

CHURCH NEWSLETTER



ABERLEMNO, GUTHRIE AND RESCOBIE PARISH CHURCHES

Registered Charity in Scotland SC 018944 and SC 017327

Church Services 2023:

January

10.00-Rescobie.
11.30-Aberlemno.

February

10.00-Guthrie.
11.30-Aberlemno.

March

10.00-Rescobie.
11.30-Aberlemno.

April

10.00-Guthrie
11.30-Aberlemno

May.

10.00-Aberlemno.
11.30-Rescobie.

June.

10.00-Aberlemno.
11.30-Guthrie.

July.

10.00-United Services.
2nd-Aberlemno.
9th-Rescobie
16th-Aberlemno
23rd-Guthrie
30th-Aberlemno

August

10.00-United Services
6th-Rescobie
13th-Aberlemno
20th-Guthrie
27th-Aberlemno

September

10.00-Guthrie
11.30-Aberlemno

October

10.00-Rescobie
11.30-Aberlemno

November

10.00-Guthrie
11.30-Aberlemno

December

10.00-Rescobie
11.30-Aberlemno

Holy Week Services

6th April, Maundy Thursday Communion - Rescobie at 7.00 pm

7th April, Good Friday Service - Aberlemno at 7.00 pm

Harvest Thanksgiving

October 22nd 10.00 at Rescobie, 11.30 at Aberlemno

Remembrance services

November 12th 10.00 at Guthrie, 11.30 at Aberlemno

Communion services

Aberlemno May 28th, 10am & 6:30 pm; November 26th, 11.30 am

Rescobie 7th May 11.30, Guthrie 5th November 10.00



Aberlemno



Guthrie



Rescobie

Dear All,

Welcome to the new layout of your Church newsletter!

In these uncertain times, when our Churches go through many transitions, we thought it would be a good idea to give our newsletter a fresh colourful change. It's a special 'bumper' issue with a word of thanks from retired Session Clerk Arthur Smith and our retired Minister Rev Ramsay and updates from the newly formed Crafts Club and 'Karaoke in the Kirk' singing group, both of whom meet in the Aberlemno Sunday school room.



First of all, a big thank you has to go to Maggie Henderson, who produced our Newsletter for the past 12 years. Thank you Maggie, I have big shoes to fill.

Now, please let me introduce myself. For those who don't know me, my name is Mark Hooghiemstra and I live near Aberlemno with my 'Forfarian' wife Lorna (nee Wilson). I am now semi-retired from my job as a self-employed Forensic Accident Investigator at Aldbar Ltd and want to give some of my newly found spare time to our local Churches. My main hobby is everything to do with classic cars, especially driving our 1969 Daimler and 1974 Jensen.

Our new style newsletter is very much 'by and for' you all, so if you have anything to say, suggest or discuss, please do get in touch with me, either by old fashioned landline, email or text.

Please remember that all of our three Churches are still open as I speak and we would love to see as many of you on Sunday.

Kindest wishes,

Mark Hooghiemstra, Editor. 01307 830441 / 07974 976285

Email: markfromaldbar@gmail.com

Dear friends,

You would think that by the time a person had been retired for 8 years life could have held few surprises. Nevertheless, I was very surprised one morning in January 2017 at a meeting in Forfar, to realise that it was time to act upon an idea that had been simmering away at the back of my mind for many years.

Seeking ordination in the Church of Scotland was not the most obvious course of action at my time of life but everyone I have encountered in the years since has been gracious and encouraging to me.

The hurdles of the selection process and of training sometimes were a bit daunting and yet I can say that they have been truly enriching. Congregations in Forfar, Arbroath, Montrose, Carnoustie and Barry were supportive and I made friends in all these places. It has been a real thrill to have the opportunity to start a new phase of life at a time when I imagined I would be winding down.



Now, here I am, back on home territory, playing my part in our parishes at this time of change as we all work out what the future is going to look like for God's church in Scotland.

Let's none of us close our minds to surprises; sometimes they open doors to marvellous new opportunities.

Heather Gourlay.

Update from the Interim Moderator.

Dear friends,

Just a word of introduction to those of you who haven't met me yet. I am Rev Maggie Hunt. I am minister at Forfar St Margaret's Church and have been appointed as Interim Moderator for Aberlemno linked with Guthrie and Rescobie.

An Interim Moderator is a person appointed by Presbytery to ensure that the congregations continue to run in good order where there is no minister to moderate Kirk Session meetings. So, on the whole, I tend to deal with admin issues and work with the Kirk Sessions to make sure they have all the minutes and accounts approved, statistics submitted and delegates for any groups in place. Rev Heather Gourlay, your OLM is volunteering to lead worship and is available for some pastoral visits in the parishes and will continue to be your main point of contact.



I'd also like to update you on where we are with our new Presbytery Mission Plan. The plan is part of a national restructuring and refocussing which is designed to reduce not only the number of ministries across Scotland but also the number of church buildings we use. Discussions took place over the spring and early summer months with representatives of all our Kirk Sessions and a national assessment of all our buildings has been completed [AMBA process].

The Presbytery Mission Plan was agreed at a meeting in September in Arbroath and then subsequently, minor amendments and deadline dates etc were agreed in October. The churches in the Forfar area agreed to have two congregations with two Kirk Sessions in the first instance, with a roadmap to one Kirk Session for the whole of the Forfar area – meaning that EVERY congregation will join together and a new church [with several buildings] will be created for Forfar, covering the whole of Forfar and outer lying villages including Aberlemno, Rescobie, Guthrie, Letham and Inverarity.

Sadly, the Guthrie Church and hall buildings and the St Margaret's Church Forfar building will close in the next year, like many church buildings throughout the Church of Scotland. We do not, as yet, have closure dates agreed, and it will be primarily for the members of Guthrie & Rescobie to agree when would be the most appropriate time for them to close.

Rescobie church congregation have until the end of this year to show 'significant increase in missional outreach' from their buildings to be allowed to keep the church and hall open beyond 2024. This is in the plan as a B+ rating, meaning closure unless significant change by the date of review. Such activities might include increased community usage but would need to also show that it was 'being church' rather than just 'letting out a building' – so church-run outreach groups and activities.

Losing buildings is a sad loss to us all and I very much understand the grief, pain and upset this whole process is causing – my own congregation going through this loss too right now. But, needs must, and the decision has now been made and we need to come together to support each other and move forward.

We very much hope that formal discussions to get the unions underway will start shortly, which will allow everyone to have a better idea of what is happening, what is likely to happen in the future and how things might be for all of us. We are awaiting contact from the new Presbytery office giving us details at this time.

Please pray for all the churches in the Forfar area as we plan for a future as ONE church, together, for everyone.

Rev. Maggie Hunt.

Dear All,

I thought I should use this newsletter as a means of introducing myself to the wider community.

I have been an elder at Aberlemno for the last 11 years. Many of those I have spent as Aberlemno's representative on presbytery. I was told that was a three year appointment. After three years I was told there was no one else. It seemed the only way out was to agree to become Session Clerk!



I hope those years on presbytery will be of some assistance as we try and navigate through the current upheaval that is the new presbytery plan. You may be assured that I, and the Kirk Session have your interests very much at heart and we will keep you informed as we move towards a more unified position with the Forfar churches.

You will note on the back page an announcement of the death of Rita Shader. Rita will not be known to many of you as she and her husband, Rich, are domiciled in America. They have remained great supporters of Aberlemno and Rich would often email me after I had sent them the latest newsletter. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rich and his family at this very sad time.

Ian Wilson, Session Clerk, Aberlemno Parish Church.

Arthur Smith.

At the turn of the year, Arthur Smith stood down from his role as Session Clerk. It was a post he took up on the 18th of September 1988 on a temporary basis.

Throughout the intervening years he has carried out the job with due diligence and without fuss.

After church service on the 15th of January, Heather Gourlay presented Arthur with a card and gift voucher as a gesture of recognition to thank him for his work as Session Clerk.

A familiar face at the church door on Sunday mornings Arthur is to continue as Kirk elder.

Duncan Stewart, Session Clerk, Guthrie and Rescobie Parish Churches.



I would like to thank Guthrie and Rescobie board and session and also Heather Gourlay for their acknowledgement to me on my retiral from Session Clerk.

Thank you for your support over the past 34 years.

A.W. Smith

Guthrie and Rescobie Treasurer's Report.

As Georgie and I are currently away in New Zealand, I am not able to provide a Treasurer's Report on the finances for 2022. I will do so in the following Newsletter.

May we wish everyone a Happy New Year and all the best and good health in the coming year.

James Osborne, Treasurer.

Aberlemno Treasurer's Report.

Our retiring offerings from the family service and Christmas Eve service amounted to £236.81 and were gratefully received by the Red Cross. They have asked me to pass on their thanks.

The final accounts for 2022 are in the process of being audited and will thereafter be submitted to Presbytery. I am very pleased to say we ended the year with a surplus of £7,118. This is due, in the main, to the offerings, given in a variety of ways, and also our successful fund raising events.

My thanks go, as always, to our congregation, our families and our friends for their support and generosity.

Retiring offerings for the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal collected the total sum of £303. The Disasters Emergency Committee conveyed their grateful thanks.

Lorna Hooghiemstra, Treasurer.



Dear friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the lovely messages and very generous gifts I received after my retirement in April last year and also last Christmas. The kindness was exceptional and moving.

Retirement has proved to be quite busy. I have been able to help colleagues and their churches and was asked by Aberlemno Hall Committee if I could continue to put messages on their website. Fortunately, they rejected the idea of calling them "Messages from the auld minister" and call them "messages from Brian" instead.

I have also been able to meet up with friends and spend more time with my family, which has been lovely.

I wish our congregations every blessing in what I am aware is a difficult time.

God bless you,

Brian.

**Afternoon Tea Group.**

We would like to offer a very warm welcome to anyone who would like to come along and join us at our very friendly and enjoyable meetings at Rescobie Parish Room. They are very informal, chatty gatherings with tea, coffee, home baking and lots of laughs. If you would like to find out more please contact Margaret Wilson on 07803 499191.

Our next meeting is on the 21st of March from 2.00 p.m.

Guthrie Village Hall.

Finally a web site has been set up and you can access this at www.guthrievillagehall.co.uk. We have organised a couple of events for the spring/early summer so please put into your diary:

May 7th at 2pm - Afternoon Tea to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles. Tickets £5 and children wearing homemade crowns eat free.

June 11th at 1pm - Community BBQ. Tickets £6 or family ticket £15. Please bring your own drinks, alcoholic or soft.

We are planning a Scottish music night, soup and social lunch and Christmas dance over the winter months, but no dates set as yet so please lookout for posters and the web site advertising events. Your support is vital to our funds. Thank you.

If you wish to hire Guthrie Village Hall please contact Christine on 01307 819473.

Crafting at the Kirk.

At present, a small group meets in Aberlemno on a Monday afternoon (1pm to 3pm) to enjoy an afternoon working on their chosen craft, sharing their knowledge and having a chat and a laugh. We also make time to have a tea/coffee along with a biscuit and occasionally some home baking. Crafts presently being worked on are Water Colour Painting, Embroidery, Cross Stitch, Knitting and Rug Making.

The group find it enjoyable to share their experiences in the various crafts and have also found it inspirational and have enjoyed trying a new craft.

If you have any questions you can phone Jane Cooper on 07842 282962 or email mrs_kjc@hotmail.com or you can just pop along any Monday afternoon, we'd be very pleased to see you, we're a very welcoming group. There's a small £2 charge each per week, this goes towards covering the cost of using the Sunday School Room and purchasing refreshments.



Poem.**A VALENTINE FOR THOSE MUCH VALUED KITH AND KIN**

In vain I seek the strength to raise me, as the day begins
With rain that falls relentless from a steel grey leaden sky,
While chill winds wrap themselves round aged weary limbs –
Suggesting that within their bed they might in comfort still lie.

I walk and contemplate the cruel and heartless war now waged
On what was just one year ago a peaceful pleasant place,
While here at home folk find themselves confused; engaged
In strikes and queues for food and doctors' care, they fear disgrace.

But all's not lost; for those who now find themselves out of sorts,
Who might at times feel devoid of hope and cast down deep,
There are those who of their own accord can and will support,
To bring relief and hope and raise those needy to their feet.

I might not count myself as such but note the full and gen'rous part
Played by kith and kin, who strong in faith show their warmth of heart.

D R D C-S

14 February 2023

Karaoke @ The Kirk.

Singing is good for the soul!

Come out to Aberlemno for Karaoke @ The Kirk on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. A great group of folk with a shared love of singing. Whether you can hold a tune or not, it doesn't matter. It's for everyone.



We have a selection of music digitally and on vinyl and CD. We sing a variety of songs including traditional, pop, country, easy listening and musicals. Requests are encouraged. No need to register or pre-book, just come along and have a good time. Wheelchair accessible. Parking is available on the south side of the church. It's £2 per week. Oh... and we'll have a cuppa half way through.

Susan Norris. Tel. 01307 830763

Aberlemno Village Hall.

We plan to re-open the Pictish room from April to September on the second Sunday of the month. Gordon Noble, who led the archaeological project that uncovered the new Pictish stone, has agreed to give a talk at the Hall in April.

Our plant sale is pencilled in for the spring though the date is not yet finalised.

Although this winter is drawing to an end, the potential for a 'resilience centre' based around the hall could provide support in times of emergency - such as extreme cold, power cuts, flooding etc. If you would be interested in developing such a support network please contact Isabelle via the Aberlemno website.

As ever if you or anyone you know would like to join the Hall Committee, make suggestions or book the Hall please contact us at aberlemno.org.

Isabelle Davies.

Aberlemno Primary School Update.

We are very pleased to have recently renewed our Eco School Green Flag Award, which we have held since 2009. The children meet each week to discuss what we can do to continue our environmentally friendly work and to complete our targets as decided in our Eco Code. The school will soon be doing a garden clear up on March 18th and would welcome volunteers to help with our 'spring clean'.

We recently started working towards our Bronze Award as a Rights Respecting School. The children are involved in the decision-making process and have agreed our aims for the Silver Award Action Plan. RRS are linked to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child. Our weekly assemblies will select an Article of the Week where children discuss how that right affects their lives and the daily lives of children and others around the world.

Please remember we have a Rag Bag in the school playground should you have any old clothes, linens etc you would like to donate. The money is well spent buying resources for our school.

Heather Watson.

Aberlemno and District Community Council.

The Community Council held its inaugural meeting in October after enough people volunteered to 're form'. It was agreed the Community Council be renamed from Aberlemno to Aberlemno and District to better reflect the extent of the area represented. There are currently four Community Councillors. Four is the minimum required but there can be up to eight and representatives of other organisations such as church, hall, school, or community activity can also be 'co-opted'. So there are opportunities for anyone wishing to get involved.

Meetings will continue bimonthly on the first Thursday of every second month in Aberlemno and Farnell Village Halls and further information can be found on the Community Council page at aberlemno.org. Our email address is aberlemnocc@yahoo.com

Finally, I am the 'guardian' of the emergency defibrillator which is for public use and mounted on the outside of Aberlemno Church.

Although I hope we will never need it, an AED, or automated external defibrillator, is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It's a sophisticated, yet easy-to-use, portable medical device that can analyse the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm.

The accurate location of the Defibrillator is:

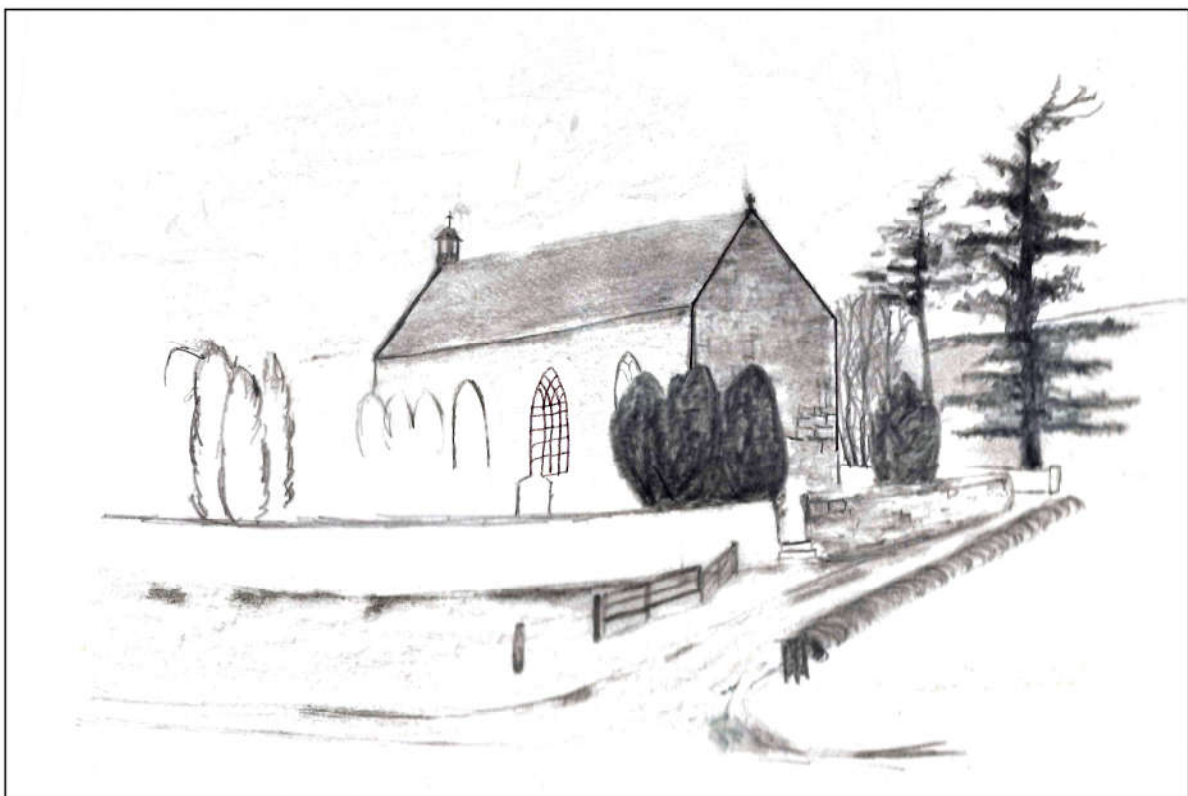
Aberlemno Church

Postcode : DD8 3PE

What3words : status.currently.copycat

Coordinates : NO 5222 5557

Kind regards,
Mark.



Rescobie Church by a local artist

Rev Heather Gourlay
Pitkenney
Forfar
Tel: 01307 830 372

Interim Moderator:
Rev Maggie Hunt
St Margaret's Church
Tel: 01307 462 044



PARISH REGISTER

ABERLEMNO:

Session Clerk:
Mr Ian Wilson
Ward of Turin, Aberlemno
Tel: 01307 830 377

Treasurer and Gift Aid:
Mrs Lorna Hooghiemstra
Wood of Aldbar Cottage
By Brechin
Tel: 01307 830 441

Clerk to the Board:
Mrs Beth Trainer
Muiryloan House
Brechin
Tel: 01356 622 854

Treasurer (WFO):
Mr Mike Macleod
Hillbarns
Tel: 01307 830 318

GUTHRIE & RESCOBIE:

Session Clerk:
Duncan Stewart
Blackhillock, Gardyne
01241 860 270

Clerk to the Board:
Mrs Kay Gray
Meadowlea, Clocksbriggs
Tel: 01307 464 173

Treasurer and Bonds:
Mr James Osborne
Balmadies, Forfar
Tel: 01307 818 242

ABERLEMNO:

Baptisms
Aurla Sally Elizabeth Ballard and Mairi Emily Ballard. Both daughters of Emily (nee Wilson) and James Ballard, June 2022

Transfers
Mr Lachlan McLeod, Hillbarns, Aberlemno to Birmingham, April 2022

Deaths
Mr Alexander G. Spence (Eric), Balglassie, 21st June 2022
Mrs Rita Shader, Hendersonville, USA, 9th November 2022.

GUTHRIE & RESCOBIE:

Baptisms
Noah Mitchell – Falconer, son of Christopher and Amy on 28th September 2022.

Deaths
Mrs Kath Alexander, Friockheim, 20th November 2022
Mr. John Yule (Jack), Lunanhead, 29th January 2023