



# IN THE LOOP

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**AT A & D THIS SUNDAY**  
**ABIDING**  
**JOHN 15**

**COME JOIN US!**

## This Sunday.....

We are so grateful to Melville, Iain and Charles for their teaching and service over the summer. Many of us have visited fellowships elsewhere while on holiday, or been at SU camp, or events such as the Keswick Convention or Magnitude. We have much to share with each other!

Now as we gather at the end of the school holidays with all sorts of things kicking off for a new session, we have Calum back with us. He'll be leading this Sunday on a passage that both encourages and challenges us.

We'll be thinking about John 15 where Jesus gives wonderful picture of himself as the true vine and his Father as the gardener who nurtures and tends to it. And it all holds the challenge to remain or abide in Jesus.

Let's pray for ourselves and each other that we may enter a new season of growth as a church and deepening of our personal faith.

### IT WAS GREAT BUT IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK

We had a fantastic time at Peekskill Presbyterian Church meeting new people. It was a privilege to lead Sunday worship and in particular to conduct a service for a former long-standing member of the church. We were warmly welcomed and enjoyed the American hospitality. We also took the opportunity to catch up with old friends. We met Casey Carbone in Beacon and also visited Irvington to celebrate Calum's birthday. As well as that we had the opportunity of visiting a new place for us Larchmont New York, where we met Peter Bynum, who is the pastor there. Every member of the Stark family had a fantastic time, playing pickle ball, utilising the very close by running track and visiting Maine and NYC. We feel fully refreshed and have benefited from the break and are now pleased to be home and looking forward to the new term ahead.





**IT'S BACK!**

**NEXT  
SUNDAY**

**SUPER SUNDAY  
AT THE FARM!  
17<sup>TH</sup> AUG 2-4PM**

**A BIG CHURCH FAMILY**

**DAY OUT**

FOR MORE DETAILS SEE  
CHURCH NOTICES

**A+D**

Strathaven

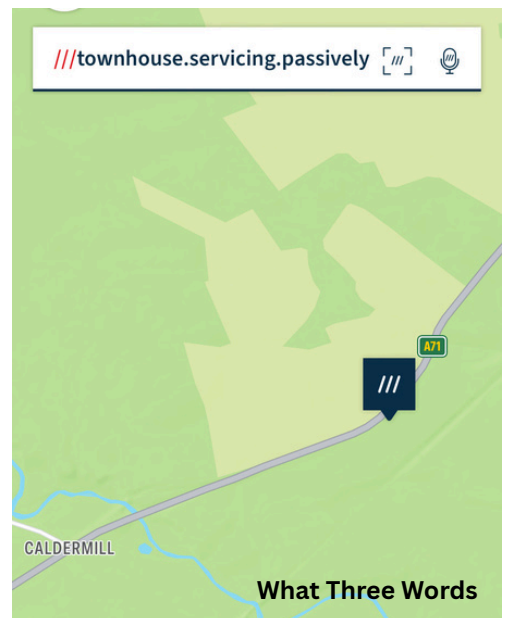


**Get ready for the big kick off event next week!**

Yes there's just week to go before our annual 'Big Day'. There will be food, BBQ, Inflatable toys, fellowship and fun for *ALL THE CHURCH FAMILY* their friends. It's an invitation event, one for us to ask friends and family to share in our friendship. So please consider who you might ask, and do your best to be there yourself.

**Laigh Crewburn Farm (on the A71 before Caldermill)**

**Need a lift?** Please hit reply to this email and leave your name and phone number and we'll get one arranged.



# closing date for our community engagement worker next week

We are very excited about this new post designed to support our engagement with our community and in particular our work in Sandford and Gilmourton Primary schools. Closing date for applications is a week on Monday (18<sup>th</sup> August). If you know of someone who may be interested in this post please pass on this link which will take you to the relevant page on our website. [LINK](#) to community engagement post

**Please also pray** for the selection group as they work through this very important decision. Pray that it may be filled quickly, though the team will wait for the right candidate. We'll keep you posted

## Work With Us

Come and join our team here at Avendale & Drumclog!



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKER

Avendale and Drumclog Church is a growing, lively, church family, with a vision to more fully support the rural communities around Strathaven. We are seeking to recruit a passionate and enthusiastic person to lead an innovative and exciting partnership project based largely in two local schools over the next three years.

This person will act in a support capacity, including the delivery of lunch and after school clubs with faith-based options, engaging with pupils, teachers and parents. The successful candidate will also be part of the Youth and Family team at Avendale and Drumclog, acting as a bridge between church and community.

Experience working with children and young people either in a school, teaching, support role, or in some other relevant setting would be an advantage.

Salary: £14,000-16,000

Contract: Part Time, 18 hours per week

For further details and to apply, please email the Session Clerk at: [a\\_dcofs@outlook.com](mailto:a_dcofs@outlook.com)

Closing date for applications is **Monday 18th August 2025**.

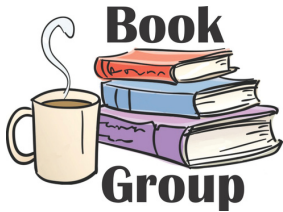


# COMING SOON



[Click here to see the church diary](#)

Just a few reminders and things for your diary



**September 23rd.** - See details elsewhere in this edition of the *Loop* about this Summer's read - *A knock at the Door*



**Drumclog Tots** has been meeting all summer and continues every Wednesday at 10am. **Bugglets** also continues to meet on a Monday at Avendale 10am.



**8 and 9 November.** Our postponed Mark Drama is planned for the beginning of November. At this point we still need 2 female cast members to get the project going. Please speak to Murray or Calum about this.



**Restarting This Autumn** Sunday evening sessions exploring worship and deepening our faith.



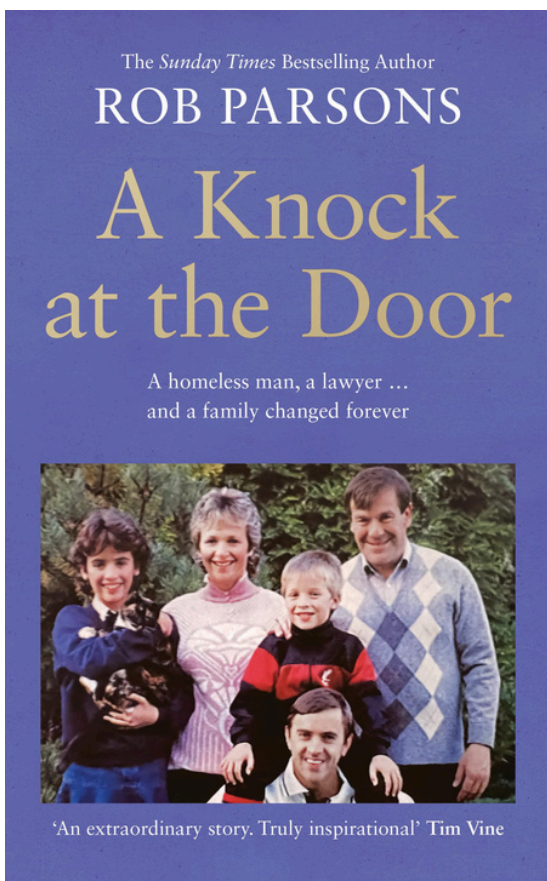
The separate **Men's Connect** and **Women's Connect** Groups which are designed for young men and women in the church will be meeting again over the next few months. Keep your eyes peeled in the weekly notices and *In the Loop* for details of the respective groups. .



**Next date 7th September 4-6pm** Do tell families you know and invite them to our ever popular monthly all age Messy Church.



# Book Group



The Church's summer read was this fantastic book by director of Care for the Family, Rob Parsons.

The narrative begins in 1975, when young lawyer, Rob and his wife, Dianne, open their door to find Ronnie Lockwood, a homeless man with a bag of belongings and a frozen chicken. What starts as a simple act of kindness, offering Ronnie a meal and shelter for the night evolves into an extraordinary journey of shared lives and enduring friendship as Ronnie stayed and was integrated into their family for the next 40 years!

The book highlights the remarkable turnarounds in both their lives: Ronnie, with the support of the Parsons, finds fulfillment and direction in life. Simultaneously, Rob leaves his law practice to establish Care for the Family, a charity driven by Christian compassion that strengthens family life and offers support to those facing difficulties.

This book explains the trials, turmoils, joys and challenges they faced with humour and compassion.

"A Knock at the Door" is a testament to the idea that love and acceptance can enable individuals who may be marginalized by society to flourish and contribute meaningfully. It emphasizes the importance of community and the profound impact of extending kindness to others, demonstrating that tomorrow doesn't always have to be like yesterday, regardless of your background or circumstances. A challenge and an encouragement to us all as Christians.

The date for the discussion and reflection on this book is **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7pm** - in the meantime speak to Alison Muntz if you've yet to read it and want to buy or borrow a copy.

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## Prayer

TIME TO CONSIDER?



Remember the prayer times before the services each week and do seek out the prayer team both at Drumclog or under the gallery to the right of the chancel (looking at it) if you would like someone to pray either with you, or for you, after the service at Avendale.

## DONT FORGET THE OTHER WEEKLY PRAYER TIMES

**Mondays - 12pm** Immediately after Haven

**Wednesdays. 8-9pm** online zoom prayer time - contact Hugh for details





Recording the new jingle

## BALLOON FESTIVAL WEEKEND. 22-24 AUGUST

We keep plugging the Crossbeats radio show - and unashamedly ask you to do the same.

This has been a fantastic opportunity for the church to partner with a dynamic local project and the show and the team have been integrated into the Avondale Radio family since it's launch 3 years ago.

Every week we get the chance to showcase good contemporary Christian music and discuss the meaning behind the songs we play.

At this years Balloon Festival (22-24 August) Calum and Liz will be helping around the Avondale Radio stall on Sunday afternoon - and likely being interviewed live on air at the same time.

Please listen in to current and old shows on the Avondale Radio Website and engage your friends in another aspect of our lively activities in A and D.

The main live Crossbeats show is on Sundays 9-10 am preceded by an hour of uninterrupted music from our library.

Spread the word - tune in on Sundays at 9 am by Clicking [HERE](#)

Or listen again to any shows you've missed by clicking [HERE](#) and searching CROSSBEATS



## Take Time this Sunday

Join us on Sunday 10th August at 7.30pm in Avendale sanctuary for our next led Christian meditation.

**On Tuesday 19th August from 1.30 - 2.30pm**, Taketime Together will be held in the home of Margaret and Dan Miller, Crosshill Road, Strathaven. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact Sandi Allan.