

Lindores Litanies

1st March 2023



The Newsletter of
Lindores Parish Churches
of
Newburgh and Abdie and Dunbog



Dear Friends,

Such a lot of good news in this issue.

Below is a beautiful photo of the snowdrops we brought inside for our last Taize service; and now already we have longer daylight and the wonderful snowdrops growing outdoors. See Page 6 for some outstanding specimens.

We seem to be shining our lights even more brightly at Lindores in helping others and making an impact in our small corner of the world.

Love to you all, Valerie

Janet Foggie gave us this responsive prayer, based on Psalm 119:105

In a crowded street of failures to control the thinking of others,

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path

Show me the tree I need to climb.

Passing through a world of dark thoughts and circular thinking,

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path

Stop! Give me time to colour the detail of my life through faith.

If I hoard my worries as insurance against my anxiety,

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path

Cast a light on them, that I may see their worth.

If I nurture hate in my secret bank of harsh thoughts,

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path

Shine a torch on the balance of my judgements.

In the scrolling doom of the grumbles of strangers,

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path

Seek me, and save me.

Amen



In the dark days:
Under rain-heavy clouds,
Among broken branches,
On sodden earth,
The snowdrops light their
candles.

From 'A Flame that Cannot be Put Out' by Janet Sutch Pickard

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Ever since Valerie can remember, people have been complaining about being unable to hear what was going on in the church service at Newburgh. Deafness is, as many of you know, an incredibly isolating experience, and makes full participation in the service impossible. The same people have reported that when they go to a service at the crematorium, with its modern sound equipment, they can hear every word. It was clear that this wasn't just an issue about people's own hearing, but related to our sound system. Valerie describes the process of change:

'I noticed the disparity between church and crem sound systems in 2016 but we didn't do anything about it until the church reopened after lockdown in 2020.

'Realising I knew little, if anything, about amps, mics and woofers I sought advice from 121 George Street who recommended a sound consultant. I spoke to him at length and he kindly agreed to visit Newburgh church and see if he could make our current system work better. After several hours of tweaking, he declared the system outdated and in need of replacement.

'Following his recommendation we obtained quotes from different companies and presented them to Session, who agreed to make this essential change. This meant completing a long and detailed application form. The application process by George street was also slower than normal because of Covid, and by the time approval had been given, the costs of the original quote has risen considerably. We re-negotiated the essentials and chose a portable iPad rather than a separate sound control desk. The revised quote was presented at Session in November 2022 but the company could only guarantee costs for 14 days because of spiralling costs. The final cost was £8,542 – a significant investment on our part.'

AND – for the first time in years – everyone can hear everything that goes on. The quality of the sound is beautiful as it fills the church, and everyone can participate fully in worship.

The system has its own WiFi and works via an iPad. There are three mics which can be mounted on stands, e.g. for the music group, one clip-on for the person leading the worship, and one for



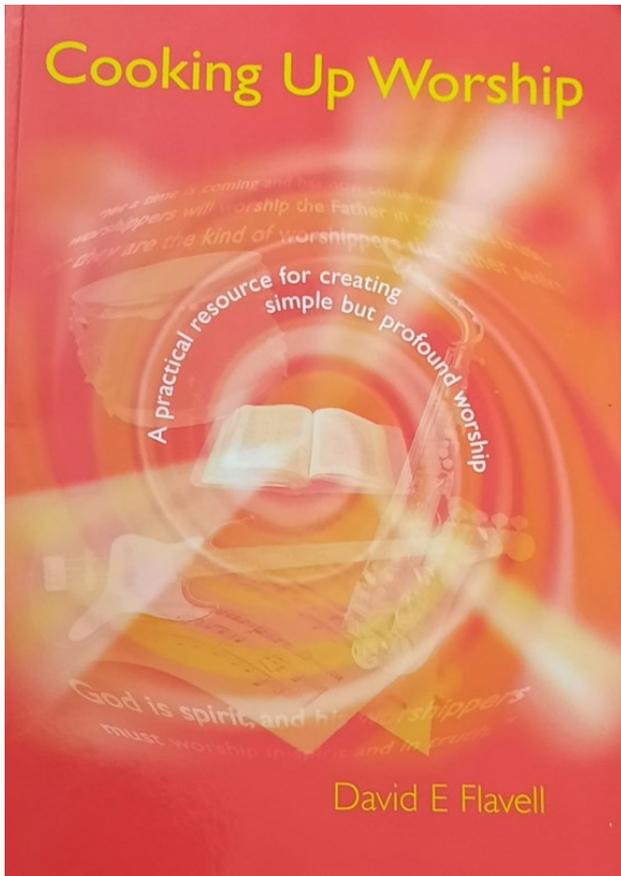
the lectern. All of these are controlled from the iPad, by adjusting the sound up and down for different people – e.g. if a child with a quieter voice is using a mic, the sound can be amplified. The system will be valuable for other events in the church as well as services. We're training up a group of people to operate the system, and are now getting to grips with it.

We're very grateful to D3 Audio-Visual, the company who installed the system. It took them only a day and a half to fit it and get it working, and it's no exaggeration to say that its effect has been TRANSFORMATIONAL. Why should we just accept that some people can't hear what's going on, especially if it they've been coming to church for years? This is an issue of equality and it's great to see the smiling faces and thumbs up of those who hitherto have suffered in silence.

Danny Ferguson gives the new system 11 points out of 10!

*I saw a stranger yestreen;
I put food in the eating place,
drink in the drinking place,
music in the listening place,
and in the name of the Triune
he blessed myself and my house,
my cattle and my dear ones, and the Lark said in
her song
often, often, often,
goes the Christ in the stranger's guise,
often, often, often,
goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.*

Irish Rune of Hospitality
from *The Life of Saint Brigid* by Jane G Meyer



Currently sixteen people have signed up for the course, and we look forward to them putting their learning into practice.

Flavell compares worship with a meal, and explains as follows:

1. No matter what you do, the meal will never be to everybody's taste
2. You have to mix together various ingredients to make the whole
3. Good quality ingredients make a good quality meal
4. Some ingredients blend well together (with surprising combinations!)
5. Some people will be the equivalent of militant vegans and will be offended if you include something they don't like
6. Some people will be obsessive about etiquette, and will go berserk if you don't do everything in what they think is just the right order and just the right way
7. Some people only like the sweet bits and aren't bothered about nourishment
8. Some people go from place to place, sampling products until they are satisfied
9. Some people enjoy complaining no matter how good it is
10. What really counts is not how clever you are, but how good it tastes
11. Even the best cooks have disasters sometimes!

Elspeth Smith, Church of Scotland Reader, will be leading a Lenten course over four weeks on Wednesdays from 1st till 22nd March, using the above book as a starting point.

The author, David E Flavell, writes, **'Too often the church is like a restaurant whose clientele is dwindling because the chef doesn't seem to care what the customer wants. What's on offer is stodgy, dull and unattractive.'**

A year ago Elspeth taught us about leading prayers; and now we're looking forward to a whole new menu!

Crazy Church enjoyed a tea prepared by Christine Bartlett on Sunday 16th February. This cool crocodile made it snappy!

Next Crazy Church sessions will be on **Sundays 12th March and 16th April, 3.00 till 5.00pm.**

Please contact Valerie to book a place.



Taiwan is leading this year's International Day of Prayer, with the theme, 'I have heard about your faith.' Our local services will be held on March 3rd at 2.30pm in the URC.

The origins of World Day of Prayer date back to the 19th century when Christian women in the USA and Canada initiated a variety of cooperative activities in support of women's involvement in mission, at home and abroad. For further information, see [Our History - World Day Of Prayer \(wwdp.org.uk\)](http://Our History - World Day Of Prayer (wwdp.org.uk))

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

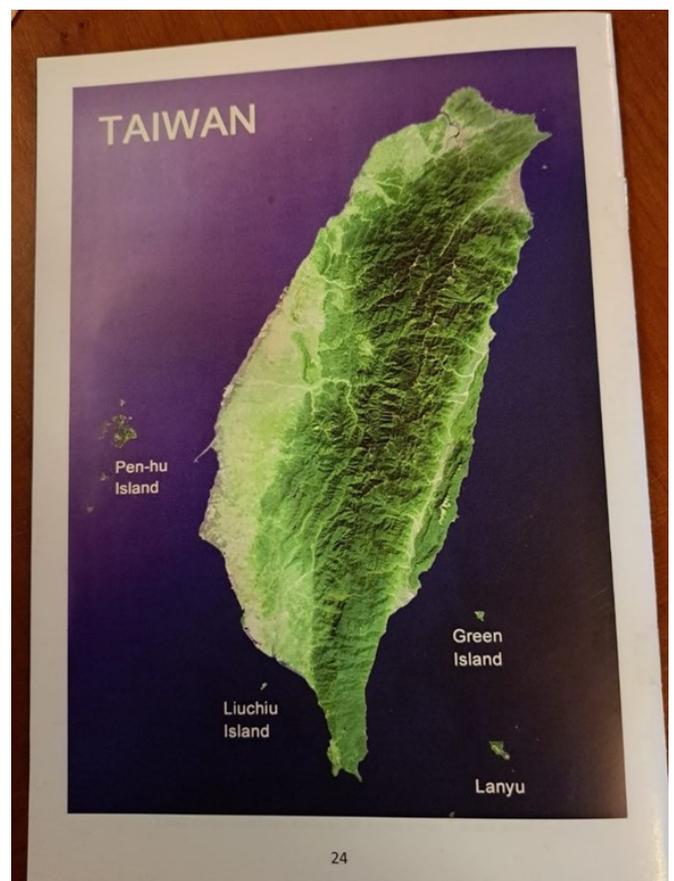
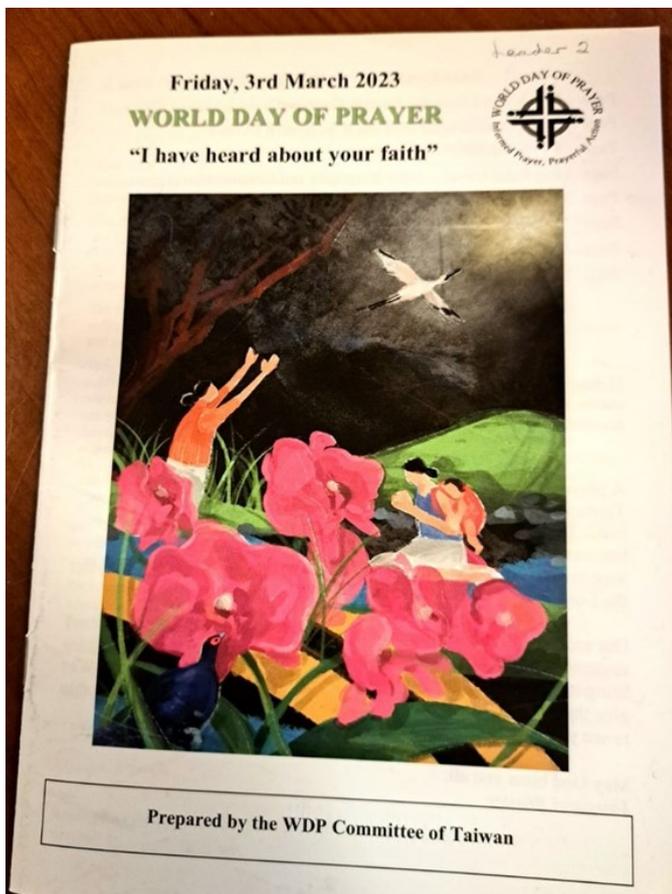
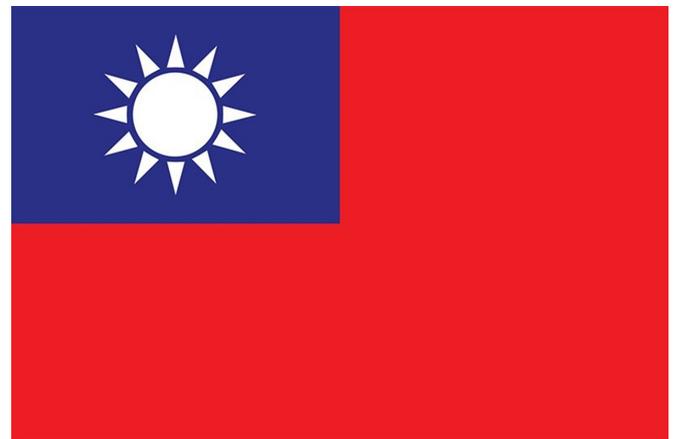
Only about 3.9% of Taiwan's citizens identify as Christian (equally divided between Protestant and Catholic), with 35% of the population identifying as Buddhists and 33% Taoists. The remainder are made up of a combination of various Chinese folk religions, and 'no religion.'

Taiwan is also known as the 'Republic of China' – but this is hotly contested by the People's Republic of China, with its capital in Beijing. Readers will be aware that in the past

year, Beijing has crossed swords with the USA over Taiwan's independence, and has sent patrol ships around the island, aiming to assert control. China's official policy is to reunify Taiwan with mainland China under the formula 'one country, two systems', and refuses to renounce the use of military force, especially if Taiwan seeks a declaration of independence. In Taiwan itself, political opinion is divided into two camps: reunification versus independence. Being a Christian in Taiwan is complicated.

The colours on Taiwan's flag represent:

- Blue—liberty, justice, democracy
- Red—fraternity, sacrifice, nationalism
- White—equality, frankness, and people's livelihood.



Award for Glebe training

The Fife Presbytery Mission Fund have made a short video, featuring the three recipients of funding for local mission work. We are delighted to say that we are one of those three, having been granted £6K+ for our planned work in the Glebe. The application for this was completed by Janet Foggie and Valerie, and Valerie was filmed for an extremely brief 30 seconds, explaining what we are aiming to do with our funding.

You will all be aware of our efforts over the last year or so to find vigorous, innovative ways of using our 16 acres of land up the hill at the Glebe, in a way that enables people to connect with their sense of a Creator. Trying to explain this is, in itself, a good exercise in naming our faith. We tried to convey our desire to promote 'outdoor spirituality' – aware that for many people, the great outdoors is where they find this sense of connection. Our events with the Crazy Church and others, led in part by *Childe in the Wild*, have been enormously fulfilling and have enabled us to reach people in a new way (remember the photo below?) Although valuable however, this has been quite expensive.

The funding from the Presbytery will now enable us to train ten volunteers over two days in working with people outdoors. This is the first stage in a recognised qualification process which could enable our volunteers, if they choose, to run Forest Fun Days for people of all ages. The



other two recipients of funding were:

Templehall and Torbain United Parish Church. Their representative, Lauren Jones, explained that the funding would contribute to her salary; and to Paediatric First Aid training for parents.

KART – Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust. This organisation, in association with Scripture Union Scotland, provides activity days, holiday clubs and Christian camps for children.

We sit gladly on the cusp of Spring, when the woodland will wake up again. Before we leave winter however, here's a celebratory extract of 'Wintertime' by Robert Louis Stevenson:

*Late lies the wintry sun abed
A frosty, fiery sleepy-head
Blinks but an hour or two and then,
A blood-red orange, sets again*

For the full poem see [Winter-Time by Robert Louis Stevenson - Scottish Poetry Library](#)



OPENING OUR HEARTS AND OUR PURSES

On Saturday 25th February, the Turcans opened their garden in aid of the Wellbeing Choir. Here is Open Gardens Scotland's description of the garden:

'...extensive lochside and woodland walks with banks of snowdrops, leucojum, hostas, gunnera manicata, primula, astilbes, crocuses, fritillaria, spring and autumn cyclamen, hellebores and a notably impressive collection of trilliums. As well as the much older established trees - and in particular the splendid 17th Century yew (believed to be the largest in Fife which you can actually walk inside)...'

Open Gardens Scotland gives 60% of takings to the garden owners' chosen charity – the final sum is not at time of writing confirmed.

OGS awards the remaining 40% to their own chosen charities which this year are the Queen's Nursing Institute of Scotland, Maggie's Centres, and Perennial, a charity which helps people in horticulture. See [Our Impact \(scotlandsgardens.org\)](https://www.scotlandsgardens.org)

The coffee morning at the TICC on Feb 11th raised £1,224. Our grateful thanks for this amazing effort go to all who contributed in any way. And especially to Margaret Stark, with her wonderful organisational skills.

BELOW: a fabulous array of home baking, all hand-wrapped as required; and two people having a lot of fun. I wonder what they were talking about when this photo was snapped?



A 'Scottish Evening' in aid of the Wellbeing Choir was held at the TICC on 16th February. We sold 70 tickets and after expenses, raised around £540. The singing was led by James Ford and Dave Watt. Dave, who is also a wonderful raconteur, sang lots of Burns songs and the evening was greatly appreciated.

ARGENTUM: No. 47: SILVER



One of our members, James Leslie-Melville, has written 'Argentum: The adventures of a silver piece at great moments in history.'

It's part-fiction and part history, following the events surrounding a silver nugget, dug out of the ground in 3000 BC, in Western Anatolia, right through to the 1970 Apollo 13 mission. Along the way it falls into the hands of Julius Caesar, Judas Iscariot, Marie Antoinette and others. If you enjoy history, you will love it.

I asked James three questions—see his reply below:

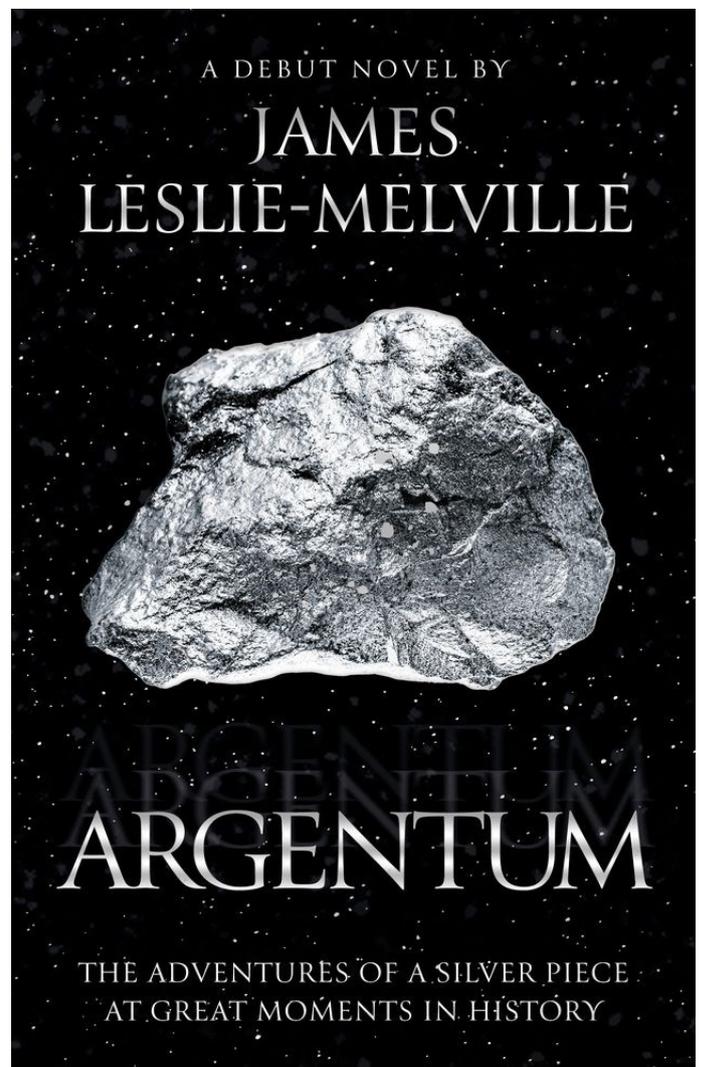
1. How on earth did you do all that research?
2. Is it difficult to publish a book?
3. Will you be writing another one? (and indeed, is this your first?)

I'm an avid reader of historical novels and have a quite a few reference books at home to consult. But there is also a wealth of public information available online. I thoroughly enjoyed the research, and learnt a huge amount, only some of which made it into the story.

Yes, it's difficult to publish a book! Finding a publisher is mostly a slow and dispiriting exercise in rejection. Even when I was offered a contract, the production process took over nine months. Tenacity and patience are essential.

I wrote a 'stocking filler' book of nonsense a few years ago, which was never published, but this is my first novel. I do have an idea for another one, but am lacking the concentration provided by Lockdown to actually sit down and write it. Next winter, perhaps.

'Argentum' is available from the author himself, or from the Book Guild ([Argentum | The Book Guild Ltd](#)) at £8.99. The publishers have produced a beautiful cover design and notwithstanding James' comments above, it is clear that his tenacity and patience have paid off.



EXTRACT (p70, Judas Iscariot)

Jesus speaks to the crowd:

'I'm sorry, my friends, you've been very patient. But in a way, talking to the priests is as important as my sermons. They see me as a threat, sowing dangerous ideas in the minds of their flock, challenging their leadership and control here in the city. If only they would actually listen with an open mind... but I'm afraid that is never going to happen. They haven't quite worked out what to do with me yet!' He gave a short laugh, and then said in a more sober voice. 'Remember what I told you before. In three days' time it will be Passover, and I will be handed over for crucifixion. That should satisfy them.' He looked round at the twelve men and added brightly, 'Cheer up; it's my destiny, but in the meantime we need some lunch.'

Services and events in March and April

March

Thurs 2nd	Celtic Communion, Newburgh	10.30am
Fri 3rd	World Day of Prayer joint service, URC	2.30pm
Sun 5th	Sunday service, Newburgh (congregations from Falkland and Freuchie will be joining us)	10.30am
Sun 12th	Communion service, Abdie & Dunbog	10.30am
	Crazy Church, Newburgh Church	3.00—5.00pm
Sun 19th	Joint Communion service with URC, Newburgh Parish church	10.30am
Sun 26th	Sunday service, Abdie & Dunbog	10.30am
	Taize service, Newburgh Church Hall	6.00pm
Thurs 30th	Celtic Communion, Abdie & Dunbog	10.30am

April

Sun 2nd	Sunday service and baptism, Newburgh	10.30am
Thurs 6th	Last Supper service, Newburgh	7.00pm
Fri 7th	Good Friday service, URC	3.00pm
Sat 8th	Service with holy fire, Abdie & Dunbog	8.00pm
Sun 9th	Easter Waterfront service, Newburgh	7.00am
	Easter Day service, Abdie & Dunbog	10.30am
Sun 16th	Sunday service, Newburgh	10.30am
	Crazy Church, Newburgh Church Hall	3.00—5.00pm
Sun 23rd	Lambing service, Abdie & Dunbog	10.30am
Sun 30th	Joint service at URC church	11.00am

If you wish to join Sunday Services by Zoom please contact Valerie for the Link



Valerie Walker's contact details are:
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