

EDZELL LETHNOT GLENESK PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2021

Hello

**How are
you?**



**It's time for
a catch up.**

ISSUE 1

THE TEAM

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Hello and welcome to the first issue of our new Church magazine. I hope it finds you well or at least FINE. How often has that been our reply since COVID 19 came into our lives? If ,like me, you have really been feeling a bit out of touch, unconnected then I hope this magazine can help you reconnect with the Church. The Kirk Session has approved the production of a bi monthly magazine for the next 12 months with this initial issue being distributed to everyone as a hard copy but in future, if you wish, you can have your copy emailed. Please just let us know your preference. There are a number of features we hope to run, the first being Meet The Team ,this issue we meet Wayne, Andy and Douglas, Crosswords from Wayne, Children's Club for our younger members also great for your young visitors and a bit of historical background around a local walk, this issue Following St. Laurence. If you have any other ideas then please get in touch also reviews of the first issue would be much appreciated. My thanks to all those who have contributed. My best wishes for a happy healthy summer. Judith Hay

MEET THE TEAM - WAYNE

How would you introduce yourself?

Hi, I'm Wayne

What is your role within Edzell Church?

Minister

What do you like most about Edzell and the surrounding area?

The scenic nature of the village and the surrounding countryside.

Is there a hymn/Christian song that is special to you? Why?

I do not have a particular favourite. I love the simplicity and solemnity of singing the old Scottish Metrical Psalms unaccompanied. But I also enjoy many traditional and contemporary hymns and songs too. One positive thing from the pandemic and its resultant restrictions has been freedom from the limitations of CH4.

Is there a particular Bible verse/passage that you like to turn to? Why?

No, that for me depends on mood, need, purpose etc. John's Gospel is precious because it was the first that I read on the way to becoming a Christian. I also love Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. And the Book of Psalms is a regular treasure-trove.



During this Pandemic many people have taken up a new pastime. Are you one of them? If so what?

In 2019 I enthusiastically took up guitar and song-writing and these have been a Godsend during the pandemic, especially during lockdowns.

Also during this Pandemic there has been a revival in home cooking and baking. What's been your favourite lockdown recipe?

I'm a beneficiary of others' labours in this area!

What is your hope for Edzell Church in the year ahead?

That we might return to something approximating normality. And that we might grow numerically and, in the knowledge, and grace of God.

CROSS WORDS

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? (Psalm 13:1).

Back in the 4th century AD, St Augustine of Hippo, one of the greatest theologians in the history of the church, came to faith at the age of 31. He was a Professor of Rhetoric in Milan and had enthusiastically embraced the religion of Manichaeism, named after its founder Mani. In time, however, he began to identify significant flaws in its system of belief and its lax moral code. His mother had regularly prayed that he might find the Way, the Truth, and the Life in Jesus Christ. And as a result, he tells us in his famous 'Confessions', that he turned to prayer and earnestly cried out to God the words of Psalm 13, 'How long, O Lord.'

He asked God for enlightenment and guidance. And shortly afterwards as he made for home, God answered his prayer in the most unusual fashion. He later wrote: 'I don't know if it was a boy or a girl. It was clearly children.' And they were singing this little phrase, "Tolle lege, tolle lege." *Tolle lege* is Latin for 'Take up and read.' Augustine understood this to be a message from God and subsequently took up the Bible. When he opened it, his eyes fell on the words of Romans 13:13-14: *Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarrelling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.* He entrusted his life to God in Jesus Christ and served his church from that day onwards. And we continue to benefit from his writings and example today.



It is my hope and prayer that you will similarly regularly seek enlightenment and encouragement in God's word but also that you might 'take up and read' this our new church magazine. May it prove to be illuminating, illustrative and informative. You will find something here for young and old alike. And material for body as well as soul. You will be kept in-touch with what is happening in the Edzell Church and get to know some of our office holders and members.

I am writing this article at the end of June having recently received news that, all going well, the social distancing regulations are to be reduced next month with a view to removing them altogether in August. During this exceptional time of pandemic with its resultant lockdowns and restrictions, many of us like Augustine have been asking, 'how long, O Lord.' While the reduced seating capacity, mask mandate, and prohibition on singing in church have been a challenge to some, we are nevertheless thankful that we have been able to regularly gather on Sunday for worship and have been able to record our service for those who for various reasons have yet been unable to physically re-join us.

Hopefully, now that most of the population have been vaccinated, and the Covid-infection and mortality rate continue a downward trajectory, we can anticipate a return to something approximating normality in the coming months. And we look forward to welcoming back members whom we have not seen in church since the outbreak began last year. We also look forward to welcoming new faces to our church services. A warm greeting awaits all.

Let us thank the Lord for his provision and protection in these difficult days and for the people that enrich our lives by love and grace. And it is my hope and prayer that you will be able to join us for a Special Thanksgiving Service to mark not only the completion of the Church Project Works but also for a return to 'normality' soon.

God bless you and yours,

Wayne

MEET THE TEAM - ANDY

How would you introduce yourself?

I'm Andy, or Andrew, Turnbull.

It was always Andy at home, but in the work place, it's always been Andrew!

What do you like most about Edzell and the surrounding area?

Jenny and I arrived in Edzell when I came to work in

Montrose in January 1983. We knew immediately it was home. We knew it was where we wanted to be for the rest of our lives. The environment, the community and the people represented everything that we value and still hold dear.

What is your role within Edzell Church?

As Session Clerk, I see my role as chief administrator of the local Church organisation! Maybe chief cook and bottle washer as well, but coordination of church activities, seems to be the principal task.

Is there a hymn/Christian song that is special to you? Why?

As a boy, it was 'Onward Christian Soldiers' that I liked best. Maybe something to do with being born into the 'post WW2 generation'! On the last day of school, the hymn 'Now thank we all our God' was always sung, and that was played at both my Mum and Dad's funerals. Latterly, as it was played at the baptisms of three grandchildren, 'Be Thou my vision' has become a favourite.

Is there a particular Bible verse/passage that you like to turn to? Why?

John 3:16. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' It's one of the best known bible verses, but it says so much. God gave His only son, born of love. The promise of eternal life must be core to anyone's faith.

During this Pandemic many people have taken up a new pastime. Are you one of them? If so what?

If only! Since the pandemic began, I've been amazingly busy adapting to new delivery formats in my lecturing role at RGU. The last academic year was also one of the most 'full on' in my entire career.



Photo taken in Hawick at the statue of the original Turnbull, who saved King Robert 1 from being gored in 1312, while out hunting, thus changing history forever!

Never mind RGU, just for good measure, I developed and ran two modules at the York Business School as well, to help out a former colleague. Contributing to the running of both the church and the golf club has also been time consuming. Then, there's the small matter of grandparental duties associated with Ailsa, Euan, Isla and Greig, with another on the way!

Also during this Pandemic there has been a revival in home cooking and baking. What's been your favourite lockdown recipe?

How dull am I? It takes a lot to beat good old fashioned 'mince and tatties', or 'spag bog' if we're being adventurous. The arrival of the fish van on a Tuesday is always much anticipated, however, with Sea Bass, Lemon Sole and Salmon, all served up regularly, in simple, yet delicious, ways.

What is your hope for Edzell Church in the year ahead?

Normal service resumed! Without restrictions or limitations. It will be wonderful as and when folks are able to return, without anxiety, to enjoy and experience new styles of worship, in our lovely new church environment. A combination of AV, windows, heat and light, and a new layout, have created a fantastic area in which worship can take place.

NOTES FROM THE KIRK SESSION

The issues of the day, discussed recently at the Kirk Session online Zoom meetings, unsurprisingly relate to how church services, including weddings and funerals, should proceed, while the COVID restrictions are ongoing. Rest assured, the Church of Scotland has been ultra-cautious in terms of the precautions put in place, which it's necessary to follow to the letter. There's debate though, about how much of the 'old style' we should revert to e.g. in terms of singing and organ music, and how much of the 'new' we should adopt, when the choice is available. Let us know what you think! Finances are a concern, with giving down due to the lack of numbers in attendance. Consideration is being given to what can be done to improve that situation. We're looking generally, at ways to mark the 'all clear', when worship services can restart without restrictions. The Fellowship Group is considering various options for social events to celebrate a new era. Lastly, and sadly, numbers of Elders in the Kirk Session are declining, with some standing down, and most recently, Bridget Gillies advising us that she and Fergus are leaving the area. We wish them well and thank her for so many contributions over time

MEET THE TEAM - DOUGLAS

How would you introduce yourself?

I'm Douglas Gow I'm married to Heather, we have three Children, all adults now – Fiona, Lorna and Michael, and a beautiful granddaughter Alexis. We moved to Edzell thirty years ago. in 1991.

What is your role within Edzell Church?

I am the Deputy Session Clerk, I operate the Audio Visual including the service slides, and am also a member of the Choir.

What do you like most about Edzell and the surrounding area?

I love living in the village, the people are so friendly, it is a very active village with lots to do and with two stunning glens, Glensk and Glen Lethnot, on our doorstep.

Is there a hymn/Christian song that is special to you? Why?

My favourite is 'How Great thou art' I love the power of the words and the music and the proclamation "My God, how Great thou art".

Is there a particular Bible verse/passage that you like to turn to? Why?

John 8:7, KJV: "So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." This to me is one of the best answers I have ever heard. If throughout history this example was always followed then the World would be a better place.

During this Pandemic many people have taken up a new pastime. Are you one of them? If so what?

During the first lockdown I cycled every day between Edzell, Edzell Woods and Fettercairn, then when the Golf course re-opened, I switched to playing golf. I have also walked more.

Also during this Pandemic there has been a revival in home cooking and baking. What's been your favourite lockdown recipe?

I am very fortunate that Heather is a terrific cook and baker, as I am hopeless at both. My favourite lockdown recipe is Heather's Orkney Fudge Cheesecake, I can thoroughly recommend it. It was my sweet treat on Father's Day.

What is your hope for Edzell Church in the year ahead?

My hope is that we can get back to normal especially with no masks, singing and fellowship.



OUR NEW AUDIO VISUAL & SOUND SYSTEM

With the increase in using pictures and music videos during Church services we set-out to improve the Church sound system, which was prone to interference, and a Visual system that comprised of a temporary screen and projector set up on a tea trolley! We compiled an Audio Visual (AV) list of technical equipment to meet our requirements, enhance Church services and provide a sustainable benefit for the Church going forward.

NEW EQUIPMENT DETAILS

VISUAL SYSTEM

The new AV system is designed to provide a high-quality AV experience throughout the Church sanctuary, with more content and better coverage. The words for hymns and bible readings are displayed on the screens throughout the service, along with Church intimations and images that supplement the Minister's Reflection and Sermon.

Dual screens are mounted either side of the pulpit with digital projectors mounted above both screens. This allows high quality full screen coverage for the whole congregation. There is a TV screen mounted under the balcony, to let the Minister and the choir view the content throughout the service. All three screens display the same information from a central AV desk via a digital distribution system. The system provides high quality video via video feeds from a computer and a video streaming camera that allow the Church service to be recorded. Other sources such as a DVD player can be connected to spare ports to display video content. The new set-up is permanent and eliminates the need for portable equipment and frees up space around the Bible lectern and communion table.

SOUND SYSTEM

The new sound system is designed to provide a high-quality audio experience throughout the Church sanctuary. The system incorporates new wired and radio microphones, a signal mixing desk, high quality audio amplifier and modern loudspeakers. The new loudspeakers are distributed throughout the sanctuary to allow an even distribution of sound for the congregation. A new signal mixer controls all the microphones and is also interconnected with the Church Hall sound system. A new integrated audio-frequency induction Loop system offers improved sound quality and reliability for people with impaired hearing.

RECORDING AND ONLINE STREAMING

Edzell Church Services are recorded each week and can be accessed online via our Church Website, Facebook page and our YouTube Channel. Due to restrictions with the Church broadband speed we are currently unable to stream the Sunday service live but we are hoping that BT will be able to upgrade our link in the coming months. However, we record the Service each Sunday onto a disc and then upload the video to our Church Youtube Channel – EDZELL PARISH CHURCH where the service can be accessed by searching online for 'Youtube EDZELL PARISH CHURCH.' If you subscribe to the Channel then you should receive notification when a new video is uploaded. We also copy a link to the service onto the Edzell Church facebook page, and the Church website which can be accessed by clicking on the following link <https://www.edzellchurch.org/weekly-service-during-isolation>.

If you like our online content, please hit the Like. 

Douglas Gow

EDZELL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Members will be aware of Phase 1 of the project, the refurbishment of the Church Organ and the installation of New Windows. The project has now moved on in that we have almost completed Phase 2 of the vision to make our Church warm, welcoming, with an enhanced service experience, using technology to take us into the 21st Century.

Approval was given by the Kirk Session in September 2020 to go ahead with the works at a cost of £118,900 (nett of Vat) which came from our development fund, central funds and a grant.

The four main elements are as follows:-

New Heating System, the new installation comprised Fan Convactor Heaters, Skirting type convactor heating, radiators with pipework from a new high efficiency oil fired boiler with modern controls.

New Lighting System, the new installation has been designed by a specialist consultant with high quality long life LED lamps and fittings, with colours to replicate as near possible daylight. The new ceiling lights utilize the existing housings, they are adjustable, all the new lighting is dimmable and controlled from three switches and an iPad.

New Electrical System, the existing system has been upgraded and supplemented with new wiring to support all the other new installations. New distribution boards with modern circuit safety devices now supply the whole building, in addition a new fire alarm system and emergency lighting system have been installed.

New Audio Visual System, has been designed by a specialist company, the Audio comprises new sound amplifiers, high quality speakers and microphones, all controlled from a mixing desk. For Visual, two projector screens are fitted either side of the Pulpit with two downward projecting projectors, a TV screen for Minister and Choir on face of the balcony and a zoom camera for recording and streaming, with all the necessary interfaces, the audio visual system is all controlled from a laptop and iPad.

We took advantage of the Church being closed to do all the preparatory works of running cables underfloor, removal of side pews to remove the old cast iron pipes and installation of new. All the works were completed between October 2020 and April 2021 and the project was brought in on budget, including absorbing the cost of the camera and system for streaming. The Church is now a very different experience, to get a feel please see the online service or make a visit to a Sunday service.

Martin Dayman Project Co-ordinator



New Projectors and Screens



New Entrance Lighting



New Convector Heaters

THE GUILD

The Guild has not met since February 2020 but we hope to organise some meetings for the Autumn. Nationally we have six new Project partners for 2021 –24 to receive financial and prayerful support from the Guild. They all relate to the theme of the new three year strategy, 'Look forward in Faith'. We usually chose one home and one abroad Project to focus on each year so Guild members please consider the list below and let Doris know your preferences for this year.

1. The Vine Trust-the Kazunzu Village of Hope in Tanzania.
Help them take forward the development of a sustainable village with homes, a school, a health centre , a community hub and 40 individual homes. Self-sustainability will come through agriculture, gardening, fish-farming and the development of a transport business
2. Beat - 'Blether with Beat', Scotland
Help develop a network of young ambassadors who will work in schools, colleges, universities and with Churches to raise awareness of the impact of eating disorders and to encourage people to seek help.
3. Home for Good, Scotland
A Christian charity dedicated to finding a home for every child who needs one. Support will help them reach all parts of Scotland and build their network of volunteers. Home for Good wants all children to find a loving home and this project will help to do that.
4. Pioneers - Chocolate heaven, South East Asia
Help build and develop a factory to support the production of sustainable chocolate production making more workers/parents able to provide a bright future for their children.
5. UNIDA -'Hear our voice' Brazil
'Faith in the future' a project at this higher education institution is designed to empower young women through theological education thus transforming lives in a violently unjust Brazilian society.
6. Starchild, Uganda
Starchild hope that with our support they will be able to build a centre where children with a range of learning disabilities- particularly autism-can come to learn alongside their peers.

You don't have to be in the Guild to support one of these Projects just go online to

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/the-guild/projects>

Click on your chosen project and then click on the Donate button and fill in the donation form.

Can you find these words relating to the Projects in the grid below?

AUTISM BEAT CHOCOLATE EATINGDISORDER EDUCATION
FAIRNESS FAMILY HOMEFORGOOD KAZUNZU PIONEERS
LOVINGHOME STARCHILD UNIDA VINETRUST VOLUNTEERS

E	F	N	N	W	R	C	X	X	A	W	Q	B	G	B	G
A	A	R	A	V	X	H	U	I	S	S	N	S	D	W	F
D	U	G	X	I	D	O	Y	G	D	A	V	O	R	I	N
I	T	P	V	N	F	C	Q	U	K	S	O	U	E	I	U
N	I	D	I	E	M	O	B	A	W	G	L	F	D	Q	T
U	S	L	U	T	A	L	Y	K	R	Q	U	A	R	T	E
P	M	I	P	R	Q	A	K	O	A	T	N	I	O	B	M
I	B	H	P	U	M	T	F	A	E	W	T	R	S	E	O
O	M	C	P	S	V	E	U	D	G	A	E	P	I	A	H
N	X	R	A	T	M	W	U	F	W	O	E	R	D	T	G
E	S	A	F	O	X	C	G	I	L	I	R	I	G	A	N
E	J	T	H	K	A	Z	U	N	Z	U	S	C	N	C	I
R	X	S	B	T	Y	L	I	M	A	F	P	E	I	Y	V
S	J	K	I	X	T	R	H	H	O	N	J	S	T	A	O
V	N	O	U	C	Y	M	L	V	A	X	E	C	A	M	L
R	N	D	E	A	N	K	Q	T	E	G	P	M	E	B	D

THE PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group have continued to have a time of prayer on a Friday morning each in their own homes and are happy to receive your personal prayer requests in strictest confidence by phoning or texting Gill 07732 978653 or emailing reid.edzell@gmail.com

Dear Lord and Father,

As this first edition of our Church Magazine is put together we pray that it will be a success and that it will bring pleasure and insights to many.

We give thanks for Our Minister Wayne, his family and the elders and all who work on our behalf so that we can have our lovely Church on the Muir where we can worship freely and comfortably.

We are grateful for the beautiful area we live in, safe and peaceful with easy access to food, fresh water, housing and free of violence, political constraints and war. We hear constantly via the media of the suffering of many people throughout the world and we pray Lord that You will bring them peace and comfort. Give their leaders wisdom, heal the wounds of division and protect the vulnerable and the children.

We pray for all in our community who are ill, those waiting for operations, the mentally ill, the anxious and depressed. We pray too for all who care for them in the NHS. We are grateful we have our own Health Centre and Pharmacy here in the village.

Help us to remember Lord, You are always there for us in our times of need. That we can bring our troubles to You. You understand us and forgive us when we get things wrong.

Through Your Son Jesus Christ

Amen

PRAY WITH LOVE

*If love is the greatest force in the world, and prayer
the mightiest force in the world, then when we
pray in love we are working with a power
that can move the world.*

James 5:16

CHILDREN'S CLUB

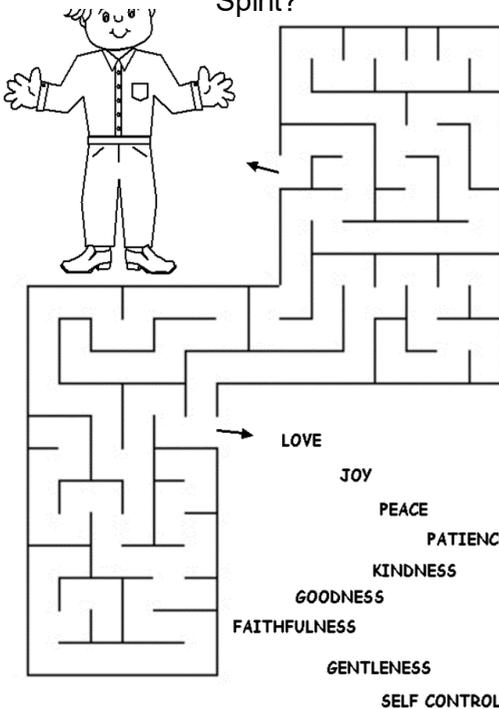
There have been no children's activities since early 2020 but we hope to get started again soon.

Do you like fruit? I love bananas and apples. They are both fruit but they look and taste different. The Bible talks to us about fruit too but it is the fruit of the Spirit, they are each special and different too.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

God wants us to try to be good and have the fruit of the spirit in us.

Can you help the boy through the maze to find the different fruit of the Spirit?



Spirit?

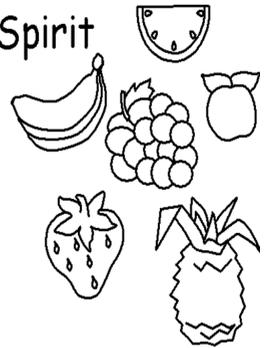
LOVE
JOY
PEACE
PATIENCE
KINDNESS
GOODNESS
FAITHFULNESS
GENTLENESS
SELF CONTROL

How many different words can you make from the words

Fruit of the Spirit

Example

sport _____



F R U I T H E X
J O Y A R O V Z
D N I K N L O G
Y J A B S Y L T

Can you find these words.
HOLY FRUIT
KIND LOVE
JOY

FELLOWSHIP GROUP UPDATE

Due to the current restrictions imposed upon us as a result of the pandemic it isn't yet possible to set dates for any of the fellowship activities to resume but rest assured we are ready and raring to get back into action.

As soon as it is deemed safe we will resume the teas and coffee after the Sunday service, with a slightly larger celebratory gathering planned for one day when the carpets have been laid in the Church, to celebrate the completion of the refurbishment and upgrade project.

We hope to organise a carol singing session in conjunction with a hog roast near to Christmas and we're looking forward to seeing you all in the hall again when the evenings darken and we are allowed to resume our popular film nights.

The Church is currently considering taking the Pop-up shop for a week in October and the fellowship committee will be called upon to organise the running of it.

After many years of hard work, Margaret Taylor has decided to step down from the team and Bridget Gillies is leaving us to move nearer to family. We can't thank them enough for all their hard work and the delicious food they have provided. We would also like to wish Bridget and Fergus well with their move

Gail Davies

RECIPE CORNER

Andy's Pan Fried Sea Bass

First, pat the fish dry. It's important that most of the moisture is removed from the fish, so it gets a nice brown colour on the outside. Next **dredge the fish** in a mixture of all-purpose flour, salt, and black pepper. Dredging simply means coating it in the flour mixture, and shaking off any excess. You should have a nice, thin coat of flour, salt, and pepper that covers every square inch of the surface of the fish.

Then, **cook the fish in a mixture of olive oil and butter.** The butter gives it a rich, golden colour, while the olive oil makes it crispy. Mixing the two is a great way to pan-fry almost anything. The fish will only take about 3-4 minutes to cook on each side, if you are using thin pieces of sea bass. **Once they're finished, set them aside on a plate.**

The sauce is made in the same pan in which you cooked the fish. First, **add some white wine e.g. Pinot Grigio, or Sauvignon Blanc, to deglaze the skillet.** Immediately after you add it, use

a wooden spoon to help stir up any browned bits from the bottom of the pan. Then, continue heating over medium-high heat until almost all the liquid has evaporated.

Then, **add a little more butter to the skillet** and heat until it's melted. **Add some finely minced garlic and a mixture of fresh chopped herbs to the pan**—Sauté until fragrant, for about 30 seconds.

Finally, **add some chicken stock** (or *vegetable stock, or water*), heat until it's bubbling, then **turn off the heat and add some lemon juice**.



Douglas's Orkney Fudge Cheesecake

a Sue Lawrence recipe

Ingredients

250g Hobnobs (or other oat biscuits), crushed

75g butter, melted

200g cream cheese

250g Orkney fudge (Lidl's bars of Scottish fudge work just as well)

600ml double cream, lightly whipped

Method

1. Make the base by combining the biscuits and butter and pressing into the base of a 24cm spring-form cake tin that you have lightly buttered.

2. Beat the cream cheese until soft.

3. Grate 210g of the fudge and tip into the cream cheese.

4. Combine gently – folding in slowly – with the cream.

5. Spoon the cream mixture over the top of the biscuit base.

6. Chop or grate the remaining fudge and scatter over the top of the cheesecake and cover.

7. Chill for at least 6 hours (I often do it the night before) then carefully decant and serve in wedges.



FOLLOWING ST LAURENCE

For this first edition of our Edzell Church magazine, I thought it might be appropriate to invite you to join me for a relatively short, easy, and leisurely stroll following Saint Laurence.

The Laurence in question was the original medieval church which was dedicated to the saint, and was cited close to the Castle near to the original village. All that remains of that building is the transept referred to as the Lindsay Burial Aisle which is situated in the heart of the old cemetery one and half miles from our present village. It is the resting place of the Lindsay Lords and Earls of Crawford. Peering through the iron fence that prevents access to the aisle, one can see preserved some ancient gravestones which provide a useful visual marker for reflection on our Christian heritage, our mortality, and the promise we have in Jesus Christ our Lord. [See John 3:16 & 14:1-6] The surrounding graves speak still! Many of those whose remains rest in the old cemetery would have worshipped in St Laurence's Kirk. They make us mindful of the great cloud of witnesses and the continuity of the church.

Historically, opinion has been divided as to which Saint Laurence the church was dedicated after. Scholarly opinion tends to favour the 3rd century martyr, who as a deacon in the church at Rome was tied to a gridiron and roasted alive on the orders of Emperor Valerian for his loving devotion and commitment to Christ's church. His Feast Day was celebrated on the 10 August throughout the Catholic Church. That said, there is a long-standing tradition in favour of Laurence of Canterbury whose provenance possibly rests with the Benedictine monks introduced to Dunfermline by Queen, and later Saint, Margaret back in the 11th century. It was around that time that the original medieval church was built. Whichever Laurence was meant (who similarly had the nearby town of Laurencekirk dedicated to him), let us pause and reflect on the words of the Apostle Paul which appear germane to either.

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life (1Tim.6:17-19).

The original church named after the saint was moved just over 200 years ago. The Castle had been long abandoned to ruination and Edzell village had grown. The church building needed repair and the kirk session decided that a new build on the Muir, the site of the 'Auld Eagles', near to St Laurence's Well, was the ideal spot for the new building. Closer as it was to where most of its congregation now lived. And so, after gaining presbytery approval St Laurence's was moved. Much of the stone from the old building was used in the construction of the new. St Laurence's was moved, but his name was abandoned.

As we make our way to the present Church, we pass the Castle where Mary, Queen of Scots, resided in August 1562 on one of her royal progresses. The striking ruins with its well-maintained and picturesque gardens are always worth a visit. And I am struck by the thought that the King of kings and Lord of lords ever resides with his people. On route we pass farm buildings and cottages that once would have housed farm workers which remind me how the harvest is ever ripe, but the labourers are few. And as we enter Edzell, we pass the fallen remains of sheep enclosures from the former mart, similarly, provoking thoughts on Psalm 23 and John 10. We are, after all, the sheep of his pasture.

On arriving at the church, we find no reference to the saint but rather to the One whom Laurence worshipped and bore witness to through his ministry and martyrdom. Even the site of the well dedicated to him has long gone. Edzell Church however has recently undergone several upgrades to help ensure that the faith Laurence proclaimed continues for future generations. For this we continue in thankful praise and prayer.

Wayne

FINALLY If anyone would like a copy of *Musings on the Muir* by Wayne or *Edzell, Ken Your Neighbour* by Jean Smedley there are still a few copies available in Edzell Tweed Warehouse, so too is the *Edzell Telephone Book*. All proceeds to the *Edzell Church Development Fund*

A failing Saint Laurence.
Was ritually moved.
Two hundred years back.
When presbytery approved.

Beyond treasured ruin.
Where Mary dined in style.
To site of Auld Eagles.
Translated, over mile.

On the Muir at Edzell.
A new house built to dwell.
Founded and furnished.
Near saint's holy well.

Reformed and forgotten.
In new enlightened age!
Saints not remembered.
Medieval heritage.

Remains rest in peace.
Lindsay Burial Aisle.
Ghostly tales still told.
Of hauntings to beguile.

A great cloud of heralds.
From present and the past.
Give cause to be thankful.
For worship made to last. [WP]



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