

February – April 2024
No 439

PEEBLES

S^T

ANDREWS

LECKIE

MAGAZINE



We would love to be able to encourage, support and pray for you in any way that we can.

Sunday Services

If you are able, please come and join us in church or you can continue to watch **online for a livestream** of our Service @ 11am on Sundays through our website **standrewsleckie.co.uk** Previous sermons are also available from our website or **YouTube Channel**. If you (or someone you know) can't access the service online, please try to dial in using your landline phone. Simply dial 01721 444 833 .

Support and Prayer

If you would like support or to have someone to talk with or to pray for you, you can make confidential prayer requests from our website **standrewsleckie.co.uk** or contact us by email at **office@standrewsleckie.co.uk** or telephone 01721 723 121 Tuesday - Thursday 9.30am to 12noon).

Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

ZOOM PRAYER MEETINGS :

Monday-Friday: 8.30am-9am (on Thursday we start earlier at 8am to pray for revival) We gather to pray for God to move by His Spirit, bringing His kingdom near

and people to know Jesus.

Join Zoom meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/950531397?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/950531397?pwd=SEFwRDVnQzU3aVlqakYwSUhiaW5lZz09)

[pwd=SEFwRDVnQzU3aVlqakYwSUhiaW5lZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/950531397?pwd=SEFwRDVnQzU3aVlqakYwSUhiaW5lZz09)

Passcode 191243

Sunday mornings

11 am

. Doors open at 10:40am for the morning and 6:40pm for the evening, please try to arrive at least five minutes early as we start on time for the live stream (morning only).

Sunday Services will continue to be accessed through the Church website or dialling in using your landline. Contact for all church information is 01721 723121

Evening Services - 7pm

If you have changed your address and/or have new contact details, please let us know so that we can update our records.



Good News

A few weeks ago, in a sermon I was reflecting upon how people behave when they have good news that they want to share. It is often written all over their faces, perhaps in a broad smile or in tears of utter relief or even in dancing around a room! Bring to mind the body language, facial expression and tone of voice of someone you know announcing the birth of a child or the all-clear that they have just received from a doctor.

Good news is felt and expressed.

Proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God is at the heart of the mission of the church. If we are to be rejuvenated in this calling, it strikes me that first thing that we need to do is to come to know and experience it as truly good news for ourselves.

Alex Motyer writes, "Salvation is like a great hamper filled full of every possible blessing of God, and our task is to discover – personally, progressively, ceaselessly – what has been given to us once for all"

One of the characteristic marks of Christian spirituality is the experience of joy that is not dependent upon life going well and the sun shining upon us. The New Testament is full of references to Christians who knew a deep-down joy despite the experience of hardship and challenging life circumstances. We have something that is living, powerful and real to share in our knowledge of Jesus – truly good news.

I pray that this year, we would all come to know in a deeper way that the Kingdom of God is near to us.

Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

we were like those who dreamed.

²Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.

Then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."

³The LORD has done great things for us,

and we are filled with joy.

⁴Restore our fortunes, LORD,
like streams in the Negev.

⁵Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.

Malcolm

tearfund

Lent Devotion: Restoration

Tearfund have produced a devotional resource for lent on the theme of restoration which is very much in line with our vision for St Andrews Leckie.

Use the following link to request to receive a weekly email:

<https://www.tearfund.org/forms/lent-email-sign-up-form>

What you'll receive:

- Discover God's plan for restoration in your life and around the world this Lent.
- Sign up to receive a free email devotional with reflections and prayers to encourage you every week during Lent.



Leaving from the Leckie Memorial Church on Easter Morning (8am), join us for an early morning walk up to the Sware car park where we will hold a short service of worship overlooking Peebles before returning for breakfast in the Church Hall.

11am
Easter morning Family Service
No Evening Service

Opportunities for Prayer

The vision for our church is for us to be a round the clock house of prayer. With this at the forefront of our thinking we wish to have more opportunities for prayer, and to further develop our rhythm of prayer.

We already meet online every weekday morning to pray. Please contact Carrie Duthie for the Zoom link. There is a fabulous wee prayer space in the vestry. Please look inside or take time to sit in the quiet, alone or with others and wait on the Lord.

Our Wednesday Community Café is flourishing and giving us wonderful

opportunities to connect with our community. We are excited to be planning to have the prayer space open during the café.

2024 is the 25th anniversary of 24/7 Prayer and we want to be part of their vision to have every single hour of this year a time when communities across our nation are praying. We are planning to have the church open for prayer monthly, alternating between Wednesday mornings and Friday evenings, using the prayer space and the church hall with just one or two creative prayer stations:

Wednesday morning 9am – 12pm routine will be;
9 am open prayer for 30 minutes
Followed by a Prayer walk (or staying in the prayer space)
11:30am open prayer for 30 minutes

Friday evening 6pm – 12am routine will be;
6pm open prayer for 30 minutes
Except Good Friday, which starts with a Service of worship at 6pm
When the prayer space is open we will require two people to sign up to be there as stewards.

**The dates we have so far are:
Wednesday 28 February
Friday 29 March Good Friday
Wednesday 24 April
Friday 31 May**

To find out more speak to Carrie Duthie, Nancy Thomson or Malcolm

Finance & Giving

The 2023 accounts will soon go to the accountants for examination and approval. After this, they need to be approved by members of the Kirk Session, who as elders, are our Trustees. I can provide here the headline figures for 2023, bearing in mind that minor changes might still be required.

Our total income for 2023 of £203k, indicates an increase of 31% on the figure for 2022. This is very encouraging given the current economic climate and we must be grateful for several large donations over the year. On a similar positive note, our costs and expenditure have reduced by 10% on the previous year. It must be said that the ministry leaders have been encouraged to limit expenditure as much as possible over the year and this is reflected in the figures. At the start of 2024, the total funds of the church are just over £104k.

Once the accounts are submitted to the Church of Scotland, I will hand over the responsibility of Treasurer to Les Ritchie. Les has a financial background and is very competent with IT, both skills which are needed in the role. For the time being, I will continue to bring any financial information or concerns to the Kirk Session.

I can confirm that a Stated Annual Meeting is being planned and will be held in late Spring. This meeting will be where the 2023 accounts are presented to the congregation but possibly more importantly, will provide an opportunity for ministry leaders to share news of their areas of responsibility so that the congregation are able to see how our Vision is being realised and where we can focus our prayers.

Yvonne Elliot
Treasurer



First Tuesday Friends

The first Tuesday of each month from 2-3.30pm.

5 March; 2 April;

Come and meet old friends and new.
Tea, coffee, biscuits and chat.

All welcome

SOUL RESTORE

Counselling Year 3

Our Vision remains rooted in Psalm 23, to ask The Lord into the heart of the Ministry as our Good Shepherd. The Ministry sets out to 'Heal the broken-hearted and set the captives free' (Isaiah 61vs1), by building relationship with clients through counselling and a path towards healing.

Soul Restore Counselling is your Ministry, an outreach to all the community, resourced by St Andrews Leckie congregation, in prayer, money, and volunteers. Look at what is happening at the end of Year 3

- In year 3 there were 538 Counselling sessions, a rise of 42% from year 2
- There are 6 counsellors in the team, up from 3 last year
- However there is a Waiting List with the average wait being 3 months due to capacity, many are desperate to be seen sooner
- 13% of the clients are between 12 and 25 years of age, and we hope to expand this service if resources become available

We rely on you to spread the word! The best form of marketing has been the flyer that can be picked up from the dispenser at the church gate. The Community Café has also seen clients become aware of the service. If you know of someone struggling emotionally, or if you are, pick up a leaflet or go to our website www.soulrestore.co.uk

We have counselling rooms at the County Buildings, Rosetta Road Peebles, where we have disabled access, a side entrance, and parking.

We rely on donations to continue. Some of those come from clients present and past. Also members of the congregation chose to support this Ministry, either by letting the treasurer know that this is where some of their giving should be allocated, or setting up a new gift. Last year there was a shortfall between donations and expenditure, this amounted to £11,304. Currently that is taken from Church funds, which will continue for 2024. We can't look any further than that, we do trust in God's provision.

We are very grateful for the support our church family gives to enable Counselling to be a part of our Vision for Restoration.

Thank you for supporting Soul Restore Counselling Ministry; we are here for you and all who want to explore what's happening in their lives through counselling, anyone can self refer: *(See contact information on next page)*

Rooms 2&3 County Buildings, Rosetta Road Peebles
Email: info@soulrestore.co.uk
Website: <https://soulrestore.co.uk>
Telephone: 01721 400616
Open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays.

Giving: St Andrews Leckie Parish Sort code: 83-26-09
Account 00621179 Reference: Counselling

Contact us to talk about coming for an
initial Appointment.

New ways to give.

You may have noticed that we now have a couple of little white devices appearing round the church. These devices allow people to give donations using credit/debit cards, Apple or Google pay. If you don't have cash on you, and want to make a gift, donate towards coffee after church or pay for your Crossreach Christmas cards, you can now use a card. Simply enter the amount, click the charge button and present your contactless payment method. There is a small charge (1.6%) for using this machine



Church Office Opening Hours

Closed
Mondays and Fridays

Open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings.
9.30am - 12 noon



Peebles and District Christian Aid Committee has begun planning for Christian Aid Week 12 – 18 May 2024. We will be having our usual fundraising activities . There will be a house-to-house fundraiser starting on **Sunday**, coffee mornings on **Thursday, Friday and Saturday**, plus the ever popular plant stall on **Saturday**. Other activities may be added as our planning progresses Last year we raised £8,668 and it would be wonderful if we could match that figure this year. But we need your help! Here are some advance requests for volunteers.

The plant stall on **May 18** may seem a long time away, but we should be planning for it now. I know it has maybe not been the weather for gardening but we can still think about which plants can be divided in the spring, or sowing seeds if we have the space indoors. We will be relying on home grown cuttings and seedlings, so would like as many as possible to be donated. Please contact John Hutchinson for more information on 720885, 07914 724552 or at jhutchinson0444@btinternet.com.

Last year we covered the whole town with the house- to-house fundraiser, and we would hope to do this again this year. Volunteers are needed to distribute the envelopes. It is not a difficult task. We deliver the envelopes but don't need to collect them again as people are asked to drop the filled envelopes at their nearest collection point. The fundraiser brings in over half of our total during the week, so if you could help with this important task, please contact Fiona Lumb on 07872 838764 or at fiona.lumb@icloud.com.

If you feel you could help in any way with these tasks, we would be most grateful, not to mention the gratitude of the needy people our donations go to support. For more information contact Nancy Hutchinson on 720885, 07512 859861 or at nancy.hutchinson@btinternet.com.

Laura Cassidy gives us an update on Sunday Club activities

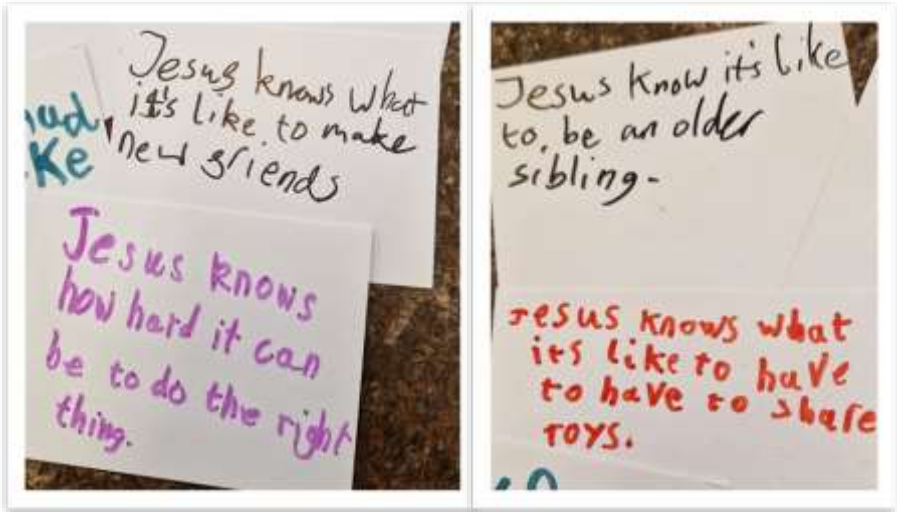
Sunday Club t-shirts!

Bob Harrison made a very kind donation to Sunday Club, in honour of our much loved and missed Sunday Club leader Elizabeth, on what would have been her 70th birthday. We were able to get t-shirts for all the Sunday Club leaders and children. We are all very pleased with these and are very thankful to Bob for thinking of us. We hope the t-shirts will help the leaders be more visible to any visiting families and help the children to know a deeper sense of belonging to our church family.



This Term in Sunday Club

Since we returned in January, we have been thinking about Jesus's early life. Fresh from thinking about Jesus's miraculous birth at our Nativity and Christmas services, we began by learning about Jesus's childhood, and what we know about his early life. The children realised that Jesus would have had many of the same experiences as them – being an older sibling, family squabbles, having to move to a new country and make new friends, going to school and learning to read and knowing it can be hard to do the right thing (although unlike us, He always did!) We found it amazing to know that Jesus, who is God, did all the same sorts of things as us and knows just how hard it can be at times too.



After this we learned about John the Baptist, and how he pointed people to Jesus as the Messiah. We thought about how we too can point people to Jesus, and how we should share the very good news with everyone! As we were thinking about John the Baptist, we had cakes for snack with honey and locusts in them. They were very tasty! (Well, okay, they were chocolate drops, but we used our imaginations!)



We then learned about Jesus's own baptism. By the amazing timing of God, this session coincided with the service when 5 of our young people made their profession of faith in church. This meant that the children were able to think about Jesus's own baptism, and how this was Jesus saying "yes" to God, before beginning His ministry, and how our young people were themselves saying "yes" to following Jesus in their profession of faith. We were delighted to be able to all go back in to be part of this very special service. All the Sunday Club were very happy for Millie, Grace, Belinda, Samuel and Reuben.

The following week we learned about Jesus's time in the wilderness being tempted by the Devil. We thought about how Jesus used His knowledge of scripture to help resist the Devil, and how we can do the same in our lives today. The children made bread rolls with a hidden Bible verse written inside: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God' (Matthew 4:4)

We continue each week to have special prayer time in the vestry prayer space, and it is wonderful to hear from the prayer leaders that our children are growing in confidence in how to pray. I am very thankful to the prayer leaders for supporting our children in this vital way. To coincide with our wilderness theme, we also had one week praying in a tent, which was unexpectedly exciting!



We then moved on to think about how Jesus chose His disciples, and what it means for us to be a disciple of Jesus. We thought about other people in our life that we might 'follow' and what this means - for example, the children said of a famous footballer that they "try to be as good as them", or a YouTuber they would "tell our friends all about them", or a teacher they "try to do as they ask us to do". And it means the same for us to follow Jesus! We try to be as good as Him in all we do, we tell our friends all about

Him and we try to do as He asks us to! But Jesus is way better than a footballer, YouTuber, or teacher, for He is the Lord! The children had a chance to respond in prayer time with Nancy, where they made footprints, and by making headbands and boats with messages on them.



We are now excited to be moving on to think about Jesus's Sermon on the Mount, Jesus's teaching on salvation, and teaching on faithfulness, and then onto the glorious Easter story. We'd love prayer for our children in all of this! Thank you.

I'm very thankful to our wonderful Sunday Club team of Bill, Mary, Margaret, Patsy, Andy, Kate and Loida, and our prayer leaders Una, Nancy, Carrie, and Wilma. We are also delighted that John Brash will join us soon as another prayer leader. If anyone is interested in being part of either the Sunday Club or the Prayer Leader team, please do speak to me at any time! It is such a joy and a privilege to share Jesus with our children.

St. Andrews Leckie Church Easter Holiday club **Monsters Stink!**

**Tues 2nd - Friday 5th April 2024 10-12pm
For P1 to P6**

Suggested voluntary donation £10 per child for the 4 days. Please look for the adverts on our social media pages or email sarah@standrewsleckie.co.uk for a link to sign up!

The holiday club includes: songs, games, crafts, snack, bible story, prayers
Exploring themes of being lost, loneliness, disobedience
and bullying from a Christian perspective.

God has gifted me with the ability to write poetry of all kinds, but I'd like to tell you how I began writing special poems for Easter every year.

I give all the glory to God and Jesus, my Saviour and the prompting and inspiration which comes from the Holy Spirit on 15 April, 1990.

Rev . Jim Wallace, our minister at the time, introduced an Easter walk to the top of the Sware. On Easter morning , we would leave the Church at 8am and arrive at

the Sware where we would sing, pray and read God's word and rejoice that Jesus had risen , then we would go back to the Church Hall to share breakfast and join the rest of the Congregation for the Easter morning service.

I don't remember the exact date, but I think it was possibly 2003 when I started to write a poem which was read up at the Sware, and so I felt this year, after praying about it, that it would be nice to share with everyone about how it all began.

Easter Day 2024

Lord Jesus, our Saviour and our friend
we read the Easter story again about your life coming to an end.
Riding on a donkey into Jerusalem you came,
The crowds threw down palm branches and
called out your name.
With your disciples you shared a last meal.
We wonder what was in their thoughts
and what did they actually feel.
In the Garden of Gethsemane, you knelt down to pray
'Not my will be done, Father, but Yours' you say
Then, on a hill far away,
the cross was there on that awful day
with nails in your hands and feet
a crown of thorns upon your head
They nailed you on the cross.
In agony you hung there until you were dead
You were taken down and laid in a borrowed tomb
and all around there was crying, sadness and gloom.
ON THE THIRD DAY, the stone blocking the grave was rolled away
The tomb was now empty, where your body had lay.
Rejoicing was coming, no more dread.
Jesus, you had risen, you were no longer dead
And that is why we all gather here today, so we can say
thank you Jesus, You're alive and it's Easter Day
Wilma Barrett

Returning are worship leaders *Allan McKinlay, Fiona Crow, and Steph Macleod*, along with Origin's band, choir and orchestra. Our speaker this year is *Kenny Borthwick*.

www.originscotland.org

RESURRECTION

celebrate the **greatest** event in history

sunday 31st march

7.30pm

usher hall edinburgh

Free (suggested donation)

tickets available from www.originscotland.org

or call 0131 541 0117

C racking the problem of time...

We have all felt that nagging pressure of feeling torn between wanting to do *something*, but worrying that we just don't have the time; an issue that I have been aware of over the years, especially when there are requests for help from our church family. Acts 20:35 reminds us about helping others, especially the "weak" but, we all have a finite amount of time, and nobody wants to commit only to have to withdraw later.

Happily, I was asked last year, by a friend who works for the Peebles Youth Trust, to become a mentor. This programme matches mentors with P6 children who have been identified by their parents or teachers as needing some additional support for the transition from primary to secondary school and I have been extremely lucky to be matched with a very funny, feisty boy of 11 who lives locally with his widowed mother and older siblings. We spend a few hours together, just once a month, getting to know each other, having fun and setting small achievable goals that help him see strengths that he couldn't see in himself before. Sometimes we go for a walk, go out on our bikes or at our last meeting, we went to watch the last "Mighty Deer Stalker" race start and eat some pizza! Our first agreed goal was for him to cycle to school and back once a week to improve his fitness, to get him used to his new bike but mainly to give his Mum a break from driving and picking him up every day. This feels like a very small task, but by completing this every week for a month he learned that he could set and achieve goals and I could see how pleased he was to tell me he had done it. In October we baked pumpkin cupcakes to give to his family and he told me this was the first time he had cracked an egg, again such a small thing but something worth learning and, when he starts cooking classes at High School, he'll hopefully have more confidence in front of his classmates. Inspired by his successes, our current goal is for him to do the dishes on a Sunday for the next month and, if he achieves it, we will go and see the new Godzilla film as a reward (his choice- not mine!) The point is, the small things matter and by building on little steps, we are going on a journey together - he is building self-confidence and belief while helping his busy mum, and I feel

I have found a way to serve both our local children but also our heavenly Father.

The American Admiral William McRaven famously said “If you want to change the world, start by making your bed” so perhaps, if we want to make a positive change and show God’s grace then we need to value the smallest of acts, accept that we are all called in different ways and in different measures, and truly ask God to show us where He wants us to be. Some of us will be called to ministries, eldership or beyond, but equally some of us can start by simply teaching a young lad how to crack an egg and using even the smallest amounts of time serving, in the faith that God will bless every action.

There are many local families in need for many different reasons, mentors are asked to see their matches from P6 through to the end of S1 and any expenses are fully reimbursed by the PYT, so if you have (literally) even a couple of hours to spare once a month and would like to find out more, please contact Glyn on mentors@peebleshieryouthtrust.org. In the meantime, please pray for the leaders of the Peebles Youth Trust and all our local youth groups, for ongoing strength and funding for their work and for the children and families who benefit so much from these organisations.

Magi Hunter



FLOWER ARRANGER'S PRAYER *May God grant that our hearts Our eyes and our hands may Receive this inspiration Enabling us to glorify His house with the beauty Of the leaves and blossoms Which he has created.*

The Flower Calendar for 2024 is now available in the west side of the vestibule.

If you would like to donate flowers, please add your name to the calendar.

The café team are delighted with the success of our weekly café for the community. This started as an outreach opportunity and it is certainly reaching out to many in our community who appreciate the good food and welcoming company. It's a joy to see the hall filled with faces known and new to us, enjoying each other's company.

We are very grateful to all our kitchen helpers, food makers and servers. To keep this successful venture going it isn't good to be constantly relying on the same people, so once again we ask you to consider if this is something that appeals to your sense of the gifts God has given you; hospitality, friendliness, openness to others, cooking.

**St Andrew's
Leckie Church**

**CAFE FOR THE
COMMUNITY**

**ABOUT OUR
CAFE**
Homemade food and
snacks, or just a chat
and a coffee.

Come and join us, all
ages welcome.

**EVERY WEDNESDAY
3:30PM - 5:30PM**

Free

Contact maggie@standrewsleckie.co.uk for more information about our job descriptions and recruitment process.

Current helpers: please sign up on the rota on Churchsuite a few weeks in advance if possible, as this reduces the need for last minute organisation, thanks. Any of the café team can be contacted to put your name on the rota.

Marmalade,

Thanks to all who made a contribution for the Marmalade on the table at coffee time. The sum raised to support Youth Ministry in the church was £47.20.

Helen Fox

**Nancy Thomson,
Susan Hotchkiss
Maggie Henderson**

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves in whom we have redemption , the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1: 13-14)
(New International Version)

**N.B. The next issue (440) will be May-July 2024
The deadline for items will be Tuesday 16 April 2024**

All items for inclusion should be submitted to the church office by that date.

CONTACTING THE CHURCH OFFICE

email: office@standrewsleckie.co.uk

Tel: 01721 723121

All correspondence relating to church matters should be sent to the Church, Eastgate, Peebles EH45 8AD

If you would like to receive a copy of PSALM by e-mail, please contact Heather in the Church Office.

It's 24/7

It's Global

It's

standrewsleckie.co.uk

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