

# NEW HORIZONS

## SIDLAW PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE

### SUMMER 2026



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



The Church of Scotland

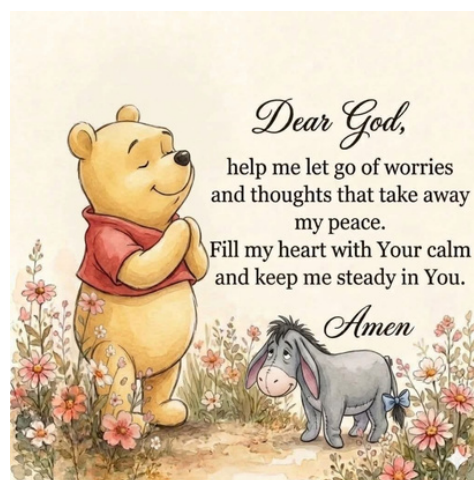
### CHURCH SERVICES

- 5 July** Auchterhouse Church 9.45am  
St Marnock's Church, Fowlis 11.00am
- 12 July** Auchterhouse Church 9.45am  
Muirhead Church 11.00am
- 19 July** Auchterhouse Church 9.45am  
Muirhead Church 11.00am
- 26 July** Muirhead Church 11.00am
- 2 August** Auchterhouse Church 9.45am  
St Marnock's Church, Fowlis 11.00am
- 9 August** Auchterhouse Church 9.45am  
Muirhead Church 11.00am
- 16 August.** Auchterhouse Church 9.45am  
Muirhead Church 11.00am
- 23 August** Auchterhouse Church 9.45am  
Muirhead Church 11.00am
- 30 August** Auchterhouse Church 11.00am



**Messy Church**  
**Saturday 27 June 2026**  
**Muirhead Church 4-6pm**

**Summer Club**  
**Muirhead Church**  
**3 - 7 August 2026**  
**(Details on page 7 )**



## And so that was Christmas 2025!

Looking back to last Christmas, the celebrations of that happy day began in early December when the community joined together to light the Christmas tree at Auchterhouse Hall, with plenty of fun, games and food !

Muirhead hosted the early evening family service on Christmas Eve. A volunteer group was given scripts on the night to act out part of the Christmas story to a packed Church. We were delighted to welcome over 70 in a congregation. We hope to have a repeat performance in 2026 to attempt a new world record for the Christmas Story in 4 minutes!

We are indebted to Tim Xenophontos-Hellen for leading our first Watchnight Service in Auchterhouse Church for a number of years. This was held from 11.30pm on Christmas Eve into Christmas morning and was another really well-attended occasion.

Across our Sidlaw Christmas services we collected an impressive £777 for Shelter.

## Easter 2026

For our Easter services, we were delighted that Tim also agreed to welcome Easter Morning with our SonRise Service at 8.00am and the united service at 11.00am, both in Auchterhouse Church. His colourful tie and decorated eggs contributed to a bright and cheerful morning!



## A Message from Rev Graham Taylor (Interim Moderator)

“97% of what I worry about never happens – proof that worrying works!”

So said a cartoon I saw recently. Perhaps that resonates with you; it certainly does with me. On the other hand, you may be in the James Bond school of thought. In *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, he reflects: “Worry is a dividend paid to disaster before it is due.” Either way, there seems to be plenty to worry about today. Yet our faith has weathered eras of fear in the past, and it brought our Christian ancestors through to calmer shores.

More than that, their voyage through the storm taught them much—and strengthened them further. Moreover, as John reminded us in a recent sermon, troubling times can be opportunities to hold Christ closer—and to listen more carefully for God’s voice. After all, the very essence of Easter is the promise of our master and friend’s unfailing presence and support, whatever we (and our world) are going through.

What better thought, then, as we prepare for the supreme reminder of Jesus’ saving help: our Communion Service together? In that blessed meal, we affirm that Christ’s salvation from fear is not for tomorrow, but for now—not for someone else, but for each of us; and not only for the big issues of life, but for the small ones as well.

All we need do is remember Paul’s words to the Philippians: Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything... Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand.

With every blessing,  
Graham

### Church Families

Recently, in Auchterhouse Church, we were delighted to welcome Eva Bell’s son, Andrew and daughter-in-law Davina for the Baptism of their second daughter, Kimberly-Rose Alana, little sister of Avaleigh.



In St Marnock’s, Fowlis, we welcomed Sue Stevenson’s brother and sister-in-law from Canada. Previously Sue played the organ in St Marnock’s and currently her husband, Bill is organist and keyboard player.



## Thoughts from John McMillan, our Locum

My Church position is that I have been a Reader just since 2023, which means that I can do pretty much everything in church life except the sacraments, i.e Baptisms and Communions. I very much accept that those are the rules. Becoming a Reader is more or less a 3 year programme of discernment, study and training, but it's way less training than becoming a Minister.

I was a locum in Dundee Law Parish Church, but especially in the Steeple church in Dundee city for 13 months 24/25. There I crossed paths with Rev Graham Taylor who is our Interim Moderator. It was Graham who very kindly invited me to help Sidlaw out, also as locum, after Rev Donna's retirement.

Being a locum means basically three things. I am going to put them in the following order because this reflects the visibility of me to you but I am not sure it is the right order from any other point of view.

1) **I help out with preaching when I am available.** I do that in all of your three worship locations. This can mean that you don't see me at all for a few weeks or you might get me 7 Sundays in a row. I love your three locations. Each has very different character and each is quite lovely. I like the fact that you have different organists in each place. I am sure you know how well blessed you are in your musical people. They are a delight to work with. (I say more about music below).

2) **I take funerals when needed.** I have taken several already but none yet in Auchterhouse. This really is a remarkable privilege. When I went in for Readership it somehow never crossed my mind that funerals would be part of the job. I have found this to be an extraordinarily blessed opportunity to minister to those in need. All have been well attended but two have been packed houses. But, whatever the size of the assembled company, it's all about finding the balance between sharing the pain of the loss and the marking in love of a life well led.

3) **I visit the sick, the injured, the grieving, the recovering and the lonely,** in their homes, or in care homes or in hospital. This has to be work which is unseen (and it depends on good intelligence as to who needs visiting so please don't be shy in saying who does). I never cease to be amazed about how much I get out of these visits. I go there trying to bring blessing and come out doubly blessed. We always finish with a wee impromptu prayer. There is no better moment of prayer in any week.

So back to preaching. I have been attending church all my life and I know how much praise features in my sense of worship well being. So I do try to find hymns and songs which are good to sing and which fit my theme. Feel free please to offer suggestions anytime and of course the quality of our overall musical team is a vital factor in making us feel good about praise. Never forget that it's our praise, not mine.

Everyone who preaches will tell you how remarkable it is that the lectionary readings every week seem to fit with what's going on, whether locally or nationally. I am very much a preacher, perhaps with P plates rather than L plates, who's learning the ropes. It's very brave of you to trust me. The Holy Spirit is remarkable in how S/He leads our thinking. My hope is always to try to make the Biblical message relevant to us in 2026 but it's down to the same Holy Spirit as to how those preached words impact on you.

My final comment is to acknowledge the amazing work being done by a wide assortment of Sidlaw people every week. It would be a short sighted preacher who thought it was all down to him or her. The preacher is at best the tip of the iceberg!

So thank you all for your very warm welcome. John.



In the next edition of our magazine, we'll feature articles from both of our other current worship leaders, David Murie and Tim Xenophontos-Hellen. David will encourage us to notice how the right song can lift our spirits. Meantime, Tim will be busy baking. If you can't manage along to Tim & Stella's June Charity Coffee & Cake Day, the next one will be on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August.

### The Sidlaw Church Guild

The Guild is going strong and it's lovely to have a turnout of over 20 members and friends supporting. After our summer break, the Guild restarts in September with a varied programme.

- 8 September Bear Necessities, Build my Church, Bulgaria
- 14 October Rev. Wayne Pearse, minister at Edzell talking on the history of Auchterhouse Church
- 10 November Rebecca Duncan, Archie Foundation in Ninewells Hospital

At the December meeting, the Guild will welcome the Choir from Bendochy/Coupar Angus Church.

There are 4 Guild projects over the period of 2025-27, two from overseas and two from Scotland. The other two are Scottish Bible Society's Bibles for Bairns and Crossreach Playful Beginnings. The total raised so far from Guilds all over Scotland for the four projects is £207,300.00, the result of much hard work.

As Rev Syd Graham used to say, "Give yourselves a pat on the back". Each and every one is in desperate need of funds to be able to continue in their amazing work.

### Walk and Talk

The Walk and Talk Group is a relaxed one, open to all in the community, not just Church members, and welcomes anyone interested in some exercise and friendship. Well-behaved dogs are also welcome! We meet on the **second Thursday** of the month, starting from Auchterhouse Church about 1.15pm. After the summer break, we'll restart on 10 September.

The walks are not strenuous, lasting about 45 minutes -1 hour but shorter walks are included for those less able. We are very lucky with our surroundings and views in all directions, from the North Sea and the Firth of Tay south to the Pentland Hills near Edinburgh, north to the Grampians, Schiehallion and the glens of Angus often seen on clear days from the local paths. Nature, including wildflowers, birds, local history etc are generally explained as we walk. Even repeating a walk or going in the opposite direction, can give surprisingly different views. I walk the proposed route in the morning to assess any adverse conditions and adapt the walk as necessary.

After our walks, we return to Auchterhouse Church for tea, coffee, home baking including gluten free options, giving plenty of time for more chatting.

I look forward to seeing you when we restart in September.

Irene Spalding.

The October walk was to Scotston Farm where Iain & Shiona Baird explained their work on the organic farm.



## Pastoral Care.



Church Volunteers continue to visit members in their homes who may not have the opportunity to attend Church. The ladies and gentlemen enjoy hearing about Church activities and news around the village. We are always delighted to hear from members who would like a visit and a friendly chat. We are fortunate to have flowers in Church every Sunday donated by members of the congregation. We distribute bunches of flowers after Sunday Church in and around the villages. Please get in touch if our team can help in our Pastoral Care duties.

Gloria Burns

Pastoral Care Organiser.

Email: [gloriajburns10@gmail.com](mailto:gloriajburns10@gmail.com) Mobile: 07752538704.

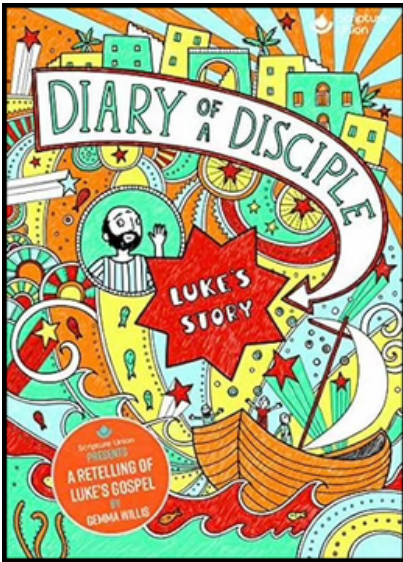


## AUCHTERHOUSE CHURCH CRAFT Last Friday of the Month Sept - April

We have been running for 3 years and meet from 10am - 12noon to try different craft ideas to inspire and refresh our skills. It is a community project open to all who may wish to attend - all skill levels, all ages. Craft also offers refreshments and home made delicacies to those that attend. Look out for the notifications on the Auchterhouse FB page.

November we usually make Christmas wreaths or table decorations but other projects have included - knitting poppies for the village Remembrance displays, decoupage, lampshade making, mosaics, felting, stencilling. Topics to come in the Autumn include decoupage pots/jars, calligraphy. We welcome anyone who has a craft/skill they would like to share with others and try to keep costs to a minimum. Please get in touch if you think you may wish to join us. [t.hayhow.khan@gmail.com](mailto:t.hayhow.khan@gmail.com)





## HOLIDAY CLUB 2026

Holiday club this year will take place from **Monday 3 August** until **Friday 7 August** 10.00 until 12.00.

This year again it will be a joint club with Carse of Gowrie Church. If you know of any children of primary school age please encourage them to join us for a week of fun, learning more about Jesus, games, singing, puzzles, craft and many more fun activities.

Details will be intimated later of how to register a child. Cost will be £10 per child for the week, third child in a family free.

## Sponsorship - Diary of a Disciple

As you have seen above, our holiday club this year is based on a version of Luke's Gospel called Diary of a Disciple. This is a modern translation with engaging text and graphics and is aimed at 8 -11yr olds. At the end of the holiday club we would like to gift each of the children either a copy of the book, or for the younger children, a suitable alternative. The books cost approx. £8 and the holiday club team think it would be a nice idea for members of the congregations of Sidlaw Parish Church and Carse of Gowrie Kirk to sponsor a book.

**During June** small envelopes will be available at all of our services and if you would like to get involved in this sponsorship you can pop some money into an envelope and pop it in the collection plate. If you can donate **£8**, fantastic! If you can donate **£1**, fantastic, we will add it to other £1 donations to buy a child a book. We will be grateful for all donations.

If you want to find out more you can speak to Margaret McVean or email [euansmith63@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:euansmith63@yahoo.co.uk)

## Other Dates for your Diary

Our **Soup Lunch** is held on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** of the month and will restart after the summer break.

The next lunch will be 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**Friendship Club** meetings are held in Muirhead Church on the **1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday** of the month at 2.15pm from September to June. The next meeting is 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

## Well Done!

Well done for those who organised, supported and contributed in any way to the **Plant Sale** held in Muirhead Church on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The total raised has now surpassed £1,000. 🙌 🙌 🙌

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is working on behalf of our congregation to find a new minister for Sidlaw Parish Church. The Parish Profile they have compiled can be found on the Grouping Website at

<https://carseandsidlawchurches.org/sidlaw>

## CONTACT DETAILS

SESSION CLERK	Ken McAra (tel. 01382 580607) <a href="mailto:session_clerk@btinternet.com">session_clerk@btinternet.com</a>
GROUPING WEBSITE	<a href="https://carseandsidlawchurches.org">https://carseandsidlawchurches.org</a>
SIDLAW PARISH PROFILE	<a href="https://carseandsidlawchurches.org/sidlaw">https://carseandsidlawchurches.org/sidlaw</a>
GROUPING FACEBOOK	Carse and Sidlaw Churches
WEEKLY CHURCH NEWS	email <a href="mailto:balluderonfarm@gmail.com">balluderonfarm@gmail.com</a> to subscribe

## 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 11.00am

### **Muirhead Church - Sundays at 11.00am**

except for 1<sup>st</sup> 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 and will be in either Auchterhouse or Muirhead Church

### **St Marnock's Fowlis - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month at 11.00am**

On the first Sunday of each month, the 11.00am service will be in St Marnock's, Fowlis

### **Zoom**

All 11.00am services are available on Zoom. Please email [session\\_clerk@btinternet.com](mailto:session_clerk@btinternet.com) for log-in details.

## **A Summer Blessing For All**

May the golden sun bring warmth to your days,  
May gentle breezes quiet your wandering soul,  
May long twilight hours hold space for your joy,  
And may this bright season refresh and make you whole.