

# Edenshead Parish Church Newsletter - August 2024

Dear Friends,

The St Andrews' Lammas Market runs from 9th - 13th August this year. It's reputed to be the oldest medieval street fair in Britain. My octogenarian friend Mary remembers going along in her youth, excited by the fun fair, the noise and as much candy floss as she could eat.

In the early English Church Lammas was kept as a Harvest Festival and loaves of bread freshly baked using the newly harvested grain were consecrated. The word comes from the Anglo Saxon *Loaf Mass*. 'Grain,' writes Miriam Vamosh 'has long been humanity's basic form of nourishment and contain carbohydrates, proteins, fats, minerals and vitamins and can be considered the perfect vegetable food source.' The ancient world referred to bread as 'The Staff of Life' and one of Jesus' six 'I Am' sayings is, 'I Am the bread of life.' According to Psalm 4 v7 (and elsewhere) one of people's greatest joys is when grain and wine abound.

There's a renewing appreciation for where our food comes from - not least because of the increasing unpredictably faced by our farmers, especially here in Fife. At last evening's Kirk Session in the 'Mughty Session House we talked about our Harvest Celebration this year - which will be celebrated before or after the October 1st union of churches. The uncertainty is a detail: surely what's important is our continued Christian thankfulness and celebration of earth's bounty, farmers' skill and consumers' thoughtful buying. The seasons prepare to turn again, and we turn too, mindful and grateful for a power greater than ourselves which made everything good. Ruth Burgess writes, 'Autumn made me quiet. Crispness and colours, sunset and stillness calmed my soul.' Amen!

I wish you blessings of Autumn calm, and the peace Christ brings.

Your Interim Moderator,

Jane

## **This will be the last newsletter from “Edenshead”**

**The Service of Union will take place on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October in Falkland Church following which, the current parishes will become one – and will be known as Fife: Eden Tay Parish. Make a note in your diary – transport available.**

The new parish stretches from Newburgh in the north to Kingskettle in the south and from Gateside in the west to Ladybank in the east covering an area of about 30 square miles, with a population of approximately 13,000 and a church membership of around 800.

For some time, headed by a Steering Group, Elders from all five current churches have been working together in various task groups to discuss how best to ensure that the new parish will fulfil all the necessary functions.

The Steering Group has advertised for a Locum Minister to work 20 hours a week throughout Eden Tay Parish. The post holder will also guide us through the process of advertising for, and appointing, a new Minister. A new Interim Moderator will be appointed by Presbytery to moderate Kirk Session meetings and conduct services of Communion, Baptism etc.

So.....it looks like everything is changing but actually, the basics remain the same. Worship will continue, followed by fellowship and on the first Sunday of each month, there will be a full Eden Tay service moving round the churches. See back page for info. The new Fife: Eden Tay Kirk Session and the established task groups will continue to have responsibility for the day to day work of the parish.

### **Strathmiglo Final Service**

**The Closing Service will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 10.30am.**

This is a service planned locally, and a guest list has been drawn up to invite those with previous connections to attend and contribute to the proceedings. At the end of the service, the Communion Plate and Goblet, the Pulpit Bible and the Baptismal Bowl will all be carried out, followed by all those present, and the door will be ceremonially closed.

Following this, back in the church, there will be a time of fellowship and reminiscence over tea/coffee.

**For Information** - The buyer of Strathmiglo Church intends to have a vintage/retro gallery and hopes to serve teas....

## **Urgent Repairs to Auchtermuchty Church**

Some years ago, the lead on the three roof gables was replaced. Recently damage began to show in the interior plaster. A professional investigation showed that the previously applied lead had been incorrectly fitted and as a result the north wall, and to a lesser extent, the east wall are saturated.

This is going to be a long and expensive project to make good the damage. Costs are around £180,000 and funding applications have been made to several grant giving bodies, but no responses have been received yet. If anyone you know wins the lottery, ask them to remember Muchty Church! The local church and its members are responsible for finding the money for this work – the National Church sadly doesn't have a magic money tree.

Work will start in September and initially the roofs at the gables will be repaired. Following this, inside the church the plaster will be completely stripped from the north and east walls. The walls will be left exposed to allow time to dry a little before new plaster is applied.

At this point it's not clear how long the church will be out of action but luckily the hall can be used and we'll share worship within our new parish.

**Sunday 15 September**

**Sponsored Walk**

**Gather at 2pm**

**Birnie Loch**

**Sponsor forms will be  
available.....money to  
boiler fund this year.**

**Saturday 5 October**

**Gents' Coffee Morning**

**Church Hall,**

**Auchtermuchty**

**10am - 12 noon**

**Come and be served  
by our "Gentlemen"**



The big commercial boiler in Muchty Church is 40 years old and parts are no longer available. A replacement will cost almost £20,000 and there are no grant giving bodies that will support this. So we're hoping for some local help. Ideas for fundraising would be welcomed as well as donations given through the website [www.edensheadparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.edensheadparishchurch.co.uk) Thanks

<b>August</b>		
Sun 4	10.30am	Worship – Strathmiglo Church Led by Kay & Rod McCall
	2.00pm	Worship at Strathview Care Home with Ian Macaulay - All welcome
Sun 11	10.30am	Worship – Auchtermuchty Church Led by Ian Macaulay
Sun 18	10.30am	Worship – Auchtermuchty Church Led by Liz Robertson
Sun 25	10.30am	Worship – Auchtermuchty Church Led by Kay & Rod McCall
<b>September</b>		
Sun 1	10.30am	<i>Falkland Church – Eden Tay Joint Worship Please ask for a lift if required</i>
	2.00pm	Worship at Strathview Care Home with Ian Macaulay - All welcome
Sun 8	10.30am	Worship – Auchtermuchty Church Led by Kay & Rod McCall
Sun 15	10.30am	Worship - Auchtermuchty Church Led by Liz Robertson
	2pm	Sponsored Walk – meet at Birnie Loch
Sun 22	10.30am	<b>Closing Service in Strathmiglo Church – see below</b>
Sun 29	10.30am	Worship - Auchtermuchty Church Led by Elspeth Smith
<b>October</b>		
Tues 1	7pm	<i>Service of Union – Fife: Eden Tay Parish in Falkland Church – Presbytery-led service to celebrate the forming of the new Parish. Refreshments will be served following worship.</i>
Sun 6	10.30am	<i>Eden Tay Parish – Joint worship &amp; Guild Dedication in Auchtermuchty Church led by Elspeth Smith</i>
Sun 13	10.30am	Harvest Service – Auchtermuchty Church Led by Ian Macaulay
Sun 20	10.30am	Worship – Auchtermuchty Church Led by Liz Robertson
Sun 27	10.30am	Worship – Auchtermuchty Church Led by Kay & Rod McCall
<b>November</b>		
Sun 3	10.30am	<i>Eden Tay Parish – Joint worship in Newburgh Church – please ask for transport</i>