

New Horizons

SIDLAW PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE

Christmas 2025



WE ARE A CHURCH WHO
CARE ABOUT PEOPLE,
MAKE A DIFFERENCE,
PROTECT CREATION
BECAUSE CHRIST GIVES LIFE.
IN ALL THIS, WE SHARE THE JOY OF FAITH



CHURCH SERVICES

30th November

Muirhead Church, 11am

7th December

Auchterhouse Church, 9:45am

St Marnock's Church, Fowlis, 11am

14th December

Auchterhouse Church, 9:45am

Muirhead Church, 11am

21st December

Auchterhouse Church, 9:45am

Muirhead Church, 11am

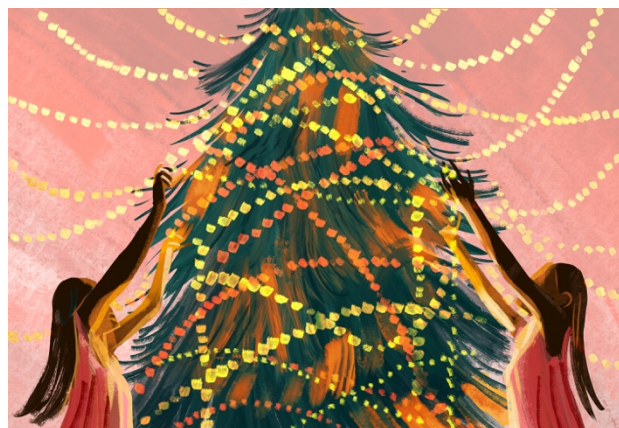
24th December

Muirhead Church, 6:30pm

Auchterhouse Church, 11:15pm

28th December

Auchterhouse Church, 11am



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Auchterhouse Christmas
Lights Switch-On

Sunday 7th December

4pm - 6pm

Village Hall

Refreshments and games

Switch on at 5pm

Followed by carols and songs



Fond Farewell to Donna Hays, our Minister and Friend

On Sunday 26th October 2025, we gathered in Muirhead Church for Donna Hays to lead us in worship and for the congregation of members and friends to celebrate Communion and the final service with Donna as Minister of Sidlaw Parish Church.

We welcomed friends and family from 9 months to 100 years young, including the first baby baptised by Donna. Clara Isabel Horspool was baptised in St Marnock's and will celebrate her 21st birthday on 18th December 2025! Members from our Grouping attended too and Carse Church Ministers Catriona Morrison and Marc Prowe sang a most creative tribute to Donna.



A MESSAGE OF THANKS

What a very special day I had on my last Sunday!
It was simply wonderful to see so many gather together, to have such lovely messages and kind words said, to be given such beautiful gifts as well as an extremely generous cheque.....

What more can I say but

THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH.

May you all know the richness of God's blessings.

Donna x



A MESSAGE FROM GRAHAM TAYLOR, INTERIM MODERATOR

Dear Members and Friends of Sidlaw Parish Church,

It is with great anticipation and a genuine sense of privilege that I step into the role of your Interim Moderator. I consider it a true blessing to walk alongside you during this important season of transition.

One of my aims in the coming months will be affirming the tremendous work God is already doing within this parish. Indeed, I look forward to working together to ensure we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love, and sustain the momentum of your existing ministries. Of course, change is rarely easy. It is natural to feel mixed emotions during the search for a new minister, but I have every confidence that we will navigate this journey successfully. For, we will find our way forward by honouring each other's stories, celebrating our collective strengths, and continually praying for wisdom and direction as we prepare for the future.

Please don't hesitate to reach out or share what is in your heart. I intend to be available with John, our Locum, so to serve the parish with compassion and joy. I especially invite you to say hello whenever you see me about!

In Christ's love,
Graham



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW LOCUM MINISTER JOHN MACMILLAN



John Macmillan has been appointed as Locum. For those who have not yet met John, please come along to the Joint Service in Muirhead Church on 30th November.

Our sincere thanks to David Murie & Tim Xenophontos-Hellen for also leading us in worship until John is able to be with us on a regular basis.

CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISM

Auchterhouse Church

Lily Elaine Isabella, daughter of Elaine and Tom Strang and wee sister of Orla.

DEATHS

Alexander Simpson, Birkhill

Sheila Meikle, Muirhead

William Husband, East Adamson

May Easton, Dundee

Harvest Celebrations



Many thanks to all those who donated to our Harvest services, to Bill Munro for his artistic baking and to everyone who decorated Muirhead Church. We received sincere thanks from the Dundee Foodbank where the donations were gratefully received.

A wonderful display of locally-grown vegetables and eggs decorated the Auchterhouse Church Harvest Festival. Other foods and beautiful flowers were arranged around the Church. Special thanks to all the helpers working in the dark as SSEN decided to switch off the power that Saturday to erect new telegraph poles.



Each month, we publicise a focus for food being collected by Sidlaw. We also try to let you know if there are shortages of any particular product. We are happy to collect items for donation at any of the churches. This is a wonderful way that we can reach out to others in need. Thank you to all who donate!



Remembrance Sunday



Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Acts of Remembrance in and around Sidlaw Parish Church. Our pictures show Auchterhouse Church above, Muirhead church in the middle and the memorials outside and inside St Marnock's, Fowlis, at the bottom of the page. Also included below right is a photograph of the envelope containing a donation, posted through the Muirhead Church letter box. Such a lovely thought.



Please Accept this small donation for the upkeep of your beautiful Church. I was passing on my travels and had to stop to see such a wonderful sight. every poppy hand made shows that some will never forget the sacrifice of our forefathers and of Christ himself. you've made my day much more bearable thank you all.

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Thanks to everyone for their generosity in donating or helping to complete boxes. 110 filled boxes have been sent.

Quiz Night

Thank you to all who arranged and all who supported The Big Quiz Night. A fantastic £604 was raised for Tearfund.

Sidlaw Craft Group

These are held on the last Friday of the month (excluding December) from 10am to midday in Auchterhouse Church. Please see the Auchterhouse Facebook page for details of upcoming activities including the wreath making on 28th November. There's always time for cake and chat. For more information, please get in touch with Toni at t.hayhow-khan@gmail.com.

Pastoral Care Team

Within Sidlaw Parish, we have a small group of volunteers who regularly visit, email or phone members to keep in touch. If you would appreciate an informal chat or a visit, or if you would like to volunteer to visit, please contact Gloria Burns on gloriajburns10@gmail.com or 07752 538704.

Soup Lunch

Our Soup Lunch is held on the 3rd Thursday of the month in Muirhead Church at 12.30pm from September to June. The £2 lunch continues to prove popular and a varied choice of homemade soup is available to all, followed by home baking to accompany a cup of tea/coffee and chat with friends.

Friendship Club

Meetings are held in Muirhead Church on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.15pm from September to June. Not up to walking along or don't have transport? Then get the 59 bus which leaves Birkhill at 1.50pm and stops at the Church. The club is enjoyed by both men and women at £2 for the club and a £1 donation for the raffle prize.

Sidlaw Walk & Talk

A great social event that will also give a chance for exercise and a natter over a cuppie! Walk & Talk takes place on the second Thursday of each month, leaving from Auchterhouse Church at 1.15pm and ends with tea/coffee and cake in the Church. No planned walks for December or January so our next walk will be in February, weather permitting. For more information, please contact Irene on irenespalding@gmail.com.



Messy Church

Our Messy Church runs from 4-6pm in Muirhead Church on the last Saturday in the month. Please contact Euan on euansmith63@yahoo.co.uk for more information. Our upcoming themes and dates are: **November 29th** Joy, **January 31st** Perseverance, **February 28th** Love, **March 28th** Courage, **April 25th** Integrity, **May 30th** Community, **June 27th** Justice.

Sidlaw Church of Scotland Guild



"Whose I am and Whom I serve." The Guild enjoys meeting on the second Tuesday of the month in Auchterhouse Church at 2pm. Our theme for the year is "Living Stones". We have a very strong guild who enjoy the speakers then a time of fellowship over tea/coffee and cake. Our November speaker John Fraser said in his email of thanks, "I enjoyed thoroughly good company after my talk". John gave an excellent presentation on Tearfund. The meetings are very relaxed and fun, so please come along and join us. You will be made very welcome.

All Guilds for the next 3 years, 2025 – 2027, support 4 Guild Projects. We support by giving £200 to each project over the three years. Raised so far:

Bear Necessities Build a Church in Bulgaria, £24,000

Release International Operation Hope in Egypt, £24,000

Scottish Bible Society Bibles for Bairns, £31,000

Crossreach Playful Beginnings Scotland, £38,000.

2026 Syllabus

13th January

Trip to Calgary Stampede & Alaska by Helen Smith.

10th February

Musical Entertainment by "The 2 Davids" – Murie & Roulstan.

10th March

Talk on Archie Foundation, Ninewells by Rebecca Duncan.

14th April

The Camino – A Spanish Pilgrimage by Rev. Marion Paton.

12th May

AGM, then Release International Operation Hope, one of the Guild Projects, by James Fraser.

6th June

The Big Guild Coffee Morning.

A Christmas Poem



Jesus brings warmth like a winter fire,
A light like a candle's glow.
He's waiting now to come inside
As He did so long ago.
Jesus brings gifts of truth and life
And makes them bloom and grow.
So, welcome Him with a song of joy,
And when He comes, you'll know
That Christmas isn't Christmas till it happens in your heart,
Somewhere deep inside you is where Christmas really starts.
So give your heart to Jesus, you'll discover when you do
That it's Christmas, really Christmas, for you and you and you.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Email: session_clerk@btinternet.com

CHURCH WEB SITE

www.carseandsidlawchurches.org

GROUPING FACEBOOK

Carse and Sidlaw Churches



REGULAR PATTERN OF WORSHIP

Auchterhouse Church – Sundays at 9:45am

Except for the last Sunday of each month when we have a joint service, alternating between Auchterhouse and Muirhead Church, at 11am.

Muirhead Church – Sundays at 11am

Except for 1st Sunday in the month when the service is in St Marnock's, Fowlis and the last Sunday in the month when the service is a joint service in Auchterhouse Church.

St Marnock's Fowlis – 1st Sunday of month at 11am

On the first Sunday of each month, the service will be in St Marnock's, Fowlis.

Zoom

All the 11am services will also be available on Zoom.

Please email session_clerk@btinternet.com for login details.

**The members of Sidlaw Parish Church
take this opportunity to wish everyone
in our communities a joyous
and blessed
Christmas.**

