

CHURCH NEWSLETTER



ABERLEMNO, GUTHRIE AND RESCOBIE PARISH CHURCHES

Registered Charity in Scotland SC 018944 and SC 017327

The Church of Scotland
Aberlemno, Guthrie and Rescobie (SC018944 & SC017327)
Church Times 2023

December

10.00-Rescobie
11.30-Aberlemno

Christmas Services

3rd December, Family Services - Rescobie at 10.00, Aberlemno at 11.30

24th December, United service at Rescobie at 10.00

24th December, Christmas Eve Carol Service - Aberlemno at 6:30pm
(Followed by tea in the church)

Christmas Day - Guthrie at 10.30

31st December- United service at Aberlemno at 11.30

Church Times 2024

January

10.00-Aberlemno.
11.30-Guthrie.

February

10.00-Aberlemno.
11.30-Rescobie.

March

10.00-Aberlemno.
11.30-Guthrie.

April

10.00-Aberlemno.
11.30-Rescobie.

Holy Week Services

28th March, Maundy Thursday Communion - Guthrie at 7.00 pm

29th March, Good Friday Service - Aberlemno at 7.00 pm

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Winter Church newsletter.

Although we decided during a Congregational Board meeting in August that we will bring out 2 Newsletters a year, with the Union of Congregations now looming, this might change in 2024.

Rest assured, you will either receive a more substantial 'Union' Newsletter with news from all the Churches or our 'own' Newsletter in June, so we will make sure you are being kept up to date of everything that is going on.



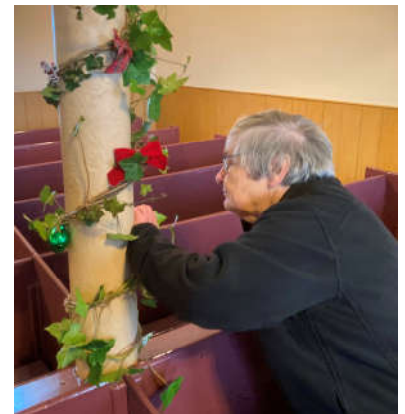
In this issue you will find that both the Karaoke and Crafting Groups are thriving in Aberlemno but still looking for more members! There are also several coffee clubs active in our parishes so please pop in and have a chat amongst friends. If there are any activities in the Guthrie and Rescobie areas, can you please let me know?

Please remember that all of our three Churches are still open as I speak and we would love to see as many of you on Sunday. See the Church times on the front cover.

Kindest wishes,

Mark Hooghiemstra, Editor. 01307 830441 / 07974 976285

Email: markfromaldbar@gmail.com



It will soon be time to decorate our Churches again, thanks to all involved.

Hello, everyone.

This has been an autumn to remember, hasn't it? The ground is water-logged - and still it keeps raining. It has been disruptive for many and disastrous and heartbreaking for some. I've been happy to have only a few leaks - and grateful to live at the top of a hill.

As you know, the riverside people of Brechin have suffered worst and as they emerge from their flood they need a rainbow, much as Noah did in the old old story. The warm generosity of many has perhaps supplied that sign of hope and we will add to it with our retiring offerings at Christmas this year.

More widely, there is a lot to be concerned about in the world at the moment: things that worry us and tragic events that are painful to read about.

This is why we need our celebration of Christmas at this gloomy time of year. We remind ourselves that God knows all about the dark times because he has lived through them as one of us. And, a flood is not always an image of disaster - it can sometimes be used as a picture of God's blessing.

So, as it goes on raining let's count our blessings; as we plowter in wellies and drive cautiously through expanses of muddy water let's remember all those who are overwhelmed by their circumstances - and pray for a rainbow!

Heather Gourlay.



Update from the Interim Moderator.

Dear friends,

I can't quite believe it is nearly Christmas again. The year has flown past and soon it will be 2024. I hope this newsletter finds you well.

We are looking forward to advent and Christmas events together as churches in the grouping, as well as each in our own congregations. This is such a great time to gather as church and celebrate the coming of Christ - God with us - in our midst.

Please keep this newsletter to hand so that you or your family can come along to the various groups, services, carol singing times and events during advent & Christmas. All are welcome.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6



Church Union information.

With this newsletter, Church members should have received a leaflet about our church union. The Transition Group, with representatives from all the churches, are all happy to agree to a union with a vote on 28th January 2024. Copies of the legal documents are available on the Perth Presbytery website if you want to read them.

This vote will not change the fact that Guthrie Church building is closing. It is only to agree to the union and agree that Rev Heather, Rev Maggie and Rev Karen will continue as part of a team who will cover the whole area. Votes against the union and/or team ministry will only affect how we are able to move forward with the churches in our grouping. This may not be how we all envisioned our future but I promise you, this is a very good opportunity for us to come together and be the church in our communities for the future.

Rev Maggie Hunt

(If anybody wants to help out with the Communications Group, which deals with a proposed Union Newsletter and setting up a new website and Facebook page, please contact Mark Hooghiemstra)

Dear All,

Maggie has mentioned the transition group and the move towards a united Kirk Session. As part of the transition group I thought I could give you a further insight to where we are. I will try and keep this from being too Aberlemno-centric!

The General Assembly decided a number of changes to reflect the current state of the church. The first was to merge presbyteries into a much smaller number of “super Presbyteries”. This has been done and we are now part of the Perth Presbytery (which ranges from Stirling to Dunkeld and over to Angus).



The next stage is to move towards combined Kirk sessions and a team ministry. The aim is to merge our Kirk Session with that of Guthrie and Rescobie, Letham, Dunnichen and Kirkden, Lowson and St. Margaret's. This is a means of combining our resources whilst maintaining worship in a number of churches.

The General Trustees of the Church of Scotland have been clear that there should be a reduction in the number of buildings within each presbytery. Sadly, we will see Guthrie and St. Margaret's suffer under that edict. However, to my mind all else remains the same. We will still worship at Aberlemno and the same faces will greet you on a Sunday morning.

All this is, of course, dependent on first the individual Kirk Sessions and subsequently the congregations voting to approve the plan. Please take a look at Perth presbytery web site to see the basis of union and the basis of ministry that is proposed (<https://www.perthpresbytery.org.uk/mission-plans>).

Do contact me if you have any questions. Alternatively you can talk to me on a Sunday morning. I am usually there unless there is something else in my diary!

Ian Wilson, Session Clerk, Aberlemno Parish Church.

Guthrie and Rescobie Treasurer's Report.

There is little to report at present on the financial front.

At Guthrie and Rescobie we are currently in a state of flux as the reorganisation of the church and the closure of churches continues. It has been wonderful to have had this summer the combined services with Aberlemno, the camaraderie and the most enjoyable tea sessions afterwards.

Warmest thanks to Heather for bringing us all together.

James Osborne, Treasurer.

**Aberlemno Treasurer's Report.**

At our Harvest Thanksgiving service on 22nd October, a retiring offering of £85.15 was sent to RSABI – the Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution at Ingliston.

A variety of tins and dried food was also gathered in and thereafter delivered to the Lawson Food Project in Forfar.

From our Remembrance Day service held on 12th November, we were able to send £90.70 from our retiring offering to Poppy Scotland.

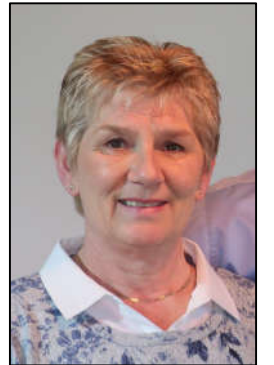
Our November Coffee Morning held in Aberlemno Village Hall unfortunately had to be cancelled due to inclement weather conditions. Hopefully this can be rescheduled sometime next year as it is always an enjoyable fund raiser.

The Quiz night will take place on Thursday 8th February 2024 in Canmore Bowling Club with Lovina taking up the reins again as our Quizmaster (see page 8).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who continue to support our Church, both financially and otherwise.

My very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Lorna Hooghiemstra, Treasurer.

**Poem.**

Yesterday is history,
 tomorrow is a mystery.
 But today is a gift,
 that's why we call it the present.
 May Christmas bring peace,
 and New Year bring hope.
 With freedom from fear,
 and the strength to cope.
 J.S.

Linda Robbie.

On 2nd July, Aberlemno welcomed Linda Robbie as a new Elder.

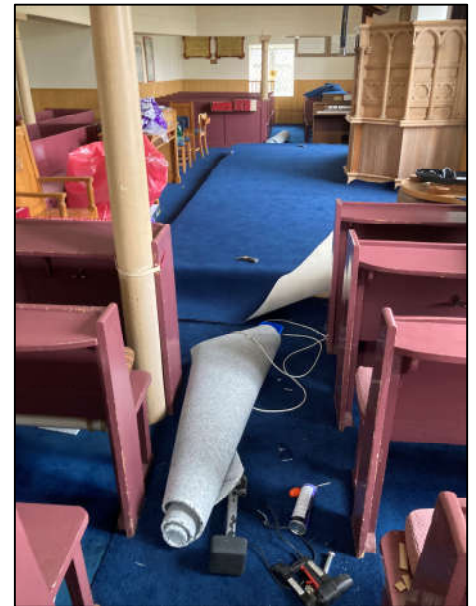
**Aberlemno fabric.**

We have 'freshened' up some of the interior of Aberlemno Church, with new blue carpets throughout from Doigs in Forfar.

Thanks must go to Alistair Rodger for giving the Sunday School room, vestibule and kitchen fresh paint.

Finally, we invested in a set of 18 comfy seats on a trolley to give all our clubs in the Sunday School room a much improved seat. Thanks to Lorna, Caroline and Lewis for assembling the 'Ikea-style' packaging!

Sandy Spence.



Joint Services.

Our joint services during July and August were such a resounding success (see photos below) that Aberlemno has decided to trial and see if we can have a cuppie and a chat at about 10:45 am, prior to our 11:30 am service on the first Sunday of the month.

Rescobie:



Guthrie:



Aberlemno:



Angus Toy Appeal.

Following two successful years collecting toy donations I have decided to continue to support the charity. Last year the charity gave out donations of gifts to 1927 children.

This year we will be collecting toys at the Family service on the 3rd of December at 11:30 at Aberlemno Church. The gifts should be unwrapped. For children aged 0-16.

The charity really struggle with donations for teenagers. A few suggests are wallet, purse, hairbrush, scarf, sports bottles, football, sports socks, makeup, ear pods, fitness watch. If you can't make the family service and would like to donate please get in touch 07774 338921.

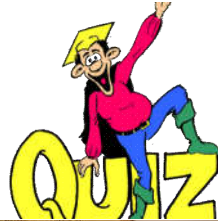
Thank you again for your continued support.

Heather Watson



Dropping off donations in 2022

Quiz night 8th February 2024.



Fun for all the family! We are holding our traditional annual quiz night on Thursday 8th February 2024 at the Canmore Bowling Club in Manor Street in Forfar.

Hosted by our able quiz master Lovina Ramsay. Doors open 7 for 7.30pm and there will be a bar and nibbles on the table. Entry is £4 pp and we're looking for teams of 4.

Afternoon Tea Group.

Our group, which meets once a month at the Parish Room at Rescobie Church, is continuing to be popular with a few new folk coming along recently. It is a very informal and chatty group and we always have lots of laughter too. We also always have some delicious home baking. Please feel free to join us; you would be warmly welcomed.

Our next meeting is on the 4th of December but please get in touch if you would like to know when the following get-together will be.

For information contact Margaret on 07803499191 or Brian on 01241-828243

Guthrie Village Hall.

We are delighted that our lovely hall has managed to stand the ravages of the recent storms with no ill affect despite it's proximity to the river Lunan. The river did creep over the bank but remained well away from the building. We are most grateful for its sturdy construction.

We recently had our AGM and unfortunately our committee has dropped in number. We are desperately needing some new faces to join us so if you are living in the community around Guthrie and want to help with the running of the hall please contact Christine on 01307 819473.

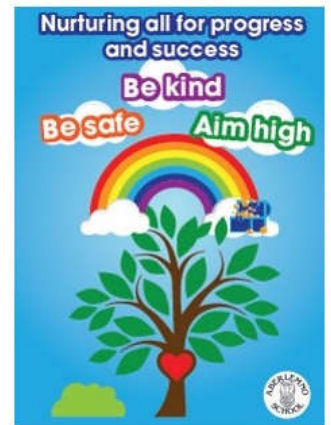


Guthrie Hall is available for parties, events and group meetings. To make a booking and for further information please contact Christine or any committee member.

Aberlemno Primary School Update.

We are currently collecting donations for the Dundee and Angus Foodbank, as part of our Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award.

We would be very grateful if anyone is able to add items to our collection. We have a box outside school for any donations, if the building is closed. Ken Linton, the local rep, is visiting on Tuesday 28th November to collect everything and discuss the foodbank with the children. Items they urgently need are:- tinned tomatoes, pasta sauce, baked beans, tinned vegetables, tinned fish, cereal and adult toothbrushes. Thank you in advance if you are able to contribute to our collection.



On Friday December 8th we will be taking part in an Elf Wish Walk where all monies raised will be split between the 'When You Wish Upon A Star' charity for children living with life-threatening illnesses and the Brechin Flood Fund.

Should you wish to donate please get in touch with the School Office on 01307 494 250 or aberlemno@angusschools.org.uk Your support is greatly appreciated with both good causes.

Crafting at the Kirk.



The Arts and Craft Group continue to meet on a Monday afternoon 1 to 3pm in the Aberlemno Sunday School.

We're a small friendly group who enjoy doing a variety of projects. We're always willing to share and exchange our experiences and knowledge of our varied skills. Tea/Coffee and biscuits are enjoyed along with some occasional home baking.

If you'd like to join us please do come along, phone Jane on 07842282962 or you can email with any questions mrs_kjc@hotmail.com. There's a weekly fee of just £2.

Karaoke @ The Kirk.

Wednesday evening's from 7pm to 9pm.

Come out to the Sunday School Room at Aberlemno Church and you will receive a warm welcome as you join this amazing community of like minded 'singers'.



We sing a variety of songs across all genres and styles accompanied by the original artists using LP, 45, CD, and Digital formats. Requests are definitely encouraged. We sing all together as a group, it is joyful and fun. "Come weary, leave cheery!" Wheelchair accessible.

Parking is available on the south side of the church.

£2 per week. This goes to the Church and of course keeps us in biscuits for the all important 'cuppa' at half time.

No need to register or pre book, just show up but if you do want more info, feel free to call Susan on 01307 830 763.

Aberlemno Hall.

The weather has been a dominant factor for all of us over the past few weeks. The Hall posted that it would be open for those in need of a safe, dry space during the last round of flooding and we will do so in any extreme weather events in future. If anyone needs a safe place or help you can contact us via the aberlemno.org website. We can try to help or put you in touch with those that can. This would make the Hall a Resilience Centre and eligible for funding for a generator, heaters etc. We also posted information and updates online and again will continue to do so in future so please check it out.

Wreath making sessions are on two Sundays in December - the 3rd and 10th. Details and bookings via aberlemno.com as per usual.

And finally the next **Aberlemno and District Community Council** meeting will be on Thursday 7th December in Aberlemno Hall at 7pm. The agenda can be found on the Community Council page on the Aberlemno website. Please come along and put your thoughts and questions to us and our local elected members

Wishing all of you a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2024.

Isabelle Davies.



And finally, Susan Norris has sent this stunning photograph of Aberlemno Church with a beautiful double rainbow over it. Do you have a nice photograph of any of our Churches, please send them to the Editor.



Thanks also to Susan for keeping the garden at the car park so colourful!

Rev Heather Gourlay
Pitkenney
Forfar
Tel: 01307 830 372

Interim Moderator:
Rev Maggie Hunt
St Margaret's Church
Tel: 01307 462 044



PARISH REGISTER

ABERLEMNO:

Session Clerk:
Mr Ian Wilson
Ward of Turin, Aberlemno
Tel: 01307 830 377

Treasurer and Gift Aid:
Mrs Lorna Hooghiemstra
Wood of Aldbar Cottage
By Brechin
Tel: 01307 830 441

Clerk to the Board:
Mrs Beth Trainer
Muiryloan House
Brechin
Tel: 01356 622 854

Treasurer (WFO):
Mr Mike Macleod
Hillbarns
Tel: 01307 830 318

GUTHRIE & RESCOBIE:

Session Clerk:
Duncan Stewart
Blackhillock, Gardyne
01241 860 270

Clerk to the Board:
Mrs Kay Gray
Meadowlea, Clocksbriggs
Tel: 01307 464 173

Treasurer and Bonds:
Mr James Osborne
Balmadies, Forfar
Tel: 01307 818 242

ABERLEMNO:

Deaths

Mrs Dorothy Murray, Guthrie 17th April 2023

GUTHRIE & RESCOBIE:

Baptisms

Elish Eileen Docherty, daughter of Andrew and Kate, 4th June 2023.

Deaths

Mrs. Jane Hill, Guthrie 11th June 2023.

Mr. Fred Beattie, Letham 8th August 2023.