

# KIRK NEWS

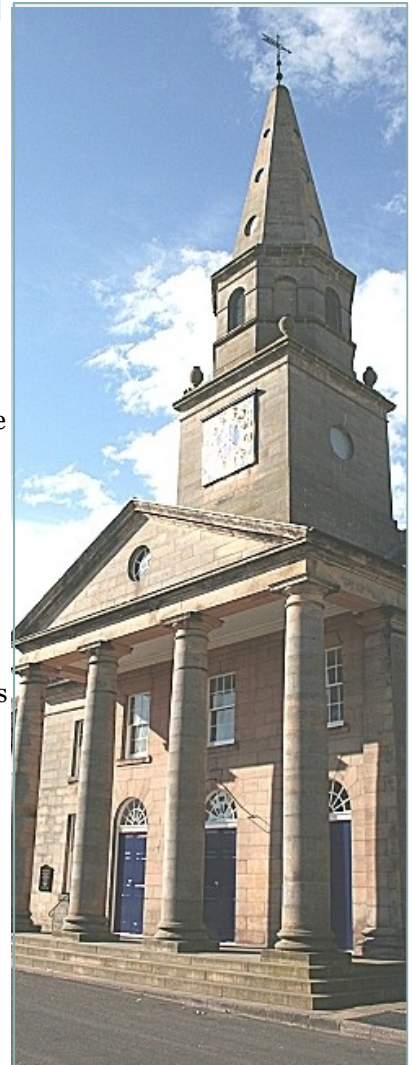
Dear Friends,

When did you last have a really good laugh? I mean a real rib tickling, deep down belly laugh. I remember when I was a youngster hearing a recording of the 'Laughing Policeman' in which the chorus is simply someone roaring with laughter - and it is very difficult to listen to it without smiling, and then chuckling, and even bursting out laughing as well. If you haven't heard it then search for it on You Tube and you'll see what I mean. However, the reality is that the older we get the less we seem to laugh. Studies have shown that the average four year old laughs about forty times a day whereas the average forty year old only laughs about four times a day. Which is a shame because it seems that laughter is medically beneficial; it quickens the heart rate, expands the circulation, works muscles, increases the oxygen supply and boosts the immune system. Jesus said, 'I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.' Of course, when Jesus talks about becoming like a little child he didn't mean that we should become childish. Being childish is something we can all be especially when we don't get our own way so that we sulk or act hurt, or hold a grudge or make some petty comment designed to score points and hurt someone else. In that case instead of acting our age we are acting more like our shoe size. When he spoke of becoming child-like Jesus meant many things but one of them is surely that child-like quality of finding joy in life and laughter in life which is one of the gifts of God. Of course, we can't laugh all the time. The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us that, 'There is a time for everything, and a season for everything under heaven ... A time to weep and a time to laugh.' Life isn't all sunshine and, as we soon learn, there are many times in life for tears and it is natural and right to be honest and child-like with our tears as well. But, having said that, there are also times for honest laughter and as adults we probably don't laugh enough, and it is important that we don't forget how to laugh and how to have that child-like joy in life. A joy that still has about it that sense of wonder and amazement at the beauties and the miracles of each day. There is an old Rabbinic saying that goes, 'At the Judgment Day we will be called to account for all the things we might have enjoyed and did not enjoy.' That's a thought isn't it? That one day Jesus might take us to task, not for all the things we got wrong, but for all the things we could have enjoyed and didn't enjoy and for all the times we could have laughed and didn't laugh. So when was the last time you did something really silly like lie on the



grass and see what shapes you can make out of the clouds? When was the last time you looked at a daisy and wondered at the beauty of this common garden flower? When was the last time you wondered at the multitude of greens in the trees or really listened to the birds? When was the last time you chuckled and even roared with laughter at something that tickled you?

*God Bless, Morris and Jan.*



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**BY ISABEL MACLEOD**

The last Messy Church of the 2016-2017 session took place on Saturday 27th May in Bellie Hall. There were a good number in attendance and all who came along were able to hear about Jesus and his love for us as well as having fun and fellowship.

This year we are intending to hold an extra Messy Church meeting. In July the Refuel 2017 Christian Festival is taking place for a week - staged in the grounds of Gordon

Castle. The Refuel Festival will have a number of special speakers and bands etc to suit all ages with workshops, seminars and concerts and worship sessions taking place during the week to which all of us locals are also invited.

On the Wednesday of the Refuel week (26th July) Lucy Moore, who is the person responsible for founding Messy Church UK, will be giving seminars in the morning at the Castle site but in the afternoon we are to host a Messy Church in our very own Bellie building to which Lucy is coming as well as hopefully many of the visitors from the Refuel Festival.

This is a great opportunity for us to open our doors and be involved in the Refuel Festival and to see that we are part of a wide and much bigger family – the family of God.

Messy Church is for all ages and EVERYONE is welcome to come along.

## **THE OUTDOOR NATIVITY**

**ISABEL MACLEOD**

As part of the Mission & Outreach of our Church we are challenged to get the Good News of Jesus over to those who have not heard locally, nationally and internationally. It sometimes seems like the hardest thing to do is to share our faith with those in our own local community. Many folks these days choose not to attend church and are not interested in hearing about God for whatever reason so it is important that we reach out and take the message to them.

So, we are considering staging an Outdoor Nativity which would take place in the Square some time in December and would hopefully reach out to everyone in our local community in some way. To make it work there needs to be willing volunteers to take part in various ways. An undertaking on this scale needs a

lot of organising and if you would like to be part of

the organising team then please let one me or one of the Mission & Outreach team know as soon as possible.

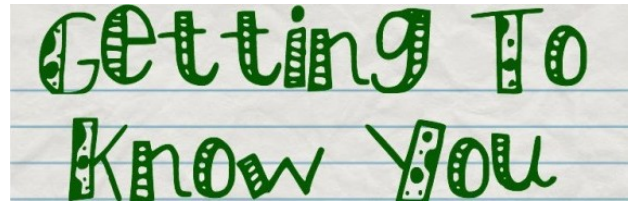
It might seem like a great big project but “Our God is a great big God”! So, why not leave your comfort zone behind, think “Out of the Box” and take part in this opportunity to let people in your local community know without a doubt that you are a Christian willing to stand up for Jesus?



# GETTING TO KNOW.....YOU!

## MARY GORDON

**I have been at Bellie....**1964 when my husband and I first married.



**I came to Bellie because.....**my husband's family were members and we enrolled our family as junior members.

**One thing I enjoy about Bellie is...**the friendly family atmosphere not only in the Sunday services but also in the many social activities.

**I find a lot of joy in....**regular communication with friends, coffee and chat and after services tea and coffee.  
I also enjoy seeing the young church members contribute and the input from the Praise Group and the Praise Band.

**If I won the lottery I would.....** ensure family and friends were well looked after and depending on the amount, contribute to local cancer charities and general medical needs.

**If I was stranded on a desert island and could have one luxury with me, I would ...** take the chance that I could have uninterrupted access to the story books/novels and factual information on my kindle!

**If I could travel anywhere in the world it would be...**to Australia—slow time comprehensive touring.

**The title of a book about me would be...** “Memories of a nurse, a farmer's wife and mother”.

**If I was to create a piece of art, the subject would be...**an Heirloom Quilt, made with patchwork blocks constructed from recycled fabrics from family history.



**If I could go back in time, I would travel to....** 1961, the year I met my husband.

## WORSHIP TEAM

LIZ RENNIE

Members of the Worship Team enjoyed celebrating Easter with Bellie Babes. As always it is an incredibly busy, happy and productive morning with babies, toddlers, Mums and Dads, Grannies and lots of volunteer helpers sharing the message of Easter through story, song, crafts and play. It is good to engage in this way with the youngest members of our Church Family.

Worship Team meetings have focused on planning for Milnescroft Services and looking at ways to support our Locum Minister. Members of the Team led Worship in Bellie and Speymouth on Sunday 21 May 2017 where we continued the journey through John's Gospel which Rev Morris has been leading us through from Easter towards Pentecost. We plan to help lead Worship along with Young Church Members at the Summer Family Service on Sunday 25 June 2017.

Calling all Organ / Keyboard players - we are still keen to recruit an Organist for Speymouth Parish Church. In addition anyone who feels they could contribute to a Rota for Bellie and Speymouth - please get in touch with a member of the Worship Team or indeed Session Clerk or Locum Minister. We are grateful to all of the Musicians who contribute at present.



The Guild will be leading Worship at Milnescroft on 4 June at 6.00pm. The next Service at Milnescroft will Celebrate Communion on 3 September 2017.





## **A WORD FROM YOUR INTERIM MODERATOR      REV JOHN MORRISON**

As we move once again from winter into summer it is good to notice the many and varied activities and services carried out and engaged in by the congregation, the kirk session, and the minister. We are so grateful to have the blessing of a committed and dedicated Locum minister and we thank God for his ministry in this area. One note of caution though our locum minister is only part time so please try to remember that when you call upon his services or find that he is not immediately available to you when you need to get in touch.

We also give thanks for you, the members of the congregation, who give so much of your time and efforts to support the church in all its work and in all its activities. Looking at what is coming up in the next few months we can see just how busy you all are and will be.

In relation to our search for a new minister, the nominating committee is still working determinedly and diligently. They meet regularly to plan each step along the way, you may have noticed the advert in Life and Work recently, this along with various other approaches continue to be used as we seek to find the right person to fit into the space waiting for them in Bellie and Speymouth. We are confident that in his good time, if we remain patient and trusting in him, God will lead us to the one he deems right to lead us forward.

Thank you for your continuing prayerful support in this and in all the work we do to God's glory.

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## **TEAM ROMANIA 2018      ISABEL MACLEOD**

### **SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS!**

Our mission link with Romania is important to us and once again we are aiming to send a team out to the Friendship Camp in Sistarovat. This would take place in early July 2018. It is a fantastic opportunity to work with orphaned and vulnerable children through providing activities, Bible teaching, music, drama etc.

Conditions there are basic, it can be very challenging and it is extremely hot but it is also an exceptionally worthwhile experience which will allow you to grow in your Christian faith and it can be life-changing. Those of us who have been before have fond memories of the children there and can remember vividly the highs and lows of travelling there and spending a "full-on" week with the kids.

We need a team who are willing to give up a week of their summer to spread God's word. However, there are costs involved and it is a huge commitment in terms of time and effort. Please pray and ask God to guide you on this matter.

In order to be able to come with us you must be 16 (or at the end of your S4 year) by July next year. You don't require any special skills but you will need patience, willingness to participate, compassion and a real desire to be part of a Mission Team aiming to fulfil the Great Commission to go into the world and make disciples.

If you are interested in joining Team Romania 2018 or would like to know more about it then please get in touch with Isabel MacLeod e-mail: [isabelmacleod72@hotmail.com](mailto:isabelmacleod72@hotmail.com).





## REFUEL EVENT AT GORDON CASTLE

Refuel is a family friendly Christian festival.

Filling Station Scotland is inviting Christians from all over the UK and abroad to come together for a summer family festival upon the wonderful grounds of Gordon Castle Estate, on the banks of the River Spey, in the Scottish Highlands from **Sunday 23rd July to Saturday 29th July 2017.**

With worship leaders and guest speakers coming from all over the world, refuel 17 is ready to welcome families, churches, youth groups, home groups, campers, clampers, motorhomes, caravaners for a week of Encounter, fun and inspiration in His name.

Contact 01343 610230/07813 872818 or email [refuel@thefillingstation.org.uk](mailto:refuel@thefillingstation.org.uk) or visit [www.refuelScotland.org.uk](http://www.refuelScotland.org.uk) for more information.

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## BELLIE AND SPEYMOOUTH HOODIES

It is hoped to place another order for Bellie & Speymouth Hoodies by the end of June. If you would like to order a hoodie then please add your name to the list in the church hall by 25th June.

Plain hoodies and zipped hoodies are available in most sizes from small child to XXXXXL adult. Prices vary so check the order form for details.

Hoodies have the Bellie & Speymouth logo on and come in different colours although most folks favour purple as shown by our Worship Band.



3:1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

2 a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up  
what is planted;

3 a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build  
up;

4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to  
gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain  
from embracing;

6 a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

7 a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to  
speak;

8 a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-22*



## YOUNG CHURCH MARGARET MCINNES

Thank you to all who supported the Young Church Lent Appeal and donated pre loved teddies, soft toys and sports equipment for Moray Supports Refugees. The 18 black bags we filled with the toys will be sorted at the Moray Supports Refugees Unit in Elgin and very soon they will be on their way to the camps in Greece, Turkey and Lebanon.



Lord of the journey, we ask for your protection on all who have fled their homes. Give them strength on their journeys and grant that they may find places of compassion at which to rest. Ease their fears and keep alive their vision of finding a secure and welcoming home. Amen.



### Easter Celebration and Pilgrimage - The Old Spey Bridge

On Easter Sunday we tried a new event for Bellie and Speymouth – a family Easter Celebration and short pilgrimage. We planned to meet on the old Spey Bridge, however there was a huge downpour just at the wrong time and we had to adjourn to the Bellie church hall where we celebrated in song, drama and prayer before a very short pilgrimage round the square.

The pilgrimage was led by Edward and Niamh, carrying a cross which had been constructed by Jeff especially for this occasion. Some of the younger children covered the cross with sticky butterflies.

We closed this happy time of celebrations by enjoying some fellowship time over refreshments whilst the children enjoyed decorating Easter eggs.



Many thanks to everyone who helped to make this memorable Easter celebration possible.



### Two dates for your diaries

On Saturday 24th June we plan a family picnic to Lossiemouth. If you can join us for this exciting event please confirm with the Sunday Club staff by 28th May 2017.

On Sunday 25th June, worship in Bellie will be a Family service, celebrating the end of the school year and the children stepping up to the next stage of their nursery or school careers.





## RECENT YOUNG CHURCH ACTIVITIES

LISA CAMPBELL

Psalm 23 and Jelly bean prayer are just a few of the lessons young church have been having fun with recently.

On Mothering Sunday, the church hall was transformed into a series of 'stations'. The children had great fun travelling through green pastures, dipping their toes into still waters, walking along uneven paths, and exploring dark tunnels each designed to help memorise those famous words.

Take some salt dough, 2 lolly pop sticks, some string and a colourful handful of jelly beans and what do you get? A jelly bean cross of course. For those who haven't seen it, the jelly bean prayer uses a series of coloured jelly beans to depict a key message from Easter—a fun messy activity with plenty of jelly bean tasting too!



Breaking bread, tasting wine and showing devotion to Jesus - all part of life within our Church community. Hand decorated wine glasses, toast shaped hearts and child friendly 'wine' helped teach the children the importance of this ceremony, and the simple message - Jesus loves us.



Children of all ages are welcome to attend Young Church, whether it be to play in the crèche or participate in the stories, activities crafts and games. We would love to see you on a Sunday morning!







## BELLIE BABES

ANNETTE MEIGHAN

Good Friday was celebrated Bellie Babes style with stickers, colouring and decorating biscuits! Then we listened to the story of Teddy and his friend the caterpillar who went into a cocoon and then appeared a few days later as a beautiful butterfly. We had an excellent turnout for the Good Friday special session and much fun was had by all.

We have some plans for the next couple of months and we will be joining in with the National Month of Prayer for Christian

Toddler Groups which is a UK wide event held throughout June every year and each year new Toddler groups join the register. It is overseen by a Christian charity 1277.org who are an Ecumenical organisation dedicated in supporting Christian toddler groups at the heart of all communities.

There are on average 1277 days between birth and starting nursery education and the charity wants to 'make them count' for the children and their families. For this we will be holding special themed Friday sessions during June linking it to the theme of the Month from Luke 5 v1-11, 'A net that works'. The congregations will also be asked to pray for the work of Christian toddler groups and especially Bellie Babes.

We will continue as usual over the summer holidays and welcome all new babies and toddlers and anyone who is pregnant.





06 August 2017	03 September 2017
13 August 2017	10 September 2017
20 August 2017	17 September 2017
27 August 2017	24 September 2017
	01 October 2017
	08 October 2017
	15 October 2017
	22 October 2017
	29 October 2017
	05 November 2017
	12 November 2017
	19 November 2017
	26 November 2017
	03 December 2017
	10 December 2017
	17 December 2017
	24 December 2017
	31 December 2017

McCONNACHIE John	Res
MURRAY Anne	
BORTHWICK, George	
JONES, Joan	
MacLEOD, Isabel	
RENNIE, Liz	
BOWIE, Ann	
FETTES, Catherine	
BROWN, Betty	
CLARK, Avril	
RAFFAN, Ann	
BROWN, Denise	
CAMPBELL, Chris	
PARK, Marjorie	
McINNES, Margaret	Organ
LAMBOURNE, Clare	Res
ALEXANDER, James	
MEIGHAN, Annette	Res
TRAVERS, Brian	pt/CO

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Please don't just tell the Elder that you can't make it and leave it for them to find a replacement.

## SUMMER WORSHIP

During the summer months of July and August, the congregations of Bellie Church and Speymouth Church will join together in worship as shown below. The Young Church will continue to meet at 10.00am at Bellie Church on the Sundays in July when the worship service will be taking place at Speymouth Church - however any of the younger folk who may want to join in at Speymouth, will be most welcome.



Notices will be displayed at both churches showing the details of the services.

Date	Time	Event	Place
Sunday 25 June 2017	10.00am	Young Church – End of 2016/2017 session United Worship	Bellie Church
Sunday 2 July 2017	10.00am	United Worship	Speymouth Church
Sunday 9 July 2017	10.00am	United Worship	Speymouth Church
Sunday 16 July 2017	10.00am	United Worship	Speymouth Church
Sunday 23 July 2017	10.00am	United Worship	Speymouth Church
Sunday 30 July 2017	10.00am	Ecumenical Service	Speyfest tented village, Fochabers
Sunday 6 August 2017	10.00am	United Worship	Bellie Church
Sunday 13 August 2017	10.00am	United Worship	Bellie Church
Sunday 20 August 2017	10.00am	United Worship	Bellie Church
Sunday 27 August 2017	10.00am	United Worship	Bellie Church
Sunday 3 September 2017	10.00am 11.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion	Bellie Church Speymouth Church Milnescroft

## FUNERALS

14th February	Ruth Neville	Kingston
24th March	Roy Lawtie	Portgordon
5th April	Henry MacGregor	Garmouth
8th April	John Murdoch	Orbliston
9th April	Helen Wylie	Fochabers
10th April	Margaret Mackenzie	New Elgin
10th April	Margaret Watt	Fochabers
27th April	Kathleen Hutchison	Mosstodloch



*God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a time;  
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
Taking, as He did, this sinful world  
as it is, not as I would have it;  
Trusting that He will make all things right  
if I surrender to His Will,  
That I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with Him  
Forever in the next.  
Amen.*



## TAKE NOTE

DENISE BROWN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNE MURRAY

During Lent at Take Note we have been learning about making a difference. We have been singing a Fischy music song which says: I can make a difference, you can make a difference, we can make a difference in this world of ours.

It all began by having a pancake night in March, with pancake and egg and spoon races. We all enjoyed the fresh pancakes made by Ann (I think we had at least 3 each!) The next week we talked about Fairtrade, which was quite topical as some of the children had been learning about this at school. Then the next week was learning about how to be Eco friendly, when we told the children that Bellie was an Eco church and showed them the eco corner in the Hall where they collect stamps, clothes, old glasses, old printer cartridges and milk bottle tops.

# RED NOSE DAY

## Red Nose Day Talent Show



We held a Take Note Talent Show on Red Nose Day raising £90 for Comic Relief. It was a fun evening with acts including, fiddlers, recorder, dancing, singing, comedy acts and jokes.

As usual, the Leaders got into the spirit and dressed up for their own act!



After a break for Easter holidays, we had an Easter theme week, when the children all made wooden crosses to take home.

We are now busy practising new songs ready for our trip to the Greyfriars Club in Elgin which is coming up shortly.

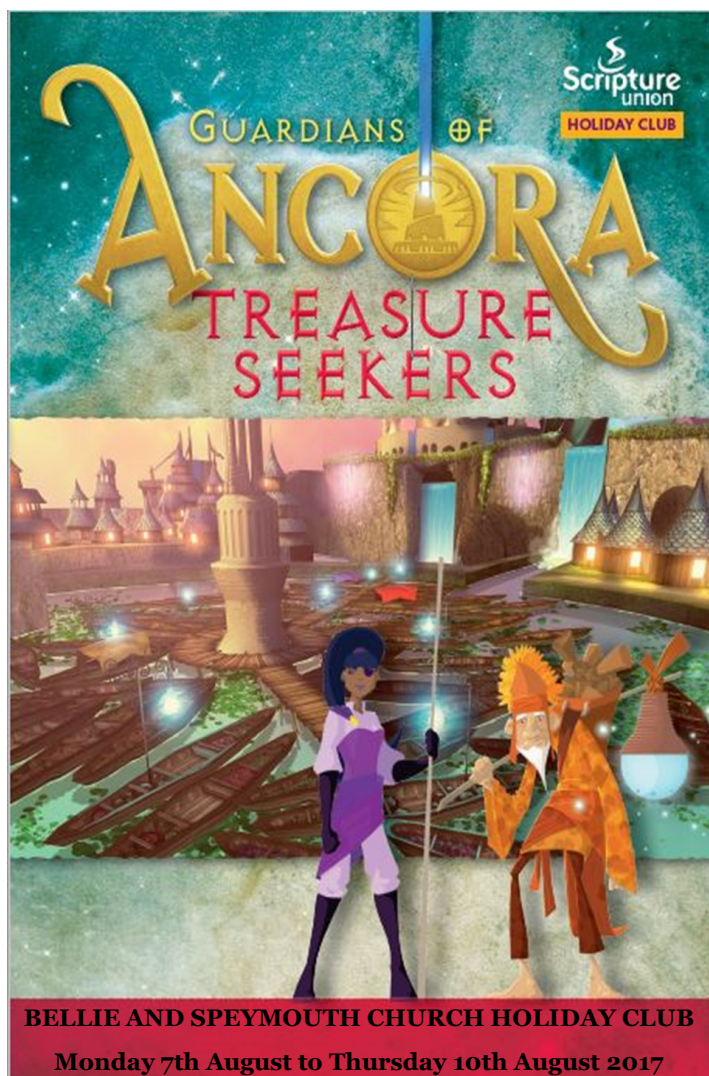
The light evenings are here and it's good to get into the garden for games on a Friday evening.

# Friday Fun night

We are holding our Family Night on Friday 16th June and our last Take Note before the summer holidays will be a Fun Night on Friday 23rd June.







## HOLIDAY CLUB IS BACK FOR 2017!

**DENISE BROWN**

Return to the magical land of Ancora where we will find NEW treasure and learn all about the life of Jesus.

### What is Holiday Club?

Holiday Club is full of fun. The week is filled with lots of activities including, crafts, music, drama, games and don't forget yummy snacks!

We welcome all children from those starting school going into Primary 1 up to Primary 7.

This year the Club will run for four mornings – Monday 7th August to Thursday 10th August, from 10am – 12.15 in Bellie Church Hall. The cost per child is £5 for the week.

Registration forms for the club will be available at the end of May so watch out for them. Places are limited, so don't miss out!

### Holiday Club Teen Night – Wednesday 9th August.

Open to all young people from Primary 7 upwards. Watch out for more details nearer the time.

If you have any queries or require any further information about the Holiday Club please contact Denise by email at [denise.brown3@tesco.net](mailto:denise.brown3@tesco.net)

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**Articles for the autumn  
issue should be with the  
Editor by 13th August 2017  
at the latest.**

Scottish Charity Number

SCO05310



## Reaching Out for an Enthusiastic Minister

To help us continue on our journey of faith.  
To ensure that our worship is inspiring and relevant  
to all in our local communities. To facilitate greater  
Mission and Outreach locally, nationally and  
internationally. To nurture our young people & build  
a future faith for all.

### *Moray, Speyside, Coast & Country.*

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space, freedom & a climate of it's own.... Sh!

Parish Profile available at

[www.bellieandspeymouth.org.uk](http://www.bellieandspeymouth.org.uk)

For further information please contact:

Interim moderator - Rev. John Morrison 01343 550199