



Two friends were camping in rural Canada, taking some time away from it all. But when they awoke one morning and emerged from their tents, they were horrified to see a huge bear bounding hungrily across the clearing towards them. One in terror fell to his knees, but the other began tying his shoe laces. His friend exclaimed “what on earth are you doing?! We can’t outrun that bear!” His friend quickly replied, “We don’t have to outrun the bear. I just have to outrun you!”

For February, we’ve been thinking about “Unity” in our Sunday worship services – a little more than simply ‘let’s not leave each other to the bears!’ We are engaging the topic from four

different perspectives: our mind, our heart, our soul and our strength, one for each week of the month. Our hope is that by the end of the four weeks, we have had the time to really dig deep into God’s word and engage with it in prayer, praise and reflection. At our first service, I suggested three key things from our reading from Philippians 2:1-18;

Unity is Christ. Our understanding of unity, and our application of unity in our lives finds its source in our relationship with Jesus. Our intimacy and love between us and God, is our model and inspiration for unity within our church.

Unity is humility. To be united is to humble ourselves to the needs of others. To sacrifice prioritising our own needs to be met, in order to serve others.

Unity is light in the darkness. Our community is watching our church. What they see may be the only message of the gospel that they will ever have. If we stick together in true Christian unity, then we can shine light stars in our broken world.

Now, this is a big challenge! Because a church family is a mix of all sorts of people. Folk with different gifts, experiences, hopes, backgrounds, expectations. A huge amount of differences trying to make up a single unit. This dynamic is one which leads Paul to give us what has become a famous image: a body of many parts. In 1 Corinthians 12 he says “The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” It goes on: “God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.”

Our challenge as the body of Jesus, as the church, is to be radical in the way that we form our friendships with each other. We are called to go beyond our comfort zones and to demonstrate



generous friendship. Because remember - we each have characteristics that others will find difficult! Greg Tamblyn once said “Friends are people who know you really well ... and like you anyway.”

If you would like to follow our journey in church, but are unable to attend, please let your district elder, or pastoral visitor know you would like a CD of the worship services.

*God Bless, Seòras*



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# ORDINATION AND INDUCTION OF SEÒRAS ORR AS THE NEW MINISTER OF BELLIE AND SPEYMOUTH PARISH CHURCH



On Friday 19th January 2018, the congregation of Bellie and Speymouth Parish Church were very pleased to welcome Rev Seòras Orr as our new minister. Seòras and his wife Debbie were welcomed into our church family at a service of ordination and induction at 7pm in Bellie Church.



The service was dignified with a real warmth, humour and excellent preaching. Thank you to the Rev Alastair Gray, Presbytery Clerk; the Rev Douglas Stevenson, who was the ordaining assistant at the service; the Rev Seòras Orr; Janet Whyte, Moderator of Presbytery; and the Rev Deon Oelofse, who preached the sermon (bottom right photograph, below).

This was followed by a social event with musical entertainment provided by James Alexander and friends—a very fitting welcome to Rev Seòras, to the charge of Bellie and Speymouth. It was wonderful to welcome visitors from Aviemore, Edinburgh and beyond who travelled to be with us. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the evening possible in so many ways!

This was followed by a united service on Sunday 21st January at 11am in Bellie Church. In line with tradition, Rev Seòras was 'preached' in by Rev Sam Torrens from Barclay Viewforth Church in Edinburgh (bottom left photograph).

Rev Sam gave a very special sermon describing the qualities he considers Rev Seòras to possess which we are looking forward to encountering as he leads us in his role as minister of Bellie and Speymouth Parish Church.

There was a strong message of positivity and excitement for the future of our church, with good humour thrown in for good measure—not least in the children's address with the 'official Bellie and Speymouth winter survival station' proving to be a big hit with all!



Photos to accompany the knitting group article on page 3





## KNITTING GROUP

JEAN SCOTT

Some of you may have seen the article and picture of our knitting group in the Northern Scot.

We are proud of our little group which started 10 years ago. We are always here for a challenge when it comes to knitting for children and their families both here and overseas in need of some warm and comforting hand knitted jumpers, hats and blankets.

We all buy our own wool but for this project I thought if any of the congregation in Bellie and Speymouth would like to buy a ball of wool (not expensive wool) it would help us make even more hand knits for this appeal. Sometimes Charity shops sell wool which is fine for us too.

This would be a one off appeal for this mission. Any contribution would be gratefully received and put to very good use.

There are pictures of the jumpers, hats and blanket I have made so far, on page 2.

Thank you for your support and God Bless.



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## PRAISE GROUP

MARJORIE PARK

After a long break over Christmas, while I was with my family in Adelaide, (enjoying the wonderful warmth) the Praise Group has restarted. Currently we are learning some new pieces which we hope to let you hear soon.



The Praise Group led the Advent Service in Milnescroft on December 3<sup>rd</sup> which was the first Sunday in Advent. The service took the form of readings and Carols and included a number of new Christmas pieces performed by the Praise Group. Following the service we enjoyed joining with the residents in fellowship. On Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December we were to have been singing in Cullen, however due to the bad weather conditions it was postponed. We hope to be able to visit Cullen later on this year.

The Praise Group rehearses on a Monday evening from 7.00pm-8.00pm and we are always delighted to welcome new singers, no audition required, just come and enjoy an hour of singing and fellowship.

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## ALPHA MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

The course will be run by Rev Seòras and Debbie, who have been married for 3 years and have found it to be a great adventure! They believe that marriage is really important, and want to give others the opportunity to invest in their upcoming marriage by coming along to a short 'Marriage Preparation Course'.

The course will run across five Sunday evenings, starting on 4th March from 7pm—9pm.

The evening will involve the engaged couples receiving a welcome drink and being given a table for two for the evening. So although there will be other couples around it is a time for the couple to spend together. They will be served a meal by some lovely helpers, and then watch a video from 'Alpha' covering a topic such as 'communication', 'commitment', 'resolving conflict', 'keeping love alive' and 'shared goals and values'. The video includes short breaks for each couple to chat (in private) about the materials.

Although the course is being run in Bellie Church and is based on Christian principles, it is designed for all couples, with or without a church background.

Contact Seòras on 01343 820256 if you have any questions or wish to sign up.



**Stamps;-** The stamps we have been collecting throughout the year will be on their way to raise money for World Mission and The Giffen Institute of Theology (GIT) of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan. As you know we continue to collect stamps throughout the year and we would appreciate your continued support with this, thank you.

**Meat Free Monday.** The following recipes are from the vegetarian night we had in September.

# HOME COOKING

## Curried Cauliflower & Spinach

Ingredients:- 1 Medium cauliflower, 6 tbsp vegetable oil, 1 tsp mustard seeds, 1 tsp cumin,

1 tsp garam masala, 1 tsp turmeric, 2 cloves garlic, crushed, 1 onion, halved and sliced,

1 green chilli, sliced, 450gr/1lb spinach, 6 tspn vegetable stock, 1 tspn chopped coriander,

Salt and pepper, coriander to garnish.

1. Break the cauliflower into small florets.
2. Heat the oil in a deep flameproof casserole dish. Add the mustard seeds and cook until they begin to pop.
3. Stir in the remaining spices, the garlic, onion and chilli and cook for 2-3 minutes, stirring.
4. Add the cauliflower, spinach, vegetable stock, coriander and seasoning and cook over a gentle heat for 15 minutes or until the cauliflower is tender. Uncover the dish and boil for 1 minute to thicken the juices. Garnish and serve.



## Hummus & Garlic Toasts

Ingredients;- Hummus. 400gr/14oz can of chick-peas, juice of one large lemon,

salt and pepper, 6 tbsp. tahini (sesame seed paste) 2 tbsp. olive oil, 2 garlic cloves crushed,

Chopped fresh coriander and black olives to garnish.

Toasts. 1 ciabatta loaf, sliced, 2 garlic cloves, crushed, 1 tbsp. chopped coriander, 4 tbsp. olive oil

1. To make the hummus, drain the chick-peas, reserving a little of the liquid. Put the chick-peas and the liquid in a food processor and blend, gradually adding the reserved liquid and lemon juice. Blend well until smooth.
2. Stir in the tahini and all but 1teaspoon of the olive oil. Add the garlic, season to taste and blend again till smooth.
3. Spoon the hummus into a serving dish. Drizzle the remaining olive oil over the top, garnish with the coriander. Leave to chill in the fridge whilst preparing the toasts.
4. Lay the slices of ciabatta on a grill rack in a single layer.
5. Mix the garlic, coriander and olive oil together and drizzle over the bread slices. Cook under a hot grill for 2-3 minutes until golden brown, turning once. Serve hot with the hummus.



**THIS EARTH HOUR, SHINE A LIGHT ON CLIMATE ACTION.**

Switch off your light and switch on your social power at [earthhour.org](http://earthhour.org)

**Earth Hour.** This year Earth Hour is on the 24th March at 8.30pm. So pop that date on your calendar and if you wish to find out more go to [www.wwf.org.uk](http://www.wwf.org.uk).



**Ecology - a part of our Christian faith**— the Following article was written by Francis Mitchell. Francis is part of the Moray Eco-congregation Network group and in this group we are sharing articles, ideas and resources.

### *Ecology - a part of our Christian faith*

*I grew thinking that ecology was a sort of Science and therefore was separate from my Christian faith. I now believe that science (including ecology) is not only consistent with, but is a part of Gods creation and hence Christianity. I will briefly look through the Bible at why I believe ecology is an important facet of our Christian faith.*

Genesis is the obvious place to start, with two important accounts, that of creation and the flood. Important points :

1) In all 6 days of creation, God concludes that it is all very good! (Gen 1:31) Therefore the world and all that is in it was originally created by God and it was very good (at least up to the fall).

2) When God created man he set him to rule over the birds, fish and every living creature that moves on the ground ( Gen1 : 28) Note it says rule not dominate or exploit The animals etc. This implies care in the same way a King is responsible to care for his subjects.

3) Man was only given fruit and vegetables to eat (Gen 1: 29) In the garden of Eden we were vegetarian. At that time we were not to eat our fellow creatures, including fish.

4) There was a new covenant with God after the flood. (Gen 9:1-17) Several points to note in this new covenant. Firstly it is between God and all those who were on the ark and their descendants, i.e. humanity and the animal kingdom (but not fish).

5) At the same time God allows us to eat meat and fish. (Gen 9:1-4)

6) God also adds a new symbol of his new covenant - the rainbow, apparently not part of his original creation.

To sum up Genesis it is not only an account of the beginning, but also a relation primarily between our forefathers and God, but also importantly between us and the rest of the created world. Where all three (God, humanity and the created world) are interrelated.

As Christians we therefore cannot ignore the created world, as it becomes another facet in our relationship with God our father.

Moses also reflects the importance of the environment in laws and guidelines, such as care for livestock, strangers, as well as neighbours. Land and its care is also an important aspect, especially the concept of leaving the land fallow in years of jubilee.

The Psalms also echo the importance of the created world, such as Psalms 98 "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst with jubilant song with music." (Verse 4) Psalm 149, where the Psalmist calls on all creation to praise the Lord (verses 7-12)

One of my favourites is Psalm 104 which includes "All creatures look to you to give them food at the proper time." (verse 27). If God cares for creation like this do we not also need to at least stop destroying his creation that he cares about!

In Johns gospel the role of Jesus in creation and hence ecology is the foundation upon which he begins his gospel. Before John starts his narrative of Jesus ministry he wants us to understand the fundamental relationship as outlined in Genesis. As Jesus was present in the creation, it is not surprising that miracles are an important part of Jesus' ministry.

Many more references could be mentioned from the bible but I need to be brief!

Prayer : Thank you for the beauty of your creation and how throughout the bible there are references to your handiwork. At this time thank you for the beauty of the winter season. Amen

### **Eco-congregation Scotland Photographic Competition.**

Eco-congregation is having a 'Pass The Planet photo competition' which will be completed for the annual gathering at the end of April. It will be judged early in April and is really easy to enter, and you can use your iPhone if you wish. The rules for entry are on the Eco noticeboard in Bellie hall or can be obtained from the Eco-congregation website. I hope some of you budding photographers will put in an entry.



Please see page 12 for details on the **Moray Eco-congregation Network Group Meeting** on Saturday 17th March 2018 from 2pm—4pm in Elgin, and a **Pop Up Shop** for Traidcraft on Friday 9th March 2018 from 10.30am—1pm, then 2pm—4pm. We hope that you will come along and support these events. Traidcraft will also have some tastings going on too.

When a community gets clean water for the first time, it's the start of something truly life-changing. Right now, some of the world's poorest and most marginalised people don't have clean water to drink, decent toilets or hygiene. Without these basics, overcoming poverty is just a dream. But when you help us to dig a well or install a tap stand in a community, everything changes. Today one in nine people are still living without clean water close to home. But your support could help change everything for a community – in a single day. WaterAid has teams in 34 countries across the world, working with our partners to transform millions of lives every year by improving access to clean water, toilets and hygiene. And since 1981, we've reached 24.9 million people with clean water. In the last 35 years, we've gone from strength to strength to become one of the most respected organisations dealing solely with water, sanitation and hygiene issues.

29<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Bellie and Speymouth Parish Church,


Thank you so much for the donation of £376.47 from Bellie and Speymouth Parish Church. Your members' support means that even more of the world's poorest people now have access to life-changing clean water, safe sanitation and hygiene.

Your kind gift will be directed to our Untapped appeal, which will be doubled by the UK Government. Your kindness will improve the lives of some of the poorest people in the world, and spark huge celebrations on the day they receive clean water for the first time.


For seven-year-olds Crizonia and Diricia from Timor-Leste, collecting water used to be a struggle. They would walk miles to the nearest source, wait around in line for water that could make them ill, then struggle back home carrying full, heavy containers. Each trip took two hours.

But everything has changed since WaterAid built a gravity flow system in the girls' village, piping clean water down from higher land. The community now has toilets and hand washing stations too, to protect people's health and dignity. For Crizonia and Diricia, life has been transformed, and they can look forward to a happier future.

Your members' support will ensure that even more children like Crizonia and Diricia will soon have access to vital taps and toilets. Thank you once again for your incredibly generous support of our work.

  
 Asha Chadeesingh  
[faith@wateraid.org](mailto:faith@wateraid.org) 020 7793 4594

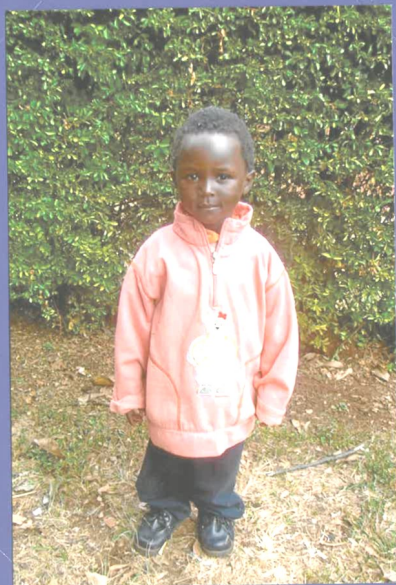
PS. If you have any questions, want to find out about other ways to support WaterAid, or wish to stop receiving communications from WaterAid, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Supporter Care team on 020 7793 4594 or via email at [supportercare@wateraid.org](mailto:supportercare@wateraid.org).



## YOUNG CHURCH—SPONSORING A CHILD

We have previously shared that the young church has chosen to sponsor a child and her name is Faith Kinyua. We have received updates on Faith which we thought you may like to know.

Faith's birthday is 8th February 2014 and she lives with her parents. Both her mother and father are day labourers and Faith is one of 4 children in the family. She particularly enjoys art and drawing, and playing hide and seek.



The young church children are able to learn about Faith's community and the project that is being supported. It is a project at St. Paul's Cathedral Embu Child Development Center, in Embu, Kenya. The closest major city is Nairobi.

The most commonly spoken language in the area is Kiembu, and there are 543,000 residents whose typical occupations are domestic services and petty/market trading.

Typical house construction is:

roof: tin/corrugated iron, walls: mud/earth/clay/adobe, floor: dirt

The regional diet is beans, maize, plantains, potato and rice.

In a world where a child dies from poverty-related causes every three seconds, it is easy to feel that there is nothing we can do—that we are too small to make a difference. But by sponsoring Faith, we are helping to change the world, one child at a time.

We look forward to receiving updates from 'Compassion UK' and learning so much more.



# YOUNG CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS

CLARE LAMBOURNE

Although it seems a while ago now, the Christmas season was a busy one for all at young church.

The nativity was a real hit with our congregation. There were fantastic costumes ranging from Eilidh who had the important role of the star to the angelic looking Mary, in the form of Sophie, supported by the less cooperative Brodie as Joseph.

The narration from the older members of the group, Edward and Neve, was excellent. The children did very well and we are lucky to have such a healthy number of children that attend Sunday School which allowed for many kings, shepherds and angels to entertain us!

The excitement of the nativity led nicely into the Christmas party which took place in the hall immediately after the family service. There was singing, dancing and games — thanks to Craig Lambourne for providing this. A visit from Father Christmas who brought some lovely gift bags of goodies for the children, rounded off a wonderful morning.

A huge thank you to the young church leaders who put in a lot of work behind the scenes to put together a production like this, and for all of the preparation that is required for the Sunday morning sessions.

If anyone is interested in helping with the young church in any way, then please speak to a member of the team as we would be delighted to have you on board. It can be helping with the younger children, doing arts and crafts with all ages, leading stories and singing—whatever you feel your strengths are. We work on a rota basis so there is no commitment to be involved every week.





## TAKE NOTE

DENISE BROWN

PHOTOS BY ANNE MURRAY

It was a very busy December for us which started off with singing for the switch on of the Christmas lights in Fochabers Square. This year the Spey Bay Carol Service was well attended and fun, despite the snow and icy conditions. We even ran out of bells for the audience to join in with the carols!

Our Christmas play “The Christmas Present” was great fun rehearsing and despite Debbie having broken her arm, she still managed to operate the box with a little help from Lorraine! We raised £221 from Spey Bay Carol Service and “The Christmas Present” which we were able to send to MFR Cash for Kids for their winter warmer appeal.



Gordon Chapel invited us to take part in their Christingle Service at the beginning of January. Although we didn't have many members turn out, the children sang well and enjoyed taking part in the Christingle.



We started this new term with a Disco Party which was great fun. Many thanks to Andrew Cowie for providing the disco for us.



At the end of January we had a Scottish theme evening with songs, Scottish dancing and Rowan and Mia played their chanters. We even managed to make the games have a Scottish feel with pass the haggis!



Our first Friday in February was very exciting, not only for the pancakes (with a big thank you to Ann) but we had our first visit from our new minister Seòras. We enjoyed teaching him some of our songs and he brought his guitar to teach us a new song. It was a fun evening with pancake races and the children enjoyed Seòras' games and short talk.

Our theme for the next few weeks is “Hearts” and we are planning a Healthy Heart evening with sports activities to raise money for the British Heart Foundation.

We will be taking part in the “Lift Off” Concert in Bellie Church at the end of March to raise funds for Gordon Chapel Stairlift, so do come along and join us.







## MESSY CHURCH

ISABEL MACLEOD

The first Messy Church of 2018 went very well. A good number came along and enjoyed hearing about Jacob's Ladder. There was the usual mix of crafts, games, music and food as well as the Bible story and activities on the theme. We learned a new song and everyone enjoyed the newspaper challenge. We were especially pleased to welcome our new minister along and he got stuck in immediately, helping out by leading the singing with his guitar.

The next Messy Church is planned for Saturday 24th March from 2-4 pm in Bellie Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us then as we worship in an interactive and participatory way.



## BELLIE BABES — JESUS' BIRTHDAY PARTY

YVONNE MATHESON

This year we invited the parents, grandparents and siblings to join their Bellie Babe and celebrate Jesus's birthday party. We started in the church with lots of activities helped by our friends in purple of varied ages (all young at heart.) We made sheep, a wreath for the door and of course got messy decorating things to eat among other things. It was lovely watching all the generations together having great fun and a good blether. We even got Rev Morris in a purple tabard.

After the story of Christmas, we followed Joan singing and dancing through to the hall for the next part of our party. The sight of over 30 babies and toddlers playing pass the parcel is a thing of wonder. The lovely Lorraine, Granny Kathleen and Aunty Heather had made a lovely snack for everyone and this was enjoyed sitting on the floor before singing Happy Birthday to Jesus and enjoying a piece of birthday cake. Of course, we were gate crashed by the Man in Red but as he brought presents for all the children he was allowed in.

As there are so many things happening over the season the mums saved their outing until January where they had a Cocktail Tea and invited the Friends to join them. A lovely afternoon was had by all and special thanks to Kim (one of our

mums) for organising this with her helpers. It was lovely to have time laughing and chatting without a wee one needing attention and to see the mums in their finery. We now must plan for Easter!





## FAREWELL TO REV MORRIS AND JAN

A lovely evening of fellowship took place in Bellie Church on 13th January 2018 as the congregations of Bellie and Speymouth said farewell to our locum minister Rev Morris Smith.

Session Clerk John McConnachie and Depute Session Clerk Ann Bowie paid tribute to Rev Morris who, along with his wife Jan, has been such an important part of our church family over the last two years.

James Alexander composed a tune for the occasion, aptly named "Morris Minor to Major", and there were even some 'Morris Dancers' to the end the evening in style!!

Special thanks to everyone who made the evening possible and to those who were able to come along to enjoy the evening.

A letter to all from Morris is printed on page 11.





## LETTER FROM REV MORRIS AND JAN

Dear John, Ann, and All Friends at Bellie & Speymouth,

Please excuse the e-mail. I had intended to write to thank you but the last week has just disappeared. So just a wee note to say thank you for all your kindness and support over the last two years. Everyone has been so kind in saying how much I have done but that would not have been possible without the help, support and friendship that Jan and I found at Bellie & Speymouth. I have been especially grateful for the friendliness and support of elders, office bearers and members - nothing was too much trouble and everyone worked together with a will. Seòras and Debs have come to live and work with a great congregation and I am sure that they will soon discover the love and support that meant so much to both of us. I also thought last night's Ordination and Induction was a wonderful affirmation of the life and work of minister and congregation and reminded me again of the great privilege it is to be a minister of Word & Sacrament in Christ's Church, working with his people to witness to the truth of God's grace and love in the world.

Thanks too for last week's Social - great food, great company and a tune composed just for me. What more could anyone ask? We were both deeply moved by the kind wishes and warm, loving atmosphere of the whole evening, although I'm not sure I did the Line Dancing justice. Thank you too for the very generous gift which took us both by surprise and was slightly embarrassing because we have both felt completely at home and felt rewarded and blessed enough. Thank you all for your kindness and generosity but most of all for your warmth and friendship.

It will be very strange not to be heading for Bellie and Speymouth on a Sunday morning and we will both miss so many folks we have come to know and love. However, set against that is the joy that you have a new minister to lead you into the future. Thanks be to God and every blessing on you, Seòras and Debs in the years to come.

Many thanks again and God bless you all,

Morris & Jan.

**Psalm 51:17**  
**"The sacrifices**  
**of God are a**  
**broken spirit; a**  
**broken and**  
**contrite heart,**  
**O God, you will**  
**not despise."**

*For God*   
SO LOVED THE WORLD  
THAT HE GAVE HIS  
ONLY  
BEGOTTEN  
SON SO   
THAT WHOEVER  
BELIEVES  
IN HIM SHALL  
HAVE EVERLASTING  
*Life* 

LOVE THE LORD  
YOUR GOD WITH  
ALL YOUR HEART  
AND WITH ALL  
YOUR SOUL AND  
WITH ALL YOUR  
MIND AND WITH  
ALL YOUR  
STRENGTH.'

MARK 12:30

## GUILD NEWS

## LIZ MOIR AND THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

We have been very encouraged by the consistent good numbers at both our afternoon and evening sessions and are delighted that non-members have felt free to join us when a particular topic or speaker has taken their fancy! Please keep on coming. We have enjoyed your company and hope you have sensed good fellowship with us.

At the end of the year, we had a beautiful Christmas Meal in Bellie Hall, cooked for us by Moira Morrison of the Fochabers Community Lunch Club, although sadly we had to mark the sudden death of Margaret Thompson at home in Garmouth that morning. Margaret was a loyal member of the Guild over very many years. We miss her constant cheery company.

2018 brought us an interesting talk on Complementary Therapies from Kathleen Grassick; a trip to Tanzania with Alison Stewart, who was on her third expedition of nursing service with the Vine Trust, on the hospital ship Jubilee Hope; and Reflections on her Pilgrimage to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories from Margaret King.

We look forward to re-connecting with **Rev Jenny Adams** when she talks on our theme of 'Go in Love' at Speymouth Church Hall at 2pm on 27 Feb. Then the final elements of our programme are:

**Friday 2 March 7 pm – World Day of Prayer in Bellie Church.**

13 March 7.30 pm at Bellie – The Samaritans

27 March 2 pm at Speymouth – Meditations for Holy Week [Leadership Team]

**Sunday 8 April 2-4pm Speymouth VILLAGE Hall – DAFFODIL TEA.**

Don't miss this lovely occasion!

And finally... 10 April 7.30 pm at Bellie – Our AGM

BELLIE & SPEYMOUTH GUILD

Invite you to their

**DAFFODIL TEA**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April,**

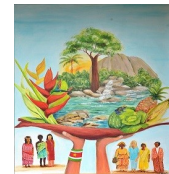
**2 – 4 pm**

**Speymouth Village Hall,  
Mosstodloch**

**Bellie Parish Church**

**Friday 2 March**

**At 7 pm**



*"All God's Creation  
is very good"*

Service written by Christian  
women of Suriname

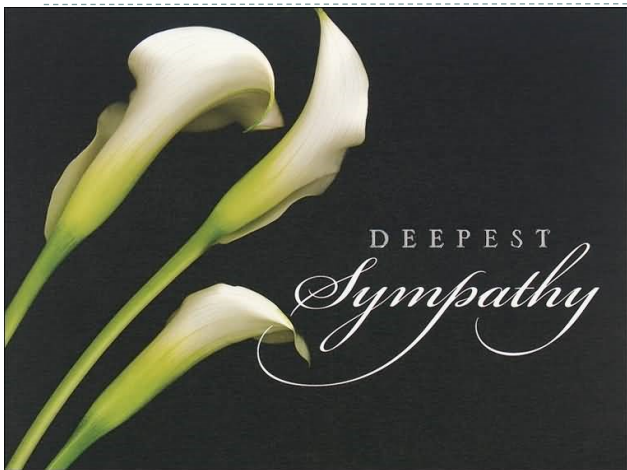
**ALL WELCOME**

*Warm Easter wishes to you all*

## WEDDINGS

Fiona Borthwick to Brian Seivewright

— 9th September 2017 in Bellie Parish Church



## FUNERALS

11th December	Margaret Thomson	Garmouth
13th December	Alexander MacDonald	Mosstodloch
19th December	Gordon Strachan	Mosstodloch
20th December	Hugh Gillespie	Fochabers
8th January	Tom Payton	Fochabers



Preparations are now underway for this year's mission trip to the Friendship Camp in Romania.



The dates are from Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July. We travel to a remote location in the Romanian hills where we help by providing Bible teaching and a whole lot more to under-privileged and orphanage children who are sponsored to come to the camp for a week. The children are all lovely despite having very little. It is a challenging and difficult experience coping with the heat and being on duty 24/7. We see some disturbed and undernourished children as well as those who live in very difficult circumstances and it can be emotional. However, the best thing we can do for these children is to introduce them to Jesus because He is their hope. Saying goodbye at the end of the week is the hardest part.

When we first visited the camp we went out full of expectations of helping the children there but in actual fact the experience helped us a whole lot too by bringing us closer to God and showing us that we should be very grateful for all we have. We all learned a lot and although it was challenging it was also very rewarding. The fact that 8 out of the 10 team members going this year have been before and want to go back speaks for itself.

We have a team of 10 folks at present but there is still room for a couple of others to join us. In particular we need some male team members. Anyone who is interested in joining us should contact Isabel MacLeod – [isabelmacleod72@hotmail.com](mailto:isabelmacleod72@hotmail.com).

## LETTER FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

**SANDRA AND JOHN MCCONNACHIE**

Here we are in Kuwait in the Middle East. We left Fochabers with a day-time temperature of 4 deg to Kuwait City where the temperature today was 28 deg and folk were complaining it was cold for the time of year. This is a very wealthy place. I have today seen Ferraris, Lamborghinis, and all sorts of big and I mean BIG 4x4s on the road near where we are staying. There is building going on all over the place, four lane highways, huge skyscrapers, shopping malls, all, it appears, just to get rid of money. Of course, in common with much of the Middle East all the work is done by migrant workers from the Indian sub-continent, Indonesia and the Phillipeans.

The place is festooned by eating places, cafes and restaurants ranging from the international names such as McDonalds, KFC and Starbucks to restaurants specialising in Chinese, Indian, Indonesian and other foods to posher places selling steaks etc. One thing missing is alcohol. No alcohol is permitted to be sold or even possessed so meals are consumed accompanied by water or non-alcoholic drinks. Coming from an alcohol soaked country it is a culture shock but really, you don't miss it.

Beyond Kuwait City there is nothing but flat desert. The roads are straight for miles, let's try 50km without a bend or a hill. Added to that, the desert is in places, littered with the burned out remains of Iraqi tanks and military vehicles left after the first Gulf War. Among these is some unexploded ordnance some of which contains depleted uranium - not a tourist spot! Kuwait City itself has some places to visit, a huge museum is a place not to be missed. And best of all, there is a golf course here so next Tuesday when the golfers at Garmouth, Spey Bay and Buckpool are shivering, some of us will be enjoying a round when we may have to complain about the heat.

One thing which hits a visitor is the dust. A fine dust from the desert covers everything. Cars etc which are left in the open are often shielded by a dust cover. But, wait for it, rain is forecast for tomorrow.

See you all when we get back.





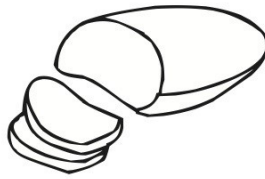
# The Easter Story



Most of the crowd spread their coats on the road ahead of Jesus, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.  
Matthew 21:8



Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests and asked, "How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?" And they gave him thirty pieces of silver.  
Matthew 26:14-15



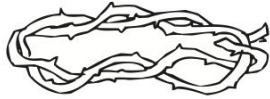
As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and asked God's blessing on it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it and eat it for this is my body."  
Matthew 26:26



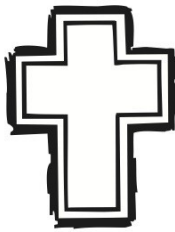
Peter declared, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will." "Peter," Jesus replied, "the truth is, this very night before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times."  
Matthew 26:33-34



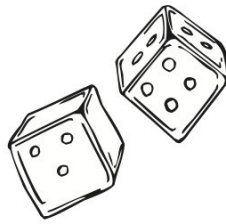
He went on a little farther and fell face down on the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will, not mine."  
Matthew 26:39



The soldiers made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head, and they put a royal purple robe on him.  
John 19:2



Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross.  
Mark 15:24a



They gambled for his clothes, throwing dice to decide who would get them.  
Mark 15:24b



Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance as he left.  
Matthew 27:59-60



He isn't here! He has been raised from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.  
Matthew 28:6

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## The SWEET Truth of Easter

These candies tell a story~  
the best news you'll ever hear.  
~It's about Jesus dying on the cross  
so that we could be brought near.

So hold them and turn them and you will see...  
the "M" become a "W" an "E" and then a "3"

The "E" stands for... Easter....  
God's everlasting love and His eternal plan.

It reminds us of the cross  
and the way God rescued sinful man

The "3" represent the 3 days Jesus spent in the grave....  
By His death, His children He did save

The "M" reminds us of the mercy the Messiah showed  
as He died in our place.  
and the miracle of the resurrection  
so we can see Him face to face.

The "W" reminds us... that He alone  
is worthy of our worship and praise  
and calls us to be His witnesses  
around the world for all of our days.

by Bethany Tapp

<http://ministry-to-children.com/easter-poem/>

### "The Game of Life"

Life--It's not about the wins and losses  
nor struggles along the way.

It's Christ living in you.

It's how the game is played.

It's about my relationship with Him, in the end.  
He's my All, my Everything, my Teacher, my Friend.  
He's my Savior, my Father, and mostly my Coach.  
He guides me, protects me, and must not be reproached.

He draws me closer and closer, gently leading the way.

Teaching and directing me how to play.

He gives me the play book each and everyday.

If, I simply, get down on my knees and pray.

It's how we respond to life's ebbs and flows.

It's how others witness our ultimate lows.

We must remember; spectators are watching the game.

When it's all over, "will we have struggled for fame?"

The question I'll ask,

"Will they see, Jesus in us?"

"Will they want to know more and learn to trust?"

"Will others see a difference in how we played the game?"

"Will we give God the Glory and All the Fame?"

I've learned far more from losses,  
than from any win attained.  
It's during the crossroads, dead-ends, and pitfalls  
where everything is gained.  
Character is built. Integrity is earned.  
Nothing could replace all that I've learned.  
Put me in Coach. I'm ready to play.  
All by the rules, of Your Book today.

Lisa S. Satcher 03-99  
copyright

## GETTING TO KNOW.....YOU!

### DEBBIE ORR

**I have been at Bellie & Speymouth....**since January 2018.

**I came to Bellie & Speymouth because.....**

Seòras and I sensed God calling us to this area very clearly, so where better could we be! We are excited to see God change lives in the community, and to go deeper in our relationship with God - as individuals and as a church family.

**One thing I enjoy about Bellie & Speymouth is....** the warm welcome visitors always receive.

**I find a lot of joy in....**cosying up with Seòras and a hot chocolate on a wintery day.

**If I won the lottery I would.....** visit family who are scattered around the world, take up horse riding again and give the rest to International Justice Mission who work to end human trafficking.

**If I was stranded on a deserted island and could have one luxury with me, it would be ...** I want to say fresh coconuts, though I think most desert islands come stocked with coconut trees!

**If I could travel anywhere in the world it would be to....**South Africa. I lived there for a few years as a teenager and would love to visit again.

**If I could go back in time, I would travel to....** The years right after Jesus' time, to see how church was done by people who really knew and lived with Jesus (before Christians developed funny buildings and traditions!)



### ALEX LAMBOURNE (age 7)

**I have been at Bellie....**for a few years as I remember having 2 or 3 ministers over the years (*Clare-since birth!*)

**I came to Bellie because.....**I wanted to support Jesus and God.

**One thing I enjoy about Bellie...is** doing lots of arts and crafts.

**I find a lot of joy in....**playing football.

**If I won the lottery I would.....** spend the money on my parents—buying them new clothes, food and furniture. I would also give money to poor people.

**If I was stranded on a deserted island and could have one luxury with me it would be ...** an apple(!)

**If I could travel anywhere in the world it would be to...**Disney World in Florida to see the Disney characters and make new friends there.

**The title of a book about me would be...** “The past tense of Alex Lambourne’s life” (!) because it would be about things that have happened to me so it would be in the past tense like ‘I did...’ instead of ‘I am doing...’!



**If I was to create a piece of art, the subject would be...**a mosaic of Marshall from ‘Paw Patrol’ as it would surprise my little brother and he could put it up on his wall.

**If I could go back in time, I would travel to....** no other time as I would only want to stay with my brothers and my family. If I could take them with me then I would go back to the Roman’s time to see the mosaics and vases that they made.





## MEN'S BREAKFAST

On Saturday 3rd February 2018, the first Men's Breakfast of the year was held in Bellie Church Hall from 8.30am.

It was another morning of fun and fellowship, with Rev Seòras in attendance as 'Chief Washer-upper'! Keep an eye out for the next one and we hope to see you there!



How **green** is your church?

The Moray Group will host a meeting on  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018**  
**From 2pm to 4pm**  
In the  
**Williamson Hall,  
Duff Avenue, Elgin**



David Bethune (Program Coordinator, Eco-Congregation Scotland) will give a presentation on the Scottish Churches Awards scheme.

- Registering as an Eco-congregation
- Moving beyond registration
- Graffiti Wall for environmental issues

**REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**  
**ALL VERY WELCOME**

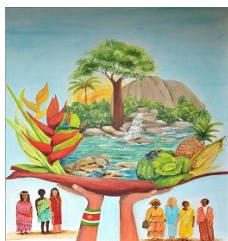
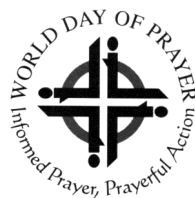


Coffee & Tea

### Bellie Parish Church

Friday 2 March

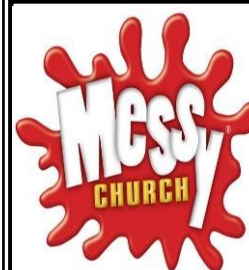
At 7 pm



*"All God's Creation  
is very good"*

Service written by Christian women of  
Suriname

ALL WELCOME



**Come along  
on Saturday  
24th March  
from 2-4 pm  
in Bellie Hall**

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**Articles for the summer  
issue should be with the  
Editor by 13th May 2018 at  
the latest.**

Scottish Charity Number  
SCO05310



## Traidcraft Gifts and Cards



## "POP UP SHOP"

Held in  
Bellie Church Session Room  
The Square, Fochabers

**Friday 9th March**  
**10.30am - 1.00pm**  
**then**  
**2.00pm - 4.00pm**

Joining us are :-

*"Bags for Busega"*  
and  
**Huntington's Scotland**  
(Speyside Quilter's charity for this session)



### BELLIE & SPEYMOUTH GUILD

Invite you to their

## DAFFODIL TEA

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April,**

**2 – 4 pm**

Speymouth Village Hall,

**Mosstodloch**

Adults £2.50 Children £1

Lovely pancakes; Sales Table

