Lower Earn Voice

Autumn 2026

Dunbarney Old and New Fonts

From the Manse

There is something special about going to a live music event. I was reminded of that recently, when Karen and I visited Perth Concert Hall. On this occasion, we weren't attending a classical nor a choral concert - both of which I thoroughly enjoy - but a tribute to the rock group, 'Queen'. When the concert started, it was loud - perhaps a little too loud - but very soon I was totally immersed especially when hit after hit was being performed. At such events, it's quite common for everybody to stand and sing along with the performers. But this also happens at home. How many of us begin to tap our feet when we hear a particular piece of music? It even happens (under specific circumstances) at classical music events. I am thinking of The Proms but also when the "Hallelujah Chorus" is sung during Handle's *Messiah* and the standard etiquette dictates that the audience should rise to their feet. It makes me wonder: 'How does our faith move us?'

"Medicine for the soul and rhumba for the heart."

In a recent address, The Most Rev. Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, said, *"Jesus is good news for every person and such very good news for our perplexed and anxious world. And I do want us to be bolder in this. Bolder, not by shouting louder, but by loving more - and by sharing the joy, beauty and challenge of the gospel; the kind of joy that comes when you hear the beat and rhythm of some music you love, find your feet tapping, your face breaking into a smile, and then, before you've even consciously realised what you're doing, you're rising up and joining in the dance yourself. This is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Medicine for the soul and rhumba for the heart."*

So, how does the good news of Jesus Christ move *us*? How do others "in this perplexed and anxious world", see the gospel moving in and amongst us?

Hymn writer Graham Kendrick picked up this theme when he wrote the lively hymn, *Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart*. The words of this hymn/prayer remind us of the difference made to us and to the world if we were to live to the rhythm of God's heartbeat (i.e. the things God really cares about). The chorus is:

Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart,
teach me to move in the power of Your Spirit,
teach me to walk in the light of Your presence,
teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart.
Teach me to love with Your heart of compassion,
teach me to trust in the word of Your promise,
teach me to hope in the day of Your coming,
teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart.

Perhaps all too often, we tend to compartmentalise our faith while wanting to carry on with the rest of our lives in the way we like it. However, in this changing world, we are *all* being called to be a little bolder when it comes to our faith. As Cottrell said, this is not done by shouting louder but by sharing the joy, beauty and challenge of the gospel. We may be the unexpected instrument that God might use, to lift others up and point them to Christ. What an amazing thought that is!

Once again, you will be able to read in this edition of *Lower Earn Voice*, some of the wonderful things that are taking place across the Network. I thank God for those who are leading and making such things happen. But there is no doubt. For our church to survive and thrive, there requires to be broad participation by as many members and adherents as is possible. This in turn, will ensure that our communities will be supported and our mission sustained.

As we move towards a new session in church life together, may we all take time to listen for the heartbeat of God and when we hear it, may we all rise and respond to it unreservedly. For in doing so, we will find life and life in abundance.

With all good wishes and every blessing,
Allan

Who's in our Pews : Lady Jean Wemyss

Lady Jean arrived in Invermay in 1946, after she married David Wemyss. She immediately started worshipping at Forteviot, the Rev. Reid was minister at the time, and later she was Session Clerk for 21 years – until the formation of the Stewartry of Strathearn in 2001.

Forteviot has in the past been linked with both Path of Condie (closed during Rev. Uist McDonald's tenure) and with Forgandenny, but was eventually joined with Aberdalgie.

She remembers that in the 1940s Forteviot was very much a village, and a thriving one, with lots of community activities in the Village Hall, with many a 'turn' performed, and even a blacksmith (Andy Walker) to look after the local farmers and their horses. Mrs. Walker was the energetic organiser of shows in the Hall and there were children everywhere – even in church! Twenty at Sunday school was not unusual. The Rev. Macaskill used to organise many an outing and the village sense of community was strong, and fun.

In due course Forteviot was joined with Aberdalgie and one of Lady Jean's first experiences of Aberdalgie was when she was six months pregnant and was asked to open the usual Aberdalgie summer fete, held at the manse; her mother forbade her because it was unseemly for a pregnant lady in her position to display herself so publicly – how times change! For the record, she has two sons, five grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Who's in our Pews : Catherine Inglis

Catherine has lived in Perth all her life and originally attended, with her parents, St. Stephens church (now gone) and the United Free (now gone) but then Fowlis Wester, where she was married to Ian in 1947. It was at Fowlis Wester, when the organist was called up for military service, that she was first asked to play the organ, at the age of fifteen. It was a pump organ and a young boy was paid two shillings a quarter to pump on Sundays, and Catherine was paid five shillings!

They then moved to St. Pauls (now gone) but after a while problems (such as dry rot) persuaded them to move to Aberdalgie, where Dr. Fraser was the minister, and there she has stayed. When Joe Laing, the Aberdalgie organist, was taken ill it was George Robb who asked her, just before Christmas, to step in temporarily and to play at the first Aberdalgie midnight service – and as Joe died soon thereafter, in 1975, she continued to do so for another thirty-one years

Her dedication is legendary and on one occasion there was snow, and driving was either impossible or risky, so she was up early and walked to Aberdalgie, because she knew there would be fewer people and that Rev. Uist McDonald was unable to play the organ!

Who's in our Pews : Linda Duncan

I'm not in the pews! I'm sitting at the organ in Kirk of St Bride, Abernethy.

Born and brought up in the village I attended Sunday School at a young age. Dad was a church Elder and mum was a member of the Women's Guild. We all went to church every Sunday. On Communion Sundays I remember my dad being on duty at both the morning and afternoon service. At night we had an evening service – busy Sundays!

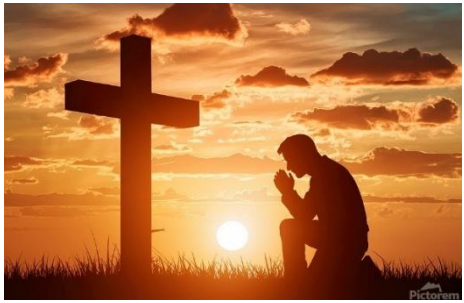
I've lived in the village all my life apart from my college years in Edinburgh. After teaching Business Studes there I returned to the village where I was married in Kirk of St Bride. Our children were christened there too.

I've come from a musical family and began piano lessons when I was about 5 years old. When I was at Sunday School a minister at that time encouraged me to play the Church organ. I would be 13 or 14 years old then. I've played the organ ever since. Firstly, at Newburgh, Fife and now in Abernethy.

I like the old traditional hymns and it's great to hear the singing on Sundays. There are a few new hymns tunes in CH4 which I like.

It's a pity that Sunday Schools have disappeared in some parishes. Young families must we doing other activities on a Sunday now. We are lucky at Abernethy with our Sunday Club.

Prayer Retreat



Saturday 10th October 2026
10am – 2pm

Many of you will be aware that for almost two decades a Prayer Chain has existed at the western edge of LECT. Members of the Prayer Chain pray daily for people across the community – and wider - who are nominated by individuals for whatever reason. From time-to-time major world issues are also included for prayer. A written update is provided each quarter for members of the Prayer Chain. We are delighted to say that now prayers are being included from folk across the LECT who are aware of this ministry.

Prayer is so IMPORTANT in our lives, and we plan to reflect and refresh our understanding of the meaning of prayer at a retreat later this year. The retreat is open to all, and we hope that you will come along to consider the meaning of prayer in your life.
Needless to say, we would welcome anyone who would like to become a member of the Prayer Chain.

Please email ronandcatriona@btinternet.com for further information about the Prayer Retreat or the Prayer Chain.

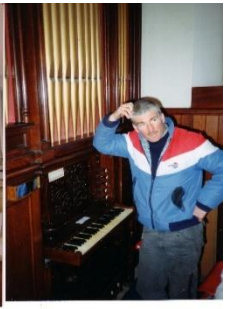
Catriona Harrison

Earn Singers

The Earn Singers are enjoying a well-earned summer break before the rehearsals resume on the 3rd September 2026. The choir will begin to get to know some of the music for their main Spring concert next year before starting to prepare for the popular Christmas Coffee morning, which this year will be held on Saturday 12th December in Dunbarney Church.
Do you enjoy singing? Have you attended one of our concerts and have thought you would like to 'give it a go'? New members are always welcome, especially tenors and basses! We look forward to seeing you on Thursday 3rd September at 7.30 pm.

Scottish Historic Organs Trust

On Saturday 30th May, a group known as the Scottish Historic Organs Trust visited Forteviot Church. Having visited the churches in Blackford, Crieff, Muthill and Auchterarder earlier in the day, they arrived to see and hear the Hamilton organ in Forteviot before heading to see the Miller organ at Dunbarney in the late afternoon.



Some members had previously visited when Sandy Edmonstone (organ builder) first installed it and indeed remember it when it was still installed and played in Balerno Church.

The Forteviot organ was moved by a group of young organists from Craighouse, Edinburgh, to Balerno Church in 1975 - the team included David Stewart, who was also present with the Trust on Saturday (the group of 4 photos shows the organ in Balerno church prior to it being moved).

Interestingly, the group think the organ is much older than 1870. "*Much of the pipework is pure tin, which was a hallmark of the founder of the Hamilton firm, David Hamilton (1800-63); his younger brothers Thomas and James stopped using pure tin in the 1860s. Also, the compass stops at f "' at the top, not g "' which again is a feature of David's work. I think Sandy Edmonstone found inscriptions inside the organ which record later work in the 1920s by Fred Hamilton (1863-1942).*"

This was a fascinating visit, particularly for Allan Kelman who, after demonstrating, was able to sit in the pews and listen to it being played. Allan also met an old work colleague now involved with Trust that he worked with over 30 years ago. Wonderful!

Allan Kelman

Some Trust members having a tinkle on the organ as well as the makers' mark and some of the intricate carving.

What did the Teddies say?

After church on Sunday the 31st of May, members of the Kirk of St Bride, Abernethy, and Dunbarney and Forgandenny were invited to write on the little cuddly teddy bears. The question was 'How do you think we can show love to people round about us?'

Some comments were – make time for others - value other people – ask people how they are – a compliment and a smile go a long way – don't always stick to the same people – SMILE!

Two of the comments we woold like to take forward soon are

- Meet regularly for coffee and a chat
- Bring back the telephone support network we had during COVID

We know that the Biscuits and Blether every week in Kirk of St Bride's, Abernethy is very well attended – the gentlemen are continuing it during the summer months! We had over one hundred people involved in the telephone network before either calling or receiving weekly calls.

If you would like to be involved in either of these, from across our Lower Earn Network, please contact Gillian on 07368 521896 or gmunro@churchofscotland.org.uk.

Gillian Munro

Christmas Angels

This Christmas we plan to have many angels winging their way across the Network.
A copy of the simple pattern is inside the back page.
Please start knitting when you have a few moments to spare. The angels will be displayed in and around our churches with Christmas readings attached. These will then be given to children across the Network as a gift for their Christmas Trees.

Earn Valley Network Flower Festival

"Valley of Flowers"

2nd-4th October 2026.

We are hosting this event on the Friday and Saturday from 10-4pm and the Sunday 2-4pm in Dunbarney Church and Hall in Bridge of Earn. This incorporates all the Churches in the Lower Earn and a great way to meet up with others.

As you can see the title is 'Valley of Flowers' and based on Harvest & Gods Gifts. There are many roles required to fill so if you are interested in being involved be it, baking, making soup, serving teas, stewarding in the Church or doing a flower arrangement I would be grateful to hear from you. There will be a craft stall so if interested in making items to sell please do so.

- Charlene Hunter will co-ordinate the teas, soup lunches, baking etc.
- Avril Fulton will allocate stewarding times.
- Senga Prior is looking after the Craft stall.
- Wilma McCullough will co-ordinate with the schools on a wee competition.
- Helen Jackson will oversee the flower side of things and overall festival.

If you can help in any way contact me on hjackson10@aol.com and I will get back to you. If you have already agreed to help I will have your name already. Looking forward to this coming together with all our Churches in the Network.

Helen Jackson, Flower Convener, D&FPC.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 4th October – 10.30am
Forteviot

United Service

Growing Young

Dunbarney Church was full of the aroma of coffee and the sound of almost 100 voices on Sunday 24th May as we enjoyed a service with a difference. A Café Church was underway with the theme of *Growing Young.* Much of the service felt familiar, with hymns, prayers, and a gospel message from Allan. However, this time we gathered around tables in small groups, enjoying tea, coffee, and scones while sharing conversation and discussing our hopes and ideas for the future of our church.

We looked at pictures of different buildings and shared which one we felt best represented our own church. We then looked at the pictures again, this time considering which church we would like to become. Finally, we reflected on what this means for us both personally and as a church community.

The conversations showed that many people feel the church is in a time of change and rebuilding. People spoke positively about our church being welcoming, caring, friendly and community-minded, while also recognising that we are still working out where God is leading us next.

There was a strong feeling that we would like to become a church with more people of all ages involved, especially children, young people, and families. Some people said they would like to see a church, open during the week and active in the wider community, not just centred around Sunday mornings or in the church building itself.

People acknowledged that change could feel uncomfortable and that some people value familiar ways of doing things. At the same time there was recognition that adapting and trying new approaches may help us connect with those who are not currently part of church life. Suggestions included trying new styles and times of worship, more social activities, using social media better, and creating more opportunities to invite people along and talk about faith naturally.

The importance of being welcoming and inclusive was also emphasised, particularly for newcomers, children, young families, those with additional support needs, and those who may feel uncertain about coming to church.

Alongside this, people valued the peaceful, supportive, and caring atmosphere that already exists within the congregation.

Overall, the conversations reflected some anxiety for the future church, but there was a willingness to work together, and a desire to build on the strengths we already have while finding new ways to reach out, grow in faith and connect with the community.

As we move into the second year of the programme, we hope to see some of these ideas beginning to take shape. Their success will depend on all of us sharing in the vision and playing our part, recognising that building the future of our church is something we do together as a church family.

Margaret Bell

Eco-Congregations

David Coleman, Chaplain to Eco-Congregation Scotland, was warmly welcomed as preacher in Aberdalgie on Sunday 3rd May and shared his journey into the role, inspiring the congregation to reflect on their relationship with the environment.

An multi-denominational group from across the county gathered in Perth at the inauguration of the **Presbytery Eco-Congregation group.** Ideas, experiences, possibilities and constraints were shared. Some have been active as an Eco-Congregation for years; others are new to Eco-Congregation Scotland – regardless, all present were encouraged and inspired by hearing of a huge variety of initiatives including biodiversity, prayer walks, reusing and recycling, engagement with the community. Many of these initiatives are already embraced and encouraged through the LECT – and others are unfolding. Watch out for the notices!

Recycling is available at Dunbarney Church hall for stamps, batteries, spectacles, ink cartridges, books and Starter Packs. Abernethy church also recycles empty blister packs (or you can take them to Boots/Superdrug).

Youth Drop In

Held three Wednesdays per month during term time in Dunbarney Church Hall from 6-7.30pm for young people in p7-s3. It's free thanks to the PKC Fairer Communities Fund. Most weeks we have up to thirty youngsters attending.

Over several weeks we left out sheets asking them why they came: Because I can see my friends not in school, food (lots), friends, place to hang out that's not my bedroom, fun(lots).

Best thing: Food and drinks (lots), games, everyone is friendly, warm as it's cold outside.

What can we change: nothing several said, it's excellent, I really enjoy coming.

If you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact Anne Larg.

We have 19 youngsters signed up for our away day to Teen Ranch at the end of August.

We all (adults included) had a ball last year…very very tired when we got home.

Cosy Space.

Held every week in Dunbarney Church Hall.

We have a big rota of volunteers and sometimes we serve over thirty people.

Anyone from the community is very welcome.

Some people come to keep fit, tea and coffee and lunch and others choose to come to one or two of these. You are assured of a warm welcome, a good chat and a full tummy.

It's free, thanks to the PKC Fairer Communities Fund.

If you would like to join the rota please contact Anne Larg.

Our Ministries Team

Network

Rev Allan Wilson

01738 812463

Awilson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Dunning Church

Rev Alan Murray

01738 269434

ajsmurray@churchofscotland.org.uk

Rev Ian Morrison (currently unavailable)

Pastoral Care

Rev Gillian Munro

07368 521896
Gmunro@churchofscotland.org.uk

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life: he who comes to me shall not hunger and he who believes in me shall never thirst; he who comes to me I will not cast out. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be satisfied."

The Minister and Kirk Sessions of all the churches across the Lower Earn Network invite you to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on

Sunday, 6th September 2026 at 10:30am.
Dunbarney Church, Bridge of Earn

Sunday, 6th December 2026 at 10:30am
Kirk of St Bride, Abernethy.

Please contact your elder or Allan Wilson (01738 812463 or AWilson@churchofscotland.org.uk) if you would like to receive home communion.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES TIMETABLE

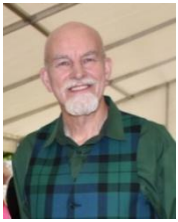
Monday	**Kirk of St Bride, Abernethy (Session House)** **2pm - 4pm** - Back of the Cupboard, craft work, coffee and chat (1st & 3rd Mon) **7pm - 9pm -** Board Games Group, bring your own or join others, coffee and chat. (Every 2nd Mon) **Dunbarney (Millennium Hall)** **9.30am -10.25am** – Ladies' exercise **10.30am-11.15am** - Gentler ladies' exercise **11.20am -12.15pm** - Men's exercise
Tuesday	**Aberdalgie/ Forteviot.** Forteviot Village Hall, **12 - 2pm** – Community Lunch (1st Tuesday) **Forgandenny (Lairds Loft)** **2pm –** Craft Group 1st Tuesday of the month **Dunbarney (Millennium Hall)** **2pm – 4pm** - carpet bowls (Sept to April)
Wednesday	**Kirk of St Bride, Abernethy (Session House)** **10am** - Biscuits and Blether **Dunbarney (Millennium Hall)** **12pm – 2pm** - Community Lunch (3rd Wednesday) **6pm - 7.30pm** – Youth Drop In. 3 per month during term time. P7-S3 **7.00pm - 9.00pm** - Women's Group (3rd Wednesday)
Thursday	**Dunbarney (Millennium Hall)** **9am - 11am** - Chatterbox - for ages 0 - 3 (term time only) **Dunning (Church Hall)** **1pm - 3.30pm -** Craft **Dunbarney (Millennium Hall)** **1.30pm - 4pm** - Bridge Club (Sept - April) new members welcome
Friday	**Dunbarney (Millennium Hall)** **10am - 10.45am** - Keep Fit. (All Year) **10.45am - 12.00pm** - Coffee and chat. (All Year) **12pm - 1pm** - Soup lunch (Sept to June)
Saturday	**Dunbarney (Millennium Hall)** **1st Saturday** each month, 10am - 12am, Dandelion Group. Knitting and crochet, coffee and chat.

SERVICE DATES

	Abernethy	Aberdalgie	Forteviot	Dunbarney	Forgandenny	Dunning
August 2026						
16	10:30am United Service at Dunning					
23		9:30am		11:00am		***Dunbarney***
30	11:00am		9:30am		11:00am	11:00am
September 2026						
06	10:30am United Service at Dunbarney (includes Communion)					
13	9:30am		9:30am		11:00am	11:00am
20		9:30am		11:00am		11:00am
27	11:00am		9:30am		11:00am	11:00am
October 2026						
04	10:30am United Service at Forteviot (Harvest Thanksgiving)					
11	9:30am		9:30am		11:00am	11:00am
18		9:30am		11:00am		11:00am
25	11:00am		9:30am		11:00am	11:00am
November 2026						
01	10:30am United Service at Aberdalgie					
08	11:00am		9:30am	11:00am	2:00pm	11:00am
15		9:30am		11:00am		11:00am
22	09:30am		09:30am		11:00am	11:00am
29		09:30am		11:00am		11:00am
December 2026						
06	10:30am United Service at Abernethy (includes Communion)					
13		9:30am		11:00am		11:00am
20	10:30am United Service at Dunbarney					
24	7:00pm		6:30pm	4:00pm 11:30pm		11:30pm
25	10:30am United Service at Forgandenny					
27	10:30am United Service at Dunning					

SESSION CLERK CONTACT DETAILS

Dunbarney & Forgandenny Church
Anne Larg
Email: e.anne.larg@gmail.com
01738 812805



Aberdalgie and Forteviot
Gordon Mackay
Email: Aberdalgieforteviot@gmail.com
07739 714288

Dunning Church
Pauline Fyfe
Email: aberdunsession@gmail.com

Kirk of St Bride, Abernethy
Joyce White
Email:whitejoyce34@aol.com
01738 850754

All churches are charities registered in Scotland

Aberdalgie & Forteviot Church of Scotland	SC044503
Dunning & Forgandenny Church of Scotland	SC009638
Kirk of St Bride, Abernethy Church of Scotland	SC000586
Aberuthven & Dunning Parish Church of Scotland	SC011353

Parish Lunches

Monthly Parish Lunches are held in Forteviot Village Hall.

On the first Tuesday lunchtime of each month a good-sized group of us can be found chatting to old friends and making new, eating soup, bread and cheese and tucking into a cake or two.

In July cakes were replaced by strawberries, cream, meringues and shortbread. The success has stimulated discussion about themes downline… come and discover what we've come up with!

Lunches have been going for almost two years now and as there is always room for more, if you are on your own or with another, do pop in. If you would rather help in the friendly team do get in touch. Otherwise, it's 12 – 1.30 – and come with an appetite!

Karen Alton 07495 675577

Christian Aid

helping families grow food, protect their children from hunger, and nurture hope.

The theme of Christian Aid ran through our United Service in Dunning in June. Allan linked his personal experience of time spent in Kenya with Christian Aid's appeal for 2026. We heard how, through support from Christian Aid, lives have been turned around for two remarkable women.

Fridah *is now growing fresh vegetables beside her home, helping her feed her grandchildren and support her family with a steadier income.*

Belinda *has been able to learn new farming techniques and start earning money from the food she grows – giving her greater independence and more confidence about the future.*

The very successful Quiz Night in Dunbarney, along with collections from across the LECT raised over £1,400 enabling Christian Aid to continue its work on a global basis.

Ebola, Middle East, Ukraine and now the earthquake in Venezuela … the work is never done.

Please follow them on Christian Aid - UK charity fighting global poverty - Christian Aid – and thank you for your support.

Carol Miller, Christian Aid Rep for LECT

Worship Leadership

I saw the worship leadership course advertised in the weekly updates from presbytery and after discussion with our minister at the time, Reverend Sandy Gunn, I registered for the course.

The course which consists of three Saturday meetings over a two-month period covered the required contents of a worship service.

The music section helped us to build an understanding of the selection of appropriate hymns and other music.

We had a range of books and reference documents to use. We worked in small groups on specific sections of the service and then came together to discuss what we had prepared. We developed our understanding of the structure of prayers and how to create prayers for the journey through the liturgical year.

During the second session, we worked in pairs, to develop a twenty-minute service, and share it with the whole group at the following session. The course leaders gave us a couple of short Bible readings to base our service on.

Each pair were then given the opportunity to deliver their worship service to the whole group and receive feedback afterwards. The range of styles was inspiring, and the group were very supportive and encouraging.

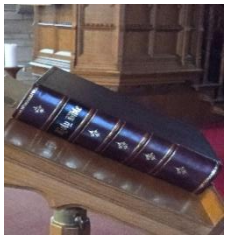
The final stage was the option to become a registered Worship leader. This was assessed by preparing and delivering an entire service in our home church.

I would thoroughly recommend taking part in this training. These roles are important as we continue to support our ministers. Your faith and skills will develop even if you choose not to go on and lead or share worship.

If you would like to know more about Worship Leadership or have any questions, then please feel free to contact me – kim.tree@mail.com.

Kim Tree

Bible Restoration



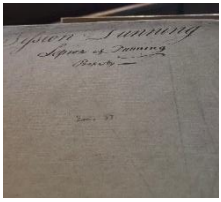
An old Bible discovered recently at Dunning church has now been restored and has pride of place on the chancel area of our church.

Information received from Dr Robert Tree, who is an affiliate in History at the University of Glasgow tells us that the Bible dates from 1773, when Mr Lewis Dunbar was minister. Dunbar was born in 1740, educated at the University of St Andrews and licensed by the Presbytery of Perth in March 1768. He was presented to the parish by Thomas Hay, 6th Earl of Kinnoull in July 1768, and ordained in March 1769.

According to one account, the elders in the parish were all hostile to his appointment, but fifteen out of twenty-five heritors (landowners) supported the call. Here we see the issue of patronage – which would come to define the 1843 Disruption – surfacing within the parish, and unsurprisingly, several parishioners soon seceded to form a Burgher congregation.

The Burghers were a wing of the original secession church from 1733, which had itself split in 1747 due to disagreements over the oath which office holders were compelled to swear. Dunbar's ministry in Dunning was therefore an example of the complex world of eighteenth-century Presbyterianism in Scotland.

This version of the King James Bible was printed in London, in 1773 by Charles Eyre and William Strahan. Strahan was born in 1715 in Edinburgh but moved to London where he became the king's printer and so had the right to print the Bible. We do not know when this Bible was purchased or how much this version of the Bible would have cost. It was probably less than £5 (equivalent to £200 today), but it is worth considerably more to our church for the historical links to our past.



Women's Group

The committee met in May to discuss the syllabus for 2026-2027. As always we aim for an interesting and varied programme of talks and activities. We meet once a month from September to April, generally on the third Wednesday of the month. Any changes to this pattern are advertised widely and well in advance.

*In a change from previous years, meetings will start at **7pm** in Dunbarney Hall.*

16 September - Bees, Honey and Bees wax crafts

21 October - Dan Gunn is offering a talk entitled "Prisons, Prisoners and Society".

18 November - Nettie Squibb, who will be known to many of you, will delight us with her craft skills.

6 November - Fundraising Concert featuring **Perth Rock Choir**. Tickets will be on sale in September and the profits from the evening will go to this year's charities. They are both local, **Brig in Bloom** and **Forgandenny in Flower.**

16 December - Christmas meal at the Village Inn.

If you have never been to a Women's Group meeting, why not give us a try in September? If you are a regular, we look forward to welcoming you back, perhaps with a friend.

Linda Majcher

Church Fonts

Dunbarney (Front Cover)

The new font, lectern and Remembrance Book were designed by a local craftsman, a member of the congregation. He stripped down and reused parts of the old pews that were removed from the church during renovations, the top of the Remembrance Book stand uses the Bible stand from the pulpit. The original font has been placed in the church vestibule and is used with the collection plate on a Sunday or as a base for flower arrangement.

Church Fonts

Aberdalgie and Dupplin (Back Cover)

As part of a recent building survey and record of fixtures and fittings in Aberdalgie and Dupplin Church this decorated wooden pedestal with a detachable metal basin was recorded in the raised section of the Chancel. It seems possible that it is a simple baptismal font, its relationship with the more ornate decorated stone and marble font requires further research. In the Aberdalgie Kirk Session minutes it records: 'On the 18th of October 1691 Laurence Duncan produced a basin for baptism and a communion table cloth for Aberdalgie Church. The minister requested that a frame be made for the basin, and David Scot was asked to make one. The frame was presented to the session on 27th of December'. It seems unlikely that this simple font dates to 1691, but it may have been provided in its place.

Forteviot (Back Cover)

The octagonal font at Forteviot is of late medieval construction from a single block of local sandstone, its origin being Muckersie Chapel overlooking the water of may. Muckersie was a place of worship until 1938 when it was amalgamed with Forteviot parish. The churchyard continued to be used for burial into the 18th century, subsequently the ruined church was restored as a chapel and mausoleum by the Lord of Invermay, the font was moved to Forteviot from the ruined Muckersie Chapel in 1905.

Kirk of St Bride Abernethy (Back Cover)

We have two fonts in Abernethy; one is made of stone and is rather large and no longer used for baptisms. We also have a lovely small silver font which is used instead. The stone font was installed in 1892 and around the top is inscribed the words *Suffer Little Children To Come Unto Me*.

Under this is a second inscription which reads Dedicated AD460 Gifted 1892 by Sir Alx 'R' Moncrieff K Comdr of Bath In the middle is the family coat of arms with the words Sure Esperange which means Hope. The third tier of inscriptions reads *To the Glory of God and in memory of Alex Moncrieff of Culfargie, minister of this parish AD1720*.

Church Fonts

Dunning

In 1972 when St Serfs ceased to be used as the local parish church many of the items of worship including the front were moved to Dunning.

The font which is about 3ft tall and has 3 beautiful seashell motifs carved into it to symbolise Baptism, Holy Trinity and Pilgrimage.

It was originally gifted by Catherine Cunningham whose family are buried in the graveyard at St Serfs. Given that the date on the font is the same as her date of death it is possible she may have left money in her will for the font.

Church Fonts

Forgandenny

Guides & Scouts

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have already had a busy year so far with badge days, sleepovers, science visits, camps, BBQs & other fun activities.

The Guides are looking forward to a trip to London in October to attend the Big Gig at Wembley, a concert that's just for Girlguiding members! The Guides will be travelling with our friends from Kinross, Milnathort, Pitlochry and Portmoak Units - 63 of us in total!

The Guides would like to thank everyone who entered our recent prize draw to help us raise £800 towards the trip. More fundraising events will be held in the coming months.

We currently have thriving Cubs (8–10½ years) and Scouts (10½–14 years) sections and are excited to be working towards establishing a Beaver Colony (6–8 years) for younger children.

Adventure is at the heart of Scouting, and this year has been packed with exciting opportunities. Our members have enjoyed activities at Willowgate Adventure Centre, attended sailing camps, and our Cub section recently had a fantastic trip to Auchengillan Outdoor Centre. We are also hoping to hold a Christmas camp later this year, with plans dependent on the success of our fundraising efforts.

As well as enjoying adventurous activities, our young people are passionate about giving something back to the local community. They have taken part in projects supporting Brig in Bloom, litter-picking, gardening, and fence painting, developing a real sense of pride in helping to keep our local area looking its best. These experiences encourage teamwork, responsibility, confidence, and a strong community spirit.

Guides & Scouts

Supporting Young People in Our Community

The 1st Bridge of Earn Guides and 14th Perthshire Scout Group has been a valued part of our local community for many years, providing young people with opportunities to challenge themselves, learn new skills, make lifelong friendships, and enjoy unforgettable adventures. To make this possible and ensure we continue to be a sustainable part of our community, both Guiding and Scouting are looking for new local volunteers. Whether you can help regularly or occasionally, your support could make a real difference. No previous Guiding or Scouting experience is needed, as full training and ongoing support are provided.

We would also welcome anyone interested in helping us with administration, fundraising, or other support roles. Every contribution, no matter how big or small, enables us continue to provide opportunities for local young people.

If your child is interested in joining either Guiding or Scouting or you can help support our units in any way, please contact
Guiding – Cstewart@girlguidingtayandochils.org
Scouting - BridgeofEarn_Scouts_Committee@outlook.com.

Together, we can continue to provide amazing opportunities for local children and help local Guiding and Scouting grow for many years to come.

Church of Scotland Moderator's Visit

The Aberdalgie Walled Garden was formally opened and dedicated by the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt Rev Gordon Kennedy, on Sunday 26th July.

Led by Rev Allan Wilson, the Moderator and Rev Brenda Elwell-Sutton, Moderator of the Presbytery of Perth, shared in the United Service which was attended by a large number of friends from across the LECT. During his sermon we learned of some of the aspects of his year as Moderator, including his visit to Burundi where he witnessed the work of Tear Fund, his chosen charity.

Prior to sharing post-service picnics, the celebration cake was cut by Rev James Aitchison and Vicki Coull, daughter of the late Pat Robb, his then Session Clerk, whose joint vision pre-Covid, has resulted in the marvellous garden we witness today.

Aberdalgie Walled Garden – behind the scenes

On Friday 24th July, there was an opportunity for funders to hear direct from the stakeholders who have been benefitting from the garden over the past two years. Many moving spoken testimonials were expressed, emphasising the benefit to the groups that have visited – the peace, the security and the fresh country environment where individuals are often able to develop emotionally outwith constraints of their daily lives.

During the restoration phase, a learning and activity programme centred around heritage studies and traditional skills training in stonemasonry, carpentry, crafts, landscaping and gardening was piloted. We have also hosted garden and children's play sessions, birthday parties, outdoor church services and open days.

The Green Shoots project team, led by Gordon Mackay, and a team of skilled contractors and suppliers have been supported by over 2,000 hours of volunteering to help restore the wall garden and other spaces. Over 500 children, adults and seniors have visited the Aberdalgie site since 2022.

The support from our church, funders, advisors, Lower Earn Trust, community council and Perth and Kinross Council has been invaluable throughout. We have partnered with schools, charities and other groups as part of the design process to ensure that a wide range of opportunities is available. To visit the site or book a slot click on www.aberdalgieandforteviot.co.uk/green-shoots.

Finance Update

A financial thought for this month – would you admit to how much you spend in a day? How much you spend in a week? At the supermarket? When you put petrol in your car? Pay your monthly phone contract? Make your offering for God's work across the Lower Earn Network? Did you know that it cost just over £2,000 every week in 2025 to keep our Network churches running? That can seem a daunting figure at times, particularly when something unexpected goes wrong on top of normal day-to-day expenses e.g. a roof leak, a plumbing mishap.

How do we balance the books here? God puts a desire in all our hearts to enable his work to be carried out. He guides each one of us towards making our financial giving a priority in our lives, not just what we have left over after we have met all our other monthly expenses. Putting the church's work first enables us to show our gratitude to God for all that He has given to us.

Ask Him to guide you to make a realistic offering to expanding our work here in our community. Our giving should be:

- **Considered –** what does God ask of us? That we give in a prayerful and considered manner, a priority in our way of living and a focus for what we are trying to achieve**.**
- **Committed –** putting the needs of God's work first in our lives before ourselves and our pleasures, not merely giving what is left over at the end of the week.
- **Challenging –**large enough to make a difference and ensuring that we place the required importance on it**.**
- **Cheerful –** how much more joy is obtained from giving than from seeking reward?

Your treasurer can give you more information about giving regularly by standing order or, if you are a taxpayer, signing up to Gift Aid. Together, with God's help, we can achieve so much.

"Honour God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst; your wine vats will brim over." Proverbs 3:9-10

Elizabeth Dalgetty, Alison Jolliffe and Lesley MacKay

Christmas Angels Pattern

You require:

- Size 4mm knitting pins (size 8)
- Double knitting wool: white or pale colours
- Cotton wool ball for stuffing

Instructions:

1. Cast on 25 stitches.
2. Knit 50 rows of plain knitting to make a square.
3. Once completed use some wool to make a running stitch, starting at the centre top of your square to 1/3rd of the way down the left edge. Continue running stitch across the front of your square to the right-hand edge. Now complete the running stitch back up to the centre top.
4. Your running stitch will make a triangle outline.
5. Place a cotton wool ball in the centre of your stitched triangle.
6. Now pull the ends of your running stitches wool and gather up to make your angel face and wings.
7. Tie your stitch ends securely to make a hanging loop.

Aberdalgie & Dupplin Church
(wooden font with metal basin)

Aberdalgie & Dupplin Church
(stone and marble font)

Forteviot font carved from one piece of sandstone

Kirk of St Bride Abernethy font