



KIRK NEWS

“Jesus invites each of us to communion”

For many Christians, taking communion is a moving time of worship. In fact, in the church where I grew up there was a lady who came to believe in Jesus simply through seeing communion celebrated. The act is so special that it is still held in high regard by churches across the world. For centuries we have worshipped God together in this way, celebrating everything that Jesus sacrificed for our sake. It really is such a beautiful act of praise and adoration. However, the kirk session has recently recognised that the distribution of “communion invitations” is perhaps sending the wrong message. In the past, the purpose of these invites was not just to remind members of an upcoming service, but a gesture to show the importance of the service. Despite these good intentions, we are now recognising that it unintentionally sends the message that those who don’t receive an invitation are not invited.



YOU

Are warmly invited to celebrate the
Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper
At Bellie and Speymouth

Therefore, the decision has been made to stop sending these invitations. Anyone who has faith in Jesus and wishes to celebrate communion in our church family is welcome to do so! Jesus invites each one of us to repent from the things we have done wrong, our sins and shortcomings, and instead find forgiveness and freedom.

Communion is the visual demonstration of the fact that Jesus has paid the price for our sins, that we can leave behind any sense of shame or guilt, and instead delight in the cross together as a church.

In the first letter to the Corinthians, Paul points the church towards communion and away from the worship of idols. He pleads them to flee temptation and leave their old lives behind, instead finding their identity in unity with Christ and each other. As part of this, scripture says; “The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread” (1 Corinthians 10)

Please take this message as a permanent invitation to meet with Jesus. Not just at our

communion services, but in every act of worship at Bellie and Speymouth. There is nothing you have done that God will not forgive. There is no anxiety, worry, destructive habit, doubt or fear that disqualifies you from taking communion. Come and meet God, find freedom and forgiveness, and turn to something new in Jesus.

God Bless, Seòras



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SPEYFEST CELTIC KIRK SERVICE

ISABEL MACLEOD



The 23rd Speyfest Music Festival took place from 27th-29th July and a now regular feature was the Ecumenical Celtic Kirk on Sunday morning.

This year the theme was "Peace" with a look at both Elijah in the cave and Jesus calming the storm. We heard a Doric Bible reading, took part in Andrew's "Elijah Rap" and enjoyed music from Colin McKay, some local fiddlers led by Amy Stewart and the visiting party of Irish music students who played along with the Bellie Praise Band for the hymns. Rev Michael Last led the service and Father Tad Turski delivered the Reflection. At the end of the service everyone went outside the tent and our children released some white doves to symbolise peace. The birds circled round and then flew off home.



The service was attended by over 300 people with extra chairs having to be set out as folks arrived. An offering was uplifted during the service and this year the sum of just over £900 was sent off to the Macmillan cancer charity.

The Celtic Kirk provides an opportunity for many folks from the village who may not otherwise attend Speyfest to come along and be a part of it too. We also welcome visitors from near and far and there is a welcoming feel as we enjoy worshipping together.



Many thanks go to all those who were involved in organising, taking part or simply attending the Celtic Kirk.

We look forward to welcoming you again next year.

INTRODUCING SULLIVAN ORR!

REV SEORAS ORR

Debbs and I are delighted to introduce the newest resident of Bellie and Speymouth manse! Sullivan (Sullie) Seòras Orr was born at 9.53am on the 10th of July, weighing 7lbs 14oz.

Debbs is an absolute superhero and is being an incredible Mum, our wee lad is healthy and happy, the medical staff here in Moray have blown us away with their care and support... There is so much to give thanks to God for!

We can't even begin to explain the emotions, challenges and joys of these last weeks, but we think he's the most wonderful thing we've ever seen! (And yes, all three of us did sob together in the delivery room as you see in the picture!)

As Debbs said in church a couple of weeks ago, we have been so blessed and loved by the cards, gifts, prayers and warm wishes towards our family, and cannot express our thanks enough. Since we arrived in January, the welcome has been so special, and this is just another time to give thanks for a loving church family, and a caring community.



What a lovely summer! The Guild greatly enjoyed it as 12/15 of our number meandered around the countryside on our monthly outings to Heavenly Pieces at **Knockando**, the beautiful “**Garmouth Gardens**” (the Community garden tended faithfully by one of our members, Beatrice Low and husband, Frank and the Sensory Garden)



Speymouth Cooperage, where thimblefuls of whisky laced with honey were drunk in the interests of



health and research – not by the drivers of course! It also fortified us to face the pouring rain.

Our last trip was to the **Biblical Gardens, Elgin** and on to **Johnston's** for the vital ‘cuppa and cake’.



We start a new 3-year strategy, ‘**One Journey – Many Roads**’ with the theme this year being, **Seeking the Way**. There are 6 new projects for us to learn about and support and we will share those with you over the coming months.

The annual subscription is £12 this year. But feel free to come on a meeting by meeting basis, if something takes your fancy! As you can see from the photos we are a happy bunch, and successfully (**I think anyway!**) blend fellowship with worship, prayer and action - a wonderful movement to be part of. Come and see...

The programme up to the end of 2018 is below.

2 Oct	Dedication Service, Rev Seòras Orr	2 pm Speymouth
16 Oct	Cookery Demonstration, Mrs Alison MacDonald	7.30pm Bellie
30 Oct	Adopt a Child Charity, Fiona Mackay	2 pm Speymouth
13 Nov	Let Us Build a House (Update from Nepal), Doug Willis	7.30pm Bellie
(18 – 25 Nov GUILD WEEK)		
27 Nov	Wanderings in Ancient Greece, David Sharp	2 pm Speymouth
11 Dec	Christmas Meal	Bellie Church Hall

Thank you for all your past support. Remember you are most welcome to drop in to any of the meetings and it would be an encouragement to us and our speakers.

MESSY CHURCH—SUMMER FUN!

ISABEL MACLEOD



For the second year running Bellie and Speymouth Messy Church ran a summer session during the Refuel week in July. This year at Refuel the national Messy Church team, led by Lucy Moore, was participating all week in the seminars and a few volunteer local churches ran Messy Church sessions in the afternoons at the Gordon Castle site.. They decided that one afternoon in the week a visit to a local Messy Church session would be different and allow variety for the Refuel families.

So, on Wednesday 25th July from 2-4 pm we ran a session on the theme of "Jesus feeding the 5,000". The exceptional weather this summer was a big help and we were able to tell the story outside in the Church garden. In the end we had a drama-type story which got everyone involved.

However, the good weather meant that quite a few folks must have gone out for the afternoon to enjoy the sun because we were down on numbers. Nevertheless, those who did come along had a great time with songs, the story, games, the parachute, crafts and a wonderful picnic afternoon tea.

The session was successful and we were able to share the story of the miracle in a visual way which was simple to understand. Many thanks go to Lucy, Miriam, Jane and Nicky (our regional Messy Church co-ordinator) who came along and encouraged us with helpful insights and ideas as well as getting to know the families too. And, of course, we must also thank our own Messy Church team who helped out in a variety of ways to make the session a success. Thanks to Seoras too for stepping in to be Jesus in the drama.

We were delighted to welcome Sullie along to his very first Messy Church at under 2 weeks old! We pray that he will grow to be a regular at our worship sessions..

The next Messy Church will be held in September and a list of dates going forward will be available very soon, so look out for information on posters, in the church notices, on Facebook and by speaking to friends etc.

As we move into Autumn and the start of another Messy Church term we pray that God will continue to bless this ministry and that He will help us as we do our best to spread His Word.



BITS FROM BEYOND OUR WALLS ... MARGARET KING

This lovely story of the power of **God's Word** is adapted from the most recent SBS Letter.

In 1983, Yin Jianhui had just graduated from High School. She was asked by 8 elderly neighbours to read the Bible to them because they were illiterate. [The churches were not yet open after the Cultural revolution.] Yin thought it would be good to help people and came to enjoy the Bible reading sessions with them. Yin said, "I would read a Bible passage to them and they would discuss it. The elderly lady who owned the Bible and had been a Christian many years before the Revolution would explain what we had just heard. I would sit and listen, then read another passage to them and so on.

After 6 months of reading God's Word to these believers, I became a Christian."

The change was dramatic and she dedicated her life to serve God.

Now ordained, the Rev Yin is the Chairwoman of a Christian Council in Human Province, overseeing the work of 265 churches and continuing to read and teach the Bible to believers in China.

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.

Romans 1:16

WORLD MISSION NEWS MARGARET KING

From an article in the WM Magazine for June/July 2018 by the retiring Convenor of the World Mission Council, Rev Iain Cunningham:

It is uplifting to see the Spirit of God at work all over the world and see how the Christian gospel is expressed through so many different cultures. One common thread that runs through many ...visits...is the enormous respect and affection in which the Church of Scotland is held globally.

We mustn't lose this international perspective as a church and retreat into self-absorbed introspection. If we do that we'll miss out on what God is up to on this planet.



Of course in many of the places, there are seemingly intractable problems which we, as a Church, don't have the resources to solve; *but what is deeply appreciated around the world is the Church of Scotland's willingness to stand alongside those who suffer and to walk with and listen to them – and wherever possible offer a little practical help. We call it “attentive accompaniment” and it's at the heart of the Council's strategy of engagement with our sisters and brothers around the globe.*

Our **Presbytery Mission Partner**, FIONA KENDALL, is working with Mediterranean Hope as a Legal Advisor in Rome. She 'blogged' this shocking cartoon image of Alan Kurdi washed up on the shores of Turkey on 2nd September 2015. Yet the point made so succinctly by the cartoonist is that **our collective memory fades quickly**. Statistics published this week by UNHCR and the Italian Ministry of the Interior showed that the migrant “invasion” this year is five times smaller than in the same period (January – July) last year. However, the same data set shows that the number of dead and missing has actually doubled. [*O LORD, forgive us our apathy! And have mercy. Let us not just wring our hands helplessly, but rather pray persistently*]

TOGETHER WE PRAY is a national prayer initiative set in motion by the General Assembly in 2017 and is a call to the Church to join together in prayer. This year, the General Assembly asked the Church to focus on the life and missional work of the Church of Scotland. They encourage us to support a **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TO BE HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2018**.



TRAIDCRAFT— On Saturday the 6th October we are having a Traidcraft coffee morning. We would be grateful of your support on the day either by donations for the usual tables or raffle prizes. We are looking for one or two more helpers to help with the running of it as well. However more importantly please come along and join us for a coffee that morning and support this good cause.

Mushroom Stroganoff

Ingredients:-

Tub of mushrooms chopped

2 onions sliced

Spray oil

Two small tubs of light Philadelphia cream cheese, three heaped tbsp.

Greek yoghurt

Dash of cream sherry or white wine

Juice of a 1/3 of a lemon small cup of Swiss stock

1/2 tsp of Horseradish sauce (optional)

Salt and pepper to taste.

1. Heat the oven to 200 °C/gas 6. Line a baking tray with parchment.

2. Put the flours, salt and bicarbonate of soda into a large bowl and mix well. Make a well in the centre and pour in half the buttermilk. Mix the flour into the milk then continue to add the milk till you have a sticky dough. You may not need all the milk it depends what flour you use.

3. Tip the dough on a lightly floured surface, shape into a ball and flatten it slightly. It is important to work quickly, as once the buttermilk is added it begins to react with the bicarbonate of soda.

4. Put the dough on a baking tray. Mark into quarters with a large sharp knife, cutting deeply through the loaf, almost but not quite through to the base. Dust top with flour.

5. Bake for 30 minutes or until the loaf is golden brown and sounds hollow when tapped on the base. Leave to cool. Eat on the day of baking or toast the next day.

Eco Congregation Prayerful Walk on 22nd June 2018

Trees are a prominent feature of our landscape and yet many of us take them for granted. Trees provide shade from the sun and shelter from wind and rain. They manufacture life giving oxygen with their leaves and help to reduce carbon dioxide in the modern atmosphere. Trees enrich the soil and provide food and shelter for a great variety of wildlife.

They have provided humankind with some of their most valuable construction materials, kept them warm, fed them with nuts and fruits, nursed them with medicines and calmed their spirits with their beauty and their grace.

The last ice age cleared our shores of tree life. As the ice receded, our native trees returned to cover a large proportion of the land. These native trees have been growing in our land for over 2,000 years. Cedars and Sequoias did not arrive until the 18th century passion for collecting exotic plants came to the fore. Trees at this time started to take a more important role in the landscape—not just as boundary markers but as landscape design features.

Trees feature in the Bible from Genesis to Revelations. In Genesis we have the both the ‘tree of life’ and the ‘tree of the knowledge of good and evil’, as well as many other trees. In Revelation we again have the tree of life, on each side of the river flowing from the throne of God.

Interestingly the Hebrew word for tree is ‘Etz’ which in the Hebrew language de-notes not only trees but also wood. So the stick which lifted the snake during the wanderings through Sinai; the wooden cross on which Christ was crucified all use the same word etz. We occasionally hear about Jesus being lifted up on a tree! Wood can also be considered a symbol of salvation, as both Noah’s ark and the ark of the covenant were made of wood, and then of course the cross on which our Lord was crucified. On the evening of Friday 22nd June, 16 people of various denominations throughout Moray met in Grant Park, Forres, for a gentle prayerful walk, looking at the various trees. We remembered firstly the creator who blessed us and the world by creating them, and marvelled at the beauty with which he also endowed his trees, giving thanks and praise to our Lord Jesus Christ. We had some information about the trees and some prayers and readings at the various stops.

The starting point of the walk was the horse chestnut tree by the café in Grant Park. The party sang Jesus is Lord and after a short prayer and information about the horse chest-nut's medicinal properties and looking at the growing conkers which will be prized in the Autumn, the party made their way to the first stop. But not before a quick mention of the Sweet Chestnut, introduced in Roman times which is often used for walking sticks and fencing. After a long dry summer large chestnuts can crop many delicious chestnuts for roasting.

We proceeded to an oak tree near to where the bottom path round the woods joins the road leading up to Forres Cemetery. The Oak is our most common broadleaved tree and has been the dominant timber tree since earliest times. The acorns ripen in the autumn with great numbers being produced every six or seven years. Oak timber is widely used in building, fencing, joinery and boatbuilding and it is extremely durable. Oak's peeled bark in Spring can be used for tanning high quality leather and its slow burning wood provides the best charcoal for swordsmithing.

The next stop was outside of Cluny Cemetery, which has a wide variety of special trees in this peaceful resting place. Outside of the cemetery are a rich variety of trees, both evergreen and deciduous. We focused on the Scots Pine and its close relative the Caledonian Pine. The Scots Pine will grow into a very straight tree, not the twisted and knurled examples people think represent the tree. The Scots Pine is the only large conifer which recolonised these islands after the ice age; it now survives in the much depleted Caledonian Forest. Its ability to thrive on the poorest of soils has also helped its return as it produces super timber which is soft and strong yet easily worked.

Scots Pine yield turpentine from their resin, ships masts from their length and, if quickly sawn after felling, superb construction timber. Pine was traditionally felled when the moon was waning to reduce the resinous content. We then walked up to Nelson's Tower for a reading about three trees who found a use they had not expected in the life and death of Jesus. We also focused on the Yew, our oldest lived, most mysterious and sacred tree. The best timber for longbow manufacture and later costly furniture. Its twisted gnarled wood can still be converted by craftsmen into works of wonder. Yew trees are often found in Churchyards where they often predate the church.

Our penultimate stop was to admire the avenue of limes that run from Cluny Hill down to South Street., between the cricket pitch and the area used for the football games on Sundays and many other weekdays. The heavily scented flowers of Lime were starting to open for the bees who often become drunk on their nectar. Lime Trees also host the Lime Aphid that produces the sticky honey-dew coverings on cars parked underneath. Avril read the following prayer from the book on outdoor worship:-

*We pray for the earth, that we may learn in humility how to look after it well and responsibly while we live and breathe on it.
Let your will be respected and accomplished on earth, like it is in heaven.
We pray for a better understanding of the value of trees and forests, and against the greed that leads to their destruction.
Let your will be accomplished in our own choices and spending, lifestyles and self-discipline.
We pray for the places already affected by climate change, and for the will and heart to act and help, and to recognise our excesses.
Let your will soak deep into our consciousness and galvanize us into joyful action.
May we rediscover the earthed and simple ways of living, the earthed and generous ways of giving, the joy of rooting, growing
fruiting in the good earth of God's love.*

Our final stop was by another lime tree, this time adjacent to the Cricket pavilion. Several tried the Lime Leaves which are edible and an excellent addition to a salad. The group gathered in a circle and sang, "You shall go out with joy", before concluding prayers led by Francis and Avril.

Photographs and article by Michael Ellison from Creation Calls committee—who would like to thank everyone who made the evening walk such a blessing, as we walked past and looked at the variety of trees, taking our time to savour the silence and calm of nature. Thanks also to God for looking after such a beautiful place.



(The date of the next Eco-congregation network meeting is Saturday 8th September held at Bellie Church.
More details can be found on our website www.creationcalls.org.uk)

HOLIDAY CLUB 2018

DENISE BROWN, HOLIDAY CLUB TEAM LEADER

Well, what a wonderful week we had at holiday club. It took a team of 19 adults and 10 teenagers to run the club for four mornings. We had 42 children coming along each day so we needed to be organized.



The team met at 9am each morning for coffee and cake to give us energy for the day ahead! Seoras led us in a short worship, reflection and prayer to give us a quiet space before the day began.

Doors opened at 9.45, by which time there was a queue outside! All the children were registered and welcomed into the church where they could meet their team leaders and enjoy listening to the songs.

This year we tried something different, we split the children into four teams of mixed ages. We had already done this with Team Romania and it worked well, so we thought we'd try it here. The teams made up their own names, Sunshine Yellow, Bluebells, Red chameleons and Great green grasshoppers! During the week they would be able to earn points for their team and at the celebration family service on the Sunday they would find out the winning team.

The children enjoyed crafts, games, challenges as you can see in the pictures. It was great to see the older children helping the younger ones and making new friends.



On Thursday lunchtime, after the morning session, all the families joined us in the church garden for a picnic lunch, followed by games and ice cream. It was great to see so many families joining us. We almost needed a bigger garden! We couldn't have asked for better weather, not too hot and no rain!

We were pleased to welcome the holiday club families to our special celebration family service where the children were presented with their certificates. I think the congregation enjoyed hearing about the week and



seeing the children singing their new songs.

The scores for the winning team were quite close, but Sunshine Yellow was presented with a trophy as the winning team.

Thank you to everybody who contributed in any way to help at our holiday club week.





Thank you team
holiday club. To
team
leaders, Team
work makes the
dream work.

Together
Everyone
Achieves More

Love from Zoe xx

The games went
well and the
groups being
mixed ages meant
that the older ones
helped with the
younger ones. It
was great to see all
ages working to-
gether and they
seemed to enjoy it
as well. Yvonne
& Iona.

I have enjoyed it
so much this
year, I would like
to come again
next year.

Signed by
Bradley x

I enjoyed the songs and making
pompoms. By Sophie



TAKE NOTE

DENISE BROWN

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE SMITH



We had a lovely sunny evening for our Take Note Family BBQ at the end of June. It was good to see so many families joining us. The children particularly enjoyed the water game, we think Seoras did too! Many thanks to Shona and Heidi for cooking the BBQ and serving the ice-creams.



Now it's time to prepare for the new term. Yvonne and Iona are joining the Take Note team and we look forward to working with them. We are fortunate to have teen helpers who come regularly each week.



We look forward to seeing everyone back at Take Note and welcome any new children from Primary 2 upwards. If you enjoyed the holiday club, why not come along on a Friday evening from 6.30 – 8pm.



FROM LIFE AND WORK

ANN RAFFAN

We are divided from one another not only in matters of faith, order and tradition, but also by pride of nation, class and race.

But Christ has made us his own, and He is not divided.

In seeking Him we find one another.

FUNERALS

William Lindsay, 23rd May

Peter Green, 6th June

Alan MacArthur, 18th June

Dorothy Murdoch, 18th June

Renee Lindsay, 30th June

Patricia Bell, 3rd July

Janet Cruikshank, 4th July

Kathleen Donald, 14th July

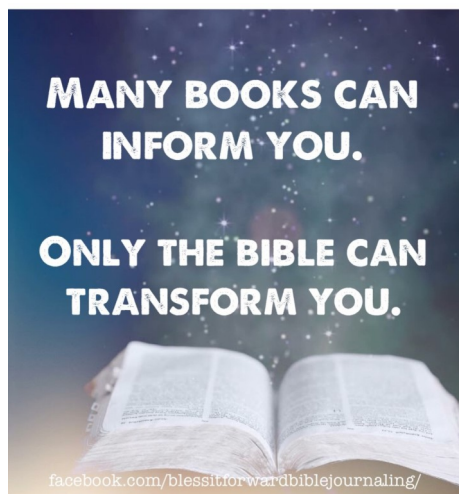
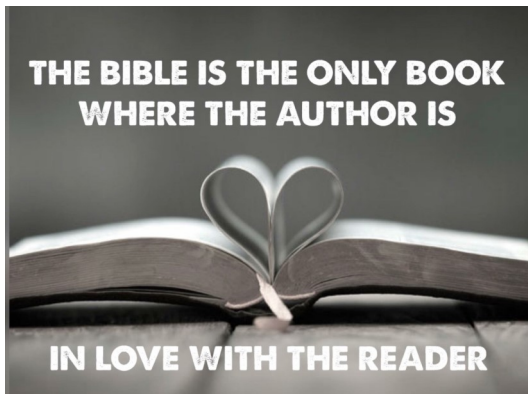
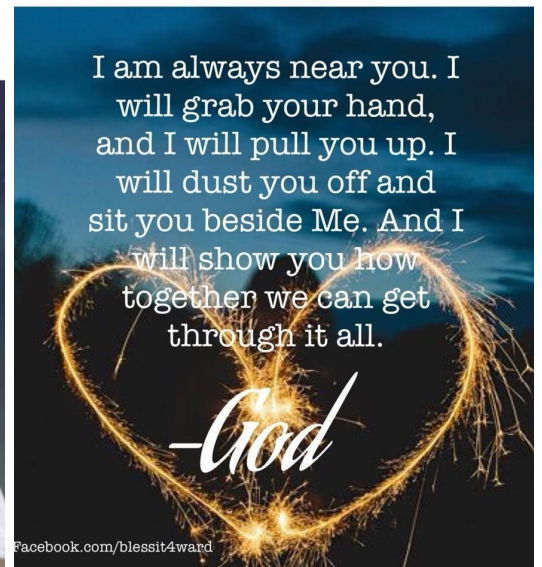
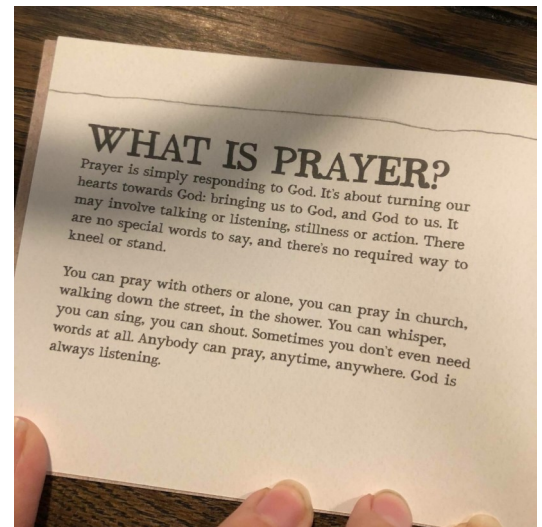
Livy Stewart, 1st August



Elizabeth and John Reid

(Memorial), 9th August

Stuart Murray, 9th September



KNITTING GROUP

JEAN SCOTT

We hope you were impressed by our display in the Chemist's window during the summer of all the charities our group provide comfort too. We were delighted by the feedback we received.

We pay £1 at our monthly meetings so at the end of the year we divide the money between the church & a local charity. Last year Rita Picksley told us about a Sensory Garden which was proposed to be created on a waste piece of ground in Garmouth. We decided this was a worthwhile cause to donate to. During the summer along with the Guild we were invited to visit the Sensory Garden and the Community Garden. It was all beautifully laid out with flowers, herbs, a seating area and a red telephone box which was lovely to see. We finished off our outing with tea/coffee in the Garmouth Hotel's coffee shop.

I have read with some interest in the newspapers & magazines about members and non members of groups knitting, crocheting & felting poppies for a display in there Churches to commemorate the end of the First World War, 100 Years. I thought we have a knitting group we could give this a try. I spoke to Seoras first, he thought it was a great idea. Next I approached the ladies in the Knitting Group and yes they were enthusiastic. We have ladies outwith the Group who have also joined in knitting poppies for us. We hope to have a magnificent display towards the end of October.

Three new ladies have joined our Group recently, June and Margaret from Milne's Croft and June from Buckie.

Anyone who would like to join us will be most welcome to come along have some tea, cake and fellowship and knit/ crochet.



YOUNG CHURCH

How quickly time seems to be passing! I am reassured that everyone is feeling the same and it is not just an age thing!

Throughout the glorious summer, our Young Church families were able to attend and enjoy so many different events based in and around the village. The sunshine was definitely an added blessing for everyone involved – especially all the organisers and team members who work so hard to “set the scene!”

It was lovely to see families enjoying leisurely activities where friendships blossomed in addition to the many opportunities available for our youngsters to share their varied talents.

Speaking of sharing reminds us of the Family Service on 26th. June when Team members and our youngsters related their activities of sharing Faith with the Congregation. For readers who were unable to join us in Church, we share a summary of this special Service.

It was encouraging to have Rowan, (a former member of our Young Church), set the scene for us by sharing her Profession of Faith. Following this, our older children shared their lovely Bible Art Journal illustrations and prayer related to their discussions about the Parable of the sower and the seeds.

A new song, Super Hero, was shared with the Congregation - with gusto! We didn't know then that this new song was a favourite with Rev Seoras when he attended Sunday School, so some of us didn't need to be asked twice to join in with the actions!

How our Faith can grow was demonstrated using a piece of paper – yes, a simple piece of paper! You can try it at home – four corners on a piece of paper, tear off one corner to make five corners. From four corners to multiple corners – an illustration of how God's Love spreads.

During the Prayer for others, we invited the Congregation to join in with the five-fingered prayer which was accompanied by a beautiful rendition of “Whisper a prayer in the morning” by our wonderful Praise Band.

This year, we displayed a selection of Bible stories, prayer books and our new “Bucket Filling” themed books to encourage our youngsters to join our new Summer Sharing Library venture.

ALISON PATTERSON

During the Family Service, Rev Seoras presented each child with a beautiful cross made from olive wood. Holding the cross in the palm of our hands reminds us of the ultimate gift from Jesus. Enclosed with each cross was an age-appropriate prayer which our young members and families shared with everyone in such an engaging and spontaneous manner. Our hope is that having their wooden cross at home may encourage the youngsters to realise that prayer can happen anytime, anywhere!

That did indeed happen with our members of Team Romania who also received smaller wooden crosses with beautiful individual prayers provided by Deacon Margaret. It was heart-warming to hear from Isabel how these morning prayers served as a wonderful link to our Church Family by reminding all members of Team Romania that we, at home, were holding our friends in prayer.

The following hymn of praise comes is a reminder that we can connect with God at anytime.

Prayer is like a telephone for us to talk to Jesus.

Prayer is like a telephone for us to talk to God.

Prayer is like a telephone for us to talk to Jesus.

Pick it up and use it every day.

We can shout out loud, we can whisper softly,

We can make no noise at all; but He'll always hear our call.

This chorus can be adapted as per our “Deep and Wide” action chorus with the fun challenge of missing out certain words and substituting with - Mmmm!

First of all miss try missing out the word Prayer. (show praying hands)

Second time round, omit prayer and telephone. (add phone action)

Last of all miss out prayer, telephone and Jesus/God. (add pointing to Jesus/God)

How lovely it was to worship at sunny Speymouth during the month of July. We received such a warm welcome from everyone and the ladies of the Hospitality team were an instant hit with our youngsters.

On realising that the children enjoyed juice and shortbread, Ann offered to make special shaped shortbread for the following week. The youngsters chose a star shape so Ann has now been honoured with the title of “Speymouth Star Shortbread lady!” The glorious summer weather also allowed for outdoor activities in the garden – such fun! Thank you to all for making our “home from home” experience so enjoyable. Our United Speymouth worship sessions also allowed the children their first opportunity to choose a book from our Travelling Summer Sharing Library. Sharing one of our new books – The A-Z of bucket filling was used as our main focus during these United Summer sessions. Using the rhymes in the book, the children learned how joy and happiness can be shared with others through kind words and actions. The book demonstrates how our actions and relationships with others don’t have to be big and showy but rather more spontaneous and relevant to the situation and people we know. Having started our A-Z mini-bucket craft activity at Speymouth, it was rewarding to discuss and complete this activity once Worship resumed at Bellie.

The contents of this book brought to mind one of my favourite Hymns of Praise - It’s the little things

Verse 1 - It’s the little things that show our love for Jesus
It’s the little things that show our love for Him
It’s in little things that we can truly serve Him
It’s in little things that we begin.

Chorus - Give a little more love and a little more hope to others as you serve Him
Give a little more love and a little more hope to others you may meet.
Give a little more love each day to those around you.
Then a little more love and a little more faith will make you more like Him.

Verse 2 - It’s the little things we do each day for together.
It’s the little things that show we really care.
It’s in little things our faith becomes much stronger.
It’s with little things that we begin.

With the youngsters well into the new term at school, so it is with our Young Church sessions. We continue to discuss the prayers presented to our youngsters at the Family Service and if any of our youngsters missed out, copies are readily available. The Sharing Library is also ongoing - all we ask is that after each book is read, it is returned to the display enabling another person the enjoyment of a good read. All are welcome to access our Young Church Resources at any time.

Speaking of welcomes gives us the opportunity to warmly welcome young Sullivan Seoras Orr into our Church Family. His safe arrival during the Summer has brought immense joy, not only to Seoras and Debbie and their family members but also to all of their Bellie and Speymouth Parish Church Family. Throughout the Summer months, it has been delightful for us to meet this gorgeous wee fellow who has so contentedly accompanied Mum and Dad to Church - also the many and varied events in the village. We thank Seoras and Debbie for allowing us to share in their first, exciting journey of parenthood in such a natural and joyful manner. Our Young Church team know that Sullivan is going to enjoy listening to many good stories provided by Mum and Dad but wonder who will enjoy them most before Sullivan reaches that stage!! We note that Peter Rabbit accompanies Sullivan on his ventures but maybe in time, Hamish will also become a much-loved and cuddly soft toy – watch this space! A warm welcome awaits Sullivan, Peter Rabbit, Hamish (in addition to Mum and Dad) at Young Church anytime!

Grateful thanks for the on-going, encouraging, prayerful and practical support from everyone in our Church Family. If you’d like to see and hear how our Young Church members interpret the various themes from our focus on the Book of James, we will continue to share a snippet of our activities on the last Sunday of each month. For any of our Kirk News readers unable to attend Church, we have a CD Ministry which allows you to enjoy (and join in) the Service albeit retrospectively. Please just let us know if you wish to have a CD delivered as we are very happy to share our Sunday Worship.



GETTING TO KNOW.....YOU!

HENRY ARCHIBALD



I have been at Bellie & Speymouth...since 2017.

I came to Bellie & Speymouth because..... I was looking to worship and develop my spirituality in a community again.

One thing I enjoy about Bellie & Speymouth is...the wonderful sense of community. The love, support and desire of the congregation to see each other thrive and be truly happy is inspiring and uplifting.

I find a lot of joy in....music, exercise, reading and being with my family and friends. My work as a teacher can also bring immense joy.

If I was stranded on a deserted island and could have one luxury with me, it would be ... a grand piano.

If I could travel anywhere in the world it would be to... Borneo.

The title of a book about me would be.....'One man's attempt to be calm.'

If I was to create a piece of art, the subject would be A mountain.

If I could go back in time..... I would love to have met any or all of the great religious founders and ancient philosophers (Jesus, Buddha, Muhammad, Guru Nanak, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus, Epicetus etc). Because I would have liked to hear their wisdom straight from the horses mouth.

Once upon a time..... I played water polo with Prince William. Another time I was almost trampled by elephants.

MARGO HOWE

I have been at Bellie & Speymouth...for about 5 years.

I came to Bellie & Speymouth because..... I went to the Methodist Church in Portgordon from Sunday School until they closed the door for the last time. I then made the decision not to move to Buckie Methodist but to come to Bellie. The rest is



history. I had met Rev. Alison at a few events and liked her open friendly demeanour. Right from my first service I was aware of the friendly inclusive atmosphere. I was made to feel welcome and accepted, so I'm still there.

One thing I enjoy about Bellie & Speymouth is... becoming a member of the Praise Group. I have always enjoyed singing although I don't always hit the right note.

If I won the lottery I would..... help friends and family and also a few of my favourite charities like the RNLI because I am a fisherman's daughter and recognise the importance of the lifeboat to all who sail the seas. Girl Guiding as it has and still does provide a safe place where girls can learn skills and gain confidence in a non-judgemental and encouraging environment and without question the SNP. The I would go travelling.

If I could travel anywhere in the world it would be to... somewhere with a warm or even hot climate. I love to explore new countries that I have never visited before. I think I would start by going to Japan in the Spring to see the blossom on the trees.

If I was stranded on a deserted island and could have one luxury with me, it would be ... my MP3 player. I love my eclectic mix from hymns to classics, trad, CW, pop and everything in between, well not so much of the heavy metal, so I could sing and dance as and when I pleased and according to my mood at the time. The other option would be a packet of Crystal Palace Lobelia and a gardening fork so that I could grow my flag as a rescue signal of course (note tongue in cheek!)

The title of a book about me would be.....'The coo's tail' / 'Too many hats' / 'Make me a channel'.... I had great difficulty with naming a book and these were some possibilities..

If I was to create a piece of art, the subject would be Lots of things as I am fascinated by art. And again, as in music, I have a broad appreciation of it from The Mona Lisa and David to the Kelpies and even graffiti. But I will stick to making cards and as some would say, Blue Peter stuff.

Once upon a time....., as a child, I always wishes that I had been around when women wore Crinoline dresses. However my father took me right back to earth by telling me that I would probably be one of the barefoot urchins sitting looking up at the fine ladies as they passed by!

If I could go back in time..... I would not go so far back to an important milestone in my life. The grand opening or reopening of the Scottish Parliament and Winnie's speech. A historic moment for me.



TEAM ROMANIA 2018

ISABEL MACLEOD



As many of you will know from our report in the Church service on Sunday 26th August, the members of Team Romania 2018 had a wonderful week working with vulnerable and orphaned children in July. The trip was many things - emotional, happy, hot, heart-breaking, challenging, busy and certainly not a holiday but it was also humbling, rewarding and we were honoured to meet some wonderful children who were very content despite having very little.

Our daily schedule was packed with different things from 6.30 am toilet-cleaning to morning exercises and breakfast to 3 teaching sessions per day, many stories, songs and activities as well as times of fun playing with the children, eating together and then gathering to worship round the bonfire each evening. The kids slept in wagons and tepees while we bunked down in a wooden shed, 8 in a room with a communal toilet and shower.



The kids arrived on Monday morning and we realised that there were 4 distinct groups from different backgrounds, some from local village communities and some from childrens' homes as well as around 10 kids from a local church. They were all lovely but some of the most memorable boys were the younger orphans who arrived with very little but left with "new" clothes and shoes. They also had heard the news that Jesus loved them. We noted a marked contrast between the children there who had very little yet were happy with their lot and children here in Scotland who have many possessions, technology and money but are rarely content and are always looking for more.



It was great to spend time with our friends who run the camp, Callum, Adi and Tabita, and I am sure all team members will agree that although the kids out there got a lot from our visit, we also learned such a lot and came home changed in our attitude, having our eyes well and truly opened.

The trip went well overall and we are particularly grateful for all the support we received from members and friends of our congregation in terms of upholding the mission in prayer, donating various items including stationery, toiletries and tee-shirts and even a pancake maker to take with us and also for supporting our fund-raising events. We were able to sponsor 30 kids to attend the camp. Thank you all.

On our way home I asked all the team members if they had enjoyed the mission and if they would consider going again and the answer to both questions was a resounding "Yes,." God definitely blessed us in many different ways and we were just happy and humbled to be able to be used in His service.



Big Bellie Bake Off



**Saturday 17th November
7 PM
in
Bellie Church**

A fun night with lots of tasty treats & a few surprises too!
Head Judge : Alison McDonald

Join us to watch local volunteers battle to win
"Star Baker"




Tickets only £5 per person including freshly baked goodies.
See you there!

ROMANIA 2018 (A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE)

JOHN MCCONNACHIE

Friday 4 July 2018 and the first of the Team Romania left Fochabers. Ian and John set off about 8.30am to drive to Hull then after an overnight ferry to Rotterdam, to the camp at Sistaravat, Romania – about 1,500 miles– 3 days strapped to a Volkswagen.

We arrived at Friendship Camp equipped with screws, power tools and prepared to repair anything which needed it—a couple of geriatric ‘Bob the Builders’. But, to our surprise and delight the place was in good shape. A large amount of work had been done over the winter leaving us with just a few minor tasks which we easily completed. The main job after that was the grass.

Unusually for Romania there had been some heavy summer rain but as the temperature warmed up the grass grew and grew and grew. So the strimmer was out and busy while Ian managed to get the sit-on mower working until that is, the drive belt broke. As we expected, this belt is not a standard size (nothing in Romania appears to be a standard size!) and although there is a shop in Arad which sells drive belts, that was the mower out of action.

So we were given a number of different tasks, one of which was shopping for eggs. Now, our ability to speak Romanian was similar to the local shopkeepers’ ability to speak English. The local mini-supermarket only has eggs on a Friday so we had to use the local tiny shops which sell what they have. Eventually after much clucking and gesturing of where eggs come from (you work it out) we managed to obtain a bag of about 10 eggs. The transport of these precious eggs back to the camp tested the suspension of the VW. The other job we had was to coat some new play items with fence paint. That job was going smoothly as we clattered on the paint to the posts. Then came the disaster. One of us fell whilst holding a bucket of fence paint and.....

When you are covered in brown fence paint there is not point in trying to sit on your dignity. It wasn’t just the clothes which were covered, it went in John’s mouth, up his nose, into his eyes and ears. It also trickled down in his—well, let’s just say - it trickled down. We had great fun helping with the activities but all too soon it was time to leave. Another 3 days strapped to a Volkswagen until arriving home on the Sunday evening. A total drive of about 3,000 miles there and back.

Was it worth it? Yes, in every way. Seeing how much the kids enjoyed themselves was a pleasure. Seeing how they made friends with each other was great. The food was OK, maybe not too many Michelin Stars but we all survived.

We realised we were there doing God’s work as part of the whole Bellie and Speymouth Team. For us in Romania, we felt the power of support for what we are doing. It may be that since more Romanians are now involved with the camp it is unlikely we shall be back. It has been however, a privilege to have been part of the whole mission.

HELPERS are required for TGIS, to assist the group on a rota basis. Please contact Emma Campbell for more details.



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by 11th November 2018 at
the latest.

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#TGIS



For Young people aged P7 to S6
Bellie Church Hall
7pm- 8.30

Dates for your diary

Sunday 2nd Sept - games, cooking and pampering

Sunday 30th Sept - movie night

Sunday 28th Oct - trip to Codonas
(leaving at 11.30 from square)

Sunday 4th Nov - smoothie bike and chill out

Sunday 2nd Dec - drama and games