum who told me about her daughter Martha, now aged 30. Martha had just returned from the Ukraine, having spent six months on the front line helping move displaced people from Russian occupied areas. Constant shelling and horrific conditions were the norm for the Ukrainian people and Martha was exhausted by the experience. Her mother's anxieties for her daughter's safety were clear – especially as Martha was planning to head back out there in November. I must admit that, as a parent, I was moved by Martha's Mum's story. I could see how proud she was of her daughter, while still filled with worry and trepidation on her daughter's behalf.

A few weeks later I had the good fortune to meet Martha herself, and she explained her soup kitchen project. I agreed to help, and since then she has carried out two presentations at our harvest festivals. Both were well received and there were several generous contributions to her fund.

[Martha has since been awarded a Scottish Bravery Award in Scottish Community Project of the Year.]

DONATION LINK

[Fundraiser by Martha Aitken : Project Soups - Ukraine \(gofundme.com\)](https://www.gofundme.com/fundraiser-by-martha-aitken-project-soups-ukraine)



Martha is now working towards charitable status, to make fundraising easier. Meantime she is grateful to churches which can be more flexible in supporting small organisations. The middle picture above (courtesy of the Times) shows Martha in action in Kharkiv; and the map above shows her route, starting on the Polish border and travelling ever further into the war zones.

SOUP

Ukrainian winters are intensely cold and all those displaced citizens are in for a hard time this winter. Martha's soup project will deliver a fresh hot meal using local produce and local labour. What is more, it won't be a one-off—her project will commit to delivering soup twice a week throughout the three coldest months. This allows people to plan better for the future, while also providing dignity and companionship; and it costs only 50p per meal.



SMILE BOXES

See page 7 for some suggestions for the things that people in Ukraine need—their winters are hard and they have to grapple with the dark. Shoeboxes can be handed in to Valerie before the due date. Martha says it doesn't have to be glittery, just practical! Labelled either 'adult' or 'child', but NOT gender-specific, she will take these boxes with her in the truck when she heads out to Ukraine on 9th November.



BOOK OF CONDOLENCE for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

As you all know, Queen Elizabeth died on Thursday 8th September, peacefully at Balmoral Castle. This could hardly be called unexpected, and yet it was a shock to many and a matter of grief to most. People felt quite wrong-footed – the Queen had been such a steady feature of our national lives for all those years. How could we express our feelings?

A plea was posted by Wendy McIntosh on our local Facebook page for ‘somebody to do something to mark the occasion – people need this.’ Valerie saw this and says she was shocked into action. She doesn’t know Wendy but decided it was a relevant challenge for the church, as Paul tells us, in his letter to the Romans (Ch 12 v15), to **‘rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.’**

Bernie Duncan, with previous relevant experience, offered to produce a book of condolence, and then transcribe it to the Palace website. Valerie put out a request and within an hour, 16 volunteer slots were filled. Claire Doig decorated the church, finding some lovely photos of the Queen. So, the church opened for this purpose for 8 days, 3 hours a day. Forty-one people came along to spend some time and sign the book, with Wendy’s signature being first. These have now been sent to Buckingham Palace to be added to all the signatures from people right across the land.

A statement and prayer were later issued by Right Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the Church of Scotland. Follow the link to read this: [Statement and prayer from the Moderator on the death of Her Majesty The Queen | The Church of Scotland](#)

Meantime at the level of individual churches, no guidance was given from any source, and we had to make some quick decisions about what needed to be done. Our people fulfilled a valuable role on behalf of the community by enabling local people to express their sympathies at a time of national mourning.

Ecclesiastes 3:4

‘There is a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance...’

Read the whole of this inspiring passage at [Ecclesiastes 3-4 NIV - A Time for Everything - There is a time - Bible Gateway](#)

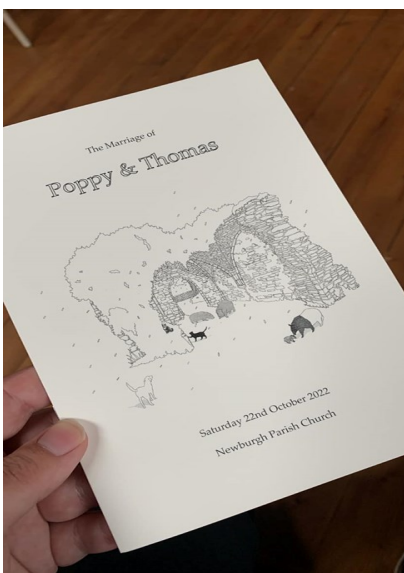


There were two Sunday services during the period of national mourning, and on each of these occasions the congregation sang the unaccustomed ‘God save the King.’

LOVING AND HONOURING FOR ALWAYS

It was wonderful to welcome Tom Hendriks and Poppy McKenzie Smith and their 120 guests to the church on 22nd October to celebrate their marriage. Many guests carried their own chairs along from the distillery, and back again afterwards! There was a delightful posy of bridesmaids along with Gee – Iris, Daisy and Rose; and an organist friend of Poppy and Tom's, hailing from Northampton, made a wonderful contribution to the occasion. The singing was awesome. Hand-cut confetti snipped by Poppy and Gee added its own special glamour and left its pretty reminder in the church grounds afterwards – a delightful church memory to add to our gallery.

It was a special occasion for me/our parish too, as Bishop Ian granted me permission to conduct my first Episcopal wedding within a Church of Scotland building. Observant readers may notice that Linda McLaren, the beadle, and myself are wearing identical black patent shoes with silver studs. Perhaps she'll eventually acquire a black cassock or verger's gown....?





Above:

MORE FUN IN THE GLEBE: Chris Childs teaches a child how to (safely) strike a flint.

Below:

NEWBURGH PARISH CHURCH, 1905— money had run out for the completion of the building, and here an inspection is being carried out as to the work completed so far. Photo courtesy of Tom Pearson.



GAMES AFTERNOONS:

As you will remember from the last issue of Lindores Litanies, we had decided to set up a games afternoon – recognising that the dark nights are coming in, and many people find it all very isolating. This has been going well, and we hope others will come and join us, there's plenty of room.

We meet from 2.00 till 4.00pm at Abdie & Dunbog Church Hall, to play a variety of games such as backgammon, draughts, Rummikub and suchlike. Or feel free to bring your own games and/or knitting! Tea and biscuits are served, and we are grateful for donations – about £3 is suggested. If you need a lift, please ask – contact Margaret Struthers on 07977 935053



Luke 14: 28-30 (The Message)

“Is there anyone here who, planning to build a new house, doesn't first sit down and figure the cost so you'll know if you can complete it? If you only get the foundation laid and then run out of money, you're going to look pretty foolish. Everyone passing by will poke fun at you: 'He started something he couldn't finish.'”

The Monks of Lindores and the Liquid Amber



Bernie writes:

For harvest festival time, I found myself volunteering to write a murder mystery. Our AmDram group thought this would be fun – but I soon realised the scale of the challenge! We hoped for a good-sized audience so I decided to write it as a play, with the audience guessing whodunnit.

The setting was our own Lindores Abbey; the year 1540; and the characters were the abbot and monks as well as a visiting nun, the local ale house landlady, the cook, the stable lad and of course the detectives – Finlay the Physician and his old friend the Mistress Marble – who pointed out during the evening that it wouldn't be a murder mystery without a host of red herrings, dodgy clues and clever cliches!

My fellow AmDrammers read through the script to ensure it made sense and flowed properly. As you can imagine, there was as much fun at our rehearsals as on the night itself. Everyone developed their own characters and ad-libbed merrily. We started early on, making costumes and props, which turned out to be brilliant. The camaraderie of the cast, with everyone determined to give their best, made it all feel so worthwhile. To keep the mystery going I kept the 'final reveal' to



just six of us.

We advertised the event and, crossing our fingers, printed 100 tickets. To our delight, we sold out! On the night, a team of volunteers decorated the church as a 16th century abbey; tables and chairs were set out; and a ton of food was prepared. Donations for drinks and raffle prizes were gratefully received. The audience streamed in – medieval music played in the background – 94 hot meals served – the lights were dimmed. The cast gave a fabulous performance, and we were all on a 'high' to see so many people from the local community enjoying themselves.

My challenge was complete. I had written a play and it had been performed. It was a delight to see so many church members come together to realise the event – whether acting, making costumes and props, cooking, serving or playing music. These people are the heart of the church and the local community – too many to name, but you know who you are. Thank you for your warm spirit and generosity, and for giving me a new experience and huge sense of achievement.

Valerie adds: As well as cooking for our guests, Margaret Stewart provided a further 20 meals for cast and crew, offering a choice of three dishes. Well done Margaret! Generous gifts of wine and whisky kept the party jolly, thank you to all those who donated.

From the sale of tickets and the raffle, we cleared £900 – a brilliant result and another triumph for Lindores Parish Church AmDrammers!



On Sunday afternoon, 23rd October, we had a repeat visit from our friends at Newburgh Orchard Group. They held an 'Apple Fun Day' to raise awareness of their work, and as a reminder to all that Newburgh and surrounding area are still rich in orchards of apple, pear and plum—originally planted by the Tironensian monks in the late Middle Ages.



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](#)

SMILE BOX SUGGESTED CONTENTS



For adults:

Toothbrush and paste, hair brush, gloves, notepad/pens

Torch + batteries, bars of soap, warm socks, lip balm, mirror, purse.

For children:

Any of the above but perhaps also sweets/chocolate, beads/jewellery making kit, tennis balls, any other small play things. hairclips/bobbles, pack of cards, small toys, cuddly or otherwise, Yoyo, skipping rope.

Please label 'adult' or 'child'. Boxes should be gender-neutral. Many, many thanks from Martha.



We were delighted to welcome three new members to our church on Sunday 2nd October. Kirsty & Stacie Clark and Angela Rees were baptized and blessed by Janet Foggie at a joyful service followed by a special cake. Kirsty wrote:

Stacie and I have always felt so welcomed by this church, so being baptised there was really special. The service itself I found quite emotional. And then we felt such love from all the congregation following the service. Neither of us thought we would feel anything different but we definitely have. Our worship is so much more now. We pray more. Those bibles you gave us are being read nightly. This to me was like someone clarifying we were welcomed back.
Kirsty

Services and events in November and December

November

Thursday 3 rd	Celtic Communion, Newburgh Church	10.30am
Sunday 6 th	Joint Service with Howe of Fife Church in Abdie & Dunbog Church	10.30am
Friday 11 th	Newburgh Primary School Remembrance Service in Newburgh Church	9.30am
Sunday 13 th	Remembrance Service, Abdie & Dunbog Church Remembrance Service at Newburgh War Memorial followed by all age service in URC Church	9.30am 11am
Sunday 20 th	Sunday Service, Newburgh Church	10.30am
Sunday 20 th	Taize Service, Newburgh Church	6pm
Sunday 27 th	Sunday Service, Abdie & Dunbog Church	10.30am
Sunday 27 th	Crazy Church, Newburgh Church & Hall	3pm – 5pm

December

Thursday 1 st	Celtic Communion, Abdie & Dunbog Church	10.30am
Sunday 4 th	Children's nativity service Newburgh church	10.30am
Sunday 4 th	Cluster advent service, Falkland stables	2pm
Wednesday 7 th	Newburgh Wellbeing Choir festive sing-a-long in TICC	2pm
Saturday 10 th	Christmas Windows Newburgh church	2-4pm
Sunday 11 th	Children's nativity service Abdie & Dunbog church	10.30am
Sunday 11 th	Seasonal service of remembrance, Newburgh church	3pm *
Thursday 15 th	Dunbog Primary School nativity, Abdie & Dunbog Church	pm
Friday 16 th	Newburgh Primary School nativity, Newburgh Church	pm
Sunday 18 th	Carols & Alternativity Drama Service, Newburgh	10.30am
Saturday 24 th	Pyjama Christingle service, Newburgh	6pm
Saturday 24 th	Candlelit midnight service, Abdie & Dunbog	11.30pm
Sunday 25 th	Christmas Day service Newburgh	10.30am
January 1 st	New Year service Abdie and Dunbog	10.30am

*Please invite anyone who has been bereaved, recently or long ago, to our quiet service of reflection on December 11th. It can be a welcome opportunity to remember those we love and miss at Christmas time.

If you wish to join Sunday Services by Zoom please contact Valerie for the Link

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