

KIRK NEWS

Issue No 2 - OCTOBER 2021

Letter from the Manse

Isaiah 43:18-19

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Dear Friends,

In this passage the prophet is bringing a message from God to those in exile in Babylon – a message of hope to those whose lives had been turned upside down. And while we can't exactly compare the struggles of lockdown to the horrors of the Babylonian conquest of Israel, we can draw upon it to have the Lord speak to us today.

His message is the same now as it was then:

“Look forward to what I am going to do”.

Do not look to the present struggle, or the difficulty of the past ...

look forward.

Our church is beginning to enter a new season following on from some of the most disruption to worship in its history. But there is no use wondering back to what was before, we are called to **look forward.**

We are called to answer these important questions:

Where is God doing a new thing?

Where is the Holy Spirit bringing new life?

How can we join in?



Please pray that we as a church will follow God's leading into 'new things' and 'new life'. (!)

That we would let go of any burdens and traditions and practices that He does not want us to carry forward. That we would find a new sense of purpose and calling, and continue to “Reach out and Welcome In” all in our parish and beyond.

God bless, Seòras

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Scottish Charity Number
SCO05310



Our new session clerk



Liz

Kirk Session News

The Kirk Session certainly has been kept busy over the last few months! Oversight of our properties, finance, pastoral care and worship arrangements carries on as usual. We have also been looking to the restarting of groups and activities with new covid restrictions, as well as input towards the new Presbytery Plan and General Assembly remits.

A great deal of thanks goes out to John McConnachie after 6 years as session clerk, and we have now welcomed Liz Rennie into the role.

Please pray for the ruling elders of the church as they serve behind the scenes and make prayerful decisions about the life of our church.

New Elders to be ordained



Henry



Jan



Alison

Elder joining Kirk Session



Ian

After prayerful consideration and discussion the Kirk Session unanimously agreed to arrange for the ordination and admission of four elders.

The service of Ordination and Admission will take place on;

**Sunday the 28th of November in
Bellie Church at 10am**

POETRY PAGE



OCTOBER

October's here wi' Autumn glow
The trees put on their annual show,
Wi' gold an' yellow, bronze an' broon
They lighten up the misty gloom.

The nights draw in, the curtains shut
While the squirrel stores his hazelnuts.
Preparing for the months ahead
Cosy in his winter bed.

[Contributed by Ann Raffan]

ON LOSING MY SIGHT

This moving poem was written by Mary Whitfield, a dear Methodist sister-in-Christ.

The world is getting darker now,
Light is fading fast.
The technicolour world I knew
Seems locked into the past.
But I've been given a precious gift
known as 'the mind's eye'
And through that eye I still can see
Sun, moon and stars on high.

I see the Spring-time blossoms
Autumn's golden glow,
Faces of my loved ones,
Loyal friends I know.
I still can sit upon my bench,
Hear the river flow,

And in my mind's eye I can see
That special place I know.

And so, although my eyes are dim
And things seem so unclear,
My mind's eye helps me understand
There is no need to fear.
For all the sights held in my mind
From places far and near,
Will live within my memory
In colours bright and clear.

If I embrace the darkness
Accept what is to be,
The beauty of the world I knew
Will always stay with me.

SMILING ALONG

Inscribed on viewpoint above Dentdale, Cumbria

Roaming the Byways outside the great city
The sky seems too large for my little concerns
Worries are lost in the green of the landscape
A sense of well-being and wonder returns

A good wholesome breeze sweeps
The frown from my forehead
Here is simplicity fragrant and free
It is enough to be living this minute
To feel and to hear, to think and to see

My value of living takes on a fresh aspect
With every green leaf that I notice unfurled
Roaming the byways is as good as a tonic
I come home renewed to the work-a-day world.

The Spirit of God is around you,
In the air that you breathe
and His glory in the light that you
see.
And in the fruitfulness of the earth
and the joy of its creatures,
He has written for you, day by day,
His revelation, as He has granted
you,
day by day, your daily bread.

John Ruskin.

On a large stone overlooking
Derwentwater, Keswick, Cumbria.

[Sent in by Joan Jones]

Our Green Hearts at Bellie and Speymouth ~ Eco CRAFTIVISM

As we come closer to COP26 being held in Glasgow it is more important than ever to find ways to share the important message of addressing the climate emergency with those around us. As Christians we want our



local communities to know that we have these 'green issues at our heart' as we do our best to care for God's creation. We want our communities to see our commitment to put that care into action, to bring about a fairer, transformed world. Making green hearts and placing them in prominent positions around our church and local community gives a visible sign of that commitment.

What to do.

1. Using your creativity create hearts from the crafting media you prefer to work in such as fabric, wool or wood. You may prefer to make them from woven paper, or simply paint a heart shape onto a stone. Where we intend to place the hearts may make a difference to the media you choose. This is a great activity for individuals or for groups of people of all ages. As you create the hearts, talk about creation and why how we treat it matters so much, especially to Christians.

2. We will place the hearts as a sign of our church's commitment to caring for the environment. We will at first display them around the church. In November we will attach some to the railings. Perhaps the painted stones could be added to the church garden. We will see if we can display some in businesses locally too, showing our commitment to God's creation.

You can check it out on the www.ecocongregationscotland under our green hearts.

When you complete a heart, or if you want more information, speak to Avril Clark or Joan Jones (Eco Team).

YOUR ECO TEAM NEEDS YOU.

We are looking for some new members to join the Eco Team. Now more than ever with dramatic climate changes and the urgency to reduce our emissions, it would be a good time to join our team and be pro-active in our church and community. As a church we have a good record of being Eco supportive but with Cop26 in November we are needing some fresh ideas to go

forward as Christians caring for God's creation. Change is more effective with more people committing to environmental awareness and taking an active role. At present the team consists of myself, Avril Clark, and Joan Jones. We will have regular meetings and updates but we try to have a relaxed and flexible structure. Meetings could be done by zoom as we



are aware that everyone has busy lifestyles. But it is important for us to have a bigger group of people and ideas to move forward.

Contact:

avrilclark@gmail.com



BELLIE & SPEYMOUTH GUILD is up and running and welcomed 3 potential new members! The Guild 3-year strategy is, aptly, **LOOK FORWARD IN FAITH**, with this year's theme being *Lights & Bushels*. Six new projects have been selected and they will be described in future editions. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 2 November, 2pm, Bellie Church Hall**. Contact Liz Moir or Ann Bowie for more details.



The Tea Prayer

Prayers for ourselves - Tea(m) up with God

Adapted from a recent Diaconate Newsletter

Pour some water into the kettle and boil it.

Pray: *Loving God, sometimes the quiet waters of my life boil over with rage. My equilibrium becomes disturbed. Help me channel my rage constructively. The water often makes tea for others. Help me learn the lesson of the boiling kettle.*

Pour the hot water onto a tea bag in your cup or tea pot and watch what happens.

Pray: *Loving God, as I pour the water onto this tea bag the water changes colour. The essence of the tea flows into the water. In the same way, Lord, pour out your living water upon me that the essence of **your Being in me** may be released. Together we will make something warm and comforting and reviving and refreshing!*

Stir the tea in your cup or tea pot. Pray:

Loving God, stir me up that I may not be complacent. Help me to be an active disciple of Jesus. May I be disturbed that so many have little water to drink, go hungry, are abused or have no safe place to call home.

Even if you don't take milk - pray:

Loving God, Peter writes about our craving "pure spiritual milk" (1 Peter 2:1-3) Help me to sup on the Word you give me that I may grow in faith and know how good you really are.

Drink some tea. Pray:

*Loving God, as I drink this tea, I feel its warmth, its soothing and calming properties. Help me to **be a 'soother' in the world** bringing warmth to relationships and calmness to people in distress.*

Hold the cup in your hands and remember that we often make tea as a drink to share with friends or to console in times of trouble and sadness. Pray:

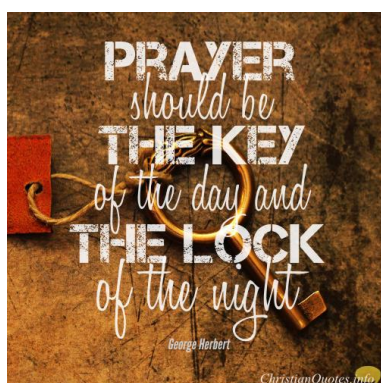
Loving God, you hold us all in the palm of your hand. Help me to share my love for you with others that they may know how precious you are and what you do for me. May those in trouble or distress feel your comforting presence and how much you care for them. Amen.

Wednesday (Pyjama) Prayer Group

We're still meeting via email and sanctified imagination! We have been blessed by more people sharing their journey, friendship and 'chats' with Jesus. It's so refreshing and REAL and there's plenty room for more. We're just

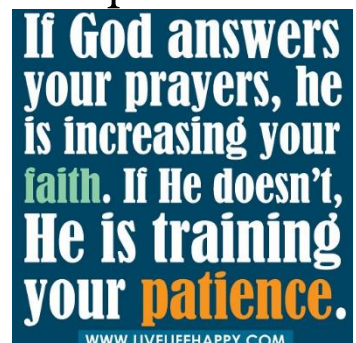
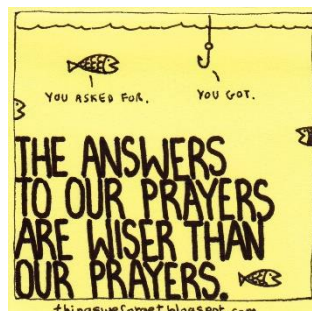
ordinary people, not holier-than-thou or more spiritual than any one else.

sadness, fears, shock, anger even, worries - with sometimes specific, sometimes more general. But mind of someone specific and we trust the Holy and as individuals to those who are in special



We share very ordinary joys, Jesus and with each other, general prayers can put us in Spirit to guide us as a group

need. It's a great privilege to be part of God's Prayer workforce! Someone has said (and I totally agree with them) *A LIFE LIVED WITH FAITH IN JESUS IS NEVER ORDINARY. And a life lived by faith in God HAS AN IMPACT THROUGHOUT ETERNITY.* Join us in making a difference! margaretking889@gmail.com



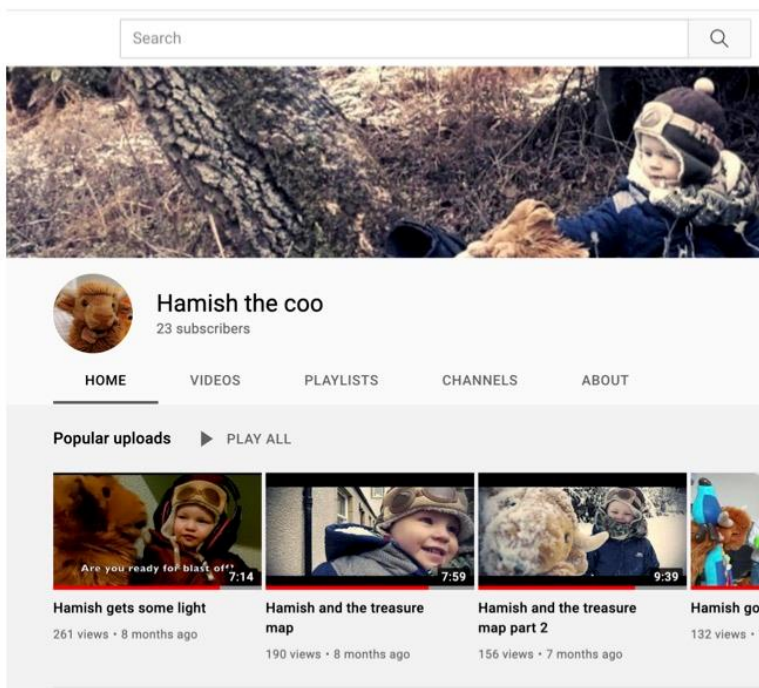
Cooking apples
Brown sugar
4 oz sr flour
4 oz butter
4 oz sugar
2 eggs
Tsp Baking Powder
Vanilla essence to taste

Manse Apple Sponge

It's the time of year where there are plenty of cooking apples ready to pick around our parish. Why not get your hands on a couple and make a delicious seasonal sponge!



- Preheat oven to 180C
- Prepare a dish such as a glass Pyrex by rubbing the edges with butter, or lining it with baking paper
- Wash, peel and slice the apples, scatter pieces in the bowl. Sprinkle some brown sugar on top
- In a separate bowl, mix the butter and sugar into a paste
- Whisk in the eggs until smooth and then gradually add the flour and baking powder
- Add vanilla essence to taste
- Pour the mixture over the apples and place in the oven for approx 30 mins
- (You can check if it is ready by cracking open the oven and pushing a metal skewer into the middle. If it comes out dry then it is most likely ready)
- Serve with cream, ice cream or yogurt.
- Enjoy!



Hamish has a Youtube Channel!

Go to
www.youtube.com

And search for
“Hamish the Coo” to
see all of Hamish and
Sullie’s adventures!



Messy Church is back!



The first live, face-to-face Messy Church session in what seems like forever was held on Saturday 2nd October in Bellie Church Hall.

WHAT A BUZZ!

The hall was packed and it was lovely to see so many people (66 in total) together again for the first time in such a long time. All ages were represented and all had fun! The activities went down a storm - our Scarecrow storyteller (Laura Wailes) told us the tale of Spookily, the square pumpkin, who felt he was no use because he was different from all the other pumpkins. However, he saved the day when disaster struck and so there was something he COULD do after all. This reminded us of the

fact that everyone is the same, but different, yet everyone is loved by God and everyone can serve God in their own way. Snacks and games etc were all on the Harvest theme too and everyone went away happy!

The next Messy Session is to be held in Bellie on Saturday 13th November and will hopefully include a small bonfire, hot dogs and hot chocolate as well as the normal mix of themed activities, games, stories and fun.

Messy Church is for ALL ages, so why not come and join us? **EVERYONE** is welcome!



BELLIE BABES from 'bump' to pre-school are also up and running and waiting to give you a warm welcome on **Friday mornings in Bellie Church Hall from 9.30 – 11.30am.** Contact Ruth ruthawwalker@hotmail.co.uk for more information

The Youth Group meet on occasional Sunday evenings. Contact Jan Pellegrum
Or keep an eye on church website/ Facebook www.bellieandspeymouth.org.uk

PASTORAL CARE AT BELLIE AND SPEYMOOUTH



“Who is my district elder?”

“Why didn’t someone from the church come see me in hospital?”

“How do I arrange a visit from the church? I can’t attend worship services at the moment”

If you find yourself asking these sorts of questions, hopefully this will be a helpful guide.

As a church, we care about your spiritual and emotional wellbeing. That is why we have a wonderful group of elders and members who make up our pastoral care team.

Whether you are struggling with a bereavement, ill health, loneliness or if you would just like a visit, there will be someone to meet and pray with you.

We are careful to value your privacy and we don’t pass on gossip, so it is important that if you would like someone to visit you that you request a visit yourself. This is particularly important if you would like visited in hospital, as it will not be assumed that you would like the minister to see you.

Many parts of our parish are now served by a pastoral team, not by a district elder. While we do endeavour to distribute important info like the magazine to everyone, we no longer have elders who “come a’knockin” along every street. However, if you would like to receive regular visits, that can easily and happily be arranged!

Home Communion can also be arranged - just ask!

If you would like a visit, get in touch with your district elder or pastoral carer.

If you don’t know who that is, contact Seòras at; 01343 820 256 or SOrr@churchofscotland.org.uk and he will put you in contact with them.

Team Ministry at Bellie and Speymouth

*Wanting to get more involved with Church life?
Perhaps joining a Church Team could be the answer!*

Have a read about them below, and pray about whether you have an interest, a skill, or a calling that fits with one of them.

If so, please do get in touch with the Team Leader, who would love to hear from you!

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP



Isabel MacLeod

IsabelMacLeod72
@hotmail.com

The MAD Team is a group of dedicated, hard-working, forward-thinking Christians whose focus is to spread the good news of Jesus to our local congregation and community and who work together to encourage our Church family to deepen their faith in God and grow in Him. This is a HUMUNGOUS task and we actively seek God's help and inspiration to plan activities and provide opportunities to reach out to and bring in people and then to support them to find Jesus for themselves and to grow in His love.

Right now, post-COVID, is a fantastic opportunity for us to adapt our Mission work to reach out to new folks of all ages and we have many ideas and plans. Gods message does not change but how it is delivered is always changing. The Bible reminds us that God has His own perfect plan for us and so we look to Him, praying that He will bless us and guide us, open doors and direct our paths as we move forward.

EXAMPLES OF UPCOMING IDEAS/EVENTS

A sleepout for homeless charities

Homegroups

Another Drive-in Carol Service

A new regular midweek cafe-Kirk style afternoon tea session

A weekend church family retreat

Messy Church

WORSHIP



Seoras Orr

As we go into this new season of church life, we are looking to 'relaunch' our worship team. The Team would work closely with the minister to support our regular services, as well as special worship events.

This would include helping at our 'Sharing Sundays', helping arrange Cafe Church, Communion Services at Milnescroft, and any new ideas brought to the table.

Please get in touch if you have a heart for worship.

FINANCE



Chris Campbell

chriscampbell24@
outlook.com

The Finance Team is responsible for all routine finance matters for the church, basically we handle the money that comes in and pay the bills.

This includes all Gift Aid claims, congregational accounts and budgets, liaising with Presbytery and the Church of Scotland re finance matters on behalf of the congregation and advising the Kirk Session on Stewardship.

ECO



Avril Clark

avrilcclark@
gmail.com

In the past we have been instrumental in a variety of Eco related projects like Recycling, Traidcraft, striving to make us a Fairtrade church, organising the Rag Bag in order to build up an Eco Fund and Foodbank collections (now linked with the Mission and Discipleship Team). A lot of what we have done is organising things and practical jobs but we have coupled this with a prayerful approach to effect change.

Generally we have raised awareness of Eco issues through having Open days, Coffee Mornings and articles in the Kirk News. We also maintain a link with Eco-congregation Scotland through the Moray Network.

Post COVID we would like to involve more people in the Eco Team in order to plan a way forward and to support the congregation and the local community. With a bigger group of people we feel we could effect more change, be a support to each other and celebrate God's creation in an uplifting and positive way.

PROPERTY



Sandra Steel

steel467@
btinternet.com

The Property Team are responsible for the maintenance, repair and improvement of the listed buildings of Bellie & Speymouth churches, halls, all associated rooms, the manse and church grounds.

The work of the Property Team is made up of:

- routine tasks which are known and planned for in advance (such as servicing equipment, PAT testing)
- unplanned repairs (required because of weather, wear and tear and accidental damage)
- major projects



Harrison Pellegrom

A dedication service was held for Harry on the 11th of July. Ruth and Jan have become so involved with church life, and it was special opportunity to celebrate their family.



Eleanor Bradbury

A big weekend for the Bradbury family at the end of September! Saturday was a marriage celebration for Ruth and Josh after their lockdown wedding last year. Sunday was a baptism service for their daughter Eleanor.



Joshua Brownlee

On the 4th July, the church celebrated the baptism of Joshua with Ian, Christine, Simeon and Innes. Joshua's uncle Rev Scott McInnes came up to conduct the service as well as the baptism.



Celebrating our youngsters

Whether it is a baptism, a dedication, or simply a family blessing - our church is always delighted to mark and celebrate the youngest of our church family.

Please do get in touch with Seoras to find out more.

DEPARTED FRIENDS (Funeral Service Dates)

Elizabeth (Betty) Fyvie - 21st April

Eric Simpson - 17th July

Isabel Watt - 12th August

Patricia Beattie - 3rd September

Hamish Stevenson - 9th September

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

Church Dates October 2021 - April 2022

All Sundays not listed here are "Regular Worship" – 10am Bellie, 11.30am Speymouth

Date:	Worship Service	Additional Information
Sunday 17 October 2021	Joint Service Bellie 10.00am	Harvest Thanksgiving Service National Church 'Giving Day'
Sunday 31 October 2021	Joint Service Bellie 10.00am	'Vision Sunday' Stated Annual Meeting (for 2020)
Sunday 14 November 2021	Remembrance Sunday Bellie 10.00am, Speymouth 11.30am	Additional Acts of Remembrance: Mosstodloch 12.45pm; Fochabers 2.30pm; Bellie Churchyard 3.00pm; Dallachy Strike Memorial 3.30pm
Sunday 21 November 2021	Holy Communion Bellie 10.00am, Speymouth 11.30am	
Sunday 28 November 2021	Joint Service Sharing Sunday – Bellie 10.00am	Ordination and admission of elders. First Sunday in Advent
Sunday 19 December 2021	Joint Service - Nativity Bellie 10.00am	Young Church led service
Friday 24 December 2021	Christmas Eve Carols Garmouth Village Hall 4.30pm Bellie Church 6.30pm	
Saturday 25 December	Joint Service Bellie 10.00am	Christmas Day Family Worship Service
Sunday 26 December 2021	Joint Service Speymouth 10.00am	Service of Carols and Lessons
Sunday 2 January 2022	Joint Service Speymouth 10.00am	
Sunday 30 January 2022	Joint Service Bellie 10.00am	Sharing Sunday
Sunday 20 February 2022	Holy Communion Bellie 10.00am, Speymouth 11.30am	
Sunday 27 February 2022	Joint Service Bellie 10.00am	Sharing Sunday Start of Lent – Wednesday 2 April 2022
Sunday 27 March 2022	Joint Service Bellie 10.00am	Season of Lent Sharing Sunday Stated Annual Meeting (for 2021)
Week of Sunday 10 April 2022 – Saturday 16 April	Holy Week Morning Devotions and Special Easter Services	Details TBC

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15: 13