

MARCH 2015 MAGAZINE

Dear Friends

Greetings from your Manse

What an incredible start to the year we have had! We began our Union with worship in Speymouth Church. It really was both a Souper Sunday and a Super Sunday. There was a lot of goodwill around and still much festive cheer as we all shared best wishes for the New Year and prayed for the future that lies ahead of us.

The following Sunday we celebrated the new union formally with the Moderator of the Presbytery, Rev Danny Connolly, and we each made a commitment

“to come together and be one congregation in Christ Jesus, under the designation of *Bellie and Speymouth Parish Church of Scotland*”

And to pledge ourselves

“in the presence of God and depending on his help, to be faithful to the covenant of unity, love and peace into which we are now entering, for the better service of Christ’s kingdom and the glory of his Name”

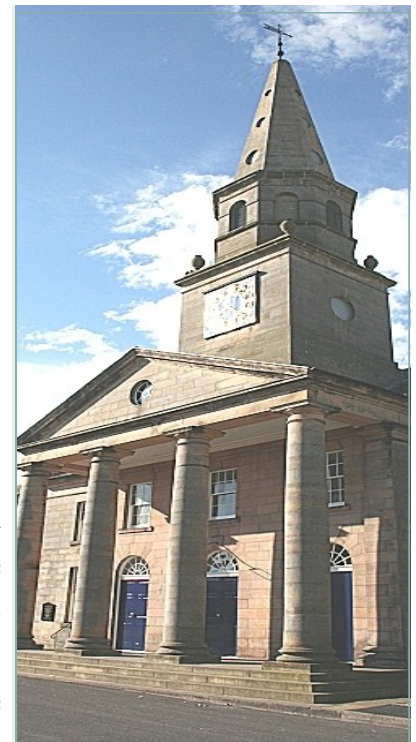
It was a wonderful all-age act of worship which included music from the Praise Group and Praise Band as well as the organ. We also sang our revised Linkage Hymn which is now our Union Hymn. We all had a good look at our new logo and there was a general sense of well being. The Moderator’s address gave us a clear and steady instruction to pull together and step forward in faith. The worship was followed by a fabulous buffet lunch and the new congregation was lively in the hall as we shared a magnificent spread – thanks to everyone who made all of this possible.

Most people will continue to serve the Church in some way even though we have had a constitutional change taking place too. Everyone was thanked for how they had served their former congregation. However there was an opportunity to say a special thank



you to four Elders for very long service and three of them retired having served their Lord devotedly as good and faithful servants. To Peter Cromar, Peter Dawson, Frank Low and George Nicol we said a special thank you.

(continued overleaf)



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There will no doubt be teething problems as we begin to arrange things a bit differently, taking into account all the new people that are coming together. We will all have to make an effort to get to know new names and faces and because we worship in two places that will take a bit of time. But if you find a new face sitting next to you or near to you, perhaps you could open a conversation by introducing yourself, rather than relying on the other person to speak to you – after all they may be a visitor and know no one. After the celebration lunch there were some cheery



folk clearing up and one said to me later, it was all a great start to something that is going to grow much bigger. Pray God that is true.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things." (Phil 3^{v13-15})

According to the South American evangelist Peter Wagner, who spent 30 years as the wonderfully entitled 'Professor of Church Growth' "Goal setting is a risk. One of the most comfortable things in the world is to have no goals, because then there can be no failure. It is equally comfortable to define your goals in terms of what you happen to be doing at any given time. If you shoot first, then draw the target around the bullet hole, you'll never miss the bull's eye. If someone looks later, he might even call you a good marksman."

Some people have developed this technique very well. Their goals are set more by their own inclinations than by carefully formulated biblical priorities.

Having a clearly defined goal is the first step towards the success of anything. However, according to motivational specialists only three percent of people have a major goal for their life. Without this we are like a rudderless ship. Instead of our setting the direction of our life, we let the winds and tides of the times take us where they will. As someone has said facetiously, "Blessed be he who aims at nothing for he shall surely hit it!"

As with the Apostle Paul, God has a specific goal for each one of us as well as for our new charge 'Bellie and Speymouth'.



It is our responsibility to discover what those goals are and to work together towards achieving them. And as Paul said, "All of us who are mature should take such a view of things." Exciting times undoubtedly are ahead – of that I am convinced. Please continue to pray for the church – perhaps this can be your Lenten commitment this year – to make space for a daily prayer for our church's future growth.

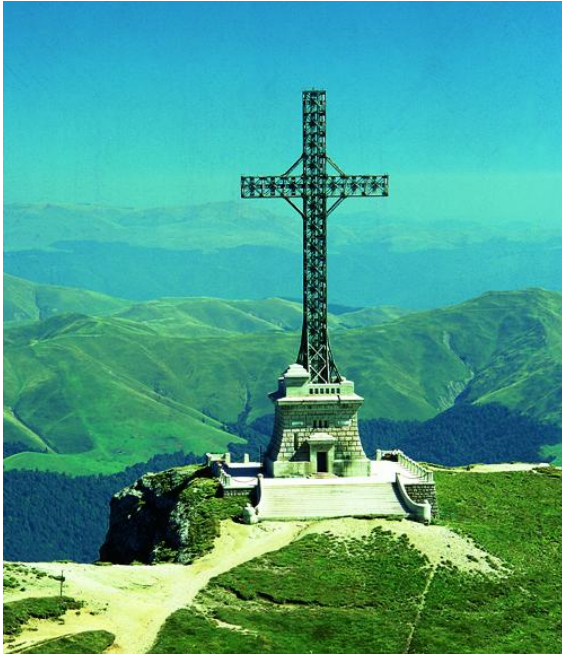
On behalf of the Manse family, I wish everyone the fullness of God's love and rich blessings this Easter time and always.

Your Minister,

Alison Mehigan

TEAM ROMANIA 2015 SUBMITTED BY ISABEL MACLEOD

Things are starting to get exciting in the run up to our mission trip to Romania in July. The team will be 17-strong with 9 young people coming along. We are planning regular training sessions and preparation sessions to get our materials and programme ready. This time around we are to be leading the week ourselves and it will be



run very much in the same way as our own holiday club - it will just be 3 times a day, in extreme heat and with the added difficulty of a language barrier! Some of our number are to be learning to be puppeteers so that a visual presentation can be used to help overcome the problem of not speaking Romanian. Music is also a great universal language and the Romanians are keen on singing and music. As well as teaching sessions and craft sessions with the children we shall be working with them in the spare time, getting to know them, building up relationships with them and teaching games and sports too. It will be a full-on, busy and demanding week with many challenges but it will hopefully prove to be very rewarding and humbling for all of us.

How can YOU be a part of the mission project for 2015?

Please pray for the team as we prepare to take on this mission and continue to pray as we go. You can be involved as a prayer partner - watch out for details of this very soon! Your support and prayers are so important and really do make a huge difference.

After we have seen our Romanian friends in March when they visit us to let us know how things are progressing at the camp, we will be collecting items to take with us to Romania. This time around we are to be collecting small items of stationery and craft materials to take with us to use and to give to the folks there. Maybe a small item like a pencil or ruler could be donated or perhaps a small notepad or a packet of crayons etc. We will then hopefully collate them into packs to be given out to the children. We will also hopefully collect toiletries and if you could provide a bar of soap, a facecloth or a toothbrush or some similar item then we will hopefully be able to make up packs with these too. We will not be collecting clothes this time since space is limited for transportation.

Thanks must go to all those who are faithful in their support of the whole project. The work there really does make a difference to many lives.



YOUNG CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS SUBMITTED BY MARGARET MCINNES



A heartfelt thanks from the Young Church to Anne Nicholson who baked and constructed the beautiful gingerbread nativity set for us. Also, our thanks to the ladies who baked the delicious gingerbread biscuits we enjoyed after the family Christmas service.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2015 SUBMITTED BY HELEN MILLS

This year Christian Aid week is 10th to 16th May. The ecumenical service is due to be held in St Mary's Church, Fochabers on the evening of 10th May. If you would like to participate in this service in any way, I should be delighted to hear from you.

The financial success of this week lies almost entirely with the volunteers who make the door to door collections in the Fochabers, Mosstodloch, Garmouth & Kingston, Bogmoor, Spey Bay and the Dallachies area. With that in mind I will shortly be contacting former helpers.

New collectors are always needed especially in the houses opposite Milne's High School, the Lhanbryde end of Pinewood Road and environs and Mill Place and environs in Mosstodloch. Help would also be welcome with counting the collection afterwards.

Anyone who can help in any way is asked to contact me, Helen Mills on 01343 820808. A new coordinator for this area is needed for our area from 2016.

ECO NEWS SUBMITTED BY AVRIL CLARK

The Eco Team

Just a brief introduction to the newly formed Eco Team since we have become a union. Team leader Avril Clark with the following team members Peter Cromar, Winnie Hepburn, Ann Raffan, Bob and Landi Still. Although this is the main team we would still like to call on willing helpers now and again so if you would like to be involved in some way please contact Avril Clark. We would love to have you on board.

Rag Bags

We hope to have raised a good sum of money from the recent collection. Thank you to everyone that contributed. As you will be aware it is this summer that T.G.I.S. goes out to Romania and at present the money raised through Rag Bags is helping to finance the trip for our young people. With this in mind we will probably have other collections at the end of April and June.

Stamps

Thank you for donating your stamps, they have now been sent off. The Appeal was to help support the running of a refuge house for women victims of domestic violence and their children in Milotopos, northern Greece. However there will be a new appeal for this coming year so please keep collecting as we have our all year collecting boxes available.

Traidcraft

Feel free to pick up a Traidcraft catalogue and at the end of each month we can put away a group order. A book will be left beside the Eco noticeboard for orders or alternatively speak to any of the Eco Team.

Also look out for the posters about Fairtrade's "Real Easter Egg Campaign". There will be an order book at the Eco Station so we can send away a group order. Payment in advance would be preferred.



Hearing Aids

Specsavers are now looking for donations of old hearing aids. If you can help out please put your old hearing aids in the spectacle recycling box. For further information check out the Eco noticeboard.

Eco Network Team Meeting

Bellie is host to the Eco network meeting held on Tuesday 17th March 7.30 – 9.00 in the session room.

Anyone is welcome to come along to hear how other churches' Eco Teams work and also become more informed about a variety of issues like working out your Carbon Footprint, Fracking, and Divestment.

Earth Hour

Bellie and Speymouth Eco Team would like to encourage you to take part in this years' "Earth Hour".

At 8.30pm on the 28th March, hundreds of millions of people will turn off their lights for one hour, on the same night, all across the world in a huge, show of support for action on climate change and for a more sustainable future. It's always a memorable and spectacular event with cities across the globe going dark for one hour.

However it is not just one hour of darkness it's your chance to be the difference that we need to protect our planet today and everyday. Bellie and Speymouth Eco Team will be signing up and by doing so we will be sending a message that we support action on climate change and that we want to protect our planet and the people and wildlife that depend on it for food, water, fuel....even the air we breathe. Be part of "Earth Hour", to make sure that climate and planet friendly decisions are made at the highest levels. More information can be found at www.wwfscotland.org.uk/earthhour

NEW CONGREGATIONAL TEAMS

Teams are Elder led which makes reporting to the Kirk Session straightforward.

As a minimum, each Team will meet 4 times per year, and some more often as their remits require. Teams are made up of Elders who serve for a three year term and may serve a second term before changing Team. The Kirk Session also appoints additional members of the Congregation to serve for a term of two years on a Team; appointed members can serve for three terms before stepping down or being invited to serve on another Team.

Thus, though we no longer have a Congregational Board under our new Unitary Constitution, we are still able to fully utilize the time and talents of our gifted congregational members.

ECO Team	Avril Clark
Fellowship Team	Denise Brown
Finance Team	Chris Campbell
Mission & Outreach Team	Isabel MacLeod
Multimedia Team	James Alexander
Pastoral Care Team	Rev Alison Mehigan
Property Team	Sandra Steel
Worship Team	Liz Rennie
Young Church Team	Margaret McInnes

BELLIE BABES SUBMITTED BY ANNETTE MEIGHAN



As the last 6 months of 2014 flew past we waved some 'regular' little one's off to full time nursery places but happily still see them from time to time during holidays. We continued during the autumn to welcome new babies and toddlers and their Mum's, Dad's and Grannies to our sessions on Friday mornings.

We held a successful Body Shop evening in October for the Mum's which was a great social occasion as well as a fundraising event and then on the 13th December we held our

infamous Christmas Party in the Hall where 28 children under 5 and over 50 adults had a great morning of party games, dancing and food. They especially enjoyed a very special visitor and for many little one's it was their first encounter with Father Christmas! Then in January the Mum's enjoyed a belated Christmas evening meal and 14 of us braved the snowy elements and had a great evening at Bijou by the sea in Buckie.

2015 sessions have started well and numbers at each Friday session continue to be fairly steady at about 20 children each week. We are planning to add the occasional special event into our regular sessions as we did last year and our first one will be our Easter Celebration during the session on Good Friday which be led by ourselves and the Church Worship Group involving a short act of worship with lots of music and singing and some crafts as well as the regular playtime and snack.

Remember Bellie Babes is open to all pre-school children as well as Babies and toddlers and we love to welcome new faces. If you are new to the area or know of someone who would benefit from joining the group (including Mum's to be) then please come along on a Friday morning or contact Annette Meighan.

THE TOUCH OF THE MASTERS HAND SUBMITTED BY RITA PICKSLEY

Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer
thought it scarcely worth his while to waste much time on the old violin,
but held it up with a smile; "What am I bidden, good folks," he cried,
"Who'll start the bidding for me?" "A dollar, a dollar"; then two!" "Only
two? Two dollars, and who'll make it three? Three dollars, once; three
dollars twice; going for three.." But no, from the room, far back, a
gray-haired man came forward and picked up the bow; Then, wiping the dust
from the old violin, and tightening the loose strings, he played a melody
pure and sweet as caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer, with a voice that was quiet and low,
said; "What am I bid for the old violin?" And he held it up with the bow.
A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two? Two thousand! And who'll make
it three? Three thousand, once, three thousand, twice, and going and
gone," said he. The people cheered, but some of them cried, "We do not
quite understnad what changed its worth." Swift came the reply: "The touch
of a master's hand."

And many a man with life out of tune, and battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd, much like the old violin, A
"mess of pottage," a glass of wine; a game - and he travels on. "He is
going" once, and "going twice, He's going and almost gone." But the Master
comes, and the foolish crowd never can quite understand the worth of a soul
and the change that's wrought by the touch of the Master's hand.



Myra 'Brooks' Welch

SPEYMOUTH WELCOME ROTA

MARCH

1st	Sandra Steel	Olive Craigie
8th	Jean Leithead	Winnie Hepburn
15th	Helen Campbell	Jean Ogilvie
22nd	Grace Hendry	Evelyn Steven
29th	Janet Whyte	Alison McDonald

APRIL

5th	Robert Still	Jennifer Reid
12th	George Chisholm	Helen Morrison
19th	Jean Leithead	Evelyn Steven
26th	Olive Craigie	Alison McDonald

MAY

3rd	Helen Campbell	Olive Craigie
10th	Grace Hendry	Winnie Hepburn
17th	Janet Whyte	Jean Ogilvie
24th	Robert Still	Jennifer Reid
31st	George Chisholm	Helen Morrison

JUNE

7th	Jean Leithead	Evelyn Steven
14th	Sandra Steel	Winnie Hepburn
21st	Grace Hendry	Jennifer Reid
28th	Janet Whyte	Jean Ogilvie

BELLIE AND SPEYMOUTH FELLOWSHIP TEAM

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH? SUBMITTED BY DENISE BROWN

BELLIE & SPEYMOUTH SPRING SALE **SATURDAY 7TH MARCH at BELLIE HALL** **10 am – 12 noon**

Join us for tea, coffee and hot cross buns.

Stalls include raffle, guess the whisky, cake & candy, craft, bottle stall, mystery parcels, chocolate in boxes and bric a brac/books.

Any donations for the stalls can be brought along to the hall at 8 p.m. on the Friday evening or on the day. If you are able to help out in any way, watch out for the list of helpers which will be in both churches and add your name to the list.

This is our first united fundraiser so let's work together and make it a success. Look forward to seeing you all there!

TAKE NOTE HELP 'HAYLEY'S HELP'

Gary and Lynn Smith were invited to visit us at Take Note so we could present them with a cheque for Hayley's Help, as Hayley was one of the first original members of Take Note. We raised £250 from the collections at our Christmas concert and the Spey Bay Carol Service. Gary and Lynn enjoyed hearing the children sing some of their favourite songs. (picture below).



CELEBRATE 30 YEARS OF BELLIE **CHURCH HALL**

WITH OUR FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT ON **SATURDAY 21ST MARCH**

7 P.M. FOR 7.30 START

Get your team at the ready! Quizmaster Chris Campbell has a fun quiz suitable for all the family. A light supper of sandwiches, homebakes, with tea and coffee will be served at half-time.

Don't worry if you haven't got a team – just come along and we will make up teams on the night. Join us for fun and fellowship – better than Saturday night TV!



TAKE NOTE PARTY

After a hectic run up to Christmas, January has been more relaxing at Take Note with a fun night and then our New Year party. Once again, Craig Lambourne provided us with a great night of music and games which was enjoyed by 44 children and adult and teen helpers. We received a kind donation from the residents of Milnescroft which we used for the party.

DOVES OF PEACE SUBMITTED BY AVRIL CLARK

Thank you for your involvement in the recent Dove of Peace campaign which took place in both churches. Members of the congregations focussed on prayer by taking the Moderator's prayer which was printed out and displaying a dove. The Sunday club, T.G.I.S. and one or two adults decorated doves which gave us a display raising awareness to the troubles taking place throughout the world and our desire for an end to global conflict.



Sometimes there is a time to do things and although the campaign started last year and we have only taken part now it has been right for us because we have just joined in union and the two congregations have had it as a prayer focus. Also our prayers are needed constantly for peace.

We have forwarded a couple of photos of our display which will hopefully be displayed on the Church of Scotland website or Facebook page. Also we have sent off a few of our doves to the moderator as he requested showing our involvement in the campaign.

PRAISE BAND SUBMITTED BY ISABEL MACLEOD



What is your favourite hymn? Many of us may well say "How great Thou art". It was voted the most popular hymn again this year on BBC Songs of Praise. Ask someone under the age of 30 what their favourite hymn is and they may well say "My Jesus, My Saviour" or "Shine, Jesus shine". Times are changing and in church circles too there are many modern hymn writers who have written worship songs which are relevant to today and in language that the younger generation are familiar with. In the last year the new Praise Band has made an attempt to modernise our worship music and introduce some hymns by popular hymn writers of our time such as Stuart Townend, Matt Redman, Chris Tomlin and Keith and Kristin Getty. Their hymns are sung widely in churches of many denominations today and now regularly feature on Songs of Praise too.

The Band came about after a meeting of The Way Forward group and first played in Bellie in May last year. From this March the band are to be playing for worship at the second service in every month as well as for our all-age services. Our own young people (Young Church and TGIS members) as well as their parents have welcomed this new style and it is being introduced in an attempt to grow our congregation and widen the scope of our worship. The members of the band (who are very young at heart) are keen to contribute in this way and are on the lookout for not only new material but are hoping to contemporise some of our golden oldies too! Watch out for an upbeat version of your favourite in the near future!

In the services where the band has played so far some folks have commented that almost everyone went out with a smile. Let's hope the new approach can inspire and uplift as many as possible as well as encouraging new folks to come along and come back again. Please pray for the band as we work on these new items. Some of TGIS have also been helping out with the singing and playing when they can and they are very keen so please also encourage them.

BELLIE AND SPEYMOOUTH GUILD SUBMITTED BY MARGARET KING

We have had an enjoyable start to 2015, hearing something of the remarkable story of Mary Slessor, learning yet more from the evergreen parable of the Good Samaritan in our Bible Study and watching in amazement as beautiful objects emerged from plain old blocks of wood turned on the lathe of George Thow.

Bringing new and beautiful 'life' to what was old and dead made me think of Jesus dying on a dead tree and bringing forth new and eternal life for all. Our theme, 'A World to Serve', involves looking after the environment we live in. Recycling 'dead wood' is a fascinating way to do that!

A fun time was had in Speymouth as we remembered the joy, hope and unity shown in the Commonwealth Games hosted by Glasgow, thinking that these qualities should be apparent in sharing our faith.

Now we look forward to the remainder of our meetings which include:

Project updates – both Churches

World Day of Prayer - Fri 6 March, 7pm Bellie Church

Visit from Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia, (St Sylvester's RC Church, Elgin) – 10 March, Bellie

Showing of the DVD from last year's Guild Rally, technology permitting!

Afternoon Tea for Team Romania – 29 March, 2.30pm, Bellie

Keep your eye on the Church Intimations for up-to-date details...

Every Blessing for a Happy and Meaningful Easter!



GETTING TO KNOW.....YOU!

CHRIS CAMPBELL

I have been at Bellie and Speymouth for as long as I can remember. I was baptised at Speymouth Church and went to the Sunday School there for a few years before moving over to Bellie. Even although I was in Aberdeen for a few years at university, I have been part of the Bellie church community ever since.

I find a lot of joy in spending time with my family. If there could be more than 24 hours in the day, I would spend the extra time with them.

If I won the lottery I would pay off our mortgage, go on a nice holiday and give some money to good causes (one of which would be Bellie and Speymouth)

I would love to travel to Australia/New Zealand one day to see what life is like 'down under'

If I was to create a piece of art, the subject would be something very simple, as I've never been good at art

If I was on a desert island, my luxury item would be my iphone with 3G connection as I am always on it!

JANET WHYTE

I have been at Bellie/Speymouth since.....Feb 2011
I came to Bellie/Speymouth because.....Apart from being our local Church, we worshipped at Speymouth Church as a family from 1978 to 1983, so when we came back to live in the area, it was the obvious choice!

One thing I enjoy about Bellie/Speymouth is....the excellent teaching and feeding from the Minister, and the fellowship of the members in both Churches.

I find a lot of joy in.....having coffee with friends, visiting grandchildren, and quiet nights at home!

If I won the lottery I would.....it will never happen because I don't buy the tickets!

If I was stranded on a deserted island and could have one luxury item with me, it would be.....my husband or if that's not possible, some everlasting chocolate.

If I could travel anywhere in the world, it would be.....Italy

The title of a book about me would be.....She tried hard!

If I was to create a piece of art, the subject would be.....the countryside and seaside

If I could go back in time, I would travel to....1982 because I might now handle a difficult situation differently.

Once upon a time I..... was young and slim

BELLIE AND SPEYMOOUTH YOUNG CHURCH SUBMITTED BY MARGARET MCINNES

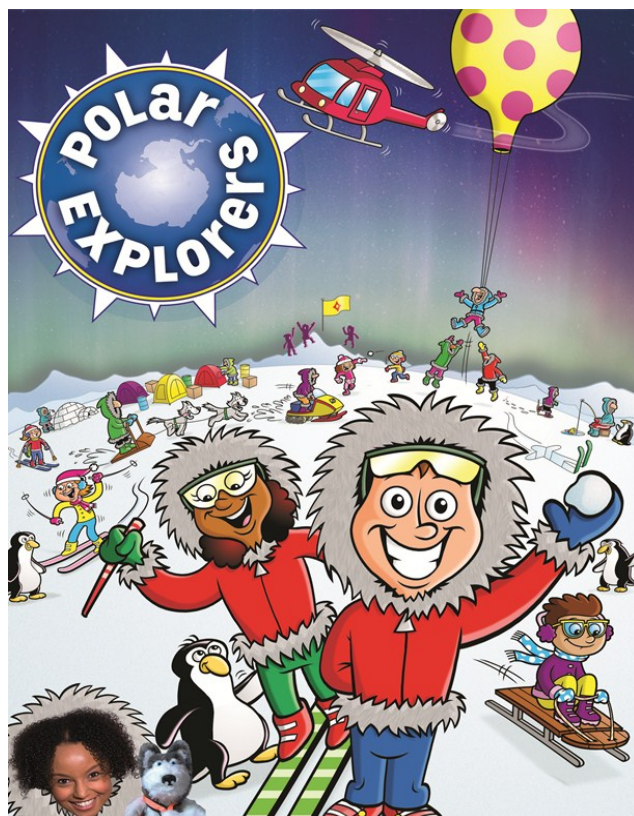
As you are aware we are richly blessed with many young people and children being part of our church family. Every section of our Young Church has grown in the past year and as result we are in the very fortunate position of having situations vacant for leaders and helpers. If you can help in anyway it would be greatly appreciated. As well as helping on a rotational basis, using your skills and talents; music, playing games, telling stories and listening, there are many other support or backroom opportunities – administration, arts and crafts preparation, fund raising activities, praying for our young people and their families to name but a few. Please give prayerful consideration to joining the team nurturing and supporting the youngsters in our midst.

Holiday Club 2015

The Holiday Club this year is a fun packed week for primary school aged children called Polar Explorers! A large team is needed to run the holiday club from the 10th until the 15th of August. This year the team will begin meeting fortnightly on a Tuesday evening from 14th April until the end of the school term in June. At these meetings, we will be sharing, making, practicing, learning, having fun and eating!

Save the date Tuesday, 14th April at 7.30pm in Bellie Church Hall – Holiday Club – check church notices or contact Margaret McInnes – 823976 or margaret.mcinnnes60@gmail.com.

Children beginning primary one through to those going into primary 7 can register for holiday club during June 2015.





PUPPET TRAINiNG DAY

EVER WONDERED ABOUT USING PUPPETS AS A MINISTRY TOOL?
FIND OUT HOW TO GET STARTED AND LEARN SOME BASIC/ADVANCED SKILLS

DATE: SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 2015
VENUE: SPEYMOOUTH PARISH CHURCH
MOSSTODLOCH
MORAY
TIME: 10.30 AM TILL 3 PM
COST: DONATION

FEATURING A RESOURCES STALL SELLING PUPPETS,
CD'S, SCRIPTS AND LOTS MORE
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH - TEA AND COFFEE PROVIDED
TO BOOK PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS WATT:
CHRIS@OUTOFTHEBOX.ME.UK OR 07793000309

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.OUTOFTHEBOX.ME.UK
OUT OF THE BOX (SCOTLAND) LTD IS A SCOTTISH REGISTERED CHARITY - SC035701



PUPPET TRAINING DAY

Come along to Speymouth Church Hall on Saturday 28th March, 10.30 - 3.00pm to the Puppet Training Day led by Chris Watt from Out of the Box. Out of the Box provides Christian outreach using **puppetry**.

For further information visit www.outofthebox.me.uk or contact Margaret McInnes on 01343 823976.

You can also contact Chris direct by email on chris@outofthebox.me.uk or 07793000309 to book your place.

ALL ONE IN CHRIST SUBMITTED BY MARGARET KING

Mission Resource Morning – Saturday 7th February

Wearing the two hats of Presbytery Adult Trainer and member of the Presbytery's Mission & Service Committee, I was involved in running the Presbytery's Mission & Resource Morning in Bellie & Speymouth Church [Bellie] premises.

It was great to see around 40 participants from about 10 of Moray's charges and one from an independent group called Jasciah [Just A Small Church In A House!]

Development Workers from the Mission & Discipleship Council (Fresh Expressions of Church) and World Mission Council (Congregational Twinning) lifted our eyes to different and wider horizons, while I did a workshop on Visiting the Bereaved.

Literature and information stalls were provided by Crossreach, (Social Care Council), World Day of Prayer, Christian Fellowship of Healing, Messy Church and Elgin Street Pastors.



Elgin Street Pastors' Commissioning Ceremony

It was as a result of speaking with the last of these, that I, (reluctantly I have to say!), dragged myself in to Elgin Free Church to the Commissioning Service for 6 new street pastors on the Saturday evening. This new contingent brings their number to 21. I returned home an hour and a half later, still very tired, but grinning from ear to ear.

We sang three hymns/ songs - 'How Great thou art', Psalm 46, unaccompanied, in the Free Church tradition and ended with a song of consecration I didn't know, in the independent charismatic tradition, but which everybody sang with feeling. I found the acceptance of each other's styles immensely heart-warming.

I sat beside folk from Holy Trinity Episcopal, and the new street pastors came from 6 different churches in Lossiemouth, Elgin, Lhanbryde and Banff - 4 'independents', 1 Baptist, 1 Church of Scotland!

A Moray Councillor spoke a few words in praise of their work, finishing with a lovely prayer. A Police Inspector gave amusing but apt words of welcome. And finally the new street pastors were 'capped' with their baseball caps and 'prayed in' by a member of the Ascension Trust from Inverness.

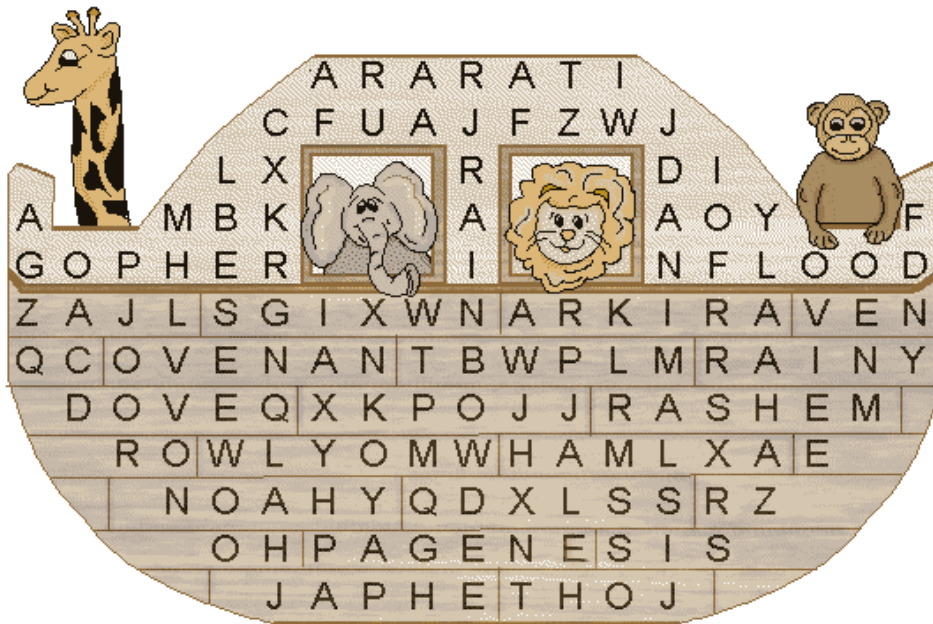
I was greatly encouraged by the breadth, variety and unity of the whole day.

We are, wonderfully, ONE in Christ!

Jesus said, "I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it! Matthew 16: 18

KIDS CORNER

Noah's Ark



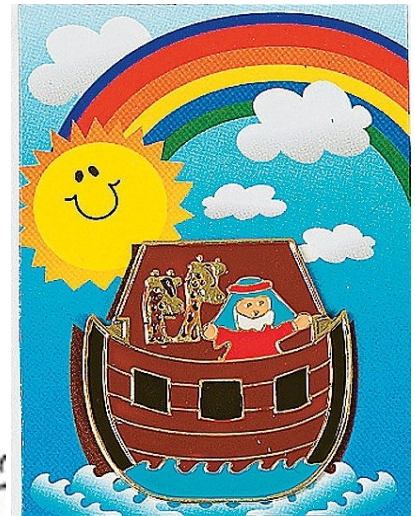
animals
Ararat
ark
covenant
dove

flood
Genesis
gopher
Ham
Japheth

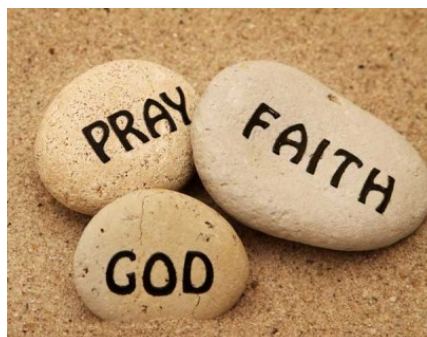
Noah
rain
rainbow
raven
Shem



Noah was God's friend.
He listened to God. God
told Noah to build a big
boat. Noah put his
family in the boat. He
put many animals in it
too. When a terrible
flood came, Noah and
his family and the
animals were safe inside
the boat. (Genesis 6—8)



Two by two
into the ark
the animals did go.
Forty days
the rains came
down to flood
the earth below.
Inside they stayed
until the day
when God said
they could go.
God always keeps
His promises,
for the Bible
tells us so.



PRAYERS FOR PEACE FROM REV JENNY ADAMS

Christians around the world are praying for peace in the Middle East on the 24th of each month. We pray with and for our sisters and brothers in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory who have called for an ecumenical prayer vigil across the globe on the 24th of every month.

The Church of Scotland is joining this movement with Christian Aid and the Scottish Episcopal Church and in partnership with the worldwide ACT Alliance.

And in Moray, following a larger gathering on 24th November, we are trying to continue a short vigil on the 24th of each month. We will meet at Spynie Kirk, by Elgin, at 4pm—4.20pm on 24th February. Everyone is welcome.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING GROUP SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE FETTES

The Scottish Country Dancing Group have enjoyed meeting up and going over old dances and learning new dances for the various rallies coming up. We have welcomed a few new people along and it is a joy to see dancers of all ages and abilities enjoying themselves together.

If you are interested in coming along we meet in the Church Hall on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 until 9pm.

BREW AND BLETHER

SUBMITTED BY
GRACE HENDRY &
JENNY REID

(pictured in the new Kerr kitchen which was refurbished with money kindly left to the church by the late Janet Kerr)



We were delighted to welcome everyone to our February get-together. We were able to show off our newly refurbished kitchen in the Speymouth Hall. It was good to see folks from over the Spey and hope they will join us soon again.

The date of our next Brew and Bletther will be the 6th March the day before the Bellie Spring Sale. In April as the first Friday falls on Easter week - Good Friday - PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL MEET THE FOLLOWING WEEK ON THE 10TH APRIL and then on the 1st May.

Look forward to seeing you all then. All welcome to join us.

TAKE NOTE UPDATE

SUBMITTED BY DENISE AND
NEIL BROWN

We are busy learning some new songs ready to sing at the Afternoon Tea on Sunday 22nd February. Do come along and support us. 4 of the leaders from Take Note are going off to Romania this summer to run a week's summer camp with part of the team from Bellie & Speymouth Church.

We are planning a mini talent show on Friday 13th March as it is red nose day (Comic Relief) Watch out for posters!

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

Funerals

Mr John Donald (Donald) Scott, 12 Dean Place, Mosstodloch,
9 December 2014

Mrs Elizabeth Catherine (Betty) Henderson, 20 Mill Place, Mosstodloch,
19 December 2014

Mrs Janet McIntyre Kerr, The Grove, formerly Easter Marchfield,
28 December 2014

Mr Robert Harry (Bob) Harrold, Ivy Cottage, Blackdam,
17 January 2015



Baptisms

Lewis Oliver Campbell. Infant son of Chris and Emma Campbell of 7 Bogmoor Road, Bogmoor
Baptised on 23rd November 2014 at Bellie Parish Church

Brodie Craig Lambourne. Infant son of Craig and Clare Lambourne of 'The Lodge', West Street, Fochabers
Baptised on 22nd February 2015 at Bellie Parish Church





SHROVE TUESDAY

How many smaller words can
be made from the letters above?



The Young Church enjoyed
making their own pancakes
with Margaret and Alison on
Sunday 15th February 2015.



1. Listen without interrupting (Proverbs 18)
2. Speak without accusing (James 1:19)
3. Give without sparing (Proverbs 21:26)
4. Pray without ceasing (Colossians 1:9)
5. Answer without arguing (Proverbs 17:1)
6. Share without pretending (Ephesians 4:15)
7. Enjoy without complaint (Philippians 2:14)
8. Trust without wavering (1 Corinthians 13:7)
9. Forgive without punishing (Colossians 3:13)
10. Promise without forgetting (Proverbs 13:12)
11. Honour without fail (Hebrews 13:4)

"WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T LOOKING"

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you hang my first painting on the
refrigerator,
and I wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you feed a stray cat,
and I thought it was good to be kind to
animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you make my favorite cake for me,
and I knew that little things are special
things.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I heard you say a prayer,
and I believed that there was a God to
talk to.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I felt you kiss me goodnight,
and I felt loved.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw tears come from your eyes,
and I learned that sometimes things
hurt,
but it's alright to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw that you cared,
and I wanted to be everything that I
could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I looked....
and I wanted to say thanks for all the
things
I saw when you thought I wasn't
looking.

Author: Mary Rita Schilke Korazan

A Blessed Easter

*Easter comes with spring
Which exhibits great rebirth
All the wonders of God's
Creation*

*Come alive upon this earth.
But the greatest wonder
To behold and cherish dear,
Is living with the knowledge
That our Lord. He did
appear.*

*He died for all of us
To cast our sins away.
His death was not in vain,
though,
If we live in Him each day.*

*.....Sharon Donnelly
2005*

CHURCH AND SOCIETY SUBMITTED BY JOHN MCCONNACHIE

The Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland is charged with engaging in the national, political and social issues affecting Scotland and the world today. The Society brings reports to the General Assembly which allows the Church to form its policies on various issues. In the recent past, these issues have included violence against women, human trafficking, and competitiveness in sport. Current themes being discussed include taxation, corporal punishment of children and various ethical issues surrounding climate change. The Council was heavily involved in the lead up to the Scottish Referendum in 2014 hosting and encouraging meetings all over the country as part of the Moderator's 'Respectful Dialogue'.

The Council is composed of a variety of women and men from various backgrounds including ministers, medical professionals, teachers, lawyers, engineers, and scientists. In some cases the council seeks advice from experts in the fields under discussions eg in the discussions on taxation, accountants specialising in taxation have been consulted.



In addition, the Council's Education Committee represents the Church on educational matters. The Council also runs Prison Visitor Centres including the new 'bus' at Cornton Vale near Stirling.

One busy part of the Council's work is with the Scottish Churches' Parliamentary Office where the staff maintain a close watch on the activities of the Scottish and UK Parliaments. The Church is frequently asked to comment on various bills under discussion or to comment on issues raised in both Holyrood and Westminster eg submissions were sought on the proposed legislation on the control of air guns, betting offices and the current bill on lobbying.

The Council also works with other churches to stimulate awareness of current issues in society. A good example of this was the booklet 'myths and lies we tell ourselves about the poor', a hard hitting document which presented a different view, perhaps a more Christian view, to that shown in the popular media – this report was sent to every MP and MSP; I wonder how many read it? Currently work is being done on an equally hard-hitting report on the 'sanctioning' of benefit claimants, how this is done and the effect this has on people.

The Council is not afraid of controversy both inside and outwith the Church. The report on the 'Children of Abraham' raised outrage from some parts of the Jewish Community but has led to a meaningful dialogue with both Jewish and Muslim leaders.

Being part of this Council is a great privilege but does involve some intense study to keep abreast of the issues under discussion. Some of the meetings are in Edinburgh but the Council meets twice a year for a two day session in Coatbridge. This involves working well into the evening, this year it was 9.15pm before we finished. In future issues of the magazine, I shall give more detail of some of the issues under discussion.

Details of the work being done by the council are available on the Church of Scotland website.

NEW BELLIE AND SPEYMOUTH CHURCH MAGAZINE BY CLARE LAMBOURNE

I do hope that you are enjoying the newly designed church magazine, and although I am expecting to 'tweak' it as the issues progress, I am sure you would agree that a more original and fitting title would be a good place to start. I would therefore appreciate receiving any suggestions from you. Please have a think, and pass any ideas on at church to me in person or via my email (clare002@hotmail.com) before 17th May 2015 so it can be considered for the next magazine.

NEW PARISH DISTRICTS JANUARY 2015

DISTRICT A **Liz Rennie**
George St, South St, Spey St, Square (S)

DISTRICT B **Denise Brown**
West St, Castle St, Duke St, Duncan Av,
Gordon St, Maxwell St, The Square(N),
Westmoreland St

DISTRICT C **Peter Cromar**
Burnside Rd, High St, Institution Rd,
Lennox Cr

DISTRICT D **John McConnachie**
Castlehill Rd, Milne Rd, Murrayfield

DISTRICT E **Brian Travers**
Christie Pl, East St, High St, South St,
Westmoreland St

DISTRICT F **Avril Clark**
Ordiequish Rd, Richmond Pl, West St,
Woodside Pl, Woodside Rd

DISTRICT G **Ann Raffan**
Milnescroft Crt

DISTRICT H **Marjorie Park**
Spey Crt, Spey Crs, Spey Dr, Spey Rd

DISTRICT I **Joan Jones**
Byres, Den, Gordon Castle, Lynden Ct,
The Quarters

DISTRICT J **tbc**
Tynet, Upper Dallachy, Auchenhalrig,
Lower Auchenwreath

DISTRICT K **James Alexander**
Bogmoor

DISTRICT L **Ann Bowie**
Postal, Nether Dallachy, Tugnet

DISTRICT M **George Borthwick**
Enzie, Clochan

DISTRICT N **Bob Still**
Birnie Pl, Findlay Rd, Stynie Rd

DISTRICT O **Helen Campbell**
Mossmill Pk

DISTRICT P **Olive Jenkins**
Garmouth Rd, Glebe Rd, Main Rd,
Mill Pl, Newton Pl

DISTRICT Q **Isabel MacLeod**
Balnacoul Ln, Balnacoul Rd, Linksfield Rd

DISTRICT R **George Chisholm**
Pinewood Rd

DISTRICT S **tbc**
Church St, High St, Lemanfield Cr

DISTRICT T **Janet Whyte**
Hedge Rd, South Rd, Station Rd

DISTRICT U **Jean Leithead**
Cadgers Rd, Dunkirk Rd, Stratheden Pl,
The Sidings, Kingston

DISTRICT V **Anne Murray**
Inchberry Pl, Inchberry Rd,
Lower Inchberry

DISTRICT W **Stanley Mair**
Marchfield, Orbliston, Connagedale,
Corskie, Gladhill, Kennieshillock, Wester
Bauds, Crofts of Dipple, Blackdam

DISTRICT X **Grace Hendry**
Elgin, Lhanbryde

DISTRICT

PCT1 Catherine Fettes & Doreen Malcolm

Buckie, Clochan, Rural Fochabers, Keith, Huntly,
Speybay

PCT2 Irene Harrold & Alison Paterson

Fochabers

PCT3 David Whyte

Garmouth, Kingston, Mosstodloch

PCT4 Grace Hendry

Elgin

NB All members of the Pastoral Care Team carry a card
indicating their name and membership of the Pastoral
Care Team.

Want to serve God?



- Aged 18-25?
- Thinking of taking a gap year?
- Interested in volunteering in a parish or project whilst exploring a vocation in the Church?

If you answered yes to all three questions, then Volunteering Vocations is for you!

Living in community with other volunteers, you will spend 10 months participating in a wide range of tasks in a supported and reflective environment, for example:

- Youth outreach and other missional work
- Arts, music and drama projects
- Work within children's and youth ministries
- Family support projects
- Work with pastoral care teams
- Caring for the environment

Be a pioneer and take part in our Volunteering Vocations Pilot – for details on how to apply, contact Heather at vocation@cotscotland.org.uk.

Closing date for applications: 27th February 2015.

Image left: Clive Chibani - Shutterstock.com

The Church of Scotland

Scottish Charity Number: SC211282
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www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve

CELEBRATE 30 YEARS OF BELLIE CHURCH HALL WITH OUR FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT ON SAT 21ST MARCH

7 P.M. FOR 7.30 START

Get your team at the ready! Quizmaster Chris Campbell has a fun quiz suitable for all the family. A light supper of sandwiches, homebakes, with tea and coffee will be served at half-time.

BELLIE & SPEYMOUTH SPRING SALE

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH at BELLIE HALL

10 am – 12 noon

Join us for tea, coffee and hot cross buns.

Stalls include raffle, guess the whisky, cake & candy, craft, bottle stall, mystery parcels, chocolate in boxes and bric a brac/books.

BELLIE & SPEYMOUTH GUILD

Daffodil Tea

Speymouth Village Hall

Sunday 22nd March 2015

2pm – 3.30pm

Get your Easter gifts here!

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E-mail: clare002@hotmail.com

Articles for the summer issue should be with the Editor by 17th May 2015 at the latest.

Scottish Charity Number
SCO05310



A BIG THANK YOU!

At the start of the year Isabel MacLeod handed over the baton as Editor of the Church Newsletter after 7 years of dedicated service and hard work.

As new Editor, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of everyone in the congregations, and those in the wider community who have read an edition of the quarterly newsletter, to say thank you to Isabel for all of her efforts.

I also hope that Isabel will continue to feature in the new publication



Bellie and Speymouth Young Church
Volunteer Leaders and Helpers Needed
Rotas in operation - Help when you can
Creche, Sunbeams, Sunday Club, TGIS
Holiday Club – 10th to 15th August 2015

Full PVG Disclosure Required

For further information please contact

Margaret McInnes – 823976
margaret.mcinnnes60@gmail.com

Isabel MacLeod – 820174
isabelmacleod72@hotmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 1 st March	10am Bellie, 11.30am Speymouth,
Fri 6 th March	World Day of Prayer, Bellie Church
Sat 7 th March	Bellie & Speymouth Spring Sale – 10am Bellie Church Hall
Sun 8 th March	10am Bellie, 11.30am Speymouth, 6pm Milnescroft
Thur 12 th March	Kirk Session 7pm – Speymouth Church Hall
Sun 15 th March	10am Bellie, 11.30am Speymouth, - Mothering Sunday, 7.30pm TGIS
Sat 21 st March	Family Quiz Night 7 for 7.30pm Bellie Hall
Sun 22 nd March	11am Speymouth - Stated Annual Meeting at end of worship
Mon 23 rd March	Night with our friends from Romania
Tues 24 th March	Guild AGM – 7.30pm Bellie Hall
	<i>BST begins</i>
Sun 29 th March	10am Bellie, 11.30am Speymouth – Palm Sunday 2.30-4 Team Romania Teas Bellie Hall
	Holy Week Worship 2015
Mon 30 - Fri 3 April	8am Short Morning Reflections (15 mins) – Bellie Session Room
Wed 1 st April	7pm Ecumenical Evening service, Gordon Chapel
Thursday 2 nd April	Maundy Thursday – 7pm Bellie Church
Friday 3 rd April	Good Friday Young Church Celebration 10am Bellie Good Friday Meditation with Hymns 2-3pm, Gordon Chapel Good Friday – 7pm St Andrews Lhanbryde
Sunday 5 th April	Sunrise Easter Communion 7am Speymouth Parish Church Garden
Sunday 5 th April	Family Easter Celebration 11am Bellie Parish Church, Fochabers
Sun 12 th April	10am Bellie, 11.30am Speymouth
Sat 18 th April	Team Romania Coffee Morning 10am Speymouth Village Hall
Sun 19 th April	10am Bellie, 11.30am Speymouth
Sun 26 th April	Communion Sunday 10am Bellie, 11.30am Speymouth, 3pm Speymouth, 6pm Milnescroft
Sun 3 rd May	10am Bellie, 11.30am Speymouth
Sun 10 th May	10am Bellie, 11.30am Speymouth Christian Aid Ecumenical Service in St Mary's 6.30pm
Sun 10 th – Sat 16 th May	CA Door to Door collections
Thur 14 th May	Kirk Session 7pm Bellie Church Hall
Sun 17 th May	10am Bellie, 11.30am Speymouth
Sun 24 th May	10am Bellie, 11.30am Speymouth – Pentecost Sunday
Sat 30 th May	Ceilidh & Cake – 7.30pm Bellie Church Hall
Sun 31 st May	10am Bellie, 11.30am Speymouth, 6pm Milnescroft, 7.30pm TGIS 2.30-4 Team Romania Teas Bellie Hall