



**News from our Parish** **November 2023**



**Christmas Services**



**Christmas Eve - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

10.30am	Christmas Big Thing	Dunbarney Church
<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Family Service</b>	<b>Forteviot Church</b>
6.30pm	Family Service	Dunbarney Church

23.30	Watchnight Service	Dunning Church
23.30	Watchnight Service	Dunbarney Church
		(Tea and coffee from 23.00)

**Christmas Day – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

10.30	Family Service	Forgandenny
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**Services – all at 09.30 unless otherwise stated**

**December**

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Aberdalgie	Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Forteviot
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Aberdalgie	<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Forteviot 6.00pm (NOT 9.30am)</b>
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Aberdalgie		

**January**

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Forteviot	Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Aberdalgie
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**TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00pm – Dunning Church**

A special service to mark the delinking with Dunning and Aberuthven and the linking of Aberdalgie and Forteviot with Dunbarney and Forgandenny which network it is planned that Dunning will join.

This service will be led by the Moderator of the Presbytery

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever

# Looking ahead in our new linkage

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 Perth Presbytery conducted a **Congregational Vote** to gauge our support for the Presbytery's proposals to break the linkage between Aberuthven & Dunning and ourselves and form a new parish linkage. 31 members of our congregation attended and voted. The results were:

To break the linkage with Aberuthven & Dunning: For 26 Against 5  
To create a new linkage with Dunbarney & Forgandenny: For 23 Against 8

The result of this vote was considered and ratified by the Presbytery at a meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November. From 1<sup>st</sup> December your Kirk Session will begin working with Rev. Allan Wilson and the Kirk Session of Dunbarney & Forgandenny to plan the way forward for Christian Ministry and worship across the new linkage.

For those members who are unable to attend regular Sunday worship (or attend only intermittently) we have prepared the following Question and Answer format to address your concerns and issues. You may also wish to contact your elder or the Session Clerk for further information.

## Questions and Answers



### 1. What are the changes happening in our parish? Why are things changing?

In accordance with direction from the General Assembly, all Presbyteries in the Church of Scotland were required to undertake a review towards a substantial reduction in the number of Ministries to reflect the reduced number of Ministers and also the reduced membership. In the Presbytery of Perth this was finalised and agreed in May of this year. We remain the parish of Aberdalgie & Forteviot (A&F) linked with Dunbarney & Forgandenny (D&F). Dunning will also be in this linkage as a Local Mission church.

### 2. What was the recent vote about? What were the results?

The vote on 29 Oct (set out above) was the opportunity for the Congregation to either agree or disagree with these proposals. The proposals had been previously agreed by the Kirk Sessions of A&F, A&D and D&F. We are now linked with Dunbarney & Forgandenny and will work to ensure parish co-operation and form new relationships under **one Minister**.

### 3. What happens next?

The date for the formation of the new linkage taking effect is **1st December**. Rev. Allan Wilson, as Minister of the linkage, will moderate our Kirk Session meetings. We remain a separate parish but the KS of A&F will start to work with D&F to take matters forward.

### 4. Will our Kirk Session continue to operate?

Yes

**5. Will we still have morning worship in our churches every Sunday?**

Yes. Rev Wilson has made a commitment to continue Sunday worship in our churches. However, starting with the December schedule we expect to look forward to the prospect of some joint services.

**6. Who is going to lead worship? Will we be calling a new Minister?**

Rev Wilson will be working closely with the A&F Worship & Prayer Team to agree a pattern of worship and who will lead the services. Rev Wilson has advised that he has a minister under training presently supporting him. We may have visiting Ministers or elder lead services much as we have in recent months. We shall not be calling a new Minister.

**7. What will happen to Dunning and Aberuthven?**

While the dates are as yet not finalised, Dunning is to become a Local Mission Church linked with Dunbarney & Forgandenny, and therefore in the same network as ourselves. The future of Aberuthven church is as yet unclear, but the Presbytery Plan suggests they will be a Local Mission Church linked to Auchterarder

**8. How is our new sister parish, Dunbarney & Forgandenny feeling about the proposed linkage?**

The vote for the linkage in D & F was: For 53 and Against 5. We look forward to a warm welcome from our sister parish.

**9. I've heard there's a threat of closure to both our buildings? What's going to happen to them and to the graveyards?**

Our two church buildings will stay open into 2024 when there will be further assessment in June. The graveyards at both churches will continue to be used and maintained.

**10. How can I help/support my church during this transition?**

Keep positive and know and trust that the Lord is with us. God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Keep supporting our parish activities (Prayer Chain, Shawl Ministry, Bible Study, Sunday worship) and our occasional social events. By sharing the work around we lighten the load for everyone. Our community is strong and all are welcome always. If you feel that you can help in whatever way, however small, please either speak to an elder or write/ call Gordon Mackay, Session Clerk on [aberdalgieforteviot@gmail.com](mailto:aberdalgieforteviot@gmail.com) or 07739714288.

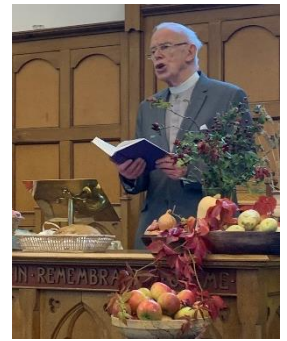


## Farewell message from Sandy Gunn

It is now some 6 years since I started helping James Aitchison when he was on holiday or unwell, and then as locum. My current appointment as locum in the linkage ceases when the linkage between A+F and A+D comes to an end.

Recently I came across analysis that “the church in Scotland has been living on the spiritual capital of previous generations.”

Last month a daily paper noted that “it is ironic that as a secular society we've thrown ourselves into the cult of self-worshipping daily at the temple of 'ME'. However much folk try the escapism of entertainment, such a worldview leaves people in a spiritually barren place.” Whatever is the factor which decides how operationally we live day by day is in practice the god we worship.



People don't want to be just a number in a system, whether political or religious. The authentic Christian faith is not a religious system, it is a relationship with God to Whom each person is valuable.

During my time with you I have had the pleasure of getting to know some super people, whose helpfulness in the Christian fellowship is much appreciated. But I am deeply concerned that the good news of Jesus be passed on to a growing generation, who are facing what Ben Wallace termed a future of “insecurity and instability.”

It is the great responsibility and glorious privilege of all Christians to show and share this good news to growing generations who are spiritually deprived, by thinking biblically and globally, living lovingly and consistently, and operationally available for God to work in and through our lives. Is that true of our lives, with us actively seeking to help people find new life in Christ?



With prayerful good wishes for the future of the congregation.

***Sandy***

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## Message from Rev Allan Wilson

Mark Twain once said that the only person who likes change is a wet baby. Perhaps, we know in some way, what Twain was talking about, but change is a part of life as we all know so well. It can be an energizing force for progress but if not handled well, it can also be a force for stagnation and regression.

Aberdalgie and Forteviot, and the churches in the Lower Earn Network, are also facing a lot of change. We are now beginning to implement the first part of the Presbytery Mission Plan. Aberdalgie and Forteviot Church will be formally linked with Dunbarney and Forgandenny on 1<sup>st</sup> December and then with Abernethy Church linking later next year. Finally, Dunning Church will become a Local Mission Church to Dunbarney and Forgandenny and join the network later next year too. There will be one minister from Abernethy to Dunning although there are many gifted people within the congregations who make an enormous difference. For that we give God thanks.



I am looking forward to being part of the church family here. For the last 16 years, I have had a happy and blessed ministry in Dunbarney and Forgandenny and this has enabled me to get to know Aberdalgie and Forteviot well. I am look forward to getting to know you by name and very soon to walk with you on the journey of faith.

During this time of change it's important to remember that God never changes. This is the foundation of our peace, security and confidence when facing the past, present and future! This is the anchor for dealing with all changes because God is the one thing that can be counted on not to change! The Apostle Paul knew this too when he was writing an encouraging letter to the church in Philippi. In that letter we read: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* (Philippians chapter 4)

These seem appropriate words at this time of change. Paul encourages the Church to remember that although life might let you down, God never lets you down. Paul reminds them that the 'Lord is near' and they are to continue praying with thanksgiving. So, let us thank God for the wonderful fellowship that we enjoy in our congregation and let us pray that during a time of readjustment, that relationships are nurtured and built up and that nobody feels lost or forgotten. Every person in the congregation has an important part to play in caring for and building up one another during such a time. If at any stage, you begin to feel overwhelmed with all of this change, please do not hesitate to contact me (01738 812463) or Gordon our Session Clerk.

There will be a number of things that the Kirk Session and others will explore over the coming months. As your new minister, I invite you to be involved in this new start and a new future. I invite you to be part of this community of faith as we journey together with Christ. It is my prayer that all of us will discover how church fellowship and the warmth of God's people can make our lives richer and fuller.

Finally, with all the busyness that creeps into our lives at such a time let us not forget that Christmas is now on our doorstep. As we celebrate the miracle of Christ's birth, let us also celebrate the joy of His abiding presence with us and may all your days, be filled with His wonderful love.

With all good wishes and every blessing,

**Allan**

## Thanks for their service

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to **Irene and David Pye, Mareli and Roger Ward** for their service to the parish, as they retire from the Kirk Session.



Always offering a warm welcome to worshippers on Sundays, **David and Irene** joined the Kirk session, on their return to Scotland from The Hague. They have led us faithfully through their duties involving pastoral care and safeguarding responsibilities. And always ensured the temperature in the church was fitting for Sunday worship.



**Roger** has worshipped at Aberdalgie since 1865, has been an Elder for 35 years, and Session Clerk twice: 1985-1995 and then again in 2020 for 2 years. During this time, he was awarded a certificate for Long Service to the Church of Scotland. **Mareli's** involvement began in 2013. As a critical member of the Shawl Ministry and instrumental in the collection of shoeboxes for the annual Blythswood appeal, her contact with organisations beyond the Parish has been widespread. Additionally, both Roger and Mareli have been very active as Worship Leaders.

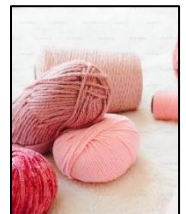


We will always be grateful for the sensitivity of all four of them, in deliverance of prayers and readings, as well as their friendship.

*Thank you*

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**Our Shawl Ministry** – and their friends – are busy knitting. Knit, knit, knitting. And not just shawls. Hats, gloves, scarves, pram blankets, knee rugs and so it goes on. Could you help them? **They ALWAYS need wool.** Do you have any at the bottom of a drawer? **Please let us know.**



If you know of anyone who would like a Shawl or knee blanket or other knitted item which we can provide, do please let me or one of our members know. This is an activity that all of us are more than happy to engage in as a gesture of some support to those in need.

*Catriona Harrison 01764 684104*



### Prayer Chain How does it work?

There are currently 16 people, across our two linked parishes, who commit to pray every day for those on the Prayer list. Someone requesting prayer contacts the coordinator and they pass the request to a member of the chain. In other words, it is a cascade of named individuals who are members of the chain committed to pray. Only first names are mentioned on the printed update so as to stay within Data Protection guidelines. From time to time, the prayer team meets in fellowship. Additional praying members are always welcome.

If you would like to know more, please get in touch with *Catriona Harrison 01764 684104*

## How we support the community

**CROSSREACH**

Care you can put your faith in

**Crossreach.** Through our Shawl Ministry we donate knitted articles to the Perth Prison Visitors Centre. A group of us

were invited to their Open Day earlier this year, to witness the work of those who support the families – as well as understand the importance of our involvement in supporting Crossreach, the social work arm of the Church of Scotland. And then there is the chance to buy their Christmas Cards and Calendars – [shop.crossreach.org.uk](http://shop.crossreach.org.uk)



**Perth Foodbank.** Donations taken at our Harvest Thanksgiving were hugely welcomed by the volunteers at the centre. At a time when they only had a week's supply of tinned fruit and vegetables and UHT milk, their response was one of enormous gratitude. Gratitude that is shared by recipients.

**Blythwood Shoebox Appeal.** Since their first Shoe Box Appeal in 1993 they have sent more than 2.5 million boxes – each one different, each one personal, each one an expression of your care and kindness towards a stranger in need.



You can become involved too – [www. Blythwood.org](http://www.Blythwood.org)



Through the generosity of our congregation, we have been able to demonstrate our support of the Church of Scotland's tireless work towards peace in the Holy Land. An increasingly challenging task given the constrictions and current turmoil. We look forward to making a further

donation to their mission at our services closest to St Andrew's Day.

[www.friendsofstandrews.com](http://www.friendsofstandrews.com).

### Can you help us?

There was an MBE and some war medals found in the Aberdalgie safe, with nothing to establish ownership. Extensive research has identified the awards but still no name. If **you can help us**, please contact Gordon Mackay on 07739 714288



### Forteviot Village Hall has space to rent

For bookings please contact Michaela Thomson on [michaelathomson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:michaelathomson@tiscali.co.uk) or 01738 730247 <https://www.facebook.com/ForteviotVillageHall>

## Dates for your diary

**Saturday 25th November – 10am – 3pm**



**Christmas Fair      Forteviot Village Hall**

Presents, teas, home baking.

Enquiries to [forteviothall@gmail.com](mailto:forteviothall@gmail.com)

**Sunday 26th November – 11.30am – 4pm**

**Craft Fair      Dunning Village Hall**



**Sunday 3rd December at 11.00**

**Advent Cafe Service      Dunning Church Hall**

Come and join us for refreshments before and during our Advent Sunday service!

**Sunday 3rd December 2.30-3.30**

**Preparing for Christmas      Dunning Church Hall**

Painting and Crafts for all the family

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December - 3.00-5.00 pm**

**Tea and Carols      Forteviot Village Hall**

accompanied by Rural Blend

Feel free to bring some baking to share



**Saturday 16th December – 10.00am**

**Christmas Coffee Morning      Dunbarney Church Hall**

A chance to sing and listen to favourite Christmas music and enjoy tasty fare



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**Please keep looking at our website**

[www.aberdalgieandforteviot](http://www.aberdalgieandforteviot) – where there is lots of interest –  
dates to come, stories we want to share with you.



Contact us

Minister – Rev Allan Wilson [AWilson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:AWilson@churchofscotland.org.uk) 01738 812463

Session Clerk – Gordon Mackay [aberdalgieforteviot@gmail.com](mailto:aberdalgieforteviot@gmail.com) 07739 714288

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