



Edzell  
Parish Church  
Magazine

EASTER 2025

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## CROSS WORDS

### Easter Joy through Jesus!

Easter commemorates and celebrates the death and resurrection of the



Lord Jesus Christ. For Christians throughout the world, it is the highpoint of the church's calendrical year. It testifies to the triumph of light over darkness, of life over death, and of love over hate. It fills all who believe with hope and happiness because *Jesus was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.* (Rom.4:25). Jesus' Cross and Crown lie at the very heart of the Good News that Old Testament prophets confidently anticipated and New Testament apostles joyously acclaimed. The Apostle Paul therefore writes, *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance*

*with the Scriptures,* <sup>4</sup> *that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures* (1Cor.15:3-4).

Most wonderfully, Jesus is the resurrection and the life. He willingly walked the Via Dolorosa (the Way of Suffering) that we may walk the Via Gloriosa (the Way to Glory) through faith in him. As he himself declares: *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"* (Jn.14:6). And as the appropriately named hymnwriter, Philip P Bliss, poetically puts it: 'Lifted up was He to die; "It is finished!" was His cry; Now in Heav'n exalted high.

Hallelujah! What a Saviour!'

I therefore heartily invite you to join us at Edzell Parish Church this Easter Season, and indeed, every Lord's Day which similarly bears witness to Christ's resurrection. This year's Palm Sunday Service on 13 April will be preceded by a walk from the Edzell Arch up the High Street to the Church beginning at 10.30am. We will sing some Psalms of Ascent, just as Jesus likely did as he made his way up to and into the Holy City, Jerusalem. At 7pm on Good Friday we will mark our Lord's crucifixion with a special and solemn Communion Service. And Easter Sunday will begin as usual with our Sunrise Service at 8am in the Church Garden (weather permitting, church, otherwise), followed by breakfast in the Church Hall. Our main Easter Sunday Service will be at 11am. A warm welcome awaits. Jesus is the joy of Easter. He is risen! Have a happy Easter in Jesus Christ our Lord, Wayne.



### **EDZELL CHURCH CHOIR**

The church choir sings on the first and third Sundays of each month, helping to lead the congregational worship. We also have a slot within the service where we often introduce new psalms, hymns, and songs of praise.

We warmly welcome new members - no experience is needed, just a willingness to sing. We meet at 10.30am for a short run-through before the service.

If you're interested in joining, or being added to the mailing list, please contact William. 07496 846925

Thank you to Sophia Sinclair for the beautiful drawing that is our colourful front cover . Sophia is volunteering with us collecting hours towards the EVIS Community Connecting Children Award. Well Done

## **NOTES FROM THE KIRK SESSION**

Firstly, it is disappointing to report that two more Elders are standing down from the Kirk Session, after many years' service (David Birse, former Session Clerk at FCM, decided to give up an active role at the end of last year). John Clark did an excellent job as the Kirk's Treasurer over a long period. He passed on the accounts in very good order some years back and has now decided to retire fully from the role. Martin Dayman is moving to be nearer to family in Nottinghamshire. Martin managed the most recent phase of the project, following on from the great contribution he made as Property Convener. Our heartfelt thanks are due to both individuals.

Rab Paterson will also be stepping down as the current Property Convener. Precise arrangements regarding the succession are still to be determined, but Rab will be staying around to help and there is already a good team in place to deal with various ongoing property issues. Anyone up at the church recently will have noticed, for example, the amazing results of a spring cleaning undertaken by Steve Davies and Bruce Robertson, with four large bags taken away and disposed of by John Shaw. Thanks to Rab and thanks to them.

Under property, a new cupboard has been built in the lounge to accommodate the church's communion ware, some inherited from the other partners in the Union. Please go and have a look! Our elements are shown off to good effect. Under finance, we are investigating the use of a card machine for donations, reflecting that we have entered an era when people are less likely to use cash on a daily basis, frequently not having any with them to put in an open plate!

A pastoral group is to be reinstated and volunteers have come forward, with a meeting to be held soon to agree what's to be done. Session happily approved the addition to the communion roll of Geoff and Marion Mackie, formerly members of the Brechin Cathedral congregation. It was also noted that Louise Gall and her three children (Dylan, Lucy and Amalie) had asked to be baptised, which duly happened in the service held on 23rd February.

The Church is overall a happy and thriving community. The Kirk Session, however, could do with additional elders to assist with the management of church operations, despite being able to call on volunteers from out with for many of the day to day tasks.

Andy Turnbull

## **FROM THE TREASURER**

The first few months of every year are especially busy for the hundreds of treasurers of Church of Scotland parishes up and down the country. Most churches, including Edzell Parish Church, are individual Charities, and so they must prepare a formal set of the Accounts for the year up to 31 December, and a Trustees' Annual Report, in compliance with all the Church and Charity laws, and submit these to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. Also, the Church of Scotland and each Presbytery set a fairly tight timetable requiring that each congregation's Accounts be finalized and signed off by 31 March, which requires a certain amount of pressure on the treasurers.

As I write this, the Edzell Parish Church Accounts are fully drafted and now with our Independent Examiner for checking and her Report to the Kirk Session, and things should be on time. The numbers all add up correctly, balance, and agree to the Bank statements, and I believe they give a fair and accurate view of the financial results of the year and the state of the finances at the year end. The final number included in the Accounts is the amount of the Gift Aid reclaim from HMRC, the tax office, and I have just submitted Edzell's claim for £8,180 in respect of qualifying donations in 2024, which will be a very welcome addition to our funds.

The 2024 Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts will be formally laid before the Congregation at the Annual Stated Meeting in the Summer, but they will be available on the Church website for any person to examine them, and consider any questions, in good time before that.

I can report that the Edzell Parish Church is in a pretty sound financial position and can look forwards to the future with confidence. This is in large part due to the generosity of the parishioners, whose weekly cash or monthly bank donations make up the bulk of its income, with lesser contributions coming from hiring out the Church Hall, from Weddings and Funerals, and occasional grants from the Edzell Village Improvement Society for specific purposes such as our new laptop, for which we are extremely grateful.

In 2024, donations from parishioners were £38,486, a welcome 8% increase on £35,621 in 2023. Including the Gift Aid reclaim from 2023 (£7,091) and other income including a VAT reclaim on improvements carried out in 2023 (£2,451), the total unrestricted income was £53,860 (2023 - £64,729, but which included a transfer of £16,292 from Fern, Careston and Menmuir churches on the Union). In addition, the Church Fellowship raised £5,144 from its events and hospitality, and the Guild £1,113, both of which were primarily donated to various causes.

The costs of running the Church in 2024 were £61,800, with the largest being Edzell's Giving to Grow contribution (£23,269) to the central Church of Scotland, which essentially funds the Minister's stipend. Other large costs include repairs and maintenance to the Church, Hall and Manse which were around £16,500, and the ever-rising costs of heat and light, Council tax for the Manse, cleaning, insurance and the internet.

So with Income of £53,860, and costs of £61,800, Edzell Parish Church ran a deficit of almost £8,000 in 2024, which by itself could not be sustained for long if repeated. A similar underlying deficit in 2023 was met by the funds from the Union, and in 2022 from two generous legacies. Edzell is fortunate to have some reserves held by the General Trustees from the sales of closed churches which can be called on for repairs, and the congregation has always been very generous in the past when needed. But we will need to keep a careful eye on costs, and I encourage everyone to consider increasing their donations to match the recent inflation if you can.

Tim Ambrose, Treasurer

### **Edzell Church Hall**

Our bright and welcoming hall is a real asset to our Church and parish.

After worship on a Sunday morning an increasing number of the congregation move into the hall and enjoy the fellowship of a "cuppa and a blether"

On Wednesdays it positively buzzes with The After School Club

The Guild meets the second Tuesday of the month

The village Yoga class meet weekly.

The village Drama club rehearse there.

Fund raising Coffee Mornings and Afternoon Teas are held throughout the year and it's the venue of Fellowship events including

The Easter Morning Breakfast

The Harvest Supper

Gala Teas

The Hall can be hired, see the Church Web Site 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](mailto:elgparishchurch2021@outlook.com)

## FROM THE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Hello from the Fellowship Team.

Below are some Dates for your diary:-

Palm Sunday 13 April - Afternoon Tea and a Talk at the Burn. The talk will be given by Jan Clarke at the Burn. Spaces are limited, so get your place booked by contacting Alison Paterson or myself - £15.50 per person.

Sunday 20 April - Easter Breakfast - this follows the early morning Service at 8am - Easter Breakfast at 8.30am.

Christian Aid Week is 11 - 17 May

This year we are holding two lunches in May on Tuesday 6 and 20 May. This will consist of soup and pudding followed by tea/coffee.

On the evening of Friday 16 May we are holding an evening of songs, wine and nibbles, entertainment by Alana Turnbull. Alana has performed for us in the past, so you may have had the pleasure of hearing her before.

So pop this date in your diary and look out for more information regarding this nearer the time either by poster on the Church Noticeboard or on the Church website.

We would welcome any new members to the team. So if you feel you would like to join us we would be delighted.

Thank you to all who continue to support us for fellowship after the Church service each Sunday.

Wishing you all a happy Easter and a warm, sunny Spring.

Gail Davies







# EDZELL PARISH CHURCH GUILD

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2-4pm

## DAFFODIL TEA

Adults £4

Children £1.50

EDZELL CHURCH HALL

ALL WELCOME



## EDZELL CHURCH GUILD

The Guild held their AGM in March. Doris Alston, Convenor, intimated that she was stepping down and thanked the members and Committee for their support.

Our new Convenor is Ishbel Karam, Alice McIntosh continues as Secretary, Lynn McGowan is Treasurer with Alison Paterson and Doris Alston as committee members. We are looking for two other volunteers to join us on the Committee.

The Committee will be meeting shortly to put together a syllabus for 2025/26.

Remember ALL are welcome and we look forward to seeing you in September.

**A photo from the archives....happy days!**



## When Grandpa got the Internet by Gregor Steele.

Ma Granda's ayewis fixed ma bike,  
But noo he will admit,  
That syne he's had the internet,  
The bit's on the ither fit.

"Ah cannae mind ma password-  
It's gone richt oot ma heid."  
"Try the name o yon auld dug ye had  
And the date that it drapped doon  
deid."

"Ma Wifi isnae workin-  
Ah think Ah've got a bug."

"Were ye hooverin this mornin?  
Ye've pulled oot the router plug!"

"Ma typin comes oot havers-  
It's been like that aw week."  
"Gang intae keyboard settings-  
Noo chyngie it back frae Greek!"

Sae that's me and ma Granda,  
Aye at each ither's hoose,  
Wan wizard wi a spanner,  
Wan wizard wi a moose.



### *Simnel Cake*

Simnel Cake is a light fruitcake associated with Lent, Mothering Sunday and Easter. It is distinguished by layers of almond paste ( marzipan.) Typically one baked in the middle of the cake then topped with a second when

decorating on which are set eleven small balls, also made of marzipan. These symbolise the Apostles of Jesus, minus Judas Iscariot!

Simnel Cake has been known since Medieval times and was associated with Mothering Sunday or Simnel Sunday. However, in days gone by, Mothering Sunday was not observed with a card and bunch of flowers. Rather, it was the day in the year when (on their only day off in the year) live-in apprentices and domestic servants would visit their Mother Church, the church in which they had been Christened. They would also have the chance to visit their mother, And perhaps their family and old home.

At this time of year food stocks were low and the rich high calorific Cake was useful nutrition. The young people might be given the ingredients by their mistress or buy from the bakery using their meagre wages.

## Simnel Cake

### Ingredients

250 g mixed Dried Fruit	100g Ground Almonds
1 Orange (zested and juiced)	1 tsp Baking Powder
500g pack Marzipan	1 Lemon (zested)
250g Butter	2tsp Mixed Spice
200g light brown soft Sugar	1tsp Vanilla extract
4 Eggs (plus one beaten for glaze)	100g glace Cherries (halved)
175g Plain flour	3 Tbsp Apricot jam

### Method

Step 1 Put mixed dried fruit in bowl with orange juice, zest and 2 tbs water. Cover and microwave for 2 minutes. Leave to cool completely.

Step 2 Heat oven to 150c/130cfan/gas mark 2. Roll out 1/3 of Marzipan and use base of a deep 20cm cake tin as a template to cut out a circle. Add off cuts to remainder of marzipan then wrap and set aside for later. Butter and line the tin with a double layer of baking parchment. Beat the butter and sugar together until creamy, add 4 eggs, flour, almonds, baking powder, lemon zest, mixed spice and vanilla and mix well until well combined. Mix in the cooled soaked dry fruit and fold in the cherries.

Step 3 Scrape half the mixture into the prepared tin, top with the circle of marzipan, scrape in the remainder of the cake mixture and level the top. Bake for 2 hours. Check with skewer, it may need a further 10 minutes. Leave in tin for 10 minutes. Turn out onto wire rack and leave to cool completely.

Step 4 Brush the top of the cake with warmed apricot jam. Roll out ½ of remaining marzipan and again use tin base as template to cut another circle. Place on top of cake and roll out remainder into eleven even sized marzipan balls. Brush the cake top with the beaten egg and arrange the 11 balls evenly around the edge. Brush them also with the egg and pop cake under a preheated grill briefly (just lightly colour the topping.)

**ENJOY**

# World Day of Prayer (WDP) 2025

## Where has the time gone?

It is my second year attending a World Day of Prayer (WDP) service. I was much inspired to attend another after last year's WDP at the Salvation Army Hall on Southesk Terrace, Brechin. It was intimate, Christ driven and a very poignant service.

Since then, I have been inspired to look more at the history and purpose of the WDP. I would recommend anyone to look into this. More information can be found on the websites:

<http://www.worlddayofprayer.net>

<http://www.wdpScotland.org.uk>

The journey of the service, prayer and Christian voice travelled across our lands as described:

## My 2025 WDP experience

Our service took place at St Ninians Catholic Church on Bank Street, Brechin - March 7th at 2pm. The Worship service had more of a celebration feeling this year with it being prepared by the WDP Committee of the Cook Islands. I think mainly because it reminded us of the summer holidays looming around the corner; the hazy days and thoughts of going away to have fun or escape to calm sandy beaches and relaxing palm trees.

As with other WDP services, we were asked that we decorate the church with items that represent or create an atmosphere of the country origin to the ladies who wrote the service. So for the Cook Islands we had flower garlands, sand, palm trees, boats, sea art, shells, coconut produce and the sound of the sea.

I entered the church early to set up props and was greeted by the beautiful Denise who showed me around her gorgeous church; so embellished with imagery of our dear Lord Jesus. Such beautiful and captivating are the art works and stained glass. It just engulfed me as I entered. I actually nearly tripped over as I couldn't stop looking at the



already assembled installation of doves at the Ambo leading my eyes upwards to the art on the walls. The Art works depicting the Prince of Peace; hung on the Cross with vibrant paintworks behind depicting the baptism of Jesus and the words "This is my beloved son of whom I am well pleased"

Once all screens and palms were set in place and 2pm approached, we were ready to conduct the service to the



wonderful people taking pews...Us ladies presenting the service needed to sit behind the props. Much to my dismay. So it transpired that all us ladies were in full view of the back of the Cook Islands arts we had set up and let me say they were less exotic from that perspective. This was of course a little uninspiring at first, after all, we had spent time preparing the arrangements of the various sea art and shells and coconut tree but it wasn't long into the service that I realised that in fact our position left us in the best seats in the house. We were in direct view of a framed painting of Jesus Christ. Even those not looking directly at his face were nearest to the image of him looking over us.

A sudden spirit of enlightenment highlighted to me (mid service) in that moment as we celebrated the Cook Islands and gave our thanks to God for his creation on earth. As we came together in this, a wonderful gathering of Christian people from all denominations, county and country on a global scale the realisation was clear - We must never deviate from that which we come together; Our belief and remembrance and worship of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The service titled "I made you wonderful" was based on the Psalm 139 1-18 and the service followed through the theme of the words of David.

“Wonderfully made “.... Emphasising Gods creations and us a part of that creation. Connecting us all to the earths qualities with an example being our breath patterns sounding like the sea and encouraging us to engage with our bodies, spirit and with the world around us; How loved we are by God. Wonderfully made he knows us and loves us and we gave thanks to God for his creation.

A message in song:

“God knows us  
God is with us.  
God who made us,  
to you we pray.” (Ruru Maeva)

Psalm 139 must always be read with Christ in focus as we acknowledge our omnipresent God who surrounds us. Even in the isolation of the islands, there is no escaping God which has also reminded me of our recent Sermons at Edzell Church given by Rev. Dr Wayne Pearce, where we are to learn of Jonah’s travels and how God knows us. How he comes to save us when we need him and call to him.

As with the previous WDP service, the order took us through the eyes of three Individual females who told us their story. This year was focused on health, worries and cultural difference and how it can be overcome with a reliance on God. It became clear to me just how isolated the Cook Islands are in many ways and in particular the context of these stories.

It must also be mentioned that this year the amazing Morag Dale is stepping down as lead from WDP leadership role for our Brechin/ Farnell /Edzell cluster and it has not yet been filled. After the service on that Friday afternoon, we all proceeded to eat cakes, crackers and cheese with cups of tea and coffee. And all mingled as a Christian Collective amongst our differences, talents and abilities. It was so lovely.

All of us of course wondering who might take on this lead role next. Haha! Anyone interested? Please get in touch with us.

### **As we look to next years WDP...**

Our Christian collective will hold the 2026 WDP service at the Farnell Parish Church. The Worship Service booklets and order is being created by the ladies of the Nigerian WDP committee and I fully anticipate a celebration of the grace, peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ seeping through its every word.



In the meantime I continue to hum the catchy South Pacific tunes of the 2025 WDP service, thinking longingly about the summer sun while I dismantle and repurpose the palm tree I made. Maybe it will find a place in our Seed Sowers after school club displays or our Palm Sunday learning.

**...And in summary:**

The World Day Of Prayer service opened with the statement "I Made you wonderful." Which of course is: Psalm 139:14 'I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...'

The Closing statement in the service was: "Treat yourself as a precious and beloved child of

God. Treat others as precious and beloved children of God" Amen.

We must do as Jesus has taught us.

Copies of the service booklet can be given to anyone wishing to see one.  
Louise Gall. Xxx



**SEED SOWERS**

Our after school club continues with the children enjoying snack, games, craft and videos as they explore the Bible and learn more about Jesus. They made the 'pipe cleaner' flowers for the WDP, and want to make them for Mother's Day too! We are currently making a palm leaf to wave at the Palm Sunday Procession and enjoying an Easter team games challenge. We will start back on Wednesday 30th April when we hope to welcome some new faces. New helpers always welcome too!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIAR

**Saturday 5th April - The Guild Daffodil Tea** in the Church Hall from 2- 4pm.

Usual Stalls.



**Sunday 13th April - Palm Sunday .**

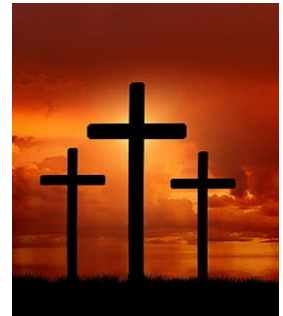
Starting at the Arch at 10.30am, walk up the High

Street to the Church for the 11am service.



**Afternoon Tea and Talk at The Burn .** Spaces are limited. Tickets £15.50 per person must be booked. Contact Alison or Gail.

**Friday 18th April - Good Friday Communion Service** at 7pm in the Church.



**Sunday 20th April - Sunrise Garden Service** in the Church grounds at 8am followed by the **Easter Breakfast** in the Church Hall at 8.30am



**Easter Sunday Service** at 11am to include an **Easter Egg Hunt** for the children.



**WARM WELCOME TO YOU ALL**

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