

METHVEN MESSENGER



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OCTOBER 2017

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Welcome to the METHVEN MESSENGER

Welcome to the second edition of the **Methven Messenger**, a community magazine which aims to bring good news to the people of the village. The magazine is produced by **Good News Perthshire** and is distributed to homes throughout Methven.

Good News Perthshire was set up in early 2017 by some Christians from **Perth Gospel Hall** (which is home to an independent, evangelical church on Huntingtower Road, Perth). You can find out more about Perth Gospel Hall at www.perthgospelhall.com.

The simple aim of Good News Perthshire is to share the life-changing **Gospel of Jesus Christ** with the people of the district.

In this edition of the **Methven Messenger** you'll find the interesting story of a local lady, **Audrey Ferguson**, and a frequently asked **question** about Christianity answered. We've also got a simple, but delicious, **recipe** for you to try, and another special **FREE giveaway** for you to claim (check out the back page for details!)

We'd really love to get your **feedback** on the **Methven Messenger**, so please get in touch with any thoughts you have on the content, or anything you'd like to see in future editions.

We'll be back with the next edition in the lead-up to **Christmas**, but in the meantime keep an eye on our **website** for all the latest news!



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GOOD NEWS EVERYWHERE!



Since our time in **Methven** with the **Good News Hall** back in early **June**, we've been busy taking the good news of Jesus Christ to other parts of **Perthshire**.

Over the summer we've had our **Good News Trailer** at various events including Pitlochry Gala Day, Perth Show, Kinross Show, Perth Alive, and the North Perth Community Gala.

We've also been in **Perth High Street** on several occasions distributing free bags, pens and literature and speaking to shoppers. The next time you see us there, please come and say hello!

During **September** we conducted a special series of public talks in the village of **Comrie**. The theme of the talks was 'Christianity Under the

Microscope'. We looked at the answers Christianity provides to some of the big questions of life, such as; '*Does God really exist?*', '*What's gone wrong with the world?*' and '*Is there life after death?*' Some people even travelled through from Methven to attend these sessions each week!

In the coming months we have plenty of other activities planned. Later this month we hope to start using our Good News Trailer as a **soup kitchen** for the benefit of the **homeless community** in Perth.

Check out our **website** and follow us on **Facebook** for all the latest information.

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THE BIG QUESTION...

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE BIBLE?

The Bible is the world's **best selling** book, with an estimated **4 billion** copies sold in the last 50 years. Why is it so popular? Let's look at two reasons.

IT'S RELIABLE



The Bible is a unique collection of **66** individual books, penned by more than **40** different writers, in **3** different languages, over a period of around **1,500** years. Many of the writers lived at different times and in different countries, yet amazingly the 66 books fit together perfectly without contradiction.

The reason for this is that while there were over 40 writers, there was really only **one author** behind it all, **God Himself**.

We can have confidence that the Bible is the true **Word of God** because many of its **prophecies** have already been fulfilled. Here are a few examples:

- Jesus would be born in Bethlehem (*Micah 5 - 700BC*).
- He would be brought up in Nazareth (*Isaiah 11 - 700BC*).
- He would be betrayed (*Psalms 41 - 1000BC*), for 30 pieces of silver (*Zechariah 11 - 520BC*).
- He would be crucified (*Zechariah 12 - 520BC*) before rising from the dead (*Psalms 16 - 1000BC*).

While we struggle to predict tomorrow's weather, the Bible accurately predicts events hundreds of years in the future. **This is a unique book!**

IT'S RELEVANT

The Bible is not a dry, dusty old book as some would suggest. Rather, it is God's unchanging message to mankind. It's the **Creator's handbook** for life on earth, containing instructions for living and directions to Heaven. It tells us where we came from, why we're here and where we're going next!

The Bible explains to us the **problem** of sin which separates us from God and prohibits us from entering Heaven. Its main purpose though is to tell us of the **remedy**. How God sent His only Son, **Jesus Christ**, to be the Saviour of the world. It explains how through **faith** in Him we can receive **forgiveness** and enter into a relationship with God which leads ultimately to a home in **Heaven**.

The Bible may not look too exciting on the outside, but what's inside is truly **life-changing**! Pick it up, have a read, and see for yourself!



If you'd like a **FREE** copy of the Bible, please get in touch today (contact details on back page).

AUDREY'S NEW LEASE OF LIFE...

Audrey Ferguson has lived in Methven for over **15 years** now, and is probably one of the few people in the village who can say that their life has been the subject of a **book!**



Growing up in **Perth** with her parents (who also now live in Methven) and her 4 sisters, Audrey remembers having a fun childhood. She said; *"Being the youngest of five girls, home life was seldom quiet - there were frequent fights over the hair-dryer!"*

It was as a young girl that Audrey made a decision that would impact the rest of her life. She explains; *"I grew up surrounded by committed Christians, but I was not one myself. At the age of eight I made a personal decision to put my trust in Jesus Christ and accept Him as my Saviour. Without Him I wouldn't have been able to cope with the challenges life has brought since."*

For many years after that Audrey was extremely active in helping to run Perth Gospel Hall Sunday School, and in organising Tayside Christian Youth Camps, amongst other things, alongside her childhood sweetheart **Adrian**, whom she married in **1994**.

However in **1997** Audrey was diagnosed with an extremely rare lung condition; **LAM** or lymphangioleiomyomatosis, which significantly impacted her health.

Audrey said, *"I tried not to let it affect me too much, but I obviously had to adapt my lifestyle."* After several years of having to carry an oxygen cylinder everywhere, she eventually received a life-saving lung transplant, in **August 2008**, after eight false alarms.

Following surgery Audrey lay in **intensive care** for almost a month. Reflecting on the experience she said, *"The operation itself went well but there were a lot of complications. The new lung just didn't work and for the first 24 hours it looked as if I wouldn't pull through. But amazingly the lung did start to work after a second investigatory operation. The surgeon had all but given up hope. As a Christian I believe it was a miracle, a real answer to prayer."*



Now **nine years** on, Audrey is actively engaged in many of the things she enjoyed before. Looking back she said, *"I see this as a gift from God. My faith has been the bedrock of my life. I still cannot understand how or why people live without God."*

Audrey's husband, Adrian, recounts their journey in a book called '**Kept, Safely Kept**' which was published in **2011**. The **Methven Messenger** has some copies to give away this month (see **back page to claim yours today!**)



A SACRIFICE WORTH REMEMBERING

In 1920 a memorial was erected in **Methven**, bearing the names of **52** local men who lost their lives in **WW1**.

Just a few miles away in the tiny village of **Harrietfield** is another memorial displaying the names of **19** men who died in **WW1** and a further **5** who died in **WW2**.



These men, along with many hundreds of thousands of others, courageously laid down their lives on the battlefield for the sake of King and Country. As the inscription on the memorial in Harrietfield says; *'They gave their lives that others might live. They gave their today for our tomorrow.'* Their **sacrifice** secured our **freedom** and **future**. For this we are, of course, all extremely grateful.

Each year on the **11th November** we rightly salute their sacrifice. Often the words of **Robert Laurence Binyon's** poem, *'For the Fallen'*, are quoted.



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

The Bible says that the sacrifice of one's life for the sake of others is the ultimate demonstration of **love**. Jesus said *"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."* (John 15:13).

However, Jesus Himself would go on to display an even more **incredible love** than that, when He voluntarily laid down His life upon the **cross**. On the cross He took the **punishment** which each one of us deserved as a consequence of breaking **God's laws**.

Through His **suffering** and **sacrifice** the Lord Jesus Christ has provided **forgiveness** and **freedom** from sin and a **future** in Heaven for all those who will put their **trust** in Him.



Sadly **very few** people today remember the **greatest sacrifice** that ever was made when *"Christ died for our sins"* (1 Corinthians 15:3).

Have you ever considered how much Jesus must **love** you to have been willing to **die** for you?

The Apostle Paul once wrote concerning Christ's sacrifice: *"The Son of God...loved me and gave Himself for me"* (Galatians 2:20).

It was very **personal** to him. What does it all mean to **you** today?

KITCHEN CORNER...

The ladies from Perth Gospel Hall share some of their favourite recipes...



Marjory's Mouthwatering Rocky Road

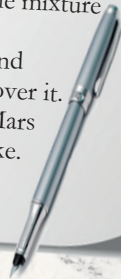
INGREDIENTS

125g butter
150g milk chocolate
75g syrup
225g digestive biscuits
100g sultanas
100g mini malloWS



INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Melt the butter, syrup and chocolate together in a pan.
- 2) Remove it from the heat and add the broken digestive biscuits, malloWS and sultanas.
- 3) Mix it well and then press the mixture into a lined tin.
- 4) Add more malloWS on top and drizzle extra melted chocolate over it.
- 5) You can also add chopped Mars Bar or pieces of Fudge if you like.
- 6) Leave it to set.
- 7) Try not to eat it all at once!



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW PERTHSHIRE?

Identify these six places from around Perthshire and email your answers, along with your name and contact details, to info@goodnewspertshire.com to win a prize...

1



2



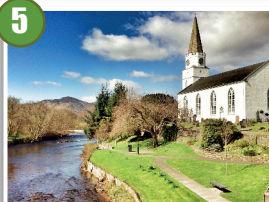
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4



5



6



FREE BOOK OFFER...

**DON'T MISS
OUT!**

KEPT, SAFELY KEPT



BY ADRIAN FERGUSON

Kept, Safely Kept

by Adrian Ferguson

This book traces the emotional roller-coaster of **Audrey Ferguson's** life (*see page 5*) and how, through their faith in God, she and her husband **Adrian**, who live in **Methven**, have overcome many difficulties.

If you would like a **FREE** copy of this gripping, best-selling book please get in touch today using the contact details at the bottom of the page.

COME AND MEET US!



Perth Gospel Hall
Huntingtower Road
Perth, PH1 2LH

We give you a very warm welcome to visit us at **Perth Gospel Hall** where we're based.

Gospel Family Service: 12.30 to 1.15pm every Sunday (*Refreshments served from 12.10pm*)

Sunday School & Teenage Bible Classes: 2.30 to 3.30pm every Sunday (*For 4 to 18 year olds. Free transport available from Methven*)

Little Treasures Toddlers' Group: 9.30 to 11am every Thursday (*For 0-3 year olds. Free of charge*)

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