

Lindores Litanies

Sat 16th March 2024



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



Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied

At his trial in January 2021, Alexi Navalny quoted these words from Matthew's Gospel (chapter 5). He stood accused of violating parole after receiving treatment for Novichok poisoning in Germany. He described himself as having once been "quite a militant atheist", like many others in the Anti-Corruption Foundation, but was now a Christian. He said that the Bible offered him guidance and gave him fewer dilemmas in life; that he heard the message ***to hunger and thirst for righteousness*** as an instruction to activity as well as a comfort during difficult times.

Sarah Dunant spoke on the *The Death and Life of Modern Martyrs* in a recent Radio 4 broadcast, *A Point of View*. She described Navalny as a political martyr who walked, eyes open, into persecution and death when he returned to Russia.

As a fearless critic of Putin, Navalny knew the risks he faced and told other supporters that if he was killed it would show how powerful their position was. Dunant made the point that, **while tyrants lose their power when they die, for martyrs, death is only the beginning**. That the first Christian martyrs of Nero's reign built a community of hope, and a legacy on which today's church would be built.

Jesus also knew the political and religious

leaders of his time would try to kill him because of the threat he posed to their power. (Our drama group will be portraying this during the Palm Sunday and Easter Day services.)

Holy Week is a good time to be reminded of the cost of standing up for what we believe to be right, in whatever way we can. That **even when our efforts for justice and righteousness appear futile, we're still contributing to building a community that demands a better way and a more godly kingdom.**



(Right: Alexei Navalny in 2011)

Alexei Anatolyevich Navalny; (4 June 1976 – 16 February 2024) was a Russian opposition leader, lawyer, anti-corruption activist, and political prisoner. He organised anti-government demonstrations and ran for office to advocate reforms against corruption in Russia and against President Vladimir Putin and his government. Navalny was founder of the Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK). He was recognised by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience, and was awarded the Sakharov Prize for his work on human rights. (Wikipedia)

A new affirmation of faith,

developed and authorised by the United Church of Canada.

We are not alone,

we live in God's world.

We believe in God who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

*to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified
and risen,*

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God

This year's

World Day of

Prayer, held on

1st March, was

devised by a

group of

Christian women

in Palestine.

They invited the

world to pray for

peace, justice, freedom of religion and

freedom of movement. They specifically

called us to pray with women, refugees,

persons experiencing homelessness, and

all who are sick, dying and grieving. They

also called us to confess to our collective

role in causing the climate crisis, and to

commit to repairing what we have

destroyed. Finally, they called us, the

global church, to unite in treating all with

justice and love.



ECUMENICAL TAIZE:

We held a snowdrop Taize service in

Newburgh Church on 25th February,

attended by around 35 folk. These

included members of Ceres CoS church, St

James SEC and St Columba's RC church

Cupar. The musicians, gathered from

different churches, included violins,

flutes, guitars, keyboard, accordion, tuba

and tenor saxophone. The atmosphere

was amazing, with sights and sounds to

soothe the spirit and breathe new hope

into world- and winter-weary souls.





Those of us who enjoy clean white linen at our Communion Services are indebted to those from both churches who launder and take care of the communion cloths.

This picture of some of the Newburgh ironing team in action was taken in the church hall, March 2017

Auchtermuchty church were giving away some old choir chairs which Linda McLaren and Elaine Clunie (and daughter) have cleaned up and restored with new seat covers. It's hoped that the elders will enjoy sitting on these at our next Parish Communion at Newburgh, April 28th.

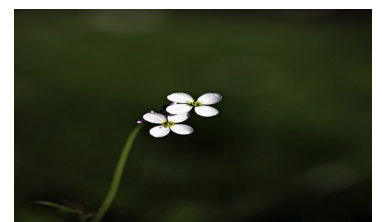


Our stated annual meeting (previously known as AGM) will be held at Abdie Church on 19th May after the service. Our annual accounts will be presented to the congregation. This will be the last year of such a meeting for Lindores Parish, as next year we will be part of the Eden Tay Parish



We spent a happy hour on 20th January, sowing seeds in Newburgh church hall.

These seeds have now germinated and are being looked after in Paul Duncan's garden. Later this year we will plant them out on the Glebe—the start of our own wild flower meadow.



Fife Pilgrim Way - Leslie to Auchterderran

We left Newburgh early, on a grey, misty February day. Rain showers brushed the hills, birds tossed in the wind. We did wonder if a five mile walk in the Fife countryside was really a good idea!

Arriving in Leslie, gloomy with fog and drizzle, we met up with Duncan Weaver, the Pilgrim Pastor and the other walkers. About sixteen in all, mostly women but a few men and one very well behaved Collie dog.



Duncan introduced himself and explained how the day would go, then led us in some verses and responses to help to focus our minds on God as we walked. The theme of the day was to think about de-cluttering our lives, or our minds, (or both!) and so making more space for the good things God has in store for us, and for the good, life affirming things he would have us do when the clutter is gone.

We set off - everyone in walking boots, waterproof jackets and woolly hats, some with walking poles. The paths were muddy and wet, the hill tops windy, the valleys dim with bare trees and dead leaves. The Camby Burn was full of brown water and debris; but there were signs of spring in the drifts of snowdrops under the trees and in the bright red fungi cups in a carpet of fallen leaves, looking like huge butterflies. Primroses bloomed on the banks of a stream, a hare raced away across a bare field, goldcrests flitted over the hedge and sparrows filled the damp air with chatter.

All of us walkers were chatting too, meeting one another anew or for the first time, making connections and finding common ground. Duncan set a good pace, no dawdling! The ground underfoot was very muddy in places

and you had to watch your footing. There were ups and downs along the way, but nothing too steep or too precipitous. As we walked across the farmland crows and seagulls wheeled overhead. A fresh wind seemed to carry the sea air to us.

We stopped at an old well, or spring, where fresh water gushes out onto a cobbled square, then tumbles away downhill in a burn. Here we were led by Duncan in a few more reflections, helping to re-focus our minds on the reason for our walk on the Pilgrim Way and to help us in asking God to speak to us in the sights, sounds and people around us.

The last part of the walk was up and over a long hill, alongside a road. Once up the hill out of Kinglassie you could see the distant landscape, birch woods faintly coloured pink by their spring buds swelling in the February air. The sky glimmered grey and white, with a touch of blue. A skein of geese passed overhead, a glimpse of shining water in the distance. The wind was stronger up here, whipping my hair across my face, though the rain did stop for a while. I could feel that wind scouring my mind. I think God was saying, 'stop worrying. Some things are important, others can be left.'

As we walked down into Auchterderran everyone was hungry and ready for a rest. We were given a warm welcome at the Drop In cafe at the church hall, where there were teas and coffees, homemade soup, sandwiches and cakes. A lovely warming lunch, made all the better by the friendliness and laughter of the volunteers on duty. /contd



The Pilgrim group then gathered in Auchterderran Church, where Duncan led us, in company with their Minister Douglas Lawrie, in our final reflections and a hymn to round off the day. The church was a beautiful, ancient building, dim, quiet, full of holiness. We each thought back over our walk. It was just a few hours, but much can change in an instant if you purposely open up your mind and heart to God.



It was a day well spent, despite the weather, which brightened to full sunshine as we drove back to Newburgh!

The WVS lunch on 26th January this year took on a Burns' theme...

A fine haggis lunch with all the trimmings was enjoyed, and entertainment provided by Elizabeth Pearson and Helen Welsh. Helen recited 'To a Louse', and Elaine Clunie modelled the fateful hat...



'Ha! Where ye gaun', ye crowlin ferlie? / Yer impudence protects ye sairly!

I canna say but ye straunt rarely / O'er gauze an lace!

Tho, faith! I fear ye'll dine but sparely / On sic a place...'

Thus Burns addresses the louse which has the cheek to adorn a lady's bonnet in church...



New for Newburgh—
but part of a long and well-loved Fife tradition. We are delighted that the

Fife Nativity Play 2024
will be held in Lindores Abbey on 20th, 21st and 22nd December. This is an ecumenical venture , alongside people from churches in Cupar.

We will be looking for people to get involved in all kinds of ways, so if this interests you, do get in touch. And on the day itself—gather in the distillery courtyard then follow the action to share the nativity story in a unique way.

Real animals are promised—hence the beautiful beasts pictured here. Local and proud.

Crazy Church Theme
Parable Of
The Sower

Sunday 17th March 3-5pm
Newburgh Church Hall

Crafts and games
Children's Tea 4:30pm

Donations welcome towards food
Primary school kids accompanied by parents
Contact Valerie to book a place
lindoreschurch@gmail.com
07720 327766

Newburgh's
WW2 Evacuees
By Helen Welsh

TALES FROM OUR TOWN

Featuring stories of local people well known to us! Available from the author, from the Laing, or from Amazon. £5, profits to the Laing Museum.

The Challenge Of Jesus

John Dominic Crossan

Successive Wednesday evenings
7-8.30pm, starting 13th March

A series of talks accompanied by videos hosted by Gordon Sharp on
"The Challenge of Jesus"
by John Dominic Crossan

Venue in Newburgh tbc depending on numbers.
Contact Valerie if interested.
07720 327766/lindoreschurch@gmail.com

**More about
The Challenge of Jesus**

Dr. Crossan pinpoints the history and circumstances that helped Jesus' message of nonviolent resistance to evil have such a powerful impact against Imperial Rome.

Moving beyond Jesus as an abstract figure of scripture, Dr. Crossan paints us a vivid portrait of Jesus the man.

Through it all, the presentation, the Resource Guide, and the included discussion starters and questions help educators and students alike draw their own meaning from Dr. Crossan's presentations.

To watch the trailer, please visit YouTube and search *The Challenge of Jesus Trailer featuring John Dominic Crossan*

Services and events in March and April

March

Sunday 17th	11am service at United Reformed Church
Sunday 17th	3pm Crazy Church, Newburgh Church
Palm Sunday 24th	10.30am, Abdie and Dunbog Church
Maundy Thursday 28th	7pm, Ecumenical Last Supper, Newburgh Church
Good Friday	3pm at United Reformed Church

Easter Sunday 31st:

7am Dawn service at waterfront + breakfast at Newburgh church hall

9am Easter Day Communion service, Newburgh Church (SEC liturgy)

10.30 Easter Day family service with baptism, Easter drama, daffodil cross and egg hunt, Newburgh Church

April

Sunday 7th	10.30am service at Abdie and Dunbog church
Thursday 11th	10.30am Celtic Communion at Abdie and Dunbog church
Sunday 14th	10.30am Joint cluster service at Newburgh church
Sunday 21st	10.30am Lambing service at Abdie and Dunbog church
Sunday 28th	10.30am Parish Communion service with URC at Newburgh church

May

Sunday 5th	10.30am Cluster service at Freuchie
Sunday 12th	10.30am service at Newburgh church

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

Valerie Walker's contact details are:

lindoreschurch@gmail.com

Phone: 01337 842799 Mob: 07720 327766

