



From Ann Raffan: *Among the unsung heroines who grace this world of ours are those who give and who arrange their church's lovely flowers.*

I wonder if they realize the pleasure that they bring to people who will gather there to worship and to sing or the warm friendship that they send when the flowers are given to those who can't attend.

[Ed. – Amen to that! I rejoiced with someone going in to the Lunch Club recently as they touched and were blessed by the arrangement in the hallway.]

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 1 Nov – Brew & Blether 2 -3.30pm, Speymouth Church Hall

Sun 10 Nov – Remembrance Services

Within Bellie Service 10am; 12.45 at Mosstodloch War Memorial; 2.30pm at Fochabers War Memorial; 2.50pm at Bellie Churchyard and 3.15pm at Upper Dallachy War Memorial, Bogmoor

Thu 14 Nov – Kirk Session Meeting

Sun 17 Nov – COMMUNION

Sun 24 Nov – UNITED Elder-led service celebrating CrossReach's 150th Birthday

NEXT ISSUE

Please send in 'copy' and photos AS & WHEN you have them

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KIRK NEWS LIGHT

Issue No 4, OCTOBER 2019



NEWS FROM THE MANSE

Sadly, we have to tell you that Seòras will be on sick leave for a while. Please surround him, Debbie and Sullie with your love and prayers and give them the privacy and space they need. May God minister his healing Word and assurance to them. *“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* Jeremiah 29: 11

Remember Colin Hanover as he stands in the gap and John McConnachie, Ann Bowie and the Kirk Session. *May they all stand strong in the Lord and in his mighty power, ...putting on the full armour of God* . Ephesians 6: 10-18

Spiritual warfare is real. *With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints*, including our former locum Rev Morris Smith and his wife, Jan, who were brutally assaulted recently and likely to be in hospital for some time.

Stand on the promises of God. *“I will guide them and comfort them and those who are sad for them. They will all praise me. I will give peace, real peace, to those far and near, and I will heal them,” says the LORD.* Isaiah 57: 18, 19 NCV

WHERE DID THE SUMMER GO?!



Moray Churches tent at **REFUEL** was a welcome sanctuary for many in the busy-ness of the programme of events at Gordon Castle Estate back in July. Some 700 visitors came through during the week. Rev Anne Attenburrow led a very meaningful ecumenical Communion Service on the final afternoon, when 40-50 from many denominations or none shared in unity around 'Jesus' table'. The Blessing went something like this;



May God make us fertile in faith, hope and love, and take us out with joy, and lead us on in peace, as signs of the fruitfulness of heaven. Amen



Scores of youngsters (and not a few adults!) enjoyed the fun, fellowship and activity of the **EDEN BUS**. The climbing wall was very popular.

And remember the **SPEYFEST Celtic Service... ..** and the **HOLIDAY CLUB** ? Give thanks for the talents and time shared so freely, (like the paintings from around Europe by Anne Murray) and pray that something of the love and 'fragrance' of Jesus will remain with children, young helpers and adults alike.



WE REJOICE WITH THOSE WHO REJOICE AND...

Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Florence Mary Stewart was baptized

Sullivan Seoras Orr was dedicated, as Debbie and Seoras renewed their marriage vows and committed themselves to being Godly parents.

Elara Shepherd was blessed.

Lord and head of our Church Family, surround these little ones and their family groups with your care and guidance. Remember them when we do not. Keep them close to your loving heart.

*Love never fails....these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love*

Cameron Young married **Marsailli Goodwin**

Eternally loving God, our human love does fail from time to time, but yours does not. Grant them your love.

... WEEP WITH THOSE WHO WEEP

DEPARTED FRIENDS

Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life".

Mrs Mary Scott

Mrs Sheena Hansen

Jeffrey Harris

Mrs Williamina (Meenie) Lindsay

Miss Evelyn Smith (Nether Dallachy)

William (Bill) Anderson (Abbeyvale)

May God's loving presence comfort all family and friends in their loss.

Apologies for the lack of dates/ detail.

BLESSED by John McConnachie

As a contributor to the charity, Child Care International, I receive a monthly e-mail from the sole paid employee, Ken Rae, (from Portsoy) who works in Vietnam. Ken travels to remote parts of the country assisting orphans and disadvantaged children. Some of the cases he deals with are quite harrowing and caused me to think of how blessed we are living in our community at this time. In the hills of west Vietnam, Ken was directed to the 'house' of a widow with an injured arm. When he arrived at the shelter, not a house, he found a woman in her thirties living with her son aged about eight. The woman was recovering from a broken right forearm which had been crudely set in splints made from small branches. Although the arm was healing, it was clear she would be left with deformity and disabilities. They relied on the charity of neighbours, themselves desperately poor. Ken was able to organise pain killers for the woman and to leave some money for them to obtain food. He will return to try to organise a more substantial 'house' for them and hopefully for the boy to receive some education.



This incident made a huge impression on me. Firstly, I live in a comfortable house. Secondly, a few years ago, I broke my arm - was immediately taken to hospital - expertly examined and treated - arm put into plaster - physiotherapy - access to pain killers whenever I needed them. Compare this to the plight of the Vietnamese woman. But for an accident of birth, that could have been me.

How blessed we are living today in this country. Our NHS and other social services may not be perfect but let's thank God for them. Let's also thank God for Ken Rae and others like him who in God's name work among the underprivileged throughout the world, sometimes at risk to themselves. Also, please take a few moments to pray for Ken, I know he would thank you.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLASS - Catherine Fettes

We meet in Bellie Church Hall on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. New people are always welcome to give it a try. During the Summer months we met once a month in Spey Bay Hall for social evenings when members from neighbouring classes joined us. These were enjoyable evenings with good fellowship. On our final evening we had live music and the supper was provided by The Trefoil Guild organised by Margo Howe, one of our members. The proceeds from that evening, over £350, went to the Trefoil Guild, Buckie. [We'll get a proper photo next time! – Editor] P.S. Jan Smith is one of our members and our thoughts and best wishes go to her and Morris.



BELLIE & SPEYMOOUTH GUILD – Liz Moir

Over the summer, we enjoyed *fellowship and fine pieces* at Knockando, Boyndie and Bijou by the Sea – the last with an interesting visit to the Fishing Heritage Museum at Buckie. On Sat 7th Sep the *Annual Gathering of the Guild* at Dundee was streamed live to Bellie Church (thanks to Neil Brown's technical expertise). Guild Week was marked by the *Big Guild Quiz* on 10th Sep and we have already been blessed by our *Dedication Service*, which included Communion served to us by Rev Seoras - an oasis in the maelstrom of life. (Our love & prayers to him) We led the *church service* on Sun 6th Oct and Rev Morris and Jan Smith shared *Thoughts on the Camino* on 15th Oct. (We are upholding them in prayer after the shocking assault on a local walk less than a week later)

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|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Oct 29th | Sahara Trek | Diane McLeish | Speymouth |
| Nov 12th | Gentle Exercises, | Ruth Rollo | Bellie |
| Nov 26th | Lepra, | Trish Pakenham | Speymouth |
| Dec 10th | Christmas Meal | | Bellie |

NOTES from the September meeting of the Kirk Session.

ECO Team - **Rag Bag collection** continues and brings a steady, moderate stream of income for the church. The last collection raised £70. So, keep putting the 'rags' and other items into the **container which is near the pavilion at the Playing Fields in Fochabers.**

Moray Food Bank. This is a vital service for the poor within our community. We are encouraged to keep the contributions coming – they are appreciated.

Mission and Discipleship Team It was a busy summer with some real highlights including the **Eden Bus** which attracted large numbers of young people as it visited different places in the Parish – next year? The team are now committed to '**Messy Church – on the move**' holding Messy Church in various halls in the area. This is to bring our church to the people and to plant the seed of God's love in different places. If you can help with Messy Church, get in touch with Isabel MacLeod. There are some great things planned for the future – watch this space.

Finance Team works largely unseen but is hugely important. They reported to the Kirk Session that our **finances are very tight.** We have little control over much of our expenditure eg gas, electricity, insurance, licences but they continue to make sure all money spent is for the good of the church and for God's work.



Property Team

With both buildings being over 200 years old, there is a great deal of on-going maintenance, costly but unavoidable. New Noticeboard and refurbished Session Room at Bellie ready for use.



General The Alpha Course was proving challenging but growth in knowledge and fellowship is clear. A huge amount of work is done by members of our church family and since the Christmas period can be especially busy and tiring for all involved in church activities, the minister suggested we have a '**Restful January**' to which the Kirk Session readily agreed! And in the meantime, if anyone can help with any of the events please come forward and offer – don't wait to be asked.

United Sharing Services on the last Sunday of the month began with *Take Note* testing us on how many words we could make out of **H-A-R-V-E-S-T** and *Young Church* sharing what they had been up to. The bubble-blowing machine ably operated by Rowan from on high was much appreciated!



From Avril Clark

The Traidcraft table will be set up in Bellie Church hall every Sunday, starting 27th October till 15th December.

Christmas card orders can be placed anytime from now on but **last orders will be Monday 25th November.** Simply fill in your details in the notebook beside the cards and we would be grateful if you would pay in advance. Payment to Ann Raffan, Joan Jones, Alison Clark or Avril Clark.

We are also visiting

***Brew and Blether on Friday 1st November and
Milnescroft on Wednesday 6th November.***

So get all your Christmas shopping by visiting the Traidcraft table and know you are supporting this charity.

(Hassle free - no queues - friendly service - easier than online 😊)