

Letter from the Manse

I'm sure all of us have been deeply saddened, angered, and shocked by the invasion of Ukraine. The images of bombed buildings, fleeing families, and wrecked landscapes are yet another reminder of the destruction of modern warfare that still rages around our world.

Although we may feel helpless at times, there are plenty of ways by which we can do our bit to help the crisis in Ukraine. Each donation sent, sign of support shown, petition signed, family hosted and assistance given makes a difference.

One person can't change the world alone, but together we certainly can. And I'm sure we are all aware of the difference that needs to be made. Food and water are running out in the besieged cities. Children are being killed, others are going missing in the chaos of millions fleeing at once. Human traffickers' prey on the vulnerable who appear with nowhere safe to call home. Homes and communities are being destroyed.

Elie Wiesel, a holocaust survivor, says this;



"I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men or women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must--at that moment--become the centre of the universe."

As well as our practical support, one of the most important things we can do is to pray. Prayer can change the world through the Holy Spirit, and it can also move our hearts to greater compassion, generosity and love.

Doing our part to aid the crisis is indeed a fitting response to the monthly theme for March "Hear the call for Justice", as we considered the heart of the book of Micah. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8) If you are interested in finding out more about how you can help, whether through giving or perhaps by even hosting a refugee family, please do get in touch with me.

God bless,

Seòras

"Crucify him!" they shouted "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate
Mark 15: 13

*He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain....*

*⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.*

Isaiah 53 :3, 5



THE GREEN CORNER

from Avril Clark & the
ECO TEAM



Vegetarian Recipe

Lentil Lasagne (Economical and yummy!)

By Clare Jackson.

*Recently I entertained 2 young friends of Amy's. I offered to make mocktails and lasagne. Amy told me that both of her friends were vegetarian, so I replaced the usual 250g of mince with a tin of brown lentils. It was delicious. I think it's best to make the **white sauce first**.*

White Sauce - Ingredients

1 pint milk topped up to 600ml with water
60g butter
60g plain flour
Half onion with two cloves pressed in
One bay leaf

Method

In a suitable pan, bring milk/water mix to the boil with the onion/cloves/bay leaf.
Remove from the heat.
Meanwhile in a largish pan, melt butter and add flour.
Stir and cook over a low heat for a couple of minutes to make a roux.
Pour the milk, through a sieve, into the roux. Stir over a medium heat to thicken.
This should take no more than ten minutes.
Season with salt and pepper and nutmeg. Set aside.

*While you are stirring,
take time to give
thanks for everything
you have, learn a new
Bible verse, or pray!*

1 Thessalonians
5:16-18
Rejoice always,
pray continually,
give thanks in all
circumstances; for this
is God's will for you
in Christ Jesus.

Lasagne sauce - Ingredients

1 cup each of finely chopped onions; celery; turnip; carrot; few cloves of garlic
A tin of chopped tomatoes; A half tube of tomato puree
A cup of water; Teaspoon ground cinnamon
Tin of brown lentils (*I got mine in the recently renovated Mosstodloch convenience store.*)
Box of Lasagne sheets
(For the 'nose to tail' cooks - cabbage, kale, broccoli or cauli stalks can be used too!)

Method

Heat a really good slug of oil in a solid pan, add the chopped veg.
Soften over a medium heat for 10-20 minutes.
Add the chopped tomatoes, tomato puree, the cup of water and cinnamon. Simmer for half an hour.
Drain the lentils and stir them into the sauce.
Season with salt and pepper.
Set aside.

The next step, although not essential, is a game changer...separate an egg, stir the yolk into the white sauce and whisk the egg white, set aside.

I layer lasagne like this...

In a suitable dish, put a bit of red sauce then a bit of white sauce then pasta sheets and repeat.

It's not an exact science (sorry Sue Pianta-S!) but 2 or 3 layers of pasta is good.

Make sure to leave enough white sauce for the top. Gently fold the whisked egg white into the remaining white sauce and top the dish.

Grate a bit of hard cheese on top if you have or leave plain.

Put in a preheated oven for about 40 minutes at around 180 degrees, or longer at a lower temp.

Why not double up the lasagne sauce recipe and freeze any spare?!



PICNIC PILGRIMAGES

Over the summer months **the Eco Team** are organising “Picnic Pilgrimages”. It will be the **last Sunday of the month** over **May, June, July**, with August in reserve.

So the plan is after the Sharing service we will head off to the location for that month. We could share cars, but it does give the option for someone to make their own way. We will have our picnic and fellowship, then go on the “Pilgrimage” part of the outing to enjoy nature or other buildings of worship, before returning to Fochabers. In the event it is too wet on the day we will cancel and we could reschedule in August. If you are interested in taking part speak to anyone in the Eco team. More details nearer the time. **MAY – Burgie Arboretum; JUNE – Pluscarden Abbey, JULY – Cullen Parish and St Gregory’s Church at Preshome, Buckie.**

CONGREGATIONAL ECO CHALLENGE.

The following are some of the pledges that people are trying to do. Hopefully this will give some thoughts and ideas for others to try.

- * **Not to use cling film but replace this with reusable lids or wax wraps which can be wiped clean.** *
- * **Repair and darn jumpers or other clothing to extend the life of these items.** *
- * **One “veggie” day a week at least** *
- * **A pledge not to buy any new clothes but only buy from charity shops for the next year, (apart from underwear).** *
- * **To try and pick up at least one piece of litter on my daily dog walks.** *
- * **To save energy by filling a large flask of boiling water each morning and using it for making tea and coffee, hot drinks. Saves boiling the kettle every time.** *
- * **Learning portion control! Better recycling of waste.** *

So, what happens now, is you move onto another ‘Pledge’ and this will be for the time until the next Kirk News is published. (But keep going with the present pledge until it becomes a good habit!)

God is good! - All the time!

African ‘call’ & ‘response’

All the time! - God is good!

ANOTHER SORT OF PLEDGE

How can I help with the First Mark of Mission? – *Proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom*

One possible personal pledge:

*I will tell one person how much I enjoyed
a service/ church event/ Guild/ Life & Work / [Pyjama Prayers 😊]*

REFLECTING ON COP 26

Prof Tim Gorringe, Emeritus Professor of Theological Studies at University of Exeter, points to a deep truth when he reminds us that the ‘adam’ of the Creation Story was formed from the earth. “*Humans are PART of creation. They do not live in an environment but are indissolubly linked with every other part of creation.*

EVERYTHING IS RELATED TO EVERYTHING ELSE.

So this movement is not about saving the planet – this planet, to which we have given the name earth- will be here long after us. This movement is not about saving a way of life – for it is this way of life that is killing us.

This movement is about a transformation of our way of living – away from ‘me’ to ‘us’...

Extracts from *Life & Work* January & February

I WAS A TREE By Rev Hamish G Smith (92 years old!)

First appeared in January's *Life & Work* and used with permission.



*I was a tree in Galilee,
My green leaves grew abundantly,
There, birds did sing as they flew free.
And children laughed as they climbed on me.*

*Men cut me down and stripped me bare,
No sound of birdsong filled the air;
They made a rugged cross of me,
Carted me to a hill called Calvary.*

*Day by day men died on me,
They cursed the air, they even cursed me,
It was a dreadful place to be,
That evil hill called Calvary.*

*Men took me down from Calvary,
There a blood-stained man awaited me,
With his touch, I remembered I was a tree,
Together we stumbled toward Calvary.*

*They nailed that broken man to me,
A false Messiah they claimed was he,
A crown of thorns adorned his head.
'Father, forgive them,' were the words he said.*

*All day he hung there nailed to me,
A dying man for all to see,
He bowed his head and as he died,
A spear was thrust into his side.*

*They took us down, this man and me,
Friends bore him away from Calvary,
They left me there, as his blood dried,
A dying thief on either side.*

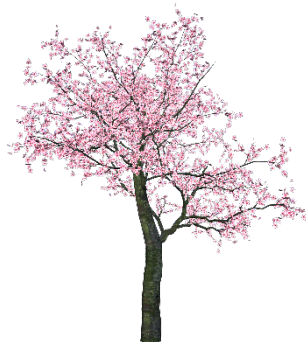
*Some three days on, the word was spread,
That he had risen from the dead,
I know it's true, it's plain to see,
Someone Divine was nailed to me.*

*I'm ashes now,
no more a tree,
Men made
a cruel cross of me,
But my Spirit cries
to the heavens above,
**'I'm now the sign
of the Saviour's love!'***



The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in **the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.** Galatians 2: 20

Thoughts of Spring poem was sent in by Ann Raffan,
along with this 'Thank You'



*I would like to say a huge 'Thank You'
to all of you who sent cards and flowers
after my recent operation*

*All your kind thoughts and prayers
were very much appreciated.*

Thank you! Ann

THOUGHTS OF SPRING

Cherry blossom on the ground
Falling gently without a sound

Apple blossom, clean and white
Like summer snow so fresh and bright

Oh! What a story our springtime tells
Of sights and sounds and flower smells

Oh! What a show our birds can see
No wonder they sing upon the tree

And when at last summer comes to stay
Spring has already had her say

And gives it up for summer's beauty
Knowing she has done her duty

For without spring what would summer be?
- Still a bud upon a tree.

Having been away from Bellie Church Family for a while, having had surgery, it was a joy to go back in January. The eyes that greeted me were wonderful – masks have made us really notice eyes – smiling eyes, welcoming eyes.

Seòras talked about our personalities being likened to a wolf or hedgehog and how we can communicate with each other. It made me think of the way in which we, as human beings, relate to each other and the importance of acknowledging our differences. (news of Russia and Ukraine on as I write!)



Imagine a wolf type person communicating with a hedgehog, who scared, had put itself into a protective ball. Not easy!

I think I'm more like a tiger, ready to protect my loved ones and at times have an energy that I think and feel is God given. And yet, tiger or not – I so value a hug, a touch of the hand on mine, a smile, a friendly wave.

I think many of us have felt the need for connection during these Covid times.

Having been diagnosed with cancer a few months ago has brought life into perspective and God has given me so many positive messages. Messages and prayers via the Pyjama Prayer Group have been truly felt.

I have also heard and felt His voice. I was in the waiting room in ARI a few weeks ago, waiting to be called in for a biopsy. I was nervous, cold and the place was full of anxiety emanating from me and three other ladies. I heard, so clearly, a man's voice, calm, caring. He said: 'Be still, for the presence of the Lord is with you.' I felt His presence.

The following Sunday, one of the hymns chosen by Seòras was: Be Still for the Presence of the Lord is with you. (the Holy One is here)

Three days later for our Pyjama Prayer Group, Margaret King suggested the very same hymn. Three times in one week???? Oh yes, I heard you, Lord!

By sharing my feelings and experience, I have found that there are so many women out there, who have had, or have breast cancer. I am certainly not unique! I have had some very caring conversations with our local ladies and some good advice for getting through this. John Mc also has had me smiling with positive stories. The support, encouragement and visits have been wonderful, not to mention my family, friends and neighbours.

I am now on my next part of the journey as chemotherapy starts. The journey will be a bit bumpy at times I know. I worked in oncology for four years as a psychotherapist.

So, I am going to take each day at a time, keep praying to have Jesus by my side through this. I have been told that I will probably lose my hair, so am on the lookout for a multicoloured Rastafarian wig!!

I so value the continued support from my church family. There were hugs given and received on the last Sunday before I started treatment. So important- the value of Hugs can't be emphasised too much.

The love and care flowing from person to another can often say more than any words. Hug and breathe and hug and breathe.

Let the friendship of the Holy Spirit in.



WEDNESDAY & PYJAMA PRAYER GROUP

We give thanks for the increasing number of people receiving a little ‘thought’ and some prayer ‘fuel’ by email and joining in the vital work of prayer for God’s Kingdom, the Church, the world and each other. We rejoice that a few of us are also meeting again in person in the Session Room at 8am for 30 mins, some of us less awake than others! We find joy, comfort and courage in **‘seeing’ the risen Lord in many lovely ‘God-incidences’ and answers to prayer.** I hope you can sense that in the letters of thanks and sharing from Ann R; Sue P-S and June T, all part of our Church Prayer Team. Please feel free to request prayer, just a first name or a sentence explaining a situation and we would be delighted to join you in praying for the Lord’s intervention or simply to hold someone in his presence – what we sometimes call a Shug – a Spiritual Hug 😊 As always, if you want to be included in the weekly email, or receive a paper copy just ask me.

Margaret 820937; margaretking889@gmail.com

PRAYING

Find a peaceful place
Break from life’s mad
race
Be alone with God

Think of thanks you owe
Say you love Him so
Speak alone to God

Tell the wrongs you’ve
done

Wait for grace to come
Hear the Word of God

Ask His help for you
Vow his will to do
Give your word to God

Speak of others too
Ask what you can do
Share the work with God

Say a quiet Amen
Thank the Lord again
Let His will be done.

Dan Taylor
1933-2013

“Have you ever thought of living in Fochabers?” The Voice spoke within me on a No 10 bus from Aberdeen to Elgin, when it stopped in the Square about 3 years ago. *“No!”* was my reply! But things began to change in my life. Apart from coping with the enormous loss of my wonderful husband, Dan, in 2013, I was finding it more difficult to do all the gardening and house care in my Lhanbryde home. The Voice was urging me... *“Time to move...”*

Having shared with my family, I applied to Hanover Housing in Fochabers, was allocated my great apartment at Milnescroft and moved in on 19th April 2021. Then a question to God my Father – *“What do I do about church? ...stay at SALU [St Andrew’s Lhanbryd & Urquhart] or move to Bellie?”* *“June, I’m moving you to Fochabers – that means Bellie!”* *“Thank you, Father!”*

What a joy! My first Sunday at Bellie Church was 25th April – The welcome, friendship, kindness and feeling part of a new family were outstanding. But the services of worship are even more than that! ... uplifting, inspiring, loving, totally inclusive, FUN as we enjoy God’s presence. Seòras’ sermons are always encouraging and relevant; I feel moved in the quiet prayer times and love the variety of music. Then of course, there are the children – each one so special! (I have thought of joining them jumping down the steps – but maybe not!)

My reason for writing this is to say an ENORMOUS **‘thank you’** to each and everyone of you for this new chapter in my life. **THANK YOU!** God is always with us watching over us and guiding us in so many ways. Keep listening!

June Taylor



VIGIL FOR UKRAINE

The vigil at 8pm on Sunday 13 March was a very moving evening, both from the number who came out to show their support in the Square (about 120), to the time of prayer in the church afterwards.

We have had about a dozen notices of interest in sponsoring Ukrainians fleeing the conflict, and over £1,620 was raised for the refugee appeal that Sunday (between the church services and the vigil). This will be doubled by match funding. Every piece of support makes a difference, and I am very proud of our church family doing exactly "what it says on the tin" - *"Reaching Out, Welcoming In"* in so many ways.

God bless, Seòras

Young Church (YC)



children 'sharing' some of their Lenten promises.

The children have recently enjoyed the story of "A bucketful of kindness" when kind actions demonstrate our love and care for one another. As a follow-up to this story, the scripture verses, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength' and "Love your neighbour as yourself" are now encouraging them to consider how we show this Love in action on a daily basis. Hearts were literally 'a-fluttering' during the making of our heart-shaped bunting!

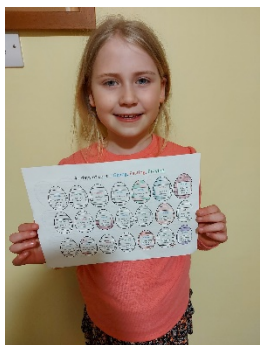
As restrictions continue to ease, we're grateful to see our youngsters engaging in YC sessions in a more interactive manner & are glad of the encouragement of Seòras & congregation on 'Sharing Sundays'.

Participating in the singing and actions of our YC chorus 'Welcome, everybody', enjoying the percussion accompaniment to a REAL experiment illustrating a particular Bible story, listening to a special prayer read by Aonghus on Daddy's (Henry Archibald) special day brings home the rich blessing of our church family. A heartfelt 'Thank you' to all.

The love within families, between friends and neighbours and church family, provides a natural (and sensitive) lead-in to the heart-breaking distress affecting our global neighbours. As we prepare to open our hearts and doors to many families fleeing the conflict in Ukraine, a kind-hearted lady is meantime knitting some blue and yellow heart 'comforters' to which the children will attach a personal prayer.



Discussing what the children miss when they are away from home is encouraging the youngsters to consider which of their toys/items may now be surplus to requirements and may bring comfort to others.



As we continue on our journey through Lent, the youngsters are enjoying their Easter Egg daily challenge of either Giving, Fasting or Praying. Discussing each daily intention within family groups is encouraging lots

of discussion and we look forward to the

Keep an eye on the outdoor Noticeboard during the two weeks leading up to Easter Sunday (The Garden, The Curtain and The Cross) plus a picture calendar to open each day. This "gift" to YC comes from Clare (Amy and Alice's Mum). So once again, YC feel very blessed by the kindness of Church Family.

Warm Easter Blessings to all!

From the Young Church Team



What do you call 10 rabbits marching backwards?

Answer: A receding hare – line [I know, I know – a bit of comedic licence, please! 😊]

Who is Easter Bunny's favourite actor?

Answer: Rabbit de Niro

I'M FINE, THANK YOU!

There is nothing the matter with me
I'm as healthy as can be.
I have arthritis in both my knees
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze,
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
Arch supports I have for my feet,
Or I wouldn't be able to go on the street.
Sleep is denied me night after night,
But every morning I find I'm all right,
My memory is failing, my head's in a spin
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral is this – as my tale I unfold,
That for you and me who are growing old,
It's better to say, "I'm fine" with a grin,
Than to let folks know the shape we're in.

How do I know that my youth is all spent?
Well my 'get up and go' has got up and went.
But I don't really mind when I think with a grin,
Of all the grand places 'my get up' has been.

Old age is golden, I've heard it said,
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed,
With my ears in the drawer, my teeth in the cup,
My eyes on the table until I wake up.
Ere sleep overtakes me, I think to myself
Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf?

When I was young, my slippers were red;
I could kick my heels right over my head.
When I got older, my slippers were blue;
But still I could dance the whole night through.
But now I am old, my slippers are black;
I walk to the store and puff my way back.

I get up each day and dust off my wits,
And pick up the paper and read the 'obits'.
If my name is still missing, I know I'm not dead –
So I have a good breakfast and go back to bed



To age well, cultivate a youthful spirit AND A CHILD-like wonder

FLYING BISHOP



The new Bishop wanted a bird's eye view of his new diocese, so he had an idea. He rang his local airfield to charter a flight and was told that a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him. Arriving at the airfield, the Bishop spotted a plane warming up outside the hangar. He jumped in, slammed the door shut and shouted, "Let's go".

At once the pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off.

Once in the air, the bishop spent several minutes enjoying the views and looking for local landmarks.

Finally, he instructed the pilot, "Fly down the valley now and make a low pass so I can take pictures of some of the best of the old parish churches."

"Why?" asked the pilot.

"Because I'm the new bishop," he replied happily, adjusting his camera, "and I want some good aerial views of my diocese."

The pilot was silent for a moment.

Finally he stammered, "So, what you're telling me is, you're NOT my flying instructor?"





FROM THE GUILD — Liz Moir

It has been difficult to plan Guild meetings because the Covid restrictions kept changing.

In **February**, we had a lively discussion on the Topic “*The Courage to Change*”. In **March**, Ruth Rollo gave us a very interesting and entertaining view “*Through the Manse Window*” on her life as a minister’s wife.

Guild members have enjoyed the fellowship shared at these meetings and we hope that we can plan ahead for a more positive future. Our A.G.M. is on Tuesday 5th April at 2pm in Bellie Church Hall.

Normally we would have been holding a Daffodil Tea at Easter but as there are Coffee Mornings in aid of Ukraine we will hold a fund raiser at a later date. Despite an almost impossible period for fundraising, the remarkable sums already collected for the Guild Projects as at 31 Jan 22 are listed below.

Project Totals 31/01/22

BEAT – There is a Hope	£5641.19
PIONEERS - Chocolate Heaven	£3033.99
STARCHILD – Finding the Light in Every Child	£5501.81
VINE TRUST – Kazuznu Village of Hope	£4033.50
HOME FOR GOOD – A Home for Good	£6802.33
UNIDA – Hear our Voice	£1015.70
TOTAL	£26,028.52

May you know peace, hope and joy this Easter time!

OUR KIRK SESSION

The church of Scotland is governed by 3 Courts – the General Assembly which meets annually in May, Presbyteries which meet at different intervals (Moray is monthly, except January, April, July & August) and Kirk Sessions, which also meet at different intervals. Because they are legal bodies, there is a certain amount of ‘process’ and jargon. They are all public meetings and anyone can attend, but not speak unless asked to/ given permission by the Moderator (Chairperson). The Moderators of General Assembly and Presbytery are selected and approved annually. The Moderator of the Kirk



Session is normally the minister, but not always and not necessarily. An elder, usually experienced and having undergone further training can be appointed to be Interim Moderator of a vacant charge to help the process of finding another minister. Ann Bowie has done this many times. (No charge may ‘call’ at present because of reorganisation of church

Meetings are officially ‘constituted’ or begun with prayer and devotion/ Scripture reading and ended by a blessing, often saying the ‘Grace’ together. This comes from 2 Corinthians 13:14 *May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.*

As you would expect, there is a list of those present (called a ‘Sederunt’ from the Latin for ‘they sat’ !) and the Minutes are taken by the Session Clerk. The business is itemised on an Agenda and different areas of work and service are reported on by Leaders of smaller Teams, which often have people serving with them who are not elders. An abbreviated sample of the Minute for 13 Jan 22 is below.

Minute of the Virtual Meeting of the Kirk Session 13.01.2022 at 7.00pm

1. **Constitute**

The Moderator, Rev Seoras Orr constituted the meeting by reflecting on... 'Wilderness' as a quiet, still place, away from 'busyness.' ...the poetic language used in Isaiah Chapter 43: *"Forget the former things, do not dwell in the past. See, I am doing a new thing! I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honour me, the jackals, and owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, ,"* To add to the poetry of Isaiah, Rev Orr shared a video of Atacama Desert in Chile – one of the driest wilderness areas on the planet, now flourishing because of climate change! ... look to the future and see new things. The new life God wants to bring is beautiful and exciting, and we have a new chapter ahead to see where we can do new things. He then led the Kirk Session in prayer.

2. **Sederunt and Apologies**

3. **Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of the Kirk Session on Thursday 18 November 2022**

4. **Matters arising:**

- a. Updated Covid Regulations from Church of Scotland
 - b. Big Sleepout 04.12.2021 – Seven participants - **£1308.33 donated to Social Bite**
 - c. Drive-in Service 05.12.2021 – Christie's Car Park with Carols led by Elgin City Silver Band
 - d. Christmas Worship Arrangements – impact of Covid leading to some cancellations. Blue Christmas Service to go ahead
 - e. Flower Ministry to restart in January 2022 – flower calendar available in both churches
 - f. Offering envelopes – now available for Gift Aid only
5. **Team Reports** – all Team Reports are circulated to Session as Briefing Notes along with Agenda to allow time to consider and read deliverances. [What sections and proposals are called – don't know why!- 😊MK]

6. **Ministerial Matters**

- a. Rescheduling of Ordination Service – will be moved to February or March 2022 [Turned out to be 26 Feb – MK]
- b. Welcome Team Rotas – limited Rota throughout January (Covid restrictions), hopefully opening from February onwards
- c. Moray Food Plus – Community Lunch – to be rescheduled
- d. Sharing Information from Kirk Session with Church Family – ensure notice of forthcoming meetings given; approved Minutes will be available for all. In line with data Protection, confidential matters will be redacted; Summary version to be published in 'Kirk News'.
- e. News from the Districts (Taken in private)

7. **Presbytery Report** – from Mrs Janet Whyte

8. **Correspondence**

9. **Communion Roll**

On 31 December 2021 the Communion Roll stood at 305. On 13 January 2022, Communion Roll stands at 304.

10. **AOCB** – no other business

11. **Date of next meeting** –

Future meetings: **Thursday 12 May 2022; Thursday 8 September 2022; Thursday 10 November 2022**

The Meeting closed with the Grace at 9.05pm

E Rennie – Session Clerk



Happy faces on Sun 26 Feb, as **Iain Brownlee** was 'admitted' (ordained in his previous church), and **Alison Paterson & Henry Archibald** were ordained as new elders to our Kirk Session.

TRIBUTE TO REV DAVID FERGUSON 1936 – 2022
(Minister at Bellie & Speymouth 1982-2001)

David was born on 19 Mar 1936 in Bellshill, son of a Congregational minister. He loved sports and was good at football, later gaining his 'Blue' from Edinburgh University. But he also enjoyed badminton, golf and hill-walking. He trained as an English teacher, marrying Aileen, a friend from university days. They had sons, Sandy and Iain, and 2 grandchildren, Fiona and Callum. After divinity studies in Glasgow and an assistantship at Possilpark (Glasgow), Tingwall in Shetland became his first charge. I seem to remember he and Aileen (who died just a month before him in Dec 2021) had a black cat called Satan, whom he would go out and call for in the churchyard at night! He had a quirky sense of humour. After a busy and successful spell in Crosshill Parish Church in Motherwell, David & Aileen moved to Fochabers in 1982. It might have been seen as an opportunity to take things a bit easier, but that wasn't David's way. Apart from his parish ministry, he served Presbytery faithfully as Moderator and for several years as Presbytery Clerk.

David had real vision. It was during his ministry that Bellie Church Hall was built and opened in 1985 and that the stained glass windows were commissioned and installed in the church. When people worried and doubted where the money would come from, he had faith and always said, 'It will come. It will come.' – and it did – and both 'projects' have been a source of great blessing to members and visitors alike. David was instrumental in supporting James Alexander during what was something of a 'golden era' for the Fochabers Fiddlers, arranging trips to Shetland and two tours of the USA, using his 'exchange' churches as bases and contact for wonderful experiences for many young people. He was instrumental too in setting me on the road to the Diaconate. He gladly gave me a folder of his prayers which I asked him for because I benefitted from them in church and thought would be useful in my ministry, which they were! David was a great reader and his preaching and praying were challenging and insightful. We thank and praise God for David's life and ministry.

[Tribute compiled from notes of David's funeral eulogy,
Rev George Rollo, Ann Bowie and my own memories. *Margaret King*]

DEPARTED FRIENDS (Funeral Dates)

2021

20th December– Jean Hay

2022

5th January - George Fordyce

10th January - Anna Green

19th January - Netta Duncan

*May all family and friends be aware of our prayers
and our living God's eternal comfort and peace*

THANK YOU, ALAN GRIGOR

The Property Team warmly thank Alan Grigor for his gift of grass cutting in Bellie Church garden and around the Red Kirk

We are now in need of another volunteer for this job. **Please contact Seòras or Sandra Steel for details.**



***We wish Mel and Mark MacLeod
a long and happy married life
together!***

They 'tied the knot' on Saturday 19th
February in Bellie Church





SATURDAY 26TH MARCH

"Spring has sprung"
Bellie Church Hall

All Welcome!

2pm until 4pm
Games, fun, stories, crafts and food
Don't miss out!






Bellie and Speymouth Church
Reaching out - Welcoming in

COFFEE MORNING

£3 Saturday
2nd April 2022
10am - 12noon

*Bellie Church Hall,
Fochabers*

**In support of
UKRAINIAN
VICTIMS**



Scottish Charity No: SC005310

EASTER WORSHIP 2022

Sunday 10th April	Palm Sunday 10am Bellie 11.30am Speymouth	Regular Sunday Services to celebrate the 'Triumphal Entry'
Monday 11th April - Friday 15th April	Morning devotions 8am Bellie Session Room	Elder led devotions during Holy Week
Thursday 14th April	Maundy Thursday Service 6pm, Bellie Church	Holy Communion Last supper focused service (Hopefully in church garden if weather allows)
Friday 15th April	Good Friday Service 9pm, Speymouth Church	Evening "Tenenbrae Service" A reflective, candle-lit service
Sunday 17th April	Easter Sunday Service 10am, Bellie Church	United Service "Cafe Church"
Sunday 24th April	Sharing Sunday 10am, Bellie Church	United Service Messy Church led Holy Communion

CONTACT INFORMATION

Minister: Rev Seòras Orr 01343 820256 sorr@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk: Liz Rennie 01343 821627 lizatvarsova@aol.com

Deputy Session Clerk: Ann Bowie, 01343 821476 AnnMCBowie@aol.com

Kirk News: Margaret King 01343 820937 margaretking889@gmail.com

Hall Bookings: Mrs Sybil Stuart, 01343 820882, stuart882@btinternet.com

Church Website: www.bellieandspeymouth.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/bellieandspeymouth
Scottish Charity Number SCO05310

Jesus is not here... He has risen as he said he would! Because he lives, we too shall live!
God bless you at Easter and always!