



EDZELL PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE SUMMER 2025



Celebrating 25 years of Edzell Church Hall

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Hello and welcome to this edition of the Church magazine. I hope it finds you well, enjoying the lovely weather although as I write we have just had some much needed rain.

On the front cover, to celebrate 25 years since the opening of the Church Hall, we have a view of the back of the Church, giving the Hall centre stage. 25 YEARS!! Where has the time gone ! I wonder how many individuals have come through the hall door in that time. How many cups of tea have been made in the kitchen, how many paper towels used in the toilets and how many hearts touched by the warm fellowship that has been enjoyed at the countless number of events. When we were challenged back in the late 1990's by our then minister Rev, John Forbes to come up with an idea to mark the new millennium a hall was not the only thing on the list but it soon became clear that it was something the congregation felt was needed and would help take our Church forward, replacing a portacabin and a tiny 'cupboard' of a kitchen. Everyone got behind the proposal and a great flurry of fundraising started ably coordinated by Christy Bing. Plans were drawn up, the work put out to tender and with Revs John Forbes and Leo Hughes digging the first turf in November 1999 the building work began. Under our new minister Rev. Alex Forsyth the Hall was officially opened on Saturday 22nd July 2000 by the then Moderator of Angus Presbytery Rev. Ian Gough. The sun shone, the corks were popped, the sandwiches and cake enjoyed and the choir sang All Are Welcome In This Place, as we gave thanks to God for it All. Today we continue to give thanks for this space that enhances the life and witness of the Church in the Community.

Thank you also to all those who have contributed to this magazine.

Judith Hay.

Ladies (and Gentlemen)– Find your knitting pins!

The Craft Group in Edzell are knitting poppies to adorn the church on Remembrance Sunday. They need a lot of poppies and wondered if any of you would like to help with this project.

The pattern and wool will be supplied.

If you are interested, please contact

Hilary on 01356 647187



CROSS WORDS



As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God (Psalm 42:1-2).

Ella Fitzgerald once sang, 'Summertime and the livin' is easy.' These words come to mind as I write on what is the last day of June and the first of my summer holidays. The sun is shining, there's a gentle breeze, and I've been casually observing bees and butterflies as they flit and flutter from one flower to another. While occasionally conscious of the hum of a distant vehicle, the only interruption to the welcome silence comes from buzzing insects and birdsong which only adds to the serenity of the moment.

The summer holidays provide a good opportunity to relax and reflect. I like to read and explore places of historical and ecclesiastical interest. They present an opportunity to breathe, to enjoy the moment, and to think deeply on our rich heritage and inheritance. Thomas Merton once wrote 'that in a world of noise, confusion, and conflict, it is necessary that there be places of silence.' CS Lewis similarly said that we live in a world starved for solitude, silence, and privacy. And yet God bids us "Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps.46:10a). The Lord Jesus says, "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Mt.11:28). Augustine of Hippo added that our hearts are indeed restless until they find rest in Him. And so, in an age of continuous din

and countless distractions we ought to cultivate and cherish opportunities for quiet reflection, contemplation, and meditation on God's word in scripture and also in nature.

Holidays have their origin in the former holy days of obligation that were set apart in the ancient church's calendrical year. They were designed to encourage God's people to seek and savour God that they may find rest and renewal. These were in addition to Sunday, the day of rest, set apart not only for physical rest but for spiritual rest through communal worship and private devotions. These are precious means through which we develop and deepen our relationship with God and one another. We only starve our souls when we neglect them.

Whether or not we are on holiday, let us set apart regular times and seasons for drawing near to God, for listening to the still small voice, for discovering His will for our lives, and for charging our spiritual batteries. Let the good, the true, and the beautiful similarly point us to the One in whom they have their origin. Let us moreover learn from the wisdom of others in scripture and in the history of the church that we may all grow in knowledge and grace.

Have a wonderful summer. Services are at the usual time of 11am on Sunday mornings. Our Bible Study resumes the first Wednesday in August. Our church history group outings continue each month. And we hope to conclude the Edzell Gala week celebrations with a special service with Scottish music to accompany our psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

God bless you and yours, Wayne.

Calling all parents, grandparents & carers

CROSSREACH
Care you can put your faith in

Are you caring for a child aged 3–8 years? We're developing a brand new mental health and wellbeing activity product for young children and we want YOUR input!

Together, we can create something meaningful that supports emotional wellbeing from the very start.

Want to get involved?

Sign up via the Crossreach

Facebook page or get in touch with Crossreach.

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NOTES FROM THE KIRK SESSION

From the Kirk Session

Planning is underway for a new way for the congregation to make their weekly donations. Session has still to approve the details, but in principle, it has been agreed that monetary gifts can be made using a cashless card point. Guidance will be given as to how it should be used and, in the meantime, members and visitors alike can be reassured that the open plate will still be available!

During Wayne's annual summer holiday, it was noted that Rev. Mike Harris, who joins us regularly with his wife Moira, would take the Sunday service on 6th July and our own Worship Group will lead on 13th July. Both services will have taken place by the time the newsletter has been published, and we will have Wayne back with us, suitably refreshed and rested.

It was agreed to hold an extra communion service in August. This represents a fourth communion in the year (others to be held in February, May, and November) which will be scheduled regularly for the third Sunday in that month from now on.

Session approved a gift of £500 (from the Youth Fund) to support a mobile puppet show (paying for new windows) using a van driven by Sam Shaw, who has undertaken several performances for our youngsters over the years.

In his first report to Session, new Property Convener, Charles Elphinstone, noted that interior painting in the entrance area and on the stairs (to address water damage) as well as exterior painting of the Hall building, is now complete. At the Manse, a new bathroom has been installed, exterior painting carried out and new paving stones laid on the path to the front door. Other projects represent work in progress and will be noted here on completion.

Heather Gow has resumed her role as Presbytery Elder, representing Edzell Church at the Perth Presbytery. Heather had previously undertaken the role, but family commitments were such that she stood down for the 12 months to 1st July 2025. Douglas Gow represented the Church in an official capacity at the General Assembly in May.

The Fellowship Group has hosted successful events in the past couple of months. Alana Turnbull gave a concert in the church hall on 16th May, and there were two Christian Aid lunches in the month, with combined income from all three contributing over £1150 to a worthy

charity. Their next commitment will be to provide teas in the Hall on the village Gala Day (2nd August). Separately, we will explore the potential of a special Gala service, the following day.

Finally, it was noted that a new committee is in place to support the work of the Guild, under the leadership of Ishbel Karam. An interesting and varied programme of meetings will begin in September. Session wished the Guild every success.

Andy Turnbull

Session Clerk

The Prayer of the Tired Mom

One evening, little Tommy found his mother slumped on the couch, eyes closed.

"Mum, are you sleeping?" he asked.

"No, sweetie," she sighed. "I'm praying."

Tommy frowned. "But your eyes are closed."

"Because I can't bear to look at the mess right now."

"And you're lying down?"

"Even Moses needed to rest after crossing the Red Sea."

Tommy nodded wisely. "And the grumbling?"

"That's me asking for *patience*."

Just then, the dog knocked over a plant. Tommy waited for the cross words—but his mum just took a deep breath and whispered, "*Lord, You fed five thousand with a kid's lunch. Surely You can multiply my last nerve.*"

Tommy patted her arm. "Amen. Also, I *might* have drawn on the wall."

His mum sat up. "*Might?*"

"Okay, *did*."

She exhaled. "*Thank You, Jesus, for making markers washable.*"

Moral: Even on chaotic days, prayer doesn't have to be formal—just honest. And sometimes, the holiest thing a parent can say is, "*Help.*"

FROM THE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Hello from the Fellowship Team

Hope you managed to make the most of some of the beautiful sunny days we've had.

In May we hosted two Christian Aid Lunches and an evening of musical entertainment by Alana Turnbull. From these events we were able to send £1200 to Christian Aid to assist with their very valuable work.

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

GALA TEAS – Saturday 2 August 1 - 4 pm £4.00 per adult/£1.50 per child

Join us in the Church Hall for tea/coffee and some lovely home baking.

MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB – Commencing Tuesday 26 August from 9 until 10.30 am

Men this is for you! All welcome.

You are all invited to get together in the Church Hall and reminisce, plan, plot, joke and generally chat and maybe change the world one bacon roll at a time around the table whilst enjoying tea/coffee and hot breakfast rolls with a choice of filling.

While the idea is relaxed, we would ask that if you want to eat make sure you have ordered by 10 am.

We request a £3.00 donation to cover costs.

GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND – Tuesday 26 August 2 - 3.30 pm in the Church Hall

Come along and meet Susan with Bella the puppy from Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Enjoy the story, provided by an accompanying speaker, of the journey from puppy to a fully trained working guide dog whilst enjoying tea/coffee and cake.

No entry charge but donations kindly received to be passed to the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

HARVEST SUPPER - Friday 24th October (more information nearer the time)

We look forward to your company at these events.

Thank you and have a wonderful summer.

Gail Davies

EDZELL CHURCH GUILD

While our members are enjoying the summer break, the committee are putting together an interesting and varied syllabus for the year ahead;
September 2025 through to April 2026.

The Guild motto is “Whose I am, and Whom I serve”

The aim of the Guild in the Church of Scotland is to invite men and women to commit their lives to Jesus and express their faith in worship, prayer and action.

In Edzell Parish we meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the church hall and all are most welcome. We enjoy a short act of worship, a speaker and (of course) tea, coffee and a wee biscuit. The topics of our meetings will be intimated in church, and if it sounds interesting to you, do come along (and bring a friend).

It will be lovely to see you at our first meeting of the year on
Tuesday 16th September.

The Committee.

THE SEED SOWERS



The Seed Sowers had a busy term with a farm visit to see the lambs and find the lost sheep! We then looked at Pentecost followed by the apostle Philip. The term ended with cake as we celebrated with Harry and Sophia their final session as they move up to the High School after the summer. We wish them well. Thanks to all the team, the school staff, the families and all the children who support the Club.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

NEWS FROM THE TECH DESK

Back in 2021 we installed a state-of-the-art new Audio / Visual (AV) system to support and enhance our Christian worship in the Church. Since then, we have added additional equipment, upgraded our broadband, grown our Tech team, and are continually finding new things that we can do with the system. Central to the system are two large screens either side of the pulpit with overhead projectors (see picture)



that allows us to provide high quality content, including videos, pictures, and large text for bible readings and hymns. The content is used to build a set of PowerPoint slides that are displayed on the screens throughout the service, allowing the congregation to follow the service and sing with their heads up.

The AV equipment is widely used for during the school services, Mrs Farquhar, Headteacher, makes a video of the P7 leavers showing wonderful photos of the children from their time in the school until they leave in the summer term. The service is also recorded for the school.

The AV system also allows us to offer a personalized media content for funeral and wedding services by showing family photos, playing favourite videos and music. These services can be also recorded and or streamed live privately if the families so wish.

We also have two high-definition video cameras that are used to record and stream the church service live via our YouTube Channel (Edzell Parish Church), our Easter morning service received 105 views.

The service can also be viewed via our website -

www.edzellchurch.org/ and our Facebook page – Edzell Church, giving the church a strong on-line presence.

The audio includes an induction Loop system that offers reliable, improved sound quality for people with hearing aids. Our Church Hall also has an A/V System and Wi-Fi Internet access. The Technical operations team currently consists of 3 people - myself, Steve and Bruce and I am very grateful for their help and support. We are always looking for more people to join and if you are interested and would like to be involved then please let me know.

Douglas

dgow21@btinternet.com



Thank you Ishbel for sharing the words of this song with us.

He is my Everything

Some folk may ask me, some folk may say
Who is this Jesus, you talk about every day,
He is my Saviour, He set me free,
Now listen while I tell you what He means to me.

Chorus

He is my everything, He is my all,
He is my everything, both great and small,
He gave His life for me, made everything new,
He is my everything, now how about you?

Off times I'm tempted, but praise the Lord,
In the name of Jesus, by His Holy Word,
I'm more than conqueror, I've Jesus within,
And He will keep me from Satan and sin.

Chorus

He will never leave me, or let me go,
He will never leave me, He loves me so,
And in times of sorrow, in suffering or pain,
Just remember Jesus, remember His name.

Anon

PROJECT 2000 Fundraising walk up Mount Keen. Time to refuel!



Rev Alex Forsyth putting the last golf ball in the fundraising totaliser. Smiles all round!





All hands to the pump!
Getting the Hall ready for
the grand opening on
Saturday 22nd July 2000.



The Guides enjoying a break from their cleaning.



Always time for a cuddle!



Over the last 25 years the Hall has hosted many events, enhancing the life and witness of the Church in our community.

It remains bright and welcoming and can be hired, see the Church website for details, at the reasonable charge of £15 for the first hour and £12 each for subsequent hours to cover costs of heating and lighting.

Alison Paterson
elgparishchurch2021@outlook.com

The Stamp Appeal



Collect your stamps to support the work of the Al Ahli Hospital in Northern Gaza.



The hospital is the only Christian hospital in the Gaza Strip and Gaza's only cancer hospital. It serves in time of calm during the occupation and despite all, and through all the bombing since Oct 2023, the hospital has continued to serve the population in whatever way they can with the small resources they have and with staff working hours under difficult conditions.

The hospital is run by our partner church, the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

We continue to collect stamps for the Church of Scotland Stamp Appeal which this year is supporting the Al Ahli Hospital in Northern Gaza. Please continue to drop your stamps into the box at the church door.

'The Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Northern Gaza has been in operation since 1882. It is owned and run today by the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem, a partner Church of the Church of Scotland. The hospital is the only Christian hospital in the Gaza Strip and Gaza's only cancer hospital.'

For more information visit the Church of Scotland website.

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/departments/faith-action-programme-committees-and-departments/stamp-appeal>

And finally a wee reminder

As the summer is marching on it will soon be time to turn our attentions to the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal so if you're buying new shoes please keep the box and start looking out for any good offers on essentials—soap, facecloth, toothbrush and toothpaste to name a few. Also this year it will all be promoted under their new logo.



Blythswood

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

2nd Gala Teas 1-4pm in the Church Hall

3rd Gala Service of Worship 11am.

17th Communion Service 11am

26th Men's Breakfast Club 9 - 10.30am in the Hall

Guide Dogs For The Blind 2 - 3.30pm in the Hall

OCTOBER

24th Harvest Supper in the Hall

A service of worship is held each Sunday in the Church led by the minister and can be view on our YouTube channel and accessed through the website and Facebook page.

I hope you can join us this summer.

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS

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